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Identifying candidate therapeutic targets for Huntington's disease in yeast

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Yeast have been used extensively to model aspects of protein folding diseases, yielding novel mechanistic insights and identifying promising candidate therapeutic targets. In particular, the neurodegenerative disorder Huntington's disease (HD), which is caused by the abnormal expansion of a polyglutamine tract in the huntingtin (htt) protein, has been widely studied in yeast. This work has led to the identification of several promising therapeutic targets and compounds. In this talk I will discuss how genetic screens using yeast models of mutant htt toxicity have identified novel candidate drug targets, with a particular emphasis on kynurenine 3-monooxygenase (KMO) and the kynurenine pathway. Furthermore, validation of these promising hits in additional HD models (mammalian cells, *Drosophila*, and mice) by both genetic and pharmacological approaches will be discussed.