Advanced Cellular Biology

Week 2- Epigenetic Modifications Histone Code Hypothesis Epigenetic Memory

Epigenetic mechanisms

- The term, "epigenetics," was first used to refer to the complex interactions between the genome and the environment that are involved in development and differentiation in higher organisms.
- Today, this term is used to refer to heritable alterations that are not due to changes in DNA sequence. Rather, epigenetic modifications, or "tags," such as DNA methylation and histone modification, alter DNA accessibility and chromatin structure, thereby regulating patterns of gene expression.
- These processes are crucial to normal development and differentiation of distinct cell lineages in the adult organism. They can be modified by exogenous influences, and, as such, can contribute to or be the result of environmental alterations of phenotype. Importantly, epigenetic programming has a crucial role in the regulation of pluripotency genes, which become inactivated during differentiation.

Epigenetic modifications



Epigenetic modifications which are defined by DNA methylation, histone modifications and microRNA mediated gene regulation, have been found to be associated with stem cell differentiation, especially at developmental, tissue regeneration and cancer stage



Covalent modification of core histone tails: Known modification of the four histone core proteins. K=lysine, S=serine.



types of covalent amino acid-chain modifications found on nucleosomal histones



phosphoserine

Figure 4-38 Molecular Biology of the Cell 5/e (© Garland Science 2008)



Some specific meaning of histone code





Methylation Degree: + Nono + Di ± Tri

H4K20me Methylaset SET8/NMT5A (+) NSD1/KMT3B (+,0) ASH1L/KMT3B (+,0) SUV420H2/KMT5C (+,0) NSD2/KMT3G (+,0) Demethylaset JHDM1D/KDM7A (+,0) PHF8/KDM7B (+,0)	H3K9me Addityloade: PRDM3/KMT8E (+) PRDM3/KMT8E (+) PRDM3/KMT8E (+) G9a/EHMT2/KMT1C (+,5) EHMT1/KMT10 (+,5) EHMT1/KMT18 (+,5) PRDM2/KMT8D (+) SUV39H1/KMT18 (+,5) SUV39H1/KMT18 (+,5) SUV39H1/KMT16 (+,5) CLL08/KMT1F (+,5) CLL08/KMT1F (+,5) JMJ016/KDM18 (+,5) JMJ016/KDM18 (+,5) JMJ016/KDM78 (+,7) JMJ026/KDM48 (1,5) JMJ026/KDM48 (1,5) JMJ04/KDM48 (1,5) JMJ04/KDM48 (1,	H3K27me Michylases Esh2/KMT3G (+,1,4) NSD2/KMT3G (+,1,4) NSD3/KMT3F (±,4) Dervertylases: JHDM1D/KDM7A (+,1) PHF8/KDM7B (+,1) UTX/KDM6A (1,4) JAJD3/KDM6B (1,5)	H3K4me <u>Midt/stease</u> : ML1/KMT2A (+,1;#) ML12/KMT2B (+,1;#) ML12/KMT2B (+,1;#) ML12/KMT2D (+) SET1A/KMT2B (+,1;#) SET1B/KMT2G (+,1;#) NSD3/KMT3G (+,1) NSD3/KMT3G (+,1) SET7/KMT7 (+) SMYD3/KMT3G (+,1) SET7/KMT3E (+,1;#) PROMP/KMT8B (#) Demotylease: LSD1/KDM1A (+,1) ARHD1A/KDM5B (1;#) JARID1B/KDM5B (1;#) JARID1D/KDM5D (1;#)	H3K36me MsD1AMT38 (+,t) SMYD2/KMT3C (+,t) SMYD2/KMT3C (+,t) SET2/KMT3A (+,t) Demethylassa: JMJD1A/KDM2A (+,t) JMJD2A/KDM4B (+,t) JMJD2A/KDM4B (+,t) JMJD2A/KDM4B (+,t) JMJD2A/KDM4B (+,t) JMJD2C/KDM4D (+,t) KDM4DL/KDM4E (+,t)	H3K79me Methylanea: DOTIL/MH74 (n.t.#) Demethylanea: ???	
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How each mark on a nucleosome is read:

• The structure of a protein module that specifically recognizes histone H3 trimethylated on lysine 4 (H3K4me3) is shown. These modules are thought to act in concert with other modules as a part of a <u>code-reader complex</u>, attract other protein complexes that execute an appropriate biological function at the right time.



Figure 4-42 Molecular Biology of the Cell 5/e (© Garland Science 2008)

According to the histone code hypothesis, distinct combinations of covalent post-translational modifications of histones influence chromatin structure and lead to varied transcriptional outputs



epigenetic regulators: 'writers', 'readers', 'erasers', and 'remodelers'

Lysine methylations mark various sites on the tail and globular domains of histones and their levels are precisely balanced by the action of methyltransferases ('writers') and demethylases ('erasers').

In addition, distinct effector proteins ('readers') recognize specific methyl-lysines in a manner that depends on the neighboring amino-acid sequence and methylation state.

Misregulation of histone lysine methylation has been implicated in several cancers and developmental defects.

How the histone code could be read by a code-reader complex:

A large protein complex that contains a series of protein modules, each recognizes a specific histone mark (green). This code-reader complex will bind tightly only to a region of chromatin that contains different histone marks that it recognizes. Therefore, only a specific combination of marks will cause the complex to bind to chromatin and attract additional protein complexes (purple) that catalyzes a biological function.

Reading the histone code generally involves the joint recognition of the marks at other sites on the nucleosome along with the indicated tail recognition.



How code-reader and code-writer complexes can spread chromatin modifications along a chromosome:

The *code-writer* is an enzyme that creates a specific modification on one or more of the four nucleosome histones.

After its recruitment to a specific site on a nucleosome by a <u>gene regulatory protein</u>, the writer collaborates with a code-reader protein to spread its mark from nucleosome to nucleosome by means of indicating reader-writer complex.

To work, the reader must recognize the same histone modification mark that the writer produces.

ATP-dependent remodelling complexes are type of reader-writer complex.



How a complex containing reader-writer and ATPdependent chromatin remodeling proteins can spread chromatin changes along the chromosome:

A spreading wave of chromatin condensation. The reader-writer complex collaborates with an ATP-dependent chromatin remodeling protein to reposition nucleosomes and pack them into highly condensed arrays.

The heterochromatin specific **protein HP1 plays a major role in this process**. HP1 binds to trimethyl lysine 9 on histone H3 (H3K9me3), and it remains associated with condensed chromatin.



Barrier DNA sequences block the spread of Reader-Writer complexes and thereby separate neighboring chromatin domains: *Models*

a.The tethering of a region of chromatin to a large fixed site, such as nuclear pore complex, can form a barrier that stops the spreading of heterochromatin.

b.The tight binding of barrier proteins to a group of nucleosomes can compete with heterochromatin spreading.

c.by recruiting a group of highly active histone-modifying enzymes, barriers can erase the histone marks that are required for heterochromatin to spread.







Three models of propagating histone modifications through replication.

In the template-binding model, adjacent nucleosomes are modified by a histone-modifying enzyme that binds the modified residue on a nearby tail.

In the constitutive model, H3K27 methylation is restored by recognition of by ATXR5/6, such that only replicationcoupled (H3) nucleosomes, not replication-independent (H3.3) nucleosomes, are methylated on H3K27.

In the bridging model, PRC1 bridges nucleosomes across daughter chromatids.



Bivalent Histone Modifications

- It is believed that <u>histone methylation</u> potentially takes charge of cell fate determination and differentiation. The synchronous existence of functionally opposite histone marks at transcript start sequence (TSS) is defined as "Bivalency", which mainly mark development related genes.
- H3K4me3 and H3K27me3, the prominent histone methylations of bivalency, are implicated in transcriptional activation and transcriptional repression respectively.
- i.e: Several thousands of the H3K4me3-enriched promoters in pluripotent cells also contain H3K27me3 mark.
- bivalent promoters are not unique to pluripotent cells, but they are relatively enriched in these cell types, largely marking developmental and lineage-specific genes, primordial germ cells, and male germ cells which are silent but poised for immediate and rapid activation <u>upon cell differentiation</u>
- The delicate balance between H3K4me3 and H3K27me3 produces diverse chromatin architectures, resulting in different transcription states of downstream genes: "poised", "activated" or "repressed".



A bivalent gene, depicted as a boat (top left), is ready to go (sail up: H3K4me3) but **is held in check** (anchor: H3K27me 3). Once the sail is down (top right), the gene is **stably silenced** (only H3K 27me3), but if instead the anchor is lifted (bottom), the gene is promptly **activated** (only H3K4me3).

Chromatin remodeling and bivalent histone modifications in embryonic stem cells. EMBO Reports. DOI 10.15252/embr.201541011 | Received 13 July 2015

Bivalent Histone Modifications and Development

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Bivalent histone modifications are considered to set up genes for activation during lineage commitment by H3K4me3 and repress lineage control genes to maintain pluripotency by H3K27me3.



Summarily, bivalency in stem cells keeps stemness via poising differentiation relevant genes.



what is epigenetic memory?

The epigenetic memory of a cell defines the set of modifications to the cell's deoxyribonucleic acid (DNA) that do not alter the DNA sequence, and have been inherited from the cell from which it descends.



Mechanisms of epigenetic memory. Trends Genet. 2014;30(6):230-236. doi:10.1016/j.tig.2014.04.004

types of epigenetic memory

- cellular memory, mitotically heritable transcriptional states established during development in response to developmental cues,
- 2) 2) transcriptional memory, mitotically heritable changes in the responsiveness of organisms to environmental stimuli due to previous experiences
- 3) 3) transgenerational memory, meiotically heritable changes in the gene expression and physiology of organisms in response to experiences in the previous generations

This cellular memory requires the 2 antagonistic protein groups: Trithorax and Polycomb group (PcG) proteins

- The Trithorax complex mediates methylation of histone H3 on lysine 4 (H3K4me) and is required to maintain genes in an active state
- The PcG proteins have two biochemically characterized repressive complexes: PRCI and PRC2. PRC2 methylates histone 3 lysine 27 (H3K27me) at genes targeted for silencing. PRCI binds H3K27me and induces spreading of structural changes in the chromatin .This histone mark has been proposed to act as a repressive "bookmark" during mitosis where it is maintained through cell division and transmitted through DNA replication in the absence of the initial stimuli

PcG and trxG are organized into large multimeric complexes which act on their target genes by modulating chromatin structure.

PcG:PRCI/PRC2

- Consecuitive steps in repression: transcriptionally silent state
- Methylates H3K27 and H3K9
- E(Z) component: functional part !
- Following PRC2-catalyzed modification, PRC1 binds via the chromodomain to stabilize silencing.
- PRC1 includes chromodomain part. This complex seems to be recruited to chromatin through the ability of the CBX proteins to bind the H3K27me3 deposited by PRC2 in order to maintainance of silent state.
- The Chromodomain is found to bind to methyl moieties at H3K27 and H3K9
- RINGIB is associated with ubiquitylated H2A (i.e on the inactive X chromosome) and the maintenance of this histone mark is dependent on RINGI proteins



- Highlighted that PcG enrichment and H3K27me3 deposition are not restricted to PREs and can be frequently found also at gene promoters
- o In mammals, PcGs preferentially associate with CpG-rich promoters
- Indeed, no clear-cut data have been published about the role of the direct recognition of these DNA elements by PRC1 and/or PRC2 complexes and their recruitment to target promoters.



PcG and trxG are organized into large multimeric complexes which act on their target genes by modulating chromatin structure.

trxG group

- Required for the maintenance of ON state throughout the lifetime of an organism.
- By analogy, trxG members covalently modify histone tails via methyltransferase and acetyltransferase activities (TRX and ASH)
- Directly regulates the targetting of activities of ATP-dependent remodelling complexes.
- In addition to ability to directly acvitave transcription, trxG protein have ability to block function of PcG repressors.
- ATP remodelling complexes such as the one that contains trxG proteins :BRM and MOR, which are functional core of SWI/SNF complexes, incrase the ability of DNA-binding proteins to bind to chromatin.
- SWI/SNF contain bromodomain: a protein motif associated with the binding of certain acetylated histones
- Several trxG are able to covalenty modify histone tails:
- MLLI,ASHI = H3K4 methylation





In the repressive state, chromatin is condensed. CBP, PC, and PRC complexes are present at poised enhancer and PRE (marked by H3K27me3 and low-level H3K4me1). PC is associated with unacetylated CBP. CBP HAT activity is likely inhibited by PC. PC- and CBP-associated RPD3 may maintain H3K27 in a deacetylated state.

In the active state, chromatin is relaxed. H3K27 acetylation occurs, but its level is inversely proportional to PC level. Autoacetylated CBP, Pol II, and TrxG proteins, and a relatively lower level of PC are present at active enhancers (marked by H3K27ac and high-level H3K4me1) that are transcribed into enhancer RNA (eRNA)

Polycomb inhibits histone acetylation by CBP by binding directly to its catalytic domain. PNAS February 9, 2016 113 (6) E744-E753;



Estrogen receptor alpha represses transcription of early target genes via p300 and CtBP1. Mol Cell Biol. 2009 Apr;29(7):1749-59. doi: 10.1128/MCB.01476-08.

A second major chromatin regulating system is that...

- HP1a, which is normally critical for the formation of constitutive heterochromatin, also affects the generation of the epigenetic marks of the Polycomb/trithorax groups of proteins, chromatin modifiers which are key to maintaining gene expression in euchromatin.
- The small non-histone protein Heterochromatin protein 1a (HP1a) plays a vital role in packaging chromatin, most notably in forming constitutive heterochromatin at the centromeres and telomeres.

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Epigenetic memory in induced pluripotent stem cells

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Supplementary Figures and Legends FESC ntESC B-iPSC F-iPSC COMPANY OF THE SECOND STREET STR

Ectodermal epithelium (skin)



Endodermal glandular (pancreas)



Neuroectoderm (brain)



Mesodermal stratified myoepithelium (muscle)



Ectodermal respiratory epithelium (Bronchi)

Supplementary Figure I | Teratoma analysis of the fESC, ntESC, B-iPSC, and F-iPSC.

Ectodermal epithelium (skin), Endodermal glandular (pancreas), Neuroectoderm (brain), Mesodermal stratified myoepithelium (muscle), and Ectodermal respiratory epithelium (Bronchi). Scale bar, 500µm.







Rank	Gene	Function	Reference
1	Kcnrg		
2	Mast1		
3	Mab21L1	Osteogenetic differentiation	4
4	Atbf1	Myb mediated hematopoietic growth regulation	5
5	Hand1	Cardiac development	6
6	Zfp423	Enhance Hematopoietic activity	7
7	Pcdhga10	protocadherin	8
8	Dlx1	Hematopoietic development with BMP4	9
9	Pim1	Hematopoietic proliferation	10
10	Efnb2	Developmental events, especially in the nervous system and in erythropoiesis	11
11	Asns	Hematopoietic proliferation	12
12	Tradd	programmed cell death	13
13	Ebf2	Osteogenetic differentiation	14
14	Slc13a4	Sodium/sulfate cotransporter	15
15	Osr2	Osteogenetic development	16
16	lgsf4c	Immunoglobulin superfamily	17
17	Meis1	Definitive hematopoiesis	18
18	CD37	T cell B cell interaction and proliferation	19 20
19	Slc38a4		
20	Pcdhga12	Protocadherin	8
21	Pcdhga7	Protocadherin	8
22	Map2k7	Hematopoietic growth	21
23	Sall4	Bmi-1 mediated hematpoietic self-renewal	22
24	Pcdhgb6	Protocadherin	8

Supplementary Table 2 | Top 24 Differentially Methylated Regions (DMRs) between B-iPSC and FiPSC. Blood-related genes are shaded in red; bone-related genes are shaded in light brown.





Supplementary Figure 5 | Overlap of DMRs with loci of genes showing **fESC**-specific gene expression (determined from compiled microarray data². Heat maps reflect expression values of fESC-specific genes in undifferentiated State (fESC D0; top 5% highly expressed genes; 554 genes) and after differentiation for 2 and 9 days (differentiated fESC day 2; dfESC D2 and day 9; dfESC D9). a, Red bars in the right three lanes indicate number of fESCspecific genes that overlap with DMRs (ntESC, n=5; B-iPSC, n=18; F-iPSC, n=114). **b**, Red bars in the right three lanes indicate number of fESC-specific genes that overlap with DMRs (ntESC, n=12; NP-iPSC, n=16; BI-iPSC, n=45).



a



Supplementary Figure 6 | DNA demethylation of promoters and gene expression on the selected pluripotent gene loci. a, Oct4 b, Nanog. Schematic structure of the promoters are shown on top, and methylation status of the CpG sites measured by bisulfite pyrosequencing with three independent samples of fESC, ntESC, B-iPSC, and F-iPSC are shown in middle graphs. Detection of Oct4 and Nanog gene expression by RT-PCR with three independent samples of fESC, ntESC, B-iPSC, and F-iPSC are shown below each panel.



Supplementary Figure 7 | Chimera analysis of the fESC, ntESC, B-iPSC, and F-iPSC (refer to Fig. 1a). a, Organ chimerism. B6CBA-derived cells were injected into blastocysts and transferred to pseudopregnant mice (N=3 clones of each stem cell type). Organs from E12.5 embryo (B-iPSC, n=14; F-iPSC, n=8; ntESC, n=15; fESC, n=13) were analyzed by flow cytometry to determine % GFP+ cells. Positive control: SSEA1 staining of gonad cells from GFP+ transgenic mouse.







Supplementary Figure 8 | Immunohistochemistry of NP-iPSC, NSC-NP-iPSC, and B-NP-iPSC for OCT4 and NANOG expression, as indicated. 4,6-Diamidino-2-phenylindole (DAPI) staining for total cell content. Fibroblasts surrounding pluripotent colonies serve as negative controls for immunohistochemistry staining. Scale bar, 200µm.

Comparison	Number of DMRs	Methylation	Number of DMRs	C	Number of		
(500 - 5 1000	500.4	fESC>F-iPSC	1955	Comparison	DMRs	Methylation	Number of DMR
TESC VS. F-IPSC	5304	fESC <f-ipsc< td=""><td>3349</td><td>NP-iPSC vs.</td><td>107</td><td>NP-iPSC>NSC-NP-iPSC</td><td>46</td></f-ipsc<>	3349	NP-iPSC vs.	107	NP-iPSC>NSC-NP-iPSC	46
fESC vs. B-iPSC	004	fESC>B-iPSC	178	NSC-NP-iPSC	107	NSC-NP-iPSC>NP-iPSC	61
	694	fESC <b-ipsc< td=""><td>516</td><td rowspan="2">NP-iPSC <i>vs.</i> B-NP-iPSC</td><td rowspan="2">803</td><td>NP-iPSC>B-NP-iPSC</td><td>593</td></b-ipsc<>	516	NP-iPSC <i>vs.</i> B-NP-iPSC	803	NP-iPSC>B-NP-iPSC	593
fESC vs. ntESC	229	fESC>ntESC	173			B-NP-iPSC>NP-iPSC	210
		fESC <ntesc< td=""><td>56</td><td></td><td></td><td>NP-iPSC</td><td>626</td></ntesc<>	56			NP-iPSC	626
	5000	F-iPSC>B-iPSC	2850	NP-iPSC <i>vs.</i> NP-iPSC-TSA-AZA	938	>NP-iPSC-TSA-AZA	020
F-IPSC vs. B-IPSC	5202	F-iPSC <b-ipsc< td=""><td>2352</td><td>NP-iPSC-TSA-AZA</td><td>312</td></b-ipsc<>	2352			NP-iPSC-TSA-AZA	312
	F-iPSC>ntESC 4077	4077					
F-IPSC vs. ntESC	6255	F-iPSC <ntesc< td=""><td>2178</td><td rowspan="3">NSC-NP-iPSC vs. B-NP-iPSC</td><td rowspan="3">688</td><td>>B-NP-iPSC</td><td>632</td></ntesc<>	2178	NSC-NP-iPSC vs. B-NP-iPSC	688	>B-NP-iPSC	632
B-iPSC vs. ntESC	005	B-iPSC>ntESC	897			B-NP-iPSC	56
	995	B-iPSC <ntesc< td=""><td>98</td><td>>NSC-NP-iPSC</td></ntesc<>	98			>NSC-NP-iPSC	
*area cutoff of 2.0.				* area cutoff of 2.0.			
Comparison	Number of DMRs	Methylation	Number of DMRs				
	1495	BI-iPSC>fESC	1423				
BI-IFSC VS. IESC	1485	BI-iPSC <fesc< td=""><td>62</td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td></fesc<>	62				
BI-iPSC vs.	2244	BI-iPSC>NP-iPSC	2326				
NP-iPSC	2344	BI-iPSC <np-ipsc< td=""><td>18</td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td></np-ipsc<>	18				
BI-iPSC <i>vs.</i> ntESC	3053	BI-iPSC>ntESC	3000				
		BI-iPSC <ntesc< td=""><td>53</td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td></ntesc<>	53				
fESC <i>vs.</i> NP-iPSC	553	fESC>NP-iPSC	136				
		fESC <np-ipsc< td=""><td>417</td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td></np-ipsc<>	417				
fESC vs. ntESC		fESC>ntESC	399				
	679	fESC <ntesc< td=""><td>280</td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td></ntesc<>	280				
		NP-iPSC>ntESC	469				

NP-lpsc vs. ntESC

571

NP-iPSC<ntESC

Supplementary Table I | . DMRs by CHARM analysis. a, fESC, ntESC, B-iPSC, and F-iPSC (refer to Fig. 1a), **b**, fESC, ntESC, NP-iPSC, and BI-iPSC (refer to Fig. 4a upper schema), **c**, NP-iPSC, NSC-NP-iPSC, NP-iPSC-TSA-AZA, and B-NP-iPSC (refer to Fig. 4a lower schema).





fESC Chimera and germ line transmission



ntESC chimera and germ line transmission



B-NP-iPSC chimera NSC-NP-iPSC chimera

Supplementary Figure 9 | Mouse chimerism and germ line transmission of the fESC, ntESC, B-NP-iPSC, and NSC-NPiPSC (refer to Fig. 4a).