

nc886-PKR tumor surveillance pathway in these tumor types, and whether abnormal epigenetic regulation is responsible.

Materials and Methods

Tissue-sample and patient material

A cohort of 100 normal placental tissue, paired cord blood and maternal peripheral blood samples were collected from the Hospital St. Joan De Deu collection. Normal peripheral blood was collected from adult volunteers aged between 19–60 y old. A selection of normal brain samples was obtained from BrainNet Europe/Barcelona Brain Bank and normal kidney samples were obtained from XBTC tissue bank. DNA and RNA extraction and cDNA synthesis were performed as previously described.²⁵ Ethical approval for adult blood and placenta tissue collection was granted by the Hospital St Joan De Deu Ethics Committee (Study number 35/07) and IDIBELL (PR251/12).

Paired tumor and normal samples sets

The methylation profiles determined by the Illumina Infinium HumanMethylation450 BeadChip arrays for 20 paired normal and bladder tumor samples (urothelial carcinomas), 92 paired breast sample sets (invasive carcinomas), 42 colorectal tumors with adjacent normal tissues (adenocarcinomas) and 69 lung cancers pairs (40 squamous cell carcinomas and 29 adenocarcinomas) were obtained from the Cancer Genome Atlas. Surplus bisulphite DNA from 4 in-house hybridized colorectal cancer sample sets were used for allelic bisulphite PCRs.

Allelic bisulphite sequencing

Prior to methylation analysis all samples were genotyped by PCR and direct sequencing. Sequence traces were interrogated using Sequencher v4.6 (Gene Codes Corporation) to distinguish heterozygous and homozygous samples. Approximately 1 µg DNA was subjected to sodium bisulphite treatment and purified using the EZ GOLD methylation kit (ZYMO). Bisulphite specific primers for each region were used with Hotstar Taq polymerase (Qiagen) for 40 PCR cycles. All PCR products were cloned into pGEM-T Easy vector (Promega) with a minimum of 12 clones were selected for sequencing. All primers for genotyping and bisulphite PCR can found in Table S3.

WGBS and Illumina Infinium HumanMethylation450 BeadChip array analysis

We analyzed 6 publically available methylomes, including those derived from CD4+ lymphocytes (GSE31263), brain (GSM913595) liver and placenta (GSE46698). Matching samples were also hybridized to the Illumina Infinium HumanMethylation450 BeadChip arrays (GSE46698). In addition we used 3 leukocyte data sets from GSE30870 and the

isolated cell populations published by Reinius and colleagues (GSE35069).²⁶

Data filtering and analysis

WGBS: The sequence reads were aligned to either strand of the HG19 reference genome using a custom computational pipeline. The methylation level of each cytosine within CpG dinucleotides was estimated as the number of reads reporting a C, divided by the total number of reads reporting C or T. The location of the *nc886* interval was determined by the sequence from the UCSC sequence browser.

Illumina Infinium HumanMethylation 450 BeadChip array: Before analyzing the data, we excluded possible sources of technical biases that could influence results. We applied signal background subtraction and inter-plate variation was normalized using default control probes in BeadStudio (version 2011.1_Infinium HD). We discarded probes with a detection *P* value > 0.01. We also excluded probes that lack signal values in one or more of the DNA samples analyzed. In addition we discarded 16,631 probes as they contained SNPs present in more than 1% of the population (dbSNP 137). We utilized in-house R-package scripts evaluate the methylation of the probes mapping within the chr5: 135414408–135417466 region. The circular heatmaps used to display the DNA methylation profiles of the paired normal and tumor samples were generated using Circos software.

Disclosure of Potential Conflicts of Interest

No potential conflicts of interest were disclosed.

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Supplemental Materials

Supplemental materials may be found here:

www.landesbioscience.com/journals/epigenetics/article/28323

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