

Fig. 7.3 The various spheroid culture methods: (a) the hanging-drop method, (b) the float-spheroid culture method using culture plate coated with non-adherent polymer, and (c) the spheroid culture method on micro-patterned plate

then migrate and aggregate on the top surface of the nanopillars, and thereby tend to form uniform spheroids in each hole. 3D spheroid culture systems using a nanopillar plate of hepatocyte-like cells have been used to promote hepatocyte maturation [68].

As a large-scale culture system of primary hepatocytes, the bioreactor methods have been used. By employing various optimized conditions, including flow conditions [69] and cell densities [70], the bioreactor method has been shown to have advantages for maintaining the functions of primary hepatocytes *in vitro* in comparison with 2D culture [71, 72] and also for achieving effects of spontaneous differentiation from hESCs into hepatocytes [73]. It has been reported that 3D culture using a bioreactor induces more functional hepatocyte-like cells differentiated from hESCs than in the case of 2D culture [73]. The 3D culture methods using polymer scaffold systems have also demonstrated effectiveness both in culturing primary hepatocytes [74, 75] and in differentiation from ESCs into hepatocyte-like cells *in vitro* [76–78]. These data showed that hepatocyte-like cells could be differentiated from hESCs on a polymer scaffold.

Furthermore, cell-sheet engineering has recently been reported [79, 80]. Cell-sheet culture was performed by using a culture dish coated with a temperature-responsive polymer, poly (*N*-isopropylacrylamide) [81–83]. Several groups have adopted culture methods with a combination of 3D culture and co-culture (3D co-culture) and showed that the liver function of primary hepatocytes could be maintained at a higher level and for longer than without the coculture conditions [84–86]. Furthermore, the hepatic maturation of hESC-/hiPSC-derived hepatocyte-like cells by stratification of a Swiss 3T3 cell sheet using cell-sheet engineering was demonstrated. The hESC-/hiPSC-derived hepatocyte-like cells in the 3D co-culture system showed significantly up-regulated ALB expression in comparison with the case of 2D culture [87]. A 3D co-culture system would be expected to enhance the degree of maturation compared with a 2D culture.

In the last decade, the hepatic differentiation from hESCs/hiPSCs has been subjected to numerous challenges. Many groups have been struggling to develop the best differentiation protocols from hESCs/hiPSCs to hepatocyte-like cells. The hepatic differentiation efficiency, which is the population of ALB-positive cells, of over 80 % has been achieved in vitro from hESCs/hiPSCs. However, several hepatic functions, including expression levels of cytochrome P450 enzyme, of hESCs/hiPSCs-derived hepatocyte-like cells are still lower than freshly isolated hepatocytes. New approaches that generate more effective and more functional hepatocyte-like cells may be developed in the near future. The hESC/hiPSC-derived hepatocyte-like cells are expected to be a useful source of cells not only for drug discovery but also for the treatment of liver disease in the future medicine.

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Prediction of interindividual differences in hepatic functions and drug sensitivity by using human iPS-derived hepatocytes

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Interindividual differences in hepatic metabolism, which are mainly due to genetic polymorphism in its gene, have a large influence on individual drug efficacy and adverse reaction. Hepatocyte-like cells (HLCs) differentiated from human induced pluripotent stem (iPS) cells have the potential to predict interindividual differences in drug metabolism capacity and drug response. However, it remains uncertain whether human iPS-derived HLCs can reproduce the interindividual difference in hepatic metabolism and drug response. We found that cytochrome P450 (CYP) metabolism capacity and drug responsiveness of the primary human hepatocytes (PHH)-iPS-HLCs were highly correlated with those of PHHs, suggesting that the PHH-iPS-HLCs retained donor-specific CYP metabolism capacity and drug responsiveness. We also demonstrated that the interindividual differences, which are due to the diversity of individual SNPs in the CYP gene, could also be reproduced in PHH-iPS-HLCs. We succeeded in establishing, to our knowledge, the first PHH-iPS-HLC panel that reflects the interindividual differences of hepatic drug-metabolizing capacity and drug responsiveness.

human iPS cells | hepatocyte | CYP2D6 | personalized drug therapy | SNP

Drug-induced liver injury (DILI) is a leading cause of the withdrawal of drugs from the market. Human induced pluripotent stem cell (iPSC)-derived hepatocyte-like cells (HLCs) are expected to be useful for the prediction of DILI in the early phase of drug development. Many groups, including our own, have reported that the human iPS-HLCs have the ability to metabolize drugs, and thus these cells could be used to detect the cytotoxicity of drugs that are known to cause DILI (1, 2). However, to accurately predict DILI, it will be necessary to establish a panel of human iPS-HLCs that better represents the genetic variation of the human population because there are large interindividual differences in the drug metabolism capacity and drug responsiveness of hepatocytes (3). However, it remains unclear whether the drug metabolism capacity and drug responsiveness of human iPS-HLCs could reflect those of donor parental primary human hepatocytes (PHHs). To address this issue, we generated the HLCs differentiated from human iPSCs which had been established from PHHs (PHH-iPS-HLCs). Then, we compared the drug metabolism capacity and drug responsiveness of PHH-iPS-HLCs with those of their parental PHHs, which are genetically identical to the PHH-iPS-HLCs.

Interindividual differences of cytochrome P450 (CYP) metabolism capacity are closely related to genetic polymorphisms, especially single nucleotide polymorphisms (SNPs), in CYP genes (4). Among the various CYPs expressed in the liver, CYP2D6 is responsible for the metabolism of approximately

a quarter of commercially used drugs and has the largest phenotypic variability, largely due to SNPs (5). It is known that certain alleles result in the poor metabolizer phenotype due to a decrease of CYP2D6 metabolism. Therefore, the appropriate dosage for drugs that are metabolized by CYP2D6, such as tamoxifen, varies widely among individuals (6). Indeed, in the 1980s, polymorphism in CYP2D6 appears to have contributed to the withdrawal of CYP2D6-metabolized drugs such as perhexiline from the market in many countries (7). If we could establish a panel of HLCs that better represents the diversity of genetic polymorphisms in the human population, it might be possible to determine the appropriate dosage of a drug for a particular individual. However, it is not known whether the drug metabolism capacity and drug responsiveness of HLCs reflect the genetic diversity, including SNPs, in CYP genes. Therefore, in this study we generated HLCs from several PHHs that have various SNPs on CYP2D6 and then compared the CYP2D6 metabolism capacity and responses to CYP2D6-metabolized drugs between the PHH-iPS-HLCs and parental PHHs.

Significance

We found that individual cytochrome P450 (CYP) metabolism capacity and drug sensitivity could be predicted by examining them in the primary human hepatocytes–human induced pluripotent stem cells–hepatocyte-like cells (PHH-iPS-HLCs). We also confirmed that interindividual differences of CYP metabolism capacity and drug responsiveness that are due to the diversity of individual single nucleotide polymorphisms in the CYP gene could also be reproduced in the PHH-iPS-HLCs. These findings suggest that interindividual differences in drug metabolism capacity and drug response could be predicted by using HLCs differentiated from human iPS cells. We believe that iPS-HLCs would be a powerful technology not only for accurate and efficient drug development, but also for personalized drug therapy.

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The authors declare no conflict of interest.

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Data deposition: The DNA microarray data reported in this paper have been deposited in the Gene Expression Omnibus (GEO) database, www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/geo (accession no. GSE61287).

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To this end, PHHs were reprogrammed into human iPSCs and then differentiated into the HLCs. To examine whether the HLCs could reproduce the characteristics of donor PHHs, we first compared the CYP metabolism capacity and response to a hepatotoxic drug between PHHs and genetically identical PHH-iPS-HLCs (12 donors were used in this study). Next, analyses of hepatic functions, including comparisons of the gene expression of liver-specific genes and CYPs, were performed to examine whether the hepatic characteristics of PHHs were reproduced in the HLCs. To the best of our knowledge, this is the first study to compare the functions between iPSC-derived cells from various donors and their parental cells with identical genetic backgrounds. Finally, we examined whether the PHH-iPS-HLCs exhibited a capacity for drug metabolism and drug responsiveness that reflect the genetic diversity such as SNPs on CYP genes.

Results

Reprogramming of PHHs to Human iPSCs. To examine whether the HLCs could reproduce interindividual differences in liver functions, we first tried to generate human iPSCs from the PHHs of 12 donors. PHHs were transduced with a Yamanaka 4 factor-expressing SeV (SeVdp-iPS) vector (*SI Appendix*, Fig. S1A) in the presence of SB431542, PD0325901, and a rock inhibitor, which could promote the somatic reprogramming (8). The reprogramming procedure is shown in *SI Appendix*, Fig. S1B. The human iPSCs generated from PHHs (PHH-iPSCs) were positive for alkaline phosphatase (*SI Appendix*, Fig. S1B, Right), NANOG, OCT4, SSEA4, SOX2, Tra1-81, and KLF4 (Fig. 1A). The gene expression levels of the pluripotent markers (*OCT3/4*, *SOX2*, and *NANOG*) in the PHH-iPSCs were approximately equal to those in human embryonic stem cells (ESCs) (*SI Appendix*, Fig. S1C, Left). The gene expression levels of the hepatic markers [*albumin* (*ALB*), *CYP3A4*, and *α AT*] in the PHH-iPSCs were significantly lower than those in the parental PHHs (*SI Appendix*, Fig. S1C, Right). We also confirmed that the PHH-iPSCs have the ability to differentiate into the three embryonic germ layers in vitro by embryoid body formation and in vivo by teratoma formation (*SI Appendix*, Fig. S2A and B, respectively). To verify that the PHH-iPSCs originated from PHHs, short tandem repeat analysis was performed in the PHH-iPSCs and parental PHHs (*SI Appendix*, Fig. S2C). The results showed that the PHH-iPSCs were indeed originated from PHHs. Taken together, these results indicated that the generation of human iPSCs from PHHs was successfully performed. It is known that a transient epigenetic memory of the original cells is retained in early-passage iPSCs, but not in late-passage iPSCs (9). To examine whether the hepatic differentiation capacity of PHH-iPSCs depends on their passage number, PHH-iPSCs having various passage numbers were differentiated into the hepatic lineage (Fig. 1B). The *tyrosine aminotransferase* (*TAT*) expression levels and albumin (*ALB*) secretion levels in early passage PHH-iPS-HLCs (fewer than 10 passages) were higher than those of late passage PHH-iPS-HLCs (more than 14 passages). These results suggest that the hepatic differentiation tendency is maintained in early passage PHH-iPSCs, but not in late passage PHH-iPSCs. In addition, the hepatic functions of late passage PHH-iPS-HLCs were similar to those in the HLCs derived from late passage non-PHH-derived iPSC cells (such as dermal cells, blood cells, and Human Umbilical Vein Endothelial Cells (HUVEC)-derived iPSC cells) (*SI Appendix*, Fig. S3). Therefore, PHH-iPSCs, which were passaged more than 20 times, were used in our study to avoid any potential effect of transient epigenetic memory retained in parental PHHs on hepatic functions.

HLCs Were Differentiated from PHH-iPSCs Independent of Their Differentiation Tendency. To compare the hepatic characteristics among the PHH-iPS-HLCs that were generated from PHHs of

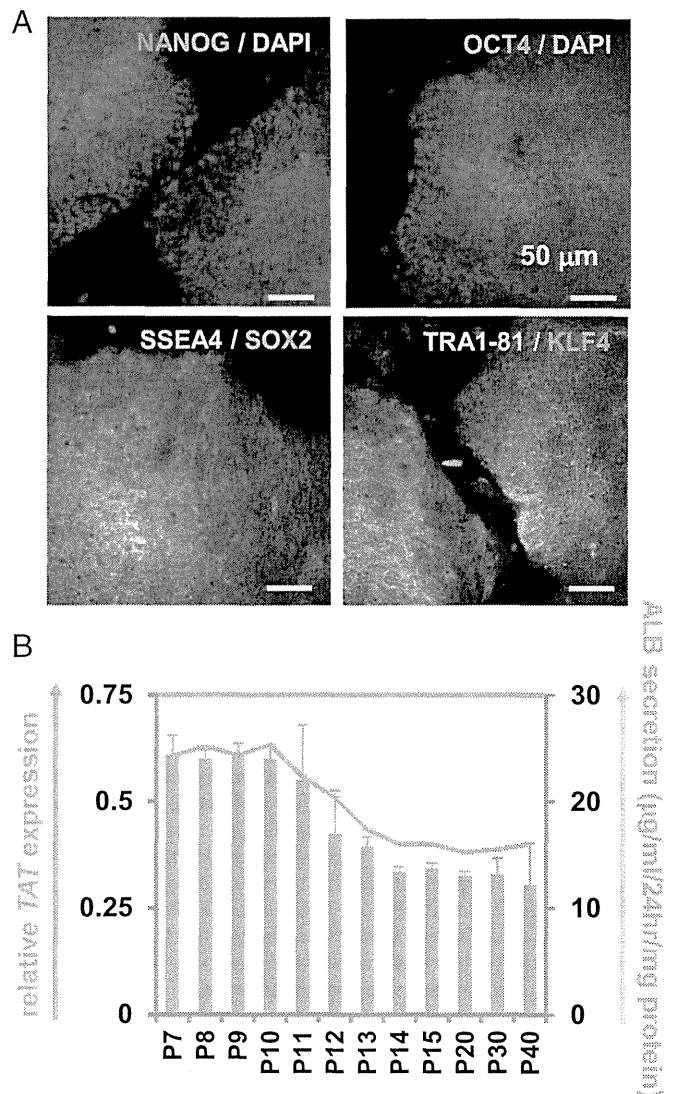


Fig. 1. Establishment and characterization of human iPSCs generated from PHHs. (A) The PHH-iPSCs were subjected to immunostaining with anti-NANOG (red), OCT4 (red), SSEA4 (green), SOX2 (red), TRA1-81 (green), and KLF4 (red) antibodies. Nuclei were counterstained with DAPI (blue) (Upper). (B) The *TAT* expression and *ALB* secretion levels in the PHH-iPS-HLCs (P7–P40) were examined. On the y axis, the gene expression level of *TAT* in PHHs was taken as 1.0.

the 12 donors, all of the PHH-iPSCs were differentiated into the HLCs as described in Fig. 2A. However, the differences in hepatic function among PHH-iPS-HLCs could not be properly compared because there were large inter-PHH-iPSC line differences in the hepatic differentiation efficiency based on *ALB* or asialoglycoprotein receptor 1 (*ASGR1*) expression analysis (Fig. 2B). In addition, there were also large inter-PHH-iPS-HLC line differences in *ALB* or urea secretion capacities (Fig. 2C). These results suggest that it is impossible to compare the hepatic characteristics among PHH-iPS-HLCs without compensating for the differences in the hepatic differentiation efficiency. Recently, we developed a method to maintain and proliferate the hepatoblast-like cells (*HBCs*) generated from human ESCs/iPSCs by using human laminin 111 (*LN111*) (10). To examine whether the hepatic differentiation efficiency could be made uniform by generating the HLCs following purification and proliferation of the *HBCs*, the PHH-iPS-*HBCs* were cultured on *LN111* as

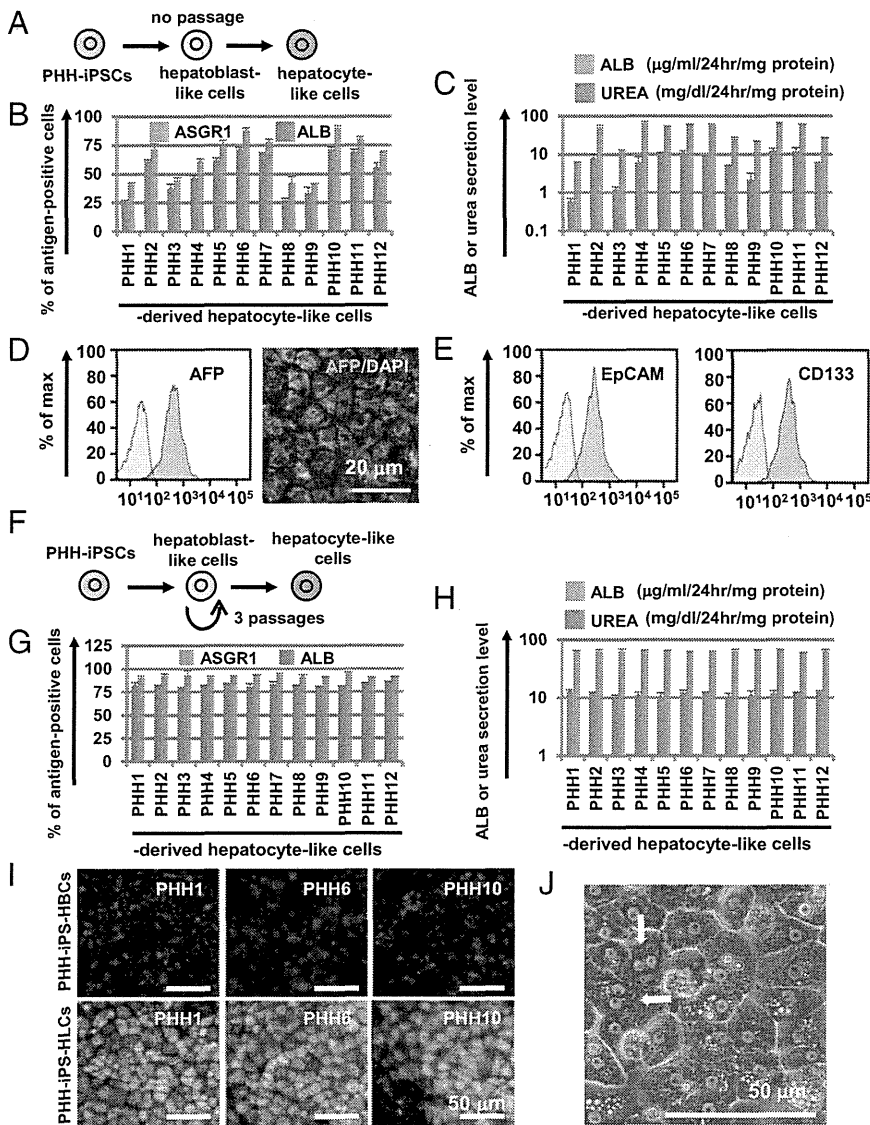


Fig. 2. Highly efficient hepatocyte differentiation from PHH-iPSCs independent of their differentiation tendency. (A) PHH-iPSCs were differentiated into the HLCs via the HBCs. (B) On day 25 of differentiation, the efficiency of hepatocyte differentiation was measured by estimating the percentage of ASGR1- or ALB-positive cells using FACS analysis. (C) The amount of ALB or urea secretion level was examined in PHH-iPS-HLCs. (D) The percentage of AFP-positive cells in PHH-iPS-HBCs was examined by using FACS analysis (*Left*). The PHH-iPS-HBCs were subjected to immunostaining with anti-AFP (green) antibodies. Nuclei were counterstained with DAPI (blue) (*Right*). (E) The percentage of EpCAM- and CD133-positive cells in PHH-iPS-HBCs was examined by using FACS analysis (*Left*). (F) PHH-iPSCs were differentiated into the hepatoblast-like cells, and then PHH-iPS-HBCs were purified and maintained for three passages on human LN111. Thereafter, expanded PHH-iPS-HBCs were differentiated into the HLCs. (G) The efficiency of hepatic differentiation from PHH-iPS-HBCs was measured by estimating the percentage of ASGR1- or ALB-positive cells using FACS analysis. (H) The amount of ALB or urea secretion in PHH-iPS-HLCs was examined. Data represent the mean \pm SD from three independent differentiations. (I) The PHH1-, 6-, or 10-iPS-HBCs and -HLCs were subjected to immunostaining with anti- α AT (green) antibodies. Nuclei were counterstained with DAPI (blue). (J) A phase-contrast micrograph of PHH-iPS-HLCs.

previously described (10), and then differentiated into the HLCs. Almost all of the cells were positive for the hepatoblast marker [α -fetoprotein (AFP)] (Fig. 2D). In addition, the PHH-iPS-HBCs were positive for two other hepatoblast markers, EpCAM and CD133 (Fig. 2E). To examine the hepatic differentiation efficiency of the PHH-iPS-HBCs maintained on LN111-coated dishes for three passages (Fig. 2F), the HBCs were differentiated into the HLCs, and then the percentage of ALB- and ASGR1-positive cells was measured by FACS analysis (Fig. 2G). All 12 PHH-iPS-HBCs could efficiently differentiate into the HLCs, yielding more than 75% or 85% ASGR1- or ALB-positive cells, respectively. In addition, there was little difference between the PHH-iPSC lines in ALB or urea secretion capacities (Fig. 2H). Although there were large differences in the hepatic differentiation capacity among the PHH1/6/10 (Fig. 2B), PHH1/6/10-iPS-HBCs could efficiently differentiate into the HLCs that homogeneously expressed α AT (Fig. 2I). After the hepatic differentiation of the PHH-iPS-HBCs, the morphology of the HLCs was similar to that of the PHHs: polygonal with distinct round binuclei (Fig. 2J). These results indicated that the hepatic differentiation efficiency of the 12 PHH-iPSC lines could be rendered uniform by inducing hepatic maturation after the establishment of self-renewing HBCs. Therefore, we expected

that differences in the hepatic characteristics among the HLCs generated from the 12 individual donor PHH-iPS-HBCs could be properly compared. In addition, the hepatic differentiation efficiency could be rendered uniform not only in the PHH-iPSC lines but also in non-PHH-iPSC lines and human ESCs by performing hepatic maturation after the establishment of self-renewing HBCs (*SI Appendix*, Fig. S4). In Figs. 3 and 4, the HLCs were differentiated after the HBC proliferation step to normalize the hepatic differentiation efficiency.

PHH-iPS-HLCs Retained Donor-Specific Drug Metabolism Capacity and Drug Responsiveness. To examine whether the hepatic functions of individual PHH-iPS-HLCs reflect those of individual PHHs, the CYP metabolism capacity and drug responsiveness of PHH-iPS-HLCs were compared with those of PHHs. PHHs are often used as a positive control to assess the hepatic functions of the HLCs, although in all of the previous reports, the donor of PHHs has been different from that of human iPSCs. Because it is generally considered that CYP activity differs widely among individuals, the hepatic functions of the HLCs should be compared with those of genetically identical PHHs to accurately evaluate the hepatic functions of the HLCs. The CYP1A2, -2C9, and -3A4 activity levels in the PHH-iPS-HLCs were \sim 60% of

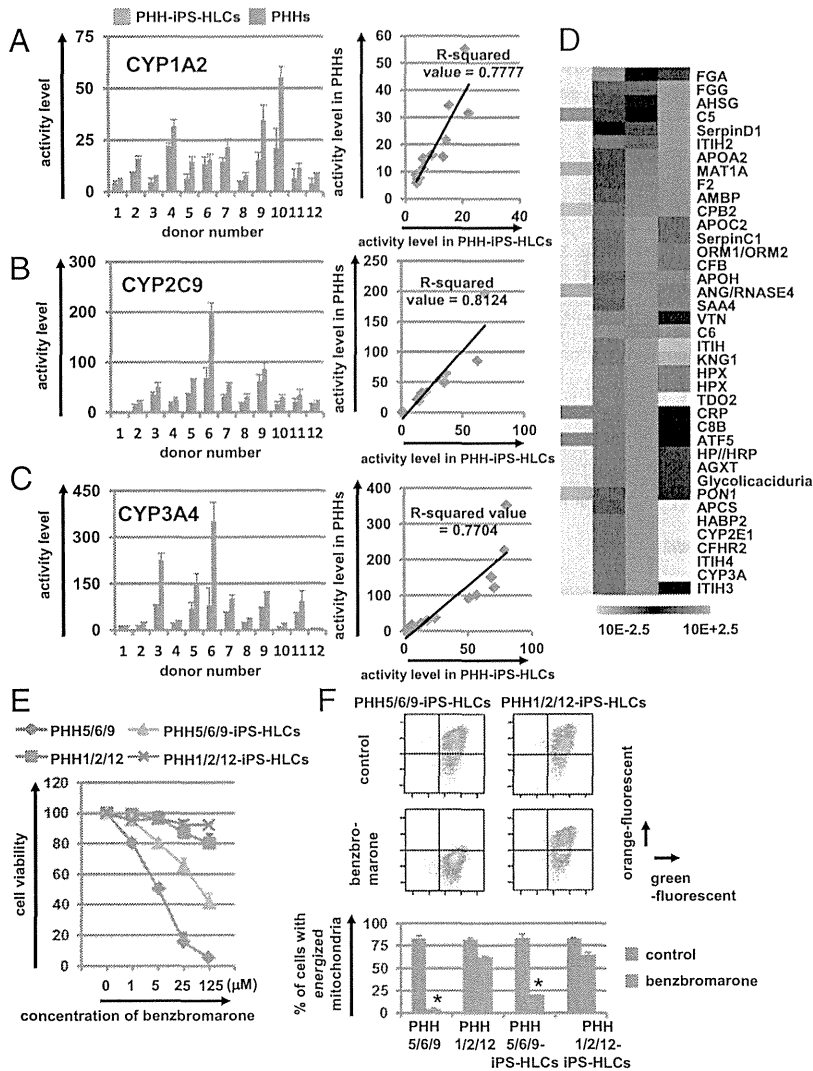


Fig. 3. The drug metabolism capacity and drug responsiveness of PHH-iPS-HLCs were highly correlated with those of their parental PHHs. (A–C) CYP1A2 (A), -2C9 (B), and -3A4 (C) activity levels in PHH-iPS-HLCs and PHHs were measured by LC-MS/MS analysis. The R-squared values are indicated in each figure. (D) The global gene expression analysis was performed in PHH9-iPSCs, PHH9-iPS-HLCs, PHH9s, and HepG2 (PHH-iPSCs, PHH-iPS-HLCs, and PHHs are genetically identical). Heat-map analyses of liver-specific genes are shown. (E) The cell viability of PHH5/6/9, PHH1/2/12, PHH5/6/9-iPS-HLCs, and PHH1/2/12-iPS-HLCs was examined after 24 h exposure to different concentrations of benzobromarone. The cell viability was expressed as a percentage of that in the cells treated only with solvent. (F) The percentage of cells with energized mitochondria in the DMSO-treated (control, *Upper*) or benzobromarone-treated (*Lower*) cells based on FACS analysis. Double-positive cells (green+/orange+) represent energized cells, whereas single-positive cells (green+/orange–) represent apoptotic and necrotic cells. Data represent the mean \pm SD from three independent experiments (*Lower Graph*). Student *t* test indicated that the percentages in the “control” were significantly higher than those in the “benzobromarone” group ($P < 0.01$). The “PHH5/6/9” represents the average value of cell viability (E) or mitochondrial membrane potential (F) in PHH5, PHH6, and PHH9. The “PHH1/2/12” represents the average value of cell viability or mitochondrial membrane potential in PHH1, PHH2, and PHH12. PHH5, PHH6, and PHH9 were the top three with respect to CYP2C9 activity levels, whereas PHH1, PHH2, and PHH12 had the lowest CYP2C9 activity levels.

those in the PHHs (Fig. 3 A–C and *SI Appendix*, Fig. S5). Interestingly, the CYP1A2, -2C9, and -3A4 activity levels in the PHH-iPS-HLCs were highly correlated with those in the PHHs (the R-squared values were more than 0.77) (Fig. 3 A, B, and C, respectively). These results suggest that it would be possible to predict the individual CYP activity levels through analysis of the CYP activity levels of the PHH-iPS-HLCs. Because the average and variance of CYP3A4 activity levels in PHH-iPS-HLCs, non-PHH-iPS-HLCs, and human ES-HLCs were similar to each other (*SI Appendix*, Fig. S6), the drug metabolism capacity of PHH-iPS-HLCs might be similar to that of nonliver tissue-derived iPSCs and human ES-HLCs. Therefore, it might be possible to predict the diversity of drug metabolism capacity among donors by using nonliver tissue-derived iPSCs and human ES-HLCs as well as PHH-iPS-HLCs. On the other hand, the CYP induction capacities of PHH-iPS-HLCs were weakly correlated with those of PHHs (*SI Appendix*, Fig. S7 A–C). To further investigate the characteristics of the HLCs, DNA microarray analyses were performed in genetically identical undifferentiated iPSCs, PHH-iPS-HLCs, and PHHs. The gene expression patterns of liver-specific genes, CYPs, and transporters in the PHH-iPS-HLCs were similar to those in PHHs (Fig. 3D and *SI Appendix*, Fig. S7 D and E, respectively). Next, the hepatotoxic drug responsiveness of PHH-iPS-HLCs was compared with that of PHHs. Benzobromarone, which is known to cause

hepatotoxicity by CYP2C9 metabolism (11), was treated to PHH5/6/9 and PHH5/6/9-iPS-HLCs, which have high CYP2C9 activity, or PHH1/2/12 and PHH1/2/12-iPS-HLCs which have low CYP2C9 activity (Fig. 3E). The susceptibility of the PHH5/6/9 and PHH5/6/9-iPS-HLCs to benzobromarone was higher than that of PHH1/2/12 and PHH1/2/12-iPS-HLCs, respectively. These results were attributed to the higher CYP2C9 activity levels in PHH5/6/9 and PHH5/6/9-iPS-HLCs compared with those in PHH1/2/12 and PHH1/2/12-iPS-HLCs. Because it is also known that benzobromarone causes mitochondrial toxicity (12), an assay of mitochondrial membrane potential was performed in benzobromarone-treated PHHs and PHH-iPS-HLCs (Fig. 3F). The mitochondrial toxicity observed in PHH5/6/9 and PHH5/6/9-iPS-HLCs was more severe than that in PHH1/2/12 and PHH1/2/12-iPS-HLCs, respectively. Taken together, these results suggest that the hepatic functions of the individual PHH-iPS-HLCs were highly correlated with those of individual PHHs.

Interindividual Differences in CYP2D6-Mediated Metabolism and Drug Toxicity, Which Are Caused by SNPs in CYP2D6, Are Reproduced in the PHH-iPS-HLCs. Because certain SNPs are known to have a large impact on CYP activity, the genetic variability of CYP plays an important role in interindividual differences in drug response. CYP2D6 shows the large phenotypic variability due to genetic polymorphism (13). We next examined whether the PHHs used

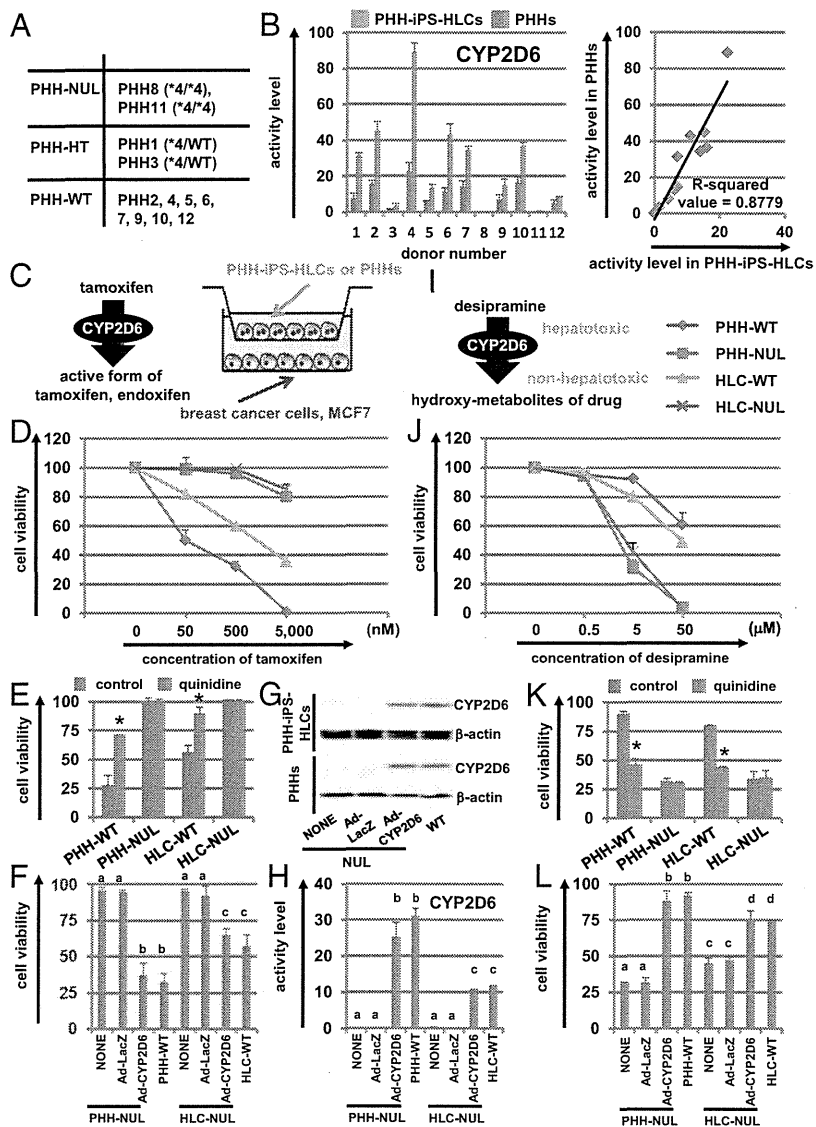


Fig. 4. The interindividual differences in CYP2D6 metabolism capacity and drug responsiveness induced by SNPs in CYP2D6 are reproduced in the PHH-iPS-HLCs. (A) SNPs (CYP2D6*3, *4, *5, *6, *7, *8, *16, and *21) in the CYP2D6 gene were analyzed. (B) The CYP2D6 activity levels in PHH-iPS-HLCs and PHHs were measured by LC-MS/MS analysis. (C) The pharmacological activity of tamoxifen-dependent conversion to its metabolite, endoxifen, by the CYP2D6. The coculture system of breast cancer cells (MCF-7 cells) and the PHH-iPS-HLCs are illustrated. (D) The cell viability of MCF-7 cells was assessed after 72-h exposure to different concentrations of tamoxifen. (E) The cell viability of MCF-7 cells, which were cocultured with PHH-WT, PHH-NUL, HLC-WT, and HLC-NUL, was assessed after 72-h exposure to 500 nM of tamoxifen in the presence or absence of 3 nM quinidine (a CYP2D6 inhibitor). (F) The cell viability of MCF-7 cells cocultured with Ad-CYP2D6-transduced PHH-NUL and HLC-NUL was examined after 72-h exposure to 500 nM of tamoxifen. (G and H) The CYP2D6 expression (G) and activity (H) levels in Ad-CYP2D6-transduced PHH-NUL and HLC-NUL were examined by Western blotting and LC-MS/MS analysis. (I) The detoxification of desipramine-dependent conversion to its conjugated form by the CYP2D6. (J) The cell viability of PHH-WT, PHH-NUL, HLC-WT, and HLC-NUL was assessed after 24-h exposure to different concentrations of desipramine. (K) The cell viability of the PHH-WT and HLC-WT was assessed after 24-h exposure to 5 μM of desipramine in the presence or absence of 5 μM of quinidine (a CYP2D6 inhibitor). (L) The cell viability of the Ad-CYP2D6-transduced PHH-NUL and HLC-NUL was examined after 24-h exposure to 5 μM of desipramine. The cell viability was expressed as a percentage of that in the cells treated with only solvent. Data represent the mean ± SD from three independent experiments. In E and K, Student t test indicated that the cell viability in the "control" was significantly higher than that in the "quinidine" group ($P < 0.01$). In F, H, and L, statistical significance was evaluated by ANOVA followed by Bonferroni post hoc tests to compare all groups. Groups that do not share the same letter are significantly different from each other ($P < 0.05$).

in this study have the CYP2D6 poor metabolizer genotypes (CYP2D6 *3, *4, *5, *6, *7, *8, *16, and *21) (5). PHH8 and -11 have CYP2D6*4 (null allele), whereas the others have a wild type (WT) or hetero allele (SI Appendix, Table S3 and Fig. 4A). Consistent with this finding, the PHH8/11-iPS-HLCs also have CYP2D6*4, whereas the others have a wild type or hetero allele. As expected, the CYP2D6 activity levels in the PHH8/11 (PHH-NUL) and PHH8/11-iPS-HLC (HLC-NUL) were significantly lower than those in the PHH-WT and HLC-WT, respectively (Fig. 4B). The pharmacological activity of tamoxifen, which is the most widely used agent for patients with breast cancer, is dependent on its conversion to its metabolite, endoxifen, by the CYP2D6 (Fig. 4C). To examine whether the pharmacological activity of tamoxifen could be predicted by using PHHs and HLCs that have either the null type CYP2D6*4 allele or wild-type CYP2D6 allele, the breast cancer cell line MCF7 was cocultured with PHHs or HLCs, and then the cells were treated with tamoxifen (Fig. 4D). The cell viability of MCF7 cells cocultured with PHHs-NUL or HLCs-NUL was significantly higher than that of MCF7 cells cocultured with PHHs-WT or HLCs-WT. The decrease in cell viability of MCF7 cells cocultured with PHHs-WT or HLCs-WT was rescued by treatment with a CYP2D6 inhibitor, quinidine (Fig. 4E). We also

confirmed that the cell viability of MCF7 cells cocultured with PHHs-NUL or HLCs-NUL was decreased by CYP2D6 overexpression in the PHHs-NUL or HLCs-NUL (Fig. 4F). Note that the expression (Fig. 4G) and activity (Fig. 4H) levels of CYP2D6 in CYP2D6-expressing adenovirus vector (Ad-CYP2D6)-transduced PHHs-NUL or HLCs-NUL were comparable to those of PHHs-WT or HLCs-WT. These results indicated that the PHHs-WT and HLCs-WT could more efficiently metabolize tamoxifen than the PHHs-NUL and HLCs-NUL, respectively, and thereby induced higher toxicity in MCF7 cells. Similar results were obtained with the other breast cancer cell line, T-47D (SI Appendix, Fig. S8 A–D). Next, we examined whether the CYP2D6-mediated drug-induced hepatotoxicity could be predicted by using PHHs and HLCs having either a null type CYP2D6*4 allele or wild-type CYP2D6 allele. PHHs and HLCs were treated with desipramine, which is known to cause hepatotoxicity (Fig. 4I) (14). The cell viability of PHHs-NUL and HLCs-NUL was significantly lower than that of PHHs-WT and HLCs-WT (Fig. 4J). The cell viability of the PHHs-WT or HLCs-WT was decreased by treatment with a CYP2D6 inhibitor, quinidine (Fig. 4K). We also confirmed that the decrease in the cell viability of the PHHs-NUL or HLCs-NUL was rescued by CYP2D6 overexpression in the PHHs-NUL or HLCs-NUL (Fig. 4L). Similar

results were obtained with the other hepatotoxic drug, perhexiline (*SI Appendix*, Fig. S8 E–H). These results indicated that the PHHs-WT and HLCs-WT could more efficiently metabolize imipramine and thereby reduce toxicity compared with the PHHs-NUL and HLCs-NUL. Taken together, our findings showed that the interindividual differences in CYP metabolism capacity and drug responsiveness, which are prescribed by an SNP in genes encoding CYPs, were also reproduced in the PHH-iPS-HLCs.

Discussion

The purpose of this study was to examine whether the individual HLCs could reproduce the hepatic function of individual PHHs. A Yamanaka 4 factor-expressing SeV vector was used in this study to generate integration-free human iPSCs from PHHs. It is known that SeV vectors can express exogenous genes without chromosomal insertion, because these vectors replicate their genomes exclusively in the cytoplasm (15). To examine the different cellular phenotypes associated with SNPs in human iPSC derivatives, the use of integration-free human iPSCs is essential.

We found that the CYP activity levels of the PHH-iPS-HLCs reflected those of parent PHHs, as shown in Fig. 3 A–C. There were few interindividual differences in the ratio of CYP expression levels in the PHH-iPS-HLCs to those in PHHs (*SI Appendix*, Fig. S5). Together, these results suggest that it is possible to predict the individual CYP activity levels through analysis of the CYP activity levels of the PHH-iPS-HLCs. In the future, it will be necessary to confirm these results in skin or blood cell-derived iPSCs as well as PHH-iPSCs, although donor-matched PHHs and blood cells (or skin cells) are difficult to obtain. In addition, the comparison of hepatic functions between genetically identical PHHs and PHH-iPS-HLCs (Fig. 3 A–C) would enable us to accurately ascertain whether the HLCs exhibit sufficient hepatic function to be a suitable substitute for PHHs in the early phase of pharmaceutical development. Because the drug responsiveness of the individual HLCs reflected that of individual PHHs (Fig. 3 E and F), it might be possible to perform personalized drug therapy following drug screening using a patient's HLCs. However, the R-squared values of the individual CYP activities differed from each other (Fig. 3 A–C), suggesting that the activity levels of some CYPs are largely

influenced not only by genetic information but also by environmental factors, such as dietary or smoking habits.

The interindividual differences of CYP2D6 metabolism capacity and drug responsiveness that were prescribed by SNP in genes encoding CYP2D6 were reproduced in the PHH-iPS-HLCs (Fig. 4). It was impossible to perform drug screening in the human hepatocytes derived from a donor with rare SNPs because these hepatocytes could not be obtained. However, because human iPSCs can be generated from such donors with rare SNPs, the CYP metabolism capacity and drug responsiveness of these donors might be possible to predict. Further, it would also be possible to identify the novel SNP responsible for an unexpected hepatotoxicity by using the HLCs in which whole genome sequences are known. We thus believe that the HLCs will be a powerful tool not only for accurate and efficient drug development but also for personalized drug therapy.

Experimental Procedures

DNA Microarray. Total RNA was prepared from the PHH9-iPSCs, PHH9-HLCs, PHH9, and human hepatocellular carcinoma cell lines by using an RNeasy Mini kit. A pool of three independent samples was used in this study. cRNA amplifying, labeling, hybridizing, and analyzing were performed at Miltenyi Biotec. The Gene Expression Omnibus (GEO) accession no. for the microarray analysis is GSE61287.

Flow Cytometry. Single-cell suspensions of human iPSC-derived cells were fixed with 2% (vol/vol) paraformaldehyde (PFA) for 20 min, and then incubated with the primary antibody (described in *SI Appendix*, Table S1), followed by the secondary antibody (described in *SI Appendix*, Table S2). In case of the intracellular staining, the Permeabilization Buffer (eBioscience) was used to create holes in the membrane thereby allowing the antibodies to enter the cell effectively. Flow cytometry analysis was performed using a FACS LSR Fortessa flow cytometer (BD Biosciences).

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