



HHS Public Access

Author manuscript

Nat Cell Biol. Author manuscript; available in PMC 2018 November 01.

Published in final edited form as:

Nat Cell Biol. 2017 November ; 19(11): 1298–1306. doi:10.1038/ncb3629.

The impact of cellular metabolism on chromatin dynamics and epigenetics

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Abstract

The substrates used to modify nucleic acids and chromatin are affected by nutrient availability and the activity of metabolic pathways. Thus, cellular metabolism constitutes a fundamental component of chromatin status and thereby of genome regulation. Here we describe the biochemical and genetic principles of how metabolism can influence chromatin biology and epigenetics, discuss the functional roles of this interplay in developmental and cancer biology, and present future directions in this rapidly emerging area.

Introduction

Organismal metabolism begins with the ingestion of nutrients from food sources. It continues with the processing of these nutrients in the gut, which then interacts with the microbiome, liver, pancreas, muscle, and many other organs to result in a set of compounds that circulate in the plasma¹. Cells take up these plasma-supplied nutrients along with other components provided by their microenvironment^{2, 3}, and use them to create cellular metabolic networks that are organized through interconnected chemical reactions with thousands of metabolites linked by commensurate numbers of reactions. Metabolic network activity is characterized by the concentrations of intermediate metabolites and the rates (i.e. fluxes) at which one metabolite is converted to another, and is mediated by genotype, epigenotype, and environmental inputs such as nutrient availability, and the engagement of signaling pathways^{3–6}.

Chromatin is the intracellular structure that packages DNA in eukaryotic cells. The principal unit of chromatin organization is the nucleosome, which is formed by DNA wrapped around an octamer of histone proteins. Chromatin can exist in different stable states and is altered by covalent modifications on the histones along with the presence of many other factors such as long non-coding RNAs, protein chaperones, and chromatin remodeling enzymes^{7–10}. These modifications influence chromatin structure and binding of chromatin remodeling enzymes and transcription factors in complex and often poorly understood ways^{7–11}. They also can mark the existence of functional genomic elements (e.g. promoters, enhancers and

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Competing Financial Interests

The authors declare no competing financial interests.

exons)^{7–10, 12–14}. Thus, there is tremendous potential for these posttranslational modifications to have profound effects on gene expression and substantial ongoing efforts aim to understand the structure and function of chromatin modifications^{10, 11, 15–19}. Chromatin and nucleic acid modifications, when inherited after cell division, or in offspring after reproduction (e.g. genomic imprinting), are often referred to as epigenetics^{18, 20}.

Because metabolites are the substrates used to generate chromatin modifications, there exists an intriguing but complex connection between metabolism and epigenetics. In this review, we first introduce biochemical principles that enable the epigenome to respond to metabolic variation and then discuss the genetic basis for how this interaction may generate stable phenotypes. We next discuss recent advances in our understanding of this connection with particular emphasis on stem cell biology and tumorigenesis. Our aim is to provide both a foundation of the principles that govern the interaction between metabolism and chromatin state and a discussion of ongoing developments that are shaping our understanding of its role in biology.

Biochemical principles of the link from metabolism to chromatin

More than 100 distinct covalent modifications have been identified on chromatin, DNA and RNA with many having substantially documented or emerging functional annotation^{21–23}. Among them, methylation, phosphorylation, ubiquitination, and acetylation are the most well understood, but less studied modifications including glycosylation, crotonylation, succinylation, are also known to be functionally important^{24, 25}. Addition and removal of these modifications are, with some exceptions²⁶, catalyzed by enzymes of which the activities are mediated by the availability of substrates, cofactors and allosteric regulators that are derived from metabolic pathways. A key characteristic that defines the crosstalk between metabolism and chromatin is that the kinetic (e.g. K_m values) and thermodynamic (e.g. K_d values) properties of these interactions are commensurate with the dynamic range of physiological concentrations of the corresponding intermediates in metabolism (Table 1). For example, methylation and acetylation reactions often have substrates that have typical cellular concentrations that are commensurate with enzyme K_m values and thus are responsive to changes in metabolism (Table 1, Fig 1)^{19, 26–31}. In contrast, modifications such as phosphorylation and ubiquitination do not respond to changes in metabolism because kinases and E3 ligases that carry out phosphorylation and ubiquitination reactions use ATP as a metabolic substrate²⁷. ATP levels (~mM in cells) do not reach physiological levels that limit the activities of these enzymes ($K_m \sim \mu\text{M}$) (Fig 1a).

There are numerous chromatin and nucleic acid-modifying enzymes (Fig 1b). Some examples which are non-exhaustive and have been reviewed extensively elsewhere^{7–9, 17, 25, 32–38} include histone methyltransferases, glycosyltransferases, demethylases, acetyltransferases, deacetylases, deacylases, DNA and RNA methyltransferases and demethylases. As has been reviewed extensively^{3, 9, 19, 28, 30, 31, 39–44}, these enzymes utilize, as substrates and cofactors, metabolites derived from diverse metabolic pathways including serine-glycine one carbon (SGOC) metabolism and particularly the methionine cycle, the tricarboxylic acid cycle, beta oxidation, glycolysis, and hexosamine biosynthesis. In these metabolic networks,

intermediate metabolites including S-adenosylmethionine (SAM), Acetyl-coenzyme A (Acetyl-CoA), NAD⁺, alpha-ketoglutarate (α KG), and Uridine diphosphate N-acetylglucosamine (UDP-GlcNAc), and others, serve as substrates for enzymes that modify chromatin and nucleic acids. Additionally, metabolites such as S-adenosylhomocysteine (SAH), Coenzyme A (coA), beta-hydroxybutyrate, fumarate, succinate, lactate, and S and R enantiomeric forms of 2-hydroxyglutarate modify enzyme activity often by competitively inhibiting substrate utilization. There is also emerging evidence that vitamin C may act as a cofactor for dioxygenases that modify chromatin and DNA^{45–47}. Thus, each modification can be affected by metabolites from multiple metabolic pathways – for instance, enzymes involved in histone and DNA methylation and demethylation can be regulated by both methionine metabolism and the TCA cycle – thus enabling the epigenome to respond to the status of the whole metabolic network.

Principles for the influence of metabolism on epigenomics and phenotypic outcomes

Epigenetic modifications are maintained over cellular and organismal generations even when the environmental stimuli triggering a particular epigenetic reprogramming mechanism are removed. For example, individuals exposed to famine during the Dutch Hunger Winter displayed altered DNA methylation patterns for over six decades⁴⁸. Moreover, factors such as diet^{49–52}, microbiome⁵³, temperature⁵⁴, malnutrition⁵⁵, chemical exposure⁵⁶ and many others are able to induce heritable alterations in nucleic acid or histone methylation profiles that can be stably transmitted through more than 10 generations⁵⁴. How epigenomic states are stably inherited is unknown, but perturbations to chromatin-modifying enzymes in the germline in controlled laboratory settings have yielded comparable heritable effects to what is observed in settings of human exposure⁵⁷. This suggests that changes to the activity of chromatin-modifying enzymes that are known to be affected by metabolism, may be possible transient events that contribute to these phenotypic changes.

Furthermore, the epigenome can be used to characterize cellular state or type. Comparative analysis of epigenomic profiles have identified cell- and tissue-type-specific chromatin and DNA methylation features⁵⁸. Alterations to chromatin marks have been shown to serve as limiting steps to cell fate transitions such as those occurring during nuclear transfer^{59, 60}, indicating that the epigenome is causally implicated in the establishment of cellular states. A conceptual framework known as Waddington's Landscape is often used to illustrate the relationship between the epigenome and cell states^{61–66}. In the 1940s, Conrad Waddington developed the concept of an epigenomic landscape as a blueprint for the differentiation program during development^{65–68}. Waddington's landscape is composed of valleys and summits, with valleys representing epigenotypes (in modern terms, stable chromatin modification profiles that define a phenotype) and summits corresponding to the barriers required for the maintenance of stable, heritable epigenomic states that prevent transitions between epigenotypes. Thus valleys can represent different cell states (e.g. pluripotent versus differentiated, normal versus cancerous), the transitions between which are limited by changes in chromatin status (Figs 2a,b).

Two models are proposed for how epigenetics could be affected by metabolic alterations in the context of Waddington's Landscape (Figs 2c,d). One possibility (Model I) is that

metabolic reprogramming facilitates the transition from one to another cell type (e.g. differentiation) by changing specific chromatin modifications. The stability of these cell states and thus how likely it is for a cell that has transitioned to a new cell state, to return to its previous cell type, depends on the height of the barrier. For example a change in the levels of metabolites such as methionine or α KG would modulate the activity of methyltransferase or demethylase enzymes, thereby promoting the reorganization of specific epigenetic marks and facilitating cell differentiation across a barrier (Fig 2b). Another possibility (Model II) is that metabolic reprogramming reshapes Waddington's Landscape and induces the formation of new stable epigenetic states. In this model, a change in cellular metabolism could either induce gene expression programs related to chromatin remodeling through any number of mechanisms known to allow for such effects, or could directly affect the availability of substrates and cofactors for chromatin-modifying enzymes. In both instances, the cell state transition would be irreversible since Waddington's Landscape has changed. This may occur during germline transmission of an epigenomic phenotype due to a parental diet or a germline mutation in a chromatin-modifying enzyme^{49, 57, 69} (Fig 2c). Although these proposed models are intriguing, more research is needed to reconstruct the structure of the epigenetic landscape under different metabolic conditions to investigate and distinguish between different possibilities.

The nexus of metabolism and epigenetics in cell fate and development

In recent years the link between cellular metabolism, cell fate and early organismal development has been an area of intense study. Early events in stem cell differentiation occur rapidly, and thus changes in metabolism as a driver of such events is an attractive hypothesis⁴⁰. Indeed the influence of metabolism in the maintenance of stem cell pluripotency has been extensively explored^{5, 40, 70-74}. The effects of metabolism on stem cell fate have been recently reviewed in detail elsewhere^{3, 5, 75} and thus here we will touch on specific aspects that highlight their interplay.

Two subsets of embryonic stem cells (ESCs), termed naïve and primed, have been defined based on their distinct pluripotency versus differentiation properties, and are also characterized by epigenetically distinct states^{5, 40}. Naïve pluripotent stem cells are characterized by their ability to form all cell types without bias, whereas primed pluripotent stem cells are considered to be poised for lineage differentiation^{5, 40}. In general, high rates of glycolysis even in the presence of oxygen, a phenomenon known as the Warburg Effect²⁸, is prevalent in pluripotency and appears to be dynamically regulated in order to facilitate the differentiation process⁷⁶. For example, human naïve pluripotent stem cells (PSCs) were shown to have higher glycolytic metabolism than human primed PSCs or differentiated cells⁷¹, and loss of mitochondrial oxidative metabolism was shown to cause defects in mouse hematopoietic stem cell differentiation⁷⁷. Of note, other reports have shown increased oxidative phosphorylation in human and mouse naïve PSCs compared to their primed counterparts⁷⁸. Together, these studies emphasize the temporal complexities of cellular metabolism in driving cell fate, and that glycolysis and oxidative metabolism may not be mutually exclusive when it comes to regulating pluripotency. Although metabolism unquestionably influences the pluripotent state, additional studies are needed to elucidate the exact mechanisms for how metabolic features contribute to pluripotency or differentiation.

In addition to the metabolic changes that occur during these cell fate transitions, it is also now widely appreciated that changes in metabolism are directly linked to changes in chromatin and DNA state. The levels of acetyl-CoA, the substrate for histone acetylation^{79–83}, have been shown to be critical for the maintenance of human and mouse stem cell pluripotency⁷⁰. Reduced NAD⁺ levels due to increased glycolytic metabolism have been shown to decrease NAD⁺-dependent histone deacetylase activity and to promote mouse muscle stem cell differentiation⁸⁴. α KG was shown to maintain mouse naïve stem cell self-renewal by promoting histone and DNA demethylation through the activity of JmjC-family histone demethylases and TET-family DNA demethylases⁸⁵. Increased α KG levels were also found to promote early differentiation of human primed PSCs and mouse epiblast stem cells⁸⁶. Of significance, reduction of the α KG/succinate ratio was able to reverse the observed effects^{85, 86}, indicating that the alterations in metabolic pathways drive chromatin dynamics.

The methionine cycle has also been shown to regulate histone methylation in mouse ESCs⁷⁴. As with α KG, methionine-derived SAM appears to play multiple roles in mediating cell fate depending on context. Depletion of SAM through short-term methionine deprivation triggered differentiation of human primed ESCs⁷³. Additionally, Nicotinamide N-methyltransferase upregulation in human naïve ESCs depleted SAM pools and maintained self-renewal, thus preventing the differentiation process⁷⁶. Beyond the literature on pluripotency and metabolism, metabolism has been recently shown to maintain or induce specific adult stem cell lineages^{87, 88}, however whether epigenetics may play a role in these settings remains to be determined. Together, these reports highlight that differing metabolomes are found in distinct cell states, and demonstrate the functional consequence of how changes in metabolism can affect and possibly specify cell fate.

The hematopoietic lineage is another well-studied system that exhibits cell state transitions. Recent reports highlight a critical role for metabolism in driving immune cell activation and differentiation^{89, 90}. For example, T-cells undergo rapid changes in glycolysis upon activation⁹¹. There are additionally well established roles for epigenetics in immune cell fate⁹²: enhanced glycolysis-dependent acetyl-CoA production in regulatory T-cells has been shown to promote differentiation through increased histone acetylation⁹³, and α KG has been reported to regulate context-specific gene reprogramming for helper T-cell differentiation⁹⁴. Another example was observed in a *C. elegans* pathogen feeding model, in which deletion of methionine synthase reduced the immune response to pathogens by preventing expression of protective genes dependent on histone methylation⁹⁵. Future studies will undoubtedly uncover more links, and it will be interesting to examine how changes in nutrient availability as a result of metabolic competition with other cells^{96, 97} or metabolite exchange affects immune cell metabolism, chromatin biology, and function.

A remaining question concerns how metabolism-dependent cell state changes affect the overall development of the organism. Tissue-type specific mechanisms for how metabolic changes affect development have started emerging^{98, 99}, and future studies will uncover how these may control cell fate, tissue morphogenesis and development through epigenetic mechanisms. Given that recent reports indicate systemic and distinct changes in histone

methylation in early mammalian development^{100–102}, it will be exciting to explore the role metabolism and perhaps diet has in these contexts.

The influence of metabolism and epigenetics in cancer biology and therapeutic potential

Altered metabolism is a hallmark of cancer^{2, 4}. For almost a century malignant cells have been known to exhibit nutritional differences compared to normal cells²⁸, and recent evidence supports that they also harbor epigenetic changes driven by their rewired cellular metabolism^{39, 41, 103}. A major breakthrough in our understanding of the connection between metabolism and epigenetics in cancer was the discovery of gain-of-function mutations to the genes encoding isocitrate dehydrogenase (IDH) 1 and 2 that cause an altered enzymatic activity resulting in the production of the (R)-2-hydroxyglutarate (2-HG) metabolite^{104, 105}. These mutations are recurrent and their consequences in tumorigenesis have been reviewed extensively elsewhere⁴⁴. In brief, cells harboring *IDH1/2* mutations display DNA and histone hypermethylation as accumulation of 2-HG inhibits the activity of TET-family DNA and JmjC-family histone demethylase enzymes¹⁰⁶. These mutations have been linked to the pathogenesis of glioblastoma multiforme, acute myeloid leukemia, chondrosarcoma, cholangiocarcinoma, and other human malignancies⁴⁴.

Furthermore, mutations in the genes encoding fumarate hydratase (FH) and succinate dehydrogenase (SDH), the enzymes that catabolize fumarate and succinate, have been identified in several sporadic and hereditary cancers and cause accumulation of their substrates¹⁰⁷. High levels of fumarate and succinate can also inhibit α KG-dependent DNA and histone demethylases and loss of FH and SDH activity was shown to lead to hypermethylation of DNA and histone residues^{107, 108}. A recent report demonstrated that loss-of-function mutations in FH and the subsequent accumulation of fumarate promotes epithelial-to-mesenchymal-transition (EMT) through fumarate-dependent inhibition of TET demethylases and subsequent induction of genes necessary for EMT¹⁰⁹. FH was also found to be O-GlcNAcylated, which caused changes in histone methylation¹¹⁰, and provides evidence for additional layers of metabolic regulation of chromatin. Indeed a recent study proposed that a substantial portion of variation in DNA methylation profiles across all human cancers could be explained by differences in the expression of enzymes related to methionine and the one carbon network¹¹¹. Taken together these studies define clear and sometimes quantitative roles for metabolism in specifying aspects of the epigenome.

Cancer-specific deletions of other metabolic enzymes with implications in epigenetic regulation have also been reported. The gene encoding 5-methylthioadenosine phosphorylase (MTAP), a key enzyme in the methionine salvage pathway, is located near the ubiquitous tumor suppressor gene *CDKN2A* and the two are commonly co-deleted^{112, 113}, with the loss of *MTAP* thought to be a passenger event in cancer progression. However, recent reports have established a collateral dependency in *CDKN2A*-deleted tumors in which loss of *MTAP* causes accumulation of methylthioadenosine (MTA), the metabolite cleaved by MTAP, leading to inhibition of the PRMT5 protein arginine methyltransferase which was required for tumor growth^{112, 113}. The importance for methionine-derived SAM in regulating cell state and epigenetics^{73, 74} suggests that there could be instances where changes in SAM levels due to loss of the methionine salvage pathway could have dramatic

effects on chromatin state, which would support a more active role for MTAP in cancer development. However, whether *MTAP/CDKN2A* deleted cancers display an altered chromatin state remains to be determined.

Although as discussed above alterations in genes encoding metabolic enzymes have been identified in cancer, they are overall rare. In contrast, lesions in genes related to cancer-associated growth signaling pathways and downstream transcription factors are common¹¹⁴. Indeed, the ability of cancer cells to obtain growth factor independence by acquiring mutations that allow them to constitutively engage signaling pathways that control cell growth, survival, and proliferation is a recognized hallmark of oncogenesis. Mutations in enzymes that modify chromatin and DNA are recurrent and constitute a more recently defined class of cancer-associated mutations⁶⁶ that often result in aberrant chromatin and DNA epigenomic profiles. It is tempting to speculate that the function of these mutations is to uncouple their status from the interaction with metabolism and thus subvert this normal epigenetic regulation by nutrition and metabolism (Fig 3), however further studies are needed to better define the relationship between the normal metabolic regulation of chromatin and the cancer-associated chromatin mutations.

A major goal in studying metabolism-dependent epigenetic mechanisms in cancer is the hope of identifying targetable liabilities. Encouragingly, small molecules targeting mutant IDH1/2 are now very advanced clinically¹¹⁵. At the preclinical level a study on nutrient heterogeneity of the tumor microenvironment reported that the core regions of melanoma tumors had enhanced histone methylation as a result of reduced α KG levels, which led to resistance to BRAF inhibitor treatment, and the combination of histone methyltransferase and BRAF inhibitors was sufficient to overcome resistance¹¹⁶. Separately the SGOC network was shown to be upregulated in LKB1-deficient tumors with KRAS activation and could be coupled to SAM generation, causing enhanced DNA methyltransferase activity and elevated DNA methylation¹¹⁷. This study indicated that LKB1-deficiency could be a key vulnerability as DNA methyltransferase and serine metabolism inhibition reduced tumor growth¹¹⁷. A distinct line of work on the evolution of distant metastases of pancreatic ductal adenocarcinoma (PDAC) demonstrated that the oxidative branch of the pentose phosphate pathway (oxPPP) was a driving force for epigenome landscape reprogramming and the fitness of metastatic cells¹¹⁸, suggesting that targeting the oxPPP could be effective in metastatic PDAC. Together, these studies represent a few examples on how advances in our understanding of metabolic effects on epigenetics can be translated into potential therapies.

Future directions

Much remains unanswered in each of the areas discussed in this Review. The key element of the biochemistry is that enzymatic parameters such as K_m 's, V_{max} 's, and allosteric and inhibitory binding constants must be tuned to values that can limit enzyme activity. Although there is ample evidence that this can be achieved in pathophysiological conditions such as the presence of IDH1/2 or FH mutations, resulting in millimolar concentrations of 2HG in the case of IDH1/2¹⁰⁵, which is well above the inhibitory constant of dioxygenase enzymes, there is accumulating albeit far less evidence that such regulation occurs in physiological conditions (Table 1)¹¹⁹.

Additional complications that limit our understanding are potential differences in enzymatic parameters measured under conditions *in vitro* versus *in vivo*, and the difficulty in obtaining accurate measurements of exact concentrations *in vivo*, especially when the relevant concentration is compartmentalized in cells. Thus, more studies are needed to define physiological conditions in which the concentration dynamics of relevant substrates and cofactors causally underlie a change in chromatin state. It will also be necessary to clarify the extent to which environmental variables such as diet, which have profound effects on cancer outcome¹²⁰ and cell fate¹²¹, can modulate epigenetics by altering levels of the relevant metabolites to the needed concentrations.

A further complexity is that enzymes for both activating and repressive histone marks require metabolites. Thus, the precise input of cellular metabolism into the complex arrangement of multiple modifications on histones and DNA that have distinct functions remains an open question. For example, how do changes in the levels of metabolites such as SAM lead to predictable changes in gene expression? Additional, poorly understood layers of regulation likely exist that define the specificity of the chromatin-metabolite link. For instance, the formation of multiprotein complexes in which enzyme activities are affected by dynamic protein interactions and their localization to specific sites of the genome would occur in parallel with metabolite changes that also affect enzyme activity increasing the level of regulatory complexity that further work is expected to elucidate in the coming years. Finally, although the expression levels of metabolic network components appear to be to some extent predictive of DNA methylation levels¹¹¹, how predictive metabolite levels are of the overall chromatin state and epigenetic phenotype remains largely unknown. As we know, many other factors influence chromatin state such as gene expression and much of the study of epigenetics and chromatin biology was historically conducted without consideration of metabolic influences. How the magnitude of the metabolic effects on the activity of chromatin-modifying enzymes compares relative to transcriptional programs that control the expression of these enzymes remains unknown.

Moreover, our understanding of the genetic basis for how stable chromatin states or traits can be established through metabolic changes is very limited. In addition, although certain architectural aspects of chromatin modifications, such as peak shape, are known to encode information about phenotype^{12, 13}, the specific aspects of genomic architecture that may be affected by metabolites remain unknown. Our current knowledge of metabolic regulation of chromatin structure focuses on individual covalent chromatin marks, but the effect on higher-level chromatin structure such as genome folding and chromatin accessibility remains to be elucidated.

In stem and developmental biology, there are numerous examples of cell type transitions that show concomitant changes in metabolism and the chromatin landscape. Nevertheless, there are few examples that show that a metabolic change leads to a biological outcome due to a specific effect on chromatin or DNA modifications and independently of all other effects that may occur alongside this change in metabolite levels. This complexity results from the fact that metabolites involved in epigenetics are also connected to larger metabolic networks that affect nearly all aspects of cellular physiology. New CRISPR-CAS9-based technologies

that can engineer posttranslational modifications at specific genomic loci, when combined with defined metabolic perturbations, may address some of these challenges^{122–124}.

In cancer, although there is much interest in targeting both altered metabolism and altered epigenetics, whether these two hallmarks confer dependencies in tumors synergistically is unknown, with the exception of a few examples^{115, 116, 117, 118}. The same difficulties in establishing causal links apply also in this setting. In that respect exploring metabolic dependencies in settings where a genetic lesion modifies chromatin as in MLL-rearranged leukemias^{125, 126}, or pediatric brain tumors and sarcomas with histone mutations^{127, 128}, might prove fruitful as these cases could be particularly susceptible to a disruption in metabolism.

Although our understanding remains at a very early stage, rapid progress in our understanding is expected, especially considering the techniques that are available for chromatin and metabolic state characterization, and cell culture methods, including organoid systems, that can model and manipulate physiological metabolism more effectively^{119, 129–133}. This wealth of technology available to probe and interpret both chromatin status and metabolism and the collective interest in both subjects, raise optimism that rapid progress will continue to be made.

Acknowledgments

We apologize to those whose work could not be cited due to space constraints. We thank members of the Locasale lab and Purushothama Rao Tata for constructive comments on the manuscript. J.W.L. acknowledges support from R01CA193256 and P30CA014236.

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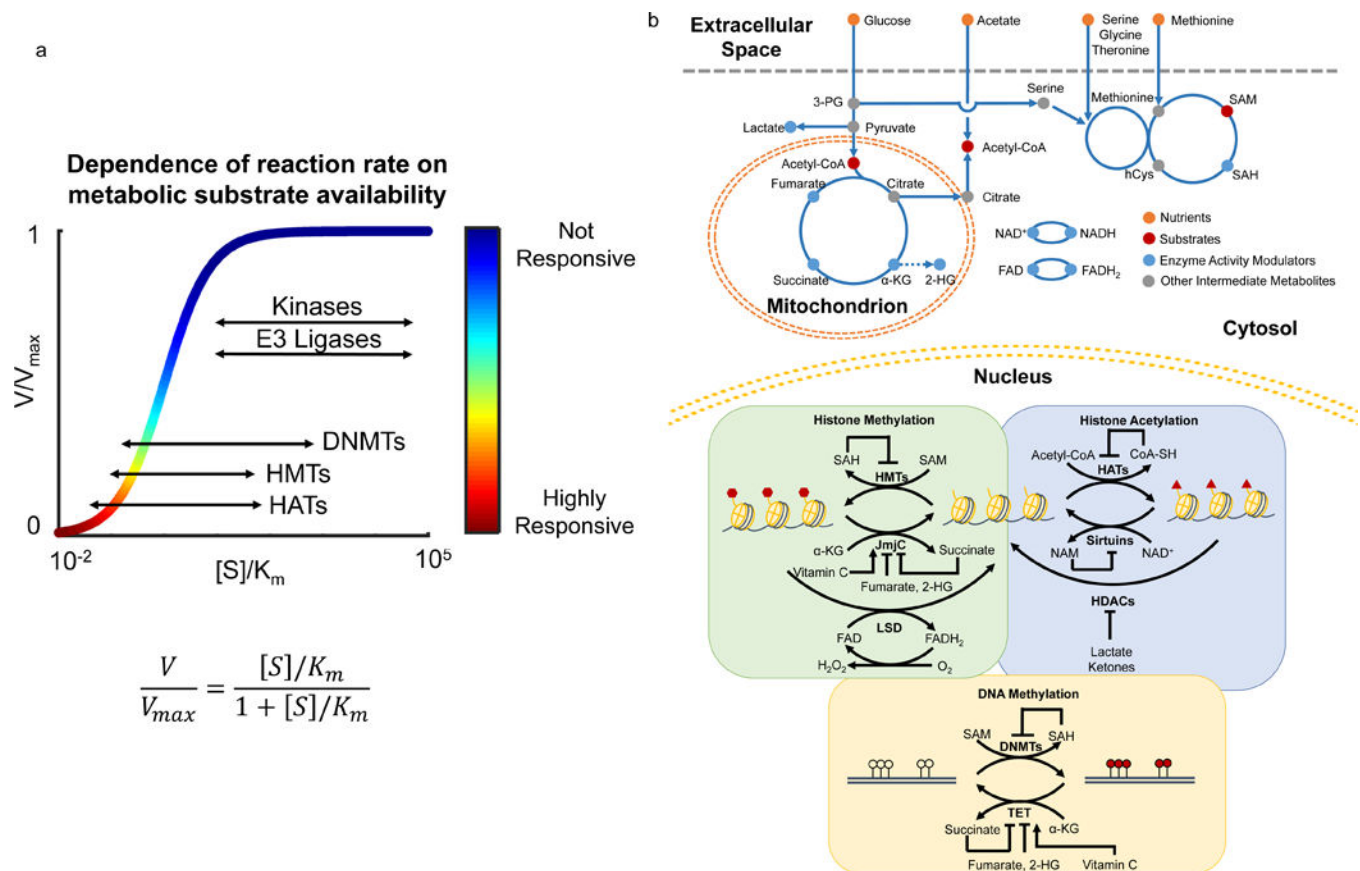


Figure 1. Biochemical basis of metabolite interaction with chromatin and metabolic pathways that contribute

a) In contrast to kinases and E3 ligases, the physiological concentrations of substrates of chromatin modifying enzymes such as DNA methyltransferase (DNMTs), histone methyltransferase (HMTs), and histone acetyltransferases (HATs) are much lower thus limiting enzymatic activities. Thus, the reaction rates of these enzymes are highly responsive to local changes in substrate availability. x axis: ratio of substrate concentration to K_m value; y axis: relative reaction rate. Ranges of $[S]/K_m$ for all five types of enzymes were estimated from K_m values in the BRENDA database (www.brenda-enzymes.org). b) Uptake and catabolism of macronutrients such as glucose and amino acids generate substrates such as acetyl-CoA and S-adenosylmethionine (SAM), and activity modulators such as alpha-ketoglutarate (α KG), (R)-2-hydroxyglutarate (2-HG), succinate, fumarate, lactate, S-adenosylhomocysteine (SAH), oxidized and reduced nicotinamide adenine dinucleotide (NAD^+ , NADH), and oxidized and reduced flavin adenine dinucleotide (FAD, FADH₂) used by enzymes that modify chromatin. SAM is the major methyl donor for methylation of cytosine bases in DNA and histone residues by DNA methyltransferase (DNMTs) and histone methyltransferases (HMTs), respectively. Acetyl-CoA is an essential substrate for acetylation of histone residues carried out by histone acetyltransferases (HATs). Other metabolites such as α KG, NAD^+ , and FAD are critical co-factors for the activity of chromatin modifying enzymes. α KG is used by TET-family DNA demethylases (TET) and JmjC-family histone demethylases (JmjC) to facilitate removal of methyl groups from

cytosine bases and histone residues, respectively. LSD-family histone demethylases (LSD) require FAD to demethylate histone residues. Sirtuins and other histone deacetylases (HDACs) require NAD⁺ to deacetylate histone residues. Additionally, metabolites such as 2-HG, succinate, fumarate, lactate and SAH can inhibit the activity of chromatin modifying enzymes.

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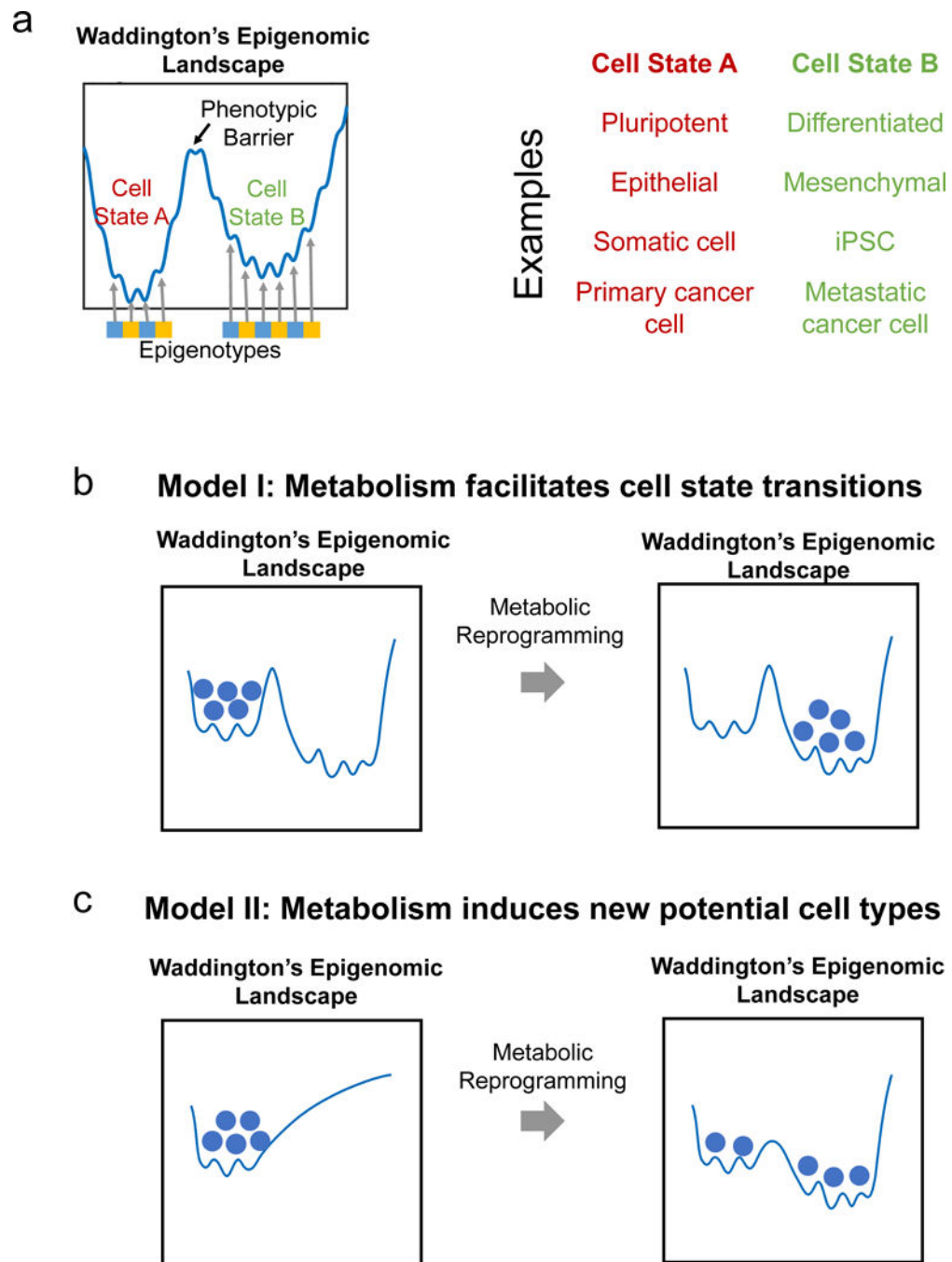


Figure 2. Metabolic reprogramming and Waddington's epigenomic landscape

a) Schematic representation of Waddington's Landscape depicting cell states existing in valleys maintained by epigenotypes and the phenotypic barrier between two cell states such as pluripotent and differentiated, epithelial and mesenchymal, somatic and induced pluripotent (iPSC), and primary and metastatic cancer cells. b) Model of how metabolism could facilitate cell state transitions without affecting the shape of the epigenomic landscape such as a change in metabolite level allowing for reorganization of specific chromatin marks. c) Model of how metabolic reprogramming could reshape the entire epigenomic landscape

leading to new cell states in a case where a cell type has different metabolic requirements. Balls represent cells transitioning from one state to another after changes in metabolism-dependent chromatin remodeling alters the phenotypic barrier.

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Growth Factor Signaling

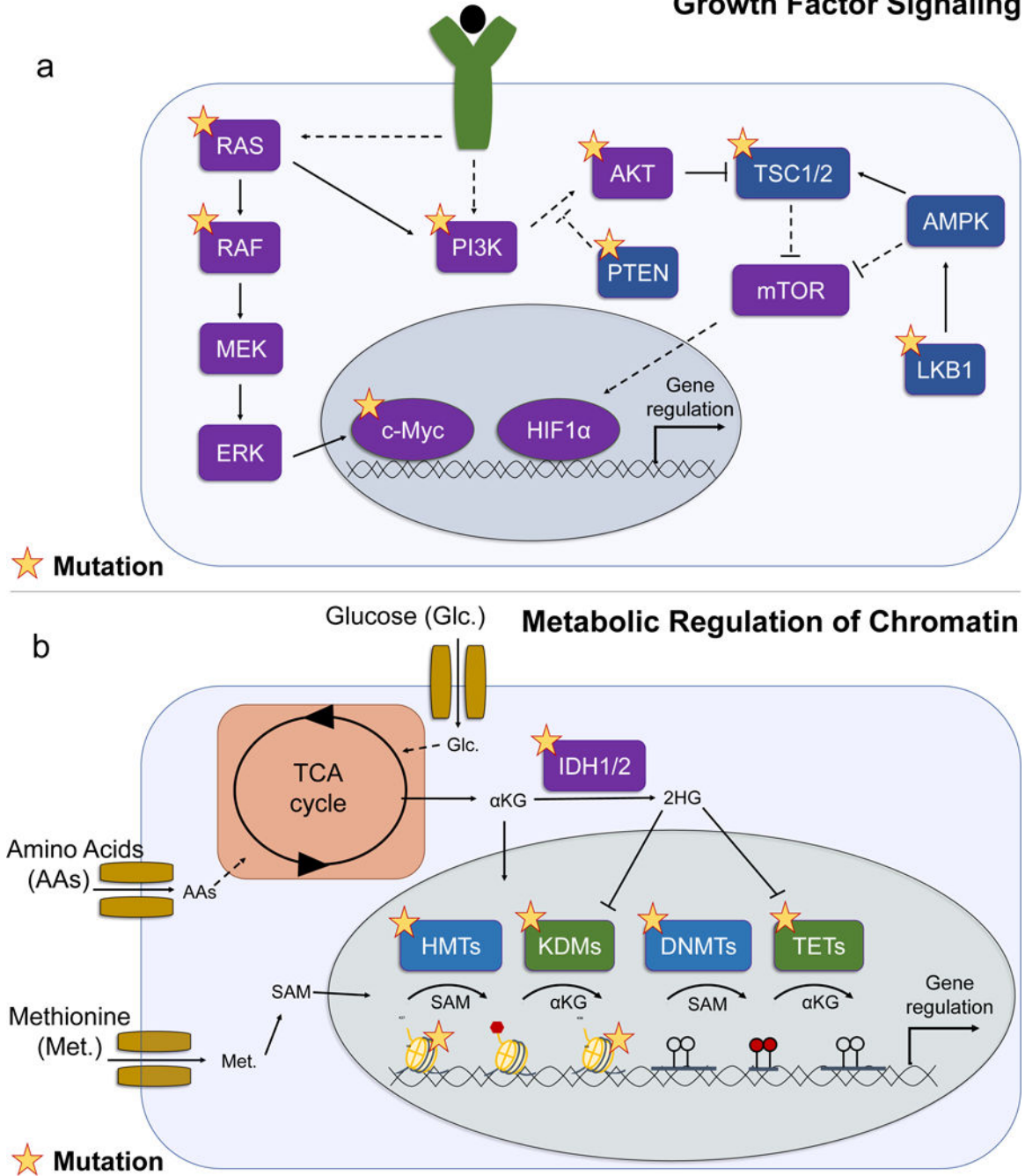


Figure 3. Analogy of cancer-associated mutations found in growth signaling with those in metabolism-dependent chromatin modifying processes

a) During oncogenesis, cells gain growth factor independence by frequently acquiring mutations that co-opt normal growth signaling. RAS and RAF are commonly mutated in cancer and drive downstream signaling through MEK and ERK, which can lead to gene regulation by c-Myc. RAS and growth factor signaling can activate the PI3K/AKT/mTOR signaling axis to promote cell growth and survival through downstream transcription factors such as HIF1α. Mutations to PI3K, AKT, PTEN, TSC, and LKB1 are also common in cancer. Purple indicates oncogenes; blue indicates tumor suppressors; yellow star indicates

common lesions in cancer; solid lines represent direct biochemical interactions; dotted lines represent indirect regulation. b) Metabolism regulates normal physiological activity of chromatin modifying enzymes, which are commonly mutated in cancer. Glucose (Glc.) and amino acids (AAs) feed into the TCA cycle, which generates regulators of chromatin modifying enzymes such as α KG. Methionine (Met.) produces the methyl donor SAM in the methionine cycle. With exception of Isocitrate dehydrogenase (IDH1/2), mutations in metabolic enzymes are uncommon in cancer, yet cancer-associated mutations in chromatin modifiers such as DNA methyltransferases (DNMTs), TET-family DNA demethylases (TET), histone methyltransferases (HMTs), histone lysine demethylases (KDMs), and histones (H3K27 and H3K36) are prevalent suggesting cells may subvert the normal regulation of these enzymes by metabolism during transformation. Blue indicates enzymes that perform methylation reactions; green indicates enzymes that perform demethylation reactions; yellow star indicates common lesions in cancer.

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Table 1
Ranges of kinetic parameters and concentrations of substrates and cofactors of chromatin-modifying enzymes

Enzyme	Substrates and cofactors	Kinetic parameter range [mM]	Substrate concentration range [mM]	[S]/K _m range	Refs
Histone Acetyltransferases (e.g. HATs, KATs, GCN5, CBP, p300)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Acetyl-CoA Coenzyme A 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 0.0002 - 0.046 (Acetyl-CoA K_m) 0.00044 - 5.43 (Coenzyme A K_i) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 0.0002–0.013 (Acetyl-CoA) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 0.04 – 65 (Acetyl-CoA) 	82, 134–137
Histone Methyltransferases (e.g. COMPASS, MLLs, EZH2/PRC2, SETs, DOT1L)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> SAM SAH, MTA 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 0.0012 - 0.0345 (SAM K_m) 0.00148 - 0.071 (SAH K_i) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 0.0033–0.059 (SAM) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 0.096 – 49 (SAM) 	138–142
DNA Methyltransferases (e.g. DNMTs)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> SAM SAH, MTA 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 0.0001 - 0.021 (SAM K_m) 0.000015 - 0.0024 (SAH K_i) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 0.0033–0.059 (SAM) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 0.16 – 536 (SAM) 	141–146
Histone Deacetylases (e.g. SIRT6, HDACs)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> NAD⁺ Nicotinamide, β-hydroxybutyrate 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 0.0023 - 1.4 (NAD⁺ K_m) 0.029 - 0.051 (Nicotinamide K_i) 2.4 - 5.3 (β-hydroxybutyrate IC₅₀) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 0.3 - 2 (NAD⁺) 0.01 - 10 (β-hydroxybutyrate) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 0.21 – 870 (NAD⁺) 	147–152
Histone	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> αKG, Oxygen, FAD 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 0.01–0.037 (αKG K_m) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 0.11–0.26 (αKG) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 3 - 26 (αKG) 0.11 – 2.98 	107, 153–158
Demethylases (e.g. LSD1, JHDMs, JMJDs, JARIDs, UTX)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> R-2HG, S-2HG, Succinate, Fumarate, Vitamin C, FADH₂ 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 0.057–0.197 (Oxygen K_m) 0.024–0.079 (R-2HG IC₅₀) 0.026–0.097 (S-2HG IC₅₀) 0.32 - 0.8 (Succinate IC₅₀) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 0.021–0.17 (Oxygen) 	(Oxygen)	

Enzyme	Substrates and cofactors	Kinetic parameter range [mM]	Substrate concentration range [mM]	[S]/K _m range	Refs
DNA Demethylases (e.g. TETs)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • αKG, Oxygen • R-2HG, S-2HG, Succinate, Fumarate, Vitamin C 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1.5–2.3 (Fumarate IC₅₀) • 0.035–0.075 (αKG K_m) • 0.02–0.04 (Oxygen K_m) • 1–1.6 (S-2HG IC₅₀) • 4–5 (R-2HG IC₅₀) • 0.44–0.76 (Succinate IC₅₀) • 0.23–0.55 (Fumarate IC₅₀) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 0.11–0.26 (αKG) • 0.021–0.17 (Oxygen) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1.47–7.43 (αKG) • 0.52–8.5 (Oxygen) 	156–160

HATs, histone acetyltransferases; *KATs*, lysine acetyltransferase; *GCN5*, GCN5-related N-acetyltransferase; *CBP*, CREB binding protein; *p300*, E1A binding protein p300; *COMPASS*, complex proteins associated with Set1; *MLL*, mixed-lineage leukemia histone methyltransferases; *EZH2/PRC2*, enhancer of zeste 2 polycomb repressive complex 2; *SETs*, SET domain-containing methyltransferases; *DOT1L*, DOT1 like histone lysine methyltransferase; *DNMTs*, DNA methyltransferases; *SIRT6*, Siruins; *HDACs*, histone deacetylases; *LSD1*, lysine demethylase 1; *JHDMs*, jumonji domain-containing histone demethylases; *JMJDs*, jumonji C domain-containing histone demethylases; *JARIDs*, jumonji and AT-rich interaction domain-containing histone demethylases; *UTX*, ubiquitously-transcribed X chromosome histone demethylase; *TETs*, ten-eleven translocation DNA demethylases; *SAM*, S-adenosylmethionine; *SAH*, S-adenosylhomocysteine; *MTA*, methylthioadenosine; *NAD⁺*, nicotinamide adenine dinucleotide (oxidized); *αKG*, alpha-ketoglutarate; *FAD*, flavin adenine dinucleotide (oxidized).