

Original Article

Nicotine dose-dependent epigenomic-wide DNA methylation changes in the mice with long-term electronic cigarette exposure

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Abstract: Epigenomic-wide DNA methylation profiling holds the potential to reflect both electronic cigarette exposure-associated risks and individual poor health outcomes. However, a systemic study in animals or humans is still lacking. Using the Infinium Mouse Methylation BeadChip, we examined the DNA methylation status of white blood cells in male ApoE^{-/-} mice after 14 weeks of electronic cigarette exposure with the InExpose system (2 hr/day, 5 days/week, 50% PG and 50% VG) with low (6 mg/ml) and high (36 mg/ml) nicotine concentrations. Our results indicate that electronic cigarette aerosol inhalation induces significant alteration of 8,985 CpGs in a dose-dependent manner (FDR<0.05); 7,389 (82.2%) of the CpG sites are annotated with known genes. Among the top 6 significant CpG sites (P-value<1e-8), 4 CpG sites are located in the known genes, and most (3/5) of these genes have been related to cigarette smoking. The other two CpGs are close to/associated with the *Phc2* gene that was recently linked to smoking in a transcriptome-wide associations study. Furthermore, the gene set enrichment analysis highlights the activation of MAPK and 4 cardiomyocyte/cardiomyopathy-related signaling pathways (including adrenergic signaling in cardiomyocytes and arrhythmogenic right ventricular cardiomyopathy) following repeated electronic cigarette use. The MAPK pathway activation correlates well with our finding of increased cytokine mRNA expression after electronic cigarette exposure in the same batch of mice. Interestingly, two pathways related to mitochondrial activities, namely mitochondrial gene expression and mitochondrial translation, are also activated after electronic cigarette exposure. Elucidating the relationship between these pathways and the increased circulating mitochondrial DNA observed here will provide further insight into the cell-damaging effects of prolonged inhalation of e-cigarette aerosols.

Keywords: Electronic cigarette, epigenomic-wide DNA methylation, dose-dependent, MAPK signaling pathway

Introduction

Introduced into the USA market in 2007 [1] as a healthy alternative to conventional cigarettes, e-cigarettes have experienced widespread acceptance among smokers, non-smokers, and especially the youth ever since [2]. The long-term health effects of e-cigarettes in humans are far from clear, and the causal inference study of e-cigarette user-health outcomes is time-consuming and costly. As an intermediate surrogate marker, DNA methylation does not change nucleotide sequences but partially de-

termines chromatin structure and patterns of gene expression [3]. Results from traditional smoking and pilot studies of e-cigarette vaping suggest that the alteration of DNA methylation has the potential to reflect smoking/vaping exposure and predict health effects, making it an ideal health biomarker of vaping [4, 5].

It has been well established that traditional cigarette smoking modulates DNA methylation in many CpG sites in an exposure concentration- and timing-dependent manner, suggesting that DNA methylation is induced not only by the

exposure itself but also by the chemical concentration within the products [6-9]. The Epigenetic Smoking status Estimator, EpiSmokEr, is recently developed as a smoking status prediction tool by analyzing the DNA methylation pattern of peripheral blood cells with a machine learning algorithm (multinomial LASSO regression) [10]. In contrast to the extensive literature on cigarette-induced DNA methylation alteration, the study on e-cigarette-induced alteration of DNA methylation is in its early stage [11]. Using DNA from bronchial brushing samples of 32 subjects, Song et al. identified 451 differentially methylated CpGs at a false discovery rate (FDR) $q < 0.1$; but in 97% of the CpGs methylation levels, e-cigarette users are between smokers and never-smokers [12]. Using leukocyte genomic DNA from 45 subjects, Caliri et al. showed that e-cigarette users and cigarette smokers have significant loss of methylation in LINE1 retroelements compared to controls [4]. These pilot studies clearly suggest that e-cigarette alters DNA methylation status; however, the small sample size and the limited number of DNA sequences analyzed make their results less conclusive or inclusive.

Extensive investigations in the last decade have suggested that DNA methylation signature is one of the determinant factors for human health, as methylation pattern partially shapes gene expression and sets up phenotypes, including potential initiation/progression of diseases and all-cause mortality [5]. In several common disorders, DNA methylation appears to explain a more significant portion of the measurable variance in complex traits than genetics [13, 14]. In a study using 13 clinical traits in adipose tissue, methylation of the fatty acid synthase locus alone could account for 16% of BMI variation [15]. For comparison, 97 genetic variants identified in a large genome-wide association study explain merely 2.7% of the BMI variance [16]. Given the established critical role of genome-wide DNA methylation signature as a biomarker of cigarette smoking-induced health effects and exposure status predictor, we propose that genome-wide DNA methylation will also serve as a potential biomarker for e-cigarette vaping-induced systemic health effects and exposure status.

In the current study, ApoE^{-/-} mice were divided into 3 groups based on different concentra-

tions of nicotine in e-cigarettes (0, 6 mg/ml, and 36 mg/ml) and exposed for 14 weeks. Methylation of DNA from circulating white blood cells was profiled with Infinium Mouse Methylation BeadChip Kit, interrogated over 285,000 methylated CpGs in the promoters, gene bodies, and enhancer regions for genome-wide methylation at single-nucleotide resolution. Our results indicate e-cigarette induces extensive, dose-related alteration in the methylation pattern of DNA.

Material and methods

Animal use

5-week-old ApoE^{-/-} mice were purchased from Jackson Laboratories (Bar Harbor, ME). All procedures were carried out following a protocol approved by Yale University Institutional Animal Care & Use Committee (IACUC).

E-cigarette exposure

In a series of experiments, mice were exposed to E-Cig vapor using the InExpose system specifically customized by Scientific Respiratory Equipment Inc. (Canada) for 2 hours/day, 5 days/week, for 14 weeks. The E-Cig formula (6 mg/ml or 36 mg/ml nicotine dissolved in 50% PG and 50% VG) and exposure setting were optimized according to the American E-Cig Liquid Manufacturing Standard and American Vaping Standard. Sixteen mice per group were subjected to whole-body exposure, while the control mice were exposed to HEPA filtered room air. At the experimental endpoint (12 hours after the last exposure), all mice were euthanized with CO₂, followed by cervical dislocation. 500 μ l of whole blood from each mouse was collected from vena cava, mixed with 50 μ l of 1 unit/ μ l Heparin (H3393, Sigma), and subjected to flow cytometry for white blood cell sorting and to DNA extraction for epigenetic analysis.

Cotinine measurement

Successful intake of e-cigarettes after exposure was confirmed by mouse cotinine tests. The urine collection was done during the experimental endpoints and within 1 hour after the last E-Cig exposure. A mouse/Rat Cotinine ELISA kit (CO096D-100, Calbiotech Inc.) was used to measure the cotinine level, following

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the protocol supplied by the kit. All tests were performed at room temperature and read absorbance on the microplate reader at 450 nm within 15 minutes after adding the stopping buffer. The standard curve was used to quantify cotinine concentration in the tested samples.

Flow cytometry with whole blood samples

100 µl of anticoagulant-treated whole blood collected from animals at the experimental endpoint was subjected to red blood cell lysis, according to the manufacturer's protocol. After red blood cell lysis, the remaining cells were stained with 4 fluorochrome-conjugated anti-mouse antibodies and analyzed on a FACSCanto LSRII flow cytometer (BD Biosciences). The antibody panel was designed based on various criteria, such as fluorochrome brightness, antigen density, co-expression, fluorochrome spillover of interested immune-cell subsets, and reagent availability in each panel for the available flow cytometer. Isotype controls were used to set the appropriate gate. Data were acquired with FACSDiva and analyzed with FlowJo 6.4.7v10.6. Approximately 20,000 cells were used to generate a scatter plot for each sample.

Blood cell DNA extraction, processing, and methylation profiling

Anticoagulant-treated mouse blood was centrifuged at 3500 rpm for 15 minutes to isolate the white blood cells and plasma. Both white blood cells and plasma were stored at -80°C for future tests. The Qiagen DNeasy Blood & Tissue kit (69506, Qiagen) was used for DNA extraction from the white blood cells. The extracted DNA was quantitated with a Qubit quantification assay (Thermo Fisher Scientific, Ecublens, Switzerland). Bisulfite-converted DNA was amplified and hybridized with Infinium Mouse Methylation BeadChip, including >285,000 markers (Illumina, CA, USA), and then scanned with Illumina iScan system (Illumina, CA, USA), following the manufacturer's protocols.

Preprocessing of methylation data

DNA methylation data were preprocessed with the R package 'Enmix' [17]. Methylation data were first corrected for dye bias with the RELIC

method [18] and then were quantile normalized. For quality control (QC), the samples with more than 5% of all CpG sites with a detection *P*-value larger than 0.01 and samples with mismatched sex between phenotype data and methylation data were removed. At the CpG level, CpG sites with a detection *P*-value larger than 0.01 in more than 5% of all samples (more than 1 sample in this study) were removed. Only CpG sites on autosomes were studied, and the CpG sites on sex chromosomes were removed in this study. Principal component analysis of all CpG sites that passed QC was used to find whether there were any outliers or clusters in the samples.

Identification of CpG sites with methylation changing according to e-cigarette exposure dose

A linear regression model listed below was used to discover CpG sites in which the methylation level changes with e-cigarette exposure dose. There are 3 levels of dosage, namely 0, 6, and 36 mg/ml.

$$M = \beta_0 + \beta_1 * Dose$$

M is the log₂ ratio of methylation over unmethylation. We used the *M* value, which is more statistically valid than the Beta value, the proportion of methylation, for statistical analysis, Beta value, which has a more intuitive biological interpretation, for figure demonstration [19].

Besides dose-based analysis, we also used t-test after dichotomizing the data into two different pairs of groups: 0 mg/ml group vs. 6 mg/ml + 36 mg/ml group and 0 mg/ml + 6 mg/ml group vs. 36 mg/ml group.

Gene set enrichment analysis

To identify potential functions of the genes associated with significant CpG sites, we performed gene set enrichment analysis using the R package 'clusterProfiler' [20] on the gene sets in the Kyoto Encyclopedia of Genes and Genomes (KEGG) and Gene Ontology (GO). We first identified genes associated with any significant CpG sites as significant genes. Then we only focused on genes with significant CpG sites in their promoter region for the enrichment analysis.

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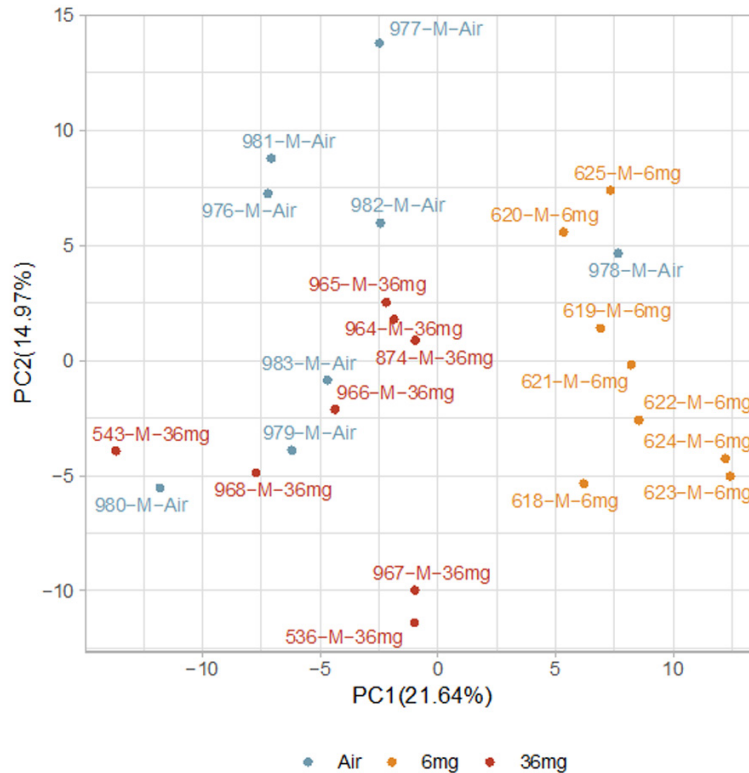


Figure 1. Scatter plot of the first two principal components of methylation data from all samples. The number in the parentheses is the proportion of variance.

Plasma cfDNA and mtDNA/nDNA ratio and oxidation of cell-free DNA

For measurement of *in vivo* plasma mtDNA/nDNA ratio, mice plasma was first subjected to cell-free DNA (cfDNA) extraction using Apostle minimax cfDNA extraction kit (ApostleBio, CA, US). Plasma cfDNAs were then used as templates for SYBR qPCR (Applied Biosystem, CA) with primers: murine 18S rDNA F: TAGAGGGA-CAAGTGGCGTTC; murine 18S rDNA R: CGCT-GAGCCAGTCAGTGT; murine mtCO-1 F: GCCCC-AGATATAGCATTCCC; murine mtCO-1 R: GTTC-ATCCTGTTCCTGCTCC. Amplification conditions were 95°C in 10 min; 95°C in 30 sec, 53°C in 30 sec for 40 cycles; followed by dissociation at 72°C in 30 sec, 95°C in 1 min, 55°C in 30 sec, and 95°C in 30 sec. The plasma mtDNA/nDNA ratio was calculated as the ratio of mtCO-1/18S rDNA. The relative fold-change of mtDNA was calculated using the $2^{-\Delta\Delta Ct}$ method and compared to the control air group.

6.25 μ l of a plasma sample from each mouse was used to do the DNA oxidation ELISA test

using the DNA Damage Competitive ELISA Kit (EIADNAD, Invitrogen). 8-OHdG level in plasma can be used to indicate the DNA oxidation.

All data were collated using Microsoft Excel Software and analyzed using GraphPad Prism 5.0 (GraphPad, La Jolla, CA). All data are represented as the mean values, and error bars represent the mean's standard error (SEM). Samples in experimental cohorts were compared using Dunnett's multiple comparisons test. The difference was considered significant when $P < 0.05$.

Results

E-cigarette exposure and blood cell component

The rodent whole body E-cigarette exposure system adopted in our study has been widely used and reported [21, 22].

Successful and dose-dependent E-cigarette exposure was confirmed by measuring urine cotinine levels, which average at 0, 100, or 300,000 ng/ml for E-cigarette exposure with the nicotine dose at 0, 6, or 36 mg/ml, respectively (Figure S1). It is known that the DNA methylation in white blood cells could be influenced by the proportion of sub-compositions. A flow cytometry analysis of white blood cells showed that E-cigarette exposed mice had no significant change in the ratio of B lymphocytes, neutrophils, T lymphocytes, and monocytes when compared to air-exposed mice (Figure S2).

Preprocessing of methylation data

After removing CpGs with low quality and CpGs on chromosomes X and Y, there were 264,286 CpG sites left. Principal component analysis of the remaining CpG sites revealed differences among the three dose groups. The samples in each dose group were more likely to be clustered together. And we did not find any outliers from PCA (Figure 1). There were two peaks in

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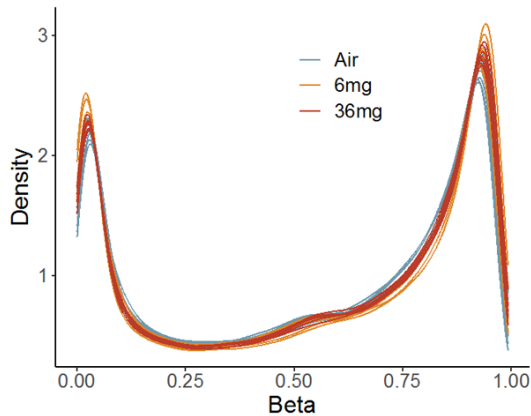


Figure 2. Beta value distribution of CpG sites on autosomes.

the Beta value distribution (**Figure 2**), similar to the human methylation profile [23] and consistent with the other mouse methylation study [24]. After QC, all samples were then subject to the following analyses.

CpG sites with methylation changing related to e-cigarette exposure dose

One unique design in the current study is the nicotine dose escalation, which is not easily evaluated in human e-cigarette vapers, as most studies are based on self-reported e-cigarette use. However, few human studies on traditional cigarette smokers have examined the potential nicotine dose-escalated effects on DNA methylation of white blood cells. We calculated the *P*-value for each CpG site in the regression model. A Manhattan plot of the CpG sites was shown in **Figure 3**. We observed 8,985 CpG sites that were significantly associated with e-cigarette exposure dose (FDR < 0.05, [Table S1](#)). Among them, 7,389 sites (82.2%) were annotated with known genes, and 2,492 sites (27.7%) were in the promoter regions of these genes (Transcription Start Site [TSS] 200, TSS1500). **Figure 4** shows the correlation between nicotine doses and methylation levels of the top 6 significant CpG sites (*P*-value < 1e-8). Two of them were inversely associated with e-cigarette exposure dosages, while the other four were positively associated with e-cigarette exposure dosages. 4 CpG sites were located in the known genes (cg44389073: *Capns1*; cg34735002: *Znf598*; cg46803463: *Ccdc33* and *Stra6*; cg30601-292: *Tac4*). *Capns1* was found differentially

expressed in a subpopulation of airway perigoblet cells of smokers [25]. *Znf598* was among the top 50 smoking-dysregulated genes in human airway basal cells [26]. *Ccdc33* was also found to be influenced by smoking [27, 28]. Although not mapped to any known gene, cg41445486 was very close to *Phc2*, a risk gene linked to smoking [29], and miRNA expression changes in the smokers' spermatozoa [30]. *Phc2* was also associated with smoking in a transcriptome-wide associations study (http://twas-hub.org/traits/UKBB_SMOKING_STATUS/) [31]. Another CpG site, cg41446118, which is significantly associated with e-cigarette exposure in a dose-dependent manner (FDR=0.005), was also located in the gene body of *Phc2* ([Table S1](#)).

In the analyses of the data after dichotomization, we discovered 8,965 and 9,528 significant CpG sites for 0 mg/ml group vs. 6 mg/ml + 36 mg/ml group and 0 mg/ml + 6 mg/ml group vs. 36 mg/ml group, respectively (FDR < 0.05, [Tables S2, S3](#)). The overlaps of significant CpG sites from the 3 analyses can be found in [Figure S3](#). 75.2% of significant CpG sites found in dose analysis are overlapped with the results from at least one of the dichotomized analyses. It is a validation of the dose analysis.

Significant gene sets associated with e-cigarette exposure dose

The studies from our group and others indicate that e-cigarette exposure resulted in systematic inflammation, as illustrated by increased cytokine expression. The recurring inflammation is partly triggered by TLR9 activation from elevated cytoplasmic and/or circulating mitochondrial DNA [32]. Electronic cigarette exposure significantly increased right ventricle free wall thickness at systole and diastole in C57BL/6 wild-type mice [33]. Recent evidence also showed that e-cigarettes decreased left fractional ventricular shortening and ejection fraction in a mouse model [34].

The gene set enrichment analysis with E-cigarette exposure was conducted using the R package 'clusterProfiler'. In the KEGG analysis, 33 gene pathways were enriched. The MAPK signaling pathways were at the top of the list and clearly related to the elevated cytokine expression after E-cigarette exposure. Four cardiomyocyte/cardiomyopathy-related pathways,

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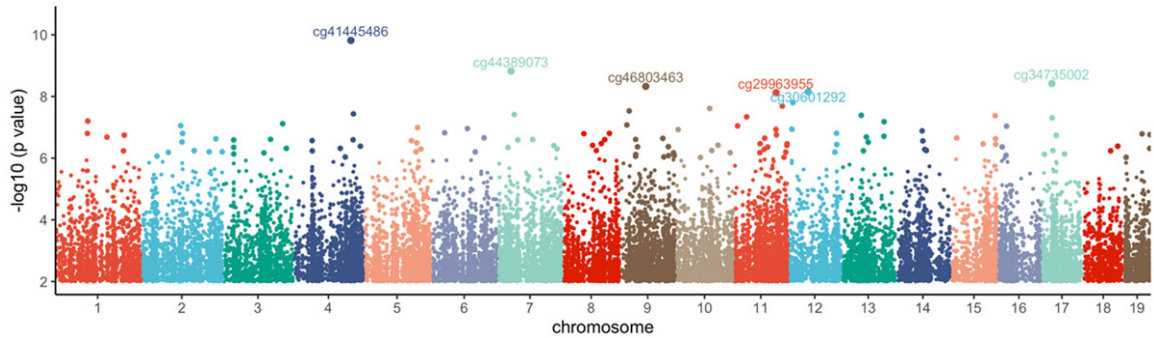


Figure 3. Manhattan plot of P -values for each CpG site on autosomes. CpG sites with a P -value larger than 0.01 are not included in the Figure.

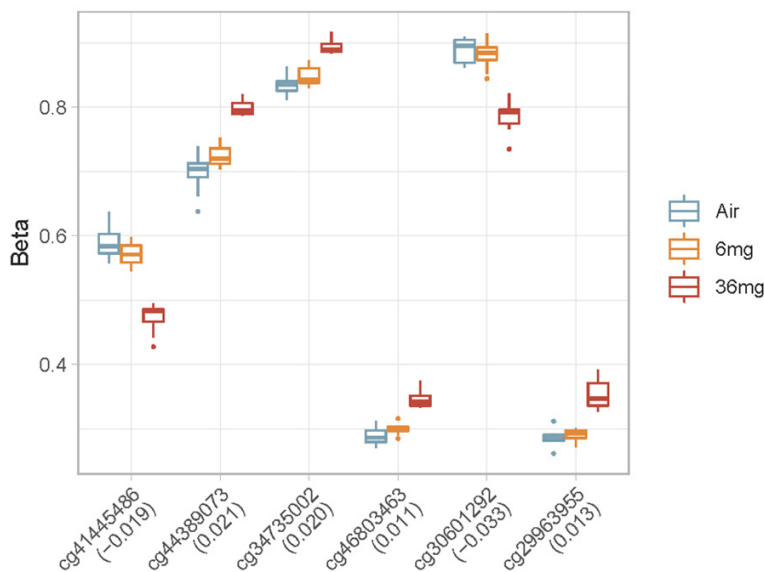


Figure 4. Boxplot of the Beta value of top 6 significant CpGs in 3 e-cigarette exposure dose groups.

including adrenergic signaling in cardiomyocytes, dilated cardiomyopathy, hypertrophic cardiomyopathy, and arrhythmogenic right ventricular cardiomyopathy, were also included in the top 10 gene pathway list (**Figure 5, Table S4**). The top 10 list from gene promoter analysis using GO highlighted two pathways related to mitochondrial activities: mitochondrial gene expression and mitochondrial translation (**Figure 6, Table S5**).

E-cigarette exposure results in increased mt/nDNA ratio and enhanced cfDNA oxidization

Circulating mitochondrial DNA is a pro-inflammatory damage-associated molecular pattern that triggers the formation of neutrophil extra-

cellular traps in sickle cell disease [35]. It has been proposed as a biomarker for atrial fibrillation and coronary heart disease development in diabetic patients [36, 37]. Our study showed that long-term e-cigarette exposure induced an increased mtDNA/nDNA ratio in a nicotine dose-dependent manner (**Figure 7**), indicating that mitochondrial function has been affected after the E-cigarette exposure. The elevated mtDNA could be responsible for activating toll-like receptor 9 and resulted in cytokine mRNA expression in cultured monocyte and elevated plasma cytokine protein levels after e-cigarette exposure observ-

ed in our previous study [32]. Both cigarette smoking and e-cigarette vaping have enhanced oxidative stress in cells and circulation [38]. In the current study, we illustrated that long-term e-cigarette exposure enhances oxidized cfDNA levels in a nicotine dose-dependent pattern (**Figure 8**).

Discussion

Most E-cigarette vaping studies measure the exposure via self-report or nicotine metabolites such as cotinine levels. Self-reporting method is the most direct measurement of external vaping, but it fails to measure the absorbed vapor. Although cotinine could serve as an internal dose of vaping, it is only a short-term

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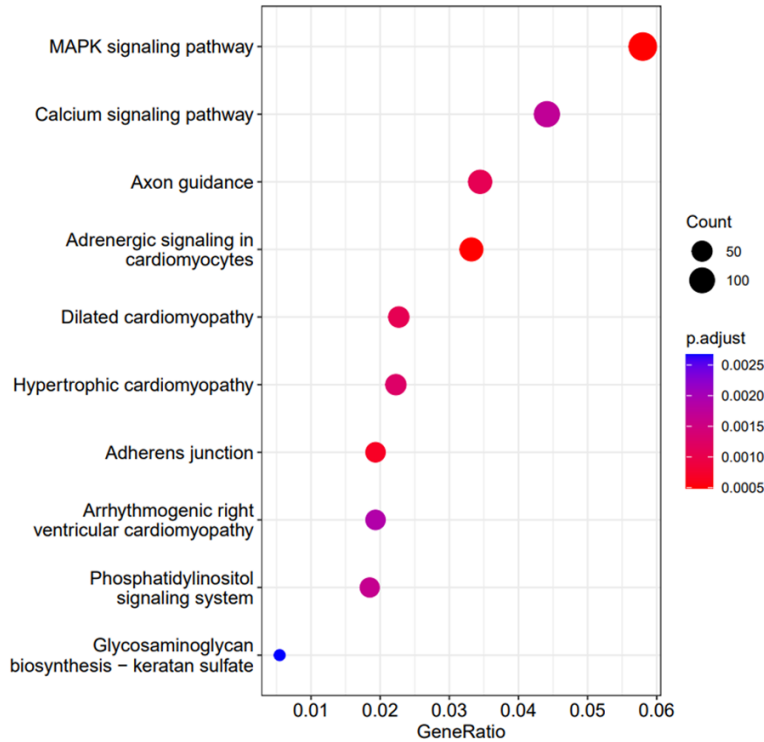


Figure 5. Top 10 significant KEGG pathways from enrichment analysis using genes associated with any considerable CpG sites (significant genes). Count: number of genes associated with any significant CpG sites in the pathway. GeneRatio: the ratio between the number of significant genes in a pathway and the number of significant genes in all KEGG pathways.

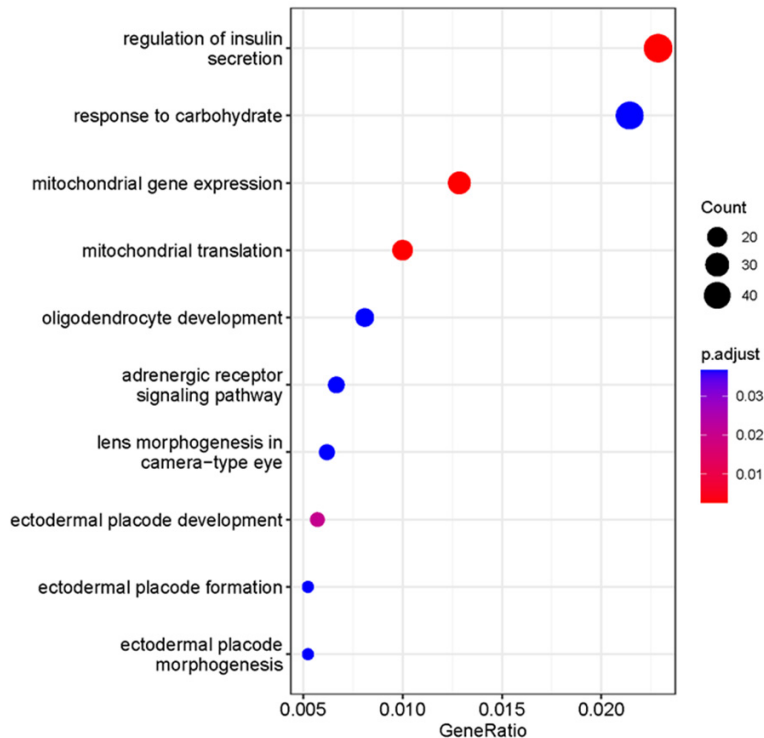


Figure 6. Top 10 significant GO gene sets from enrichment analysis using genes associated with any critical CpG sites in the promoter region (significant genes). Count: number of significant genes in a gene set. GeneRatio: the ratio between the number of significant genes in a gene set and the number of significant genes in GO.

marker and could not reflect the long-term exposure, which is critical for evaluating health effects accumulated through vaping. DNA methylation is a well-established epigenetic biomarker, with unique profiles after exposure to air pollutants, heavy metals, and cigarette smoking [39, 40]. Our study represents the first investigation to explore the whole-genomic DNA methylation alterations in white blood cells after long-term e-cigarette exposure. Our results indicate that e-cigarettes induced extensive alteration of DNA methylation in white blood cells in a nicotine dose-dependent pattern. Several CpG methylated sites unique to e-cigarettes may be used as biomarkers to assess long-term e-cigarette exposure. For the first time, our results reveal the alteration of genome-wide DNA methylation of circulating white blood cells after long-term e-cigarette exposure. These findings provide strong evidence to support the use of DNA methylation as a potential biomarker for the health effects of e-cigarette exposure.

One unique design of our study is the dose-escalation, which is not easily evaluated by human e-cigarette vapers. However, dose escalation results are not only compelling

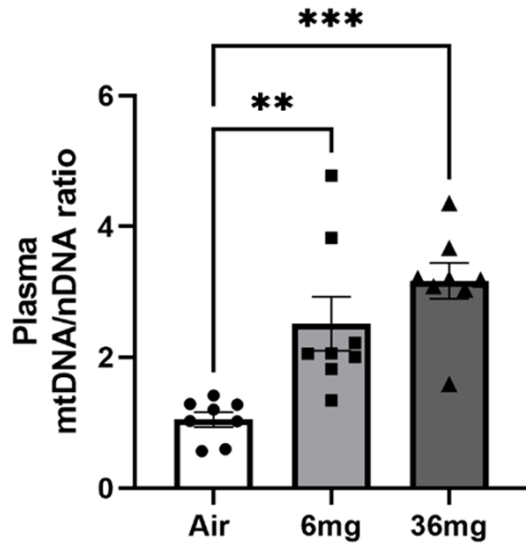


Figure 7. Increased mtDNA levels in the circulation after e-cigarette exposure. The ratio of mtDNA and nDNA indicates the mtDNA change after the E-cigarette exposure. For each group, N=8. Data points and error bars are means and SEMs, respectively, analyzed by Dunnett's multiple comparisons tests, **P<0.01; ***P<0.005, respectively.

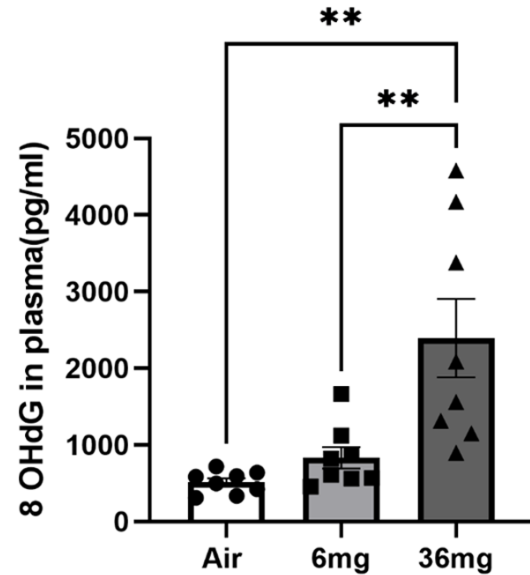


Figure 8. cell-free DNA oxidation after e-cigarette exposure. The value of the 8 OHdG indicates the level of DNA oxidation. For each group, N=8. Data points and error bars are means and SEMs, respectively, analyzed by Dunnett's multiple comparisons test, **P<0.01.

to confirm regulating effect of e-cigarettes on a CpG point but also have the potential to identify e-cigarette doses with less harmful health effects. Currently, no study in the current literature investigated dose-related DNA methylation effects of E-cigarette vaping, and only a few studies discuss the dose-related methylation alterations in human smokers. In a study published in 2016, Zhang Y et al. demonstrated that methylation of 40 CpGs, mapped to 22 genes, was significantly associated with individual serum cotinine levels. The strongest association was found for *AHHR* cg05575921. A 10 ng/ml upregulation of cotinine resulted in a 3% lower methylation at *AHHR* cg05575921 [41]. This observation was confirmed by Prince C et al. in a study, which showed that methylations of cg05575921 and cg26703534 in smokers were both mapped to *AHRR* and strongly associated with blood cotinine levels [42]; dose-response in methylation at Cg05575921 was also related to the duration of smoking. In another study published in 2018, Park SL et al. showed increasing methylation beta-values of smokers in six CpG sites at higher levels of urinary nicotine metabolites. Four CpG sites were annotated in or near the *FOXK2*, *PBX1*, *FNDC7*, and *FUBP3* genes; two

other locations in non-annotated genetic regions [43].

The altered CpG site methylation status shown in our results overlapped with previous reports of DNA methylation after e-cigarette exposure. In a study including 117 smokers, 117 non-smokers, and 116 non-smoking vapers, epigenome-wide DNA methylation profiling from saliva revealed 7 CpG sites related to e-cigarette use at $P < 1 \times 10^{-5}$. The CpG sites linked to e-cigarette use were largely distinct from those related to smoking. Consistent with this finding, our study showed that 3 out of those 7 genes, including acyl-CoA dehydrogenase 10 (*ACAD10*), semaphorin 5B, and immunoglobulin superfamily member 21, also contained CpG sites with significantly altered methylation status [44]. Semaphorin 5B gene upregulation was also identified in another study using ApoE^{-/-} mice after intermittent electronic cigarette exposure [34]. The altered CpG site methylation related to semaphorin 5B was also recognized in human smokers [45]. Previous studies also confirmed that 4 of the top 6 significant genes related to nicotine dosage in the e-cigarette, *Capns1*, *Znf598*, *Ccdc33*, and *Phc2*, were associated with cigarette smoking [25-30]. The

biological activities of these CpG site-associated genes are interesting. ACAD10 has been linked to type 2 diabetes [46] and hypertension [47]: ACAD10-deficient mice exhibited abnormal glucose tolerance and elevated insulin level, accumulated excess abdominal adipose tissue, and developed an early inflammatory liver process [48]. Phc2 was identified as a critical modulator of hematopoietic stem and progenitor cell (HSPC) trafficking. Genetic knockout of Phc2 in mice results in a severe defect in HSPC mobilization by depressing Vcam1 expression in bone marrow stromal cells, finally ending up with a systemic immunodeficiency [49].

Smoking is well known to be associated with systemic and local inflammation in the lungs, and higher tobacco consumption is associated with higher systemic inflammation both genetically and observationally [50]. Pro-inflammatory pathways are upregulated, and anti-inflammatory ones are downregulated for smoking exposure. Inflammatory cytokines such as TNF α , IL6, and RANTES are induced by smoking [51, 52]. The previous studies reported by our group and the others have shown that e-cigarette use/exposure results in systematic and local inflammation [32, 53]. The above observation correlates very well with the gene set enrichment KEGG pathway analysis, which showed MAPK signaling pathway is the most significant one in our study. It is conceivable that E-cigarette exposure induces a systematic pro-inflammatory environment by releasing growth factors and cytokines. These inflammatory agents activate the MAPK signaling pathways, further exacerbating the inflammatory process.

Mitochondria are organelles involved in many physiological and pathological functions. Recent evidence showed that it could also play a role as a regulator of the innate immune response [54]. mtDNA is ideal for inducing an innate immune response via its escape from the mitochondria to other organelles, the cytosol, and the extracellular space. Additionally, our previous study has shown cytoplasmic mtDNA activates toll-like receptor 9 in monocytes/macrophages and triggers the inflammatory process [32]. The released mtDNA in the cytosol could also be recognized by other DNA sensors, including cGAS, a cGAMP, whose activation leads to an enhanced expression of type

I interferons and active pro-inflammatory cytokines IL-1 β . Interaction of mtDNA with the cGAS-STING signaling axis has been described in multiple pathological conditions, which share the final common pathway of leakage of mtDNA from mitochondria to the cytosol [55]. Our data showed that cfDNA in the plasma contained more mtDNA after the E-cigarette exposure, illustrated by an increased mtDNA/ncDNA ratio, indicating that the damaged mtDNA was released from the cytoplasm to the plasma. In the DNA methylation profiling data, two mitochondrial function-related pathways have been affected based on the GO pathway analysis in the promotor region, including mitochondrial gene expression and mitochondrial translation. The dysfunction of mitochondria under the multiple stresses may cause the release of mtDNA, but the mechanisms triggering the release are still not fully understood. It is known that loss of mitophagy [56] (selective autophagy process in which damaged mitochondria are targeted for lysosomal degradation), cytosolic ROS induced mitochondrial permeability transition [57], and opening of mitochondrial permeability transition pore [58] are several mechanisms for mtDNA release into the cytosol. Whether mitochondrial transcription and translocation are biomarkers for any of the mechanisms above is unknown. Elucidating the relationship between these pathways and the increased circulating mitochondrial DNA observed here will provide further insight into the cell-damaging effects of prolonged inhalation of e-cigarette aerosols.

In conclusion, our study reveals that e-cigarette exposure results in extensive DNA methylation alteration in male ApoE $^{-/-}$ mice in a dose-dependent manner of nicotine. Our epigenomic-wide CpG site methylation pattern overlaps with previously published methylation sites in vapers/smokers. The methylation pattern correlates well with enhanced systematic inflammation reported in animal models and human vapers.

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Disclosure of conflict of interest

None.

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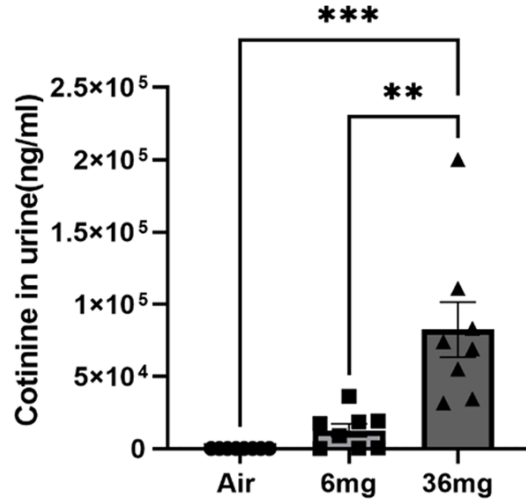


Figure S1. Measurement of urine cotinine level after 14 weeks E-cigarette exposure. Cotinine level change column after E-cigarette exposure. For each group, N=8. Data points and error bars are means and SEMs, respectively, analyzed by Dunnett's multiple comparisons tests; **P<0.01; ***P<0.005, respectively.

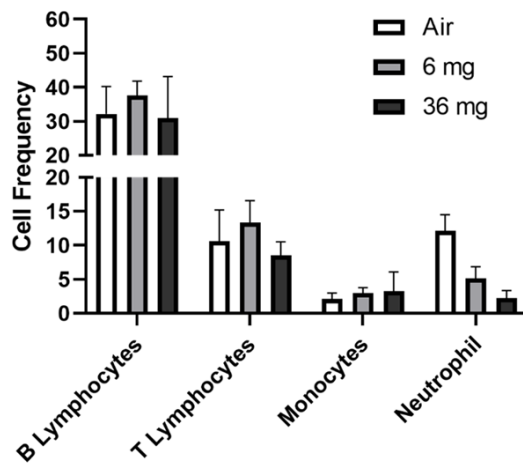


Figure S2. Flow cytometry analysis of white blood cell composition after 14 weeks of E-cigarette exposure. Column of the cell frequency for each cell type, N=3 for each group, no significant cell type change after E-cigarette exposure.

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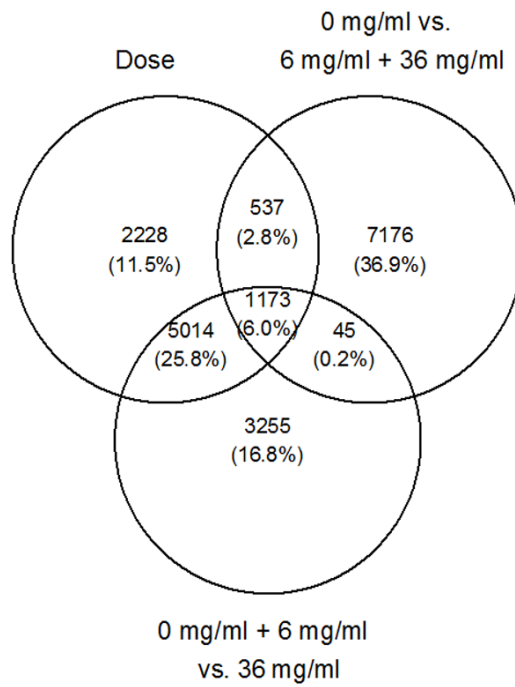


Figure S3. Venn graph to show the overlaps of significant CpG sites from dose analysis, comparing 0 mg/ml group to 6 mg/ml + 36 mg/ml groups, and comparing 0 mg/ml + 6 mg/ml groups to 36 mg/ml group.

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Table S4. Significant KEGG pathways when using genes that are associated with any significant CpG sites for the enrichment analysis

ID	Description	GeneRatio	BgRatio	P value	FDR	geneID	Count
mmu04261	Adrenergic signaling in cardiomyocytes	79/2380	239/11633	2.87E-06	0.00049138	Q5SW28/P97718/Q8BUE5/Q9Z1L5/Q01815/Q0PCR6/P09542/P23299/Q545H6/P97490/Q923T9/Q8VHW3/Q9R0K7/Q3UHH0/Q8BH52/Q9Z125/A0A0R4J082/P10417/P20444/Q4VA93/Q9JJV4/Q9WUI1/P11798/Q9DBL0/Q9ERT9/P0DP27/P0DP28/Q8CC27/P97414/Q60996/S4R2P9/Q99246/Q6PHS9/Q6PHZ2/B2RXC8/P50752/Q6P3Z7/Q54AB6/P27699/Q8VCC8/P84309/A3K-GF7/P68181/Q02789/Q76MZ3/P08752/Q64518/Q8R0X5/Q91Z83/Q6Q477/P58774/Q9Z1B7/P51667/P61014/P63094/P58771/Q545Y3/Q5RJF7/F8VPL1/Q9EQZ6/P62715/Q01341/F8VQ52/Q9WUA6/O88602/Q3ZB20/Q7TNP2/O08532/Q14BH8/Q7M729/Q8K596/Q8R3Z5/A2A545/P48787/Q497F1/Q6PD03/B1AYL1/Q9JJV9/K3W4N7	79
mmu04010	MAPK signaling pathway	138/2380	474/11633	3.01E-06	0.00049138	P48455/Q3UFB7/Q9Z1L5/Q0VG15/Q01815/Q0PCR6/Q8CE90/O35608/Q1HKZ5/Q03145/P25118/Q3U479/P97820/A0A0A6YWR8/P20826/Q62312/Q61696/P16627/Q9J11/P70424/Q8VHW3/E9Q7P2/P14404/P15209/Q9ESL4/Q9WTK5/P18653/Q8BYC6/P20444/Q4VA93/Q9JJV4/Q62132/Q9WUI1/Q9D7X3/Q925I7/P31938/Q3TMJ8/Q8BWG8/P01132/P52801/Q04690/P41158/Q8CC27/P27090/Q99246/P61148/Q6ZWS1/Q9WVS7/O55017/P21237/Q541P3/Q6PHS9/P09535/Q99K90/P32883/Q5J7N1/P28028/Q04863/A0A0A0MQ87/F8VQL0/P68181/P17156/Q8BTM9/P30306/Q3U535/Q9DBN8/Q02789/P31240/A0A0R4IZW4/Q62073/P60764/Q14A12/Q9WUL6/O09112/O08989/Q3TPX5/Q80X90/O35099/Q9Z1B7/Q91Y86/P22339/Q61526/P54830/O08605/A2A8W8/A0A087WS83/Q549C9/P27671/Q9ESN9/P36993/Q5RJF7/F8VPL1/P47809/Q543X6/Q9WUT3/Q9WVI9/Q02858/P97953/P15655/Q541T2/Q9WUA6/P26618/O88602/Q3ZB20/Q3UMW7/P49138/Q3U2P8/O08532/Q14BH8/Q64729/P01139/A0A0A0MQ82/Q9ESS0/Q91Z46/P63318/Q3UN66/P21803/E9QK53/P62071/P13504/Q32MH0/P10637/O35613/Q3UKR0/P10749/Q9QUG9/Q8R3Z5/A2A545/Q50L42/P63001/P17879/O08543/Q61161/Q8CFN5/Q7TTSI8/P97445/P35639/Q9Z1S3	138
mmu04520	Adherens junction	46/2380	121/11633	6.15E-06	0.00067065	Q8BUN5/Q62417/Q924A0/E9Q091/Q9QUI0/Q65CL1/Q9JLB9/Q62312/P70424/Q9JKF1/Q99NH2/A0A0R4J1Y4/Q64727/B2RU80/Q9Z1J1/A1A550/A2A8L5/P39688/Q7TPR4/Q02248/Q9JKF6/F8VQL0/Q64455/E9Q4S7/P28828/Q68FM4/Q62073/P60764/Q14A12/P30999/P39447/F8VPR5/Q8BH43/P70451/Q3TZJ5/E9QNA7/Q64729/Q04736/Q3TJ17/Q9D358/Q561M1/Q61301/P63001/P27782/Q3TYB0/Q8BGZ9	46
mmu05414	Dilated cardiomyopathy	54/2380	153/11633	1.31E-05	0.00107134	Q9Z1L5/Q01815/Q0PCR6/A2A864/P09542/P97490/Q8VHW3/Q9JJV4/Q62470/Q8CC27/Q3TZS3/S4R2P9/P27090/Q99246/Q6PHS9/P50752/Q6P3Z7/Q54AB6/P84309/P68181/Q02789/Q64518/Q8R0X5/Q91Z83/P58774/P51667/E9PXZ3/P61014/A0A0B4J1F0/P63094/Q62165/P58771/Q545Y3/Q5RJF7/F8VPL1/Q01341/F8VQ52/O88602/Q3ZB20/O08532/Q14BH8/P82347/P19137/B8JK39/P11688/Q0VBD0/O70309/Q6PE70/Q8K596/Q8R3Z5/A2A545/Q60675/P48787/Q497F1	54
mmu04360	Axon guidance	82/2380	261/11633	1.65E-05	0.00107822	Q80TR4/P22726/P48455/Q69ZX8/Q812A2/F8VPQ4/Q9J133/Q8BL65/Q62178/Q03145/Q9WVB4/Q76179/O08644/Q9QUI0/Q8K120/Q923T9/P70206/Q8K1S3/Q62181/Q99NH2/A0A0R4J1Y4/Q8R4F1/P20444/Q4VA93/P11798/Q9DC04/Q8CBF3/Q8CA63/P52801/P43029/P39688/Q8C031/Q99PH1/Q6PHZ2/Q6PCX7/O55222/P23359/Q60591/P97333/Q80UG2/P32883/Q5J7N1/Q76KF0/Q8K330/P45591/Q3UHW9/F8VQL0/Q62226/Q60519/Q5SW75/P52800/Q4FJM3/G1K381/P08752/P60764/Q14A12/O88632/Q60629/P00520/P54763/B2RXS4/O09118/P54754/O09126/Q03137/Q91Z69/Q9QUQ5/Q9JK84/Q8CIH5/D3Z4M6/Q9QUR8/Q8CHT1/E9QK62/O08747/Q8K4G5/E9QK41/M9MMKO/O54785/O35904/P63001/O08543/P35235	82
mmu05410	Hypertrophic cardiomyopathy	53/2380	152/11633	2.32E-05	0.00126214	Q9Z1L5/Q01815/Q0PCR6/A2A864/P09542/Q91WG5/O54950/Q3TWR3/Q8VHW3/Q9JJV4/Q6PAM0/Q62470/Q8CC27/Q3TZS3/S4R2P9/P27090/Q99246/Q6PHS9/P50752/Q6P3Z7/Q54AB6/Q02789/Q64518/Q8R0X5/Q91Z83/P58774/P51667/E9PXZ3/A0A0B4J1F0/Q62165/P58771/Q545Y3/Q5RJF7/F8VPL1/O88602/Q3ZB20/O08532/Q14BH8/P82347/P19137/B8JK39/P09470/Q3TU20/P11688/Q0VBD0/O70309/Q6PE70/Q8K596/Q8R3Z5/A2A545/Q60675/P48787/Q497F1	53

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mmu04070	Phosphatidylinositol signaling system	44/2380	121/11633	3.52E-05	0.00164624	Q7TT16/E9QAN8/Q8CDA1/P20444/Q4VA93/Q8K3R3/Q9EPW0/F6V2U0/Q3UEQ1/PODP27/PODP28/Q6ZQB6/Q7TNC9/P98191/Q9R1C6/Q6P549/Q7TS72/E9Q7S0/Q8BYN3/Q6PD10/A3KGF7/O88673/D3YXJ0/Q8BKC8/D3YWQ0/E9PUQ8/P70227/Q8R3B1/B2RXC2/O70167/Q8OXI4/Q8CIH5/O70161/Q9D2G5/Q9ES52/Q8CBQ5/Q6NS52/A2ARP1/P63318/Q3UN66/Q99L43/Q35904/Q91WG7/P11881	44
mmu04020	Calcium signaling pathway	105/2380	360/11633	4.18E-05	0.00170898	P97718/Q8BUE5/P48455/Q3UFB7/O08786/Q0VG15/Q01815/Q0PCR6/Q01098/Q60613/Q9Z0J4/P97490/Q923T9/P35438/P70424/Q9R0K7/Q3UHH0/E9Q7P2/P15209/Q9QVP9/Q3UDE9/Q03391/Q62463/Q3UMR5/Q02152/P20444/Q4VA93/Q8BWG9/P11798/Q9DBL0/Q925I7/Q8K3R3/P30678/P01132/Q9ERZ4/PODP27/PODP28/S4R2P9/Q99246/P61148/Q6ZWS1/O55017/Q7TS72/Q6PHZ2/P26928/A3KGF7/F8VQLO/P68181/P29477/Q3UIZ8/Q02789/P35546/O54803/P31240/A0A0R4IZW4/Q64518/Q8R0X5/Q62035/Q6Q477/P30549/Q3KP20/P70227/B1B1A8/Q61616/Q61526/P61014/Q60930/A0A087WS83/Q9Z1M0/C8YIX4/Q8R3B1/P63094/Q8BSY0/P35375/B2RXC2/O09161/Q8CIH5/P97953/P15655/Q541T2/P21278/Q3UPA1/P26618/O09165/Q61125/P47937/P97772/P30677/P01139/P30558/Q3UR32/P63318/Q3UN66/P21803/E9QK53/Q91VB2/E9PZQ0/Q8K596/Q8VCR8/P35436/P11881/P32304/Q7TSI8/Q99J21/P97445	105
mmu05412	Arrhythmogenic right ventricular cardiomyopathy	46/2380	130/11633	5.19E-05	0.00188415	Q9Z1L5/Q01815/Q0PCR6/A2A864/Q924A0/E9Q91/Q65CL1/Q8VHW3/Q9JJV4/Q62470/Q9Z1J1/A1A550/Q8CC27/Q02248/Q3TZS3/S4R2P9/Q99246/Q6PHS9/E9Q557/Q02789/Q64518/Q8R0X5/E9PXZ3/A0A0B4J1F0/Q62165/Q5RJF7/F8VPL1/O88602/Q3ZB20/O08532/Q14BH8/P82347/P19137/B8JK39/P11688/Q0VBD0/O70309/Q6PE70/Q8K596/Q61301/Q8R3Z5/A2A545/Q60675/P27782/Q3TYB0/Q8BGZ9	46
mmu00533	Glycosaminoglycan biosynthesis - keratan sulfate	13/2380	22/11633	8.16E-05	0.00266843	Q9EQC0/Q11204/Q9R111/A0A0R4J1C9/P54751/Q544T4/P15535/Q3U478/P97325/Q9CZ48/Q80WV3/Q9Z2Y2/Q9JJ04	13
mmu04072	Phospholipase D signaling pathway	72/2380	233/11633	9.52E-05	0.0028289	Q5SW28/Q35083/A0A0R4J263/P39053/Q9QUI0/P97490/P20826/Q9D517/Q9QX11/Q9QVP9/Q3UDE9/Q62463/P20444/Q4VA93/Q8BMC3/Q925I7/P31938/Q3TMJ8/P01132/P39688/Q9JIW9/Q9R1C6/P32883/Q5J7N1/Q8VCC8/P84309/Q61469/A0A0A0M0Q87/A3KGF7/P62331/Q3U0D7/Q9QYY0/O88673/D3YXJ0/Q8BZ98/P31240/A0A0R4IZW4/Q03385/D3YWQ0/P39054/E9PUQ8/Q5NCH9/Q68ED2/O08989/Q3TPX5/P47743/Q9JLN9/Q99JY8/Q68EF4/A0A140T8R6/P63094/Q9EQZ6/Q8CIH5/O70161/P63034/Q01341/F8VQ52/Q9WUA6/P27601/Q9D034/P26618/P97772/Q6NS52/P30558/Q61120/Q8K4X7/P62071/Q7TT21/O35904/Q91WG7/Q50L42/P35235	72
mmu04310	Wnt signaling pathway	76/2380	251/11633	0.00012846	0.00350054	P22726/P48455/Q9WVB2/Q3UN01/Q8BUN5/P56546/Q3UGL5/Q99MH6/Q924A0/E9QQ91/Q8C4U3/Q9QUI0/Q8K120/Q9Z1N6/Q923T9/Q8OZ96/Q08122/P20444/Q4VA93/P11798/Q9Z1J1/A1A550/Q8BHJ5/O88572/A0A0R4J0A9/Q9WU66/A0A0R4J001/Q02248/P17553/Q6PHZ2/P97298/Q60591/Q8OY24/A7YQ68/A3KGF7/Q64527/P68181/O35468/Q2TBA6/Q62073/P60764/Q14A12/P30282/Q3TSW4/Q9WTX6/Q91Y86/Q8BQD1/P27467/Q549C9/Q9Z139/D3Z6Q6/P48755/Q3UMK5/Q3UVD5/Q91VNO/A2ARI4/O88712/F8VPR5/O35927/E9QKH8/Q61473/Q3ULA2/P63318/Q3UN66/O54908/Q9Z132/B1ASC1/Q3UN27/P97299/Q3UI35/O88566/Q8VE28/P63001/P27782/Q3TYB0/Q8BGZ9	76
mmu01521	EGFR tyrosine kinase inhibitor resistance	41/2380	119/11633	0.00025053	0.00630179	Q62120/P70424/P10417/P20444/Q4VA93/Q8BMC3/Q925I7/P31938/Q3TMJ8/P01132/Q04690/D3YZR2/P32883/Q5J7N1/P28028/Q8BSK8/A0A0A0M0Q87/F8VQLO/Q9QYY0/P31240/A0A0R4IZW4/Q9WVH4/Q61526/Q9JLN9/Q61337/O54918/Q542N5/Q8CIH5/P15655/Q541T2/Q61592/Q9WUA6/P26618/Q3UTA9/Q61120/P63318/Q3UN66/P21803/E9QK53/O35904/Q7TSI8	41
mmu04725	Cholinergic synapse	53/2380	167/11633	0.00037097	0.00808725	Q9JMF3/Q5SW28/P32211/Q62120/Q01815/Q0PCR6/P97490/Q923T9/Q9JK97/P21836/Q543Z1/Q8BH52/Q9Z125/A0A0R4J082/Q61011/P10417/P20444/Q4VA93/P11798/P31938/Q3TMJ8/Q9ERZ4/P63250/P39688/P97414/Q99246/O55017/Q6PHZ2/Q8R4G9/P32883/Q5J7N1/P84309/A3KGF7/P68181/Q02789/P52187/P08752/Q61017/P70227/P48542/Q0VB45/P18872/Q01341/F8VQ52/Q9WUA6/P21278/Q3UPA1/P29387/P63318/Q3UN66/O35904/P11881/P97445	53

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mmu04928	Parathyroid hormone synthesis, secretion and action	53/2380	167/11633	0.00037097	0.00808725	P28700/O09102/A0A0R4J021/E9Q394/Q9QUI0/P97490/Q8BH52/Q9Z125/A0A0R4J082/Q06219/Q3TYI4/P10417/P20444/Q4VA93/Q3UEI1/P31938/Q3TMJ8/Q8BWG8/O88572/A0A0R-4J0A9/O35235/Q9R0S3/Q08775/P28028/P84309/Q01063/P48281/A3KGF7/Q68FM7/P68181/Q9DBF0/P08752/P70227/Q60929/Q61210/P63094/Q9D2V6/Q91VN0/Q01341/F8VQ52/P21278/Q3UPA1/Q9QY96/P27601/Q9D034/P70670/Q06186/Q5FW64/P63318/Q3UN66/Q64441/P11881/Q8CFN5	53
mmu04371	Apelin signaling pathway	61/2380	199/11633	0.00039893	0.00815304	Q9JMF3/Q5SW28/P12242/Q8BUN5/P09542/O70343/Q91WG5/Q9Z0J4/Q61982/P97490/O54950/Q3TWR3/Q8CGN5/PODMC4/P16054/Q61011/Q6PAMO/P31938/Q3TMJ8/PODP27/PODP28/Q3UJF1/S4R2P9/Q60843/P32883/Q5J7N1/P84309/Q8BSK8/A3KGF7/P68181/P29477/Q3UIZ8/P11214/P08752/Q61017/P70227/Q60929/O08989/Q3TPX5/B1B1A8/P51667/Q9JLN9/P54310/Q01341/F8VQ52/Q9WUA6/P27601/Q9D034/Q9WU00/Q8COT9/Q64729/P29387/Q9CQV6/P62071/E9PZQ0/Q8K596/Q8VCR8/P11881/Q61409/E9QLQ3/Q8CFN5	61
mmu05223	Non-small cell lung cancer	41/2380	122/11633	0.00045299	0.00871336	P28700/O08734/P42230/Q9JIA0/Q9J11/P70424/P42232/P20444/Q4VA93/Q64261/P31938/Q3TMJ8/PO1132/Q5EBH1/P51480/P22605/Q6DFX0/P32883/Q5J7N1/P28028/A0A0A0MQ87/F8VQLO/P35546/Q9WVH4/Q62137/A0A0R4J0R7/P22339/Q549C9/Q61337/P97793/Q8CIH5/O89106/Q9WUA6/Q61768/P28738/Q3UMY5/A0A3Q4EHV9/A7ISP9/P63318/Q3UN66/O35904	41
mmu04724	Glutamatergic synapse	53/2380	169/11633	0.0005111	0.00928489	Q9JMF3/P48455/Q8BMF5/Q01815/Q0PCR6/Q01098/Q3TXX4/P97490/P35438/Q03391/Q8BLE7/A0A0R4J0A6/P43006/Q3UYK6/Q9D415/Q61011/P20444/Q4VA93/Q9DCP2/P63250/P23818/Q7TNB5/Q99246/D3Z7P3/P84309/B1AS29/A3KGF7/P68181/P08752/D3YZU1/Q61017/P70227/Q5NCH9/Q68ED2/P47743/Q62108/P18872/Q68EF4/A0A140T8R6/P63094/Q80Z38/Q99MK8/Q01341/F8VQ52/P97772/P29387/P63318/Q3UN66/P35436/P11881/Q99JP6/Q50L42/P97445	53
mmu04722	Neurotrophin signaling pathway	56/2380	182/11633	0.00060978	0.01038057	Q3UFB7/Q8CE90/E9Q9B7/Q9QUI0/Q923T9/Q6PHU5/P15209/P18653/P10417/Q9WUI1/P11798/Q8BMC3/P31938/Q3TMJ8/Q9Z1E3/PODP27/PODP28/Q9WVS7/P21237/Q541P3/Q6PHZ2/P41242/P32883/Q5J7N1/P28028/A0A0A0MQ87/Q8K4B2/Q3UHC1/Q3UGX8/Q9QYY0/Q61144/Q3U4P5/O09039/P00520/Q9WVH4/O35099/Q9Z1B7/Q60778/Q91Y86/Q549C9/Q61337/Z4YK94/Q9JJP2/Q99PT1/Q9WUT3/Q8CIH5/Q9WUA6/P49138/Q3U2P8/PO1139/Q61120/P28867/Q53YN4/O35904/P63001/P35235	56
mmu04024	cAMP signaling pathway	94/2380	338/11633	0.0006349	0.01038057	E1AZ71/Q91WA8/Q7TN16/Q01815/Q0PCR6/Q01098/P30873/Q543T0/Q60613/P22389/Q9QUI0/P97490/Q9EPL9/Q923T9/P35438/Q9R0K7/Q3UHHO/Q9Z239/Q03391/Q8BH52/Q9Z125/A0A0R4J082/Q8BWG9/P11798/Q3UEI1/P31938/Q3TMJ8/Q60992/Q7TSI6/Q9Z1E3/Q9ERZ4/PODP27/PODP28/Q61224/P23818/Q7TNB5/Q9EQX0/Q99246/P21237/Q541P3/Q6PHZ2/P57774/Q60829/P28028/Q8VCC8/P84309/Q01063/P68181/P70205/Q6NXJ9/Q02789/Q60612/P08752/P60764/Q14A12/Q64518/Q8R0X5/E9Q236/Q3UW12/Q6Q477/Q91Y86/Q61616/Q8CA95/P61014/Q61337/P63094/P54310/Q80T41/Q9EQZ6/Q0P543/P23204/Q542P9/F8VPR5/Q6P1D6/Q01341/F8VQ52/Q9WUA6/Q8COT9/P30558/Q60748/Q3UQP0/Q61602/Q9R0C8/P62071/O35904/Q9JZ8/P35436/P48787/Q497F1/P63001/Q61409/E9QLQ3/O35659/Q9EP66	94
mmu04720	Long-term potentiation	34/2380	99/11633	0.00086934	0.01327786	P48455/Q01815/Q0PCR6/Q01098/P97490/Q923T9/P35438/Q03391/P18653/P20444/Q4VA93/P11798/P31938/Q3TMJ8/Q9ERT9/PODP27/PODP28/P23818/Q7TNB5/Q6PHZ2/P32883/Q5J7N1/P28028/Q8VCC8/A3KGF7/P68181/P70227/Q9WUT3/F8VPR5/P97772/P63318/Q3UN66/P35436/P11881	34
mmu00562	Inositol phosphate metabolism	31/2380	88/11633	0.00089331	0.01327786	Q7TT16/E9QAN8/Q8CDA1/P17751/Q8K3R3/Q9EPW0/F6V2U0/Q3UEQ1/Q7TNC9/Q6P549/Q7TS72/E9Q7S0/Q8BYN3/A2AP18/A3KGF7/Q8BK8/P59644/Q91WF7/Q8R3B1/Q6U7H8/B2RXC2/O70167/Q80XI4/Q8CIH5/O70161/Q9D2G5/Q9ES52/Q8CBQ5/Q9Z2L6/Q9JHU9/O35904	31
mmu04713	Circadian entrainment	47/2380	150/11633	0.00105152	0.0143293	Q9JMF3/Q01815/Q0PCR6/Q01098/Q9Z0J4/P97490/Q923T9/P35438/E9Q7P2/Q03391/Q61011/P20444/Q4VA93/P11798/O70361/P63250/PODP27/PODP28/P23818/Q7TNB5/Q99246/Q6PHZ2/P84309/A3KGF7/P68181/P70205/Q6NXJ9/POC605/Q8BND1/P08752/Q61017/P70227/P48542/Q0VB45/P18872/P63094/O54943/A0A0R4J0U3/Q01341/F8VQ52/Q8COT9/P29387/P63318/Q3UN66/E9PZQ0/P35436/P11881	47

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mmu05034	Alcoholism	62/2380	210/11633	0.00105169	0.0143293	Q9JMF3/Q01098/Q60613/Q64478/P84228/Q64525/P35438/Q8VBY2/P15209/Q03391/Q8BH52/P62806/P24529/COHKE9/P10853/Q9Z125/A0A0R4J082/Q61011/Q8BMC3/P31938/Q3TMJ8/Q64524/Q64522/PODP27/PODP28/Q3UJF1/P84244/P21237/Q541P3/P57774/Q60829/Q64523/P32883/Q5J7N1/P28028/P84309/A0A0A0MQ87/P68181/P08752/POC0S6/Q61017/Q61616/COHKE8/Q91WA3/P18872/P63094/Q6GSS7/Q99N13/A0A0R4J1F3/O35852/P13346/Q8CGP5/P68433/Q9JIM1/P29387/Q8CGP7/Q61120/Q8CCK0/Q6ZWY9/P35436/Q8CGP2/COHKE7	62
mmu04510	Focal adhesion	84/2380	304/11633	0.00147578	0.01891567	P11087/008863/A2CGA5/Q61711/A2A864/Q9EPC1/Q8BUR4/Q9QUI0/Q9ES46/P70424/E9Q2T3/Q64727/Q62523/P10417/P20444/Q4VA93/E9PYT0/Q8BMC3/Q62470/Q925I7/P31938/Q3TMJ8/Q71LX4/E9PUM4/Q8CDM9/Q61140/P01132/Q60992/Q7TSI6/P39688/Q7TPR4/Q02248/Q3TZS3/Q60841/P02463/O55222/P28028/A0A0A0MQ87/F8VQLO/Q3UHC1/Q3UGX8/Q3UIZ8/Q05895/A6H644/P31240/A0A0R4IZW4/P60764/Q14A12/P30282/Q3TSW4/Q80X90/B1B1A8/Q91Y86/P51667/Q91YM2/Q61292/E9PXZ3/Q62082/A0A0B4J1F0/Q61337/P27671/O70161/Q9QZR9/P97953/Q9WUA6/P26618/Q3UMT1/P19137/B8JK39/Q9ROC8/Q61120/P63318/Q3UN66/P11688/Q0VBD0/O08529/O70309/Q6PE70/Q8VCR8/O35904/Q60675/P63001/Q8BYI9/Q80YQ1	84
mmu04015	Rap1 signaling pathway	92/2380	338/11633	0.001504	0.01891567	Q0VG15/A2ALS5/O35608/Q6RHR9/Q03145/Q60613/Q9QUI0/P97490/G3X9J0/Q80TE4/P20826/Q9JJV2/P35438/E9Q0Y4/Q99NH2/A0A0R4J1Y4/P20444/Q4VA93/Q9WU11/Q9WVQ1/Q925I7/P31938/Q3TMJ8/Q71LX4/E9PUM4/Q8CDM9/Q61140/P01132/Q60992/Q7TSI6/P52801/PODP27/PODP28/Q9JIW9/Q02248/Q5EBH1/P61148/Q6ZWS1/P32883/Q5J7N1/P28028/Q8VCC8/P84309/A3KGF7/F8VQLO/Q3UHC1/Q3UGX8/Q3UV74/Q8COT5/P3127/A0A0R4IZW4/Q03385/P08752/P60764/Q14A12/P30999/O08989/Q3TPX5/Q921B7/Q8BZ03/P18872/P63094/Q8C0Q9/Q9DAD6/Q9JK84/G5E8F1/Q9EQZ6/Q02858/P97953/P15655/Q541T2/Q6P1D6/Q01341/F8VQ52/Q9WUA6/P26618/P01139/P30558/Q8K1Y2/Q9ROC8/P63318/Q3UN66/P21803/E9QK53/O35904/P35436/Q9QUG9/P70429/P63001/O08543/Q7TSI8/Q80YQ1	92
mmu04270	Vascular smooth muscle contraction	61/2380	209/11633	0.00156268	0.01892578	P97718/Q8BUE5/E9QA16/Q01815/Q0PCR6/Q6URW6/Q08460/A0A286YD35/Q60613/P22389/Q9QUI0/P97490/Q62463/P16054/P20444/Q4VA93/Q9DBL0/P31938/Q3TMJ8/PODP27/PODP28/Q99246/P28028/P84309/A3KGF7/Q68FM7/P68181/Q3UIZ8/A6H644/Q02789/POC605/Q8BND1/Q9WUP1/Q3UR44/G5E8V5/P70227/B1B1A8/Q61210/P63094/P63268/Q3UJ36/Q8VC81/P97391/Q6GTW1/Q01341/F8VQ52/P21278/Q3UPA1/P27601/Q9D034/Q9EPR2/Q3UMT1/P63318/Q3UN66/P28867/Q53YN4/Q61879/Q3UH59/Q8VCR8/P11881/Q50L42	61
mmu04921	Oxytocin signaling pathway	66/2380	230/11633	0.00165647	0.01934523	Q5SW28/P48455/Q05769/Q9Z1L5/Q01815/Q0PCR6/Q9QUI0/Q8K120/Q91WG5/P97490/O54950/Q3TWR3/Q923T9/Q8VHW3/P20444/Q4VA93/Q9JJV4/Q6PAM0/P11798/P31938/Q3TMJ8/P63250/PODP27/PODP28/Q8CC27/Q99246/Q9WVS7/Q6PHS9/Q6PHZ2/Q60591/P32883/Q5J7N1/P84309/A3KGF7/P68181/Q3UIZ8/A6H644/Q02789/P52187/P08752/P70227/B1B1A8/P48542/Q0VB45/P18872/P63094/Q5RJF7/F8VPL1/Q01341/F8VQ52/O88602/Q3ZB20/O08532/Q14BH8/Q9JHG6/Q3UMT1/P63318/Q3UN66/Q91VB2/E9PZQ/Q8VCR8/Q8R3Z5/A2A545/P11881/Q50L42/Q8CFN5	66
mmu04810	Regulation of actin cytoskeleton	88/2380	323/11633	0.00182587	0.02058824	Q3UQ44/Q5DU57/E0CYU0/P32211/Q0VG15/Q6URW6/A2A864/Q76I79/Q8BUR4/Q9QUI0/Q9JJV2/Q5SQX6/Q9JKF1/Q64727/Q9WTL4/Q62470/Q925I7/P31938/Q3TMJ8/Q61140/Q8K1X4/P01132/Q60992/Q7TSI6/Q9ERZ4/Q7TPR4/Q3TZS3/P61148/Q6ZWS1/P26043/P32883/Q5J7N1/P28028/Q8K330/P45591/Q3UHW9/A0A0A0MQ87/Q3UIZ8/P26040/Q4KML7/A6H644/Q3UV74/Q5SW75/P31240/A0A0R4IZW4/P60764/Q14A12/O08989/Q3TPX5/B1B1A8/P51667/Q91YM2/E9PXZ3/Q62082/A0A0B4J1F0/Q61210/Q9DAD6/G5E8F1/Q8OXI4/O70161/P15655/Q541T2/Q6P1D6/Q8BH43/P27601/Q9D034/P26618/Q61125/P30558/Q3UMT1/B8JK39/Q9ROC8/P11688/P21803/E9QK53/Q0VBD0/Q61879/Q3UH59/O70309/Q6PE70/P62071/O54785/P13020/Q8VCR8/O35904/P63001/Q91VR8/Q7TSI8	88

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mmu04728	Dopaminergic synapse	58/2380	200/11633	0.00235795	0.0257016	Q9JMF3/P48455/Q01815/Q0PCR6/Q923T9/Q8BH52/P24529/Q9Z125/A0A0R4J082/Q61011/P20444/Q4VA93/Q9WUI1/P11798/Q8BWG8/Q9WTL8/P63250/PODP27/PODP28/P23818/Q7TNB5/Q60996/Q2NL51/Q99246/O55017/Q6PHZ2/B2RXC8/Q60829/P84309/A3KGF7/P68181/A1Y9I9/O08785/Q76MZ3/P08752/Q61017/P70227/Q9Z1B7/Q91Y86/Q61616/P48542/Q0VB45/P18872/P63094/P62715/Q9WUA6/Q7TNP2/Q61768/P28738/P30728/P29387/A2APX8/P63318/Q3UN66/P35436/P11881/Q6PD03/P97445	58
mmu05206	MicroRNAs in cancer	73/2380	263/11633	0.00256124	0.02701696	Q9R0G7/Q05769/Q35516/O08734/Q9D3F7/Q9QUI0/Q61982/P31695/P70424/Q61823/P21447/E9Q2T3/P16054/O88898/P10417/P20444/Q4VA93/P58462/Q64261/P13864/P31938/Q3TMJ8/P61979/Q5FWJ5/Q9QXV8/P52801/Q61188/Q6AXH7/Q3UJF1/P51480/P27090/P17553/P26043/D3Z7P3/P32883/Q5J7N1/A0A0A0M0Q87/F8VQL0/P26040/Q4KML7/P30306/Q3U535/Q9DBN8/P31240/A0A0R4IZW4/P00520/Q61526/P48754/Q9JLN9/Q09143/Q3UGD6/P27467/Q549C9/P58771/Q545Y3/O54918/Q542N5/Q8CIH5/F8VPR5/P26618/P06869/Q0V-BAB/P63318/Q3UN66/P11688/Q64441/P46414/O35904/Q1PSW8/O08543/Q8BYI9/Q7TSI8/Q80YQ1	73
mmu04911	Insulin secretion	41/2380	134/11633	0.00344146	0.03516747	O08786/Q01815/Q0PCR6/Q08460/A0A286YD35/O35526/Q497P1/P97490/Q923T9/Q8BH52/Q9Z125/A0A0R4J082/P20444/Q4VA93/P11798/Q99246/Q6PHZ2/P63011/Q0PD63/Q9EQZ7/P84309/Q7TN37/A3KGF7/P68181/P70205/Q6NXJ9/Q61743/Q02789/P70227/P63094/P09240/Q9EQZ6/P58391/Q9QYX7/Q01341/F8VQ52/P21278/Q3UPA1/P63318/Q3UN66/O35659	41
mmu04730	Long-term depression	31/2380	96/11633	0.00424655	0.04207943	Q9Z0J4/P20444/Q4VA93/P31938/Q3TMJ8/P23818/Q7TNB5/P32883/Q5J7N1/P28028/A3KGF7/POC605/Q8BND1/Q76MZ3/P08752/P70227/P18872/P63094/P62715/P21278/Q3UPA1/P27601/Q9D034/Q7TNP2/P97772/P63318/Q3UN66/E9PZQ0/P11881/Q50L42/P97445	31
mmu05210	Colorectal cancer	43/2380	144/11633	0.00456737	0.04392732	Q8BUN5/Q9JK91/O08734/Q924A0/E9QQ91/O70201/Q549P2/Q9QUI0/Q62312/P10417/P31938/Q3TMJ8/Q9Z1J1/A1A550/P01132/Q9JIW9/Q02248/P27090/Q8K3H0/P32883/Q5J7N1/P28028/Q8BSK8/A0A0A0M0Q87/Q03385/P60764/Q14A12/Q91Y86/P22339/Q9JLN9/Q549C9/Q61337/O54918/Q542N5/Q56A15/Q9WUA6/Q64729/O35904/O88566/P63001/P27782/Q3TYB0/Q8BGZ9	43
mmu04912	GnRH signaling pathway	42/2380	141/11633	0.00526992	0.04923616	Q01815/Q0PCR6/Q8CE90/P97490/Q923T9/Q9QVP9/Q3UDE9/P20444/Q4VA93/Q9WUI1/P11798/P31938/Q3TMJ8/PODP27/PODP28/Q99246/Q6PHZ2/P32883/Q5J7N1/P84309/A0A0A0M0Q87/A3KGF7/P68181/Q02789/P70227/Q9Z1B7/Q91Y86/P63094/P47809/Q543X6/Q01341/F8VQ52/P21278/Q3UPA1/Q06186/Q5FW64/P33434/Q3UG07/P28867/Q53YN4/P11881/Q50L42	42

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Table S5. Significant gene sets in GO when using genes that are associated with any significant CpG sites in promoter region for the enrichment analysis

Ontology	ID	Description	GeneRatio	BgRatio	P value	FDR	geneID	Count
BP	GO:0032543	mitochondrial translation	21/2100	93/30636	9.95E-07	0.00255328	Mrps11/Yars2/Mrpl43/Alkbh1/Mrps14/Mrps14/Ndufa7/Gatb/Uqcc2/Mrpl57/Mrps21/Mrps21/Shmt2/Trmt10c/Tsfm/Mief1/Lars2/Mrps34/Mtg2/Mrpl2/Mrpl23	21
BP	GO:0050796	regulation of insulin secretion	48/2100	335/30636	1.04E-06	0.00255328	Rptor/Nnat/Nnat/Nnat/Nnat/Jak2/Mpc2/Gpr39/Uqcc2/Pde4c/Uts2/Sirt4/Ghrl/Stx4a/Kcnj11/Vsn1/Epha5/Epha5/Nos1/Tardbp/Tardbp/Tardbp/Foxa2/Ano1/Ano1/Ano1/Phpt1/Bad/Bad/Per2/Per2/Adra2a/Tfap2b/Kcnq1/Kcnb1/Tcf712/Tcf712/Tcf712/Nr1d1/Srebf1/Alox5/Il1b/Pfkfb2/Pfkfb2/Pfkfb2/Pfkfb2/Pde3b/Pde3b	48
BP	GO:0140053	mitochondrial gene expression	27/2100	142/30636	1.18E-06	0.00255328	Mrps11/Yars2/Twnk/Mrpl43/Trmt5/Alkbh1/Mrps14/Mrps14/Mterf1a/Ndufa7/Chchd10/Gatb/Uqcc2/Mrpl57/Mrps21/Mrps21/Shmt2/Trmt10c/Tsfm/Mief1/Lars2/Foxo3/Mrps34/Mtg2/Mrpl2/Mettl4/Mrpl23	27
BP	GO:0071696	ectodermal placode development	12/2100	41/30636	1.27E-05	0.02048432	Pou2f1/Pou2f1/Pou2f1/Lrp6/Lrp6/Nrp1/Gnas/Gnas/Gnas/Ctnnb1/Gnas/Pou2f1	12
BP	GO:0071875	adrenergic receptor signaling pathway	14/2100	60/30636	4.19E-05	0.03670044	Adra1a/Adra1a/Akap13/Akap13/Adra1b/Gsk3a/Arrdc3/Nos1/Gnas/Gnas/Gnas/Adra2a/Kcnq1/Gnas	14
BP	GO:0060788	ectodermal placode formation	11/2100	40/30636	5.52E-05	0.03670044	Pou2f1/Pou2f1/Pou2f1/Lrp6/Lrp6/Gnas/Gnas/Gnas/Ctnnb1/Gnas/Pou2f1	11
BP	GO:0071697	ectodermal placode morphogenesis	11/2100	40/30636	5.52E-05	0.03670044	Pou2f1/Pou2f1/Pou2f1/Lrp6/Lrp6/Gnas/Gnas/Gnas/Ctnnb1/Gnas/Pou2f1	11
BP	GO:0014003	oligodendrocyte development	17/2100	85/30636	5.54E-05	0.03670044	Prdm8/Prdm8/Shh/Ulk4/Ulk4/Hdac11/Tenm4/Abca2/Tcf712/Tcf712/Tcf712/Eif2b5/Zfp488/Fgfr3/Fgfr3/Fgfr3/Fgfr3	17
BP	GO:0009743	response to carbohydrate	45/2100	358/30636	6.38E-05	0.03670044	Nnat/Nnat/Nnat/Nnat/Ccdc186/Mpc2/Gpr39/Pde4c/Sin3a/Ghrl/Rmi1/Pck2/Stx4a/Aqp4/Aqp4/Vsn1/Epha5/Epha5/Mapk13/Foxa2/Ano1/Ano1/Ano1/Phpt1/Bad/Bad/Adra2a/Grk2/Grk2/Kcnb1/Tcf712/Tcf712/Tcf712/Nr1d1/Srebf1/Eif2b5/P2rx3/Il1b/Pfkfb2/Pfkfb2/Pfkfb2/Pfkfb2/Pde3b/Pde3b/Thbs1	45
BP	GO:0002089	lens morphogenesis in camera-type eye	13/2100	55/30636	6.78E-05	0.03670044	Hipk1/Pou2f1/Pou2f1/Pou2f1/Cryaa/Cryaa/Cryaa/Ctnnb1/Pou2f1/Fgfr3/Fgfr3/Fgfr3	13
BP	GO:0030073	insulin secretion	50/2100	415/30636	7.73E-05	0.03670044	Rptor/Nnat/Nnat/Nnat/Nnat/Jak2/Cckar/Ccdc186/Mpc2/Gpr39/Uqcc2/Pde4c/Uts2/Sirt4/Ghrl/Stx4a/Kcnj11/Vsn1/Epha5/Epha5/Nos1/Tardbp/Tardbp/Tardbp/Foxa2/Ano1/Ano1/Ano1/Phpt1/Bad/Bad/Per2/Per2/Adra2a/Tfap2b/Kcnq1/Kcnb1/Tcf712/Tcf712/Tcf712/Nr1d1/Srebf1/Alox5/Il1b/Pfkfb2/Pfkfb2/Pfkfb2/Pfkfb2/Pde3b/Pde3b	50
BP	GO:0090276	regulation of peptide hormone secretion	51/2100	426/30636	7.76E-05	0.03670044	Rptor/Nnat/Nnat/Nnat/Nnat/Jak2/Cckar/Mpc2/Gpr39/Uqcc2/Pde4c/Uts2/Rasl10b/Sirt4/Ghrl/Stx4a/Aimp1/Kcnj11/Vsn1/Epha5/Epha5/Nos1/Tardbp/Tardbp/Tardbp/Foxa2/Ano1/Ano1/Ano1/Phpt1/Bad/Bad/Per2/Per2/Adra2a/Tfap2b/Kcnq1/Kcnb1/Tcf712/Tcf712/Tcf712/Nr1d1/Srebf1/Alox5/Il1b/Pfkfb2/Pfkfb2/Pfkfb2/Pfkfb2/Pde3b/Pde3b	51
BP	GO:0032024	positive regulation of insulin secretion	26/2100	168/30636	8.05E-05	0.03670044	Nnat/Nnat/Nnat/Nnat/Jak2/Mpc2/Gpr39/Ghrl/Stx4a/Vsn1/Tardbp/Tardbp/Tardbp/Ano1/Ano1/Ano1/Phpt1/Bad/Bad/Tcf712/Tcf712/Tcf712/Pfkfb2/Pfkfb2/Pfkfb2/Pfkfb2	26
BP	GO:0009749	response to glucose	42/2100	330/30636	8.30E-05	0.03670044	Nnat/Nnat/Nnat/Nnat/Ccdc186/Mpc2/Gpr39/Pde4c/Sin3a/Ghrl/Rmi1/Pck2/Stx4a/Aqp4/Aqp4/Vsn1/Epha5/Epha5/Foxa2/Ano1/Ano1/Ano1/Phpt1/Bad/Bad/Adra2a/Grk2/Grk2/Kcnb1/Tcf712/Tcf712/Tcf712/Nr1d1/Srebf1/Eif2b5/Pfkfb2/Pfkfb2/Pfkfb2/Pfkfb2/Pde3b/Pde3b/Thbs1	42
BP	GO:0071880	adenylate cyclase-activating adrenergic receptor signaling pathway	12/2100	49/30636	8.86E-05	0.03670044	Adra1a/Adra1a/Akap13/Akap13/Adra1b/Arrdc3/Nos1/Gnas/Gnas/Gnas/Adra2a/Gnas	12

