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DNA methyltransferase 3 alpha and TET methylcytosine dioxygenase 2 restrain mitochondrial DNA-mediated interferon signaling in macrophages

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SUMMARY

Deleterious somatic mutations in DNA methyltransferase 3 alpha (DNMT3A) and TET methylcytosine dioxygenase 2 (TET2) are associated with clonal expansion of hematopoietic cells and higher risk of cardiovascular disease (CVD). Here, we investigated roles of DNMT3A and TET2 in normal human monocyte-derived macrophages (MDM), in MDM isolated from individuals with *DNMT3A* or *TET2* mutations, and in macrophages isolated from human atherosclerotic plaques. We found that loss of function of DNMT3A or TET2 resulted in a type I interferon response due to impaired mitochondrial DNA integrity and activation of cGAS

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AUTHOR CONTRIBUTIONS

Conceptualization: I.C., K.C.M., G.S.S., C.K.G.; data curation: I.C., J.C., K.P., M.M.; formal analyses: I.C., J.C., K.P.; funding acquisition: I.C., T.N.T., C.Y., R.B., C.K.G.; investigation: I.C., A.L., C.H., B.R.F., J.S., T.N.T., C.Y.; methodology: I.C., A.L., C.H., J.S., T.N.T., R.G.T., M.M.; supervision: C.K.G.; visualization: I.C., C.K.G.; writing: I.C., K.C.M., G.S.S., C.K.G.; review & editing: I.C., K.C.M., G.S.S., T.N.T., C.Y., J.S., R.B., B.R.F., M.d.W., K.P., C.H., C.K.G.

DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

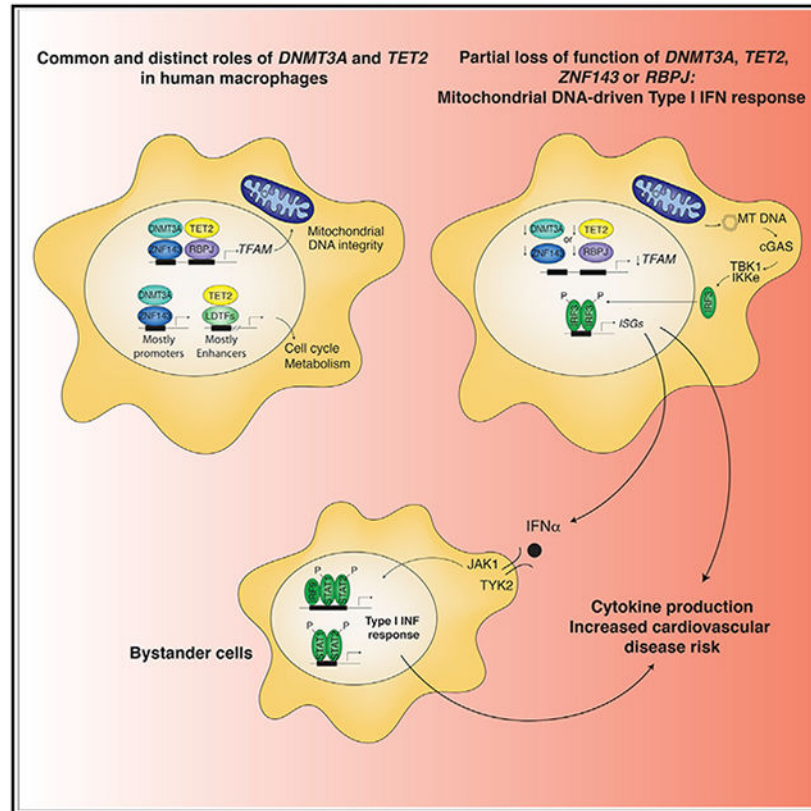
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SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION

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signaling. DNMT3A and TET2 normally maintained mitochondrial DNA integrity by regulating the expression of transcription factor A mitochondria (*TFAM*) dependent on their interactions with RBPJ and ZNF143 at regulatory regions of the *TFAM* gene. These findings suggest that targeting the cGAS-type I IFN pathway may have therapeutic value in reducing risk of CVD in patients with DNMT3A or TET2 mutations.

Graphical Abstract



In brief

Clonal hematopoiesis due to mutations in DNMT3A or TET2 increases risk of cardiovascular disease, but mechanisms are presently unclear. Cobo et al. reveal that loss of function of DNMT3A and TET2 results in a type 1 interferon response in macrophages due to impaired mitochondrial DNA integrity.

INTRODUCTION

Cardiovascular disease (CVD) remains the leading cause of mortality in the elderly in western societies (Yazdanyar and Newman, 2009; Rodgers et al., 2019; Ferrucci and Fabbri, 2018; North and Sinclair, 2012). Age is the strongest risk factor for CVD, in part as a surrogate for the cumulative exposure to classical risk factors, although emerging risk factors acquired *de novo* later in life represent opportunities for modifying age-related CVD risk (Sniderman and Furberg, 2008; D'Agostino et al., 2008; Kannel and Vasan,

2009). Deep sequencing of various tissues and specific cell types has revealed that mutation-driven somatic mosaicism is a hallmark of aging in all tissues. The frequency of somatic mutations is higher in proliferative tissues such as the hematological system, esophagus, and skin (Martincorena et al., 2015; Welch et al., 2012; Fernandez et al., 2016; Forsberg et al., 2017; Vijg, 2014). In the hematopoietic system, mutations can confer a competitive growth advantage to the progenitor cells in which they occur. These somatic mutations can be detected in blood as clones because the mutated stem cells maintain the ability to differentiate into circulating granulocytes, monocytes, and lymphocytes (Cole et al., 2017; Buscarlet et al., 2017; Ko et al., 2011; Moran-Crusio et al., 2011; Li et al., 2011). This process can be associated with the development of hematological malignancies but is called clonal hematopoiesis of indeterminate potential (CHIP) when it is not associated with altered blood-cell counts. It has been estimated that 10%–20% of individuals older than 65 years old display a fraction of white blood cells that carry a mutation in a driver gene (Zink et al., 2017; McKerrell et al., 2015). Of note, these mutations are associated with a >2-fold increase in the risk of developing CVD, with the degree of risk correlated with mutant allele frequency (Jaiswal et al., 2017). CHIP is disproportionately driven by mutations in two cancer-related genes, *DNMT3A* or *TET2*, which together represent more than 50% of reported carriers (Jaiswal et al., 2014; 2017bib_Jaiswal_et_al_2017; Xie et al., 2014; Buscarlet et al., 2017; Jaiswal et al., 2014; Genovese et al., 2014; Acuna-Hidalgo et al., 2017). *DNMT3A* encodes an enzyme that catalyzes the *de novo* conversion of cytosine into 5-hydroxy-methylcytosine residues at CpG sites, a process that is mechanistically linked to transcriptional repression. Conversely, *TET2* encodes an enzyme that catalyzes the conversion of 5-methylcytosine to 5-hydroxy-methylcytosine, a process that initiates a sequence of reactions ultimately resulting in DNA demethylation and reversal of methyl CpG-mediated transcriptional repression. Thus, the observation that loss of function of *DNMT3A* and *TET2* has a similar phenotypic consequence with respect to CVD risk raises the question of whether this phenotype is related to their distinct enzymatic functions (Cobo et al., 2021).

Monocytes and macrophages are key mediators of CVD processes (Cobo et al., 2021; Ghattas et al., 2013; Tabas and Lichtman, 2017). Subsets of lesion-associated macrophages secrete various inflammatory cytokines that activate neighboring cells and help to propagate arterial inflammation and contribute to the pathophysiology of CVD (Ghattas et al.; Yu et al., 2013; Moore et al., 2013; Bobryshev et al., 2016). Experimental evidence supports a role for *DNMT3A* and *TET2* in regulating macrophage function in the context of atherosclerosis. Competitive bone marrow transplantation of *DNMT3A*- or *TET2*-deficient cells into a wild-type mice mimic the scenario of clonal hematopoiesis and accelerated atherosclerosis in a process that requires inflammasome activation and overproduction of interleukin-1 β (IL1 β) and other inflammatory cytokines by macrophages (Jaiswal et al., 2017; Fuster et al., 2017, 2020). In addition, reduced expression of *Dnmt3a* enhances the response of mouse macrophages to lipopolysaccharide (LPS) and IFN γ (Pham et al., 2013). Mechanistically, clonal expansion upon *Dnmt3a* loss leads to osteoporosis in a process that requires IL-20 expression from *Dnmt3a* mutant macrophages through interferon regulatory factor-3 (IRF3)-NF κ B signaling (Kim et al., 2021), consistent with an anti-inflammatory role of *DNMT3A*. Moreover, reduced expression of *DNMT3A* in macrophages using small interference RNA

(siRNA) leads to increased production of the anti-inflammatory cytokine IL10 in human macrophages exposed to *S. aureus* (Mba Medie et al., 2019) raising the possibility that mouse macrophages may not fully represent the functions of DNMT3A and TET2 in human macrophages. More broadly, the biological roles of DNMT3A and TET2 in human macrophages and the mechanisms underlying their functions remain poorly understood.

To investigate these roles, we used specific antisense oligonucleotides (ASOs) that reduced the expression of DNMT3A or TET2 between 50% and 75%, modeling the partial loss of function resulting from heterozygous mutations. The consequences of reduced expression of each factor were determined at the RNA by RNA sequencing. In parallel, we correlated transcriptomic changes with the sites of DNMT3A and TET2 binding determined by chromatin immunoprecipitation (ChIP)-sequencing. These studies revealed both distinct and overlapping roles of DNMT3A and TET2, with upregulation of genes involved in the type I interferon (IFN) response being the most significant shared consequence of reduced expression of each protein. Notably, the promoters of these genes were not direct binding sites of either DNMT3A or TET2. Instead, we traced this shared program of dysregulated gene expression to alterations in mitochondrial DNA (mtDNA). Specifically, we provide evidence that reduced expression or somatic loss of function mutations in either *DNMT3A* or *TET2* results in reduced expression of transcription factor A mitochondria (TFAM), a mtDNA-binding protein involved in transcription, replication, and packaging of mtDNA (Scarpulla, 2008, 2011; West and Shadel, 2017). Similar to direct TFAM depletion (West et al., 2015), decreased DNMT3A or TET2 leads to cytosolic release of mtDNA that activates cGAS signaling and induces a cell-autonomous upregulation of interferon-stimulated genes (ISGs) that is then propagated in a non-cell autonomous manner through the production of IFN α .

RESULTS

DNMT3A and TET2 restrain interferon signaling in human monocyte-derived macrophages and atherosclerotic macrophages

Characterization of the expression patterns of DNMT3A and TET2 in monocytes as they differentiated into monocyte-derived macrophages (MDM) showed that DNMT3A and TET2 protein expression are strongly upregulated in a time-dependent manner (Figures 1A and 1B). As MDM are major contributors to the development and clinical complications of atherosclerotic lesions, we focused our attention on these cells. To investigate the roles of DNMT3A or TET2 in MDM, we screened a series of ASOs (Crooke, 2007) for efficacy in reducing DNMT3A and TET2 expression at both mRNA and protein. We used the two most effective *DNMT3A* ASOs (*DNMT3A* ASO 1, *DNMT3A* ASO 2) and *TET2* ASOs (*TET2* ASO 1, *TET2* ASO 2) (Figures 1C and Figure S1A). While both *DNMT3A* ASOs 1 and 2 selectively reduced expression of DNMT3A, we unexpectedly found that the *TET2* ASOs 1 and 2 also reduced DNMT3A expression (Figure 1C).

To globally assess the impact of reduced TET2 or DNMT3A on gene expression, we performed RNA sequencing of MDM treated with the scrambled control ASO or each of the gene-specific ASOs. This analysis revealed global alterations in mRNA that were proportional to the reduction in DNMT3A or TET2 protein (Figure 1D). Importantly, the

genes upregulated through ASOs of different efficacies in reducing TET2 and DNMT3A protein nearly overlapped, producing a consensus gene set of high confidence used for downstream analysis (Figures S1B and S1C left panel). This consensus gene list was enriched for functional annotations associated with type I IFN and cytokine signaling (Figures S1B and S1C right panel). Similar enrichment is observed in the 143 upregulated genes that were shared between the two *DNMT3A* ASOs and the two *TET2* ASOs, including transcripts of inflammatory cytokines and mediators of interferon signaling such as *IFIT2*, *IFIT3*, *CXCL10*, *CCL2*, *CCL3*, *CCL8*, *CCL13*, and *IL1B* mRNA (Rusinova et al., 2013; Schoggins and Rice, 2011) (Figures 1E and 1F).

To further establish the specificity of human *DNMT3A* and *TET2* ASOs 1 and 2, we transfected them into mouse bone marrow derived macrophages (BMDM). Transfection of these ASOs did not induce expression a type I IFN response, whereas transfection of recombinant DNA (rDNA) containing immunostimulatory sequences did, indicating specificity of *DNMT3A* and *TET2* ASOs (Figure S1D). As an additional approach, we designed siRNAs targeting *DNMT3A* and *TET2* and transfected them into MDM. The siRNAs directed against *TET2* selectively reduced TET2 expression, while the siRNAs directed against *DNMT3A* reduced DNMT3A and TET2 expression, as was observed for the corresponding *DNMT3A* ASOs (Figures 1C and S1E). Importantly, all four siRNAs targeting DNMT3A or TET2 induced a type I IFN response (Figure S1E). Lastly, we found upregulation of ISGs in *Dnmt3a*^{-/-} BMDM (Kim et al., 2021) (Figure S1F) and in *DNMT3A*^{-/-} human iPSC-derived macrophages (Lim et al., 2021) (Figure S1G), confirming that reduced expression of *DNMT3A* leads to upregulation of ISGs in the context of genetically driven loss of function. Collectively, these findings strongly support the hypothesis that loss of function of either DNMT3A or TET2 results in a type I IFN response in human monocyte derived macrophages in addition to other molecular consequences that are specific for each factor.

DNMT3A and TET2 are proteins with methyltransferase and methylcytosine dioxygenase activity, respectively. Therefore, we investigated whether activation of ISGs is accompanied by changes in DNA hydroxymethylcytosine (5hmC) and found a similar amount of 5hmC in MDM treated with *DNMT3A* ASO or *TET2* ASO (Figure S1H). Moreover, treatment with the methyltransferase inhibitor 5'-azacytidine or an inhibitor of TET2 catalytic domain (Bobcat339) did not alter the expression of ISGs (Figure S1I), yet 5-azacytidine reduced global DNA methylation (Figure S1J). These data indicate that alterations in DNA methylation are not a major driver of transcriptional changes induced by acute reductions of DNMT3A or TET2 expression in MDM, suggesting an alternative mechanism is at play. In addition, we did not observe changes in three-dimensional conformation of the chromatin around ISG, including *CXCL10* or *MX1* (Figure S1K, arrowheads).

We next investigated whether reduced DNMT3A or TET2 expression would lead to changes in proliferation of MDM. We found that most of the downregulated genes in *DNMT3A* ASO or *TET2* ASO treated MDM were related to cell cycle and mitosis, including *DEPTOR*, *HELLS*, *KIFs*, *STMN1*, and *MKI67* (Figures S2A-S2C). However, analysis of proliferation, senescence, or apoptosis after treatment with *DNMT3A* ASO or *TET2* ASO revealed no differences compared to control ASO (Figures S2D and S2E). These data indicate that

reduced DNMT3A or TET2 expression does not alter cell proliferation, apoptosis, or senescence of MDM under these *in vitro* culture conditions.

To investigate variation in *DNMT3A* and *TET2* expression in human MDM and its potential relationship to ISGs, we performed single cell RNA-seq sequencing in MDM prepared from three healthy donors and ranked the MDM according to *DNMT3A* or *TET2* mRNA expression (Figures 1G and 1H). We found that MDM with reduced *DNMT3A* or *TET2* as defined by quartiles of expression (Q1 versus Q4 for *TET2* and Q1-2 versus Q3-4 for *DNMT3A*) had a statistically significant upregulation of genes involved in IFN signaling (Figure 1I, left panel). Similar upregulation was observed in macrophages isolated from the atherosclerotic plaque (Depuydt et al., 2020) with lower *DNMT3A* or *TET2* (Figure 1I right panel) when compared to those expressing high *DNMT3A* or *TET2*, respectively. These findings suggest that low amounts of wild-type *DNMT3A* or *TET2* expression could predispose human macrophages to a type I IFN responses.

Reduced expression of DNMT3A or TET2 or heterozygous loss of function mutations cause activation of ISGs in bystander cells

Activated macrophages can remodel the local environment non-cell autonomously through the secretion of inflammatory mediators (Honda et al., 2006). The upregulation of ISGs was accompanied by increased *IFNA1*, *IFNA4*, and *IFNA5* mRNA expression and higher secretion of IFN α (Figure 2A), but not upregulation of *IFNB* or higher IFN β secretion (Figure S3A). To investigate whether this was sufficient to activate bystander cells, we treated normal MDM with conditioned media (CM) from MDM treated with *DNMT3A* ASO or *TET2* ASO for 2 h and performed RNA sequencing. We found 116 upregulated genes in MDM treated with CM from *DNMT3A* ASO and 102 upregulated genes in MDM treated with CM from *TET2* ASO (log₂ fold change >1 and FDR <0.05). Of these, 32 genes were common between CM *DNMT3A* ASO and CM *TET2* ASO and these genes were enriched in functional pathways related to IFN signaling, including *IFITs*, *MX1*, *OASL*, and *IRF7* mRNA (Figures 2B and 2C). Treatment with conditioned media did not alter the expression of DNMT3A or TET2 mRNA or protein, indicating that the non-cell-autonomous activation of IFN signaling was not due to reduced expression of DNMT3A or TET2 (Figure S3B). An increase in IRF7 protein was confirmed by immunofluorescence (IF) microscopy (Figure S3C). We investigated whether signaling by IFN α is required for the non-cell-autonomous activation of ISGs by CM from *DNMT3A* ASO 1 or *TET2* ASO 2 treated MDM. Treatment of CM from *DNMT3A* ASO or *TET2* ASO with blocking antibodies for IFN alpha, beta, and omega receptor chain 2 (anti-IFN α R2 antibody) prevented the upregulation of IFN-related genes (Figure 2D). These results suggest that reduced DNMT3A or TET2 expression leads to non-cell-autonomous activation of IFN signaling through IFN α R2. Moreover, reduced DNMT3A or TET2 expression sensitized MDM to an exacerbated response to IFN α as assessed by upregulation of ISG (Figure 2E, note difference in scale for relative expression). These data indicate that reduced expression of DNMT3A or TET2 primes macrophages towards a more pro-inflammatory state.

Next, we investigated whether deleterious mutations in *DNMT3A* or *TET2* in myeloid cells would recapitulate effects found in MDM upon DNMT3A or TET2 depletion. We

used MDM from two individuals without detectable *DNMT3A* or *TET2* mutations; from two individuals with *DNMT3A* mutations *DNMT3A* c.2638A>G (VAF 21%); *DNMT3A* c.1717C>T; (VAF 24%); and two individuals with *TET2* mutations *TET2* c.2176C>T, (VAF 17%) and *TET2* c.519delG (VAF 36%); *TET2* c.5551_5552insT (VAF 29%) (Table S1). Similar to CM from *DNMT3A* or *TET2* ASO, CM from MDM with *DNMT3A* or *TET2* mutations showed higher abundance of IFN α (Figure 2F) but not IFN β (Figure S3E). In addition, we found upregulation of ISGs such as *IFIT1*, *IFIT3*, *IRF7*, *RSAD2*, and *MX1* when MDM from healthy donors was cultured with CM from MDM from individuals with *DNMT3A* or *TET2* mutations (Figure 2G). These data indicate that deleterious *DNMT3A* or *TET2* mutations leads to secretion of IFN α and non-cell-autonomous activation of ISGs.

We then investigated whether any molecular signature would be shared among the promoters of genes upregulated by *DNMT3A* ASO and *TET2* ASO. *De novo* motif enrichment analysis of these promoters revealed over-representation of motifs for IFN regulatory factors (IRFs) and, to a lower extent, NF κ B and HOXA1 motifs (Figure 3A). Consistent with this, we found upregulation of IRF1 and IRF7 protein in MDM treated with *DNMT3A* ASO or *TET2* ASO (Figures 3B and S3F). This was accompanied by increased binding of IRF1, IRF7, and the active, phosphorylated form of IRF3 (*p*-IRF3) to the *IFNA1* promoter (Figure 3C) and to the promoters of classical ISGs such as *CXCL10*, *IFIT2*, *OASL*, *MX1*, and *ISG15* (Figures 3D and S3G). These regions also showed increased histone H3K4me3 and H3K27ac deposition (Figures 3E and S3H), consistent with increased mRNA being due to increases in gene transcription. These results suggest that DNMT3A and TET2 restrain an IFN program in MDM mediated by activation of IRFs.

Activation of ISGs is not directly regulated by DNMT3A or TET2 binding

To investigate whether transcriptomic changes in macrophages with reduced DNMT3A or TET2 expression were associated with direct binding of DNMT3A or TET2 to gene regulatory regions, we performed ChIP-sequencing assays for each protein in MDM derived from four healthy donors. Examples of DNMT3A-specific, TET2-specific, and DNMT3A/TET2 co-bound peaks are illustrated in Figure 4A. Notably, approximately 85% of the DNMT3A peaks were co-occupied by TET2 (Figure 4B). Approximately 20% of DNMT3A or TET2 ChIP-seq peaks were in proximal promoter regions and roughly 2% in CpG islands (Figure 4C). Genomic regions bound by DNMT3A with higher occupancy were more highly enriched in promoter regions, while regions with higher TET2 affinity were primarily located within distal genomic regions (Figure S4A).

Motif-enrichment analysis identified binding sites for macrophage lineage determining factors in both DNMT3A and TET2 ChIP-seq peaks, including PU.1, CEBP-NFIL3, AP-1, and MITF-TFE transcription factors (Figure S4B). The most highly enriched motifs in DNMT3A-specific peaks correspond to the promoter associated GFY motif and a STAF motif (Figure 4D). This is consistent with DNMT3A unique peaks being enriched in promoter regions compared to co-bound DNMT3A and TET2 peaks or TET2 unique peaks (34% versus 20% or 20%, respectively) (Figure 4C). DNMT3A-TET2 cobound peaks and TET2 unique peaks were proximal to genes enriched for functional annotations associated with inflammation. In contrast, DNMT3A unique peaks were proximal to genes enriched for

functional annotations associated with RNA Pol II transcription, post translational protein modification and cell cycle (Figures 4D and 4E). In addition, we found higher number of tags per position in DNMT3A-TET2 co-bound peaks versus DNMT3A unique peaks or TET2 unique peaks, suggesting cooperative binding (Figure S4C).

Notably, terms related to type I IFN signaling were not strongly enriched among genes associated with specific or shared DNMT3A or TET2 binding sites, suggesting that the activation of ISGs in MDM with reduced DNMT3A or TET2 was indirectly regulated. To investigate this further, we integrated the list of differentially expressed genes in MDM treated with *DNMT3A* ASOs or *TET2* ASOs with DNMT3A or TET2 peaks. Of the mutually upregulated genes, only 25/143 (17.5%) have peaks co-bound by DNMT3A or TET2, 5 of which correspond to ISGs (Figure 4F). Therefore, while genome-wide location analysis of DNMT3A and TET2 provide evidence for both overlapping and distinct roles in MDM, they do not appear to directly regulate most of the differentially regulated genes related to IFN signaling.

Activation of IFN signaling by reduced DNMT3A or TET2 expressing MDM is initiated by cGAS and propagated by IFN α R2

To gain further insight into mechanisms underlying the upregulation of IFN α and ISGs we performed a time-course analysis of gene expression in MDM following DNMT3A or TET2 depletion in the presence or absence of an IFN receptor blocking antibody. These experiments demonstrated that reduction of DNMT3A or TET2 expression resulted in upregulation of ISGs including *MX1*, *IFIT1*, *IRF1*, *IRF7*, *IFIT2*, *IFITM1*, *CMPK2*, *CXCL10*, *ISG15*, and *IFIT3* as early as 12 h, whereas upregulation of other inflammatory transcript genes such as *CCL8*, *IL1B*, *CCL2*, *CCL4*, *CCL3*, *CXCL2*, *CXCL1*, *CXCL5*, *IL6* and *TNFA* primarily occurred by 24 h. Notably, the upregulation of genes activated at 24 h was almost completely blocked by treatment with the anti-IFN α R2 antibody, while genes induced at 12 h were largely unaffected (Figure 5A). ASO-mediated reduction of DNMT3A and TET2 resulted in phosphorylation of IRF3 as detected by Immuno blotting (Figure 5B), consistent with our finding of increased phospho-IRF3 at promoters containing IRF recognition motifs (Figures 2D and 2E). Phosphorylation of IRF3 is mediated by phosphorylated TANK binding kinase (TBK1), which was increased by ASO-mediated reduction of both DNMT3A and TET2 (Figure 4B). These results suggested a common role of DNMT3A and TET2 in preventing the phosphorylation and activation of IRFs and downstream gene expression in human MDM.

In macrophages, TBK1 is primarily activated by Toll-like receptors (TLRs) that couple to the TRIF signaling pathway or by the cGAS/STING pathway that senses cytoplasmic nucleic acids of viral or host origin (Pandey et al., 2014; Wan et al., 2020; Abe and Barber, 2014). The early upregulation of ISGs without activation of other inflammatory genes is most consistent with activation of cGAS signaling. We therefore investigated whether cGAS activation preceded signaling by IFN α R2. Notably, treatment of MDM with the cGAS inhibitor G-140 (Abe and Barber, 2014; Lama et al., 2019) prevented the upregulation of ISGs and inflammatory genes both at 12 h and 24 h following ASO-mediated depletion of

DNMT3A and TET2, consistent with an essential role of cGAS in the activation of the type I IFN response (Figure 5C).

Heterozygosity of the mitochondrial DNA transcription factor TFAM leads to mtDNA depletion (i.e., reduced mtDNA copy number), enlarged nucleoids, release of mtDNA into the cytoplasm, and cGAS-STING activation in fibroblasts and BMDM (West et al., 2015). Similar to the direct effect of reduced *Tfam*, we found that reduced DNMT3A or TET2 expression led to a lower mtDNA copy number, increased cytosolic mtDNA, and enlarged DNA nucleoids adjacent to mitochondria (HSP60). DNA nucleoids were reduced after treatment of cells with dideoxycytosine (ddC) to deplete mtDNA (Figures 5D, 5E, and 5F). ASO-mediated reduction of DNMT3A or TET2 was also accompanied by more elongated mitochondria (Figures S5A and S5B), but did not affect mitochondrial membrane potential or increase reactive oxygen species (ROS) (Figures S5C and S5D), phenotypes also shared with *Tfam* heterozygous cells. Importantly, depletion of mtDNA with ddC also almost completely prevented the upregulation of ISGs and inflammatory genes at both 12 and 24 h (Figure 5G). These data suggest that reduced expression of DNMT3A or TET2 results in mitochondria and mtDNA alterations that closely resemble those observed in *Tfam* heterozygous cells (West et al., 2015).

These findings led us to investigate whether mutations in *DNMT3A* or *TET2* associated with CHIP led to mtDNA accumulation in the cytoplasm. Although it is not possible to distinguish wild-type from mutant cells in these experiments, we found evidence for cytoplasmic DNA nucleoids adjacent to mitochondria in a percentage of cells that correlate with the variant allele frequency of TET2 or DNMT3A mutations of the patient cells (Figures 5H and 5I). These findings are consistent with reduced DNMT3A and TET2 expression resulting in mitochondrial alterations that lead to release of mtDNA and activation of a type I IFN response.

The above results led us to interrogate the status of TFAM in DNMT3A or TET2 ASO-depleted cells. We found downregulation of *TFAM* mRNA (Figure 6A) and protein assessed by immunofluorescence (IF) (Figures 6B and 6C) in MDM treated with either *DNMT3A* or *TET2* ASOs or with siRNAs for DNMT3A or TET2. Furthermore, around 1,400 differentially expressed genes were detected when comparing MDM treated with small interfering RNAs (siRNAs) against *TFAM* and control-treated MDM, but no changes in *DNMT3A* or *TET2* expression were detected (Figures 6D and 6E). Moreover, genes upregulated by both *DNMT3A* ASOs and *TET2* ASOs and siTFAM treatment in MDM belonged to interferon signaling (e.g., ISGs) (Figures 6F-6H). These data support the hypothesis that the interferon program activated in MDM with reduced DNMT3A or TET2 is at least in part regulated through TFAM expression. In line with this, in MDM treated with *DNMT3A* ASO 1 or *TET2* ASO 2 we find downregulation of DNMT3A and TET2 (at 6–8 h) precedes downregulation of TFAM at 10 h and accumulation of cytosolic mtDNA at 12 h (Figures 6I, 6J, and S6A). In contrast, incubation of MDM with recombinant DNA or IFN α for 2 h induced both the direct and secondary ISG response within 2 h without affecting *TFAM*, *DNMT3A*, or *TET2* expression (Figure S6B, left and right, respectively). These data support a mechanism of action in which reduction of DNMT3A or TET2 leads to downregulation of TFAM and subsequent accumulation of cytosolic mtDNA.

DNMT3A and TET2 directly regulate TFAM expression via RBPJ and ZNF143 to restrain IFN signaling

To investigate the mechanism by which DNMT3A and TET2 regulate TFAM expression, we examined the distribution of their binding sites in the vicinity of the TFAM locus. We observed strong binding of both factors to the TFAM promoter (Figure 7A). From the motif enrichment analysis of DNMT3A and TET2 ChIP-seq peaks, our attention was drawn to the GFY and ZNF143 motifs. These were the top 2 motifs for DNMT3A peaks and were also enriched in DNMT3A and TET2 co-bound peaks (Figure 4D). The last 5 base pairs of the GFY motif are identical to a motif that is recognized by RBPJ at a subset of its genomic binding sites in other cell types (Sakai et al., 2019; Castel et al., 2013). ZNF143 is ubiquitously expressed, and functions in various cancers (Ye et al., 2020; Izumi et al., 2010) (Kawatsu et al., 2014) and regulates promoter-enhancer loops in murine hematopoietic stem cells (Zhou et al., 2021). We therefore performed ChIP-seq analysis of RBPJ and ZNF143 to investigate the possibility that they serve to target DNMT3A and/or TET2 to their genomic binding sites in human MDM.

We identified 43,382 high-confidence binding sites for RBPJ and 3,156 high-confidence ZNF143 binding sites, enabling integration with the genome-wide locations of DNMT3A and TET2 (Figure 7B). Motif enrichment of ZNF143 peaks exhibited substantial overlap with motifs enriched at DNMT3A only peaks, with the GFY and ZNF143 motifs ranked first and second (Figure 7C). Consistent with this, 80% (2,523/3,156) of ZNF143 peaks were co-bound by DNMT3A (Figures 7B, S7A, and S7B), suggesting an important role of ZNF143 in directing genomic binding of DNMT3A. Conversely, motif enrichment of RBPJ peaks exhibited large overlap with motifs enriched at TET2-only sites, including motifs for macrophage lineage determining factors PU.1, AP-1, CEBP, RUNX, and TFE family members (Figures 7D, S7A, and S7B). Corresponding to this, 78% (13,748/17,657) of TET2 only peaks co-localized with RBPJ binding sites (Figure 7B), mostly at distal genomic locations, suggesting a role of RBPJ in directing the DNA binding pattern of TET2. Notably, we identified 1,604 genomic locations at which DNMT3A, TET2, ZNF143, and RBPJ were all co-bound (Figure 7B). This binding pattern was clearly represented at the TFAM promoter (Figure 7A). In contrast, the second upstream binding site of DNMT3A and TET2 was strongly bound by RBPJ, but not ZNF143. Motif enrichment analysis of sites at which all four factors were bound identified the GFY and ZNF143 motifs as the most highly enriched, but at even higher frequencies than observed at DNMT3A-only peaks, (Figures 7E, S7A, and S7B).

The co-occurrence of DNMT3A, TET2, ZNF143 and RBPJ at the *TFAM* promoter suggested the possibility that ZNF143 and RBPJ function to coordinately recruit DNMT3A and TET2 to this location to induce its expression. To test this hypothesis, we reduced *RBPJ* and *ZNF143* expression using independent pairs of siRNAs. While the ZNF143 siRNAs selectively reduced *ZNF143*, both siRNAs targeting *RBPJ* resulted in reduced expression of not only of *RBPJ*, but also of *ZNF143* (Figure 7F). Although the downregulation of *ZNF143* by RBPJ siRNAs was unexpected, this was consistent with the observation that both RBPJ and ZNF143 were strongly bound to the *ZNF143* promoter (Figure 7G) and provides evidence that RBPJ regulates *ZNF143* expression. siRNA ablation of *RBPJ* or

ZNF143 did not alter *DNMT3A* expression and resulted in increased expression of *TET2* (Figure 7G), indicating that reduced expression of *TFAM* was not due to reduced expression of either of these factors. Importantly, reduced expression of *RBPJ* or *ZNF143* expression alone or in combination led to upregulation of ISGs including *CXCL10*, *RSAD2*, *ISG15* and *IFIT1* (Figure 7H).

We then investigated whether *RBPJ* and *ZNF143* were required for the binding of *DNMT3A* and *TET2* to the *TFAM* promoter by performing locus-specific ChIP assays for each factor at the promoter and upstream binding site. We found that whereas reduction of both *RBPJ* and *ZNF143* had strongly deleterious effects on binding of *DNMT3A* and *TET2* at the proximal promoter of *TFAM*, knockdown of *RBPJ* had a greater effect on their binding to the distal region of *TFAM* promoter (Figure 7I). This observation correlated with the absence of *ZNF143* binding to this location and implies that other factors (e.g., *Elf4*, *SP1*, *C/EBP* etc., Figure 7E) collaborate with *RBPJ* to mediate *DNMT3A* and *TET2* recruitment to this site. Collectively, these results provide evidence that *DNMT3A* and *TET2* directly regulate the expression of *TFAM* through interactions with *RBPJ* and *ZNF143*. The effects of ablating *ZNF143* and *RBPJ* on the expression of *TFAM* further predicted that there should also be an activation of the type I IFN response. Consistent with this expectation, knockdown of *RBPJ* or *ZNF143* led to increased expression of ISGs and increased numbers of nucleoids (Figures 7J and 7K), mimicking the effect of reduced *DNMT3A*, *TET2*, or *TFAM* expression.

DISCUSSION

Mutations in the regulators of DNA methylation *DNMT3A* and *TET2* represent more than 70% of all mutations in hematological disorders and in CHIP (Jaiswal et al., 2014, 2017; Fuster et al., 2017). While these mutations contribute to the clonal expansion of hematopoietic progenitor cells, the functions of *DNMT3A* and *TET2* in differentiated human macrophages and the effects of loss-of-function mutations are largely unknown. In this work, we show that in addition to distinct biological roles, *DNMT3A* and *TET2* function in a coordinated manner to maintain mtDNA integrity by regulating *TFAM* expression. Reduced expression of *DNMT3A* or *TET2* led to upregulation of ISGs that was recapitulated in MDM from individuals with *DNMT3A* or *TET2* mutations. Prior studies in mice demonstrated that *TET2* or *DNMT3A* deficiency can result in exacerbated pro-inflammatory responses in BMDM (Cull et al., 2017) or mast cells (Leoni et al., 2017), respectively, consistent with the findings presented here. However, *DNMT3A* inhibition has also been shown to reduce the production of type I IFNs in mouse peritoneal macrophages (Li et al., 2016). This apparent discrepancy suggests species or context-specific differences that will require additional studies to resolve.

We also observed an IFN signature in both normal MDM and atherosclerotic lesion macrophages (Depuydt et al., 2020) exhibiting reduced *DNMT3A* or *TET2* expression as assessed by single cell RNA-seq experiments. This finding suggests that low expression of *DNMT3A* or *TET2* in macrophages might promote type I IFN responses even in individuals without loss of function mutations. This finding is of potential clinical relevance considering previous studies reporting that IFN signaling is associated with enhanced atherosclerosis

and plaque instability (Goossens et al., 2010). It will therefore be important to determine whether low amounts of DNMT3A or TET2 are causally related to increased expression of interferon stimulated genes observed *in vivo*.

We find production of IFN α s—but not IFN β —by cells with reduced DNMT3A or TET2 or with *DNMT3A* or *TET2* mutations leads to activation of ISG in neighboring cells through signalling by IFNAR2. We speculate that *IFNB* is not induced in cells with reduced DNMT3A or TET2 mutations because of the specific requirement of the IFN β enhanceosome for NF κ B (Panne, 2008) and the modest activation of NF κ B in MDM in which DNMT3A or TET2 expression is reduced. These findings support the concept that a few *DNMT3A* or *TET2* mutant cells might act in a paracrine manner, accelerating and perpetuating tissue inflammation. Accordingly, this “few bad apples spoil the barrel” scenario may explain how CHIP with a VAF of as little as 10% (affecting 20% of nucleated blood cells) was sufficiently associated with atherosclerotic CVD risk (Jaiswal et al., 2017). Furthermore, CHIP due to mutations in DNMT3A or TET2 with a VAF 2% (affecting 4% of cells) or less was associated with incident heart failure and worse prognosis with heart failure in a dose dependent manner (Dorsheimer et al., 2019; Assmus et al., 2021; Yu et al., 2021).

Despite displaying antagonistic enzymatic activities, loss of function of DNMT3A or TET2 in murine models show overlapping phenotypes in terms of increased HSC fitness (Ostrander et al., 2020), suggesting a common program regulated by DNMT3A and TET2. In our studies, although we cannot rule out an undetectable contribution of changes in DNA methylation, it is unlikely that reduction of the enzymatic functions of DNMT3A or TET2 account for activation of the IFN program. The lack of correlation between DNA methylation and differential gene expression in MDM is consistent with other studies including *Dnmt3a*-null HSC (Challen et al., 2011) and human samples of acute myeloid leukemia (Ley et al., 2010). The lack of ISG upregulation in MDM treated with the DNA methyltransferase inhibitor azacytidine differs from ovarian cancer cells where it triggers cytosolic sensing of double-stranded RNA causing a type I IFN response and apoptosis (Chiappinelli et al., 2015), indicating a cell-dependent role of DNA methylation by DNMT3A in ISG activation. A role of TET2 outside DNA methylation is also concordant with previous work showing that non-catalytic roles of TET2 are crucial to regulate HSC and progenitor cell homeostasis (Ito et al., 2019). Our finding of direct regulation of gene expression by DNMT3A and TET2, as with *TFAM* in MDM, may partly explain the convergent cardiovascular phenotypes associated with both *DNMT3A* and *TET2* mutations.

Analyses of the genome-wide binding patterns of DNMT3A and TET2 in human MDMs led to the discovery of their co-recruitment to a specific set of DNA regulatory elements by ZNF143-STAF and RBPJ. This pattern contrasts with a previous finding that RBPJ and ZNF143 peaks are mutually exclusive in leukemia cells (Wang et al., 2011), indicating that additional factors are required to establish their cell-specific DNA binding patterns. Mechanistically, we provided evidence that RBPJ and ZNF143 were required for binding of DNMT3A and TET2 and transcriptional activation of the *TFAM* promoter. The role of RBPJ in restraining IFN signaling in MDM contrasts with the reported role of RBPJ in M1-like polarization of BMDM treated with TLR agonists (Xu et al., 2012; Foldi et al.,

2010). However, the findings here that siRNA mediated reduction of RBPJ or ZNF143 led to loss of TFAM expression and a robust type I IFN response in MDMs suggests a species or context-dependent role of RBPJ in activating inflammatory programs of gene expression.

Despite substantial advances in the treatment of conventional risk factors, such as hypercholesterolemia, CVD remains a major cause of morbidity and mortality. CHIP represents a recently recognized non-conventional risk factor for which there are currently no specific therapeutic approaches. The present findings suggest that possibility that pharmacological inhibition of cGAS or downstream type I IFN signaling could be of therapeutic value. Our findings may also open roads to identifying other scenarios of disease with IFN activation associated to reduced DNMT3A or TET2 expression such as lupus (Piotrowski et al., 2015), endometriosis (Szczepanska et al., 2013), or pancreatic cancer (Vitale et al., 2007). Finally, our results add to the ever-growing list of pathological circumstances that involve mitochondria and mtDNA-mediated inflammation (West and Shadel, 2017; Newman and Shadel, 2018).

Limitations of the study

As these studies were performed in human MDMs *in vitro*, they likely do not fully model the consequences of loss of function of DNMT3A or TET2 in macrophages that reside in pathological tissue environments. In addition, due to the short duration of *in vitro* studies and lack of cell proliferation, the potential to record changes in gene expression due to alterations in DNA methylation was limited. Thus, we cannot exclude important consequences of haploinsufficiency of the enzymatic activities of DNMT3A or TET2 in macrophages in tissue environments. Second, we studied a limited number of individuals with DNMT3A or TET2 mutations and were not able to definitively distinguish cells containing mutant DNMT3A or TET2 from non-mutant cells. Although our studies clearly demonstrated activation of IFN signaling at the population level and an increased frequency of DNA nucleoids in MDMs from individuals with DNMT3A or TET2 mutations that scaled with variant allele frequency, this is not the same as defining these phenotypes as a function of each individual cell's genotype.

STAR★METHODS

RESOURCE AVAILABILITY

Lead contact—Further information and requests for resources and reagents should be directed to and will be fulfilled by the lead contact, Christopher K. Glass (cglass@health.ucsd.edu).

Material availability—This study did not generate new unique reagents.

Data and code availability—The datasets supporting the current study have been deposited in GEO (GSE206030). This study did not generate any unique code.

EXPERIMENTAL MODEL AND SUBJECT DETAILS

Isolation of monocytes⁰—Human PBMC were isolated from whole blood by Ficoll density gradient using Ficoll Plaque Premium (Sigma GE Healthcare, #17-544-02) or BD Vacutainer CPT Tubes (BD, 362753) as described somewhere else. PBMC were washed twice with HBSS (Gibco ThermoFisher, #14175095) containing 2% BSA, 1 mM EDTA. Monocytes were obtained by negative selection using a kit (StemCell, #19359).

Experiments using mouse bone marrow derived macrophages (BMDM)—Experiments involving BMDM were carried out under the protocol number S01015. Bone marrow cells were flushed and culture for six days in 15 ng/uL of MCSF. Eight-ten weeks male and females C57/B16 mice were used.

METHOD DETAILS

Collection of monocytes from healthy donors and patients with *DNMT3A* or *TET2* mutations—Monocytes from healthy donors were isolated from blood collected using the normal blood donor program of Scripps Research (<https://www.scripps.edu/science-and-medicine/cores-and-services/normal-blood-donor-service/index.html>) under the IRB 207533. All patient samples were collected at the University of California San Diego (UCSD) Moores Cancer Center with patient consent under protocols approved by Institutional Review Boards and in accordance with the Declaration of Helsinki. Genomic DNA samples were isolated from peripheral blood mononuclear cells and were genetically characterized by targeted capture of DNA and sequenced on the Illumina platform. Alignment and variant calling were performed using a custom pipeline and variant calls were annotated using validated software utilizing databases of known germline and somatic variants, followed by confirmation of these variants by manual review. A summary of the patient's samples used in this study is shown in Table S1.

Differentiation of monocytes to macrophages (MDM)—Monocytes were incubated with RPMI 1640 (Sigma Aldrich, # 10-040) medium containing 10% de-complemented FBS (OmegaScientific, #FB-02), 1 mM Sodium Pyruvate (Gibco ThermoFisher), Penicillin-Streptomycin (15140122, 1000 U/mL) and 25ng/mL-50 ng/mL of recombinant human M-CSF (StemCell #78057-2) for six days at 37°C and 5% CO₂. Fresh media was added 48 h and four days after seeding.

Transfection of MDM or BMDM with antisense oligonucleotides and transfection of MDM with siRNA—Monocyte-derived macrophages or bone marrow derived macrophages (BMDM) were transfected with 250 nM of Scramble ASO or siRNA control, *DNMT3A* or *TET2* ASO (kindly provided by IONIS Pharmaceuticals) or *DNMT3A* siRNA or *TET2* siRNA using DharmaFECT reagents (Horizon, #T-2004-02) for 24 h in medium without antibiotics. The two *DNMT3A* ASO or *TET2* ASO that displayed greater DNMT3A or TET2 protein knockdown were used for the experiments. *DNMT3A* siRNA #1 (hs.Ri.DNMT3A.13.1), *DNMT3A* siRNA #2 (hs.Ri.DNMT3A.13.2), *TET2* siRNA #1 (hs.Ri.TET2.13.1), *TET2* siRNA #2 (hs.Ri.TET2.13.2). After 24 h, transfection media then used to condition untreated MDM for 2 h.

Treatment of MDM with chemicals—MDM were incubated for four days with 3 mg of IgG control (R&D systems, #MAB003) or anti-Interferon Alpha/Beta/Omega Receptor Chain 2 (IFN α R2) blocking antibody (Pbl assay science, #21385-1, Lot 7035), 2',3'-dideoxycytidine (ddC) or 10 μ M of human specific c-GAS inhibitor G-140 (Invivogen, inh-g140). Effect in *DNMT3A* or *TET2* ASO was calculated as relative to that measured in cells transfected with Scramble ASO.

Stimulation of MDM with KLA, R848, IFN α —MDM were incubated for two or five with, 2 pg/mL of IFN α 2 (StemCell, #78076) in RPMI 1640 medium containing 10% de-complemented FBS, 1 mM Sodium Pyruvate, Penicillin-Streptomycin and 25–50 ng/ml of recombinant human M-CSF. MDM previously incubated with ASO were incubated with 2 pg/mL IFN α for 5 h.

Crystal violet staining—For staining in MDM, 100K monocytes were initially seeded in 96-well plates and ASO-mediated and three technical replicates were used in all conditions. Transfected cells were washed with PBS and incubated with crystal violet 0.2% (w:v) solution for 10 min at room temperature. Excess of crystal violet solution was removed using water and air dry. Once the plates were dried, 1% SDS solution was added to each well to solubilise the staining and absorbance was read using 570 nm wavelength in a luminometer. The average of two measurements was used for final analysis.

Incubation with siRNA—Monocyte-derived macrophages were transfected with 250 nM of control siRNA or specific siRNA against *TFAM* (IDT technologies, kindly provided by Gerald Shadel's laboratory) using DharmaFECT reagents (Horizon, #T-2004-02) for 24 h in medium without antibiotics. Next day, transfection media was replaced with normal media to let the cells recover for 24 h before harvesting.

Immunofluorescence—Briefly, peripheral blood monocytes were differentiated to MDM in chambered slides (Millipore, #C86024) and fixed with BD Cytotfix/Cytoperm Buffer (BD, BD554714) for 10 min at room temperature. Cytotfix/Cytoperm buffer was removed and MDM were washed twice with HBSS containing 2% BSA and 1 mM EDTA. Cells were kept in wash/permeabilization buffer (BD, BD554714) for 1 h at 4°C or until the experiment was performed. Fixed MDM were blocked using 3% BSA, 0.1% Triton-PBS for 30 min at room temperature and then with the primary antibody overnight at 4°C. For double or triple IF, the corresponding antibodies were added simultaneously and incubated overnight at 4°C. Next day, MDM were washed with 0.1% Triton-PBS, incubated with the appropriate fluorochrome-conjugated secondary antibody and fluorescent probes and nuclei were counter-stained with DAPI. After washing with 0.1% Triton-PBS, slides were mounted with Prolong Gold Antifade Reagent (Life Technology, #10144). Images were taken using a Leica SP8 with light deconvolution microscope or SP5 confocal microscope (Leica). ImageJ was used to quantify signal intensity of IF images. Briefly, three-colored images were split into single-colored images, nuclei were delineated using the freehand selection tool of ImageJ and intensity was calculated as the value of mean/area. Experiments were performed in triplicates. One representative experiment is shown. A list of antibodies and fluorescent

probes used for IF with their working concentration is shown below. Scale bars are provided in the figure corresponding figure legend.

- Apotracker. Biolegend, #427401. 1/1000.
- Bodipy. ThermoFisher, #D3922. 1/1000.
- CellEvent. ThermoFisher, #C10723. 1/1000.
- CTCF. Cell Signaling, #2899 S. 1/300.
- DNA. Abcam, #27156. 1/400-1/1000.
- DNMT3A. Abcam, #2850. 1/100-1/200.
- HSP60. Cell Signaling, #12165 S. 1/200-1/400.
- IRF1. Abcam, #191032. 1/100.
- IRF7. Abcam, #115352. 1/100.
- KI67. Invitrogen, #53-5698-82. 1/100-1/200.
- Phalloidin. Abcam, #176759. 1/1000.
- TET2. Abcam, #94580. 1/100-1/200.
- TFAM. Cell Signaling, #8076 S. 1/100.
- Donkey anti-mouse 488. ThermoFisher, #A21202. 1/200.
- Donkey anti-rabbit 555. ThermoFisher, #A31572. 1/200.

Detection of mitochondrial DNA in cytosolic extracts—Digitonin extracts from MDM were generated as described somewhere else (Holden and Horton, 2009); (West et al., 2015). Briefly, 3 million MDM incubated with Scramble ASO, *DNMT3A* ASO #1 or *TET2* ASO #2 were each divided into two equal aliquots, and one aliquot was resuspended in 500 μ L of 50 μ M NaOH and boiled for 25 min to solubilize DNA and 50mL 1M Tris-HCl pH 8 was added to neutralize the pH. These extracts served normalization controls for total mtDNA. The second equal aliquots were resuspended in 400 mL buffer containing 150 mM NaCl, 50 mM HEPES, pH 7.5, and 15–25 μ g/mL digitonin (Promega, #G9441) and incubated for 10 min under mild shaking to allow selective plasma membrane permeabilization, then centrifuged at 1000 g for 4 min three times to pellet intact cells. The cytosolic supernatants were transferred to fresh tubes and spun at 16,000 g for 10 min to pellet any remaining cellular debris, yielding cytosolic preps free of nuclear or contamination from other organelles. DNA was then isolated from these pure cytosolic fractions using DNA ChIP & Celan concentrator (Zymo Research). Quantitative PCR (qPCR) was performed using the KAPA SYBR Fast PCR master mix (Sigma Aldrich, #KK4605) and an ABI-StepOne 96 well plate instrument (Applied Biosystems) on both whole cell extracts and cytosolic fractions using nuclear DNA primers and mtDNA primers (see list below). Ct values obtained for mtDNA abundance for whole cell extracts served as normalizer for the mtDNA values obtained from the cytosolic fractions. Abundance of mtDNA was calculated as average of signal obtained for each mtDNA primer set. The

sequence of the primers used and their location in the genomic or mitochondrial DNA is provided below.

Coordinates	Forward (5'-3')	Reverse (5'-3')
chr1:103552993-103553062	ttcctctgtaactaaaagaac	accatatttggcagttaaaca
chrM:404-524	ctttggcggatgcacttt	gtgtgtgtgtgctggtagg
chrM:2333-2436	gcataagcctgcctcagatt	cctgtgttgggtgacagtg
chrM:3116-3217	cctccctgtacgaaaggac	tgggtgggtgtgggtataat
chrM:5198-5325	aattccatccacctcctct	tgatgtgtgtgtgatgggtg
chrM:6377-6514	cttaggggcatcaattca	gcagctaggactgggagaga
chrM:7820-7927	ccatccctacgcatcctta	gccgtagtctgggtactctg
chrM:9420-9527	acaccacctgtccaaaagg	ggctaggctggagtgtgaaa
chrM:10831-10931	aatcaacacaaccaccaca	aggaaaaggttgggaacag

Gene expression analysis by qRT-PCR—Total RNA was isolated using Direct-zol RNA MicroPrep kit (Zymoresearch, #11-33MB) and treated with DNase I on column. 500 ng-1 µg of RNA solution was enriched in poly-A tailed RNA by incubation with Oligo d(T) Magnetic Beads (NEB, #S1419 S). cDNA was prepared according to the manufacturer's specifications, using the Superscript III Reverse Transcriptase (ThermoFisher, # 18080093). qRT-PCR analysis was performed using the KAPA SYBR Fast PCR master mix (Sigma Aldrich, #KK4605) and an ABI-StepOne 96 well plate instrument (Applied Biosystems). The sequence of the primers used is provided below. Expression of each gene were normalised to *HPRT* mRNA using the C_t method.

Gene	Forward (5'-3')	Reverse (5'-3')
<i>CCL2</i>	tctgtgcctgctgctcatag	gcaactgagatcttctattgtg
<i>CCL3</i>	gcccttgctgctcctct	gggaggttagctgaagcag
<i>CCL4</i>	cctcatgtagtagctccttc	aagcttctcgcggtgtaa
<i>CCL5</i>	gatccagaagcccctttct	tcagtttctgtttccactg
<i>CCL8</i>	ttctgcagcctctctg	cacgttaaagcagcaggtga
<i>CMPK2</i>	agttccaggttggccatc	atgcaagagggtgtgactt
<i>CXCL1</i>	gaaagcttgcctcaatctg	caccagttagcttctctctc
<i>CXCL10</i>	ctccagtctcagcaccatga	tgatgcaggtacagcgtacag
<i>CXCL2</i>	cacactcaagaatggcaga	agcttctctctctctctg
<i>HPRT</i>	tgaggatttgaaaagggtgt	gcacacagaggctacaatg
<i>IFT1</i>	aacaggtttcgcaatcagg	tgacatctcaattgctccaga
<i>IFIT3</i>	agaacaaatcagcctgtca	atggcatttcagctgtgga
<i>IFITM1</i>	agagaggcctgcgacaagt	atgttgatcacggtgacct
<i>IFNA1</i>	acccacagcctggataacag	actggttccatcaaactcc
<i>IL1B</i>	agctgatgccctaacaaga	aagcccttgcctgtagtggtg
<i>IL6</i>	ctcagccctgagaaaggaga	ttcagccatctttggaagg

Gene	Forward (5'-3')	Reverse (5'-3')
<i>IRF7</i>	cgacccgcacaagtgta	ctgtggtggtggacagc
<i>ISG15</i>	ctgagaggcagcaactcat	agcatctcaccgcaggtc
<i>MX1</i>	ccttagcctcggctcttc	caccgtgacactgggattc
<i>RSAD2</i>	gtgagcaatggaagcctgat	acggccaataaggacattga
<i>TNFA</i>	ccccaggacctctctctaa	tctcagctccacgccatt
<i>DNMT3A</i>	aggtggagccatcgaagc	ggagcgcgagagttaaaacttaacata
<i>TET2</i>	agatggctgcccttaggat	ggtgtgctgctgaatgtttg
<i>ZNF143</i>	ggctgttcctcctcctggt	ggaaactctgctcctcctga
<i>RBPI</i>	ggagttttggcagagatttg	tgagatcataatggtccgaag
<i>TFAM</i>	aacactgcttgaaaacaaa	cagcttttctcgcggtgaat
<i>Hprt</i>	cattaaagcactgaatagaatagtg	tatgtcccccgttgactgat
<i>Oas1l</i>	actggaccaagcactacacg	tgtagccttctgccattg
<i>Irfi2</i>	aagaggttcctggagagtg	ttagctgtcgcagattgctc
<i>Cmpk2</i>	tgctgccagatctgcttaac	aagtactcccgggcttc
<i>Mx1</i>	agcatggctcaggaggtg	acatccaagacctgccttc
<i>Cxcl10</i>	cgtcattttctgcctcatcc	tatggccctcattctcactg
<i>Rsad2</i>	acagccaagacatcctctgt	aggaagggttctcctccaga

Enzyme-linked immunosorbent assay (ELISA)—IFN α (Pbl assay science, #41135-1) was measured by ELISA in conditioned media from ASO-depleted MDM or cultured media used for MDM with *DNMT3A* or *TET2* mutations following manufacturer's specifications. Measurements of all samples were carried out in duplicates.

Intracellular staining and cytometry—For detection of intracellular proteins by cytometry cells were fixed using Cytofix/Cytoperm Buffer for 10 min at room temperature, washed twice with HBSS containing 2% BSA and 1 mM EDTA, and with Wash/Perm buffer (BD, #BD554714). Cells were incubated with Fc receptors blocking agent TruStain FcX (Biolegend, #422302) for 10 min on ice followed by incubation with desired antibody for 30 min also on ice. Stained cells were pelleted to remove excess of antibody, washed twice, filtered using 35 μ m strainer and resuspended in 250–500 μ L in HBSS-2% BSA-1 mM EDTA. Unstained cells were used as negative control. Cytometry was performed using a Sony MA900 sorter. A list of fluorophore-conjugated antibodies used for intracellular staining with their working concentration is shown below.

DNMT3A. sc373905-AF488. 1/100-1/200

TET2. sc398535-AF647. 1/100-1/200

KI67. Invitrogen, #53-5698-82. 1/100.

Western blot—It was performed as described somewhere else (Cobo et al., 2018). Briefly, proteins were extracted from MDM using a lysis buffer (50 mM Tris-HCl pH 8, 150 mM NaCl, 5 mM EDTA and 0.5% NP-40) supplemented with protease inhibitor and phosphatase inhibitor cocktails. Protein concentration was measured by using DCTM Protein

Assay Kit (Bio-Rad Laboratories) according to the manufacturer's instructions. Protein solutions were boiled at 95°C for 5 min in NuPAGE™ LDS Sample Buffer with NuPAGE™ Sample Reducing Agent for SDS-PAGE. Proteins were resolved using NuPAGE™ 4–12% Bis-Tris Gels and transferred to PVDF membranes (Immobilon, #IPVH00010) previously activated with methanol. Once proteins were transferred, membranes were blocked in a solution of 4% milk in PBS:0.1% Triton for 45 min at room temperature and incubated with specific antibodies overnight at 4°C in mild rotation. Membranes were then washed using PBS:0.1% Triton and incubated with anti-rabbit or anti-mouse antibodies conjugated with HRP (Dako, #P0448 or #P0447, respectively) and developed using Chemidoc molecular imager (BioRad). A list of the antibodies used and working concentration is provided below.

DNMT3A. Abcam, ab2850. 1/1000.

TET2. Abcam, ab94580. 1/1000.

Phospho-TBK1. Cell Signaling, #D52C2. 1/1000.

TBK1. Cell Signaling, #D1B4. 1/1000.

Phospho-IRF3. Cell Signaling, #D6O1M. 1/500.

IRF3. Cell Signaling, #D83B9. 1/1000.

IFIT2. Boster, #A04428. 1/1000.

Actin. Sigma, #A5441. 1/1000.

Transmission electron microscopy (TEM)—Sample preparation and imaging was performed at the Electron Microscopy Unit of the UCSD School of Medicine. Briefly, MDM were pelleted and fixed by immersion in 2% glutaraldehyde (EMS) diluted in 0.15 M sodium cacodylate buffer at pH 7.4 for at least 4 h. Cells were then postfixed in 1% osmium tetroxide in 0.15 M cacodylate buffer for 60 min and stained in bloc in 2% uranyl acetate (LADD Research Industries, #23620) for 60 min. Samples were dehydrated in ethanol, embedded in Durcupan epoxy resin (Sigma-Aldrich, #D0291), sectioned at 50–60 nm on a Leica UCT ultramicrotome (Leica Microsystems), and picked up on 300 mesh copper grids. Sections were stained with 2% uranyl acetate for 5 min and followed by Sato's lead stain for 1 min. Grids were viewed and imaged using a JEOL 1400Plus (JEOL) transmission electron microscope coupled with a Gatan OneView digital camera (Gatan).

Analysis of methylcytosine—Analysis of hydroxymethylcytosine was performed using ELISA-based assay (https://www.activemotif.com/catalog/1043/global-dna-methylation-assay-line-1?gclid=Cj0KCQjws-OEBhCkARIsAPhOkIbL2w0_w4WfU782bigalNd8eLOTRBGXPda6h0W0hZQLOEfIQctGB-kaArX6EALw_wcB#order) using 100 ng of DNA, following manufacturer's specifications. Treatment of MDM with 5-azacytidine was used as positive control.

Single-cell RNA-seq library preparation and analysis of MDM and atherosclerotic macrophages—For normal MDM, MDM from three healthy donors were washed twice with PBS, pelleted, and resuspended in PBS containing 0.04% BSA. Single cells were linked to beads using the 10X Chromium system (10X Genomics).

Single-cell sequencing libraries were prepared following manufacturer's instructions using v3 chemistry. The demultiplexed fastq files produced by cellranger mkfastq were processed by cellranger count (10X genomics) using the human genome reference 'refdata-cellranger-GRCh38-3.0.0'. For each sample, the filtered_feature_bc_matrix output from cellranger count was analyzed by the Seurat R package, by adapting the code from the Guided Clustering Tutorial (https://satijalab.org/seurat/archive/v3.1/pbmc3k_tutorial.html). Single cell RNA-seq data from atherosclerotic macrophages was provided by KHMP and is available in (Depuydt et al., 2020). The single cell expression data were filtered to include only the genes of interest: DNMT3A, TET2 and genes identified in the REACTOME *Interferon alpha and beta signalling* gene set. As surrogate of reduced DNMT3A or TET2, we compared cells in the top and bottom quartile of DNMT3A or TET2 expression for MDM or top two quartiles versus bottom two quartiles for macrophages isolated from the atherosclerotic plaque, for the expression of genes in the *Reactome Interferon alpha and beta signalling* gene set.

RNA-seq library preparation—It was performed as described elsewhere (Gosselin et al., 2017); (Seidman et al., 2020)]. Briefly, MDM were lysed in TRIzol (ThermoFisher, #15596026). RNA and DNase treatment was carried out using Direct-zol RNA MicroPrep kit (Zymoresearch, #11-33MB). 500ng-1 µg total RNA was enriched in poly-A tailed RNA transcripts by double incubation with Oligo d(T) Magnetic Beads (NEB, S1419 S) and fragmented for 9 min at 94°C in 2X Superscript III first-strand buffer containing 10 mM DTT (Invitrogen, #P2325). The 10 µL of fragmented RNA was added to 0.5 µL of Random primers (Invitrogen, #48190011), 0.5 µL of Oligo d(T) primer (Invitrogen, #18418020), 0.5 µL of SUPERase inhibitor (Ambion, #AM2696), 1 µL of 10 mM dNTPs and incubated at 50°C for 3 min. Then, 5.8 µL of water, 1 µL of 10 mM DTT, 0.1 µL of 2 µg/µL Actinomycin D (Sigma, #A1410), 0.2 µL of 1% Tween-20 (Sigma) and 0.5 µL of SuperScript III (Invitrogen, #ThermoFisher 18080044) was added to the mix. Reverse-transcription (RT) reaction was performed at 25°C for 10 min followed by 50°C for 50 min. RT product was purified with RNAClean XP (Beckman Coulter, #A63987) and eluted in 10 µL in 0.01% Tween-20. The RNA-cDNA complex was then added to 1.5 µL of 10X Blue Buffer (Enzymatics, #B0110-L), 1.1 µL of dUTP mix (10 mM dATP, dCTP, dGTP and 20 mM dUTP), 0.2 µL of 5 U/µl RNAseH (Enzymatics, #Y9220L), 1 µL of 10 U/µl DNA polymerase I (Enzymatics, #P7050L), 0.15 µL of 1% Tween 20 and 1.05 µL of nuclease free water; and incubated at 16°C for 2.5 h or overnight. The resulting dsDNA product was purified using 28 µL of SpeedBead Magnetic Carboxylate (GE Healthcare, #651521050 50250) diluted in 20% PEG8000:2.5M NaCl to a final 13% PEG concentration, washed twice with 80% etOH, air dry and eluted in 40 µL of 0.05% Tween-20. The purified 40 µL of dsDNA was end-repaired by blunting followed by A-tailing and adapter ligation as described elsewhere (Heinz et al., 2010) using BIOO Barcodes (BIOO Scientific, #514104), IDT TruSeq Unique Dual Indexes or Kapa Unique Dual-Indexed Adapters using 15 µL Rapid Ligation Buffer (Enzymatics, #L603-LC-L), 0.33 µL 1% Tween 20 and 0.5 µL T4 DNA ligase HC (Enzymatics, #L6030-HC-L). Libraries were amplified by PCR for 11–15 cycles using Solexa IGA and Solexa IGB primers (AATGATACGGCGACCACCGA and CAAGCAGAAGACGGCATACGA, respectively), purified using 1 µL of SpeedBead Magnetic Carboxylate in 15.2 µL of 20% PEG8000:2.5M NaCl, washed with 80% etOH and

eluted in 0.05% Tween 20. Eluted libraries were quantified using a Qubit dsDNA HS Assay Kit and sequenced on a NextSeq 500 or Hi-Seq 4000 (Illumina, San Diego, California).

Analysis of RNA-seq—FASTQ sequencing files were mapped to the mm10 or hg38 reference genomes for mouse samples or human samples, respectively using STAR with default parameters. Biological and technical replicates were used in all experiments. Quantification of transcripts was performed analyzeRepeats.pl (HOMER) with parameters -condenseGenes -count exons -noadj. Principal Component Analysis (PCA) was obtained based on the Transcripts Per kilobase Million (TPM) on all genes of all samples. Expression value for each transcript was calculated using the analyzeRepeats.pl tool of HOMER with the following parameters -condenseGenes -count exons -tpm. Differential expression analysis was calculated using getDiffExpression.pl tool of HOMER using default parameters (FDR <0.05 and log2fold change >1 or < -1). For the experiment shown in Figure 5A, Log2 fold change was calculated for CM *DNMT3A* ASO or CM *TET2* ASO as compared to CM Scramble ASO for each individual and the average for the 4 samples was calculated. Pathway analyses were performed using the Molecular Signature Database of GSEA (Subramanian et al., 2005), (Mootha et al., 2003). A spreadsheet containing the expression (TPM) values as well as the differentially expressed genes can be found in GEO (GSE206030).

Motif analysis at the promoter of differentially expressed genes—*In silico* promoter analysis of differentially expressed genes was performed using the findMotifs.pl tool of Homer searching for motifs of length 8 and 10 and from -2000 to +500 bp relative to the TSS, using 4 threads.

ChIP-seq libraries preparation—For DNMT3A and TET2 ChIP was performed as described previously (Eichenfield et al., 2016; Seidman et al., 2020). Briefly, MDM were fixed with 3 mM Disuccinimidyl-glutarate, DSG, (Proteochem, #C1104) in PBS for 30 min at room temperature followed by 10 min incubation with 1% formaldehyde (ThermoFisher, #28906) at room temperature. Next, 2.625 M Glycine was added to a final concentration of 125 mM to quench fixation. Cells were washed with 0.01% Triton X-100:PBS, scraped and centrifuged for 10 min at 3,000 rpm at 4°C. Cells were washed once again with 0.01% Triton X-100 in PBS, pelleted, snap frozen and stored at -80°C. For ChIP experiments, cells were thawed and permeabilised in 1 mL of ice-cold buffer containing 10 mM HEPES/KOH pH7.9, 85 mM KCl, 1 mM EDTA, 0.2% IGEPAL CA-630 (Sigma Aldrich, #I8896), 1X protease inhibitor cocktail (Sigma, #11836145001) and 1 mM PMSF for 10 min on ice. Cells were then spun down and lysed in 130 µL of lysis buffer containing 20 mM Tris/HCl pH7.5, 1 mM EDTA, 0.5 mM EGTA, 0.1% SDS, 0.4% Sodium Deoxycholate, 1% NP-40, 0.5 mM DTT, 1x protease inhibitor cocktail and 1 mM PMSF and chromatin was sheared by sonication. In all buffers, DTT, protease inhibitor and PMSF were added freshly. Cell lysates were sonicated in a 96 microTUBE Rack (Covaris, #500282) using a Covaris E220 for 25 cycles with the following settings: time, 60 s; duty, 5.0; PIP, 140; cycles, 200; amplitude, 0.0; velocity, 0.0. Sonicated lysates were recovered and spun at 10,000 rpm for 10 min at 4°C to remove cell debris. One percent of sonicated lysate was kept as ChIP input for analysis. Immunoprecipitation mix consisting of Protein G Dynabeads (Invitrogen,

#10003D) and DNMT3A antibody cocktail (2 µg of DNMT3A, #ab2850 plus 2 µg of DNMT3A, #C15410085), 5 µL of TET2 antibody (kindly provided by Ali Shilatifard, (Wang et al., 2018), 1.5 µL of RBPJ (H00007702-M01) or 2 µL of RBPJ (#ab25949) was added to sonicated chromatin solution and incubated overnight on rotator at 4°C. Next day, immunocomplexes were placed on a magnet and bead complexes were washed for 1 min with 150 µL of cold buffers as indicated: 3 times lysis buffer, 6 times with wash buffer containing 10 mM Tris/HCl pH7.5, 250 mM LiCl, 1 mM EDTA, 0.7% Na-Deoxycholate and 1% NP-40 alternative; 3 times with TET buffer containing 10 mM Tris/HCl pH 8.0, 1 mM EDTA, 0.2% Tween 20; and 1 time with IDTE buffer containing 10 mM Tris/HCl pH 8.0 and 0.1 mM EDTA. Bead complexes were resuspended in 25 µL of TT buffer containing 10 mM Tris/HCl pH 8.0, 0.05% Tween 20. All wash buffer contained 1X Protease Inhibitor cocktail. ChIP libraries for sequencing were prepared while remained on beads using NEBNext Ultra II Library kit (NEB, #E7645L) by reducing 50% the reaction volume as previously described (Seidman et al., 2020; Heinz et al., 2018). Crosslinks were reversed by adding 33.5 µL of mix containing 18.4 µL nuclease free water, 4 µL 10% SDS, 3 µL 0.5 M EDTA, 1.6 µL 0.2M EGTA, 1 µL 10 mg/ml Proteinase K (Biolabs, #P8107 S), 1 µL 10 mg/ml RNase A, 4.5 µL 5M NaCl by incubating at 55°C for 1 h followed by 75°C for 30 min. Dynabeads were removed and libraries were cleaned by adding 2 µL of SpeedBeads in 124 µL of 20% PEG 8000/1.5M NaCl, washed by adding 150 µL 80% etOH, air dry and eluted in 12.5 µL of buffer containing 10 mM Tris/HCl pH 8.0 and 0.05% Tween 20. DNA was PCR-amplified for 14 cycles using NEBNext Ultra II PCR master mix using Solexa 1GA and Solexa 1GB primers. Libraries were size selected 200–500 bp by running in 10% TBE acrylamide gels (ThermoFisher, #EC62752BOX) and sequenced using either a HiSeq 4000 or a NextSeq 500.

ChIP-seq analysis—ChIP-seq analysis as described somewhere else (Seidman et al., 2020). Briefly, peaks for replicates with corresponding input experiments were obtained using HOMER with the parameters $-L\ 0\ -C\ 0\ -fdr\ 0.9\ -minDist\ 200\ -size\ 200$. Only peaks with IDR <0.05 were used for Downstream analysis (Li et al., 2011). The pooled tag directories from all replicates were used for visualization. HOMER mergePeaks to identify overlapping peaks and peaks were marked as DNMT3A unique, DNMT3A and TET2 co-binding, and TET2 unique groups.

HOMER annotatePeaks.pl tool was used to count the number of DNMT3A or TET2 tags in DNMT3A/TET2 co-bound peaks. A list of the IDR peaks for DNMT3A, TET2, RBPJ and ZNF143 ChIP-seq can be found in GEO (GSE206030).

Locus-specific ChIP (ChIP-qPCR)—IRF7, IRF1 and phospho-IRF3 (p-IRF3) ChIP was performed as described for DNMT3A or TET2 ChIP. Briefly, cells were permeabilised, lysed chromatin was sheared by sonication using. For H3K4me3, H3K27ac or RNAPolII, MDM were fixed with 1% formaldehyde for 15 min at room temperature and fixation was quenched using glycine to a final concentration of 125 mM. MDM were collected by centrifugation after adding Tween 20 to a final concentration of 0.01%. After washing in 0.01% Tween 20 in PBS, MDM pellets were snap frozen or lysed in LB3 buffer containing (10 mM Tris/HCl pH 7.5, 100 mM NaCl, 1 mM EDTA, 0.5 mM EGTA,

0.1% deoxycholate, 0.5% sarkosyl, 1 3 protease inhibitor cocktail, and 1 mM sodium butyrate). Lysates were sonicated using a Covaris E-220 for 12 cycles with the following setting: time, 60 s; duty, 5.0; PIP, 140; cycles, 200; amplitude, 0.0; velocity, 0.0; dwell, 0.0. Sonicated chromatin was incubated with XX. ChIP was performed at 4°C with 1 µg of desired antibodies: IRF1 (Abcam, #191032), IRF7 (IRF7. Abcam, #115352), p-IRF3 (Abcam, #76493), H3K27ac (Active Motifs, #39133), H3K4me3 (Millipore, #04-745) or RNAPolII (GeneTex, #GTX102535). One percent of sonicated chromatin was kept as ChIP input. Next day, beads were washed, crosslink were reversed, and DNA was purified by adding 2 µL of SpeedBeads in 124 µL of 20% PEG 8000/1.5M NaCl, washed by adding 150 µL 80% EtOH, air dry and eluted in 20 µL of buffer containing 10 mM Tris/HCl pH 8.0 and 0.05% Tween-20. Enrichment for IRF1, IRF7, p-IRF3, H3K4me3, H3K27ac or RNAPolII was normalised to input and to the negative control region (*AMY2B*). The sequence of the primers used, and their genomic location is provided below.

Gene promoter	Forward (5' - 3')	Reverse (5' - 3')
<i>AMY2B</i> #1	tcagcactggatttagaacttg	aagccacatgtactaaagactgaaa
<i>AMY2B</i> #2	aaacctcaaggccaacagaga	tgcaaccacaggtgtagagg
<i>CXCL10</i> #1	tggattgcaacctttgtttt	ttccctctgctcctctttt
<i>CXCL10</i> #2	gccacgattcatcatccagt	gggttcagctccaagacact
<i>IFIT2</i> #1	ctccggaggaaaaagagtcc	tccttcagctgacgttaca
<i>IFIT2</i> #2	aagagcattttgggtgaaa	acccacttctgctaaagt
<i>ISG15</i> #1	gtttctccgctcactctgg	ataagcctgaggcacacacg
<i>ISG15</i> #2	catggggatgtttccaagt	taaataatcgcgattccaga
<i>MX1</i> #1	ccgagaacctgcgtctcc	actcacagacctgtgctga
<i>MX1</i> #2	ggcctggcctgacaactat	aacgggtgtgtggaagga
<i>OASL</i> #1	ctgggcaacagagcaagac	cctgtgccagacttaacctc
<i>OASL</i> #2	ctggcgagacagtgagact	gtgatttcagccagcgttta
<i>TFAM</i> proximal	cgaccggatgtagcagatt	ggcaatacacaactccagca
<i>TFAM</i> distal	tggaaggtcccttcaacc	tgaaaacattggctctctgg

***In situ* Hi-C Library preparation**—*In situ* Hi-C was performed on 1 million formaldehyde-fixed MDM per each condition (Scramble ASO, *DNMT3A* ASO #1 and *TET2* ASO #2) as described previously (Heinz et al., 2018). Briefly, nuclei were isolated by resuspending the fixed, snap frozen cell pellet in 200 µL Wash Buffer (50 mM Tris/HCl pH 7.5, 10 mM NaCl, 1 mM EDTA, 0.5% SDS, 1x protease inhibitor cocktail (SIGMA)). Nuclei were incubated at 37°C for 60 min and then spun down at 1000xg for 5 min at room temperature. Most of the supernatant was discarded, except for 10 µL of liquid with the nuclei that was resuspended in DpnII buffer (25 µL 10% TrixonX-100, 25 µL of 10x DpnII buffer (NEB), 188 µL water) and rotated for 15 min at 37°C. Chromatin was then digested overnight with 2 µL (100 U) DpnII (NEB) at 37°C, rotating end over end at 8 RPM. The next day, nuclei were spun down for 5 min, 1000xg and then 225 µL of the supernatant was discarded, leaving ~25 µL of liquid remaining with the nuclei pellet. Overhangs were filled in with Biotin-14-dATP (Thermo) by adding 75 µL of Klenow master mix (54.45

(Heinz et al., 2010). Hi-C interaction matrices were generated using *juicertools* (Durand et al., 2016) and were visualized using *juicebox* (Durand et al., 2016). PC1 values for each sample were calculated using HOMER's *runHiCpca.pl* with *-res 50000* and were visualized using the UCSC genome browser (Kent et al., 2002). TADs and loops were called using HOMER's *findTADsAndLoops.pl* find with parameters *-res 3000* and *-window 15000*. To compare TADs and loops between groups, TADs and loops were merged using *merge2Dbed.pl -tad* and *-loop*, respectively. Differential enrichment of these features was then calculated using Homer's *getDiffExpression.pl*.

QUANTIFICATION AND STATISTICAL ANALYSIS

Comparisons of quantitative data between groups was carried out using two-tailed Mann-Whitney *U* test in all cases unless otherwise indicated. Box plots illustrate the median, Q1 and Q3 quartile of the data. Error bars in box plots represent the lowest and highest data point within 1.5x Q1-Q3 range. Bar graphs represent the media. Error bars in bar graphs represent the Standard error of the mean. All plots were generated using Numbers (iWORK'09) or R studio (version 2.15.2 [2012-10-26]). Mann Whitney U-test was used to calculate statistical significance. **p* < 0.05; ***p* < 0.01. Bar graphs represent the mean and error bars represents the standar error of the mean. Box plots represent the median and first and third quartiles of the data; error bars are generated by R software and represent the highest and lowest data within 1.5× interquartile range.

Supplementary Material

Refer to Web version on PubMed Central for supplementary material.

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Highlights

- Loss of function of DNMT3A or TET2 in human macrophages induces type I interferons
- The type I interferon response is due to mitochondrial DNA release that activates cGAS
- DNMT3A and TET2 maintain mitochondrial DNA integrity by regulating TFAM expression
- DNMT3A and TET2 regulate TFAM expression by interacting with RBPJ and ZNF143

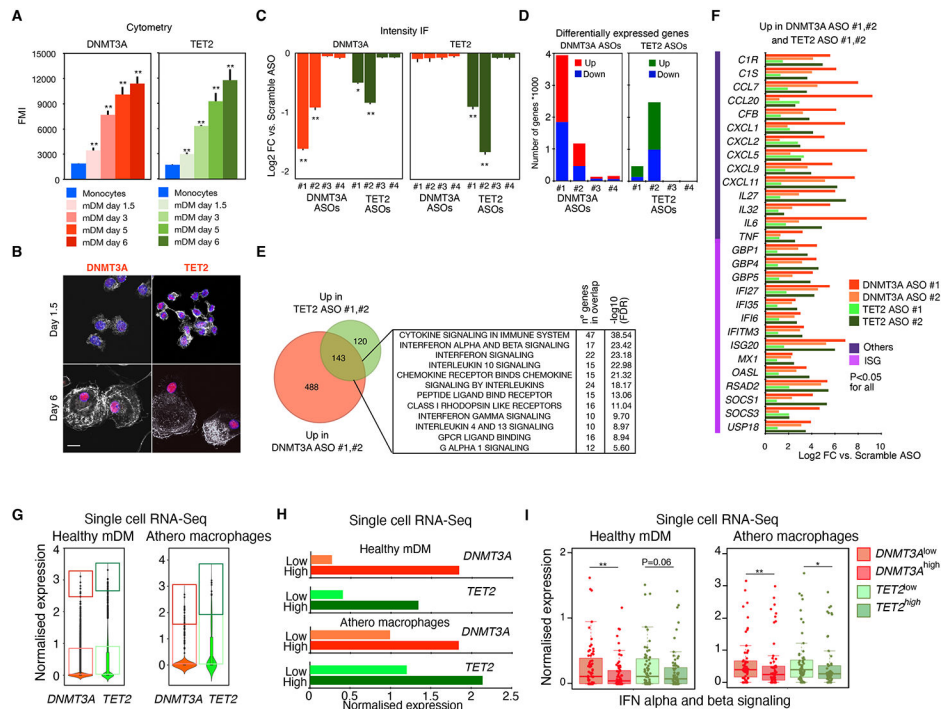


Figure 1. Transcriptional effect of DNMT3A and TET2 ablation in normal and atherosclerotic macrophages

(A) Intracellular staining analysis of DNMT3A and TET2 by flow cytometry at different stages of differentiation of monocyte-derived macrophages versus circulating monocytes (day 0) ($n = 3$ donors/experiment, 1 representative donor is shown). Scale bars: 5 μm .

(B) IF analysis of DNMT3A and TET2 in monocyte-derived macrophages 6 days after differentiation versus 1.5 days ($n = 3$ donors/experiment, 1 representative donor is shown). Scale bars: 5 μm .

(C) Protein quantification of DNMT3A and TET2 by IF in monocyte-derived macrophages transfected with the indicated ASOs against *DNMT3A* or *TET2*. ($n = 3$ donors).

(D) Bar plots showing the number of differentially expressed genes (DEG) in monocyte-derived macrophages transfected with the indicated ASOs targeting DNMT3A or TET2 ($n = 3$ donors).

(E) Venn diagram showing overlap between upregulated genes in both *DNMT3A* ASO and *TET2* ASO and associated gene ontology term enrichment.

(F) Log2 fold change of the indicated interferon stimulated genes (ISGs) and other inflammatory genes in MDM treated with *DNMT3A* ASOs or *TET2* ASOs. Adjusted $p < 0.05$ for all versus control ASO.

(G) Macrophages differentiated from monocytes isolated from individuals with no mutations (left panel) or macrophages isolated from atherosclerotic plaque (right panel) were stratified by *DNMT3A* or *TET2* expression according to single-cell RNA-seq. Data corresponds to normalized expression values. ($n = 3$ /group). Boxes denote upper (*DNMT3A*^{High} and *TET2*^{High}) and lower (*DNMT3A*^{Low} and *TET2*^{Low}) quartiles of expression, excluding cells with 0 values.

(H) Bar graphs of the average expression values of *DNMT3A* or *TET2* in *DNMT3A*^{Low} versus *DNMT3A*^{High} or *TET2*^{Low} versus *TET2*^{High} in healthy macrophages or atherosclerotic macrophages, respectively, as defined in (G).

(I) Boxplot of expression of interferon stimulated genes determined by scRNA-seq data of MDM from healthy donors (left) or from macrophages isolated from atherosclerotic plaques (right) in cells with low *DNMT3A* or *TET2* compared to high *DNMT3A* or *TET2* as defined in (G), respectively. Data corresponds to normalized expression values. Mann-Whitney U test was used to calculate statistical significance. * $p < 0.05$; ** $p < 0.01$. Also see Figure S1.

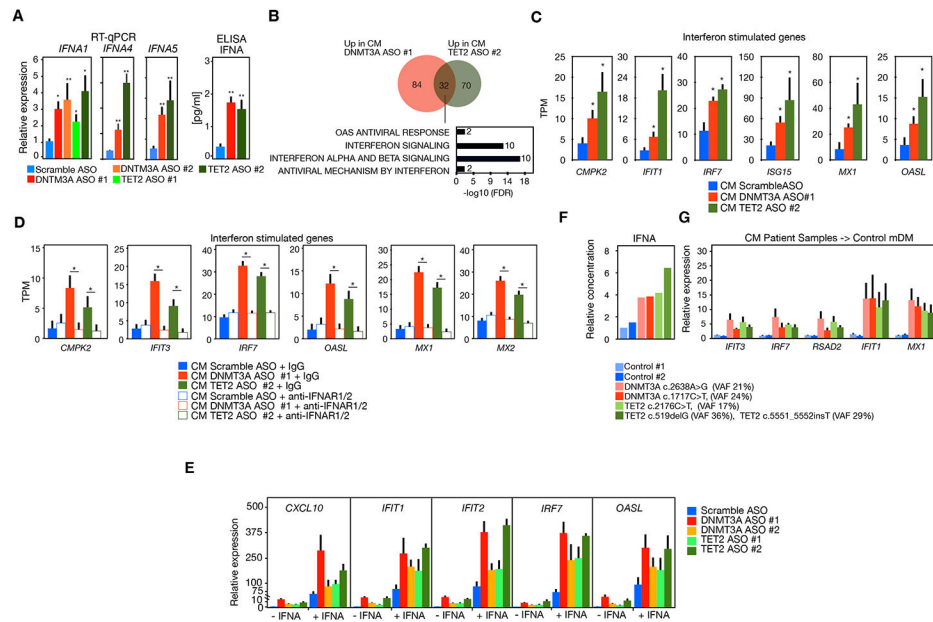


Figure 2. Effect of deleterious mutations or ablation of *DNMT3A* or *TET2* in bystander cells (A) RT-qPCR (left) of *IFNA1*, *IFNA4*, and *IFNA5* and protein secretion analysis by ELISA (right) of IFN α in MDM transfected with *DNMT3A* ASO or *TET2* ASO (n = 3 donors). (B) Venn diagram and pathway analysis of genes differentially expressed in normal MDM incubated with conditioned media from macrophages transfected with *DNMT3A* ASO 1 or *TET2* ASO 2 (n = 4 donors). (C) Representative examples of ISG expression in macrophages treated with conditioned media from macrophages transfected with *DNMT3A* ASO 1 or *TET2* ASO 2. (D) Analysis by RNA-seq of expression of ISG in macrophages incubated with conditioned media from macrophages transfected with *DNMT3A* ASO 1 or *TET2* ASO 2 with and without IFN α R2 antibody (n = 2 donors). (E) RT-qPCR of ISGs in MDM transfected with *DNMT3A* ASO or *TET2* ASO with and without treatment with IFN α (n = 4 donors). (F) Relative concentrations of IFN α in culture supernatant of macrophages differentiated from monocytes from two individuals with *DNMT3A* mutations or *TET2* mutations compared to two individuals without detectable mutation (control 1 and control 2). (G) RT-qPCR analysis of ISG expression in MDM treated with conditioned media of macrophages with *DNMT3A* or *TET2* mutations versus conditioned media from control individuals. Mann-Whitney U test was used to calculate statistical significance in all panels except in (E) where Student's t test was used. *p < 0.05; **p < 0.01. Also see Figures S1 and S3.

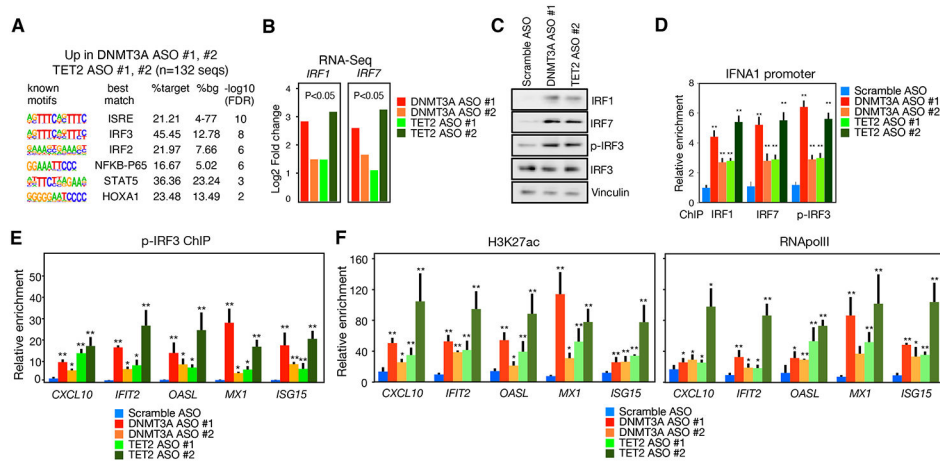


Figure 3. Analysis of the molecular signature and signaling pathway altered by DNMT3A or TET2 ablation in macrophages

(A) Motif enrichment analyses of the promoters of upregulated genes in MDMs treated with *DNMT3A* ASOs and *TET2* ASOs.

(B) Protein analysis by IF of IRF1 and IRF7 in MDM incubated with reduced DNMT3A or TET2 expression (n = 3 donors).

(C) ChIP-qPCR of IRF1, IRF7, or p-IRF3 at the *IFNA1* promoter in MDM incubated with *DNMT3A* ASO or *TET2* ASO (n = 3 donors).

(D) ChIP-qPCR of p-IRF3 at the promoter of *CXCL10*, *IFIT2*, *OASL*, *MX1*, and *ISG15* in mm treated with *DNMT3A* ASO or *TET2* ASO as compared to scramble ASO (n = 4 donors).

(E and F) H3K27ac and RNAPolII ChIP signal at the promoters of *CXCL10*, *IFIT2*, *OASL*, *MX1*, *ISG15* in macrophages with reduced DNMT3A or TET2 expression (n = 4 donors). Mann-Whitney U test was used to calculate statistical significance. *p < 0.05; **p < 0.01.

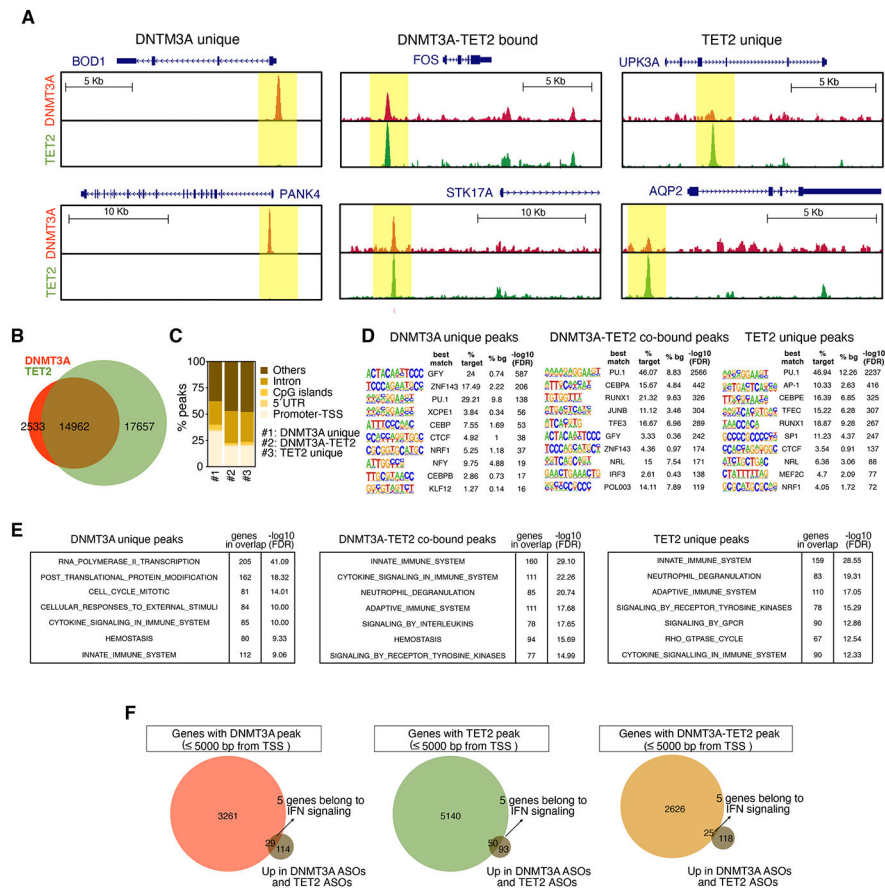


Figure 4. Genome-wide occupancy of DNMT3A and TET2

(A) Composite of genomic regions bound by DNMT3A only (left), by DNMT3A and TET2 (center), or by TET2 only (right).

(B) Venn plot showing the overlap of all irreproducible discovery rate (IDR) peaks of DNMT3A and TET2 ChIP-seq (n = 4 donors).

(C) Analysis of genomic distribution of DNMT3A or TET2 peaks (promoters defined by 1,000 bp upstream of TSS).

(D) *De novo* motif analysis of DNMT3A (left) or TET2 (right) ChIP-seq peaks.

(E) Pathway analysis of genes associated with DNMT3A unique peaks (left), or 25% of top best DNMT3A-TET2 cobound peaks (center), or 25% of top best TET2 unique peaks (right).

(F) Venn plots of integrative analysis of upregulated genes in *DNMT3A* ASOs and *TET2* ASOs with DNMT3A peak (left), TET2 peak (center), or DNMT3A-TET2 peak (right) as defined by 5,000 bp upstream of the TSS. Also see Figure S4.

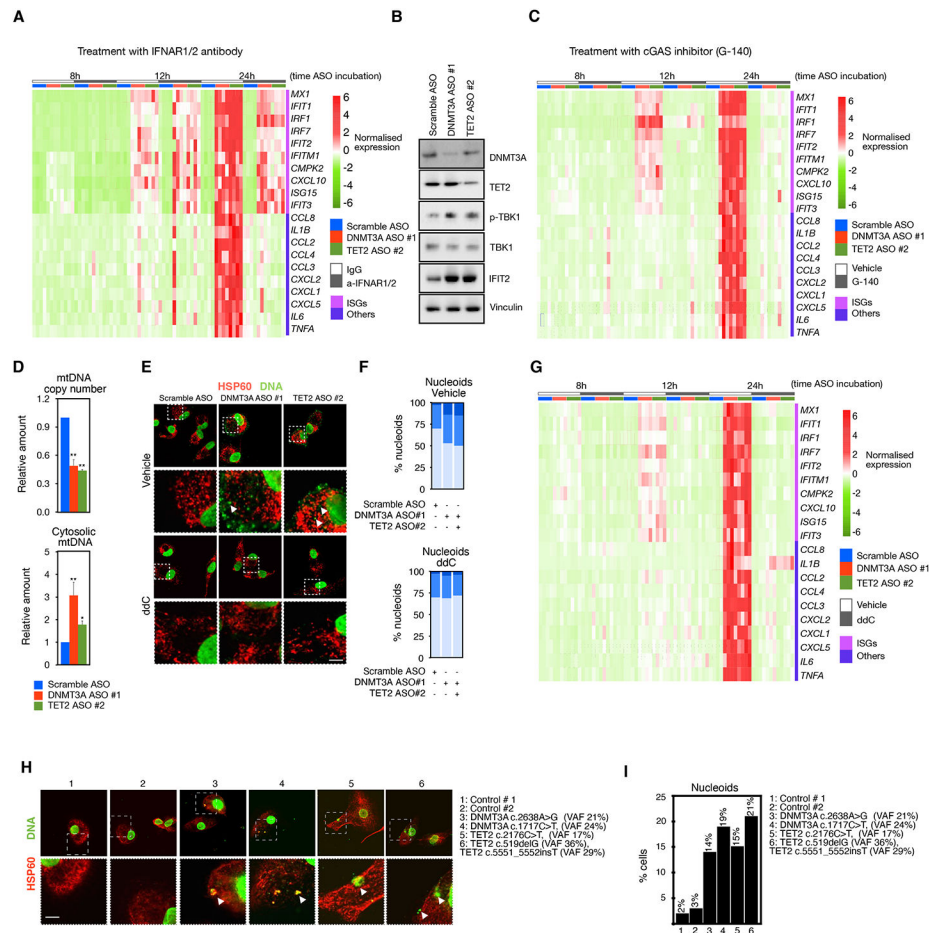


Figure 5. Role of DNMT3A and TET2 in mitochondrial DNA integrity and activation of cGAS signaling

(A) RT-qPCR analysis of ISG or other inflammatory genes at 8, 12, or 14 h after incubation with *DNMT3A* ASO 1 or *TET2* ASO 2 in the presence or absence of anti IFNAR2 (n = 4 donors).

(B) Western blot analysis of p-TBK1, p-IRF3, and IFIT2 in lysates of MDM treated with *DNMT3A* ASO 1 or *TET2* ASO 2 (n = 1 pool of 3 donors).

(C) RT-qPCR analysis of ISGs or other inflammatory genes at 8, 12, or 14 h after incubation with *DNMT3A* ASO 1 or *TET2* ASO 2 in the presence or absence of the cGAS inhibitor G-140 (n = 4 donors).

(D) Bar graphs of mitochondrial copy number (top) and increased cytosolic mitochondrial DNA in extracts of MDM treated with *DNMT3A* ASO 1 or *TET2* ASO 2 (n = 3 donors).

(E) Immunofluorescence analysis of mitochondria (HSP60) and DNA in regions associated with mitochondria in MDM treated with *DNMT3A* ASO 1 or *TET2* ASO 2 in the presence or absence of treatment with ddC (arrowheads) (n = 3 donors). Scale bars: 2 μ m.

(F) Quantification of cytosolic DNA (nucleoids) in MDM treated with *DNMT3A* ASO 1 or *TET2* ASO 2 in the presence or absence of treatment with ddC (n = 3 donors).

(G) RT-qPCR analysis of ISG or other inflammatory genes at 8, 12, or 14 h after incubation with *DNMT3A* ASO 1 or *TET2* ASO 2 in the presence or absence of treatment with ddC (n = 4 donors).

(H) Representative images by IF analysis of HSP60 and DNA showing larger nucleoids (arrowheads) in macrophages with *DNMT3A* or *TET2* mutations. Scale bars: 2 μ m.

(I) Quantification of cytosolic DNA in macrophages with *DNMT3A* or *TET2* mutations. Mann-Whitney U test was used to calculate statistical significance. * $p < 0.05$; ** $p < 0.01$. Also see Figure S5.

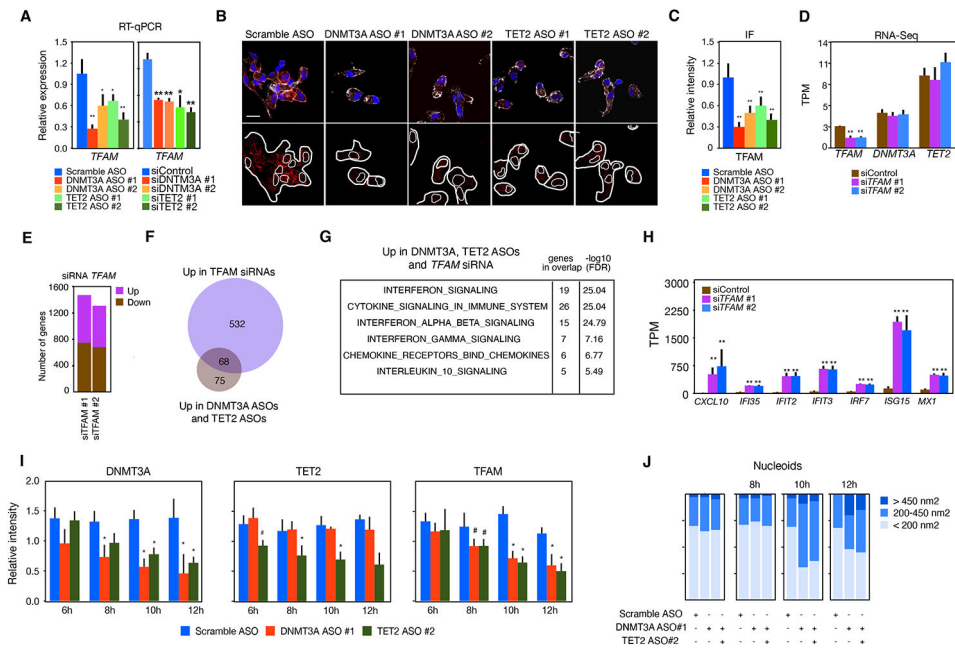


Figure 6. DNMT3A and TET2 regulate the TFAM gene to restrain activation of ISGs
 (A) RT-qPCR analysis of *TFAM* expression in MDM treated with *DNMT3A* ASOs or *TET2* ASOs or siRNAs for *DNMT3A* or *TET2* (n = 5 donors for ASOs and n = 3 donors for siRNA).

(B) Protein expression by IF in MDM treated with *DNMT3A* ASOs or *TET2* ASOs (n = 2 donors). Scale bars: 10 μ m.

(C) Quantification of protein expression shown in (B), downregulation in MDM treated with *DNMT3A* ASOs or *TET2* ASOs (n = 2 donors).

(D) Bar plots showing the number of differentially expressed genes in MDM treated with siTFAM 1 or siTFAM 2 versus siControl.

(E) Bar plot showing reduced expression of *TFAM* (but not *DNMT3A* or *TET2*) in MDM treated with siRNAs for TFAM.

(F) Venn plot showing the overlap between genes upregulated by *DNMT3A* ASOs and *TET2* ASOs in MDM incubated with siRNAs for TFAM.

(G) Pathway analysis of genes upregulated by *DNMT3A* ASOs, *TET2* ASOs, and by TFAM siRNA showing enrichment in interferon signaling genes.

(H) Bar plot showing the upregulation of IFN-stimulated genes in cells treated with siRNAs for TFAM.

(I) Protein expression by IF of DNMT3A (left), TET2 (center), and TFAM (right) showing DNMT3A and TET2 reduction at 8 h, whereas TFAM reduction occurs at 10 h in MDM treated with *DNMT3A* ASOs or *TET2* ASOs (n = 5 donors, one representative donor is shown).

(J) Quantification of cytosolic nucleoids in MDM treated with *DNMT3A* ASOs or *TET2* ASOs (n = 3 donors). Mann-Whitney U test was used to calculate statistical significance. *p < 0.05; **p < 0.01 except panel in (I) where Student's t test was used to calculate statistical significance. Also see Figure S6.

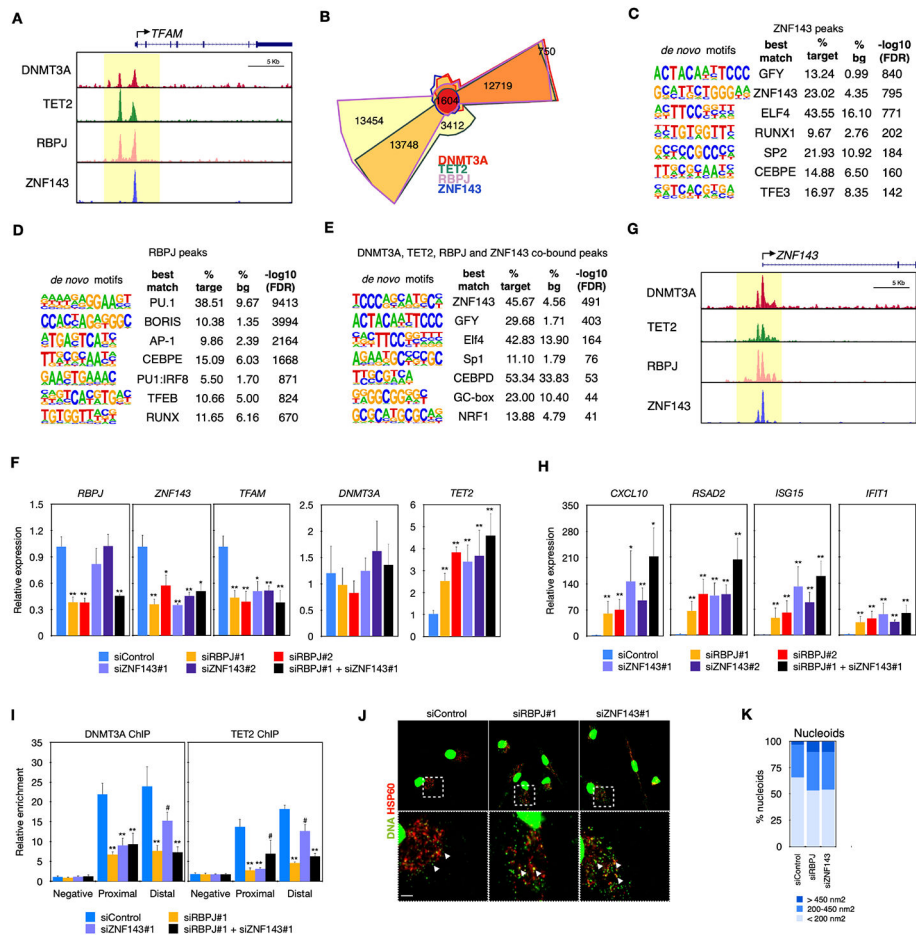


Figure 7. Combinatorial binding of RBPJ, ZNF143, DNMT3A, and TET2 to coordinate *TFAM* expression and prevent type-I IFN signaling

(A) Composites of DNMT3A, TET2, RBPJ, and ZNF143 ChIP-seq showing binding to *TFAM* promoter.

(B) Chow-Ruskey plot showing the overlap between DNMT3A, TET2, ZNF143, and RBPJ ChIP-seqs (n = 4 donors for DNMT3A and TET2 ChIP-seqs and n = 2 donors for ZNF143 and RBPJ ChIP-seq).

(C) HOMER analysis of motifs found in the 1,604 peaks co-bound by DNMT3A, TET2, RBPJ, and ZNF143 showing motifs for ZNF143, ELF4, PU.1, and CEBPD.

(D) HOMER analysis of motifs found in ZNF143 peaks showing enrichment for ZNF143, ELF4, RUNX, PU.1, CEBPE, and MITF/TFE.

(E) HOMER analysis of motifs found in RBPJ peaks showing enrichment in PU.1, BORIS, AP-1, CEBPE, PU.1-IRF8, and MITF/TFE.

(F) RT-qPCR of *RBPJ*, *ZNF143*, *DNMT3A*, *TET2*, or *TFAM* in MDM treated with siRNAs for *RBPJ* or *ZNF143* (n = 3 donors).

(G) Composites of DNMT3A, TET2, RBPJ, and ZNF143 ChIP-seq showing binding to *ZNF143* promoter.

(H) RT-qPCR showing upregulation of *CXCL10*, *RSAD2*, *ISG15*, and *IFIT1* in MDM treated with siRNAs for *RBPJ* or *ZNF143* (n = 3 donors).

(I) ChIP-qPCR over a control negative region (negative), proximal or distal region of *TFAM* promoter showing reduced binding of DNMT3A and TET2 in MDM treated with siRNAs for *RBPJ* or *ZNF143* (n = 3 donors).

(J) Representative images by IF analysis of HSP60 and DNA showing larger nucleoids (arrowheads) in macrophages with *DNMT3A* or *TET2* mutations. Scale bars, 2 μ m.

(K) Quantification of cytosolic DNA showing increased number of macrophages treated with siRNA for *RBPJ* or *ZNF143* or *TFAM*. Mann-Whitney U test was used to calculate statistical significance. *p < 0.05; **p < 0.01. Also see Figure S7.

KEY RESOURCES TABLE

REAGENT or RESOURCE	SOURCE	IDENTIFIER
Antibodies		
H3K27ac	Active Motif	39133; RRID: AB_2561016
H3K4me3	Millipore-Sigma	04-745; RRID:AB_1163444
DNMT3A	Santa Cruz	sc-373905; RRID:AB_10920404
DNTM3A	Abcam	ab2850; RRID:AB_303355
DNMT3A	Diagenode	C15410085; RRID:AB_2916119
CTCF	CST	2899S; RRID:AB_2086794
DNA	Abcam	ab27156; RRID:AB_470907
HSP60	CST	12165S; RRID:AB_2636980
IRF1	Abcam	ab191032; RRID:AB_2904575
IRF7	Abcam	ab115352; RRID:AB_10862356
KI-67	Invitrogen	53-5698-82; RRID:AB_2802330
TET2	Abcam	ab94580; RRID:AB_10887588
Phalloidin	Abcam	ab176759; RRID:N/A
TFAM	CST	8076S; RRID:AB_10949110
Donkey anti mouse	ThermoFisher	A21202; RRID:AB_141607
Donkey anti rabbit	ThermoFisher	A31572; RRID:AB_162543
Apotracker	Biologend	427401; RRID:N/A
CellEvent	Thermo Fisher	C10723; RRID:N/A
p-TBK1	CST	D52C2; RRID:AB_10693472
TBK1	CST	D1B4; RRID:AB_2255663
p-IRF3	CST	D6O1M; RRID:AB_2773013
IRF3	CST	D83B9; RRID:AB_1904036
IFIT2	Boster	A04428; RRID:AB_2916120
Actin	Sigma	A5441; RRID:AB_476744
TET2	Provided by Ali Shilatifard	(Wang et al., 2018)
Anti rabbit HRP	Dako	P0448; RRID:AB_2617138
Anti mouse HRP	Dako	P0447; RRID:AB_2617137
TrueStain FcX	Biologend	422302; RRID:AB_2818986
RNApol II	Gene Tex	GTX102535; RRID:AB_1951313
ZNF143	Novus Bio	H00007702-M01; RRID:AB_425746
RBPJ	Abcam	ab25949; RRID:AB_778155
Chemicals, peptides, and recombinant proteins		
KAPA SYBR FAST qPCR Master mix (2X)	Kapa Biosystems	Cat#07959427001
Dynabeads Protein A	Thermo Fisher Scientific	Cat#10002D
Dynabeads Protein G	Thermo Fisher Scientific	Cat#10004D
SpeedBeads magnetic carboxylate modified particles	GE Healthcare	Cat#65152105050250
TRIzol Reagent	Thermo Fisher Scientific	Cat#15596018
Formaldehyde	Thermo Fisher Scientific	Cat#BP531-500
Disuccinimidyl glutarate	ProteoChem	Cat#c1104-100mg

REAGENT or RESOURCE	SOURCE	IDENTIFIER
Oligo d(T) ₂₅ Magnetic Beads	NEB	Cat#S1419S
DTT	Thermo Fisher Scientific	Cat#P2325
SUPERase-In	Ambion	Cat#AM2696
Oligo dT primer	Thermo Fisher Scientific	Cat#18418020
Agencourt RNA Clean XP Beads	Beckman Coulter	Cat#A63987
10 X Blue Buffer	Enzymatics	Cat#P7050L
DNA polymerase I	Enzymatics	Cat#P7050L
Random primers	Thermo Fisher Scientific	Cat#48190011
SuperScript III Reverse Transcriptase	Thermo Fisher Scientific	Cat#18080044
5 X first-strand buffer	Thermo Fisher Scientific	Cat#18080044
Actinomycin D	Sigma	Cat#A1410
Proteinase inhibitor cocktail	Sigma-Aldrich	Cat#P8340
PVDF membranes	Immobilon	Cat#IPVH00010
ProLong anti fade	Life Technologies	Cat#10144
DharmaFECT reagents	Horizon	Cat#T-2004-02
IgG control	R&D systems	Cat#MAB003
anti-Interferon Alpha/Beta Receptor Chain 2 (IFN α R2)	Pbl assay science	Cat#21385-1, Lot 7035
IFN α 2	Stem Cell Technology	Cat#78076
2',3'-dideoxycytidine (ddC)		Provided by Prof. Gerald Shadel
G-140	Invivogen	Cat#inh-g140
Chambered slides	Millipore	Cat#C86024
Digitonin	Promega	Cat#G9441
Durcupan epoxy resin	Sigma	Cat# D0291
Sodium pyruvate	Gibco	Cat#11360070
Pen/Strep	Gibco	Cat#15140122
Human MCSF	Stem Cell Technology	Cat#78057-2
Ficoll plaque premium	GE Healthcare	Cat#17-544-02
BD Vacutainer CPT tubes	BD	Cat#362753
Critical commercial assays		
Direct-zol RNA MicroPrep Kit	Zymo Research	Cat#R2062
Fixation/Permeabilization Solution Kit	BD Biosciences	Cat#554714
NEBNext Ultra II Library Preparation Kit	NEB	Cat#E7645L
Qubit dsDNA HS Assay Kit	Invitrogen	Cat#Q32851
SuperScript III First-Strand Synthesis System	Thermo Fisher Scientific	Cat#18080051
Chromium Single Cell 3' Library Kit v2	10X Genomics	Cat#120234
Chromium Single Cell 3' Gel Bead Kit v2	10X Genomics	Cat#120235
Chromium Single Cell A Chip Kit v2	10X Genomics	Cat#120236
Chromium i7 Multiplex Kit	10X Genomics	Cat#120262
Global DNA Methylation Assay-LINE-1	Active Motifs	Cat#55017
ChIP DNA clean & concentrator	Zymogen	Cat #D5205
IFN α ELISA	Pbl assay science	Cat#41135-1
Human monocyte isolation kit	Stem Cell Technology	Cat#19359

REAGENT or RESOURCE	SOURCE	IDENTIFIER
Deposited data		
Raw and analysed data	GEO	GEO: GSE206030
Oligonucleotides		
Scamble ASO	IONIS Pharmaceuticals	N/A
DNMT3A ASO#1	IONIS Pharmaceuticals	N/A
DNMT3A ASO#2	IONIS Pharmaceuticals	N/A
DNMT3A ASO#3	IONIS Pharmaceuticals	N/A
REAGENT or RESOURCE	SOURCE	IDENTIFIER
DNMT3A ASO#4	IONIS Pharmaceuticals	N/A
TET2 ASO#1	IONIS Pharmaceuticals	N/A
TET2 ASO#2	IONIS Pharmaceuticals	N/A
TET2 ASO#3	IONIS Pharmaceuticals	N/A
TET2 ASO#4	IONIS Pharmaceuticals	N/A
siControl	IDT	Cat#51-01-19-09
siDNMT3A#1	IDT	hs.Ri.DNMT3A.13.1
siDNMT3A#2	IDT	hs.Ri.DNMT3A.13.2
siTET2#1	IDT	hs.Ri.TET2.13.1
siTET2#2	IDT	hs.Ri.TET2.13.2
siTFAM#1	IDT	Provided by Gerald Shadel
siTFAM#2	IDT	Provided by Gerald Shadel
siRBPJ#1	IDT	hs.Ri.RBPJ.13.1
siRBPJ#2	IDT	hs.Ri.RBPJ.13.2
siZNF143#1	IDT	hs.Ri.ZNF143.13.1
siZNF143#2	IDT	hs.Ri.ZNF143.13.2
Software and algorithms		
Bowtie2		http://bowtie-bio.sourceforge.net/bowtie2/index.shtml
Cell Ranger		https://github.com/10XGenomics/cellranger
FlowJo		https://www.flowjo.com/
HOMER	(Heinz et al., 2010)	http://homer.ucsd.edu/homer/
Irreproducibility Discovery Rate (IDR)	(Li et al., 2011)	https://www.encodeproject.org/software/idr/
R package: DeSeq2	(Love et al., 2014)	https://bioconductor.org/packages/release/bioc/html/DESeq2.html
Rstudio	Rstudio	https://www.rstudio.com/
Seurat		https://satijalab.org/seurat/archive/v3.1/pbmc3k_tutorial.html