The aryl hydrocarbon receptor controls mesenchymal stromal cell-mediated immunomodulation via ubiquitination of eukaryotic elongation factor-2 kinase

Enkhmaa Lkhagva-Yondon^{1,3,7}, Myeong Seong Seo^{1,3,7}, Yena Oh^{1,2}, Jong Hun Jung^{1,3}, Eunhae Jeon^{1,2}, Kwangmin Na¹, Hyun Seung Yoo^{1,2}, Woo Chul Kim⁴, Charlotte Esser⁵, Sun U Song^{1,2,6}, and Myung-Shin Jeon^{1,2,3,6}

Correspondence: Prof. Myung-Shin Jeon, Translational Research Center, Inha University Hospital, College of Medicine, B/306 Jungseok Bldg., 366 Seohae-daero, Jung-Gu, Incheon 22332, Korea. (Tel.) +82-32-890-3682; (Fax) +82-32-890-2462; (E-mail) msjeon@inha.ac.kr

¹ Translational Research Center, Inha University Hospital, Incheon 22332, Republic of Korea

² Department of Molecular Biomedicine, College of Medicine Inha University, Incheon 22212, Republic of Korea

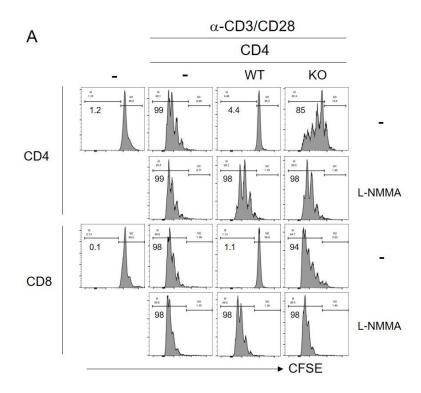
³ Program in Biomedical Science & Engineering Inha University, Incheon 22212, Republic of Korea

⁴ Department of Radiation Oncology, Inha University Hospital, Incheon 22332, Republic of Korea

⁵IUF-Leibniz Research Institute for Environmental Medicine, Düsseldorf 40021, Germany

⁶SCM Lifescience, Incheon 21999, Republic of Korea

⁷ These authors contributed equally to this work.



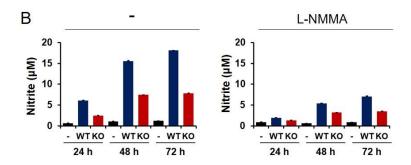


Fig. 1 Effect of Ahr -- MSC on T cell proliferation in the presence of iNOS inhibitor

Lymphocytes were stained with CFSE and stimulated with 1 μ g/mL anti-CD3 and anti-CD28 Abs in the presence of 1 mM L-NMMA, an iNOS inhibitor. (A) After 72 h, T-cell divisions were analyzed by flow cytometry. (B) NO production was measured in the culture media using ELISA.

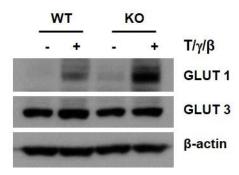


Fig. 2 Effect of *Ahr* deficiency on glucose transporters

WT- and KO-MSCs were stimulated by TNF- α , IFN- γ , and IL-1 β . After 24 h, the expression of GLUT1 and GLUT3 proteins was measured by western blotting.

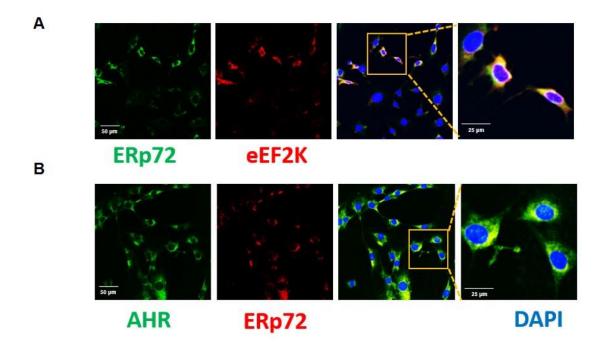


Fig. 3 Co-localization of AHR and eEF2K with ER marker ERp72

(A) MSCs were stained with anti-AHR (green) and anti-eEF2K (red) antibodies and co-localization was measured by immunofluorescence. (B) MSCs were stained with anti-AHR (green) and anti-ERp72 (red) antibodies and immunofluorescence measured co-localization. DAPI was used to count nuclear staining. All experiments were repeated at least twice, and similar results were obtained.

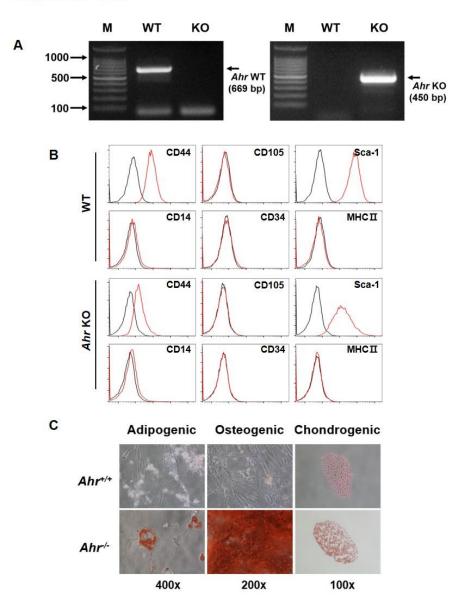


Fig. 4 Genotyping, characterization, and differentiation of MSCs

(A) Genotyping of *Ahr*. Using phenol extraction, genomic DNA was isolated from *Ahr* wild-type (WT)-and knockout (KO)-MSCs. *Ahr* gene deficiency was confirmed by genomic PCR. (B) MSCs were characterized according to cell surface markers, such as positive for CD44, CD105, and Sca-1 and negative for CD14, CD34, and MHC class II. (C) Three lineage differentiation of MSCs was performed. All experiments were repeated at least twice, and similar results were obtained.

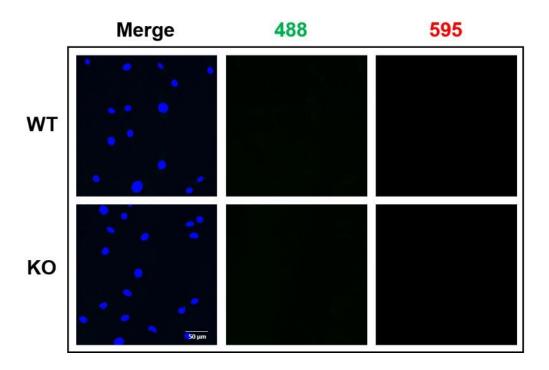


Fig. 5 Immunofluorescence staining control

 2^{nd} Antibodies were stained alone as a negative control.

Supplemental Table 1 Antibodies

Antibody	Source	Identifier	Application
Actin	Santa Cruz (CA, USA)	#47778	WB (1/1,000)
AhR	Proteintech (Rosemont, IL, USA)	#17840-I-AP	WB (1/1,000), IF (1/100)
b-TRCP	Cell Signaling (Boston, MA, USA)	#11984S	WB (1/1,000)
CD14	BD Biosciences (NJ, USA)	#560638	FC (1/100)
CD34	Biolegend (CA, USA)	#128611	FC (1/100)
CD44	BD Biosciences (NJ, USA)	#553133	FC (1/100)
CD105	Biolegend (CA, USA)	#120407	FC (1/100)
CUL4B	Proteintech (Rosemont, IL, USA)	#12916-1-AP	WB (1/1,000), IP (4 μg)
eEF2	Cell Signaling (Boston, MA, USA)	#2332S	WB (1/1,000)
eEF2k	Santa Cruz (CA, USA)	#390710	WB (1/500), IP (4 μg), IF (1/100)
elF2a	Cell Signaling (Boston, MA, USA)	#9722S	WB (1/1,000)
ERp72	Cell Signaling (Boston, MA, USA)	#5033S	IF 1/100
GLUT1	Abcam (Cambridge, UK)	#115730	WB (1/1,000)
GLUT3	Proteintech (Rosemont, IL, USA)	#20403-1-AP	WB (1/1,000)
INOS	Cell Signaling (Boston, MA, USA)	#13120	WB (1/2000), IP (4 μg)
MHC II	BD Biosciences (NJ, USA)	#553623	FC (1/100)
p-eEF2 (Thr56)	Cell Signaling (Boston, MA, USA)	#2331S	WB (1/1,000)
p-eEF2k (S366)	Cell Signaling (Boston, MA, USA)	#3691	WB (1/1,000)
p-eIF2a (S51)	Cell Signaling (Boston, MA, USA)	#3597S	WB (1/1,000)
STAT1	Cell Signaling (Boston, MA, USA)	#14944	WB (1/1,000)
p-STAT1 (S727)	Cell Signaling (Boston, MA, USA)	#8826	WB (1/1,000)
Ubiquitin	Santa Cruz (CA, USA)	#8017	WB (1/1,000)
Mouse IgG1-HRP	Cell Signaling (Boston, MA, USA)	#7076S	WB (1/1,0000)
Rabbit Ig-G1-HRP	Invitrogen (Carlsbad, CA, USA)	#31460	WB (1/1,0000)

Supplemental Table 2. Chemical lists

Name	Source	Identifier
A-484954	Sigma (St Louis, MO, USA)	#324516
Choloroquine diphosphate salt	Sigma (St Louis, MO, USA)	#C6628
CH-223191	Sigma (St Louis, MO, USA)	#C8124
Cycloheximide	Sigma (St Louis, MO, USA)	#C7698
6-formylindolo [3, 2-b] carbazole	Sigma (St Louis, MO, USA)	#SML1489
L-NMMA	Sigma (St Louis, MO, USA)	#53308-83- 1
MG132	Sigma (St Louis, MO, USA)	#474790
3-Methylcholanthrene	Sigma (St Louis, MO, USA)	#442388
Adipogenic differentiation		
Dexamethasone	Sigma (St Louis, MO, USA)	#D8893
Indomethacin	Sigma (St Louis, MO, USA)	#17378
Insulin	Sigma (St Louis, MO, USA)	#19278
Isobutylmethylxanthine	Sigma (St Louis, MO, USA)	#17018
Chondrogenic differentiation		
Ascorbic acid	Sigma (St Louis, MO, USA)	#A4403
Dexamethasone	Sigma (St Louis, MO, USA)	#D8893
ITS Premix	BD Bioscience	#354352
L-Proline	Sigma (St Louis, MO, USA)	#P5607
TGF-β1	R&D Systems	#240-B
TGF-β3	R&D Systems	#243-B
Osteogenic differentiation		
Ascorbic acid	Sigma (St Louis, MO, USA)	#A4403
β-glycerolphosphate	Sigma (St Louis, MO, USA)	#G9422
Dexamethasone	Sigma (St Louis, MO, USA)	#D8893
dibutyryl cyclin AMP	Sigma (St Louis, MO, USA)	#D067

Supplemental Table 3. GVHD Clinical scores

	Severity scores		
Symptoms	normal	mild	severe
Ruffled hair	0	1	2
Hunched back	0	1	2
Diarrhea	0	1	2
Damaged skin	0	1	2
Ascites	0	1	2
Total			10
Dead			10