Transcriptome Sequencing to Detect Gene Fusions in Cancer

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SUPPLEMENTARY DISCUSSION

Characterization of cancer mutations

Mutations in cancers have been conventionally identified through cytogenetic and molecular techniques¹, later supplanted with sequencing of specific cancer types²⁻⁴, or candidate genes^{$5-7$}. A number of national efforts are underway to comprehensively characterize the genomic alterations in cancer including The Cancer Genome Atlas Project (TCGA, http://cancergenome.nih.gov/index.asp). More recently, high throughput 'next generation sequencing' methods have been used for enumeration of genome-wide aberrations in cancers^{8,9}. While considerable effort has been vested in discovering base change mutations (and SNPs) in cancers^{3,4,10,11}, 'gene-fusions' have not been systematically investigated thus far. Part of the reason is that solid tumors pick up many non-specific aberrations during tumor evolution, making it difficult to distinguish causal/driver aberrations from secondary/insignificant mutations. We believe that the problem of non-specific genetic aberrations is mitigated by sequencing the transcriptome, which restricts the enquiry to 'expressed sequences', thus enriching the data for potentially 'functional' mutations. Not surprisingly, the recent gene fusions discovered in prostate and lung cancer were found through transcriptome^{12, i3} and proteome¹⁴ analyses. We therefore considered employing massively parallel transcriptome sequencing to discover chimeric transcripts, representing functional gene fusions.

Integration of short and long read sequencing for chimera discovery reduces false positives

Experimental validation revealed that the integration of long and short read technologies decreases false positive candidates, thereby providing a higher fidelity set of *bona fide* fusion candidates. As shown in Supplementary Figure 3, we assessed the expression of 16 chimeras nominated by the long read sequencing platform but lacked short reads spanning the predicted fusion boundary. The fact that all of these chimeras failed to produce a signal, yet 67% (**Supplementary Table 4**) of our nominated chimeras from the integrated approach were experimentally validated confirms that integrating both sequencing platforms effectively reduces false positive nominations.

Complex intra-chromosomal rearrangements in VCaP

One of the striking observations from our experimentally validated VCaP chimeras was the identification of a complex intra-chromosomal rearrangement involving *HJURP*. The fact that both exon 8 and 9 of *HJURP* fuse to different genes suggests a breakpoint resides within the intron (**Fig. 2b**). Both of these gene fusions were confirmed by qRT-PCR in VCaP and VCaP-Met, and were found to be absent in other samples tested. This complex intrachromosomal rearrangement was also confirmed by FISH analysis. *HJURP* has been shown to be associated with genomic instability and immortality in cancer cells¹⁵, while *INPP4A* encodes one of the enzymes involved in phosphatidylinositol signaling pathways and *EIF4E2* is a eukaryotic translation initiation factor (http://smd.stanford.edu/cgibin/source/sourceSearch)².

LNCaP chimeras

Interestingly, our top gene fusion nomination in LNCaP cells involved the fusion of *MIPOL1-DGKB*. This gene fusion may represent a harbinger of *ETV1* cryptic rearrangement, a putative driver mutation in the LNCaP prostate cancer cell line. Moreover, we observed the LNCaP cells harbor multiple fusions, similar to our observations in VCaP. One of the validated examples is the fusion between exon 7 of *MRPS10* from chromosome 6 with exon 7 of *HPR* of chromosome 16 (**Supplementary Fig. 14a**). *MRPS10-HPR* was confirmed by FISH and validated by qRT-PCR in LNCaP, but not observed in VCaP, VCaP-Met, RWPE, PREC, or Met 2 (**Supplementary Fig. 14b-e**). Overall, the detection of multiple gene fusions in individual cancer samples argues for a more widespread and more nuanced role of gene fusions in cancer.

Transcriptome sequencing reveals read-through chimeras

One of the advantages of high-throughput sequencing is that it provides an unbiased view of the transcriptome. This enabled us to identify not only inter-chromosomal gene fusions and intra-chromosomal gene fusions involving non-adjacent genes, but also chimeras between adjacent genes, or read-throughs. For instance, a chimera between exon 2 of *C19orf25* with an intron of the neighboring gene *APC2* in LNCaP cells (**Supplementary Fig. 6a**). Experimental validation demonstrated a lower expression level of *C19orf25-APC2(intron)* than observed for gene fusions and weak expression in multiple cell lines suggesting they are more broadly expressed. A similar pattern was observed for *WDR55-DND1* (**Supplementary Fig. 6b**), *MBTPS2-YY2* (**Supplementary Fig. 6c**), and *ZNF649-ZNF577* (**Supplementary Fig. 6d)**.

Array CGH analysis of gene fusions

Many studies utilize genomic information for mining gene fusion candidates $8,16$. Therefore, we were interested in determining whether transcriptome data detects chimeras that would not be apparent from genomic DNA analysis. To do so, we integrated unbalanced genomic copy number change data from array comparative genomic hybridization of matched samples and monitored genomic aberrations within our gene fusion candidates (**Supplementary** Methods). This revealed breakpoints in genes involved in two gene fusion candidates, *USP10-ZDHHC7*, and *MIPOL1-DGKB* (**Supplementary Table 4**). More specifically, we observed a homozygous deletion spanning the region between *USP10-ZDHHC7* in VCaP cells as well as in the parental metastatic prostate cancer tissue from which VCaP is derived (VCaP-Met) but not in the normal prostate cell line RWPE (**Supplementary Fig. 15**). Taken together, this suggests that a deletion coupled with a complex rearrangement may have led to the *USP10*-*ZDHHC7* fusion. qRT-PCR based evaluation confirmed this fusion to be specific to VCaP and its parental tissue, VCaP-Met, and not in LNCaP, RWPE, PREC, or metastatic prostate cancer tissue (Met 2) (**Fig. 2a**). In LNCaP cells, for the *MIPOL1-DGKB* fusion a breakpoint was found only in *DGKB* but not in *MIPOL1*. Furthermore, absence of breakpoints in all other fusion chimeras examined suggests that the majority of fusion gene candidates identified by sequencing would not have been discovered by mining genomic copy number aberration data. Moreover, while only a subset of genomic rearrangements potentially represent functional gene fusions, most chimeric transcripts signify productive fusions, with likely roles in the biology of cells they are found in.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

Samples and cell lines

The benign immortalized prostate cell line RWPE and the prostate cancer cell line LNCaP was obtained from the American Type Culture Collection. Primary benign prostatic epithelial cells (PrEC) were obtained from Cambrex Bio Science. The prostate cancer cell line MDA-PCa 2B was provided by E. Keller. The prostate cancer cell line 22-RV1 was provided by J. Macoska. VCaP was derived from a vertebral metastasis from a patient with hormonerefractory metastatic prostate cancer¹⁷, and was provided by Ken Pienta.

Androgen stimulation experiment was carried out with LNCaP and VCaP cells grown in charcoal-stripped serum containing media for 24 h, before treatment with 1% ethanol or 1 nM of methyltrienolone (R1881, NEN Life Science Products) dissolved in ethanol, for 24 and 48 h. Total RNA was isolated with RNeasy mini kit (Qiagen) according to the manufacturer's instructions.

Prostate tissues were obtained from the radical prostatectomy series at the University of Michigan and from the Rapid Autopsy Program¹⁸, University of Michigan Prostate Cancer Specialized Program of Research Excellence Tissue Core. All samples were collected with informed consent of the patients and prior approval of the institutional review board.

454 FLX Sequencing

PolyA+ RNA was purified from 50μg total RNA using two rounds of selection on oligo-dT containing paramagnetic beads using Dynabeads mRNA Purification Kit (Dynal Biotech, Oslo, Norway), according to the manufacturer's instructions. 200 ng mRNA was fragmented at 82°C in Fragmentation Buffer (40 mM Tris-Acetate, 100 mM Potassium Acetate, 31.5 mM Magnesium Acetate, pH 8.1) for 2 minutes. First strand cDNA library was prepared using Superscript II (Invitrogen) according to standard protocols and directional adaptors were ligated to the cDNA ends for clonal amplification and sequencing on the Genome Sequencer FLX. The 5'-end Adaptor A has a 5' overhang of 5 nucleotides and the 3'-end Adaptor B has a 3' overhang of 6 random nucleotides:

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5'-NANNACTGATGGCGCGAGGGAGGC-3' 
             GACTACCGCGCTCCCTCCG-5' 
5'-biotin-GCCTTGCCAGCCCGCTCAGNNNNNN-P-3' 
        3'-CGGAACGGTCGGGCGAGTC
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The adaptor ligation reaction was carried out in Quick Ligase Buffer (New England Biolabs, Ipswich, MA) containing 1.67 μM of the Adaptor A, 6.67 μM of the Adaptor B and 2000 units of T4 DNA Ligase (New England Biolabs, Ipswich, MA) at 37°C for 2 hours. Adapted library was recovered with 0.05% Sera-Mag30 streptavidin beads (Seradyn Inc, Indianapolis, IN) according to manufacturer's instructions. Finally, the sscDNA library was purified twice with RNAClean (Agencourt, Beverly, MA) as per the manufacturer's directions except the amount of beads was reduced to 1.6X the volume of the sample. The purified sscDNA library was analyzed on an RNA 6000 Pico chip on a 2100 Bioanalyzer (Agilent Technologies, Santa Clara, CA) to confirm a size distribution between 450 to 750 nucleotides, and quantified with Quant-iT Ribogreen RNA Assay Kit (Invitrogen Corporation, Carlsbad, CA) on a Synergy HT (Bio-Tek Instruments Inc, Winooski, VT) instrument following the manufacturer's instructions. The library was PCR amplified with 2 μM each of Primer A (5'- GCC TCC CTC GCG CCA-3') and Primer B (5'-GCC TTG CCA GCC CGC-3'), 400 μM dNTPs, 1X Advantage 2 buffer and 1 μl of Advantage 2 polymerase mix (Clontech, Mountain View, CA). The amplification reaction was performed at: 96°C for 4 min; 94°C for 30 sec, 64°C for 30 sec, repeating steps 2 and 3 for a total of 20 cycles, followed by 68°C for 3 minutes. The samples were purified using AMPure beads and diluted to a final working concentration of 200,000 molecules per μl. Emulsion beads for sequencing were generated using Sequencing emPCR Kit II and Kit III and sequencing was carried out using 600,000 beads.

Normalization by Subtraction

mRNA from the prostate cancer cell line VCaP was hybridized with the subtractor cell line LNCaP 1st-strand cDNA immobilised on magnetic beads (Dynabeads, Invitrogen), according to the manufacturers instructions. Transcripts common to both the cells were captured and removed by magnetic separation of bead-bound subtractor cDNA and the subtracted VCaP mRNA left in the supernatant was recovered by precipitation and used for generating sequencing library as described. Efficiency of normalization was assessed by qRT-PCR assay of levels of select transcripts in the sample before and after the subtraction (data not shown).

Illumina Genome Analyzer Sequencing

200ng mRNA was fragmented at 70°C for 5 min in a Fragmentation buffer (Ambion), and converted to first strand cDNA using Superscript III (Invitrogen), followed by second strand cDNA synthesis using E coli DNA pol I (Invitrogen). The double stranded cDNA library was further processed by Illumina Genomic DNA Sample Prep kit, and it involved end repair using T4 DNA polymerase, Klenow DNA polymerase, and T4 Polynucleotide kinase followed by a single $\langle A \rangle$ base addition using Klenow 3' to 5' exo-polymerase, and was ligated with Illumina's adaptor oligo mix using T4 DNA ligase. Adaptor ligated library was size selected by separating on a 4% agarose gel and cutting out the library smear at 200bp (+/- 25bp). The library was PCR amplified by Phu polymerase (Stratagene), and purified by Qiaquick PCR purification kit (Qiagen). The library was quantified with Quant-iT Picogreen dsDNA Assay Kit (Invitrogen Corporation, Carlsbad, CA) on a Modulus™ Single Tube Luminometer (Turner Biosystems, Sunnyvale, CA) following the manufacturer's instructions. 10nM library was used to prepare flowcells with approximately 30,000 clusters per lane.

Sequence datasets

Human genome build 18 (hg18) was used as a reference genome. All UCSC and Refseq transcripts were downloaded from the UCSC genome browser (http://genome.ucsc.edu/)¹⁹.

Sequences of previously identified *TMPRSS2-ERGa* fusion transcript (Genbank accession: DQ204772) and *BCR-ABL1* fusion transcript (Genbank accession: M30829) were used for reference.

Short read chimera discovery

Short reads that do not completely align to the human genome, Refseq genes, mitochondrial, ribosomal, or contaminant sequences are categorized as non-mapping. For many chimeras we expect that there will be a larger portion mapping to a fusion partner (major alignment), and smaller portion aligning to the second partner (minor alignment). Our approach is therefore divided into two phases in which we focus on first identifying the major alignment and then performing a more exhaustive approach for identifying the minor alignment. In the first phase all non-mapping reads are aligned against all exons of Refseq genes using Vmatch, a pattern matching program²⁰. Only reads that have an alignment of 12 or more nucleotides to an exon boundary are kept as potential chimeras. In the second phase, the non-mapping portion of the remaining reads are then mapped to all possible exon boundaries using a Perl script that utilizes regular expressions to detect alignments of as few as six nucleotides. Only those short reads that show partial alignment to exon boundaries of two separate genes are categorized as chimeras. It is possible to have a chimera that has 28 nucleotides aligning to gene x and 8 nucleotides that align to gene y and z because the 8-mer does not provide enough sequence resolution to distinguish between gene y and gene z. Therefore we would categorize this as two individual chimeras. If a sequence forms more than five chimeras it is discarded because it is ambiguous. To minimize false positives, we require that a predicted gene fusion event has at least two supporting chimeras.

Long and short read integrated chimera discovery

All 454 reads are aligned against the human Refseq collection using BLAT, a rapid mRNA/DNA alignment tool²¹. Using a Perl script, the BLAT output files were parsed to detect potential chimeric reads. A read is categorized as completely aligning if it shows greater than 90% alignment to a known Refseq transcript. These are then discarded as they almost completely align and therefore are not characteristic of a chimera. From the remaining reads, we want to query for reads having partial alignment, with minimal overlap, to two Refseq transcripts representing putative chimeras. To accomplish this, we iterate the all possible BLAT alignments for a putative chimera, extracting only those partial alignments that have no more than a six nucleotide, or two codon, overlap. This step reduces false positive chimeras introduced by repetitive regions, large gene families, and conserved domains. Additionally, while our approach tolerates overlap between the partial alignments, it filters those having more than ten or more nucleotides between the partial alignments.

The short reads (36 nucleotides) generated from the Illumina platform are parsed by aligning them against the Refseq database and the human genome using Eland, an alignment tool for short reads. Reads that align completely or fail quality control are removed leaving only the "non-mapping" reads; a rich source for chimeras. These non-mapping short reads are subsequently aligned against all putative long read chimeras (obtained as described above) using Vmatch²⁰, a pattern matching program. A Perl script is used to parse the Vmatch output

to extract only those reads that span the fusion boundary by at least three nucleotides on each side. Following this integration, the remaining putative chimeras are categorized as inter- or intra-chromosomal chimeras based on whether the partial alignments are located on different or the same chromosomes, respectively. Those intra-chromosomal chimeras that have partial alignments to adjacent genes are believed to be the product of co-transcription of adjacent genes coupled with intergenic splicing $(CoTIS)^{22}$, alternatively known as read-throughs. The remaining intra-chromosomal and all inter-chromosomal chimeras are considered candidate gene fusions.

One additional source of false positive chimeras could be an unknown transcript that is not in Refseq. Due to its absence in the Refseq database, the corresponding long read would not be able to show a complete alignment, but instead show partial hits. Subsequently, short reads spanning this transcript would naturally validate the artificially produced fusion boundary. Therefore, to remove these candidates, we aligned all of the chimeras against the human genome using BLAT. If the long read had greater than 90% alignment to one genomic location, it is considered a novel transcript rather than a chimeric read. The remaining chimeras are given a score which is calculated by multiplying the long read coverage spanning the fusion boundary against the short read coverage spanning the fusion boundary.

Coverage analysis

Transcript coverage for every gene locus was calculated from the total number of passing filter reads that mapped, via ELAND, to exons. The total count of these reads was multiplied by the read length and divided by the longest transcript isoform of the gene as determined by the sum of all exon lengths as defined in the UCSC knownGene table (Mar. 2006 assembly). Nucleotide coverage was determined by enumerating the total reads, based on ELAND mappings, at every nucleotide position within a non-redundant set of exons from all possible UCSC transcript isoforms.

Array CGH analysis

Oligonucleotide comparative genomic hybridization is a high-resolution method to detect unbalanced copy number changes at whole genome level. Competitive hybridization of differentially labeled tumor and reference DNA to oligonucleotide printed in an array format (Agilent Technologies, USA) and analysis of fluorescent intensity for each probe will detect the copy number changes in the tumor sample relative to normal reference genome. We identified genomic breakpoints at regions with a change in copy number level of at least one copy (log ratio \pm 0.5) for gains and losses involving more than one probe representing each genomic interval as detected by the aberration detection method (ADM) in CGH analytics algorithm.

Real Time PCR validation

Quantitative PCR (QPCR) was performed using Power SYBR Green Mastermix (Applied Biosystems, Foster City, CA) on an Applied Biosystems Step One Plus Real Time PCR System as described²³. All oligonucleotide primers were synthesized by Integrated DNA Technologies (Coralville, IA) and are listed in **Table S8**. *GAPDH*24, primer was as described. All assays were performed in duplicate or triplicate and results were plotted as average fold change relative to *GAPDH*.

Quantitative PCR for *SLC45A3-ELK4* was carried out by Taqman assay method using fusion specific primers and Probe #7 of Universal Probe Library (UPL), Human (Roche) as the internal oligonucleotide, according to manufacturer's instructions. *PGK1* was used as housekeeping control gene for UPL based Taqman assay (Roche), as per manufacturer's instructions. HMBS (Applied Biosystems, Taqman assay Hs00609297_m1) was used as housekeeping gene control for Taqman assays according to standard protocols (Applied Biosystems).

Fluorescence in situ hybridization (FISH)

FISH hybridizations were performed on VCaP, LNCaP, and FFPE tumor and normal tissues. BAC clones were selected from UCSC genome browser. Following colony purification midi prep DNA was prepared using QiagenTips-100 (Qiagen, USA). DNA was labeled by nick translation labeling with biotin-16-dUTP and digoxigenin-11-dUTP (Roche, USA). Probe DNA was precipitated and dissolved in hybridization mixture containing 50% formamide, 2XSSC, 10% dextran sulphate, and 1% Denhardts solution. About 200ng of labeled probes was hybridized to normal human chromosomes to confirm the map position of each BAC clone. FISH signals were obtained using anti digoxigenin-fluorescein and alexa fluor594 conjugate for green and red colors respectively. Fluorescence images were captured using a high resolution CCD camera controlled by ISIS image processing software (Metasystems, Germany).

Affymetrix Genome-Wide Human SNP Array 6.0

1 µg each of genomic DNA samples was sent to Affymetrix service centers (Center for Molecular Medicine, Grand Rapid, MI and Vanderbilt Affymetrix Genotyping Core, Nashville, TN) for genomic level analysis of 15 samples on the Genome-Wide Human SNP Array 6.0. Copy number analysis was conducted using the Affymetrix Genotyping Console software and visualizations were generated by the Genotyping Console (GTC) browser.

Sample	Normalized VCaP	Non-normalized VCaP						
Subtracted	Yes	No						
Total Reads	575985	551780						
Average length	218.9	226.5						
Genes*	2687	2857						
Reads / Gene	214.36	193.14						
Chimeras	118	428						
Reads / chimera	4881.3	1289.3						
* A read must be a best hit to a gene with greater than 90% alignment								

Supplementary Table 1. Summary of normalized and non-normalized VCaP 454 libraries

Supplementary Table 3. Illumina sequence summary statistics

Sample		K562		VCaP		LNCaP		RWPE		VCaP-Met		Met 3		Met 4
Total reads (millions)	66.9		76.4		57.3		71.9		14		35		9.24	
Pass filter (millions)*	38.3	57.25%	40.3	52.75%	35.3	61.61%	44.8	62.31%	9.6	68.57%	16.4	46.86%	5.51	59.64%
Non-mapping reads (millions)**	2.08	5.43%	12.69	31.49%	.59	4.50%	1.77	3.95%	0.4	4.17%	$\overline{.1}$	6.71%	0.31	5.63%
Redundantly mapping reads (millions)**	.42	3.71%	08،،	2.68%	.23	3.48%	1.74	3.88%	0.71	.40%	1.32	8.05%	0.45	8.17%
Best hit uniquely maps (millions)**	19.86	51.85%	15.48	38.41%	19.34	54.79%	26.13	58.33%	7.36	76.67%	12.59	76.77%	4.3	78.04%
Mitochondrial reads (millions)**	.89	4.93%	1.72	4.27%	3.19	9.04%	2.8	6.25%	0.81	8.44%	0.81	4.94%	0.37	6.72%
Ribosomal reads (millions)**	13.09	34.18%	9.35	23.20%	10	28.33%	12.34	27.54%	0.31	3.23%	0.62	3.78%	0.09	1.64%

* Percentage of total reads

** Percentage of reads passing filter

		# of Reads									
Rank	Library	5' Gene	3' Gene	Illumina	454	Score*	Validated				
	VCaP	<i>ZNF649</i>	ZNF577	14	2	28	Yes				
2	VCaP	TMPRSS2	ERG	21		21	Yes				
3	VCaP	INPP4A	HJURP	8	2	16	Yes				
4	VCaP	USP ₁₀	<i>ZDHHC7</i>	6	2	12	Yes				
5	VCaP	HJURP	EIF4E2	8		8	Yes				
6	RWPE	WDR55	DND ₁	7		7	Yes				
7	LNCaP	MIPOL1	DGKB	5		5	Yes				
8	LNCaP	PPIA	RPS ₁₄		3	3	No				
9	VCaP	RBM14	RBM4	2		$\overline{2}$	No.				
10	LNCaP	C ₁₉ orf ₂₅	APC2	2		2	Yes				
11	VCaP	FLJ46838	SALF	2		2	No				
12	VCaP	SLTM	ZNF621	2		$\overline{2}$	No				
13	LNCaP	$MDP-1$	CHMP4A		2	2	No				
14	LNCaP	MBTPS2	YY ₂		$\mathbf{2}$	2	Yes				
15	LNCaP	MRPS ₁₀	HPR				Yes				
	* Score = 454 read count x Illumina read count										

Supplementary Table 4. Chimera nominations from transcriptome sequencing

Supplementary Table 5. Gene fusion candidates with previously reported copy number variations (CNVs) reported in the Database of Genomic Variants (http://projects.tcag.ca/variation/).

		aCGH				aCGH			
Library	5' partner	vCaP	LnCaP	RWPE	3' partner	vCaP	LnCaP	RWPE	
VCaP	ZNF649	one copy gain	no change	no change	ZNF577	one copy gain	no change	no change	
VCaP	TMPRSS2	1.2 copy gain	no change	no change	ERG	1.2 copy gain	no change	no change	
VCaP	INPP4A	no change	no change	no change	HJURP	no change	no change	no change	
VCaP	USP ₁₀	breakpoint	no change	1.5 copy gain	ZDHHC7	breakpoint	no change	1.5 copy gain	
VCaP	HJURP	no change	no change	no change	EIF4E2	no change	no change	no change	
RWPE	WDR55	no change	no change	one copy gain	DND ₁	no change	no change	one copy gain	
LNCaP	MIPOL1	no change	no change	no change	DGKB	breakpoint	no change	no change	
LNCaP	PPIA	no change	no change	no change	RPS ₁₄	no change	no change	one copy gain	
VCaP	RBM14	gain-4copies	no change	no change	RBM4	gain-4 copies	no change	no change	
LNCaP	C19orf25	no change	no change	no change	APC ₂	no change	no change	no change	
VCaP	FLJ46838	no change	no change	no change	SALF	no change	no change	no change	
VCaP	SLTM	no change	no change	no change	ZNF621	no change	no change	no change	
LNCaP	MDP-1	no change	no change	no change	CHMP4A	no change	no change	no change	
LNCaP	MBTPS2	one copy gain	no change	no change	YY ₂	one copy gain	no change	no change	
LNCaP	MRPS10	no change	no change	no change	HPR	no change	no change	no change	

Supplementary Table 6. aCGH analysis of VCaP, LNCaP, and RWPE nominated chimeras from integrative approach.

Chimera	Chimera Class	Location	5' Gene	Location	3' Gene	Validated in	Validated by
BCR-ABL1	Class I: Translocation	22q11.23	BCR, breakpoint cluster region	9q34.1	ABL1, c-abl oncogene 1, receptor tyrosine kinase	K562	Short read, qRT-PCR
<i>MRPS10-HPR</i>	Class I: Translocation	6p21.1	MRPS10, mitochondrial ribosomal protein S10	16q22.1	HPR, haptoglobin-related protein	LNCaP	Long read, Short read, qRT-PCR, FISH
MIPOL1-DGKB	Class II: Inter- chromosomal complex	14q13.3- q21.1	MIPOL1, mirror-image polydactyly 1	7p21.2	DGKB, diacylglycerol kinase, beta 90kDa	LNCaP	Long read, Short read, qRT-PCR. FISH
TMPRSS2-ERG*	Class III: Interstitial Deletion	21q22.3	TMPRSS2, transmembrane protease, serine 2	21q22.3	ERG, v-ets erythroblastosis virus E26 oncogene homolog (avian)	VCaP, VCaP- Met	Long read, Short read, gRT-PCR, FISH
USP10-ZDHHC7*	Class III: Interstitial Deletion	16q24.1	USP10, ubiquitin specific peptidase 10	16q24.1	ZDHHC7, zinc finger, DHHC-type containing 7	VCaP, VCaP- Met	Long read, Short read, qRT-PCR, aCGH
STRN4-GPSN2*	Class IV: Intra- chromosomal complex	19q13.2	STRN4, striatin, calmodulin binding protein 4	19p13.12	GPSN2, glycoprotein, synaptic 2	Met-3	Short read, qRT-PCR
LMAN2-AP3S1	Class IV: Intra- chromosomal complex	5q35.3	LMAN2 lectin, mannose-binding 2	5q22	AP3S1, adaptor-related protein complex VCaP, VCaP- 3, sigma 1	Met	Short read, qRT-PCR
HJURP-EIF4E2*	Class IV: Intra- chromosomal complex	2q37.1	HJURP, Holliday junction recognition protein	2q37.1	EIF4E2, eukaryotic translation initiation factor 4E family member 2	VCaP, VCaP- Met	Long read, Short read, gRT-PCR, FISH
INPP4A-HJURP*	Class II: Intra- chromosomal complex	2q11.2	INPP4A, inositol polyphosphate-4- phosphatase, type I	2q37.1	HJURP, Holliday junction recognition protein	VCaP, VCaP- Met	Long read, Short read, qRT-PCR, FISH
RC3H2-RGS3	Class IV: Intra- chromosomal complex	9q34	RC3H2, ring finger and CCCH-type zinc finger domains 2	9q32	RGS3, regulator of G-protein signaling 3	VCaP, VCaP- Met	Short read, qRT-PCR
ZNF649-ZNF577	Class V: Read-through	19g13.33	ZNF649, zinc finger protein 649	19q13.33	ZNF577, zinc finger protein 577	VCaP, VCaP- Met	Long read, Short read, qRT-PCR
MBTPS2-YY2*	Class V: Read-through	Xp22.1- p22.2	MBTPS2, membrane-bound transcription factor peptidase, site 2	Xp22.2-p22.1	YY2, YY2 transcription factor	VCaP, LNCaP, VCaP-Met	Long read, Short read, qRT-PCR
C190RF25-APC2	Class V: Read-through	19p13.3	C19ORF25, chromosome 19 open reading frame 25	19p13.3	APC2, adenomatosis polyposis coli 2	LNCaP	Long read, Short read, qRT-PCR
WDR55-DND1	Class V: Read-through	5q31.3	WDR55, WD repeat domain 55	5q31.3	DND1, dead end homolog 1 (zebrafish)	RWPE	Long read, Short read, gRT-PCR
SLC45A3-ELK4*	Class V: Read-through	1g32.1	SLC45A3, Solute carrier family 45 member 3	1q32.1	ELK4, ETS domain-containing protein	Met-4	Short read, qRT-PCR

Supplementary Table 7. Overall summary of validated chimeras. In-frame chimeras are denoted with an asterik.

Supplementary Table 8. Primer sequences used for confirming fusion genes by qRT-PCR.

Supplementary Table 9. Sequences of chimeric transcripts, with GenBank accession numbers, reported in this manuscript. Fusion junction is denoted by '*'.

>*TMPRSS2-ERG* FJ423744

GGAGTAGGCGCGAGCTAAGCAGGAGGCGGAGGCGGAGGCGGAGGGCGAGGGGCGGGGAGC GCCGCCTGGAGCGCGGCAG*GAAGCCTTATCAGTTGTGAGTGAGGACCAGTCGTTGTTTGA GTGTGCCTACGGAACGCCACACCTGGCTAAGACAGAGATGACCGCGTCCTCCTCCAGCGA CTATGGACAGACTTCCAAGATGAGCCCACGCGTCCCTCAGCAGGATTGGCTGTCT

>*INPP4A-HJURP* FJ423742

AGGTCTCAAGAATCAAAAACAAAACAAAAATACAAACAGAGAGCAAGTGGGAAGATAAAT AACACTCCGAAATAACCTAGCTACACACTTTTAGTTTCCAATTTTTCTTAGCATGAAATC ACTTTTCTCTTCCATCCTGTAAGACGTGTTCTCTCCT*CTGCGCATGCACTCCAGGGCCTG GGTGAAGACCTGCGGGGCCATGCCATGCTCGTGTTGCAGGATCAGGCACTGCTCCAGTGT CACCG

>*ZNF649-ZNF577* FJ423743

GGGGCTAGCAACTCTAGTATGTTTTCTCTCTTCTGTCTATTCTGGGCCTTCCCAGAAGTG GTGGTCAGGTATCATCTCAGGTCAAGCTACCACTGGAAATGATGATCTTCCCCAGCCTGG AAGCTCCTTCTTCCATTACTGAAAATGTCTTGTTCCTATAGGCCAGAAC*ACTCATCACAG CCATAGGGTCTCTCTCCCGTGTGAGTTCTGTGATGTACAATGAGCATTG >*USP10-ZDHHC7* FJ423745

ACGCGGGGGAAGCAGCGTGAGCAGCCGGAGGATCGCGGAGTCCCAATGAAACGGGCAGCC ATGGCCCTCCACAGCCCGCAG*GGTGCGTCAGGGAAATCATGCAGCCATCAGGACACAGGC TCCGGGACGTCGAGCACCATCCTCTCCTGGCTGAAAATGACAACTATGACTCTTCATCGT CCTCCTCCTCCGAGGCTGACGTGGCTGACCGGGTCTGGTTCATCCGTGACGG >*HJURP-EIF4E2* FJ423746

CGATTCTTGTCTCGTTCCGTTTTTTCCTTCTCACCATCTTTCTGTGTGCTGTTTTCTTCA TTCTGATCATGGTCCCCACTGTCATCATCTTTCAAA*CTCTCTTCTGAGTTGGGCTGTGAA GAGCTGCCCTGGTCTCCCGGTCTGACGGTGTTGTCCACCCCATCTGAGGCACCCAGGGAA TTGCCCTGGCGTCCGGAGCCCGTGGGTTCTGATAGCCTGGGTCTTTTTGCAGGGAACTGA **TGGT**

>*MIPOL1-DGKB* FJ423747

ACAGAGAGAACATTGTTTCCATCACTCAACAACAAAATGAGGAACTGGCTACTCAACTGC AACAAGCTCTGACAGAGCGAGCAAATATGGAATTACAACTTCAACATGCCAGAGAGGCCT CCCAAGTGGCCAATGAAAAAGTTCAAAA*ATAAAAATTACACACAAGAACCAAGCCCCAAT GCTGATGGGCCCGCCTCCAAAAACCGGTTTATTCTGCTCCCTCGTCAAAAGGACAAGAAA CCGAAGCAAGGAATAA

>*MRPS10-HPR* FJ423748

GTCACTGGGTTTGCCGGATTCTTGGGCTTCCCACATA*TTTCTTCTTTTTCTTCTGATAGT GTTTCCCAGATTGGCTCCTTGATGTGTTCTGGTAACTGTTCTAATTGTGTCTTTGTTACT TCCATGGCAACCCCTTCAGGTAAGTTTCA

>*WDR55-DND1* FJ423749

CGCAAAAAAAAGGGAGGACCACTGCGGGCTCTGAGCAGCAAGACTTGGAGCACCGATGAC TTCTTCGCAGGACTGAGGGAAGAGGGAGAAGACTCCATGGCTCAGGAAGAAAAGGAGGAG ACTGGGGATGACAATGACTGAAGGAATGAATTGAATCTTGAGACGGGTCCTCACCAGGGT GCCTGTGGAGAAAGAATGGAGTCACTGTTTAACCATGGTACCTGCCTCAGCCCCAGCAGA CCACAGGAGGTTCGG

>*C19orf25-APC2 (Intron)* FJ423750

GAATCGGAAGTGGCTGCGTCGTCGACGCTGGGCTTTCGGGTCCCGCGCCCAGAGATGGGC TCCAAGGCAAAGAAGCGCGTGCTGCTGCCCCACCCGCCCAGCGCCCCCCACGGGTGGAGC AGATCCTGGAGGATGTGCGGGGTGCGCCGGCAGAGGATCCAGTGTTCACCATCCTGGCCC CGGAAG*GCTGGAGTGCAGTGGCGAGATCTCGACTCACTGCAGGCTCCGACTCCCCAGTTC AAGCGATT

>*MBTPS2-YY2* FJ423751

TTGGGATTTTTCTCTTCATTATTTATCCCGGAGCATTTGTTGATCTGTTCACCACTCATT TGCAACTTATATCGCCAGTCCAGCAGCAAGGATATTTTGTGCAG*CCATGGCCTCCAACGA AGATTTCTCCATCACACAAGACCTGGAGATCCCGGCAGATATTGTGGAGCTCCACGACAT

CAATGTGGAGCCCCTTCCTATGGAGGACATTCCGACGGAAAGCGTCCAGTACG

>*STRN4-GPSN2* FJ423752

CTGGGGGACTTGGCAGATCTCACCGTCACCAACGACAACGACCTCAGCTGCGAT*GTGGA GATTCTGGACGCAAAGACAAGGGAGAAGCTGTGTTTCTTGGA

>*LMAN2-AP3S1* FJ423753

ACTGACGGCAACAGTGAACATCTCAAGCGGGAGCATTCGCTCATTAAGCCCTACCAAG*A GTGAAGATACACAACAGCAAATCATCAGGGAGACTTTCCA

>*RC3H2-RGS3* FJ423754

GCTAATGGTCAGAATGCTGCTGGGCCCTCTGCAGATTCTGTAACTGAAAA*AAGGCAGAG TGCTTATTCACTTTGGAAGCGCACTCGCAGGAGCAGAAGAAG

>*SLC45A3-ELK4* FJ423755

GCTGAAGAAGGAACTGCCACAGGGTGATAGCACTGTCCATAGCAATGAG*CTGCTTCTCC CGGTGGTAGAGGGAGGCCAGTGTGTAGGGGAGG

Supplemental Figure 1: "Re-discovery" of the *BCR-ABL1* **gene fusion using massively parallel sequencing of the transcriptome in the chronic myelogenous leukemia cell line K652. a,** The schematic bar represents the reference sequence *BCR-ABL1* (Genbank Accession No. M30829). *BCR* (purple), located on chromosome 22, fused with *ABL1* (green) on chromosome 9. Short read sequencing obtained from the Illumina platform are aligned above the bar. The inset represents qRT-PCR validation of the expression of *BCR-ABL1* fusion gene in K562 cells.

Percentage of VCaP validated chimeras vs. total predicted

Supplemental Figure 2: Histogram of predicted VCaP validated chimeras compared to total number of computationally predicted chimeras based on long read technology, short read technology, and an integrative approach.

Supplemental Figure 3: Fusion-chimeras nominated by long read sequences that failed validation by qRT-PCR. *TMPRSS2-ERG* and *USP10-ZDHHC7* were the only two chimeras validated in this set of eighteen candidates in VCaP cells.

Supplemental Figure 4: FISH analysis of the chromosomal rearrangements at 2q11 and 2q37, involving *INPP4A***,** *EIF4E2* **and** *HJURP* **genes. a,** Schematic showing genomic organization of *INPP4A*, *EIF4E2* and *HJURP* genes. Horizontal red and green bars indicate the location of BAC clones. **b,** FISH analysis using BAC clones 2 and 3 showing the fusion of *INPP4A* and *HJURP* genes on a marker chromosome (yellow circle). Green and red arrow indicate the hybridization of 5'*INPP4A* probe at 2q11 and 3'*HJURP* probe at 2q37, respectively, on two copies of normal chromosome 2. **c,** Hybridization of *HJURP* probe to two normal copies of chromosome 2 and on the marker chromosome (yellow circle) suggest a breakpoint between *EIF4E2* and *HJURP* genes resulting in translocation of 3' end of chromosome 2q onto the marker chromosome. **d,** Hybridization of probes 2 and 4 onto two normal chromosome 2, marker chromosome (yellow circle) and a split green signal on the derivate chromosome 2 (confirming a breakpoint within probes 2 and 4 resulting in an insertion into the marker chromosome. **e,** Rearrangement of *INPP4A* gene confirmed by the presence of probe 3 on the marker chromosomes (yellow circle) in addition to the co-localizing signal on two copies of normal chromosome 2.

Supplemental Figure 5: FISH analysis of the chromosomal rearrangements involving *MIPOL1***,** *DGKB***, and** *ETV1***. a,** Schematic of the genomic organization of *ETV1* and *DGKB* locus on chromosome 7p21.2. Gene orientation is indicated by arrows. Previously identified genomic breakpoint in *DGKB* is marked with a star. FISH analysis was performed using BAC clones on VCaP and LNCaP cells. Probe locations encompassing both *ETV1* and *DGKB* are indicated with horizontal red and green bars, respectively. Genomic coordinates indicate the region spanning the two BAC clones. **b,** Co-localized signals (normal) are indicated by yellow arrows and red and green arrowheads indicate the split signal. Split signals are observed only in LNCaP cells. The rearranged signal (red) was observed on chromosome 14. **c,** Schematic diagram showing genomic organization of *MIPOL1* locus on chromosome 14q13.3-q21.1, **d,** FISH analysis did not reveal split signals in LNCaP or VCaP cells. **e,** Genomic organization of *MIPOL1*, *ETV1*, and *DGKB* gene locus on chromosomes 7p21.2 and 14q13.3-q21.1, respectively. BAC clones from the 3' end of *ETV1* (red bar) and the 5'end of *MIPOL1* (green bar) were employed to detect co-localization of *ETV1* downstream of *MIPOL1*. **f,** FISH analysis shows co-localizat ion of in LNCaP but not VCaP cells.

Supplemental Figure 6: Chimeric Class V, Read-through fusions. Schematics of the read-through fusions accompanied with qRT-PCR validations of the fusion transcripts in prostate cancer cell lines VCaP and LNCaP, metastatic prostate tissues VCaP-met and Met 2, and benign prostate cell lines, RWPE and PREC, **a,** *C19orf25-APC2* (intron), **b,** *WDR55-DND1*, **c,** *MBTPS2-YY2*, and **d,** *ZNF649-ZNF577*.

Supplemental Figure 7: Chimera candidates in prostate tissues. a, Schematic of *TMPRSS2-ERG* fusion boundary populated with short reads sequenced in both VCaP-Met (light blue) and Met 3 (gray) tissues. **b,** Schematic of the STRN4-GPSN2 fusion on chromosome 19 in the metastatic prostate cancer tissue, Met 3. The 5' portion of STRN4 (purple) is fused with exon 2 of GPSN2 (green), which resides in the opposite orientation on the same chromosome. **c,** Schematic of RC3H2-RGS3 fusion on chromosome 9 in metastatic prostate cancer tissue, VCaP-Met. The 5' portion of RC3H2 (red) is fused with exon 20 of RGS3 (yellow), which resides in the opposite orientation on the same chromosome. **d,** Schematic of the complex intra-chromosomal gene fusion between exon 1 of lectin, mannose-binding 2 (*LMAN2)* and exon 2 of adaptor-related protein complex 3, subunit 1 (*AP3S1*). qRT-PCR validation of *LMAN2-AP3S1* fusion transcript expression in prostate cancer cell line, VCaP and metastatic prostate tissue, VCaP-Met.

Supplemental Figure 8: Lack of rearrangement of the *SLC45A3-ELK4* **locus in prostate cancers that express the** *SLC45A3-ELK4* **mRNA chimera.** Fluorescence in situ hybridization analysis of the *ELK4* gene for rearrangement. Schematic diagram (top panel) shows the genomic organization of the *SLC45A3* and *ELK4* genes on chromosome 1q32.1. BAC clones (red and green horizontal bars with BAC clone ID) were derived from the immediately flanking 3' and 5' regions of *ELK4* and *SLC45A3* genes, respectively. Probes were hybridized on the *SLC45A3-ELK4* chimera positive cell line LNCaP (a, metaphase spread; b, interphase) , and 5 index prostate tumors that express the mRNA chimera (a, e, f, g & h). **c,** DU145 is a an *SLC45A3-ELK4* chimera negative prostate cancer cell line. All the samples show co-localization of red and green signals indicating the absence of gross rearrangement or large deletions within the genes.

Supplemental Figure 9: Genomic level analysis, using Affymetrix SNP 6.0, of 15 samples using the Genotyping Console software. Copy number states are divided into the following categories: 0 homozygous deletion; 1 - heterozygous deletion; 2 - normal diploid; 3 - single copy gain; and 4 - multiple copy gain. Copy number segments highlight both amplified (red) and deleted (blue) genomic segments. Genome organization shows the genomic aberrations relative to **(a)** *SLC45A3-ELK4* and **(b)** *PTEN*. For each sample, the *SLC45A3-ELK4* status is shown on the right using '+' and '-'. Overall, we did not observe a genomic deletion within the *SLC45A3-ELK4* region. As a positive control, we have demonstrated the ability of our SNP array analysis to detect the *PTEN* loss in multiple samples. While the *SLC45A3-ELK4* region lacked a deletion, multiple samples (which are not correlated with *SLC45A3-ELK4* status) show a copy number gain.

Supplemental Figure 10: qRT-PCR based survey of a panel of prostate cancer cell lines and tissues- benign, localized prostate cancer, and metastatic tissues for recurrence. *USP10-ZDHHC7* (a)*, INPP4A-HJURP* (c), and *HJURP-EIF4E2* (d) all show expression in VCaP and VCaP-Met*,* as expected, and were not confirmed in any other samples from the panel. (b) *STRN4-GPSN2* expression is confirmed in Met 3 but does not appear to be expressed in any other sample tested.

Supplemental Figure 11: qRT-PCR based confirmation of fusion transcript expression restricted to prostate cancer samples and absent in somatic tissues from the same patient. Five fusion genes, *TMPRSS2-ERG* (a), *GPSN2-STRN4* (b), *USP10-ZDHHC7* (c), *RC3H2-RGS3* (d), *HJURP-EIF4E2* (e), *INPP4A-HJURP* (f), *LMAN2-AP3S1* (g), *MBTPS2-YY2* (h), and *ZNF649-ZNF577* (i) were tested in two patients, Patient 1 and Patient 2.

Supplemental Figure 12: FISH analysis of the chromosomal rearrangements involving *STRN4-GPSN2* **gene fusion in tumor sample MET3.** Top panel show the genomic organization of the *GSPN2* and *STRN4* genes located on chromosome 19. The red and green horizontal bars indicate the relative position of the BAC clones. Normal signal patterns were observed in benign sample (a) whereas a co-localizing red and green (yellow arrow) signal indicates a gene fusion in tumor sample only (b).

Supplemental Figure 13: FISH analysis of the chromosomal rearrangements involving *EIF4E2-HJURP***,** *USP10-ZDHHC7***, and** *INPP4A-HJURP* **gene fusions in tumor and paired normal tissues from VCaP-Met.** Schematic diagrams on the left panel show the genomic organization of the genes on their respective chromosomes. The green and red horizontal bars indicate the relative position of the BAC clones. The black arrows indicate the orientation of the genes in the chromosome. The probes were tested on both tumor and paired normal tissues. Individual red and green signals indicate the signal on the normal chromosomes. The co-localizing red and green (yellow arrows) signals indicate fusion, in tumor samples only.

b

c

e

Supplemental Figure 14: FISH analysis of the chromosomal rearrangements involving *MRPS10* **and** *HPR***. a,** Schematic of the MRPS10-HPR fusion. The exons 6-7 of MRPS10 **b,** Schematic diagram showing the genomic organization of the *HPR* gene locus. Thehorizontal green and red bars indicate the approximate location of the BAC clones from the 5' and 3' end of the gene, respectively. **c,** FISH image from LNCaP cells show two copies of normal chromosome 16 (yellow arrows), two copies of derivative chromosome 16 [der(16)] (green arrows), and single red signal on derivative chromosome 6 [der(6)] confirming a rearrangement in the *HPR* gene. **d,** Schematic diagram showing the genomic organization of the *MRPS10* and *HPR* gene locus. The horizontal green and red bars indicate the approximate location of the BAC clones from the 5' and 3' end of *MRPS10* and *HPR* genes, respectively. **e,** FISH image from LNCaP cells show hybridization of *MRPS10* probe to two copies of chromosome 6 (green arrows), and red arrows indicate the hybridization of *HPR* probe to two copies of normal chromosome 16. A single co-localizing green and red signal (yellow arrow) on der(6) confirms the fusion of *MRPS10* with *HPR*. (blue) located on chromosome 6 are fused with exon 7 of HPR (yellow), on chromosome 16.

d

Supplemental Figure 15: Plot of genomic aberrations on chromosome 16 located near the *USP10-ZDHHC7* **fusion, as seen by array CGH.** A deletion involving the two genes is observed in VCaP (orange) and the VCaP parental tissue (VCaP-Met) (green), but not in normal prostate cell line, RWPE (black).

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