

Supplemental Materials and Methods

Genetic background of mouse models

Experimental mice were maintained in a mixed genetic background of 50% FVB, 25% C57/B16, and 25% 129Sv. All animals used in this study were treated humanely and in accordance with institutional guidelines and federal regulations.

Examination of c-MYC expression in human pancreatic cancers.

Deidentified FFPE tissues representing normal tissues and primary pancreatic cancer specimens (N=65) obtained under institutional guidelines from the Thomas Jefferson University pathology archives and organized in a tissue microarray as previously described (1). Slides were deparaffinized and went through antigen retrieval in Dako PT module using low pH retrieval buffer (Dako) before being stained on Dako Autolink Plus autostainer. Endogenous peroxidase activity was blocked using Dako FLEX Peroxidase block for 10 minutes; followed by protein block serum-free for 30 min. Slides were incubated for 1 h with a mixture of antibodies against c-Myc (1:200 dilution) and Cytokeratin 19 (1:50 dilution). Slides were then washed three times with Dako wash buffer and subsequently incubated with a mixture of secondary antibodies which contain a horseradish peroxidase-conjugated antibody and another antibody conjugated to Alexa 555 (Molecular Probes). Slides were then washed three times with Dako wash buffer and subsequently incubated with Tyramide-Cy5 (Perkin-Elmer). Finally, all sections were stained with 4',6-diamidino-2-phenylindole (DAPI; Vector) for nuclear visualization. Automated quantitative analysis of the stained slides was performed using the AQUA/PM2000 Imaging Platform (HistoRx) as described previously (2), and AQUA scores were generated based on the images acquired and the software program; results were validated manually.

1. Richards NG, Rittenhouse DW, Freydin B et al. HuR status is a powerful marker for prognosis and response to gemcitabine-based chemotherapy for resected pancreatic ductal adenocarcinoma patients. *Ann Surg* 2010;252:499-505.
2. Tran TH, Lin J, Sjolund AB, Utama FE, Rui H. Protocol for constructing tissue arrays by cutting edge matrix assembly. *Methods Mol Biol* 2010;664:45-52.