## **PIWI-piRNA pathway function in** *Hydra* **somatic stem cells**

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## **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION**

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#### **I. Supplemental Materials and Methods**

#### *Hydra* **strains and culturing conditions**

*Hydra magnipapillata* strain 105 and *Hydra vulgaris* strain AEP were cultured at 18°C by standard procedures (1). All experiments described were performed using the 105 strain unless otherwise noted. Transgenic AEP *Hydra* expressing GFP in either the ectoderm or endoderm were used for immunofluorescent labeling and transgenic animals expressing DsRed2 in the ectoderm and GFP in the endoderm were used for FACS. These transgenic animals were made as previously described (2, 3). sf-1 strain *Hydra* were cultured at 25°C for 4 days to remove the interstitial cell lineage and then processed for immunoblot and immunofluorescence analysis as described below (4).

## **Hywi and Hyli identification and antibody generation**

*Hywi* and *Hyli* were identified by BLAST analysis of the *Hydra magnipapillata* 105 genome (http://hydrazome.metazome.net/cgi-bin/gbrowse/hydra/) (5). Full-length cDNA *hywi* and *hyli* sequences, including UTRs, were obtained using the First Choice RLM-RACE Kit (Life Technologies; Carlsbad, CA) and deposited into GenBank (Hywi, KF411461; Hyli, KF411462). Using PAUP (Phylogenetic Analysis Using Parsimony), an unrooted neighbor-joining phylogram

was made from full-length *piwi* coding sequences; bootstrap replicate values are from 1000 iterations (6). The Hywi N-terminus (amino acids 1-227), the Hywi mid-domain (amino acids 444-583), the Hyli N-terminus (amino acids 1-270), and the Hyli mid-domain (amino acids 479- 622) were cloned into the Gateway expression vector pDEST17, which has an N-terminal 6xHis tag (Life Technologies; Carlsbad, CA). Recombinant protein was expressed in BL21-AI bacterial cells (Life Technologies; Carlsbad, CA), purified on Ni-NTA resin (Qiagen; Valencia, CA), and further purified by SDS-PAGE separation and electro-elution. Purified proteins were used to raise antisera in rabbits (Hywi) or guinea pigs (Hyli) (Cocalico Biologicals Inc.; Reamstown, PA). The Hyli N-terminus antibody was affinity purified for immune-EM and immunoprecipitation. Hyli N-terminus recombinant protein was immobilized on an Affi-gel 10 column per the manufacturer's instructions (Bio-Rad; Hercules, CA). Heat-inactivated antiserum was passed over the antigen-immobilized column and bound antibodies were eluted with 1 ml 100 mM glycine (pH 2.5) into 50 ul 1 M Tris (pH 9.5) and used directly for immuno-EM and IP.

## **Immunoblot and immunofluorescence analysis**

For immunoblot analysis, protein extracts were made by removing the culture medium and adding 1X SDS-PAGE loading buffer with 5 mM DTT to *Hydra*. Approximately 10 µl of buffer was used per *Hydra* polyp. To obtain equal loading, the Pierce™ BCA Protein Assay Kit (Thermo Scientific; Rockford, IL) was used for quantitation of total protein. Samples were vortexed, heated at 100°C for 10 minutes, and spun at 15K RPM for 1 minute. Samples were loaded onto 4-15% Mini-PROTEAN TGX Precast Gels (Biorad; Hercules, CA). After transfer to nitrocellulose (Biorad; Hercules, CA) proteins were exposed to primary antibodies overnight at 4°C in TBST + 3% dry milk. Primary antibody dilutions were as follows: Hywi N-terminal serum 1:20,000; Hywi Mid-domain serum 1:2000; Hyli N-terminal serum 1:2000; Hyli Mid-domain serum 1:2000; α-Alpha-Tubulin 1:10,000 (12G10 from the Hybridoma bank), GAPDH 1:1,000 (Sigma 9545; St. Louis, MO); Histone H3 1:1,000 (Abcam 1791; Cambridge, MA). HRPconjugated secondary antibodies (Jackson ImmunoResearch; West Grove, PA) were diluted 1:10,000 and incubated in blocking buffer for 1 hour at room temperature and visualized by standard ECL detection (ThermoScientific; Rockford, IL).

Whole mount immunofluorescence was performed as previously described (7). Briefly, *Hydra* were relaxed in 2% urethane in *Hydra* medium, fixed in 4% PFA in *Hydra* medium, washed with PBS, and permeabilized with 0.5% Triton X-100 in PBS. Samples were incubated with blocking solution (1% BSA; 10% normal goat serum; 0.1% Triton X-100 in PBS) for one hour. Primary antibodies were diluted in blocking solution and incubations were done overnight

at 4°C. Antibody dilutions were as follows: Hywi N-terminal serum 1:1,000; Hyli N-terminal serum 1:1,000; C41 monoclonal 1:2 (8); GFP 1:500 (Roche Cat #11814460001; Indianapolis, IN); dsRed2 1:50 (Santa Cruz # sc-81595; Santa Cruz, CA). Alexa Fluor-conjugated secondary antibodies were diluted 1:500 in blocking buffer and incubations were done for 1 hour at room temperature (Invitrogen; Carlsbad, CA). For labeling of cells from dissociated *Hydra* polyps, macerations were done as previously described (9). Slides were dried for at least 3 hours and labeling was then performed using the same steps described for whole-mount labeling. Wholemount *Hydra* preparations were imaged on a Leica TCS SP5 confocal microscope (Leica Microsystems, Bannockburn, IL) and single cells were imaged either on the Leica TCS SP5 or on a Zeiss AxioImager Z1 microscope (Carl Zeiss, Inc.; Thornwood, NY). DNA was labeled with 1:000 Hoechst 33342 diluted in PBS (Life Technologies; Carlsbad CA).

#### **Immuno-electron microscopy**

Samples were fixed in 4% paraformaldehyde/0.1% gluteraldehyde in PBS for 15 minutes, followed by 4% PFA in PBS for 1 hour. Samples were cryoprotected in 2.3 M sucrose overnight at 4°C. The samples were rapidly frozen onto aluminum pins in liquid nitrogen. The frozen block was trimmed on a Leica Cryo-EMUC6UltraCut (Leica Microsystems, Bannockburn, IL) and 60 nm sections were collected as previously described (10). The frozen sections were thawed and placed on a nickel formvar /carbon-coated grid floated in a dish of PBS ready for immunolabeling. For immunolabeling, samples on grids were placed section side down on drops of 0.1 M ammonium chloride to quench unreacted aldehyde groups, then blocked for nonspecific binding with 1% fish skin gelatin in PBS. The grids were incubated with primary antibodies for 30 minutes, Hywi serum 1:150 or purified Hyli antibody 1:50. For Hyli, a rabbit anti-guinea pig bridging serum (Jackson ImmunoResearch; West Grove, PA) was used. Rinsed grids were placed on Protein A-gold 10 nm (UtrechtUMC) for 30 minutes. All grids were rinsed in PBS, fixed using 1% gluteraldehyde, then rinsed and transferred to a UA/methylcellulose drop for 10 minutes. Samples were viewed using a FEI Tencai Biotwin Transmission Electron Microscope (FEI; Hillsboro, Oregon) at 80Kv. Images were captured using Morada CCD and iTEM (Olympus) software.

## **Nuclear-Cytoplasmic Fractionation**

Approximately 100 AEP *Hydra* polyps were dissociated into single cells as previously described and filtered through a 100  $\mu$ m cell strainer (11). 3x10<sup>5</sup> cells were collected and fractionation was performed following the cell culture protocol of the ProteoExtract Subcellular

Proteome Extraction Kit #539790 (EMD Millipore; Darmstadt, Germany). Nuclear and cytoplasmic fractions were analyzed by immunoblot analysis as described above.

#### **Fluorescence Activated Cell Sorting (FACS)**

Transgenic AEP *Hydra* polyps expressing DsRed2 in the ectoderm and GFP in the endoderm were used for all FACS experiments (12). For small RNA sequencing the animals were dissociated using Pronase E (Sigma; St. Louis, MO) as previously described (13). However, this method did not work for immunoblotting because proteins were severely degraded. For immunoblotting *Hydra* were dissociated with 0.25% Trypsin-EDTA solution (Life Technologies; Carlsbad, CA). Approximately 120 *Hydra* were divided evenly into 3 wells of a 24 well plate, the *Hydra* medium was removed and 1 ml of trypsin solution was added. *Hydra* were incubated twice at 37°C for 5 minutes and pipetted up and down after each incubation to dissociate cells. Cells were moved to a 15 ml conical tube and volume was increased to 5 ml with dissociation medium (11). Trypsin was neutralized with fetal bovine serum. For both Pronase E and trypsin dissociation procedures, cells were filtered through a 100 µm filter and washed twice with dissociation medium. Cells were collected after each wash by spinning at 200xg. Cells were sorted on a FACSAria Cell Sorter with 100 µm nozzle (see Figure S4) (BD Biosciences; San Jose, CA).

## **Immunoprecipitation and piRNA sequencing**

For immunoprecipitations (IPs), approximately 100 *Hydra magnipapillata* strain105 polyps were homogenized in 1 ml MCB buffer [50 mM HEPES, pH7.5; 150 mM KOAc; 2 mM Mg(OAc)2; 10% glycerol; 0.1% TritonX-100; 0.1% NP-40; 1 mM DTT] and complete protease inhibitor cocktail (Roche; Indianapolis, IN). The protein concentration of the resulting protein extract was ~1 mg/ml. The total protein extract was pre-cleared by incubating with 50 mg of protein A sepharose CL-4B (GE Healthcare; Piscataway, NJ) for 1 hour at 4°C on a rotator. Protein extracts were incubated with antibody overnight at 4°C on a rotator. For Hywi IP, 5 µl of N-terminal antibody serum or 5  $\mu$  of pre-bleed serum was added to  $\sim$ 250 mg of protein extract. For Hyli IP, 4 µg of affinity-purified N-terminal antibody, 5 µl of N-terminal serum, or 5 µl of prebleed serum was added to  $\sim$ 250 mg of protein extract. Protein A beads (60 µl of a 2X slurry) were added to each IP and incubated for 1 hour at 4°C on a rotator. Beads were washed 5 times with MCB buffer. For immunoblotting, 40 µl of SDS Sample buffer plus 5 mM DTT was added to beads after removal of the last wash. Samples were vortexed and incubated at 100°C

for 5 minutes. Beads were removed by centrifugation and the resulting supernatant was used for immunoblotting.

For isolation of Hywi- and Hyli-bound piRNAs, RNase OUT was added to the lysate (Life Technologies; Carlsbad, CA). After IP, 300 µl of Trizol-LS was added directly to the beads (Life Technologies; Carlsbad, CA) and RNA was isolated according to manufacturer's protocol. RNA pellet was re-suspended in 10 µL of nuclease-free water: 4 µL was used for 5'-end labeling with [ $y$ <sup>-32</sup>P] ATP by polynucleotide kinase and 6  $\mu$ L was used for piRNA sequencing. For total small RNA sequencing 10 µg of total RNA was used as starting material. Small RNA libraries were prepared using Illumina small RNA Preparation Kit v1.5 (Illumina; San Diego, CA) following the manufacturer's protocol. In brief, RNA was electrophoresed in a 15% TBE urea gel and small RNAs were eluted from the gel. Adaptors were ligated to the 3' and 5' ends followed by reverse transcription and low cycle PCR. Libraries were gel-purified and sequenced using the Genome Analyzer II (Illumina; San Diego, CA).

#### **β-elimination and small RNA northern blot**

β-elimination reactions and small RNA northern blots were performed as previously described (14, 15). 20 µg of total RNA from *Hydra* AEP in 13.5 µl of water was combined with 4 µl of 5x borate buffer (148 mM borax, 148 mM boric acid, pH 8.6) (Polysciences; Warrington, PA) and 2.5  $\mu$  of freshly prepared 200 mM NaIO<sub>4</sub>. The reaction was incubated for 15 minutes in the dark at room temperature and then 2 µl of 100% glycerol was added to quench unreacted  $NalO<sub>4</sub>$ . Reactions were then incubated for an additional 15 minutes at room temperature. The reactions were dried in a SpeedVac evaporator for 75 minutes at room temperature. Pellets were resuspended in 50 µl 1x borate buffer with 50mM NaOH (pH 9.5) and incubated at 45°C for 90 minutes. 2 µl of glycogen was added and RNA was EtOH precipitated. Pellets were collected by centrifugation, washed with 70% EtOH and 95% EtOH respectively, and air-dried pellets were resuspended in 15 µl of water. β-elimination reactions and untreated RNA samples were electrophoresed for 5 hours at 200V in 15% polyacrylamide midi-gels with 8M Urea and 0.5X TBE as buffer. RNA was transferred from the gels onto Hybond N+ membrane (GE Healthcare Life Sciences; Pittsburgh, PA ) in 0.5X TBE at 100 mA for 2.5 hours. The membranes were then washed two times for 10 minutes with 2X SSC and then UV cross-linked using the UV Stratalinker 1800 (Stratagene; Santa Clara, CA) on the "Auto crosslink" setting. The membranes were incubated for 1 hour at  $42^{\circ}$ C in hybridization buffer (0.2M NaHPO<sub>4</sub> pH 7.2, 1mM EDTA, 1% BSA, 7%SDS). Probes for hybridization were an oligo complementary to miR2030 (probe sequence: CAAATTTATTTTTGCGCTCTCA) (16) and an oligo complementary

to an abundant transposon-derived piRNA (probe sequence:

AATCCAAACGCCAGGAATTCGATCACC). 10 pmol of each oligo was 5'-end labeled with [ɣ‐  $32P$ ] ATP by polynucleotide kinase for 1 hour at 37°C. Labeled oligos were purified using oligo quick spin columns (Roche; Indianapolis, IN). The entire labeled oligo sample was added to the hybridization buffer for incubation overnight at 42°C with rotation. Membranes were washed four times for 10 minutes with 2xSSC/0.1%SDS at 50°C with rotation. Finally, the membranes were wrapped in Saran Wrap, exposed to phosphor plates for 6 hours, and imaged on the Typhoon Trio Variable Mode Imager (GE Healthcare Life Sciences; Pittsburgh, PA ).

#### **Sequencing of lineage-specific small RNAs**

After FACS, RNA was isolated from each lineage by Trizol extraction (Life Technologies; Carlsbad, CA). Approximately 2 µg of RNA was collected from each of the epithelial lineages, ~7 µg of RNA was collected from the interstitial lineage. This RNA was used to generate small RNA libraries using the TruSeq Small RNA Sample Prep Kit (Illumina; San Diego, CA) according to the manufacturer's protocol. Briefly, the libraries were generated by ligation of specific 5' and 3' adapters to the RNA and ligated products were reverse transcribed and amplified by PCR. PCR products were separated by polyacrylamide gel electrophoresis (PAGE), and products corresponding to adaptor ligated 18 – 35 nt long RNAs (*~*150 bp) were used for pooled gel purification. The libraries were sequenced using the HiSeq™ 2000 (Illumina; San Diego, CA). The quality of the RNA and the corresponding cDNA was analyzed by the Agilent 2100 Bioanalyzer (Agilent Technologies; Santa Clara, CA). For the interstitial lineage there were 15,302,191 trimmed reads less than 23 nucleotides and 23,713,174 trimmed reads 23 nucleotides or greater. For the ectodermal lineage there were 14,873,803 trimmed reads less than 23 nucleotides and 12,715,400 trimmed reads 23 nucleotides or greater. For the endodermal lineage there were 26,964,740 trimmed reads less than 23 nucleotides and 21,073,941 trimmed reads 23 nucleotides or greater.

#### **Bioinformatic analysis and genomic mapping of small RNAs**

For analysis of PIWI-bound piRNAs, three small RNA libraries were sequenced: 1. Total small RNAs (total), 2. Hywi-bound piRNAs (Hywi), and 3. Hyli-bound piRNAs (Hyli). Linker sequences were successfully trimmed from more than 90% of the sequences. 18-32nt RNAs were selected and mapped to the *Hydra* genome for further analysis. From the total library, ~10 million sequences were mapped to the genome, from the Hywi library  $\sim$ 4.7 million were mapped, and from the Hwyli library ~6.3 million were mapped. Approximately 50% of the

sequenced small RNAs were mapped to the genome without ambiguity. First, the small RNAs that mapped to tRNAs were annotated. Because *Hydra* tRNA annotation is not yet complete, up to 2 mismatches were allowed including insertions/deletions. For miRNA annotation, we extended 30 nucleotides on both ends of the small RNA sequences obtained by the 454 sequencing carried out as part of the *Hydra* genome project (17). For transposon/repeat annotation, we referred to the annotation information obtained via RepeatMasker as part of the *Hydra* genome project (17). For the gene annotation, we adopted the Berkeley group's annotation (17). To test whether the ping-pong mechanism of piRNA biogenesis functions in *Hydra*, we searched for the ping-pong signature among these libraries by determining whether the piRNAs have sequence partners with a 10 nucleotide off-set. The partners were defined as piRNAs whose 5' 10 nucleotides are reverse compliments, as previously described (18). The same methods were used to test for the presence of the ping-pong signature in the lineagespecific small RNA sequencing data (26 to 34 nucleotides): 1. Interstitial, 2. Ectoderm, and 3. Endoderm.

# **Assembly of the** *Hydra* **transcriptome and mapping of piRNAs and lineage-specific small RNAs**

Total RNA was isolated from 2-day starved *Hydra magnipapillata* strain 105. A cDNA library was constructed using the Illumina TruSeq RNA Sample Preparation Kit using a slightly modified procedure. The total RNA was only sheared for 1.5 minutes and prior to the final PCR enrichment, the library was run on a LabChip XT DNA 750 (PerkinElmer; Waltham, Massachusetts) to select for 500bp fragments (+/-5%). The final library was sequenced on the Illumina HiSeq 2000 (Illumina; San Diego, CA) yielding 43.6 million 100 base pair paired-end reads. The transcriptome was assembled using a previously described pipeline (19). Approximately 27,000 sequences were initially assembled and then curated to 9,986 sequences with BLAST hits to the Swiss-Prot database (E value of 1xe<sup>-5</sup> or less), thus allowing for identification of open reading frames and transcript orientation. To identify transposon sequences, all known *Hydra* transposons were first downloaded from RepBase (current version August, 5<sup>th</sup> 2013). One sequence was removed (hAT-64\_HM|hAT|Hydra\_magnipapillata) due to ambiguous characters, yielding 565 transposons. We compared the *de novo* transcriptome against the *Hydra* transposon database by BLAST analysis (tblastx -evalue .00001) and any transcripts with a BLAST hit were flagged as transposons. Small RNAs were trimmed of adapter sequence using CutAdapt (version 1.0 "-a ATCTCGTATGCCGTCTTCTGCTTG -m 10 --too-

short-output --untrimmed-output", though subsequent analysis ignored small RNAs shorter than 23nt) and were mapped to the transcriptome allowing up to a 3 base-pair mismatch using Bowtie 1 (version 0.12.9) with the following settings: "-a --best --strata -v 3". 1.4 million small RNAs at least 23 base pairs long from the total small RNA library were mapped to the transcriptome, 63% of these mapped to transposon sequences. Hywi-bound piRNAs and Hylibound piRNAs at least 23 base pairs long were also mapped to the transcriptome: 725,000 Hywi-bound piRNAs mapped and 963,000 Hyli-bound piRNAs mapped. For the lineage-specific small RNA sequences, adapter sequences were trimmed, using CutAdapt with the following settings: "-a TGGAATTCTCGGGTGCCAAGGC -m 15". The trimmed reads were mapped against the transcriptome with Bowtie 1 (version 0.12.9) with the same settings as above and yielded: 1,247,033 interstitial, 488,903 ectodermal, and 848,964 endodermal small RNAs 23 nucleotides or greater. Transcripts with at least 10 times more mapped piRNAs from a specific lineage as compared to other lineages (normalized to the size of the libraries) were considered putative lineage-specific targets for that particular lineage. Gene ontology analysis of putative PIWI-piRNA pathway targets was done using DAVID (20), employing the Swiss-Prot identification from the closest BLAST hit. All small RNA short reads, RNA-seq short reads and the assembled transcriptome were deposited under NCBI BioProject PRJNA213706.

#### **Real-time quantitative PCR to test** *hywi* **knockdown levels**

RNA was isolated from F1 *Hydra* hatchlings expressing the *hywi* RNAi-1 transgene and from wild type F1 siblings by Trizol extraction (Life Technologies; Carlsbad, CA). Further purification of the RNA and on-column DNAse-treatment was performed using the RNeasy Mini Kit (Qiagen; Valencia, CA) according to the manufacturer's protocol. Reverse transcription was performed using the High Capacity cDNA Reverse Transcription Kit (Life Technologies; Carlsbad, CA ) according to the manufacturer's protocol. Real-time quantitative PCR was carried out using iQ SYBR Green 2x Supermix on a CFX96™ thermal cycler (Bio-rad; Hercules, CA). Primer pairs were as follows: Actin (Forward: AAGCTCAGAGCAAACGTGGT; Reverse: GGACAGGGTGTTCTTCTGGA); GAPDH (Forward: GACAACCATTCATGCCACAA; Reverse: ACAGCTTTTGCAGCTCCAGT); Hywi-1 (Forward: CCACAACCTCCTGTTGGAGT; Reverse: TGAGCAGTTTGCTGAGGTTG); Hywi-2(Forward: ACCCAAGGACCAATCCTTTT; Reverse: AAATTTTTCGCACGCATCTC); Hyli (Forward: GCCCTGGAAACACCTATGAA; Reverse: GGATGAGTGCCCATTCACTT).

## **RNAi plasmid description and construction**

The RNAi plasmids were designed in an operon configuration such that the upstream hairpin and the downstream DsRed2 gene are transcribed together from an actin gene promoter, with the bicistronic primary transcript then being separated into a hairpin RNA and a DsRed2 mRNA by trans-splicing (2) (See Fig 4*A*). The RNA hairpin consists of a ~500 base pair fragment from the target gene cloned in an inverted orientation around an actin intron sequence (483 base pairs). Downstream of the hairpin cassette is the DsRed2 gene followed by the actin 3'UTR (500 base pairs). In between the hairpin cassette and the DsRed2 gene is the RFC140/*flp* intergenic sequence, which contains an acceptor for trans-spliceed leader addition (2). Thus, the RNA hairpin and DsRed2 transcript are arranged in an operon configuration and are spliced apart after transcription.

The operon plasmid pHyVec11 (2) was modified by the insertion of a GFP hairpin (nucleotides 1-552) separated by the intron from a *Hydra* actin gene (21) in the upstream position of the operon. This plasmid, named pHyVec12 (*gfp* RNAi), was then used to construct the *hywi* RNAi-1 and *hywi* RNAi-2 plasmids. pHyVec12 was cut with NheI and BamHI to remove the GFP hairpin and the actin intron. *Hywi* forward and reverse sequences (379-899 or 1557- 2093), surrounding the actin intron sequence, were then inserted into the plasmid using the Cold Fusion Cloning Kit (System Biosciences; Mountain View, CA).

#### **Generation of transgenic** *Hydra***.**

The generation of transgenic *Hydra* was performed as previously described (2, 3). *Hywi* RNAi and *gfp* RNAi plasmids were prepared by Maxiprep (Qiagen, Valencia, CA) and eluted in RNase-free water. Plasmid DNA was injected at a final concentration of 1 mg/mL using an IM-9B Narishige microinjector (Narishige; East Meadow, NY) under a Zeiss dissecting scope (Carl Zeiss, Inc.; Thornwood, NY).

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## **II. Supplementary Figure Legends**

## **Supplemental Figure 1: Generation and characterization of antibodies against Hywi and Hyli.**

(A) *Hydra* is a member of the phylum Cnidaria, which is the sister group to the bilaterians. (B) An unrooted neighbor-joining phylogram demonstrates that *hywi* and *hyli* cluster with *piwi* family

genes and that *Hy-ago1* and *Hy-ago2* cluster with *ago* family genes. *Hywi* clusters with *miwi*, *ziwi*, and *seawi* (red lines) and *hyli* clusters with *mili*, *zili*, and *seali* (green lines). Numbers indicate bootstrap replicate values from 1000 iterations. Abbreviations are as follows: Mm (*Mus musculus*), Dr (*Danio rerio*, i.e. zebrafish), Sp (*Strongylocentrotus purpuratus*, i.e. sea urchin), Sm (*Schmidtea mediterranea*, i.e. planarian), Dm (*Drosophila Melanogaster*). (C) *Hywi* and *hyli* have conserved ARGONAUTE family domain structures. Sequence comparisons between the protein domains of Hywi and Hyli show that the N-terminal and Mid-domains have lower sequence identity (23% and 27%) as compared to the PAZ and PIWI domains (48% and 58%). (D,E) Polyclonal antibodies were raised against the N-terminal and Mid-domains of Hywi (in rabbit) and Hyli (in guinea pig). (F) The 100kDa protein immunoprecipitated with the Hywi Nterminus (N) antibody is recognized by the antibody raised against the Mid-domain (MD) of Hywi, but not by the N-terminal Hyli antibody. (G) The 100 kDa protein immunoprecipitated with the Hyli N-terminus antibody is recognized by the antibody raised against the Mid-domain of Hyli, but not by the N-terminal Hywi antibody.

## **Supplemental Figure 2: Hyli protein is expressed in interstitial stem cells and mitotically active epithelial stem/progenitor cells.**

(A-C) Hywi (red) and Hyli (green) antibodies stain the same population of cells throughout the body column. Green nematocyte (e.g. asterisk) labeling in panel B is non-specific labeling from the secondary antibody. (D-F) Hyli (red) is expressed in the C41-positive (green) I-cells. (G-J) Confocal images of Hyli accumulation in perinuclear granules in ectodermal (G,H) and endodermal (I,J) epithelial cells. Staining was done on transgenic *Hydra* that express GFP in either the ectodermal (H) or endodermal (J) lineages. DNA is labeled with Hoechst 33342.

## **Supplemental Figure 3:** *Hydra* **PIWI proteins are expressed in developing nematoblasts.**

Interstitial stem cells in the process of differentiating into nematocytes, the specialized stinging cells of cnidarians, undergo four divisions with incomplete cytokinesis that give rise to 2-, 4-, 8 and 16-cell nematoblast nests that are distributed throughout the body column. In the final step of differentiation, the cells break apart from the nests and migrate to the tentacles (22, 23). (A-L) Staining of dissociated *Hydra* cells show that Hywi (red) and Hyli (green) proteins are expressed in 4-cell (A-C), 8-cell (D-F), and 16-cell (G-I) nematoblast nests, but not in differentiated nematocytes (J-L). DNA is labeled with Hoechst 33342.

## **Supplemental Figure 4: FACS isolation of ectodermal and endodermal cells.**

(A) Transgenic *Hydra* expressing GFP in the endoderm and DsRed2 in the ectoderm (see Fig. 2*B*) (12) were dissociated into single cells which were then sorted by FACS. Double-negative (DN) cells were also collected as the interstitial lineage cell population (B) Imaging of cells after a sort demonstrates that the GFP-positive cells were successfully separated away from the total cell population.

## **Supplemental Figure 5: Isolation, deep-sequencing, and mapping of Hywi and Hyli bound piRNAs to the** *Hydra* **genome and beta elimination assay**

(A) Both total RNA and RNA extracted from Hywi and Hyli immunoprecipitates was 5' endlabeled with [ $y^{-32}$ P] ATP. Immunoprecipitated RNA contains piRNAs just below the 30 nucleotide marker (arrows). (B,C) Mapping of *Hydra* piRNAs to the genome: "Total" is small RNAs selected by size and "Hywi" and "Hyli" are the piRNAs isolated from Hywi and Hyli immunoprecipitates respectively. (B) piRNAs that map uniquely to the *Hydra* genome (~50%) showed no enrichment for transposon/repeat sequences (the *Hydra* genome is 57% transposon/repeat sequences) (17). (C) Analyzing all piRNAs that map to the genome, even those that map in multiple places, also shows no significant enrichment for transposon/repeat sequences. In this analysis, piRNAs that map more than once are weighted. (D) Analysis of nucleotide distribution across the length of Hywi-bound and Hyli-bound piRNAs demonstrates that Hywi-bound piRNAs have a strong preference for uridine at the 5' position and Hyli-bound piRNAs have a strong preference for adenine at the  $10<sup>th</sup>$  position. (E) Northern blot analysis of total RNA subjected to β-elimination or control total RNA. Anti-sense probes detect *Hydra* miR2030 (16) or an abundant *Hydra* transposon-derived Hyli-associated piRNA with the following sequence: GGTGATCGAATTCCTGGCGTTTGGATT. The piRNA, but not the miRNA, is protected from nucleotide loss due to β-elimination, thus indicating that the piRNA is 2'-Omethylated at the 3' end similar to piRNAs in *Drosophila* and mice (24-27).

**Supplemental Figure 6: Analysis of lineage-specific small RNAs.** (A) Size distribution of lineage specific small RNAs. (B) Analysis of nucleotide distribution across the length of small RNAs between 26 and 34 nucleotides long from each lineage (interstitial, ectoderm, and endoderm) demonstrates a strong preference for uridine at the 5' position for small RNAs from all three lineages. (C) Small RNAs between 26 and 34 nucleotides long isolated from the interstitial lineage have a higher frequency of complementary overlap 10 bases from their 5' end compared to small RNAs of the same length isolated from the ectodermal or endodermal lineages. (D-E) In order to compare the numbers of small RNAs mapping to the same transcript

across the three lineage datasets and to compare piRNA mapping numbers between different transcripts, the mapped reads were normalized similarly to RPKM (28) (here piPKM) and log transformed. (D) The interstitial lineage has many more small RNAs mapping to transposons [average log(piPKM) in the interstitial lineage is 0.48] compared with the epithelial lineages [average 0.11, -0.02 in the ectoderm and endoderm lineages respectively]. (E) Non transposon transcripts have many fewer small RNAs mapping to them and there is no lineage specific difference [average log(piPKM) is -0.74, -0.51, -0.60 in interstitial, ectoderm and endoderm lineages respectively].

## **Supplemental Figure 7: Transmission of the** *hywi* **RNAi-1 transgene through the germline and knockdown of** *hywi* **in the epithelial cells of F1 hatchlings.**

(A-C) A transgenic line was established that uniformly expresses DsRed2 under control of an actin promoter in all three lineages. This was accomplished by sexual transmission of the transgene. Double labeling with antibodies against Hywi and DsRed2 demonstrates that the transgene is expressed in the epithelial cells, but not in the interstitial stem cells (arrow in panel C). (D) Stable lines were created expressing the *hywi* RNAi-1 or *hywi* RNAi-2 transgene (Fig. 4A,B) in the interstitial lineage under the control of the actin promoter, which can be observed by DsRed2 expression in the differentiated cells of the lineage. (E,F) In one line *hywi* RNAi-1 is transmitted through the germline. (G-I) The resulting F1 *Hydra* hatchlings do not express Hywi in the epithelial cells (H,I), but Hywi protein is detected in nontransgenic F1 siblings (G). (J-L) Hywi protein is still detected in the interstitial stem cells of *hywi* knockdown hatchlings because the actin promoter is not active in these cells. Transgenic cells are identified by labeling with an antibody against DsRed2. DNA is labeled with Hoechst 33342. (M) *hywi* mRNA levels were tested by qRT-PCR at several time points after hatching and eating in *hywi* knockdown F1 *Hydra* as compared to wild type F1 sibling controls (normalized to actin).

## **III. Supplemental Table Legends**

## **Supplemental Table 1: piRNA mapping to the** *Hydra* **transcriptome.**

The numbers correspond to the bar graph in Figure 3E. For transposon transcripts, the majority of Hywi-bound piRNAs are mapped in the anti-sense orientation (yellow boxes) and the majority of Hyli-bound piRNAs are mapped in the sense orientation (grey boxes). The majority of both Hywi- and Hyli-bound piRNAs that map to non-transposon transcripts map in the sense orientation (yellow boxes).

## **Supplemental Table 2: Gene ontology analysis of transcripts with greater than 10 Hywibound piRNAs mapped.**

Categories highlighted in green are enriched only for transcripts with Hywi-bound mapping piRNAs and categories highlighted in purple are enriched for transcripts with both Hywi- and Hyli-bound mapping piRNAs.

## **Supplemental Table 3: Gene ontology analysis of transcripts with greater than 10 Hylibound piRNAs mapped.**

Categories highlighted in blue are enriched only for transcripts with Hyli-bound mapping piRNAs and categories highlighted in purple are enriched for transcripts with both Hywi- and Hyli-bound mapping piRNAs.

## **Supplemental Table 4: Gene ontology analysis of putative lineage-specific targets of the PIWI-piRNA pathway.**

Lineage-specific small RNAs 23 nucleotides or greater in length were mapped to the *Hydra* transcriptome. Transcripts with at least 10 times more small RNAs mapping from a specific lineage were identified as putative targets specific to that lineage. The category "epithelium" is a combination of both ectodermal and endodermal small RNAs as compared to interstitial small RNAs, thus identifying putative mRNAs that are targeted in both epithelial layers, but not in the interstitial lineage.



# **C** *Hydra* Piwi protein domain structure



**D** MID-domain Antibodies **E** N-terminal Antibodies







10

















**D**

## **G DU BC DA**

















# **D. Transposons E. Non-Transposons**











# **Supplemental Table1**



## **Supplemental Table 2: Gene ontology analysis of transcripts with greater than 10 Hywi-bound piRNAs mapped.**





**Supplemental Table 3: Gene ontology analysis of transcripts with greater than 10 Hyli-bound piRNAs mapped.**





## **Supplemental Table 4: Gene ontology analysis of putative lineage-specific targets**







## **Interstitial cells**

