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# Supplemental Information

# Prospective Isolation and Comparison of Human Germinal Matrix and Glioblastoma EGFR<sup>+</sup> Populations with Stem Cell Properties

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**Figure S1 (Relates to Figure 1 and Figure 2)**



**EGFR Nestin GFAP**

**EGFR SOX2 GFAP**

**EGFR Ki67 GFAP**

**TUJ1 Ki67 GFAP DAPI**

**EGFR Ki67 GFAP DAPI**

**Figure S1 Expression of EGFR, proliferation and stemness markers in the germinal matrix and glioblastoma**

Immunofluorescence analysis of EGFR expression in germinal matrix (GM) tissue at 16 and 22 gestational weeks (gw) reveals (**A-B**) active proliferation, as assessed by Ki67, in many EGFR+ but also in EGFR– cells (see also Figure 1A). Most EGFR+ cells in the GM co-express the stem cell markers Nestin (**C-D**) and SOX2 (**E-F**). NESTIN+EGFR– and SOX2+EGFR– cells are also present. (**G**) Single cell-derived clones (1 cell/well) from EGFR+ GM isolates are diffusely positive for EGFR and SOX2, and negative for GFAP. **(H)** Although normally quiescent, cells within the adult SVZ tissue can become reactivated to enter cell cycle after an acute ischemic injury, showing increased EGFR expression and occasional co-localization with Ki67. Immunofluorescence staining of glioblastoma (GBM) tissues (also used for FACS) show frequent co-expression of EGFR with Nestin **(I-J)**, SOX2 **(K),** Ki67 and GFAP **(L)**; as well as variable expression of the neuronal differentiating marker TUJ1 (M). (N) Single-cell seeding (1cell/well) of <sup>LB</sup>EGFR+DAPI<sup>low</sup> populations yields GS with diffuse expression of EGFR (ED), SOX2, and Nestin. (**O**) Low-passaged, self-renewing GS grow with and without EGF supplementation in culture, the latter displaying upregulated EGFR expression (10cells/ul, GBM G-12746, <sup>LB</sup>EGFR+DAPI<sup>low</sup> population). Dashed line indicates ependymal layer. Scale bar: 50μm

**Figure S2 (Relates to Figure 1 and Figure 2)**



# **Figure S2 Functional analysis of EGFR+ GM and GBM cells**

G-9259, d3

**(A)** Immunofluorescence (IF) of GM at 17 weeks of gestation reveals EGFR+ cells with radial morphology (arrows) next to the developing ependymal layer (dash lines) in the lateral ventricle, some of which co-localize with GFAP (arrowhead). Many EGFR+OLIG2+ (\*\*) and scattered EGFR+GFAP+OLIG2+ (\*\*\*) cells are seen in the deeper GM. (**B)** In the infant SVZ, the expression of EGFR diminishes, but some EGFR+GFAP+, EGFR+OLIG2+ (B1), as well as exclusively EGFR+ (B2) or OLIG2+ (arrow) cells are found. **(C)** Adult SVZ shows occasional EGFR+GFAP+ co-localization in the astrocyte ribbon (C1, arrow) and in the hypocellular layer (arrowheads); EGFR+GFAP– cells are also seen (C2, arrow). **(D-E)** FACS-isolated EGFR+ GM cells form primary (1°) and secondary (2°) neurospheres (NS). Rare 1° NS derived from EGFR– cells were noted in one case of early gestational age, F-9061, in much lower numbers than those derived from EGFR+ cells ( $p=0.0009$ ) ( $n=3$ ); these failed to form  $2^{\circ}$  NS or to differentiate effectively, undergoing apoptosis with rare TUJ1+ cells and no appreciable GFAP and O4 positivity. **(F)** While 1° NS formation from GM EGFR+ cells is not significantly affected by the withdrawal of EGF or FGF from the cell culture media, 2°NS are reduced (p=0.03) (n=3). **(G)** IF of acutely isolated EGFR+/– GM cells two hours after FACS shows predominant distribution of EGFR in the positive fraction, and comparable expression of Ki67 and SOX2 (F-9449, 21gw). **(H)** Postnatally, rare NS can be seen in EGFR+ cells up to 11 weeks of infancy, smaller in size, and unable to form 2° NS. **(I)** Occasional EGFR+ cells can be acutely isolated from adult SVZ, but they are not able to form NS, regardless of the age of the specimen (n=10). **(J-K)** In GBM, sphere-forming ability is retained in serially passaged GS after removal of EGF ligand ("FGF only") and after removal of all ligands ("No Ligand") from the culture medium (n=5). **(L)** GBM tumor, which lacked EGFR amplification, chromosome 7 polysomy, and EGFR expression, did not have a well-defined EGFR+DAPIlow population (EGFRdim) and showed equivalent GS formations in the EGFR– and EGFR<sup>dim</sup> fractions. gw=gestational weeks; wks=weeks, yrs=years; d=days. Percentages of populations shown in FACS plots are from total live events, as determined by DAPI staining. Scale bar=50µM.

**Figure S3 (Relates to Figure 2)** 



**Figure S3 Comparison of EGF ligand and antibody-based isolation of sphere-forming populations in GBM** 

**(A)** Representative single and FMO color controls in combined CD133/EGF FACS. **(B)** In GBM**,** FACS isolation using EGF demonstrates a unique live cell population with forward scatter shift, which is able to incorporate some DAPI (termed DAPI<sup>low</sup>; dashes outline nucleus). Combined CD133 and EGF FACS analysis demonstrates three defined populations: EGFR+CD133+, EGFR+CD133–, and EGFR– CD133–. Both EGFR+CD133+ and EGFR+CD133– cells display 1° GS formations *in vitro* (day 12, EGF+bFGF) (see also Figure 2I-K). **(C)** EGFR+CD133+ and EGFR+CD133– sorted populations show similar number of GS when grown with or without EGF supplementation, and even with no ligand in the culture medium. EGFR+CD133+ GS formed in no ligand conditions have smaller diameter compared to EGF+FGF (low-passaged, patient-derived GS, n=3 tumors; 6 days). **(D)** CD24+, CD34+, and CD45+ single populations do not form GS (3 tumors, 12 days). (**E-G**) Functional analysis of populations derived from combined FACS using EGF and either CD140a (PDGFRalpha)  $(n=3)$  (E), CD171  $(n=3)$  (F), or CD44  $(n=2)$  (G) shows that in each case the <sup>LB</sup>EGFR+ populations encompass all sphere-



**C** 

# **GM EGFR+** *vs* **EGFR– up (GM E+ up)**



# **GM EGFR–** *vs* **EGFR+ up (GM E+ down)**



**D** 

# **GBM EGFR+** *vs* **EGFR– up (GBM E+ up)**



# **GBM EGFR– vs EGFR+ up (GBM E+ down)**



# **Differential gene expression and gene set enrichment analyses in GM and GBM**

**(A)** Principal component analysis and hierarchical clustering (see Figure 4A) of all RNAseq samples confirms reproducibility, showing a tight clustering of biological replicates. While developing GM EGFR+ and EGFR– transcriptomes are similar to one another, GBM EGFR+ transcriptomes are more similar to GMs than to their EGFR– neoplastic counterpart. **(B-D)** Gene enrichment analyses are performed on the sets of most highly differentially regulated genes (FDR adjusted p  $\leq 0.05$ ,  $|\text{Log}_2(\text{fold change})| \geq 2$ ) in GM EGFR+ *vs*. EGFR– and in GBM EGFR+ *vs*. EGFR–. **(B)** Analysis of differentially upregulated gene sets in EGFR+ GM (GM E+ up) and in EGFR+ GBM (GBM E+ up) using the PANTHER tool depicts prominent representation of top biological processes related to cellular process (cell cycle, cell proliferation, cytokinesis, chromosome segregation, cellular component movement, and cell communication), metabolic process, and developmental process in both data sets. **(C-D)** Analysis for gene set enrichment using the HOMER tool (p <0.05,  $\text{[Log,(fold change)]} \geq 2$ ) in both differentially upregulated  $(E+ up / E- down)$  and downregulated  $(E+ down / E- up)$  GM and GBM gene sets. Representative top biological and molecular processes (GO) and Wikipathways (WP) are depicted, showing enrichment for cell division, cell cycle regulation, stem cell proliferation, and EGFR signaling in EGFR+ populations of both GM (C) and GBM (D) (top), and more variable processes related to cell differentiation, migration, and inflammation in EGFR– populations (bottom).

# **Supplemental Table 1 (Relates to Figures 1-4)**

# **Sample information**



# **Supplemental Table 1 (Continuation)**



De-identified information for postmortem fetal (F), infant (I), and adult (A) samples, and for glioblastomas (G), used in the various experiments, including code, age, gender, % live cells isolated by fluorescence-activated cell sorting (FACS) assessed by DAPI, % EGFR+ live cells and postmortem time (PMT) (for non-neoplastic only), and EGFR gene amplification (CISH), EGFRvIII mutation (RT-qPCR), IDH1-R132H mutation (IHC), and EGFR expression status (IHC, for tumors only). FACS analysis was performed in all samples, but due to limited surgical and viable postmortem tissue availability, other experiments had more restricted sample allocation. ( $M =$  male;  $F =$  female;  $U =$ unknown gender;  $gw =$  gestational weeks;  $yrs =$  years; wks = weeks;  $GM =$  germinal matrix;  $SVZ =$  subventricular zone; c = cells; WT = wild type; Amp = amplification; Chr = chromosome; CISH = Chromogenic In Situ Hybridization; IHC = Immunohistochemistry; 'not included in GS quantification;  $Y = Yes$ ,  $N = No$ ).

#### **Supplemental Table 2 (Relates to Figures 1-2)**

#### **Analysis of stem cell frequency in GM and GBM**



Extreme limited dilution assay (ELDA) analysis of primary (1°) and low-passaged (lp) spheres reveals comparable stem cell frequency in EGFR+DAPI– germinal matrix  $(GM)$  and <sup>LB</sup>EGFR+DAPI<sup>low</sup> GBM cells, with the ability of both to generate clonal NS/GS from single cells. Un-paired t-test analysis shows no significant difference in stem cell frequency between GBM and GM EGFR+ populations, including under different ligand supplementation conditions: EGF+FGF (E+F), FGF only (FGF), or in absence of both ligands (No ligands, NL).

# **Supplemental Table 3 (Relates to Figure 4)**

# **Gene enrichment analysis of differentially expressed EGFR+ GM and GBM genes**

Whole transcriptome analysis via RNAseq was performed on 3 GBM <sup>LB</sup>EGFR+/EGFR– and 3 GM EGFR+/EGFR– acutely sorted populations. After mapping data to the hg38 genome, differential expression analysis was performed between <sup>LB</sup>EGFR+ and EGFR– GBM samples, and between EGFR+ and EGFR– GM samples (see also Figure S4 and supplemental experimental procedures). The data was analyzed for gene set enrichment using the HOMER tool (Heinz et al., 2010) (FDR adjusted p <0.05, Log<sub>2</sub>(2)), including analysis of biological processes, molecular functions, wikipathways, and the COSMIC mutation (Forbes et al., 2015) database gene sets. Also included is the list of 50 differentially upregulated genes shared between GM and GBM EGFR+ populations (see also Figure 4C).

#### **Supplemental Experimental Procedures**

#### **Sample collection**

All specimen collection was performed in accordance with the policies and regulation of the Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai and its institutional review board. For non-neoplastic studies (IRB exemption HS#1401007), GM or SVZ were carefully dissected from fresh de-identified pediatric or adult postmortem brains, with comparable representation of either sex, post mortem time < 24 h for adult and < 48 h for pediatric, and without gross brain pathology. One portion of the tissue was placed in fresh PIPES solution for subsequent FACS analysis and cell culture; another portion was frozen on dry ice for downstream molecular analyses; and the remainder was fixed in 4% paraformaldehyde (PFA) for 24-72hrs. For glioma studies (IRB AAAJ9652-Y1M00, HS14#01007), deidentified GBM samples were obtained from the tissue biorepository, within 0.5-3 hours of neurosurgical resection. Only tumor specimens with histological features of GBM on frozen section, evaluated by another neuropathologist, were used for downstream molecular analyses in this study. Refer to Table S1 for additional sample information.

# **Fluorescence-activated cell sorting**

Fresh tissue (~500mg of dissected GM/SVZ and 50-500mg GBM) was first finely minced mechanically, then enzymatically dissociated with papain (Worthington, LS003119, 0.3mg/ml, 45 units/sample) at 37°C for 13 min in rotation, and finally triturated in DMEM media with DNase (Worthington, LS002139, 0.1mg/ml) and ovomucoid protease inhibitor (Sigma Aldrich, 0.7mg/ml). Extracellular debris and myelin were removed by passage through 22% Percoll; red blood cells were lysed for 10min at RT (Ebioscience, 00-4300-54); then cells were washed once with HBSS+1% BSA+0.1% glucose. Live cell number was calculated via trypan blue incorporation using an automated cell counter (Countess, Invitrogen). Cells were incubated with Alexa Fluor® 647 (APC) EGF complex (Life Technologies, E-35351) (1µg/10<sup>6</sup> live cells) for 30 min on ice. In some experiments, antibodies against CD133-FITC, CD171-FITC, CD140a-FITC, and CD44-PE were used in combination with EGF. Exclusion of ependyma/neuroblasts, endothelium, and inflammatory cells were accomplished with CD24-PE, CD34-PE, CD45- PE, respectively (Codega et al., 2014). DAPI was used to discern between live and dead cells. No color, single color, and fluorescence minus one (FMO) color controls were done to establish negative/positive cut-off values for the populations. Cells were sorted on a Becton Dickinson FACSAria™ III sorter. See antibody summary below.

# **Self-renewal, differentiation, and ELDA protocols**

For primary NS/GS formation analysis, immediately after sorting, cells were seeded on 96-well low-adherence plates at a density of 10c/µl, in triplicates, in NS media (1X N2, 1X B27, 20µM glutamine, 1X Insulin/Transferrin/Selenium, 15mM HEPES, 0.6% glucose, 1X Antibiotic/Antimycotic, in DMEM/F12 media) supplemented with EGF (20ng/ml) and bFGF (20ng/ml) (FGF). In some cases, EGF and/or bFGF was omitted. Cells were maintained at 37 $\degree$ C and 5% CO<sub>2</sub> for up to 4 weeks, changing 2/3 of media after day 6<sup>th</sup> and every 3-4 days thereafter. For acute staining analysis, 2000 EGFR– and EGFR+ cells were seeded immediately after FACS isolation on PDL-laminin-coated coverslips, incubated at 37°C for 2hr in NS media without growth factors, then gently centrifuged for 1min at 1000rpm, fixed for 10min with 4% PFA, washed with 1X PBS, and stored at 4°C for IF. The rest of the sorted cells were pelleted at 500g for 5min at 4°C and immediately frozen at -80°C for subsequent DNA/RNA analyses. Images of NS/GS formation were captured with a light inverted microscope (Motic AE31) at Day6, Day12, and Day25 after seeding. Pictures covering the entire surface of the wells were taken at 10X and were used for subsequent counting. NS/GS diameter size was measured in all clones of all wells, 3 replicates/sample, and analyzed using ImageJ 1.43u software. For secondary/tertiary sphere passaging, single NS/GS reaching minimum size of 40µM were picked, pelleted at 100g for 1min, dissociated in 1ml of Accumax solution (Innovative Cell Technologies) for 10mins at RT with trituration, and incubated in NS media with growth factors (see above) at a clonal density of 1c/µl ((Pastrana et al., 2011). For differentiation, NS/GS were picked up and seeded on PDLlaminin coated glass coverslips or on 16-well chamber-slides (Thermofisher, 12-565) in differentiating NS media without B27, EGF, and bFGF, incubated for 14 days, and then fixed in 4% PFA for 10mins at RT. For some cases of differentiation O4 analysis, T3 hormone (1:1000) was added every 3 days. In all the experiments cells were seeded in triplicates.

Stem cell (self-renewal) frequency was calculated by using Extreme Dilution Limited Assay (ELDA) (Hu and Smyth, 2009). Briefly, FACS-sorted EGFR+ cells were plated in decreasing numbers from 100 cells/well to 1 cell/well in 200µl in similar conditions as for NS/GS formation analysis. Cultures were maintained until day 25 as described above. Then, the number of wells containing spheres for each cell plating density (number of positive cultures) was recorded, and plotted using online ELDA analysis program (http://bioinf.wehi.edu.au/software/elda).

# **RNAseq data analysis**

Illumina sequencer output FASTQ files for each sample were subjected to a quality control assessment using the FASTQC package. RNAseq reads were aligned to the human genome (GENCODE GRCh38) using STAR with default settings (Dobin et al., 2013). Gene counts were obtained using the featureCount utility of the subread

package (Liao et al., 2014). Differential expression analysis on the RNAseq data was performed using the DESeq2 R package (Love et al., 2014), which models the data with a negative binomial distribution and uses Empirical Bayes shrinkage for dispersion and fold-change estimation. Gene set enrichment analysis was done utilizing the HOMER tool (Heinz et al., 2010). The gene background set for the enrichment analysis was defined as the set of genes passing the independent filtering low expression threshold by DESeq2. All RNAseq tests were FDR adjusted for multiple testing correction.

# **Gene expression analysis**

For bulk tumor, total RNA was isolated using RNA easy mini kit (Qiagen, 71404) with DNase treatment (Qiagen, 79254). For sorted cells, total RNA was isolated via Trizol /chloroform /isopropanol extraction method following manufacturer's instructions (Life Technologies), followed by RNA cleanup-and-concentrator kit with DNase treatment (Zymo Research, R1013). cDNA was generated using the High-Capacity RNA-to-cDNA Kit (Life Technologies, 4387406). qPCR reactions were run in duplicates using the SYBR-Green based system (Quanta Biosciences). Each sample Ct value was normalized against the expression of the 40S Ribosomal Protein S11 (*RPS11*) as a housekeeping gene (HKG). Data was expressed either as the exponential fraction of HKG expression levels  $2^{-(CtSample - CtHKG)}$  ( $2^{-ACt}$ ) or as a fold change relative to the EGFR– fractions ( $2^{-(ACt})$ ). All primers used for the reactions (see table below) were designed to span exon-exon junctions in order to minimize genomic contamination except for those ones with no introns in their DNA sequence. Melting curves were analyzed to ensure specificity of the primers for a single product, and product size was confirmed by 2% agarose gel electrophoresis.

# **Table summary of primers used for RT-qPCR analysis**



# **Orthotopic transplantation**

All procedures performed in studies involving animals were in accordance with the ethical standards of the Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai (ISMMS). FACS-sorted cell populations from GBM samples (<sup>LB</sup>EGFR+DAPI<sup>low</sup>, <sup>LB</sup>EGFR+DAPI–, EGFR–DAPI<sup>low</sup>, or EGFR–DAPI–) without prior culturing were injected into the striatum of 2-month-old male mice with B & T cell ICR-Severe Combined Immunodeficiency (SCID) (IcrTac:ICR-Prkdc<sup>SCID</sup> strain, Taconic). Microinjections were performed using a stereotactic apparatus (Stoelting) and microsyringe (Hamilton). For each mouse,  $1x10^5$  cells were injected in a volume of 2 µl (Opti-MEM, Thermofisher) at the following stereotactic coordinates: 2mm right lateral to Bregma and 3mm deep. Note: for LBEGFR+DAPI– mice only,  $0.5x10^5$  cells were available for injection. After 2 months, mice were sacrificed and tumor initiation was analyzed by histological examination. At later time points, additional mice were sacrificed if they became clinically symptomatic.

#### **Immunofluorescence/Immunohistochemistry**

Specimens were fixed in 4% paraformaldehyde (PFA) in phosphate buffered saline (1X PBS) for 24hr (SVZ) to 72hr (GM) at 4°C, or in 10% formalin/1X PBS for 1-15 days (GBM and some GM and SVZ cases). Floating vibratome sections (40-60µm, stored in 1X PBS /0.01% NaN3) and formalin-fixed paraffin-embedded (FFPE) sections (4µm) were used. Mice were anesthetized with pentobarbital (i.p. injection of 650 mg/kg) and transcardially perfused with 1X PBS first and then with 4% PFA/1X PBS. Brains were removed and post-fixed in 4% PFA/1X PBS overnight, cryoprotected in sucrose gradient, and then embedded in O.C.T. Brains were serially cut with a cryostat (25µM). For immunofluorescence (IF) experiments, FFPE and vibrotome sections underwent antigen retrieval in boiling citrate buffer pH6 (Vector labs), blocking (10% normal donkey serum (NDS)/0.5% triton-X (TX), 1hr at RT), primary antibody incubation (1% NDS/0.25% TX overnight at 4°C), and species-appropriate fluorochrome-conjugated secondary antibody incubation (1% NDS/0.25% TX for 4hr at RT). Nuclear counterstain was with DAPI. For EGFR IF of adult SVZ, the primary antibody signal was amplified with TSA amplification system (PerkinElmer Labs, NEL700A001KT). Briefly, enzymatic digestion of the tissue was performed with protease enzyme (10µg/ml) at 37°C for 10min followed by 10min at RT. After blocking in TNB buffer for 30min at RT, sections were incubated with primary monoclonal mouse EGFR antibody (Invitrogen) overnight at 4°C. Secondary anti-mouse HRP-conjugated antibody was incubated for 4h at RT and one cycle of amplification was performed with tyramide and FITC-conjugated Streptavidin following manufacturer's instructions. Pertinent negative controls were simultaneously performed to ensure specific signal. FFPE sections were processed similarly to vibratome sections, with the exception of 1hr deparaffinization with subsequent rehydration in decreasing gradient of ethanol, antigen retrieval for 20min, blocking in 5% NDS/0.5% TX for 30min. IF on cells, mouse brain tissue, or differentiated NS/GS were performed similarly to human vibrotome tissues, except for omitting antigen retrieval and signal amplification. Specifically, O4 IF was performed on live unfixed cells, incubated with primary and secondary antibodies for 40min at 4°C and later fixed with 4% PFA. Zeiss LSM710 confocal microscope was used for visualization. Acute IF staining was performed similarly to NS/GS, except with 0.5hr blocking and 2hrs secondary antibody incubation. All immunohistochemical and EGFR chromogenic in situ hybridization (CISH) experiments were performed on automated Ventana XT/ULTRA machines following standard protocols (Ventana). Immunoreactivity was detected by means of the ultraview universal DAB detection kit (Ventana, 760-500) or ultraview SISH DNP detection kit (Ventana, 760-098).



#### **Table summary of antibodies used for immunofluorescence and FACS**



# **Statistical analysis**

Two-tailed unpaired Students' t-test was used to calculate significance (\*p≤0.05, \*\*p≤0.01, \*\*\*p<0.001), which was corrected for non-homogeneous variances. For non-parametric analysis, we used the Mann-Whitney U test. Bar graph data is represented as mean  $\pm$  SEM except for bar graphs in Figure 4E where plots show the median (black horizontal line), 25th and 75th percentiles (boxes) and range (whiskers) of the data. All pooled data in the main and supplementary figures comes from independent experiments, except for Figure S2E (3 wells from one sample).

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