Differential methylation of genes in individuals exposed to maternal diabetes in utero

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ESM Methods

Methylation measurement

DNA (1,000 ng) from peripheral blood leukocytes underwent sodium bisulfite treatment and recovery using the Zymo EZ DNA methylation Kit (Zymo Research, Irvine, CA). Converted DNA was analyzed for complete conversion and quantity by MethyLight [1]. Qualified DNA (15 μ I) was analyzed using the Infinium HumanMethylation450K Beadchip technology (Illumina Inc., San Diego, CA, USA). The raw signal intensities from the Beadchip were extracted, corrected for background fluorescence and red-green dye bias, using the R (version 3.1.1, http://www.r-project.org/) package *methylumi* [2]. The beta value, which measures the extent of methylation at the CpG site covered by a probe, was calculated as $(m/(m +$ (u)), in which m and u refer to the mean methylated and unmethylated probe signal intensities respectively. Beta values for which the fluorescent intensity was not significantly above the background signal (detection *p* value >0.01) were considered missing. Probes whose sequence overlaps with a SNP or indel (minor allele frequency >0.5%), as determined by whole genome sequence data available on 272 Pima Indians, were excluded ($N = 53,695$ excluded). In addition, probes which directly target SNPs ($N =$ 65), align to multiple genomic positions in Human genome build GRCh37.p13 ($N = 3$), map to the Y chromosome ($N = 32$) or provided a call rate <95% among all samples ($N = 8,471$) were also removed. The final analysis included 423,311 probes which mapped to an autosome or the X chromosome.

Mediation analysis

To assess the extent to which observed methylation differences may account for the increased diabetes risk in OMD, a formal mediation analysis was conducted [3]. This involved fitting the following regression models for methylation (M) and development of diabetes (D, by proportional hazards regression):

$$
M = a * EXP + \Sigma
$$

$$
D = c * EXP + \Sigma
$$

$$
D = b * M + c' * EXP + \Sigma
$$

where EXP represents intrauterine exposure (OMD = 1, OMND = 0) and Σ represents the effect of covariates. The significance of the mediation effect was assessed by comparing ab with its standard error $(= sqrt[a * SE_b² + b * SE_a² + SE_a² * SE_b²])$ [3]. Percentage mediation, or the extent to which the excess risk in OMD is potentially explained by the methylation effect, was taken as $100[1 - c'/c]$ [4].

ESM Tables

All results are shown for the 296 individuals who had data on pre-pregnancy maternal BMI. Effect represents the difference in percentage of DNA methylation in OMD compared with OMND. Effect_mBMI represents the difference after adjusting for maternal pre-pregnancy BMI (P_mbmi is the corresponding p value).

ESM Table 2. Differentially methylated pathways and genes.

O, the number of differentially methylated genes in the pathway; adjP, the false discovery rate.

ESM Table 3. Developmental role of the 11 genes among the 39 genes with genome-wide

significance.

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