# **SUPPLEMENTARY MATERIALS**

# **Notch signaling mediates differentiation in Barrett's Esophagus and progression to adenocarcinoma**

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#### **SUPPLEMENTARY METHODS**

#### *Institutional Review Board Approval*

The prosptective, multi-center cross-sectional study was approved by the Institutional Review Boards at Columbia University Medical Center (IRB protocol AAAI6700), the University of Pennsylvania (IRB protocol 814641), and Mayo Clinic (Rochester) (IRB protocol 11-006510).

#### *Histologic classification of BE subjects*

As the presence of dysplasia can vary within an individual over consecutive endoscopies, and there is significant inter-observer variability in the reading of dysplasia, we developed an algorithm to rigorously classify subjects based on their "worst" confirmed histology ever based on the following: Biopsies taken during the study endoscopy were interpreted by each study site's expert pathologist. These biopsies were also interpreted by a central pathologist (ARS), blinded to the local pathology read. If there was disagreement between the two reads, then a consensus diagnosis was reached after review by a third pathologist. If the subject had a history of prior dysplasia or EAC that had been confirmed by an expert GI pathologist, then these data were recorded. Each subject was then categorized based on comparison of the highest grade of neoplasia (dysplasia or cancer) from the study endoscopy and the worst from prior endoscopies.

#### *Goblet cell density assessment*

All biopsies obtained from the Barrett's segment for each subject were stained with hematoxylin and eosin and assessed for goblet cell density. The slides were then digitally scanned using a Leica scanner, and 200  $\mu$ m x 200  $\mu$ m grids were placed over the scanned slide image. (*Supplementary Figure 1A and B*) All areas of biopsies containing columnar-lined epithelium were evaluated at 10x magnification, excluding crushed tissue, oxyntic mucosa, and pancreatic metaplasia. As dysplasia is known to harbour reduced numbers of goblet cells, we only evaluated grids that contained at least 50% columnar lined epithelium and that contained exclusively non-dysplastic epithelium.

Each evaluable grid was assessed for the presence of goblet cells, using a semi-quantitative scoring method. The following scores were assigned to each evaluable grid: 0 (no goblet cells in the grid), 1 ( $\leq$  3 goblet cells in the grid), or 2 ( $>$  3 goblet cells in the grid). The primary outcome for goblet cell density was calculated for each subject as the number of grids with any goblet cells (score of 1 or 2) divided by the total number of evaluable grids. A secondary outcome for goblet cell density was calculated as the number of grids with high numbers of goblet cells (score of 2) divided by the total number of evaluable grids.

#### *Gene expression analyses of human samples*

Frozen esophageal biopsies were thawed, carefully removed from the Qiagen AllProtect*®* preservative and individually transferred into clean 1.5 mL polypropylene microcentrifuge snap-cap tubes (Eppendorf), where they were resuspended into 100 μL of TRIzol® Reagent (Ambion) and immediately snap-frozen again in liquid nitrogen. Each biopsy was then mechanically pulverized on dry ice, together with the solid 100 μL pellet of TRIzol® Reagent into which it had been resuspended, using a RNase-free disposable micro-pestle (Kimble Chase Life Science).<sup>15</sup> The pulverized material was subsequently dissolved by mixture with additional 400 μL of TRIzol® Reagent, which brought the final volume of the solution to 500 μL. The RNA was then isolated using a classic *"one-step"* acid guanidinium thiocyanatephenol-chloroform extraction protocol followed by isopropanol precipitation,<sup>16</sup> and finally purified using RNeasy*®* spin-columns with silica-based membranes (Qiagen). For each sample, RNA concentration and integrity were measured using a BioAnalyzer (Agilent). 92% of the samples yielded RNA with a RNA Integrity Number (RIN)  $>$  5 and 81% with a RIN  $>$  7, two commonly used metrics to define, respectively, good and high quality RNA preparations, suitable for qRT-PCR applications.<sup>17, 18</sup>

Immunohistochemistry analyses for NOTCH1, NOTCH3, and Ki67 were performed on Barrett's esophagus biopsies from a subset (n=36) of the subjects. The epithelial and stromal

compartments were analyzed and scored separately in a semi-quantitative fashion (range 0- 4). Further details are provided in the *Supplemental Methods* section.

#### *Gene expression analyses of human samples*

Samples were reverse transcribed according to the manufacturer's instructions for the High Capacity Reverse Transcription kit (Applied Biosystems, Foster City, CA). Briefly, 50 ng of total RNA was reverse transcribed in a 20 µl reaction mixture containing 0.8 µl of 100nM dNTP, 2.0  $\mu$ l RT buffer, 1.0  $\mu$ l of reverse transcriptase (50U/ $\mu$ l), 2  $\mu$ l of RT primer. The reaction mixture was mixed and incubated as follows: 25ºC for 10 min, 37ºC for 2 h, and then 85ºC for 5 sec, followed by a 4°C hold.

Pre-amplification of cDNA was initiated by creating a pool of 96 TaqMan mRNA assays at a final concentration of 0.2X for each assay. The pre-PCR amplification reaction was performed in a 5 µl reaction mixture containing 2.5 µl TaqMan PreAmp Master Mix (2X), 1.25 µl of 24 pooled TaqMan assay mix (0.2X) and 1.25 µl of cDNA. The pre-amplification PCR was performed according to the following cycling conditions: one cycle at 95ºC for 10 min, 14 cycles of 95ºC for 15 seconds and 60ºC for 4 minutes, followed by a 4°C hold. After preamplification PCR, the product was diluted 1:5 with  $dH_2O$  and stored at -20 $^{\circ}$  C until needed for final amplification.

Quantitative PCR of the mRNA targets was carried out using the 96.96 dynamic array IFC (Fluidigm, South San Francisco, CA) following the manufacturer's protocol. Briefly, a 5 µl sample mixture was prepared for each sample and contained 2x TaqMan Universal Master Mix (with UNG), 20X GE Sample Loading Reagent and each diluted pre-amplified cDNA. Five microliters of Assay mix was prepared with one 20X TaqMan mRNA assay (final concentration 10x) and 2X Assay Loading Reagent. The dynamic array was primed with control line fluid in the IFC controller and assay and sample mixes were loaded into the appropriate inlets. The chip was then returned to the IFC controller for loading and mixing, and then placed in the

BioMark Instrument for the final amplification step. The standard protocol for a 96x96 IFC consists of a thermal mix of 50ºC for 2 min, 70ºC for 30 min and 25ºC for 10 min; then a series of amplification steps: 50ºC for 2 min and 95ºC for 10 min, followed by 40 cycles at 95ºC for 15 sec and 60ºC for 1 min. The data was analyzed with Real-Time PCR Analysis Software in the BioMark instrument (Fluidigm, South San Francisco, CA).

The gene expression of 96 transcripts representing 80 genes in 192 samples was measured by PCR on two 96 samples plates with a Fluidigm Biomark M96 high-throughput PCR instrument.<sup>1-3</sup> Numbers of samples of each kind were closely balanced between plates. Samples with a significant portion of genes undetected were discarded, as were samples with RIN scores  $\leq 5.4$  Samples were also discarded which were outliers from the whole dataset, based upon principal component analysis performed using the R affycoretools package<sup>5</sup>, and hierarchical clustering with the R heatmap function using Euclidean distances and complete linkage clustering.<sup>6</sup> The expression of *EPCAM* vs the RIN score was plotted for the remaining samples as an additional check, and there were no significant outliers. Similarly, the expression of the house housekeeping genes *ACTB*, *GAPDH*, and *POLRA* were plotted against the RIN score and against each other, and there were no significant outliers. Gene expression was normalized against the average of the *ACTB*, *GAPDH*, and *POLRA* housekeeping genes. Differential expression was analyzed using Limma<sup>7</sup> blocked by plate and corrected for multiple testing using the Benjamini-Hochberg false discovery rate.<sup>8</sup> The primary comparison to identify differentially expressed genes associated with neoplastic progression was for samples from patients with HGD or EAC vs. those with non-dysplastic BE. The linear dependence and Spearman and Pearson Correlation coefficients of select genes relevant to Notch signaling from BE samples were estimated. Univariate dependencies were estimated and plotted using standard R functions. $9$  Multivariate dependencies were estimated using standard R functions and plotted with the car R package.<sup>10</sup> A list of pairs of genes studied in this manner is given in *Supplementary Table 2*. Correlograms were generated to visualize correlations graphically. A correlogram is a heatmap displaying correlations between

variables.<sup>11</sup> Correlograms differ from the usual heatmaps in microarray analysis, in that whereas the usual heatmaps depict quantity of expression, correlograms depict extent of correlation. A correlogram displaying gene expression was generated by calculating the Pearson correlation coefficient in the R stats package<sup>12</sup>, and then calculating Euclidean distances<sup>13</sup>, clustering the genes by complete linkage clustering<sup>13</sup> and displaying the heatmap with the R gplots package.<sup>14</sup>

#### *Immunohistochemistry of Human Samples*

Immunohistochemistry analyses were performed for Notch1, Notch3, and Ki67 on Barrett's esophagus biopsies from a subset (n=36) of subjects. Standard immunohistochemical procedures with 1X100ml Target retrieval solution (DAKO, S1699) were performed using the following antibodies: Notch1 antibody (cell signaling #3608), 1:50 incubated 1.5 h at RT (antibody diluent using DAKO company Catalog Numer:S0809 ), Notch3 antibody (ab23426) 1:1000 incubated 1.5 h at RT. (antibody diluent using cell signaling Catalog Numer:8112 ) and CONFIRM anti-Ki-67 (30-9) Rabbit Monoclonal Primary Antibody. Quantification was accessed as percentage of positive cells or areas within BE regions as previously described.<sup>15</sup>

#### *Lgr5 In Situ Hybridization (ISH)*

Detection of Lgr5 within murine tissue was performed using the Advanced Cell Diagnostics RNAscope 2.5HD Assay- BROWN kit with the Mm-Lgr5 probe (ACD, USA) on FFPE slides following the manufacturer's protocol.

#### *Flow cytometry*

Single-cell suspensions of murine esophageal, cardia tissue, forestomach and colon regions were generated by chopping tissue with scissors in EDTA solution. Then the tissue- and EDTA solution was transferred into digestion medium followed by incubation at 150 rpm at 37°C for 30 minutes. Digestion medium for esophagueal tissue consisted of 5ml Krebs Ringer buffer +4% (w/v) BSA (0.2g)+2mg/ml collagenase P (Roche). Digestion buffer for cardia and

forestomach consisted of 5ml DMEM + 2 mg/ml collagenase P +2mg/ml Pronase (Roche). Blood and spleen samples were used as controls. The following antibodies (eBioscience) were used for T-cell staining: purchased from eBioscience eFluor450-labelled anti-CD45 (48045182), APC-eFluor780-labelled anti-CD11b (47011282), Alexa-eFlour700-labelled anti-Ly-6G (56593182), FITC -labelled anti- CD11c (11011481), PE-labelled anti-Ly-6C (12593282), anti-F4/80 (14480181) for myeloid staining and e450-labelled anti-CD4 (48004180), APC-labelled anti-CD8a (17008182), FITC-labelled anti-CD3 (11003381), APCeFluor780-labelled anti-NK1.1 (47594182), PE-labelled anti- γδTCR (12571182).

To measure MUC/Muc2 levels in 3D cultured human or mouse derived organoids, cells were singularized by enzymatic digestion with trypsin (0.25% Trypsin-EDTA solution, Merck) and fixed with PFA (eBioscience 88-8824-00) prior treatment with APC-labelled anti-MUC2 antibody from Novus Biologicals. Frequencies of immune cells, isolated from relevant organs, were measured to evaluate potential shifts of the immune response due to genetic modifications.

#### *Real-time PCR analysis*

Subsequent to RNA isolation the QuantiTect Whole Transcriptome Kit (100) (207045, Qiagen) was used to enhance cDNA quantity. Quantitative PCR was performed using the LightCycler® 480 Instrument (Roche) and the QuantiFast SYBR Green PCR Kit (4000) (204057, Qiagen) according to the manufacturer's instructions. RNA levels were normalized to *GAPDH* levels. Primer sequences were designed with the NCBI PrimerBLAST tool and are listed in *Supplementary Table 3*.

### *DNA isolation and low coverage genome sequencing*

FFPE tissue was microdissected and approximately 250 ng DNA was isolated using the Maxwell 16 LEV Blood Kit with 1-Thioglycerol and Incubation Buffer for deparaffinization. Library preparation was performed with an average of 50 ng DNA per sample using the

NEBNext Ultra II FS DNA Library Prep Kit for Illumina. Samples were sequenced on an Illumina NextSeq system, resulting in ~20 Mio. single-end, 75 bp long, reads per sample. Resulting sequencing data was processed using a standardised set of pipelines.<sup>16</sup> Briefly, reads were trimmed using Trimmomatic and mapped to the mouse reference genome GRCm38.p6 using bwa mem. The GATK toolkit was used for base recalibration. Copy number alterations were called by HMMCopy, using data from the tail of backcrossed C57BL/6J mice as control.

#### *Immunohistochemistry*

Standard immunohistochemical procedures with citrate buffer antigen retrieval (1.00244.1000, Merck) were performed using the following antibodies: primary, rabbit anti-mouse Ki67 antibody (Abcam, ab15580, 1:500, 1h at room temperature) and secondary, goat anti-rabbit antibody (Vector Labs, BA-1000, 1:200, 30 min at RT); primary rabbit anti-human pIKKα/β antibody (Cell Signaling, 2697P, 1:75, overnight at 4°C); primary rabbit anti-human Notch2-IC antibody<sup>17</sup> (DSHB Hybridoma Bank, C651.6DbHN-c, 1:500; overnight at  $4^{\circ}$ C) and secondary, rabbit anti-rabbit antibody (Vector Labs, BA-4000, 1:500, 30 min at RT); primary anti-human p63 antibody (Abcam, ab735, 1:70 in M.O.M diluent; 30 min at RT) and secondary M.O.M. antibody (Vector Labs, BMK-2202,10 min at RT). Quantification was accessed as the percentage of positive cells in BE regions, which were defined as the defined BE region between squamous epithelium and oxyntic mucosa of the stomach or as the number of positive cells in 10 high-power fields of vision.

#### *Transcriptional profile analysis*

Total RNA from cardia and forestomach tissues of three mice for each phenotype were extracted using the RNA/Protein Kit (50) (80404, Qiagen) according to the manufacturers` instructions. RNA concentration and quality was assessed in a NanoDrop 2000 spectrophotometer (ThemoFisher). An Ambion WT Expression Kit (Thermo Fisher) was used to generate amplified sense-strand cDNA. Mouse gene 2.1st affymetrix arrays were used. Raw

data have been deposited in National Center for Biotechnology Information's Gene Expression Omnibus (GEO) are accessible through GEO accession (GSE103616). Gene set enrichment analysis (GSEA) was performed on the entire gene list ranked according to fold changes observed among WT mice and the phenotypes *pL2.Lgr5*, *pL2.Lgr5.N2fl/fl* and *pL2.Lgr5.N2IC*. Functional analysis was performed on the collapsed gene symbol list using GSEA with the MSigDB v3.0 (Molecular Signatures Database) C2-C7 gene sets.<sup>18</sup> Additional gene sets generated with genetically engineered mouse prostate cancer epithelial cells with increased Notch signalling (GSE76822 Notch signaling up) were generated accessing the public GEO database using the top 50 significant genes with a Notch signalling dependent gene expression (GSE76822).<sup>19</sup>

#### *Tissue preparation and disease evaluation*

Mice were sacrificed after 7, 10, 13, and 16 months and at terminal stage. Subsequently, the organs were removed and subjected to downstream application. For macroscopic scoring, the stomach was opened along the large curvature and flattened for documentation. Each stomach and esophagus was evaluated for tumor coverage, individual tumor size, total tumor size, and summed for an overall macroscopic score as previously described.<sup>25</sup> Histopathology was evaluated using a previously described scoring system.<sup>25</sup> Macroscopic scoring of the squamocolumnar junction (SCJ) and the esophagus was performed following an established methods for dysplasia assessment in the mice that our group has published previously<sup>20-24</sup>. For further RNA or protein analysis the SCJ was macroscopically identified as the first 2 mm of columnar tissue and cut with a magnifying glass dissection-scope to eliminate squamous tissue contamination as good as possible. Mouse tissues were fixed in formalin and paraffinembedded then cut and stained with H&E (Haematoxylins and eosin). *Histopathological scores were performed by an experienced mouse pathologist b*y previously established criteria for the influx of immune cells per high-power field, metaplasia and dysplasia25: *Inflammation was scored by the percentage of different immune cells (mostly neutrophilic myeloid cells) in a defined tissue area of the SCJ in a high-power field evaluation. Metaplasia was evaluated by* 

*the abundance of mucus producing or cells per gland and the abundance of glands with mucus producing cells in the BE area at the SCJ. Dysplasia was evaluated by the amount of cellular atypia and the presence of low or high grade dysplasia in single or multiple glands as assessed by experienced mouse pathologists.* Mucus production was assessed by Periodic Acid-Schiff- (PAS) staining and quantified as percentage of PAS positive area in BE regions. Crypt fission was quantified by counting fused crypts in the BE region per 10 high power fields. Crypt fission was quantified by counting fused crypts in the BE region by experienced pathologists (KS and AS), using previously described methods  $^{26}$ .

#### *3D organoid culture*

The cardia and forestomach tissue of mice was extracted for organoid culture as described previously and as shown in *Supplementary Figure 2B*. 14, 26 To date there is no molecular technique to determine the specificity of BE organoids compared to gastric organoids other than growth characteristics and location of tissue sampling. In our experiments, we isolated organoids only from mouse tissue specimens taken from the SCJ. We followed our published protocol using media that supports the growth of BE organoids, whereas gastric gland organoids typically require additional growths factors.<sup>26</sup> In control experiments with SCJ tissue from WT mice, we were unable to generate any organoids. At least three independent primary organoid lines that were freshly isolated from our mice or thawed and expanded from our human Barrett's biobank were used for cell proliferation or differentiation experiments only in early passages 3-5 during optimal expansion rates. Cells were exposed to small molecule inhibitors DAPT (D5942, Sigma; 50µM) and JSH-23 (J4455, Sigma; 10µM) for 72h to block Notch and NF-κB signaling. Inhibitor concentrations were adjusted due to 3D matrix conditions and non-specific toxicity. Organoid growth and cell differentiation was evaluated according to microscopic analyses, cell activity assay using a MTT cell activity assay (M2128-Sigma-Aldrich) or flow cytometry. For immunohistochemistry, H&E and PAS staining in paraffin imbedded organoids were stained and 8-12 organoids on 3-5 slides were included in each experiment. Organoid survival was microscopically assessed according to the number of

organoids two days after isolation relative to those with a viable morphology at day seven after isolation.

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# **SUPPLEMENTARY TABLES**



### **Supplementary Table 1.** Patient characteristics.

BMI, body mass index; WHR, waist-to-hip ratio; PPI, proton pump inhibitor; BE, Barrett's esophagus;

EAC, esophageal adenocarcinoma

\*BMI data missing on 21 subjects † WHR data missing on 53 subjects

‡ PPI data missing on 9 subjects





\*Assays in italics represent secondary assays analyzed in the event the primary chosen assay did not produce high quality data.



# **Supplementary Table 3:** Primers for Real-time Quantitative PCR

**Supplementary Table 4.** Association between gene expression of markers of Notch signaling with markers of goblet cell differentiation.



**Supplementary Table 5.** Notch gene expression in patients with Barrett's esophagus, comparing those with HGD or EAC vs. no dysplasia.



#### **SUPPLEMENTARY FIGURE LEGENDS**

#### **Supplementary Figure 1.**

Biopsy slides stained with hematoxylin and eosin were digitally scanned, and then overlaid with 200 μm x 200 μm grids, shown at low power (A, top image) and high power (B, bottom image). (C) Each evaluable grid was then scored for goblet cell density based on prespecified criteria. (D) There were significant correlations between expression of *NOTCH3* with *TGFB1*, *VEGF*, *MYC*, *CASP3*, and *CTTNB1* (E); and *JAG2* with *TGFB1*, *EGFR*, *MYC*, *CASP3*, and *CTTNB1*.

#### **Supplementary Figure 2.**

(A) IHC staining of Notch-IC. Shown are representative examples of indicated mouse strains and varying age. (B) Macroscopic image of murine esophagus, SCJ, and stomach. A similar image was shown in our previous publication<sup>27</sup> (C) Representative images of IHC for the indicated marker proteins using 3D cultured organoids from *pL2.Lgr5.N2IC* mice, exposed to the gamma-secretase inhibitor DAPT.

#### **Supplementary Figure 3**

Global gene expression analyses reveal Notch-dependent gene signatures. GSEA that are based on the global transcriptome of indicated mouse strains with mitigated Notch signaling.

#### **Supplementary Figure 4**

To demonstrate DNA alteration in *pL2.Lgr5.N2IC* mice compared to *L2-IL1B* mice dysplastic tissue areals from six *pL2.Lgr5.N2IC* and six *L2-IL1B* mice were microdissected and DNA was isolated for Library preparation (NEBNext Ultra II FS DNA Library Prep Kit for Illumina). Samples were sequenced on an Illumina NextSeq system and processed (Lange et al., Nature Protocols 2019) demonstrating increased copy number alterations (arrows) compared to controls.

#### **Supplementary Figure 5**

(A) Representative IHC images of small intestine tissue of *pL2.Lgr5*, *pL2.Lgr5N2fl/fl,* and *pL2.Lgr5.N2IC* mice using Ki67 antibody and performing Alcian Blue staining at indicated time points. The diagrams show the respective statistical evaluations of (B) goblet cell and (C) Ki67+ cell frequencies. Data are presented as means ± standard deviation. Statistical analysis was performed using one-way ANOVA and Tukeys multiple comparison test. \*p<.05.

### **Supplementary Figure 6**

Immune cell frequencies show no distinct differences in *pL2* mice strains with varying Notch signaling. Gating strategy of myeloid lineage cells (A) and relevant T cell populations (B) from the cardia and the forestomach region. Dot plots display are representative analyses of *pL2- IL1b* mice that were pre-selected for CD45 and viability. The statistical summary of each population, using at least three mice, is indicated according to the following surface patterns: Macrophages (CD11b+F4/80+Ly6Glow), neutrophils (CD11b+F4/80-Ly6Ghigh), immature myeloid cells (IMC, CD11b+Ly6ChighLy6Ghig), T helper cells (CD3+CD4+), Cytotoxic T cells (CD3+CD8+), NK cells (CD3+CD4-CD8-NK1.1+), and gamma delta T cells (CD3+CD4-CD8 gdT+). (C) FACS results were statistically summarized. Data is presented as means ± standard deviation. Statistical analysis was performed using one-way ANOVA and Tukeys multiple comparison test. \*p<.05.

#### **Supplementary Figure 7**

Disease progression directly correlates with expression intensity of marker genes. Statistical summary of Pearson correlations that were performed using gene chip data in regard to Notch and NFkB signaling, goblet cell differentiation and stem cell maintenance. The table summarizes the displayed diagrams.

### **Supplementary Figure 8**

Statistical summary of Pearson correlations that were performed using pathological scores and average gene chip data of each mouse strain in regard to Notch and NFkB signaling, goblet cell differentiation and stem cell maintenance. The table summarizes the displayed diagrams.





36. 37.



B







**pL2.Lgr5.N2IC vs pL2-IL1b pL2.Lgr5.N2IC vs pL2.Lgr5.N2fl/fl**







C













a, involved in Notch signaling; b, involved in NFkB signaling; c, goblet cell marker; d, stem cell associated





a, involved in Notch signaling; b, involved in NFkB signaling; c, goblet cell marker; d, stem cell associated

