**Supplementary information**

### **Hematopoiesis under telomere attrition at the single-cell resolution**

**Thongon et al.**

Short telomeres induce megakaryocyte/myeloid lineage reprogramming of the HSC compartment.



 $\mathbf c$ 

# **Supplementary Figure 1. Short telomeres induce megakaryocyte/myeloid lineage reprogramming of the HSC compartment.**

**a,** Relative telomere length (RTL) in primary BM cells from G0 ( $n = 10$ ) and G5/G6 ( $n = 9$ ) mice as determined by combined flow cytometry and fluorescence *in situ* hybridization analysis. Data are expressed as percentages of the G0 control. Bars represent the means  $\pm$  S.E.M. Statistically significant differences were detected using a two-tailed Student's *t*-test. \*\*\*\**P* < 0.0001. **b,** Blood cell counts of 2-month-old G0 ( $n = 22$ ) and G5/G6 ( $n = 29$ ) mice. Bars represent the  $means \pm S.E.M. RBC, red blood cells. Statistically significant differences were detected using a$ two-tailed Student's *t*-test. \*\**P* < 0.01, \*\*\*\**P* < 0.0001; Monocytes:  $P = 0.16$ ; Platelets:  $P =$ 0.64.

**c,** Representative hematoxylin and eosin–stained sections of BM biopsies from one G0 and one G6 mouse. Scale bars represent 100 μm.

### **Supplementary Figure 2** Short telomeres induce megakaryocyte/myeloid lineage reprogramming of the HSC compartment.



# **Supplementary Figure 2. Short telomeres induce megakaryocyte/myeloid lineage reprogramming of the HSC compartment.**

**a,** UMAP of scRNA-seq data displaying single-cell expression levels of the lineage markers used to define the LK cell clusters in Fig. 1a. Normalized gene expression is indicated by red shading. **b,** Distribution of G0 and G5/G6 LSK cells among the five scRNA-seq clusters shown in Fig. 1c and Fig. 1d, respectively. Data are shown as the percentages of cells belonging to each cluster. **c,** Representative gating strategy used to analyze the mouse HSPC populations.

**d,** UMAP of scRNA-seq data displaying the G0 (top) and G5/G6 (bottom) LSK cells shown in

Fig. 1c and Fig. 1d, respectively, color-coded by the identified HSPC populations.

#### **Supplementary Figure 3** Short telomeres induce megakaryocyte/myeloid lineage reprogramming of the HSC compartment.



# **Supplementary Figure 3. Short telomeres induce megakaryocyte/myeloid lineage reprogramming of the HSC compartment.**

**a,** Frequencies of HSPC populations in the LSK compartment of the G0 ( $n = 22$ ) and G5/G6 ( $n =$ 29) mice whose blood cell counts are shown in Supplementary Fig. 1b. Data are expressed as percentages of the G0 control. Bars represent the means  $\pm$  S.D. Statistically significant differences were detected using a two-tailed Student's *t*-test. \**P* < 0.05, \*\*\*\**P* < 0.0001. **b,** Numbers of HSCs and MPPs in the BM of the G0  $(n = 22)$  and G5/G6  $(n = 29)$  mice whose blood cell counts are shown in Supplementary Fig. 1b. Data are expressed as percentages of the G0 control. Bars represent means  $\pm$  S.D. Statistically significant differences were detected using a two-tailed Student's *t*-test. \*\*\**P* < 0.001, \*\*\*\**P* < 0.0001; MPP3: *P =* 0.11.

**c**, Frequencies of HSPC populations in the LSK compartment of G0 ( $n = 10$ ) and G5/G6 ( $n = 7$ ) mice before transplantation and in the CD45.2<sup>+</sup> LSK compartment of recipients transplanted with equal numbers of HSCs ( $n = 200$ ) from the same G0 and G5/G6 mice. Data are expressed as percentages of the G0 control. Data from two independent transplantation experiments are shown. Bars represent the means  $\pm$  S.D. Statistically significant differences were detected using one-way ANOVA. \**P* < 0.05, \*\**P* < 0.01, \*\*\**P* < 0.001, \*\*\*\**P* < 0.0001; HSC, ANOVA: *P* = 0.15.

**d,** Left, methylcellulose clonogenic assays of single MPP3 cells isolated from G0 (n = 3) and G5/G6 (n = 3) mice (mean of two replicates per mouse). Equal numbers of cells (n = 300) were seeded to quantify the type of colony-forming unit (CFU). Bars represent the means  $\pm$  S.D. Statistically significant differences between the groups were detected using two-way ANOVA. \**P* < 0.05, \*\*\**P* < 0.001. GMMegE, granulocyte/macrophage/megakaryocyte/erythroid; G, granulocyte; M, macrophage; GM, granulocyte/macrophage. Right, clonogenic B-cell differentiation potential of MPP3 cells on OP9/IL-7 stromal cells. Equal numbers of single

MPP3 cells (n =1,000) from G0 (n =6) and G5/G6 (N = 4) mice were grown for 14 days and analyzed by flow cytometry for the production of  $CD19<sup>+</sup>$  B cells or  $Gr1<sup>+</sup>/CD11b<sup>+</sup>$  myeloid cells. Bars represent the means  $\pm$  S.D. Statistically significant differences between the groups were detected using two-way ANOVA. \*\* $P < 0.01$ . B cells:  $P = 0.72$ , other cells:  $P = 0.06$ . **e,** MegaCult collagen-based assays of single MPP2 cells isolated from G0 (n = 7) and 6 G5/G6  $(n = 6)$  mice. Equal numbers of MPP2 cells  $(n = 500)$  were seeded to quantify megakaryocyte CFUs (CFU-Meg). Bars represent the means  $\pm$  S.D. Statistically significant differences were detected using a two-tailed Student's *t*-test. \*\*\*\**P* < 0.0001.

**f,** Clonogenic B-cell differentiation potential of MPP4 cells on OP9/IL-7 stromal cells. Equal numbers of single MPP4 cells (n = 1,000) from G0 (n = 19) and G5/G6 (n = 12) mice were grown for 14 days and analyzed by flow cytometry for the production of CD19+ B cells or  $Gr1<sup>+</sup>/CD11b<sup>+</sup>$  myeloid cells. Bars represent the means  $\pm$  S.D. Statistically significant differences in the production of B and myeloid cells between the groups were detected using two-way ANOVA. \*\*\* $P < 0.001$ ; other cells:  $P = 0.99$ .

#### HSCs with short telomeres are persistently activated, overexpress genes involved in IFN signaling, and are poised towards megakaryocytic differentiation.



# **Supplementary Figure 4. HSCs with short telomeres are persistently activated, overexpress genes involved in IFN signaling, and are poised towards megakaryocytic differentiation. a,** Single-cell trajectory maps of the clusters shown in Fig. 2a. Each dot represents one cell.

Different colors represent different gene expression clusters.

**b,** Violin plots showing the distribution of the expression values of *Meg3*, *Mllt3*, and *Cdkn1c*  across the HSC clusters shown in Fig. 2a.

**c,** Pathway enrichment analysis of genes whose expression was significantly decreased in cluster 0 shown in Fig. 2a and Supplementary Dataset 3 as compared with the other clusters (adjusted *P*  $\leq$  0.05). The top 10 Reactome gene sets are shown.

**d,** UMAP of the scRNA-seq data from Fig. 2a displaying the normalized average expression of cell cycle phase gene signatures.

**e**, Frequencies of G0 ( $n = 20$ ) and G5/G6 ( $n = 18$ ) HSCs in the G<sub>0</sub> (Ki67<sup>-</sup>DAPI<sup>-</sup>), G<sub>1</sub>

 $(Ki67+DAPI)$ , and  $G<sub>2/M</sub>(Ki67+DAPI+)$  phases of the cell cycle. Data are expressed as percentages of the G0 control. Bars represent means  $\pm$  S.D. Statistically significant differences were detected using two-way ANOVA. \*\*\*\* $P < 0.0001$ ; G<sub>2/M</sub>:  $P = 0.55$ .

**f,** UMAP of scRNA-seq data displaying 580 and 532 pooled single CD45.2+ HSCs isolated from recipient mice competitively transplanted with equal numbers of G0 or G5/G6 HSCs, respectively ( $n \geq 2$  mice per group). Each dot represents one cell. Different colors represent sample (left) and cluster (right) identities.

**g,** Pathway enrichment analysis of significantly upregulated genes in G5/G6 CD45.2+ HSCs from clusters 0 and 1 shown in Supplementary Fig. 4f as compared to those of G0 HSCs (*P* < 0.001). Reactome gene sets are shown.

**h,** Pathway enrichment analysis of genes whose distal elements were enriched in accessible Irf2 binding sites in G5/G6 HSCs from cluster 0 shown in Fig. 2c and Supplementary Dataset 4 ( $P \leq$ 0.0001). The top 10 Reactome gene sets are shown.

HSCs with short telomeres do not undergo apoptosis, autophagy, or senescence upon IFN signaling activation.



### **Supplementary Figure 5. HSCs with short telomeres do not undergo apoptosis, autophagy, or senescence upon IFN signaling activation.**

**a,** Median fluorescence intensities (MFIs) of the apoptotic marker annexin V (left), autophagic marker Cyto-ID (middle), and senescence reporter LacZ (right) in HSCs from G0 ( $n = 18, 4$ , and 12, respectively) and G5/G6 ( $n = 11, 4$ , and 10, respectively) mice. Bars represent the means  $\pm$ S.E.M. No statistically significant differences were detected using a two-tailed Student's *t*-test: *P =* 0.53, 0.36 and 0.08, respectively).

**b**, Numbers of cells derived from pools of sorted G0 ( $n = 3$  pools) and G5/G6 ( $n = 2$  pools) HSCs induced to differentiate in vitro. Data are expressed as percentages of G0 or G5/G6 cells after 12 hours of culture.

**c,** Joint pathway enrichment analyses of genes that were significantly upregulated in G0 and G5/G6 HSCs at each time point (8, 24, and 48 hours and 1 week) following pI:pC injection as compared to those of HSCs isolated from mice treated with vehicle (adjusted  $P \le 0.05$ ). Reactome gene sets are shown.

**d,** Dot plot of genes belonging to the IFN signaling pathway that were significantly upregulated in G0 or G5/G6 HSCs 8 hours after pI:pC injection. G5 indicates G5/G6.

#### **Supplementary Figure 6** HSCs with short telomeres do not undergo apoptosis, autophagy, or senescence upon IFN signaling activation.  $0 \text{rc2} + \cdot \cdot \cdot \cdot$



**Average Expression** 

**Percent Expressed** 

 $\begin{array}{r} 2 \\ 1 \\ 0 \\ -1 \\ -2 \end{array}$ 

 $\begin{array}{r} \text{•} \ 25 \\ \text{•} \ 50 \\ \text{•} \ 75 \\ \text{•} \ 100 \end{array}$ 

# **Supplementary Figure 6. HSCs with short telomeres do not undergo apoptosis, autophagy, or senescence upon IFN signaling activation.**

Dot plot of genes belonging to the cell cycle pathway that were significantly upregulated in G0 or G5/G6 HSCs 8 hours after pI:pC injection. G5 indicates G5/G6.

HSCs with short telomeres do not undergo apoptosis, autophagy, or senescence upon IFN signaling activation.



## **Supplementary Figure 7. HSCs with short telomeres do not undergo apoptosis, autophagy, or senescence upon IFN signaling activation.**

**a,** Dot plot of genes belonging to the hemostasis pathway that were significantly upregulated in G0 or G5/G6 HSCs 8 hours after pI:pC injection. G5 indicates G5/G6.

**b**, Frequencies of G0 and G5/G6 HSCs that expressed Ki67 at each time point following pI:pC injection (n = 25 G0 Veh, 11 G0 8 h, 9 G0 24 h, 6 G0 48 h, 5 G0 1 wk, 20 G5/G6 Veh, 9 G5/G6 8 h, 8 G5/G6 24 h, 7 G5/G6 48 h, and 5 G5/G6 1 wk). Bars represent the means ± S.E.M. Statistically significant differences were detected using two-way ANOVA. \**P* < 0.05, \*\**P* < 0.01, \*\*\**P* < 0.001, \*\*\*\**P* < 0.0001. Veh, vehicle.

**c,** BM frequencies of G0 and G5/G6 CD41+ HSCs at each time point following pI:pC injection  $(n = 25 \text{ GO Veh}, 10 \text{ GO } 8 \text{ h}, 9 \text{ GO } 24 \text{ h}, 6 \text{ GO } 48 \text{ h}, 10 \text{ GO } 1 \text{ wk}, 20 \text{ G}5/\text{G}6 \text{ Veh}, 10 \text{ G}5/\text{G}6 \text{ 8 h}, 8$ G5/G6 24 h, 7 G5/G6 48 h, and 9 G5/G6 1 wk). Bars represent the means  $\pm$  S.E.M. Statistically significant differences were detected using two-way ANOVA.  $*P < 0.05$ ,  $**P < 0.01$ ,  $**P <$ 0.001, \*\*\*\**P* < 0.0001. Veh, vehicle.

**d,** BM frequencies of G0 and G5/G6 MPP2 cells at each time point following pI:pC injection (n  $= 25$  G0 Veh, 10 G0 8 h, 9 G0 24 h, 6 G0 48 h, 10 G0 1 wk, 20 G5/G6 Veh, 10 G5/G6 8 h, 8 G5/G6 24 h, 7 G5/G6 48 h, and 9 G5/G6 1 wk). Bars represent the means  $\pm$  S.E.M. Statistically significant differences were detected using two-way ANOVA.  $*P < 0.05$ ,  $**P < 0.01$ ,  $**P <$ 0.001, \*\*\*\**P* < 0.0001. Veh, vehicle.

IFN signaling activation and HSC decline are the results of telomere damage and not responses to viral infection.



# **Supplementary Figure 8. IFN signaling activation and HSC decline are the results of telomere damage and not responses to viral infection.**

**a,** Blood cell count evaluation of 2-month-old G0 ( $n = 12$ ) and G5/G6 ( $n = 17$ ) *R26-LSL* mice. Bars represent the means  $\pm$  S.E.M. Statistically significant differences were detected using a twotailed Student's *t*-test. \**P* < 0.05, \*\*\**P* < 0.001, \*\*\**P* < 0.0001; Monocytes: *P* = 0.11; Platelets:  $P = 0.68$ . RBC, red blood cells.

**b,** Numbers of HSCs and MPPs in the BM of G0 ( $n = 18$ ) and G5/G6 ( $n = 13$ ) *R26-LSL* mice. Data are expressed as percentages of the G0 control. Bars represent means  $\pm$  S.D. Statistically significant differences were detected using a two-tailed Student's *t*-test. \**P* < 0.05, \*\*\**P* <  $0.001$ ; MPP3:  $P = 0.94$ .

**c,** UMAP of scRNA-seq data displaying 800 and 820 pooled single HSCs isolated from G0 or G5/G6 *R26-LSL* mice, respectively ( $n \ge 5$  mice per group). Each dot represents one cell. Different colors represent sample (left) and cluster (middle) identities. Right, distributions of HSCs from G0 and G5/G6 *R26-LSL* mice among the five scRNA-seq clusters, represented as the percentages of cells belonging to each cluster.

**d,** Pathway enrichment analysis of the marker genes of cluster 0 shown in Supplemental Fig. 8c and Supplementary Dataset 8 (adjusted  $P \leq 0.05$ ).

IFN signaling activation and HSC decline are the results of telomere damage and not responses to viral infection.





 $\overline{3}$  $\frac{1}{4}$  $\overline{5}$  $\overline{6}$   $\overline{7}$ 

 $\mathbf 0$ 

 $\dot{o}$  $\ddot{1}$  $\dot{2}$ 



TNF-alpha signaling via NFKB Androgen response<br>Apical junction IL-2 STAT5 signaling Allograft rejection **KRAS** signaling up E2F targets<br>Apoptosis



# **Supplementary Figure 9. IFN signaling activation and HSC decline are the results of telomere damage and not responses to viral infection.**

**a,** Pathway enrichment analysis of the marker genes of cluster 2 shown in Supplemental Fig. 8c and Supplementary Dataset 8 (adjusted  $P \leq 0.05$ ).

**b,** Left, telomerase activity in protein lysates of pooled LSK cells isolated from *R26-LSL* mice with the indicated genotypes and treatments. Right, lysates were heat-inactivated. A, telomerase product; B, internal control; -, lysate from telomerase-negative cells; TSR8, quantification control template; +, lysate from telomerase-positive cells.

**c,** Representative anti-telomere and anti–gH2AX immunofluorescence in HSCs from *R26-LSL* mice with the indicated genotypes and treatments. Red indicates telomeres; green,  $\gamma$ H2AX; yellow, colocalization, blue; DAPI. Scale bars represent 10 μm.

**d,** Relative telomere length (RTL) in primary BM cells from *R26-LSL* mice with the indicated genotypes and treatments as determined by combined flow cytometry and fluorescence *in situ* hybridization analysis. Data are expressed as percentages of the G0 control ( $n = 10$  G0, 6 G5/G6, 12 G0+OHT, and 9 G5/G6+OHT mice from two independent experiments of telomerase reactivation). Bars represent the means  $\pm$  S.E.M. Statistically significant differences were detected using one-way ANOVA. \*\*\*\**P* < 0.0001; G0 vs G0 + OHT:  $P = 0.15$ .

**e,** Pathway enrichment analysis of the marker genes of cluster 2 shown in Fig. 4b and Dataset 9 (adjusted  $P \leq 0.05$ ).

**f,** Violin plots showing the distribution of the expression values of *Cdk6* across the clusters shown in Fig. 4b.

**g,** Violin plots showing the distribution of the expression values of *Vwf* across the clusters shown in Fig. 4b.

IFN signaling activation and HSC decline are the results of telomere damage and not responses to viral infection.



# **Supplementary Figure 10. IFN signaling activation and HSC decline are the results of telomere damage and not responses to viral infection.**

**a**, Principal component analysis of the blood cell counts (frequencies of white blood cells, neutrophils, lymphocytes, platelets, monocytes, and red blood cells) of G0 and G5/G6 *R26-LSL* mice at the indicated time points after vehicle or OHT treatment.

**b,** Numbers of MPPs in the BM of vehicle- or OHT-treated G0 and G5/G6 *R26-LSL* mice (n = 15 G0, 14 G5/G6, 18 G0+OHT, and 19 G5/G6+OHT mice from four independent reactivation experiments). Data are expressed as percentages of the vehicle-treated G0 mice. Bars represent means ± S.D. Statistically significant differences were detected using one-way ANOVA. \*\*\**P* < 0.001, \*\*\*\* $P < 0.0001$ ; MPP1, ANOVA:  $P = 0.60$ .

**c**, Frequencies of CD45.2<sup>+</sup> cells in the PB of CD45.1 recipients that were competitively transplanted with equal numbers of HSCs (n = 200) isolated from *R26-LSL* mice with the indicated genotypes and treatments ( $n = 9$  G0, 5 G5/G6, 11 G0+OHT, and 6 G5/G6+OHT from two independent experiments of telomerase reactivation). Bars represent the means  $\pm$  S.E.M. Statistically significant differences were detected using one-way ANOVA. \*\*\**P* < 0.001, \*\*\*\**P*  $< 0.0001$ ; G0 vs G0 + OHT:  $P = 0.97$ .

**d**, Representative anti–double-stranded DNA (dsDNA) immunofluorescence in G0 and G5/G6 HSCs. Bright field microscopy enhances the contrast between the nucleus and cytoplasm. Blue indicates Hoechst staining (nucleus); red, dsDNA. Scale bars represent 10 μm.

**e,** Numbers of HSCs and MPPs in the BM of G0 and G5/G6 mice treated with a control oligodeoxynucleotide (control-ODN) ( $n = 4$  mice per group) or the oligodeoxynucleotide A151  $(A151-ODN)$  (n = 3 and 6 mice, respectively). Data are expressed as percentages of the G0 control. Bars represent means  $\pm$  S.D. Statistically significant differences were detected using

one-way ANOVA. \**P* < 0.05; HSC: G5/G6 vs G5/G6 + A151 = 0.48; MPP1, ANOVA: *P =* 0.08.

**f**, Dot plot of genes belonging to the IFN response pathway that were significantly downregulated in A151-ODN–treated G5/G6 HSCs from cluster 2 shown in Fig. 4e, as compared to those of control-ODN–treated G5/G6 HSCs.

The functional link among telomere shortening, IFN signaling activation, and HSC differentiation towards the megakaryocyte lineage is conserved in humans.



 $\mathbf a$ 

**Supplementary Figure 11. The functional link among telomere shortening, IFN signaling activation, and HSC differentiation towards the megakaryocyte lineage is conserved in humans.**

**a,** UMAP showing the distribution of the expression values of *MEG3* and *MLLT3* across the clusters shown in Fig. 5a. Normalized gene expression is indicated by red shading.

**b,** Dot plot of genes belonging to the hemostasis pathway that were significantly upregulated in the *TERT*-mutant (*TERT*mut) cells from cluster 1 shown in Fig. 5a as compared to cells from healthy donors (HDs).

**c,** Dot plot of genes belonging to the IFN response pathway that were significantly upregulated in *TERT*mut cells from cluster 1 shown in Fig. 5a as compared to cells from HDs.

**d,** Violin plots showing the expression of *IFI16* in HDs and *TERT*mut cells from cluster 1 shown in Fig. 5a.

**e,** Left, frequency of Lin-CD34+ cells that expressed IFI16. Each dot represents one sample. Bars represent means  $\pm$  S.E.M. (n = 4 HD and n = 3 *TERT/TERC*<sup>mut</sup> samples). Statistically significant differences were detected using a two-tailed Student's *t*-test. \*\**P* < 0.01. Right, representative anti–F-actin and anti-IFI16 immunofluorescence in Lin-CD34+ cells from HDs or patients with telomerase complex mutations (*TERT*/*TERC*mut). Red indicates F-actin; green, IFI16; blue, DAPI. Scale bars represent 10 μm.

The functional link among telomere shortening, IFN signaling activation, and HSC differentiation towards the megakaryocyte lineage is conserved in humans.



**Supplementary Figure 12. The functional link among telomere shortening, IFN signaling activation, and HSC differentiation towards the megakaryocyte lineage is conserved in humans.**

**a**, Heatmap of the levels of the top TFs whose binding sites were differentially enriched in open chromatin regions among cells in the five scATAC-seq clusters displayed in Fig. 5c. **b**, Pathway enrichment analysis of genes whose distal elements had significantly upregulated open chromatin peaks in *TERT*mut cells from cluster 3 shown in Fig. 5c and Supplementary Dataset 15 as compared to those of HDs  $(P < 10^{-5})$ . The top 10 Reactome gene sets are shown. **c,** Proposed working model of telomere shortening-induced HSC exhaustion. Telomere attrition maintains HSCs in a state of persistent activation and differentiation towards the megakaryocytic lineage through the upregulation of the Ifi20x/IFI16-mediated IFN signaling response. Persistent telomere attrition leads to HSCs' depletion. Mk, megakaryocytic.



**Supplementary Table 1. Patients' characteristics.**

#### **Supplementary Table 2. Patients' peripheral blood counts.**



#### **Supplementary Table 3. Cell surface marker expression panel used for the identification, quantification and purification of mouse HSPCs by flow cytometry.**





![](_page_30_Picture_259.jpeg)

**Supplementary Table 4. Cell surface marker panel used in the analysis of mouse peripheral blood chimerism.**

**Supplementary Table 5. Immunophenotypic HSPC definition used in the identification, quantification and purification of human HSPCs by flow cytometry.**

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