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MYH9 intron 3 saturation mutagenesis screening

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Andrea Daniel: This protocol was adapted from the work of Brian Cosgrove and Lexi Bounds in the Gersbach lab at Duke University.

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Mechanosensitive genomic enhancers potentiate the cellular response to matrix stiffness

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We use this protocol and it's working

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Abstract

This protocol describes methods for a CRISPR screen to identify motifs in the MYH9 intron 3 mechanoenhancer that control MYH9 expression.

Materials

pLV_hU6-sgRNA_hUbC-GFP-P2A-PuroR (Addgene plasmid #162335)

Library design and cloning

- 1 For the MYH9 intron 3 pRE saturation mutagenesis library, we include any gRNA that are within the hit pRE from the MYH9 locus library (from our previous CRISPRi stiffness-responsive screen), which resulted in 64 gRNA across the library.
- 2 Include 25 non-targeting gRNA (1) and 11 safe-targeting gRNA (2) as negative controls. This combined gRNA library of 100 gRNA is synthesized as an oligo pool by Twist Biosciences with common overhangs for cloning into a lentiviral backbone.
- 3 This oligo pool is PCR amplified. pLV_hU6-sgRNA_hUbC-GFP-P2A-PuroR (Addgene plasmid #162335) is then digested with Esp3I, gel purified, and then ligated along with the amplified oligo pool by Gibson assembly.
- 4 Following a 1x SPRI cleaning, the Gibson assembly is transformed into Endura competent cells (Lucigen) according to the manufacturer's protocol, and cultured overnight before maxi-prepping the gRNA-library plasmid.
- 5 A PCR amplicon across the gRNA region of the resulting plasmid is sequenced to a depth of ~100k-1M read pairs on an Illumina miSeq in order to verify coverage across the entire gRNA library.

Lentiviral generation and functional titering

- 6 gRNA library plasmid pool is co-transfected into ~7.8M HEK293T cells along with two lentiviral packaging plasmids using Lipofectamine 3000 (ThermoFisher).
- 7 20 hours post-transfection, the transfection media is removed and fresh growth media added. Media containing viral particles is removed one day later at 48 hours post-transfection and stored, replaced with fresh media and collected one day later and stored at 4C.
- 8 Combined media containing viral particles is filtered through 0.45 μ m low-protein binding filters, and then concentrated using Lenti-X Concentrator (Takara Bio) according to the manufacturer's protocol.
- 9 Functional titering to determine MOI is performed by transducing HFF (human neonate fibroblast) cells across a 0.75x-100x dilution range of the viral stock, and then subjecting the cells to FACS-based cell sorting to identify what percent of the population is mCherry+ for each viral stock dilution.

MYH9 saturation mutagenesis screen

- 10 HFF cells are transduced with a lentiviral SpCas9 construct [FUGW-SpCas9-2A-HygroR (pVG54)], selected with 100ug/mL hygromycin for 4 days with hygromycin in order to make a stable line.
- 11 Following four passages the cells are frozen and used for subsequent screening experiments and validations. 600k HFF cells are transduced with lentivirus encoding the MYH9 intron 3 saturation pool.
- 12 For screening cells are cultured for 8 days.
- 13 Cells are trypsinization with 0.25% Trypsin-EDTA for 5 minutes at 37C. Trypsin is neutralized with 1X volumes of complete growth media, cells are centrifuged at 300g for 5 minutes, and the supernatant aspirated. The cells are rinsed once with 1X volume PBS followed by another centrifugation and aspiration leaving 200uL of PBS above the pellet.
- 14 The eBioScience ICC Fixation kit (ThermoFisher) is used to fix/permeabilize cells according to manufacturer's instructions. Note, equilibrate reagents to room temp prior to usage. To fix cells, add 500uL eBioSciences Fix/Perm Buffer (ThermoFisher) to the 200uL PBS and pellet, and incubate at room temperature for 20 minutes.
- 15 Add 1X Permeabilization Buffer up to 8mL total volume, spin at 600g for 5 minutes, and add perm buffer rinse.
- 16 HFF cells are incubated for 30 minutes at room temperature in the dark on a nutating rocker, spun 600g for 5 minutes spin, followed by two repeats of 3mL 1X Perm Buffer rinse/spin cycles.
- 17 Cells were resuspended in FACS Buffer [1X PBS supplemented w/ 1% BSA (Sigma) and 0.5mM EDTA (Sigma)] at a density of ~9M cells/mL and sorted. A SH800 Cell Sorter (Sony Biotechnologies) is used to separate out the top/bottom-expressing MYH9 fractions following immunostaining.
- 18 Single channel expressing cell populations are used to set up compensation panels. These include untreated cells, antibody-only cells, mCherry-only cells. The top 10% and lower 10% of the MYH9 population is sorted and used for downstream gRNA-enrichment analysis and sequencing.
- 19 Sorted cells are counted and DNA extracted from the fixed cells using the PicoPure DNA extraction kit (ThermoFisher) according to the manufacturer's protocol.
- 20 Next, gRNA PCR and processing for enrichment across the low and high MYH9 expression bins is performed.



Protocol references

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