

Genetic mosaicism in the *Drosophila* intestine – from somatic mutations to endogenous retrotransposon activity



## Psiloritis 2006



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## Genome plasticity influences cell function *in vivo*







Selected refs:

- Blood (Laurie, Nat Gen, 2012; Jacobs, Nat Gen, 2012; Genovese, NEJM, 2014; Jaiswal, NEJM, 2014; Lee-Six, Nature, 2018)
- Skin (Martincorena, Science, 2015)
- Esophagus (Martinocerena, Science 2018)
- Liver (Bruner, Nature, 2019)
- Colon (Lee-Six, Nature, 2019)

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## Genome plasticity influences cell function *in vivo*



## Mechanisms ?

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#### The *Drosophila* intestine – model system





Aging

Somatic mutation



Aging

Somatic mutation

*Notch* tumor suppressor inactivation







Aging Somatic mutation Notch tumor

suppressor inactivation Notch -/-







Aging

Somatic mutation

*Notch* tumor suppressor inactivation Notch -/-





Siudeja et al, 2015; Riddiford et al, 2021



Aging

Somatic mutation

*Notch* tumor suppressor inactivation Notch -/-



- Structural variants (deletions / complex rearrangements) - Point mutations - Loss of heterozygosity (LOH)

...

Siudeja et al, 2015; Riddiford et al, 2021

Whole genome sequencing

(Illumina, 2x100bp or 2x150bp)



Aging

Somatic mutation

*Notch* tumor suppressor inactivation

- Point mutations

...

Notch -/clonal expansion Pros



Whole genome sequencing (Illumina, 2x100bp or 2x150bp)

Siudeja et al, 2015; Riddiford et al, 2021

- Loss of heterozygosity (LOH)

*de novo* insertions of transposable elements

## Retrotransposons - mobile genetic elements



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Genome:



## Retrotransposons in the soma



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## Retrotransposons in the soma



Selected refs: Iskow et al. (2010); Baillie et al. (2011); Lee et al. (2012); Solyom et al. (2012); Rodic et al. (2015); Evrony et al. (2016)

## Retrotransposon insertions in *Notch* in spontaneous neoplasia



## Short- and long-read DNA-seq – revealing genome-wide TE mobility



Aging

Somatic mutation

*Notch* tumor suppressor inactivation Notch -/-



Long-read (ONT) DNA-seq



Short-read (Illumina) DNA-seq



Siudeja, van den Beek et al. (2021)

## Short- and long-read DNA-seq – revealing genome-wide TE mobility



# Conclusion 1

- Revealed prevalent genome instability and retrotransposition occurring in the fly midgut
- TE insertions enriched in open chromatin, genic or regulatory regions
- May lead to phenotypic consequences (*Notch* inactivation -> neoplasia formations)

• Ongoing/future questions:



# Conclusion 1

- Revealed prevalent genome instability and retrotransposition occurring in the fly midgut
- TE insertions enriched in open chromatin, genic or regulatory regions
- May lead to phenotypic consequences (*Notch* inactivation -> neoplasia formations)

• Ongoing/future questions:



#### Precise TE landscape using long-read sequencing





#### Selective somatic activity of LTR-retroelements

Fixed TE insertions per subfamily



#### Selective somatic activity of LTR-retroelements



. . .

# Is retrotransposon activity unleashed upon tissue aging?

#### Selective somatic activity of LTR-retroelements







• Basel level of transposition is limited to very few retroelements

• No important increase in TE mobility (rates or active families) in the aging gut (consistent with Yang et al. 2022 and Schneider et al. 2023)

Impact on the tissue aging ?

325 350

300

## Why some retroelements are active (while not others)?

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• Recover and analyze sequences of somatic *rover* insertions from long-read data



• Compare somatic insertions with all fixed *rover* copies present in the genome (based on long-read data) Total = 19 copies



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#### Transcriptome analysis supports expression of the active copy



- Mobility of the *rover-LTR* subfamily is restricted to one genomic locus
- The first example of a "hot" LTR-retrotransposon locus active in a somatic tissue

Why?

#### rover2R14M 'hot' locus has little sequence variation in the regulatory region

Sequence variants?



#### *rover2R14M* 'hot' locus has little sequence variation in the regulatory region

fkh

fkh ttk

cad CTCF



-> Activity not (only) due to TE sequence features but "local environment"?

pol

env

LTR

Sequence

rover-2L-18

Ð

## The active *rover* locus found in permissive chromatin

• Insertion in permissive chromatin likely allows expression



## The active *rover* locus found in permissive chromatin

#### • Insertion in permissive chromatin likely allows expression

![](_page_38_Figure_2.jpeg)

## The active *rover* locus found in permissive chromatin

#### Insertion in permissive chromatin likely allows expression

![](_page_39_Figure_2.jpeg)

![](_page_39_Figure_3.jpeg)

#### Chromatin states, ISC

•

![](_page_39_Figure_5.jpeg)

• Local genomic environment permits the expression (and the mobility) of the "hot" *rover2R14M* locus

## *rover2R14M* coopts upstream genomic sequence for gut expression

![](_page_40_Figure_1.jpeg)

## *rover2R14M* co-opts upstream genomic sequence for gut expression

![](_page_41_Figure_1.jpeg)

#### *rover2R14M* co-opts upstream genomic sequence for gut expression

![](_page_42_Figure_1.jpeg)

## Do tissue-specific TFs drive *rover2R:14M* expression ?

![](_page_43_Figure_1.jpeg)

## Do tissue-specific TFs drive *rover2R:14M* expression ?

![](_page_44_Figure_1.jpeg)

![](_page_44_Picture_2.jpeg)

S2 cells Luciferase expression reporters:

![](_page_44_Figure_4.jpeg)

## Escargot may drive *rover2R:14M* expression via the upstream sequence

![](_page_45_Figure_1.jpeg)

## Escargot may drive *rover2R:14M* expression via the upstream sequence

![](_page_46_Figure_1.jpeg)

## Escargot may drive *rover2R:14M* expression via the upstream sequence

![](_page_47_Figure_1.jpeg)

## Conclusion 2

- Long-read ONT sequencing allowed full-length analysis of fixed mobile throughout different adult ages
- No significant increase in retrotransposon mobility in the aging gut
- Basel level of transposition is limited to very few retroelements
- We identify a "hot" somatically active LTR-retroelement : *rover-2R:14M*
- rover2R14M co-opts upstream genomic sequence for gut expression thr

![](_page_48_Picture_7.jpeg)

![](_page_49_Picture_0.jpeg)

• rover-2R:14M is a non-reference polymorphic TE locus

![](_page_49_Picture_2.jpeg)

![](_page_50_Picture_0.jpeg)

- rover-2R:14M is a non-reference polymorphic TE locus
- TE polymorphism is large in populations

![](_page_50_Picture_3.jpeg)

How does this variation contribute to somatic TE activity ?

... and phenotypic differences ?

Working on TEs ? Mind the genetic backgrounds !

![](_page_50_Picture_7.jpeg)

Around 1500 estimated private insertions / human genome

(C. Beck lab, unpublished communication)

Thank You !

Inserm

![](_page_51_Picture_1.jpeg)

![](_page_51_Picture_2.jpeg)

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![](_page_51_Picture_8.jpeg)

![](_page_51_Picture_9.jpeg)

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Imaging Facility

![](_page_51_Picture_13.jpeg)

![](_page_51_Picture_14.jpeg)