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Author/s:

Noguchi, S;Arakawa, T;Fukuda, S;Furuno, M;Hasegawa, A;Hori, F;Ishikawa-Kato, S;Kaida, K;Kaiho, A;Kanamori-Katayama, M;Kawashima, T;Kojima, M;Kubosaki, A;Manabe, R;Murata, M;Nagao-Sato, S;Nakazato, K;Ninomiya, N;Nishiyori-Sueki, H;Noma, S;Saijyo, E;Saka, A;Sakai, M;Simon, C;Suzuki, N;Tagami, M;Watanabe, S;Yoshida, S;Arner, P;Axton, RA;Babina, M;Kenneth Baillie, J;Barnett, TC;Beckhouse, AG;Blumenthal, A;Bodega, B;Bonetti, A;Briggs, J;Brombacher, F;Carlisle, AJ;Clevvers, HC;Davis, CA;Detmar, M;Dohi, T;Edge, BAS;Edinger, M;Ehrlund, A;Ekwall, K;Endoh, M;Enomoto, H;Eslami, A;Fagiolini, M;Fairbairn, L;Farach-Carson, MC;Faulkner, GJ;Ferrai, C;Fisher, ME;Forrester, LM;Fujita, R;Furusawa, JI;Geijtenbeek, TB;Gingeras, T;Goldowitz, D;Guhl, S;Guler, R;Gustincich, S;Ha, TJ;Hamaguchi, M;Hara, M;Hasegawa, Y;Herlyn, M;Heutink, P;Hitchens, KJ;Hume, DA;Ikawa, T;Ishizu, Y;Kai, C;Kawamoto, H;Kawamura, YI;Kempfle, JS;Kenna, TJ;Kere, J;Khachigian, LM;Kitamura, T;Klein, S;Peter Klinken, S;Knox, AJ;Kojima, S;Koseki, H;Koyasu, S;Lee, W;Lennartsson, A;MacKay-Sim, A;Mejhert, N;Mizuno, Y;Morikawa, H;Morimoto, M;Moro, K;Morris, KJ;Motohashi, H

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SCIENTIFIC DATA

OPEN Data Descriptor: FANTOM5 CAGE profiles of human and mouse samples

Shuhei Noguchi *et al.*[#]

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In the FANTOM5 project, transcription initiation events across the human and mouse genomes were mapped at a single base-pair resolution and their frequencies were monitored by CAGE (Cap Analysis of Gene Expression) coupled with single-molecule sequencing. Approximately three thousands of samples, consisting of a variety of primary cells, tissues, cell lines, and time series samples during cell activation and development, were subjected to a uniform pipeline of CAGE data production. The analysis pipeline started by measuring RNA extracts to assess their quality, and continued to CAGE library production by using a robotic or a manual workflow, single molecule sequencing, and computational processing to generate frequencies of transcription initiation. Resulting data represents the consequence of transcriptional regulation in each analyzed state of mammalian cells. Non-overlapping peaks over the CAGE profiles, approximately 200,000 and 150,000 peaks for the human and mouse genomes, were identified and annotated to provide precise location of known promoters as well as novel ones, and to quantify their activities.

Design Type(s)	organism part comparison design • species comparison design • cell type comparison design • organism development design
Measurement Type(s)	DNA-templated transcription, initiation
Technology Type(s)	cap analysis of gene expression
Factor Type(s)	Species • Organism Part • life cycle stage • cell type
Sample Characteristic(s)	Mus musculus • cerebellum • visual cortex • ileum • Peyer's patch • stomach • axillary lymph node • aorta • substantia nigra • hippocampal formation • brain • heart • liver • meningeal cluster • bone marrow • spinal cord • raphe nuclei • corpus striatum • cortex • peripheral nervous system • kidney • neural system • hemolymphoid system • blood • spleen • mesoderm • hematopoietic system • ventral wall of dorsal aorta • placenta • ganglion • spiral organ of cochlea • small intestine • intestine • adrenal gland • eyeball of camera-type eye • pituitary gland • thymus • lung • female gonad • testis • bone tissue • diencephalon • muscle organ • medulla oblongata • forelimb • pancreas • gonad • corpora quadrigemina • skin of body • tongue • colon • caecum • vesicular gland • epididymis • amnion • mammary gland • uterus • submandibular gland • prostate gland • intestinal mucosa • urinary bladder • vagina • oviduct • Homo sapiens

Correspondence and requests for materials should be addressed to H.K. (email: kawaji@gsc.riken.jp).

[#]A full list of authors and their affiliations appears at the end of the paper.

Background & Summary

Since the completion of the human genome sequencing, role of individual bases has been a central question. An international collaborative effort, FANTOM (Functional ANnoTation Of Mammalian Genome)¹, delineated a complex landscape of transcribed RNAs (transcriptome) and their regulations. The initial key technology driving the project was to make full-length cDNA clones, representing complete primary structure of transcribed RNA molecules. Sequencing of the full-length cDNA clones uncovered unexpected number of long non-coding RNAs as well as protein coding genes²⁻⁶. The CAGE (Cap Analysis Gene Expression)^{7,8} protocol, combination with high-throughput sequencing, was developed to monitor frequencies of transcription initiation by determining 5'-end of capped RNAs. The technology was devised to uncover complexity of the transcriptome⁴⁻⁶ and elucidate transcriptional regulatory networks by focusing on promoter elements⁹⁻¹². By taking advantage of single molecule sequencer, HeliScopeCAGE was recently developed to provide more sensitive and accurate monitoring of transcription initiation activities^{7,8}.

In the fifth round of the FANTOM projects, FANTOM5, the challenge was to capture the transcriptome of many varieties of cell states as possible, to understand the implication of each genomic bases in different contexts. In the first phase of the FANTOM5 project, we targeted cells in steady state, called 'snapshot' samples¹³. Our central focus was on human primary cells, while cell lines, tissues and mouse samples were chosen to cover cells inaccessible as isolated human primary samples. The resulting data provided an atlas of promoter and enhancer activities in wide range of cell states¹⁴, which is a baseline of understanding complex transcriptional regulation. In the second phase, we focused on transitions of cell states by monitoring 'time course' samples, such as activations, differentiations, and developments at sequential time points¹⁵. The monitored activities of promoters and enhancers demonstrated that enhancer activities is the earliest event during dynamic changes of transcriptome. These data sets are being utilized in many other studies inside and outside of the FANTOM5 consortium.

The data production scheme was implemented based on the FANTOM5 collaboration. Sample collection was performed at individual institutes, since specific types of samples require dedicated systems with special expertise or settings, as well as through purchase from commercial sources. RNA quality was firstly examined at the place where the samples were obtained (the first RNA quality check). The CAGE assay pipeline established in RIKEN GeNAS (Genome Network Analysis Support Facility) employed two workflows of HeliScopeCAGE, a manual workflow for samples with small amount of total RNAs⁸ and a robotic workflow for samples with standard requirements⁷. The assay pipeline started with checking RNA quality (the second RNA quality check), which provides a uniform quality assessment of the profiled RNA extracts. The resulting CAGE libraries were sequenced by HeliScope in RIKEN and also in Helicos Biosciences, and the obtained data were processed by the MOIRAI system¹⁶. Quality of the resulting CAGE profiles was checked with several statistics as well as manual inspection by using the ZENBU browser¹⁷. Finally CAGE profiles were shared among the consortium for further analysis.

In the course of the two phases focused on 'snapshot' and 'time course' samples, we profiled 1,816 human and 1,016 mouse samples in total, and obtained approximately four millions of single-molecule reads successfully aligned to the genome per sample on average. Based on frequencies of the observed 5'-ends of individual capped RNA molecules at a single base-pair resolution, we identified 201,802 and 158,966 peaks for human and mouse respectively, where promoters are defined as the sequence immediately upstream of the peaks and frequencies of observed CAGE reads reflect activities of the promoters. All data generated during the course of the project were deposited to a public repository (DDBJ Read Archive, DRA) and/or provided at the FANTOM5 web resource (<http://fantom.gsc.riken.jp/5/>)¹⁸. Here we describe the data with the processing details and quality metrics.

Sample	Phase 1		Phase 2		Total
	Human	Mouse	Human	Mouse	
Cell lines	259	1	9	0	269
Fractionations	12	0	9	0	21
Primary cells	537	109	24	31	701
Timecourse samples	35	19	748	572	1,374
Tissues	150	237	33	45	465
Quality control samples	0	1	0	1	2
Total	993	367	823	649	2,832

Table 1. Summary of FANTOM5 phase 1 and phase 2 samples.

Sample	Phase 1		Phase 2		Total
	Human	Mouse	Human	Mouse	
Cell lines	261	1	10	0	272
Fractionations	12	0	9	0	21
Primary cells	538	110	26	50	724
Timecourse samples	35	20	750	578	1,383
Tissues	152	236	36	45	469
Quality control samples	0	28	0	122	150
Total	998	395	831	795	3,019

Table 2. Sequence files (CTSS files).

Methods

Sample collection

Sample collection was performed as described previously^{13,15}. Briefly, primary cells were purchased as purified RNAs or frozen cells, or obtained as described previously^{19–24} through collaboration in the consortium. Purchased cells were cultured according to the manufacturer’s instructions and miRNeasy kit (QIAGEN) was used for RNA extraction. Human post mortem tissue RNAs were purchased or obtained through the Dutch Brain bank. Tissues collected through the consortium were snap-frozen in liquid nitrogen, transferred into Lysing Matrix D tubes (MP Biomedicals, Santa Ana, CA) containing chilled Trizol (Gibco), homogenized by FastPrep Homogenizer (Thermo Savant), and centrifuged. miRNeasy kit (QIAGEN) was used for RNA extraction from cultured cell lines as well as frozen cell line stocks.

For the purchased samples, lot or catalogue numbers were recorded where available. Of the collected RNAs, those with more than 1 µg, were measured by Agilent BioAnalyzer (Agilent Technologies, Santa Clara, CA) and Nanodrop spectrophotometer (Thermo Fisher Scientific, Wilmington, DE) to check RIN (RNA integrity) score and the absorbance ratio of A260/A230 and A260/A280. The rest of the samples were directly subjected to the CAGE library production to avoid wasting material. All 2,832 profiled samples are summarized in Table 1.

Single molecule CAGE and data processing

HeliScopeCAGE libraries were prepared, sequenced, and processed as described previously^{13,15}. Most of the RNAs were subjected to the automated HeliScopeCAGE protocol⁷, except for RNAs with less than 1 µg that were subjected to the manual protocol optimized for low quantity RNAs⁸. The resulting libraries were measured by OliGreen fluorescence assay kit (Life Technologies), and sequenced by following the manufacturer’s instructions (LB-016_01, LB-017_01, and LB-001_04 (ref. 13). RNAs extracted from mouse whole body embryo E17.5 (called internal control) were systematically subjected to this workflow, with one per a sequencing run.

The produced data were processed as previously described^{13,15}. Briefly, reads corresponding to ribosomal RNA were removed by using the program rRNA dust (<http://fantom.gsc.riken.jp/5/suppl/rRNA dust/>), remaining reads were aligned to the reference genome of human and mouse (hg19 or mm9) by using Delve²⁵, and alignments with a quality of less than 20 (< 99% chance of true) or a sequence identity of less than 85% were discarded. Frequencies of the CAGE read 5’ ends were counted to give a unit of CAGE tag start site (CTSS), a single base-pair on the reference genome. The entire flow of the data is illustrated in Fig. 1, and the number of CAGE profiles (equivalent to CTSS files) is summarized in Table 2.

Identification of peaks and their annotations

Non-overlapping peaks based on the all CAGE profiles were identified by using DPI (decomposition-based peak identification, <https://github.com/hkawaji/dpi1/>) method and annotated as previously described^{13,15}. A ‘robust’ threshold, for which a peak must include a CTSS with more than 10 read counts and 1 TPM (tags per million) at least one sample, was employed to define a stringent subset of the CAGE peaks. The robust peaks were associated with known transcripts, such as RefSeq²⁶, UCSC known gene²⁷, GENCODE²⁸, Ensembl²⁹, and mRNAs (full-length cDNA clones), based on their 5’-end proximity to the peaks. Official gene symbols, Entrez Gene IDs, and protein (UniProt) IDs associated with the transcripts were retrieved and assigned as part of annotation. In addition to these associations, human readable names and descriptions were assigned to each of the CAGE peaks. Peaks were given a name in the form pN@GENE, where GENE indicates gene symbol or transcript name and N indicates the rank in the ranked list of promoter activities for that gene. For example, p1@SPI1 represent the peak with the highest number of observation (that is, read counts) in all of the FANTOM5 CAGE profiles, among the peaks associated with SPI1 gene.

Peak identification with the same method and the same threshold was performed two times; the first was for ‘snapshot’ samples (phase 1), and the second was for the entire samples from both the ‘snapshot’

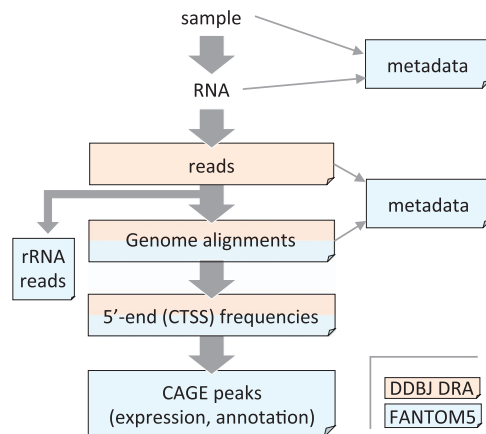


Figure 1. Data processing scheme. Data processing scheme from sample preparation to CAGE peak expression and annotation. Sky blue and beige color indicate locations storing the data, the FANTOM5 data archive (Data Citation 1, 10) and in DDBJ Sequence Read Archive (Data Citations 2–9) respectively.

and ‘time course’ studies (phase 2). We integrated these two peak sets into a hybrid set consisting of all the phase 1 peaks over the robust threshold and a subset of phase 2 peaks that did not overlap with the phase 1 peaks. Annotation of phase 1 peaks was used in the hybrid set, called phase 1+2 peaks, which provide a consistent reference in the definition of promoters.

Quantification of promoter activities

All the obtained CAGE profiles were subjected to the peak identification, even if they have some issues in quality, since all of them still represent independent observations of RNA 5′-ends. However promoter activities (that is, expression levels of CAGE peaks) were quantified only in the samples satisfying the following criteria: RIN score greater than 6, more than 500,000 successfully aligned reads to the genome, and more than 50% of the successful alignments are close to 5′-end of RefSeq gene model, for expression analysis requiring reliable quantification. After discarding a few CAGE profiles of low quality, read counts for individual CTSSs belonging to the same peak were summed up, normalization (or scaling) factors were calculated with RLE (Relative Log Expression)³⁰ method by edgeR³¹, and tags per million (that is, counts per million) was computed as expression levels.

The RLE normalization was first performed within the phase 1 samples. The naïve application of this to the entire data sets, consisting of phase 1 and phase 2 samples, might cause inconsistencies in expression levels between the two normalizations. To avoid this, we took the geometric mean of CAGE peak read counts across the phase 1 samples and used it as the reference expression for a normalization factor calculation in the same manner as RLE method. This enabled us to keep the expression levels of phase 1 as they were, and to adjust the expression levels of the phase 2 samples to be comparable¹⁵.

Code availability

All software used in this study are publicly available. rRNAdust, for removing ribosomal RNA, is available at <http://fantom.gsc.riken.jp/5/suppl/rRNAdust/>. Mapping software Delve is available at <http://fantom.gsc.riken.jp/5/suppl/delve/>. The program to perform DPI, decomposition-based peak identification, method is available at <https://github.com/hkawaji/dpi1/>.

Data Records

Data record 1: Metadata

Two types of metadata are available at figshare and LSDB Archive (Data Citation 1, 10). One is for the samples, including their origins and extracted RNA. The other is for the CAGE assay, including the result of RNA quality check, library production, and post-processing of the CAGE tag sequences. Both of them are described in SDRF (Sample and Data Relationship Format)³². Sample metadata for human and mouse are ‘HumanSamples2.0.sdrf.xlsx’ and ‘MouseSamples2.0.sdrf.xlsx’, respectively. The metadata for the CAGE assay are available as ‘*sdrf.txt’.

Data record 2: CAGE profiles

All of the CAGE sequences, their alignment to the genomes, and CTSS frequencies are available at DDBJ DRA (DDBJ Sequence Read Archive) (Data Citations 2–9). The accession number of each file is summarized in ‘DRA*.txt’ at figshare (Data Citation 1).

Data record 3: CAGE peaks

Genomic coordinates, annotations and expressions of the CAGE peaks are available as ‘*phase1and2-combined_coord.bed.gz’, ‘*phase1and2combined_ann.txt.gz’, and ‘*phase1and2combined_tpm.osc.txt.gz’.

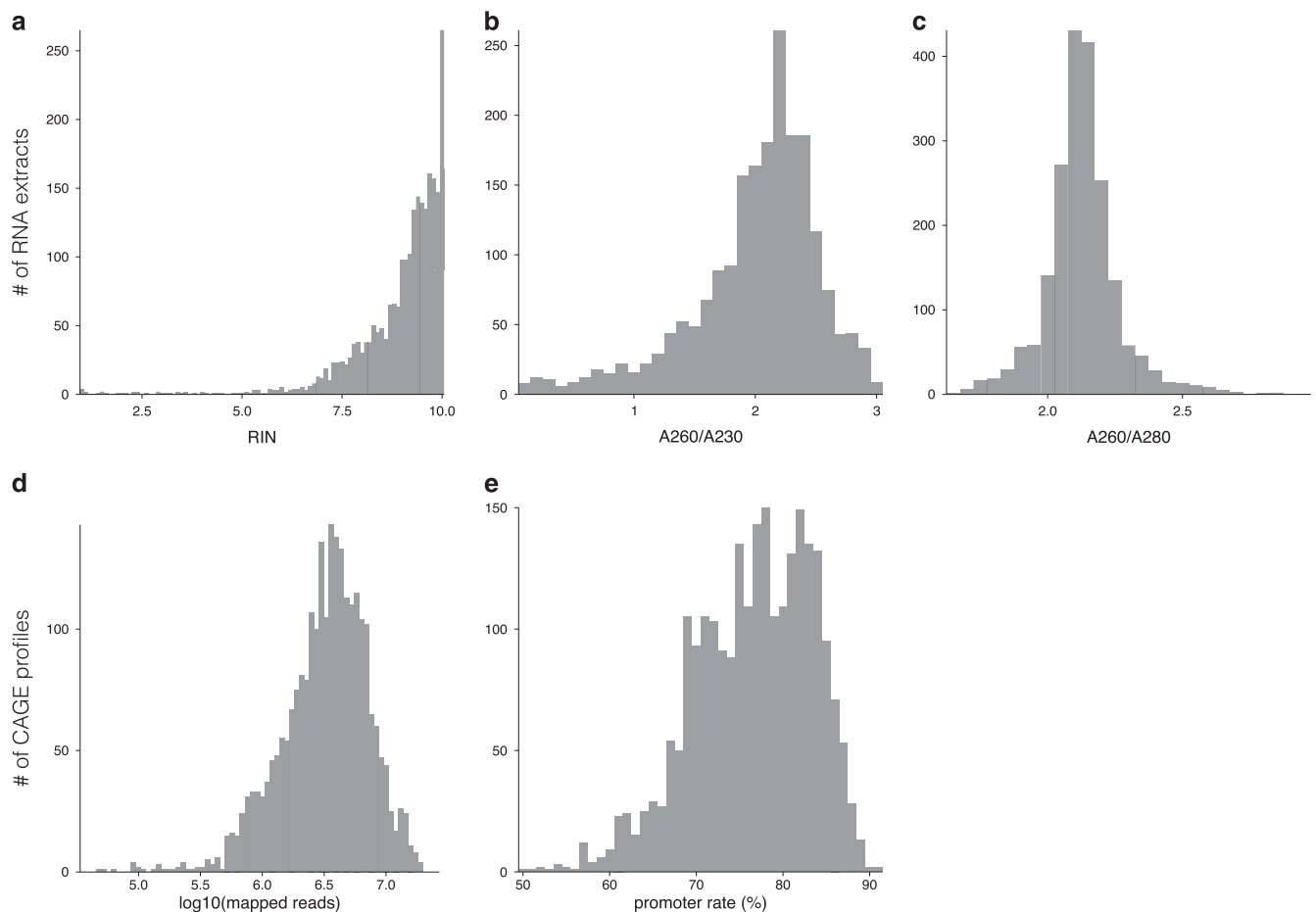


Figure 2. RNA and mapping quality control. Distribution of RIN score (a), A260/A230 (b), A260/A280 (c), mapped reads (d), and promoter rate (e) for samples used for FANTOM5 expression analysis.

respectively at figshare (Data Citation 1). Genomic coordinates are formatted in BED format, and the others are formatted in OSCtable (Order Switchable Column table). The detail of the OSCtable format is available at <https://sourceforge.net/projects/osctf/>.

Technical Validation

RNA quality

Measured RNA qualities at the second check (that is, immediately before the CAGE library production) are shown in Fig. 2a–c. RNA Integrity Number (RIN) score, measured using an Agilent Bioanalyzer, was 8.96 on average (standard deviation 1.19), absorbance ratio of 260/230 nm (A260/A230) and 260/280 nm (A260/A280) were on average 2.01 (standard deviation 0.53) and 2.13 (standard deviation 0.14) respectively. These figures indicate that the majority of the RNAs were processed in good quality.

Mapped reads

The number of CAGE reads successfully aligned with the genome and the ratio of CAGE reads hitting conventional promoters are shown in Fig. 2d,e. The average number of mapped reads is 4,208,291 per CAGE profile. Of the 2,522 profiles, 98.3% (2,478) consists of at least 500,000 successfully aligned reads, which was a criterion of profiles used for expression analysis¹³. The average ratio of promoter-hitting reads is 76.5, and 98.6% of the all profiles (2,437/2,472) have more than 50% promoter-hitting rate, which was another criterion of profiles used for expression analysis¹³.

Sample identity

Hierarchical clustering of the 126 mouse primary cells¹³ within the phase 1 was shown in Fig. 3, and the same clustering of the 571 human primary cells¹³ was in Supplementary Fig. 1. The average linkage method was applied to log-scale expression (TPM) profiles at promoter-level, and sample identities were assessed by expression of marker genes and also by manual inspection of the hierarchical clustering. The figures show that majority of biological replicates belonged to the same branch of the tree, that is, the same cluster, except for samples with a low number of mapped read counts.

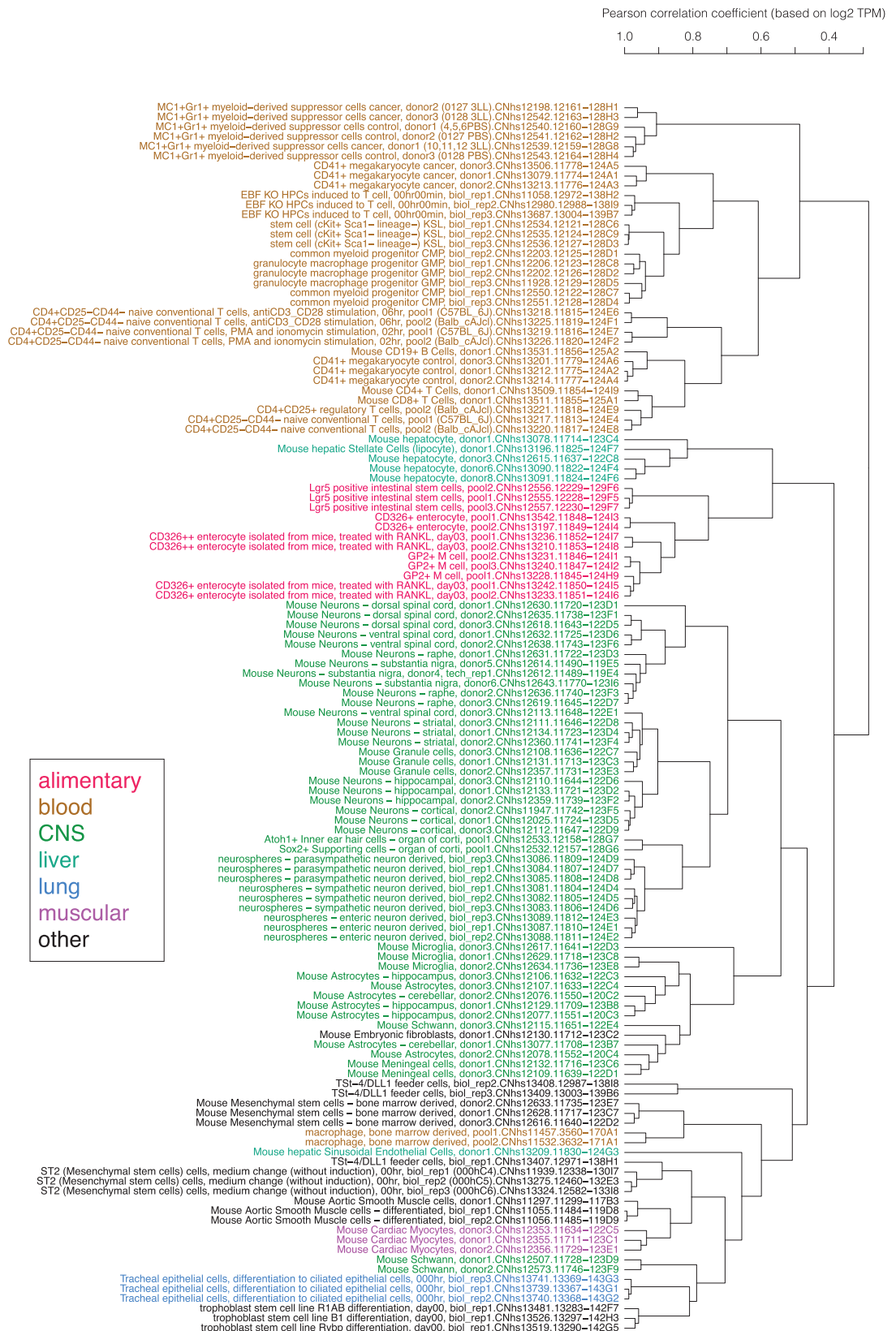


Figure 3. Hierarchical clustering of primary cells. Hierarchical clustering of primary cell samples of mouse based on logarithm of expression (TPM). Color shows anatomical categories of samples.

Usage Notes

As well as providing access to individual data files, we also set up a series of interfaces as described in the FANTOM web resource^{18,33}. TET (Table Extraction Tool) provides an interface to obtain a subset of data by specifying the desired columns and rows. The BioMart interface³⁴, and FANTOM5 SSTAR (Semantic catalog of Samples, Transcription initiation And Regulators) provides the metadata of the profiled samples³⁵. The CAGE profile on the genomic axis is visible in ZENBU¹⁷ with its interactive interface and also in the UCSC genome browser³⁶ via track data hub³⁷.

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Author Contributions

Samples were provided by P. Arner, R. Axton, M. Babina, J. Baillie, T. Barnett, A. Beckhouse, A. Blumenthal, B. Bodega, A. Bonetti, J. Briggs, F. Brombacher, A. Carlisle, H. Clevers, C. Davis, M. Detmar, T. Dohi, A. Edge, M. Edinger, A. Ehrlund, K. Ekwall, M. Endoh, H. Enomoto, A. Eslami, M. Fagiolini, L. Fairbairn, M. Farach-Carson, G. Faulkner, C. Ferrai, M. Fisher, L. Forrester, R. Fujita, J. Furusawa, T. Geijtenbeek, T. Gingeras, D. Goldowitz, S. Guhl, R. Guler, S. Gustincich, T. Ha, M. Hamaguchi, M. Hara, Y. Hasegawa, M. Herlyn, P. Heutink, K. Hitchens, D. Hume, T. Ikawa, Y. Ishizu, C. Kai, H. Kawamoto, Y. Kawamura, J. Kempfle, T. Kenna, J. Kere, L. Khachigian, T. Kitamura, S. Klein, S. Klinken, A. Knox, S. Kojima, H. Koseki, S. Koyasu, W. Lee, A. Lennartsson, A. Mackay-sim, N. Mejhert, Y. Mizuno, H. Morikawa, M. Morimoto, K. Moro, K. Morris, H. Motohashi, C. Mummery, Y. Nakachi, F. Nakahara, T. Nakamura, Y. Nakamura, T. Nozaki, S. Ogishima, N. Ohkura, H. Ohno, M. Ohshima, M. Okada-Hatakeyama, Y. Okazaki, V. Orlando, D. Ovchinnikov, R. Passier, M. Patrikakis, A. Pombo, S. Pradhan-Bhatt, X. Qin, M. Rehli, P. Rizzu, S. Roy, A. Sajantila, S. Sakaguchi, H. Sato, H. Satoh, S. Savvi, A. Saxena, C. Schmidl, C. Schneider, G. Schulze-Tanzil, A. Schwegmann, G. Sheng, J. Shin, D. Sugiyama, T. Sugiyama, K. Summers, N. Takahashi, J. Takai, H. Tanaka, H. Tatsukawa, A. Tomoiu, H. Toyoda, M. van de Wetering, L. van den Berg, R. Verardo, D. Vijayan, C. Wells, L. Winteringham, E. Wolvetang, Y. Yamaguchi, M. Yamamoto, C. Yanagi-Mizuochi, M. Yoneda, Y. Yonekura, P. Zhang, S. Zucchelli; CAGE data was produced by T. Arakawa, S. Fukuda, M. Furuno, A. Hasegawa, F. Hori, S. Ishikawa-Kato, K. Kaida, A. Kaiho, M. Kanamori-Katayama, T. Kawashima, M. Kojima, A. Kubosaki, R. Manabe, M. Murata, S. Nagao-Sato, K. Nakazato, N. Ninomiya, H. Nishiyori-Sueki, S. Noma, E. Saijyo, A. Saka, M. Sakai, C. Simon, N. Suzuki, M. Tagami, S. Watanabe, S. Yoshida; Data quality was assessed by S. Noguchi, I. Abugessaisa, E. Arner, J. Harshbarger, A. Kondo, T. Lassmann, M. Lizio, S. Sahin, T. Sengstag, J. Severin, H. Shimoji, H. Kawaji, A. Forrest; Data description is achieved by S. Noguchi, T. Kasukawa, H. Kawaji; Project is organized by M. Suzuki, H. Suzuki, J. Kawai, N. Kondo, M. Itoh, C. Daub, T. Kasukawa, H. Kawaji, P. Carninci, A. Forrest, Y. Hayashizaki.

Additional Information

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Shuhei Noguchi¹, Takahiro Arakawa^{1,2}, Shiro Fukuda², Masaaki Furuno^{1,2}, Akira Hasegawa^{1,2}, Fumi Hori^{1,2}, Sachi Ishikawa-Kato^{1,2}, Kaoru Kaida², Ai Kaiho², Mutsumi Kanamori-Katayama², Tsugumi Kawashima^{1,2}, Miki Kojima^{1,2}, Atsuta Kubosaki², Ri-ichiro Manabe^{1,2}, Mitsuyoshi Murata^{1,2}, Sayaka Nagao-Sato^{1,2}, Kenichi Nakazato², Noriko Ninomiya², Hiromi Nishiyori-Sueki^{1,2}, Shohei Noma^{1,2}, Eri Saijyo², Akiko Saka², Mizuho Sakai^{1,2}, Christophe Simon², Naoko Suzuki^{1,2}, Michihira Tagami^{1,2}, Shoko Watanabe^{1,2}, Shigehiro Yoshida², Peter Arner^{3,4}, Richard A. Axton⁵, Magda Babina⁶, J. Kenneth Baillie⁷, Timothy C. Barnett^{8,9}, Anthony G. Beckhouse¹⁰, Antje Blumenthal¹¹, Beatrice Bodega¹², Alessandro Bonetti^{1,2}, James Briggs¹³, Frank Brombacher^{14,15,16}, Ailsa J. Carlisle⁷, Hans C. Clevers^{17,18}, Carrie A. Davis¹⁹, Michael Detmar²⁰, Taeko Dohi²¹, Albert S.B. Edge²², Matthias Edinger^{23,24}, Anna Ehrlund^{3,4}, Karl Ekwall²⁵, Mitsuhiro Endoh²⁶, Hideki Enomoto²⁷, Afsaneh Eslami²⁸, Michela Fagioli²⁹, Lynsey Fairbairn⁷, Mary C. Farach-Carson³⁰, Geoffrey J. Faulkner³¹, Carmelo Ferrai³², Malcolm E. Fisher⁷, Lesley M. Forrester⁵, Rie Fujita³³, Jun-ichi Furusawa²⁶, Teunis B. Geijtenbeek³⁴, Thomas Gingeras¹⁹, Daniel Goldowitz³⁵, Sven Guhl⁶, Reto Guler^{14,15,16}, Stefano Gustincich^{36,37}, Thomas J. Ha³⁵, Masahide Hamaguchi³⁸, Mitsuko Hara³⁹, Yuki Hasegawa^{1,2}, Meenhard Herlyn⁴⁰, Peter Heutink⁴¹, Kelly J. Hitchens^{8,13}, David A. Hume⁷, Tomokatsu Ikawa²⁶, Yuri Ishizu^{1,2}, Chieko Kai^{42,43}, Hiroshi Kawamoto²⁶, Yuki I. Kawamura²¹, Judith S. Kempfle²², Tony J. Kenna⁴⁴, Juha Kere^{25,45}, Levon M. Khachigian^{46,47}, Toshio Kitamura⁴⁸, Sarah Klein²⁰, S. Peter Klinken⁴⁹, Alan J. Knox⁵⁰, Soichi Kojima³⁹, Haruhiko Koseki²⁶, Shigeo Koyasu²⁶, Weonju Lee⁵¹, Andreas Lennartsson²⁵, Alan Mackay-sim⁵², Niklas Mejhert^{3,4}, Yosuke Mizuno⁵³, Hiromasa Morikawa³⁸, Mitsuru Morimoto²⁷, Kazuyo Moro²⁶, Kelly J. Morris³², Hozumi Motohashi⁵⁴, Christine L. Mummery⁵⁵, Yutaka Nakachi^{53,56}, Fumio Nakahara⁴⁸, Toshiyuki Nakamura⁴², Yukio Nakamura⁵⁷, Tadasuke Nozaki⁵⁸, Soichi Ogishima⁵⁹, Naganari Ohkura³⁸, Hiroshi Ohno²⁶, Mitsuhiro Ohshima⁶⁰, Mariko Okada-Hatakeyama^{26,61}, Yasushi Okazaki^{53,56}, Valerio Orlando^{12,62}, Dmitry A. Ovchinnikov¹³, Robert Passier⁵⁵, Margaret Patrikakis⁴⁶, Ana Pombo³², Swati Pradhan-Bhatt⁶³, Xian-Yang Qin³⁹, Michael Rehli^{23,24}, Patrizia Rizzu⁴¹, Sugata Roy², Antti Sajantila⁶⁴, Shimon Sakaguchi³⁸, Hiroki Sato⁴², Hironori Satoh³³, Suzana Savvi^{14,15,16}, Alka Saxena², Christian Schmid²³, Claudio Schneider⁶⁵, Gundula G. Schulze-Tanzil⁶⁶, Anita Schwegmann^{14,15,16}, Guojun Sheng⁶⁷, Jay W. Shin^{1,2}, Daisuke Sugiyama⁶⁸, Takaaki Sugiyama⁴², Kim M. Summers⁷, Naoko Takahashi², Jun Takai³³, Hiroshi Tanaka²⁸, Hideki Tatsukawa⁶⁹, Andru Tomoiu⁷, Hiroo Toyoda⁵⁴, Marc van de Wetering¹⁷, Linda M. van den Berg³⁴, Roberto Verardo⁷⁰, Dipti Vijayan⁷¹, Christine A. Wells⁷², Louise N. Winteringham⁴⁹, Ernst Wolvetang¹³, Yoko Yamaguchi⁷³, Masayuki Yamamoto³³, Chiyo Yanagi-Mizuochi⁷⁴, Misako Yoneda⁴², Yohei Yonekura²⁷, Peter G. Zhang³⁵, Silvia Zucchelli³⁶, Imad Abugessaisa¹, Erik Arner^{1,2}, Jayson Harshbarger^{1,2}, Atsushi Kondo^{1,2}, Timo Lassmann^{1,2,75}, Marina Lizio^{1,2}, Serkan Sahin^{1,2}, Thierry Sengstag², Jessica Severin^{1,2}, Hisashi Shimoji^{2,76}, Masanori Suzuki², Harukazu Suzuki^{1,2}, Jun Kawai^{2,77}, Naoto Kondo^{1,2}, Masayoshi Itoh^{1,2,77}, Carsten O. Daub^{1,2,25}, Takeya Kasukawa¹, Hideya Kawai^{1,2,76,77}, Piero Carninci^{1,2}, Alistair R.R. Forrest^{1,2,49} & Yoshihide Hayashizaki^{2,77}

¹Division of Genomic Technologies, RIKEN Center for Life Science Technologies, Yokohama, Kanagawa 230-0045, Japan ²RIKEN Omics Science Center, Yokohama, Kanagawa 230-0045, Japan ³Department of Medicine, Karolinska Institutet, 141 86, Stockholm, Sweden ⁴Karolinska University Hospital, Center for Metabolism and Endocrinology, 141 86, Stockholm, Sweden ⁵Scottish Centre for Regenerative Medicine, University of Edinburgh, 5 Little France Drive, Edinburgh EH16 4UU, UK ⁶Department of Dermatology and Allergy, Charite University Medicine Berlin, Charitéplatz 1, 10117 Berlin, German ⁷The Roslin Institute and Royal (Dick) School of Veterinary Studies, University of Edinburgh, Edinburgh, Midlothian EH25 9RG, UK ⁸Australian Infectious Diseases Research Centre, The University of Queensland, St Lucia, QLD 4072, Australia ⁹School of Chemistry and Molecular Biosciences, The University of Queensland, St Lucia, QLD 4072, Australia ¹⁰Bio-Rad Laboratories Pty Ltd, Hercules, California 94547, USA ¹¹The University of Queensland Diamantina Institute, The University of Queensland, Woolloongabba, QLD 4102 Australia ¹²IRCCS Fondazione Santa Lucia, Via del Fosso di Fiorano 64, 00143 Rome, Italy ¹³Australian Institute for Bioengineering and Nanotechnology (AIBN), University of Queensland, Brisbane, St Lucia, QLD 4072, Australia ¹⁴Division of Immunology, Institute of Infectious Diseases and Molecular Medicine (IDM), University of Cape Town, Anzio Road, Observatory 7925, Cape Town, South Africa ¹⁵Immunology of Infectious Diseases, Faculty of Health Sciences, South African Medical Research Council (SAMRC), University of Cape Town, Anzio Road, Observatory 7925, Cape Town, South Africa ¹⁶International Centre for Genetic Engineering and Biotechnology, Cape Town Component, Anzio Road, Observatory 7925, Cape Town, South Africa ¹⁷Hubrecht Institute, Royal Netherlands Academy of Arts and Sciences, Uppsalalaan 8, 3584 CT Utrecht, The Netherlands ¹⁸University Medical Centre Utrecht, Postbus 85500, 3508 GA Utrecht, The Netherlands ¹⁹Genomics, Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory, Cold Spring Harbor, New York 11797, USA ²⁰Institute of Pharmaceutical Sciences, ETH Zurich, Vladimir-Prelog-Weg 3, HCI H 303, 8093 Zurich, Switzerland ²¹Gastroenterology, Research Center for Hepatitis and Immunology, Research Institute National Center for Global Health and Medicine, Ichikawa, Chiba 272-8516, Japan ²²Department of Otolaryngology, Harvard Medical School, Boston, Massachusetts 02114, USA ²³Department of Internal Medicine III, University Hospital Regensburg, F.-J.-Strauss Allee 11, D-93053 Regensburg, Germany ²⁴RCI Regensburg Centre for Interventional Immunology, University Hospital Regensburg, F.-J.-Strauss Allee 11, D-93053 Regensburg, Germany ²⁵Department of Biosciences and Nutrition, Karolinska Institutet, Hälsovägen 7-9, SE-141 83 Huddinge, Sweden ²⁶RIKEN Center for Integrative Medical Sciences, Yokohama, Kanagawa 230-0045, Japan ²⁷Laboratory for Neuronal Differentiation and Regeneration, RIKEN Center for Developmental Biology, Chuou-ku, Kobe 650-0047, Japan ²⁸Department of Bioinformatics, Medical Research Institute, Tokyo Medical and Dental University, Bunkyo-ku, Tokyo 113-8510, Japan ²⁹F.M. Kirby Neurobiology Center, Children's Hospital, Harvard Medical School, Boston, Massachusetts 02115, USA ³⁰The University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston, Houston, TX 77251-1892, USA ³¹Cancer Biology Program, Mater Medical Research Institute, South Brisbane, Queensland 4101, Australia ³²Berlin Institute for Medical Systems Biology, Max Delbrück Center, Robert Roessle Str.10, 13125 Berlin, Germany ³³Department of Medical Biochemistry, Tohoku University Graduate School of Medicine, Sendai, Miyagi 980-8575, Japan ³⁴Experimental Immunology, Academic Medical Center, University of Amsterdam, Meibergdreef 9, 1105 AZ Amsterdam, The Netherlands ³⁵Department of Medical Genetics, Centre for Molecular Medicine and Therapeutics, Child and Family Research Institute, University of British Columbia, Vancouver, British Columbia V5Z 4H4, Canada ³⁶Neuroscience, SISSA, Via Bonomea 265, 34136 Trieste, Italy ³⁷Department of Neuroscience and Brain Technologies, Italian Institute of Technology, Via Morego 30, Genova, Italy ³⁸Department of Experimental Immunology, World Premier International Immunology Frontier Research Center, Osaka University, Suita, Osaka 565-0871, Japan ³⁹RIKEN Center for Life Science Technologies, Wako, Saitama 351-0198, Japan ⁴⁰Melanoma Research Center, The Wistar Institute, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19104, USA ⁴¹German Center for Neurodegenerative Diseases (DZNE)-Tübingen, Otfried Müller Straße 23, 72076 Tübingen, Germany ⁴²Laboratory Animal Research Center, Institute of

Medical Science, The University of Tokyo, Minato-ku, Tokyo 108-8639, Japan ⁴³International Research Center for Infectious Diseases, Institute of Medical Science, The University of Tokyo, Minato-ku, Tokyo 108-8639, Japan ⁴⁴Institute of Health and Biomedical Innovation, Queensland University of Technology, Translational Research Institute, Princess Alexandra Hospital, Brisbane, QLD 4102, Australia ⁴⁵Department of Genetics and Molecular Medicine, King's College London, Guy's St Thomas Street, London, UK ⁴⁶Centre for Vascular Research, University of New South Wales, Sydney, New South Wales 2052, Australia ⁴⁷Vascular Biology and Translational Research, School of Medical Sciences, University of New South Wales, Sydney, New South Wales 2052, Australia ⁴⁸Division of Cellular Therapy and Division of Stem Cell Signaling, Institute of Medical Science, University of Tokyo, Minato-ku, Tokyo 108-8639, Japan ⁴⁹Harry Perkins Institute of Medical Research, Perth, WA 6009, Australia ⁵⁰Respiratory Medicine, University of Nottingham, Hucknall Road, Nottingham NG5 1PB, UK ⁵¹Dermatology, School of Medicine Kyungpook National University, Jung-gu, Daegu 41944, Korea ⁵²Griffith University, Brisbane, Queensland 4111, Australia ⁵³Division of Functional Genomics and Systems Medicine, Research Center for Genomic Medicine, Saitama Medical University, Hidaka, Saitama 350-1241, Japan ⁵⁴Center for Radioisotope Sciences, Tohoku University Graduate School of Medicine, Sendai, Miyagi 980-8575, Japan ⁵⁵Anatomy and Embryology, Leiden University Medical Center, Einthovenweg 20, P.O. Box 9600, 2300 RC Leiden, The Netherlands ⁵⁶Division of Translational Research, Research Center for Genomic Medicine, Saitama Medical University, Hidaka, Saitama 350-1241, Japan ⁵⁷Cell Engineering Division, RIKEN BioResource Center, Tsukuba, Ibaraki 305-0074, Japan ⁵⁸Department of Clinical Molecular Genetics, School of Pharmacy, Tokyo University of Pharmacy and Life Sciences, Hachioji, Tokyo 192-0392, Japan ⁵⁹Department of Bioclinical Informatics, Tohoku Medical Megabank Organization, Tohoku University, Sendai, Miyagi 980-8573, Japan ⁶⁰Department of Biochemistry, Ohu University School of Pharmaceutical Sciences, Koriyama, Fukushima 963-8611 Japan ⁶¹Institute for Protein Research, Osaka University, Suita, Osaka 565-0871, Japan ⁶²Environmental Epigenetics Program, Biological and Environmental Sciences and Engineering Division, King Abdullah University of Science and Technology (KAUST), Thuwal 23955-6900, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia ⁶³University of Delaware, Newark, DE 19716 USA ⁶⁴Hjelt Institute, Department of Forensic Medicine, University of Helsinki, Kytösuntie 11, 003000 Helsinki, Finland ⁶⁵Laboratorio Nazionale CIB, Padriciano, 99 34149, Trieste, Italy ⁶⁶Department of Orthopedic, Trauma and Reconstructive Surgery, Charité Universitätsmedizin Berlin, Charitéplatz 1, 10117 Berlin, German ⁶⁷International Research Center for Medical Sciences (IRCMS), Kumamoto University, Chuo-ku, Kumamoto 860-0811, Japan ⁶⁸Department of Clinical Study, Center for Advanced Medical Innovation, Kyushu University, Higashi-Ku, Fukuoka 812-8582, Japan ⁶⁹Graduate School of Pharmaceutical Sciences, Nagoya University, Nagoya, Aichi 464-8601, Japan ⁷⁰Laboratorio Nazionale del Consorzio Interuniversitario per le Biotecnologie (LNCIB), Padriciano 99, 34149 Trieste, Italy ⁷¹QIMR Berghofer Medical Research Institute, Brisbane, QLD 4006, Australia ⁷²Centre for Stem Cell Systems, Department of Anatomy and Neuroscience, MDHS, University of Melbourne, Melbourne, VIC 3010, Australia ⁷³Department of Biochemistry, Nihon University School of Dentistry, Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo 101-8310, Japan ⁷⁴Center for Clinical and Translational Research, Kyushu University Hospital, Higashi-Ku, Fukuoka 812-8582, Japan ⁷⁵Telethon Kids Institute, the University of Western Australia, Perth, WA, Australia ⁷⁶Preventive medicine and applied genomics unit, RIKEN Advanced Center for Computing and Communication, Yokohama, Kanagawa 230-0045, Japan ⁷⁷RIKEN Preventive Medicine and Diagnosis Innovation Program, Wako, Saitama 351-0198, Japan