

POSTER PRESENTATION

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# Toll-Like Receptors are critical in controlling colonic inflammation and cancer

Hui Xiao<sup>1,2\*</sup>, Weiguo Yin<sup>2</sup>, Mohammed A Khan<sup>3</sup>, Muhammet F Gulen<sup>2</sup>, Bruce A Vallance<sup>3</sup>, Xiaoxia Li<sup>2</sup>

From Institut Pasteur International Network Annual Scientific Meeting  
Hong Kong. 22-23 November 2010

Despite the presence of large number and diverse populations of commensal microbes, gut mucosa has evolved to maintain “microbial-tolerance”, which is critically regulated by well-controlled Toll-like receptor (TLR) signaling. Deregulated TLR signaling has been linked to the pathogenesis of inflammatory bowel disease and colon cancer; however, the underlying mechanisms need to be further defined. In this study, we uncovered that lack of SIGIRR, a negative regulator for TLR and IL-1R signaling, led to increased genetic instability and LOH of *Apc*, resulting in spontaneous colonic polyposis in *Apc<sup>min/+</sup>/Sigirr<sup>-/-</sup>* mice. Importantly, elevated colonic tumorigenesis in *Apc<sup>min/+</sup>/Sigirr<sup>-/-</sup>* mice is dependent on the presence of commensal microbes in gut, implicating a critical role for TLR signaling in tumorigenesis. Furthermore, we demonstrated that SIGIRR-modulated TLR-mediated tumor initiation is mainly through the activation of the Akt-mTOR axis, which promotes cell cycle progression through its impact on posttranscriptional control of the key cell cycle regulators (Cyclins, c-Myc and cdk2). Moreover, abrogation of mTOR pathway by rapamycin prevented microadenoma and polyps formation in *Apc<sup>min/+</sup>/Sigirr<sup>-/-</sup>* mice, providing new insights into treating human cancers. In addition, augmented production of proinflammatory cytokines, such as IL-6 and IL-23, further promoted tumor growth in *Apc<sup>min/+</sup>/Sigirr<sup>-/-</sup>* mice. Epithelium specific re-expression of SIGIRR in *Apc<sup>min/+</sup>/Sigirr<sup>-/-</sup>* mice ameliorated intestinal tumorigenesis. In summary, this study indicates that SIGIRR is a critical tumor suppressor that controls tumorigenesis by inhibiting TLR-induced mTOR and NFkB pathways in colonic epithelium.

## Author details

<sup>1</sup>Unit of Immune Signaling and Regulation, Institut Pasteur of Shanghai, Shanghai 200025, PR China. <sup>2</sup>Department of Immunology, Cleveland Clinic Foundation, Cleveland, OH 44195, USA. <sup>3</sup>Division of Gastroenterology, University of British Columbia and BC Children's Hospital, Vancouver, BC V6T 1Z4, Canada.

Published: 10 January 2011

doi:10.1186/1753-6561-5-S1-P87

Cite this article as: Xiao et al.: Toll-Like Receptors are critical in controlling colonic inflammation and cancer. *BMC Proceedings* 2011 5 (Suppl 1):P87.

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\* Correspondence: [huixiao@sibs.ac.cn](mailto:huixiao@sibs.ac.cn)

<sup>1</sup>Unit of Immune Signaling and Regulation, Institut Pasteur of Shanghai, Shanghai 200025, PR China

Full list of author information is available at the end of the article