



Lehrstuhl für Biotechnologie der Nutztiere

## Analysis and optimisation of a porcine model for colorectal cancer

Carolin Perleberg

Vollständiger Abdruck der von der Fakultät Wissenschaftszentrum Weihenstephan für Ernährung,  
Landnutzung und Umwelt der Technischen Universität München zur Erlangung des akademischen  
Grades eines

**Doktors der Naturwissenschaften**

genehmigten Dissertation.

Vorsitzende(r): Prof. Dr. Harald Luksch

Prüfer der Dissertation: 1. Prof. Angelika Schnieke, Ph.D.

2. apl. Prof. Dr. Dieter Saur

Die Dissertation wurde am .....17.01.2019.....bei der Technischen Universität München  
eingereicht und durch die Fakultät Wissenschaftszentrum Weihenstephan für Ernährung,  
Landnutzung und Umwelt am .....06.06.2019..... angenommen.

---

## Abstract

Colorectal cancer (CRC) is the fourth most common cancer worldwide in both sexes and as it is often diagnosed late it has a high mortality. CRC is a very heterogeneous group of malignancies where a multitude of molecular changes such as chromosomal instability, microsatellite instability, mutations, deletions of chromosomal regions, aberrant epigenetic modifications and dysregulated microRNAs (miRNAs) disrupt the signalling pathways WNT, Ras/ MAPK, PI3K, TGF $\beta$ /SMAD and p53. Animal models for CRC are essential to better understand the diseases and to identify novel treatment opportunities. Although mice are frequently used to model human disease, they do not replicate key aspects of human CRC pathology. The chair of livestock biotechnology at the University of Munich has generated pigs that carry a translational stop signal at codon 1311 in porcine APC that is orthologous to the human *APC*<sup>1309</sup> mutation that is most frequently diagnosed in both CRC and familial adenomatous polyposis (FAP) a hereditary autosomal dominant disorder causing development of multiple polyps during puberty, resulting in a strong CRC risk. *APC*<sup>1309</sup> germline mutation in human FAP is associated with very severe polyposis. The *APC*<sup>1311</sup> pigs replicate hallmarks of human FAP and CRC including adenomatous polyps in the colorectum with loss of APC heterozygosity,  $\beta$ -catenin accumulation, upregulation of c-MYC, MAPK pathway activation and progression to carcinoma *in situ* and phenotypic variation in polyposis severity ranging from  $\geq 100$  (high polyp animals (HP)) to only 1-10 polyps (low polyp animals (LP)) in the distal colorectum (last 40 cm).

The aim of this project was to identify elements in the genetic background such as modifier genes, single-nucleotide polymorphisms, gene sets and miRNAs that may contribute to severe polyposis using next generation mRNA and miRNA sequencing. The gene *CYP7A1*, miRNAs miR-215 and 194b-5p and gene sets associated with oestrogen response were found to be highly expressed and targeted by miRNAs differentially expressed in animals with severe polyposis (HP). *Cis*-regulation of *CYP7A1* was analysed for CpG island methylation and SNPs in promoter region (>5000 bp prior to the ATG). One CpG site that is included in the binding sequence of STAT3, a known tumour-promoting factor, was significantly lower methylated in HP animals, likely allowing better binding of STAT3. Increased *CYP7A1* expression could be traced to stromal cells of the normal mucosa rather than crypt cells.

Analysis of tumour progression from low grade (LG) to high grade (HG) intraepithelial neoplasia (IEN) revealed an increase in the expression of immune associated genes originating from HG tumour stroma, the genes *PLXND1* and *GBP6* in laser microdissected HG-IEN and miRNAs let-7e, miR-146a-5p, 146b, 183, 196a in HG-IEN bulk samples. High expression of these genes and miRNAs has been associated with tumour-promoting capacities in humans. Gene set enrichment showed gene sets such

---

as MYC targets and cell cycle related gene sets enriched that were also found enriched in human CRC, replicating broad molecular pathways of human CRC in the *APC<sup>1311</sup>* pig model.

CRC in the *APC<sup>1311</sup>* pigs progressed very slowly, just like in humans. Acceleration and increase of tumour progression of the model was aimed by introduction of oncogenic mutations. Therefore, the generation of *APC<sup>1311</sup>* pigs with ubiquitous *Cas9* expression in the *ROSA26* locus was aimed to allow local genome editing with high efficiency of introducing sequential oncogenic mutations by *in vivo* administration of guide RNAs (gRNAs) via *in vivo* electroporation or adeno-associated viral vectors. Primary cells from *APC<sup>1311</sup>* pigs were *Cas9* (isolated from *Streptococcus pyogenes*) targeted into the porcine *ROSA26* locus via homologous recombination using promoter trap strategy. Correctly targeted clones were analysed on genomic, RNA and protein level, validating correct targeting, expression and functional nuclease activity. However, the cells failed to generate viable offspring when used as nuclear donors for somatic cell nuclear transfer.

---

## Zusammenfassung

Kolorektaler Krebs ist die vierthäufigste Krebserkrankung weltweit und weist aufgrund später Diagnosen eine hohe Sterblichkeitsrate auf. Die Betrachtung der molekularen Karzinogenese kolorektalen Krebses zeigt, dass es sich um eine sehr heterogene Gruppe von Krebserkrankungen handelt. Verschiedenste molekulare Veränderungen wie chromosomale Instabilität, Mikrosatelliteninstabilität, Mutationen, Deletionen chromosomaler Abschnitte, anormale epigenetische Modifikationen und dysregulierte microRNAs (miRNAs) stören die Signalwege WNT, Ras/MAPK, PI3K, TGF $\beta$ /SMAD und p53. Tiermodelle für kolorektalen Krebs sind essenziell um die Erkrankung besser zu verstehen und neue Behandlungsmöglichkeiten identifizieren zu können. Obwohl hierbei sehr häufig auf Mäuse zurückgegriffen wird, um humane Erkrankungen zu modellieren, können sie Schlüsselaspekte humaner kolorektaler Krebspathologie nicht replizieren. Der Lehrstuhl für Biotechnologie der Nutztiere an der Technischen Universität München hat Schweine mit einem translationalen Stoppsignal an Kodon 1311 des porzinen *APC* gens generiert, welches ortholog zur humanen *APC*<sup>1309</sup> Mutation ist. *APC*<sup>1309</sup> ist die am häufigsten diagnostizierte Mutation in sporadischem kolorektalen Krebs sowie der erblich autosomal dominanten Erkrankung familiäre adenomatöse Polypose (FAP) bei welcher sich unzählige Polypen bereits während der Pubertät im Darm entwickeln und so ein enormes Krebsrisiko darstellen. Die Keimbahnmutation *APC*<sup>1309</sup> ist zudem mit einer sehr schweren Polypose der FAP Patienten assoziiert. Die *APC*<sup>1311</sup> Schweine replizieren Schlüsselaspekte humaner FAP und kolorektalen Krebs wie adenomatöse Polypen im Kolorektum mit Verlust des APC wildtyp Alleles,  $\beta$ -catenin Akkumulierung, Hochregulierung von c-MYC, MAPK Signalwegaktivierung sowie die Progression zum *Carcinoma in situ* und phänotypische Variation der Polypose von  $\geq 100$  Polypen (high polyp animals (HP)) zu 1-10 Polypen (low polyp animals (LP)) im distalen Kolorektum (letzten 40 cm).

Ziel dieses Projektes war die Identifizierung von Elementen im genetischen Hintergrund wie Modifier Gene, einzelner Nukleotidpolymorphismen (SNPs), Gen-Sets und miRNAs, welche zur Empfänglichkeit einer schwerwiegenden Polypose beitragen, mittels "next generation" RNA und miRNA Sequenzierung. Das Gen *CYP7A1*, miRNAs miR-215 und 194b-5p sowie Gen-Sets assoziiert mit Östrogen-Antwort wurden hoch exprimiert oder von dysregulierten miRNAs anvisiert in Tieren mit einer sehr schwerwiegenden Polypose (HP) nachgewiesen. *Cis*-Regulation von *CYP7A1* wurde mittels CpG-Insel Methylierungsevaluation und SNP Detektion >5000 bp vor dem ATG analysiert. Eine CpG Position welche sich in der Bindungssequenz von STAT3, ein bekannter tumorfördernder Faktor, befindet, war signifikant weniger methyliert in HP Tieren, welches eine mögliche STAT3 Bindung

---

begünstigen kann. Darüber hinaus konnte die erhöhte *CYP7A1* Expression Stromazellen der normalen Mukosa statt Kryptzellen zugeordnet werden.

Analysen der Tumorprogression von niedriggradigen intraepithelialen Neoplasien (LG-IEN) zu hochgradigen intraepithelialen Neoplasien (HG-IEN) offenbarten eine erhöhte Expression immunassoziierter Gene, welche dem Tumorstroma zugeordnet werden konnten, sowie der Gene *PLXND1* und *GBP6* in laser mikrodisektiertem intraepithelialen Neoplasien und miRNAs let-7e, miR-146a-5p, 146b, 183, 196a in Bulkproben. Im Menschen wurden hohe Expressionen dieser Gene und miRNAs tumorfördernden Fähigkeiten zugeordnet. "Gene set enrichment" Analysen zeigten Anreicherungen von MYC-Zielgenen und Zellzyklus assoziierte Gen-Sets, wie sie auch bei humanen kolorektalem Krebs gefunden wurden. Somit repliziert das Schweinmodell wesentlich molekulare Signalwege humanen kolorektalen Krebses.

Die Progression zu kolorektalem Krebs in den *APC<sup>1311</sup>* Schweinen verlief, wie auch im Menschen, sehr langsam. Um eine Tumorbildung zu beschleunigen, sollte durch das Einfügen weiterer onkogener Mutationen erzielt werden. Hierfür, sollte die Generation eines *APC<sup>1311</sup>* Schweins mit ubiquitärer *Cas9* Expression im *ROSA26* Locus generiert werden. In Vivo Verabreichung von guide RNAs (gRNA) mittels in vivo Elektroporation oder adeno-assoziiierter viraler Vektoren sollte hierbei das sequentielle Einfügen onkogener Mutationen ermöglichen. *Cas9* (isoliert aus *Streptococcus pyogenes*) wurde in den porzinen *ROSA26* Locus primärer Nierenzellen eines *APC<sup>1311</sup>* Schweins mittels homologer Rekombination und „promoter trap“ Strategie eingebracht. Die korrekte Position der *Cas9* Insertion sowie Expression und Nukleaseaktivität wurden auf genomischer, RNA- und Protein-Ebene erfolgreich transfizierter Klone validiert. Als Nukleus-Donator für Kerntransfer somatischer Zellen konnten die Zellklone jedoch keine lebenden Nachkommen generieren.

---

## Content

Abstract .....	I
Zusammenfassung.....	III
<b>1. Introduction .....</b>	<b>1</b>
1.1 Colorectal cancer.....	1
1.2 Molecular pathology of colorectal cancer.....	2
1.2.1 Epigenetic modifications in cancer.....	2
1.2.2 MicroRNAs in cancer .....	4
1.2.3 Microsatellite instability pathway.....	5
1.2.4 Classic adenoma-carcinoma sequence.....	6
1.3 Adenomatous polyposis coli.....	9
1.4 Familial adenomatous polyposis .....	10
1.5 Modifier genes .....	11
1.6 Next generation sequencing and colorectal cancer.....	11
1.7 Early diagnosis.....	12
1.8 Animal models for CRC.....	13
1.8.1 Mouse.....	14
1.8.2 Pig.....	14
1.9 Genetic modification of pigs .....	15
1.9.1 Genome editing in pigs.....	16
1.10 Porcine cancer models .....	18
1.11 The porcine colorectal cancer model <i>APC<sup>1311</sup></i> pig.....	19
1.12 Objective .....	20
<b>2. Materials and Methods.....</b>	<b>21</b>
2.1 Material .....	21
2.1.1 Laboratory equipment.....	21
2.1.2 Consumables .....	23
2.1.3 Chemicals.....	24
2.1.4 Buffers and solutions.....	25
2.1.5 Bacterial media.....	27
2.1.6 Tissue culture media and solutions.....	27
2.1.7 Kits.....	28
2.1.8 Enzymes.....	29
2.1.9 Oligonucleotide primers.....	29

---

2.1.10	Oligonucleotides for hybridisation .....	32
2.1.11	Cloning vectors .....	33
2.1.12	Antibodies.....	33
2.1.13	Competent bacterial cells.....	34
2.1.14	Cultured mammalian cells.....	34
2.1.15	Pigs.....	34
2.1.16	Computer software .....	35
2.2	Molecular biological methods.....	37
2.2.1	Isolation of bacterial plasmid DNA.....	37
2.2.2	Isolation of mammalian genomic DNA using phenol-chloroform extraction .....	37
2.2.3	Isolation of mammalian genomic DNA using AllPrep Mini Kit .....	38
2.2.4	Isolation of mammalian genomic DNA using Quick Extract .....	38
2.2.5	Isolation of RNA.....	38
2.2.6	DNase digest.....	39
2.2.7	Quantification and Quality control of nucleic acids .....	39
2.2.8	Plasmid DNA purification for tissue culture by ethanol precipitation .....	40
2.2.9	Plasmid DNA purification for tissue culture by phenol-chloroform extraction .....	40
2.2.10	Column based DNA purification .....	40
2.2.11	Restriction enzyme digestion .....	41
2.2.12	Blunting .....	41
2.2.13	Oligonucleotide hybridisation .....	41
2.2.14	DNA ligation.....	41
2.2.15	DNA methylation .....	41
2.2.16	Bisulphite conversion .....	42
2.2.17	Whole genome amplification using the REPLI-g Mini Kit .....	42
2.2.18	Reverse Transcription.....	42
2.2.19	5' Rapid amplification of cDNA ends (RACE) .....	42
2.2.20	Polymerase chain reaction .....	42
2.2.21	Colony PCR using GoTaq Polymerase.....	43
2.2.22	Mycoplasma Test PCR using GoTaq .....	43
2.2.23	Reverse Transcription PCR .....	44
2.2.24	Quantitative Real-time PCR.....	44
2.2.25	Reverse transcription quantitative Real-time PCR .....	44
2.2.26	Enzymatic PCR purification.....	46

---

---

2.2.27	Sequencing with SmartSeq from MWG Eurofins .....	46
2.2.28	Sanger Sequencing .....	46
2.2.29	Pyrosequencing .....	47
2.2.30	Next Generation Sequencing using Illumina technology .....	47
2.2.31	Southern blot analysis .....	49
2.3	Microbiological methods.....	51
2.3.1	Bacterial culture .....	51
2.3.2	Cryoconservation of bacterial cultures .....	51
2.3.3	Transformation of bacteria .....	51
2.3.4	Blue white screening of bacterial colonies.....	51
2.4	Tissue culture methods .....	51
2.4.1	Passaging cells .....	52
2.4.2	Counting cells .....	52
2.4.3	Isolation and culture of primary porcine kidney fibroblasts .....	52
2.4.4	Cryoconservation of mammalian cells .....	52
2.4.5	Transfection of mammalian cells .....	53
2.4.6	Killing curve experiment.....	54
2.4.7	Selection .....	54
2.4.8	Clone picking .....	54
2.4.9	Clone expansion and screening.....	55
2.4.10	Cell preparation for somatic cell nuclear transfer.....	55
2.5	Biochemical methods .....	55
2.5.1	Protein extraction from cultured cells .....	55
2.5.2	Determination of protein concentration.....	55
2.5.3	Western blot Analysis.....	56
2.5.4	Colonoscopy of pigs.....	58
2.5.5	Cryosectioning .....	58
2.5.6	Haematoxylin-Eosin staining of cryosections.....	58
2.5.7	Microscopy .....	59
2.5.8	Laser microdissection .....	59
2.6	Data analysis.....	60
2.6.1	Statistical Analysis .....	60
2.6.2	<i>In silico</i> miRNA target prediction using Diana tools .....	60
2.6.3	Gene set enrichment analysis .....	60

---



---

<b>3. Results</b> .....	61
3.1 Attempt to identify modifier genes in the porcine model for colorectal cancer .....	61
3.1.1 Attempt to identify modifier genes on mRNA level.....	62
3.1.2 Attempt to identify modifier genes on miRNA level.....	77
3.2 Analysis of genes mediating tumour progression in the porcine model for colorectal .....	85
cancer .....	85
3.2.1 Analysis of tumour progression on mRNA level.....	85
3.2.2 Analysis of tumour progression on miRNA level.....	90
3.3 Optimisation of the CRC model.....	95
3.3.1 Generating targeting vectors for <i>Cas9</i> placement into the porcine <i>ROSA26</i> locus .....	95
3.3.2 Generation and analysis of <i>Cas9</i> -targeted clones.....	97
<b>4. Discussion</b> .....	105
4.1 Characterisation of the porcine model for colorectal cancer by transcriptional analyses .....	106
using next generation sequencing technology.....	106
4.2 Attempt to identify modifier genes on mRNA level.....	107
4.2.1 Gene expression analysis .....	108
4.2.2 Gene set enrichment analysis .....	109
4.2.3 Single-nucleotide polymorphisms .....	110
4.2.4 Computational analysis .....	110
4.3 Attempt to identify modifier genes on miRNA level.....	111
4.4 Analysis of tumour progression on mRNA level.....	112
4.5 Optimisation of the CRC model.....	114
4.5.1 Generation and analysis of <i>Cas9</i> targeted clones .....	115
4.5.2 Application of <i>APC<sup>1311</sup>/Cas9</i> pigs .....	116
<b>5. Final remarks and outlook</b> .....	117
<b>6. List of abbreviations</b> .....	118
<b>7. List of figures</b> .....	122
<b>8. List of tables</b> .....	123
<b>9. Bibliography</b> .....	125
<b>10. Appendix</b> .....	150
<b>11. Acknowledgments</b> .....	227

## 1. Introduction

### 1.1 Colorectal cancer

Cancers are the second leading cause of death worldwide, with more than 14 million new cases and 8 million mortalities in 2012 (Ferlay et al, 2015).

Colorectal cancer (CRC) is the fourth most common cancer in both sexes worldwide with 1.36 million cases and 51 % mortalities in 2012 (Ferlay et al, 2015). Despite increasing efforts in research and healthcare to counter act cancer, the number of CRC cases is estimated to grow over time (Ferlay et al, 2010; Ferlay et al, 2015). The increasing number of CRC cases is associated with the increased age of people (World Health Statistics 2017: Monitoring health for the SDGs) but also with the expansion of western lifestyle and diet. This was evidenced by 51,508 more CRC incidents in first-world regions compared to those in developing areas in 2012 (Ferlay et al, 2015). High risk factors for CRC are high consumption of red meat, alcohol and tobacco, obesity and a lack of exercise which represent aspects of a western lifestyle (Jemal et al, 2011).

70-80 % of all CRC cases are sporadic while 20-30 % are caused by hereditary mutations (Whiffin et al, 2014). Both sporadic and hereditary CRC arise from mutations causing histological changes of the colorectal epithelium. Through early mutations of tumour suppressor genes, the stem cells or progenitor cells in the colorectal crypts give rise to aberrant crypt foci that progress to conventional adenomatous or serrated adenomas in colon and rectum. Only 10-15 % of conventional adenomas will develop over a span of a decade to CRC (Fearon, 2011; Yang et al, 2004). No matter how slow this process is, CRC accounted for 8 % of all cancer deaths worldwide in 2012, making it the fourth most deadly cancer (Ferlay et al, 2015). This is in large part due to late diagnosis of the disease as early stage CRC is often asymptomatic.

The survival rate of CRC is strongly dependent on the stage of the disease at the time of diagnosis (Tomlinson et al, 2012). According to the American cancer society CRC diagnosed in stage 1 has a 5-year survival rate of 89.9 % while later stages, with or without lymph node metastasis, range from 71.3 % to 13.9 % respectively (US national cancer institute). However, only about 12 % of all CRC cases are diagnosed in stage 1 (Guinney et al, 2015). This emphasises the importance of early diagnostic methods and better implementation of screening methods.

## 1.2 Molecular pathology of colorectal cancer

The more research efforts were addressed to CRC, the more complex pathological pathways were uncovered, identifying CRC as a heterogeneous group of malignancies. The two best characterised CRC carcinogenesis pathways are the classic adenoma-carcinoma sequence (Fearon & Vogelstein, 1990) and the microsatellite instability (MSI) pathway. The prognosis and strategies for treating CRC are dependent on the molecular mechanisms underlying the disease (Huth et al, 2014).

Genomic instability is a crucial feature of many cancer types. In CRC at least three main mechanisms are well known that cause genomic instability. One mechanism is microsatellite instability (MSI), which is the driving force of the MSI pathway. The second mechanism, aberrant DNA methylation is also strongly associated with the MSI pathway (Guinney et al, 2015; Hinoue et al, 2012). The third mechanism, chromosomal instability, is the driving force of the classic adenoma-carcinoma sequence. So far the MSI pathway and adenoma-carcinoma-sequence have been mainly characterised by the acquisition of specific mutations modulating the signalling pathways WNT, Ras/MAPK, PI3K, TGF $\beta$ /SMAD and TP53. Integrative analysis revealed that 94 % of all CRC carry an alteration (including mutations, amplification and deletions) in the WNT, 61 % in the MAPK, 50 % in the PI3K, 36 % in the TGF $\beta$  and 60 % in the p53 signalling pathways (Guinney et al, 2015). However, the improved insight into epigenetic modifications with their genomic instability promoting capacity, microRNA (miRNA) interference and their influence on gene expression will lead to an increase of these numbers and expansion of the CRC carcinogenesis pathways.

### 1.2.1 Epigenetic modifications in cancer

The field of epigenetics is concerned with the study of the regulation of DNA-templated processes (transcription, repair and replication of DNA) by chromatin based events without changes to the DNA sequence (Dawson & Kouzarides, 2012).

Chromatin is composed of nucleosomes that consist of an octamer containing two of each H2A, H2B, H3 and H4 histones with 147 bp DNA wrapped around (Luger et al, 1997). Tightly packed chromatin, rendering the DNA inaccessible for transcription factors (TFs), is termed heterochromatin and mainly contains inactive genes. Euchromatin on the other hand, is packed very loosely allowing the TFs to access the DNA and thus contains most of the active genes. The chromatin conformation can be modulated by two different mechanisms, DNA and histone modifications. So far, four different types of DNA and 14 different classes of histone modifications have been identified (Bannister & Kouzarides, 2011; Dawson & Kouzarides, 2012; Pfaffeneder et al, 2011; Tahiliani et al, 2009; Tan et al, 2011).

Methylation and acetylation at lysine and arginine residues of histones 3 and 4 are the best understood histone modifications. Histone acetylation neutralises the positive charge of the bound lysine residue at the amino terminal of the histone tail, reducing the affinity between negatively charged DNA and the histone complex (Luger et al, 1997). This results in accessible euchromatin upon acetylation by histone acetyltransferases (HATs). Histone deacetylases (HDACs) remove the acetyl groups from lysine residues of the histones, rendering the histone tail positively charged with higher affinity towards the negatively charged DNA, resulting in heterochromatin.

Histone methylation is more complex. Methylation occurs on both arginine and lysine residues governed by methyltransferases and demethylases. Methylation of arginine can be asymmetrical or symmetrical with one or two methyl groups (Blanc & Richard, 2017). Methylation of lysine residues with one, two or three methyl groups can have repressing or enhancing effects on gene expression depending on the position of the lysine residue, the histone and the amount of methyl groups added. Even though the system is bivalent, active euchromatin is associated with H3K9me, H3K27me, H4K20me H3K4me/2/3, H3K36me/3 and H3K79me/2/3. While heterochromatin is associated with H3K9me2/3, H3K27me2/3, H3K4me3 and H4K20me3 (Black et al, 2012).

DNA methylation was the first modification discovered and is therefore the best characterised. In higher eukaryotes, three types of DNA methyl transferases (DNMTs) target the DNA directly and catalyse the conjugation of a methyl group to the 5C position of a CpG dinucleotide, generating a 5-methylcytosine. DNMT1 is a maintenance methyltransferase catalysing the methylation of hemimethylated DNA after replication by copying the methylation patterns from the parental to the newly synthesised DNA strand (Li et al, 1992). De novo methylation during embryogenesis, for instance, is performed by de novo methyltransferases DNMT3a and DNMT3b (Okano et al, 1999).

Aberrant DNA methylation in the shape of global hypomethylation and local hypermethylation has been consistently found in all cancers including CRC (Feinberg & Vogelstein, 1983a; Gama-Sosa et al, 1983). Global hypomethylation can be caused by loss of function of the maintenance methyltransferase DNMT1 or by the TET mediated oxidation of the 5-methylcytosine and subsequent base excision repair (Cortellino et al, 2011; Karpf & Matsui, 2005; Li et al, 1992; Tahiliani et al, 2009). Global hypomethylation leads to loss of methylation of repetitive sequences that are mainly composed of transposable elements (TE) that make up about 50 % of the human genome (Estecio et al, 2007; Szpakowski et al, 2009). The group of TEs contains long terminal repeats (LTRs), long interspersed nuclear elements (LINEs) and short interspersed nuclear elements (SINEs) including Alu sequences (Anwar et al, 2017) (Kapitonov & Jurka, 2008). In normal cells TEs are silenced by DNA methylation and histone modifications. By DNA hypomethylation, TEs are activated and can translocate within the genome, rendering them highly mutagenic (Criscione et al, 2014; Lee et al, 2012). This causes genomic

instability, gene disruption of tumour suppressor genes such as APC, oncogenic activation and even chromosomal breakage (Daskalos et al, 2009; Feinberg & Vogelstein, 1983b; Hur et al, 2014; Lee et al, 2012; Liu et al, 1997; Miki et al, 1992; Wolff et al, 2010).

Local hypermethylation of CpG islands (CGI) in promoter regions termed the CGI methylator phenotype (CIMP) is closely associated with the silencing of tumour suppressor genes (Esteller et al, 2000; Herman et al, 1998; Tse et al, 2017). The silencing can be caused by steric blockage of the binding of TFs when the consensus sequence of a TF is methylated (Klose & Bird, 2006) or by methylation-mediated recruitment of methyl-CpG-binding proteins (MBPs) which attract corepressor molecules to silence the expression and modulate chromatin conformations (Deaton & Bird, 2011). DNA methylation-mediated silencing in CRC of genes from all five crucial signalling pathways WNT, MAPK, p53, PI3K and TGF $\beta$ /SMAD have been reported.

### **1.2.2 MicroRNAs in cancer**

The human haploid genome of the size of  $\sim 3 \times 10^9$  bp contains about 21 000 protein-coding genes that make up only 1.5 % of our entire genome. However, almost the entire genome is transcribed, leaving a vast amount of RNA that is not translated. These non-coding RNAs (ncRNAs) are subdivided into small ncRNAs, below 200 bp in size, and long ncRNAs. MicroRNAs (miRNA) are part of the small ncRNAs (Dawson & Kouzarides, 2012) and are evolutionarily highly conserved 21-25 bp RNA sequences. 25 % of all miRNA genes do not have their own regulatory elements including a promoter but are positioned in the intron region of other genes, dependent on host gene expression (Lin et al, 2006; Wu et al, 2011). MiRNA genes transcribed (Hayes et al, 2014) (pre-miRNAs) (Shirafkan et al, 2018) into  $\sim 22$  nucleotide long mature miRNAs (Ha & Kim, 2014). With assembly of the RNA-induced silencing complex (RISC) the mature miRNA binds to complementary sequences mainly of the 3' untranslated region (UTR) of its mRNA targets (Easow et al, 2007; Fabian et al, 2010; Orom et al, 2008; Shirafkan et al, 2018). This will induce translational repression reducing protein numbers or mRNA degradation reducing both mRNA and subsequently protein numbers (Shirafkan et al, 2018). Although mRNA degradation is believed to mainly contribute to reduced protein expression (75-84%) (Guo et al, 2010; Hendrickson et al, 2009). Just like genes, mi-RNAs have been found dysregulated in cancer with oncogenic (onco-miR) or tumour suppressive (ts-miRs) effects and in some cases even both.

The reasons for miRNA dysregulation are still poorly understood but more than 50 % of miRNAs are localised in so called fragile regions of the genome, where genomic instability will lead to loss or amplification of miRNAs (Calin et al, 2004). Aberrant epigenetic modifications including DNA methylation of the genome also influence the expression of miRNA genes, resulting in aberrant miRNA

expression (Bandres et al, 2009; Toyota et al, 2008; Vogt et al, 2011). Therefore, dysregulated miRNA regulation can be observed in both the MSI and the classic adenoma carcinoma pathway modulating all 5 pathways WNT, MAPK, p53, PI3K and TGF $\beta$ /SMAD (see 1.2.3 and 1.2.4).

### 1.2.3 Microsatellite instability pathway

The MSI pathway is responsible for about 13-16 % of all human sporadic CRCs and mostly associated with lesions in the right colon (Bettington et al, 2013; Guinney et al, 2015). It is characterised by a defective DNA mismatch repair (MMR) system frequently caused by promoter methylation-mediated silencing or mutations of the gene *MLH1* (Deng et al, 1999; Herman et al, 1998; Kane et al, 1997; Veigl et al, 1998). However, there are also MSI CRC cases, where other members of the MMR system, such as *MSH2*, *MSH6*, *MGMT* and *MBD4* (Esteller et al, 1999; Lahtz & Pfeifer, 2011) are aberrantly methylated and silenced, or downregulated by overexpressed miR-155 and miR-21 that target *MLH1*, *MSH2* and *MSH6* (Valeri et al, 2010; Volinia et al, 2006). The defective MMR system is incapable of repairing errors made during DNA replication leading to the accumulation of insertions, deletions and substitutions in stretches of short tandem repeats. These 1-6 bp repeats, called microsatellites, can be found throughout the entire genome of most mammals in both coding and non-coding regions (de la Chapelle & Hampel, 2010). Therefore, microsatellite mutations can affect gene functions. Mutations of other MMR-related genes *MSH3* and *MSH6* (Duval & Hamelin, 2002; Malkhosyan et al, 1996), the genes *APC* (Guinney et al, 2015), *AXIN2* (Liu et al, 2000; Shimizu et al, 2002), *BRAF<sup>V600E</sup>* (oncogenic mutation) (Guinney et al, 2015), *PTEN* (Guanti et al, 2000), *TGF $\beta$ R2* (Markowitz et al, 1995), *ACVR2* (Jung et al, 2004) and proapoptotic factors *BCL10* (Yamamoto et al, 2000) and *BAX* (Rampino et al, 1997) are also often diagnosed in MSI tumours, activating proliferation via the WNT and MAPK pathways and inactivating the growth inhibition via TGF $\beta$  signalling and blocking apoptosis. Additionally, aberrant miRNA expression of miR-31, 223 and 26b was detected (Earle et al, 2010). MiR-31 has been shown to target *AXIN1*, activating the WNT pathway (Slaby et al, 2007). The functions of miR-223 and 26b have not specifically been determined in the MSI pathway, but miR-223 has been associated with an oncogenic effect on the RAS pathways by targeting *RASA1* (Sun et al, 2015). MiR-26b has been associated with oncogenic effects on metastasis targeting both *PTEN* and *WNT5A* (Fan et al, 2018).

As the MSI pathway is highly associated with CIMP high phenotype (Guinney et al, 2015; Hinoue et al, 2012), methylation-mediated silencing of WNT pathway components such as *APC* (Esteller et al, 2000; Segditsas et al, 2008), negative regulators *SFRP1*, 2, 4 and 5 (Suzuki et al, 2004), *APCDD1*, *DKK1*, *AXIN2* (de Sousa et al, 2011), WNT targets *LGR5* and *ASCL2* and RAS/MAPK components *RASSF1* and 2 (80%

---

of CRC) (Akino et al, 2005; Fernandes et al, 2013; Harada et al, 2007), PI3K pathway elements *PPP2R2B* and *PTEN* (in 20% of CRCs) (Goel et al, 2004; Tan et al, 2010), TGF $\beta$  factors *TSP1* and *RUNX3* (20% of CRCs) (Imamura et al, 2005; Rojas et al, 2008), p53 pathway components *P14* (20% of CRCs) and *IGFBP7* (Nyiraneza et al, 2012; Shen et al, 2003; Suzuki et al, 2010), genes involved in cell cycle control *P16* (Shima et al, 2011) and TFs important for differentiation *CDX1*, *CDX2*, *GATA4* and *GATA5* (Baba et al, 2009; Hellebrekers et al, 2009; Hryniuk et al, 2014; Suh et al, 2002; Wong et al, 2004) are possible.

#### 1.2.4 Classic adenoma-carcinoma sequence

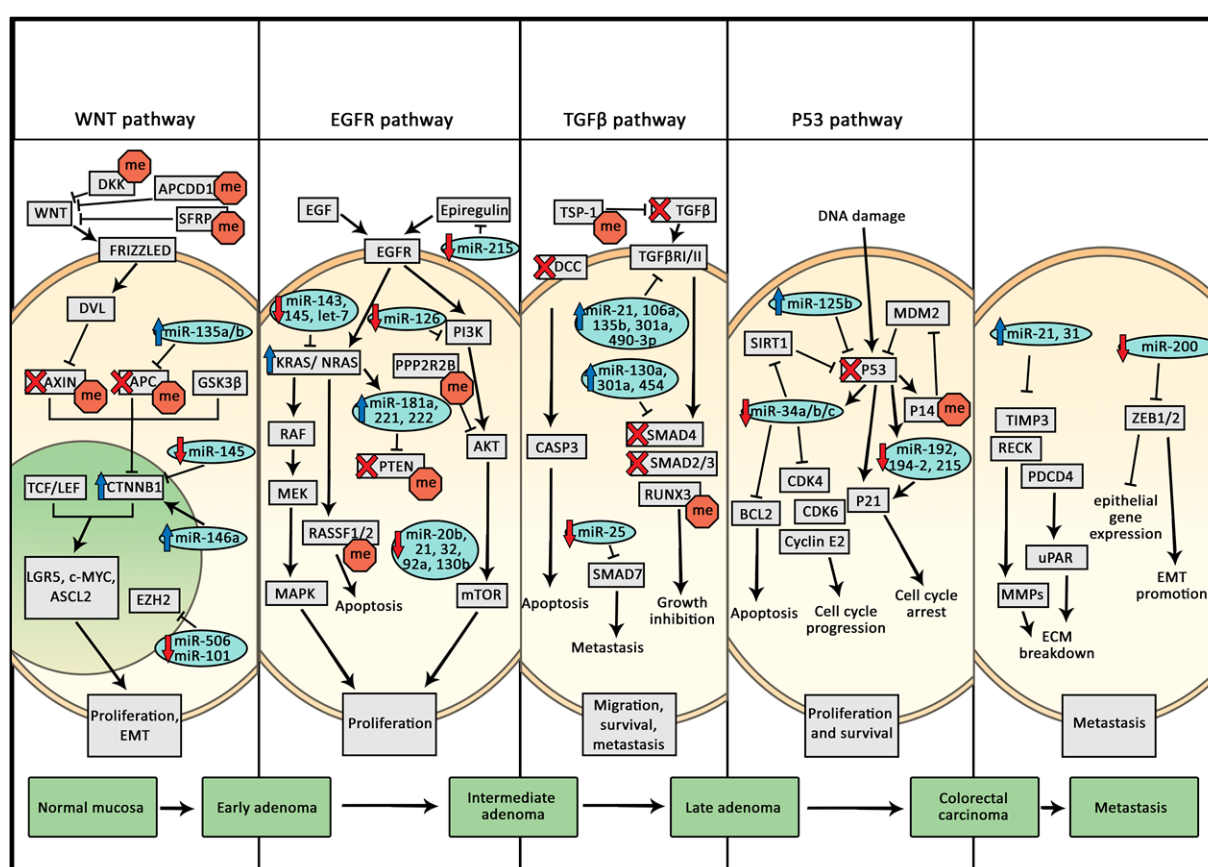
The mechanism of chromosomal instability (CIN) is not quite understood, although it has been found to behave like a dominant trait causing deletions, inversion, translocations and duplications (Lengauer et al, 1997). Defects in the mitotic spindle formation, alignment and segregation of chromosomes during mitosis may contribute to CIN (Barber et al, 2008; Grady, 2004). Mutated APC, which occurs in more than 80 % of all CRC cases, has also been discussed as potential cause of CIN, however some MSI tumours with APC mutations do not exhibit any CIN characteristics (Alberici & Fodde, 2006; Guinney et al, 2015; Moran et al, 2010).

The classic adenoma-carcinoma sequence, first described by Fearon and Vogelstein and closely associated with the left colon and rectum (Bettington et al, 2013; Guinney et al, 2015), described CRC as a disease that acquires oncogenic mutations in *APC*, *KRAS*, *DCC*, *SMAD* and *TP53* (Fearon & Vogelstein, 1990). However, only very few cases of CRC show mutations in all of these genes collectively (Guinney et al, 2015) and new insights have shown that other mechanisms can modulate the crucial signalling pathways WNT, MAPK, PI3K, TGF $\beta$ /SMAD and p53 (Figure 1).

The adenoma-carcinoma sequence in the human gut is initiated by dysregulation of the WNT pathway due to loss or reduction of *APC* (> 80 % of all CRCs). The activation of the WNT pathway can also occur by mutations of *CTNNB1* or *AXIN2* (Fodde et al, 2001; Korinek et al, 1997; Liu et al, 2000; Morin et al, 1997), aberrant methylation and downregulation of the *APC* promotor (Esteller et al, 2000; Segditsas et al, 2008), negative regulators *SFRP1*, *2*, *4* and *5* (Suzuki et al, 2004), *APCDD1*, *DKK1*, *AXIN2* and downstream effectors such as *ASCL2* and *LGR5* (de Sousa et al, 2011). Increased expression of the onco-miRs miR-135a and b repressing APC translation (Nagel et al, 2008) and miR-146a stabilising  $\beta$ -catenin (CTNNB1) (Hwang et al, 2014; Lu et al, 2017) have also been detected. Downregulation of the ts-miRs miR-145, disrupting translocation of  $\beta$ -catenin (Michael et al, 2003; Yamada et al, 2013) and miR-506 and miR-101 that both target the polycomb group protein EZH2 (Strillacci et al, 2013; Zhang et al, 2015) have been identified. The activation of the WNT pathway leads to proliferation and the

development of a micro adenoma. CIN-mediated loss of heterozygosity of the wildtype *APC* allele causes further progression to an early adenoma.

Successive activation of the MAPK signalling pathway of EGFR signalling through oncogenic *KRAS* mutation in 30-60 % of all CRCs and rarely *NRAS* mutations (Cekaite et al, 2016) (Irahara et al, 2010) leads to further proliferation and the development of an intermediate adenoma. RAS/MAPK activation can also occur through aberrant methylation of pro apoptotic and growth inhibition modulators *RASSF1* and 2 (80% of CRC) (Akino et al, 2005; Fernandes et al, 2013; Harada et al, 2007). In normal non-mutant *KRAS* the ts-miRs miR-143 (Chen et al, 2009), miR-145 (Kent et al, 2010) and let-7 (Akao et al, 2006) target *KRAS* directly and have been found downregulated, also allowing activation of the RAS/MAPK signalling and subsequent proliferation.



**Figure 1** Display of the classic adenoma-carcinoma sequence incorporating mutations, aberrant methylation and miRNA dysregulation in the WNT, MAPK, PI3K, TGF $\beta$  and p53 pathway observed in CRC (Adapted from (Fearon, 2011; Shirafkan et al, 2018)). Red crosses indicate loss of protein by loss of function mutations or CIN mediated loss of alleles. Red octamers with me mark reduced protein level caused by methylation-mediated gene silencing. Blue arrows indicate oncogenic mutations causing increased protein function or increased expression of miRNAs. Red arrows symbolise reduced miRNA expression.

EGFR activation can also lead to signalling of the PI3K survival promoting pathway which is regulated via the tumour suppressor *PTEN*. *PTEN* has been found to be mutated in CRC (Molinari & Frattini, 2013),



both in MSI and CIN marked tumours (Guinney et al, 2015). Altered methylation of *PTEN* (in 20 % of CRCs) (Goel et al, 2004) and upregulation of a vast number of miRNAs targeting *PTEN* have been identified to reduce its tumour suppressor function in CRC. The upregulation of miR-181a, 221 and 222 induced by oncogenic KRAS (Ota et al, 2012; Tsunoda et al, 2011) combined with miR-21, 32, 92a, 20b and 130b (Sarver et al, 2009; Wu et al, 2013; Zhang et al, 2014a; Zhu et al, 2014) that all target and repress *PTEN* (Garofalo et al, 2009; Nishimura et al, 2012; Tsunoda et al, 2011; Zhang et al, 2017), highlight its significance in CRC progression and PI3K pathway control. Activation of the PI3K pathway has been observed by methylation-mediated downregulation of *PPP2R2B* (Goel et al, 2004; Tan et al, 2010) and downregulation of the ts-miR miR-126 repressing expression of p85 $\beta$ , a regulatory subunit that stabilises PI3K itself (Guo et al, 2008) and miR-215 repressing the EGFR ligand epiregulin, which also influences the RAS/MAPK pathway (Vychytilova-Faltejskova et al, 2017).

The TGF $\beta$  response is lost due to mutations or loss of *DCC* and *SMAD4* by CIN, promoting development of a late adenoma (Mehlen & Fearon, 2004; Mehrvarz Sarshekeh et al, 2017; Takayama et al, 2006). Mutations in *SMAD2* and *3* but also in *TGF $\beta$*  were observed in CRC (Grady et al, 1999; Leary et al, 2008; Wood et al, 2007). The pathway components *TSP1* and *RUNX3* (20% of CRCs) have been found to be downregulated by aberrant methylation (Imamura et al, 2005; Rojas et al, 2008). Inactivation of the TGF $\beta$  response in CRC was observed by upregulation of miR-21, 106a, 301a and 135b, that target and repress the TGF $\beta$ R2 and miR-490-3p, targeting TGF $\beta$ R1 (Feng et al, 2012; Li et al, 2015a; Xu et al, 2015; Yu et al, 2012; Zhang et al, 2014b). Downstream miR-130a, 301a and 454 have also been found to be upregulated in CRC and inversely correlated with the expression of their target *SMAD4* (Liu et al, 2013). The ts-miR miR-25 downregulated in CRC targets *SMAD7* (Li et al, 2013). The modulation of the TGF $\beta$  pathway enables survival, migration and evasion of growth inhibition and the progression to a late adenoma.

The p53 pathway plays a significant role in almost all cancers including CRC where *TP53* itself is often mutated and the wildtype allele even lost (loss of heterozygosity (LOH)) resulting in evasion of apoptosis and carcinoma formation (Fearon & Vogelstein, 1990). Additionally, miR-125b, upregulated in CRC, targets *TP53* directly and reduces its expression (Nishida et al, 2011). Aberrant methylation of p53 target genes *IGFBP7* and *P14* (20 % of CRCs), an inhibitor of p53 degradation, was found to inactivate this proapoptotic pathway (Nyiraneza et al, 2012; Shen et al, 2003; Suzuki et al, 2010). Activated p53 can induce the upregulation of ts-miRs miR-34a/b/c, that inhibit the p53-inhibiting factor SIRT-1 and essential factors for cell cycle progression and apoptosis inhibitors such as BCL2 (He et al, 2007; Misso et al, 2014; Rokavec et al, 2014). MiR-34a/b/c and miR-192, 194-2 and 215 that induce P21-mediated cell cycle arrest (Akao et al, 2011; Yamakuchi et al, 2008) were found to be

downregulated in CRC (Braun et al, 2008; Chiang et al, 2012) inactivating the p53 pathway of cell cycle arrest and apoptosis.

The activated WNT and inactivated TGF $\beta$  pathway contribute to epithelial mesenchymal transition (EMT) (by MYC activation in WNT), essential for metastasis (Weinberg, 2007). Additionally, upregulation of the miR-21 and 31 that target and repress *TIMP3* and *RECK*, increases in turn matrix metalloproteinases (Bandres et al, 2006; Slaby et al, 2007). Downregulation of miR-200 inhibits TGF $\beta$ 1 and also targets ZEB1/2 (Gregory et al, 2008). By increased ZEB1/2, E-cadherin is reduced and vimentin increased, allowing EMT and Metastasis (Mongroo & Rustgi, 2010).

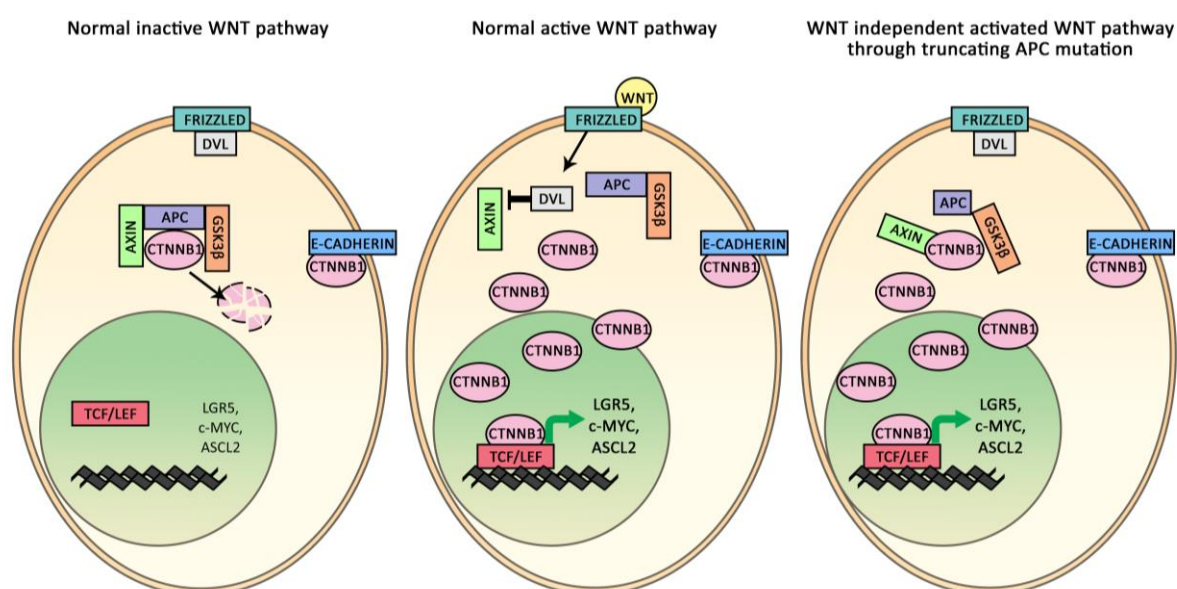
It must be noted that the classic adenoma-carcinoma sequence is associated with mainly CIMP negative and CIMP low, rendering local hypermethylation-mediated silencing rarer than in the MSI pathway (Guinney et al, 2015). However, there is often no clear distinction between the MSI pathway and classic adenoma-carcinoma sequence as they can blend into each other (Guinney et al, 2015). Therefore, the understanding of the importance of the five crucial signalling pathways in both carcinogenesis and the multitude of modulation mechanisms is essential to comprehend disease progression and to enable development and improvement of therapy (Figure 1).

### **1.3 Adenomatous polyposis coli**

The gene adenomatous polyposis coli (APC) spans 21 exons in humans and encodes a very important tumour suppressor of 2843 amino acid length (Fearnhead et al, 2001). It plays an essential role in the regulation of the WNT pathway. Under normal conditions APC together with GSK3 $\beta$  and AXIN regulates the proteasomal degradation of  $\beta$ -catenin (CTNNB1) (Rubinfeld et al, 1996) (Figure 2). When a WNT molecule binds its receptor frizzled (FZD), the protein dishevelled (DVL) becomes activated and dephosphorylates AXIN and thus inactivates the whole  $\beta$ -catenin degradation complex (Fagotto et al, 1999; Willert et al, 1999; Yamamoto et al, 1999). This leads to the accumulation of  $\beta$ -catenin in both the cytoplasm and the nucleus (Fearnhead et al, 2001; Kobayashi et al, 2000; Smalley et al, 1999). Together with the TFs T-cell factor (TCF) and lymphoid enhancer factor (LEF) (Behrens et al, 1996),  $\beta$ -catenin induces the transcription of genes facilitating proliferation and migration (Roose & Clevers, 1999).

More than 80 % of all sporadic CRC cancers carry an APC mutation (Fearnhead et al, 2001; Moran et al, 2010). 70-80 % of those mutations cause a premature stop resulting in translation of a truncated APC protein. 60 % of these mutations are located between amino acid codon 1286 and 1513, the

mutation cluster region (MCR) (Fearnhead et al, 2001; Miyoshi et al, 1992). Mutations in this region specifically cause loss of many AXIN and  $\beta$ -catenin binding sites, resulting in reduced  $\beta$ -catenin degradation (Polakis, 1997). When both APC alleles carry such a mutation, or the wildtype allele is lost by CIN (Solomon et al, 1987) or hypermethylation (Esteller et al, 2000; Segditsas et al, 2008), there is no more proteasomal degradation of  $\beta$ -catenin (Figure 2). Thus, the WNT signalling pathway is constantly active, independent of a WNT signal, by constant  $\beta$ -catenin accumulation in cytoplasm and nucleus (Korinek et al, 1997; Munemitsu et al, 1995). Successively cancer promoting genes, facilitating proliferation, migration and EMT are constantly expressed (Boon et al, 2002; Mann et al, 1999). Additionally, the  $\beta$ -catenin bound by e-cadherins will be released upon EMT by reduction of e-cadherin, further magnifying the signal (Heuberger & Birchmeier, 2010; Lu et al, 2003). The codons 1309 and 1450 are by far the most frequently mutated amino acids in APC in sporadic CRC (Beroud & Soussi, 1996).



**Figure 2 A display of the inactive, active and WNT independent WNT pathway (Adapted from (Pennisi, 1998).** APC, adenomatous polyposis coli; CTNNB1,  $\beta$ -catenin; DVL, dishevelled; GSK3  $\beta$ , glycogen synthase kinase 3 $\beta$ .

#### 1.4 Familial adenomatous polyposis

Familial adenomatous polyposis (FAP) is an autosomal dominant disease caused by germline mutations of the APC gene (Kinzler et al, 1991).

FAP can vary in severity but patients typically develop hundreds of adenomatous polyps already during puberty or their twenties (Croner et al, 2005). If these polyps are not removed surgically or medically treated, statistically 10 % of them will proceed to adenocarcinomas by the average age of 36 (Croner

et al, 2005; Fearon, 2011; Fodde & Smits, 2001). Just like in sporadic CRC, mutations in the *APC* gene at position 1309 are the most diagnosed in FAP patients and associated with a very severe phenotype of polyposis (Crabtree et al, 2002; Miyoshi et al, 1992). Just like in the adenoma-carcinoma sequence of sporadic CRC the initiating event of FAP is dysregulation of the WNT pathway by *APC* mutations. Thus FAP replicates many aspects of adenoma carcinoma sequence pathology (Bettington et al, 2013).

### **1.5 Modifier genes**

CRC like other cancers is a systemic multifactorial disease. The two main carcinogenic pathways outlined here illustrate the variety of mechanisms and alterations that contribute to tumorigenesis (Figure 1). Therefore, it is not surprising that there are FAP patients carrying the same germline *APC* mutation but suffer different extents of polyposis severity (Crabtree et al, 2001). This difference is believed to be caused by genes and loci that pose a genetic low risk predisposition, so called modifier genes that modulate the polyposis severity (Crabtree et al, 2002; Houlston et al, 2001). Genome-wide association studies have been employed to detect SNPs that are associated with sporadic CRC (Broderick et al, 2007; Crabtree et al, 2002; Dunlop et al, 2012; Houlston et al, 2001; Tomlinson et al, 2007; Tomlinson et al, 2008; Whiffin et al, 2014). A study focussed on FAP patients showed, that two of the SNPs associated with sporadic CRC risk are also associated with severe polyposis in FAP (Ghorbanoghli et al, 2016). Thus the identification of modifier genes or loci mediating severe polyposis in FAP may also mediate severe polyposis and thus higher risk of CRC in sporadic CRC with *APC* mutations. The identification of such modifier genes with the help of next generation sequencing (NGS) methodology is of great value to determine susceptibility to CRC very early. The early identification of patients genetically susceptible to CRC may allow improved preventive screening.

### **1.6 Next generation sequencing and colorectal cancer**

Sequencing, determining the order of nucleotides of DNA, was first aimed to identify the sequence of the genes and the entire genome. The first human genome was sequenced using the improved Sanger or termination sequencing method, where the chain-terminating dideoxynucleotides (ddNTPs) were labelled with four different fluorescent dyes (Sanger et al, 1977; Smith et al, 1986) in a shotgun sequencing approach (Anderson, 1981; Gardner et al, 1981; Staden, 1979) and paired end setting to eliminate and reduce sequencing gaps (Edwards et al, 1990; Ewing & Green, 1998; Ewing et al, 1998; Roach et al, 1995; Venter, 2003; Venter et al, 2001).

NGS or high-throughput sequencing incorporate different technologies that all allow the sequencing of DNA and RNA in a cheaper, faster and larger scale (1000-1 x 10<sup>6</sup> DNA molecules simultaneously) than Sanger sequencing.

One of NGS technologies is Illumina (Solex) sequencing. This technique is a combination of the Sanger termination method and pyrosequencing by synthesis (Nyren & Lundin, 1985; Ronaghi et al, 1998) by using reversible terminator dye-labelled dNTPs (Canard & Sarfati, 1994). Also the system is based on DNA colony sequencing (Kawashima, E. H. et al, 1998, International patent no. WO1998044151A1; Kawashima, E. H. et al. (1998) International patent no. WO1998044152A1).

Now that the genomes of many organisms were widely elucidated NGS whole genome sequencing was used to identify the genomic landscape of human cancers including CRC (Vogelstein et al, 2013; Wood et al, 2007). However, NGS methodology in oncology and CRC does not only help characterise the disease further (Cancer Genome Atlas, 2012), but is used to identify a consensus molecular classification (Guinney et al, 2015), to perform molecular diagnosis that aid treatment prognosis (Hsu et al, 2016; Jesinghaus et al, 2016), to identify genetic high, medium and low risk factors (Broderick et al, 2007; Fernandez-Rozadilla et al, 2014; Palles et al, 2013; Tomlinson et al, 2008; Whiffin et al, 2014) and to find biomarkers of disease, progression and drug vulnerability (Garnett et al, 2012). For the detection of specific known SNPs, mutations, genomic amplifications or deletions or gene or miRNA expression differences microarrays are useful (Malapelle et al, 2015; Serrati et al, 2016). However, also in diagnostics, there are cases where no gene of the microarray panels is tested positively (LaDuca et al, 2014; Susswein et al, 2016). Therefore, and for search of unknown mechanisms in CRC progression whole genome, whole exome, whole transcriptome, mRNA or miRNA sequencing is required. Both DNA and RNA sequencing allow comparative analysis between groups. RNA sequencing allows comparative quantitative expression analysis of genes, miRNAs and entire gene sets. This is important as shown above molecular changes in CRC are not only based on genomic changes but also by miRNAs dysregulation, epigenetic modifications and TFs.

## **1.7 Early diagnosis**

The survival rate of CRC is strongly dependent on the stage of the disease at the time of diagnosis (Tomlinson et al, 2012). CRC diagnosed at stage 1 has a 5-year survival rate of 89.9 % according to the American cancer society, while later stages without and with lymph node metastasis range from 71.3 - 13.9 % respectively (US national cancer institute). However, only about 12 % of all CRC cases are diagnosed at stage 1 (Guinney et al, 2015). Early diagnosis is challenging due to the fact that symptoms of CRC are often not very specific. Primary and most frequently observed symptoms are altered bowel

habits, such as diarrhoea or constipation, abdominal pain, change in stool size, weight loss, weakness, iron deficiency and anaemia, which can be mistaken as symptoms of digestive irregularities or other diseases (Dziki et al, 2015; Tomlinson et al, 2012). Only late very severe symptoms such as rectal bleeding and abdominal mass showed symptom specificity of >95 % (Labianca et al, 2013).

The current standard method of diagnosis is colonoscopy (Kim et al, 2014). However, due to high invasiveness and high costs, many patients do not undergo colonoscopy, rendering it unsuitable as preventive screening. A less invasive and more frequently performed screening method is the group of faecal tests including faecal occult blood test (FOBT), the faecal immunochemical test (FIT), DNA- and RNA-based biomarker tests, Protein biomarker test and faecal microbiome-based biomarker test (Schreuders et al, 2016). Even though the DNA based biomarker test showed higher sensitivity, the FIT displayed higher specificity and lower costs (Imperiale et al, 2014). Therefore, the FIT that detects traces of blood in the stool via antibody-based haemoglobin detection, is the most sensitive cost effective screening method (Brenner & Tao, 2013; Hol et al, 2009; Song & Li, 2016). However, these tests are not compulsory and many patients who are not aware of a disease risk are not inclined to undergo such tests voluntarily.

All cells in the organism and especially cancer cells secrete nucleic acids into the blood (O'Driscoll, 2007) which presents another non-invasive screening opportunity. The detection of oncogenic mutations and other biomarkers of CRC in the blood has already been shown (Cassinotti et al, 2013; Chen et al, 2015; Lim et al, 2013). The presence and detection of nucleic acids in blood could allow non-invasive screening for susceptibility factors for CRC. The knowledge of a susceptibility status towards CRC, would make patients more aware to the risk of CRC and might encourage them to undertake more screening procedures.

## **1.8 Animal models for CRC**

No *in vitro* system can model the whole-body pathophysiology of a systemic disease as CRC. Therefore, to identify markers of susceptibility and to fully understand the heterogeneous aspects of CRC, well defined disease animal models, that replicate relevant aspects of human CRC pathology as closely as possible, are essential.

### 1.8.1 Mouse

The mouse is the best studied and most commonly used mammalian model organism in biomedical research. This is mainly due to convenient and cheap housing and the advances and ease of modifying them genetically (Chu et al, 2016; Skarnes et al, 2011).

Mice have provided valuable information on the molecular basis of many human diseases and facilitated multiple proof of principle studies. However, mice do not always replicate human disease pathology accurately, reducing their predictive value for preclinical studies (Mak et al, 2014). To improve the prediction of safety and effectiveness of novel drugs in clinical trials, non-rodent species may prove valuable in preclinical studies (Bahr & Wolf, 2012; Justice & Dhillon, 2016; Ledford, 2011). In mice many different approaches, mostly targeting *Apc*, have been applied to model human FAP, the hereditary predisposition to CRC (Karim & Huso, 2013). The sole mutation of *Apc* however, did not achieve full replication of human polyposis. In contrary to human pathology where the polyps develop in the colon, the widely used *Apc<sup>Min</sup>* mouse develops polyps mainly in the small intestine (Karim & Huso, 2013). The combination of *Apc* mutations with tissue-specific and locally activated oncogenes, has allowed more successful modelling of FAP (Fearon, 2011; Hung et al, 2010; Tetteh et al, 2016). Engineered addition of extra mutations in mice does not allow accurate modelling and study of the spontaneous alterations and mutation events that occur in the human gut subsequent to an APC initiating event and drive disease progress towards cancer.

Therefore, other model organisms are required to model the disease more accurately and to provide better insight into the progression, to identify better diagnosis and therapy opportunities and to provide non-rodent preclinical data (Bahr & Wolf, 2012)

### 1.8.2 Pig

Pigs share many key similarities with humans including anatomical features, physiology, body size and pathophysiological responses and are already used for research, development and refinement of medical equipment and biomedical procedures (Heinritz et al, 2013; Kararli, 1995; Schubert et al, 2016; Swindle et al, 1988). Further advantages are that they mature relatively quickly (6-7 months), produce large litters (~10 piglets) and have a short gestation time of ~114 days (Sachs, 1994). Where necessary specified pathogen free housing is easily adapted from the established domestication of the pig. In contrast to primates the use of pigs for research is ethically and socially more acceptable due to their use as food animals. Additionally, just like humans, pigs are omnivores which is a marked advantage for the study of CRC, facilitating dietary studies such as the effects of a western diet. The gastrointestinal structure and size allows the use and refinement of human diagnostic and operational

equipment. The relatively long lifespan of pigs (~10 years) enables the performance of longitudinal studies. Most importantly however, genetic modification technology was extended to the pig, allowing genetically modified pigs for biomedical research.

### **1.9 Genetic modification of pigs**

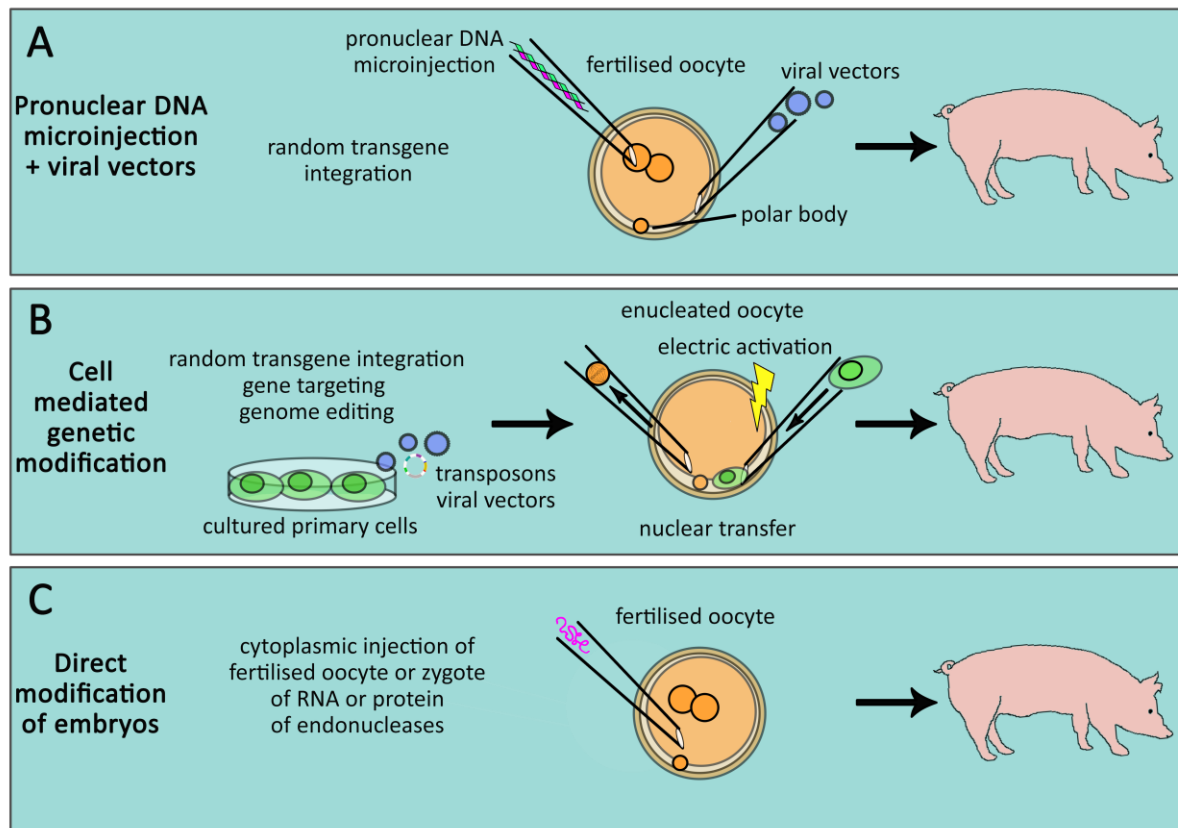
Genetically modified pigs were first generated by pronuclear DNA microinjection (Hammer et al, 1985) (Figure 3). This rather inefficient procedure (Hammer et al, 1985; Logan & Martin, 1994; Uchida et al, 2001) was technically challenging due to the opacity of porcine oocytes which required centrifugation to visualise the pronuclei (Kikuchi et al, 2002). The establishment of refined methods of microinjection including transposon systems and lentiviral vectors has increased transgenesis efficiency in pigs markedly (Clark et al, 2007; Garrels et al, 2011; Hofmann et al, 2003; Ivics et al, 2014; Whitelaw et al, 2004). Even though, pronuclear DNA microinjection allowed only random transgene integration but no gene targeting and remained the only method for genetic modification of livestock until 1997, when Schnieke et al. performed nuclear transfer of primary somatic ovine cells into ovine enucleated oocytes (Schnieke et al, 1997).

The generation of genetically modified mice by gene targeting via homologous recombination (HR) first performed and established in murine embryonic stem (ES) cells (Evans & Kaufman, 1981; Smithies et al, 1985; Thomas & Capecchi, 1987), could not be performed in pigs, as ES, embryonic germ or induced pluripotent stem cells, capable of germline transmission were elusive in pigs (Nowak-Imialek & Niemann, 2012). Nuclear transfer of cultured cells, however, enabled gene targeting of primary somatic cells first in sheep (McCreath et al, 2000) and later in pigs (Dai et al, 2002; Lai et al, 2002). Genetic modification of primary porcine cells is more challenging than the modification of murine ES cells due to their limited lifespan (Schnieke et al, 1997). The efficiency of HR is also lower compared to mice, although loci such as the porcine *ROSA26* allow more efficient gene targeting (Li et al, 2014). Additionally, the procedure of nuclear transfer requires time and skill and has a low efficiency in generating viable healthy offspring (Callesen et al, 2014; Kurome et al, 2013). Although nuclear transfer is the standard method for generating genetically tailored pigs, it is a very challenging process especially when compared to producing gene targeted mice using ES cells (Perleberg et al, 2018).

The optimisation of gene targeting in pigs has been inspired by techniques performed in mice. Therefore, methods such as site specific recombinase technology (Leuchs et al, 2012; Li et al, 2014), recombinase-mediated cassette exchange (RMCE) (Clark et al, 2007; Jakobsen et al, 2013) and adeno-associated viral (AAV) vectors (Luo et al, 2011) have all been extended to pigs.



The development of synthetic engineered nucleases, however, changed the procedure of both random transgene integration and gene targeting in all model organisms (Figure 3).



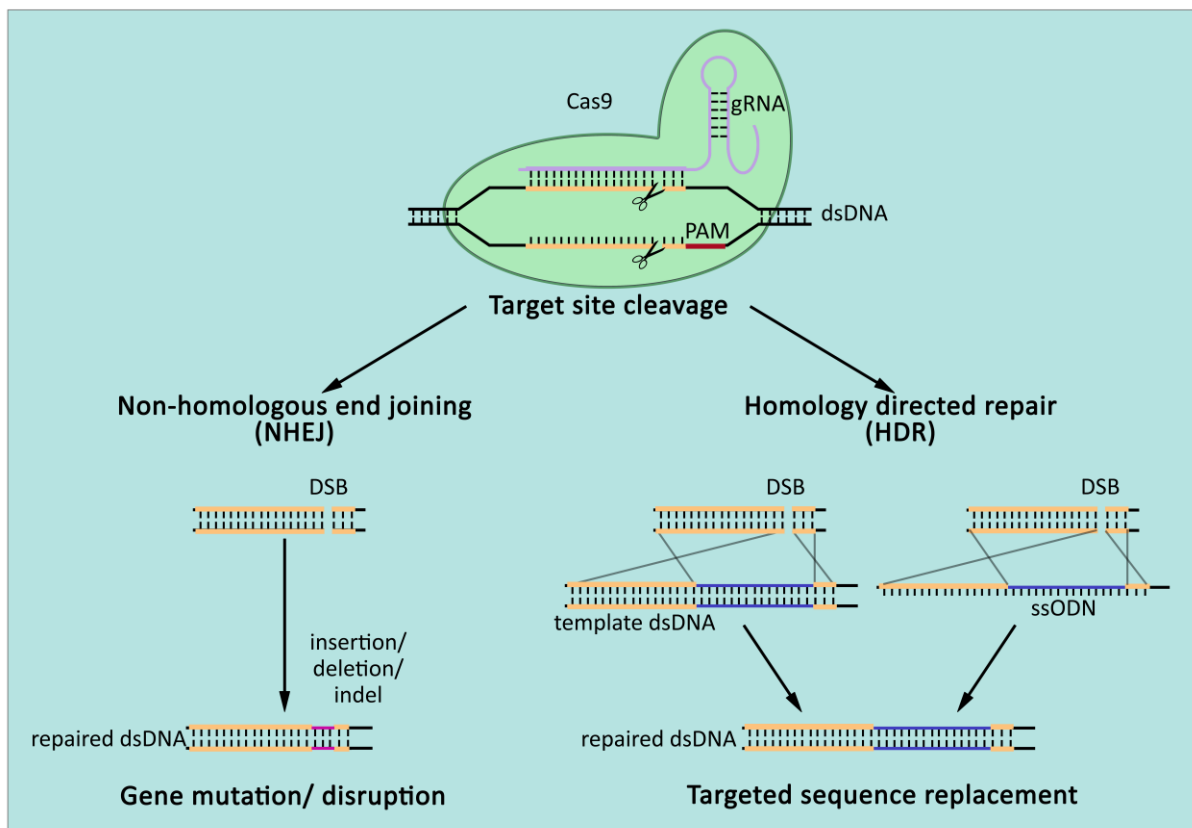
**Figure 3** A collection of the different methods applicable for the generation of genetically modified pigs (adapted from (Perleberg et al, 2018)).

### 1.9.1 Genome editing in pigs

Engineered endonucleases can induce a double strand break (DSB) at a unique targeted genomic location (Figure 4). The error prone repair mechanism of non-homologous end joining (NHEJ) introduces deletion or insertions of several bases, which can result in gene inactivation (Gabriel et al, 2011). The homology-directed repair uses templates, such as sister chromatids or exogenous homologous DNA fragments, for accurate repair, facilitating transgene introduction or sequence replacement (Joung & Sander, 2013).

Zinc finger nucleases (ZFN) (Hauschild et al, 2011; Kwon et al, 2013) and transcription activator-like effector nucleases (TALENs) (Carlson et al, 2012) compose the second and third generation of engineered nucleases after meganucleases, respectively. Both bind the target via protein-DNA interaction (Font & Mackay, 2010; Mussolino & Cathomen, 2012) which hampers design, target and off-target prediction (Bogdanove & Voytas, 2011; Jinek et al, 2013; Urnov et al, 2010). The newest

system is the RNA-guided endonuclease. The most famous representative is the clustered regularly interspaced short palindromic repeat (CRISPR) system (Tan et al, 2013), first identified as the adaptive immune system of bacteria and archaea (Barrangou et al, 2007). Extrachromosomal DNA incorporated into the genome transcribed into CRISPR RNA (crRNA) and the repeats transcribed into transactivating CRISPR RNA (tracrRNA) (Garneau et al, 2010) bind the endonuclease CRISPR-associated 9 (Cas9) and guide it to a sequence complementary to the crRNA (Wei et al, 2013). Cas9 cleaves the double stranded DNA if the crRNA target (protospacer) is followed by a protospacer adjacent motif (PAM) of NGG (Wei et al, 2013). This RNA-DNA interaction-based targeting system is much easier to design and to predict (Cho et al, 2013). Therefore, this system was simplified to a two-component system for genome editing, where the crRNA and tracrRNA were fused to a crRNA-tracrRNA chimera called guide RNA (gRNA) (Jinek et al, 2012) (Figure 4). Other RNA-guided endonucleases with different PAMs are known, for example Cpf1 (Zetsche et al, 2015) and of smaller sized CjCas9 (Kim et al, 2017).



**Figure 4** The CRISPR/Cas9 system and its potential utilised for genome editing (adapted from (Perleberg et al, 2018)). DSB, double strand break; dsDNA, double-stranded DNA; gRNA, guide RNA; PAM, protospacer adjacent motif; ssODN, single-stranded oligodeoxynucleotide.

Genome editing in general has not only improved efficiency of targeted genetic modifications of both knock-out and knock-ins in mice (Chu et al, 2016; Miyaoka et al, 2016) and pigs (Zhou et al, 2016) but

also facilitated direct zygote and early stage embryo modifications in mice (Meyer et al, 2010). HR in zygotes, which is very inefficient (<0.1 %) (Brinster et al, 1989), was increased to an efficiency of 1.7-4.5 % by the use of ZFN. This procedure has been extended to pigs avoiding nuclear transfer (Lillico et al, 2013).

The CRISPR/Cas9 system superseded ZFN and TALENs by easier design, higher efficiency, specificity and equal to better prediction of targets and off-targets (Cho et al, 2014; Fu et al, 2014; Mali et al, 2013; Wu et al, 2016). Therefore, it has been used for direct zygote modification to generate genetically modified pigs (Hai et al, 2014; Wang et al, 2015; Whitworth et al, 2014; Yu et al, 2016).

### 1.10 Porcine cancer models

**Table 1 An overview of genetically modified porcine models of human cancers, the most promising and clinically relevant are marked with \* (Perleberg et al, 2018).** AAV, adeno-associated viral vector; MMTV, mouse mammary tumour virus; TALENs, transcription activator-like effector nucleases.

Human disease	Genetic modification	Produced by	Reference
<b>Basal cell carcinoma</b>	human truncated <i>GLI2</i> , with bovine keratin 5 promoter	random transgene integration + nuclear transfer	(McCalla-Martin et al, 2010)
<b>Breast cancer</b>	<i>V-H-Ras</i> , with MMTV promoter <i>BRCA1</i>	Pronuclear microinjection gene targeting by AAV + nuclear transfer	(Yamakawa et al, 1999) (Luo et al, 2011)
<b>Colorectal cancer</b>	heterozygous <i>APC</i> <sup>1311</sup> + <i>APC</i> <sup>1061</sup> mutations APC Knockout	gene targeting + nuclear transfer TALENs + nuclear transfer	(Flisikowska et al, 2012)* (Tan et al, 2013)
<b>Osteosarcoma</b>	heterozygous and homozygous <i>TP53</i> knockout <i>homozygous TP53</i> <sup>R167H</sup> mutation	gene targeting + nuclear transfer gene targeting by AAV + nuclear transfer	(Saalfrank et al, 2016)* (Sieren et al, 2014)*
<b>Other cancers</b>	Cre-induced porcine <i>KRAS</i> <sup>G12D</sup> <i>TP53</i> <sup>R167H</sup> Cre-inducible <i>TP53</i> <sup>R167H</sup> Cre-inducible <i>KRAS</i> <sup>G12D</sup>	random transgene integration + nuclear transfer gene targeting + nuclear transfer gene targeting + nuclear transfer	(Schook et al, 2015)* (Leuchs et al, 2012) (Li et al, 2015b)

To date, random transgene integration, gene targeting and genome editing using TALENs have been utilised to generate a number of porcine cancer models for basal cell carcinoma, breast cancer, colorectal cancer, osteosarcoma and other cancers (Table 1). Even Cre-inducible systems have been introduced to allow a spatio-temporal activation of mutations to better model malignant diseases. However the most successful models with reported phenotypes similar to human disease are those marked with \* (Perleberg et al, 2018). The other models were not reported with a phenotype (Tan et al, 2013; Yamakawa et al, 1999), were euthanized early due to bacterial infection (McCalla-Martin et al, 2010), did not survive beyond 18 days (Luo et al, 2011) or in case of the Cre-inducible mutations were not activated yet (Leuchs et al, 2012; Li et al, 2015b). The porcine model for CRC generated by the heterozygous targeted *APC*<sup>1311</sup> mutation, however showed great potential (Flisikowska et al, 2012).

### **1.11 The porcine colorectal cancer model *APC*<sup>1311</sup> pig**

The chair of livestock biotechnology of the technical university of Munich, has generated a porcine model for colorectal cancer that carries a translational stop signal at codon 1311 in porcine APC (*APC*<sup>1311</sup>) (Flisikowska et al, 2012). It is orthologous to the human *APC*<sup>1309</sup> mutation, which is frequently mutated in CRC and associated with a very severe form of FAP (Crabtree et al, 2002). This stop codon was introduced via homologous recombination-mediated gene targeting of porcine somatic cells and piglets were subsequently generated by nuclear transfer. The animals showed polyp development in the colorectum as early as 4 months of age, like humans during puberty or their twenties (Croner et al, 2005). Closer investigations showed that the polyps exhibit epithelial features such as aberrant crypt foci and adenomatous polyps of low and high grade intraepithelial neoplasia, that are typical for human adenoma-carcinoma sequence pathology (Flisikowska et al, 2012). Molecular analyses of adenomas showed loss of APC heterozygosity, accumulation of  $\beta$ -catenin and high expression of its target c-MYC and MAPK pathway activation by ERK1/2 phosphorylation, all hallmarks of human CRC (Albuquerque et al, 2002; Fearon, 2011). Although no invasive carcinomas were observed in pigs up to 3 years of age, carcinomas *in situ* were identified, a progression stage that has not been seen in mice. As a heterozygous *APC*<sup>1311</sup> mutation was sufficient to initiate polyposis and those spontaneous molecular changes, that present hallmarks of human FAP and CRC, invasive CRC formation seems to be a function of time. Further validation and analysis of this model, is however required.

## 1.12 Objective

The two main goals of this work were the analysis of cancer susceptibility and progression of the *APC<sup>1311</sup>* porcine colorectal cancer model (Flisikowska et al, 2012) on transcriptome level and the acceleration of CRC development of the model by introducing oncogenic mutations or *in vivo* knock-out of tumour suppressors.

The established *APC<sup>1311</sup>* pigs, consisting of more than five generations by now, replicate hallmarks of human FAP and early CRC development including adenomatous polyps in the colorectum with loss of APC heterozygosity,  $\beta$ -catenin accumulation, upregulation of c-MYC, MAPK pathway activation and progression to carcinoma *in situ*. However, the animals have displayed a phenotypic variation in polyposis severity from high ( $\geq 100$ ) polyps (HP) to low (1-10) polyps (LP) in the distal colorectum (last 40 cm).

Therefore, more thorough characterisation of the model is required for use in translational biomedical research. In this work transcriptional analysis of normal mucosa and polyps from the *APC<sup>1311</sup>* pigs, was aimed to identify elements in the genetic background such as single-nucleotide polymorphisms (SNPs), dysregulated genes, gene sets and miRNAs that may contribute to susceptibility towards severe polyposis and tumour progression, respectively. This process should reveal both similarities to human molecular pathology and novel markers for early detection and drivers. A holistic approach was performed where whole mRNA and whole miRNA were sequenced using next generation sequencing technology and computational analysis pipelines to compare expression and distribution of genes, miRNAs and SNPs between high polyp and low polyp normal mucosa samples and between high grade and low grade intraepithelial neoplasia.

Current data of the *APC<sup>1311</sup>* animals showing no invasive carcinomas, suggest, that the progression from adenoma to adenocarcinoma in pigs, is a long process just like in humans. Therefore, *APC<sup>1311</sup>* animals were to be generated carrying a ubiquitously expressed *Cas9* endonuclease in the *ROSA26* locus. This would allow acceleration of polyp progression *in vivo*, by introduction of gRNAs targeting tumour suppressor genes or gRNA combined with HR templates for the introduction of oncogenic mutations via *in vivo* electroporation of the polyps or adeno-associated viral vectors.

## 2. Materials and Methods

### 2.1 Material

#### 2.1.1 Laboratory equipment

**Table 2 laboratory equipment**

2100 Bioanalyzer	Agilent, Santa Clara, USA
3130xl/3100 Genetic Analyzer 16-Capillary Array	Life Technologies, Darmstadt, DEU
ABI 7500 Fast Real-Time PCR System	Applied Biosystems, Warrington, GBR
ABI Prism 3130xl Genetic Analyzer	Life Technologies, Darmstadt, DEU
Analytical semi-micro balance PI-214	Denver Instrument GmbH, Göttingen DEU
AREC.X Digital Ceramic Hot Plate Stirrer	Velp Scientifica, Usmate, ITA
AxioCam HRm Microscope Camera	Carl Zeiss Microscopy GmbH, Göttingen, DEU
Axiovert 200 M	Carl Zeiss Microscopy GmbH, Göttingen, DEU
Bag sealer Vacupack plus	KRUPS, Frankfurt, DEU
Barnstead™ MicroPure™	Thermo Fisher Scientific, Waltham, USA
Centrifuges Sigma 1-15, 1-15K, 3-16 and 4K-15C	Sigma-Aldrich Chemie GmbH, Steinheim, DEU
Countess™ automated cell counter	Invitrogen GmbH, Darmstadt, DEU
Digital Graphic Printer UP-D895MD	Syngene, Cambridge, GBR
Dry block for heating and cooling PCH-2	Grant Instruments, Camebridge, GBR
Drying and heating chamber	BINDER GmbH, Tuttlingen DEU
Electronic multi-dispense pipet	Qiagen, Hilden, DEU
Electrophoresis power supply EPS301	Amersham Biosciences, Piscataway, USA
ELISA-Photometer	Thermo Electron Corporation, Shanghai, CHN
Fluorescence light source HXP120C	Carl Zeiss Microscopy GmbH, Göttingen, DEU
Gel documentation system QUANTUM ST5	VILBER LOURMAT Deutschland GmbH, Eberhardzell, DEU
Glassware	Marienfeld GmbH, Lauda-Königshofen, DEU
HiSeq 2500	Illumina, San Diego, USA
Hybridisation oven Shake'n'Stack	Thermo Fisher Scientific, Waltham, USA
iBind Western Device	Thermo Fisher Scientific, Waltham, USA
Incubator Thermo Forma Orbital Shaker	Thermo Fisher Scientific, Waltham, USA
Incubator Thermo Forma Steri-Cycle CO <sub>2</sub>	Thermo Fisher Scientific, Waltham, USA
Incubators	BINDER GmbH, Tuttlingen DEU
KGW Dewar-Transportgefäße mit Deckel Typ B	KGW-Isotherm Karlsruher Glastechnisches Werk - Schieder GmbH, Karlsruhe, DEU
Laser Microdissection Systems 6000	Leica Microsystems, Wetzlar, DEU
Magnetic Stand-96	Invitrogen GmbH, Darmstadt, DEU
Mi Seq	Illumina, San Diego, USA
Microm HM 560 Cryostat	Thermo Fisher Scientific, Waltham, USA
Microscope Axiovert 40 CFL	Carl Zeiss Microscopy GmbH, Göttingen, DEU
Mini-PROTEAN 3 Cell system	BioRad, Hercules, USA

---



---

Mini-PROTEAN® Comb, 10-well, 0.75 mm, 33 µl, 1653354 and 1.5 mm, 66 µl, 1653365	BioRad, Hercules, USA
Mini-PROTEAN® Short Plates, 1653308	BioRad, Hercules, USA
Mini-PROTEAN® Spacer Plates with Integrated Spacers 0.75 mm, 1653310 and 1.5 mm, 1653312	BioRad, Hercules, USA
Multiporator Eppendorf	Eppendorf, Hamburg, DEU
Nalgene™ Mr. Frosty Freezing containers	Thermo Fisher Scientific, Waltham, USA
Nanodrop Lite	Thermo Fisher Scientific, Waltham, USA
Nucleofector™ 2b Device	Lonza Group Ltd, Basel, CHE
Owl™ EC-105 Compact Power Supply	Thermo Fisher Scientific, Waltham, USA
PeqSTAR 2x Gradient Thermocycler	Peqlab Biotechnologie GmbH, Erlangen, DEU
pH Meter CyberScan PC 510 Meter	Eutech Instruments Europe B.V., Landsmeer, NLD
Pipette controller accu-jet pro	Brand GmbH & Co. KG, Wertheim, DEU
PyroMark Q48 Autoprep Instrument	Qiagen, Hilden, DEU
Qubit® 2.0 Fluorometer	Thermo Fisher Scientific, Waltham, USA
Rainin Pipet-Lite (2, 20, 200, 1000 µl) and Multi Pipette L8-20XLS+, L8-50XLS+	Mettler Toledo GmbH, Giessen, DEU
Scales 440-33N	Kern & Sohn GmbH, Balingen DEU
Shaker Unitwist 3-D	Uniequip, Martinsried, DEU
SpeedMill PLUS	Analytik Jena AG, Jena, DEU
Sterile laminal flow cabinet Herasafe Type HSP	Thermo Fisher Scientific, Waltham, USA
Table centrifuge blue spin mini	SERVA Electrophoresis GmbH, Heidelberg, DEU
Trans-Blot SD Semi-Dry Transfer cell	BioRad, Hercules, USA
Vacuum Centrifuge Savant, SpeedVac, DNA 110	Thermo Fisher Scientific, Waltham, USA
Vacuum Centrifuge Savant, Speed Vac Plus, SC110A	Thermo Fisher Scientific, Waltham, USA
Vortexer VELP Sccientifica 2x <sup>3</sup>	Velp Scientifica, Usmate, ITA
Water bath	Memmert GmbH + Co.KG, Schwabach, DEU
X-ray clip cassette	Rego X-Ray GmbH, Augsburg DEU

## 2.1.2 Consumables

**Table 3 Consumables**

Blotting Paper	BioRad, Hercules, USA
Cell counting chamber slides	Invitrogen GmbH, Darmstadt, DEU
Cell scraper	TPP Techno Plastic Products AG, Trasadingen, CHE
Countess™ cell counting chamber slides	Invitrogen GmbH, Darmstadt, DEU
Cryo vials	Corning Incorporated, Corning, USA
Cutfix stainless scalpel 10, 5518059	B. Braun Melsungen AG, Melsungen, DEU
Disposable sterile needles, Sterican, 1.20 x 40 mm	B. Braun Melsungen AG, Melsungen, DEU
Electroporation cuvette 2, 4 mm	Peqlab Biotechnologie GmbH, Erlangen, DEU
Falcon tubes 15 ml, 50 ml	Greiner Bio-One GmbH, Frickenhausen, DEU
iBind cards, Bi15126	Invitrogen GmbH, Darmstadt, DEU
innuSPEED Lysis Tube P	Analytik Jena AG, Jena, DEU
Kimtech Science Precision wipes, 05511 7552	Kimberly-Clark Professional, Roswell, USA
Lysing Matrix D, 2 mlTube	MP Biomedicals, Santa Ana, USA
Membrane, Roti-PVDF (0.45 µm)	Brand GmbH & Co. KG, Wertheim, DEU
MembraneSlide 1.0 PEN (D), 415190-9041-000	Carl Zeiss Microscopy GmbH, Göttingen, DEU
MicroAmp Fast Optical 96-Well Reaction Plate with Barcode, 4346906	Applied Biosystems, Warrington, GBR
MicroAmp™ Optical Adhesive Film, 4360954	Applied Biosystems, Warrington, GBR
Mini Trans-Blot Filter paper 1703932	BioRad, Hercules, USA
MultiScreen HV plates, MAHVN4550	Millipore, Darmstadt, Deutschland
Nylon membrane (positively charged) Amersham Hybond-N+	GE Healthcare Europe GmbH, Freiburg, DEU
PCR tube 0.2 ml 8- strip, I1402-2900	STARLAB International GmbH, Hamburg, DEU
Petri dishes	Brand GmbH & Co. KG, Wertheim, DEU
Rainin pipette tips with and without filter 20, 200, 1000 µl	Mettler Toledo GmbH, Giessen, DEU
Reaction tubes 1.5 ml, 2 ml	Zefa Laborservice, Harthausen, DEU
Serological pipets Costar 1, 2, 5, 10, 25 ml	Corning Incorporated, Corning, USA
Sterile syringes 5 ml, 10 ml, 20 ml	Becton Dickinson GmbH, Sparks, USA
Sterile syringe filters 0.40 µm, 0.22 µm	Berrytec GmbH, Grünwald, DEU
Tissue culture vessels T25, T75, T150, 24 well, 12 well, 6 well plates, 10 and 15 cm dishes	Corning Incorporated, Corning, USA
Tissue-Tek Cryomold® Biopsy, 10 x 10 x 5 mm, 4565	Sakura Finetek Europe B.V., Alphen aan den Rijn, NLD
14 ml tubes	Becton Dickinson GmbH, Sparks, USA
Twin.tec PCR Plate 96 semi skirted, colorless, 951020303	Eppendorf, Hamburg, DEU
X-ray film	Agfa Healthcare, Mortsel, Belgium
PyroMark Q48 Absorber Strips, 974912	Qiagen, Hilden, DEU
PyroMark Q48 Discs, 974901	Qiagen, Hilden, DEU



### 2.1.3 Chemicals

**Table 4 Chemicals**

Acetic acid 100 %	Applichem, Darmstadt, DEU
Agarose	Sigma-Aldrich Chemie GmbH, Steinheim, DEU
Ammonium acetate (NH <sub>4</sub> OAc)	Sigma-Aldrich Chemie GmbH, Steinheim, DEU
Ammonium persulphate (APS)	Carl Roth GmbH, Karlsruhe, DEU
Ampicillin	Carl Roth GmbH, Karlsruhe, DEU
Boric acid	Sigma-Aldrich Chemie GmbH, Steinheim, DEU
Chloroform	Applichem, Darmstadt, DEU
4',6'-Diamidino-2'-phenylindole-dihydrochloride (DAPI)	Roche Diagnostic GmbH, Mannheim, DEU
Difco Luria Broth Agar, Miller	Becton Dickinson GmbH, Sparks, USA
Difco Luria Broth Base, Miller	Becton Dickinson GmbH, Sparks, USA
Dimethyl sulphoxide (DMSO), A3672	Applichem, Darmstadt, DEU
Dithiotreitol (DTT)	Omnilab, Bremen, DEU
Eosin solution, Conc. Watery 2 %, 2C-140	Waldeck GmbH & Co. KG, Münster, DEU
Ethanol 100 %	Riedel-de-Haen, Seelze, DEU
Ethidiumbromid	Sigma-Aldrich Chemie GmbH, Steinheim, DEU
Ethylene diamine tetracetic acid (EDTA)	Sigma-Aldrich Chemie GmbH, Steinheim, DEU
Formalin	Sigma-Aldrich Chemie GmbH, Steinheim, DEU
Glacial acetic acid	Fluka Laborchemikalien GmbH, Seelze, DEU
Glycerol 99%	Carl Roth GmbH, Karlsruhe, DEU
Glycine 99%, G7126	Sigma-Aldrich Chemie GmbH, Steinheim, DEU
Hydrochloric acid, 37%	Sigma-Aldrich Chemie GmbH, Steinheim, DEU
IGEPAL, CA-630	Sigma-Aldrich Chemie GmbH, Steinheim, DEU
Isopropanol	Applichem, Darmstadt, DEU
Isopropyl β-D-thiogalactopyranoside (IPTG)	Bioline, London, GBR
Magnesium chloride (MgCl <sub>2</sub> )	Merck, Kenilworth, USA
Maleic acid	Sigma-Aldrich Chemie GmbH, Steinheim, DEU
Mayer's Hemalaun solution, A0884	Applichem, Darmstadt, DEU
Methanol	Sigma-Aldrich Chemie GmbH, Steinheim, DEU
Milk powder	Carl Roth GmbH, Karlsruhe, DEU
N,N-Dimethylformamid (DMF)	Sigma-Aldrich Chemie GmbH, Steinheim, DEU
PeqGOLD Low Melt-Agarose	Peqlab Biotechnologie GmbH, Erlangen, DEU
Phenol-chloroform-isoamyl alcohol	Applichem, Darmstadt, DEU
Ponceau S, 141194	Sigma-Aldrich Chemie GmbH, Steinheim, DEU
POP-7™ Polymer for 3130/3130xl	Life Technologies, Darmstadt, DEU
Potassium chloride	Sigma-Aldrich Chemie GmbH, Steinheim, DEU
Sacharose	Sigma-Aldrich Chemie GmbH, Steinheim, DEU
Sephadex G5050-100G	Sigma-Aldrich Chemie GmbH, Steinheim, DEU
Sodium azide	Sigma-Aldrich Chemie GmbH, Steinheim, DEU
Sodium chloride	Applichem, Darmstadt, DEU
Sodium deoxycholate, D6750	Sigma-Aldrich Chemie GmbH, Steinheim, DEU
Sodium dodecyl sulphate (SDS)	Omnilab, Bremen, DEU

Sodium hydroxide (NaOH)	Sigma-Aldrich Chemie GmbH, Steinheim, DEU
Sodium chloride, A1371	Applichem, Darmstadt, DEU
Sodium citrate, S4641	Sigma-Aldrich Chemie GmbH, Steinheim, DEU
Spectinomycin, 85555	Fluka Laborchemikalien GmbH, Seelze, DEU
Sucrose	Sigma-Aldrich Chemie GmbH, Steinheim, DEU
Tetramethylethylenediamine (TEMED)	Carl Roth GmbH, Karlsruhe, DEU
Triton-X 100	Omnilab, Bremen, DEU
Trizma Base/Hydrochloride	Sigma-Aldrich Chemie GmbH, Steinheim, DEU
Trizol	Invitrogen GmbH, Darmstadt, DEU
Tween 20	Sigma-Aldrich Chemie GmbH, Steinheim, DEU
X-ray tank developer	Calbe Chemie GmbH, Calbe, DEU
X-ray tank fixer	Calbe Chemie GmbH, Calbe, DEU
$\beta$ -glycerol phosphate	Sigma-Aldrich Chemie GmbH, Steinheim, DEU
$\beta$ -mercaptoethanol (14.3 M)	Sigma-Aldrich Chemie GmbH, Steinheim, DEU

### 2.1.4 Buffers and solutions

**Table 5 Buffers and solutions**

10x TBE buffer	0.9 M Tris, 20 mM EDTA, 0.9 M boric acid
5x dilution buffer	25 mM MgCl <sub>2</sub> , 1 mM Tris-HCl pH 8.0
2-Log DNA ladder	New England Biolabs, Frankfurt, DEU
50x TAE buffer	2 M Trisbase, 50 mM EDTA, 5.71 % (v/v) Glacial acetic acid
6x Gel loading dye	New England Biolabs, Frankfurt, DEU
Advanced protein assay reagent	Cytoskeleton Inc., Denver, USA
Chemiluminescent substrate for alkaline phosphatase CDP-Star	Roche Diagnostic GmbH, Mannheim, DEU
cOmplete Protease Inhibitor Cocktail Tablets in EASYpacks, 04693124001	Roche Diagnostic GmbH, Mannheim, DEU
CytoBuster™ Protein Extraction Reagent, 71009	Merck, Kenilworth, USA
DNA/RNA-dye, peqGREEN	Peqlab Biotechnologie GmbH, Erlangen, DEU
dNTPs	New England Biolabs, Frankfurt, DEU
EB Buffer	Qiagen, Hilden, DEU
Gel loading buffer II, AM8546G	Invitrogen GmbH, Darmstadt, DEU
Low Molecular Weight DNA Ladder	New England Biolabs, Frankfurt, DEU
Low TE Buffer	10 mM Tris-HCl pH7.4, 0.1mM EDTA
Lysis buffer for gDNA isolation	100 mM Tris-HCl pH7.4, 0.2 % SDS, 5 mM EDTA, 0.2 M NaCl
$\beta$ -mercaptoethanol solution for TC	6 ml H <sub>2</sub> O, 21 $\mu$ l $\beta$ -mercaptoethanol
Miniprep solution I	5 mM sucrose, TRIS (pH 8.0), 10 mM EDTA
Miniprep solution II	1 % SDS, 0.2 N NaOH
Miniprep solution III	3 M sodium acetate (pH 5.3)
O.C.T.™ Compound, 4583	Sakura Finetek Europe B.V., Alphen aan den Rijn, NLD

PhosSTOP Phosphatase Inhibitor Cocktail Tablets in EASYpacks, 04906845001	Roche Diagnostic GmbH, Mannheim, DEU
PyroMark Q48 Magnetic Beads, 974203	Qiagen, Hilden, DEU
Quick-Load® 1 kb Extend DNA Ladder	New England Biolabs, Frankfurt, DEU
RiboRuler™ High Range RNA Ladder	Thermo Fisher Scientific, Waltham, USA
RIPA Buffer	0.15 M NaCl, 50 mM Tris-HCl pH 8, 1mM EDTA, 1 % (v/v) Triton X, 0.5 % sodium deoxycholate, 0.1 % (w/v) SDS
Rnase Away	Thermo Fisher Scientific, Waltham, USA
TE Buffer	10 mM Tris-HCl pH 7.4, 1 mM EDTA
Trypan blue solution (0.4 %)	Sigma-Aldrich Chemie GmbH, Steinheim, DEU
X-Gal solution	100 mg X-Gal in N,N-Dimethylformamid (DMF)

**Table 6 Buffers and solutions for Southern Blot**

Blocking solution	1x Blocking solution in maleic acid buffer
Blocking reagent, 11096176001	Roche Diagnostic GmbH, Mannheim, DEU
Denaturation buffer	0.5 M NaOH, 1.5 M NaCl
Depurination buffer	250 mM HCl
Detection buffer	0.1 M Tris-HCl, 0.1 M NaCl, pH 9.5 (20 °C)
DIG Easy Hyb Granules, 11796895001	Roche Diagnostic GmbH, Mannheim, DEU
Digoxigenin-11-dUTP, 11573152910	Roche Diagnostic GmbH, Mannheim, DEU
DNA Molecular Weight Marker VII, DIG-labeled	Roche Diagnostic GmbH, Mannheim, DEU
High stringency washing buffer	0.1 % SSC, 0.1 % SDS
Low stringency washing buffer	2x SSC, 0.1 % SDS
Maleic acid buffer	0.1 M maleic acid, 0.15 M NaCl, pH 7.5
Neutralisation buffer	0.5 M Tris-HCl, pH 7.5; 1.5 M NaCl
Washing buffer	0.3 % (v/v) Tween 20 in Maleic acid buffer
Ponceau S staining solution	0.5 % (w/v), 1 % glacial acetic acid
20x SSC	3 M NaCl, 0.3M sodium citrate
2x SSC	0.3 M NaCl, 30 mM sodium citrate

**Table 7 Buffers and solutions for Western Blot**

10 % APS	10 % (w/v) APS
4 x Lämmli buffer + DTT	250 M Tris-HCl, pH 6,8, 4 % (w/v) SDS, 0,1 M Saccharose, traces of bromphenol blue, 26mM DTT (freshly added)
Milk powder blocking solution	5 % (w/v) Milk powder in 1x TBST
Pierce™ ECL Western Blotting Substrate	Thermo Fisher Scientific, Waltham, USA
Precision Plus Protein™ All Blue Standards (10–250 kDa), 161-0373	BioRad, Hercules, USA
10x Running Buffer, pH 8.3	0.25 M Trizma Base, 2 M Glycin, 1 % SDS, pH 8.3
1x Running Buffer + β-mercapto- Ethanol	25 mM Trizma Base, 0.2 M Glycin, 0.1 % SDS, pH 8.3, 10.64 mM β-mercaptoethanol

1x Semi Dry Transfer Buffer + 0.1% SDS	25 mM Trizma Base, 0.2 M Glycin, 20 % (v/v) Methanol, 0.1 % (w/v) SDS
10x TBS	0.2 M Trizma Base, 1.4 M NaCl
1x TBST	20 mM Trizma Base, 140 mM NaCl, 0.1 % (v/v) Tween 20

### 2.1.5 Bacterial media

**Table 8 Bacterial media**

LB-agar	4 % (w/v) Difco LB Agar, Miller
LB-medium	2.5 % (w/v) Difco LB Base, Miller

### 2.1.6 Tissue culture media and solutions

**Table 9 Solutions for tissue culture**

1x Trypsin EDTA, T3924	Sigma-Aldrich Chemie GmbH, Steinheim, DEU
Accutase, A6964	Sigma-Aldrich Chemie GmbH, Steinheim, DEU
Advanced DMEM, 12491-015	Life Technologies, Darmstadt, DEU
Ala-Gln, G8541	Sigma-Aldrich Chemie GmbH, Steinheim, DEU
Amphotericin B solution, A2942	Sigma-Aldrich Chemie GmbH, Steinheim, DEU
Blasticidin S	InvivoGen, San Diego, USA
BSA 7.5 %	Life Technologies, Darmstadt, DEU
cell culture water, W3500	Sigma-Aldrich Chemie GmbH, Steinheim, DEU
DMEM, D5671	Sigma-Aldrich Chemie GmbH, Steinheim, DEU
D-PBS, D8537	Sigma-Aldrich Chemie GmbH, Steinheim, DEU
Fetal calf serum (FCS)	Biochrom GmbH, Berlin, DEU
G-418, M3118.0050	Genaxxon bioscience GmbH, Ulm, DEU
Hypoosmolar electroporation buffer	Eppendorf, Hamburg, DEU
MEM Non-essential amino acids (NeAA), M7145	Sigma-Aldrich Chemie GmbH, Steinheim, DEU
OptiMEM, 51985-026	Life Technologies, Darmstadt, DEU
Penicillin-Streptomycin, P0781 (100x)	Sigma-Aldrich Chemie GmbH, Steinheim, DEU
Puromycin	InvivoGen, San Diego, USA
Sodium pyruvate, S8636	Sigma-Aldrich Chemie GmbH, Steinheim, DEU
Trypan blue 0.4 %	Invitrogen GmbH, Darmstadt, DEU

**Table 10 Media compositions**

cultured cells	Media components	Freezing medium composition
pADMSCs	500 ml AdvancedDMEM, 50 ml FCS, 5.6 ml Ala-Gln, 5.6 ml NEAA, 560 µl β-mercaptoethanol	10 % DMSO, 10 % medium, 80 % FCS
pKFs, HEK cells	500 ml DMEM, 50 ml FCS, 5.6 ml Ala-Gln, 5.6 ml NEAA, 5.6 ml Sodium Pyruvate, 560 µl β-mercaptoethanol	10 % DMSO, 10 % medium, 80 % FCS
primary cell isolation	medium with 100 U/ml penicillin, 0.1 mg/ml streptomycin, 2.5 mg/ml amphotericin B for first 3 days	10 % DMSO, 40 % medium, 50 % FCS

### 2.1.7 Kits

**Table 11 Kits**

Agilent DNA 1000 Kit, 5067-1504	Agilent, Santa Clara, USA
Agilent High Sensitivity DNA Kit, 5067-4626	Agilent, Santa Clara, USA
Agilent RNA 6000 Nano Kit, 5067-1511	Agilent, Santa Clara, USA
Agilent RNA 6000 Pico Kit, 5067-1513	Agilent, Santa Clara, USA
AllPrep DNA/RNA Micro Kit and Mini Kit	Qiagen, Hilden, DEU
Basic Nucleofector Solution Primary Fibroblasts, VPI-1002	Lonza Group Ltd, Basel, CHE
Big Dye Terminator v1.1 Cycle Sequencing Kit, 4337450	Life Technologies, Darmstadt, DEU
Bioutil DNA Transfection Reagent	Bioutil.com/bimake.com
CloneJET PCR Cloning Kit	Thermo Fisher Scientific, Waltham, USA
Directzol RNA MiniPrep	Zymo Research, Tustin, USA
exoRNeasy Serum/Plasma Maxi Kit	Qiagen, Hilden, DEU
EZ DNA Methylation-Direct™ Kit	Zymo Research, Tustin, USA
Fast SYBR™ Green Master Mix	Applied Biosystems, Warrington, GBR
FirstChoice™ RLM-RACE Kit	Invitrogen GmbH, Darmstadt, DEU
GenElute Mammalian Genomic DNA Purification Kit	Sigma-Aldrich Chemie GmbH, Steinheim, DEU
HiSeq Rapid PE Cluster Kit v2	Illumina, San Diego, USA
HiSeq Rapid SBS Kit v2 (200 cycles), FC-402-4021	Illumina, San Diego, USA
Human MSC Nucleofector® Kit	Lonza Group Ltd, Basel, CHE
iBind™ Solution Kit	Invitrogen GmbH, Darmstadt, DEU
innuPREP RNA Mini Kit	Analytik Jena AG, Jena, DEU
KAPA SYBR FAST Master Mix Universal 2X, KK4602	Kapa Biosystems, Wilmington, USA
Lipofectamine™ 2000 Transfection Reagent	Invitrogen GmbH, Darmstadt, DEU
miScript II RT Kit	Qiagen, Hilden, DEU
miScript SYBR® Green PCR Kit	Qiagen, Hilden, DEU
MiSeq Reagent Kit v2 (50-cycles), MS-102-2001	Illumina, San Diego, USA
pGEM®-T Easy Vector System	Promega Corporation, Madison, USA
Plasmid DNA purification NucleoBond® Xtra Midi	MACHEREY-NAGEL GmbH & Co. KG, Düren, DEU
PyroMark Q48 Advanced CpG Reagents, 974022	Qiagen, Hilden, DEU
QIAamp DNA Micro Kit	Qiagen, Hilden, DEU
QuantiFluor® RNA System	Promega Corporation, Madison, USA
Qubit® RNA BR Assay Kit, Q10210	Thermo Fisher Scientific, Waltham, USA
Qubit™ dsDNA BR Assay Kit, Q32850	Thermo Fisher Scientific, Waltham, USA
Qubit™ dsDNA HS Assay Kit, Q32854/1	Thermo Fisher Scientific, Waltham, USA
Qubit™ RNA HS Assay Kit, Q32852	Thermo Fisher Scientific, Waltham, USA
REPLI-g Mini Kit	Qiagen, Hilden, DEU
RNeasy Mini	Qiagen, Hilden, DEU
TruSeq RNA Library Preparation Kit v2, Set A	Illumina, San Diego, USA
TruSeq Small RNA Library Prep Kit, Set-A	Illumina, San Diego, USA
TURBO DNA-free™ Kit	Invitrogen GmbH, Darmstadt, DEU

VenorGeM Mycoplasma Detection Kit, MP0025	Sigma-Aldrich Chemie GmbH, Steinheim, DEU
Wizard® SV Gel and PCR Clean-Up System	Promega Corporation, Madison, USA

### 2.1.8 Enzymes

**Table 12 Enzymes**

AccuStart Taq DNA Polymerase HiFi	Quantabio, Beverly, USA
CollagenaseType I-A, C2674	Sigma-Aldrich Chemie GmbH, Steinheim, DEU
DNA Polymerase I, Large Klenow Fragment	New England Biolabs, Frankfurt, DEU
Exonuclease I	New England Biolabs, Frankfurt, DEU
FastGene® Optima HotStart ReadyMix	NIPPON Genetics Europe, Dueren, DEU
PCR Extender System	5Prime GmbH, Hamburg, DEU
Proteinase K	Sigma-Aldrich Chemie GmbH, Steinheim, DEU
PyroMark PCR Kit	Qiagen, Hilden, DEU
Q5® High-Fidelity DNA Polymerase	New England Biolabs, Frankfurt, DEU
Quickextract	Epicentre, Madison, USA
Restriction enzymes	New England Biolabs, Frankfurt, DEU
RiboLock Rnase Inhibitor, EO0381	Thermo Fisher Scientific, Waltham, USA
RNase A	Sigma-Aldrich Chemie GmbH, Steinheim, DEU
Shrimp alkaline phosphatase	New England Biolabs, Frankfurt, DEU
SssI, CpG methyl transferase	New England Biolabs, Frankfurt, DEU
SuperScript™ II, III and IV Reverse Transcriptase	Invitrogen GmbH, Darmstadt, DEU
T4 DNA Ligase	New England Biolabs, Frankfurt, DEU

### 2.1.9 Oligonucleotide primers

All primers were ordered from Eurofins Genomics, Ebersberg, Germany.

**Table 13 Primer list**

Primer name	Sequence 5'-3'	Length
3'RACE Adapter	GCGAGCACAGAATTAATACGACTCACTATAGGTNNNNNNNN NNNN	45
5'RACEInnerPrimer	CGCGGATCCGAACACTGCGTTTGCTGGCTTTGATG	35
5'RACEOuterPrimer	GCTGATGGCGATGAATGAACACTG	24
BACH1_Ex8_for1	GCGTGTGTGATTAGCTTGGGA	21
BACH1_Ex9_rev1	GCGTTAAATGGCAGTTTCACCT	22
Cas9_3'LR_for1	GCAGATCAGCGAGTTCTCCA	20
Cas9_Probe_for1	AAAGACCGAGGTGCAGACAG	20
Cas9_probe_rev1	CGGTCGATGGTGGTGTCAA	20
Cas9_RT_for2	AAAGACCGAGGTGCAGACAG	20
Cas9_RT_rev2	AAGCCGCCGTACTTCTTAGG	20
CRISPR_APC_F1	AGCCAGCTCCATCCAAGTTC	20
CRISPR_APC_R1	CTTGGTGGCATGGTTGTCC	20

---

CRISPR_PTEN_F1	CTGAGGAGAAGCAGGCC	18
CRISPR_PTEN_R1	GCTCACTAATCCACTAACACTGT	23
CYP7A1_AS_Ex3_F6	TCCCGAACCCAGTTTGTGG	20
CYP7A1_AS_Ex4_R6	TGAATCACCTGCAAACCTCCG	21
CYP7A1_CpG1_F1	AGTTGGAATTATAGTTGTTAGTTTATGAT	29
CYP7A1_CpG1_R1_BIO	[BIO]-CCTTCCACACTTTAATTCTATACAC	25
CYP7A1_CpG1_S2	GTTTATGATATAGATA	16
CYP7A1_CpG2_F1	AAGAAGTGATATATGTAGAGGAAAGATAG	29
CYP7A1_CpG2_R1_BIO	[BIO]-ATAACTCCAAAAAACTTCTTAAATCTTAC	30
CYP7A1_CpG2_S	GTGTGTTTTTGGGT	15
CYP7A1_Ex4_ASV_F1	TGTTTGCTTGGTCACTCAAGT	22
CYP7A1_Ex4_ASV_F2	CTGGAGCCTCTGTTGTGACG	20
CYP7A1_Ex4_F7	GGGGATTGTGACAGCAGTG	19
CYP7A1_Ex5_F1	TGTCCACTTCATCACAAATCCCT	23
CYP7A1_Ex5_R7	GCAGTGCACAACCCAGATAG	20
CYP7A1_Ex6_F2	TGACGCAGAGAAAGCCAAGT	20
CYP7A1_Ex6_R1	ATGCTTCTGTGCCAAATGC	20
CYP7A1_Ex6_R1-2	GGTCAATGCTTCTGTGCCA	20
CYP7A1_Ex7_F3	AAAACACTGGAGAAGGCGGG	20
CYP7A1_Ex7_R2	TGCTTTCATTGCTTCAGGGC	20
CYP7A1_Ex8_F4	CCACAATTAATGCACCTGGATCC	23
CYP7A1_Ex8_R3	GGAAAGCCTCAGAGACTCCTT	21
CYP7A1_Ex9_R4	CCATGACTGTAGAAGGTGGTCT	22
CYP7A1_SNPSeq_F1	GACCCAGCAAATCCACCCTT	20
CYP7A1_SNPSeq_F10	TTGAAACATGAAGCACAGAAACA	23
CYP7A1_SNPSeq_F2	TAATCCCAACACGACCCCTC	20
CYP7A1_SNPSeq_F3	TCGATACTAAGCCCGTCCA	20
CYP7A1_SNPSeq_F4	AGGGGTGTGATAGATGCCATG	21
CYP7A1_SNPSeq_F5-2	ACCTACACCACAGCTCACAG	20
CYP7A1_SNPSeq_F6	TCTGTTAAGGAGGCAAGAATCA	23
CYP7A1_SNPSeq_F7	CGATGGCCAGTTTCGTTGTC	20
CYP7A1_SNPSeq_F8	TCTGCCTGGAGTTCTCTTCT	21
CYP7A1_SNPSeq_F9	GTTCCACTGCACCACAACG	19
CYP7A1_SNPSeq_R	GGAGGGAAGGCTGGACTTTT	20
CYP7A1_SNPSeq_R1	GTCACACCAGCTGTTTTCTTGA	22
CYP7A1_SNPSeq_R2	GCACGAGGAAGCCAGGAG	18
CYP7A1_SNPSeq_R3	ACACAACGAAAGCCCAGGAA	20
CYP7A1_SNPSeq_R4	CTGCAACTTCTGTGACTCTATA	23
CYP7A1_SNPSeq_R5	CCTCTTCATTTCTTACGTGTGCA	23
CYP7A1_SNPSeq_R6	GGAAAACGCACAGGAAGCAA	20
CYP7A1_SNPSeq_R7	TGGGAGATGAGAGTGATGGGA	21
CYP7A1_SNPSeq_R8	CCTCCTCTATTACTGCTCACTCA	23
CYP7A1_SNPSeq_R9	CTGTACAGGATCAACATCTCACA	23
DCC_CRISPR_F1	TGAGGGCATTACAAAGGAGAG	22
DCC_CRISPR_R1	CGGAAGCTATTGTTGAATCAGC	22

---

---

ddCas9 F1	AGTTCATCAAGCCCATCCTG	20
ddCas9 R1	TCTTTTCCCGGTTGCCTTC	20
ddGAPDH F Ya	CCGCGATCTAATGTTCTCTTTC	22
ddGAPDH R Ya	TTCACTCCGACCTTCACCAT	20
ddpoactin Ya F1	TAACCGATCCTTTCAAGCATT	22
ddpoactin Ya R1	TGGTTTCAAAGCTTGCATCATA	22
ddpoGAPDH F1	CTCAACGACCACTTCGTCAA	20
ddpoGAPDH R1	CCCTGTTGCTGTAGCCAAAT	20
GAPDH_Ex4_for1	GTTGTGGATCTGACCTGCCGC	21
GAPDH_Ex5_rev1	TCAGTGTAGCCCAGGATGCCC	21
GS_MCS_Seq_for1	GGGCAGTTTCTGAAGATCG	18
GS_MCS_Seq_rev1	TGGTGTAGTTGTGGGCTGAA	20
let-7a-5p_1	TGAGGTAGTAGGTTGTATAGTT	22
MCS_colonyPCR_F	CCACCGGTGTCGCGATTAATTA	22
MCS_colonyPCR_F	CCACCGGTGTCGCGATTAATTA	22
mGFP_end_F	ACTCTCGGCATGGACGAG	18
mGFP_start_R1	TACCTTACGTGGCCATTCT	20
miR-16-5p_1	TAGCAGCACGTAAATATTGGCG	22
miR-191-5p_1	CAACGGAATCCCAAAGCAGCTG	23
miR-25-3p_1	CATTGCACTTGTCTCGGTCTGA	22
miR-26a-5p_1	TTCAAGTAATCCAGGATAGGCT	22
mir-425-5p_1	AATGACACGATCACTCCCCTTG	22
mTom_end_F1	CTGTTCTGTACGGCATGGA	20
mTom_end_R1	CTTGACAGCTCGTCCATGC	20
Myco_1F	GGAGCAAACAGGATTAGATACC	22
Myco_1R	CACCATCTGTCATTCTGTAAACC	23
Neo_2pA_Age1_rev1	TAGACCGGTTTACTAGTCCCCAGCATGCC	29
Neo_colony_R1	CATCAGAGCAGCCGATTGTC	20
Neo_HindIII_for1	ATCCGATAAGCTTGATCCGGG	21
qPCR primer 1.1	AATGATACGGCGACCACCGAGAT	23
qPCR primer 2.1	CAAGCAGAAGACGGCATAACGA	21
R26endoR	GTTTGCACAGGAAACCCAAG	20
Random hexamer primers	NNNNNN	6
RNU6B_1	ACGCAAATTCGTGAAGCGTT	20
R26_SA_Seq_R1	GGGGCCTAAGGTTTGGAGAT	20
Rosa26 E1 F1	CGCCTAGAGAAGAGGCTGTGC	21
Rosa26 I1 F2	TATGGGCGGGATTCTTTTGC	20
Rosa26 I1 R3	GTTTGCACAGGAAACCCAAG	20
Rosa26 I3 R2	CAGGTGGAAAGCTACCCTAGCC	22
Rosa26 Loc2R	GGAGCGGCGATAACCGTAAAG	20
Rosa26 Loc3R	TCCGAAGCCCAACCTTTCAT	20
Rosa26_colony_F1	ATCCCAGTCCCTCACACAG	20
ROSA26_SAR	GAAAGACCGCGAAGAGTTTG	20
SATB1_Ex6_F3	GCAAATGTCTCAGCGGCAAA	20
SATB1_Ex7_R3	CCTTGCTGGGATAGTTCCGGA	20

---



SFRP5_Ex2_F1	TGCGCCCAGTGTGAGATG	18
SFRP5_Ex3_R1	CTTCCGGTCCCCACTCTCTA	20
ssc-miR-146a-5p	TGAGAACTGAATTCCATGG	19
ssc-miR-194b-5p	TGTAACAGCGACTCCATGTGGA	22
ssc-miR-215	ATGACCTATGAATTGACAGAC	21
ssc-miR-27a-3p	TTCACAGTGGCTAAGTTCCG	20
TP53_CRISPR_F2	ACCCTGGTCCCAAAGTTGAA	20
TP53_CRISPR_R2	GCCCGTAAATTCCTTCCAC	20
Universal_Primer	CGAATTCTAGAGCTCGAGGCAGG	23

### 2.1.10 Oligonucleotides for hybridisation

Oligos for hybridisation, to generate tailored short double stranded DNA fragments, were ordered from Eurofins Genomics, Ebersberg, Germany or biomers.net GmbH, Ulm, Germany.

**Table 14 CRISPR oligos**

Oligo name	Sequence 5'-3'
CRISPR_APC_1A	CACCGCTAATGTGCTGTGGCACTGT
CRISPR_APC_1B	AAACACAGTGCCACAGCACATTAGC
CRISPR_DCC_Ex1_1A	CACCGTTTCTATCTCACCCCTA
CRISPR_DCC_Ex1_1B	AAACTAGGGGTGAGATAGAAAC
CRISPR_TP53_Ex5_1A	CACCGGCAAAACAGCTTATTGA
CRISPR_TP53_Ex5_1B	AAACTCAATAAGCTGTTTTGCC
CRISPR-pX300-PTEN-A	CACCGAGATCGTTAGCAGAAACAAA
CRISPR-pX300-PTEN-B	AAACTTTGTTTCTGCTAACGATCTC
DCC_Ex1-1_A	GTCGGTTTCTATCTCACCCCTACGG
DCC_Ex1-1_B	CGGTCCGTAGGGGTGAGATAGAAAC
PTEN_cCheck_A	GTCGGAGATCGTTAGCAGAAACAAAAGG
PTEN_cCheck_B	CGGTCCTTTTGTCTGCTAACGATCTC
TP53_Ex5_A	GTCGGCAAAACAGCTTATTGAGGG
TP53_Ex5_B	CGGTCCTCAATAAGCTGTTTTGCC

**Table 15 Multiple cloning site oligos**

Oligo name	Sequence 5'-3'	Length
MCS_RosaNeoCas_A	TCGAGCTGAGTTTAAACTGCAGGCCGGCCGATCTTCGAAACTGCCCCG GGCGATCCTAGGTACGC	64
MCS_RosaNeoCas_B	TCGAGCGTACCTAGGATCGCCCGGGCAGTTTCGAAGATCGGCCGGCC TGCAGTTTAAACTCAGC	64

### 2.1.11 Cloning vectors

Table 16 Plasmid list

Plasmid	Antibiotic resistance	Source
pGEM-T Easy	Ampicillin	Promega Corporation, Madison, USA
pJET1.2/blunt	Ampicillin	Invitrogen GmbH, Darmstadt, DEU
pSL1180	Ampicillin	Amersham Biosciences, Piscataway, USA
pCAG-Cas9-bpA	Ampicillin	Dr. Oskar Ortiz Sanchez, IDG Helmholtz Center, DEU
pGEMT-Rosa26-Cas9-BS	Ampicillin	Chair of livestock biotechnology, TUM, DEU
pBs-LSL-Neo	Ampicillin	Chair of livestock biotechnology, TUM, DEU
pSL1180 + MR26 MTMG	Ampicillin	Chair of livestock biotechnology, TUM, DEU
p119-c-check	Spectinomycin	Yonglun Luo (Alun), MSc, Ph.D, Associate Professor, Department of Biomedicine, Aarhus University, DNK
pX330-U6-Chimeric_BB-CBh-hSpCas9, 42230	Ampicillin	Addgene, Cambridge, USA
pX330-U6-Chimeric_BB-CBh-hSpCas9_MCS	Ampicillin	Chair of livestock biotechnology, TUM
pSL1180-SA-puro-LA	Ampicillin	Chair of livestock biotechnology, TUM

### 2.1.12 Antibodies

Table 17 List of primary antibodies

Primary antibodies	Source	Species reactivity	Description	Western blot dilution	iBind dilution
Mouse anti-GAPDH, (monoclonal), G8795	Sigma-Aldrich Chemie GmbH, Steinheim, DEU	rat, chicken, turkey, human, mouse, mink, bovine, canine, monkey, rabbit, hamster	immunized with rabbit GAPDH	1:3000	1:3000
Cas9 (7A9-3A3) Mouse mAb #14697	Cell Signaling Technology, Danvers, USA	-	N- terminus of Cas9 from <i>S. pyogenes</i>	1:1000	1:1000
Anti-Digoxigenin	Roche Diagnostic GmbH, Mannheim, DEU	-		Southern blot dilution 1:10000	

**Table 18 List of secondary antibodies** \* when two primary antibodies were used simultaneous

Secondary Antibodies	Source	Western blot dilution	iBind dilution
Goat anti-rabbit IgG, (polyclonal), A9169	Sigma-Aldrich Chemie GmbH, Steinheim DEU	1:5000	
Rabbit Anti-Mouse IgG H&L (HRP), (polyclonal), Ab6728	Abcam, Cambridge, England	1:5000	1:1000/1:500*

### 2.1.13 Competent bacterial cells

**Table 19 Electro competent cells**

E. Coli DH10B ElectroMAX	Genotype: F- mcrA $\Delta$ (mrr-hsdRMS-mcrBC) $\Phi$ 80lacZ $\Delta$ M15 $\Delta$ lacX74 recA1 endA1 araD139 $\Delta$ (ara, leu)7697 galU galK $\lambda$ -rpsL nupG	Invitrogen GmbH, Darmstadt, DEU
--------------------------	---	---------------------------------

### 2.1.14 Cultured mammalian cells

**Table 20 List of cultured mammalian cells**

Cell lines	Organism	Description	Source
pADMSCs 110111	pig	porcine adipose-derived mesenchymal stem cells	11.01.11 isolated by Dr. Benedikt Baumer, Chair of livestock biotechnology, TUM
pKF 270	pig	porcine kidney fibroblasts carrying a mT/mG cassette in the Rosa26 locus	isolated by Dr. PD. Tatiana Flisikowska, Chair of livestock biotechnology, TUM
pKF 73 APC <sup>1311</sup> 240415	pig	porcine kidney fibroblasts carrying a heterozygous APC <sup>1311</sup> mutation	24.04.15 isolated by Dr. PD. Tatiana Flisikowska, Chair of livestock biotechnology, TUM
HEK293	human	1973 transformed embryonic kidney cells using DNA fragments of human Adenovirus 5 (Graham et al. 1977)	Chair of Nutrition and Immunology, TUM

### 2.1.15 Pigs

**Table 21 List of individual pigs analysed**

\* Animals with more than 100 polyps were classified as high polyp (HP) and animals with 1-10 polyps as low polyp (LP) animals. Pigs with polyp numbers between 10 and 100 were classified as medium polyp (MP).

Animal ID	Born	Sex	Pheno-type*	Animal ID	Born	Sex	Pheno-type*
66	13.04.2012	male	HP	534	18.01.2016	female	LP
71	13.04.2012	female	HP	586	11.03.2016	female	LP
73	13.04.2012	male	HP	588	11.03.2016	female	HP
128	07.03.2013	female	LP	591	15.03.2016	castrated male	LP

145	14.03.2013	male	LP	598	15.03.2016	male	HP
148	14.03.2013	male	MP	722	26.09.2016	male	HP
150	14.03.2013	female	LP	727	26.09.2016	female	LP
152	14.03.2013	female	LP	388	04.04.2015	male	
153	14.03.2013	female	LP	909	18.06.2017	castrated male	HP
155	14.03.2013	male	LP	910	18.06.2017	male	HP
157	14.03.2013	female	LP	911	18.06.2017	castrated male	LP
163	15.03.2013	female	HP	913	18.06.2017	castrated male	LP
168	12.05.2013	male	HP	914	18.06.2017	castrated male	HP
173	12.05.2013	female	LP	916	18.06.2017	female	LP
174	12.05.2013	female	LP	917	18.06.2017	female	LP
251	21.02.2014	castrated male	HP	918	18.06.2017	female	HP
252	21.02.2014	castrated male	HP	919	18.06.2017	male	LP
253	21.02.2014	castrated male	HP	920	18.06.2017	female	LP
300	24.08.2014	female	LP	921	18.06.2017	female	LP
322	18.10.2014	male	HP	929	18.06.2017	male	LP
324	18.10.2014	male	HP	932	18.06.2017	castrated male	LP
326	18.10.2014	female	HP	933	18.06.2017	female	LP
328	18.10.2014	female	LP	937	09.07.2017	male	HP
339	20.10.2014	female	HP	941	09.07.2017	female	HP
471	17.08.2015	female	LP	943	09.07.2017	female	LP
474	17.08.2015	female	HP	944	09.07.2017	female	LP
524	18.01.2016	castrated male	LP	952	09.07.2017	female	LP
525	18.01.2016	castrated male	HP	953	09.07.2017	female	LP
527	18.01.2016	male	HP				

### 2.1.16 Computer software

**Table 22 Software**

ELISA-Reader	Ascent Software, Luqa, Malta
PyroMark Q48 Autoprep Software	Qiagen, Hilden, DEU
7500 Software v2.0.5	Applied Biosystems, Warrington, GBR
A Plasmid Editor	M. Wayne Davis
AB Sequencing Analysis Software (v5.2)	Applied Biosystems, Warrington, GBR
Axiovision	Carl Zeiss Microscopy GmbH, Göttingen, DEU
AxioVision Rel. 4.8	Carl Zeiss Microscopy GmbH, Göttingen, DEU
Benchling	<a href="https://benchling.com/">https://benchling.com/</a>
CASAVA BCL2FASTQ Conversion Software 1.8.3	Illumina, San Diego, USA
CRISPR design	<a href="http://crispr.mit.edu/">http://crispr.mit.edu/</a> , Zhang Lab, MIT 2017

---



---

DeSeq2	(Love et al, 2014), <a href="https://bioconductor.org/packages/release/bioc/html/DESeq2.html">https://bioconductor.org/packages/release/bioc/html/DESeq2.html</a>
EdgeR	(McCarthy et al, 2012; Robinson et al, 2010)
Every vector	<a href="http://www.everyvector.com/users/login">http://www.everyvector.com/users/login</a>
FASTQC	Andrews S. (2010), <a href="http://www.bioinformatics.babraham.ac.uk/projects/fastqc">http://www.bioinformatics.babraham.ac.uk/projects/fastqc</a>
FeatureCounts	(Liao et al, 2014), <a href="http://bioinf.wehi.edu.au/featureCounts/">http://bioinf.wehi.edu.au/featureCounts/</a>
Genecards	<a href="http://www.genecards.org/">http://www.genecards.org/</a>
gNorm	(Vandesompele et al, 2002)
GSEA software	(Mootha et al, 2003; Subramanian et al, 2005)
HiSeq Control Software 2.2.58	Illumina, San Diego, USA
IGV	(Robinson et al, 2011; Thorvaldsdottir et al, 2013), <a href="http://software.broadinstitute.org/software/igv/home">http://software.broadinstitute.org/software/igv/home</a>
Image J	National Institutes of Health, Bethesda, USA
Kallisto	(Bray et al, 2016)
Leica Application Suite software	Leica Microsystems, Wetzlar, DEU
MatInspector, Genomatix Matrix Library 11.0	<a href="https://www.genomatix.de/index.html">https://www.genomatix.de/index.html</a>
mirPath v.3	(Cartharius et al, 2005; Quandt et al, 1995)
Normfinder	(Vlachos et al, 2015b)
Phred/Phrap/Polyphred/Consed-Software	(Andersen et al, 2004)
Picard	(Ewing & Green, 1998; Ewing et al, 1998)
Primer 3	(Gordon et al, 1998; Nickerson et al, 1997)
PyroMark Assay Design2.0	<a href="http://broadinstitute.github.io/picard">http://broadinstitute.github.io/picard</a>
R Studio Version 1.0.153	<a href="http://primer3.ut.ee/">http://primer3.ut.ee/</a>
R version 3.4.1 (2017-06-30)	Qiagen, Hilden, DEU
Real-Time Analysis (RTA) 1.18.64	<a href="http://www.rstudio.com/">http://www.rstudio.com/</a>
Run 3130xl Data Collection v.3.0	<a href="https://www.R-project.org/">https://www.R-project.org/</a> , ( <a href="https://cran.r-project.org/">https://cran.r-project.org/</a> )
Sleuth	Illumina, San Diego, USA
STAR	Applied Biosystems, Warrington, UK
TarBase v7.0	(Pimentel et al, 2017), <a href="http://pachterlab.github.io/sleuth/">pachterlab.github.io/sleuth/</a>
TargetScan	(Dobin et al, 2013)
TIDE: Tracking of Indels by Decomposition	(Vlachos et al, 2015a)
Vector NTI	(Lewis et al, 2005)
VISION	<a href="https://tide.deskgen.com/">https://tide.deskgen.com/</a> , Brinkman
	Invitrogen GmbH, Darmstadt, DEU
	VILBER LOURMAT Deutschland GmbH,
	Eberhardzell, DEU

---

## 2.2 Molecular biological methods

### 2.2.1 Isolation of bacterial plasmid DNA

#### Mini prep

2 ml bacterial D10Hb cultures were pelleted for 5 min at full speed (12300-15493 x g). The supernatant was discarded and the bacterial pellet resuspended in 100 µl solution 1 (5 mM sucrose, 10 mM EDTA, 25 mM Tris-HCl pH 8.0). 200 µl solution 2 (0.2 M NaOH, 1 % SDS) was added for alkaline lysis and inverted 6-8 times for complete mixture. After 3 min incubation at room temperature (RT) 150 µl neutralising solution 3 (3 M sodium acetate pH 4.8) was added and inverted. After 30 min incubation on ice, the solution was centrifuged for 5 min. The supernatant, containing the plasmid DNA was mixed with 1 ml 95 % ethanol for plasmid DNA precipitation by 15 min centrifugation. The pellet was first washed with 500 µl 80 % ethanol, centrifuged for 10 min and subsequently with 500 µl 95 % ethanol. After aspiration of the supernatant the DNA pellet was dried using a vacuum centrifuge for 1-2 min at medium drying stage and resuspended in 50 µl water containing RNase A (40 µg/ml).

#### Midi and Maxi prep

Plasmid DNA was isolated from 100 ml or 300 ml bacterial cultures with the Plasmid DNA purification NucleoBond® Xtra Midi Kit and Maxi Kit (Macherey-Nagel) respectively, following manufacturer's information. The resulting DNA pellet was eluted in 100 or 200 µl TE buffer for Midi and Maxi preps.

### 2.2.2 Isolation of mammalian genomic DNA using phenol-chloroform extraction

Isolation from tissue) The tissue piece was cleaned with ethanol and PBS before transferring it to a petri dish and cutting it into small pieces with a sterile scalpel. The petri dish was rinsed with 500 µl lysis buffer (100 mM Tris-HCl pH7.4, 0.2 % SDS, 5 mM EDTA, 0.2 M NaCl) or more (depending on tissue size) to convert the minced tissue to a falcon tube.

Isolation from cells) Cells were pelleted in a 15 ml falcon tube by centrifugation at 300 x g for 5 min. The cell pellet was resuspended in 500 µl lysis buffer or more (depending on pellet size).

At this stage tissue samples and cultured cells were treated in a similar manner by supplementation with proteinase K to a final concentration of 100 µg/ml and incubation at 37 °C over night.

The next day, RNase A was added to a final concentration of 390 µg/ml and incubated for 5 min. The solution was mixed with an equal volume of phenol-chloroform-isoamyl alcohol, vortexed and left at RT for 10 min before centrifugation (4°C, 10 min, 15493 x g). The top aqueous phase, containing DNA, was transferred to a new reaction tube. An equal volume of chloroform was added, mixed, incubated

and centrifuged as before. The top aqueous phase was collected and mixed with 0.7x volume ice cold isopropanol. The DNA was pelleted at 4 °C for 15 min and washed with 200 µl ice cold 70 % ethanol and centrifuged for 5 min. The ethanol was aspirated and the DNA pellet dried for 10-15 min. When dried completely, the pellet was resuspended in 50-100 µl TE Buffer.

### **2.2.3 Isolation of mammalian genomic DNA using AllPrep Mini Kit**

A whole biopsy sample was placed in a lysis tube P with 600 µl RLT Plus buffer (containing β-mercaptoethanol). The samples were homogenised for 30-120 sec in the precooled Speed Mill PLUS, until complete homogenisation. The isolation was performed using the AllPrep Mini Kit (Qiagen) according to manufacturer's information and gDNA was eluted in 100 µl nuclease-free water.

### **2.2.4 Isolation of mammalian genomic DNA using Quick Extract**

Small cell amounts were pelleted and frozen for later, or resuspended right away in 20 µl QuickExtract (Epicentre) per 1/3 12 well. Enzymatic cell lysis was performed at 68 °C for 15 min and 95 °C for 8 min.

### **2.2.5 Isolation of RNA**

During the isolation and purification of RNA, samples were always kept on ice and centrifuged at 4 °C.

#### **2.2.5.1 RNA isolation from cells**

Cells were washed with ice cold PBS and detached by pipetting with 350 µl RLT buffer per confluent covered 12 well. Further processing was performed according to protocol step 4 of RNeasy Kit (Qiagen). All centrifugations were run at 10000 x g and RNA was eluted in 30 µl nuclease-free water.

#### **2.2.5.2 RNA isolation from tissues**

Biopsy samples were kept on liquid nitrogen and halved before they were placed into a Lysis tube P.

##### mRNA Isolation from tissues using innuSPEED Tissue RNA Kit

Biopsy samples were transferred to a lysis tube P with 450 µl lysis buffer (supplied) for at least 2x 20 seconds homogenisation using previously cooled Speed Mill PLUS and processed according to manufacturer's information. RNA was eluted in 30 µl nuclease-free water.

##### Total RNA isolation from tissues using DirectZol RNA MiniPrep

Biopsy samples were placed into a Lysis tube P containing 400 µl Trizol for at least 2x 20 sec homogenisation using previously cooled Speed Mill PLUS. They were spun down for 1 min at 12000 x

g before 350 µl cell lysate was mixed with 350 µl 100 % ethanol. Isolation was performed according to manufacturer's information and RNA was eluted in 30 µl nuclease-free water.

#### Total RNA isolation from tissues using AllPrep Mini Kit

Biopsy samples were transferred to a lysis tube P with 600 µl RLT Plus buffer (containing β-mercaptoethanol). for at least 30 sec homogenisation using precooled Speed Mill PLUS. Isolation was performed according to manufacturer's information and total RNA was eluted in 30 µl nuclease-free water.

#### 2.2.5.3 Total RNA isolation from laser microdissected cryo sections

Laser microdissected samples mixed with RLT Plus buffer (containing β-mercaptoethanol) were vortexed for 30 -120 sec. Total RNA was isolated using the Allprep DNA/RNA Micro Kit (Qiagen) according to manufacturer's information and eluted in 14 µl nuclease-free water.

#### **2.2.6 DNase digest**

Isolated RNA was treated with TURBO DNA-free™ Kit according to the manufacturer's information except no inactivation reagent was used.

#### **2.2.7 Quantification and Quality control of nucleic acids**

##### 2.2.7.1 Determination of nucleic acid concentration using NanoDrop Lite

For dsDNA the NanoDrop Lite multiplied the absorbance at 260 nm by 50 and for RNA by 40. The A260/A280 ratio indicating protein contamination should lie around 1.8 for dsDNA and 2.0 for RNA.

##### 2.2.7.2 Determination of nucleic acid concentration using Qubit 2.0 fluorometer

RNA was fluorometrically quantified using the QuantiFluor® RNA System (Promega) (detection range 0.1–500ng) and DNA using Qubit™ dsDNA BR Assay Kit (Thermo Fisher Scientific) (detection range 2-1000 ng) and Qubit™ dsDNA HS Assay Kit (Thermo Fisher Scientific) (detection range 0.2-100 ng) according to manufacturer's information.

##### 2.2.7.3 Determination of nucleic acid quality using Bioanalyzer

The RNA integrity number (RIN), was determined using Agilent RNA 6000 Nano Kit and Agilent RNA 6000 Pico Kit for laser microdissected RNA isolations according to manufacturer's information.



Size distribution and quality of sequencing libraries were determined using Agilent DNA 1000 Kit and Agilent High Sensitivity DNA Kit according to manufacturer's information.

#### 2.2.7.4 Gel electrophoresis

For analytical gels of RNA or DNA fragments after isolation, digestion or PCR the agarose was dissolved in 1x TBE. For preparative gels (excision of DNA) 1x TAE was used. Gels were always supplemented with a final concentration of 800 x peqGREEN. RNA gels were additionally complemented with 400 µl 37 % formalin per 50 ml gel. Both DNA and RNA samples were mixed with gel loading dye prior to gel electrophoresis, the latter were denatured at 70 °C for 2 min to destroy secondary structures.

#### **2.2.8 Plasmid DNA purification for tissue culture by ethanol precipitation**

The volume of plasmid DNA was set to 500 µl with water and 1/10 volume of 3 M sodium-acetate pH 5.2 was added and mixed. A 2-2.5 x volume of cold 100 % ethanol was added, mixed and incubated at -20 °C for at least 20 min before pelleting the DNA (12300-15493 x g, 10 min, 4 °C). From now on, the tube containing the DNA was only opened under a sterile laminar flow cabinet. The supernatant was aspirated and the pellet washed with 1 ml sterile 70 % ethanol. After centrifugation (full speed, 5 min, RT) the supernatant was aspirated and the pellet air dried. Plasmid DNA was eluted in sterile water or sterile low TE buffer, to gain a final concentration of 1-1.5 µg/µl.

#### **2.2.9 Plasmid DNA purification for tissue culture by phenol-chloroform extraction**

The volume of the plasmid DNA was set to 500 µl with water and mixed with 500 µl phenol-chloroform-isoamyl alcohol. The procedure was performed according to 2.2.2 except, after chloroform addition the top aqueous phase was mixed with 1/20<sup>th</sup> volume 3 M Sodium-acetate and a 0.7 volume isopropanol. This mixture was shaken and pelleted at full speed for 10 min. From now on, the DNA tube was only opened under a sterile laminar flow cabinet and proceeded according to 2.2.8.

#### **2.2.10 Column based DNA purification**

DNA after restriction digest, blunting, ligation or PCR was purified using the Wizard® SV Gel and PCR Clean-Up System (Promega) according to manufacturer's information with modifications (Appendix).

---

### 2.2.11 Restriction enzyme digestion

1 µg plasmid DNA, PCR products and gDNA was digested with 3-5 Units restriction enzyme (NEB), ≤5 % enzyme glycerol concentrations for at least 1 - 4 h at the enzyme's temperature optimum for cloning, Southern blot, digital droplet PCR, and size determination. Digests after ligation were incubated for 20 min with 5-10 units restriction enzyme, water and restriction buffer to gain 1x concentration.

### 2.2.12 Blunting

DNA sticky ends were blunted using the DNA Polymerase I Large Fragment (Klenow) from NEB. Successful blunting was achieved with 1x concentrated NEB buffer (1.1, 2.1, 3.1 or CutSmart), a final concentration of 60 µM dNTPs and ≤ 1 unit of the Klenow Enzyme (5 U/µl) per 1 µg DNA incubated at 25 °C for 15 min and inactivated with a final concentration of 10 mM EDTA at 75 °C for 20 min.

### 2.2.13 Oligonucleotide hybridisation

Each single-stranded oligonucleotide was dissolved in a 1 µg/µl concentration in TE buffer. 1 µl of each complementary oligo was added to 98 µl TE buffer, heated for 5 min at 100 °C and slowly cooled to RT.

### 2.2.14 DNA ligation

Vector DNA ranged from 50 to 200 ng (for DNA > 10 kb) and insert was calculated as below. 30 ng double-stranded oligonucleotides were ligated to 50 ng vector without calculation. To the DNA 1x concentrated T4 Ligase buffer, 400-600 units of T4 DNA Ligase and water was added to a total volume of 20 µl and incubated at RT for 1 h or at 16 °C over night.

$$Insert_{ng} = \frac{Vector_{ng} * size_{Insert}}{size_{Vector}} * 3$$

### 2.2.15 DNA methylation

All CpG sites in a gDNA sample were methylated by incubating 1 µg DNA with 4.8 units CpG methyltransferase SssI, 160 µM S-adenosylmethionine (SAM) and 1x Buffer 2.1 (NEB) for 4 h at 37 °C. After each hour of incubation another 4.8 units of SssI were added.

### **2.2.16 Bisulphite conversion**

Bisulphite conversion of 200 ng genomic DNA was performed using EZ DNA Methylation-Direct Kit (Zymo Research) according to manufacturer's information.

### **2.2.17 Whole genome amplification using the REPLI-g Mini Kit**

To generate CpG methylation-free DNA, 150 ng gDNA was amplified using the REPLI-g Mini Kit (Qiagen) according to manufacturer's information.

### **2.2.18 Reverse Transcription**

500 ng total RNA were converted to cDNA using SuperScript™ III Reverse Transcriptase (Invitrogen) with 100 pmol random hexamer primers according to manufacturer's information. Entire laser microdissected RNA was converted using Superscript IV Reverse Transcriptase (Invitrogen). For microRNA (miRNA) analysis, 1 µg total RNA was reverse transcribed using the miScript II RT Kit (Qiagen) according to the manufacturer's information.

### **2.2.19 5' Rapid amplification of cDNA ends (RACE)**

5' RACE of 1 µg RNA was performed using the FirstChoice RLM-RACE Kit according to manufacturer's information with small modifications. Phenol:chloroform extraction with 15 µl supplied ammonium acetate solution, 115 µl nuclease free water and 150 µl phenol-chloroform-isoamyl alcohol was mixed and centrifuged following 2.2.2. After adding ice cold isopropanol, RNA was chilled on ice for 10 min. RNA pelleting for 20 min and washing with cold 70 % ethanol for 10 min was performed at full speed at 4 °C. The supernatant was discarded, the pellet air dried and resuspended in 4 µl Tobacco Acid pyrophosphate (TAP) buffer. The entire volume was mixed with 1 µl TAP enzyme and incubated for 1 h at 37 °C. The complete mix was used for adapter ligation according to manufacturer's information over night at 16 °C. The whole reaction was used for reverse transcription using SuperScript III (2.2.18). The resulting cDNA was used for nested PCR.

### **2.2.20 Polymerase chain reaction**

Depending on the purpose of the amplification, different DNA polymerases were used requiring different PCR conditions. The polymerases AccuStart Taq DNA Polymerase HiFi and GoTaq® DNA Polymerase produce 3'A overhangs where Q5® High-Fidelity DNA Polymerase generates blunt ends.

AccuStart Taq DNA Polymerase HiFi PCR was performed with 20-200 ng DNA, 1x HiFi PCR Buffer, 2mM magnesium sulfate, 200 nM of each primer, 200  $\mu$ M dNTPs and 0.02U/ $\mu$ l AccuStart Taq DNA Polymerase HiFi in 50  $\mu$ l total volume. Thermal cycling conditions were: 1 min 94 °C, 40 cycles of 20 sec 94 °C, 30 sec 55-65 °C (depending on primer annealing temperature) and 1min/kb 68 °C.

GoTaq<sup>®</sup> DNA Polymerase PCR was performed with 50-300 ng DNA, 1x Green GoTaq<sup>®</sup> Reaction Buffer (1.5 mM MgCl<sub>2</sub>), 200 nM primer each, 200  $\mu$ M dNTPs and 0.025 U/ $\mu$ l GoTaq<sup>®</sup> DNA Polymerase in 50  $\mu$ l total volume. Cycling conditions were: 2 min 95 °C, 40 cycles of 30 sec 95 °C, 30 sec 42-65 °C and 1 min/kb 72 °C and 5 min 72 °C.

Q5<sup>®</sup> High-Fidelity DNA Polymerase PCR was performed with approx. 200 ng DNA, 1x Q5 Reaction Buffer, 1x Q5 High GC Enhancer, 500 nM of each primer, 200  $\mu$ M dNTPs and 0.01U/  $\mu$ l Q5<sup>®</sup> High-Fidelity DNA Polymerase in 50  $\mu$ l total volume. Thermal cycling conditions were: 30 sec 98 °C, 35 cycles of 10 sec 98 °C, 30sec 50-72 °C and 1 min/ kb 72 °C and 2 min 72 °C.

PyroMark PCR Kit PCR was performed with  $\leq$  500 ng DNA or 10-20 ng bisulphite converted DNA (bcDNA), 1x PyroMark PCR Master Mix, 1x Coral Load, 0.5 mM MgCl<sub>2</sub>, 200 nM of each primer in 25  $\mu$ l total volume. Cycling conditions were: 15 min 95 °C, 45 cycles of 30 sec 94 °C, 30 sec 60 °C for DNA/ 56 °C for bcDNA and 30 sec 72 °C and a final 10 min 72 °C.

### **2.2.21 Colony PCR using GoTaq Polymerase**

Colony PCR was performed to screen replicate bacterial colonies for correctly cloned DNA constructs. GoTaq<sup>®</sup> DNA Polymerase PCR was assembled as above, without DNA, as the colonies were picked into the reaction mix and onto an agar plate for culture. Initial denaturation was extended to 5 min 95 °C.

### **2.2.22 Mycoplasma Test PCR using GoTaq**

Medium conditioned by the cells for at least three days, was heated to 95 °C for 5 min. 2  $\mu$ l was added to GoTaq polymerase PCR with the primers Myco\_1F and Myco\_1R. Primer concentrations were increased to 500 nM and MgCl<sub>2</sub> was added to a final concentration of 1.5 mM in 25  $\mu$ l total volume. Thermal conditions were: 2 min 94 °C, 40 cycles of 30 sec 94 °C, 30 sec 55 °C and 30 sec 72 °C. Non-infectious DNA-fragments of *Mycoplasma orale* genome from the VenorGeM Mycoplasma Detection Kit (Sigma-Aldrich Chemie GmbH) served as positive control.

### 2.2.23 Reverse Transcription PCR

The reverse transcription PCR (RT-PCR) is performed using cDNA as a template to confirm transcription. 1 µl undiluted cDNA was used, also in the case of RACE analysis.

### 2.2.24 Quantitative Real-time PCR

Quantification of sequencing libraries for mRNA sequencing was performed using KAPA SYBR FAST qPCR Master Mix (2X) Universal (Kapa Biosystems) according to Sequencing Library qPCR Quantification Guide (Illumina) with modifications. 5 nM libraries were diluted 1:1000 and vortexed (this and all following dilutions were prepared with 0.1 % (v/v) Tween 20). One previously sequenced 2 nM library served as a positive control and was diluted 1:500 and another was used for standard curve generation by preparing serial dilutions of 20 pM, 2 pM, 0.2 pM, 0.02 pM and 0.002 pM. All dilutions were prepared in triplicates. 4 µl of each dilution, 1x KAPA SYBR FAST qPCR Master Mix, 0.2 µM primer each were mixed in a total volume of 10 µl. Thermal conditions were: 2 min 50 °C, 5 min 95 °C and 30 cycles of 30 sec 95 °C and 45 sec 60 °C.

### 2.2.25 Reverse transcription quantitative Real-time PCR

Reverse transcription quantitative real-time PCR (RT-qPCR) of mRNA was performed using Fast SYBR™ Green Master Mix (Applied Biosystems) according to the following protocol (Table 23).

**Table 23 RT-qPCR reaction set up using Fast SYBR Green Master Mix**

Primer Master Mix		Sample Master Mix	
Components	Final concentration	Components	Amount [µl]
2xFast SYBR® Green Master Mix	1x (5 µl)	cDNA	3
Forward primer	0.2 µM	Primer Master Mix	30
Reverse primer	0.2 µM		
H <sub>2</sub> O	up to 10 µl		

The Sample Master Mix was transferred into 3 wells (technical triplicates), each 10 µl, of a MicroAmp Fast Optical 96-Well Reaction Plate. The plate was sealed with MicroAmp™ Optical Adhesive Film and pulse centrifuged. The reaction was run in the ABI 7500 Fast Real-Time PCR System, with cycling conditions: 20 sec 95 °C, 40-55 cycles of 3 sec 95 °C and 30 sec 60-64 °C. Subsequent high resolution melting (HRM) analysis (60-95 °C) of the products was performed determining melting temperature and number of specific and unspecific products.

RT-qPCR of miRNA was performed using miScript SYBR® Green PCR Kit (Qiagen) according to Table 24.

**Table 24** MiRNA RT-qPCR reaction set up using miScript SYBR Green PCR Kit

Primer Master Mix		Sample Master Mix	
Components	Final concentration	Components	Amount [μl]
2x QuantiTect SYBR Green PCR Master Mix	1x (6.26 μl)	cDNA	3
Forward primer	0.7 μM	Primer Master Mix	33
miScript Universal Primer	0.7 μM		
H <sub>2</sub> O	up to 11.5 μl		

The Sample Master Mix was transferred into 3 wells (technical triplicates), each 11 μl, of a MicroAmp Fast Optical 96-Well Reaction Plate, sealed and pulse centrifuged as above. The reaction was run in the ABI 7500 Fast Real-Time PCR System, using following cycle conditions: 15 min 95 °C, 40-55 cycles of 15 sec 94 °C, 30 sec 55 °C and 30 sec 70 °C. Subsequently, HRM analysis (60-95 °C) was performed.

#### RT-qPCR Data analysis

For relative quantification analysis of the expression of mRNA and miRNA, the Livak method was used (Livak & Schmittgen, 2001). The fluorescence threshold for determination of the threshold cycle (Ct) was set manually for each gene (Table 25).

**Table 25** Fluorescence threshold values for Ct determination

mRNA	Fluorescence threshold	MiRNA	Fluorescence threshold	LMD mRNA	Fluorescence threshold
GAPDH	0.235651	mir-215	0.034205		
CYP7A1	0.027038	mir-194b-5p	0.057749	CYP7A1	0.078585
SFRP-5	0.488557	mir-27a-3p	0.023887	GAPDH	0.297384
SATB1	0.542667	mir-146a-5p	0.050586		
		let-7a-5p	0.045831		

$$1) \ dCt = \mu Ct_{Target\ gene} - \mu Ct_{Reference\ gene}$$

$$2) \ ddCt = dCt_{test\ sample} - \mu dCt_{calibrator\ sample}$$

$$3) \ Foldchange = 2^{(-ddCt)}$$

The mean ( $\mu$ ) Ct value of the gene of interest was normalised to the Ct value of the reference gene (1). All samples of the calibrator group were taken together to generate a mean dCt calibrator which was subtracted from the dCt of each test sample, forming the ddCt of each sample (2). DdCt represents the change in expression of the target gene between the test and calibrator group, normalised for any difference in loading between the calibrator and test samples. To obtain the fold change in expression between the test sample and the calibrator the following equation 3) was used. The Foldchange

determines at what fold the expression of the target gene in the test sample differs to the expression of the target gene in the calibrator sample.

#### **2.2.26 Enzymatic PCR purification**

For sequencing with SmartSeq from MWG Eurofins and for Sanger sequencing, PCR reactions were enzymatically purified. 10 µl PCR reaction was mixed with 0.4 µl exonuclease I (20U/µl) and 1 µl shrimp alkaline phosphatase (1U) and incubated at 37 °C for 30 min and at 80 °C for 15 min.

#### **2.2.27 Sequencing with SmartSeq from MWG Eurofins**

15 µl plasmid DNA (50-100 ng/µl) or 2 µl purified PCR product (2.2.10, 2.2.26) were mixed with 2 µl 10 µM primer and water to 17 µl total volume and transferred to a SmartSeq tube for sequencing.

#### **2.2.28 Sanger Sequencing**

##### Termination reaction

The termination reaction was performed using the Big Dye Terminator v1.1 Cycle Sequencing Kit (Life Technologies) with 2 µl purified PCR product (amplified using GoTaq<sup>®</sup> DNA Polymerase (2.2.20) and enzymatically purified (2.2.26)), 1x BigDye sequencing buffer, 1x dilution buffer (5 mM MgCl<sub>2</sub>, 0.2 mM Tris-HCl pH 8.0), 0.25 µM sequencing primer and 1x BigDye Terminator in a total volume of 10 µl. The thermal conditions were: 20 sec 95 °C and 25 cycles of 12 sec 95 °C, 8 sec 51 °C and 4 min 60 °C.

##### Sephadex gel filtration

The termination reaction mix was purified using a sephadex gel filtrations method. 25 mg sephadex (determined volumetrically) was transferred into a MultiScreen HV plate (Millipore) and soaked in 300 µl water per well for 2 h at RT. After incubation, the plate was centrifuged at 960 x g for 5 min. The sequencing reaction (10 µl) was diluted with 15 µl 0.1 mM EDTA. The total volume of 25 µl was applied to the sephadex plate for gel filtration at 960 x g for 5 min and collected in a fresh 96 well plate.

##### Capillary gel electrophoresis

The 96 well plate was transferred to the ABI Prism 3130xl Genetic Analyzer for capillary gel electrophoresis in a 36 cm capillary using the POP-7<sup>™</sup> Polymer (Life Technologies). The procedure ran with standard settings and the data was collected using the software Run 3130xl Data Collection v.3.0.

---

### Analysis of polymorphisms

Quality assessment and base calling was performed by the AB Sequencing Analysis Software (v5.2). The polymorphisms in the sequences were detected using the Phred/Phrap/Polyphred/Consed-Software (Ewing & Green, 1998; Ewing et al, 1998; Gordon et al, 1998; Nickerson et al, 1997).

#### **2.2.29 Pyrosequencing**

A sequence of interest was amplified from bcDNA (2.2.16) with one biotinylated primer and the PyroMark PCR Kit (Qiagen) (2.2.20). The samples were sequenced on the PyroMark Q48 Autoprep Instrument using the PyroMark Q48 Advanced CpG Reagents (Qiagen) according to manufacturer's information with small modifications. When all reagents except the enzyme and substrate were brought to RT, 4 µl PyroMark Q48 Magnetic Beads (Qiagen) and 12 µl PCR reaction were loaded. 2 µl sequencing primer (10 µM primers diluted in PyroMark Annealing Buffer) was added automatically.

#### **2.2.30 Next Generation Sequencing using Illumina technology**

##### mRNA Sequencing

400 ng total RNA was used for the library preparation with the TruSeq RNA Library Preparation Kit v2 (Illumina) according to "TruSeq RNA Sample Preparation v2 Guide" with one small modifications. Elution2-Frag-Prime program was reduced to 4 min at 94 °C.

Quality and Quantity control was performed according to the "TruSeq RNA Sample Preparation v2 Guide" using the Bioanalyzer (2.2.7.3) and Qubit (2.2.7.2) respectively. Obtained average fragment/library size multiplied with the average molecular weight of a single DNA base pair (660 g/mol) and concentration resulted in the molarity of each library.

$$\frac{\text{Concentration [ng/}\mu\text{l]}}{\text{average library size [bp]x 660 g/mol}} \times 10^6 = \text{molarity [nM]}$$

The libraries were set to a 5 nM with EB buffer and quantified with qPCR according to "Sequencing Library qPCR Quantification Guide" from Illumina (2.2.24). The molarities of the libraries were corrected according to qPCR results and set to 2nM with EB buffer. Twelve 2 nM libraries carrying 12 different adapters were pooled and processed according to the "HiSeq and GAllx Systems Denature and Dilute Libraries Guide: Denature and Dilute Libraries for HiSeq Clustering Standard Normalization Method" (Illumina) with small modifications. 10 µl pooled 2 nM libraries was mixed with 10 µl 0.1 M NaOH and incubated for 5 min at RT. The resulting 1 nM library pool was diluted with prechilled HT1 buffer to 20 pM in a total volume of 1000 µl. The 20 pM solution was set to a chosen molarity with HT1



buffer reaching a total volume of 420  $\mu$ l and supplemented with 5  $\mu$ l 12.5 pM PhiX library (Table 26). The PhiX library was denatured and diluted according to “HiSeq and GAllx Systems Denature and Dilute Libraries Guide: Denature and Dilute PhiX for HiSeq Clustering” (Illumina).

**Table 26 Calculations for the molar adjustment of library pools for Illumina Sequencing of mRNA**

<b>Final concentration</b>	<b>12 pM</b>	<b>13 pM</b>	<b>14 pM</b>	<b>18 pM</b>
20 pM denatured library pool	252	273	294	378
Prechilled HT1 buffer	168	147	126	42
12.5 pM PhiX	5	5	5	5
Total volume	425	425	425	425

The HiSeq was prepared and operated according to the “HiSeq® 2500 System Guide, Chapter 5 Sequencing in Rapid Run Mode” (Illumina). The HiSeq Rapid v2 flow cell was rinsed with laboratory grade water, dried with low lint Kimtech Science Precision wipes (Kimberly-Clark Professional) and together with the library pool loaded into the HiSeq2500. Clustering and sequencing was performed using the HiSeq Rapid PE Cluster Kit v2 (Illumina) and HiSeq Rapid SBS Kit v2 (Illumina) at 2 x 100 bp read configuration to generate Fastq files.

#### Small RNA Sequencing

1  $\mu$ g total RNA was used for small RNA library preparation using the TruSeq Small RNA Library Prep Kit (Illumina) according to manufacturer’s information. Quality and quantity of libraries was analysed using the Bioanalyzer Agilent High Sensitivity DNA Kit (2.2.7.3) and Qubit™ dsDNA HS Assay Kit (2.2.7.2).

400 ng of 6 samples each, all carrying different adapters were pooled and run on a gel. After purification quality and molarity of the library pools were analysed using the Bioanalyzer Agilent High Sensitivity DNA Kit (2.2.7.3). Library pools were set to 4 nM with 10 mM Tris-HCl (pH 8.5) and processed according to the “MiSeq System Denature and Dilute Libraries Guide: Standard Normalization Method”. 5  $\mu$ l 4 nM library pool was mixed with 5  $\mu$ l 0.2 N NaOH and incubated for 5 min at RT. 990  $\mu$ l prechilled HT1 buffer was added resulting in 1 ml 20 pM library pool. 360  $\mu$ l 20 pM library pool was mixed with 240  $\mu$ l prechilled HT1 buffer for a 12 pM dilution. 594  $\mu$ l 12 pM library pool was supplemented with 6  $\mu$ l 12.5 pM PhiX library that was equally denatured. The flow cell was rinsed with laboratory-grade water and dried with low lint Kimtech Science Precision wipes (Kimberly-Clark Professional). The flow cell and library pool were loaded into the MiSeq and sequencing was performed using the MiSeq Reagent Kits v2 (Illumina) at 1x50 bp read configuration to generate Fastq files. The MiSeq was prepared and operated according to the “MiSeq® System Guide” (Illumina).

---

### 2.2.31 Southern blot analysis

#### 2.2.31.1 Preparing Digoxigenin labelled probes

Digoxigenin (DIG) labelled DNA probes of 600-750 bp and 50-60 % GC content were generated via GoTaq DNA Polymerase PCR (2.2.20) with supplementation of 60 mM Digoxigenin-11-dUTP (Roche Diagnostic GmbH). Successful labelling (slower gel migration than control PCR without digoxigenin addition) was assessed by gel electrophoresis and extracted from the gel (2.2.10).

#### 2.2.31.2 Dot blot

Dot blot was performed to determine binding capacity and optimal hybridisation temperature of a probe. DNA was applied directly to the positively charged Nylon membrane. The membrane was baked for 30 min at 120 °C and prepared according to Southern blot protocol (2.2.31.3).

#### 2.2.31.3 Southern blot

10 µg gDNA were digested for 4 h at 37 °C with 4 Units Enzyme per µg DNA. The DNA was separated on a 1x TAE 0.8 % agarose gel free of peqGREEN with 2-Log DNA Ladder (New England Biolabs) and the DIG-labeled DNA Molecular Weight Marker VII (Roche Diagnostic GmbH). The Gel ran at 120 V for 10 min and 30 V overnight. The next day, half the 2-Log DNA Ladder lane was cut off and stained in a peqGREEN bath for 10-30 min. The stained ladder was photographed with a ruler to visualise the run and cut the gel correspondingly. All following incubations or washings were performed at RT shaking. For hybridisation of targets larger than 5 kb, the gel was incubated in depurination solution (250 mM HCl) for 10 min maximum. The gel was rinsed in demineralised water and incubated in denaturation solution (0.5 M NaOH, 1.5 M NaCl) twice for 15 min. The gel was rinsed and incubated twice in neutralisation solution (0.5 M Tris-HCl, pH 7.5; 1.5 M NaCl) for 15 min. The neutralised gel was equilibrated in 20x SSC (3 M NaCl, 0.3M sodium citrate) for at least 10 min.

The capillary transfer blot was assembled from bottom to top as follows: pan filled with two litres 20x SSC, a bridge of blotting paper, glad wrap with a window the size of gel and membrane, one blotting paper soaked in 20x SSC, the gel facing down, the dry Nylon membrane (positively charged, Amersham Hybond-N+, GE Healthcare Europe GmbH), a dry blotting paper and a big stack of paper towels. The construct was set under pressure over night. The next day, blot was disassembled to wash the membrane in 2x SSC (0.3 M NaCl, 30 mM sodium citrate) and bake it for 30 min at 120 °C. The dry membrane was placed into a hybridisation bottle with 3 ml DIG Easy Hyb Buffer (DIG Easy Hyb Granules, Roche Diagnostic GmbH) for blocking for 30 min to 3 h at the hybridisation temperature of the probe ( $T_{Hyb}$ ), not exceeding 43°C.

$$T_{Hyb} = T_m - (20^{\circ}\text{C} - 25^{\circ}\text{C})$$

$$T_m = 49.82 + 0.41 * GC_{probe} - 600 / length_{probe}$$

During incubation, the DIG labelled hybridisation probe was diluted in 50  $\mu\text{l}$  water, denatured for 5 min at 95  $^{\circ}\text{C}$  and chilled on ice. When the probe had been used before, it was denatured for 5 min at 68  $^{\circ}\text{C}$ . DIG Easy Hyb Buffer was removed from the membrane and replaced with fresh DIG Easy Hyb Buffer containing 40 ng/ml probe. The membrane was hybridised in motion over night at  $T_{Hyb}$ . The next day, the probe in DIG Easy Hyb buffer was stored at -20  $^{\circ}\text{C}$  for reuse. The membrane was shaken in low stringency buffer (2x SSC, 0.1 % SDS) for 15 and 10 min. High stringency buffer was heated (Table 27).

**Table 27 Incubation conditions with high stringency buffer, dependent on target homology and GC content of the probe**

Target homology	GC content	Buffer	temperature
80-100 %	Average (40 %)	0.5 % SSC, 0.1 % SDS	65 $^{\circ}\text{C}$ for probes > 100bp, <65 $^{\circ}\text{C}$ for probes $\leq$ 100 bp
<80 %	Average (40 %)	0.5 % SSC, 0.1 % SDS	approx. 60 $^{\circ}\text{C}$
80-100 %	High ( $\geq$ 50 %)	0.1 % SSC, 0.1 % SDS	68 $^{\circ}\text{C}$

The membrane was shaken in high stringency buffer (0.1 % SSC, 0.1 % SDS) for 15 min twice. The membrane was washed for 2 min with wash buffer (0.3 % (v/v) Tween 20 in maleic acid buffer (0.1 M maleic acid, 0.15 M NaCl, pH 7.5)) and incubated at RT for 1-1 ½ h in blocking solution (1 % (w/v) Blocking Reagent 11096176001 (Roche Diagnostic GmbH) in maleic acid buffer). Next, the membrane was shaken in Anti-Digoxigenin-AP sheep antibody solution (1:10000 in blocking solution) for 30 min. Two washing steps of 15 min each with washing buffer followed. The membrane was equilibrated for 3 min in detection buffer (0.1 M Tris-HCl, 0.1 M NaCl, pH 9.5 (20  $^{\circ}\text{C}$ )) while the substrate for the phosphate conjugated antibody CDP-star solution (Roche Diagnostic GmbH) was diluted 1:100 in detection buffer. The membrane was placed on a plastic envelope and the CDP-star dilution was applied. The envelope was sealed and incubated at 37  $^{\circ}\text{C}$  for 5 min in the dark. In a dark room, the membrane was placed on top of an x-ray film in an x-ray clip cassette. The closed cassette was incubated at 37  $^{\circ}\text{C}$  for 1-2 h. After sufficient exposure the film was developed in the dark room rinsing it in developer (until the length marker was visible), water, fixer solution and water.

## **2.3 Microbiological methods**

### **2.3.1 Bacterial culture**

A mini culture of 3 ml, a midi culture of 100 ml or a maxi culture of 300 ml LB medium (2.5 % (w/v) Difco LB Base, Miller) with ampicillin (Carl Roth GmbH) (100 µg/ml) or spectinomycin (Fluka Laborchemikalien GmbH) (50 µg/ml) was inoculated with a glycerol stock, a colony from an agar plate or a fluid bacterial culture. The culture was shaken over night at 37 °C.

### **2.3.2 Cryoconservation of bacterial cultures**

200 µl 100 % glycerol were mixed with 200 µl bacterial culture and stored at -80 °C.

### **2.3.3 Transformation of bacteria**

50 µl competent DH10b *E. coli* cells (Invitrogen) were thawed on ice and mixed with 1-3 µl ligation (3 µl purified ligation or 1:10000 diluted plasmid). The mix was transferred to a cold electroporation cuvette (2 mm gap, Peqlab Biotechnologie GmbH), put into the Multiporator® (Eppendorf) and shocked at 2500 V for 5 msec. The shocked cells were submerged in 500 µl LB medium and incubated for 30-45 min at 37 °C shaking. The recovered cells were plated onto agar (4 % (w/v) Difco LB Agar, Miller) plates with 100 µg/ml ampicillin or 50 µg/ml spectinomycin and incubated over night at 37 °C.

### **2.3.4 Blue white screening of bacterial colonies**

For cloning PCR fragments into the pGEM®-T Easy Vector System (Promega Corporation), ampicillin agar plates were coated 30 min prior to bacteria culture with 20 µl 100 mg/ml X-gal solution (solved in N,N-dimethylformamid) and 4 µl 1 M IPTG. After overnight culture at 37°C white bacterial colonies carried pGEM®-T Easy Vector where the lacZ gene was disrupted by incorporated PCR fragment.

## **2.4 Tissue culture methods**

Mammalian cells were cultured in a humidified Steri-Cycle CO<sub>2</sub> incubator at 37 °C with 5 % CO<sub>2</sub>. and handled only with sterile equipment in a sterile laminar flow cabinet. The medium was exchanged every 2-3 days. Unsterile solutions were sterile filtered with 0.22 µm filters.

#### **2.4.1 Passaging cells**

Cells of 80-100 % confluence, were washed with D-PBS (Sigma-Aldrich Chemie GmbH) and incubated with accutase (Sigma-Aldrich Chemie GmbH) for 4-10 min in the incubator. When cells were fully detached, the reaction was stopped by adding  $\geq$  volume of medium. The cell suspension was distributed to a new vessel, counted (2.4.2), frozen (2.4.4) or pelleted for DNA isolation (2.2.4).

#### **2.4.2 Counting cells**

10  $\mu$ l cell suspension was mixed with 10  $\mu$ l trypan blue 0.4 % (Invitrogen GmbH). 10  $\mu$ l were transferred to a cell counting chamber slide (Invitrogen GmbH) and inserted into the Countess (Invitrogen GmbH). The Countess calculated the concentration of the total, live and dead cells and the viability.

#### **2.4.3 Isolation and culture of primary porcine kidney fibroblasts**

Kidneys of euthanized animals were cleared of their fine skin and rinsed in 80 % ethanol for six times before transfer to a sterile laminar flow cabinet. A piece of ca. 1 x 1 cm was cut from the inside of the kidney, avoiding fat, vascular tube or outside tissue, with a scalpel (B. Braun Melsungen AG). The piece was washed in three different tubes of each 80 % ethanol and D-PBS containing 100 U/ml penicillin and 0.1 mg/ml streptomycin (Sigma-Aldrich Chemie GmbH) and 2.5 mg/ml amphotericin B (Sigma-Aldrich Chemie GmbH) (D-PBS-P/S/A). The cleaned tissue was minced in a petri dish with 2 ml D-PBS-P/S/A and incubated in an erlenmeyer flask with 1mg/ml Collagenase Type I-A (Sigma-Aldrich Chemie GmbH) in D-PBS-P/S/A for 20-30 min at 37 °C stirring. If many tissue pieces remained intact, the suspension was filtered through a mesh and transferred to a 50 ml falcon. 13 ml medium containing 100 U/ml penicillin and 0.1 mg/ml streptomycin and 2.5 mg/ml amphotericin B (medium-P/S/A) were added to stop collagenase reaction and centrifuged at 300 x g for 5 min. The supernatant was aspirated and the pellet resuspended in 14 ml medium-P/S/A for centrifugation. This was repeated once more. The pellet was resuspended in medium-P/S/A and depending on its size distributed to 2-8 T150 flasks. The medium was exchanged daily for 3 days. On the fourth day, antibiotic and antimycotic-free medium was applied and conditioned for 3 days for mycoplasma testing 2.2.22.

#### **2.4.4 Cryoconservation of mammalian cells**

Cells were detached (2.4.1), pelleted at 300 x g for 5 min and resuspended in freezing medium (Table 10). The suspension was transferred to cryo vials and put into Nalgene Mr. Frosty Freezing containers (Thermo Fisher Scientific), filled with isopropanol.

Thawing was conducted as quickly as possible. Cryo vials were thawed in the 37 °C water bath and transferred directly to fresh medium, diluting the cytotoxic DMSO. The cells were pelleted at 300 x g for 5 min and cleared of the supernatant. The pellet was resuspended in DMSO-free medium and transferred to a fresh culturing vessel.

## 2.4.5 Transfection of mammalian cells

### 2.4.5.1 Electroporation

Cells were detached and counted.  $1 \times 10^6$  cells were pelleted at 300 x g for 5 min. The supernatant was aspirated and the cells were resuspended in 800  $\mu$ l hypoosmolar electroporation buffer (Eppendorf). 10  $\mu$ g sterile DNA (in sterile water or low TE buffer) was added, mixed and incubated at RT for 5 min. The suspension was transferred to an electroporation cuvette (4 mm gap, Peqlab Biotechnologie GmbH) avoiding bubbles and shocked with 1200 V for 85  $\mu$ sec. The cells were incubated at RT for 5 min and transferred to two T25 flasks with fresh medium. The next day, dead cells were washed away with D-PBS and fresh medium was added.

### 2.4.5.2 Nucleofection

Cells were detached and counted. Different cell types required different nucleofector kits according to manufacturer's information and small modifications (Table 28). The required cell amount was pelleted at 300 x g for 5 min. The pellet was resuspended in 100  $\mu$ l nucleofector solution and mixed with 2-5  $\mu$ g sterile DNA (in sterile water or low TE buffer). The suspension was transferred to a nucleofection cuvette and treated with the corresponding program. The nucleofected cells were submerged with fresh medium and transferred to a T25 flask. The next day, dead cells were washed away with D-PBS and fresh medium was added.

**Table 28 Nucleofection conditions for different cell types**

Cell type	Kit	Cell number	Nucleofector solution	DNA	Program
pADMSCs	Human MSC Nucleofector® Kit	$5 \times 10^5$	100 $\mu$ l	2-5 $\mu$ g	C-17, U-23
pKFs	Basic Nucleofector Solution Primary Fibroblasts	$1 \times 10^6$	100 $\mu$ l	2-3 $\mu$ g 4 $\mu$ g vector + 400 ng CRISPR	N-24

### 2.4.5.3 Lipofection

One day prior lipofection, cells were plated on 10 cm culture dishes to reach 30-50% confluence at the point of transfection. The cells were washed with D-PBS twice and covered with 4 ml OptiMEM (Life

Technologies). For each 10 cm dish 6  $\mu$ l Lipofectamine™ 2000 Transfection Reagent (Invitrogen GmbH) was mixed with 294  $\mu$ l OptiMEM in one reaction tube and 4-10  $\mu$ g DNA was mixed with OptiMEM (total volume 300  $\mu$ l) in a second tube. Each tube was vortexed and incubated at RT for 5 min. The Lipofectamine 2000 mix was carefully dropped into the DNA mix, vortexed and incubated for 25-30 min at RT. The Lipofectamine-DNA mix was dropped directly onto the cells. The cells were put into the incubator and after 4 h supplemented with 6 ml medium.

#### 2.4.6 Killing curve experiment

To determine optimal selection concentrations, 1 and 0.5  $\times 10^4$  cells were plated onto a 12 well and cultured with different concentrations of the antibiotics (Table 29). The optimal concentration, was the one, where cells were dead after 7 days of cultivation.

**Table 29 Concentration ranges for antibiotics when performing a killing curve experiment**

Antibiotic	Range
G-418	0-1200 $\mu$ g/ml
Blasticidin S	0-10 $\mu$ g/ml
Puromycin	0-1.5 $\mu$ g/ml

#### 2.4.7 Selection

24-48 h (depending on confluence) after lipofection cells were set under selection. 48 h after nucleofection and electroporation, cells were detached, counted, less than 1  $\times 10^5$  expanded onto a 15 cm culture dish and set under selection with G-418 (Genaxxon bioscience GmbH) or Blasticidin S (InvivoGen) for 10-14 days until single-cell clones had reached a size of about 100 cells. The antibiotic containing media were exchanged every 2-3 days. Puromycin (InvivoGen) selection was performed 24 h after transfection for 48 h. The puromycin medium was exchanged every day. 24 h after the end of puromycin selection, the cells were expanded and selected on G-418 as described above.

**Table 30 optimal antibiotic concentrations for selection of different cell isolations**

Cell isolate	G-418	Blasticidin-S	Puromycin
pADMSCs 110111	600 $\mu$ g/ml	8 $\mu$ g/ml	1 $\mu$ g/ml
pKFs 73	1000 $\mu$ g/ml	-	1.5 $\mu$ g/ml
pKF 270	800 $\mu$ g/ml	-	0.5 $\mu$ g/ml

#### 2.4.8 Clone picking

Single-cell clones of  $\sim 100$  cells were marked on the outer wall of the culturing vessel. Cells were washed with D-PBS. After D-PBS aspiration, small sterilised cloning rings were dipped into sterile silicon

fat and tightly placed around the marked single-cell clones. 50 µl accutase was applied into each ring and incubated (2.4.1). When cells were fully detached 100 µl medium was added into each ring. The cell suspension in each ring was transferred into a 24 well with 1 ml fresh medium. If cells had been cultured in selection medium before, selection was reduced (eg. from 1000 -800 µg/ml) but not taken off.

#### **2.4.9 Clone expansion and screening**

Confluent single-cell clones were detached (2.4.1) with 200 µl accutase and supplemented with 400 µl medium after incubation. 400 µl cell suspension was transferred to a 12 well and 200 µl were transferred into a PCR reaction tube and pelleted for gDNA isolation (2.2.4) and screening PCR (2.2.20).

#### **2.4.10 Cell preparation for somatic cell nuclear transfer**

Correctly targeted clones (nuclear donors) were pooled or separately plated on a 12 well to reach 70-80 % confluence. 48 h before somatic cell nuclear transfer (SCNT) cells were washed 2x with D-PBS and synchronised in G0/G1 phase by culture in starvation medium (0.5 % FCS). SCNT and embryo transfer was done by the Chair for Molecular Animal Breeding and Biotechnology (LMU, Munich, Germany).

### **2.5 Biochemical methods**

#### **2.5.1 Protein extraction from cultured cells**

Cells were washed 2x with ice cold D-PBS. Per 15 cm dish cells were mechanically detached on ice with cells scrapers and 500 µl CytoBuster™ Protein Extraction Reagent (Merck KGaA) or RIPA buffer containing 1x cOmplete Protease Inhibitor Cocktail and PhosSTOP Phosphatase Inhibitor Cocktail (Roche Diagnostic GmbH). After 2-5 min mechanical cell dissociation, the cells suspension was frozen at -80 °C for at least 30 min. The suspension was thawed on ice and centrifuged at 4 °C at 15493 x g for 30 min to pellet dead cells and cell debris. The supernatant containing proteins was converted into a new reaction tube and stored at -80 °C.

#### **2.5.2 Determination of protein concentration**

Protein concentration was determined using the Advanced Protein Assay Reagent (Cytoskeleton Inc.). 5 µl protein sample was mixed with 995 µl 1x Advanced protein assay Reagent (1:200 dilution) and distributed to three 96 wells, 300 µl each. Blanks of Advanced Protein Assay Reagent alone and a 1:200



dilution of the protein extraction buffer were applied to three wells each. The plate was inserted into the ELISA -Photometer. Together with the ELISA-Reader software (Ascent Software) the absorbance at 595 nm was measured. Protein concentration was calculated using the following formula.

$$1.0 \text{ OD}_{570 \text{ to } 615 \text{ nm}} = 37.5 \text{ } \mu\text{g protein per ml reagent per } 0.8 \text{ cm}$$

### 2.5.3 Western blot Analysis

#### 2.5.3.1 Sodium Dodecyl Sulfate Polyacrylamide Gel electrophoresis (SDS-PAGE)

The SDS polyacrylamide gel was prepared with different percentages depending on the molecular weight of the protein of interest (Table 31) using the Mini-PROTEAN 3 Cell system (BioRad). The separation gel was prepared first. TEMED and APS were applied last. Right after, the gel was mixed and 3-3.5 ml (leaving room for the collection gel) applied into the gel pouring chambers. To remove bubbles, a mix of water and isopropanol (1:1) was added on top. After full polymerisation for 30 min the water-isopropanol mix was removed. The collection gel was prepared (Table 31) and applied on top. The Mini-PROTEAN® Comb (BioRad) was inserted and left to dry for 30 min. The fully polymerised gel was stored in a moist plastic bag at 4 °C for later use, or loaded into the running chamber. The running chamber was filled with running buffer (25 mM Trizma Base, 0.2 M Glycin, 0.1 % SDS, pH 8.3, 10 mM β-mercaptoethanol). The protein samples were thawed on ice and 20-40 μg protein was mixed with 4x Laemmli buffer (including DTT) (250 M Tris-HCl, pH 6.8, 4 % (w/v) SDS, 0,1 M saccharose, traces of bromphenol blue, 26mM DTT (freshly added)) to reach a 1x buffer concentration. The same was done with the Precision Plus Protein™ All Blue Standard (BioRad) before both were denatured at 95 °C for 5 min. They were kept on ice until loaded into the pockets of the SDS-polyacrylamide gel. The electrophoresis ran for 20-30 min at 60 V, 100 V for 40 min and 140 V for 75-90 min.

**Table 31 Preparation and composition of 0.75 mm SDS-polyacrylamide gels**

0.75 mm gels	Separation gel		Collection gel	
	<100 kDa	>100 kDa	<100 kDa	>100 kDa
Reagents	12%	10%	5%	4%
0.5 M Tris-HCl, pH 6.8	-	-	666 μl	666 μl
1 M Tris-HCl, pH 8.8	1.5 ml	1.5 ml	-	-
Water	1.22 ml	1.42 ml	1.61 ml	1.68 ml
SDS (10 %)	40 μl	40 μl	26.6 μl	26.6 μl
Polyacrylamide (40 %)	1.2 ml	1 ml	333 μl	266.6 μl
Temed	1.6 μl	1.6 μl	2.6 μl	2.6 μl
APS (10 %)	40 μl	40 μl	26.6 μl	26.6 μl
Total	4 ml	4 ml	2.6	2.6

### 2.5.3.2 Western blot

The proteins separated by SDS-PAGE were transferred onto the Roti-PVDF membrane (0.45 µm) by semidry transfer blot using the Trans-blot SD Semi-Dry Transfer cell. Two pieces blotting paper and the SDS-polyacrylamide gel were equilibrated in semi dry transfer buffer (25 mM Trizma Base, 0.2 M glycine, 20 % (v/v) methanol, 0.1 % (w/v) SDS). The Roti-PVDF membrane (0.45 µm) (Brand GmbH & Co. KG) was activated in methanol for 1 min and soaked in semi dry transfer buffer. The blot was assembled on the Trans-Blot SD Semi-Dry Transfer cell as follows from bottom to top: semi dry transfer buffer, blotting paper, the activated membrane, the gel and another blotting paper. Air bubbles were rolled out using a serological pipette. Semi dry transfer buffer was poured on top of the blot, and the Trans-Blot SD Semi-Dry Transfer cell was closed. The blot was run at 15 V for 70 min to blot proteins of up to 160 kDa from a 10 % 1.5 mm SDS-polyacrylamide gel. When two SDS-polyacrylamide gels were run at the same time, a voltage of 25 V and a time of 2.5 h was not exceeded. After blotting, the coloured bands of the Precision Plus Protein™ All Blue Standard ladder were retraced on the membrane.

### 2.5.3.3 Ponceau S staining

The membrane was soaked for 2-3 min in Ponceau S solution (0.5 % (w/v), 1 % glacial acetic acid), shaking at RT. The membrane was washed with demineralised water, until the background turned white and only protein bands were stained red. A photo was taken and the dye was fully washed off.

### 2.5.3.4 Conventional Antibody application

The membrane was blocked in blocking solution (5 % (w/v) milk powder (Carl Roth GmbH) in 1xTBST (20 mM Trizma Base, 140 mM NaCl, 0.1 % (v/v) Tween 20) for at least 1 h shaking at RT. The membrane was washed three times with 1x TBST and incubated with primary antibody (diluted in blocking solution Table 17) over night at 4 °C shaking. The next day the primary antibody dilution was supplemented with a trace of sodium azide and stored at 4 °C for reuse. The membrane was rinsed three times and incubated 3 times with 1x TBST for 15 min shaking. The secondary antibody (horse-radish peroxidase (HRP) conjugated), diluted in blocking solution (Table 18), was added to the membrane and incubated for 1 h at RT. The membrane was again washed 3 times by rinsing and incubating for 15 min in 1x TBST.

For visualisation of the antibody bound proteins of interest, the membrane was covered with Pierce™ ECL Western Blotting Substrate (Thermo Fisher Scientific), sealed in a plastic foil and incubated in the dark for 1 min. In the dark room, the membrane was placed onto an x-ray film in an x-ray clip cassette. The film was exposed to the membrane for 1-20 min and developed in the dark room by rinsing it in developer, water, fixer solution and water.

#### 2.5.3.5 iBind antibody application

The membrane was blocked for at least 1 h in blocking solution and subsequently rinsed in 1x TBST three times. The iBind™ Solution Kit (Invitrogen GmbH) was prepared according to manufacturer's information for HRP detection. The membrane was submerged in 1x iBind solution and the antibodies were diluted with 1x iBind solution according to Table 17 and Table 18. When two different primary antibodies were applied simultaneously the amount of secondary antibody was doubled (Table 18). The membrane was incubated for 2.5-6 h and washed 3 times by rinsing and incubating for 15 min in 1x TBST. Visualisation was performed as above (2.5.3.4).

#### 2.5.4 Colonoscopy of pigs

All experiments on animals were approved by the Government of Upper Bavaria (permit number 55.2-1-54-2532-6-13) and performed according to the German Animal Welfare Act and European Union Normative for Care and Use of Experimental Animals.

Colonoscopies were performed by Professor Dr. Dieter Saur (Klinikum Rechts der Isar II, Technische Universität München, Munich, Germany) ca. every 6 months, starting at 3 months. A STORZ colonoscopy system allowing macroscopic images of the colorectum and colonic lesions was used. Normal mucosa (at 40 cm depth) and polyp biopsies were collected and snap frozen for RNA, DNA and protein isolation or embedded into Tissue-Tek Cryomolds (Sakura Finetek Europe B.V.) with O.C.T.™ Compound (Sakura Finetek Europe B.V.) on dry ice for cryosectioning and stored at -80°C.

#### 2.5.5 Cryosectioning

Cryosectioning was performed using the Microm HM 560 Cryostat. During sectioning all samples were kept at -20 °C or on dry ice. 3 – 4 sections of 4 µm thickness were mounted on a MembraneSlide 1.0 PEN (D) (Carl Zeiss Jena GmbH) and stored at -80 °C until staining and laser microdissection was performed (never exceeding more than 2 days). In general, cryosections were cut, stained, the areas of interest laser microdissected and the nucleic acids isolated, within one day.

#### 2.5.6 Haematoxylin-Eosin staining of cryosections

To guarantee an RNase free environment, all staining solutions were made using autoclaved 0.2 µm filtered demineralised water and stored at RT.

Before staining the slides were thawed at RT for 2 min. Staining was performed in 50 ml falcons, with fresh solution aliquots every 8 slides, as follows: 1 min 70 % ethanol, 30 sec water, 1 min Hematoxylin (Mayer's Hemalaun solution, Applichem), brief dip into two water aliquots, 1 min Eosin (Eosin solution, 2C-140, Waldeck GmbH & Co. KG), brief dip into two 96 % ethanol aliquots, 30 sec 100 % ethanol followed by drying for 2-5 min.

### **2.5.7 Microscopy**

Morphology, viability, density and fluorescence microscopy of cultured cells was visually assessed using the microscopes Axiovert 40CFL and Axiovert 200M (Carl Zeiss Microscopy GmbH). Red fluorescent proteins were excited at 554 nm with emission at 581 nm. Green fluorescent proteins were excited at 484 nm with emission at 510 nm. Photographs were acquired using the AxioCam HRm and AxioCam MRc cameras (Carl Zeiss Microscopy GmbH) and the Axiovision and Axiovision Rel. 4.8 (Carl Zeiss Microscopy GmbH) software respectively.

### **2.5.8 Laser microdissection**

Laser microdissection was performed immediately after the haematoxylin-eosin staining using the UV-laser cutting system Laser Microdissection Systems 6000 (Leica Microsystems). Cryosection were scanned and areas of interest were marked on the Leica Application Suite software (Leica Microsystems). In total 15 crypts or 120 000  $\mu\text{m}^2$  of stromal tissue was marked and cut by the laser (DM6000 B9, Leica Microsystems). The excised areas were collected in a reaction tube cap containing 40  $\mu\text{l}$  RLT Plus buffer (including 1:100  $\beta$ -mercaptoethanol) supplied by the AllPrep<sup>®</sup> DNA/RNA Micro Kit (Qiagen). After complete dissection, additional 60  $\mu\text{l}$  RLT Plus buffer was added. To prevent degradation of RNA the LMD procedure did not exceed 2 h per slide. Samples were stored at - 80°C until DNA and RNA isolation.

## 2.6 Data analysis

### 2.6.1 Statistical Analysis

Heat maps, statistical analysis and graph generation of sequencing data, RT-qPCR data, polymorphism analysis and the CpG methylation analysis was generated using the open source tool R (<https://www.R-project.org/>).

### 2.6.2 *In silico* miRNA target prediction using Diana tools

To identify potential pathways influenced by differential miRNA expression, *in silico* target prediction was performed using mirPath v.3 (Vlachos et al, 2015b) in combination with TarBase v7.0 (Vlachos et al, 2015a) and TargetScan (Lewis et al, 2005).

### 2.6.3 Gene set enrichment analysis

Gene set enrichment analysis was performed using the GSEA software (version 2.2.4) (Mootha et al, 2003; Subramanian et al, 2005). The log 2 fold change, adjusted p-Value and the Human Genome Organisation (HUGO) gene symbols were used to generate a preranked file as input for the GSEAPreranked tool. The enrichment analysis was performed under the following specifications: classic enrichment statistics, 1000 permutations and hallmark gene sets from Molecular Signatures Database (MSigDB) (version 6.1).

---

### 3. Results

#### 3.1 Attempt to identify modifier genes in the porcine model for colorectal cancer

The generation of a porcine model for colorectal cancer (CRC) carrying a translational stop signal at codon 1311 of the endogenous APC gene, orthologous to human mutation 1309, was published in 2012 (Flisikowska et al, 2012). Four generations of *APC<sup>1311</sup>* pigs were regularly analysed by colonoscopy. The analyses showed, just like in humans, a wide variation in the severity of polyposis (Crabtree et al, 2002), ranging from  $\geq 100$  (high polyp animals (HP)) to only 1-10 polyps (low polyp animals (LP)) in the distal colorectum (last 40 cm). Also like in humans, a correlation between severe polyposis and the amount of high grade neoplasia was observed, indicating that severe polyposis might be a susceptibility factor towards CRC also in pigs (Debinski et al, 1996; Shussman & Wexner, 2014). Variability in polyposis severity in humans is believed to be mediated by genetic loci (Crabtree et al, 2002; Houlston et al, 2001). In humans some of these so called modifier loci have been identified using microarrays for genome wide association studies comparing healthy individuals and CRC patients (Broderick et al, 2007; Tomlinson et al, 2007; Tomlinson et al, 2008; Whiffin et al, 2014). A study focussed on FAP patients showed, that two of the single-nucleotide polymorphisms (SNPs) associated with sporadic CRC risk (rs16892766 at 8q23.3 and rs3802842 at 11q23.1) were also associated with severe polyposis in familial adenomatous polyposis (FAP) (Ghorbanoghli et al, 2016). Thus the identification of modifier genes or loci mediating severe polyposis in FAP may also mediate severe polyposis and thus higher risk of CRC in sporadic CRC with APC mutations. The *APC<sup>1311</sup>* pigs, offer the possibility to analyse modifiers directly in the normal mucosa of the distal colorectum (last 40 cm) between HP and LP animals. Changes promoting CRC are not only due to genomic but also epigenetic alterations (1.2.1, 1.2.3, 1.2.4) and dysregulated microRNA (miRNA) (1.2.2, 1.2.3, 1.2.4) that influence the amount of functional proteins on pre and posttranscriptional level. Gene expression was compared between HP and LP to investigate this in the porcine model. Messenger RNA (mRNA) sequencing analysis does not only allow detection of single-nucleotide polymorphisms (SNPs) and mutations in protein coding regions, but also epigenetic differences and miRNA differences that influence gene expression. Furthermore, protein coding regions are generally conserved between species and therefore better annotated in the porcine genome than non-coding regions. The power of epigenetic mechanisms and miRNAs on CRC development is similar if not equal to gene mutations (1.2.1, 1.2.2, 1.2.3, 1.2.4). Additional sequencing of miRNAs from normal mucosa and comparative miRNA expression analysis between HP and LP animals allowed identification of miRNA modifiers that influence cellular processes.

### 3.1.1 Attempt to identify modifier genes on mRNA level

MRNA of 35 normal mucosa samples at 40 cm colorectum depth of animals aged 3-9 months was isolated. The RNA was DNase treated, and the quality and quantity determined. 400 ng RNA was used for library preparation. samples marked with \* were enriched for 12 and all other for 15 cycles (Table 32). The quality and quantity of the resulting libraries were determined to calculate the molarity of each library. After QPCR quantification and molarity corrections (2.2.24), the libraries were pooled (12 libraries/ flow cell), clustered and sequenced.

**Table 32 Animals sequenced for analysis of modifier genes on mRNA level**

A, innuPREP RNA Mini Kit (Analytik Jena); Z, Direct-zol™ RNA Miniprep Kit (Zymo Research).

Animal ID	Born	Collection	Age	Sex	Pheno-type	Kit	RIN	Sequenced
128*	07.03.2013	16.07.2013	0y 4m 9d	female	LP	Z	9.1	15.10.2014
145	14.03.2013	04.12.2013	0y 8m 20d	male	LP	Z	6.5	04.02.2015
145*	14.03.2013	25.06.2013	0y 3m 11d	male	LP	Z	8.1	15.10.2014
150	14.03.2013	16.07.2013	0y 4m 2d	female	LP	A	8.4	16.03.2016
152*	14.03.2013	22.10.2013	0y 7m 8d	female	LP	Z	8.9	15.10.2014
153*	14.03.2013	23.10.2013	0y 7m 9d	female	LP	Z	7.4	15.10.2014
155*	14.03.2013	26.06.2013	0y 3m 12d	male	LP	Z	9.2	15.10.2014
157*	14.03.2013	17.07.2013	0y 4m 3d	female	LP	Z	8.8	15.10.2014
163*	15.03.2013	19.09.2013	0y 6m 4d	female	HP	Z	9.1	15.10.2014
163	15.03.2013	03.12.2013	0y 8m 18d	female	HP	Z	7.5	04.02.2015
168*	12.05.2013	18.09.2013	0y 4m 6d	male	HP	Z	8.7	15.10.2014
173*	12.05.2013	23.10.2013	0y 5m 11d	female	LP	A	8.9	15.10.2014
173	12.05.2013	02.12.2013	0y 6m 20d	female	LP	Z	7.3	04.02.2015
174*	12.05.2013	23.10.2013	0y 5m 11d	female	LP	A	8.8	15.10.2014
251	21.02.2014	24.06.2014	0y 4m 3d	castrated male	HP	Z	6.6	10.03.2016
252	21.02.2014	25.06.2014	0y 4m 4d	castrated male	HP	Z	7.5	10.03.2016
253	21.02.2014	24.06.2014	0y 4m 3d	castrated male	HP	A	7.9	10.03.2016
300	24.08.2014	16.03.2015	0y 6m 20d	female	LP	A	7.8	10.03.2016
322	18.10.2014	16.03.2015	0y 4m 26d	male	HP	A	8.1	16.03.2016
324	18.10.2014	16.03.2015	0y 4m 26d	male	HP	A	8.3	16.03.2016
326	18.10.2014	17.03.2015	0y 4m 27d	female	HP	Z	6.6	10.03.2016
328	18.10.2014	17.03.2015	0y 4m 27d	female	LP	Z	7	10.03.2016
339	20.10.2014	17.03.2015	0y 4m 25d	female	HP	A	8.6	16.03.2016
471	17.08.2015	04.12.2015	0y 3m 17d	female	LP	A	9.1	12.05.2017
474	17.08.2015	09.12.2015	0y 3m 22d	female	HP	A	8.6	12.05.2017
524	18.01.2016	18.04.2016	0y 3m 0d	castrated male	LP	A	9.3	12.05.2017

525	18.01.2016	18.04.2016	0y 3m 0d	castrated male	HP	A	9	12.05.2017
527	18.01.2016	18.04.2016	0y 3m 0d	male	HP	A	10	12.05.2017
534	18.01.2016	19.04.2016	0y 3m 1d	female	LP	A	9.1	12.05.2017
586	11.03.2016	13.09.2016	0y 6m 2d	female	LP	A	9	12.05.2017
588	11.03.2016	12.09.2016	0y 6m 1d	female	HP	A	10	12.05.2017
591	15.03.2016	19.09.2016	0y 6m 4d	castrated male	LP	A	7.8	12.05.2017
598	15.03.2016	12.09.2016	0y 5m 28d	male	HP	A	8.6	12.05.2017
722	26.09.2016	17.01.2017	0y 3m 22d	male	HP	A	9.1	12.05.2017
727	26.09.2016	16.01.2017	0y 3m 21d	female	LP	A	8.3	12.05.2017

The sequencing data of all 35 samples, were analysed for differential gene expression between HP and LP group using two different methods and computer algorithms for sequencing analysis. Both analyses were performed using the porcine reference genome assembly Sscrofa10.2.

### 3.1.1.1 Differential expression analysis

There is no gold standard for the computational analysis of gene expression data obtained by next generation sequencing. Therefore, two independent analysis pipelines using the same porcine genome annotation but different software for the analysis were utilised to increase specificity and true positive rates.

#### Data analysis pipeline 1

The analysis was performed in collaboration with Prof. Dr. Fries and later with Dr. Hongen Xu. The DNA fragments sequenced, called reads, from each sample were aligned to the porcine reference genome Sscrofa10.2 using STAR aligner (Dobin et al, 2013). Quality assessment using FASTQC, revealed an average of  $30 \times 10^6$  reads per sample sequenced, showing a good average coverage with about 80% reads mapping to the reference genome. Reads that sequenced the exact same fragment more than once (called duplicates), were marked using MarkDuplicates tool of Picard (<http://broadinstitute.github.io/picard>). All reads that aligned to the reference genome (except duplicates) were assigned to annotated gene sequences as defined in the 10.2.77 porcine gene set and counted for each sample using featureCounts (Liao et al, 2014). The resulting files containing the amount of reads sequenced for each annotated gene of all the samples were then used for gene expression analysis using DESeq.2 (Love et al, 2014). The algorithm normalised all reads of each gene to the total number of reads of the sample, to allow accurate comparison also between samples of different total read numbers. The software then presented a table of genes that were found to be differentially expressed between the two groups sorted by p-value, to show those most significant at



the top (Table 33). Here the LP group was used as calibrator group, therefore the positive Log2FoldChange values signify higher expression in HP and values below 0 lower expression in HP.

**Table 33 Differential expression results table of pipeline 1**

adjusted p-value, the p-value multiplied by the number of comparisons in this case number of genes

Ensemble gene id	Log2Fold- Change	Fold- Change HP	P-value	Adjusted p-value	External gene name
<b>ENSSSCG00000006238</b>	<b>2.317689528</b>	<b>4.99</b>	<b>6.63x10<sup>-11</sup></b>	<b>1.45 x10<sup>-06</sup></b>	<b>CYP7A1</b>
ENSSSCG00000026852	1.830310386	3.56	1.10x10 <sup>-06</sup>	0.012098162	NPPC
ENSSSCG00000004114	0.82133311	1.77	2.06x10 <sup>-05</sup>	0.150472607	ADGB
<b>ENSSSCG00000010529</b>	<b>-1.07942183</b>	<b>0.47</b>	<b>4.89x10<sup>-05</sup></b>	<b>0.234395797</b>	<b>SFRP5</b>
ENSSSCG00000004578	-0.466422918	0.72	5.35 x10 <sup>-05</sup>	0.234395797	ANXA2
ENSSSCG00000002780	-1.253950352	0.42	7.32 x10 <sup>-05</sup>	0.26725109	TPPP3
ENSSSCG00000000398	-0.572581988	0.67	8.56 x10 <sup>-05</sup>	0.267797495	
ENSSSCG00000004968	0.476938546	1.39	0.000106493	0.287989837	PAQR5
ENSSSCG00000007727	0.44963094	1.37	0.000120242	0.287989837	AUTS2
<b>ENSSSCG00000011201</b>	<b>0.607588903</b>	<b>1.52</b>	<b>0.00013143</b>	<b>0.287989837</b>	<b>SATB1</b>
ENSSSCG00000001560	1.015986068	2.02	0.000177572	0.295143079	C6orf222
ENSSSCG00000029359	-0.725696293	0.6	0.000205919	0.295143079	PHLDA3
ENSSSCG00000029714	1.183631763	2.27	0.000212948	0.295143079	BPIFB2
ENSSSCG00000013919	-0.424007561	0.75	0.00022637	0.295143079	HOMER3
ENSSSCG00000007084	1.798886616	3.48	0.000242664	0.295143079	BFSP1
<b>ENSSSCG00000014169</b>	<b>0.666055769</b>	<b>1.59</b>	<b>0.000259109</b>	<b>0.295143079</b>	<b>PCSK1</b>
ENSSSCG00000029346	0.934230111	1.91	0.00026284	0.295143079	
ENSSSCG00000007038	2.093818278	4.27	0.000276619	0.295143079	
ENSSSCG00000014157	-0.586390819	0.67	0.000284305	0.295143079	NR2F1
ENSSSCG00000028518	0.781283303	1.72	0.000299205	0.295143079	

#### Data analysis pipeline 2

The analysis was performed in collaboration with Prof. Dr. Hubert Pausch. Here the reads were not aligned but pseudoaligned and assigned to 27,370 porcine transcripts obtained from ensembl version 89 ([ftp://ftp.ensembl.org/pub/release-89/fasta/sus\\_scrofa/cdna/](ftp://ftp.ensembl.org/pub/release-89/fasta/sus_scrofa/cdna/)) (compatible to reference genome assembly Sscrofa10.2) using kallisto software (Bray et al, 2016). Kallisto also quantified the abundance of reads assigned per transcript. Differential transcript expression between HP and LP was estimated with normalised reads using sleuth (Pimentel et al, 2017). WALD test was performed to obtain a regression coefficient that approximates Log2FoldChange and p-value and adjusted p-value.

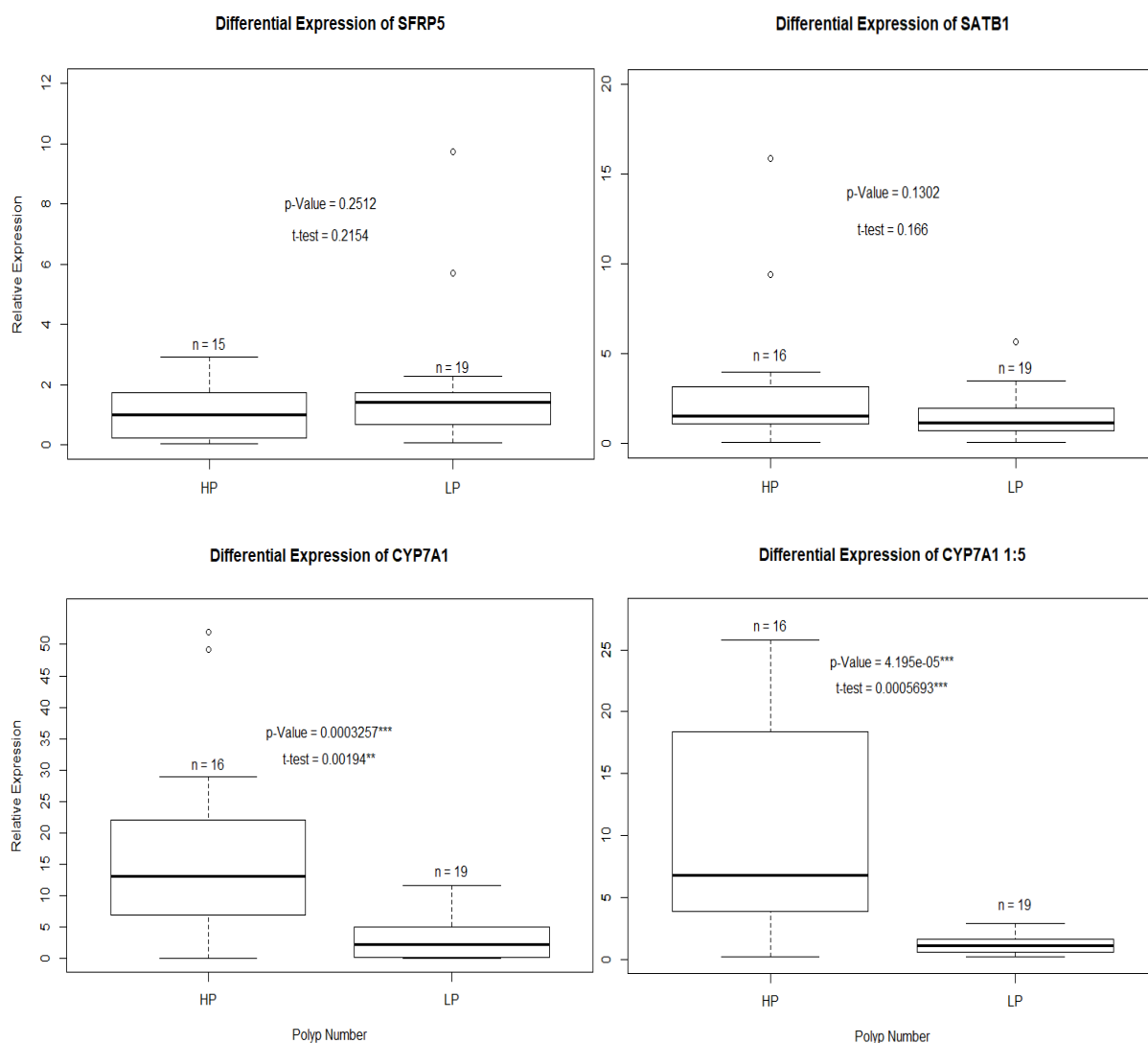
That resulted in a table of genes that were differentially expressed, sorted by WALD p-value. As HP animals were taken as calibrator group here, positive WALD Log2FoldChange values signify higher expression in LP animals.

Table 34 Differential expression results table of pipeline 2

Transcript id	WALD Log2Fold- Change	Fold Change LP	p-value	adjusted p- value	External gene name
<b>ENSSSCT0000006836.2</b>	<b>-1.5846592</b>	<b>0.33</b>	<b>1.15x10<sup>-08</sup></b>	<b>0.00021018</b>	<b>CYP7A1</b>
<b>ENSSSCT00000012267.2</b>	<b>-0.4078281</b>	<b>0.75</b>	<b>0.00025069</b>	<b>0.55458713</b>	<b>SATB1</b>
ENSSSCT00000028912.1	-0.628939	0.65	0.00025155	0.55458713	UPP2
<b>ENSSSCT00000011519.2</b>	<b>0.65411265</b>	<b>1.57</b>	<b>0.00025608</b>	<b>0.55458713</b>	<b>SFRP5</b>
ENSSSCT00000025876.1	-1.6445094	0.32	0.00033099	0.55458713	RAP2C-AS1
ENSSSCT00000004901.1	-0.9991806	0.5	0.00043884	0.55458713	COL10A1
ENSSSCT00000007343.2	-0.4858069	0.71	0.000441	0.55458713	NBPF6
ENSSSCT00000034564.1	1.53329781	2.89	0.00044682	0.55458713	HSD17B10
ENSSSCT00000005400.2	0.3478905	1.27	0.00049678	0.55458713	SERPINB5
ENSSSCT00000015626.2	-0.2996278	0.81	0.00054336	0.55458713	JADE2
ENSSSCT00000024538.1	0.44512355	1.36	0.00071622	0.55458713	PHLDA3
ENSSSCT00000030802.1	-2.2810175	0.21	0.00076314	0.55458713	KIF16B
ENSSSCT00000026609.1	-1.0035712	0.5	0.00076783	0.55458713	STK32A
ENSSSCT00000009725.2	1.60534411	3.04	0.00080014	0.55458713	RPL15
<b>ENSSSCT00000015478.2</b>	<b>-0.4153519</b>	<b>0.75</b>	<b>0.00082432</b>	<b>0.55458713</b>	<b>PCSK1</b>
ENSSSCT00000023378.1	-0.9929958	0.5	0.00084108	0.55458713	BCL2L11
ENSSSCT00000024120.1	-0.747594	0.6	0.00086092	0.55458713	GABRD
ENSSSCT00000029652.1	-1.2132739	0.43	0.00087033	0.55458713	CYP2B6
ENSSSCT00000028303.1	-1.1019999	0.47	0.00088974	0.55458713	CYP2B7
ENSSSCT00000004132.2	-0.7025889	0.61	0.00095227	0.55458713	MEP1B

The two independent data analysis approaches, presented different results among their top 20 differentially expressed genes. Only 4 were identical in both pipelines and only three of them were among the top ten in both pipelines: *CYP7A1*, *SFRP5* and *SATB1*. Only *CYP7A1* was significantly higher expressed in HP animals in both analyses according to p-value and adjusted p-value (multiple comparison adjustment) below 0.05. This gene was specifically interesting because high expression of this gene in the liver has been found to associate with bile acid-mediated CRC promotion in humans (Gadaleta et al, 2017; Hagiwara et al, 2005). The gene *SATB1* was also higher expressed in the HP group, significantly according to p-value but not significantly according to the adjusted p-value. This gene was also of interest as high *SATB1* expression was found in human CRC, where it promotes tumorigenesis and tumour progression (Al-Sohaily et al, 2014; Brocato & Costa, 2015; Lv et al, 2016; Mir et al, 2016; Zhang et al, 2014c). The gene *SFRP5*, a WNT antagonist that has been found methylation-silenced in human cancers including CRC (Samaei et al, 2014; Takagi et al, 2008; Veeck et al, 2008) showed significantly lower expression in the HP group according to p-value, however not significant on multiple comparison level (adjusted p-value) in both analyses. The detected differential expression was in all three cases in accordance with literature.

Quantitative reverse transcription PCR (RT-qPCR) validation of these three genes in the samples sequenced, using the primers SFRP5\_Ex2\_F1, SFRP5\_Ex3\_R1, SATB1\_Ex6\_F3, SATB1\_Ex7\_R3, Cyp7a1\_Ex5\_F1 and Cyp7a1\_Ex6\_R1-2, confirmed reduced expression of *SFRP5* and higher expression of *SATB1* and *CYP7A1* in HP animals. However, like in the sequencing analyses, where the adjusted p-values were above 0.05, the differential expressions of *SATB1* (1.5-fold higher expression in HP) and *SFRP5* (0.6-fold lower expression in HP) were not significant. The differential expression of *CYP7A1* (5.6 fold higher in HP) was in accordance with the sequencing analyses highly significant. As expression levels of *CYP7A1* were rather low, the results were confirmed with five-fold higher template concentration, showing even clearer expression differences (7.6-fold higher expression in HP).



**Figure 5** Differential expression validation of *SFRP5*, *SATB1* and *CYP7A1* using RT-qPCR with the primers SFRP5\_Ex2\_F1, SFRP5\_Ex3\_R1, SATB1\_Ex6\_F3, SATB1\_Ex7\_R3, Cyp7a1\_Ex5\_F1 and Cyp7a1\_Ex6\_R1-2.

### Gene set enrichment analysis

Sequencing analysis showed only one gene, *CYP7A1*, significantly differentially expressed after multiple comparison adjustment. It is possible that not only one gene mediates susceptibility to severe polyposis but that a number of genes collectively contribute to significant differential pathway regulation. Therefore, gene set enrichment analysis was performed using differential expression data generated using both pipelines. For both data sets, differentially expressed genes with a p-Value below 0.05 and a Human Genome Organisation (HUGO) gene symbols were used. Resulting in 1779 genes as input for pipeline1 ([file:///C:/Users/js\\_ca/gsea\\_home/output/mai29/Classic.GseaPreranked.-1527607258798/index.html](file:///C:/Users/js_ca/gsea_home/output/mai29/Classic.GseaPreranked.-1527607258798/index.html)). The pipeline2 data was further reduced by excluding genes with multiple transcripts to an input of 1062 genes ([file:///C:/Users/js\\_ca/gsea\\_home/output/mai29/my\\_analysis.-GseaPreranked.1527614804154/index.html](file:///C:/Users/js_ca/gsea_home/output/mai29/my_analysis.-GseaPreranked.1527614804154/index.html)). Hallmark gene sets that represent and summarise clearly-defined biological processes or states were used. The analysis of both datasets showed similar results (Table 35 and Table 36). Few gene sets were enriched in the HP group compared to a large amount of enriched gene sets enriched in LP. The gene set of oestrogen response was significantly enriched in the HP group analysed using pipeline 2 (false discovery rate (FDR) < 0.25). Gene sets significantly enriched in LP animals included DNA repair, UV response, p53 and apoptosis components, which are guarding the integrity and functioning of the genome and cell. However, gene sets associated with oncogenic pathways such as MYC targets and mesenchymal transition were also enriched significantly.

**Table 35 Gene sets enriched in HP animals**

size, number of genes in the gene set; ES, enrichment score; NES, normalised enrichment score across analysed sets; FDR, false discovery rate; Rank at max, position in the ranked list at which the maximum enrichment score occurred

<b>Pipeline 1</b>	<b>SIZE</b>	<b>ES</b>	<b>NES</b>	<b>p-value</b>	<b>FDR</b>	<b>RANK AT MAX</b>
Hallmark oestrogen response early	23	0.22	1.28	0.19	0.69	685
Hallmark unfolded protein response	17	0.18	0.91	0.57	1.00	1444
Hallmark mitotic spindle	18	0.17	0.84	0.64	0.87	1179
Hallmark oestrogen response late	31	0.09	0.56	0.96	0.96	21
<b>Pipeline 2</b>						
Hallmark oestrogen response early	16	-0.29	-1.40	0.11	0.21	163
Hallmark heme metabolism	16	-0.13	-0.62	0.93	0.92	594

**Table 36 Gene sets enriched in LP animals**

size, number of genes in the gene set; ES, enrichment score; NES, normalised enrichment score across analysed sets; FDR, false discovery rate; Rank at max, position in the ranked list at which the maximum enrichment score occurred

<b>Pipeline 1</b>	<b>SIZE</b>	<b>ES</b>	<b>NES</b>	<b>p-value</b>	<b>FDR</b>	<b>RANK AT MAX</b>
Hallmark oxidative phosphorylation	76	-0.32	-3.23	0.00	0.00	1225
Hallmark MYC targets v1	67	-0.35	-3.22	0.00	0.00	1122
Hallmark E2F targets	57	-0.34	-2.97	0.00	0.00	1029
Hallmark DNA repair	34	-0.37	-2.51	0.00	0.00	807
Hallmark G2M checkpoint	31	-0.35	-2.36	0.00	0.00	1093
Hallmark adipogenesis	38	-0.30	-2.20	0.01	0.00	1199
Hallmark MTORC1 signalling	40	-0.28	-2.12	0.00	0.01	1012
Hallmark hypoxia	30	-0.29	-1.90	0.01	0.02	376
Hallmark epithelial mesenchymal transition	21	-0.34	-1.85	0.01	0.03	337
Hallmark UV response up	23	-0.31	-1.84	0.02	0.03	836
Hallmark fatty acid metabolism	37	-0.25	-1.78	0.02	0.04	1098
Hallmark glycolysis	30	-0.27	-1.77	0.02	0.03	359
Hallmark apoptosis	26	-0.29	-1.77	0.02	0.03	854
Hallmark myogenesis	18	-0.30	-1.51	0.07	0.11	1043
Hallmark p53 pathway	34	-0.20	-1.37	0.12	0.18	853
Hallmark IL2 STAT5 signalling	17	-0.26	-1.32	0.14	0.21	1096
Hallmark xenobiotic metabolism	23	-0.23	-1.32	0.16	0.20	900
Hallmark PI3K AKT MTOR signalling	15	-0.25	-1.19	0.23	0.30	1203
Hallmark heme metabolism	22	-0.20	-1.11	0.29	0.36	1098
Hallmark allograft rejection	17	-0.18	-0.91	0.55	0.62	1446
Hallmark complement	18	-0.15	-0.75	0.77	0.82	1409
Hallmark apical junction	19	-0.11	-0.61	0.94	0.93	267
<b>Pipeline 2</b>						
Hallmark MYC targets v1	49	0.48	3.98	0.00	0.00	569
Hallmark oxidative phosphorylation	53	0.45	3.73	0.00	0.00	610
Hallmark E2F targets	39	0.45	3.36	0.00	0.00	573
Hallmark MTORC1 signalling	25	0.52	3.04	0.00	0.00	441
Hallmark fatty acid metabolism	26	0.44	2.72	0.00	0.00	563
Hallmark adipogenesis	28	0.41	2.60	0.00	0.00	556
Hallmark DNA repair	26	0.41	2.43	0.00	0.00	514
Hallmark G2M checkpoint	24	0.36	2.09	0.00	0.01	550
Hallmark glycolysis	19	0.31	1.58	0.04	0.09	573
Hallmark UV response up	16	0.32	1.56	0.06	0.09	392
Hallmark hypoxia	24	0.25	1.44	0.07	0.13	360
Hallmark epithelial mesenchymal transition	16	0.26	1.24	0.21	0.27	390
Hallmark apoptosis	24	0.19	1.13	0.29	0.36	462
Hallmark p53 pathway	22	0.19	1.07	0.34	0.41	234
Hallmark xenobiotic metabolism	20	0.17	0.89	0.56	0.62	567
Hallmark oestrogen response late	22	0.14	0.79	0.72	0.72	382

### 3.1.1.2 SNP identification and allele-specific expression analysis

SNPs associated with severe polyposis and sporadic CRC risk have been identified in humans (Ghorbanoghli et al, 2016). Although those SNPs identified are located outside human exonic regions, the analysis of the RNA sequencing data for differentially expressed SNPs may reveal porcine equivalents. To identify SNPs and determine differential association and allele-specific expression differences, sequencing reads were aligned to the Sscrofa11.1 reference genome using STAR aligner (Dobin et al, 2013) by Prof. Dr. Hubert Pausch. Duplicates were marked using Picard tools (<https://broadinstitute.github.io/picard/>). The reads were assigned to exons using SplitNCigarReads tool from the GATK software suite (DePristo et al, 2011). GATK's Haplotypecaller was used to identify SNPs and analyse them for differential association between HP and LP. The resulting genotypes were tested for non-random association between LP and HP using Fisher exact tests of allelic association using Plink (version 1.9) (Chang et al, 2015). The top 30 are shown in the table below (Table 37). The SNPs identified showed significance on p-value level. Porcine homologous regions of the known human SNPs associated with severe polyposis in FAP and sporadic CRC risk (rs16892766 at 8q23.3 and rs3802842 at 11q23.1) are located on chromosomes 9 and 4 in pigs (Ghorbanoghli et al, 2016). Although one SNP differentially associated between LP and HP is located on chromosome 4 it is far away from the region homologous to the human SNP location.

**Table 37 The top 30 SNPs detected.**

Chromosome	Base pair position	P-value	Chromosome	Base pair position	P-value
13	192206011	1.08x10 <sup>-08</sup>	1	268990705	1.36x10 <sup>-06</sup>
AEMK02000452.1	762390	5.76x10 <sup>-08</sup>	39	79426	1.36x10 <sup>-06</sup>
17	31868703	1.65x10 <sup>-07</sup>	6	71775092	1.55x10 <sup>-06</sup>
12	2263873	1.66x10 <sup>-07</sup>	18	8263672	1.55x10 <sup>-06</sup>
1	44967406	3.25x10 <sup>-07</sup>	13	157511545	1.58x10 <sup>-06</sup>
7	36791633	3.39x10 <sup>-07</sup>	1	166171033	1.79x10 <sup>-06</sup>
2	142947459	5.10x10 <sup>-07</sup>	1	161756743	1.90x10 <sup>-06</sup>
14	106776396	5.10x10 <sup>-07</sup>	17	8451491	2.29x10 <sup>-06</sup>
16	71219623	5.10x10 <sup>-07</sup>	17	30781986	2.29x10 <sup>-06</sup>
AEMK02000452.1	1042678	6.04x10 <sup>-07</sup>	13	135442206	2.31x10 <sup>-06</sup>
1	253094682	7.48x10 <sup>-07</sup>	2	151688112	2.69x10 <sup>-06</sup>
1	253094686	7.48x10 <sup>-07</sup>	4	111634710	2.98x10 <sup>-06</sup>
1	251101477	1.05x10 <sup>-06</sup>	17	30781990	3.13x10 <sup>-06</sup>
12	52303005	1.05x10 <sup>-06</sup>	1	268256223	3.22x10 <sup>-06</sup>
17	32654033	1.06x10 <sup>-06</sup>	10	46791255	3.22x10 <sup>-06</sup>

### Allele-specific expression analysis

SNPs can not only be distributed differentially between two groups, but they can also show imbalanced expression associating with HP or LP animals. Allele-specific expression analysis was performed to identify SNPs that are expressed more abundantly in HP or LP and may modulate or promote severe polyposis. SNPs identified with the GATK's Haplotypecaller were filtered for strand unbiased SNPs of certain confidence that were heterozygous in at least 4 LP and HP animals with at least 30 reads. The probability of allelic imbalance for each SNP was calculated based on the number of reference and alternate allele reads in heterozygous animals using a two-sided binomial test that was implemented with the binom function in R. The SNPs that showed differential allele-specific expression between HP and LP were plotted according to their decadic logarithmic p-value versus chromosomal location (Figure 6).

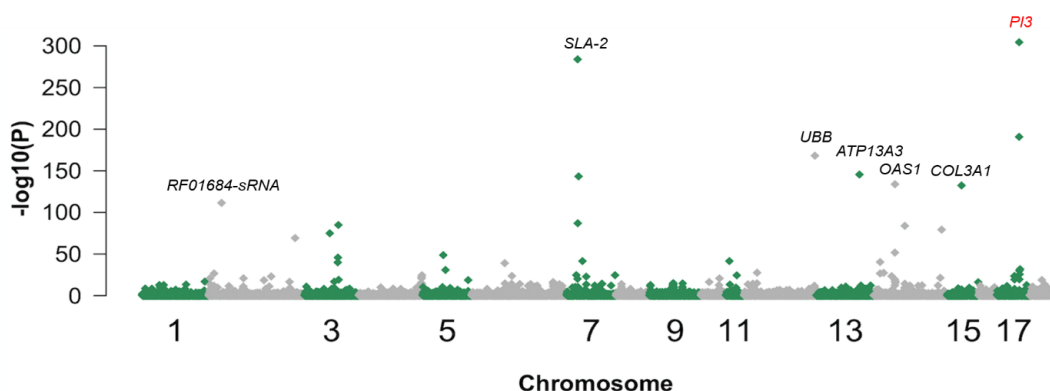


Figure 6 Display of the allele-specific SNPs expressed differentially, plotted by p-value and chromosome.

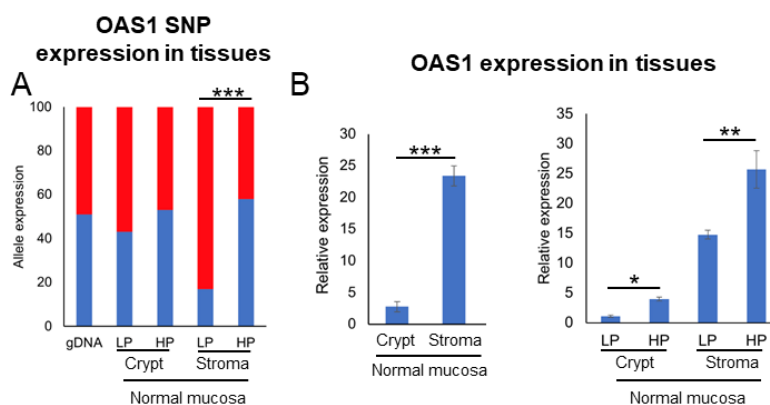


Figure 7 Allele-specific expression of the SNP located in *OAS1*.

gDNA, genomic DNA; Red, T variant; Blue, C variant.

SNPs in the genes *PI3*, *SLA-2*, *UBB*, *ATP13A3*, *OAS1*, *COL3A1* and *RF01684-sRNA* showed among others high significance in differential allele-specific expression. From these selected SNPs, the SNP in the gene *OAS1* on chromosome 14, position 38856577 bp C/T was validated using pyrosequencing (Figure

---

7). *OAS1* is an interferone-induced enzyme that is involved in cellular innate antiviral response (<http://www.genecards.org/>). Therefore, pyrosequencing of laser microdissected epithelium from normal mucosa samples was performed to identify whether the imbalanced SNP expression originates from the epithelium or the stroma. The SNP variant T (in red) is significantly higher expressed in the stroma of LP animals compared to HP animals and expression analysis showed that the SNP variant T is associated with reduced *OAS1* expression(Figure 6).

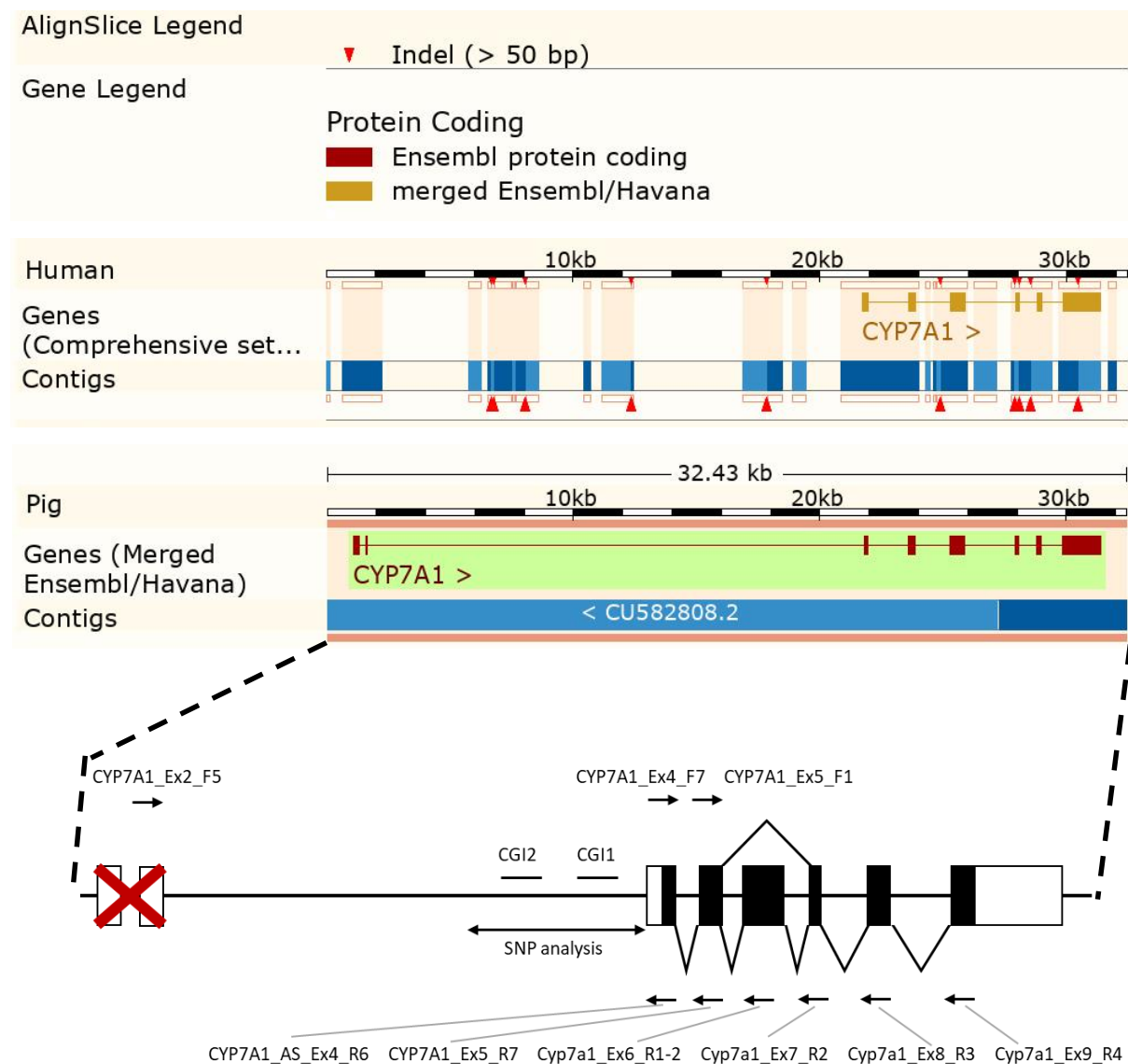
In summary mRNA Sequencing analysis helped to identify one potential modifier gene CYP7A1 which showed significantly higher expression in HP animals in both sequencing-based and PCR-based methods. Gene set enrichment analysis of the mRNA sequencing data identified estrogen response pathway enriched in HP. The differential distribution and allele specific expression between HP and LP animals showed the SNP in the *OAS1* gene on chromosome 14 position 38856577 bp C/T has higher expression of the cytosine allele, associated with higher overall expression in the HP animals.



### 3.1.1.3 CYP7A1

#### 3.1.1.3.1 Elucidating gene structure of *CYP7A1*

The gene structure of *CYP7A1* was analysed to identify the source of differential expression. As many proteins are highly conserved between human and pig, the known DNA and amino acid sequences of porcine and human *CYP7A1* were aligned. Protein alignment showed 80% identity between human and pig (UniprotKB). Alignment of the genomic *CYP7A1* sequences revealed, different to the human sequence, two more untranslated exons more than 10 kb 5' of the ATG in the porcine *CYP7A1* gene annotation (Sscrofa11.1, ensemble genome browser 93) (Figure 8)

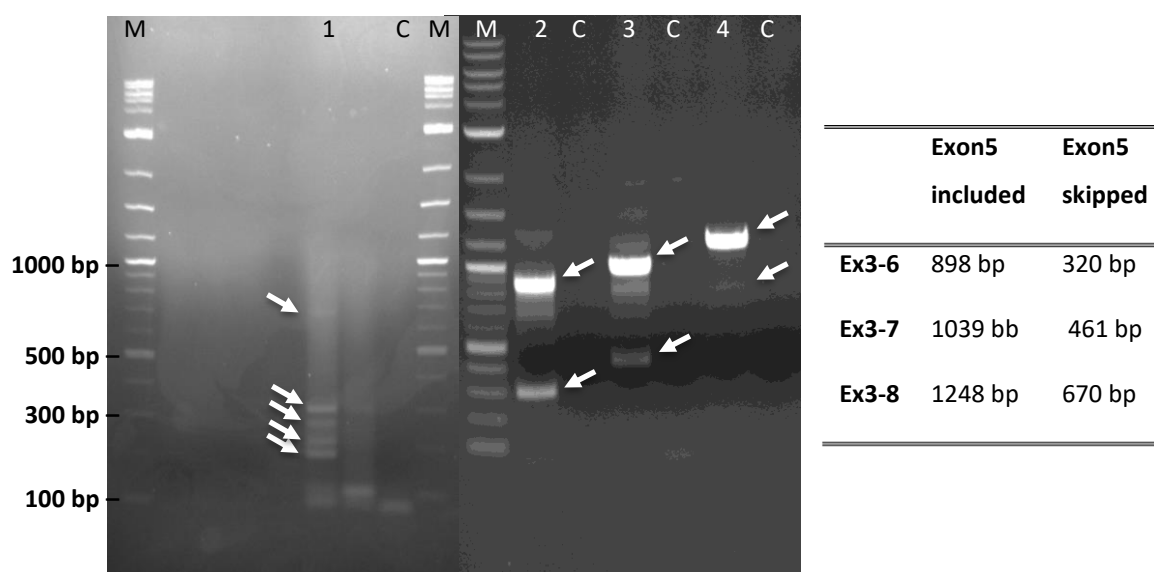


**Figure 8** Ensembl genomic alignment of porcine *CYP7A1* with human *CYP7A1* (genome assemblies Sscrofa11.1 and GRCh38.p12) and depiction of *CYP7A1* structure in colon mucosa of *APC<sup>1311</sup>* pigs

The first two exons annotated according to ensemble Sscrofa11.1 were not found to be expressed. The primers used for RT-PCR, RACE and RT-qPCR are marked. CpG islands (CGI) 1 and 2 are indicated. The region of SNP analysis 5742 bp 5' of the ATG is indicated by an arrow.

The DNA alignment showed no association of porcine exon 1 and 2 with the human CYP7A1 gene.

Therefore, RACE together with RT-PCR was performed to investigate the presence or absence of these two exons (Figure 8 and Figure 9). The resulting bands were gel extracted, subcloned into the pGEMT vector system (Promega) and sequenced. 5'RACE from the third exon (lane 1) and sequencing showed a lack of exon 1 and 2 (Figure 9). Other RT PCRs from exon 2 (not shown here) did not produce products. Furthermore, RT-PCRs from exon 3 to exon 6, 3-7 and 3-8 confirmed the presence of 6 exons of *CYP7A1* in the porcine colon mucosa of the analysed animals and revealed the presence of two transcript variants visible by two bands in lane 2, 3 and 4 respectively. The higher molecular weight bands showed the expected sizes of 898 bp, 1039 bp and 1248 bp. Sequencing of both the higher and lower molecular weight bands revealed one transcript variant with all 6 exons transcribed (higher molecular weight band) and one variant that skips transcription of exon 5 (lower molecular weight band). Taken together, the pigs analysed in this study express *CYP7A1* composed of 6 exons, with two transcription variants, one of which skips exon 5 (Figure 8 and Figure 9). It should be noted however, that the differential expression determined via RT-qPCR was performed with primers positioned in exon 4 and 5. Thus the transcription variant containing exon 5 was found to be differentially expressed.



**Figure 9 Gel photographs of the 5' RACE and the RT-PCR from exon 4-9.**

Lane 1: 5'RACE from exon 4 to the 5' end of the mRNA using primer CYP7A1\_Ex5\_R7. Lane 2, 3,4: RT-PCR from exon 3-6, 3-7 and 3-8 respectively using the primers CYP7A1\_Ex4\_F7, CYP7A1\_Ex7\_R2, CYP7A1\_Ex8\_R3 and CYP7A1\_Ex9\_R4. M: marker, C: water control.

---

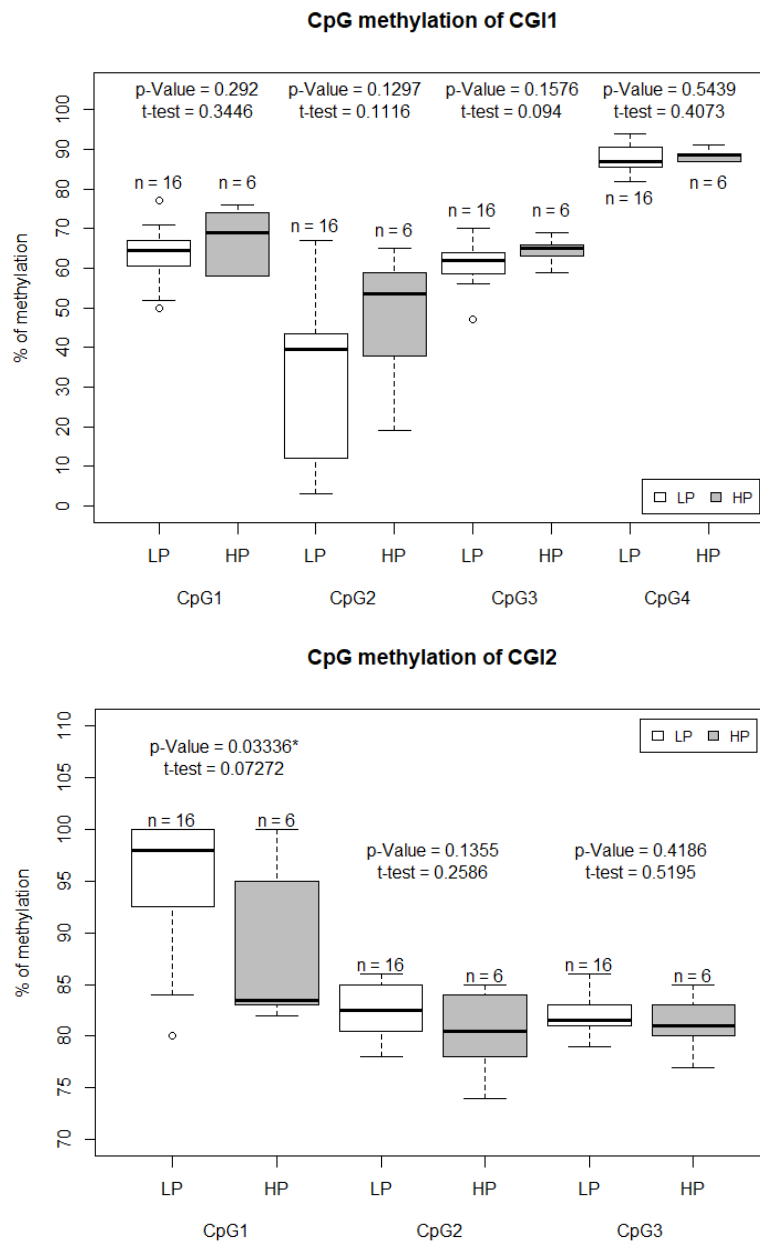
### 3.1.1.3.2 Analysis of *cis*-regulation of CYP7A1

Once the structure of the *CYP7A1* gene in the normal mucosa samples was analysed, the source of the differential expression was investigated on the level of *cis*-regulatory elements (CREs). CREs include promoters and transcription factors (TFs) that exhibit enhancing and silencing effects on gene expression. Therefore, the potential promoter region was analysed for altered TF binding sites. First, SNP analysis 5742 bp 5' of the ATG was performed (Figure 8) using Sanger sequencing with the primers CYP7A1\_AS\_Ex3\_F6, CYP7A1\_AS\_Ex4\_R6 and all CYP7A1\_SNPSeq primers (Table 13). 78 SNPs were identified and analysed. 20 showed a different allelic distribution between HP and LP of at least 10 % difference. However, none showed significant association with either LP or HP. As differential expression was validated in the transcript variant with exon 5, intron 4 was sequenced to identify the cause of exon skipping using the primers CYP7A1\_Ex5\_F1, CYP7A1\_Ex6\_R1-2, CYP7A1\_SNP\_I5\_F, CYP7A1\_SNP\_I5\_F, CYP7A1\_SNP\_I5\_R, CYP7A1\_SNP\_I5\_R2. Severe heterozygous deletions and insertions in this region allowed no clear analysis.

Also epigenetic changes in the CpG methylation of the potential promoter region can alter TF binding sites, that in turn influences gene expression. Therefore, two CpG islands (CGI) up to 3459 bp 5' of the ATG, in the potential promoter region were analysed (Figure 8). 4 CpG sites were examined in CGI1 with the primers CYP7A1\_CpG1\_F1, CYP7A1\_CpG1\_R1\_BIO and CYP7A1\_CpG1\_S2 and 3 CpG sites in CGI2 with the primers CYP7A1\_CpG2\_F1, CYP7A1\_CpG2\_R1\_BIO and CYP7A1\_CpG2\_S using pyrosequencing (Figure 10).

No methylation differences between HP and LP were detected at CGI1 for any of the four CpG sites. At CGI2 significant methylation differences were detected at CpG site 1, that showed significantly higher methylation in the LP group compared to HP. Reduced methylation of the CpG site in HP animals may cause increased binding of both enhancing but also silencing TFs.

Therefore, the sequence 45 bp upstream and 45 bp downstream of the CpG site was analysed for TF binding sites using MatInspector by Genomatix Matrix Library 11.0 with standard parameters (Cartharius et al, 2005; Quandt et al, 1995) to determine whether the reduced CpG methylation in HP animals induces higher *CYP7A1* expression via improved binding of activating TFs. This resulted in a list of 21 TFs binding to this sequence. Those that included the CpG in their binding site, but not their core sequence, were TF families signal transducer and activator of transcription 3 (STAT3), GLIS family zinc finger 1 (GLIS1), Ccaat/enhancer binding protein beta (CEBPB) and GA binding protein TF alpha (GABPA) (Figure 11).



**Figure 10 CGI methylation analysis of CGI1 and CGI2.**

Genecards search showed expression of all 4 TFs in the colon and components of the immune system (<http://www.genecards.org/>). STAT3 is a transcription activator that responds to cell stimuli through cytokines and growth factors and is known to have oncogenic effects on proliferation, invasion and metastasis (Yu et al, 2014). GLIS1 functions are still widely unknown, however it is associated with reprogramming efficiency (Jetten, 2018). CEBPB regulates genes involved in immune and inflammatory response with tumour-promoting effects via NF- $\kappa$ B signalling (<http://www.genecards.org/>, NCBI) (Yang et al, 2017). GABPA functions are unknown.

---

```

GABPA cpgttgtgtGGAagaggacgg
CEBPB cpgttGTGgaagag
STAT3 gtgcTTCctggccttcpgt
CTCAGCCCACCAAGGAGAACTGGGTGTGTGCTTCTGGGCTTTCpGTTGTGTGGAAGAGGGACGGTGTGGCCAAAGCGGGAAGACCAGC
GLIS1 ggaagcCccAgaagggde

```

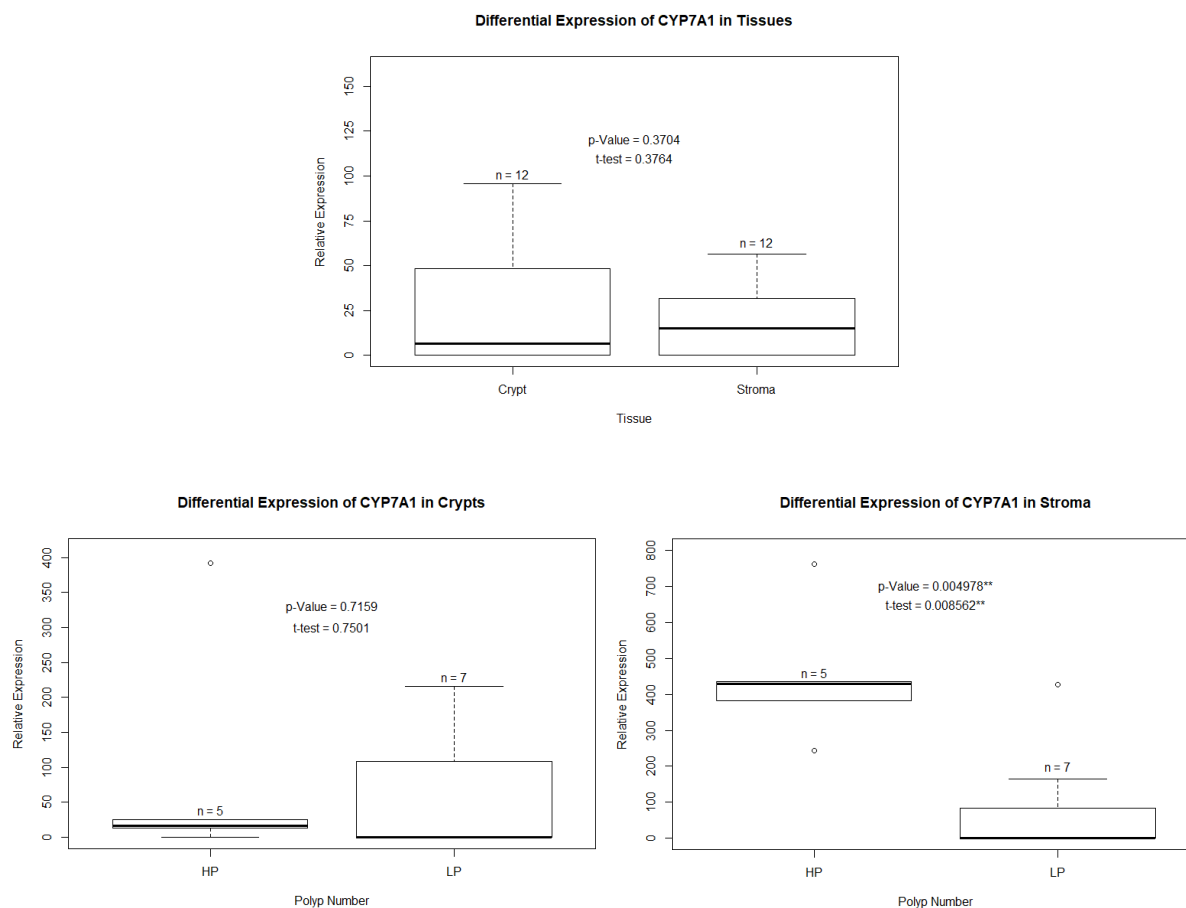
**Figure 11 Display of the four transcription factors (TFs) with their binding sequence.**

The core sequence was capitalised and the CpG site marked by bold writing.

CYP7A1 in the normal mucosa of the pigs analysed is transcribed in two different variants in the colonic mucosa. The variant including all 6 exons (not skipping exon 5) is higher expressed in HP compared to LP animals. The cause of differential expression on *cis*-regulatory level could not be associated with differentially distributed SNPs in the potential promoter region but with reduced CpG methylation in the CGI2 of the potential promoter. The reduced methylation may influence the binding of TFs GLIS1, CEBPB, GABPA and STAT3, which is associated with oncogenic effects.

### 3.1.1.3.3 Function and source of high CYP7A1 expression in high polyp animals

CYP7A1 is an endoplasmic reticulum membranous monooxygenase that contributes to drug metabolism and is the rate limiting enzyme of bile acid synthesis from cholesterol. High *CYP7A1* expression in the liver, is associated with a high amount of bile acids in the colon, which correlates with a high risk of CRC development. The function of CYP7A1 in the colon however, is not yet elucidated. There were reports of *CYP7A1* expression in macrophages (Bao et al, 2015). RT-qPCR validation of laser microdissected normal mucosa samples was aimed to reveal which cell type exhibits increased *CYP7A1* expression in HP animals. Crypts and surrounding tissue, called stroma, was isolated from HE stained cryo sections vial laser microdissection. RNA was isolated and cDNA was generated followed by RT-qPCR.. No significant difference between *CYP7A1* expression in crypts and stroma was detected. Comparison of the expression in LP crypts and HP crypts and LP stroma and HP stroma, showed a significantly higher expression of *CYP7A1* in HP stroma. This suggests that the CYP7A1 expression originates from cells located in the stroma.



**Figure 12** Differential expression analysis of CYP7A1 in crypts and stroma using RT-qPCR.

### 3.1.2 Attempt to identify modifier genes on miRNA level

MiRNA from 19 normal mucosa samples taken at 40 cm colorectum depth of animals aged 3-9 months (Table 38) were sequenced to identify those that might cause or modulate susceptibility to severe polyposis. After DNase treatment, quality and quantity assessment 1  $\mu$ g total RNA was used for the library preparation. The resulting libraries were again checked for quality and quantity and 6 libraries were pooled (6 libraries/flow cell), clustered and sequenced on the MiSeq. The resulting sequencing data was used to identify miRNA differentially expressed between HP and LP animals.

**Table 38 Animal samples sequenced for the analysis of modifier genes on miRNA level**

<b>Animal ID</b>	<b>Born</b>	<b>Collection</b>	<b>Age</b>	<b>Sex</b>	<b>Pheno-type</b>	<b>RIN</b>	<b>Sequenced</b>
128	07.03.2013	16.07.2013	0y 4m 9d	female	LP	9.1	16.02.2016
145	14.03.2013	25.06.2013	0y 3m 11d	male	LP	8.1	16.02.2016
150	14.03.2013	16.07.2013	0y 4m 2d	female	LP	7.9	19.02.2016
152	14.03.2013	22.10.2013	0y 7m 8d	female	LP	8.9	11.02.2016
153	14.03.2013	23.10.2013	0y 7m 9d	female	LP	7.4	11.02.2016
155	14.03.2013	26.06.2013	0y 3m 12d	male	LP	9.2	11.02.2016
157	14.03.2013	17.07.2013	0y 4m 3d	female	LP	8.8	16.02.2016
163	15.03.2013	19.09.2013	0y 6m 4d	female	HP	9.1	11.02.2016
168	12.05.2013	18.09.2013	0y 4m 6d	male	HP	8.7	16.02.2016
173	12.05.2013	02.12.2013	0y 6m 20d	female	LP	7.3	16.02.2016
251	21.02.2014	24.06.2014	0y 4m 3d	castrated male	HP	6.6	18.02.2016
252	21.02.2014	25.06.2014	0y 4m 4d	castrated male	HP	7.5	18.02.2016
253	21.02.2014	24.06.2014	0y 4m 3d	castrated male	HP	6.6	19.02.2016
300	24.08.2014	16.03.2015	0y 6m 20d	female	LP	4.3	18.02.2016
322	18.10.2014	16.03.2015	0y 4m 26d	male	HP	5.7	19.02.2016
324	18.10.2014	16.03.2015	0y 4m 26d	male	HP	6.1	19.02.2016
326	18.10.2014	17.03.2015	0y 4m 27d	female	HP	6.6	18.02.2016
328	18.10.2014	17.03.2015	0y 4m 27d	female	LP	7	18.02.2016
339	20.10.2014	17.03.2015	0y 4m 25d	female	HP	5.3	19.02.2016

### 3.1.2.1 Differential expression analysis

The processing of miRNA sequencing data for differential expression analysis was performed by Dr. Stefan Bauersachs. Adapters (added in the process of library preparation) were removed from the reads and the read quality was assessed before and after this process using FastQC (v0.11.2) and multiqc (Galaxy Version 0.6). Sequences with read counts lower than 300 counts in sum of all samples were filtered out resulting in approx. 9000 sequences that were compared to all transcripts of *Sus scrofa* including non-coding RNAs and human and bovine sequences with NCBI BLAST+ (Cock et al, 2015) blastn-short. Duplicates were removed and sequences assigned to miRNAs were used for analysis of differential expression of miRNAs using EdgeR (Robinson et al, 2010). EdgeR presented a table of all sequences and stem sequences of mature miRNAs differentially expressed between HP and LP. Among the top 20 stem sequences of mature miRNA, 19 miRNAs were significantly differential expressed between LP and HP according to their p-value (Table 39). Only one of those, miR-215 was significantly higher expressed in HP animals according to both p-value and adjusted p-value (multiple comparison adjustment), here called FDR (false discovery rate). Here the LP group was used as calibrator group, therefore the positive Log2FoldChange values signify higher expression in HP and

values below 0 lower expression in HP. The miRNAs miR-215 (higher expressed in HP), miR-194b-5p (higher expressed in HP), miR-27a-3p (lower expressed in HP) and miR-146a-5p (lower expressed in HP) were chosen for RT-qPCR validation.

**Table 39 Top 20 differentially expressed miRNAs**

MiRNA	Iso-miRs	BLAST hits	Log2Fold-Change	Fold-Change	P-value	Adjusted p-value
<b>mir-215</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>ssc-miR-215</b>	<b>2.14</b>	<b>4.41</b>	<b>0.0002</b>	<b>0.0476</b>
<b>mir-194b-5p</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>ssc-miR-194b-5p</b>	<b>1.86</b>	<b>3.63</b>	<b>0.0009</b>	<b>0.072</b>
<b>mir-27a-3p</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>bta-miR-27a-3p,ssc-miR-27a-3p</b>	<b>-0.55</b>	<b>0.68</b>	<b>0.001</b>	<b>0.072</b>
mir-23a	4	ssc-miR-23a	-0.44	0.74	0.0088	0.4553
mir-192-5p-v1	6	miR-192-5p-v1	0.73	1.66	0.0139	0.4956
<b>mir-146a-5p</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>ssc-miR-146a-5p</b>	<b>-0.72</b>	<b>0.61</b>	<b>0.0173</b>	<b>0.4956</b>
let-7d-5p	2	ssc-let-7d-5p	-0.38	0.77	0.0247	0.4956
pre-mir-192-5p	12	pre-ssc-miR-192-5p	0.55	1.46	0.0247	0.4956
mir-375	13	bta-mir-375,hsa-miR-375	0.49	1.40	0.0292	0.4956
mir-192-5p	43	bta-miR-192-5p,ssc-miR-192-5p	0.39	1.31	0.0307	0.4956
mir-192-5p-v2	1	miR-192-5p-v2	0.67	1.59	0.0339	0.4956
mir-139-5p	1	ssc-miR-139-5p	0.55	1.46	0.0356	0.4956
mir-182-5p	9	bta-mir-182-5p,ssc-miR-182-5p	0.46	1.38	0.0367	0.4956
novel_mir_2	3	novel_miR_2	1.07	2.10	0.037	0.4956
mir-214	2	ssc-miR-214	-0.57	0.67	0.0384	0.4956
mir-6529a	1	bta-miR-6529a	-0.49	0.71	0.0394	0.4956
mir-192-5p-v3	1	miR-192-5p-v3	0.59	1.51	0.0431	0.4956
mir-582-3p	2	ssc-miR-582-3p	0.53	1.44	0.0445	0.4956
mir-92b-3p	9	bta-mir-92b-3p,ssc-miR-92b-3p	-0.39	0.76	0.046	0.4956
mir-340	2	ssc-miR-340	0.37	1.29	0.0501	0.4956

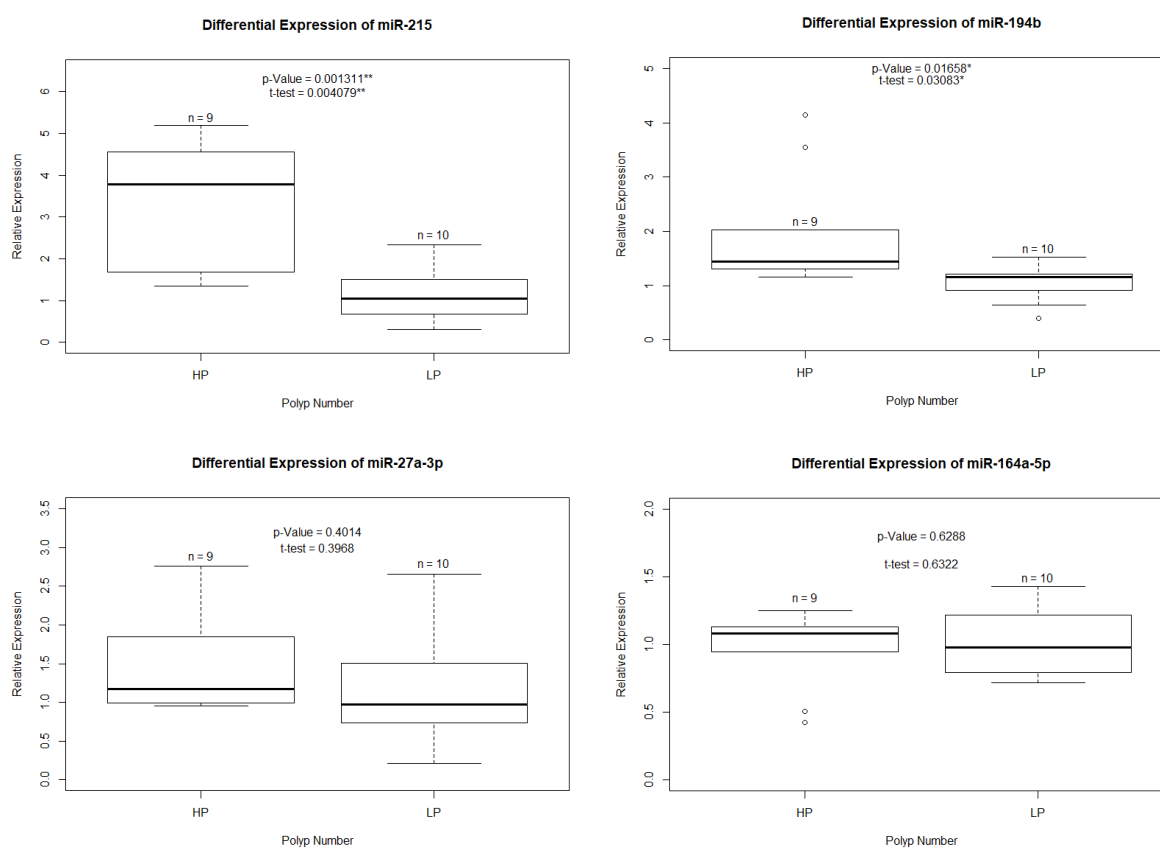
Establishment of a normalising miRNA for the analysed normal mucosa samples was essential to perform RT-qPCR validation of the top 3 differentially expressed miRNAs miR-215, 194b-5p, 27a-3p and the migration and invasion promoting miRNA 146a-5p (Lu et al, 2017). Therefore, literature search for human normaliser miRNA for normal colon and cancer samples lead to testing equivalent porcine sequences for RNU6B\_1, miR-191-5p\_1, miR-25-3p\_1, miR-16-5p\_1, miR-26a-5p\_1, mir-425-5p\_1, let-7a-5p\_1 (Chang et al, 2010; Peltier & Latham, 2008; Schmitz et al, 2009). MiR-191-5p\_1, miR-25-3p\_1, miR-16-5p\_1, and let-7a-5p were tested for their stability on a subset of the sequenced normal mucosa samples using NormFinder (Andersen et al, 2004). Ct values were transformed into a linear form by



generating  $2^{-Ct}$  values for NormFinder analysis. The resulting stability value was calculated from intergroup and intragroup variation of comparing miRNA expression of MiR-191-5p\_1, miR-25-3p\_1, miR-16-5p\_1, and let-7a-5p between LP animals 152, 155, 173, 328 and HP animals 163, 168, 253 and 339 (Table 40). The smallest stability value indicated the lowest variation. Let-7a-5p showed the best intra- and inter-group stability value of 0.065 and was therefore taken as a normaliser in the validation of the sequencing results.

**Table 40 NormFinder analysis.**

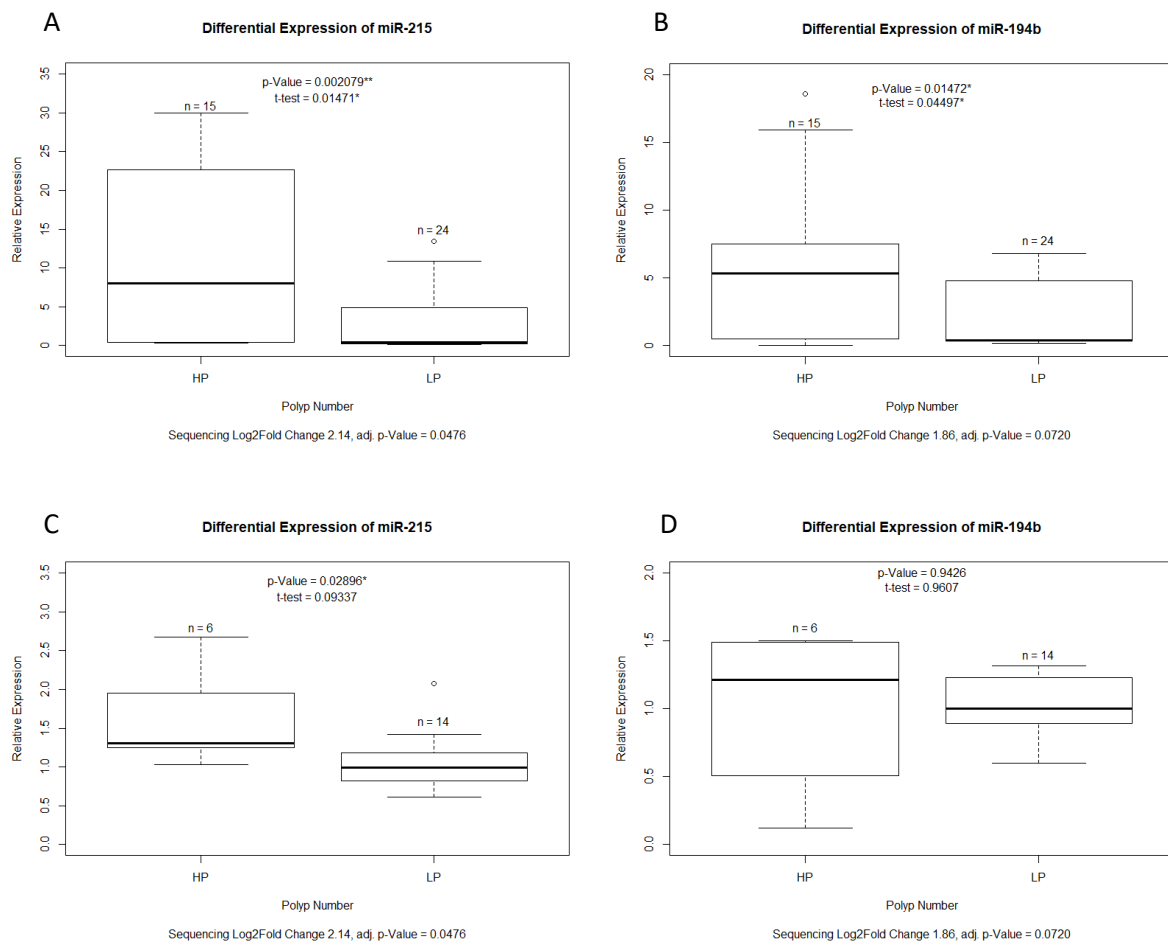
miR name	Without group identifiers		With group identifiers
	Stability value	Standard error	Stability value
miR-25-3p	<b>0.140</b>	<b>0.062</b>	0.073
miR-16-5p	0.211	0.068	0.098
miR-191-5p	0.192	0.066	0.093
<b>let7a-5p</b>	0.160	0.063	<b>0.065</b>



**Figure 13 Differential expression analysis of miR-215, 194b, 27a-3p and 146a-5p in the sequenced samples using RT-qPCR.**

RT-qPCR Validation of miR-215, 194b, 27a-3p and 146a-5p expression confirmed significantly increased miR-215 expression in HP animals in accordance with sequencing results (Table 39). Higher expression of miR-194b in HP animals was significant in RT-qPCR (Figure 13). The reduced expression of miR-27a-3p and 146a-5p detected in the sequencing analysis could not be confirmed (Figure 13).

The RT-qPCR results of miR-215 and 194b confirmed the sequencing results. Therefore we analysed a number of additional samples (909-953, 2.1.15), that had not been sequenced (Figure 14). Higher MiR-215 expression was significant when the additional samples were analysed together with the sequenced samples and alone, highlighting the strength of this biological effect (Figure 14 A, C). Increased miR-194b expression in HP could only be confirmed in combination with the sequenced samples but not in the additional samples alone (Figure 14 B, D).



**Figure 14** Differential expression analysis of miR-215 and 194b in the sequenced and additional samples (A, B) and in the additional samples alone(C,D).

### 3.1.2.2 *In silico* miRNA target analysis

*In silico* target analysis was performed with all differentially expressed miRNAs with p-values < 0.05 and a human equivalent using Diana tools (2.6.2). The KEGG pathway analysis showed that the differentially expressed miRNAs miR-215-5p, 194-5p, 27a-3p, 23a-3p, 192-5p, 146a-5p, let-7d-5p, miR-375-3p, 139-5p, 182-5p, 214-3p, 582-3p and 92b-3p influence many cancer associated pathways (Table 41).

Table 41 *In silico* miRNA target analysis of differentially expressed miRNAs between HP and LP animals.

KEGG pathway	P-value	Number of genes targeted	Number of miRNAs involved in pathway
Proteoglycans in cancer	$1.77 \times 10^{-17}$	130	13
Adherens junction	$2.71 \times 10^{-12}$	57	12
Protein processing in endoplasmic reticulum	$1.80 \times 10^{-11}$	115	12
Cell cycle	$9.47 \times 10^{-11}$	87	14
Hippo signalling pathway	$2.21 \times 10^{-10}$	93	13
TGF-beta signalling pathway	$9.53 \times 10^{-10}$	56	12
Pathways in cancer	$2.59 \times 10^{-09}$	231	14
Viral carcinogenesis	$1.24 \times 10^{-08}$	122	13
Renal cell carcinoma	$1.69 \times 10^{-08}$	48	12
Glioma	$1.69 \times 10^{-08}$	46	12
Chronic myeloid leukemia	$2.68 \times 10^{-08}$	54	12
Prion diseases	$3.00 \times 10^{-08}$	20	9
Hepatitis B	$8.92 \times 10^{-08}$	90	12
Signalling pathways regulating pluripotency of stem cells	$3.39 \times 10^{-07}$	90	12
Colorectal cancer	$4.52 \times 10^{-07}$	46	13
Prostate cancer	$5.06 \times 10^{-07}$	63	12
Oestrogen signalling pathway	$7.05 \times 10^{-07}$	61	13
Oocyte meiosis	$1.45 \times 10^{-06}$	71	13
Ubiquitin mediated proteolysis	$5.00 \times 10^{-06}$	86	12
mTOR signalling pathway	$9.60 \times 10^{-06}$	45	12
Neurotrophin signalling pathway	$9.60 \times 10^{-06}$	76	13
Pancreatic cancer	$1.05 \times 10^{-05}$	46	12
Mucin type O-Glycan biosynthesis	$1.46 \times 10^{-05}$	17	6
Bacterial invasion of epithelial cells	$2.06 \times 10^{-05}$	50	12
Bladder cancer	$2.40 \times 10^{-05}$	30	12
Endocytosis	$3.50 \times 10^{-05}$	118	12
AMPK signalling pathway	$3.66 \times 10^{-05}$	79	14
Shigellosis	$3.75 \times 10^{-05}$	45	12
Thyroid cancer	$3.86 \times 10^{-05}$	22	12
FoxO signalling pathway	$4.09 \times 10^{-05}$	84	12

Endometrial cancer	4.59x10 <sup>-05</sup>	37	12
ErbB signalling pathway	5.38x10 <sup>-05</sup>	57	14
Glycosaminoglycan biosynthesis - heparan sulphate / heparin	0.00012515	15	9
Non-small cell lung cancer	0.00013151	38	12
Transcriptional misregulation in cancer	0.00014138	96	12
HIF-1 signalling pathway	0.0001588	67	12
Spliceosome	0.00022485	78	13
p53 signalling pathway	0.00040416	45	13
Fatty acid biosynthesis	0.00057782	6	7
mRNA surveillance pathway	0.00057782	59	12
Focal adhesion	0.00063506	117	13
Glycosaminoglycan biosynthesis - keratan sulphate	0.00064327	10	7
Thyroid hormone signalling pathway	0.00133893	72	14
Central carbon metabolism in cancer	0.00179693	41	12
Acute myeloid leukaemia	0.00235642	36	12
Insulin signalling pathway	0.00298371	81	13
Gap junction	0.00328537	52	13
Small cell lung cancer	0.00387188	52	13
HTLV-I infection	0.00435804	138	13
Wnt signalling pathway	0.00473261	78	13
Sphingolipid signalling pathway	0.00483015	66	12
Melanoma	0.00659562	41	12
Glycosaminoglycan biosynthesis - chondroitin sulphate/ dermatan sulphate	0.00661598	11	7
Lysine degradation	0.00800587	25	13
ECM-receptor interaction	0.0080235	39	11
Pathogenic Escherichia coli infection	0.00894165	35	12
TNF signalling pathway	0.00979755	63	14
Vibrio cholerae infection	0.01295563	34	12
RNA transport	0.01320152	90	13
Progesterone-mediated oocyte maturation	0.01778249	51	13
Prolactin signalling pathway	0.02360585	42	13
Toxoplasmosis	0.02606497	65	12
Salmonella infection	0.03123455	48	13
Adrenergic signalling in cardiomyocytes	0.03993007	68	13
GnRH signalling pathway	0.03993007	51	13
Epstein-Barr virus infection	0.047274	105	13
Notch signalling pathway	0.04904792	29	11
Fc gamma R-mediated phagocytosis	0.04904792	50	12
MAPK signalling pathway	0.04904792	127	13
Regulation of actin cytoskeleton	0.04904792	106	13

---

Targeted analysis of the genes targeted by the miRNAs (Appendix) showed that none of the 13 miRNAs target *CYP7A1* or *SFRP5*. The miR-194-5p (higher expressed in HP), 27a-3p and 23a-3p (both lower expressed in HP) have *SATB1*, which was found to be expressed in higher levels in the HP animals and has been associated with human CRC (Al-Sohaily et al, 2014; Brocato & Costa, 2015; Lv et al, 2016; Mir et al, 2016; Zhang et al, 2014c), among their targets. MiR-192-5p and 182-5p, both highly expressed in HP, target *APC*. MiR-92b-3p, lower expressed in HP has *KRAS* among their targets and the miR-23a-3p, 214-3p (both lower expressed in HP) and 582-3p (higher expressed in HP) target *PTEN*. The miR -27a-3p, 214-3p and let-7d-5p (lower expressed in HP) and miR-182-5p (higher expressed in HP) target *TP53*. As miRNAs can influence protein expression also by reducing translation without reducing the transcript abundance significantly, these results suggest early modulation of the crucial 5 pathways of CRC in the *APC*<sup>1311</sup> animals.

Taken together, the analysis of differentially expressed miRNAs between HP and LP animals revealed that miR-215 and 194b were significantly higher expressed in HP animals in both sequencing and PCR-based methods and miR-215 qualified as potential modifier of polyposis severity in pigs. In silico miRNA target analysis of all miRNAs significantly differentially expressed according to p-value revealed a multitude of targets, among which *CYP7A1* and *SFRP5* could not be identified, however *SATB1*, *APC*, *KRAS*, *PTEN* and *TP53* were targets. KEGG pathway analysis showed, that the targeted mRNAs were playing a role in many cancer-associated pathways.

---

## 3.2 Analysis of genes mediating tumour progression in the porcine model for colorectal cancer

Regular endoscopy and molecular analysis of the *APC<sup>1311</sup>* pigs revealed that the porcine model recapitulates key aspects of human FAP and CRC including adenomatous polyps in the colorectum with low-grade intraepithelial neoplasia (LG-IEN), high-grade intraepithelial neoplasia (HG-IEN), loss of *APC* heterozygosity,  $\beta$ -catenin accumulation, upregulation of c-MYC, MAPK pathway activation and progression to carcinoma *in situ*.

The search for novel unknown drivers of human CRC to fully understand disease pathology is a continuous focus of CRC research (Cancer Genome Atlas, 2012). Repeated analysis of one and the same polyp in humans is not possible and the analysis of early polyps is also difficult as the most part are diagnosed late in disease progression (US national cancer institute) (Guinney et al, 2015), therefore late stage adenomas or even carcinomas are mostly analysed in humans. The FAP pigs provide the opportunity to analyse early adenomas LG-IEN and to follow and analyse molecular changes from LG-IEN to HG-IEN over time *in vivo*. Thus the model can not only help investigate the differences between adenomas and normal mucosa, but also between LG-IEN and HG-IEN.

Frequent mutations driving human CRC progression have been identified (Fearon & Vogelstein, 1990), but CRC is very complex and very few cases of CRC carry all key mutations collectively (Guinney et al, 2015). Other mechanisms such as epigenetic modifications and mi-RNA dysregulation have been found to have similar if not equal CRC-promoting power (1.2.1, 1.2.2, 1.2.3, 1.2.4). Therefore, processes driving the progression from LG-IEN to HG-IEN were analysed in LG-IEN and HG-IEN adenomas of the colorectum on mRNA and miRNA level to detect gene and miRNA expression changes caused by genomic mutations but also by epigenetic mechanisms and miRNA dysregulation. The sequencing data was used to perform gene and miRNA expression analysis, the identification of SNPs differentially distributed and expressed and gene set enrichment analysis between LG-IEN and HG-IEN. The analysis was aimed to show molecular replication of human FAP and CRC but also to identify novel drivers through unique experimental setup that is not possible in humans.

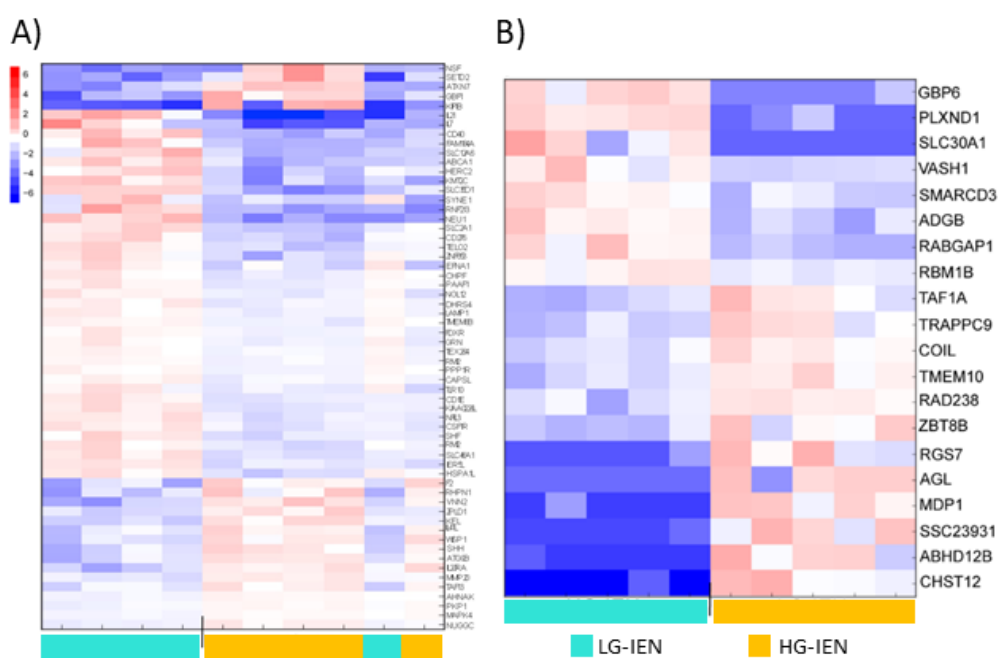
### 3.2.1 Analysis of tumour progression on mRNA level

To compare porcine CRC pathology to human and to identify novel drivers of CRC, porcine tumour progression was analysed by comparing RNA sequencing results from 5 HG-IEN with 5 LG-IEN adenomas of 1 cm diameter of *APC<sup>1311</sup>* animals. Additional to bulk samples, laser microdissected LG-

IEN and HG-IEN were sequenced and compared. These following results have been published in Scientific Reports (Flisikowska et al, 2017).

### 3.2.1.1 Differential expression analysis

Differential expression analysis resulted in 52 genes that were significantly (adjusted p-Value < 0.05) differentially expressed and showed a clear distinction between HG and LG-IEN (Figure 15). The top differentially expressed gene was AHNAK, which was lower expressed in HG-IEN. AHNAK is a known tumour suppressor that negatively regulates cell growth via the TGF $\beta$  signalling pathway (Lee et al, 2014). Among the differentially expressed genes, where most showed a reduced expression in HG-IEN, were genes involved in metabolic processes (*MAPK4*, *S100A9*), intracellular transport (*SLC46A1*) and in immune response (*IL7*, *CD40*). Among highly expressed genes were genes associated with stress response (*HSPA1L*), WNT (*WISP1*) and TNF (*SLC12A6*) signalling. Selected genes, especially immune related genes (Table 42) were validated using RT-qPCR. LG samples served as calibrator group, therefore positive values signify higher regulation in HG samples.

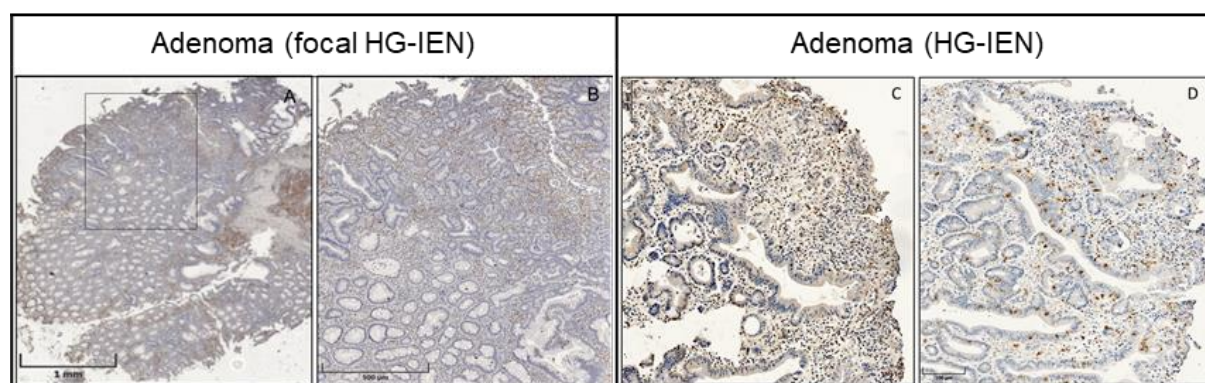


**Figure 15 A) cluster analysis of the expression of the top 52 differentially expressed genes between HG-IEN and LG-IEN. B) cluster analysis of the expression of the top 20 differentially expressed genes between laser microdissected HG-IEN and LG-IEN crypts.**

Blue signifies low and red high expression.

**Table 42 RT-qPCR validation results of genes differentially expressed between whole HG and LG-IEN.**

Gene symbol	Gene description	RNA seq Log2Fold-Change HG	P-value	RT-qPCR Log2Fold-Change HG	P-value
<i>IL7</i>	Interleukin 7	-1.09	6.88x10 <sup>-6</sup>	-5.18	4.02x10 <sup>-7</sup>
<i>EBF1</i>	Early B-cell factor 1	-1.69	7.33x10 <sup>-10</sup>	-4.03	0.008
<i>CD40-1</i>	CD40 molecule isoform 1	-1.10	2.09x10 <sup>-12</sup>	-1.96	0.013
<i>CD40-2</i>	CD40 molecule isoform 2	-1.22	2.88x10 <sup>-5</sup>	-2.04	0.085
<i>CD40-LG</i>	CD40 ligand	-1.28	4.56x10 <sup>-6</sup>	-2.11	0.009
<i>TRAF5</i>	TNF receptor associated factor 5	-1.16	1.20x10 <sup>-9</sup>	-2.21	0.007
<i>IL21</i>	Interleukin 21	-2.30	2.06x10 <sup>-17</sup>	-8.97	0.006
<i>CD101</i>	CD101 molecule	-0.95	0.0003	-3.08	0.044
<i>S100A8</i>	S100 calcium-binding protein A8	2.79	3.16x10 <sup>-12</sup>	3.79	0.021
<i>S100A9</i>	S100 calcium-binding protein A9	-2.34	5.27x10 <sup>-9</sup>	-2.66	0.048
<i>IL20RA</i>	Interleukin 20 receptor subunit alpha	2.18	6.08x10 <sup>-11</sup>	3.40	6.7x10 <sup>-6</sup>

**Figure 16 Immunohistochemical staining of HG-IEN.**

A) and B) show brown staining of CD3+ infiltrating T-cells (B is a magnification of A). C) displays brown CD4+ and D) CD8+ infiltrating T-cells.

To specifically analyse aberrant epithelial tissue and eliminate signals from surrounding stroma, sequencing and differential expression analysis of laser microdissected LG and HG-IEN crypts was performed. Differential expression analysis of laser microdissected samples sequenced showed no differential expression of genes such as *IL7*, *S100A8*, and *S100A9*, assigning their expression to other cell types contained in the stroma, such as infiltrating immune cells (e.g. T-cells), observed in the polyps analysed (Figure 16). Differential expression visualisation showed clear distinction between LG and HG-IEN (Figure 15).

High expression of the selected genes *PLXND1*, *SLC30A1*, *GBP6*, *VASH1*, and *SMARCD3* in HG-IEN was confirmed using RT-qPCR (Table 43) suggesting novel drivers of CRC. *PLXND1* has been found highly



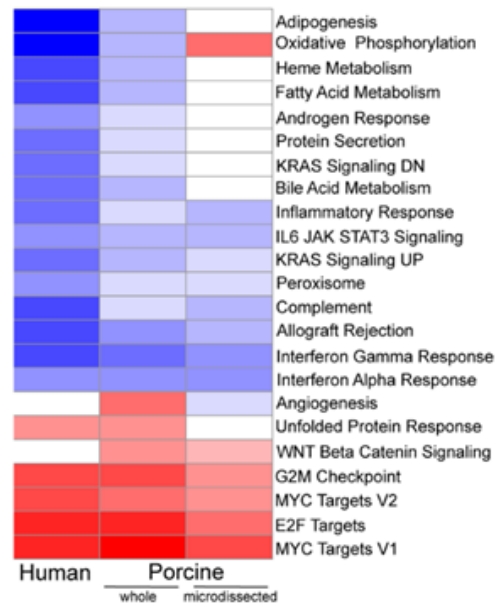
expressed in a number of human tumours (Roodink et al, 2009) and associated with epithelial mesenchymal transition and invasiveness and metastasis (Casazza et al, 2010; Tseng et al, 2011). The other genes were associated with interferon- $\gamma$  signalling (*GBP6*) oxidative stress and anti-inflammatory activity (*SLC30A1*), p53 regulation and cell proliferation (*VASH1*) and WNT pathway regulation (*SMARCD3*).

**Table 43 RT-qPCR validation results of genes differentially expressed between laser microdissected HG and LG-IEN.**

Gene symbol	Gene description	RNA seq Log2Fold-Change HG	P-value	RT-qPCR Log2Fold-Change HG	P-value
<i>PLXND1</i>	plexin D1	2.26	$5.40 \times 10^{-8}$	4.23	$1.40 \times 10^{-3}$
<i>SLC30A1</i>	solute carrier family 30 member 1	2.21	$9.74 \times 10^{-8}$	3.95	0.0009
<i>GBP6</i>	guanylate binding protein family member 6	1.91	$3.07 \times 10^{-6}$	5.40	$2.10 \times 10^{-3}$
<i>VASH1</i>	vasohibin 1	1.60	$7.65 \times 10^{-5}$	3.10	0.0091
<i>SMARCD3</i>	SWI/SNF related, matrix associated, actin dependent regulator of chromatin, subfamily d, member 3	1.32	$6.79 \times 10^{-4}$	2.88	$1.99 \times 10^{-3}$

#### Gene set enrichment analysis

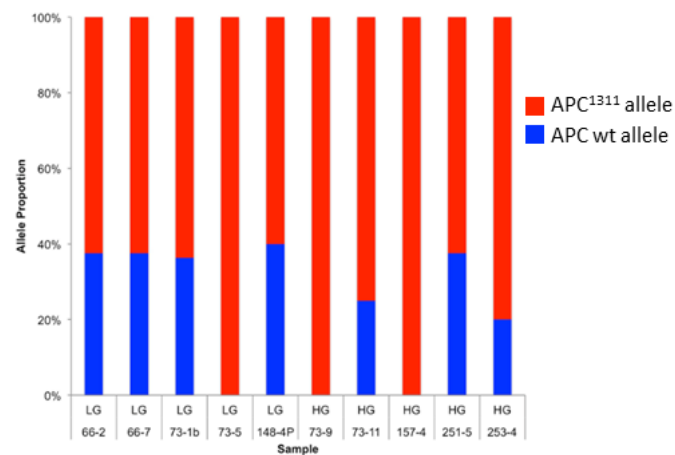
Gene set enrichment analysis of porcine whole biopsy HG-IEN versus LG-IEN and laser microdissected HG-IEN versus LG-IEN were compared to human microsatellite stable (MSS) T1 polyps versus normal mucosa (data from TCGA database) to compare the porcine CRC carcinogenesis in a global molecular approach (Figure 17 Figure 15). Of 26 significantly differentially enriched gene sets in human and 25 in pig, 19 sets were commonly enriched in both species. 13 genes sets were similarly significantly differentially enriched in the laser microdissected samples compared to the human and porcine bulk samples including HG-IEN enriched gene sets essential for CRC progression as MYC targets and cell cycle related E2F targets and G2M checkpoint components (Figure 17). This though broad comparison highlights the evident similarity between porcine and human CRC progression.



**Figure 17** Gene set enrichment analysis of the pathways up or downregulated in porcine whole and microdissected polyps compared to human T1 microsatellite stable polyps.

### 3.2.1.2 Allele-specific expression analysis

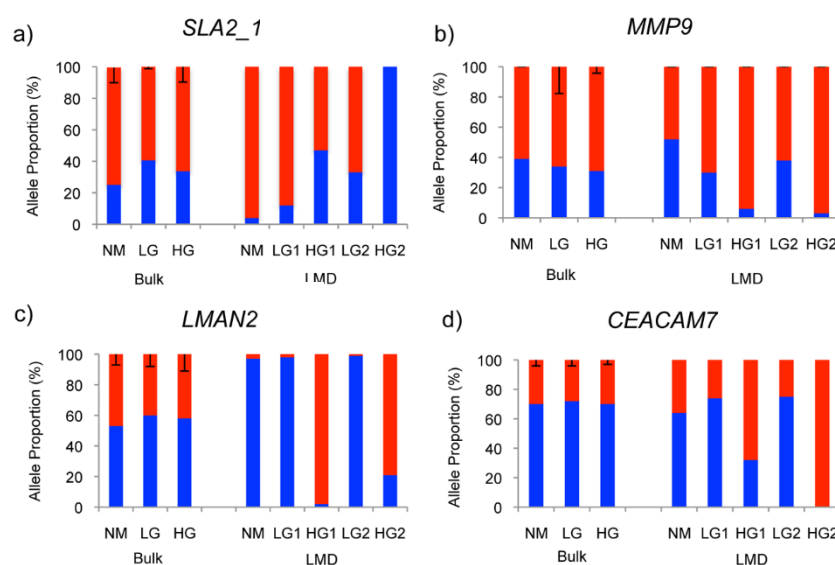
Molecular changes in parts of the cancer over time have been observed in CRC by allele-specific expression (ASE) analysis (Tuupanen et al, 2008). *In silico* analysis of raw RNA sequencing data showed increased expression of the *APC*<sup>1311</sup> allele in HG\_IEN compare to LG\_IEN (Figure 18).



**Figure 18** Allele-specific expression of *APC*, analysed using raw sequencing data

ASE analysis using the RNA sequencing data from the bulk samples identified 48 000 SNPs that showed significant allelic imbalance in at least one sample. SNPs in known CRC related genes with epithelial function *MMP9*, *CEACAM7*, *LMAN2* and an immune related gene *SLA2* were validated in bulk and laser

microdissected samples using pyrosequencing (Figure 19). The allelic imbalance that were well visible in laser microdissected samples were masked in bulk samples.



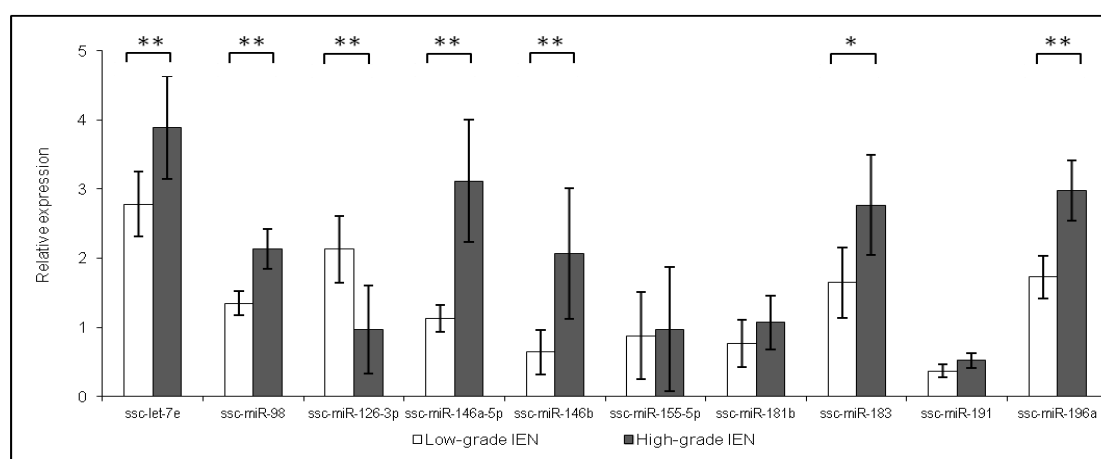
**Figure 19 Allele-specific expression analysis of *SLA2\_1.0*, *MMP9*, *LMAN2* and *CEACAM7* using pyrosequencing.**

### 3.2.2 Analysis of tumour progression on miRNA level

MiRNA from 5 LG-IEN and 5 HG-IEN (same samples as used for mRNA analysis) were sequenced and compared. These results have been published in Oncotarget (Stachowiak et al, 2017). 44 differentially expressed miRNAs with a p-value below 0.05 were identified. Six of those had an adjusted p-value below 0.05, rendering them significant even in the face of multiple comparison testing. Ten selected miRNAs including the top differentially expressed miR-126-3p between HG-IEN and normal mucosa, were selected for RT-qPCR validation (Table 44). HG was used as calibrator in this comparison, therefore, negative Log2FoldChange values signify increased expression in HG. All RT-qPCRs showed the same trend as the sequencing results, but the increased expression of let-7e, miR-98, 146a-5p, 146b, 183 and 196a and the reduced expression of miR-126-3p in HG-IEN were significant (p-value < 0.05) or even highly significant (p-value < 0.01) (Figure 20). Further all 7 miRNAs had been found to be associated with human CRC (Bandres et al, 2006; Chen et al, 2016; Ge et al, 2014; Lu et al, 2017; Mosakhani et al, 2012; Motoyama et al, 2009; Schimanski et al, 2009; Zhu et al, 2017a; Zhu et al, 2017b).

**Table 44 Selected differentially expressed miRNAs between LG and HG-IEN and HG-IEN and normal mucosa.**

MiRNA / IsomiR	Log2Fold- Change LG	P-value	Adjusted p-value
ssc-miR-196a	-1.72	0.0000	0.0012
ssc-miR-98	-0.95	0.0001	0.0118
ssc-miR-146a-5p	-1.67	0.0003	0.0224
ssc-miR-146b isomiR 20_42	-1.43	0.0005	0.0265
ssc-let-7e	-1.25	0.0014	0.0482
ssc-miR-181b isomiR 12_33	-1.34	0.0020	0.0543
ssc-miR-191 isomiR 9_30	-0.95	0.0035	0.0764
ssc-miR-155-5p isomiR 10_33	-1.19	0.0050	0.0945
ssc-miR-183 isomiR 6_27	-1.11	0.0052	0.0945
MiRNA / IsomiR	Log2FC HG/N	p-value	Adjusted p-value
ssc-miR-126-3p isomiR 45_66	-2.45	0.0000	0.0137

**Figure 20 RT-qPCR validation of the differentially expressed miRNAs selected.**

### In silico miRNA target analysis

*In silico* target analysis revealed a large number of cancer related pathways influenced by the differentially expressed miRNAs including miRNAs in cancer, proteoglycans in cancer, p53 signalling pathway, viral carcinogenesis and colorectal cancer (Table 45).

**Table 45** *In silico* miRNA target analysis of differentially expressed miRNAs between HG and LG-IEN.

<b>KEGG pathway</b>	<b>P-value</b>	<b>Number of genes targeted</b>	<b>Number of miRNAs involved in pathway</b>
MicroRNAs in cancer	9.53x10 <sup>-74</sup>	131	23
Proteoglycans in cancer	1.08x10 <sup>-14</sup>	146	23
Hepatitis B	5.68x10 <sup>-12</sup>	105	22
Protein processing in endoplasmic reticulum	1.21x10 <sup>-09</sup>	124	23
Renal cell carcinoma	1.25x10 <sup>-08</sup>	56	23
Cell cycle	1.44x10 <sup>-08</sup>	97	23
Lysine degradation	2.75x10 <sup>-08</sup>	37	23
Ubiquitin mediated proteolysis	2.75x10 <sup>-08</sup>	103	23
Adherens junction	3.67x10 <sup>-08</sup>	60	23
Hippo signalling pathway	1.69x10 <sup>-07</sup>	101	23
Prion diseases	3.21x10 <sup>-07</sup>	24	22
Pathways in cancer	6.92x10 <sup>-07</sup>	255	23
Oestrogen signalling pathway	1.33x10 <sup>-06</sup>	69	23
p53 signalling pathway	1.88x10 <sup>-06</sup>	56	23
Viral carcinogenesis	4.50x10 <sup>-06</sup>	146	23
Prostate cancer	7.91x10 <sup>-06</sup>	68	23
Transcriptional misregulation in cancer	1.68x10 <sup>-05</sup>	117	23
Pancreatic cancer	1.88x10 <sup>-05</sup>	52	23
Glioma	4.22x10 <sup>-05</sup>	47	23
Spliceosome	4.97x10 <sup>-05</sup>	94	23
Glycosaminoglycan biosynthesis - keratan sulphate	8.15x10 <sup>-05</sup>	11	18
Signalling pathways regulating pluripotency of stem cells	8.15x10 <sup>-05</sup>	95	23
Chronic myeloid leukaemia	8.73x10 <sup>-05</sup>	56	22
TGF-beta signalling pathway	0.000114499	55	22
Shigellosis	0.000114499	48	23
Bladder cancer	0.000114499	32	23
Sphingolipid signalling pathway	0.00011831	82	23
Oocyte meiosis	0.000125888	76	23
Acute myeloid leukaemia	0.00017571	42	23
Endocytosis	0.000195403	137	23
Thyroid hormone signalling pathway	0.000385396	84	23
Central carbon metabolism in cancer	0.000385396	46	23
Regulation of actin cytoskeleton	0.000455559	135	23
Fatty acid metabolism	0.000456395	29	20
FoxO signalling pathway	0.000456395	91	23
Focal adhesion	0.000587346	135	23
Colorectal cancer	0.000635242	45	23
Non-small cell lung cancer	0.000689357	41	22

---

RNA transport	0.000905502	110	23
TNF signalling pathway	0.000905502	77	23
ErbB signalling pathway	0.001752074	58	23
Bacterial invasion of epithelial cells	0.002263929	50	23
HIF-1 signalling pathway	0.002639591	76	23
mTOR signalling pathway	0.002897181	45	23
Steroid biosynthesis	0.003093938	13	15
Neurotrophin signalling pathway	0.003536926	79	23
RNA degradation	0.004208333	53	23
Thyroid cancer	0.006358412	21	22
AMPK signalling pathway	0.008043309	83	23
N-Glycan biosynthesis	0.008687542	32	20
Small cell lung cancer	0.009531305	58	23
NF-kappa B signalling pathway	0.009585347	56	23
Fc gamma R-mediated phagocytosis	0.010505971	59	23
Endometrial cancer	0.010954543	36	22
Axon guidance	0.012636065	75	23
Wnt signalling pathway	0.014365498	86	23
Chagas disease (American trypanosomiasis)	0.016876026	66	22
Huntington's disease	0.016876026	113	23
Legionellosis	0.016928086	38	22
Ribosome	0.021827887	86	23
HTLV-I infection	0.021827887	168	23
Salmonella infection	0.022887739	56	23
Notch signalling pathway	0.024647157	34	23
Fatty acid biosynthesis	0.025038322	6	18
Melanoma	0.030733908	45	23
Insulin signalling pathway	0.03093753	88	23
MAPK signalling pathway	0.032704866	151	23
Gap junction	0.040246432	55	23
PI3K-Akt signalling pathway	0.040246432	192	23
Progesterone-mediated oocyte maturation	0.040999811	57	23
Prolactin signalling pathway	0.049040505	47	22

---

---

The characterisation of the *APC*<sup>1311</sup> animals on mRNA and miRNA level revealed that only few genes and miRNAs are significantly differentially expressed between HP and LP. Higher gene expression of CYP7A1, the SNP in the OAS1 gene (chromosome 14, position 38856577 bp C/T) and the miR-215 in HP animals were validated with methods other than mRNA and miRNA sequencing and associated with a more severe polyposis (HP). Their potential function as modifier genes requires further confirmation in a larger set of samples. MiR-215 could already be validated in animals apart from the sequenced samples. The mechanism of differential CYP7A1 expression was analysed on *cis*-regulatory level and revealed reduced CpG methylation in the potential promoter region of HP animals where TFs STAT3, GLIS1, CEBPB and GABPA bind. mRNA targets of differentially expressed miRNAs were determined and clustered and showed involvement in many cancer-associated pathways.

Further analysis of tumour progression on mRNA level between low grade (LG) and high grade (HG) intraepithelial neoplasia (IEN) showed a clear distinction between the two on expression in both bulk and laser microdissected samples. Genes involved in metabolic processes and immune response were lower expressed in HG-IEN while genes associated with stress response were higher expressed. Analysis of laser microdissected IENs eliminated these signals originating from stroma and revealed high *PLXD1* and *GBP6* expression in HG-IEN. So both the stroma and the epithelium itself change during tumour progression. Further, SNPs in known CRC related genes with epithelial function *MMP9*, *CEACAM7*, *LMAN2* and one immune related gene *SLA2* were detected. Gene set enrichment analysis of differential gene expression data showed cancer-associated gene sets enriched and further presented homology to human CRC data. MiRNAs analysis in bulk samples identified miRNAs let-7e, miR-146a-5p, 146b, 183, 196a higher expressed in HG-IEN that have not only been reported to exhibit tumour promoting functions, but that also target genes involved in cancer relevant pathways.

---

### 3.3 Optimisation of the CRC model

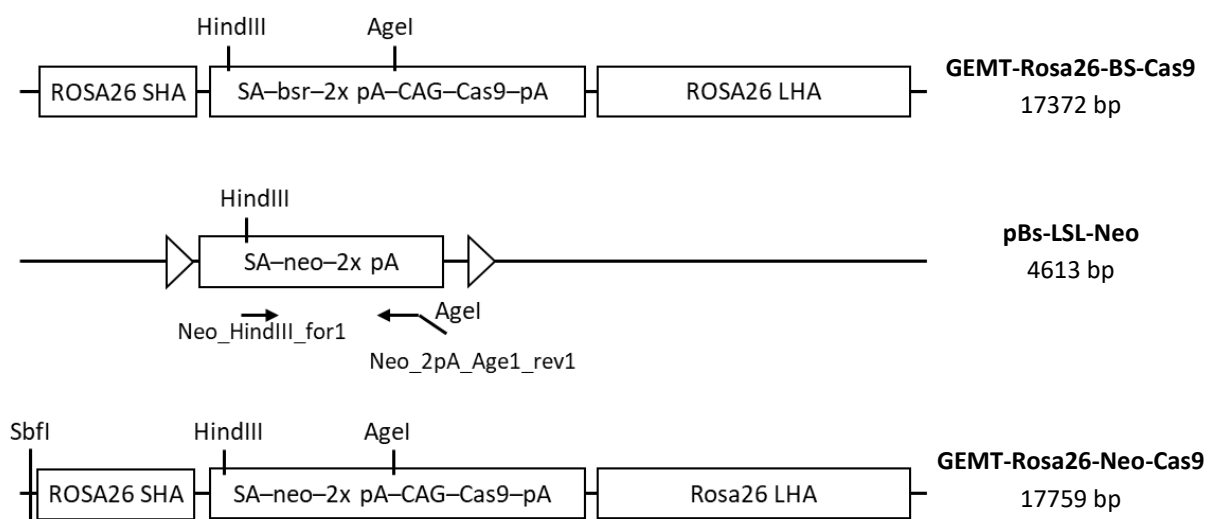
The *APC<sup>1311</sup>* pig model for FAP and CRC has replicated key aspects of human FAP such as the variation in polyposis severity and hallmarks of human CRC development and progression to carcinoma *in situ*. However, no progression to invasive colorectal carcinoma was so far observed in more than 100 animals of 4 generations of *APC<sup>1311</sup>* pigs up to age of 2-3 years. This suggests, that just like in humans, where 10-15 % of all adenomas progress to carcinoma over decades (Fearon, 2011), porcine CRC progression takes equivalent time. With the premise that development of an invasive carcinoma is a matter of time, it was decided to accelerate the CRC development by causing frequently diagnosed oncogenic mutations (Guinney et al, 2015) in polyps of the pigs *in vivo* via genome editing using CRISPR/Cas9. It was planned to deliver the guide RNAs to target tumour suppressor genes and oncogenes together with single-stranded oligodeoxynucleotides (ssODNs) for the introduction of oncogenic mutations to the polyps by *in vivo* electroporation or adeno-associated viral vectors. The endonuclease Cas9 is very large. Therefore, ubiquitous *Cas9* endonuclease isolated from *Streptococcus pyogenes* (*SpCas9*) was to be introduced into the *ROSA26* locus of porcine kidney fibroblasts (pKFs) carrying heterozygous *APC<sup>1311</sup>* mutation followed by generation of piglets via nuclear transfer.

#### 3.3.1 Generating targeting vectors for *Cas9* placement into the porcine *ROSA26* locus

Targeted introduction of numerous transgenes via homologous recombination (HR) in mice have been directed to the murine *Rosa26* locus because transgene introduction into intron 1 of *Rosa26* resulted in viable fertile animals that expressed the transgene stably without silencing (Zambrowicz et al, 1997). Therefore, a targeting vector allowing *SpCas9* placement into the porcine homologue *ROSA26* locus (Kong et al, 2014; Li et al, 2014) via HR was performed (Figure 21).

Promoter trap strategy was applied (Friedel et al, 2005) to increase the efficiency of HR-mediated gene targeting. The *APC<sup>1311</sup>* animals carried a targeting cassette with a blasticidin S resistance (*bsr*) gene in the endogenous *APC* gene. Therefore, the *bsr* of the vector GEMT-Rosa26-BS-Cas9 (previously generated by Dr. Judy Ng) was replaced with a neomycin resistance (*neo*) gene from the pBs-LSL-Neo plasmid (Figure 21). This resulted in the targeting vector GEMT-Rosa26-Neo-Cas9 with a splice acceptor (SA), a promoterless *neo* gene and a CAG-driven *SpCas9* gene between the homologous arms targeting *ROSA26*.

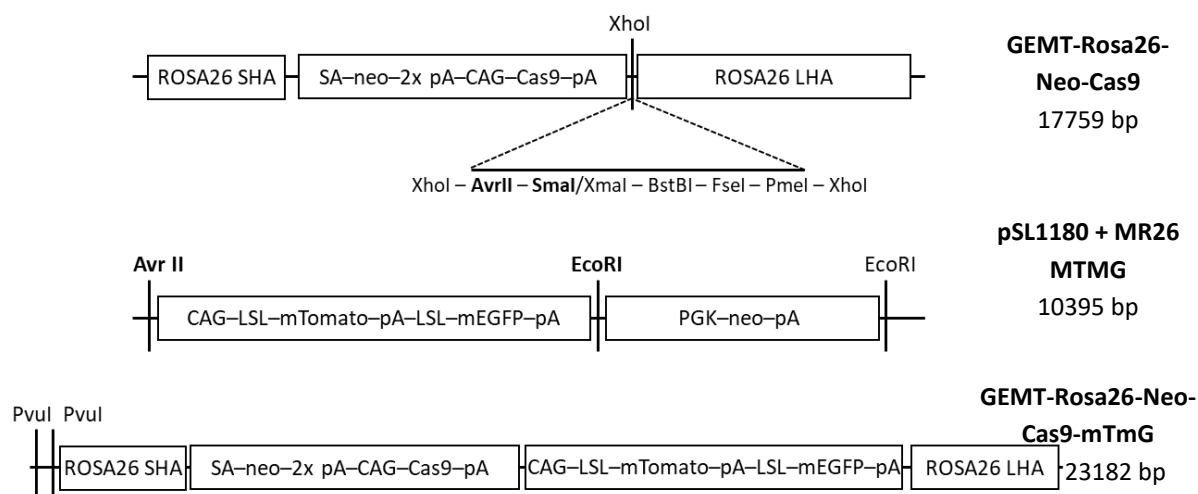




**Figure 21 Cloning strategy for the targeting vector GEMT-Rosa26-Neo-Cas9.**

*bsr*, blasticidin S resistance gene; CAG, Chicken beta-actin promoter and cytomegalovirus enhancer element; LHA, long homology arm; neo, neomycin resistance gene; pA, polyadenylation signal; SA, splice acceptor; SHA, short homology arm

As in the future both the Cre-loxP system together with the CRISPR/Cas9 system shall be used together to model human cancers, the coupling of the *SpCas9* gene and a Cre reporter cassette in the *ROSA26* locus is an essential preparation. The Cre reporter system allows visualisation of the location of Cre recombination *in vivo* and represents a powerful tool to monitor Cre specificity when working with conditional and tissue-specific Cre inducible oncogenic mutations (Li et al, 2014).



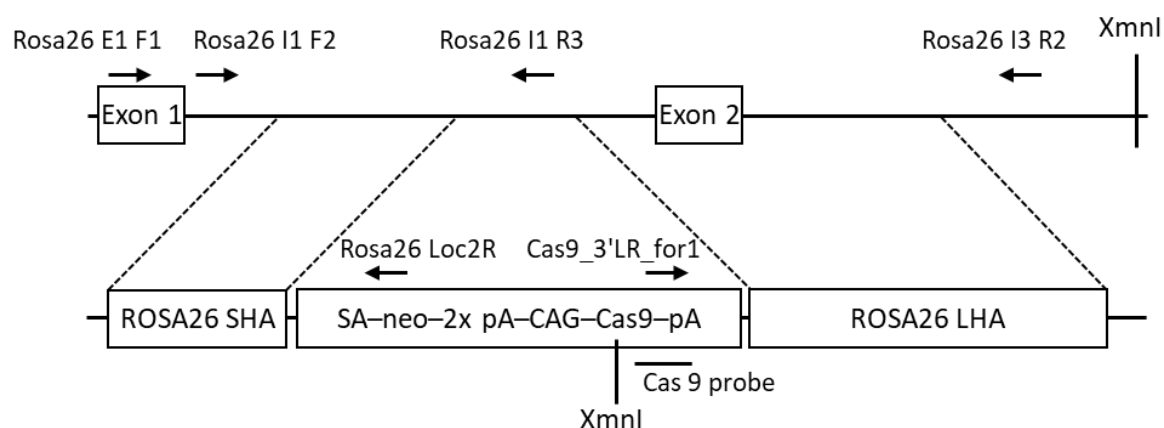
**Figure 22 Cloning strategy for targeting vector GEMT-Rosa26-Neo-Cas9-mTmG**

CAG, Chicken beta-actin promoter and cytomegalovirus enhancer element; LHA, long homology arm; LSL, loxP-Stop-loxP cassette; neo, neomycin resistance gene; mEGFP, membrane-targeted enhanced green fluorescent protein gene; mTomato, membrane-targeted tdTomato red fluorescent protein gene; pA, polyadenylation signal; PGK, phosphoglycerate kinase promoter; SA, splice acceptor; SHA, short homology arm

Therefore, the GEMT-Rosa26-Neo-Cas9 was expanded by introduction of a Cre reporter cassette mTmG consisting of a CAG promoter and the two fluorescent protein genes membrane-targeted tdTomato (*mTomato*) flanked by two loxP sites and membrane-targeted EGFP (*mEGFP*) (LSL-mTomato-pA-LSL-mEGFP-pA) (Figure 22). Both vectors were linearised to increase the rate of homologous recombination (Kucherlapati et al, 1984) and purified for nucleofection of pKFs of *APC*<sup>1311</sup> pig 73.

### 3.3.2 Generation and analysis of *Cas9*-targeted clones

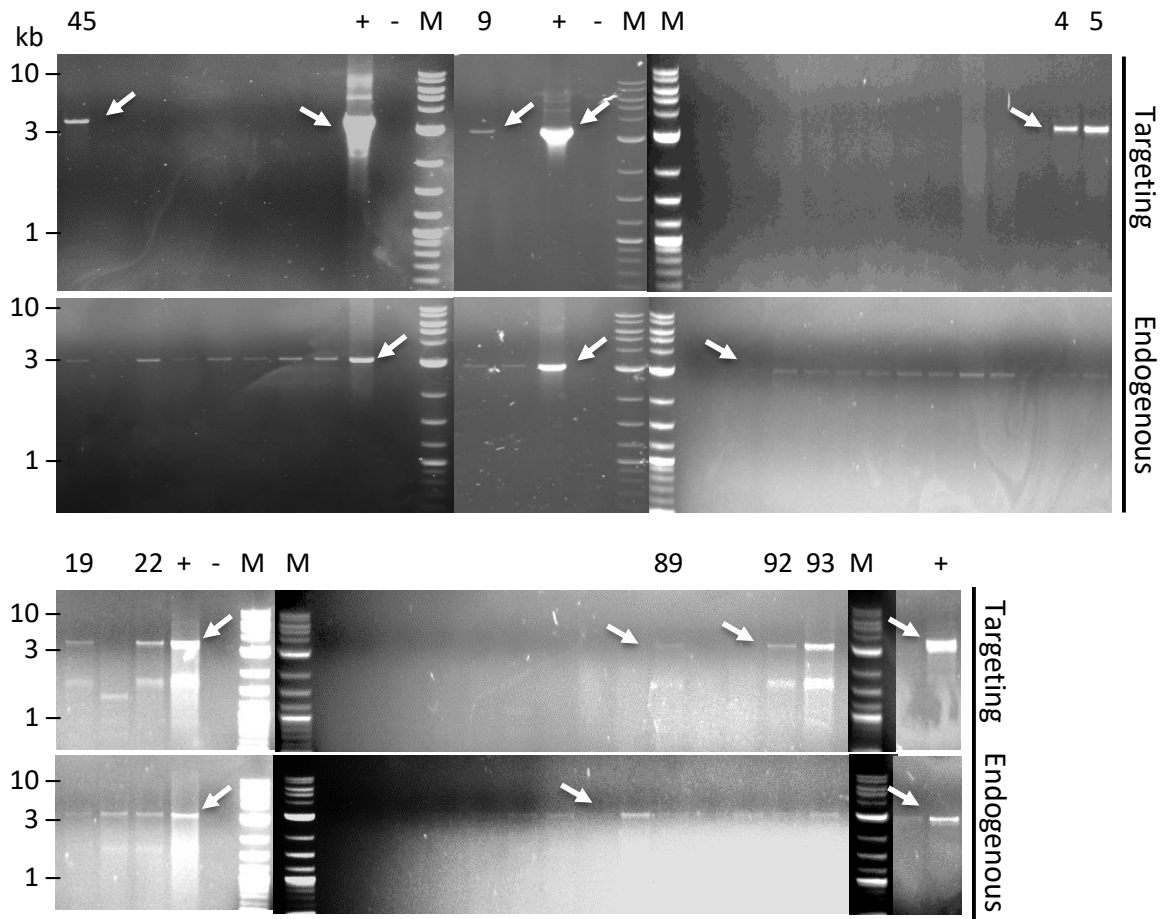
Clones were generated by transfection, selection and expansion of primary pKFs. The single-cell clones were screened for correct targeting of the *ROSA26* allele via PCR amplification across the 5' junction of the vector and the target site using the primer Rosa26 I1 F2 and Rosa26 Loc2R and sequence analysis (Appendix) of the amplified products (Figure 23). Targeting PCR identified 9 targeted clones (Figure 24). A PCR to detect the endogenous, unmodified *ROSA26* allele with the primer Rosa26 I1 F2 and Rosa26 I1 R3 showed that only 1 allele of *ROSA26* was targeted (Figure 24).



**Figure 23 Targeting of the *Rosa26* locus with the GEMT-Rosa26-Neo-Cas9 targeting vector**

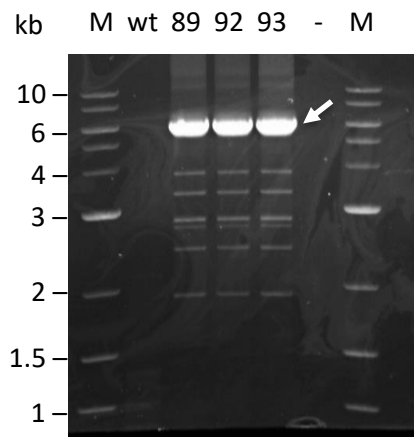
CAG, Chicken beta-actin promoter and cytomegalovirus enhancer element; LHA, long homology arm; neo, neomycin resistance gene; pA, polyadenylation signal; SA, splice acceptor; SHA, short homology arm.

The clones, 4, 5, 9, 19, 22,35 and 45 were used as donors for nuclear transfer without additional analysis as they had ceased to proliferate. Clones 89, 92 and 93 could be expanded for further analysis and correct *ROSA26* targeting was confirmed by PCR amplification across the 3' junction of the vector and target locus (Figure 25) and sequence analysis (Appendix) of the amplified products.



**Figure 24** Gel electrophoresis of the 5' screening PCR of *Cas9*-targeted clones.

Targeting PCR of the clones was performed using primer Rosa26 I1 F2 binding the *ROSA26* locus outside the homologous arm and Rosa26 Loc2R that binds the neo of the targeting vector to generate a 3313 bp. Endogenous PCR of 3105 bp was amplified using the primer Rosa26 I1 F2 and Rosa26 I1 R3 that binds only the untargeted wildtype allele of *ROSA26*. +, positive control; -, water control; M, marker.

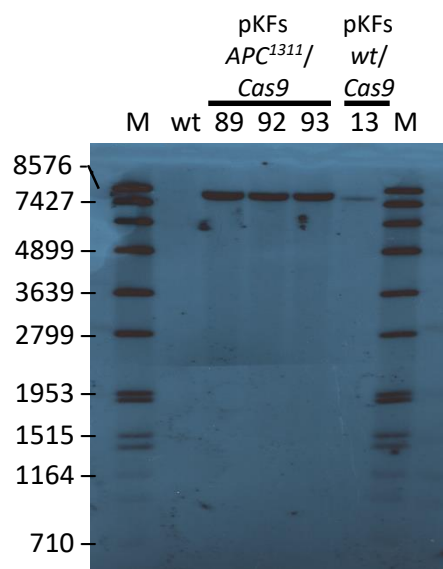


**Figure 25** Gel picture of the 3'LR PCR of clones 89, 92 and 93.

The primer Cas9\_3'LR\_for1 and Rosa26 I3 R2 (Figure 23) were used to generate a product of 6118 bp. -, water control; M, marker; wt, wildtype control.

### 3.3.2.1 Southern blot analysis

Southern blot analysis was performed to validate correct targeting of the *ROSA26* locus and to exclude additional random integration. Genomic DNA of clones 89, 92, 93, 13 (a cell clone generated by Beate Rieblinger and Nina Simm where *SpCas9* was introduced into the *ROSA26* locus of wildtype pKFs) and wildtype cells was isolated and digested with *XmnI*.



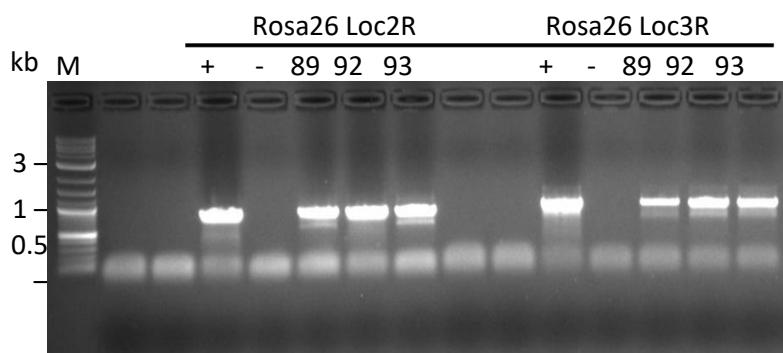
**Figure 26 Southern Blot of the clones 89, 92, 93 and 13.**

M, marker; wt, wildtype control.

The clones showed the expected bands of 7777 bp (clones 89, 92 and 93) and 7698 bp (clone 13) (Figure 26) using the *Cas9* probe (Figure 23). No random bands were visible, confirming that the integration was not only targeted but also unique. However, although the DNA concentration of all clones was measured fluorometrically using the Qubit and based on this, 10  $\mu$ g DNA was used for Southern blot, clearly clone 13 showed a significantly weaker band, indicative of less DNA.

### 3.3.2.2 Expression analysis

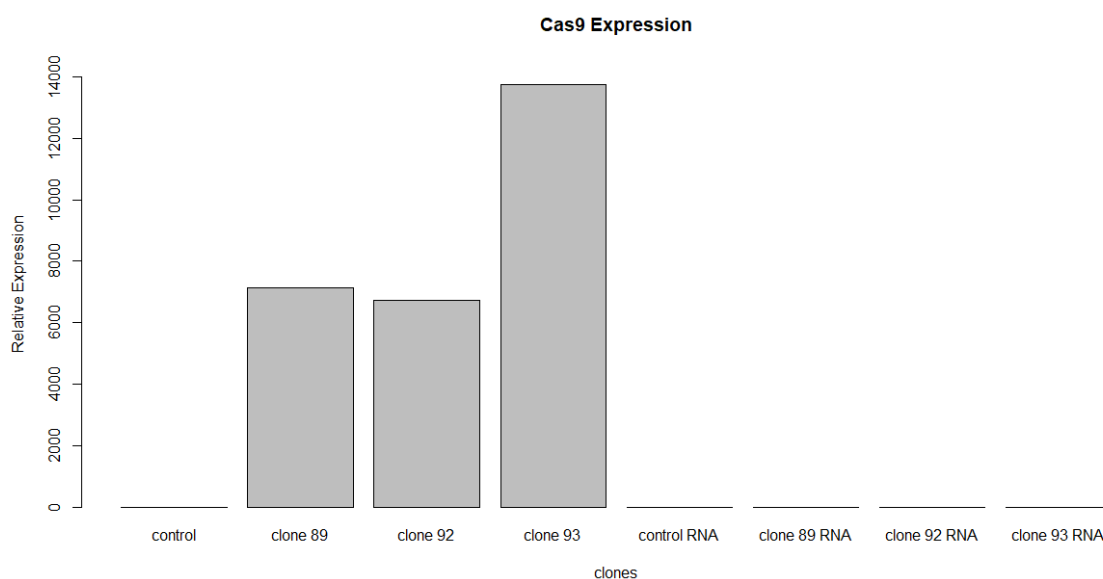
Correct splicing from exon 1 of the *ROSA26* locus into *neo* was detected by reverse transcription (RT) PCR of cDNA of the clones 89, 92 and 93 (Figure 23). The expected bands of 877 bp and 990 bp were well visible in all three clones and the positive control (Figure 27). Additionally, the correct sequence of the PCR products was confirmed by sequencing analysis (Appendix).



**Figure 27 Gel electrophoresis of RT PCR of the clones 89, 92 and 93.**

The PCR from exon 1 of the Rosa26 locus, using the primer Rosa26 E1 F1 to the neomycin cassette, using Rosa26 Loc2R and Rosa26 Loc3R resulted in 877bp and 990 bp respectively. +, positive control; -, water control; kb; kilo bases; M, marker.

*SpCas9* expression was quantified by RT-qPCR. For this analysis unlike traditional RT-qPCR the primers were not separated by an intron, therefore RNA was also tested for DNA contamination. The RNA showed no PCR product. The results showed that *SpCas9* was expressed in the clones.

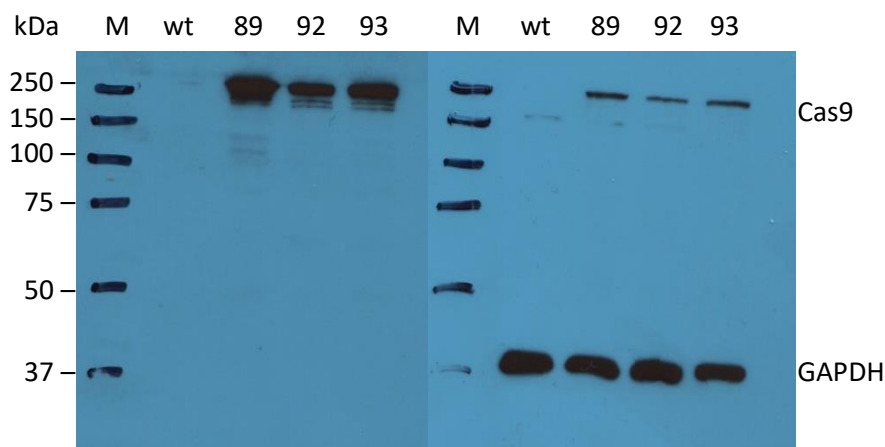


**Figure 28 Cas9 expression analysis of the clones 89, 92 and 93 using RT-qPCR results.**

### 3.3.2.3 Protein Analysis

#### 3.3.2.3.1 Western blot analysis

The presence of mRNA does not necessarily indicate the presence of functional protein. Therefore, protein was isolated from the clones 89, 92 and 93 to perform Western blot analysis. The *SpCas9* protein of 160 kDa could be detected for all three clones. The negative control, protein from untransfected pKFs from *APC<sup>1311</sup>* pig 73 showed only the loading control, GAPDH at 37 kDa.



**Figure 29** Western blot analysis of the clones 89, 92 and 93 visualising Cas9 and GAPDH. kDa, kilo Dalton; M, marker; wt, wildtype control.

### 3.3.2.3.2 Functional Assay

SpCas9 is a nuclease, therefore it is essential to validate its activity. A reporter assay that can verify Cas9 functionality was established and indels were detected using open source online tool TIDE (<https://tide.deskgen.com/>).

#### Establishing gRNAs

First, gRNAs were generated, that target tumour suppressor genes that play a crucial role in human CRC development: *TP53*, as the “guardian of the genome”, *APC* to induce loss of heterozygosity, *PTEN* as the controller of the PI3K pathway and *DCC*. These were inserted into Cas9-gRNA vector and transfected into pKFs. The cells were not selected. Therefore, gene editing efficiency evaluated by TIDE analysis (<https://tide.deskgen.com/>) was dependent on transfection efficiency (Table 46). However, all gRNAs were able to induce cleavage and gene editing in the endogenous loci (Table 46).

**Table 46** Tide analysis results of wildtype cells transfected with Cas9 and gRNA targeting *TP53*, *PTEN*, *APC* and *DCC*.

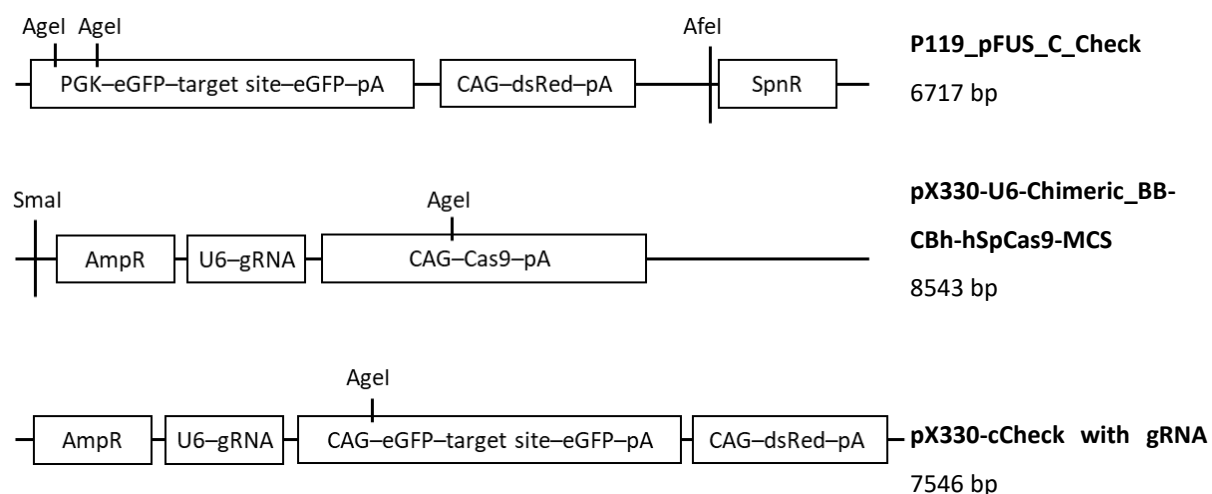
Cells	vector	Gene editing efficiency
pKF 73 <i>APC</i> <sup>1311</sup>	pX330-Cas9-TP53	9.3
pKF 73 <i>APC</i> <sup>1311</sup>	pX330-Cas9-Puro-PTEN	5.4
pKF 73 <i>APC</i> <sup>1311</sup>	pX330-Cas9-APC	5.3
pKF 73 <i>APC</i> <sup>1311</sup>	pX330-Cas9-DCC_Ex1-1	5.8

#### Reporter Assay

The gRNA sequence from the pX330 vector was added to the P119\_pFUS\_C\_Check reporter plasmid carrying a dsRed sequence (rendering all transfected cells red) and a CRISPR target site including the

protospacer adjacent motif (PAM) between two homologous incomplete eGFP sequences (Figure 30). Upon transfection of cells expressing functional SpCas9 nuclease, the gRNA complexes with the Cas9 and travels to the endogenous target site but also to the one between the two homologous eGFP sequences and induces a double strand break. In case of homology directed repair (HDR), the homologous eGFP sequences will serve as templates, resulting in an intact eGFP. Successful gene editing on the plasmid by cleavage-induced HDR is thus visible by fluorescence microscopy. Gene editing of the endogenous locus by the more frequent repair mechanism non-homologous end joining is detectable using the TIDE tool (<https://tide.deskgen.com/>).

The clones 89, 92 and 93 were transfected with pX330-cCheck-TP53 and both the fluorescence microscopy (Figure 31) and Tide analysis (Table 47) confirmed that all three clones generated a fully functional SpCas9 protein that was able to cleave both exogenous DNA (plasmid) and endogenous DNA and induce cellular DNA repair mechanisms.

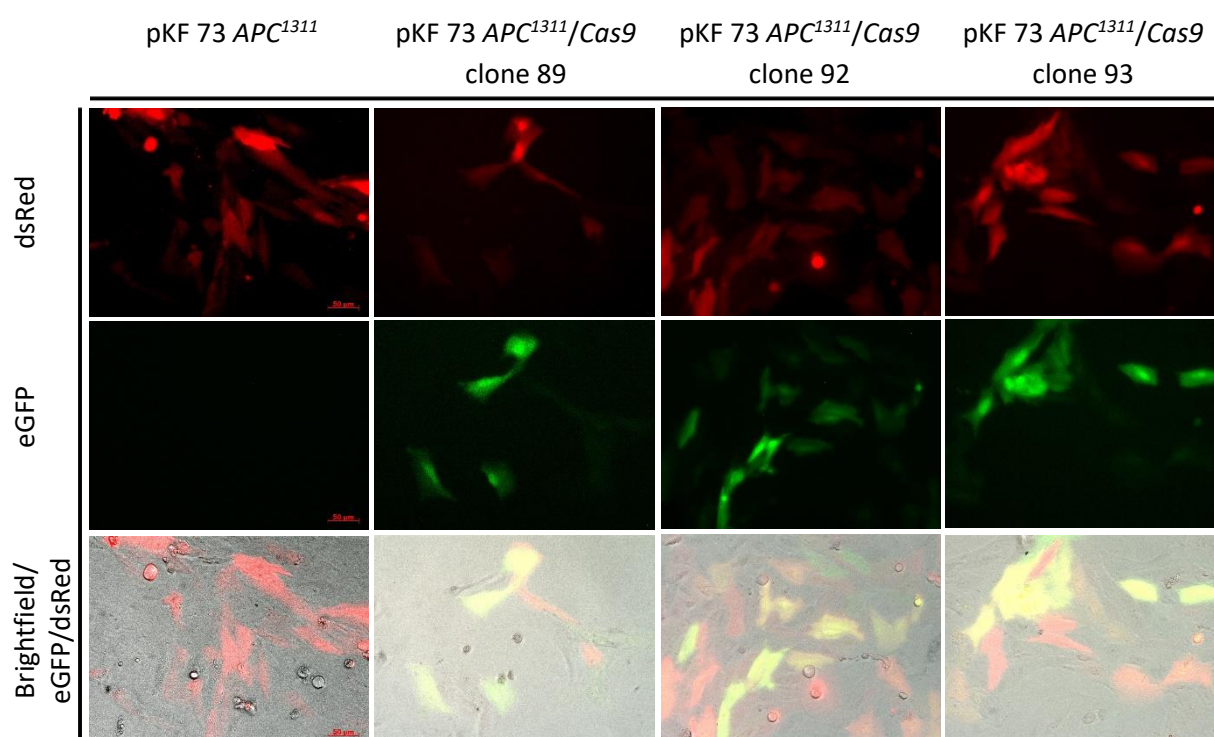


**Figure 30 Cloning strategy of generating a reporter system for cleavage efficiency of Cas9-expressing cells.**

AmpR, ampicillin resistance gene; CAG, Chicken beta-actin promoter and cytomegalovirus enhancer element; dsRed, red fluorescent protein gene isolated from *Discosoma*; eGFP, enhanced green fluorescent protein gene; pA, polyadenylation signal; PGK, phosphoglycerate kinase promoter; SpnR, spectinomycin resistance gene; U6, U6 promoter.

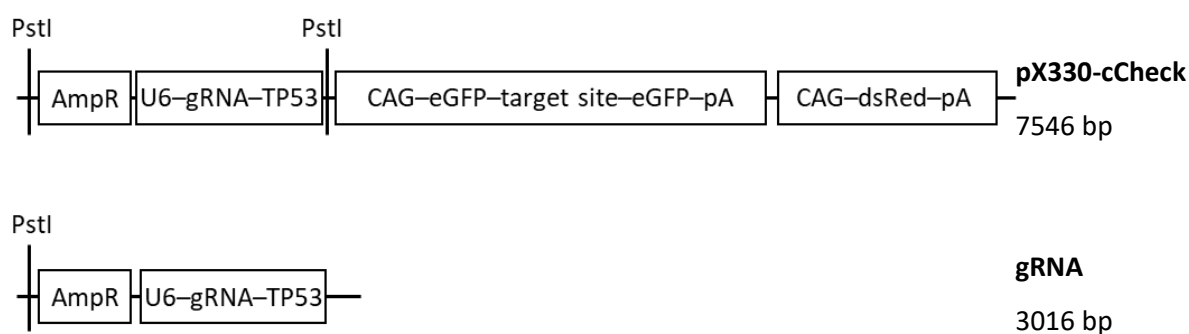
**Table 47 Tide analysis of the clones 89, 92 and 93 transfected with pX330-cCheck-TP53.**

Cells	Vector	Gene editing efficiency
pKF 73 <i>APC</i> <sup>1311</sup>	pX330-cCheck-TP53 ETOH	0
pKF 73 <i>APC</i> <sup>1311</sup> / <i>Cas9</i> clone 89 P13	pX330-cCheck-TP53 ETOH	31.7
pKF 73 <i>APC</i> <sup>1311</sup> / <i>Cas9</i> clone 92 P13	pX330-cCheck-TP53 ETOH	42.6
pKF 73 <i>APC</i> <sup>1311</sup> / <i>Cas9</i> clone 93 P12	pX330-cCheck-TP53 ETOH	40.4



**Figure 31** Fluorescence microscopy of the clones 89, 92 and 93 transfected with pX330-cCheck-TP53.

A vector carrying only the gRNA was generated, eradicating the competing exogenous target site of the cCheck plasmid (Figure 32) to efficiently compare the endogenous target cleavage efficacy in SpCas9 expressing cells to cells where both SpCas9 and gRNA are delivered.



**Figure 32** Cloning strategy of the generation of a vector carrying only the TP53 gRNA sequence for transfection of Cas9 expressing cells.

The clone 92 and pKF 73 *APC*<sup>1311</sup> cells were transfected with pX330-cCheck-TP53 and gRNA-TP53 and the wildtype cells additionally with pX330-Cas-TP53. Tide analysis (<https://tide.deskgen.com/>) showed that the endogenous *TP53* was cut more efficiently when the cells expressed Cas9, than when pKF 73 *APC*<sup>1311</sup> had to be transfected with both gRNA and *Cas9* (Table 48). However, as the determined gene editing efficiencies are dependent on transfection efficiency, gene editing in pKF 73 *APC*<sup>1311</sup> transfected



with pX330-Cas9-TP53 was here three fold better than in the experiment in Table 46. Also, as expected the cleavage of the endogenous locus was improved, when the cells from clone 92 were transfected with the gRNA-TP53, without the competing target site. Furthermore, the cutting efficiency was influenced by the purification method of the DNA used. Plasmid DNA isolated using the plasmid DNA purification NucleoBond® Xtra Midi (MACHEREY-NAGEL GmbH & Co. KG) without any additional purification showed better cutting efficiency than those additionally purified using ethanol precipitation.

**Table 48** Tide analysis of wildtype cells and cells from clone 92 transfected with vectors carrying a gRNA targeting TP53.

Cells	Vector	Gene editing efficiency [%]	Gene editing efficiency [%] EtOH
pKF 73 <i>APC</i> <sup>1311</sup>	pX330-Cas9-TP53	30.1	19.5
pKF 73 <i>APC</i> <sup>1311</sup>	pX330-cCheck-TP53	0	-
pKF 73 <i>APC</i> <sup>1311</sup>	gRNA-TP53	0	-
pKF 73 <i>APC</i> <sup>1311</sup> / <i>Cas9</i> clone 92	pX330-cCheck-TP53	62.7	45.2
pKF 73 <i>APC</i> <sup>1311</sup> / <i>Cas9</i> clone 92	gRNA-TP53	73	-

#### 3.3.2.4 Nuclear transfer

All positive clones were used in nuclear transfer. The clones 4, 5, 22, 89, 92 and 93 were frozen and pooled for the use in 20 nuclear transfers and subsequent embryo transfers of which none resulted in the birth of *APC*<sup>1311</sup>/*Cas9* piglets. However, the clone 13 generated from wildtype pKFs resulted in birth of viable Cas9 pigs.

---

## 4. Discussion

Although mice are at the fore of mammalian research including modelling diseases such as cancer, they do not always replicate the human pathology, reducing their predictive value (Mak et al, 2014). The failure of many new drugs in clinical trials can be attributed to preclinical studies that fail to predict safety and effectiveness in human patients (Justice & Dhillon, 2016; Ledford, 2011). Non-rodent species such as pigs can provide additional information and improve the predictive value of preclinical studies (Bahr & Wolf, 2012; Perleberg et al, 2018). Work with laboratory animals requires to "replace, reduce and refine" their use whenever possible (Article 47 of Directive 2010/63/EU; National Center for the Replacement Refinement & Reduction of Animals in Research, <https://www.nc3rs.org.uk/>). It is thus important to ensure that all data gained is valuable and relevant to the disease studied. This is best achieved with well-defined animal models that replicate relevant aspects of human pathology as closely as possible. The *APC<sup>1311</sup>* pigs, analysed in this work replicate hallmarks of human familial adenomatous polyposis (FAP) and colorectal cancer (CRC) including adenomatous polyps in the colorectum with loss of *APC* heterozygosity,  $\beta$ -catenin accumulation, upregulation of c-MYC, MAPK pathway activation and progression to carcinoma in situ and phenotypic variation in polyposis severity. More thorough characterisation of the model is required for use in translational biomedical research. In this work transcriptional analysis of normal mucosa and polyps from the *APC<sup>1311</sup>* pigs, was aimed to identify elements in the genetic background such as single-nucleotide polymorphisms (SNPs), dysregulated genes, gene sets and microRNAs (miRNAs) that may contribute to susceptibility towards severe polyposis and tumour progression, respectively. This process should reveal both similarities to human molecular pathology and novel markers for early detection and drivers. A holistic approach was performed where whole mRNA and whole miRNA were sequenced using next generation sequencing technology and computational analysis pipelines to compare expression and distribution of genes, miRNAs and SNPs between high polyp and low polyp normal mucosa samples and between high grade and low grade intraepithelial neoplasia.

Therefore, the identity of genes modifying this susceptibility towards severe polyposis was investigated by comparative NGS-based expression analysis of mRNA and miRNA of normal mucosa samples between LP and HP animals. The generated data were used not only for comparative gene and miRNA expression analysis but also for gene set enrichment analysis, genome wide association studies of SNPs and allele-specific expression analysis of SNPs to detect molecular changes associated with severe polyposis of HP animals. The identification of modifier genes and the potential translation to human, may allow early screening of these genes via novel NGS methods in the future. A possible

---

screening method such as blood testing to identify individuals with susceptibility towards CRC could make the patients more aware of the risk and allow better preventive health care services.

To further validate the porcine *APC*<sup>1311</sup> colorectal cancer model, comparative transcriptome analysis was performed between low and high-grade adenomas of the animals. Differentially expressed genes and miRNAs, SNPs and gene sets associated with high grade adenomas, were compared to human data. Further analysis was conducted analysing gene expression from laser microdissected low and high grade intraepithelial neoplasia, a study not yet performed in human, to identify drivers of CRC development that are masked by stromal expression patterns.

Diseases such as cancer, including CRC acquire multiple mutations and cancer promoting alterations over time. CRISPR/Cas9 technology was extended to the *APC*<sup>1311</sup> pigs, allowing spatio-temporal knockout and mutation activation to model human CRC most accurately. *SpCas9* (isolated from *Streptococcus pyogenes*) was introduced into the *ROSA26* locus of porcine kidney-derived fibroblasts (pKFs) from *APC*<sup>1311</sup> pigs to generate *APC*<sup>1311</sup> pigs that express *SpCas9* ubiquitously to enable delivery of guide RNAs to the polyps to induce knockouts of tumour suppressor genes and oncogenic mutations by *in vivo* electroporation or adeno-associated viral vectors.

#### **4.1 Characterisation of the porcine model for colorectal cancer by transcriptional analyses using next generation sequencing technology**

The identification of both known and unknown genes and SNPs that may contribute to polyposis severity and CRC progression in normal mucosa and polyps of the *APC*<sup>1311</sup> pigs respectively was performed in a holistic blind search approach to allow both, the search for specific targets and unknowns, at the same time. mRNA sequencing was preferred over genome sequencing because mRNA sequencing can give information not only about mutations and SNPs located in coding regions but also about changes in gene expression. Targeted analysis of DNA can follow later on. Computational analysis of sequencing data can be performed using different algorithms available, but transcriptional analysis of differential gene expression depends on alignment of sequenced reads to the porcine genome and assignment to features in the shape of a gene or transcript variant. If reads cannot be assigned to a feature in the shape of a gene or transcript variant they will not be compared between the analysed groups, and thus not detected even if they are differentially expressed. Furthermore, the lack and presence of different isoform annotations of a gene, influence

---

computational analysis strongly and determine if a gene is significantly differentially expressed or not. This is a disadvantage of mRNA sequencing compared to genome sequencing, specifically as the porcine genome is less well annotated than the human genome. However, the data sequenced remains extremely valuable, as the data can always be used at later time points for alignment to newer better annotated genome assemblies.

#### 4.2 Attempt to identify modifier genes on mRNA level

Different degrees of polyposis severity among familial adenomatous polyposis (FAP) patients have been found to correlate in part with the site of APC mutation (Crabtree et al, 2002). However, variation in polyposis severity in patients with the same APC mutation have also been observed in humans evidencing the existence of modifier genes (Crabtree et al, 2002; Houlston et al, 2001). This severity in polyposis is attributed to increased initiation events rather than accelerated progression (Crabtree et al, 2001). Studies to investigate susceptibility towards colorectal cancer (CRC) have been performed in humans by searching for SNPs that associate with diseased patients versus controls (Broderick et al, 2007; Tomlinson et al, 2007; Tomlinson et al, 2008; Whiffin et al, 2014). Two SNPs associated with higher CRC risk (rs16892766 at 8q23.3 and rs3802842 at 11q23.1) have also been found to associate with more severe polyposis in FAP (Ghorbanoghli et al, 2016). Studies to identify modifier genes of severe FAP have been analysed in mice by cross-breeding of different inbred strains carrying *Apc<sup>Min</sup>* alleles rather than genome wide association studies (Karim & Huso, 2013). Modifiers such as modifier of Min 1 (*Mom1*), *Mom5*, *Mom7*, *Mom12*, *Mom13* and *Pla2g2a* have been identified but showed no association with human FAP severity (Karim & Huso, 2013; Talseth-Palmer, 2017). This highlighted the dependence of polyposis severity to the genetic background, thus the status of genes that do not exhibit high penetrance and the need of other model organisms such as the *APC<sup>1311</sup>* pigs that may help identify modifiers that associate with human polyposis severity.

Human studies to identify modifier genes have mainly been performed using blood samples and thus only genetic analyses were possible searching for SNPs. The affected tissue, the colonic mucosa has not been sampled, likely due to safety reasons as the sampling of supposedly normal mucosa might pose a health risk for the patients. The use of the *APC<sup>1311</sup>* pig model allows comparative mRNA or miRNA sequencing analysis of colonic normal mucosa between animals with more and less severe polyposis in FAP, that has not been conducted in humans.

---

#### 4.2.1 Gene expression analysis

MRNA Sequencing and two independent subsequent gene expression analyses of 16 high polyp (HP) versus 19 low polyp (LP) normal mucosa samples from animals between 3-9 months identified the genes *CYP7A1* and *SATB1* highly expressed and *SFRP5* lower expressed in HP animals. The gene *CYP7A1* was however the only gene significantly differentially expressed after multiple component testing (adjusted p-value). Significantly higher *CYP7A1* expression was confirmed using RT-qPCR. The reason for increased expression of *CYP7A1* was investigated by analysing cis regulatory factors such as SNP analysis of 5742 bp 5' of the ATG and CpG island (CGI) methylation status of two islands 3459 bp 5' to the ATG. 78 SNPs detected showed no significant association with either LP or HP animals. CGI methylation analysis however revealed significantly reduced methylation of CpG1 site in CGI2, which may influence the binding capacities of the transcription factor (TF) families signal transducer and activator of transcription 3 (STAT3), GLIS family zinc finger 1 (GLIS1), Ccaat/enhancer binding protein beta (CEBPB) and GA binding protein TF alpha (GABPA). This may lead to increased transcription activation in HP animals. Further by elucidating the gene structure, a skipping of exon 5 was identified. The differential expression was observed in the transcript variant with exon 5. The frequency of skipping might contribute to the differential expression. Therefore, Sanger sequencing of intron 4 was performed but analysis was not possible. However, this region is clearly relevant for exon skipping and needs to be thoroughly analysed with a new primer setup for Sanger sequencing. In Sanger sequencing, the quality of the first 15-40 bp and after 700-900 bp is problematic due to primer binding and lack of separation power of large fragments that differ in only 1 base. Heterozygous deletions or insertions are very difficult to analyse, and quality is reduced even earlier. The previous set up of primer walking where 700 bp fragments were sequenced from both sides with overlaps between fragments of 100 bp was not sufficient. Shorter fragments of 400-500 bp are required to elucidate intron 4 sequence.

By laser microdissection, differential expression of *CYP7A1* could be located to stromal rather than crypt composing cells. However, the set of 12 samples (5 HP and 7 LP) was small and the expression of the gene very low.

Cytochrome P450 family 7 subfamily A member 1 (*CYP7A1*) is a monooxygenase that catalyses bile acid synthesis from cholesterol in the liver. SNPs and high hepatic *CYP7A1* expression promote CRC via increased bile acid synthesis that promote CRC development (Gadaleta et al, 2017; Hagiwara et al, 2005; Wertheim et al, 2012). Increased *CYP7A1* expression in colon however has not been mentioned. To determine whether *CYP7A1* functions indeed as a modifier of FAP severity, it first necessary to identify the origin of the increased *CYP7A1* expression in HP animals. The identified increased *CYP7A1* expression could be attributed to three different situations in the *APC<sup>1311</sup>* pigs. 1) The high *CYP7A1* expression in HP could reflect ubiquitous high *CYP7A1* levels (suggested by higher *CYP7A1* levels in HP

---

crypts (Figure 12)), causing also higher hepatic *CYP7A1* expression leading to increased cancer-promoting bile acids in the colon. To test this hypothesis RNA from other tissues including liver would need to be analysed for *CYP7A1* expression levels between HP and LP animals. 2) The *CYP7A1* expression in the colon may exhibit an unknown carcinogenic effect inducing increased polyposis in HP animals. 3) The increased *CYP7A1* expression detected in the HP normal mucosa samples may be caused by an increased immune cell infiltration, including macrophages that were associated with *CYP7A1* expression for cholesterol efflux (Bao et al, 2015), in response to severe polyposis. This hypothesis was inspired by the observation of increased immune infiltration in analysed polyps (Figure 16) and literature where specifically alveolar macrophages showed high *CYP7A1* expression in pigs (Freeman et al, 2012). The third hypothesis, would however mean that high *CYP7A1* is not a cause not a cause but a consequence of high polyposis that also affects areas of the mucosa not closely associated with polyps. To identify whether hypothesis two or three are more likely more investigations including immunohistochemistry of normal mucosa samples are essential to identify which cells of the stroma express increased *CYP7A1* levels.

Further the analysis of other genes contributing to the classic synthesis pathway of carcinogenic bile acids (deoxycholic acid and lithocholic acid) such as *CYP8B1*, *CYP27A1* and *HSD3B7* (Li & Chiang, 2014) in the colon of HP and LP animals could elucidate, whether increased *CYP7A1* expression contributes to bile acids formation in the gut or whether the increased *CYP7A1* expression found is independent of bile acid synthesis.

#### 4.2.2 Gene set enrichment analysis

Gene set enrichment analysis has revealed the expression of few genes enriched in HP versus many gene sets enriched in LP samples. This is likely due to the fact that the LP group is more homogeneous than the HP group. The gene set of oestrogen response was enriched in the HP group analysed using pipeline 1 and even significantly with pipeline 2 (FDR < 0.25). Therefore, the distribution of male and female animals in the HP and LP group was analysed. Contradictory to the initial hypothesis HP animals were composed to 62.5 % of males (25% castrated; 37.5% non-castrated males) and the LP group to 26 % males (10% castrated; 16% non-castrated males). Meaning the HP group contained more non-castrated males in number and in proportion than the LP group, however, the HP group also contained more castrated males. Oestrogen signalling can exhibit a tumour-promoting, via oestrogen receptor  $\alpha$  (ER $\alpha$ ), or a tumour-suppressing capacity via ER $\beta$  (Caiazza et al, 2015). ER $\alpha$  levels in colon were generally reported to be low and ER $\beta$  the predominant oestrogen receptor, which is reduced during carcinogenesis compared to normal mucosa (Caiazza et al, 2015). However, components of the

---

oestrogen response gene set enriched in HP were *JAK2*, *PDZK1* and *SYBU*. Activation of JAK2/STAT3 signalling exhibits oncogenic potential (Alvarez et al, 2006; Yu et al, 2014) and that its inhibition induced apoptosis in CRC cells (Du et al, 2012). Increased *JAK2* expression together with the reduced methylation of a potential STAT3 binding site in *CYP7A1* in the HP animals suggests oncogenic potential through increased activation in the HP group.

#### 4.2.3 Single-nucleotide polymorphisms

Genome-wide association studies identifying SNPs in humans have been carried out in CRC-diseased patients compared to healthy individuals (Tomlinson et al, 2007; Tomlinson et al, 2008; Whiffin et al, 2014). The comparison of SNPs between pigs and humans specifically those outside of exons and even more so outside of genes is difficult as non-coding sequences are not as conserved as those coding for proteins. Nevertheless, SNP analysis was performed on the basis of the mRNA sequencing, comparing SNPs found in transcribed regions of the porcine genome between HP and LP animals. For this analysis the sequencing data was aligned to the Sscrofa11.1 genome assembly. This was performed under the premise that the novel assembly may have fewer gaps in the genomic sequence and possible incorrect gene annotation is irrelevant for this analysis.

However, the analysis of SNPs on RNA level has to be performed with caution due to a rare phenomenon in vertebrates called RNA-editing. These nucleotide substitutions occur mainly in repetitive elements but can also occur in coding sequences (Ramaswami et al, 2012). Therefore, the analysis of SNPs on RNA level should always be confirmed on DNA level as well, to avoid false positives (Kamps et al, 2017).

#### 4.2.4 Computational analysis

With the increasing ease and reduced costs of genome and transcriptome sequencing, it has become a frequently used method for genome wide association studies but also gene expression experiments. RNA sequencing in specific gives tremendous amount of information of the gene expression without knowledge of the sequence. The management and analysis of these data has been tackled by the invention of numerous different pipelines using different algorithms and software. However, no one gold standard or consensus of analysis has been identified. The analysis of the data obtained by mRNA sequencing in this work was performed using two different pipelines. The pipelines worked with the same porcine genome annotation Sscrofa10.2 but different analysis algorithms and software were used to process and analyse the data. Both pipelines omitted adapter clipping as it can alter the gene

---

expression estimates (Williams et al, 2016). The main difference between the two pipelines applied was the alignment method. Pipeline 1 utilising the STAR aligner (Dobin et al, 2013), performs alignment of the reads directly to the genome, whereas pipeline 2 uses the pseudo alignment tool kallisto (Bray et al, 2016). Here the reads are broken up into k-mers and assigned to transcripts. However, it has been found that the alignment method does not necessarily have a major impact on the differential gene expression analysis. The specificity, accuracy and true positive rate seem to be really determined by the software utilised for the identification of the differential gene expression (Costa-Silva et al, 2017). Pipeline 1 used after duplicate marking (<http://broadinstitute.github.io/picard>) and gene assignment (Liao et al, 2014) DESeq.2 (Love et al, 2014). Pipeline two applied after transcript quantification sleuth software (Pimentel et al, 2017). Both software showed high specificity, accuracy and true positive rates in comparative studies, although the DESeq.2 performed slightly better (Costa-Silva et al, 2017). The application of more than one pipeline for differential gene expression analysis, as performed here, was found beneficial for the increase of specificity and true positive rate of the resulting differentially expressed genes (Costa-Silva et al, 2017).

### **4.3 Attempt to identify modifier genes on miRNA level**

MiRNA sequencing was performed to identify other mechanisms that could cause differential protein levels between HP and LP animals that cannot be visualised using mRNA sequencing. MiRNAs target the 3' untranslated region of mRNAs and induce mRNA degradation which reduces the number of mRNA and protein or translational repression of their target mRNA (Shirafkan et al, 2018). Here the number of proteins is reduced but the mRNA amount is unaltered. It is believed that translational repression is less common than mRNA degradation (Guo et al, 2010; Hendrickson et al, 2009). However, miRNA-mediated translational repression cannot be detected by means of mRNA sequencing and can only be discovered by miRNA sequencing.

MiRNA sequencing and differential expression analysis of 9 HP and 10 LP normal mucosa samples from animals between 3-9 months revealed higher expression of miR-215 and 194b and lower expression of miR-27a-3p and 146a-5p in HP animals. Only the increased expression of miR-215 was significant (adjusted p-value < 0.05). The high expression of miR-215 and 194b was confirmed using RT-qPCR. Even though miR-215 and 194b have been associated with tumour suppressor functions, miR-215 has also been discussed to promote gastric cancer (Zang et al, 2017). Especially since no data of these early events during carcinogenesis initiation are available, it is likely that miRNAs might exhibit oncogenic and tumour suppressor functions at different time points during carcinogenesis. Additionally, *in silico*



---

target analysis using all differentially expressed miRNAs with a p-value <0.05 (13 miRNAs) revealed many cancer-associated pathways targeted. Also oestrogen signalling pathway was targeted by the differentially expressed miRNAs according to *in silico* analysis. This is particularly interesting as gene set enrichment analysis of the mRNA sequencing data, revealed oestrogen early response gene set enriched in HP animals.

In this sequencing project, data analysis presented two differential expression tables. One table contained all different isoforms. These isoforms are variants of mature canonical miRNAs and differ in length and sequence by 1 or 2 bp at the ends or in the middle (Guo & Chen, 2014), which is very hard to distinguish. Specifically, in the primer-based RT-qPCR distinguishability of the detected isoforms is very difficult. Primers could bind sequences with a SNP easily, thus detecting not only one isoform but several or all. As expression of canonical miRNAs and isoforms are strongly correlated as cooperative partners (Cloonan et al, 2011), the second table listing all canonical miRNAs according to differential expression of canonical and isoforms collectively was used for all analyses. This was also important for the *in silico* target analysis as only stem sequences were selectable.

Further, just like mRNA sequencing, miRNA sequencing is limited by the quality of the annotated miRNA database (MiRbase). The MiRbase release 22 documented 48885 mature miRNAs in 271 species. That includes 2654 mature miRNAs in homo sapiens and only 457 mature miRNAs in pigs (<http://www.mirbase.org/cgi-bin/browse.pl>). This highlights that the annotation of miRNAs in pigs is only about 1/5 of the human annotation, resulting in loss of differentially expressed miRNAs due to no feature assignment. But again the data acquired by sequencing can always be reanalysed using newer better annotated databases at later time points.

#### **4.4 Analysis of tumour progression on mRNA level**

Carcinogenesis, the development from normal tissue to an adenoma and even carcinoma is a multistep process that is characterised by the acquisition of certain key properties or hallmarks. Genome instability and increased proliferation are the first essential steps followed by the evasion of growth repressors and apoptosis. The pathways essential for the acquisition of these properties such as WNT, MAPK, TGF $\beta$  and TP53 are well known. However, the factors that can modulate these pathways are numerous. Therefore, targeted analysis for the identification for factors, was not possible especially because there are factors that might contribute to carcinogenesis that have not yet been identified. To perform a blind search for factors driving CRC carcinogenesis high grade (HG-IEN) and low grade intraepithelial neoplasia (LG-IEN) were compared. The reduction of *AHNAK* in HG-IEN bulk samples and

---

thus a reduced TGF $\beta$  signalling indicates that the evasion of growth repression has already occurred in HG-IEN compared to LG-IEN. Bulk sample analysis further revealed many genes lower expressed in HG that were associated with the immune system. This can certainly be attributed to the infiltrating immune cells that were detected in HG (Figure 16). However, as the immune related genes were lower expressed, the immune infiltration in LG must be stronger or the immune cell composition is different. One of the hallmarks of cancer is the evasion or repression of immune-mediated destruction. *IL7* which was significantly reduced in HG-IEN is an activation, growth and survival factor of T-cells (Shalpour et al, 2012). Therefore, a reduction of IL-7 would suggest also reduced mature T-cells and thus a less tumour suppressing immune milieu in the HG-IEN. However, the immune system is very complex and many more immune associated genes such as *IL21*, *CD40* and *IL20RA* were found to be differentially expressed. Therefore, it is certainly evident that the immune infiltration in HG-IEN differs from that in LG-IEN. Whether the change can be associated with increased immune response or the acquisition of immune repression requires more thorough analyses such as immunohistochemistry and flow cytometry to characterise the infiltrating immune cells.

The differential expression analysis of laser microdissected LG-IEN and HG-IEN then presented a different set of differentially expressed genes specifically excluding immune related genes that were seen in the bulk samples. This analysis deducted all stromal gene expression and only the gene expression coming from adenomatous epithelium were compared between LG and HG-IEN. Among the genes higher expressed in HG-IEN were genes associated with anti-inflammatory activity (*SLC30A1*), WNT regulation (*SMARCD3*) and p53 regulation and cell proliferation (*VASH1*). Furthermore, the gene *PLXND1* found highly expressed in HG-IEN, has been reported as highly expressed in human tumours (Roodink et al, 2009) associated with epithelial mesenchymal transition promoting invasiveness and metastasis (Casazza et al, 2010; Tseng et al, 2011). The results taken together validate on molecular level the advanced stage of the HG-IEN compared to the LG-IEN and present novel targets in treating CRC.

The genes differentially expressed in the HG-IEN compared to LG-IEN were numerous both in bulk and in laser microdissected samples, specifically compared to the susceptibility study where normal mucosa samples of HP and LP animals were compared. The cellular physiology is much more altered at the stage of neoplasia. Therefore, differential expression can reflect on the altered growth and differentiation properties (Fearon, 2011). Furthermore, many of the genes differentially expressed may be downstream targets of oncogenes or tumour suppressor genes essential for the cellular development of neoplasia, thus increase the amount of genes differentially expressed.

---

## 4.5 Optimisation of the CRC model

Diseases such as cancer, including colorectal cancer (CRC) acquire multiple mutations and cancer promoting alterations over time. To model CRC most accurately, animal models need to be generated that allow spatio-temporal knockout and mutation activation. So far recombinase systems such as the flipase-FRT (Flp-FRT) or Cre-loxP system have been utilised for sequential activation of mutations to model cancers (Schonhuber et al, 2014). The design of different lox sites that can be recognised by Cre recombinase enables multiple independent recombinations simultaneously (Sauer, 1996). Cre-expressing mice and pigs have been generated to perform tissue-specific activation of knockouts or mutations (Chen et al, 2010; Schonhuber et al, 2014). A drawback of this system specifically in large animals such as pigs, is however, that the generation of both the conditionally mutated animal and the particular Cre line is required, which is extremely time consuming in pigs. The CRISPR/Cas9 system is much more flexible, and requires generation of only the Cas9 pig, with which all kinds of mutations can be introduced. Further, it offers the opportunity to multiplex by the combination of the endonuclease Cas9 with multiple different gRNAs (Cong et al, 2013). By administration of the gRNAs at different time points, the CRISPR/Cas9 system also allows time specific activation of mutations and knockouts.

A *Cas9* expressing mouse was generated in combination with and without the Cre-loxP system (Platt et al, 2014). Thus, *Cas9* expression is Cre-dependent. The potential of the model was shown by lung tumour induction by administering gRNAs targeting the three most frequently mutated genes in lung cancer by adeno associated viral vectors (AAVs). To expand this technology also to pigs, to enable acceleration of the CRC carcinogenesis and to better model CRC dynamics, *Cas9* was introduced into the genome of somatic cells from an *APC<sup>1311</sup>* pig with the aim to generate *APC<sup>1311</sup>/Cas9* pigs by nuclear transfer.

When introducing any transgene into the genome, it has to be made sure that the integration does not disrupt any essential genes. This is not only important for avoiding lethality caused by disruption of essential genes but also omitting phenotypes mediated by the mere introduction of a transgene. Therefore, *Cas9* was introduced by gene targeting into the porcine *ROSA26* locus. The *Rosa26* locus has first been identified in mice (Friedrich & Soriano, 1991) and has quickly become the locus of choice when introducing transgenes in mice. The *Rosa26* gene does not translate into protein and targeting intron 1 of this locus resulted in viable fertile animals with constitutive ubiquitous expression of the integrated transgene (Zambrowicz et al, 1997). Silencing of transgenes integrated into the *Rosa26* locus has not been reported so far. Homologues, sharing the same properties, have been identified in

---

both human and pig (Irion et al, 2007; Kong et al, 2014; Li et al, 2014). Thus, viable, gene targeted pigs were generated by transgene introduction into the *ROSA26* locus (Kong et al, 2014; Li et al, 2014). In this work Cas9 was introduced into the porcine *ROSA26* locus via gene targeting using a promoter trap vector.

#### 4.5.1 Generation and analysis of Cas9 targeted clones

Gene targeting via homologous recombination (HR) in murine embryonic stem (ES) cells has been very efficient (Capecchi, 1989). In pigs, however, no equivalent cells exist (Nowak-Imialek & Niemann, 2012). Gene targeting in pigs has to be performed in somatic cells, where HR is less efficient. Gene targeting using homologous arms that mediate homologous recombination of the vector and the genomic *ROSA26* locus was combined with the promoter trap strategy (Friedel et al, 2005).

A neomycin resistance gene (*neo*) with a splice acceptor (SA) was placed between the homologous arms of the promoter trap vector. As mice expressing CAG-controlled *SpCas9* (isolated from *Streptococcus pyogenes*) showed no Cas9-associated toxicity (Platt et al, 2014), CAG- driven *SpCas9* was also placed between the homologous arms and behind the SA-neo-polyA construct resulting in the GEMT-Rosa26-Neo-Cas9 vector.

Porcine kidney fibroblasts from *APC<sup>1311</sup>* pigs were isolated and targeted using the linearized GEMT-Rosa26-Neo-Cas9 vector to further increase HR (Kucherlapati et al, 1984). PCR and subsequent sequencing of the PCR product of the 5' junction and 3' junction between endogenous locus and the cassette introduced, showed correct targeting. Southern blot and digital droplet PCR gave discordant results. Cell clones were characterised on mRNA and protein level, showing correct splicing, sufficient expression and protein translation of fully functional *SpCas9* nuclease, capable to traffic into the nucleus, evidenced by TIDE analysis (<https://tide.deskgen.com/>). All four cell clones were used for nuclear transfer to generate *SpCas9* expressing pigs. The cell clones carrying both an *APC<sup>1311</sup>* mutation and *SpCas9* expression have failed to generate a viable pig, while the clone 13, that only expresses *SpCas9* resulted in a viable Cas9 pig.

While the Cas9 expressing pig was being generated, a Cre-dependent *SpCas9* expressing pig was generated by a Chinese group (Wang et al, 2017) and proved that the Cas9 pig is a very powerful tool to generate porcine tumour models. They induced lung tumours by generating gRNAs targeting well known tumour suppressor genes including genes that were also targeted in this work *TP53*, *APC* and *PTEN*.

---

#### 4.5.2 Application of *APC<sup>1311</sup>/Cas9* pigs

The use of Cas9 pigs alone enable more accurate modelling of human diseases specifically for diseases such as cancer.

An *APC<sup>1311</sup>/Cas9* pig, that can be generated by breeding the *SpCas9* pig to the *APC<sup>1311</sup>* pig, will therefore enable a more accurate modelling of CRC and accelerate the carcinogenesis by sequential introduction of mutations into polyps *in vivo*. Such site specific introduction of mutations or knockouts in polyps can be achieved by *in vivo* electroporation and injection of the gRNA DNA sequences and single-stranded oligodeoxynucleotides (ssODNs) into the polyp. Once this will have led to full recapitulation of the human CRC carcinogenesis to an invasive carcinoma, the *APC<sup>1311</sup>/Cas9* pig can be used for testing gene therapy to stop or reverse the process of carcinogenesis. This could be done by tissue specific or global application for gRNAs with ssODNs to correct CRC-causative mutations. Tissue specific and global delivery of gRNAs is more challenging than site-specific administration, but can be accomplished by the use of adeno associated viral vectors (AAVs).

Successful gene therapy in disease models is aimed at the application in humans that could allow correction of oncogenic mutations such as spontaneous but also hereditary APC mutations (Cooney et al, 2016; Steines et al, 2016). The CRISPR/Cas9 is a potential tool for gene therapy. However, the problem of off-target cleavage of the widely used *Streptococcus pyogenes*-isolated Cas9 (*SpCas9*) remains a safety risk (Cradick et al, 2013; Frock et al, 2015; Fu et al, 2013; Hsu et al, 2013; Kim et al, 2015; Pattanayak et al, 2013; Tsai et al, 2015). To reduce these off-targets the *SpCas9* enzyme has been modified in their amino acid sequence rationally or randomly, resulting in novel versions of Cas9, *SpCas9*-HF1, *eSpCas9*(1.1), *HypaCas9* and *evoCas9* (Casini et al, 2018; Chen et al, 2017; Kleinstiver et al, 2016; Slaymaker et al, 2016). Comparison to the unmodified *SpCas9* showed that off-target activity was markedly reduced. Therefore, for gene therapy one of the optimised Cas9 enzymes are more likely to be used.

However, for gene therapy use in humans using the CRISPR/Cas9 system, not only the gRNA and ssODNs would need to be delivered but also the enzyme itself. AAVs can be utilised for this purpose, however, they have a limited capacity of 4.7 kb in wildtype AAVs and up to 6 kb for AAVs with only 2 capsid subunits (Grieger & Samulski, 2005). *SpCas9* and the modified versions of about 4000 bp are quite large, together with regulatory elements, gRNA and ssODN sequences breaching AAV capacity. Recent development of intein-mediated split-Cas9 and discovery of a smaller Cas9 orthologue isolated from *Campylobacter jejuni* (Kim et al, 2017; Truong et al, 2015), allow better AAV-mediated delivery. Therefore, the optimisation strategy of reducing off-target activity needs to be applied to these smaller versions and tested in animal models for diseases in order to make gene therapy a possibility.

## 5. Final remarks and outlook

This work has generated a vast amount of data and selected results require further validation and investigation.

Using Next generation RNA sequencing genes and miRNAs differentially expressed between *APC*<sup>1311</sup> pigs with severe polyposis or very few polyps were identified. These potential modifiers of polyposis severity *CYP7A1* and miR-215 and 194b that were validated using PCR-based methods require further analysis to determine their functions in polyposis severity. *In silico* analyses have revealed connection to the oestrogen signalling in both the results of mRNA and miRNA sequencing. However, the *CYP7A1* expressing cell compartment has to be identified via immunohistochemistry and its tumour promoting potential by increased bile acid production in the colon needs to be evidenced via bile acid analysis in the colon. The targets of miRNAs miR-215 and 194b need to be analysed *in vitro* and their contribution to polyposis promoting pathways need to be validated. The SNPs differentially distributed and expressed, also require further analysis elucidating their function on gene expression or miRNA expression and on cellular processes. Once, mechanisms are confirmed and better understood, these findings might be translatable to human CRC research, where the knowledge obtained may help screen patients for susceptibility factors and to provide susceptible patients with better preventive care.

The identification of genes and miRNAs differentially expressed between HG-IEN and LG-IEN by RNA sequencing in this work helped validate the potential of the porcine model to replicate molecular changes of human CRC and to identify novel drivers of CRC that mediate the progression from LG to HG-IEN. The data revealed that the change of immune cells in the stroma of IENs may mediate the progression. However closer immunological analyses including determination of the identity of the immune cells in LG and HG-IEN stroma by immunohistochemistry is vital for the understanding of this process. MiRNAs with higher expression in HG-IENs need to be analysed *in vitro* to identify their targets and their role in CRC progression. By RNA sequencing analysis of laser microdissected LG and HG-IEN, highlighted the influence of the tumour stroma and identified potential novel drivers of CRC such as *PLXND1* that was masked when hole polyps were analysed. Analysis of its migration and invasion-promoting properties require validation by *in vitro* migration assays.

The improvement of the *APC*<sup>1311</sup> pig by crossbreeding with the SpCas9 pig generated during the time span of this work, will allow better modelling of human CRC and FAP by sequential introduction of oncogenic mutations via administration of gRNA locally or with adeno associated viral vectors. But also it will help to better understand the disease progression and to identify which potential driver mutation are really essential for the progression to CRC.

## 6. List of abbreviations

---



---

%	percent
°C	degrees celsius
µg	micro gram
µl	micro litre
µm	micro meter
µM	micro molar
AHNAK	AHNAK nucleoprotein
AKT	AKT serine/threonine kinase
APC	adenomatous polyposis coli
APCDD1	APC down-regulated 1
APS	ammonium persulphate
ASCL2	achaete-scute family bHLH transcription factor 2
bcDNA	bisulphite converted DNA
BCL2	BCL2, Apoptosis Regulator
bp	base pair
CAG	chicken beta-actin promoter and cytomegalovirus enhancer element
CDK4	cyclin dependent kinase 4
CDK6	cyclin dependent kinase 6
cDNA	complementary DNA
CEBPB	ccaat/enhancer binding protein beta
CGI	CpG island
CIMP	CGI methylator phenotype
CIN	chromosomal instability
c-MYC	myelocytomatosis proto-oncogene
CRC	colorectal cancer
Cre	Cre recombinase
CRE	cis-regulatory element
CRISPR	clustered regularly interspaced short palindromic repeat
crRNA	CRISPR RNA
CTNNB1	β-catenin
CYP7A1	cytochrome P450 family 7 subfamily A member 1
DCC	deleted in colorectal carcinoma
ddNTP	dideoxyribonucleotide triphosphate
ddPCR	digital droplet PCR
DKK1	dickkopf WNT signaling pathway inhibitor
DMEM	dulbecco's modified eagle's medium
DMSO	dimethyl sulphoxide
DNA	deoxyribonucleic acid
dNTP	deoxyribonucleotide triphosphate
D-PBS	dulbecco's phosphate-buffered saline
dUTP	deoxyuridine triphosphate
DVL	dishevelled

---

---



---

ECM	extracellular matrix
EDTA	ethylene diamine tetracetic acid
EGF	epithelial growth factor
EGFR	epithelial growth factor receptor
EMT	extra cellular matrix
EtOH	ethanol
EZH2	enhancer of zeste 2 polycomb repressive complex 2 subunit
FAP	familial adenomatous polyposis
FCS	fetal calf serum
FIT	faecal immunochemical test
FLP	flipase
FOBT	faecal occult blood test
FZD	frizzled
g	gram
<i>g</i>	gravitational force
G418	geneticin
GABPA	GA binding protein transcription factor alpha
GAPDH	glyceraldehyde-3-phosphate dehydrogenase
gDNA	genomic DNA
GFP	green fluorescent protein
GLIS1	GLIS family zinc finger 1
gRNA	guide RNA
GSK3 $\beta$	glycogen synthase kinase 3 beta
h	hour
HR	homologous recombination
HRP	horse radish peroxidase
IL-7	interleukin 7
kb	kilo base
kDa	kilo Dalton
KRAS	Kirsten rat sarcoma viral oncogene homolog proto-oncogene
l	litre
LEF	lymphoid enhancer binding factor
LGR5	Leucine Rich Repeat Containing G Protein-Coupled Receptor 5
LSL	loxP-stop-loxP
MAPK	mitogen-activated protein kinase
MDM2	MDM2 proto-oncogene
MEK	mitogen-activated protein kinase kinase
min	minute
<i>Min</i>	multiple intestinal neoplasia
miRNA	microRNA
ml	millilitre
mM	millimolar
MMP	matrix metallo proteinase
MMR	mismatch repair
mRNA	messenger RNA

---



---



---

MSI	microsatellite instable
MSS	microsatellite stable
mTOR	mechanistic target of rapamycin kinase
neo	neomycin
ng	nanogram
NGS	next generation sequencing
NRAS	neuroblastoma ras oncogene
NT	nuclear transfer
P14	cyclin dependent kinase inhibitor 2A
P21	cyclin dependent kinase inhibitor 1A
pADMSCs	porcine adipose derived mesenchymal stem cells
PAM	protospacer adjacent motif
PCR	polymerase chain reaction
PDCD4	programmed cell death 4
PGK	phosphoglycerate kinase
PI3K	phosphoinositide 3-kinase
pKFs	porcine kidney fibroblast
PLXND1	plexin D1
pM	picomolar
PTEN	phosphatase and tensin homolog
qPCR	quantitative PCR
RECK	reversion inducing cysteine rich protein with kazal motifs
RISC	RNA-induced silencing complex
RNA	ribonucleic acid
RT-qPCR	quantitative reverse transcription PCR
RUNX3	runt related transcription factor 3
SATB1	SATB homeobox 1
SCNT	somatic cell nuclear transfer
SDS	sodium dodecyl sulphate
SDS-PAGE	sodium dodecyl sulphate polyacrylamide gel electrophoresis
sec	second
SFRP	secreted frizzled related protein
SIRT1	sirtuin 1
SNP	single-nucleotide polymorphism
ssODN	single-stranded oligodeoxynucleotide
STAT3	signal transducer and activator of transcription 3
TALEN	transcription activator-like effector nuclease
TCF	T-cell factor
TF	transcription factor
TGF $\beta$	transforming growth factor beta
TGF $\beta$ RI	transforming growth factor beta receptor 1
TGF $\beta$ RII	transforming growth factor beta receptor 2
TIMP3	TIMP metalloproteinase inhibitor 3
TP53	tumour protein p53
tracrRNA	transactivating crRNA

---

---

---

TSP-1	thrombospondin 1
uPAR	plasminogen activator, urokinase receptor
ZEB1/2	zinc finger E-box binding homeobox 1/2
ZFN	zinc finger nuclease

## 7. List of figures

<b>Figure 1</b> Display of the classic adenoma-carcinoma sequence incorporating mutations, aberrant methylation and miRNA dysregulation in the WNT, MAPK, PI3K, TGF $\beta$ and p53 pathway observed in CRC (Adapted from (Fearon, 2011; Shirafkan et al, 2018). Red crosses indicate loss of protein by loss of function mutations or CIN mediated loss of alleles. Red octamers with me mark reduced protein level caused by methylation-mediated gene silencing. Blue arrows indicate oncogenic mutations causing increased protein function or increased expression of miRNAs. Red arrows symbolise reduced miRNA expression.....	7
<b>Figure 2</b> A display of the inactive, active and WNT independent WNT pathway (Adapted from (Pennisi, 1998). APC, adenomatous polyposis coli; CTNNB1, $\beta$ -catenin; DVL, dishevelled; GSK3 $\beta$ , glycogen synthase kinase 3 $\beta$ .....	10
<b>Figure 3</b> A collection of the different methods applicable for the generation of genetically modified pigs (adapted from (Perleberg et al, 2018). .....	16
<b>Figure 4</b> The CRISPR/Cas9 system and its potential utilised for genome editing (adapted from (Perleberg et al, 2018). DSB, double strand break; dsDNA, double-stranded DNA; gRNA, guide RNA; PAM, protospacer adjacent motif; ssODN, single-stranded oligodeoxynucleotide. ....	17
<b>Figure 5</b> Differential expression validation of SFRP5, SATB1 and CYP7A1 using RT-qPCR with the primers SFRP5_ Ex2_ F1, SFRP5_ Ex3_ R1, SATB1_ Ex6_ F3, SATB1_ Ex7_ R3, Cyp7a1_ Ex5_ F1 and Cyp7a1_ Ex6_ R1-2.....	66
<b>Figure 6</b> Display of the allele-specific SNPs expressed differentially, plotted by p-value and chromosome.....	70
<b>Figure 7</b> Allele-specific expression of the SNP located in OAS1.....	70
<b>Figure 8</b> Ensembl genomic alignment of porcine CYP7A1 with human CYP7A1 (genome assemblies Sscrofa11.1 and GRCh38.p12) and depiction of CYP7A1 structure in colon mucosa of APC <sup>1311</sup> pigs ....	72
<b>Figure 9</b> Gel photographs of the 5' RACE and the RT-PCR from exon 4-9.....	73
<b>Figure 10</b> CGI methylation analysis of CGI1 and CGI2.....	75
<b>Figure 11</b> Display of the four transcription factors (TFs) with their binding sequence. ....	76
<b>Figure 12</b> Differential expression analysis of CYP7A1 in crypts and stroma using RT-qPCR. ....	77
<b>Figure 13</b> Differential expression analysis of miR-215, 194b, 27a-3p and 146a-5p in the sequenced samples using RT-qPCR.....	80
<b>Figure 14</b> Differential expression analysis of miR-215 and 194b in the sequenced and additional samples (A, B) and in the additional samples alone(C,D).....	81
<b>Figure 15</b> A) cluster analysis of the expression of the top 52 differentially expressed genes between HG-IEN and LG-IEN. B) cluster analysis of the expression of the top 20 differentially expressed genes between laser microdissected HG-IEN and LG-IEN crypts. ....	86
<b>Figure 16</b> Immunohistochemical staining of HG-IEN. ....	87
<b>Figure 17</b> Gene set enrichment analysis of the pathways up or downregulated in porcine whole and microdissected polyps compared to human T1 microsatellite stable polyps. ....	89
<b>Figure 18</b> Allele-specific expression of APC, analysed using raw sequencing data.....	89
<b>Figure 19</b> Allele-specific expression analysis of SLA2_1.0, MMP9, LMAN2 and CEACAM7 using pyrosequencing . ....	90
<b>Figure 20</b> RT-qPCR validation of the differentially expressed miRNAs selected.....	91
<b>Figure 21</b> Cloning strategy for the targeting vector GEMT-Rosa26-Neo-Cas9. ....	96
<b>Figure 22</b> Cloning strategy for targeting vector GEMT-Rosa26-Neo-Cas9-mTmG .....	96

<b>Figure 23</b> Targeting of the Rosa26 locus with the GEMT-Rosa26-Neo-Cas9 targeting vector .....	97
<b>Figure 24</b> Gel electrophoresis of the 5' screening PCR of Cas9-targeted clones. ....	98
<b>Figure 25</b> Gel picture of the 3'LR PCR of clones 89, 92 and 93. ....	98
<b>Figure 26</b> Southern Blot of the clones 89, 92, 93 and 13. ....	99
<b>Figure 27</b> Gel electrophoresis of RT PCR of the clones 89, 92 and 93. ....	100
<b>Figure 28</b> Cas9 expression analysis of the clones 89, 92 and 93 using RT-qPCR results. ....	100
<b>Figure 29</b> Western blot analysis of the clones 89, 92 and 93 visualising Cas9 and GAPDH. ....	101
<b>Figure 30</b> Cloning strategy of generating a reporter system for cleavage efficiency of Cas9-expressing cells. ....	102
<b>Figure 31</b> Fluorescence microscopy of the clones 89, 92 and 93 transfected with pX330-cCheck-TP53. ....	103
<b>Figure 32</b> Cloning strategy of the generation of a vector carrying only the TP53 gRNA sequence for transfection of Cas9 expressing cells. ....	103

## 8. List of tables

<b>Table 1</b> An overview of genetically modified porcine models of human cancers, the most promising and clinically relevant are marked with * (Perleberg et al, 2018). AAV, adeno-associated viral vector; MMTV, mouse mammary tumour virus; TALENs, transcription activator-like effector nucleases. ....	18
<b>Table 2</b> laboratory equipment. ....	21
<b>Table 3</b> Consumables. ....	23
<b>Table 4</b> Chemicals .....	24
<b>Table 5</b> Buffers and solutions .....	25
<b>Table 6</b> Buffers and solutions for Southern Blot .....	26
<b>Table 7</b> Buffers and solutions for Western Blot .....	26
<b>Table 8</b> Bacterial media .....	27
<b>Table 9</b> Solutions for tissue culture. ....	27
<b>Table 10</b> Media compositions .....	27
<b>Table 11</b> Kits. ....	28
<b>Table 12</b> Enzymes. ....	29
<b>Table 13</b> Primer list .....	29
<b>Table 15</b> CRISPR oligos .....	32
<b>Table 16</b> Multiple cloning site oligos .....	32
<b>Table 17</b> Plasmid list .....	33
<b>Table 18</b> List of primary antibodies .....	33
<b>Table 19</b> List of secondary antibodies * when two primary antibodies were used simultaneous .....	34
<b>Table 20</b> Electro competent cells .....	34
<b>Table 21</b> List of cultured mammalian cells .....	34
<b>Table 22</b> List of individual pigs analysed .....	34
<b>Table 23</b> Software .....	35
<b>Table 24</b> RT-qPCR reaction set up using Fast SYBR Green Master Mix .....	44
<b>Table 25</b> MiRNA RT-qPCR reaction set up using miScript SYBR Green PCR Kit .....	45
<b>Table 26</b> Fluorescence threshold values for Ct determination .....	45

---

<b>Table 28</b> Calculations for the molar adjustment of library pools for Illumina Sequencing of mRNA.....	48
<b>Table 29</b> Incubation conditions with high stringency buffer, dependent on target homology and GC content of the probe .....	50
<b>Table 30</b> Nucleofection conditions for different cell types.....	53
<b>Table 31</b> Concentration ranges for antibiotics when performing a killing curve experiment.....	54
<b>Table 32</b> optimal antibiotic concentrations for selection of different cell isolations .....	54
<b>Table 33</b> Preparation and composition of 0.75 mm SDS-polyacrylamide gels.....	56
<b>Table 34</b> Animals sequenced for analysis of modifier genes on mRNA level .....	62
<b>Table 35</b> Differential expression results table of pipeline 1 .....	64
<b>Table 36</b> Differential expression results table of pipeline 2 .....	65
<b>Table 37</b> Gene sets enriched in HP animals.....	67
<b>Table 38</b> Gene sets enriched in LP animals.....	68
<b>Table 39</b> The top 30 SNPs detected. ....	69
<b>Table 40</b> Animal samples sequenced for the analysis of modifier genes on miRNA level.....	78
<b>Table 41</b> Top 20 differentially expressed miRNAs .....	79
<b>Table 42</b> NormFinder analysis.....	80
<b>Table 43</b> In silico miRNA target analysis of differentially expressed miRNAs between HP and LP animals. ....	82
<b>Table 44</b> RT-qPCR validation results of genes differentially expressed between whole HG and LG-IEN. ....	87
<b>Table 45</b> RT-qPCR validation results of genes differentially expressed between laser microdissected HG and LG-IEN. ....	88
<b>Table 46</b> Selected differentially expressed miRNAs between LG and HG-IEN and HG-IEN and normal mucosa.....	91
<b>Table 47</b> In silico miRNA target analysis of differentially expressed miRNAs between HG and LG-IEN.....	92
<b>Table 48</b> Tide analysis results of wildtype cells transfected with Cas9 and gRNA targeting TP53, PTEN, APC and DCC. ....	101
<b>Table 49</b> Tide analysis of the clones 89, 92 and 93 transfected with pX330-cCheck-TP53. ....	102
<b>Table 50</b> Tide analysis of wildtype cells and cells from clone 92 transfected with vectors carrying a gRNA targeting TP53. ....	104

---

## 9. Bibliography

- Akao, Y., Nakagawa, Y. & Naoe, T. (2006) let-7 microRNA functions as a potential growth suppressor in human colon cancer cells. *Biol Pharm Bull*, 29(5), 903-6.
- Akao, Y., Noguchi, S., Iio, A., Kojima, K., Takagi, T. & Naoe, T. (2011) Dysregulation of microRNA-34a expression causes drug-resistance to 5-FU in human colon cancer DLD-1 cells. *Cancer Lett*, 300(2), 197-204.
- Akino, K., Toyota, M., Suzuki, H., Mita, H., Sasaki, Y., Ohe-Toyota, M., Issa, J. P., Hinoda, Y., Imai, K. & Tokino, T. (2005) The Ras effector RASSF2 is a novel tumor-suppressor gene in human colorectal cancer. *Gastroenterology*, 129(1), 156-69.
- Al-Sohaily, S., Henderson, C., Selinger, C., Pangon, L., Segelov, E., Kohonen-Corish, M. R. & Warusavitarne, J. (2014) Loss of special AT-rich sequence-binding protein 1 (SATB1) predicts poor survival in patients with colorectal cancer. *Histopathology*, 65(2), 155-63.
- Alberici, P. & Fodde, R. (2006) The role of the APC tumor suppressor in chromosomal instability. *Genome Dyn*, 1, 149-70.
- Albuquerque, C., Breukel, C., van der Luijt, R., Fidalgo, P., Lage, P., Slors, F. J., Leitao, C. N., Fodde, R. & Smits, R. (2002) The 'just-right' signaling model: APC somatic mutations are selected based on a specific level of activation of the beta-catenin signaling cascade. *Hum Mol Genet*, 11(13), 1549-60.
- Alvarez, J. V., Greulich, H., Sellers, W. R., Meyerson, M. & Frank, D. A. (2006) Signal transducer and activator of transcription 3 is required for the oncogenic effects of non-small-cell lung cancer-associated mutations of the epidermal growth factor receptor. *Cancer Res*, 66(6), 3162-8.
- Andersen, C. L., Jensen, J. L. & Orntoft, T. F. (2004) Normalization of real-time quantitative reverse transcription-PCR data: a model-based variance estimation approach to identify genes suited for normalization, applied to bladder and colon cancer data sets. *Cancer Res*, 64(15), 5245-50.
- Anderson, S. (1981) Shotgun DNA sequencing using cloned DNase I-generated fragments. *Nucleic Acids Res*, 9(13), 3015-27.
- Anwar, S. L., Wulaningsih, W. & Lehmann, U. (2017) Transposable Elements in Human Cancer: Causes and Consequences of Deregulation. *Int J Mol Sci*, 18(5).
- Article 47 of Directive 2010/63/EU (<http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=CELEX:32010L0063&from=EN>), retrieved 02.09.2018
- Baba, Y., Noshio, K., Shima, K., Freed, E., Irahara, N., Philips, J., Meyerhardt, J. A., Hornick, J. L., Shivdasani, R. A., Fuchs, C. S. & Ogino, S. (2009) Relationship of CDX2 loss with molecular features and prognosis in colorectal cancer. *Clin Cancer Res*, 15(14), 4665-73.
- Bahr, A. & Wolf, E. (2012) Domestic animal models for biomedical research. *Reprod Domest Anim*, 47 Suppl 4, 59-71.
- Bandres, E., Agirre, X., Bitarte, N., Ramirez, N., Zarate, R., Roman-Gomez, J., Prosper, F. & Garcia-Foncillas, J. (2009) Epigenetic regulation of microRNA expression in colorectal cancer. *Int J Cancer*, 125(11), 2737-43.
- Bandres, E., Cubedo, E., Agirre, X., Malumbres, R., Zarate, R., Ramirez, N., Abajo, A., Navarro, A., Moreno, I., Monzo, M. & Garcia-Foncillas, J. (2006) Identification by Real-time PCR of 13 mature microRNAs differentially expressed in colorectal cancer and non-tumoral tissues. *Mol Cancer*, 5, 29.
- Bannister, A. J. & Kouzarides, T. (2011) Regulation of chromatin by histone modifications. *Cell Res*, 21(3), 381-95.
- Bao, L. D., Li, C. Q., Peng, R., Ren, X. H., Ma, R. L., Wang, Y. & Lv, H. J. (2015) Correlation between the decrease of cholesterol efflux from macrophages in patients with type II diabetes mellitus and down-regulated CYP7A1 expression. *Genet Mol Res*, 14(3), 8716-24.

- 
- Barber, T. D., McManus, K., Yuen, K. W., Reis, M., Parmigiani, G., Shen, D., Barrett, I., Nouhi, Y., Spencer, F., Markowitz, S., Velculescu, V. E., Kinzler, K. W., Vogelstein, B., Lengauer, C. & Hieter, P. (2008) Chromatid cohesion defects may underlie chromosome instability in human colorectal cancers. *Proc Natl Acad Sci U S A*, 105(9), 3443-8.
- Barrangou, R., Fremaux, C., Deveau, H., Richards, M., Boyaval, P., Moineau, S., Romero, D. A. & Horvath, P. (2007) CRISPR provides acquired resistance against viruses in prokaryotes. *Science*, 315(5819), 1709-12.
- Behrens, J., von Kries, J. P., Kuhl, M., Bruhn, L., Wedlich, D., Grosschedl, R. & Birchmeier, W. (1996) Functional interaction of beta-catenin with the transcription factor LEF-1. *Nature*, 382(6592), 638-42.
- Beroud, C. & Soussi, T. (1996) APC gene: database of germline and somatic mutations in human tumors and cell lines. *Nucleic Acids Res*, 24(1), 121-4.
- Bettington, M., Walker, N., Clouston, A., Brown, I., Leggett, B. & Whitehall, V. (2013) The serrated pathway to colorectal carcinoma: current concepts and challenges. *Histopathology*, 62(3), 367-86.
- Black, J. C., Van Rechem, C. & Whetstine, J. R. (2012) Histone lysine methylation dynamics: establishment, regulation, and biological impact. *Mol Cell*, 48(4), 491-507.
- Blanc, R. S. & Richard, S. (2017) Arginine Methylation: The Coming of Age. *Mol Cell*, 65(1), 8-24.
- Bogdanove, A. J. & Voytas, D. F. (2011) TAL effectors: customizable proteins for DNA targeting. *Science*, 333(6051), 1843-6.
- Boon, E. M., van der Neut, R., van de Wetering, M., Clevers, H. & Pals, S. T. (2002) Wnt signaling regulates expression of the receptor tyrosine kinase met in colorectal cancer. *Cancer Res*, 62(18), 5126-8.
- Braun, C. J., Zhang, X., Savelyeva, I., Wolff, S., Moll, U. M., Schepeler, T., Orntoft, T. F., Andersen, C. L. & Dobbstein, M. (2008) p53-Responsive microRNAs 192 and 215 are capable of inducing cell cycle arrest. *Cancer Res*, 68(24), 10094-104.
- Bray, N. L., Pimentel, H., Melsted, P. & Pachter, L. (2016) Near-optimal probabilistic RNA-seq quantification. *Nat Biotechnol*, 34(5), 525-7.
- Brenner, H. & Tao, S. (2013) Superior diagnostic performance of faecal immunochemical tests for haemoglobin in a head-to-head comparison with guaiac based faecal occult blood test among 2235 participants of screening colonoscopy. *Eur J Cancer*, 49(14), 3049-54.
- Brinster, R. L., Braun, R. E., Lo, D., Avarbock, M. R., Oram, F. & Palmiter, R. D. (1989) Targeted correction of a major histocompatibility class II E alpha gene by DNA microinjected into mouse eggs. *Proc Natl Acad Sci U S A*, 86(18), 7087-91.
- Brocato, J. & Costa, M. (2015) SATB1 and 2 in colorectal cancer. *Carcinogenesis*, 36(2), 186-91.
- Broderick, P., Carvajal-Carmona, L., Pittman, A. M., Webb, E., Howarth, K., Rowan, A., Lubbe, S., Spain, S., Sullivan, K., Fielding, S., Jaeger, E., Vijayakrishnan, J., Kemp, Z., Gorman, M., Chandler, I., Papaemmanuil, E., Penegar, S., Wood, W., Sellick, G., Qureshi, M., Teixeira, A., Domingo, E., Barclay, E., Martin, L., Sieber, O., Consortium, C., Kerr, D., Gray, R., Peto, J., Cazier, J. B., Tomlinson, I. & Houlston, R. S. (2007) A genome-wide association study shows that common alleles of SMAD7 influence colorectal cancer risk. *Nat Genet*, 39(11), 1315-7.
- Caiazza, F., Ryan, E. J., Doherty, G., Winter, D. C. & Sheahan, K. (2015) Estrogen receptors and their implications in colorectal carcinogenesis. *Front Oncol*, 5, 19.
- Calin, G. A., Sevignani, C., Dumitru, C. D., Hyslop, T., Noch, E., Yendamuri, S., Shimizu, M., Rattan, S., Bullrich, F., Negrini, M. & Croce, C. M. (2004) Human microRNA genes are frequently located at fragile sites and genomic regions involved in cancers. *Proc Natl Acad Sci U S A*, 101(9), 2999-3004.
- Callesen, H., Liu, Y., Pedersen, H. S., Li, R. & Schmidt, M. (2014) Increasing efficiency in production of cloned piglets. *Cell Reprogram*, 16(6), 407-10.
-

- 
- Canard, B. & Sarfati, R. S. (1994) DNA polymerase fluorescent substrates with reversible 3'-tags. *Gene*, 148(1), 1-6.
- Cancer Genome Atlas, N. (2012) Comprehensive molecular characterization of human colon and rectal cancer. *Nature*, 487(7407), 330-7.
- Capecchi, M. R. (1989) Altering the genome by homologous recombination. *Science*, 244(4910), 1288-92.
- Carlson, D. F., Tan, W., Lillico, S. G., Stverakova, D., Proudfoot, C., Christian, M., Voytas, D. F., Long, C. R., Whitelaw, C. B. & Fahrenkrug, S. C. (2012) Efficient TALEN-mediated gene knockout in livestock. *Proc Natl Acad Sci U S A*, 109(43), 17382-7.
- Cartharius, K., Frech, K., Grote, K., Klocke, B., Haltmeier, M., Klingenhoff, A., Frisch, M., Bayerlein, M. & Werner, T. (2005) MatInspector and beyond: promoter analysis based on transcription factor binding sites. *Bioinformatics*, 21(13), 2933-42.
- Casazza, A., Finisguerra, V., Capparuccia, L., Camperi, A., Swiercz, J. M., Rizzolio, S., Rolny, C., Christensen, C., Bertotti, A., Sarotto, I., Risio, M., Trusolino, L., Weitz, J., Schneider, M., Mazzone, M., Comoglio, P. M. & Tamagnone, L. (2010) Sema3E-Plexin D1 signaling drives human cancer cell invasiveness and metastatic spreading in mice. *J Clin Invest*, 120(8), 2684-98.
- Casini, A., Olivieri, M., Petris, G., Montagna, C., Reginato, G., Maule, G., Lorenzin, F., Prandi, D., Romanel, A., Demichelis, F., Inga, A. & Cereseto, A. (2018) A highly specific SpCas9 variant is identified by in vivo screening in yeast. *Nat Biotechnol*, 36(3), 265-271.
- Cassinotti, E., Boni, L., Segato, S., Rausei, S., Marzorati, A., Rovera, F., Dionigi, G., David, G., Mangano, A., Sambucci, D. & Dionigi, R. (2013) Free circulating DNA as a biomarker of colorectal cancer. *Int J Surg*, 11 Suppl 1, S54-7.
- Cekaite, L., Eide, P. W., Lind, G. E., Skotheim, R. I. & Lothe, R. A. (2016) MicroRNAs as growth regulators, their function and biomarker status in colorectal cancer. *Oncotarget*, 7(6), 6476-505.
- Chang, C. C., Chow, C. C., Tellier, L. C., Vattikuti, S., Purcell, S. M. & Lee, J. J. (2015) Second-generation PLINK: rising to the challenge of larger and richer datasets. *Gigascience*, 4, 7.
- Chang, K. H., Mestdagh, P., Vandesompele, J., Kerin, M. J. & Miller, N. (2010) MicroRNA expression profiling to identify and validate reference genes for relative quantification in colorectal cancer. *BMC Cancer*, 10, 173.
- Chen, J. S., Dagdas, Y. S., Kleinstiver, B. P., Welch, M. M., Sousa, A. A., Harrington, L. B., Sternberg, S. H., Joung, J. K., Yildiz, A. & Doudna, J. A. (2017) Enhanced proofreading governs CRISPR-Cas9 targeting accuracy. *Nature*, 550(7676), 407-410.
- Chen, L., Li, L., Pang, D., Li, Z., Wang, T., Zhang, M., Song, N., Yan, S., Lai, L. X. & Ouyang, H. (2010) Construction of transgenic swine with induced expression of Cre recombinase. *Animal*, 4(5), 767-71.
- Chen, W. Y., Zhao, X. J., Yu, Z. F., Hu, F. L., Liu, Y. P., Cui, B. B., Dong, X. S. & Zhao, Y. S. (2015) The potential of plasma miRNAs for diagnosis and risk estimation of colorectal cancer. *Int J Clin Exp Pathol*, 8(6), 7092-101.
- Chen, X., Guo, X., Zhang, H., Xiang, Y., Chen, J., Yin, Y., Cai, X., Wang, K., Wang, G., Ba, Y., Zhu, L., Wang, J., Yang, R., Zhang, Y., Ren, Z., Zen, K., Zhang, J. & Zhang, C. Y. (2009) Role of miR-143 targeting KRAS in colorectal tumorigenesis. *Oncogene*, 28(10), 1385-92.
- Chiang, Y., Song, Y., Wang, Z., Liu, Z., Gao, P., Liang, J., Zhu, J., Xing, C. & Xu, H. (2012) microRNA-192, -194 and -215 are frequently downregulated in colorectal cancer. *Exp Ther Med*, 3(3), 560-566.
- Cho, S. W., Kim, S., Kim, Y., Kweon, J., Kim, H. S., Bae, S. & Kim, J. S. (2013) Analysis of off-target effects of CRISPR/Cas-derived RNA-guided endonucleases and nickases. *Genome Res*.
- Cho, S. W., Kim, S., Kim, Y., Kweon, J., Kim, H. S., Bae, S. & Kim, J. S. (2014) Analysis of off-target effects of CRISPR/Cas-derived RNA-guided endonucleases and nickases. *Genome Res*, 24(1), 132-41.
-



- 
- Chu, V. T., Weber, T., Graf, R., Sommermann, T., Petsch, K., Sack, U., Volchkov, P., Rajewsky, K. & Kuhn, R. (2016) Efficient generation of Rosa26 knock-in mice using CRISPR/Cas9 in C57BL/6 zygotes. *BMC Biotechnol*, 16, 4.
- Clark, K. J., Carlson, D. F., Foster, L. K., Kong, B. W., Foster, D. N. & Fahrenkrug, S. C. (2007) Enzymatic engineering of the porcine genome with transposons and recombinases. *BMC Biotechnol*, 7, 42.
- Cloonan, N., Wani, S., Xu, Q., Gu, J., Lea, K., Heater, S., Barbacioru, C., Steptoe, A. L., Martin, H. C., Nourbakhsh, E., Krishnan, K., Gardiner, B., Wang, X., Nones, K., Steen, J. A., Matigian, N. A., Wood, D. L., Kassahn, K. S., Waddell, N., Shepherd, J., Lee, C., Ichikawa, J., McKernan, K., Bramlett, K., Kuersten, S. & Grimmond, S. M. (2011) MicroRNAs and their isomiRs function cooperatively to target common biological pathways. *Genome Biol*, 12(12), R126.
- Cock, P. J., Chilton, J. M., Gruning, B., Johnson, J. E. & Soranzo, N. (2015) NCBI BLAST+ integrated into Galaxy. *Gigascience*, 4, 39.
- Cong, L., Ran, F. A., Cox, D., Lin, S., Barretto, R., Habib, N., Hsu, P. D., Wu, X., Jiang, W., Marraffini, L. A. & Zhang, F. (2013) Multiplex genome engineering using CRISPR/Cas systems. *Science*, 339(6121), 819-23.
- Cooney, A. L., Abou Alaiwa, M. H., Shah, V. S., Bouzek, D. C., Stroik, M. R., Powers, L. S., Gansemer, N. D., Meyerholz, D. K., Welsh, M. J., Stoltz, D. A., Sinn, P. L. & McCray, P. B., Jr. (2016) Lentiviral-mediated phenotypic correction of cystic fibrosis pigs. *JCI Insight*, 1(14).
- Cortellino, S., Xu, J., Sannai, M., Moore, R., Caretti, E., Cigliano, A., Le Coz, M., Devarajan, K., Wessels, A., Soprano, D., Abramowitz, L. K., Bartolomei, M. S., Rambow, F., Bassi, M. R., Bruno, T., Fanciulli, M., Renner, C., Klein-Szanto, A. J., Matsumoto, Y., Kobi, D., Davidson, I., Alberti, C., Larue, L. & Bellacosa, A. (2011) Thymine DNA glycosylase is essential for active DNA demethylation by linked deamination-base excision repair. *Cell*, 146(1), 67-79.
- Costa-Silva, J., Domingues, D. & Lopes, F. M. (2017) RNA-Seq differential expression analysis: An extended review and a software tool. *PLoS One*, 12(12), e0190152.
- Crabtree, M. D., Tomlinson, I. P., Hodgson, S. V., Neale, K., Phillips, R. K. & Houlston, R. S. (2002) Explaining variation in familial adenomatous polyposis: relationship between genotype and phenotype and evidence for modifier genes. *Gut*, 51(3), 420-3.
- Crabtree, M. D., Tomlinson, I. P., Talbot, I. C. & Phillips, R. K. (2001) Variability in the severity of colonic disease in familial adenomatous polyposis results from differences in tumour initiation rather than progression and depends relatively little on patient age. *Gut*, 49(4), 540-3.
- Cradick, T. J., Fine, E. J., Antico, C. J. & Bao, G. (2013) CRISPR/Cas9 systems targeting beta-globin and CCR5 genes have substantial off-target activity. *Nucleic Acids Res*, 41(20), 9584-92.
- Criscione, S. W., Zhang, Y., Thompson, W., Sedivy, J. M. & Neretti, N. (2014) Transcriptional landscape of repetitive elements in normal and cancer human cells. *BMC Genomics*, 15, 583.
- Croner, R. S., Brueckl, W. M., Reingruber, B., Hohenberger, W. & Guenther, K. (2005) Age and manifestation related symptoms in familial adenomatous polyposis. *BMC Cancer*, 5, 24.
- Dai, Y., Vaught, T. D., Boone, J., Chen, S. H., Phelps, C. J., Ball, S., Monahan, J. A., Jobst, P. M., McCreath, K. J., Lamborn, A. E., Cowell-Lucero, J. L., Wells, K. D., Colman, A., Polejaeva, I. A. & Ayares, D. L. (2002) Targeted disruption of the alpha1,3-galactosyltransferase gene in cloned pigs. *Nat Biotechnol*, 20(3), 251-5.
- Daskalos, A., Nikolaidis, G., Xinarianos, G., Savvari, P., Cassidy, A., Zakopoulou, R., Kotsinas, A., Gorgoulis, V., Field, J. K. & Liloglou, T. (2009) Hypomethylation of retrotransposable elements correlates with genomic instability in non-small cell lung cancer. *Int J Cancer*, 124(1), 81-7.
- Dawson, M. A. & Kouzarides, T. (2012) Cancer epigenetics: from mechanism to therapy. *Cell*, 150(1), 12-27.
- de la Chapelle, A. & Hampel, H. (2010) Clinical relevance of microsatellite instability in colorectal cancer. *J Clin Oncol*, 28(20), 3380-7.
-

- de Sousa, E. M. F., Colak, S., Buikhuisen, J., Koster, J., Cameron, K., de Jong, J. H., Tuynman, J. B., Prasetyanti, P. R., Fessler, E., van den Bergh, S. P., Rodermond, H., Dekker, E., van der Loos, C. M., Pals, S. T., van de Vijver, M. J., Versteeg, R., Richel, D. J., Vermeulen, L. & Medema, J. P. (2011) Methylation of cancer-stem-cell-associated Wnt target genes predicts poor prognosis in colorectal cancer patients. *Cell Stem Cell*, 9(5), 476-85.
- Deaton, A. M. & Bird, A. (2011) CpG islands and the regulation of transcription. *Genes Dev*, 25(10), 1010-22.
- Debinski, H. S., Love, S., Spigelman, A. D. & Phillips, R. K. (1996) Colorectal polyp counts and cancer risk in familial adenomatous polyposis. *Gastroenterology*, 110(4), 1028-30.
- Deng, G., Chen, A., Hong, J., Chae, H. S. & Kim, Y. S. (1999) Methylation of CpG in a small region of the hMLH1 promoter invariably correlates with the absence of gene expression. *Cancer Res*, 59(9), 2029-33.
- DePristo, M. A., Banks, E., Poplin, R., Garimella, K. V., Maguire, J. R., Hartl, C., Philippakis, A. A., del Angel, G., Rivas, M. A., Hanna, M., McKenna, A., Fennell, T. J., Kernytsky, A. M., Sivachenko, A. Y., Cibulskis, K., Gabriel, S. B., Altshuler, D. & Daly, M. J. (2011) A framework for variation discovery and genotyping using next-generation DNA sequencing data. *Nat Genet*, 43(5), 491-8.
- Dobin, A., Davis, C. A., Schlesinger, F., Drenkow, J., Zaleski, C., Jha, S., Batut, P., Chaisson, M. & Gingeras, T. R. (2013) STAR: ultrafast universal RNA-seq aligner. *Bioinformatics*, 29(1), 15-21.
- Du, W., Hong, J., Wang, Y. C., Zhang, Y. J., Wang, P., Su, W. Y., Lin, Y. W., Lu, R., Zou, W. P., Xiong, H. & Fang, J. Y. (2012) Inhibition of JAK2/STAT3 signalling induces colorectal cancer cell apoptosis via mitochondrial pathway. *J Cell Mol Med*, 16(8), 1878-88.
- Dunlop, M. G., Dobbins, S. E., Farrington, S. M., Jones, A. M., Palles, C., Whiffin, N., Tenesa, A., Spain, S., Broderick, P., Ooi, L. Y., Domingo, E., Smillie, C., Henrion, M., Frampton, M., Martin, L., Grimes, G., Gorman, M., Semple, C., Ma, Y. P., Barclay, E., Prendergast, J., Cazier, J. B., Olver, B., Penegar, S., Lubbe, S., Chander, I., Carvajal-Carmona, L. G., Ballereau, S., Lloyd, A., Vijayakrishnan, J., Zgaga, L., Rudan, I., Theodoratou, E., Colorectal Tumour Gene Identification, C., Starr, J. M., Deary, I., Kirac, I., Kovacevic, D., Aaltonen, L. A., Renkonen-Sinisalo, L., Mecklin, J. P., Matsuda, K., Nakamura, Y., Okada, Y., Gallinger, S., Duggan, D. J., Conti, D., Newcomb, P., Hopper, J., Jenkins, M. A., Schumacher, F., Casey, G., Easton, D., Shah, M., Pharoah, P., Lindblom, A., Liu, T., Swedish Low-Risk Colorectal Cancer Study, G., Smith, C. G., West, H., Cheadle, J. P., Group, C. C., Midgley, R., Kerr, D. J., Campbell, H., Tomlinson, I. P. & Houlston, R. S. (2012) Common variation near CDKN1A, POLD3 and SHROOM2 influences colorectal cancer risk. *Nat Genet*, 44(7), 770-6.
- Duval, A. & Hamelin, R. (2002) Mutations at Coding Repeat Sequences in Mismatch Repair-deficient Human Cancers. *Toward a New Concept of Target Genes for Instability*, 62(9), 2447-2454.
- Dziki, L., Pula, A., Stawiski, K., Mudza, B., Wlodarczyk, M. & Dziki, A. (2015) Patients' Awareness Of The Prevention And Treatment Of Colorectal Cancer. *Pol Przegl Chir*, 87(9), 459-63.
- Earle, J. S., Luthra, R., Romans, A., Abraham, R., Ensor, J., Yao, H. & Hamilton, S. R. (2010) Association of microRNA expression with microsatellite instability status in colorectal adenocarcinoma. *J Mol Diagn*, 12(4), 433-40.
- Easow, G., Teleman, A. A. & Cohen, S. M. (2007) Isolation of microRNA targets by miRNP immunopurification. *RNA*, 13(8), 1198-204.
- Edwards, A., Voss, H., Rice, P., Civitello, A., Stegemann, J., Schwager, C., Zimmermann, J., Erfle, H., Caskey, C. T. & Ansorge, W. (1990) Automated DNA sequencing of the human HPRT locus. *Genomics*, 6(4), 593-608.
- Estecio, M. R., Gharibyan, V., Shen, L., Ibrahim, A. E., Doshi, K., He, R., Jelinek, J., Yang, A. S., Yan, P. S., Huang, T. H., Tajara, E. H. & Issa, J. P. (2007) LINE-1 hypomethylation in cancer is highly variable and inversely correlated with microsatellite instability. *PLoS One*, 2(5), e399.

- 
- Esteller, M., Hamilton, S. R., Burger, P. C., Baylin, S. B. & Herman, J. G. (1999) Inactivation of the DNA repair gene O6-methylguanine-DNA methyltransferase by promoter hypermethylation is a common event in primary human neoplasia. *Cancer Res*, 59(4), 793-7.
- Esteller, M., Sparks, A., Toyota, M., Sanchez-Cespedes, M., Capella, G., Peinado, M. A., Gonzalez, S., Tarafa, G., Sidransky, D., Meltzer, S. J., Baylin, S. B. & Herman, J. G. (2000) Analysis of adenomatous polyposis coli promoter hypermethylation in human cancer. *Cancer Res*, 60(16), 4366-71.
- Evans, M. J. & Kaufman, M. H. (1981) Establishment in culture of pluripotential cells from mouse embryos. *Nature*, 292(5819), 154-6.
- Ewing, B. & Green, P. (1998) Base-calling of automated sequencer traces using phred. II. Error probabilities. *Genome Res*, 8(3), 186-94.
- Ewing, B., Hillier, L., Wendl, M. C. & Green, P. (1998) Base-calling of automated sequencer traces using phred. I. Accuracy assessment. *Genome Res*, 8(3), 175-85.
- Fabian, M. R., Sonenberg, N. & Filipowicz, W. (2010) Regulation of mRNA translation and stability by microRNAs. *Annu Rev Biochem*, 79, 351-79.
- Fagotto, F., Jho, E., Zeng, L., Kurth, T., Joos, T., Kaufmann, C. & Costantini, F. (1999) Domains of axin involved in protein-protein interactions, Wnt pathway inhibition, and intracellular localization. *J Cell Biol*, 145(4), 741-56.
- Fan, D., Lin, X., Zhang, F., Zhong, W., Hu, J., Chen, Y., Cai, Z., Zou, Y., He, X., Chen, X., Lan, P. & Wu, X. (2018) MicroRNA 26b promotes colorectal cancer metastasis by downregulating phosphatase and tensin homolog and wntless-type MMTV integration site family member 5A. *Cancer Sci*, 109(2), 354-362.
- Fearnhead, N. S., Britton, M. P. & Bodmer, W. F. (2001) The ABC of APC. *Hum Mol Genet*, 10(7), 721-33.
- Fearon, E. R. (2011) Molecular genetics of colorectal cancer. *Annu Rev Pathol*, 6, 479-507.
- Fearon, E. R. & Vogelstein, B. (1990) A genetic model for colorectal tumorigenesis. *Cell*, 61(5), 759-67.
- Feinberg, A. P. & Vogelstein, B. (1983a) Hypomethylation distinguishes genes of some human cancers from their normal counterparts. *Nature*, 301(5895), 89-92.
- Feinberg, A. P. & Vogelstein, B. (1983b) Hypomethylation of ras oncogenes in primary human cancers. *Biochem Biophys Res Commun*, 111(1), 47-54.
- Feng, B., Dong, T. T., Wang, L. L., Zhou, H. M., Zhao, H. C., Dong, F. & Zheng, M. H. (2012) Colorectal cancer migration and invasion initiated by microRNA-106a. *PLoS One*, 7(8), e43452.
- Ferlay, J., Shin, H. R., Bray, F., Forman, D., Mathers, C. & Parkin, D. M. (2010) Estimates of worldwide burden of cancer in 2008: GLOBOCAN 2008. *Int J Cancer*, 127(12), 2893-917.
- Ferlay, J., Soerjomataram, I., Dikshit, R., Eser, S., Mathers, C., Rebelo, M., Parkin, D. M., Forman, D. & Bray, F. (2015) Cancer incidence and mortality worldwide: sources, methods and major patterns in GLOBOCAN 2012. *Int J Cancer*, 136(5), E359-86.
- Fernandes, M. S., Carneiro, F., Oliveira, C. & Seruca, R. (2013) Colorectal cancer and RASSF family--a special emphasis on RASSF1A. *Int J Cancer*, 132(2), 251-8.
- Fernandez-Rozadilla, C., Cazier, J. B., Tomlinson, I., Brea-Fernandez, A., Lamas, M. J., Baiget, M., Lopez-Fernandez, L. A., Clofent, J., Bujanda, L., Gonzalez, D., de Castro, L., Consortium, E., Hemminki, K., Bessa, X., Andreu, M., Jover, R., Xicola, R., Llor, X., Moreno, V., Castells, A., Castellvi-Bel, S., Carracedo, A. & Ruiz-Ponte, C. (2014) A genome-wide association study on copy-number variation identifies a 11q11 loss as a candidate susceptibility variant for colorectal cancer. *Hum Genet*, 133(5), 525-34.
- Flisikowska, T., Merkl, C., Landmann, M., Eser, S., Rezaei, N., Cui, X., Kurome, M., Zakhartchenko, V., Kessler, B., Wieland, H., Rottmann, O., Schmid, R. M., Schneider, G., Kind, A., Wolf, E., Saur, D. &

- 
- Schnieke, A. (2012) A porcine model of familial adenomatous polyposis. *Gastroenterology*, 143(5), 1173-5 e1-7.
- Flisikowska, T., Stachowiak, M., Xu, H., Wagner, A., Hernandez-Caceres, A., Wurmser, C., Perleberg, C., Pausch, H., Perkowska, A., Fischer, K., Frishman, D., Fries, R., Switonski, M., Kind, A., Saur, D., Schnieke, A. & Flisikowski, K. (2017) Porcine familial adenomatous polyposis model enables systematic analysis of early events in adenoma progression. *Sci Rep*, 7(1), 6613.
- Fodde, R. & Smits, R. (2001) Disease model: familial adenomatous polyposis. *Trends Mol Med*, 7(8), 369-73.
- Fodde, R., Smits, R. & Clevers, H. (2001) APC, signal transduction and genetic instability in colorectal cancer. *Nat Rev Cancer*, 1(1), 55-67.
- Font, J. & Mackay, J. P. (2010) Beyond DNA: zinc finger domains as RNA-binding modules. *Methods Mol Biol*, 649, 479-91.
- Freeman, T. C., Ivens, A., Baillie, J. K., Beraldi, D., Barnett, M. W., Dorward, D., Downing, A., Fairbairn, L., Kapetanovic, R., Raza, S., Tomoiu, A., Alberio, R., Wu, C., Su, A. I., Summers, K. M., Tuggle, C. K., Archibald, A. L. & Hume, D. A. (2012) A gene expression atlas of the domestic pig. *BMC Biol*, 10, 90.
- Friedel, R. H., Plump, A., Lu, X., Spilker, K., Jolicoeur, C., Wong, K., Venkatesh, T. R., Yaron, A., Hynes, M., Chen, B., Okada, A., McConnell, S. K., Rayburn, H. & Tessier-Lavigne, M. (2005) Gene targeting using a promoterless gene trap vector ("targeted trapping") is an efficient method to mutate a large fraction of genes. *Proc Natl Acad Sci U S A*, 102(37), 13188-93.
- Friedrich, G. & Soriano, P. (1991) Promoter traps in embryonic stem cells: a genetic screen to identify and mutate developmental genes in mice. *Genes Dev*, 5(9), 1513-23.
- Frock, R. L., Hu, J., Meyers, R. M., Ho, Y. J., Kii, E. & Alt, F. W. (2015) Genome-wide detection of DNA double-stranded breaks induced by engineered nucleases. *Nat Biotechnol*, 33(2), 179-86.
- Fu, Y., Foden, J. A., Khayter, C., Maeder, M. L., Reyon, D., Joung, J. K. & Sander, J. D. (2013) High-frequency off-target mutagenesis induced by CRISPR-Cas nucleases in human cells. *Nat Biotechnol*.
- Fu, Y., Sander, J. D., Reyon, D., Cascio, V. M. & Joung, J. K. (2014) Improving CRISPR-Cas nuclease specificity using truncated guide RNAs. *Nat Biotechnol*, 32(3), 279-84.
- Gabriel, R., Lombardo, A., Arens, A., Miller, J. C., Genovese, P., Kaepffel, C., Nowrouzi, A., Bartholomae, C. C., Wang, J., Friedman, G., Holmes, M. C., Gregory, P. D., Glimm, H., Schmidt, M., Naldini, L. & von Kalle, C. (2011) An unbiased genome-wide analysis of zinc-finger nuclease specificity. *Nat Biotechnol*, 29(9), 816-23.
- Gadaleta, R. M., Garcia-Irigoyen, O. & Moschetta, A. (2017) Bile acids and colon cancer: Is FXR the solution of the conundrum? *Mol Aspects Med*, 56, 66-74.
- Gama-Sosa, M. A., Slagel, V. A., Trewyn, R. W., Oxenhandler, R., Kuo, K. C., Gehrke, C. W. & Ehrlich, M. (1983) The 5-methylcytosine content of DNA from human tumors. *Nucleic Acids Res*, 11(19), 6883-94.
- Gardner, R. C., Howarth, A. J., Hahn, P., Brown-Luedi, M., Shepherd, R. J. & Messing, J. (1981) The complete nucleotide sequence of an infectious clone of cauliflower mosaic virus by M13mp7 shotgun sequencing. *Nucleic Acids Res*, 9(12), 2871-88.
- Garneau, J. E., Dupuis, M. E., Villion, M., Romero, D. A., Barrangou, R., Boyaval, P., Fremaux, C., Horvath, P., Magadan, A. H. & Moineau, S. (2010) The CRISPR/Cas bacterial immune system cleaves bacteriophage and plasmid DNA. *Nature*, 468(7320), 67-71.
- Garnett, M. J., Edelman, E. J., Heidorn, S. J., Greenman, C. D., Dastur, A., Lau, K. W., Greninger, P., Thompson, I. R., Luo, X., Soares, J., Liu, Q., Iorio, F., Surdez, D., Chen, L., Milano, R. J., Bignell, G. R., Tam, A. T., Davies, H., Stevenson, J. A., Barthorpe, S., Lutz, S. R., Kogera, F., Lawrence, K., McLaren-Douglas, A., Mitropoulos, X., Mironenko, T., Thi, H., Richardson, L., Zhou, W., Jewitt, F., Zhang, T., O'Brien, P., Boisvert, J. L., Price, S., Hur, W., Yang, W., Deng, X., Butler, A., Choi, H. G., Chang, J. W., Baselga, J., Stamenkovic, I., Engelman, J. A., Sharma, S. V., Delattre, O., Saez-Rodriguez, J., Gray, N. S.,

- 
- Settleman, J., Futreal, P. A., Haber, D. A., Stratton, M. R., Ramaswamy, S., McDermott, U. & Benes, C. H. (2012) Systematic identification of genomic markers of drug sensitivity in cancer cells. *Nature*, 483(7391), 570-5.
- Garofalo, M., Di Leva, G., Romano, G., Nuovo, G., Suh, S. S., Ngankeu, A., Taccioli, C., Pichiorri, F., Alder, H., Secchiero, P., Gasparini, P., Gonelli, A., Costinean, S., Acunzo, M., Condorelli, G. & Croce, C. M. (2009) miR-221&222 regulate TRAIL resistance and enhance tumorigenicity through PTEN and TIMP3 downregulation. *Cancer Cell*, 16(6), 498-509.
- Garrels, W., Mates, L., Holler, S., Dalda, A., Taylor, U., Petersen, B., Niemann, H., Izsvak, Z., Ivics, Z. & Kues, W. A. (2011) Germline transgenic pigs by Sleeping Beauty transposition in porcine zygotes and targeted integration in the pig genome. *PLoS One*, 6(8), e23573.
- Ghorbanoghli, Z., Nieuwenhuis, M. H., Houwing-Duistermaat, J. J., Jagmohan-Changur, S., Hes, F. J., Tops, C. M., Wagner, A., Aalfs, C. M., Verhoef, S., Gomez Garcia, E. B., Sijmons, R. H., Menko, F. H., Letteboer, T. G., Hoogerbrugge, N., van Wezel, T., Vasen, H. F. & Wijnen, J. T. (2016) Colorectal cancer risk variants at 8q23.3 and 11q23.1 are associated with disease phenotype in APC mutation carriers. *Fam Cancer*, 15(4), 563-70.
- Goel, A., Arnold, C. N., Niedzwiecki, D., Carethers, J. M., Dowell, J. M., Wasserman, L., Compton, C., Mayer, R. J., Bertagnoli, M. M. & Boland, C. R. (2004) Frequent inactivation of PTEN by promoter hypermethylation in microsatellite instability-high sporadic colorectal cancers. *Cancer Res*, 64(9), 3014-21.
- Gordon, D., Abajian, C. & Green, P. (1998) Consed: a graphical tool for sequence finishing. *Genome Res*, 8(3), 195-202.
- Grady, W. M. (2004) Genomic instability and colon cancer. *Cancer Metastasis Rev*, 23(1-2), 11-27.
- Grady, W. M., Myeroff, L. L., Swinler, S. E., Rajput, A., Thiagalingam, S., Lutterbaugh, J. D., Neumann, A., Brattain, M. G., Chang, J., Kim, S. J., Kinzler, K. W., Vogelstein, B., Willson, J. K. & Markowitz, S. (1999) Mutational inactivation of transforming growth factor beta receptor type II in microsatellite stable colon cancers. *Cancer Res*, 59(2), 320-4.
- Gregory, P. A., Bert, A. G., Paterson, E. L., Barry, S. C., Tsykin, A., Farshid, G., Vadas, M. A., Khew-Goodall, Y. & Goodall, G. J. (2008) The miR-200 family and miR-205 regulate epithelial to mesenchymal transition by targeting ZEB1 and SIP1. *Nat Cell Biol*, 10(5), 593-601.
- Grieger, J. C. & Samulski, R. J. (2005) Packaging capacity of adeno-associated virus serotypes: impact of larger genomes on infectivity and postentry steps. *J Virol*, 79(15), 9933-44.
- Guanti, G., Resta, N., Simone, C., Cariola, F., Demma, I., Fiorente, P. & Gentile, M. (2000) Involvement of PTEN mutations in the genetic pathways of colorectal cancerogenesis. *Hum Mol Genet*, 9(2), 283-7.
- Guinney, J., Dienstmann, R., Wang, X., de Reynies, A., Schlicker, A., Sonesson, C., Marisa, L., Roepman, P., Nyamundanda, G., Angelino, P., Bot, B. M., Morris, J. S., Simon, I. M., Gerster, S., Fessler, E., De Sousa, E. M. F., Missiaglia, E., Ramay, H., Barras, D., Homicsko, K., Maru, D., Manyam, G. C., Broom, B., Boige, V., Perez-Villamil, B., Laderas, T., Salazar, R., Gray, J. W., Hanahan, D., Tabernero, J., Bernards, R., Friend, S. H., Laurent-Puig, P., Medema, J. P., Sadanandam, A., Wessels, L., Delorenzi, M., Kopetz, S., Vermeulen, L. & Tejpar, S. (2015) The consensus molecular subtypes of colorectal cancer. *Nat Med*, 21(11), 1350-6.
- Guo, C., Sah, J. F., Beard, L., Willson, J. K., Markowitz, S. D. & Guda, K. (2008) The noncoding RNA, miR-126, suppresses the growth of neoplastic cells by targeting phosphatidylinositol 3-kinase signaling and is frequently lost in colon cancers. *Genes Chromosomes Cancer*, 47(11), 939-46.
- Guo, H., Ingolia, N. T., Weissman, J. S. & Bartel, D. P. (2010) Mammalian microRNAs predominantly act to decrease target mRNA levels. *Nature*, 466(7308), 835-40.
- Guo, L. & Chen, F. (2014) A challenge for miRNA: multiple isomiRs in miRNAomics. *Gene*, 544(1), 1-7.
- Ha, M. & Kim, V. N. (2014) Regulation of microRNA biogenesis. *Nat Rev Mol Cell Biol*, 15(8), 509-24.

- Hagiwara, T., Kono, S., Yin, G., Toyomura, K., Nagano, J., Mizoue, T., Mibu, R., Tanaka, M., Kakeji, Y., Maehara, Y., Okamura, T., Ikejiri, K., Futami, K., Yasunami, Y., Maekawa, T., Takenaka, K., Ichimiya, H. & Imaizumi, N. (2005) Genetic polymorphism in cytochrome P450 7A1 and risk of colorectal cancer: the Fukuoka Colorectal Cancer Study. *Cancer Res*, 65(7), 2979-82.
- Hai, T., Teng, F., Guo, R., Li, W. & Zhou, Q. (2014) One-step generation of knockout pigs by zygote injection of CRISPR/Cas system. *Cell Res*, 24(3), 372-5.
- Hammer, R. E., Pursel, V. G., Rexroad, C. E., Jr., Wall, R. J., Bolt, D. J., Ebert, K. M., Palmiter, R. D. & Brinster, R. L. (1985) Production of transgenic rabbits, sheep and pigs by microinjection. *Nature*, 315(6021), 680-3.
- Harada, K., Hiraoka, S., Kato, J., Horii, J., Fujita, H., Sakaguchi, K. & Shiratori, Y. (2007) Genetic and epigenetic alterations of Ras signalling pathway in colorectal neoplasia: analysis based on tumour clinicopathological features. *Br J Cancer*, 97(10), 1425-31.
- Hauschild, J., Petersen, B., Santiago, Y., Queisser, A. L., Carnwath, J. W., Lucas-Hahn, A., Zhang, L., Meng, X., Gregory, P. D., Schwinzer, R., Cost, G. J. & Niemann, H. (2011) Efficient generation of a biallelic knockout in pigs using zinc-finger nucleases. *Proc Natl Acad Sci U S A*, 108(29), 12013-7.
- Hayes, J., Peruzzi, P. P. & Lawler, S. (2014) MicroRNAs in cancer: biomarkers, functions and therapy. *Trends Mol Med*, 20(8), 460-9.
- He, L., He, X., Lim, L. P., de Stanchina, E., Xuan, Z., Liang, Y., Xue, W., Zender, L., Magnus, J., Ridzon, D., Jackson, A. L., Linsley, P. S., Chen, C., Lowe, S. W., Cleary, M. A. & Hannon, G. J. (2007) A microRNA component of the p53 tumour suppressor network. *Nature*, 447(7148), 1130-4.
- Heinritz, S. N., Mosenthin, R. & Weiss, E. (2013) Use of pigs as a potential model for research into dietary modulation of the human gut microbiota. *Nutr Res Rev*, 26(2), 191-209.
- Hellebrekers, D. M., Lentjes, M. H., van den Bosch, S. M., Melotte, V., Wouters, K. A., Daenen, K. L., Smits, K. M., Akiyama, Y., Yuasa, Y., Sanduleanu, S., Khalid-de Bakker, C. A., Jonkers, D., Weijenberg, M. P., Louwagie, J., van Criekinge, W., Carvalho, B., Meijer, G. A., Baylin, S. B., Herman, J. G., de Bruine, A. P. & van Engeland, M. (2009) GATA4 and GATA5 are potential tumor suppressors and biomarkers in colorectal cancer. *Clin Cancer Res*, 15(12), 3990-7.
- Hendrickson, D. G., Hogan, D. J., McCullough, H. L., Myers, J. W., Herschlag, D., Ferrell, J. E. & Brown, P. O. (2009) Concordant regulation of translation and mRNA abundance for hundreds of targets of a human microRNA. *PLoS Biol*, 7(11), e1000238.
- Herman, J. G., Umar, A., Polyak, K., Graff, J. R., Ahuja, N., Issa, J. P., Markowitz, S., Willson, J. K., Hamilton, S. R., Kinzler, K. W., Kane, M. F., Kolodner, R. D., Vogelstein, B., Kunkel, T. A. & Baylin, S. B. (1998) Incidence and functional consequences of hMLH1 promoter hypermethylation in colorectal carcinoma. *Proc Natl Acad Sci U S A*, 95(12), 6870-5.
- Heuberger, J. & Birchmeier, W. (2010) Interplay of cadherin-mediated cell adhesion and canonical Wnt signaling. *Cold Spring Harb Perspect Biol*, 2(2), a002915.
- Hinoue, T., Weisenberger, D. J., Lange, C. P., Shen, H., Byun, H. M., Van Den Berg, D., Malik, S., Pan, F., Noushmehr, H., van Dijk, C. M., Tollenaar, R. A. & Laird, P. W. (2012) Genome-scale analysis of aberrant DNA methylation in colorectal cancer. *Genome Res*, 22(2), 271-82.
- Hofmann, A., Kessler, B., Ewerling, S., Weppert, M., Vogg, B., Ludwig, H., Stojkovic, M., Boelhaue, M., Brem, G., Wolf, E. & Pfeifer, A. (2003) Efficient transgenesis in farm animals by lentiviral vectors. *EMBO Rep*, 4(11), 1054-60.
- Hol, L., Wilschut, J. A., van Ballegooijen, M., van Vuuren, A. J., van der Valk, H., Reijerink, J. C., van der Togt, A. C., Kuipers, E. J., Habbema, J. D. & van Leerdam, M. E. (2009) Screening for colorectal cancer: random comparison of guaiac and immunochemical faecal occult blood testing at different cut-off levels. *Br J Cancer*, 100(7), 1103-10.
- Houlston, R., Crabtree, M., Phillips, R., Crabtree, M. & Tomlinson, I. (2001) Explaining differences in the severity of familial adenomatous polyposis and the search for modifier genes. *Gut*, 48(1), 1-5.

- Hryniuk, A., Grainger, S., Savory, J. G. & Lohnes, D. (2014) Cdx1 and Cdx2 function as tumor suppressors. *J Biol Chem*, 289(48), 33343-54.
- Hsu, H. C., Thiam, T. K., Lu, Y. J., Yeh, C. Y., Tsai, W. S., You, J. F., Hung, H. Y., Tsai, C. N., Hsu, A., Chen, H. C., Chen, S. J. & Yang, T. S. (2016) Mutations of KRAS/NRAS/BRAF predict cetuximab resistance in metastatic colorectal cancer patients. *Oncotarget*, 7(16), 22257-70.
- Hsu, P. D., Scott, D. A., Weinstein, J. A., Ran, F. A., Konermann, S., Agarwala, V., Li, Y., Fine, E. J., Wu, X., Shalem, O., Cradick, T. J., Marraffini, L. A., Bao, G. & Zhang, F. (2013) DNA targeting specificity of RNA-guided Cas9 nucleases. *Nat Biotechnol*, 31(9), 827-32.
- Hung, K. E., Maricevich, M. A., Richard, L. G., Chen, W. Y., Richardson, M. P., Kunin, A., Bronson, R. T., Mahmood, U. & Kucherlapati, R. (2010) Development of a mouse model for sporadic and metastatic colon tumors and its use in assessing drug treatment. *Proc Natl Acad Sci U S A*, 107(4), 1565-70.
- Hur, K., Cejas, P., Feliu, J., Moreno-Rubio, J., Burgos, E., Boland, C. R. & Goel, A. (2014) Hypomethylation of long interspersed nuclear element-1 (LINE-1) leads to activation of proto-oncogenes in human colorectal cancer metastasis. *Gut*, 63(4), 635-46.
- Huth, L., Jakel, J. & Dahl, E. (2014) Molecular Diagnostic Applications in Colorectal Cancer. *Microarrays (Basel)*, 3(3), 168-79.
- Hwang, W. L., Jiang, J. K., Yang, S. H., Huang, T. S., Lan, H. Y., Teng, H. W., Yang, C. Y., Tsai, Y. P., Lin, C. H., Wang, H. W. & Yang, M. H. (2014) MicroRNA-146a directs the symmetric division of Snail-dominant colorectal cancer stem cells. *Nat Cell Biol*, 16(3), 268-80.
- Imamura, Y., Hibi, K., Koike, M., Fujiwara, M., Kodera, Y., Ito, K. & Nakao, A. (2005) RUNX3 promoter region is specifically methylated in poorly-differentiated colorectal cancer. *Anticancer Res*, 25(4), 2627-30.
- Imperiale, T. F., Ransohoff, D. F., Itzkowitz, S. H., Levin, T. R., Lavin, P., Lidgard, G. P., Ahlquist, D. A. & Berger, B. M. (2014) Multitarget stool DNA testing for colorectal-cancer screening. *N Engl J Med*, 370(14), 1287-97.
- Irahara, N., Baba, Y., Nosho, K., Shima, K., Yan, L., Dias-Santagata, D., Iafrate, A. J., Fuchs, C. S., Haigis, K. M. & Ogino, S. (2010) NRAS mutations are rare in colorectal cancer. *Diagn Mol Pathol*, 19(3), 157-63.
- Irion, S., Luche, H., Gadue, P., Fehling, H. J., Kennedy, M. & Keller, G. (2007) Identification and targeting of the ROSA26 locus in human embryonic stem cells. *Nat Biotechnol*, 25(12), 1477-82.
- Ivics, Z., Garrels, W., Mates, L., Yau, T. Y., Bashir, S., Zidek, V., Landa, V., Geurts, A., Pravenec, M., Rulicke, T., Kues, W. A. & Izsvak, Z. (2014) Germline transgenesis in pigs by cytoplasmic microinjection of Sleeping Beauty transposons. *Nat Protoc*, 9(4), 810-27.
- Jakobsen, J. E., Johansen, M. G., Schmidt, M., Dagnaes-Hansen, F., Dam, K., Gunnarsson, A., Liu, Y., Kragh, P. M., Li, R., Holm, I. E., Callesen, H., Mikkelsen, J. G., Nielsen, A. L. & Jorgensen, A. L. (2013) Generation of minipigs with targeted transgene insertion by recombinase-mediated cassette exchange (RMCE) and somatic cell nuclear transfer (SCNT). *Transgenic Res*, 22(4), 709-23.
- Jemal, A., Bray, F., Center, M. M., Ferlay, J., Ward, E. & Forman, D. (2011) Global cancer statistics. *CA Cancer J Clin*, 61(2), 69-90.
- Jesinghaus, M., Pfarr, N., Endris, V., Kloor, M., Volckmar, A. L., Brandt, R., Herpel, E., Muckenhuber, A., Lasitschka, F., Schirmacher, P., Penzel, R., Weichert, W. & Stenzinger, A. (2016) Genotyping of colorectal cancer for cancer precision medicine: Results from the IPH Center for Molecular Pathology. *Genes Chromosomes Cancer*, 55(6), 505-21.
- Jetten, A. M. (2018) GLIS1-3 transcription factors: critical roles in the regulation of multiple physiological processes and diseases. *Cell Mol Life Sci*.
- Jinek, M., Chylinski, K., Fonfara, I., Hauer, M., Doudna, J. A. & Charpentier, E. (2012) A programmable dual-RNA-guided DNA endonuclease in adaptive bacterial immunity. *Science*, 337(6096), 816-21.

- 
- Jinek, M., East, A., Cheng, A., Lin, S., Ma, E. & Doudna, J. (2013) RNA-programmed genome editing in human cells. *Elife*, 2, e00471.
- Joung, J. K. & Sander, J. D. (2013) TALENs: a widely applicable technology for targeted genome editing. *Nat Rev Mol Cell Biol*, 14(1), 49-55.
- Jung, B., Doctolero, R. T., Tajima, A., Nguyen, A. K., Keku, T., Sandler, R. S. & Carethers, J. M. (2004) Loss of activin receptor type 2 protein expression in microsatellite unstable colon cancers. *Gastroenterology*, 126(3), 654-9.
- Justice, M. J. & Dhillon, P. (2016) Using the mouse to model human disease: increasing validity and reproducibility. *Dis Model Mech*, 9(2), 101-3.
- Kamps, R., Brandao, R. D., Bosch, B. J., Paulussen, A. D., Xanthoulea, S., Blok, M. J. & Romano, A. (2017) Next-Generation Sequencing in Oncology: Genetic Diagnosis, Risk Prediction and Cancer Classification. *Int J Mol Sci*, 18(2).
- Kane, M. F., Loda, M., Gaida, G. M., Lipman, J., Mishra, R., Goldman, H., Jessup, J. M. & Kolodner, R. (1997) Methylation of the hMLH1 promoter correlates with lack of expression of hMLH1 in sporadic colon tumors and mismatch repair-defective human tumor cell lines. *Cancer Res*, 57(5), 808-11.
- Kapitonov, V. V. & Jurka, J. (2008) A universal classification of eukaryotic transposable elements implemented in Repbase. *Nat Rev Genet*, 9(5), 411-2; author reply 414.
- Kararli, T. T. (1995) Comparison of the gastrointestinal anatomy, physiology, and biochemistry of humans and commonly used laboratory animals. *Biopharm Drug Dispos*, 16(5), 351-80.
- Karim, B. O. & Huso, D. L. (2013) Mouse models for colorectal cancer. *Am J Cancer Res*, 3(3), 240-50.
- Karpf, A. R. & Matsui, S. (2005) Genetic disruption of cytosine DNA methyltransferase enzymes induces chromosomal instability in human cancer cells. *Cancer Res*, 65(19), 8635-9.
- Kawashima, E. H., Farinelli, L., Mayer, P. (1998) International patent no. WO1998044151A1, Method Of Nucleic Acid Amplification, [https://www.lens.org/images/patent/WO/1998044151/A1/WO\\_201998\\_044151\\_A1.pdf](https://www.lens.org/images/patent/WO/1998044151/A1/WO_201998_044151_A1.pdf), retrieved 02.09.2018
- Kawashima, E. H., Farinelli, L., Mayer, P. (1998) International patent no. WO1998044152A1, Method Of Nucleic Acid Sequencing; [https://www.lens.org/images/patent/WO/1998044152/A1/WO\\_1998\\_044152\\_A1.pdf](https://www.lens.org/images/patent/WO/1998044152/A1/WO_1998_044152_A1.pdf), retrieved 02.09.2018
- Kent, O. A., Chivukula, R. R., Mullendore, M., Wentzel, E. A., Feldmann, G., Lee, K. H., Liu, S., Leach, S. D., Maitra, A. & Mendell, J. T. (2010) Repression of the miR-143/145 cluster by oncogenic Ras initiates a tumor-promoting feed-forward pathway. *Genes Dev*, 24(24), 2754-9.
- Kikuchi, K., Ekwall, H., Tienthai, P., Kawai, Y., Noguchi, J., Kaneko, H. & Rodriguez-Martinez, H. (2002) Morphological features of lipid droplet transition during porcine oocyte fertilisation and early embryonic development to blastocyst in vivo and in vitro. *Zygote*, 10(4), 355-66.
- Kim, B. C., Joo, J., Chang, H. J., Yeo, H. Y., Yoo, B. C., Park, B., Park, J. W., Sohn, D. K., Hong, C. W. & Han, K. S. (2014) A predictive model combining fecal calgranulin B and fecal occult blood tests can improve the diagnosis of colorectal cancer. *PLoS One*, 9(9), e106182.
- Kim, D., Bae, S., Park, J., Kim, E., Kim, S., Yu, H. R., Hwang, J., Kim, J. I. & Kim, J. S. (2015) Digenome-seq: genome-wide profiling of CRISPR-Cas9 off-target effects in human cells. *Nat Methods*, 12(3), 237-43, 1 p following 243.
- Kim, E., Koo, T., Park, S. W., Kim, D., Kim, K., Cho, H. Y., Song, D. W., Lee, K. J., Jung, M. H., Kim, S., Kim, J. H., Kim, J. H. & Kim, J. S. (2017) In vivo genome editing with a small Cas9 orthologue derived from *Campylobacter jejuni*. *Nat Commun*, 8, 14500.
- Kinzler, K. W., Nilbert, M. C., Su, L. K., Vogelstein, B., Bryan, T. M., Levy, D. B., Smith, K. J., Preisinger, A. C., Hedge, P., McKechnie, D. & et al. (1991) Identification of FAP locus genes from chromosome 5q21. *Science*, 253(5020), 661-5.
-



- 
- Kleinstiver, B. P., Pattanayak, V., Prew, M. S., Tsai, S. Q., Nguyen, N. T., Zheng, Z. & Joung, J. K. (2016) High-fidelity CRISPR-Cas9 nucleases with no detectable genome-wide off-target effects. *Nature*, 529(7587), 490-5.
- Klose, R. J. & Bird, A. P. (2006) Genomic DNA methylation: the mark and its mediators. *Trends Biochem Sci*, 31(2), 89-97.
- Kobayashi, M., Honma, T., Matsuda, Y., Suzuki, Y., Narisawa, R., Ajioka, Y. & Asakura, H. (2000) Nuclear translocation of beta-catenin in colorectal cancer. *Br J Cancer*, 82(10), 1689-93.
- Kong, Q., Hai, T., Ma, J., Huang, T., Jiang, D., Xie, B., Wu, M., Wang, J., Song, Y., Wang, Y., He, Y., Sun, J., Hu, K., Guo, R., Wang, L., Zhou, Q., Mu, Y. & Liu, Z. (2014) Rosa26 locus supports tissue-specific promoter driving transgene expression specifically in pig. *PLoS One*, 9(9), e107945.
- Korinek, V., Barker, N., Morin, P. J., van Wichen, D., de Weger, R., Kinzler, K. W., Vogelstein, B. & Clevers, H. (1997) Constitutive transcriptional activation by a beta-catenin-Tcf complex in APC-/colon carcinoma. *Science*, 275(5307), 1784-7.
- Kucherlapati, R. S., Eves, E. M., Song, K. Y., Morse, B. S. & Smithies, O. (1984) Homologous recombination between plasmids in mammalian cells can be enhanced by treatment of input DNA. *Proc Natl Acad Sci U S A*, 81(10), 3153-7.
- Kurome, M., Geistlinger, L., Kessler, B., Zakhartchenko, V., Klymiuk, N., Wuensch, A., Richter, A., Baehr, A., Kraehe, K., Burkhart, K., Flisikowski, K., Flisikowska, T., Merkl, C., Landmann, M., Durkovic, M., Tschukes, A., Kraner, S., Schindelbauer, D., Petri, T., Kind, A., Nagashima, H., Schnieke, A., Zimmer, R. & Wolf, E. (2013) Factors influencing the efficiency of generating genetically engineered pigs by nuclear transfer: multi-factorial analysis of a large data set. *BMC Biotechnol*, 13, 43.
- Kwon, D. N., Lee, K., Kang, M. J., Choi, Y. J., Park, C., Whyte, J. J., Brown, A. N., Kim, J. H., Samuel, M., Mao, J., Park, K. W., Murphy, C. N., Prather, R. S. & Kim, J. H. (2013) Production of biallelic CMP-Neu5Ac hydroxylase knock-out pigs. *Sci Rep*, 3, 1981.
- Labianca, R., Nordlinger, B., Beretta, G. D., Mosconi, S., Mandala, M., Cervantes, A., Arnold, D. & Group, E. G. W. (2013) Early colon cancer: ESMO Clinical Practice Guidelines for diagnosis, treatment and follow-up. *Ann Oncol*, 24 Suppl 6, vi64-72.
- LaDuca, H., Stuenkel, A. J., Dolinsky, J. S., Keiles, S., Tandy, S., Pesaran, T., Chen, E., Gau, C. L., Palmaer, E., Shoaepour, K., Shah, D., Speare, V., Gandomi, S. & Chao, E. (2014) Utilization of multigene panels in hereditary cancer predisposition testing: analysis of more than 2,000 patients. *Genet Med*, 16(11), 830-7.
- Lahtz, C. & Pfeifer, G. P. (2011) Epigenetic changes of DNA repair genes in cancer. *J Mol Cell Biol*, 3(1), 51-8.
- Lai, L., Kolber-Simonds, D., Park, K. W., Cheong, H. T., Greenstein, J. L., Im, G. S., Samuel, M., Bonk, A., Rieke, A., Day, B. N., Murphy, C. N., Carter, D. B., Hawley, R. J. & Prather, R. S. (2002) Production of alpha-1,3-galactosyltransferase knockout pigs by nuclear transfer cloning. *Science*, 295(5557), 1089-92.
- Leary, R. J., Lin, J. C., Cummins, J., Boca, S., Wood, L. D., Parsons, D. W., Jones, S., Sjoblom, T., Park, B. H., Parsons, R., Willis, J., Dawson, D., Willson, J. K., Nikolskaya, T., Nikolsky, Y., Kopelovich, L., Papadopoulos, N., Pennacchio, L. A., Wang, T. L., Markowitz, S. D., Parmigiani, G., Kinzler, K. W., Vogelstein, B. & Velculescu, V. E. (2008) Integrated analysis of homozygous deletions, focal amplifications, and sequence alterations in breast and colorectal cancers. *Proc Natl Acad Sci U S A*, 105(42), 16224-9.
- Ledford, H. (2011) Translational research: 4 ways to fix the clinical trial. *Nature*, 477(7366), 526-8.
- Lee, E., Iskow, R., Yang, L., Gokcumen, O., Haseley, P., Luquette, L. J., 3rd, Lohr, J. G., Harris, C. C., Ding, L., Wilson, R. K., Wheeler, D. A., Gibbs, R. A., Kucherlapati, R., Lee, C., Kharchenko, P. V., Park, P. J. & Cancer Genome Atlas Research, N. (2012) Landscape of somatic retrotransposition in human cancers. *Science*, 337(6097), 967-71.
-

- Lee, I. H., Sohn, M., Lim, H. J., Yoon, S., Oh, H., Shin, S., Shin, J. H., Oh, S. H., Kim, J., Lee, D. K., Noh, D. Y., Bae, D. S., Seong, J. K. & Bae, Y. S. (2014) Ahnak functions as a tumor suppressor via modulation of TGFbeta/Smad signaling pathway. *Oncogene*, 33(38), 4675-84.
- Lengauer, C., Kinzler, K. W. & Vogelstein, B. (1997) Genetic instability in colorectal cancers. *Nature*, 386(6625), 623-7.
- Leuchs, S., Saalfrank, A., Merkl, C., Flisikowska, T., Edlinger, M., Durkovic, M., Rezaei, N., Kurome, M., Zakhartchenko, V., Kessler, B., Flisikowski, K., Kind, A., Wolf, E. & Schnieke, A. (2012) Inactivation and inducible oncogenic mutation of p53 in gene targeted pigs. *PLoS One*, 7(10), e43323.
- Lewis, B. P., Burge, C. B. & Bartel, D. P. (2005) Conserved seed pairing, often flanked by adenosines, indicates that thousands of human genes are microRNA targets. *Cell*, 120(1), 15-20.
- Li, E., Bestor, T. H. & Jaenisch, R. (1992) Targeted mutation of the DNA methyltransferase gene results in embryonic lethality. *Cell*, 69(6), 915-26.
- Li, J., Liang, H., Bai, M., Ning, T., Wang, C., Fan, Q., Wang, Y., Fu, Z., Wang, N., Liu, R., Zen, K., Zhang, C. Y., Chen, X. & Ba, Y. (2015a) miR-135b Promotes Cancer Progression by Targeting Transforming Growth Factor Beta Receptor II (TGFB2) in Colorectal Cancer. *PLoS One*, 10(6), e0130194.
- Li, Q., Zou, C., Zou, C., Han, Z., Xiao, H., Wei, H., Wang, W., Zhang, L., Zhang, X., Tang, Q., Zhang, C., Tao, J., Wang, X. & Gao, X. (2013) MicroRNA-25 functions as a potential tumor suppressor in colon cancer by targeting Smad7. *Cancer Lett*, 335(1), 168-74.
- Li, S., Edlinger, M., Saalfrank, A., Flisikowski, K., Tschukes, A., Kurome, M., Zakhartchenko, V., Kessler, B., Saur, D., Kind, A., Wolf, E., Schnieke, A. & Flisikowska, T. (2015b) Viable pigs with a conditionally-activated oncogenic KRAS mutation. *Transgenic Res*, 24(3), 509-17.
- Li, S., Flisikowska, T., Kurome, M., Zakhartchenko, V., Kessler, B., Saur, D., Kind, A., Wolf, E., Flisikowski, K. & Schnieke, A. (2014) Dual fluorescent reporter pig for Cre recombination: transgene placement at the ROSA26 locus. *PLoS One*, 9(7), e102455.
- Li, T. & Chiang, J. Y. (2014) Bile acid signaling in metabolic disease and drug therapy. *Pharmacol Rev*, 66(4), 948-83.
- Liao, Y., Smyth, G. K. & Shi, W. (2014) featureCounts: an efficient general purpose program for assigning sequence reads to genomic features. *Bioinformatics*, 30(7), 923-30.
- Lillico, S. G., Proudfoot, C., Carlson, D. F., Stverakova, D., Neil, C., Blain, C., King, T. J., Ritchie, W. A., Tan, W., Mileham, A. J., McLaren, D. G., Fahrenkrug, S. C. & Whitelaw, C. B. (2013) Live pigs produced from genome edited zygotes. *Sci Rep*, 3, 2847.
- Lim, S. H., Becker, T. M., Chua, W., Caixeiro, N. J., Ng, W. L., Kienzle, N., Tognela, A., Lumba, S., Rasko, J. E., de Souza, P. & Spring, K. J. (2013) Circulating tumour cells and circulating free nucleic acid as prognostic and predictive biomarkers in colorectal cancer. *Cancer Lett*.
- Lin, S. L., Miller, J. D. & Ying, S. Y. (2006) Intronic microRNA (miRNA). *J Biomed Biotechnol*, 2006(4), 26818.
- Liu, J., Nau, M. M., Zucman-Rossi, J., Powell, J. I., Allegra, C. J. & Wright, J. J. (1997) LINE-I element insertion at the t(11;22) translocation breakpoint of a desmoplastic small round cell tumor. *Genes Chromosomes Cancer*, 18(3), 232-9.
- Liu, L., Nie, J., Chen, L., Dong, G., Du, X., Wu, X., Tang, Y. & Han, W. (2013) The oncogenic role of microRNA-130a/301a/454 in human colorectal cancer via targeting Smad4 expression. *PLoS One*, 8(2), e55532.
- Liu, W., Dong, X., Mai, M., Seelan, R. S., Taniguchi, K., Krishnadath, K. K., Halling, K. C., Cunningham, J. M., Boardman, L. A., Qian, C., Christensen, E., Schmidt, S. S., Roche, P. C., Smith, D. I. & Thibodeau, S. N. (2000) Mutations in AXIN2 cause colorectal cancer with defective mismatch repair by activating beta-catenin/TCF signalling. *Nat Genet*, 26(2), 146-7.
- Livak, K. J. & Schmittgen, T. D. (2001) Analysis of relative gene expression data using real-time quantitative PCR and the 2(-Delta Delta C(T)) Method. *Methods*, 25(4), 402-8.

- 
- Logan, J. S. & Martin, M. J. (1994) Transgenic swine as a recombinant production system for human hemoglobin. *Methods Enzymol*, 231, 435-45.
- Love, M. I., Huber, W. & Anders, S. (2014) Moderated estimation of fold change and dispersion for RNA-seq data with DESeq2. *Genome Biol*, 15(12), 550.
- Lu, D., Yao, Q., Zhan, C., Le-Meng, Z., Liu, H., Cai, Y., Tu, C., Li, X., Zou, Y. & Zhang, S. (2017) MicroRNA-146a promote cell migration and invasion in human colorectal cancer via carboxypeptidase M/src-FAK pathway. *Oncotarget*, 8(14), 22674-22684.
- Lu, Z., Ghosh, S., Wang, Z. & Hunter, T. (2003) Downregulation of caveolin-1 function by EGF leads to the loss of E-cadherin, increased transcriptional activity of beta-catenin, and enhanced tumor cell invasion. *Cancer Cell*, 4(6), 499-515.
- Luger, K., Mader, A. W., Richmond, R. K., Sargent, D. F. & Richmond, T. J. (1997) Crystal structure of the nucleosome core particle at 2.8 Å resolution. *Nature*, 389(6648), 251-60.
- Luo, Y., Li, J., Liu, Y., Lin, L., Du, Y., Li, S., Yang, H., Vajta, G., Callesen, H., Bolund, L. & Sorensen, C. B. (2011) High efficiency of BRCA1 knockout using rAAV-mediated gene targeting: developing a pig model for breast cancer. *Transgenic Res*, 20(5), 975-88.
- Lv, J. H., Wang, F., Shen, M. H., Wang, X. & Zhou, X. J. (2016) SATB1 expression is correlated with beta-catenin associated epithelial-mesenchymal transition in colorectal cancer. *Cancer Biol Ther*, 17(3), 254-61.
- Mak, I. W., Evaniew, N. & Ghert, M. (2014) Lost in translation: animal models and clinical trials in cancer treatment. *Am J Transl Res*, 6(2), 114-8.
- Malapelle, U., Vigliar, E., Sgariglia, R., Bellevicine, C., Colarossi, L., Vitale, D., Pallante, P. & Troncone, G. (2015) Ion Torrent next-generation sequencing for routine identification of clinically relevant mutations in colorectal cancer patients. *J Clin Pathol*, 68(1), 64-8.
- Mali, P., Aach, J., Stranges, P. B., Esvelt, K. M., Moosburner, M., Kosuri, S., Yang, L. & Church, G. M. (2013) CAS9 transcriptional activators for target specificity screening and paired nickases for cooperative genome engineering. *Nat Biotechnol*, 31(9), 833-8.
- Malkhosyan, S., Rampino, N., Yamamoto, H. & Perucho, M. (1996) Frameshift mutator mutations. *Nature*, 382(6591), 499-500.
- Mann, B., Gelos, M., Siedow, A., Hanski, M. L., Gratchev, A., Ilyas, M., Bodmer, W. F., Moyer, M. P., Riecken, E. O., Buhr, H. J. & Hanski, C. (1999) Target genes of beta-catenin-T cell-factor/lymphoid-enhancer-factor signaling in human colorectal carcinomas. *Proc Natl Acad Sci U S A*, 96(4), 1603-8.
- Markowitz, S., Wang, J., Myeroff, L., Parsons, R., Sun, L., Lutterbaugh, J., Fan, R. S., Zborowska, E., Kinzler, K. W., Vogelstein, B. & et al. (1995) Inactivation of the type II TGF-beta receptor in colon cancer cells with microsatellite instability. *Science*, 268(5215), 1336-8.
- McCalla-Martin, A. C., Chen, X., Linder, K. E., Estrada, J. L. & Piedrahita, J. A. (2010) Varying phenotypes in swine versus murine transgenic models constitutively expressing the same human Sonic hedgehog transcriptional activator, K5-HGL12 Delta N. *Transgenic Res*, 19(5), 869-87.
- McCarthy, D. J., Chen, Y. & Smyth, G. K. (2012) Differential expression analysis of multifactor RNA-Seq experiments with respect to biological variation. *Nucleic Acids Res*, 40(10), 4288-97.
- McCreath, K. J., Howcroft, J., Campbell, K. H., Colman, A., Schnieke, A. E. & Kind, A. J. (2000) Production of gene-targeted sheep by nuclear transfer from cultured somatic cells. *Nature*, 405(6790), 1066-9.
- Mehlen, P. & Fearon, E. R. (2004) Role of the dependence receptor DCC in colorectal cancer pathogenesis. *J Clin Oncol*, 22(16), 3420-8.
- Mehrvarz Sarshekeh, A., Advani, S., Overman, M. J., Manyam, G., Kee, B. K., Fogelman, D. R., Dasari, A., Raghav, K., Vilar, E., Manuel, S., Shureiqi, I., Wolff, R. A., Patel, K. P., Luthra, R., Shaw, K., Eng, C., Maru, D. M., Routbort, M. J., Meric-Bernstam, F. & Kopetz, S. (2017) Association of SMAD4 mutation

- with patient demographics, tumor characteristics, and clinical outcomes in colorectal cancer. *PLoS One*, 12(3), e0173345.
- Meyer, M., de Angelis, M. H., Wurst, W. & Kuhn, R. (2010) Gene targeting by homologous recombination in mouse zygotes mediated by zinc-finger nucleases. *Proc Natl Acad Sci U S A*, 107(34), 15022-6.
- Michael, M. Z., SM, O. C., van Holst Pellekaan, N. G., Young, G. P. & James, R. J. (2003) Reduced accumulation of specific microRNAs in colorectal neoplasia. *Mol Cancer Res*, 1(12), 882-91.
- Miki, Y., Nishisho, I., Horii, A., Miyoshi, Y., Utsunomiya, J., Kinzler, K. W., Vogelstein, B. & Nakamura, Y. (1992) Disruption of the APC gene by a retrotransposal insertion of L1 sequence in a colon cancer. *Cancer Res*, 52(3), 643-5.
- Mir, R., Pradhan, S. J., Patil, P., Mulherkar, R. & Galande, S. (2016) Wnt/beta-catenin signaling regulated SATB1 promotes colorectal cancer tumorigenesis and progression. *Oncogene*, 35(13), 1679-91.
- Misso, G., Di Martino, M. T., De Rosa, G., Farooqi, A. A., Lombardi, A., Campani, V., Zarone, M. R., Gulla, A., Tagliaferri, P., Tassone, P. & Caraglia, M. (2014) Mir-34: a new weapon against cancer? *Mol Ther Nucleic Acids*, 3, e194.
- Miyaoka, Y., Berman, J. R., Cooper, S. B., Mayerl, S. J., Chan, A. H., Zhang, B., Karlin-Neumann, G. A. & Conklin, B. R. (2016) Systematic quantification of HDR and NHEJ reveals effects of locus, nuclease, and cell type on genome-editing. *Sci Rep*, 6, 23549.
- Miyoshi, Y., Nagase, H., Ando, H., Horii, A., Ichii, S., Nakatsuru, S., Aoki, T., Miki, Y., Mori, T. & Nakamura, Y. (1992) Somatic mutations of the APC gene in colorectal tumors: mutation cluster region in the APC gene. *Hum Mol Genet*, 1(4), 229-33.
- Molinari, F. & Frattini, M. (2013) Functions and Regulation of the PTEN Gene in Colorectal Cancer. *Front Oncol*, 3, 326.
- Mongroo, P. S. & Rustgi, A. K. (2010) The role of the miR-200 family in epithelial-mesenchymal transition. *Cancer Biol Ther*, 10(3), 219-22.
- Mootha, V. K., Lindgren, C. M., Eriksson, K. F., Subramanian, A., Sihag, S., Lehar, J., Puigserver, P., Carlsson, E., Ridderstrale, M., Laurila, E., Houstis, N., Daly, M. J., Patterson, N., Mesirov, J. P., Golub, T. R., Tamayo, P., Spiegelman, B., Lander, E. S., Hirschhorn, J. N., Altshuler, D. & Groop, L. C. (2003) PGC-1alpha-responsive genes involved in oxidative phosphorylation are coordinately downregulated in human diabetes. *Nat Genet*, 34(3), 267-73.
- Moran, A., Ortega, P., de Juan, C., Fernandez-Marcelo, T., Frias, C., Sanchez-Pernaute, A., Torres, A. J., Diaz-Rubio, E., Iniesta, P. & Benito, M. (2010) Differential colorectal carcinogenesis: Molecular basis and clinical relevance. *World J Gastrointest Oncol*, 2(3), 151-8.
- Morin, P. J., Sparks, A. B., Korinek, V., Barker, N., Clevers, H., Vogelstein, B. & Kinzler, K. W. (1997) Activation of beta-catenin-Tcf signaling in colon cancer by mutations in beta-catenin or APC. *Science*, 275(5307), 1787-90.
- Munemitsu, S., Albert, I., Souza, B., Rubinfeld, B. & Polakis, P. (1995) Regulation of intracellular beta-catenin levels by the adenomatous polyposis coli (APC) tumor-suppressor protein. *Proc Natl Acad Sci U S A*, 92(7), 3046-50.
- Mussolino, C. & Cathomen, T. (2012) TALE nucleases: tailored genome engineering made easy. *Curr Opin Biotechnol*, 23(5), 644-50.
- Nagel, R., le Sage, C., Diosdado, B., van der Waal, M., Oude Vrielink, J. A., Bolijn, A., Meijer, G. A. & Agami, R. (2008) Regulation of the adenomatous polyposis coli gene by the miR-135 family in colorectal cancer. *Cancer Res*, 68(14), 5795-802.
- National Center for the Replacement Refinement & Reduction of Animals in Research, <https://www.nc3rs.org.uk/>

- 
- Nickerson, D. A., Tobe, V. O. & Taylor, S. L. (1997) PolyPhred: automating the detection and genotyping of single nucleotide substitutions using fluorescence-based resequencing. *Nucleic Acids Res*, 25(14), 2745-51.
- Nishida, N., Yokobori, T., Mimori, K., Sudo, T., Tanaka, F., Shibata, K., Ishii, H., Doki, Y., Kuwano, H. & Mori, M. (2011) MicroRNA miR-125b is a prognostic marker in human colorectal cancer. *Int J Oncol*, 38(5), 1437-43.
- Nishimura, J., Handa, R., Yamamoto, H., Tanaka, F., Shibata, K., Mimori, K., Takemasa, I., Mizushima, T., Ikeda, M., Sekimoto, M., Ishii, H., Doki, Y. & Mori, M. (2012) microRNA-181a is associated with poor prognosis of colorectal cancer. *Oncol Rep*, 28(6), 2221-6.
- Nowak-Imialek, M. & Niemann, H. (2012) Pluripotent cells in farm animals: state of the art and future perspectives. *Reprod Fertil Dev*, 25(1), 103-28.
- Nyiraneza, C., Sempoux, C., Detry, R., Kartheuser, A. & Dahan, K. (2012) Hypermethylation of the 5' CpG island of the p14ARF flanking exon 1beta in human colorectal cancer displaying a restricted pattern of p53 overexpression concomitant with increased MDM2 expression. *Clin Epigenetics*, 4(1), 9.
- Nyren, P. & Lundin, A. (1985) Enzymatic method for continuous monitoring of inorganic pyrophosphate synthesis. *Anal Biochem*, 151(2), 504-9.
- O'Driscoll, L. (2007) Extracellular nucleic acids and their potential as diagnostic, prognostic and predictive biomarkers. *Anticancer Res*, 27(3A), 1257-65.
- Okano, M., Bell, D. W., Haber, D. A. & Li, E. (1999) DNA methyltransferases Dnmt3a and Dnmt3b are essential for de novo methylation and mammalian development. *Cell*, 99(3), 247-57.
- Orom, U. A., Nielsen, F. C. & Lund, A. H. (2008) MicroRNA-10a binds the 5'UTR of ribosomal protein mRNAs and enhances their translation. *Mol Cell*, 30(4), 460-71.
- Ota, T., Doi, K., Fujimoto, T., Tanaka, Y., Ogawa, M., Matsuzaki, H., Kuroki, M., Miyamoto, S., Shirasawa, S. & Tsunoda, T. (2012) KRAS up-regulates the expression of miR-181a, miR-200c and miR-210 in a three-dimensional-specific manner in DLD-1 colorectal cancer cells. *Anticancer Res*, 32(6), 2271-5.
- Palles, C., Cazier, J. B., Howarth, K. M., Domingo, E., Jones, A. M., Broderick, P., Kemp, Z., Spain, S. L., Guarino, E., Salguero, I., Sherborne, A., Chubb, D., Carvajal-Carmona, L. G., Ma, Y., Kaur, K., Dobbins, S., Barclay, E., Gorman, M., Martin, L., Kovac, M. B., Humphray, S., Consortium, C., Consortium, W. G. S., Lucassen, A., Holmes, C. C., Bentley, D., Donnelly, P., Taylor, J., Petridis, C., Roylance, R., Sawyer, E. J., Kerr, D. J., Clark, S., Grimes, J., Kearsey, S. E., Thomas, H. J., McVean, G., Houlston, R. S. & Tomlinson, I. (2013) Germline mutations affecting the proofreading domains of POLE and POLD1 predispose to colorectal adenomas and carcinomas. *Nat Genet*, 45(2), 136-44.
- Pattanayak, V., Lin, S., Guilinger, J. P., Ma, E., Doudna, J. A. & Liu, D. R. (2013) High-throughput profiling of off-target DNA cleavage reveals RNA-programmed Cas9 nuclease specificity. *Nat Biotechnol*, 31(9), 839-43.
- Peltier, H. J. & Latham, G. J. (2008) Normalization of microRNA expression levels in quantitative RT-PCR assays: identification of suitable reference RNA targets in normal and cancerous human solid tissues. *RNA*, 14(5), 844-52.
- Pennisi, E. (1998) How a growth control path takes a wrong turn to cancer. *Science*, 281(5382), 1438-9, 1441.
- Perleberg, C., Kind, A. & Schnieke, A. (2018) Genetically engineered pigs as models for human disease. *Dis Model Mech*, 11(1).
- Pfaffeneder, T., Hackner, B., Truss, M., Munzel, M., Muller, M., Deiml, C. A., Hagemeyer, C. & Carell, T. (2011) The discovery of 5-formylcytosine in embryonic stem cell DNA. *Angew Chem Int Ed Engl*, 50(31), 7008-12.

- 
- Pimentel, H., Bray, N. L., Puente, S., Melsted, P. & Pachter, L. (2017) Differential analysis of RNA-seq incorporating quantification uncertainty. *Nat Methods*, 14(7), 687-690.
- Platt, R. J., Chen, S., Zhou, Y., Yim, M. J., Swiech, L., Kempton, H. R., Dahlman, J. E., Parnas, O., Eisenhaure, T. M., Jovanovic, M., Graham, D. B., Jhunjhunwala, S., Heidenreich, M., Xavier, R. J., Langer, R., Anderson, D. G., Hacohen, N., Regev, A., Feng, G., Sharp, P. A. & Zhang, F. (2014) CRISPR-Cas9 knockin mice for genome editing and cancer modeling. *Cell*, 159(2), 440-55.
- Polakis, P. (1997) The adenomatous polyposis coli (APC) tumor suppressor. *Biochim Biophys Acta*, 1332(3), F127-47.
- Quandt, K., Frech, K., Karas, H., Wingender, E. & Werner, T. (1995) MatInd and MatInspector: new fast and versatile tools for detection of consensus matches in nucleotide sequence data. *Nucleic Acids Res*, 23(23), 4878-84.
- Ramaswami, G., Lin, W., Piskol, R., Tan, M. H., Davis, C. & Li, J. B. (2012) Accurate identification of human Alu and non-Alu RNA editing sites. *Nat Methods*, 9(6), 579-81.
- Rampino, N., Yamamoto, H., Ionov, Y., Li, Y., Sawai, H., Reed, J. C. & Perucho, M. (1997) Somatic frameshift mutations in the BAX gene in colon cancers of the microsatellite mutator phenotype. *Science*, 275(5302), 967-9.
- Roach, J. C., Boysen, C., Wang, K. & Hood, L. (1995) Pairwise end sequencing: a unified approach to genomic mapping and sequencing. *Genomics*, 26(2), 345-53.
- Robinson, J. T., Thorvaldsdottir, H., Winckler, W., Guttman, M., Lander, E. S., Getz, G. & Mesirov, J. P. (2011) Integrative genomics viewer. *Nat Biotechnol*, 29(1), 24-6.
- Robinson, M. D., McCarthy, D. J. & Smyth, G. K. (2010) edgeR: a Bioconductor package for differential expression analysis of digital gene expression data. *Bioinformatics*, 26(1), 139-40.
- Rojas, A., Meherem, S., Kim, Y. H., Washington, M. K., Willis, J. E., Markowitz, S. D. & Grady, W. M. (2008) The aberrant methylation of TSP1 suppresses TGF-beta1 activation in colorectal cancer. *Int J Cancer*, 123(1), 14-21.
- Rokavec, M., Li, H., Jiang, L. & Hermeking, H. (2014) The p53/miR-34 axis in development and disease. *J Mol Cell Biol*, 6(3), 214-30.
- Ronaghi, M., Uhlen, M. & Nyren, P. (1998) A sequencing method based on real-time pyrophosphate. *Science*, 281(5375), 363, 365.
- Roodink, I., Verrijp, K., Raats, J. & Leenders, W. P. (2009) Plexin D1 is ubiquitously expressed on tumor vessels and tumor cells in solid malignancies. *BMC Cancer*, 9, 297.
- Roose, J. & Clevers, H. (1999) TCF transcription factors: molecular switches in carcinogenesis. *Biochim Biophys Acta*, 1424(2-3), M23-37.
- Rubinfeld, B., Albert, I., Porfiri, E., Fiol, C., Munemitsu, S. & Polakis, P. (1996) Binding of GSK3beta to the APC-beta-catenin complex and regulation of complex assembly. *Science*, 272(5264), 1023-6.
- Saalfrank, A., Janssen, K. P., Ravon, M., Flisikowski, K., Eser, S., Steiger, K., Flisikowska, T., Muller-Fliedner, P., Schulze, E., Bronner, C., Gnann, A., Kappe, E., Bohm, B., Schade, B., Certa, U., Saur, D., Esposito, I., Kind, A. & Schnieke, A. (2016) A porcine model of osteosarcoma. *Oncogenesis*, 5, e210.
- Sachs, D. H. (1994) The pig as a potential xenograft donor. *Vet Immunol Immunopathol*, 43(1-3), 185-91.
- Samaei, N. M., Yazdani, Y., Alizadeh-Navaei, R., Azadeh, H. & Farazmandfar, T. (2014) Promoter methylation analysis of WNT/beta-catenin pathway regulators and its association with expression of DNMT1 enzyme in colorectal cancer. *J Biomed Sci*, 21, 73.
- Sanger, F., Nicklen, S. & Coulson, A. R. (1977) DNA sequencing with chain-terminating inhibitors. *Proc Natl Acad Sci U S A*, 74(12), 5463-7.
- Sarver, A. L., French, A. J., Borralho, P. M., Thayanithy, V., Oberg, A. L., Silverstein, K. A., Morlan, B. W., Riska, S. M., Boardman, L. A., Cunningham, J. M., Subramanian, S., Wang, L., Smyrk, T. C.,

- 
- Rodrigues, C. M., Thibodeau, S. N. & Steer, C. J. (2009) Human colon cancer profiles show differential microRNA expression depending on mismatch repair status and are characteristic of undifferentiated proliferative states. *BMC Cancer*, 9, 401.
- Sauer, B. (1996) Multiplex Cre/lox recombination permits selective site-specific DNA targeting to both a natural and an engineered site in the yeast genome. *Nucleic Acids Res*, 24(23), 4608-13.
- Schmitz, K. J., Hey, S., Schinwald, A., Wohlschlaeger, J., Baba, H. A., Worm, K. & Schmid, K. W. (2009) Differential expression of microRNA 181b and microRNA 21 in hyperplastic polyps and sessile serrated adenomas of the colon. *Virchows Arch*, 455(1), 49-54.
- Schnieke, A. E., Kind, A. J., Ritchie, W. A., Mycock, K., Scott, A. R., Ritchie, M., Wilmut, I., Colman, A. & Campbell, K. H. (1997) Human factor IX transgenic sheep produced by transfer of nuclei from transfected fetal fibroblasts. *Science*, 278(5346), 2130-3.
- Schonhuber, N., Seidler, B., Schuck, K., Veltkamp, C., Schachtler, C., Zukowska, M., Eser, S., Feyerabend, T. B., Paul, M. C., Eser, P., Klein, S., Lowy, A. M., Banerjee, R., Yang, F., Lee, C. L., Moding, E. J., Kirsch, D. G., Scheideler, A., Alessi, D. R., Varela, I., Bradley, A., Kind, A., Schnieke, A. E., Rodewald, H. R., Rad, R., Schmid, R. M., Schneider, G. & Saur, D. (2014) A next-generation dual-recombinase system for time- and host-specific targeting of pancreatic cancer. *Nat Med*, 20(11), 1340-7.
- Schook, L. B., Collares, T. V., Hu, W., Liang, Y., Rodrigues, F. M., Rund, L. A., Schachtschneider, K. M., Seixas, F. K., Singh, K., Wells, K. D., Walters, E. M., Prather, R. S. & Counter, C. M. (2015) A Genetic Porcine Model of Cancer. *PLoS One*, 10(7), e0128864.
- Schreuders, E. H., Grobbee, E. J., Spaander, M. C. & Kuipers, E. J. (2016) Advances in Fecal Tests for Colorectal Cancer Screening. *Curr Treat Options Gastroenterol*, 14(1), 152-62.
- Schubert, R., Frank, F., Nagelmann, N., Liebsch, L., Schuldenzucker, V., Schramke, S., Wirsig, M., Johnson, H., Kim, E. Y., Ott, S., Holzner, E., Demokritov, S. O., Motlik, J., Faber, C. & Reilmann, R. (2016) Neuroimaging of a minipig model of Huntington's disease: Feasibility of volumetric, diffusion-weighted and spectroscopic assessments. *J Neurosci Methods*, 265, 46-55.
- Segditsas, S., Sieber, O. M., Rowan, A., Setien, F., Neale, K., Phillips, R. K., Ward, R., Esteller, M. & Tomlinson, I. P. (2008) Promoter hypermethylation leads to decreased APC mRNA expression in familial polyposis and sporadic colorectal tumours, but does not substitute for truncating mutations. *Exp Mol Pathol*, 85(3), 201-6.
- Serrati, S., De Summa, S., Pilato, B., Petriella, D., Lacalamita, R., Tommasi, S. & Pinto, R. (2016) Next-generation sequencing: advances and applications in cancer diagnosis. *Onco Targets Ther*, 9, 7355-7365.
- Shalapour, S., Deiser, K., Kuhl, A. A., Glauen, R., Krug, S. M., Fischer, A., Sercan, O., Chappaz, S., Bereswill, S., Heimesaat, M. M., Loddenkemper, C., Fromm, M., Finke, D., Hammerling, G. J., Arnold, B., Siegmund, B. & Schuler, T. (2012) Interleukin-7 links T lymphocyte and intestinal epithelial cell homeostasis. *PLoS One*, 7(2), e31939.
- Shen, L., Kondo, Y., Hamilton, S. R., Rashid, A. & Issa, J. P. (2003) P14 methylation in human colon cancer is associated with microsatellite instability and wild-type p53. *Gastroenterology*, 124(3), 626-33.
- Shima, K., Nosho, K., Baba, Y., Cantor, M., Meyerhardt, J. A., Giovannucci, E. L., Fuchs, C. S. & Ogino, S. (2011) Prognostic significance of CDKN2A (p16) promoter methylation and loss of expression in 902 colorectal cancers: Cohort study and literature review. *Int J Cancer*, 128(5), 1080-94.
- Shimizu, Y., Ikeda, S., Fujimori, M., Kodama, S., Nakahara, M., Okajima, M. & Asahara, T. (2002) Frequent alterations in the Wnt signaling pathway in colorectal cancer with microsatellite instability. *Genes Chromosomes Cancer*, 33(1), 73-81.

- 
- Shirafkan, N., Mansoori, B., Mohammadi, A., Shomali, N., Ghasbi, M. & Baradaran, B. (2018) MicroRNAs as novel biomarkers for colorectal cancer: New outlooks. *Biomed Pharmacother*, 97, 1319-1330.
- Shussman, N. & Wexner, S. D. (2014) Colorectal polyps and polyposis syndromes. *Gastroenterol Rep (Oxf)*, 2(1), 1-15.
- Sieren, J. C., Meyerholz, D. K., Wang, X. J., Davis, B. T., Newell, J. D., Jr., Hammond, E., Rohret, J. A., Rohret, F. A., Struzynski, J. T., Goeken, J. A., Naumann, P. W., Leidinger, M. R., Taghiyev, A., Van Rheeden, R., Hagen, J., Darbro, B. W., Quelle, D. E. & Rogers, C. S. (2014) Development and translational imaging of a TP53 porcine tumorigenesis model. *J Clin Invest*, 124(9), 4052-66.
- Skarnes, W. C., Rosen, B., West, A. P., Koutsourakis, M., Bushell, W., Iyer, V., Mujica, A. O., Thomas, M., Harrow, J., Cox, T., Jackson, D., Severin, J., Biggs, P., Fu, J., Nefedov, M., de Jong, P. J., Stewart, A. F. & Bradley, A. (2011) A conditional knockout resource for the genome-wide study of mouse gene function. *Nature*, 474(7351), 337-42.
- Slaby, O., Svoboda, M., Fabian, P., Smerdova, T., Knoflickova, D., Bednarikova, M., Nenutil, R. & Vyzula, R. (2007) Altered Expression of miR-21, miR-31, miR-143 and miR-145 Is Related to Clinicopathologic Features of Colorectal Cancer. *Oncology*, 72(5-6), 397-402.
- Slaymaker, I. M., Gao, L., Zetsche, B., Scott, D. A., Yan, W. X. & Zhang, F. (2016) Rationally engineered Cas9 nucleases with improved specificity. *Science*, 351(6268), 84-8.
- Smalley, M. J., Sara, E., Paterson, H., Naylor, S., Cook, D., Jayatilake, H., Fryer, L. G., Hutchinson, L., Fry, M. J. & Dale, T. C. (1999) Interaction of axin and Dvl-2 proteins regulates Dvl-2-stimulated TCF-dependent transcription. *EMBO J*, 18(10), 2823-35.
- Smith, L. M., Sanders, J. Z., Kaiser, R. J., Hughes, P., Dodd, C., Connell, C. R., Heiner, C., Kent, S. B. & Hood, L. E. (1986) Fluorescence detection in automated DNA sequence analysis. *Nature*, 321(6071), 674-9.
- Smithies, O., Gregg, R. G., Boggs, S. S., Koralewski, M. A. & Kucherlapati, R. S. (1985) Insertion of DNA sequences into the human chromosomal beta-globin locus by homologous recombination. *Nature*, 317(6034), 230-4.
- Solomon, E., Voss, R., Hall, V., Bodmer, W. F., Jass, J. R., Jeffreys, A. J., Lucibello, F. C., Patel, I. & Rider, S. H. (1987) Chromosome 5 allele loss in human colorectal carcinomas. *Nature*, 328(6131), 616-9.
- Song, L. L. & Li, Y. M. (2016) Current noninvasive tests for colorectal cancer screening: An overview of colorectal cancer screening tests. *World J Gastrointest Oncol*, 8(11), 793-800.
- Stachowiak, M., Flisikowska, T., Bauersachs, S., Perleberg, C., Pausch, H., Switonski, M., Kind, A., Saur, D., Schnieke, A. & Flisikowski, K. (2017) Altered microRNA profiles during early colon adenoma progression in a porcine model of familial adenomatous polyposis. *Oncotarget*, 8(56), 96154-96160.
- Staden, R. (1979) A strategy of DNA sequencing employing computer programs. *Nucleic Acids Res*, 6(7), 2601-10.
- Steines, B., Dickey, D. D., Bergen, J., Excoffon, K. J., Weinstein, J. R., Li, X., Yan, Z., Abou Alaiwa, M. H., Shah, V. S., Bouzek, D. C., Powers, L. S., Gansemer, N. D., Ostedgaard, L. S., Engelhardt, J. F., Stoltz, D. A., Welsh, M. J., Sinn, P. L., Schaffer, D. V. & Zabner, J. (2016) CFTR gene transfer with AAV improves early cystic fibrosis pig phenotypes. *JCI Insight*, 1(14), e88728.
- Strillacci, A., Valerii, M. C., Sansone, P., Caggiano, C., Sgromo, A., Vittori, L., Fiorentino, M., Poggioli, G., Rizzello, F., Campieri, M. & Spisni, E. (2013) Loss of miR-101 expression promotes Wnt/beta-catenin signalling pathway activation and malignancy in colon cancer cells. *J Pathol*, 229(3), 379-89.
- Subramanian, A., Tamayo, P., Mootha, V. K., Mukherjee, S., Ebert, B. L., Gillette, M. A., Paulovich, A., Pomeroy, S. L., Golub, T. R., Lander, E. S. & Mesirov, J. P. (2005) Gene set enrichment analysis: a knowledge-based approach for interpreting genome-wide expression profiles. *Proc Natl Acad Sci U S A*, 102(43), 15545-50.
-



- Suh, E. R., Ha, C. S., Rankin, E. B., Toyota, M. & Traber, P. G. (2002) DNA methylation down-regulates CDX1 gene expression in colorectal cancer cell lines. *J Biol Chem*, 277(39), 35795-800.
- Sun, D., Wang, C., Long, S., Ma, Y., Guo, Y., Huang, Z., Chen, X., Zhang, C., Chen, J. & Zhang, J. (2015) C/EBP-beta-activated microRNA-223 promotes tumour growth through targeting RASA1 in human colorectal cancer. *Br J Cancer*, 112(9), 1491-500.
- Susswein, L. R., Marshall, M. L., Nusbaum, R., Vogel Postula, K. J., Weissman, S. M., Yackowski, L., Vaccari, E. M., Bissonnette, J., Booker, J. K., Cremona, M. L., Gibellini, F., Murphy, P. D., Pineda-Alvarez, D. E., Pollevick, G. D., Xu, Z., Richard, G., Bale, S., Klein, R. T., Hruska, K. S. & Chung, W. K. (2016) Pathogenic and likely pathogenic variant prevalence among the first 10,000 patients referred for next-generation cancer panel testing. *Genet Med*, 18(8), 823-32.
- Suzuki, H., Igarashi, S., Nojima, M., Maruyama, R., Yamamoto, E., Kai, M., Akashi, H., Watanabe, Y., Yamamoto, H., Sasaki, Y., Itoh, F., Imai, K., Sugai, T., Shen, L., Issa, J. P., Shinomura, Y., Tokino, T. & Toyota, M. (2010) IGFBP7 is a p53-responsive gene specifically silenced in colorectal cancer with CpG island methylator phenotype. *Carcinogenesis*, 31(3), 342-9.
- Suzuki, H., Watkins, D. N., Jair, K. W., Schuebel, K. E., Markowitz, S. D., Chen, W. D., Pretlow, T. P., Yang, B., Akiyama, Y., Van Engeland, M., Toyota, M., Tokino, T., Hinoda, Y., Imai, K., Herman, J. G. & Baylin, S. B. (2004) Epigenetic inactivation of SFRP genes allows constitutive WNT signaling in colorectal cancer. *Nat Genet*, 36(4), 417-22.
- Swindle, M. M., Smith, A. C. & Hepburn, B. J. (1988) Swine as models in experimental surgery. *J Invest Surg*, 1(1), 65-79.
- Szpakowski, S., Sun, X., Lage, J. M., Dyer, A., Rubinstein, J., Kowalski, D., Sasaki, C., Costa, J. & Lizardi, P. M. (2009) Loss of epigenetic silencing in tumors preferentially affects primate-specific retroelements. *Gene*, 448(2), 151-67.
- Tahiliani, M., Koh, K. P., Shen, Y., Pastor, W. A., Bandukwala, H., Brudno, Y., Agarwal, S., Iyer, L. M., Liu, D. R., Aravind, L. & Rao, A. (2009) Conversion of 5-methylcytosine to 5-hydroxymethylcytosine in mammalian DNA by MLL partner TET1. *Science*, 324(5929), 930-5.
- Takagi, H., Sasaki, S., Suzuki, H., Toyota, M., Maruyama, R., Nojima, M., Yamamoto, H., Omata, M., Tokino, T., Imai, K. & Shinomura, Y. (2008) Frequent epigenetic inactivation of SFRP genes in hepatocellular carcinoma. *J Gastroenterol*, 43(5), 378-89.
- Takayama, T., Miyanishi, K., Hayashi, T., Sato, Y. & Niitsu, Y. (2006) Colorectal cancer: genetics of development and metastasis. *J Gastroenterol*, 41(3), 185-92.
- Talseth-Palmer, B. A. (2017) The genetic basis of colonic adenomatous polyposis syndromes. *Hered Cancer Clin Pract*, 15, 5.
- Tan, J., Lee, P. L., Li, Z., Jiang, X., Lim, Y. C., Hooi, S. C. & Yu, Q. (2010) B55beta-associated PP2A complex controls PDK1-directed myc signaling and modulates rapamycin sensitivity in colorectal cancer. *Cancer Cell*, 18(5), 459-71.
- Tan, M., Luo, H., Lee, S., Jin, F., Yang, J. S., Montellier, E., Buchou, T., Cheng, Z., Rousseaux, S., Rajagopal, N., Lu, Z., Ye, Z., Zhu, Q., Wysocka, J., Ye, Y., Khochbin, S., Ren, B. & Zhao, Y. (2011) Identification of 67 histone marks and histone lysine crotonylation as a new type of histone modification. *Cell*, 146(6), 1016-28.
- Tan, W., Carlson, D. F., Lancto, C. A., Garbe, J. R., Webster, D. A., Hackett, P. B. & Fahrenkrug, S. C. (2013) Efficient nonmeiotic allele introgression in livestock using custom endonucleases. *Proc Natl Acad Sci U S A*.
- Tetteh, P. W., Kretzschmar, K., Begthel, H., van den Born, M., Korving, J., Morsink, F., Farin, H., van Es, J. H., Offerhaus, G. J. & Clevers, H. (2016) Generation of an inducible colon-specific Cre enzyme mouse line for colon cancer research. *Proc Natl Acad Sci U S A*, 113(42), 11859-11864.
- Thomas, K. R. & Capecchi, M. R. (1987) Site-directed mutagenesis by gene targeting in mouse embryo-derived stem cells. *Cell*, 51(3), 503-12.

- Thorvaldsdottir, H., Robinson, J. T. & Mesirov, J. P. (2013) Integrative Genomics Viewer (IGV): high-performance genomics data visualization and exploration. *Brief Bioinform*, 14(2), 178-92.
- Tomlinson, C., Wong, C., Au, H. J. & Schiller, D. (2012) Factors associated with delays to medical assessment and diagnosis for patients with colorectal cancer. *Can Fam Physician*, 58(9), e495-501.
- Tomlinson, I., Webb, E., Carvajal-Carmona, L., Broderick, P., Kemp, Z., Spain, S., Penegar, S., Chandler, I., Gorman, M., Wood, W., Barclay, E., Lubbe, S., Martin, L., Sellick, G., Jaeger, E., Hubner, R., Wild, R., Rowan, A., Fielding, S., Howarth, K., Consortium, C., Silver, A., Atkin, W., Muir, K., Logan, R., Kerr, D., Johnstone, E., Sieber, O., Gray, R., Thomas, H., Peto, J., Cazier, J. B. & Houlston, R. (2007) A genome-wide association scan of tag SNPs identifies a susceptibility variant for colorectal cancer at 8q24.21. *Nat Genet*, 39(8), 984-8.
- Tomlinson, I. P., Webb, E., Carvajal-Carmona, L., Broderick, P., Howarth, K., Pittman, A. M., Spain, S., Lubbe, S., Walther, A., Sullivan, K., Jaeger, E., Fielding, S., Rowan, A., Vijayakrishnan, J., Domingo, E., Chandler, I., Kemp, Z., Qureshi, M., Farrington, S. M., Tenesa, A., Prendergast, J. G., Barnetson, R. A., Penegar, S., Barclay, E., Wood, W., Martin, L., Gorman, M., Thomas, H., Peto, J., Bishop, D. T., Gray, R., Maher, E. R., Lucassen, A., Kerr, D., Evans, D. G., Consortium, C., Schafmayer, C., Buch, S., Volzke, H., Hampe, J., Schreiber, S., John, U., Koessler, T., Pharoah, P., van Wezel, T., Morreau, H., Wijnen, J. T., Hopper, J. L., Southey, M. C., Giles, G. G., Severi, G., Castellvi-Bel, S., Ruiz-Ponte, C., Carracedo, A., Castells, A., Consortium, E., Forsti, A., Hemminki, K., Vodicka, P., Naccarati, A., Lipton, L., Ho, J. W., Cheng, K. K., Sham, P. C., Luk, J., Agundez, J. A., Ladero, J. M., de la Hoya, M., Caldes, T., Niittymaki, I., Tuupanen, S., Karhu, A., Aaltonen, L., Cazier, J. B., Campbell, H., Dunlop, M. G. & Houlston, R. S. (2008) A genome-wide association study identifies colorectal cancer susceptibility loci on chromosomes 10p14 and 8q23.3. *Nat Genet*, 40(5), 623-30.
- Toyota, M., Suzuki, H., Sasaki, Y., Maruyama, R., Imai, K., Shinomura, Y. & Tokino, T. (2008) Epigenetic silencing of microRNA-34b/c and B-cell translocation gene 4 is associated with CpG island methylation in colorectal cancer. *Cancer Res*, 68(11), 4123-32.
- Truong, D. J., Kuhner, K., Kuhn, R., Werfel, S., Engelhardt, S., Wurst, W. & Ortiz, O. (2015) Development of an intein-mediated split-Cas9 system for gene therapy. *Nucleic Acids Res*, 43(13), 6450-8.
- Tsai, S. Q., Zheng, Z., Nguyen, N. T., Liebers, M., Topkar, V. V., Thapar, V., Wyvekens, N., Khayter, C., Iafrate, A. J., Le, L. P., Aryee, M. J. & Joung, J. K. (2015) GUIDE-seq enables genome-wide profiling of off-target cleavage by CRISPR-Cas nucleases. *Nat Biotechnol*, 33(2), 187-197.
- Tse, J. W. T., Jenkins, L. J., Chionh, F. & Mariadason, J. M. (2017) Aberrant DNA Methylation in Colorectal Cancer: What Should We Target? *Trends Cancer*, 3(10), 698-712.
- Tseng, C. H., Murray, K. D., Jou, M. F., Hsu, S. M., Cheng, H. J. & Huang, P. H. (2011) Sema3E/plexin-D1 mediated epithelial-to-mesenchymal transition in ovarian endometrioid cancer. *PLoS One*, 6(4), e19396.
- Tsunoda, T., Takashima, Y., Yoshida, Y., Doi, K., Tanaka, Y., Fujimoto, T., Machida, T., Ota, T., Koyanagi, M., Kuroki, M., Sasazuki, T. & Shirasawa, S. (2011) Oncogenic KRAS regulates miR-200c and miR-221/222 in a 3D-specific manner in colorectal cancer cells. *Anticancer Res*, 31(7), 2453-9.
- Tuupanen, S., Niittymaki, I., Nousiainen, K., Vanharanta, S., Mecklin, J. P., Nuorva, K., Jarvinen, H., Hautaniemi, S., Karhu, A. & Aaltonen, L. A. (2008) Allelic imbalance at rs6983267 suggests selection of the risk allele in somatic colorectal tumor evolution. *Cancer Res*, 68(1), 14-7.
- Uchida, M., Shimatsu, Y., Onoe, K., Matsuyama, N., Niki, R., Ikeda, J. E. & Imai, H. (2001) Production of transgenic miniature pigs by pronuclear microinjection. *Transgenic Res*, 10(6), 577-82.
- Urnov, F. D., Rebar, E. J., Holmes, M. C., Zhang, H. S. & Gregory, P. D. (2010) Genome editing with engineered zinc finger nucleases. *Nat Rev Genet*, 11(9), 636-46.
- Valeri, N., Gasparini, P., Fabbri, M., Braconi, C., Veronese, A., Lovat, F., Adair, B., Vannini, I., Fanini, F., Bottoni, A., Costinean, S., Sandhu, S. K., Nuovo, G. J., Alder, H., Gafa, R., Calore, F., Ferracin, M., Lanza, G., Volinia, S., Negrini, M., McIlhatton, M. A., Amadori, D., Fishel, R. & Croce, C. M. (2010)

- Modulation of mismatch repair and genomic stability by miR-155. *Proc Natl Acad Sci U S A*, 107(15), 6982-7.
- Vandesompele, J., De Preter, K., Pattyn, F., Poppe, B., Van Roy, N., De Paepe, A. & Speleman, F. (2002) Accurate normalization of real-time quantitative RT-PCR data by geometric averaging of multiple internal control genes. *Genome Biol*, 3(7), RESEARCH0034.
- Veeck, J., Geisler, C., Noetzel, E., Alkaya, S., Hartmann, A., Knuchel, R. & Dahl, E. (2008) Epigenetic inactivation of the secreted frizzled-related protein-5 (SFRP5) gene in human breast cancer is associated with unfavorable prognosis. *Carcinogenesis*, 29(5), 991-8.
- Veigl, M. L., Kasturi, L., Olechnowicz, J., Ma, A. H., Lutterbaugh, J. D., Periyasamy, S., Li, G. M., Drummond, J., Modrich, P. L., Sedwick, W. D. & Markowitz, S. D. (1998) Biallelic inactivation of hMLH1 by epigenetic gene silencing, a novel mechanism causing human MSI cancers. *Proc Natl Acad Sci U S A*, 95(15), 8698-702.
- Venter, J. C. (2003) A part of the human genome sequence. *Science*, 299(5610), 1183-4.
- Venter, J. C., Adams, M. D., Myers, E. W., Li, P. W., Mural, R. J., Sutton, G. G., Smith, H. O., Yandell, M., Evans, C. A., Holt, R. A., Gocayne, J. D., Amanatides, P., Ballew, R. M., Huson, D. H., Wortman, J. R., Zhang, Q., Kodira, C. D., Zheng, X. H., Chen, L., Skupski, M., Subramanian, G., Thomas, P. D., Zhang, J., Gabor Miklos, G. L., Nelson, C., Broder, S., Clark, A. G., Nadeau, J., McKusick, V. A., Zinder, N., Levine, A. J., Roberts, R. J., Simon, M., Slayman, C., Hunkapiller, M., Bolanos, R., Delcher, A., Dew, I., Fasulo, D., Flanigan, M., Florea, L., Halpern, A., Hannenhalli, S., Kravitz, S., Levy, S., Mobarry, C., Reinert, K., Remington, K., Abu-Threideh, J., Beasley, E., Biddick, K., Bonazzi, V., Brandon, R., Cargill, M., Chandramouliswaran, I., Charlab, R., Chaturvedi, K., Deng, Z., Di Francesco, V., Dunn, P., Eilbeck, K., Evangelista, C., Gabrielian, A. E., Gan, W., Ge, W., Gong, F., Gu, Z., Guan, P., Heiman, T. J., Higgins, M. E., Ji, R. R., Ke, Z., Ketchum, K. A., Lai, Z., Lei, Y., Li, Z., Li, J., Liang, Y., Lin, X., Lu, F., Merkulov, G. V., Milshina, N., Moore, H. M., Naik, A. K., Narayan, V. A., Neelam, B., Nuskern, D., Rusch, D. B., Salzberg, S., Shao, W., Shue, B., Sun, J., Wang, Z., Wang, A., Wang, X., Wang, J., Wei, M., Wides, R., Xiao, C., Yan, C., et al (2001) The sequence of the human genome. *Science*, 291(5507), 1304-51.
- Vlachos, I. S., Paraskevopoulou, M. D., Karagkouni, D., Georgakilas, G., Vergoulis, T., Kanellos, I., Anastasopoulos, I. L., Maniou, S., Karathanou, K., Kalfakakou, D., Fevgas, A., Dalamagas, T. & Hatzigeorgiou, A. G. (2015a) DIANA-TarBase v7.0: indexing more than half a million experimentally supported miRNA:mRNA interactions. *Nucleic Acids Res*, 43(Database issue), D153-9.
- Vlachos, I. S., Zagganas, K., Paraskevopoulou, M. D., Georgakilas, G., Karagkouni, D., Vergoulis, T., Dalamagas, T. & Hatzigeorgiou, A. G. (2015b) DIANA-miRPath v3.0: deciphering microRNA function with experimental support. *Nucleic Acids Res*, 43(W1), W460-6.
- Vogelstein, B., Papadopoulos, N., Velculescu, V. E., Zhou, S., Diaz, L. A., Jr. & Kinzler, K. W. (2013) Cancer genome landscapes. *Science*, 339(6127), 1546-58.
- Vogt, M., Munding, J., Gruner, M., Liffers, S. T., Verdoodt, B., Hauk, J., Steinstraesser, L., Tannapfel, A. & Hermeking, H. (2011) Frequent concomitant inactivation of miR-34a and miR-34b/c by CpG methylation in colorectal, pancreatic, mammary, ovarian, urothelial, and renal cell carcinomas and soft tissue sarcomas. *Virchows Arch*, 458(3), 313-22.
- Volinia, S., Calin, G. A., Liu, C. G., Ambs, S., Cimmino, A., Petrocca, F., Visone, R., Iorio, M., Roldo, C., Ferracin, M., Prueitt, R. L., Yanaihara, N., Lanza, G., Scarpa, A., Vecchione, A., Negrini, M., Harris, C. C. & Croce, C. M. (2006) A microRNA expression signature of human solid tumors defines cancer gene targets. *Proc Natl Acad Sci U S A*, 103(7), 2257-61.
- Vychytilova-Faltejskova, P., Merhautova, J., Machackova, T., Gutierrez-Garcia, I., Garcia-Solano, J., Radova, L., Brchnelova, D., Slaba, K., Svoboda, M., Halamkova, J., Demlova, R., Kiss, I., Vyzula, R., Conesa-Zamora, P. & Slaby, O. (2017) MiR-215-5p is a tumor suppressor in colorectal cancer targeting EGFR ligand epiregulin and its transcriptional inducer HOXB9. *Oncogenesis*, 6(11), 399.
- Wang, K., Jin, Q., Ruan, D., Yang, Y., Liu, Q., Wu, H., Zhou, Z., Ouyang, Z., Liu, Z., Zhao, Y., Zhao, B., Zhang, Q., Peng, J., Lai, C., Fan, N., Liang, Y., Lan, T., Li, N., Wang, X., Wang, X., Fan, Y., Doevendans, P.

- 
- A., Sluijter, J. P. G., Liu, P., Li, X. & Lai, L. (2017) Cre-dependent Cas9-expressing pigs enable efficient in vivo genome editing. *Genome Res*, 27(12), 2061-2071.
- Wang, Y., Du, Y., Shen, B., Zhou, X., Li, J., Liu, Y., Wang, J., Zhou, J., Hu, B., Kang, N., Gao, J., Yu, L., Huang, X. & Wei, H. (2015) Efficient generation of gene-modified pigs via injection of zygote with Cas9/sgRNA. *Sci Rep*, 5, 8256.
- Wei, C., Liu, J., Yu, Z., Zhang, B., Gao, G. & Jiao, R. (2013) TALEN or Cas9 - Rapid, Efficient and Specific Choices for Genome Modifications. *J Genet Genomics*, 40(6), 281-9.
- Weinberg, R. A. (2007) *The biology of cancer*, 1 vols. New York: Garland Science.
- Wertheim, B. C., Smith, J. W., Fang, C., Alberts, D. S., Lance, P. & Thompson, P. A. (2012) Risk modification of colorectal adenoma by CYP7A1 polymorphisms and the role of bile acid metabolism in carcinogenesis. *Cancer Prev Res (Phila)*, 5(2), 197-204.
- Whiffin, N., Hosking, F. J., Farrington, S. M., Palles, C., Dobbins, S. E., Zgaga, L., Lloyd, A., Kinnersley, B., Gorman, M., Tenesa, A., Broderick, P., Wang, Y., Barclay, E., Hayward, C., Martin, L., Buchanan, D. D., Win, A. K., Hopper, J., Jenkins, M., Lindor, N. M., Newcomb, P. A., Gallinger, S., Conti, D., Schumacher, F., Casey, G., Liu, T., Swedish Low-Risk Colorectal Cancer Study, G., Campbell, H., Lindblom, A., Houlston, R. S., Tomlinson, I. P. & Dunlop, M. G. (2014) Identification of susceptibility loci for colorectal cancer in a genome-wide meta-analysis. *Hum Mol Genet*, 23(17), 4729-37.
- Whitelaw, C. B., Radcliffe, P. A., Ritchie, W. A., Carlisle, A., Ellard, F. M., Pena, R. N., Rowe, J., Clark, A. J., King, T. J. & Mitrophanous, K. A. (2004) Efficient generation of transgenic pigs using equine infectious anaemia virus (EIAV) derived vector. *FEBS Lett*, 571(1-3), 233-6.
- Whitworth, K. M., Lee, K., Benne, J. A., Beaton, B. P., Spate, L. D., Murphy, S. L., Samuel, M. S., Mao, J., O'Gorman, C., Walters, E. M., Murphy, C. N., Driver, J., Mileham, A., McLaren, D., Wells, K. D. & Prather, R. S. (2014) Use of the CRISPR/Cas9 system to produce genetically engineered pigs from in vitro-derived oocytes and embryos. *Biol Reprod*, 91(3), 78.
- Willert, K., Shibamoto, S. & Nusse, R. (1999) Wnt-induced dephosphorylation of axin releases beta-catenin from the axin complex. *Genes Dev*, 13(14), 1768-73.
- Williams, C. R., Baccarella, A., Parrish, J. Z. & Kim, C. C. (2016) Trimming of sequence reads alters RNA-Seq gene expression estimates. *BMC Bioinformatics*, 17, 103.
- Wolff, E. M., Byun, H. M., Han, H. F., Sharma, S., Nichols, P. W., Siegmund, K. D., Yang, A. S., Jones, P. A. & Liang, G. (2010) Hypomethylation of a LINE-1 promoter activates an alternate transcript of the MET oncogene in bladders with cancer. *PLoS Genet*, 6(4), e1000917.
- Wong, N. A., Britton, M. P., Choi, G. S., Stanton, T. K., Bicknell, D. C., Wilding, J. L. & Bodmer, W. F. (2004) Loss of CDX1 expression in colorectal carcinoma: promoter methylation, mutation, and loss of heterozygosity analyses of 37 cell lines. *Proc Natl Acad Sci U S A*, 101(2), 574-9.
- Wood, L. D., Parsons, D. W., Jones, S., Lin, J., Sjoblom, T., Leary, R. J., Shen, D., Boca, S. M., Barber, T., Ptak, J., Silliman, N., Szabo, S., Dezso, Z., Ustyanksky, V., Nikolskaya, T., Nikolsky, Y., Karchin, R., Wilson, P. A., Kaminker, J. S., Zhang, Z., Croshaw, R., Willis, J., Dawson, D., Shipitsin, M., Willson, J. K., Sukumar, S., Polyak, K., Park, B. H., Pethiyagoda, C. L., Pant, P. V., Ballinger, D. G., Sparks, A. B., Hartigan, J., Smith, D. R., Suh, E., Papadopoulos, N., Buckhaults, P., Markowitz, S. D., Parmigiani, G., Kinzler, K. W., Velculescu, V. E. & Vogelstein, B. (2007) The genomic landscapes of human breast and colorectal cancers. *Science*, 318(5853), 1108-13.
- World health statistics 2017: Monitoring health for the SDGs, Sustainable Development Goals. Geneva: World Health Organization; 2017. Licence: CC BY-NC-SA 3.0 IGO; <http://apps.who.int/iris/bitstream/handle/10665/255336/9789241565486-eng.pdf;jsessionid=73C27896EAA6A4A17FDF776E162EE0FA?sequence=1>, retrieved 02.09.2018
-

- 
- Wu, M., Wei, C., Lian, Z., Liu, R., Zhu, C., Wang, H., Cao, J., Shen, Y., Zhao, F., Zhang, L., Mu, Z., Wang, Y., Wang, X., Du, L. & Wang, C. (2016) Rosa26-targeted sheep gene knock-in via CRISPR-Cas9 system. *Sci Rep*, 6, 24360.
- Wu, W., Yang, J., Feng, X., Wang, H., Ye, S., Yang, P., Tan, W., Wei, G. & Zhou, Y. (2013) MicroRNA-32 (miR-32) regulates phosphatase and tensin homologue (PTEN) expression and promotes growth, migration, and invasion in colorectal carcinoma cells. *Mol Cancer*, 12, 30.
- Wu, W. K., Law, P. T., Lee, C. W., Cho, C. H., Fan, D., Wu, K., Yu, J. & Sung, J. J. (2011) MicroRNA in colorectal cancer: from benchtop to bedside. *Carcinogenesis*, 32(3), 247-53.
- Xu, X., Chen, R., Li, Z., Huang, N., Wu, X., Li, S., Li, Y. & Wu, S. (2015) MicroRNA-490-3p inhibits colorectal cancer metastasis by targeting TGFbetaR1. *BMC Cancer*, 15, 1023.
- Yamada, N., Noguchi, S., Mori, T., Naoe, T., Maruo, K. & Akao, Y. (2013) Tumor-suppressive microRNA-145 targets catenin delta-1 to regulate Wnt/beta-catenin signaling in human colon cancer cells. *Cancer Lett*, 335(2), 332-42.
- Yamakawa, H., Nagai, T., Harasawa, R., Yamagami, T., Takahashi, J., Ishikawa, K., Nomura, N. & Nagashima, H. (1999) Production of transgenic pig carrying MMTV/v-Ha-ras. *Journal of Reproduction and Development*, 45, 111-118.
- Yamakuchi, M., Ferlito, M. & Lowenstein, C. J. (2008) miR-34a repression of SIRT1 regulates apoptosis. *Proc Natl Acad Sci U S A*, 105(36), 13421-6.
- Yamamoto, H., Gil, J., Schwartz, S., Jr. & Perucho, M. (2000) Frameshift mutations in Fas, Apaf-1, and Bcl-10 in gastro-intestinal cancer of the microsatellite mutator phenotype. *Cell Death Differ*, 7(2), 238-9.
- Yamamoto, H., Kishida, S., Kishida, M., Ikeda, S., Takada, S. & Kikuchi, A. (1999) Phosphorylation of axin, a Wnt signal negative regulator, by glycogen synthase kinase-3beta regulates its stability. *J Biol Chem*, 274(16), 10681-4.
- Yang, S., Farraye, F. A., Mack, C., Posnik, O. & O'Brien, M. J. (2004) BRAF and KRAS Mutations in hyperplastic polyps and serrated adenomas of the colorectum: relationship to histology and CpG island methylation status. *Am J Surg Pathol*, 28(11), 1452-9.
- Yang, X., Zou, J., Cai, H., Huang, X., Yang, X., Guo, D. & Cao, Y. (2017) Ginsenoside Rg3 inhibits colorectal tumor growth via down-regulation of C/EBPbeta/NF-kappaB signaling. *Biomed Pharmacother*, 96, 1240-1245.
- Yu, H., Lee, H., Herrmann, A., Buettner, R. & Jove, R. (2014) Revisiting STAT3 signalling in cancer: new and unexpected biological functions. *Nat Rev Cancer*, 14(11), 736-46.
- Yu, H. H., Zhao, H., Qing, Y. B., Pan, W. R., Jia, B. Y., Zhao, H. Y., Huang, X. X. & Wei, H. J. (2016) Porcine Zygote Injection with Cas9/sgRNA Results in DMD-Modified Pig with Muscle Dystrophy. *Int J Mol Sci*, 17(10).
- Yu, Y., Kanwar, S. S., Patel, B. B., Oh, P. S., Nautiyal, J., Sarkar, F. H. & Majumdar, A. P. (2012) MicroRNA-21 induces stemness by downregulating transforming growth factor beta receptor 2 (TGFbetaR2) in colon cancer cells. *Carcinogenesis*, 33(1), 68-76.
- Zambrowicz, B. P., Imamoto, A., Fiering, S., Herzenberg, L. A., Kerr, W. G. & Soriano, P. (1997) Disruption of overlapping transcripts in the ROSA beta geo 26 gene trap strain leads to widespread expression of beta-galactosidase in mouse embryos and hematopoietic cells. *Proc Natl Acad Sci U S A*, 94(8), 3789-94.
- Zang, Y., Wang, T., Pan, J. & Gao, F. (2017) miR-215 promotes cell migration and invasion of gastric cancer cell lines by targeting FOXO1. *Neoplasma*, 64(4), 579-587.
- Zetsche, B., Gootenberg, J. S., Abudayyeh, O. O., Slaymaker, I. M., Makarova, K. S., Essletzbichler, P., Volz, S. E., Joung, J., van der Oost, J., Regev, A., Koonin, E. V. & Zhang, F. (2015) Cpf1 is a single RNA-guided endonuclease of a class 2 CRISPR-Cas system. *Cell*, 163(3), 759-71.
-

- 
- Zhang, G., Zhou, H., Xiao, H., Liu, Z., Tian, H. & Zhou, T. (2014a) MicroRNA-92a functions as an oncogene in colorectal cancer by targeting PTEN. *Dig Dis Sci*, 59(1), 98-107.
- Zhang, W., Zhang, T., Jin, R., Zhao, H., Hu, J., Feng, B., Zang, L., Zheng, M. & Wang, M. (2014b) MicroRNA-301a promotes migration and invasion by targeting TGFBR2 in human colorectal cancer. *J Exp Clin Cancer Res*, 33, 113.
- Zhang, X., Li, X., Tan, F., Yu, N. & Pei, H. (2017) STAT1 Inhibits MiR-181a Expression to Suppress Colorectal Cancer Cell Proliferation Through PTEN/Akt. *J Cell Biochem*, 118(10), 3435-3443.
- Zhang, Y., Lin, C., Liao, G., Liu, S., Ding, J., Tang, F., Wang, Z., Liang, X., Li, B., Wei, Y., Huang, Q., Li, X. & Tang, B. (2015) MicroRNA-506 suppresses tumor proliferation and metastasis in colon cancer by directly targeting the oncogene EZH2. *Oncotarget*, 6(32), 32586-601.
- Zhang, Y., Tian, X., Ji, H., Guan, X., Xu, W., Dong, B., Zhao, M., Wei, M., Ye, C., Sun, Y., Yuan, X., Yang, C. & Hao, C. (2014c) Expression of SATB1 promotes the growth and metastasis of colorectal cancer. *PLoS One*, 9(6), e100413.
- Zhou, X., Wang, L., Du, Y., Xie, F., Li, L., Liu, Y., Liu, C., Wang, S., Zhang, S., Huang, X., Wang, Y. & Wei, H. (2016) Efficient Generation of Gene-Modified Pigs Harboring Precise Orthologous Human Mutation via CRISPR/Cas9-Induced Homology-Directed Repair in Zygotes. *Hum Mutat*, 37(1), 110-8.
- Zhu, J., Chen, L., Zou, L., Yang, P., Wu, R., Mao, Y., Zhou, H., Li, R., Wang, K., Wang, W., Hua, D. & Zhang, X. (2014) MiR-20b, -21, and -130b inhibit PTEN expression resulting in B7-H1 over-expression in advanced colorectal cancer. *Hum Immunol*, 75(4), 348-53.

## 10. Appendix

### 10.1 Wizard® SV Gel and PCR Clean-Up System

#### Wizard® SV Gel and PCR Clean-Up System

INSTRUCTIONS FOR USE OF PRODUCTS A9280, A9281, A9282, AND A9285.

**Quick**  
PROTOCOL

#### DNA Purification by Centrifugation

##### Gel Slice and PCR Product Preparation

##### A. Dissolving the Gel Slice

1. Following electrophoresis, excise DNA band from gel and place gel slice in a 1.5ml microcentrifuge tube.
2. Add 10µl Membrane Binding Solution per 10mg of gel slice. Vortex and incubate at 50–65°C until gel slice is completely dissolved.

##### B. Processing PCR Amplifications

1. Add an equal volume of Membrane Binding Solution to the PCR amplification.

##### Binding of DNA

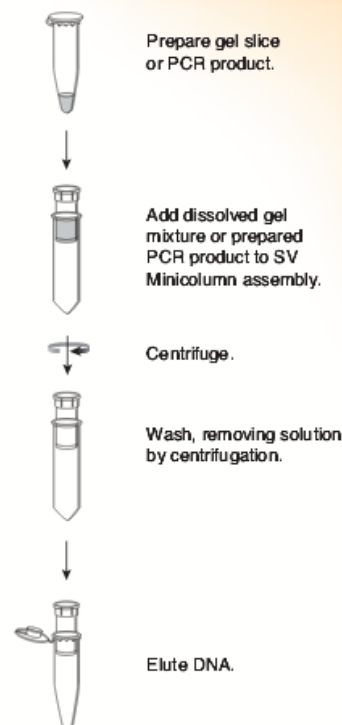
1. Insert SV Minicolumn into Collection Tube.
2. Transfer dissolved gel mixture or prepared PCR product to the Minicolumn assembly. Incubate at room temperature for 1 minute.
3. Centrifuge at  $16,000 \times g$  for 1 minute. Discard flowthrough and reinsert Minicolumn into Collection Tube.

##### Washing

4. Add 700µl Membrane Wash Solution (ethanol added). Centrifuge at  $16,000 \times g$  for 1 minute. Discard flowthrough and reinsert Minicolumn into Collection Tube.
5. Repeat Step 4 with 500µl Membrane Wash Solution. Centrifuge at  $16,000 \times g$  for ~~5 minutes~~ **2 min**
6. Empty the Collection Tube and recentrifuge the column assembly for ~~1 minute~~ **3 min** with the microcentrifuge lid open (or off) to allow evaporation of any residual ethanol.

##### Elution

7. Carefully transfer Minicolumn to a clean 1.5ml microcentrifuge tube.
8. Add ~~50µl~~ **30 µl of 65 °C warm water** to the Minicolumn. Incubate at room temperature for 1 minute. Centrifuge at  $16,000 \times g$  for 1 minute.
9. Discard Minicolumn and store DNA at 4°C or –20°C.



Additional protocol information is available in Technical Bulletin #TB308, available online at: [www.promega.com](http://www.promega.com)

#### ORDERING/TECHNICAL INFORMATION:

[www.promega.com](http://www.promega.com) • Phone 608-274-4330 or 800-356-9526 • Fax 608-277-2601

© 2002, 2004, 2005 and 2009 Promega Corporation. All Rights Reserved.



**Promega**

Printed in USA. Revised 11/09  
Part #9FB072

9760M A07\_2A

## 10.2 Unbiased miRNA target analysis

miRNA	hsa-miR-215-5p	hsa-miR-215-5p	hsa-miR-215-5p	hsa-miR-194-5p	hsa-miR-27a-3p	hsa-miR-23a-3p	hsa-miR-192-5p	hsa-miR-146a-5p	hsa-let-7d-5p	hsa-miR-375-3p	hsa-miR-139-5p	hsa-miR-182-5p	hsa-miR-214-3p	hsa-miR-582-3p	hsa-miR-92b-3p
database	Targetscan	microT	Tarbase	Tarbase	Tarbase	Tarbase	Tarbase	Tarbase	Tarbase	Tarbase	Tarbase	Tarbase	Tarbase	Tarbase	Tarbase
higher (+) or lower(-) expression in HP	+	+	+	+	-	-	+	-	-	+	+	+	-	+	-
	PLXNB2	CTNBP1	BMI1	BMI1	TERF2	TERF2	FZD7	CALU	CALU	CALU	BMI1	TMSB10	GPAT2	CALU	RTN4
	ALS2CR11	ESR1	TBC1D20	TBC1D20	CALU	CCNT2	EFNB2	SLK	TGDS	EFNB2	RTN4	FAM102B	PLXNA2	EPB41L4A	ARPC5
	TTL	ZEB2	LAMB2	LAMB2	BMI1	FAM102B	CTNBP1	EPB41L4A	CGNT2	SLK	SLK	GOLPH3L	CCNG1	SCLT1	ZNF503
	FGD5	ZMAT3	CCNG1	CCNG1	TMSB10	ABCD4	WWC2	PELI1	ZDHHC18	WWC2	PELI1	ZDHHC18	NEK7	NEK7	DDI2
	DIEXF	FRMD4B	IGFBP5	IGFBP5	ZKSCAN5	RPRD2	C10orf6 (hsa)	ATF6	SLK	CELLF2	VPS13C	RTN4	ZEB2	PAQR3	IRS2
	MED14	C10orf126	TMED8	TMED8	RNF41	EPB41L4A	COP57A	C16orf52	ESPL1	TBC1D20	IRS2	COP57A	FAM120A	ZEB2	RNF11
	ARL2BP	ALS2CR11	HBEGF	HBEGF	CCNT2	YTHDC2	B2M	BRK1	EPB41L4A	PELI1	KLHL28	ESR1	FST	WIIF2	BRAF
	PTPN4	BLCAP	MFAP3	MFAP3	POLR2B	ESR1	HSS00104143 (hsa)	NCAPG2	ESR1	CAMTA1	CAMK2D	DDI2	SCAMP2	GSK3B	FHL2
	C16orf46	TTL	UBXN7	UBXN7	GOLPH3L	E2F7	PPP1CA	(PTPRG) (hsa)	PPP1CA	SLC44A2	POU2F1	RAB2B	STAT3	PRKCA	POU2F1
	PREPL	GPR22	SCAMP3	SCAMP3	RTN4	DDI2	TRIB3	SCARF2	TRIB3	ABCB10	ZNF544	LARP6	HPCAL1	ITPRIP	ANP32E
	SPATA13	DICER1	BRMS1L	BRMS1L	VAPB	RAB2B	ABCB10	SLC38A1	SLC44A2	RPA1	IOCJ-SCHIP1	TRIB3	ASB1	PEAK1	TNFRSF11B
	DDX6	ADCY7	ARL6IP5	ARL6IP5	SLK	CAMTA1	RPA1	TLR2	ABCB10	ZBTB40	SEC16A	CAMTA1	PNPLA2	RREB1	DUSP4
	RAB2A	DIEXF	TNPO1	TNPO1	RPRD2	RPA1	VPS13C	NEK7	PLXNA2	GABBR1	PDLIM5	RGS17	ARID3A	TNPO1	MTO1
	CRB1	PHAX	NAA35	NAA35	ESPL1	VPS13C	SRRT	GSK3B	RGS17	KLHL28	TRA2B	FBXO5	NDST1	CDH2	TMEM50A
	CXCL2	BRIX1	ARFGEF1	ARFGEF1	YTHDC2	KLHL28	C16orf52	SOX4	PFN1	CEP70	CTNND2	PFN1	ATP2C1	G3BP1	BRI3BP
	CCDC121	RIC8B	CDH2	CDH2	SEMA6A	FHL2	FBXO5	FBX13	IRS2	RPGR	ZNF786	PTPDC1	YAP1	TBC1D13	RAPGEF3
	B3GALNT1	MED14	G3BP1	G3BP1	NDUFS2	FASN	BUD13	OTUD1	RBM14	TTC7B	TSC1	COMMD5	RNF38	TCEB3	SERTAD3
	LIMS1	PRR23D1	ZSCAN25	ZSCAN25	CELLF2	ZNF544	POU2F1	DAZAP2	BUD13	NACA	PTPN3	ZBTB40	TM9SF1	OTUD3	PPP1R37
	LPAR4	PRR23D2	MMS19	MMS19	PPP1CA	CCNG1	UBASH3B	NFIX	BRAF	PRLR	MYBL1	SIC25A44	NUCKS1	FEM1B	PCGF6



	PNPT1	KCNQ5	TGFBR1	E2F7	DCLE1A	ACTB	APMAP	POU2F1	PPP1R2	MRFAP1L <sub>1</sub>	IQCK	AMFR	RAP2B	JARID2
	SCN3A	ARL2BP	DSC2	DDI2	TANC1	EAF1	BRMS1L	SLC41A2	PAQR3	CACNG8	FASN	NRAS	TROVE2	TCF3
	DNAH9	PTPN4	OSBP	ABCB10	SLC38A1	HSPA2	RPS3	CDC6	SPAG16	SAR1A	DCLE1A	CRKL	UBP1	GSK3B
	TYMS	DBT	VDAC1	PLXNA2	SNAP23	PRLR	ETAA1	ACTB	SEC16A	TRIM68	EAF1	TM9SF2	CDT1	RNF44
	PKP4	MCM4	BBS2	BRK1	PRLR	AF086032 (hsa)	RAG1	NACA	NETO2	CDH2	APTX	SLC47A1	ITGB1	FAM120A
	RPAP2	SOAT1	ZDHHC2 <sub>1</sub>	PTPDC1	SRPX	FBXO25	TNPO1	HDX	CCDC88 (hsa)	AP4B1	EIF3L	CLIC4	CCNB1	SOX4
	CNGB3	WNK1	RAB35	TMPPSS2	TMEM50A	DCP1A	ARGLU1	BRI3BP	CNOT6	RPS23	SLC38A1	KIF1B	EZR	PDP1
	SLC19A2	C16orf4 <sub>6</sub>	ZFAND5	C12orf73	BRI3BP	EGR1	G3BP1	MAGI2	TMED8	TUFT1	PHLPP2	BAIAP2	ZNF621	MCOLN2
	DYRK3	CRISP1	YAP1	KLHL28	NEK7	HSS00330832 (hsa)	TMTC2	MED29	ITGA (hsa)	CDS1	PTK7	MAGEF1	SSR1	BRMS1L
	IGJ	SPATA1 <sub>3</sub>	WASL	CAMK2D	MSI2	FOS	ADAM10	EGR1	CXADR	NFKB1	PRLR	ZNF710	ANKRD1 <sub>1</sub>	SPARC
	NCAPG	FAM229 <sub>B</sub>	FUS	BRAF	PDLIM5	RAB8A	CAPN2	SFSWAP	SOX4	OAZ1	MPHOSPH <sub>8</sub>	ZNYM4	CCT2	RREB1
	MCPH1	UMODL <sub>1</sub>	ITGB8	FHL2	JARID2	Contig43200_R C (hsa)	ISG20L2	ZEB2	PRKCA	TROVE2	DCP1A	FBXW7	NUCKS1	CLPP
	L2HGDH	RAB2A	ATF2	HGSNAT	HS6ST2	ZEB2	IRF4	MLK4	ILIRAP	CHCHD2	RAB3GAP <sub>1</sub>	ENDOD1	C12orf49	TNPO1
	BHLHE2 <sub>2</sub>	SH3RF3	NUCKS1	ANP32E	HIPK2	MLK4	OAZ1	CASP8AP <sub>2</sub>	NUMB	ZBTB39	LRP10	COL12A1	RFX5	EFCAB14
	CDC7	CRNKL1	ITGA9	LAMB2	TLN2	ZMAT3	SLC4A1AP	HIPK2	POC1B-GALNT4	UBR1	ACKR3	THBS1	RAD23B	UBE2Z
	IKZF2	TRAF5	CAMSAP <sub>1</sub>	FASN	RPL31	TROAP	PHF20L1	LIN52	DAZAP2	PLCXD1	ZMAT3	RUNX1	CAMSAP <sub>1</sub>	EID2B
	PRKAR1 <sub>A</sub>	PDP1	EN2	ADAM9	CRTC3	HIPK2	CCNB1	ADIPOR1	CRLF1	PET112	NETO2	EIF4A3	TIMM21	ZSCAN25
	KIF20B	MSN	CXCR4	CCNG1	BICD2	BC002811 (hsa)	ARL8A	RNF44	MYBL1	TT39C	NAF1	HMG2	FBXO21	TGFBF1
	RNF8	C9orf15 <sub>3</sub>	TMEM33	TANC1	LHX4-AS1	EDRF1	PLA1A	C5orf30	ATG7	DDX3Y	DPP3	PTRF	EMC10	CHMP7
	ZBTB4	TAOK1	PTBP2	PHLPP2	FAM120A	hCT1170636.1 (hsa)	WASL	GPR63	UGCG	YAP1	HIPK2	CDC25B	CAMK4	COX8A
	ACPP	ALCAM	RNF122	PRLR	PDP1	C5orf30	DDHD1	PDP1	TNPO1	SSR1	CNOT6	HMG2	SLC37A3	GGCT
	RNF141	CCDC12 <sub>1</sub>	MTHFD2	TMEM50A	CDIP1	CREBL2	TPD52	SIPA1	PDGFRA	ELF2	CRTC3	PAK2	LPHN2	TNFRSF13 <sub>B</sub>
	KIF5B	B3GALN <sub>T1</sub>	TM9SF2	NRCAM	PYCR1	Contig11417_R C (hsa)	CDS2	PAGR1	EFCAB14	WDR60	GSK3B	ANKRD6	MTHFD2	PLP2
	EREG	ZXDC	YWHAE	NEK7	PKIA	HBEGF	AK022044 (hsa)	PKIA	ELL2	ZNF827	ADIPOR1	ANKRD5 <sub>2</sub>	CYB561D <sub>1</sub>	FEM1B
		LIMS1	CHD1	BSC2	PRKCA	CHST12	LTA4H	C9orf40	TOB2	ZSCAN32	CTDSP1	WDR41	GPATCH8	UBXN4





ATP8B4	TECPR2	GALNT7	RNF38	PET112	SMARCAD1	GRAMD1 B	ARHGAP1 1A	PERP	WASF1	IER3	SNN	SIK1
	NIN	RNF217	UBE2Z	POLR1C	IER2	ARL8A	SDC1	ARPP19	BLCAP	GIGYF1	NOP56	IPO9
	MCM10	SF3A1	ARFGEF1	NUCB2	VWCE	UBR1	RBM12	PDE3A	CNOT11	ATP2B1	WWTR1	MTMR6
	MYLK	WEE1	EEF2K	NDFIP2	SYNJ1	MED13L	C15orf41	PTTG1IP	POPC3	NSD1	MAP3K1	HMG2A
	EHMT1	SETD5	TOB2	DDHD1	RHPN2	PLCXD1	CRLF3	ROBO2	UBP1	TUBA3C	ETF1	VANGL1
	KIF5B	GPR158	EZF1	IL1R1	HLA-C	BCL9	VPS37D	ZBTB24	C20orf24	FAM222 B	EXT2	TOR1AIP2
	MUM1L 1	IGF1R	TMEM204	ZDHHHC23	PHF23	RAB35	ETV6	LCOR	CSK	TMEM14 7	FEM1C	PHACTR2
	REG	NEMF	RCC1	TRIM23	ZNF620	SNX19	LIMD2	REV1	TTYH3	TP53	SEC61A1	LGR4
	NCR3LG 1	DDX17	MASTL	GATM	MED13	HELB	FGFR3	YDIC	ITGB1	TNRC6B	HN1L	ZNF267
	ZBTB8B	PSME4	ASB1	WDR7	PPP2R4	FGD6	PRKAA2	ZFP36	ASZ1	SSRP1	UBE2J1	PIP5K1C
		EV15	TGFBR1	TOMM40	ATP11B	CIC	SLC25A15	ADAT2	TBCB	HSPG2	OSER1	KIF20A
		ZFHX3	MSI1	Contig37200_R C (hsa)	PAPOLA	STOX2	REPS1	UBE2E2	GNMNB	NPR1	HOXB3	ATMIN
		GNAI3	PDE4DIP	Contig37920_R C (hsa)	DCUN1D4	RPN1	NLRP2	WAC	WARS2	COL6A1	SLC7A5	CDKAL1
		ZNF195	CXCL16	SMS	MDFIC	CEP97	KCNE3	ZNF562	MED13L	RBMS1	OLR1	CASK
		TMOD3	WDR1	hCT1819827.1 (hsa)	CSDE1	YAP1	HN1	HSPA5	TIMM9	HECTD1	PES1	C11orf30
		VAPA	TCEB3	AK095149 (hsa)	TOMM70A	ZBED4	MTHFD2	RAF1	USP39	CHP1	CDK6	TMEM18 4B
		LUC7L3	APEX1	WDR47	MOB1B	NDFIP2	WHSC1L1	LONP2	FNTB	CD81	IPO7	SETD7
		KCNJ1	GGCT	THEM6	PPP2R5D	PLA1A	TNNI3	FRK	CYFIP2	AGPAT1	DDX3X	EXTL2
		GM2A	DSC2	MCM9	CCDC117	TPD52	KCNIP4	SOD1	RPF1	TAGLN2	IGF2BP1	GNPDA1
		IKZF3	EPHB2	SAYS5D1	PSMD3	IL1R1	PHAX	RRM2B	C7orf25	COPB2	DNAIC9	SEL1L
		FEM1C	FBXO46	TCERG1	SFT2D2	SSR1	SLC7A6	AKAP1	STOX2	CBLB	USP15	TBC1D10 B
		CD2AP	NFKB1	FAM83G	PHF3	ELF2	CRIM1	ZNF706	ZFAND5	NUP214	SMARCD 1	ZNF431
		COPS2	FAM189B	CTNND1	AFG1	C1orf43	CHD1	C7orf60	YAP1	LARP1	SIRPA	CPEB4
		GOLM1	IRF4	KDM5C	BTBD3	PACS1	KIF1B	CDKN1B	NUMBL	FH	BUB3	UBIAD1
		HIC2	UNKL	MRPS35	EGFR	GATM	ATP5F1	TP63	TTC39B	PRDX4	CTC- 260F20.3	SUGP2
		NISCH	PDHX	LINGO1	TMEM41B	TOMM40	RAB3D	LIN28B	NDHIP2	MAPKB 1	RP520	USP31
		IPO7	EXT1	ACSS1	IER5L	CSNK1G2	CCNA2	EPG5	WASL	CNIH1	NCOA5	IL10RB
		SERINC1	FEM1B	CBL	LY75	RB1CC1	DR1	LPPR1	DDHD1	COL2A1	LYSMD1	USP1
		INIP	RAP2B	IGFN1	IFITM3	PKN3	NT5C2	ZNF302	TPD52	DBP	KLF5	UBQLN1
		RRAS2	E1F3F	NUCKS1	SOSTM1	PEX19	LPCAT1	GOLT1B	E1F2AK1	NAV1	RHOT2	WNT5A
		FNBP1	PTPRU	CTR9	HEATR1	FUS	CALM3	KIF18A	ZNF621	NAV2	DST	CTBP1

MSN	SNX11	CASP7	BLM	PTMS	THEM6	DCTN5	SETD5	ZBTB44	SLIT2	CAPZA1	PHGDH
ZCCHC2	SMC1A	RCN1	RP11-11C5.2 (hsa)	DHX40	ITGB8	NUP153	SFT2D2	SLC35F1	BTG2	CHM	RNF103
SNIP1	TOP3A	RBM12	RDH11	HAS2	TCERG1	FAM193A	IGF1R	SSR1	FBN1	NDUFA1 <sub>2</sub>	KLF2
ZNF770	MET	CRLF3	ENST00000296531 (hsa)	ZNF708	HELZ2	ZNFX1	ZNF69	ST3GAL3	GP2	ZNF680	HTT
APP	UTP14A	PDK4	AF086173 (hsa)	SEC61A1	RHOBTB <sub>3</sub>	GTF2H1	ZNF480	SH3BGRL	MSH6	RICTOR	DUSP12
LBR	MFSD1	SLC7A6O <sub>5</sub>	KCTD12	SF1	WDR7	NME4	PSME4	C1orf43	NR3C1	ASH1L	PWP1
TAOK1	TROVE2	PRKAA2	ATN1	EVC	UBE2T	PCLO	ZFH3	ATXN7L3	SSFA2	SDHC	S100A4
FADS1	UBXN4	DIEXF	U79257 (hsa)	SNRNP27	CDK4	IP6K2	CLTC	ZIC2	PIGC	AMMECR <sub>1</sub>	SZR1
CAPZA1	SRSF9	SCAF4	hCT2328509 (hsa)	TMEM164	GPHN	YOD1	RASGEF1 <sub>B</sub>	KAT6A	AXL	EEF1D	LMBR1L
ABHD2	SIPA1L3	C12orf76	Contig30437_R <sub>C</sub> (hsa)	PDP1	FLNC	EBPL	MAP3K4	ANGEL2	TPD52L2	ZNF207	MCL1
FAM60A	CBFAZT3	SORL1	ESCO2	HNRNPU	LDB2	HMGR	XBP1	RNF38	COL4A2	DYRK2	DUSP6
FIX1	BLCAP	STK4	EIF2AK3	TAB2	NUCKS1	VPS13D	ETF1	UBXN6	SMARCA <sub>5</sub>	TEX19	TGS1
MYSM1	CNOT11	LPIN1	ALMS1	RPS6	BLM	PSMA6	PMP22	PAX6	KPNA5	CCNT1	HLA-E
TMEM12 <sub>3</sub>	MEGF9	YWHAE	ZNF611	HSPH1	IARS	TRIM37	FAM91A1	MRS2	DNAJC13	ARL4C	ZDHHC5
GIGYF1	SSH2	CRIM1	STAM	STMN3	KCTD12	ARMC8	FOXCI	RB1CC1	DNMT1	MTR	PSMD2
CCT6A	RRAGD	FUT4	PXDC1	C1orf21	PREX1	TXNDC10 (hsa)	ZDHHC9	NUP85	ZDHHC4	GABRB3	SATB2
PSMD13	ID2	DUSP11	TTF2	STAT5B	FAM83G	IPO9	VLDLR	MCM9	MECP2	SCAMP1	MARS
ZNF680	CSK	MSMO1	RNASEL	IGF2BP1	SNX33	HSPA4	ZKSCAN8	ITGB8	ZFP36L1	XPO7	HOXA9
RGPD3	VDAC1	KBTBD2	SH2B3	USP54	WIPI1	USP6NL	HEG1	FAM126B	GPBP1L1	TRAFD1	RC3H2
INSIG1	TTYH3	CHD1	DICER1	RER1	KDM5C	VANGL1	KIF23	RHOBTB3	ARID1A	ZFYVE27	SLC25A32
RALGAPB	ITGB1	SKIDA1	Contig54491_R <sub>C</sub> (hsa)	ATPV1H	SMAD2	TOR1AIP2	NISCH	CDK4	PCBP1	PEG10	STK38
DHODH	PPP4C	VAMP4	ARHGAP11A	MTHFD1	MRPS35	NIPAL3	VP537B	FIG4	MTPN	MLEC	U2SURP
SPTY2D1	RPL17	SPPL2A	C19orf55	MID1	GARS	ZMYND11	DDX3X	ZCCHC9	COL1A1	ZNF143	ZNF551
THAP10	TOR1A	RFPW2	OVOL1	PRPF8	USP36	AGO3	TCP1	BSDC1	XPR1	ZNF217	RECQL5
PRRC2C	TTL	ATE1	CASP7	DBF4B	PRSS21	PHF14	PRKCE	DDX50	CENPB	ITGAV	ZNF148
SEC61A2	ZBTB39	FAM78A	RBM12	CHMP4B	USP38	NCOA7	ZNF438	USP9Y	EIF4G1	DMWD	OTUD6B
RICTOR	GNM1B	HNRNPD	SMUG1	BCHE	CASP4	TBC1D9	PIPA	NUCKS1	RAB11A	PPL	SYPL1
ACBD3	WARS2	BTBD1	ZBTB10	RG513	SH2B3	CEPS7L1	PML	POLR2C	SHISA5	CNIH1	LINS
KLHL11	NUP62	RIC8B	ERIC5	EFNA5	DICER1	CUL2	FAM162A	RDH11	FLNA	POP7	CBX4
TMEM13 <sub>2B</sub>	UBR1	EXOC5	DNAJC19	KBTBD6	CTR9	CLCN3	ZNF107	MGST1	PABPC1	SP4	CASP1

TRIP12	MED13L	DENND4 B	CAMK4	PDSSA	TMEM20 5	TPR	DEK	GTF2F2	ZNF426	RAB11FI P2	SNRK
BCAT1	RAB35	TTC4	TCFL5	RFX7	C19orf55	PIK3IP1	C18orf8	ATN1	TEAD1	ZFX	HAND1
ATP9A	SRR	ERO1L	CCNO	DDX60	KBTBD8	REST	MAT2B	KIAA1324	TMEM18 5B	NFAT5	GOLGA8B
GYG1	SNX19	RUVBL1	NM_024084 (hsa)	MTUS2	EZF2	SETD7	CKAP5	RAD23B	PHC2	SLC5A6	KLF12
CYTH3	RPF1	ANKHD1	SLC37A3	GIGYF1	TRIM27	LMNB2	TAB3	EIF2AK3	NRP1	CMIP	RAD54B
HECTD1	FGD6	FAM107B	CRLF3	NSD1	CXCR4	CEBPZ	TP53TG3	TIMM21	ERN1	AGO1	MKRN2
ASAP1	CIC	ZNFX1	NAPG	NAGP	RBM12	CEP128	PLAGL1	ALMS1	FIGL1	MAPK9	LRRCC1
GREB1L	STOX2	ZNF724P	ADCY7	SLC16A3	MAST4	OXNAD1	OSGEP1	USP25	SRRM2	EEF2	ZNF566
LAPTM4 A	RPN1	GOSR1	DNAJC3	DDX21	EMC10	PSD-95 (hsa)	ADIPOR2	ARL2	TNFRSF2 1	RAB3IP	ZNF121
ACVR2B	GNA12	YOD1	ADRBK2	ZNF197	C15orf41	IFIT1	DCTN2	GARS	PEBP1	PHC3	LCOR
EDEM3	PET112	IFI30	UGGT1	ACBD3	PTBP2	CAPN8	WDR5	BRD2	HKR1	ORMDL1	FZD6
ALG5	TACC2	PPAT	PRKAA2	SRSF1	HCN2	USP31	NSD1	CBL	TAPT1	FBN1	GPR180
CHP1	EF5	TAF9B	DIEXF	ZDHHC12	CBFA2T2	SPTLC2	FAM2222B	PRSS21	HIST1H3 H	ZNF711	ZNF24
CD81	ZFAND5	PDDC1	RPL27	NMI	NRAS	DPYSL3	ZNF324	DICER1	SURF4	SYBU	TOB1
RAB5A	TTC39C	GUCY1A3	DLG7 (hsa)	THAP5	LIMD2	DIDO1	ZNF680	FRMD4A	ZNF518B	PPP1R15 B	WAC
FAM69B	YAP1	SSH1	CXorf57	STC1	H2AFX	VSIG10	RP56KA5	KBTBD8	PLIN5	CLINT1	PPRC1
SLC2A3	ADRBK1	TRIM37	TMEM194A	AZIN1	DIEXF	USP1	SIX1	CBX2	RBPM5	RNF4	RPL37
PTPN13	NDHFP2	UBR5	ARHGAP19	GLTP	DUSP2	AP2B1	RHOT1	DNM2	ZNF451	BABAM1	SETD1B
ETNK1	FOXN4	ARF3	SASS6	OPN (hsa)	IP6K1	CHD8	PRRC2C	CMITM3	TSPAN17	FAM208 B	ARID1B
CBLB	ZNF621	THBS1	WHSC1L1	ZNF490	TMEM19 4A	PURA	ASH1L	MLF2	AHSA1	FNDC3B	IRGQ
ZNF217	ZBTB44	DBNDD2	THUMPD3	HSPA1A	ATXN2L	MYO5B	TYW3	TPD52L1	TNKS1BP 1	ZFP37	HLA-DRA
TOE1	SSR1	RBM18	ATXN1L	SILFN11	ARHGAP 19	ODF2	TOP2B	CXCR4	RP56KA3	PPP3CB	ITGA5
DCAF6	ELF2	USP6NL	STK4	PAPD5	C6orf136	PFAFH1B1	ZSWIM6	RBM12	PRKAR1A	PTBP3	SLC36A4
TAF1	AREL1	HMG2A	PIWIL3	ZDHHC16	HN1	IDS	EDEM1	ZBTB10	MYADM	VT11B	PRKRIR
EBF3	C1orf43	PTRF	PRRC1	KIAA1524	SASS6	MREG	SRSF1	ERICH5	CDK17	STRBP	CCDC28A
RAB11FI P2	GATM	TOR1AIP 2	RSE_00000676 604 (hsa)	BG547557 (hsa)	MTHFD2	PITPNA	PURB	FAM32A	ATXN7L3 B	ABCC9	APPL2
DDIT4	ZIC2	UBTD2	PIGX	CD81	ATXN1L	HIST1H1E	KLHL11	TMEM33	ELMO1	COP55	LIMCH1
RBM39	KAT6A	PIK3CB	FEN1	AKT2	ZBTB2	ARL2BP	AMMECR 1	MGAT5	BRPF1	MSL1	TIAM2
SOST	ANGEL2	DAB2	ELK4	SLC2A3	VPS18	REEP3	EEF1D	BCAT2	PCDH7	EZF3	CCT5
PCNX	RNF38	HDAC7	NRG4	DKC1	YWHAE	DTX4	RFC1	MMGT1	GUCY1A2	RGMB	BCL11A
BTG2	ZBTB38	ZMYND1 1	SAMHD1	CECR2	TSC22D3	YWHAG	STC1	NRAS	GNAI2	MTRNR2 L1	PEX5

















EDEM2	ASPHD2	Contig39983_R C (hsa)	FNBP4	TMED5	NCL	ABHD17C	STK38	QKI
HLTF	TSHZ3	PTPN1	TF3	RNF111	PROCR	SPIN1	KAT6B	UQCRC2
C10orf54	UGP2	HIPK3	RAB20	PHB	Bim (hsa)	CARF	MTMR4	UBE3C
KIAA1211L	TMEM41 B	DCBLD2	RSAD2	NDST2	KLF10	XRCC5	GMFB	IKZF5
AKIRIN2	ZFH3	DLG5	SNHG2	OSTF1	SNPH	B3GNT2	PMEP1A1	HNRNPC
TPR	GNAI3	UBL3	STK40	CEP120	MPP5	UNC13B	ROCK2	IOGAP2
ANKRD52	ZNF195	CCDC14	BRWD1	ZNF516	INSIG1	RBM33	ARPP19	CSTF1
PRRC2B	HSPD1	NM_015393 (hsa)	RAD9A	MED13	ZNF571	ZNF652	ZNF551	PLK2
NSUN5	SULF2	AGO2	ZNF410	TUBB	TNRC6B	TRIM25	PDE3A	VEZT
SAMD8	LTBP3	RAB2A	HYOU1	MACF1	NLE1	ACADM	CARD8	MTMR1
PVRL2	NAC1	C1orf86	IREB2	BCAR1	FYTD1	ZNF841	OTUD6B	DEPDC1
TNXB	SERPINE2	AXIN1	SLC1A5	CCNF	ZNF540	TRMT6	ARPC3	INSIG2
THBS2	CLTC	TMEM180	TFG	TMTC3	B3GALNT1	ATP13A3	ETS1	C21orf91
SPATA2	KPNA4	MCFD2	MAML1	DDX6	LITAF	CHD9	NRBP1	TMEM9B
MTUS1	ZNF580	MIB1	ZC3H10	NUP98	DDX21	ABL2	DPP8	COL5A1
REST	NOTCH2	GTPBP1	TNFAIP8	SLC16A1 0	PRRC2C	CXCL10	ZNF45	GPBP1L1
ELK3	MT2A	SLC7A11	PRRC2A	KIF13A	LPAR4	RPL27A	CPSF2	KLF3
UAP1	GLS	LMNB1	RAPH1	APH1A	EGR3	TET2	PSME3	CPNE3
TRAPPC2P 1	LUC7L3	hCT1971266.1 (hsa)	MDM2	PAPOLA	PANK3	MGAT4A	PKM	CTSZ
SETD7	NOP56	SP3	RAPGEF5	NR4A2	CEP19	HOXA10	LRRC8D	SKIL
PITHD1	PARP14	WNT3	ABL1	CAND1	RBBP6	ITSN1	HUWE1	ZAK
LMNB2	MAP3K1	ZNF384	TMBIM6	FAM127 B	SRSF1	KATNAL1	TCF12	IFI16
TPP2	NHLRC2	MIPOL1	EIF4G2	DCUN1D 4	MYNN	WNT7B	FRS2	CCDC47
CAV1	ZNF224	BRC2	MAP3K5	KLHL5	AMMECR1	ZNRF3	GNL3L	SRPR
CEP128	HAS2	Contig41377_R C (hsa)	CARHSP1	LIN28B	DACT1	ZNF623	BCL9L	ARNTL2
LRRC8B	ARFGF2	Contig40026_R C (hsa)	DNPH1	IMP4	HDHD1	ZCCHC24	TOM111	ATRX
GTF3C3	TIMP2	KCNH1	TRIM26	KIAA201 8	ZMIZ2	TOP1	STX3	GLO1
B4GALT5	ETF1	POLD1	SYT12	STAG2	MTRNR2L 4	RBM4	HAND1	PRPSAP1
SEL1L	RNF138	KIF18A	NACC2	ZHX1- C8orf76	ZFP82	PIAS1	GOLGA8B	FOPNL
ZNF431	PCDH10	TJP2	CDC25A	PRKAR1B	SLC35F5	DHX36	KLF12	BTK
KCNN3	SEC61A1	AF085923 (hsa)	OCN (hsa)	HNRNPA 0	ITSN2	HYOU1	GLE1	SYT1









CEP78	SLC25A1	Contig66615_R C (hsa)	COPB1	PAQR8	LIN28B	G3BP2
LMBRD2	ZNF680	ATG4A	OXSRI	NPPB	DPDC	ANO10
SH3BP2	MPP5	SLC03A1	SERINC1	CENPF	IL21R	ZNF730
PTPN14	KIF21B	CELF1	FSTL1	COX20	GLUD1	CCDC88C
DYNC1H1	TMEM118 1	DBF4B	MARK3	TMEM178 B	AFF4	DDX19A
ADCY3	NHP2L1	ALG10	HERC1	FAM83D	NT5DC3	SNX13
VARS2	INSIG1	NREP	SHMT2	PLK2	ATPIF1	CDC27
HS2ST1	TNRC6B	TDG	CORO1C	VEZT	UTP20	LONRF2
ARHGAP1 7	SPTY2D1	FADS1	SLC16A9	TBX19	MRPS16	SLC6A9
PKM	B3GALNT 1	ANG	TWIST2	PAFAH2	HNRNPA0	ACSL4
GNG12	RTCB	DST	FBL	RPGRIP1L	NAMPTL	SDC2
EFTUD2	LEMD3	hCT14363.3 (hsa)	MID1	KHK	TTC17	PAPD7
MAP4	NUAK1	HSS00061034 (hsa)	AP1M1	USP46	RBM22	SREK1IP1
SF3B4	DDX21	CANX	FKBP1A	DNAH11	FBXL2	PCMTD1
AGRN	UBB	DPP9	PREP	INSIG2	USP13	AURKA
FRS2	DCTN4	HSS00209806 (hsa)	SMARCD 1	SRSF6	MCFD2	LEPREL2
SNRK	ASH1L	Contig54503_R C (hsa)	FZD3	SLC39A11	PIGH	DNAIB12
CTCI	TOP2B	SPIN4	CPD	C12orf29	LMNB1	NUP43
NPAS3	IMPA1	U29115 (hsa)	MSN	HOXA3	ZNF302	KMT2A
ITCH	HIST1H4F	MTERFD1	ZCCHC2	SUB1	MEF2D	SCAF1
GOLGA8B	PANK3	RFX7	ACTA2	PTP4A2	HAUS1	NSF
ALG8	VARS	AL137310 (hsa)	CCDC71L	EIF3A	MTMR9	UBAP2L
STXBP5	SRSF1	NCOA3	TANK	POC1B	BCAS1	MED19
RBFOX2	SPECC1L	NUDT15	NAA15	C4orf3	TNKS2	ALDH9A1
KIF2A	PURB	Contig38566_R C (hsa)	PRPF8	PLEKHA3	SRM	CTTNBP2 NL
LOXL2	KLHL11	HAUS3	CELF1	SMAP1	MRPL48	RLF
MESDC1	SNX8	CHM	FBXL7	GOLGA4	MOB1B	MECOM
LTBP2	HIF1AN	AGPAT5	HS6ST3	GPBP1L1	SERINC3	ZNRF2
ZNF121	SENP6	Contig57398_R C (hsa)	MARCH7	CDC47L	C19orf12	TULP4
ANKRD50	DCBLD1	GIGYF1	XPNPEP1	MNS1	CDC45	GATAD2B
EVA1C	SDHAF2	ANLN	LBR	CLND1	TRMT61A	CTCF
MDFI	EEF1D	RHCE	TUBG1	PRDX1	POLD1	COG3
LCOR	ZNF266	NSD1	TAOK1	STK35	KIF18A	RNF182

























SNX14	TMEM2	GLCC1	EGLN3	KLK10	TSC2
MYCBP2	ADCK3	ACVR2A	SMINDC1	JAK1	GPD1L
ALCAM	DNAIC12	KIAA0284	ZBTB5	EXO1	PNN
KLFI0	DHX15	RNPC3	MYO5A	STX2	ZNF711
MPP5	CLASP1	ZNF708	LRP1	AKAP11	RBM52
TMEM181	KCNK1	L2HGDH	COQ10B	MDM2	ABHD17B
NHP2L1	ZC3H11A	ZSWIM3	BAZ1A	GALM	FBXO28
INSIG1	ADNP	AF078844 (hsa)	HIC1	MTDH	DCP2
ATXN10	NF1	NM_015595 (hsa)	RNF19A	NIN	XPO6
ARFIP2	PSEN1	ZNF184	DDB1	PRR11	DHPS
FAM104A	FIGN	BC039371 (hsa)	EIF4G1	DNAJC8	BABAM1
RP56KA5	ZNF700	TMPO	RAB11A	ABL1	NCAPD2
RALGAPB	ZNF430	ACTR1B	RBBP5	AP5M1	TOP2A
SOC56	CDK13	SRRM2	SVIP	EHMT1	CCND1
CBFB	DSG2	CDK5RAP2	ZC3H13	HAT1	RBMX
MFHAS1	SUV420H 1	AK057062 (hsa)	SHISA5	COIL	WDR82
SIDT2	ZFP1	KLHL15	HIST1H2 BG	CDC123	TRDMT1
MAML3	SLC16A6	PRIM1	XYLT2	BMPR2	SMAD4
CUL4A	SPI	EOGT	KDM3B	KIAA1551	USP32
TP53	DAB2IP	Contig30392_R C (hsa)	JMID1C	DMXL2	SLC35D1
BAG4	LURAP1L	CDK14	NOL4L	PNISR	FNDC3B
TNRC6B	NCSTN	SENP1	HNRNPM	BCL2L11	SEPHS1
SPTY2D1	BNC2	SLC26A2	RNMT	MED8	MEAF6
ALDH5A1	CD93	hCT1640064.3 (hsa)	SNX16	NR2F2	GIT1
CPPED1	AGK	C12orf65	TLE4	KIF5B	CTNNB1
MOC53	WDR35	C1orf53	PDE12	MTF1	ZNF805
MITF	SSR3	METTL9	CLK1	LMO4	C9orf89
ADAMTSL 3	OSTM1	DIS3L	C5orf51	MYO1B	EFR3A
LITAF	ACVR1C	KBTD11	C19orf47	LIN7C	ACTR3
GLTSCR1L	ATP6V0A 1	PRPF38A	FER	SIN3A	PPP3CB
DDX21	SMIM13	RNASE4	PSMC4	MLLT10	ANXA7
PRRC2C	EGLN2	SPRY4	ELOVL5	PHLDA1	THOC3
SEMA3F	PRKCB	C6orf62	TGOLN2	HOXA13	SNX27
RPL23	CDC73	KLHL23	MMD	MAP1B	THOC6
ANXA5	AKIRIN1	RIPK5 (hsa)	SLC39A9	EPB41	PTBP3











































SESN1	CZ1
AIF1L	CEP55
TSEN34	MKNIK2
SESN2	RBM4B
VPS52	ZIC5
SDE2	DCLRE1B
HSPA4L	HERPUD2
YRDC	PLK1
POLR3C	ZNF367
KIF11	DUSP5
CS	GDI2
FRYL	RPL35
CZCD4A	TRRAP
COMMD2	ARPC4
DSC3	ZFP3612
TIA1	OSBPL8
PIK3C2A	DLAT
CIPC	NEDD1
C16orf72	HIST1H1B
KCNJ6	PHF5A
MRGBP	RAB5C
RPL19	KIAA1467
TSC2D2	NCKAP1
TXLING	NFYC
KIAA0247	MAFG
TMEM2	DYRK1A
LYPLA2	HYAL2
ADCK3	FUT8
DNAJC12	SKA3
MIOS	MOAP1
SNRNP40	TMEM70
ZBTB21	WIPI2
DHX15	ALDOA
BAG2	LEPROT
DYNLL2	AGTPBP1
AP2A1	HEBP2
CALD1	NR1D2
ADNP	EXOC8
RPS27L	SMARCD3
C6orf120	MOB1A
NF1	PRDM4
ZNF430	ZNF574
STRN	LPHN1
HMG20A	CLUAP1



































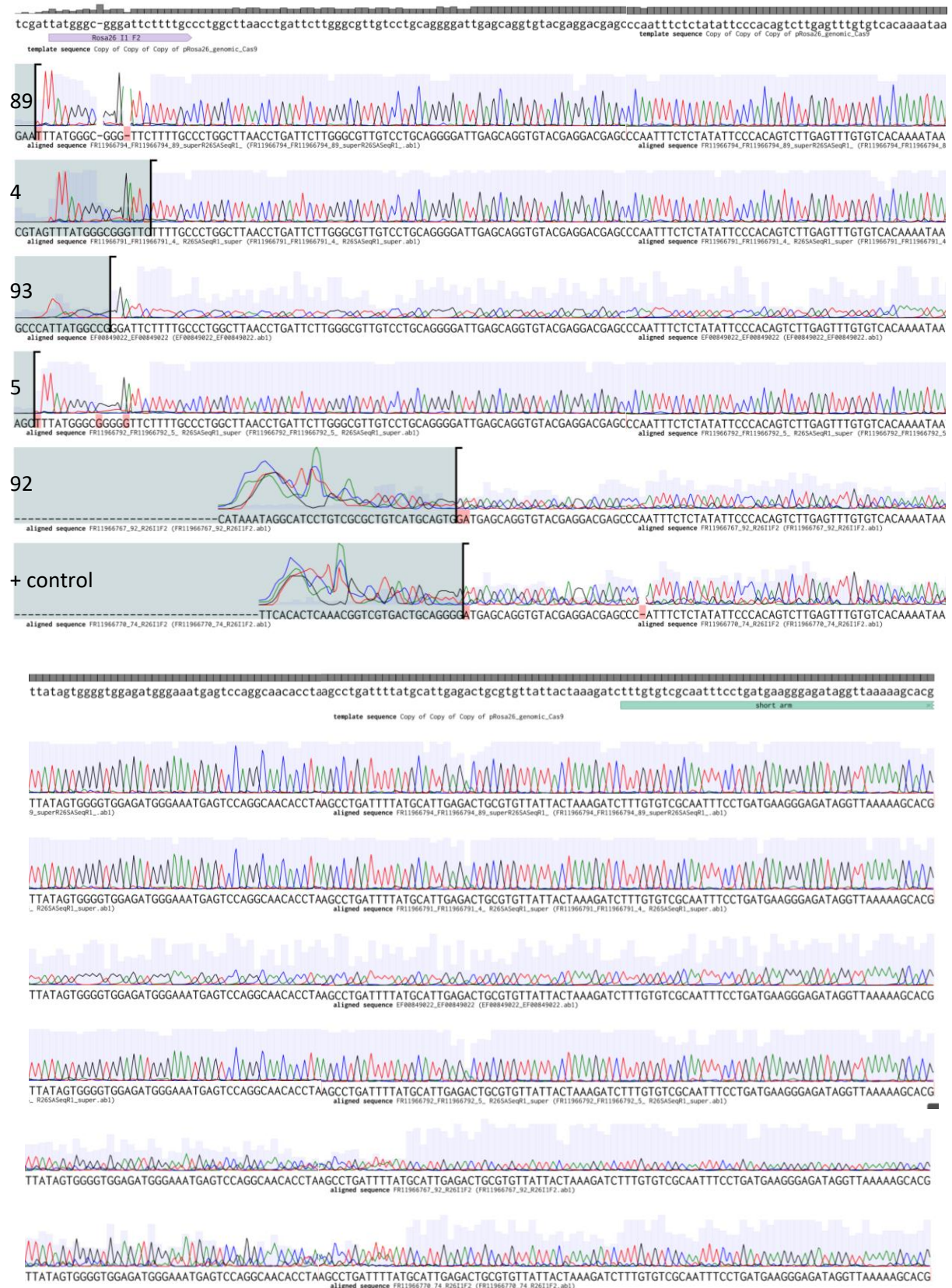




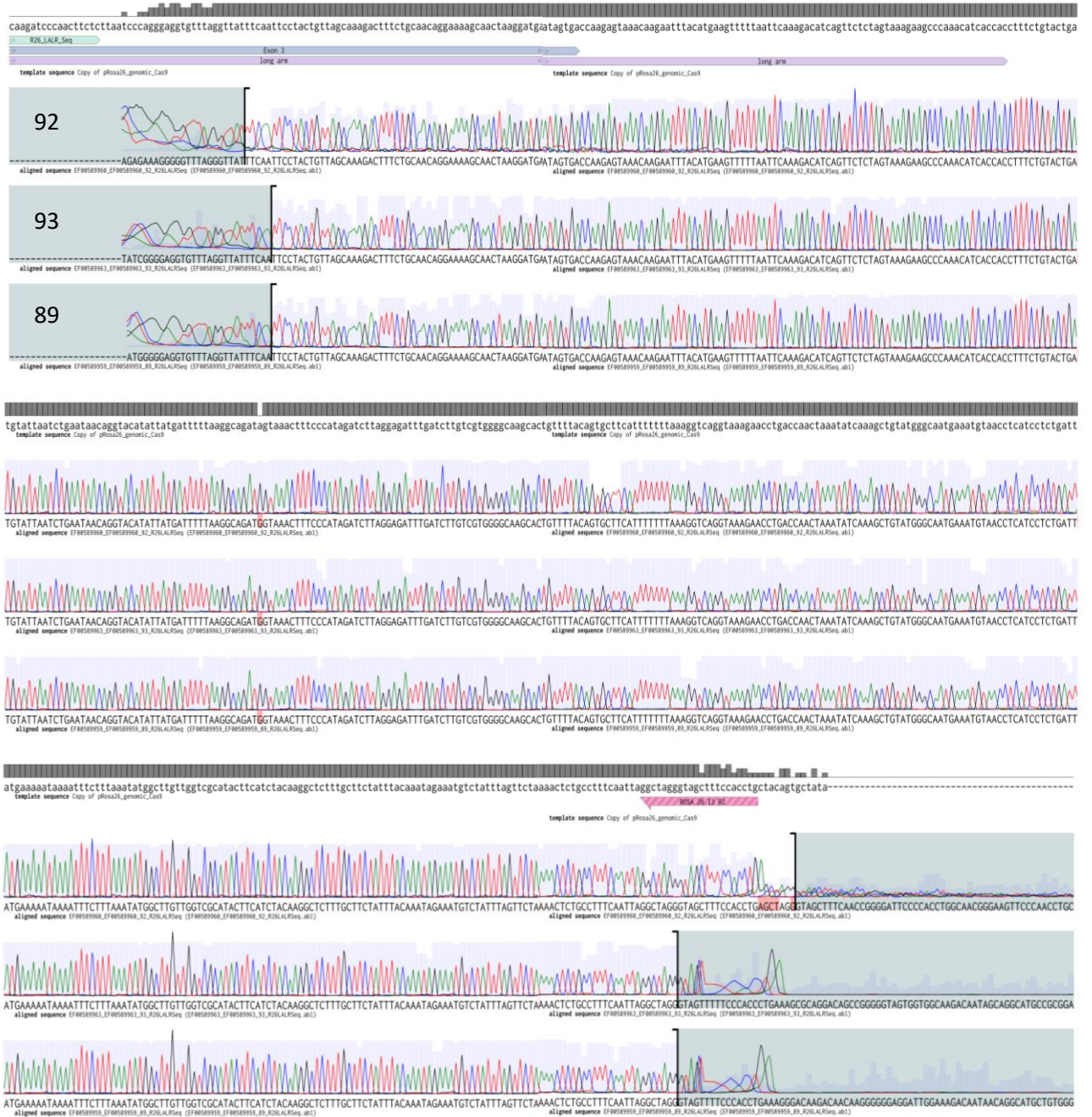


### 10.3 Sequencing analysis of the Cas9 targeted clones

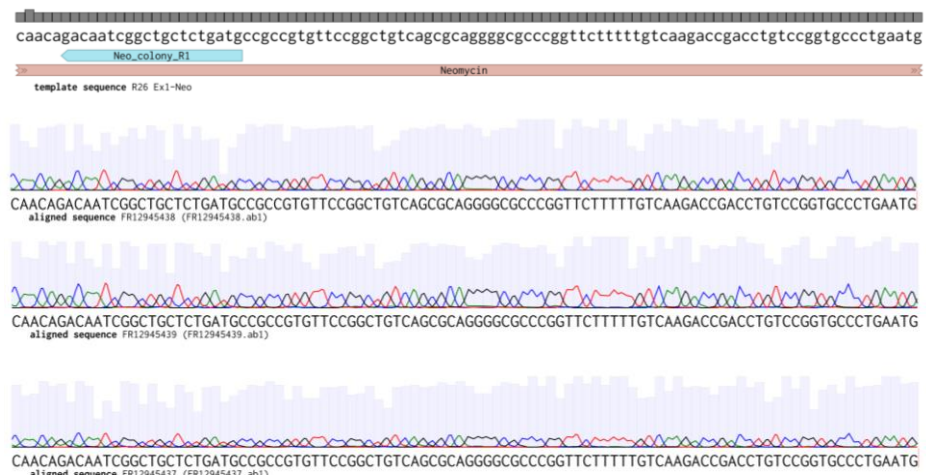
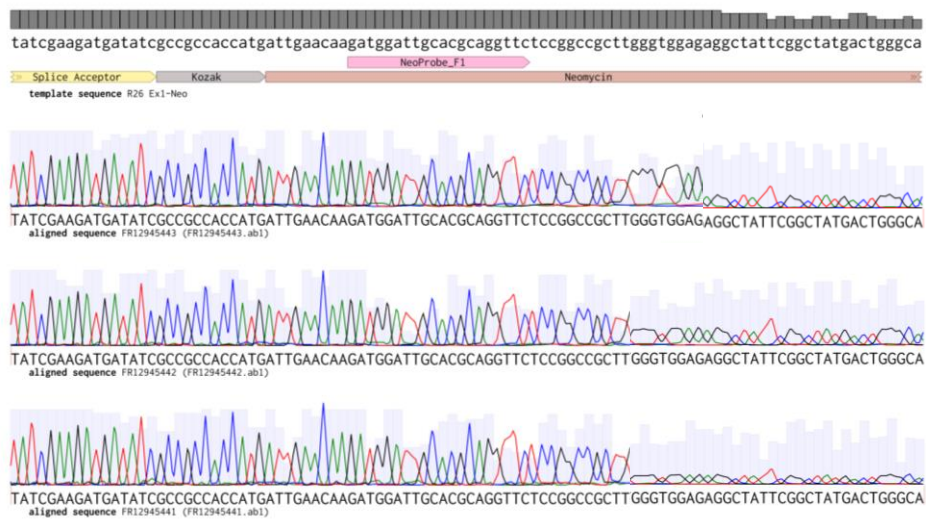
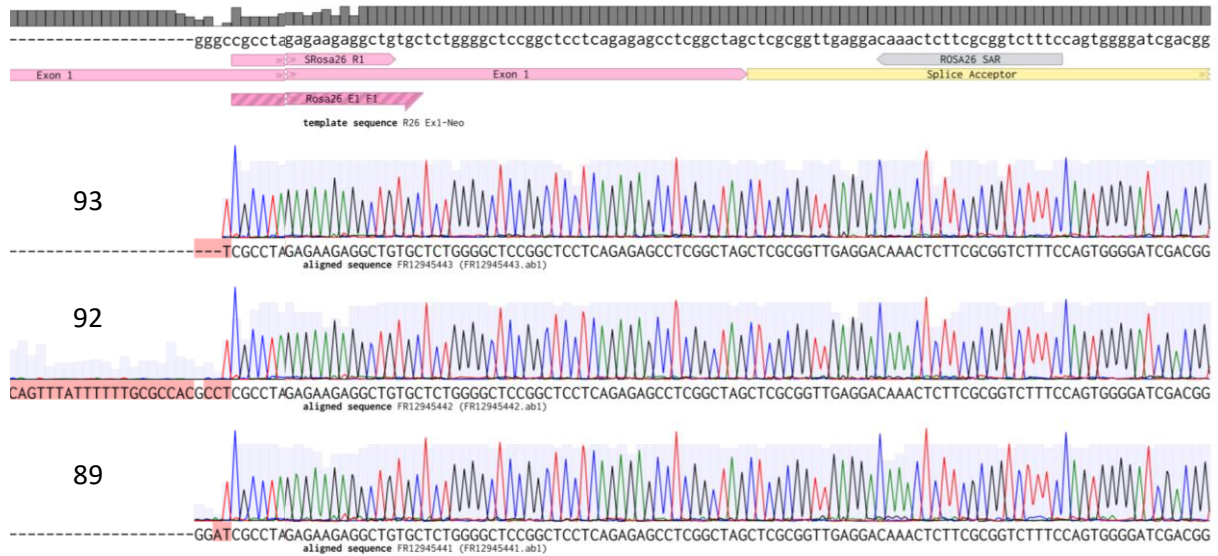
Sequencing analysis of PCR amplification across the 5' junction of the vector and the target site using the primer Rosa26 I1 F2 and Rosa26 Loc2R of the clones 89, 4, 93, 5, 92 and a positive control (from top to bottom) was performed using R26\_SA\_Seq\_R1.



Sequencing analysis of PCR amplification across the 3' junction of the vector and target site 3' LR PCR using the primer Cas9\_3'LR\_for1 and Rosa26 I3 R2 of the clones 92, 93 and 89 was performed using Rosa26 I3 R2.

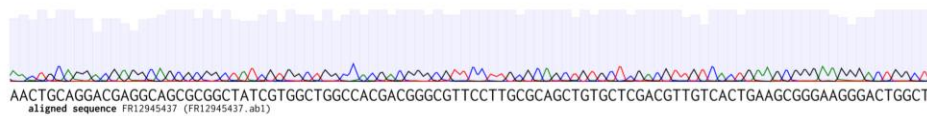
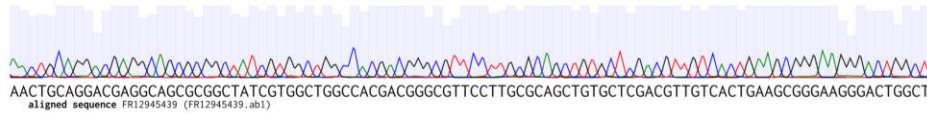
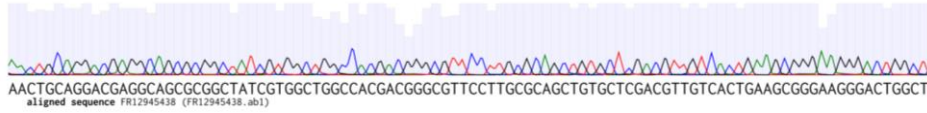


Sequencing analysis of the RT-PCR amplification from exon 1 of ROSA26 locus to the neomycin resistance gene using the primer Rosa26 E1 F1 and Rosa26 Loc2R and Rosa26 Loc3R of the clones 93, 92 and 89 was performed using the primer Neo\_colony\_R1 and Rosa26 Loc3R.



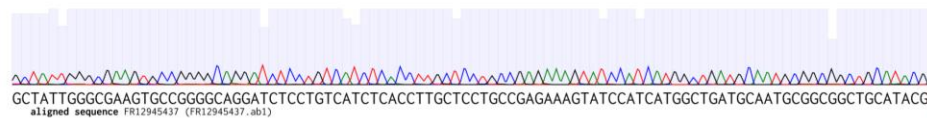
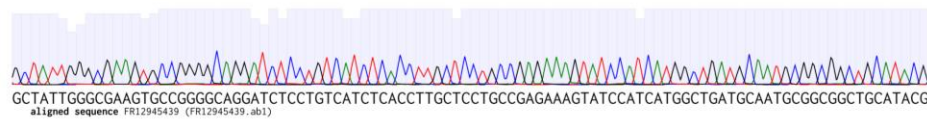
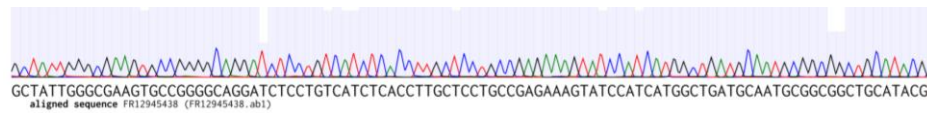
aactgcaggacgagcagcggctatcgtggctggccacgacggcgcttccttgccagcgtgtgctcgacgttgtcactgaagcgggaaggactggct  
 Neomycin

template sequence R26 Ex1-Neo



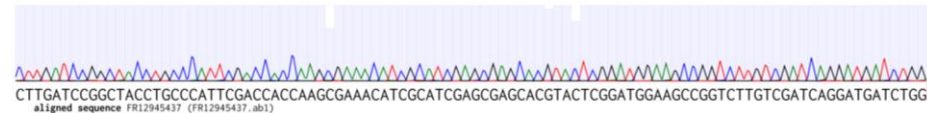
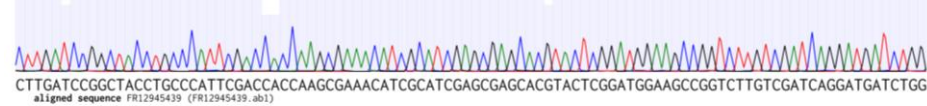
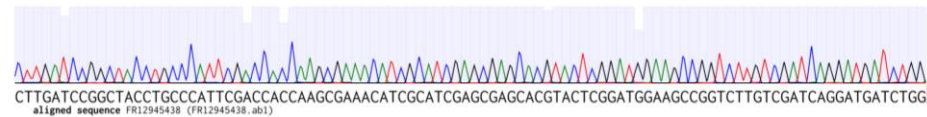
gctattgggcaagtgccgggacagatcctgtcatctcaccttgctcctgccgagaaagtatccatcatggctgatgcaatgccggcgctgcatacg  
 Neomycin

template sequence R26 Ex1-Neo



cttgatccggctacctgccattcgaccaccaagcgaacatcgcatcgagcagcagctactcggatggaagccggcttctgcatcaggatgatctgg  
 Neomycin

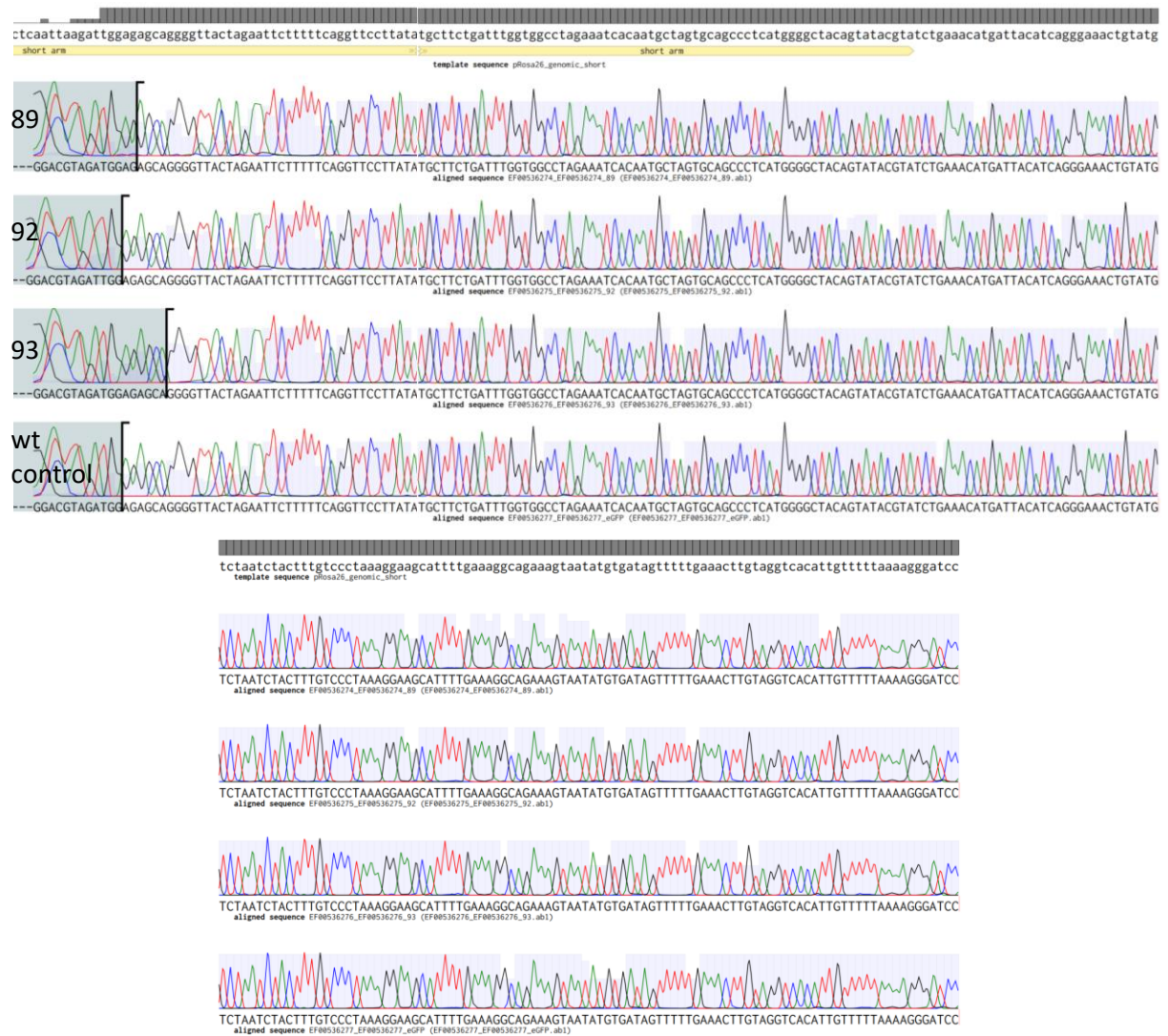
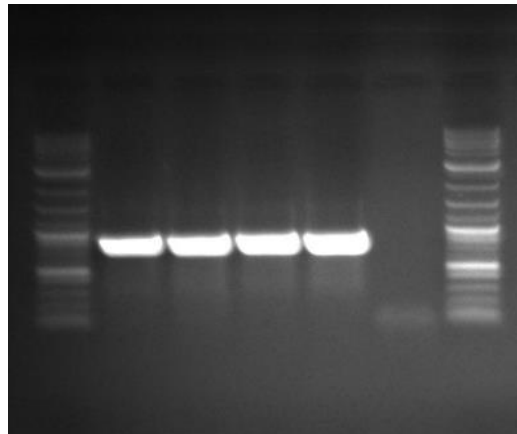
template sequence R26 Ex1-Neo

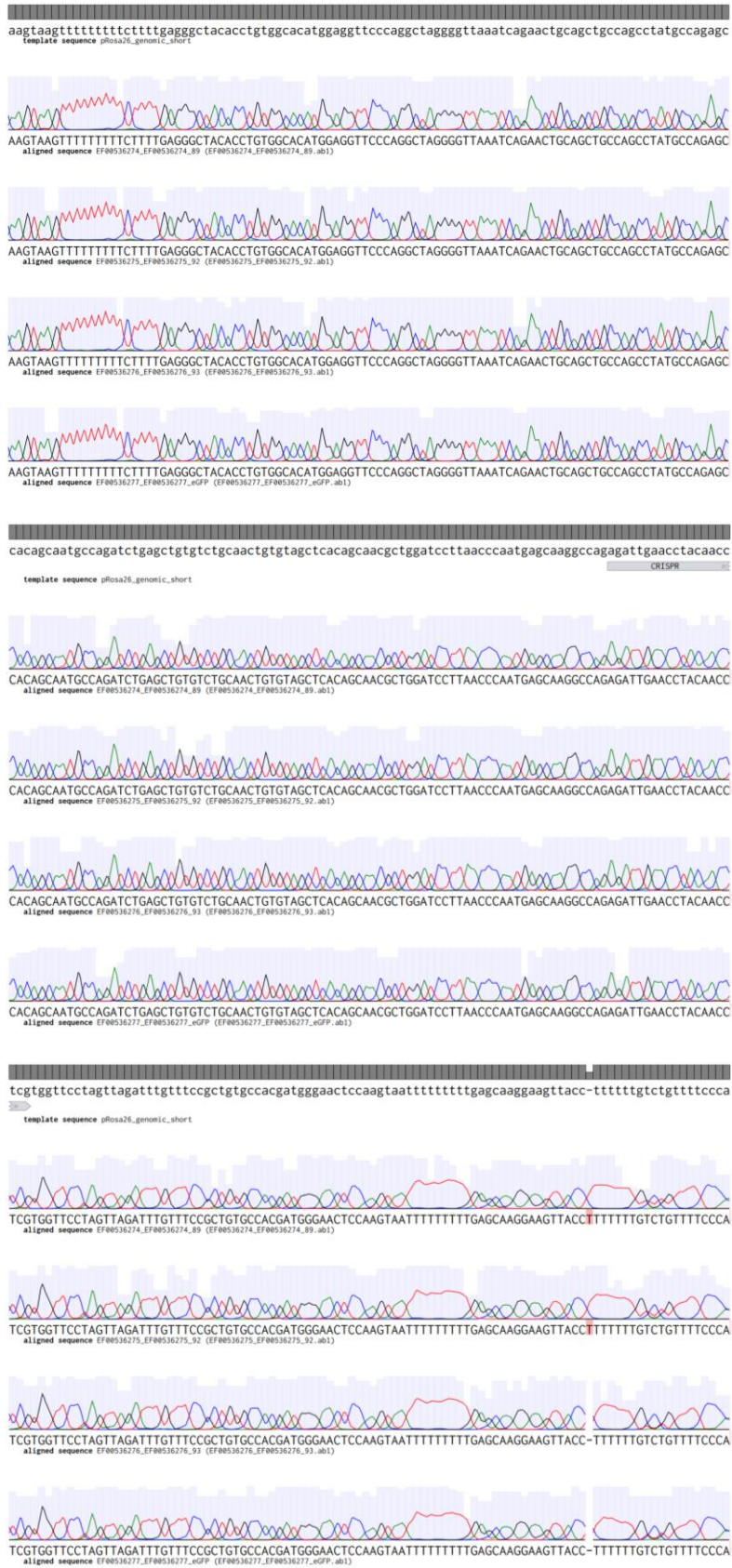


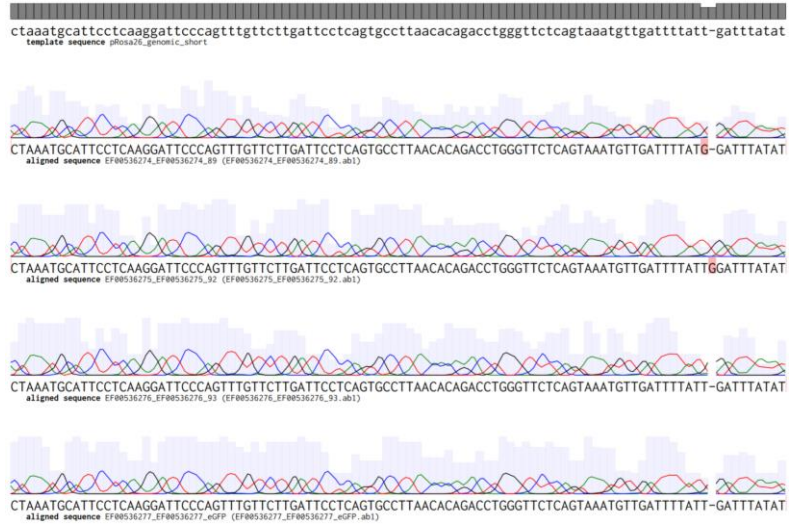




Gel electrophoresis and sequencing analysis of the endogenous ROSA26 locus of the clones 89, 92 and 93 using the primer Rosa26 I1 F2 and Rosa26 I1 R3.







## 11. Acknowledgments

An dieser Stelle möchte ich gerne die Möglichkeit ergreifen und mich herzlichst bei den Menschen bedanken, ohne deren Mithilfe, Unterstützung und Motivation der Beginn sowie die Fertigstellung dieser Promotionsarbeit unmöglich gewesen wäre.

Zu Beginn möchte ich meiner Doktormutter Frau Prof. Dr. Angelika Schnieke danken, die mir die Möglichkeit eröffnet hat, am Lehrstuhl für Biotechnologie der Nutztiere im spannenden Bereich der Onkologie und neuester Forschungserkenntnisse zu arbeiten und zu promovieren. Ich möchte mich auch herzlich für die stete Unterstützung durch wertvolle Hilfestellungen bei Problemen sowie allen meinen Vorhaben bedanken, welche ich zu keiner Zeit als selbstverständlich empfunden habe. Zudem gilt ein sehr großer Dank der Studienstiftung des deutschen Volkes, welche mich während drei meiner vier Jahre im Labor nicht nur finanziell, sondern auch ideell unterstützt hat. Mein Dank gebührt auch meinem Zweitprüfer Herrn Prof. Dr. Dieter Saur, welcher während der gesamten Zeit meiner Doktorarbeit ein sehr wichtiger und geschätzter Kollaborationspartner war. Außerdem möchte ich Herrn Prof. Dr. Harald Luksch meinen herzlichsten Dank aussprechen, welcher mich seit meinem ersten Semester begleitet, bereits als Zweitprüfer meiner Masterarbeit fungierte und sich ohne zu zögern bereit erklärt hat, den Vorsitz meiner Prüfungskommission zu übernehmen.

Ein ausgesprochenes Dankeschön gilt ebenso Herrn Dr. Alex Kind, der mir inhaltlich und sprachlich stets unter die Arme gegriffen hat und sowohl bei meinem Review-Artikel als auch bei der sprachlichen Gestaltung dieser Arbeit stets eine große Hilfe war.

Ganz besonders möchte ich meinen Betreuern Frau PD. Dr. Tatiana Flisikowska und Herrn PD Dr. Krzysztof Flisikowski danken. Sie haben mich zu jeder Zeit mit Ihrer wissenschaftlichen Expertise und Tatkraft unterstützt. Ob an Wochenenden, Feiertagen, im Feierabend oder im anspruchsvollen Alltag haben sie sich immer Zeit genommen und waren stets mit einem Rat, einem offenen Ohr oder tröstenden Worten für mich da. Diese wohlwollende Unterstützung und gute Freundschaft ist keine Selbstverständlichkeit, weshalb sehr dankbar bin, solche Betreuer an meiner Seite gehabt zu haben.

Die Laborarbeit kann nicht immer alleine gestemmt werden, so gebührt meinen Kollaborationspartnern Frau Dr. Monika Stachowiak, Herrn Prof. Dr. Hubert Pausch, Herrn Prof. Dr. Hans-Rudolf Fries, Herrn Dr. Hongen Xu, Herrn Dr. Stefan Bauersachs und Frau Dr. Christine Wurmser mein aufrichtiger Dank, welche durch das Teilen Ihrer Expertise oder gemeinsamen Durchführung wichtiger Experimente und Analysen, einen signifikanten Beitrag an dieser Arbeit geleistet haben.

Auch im Laboralltag haben liebe Menschen Abläufe durch eine freundliche Atmosphäre und produktive Zusammenarbeit erleichtert. Daher auch ein großes Dankeschön an unsere TAs und Sekretärin Kristina Mosandl, Peggy Müller-Fliedner, Nina Simm, Sulith Christan, Marlene Stumbaum,

Toni Kuhnt, Robert Grötschel, Sandra Wantschner, Johanna Tebbing, Alex Carrapeiro und Barbara "Bobbylein" Bauer.

Außerdem möchte ich mich bei Joanna Madej, Agnieszka Bak und Guanglin Niu bedanken, die mich ganz uneigennützig bei Experimenten unterstützt haben. Auch die Studenten Mona Baumgartner, Sandra Romero und Johanna Steinhard haben im Rahmen ihrer Forschungspraktika einen Beitrag zu dieser Arbeit geleistet, wofür ich gerne Danke sagen möchte.

Weiterhin vielen Dank an die PostDocs Anja Saalfrank, Simone Kraner Schreiber, Konrad Fischer und Hicham Sid für ihren Rat und ihre Unterstützung. Meinen Mitdoktoranden Daniela Huber, Denise Nestle-Nguyen, Shun Li, Rahul Dutta, Benedikt Baumer, Erica Schulze, Andrea Schäffler, Romina Hellmich, Bernhard Klinger, Guanglin Niu, Liang Wei, Melanie Manyet, Alessandro Grodziecki, Daniela Kalla und Beate Rieblinger möchte ich für spannende Diskussionen, Abende am See und Kollegialität danken.

Das Arbeiten mit Schweinen benötigt geschulte Tierpfleger. So haben Viola und Steffen Loebnitz stets eine erstklassige Arbeit mit den Tieren geleistet, was meine eigene Arbeit nicht nur erleichtert, sondern auch bereichert hat. Auch die lieben Gespräche während der Plasmaprozessierung und Ihr Entgegenkommen im Rahmen meiner Experimente werden mir immer im Kopf bleiben. Dafür möchte ich mich ausdrücklich bedanken.

Die Freundschaften mit Tatiana, Erica, Denise, Rahul und Tinie, welche im Rahmen dieser Arbeit zustande gekommen sind und weit über diese hinausreichen, stellen ein großes Glück für mich dar.

Vielen Dank an meine Eltern Dagmar und Uwe Wander, ohne deren Unterstützung ich nie die Möglichkeiten gehabt hätte, all das zu erreichen, was ich heute geschafft habe.

Ganz besonders möchte ich mich für die starke emotionale Unterstützung meiner lieben Schwiegereltern Ilona und Mike Perleberg, meines lieben Opas Horst Kerzig, meines Bruders Sebastian und seiner kleinen Familie Steffanie und Benjamin Wander, sowie meiner wundervollen Freunde Denise Nestle-Nguyen, Melanie Gieseke, Daniela Dichtler, Maja Huber, Franziska und Fabian Drasdo, Maria Frystacki, Julia Hofmann, Franka Hirsch, Alina Huntgeburth, Tinie Wurmser, Simone Jung, Linda Tuchen, Sarah Bynevelt, Colleen Blake und Heidi Bisping-Arnold bedanken. Ihr ward stets für mich da und immer an meiner Seite, hierfür möchte ich mich von ganzem Herzen bei Euch bedanken.

Abschließend gibt es noch eine Person die mich über alle Höhen und Tiefen zusammengehalten hat, mir über jede Hürde geholfen, und jeden Moment zu etwas Besonderem gemacht hat, Kevin Perleberg. Mein Schatz ich liebe dich über alle Maßen und ich bin soooooo unsagbar Dankbar für deine Unterstützung. Ohne dich hätte ich das hier nie, nie, niemals geschafft. Your love is lifting me up!