



Animal Model Workshop

Tracking the functional consequences of *Vhl* / *Pbrm1* inactivation in adult mouse renal epithelium

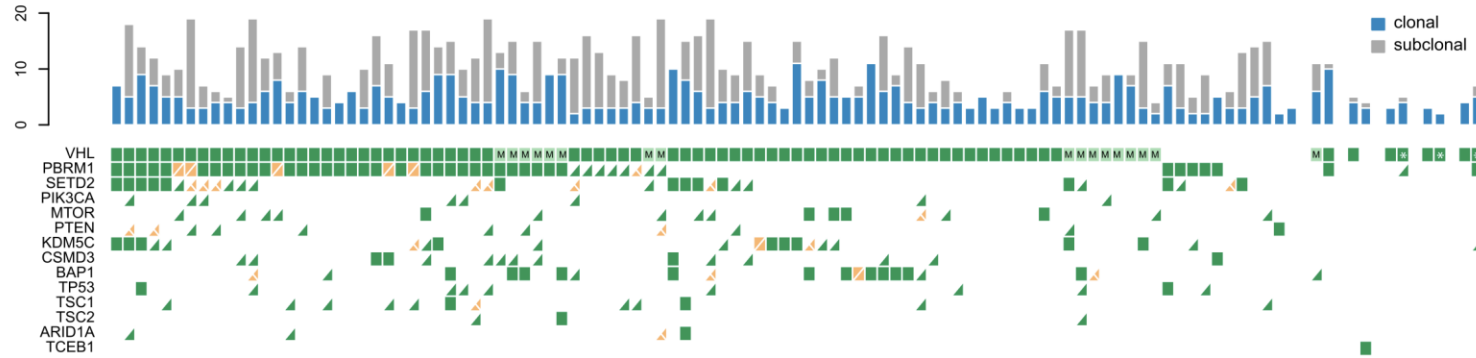
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Translational Cancer Medicine Program
University of Helsinki
Finland

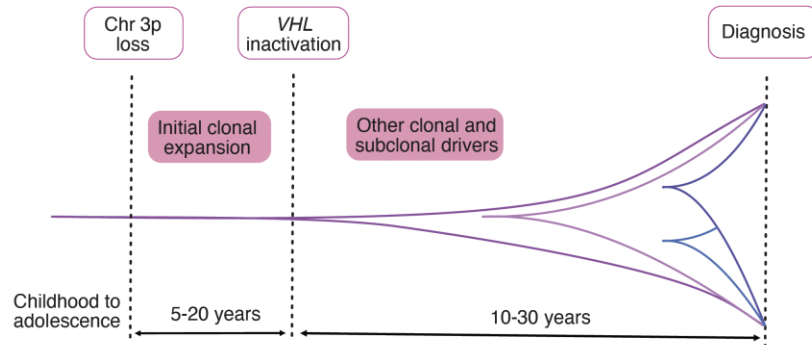
September 11-13, 2025



Slow progression and tissue-specific control of renal tumorigenesis



Turajlic et al. Cell 2018



Mitchell et al. Cell 2018

Article

The renal lineage factor PAX8 controls oncogenic signalling in kidney cancer

<https://doi.org/10.1038/s41586-022-04809-8>

Received: 11 February 2021

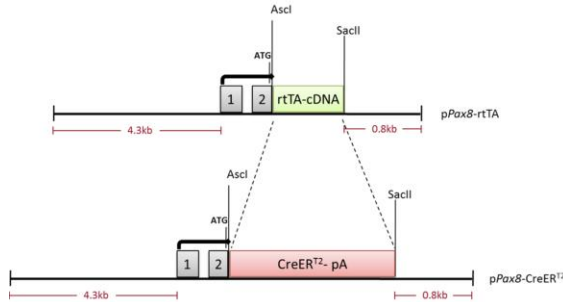
Accepted: 27 April 2022

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Saroor A. Patel^{1,2,3}, Shoko Hirose¹, Paulo Rodrigues¹, Erika Vojtasova¹, Emma K. Richardson^{1,4}, Jianfeng Ge¹, Saiful E. Syafruddin^{1,5}, Alyson Speed¹, Evangelia K. Papachristou¹, David Baker¹, David Clarke⁶, Stephen Purvis¹, Ludovic Wesolowski¹, Anna Dyas¹, Leticia Castillon^{1,6}, Veronica Caraffini¹, Dóra Bihary¹, Cissy Yong^{1,6}, David J. Harrison¹, Grant D. Stewart¹, Mitchell J. Machiela^{1,6}, Mark P. Purdue^{1,6}, Stephen J. Chanock^{1,6}, Anne Y. Warren¹, Shamith A. Samarajiva¹, Jason S. Carroll¹ & Sakari Vanharanta^{1,6,12,13}

Patel et al. Nature 2022

The Pax8-CreER^{T2} transgenic line

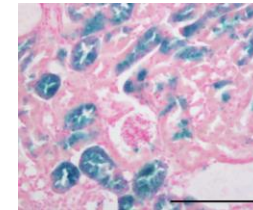


- **Pax8-CreER^{T2}**

- Tamoxifen-inducible Cre-activity
- DNA from the *Pax8* locus (originally from *Traykova-Brauch et al. Nat Med. 2008*) engineered to contain the CreERT2-pA sequence
- Microinjected into fertilised C57BL/6J embryos
- chr6:62,912,590–62,912,610; GRCh38/mm10

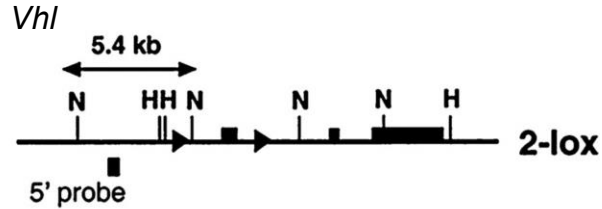
- **Pax8-CreERT2 x Rosa26R (lacZ)**

- Beta-gal positivity in the kidney: **proximal and distal tubules and collecting ducts**
- Other tissues negative (skin, fat, pancreas, stomach, small and large intestine, spleen, liver, bladder, genital tract, thymus, heart, lungs, muscle, salivary glands, thyroid, brain, and bone)



X-gal staining

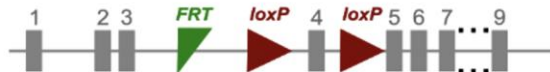
Conditional *Vhl*^{fl} and *Pbrm1*^{fl} alleles



- *Vhl*^{fl}

- *Vhl* exon 1 and promoter flanked by loxP sites
- B6.129S4(C)-*Vhl*^{tm1Jae}/J from the Jackson lab
- Originally from *Haase et al. PNAS 2001*
- J1 ES cells, back-crossed to C57BL/6J mice

Pbrm1



- *Pbrm1*^{fl}

- *Pbrm1* exon 4 flanked by loxP sites
- C57BL/6 N embryonic stem cells (*Skarnes et al. Nature 2011*)
- Line from *Espana-Agusti et al. Nat Commun 2017*

Normal



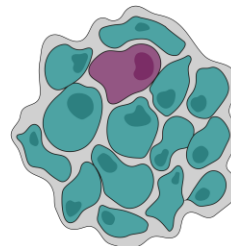
Mutant
"normal"



VHL^{-/-}



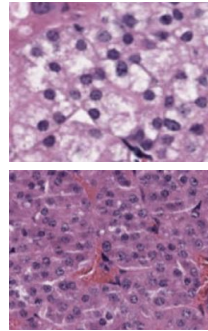
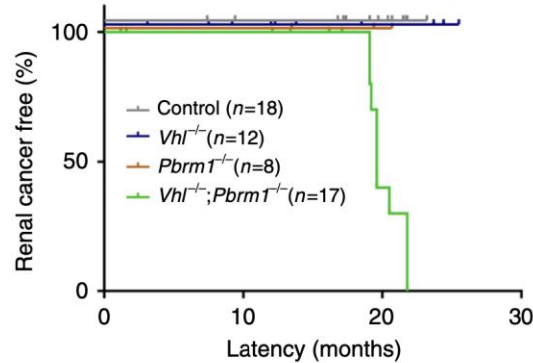
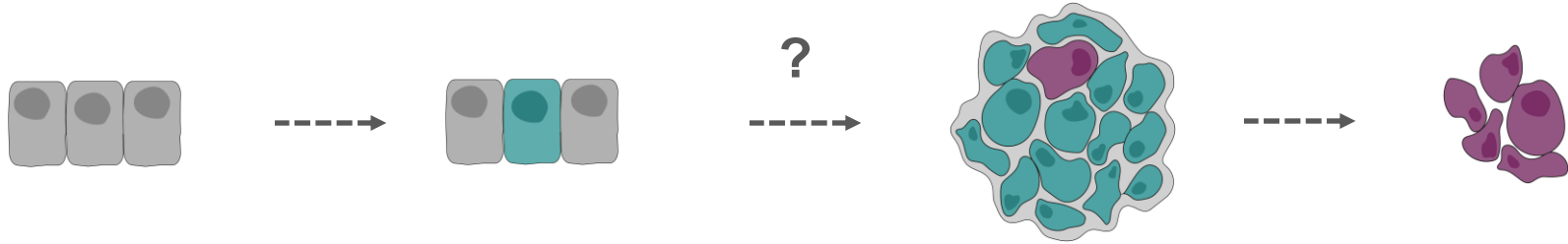
Carcinoma



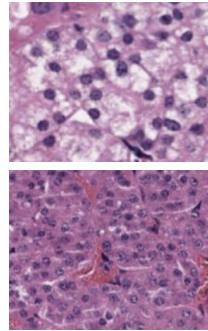
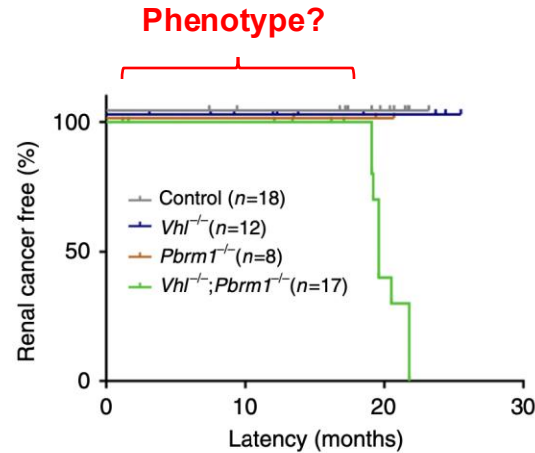
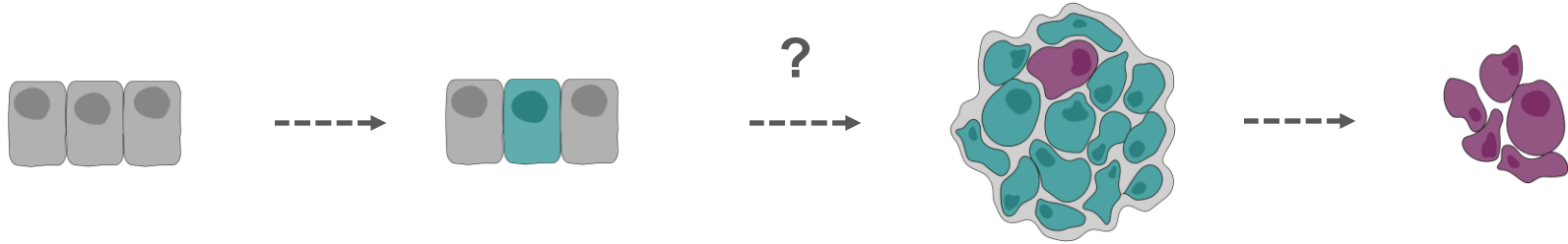
Metastasis



What facilitates the early progression of carcinoma precursor cells?



What facilitates the early progression of carcinoma precursor cells?



Delayed progression of renal epithelial cells upon *Vhl* and *Pbrm1* inactivation

Tamoxifen



Day 0



2 weeks



5 months

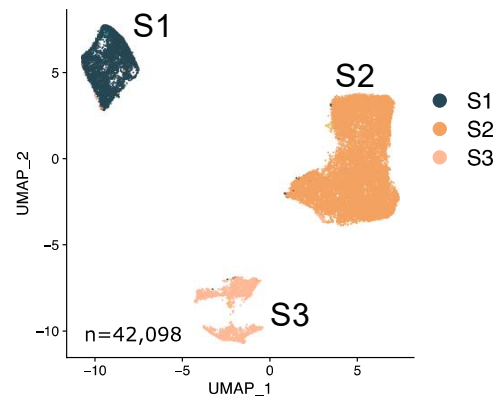


10 months



20 months

scRNA-seq
scATAC-seq



**Proximal tubular epithelial cells only
(in this plot)**

Delayed progression of renal epithelial cells upon *Vhl* and *Pbrm1* inactivation

Tamoxifen



Day 0



2 weeks



5 months

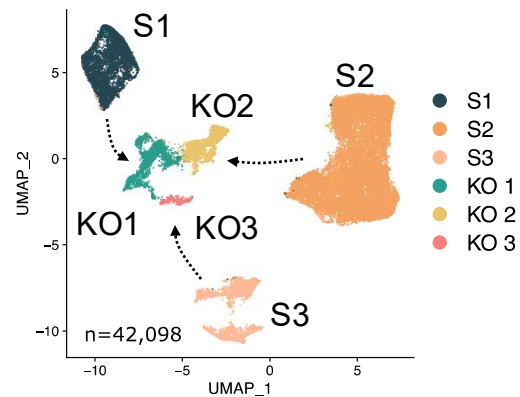


10 months

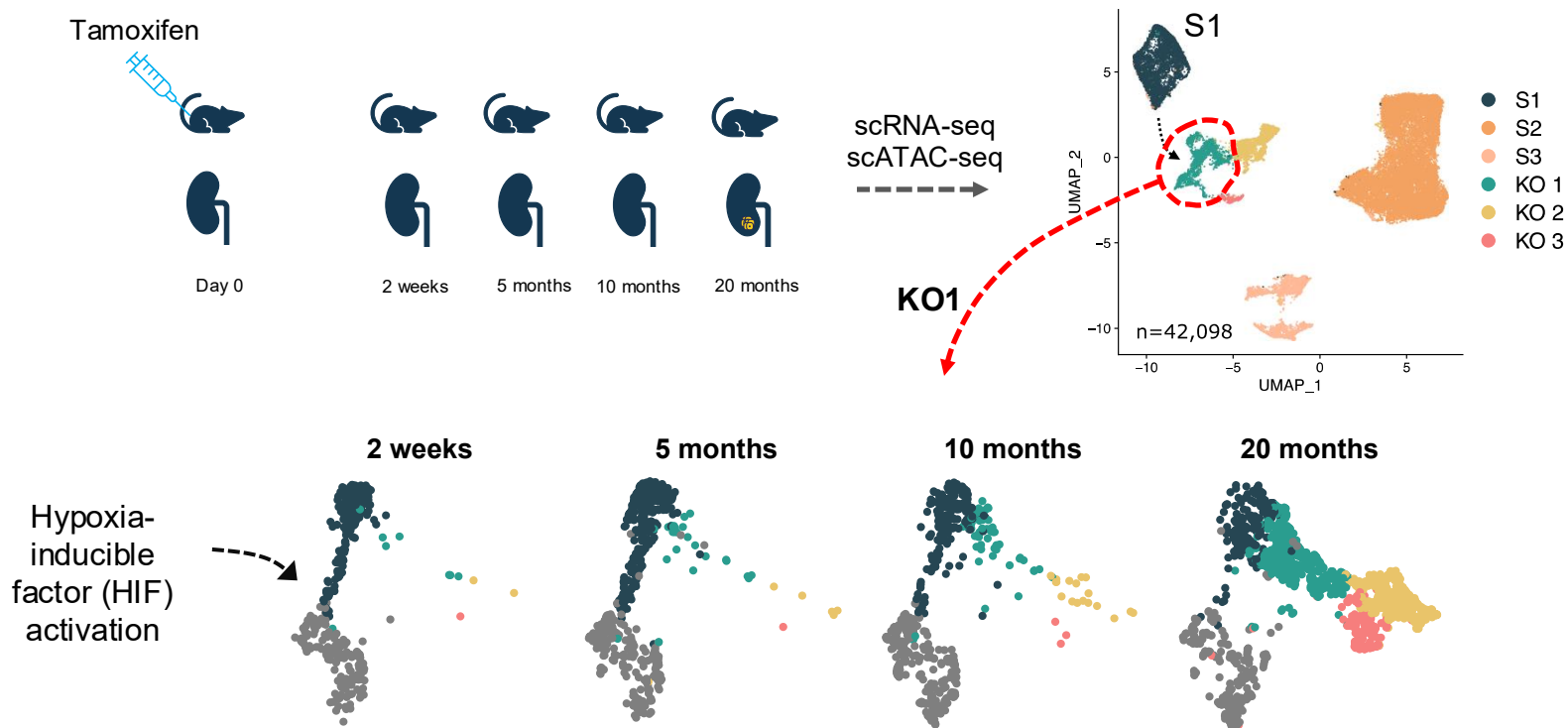


20 months

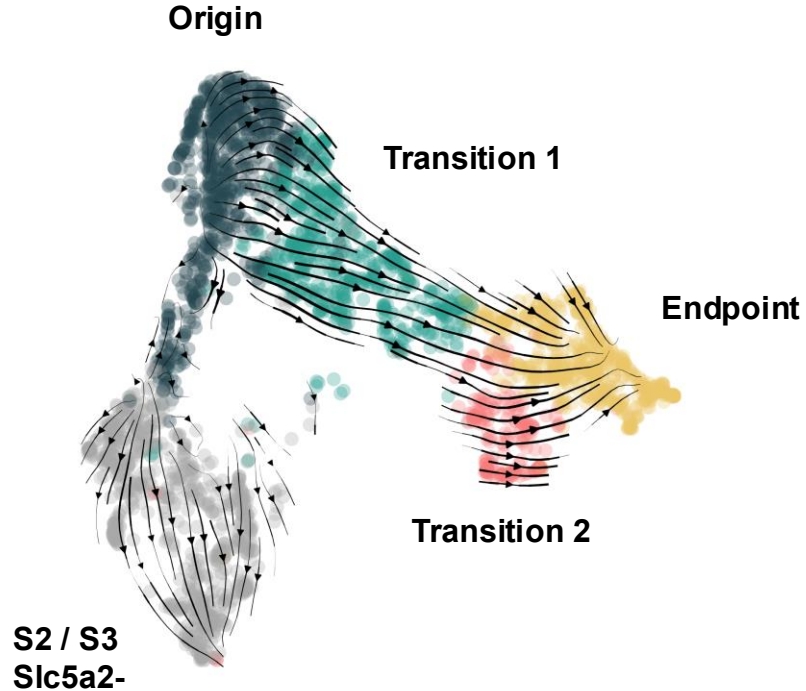
scRNA-seq
scATAC-seq



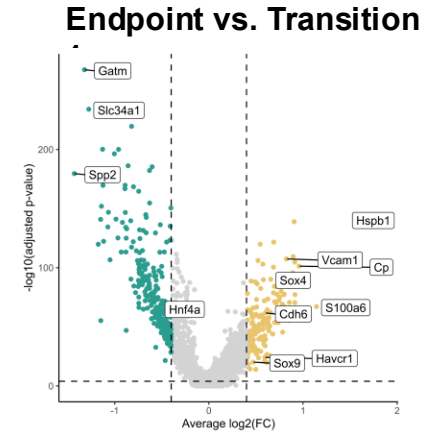
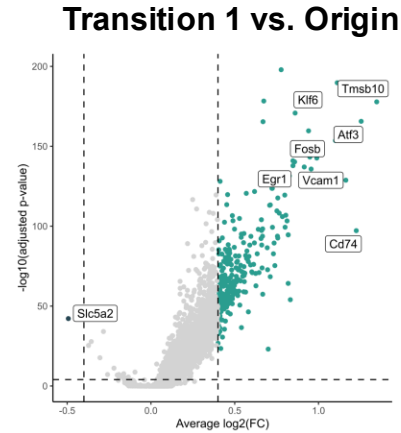
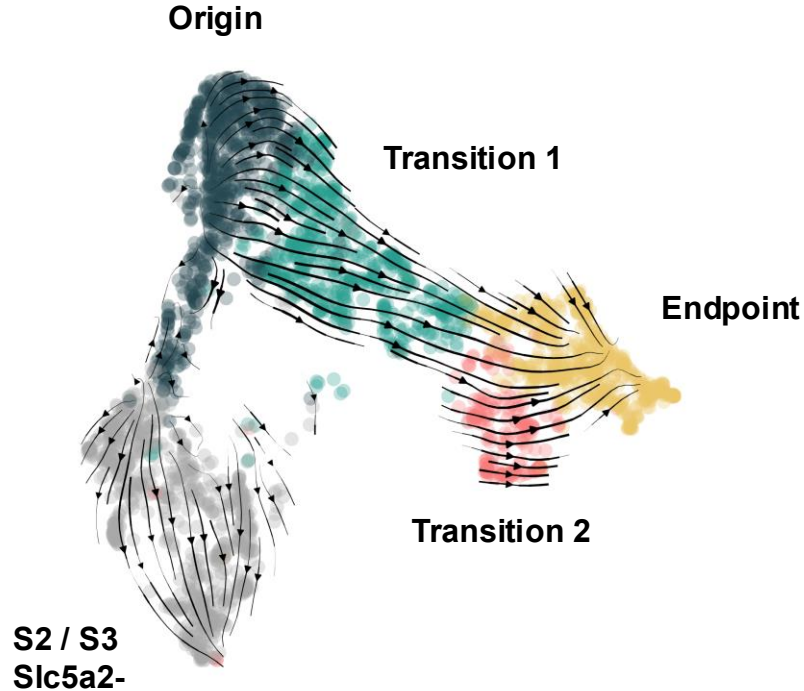
Delayed progression of renal epithelial cells upon *Vhl* and *Pbrm1* inactivation



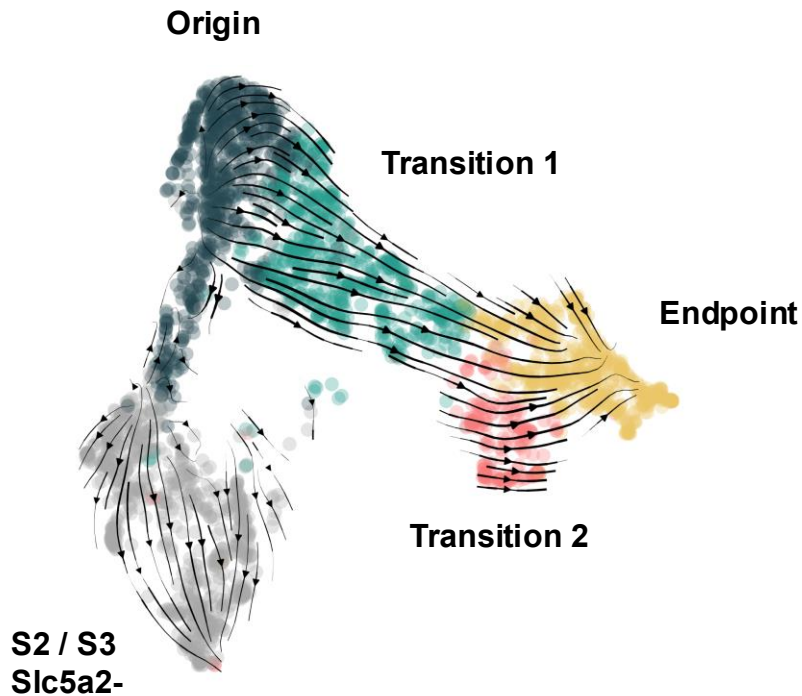
Transcriptional state transitions in early renal carcinogenesis



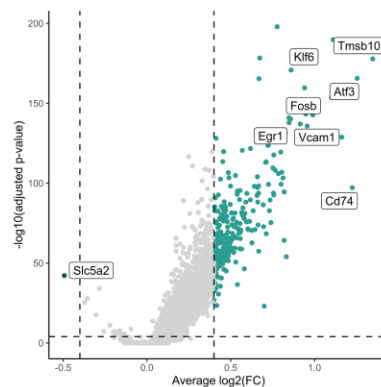
Transcriptional state transitions in early renal carcinogenesis



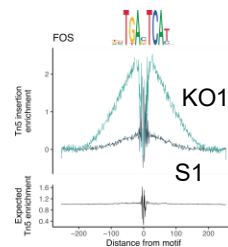
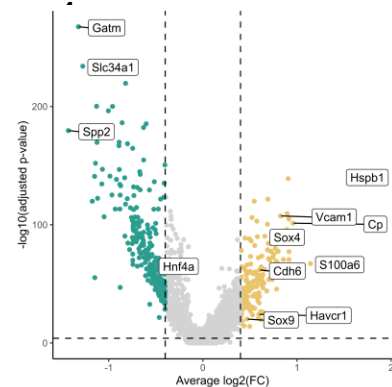
Transcriptional state transitions in early renal carcinogenesis



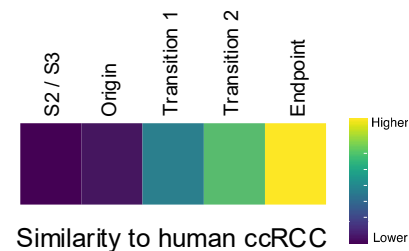
Transition 1 vs. Origin



Endpoint vs. Transition



AP-1
footprint on
chromatin
(ATAC-
seq)



Transcriptional state transitions in early renal carcinogenesis

KIM-1

Precision Medicine and Imaging

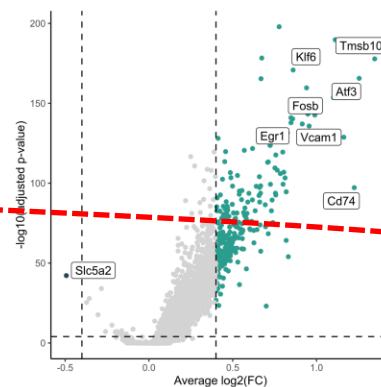
Clinical
Cancer
Research

KIM-1 as a Blood-Based Marker for Early Detection of Kidney Cancer: A Prospective Nested Case-Control Study

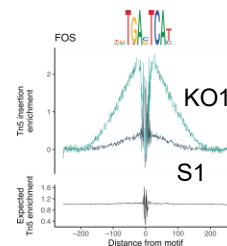
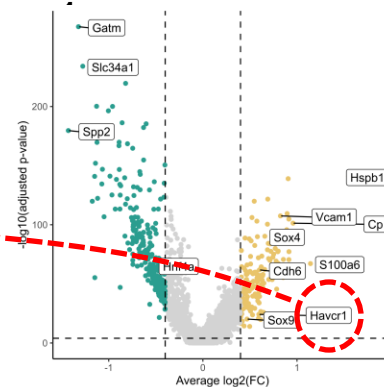
Ghislaine Scelo¹, David C. Muller², Elio Riboli², Mattias Johansson¹, Amanda J. Cross², Paolo Vineis², Konstantinos K. Tsilidis^{2,3}, Paul Brennan¹, Heiner Boeing⁴, Petra H.M. Peeters⁵, Roel C.H. Vermeulen⁶, Kim Overvad⁷, H. Bas Bueno-de-Mesquita^{2,8,9,10}, Gianluca Severi^{11,12}, Vittorio Perduca^{11,12,13}, Marina Kvaskoff^{11,12}, Antonia Trichopoulou¹⁴, Carlo La Vecchia^{14,15}, Anna Karakatsani^{14,16}, Domenico Palli¹⁷, Sabina Sieri¹⁸, Salvatore Panico¹⁹, Elisabete Weiderpass^{20,21,22,23}, Torkjel M. Sandanger²⁰, Therese H. Nøst²⁰, Antonio Agudo²⁴, J. Ramón Quirós²⁵, Miguel Rodríguez-Barranco^{26,27}, Maria-Dolores Chirlaque^{27,28,29}, Timothy J. Key³⁰, Prateek Khanna³¹, Joseph V. Bonventre³², Venkata S. Sabbiseti³², and Rupal S. Bhatt³¹

Scelo et al. *Clin Can Res* 2018

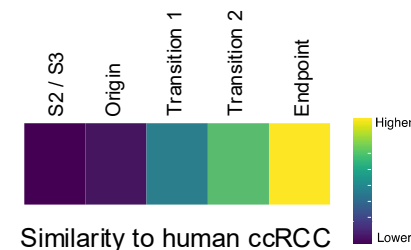
Transition 1 vs. Origin



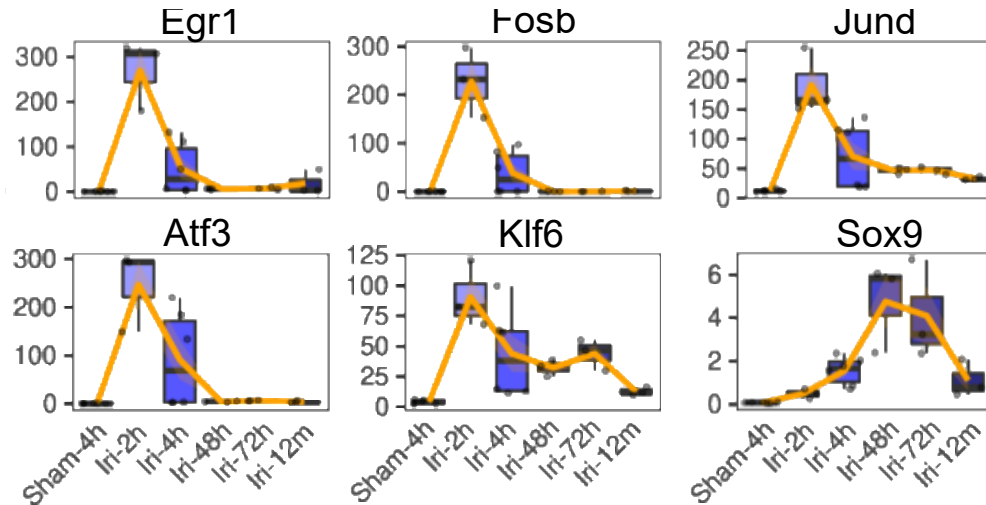
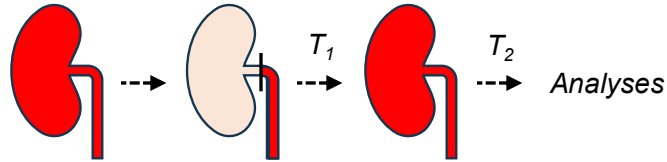
Endpoint vs. Transition



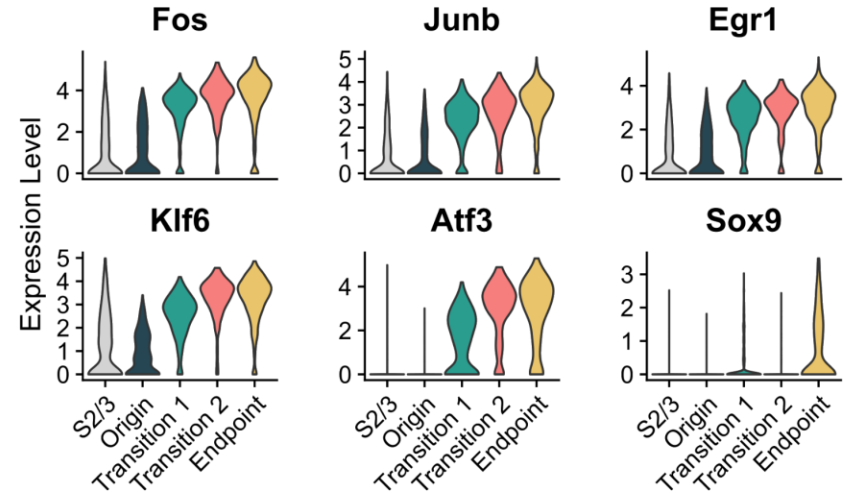
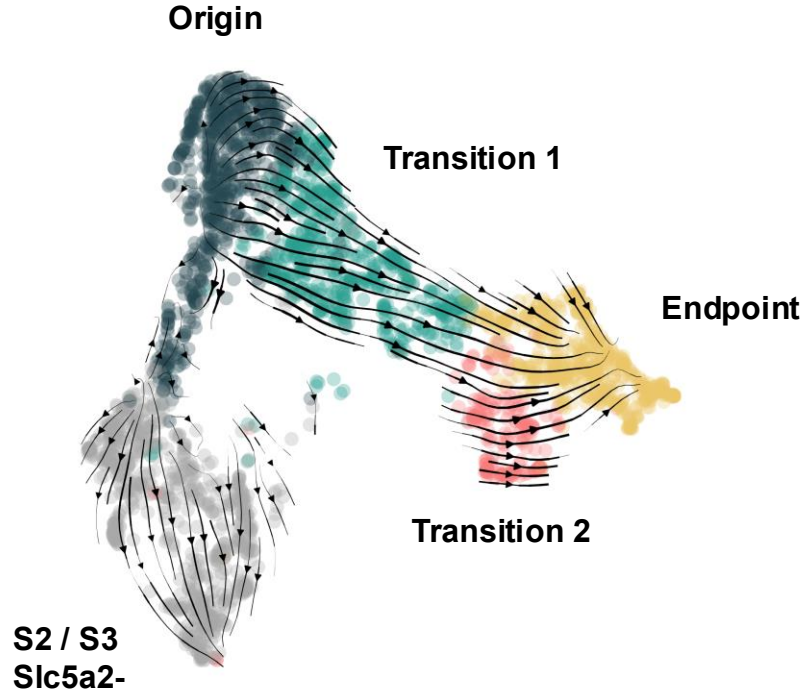
AP-1
footprint on
chromatin
(ATAC-
seq)



Transcriptional responses to renal injury



Renal injury markers along the KO1 trajectory

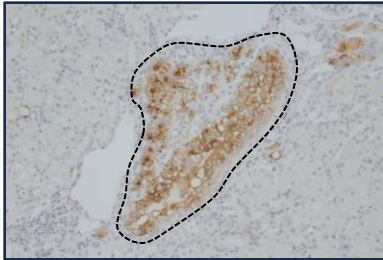


SOX9 expression in early *VHL* null renal lesions

SOX9



KIM1

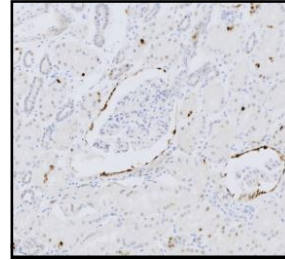


Pax8-CreERT²;
Vhl^{fl/fl};Pbrm1^{fl/fl}

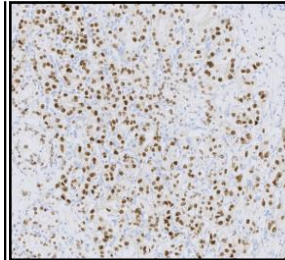
Mouse

SOX9 – IHC

Normal

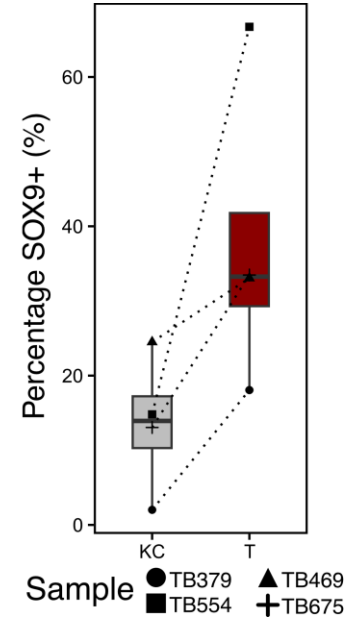


ccRCC



Early stage ccRCC –
VHL mutation carrier

Human



The Pax8-CreER^{T2};Vhl^{fl/fl};Pbrm1^{fl/fl} model

- Conditional inactivation of two commonly mutated ccRCC suppressors in adult mouse renal epithelium
- Cre activation not ubiquitous
 - Mutant cells within normal tissues
- Delayed phenotypic progression of renal epithelial cells with oncogenic mutations
 - Mimics delayed progression of *VHL* mutant cells in humans?
- Tissue repair-associated transcriptional state transitions mark early progression of *Vhl* / *Pbrm1*-mutant cells
 - Mediators of renal injury programs support renal cancer cell fitness



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cancer
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Monika Bhalke
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Fatemeh Seyednasrollah
Juuli Hietarinne
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