

Information on Special Lecture Tokuron

Title: Oncogenic Role of THOR, a Conserved Cancer/Testis Long Noncoding RNA (CT-lncRNA)
進化的に保存された精巣・癌関連長鎖非翻訳 RNA (Cancer/Testis lncRNA) である THOR の機能解析

Teaching Staff : Yasuyuki Hosono, MD, PhD Research Fellow
(Arul Chinnaiyan lab, Michigan Center for Translational Pathology, University of Michigan)

Date / Time: 3, March 2017 (Fri) / 17 : 00-18 : 30
Room: Building for Medical Research, Meeting Room 2
Language: English

Large scale transcriptome sequencing efforts have vastly expanded the catalog of lncRNAs with varying evolutionary conservation, lineage expression, and cancer specificity. Here we functionally characterize a novel ultraconserved lncRNA, *THOR*, which exhibits expression exclusively in testis and a broad range of human cancers. *THOR* knockdown and overexpression in multiple cell lines and animal models alters cell or tumor growth supporting an oncogenic role. We discovered a conserved interaction protein partner of *THOR* and we have shown that *THOR* contributes to the mRNA stabilization activities. Notably, transgenic *THOR* knockout conferred a resistance to melanoma onset. Likewise, ectopic expression of human *THOR* in zebrafish accelerated the onset of melanoma. *THOR* represents a novel class of functionally important cancer/testis lncRNAs whose structure and function have undergone positive evolutionary selection.

In addition to these findings, I would like to present some recent data and talk about what kind of approaches we can utilize in the mechanistic elucidation of human diseases using Next-Generation Sequencing (NGS) and zebrafish.

近年、次世代シーケンサーを用いた大規模な遺伝子発現解析の進歩により、非常に時空間特異的な発現パターンを示す膨大な量の新規 lncRNA の存在が明らかになってきました。今回我々は、正常精巣と様々な癌種に特異的な発現を示す進化的に保存された lncRNA (THOR) を同定し、その機能解析を行いました。癌培養細胞株とマウス異種移植モデルを用いた遺伝子発現調節実験により THOR の癌関連遺伝子としての機能を推測し、比較遺伝学的手法を用いてその結合タンパク質を同定しました。また遺伝子改変ゼブラフィッシュモデルを作成し、THOR の発現変化がメラノーマの発生に影響を与えることを示しました。今回の発表ではこれらの発見に加えて、ヒトの癌を中心とした様々な疾患に対して、次世代シーケンサーとゼブラフィッシュを用いてどのようなアプローチが可能かを、最近のデータをもとに示せばと考えています。

No registration required

Contact: Division of Molecular Carcinogenesis, Arakawa (ext 2454)

06, Feb, 2017 Student Affairs Division, School of Medicine