

DNA damage within chromatin: *break it to shape it*

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DNA Repair Interest Group – 2017

DNA repair: guarding genome and epigenome integrity?



Impact of DNA damage on chromatin organization



→ DNA damage as means to shape and/or modulate the epigenome?





Higher level chromatin organization determines cell identity and function

DNA damage as a driver of epigenomic change in aging and cancer?



Epigenetic changes/noise Linked to both aging and cancer

Oberdoerffer and Sinclair, "Reorganization of Chromatin Modifiers Hypothesis" Nature Reviews 2007

DNA damage as a driver of epigenomic change in aging and cancer?



→ Consequences of DSBs for transcriptional integrity in vivo?

→ Chronic DNA damage response as a means to shape chromatin?

A mouse model for temporally and spatially controlled DSB induction

I-Ppol:

Intron-encoded endonuclease from *Physarum polycephalum*

 \rightarrow Cuts mouse genome at ~ 150 defined sites



Transcriptional consequences upon T cell-specific DSB induction?

- I-Ppol causes gene repression specifically in DSB-containing genes.
- DSB-induced gene repression is transient and dependent on DNA damage signaling.

The mammalian transcriptome is sufficiently robust to accommodate short term DSB exposure.

Kim et al., Nucleic Acids Res 2016

However...

Cre control (16 mo old)







- Mice exposed to several weeks of DSB induction early in life
- Evidence for epigenetic memory of DSB induction...

Data from labs of David Sinclair, Shelley Berger and Rafa de Cabo



Can we test the impact of chronic DNA damage under physiological conditions?

Replication stress: a source of chronic, HR-associated DNA damage



Adapted from Gaillard...Aguilera, Nat Rev Cancer 2015

MacroH2A1 – a unique yet underappreciated histone variant



Pehrson, Luger, Bernstein, Ladurner, Gamble, Price, Buschbeck and others...

The macroH2A1.2 variant promotes BRCA1-dependent DSB repair



→ MacroH2A1.2 promotes dynamic chromatin condensation at DSBs



macroH2A1.2

 RNAi screen identified macroH2A1.2-specific role in homology-directed DSB repair

Implications for (epi)genome maintenance?

→ Facilitates BRCA1 accumulation, end resection and HR



Khurana et al., Cell Reports 2014



Replication stress drives macroH2A1.2 accumulation at fragile sites genome-wide



macroH2A1.2 accumulates at artificial replication blocks



 \rightarrow Link to the replication stress response?

Beuzer...Almouzni, Cell Cycle 2014

Role of macroH2A1.2 during replication stress



Can macroH2A1.2 protect from replication stress-induced damage?



→ Molecular basis for macroH2A1.2-dependent protection from RS?

macroH2A1.2 facilitates BRCA1 accumulation upon replication stress



→ Fork specific effect?

macroH2A1.2 promotes BRCA1 recruitment to replication forks



No known macroH2A1.2 chaperones!

Histone or variant	Tissues (location within the genome)	Chaperones and remodellers	Function
MacroH2A1.1	All (facultative and constitutive heterochromatin)	Not known	Not known
MacroH2A1.2	All (facultative and constitutive heterochromatin)	ATRX (remodeller)	Negative regulation, possibly indirect
MacroH2A2	All (facultative and constitutive heterochromatin)	Not known	Not known
Buschbeck & Hake, Nat. Reviews, 2017			

FACT remodels H2A/H2B dimers at replication forks



- FACT (SUPT16H/SSRP1) complex is the main H2A/H2B chaperone at replication forks.
- FACT loss causes HR and replication defects. ٠
- → FACT mediates macroH2A1.2 accumulation in a replication stress-dependent manner.

Reinberg, Diffley, Aguilera, Formosa, Stillman, others...

FACT subunits promote RS-associated mH2A1.2 accumulation at Lac arrays...





... and common fragile sites.



 \rightarrow FACT interacts with macroH2A1.2/H2B dimer in vitro and in vivo.

With help from Luger lab

MacroH2A1.2 accumulation at fragile sites requires H2AX phosphorylation



- FACT (SUPT16H/SSRP1) complex is the main H2A/H2B chaperone at replication forks.
- FACT loss causes HR and replication defects.
- → FACT mediates macroH2A1.2 accumulation in a *replication stress-dependent* manner.
- → MacroH2A1.2 incorporation <u>also</u> depends on DNA damage signaling.

FACT-Mediated Exchange of Histone Variant H2AX Regulated by Phosphorylation of H2AX and ADP-Ribosylation of Spt16

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 \rightarrow MacroH2A1.2 incorporation requires H2AX phosphorylation.

Urbain Weyemi / Bill Bonner

Molecular Cell Article

Potential to shape chromatin during continued replication stress?



The Lego problem...

Continuous replication drives persistent macroH2A1.2 accumulation



 \rightarrow Dependence on replication? \checkmark

Replicative age causes mH2A1.2 accumulation at CFSs





Consequences of macroH2A1.2 loss in primary cells



Bartek, d'Adda di Fagagna and others

Replication stress shapes a protective chromatin environment at fragile regions



Kim et al, Mol Cell, in press

Implications for the epigenome



- A subset of chromatin domains are the result of chronic DNA damage exposure.
- Implications for age-associated chromatin reorganization and epigenomic dysfunction.

Fragile regions / macroH2A1.2 domains

A more general role for macroH2A1.2 in HR and/or replication stress-associated genome maintenance?

Feedback between DNA repair and chromatin modulates cell function



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