



Downregulation of 14q32 microRNAs in primary human desmoplastic medulloblastoma

Danielle Ribeiro Lucon^{1,2}, Cristiane de Souza Rocha², Rogerio Bastos Craveiro³, Dagmar Dilloo³, Izilda A. Cardinali¹, Denise Pontes Cavalcanti², Simone dos Santos Aguiar¹, Claudia Maurer-Morelli² and Jose Andres Yunes^{1,2*}

¹ Centro Infantil Boldrini, Campinas, Brazil

² Departamento de Genética Médica, Faculdade de Ciências Médicas, Universidade Estadual de Campinas, Campinas, Brazil

³ University Children's Hospital Bonn, Department of Pediatric Hematology and Oncology, Bonn, Germany

Edited by:

Katherine Warren, National Cancer Institute, USA

Reviewed by:

Cynthia Hawkins, The Hospital for Sick Children, Canada
Sri Gururangan, Duke University Medical Center, USA

*Correspondence:

Jose Andres Yunes, Laboratório de Biologia Molecular, Centro Infantil Boldrini, Rua Dr. Gabriel Porto 1270, CEP 13083-210 Campinas, Brazil
e-mail: andres@boldrini.org.br

Medulloblastoma (MB) is one of the most common pediatric cancers, likely originating from abnormal development of cerebellar progenitor neurons. MicroRNA (miRNA) has been shown to play an important role in the development of the central nervous system. Microarray analysis was used to investigate miRNA expression in desmoplastic MB from patients diagnosed at a young age (1 or 2 years old). Normal fetal or newborn cerebellum was used as control. A total of 84 differentially expressed miRNAs (64 downregulated and 20 upregulated) were found. Most downregulated miRNAs (32/64) were found to belong to the cluster of miRNAs at the 14q32 locus, suggesting that this miRNA locus is regulated as a module in MB. Possible mechanisms of 14q32 miRNAs downregulation were investigated by the analysis of publicly available gene expression data sets. First, expression of estrogen-related receptor- γ (*ESRRG*), a reported positive transcriptional regulator of some 14q32 miRNAs, was found downregulated in desmoplastic MB. Second, expression of the parentally imprinted gene *MEG3* was lower in MB in comparison to normal cerebellum, suggesting a possible epigenetic silencing of the 14q32 locus. miR-129-5p (11p11.2/7q32.1), miR-206 (6p12.2), and miR-323-3p (14q32.2), were chosen for functional studies in DAOY cells. Overexpression of miR-129-5p using mimics decreased DAOY proliferation. No effect was found with miR-206 or miR-323 mimics.

Keywords: 14q32 miRNA cluster, desmoplastic medulloblastoma, *ESRRG*, miR-129-5p, miRNA profile

INTRODUCTION

Medulloblastoma (MB) is an embryonic tumor of the cerebellum and the most common malignant brain tumor in childhood, likely originating from abnormal development of cerebellar progenitor neurons (1, 2). Transcriptional profiling of large number of MB samples unraveled the existence of at least four distinct molecular subgroups: (i) Wingless (Wnt) group, (ii) Sonic Hedgehog (SHH) group, (iii) Group 3 and (iv) Group 4 (3, 4). These various subtypes of MB are suggested to arise from different populations of precursor or stem cells which form the cerebellum (5–8). This transcriptome-based classification has opened new avenues for the understanding of the molecular mechanism contributing to MB.

MicroRNAs (miRNAs) are suggested to play an important role in controlling the development of the central nervous system (CNS) by regulating cell proliferation and differentiation, as well as apoptosis (9). miRNAs are small non-coding RNA molecules of ~22–25 nucleotides that post-transcriptionally downregulate gene expression by binding the 3'-untranslated region (UTR) of protein coding transcripts, resulting in either mRNA cleavage or translational repression (10, 11). miRNA expression profiling of both mouse and human MB has led to the identification of signatures associated with the molecular subgroups of MB, tumor diagnosis, and response to treatment, as well as novel targets of potential clinical relevance (12–15). Previous studies, however,

interrogated limited number of miRNAs and included adult cerebellum in the normal control group. We investigated the expression profile of 847 miRNA in primary human desmoplastic MB of younger children in comparison to normal fetuses or newborn cerebellum. Eighty-four miRNAs were found to be differential expressed in MB, most of them belonging to the cluster 14q32. Possible mechanisms of 14q32 locus downregulation were investigated by the analysis of publicly available gene expression data set. Functional studies using mimic miR-129-5p (11p11.2/7q32.1), miR-206 (6p12.2), and miR-323-3p (14q32.2) and the DAOY cell line, suggested a suppressive role for miR-129-5p in MB proliferation.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

PRIMARY MEDULLOBLASTOMA TISSUE SAMPLES

Surgical specimens were obtained from 1 to 5 years old children ($n = 10$), with desmoplastic MB (Table 1). Of note, microarray analyses were performed with MB samples from children with 1–2 years old. Desmoplastic MBs belong, with rare exceptions, to the SHH molecular subgroup (13–16). All MB samples used in the present study had high mRNA levels of *PTCH1* and low levels of *OTX2* (Figure A1 in Appendix), in comparison to normal cerebellum, which is in keeping with the differential transcriptional profile of SHH tumors (3). Normal cerebellum tissues were

Table 1 | Summary of the medulloblastoma samples included in the study.

Medulloblastoma	Age at diagnosis	Gender	Histology
MB 1 ^a	1	M	N/D
MB 2 ^a	1	F	N/D
MB 3 ^a	2	M	D
MB 4 ^a	2	M	N/D
MB 5 ^a	1	M	N/D
MB 6 ^a	2	M	N/D
MB 7	5	M	N/D
MB 8	5	M	D
MB 9	4	M	D
MB 10	5	M	N/D

^aSamples used in Affymetrix miRNA microarray analysis; F = female; M = male; D = desmoplastic; N/D = nodular/desmoplastic.

obtained from 22 to 39 weeks old fetal and newborn (NW) autopsy ($n = 8$) (Table 2). Ethical approvals were obtained from the Ethical Research Committee of the Faculdade de Ciências Médicas (n°656/2009), CAISM (n°064/2010), the Ethical Research Committee of Centro Infantil Boldrini (n°1.90-030710), and National Committee of Ethics in Research (CONEP) n°0005.0.144.146-09. Subtyping of MB was obtained by histological analysis.

TOTAL RNA ISOLATION AND ANALYSIS OF GLOBAL miRNA EXPRESSION

Total RNA was extracted by Trizol™ (Invitrogen, Carlsbad, CA, USA) according to the manufacturer's instructions, with an additional overnight precipitation step at -20°C with isopropanol (Merck). RNA quantification was carried out in a *Qubit Quantitation Platform* (Invitrogen) and RNA quality was analyzed via gel electrophoresis. Five hundred nanograms of RNA from 12 samples (6 MB and 6 fetal cerebellum) were labeled with the 3'-DNA Flash-Tag Biotin HSR kit (Genisphere, Hatfield, PA, USA) and hybridized to GeneChip miRNA Array 1.0 (Affymetrix Inc., Santa Clara, CA, USA), which comprises 847 human miRNAs. Data was acquired using a GeneChip Scanner 3000 7G (Affymetrix).

VALIDATION OF miRNA DEREGULATION BY QUANTITATIVE REAL-TIME PCR

Reverse transcription (RT) and quantitative real-time RT-PCR (RT-qPCR) analysis were carried out using commercially available TaqMan microRNA assays (Applied Biosystems, Foster City, CA, USA) and a 7500 Real-time PCR System (Applied Biosystems). RT reactions (50 ng of total RNA) were performed in a 15 μl final volume containing specific stem-loop primers for each miRNA (129-5p, 206, 323-3p, 495, and internal control small RNA, RNU6B), 10 \times RT Buffer, dNTPs, reverse transcriptase, RNase inhibitor, and water in 96-well plates. Thermal cycling included 30 min at 16°C , 30 min at 42°C , and a final step of RT inactivation for 5 min at 85°C . PCR reactions were performed in a 10 μl final volume containing 5 μl TaqMan Universal Master Mix II, without UNG (Applied Biosystems), 3.5 μl water, 0.5 μl TaqMan microRNA assay, and 1 μl cDNA. Thermal cycling included an initial step of 10 min at 95°C for Taq activation followed by 40 cycles

Table 2 | Summary of the normal cerebellum tissues.

Normal cerebellum	Gestational age	Gender	Diagnosis
C1	37	M	Bilateral renal agenesis
C2 ^a	39	M	Hydropsy
C3 ^a	22	–	NM
C4 ^a	31	M	NM
C5 ^a	36	–	NM
C6 ^a	24	M	NM
C7	30	–	Cardiopathy
C8 ^a	26	M	NM

^aSamples used in Affymetrix miRNA microarray analysis; F = female; M = male; NM = no malformation and no aneuploidy.

of 15 s denaturation at 95°C and 1 min of annealing/extension at 60°C . Each reaction was performed in triplicate and the miRNAs expression levels were normalized against RNU6B. The threshold cycle numbers (Ct) were calculated by relative quantification using the $2^{-\Delta\Delta\text{Ct}}$ method, as described by Livak and Schmittgen (17). One of the control samples was chosen as calibrator.

CELL LINES

Four human MB cell lines were utilized: DAOY (HTB 186), D283 Med (HTB185), and D431 Med (HTB-187) were obtained from American Type Culture Collection (ATCC). The MB cell line, MEB-Med-8A, was kindly provided by Prof. T. Pietsch (18). The MB cell lines DAOY, D283 Med, and MEB-Med-8A were maintained in High Glucose Dulbecco's Modified Eagle Medium (DMEM) supplemented with 1 mM sodium pyruvate (PAA), L-glutamine, 1% penicillin/streptomycin (Invitrogen, Karlsruhe, Germany), and 10% fetal bovine serum (FBS, Invitrogen). The MB cell line D341 Med was maintained in DMEM with L-glutamine supplemented with 1 mM sodium pyruvate, 1% penicillin/streptomycin, and 10% Human Serum (HS, PAA, UK).

TRANSIENT TRANSFECTION OF miRNAs

DAOY cells (1.5×10^5) were seeded in six-well plates in 2 ml of RPMI-1640 medium (Cultilab, Campinas, Brazil) supplemented with 10% FBS (Sigma-Aldrich, St. Louis, MO, USA) and penicillin/streptavidin (Cultilab). Transfection of miRvana miRNA mimics (Invitrogen Ambion, Austin, TX, USA) of miR-206, miR-129-5p, miR-323-3p, or miRvana miRNA mimic negative control #1 (referred to as scrambled) was carried out 24 h after seeding, in a final concentration of 3 nM, using Lipofectamine RNAiMAX reagent (Invitrogen) according to the manufacturer's recommendation. Efficiency of transfection was evaluated 24 post-transfection by RT-qPCR using total RNA.

CELL VIABILITY: MTS ASSAY

Cell survival/proliferation after the transfection with mimic-miRNAs was evaluated by using the CellTiter 96 AQueous One Solution Cell Proliferation Assay (Promega, Wallisellen, Switzerland), a colorimetric [3-(4,5-dimethylthiazol-2-yl)-5-(3-carboxymethoxyphenyl)-2-(4-sulfophenyl)]-2H-tetrazolium inner salt (MTS) assay. Briefly, mimic-miR-206, mimic-miR-129-5p, and mimic-miR-323-3p or mimic-negative control #1 transfected

Table 3 | Deregulated miRNA in desmoplastic medulloblastoma compared to normal cerebellum.

Our miRNA profile (84)	Chromosomal localization	Fold change	Reference	Our miRNA profile (84)	Chromosomal localization	Fold change	Reference
DOWNREGULATED				UPREGULATED			
hsa-miR-206	6p12.2	-7.53	(29)	hsa-miR-125b-1*	11q24.1/21q21.1	-2.27	
hsa-miR-219-2-3p	9q33.3	-6.64	(52)	hsa-miR-411	14q32.2	-2.23	(29)
hsa-miR-383	8p22	-6.56	(12, 55, 56)	hsa-miR-379	14q32.2	-2.22	(29, 52)
hsa-miR-138	16q13.3/3p21.32	-5.16	(12, 14)	hsa-miR-431*	14q32.2	-2.22	
hsa-miR-323-3p	14q32.2	-4.96	(12, 52)	hsa-miR-767-5p	Xq28	-2.20	
hsa-miR-122	18q21.31	-4.82		hsa-miR-139-3p	11q13.4	-2.17	
hsa-miR-105	Xq28	-4.66		hsa-miR-154	14q32.2	-2.16	(12)
hsa-miR-129-5p	11p11.2/7q32.1	-4.56	(23)	hsa-miR-1224-5p	3q27.2	-2.15	
hsa-miR-935	19q13.43	-4.53	(52)	hsa-miR-187	18q12.1	-2.14	(12)
hsa-miR-329	14q32.2	-4.48		hsa-miR-95	4p16.1	-2.10	(14)
hsa-miR-129-3p	11p11.2/7q32.1	-4.43		hsa-miR-369-5p	14q32.2	-2.05	
hsa-miR-650	22q11.21	-4.19		hsa-miR-665	14q32.2	-2.05	
hsa-miR-184	15q24.3	-4.14		hsa-miR-494	14q32.2	-2.03	(52)
hsa-miR-370	14q32.2	-3.99	(12)	hsa-miR-134	14q32.2	-2.03	(12, 29)
hsa-miR-433	14q32.2	-3.96	(29)	hsa-miR-346	10q23.2	-2.01	(12, 13)
hsa-miR-138-2*	16q13.3/3p21.32	-3.91		hsa-miR-324-5p	17p13.1	-2.00	(12, 50)
hsa-miR-487b	14q32.2	-3.82	(29)	UPREGULATED			
hsa-miR-487a	14q32.2	-3.78		hsa-miR-199b-3p	9q33.3	4.56	(12)
hsa-miR-758	14q32.2	-3.65		hsa-miR-199a-3p	19p13.2/1q24.1	4.49	
hsa-miR-485-5p	14q32.2	-3.60		hsa-miR-199a-5p	19p13.2/1q24.1	4.14	(28)
hsa-miR-138-1*	16q13.3/3p21.32	-3.55		hsa-miR-21	17q22	3.70	(12-14, 29, 31)
hsa-miR-382	14q32.2	-3.53	(12, 29)	hsa-miR-214	1q24.2	3.59	
hsa-miR-504	Xq26.3	-3.45	(52)	hsa-miR-19a	13q31.3	3.11	(12-14)
hsa-miR-128	2q21.3/3p22.3	-3.43	(12, 14, 51, 59)	hsa-miR-92a-1*	13q31.3/Xq26.2	3.06	
hsa-miR-490-5p	7q33	-3.42		hsa-miR-214*	1q24.2	2.93	
hsa-miR-770-5p	14q32.2	-3.35		hsa-miR-34a	1p36.23	2.78	(13, 30, 53)
hsa-miR-410	14q32.2	-3.30	(29)	hsa-miR-18b	Xq26.2	2.74	
hsa-miR-432	14q32.2	-3.29		hsa-miR-422a	15q22.2	2.72	(14)
hsa-miR-485-3p	14q32.2	-3.02		hsa-miR-34a*	1p36.23	2.58	(14)
hsa-miR-490-3p	7q33	-2.88		hsa-miR-574-3p	4p14	2.49	(14)
hsa-miR-381	14q32.2	-2.73	(12)	hsa-miR-378	5q32	2.39	(14)
hsa-miR-377*	14q32.2	-2.72		hsa-miR-1244	12p13.2/12p13.31/ 2q37.1/5q23.1	2.39	
hsa-miR-7	15q25.3/19p13.3/9q21.32	-2.72	(12, 14)	hsa-miR-18a	13q31.3	2.39	(12-14)
hsa-miR-124	20p23.1/8q12.3/8p23.1	-2.71	(12, 14, 29, 48, 49)	hsa-miR-93*	7q22.1	2.26	
hsa-miR-323-5p	14q32.31	-2.69	(12)	hsa-miR-497	17p13.1	2.17	(13)
hsa-miR-873	9p21.1	-2.65		hsa-miR-195*	17p13.1	2.14	
hsa-miR-129*	11p11.2/7q32.1	-2.63		hsa-miR-216a	2p16.1	2.07	(14)
hsa-miR-338-5p	17q25.3	-2.61	(14)	<i>Deregulated miRNAs previously described in human primary medulloblastoma compared with normal cerebellum or cell lines: (i) miRNAs found downregulated in Ref. (12-14, 23, 26, 29, 48-52, 55, 56, 59); (ii) miRNAs found upregulated in Ref. (12-14, 28-31, 53).</i>			
hsa-miR-409-5p	14q32.2	-2.61		cells were harvested 20 h after transfection and seeded in triplicate in 96-well plate (1,500 cells/well) in serum-free RPMI-1640 (Cultilab). At 24, 48, or 72 h post-transfection (i.e., 4, 28, or 52 h after passage to the 96-well plate) cells were incubated for 1 h with MTS reagent and absorbance read at 492 nm (reference wavelength 620 nm) using an ASYS Expert Plus Microplate Reader (Biochrom, Holliston, MA, USA). Three independent experiments were performed.			
hsa-miR-874	5q31.2	-2.46					
hsa-miR-495	14q32.2	-2.46	(52)				
hsa-miR-885-5p	3p25.3	-2.45					
hsa-miR-376c	14q32.2	-2.43	(52)				
hsa-miR-299-5p	14q32.2	-2.41					
hsa-miR-539	14q32.2	-2.40	(52)				
hsa-miR-127-5p	14q32.2	-2.35	(12, 29)				
hsa-miR-127-3p	14q32.2	-2.35	(52, 59)				
hsa-miR-411*	14q32.2	-2.30					

(Continued)

APOPTOSIS ASSAY

DAOY cells transfected with miR-206, 129-5p, 323-3p, or scramble mimics were cultured for 24 h in serum-free RPMI-1640 (Cultilab), harvested and part of it was resuspended in the appropriate binding buffer, stained with FITC-conjugated Annexin V (BD Biosciences, San Jose, CA, USA) and propidium iodide at room temperature for 15 min, and subsequently analyzed by flow cytometry in a FACS Canto II (Becton Dickinson). The remaining cells were replated in six-well plates for another 24 h culture period in serum-free RPMI-1640 (Cultilab) and harvested 48 h post-transfection for Annexin V labeling.

STATISTICAL ANALYSIS AND BIOINFORMATICS METHODS TO SIGNALING PATHWAY PREDICTION

MicroRNA expression was analyzed in R environment¹ using the packages Affy and RankProd from Bioconductor (19–21). The MB miRNA profile was compared to the cerebellum profile. Differentially expressed miRNAs were selected according to the fold change ≥ 2.00 and p -value ≤ 0.05 . Heat maps were created using tools of the MetaboAnalyst 2.0². Signaling pathways were prospected by DIANA-miRPath (microT-v4.0, beta version)³. The input dataset enrichment analysis was performed by Pearson's chi-squared test and each pathway was represented by the negative natural logarithm of the P -value ($-\ln P$). The Ingenuity Pathway Analysis (IPA) software⁴ was used to identify possible pathways associated to differentially expressed miRNAs.

Comparisons of RT-qPCR values from MB versus normal cerebellum were performed by the Mann–Whitney test. Cell proliferation results, at each time point, from mimic miRNA transfections versus mimic-negative control #1 were analyzed by the two-tailed unpaired t -test. Alpha error of $P = 0.05$ was tolerated. The GraphPad Prism 5 software was used throughout.

RESULTS

IDENTIFICATION OF DIFFERENTIALLY EXPRESSED miRNAs IN DESMOPLASTIC MBs OF 1–2 YEARS OLD CHILDREN

Global miRNA profiles were generated for primary MB of the desmoplastic subtype and most likely SHH molecular subgroup ($n = 6$), and normal fetal/NW cerebellum ($n = 6$). Eighty-four miRNAs (64 miRNAs downregulated and 20 miRNAs upregulated) were considered to be differentially expressed (fold change ≥ 2.0 , $p \leq 0.05$) in MB in comparison to normal fetal/NW cerebellum (Table 3; Figure 1). Among these 84 miRNAs, 46 had been previously described as deregulated in human primary MB (Table 3), and only 8 were previously validated by functional assays (Table 4). Upregulation of miRNAs from the miR-17 ~ 92 cluster (in this work miR-18a, 19a, and 92a-1) and downregulation of miR-324-5p were previously described in human MB of the SHH subgroup (12, 13). Of especial note, 32 of the 64 downregulated miRNAs belong to a large cluster on human chromosome 14q32 (Figure 1; Table 3).

SIGNALING PATHWAYS ANALYSIS BY DIANA

Signaling pathways putatively altered by MB deregulated miRNA were depicted by DIANA-miRPath. The list of the top 20 pathways is shown in Table 5. The Ribosome pathway was only pointed by the list of downregulated miRNAs. Adherens junction, oxidative phosphorylation, and TGF-beta signaling pathways showed higher enrichment when the list of downregulated miRNAs was used in the analysis. On the other hand, the MAPK pathway and genes associated to cancer showed higher enrichment when upregulated miRNAs were used in the analysis.

Interestingly, oxidative phosphorylation, TGF-beta signaling pathway, and ubiquitin mediated proteolysis were enriched in the list of 14q32 miRNAs.

INGENUITY PATHWAY ANALYSIS

Network analysis by IPA identified two networks as putative targets for 73 out of the 84 MB miRNAs. Networks were prospected considering only relationships that were experimentally observed. Interestingly, both networks were enriched with miRNAs belonging to the 14q32 cluster.

Network 1 (Figure 2A) included 13 miRNAs of the 14q32 cluster (also known as miR-154 cluster), which were all downregulated in MB samples (miR-154, 323-3p, 323-5p, 369-5p, 377*, 381, 382, 409-5p, 410, 485-3p, 487a, 487b, 539) and were depicted by IPA as having direct interactions with *BCL2L1*, *JUN*, *BIRC5*, *MAP2K4*, and *NROB2*. *BIRC5* and *BCL-2* have anti-apoptotic roles, and are expected to be at increasing levels in MB as all miRNAs connecting to these genes were found downregulated (Figure 2A). *NROB2* and *JUN* were suggested in this network as candidate genes controlling the expression of the 14q32 miRNA cluster.

Again, most miRNAs shown in Network 2 (Figure 2B) belong to the 14q32 cluster (miR-127-3p, 127-5p, 134, 379, 411, 432, 433, 495, and 758). In this case, *NROB2* and estrogen-related receptor- γ (*ESRRG*) were suggested as candidate genes controlling the expression of the 14q32 miRNA cluster. Insulin appeared in Network 2 as indirectly controlling the expression of miR-206, 324-5p, 432, and 95.

RT-qPCR VALIDATION OF SOME DEREGULATED miRNAs

miR-323-3p and 495, both belonging to cluster 14q32, were chosen for validation by RT-qPCR. In addition, miR-206 and miR-129-5p were chosen for analysis because of their high fold change (see Table 3), lack of previous functional studies and possible oncogenic role. miR-206 expression was reported to inhibit cell proliferation in breast cancer cells (22). miR-129 is reported to be significantly downregulated in pediatric brain tumors compared to normal tissues (23). Most importantly, miR-129 downregulation is associated to SOX4 overexpression in endometrial and gastric cancers (24, 25). SOX4 is upregulated and has prognostic impact in MB (26, 27).

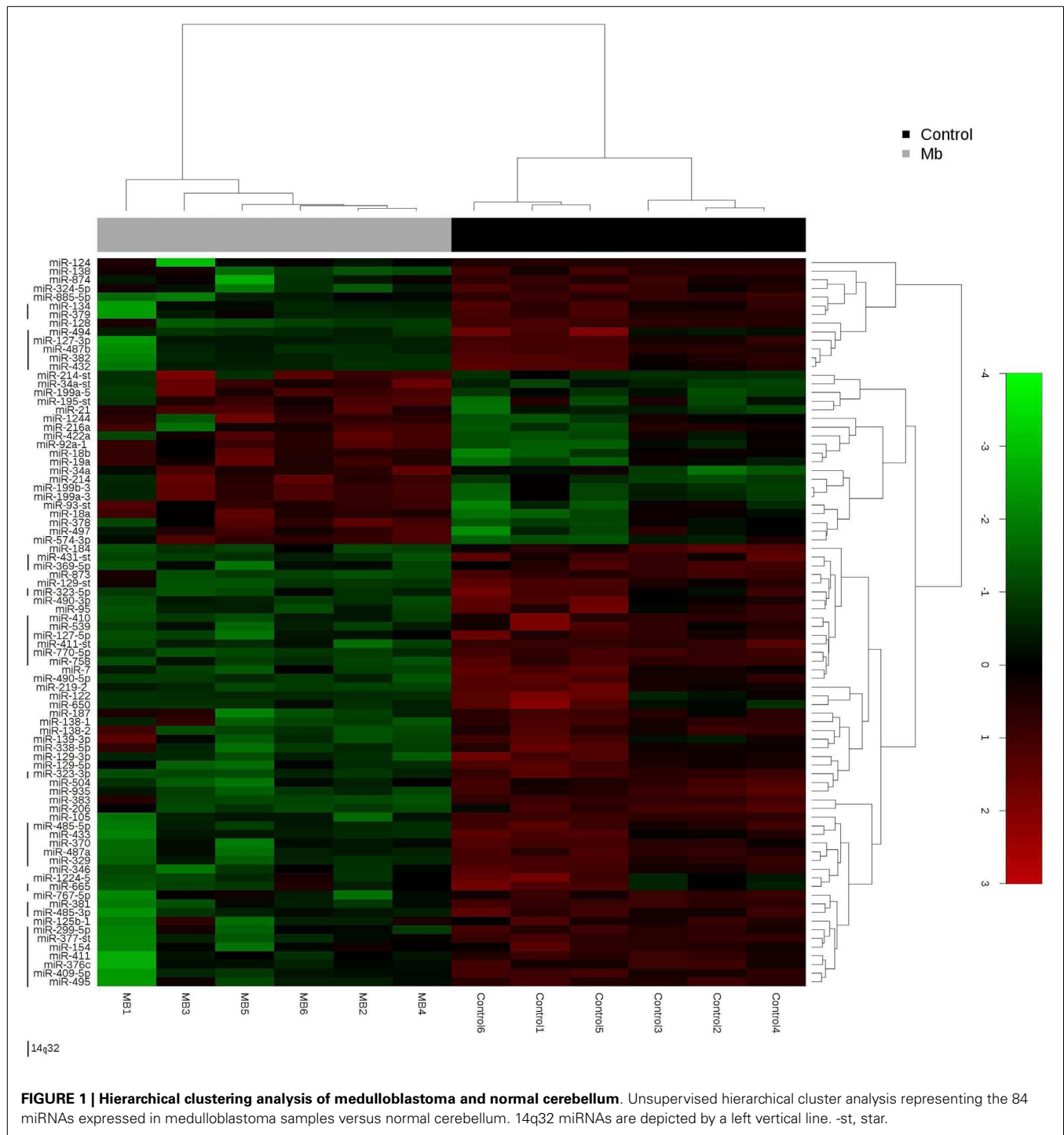
Real-time RT-qPCR analysis were performed with all samples used in the microarray analysis ($n = 6$ MB and $n = 6$ cerebellum) plus four other samples of MB (Table 1) and two new fetal/NW cerebellum controls (Table 2). As expected, miR-206 ($p = 0.0001$; Mann–Whitney test), miR-129-5p ($p = 0.002$), miR-323-3p ($p = 0.014$), and miR-495 ($p = 0.054$), had lower expression in MB in comparison to normal cerebellum (Figure 3), thus confirming our microarray findings. Expression of miR-206,

¹www.r-project.org

²www.metaboanalyst.ca

³http://diana.cslab.ece.ntua.gr/pathways/index_multiple.php

⁴http://www.ingenuity.com/



129-5p, 323-3p, and 495 were also investigated in a representative panel of MB cell lines. Compared with normal human cerebellum, miR-206, 129-5p, and 323-3p expression were found to be downregulated in all MB cell line tested (Figure 3).

UPREGULATION OF miR-206, 129-5p, AND 323-3p IN DAOY CELLS

As a first approach to investigate the functional significance of miRNAs downregulation in MB, DAOY cells were transiently

transfected with mimics of miR-206, 129-5p, 323-3p, or negative control #1. Transfection efficiency was confirmed by RT-qPCR (Figure A2 in Appendix). Twenty hours post-transfection, cells were collected and seeded in 96-well plates in serum-free medium. DAOY cells survive and even proliferate in serum-free medium for a short period of time. As shown in Figure 4, no consistent differences in proliferation were found in transfections with miR-206 and miR-323-3p. On the contrary, transfections with miR-129-5p

Table 4 | miRNAs validated by functional assay in human and mouse medulloblastoma.

miRNA	Deregulation	Cells	Functional assay ^a	Target genes	Reference
124	Down	Primary human MB, cell lines	↑ Cell cycle progression at G1 ↓ Cell proliferation	CDK6 SLC16A1	(48, 49)
<u>324-5p</u> 326 125p	Down	Primary human and mouse MB, cell lines	↓ Cell proliferation	SMO GLI1	(50)
9 125a	Down	Primary human MB, cell lines	↑ Apoptosis ↓ Cell proliferation	Trkc	(12)
<u>199b-5p</u>	Up	Primary human and mouse MB, cell lines	↑ Cell cycle progression at G1 ↓ Cell proliferation	HES1	(28)
<u>128</u>	Down	Primary human and mouse MB	↓ Cell proliferation ↑ Cell senescence	BMI-1	(51)
<u>21</u>	Up	Primary human MB, cell lines	↓ Cell migration	PDCD4	(31)
<u>935</u>	Down	Primary human MB, cell lines	–	KIAA0232 SLC5A3 TBC1D9 ZFAND6	(52)
<u>34a</u>	Down	MB cell lines	↑ Apoptosis ↑ Cell cycle progression at S/phase and G2/M ↓ Cell proliferation ↑ Cell senescence	MAGE-A DII1 Notch1 Notch2	(30, 53)
512-5p	Down	Primary human MB, cell lines	–	MYCC	(54)
<u>383</u>	Down	Primary human MB, cell lines	↑ Apoptosis ↑ Cell cycle progression at G1 ↓ Cell proliferation	PRDX3	(55, 56)
183~96~ 182	Down	MB cell lines	↑ Cell cycle progression at G0/G1 and G2 ↓ Cell migration ↓ Cell proliferation	AKT	(57)
218	Down	MB cell lines	↓ Cell migration ↓ Cell proliferation	CDK6 REST	(58)

Underlined miRNAs are miRNAs also found deregulated in the present study;

^aresults of ectopic expression or knockdown assays; MB = medulloblastoma.

resulted in a significant decrease in DAOY cell proliferation, as evaluated by the MTS assay (**Figure 4**). Similar experiments were conducted to evaluate cell survival and apoptosis by the Annexin V and propidium iodide staining methodology. No significant differences were found on cell viability or apoptosis after miR-206, miR-129-5p, and miR-323-3p transfections in comparison to control (**Figure 4**; **Figure A3** in Appendix, respectively).

DISCUSSION

We investigated the expression profile of miRNAs in primary human MB of desmoplastic histology and SHH molecular subgroup, in comparison to normal fetal/newborn cerebellum. Eighty-four miRNAs were found to be differentially expressed in MB. The majority of these differentially expressed

miRNAs were downregulated in comparison to normal cerebellum, corroborating previous studies. Most upregulated miRNAs identified in our study (12 out of 20) had been previously described in MB (12–14, 23, 28–32). On the contrary, 31 out of the 64 downregulated miRNAs are here described for the first time in association to MB (**Table 3**). Differences may be explained by the fact that a more comprehensive version of Affymetrix miRNA microarray was used in the present study. Moreover, previous studies included different subtypes of MB and a mix of children and adults cerebellum samples in their analysis (12, 13, 29). We believe that analysis on more uniform groups of both cancer and control samples may have helped us in detecting some smaller but consistent differences between groups.

Table 5 | Top 20 pathways predicted by DIANA-miRPath analysis.

Pathway signaling	All deregulated miRNAs	Downregulated miRNAs	Upregulated miRNAs	14q32 miRNAs
<i>P</i> -value ^a				
Ribosome	30.03	<u>25.34</u>	–	17.78
Axon guidance	24.96	19.98	17.95	17.7
Wnt signaling pathway	18.6	19.34	17.71	16.99
Focal adhesion	16.65	17.02	15.13	14.73
Adherens junction	16.23	<u>20.37</u>	12.18	16.6
Oxidative phosphorylation	14.95	<u>14.76</u>	7.34	<u>14.45</u>
ErbB signaling pathway	14.8	11.03	9.14	9.02
Metabolism of xenobiotics by cytochrome P450	14.06	<u>15.33</u>	3.15	10.01
Renal cell carcinoma	13.48	13.21	9.35	11.64
TGF-beta signaling pathway	12.4	14.11	5.64	<u>17.56</u>
Regulation of actin cytoskeleton	12.25	11.52	7.86	10.63
Chronic myeloid leukemia	12.06	11.02	8.14	10.54
MAPK signaling pathway	11.86	9.81	<u>17.06</u>	12.4
Colorectal cancer	11.72	13.24	9.79	<u>16.92</u>
Glioma	10	8.47	<u>16.21</u>	7.23
Pancreatic cancer	9.69	9.61	13.18	5.83
Melanogenesis	9.4	9.32	9.07	<u>10.59</u>
Ubiquitin mediated proteolysis	9.28	10.09	6.63	<u>11.11</u>
Prostate cancer	9.1	7	<u>18.2</u>	6.06
Insulin signaling pathway	9	8.54	5.86	4.65

^aThe negative natural logarithm of the enrichment *P*-value calculated for the specific pathway. Underlined shows higher enrichment in downregulated, upregulated, or 14q32 miRNAs lists.

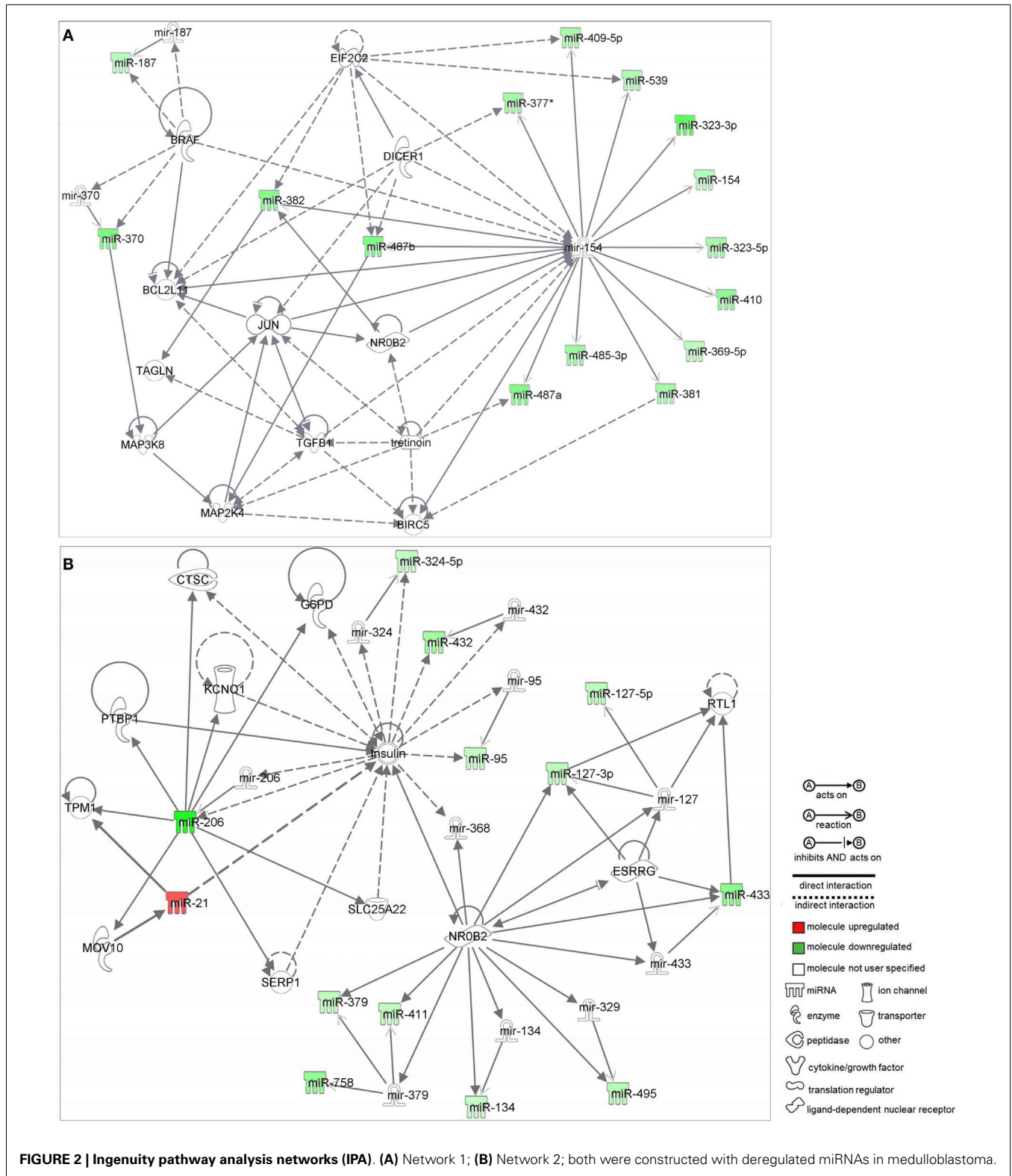
A computational analysis was performed to predict the network and signaling pathways collectively targeted by the 64 downregulated and 20 upregulated miRNAs. Downregulated miRNAs in MB were predicted to target genes related to the ribosome, adherens junction, oxidative phosphorylation, metabolism of xenobiotics by cytochrome P450, and transforming growth factor-beta (*TGF-β*) signaling pathways. Axon guidance, *TGF-β*, *WNT*, insulin signaling pathways are known to play an important role in neurulation, CNS developmental, and/or MB pathogenesis (3, 33, 34). Since miRNA act as negative regulators of gene expression, a simpler interpretation of these findings is that MB has increased activation of these pathways in comparison to normal cerebellum.

Most importantly, half (32/64) of downregulated miRNAs reported in our study were found to belong to the cluster at 14q32 locus (also known as miR-154 cluster). This is in keeping with a previous study in a mouse model of MB, reporting that activation of SHH signaling leads to downregulation of the miR-154 cluster (35). Moreover, previous publications with primary MB found downregulation of some 14q32 miRNAs in MBs of the molecular subgroups WNT, SHH, and C as compared to normal cerebellum and MBs of subgroup D (13, 29). However, this is the first time that so many 14q32 miRNAs are shown to be downregulated in MB, thus suggesting a co-regulatory control of this cluster's expression.

Deletions at locus 14q32 would be one possible explanation to the decreased 14q32 miRNAs expression. The recent analysis of somatic copy number aberrations in 1,087 MB samples report significant losses of chromosome arm 14q in the SHH subgroup of MBs, though not restricted to 14q32 (36). Alternative explanations are discussed below. Our Ingenuity pathways analysis

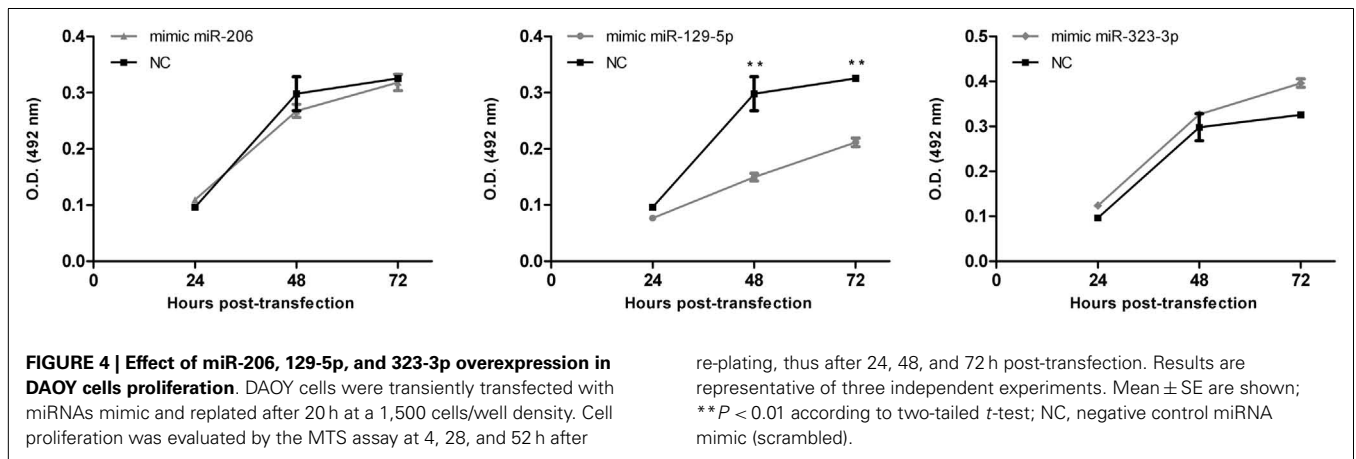
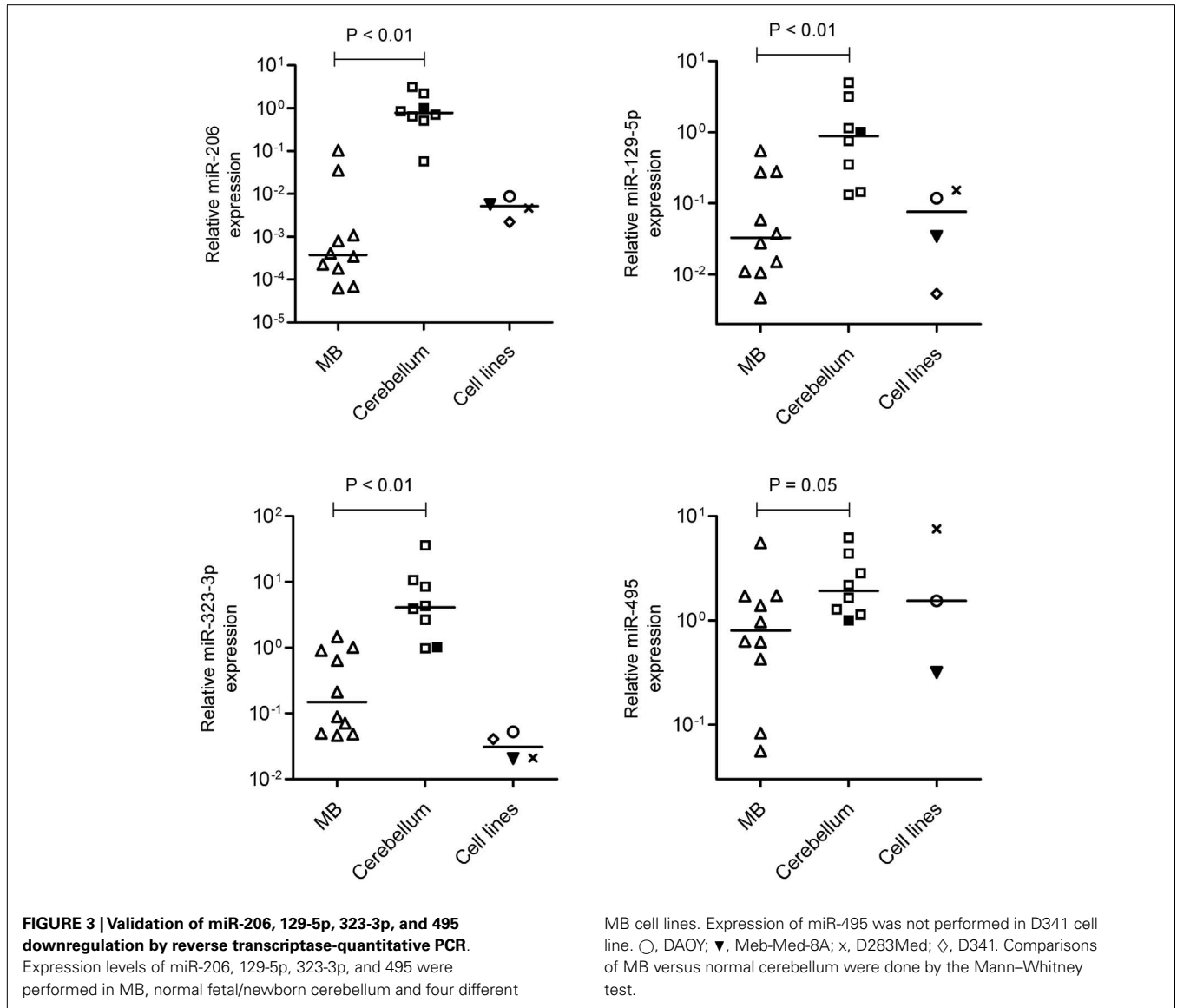
pointed to nuclear orphan receptor *NROB2* (also known as Small Heterodimer Partner, *SHP*) and (*ESRRG*) as possible controllers of 14q32 miRNA cluster expression. There is indeed experimental evidence in mouse showing that *NROB2* is a repressor while *ESRRG* is an activator of a miRNA cluster in chromosome 12, which is ortholog to the 14q32 cluster in humans (37). Our analysis of microarray mRNA expression data for 64 primary human MB samples, accessible through GEO Series accession number GSE28245 (38) in NCBI's Gene Expression Omnibus (39) revealed that *NROB2* is not expressed in MB. Interestingly, *ESRRG* expression was found to be relatively high in MBs of the molecular subgroup D, intermediate in MBs of the WNT and C subgroups, and very low or absent in MBs of the SHH subgroup (**Figure A4A** in Appendix), thus reflecting 14q32 miRNAs abundance in each of the MB subgroup. These findings were confirmed by the analysis of gene expression data of an independent cohort of 90 primary MB samples (accession number GSE21166) deposited by Northcott et al. (13) (data not shown). *ESRRG* suppress cell proliferation in prostate cancer cells (40) and the estrogen receptor beta agonist diarylpropionitrile (*DPN*) exhibit a pro-apoptotic and anti-proliferative effect on MB (41). Experiments are warranted to investigate a possible causal connection between *ESRRG* and 14q32 miRNA cluster expression in MB.

The miRNA cluster at 14q32 lies within a parentally imprinted chromosomal area spanning genes *Dlk1*, *Meg3*, *Rtl1*, *Meg8*, and *Dio3* (42). *Dlk1*, *Rtl1*, and *Dio3* are paternally-, whereas *Meg3* and *Meg8* are maternally expressed transcripts (43). Imprinting of 14q32 is regulated, to some extent, by two intergenic differentially methylated regions known as IG-DMR and MEG3-DMR (44, 45).



Deletions of the regulatory regions and/or epigenetic modifications may in theory cause aberrant 14q32 silencing in cancer. The recent 1,000 genome study of somatic copy number aberrations shows no recurrent focal deletions at locus 14q32 in MB (36).

However, our analysis of public mRNA microarray expression data GSE28245 (38) revealed that *MEG3* is downregulated in MB in comparison to normal cerebellum. MBs of the molecular group C and WNT have the lowest expression, SHH has intermediate



levels while group D have *MEG3* levels closer to normal cerebellum (**Figure A4B** in Appendix). Thus *MEG3* expression seems to correlate with the expression of 14q32 miRNAs among the different MB molecular groups, suggesting that the 14q32 miRNA locus may be under epigenetic regulation in MB. However, a genome wide analysis of promoter methylation on four primary MB samples showed no consistent methylation of 14q32 gene promoters (46). Although higher number of samples should be analyzed, this result corroborates findings in osteosarcoma, a tumor also presenting with downregulated 14q32 miRNAs expression and with no consistent changes in the methylation patterns at 14q32. Instead, silencing of 14q32 miRNA in osteosarcoma seems to be mediated by histone modification(s) (47).

Preliminary functional studies were performed in DAOY cells by ectopic expression of miR-129-5p, 206, and 323-3p mimics.

REFERENCES

- Ellison D. Classifying the medulloblastoma: insights from morphology and molecular genetics. *Neuropathol Appl Neurobiol* (2002) **28**:257–82. doi:10.1046/j.1365-2990.2002.00419.x
- Gulino A, Di Marcotullio L, Ferretti E, De Smaele E, Screpanti I. Hedgehog signaling pathway in neural development and disease. *Psychoneuroendocrinology* (2007) **32**:S25–56. doi:10.1016/j.psyneuen.2007.03.017
- Kool M, Koster J, Bunt J, Haseelt NE, Lakeman A, van Sluis P, et al. Integrated genomics identifies five medulloblastoma subtypes with distinct genetic profiles, pathway signatures and clinicopathological features. *PLoS ONE* (2008) **3**:e3088. doi:10.1371/journal.pone.0003088
- Northcott PA, Korshunov A, Witt H, Hielscher T, Eberhart CG, Mack S, et al. Medulloblastoma comprises four distinct molecular variants. *J Clin Oncol* (2010) **29**:1408–14. doi:10.1200/JCO.2009.27.4324
- Gilbertson RJ, Ellison DW. The origins of medulloblastoma subtypes. *Annu Rev Pathol* (2008) **3**:341–65. doi:10.1146/annurev.pathmechdis.3.121806.151518
- Schüller U, Heine VM, Mao J, Kho AT, Dillon AK, Han YG, et al. Acquisition of granule neuron precursor identity is a critical determinant of progenitor cell competence to form SHH-induced medulloblastoma. *Cancer Cell* (2008) **14**:123–34. doi:10.1016/j.ccr.2008.07.005
- Yang ZJ, Ellis T, Markant SL, Read TA, Kessler JD, Bourbonoulas M, et al. Medulloblastoma can be initiated by deletion of Patched in lineage-restricted progenitors or stem cells. *Cancer Cell* (2008) **14**(2):135–45. doi:10.1016/j.ccr.2008.07.003
- Gibson P, Tong Y, Robinson G, Thomson MC, Currie DS, Eden C, et al. Subtypes of medulloblastoma have distinct developmental origins. *Nature* (2010) **468**:1095–9. doi:10.1038/nature09587
- Cohen SM. *MiRNAs in CNS Development and Neurodegeneration: Insights from Drosophila* Genetics. Springer (2010). Available from: <http://www.springer.com/978-3-642-04297-3>
- Sood P, Krek A, Zavolan M, Macino G, Rajewsky N. Cell-type-specific signatures of microRNAs on target mRNA expression. *Proc Natl Acad Sci U S A* (2006) **103**(8):2746–51. doi:10.1073/pnas.0511045103
- Guo H, Ingolia NT, Weissman JS, Bartel DP. Mammalian microRNAs predominantly act to decrease target mRNA levels. *Nature* (2010) **466**(7308):835–41. doi:10.1038/nature09267
- Ferretti E, De Smaele E, Po A, Di Marcotullio L, Tosi E, Espinola MSB, et al. MiRNA profiling in human medulloblastoma. *Int J Cancer* (2009) **124**:568–77. doi:10.1002/ijc.23948
- Northcott PA, Fernandez LA, Hagan JP, Ellison DW, Grajkowska W, Gillespie Y, et al. The miR-17/92 polycistron is upregulated in Sonic Hedgehog driven medulloblastomas and induced by N-myc in Sonic Hedgehog-treated cerebellar neural precursors. *Cancer Res* (2009) **69**:3249–55. doi:10.1158/0008-5472.CAN-08-4710
- Cho YJ, Tsherniak A, Tamayo P, Santagata S, Ligon A, Greulich H, et al. Integrative genomic analysis of medulloblastoma identifies a molecular subgroup that drives poor clinical outcome. *J Clin Oncol* (2011) **29**(11):1424–30. doi:10.1200/JCO.2010.28.5148
- Fernandez LA, Northcott PA, Taylor MD, Kenney AM. Normal and oncogenic roles for microRNAs in the developing brain. *Cell Cycle* (2009) **8**(24):4049–54. doi:10.4161/cc.8.24.10243
- Pfister SM, Korshunov A, Kool M, Hasselblatt M, Eberhart C, Taylor MD. Molecular diagnostics of CNS embryonal tumors. *Acta Neuropathol* (2010) **120**:553–66. doi:10.1007/s00401-010-0751-5
- Livak KJ, Schmittgen TD. Analysis of relative gene expression data using real-time quantitative PCR and the 2^{(-Delta Delta C(T))} method. *Methods* (2001) **25**:402–8. doi:10.1006/meth.2001.1262
- Pietsch T, Scharmann T, Fonatsch C, Schmidt D, Ockler R, Freihoff D, et al. Characterization of five new cell lines derived from human primitive neuroectodermal tumors of the central nervous system. *Cancer Res* (1994) **54**:3278–87.
- Breitling R, Armengaud P, Amtmann A, Herzyk P. Rank products: a simple, yet powerful, new method to detect differentially regulated genes in replicated microarray experiments. *FEBS Lett* (2004) **573**:83–92. doi:10.1016/j.febslet.2004.07.055
- Gautier L, Cope L, Bolstad BM, Irizarry RA. Affy – analysis of Affymetrix GeneChip data at the probe level. *Bioinformatics* (2004) **20**:307–15. doi:10.1093/bioinformatics/btg405
- Letman RC, Carey VJ, Bates DM, Bolstad B, Dettling M, Dudoit S, et al. Bioconductor: open software development for computational biology and bioinformatics. *Genome Biol* (2004) **5**:R80.
- Zhou J, Tian Y, Li J, Lu B, Sun M, Zou Y, et al. miR-206 is down-regulated in breast cancer and inhibits cell proliferation through the up-regulation of cyclinD2. *Biochem Biophys Res Commun* (2013) **433**(2):207–12. doi:10.1016/j.bbrc.2013.02.084
- Birks DK, Barton VN, Donson AM, Handler MH, Vibhakar R, Foreman NK. Survey of MicroRNA expression in pediatric brain tumors. *Pediatr Blood Cancer* (2011) **56**(2):211–6. doi:10.1002/pbc.22723
- Huang YW, Liu JC, Deatherage DE, Luo J, Mutch DG, Goodfellow PJ, et al. Epigenetic repression of microRNA-129-2 leads to upregulation of SOX4 oncogene in endometrial cancer. *Cancer Res* (2009) **69**(23):9038–46. doi:10.1158/0008-5472.CAN-09-1499
- Shen R, Pan S, Qi S, Lin X, Cheng S. Epigenetic repression of microRNA-129-2 leads to upregulation of SOX4 in gastric cancer. *Biochem Biophys Res Commun* (2010) **394**(4):1047–52. doi:10.1016/j.bbrc.2010.03.121
- Neben K, Korshunov A, Benner A, Wrobel G, Hahn M, Kokocinski F, et al. Microarray-based screening for molecular markers in medulloblastoma revealed STK15 as independent predictor for survival. *Cancer Res* (2004) **64**(9):3103–11. doi:10.1158/0008-5472.CAN-03-3968
- de Bont JM, Kros JM, Passier MM, Reddingius RE, Sillevius Smitt PA, Luiders TM, et al. Differential expression and prognostic significance of SOX genes in pediatric medulloblastoma and ependymoma identified by microarray analysis. *Neuro Oncol* (2008) **10**(5):648–60. doi:10.1215/15228517-2008-032

28. Garzia L, Andolfo I, Cusanelli E, Marino N, Petrosino G, De Martino D, et al. MicroRNA-199b-5p impairs cancer stem cells through negative regulation of HES1 in medulloblastoma. *PLoS ONE* (2009) 4:4998. doi:10.1371/journal.pone.0004998
29. Gokhale A, Kunder R, Goel A, Sarin R, Moiyadi A, Shenoy A, et al. Distinctive microRNA signature of medulloblastomas associated with the WNT signaling pathway. *J Cancer Res Ther* (2010) 6:521–9. doi:10.4103/0973-1482.77072
30. de Antonellis P, Medaglia C, Cusanelli E, Andolfo I, Liguori L, De Vita G, et al. MiR-34a targeting of notch ligand delta-like 1 impairs CD15+/CD133+ tumor-propagating cells and supports neural differentiation in medulloblastoma. *PLoS ONE* (2011) 6(9):e24584. doi:10.1371/journal.pone.0024584
31. Grunder E, D'Ambrosio R, Fiaschetti G, Abela L, Arcaro A, Zuzak T, et al. MicroRNA-21 suppression impedes medulloblastoma cell migration. *Eur J Cancer* (2011) 47:2479–90. doi:10.1016/j.ejca.2011.06.041
32. Uziel T, Karginov FV, Xie S, Parker JS, Wang YD, Gajjar A, et al. The miR-17 92 cluster collaborates with the Sonic Hedgehog pathway in medulloblastoma. *Proc Natl Acad Sci USA* (2009) 106:2812–7. doi:10.1073/pnas.0809579106
33. Chédotal A, Kerjan G, Moreau-Fauvarque C. The brain within the tumor: new roles for axon guidance molecules in cancers. *Cell Death Differ* (2005) 12(8):1044–56. doi:10.1038/sj.cdd.4401707
34. Aref D, Moffatt CJ, Agnihotri S, Ramaswamy V, Dubuc AM, Northcott PA, et al. Canonical TGF- β pathway activity is a predictor of SHH-driven medulloblastoma survival and delineates putative precursors in cerebellar development. *Brain Pathol* (2013) 23:178–91. doi:10.1111/j.1750-3639.2012.00631.x
35. Luo X, Liu J, Cheng SY. The role of microRNAs during the genesis of medulloblastoma induced by the hedgehog pathway. *Biomed Res* (2011) 25(1):42–8. doi:10.1016/S1674-8301(11)60005-5
36. Northcott PA, Shih DJ, Peacock J, Garzia L, Morrissy AS, Zichner T, et al. Subgroup-specific structural variation across 1,000 medulloblastoma genomes. *Nature* (2012) 488(7409):49–56. doi:10.1038/nature11327
37. Song G, Wang L. miR-433 and miR-127 arise from independent overlapping primary transcripts encoded by the miR-433-127 locus. *PLoS ONE* (2008) 3:e3574. doi:10.1371/journal.pone.0003574
38. Remke M, Hielscher T, Korshunov A, Northcott PA, Bender S, Kool M, et al. FSTL5 is a marker of poor prognosis in non-WNT/non-SHH medulloblastoma. *J Clin Oncol* (2011) 29(29):3852–61. doi:10.1200/JCO.2011.36.2798
39. Edgar R, Domrachev M, Lash AE. Gene expression omnibus: NCBI gene expression and hybridization array data repository. *Nucleic Acids Res* (2002) 30:207–10. doi:10.1093/nar/30.1.207
40. Yu S, Wang X, Ng CF, Chen S, Chan FL. ERRgamma suppresses cell proliferation and tumor growth of androgen-sensitive and androgen-insensitive prostate cancer cells and its implication as a therapeutic target for prostate cancer. *Cancer Res* (2007) 67(10):4904–14. doi:10.1158/0008-5472.CAN-06-3855
41. Mancuso M, Leonardi S, Giardullo P, Pasquali E, Borra F, Stefanò ID, et al. The estrogen receptor beta agonist diarylpropionitrile (DPN) inhibits medulloblastoma development via anti-proliferative and pro-apoptotic pathways. *Cancer Lett* (2011) 308(2):197–202. doi:10.1016/j.canlet.2011.05.004
42. da Rocha ST, Edwards CA, Ito M, Ogata T, Ferguson-Smith AC. Genomic imprinting at the mammalian Dlk1-Dio3 domain. *Trends Genet* (2008) 24:306–16. doi:10.1016/j.tig.2008.03.011
43. Lin SP, Youngson N, Takada S, Seitz H, Reik W, Paulsen M, et al. Asymmetric regulation of imprinting on the maternal and paternal chromosomes at the Dlk1-Gtl2 imprinted cluster on mouse chromosome 12. *Nat Genet* (2003) 35:97–102. doi:10.1038/ng1233
44. Takada S, Paulsen M, Tevendale M, Tsai CE, Kelsey G, Cattanauch BM, et al. Epigenetic analysis of the Dlk1-Gtl2 imprinted domain on mouse chromosome 12: implications for imprinting control from comparison with Igf2-H19. *Hum Mol Genet* (2002) 11:77–86. doi:10.1093/hmg/11.1.77
45. Kagami M, O'Sullivan MJ, Green AJ, Watabe Y, Arisaka O, Masawa N, et al. The IG-DMR and the MEG3-DMR at human chromosome 14q32.2: hierarchical interaction and distinct functional properties as imprinting control centers. *PLoS Genet* (2010) 6:e1000992. doi:10.1371/journal.pgen.1000992
46. Diede SJ, Guenther J, Geng LN, Mahoney SE, Marotta M, Olson JM, et al. DNA methylation of developmental genes in pediatric medulloblastomas identified by denaturation analysis of methylation differences. *Proc Natl Acad Sci U S A* (2010) 107(1):234–9. doi:10.1073/pnas.0907606106
47. Thayanithy V, Park C, Sarver AL, Kartha RV, Korpela DM, Graef AJ, et al. Combinatorial treatment of DNA and chromatin-modifying drugs cause cell death in human and canine osteosarcoma cell lines. *PLoS ONE* (2012) 7(9):e43720. doi:10.1371/journal.pone.0043720
48. Pierson J, Hostager B, Fan R, Vibhakar R. Regulation of cyclin dependent kinase 6 by microRNA 124 in medulloblastoma. *J Neurooncol* (2008) 90:1–7. doi:10.1007/s11060-008-9624-3
49. Li KK, Pang JC, Ching AK, Wong CK, Kong X, Wang Y, et al. miR-124 is frequently down-regulated in medulloblastoma and is a negative regulator of SLC16A1. *Hum Pathol* (2009) 40(9):1234–43. doi:10.1016/j.humpath.2009.02.003
50. Ferretti E, De Smaele E, Miele E, Laneve P, Pó A, Pelloni M, et al. Concerted miRNA control of Hedgehog signalling in cerebellar neuronal progenitor and tumour cells. *EMBO J* (2008) 27:2616–27. doi:10.1038/emboj.2008.172
51. Venkataraman S, Alimova I, Fan R, Harris P, Foreman N, Vibhakar R. MicroRNA 128a increases intracellular ROS level by targeting Bmi-1 and inhibits medulloblastoma cancer cell growth by promoting senescence. *PLoS ONE* (2010) 5(6):e10748. doi:10.1371/journal.pone.0010748
52. Genovesi LA, Carter KW, Gottardo NG, Giles KM, Dallas PB. Integrated analysis of miRNA and mRNA expression in childhood medulloblastoma compared with neural stem cells. *PLoS ONE* (2011) 6(9):e23935. doi:10.1371/journal.pone.0023935
53. Weeraratne SD, Amani V, Neiss A, Teider N, Scott DK, Pomeroy SL, et al. miR-34a confers chemosensitivity through modulation of MAGE-A and p53 in medulloblastoma. *Neuro Oncol* (2011) 13(2):165–75. doi:10.1093/neuonc/1179
54. Lv SQ, Kim YH, Giulio F, Shalaby T, Nobusawa S, Yang H, et al. Genetic alterations in MicroRNAs in medulloblastomas. *Brain Pathol* (2012) 22:230–9. doi:10.1111/j.1750-3639.2011.00523.x
55. Wang XM, Zhang SF, Cheng ZQ, Peng QZ, Hu JT, Gao LK, et al. MicroRNA383 regulates expression of PRDX3 in human medulloblastomas. *Zhonghua Bing Li Xue Za Zhi* (2012) 41(8):547–52. doi:10.3760/cma.j.issn.0529-5807.2012.08.009
56. Li KKW, Pang JCS, Lau KM, Zhou L, Mao Y, Wang Y, et al. MiR-383 is downregulated in medulloblastoma and targets peroxiredoxin 3 (PRDX3). *Brain Pathol* (2013) 23(4):413–25. doi:10.1111/bpa.12014
57. Weeraratne SD, Amani V, Teider N, Pierre-Francois J, Winter D, Kye MJ, et al. Pleiotropic effects of miR-183 96 182 converge to regulate cell survival, proliferation and migration in medulloblastoma. *Acta Neuropathol* (2012) 123:539–52. doi:10.1007/s00401-012-0969-5
58. Venkataraman S, Birks DK, Balakrishnan I, Alimova I, Harris PS, Patel PR, et al. MicroRNA 218 acts as a tumor suppressor by targeting multiple cancer phenotype-associated genes in medulloblastoma. *J Biol Chem* (2013) 228(3):1918–28. doi:10.1074/jbc.M112.396762
59. Wei L, Yan-hua G, Teng-fei C, Xiao-zhong P, Jian-gang Y, Zhen-yu M, et al. Identification of differentially expressed microRNAs by microarray: a possible role for microRNAs gene in medulloblastoma. *Chin Med J* (2009) 122(20):2405–11.

Conflict of Interest Statement: The authors declare that the research was conducted in the absence of any commercial or financial relationships that could be construed as a potential conflict of interest.

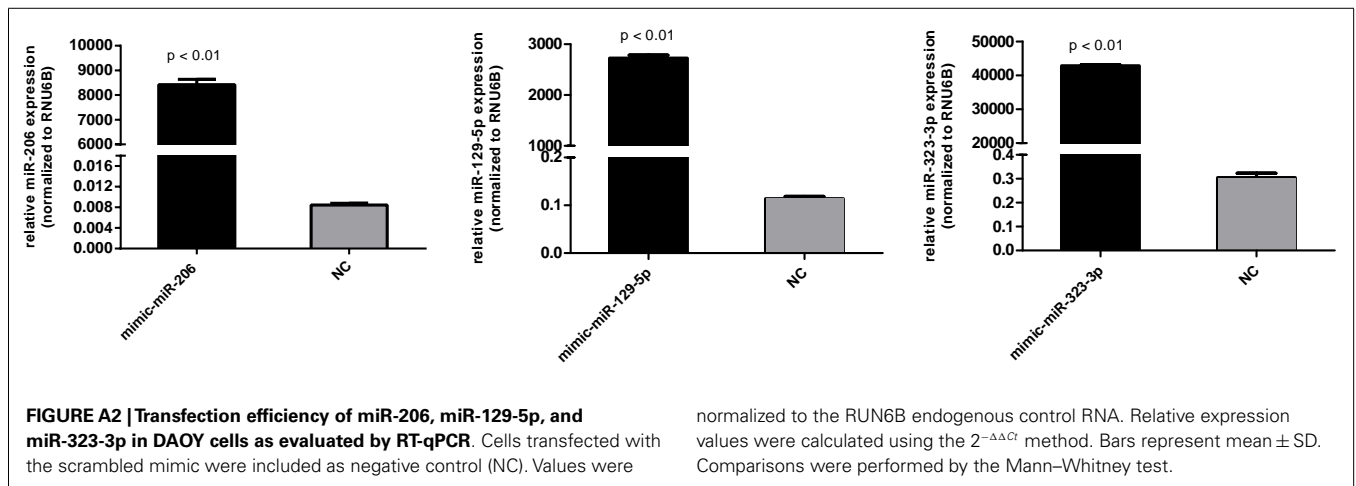
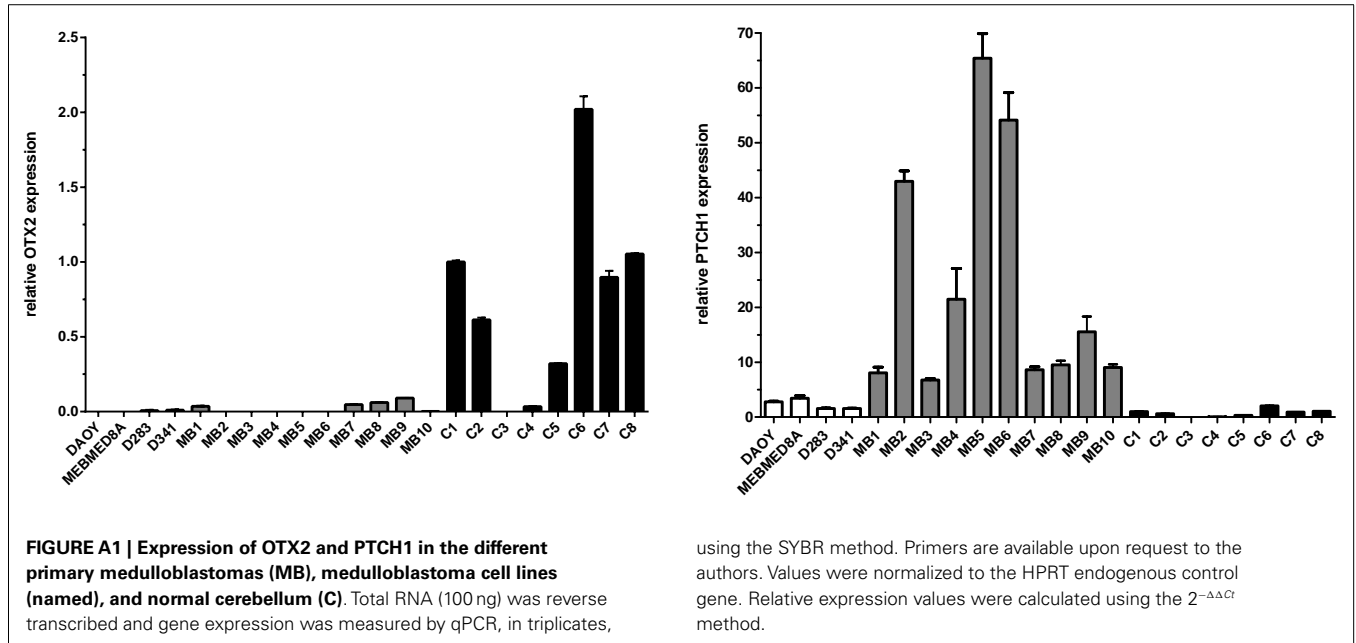
Received: 01 July 2013; accepted: 10 September 2013; published online: 25 September 2013.

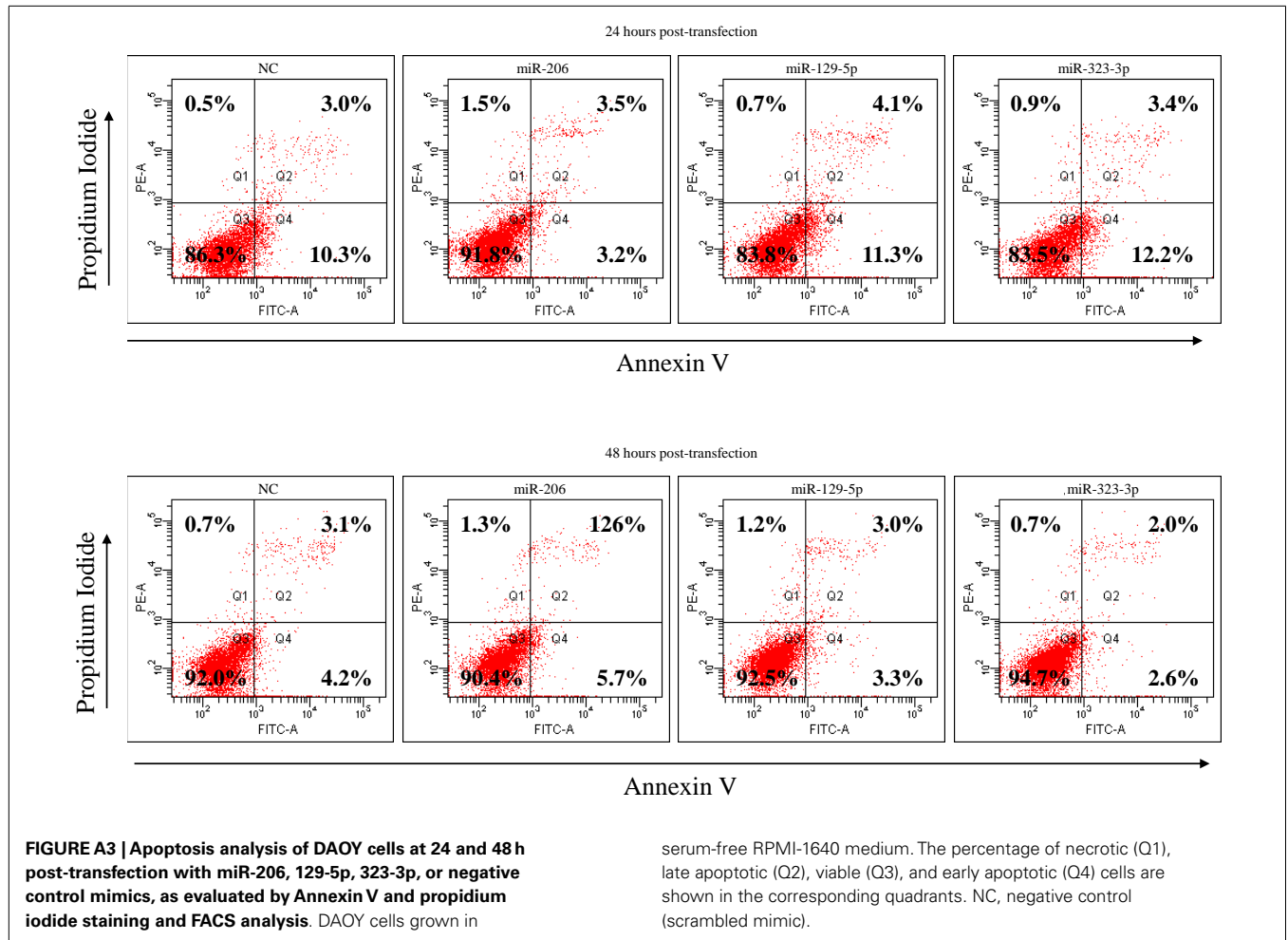
Citation: Lucon DR, Rocha Cds, Craveiro RB, Dilloo D, Cardinalli IA, Cavalcanti DP, Aguiar Sds, Maurer-Morelli C and Yunes JA (2013) Downregulation of 14q32 microRNAs in primary human desmoplastic medulloblastoma. *Front. Oncol.* 3:254. doi:10.3389/fonc.2013.00254

This article was submitted to *Pediatric Oncology*, a section of the journal *Frontiers in Oncology*.

Copyright © 2013 Lucon, Rocha, Craveiro, Dilloo, Cardinalli, Cavalcanti, Aguiar, Maurer-Morelli and Yunes. This is an open-access article distributed under the terms of the Creative Commons Attribution License (CC BY). The use, distribution or reproduction in other forums is permitted, provided the original author(s) or licensor are credited and that the original publication in this journal is cited, in accordance with accepted academic practice. No use, distribution or reproduction is permitted which does not comply with these terms.

APPENDIX





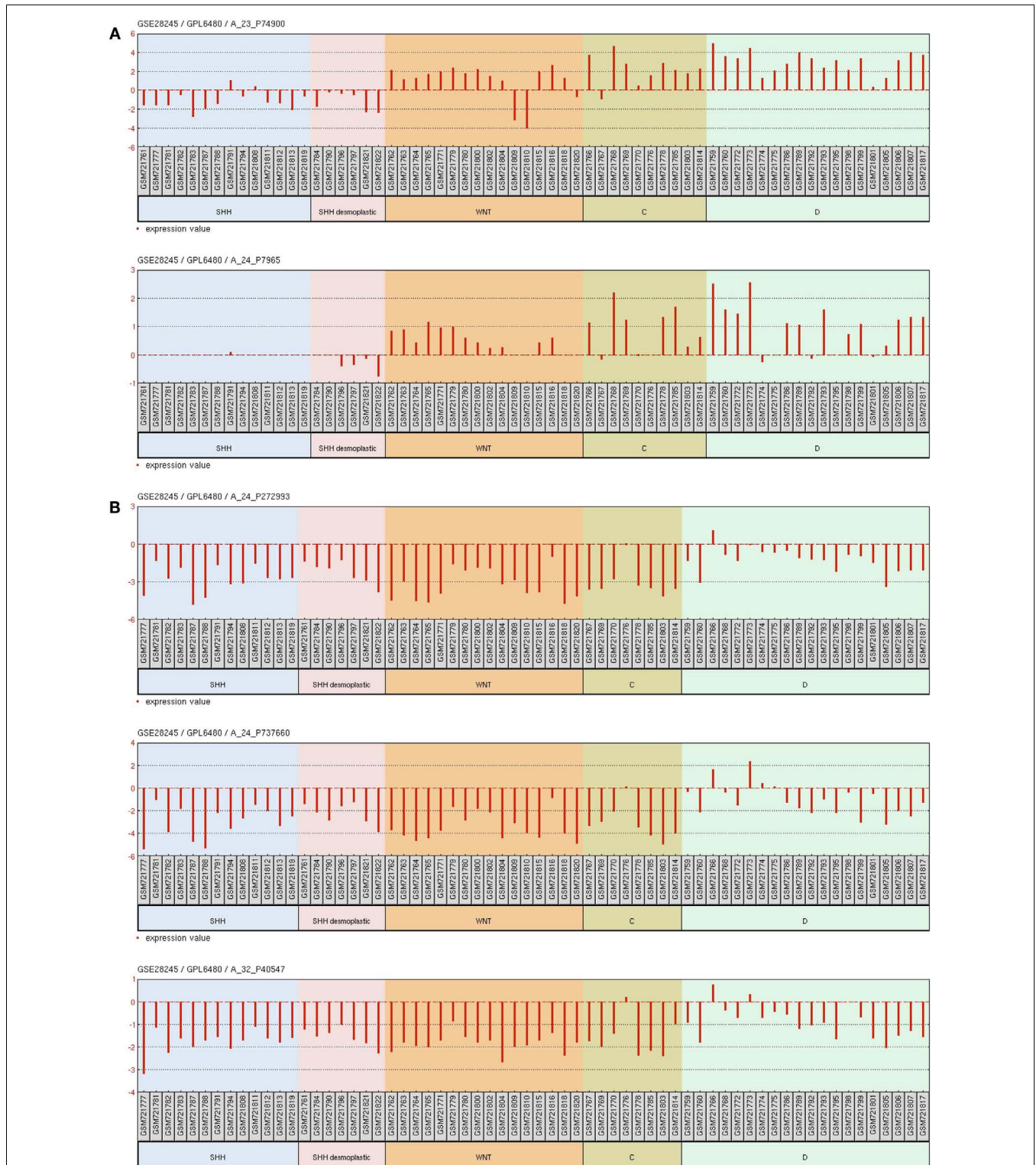


FIGURE A4 | Gene expression graph for different microarray probes of interest. Data from 64 primary human MB samples accessible through GEO Series accession number GSE28245 (38) in NCBI's Gene Expression

Omnibus. **(A)** probe sets for *ESRRG*. **(B)** Probe sets for *MEG3*. Samples were grouped according to the molecular MB subgroups into WNT, SHH, C, and D. SHH desmoplastic was separated from SHH classic.