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Identification of molecular mechanisms for cellular drug resistance by combining drug activity and gene expression profiles

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Acquired drug resistance is a major problem in cancer treatment. To explore the genes involved in chemosensitivity and resistance, 10 human tumour cell lines, including parental cells and resistant subtypes selected for resistance against doxorubicin, melphalan, teniposide and vincristine, were profiled for mRNA expression of 7400 genes using cDNA microarray technology. The drug activity of 66 cancer agents was evaluated on the cell lines, and correlations between drug activity and gene expression were calculated and ranked. Hierarchical clustering of drugs based on their drug–gene correlations yielded clusters of drugs with similar mechanism of action. Genes correlated with drug sensitivity and resistance were imported into the PathwayAssist software to identify putative molecular pathways involved. A substantial number of both proapoptotic and antiapoptotic genes such as signal transducer and activator of transcription 1, mitogen-activated protein kinase 1 and focal adhesion kinase were found to be associated to drug resistance, whereas genes linked to cell cycle control and proliferation, such as cell division cycle 25A and signal transducer of activator of transcription 5A, were associated to general drug sensitivity. The results indicate that combined information from drug activity and gene expression in a resistance-based cell line panel may provide new knowledge of the genes involved in anticancer drug resistance and become a useful tool in drug development.

British Journal of Cancer (2005) **93**, 483–492. doi:10.1038/sj.bjc.6602699 www.bjcancer.com Published online 12 July 2005 © 2005 Cancer Research UK

Keywords: chemotherapy; drug resistance; gene microarray

Chemotherapy is an important modality for the treatment of malignant tumours. However, for the majority of cancer patients, treatment with established anticancer drugs produces dissatisfactory long-term effects and drug activity is highly variable both between and within different diagnoses (Nygren, 2001). Genes affecting chemosensitivity are involved in drug transport, drug metabolism, DNA synthesis and repair, cell survival and apoptosis (Marie, 2001; Pommier *et al*, 2004). Since many different signalling pathways are involved, there is an urgent need for high-efficacy drugs with novel mechanisms of action targeting the key genes.

Rapid cell-based methods for high-throughput and focused screening based on drug-response analysis in a panel of cell lines have proven to be important tools in anticancer drug discovery and early evaluation (Paull *et al*, 1989; Boyd and Paull, 1995; Dhar *et al*, 1996; Weinstein *et al*, 1997). Research performed at the National Cancer Institute (NCI) has shown that a drug activity profile acquired from a nonclonogenic growth inhibition assay on a panel of 60 parental human cancer cell lines can provide important information on the mechanism of action of various compounds. Robust and accurate mechanistic drug – drug relationships have repeatedly been demonstrated using both simple correlation analysis and more sophisticated data analytical methods (Paull *et al*, 1989; Weinstein *et al*, 1992, 1997; Boyd and Paull, 1995). We have previously shown that, by applying similar techniques, a smaller panel of 10 cell lines representing different drug-resistant phenotypes could accomplish accurate classifications of mechanisms of action for common anticancer drugs (Dhar *et al*, 1996).

The development of novel molecular technologies such as cDNA microarrays has made it possible to identify genes involved in chemosensitivity. Integration of gene expression and drug activity data sets for cancer cells can identify relationships between individual genes and sensitivity or resistance to specific drugs. Investigators at NCI analysed the gene expression profiles of the NCI human tumour cell line panel and correlated the gene expression to growth-inhibitory activity of anticancer compounds (Scherf *et al*, 2000).

Several genes were identified which could be considered as candidate targets or biomarkers for chemosensitivity. The approach was considered feasible and useful for exploring the mechanisms of action, and was supported by investigators applying a similar methodology on a 39-cell line panel (Dan *et al*, 2002). The cell lines used in these studies consisted of parental cells of different cancer types and did not include any selected resistant phenotypes. With the aim of identifying chemosensitivity genes, the inclusion of resistant cell lines may be advantageous by increasing the range of expression in the measured microarray data, specifically for the genes involved in

^{*}Correspondence: Professor R Larsson; E-mail: rolf.larsson@medsci.uu.se Received 20 January 2005; revised 25 May 2005; accepted 10 June 2005; published online 12 July 2005

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development of resistance. Therefore, in the present study, a cell line panel representing different drug resistance phenotypes, rather than histological origin, was characterised with respect to gene expression and anticancer drug response, and the relationships between the resulting drug and gene expression profiles were subsequently explored. By association analyses using pathway mining software, molecular pathways putatively involved in drug resistance and sensitivity were identified.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

Cell culture

The human cancer cell line panel has been described previously (Dhar et al, 1996). The panel consists of the parental cell lines RPMI 8226 (myeloma), CCRF-CEM (leukaemia), U937-GTB (lymphoma) and NCI-H69 (small-cell lung cancer); the drugresistant sublines 8226/Dox40 8226/LR5, CEM/VM-1, U937/vcr, H69AR and the primary resistant ACHN (renal adenocarcinoma). 8226/Dox40 was exposed to $0.24 \,\mu g \, \text{ml}^{-1}$ of doxorubicin once a month, and overexpresses Pgp/MDRl/ABCBl (Dalton et al, 1986). 8226/LR5 was exposed to $1.53 \,\mu \text{g} \,\text{ml}^{-1}$ of melphalan at each change of medium, and the resistance is proposed to be associated with increased levels of glutathione as well as genes involved in cell cycle and DNA repair (Bellamy et al, 1991; Mulcahy et al, 1994; Hazlehurst *et al*, 2003). U937 vcr was continuously cultured in the presence of 10 ng ml^{-1} vincristine, and the resistance is proposed to be rubulin associated (Botling et al, 1994). H69AR was alternately fed with drug-free medium and medium containing $0.46 \,\mu g \, m \dot{l}^{-1}$ of doxorubicin, and overexpresses MRP1/ABCC1 (Mirski et al, 1987; Cole et al, 1992; Slovak et al, 1993). CEM/ VM-1 was cultured in drug-free medium and could be grown for 3-4 months without loss of resistance against teniposide, which is proposed to be topoisomerase II associated (Danks et al, 1987, 1988; Mao et al, 1999). The primary drug resistance of ACHN is probably multifactorial (Nygren and Larsson, 1991). All cells were grown in culture medium RPMI-1640 supplemented with 10% heat-inactivated foetal calf serum, 2 mM glutamine, $100 \,\mu\text{g}\,\text{ml}^{-1}$ streptomycin and 100 Uml^{-1} penicillin (all from Sigma Aldrich Co, St Louis, MO, USA) at 37°C in humidified air containing 5% CO₂. The resistant cell lines were tested regularly for maintained resistance to the selected drugs. Growth and morphology of all cell lines were monitored on a weekly basis.

Measurement of drug activity

A total of 66 anticancer drugs (Table 1), obtained from commercial sources or from NCI, were dissolved according to the manufacturer's instructions and tested in five concentrations, obtained by 10-fold serial dilution. The investigational alkylating agents Jl and P2 were kind gifts from Oncopeptides AB (Stockholm, Sweden). The Fluorometric Microculture Cytotoxicity Assay (FMCA), described in detail previously (Larsson et al, 1990), is based on measurement of fluorescence generated from hydrolysis of fluoroscein diacetate (FDA) to fluorescein by cells with intact plasma membranes. Briefly, cells were seeded into microtitre plates (Nunc, Roskilde, Denmark) prepared with drugs and incubated at 37°C and 5% CO2. for 72 h. Then the plates were washed, FDA added, and, after 40 min of incubation, the fluorescence was measured in a Fluoroscan II (Labsystems Oy, Helsinki, Finland). The fluorescence is proportional to the number of living cells and data are presented as survival index, defined as the fluorescence of experimental wells in percent of control wells with blank values subtracted. The IC₅₀ value for each drug in each cell line was obtained from concentration-response curves constructed in Excel (Microsoft) and GraphPadPrism (GraphPad Software Inc., CA, USA).

Table I Anticancer drugs used in the study

Antimetabolites

Acivicin, Aminopterin, Aphidicolin, 5-Azacytidine, L-Alanosine, Cladribine, Cyclocytidine, Cytarabine, 3-Deazauridine, 2-Azacytidine, Diglycoaldehyde, Fludarabine, 5-Fluorouracil, Ftorafur, Hydroxyurea, 6-Mercaptopurine Methotrexate, PALA, Pentostatin, 6-Thioguanine, Thymidine

Alkylating agents

Busulfan, Carboplatin, Chlorambucil, Cisplatin, 4-HC, JI, Mechlorethamine, Melphalan, Mitomycin C, P2, Sarcolysine

Topoisomerase I-inhibitors Camptothecin, SN-38, Topotecan

Topoisomerase II-inhibitors Amsacrine, Bisantrene, Daunorubicin, Doxorubicin, Epirubicin, Etoposide,

Idarubicin, Mitoxantrone Teniposide

Proteasome inhibitors Bortezomib, Lactacystin, MG-132, MG-262

Tubulin active agents

Colchicine, Docetaxel, Maytansine, Paclitaxel, Podophyllotoxin, Vinblastine, Vincristine, Vindesine, Vinorelbine, Estramustine

Others

Aclarubicin, Anguidine, Cycloheximide, Flavoneacetate, Hoechst 33342, MBGB, MIBG, Spirogermanium

 $\label{eq:pala} \begin{array}{ll} \mbox{PALA} = \mbox{N-phosphonacetyl-L-aspartate;} & \mbox{4-HC} = \mbox{4-hydroperoxy-cyclophosphamide;} \\ \mbox{MGBG} = \mbox{methylglyoxal-bis(guanylhydrazone);} & \mbox{MIBG} = \mbox{meta-iodobenzylguanidine;} \\ \mbox{SN-38} = \mbox{active metabolite of camptothecin; JI and P2, oligopeptide derivatives of melphalan and sarcolysine, respectively.} \end{array}$

RNA extraction and reference composition

Total RNA was extracted from each cell line starting from 10 cells, using Trizol reagent (Invitrogen, Carlsbad, CA, USA) according to the manufacturer's protocol. The purity of the RNA was ensured by measuring the optical density at 260 and 280 nm. The integrity of the RNA was controlled by capillary electrophoresis using a Bioanalyzer 2100 (Agilent Technologies, Palo Alto, CA, USA). Only pure RNA (OD 260/280 > 1.8) without any sign of degradation was used in the subsequent experiments. The common reference RNA used in the array experiments was composed of equal aliquots from the cell lines HELA, ACHN, U937-GTB, HTERT-RPE and H69AR.

Array fabrication

In all, 7458 cDNA clones, included in the Human Sequence Verified Set, were obtained from Research Genetics (Huntsville, AL, USA). A complete list of genes printed on the arrays is available at: http://www.genpat.uu.se/Forskargrupper/wcn/UU/InstrAndProd_section.htm#prod. Plasmids containing clones were grown in Escherichia coli overnight in 96-well microtitre plates. Plasmid DNA was isolated using the Millipore Plasmid Miniprep₉₆ Kit (Millipore, Bedford, MA, USA) and clone inserts were amplified using vector-specific primers (Universal Forward 5'-CTGCAAGGCGATTAAGTTGGGTAAC-3' and Universal Reverse 5'-GTGAGCGGATAACAATTTCACACAGGAAACAGC-3'). The PCR products were purified with the Millipore Multiscreen PCR 96-well plate filtration system (Millipore) and dissolved in $45 \,\mu$ l MilliQ-water. The PCR products were dried and re-suspended in MilliQ-water, containing 30% DMSO, to a final concentration of 0.1 mg ml^{-1} . The PCR products were printed with a Cartesian Prosys 5510A (Cartesian Technologies Inc., Irvine, CA, USA) in duplicates with eight 3B Stealthpins (TeleChem International Inc., Sunnyvale, CA, USA) on GAPSII slides (Corning Life Sciences,

Acton, MA, USA). The printing temperature was 25° C and the relative humidity 65%. The spotted PCR products were crosslinked to the slides at 450 mJ using a Stratalinker UV 1800 (Stratagene, La Jolla, CA, USA).

Probe preparation, hybridisation, development and image acquisition

Labelling and detection of cDNA were carried out using the TSA Labelling and Detection Kit (NEN Life Science Products, Boston, MA, USA). The TSA probe labelling, array hybridisation and development were performed as described previously (Karsten *et al*, 2002). The microarrays were scanned in a GenePix 4000B scanner (Axon Instruments, Union City, CA, USA) at wavelengths 635 and 532 nm for Cy5 and Cy3 dyes, respectively, using $10-\mu m$ resolution.

Image processing and normalisation and filtering

The images were analysed and raw data were extracted, using GenePix Pro software version 5.0. (Axon Instruments). Raw data were normalised using the SMA package (Statistics for Microarray Analysis: http://www.stat.berkeley.edu/users/terry/zarray/Software/smacode.html). The algorithm used was LOWESS print tip normalisation (Yang *et al*, 2002). Each cell line was analysed on two separate arrays with the dyes reversed, providing a total of four (genes printed in duplicates on each array) measurements per gene and cell line. Genes with missing values for more than half of the cell lines were removed from the data set. This filter reduced the number of genes from 7458 to 3903. For genes passing this filtering criteria, an average expression level for each gene and sample was calculated and used in further analysis.

Data analysis

The drug- and gene-expression databases were integrated and a correlation analysis performed in a custom-made program with similar functions as COMPARE (http://www.nci-sw. com/compare.html). Pearson's correlation coefficients for all drug-drug (log 10 IC_{50}), gene-gene (log 2) and drug-gene correlations (log 10, log 2) were automatically calculated and stored in this database. Differential drug activity and differential gene expression were displayed in delta graphs. The cell line panel mean log 10 IC₅₀ or log 2 gene-expression values were determined and subtracted from the log 10 or log 2 values for each cell line to yield the variable defined as delta. Unsupervised hierarchical cluster analysis for cells-genes, cells-drugs and genes-drugs was performed with the CIMminer software (http://discover.nci.nih.Kov/nature2000/tools/ cimmaker.isp) using average linkage clustering with Pearson's correlation coefficient as the measure of similarity. A correlation coefficient above 0.7 or below -0.70 was chosen to extract the genes specifically associated with drug sensitivity and resistance, respectively. This level of Pearson's correlation coefficient corresponds to a significance level of P < 0.05 for a two-tailed test for 10 observation pairs of the null hypothesis that the correlation is zero.

Identification of molecular pathways

The genes connected to general chemosensitivity and resistance were analysed using PathwayAssist software to identify signalling pathways (Pathway assist v3.0. (www.ariadnegenomics.com). PathwayAssist is a software for visualisation and exploration of biological pathways, gene regulation networks and protein– protein interactions. PathwayAssist is supplied with ResNet molecular interaction and pathway database, which contains more than 500 000 functional links for more than 50 000 proteins, 485

extracted from more than 5 000 000 Medline abstracts and full-length articles (ResNet update Q4 2004).

RESULTS

Analysis of the gene expression and drug activity data sets

A cDNA microarray analysis was performed to investigate the expression profiles of the 7458 genes in each of the 10 cell lines. Of these genes, 3903 fulfilled the preset quality criteria for subsequent analyses. An example is shown in Figure 1, in which the accurate detection of the ABCC1 transporter in the cell lines is shown. In general, cDNA microarray expression data need to be validated to ensure that the correct gene expression has been measured. In this case, oligonucleotide arrays with a shorter more specific probe has been used to validate MRPI/ABCCl expression (correlation coefficient r > 0.9, data not shown). H69AR showed an increased expression of MRPI/ABCCl compared to all other cell lines, which is consistent with previous results, further supporting the validity of the array measurements (Cole et al, 1992). A hierarchical clustering method was then applied to the gene expression in the cell lines (Figure 2). The parental cell lines clustered with their resistant sublines, indicating that no gross alteration in the gene expression profile resulted from the selection of the drug-resistant sublines. Next, correlations were established between the log 2 expression values of each of these 3903 genes and the log 10 IC₅₀ values obtained for each of the 66 drugs included in the study. Hierarchical clustering of drugs based on these drug-gene correlations resulted in clusters consisting of drugs with similar modes of action (Figure 3). All proteasome inhibitors and topoisomerase I (Topi) inhibitors and most of the antitubulins, topoisomerase II (Top2) inhibitors and alkylating agents formed distinct clusters. Notable exceptions were the tubulin active agents vindesine and estramustine, which did not cluster within their assigned mechanistic group. The antimetabolites clustered more heterogeneously, but closely related drugs with respect to mechanism of action, such as the dihydrofolate reductase inhibitors methotrexate and aminopterin, clustered together. Also, Jl and P2, oligopeptide derivatives of melphalan and sarcolysine, respectively, did not cluster with their parent compounds. Clustering of drugs based on drug activity alone yielded similar results as the clustering based on the drug-gene correlations (data not shown). An example of a typical drug-gene relationship is shown in Figure 4 Concentration - response curves for doxorubicin



Figure I Differential expression of MRP1/ABCC1 in the cell line panel.



Figure 2 Two-dimensional hierarchical clustering analysis based on similarities in gene expression in the cell lines.



Figure 3 Two-dimensional hierarchical clustering analysis based on drug–gene correlations (Pearsons correlation coefficients) for drug response data (log 10 IC_{50}) of 66 anticancer drugs and 3903 genes (log 2) in the 10 cell lines.

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Figure 4 An example of the drug-gene correlations obtained. Concentration-response curves for doxorubicin in the cell line panel (**A**). Correlation between log2 expression of STATI with log IC₅₀ of doxorubicin (**B**). Mean graphs of doxorubicin (**C**) and STATI (**D**).

in the cell line panel and delta graphs for differential drug activity and STAT1 gene expression are depicted in panels A-C, respectively. The activity (log 10 IC₅₀) of doxorubicin and the

expression of STAT1 (log 2) in the cell lines were highly correlated (panel D, R = 0.89). Table 2 displays the 40 genes with the highest positive and negative correlations to doxorubicin.

Identification of signalling pathways associated to drug sensitivity and resistance

Genes where R > 0.70. and < -0.70 were extracted for each of the 66 drugs (supplementary information online). A correlation coefficient of >0.70 or <-0.70 in at least 20 of the 66 drugs was set as the criterion for the selection of genes associated to chemosensitivity. This selection identified 122 and 74 genes correlated to general resistance and sensitivity, respectively. Next, Pathway Assist was used in two steps to explore the interactions between the genes on the two lists. In the first step, the ResNet database was searched to establish direct interactions between the genes, and, in the second step, the genes were searched for linkage to cellular processes involving cellular proliferation, cell survival, cell death or apoptosis. The genes selected in this way to form these molecular networks are listed in Tables 3 and 4. The two networks are accessible in supplementary information online as html web files, and the connections are clickable (dots on lines) to access hyperlinks to the Medline references on which the networks are based. Clicking on the nodes provides hyperlinks to several gene and protein databases, including HUGO, OMIM, Locus Link and Swiss-Prot for the particular protein. A simplified version of the network for genes associated with drug resistance is shown in Figure 5. Regarding genes associated to sensitivity, there was a considerable number that could be linked to cell cycle and proliferation regulation rather than apoptosis, including genes such as CDC25A, CCNC, CCND3 and STAT5A (Figure 5A). Notably, for the resistance associated genes, both known proapoptotic and antiapoptotic pathways were detected in the resulting network (Figure 5B). In this molecular network, caspase 3 and 6 and Jun were identified together with survival genes such as RB1, calpastatin, PTK2 and MAPK.1. These gene/pathway maps may provide novel potential molecular targets for therapy. In addition to the genes selected by Pathway Assist, several other potentially relevant genes fulfilled the general resistance and sensitivity criteria including ABC transporters, drug-inactivating enzymes and protein kinases (for complete general sensitivity and resistance lists, see the supplementary information online).

DISCUSSION

Gene-drug relationships in large panels of cancer cell lines with different histological origins have been studied previously (Scherf et al, 2000; Dan et al, 2002). In the present study, we studied the gene expression and drug activity in a panel of 10 cell lines representing different mechanisms of anticancer drug resistance. Previous studies have shown that drug activity patterns in this panel can be used to classify anticancer drugs according to mechanism of action (Dhar et al, 1996). Here we showed that this classification also corresponded to identifiable patterns of gene expression and that the genes which correlated to drug sensitivity and resistance seem to be biologically relevant. The geneexpression profiles of the cell lines were similar for cells with the same histological origin and the hierarchical clustering performed based on drug-gene correlations for the drugs in the cell lines yielded clusters of drugs based on their main mechanism of action, with some exceptions. There are several possible reasons for incorrect clustering, and these include experimental variability and incorrect or incomplete assignment of the mechanism of action. Concerning the antimetabolites, the clustering was not clearly linked to known structural or mechanistic features. Given the very diverse mechanistic properties of these drugs, this was not an unexpected finding. Other drugs that deviated from the expected

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Table 2 The genes with highest positive and negative correlations to doxorubicin

CTTN M98343 Cortactin 096 SLC39A1 BC047288 Solute carrier family 39 (zinc transporter), member 1 093 TTE2 NM_003594 Transcription termination factor, RNA polymerase II 093 TTH1 BM1913099 Triosephosphate isomerase I 093 DDAH1 NM_001137 Dimethylaginice dimethylaminohydrolase I 092 EXTLI NM_004455 Exostoses (multiple)-like I 092 GNA11 BC0543426 Guanine uncleotide binding protein (G protein), alpha I I 092 SURB7 NM_004264 SRB7 suppressor of RNA polymerase B homolog (yeast) 091 HLA-DOA NM_007315 Signal transducer and activator of transpristor I, 91 kDa 089 STAT1 NM_007315 Signal transducer and activator of transpristor I, 91 kDa 089 PTTGIIP AK095566 Prutuary turnour-transforming I interacting protein 088 DRPLA BC051795 Dentatorubral-palleloluyisin atrophy 088 BCARI AK124502 EVEND Gasta cancer anti-oestrogen resistance I 088 BCARI AK124526	Symbol	Acc ID	Name	R
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STATI NM_007315 Signal transducer and activator of transcription 1, 91 kDa 0.89 AGRN AB191264 Agrin 0.89 PTTGIIP AK095586 Pituitary tumour-transforming I interacting protein 0.89 FXYD1 AK124802 FXYD domain containing ion transport regulator 1 0.88 DRPLA BC051795 Dentatorubral-pallidoluysian atrophy 0.88 BCARI AK124526 Breast cancer anti-oestrogen resistance 1 0.88 BCARI AK124526 Breast cancer anti-oestrogen resistance 1 0.88 SPAG9 AF327452 Speam associated antigen 9 0.83 ABCB6 BC043423 ATP-binding cassette, subfamily B (MDR/TAP), member 6 0.87 ARST N/L_173060 Calpastatin 0.87 SPIP2 AK123533 BC12/adenovirus E1B 19 kDa interacting protein 2 -0.97 GCAT AK123190 Glycine C-acetyltransferase -0.92 TIMM10 BQ011318 Translocase of inner mitochondrial membrane 10 homolog (yeast) -0.91 CORO1A AK123401 Coronin, actin-binding protein, IA -0.8	HLA-DOA	NM_002119	Major histocompatibility complex, class II, DO alpha	0.90
AGRN ABI91264 Agrin 0.89 PTTGIIP AK095586 Pitutary tumour-transforming I interacing protein 0.89 PTTGIIP AK124802 PXTD domain containing ion transport regulator I 0.88 DRPLA BC051795 Dentatorubral-palloloysian atrophy 0.88 DRPLA BC051795 Dentatorubral-palloloysian atrophy 0.88 SCARI AK124526 Breast cancer anti-oestrogen resistance I 0.88 SPAG9 AF327452 Sperm associated antigen 9 0.87 ABCB6 BC043423 ATP-binding cassette, subfamily B (MDR/TAP), member 6 0.87 CAST NM_173060 Calpastatin 0.87 GCAT AK125533 BCL2/adenovirus EIB 19 kDa interacting protein 2 -0.97 GCAT AK123190 Glycine C-acetyltransferase -0.92 TIMM10 BQ011318 Translocase of inner mitochondrial membrane 10 homolog (yeast) -0.91 RNCT1 BG421329 RNA, U transporter I -0.88 CORO1A AK123401 Coronin, acth-binding protein, 1A -0.88 LCP2	STATI	NM_007315	Signal transducer and activator of transcription 1, 91 kDa	0.89
PTTGIIP AK095586 Piuitary tumour-transforming I interacting protein 0.89 FXYD1 AK124802 FXYD domain containing ion transport regulator I 0.88 DRPLA BC051795 Dentatorubral-palidoluysian atrophy 0.88 TULP3 NM_003324 Tubby like protein 3 0.88 BCARI AK124526 Breast cancer anti-osetrogen resistance I 0.88 SPAG9 AF327452 Sperm associated antigen 9 0.87 ABCB6 BC043423 ATP-binding cassette, subfamily B (MDR/TAP), member 6 0.87 AST NM_173060 Calpastatin 0.87 BNIP2 AK123190 Glycine C-acetyltransferase -0.92 TIMM10 BQ011318 Translocase of inner mitochondrial membrane 10 homolog (yeast) -0.91 RNUT1 BG421329 RNA, U transporter 1 -0.90 GAS7 NM_201433 Growth arrest-specific 7 -0.88 CORO1A AK123401 Coronin, actin-binding protein 1 -0.90 GAS7 NM_201453 Growth arrest-specific 7 -0.88 CORO1A AK12	AGRN	AB191264	Agrin	0.89
FXYD1 AK124802 FXYD domain containing ion transport regulator 1 0.88 DRPLA BC051795 Dentatorubral-pallidoluysian atrophy 0.88 DRPLA BC051795 Dentatorubral-pallidoluysian atrophy 0.88 BCARI AK124526 Breast cancer anti-oestrogen resistance 1 0.88 BCAR9 AF327452 Sperm associated antigen 9 0.87 ARCB6 BC043423 ATP-binding cassette, subfamily B (MDR/TAP), member 6 0.87 CAST NM_173060 Calpastatin 0.87 BNIP2 AK12533 BCL2/adenovirus E1B 19 kDa interacting protein 2 -0.97 TIMM10 BQ011318 Translocase of inner mitochondrial membrane 10 homolog (yeast) -0.91 RNVT1 BG421329 RNA, U transporter 1 -0.90 GAS7 NM_201433 Growth arrest-specific 7 -0.88 CORO1A AK123401 Coronin, actri-brinding protein 12 -0.88 WAS BM455138 Wiskott-Aldrich syndrome -0.88 EPP BE253850 Emopamil-binding protein 2 -0.88 PD44	PTTGIIP	AK095586	Pituitary tumour-transforming 1 interacting protein	0.89
DRPLA BC051795 Dentatorubral-pallidoluysian atrophy 0.88 TULP3 NM_003324 Tubby like protein 3 0.88 BCAR1 AK124526 Breast cancer anti-oestrogen resistance 1 0.88 SPAG9 AF327452 Sperm associated antigen 9 0.87 ABCB6 BC043423 ATP-binding cassette, subfamily B (MDR/TAP), member 6 0.87 CAST NM_173060 Calpastatin 0.87 BNIP2 AK125533 BCL2/adenovirus E1B 19 kDa interacting protein 2 -0.97 GCAT AK123190 Glycine C-acetyltransferase -0.92 TIMM10 BQ011318 Translocase of inner mitochondrial membrane 10 homolog (yeast) -0.91 ASCC3 AL834463 DJ467N11.1 protein -0.90 ASCC3 AL834463 DJ467N11.1 protein 2 -0.88 LCP2 NM_005565 Lymphocyte cytosolic protein 2 -0.88 VAS BM455138 Wiskott-Aldrich syndrome -0.88 PSD4 BC073151 Pleckstrin and Sec7 domain containing 4 -0.87 DH3A AK123316 Is	FXYDI	AK124802	FXYD domain containing ion transport regulator I	0.88
TULP3NM_003324Tubby like protein 30.88BCAR1AK124526Breast cancer anti-oestrogen resistance I0.88BCAR1AK124526Breast cancer anti-oestrogen resistance I0.88BCAG6BC043423ATP-binding cassette, subfamily B (MDR/TAP), member 60.87CASTNM_173060Calpastatin0.87BNIP2AK125533BCL2/adenovins EIB 19 kDa interacting protein 2-0.97GCATK123190Glycine C-acetyltransferase-0.92TIMM10BQ011318Translocase of inner mitochondrial membrane 10 homolog (yeast)-0.91RNUT1BG421329RNA, U transporter I-0.90ASCC3AL834463DJ467N11.1 protein-0.90GAS7NM_201433Growth arrest-specific 7-0.88CORO1AAK123401Coronin, actin-binding protein, IA-0.88EBPBE253850Emopamil-binding protein-0.88EBPBE253850Emopamil-binding protein-0.87NIPBLAJ627032Niped-B homolog (<i>Drasophila</i>)-0.87NIPBLAJ627032Niped-B homolog (<i>Drasophila</i>)-0.86POLQNM_006596Polymerase (DNA directed), theta-0.86POLQNM_005892Prosome IS open reading frame 22-0.85RAC2AK075529Chromosome IS open reading frame 22-0.85PHF2NM_005892PHD finger protein 2-0.85PHF2NM_005670Trophoblast glycoprotein 2-0.85PHF2NM_005670Trophoblast glycoprotein 2 <td< td=""><td>DRPLA</td><td>BC051795</td><td>Dentatorubral-pallidoluysian atrophy</td><td>0.88</td></td<>	DRPLA	BC051795	Dentatorubral-pallidoluysian atrophy	0.88
BCARI AK124526 Breast cancer anti-oestrogen resistance I 0.88 SPAG9 AF327452 Sperm associated antigen 9 0.87 ABCB6 BC043423 ATP-binding cassette, subfamily B (MDR/TAP), member 6 0.87 CAST NM_173060 Calpastatin 0.87 BNIP2 AK125533 BCL2/adenovirus E1B 19 kDa interacting protein 2 -0.97 GCAT AK123190 Glycine C-acetyltransferase -0.92 TIMM10 BQ011318 Translocase of inner mitochondrial membrane 10 homolog (yeast) -0.91 RNUT1 BG421329 RNA, U transporter I -0.90 ASCC3 AL834463 DJ467N11.1 protein -0.90 GAS7 NM_201433 Growth arrest-specific 7 -0.88 CORO1A AK123401 Coronin, actin-binding protein, IA -0.88 LCP2 NM_005565 Lymphocyte cytosolic protein 2 -0.88 VASS BM455138 Wiskott-Aldrich syndrome -0.87 SP5D4 BC073151 Pleckstrin and Sec7 domain containing 4 -0.87 NIPBL Aj627032	TULP3	NM 003324	Tubby like protein 3	0.88
SPAG9 AF327452 Sperm associated antgen 9 0.87 ABCB6 BC043423 ATP-binding cassette, subfamily B (MDR/TAP), member 6 0.87 CAST NM_173060 Calpastatin 0.87 BNIP2 AK125533 BCL2/adenovirus E1B 19 kDa interacting protein 2 -0.97 GCAT AK123190 Glycine C-acetyltransferase -0.92 TIMM10 BQ011318 Translocase of inner mitochondrial membrane 10 homolog (yeast) -0.91 RNUT1 BG421329 RNA, U transporter 1 -0.90 GAS7 NM_201433 Growth arrest-specific 7 -0.88 CORO1A AK123401 Coronin, actin-binding protein, 1A -0.88 CORO1A AK12318 Wiskott-Aldrich syndrome -0.88 EPP BE253850 Emopamil-binding protein 2 -0.88 VAS BV45513 Wiskott-Aldrich syndrome -0.88 PSD4 BC073151 Pleckstrin and Sec7 domain containing 4 -0.87 IDH3A AK123316 Isocitrate dehydrogenase 3 (NAD+) alpha -0.87 IDH3A AK123316	BCARI	AK124526	Breast cancer anti-oestrogen resistance I	0.88
ABCB6 BC043423 ATP-binding cassette, subfamily B (MDR/TAP), member 6 0.87 CAST NM_I73060 Calpastain 0.87 BNIP2 AK125533 BCL2/adenovirus E1B 19kDa interacting protein 2 -0.97 GCAT AK123190 Glycine C-acetyltransferase -0.92 TIMM10 BQ011318 Translocase of inner mitochondrial membrane 10 homolog (yeast) -0.91 RNUT1 BG421329 RNA, U transporter 1 -0.90 GAS7 NM_201433 Growth arrest-specific 7 -0.88 CORO1A AK123401 Coronin, actin-binding protein, 1A -0.88 LCP2 NM_005565 Lymphocyte cytosolic protein 2 -0.88 KDA BK253850 Emopamil-binding protein -0.88 EBP BE253850 Emopamil-binding protein -0.87 NIPBL AK123316 Iscitrate dehydrogenase 3 (NAD+) alpha -0.87 NIPBL Aj627032 Nipped-B homolog (<i>Drosophila</i>) -0.88 POLQ NM_006596 Polymerase (DNA directed), theta -0.87 RAC2 AK075529 <t< td=""><td>SPAG9</td><td>AF327452</td><td>Sperm associated antigen 9</td><td>0.87</td></t<>	SPAG9	AF327452	Sperm associated antigen 9	0.87
CAST NM_173060 Calpastatin 0.87 BNIP2 AK125533 BCL2/adenovirus E1B 19 kDa interacting protein 2 -0.97 GCAT AK123190 Glycine C-acetyttransferase -0.92 TIMM10 BQ011318 Translocase of inner mitochondrial membrane 10 homolog (yeast) -0.91 RNUT1 BG421329 RNA, U transporter I -0.90 ASCC3 AL834463 DJ467N11.1 protein -0.90 GAS7 NM_201433 Growth arrest-specific 7 -0.88 CORO1A AK123401 Coronin, actin-binding protein, 1A -0.88 LCP2 NM_005565 Lymphocyte cytosolic protein 2 -0.88 WAS BM455138 Wiskott-Aldrich syndrome -0.88 EBP BE253850 Emopanil-binding protein -0.87 KIAA1545 AB046765 KIAA1545 protein -0.87 IDH3A AK123316 Isocitrate dehydrogenase 3 (NAD+) alpha -0.87 NIPBL Aj627032 Nipped-B homolog (<i>Drosophila</i>) -0.86 POLQ NM_006596 Polymerase (DNA directed), theta	ABCB6	BC043423	ATP-binding cassette, subfamily B (MDR/TAP), member 6	0.87
BNIP2 AK125533 BCL2/adenovirus E1B 19kDa interacting protein 2 -0.97 GCAT AK123190 Glycine C-acetyltransferase -0.92 TIIM10 BQ011318 Translocase of inner mitochondrial membrane 10 homolog (yeast) -0.91 RNUT1 BG421329 RNA, U transporter 1 -0.90 ASCC3 AL834463 DJ467N11.1 protein -0.90 GAS7 NM_201433 Growth arrest-specific 7 -0.88 CORO1A AK123401 Coronin, actin-binding protein, 1A -0.88 LCP2 NM_005565 Lympocyte cytosolic protein 2 -0.88 WAS BM455138 Wiskott -Aldrich syndrome -0.88 EBP BE253850 Emopamil-binding protein -0.87 KIAA1545 AB046765 KIAA1545 protein -0.87 NIPBL Aj627032 Nipped-B homolog (Drosophila) -0.88 POLQ NM_006596 Polymerase (DNA directed), theta -0.87 C15orf22 AK075529 Chromosome 15 open reading frame 22 -0.85 RAC2 AK096924 Ras-related C3 botulinum	CAST	NM_173060	Calpastatin	0.87
GCATAK123190Glycine C-acetyltransferase-0.92TIMM10BQ011318Translocase of inner mitochondrial membrane 10 homolog (yeast)-0.91RNUT1BG421329RNA, U transporter 1-0.90ASCC3AL834463DJ467N11.1 protein-0.90GAS7NM_201433Growth arrest-specific 7-0.88COR01AAK123401Coronin, actin-binding protein, 1A-0.88LCP2NM_005565Lymphocyte cytosolic protein 2-0.88WASBM455138Wiskott-Aldrich syndrome-0.88PSD4BC073151Pleckstrin and Sec7 domain containing 4-0.87KIAA1545AB046765KIAA1545 protein-0.87NIPBLAJ627032Nipped-B homolog (Drosophila)-0.86POLQNM_005596Polymerase (DNA directed), theta-0.87C15orf22AK09529Chromosome 15 open reading frame 22-0.85RAC2AK096924Ras-related C3 botulinum toxin substrate 2-0.85PHF2NM_006570Trophoblast glycoprotein-0.87PHF3NM_006670Trophoblast glycoprotein (GDI) beta-0.87	BNIP2	AK125533	BCL2/adenovirus EIB 19 kDa interacting protein 2	-0.97
TIMM10BQ011318Translocase of inner mitochondrial membrane 10 homolog (yeast)-0.91RNUT1BG421329RNA, U transporter 1-0.90ASCC3AL834463DJ467N11.1. protein-0.90GAS7NM_201433Growth arrest-specific 7-0.88COR01AAK123401Coronin, actin-binding protein, 1A-0.88LCP2NM_005565Lymphocyte cytosolic protein 2-0.88WASBM455138Wiskott-Aldrich syndrome-0.88EBPBE253850Emopamil-binding protein-0.88PSD4BC073151Pleckstrin and Sec7 domain containing 4-0.87IDH3AAK123316Isocitrate dehydrogenase 3 (NAD+) alpha-0.87NIPBLAJ627032Niped-B homolog (Drosophila)-0.86POLQNM_006596Polymerase (DNA directed), theta-0.85RAC2AK096924Ras-related C3 botulinum toxin substrate 2-0.85PHF2NM_005392PHD finger protein 2-0.85PHF2NM_005670Trophoblast glycoprotein-0.87PHSGAK125625Rb OGP dissociation inhibitor (GDI) beta-0.87	GCAT	AK123190	Glycine C-acetyltransferase	-0.92
RNUTIBG421329RNA, U transporter I-0.90ASCC3AL834463DJ467N11.1 protein-0.90GAS7NM_201433Growth arrest-specific 7-0.88CORO1AAK123401Coronin, actin-binding protein, IA-0.88LCP2NM_005565Lymphocyte cytosolic protein 2-0.88WASBM455138Wiskott-Aldrich syndrome-0.88PSD4BC073151Pleckstrin and Sec7 domain containing 4-0.87KIAA1545AB046765KIAA1545 protein-0.87IDH3AAK123316Isocitrate dehydrogenase 3 (NAD+) alpha-0.86POLQNM_006596Polymerase (DNA directed), theta-0.86C15orf22AK096924Ras-related C3 botulinum toxin substrate 2-0.85RAC2AK096924Ras-related C3 botulinum toxin substrate 2-0.85PHF2NM_006596Polymerprotein 2-0.85PHF2NM_006670Trophoblast glycoprotein-0.87ARHGDIBAK125625Rho GDP dissociation inhibitor (GDI) beta-0.87	TIMM I O	BQ011318	Translocase of inner mitochondrial membrane 10 homolog (yeast)	-0.91
ASCC3AL834463DJ467N11.1 protein-0.90GAS7NM_201433Growth arrest-specific 7-0.88CORO1AAK123401Coronin, actin-binding protein, 1A-0.88LCP2NM_005565Lymphocyte cytosolic protein 2-0.88WASBM455138Wiskott-Aldrich syndrome-0.88EBPBE253850Emopamil-binding protein-0.88KIAA1545AB046765KIAA1545 protein-0.87IDH3AAK123316Isocitrate dehydrogenase 3 (NAD+) alpha-0.87NIPBLAJ627032Nipped-B homolog (<i>Drosophila</i>)-0.86C15orf22AK075529Chromosome 15 open reading frame 22-0.85RAC2AK096924Ras-related C3 botulinum toxin substrate 2-0.85PHF2NM_005392PHD finger protein 2-0.85PHF2NM_006670Trophoblast glycoprotein-0.87ARHGDIBAK125625Rho GDP dissociation inhibitor (GDI) beta-0.84	RNUTI	BG421329	RNA, U transporter I	-0.90
GAS7NM_201433Growth arrest-specific 7-0.88COR01AAK123401Coronin, actin-binding protein, IA-0.88LCP2NM_005565Lymphocyte cytosolic protein 2-0.88WASBM455138Wiskott-Aldrich syndrome-0.88EBPBE253850Emopamil-binding protein-0.88VIAA 1545AB046765KIAA 1545 protein-0.87IDH3AAK123316Isocitrate dehydrogenase 3 (NAD+) alpha-0.87NIPBLAJ627032Nipped-B homolog (<i>Drosophila</i>)-0.86POLQNM_006596Polymerase (DNA directed), theta-0.85RAC2AK096924Ras-related C3 botulinum toxin substrate 2-0.85PHF2NM_005392PHD finger protein 2-0.85ARHGDIBAK125625Rho GDP dissociation inhibitor (GDI) beta-0.87	ASCC3	AL834463	DJ467NTT.1 protein	-0.90
CORO1AAK123401Coronin, actin-binding protein, IA-0.88LCP2NM_005565Lymphocyte cytosolic protein 2-0.88WASBM455138Wiskott-Aldrich syndrome-0.88EBPBE253850Emopamil-binding protein-0.88PSD4BC073151Pleckstrin and Sec7 domain containing 4-0.87KIAA1545AB046765KIAA1545 protein-0.87IDH3AAK123316Isocitrate dehydrogenase 3 (NAD+) alpha-0.87NIPBLAJ627032Nipped-B homolog (<i>Drosophila</i>)-0.86POLQNM_006596Polymerase (DNA directed), theta-0.85RAC2AK096924Ras-related C3 botulinum toxin substrate 2-0.85PHF2NM_005392PHD finger protein 2-0.85ARHGDIBAK125625Rho GDP dissociation inhibitor (GDI) beta-0.84	GAS7	NM_201433	Growth arrest-specific 7	-0.88
LCP2NM_005565Lymphocyte cytosolic protein 2-0.88WASBM455138Wiskott-Aldrich syndrome-0.88EBPBE253850Emopamil-binding protein-0.88PSD4BC073151Pleckstrin and Sec7 domain containing 4-0.87KIAA1545AB046765KIAA1545 protein-0.87IDH3AAK123316Isocitrate dehydrogenase 3 (NAD+) alpha-0.87NIPBLAJ627032Nipped-B homolog (<i>Drosophila</i>)-0.86POLQNM_006596Polymerase (DNA directed), theta-0.86C15orf22AK096924Ras-related C3 botulinum toxin substrate 2-0.85RAC2AK096924PHD finger protein 2-0.85PHF2NM_006670Trophoblast glycoprotein-0.86ARHGDIBAK125625Rho GDP dissociation inhibitor (GDI) beta-0.84	COROIA	AK123401	Coronin, actin-binding protein, IA	-0.88
WASBM455138Wiskott-Aldrich syndrome-0.88EBPBE253850Emopamil-binding protein-0.87PSD4BC073151Pleckstrin and Sec7 domain containing 4-0.87KIAA1545AB046765KIAA1545 protein-0.87IDH3AAK123316Isocitrate dehydrogenase 3 (NAD+) alpha-0.87NIPBLAJ627032Nipped-B homolog (Drosophila)-0.86POLQNM_006596Polymerase (DNA directed), theta-0.85RAC2AK096924Ras-related C3 botulinum toxin substrate 2-0.85PHF2NM_006370Trophoblast glycoprotein-0.85ARHGDIBAK125625Rho GDP dissociation inhibitor (GDI) beta-0.84	LCP2	NM_005565	Lymphocyte cytosolic protein 2	-0.88
EBPBE253850Emopamil-binding protein-0.88PSD4BC073151Pleckstrin and Sec7 domain containing 4-0.87KIAA1545AB046765KIAA1545 protein-0.87IDH3AAK123316Isocitrate dehydrogenase 3 (NAD+) alpha-0.87NIPBLAJ627032Nipped-B homolog (<i>Drosophila</i>)-0.86POLQNM_006596Polymerase (DNA directed), theta-0.86C15orf22AK07529Chromosome 15 open reading frame 22-0.85RAC2AK096924Ras-related C3 botulinum toxin substrate 2-0.85PHF2NM_006370Trophoblast glycoprotein-0.87ARHGDIBAK125625Rho GDP dissociation inhibitor (GDI) beta-0.84	WAS	BM455138	Wiskott–Aldrich syndrome	-0.88
PSD4BC073151Pleckstrin and Sec7 domain containing 4-0.87KIAA1545AB046765KIAA1545 protein-0.87IDH3AAK123316Isocitrate dehydrogenase 3 (NAD+) alpha-0.87NIPBLAJ627032Nipped-B homolog (Drosophila)-0.86POLQNM_006596Polymerase (DNA directed), theta-0.86C15orf22AK07529Chromosome 15 open reading frame 22-0.85RAC2AK096924Ras-related C3 botulinum toxin substrate 2-0.85PHF2NM_006570Trophoblast glycoprotein-0.85ARHGDIBAK125625Rho GDP dissociation inhibitor (GDI) beta-0.84	EBP	BE253850	Emopamil-binding protein	-0.88
KIAA1545AB046765KIAA1545 protein-0.87IDH3AAK123316Isocitrate dehydrogenase 3 (NAD+) alpha-0.87NIPBLAJ627032Nipped-B homolog (Drosophila)-0.86POLQNM_006596Polymerase (DNA directed), theta-0.86C15orf22AK07529Chromosome 15 open reading frame 22-0.85RAC2AK096924Ras-related C3 botulinum toxin substrate 2-0.85PHF2NM_005392PHD finger protein 2-0.85ARHGDIBAK125625Rho GDP dissociation inhibitor (GDI) beta-0.84	PSD4	BC073151	Pleckstrin and Sec7 domain containing 4	-0.87
IDH3A AK123316 Isocitrate dehydrogenase 3 (NAD+) alpha -0.87 NIPBL AJ627032 Nipped-B homolog (<i>Drosophila</i>) -0.86 POLQ NM_006596 Polymerase (DNA directed), theta -0.86 C15orf22 AK07529 Chromosome 15 open reading frame 22 -0.85 RAC2 AK096924 Ras-related C3 botulinum toxin substrate 2 -0.85 PHF2 NM_005392 PHD finger protein 2 -0.85 TPBG NM_006670 Trophoblast glycoprotein -0.85 ARHGDIB AK125625 Rho GDP dissociation inhibitor (GDI) beta -0.84	KIAA 545	AB046765	KIAA1545 protein	-0.87
NIPBL AJ627032 Nipped-B homolog (Drosophila) -0.86 POLQ NM_006596 Polymerase (DNA directed), theta -0.86 C15orf22 AK075529 Chromosome 15 open reading frame 22 -0.85 RAC2 AK096924 Ras-related C3 botulinum toxin substrate 2 -0.85 PHF2 NM_005392 PHD finger protein 2 -0.85 TPBG NM_006670 Trophoblast glycoprotein -0.84 ARHGDIB AK125625 Rho GDP dissociation inhibitor (GDI) beta -0.84	IDH3A	AK123316	lsocitrate dehydrogenase 3 (NAD+) alpha	-0.87
POLQNM_006596Polymerase (DNA directed), theta-0.86C15orf22AK075529Chromosome 15 open reading frame 22-0.85RAC2AK096924Ras-related C3 botulinum toxin substrate 2-0.85PHF2NM_005392PHD finger protein 2-0.85TPBGNM_006670Trophoblast glycoprotein-0.85ARHGDIBAK125625Rho GDP dissociation inhibitor (GDI) beta-0.84	NIPBL	AJ627032	Nipped-B homolog (Drosophila)	-0.86
C15orf22 AK075529 Chromosome 15 open reading frame 22 -0.85 RAC2 AK096924 Ras-related C3 botulinum toxin substrate 2 -0.85 PHF2 NM_005392 PHD finger protein 2 -0.85 TPBG NM_006670 Trophoblast glycoprotein -0.85 ARHGDIB AK125625 Rho GDP dissociation inhibitor (GDI) beta -0.84	POLQ	NM_006596	Polymerase (DNA directed), theta	-0.86
RAC2 AK096924 Ras-related C3 botulinum toxin substrate 2 -0.85 PHF2 NM_005392 PHD finger protein 2 -0.85 TPBG NM_006670 Trophoblast glycoprotein -0.85 ARHGDIB AK125625 Rho GDP dissociation inhibitor (GDI) beta -0.84	CI5orf22	AK075529	Chromosome 15 open reading frame 22	-0.85
PHF2 NM_005392 PHD finger protein 2 -0.85 TPBG NM_006670 Trophoblast glycoprotein -0.85 ARHGDIB AK125625 Rho GDP dissociation inhibitor (GDI) beta -0.84	RAC2	AK096924	Ras-related C3 botulinum toxin substrate 2	-0.85
TPBG NM_006670 Trophoblast glycoprotein -0.85 ARHGDIB AK125625 Rho GDP dissociation inhibitor (GDI) beta -0.84	PHF2	NM_005392	PHD finger protein 2	-0.85
ARHGDIB AK125625 Rho GDP dissociation inhibitor (GDI) beta -0.84	TPBG	NM_006670	Trophoblast glycoprotein	-0.85
	ARHGDIB	AK125625	Rho GDP dissociation inhibitor (GDI) beta	-0.84

clustering were vindesine, estramustine, J1 and P2. As an example, J1 and P2, oligopeptide derivatives of melphalan and sarcolysine, respectively, clustered together, but differently from their parent compounds. J1 is currently undergoing clinical development, and recent studies have indicated other mechanisms of cell death additional to the death caused by DNA alkylation (Gullbo *et al*, 2003). The overall results indicate that the panel of 10 tumour cell lines was able to reasonably well classify drugs with respect to the mechanism of action.

The mechanistic pathways identified with PathwayAssist associated to general drug resistance paradoxically included a substantial number of both proapoptotic and antiapoptotic genes. The proapoptotic genes caspase 3 and 6 (CASP3, 6) and Jun were identified together with survival genes such as retinoblastoma 1 (RBI), calpastatin (CAST), focal adhesion kinase/protein tyrosine kinase 2 (FAK/PTK2) and mitogen-activated protein kinase 1 (MAPK1). A parallel upregulation of pro- and antiapoptotic genes in malignant tumours has been observed in several microarray studies comparing tumour cells and normal tissue (Rhodes et al, 2004; www.oncomine.com), indicating that the balance between upregulated pro- and antiapoptotic genes may be critical for tumour cell survival. To affect this balance by small molecules may thus be a potential therapeutic strategy. The expression of signal transducer and activator of transcription 1 (STATI) was also observed to be highly correlated to resistance, particularly for the Top2 inhibitors (data not shown). Although activation of STATI in some cell systems has been shown to be proapoptotic (Calo et al, 2003), a recent observation has indicated a role for STATI in mediating radiation resistance (Khodarev et al, 2004). Recently, a correlation between STATI expression and cisplatin resistance in cell lines derived from patients with ovarian carcinoma was also reported (Roberts et al, 2005), and inhibitors of the STATl pathway have been shown to induce apoptosis in leukaemic cells from patients (Martinez-Lostao et al, 2005). The pathway analysis showed that STATI is positively influenced by MAPK1 and FAK, two of the most highly connected resistance-associated genes, both of which have been reported to inhibit apoptosis (Shimada et al, 2002; Kurenova et al, 2004). Notably, STATl expression has been reported higher in tumour compared with corresponding normal tissue for a wide range of tumour types (www.oncomine.com). The STATI pathway may thus provide a potentially interesting drug target for reversal of drug resistance.

The genes correlated to drug sensitivity had diverse functions, but a considerable number were found to be related to cell cycle and proliferation rather than to apoptosis, for example, cell division cycle 25A (CDC25A) and signal transducer of activator of transcription 5A (STAT5A). This is in accordance with the general notion of a correlation between high proliferation and increased anticancer drug sensitivity (Valeriote and van Putten, 1975; Kaaijk *et al*, 2003).

Table 3 Genes associated with drug resistance selected by PathwayAssist

Symbol	Name
AGRN	Agrin
APP	Amyloid beta (A4) precursor protein (protease nexin-II,
	Alzheimer's disease)
BACE2	Beta-site APP-cleaving enzyme 2
BAG3	Bcl2-associated athanogene 3
BASPI	Brain abundant, membrane-attached signal protein 1
BCARI	Breast cancer antioestrogen resistance I
BMPRIA	Bone morphogenetic protein receptor, type IA
CASP3	Caspase 3, apoptosis-related cysteine protease
CASP6	Caspase 6, apoptosis-related cysteine protease
CASI	Calpastatin
CD9	CD9 antigen (p24)
CKAP4	Cytoskeleton-associated protein 4
CREBBP	
CSPGZ	Chondroitin sulphate proteoglycan 2 (versican)
	Cortactin Distancia di calendaria di characteria di characteria di characteria di characteria di characteria di characteria
	Distrogrycan I (dystrophin-associated grycoprotein I)
	Dimetrylarginine dimetrylaminonydrolase i
	EXXD domain containing ion transport regulator I
INIDI	(phospholemman)
HIFLA	Hypoxia-inducible factor L alpha subunit (basic belix-loop-
1 111 17 (helix transcription factor)
IGSF4	Immunoglobulin superfamily, member 4
ITGAV	Integrin, alpha V (vitropectin receptor, alpha polypentide
110/11	antigen (D51)
ITPR3	Inositol 145-triphosphate receptor type 3
ITSNI	Intersectin L (SH3 domain protein)
IUN	lun oncogene
LTBPI	Latent transforming growth factor beta binding protein 1
MAFG	V-maf musculoaponeurotic fibrosarcoma oncogene homologue
	G (avian)
MAP4K3	Mitogen-activated protein kinase kinase kinase kinase 3
MAPKI	Mitogen activated protein kinase I
MAPKII	Mitogen-activated protein kinase 11
MDK	Midkine (neurite growth-promoting factor 2)
NBLI	Neuroblastoma, suppression of tumorigenicity I
NEFL	Neurofilament, light polypeptide 68 kDa
PAWR	PRKC, apoptosis, WTI, regulator
PEA15	Phosphoprotein enriched in astrocytes 15
PLXNBI	Plexin B1
POR	P450 (cytochrome) oxidoreductase
PTK2	PTK2 protein tyrosine kinase 2
PIPN13	Protein tyrosine phosphatase, nonreceptor type 13
PXN	Paxillin
KBI	Retinoblastoma I
RDX	
RIPKZ	Receptor-Interacting serine – threonine kinase 2
STUDATU	STOU calcium-binding protein ATU (annexin II ligand, calpactin I,
	light polypeptide (pill))
JERFIINHI	serine (or cysteine) proteinase innibitor, clade H (neat shock
ςτατι	Signal transducer and activator of transcription
TPII	Triosenhosphate isomerase I
TRAI	Tumour rejection antigen (gp96)
TUBB	Tubulin beta polypentide
TULP3	Tubby like protein 3

The listed genes were selected by the PathwayAssist software as described in the Results section. An interactive graphical version is available in the supplementary information online.

Some limitations of the study should be discussed. First, cell lines removed from their *in vivo* environment and selected for growth in culture differ from tumour cells in patients. Therefore, the relevance of the genes and mechanistic pathways needs to be studied in additional settings, such as primary cultures of tumour cells from patients. Second, the drug activity database was generated using a single assay end point, that is, short-term

Symbol	Name
ARHGDIB	Rho GDP dissociation inhibitor (GDI) beta
BCCIP	BRCA2 and CDKN1A interacting protein
CCNC	Cyclin C
CCND3	Cyclin D3
CD37	CD37 antigen
CD4	CD4 antigen
CDX2	Caudal type homeo box transcription factor 2
CKLF	Chemokine-like factor
COROIA	Coronin, actin-binding protein, IA
DOCK2	Dedicator of cytokinesis 2
GAS7	Growth arrest-specific 7
GNA15	Guanine nucleotide-binding protein (G protein), alpha 15 (Gq class)
HDACI	Histone deacetylase I
IDH3A	lsocitrate dehydrogenase 3 (NAD+) alpha
IL2RG	Interleukin 2 receptor, gamma (severe combined
	immunodeficiency)
IMPDH2	IMP (inosine monophosphate) dehydrogenase 2
INPP5D	Inositol polyphosphate-5-phosphatase D
LCPI	Lymphocyte cytosolic protein I (L-plastin)
LCP2	Lymphocyte cytosolic protein 2 (SH2 domain containing
	leukocyte protein of 76 kDa)
MAP4K1	Mitogen-activated protein kinase kinase kinase kinase I
MCM5	MCM5 minichromosome maintenance deficient 5, cell division
	cycle 46 (S. cerevisiae)
MYB	V-myb myeloblastosis viral oncogene homologue (avian)
MYCBP2	MYC binding protein 2
NCF4	Neutrophil cytosolic factor 4, 40 kDa
NUDC	Nuclear distribution gene C homolog (A. nidulans)
PENK	Proenkephalin
PPIH	Peptidyl prolyl isomerase H (cyclophilin H)
RAC2	Ras-related C3 botulinum toxin substrate 2 (rho family, small
	GTP-binding protein Rac2)
SLC25A5	Solute carrier family 25 (mitochondrial carrier: adenine
	nucleotide translocator), member 5
SI C7A5	Solute carrier family 7 (cationic amino-acid transporter, y+
	system), member 5
STAT5A	Signal transducer and activator of transcription 5A
TFR2	Transferrin receptor 2
TPBG	
WAS	Wiskott – Aldrich syndrome (eczema-thrombocytopenia)

The listed genes were selected by the PathwayAssist software as described in the Results section. An interactive graphical version is available in the supplementary information online.

growth inhibition and cytotoxicity. Drugs may induce concentration-dependent effects on different targets leading to different modes of cell death, including apoptosis, necrosis and cell senescence (Blagosklonny, 2004). Multiparameter assays using high-content screening may provide a substantial increase in the information on drug activity and mode of cell death (Lövborg et al 2004), and such studies are underway. Third, only a part of all human genes were represented on the arrays used. Also, the genedrug relationships described represent only a small fraction of relationships thought to be relevant to chemotherapy, and many are probably hidden by the arbitrary and rough cutoff criteria that need to be applied for selection of the information, among all the available microarray data, considered to be relevant. Fourth, with respect to the data exploration, the quality of the data obtained is dependent on the information and algorithms in the software used, meaning that these data should only be used for generation of hypotheses that need further and direct confirmation. Finally, although this exploitation of array data using powerful software can provide a basis for identification of new drug targets, it should be emphasised that the relationships observed are correlative, not

Figure 5 Analysis of molecular interactions using PathwayAssist. A simplified network for genes associated with resistance is shown. Green lines indicate positive effects, red lines indicate negative effects and grey lines interactions with unknown effect. Complete interactive graphical versions of the networks associated with sensitivity and resistance are accessible in supplementary information online and the connections are clickable (dots on lines) to access hyperlinks to the Medline references on which the networks are based. Clicking on the nodes provides hyperlinks to several gene and protein databases including HUGO, Locus Link and Swiss-Prot for the particular protein.

causal, and that these correlations must be further experimentally tested and validated.

In comparison to previous similar studies (Scherf et al, 2000; Dan et al, 2002), we identified other chemosensitivity genes. This might be explained by several limiting factors as discussed above, and include differences in cell types, arrays, drugs and assays used. Even when different arrays were used to study the same samples, the gene-drug relationships were shown to differ (Scherf et al, 2000; Staunton et al, 2001). Furthermore, in the present study, the correlation coefficients for the drug-gene correlations were in general higher than in the previous studies. This might partly be explained by the inclusion of cell lines selected for drug resistance. The selection of drug resistance may impose a larger range of gene expression across samples, leading to higher drug-gene correlation coefficients. This would also potentially increase the possibility of identifying genes specifically associated with drug resistance. An advantage of using parental and drug-resistant cell lines is that the selecting agent and genes specifically involved in resistance to that particular drug could be isolated. However, it should be noted that the ability to cluster drugs based on druggene correlations is not limited to drug classes used for drug resistance selection. Indeed, in the present paper, both the proteasome inhibitors and Top I inhibitors could be distinguished as distinct clusters, although no resistant cell lines representative of these drug classes were included in the panel. Extending the

panel with sublines resistant to mechanistically different drugs may nevertheless improve the possibility of identifying genes involved in drug resistance by further increasing the range of relevant gene expression. We are currently introducing cell lines resistant to novel target-specific drugs such as proteasome and tyrosine kinase inhibitors.

In the present study, we employed a molecular pathway analysis tool, Pathway Assist (www.ariadnegenomics.com), for the analysis of obtained drug-gene correlations. This procedure allowed quick and efficient generation of biologically meaningful and literaturevalidated relationships between the genes retrieved. PathwayAssist contains the ResNet database in which more than 500 000 events are recorded and any established pathway can be updated online by automated mining of Medline using a built-in Natural Language Processing algorithm (www.ariadnegenomics.com). Performing such pathway analysis manually would have been extremely time consuming and laborious. Automated data-mining tools for pathway analysis will therefore be increasingly important in light of the exploding information content on molecular pathway networks.

In conclusion, integration of gene expression and drug activity data sets for tumour cell line panels provide relationships between individual gene and drug activity profiles that makes it possible to identify drug mechanisms of action that can be traced down to gene level. By also applying powerful software for recognition of cell signalling pathways, the current approach might accelerate the drug discovery and evaluation process and provide novel markers and drug targets for the chemotherapy of cancer. The current approach is suitable for characterisation of new drugs both with respect to the mechanism of action and identification of genes involved in drug sensitivity and resistance.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

We are grateful for all the work with microarray printing performed by Niclas Olsson at the Uppsala Expression Array

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Platform, Uppsala, Sweden. The skilful technical assistance of Christina Leek and Lena Lenhammar is gratefully acknowledged. This study was supported by the Swedish Cancer Society, the Swedish Research Council, the Lions Cancer Research Fund, Beijer foundation. Wallenberg Consortium North, Marcus Borgström Foundation, Swedish Society for Medical Research, Göran Gustafsson Foundation, Carl Tryggers Foundation, Stockholm Cancer Society and Swedish Knowledge Foundation.

Supplementary Information accompanies the paper on British Journal of Cancer website (http://www.nature.com/bjc).

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