

RPS6KA3 and DUSP9 are promising druggable targets for treating Hypertension that control activity of SIN3A, ZBTB7B and HES1 transcription factor on of highly methylated genes in blood tissue

Demo User

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Genome Enhancer release 3.1 (TRANSFAC®, TRANSPATH® and HumanPSD™ release 2022.2)



Abstract

In the present study we applied the software package "Genome Enhancer" to a data set that contains *epigenomics* data obtained from *blood* tissue. The study is done in the context of *Hypertension*. The goal of this pipeline is to identify potential drug targets in the molecular network that governs the studied pathological process. In the first step of analysis pipeline discovers transcription factors (TFs) that regulate genes activities in the pathological state. The activities of these TFs are controlled by so-called master regulators, which are identified in the second step of analysis. After a subsequent druggability checkup, the most promising master regulators are chosen as potential drug targets for the analyzed pathology. At the end the pipeline comes up with (a) a list of known drugs and (b) investigational active chemical compounds with the potential to interact with selected drug targets.

From the data set analyzed in this study, we found the following TFs to be potentially involved in the regulation of the highly methylated genes: SIN3A, ZBTB7B and HES1. The subsequent network analysis suggested

- IRS-4
- RSK2
- (BMP2A:ActR-II:BMPr-IA{pS}{pT})2:XIAP:TAB1:TAK1
- MKP-4

as the most promising molecular targets for further research, drug development and drug repurposing initiatives on the basis of identified molecular mechanism of the studied pathology. Having checked the actual druggability potential of the full list of identified targets, both, via information available in medical literature and via cheminformatics analysis of drug compounds, we have identified the following drugs as the most promising treatment candidates for the studied pathology: Sirolimus, Flavopiridol, Nicergoline and 2,5,7-Trihydroxynaphthoquinone.

1. Introduction

Recording "-omics" data to measure gene activities, protein expression or metabolic events is becoming a standard approach to characterize the pathological state of an affected organism or tissue. Increasingly, several of these methods are applied in a combined approach leading to large "multiomics" datasets. Still the challenge remains how to reveal the underlying molecular mechanisms that render a given pathological state different from the norm. The disease-causing mechanism can be described by a re-wiring of the cellular regulatory network, for instance as a result of a genetic or epigenetic alterations influencing the activity of relevant genes. Reconstruction of the disease-specific regulatory networks can help identify potential master regulators of the respective pathological process. Knowledge about these master regulators can point to ways how to block a pathological regulatory cascade. Suppression of certain molecular targets as components of these cascades may stop the pathological process and cure the disease.

Conventional approaches of statistical "-omics" data analysis provide only very limited information about the causes of the observed phenomena and therefore contribute little to the understanding of the pathological molecular mechanism. In contrast, the "upstream analysis" method [1-4] applied here has been devised to provide a casual interpretation of the data obtained for a pathology state. This approach comprises two major steps: (1) analysing promoters and enhancers of highly methylated genes for the transcription factors (TFs) involved in their regulation and, thus, important for the process under study; (2) re-constructing the signaling pathways that activate these TFs and identifying master regulators at the top of such pathways. For the first step, the database TRANSFAC® [6] is employed together with the TF binding site identification

algorithms Match [7] and CMA [8]. The second step involves the signal transduction database TRANSPATH® [9] and special graph search algorithms [10] implemented in the software "Genome Enhancer".

The "upstream analysis" approach has now been extended by a third step that reveals known drugs suitable to inhibit (or activate) the identified molecular targets in the context of the disease under study. This step is performed by using information from HumanPSD™ database [5]. In addition, some known drugs and investigational active chemical compounds are subsequently predicted as potential ligands for the revealed molecular targets. They are predicted using a pre-computed database of spectra of biological activities of chemical compounds of a library of 2245 known drugs and investigational chemical compounds from HumanPSD™ database. The spectra of biological activities for these compounds are computed using the program PASS on the basis of a (Q)SAR approach [11-13]. These predictions can be used for the research purposes - for further drug development and drug repurposing initiatives.

2. Data

For this study the following experimental data was used:

Table 1. Experimental datasets used in the study

File name	Data type
df_hp	Epigenomics
df_norm	Epigenomics

Hypertension	Control
LCL_0001 df_hp	LCL_0007 df_norm
LCL_0005 df_hp	LCL_0009 df_norm
LCL_0016 df_hp	LCL_0013 df_norm
LCL_0019 df_hp	LCL_0017 df_norm
LCL_0021 df_hp	LCL_0018 df_norm
LCL_0023 df_hp	LCL_0022 df_norm
LCL_0028 df_hp	LCL_0029 df_norm
LCL_0030 df_hp	LCL_0043 df_norm
LCL_0032 df_hp	LCL_0046 df_norm
LCL_0037 df_hp	LCL_0066 df_norm
LCL_0040 df_hp	LCL_0069 df_norm
LCL_0041 df_hp	LCL_0074 df_norm
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LCL_0093 df_hp	LCL_0133 df_norm
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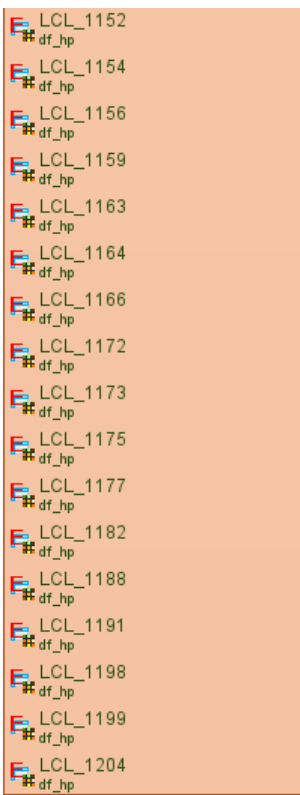


Figure 1. Annotation diagram of experimental data used in this study. With the colored boxes we show those sub-categories of the data that are compared in our analysis.

3. Results











We have compared the following conditions: Hypertension *versus* Control.

3.1. Identification of target genes

In the first step of the analysis **target genes** were identified from the uploaded experimental data. The most highly methylated genes were used as target genes.

Table 2. Top ten highly methylated genes in Hypertension vs. Control.

[See full table](#) →

ID	Gene description	Gene symbol	Gene schematic representation	Number of methylation sites	Methylation sites in exons	Methylation sites in 5' region
ENSG00000204956	protocadherin gamma subfamily A, 1	PCDHGA1		41	5	0
ENSG00000250349	novel proline rich Gla (G-carboxyglutamic acid) 1 (PRRG1) and tetraspanin 7 (TSPAN7) protein	ENSG00000250349		38	2	2
ENSG00000081853	protocadherin gamma subfamily A, 2	PCDHGA2		37	5	0
ENSG00000204970	protocadherin alpha 1	PCDHA1		34	0	0
ENSG00000254245	protocadherin gamma subfamily A, 3	PCDHGA3		34	5	0
ENSG00000204969	protocadherin alpha 2	PCDHA2		33	3	0
ENSG00000254221	protocadherin gamma subfamily B, 1	PCDHGB1		31	5	0
ENSG00000255408	protocadherin alpha 3	PCDHA3		30	2	0
ENSG00000204967	protocadherin alpha 4	PCDHA4		28	1	0
ENSG00000204965	protocadherin alpha 5	PCDHA5		27	3	1

3.2. Functional classification of genes

A functional analysis of highly methylated genes was done by mapping the genes to several known ontologies, such as Gene Ontology (GO), disease ontology (based on HumanPSD™ database) and the ontology of signal transduction and metabolic pathways from the [TRANSPATH®](#) database. Statistical significance was computed using a binomial test. Figures 2-4 show the most significant categories.

Highly methylated genes in Hypertension vs. Control:

300 top methylated genes were taken for the mapping.

GO (biological process)

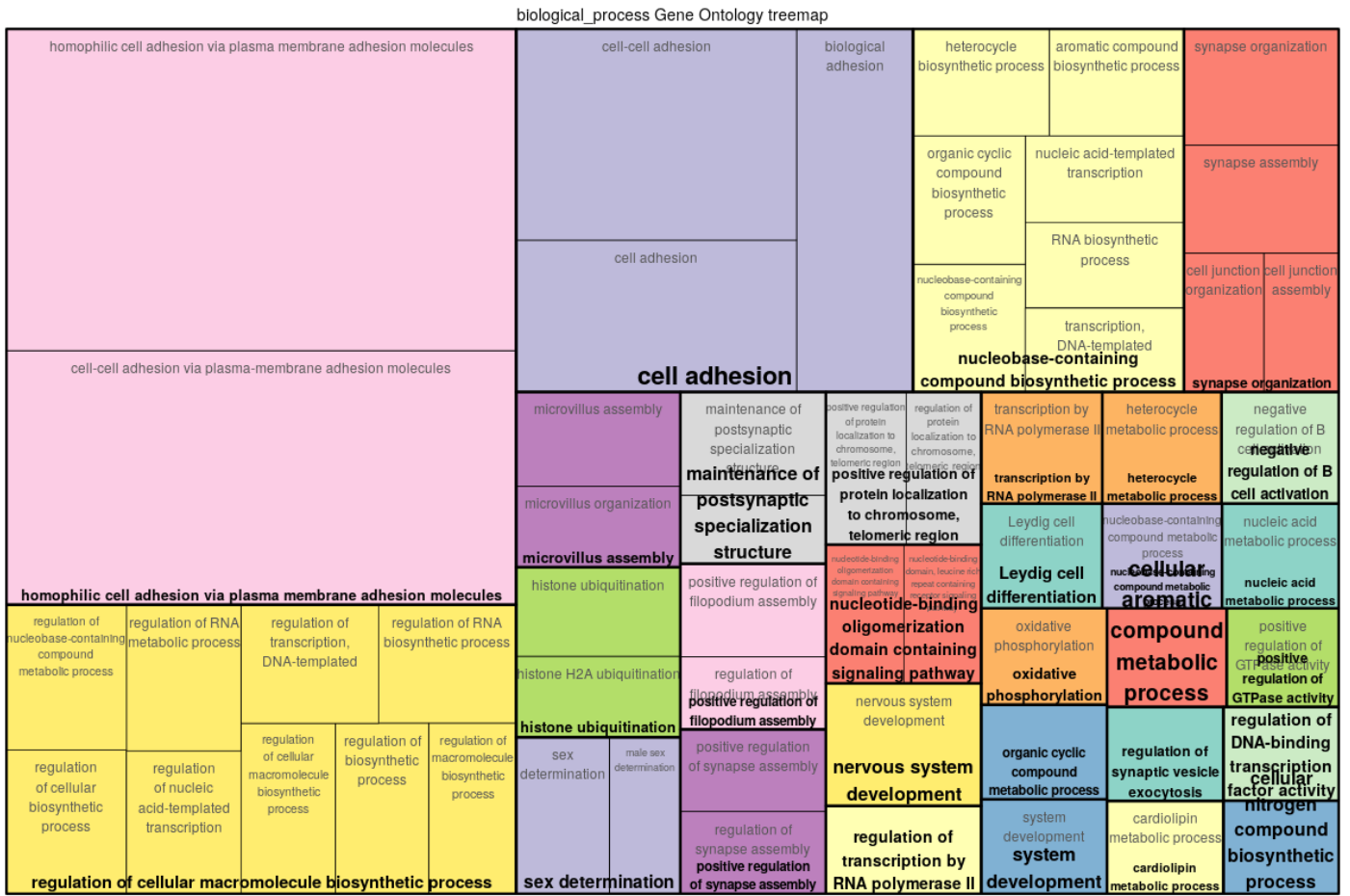


Figure 2. Enriched GO (biological process) of highly methylated genes in Hypertension vs. Control.
[Full classification →](#)

TRANSPATH® Pathways (2022.2)

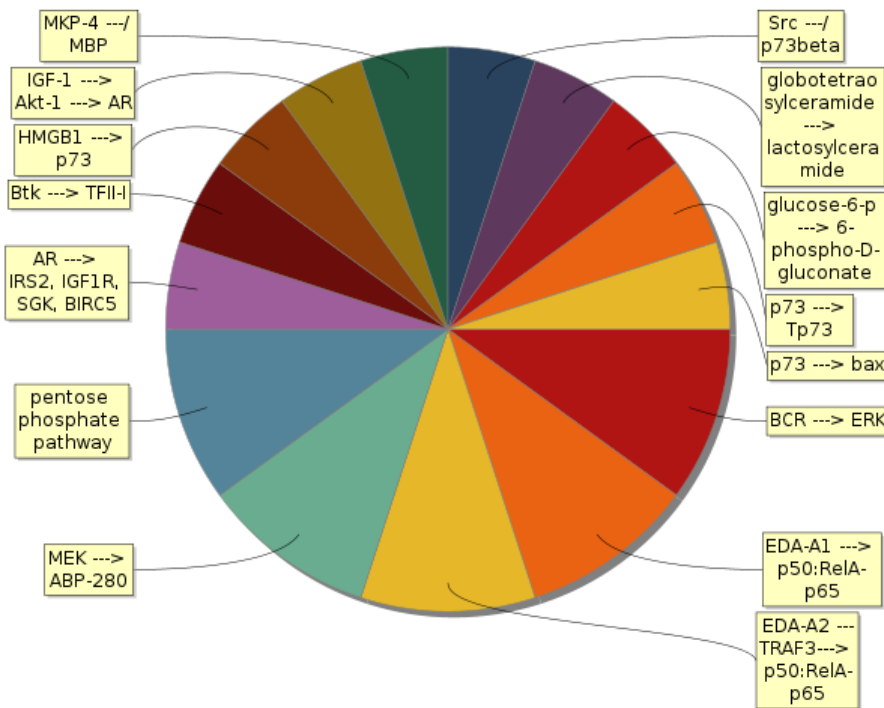


Figure 3. Enriched TRANSPATH® Pathways (2022.2) of highly methylated genes in Hypertension vs. Control.
[Full classification →](#)

HumanPSD(TM) disease (2022.2)

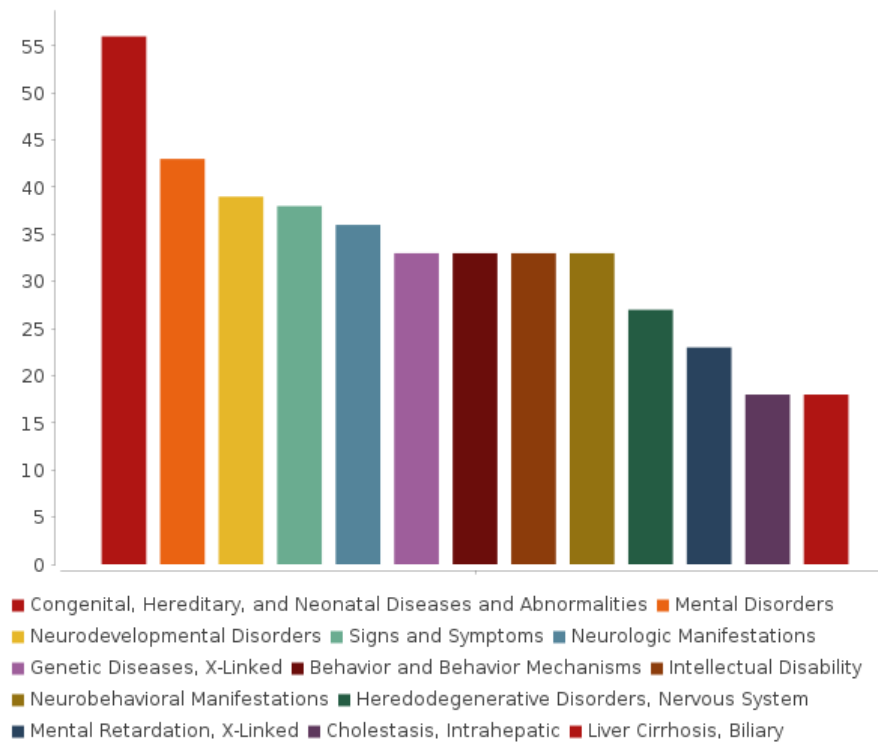
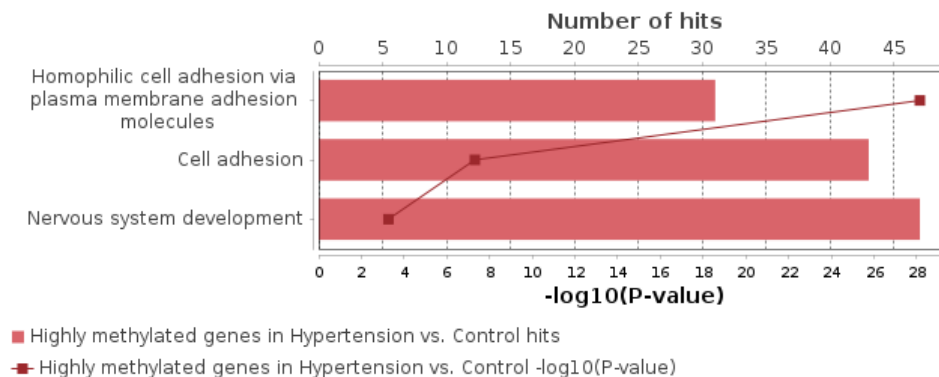


Figure 4. Enriched HumanPSD(TM) disease (2022.2) of highly methylated genes in Hypertension vs. Control. The size of the bars correspond to the number of biomarkers of the given disease found among the input set.

[Full classification](#) →

The result of overall Gene Ontology (GO) analysis of the highly methylated genes of the studied pathology can be summarized by the following diagram, revealing the most significant functional categories overrepresented among the observed (highly methylated genes):



■ Highly methylated genes in Hypertension vs. Control hits
■ Highly methylated genes in Hypertension vs. Control $-\log_{10}(P\text{-value})$

3.3. Analysis of enriched transcription factor binding sites and composite modules

In the next step a search for transcription factors binding sites (TFBS) was performed in the regulatory regions of the **target genes** by using the TF binding motif library of the [TRANSFAC®](#) database. We searched for so called **composite modules** that act as potential condition-specific **enhancers** of the **target genes** in their upstream regulatory regions (-1000 bp upstream of transcription start site (TSS)) and identify transcription factors regulating activity of the genes through such **enhancers**.

Classically, **enhancers** are defined as regions in the genome that increase transcription of one or several genes when inserted in either orientation at various distances upstream or downstream of the gene [8]. Enhancers typically have a length of several hundreds of nucleotides and are bound by multiple transcription factors in a cooperative manner [9].

In the current work we use the Epigenomics data from the track(s) "Methylation track" to predict positions of potential **enhancers** regulating the highly methylated genes revealed by comparative epigenomics analysis. We took genomic regions -550bp upstream and 550bp downstream from the middle point of each interval of the track and check if these regions are located inside the 5kb flanking areas of the highly methylated genes (or inside the body of the genes). In such cases, these genomic regions are used for the search for potential condition-specific enhancers. In all other cases when the differentially expressed genes did not contain epigenomic peaks in their body or in the 5kb flanking regions we used the upstream regulatory regions of these genes (-1000bp upstream and 100bp downstream of TSS) for the search for condition-specific enhancers.

We applied the Composite Module Analyst (CMA) [8] method to detect such potential enhancers, as targets of multiple TFs bound in a cooperative manner to the regulatory regions of the genes of interest. CMA applies a genetic algorithm to construct

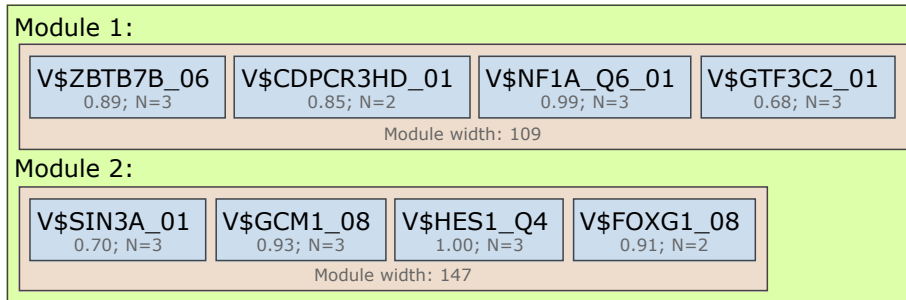
a generalized model of the enhancers by specifying combinations of TF motifs (from [TRANSFAC®](#)) whose sites are most frequently clustered together in the regulatory regions of the studied genes. CMA identifies the transcription factors that through their cooperation provide a synergistic effect and thus have a great influence on the gene regulation process.

Enhancer model potentially involved in regulation of target genes (highly methylated genes in Hypertension vs. Control).

To build the most specific composite modules we choose top methylated genes as the input of CMA algorithm. The obtained CMA model is then applied to compute CMA score for all highly methylated genes in Hypertension vs. Control.

The model consists of 2 module(s). Below, for each module the following information is shown:

- PWMs producing matches,
- number of individual matches for each PWM,
- score of the best match.



Model score (-p*log10(pval)): 27.89

Wilcoxon p-value (pval): 9.21e-53

Penalty (p): 0.536

Average yes-set score: 6.10

Average no-set score: 4.73

AUC: 0.72

Separation point: 5.86

False-positive: 23.15%

False-negative: 41.83%

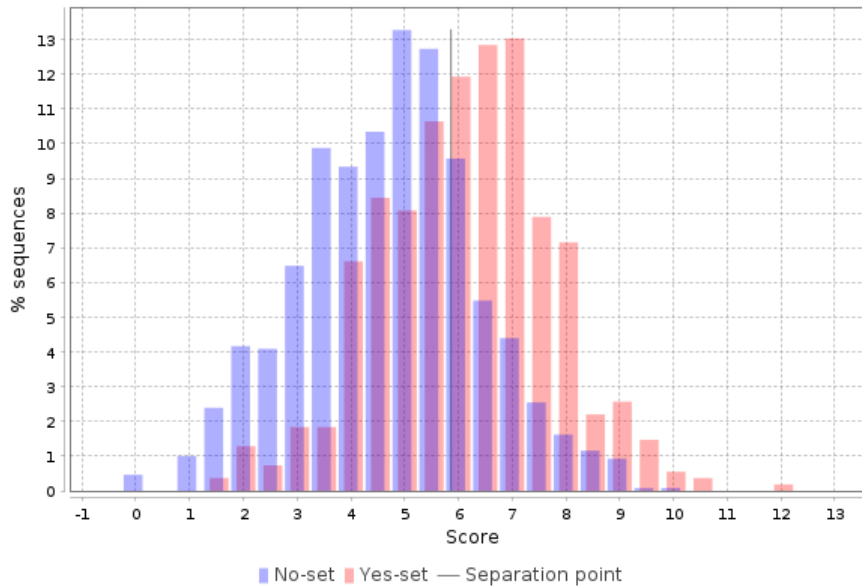


Table 3. List of top ten highly methylated genes in Hypertension vs. Control with identified enhancers in their regulatory regions. **CMA score** - the score of the CMA model of the enhancer identified in the regulatory region.

[See full table](#) →

Ensembl IDs	Gene symbol	Gene description	CMA score	Factor names
ENSG00000236409	NRADDP	neurotrophin receptor associated death domain, pseudogene	11.65	HES-1(h), GTF3C2(h), GCMA(h), SIN3A(h), FOXG1(h), ZBTB7B(h), CUX-1(h)...
ENSG00000206013	IFITM5	interferon induced transmembrane protein 5	11.56	ZBTB7B(h), GTF3C2(h), GCMA(h), CUX-1(h), NF-1A(h), SIN3A(h), HES-1(h)...
ENSG00000259863	SH3RF3-AS1	SH3RF3 antisense RNA 1	11.35	NF-1A(h), GCMA(h), ZBTB7B(h), CUX-1(h), GTF3C2(h), SIN3A(h), FOXG1(h)...
ENSG00000070886	EPHA8	EPH receptor A8	11.35	NF-1A(h), ZBTB7B(h), GTF3C2(h), CUX-1(h), GCMA(h), SIN3A(h), FOXG1(h)
ENSG00000268895	A1BG-AS1	A1BG antisense RNA 1	10.94	CUX-1(h), HES-1(h), GCMA(h), FOXG1(h), GTF3C2(h), ZBTB7B(h), SIN3A(h)
ENSG00000236830	CBR3-AS1	CBR3 antisense RNA 1	10.91	HES-1(h), FOXG1(h), SIN3A(h), NF-1A(h), GCMA(h), ZBTB7B(h), CUX-1(h)
ENSG00000130600	H19	H19 imprinted maternally expressed transcript	10.85	GCMA(h), SIN3A(h), FOXG1(h), HES-1(h), CUX-1(h), NF-1A(h), GTF3C2(h)
ENSG00000178498	DTX3	deltex E3 ubiquitin ligase 3	10.78	SIN3A(h), ZBTB7B(h), GTF3C2(h), NF-1A(h), HES-1(h), CUX-1(h), FOXG1(h)...
ENSG00000258654		novel transcript	10.74	GTF3C2(h), NF-1A(h), ZBTB7B(h), CUX-1(h), SIN3A(h), HES-1(h), FOXG1(h)
ENSG00000172037	LAMB2	laminin subunit beta 2	10.64	SIN3A(h), CUX-1(h), HES-1(h), GCMA(h), ZBTB7B(h), NF-1A(h), GTF3C2(h)

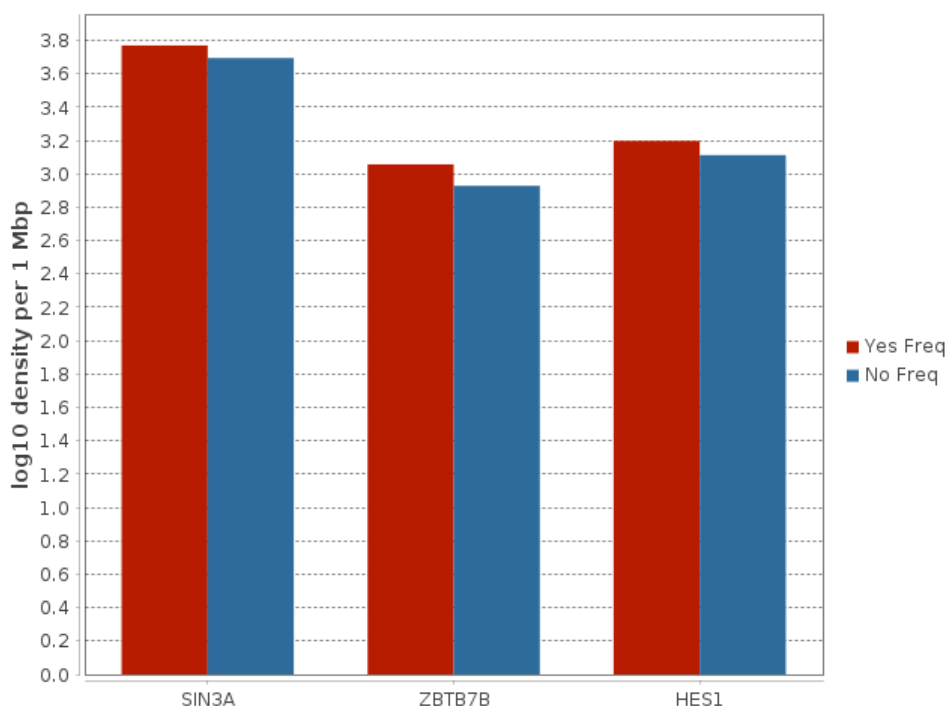
On the basis of the enhancer models we identified transcription factors potentially regulating the **target genes** of our interest. We found 8 transcription factors controlling expression of highly methylated genes in Hypertension vs. Control (see Table 4).

Table 4. Transcription factors of the predicted enhancer model potentially regulating the highly methylated genes (highly methylated genes in Hypertension vs. Control). **Yes-No ratio** is the ratio between frequencies of the sites in Yes sequences versus No sequences. It describes the level of the enrichment of binding sites for the indicated TF in the regulatory target regions. **Regulatory score** is the measure of involvement of the given TF in the controlling of expression of genes that encode master regulators presented below (through positive feedback loops).

[See full table](#) →

ID	Gene symbol	Gene description	Regulatory score	Yes-No ratio
MO000030983	SIN3A	SIN3 transcription regulator family member A	2.14	1.19
MO000095587	ZBTB7B	zinc finger and BTB domain containing 7B	2.13	1.34
MO000091444	HES1	hes family bHLH transcription factor 1	2	1.22
MO000024708	CUX1	cut like homeobox 1	1.96	1.54
MO000026306	GCM1	glial cells missing transcription factor 1	1.86	4
MO000028708	NFIA	nuclear factor I A	1.8	1.43
MO000057363	GTF3C2	general transcription factor IIIC subunit 2	1.77	1.21
MO000026342	FOXG1	forkhead box G1	0	1.41

The following diagram represents the key transcription factors, which were predicted to be potentially regulating highly methylated genes in the analyzed pathology: SIN3A, ZBTB7B and HES1.



3.4. Finding master regulators in networks

In the second step of the upstream analysis common regulators of the revealed TFs were identified. These master regulators appear to be the key candidates for therapeutic targets as they have a master effect on regulation of intracellular pathways that activate the pathological process of our study. The identified master regulators are shown in Table 5.

Table 5. Master regulators that may govern the regulation of highly methylated genes in Hypertension vs. Control. **Total rank** is the sum of the ranks of the master molecules sorted by keynode score, CMA score, epigenomics data.

See full table →

ID	Master molecule name	Gene symbol	Gene description	Total rank
MO000039095	(BMP2A:ActR-II:BMPR-IA{pS}{pT})2:XIAP:TAB1:TAK1	ACVR2A, BMP2, BMPR1A, MAP3K7, TAB1, XIAP	TGF-beta activated kinase 1 (MAP3K7) binding protein 1, X-linked inhibitor of apoptosis, activin A r...	56
MO000032649	IRS-4(h)	IRS4	insulin receptor substrate 4	78
MO000019309	IKK-gamma(h)	IKBKKG	inhibitor of nuclear factor kappa B kinase regulatory subunit gamma	95
MO000041185	IKK-gamma(h){ub{K63}(n)}	IKBKKG	inhibitor of nuclear factor kappa B kinase regulatory subunit gamma	95
MO000098003	IKK-gamma(h){ub}	IKBKKG	inhibitor of nuclear factor kappa B kinase regulatory subunit gamma	95
MO000200698	IKK-gamma-isoform2(h)	IKBKKG	inhibitor of nuclear factor kappa B kinase regulatory subunit gamma	95
MO000200699	IKK-gamma-isoform3(h)	IKBKKG	inhibitor of nuclear factor kappa B kinase regulatory subunit gamma	95
MO000314024	IKK-gamma(h){ub}n	IKBKKG	inhibitor of nuclear factor kappa B kinase regulatory subunit gamma	95
MO000041159	(ED1-A1:EDAR)3:TRAF3:NIK	EDA, EDAR, MAP3K14, TRAF3	TNF receptor associated factor 3, ectodysplasin A, ectodysplasin A receptor, mitogen-activated prote...	100
MO000041160	(ED1-A2:XEDAR)3:TRAF3:NIK	EDA, EDA2R, MAP3K14, TRAF3	TNF receptor associated factor 3, ectodysplasin A, ectodysplasin A2 receptor, mitogen-activated prot...	100

The intracellular regulatory pathways controlled by the above-mentioned master regulators are depicted in Figure 5. This diagram displays the connections between identified transcription factors, which play important roles in the regulation of highly methylated genes, and selected master regulators, which are responsible for the regulation of these TFs.

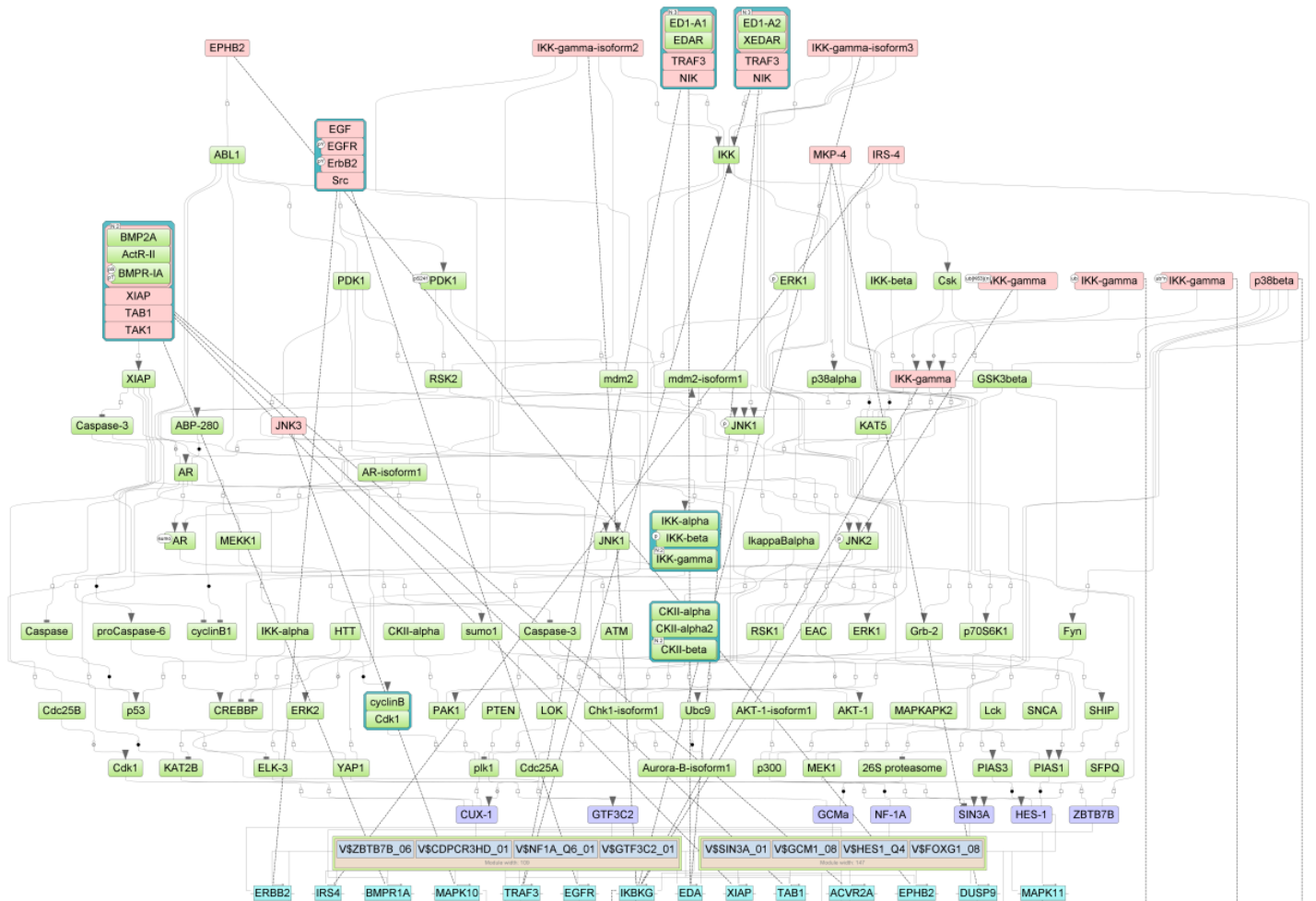


Figure 5. Diagram of intracellular regulatory signal transduction pathways of highly methylated genes in Hypertension vs. Control. Master regulators are indicated by red rectangles, transcription factors are blue rectangles, and green rectangles are intermediate molecules, which have been added to the network during the search for master regulators from selected TFs.

See full diagram →


4. Finding prospective drug targets

The identified master regulators that may govern pathology associated genes were checked for druggability potential using HumanPSD™ [5] database of gene-disease-drug assignments and PASS [11-13] software for prediction of biological activities of chemical compounds on the basis of a (Q)SAR approach. Respectively, for each master regulator protein we have computed two Druggability scores: HumanPSD Druggability score and PASS Druggability score. Where Druggability score represents the number of drugs that are potentially suitable for inhibition (or activation) of the corresponding target either according to the information extracted from medical literature (from HumanPSD™ database) or according to cheminformatics predictions of compounds activity against the examined target (from PASS software).

The cheminformatics druggability check is done using a pre-computed database of spectra of biological activities of chemical compounds from a library of all small molecular drugs from HumanPSD™ database, 2507 pharmaceutically active known chemical compounds in total. The spectra of biological activities has been computed using the program PASS [11-13] on the basis of a (Q)SAR approach.


If both Druggability scores were below defined thresholds (see Methods section for the details) such master regulator proteins were not used in further analysis of drug prediction.

As a result we created the following two tables of prospective drug targets (top targets are shown here):

 Table 6. Prospective drug targets selected from full list of identified master regulators filtered by Druggability score from HumanPSD™ database. **Druggability score** contains the number of drugs that are potentially suitable for inhibition (or activation) of the target. The drug targets are sorted according to the **Total rank** which is the sum of three ranks computed on the basis of the three scores: keynode score, CMA score and expression change score (logFC, if present). See Methods section for details.

[See full table](#) →

Gene symbol	Gene Description	Druggability score	Total rank
RPS6KA3	ribosomal protein S6 kinase A3	34	142
TSPYL2	TSPY like 2	1	150
ACVR2A	activin A receptor type 2A	26	186
BMPR1A	bone morphogenetic protein receptor type 1A	26	213
EPHB2	EPH receptor B2	30	264
MAPK11	mitogen-activated protein kinase 11	60	268

 Table 7. Prospective drug targets selected from full list of identified master regulators filtered by Druggability score predicted by PASS software. Here, the **Druggability score** for master regulator proteins is computed as a sum of PASS calculated probabilities to be active as a target for various small molecular compounds. The drug targets are sorted according to the **Total rank** which is the sum of three ranks computed on the basis of the three scores: keynode score, CMA score and expression change score (logFC, if present). See Methods section for details.

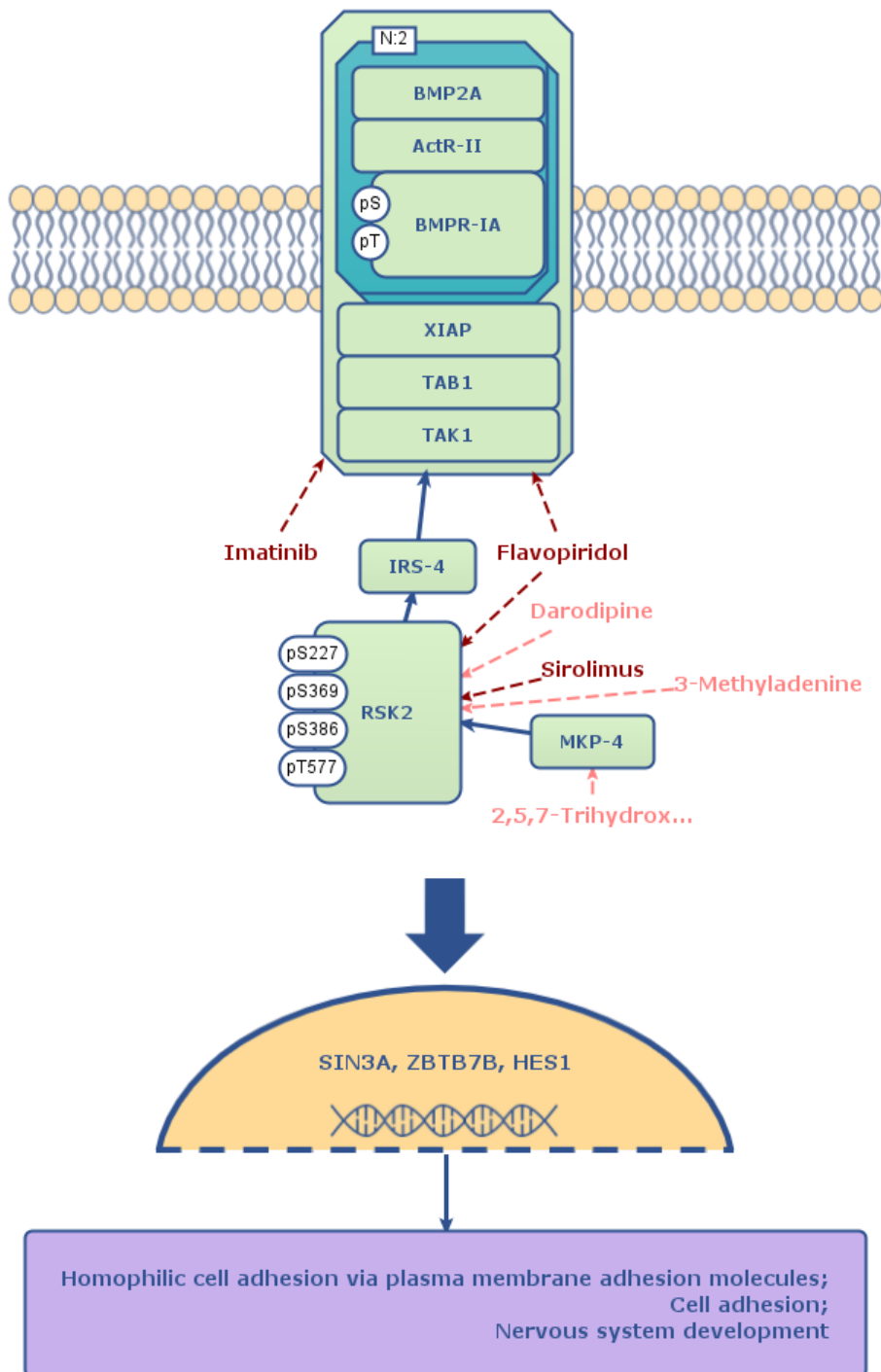
[See full table](#) →

Gene symbol	Gene Description	Druggability score	Total rank
RPS6KA3	ribosomal protein S6 kinase A3	18.8	142
DUSP9	dual specificity phosphatase 9	35.02	185
PTPRR	protein tyrosine phosphatase receptor type R	16.75	238
EPHB2	EPH receptor B2	33.6	264
PTPN13	protein tyrosine phosphatase non-receptor type 13	16.75	265
MAPK11	mitogen-activated protein kinase 11	97.83	268

Below we represent schematically the main mechanism of the studied pathology. In the schema we considered the top two drug targets of each of the two categories computed above. In addition we have added two top identified master regulators for which no drugs may be identified yet, but that are playing the crucial role in the molecular mechanism of the studied pathology. Thus the molecular mechanism of the studied pathology was predicted to be mainly based on the following key master regulators:

- IRS-4
- RSK2
- (BMP2A:ActR-II:BMPR-IA{pS}{pT})2:XIAP:TAB1:TAK1
- MKP-4

This result allows us to suggest the following schema of affecting the molecular mechanism of the studied pathology:



Drugs which are shown on this schema: 2,5,7-Trihydroxynaphthoquinone, Imatinib, Flavopiridol, Sirolimus, Darodipine and 3-Methyladenine, should be considered as a prospective research initiative for further drug repurposing and drug development. These drugs were selected as top matching treatments to the most prospective drug targets of the studied pathology, however, these results should be considered with special caution and are to be used for research purposes only, as there is not enough clinical information for adapting these results towards immediate treatment of patients.

The drugs given in dark red color on the schema are FDA approved drugs or drugs which have gone through various phases of clinical trials as active treatments against the selected targets.

The drugs given in pink color on the schema are drugs, which were cheminformatically predicted to be active against the selected targets.

5. Identification of potential drugs

In the last step of the analysis we strived to identify known activities as well as drugs with cheminformatically predicted activities that are potentially suitable for inhibition (or activation) of the identified molecular targets in the context of specified human diseases(s).

Proposed drugs are top ranked drug candidates, that were found to be active on the identified targets and were selected from 4 categories:

1. FDA approved drugs or used in clinical trials drugs for the studied pathology;
2. Repurposing drugs used in clinical trials for other pathologies;
3. Drugs, predicted by PASS to be active against identified drug targets and against the studied pathology;
4. Drugs, predicted by PASS to be active against identified drug targets but for other pathologies.

Proposed drugs were selected on the basis of Drug rank which was computed from the ranks sum based on the individual ranks of the following scores:

- Target activity score (depends on ranks of all targets that were found for the selected drug);
- Disease activity score (weighted sum of number of clinical trials on disease(s) under study where the selected drug is known to be applied or PASS Disease activity score - cheminformatically predicted property of the compound to be active against the studied disease(s));
- Clinical validity score (applicable only for drugs predicted on the basis of literature curation in HumanPSD™ database (Tables 8 and 9), reflects the number of the highest clinical trials phase on which the drug was tested for any pathology).

You can refer to the Methods section for more details on drug ranking procedure.

Based on the Drug rank, a numerical value of Drug score was calculated, which reflects the potential activity of the respective drug on the overall molecular mechanism of the studied pathology. Drug score values belong to the range from 1 to 100 and are calculated as a quotient of maximum drug rank and the drug rank of the given drug multiplied by 100.

Top drugs of each category are given in the tables below:

Drugs approved in clinical trials



Table 8. FDA approved drugs or drugs used in clinical trials for the studied pathology (most promising treatment candidates selected for the identified drug targets on the basis of literature curation in *HumanPSD™* database)

[See full table →](#)

Name	Target names	Drug score	Disease activity score	Disease trial phase
Siroliimus	MAPK10, RPS6KA3, PIM2, MARK3, MTOR, MAPK11, FGF2, PRKD1, STK3, PRKCZ	94	10	Phase 4: Hypertension, Acute Coronary Syndrome, Angina Pectoris, Angina, Unstable, Angiomyolipoma, Arterial Occlusive Diseases, Arteriosclerosis, Communicable Diseases, Congenital Abnormalities, Connective Tissue Diseases, Constriction, Pathologic, Coronary Artery Disease, Coronary Disease, Coronary Restenosis, Coronary Stenosis, Cytomegalovirus Infections, Delayed Graft Function, Diabetes Mellitus, Diabetes Mellitus, Type 1, Dyslipidemias, Fibroma, Fibrosis, Gastrointestinal Neoplasms, Graft vs Host Disease, HIV Infections, Heart Diseases, Hemangioendothelioma, Hemangioma, Hemoglobinuria, Hemoglobinuria, Paroxysmal, Hepatitis, Hepatitis A, Hepatitis C, Hyperlipidemias, Infarction, Infections, Inflammation, Influenza, Human, Intestinal Neoplasms, Ischemia, Kasabach-Merritt Syndrome, Kidney Diseases, Kidney Failure, Chronic, Leiomyoma, Leiomyomatosis, Lipoma, Liver Diseases, Lung Diseases, Lung Diseases, Interstitial, Lymphangioma, Lymphatic Abnormalities, Lymphoma, Lymphoma, Mantle-Cell, Lymphoma, Non-Hodgkin, Myocardial Infarction, Myocardial Ischemia, Myofibroma, Myoma, Neoplasms, Nevus, Nevus, Blue, Peutz-Jeghers Syndrome, Recurrence, Red-Cell Aplasia, Pure, Renal Insufficiency, Renal Insufficiency, Chronic, Sarcoma, Sarcoma, Kaposi, Skin Neoplasms, Syndrome, Thrombocytopenia, Tuberos Sclerosis, Vascular Malformations, Virus Diseases
Imatinib	MAPK10, RPS6KA3, BMPR1A, MARK3, PRKAA2, INSR, LTK, EGFR, ACVR2A, PRKG1, ERBB2, CAMK2B, PRKD1, PKMYT1, IGF1R, BMX, LCK, PIM2, EPHB2, RPS6KA2, MAPK4, CSNK1G2, PAK3, BTK, MAPK11, FYN, RET, STK3	94	7	Phase 3: Hypertension, Astrocytoma, Bone Marrow Diseases, COVID-19, Cerebral Infarction, Familial Primary Pulmonary Hypertension, Fibrosarcoma, Fibrosis, Gastrointestinal Stromal Tumors, Glioblastoma, Graft vs Host Disease, Hematologic Diseases, Hypertension, Pulmonary, Idiopathic Pulmonary Fibrosis, Infarction, Ischemia, Ischemic Stroke, Leukemia, Leukemia, Biphenotypic, Acute, Leukemia, Lymphoid, Leukemia, Myelogenous, Chronic, BCR-ABL Positive, Leukemia, Myeloid, Leukemia, Myeloid, Chronic-Phase, Lung Diseases, Lymphoma, Lymphoma, Non-Hodgkin, Mucositis, Neoplasms, Nephrogenic Fibrosing Dermopathy, Nerve Sheath Neoplasms, Neurilemmoma, Neurofibrosarcoma, Pneumonia, Precursor Cell Lymphoblastic Leukemia-Lymphoma, Precursor T-Cell Lymphoblastic Leukemia-Lymphoma, Pulmonary Arterial Hypertension, Pulmonary Fibrosis, Recurrence, Sarcoma, Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome, Stroke
Sorafenib	MAPK10, RPS6KA3, BMPR1A, MARK3, PRKAA2, INSR, LTK, EGFR, ACVR2A, PRKG1, ERBB2, CAMK2B, PRKD1, PKMYT1, IGF1R, BMX, LCK, PIM2, EPHB2, RPS6KA2, MAPK4, CSNK1G2, PAK3, PRKCZ, BTK, MAPK11, FYN, RET, STK3	93	3	Phase 2: Hypertension, Acute Disease, Adenocarcinoma, Adenocarcinoma of Lung, Adenocarcinoma, Follicular, Adenoma, Adenoma, Liver Cell, Adrenal Cortex Neoplasms, Adrenocortical Carcinoma, Astrocytoma, Bile Duct Neoplasms, Biliary Tract Neoplasms, Brain Abscess, Brain Neoplasms, Breast Neoplasms, Breast Neoplasms, Male, Carcinoid Tumor, Carcinoma, Carcinoma, Ductal, Carcinoma, Hepatocellular, Carcinoma, Islet Cell, Carcinoma, Medullary, Carcinoma, Neuroendocrine, Carcinoma, Non-Small-Cell Lung, Carcinoma, Ovarian Epithelial, Carcinoma, Renal Cell, Carcinoma, Small Cell, Carcinoma, Squamous Cell, Carcinoma, Transitional Cell, Carcinoma, Verrucous, Carcinosarcoma, Central Nervous System Neoplasms, Cholangiocarcinoma, Colonic Neoplasms, Colorectal Neoplasms, Desmoplastic Small Round Cell Tumor, Digestive System Neoplasms, Disease Progression, Endocrine Gland Neoplasms, Esophageal Neoplasms, Fallopian Tube Neoplasms, Fibroma, Fibrosarcoma, Fibrosis, Gallbladder Neoplasms, Gastrinoma, Gastrointestinal Neoplasms, Gastrointestinal Stromal Tumors, Glioblastoma, Glioma, Gliosarcoma, Glucagonoma, Head and Neck Neoplasms, Hemangiosarcoma, Hepatitis, Hepatitis A, Hepatitis B, Hepatitis C, Hepatoblastoma, Hepatopulmonary Syndrome, Hypertension, Portal, Hypopharyngeal Neoplasms, Immunoblastic Lymphadenopathy, Insulinoma, Intestinal Neoplasms, Keloid, Kidney Diseases, Kidney Neoplasms, Klatskin Tumor, Laryngeal Diseases, Laryngeal Neoplasms, Leiomyosarcoma, Leukemia, Leukemia, Biphenotypic, Acute, Leukemia, Lymphocytic, Chronic, B-Cell, Leukemia, Lymphoid, Leukemia, Monocytic, Acute, Leukemia, Myelogenous, Chronic, BCR-ABL Positive, Leukemia, Myeloid, Leukemia, Myeloid, Acute, Leukemia, Myelomonocytic, Chronic, Leukemia, Myelomonocytic, Juvenile, Leukemia, Promyelocytic, Acute, Leukemia, T-Cell, Leukemia-Lymphoma, Adult T-Cell, Liver Cirrhosis, Liver Diseases, Liver Neoplasms, Lung Neoplasms, Lymphadenopathy, Lymphatic Diseases, Lymphoma, Lymphoma, Large B-Cell, Diffuse, Lymphoma, Large-Cell, Anaplastic, Lymphoma, Large-Cell, Immunoblastic, Lymphoma, Mantle-Cell, Lymphoma, Non-Hodgkin, Lymphoma, T-Cell, Lymphoma, T-Cell, Cutaneous, Lymphoma, T-Cell, Peripheral, Malignant Carcinoid Syndrome, Melanoma, Mesothelioma, Mesothelioma, Malignant, Metaplasia, Mixed Tumor, Mullerian, Multiple Endocrine Neoplasia, Multiple Endocrine Neoplasia Type 2a, Multiple Endocrine Neoplasia Type 2b, Multiple Myeloma, Myelodysplastic Syndromes, Myeloproliferative Disorders, Myosarcoma, Nasopharyngeal Carcinoma, Nasopharyngeal Neoplasms, Neoplasm

				Metastasis, Neoplasms, Neoplasms by Histologic Type, Neoplasms by Site, Neoplasms, Glandular and Epithelial, Neoplasms, Plasma Cell, Neoplasms, Second Primary, Neoplasms, Squamous Cell, Neoplasms, Unknown Primary, Nerve Sheath Neoplasms, Nervous System Neoplasms, Neuroblastoma, Neuroectodermal Tumors, Neuroectodermal Tumors, Primitive, Neuroectodermal Tumors, Primitive, Peripheral, Neuroendocrine Tumors, Neurofibroma, Neurofibromatoses, Neurofibromatosis 1, Neurofibrosarcoma, Oropharyngeal Neoplasms, Osteosarcoma, Ovarian Neoplasms, Pancreatic Neoplasms, Paranasal Sinus Neoplasms, Peritoneal Neoplasms, Pharyngeal Neoplasms, Plasmablastic Lymphoma, Plasmacytoma, Precursor Cell Lymphoblastic Leukemia-Lymphoma, Preleukemia, Prostatic Neoplasms, Prostatic Neoplasms, Castration-Resistant, Rectal Neoplasms, Recurrence, Retroviridae Infections, Rhabdomyosarcoma, Rhabdomyosarcoma, Embryonal, Salivary Gland Neoplasms, Sarcoma, Sarcoma, Ewing, Sarcoma, Synovial, Skin Neoplasms, Small Cell Lung Carcinoma, Somatostatinoma, Squamous Cell Carcinoma of Head and Neck, Stomach Neoplasms, Syndrome, Testicular Neoplasms, Thrombosis, Thyroid Cancer, Papillary, Thyroid Carcinoma, Anaplastic, Thyroid Diseases, Thyroid Neoplasms, Tongue Neoplasms, Triple Negative Breast Neoplasms, Ureteral Neoplasms, Urethral Neoplasms, Urinary Bladder Neoplasms, Uterine Cervical Neoplasms, Uveal Neoplasms, Vaccinia, Vipoma, Wilms Tumor
Pazopanib	MAPK10, RPS6KA3, BMPR1A, MARK3, PRKAA2, INSR, LTK, EGFR, ACVR2A, PRKG1, ERBB2, CAMK2B, PRKD1, PKMYT1, IGF1R, BMX, LCK, PIM2, EPHB2, RPS6KA2, MAPK4, CSNK1G2, PAK3, BTK, MAPK11, FYN, RET, STK3	91	2	Phase 2: Hypertension, Adenocarcinoma, Anemia, Brain Abscess, Brain Neoplasms, Breast Neoplasms, Breast Neoplasms, Male, Carcinoid Tumor, Carcinoma, Carcinoma, Islet Cell, Carcinoma, Medullary, Carcinoma, Neuroendocrine, Carcinoma, Non-Small-Cell Lung, Carcinoma, Ovarian Epithelial, Carcinoma, Renal Cell, Carcinoma, Small Cell, Carcinoma, Squamous Cell, Carcinoma, Transitional Cell, Carcinosarcoma, Central Nervous System Neoplasms, Cholangiocarcinoma, Chondrosarcoma, Chondrosarcoma, Mesenchymal, Corneal Neovascularization, Dermatofibrosarcoma, Desmoplastic Small Round Cell Tumor, Dilatation, Pathologic, Drug-Related Side Effects and Adverse Reactions, Edema, Endocrine Gland Neoplasms, Epistaxis, Fallopian Tube Neoplasms, Fibroma, Fibromatosis, Aggressive, Fibrosarcoma, Gallbladder Neoplasms, Gastrinoma, Gastrointestinal Neoplasms, Gastrointestinal Stromal Tumors, Glioblastoma, Glioma, Gliosarcoma, Glomus Tumor, Glucagonoma, Granular Cell Tumor, Hemangioendothelioma, Hemangioendothelioma, Epithelioid, Hemangiopericytoma, Hemangiosarcoma, Hemorrhage, Histiocytoma, Histiocytoma, Benign Fibrous, Histiocytoma, Malignant Fibrous, Hypersensitivity, Inflammatory Breast Neoplasms, Insulinoma, Intestinal Neoplasms, Kidney Neoplasms, Leiomyosarcoma, Leukemia, Leukemia, Myeloid, Leukemia, Myeloid, Acute, Liposarcoma, Lung Neoplasms, Lymphedema, Macular Degeneration, Malignant Carcinoid Syndrome, Melanoma, Mesothelioma, Mesothelioma, Malignant, Mixed Tumor, Mullerian, Multiple Endocrine Neoplasia, Multiple Endocrine Neoplasia Type 1, Multiple Myeloma, Myosarcoma, Nasopharyngeal Carcinoma, Neoplasms, Neoplasms, Fibrous Tissue, Neoplasms, Germ Cell and Embryonal, Neovascularization, Pathologic, Nerve Sheath Neoplasms, Nervous System Neoplasms, Neuroendocrine Tumors, Neurofibrosarcoma, Osteosarcoma, Ovarian Neoplasms, Pancreatic Neoplasms, Paraganglioma, Paraganglioma, Extra-Adrenal, Peritoneal Neoplasms, Pheochromocytoma, Prostatic Neoplasms, Prostatic Neoplasms, Castration-Resistant, Ranula, Recurrence, Retroviridae Infections, Rhabdomyosarcoma, Salivary Gland Neoplasms, Sarcoma, Sarcoma, Alveolar Soft Part, Sarcoma, Clear Cell, Sarcoma, Synovial, Small Cell Lung Carcinoma, Solitary Fibrous Tumors, Somatostatinoma, Squamous Cell Carcinoma of Head and Neck, Stomach Neoplasms, Syndrome, Telangiectasia, Hereditary Hemorrhagic, Telangiectasis, Thyroid Carcinoma, Anaplastic, Thyroid Diseases, Thyroid Neoplasms, Ureteral Neoplasms, Urethral Neoplasms, Urinary Bladder Neoplasms, Uterine Cervical Neoplasms, Uterine Neoplasms, von Hippel-Lindau Disease
Pirfenidone	MAPK11, FURIN	87	3	Phase 2: Hypertension, Albinism, Albinism, Oculocutaneous, Alveolitis, Extrinsic Allergic, Anthracosis, Arthritis, Arthritis, Rheumatoid, Brain Abscess, Breast Cancer Lymphedema, Breast Neoplasms, Bronchiolitis, Bronchiolitis Obliterans, Burns, COVID-19, Carcinoma, Non-Small-Cell Lung, Cardiomyopathies, Cardiomyopathy, Hypertrophic, Diabetic Foot, Diabetic Nephropathies, Edema, Fibroma, Fibrosis, Foot Ulcer, Glomerulosclerosis, Focal Segmental, Heart Failure, Hepatitis, Hepatitis A, Hepatitis C, Hepatitis C, Chronic, Hermanski-Pudlak Syndrome, Hypersensitivity, Hypertension, Pulmonary, Hypertrophy, Idiopathic Pulmonary Fibrosis, Infarction, Kidney Diseases, Leiomyoma, Liver Cirrhosis, Liver Diseases, Lung Diseases, Lung Diseases, Interstitial, Lung Injury, Lymphedema, Metabolism, Inborn Errors, Multiple Sclerosis, Muscular Diseases, Myocardial Infarction, Myofibroma, Myoma, Neoplasms, Nephrosis, Nephrotic Syndrome, Neurofibroma, Neurofibroma, Plexiform, Neurofibromatoses, Neurofibromatosis 1, Pancreatitis, Platelet Storage Pool Deficiency, Pneumoconiosis, Pneumonia, Proteinuria, Pulmonary Fibrosis, Rage, Renal Insufficiency, Renal Insufficiency, Chronic, Respiration Disorders, Respiratory Tract Diseases, ST Elevation Myocardial Infarction, Scleroderma, Diffuse, Scleroderma, Localized, Scleroderma, Systemic, Sclerosis, Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome, Silicosis, Syndrome, Ulcer, Wounds and Injuries

The **Disease trial phase** column reflects the maximum clinical trials phase in which the drug was studied for the analyzed pathology.

Repurposing drugs



Table 9. Repurposed drugs used in clinical trials for other pathologies (prospective drugs against the identified drug targets on the basis of literature curation in *HumanPSD™* database)

[See full table](#) →

Name	Target names	Drug score	Maximum trial phase
Flavopiridol	MAPK10, RPS6KA3, CDK6, BMPR1A, MARK3, PRKAA2, INSR, LTK, EGFR, ACVR2A, PRKG1, ERBB2, CAMK2B, PRKD1, PKMYT1, IGF1R, BMX, LCK, PIM2, EPHB2, RPS6KA2, MAPK4, CSNK1G2, PAK3, BTK, XIAP, MAPK11, FYN, RET, STK3	87	Phase 2: Adenocarcinoma, Brain Abscess, Breast Neoplasms, Carcinoma, Hepatocellular, Carcinoma, Ovarian Epithelial, Carcinoma, Renal Cell, Embolism, Endometrial Neoplasms, Esophageal Neoplasms, Germinoma, Granuloma, Head and Neck Neoplasms, Hodgkin Disease, Hypereosinophilic Syndrome, Immunoblastic Lymphadenopathy, Kidney Neoplasms, Leukemia, Leukemia, Basophilic, Acute, Leukemia, Eosinophilic, Acute, Leukemia, Erythroblastic, Acute, Leukemia, Lymphocytic, Chronic, B-Cell, Leukemia, Lymphoid, Leukemia, Megakaryoblastic, Acute, Leukemia, Monocytic, Acute, Leukemia, Myeloid, Leukemia, Myeloid, Acute, Leukemia, Myelomonocytic, Acute, Leukemia, Prolymphocytic, Leukemia, T-Cell, Leukemia-Lymphoma, Adult T-Cell, Liver Neoplasms, Lymphadenopathy, Lymphatic Diseases, Lymphoma, Lymphoma, B-Cell, Lymphoma, B-Cell, Marginal Zone, Lymphoma, Follicular, Lymphoma, Large B-Cell, Diffuse, Lymphoma, Large-Cell, Anaplastic, Lymphoma, Mantle-Cell, Lymphoma, Non-Hodgkin, Lymphoma, T-Cell, Lymphoma, T-Cell, Cutaneous, Lymphomatoid Granulomatosis, Melanoma, Multiple Myeloma, Mycoses, Mycosis Fungoides, Myelodysplastic Syndromes, Neoplasms, Neoplasms, Germ Cell and Embryonal, Neoplasms, Plasma Cell, Ovarian Neoplasms, Pancreatic Neoplasms, Peritoneal Neoplasms, Precursor Cell Lymphoblastic Leukemia-Lymphoma, Preleukemia, Prostatic Neoplasms, Prostatic Neoplasms, Castration-Resistant, Recurrence, Sarcoma, Seminoma, Sezary Syndrome, Stomach Neoplasms, Testicular Neoplasms, Thromboembolism, Waldenstrom Macroglobulinemia
Dasatinib	MAPK10, RPS6KA3, BMPR1A, MARK3, PRKAA2, INSR, LTK, EGFR, ACVR2A, PRKG1, ERBB2, CAMK2B, PRKD1, PKMYT1, IGF1R, BMX, LCK, PIM2, EPHB2, RPS6KA2, MAPK4, CSNK1G2, PAK3, PRKCZ, BTK, MAPK11, FYN, RET, STK3	87	Phase 4: Hematologic Neoplasms, Leukemia, Leukemia, Lymphoid, Leukemia, Myelogenous, Chronic, BCR-ABL Positive, Leukemia, Myeloid, Leukemia, Myeloid, Chronic-Phase, Lymphoma, Neoplasms, Precursor Cell Lymphoblastic Leukemia-Lymphoma
ruboxistaurin	MAPK10, RPS6KA3, BMPR1A, MARK3, PRKAA2, INSR, LTK, EGFR, ACVR2A, PRKG1, ERBB2, CAMK2B, PRKD1, PKMYT1, IGF1R, BMX, LCK, PIM2, EPHB2, PRKCG, RPS6KA2, MAPK4, CSNK1G2, PAK3, PRKCZ, BTK, MAPK11, FYN, RET, STK3	87	Phase 3: Diabetes Mellitus, Diabetes Mellitus, Type 1, Diabetes Mellitus, Type 2, Diabetic Neuropathies, Diabetic Retinopathy, Edema, Macular Edema, Nervous System Diseases, Peripheral Nervous System Diseases, Retinal Diseases
CI-1033	MAPK10, RPS6KA3,	87	Phase 2: Breast Neoplasms, Carcinoma, Non-Small-Cell Lung, Lung Neoplasms, Neoplasms

BMPR1A,
MARK3,
PRKAA2,
INSR, LTK,
EGFR,
ACVR2A,
PRKG1,
ERBB2,
CAMK2B,
PRKD1,
PKMYT1,
IGF1R, BMX,
LCK, PIM2,
EPHB2,
RPS6KA2,
MAPK4,
CSNK1G2,
ERBB4,
PAK3, BTK,
MAPK11,
FYN, RET,
STK3

pelitinib	87	Phase 2: Carcinoma, Non-Small-Cell Lung, Colonic Neoplasms, Colorectal Neoplasms, Neoplasms, Rectal Neoplasms
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The **Maximum trial phase** column reflects the maximum clinical trials phase in which the drug was studied for any pathology.



Table 10. Prospective drugs, predicted by **PASS** software to be active against the identified drug targets with predicted activity against the studied disease(s) (drug candidates predicted with the cheminformatics tool **PASS**)

[See full table](#) →

Name	Target names	Drug score	Target activity score
Nicergoline	PRKAA2, PRKG1, PKMYT1	80	8.58E-2
Darodipine	RPS6KA3, RPS6KA2	69	4.71E-2
Isradipine	RPS6KA3, RPS6KA2	68	4.2E-2
Hesperetin	MAPK10, MAPK4, MAPK11	60	2.99E-2
(2s,3s)-Trans-Dihydroquercetin	MAPK10, MAPK4, MAPK11	57	2.68E-2



Table 11. Prospective drugs, predicted by **PASS** software to be active against the identified drug targets, though without cheminformatically predicted activity against the studied disease(s) (drug candidates predicted with the cheminformatics tool **PASS**)

[See full table](#) →

Name	Target names	Drug score	Target activity score
2,5,7-Trihydroxynaphthoquinone	MAPK10, DUSP22, MAPK4, CDC14B, MAPK11, DUSP14, DUPD1, DUSP9, BRCA1	88	0.25
3-METHYL-1,6,8-TRIHYDROXYANTHRAQUINONE	MAPK10, DUSP22, MAPK4, CDC14B, MAPK11, DUSP14, DUPD1, DUSP9, BRCA1	86	0.21
[[N-(Benzyloxycarbonyl)Amino]Methyl]Phosphate	PTPRR, GRIN1, PTPRH, DUSP22, PTPRF, PTPN2, PTPN13, CDC14B, DUSP14, DUPD1, DUSP9, PTPN21	83	0.33
histamine dihydrochloride	BMX, LCK, MAPK10, EPHB2, MAPK4, ERBB4, INSR, LTK, EGFR, BTK, MAPK11, ERBB2, FYN, RET, IGF1R	82	0.49
Fenoldopam	MAPK10, GRIN1, MAPK4, MAPK11	82	0.14

As the result of drug search we propose the following drugs as most promising candidates for treating the pathology under study: Sirolimus, Flavopiridol, Nicergoline and 2,5,7-Trihydroxynaphthoquinone. These drugs were selected for acting on the following targets: RPS6KA3, PKMYT1 and DUSP9, which were predicted to be active in the molecular mechanism of the studied pathology.

The selected drugs are top ranked drug candidates from each of the four categories of drugs: (1) FDA approved drugs or used in clinical trials drugs for the studied pathology; (2) repurposing drugs used in clinical trials for other pathologies; (3) drugs,

predicted by PASS software to be active against the studied pathology; (4) drugs, predicted by PASS software to be repurposed from other pathologies.

6. Conclusion

We applied the software package "Genome Enhancer" to a data set that contains *epigenomics* data obtained from *blood* tissue. The study is done in the context of *Hypertension*. The data were pre-processed, statistically analyzed and highly methylated genes were identified. Also checked was the enrichment of GO or disease categories among the studied gene sets.

We propose the following drugs as most promising candidates for treating the pathology under study:



Sirolimus, Flavopiridol, Nicergoline and 2,5,7-Trihydroxynaphthoquinone

These drugs were selected for acting on the following targets: RPS6KA3, PKMYT1 and DUSP9, which were predicted to be involved in the molecular mechanism of the pathology under study.

The identified molecular mechanism of the studied pathology was predicted to be mainly based on the following key drug targets:



IRS-4, RSK2, (BMP2A:ActR-II:BMPR-IA{pS}{pT})2:XIAP:TAB1:TAK1 and MKP-4

These potential drug targets should be considered as a prospective research initiative for further drug repurposing and drug development purposes. The following drugs were predicted as, matching those drug targets: 2,5,7-Trihydroxynaphthoquinone, Imatinib, Flavopiridol, Sirolimus, Darodipine and 3-Methyladenine. These drugs should be considered with special caution for research purposes only.

In this study, we came up with a detailed signal transduction network regulating highly methylated genes in the studied pathology. In this network we have revealed the following top master regulators (signaling proteins and their complexes) that play a crucial role in the molecular mechanism of the studied pathology, which can be proposed as the most promising molecular targets for further drug repurposing and drug development initiatives.

- IRS-4
- RSK2
- (BMP2A:ActR-II:BMPR-IA{pS}{pT})2:XIAP:TAB1:TAK1
- MKP-4

Potential drug compounds which can be affecting these targets can be found in the "Finding prospective drug targets" section.

7. Methods

Databases used in the study

Transcription factor binding sites in promoters and enhancers of highly methylated genes were analyzed using known DNA-binding motifs described in the [TRANSFAC®](https://genexplain.com/transfac) library, release 2022.2 (geneXplain GmbH, Wolfenbüttel, Germany) (<https://genexplain.com/transfac>).

The master regulator search uses the [TRANSPATH®](https://genexplain.com/transpath) database (BIOBASE), release 2022.2 (geneXplain GmbH, Wolfenbüttel, Germany) (<https://genexplain.com/transpath>). A comprehensive signal transduction network of human cells is built by the software on the basis of reactions annotated in [TRANSPATH®](https://genexplain.com/transpath).

The information about drugs corresponding to identified drug targets and clinical trials references were extracted from [HumanPSD™](https://genexplain.com/humanpsd) database, release 2022.2 (<https://genexplain.com/humanpsd>).

The Ensembl database release Human104.38 (hg38) (<http://www.ensembl.org>) was used for gene IDs representation and Gene Ontology (GO) (<http://geneontology.org>) was used for functional classification of the studied gene set.

Epigenomics data processing

When analyzing a list of CpG sites, we compute the fold change values between the methylation status in the studied pathology and the control set. Top 10 000 CpG sites with highest logFC values are taken to further analysis. These sites are mapped to corresponding genes, which will be further compared to the list of housekeeping genes at the step of promoter analysis.

Methods for the analysis of enriched transcription factor binding sites and composite modules

Transcription factor binding sites in promoters and enhancers of differentially expressed genes were analyzed using known DNA-binding motifs. The motifs are specified using position weight matrices (PWMs) that give weights to each nucleotide in each position of the DNA binding motif for a transcription factor or a group of them.

We search for transcription factor binding sites (TFBS) that are enriched in the enhancers under study as compared to a background set of promoters of housekeeping genes. We denote study and background sets briefly as Yes and No sets. In the current work we used a workflow considering promoter sequences of a standard length of 1100 bp (-1000 to +100). The error rate in this part of the pipeline is controlled by estimating the adjusted p-value (using the Benjamini-Hochberg procedure) in comparison to the TFBS frequency found in randomly selected regions of the human genome (adj.p-value < 0.01).

We have applied the CMA algorithm (Composite Module Analyst) for searching composite modules [7] in the promoters and enhancers of the Yes and No sets. We searched for a composite module consisting of a cluster of 10 TFs in a sliding window of 200-300 bp that statistically significantly separates sequences in the Yes and No sets (minimizing Wilcoxon p-value).

Methods for finding master regulators in networks

We searched for master regulator molecules in signal transduction pathways upstream of the identified transcription factors. The master regulator search uses a comprehensive signal transduction network of human cells. The main algorithm of the master regulator search has been described earlier [3,4]. The goal of the algorithm is to find nodes in the global signal transduction network that may potentially regulate the activity of a set of transcription factors found in the previous step of the analysis. Such nodes are considered as most promising drug targets, since any influence on such a node may switch the transcriptional programs of hundreds of genes that are regulated by the respective TFs. In our analysis, we have run the algorithm with a maximum radius of 12 steps upstream of each TF in the input set. The error rate of this algorithm is controlled by applying it 10000 times to randomly generated sets of input transcription factors of the same set-size. Z-score and FDR value of ranks are calculated then for each potential master regulator node on the basis of such random runs (see detailed description in [9]). We control the error rate by the FDR threshold 0.05.

Methods for analysis of pharmaceutical compounds

We seek for the optimal combination of molecular targets (key elements of the regulatory network of the cell) that potentially interact with pharmaceutical compounds from a library of known drugs and biologically active chemical compounds, using information about known drugs from HumanPSD™ and predicting potential drugs using PASS program.

Method for analysis of known pharmaceutical compounds

We selected compounds from HumanPSD™ database that have at least one target. Next, we sort compounds using "Drug rank" that is the sum of the following ranks:

1. ranking by "Target activity score" ($T\text{-score}_{PSD}$),
2. ranking by "Disease activity score" ($D\text{-score}_{PSD}$),
3. ranking by "Clinical validity score".

"Target activity score" ($T\text{-score}_{PSD}$) is calculated as follows:

$$T\text{-score}_{PSD} = -\frac{|T|}{|T| + w(|AT| - |T|)} \sum_{t \in T} \log_{10} \left(\frac{\text{rank}(t)}{1 + \max \text{Rank}(T)} \right),$$

where T is set of all targets related to the compound intersected with input list, $|T|$ is number of elements in T , AT and $|AT|$ are set set of all targets related to the compound and number of elements in it, w is weight multiplier, $\text{rank}(t)$ is rank of given target, $\max \text{Rank}(T)$ equals $\max(\text{rank}(t))$ for all targets t in T .

We use following formula to calculate "Disease activity score" ($D\text{-score}_{PSD}$):

$$D\text{-score}_{PSD} = \begin{cases} \sum_{d \in D} \sum_{p \in P} \text{phase}(d, p) \\ 0, D = \emptyset \end{cases},$$

where D is the set of selected diseases, and if D is empty set, $D\text{-score}_{PSD}=0$. P is a set of all known phases for each disease, $\text{phase}(p, d)$ equals to the phase number if there are known clinical trials for the selected disease on this phase and zero otherwise.

The clinical validity score reflects the number of the highest clinical trials phase (from 1 to 4) on which the drug was ever tested for any pathology.

Method for prediction of pharmaceutical compounds

In this study, the focus was put on compounds with high pharmacological efficiency and low toxicity. For this purpose, comprehensive library of chemical compounds and drugs was subjected to a SAR/QSAR analysis. This library contains 13040 compounds along with their pre-calculated potential pharmacological activities of those substances, their possible side and toxic effects, as well as the possible mechanisms of action. All biological activities are expressed as probability values for a substance to exert this activity (Pa).

We selected compounds that satisfied the following conditions:

1. Toxicity below a chosen toxicity threshold (defines as Pa , probability to be active as toxic substance).
2. For all predicted pharmacological effects that correspond to a set of user selected disease(s) Pa is greater than a chosen effect threshold.

- There are at least 2 targets (corresponding to the predicted activity-mechanisms) with predicted Pa greater than a chosen target threshold.

The maximum Pa value for all toxicities corresponding to the given compound is selected as the "Toxicity score". The maximum Pa value for all activities corresponding to the selected diseases for the given compound is used as the "Disease activity score". "Target activity score" (T-score) is calculated as follows:

$$T\text{-score}(s) = \frac{|T|}{|T| + w(|AT| - |T|)} \sum_{m \in M(s)} \left(pa(m) \sum_{g \in G(m)} IAP(g) optWeight(g) \right),$$

where $M(s)$ is the set of activity-mechanisms for the given structure (which passed the chosen threshold for activity-mechanisms Pa); $G(m)$ is the set of targets (converted to genes) that corresponds to the given activity-mechanism (m) for the given compound; $pa(m)$ is the probability to be active of the activity-mechanism (m), $IAP(g)$ is the invariant accuracy of prediction for gene from $G(m)$; $optWeight(g)$ is the additional weight multiplier for gene. T is set of all targets related to the compound intersected with input list, $|T|$ is number of elements in T , AT and $|AT|$ are set set of all targets related to the compound and number of elements in it, w is weight multiplier.

"Druggability score" (D-score) is calculated as follows:

$$D\text{-score}(g) = IAP(g) \sum_{s \in S(g)} \sum_{m \in M(s,g)} pa(m),$$

where $S(g)$ is the set of structures for which target list contains given target, $M(s,g)$ is the set of activity-mechanisms (for the given structure) that corresponds to the given gene, $pa(m)$ is the probability to be active of the activity-mechanism (m), $IAP(g)$ is the invariant accuracy of prediction for the given gene.

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Supplementary material

- [Supplementary table 1 - Detailed report. Composite modules and master regulators \(highly methylated genes in Hypertension vs. Control\).](#)
- [Supplementary table 2 - Detailed report. Pharmaceutical compounds and drug targets.](#)

Disclaimer

Decisions regarding care and treatment of patients should be fully made by attending doctors. The predicted chemical compounds listed in the report are given only for doctor's consideration and they cannot be treated as prescribed medication. It is the physician's responsibility to independently decide whether any, none or all of the predicted compounds can be used solely or in combination for patient treatment purposes, taking into account all applicable information regarding FDA prescribing recommendations for any therapeutic and the patient's condition, including, but not limited to, the patient's and family's medical history, physical examinations, information from various diagnostic tests, and patient preferences in accordance with the current standard of care. Whether or not a particular patient will benefit from a selected therapy is based on many factors and can vary significantly.

The compounds predicted to be active against the identified drug targets in the report are not guaranteed to be active against any particular patient's condition. GeneXplain GmbH does not give any assurances or guarantees regarding the treatment information and conclusions given in the report. There is no guarantee that any third party will provide a refund for any of the treatment decisions made based on these results. None of the listed compounds was checked by Genome Enhancer for adverse side-effects or even toxic effects.

The analysis report contains information about chemical drug compounds, clinical trials and disease biomarkers retrieved from the HumanPSD™ database of gene-disease assignments maintained and exclusively distributed worldwide by geneXplain GmbH. The information contained in this database is collected from scientific literature and public clinical trials resources. It is updated to the best of geneXplain's knowledge however we do not guarantee completeness and reliability of this information leaving the final checkup and consideration of the predicted therapies to the medical doctor.

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