RNA-binding proteins limit and constrain emergence of retrotransposon-derived exons



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Retrotransposons are pervasive in mammalian genomes



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From selfish element to binding site donor



Recognition of repetitive sequences by host factors





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Retrotransposons are rich in splice site sequences



rare exon formation from retrotransposal insertions

Alu-exons

Splicing at LINEs?

Sorek et al, *Genome Res* 2002 Lev-Maor et al, Science 2003 Attig et al, eLife 2016 Belancio et al, NAR 2008



Recognition of repetitive sequences by host factors

iCLIP

Cross-linked protein-RNA complex





Recognition of repetitive sequences by host factors

iCLIP





Consequences of RBP binding to LINEs



RNA-seq





Is regulation conferred through L1 consensus sequence ?

estimate age of L1 elements genome-wide



Evolutionary age determines RBP binding and exonisation





RNAseq GTEx consortium







Evolutionary age determines RBP binding and exonisation



Evolutionary age determines RBP binding and exonisation



*Wang et al. NSMB 2013, Fairbrother et al. Science 2002

Attig, Agostini et al, Cell, in press

Negative selection against LINE sequences impacts exon structure



Evolutionary perspective

Why do LINEs carry splice-repressive motifs ?



Splice-repressors are present at emergence of novel sequences



Attig and Ule, in prep.



Splice-repressors are present at emergence of novel sequences



Attig and Ule, in prep.

Possible reasons for splice-repressor persistence in L1s

• Maintenance of retrotransposition competent L1s ?



Attig and Ule, in prep.

Future prospects

Are retroelements 'unmasked' in pathology ?



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