A systematic gene-phenotype comparison between human and mouse to find accurate phenologs

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- From personal-genome sequencing of patients, screening disease-associated mutations is helpful for prevention of diseases.
- Targeted therapy could be served from the development of drugs that correct the malfunction of genes carrying the mutations.

Model organism: a crucial tool for understanding human genotype-phenotype relationship.



- With the advent of genome sequencing technique, genome-wide association studies on patient cohorts have become crucial for human disease research.
- Model organisms play a complementary role to the human population studies, because genetic background in model organisms can be controlled through the breeding of isogenic lines.

Human phenotyping relying on model organism has been possibly due to 'orthology-function conjecture'.

HLT syndrome



- Absent eyebrow / eyelashes
- Hypotrichosis
- Palmar telangiectasia
- Abnormality of the nail

Mouse phenotypes



- Alopecia
- Hairless / Sparse hair
- Abnormal vibrissae morphology
- Cyanosis



Orthology-function conjecture: Perform similar function between orthologous genes

Phenotypic differences which occurred in the orthologous genes: Great challenges of human disease study using mouse genetic approaches



Section I.

Analysis of molecular evolutionary events accounting for phenotypic differences of human and mouse orthologous genes

Han SK, Kim D, Lee H, Kim I, Kim S. Divergence of non-coding regulatory elements explains gene-phenotype differences between human and mouse orthologous genes (Molecular Biology and Evolution, 2018)



Washington et al., PLoS Biol 7(11), e1000247 (2009)

PS score: a statistical framework for a systematic quantification of the phenotypic differences occurred in human and mouse orthologous genes

PS-score assesses statistical significance of the phenotypic similarity based on the comparisons of the semantic-similarity scores of orthologous gene-pairs to those of random gene-pairs.





High phenotypic Similarity Gene (LHRG)

Orthologous genes turn out to have significantly higher PS-scores than random gene-pairs which might be easily explained by orthology-function conjecture.

Sequence divergence may not explain the phenotypic differences of orthologous genes.



- One might expect that sequence divergence would affect the phenotypic differences of the LPGs.
- Orthologous genes usually have high sequence similarity but genetic drift between species triggered the divergence of coding region, changing the phenotypes between the species.

Sequence divergence may not explain the phenotypic differences of orthologous genes.





Yue et al., Nature 515(7527), 355-64 (2014)

Cell

Evolving New Skeletal Traits by *cis***-Regulatory Changes in Bone Morphogenetic Proteins**

Article



Indjeian et al., Cell 164(1-2), 45-56 (2016)

Phenotypic differences may be the result of changes in non-coding regulatory sequences, which are frequently observed within mammalian species.

Divergence of non-coding regulatory sequences is correlated with phenotypic differences.



Divergence of non-coding regulatory sequences is correlated with phenotypic differences.



Species-specific regulatory elements could explain the existence of orthologous genes with very low PS scores, which could not be accounted for by the divergence of coding regions.

Transcriptomic divergence also explains phenotypic differences between orthologous genes.



Changes in gene regulatory sequences could trigger divergence in transcription across species that might repurpose functionally conserved proteins in different cell types or tissues, and consequently change the phenotypes.

Our companion website for investigating human disease phenotypes through mouse genetic approaches. (https://sbi.postech.ac.kr/w/PS)

- We provide tissue-specific expression conservation in all human and mouse orthologous genes using the FANTOM and ENCODE databases.
- Orthologous genes with high expression conservation are likely to be useful for identifying putative phenologs; orthologous genes with
 phenotypes that are identical across species.



Section II.

Expression divergence of neighbors impacts on phenotypic differences of human and mouse orthologous genes

Limitation on the explanation of phenotypic differences with 'single-gene' expression divergence.



Molecular evolution of genetic modules impacts on phenotypic evolution



Menche et al., Science **347(6224)**, 1257601 (2015)



Molecular connection

- Phenotypes are not caused by single gene but affected by group of genes in a module.
- The evolutionary divergence of the gene networks underlying may eventually affect to the phenotypic differences.

Expression divergence of PPI network partners correlates with phenotypic differences of orthologous genes.





Molecular evolution of genetic modules impacts on phenotypic changes of orthologous genes.

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- Negative regulation of coagulation
- · Regulation of water loss via skin
- Fibrinolysis

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Neighbors in module:
HS3ST5, TSPAN8, F11, PLAUR, ..., F2, PROC, PLAT
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Expression conservation of module partners c^{ρ} (PCC) = 0.50





Neighbors in module:

TIMP3, MTHFR, ASCL1, TYMS, BCHE, EEF2, MGMT, OGG1, NRF1, FOLR1, GSN

Expression conservation of module partners c^{p} (PCC) = 0.14





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