

# Fighting the Enemy Within

Basic Life Science and Issues : Presentation

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Group 4

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## Fighting the Enemy Within

11th chapter of *The Epigenetics Revolution*

*"Epigenetic perspective of Cancer and its treatment"*



Healthy cells, have two types of genes:

- proto-oncogenes for cell proliferation
- tumor suppressor genes for regulation



# Introduction: Cancer

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However, cancer cells lost balance of these, For example,

- proto-oncogenes is over-activated
- tumor suppressor genes is inactivated



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# Characteristics of Oncogenesis

- Multi-step process
- Defections must be accumulated

Inherited oncogenes are slowly expressed  
e.g.) BRCA1 mutation

- Tumour suppressor gene - Switched off
- Alteration with epigenetic access



# Epigenetic Approach for Oncogenesis

- DNA Methylation

Hypermethylation of CpG island

- Repressive Histone Modification

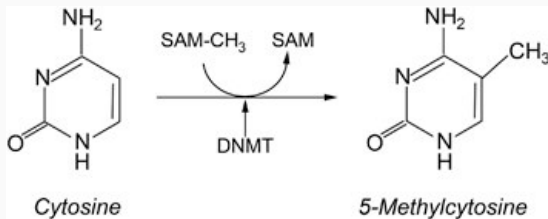
Histone deacetylation





# DNA Methylation

Cytosine before Guanine can be methylated

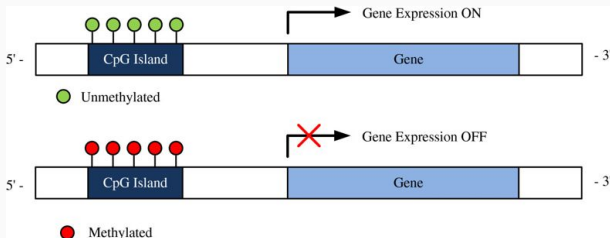


Methyl group is bond on 5' carbon atom



# DNA Methylation

CpG dinucleotide cluster (CpG island, CGI) are usually located in the promoter regions of genes in a DNA sequence.

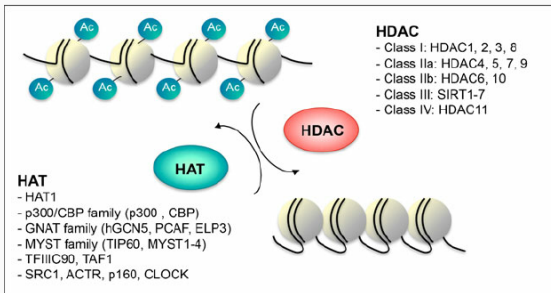


Hypermethylated CGI disables specific gene expression.



# Histone deacetylation

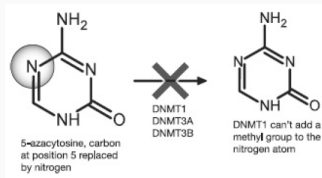
Histones are related with gene regulation.



Less acetylated histones lead less expression.

# Approach for Treatment

- DNMT enzyme inhibitors  
5-azacytidine, 2-aza-5'-deoxycytidine

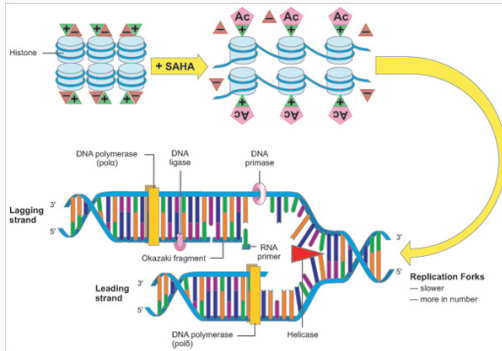


methylation inhibited by 5-azacytidine



# Approach for Treatment

- HDAC inhibitor  
SAHA, Romidepsin



# No easy wins

- Oncogenesis has numerous mechanisms

Case by case, person by person

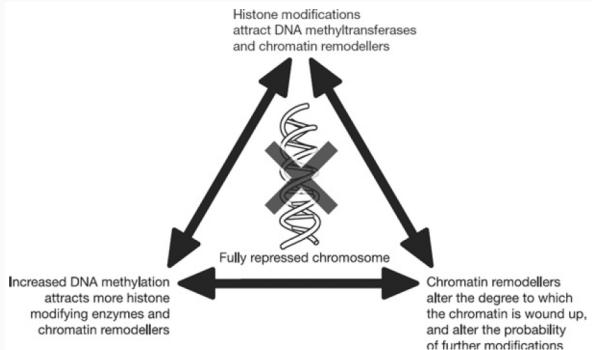
- The solutions are preferable for haematological cancer
- Also these solutions should be used in different fields

DMNT inhibitors for bone marrow, HDAC inhibitors for T-cell lymphoma



# Chromosome Repression Model

There are many enzymes that involved in histone alteration



And these interact each other, forms vicious cycle.



# Alternative Approach





## Epigenetical approach in Oncology...

- Needs to be improved
- However, several agents are currently effective
- It can open new way to curing cancer



# References

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- [3] Kazantsev, Aleksey G; et al. (2008). *Therapeutic application of histone deacetylase inhibitors for central nervous system disorders*, Nature Reviews. Drug Discovery London Vol. 7 Iss. 10 854-68.



Q & A

Thank you!