



***CELL PHENOTYPE AND CYTOKINE REGULATION OF
ERYTHROPOIESIS IN MOUSE FETAL SPLEEN***

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By

TAN KEAI SINN

**Thesis Submitted to the School of Graduate Studies, Universiti Putra Malaysia, in
Fulfilment of the Requirement for the Degree of Doctor of Philosophy**

September 2015

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Abstract of thesis presented to the Senate of Universiti Putra Malaysia in fulfilment of the requirement for the degree of Doctor of Philosophy

CELL PHENOTYPE AND CYTOKINE REGULATION OF ERYTHROPOIESIS IN MOUSE FETAL SPLEEN

By

TAN KEAI SINN

September 2015

Chair: Lai Mei I, PhD

Faculty: Medicine and Health Sciences

Erythropoiesis and its regulation have been extensively studied in the yolk sac, fetal liver and bone marrow, but not on the regulation of spleen erythropoiesis in the mouse embryo. Fetal spleen was reportedly a major hematopoietic site prior to initiation of bone marrow hematopoiesis. Morphologic analysis suggested erythropoietic activity in fetal spleen, but it remained unclear how erythropoiesis was regulated. To address this question, flow cytometric analysis was performed and the number of spleen erythroid cells was found to increase 18.6-fold from 16.5 days post-coitum (dpc) to 19.5 dpc. Flow cytometric analysis was carried out to further characterize fetal spleen cells. Among CD45⁺Ter119⁻ non-hematopoietic cells at 16.5 dpc fetal spleen, 9.87±1.12% were DLK-1-expressing cells, 0.32±0.14% were microvessels, 31.09±17.75% were endothelial cells and 62.01±23.03% were unclassified cells. Whereas at 19.5 dpc fetal spleen, 2.00±0.38% were DLK-1-expressing cells, 0.96±0.36% were microvessels, 57.75±18.34% were endothelial cells and 38.82±17.88% were unclassified cells. Real-time PCR was carried out to investigate whether those fetal spleen cells express erythropoietic cytokines such as *stem cell factor (Scf)*, *insulin growth factor 1 (Igf1)*, *interleukin-3 (Il-3)* and *erythropoietin (Epo)* messenger RNAs (mRNAs). Of these erythropoietic cytokines, at 16.5 dpc whole spleen cells, both *Scf* and *Igf1* mRNAs were highly expressed, while *Epo* and *Il-3* mRNAs were not. Among erythropoietic cytokines, SCF and IGF-1 proteins were primarily expressed in hematopoietic, endothelial and mesenchymal-like fetal spleen cells. Further examination of the expression of SCF receptor (c-Kit) and the IGF-1 receptor (IGF-1R) on spleen erythroid cells performed by flow cytometric analysis shows that most of the c-Kit⁺ and IGF-1R⁺ cells were expressed on burst forming unit-erythroid (BFU-E) and colony forming unit-erythroid (CFU-E) equivalent cells. Cultures treated with SCF and/or IGF-1R inhibitors showed significantly decreased CD45⁺c-Kit⁺CD71⁺Ter119⁺ erythroid cells and down-regulated *Gata1*, *Klf1* and *β-major globin* expression. Administration of these inhibitors to pregnant mice significantly decreased the number of CD45⁺c-Kit⁺CD71⁺Ter119⁺ cells and down-regulated *β-major globin* gene expression in embryos derived from these mice. We conclude that fetal spleen is a site where erythropoietic activity takes place and spleen endothelial and mesenchymal-like cells primarily accelerate erythropoietic activity through SCF and IGF-1 secretion.

Abstrak tesis yang dikemukakan kepada Senat Universiti Putra Malaysia sebagai memenuhi keperluan untuk ijazah Doktor Falsafah

FENOTIP SEL DAN PENGAWALATURAN SITOKIN DALAM ERITROPOIESIS LIMPA FETAL TIKUS

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Erythropoiesis dan pengawalan aktiviti erythropoietic dalam kantung kuning hati fetus dan tulang sum-sum telah dikaji secara meluas. Sebaliknya, kajian berkaitan dengan pengawalan aktiviti erythropoietic dalam limpa embrio tetikus masih terhad. Limpa fetus merupakan tapak hematopoietik utama sebelum hematopoiesis berlaku dalam tulang sum-sum. Analisis morfologi mencadangkan aktiviti erythropoietic berlaku dalam limpa fetus, tetapi faktor kawalan erythropoiesis masih tidak diketahui secara jelas. Untuk menjawab pertanyaan ini, analisis aliran cytometric telah dijalankan dan jumlah sel erythroid limpa didapati meningkat 18.6 kali ganda dari hari 16.5 selepas persetubuhan ke hari 19.5 selepas persetubuhan dalam limpa fetus. Seterusnya, analisis aliran cytometric dijalankan untuk mencirikan sel-sel limpa fetus. Antara sel-sel bukan hematopoietic CD45⁻Ter119⁻ dalam limpa pada hari 16.5 selepas persetubuhan, $9.87 \pm 1.12\%$ adalah sel mengungkapkan DLK-1, $0.32 \pm 0.14\%$ adalah mikro vesel, $31.09 \pm 17.75\%$ adalah sel-sel endothelial dan $62.01 \pm 23.03\%$ adalah sel-sel yang tidak dapat dikelaskan. Manakala pada hari 19.5 selepas persetubuhan, $2.00 \pm 0.38\%$ adalah sel mengungkapkan DLK-1, $0.96 \pm 0.36\%$ adalah mikro vesel, $57.75 \pm 18.34\%$ adalah sel-sel endothelial dan $38.82 \pm 17.88\%$ adalah sel-sel yang tidak dapat dikelaskan. Kuantitatif reaksi berantai polimerease (qRT-PCR) dijalankan untuk menyiasat sama ada sel-sel limpa fetus menghasilkan sitokin erythropoietic seperti *Scf*, *Igf1*, *Il-3* dan *Epo* RNA pengutus (mRNA). Pada hari 16.5 selepas persetubuhan, sel limpa mengungkapkan *Scf* dan *Igf1* mRNAs, tetapi tidak mengungkapkan *Epo* dan *Il-3* mRNAs. Antara sitokin erythropoietic yang dinyatakan, hematopoietic sel, sel-sel endothelial dan sel seperti mesenchymal mengungkapkan SCF dan IGF-1. Seterusnya, analisis aliran cytometric dijalankan untuk mengkaji ekspresi SCF reseptor (c-Kit) dan IGF-1 reseptor (IGF-1R) pada sel-sel erythroid dalam limpa. Antara sel erythroid populasi, BFU-E dan CFU-E sel bersamaan ekspres paling banyak c-Kit⁺ dan IGF-1R⁺. Dalam kajian berfungsi *in vitro*, kultur sel dirawat dengan perencat SCF dan/atau perencat IGF-1R. Hasilnya menunjukkan penurunan ketara pada CD45⁻c-Kit⁺CD71^{+/+}Ter119⁺ sel erythroid and penurunan bagi gen erythroid *Gata1*, *Klf1* dan β -globin. Manakala dalam kajian fungsional *in vivo*, perencat tersebut disuntikkan ke dalam tikus hamil, embrio diperolehi daripada tikus tersebut. Bilangan CD45⁻c-Kit⁺CD71^{+/+}Ter119⁺ sel erythroid meurun dengan ketara dan ungkapan β -globin juga menurun. Kesimpulannya, limpa fetus merupakan tapak di mana aktiviti erythropoietic berlaku, dan sel-sel endothelial dan sel seperti mesenchymal meningkatkan aktiviti erythropoietic melalui rembesan SCF dan IGF-1.

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I certify that a Thesis Examination Committee has met on 28 September 2015 to conduct the final examination of Tan Keai Sinn on her thesis entitled Cell Phenotype and Cytokine Regulation of Erythropoiesis in Mouse Fetal Spleen in accordance with the Universities and University Colleges Act 1971 and the Constitution of the Universiti Putra Malaysia [P.U.(A) 106] 15 March 1998. The Committee recommends that the student be awarded the Doctor of Philosophy.

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

ABSTRACT	Page
ABSTRAK	i
ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS	ii
APPROVAL	iii
DECLARATION	iv
LIST OF TABLES	vi
LIST OF FIGURES	xi
LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS	xii
	xv

CHAPTER

1	INTRODUCTION	1
2	LITERATURE REVIEW	4
	2.1 Mouse embryogenesis	4
	2.2 Hematopoiesis	5
	2.2.1 Erythropoiesis	6
	2.2.2 Leukopoiesis	8
	2.3 Fetal hematopoietic organ	11
	2.3.1 The yolk sac	12
	2.3.2 The aorta-gonad-mesonephros region	12
	2.3.3 The placenta	13
	2.3.4 Fetal liver	13
	2.3.5 Fetal spleen	14
	2.3.6 Bone marrow	15
	2.4 Niche regulation	15
	2.4.1 Intrinsic regulation of hematopoiesis	16
	2.4.2 Extrinsic regulation of hematopoiesis	18
3	METHODOLOGY	23
	3.1 General outline of the study	23
	3.2 Guidelines for mouse handling	25
	3.3 Mouse embryo harvest and cell sorting	25
	3.3.1 Mouse embryo harvest	25
	3.3.2 Single cell suspension preparation	25
	3.3.3 Staining of antibodies	26
	3.4 Flow cytometric analysis and cell sorting	27
	3.4.1 Flow cytometric analysis	27
	3.4.2 Cell sorting	27
	3.5 Total RNA isolation	28
	3.5.1 Total RNA isolation procedures	28
	3.5.2 DNase treatment and DNase inactivation	29
	3.5.3 Quality assessment of total RNA	29
	3.6 Reverse transcription	30
	3.6.1 Reverse transcription procedures	30
	3.7 Quantitative real-time polymerase chain reaction	30
	3.7.1 TaqMan probe system	30
	3.8 Total protein assay	31
	3.8.1 Establishment of standard curve for protein	31

	quantitation	
	3.8.2 Preparation of cell lysates for total protein	32
	quantitation	
	3.9 Enzyme-linked immunosorbent assay	32
	3.9.1 ELISA assay procedures	33
	3.10 Tissue fixation and freezing	34
	3.10.1 Tissue fixation and freezing procedures	34
	3.11 Hematoxylin and eosin staining	35
	3.11.1 Hematoxylin and eosin staining procedures	35
	3.12 Immunohistochemistry	35
	3.12.1 Standard immunohistochemistry procedures	36
	3.12.2 Tyramide signal amplification systems	36
	procedures	
	3.13 Stromal cell and hematopoietic cell co-culture	37
	3.14 Functional assay	37
	3.14.1 <i>In vitro</i> functional assay	37
	3.14.2 <i>In vivo</i> functional assay	38
	3.15 Statistical analysis	38
4	RESULTS	39
	4.1 Characterization of fetal spleen hematopoietic cells	39
	4.1.1 Hematoxylin and eosin staining	39
	4.1.2 Flow cytometric analysis	40
	4.2 Characterization of fetal spleen non-hematopoietic cells	41
	4.2.1 Markers used to identified fetal spleen non-hematopoietic cells	41
	4.2.2 Characterization of unsorted fetal spleen non-hematopoietic cells	42
	4.3 Gene and protein expression of erythropoietic cytokines	43
	4.3.1 Screening of the expression of cytokine genes in fetal spleen cells	43
	4.3.2 Screening of the expression of cytokine proteins in fetal spleen cells	46
	4.4 Effects of the co-culture of spleen erythroid cells and stromal cells	52
	4.4.1 Spleen stromal cells accelerate erythropoiesis <i>in vitro</i>	52
	4.4.2 Expression of SCF receptor and IGF-1R on erythroid cells	55
	4.5 Functional assay	58
	4.5.1 Optimization for the concentration of DMSO, SCF inhibitor and IGF-1R inhibitor	58
	4.5.2 SCF and IGF-1 accelerate fetal spleen erythropoiesis <i>in vitro</i>	60
	4.5.3 SCF and IGF-1 accelerate fetal spleen erythropoiesis <i>in vivo</i>	64
5	DISCUSSION	67
	5.1 Characterization of hematopoietic cells in fetal	67

	spleen	
	5.2 Characterization of non-hematopoietic cells in fetal spleen	68
	5.3 Gene and protein expression of erythropoietic cytokines in fetal spleen cells	69
	5.4 Co-culture effects of hematopoietic cells with or without stromal cells	70
	5.5 Effects of erythroid cells in the presence of inhibitors SCF and/or IGF-1R <i>in vitro</i> and <i>in vivo</i>	72
6	SUMMARY, CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATION FOR FUTURE RESEARCH	76
	6.1 Future Recommendations	77
REFERENCES		79
APPENDICES		99
BIODATA OF STUDENT		119
LIST OF PUBLICATIONS		120

LIST OF TABLES

Table		Page
1	Landmarks in mouse hematopoiesis	5
2	Summary of the expression of globin genes in primitive and definitive mouse erythroid cells	7
3	Summary of the major lineage-specific markers of mature lymphoid and myeloid cells	10
4	Cell-intrinsic mechanism and cell-extrinsic regulation of hematopoietic cells in mouse models	17
5	Hematopoietic cytokines	19
6	Cell communication mechanism through physical contact with other cells	21
7	List of fluorochrome conjugated antibodies	26

LIST OF FIGURES

Figure		Page
1	Mouse embryo	4
2	Hematopoietic cell lineage determination in the mouse	6
3	Model of erythropoiesis	7
4	Expression of cell surface phenotypes during erythropoiesis	8
5	Leukopoiesis	9
6	Hematopoiesis in mouse and human embryos	11
7	Intrinsic regulation and extrinsic factors	15
8	Diagrammatic representative of the outline for this study	24
9	Process of harvesting spleen from mouse embryos at 16.5 dpc	25
10	Serial dilution of the bovine γ -globulin (2 mg/ml)	31
11	Two-fold serial dilution of the stock solution	33
12	Schematic representation for detection of mouse SCF and IGF-1 cytokines using tyramide signal amplification (TSA)	36
13	Hematoxylin and eosin-stained sections of fetal spleen	39
14	Characterization of fetal spleen hematopoietic cells by flow cytometry	40
15	Characterization of fetal spleen hematopoietic cells	41
16	Immunohistochemistry staining of CD45 ⁺ Ter119 ⁻ non-hematopoietic fetal spleen cells	42
17	Characterization of fetal spleen non-hematopoietic cells by flow cytometry	42
18	Characterization of fetal spleen non-hematopoietic cells	43
19	Expression of cytokine mRNA in unsorted fetal spleen cells	44

20	Expression of cytokine mRNAs in sorted fetal spleen cells	45
21	Cytokine protein expression in unsorted fetal spleen cells	46
22	Expression of cytokine proteins in sorted fetal spleen cells	47
23	Characterization of unclassified cells (UCs)	48
24	Immunohistochemistry staining of CD51 ⁺ cells on fetal spleen at 16.5 dpc	49
25	Expression of cytokine mRNAs in sorted CD51 ⁺ cells of unclassified fetal spleen cells	50
26	ELISA analysis of the SCF and IGF-1 protein expression in CD51 ⁺ cells from unclassified fetal spleen cells	51
27	Immunohistochemistry of endothelial and mesenchymal cell markers	52
28	Microscopic images after 24 hours of co-culture	53
29	Co-culture of hematopoietic cells with or without stromal cells	54
30	Gating strategy of flow cytometric analysis	54
31	Effects of erythroid cells culture with or without stromal cells	55
32	Expression of c-Kit and IGF-1R on erythroid cells	56
33	Percentage of c-Kit ⁺ and IGF-1R ⁺ cells on erythroid cells	57
34	Cell viability with different concentrations of DMSO in bone marrow (BM) cell culture	58
35	Percentage of viable cells in various concentrations of SCF inhibitor and IGF-1R inhibitor in bone marrow (BM) cell culture	59
36	Microscopic images of unsorted fetal spleen cell cultures after 24 hours	60
37	Co-culture of unsorted fetal spleen cells with SCF inhibitor and/or IGF-1R inhibitor	61
38	Gating strategy of flow cytometric analysis for <i>in vitro</i> study	61
39	Number of CD45 ⁻ c-Kit ⁻ CD71 ^{+/+} Ter119 ⁺ cells or	62

	terminally-differentiating erythroblasts and mature red blood cells	
40	Expression of erythroid mRNAs such as <i>Gata1</i> , <i>Klf1</i> and <i>β-major globin</i> in sorted CD45 ⁻ cells by quaitative real-time polymerase chain reaction (qRT-PCR)	63
41	Gating strategy of flow cytometric analysis for <i>in vivo</i> study	64
42	Number of CD45 ⁻ c-Kit ⁻ CD71 ^{+/+} Ter119 ⁺ cells or terminally-differentiating erythroblasts and mature red blood cells	65
43	Relative expression (RQ) of erythroid genes	66
44	Chemical structure of SCF inhibitor	73
45	Chemical structure of IGF-1R inhibitor	74

LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

AGM region	Aorta-gonad-mesonephros region
APC	Allophycocyanin
B cells	B-lineage cells
BFU-E	Burst forming unit-erythroid
BM	Bone marrow
CDK	Cyclin-dependent kinases
cDNA	complementary deoxyribonucleic acid
CFU-E	Colony forming unit-erythroid
CFU-G	Colony forming unit-granulocyte
CFU-GM	Colony forming unit-granulocyte macrophage
CFU-M	Colony forming unit-macrophage
CIK/KIP	CDK interacting protein/Kinase inhibitory protein
CLP	Common lymphoid progenitors
CMP	Common myeloid progenitors
CSF	Colony stimulating factor
DLK-1	Delta-like 1 homolog
DMSO	Dimethyl sulfoxide
dpc	day post-coitum
EB	Erythroblast
ELISA	Enzyme-linked immunosorbent assay
EPO/ <i>Epo</i>	Erythropoietin
EpoR	Erythropoietin receptor
FACS	Fluorescence-activated cell sorting
FBS	Fetal bovine serum

FITC	Fluorescein isothiocyanate
<i>Gata1</i>	GATA-binding factor 1
G-CSF	Granulocyte colony stimulating factor
GM-CSF	Granulocyte-macrophage colony-stimulating factor
GMP	Granulocyte-macrophage progenitors
H&E	Hematoxylin & eosin
H ₂ O ₂	Hydrogen peroxide
HOX	Homeobox gene
HRP	Horseradish peroxidase
HSCs	Hematopoietic stem cells
IGF-1/ <i>Igf1</i>	Insulin growth factor 1
IgG	Immunoglobulin G
IHC	Immunohistochemistry
ILs	Interleukins
<i>Klf1</i>	Krüppel-like factor 1
LYVE-1	lymphatic vessel endothelial hyaluronan receptor 1
MAPK	Mitogen-activated protein kinase
M-CSF	Macrophage colony-stimulating factor
MEM	Minimum Essential Medium
MEP	Megakaryocyte-erythroid progenitor
mRNA	messenger ribonucleic acid
NCAE	Naphthol AS-D chloroacetate esterase
NCBI	National Center for Biotechnology Information
NK cells	Natural killer cells
non-Tg	non-transgenic
Ns	Newly segmented somite

O.C.T	Optimum cutting temperature
OC	Otic capsule
P	Presomitic mesoderm
PBS	Phosphate-buffered saline
PE	Phycoerythrin
PECAM-1	Platelet endothelial cell adhesion molecule 1
PFA	Paraformaldehyde
PPP	Picropodophyllin
Pro-B cells	B-lymphocytes precursor cells
p-Sp	para-aortic splanchnopleura
qRT-PCR	Quantitative real-time polymerase chain reaction
Rpm	revolutions per minute
RQ	Relative Quantification
RT	Reverse Transcription
S	Somite
SCF/ <i>scf</i>	Stem cell factor
SD	Standard deviation
SFM	Serum free medium
T cells	T-lineage cells
Th2 lymphocytes	T helper type 2 lymphocytes
TSA	Thyramide Signal Amplification
<i>β</i> - major globin	beta-major globin



CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION

In the mouse embryo, erythropoiesis has been extensively studied in the yolk sac, liver, spleen and bone marrow (BM). The process of generating mature red blood cells is known as erythropoiesis, however, they do not necessarily have to derive from hematopoietic stem cells (HSCs) (e.g., primitive erythropoiesis emerges prior to HSCs), nor do they need to give rise to enucleated red blood cells (e.g., the non-mammalian species circulating red blood) (McGrath and Palis, 2008). Primitive erythroid cells support growth from embryo to fetus; whereas definitive erythroid cells support growth from fetus until birth (Baron et al., 2012). During mouse embryogenesis, primitive erythropoiesis occurs in the yolk sac from 7.5-8.5 days post-coitum (dpc), and erythroid progenitor cells mature in the circulation and enucleate between 14.5-16.5 dpc (Kingsley et al., 2004; Palis et al., 1999). Definitive erythropoiesis arises in the yolk sac at 9.0 dpc and then shifts to fetal liver, fetal spleen and bone marrow (BM) (Bertrand et al., 2005; Houssaint, 1981).

Fetal liver functions as the primary organ for expansion and maturation of erythroid cell at 12.5-14.5 dpc prior to spleen hematopoiesis (Ayres-Silva et al., 2011; Ema, 2000). Between 14.5-15.5 dpc, fetal liver becomes a less favorable environment for hematopoiesis, as the liver begins to change from a primarily hematopoietic to a metabolic function (Guo, 2009). At this time, hematopoiesis is likely take place in the spleen. At 12.5 and 14.5 dpc, hematopoietic cells in the spleen are mainly myeloid and erythroid cells only start being the predominant cells produced at a later stage. Also, the fetal spleen at 12.5 and 14.5 dpc explants cultured *in vitro* reportedly can produce hematopoietic cells, suggesting that hematopoietic stem/progenitor cells colonize fetal spleen, which likely fills the hematopoietic “gap” between fetal liver and BM (Godin et al., 1999; Sasaki and Matsumura, 1987). Spleen at 13.5-15.5 dpc reportedly composed primarily of myeloid and erythroid cells (Desanti et al., 2008). The spleen also reportedly becomes erythropoietic between 16.0 dpc and 17.0 dpc until around the first week of postnatal life through microscopic observation (Djaldetti et al., 1972; Sasaki and Matsumura, 1988). In another study, the spleen reportedly is a site of active myelopoiesis during late embryonic and perinatal stages, and gradually becomes a site of lymphopoiesis after postnatal week one (Ohno et al., 1993). there are no reports which quantitates the number of erythroid and myeloid lineages in the fetal spleen presently. Hence, it is hypothesized that the spleen could possess similar function as fetal liver in which it contains a unique microenvironment to support expansion of erythroid cells.

Regulation of the mouse fetal hematopoietic niche has been identified as a key extrinsic component of the hematopoietic environment (Sugiyama et al., 2011a). Particularly, extrinsic regulation through cytokine secretion, cell-cell interactions and cell-extracellular matrix activity is required for survival, self-renewal, proliferation and differentiation of hematopoietic cells into multiple lineages (Watt and Hogan, 2000). Several cytokines, such as erythropoietin (EPO), stem cell factor (SCF), insulin-like growth factor 1 (IGF-1), interleukin 3 (IL-3) and granulocyte-macrophage colony-stimulating factor (GM-CSF), are needed for optimal development and terminal differentiation of erythroid cells (Emerson et al., 1989; Goodman et al., 1985 ; Muta et

al., 1994; Umemura et al., 1989). Binding of Epo to its receptor, EpoR, which is expressed on the surface of erythroid progenitors, is particularly critical for these activities (Koury and Bondurant, 1992; Palis, 2014). SCF, a c-Kit ligand, is required for growth of burst-forming unit-erythroids (BFU-Es) under serum-free conditions (Dai et al., 1991). Also, the formation of erythrocyte colony-forming units (CFU-Es) requires synergistic SCF and EPO activity (Wu et al., 1997), whereas, IGF-1 stimulates proliferation of BM and peripheral blood erythroid progenitor cells (Miyagawa et al., 2000).

Work done between the years 1965 and 1980 clarified that specific stromal elements underlie skewing of hematopoietic cells lineage development (Lowy et al., 1970; Wolf and Trentin, 1968). A study done by Wolf and Trentin revealed that following administration of BM cells into the spleen of lethally irradiated recipients, between the junction of marrow stroma and spleen, most of the erythroid colonies are on the splenic side; while myeloid colonies predominated on the BM side (Wolf and Trentin, 1968). Another study showed that at 14.5 dpc, fetal spleen stromal cells drive macrophage and B cell commitment (Bertrand et al., 2006). Hematopoietic niche regulation in the placenta and liver of mouse embryo has been reported recently but there is no report on the regulation of spleen niche cells (Sasaki et al., 2010; Sugiyama et al., 2011a; Sugiyama et al., 2011b).

Generation of red blood cells from hematopoietic stem cells or embryonic stem cells may represent an important new source for blood transfusion. Prior to blood transfusion, establishment of an efficient way to produce sufficient erythrocytes *in vitro* is required. Studies on the spleen and its niche regulation would be able to guide the development of novel therapy that can complement current research trend. Nevertheless, the fetal spleen hematopoiesis and its regulation remains unclear particularly which hematopoietic lineages is predominant in the spleen at 16.5 dpc and how the spleen niche cells regulate the development of spleen hematopoiesis (Godin et al., 1999). Also, there are only a few studies regarding the interaction of spleen hematopoietic cells with spleen non-hematopoietic cells, suggesting an importance of this study for a better understanding on hematopoietic embryology

This study aims to explore the niche regulation of the fetal spleen hematopoiesis. Hematopoietic cell types were characterized and identified that erythropoiesis dominantly takes place in the spleen at both 16.5 dpc and 19.5 dpc. To investigate extrinsic factors regulating fetal spleen erythropoiesis, the expression of cytokine secretion by 16.5 dpc fetal spleen cells were examined in sorted hematopoietic, endothelial and unclassified (or mesenchymal-like) cells on erythropoiesis. In this study, SCF and IGF-1 are reportedly the primary erythropoietic cytokines expressed in fetal spleen. Finally, *in vitro* and *in vivo* analyses using inhibitors of SCF and IGF-1R revealed that both are crucial factors that accelerate spleen erythropoiesis at 16.5 dpc. Taken together, these findings represent a step towards understanding the development of erythropoiesis during mouse embryogenesis and regulation of its niche.

The general objective for this study was:

- To identify niche regulation of the mouse fetal spleen during hematopoietic cell development at 16.5 dpc and 19.5 dpc.

The specific objectives for this study were:

- To characterize hematopoietic cells that predominantly takes place in the mouse spleen
- To identify non-hematopoietic cells or niche cells of the mouse spleen
- To screen erythropoietic cytokines that is expressed by the spleen cells
- To compare the microenvironment of fetal spleen and liver
- To investigate the effects of inhibitors of SCF and/or IGF-1R on erythroid cell development *in vitro* and *in vivo*.



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APPENDICES

APPENDIX A

Guidelines for Laboratory Animals of Kyushu University.

Regulation for Animal Experiments at Kyushu University

October 1, 2005

Regulation No. 14, 2005

(Basis)

Article 1

This Regulation covers the proper and safe performance of Animal Experiments and Related Activities in Kyushu University (the “University”) from the standpoints of science, animal welfare, environmental conservation. It is based on the Law for the Humane Treatment and Management of Animals (Law No. 105, 1973), the Standards Relating to the Care and Management of Laboratory Animals and Relief of Pain (Notice No. 88 of Ministry of Environment, 2006), the Fundamental Guidelines for Proper Conduct of Animal Experiment and Related Activities in Academic Research Institutions (Notice No. 71 of the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology, 2006) and other related laws and regulations.

(Definitions)

Article 2

The following terms used in this Regulation are defined below:

(1) Animal Experiments and Related Activities

Use of animals for education, testing, research and development, manufacture of biological products, or other scientific purposes.

(2) Laboratory Animals

Animals of mammalian, avian, or reptilian species cared for or managed in animal facilities or laboratories for use in Animal Experiments and Related Activities (including animals in transport to or from animal facilities or laboratories).

(3) Animal Experiment Protocol

Protocol for the conduct of Animal Experiments and Related Activities.

(4) Animal Experiment Researcher

Person performing Animal Experiments and Related Activities.

(5) Principal Investigator

The Animal Experiment Researcher who is responsible for all activities concerning the Animal Experiments and Related Activities.

(6) Facility for Care and Management

Facility used to constantly care for or manage Laboratory Animals and to perform Animal Experiments and Related Activities (excluding Laboratory, mentioned in the next item).

(7) Laboratory

Laboratory where the Animal Experiments and Related Activities (including temporary management, up to 48 h) are performed on Laboratory Animals.

(8) Dean

Chief of the Faculty conducting Animal Experiments and Related Activities or managing Facility for Care and Management and Laboratory.

(9) Dean of the Faculty

Chief of the Faculty where Animal Experiment Researcher, Principal Investigator and animal technician who is in charge of care and management of laboratory animals belong.

(The President)

Article 3

The President of the University unifies the proper and safe performance of Animal Experiments and Related Activities in the University.

(Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee)

Article 4

1. The Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (the “Committee”) defined in the regulations of Kyushu University Deans and Directors Meeting (Regulation No. 14, 2004) deliberates the matters of Animal Experiments and Related Activities.

2. Membership of Committee, Committee Meeting and relevant particulars were based on the rules of Kyushu University Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (Rule No. 195, 2004; the “Committee Rules”).

(Supervisor)

Article 5

1. The Supervisors (the “Supervisor”) are appointed by the President to manage Animal Experiments and Related Activities. The Supervisor shall be a member of teaching staff of the University with knowledge and experience related to Laboratory Animals.

2. The Supervisor shall assist the President to execute the following missions.

(1) Conduct of the proper performance of Animal Experiments and Related Activities in the University.

(2) Supervision for keeping the legitimacy and promoting the safety management of Animal Experiments and Related Activities to the Dean and the Faculty Supervisors who based on the Paragraph 1 of the Article 8 of this Regulation in charge of Animal Experiments and Related Activities.

(3) Coordination for keeping the legitimacy and promoting the safety management of Animal Experiments and Related Activities in the University.

3. The term of office of the Supervisor shall be two (2) years, and can be reappointed.

4. The President may appoint the Assistant Supervisor (the “Assistant Supervisor”) to assist the Supervisor’s missions.

5. The Assistant Supervisor is appointed by the President from a member of teaching staff of the University with knowledge and experience related to Laboratory Animals, based on the recommendation of the Supervisor.

(Responsibilities of the Dean)

Article 6

The Dean shall take measure to the facilities, equipment and organization for conducting the proper and safe performance of Animal Experiments and Related Activities.

(Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee in the Faculty)

Article 7

1. The Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee in the Faculty (the “Faculty Committee”) defined in the Paragraph 1 of the Article 4 of the Committee Rules deliberate the Animal Experiments and Related Activities, the Facility for Care and Management and the Laboratory in the Faculty.

2. Membership of Committee and relevant particulars were based on the rules set up in

each Faculty.

(Supervisor in the Faculty)

Article 8

1. The Supervisor in the Faculty (the “Faculty Supervisor”) is appointed by the Dean. The Faculty Supervisor shall be a Professor, Associate Professor or Lecturer of the Faculty with knowledge and experience related to Laboratory Animals.

2. The Faculty Supervisor shall assist the Dean to execute the following missions.

(1) Conduct of the proper performance of Animal Experiments and Related Activities in the Faculty.

(2) Supervision for keeping the legitimacy and promoting the safety management of Animal Experiments and Related Activities to the Animal Experiment Researchers and animal technicians (the “Animal Experiment Researcher, etc.”) in charge of Animal Experiments and Related Activities.

(3) Coordination for keeping the legitimacy and promoting the safety management of Animal Experiments and Related Activities in the Faculty.

(Education and Training)

Article 9

The President provides education and training for the Animal Experiment Researcher the “Education and Training”, etc. before starting the Animal Experiments and Related Activities.

(Registration of the Animal Experiment Researcher)

Article 10

1. The Animal Experiment Researcher, etc. shall apply for the registration of the Animal Experiment Researcher to the Dean of the Faculty.

2. The Dean of the Faculty shall register the applicant as the Animal Experiment Researcher after confirming that the applicant attending the education and training in the previous paragraph.

3. The Dean of the Faculty shall report the names of registrants to the President.

(Medical Examination)

Article 11

The President provides a medical examination to the registrants based on the previous Article the “Medical Examination”.

(Review Procedure of Animal Experiments and Related Activities)

Article 12

1. When conducting Animal Experiments and Related Activities, the Principal Investigator shall draft and submit an Animal Experiment Protocol to the President through the Dean of the Faculty, and receive approval before beginning the Animal Experiment and Related Activities.
2. In cases where changes are made to an approved Animal Experiment Protocol in the previous paragraph, the Principal Investigator shall submit an application form for the alteration of the protocol to the President through the Dean of the Faculty, and receive approval.
3. When submitting the applications in the previous two paragraphs, the Dean of the Faculty shall request that the Faculty Committee pre-reviews the protocol and report the decision to the President.
4. When accepting the report in the previous paragraph, the President shall request that the Committee reviews the protocol and then decide whether or not approve.

(Safety Management)

Article 13

The President shall consider the following particulars, when conducting the Animal Experiments and Related Activities that need special safety management.

- (1) In cases of animal experiments involving materials that may pose a physical or chemical risk or that involve pathogens, and affecting the safety and health of humans or the surrounding environment, the President shall secure appropriate facilities or equipment necessary for the safety and health of the Animal Experiment Researcher.
- (2) The President shall ensure maintenance of the facilities and equipment and conduct necessary health management such as quarantine to prevent Laboratory Animals suffering injuries unrelated to the objective of an animal experiment or from contracting a disease.
- (3) When conducting the Animal Experiments and Related Activities using the Laboratory Animals are genetically modified animals or affecting the ecological systems, the President shall secure appropriate facilities necessary for preventing the genetic modified animals from escaping, and follow the related regulations of the University.

(Responsibility of the Animal Experiment Researcher)

Article 14

1. The Animal Experiment Researcher shall take the items below into consideration for drafting and conducting the Animal Experiments and Related Activities.

(1) When drafting the Animal Experiments and Related Activities, the Animal Experiment Researcher shall consider the application of alternative methods that do not require the use of Laboratory Animals within limits that allow scientific objectives to be achieved.

(2) Consideration of the selection of Laboratory Animals species appropriate for the purpose of Animal Experiments and Related Activities and the use of as few Laboratory Animals as possible within limits that allow scientific objectives to be achieved, and the genetic and microbiological quality.

(3) Consideration of the use of appropriate anesthetics and analgesics and the application of methods that do not distress the Laboratory Animals or subject them to pain within limits required for use.

(4) Selecting proper procedure of euthanasia to cause as little pain as possible, when completing the experiment.

(5) Taking proper measures with carcasses of Laboratory Animals related waste, so as not to have any adverse influence on the environment.

(6) Consideration of the prevention of the safety of the surrounding humans or animals as well as the Animal Experiment Researcher, and any adverse influence on the environment, in cases of animal experiments as may require special attention to safety management (those involving materials that may pose a physical or chemical risk or that involve pathogens).

(7) Conducting Animal Experiments and Related Activities using the facility and laboratory including equipment maintained appropriately.

2. The Animal Experiment Researcher shall request animal technicians to conduct the previous items, as required.

(Responsibility of the Principal Investigator)

Article 15

The Principal Investigator shall be a teaching staff in the University and ensure that the Animal Experiment Researcher perform the responsibility based on the previous Article 14.

(Report for completion and results of Animal Experiment and Related Activities)

Article 16

1. The Principal Investigator shall report the results of Animal Experiments and Related Activities to the President through the Dean in the Faculty after the completion or cancellation of Animal Experiments and Related Activities.
2. The President shall report the results to the Committee.
3. The Committee shall advise to the reports as required.

(Care and Management of Laboratory Animals)

Article 17

The Animal Experiment Researcher, etc. shall supply the Laboratory Animals with food and water, as appropriate to the physiology, ecology, and behavior of the animals, endeavor to preserve the health and safety of Laboratory Animals and provide them with appropriate treatment as required.

(Application and approval for establishing, changing or closing the Facility for Care and Management and the Laboratory)

Article 18

1. The Dean shall submit an application for an establishment and shall request the approval of the President for establishing a Facility for the Care and Management or Laboratory (the "Facilities").
2. The Dean shall submit an application for a changing the Facilities and shall request the approval of the President for the changing.
3. The President shall ask the Committee to review the application and then the President shall approve or deny the establishment or change of the Facilities concerned.
4. In the event that Facilities are closed, the Dean shall notice the closing to the President.

(Person in charge of the Facilities)

Article 18-2

1. A Person in charge of the Facilities shall be appointed.
2. A Person in charge of establishing Facilities shall be responsible for management and maintenance of the Facilities.

(Retention and report of records)

Article 18-3

1. The Principal Investigator shall prepare and retain record books related to Laboratory Animal sources, rearing history, history of disease, and rearing environment.
2. The Person in charge of the Facilities shall submit a report annually about the species of the Laboratory Animals that cared and managed, and their numbers, etc. to the Faculty Committee.
- 3 The Faculty Committee shall collect the reports and submit a report annually about the species of the Laboratory Animals that cared and managed in the Faculty, and their numbers, etc. to the Committee.

(Measure to Accidents)

Article 19

1. In cases in which the infection, the environment pollution or other accident is occurred in the Animal Experiments and Related Activities, the Animal Experiment Researcher etc. shall inform the Dean as soon as possible.
2. If the Dean receives such a notification, the Dean shall take necessary measures; promptly report the details and handling of the matter to the President.

(Self-inspection, Assessment, and Verification)

Article 20

1. The President requires that the Committee conducts inspections and assessments to determine whether the situation regarding the Animal Experiments and Related Activities in the University complies with related ordinances and regulations etc. of the University.
2. The Committee shall implement self-inspections and assessments and shall report its findings to the President.
3. The Committee requires that the Faculty Committee conducts self-inspections and assessments to determine whether the situation regarding the Animal Experiments and Related Activities in the Faculty and shall report its findings to the Committee.
4. The President shall endeavour to have the results of self-inspections and assessments verified by persons or agencies outside the University.

(Public Disclosure of Information)

Article 21

The President shall publicly disclose information on the conduct of Animal Experiments and Related Activities at the University every academic year.

(Exclusion of Application)

Article 22

These rules shall not be applied to the care or maintenance of Laboratory Animals (which are limited to animals generally considered to be industrial live stock) for the purpose of care management education, testing and research, or breed improvement in stockbreeding. Neither of these rules shall be applied to the care or maintenance of Laboratory Animals for the purpose of ecological observation.

(Miscellaneous provisions)

Article 23

1. The President shall provide necessary rules regarding the proper conduct of Animal Experiments and Related Activities covered by provisions in this Regulation through deliberateness of the Committee.
2. The Dean shall provide necessary rules regarding the proper conduct of Animal Experiments and Related Activities in the Faculty not covered by provisions in this Regulation.

Additional Provisions

1. The Regulation shall come into force on October 1, 2005.
2. Regulations for Prevention of Epidemic Hemorrhagic Fever at Kyushu University (Regulation No. 84, 2004) shall be abolished.

Additional Provisions (Regulation No. 33, 2006)

1. The Regulation shall come into force on January1, 2007.
2. Animal Experiment Protocol approved and conducted on the preceding day of the effective date of this Regulation shall be approved under the revised Regulation.

Additional Provisions (Regulation No. 159, 2006)

The Regulation shall come into force on April1, 2007.

Additional Provisions (Regulation No. 72, 2007)

The Regulation shall come into force on April 1, 2008.

Additional Provisions (Regulation No. 8, 2008)

The Regulation shall come into force on July 18, 2008.

Additional Provisions (Regulation No. 37, 2009)

The Regulation shall come into force on November 1, 2009.

In case of conflict between the English translation of this Regulation and the Japanese original, the latter shall prevail.



APPENDIX B

Signed in of person engaged in animal experiments in Kyushu University

The approval for animal handling is given after attended lecture in handling animals on 17th July 2012 by the Dean of Faculty of Medical Research, Kyushu University.

動物実験従事者登録証

登録番号	医-4130
登録年月日	平成24年7月17日
氏名	Tan keai Sinn
生年月日	昭和61年1月9日
所属部局	先端医療医学講座 訪問研究員

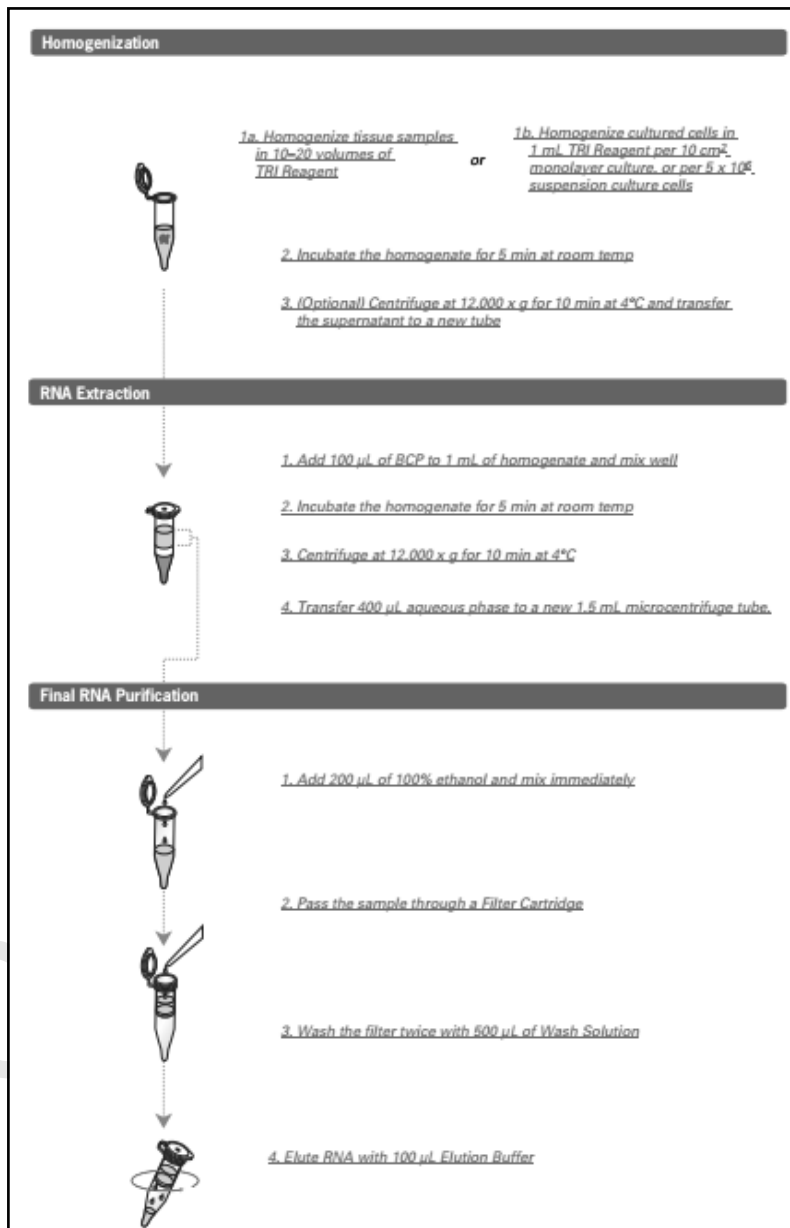
平成24年7月17日

部局長 九州大学大学院医学研究院長
片野光男

APPENDIX C

Total RNA Isolation Procedure

Figure below shows RiboPure™ Procedure Overview



APPENDIX D

Components to prepare 4% paraformaldehyde (PFA) and 30% sucrose

i. Components to prepare 4% paraformaldehyde (PFA).

The 4% PFA was prepared as indicated the table below. The 4% PFA was further diluted with PBS to 2% paraformaldehyde for tissue fixation purpose.

Components	Volume/Mass
Paraformaldehyde, PFA(Wako Pure Chemical Industries)	0.8 g
5 M NaOH Sodium hydroxide solution volumetric, 5.0 M NaOH (5.0N) (Sigma-Aldrich, St. Louis, MO)	32 μ L
6 N HCl Hydrochloric acid solution volumetric, 6 M HCl (6N) (Sigma-Aldrich)	18.7 μ L
PBS	20 mL

ii. Components to prepare 30% sucrose in PBS.

The 30% sucrose was prepared as indicated the table below. The solution was filtered and stored after being prepared.

Components	Volume/Mass
Sucrose (Wako Pure Chemical Industries)	150 g
10X PBS	50 mL
MiliQ	up to 500 mL

APPENDIX E

Components to prepare 1% BSA

The 1% BSA was prepared using PBS as indicated the table below. The solution was kept in cool room overnight. On the next day, the solution was filtered using Minisart® NML Syringe Filters 17598 (Sartorius, Goettingen, Germany).

Components	Volume/Mass
Bovine Serum Albumin, BSA (Sigma-Aldrich)	5 g
10X PBS	50 mL

APPENDIX F

Components to prepare 0.05% Triton-X100, 1.5% H₂O₂ in PBS and 0.5% blocking buffer

i. Components to prepare 0.05% Triton-X100 in PBS.

The 0.05% Triton-X100 was prepared in PBS as indicated the table below.

Components	Volume/Mass
Polyoxyethylene(8) Octylphenyl Ether, Triton-X100 (Wako Pure Chemical Industries)	150 µL
10X PBS	300 mL

ii. Components to prepare 1.5% H₂O₂ in PBS.

The 1.5 % H₂O₂ was prepared in PBS as indicated the table below.

Components	Volume/Mass
Hydrogen peroxide, H ₂ O ₂ ((including in TSA system kit)	150 µL
10X PBS	950 µL

iii. Components to prepare 0.5% blocking buffer.

The 0.5% blocking buffer was prepared in PBS as indicated the table below.

Components	Volume/Mass
Blocking reagent (including in TSA system kit)	0.05g
0.05% Triton-X100 in PBS	950 µL

APPENDIX G

Supplemental material 1

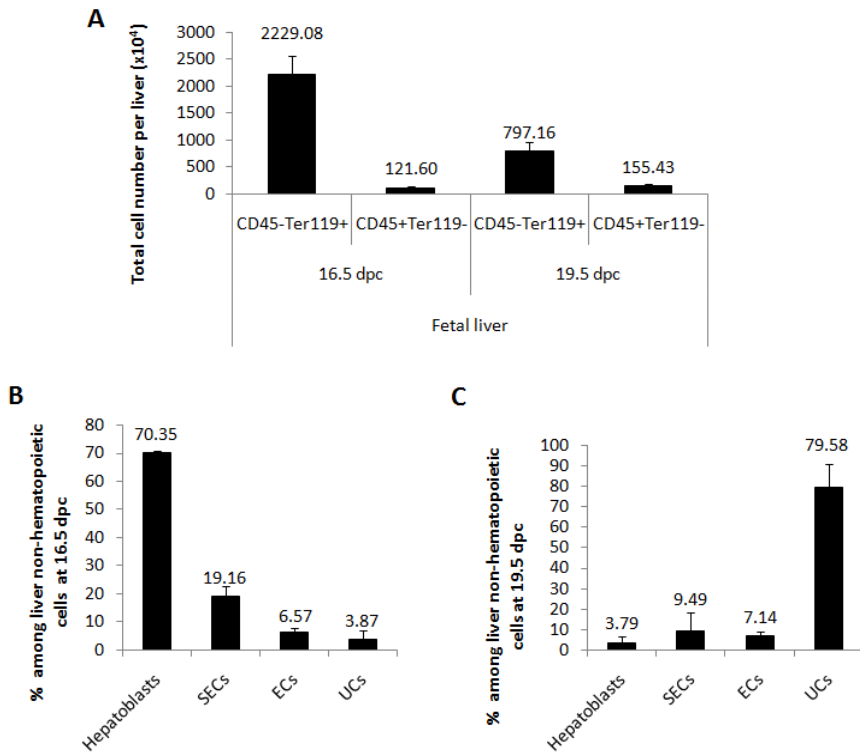


Figure S1. Characterization of fetal liver hematopoietic cells.

(A) Graph showing total number of CD45⁺Ter119⁺ and CD45⁺Ter119⁻ cells per liver at both 16.5 dpc and 19.5 dpc (n=3). (B, C) Graphs showing the percentage of fetal liver cells among non-hematopoietic cells at 16.5 dpc and 19.5 dpc. CD45⁺Ter119⁻DLK-1⁺ defines hepatoblasts; (2) CD45⁺Ter119⁻CD31⁺LYVE-1⁺ defines sinusoidal endothelial cells; (3) CD45⁺Ter119⁻CD31⁺LYVE-1⁻ defines endothelial cells (ECs); and (4) CD45⁺Ter119⁻CD31⁻LYVE-1⁻ defines unclassified cells (UCs) (n=3). Data are means \pm standard deviation (SD).

APPENDIX H

Supplemental material 2

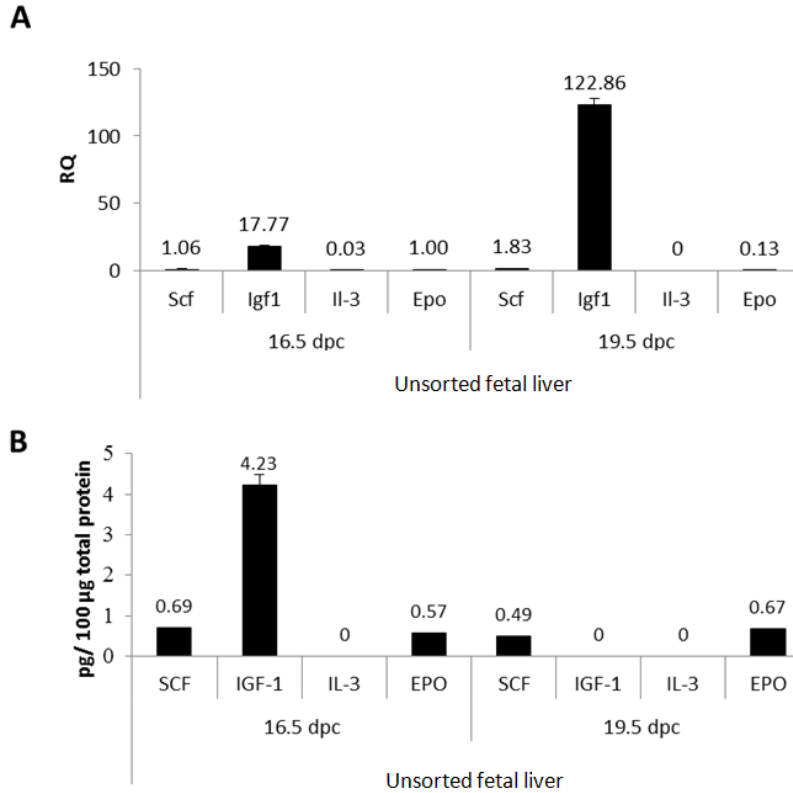


Figure S2. Expression of cytokine mRNA and protein in unsorted fetal liver at 16.5 dpc and 19.5 dpc.

(A) Relative expression (RQ) of *stem cell factor* (*Scf*), *insulin-like growth factor1* (*Igf1*), *interleukin-3* (*Il-3*) and *erythropoietin* (*Epo*) mRNAs were examined in unsorted fetal liver at 16.5 dpc and 19.5 dpc by quantitative real-time polymerase chain reaction (qRT-PCR). *Epo* at 16.5 dpc unsorted fetal liver served as controls. (B) Amounts of SCF, IGF-1, IL-3 and EPO protein per 100 µg of total protein in unsorted fetal liver at both 16.5 dpc and 19.5 dpc.

APPENDIX I

Supplemental material 3

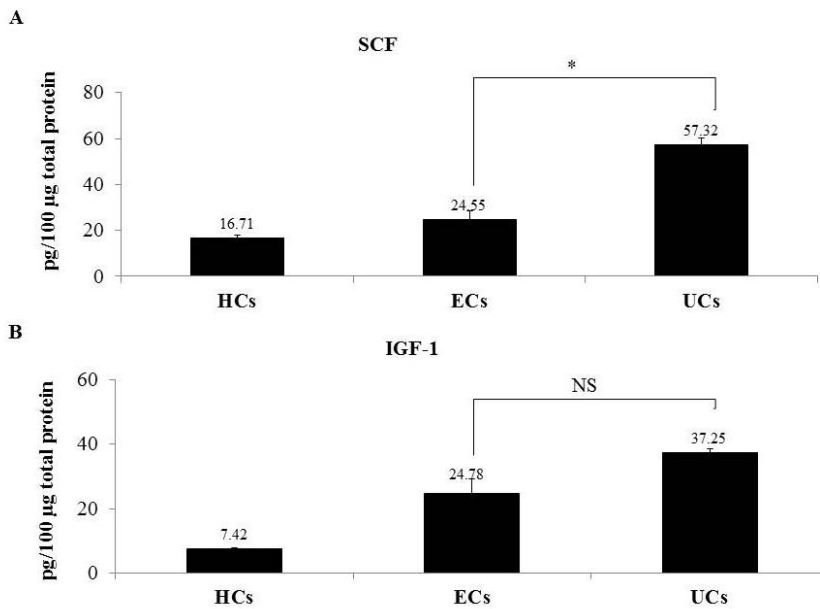


Figure S3. Expression of SCF and IGF-1 in sorted fetal spleen cells.

(A, B) Amounts of SCF and IGF-1 protein per 100 µg of total protein in hematopoietic cells (HCs), endothelial cells (ECs) and unclassified cells (UCs) (n=3). Data are means \pm standard deviation (SD). NS, not significant. *, $P < 0.05$.

APPENDIX J

Supplemental material 4

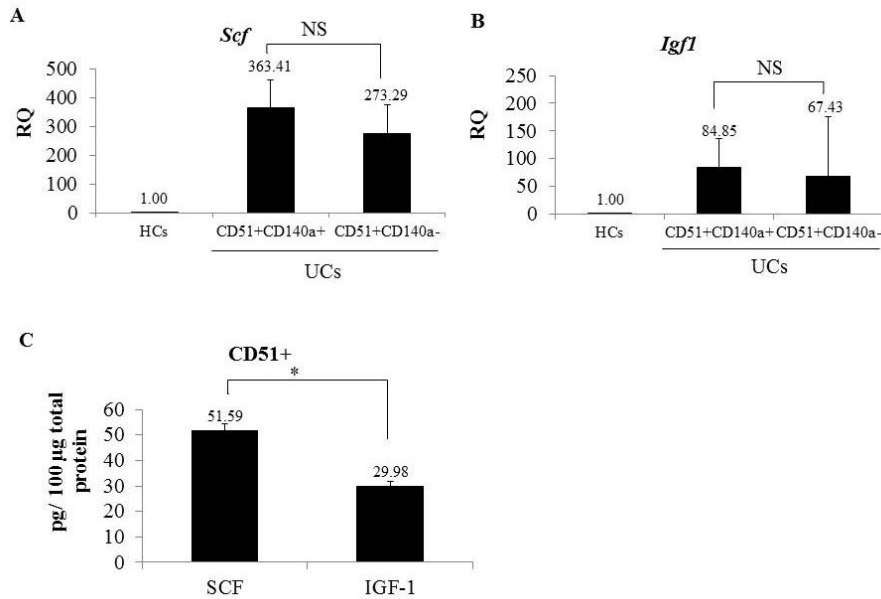


Figure S4. Cytokine expression in CD51⁺ and CD51⁺CD140a^{+/-} cells among unclassified cells (UCs).

(A, B) Relative *Scf* and *Igf1* expression (RQ) was assessed by quantitative real-time PCR in hematopoietic cells (HCs) and CD51⁺CD140a^{+/-} cells among UCs. HCs served as controls. *Scf* and *Igf1* expression was comparable in CD51⁺CD140a^{+/-} cells compared to HCs (n=3). (C) Amounts of SCF and IGF-1 protein per 100 µg of total protein in CD51⁺ cells (n=3). Data are means ± standard deviation (SD). NS, not significant. *, P < 0.05.

APPENDIX K

Supplemental material 5

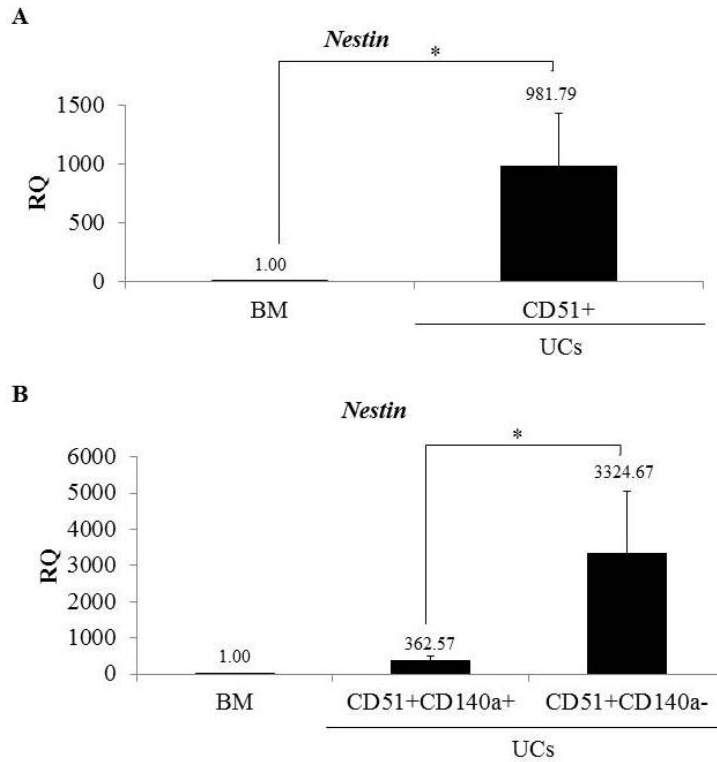


Figure S5. *Nestin* expression in CD51⁺ and CD51⁺CD140a^{+/-} cells among unclassified cells (UCs).

(A) Relative *Nestin* expression (RQ) was examined by quantitative real-time polymerase chain reaction (qRT-PCR) in control unsorted BM cells and in CD51⁺ cells. *Nestin* was expressed abundantly in CD51⁺ cells (n=3). (B) *Nestin* expression was examined by qRT-PCR in unsorted BM cells, CD51⁺CD140a⁺ and CD51⁺CD140a⁻ cells. (n=3). *Nestin* expression was highest in CD51⁺CD140a⁻ cells (n=3). Data are means ± standard deviation (SD). *, P < 0.05.

BIODATA OF STUDENT

Tan Keai Sinn was born on January 9, 1986 in Selangor. She is the youngest daughter of Mr. Tan Ah See and Mrs. Chia Chai Yah. She obtained her early education in Sekolah Rendah Jenis Kebangsaan (Cina) Yoke Kuan, Sekinchan, Selangor from 1992 to 1998. She then continues her higher education in Sekolah Menengah Kebangsaan Yoke Kuan, Sekinchan. She passed her Penilaian Menengah Rendah (PMR) examination in 2001 and Sijil Pelajaran Malaysia (SPM) in 2003. She was active in co-curriculum activities since primary school. She represented Selangor state in volleyball competitions from 1997 to 2008. In 2004, she was offered to continue her study in Kolej Matrikulasi Pahang (KMPh), Gambang, Kuantan.

Soon after that, she completed her tertiary education with a second upper class honors in Bachelor of Science (Honors) Biomedical Science in Universiti Putra Malaysia, Serdang, Selangor in 2008. In the same year, she was employed as a junior underwriter by an insurance company; however, she decided to continue her studies at Master level in the field of Genetics in June 2009, and completed in December 2011 under sponsorship of Mini Budget and graduate research fellowship (GRF). In February 2012, she continues her studies at PhD level in the field of Molecular Medicine.

From July 2012 until July 2014, she carried out some research at Prof. Dr. Sugiyama's laboratory in Kyushu University, Japan. During her stays in Japan, she successfully obtains a scholarship from the Tokyo Biochemical Research Foundation, Japan as to support her living expenses there. She also received a grant from the International Research Fund for Subsidy of Kyushu University School of Medicine Alumni for the project "Identification and niche regulation of fetal spleen cells". In addition, she is a recipient of MyPhD scholarship from Ministry of Higher Education (MOHE), Malaysia. Her current research is focused on the development of hematopoietic cells during mouse embryogenesis.

LIST OF PUBLICATIONS

Publications:

- i **Tan KS**, Inoue T, Kulkeaw K, Tanaka Y, Lai MI, Sugiyama D. Localized SCF and IGF-1 secretion enhances erythropoiesis in the spleen of murine embryos. *Biology Open*. 2015 April; 4(5):596-607.
- ii Kodiappan R, **Tan KS**, Lai JY, Chin FW, Chan SC, Veerakumarasivam A. MicroRNA: Epigenetic Modifiers in Regenerative Medicine. *Regenerative Research*. 2014 June; 3(1):29-40.
- iii Tanaka Y, Kulkeaw K, Inoue T, **Tan KS**, Nakanishi Y, Shirasawa S, Sugiyama D. Dok2 Likely Down-regulates *Klf1* in Mouse Erythroleukemia Cells. *Anticancer Research*. 2014 August; 34(8):4561-7.
- iv Swain A, Inoue T, **Tan KS**, Nakanishi Y, Sugiyama D. Intrinsic and Extrinsic Regulation of Mammalian Hematopoiesis in the Fetal Liver. *Histology and Histopathology*. 2014 September; 29(9):1077-82.
- v **Tan KS**, Tamura K, Lai MI, Veerakumarasivam A, Nakanishi Y, Ogawa M, Sugiyama D. Molecular Pathways Governing Development of Vascular Endothelial Cells from ES/iPS Cells. *Stem cell review and report*. 2013 October; 9(5):586-98.
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- vii **Tan KS**, Chan SC, Abdullah S, Rosli R, Veerakumarasivam A. Inhibition of MiR-21 Mitigates the Aggressive Bladder Cancer Phenotype. 4th Malaysian Tissue Engineering and Regenerative Medicine Scientific Meetings. *Regenerative Research*. Supplement. 37-38. 2012.
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