Class Switching in B Cells Lacking 3’ Immunoglobulin Heavy Chain Enhancers

By John P. Manis,*† Nienke van der Stoep,*† Ming Tian,*† Roger Ferrini,*†§ Laurie Davidson,*† Andrea Bottaro,§ and Frederick W. Alt*†§§

Summary

The 40-kb region downstream of the most 3’ immunoglobulin (Ig) heavy chain constant region gene (C\text{\textalpha}) contains a series of transcriptional enhancers speculated to play a role in Ig heavy chain class switch recombination (CSR). To elucidate the function of this putative CSR regulatory region, we generated mice with germline mutations in which one or the other of the two most 5’ enhancers in this cluster (respectively referred to as H\text{S3a} and H\text{S1,2}) were replaced with either a pgk-neo cassette (referred to as H\text{S3aN} and H\text{S1,2N} mutations) or with a loxP sequence (referred to as H\text{S3a}a and H\text{S1,2a}, respectively). B cells homozygous for the H\text{S3aN} or H\text{S1,2N} mutations had severe defects in CSR to several isotypes. The phenotypic similarity of the two insertion mutations, both of which were 5′-acting, suggested that inhibition might result from pgk-neo cassette gene insertion rather than enhancer deletion. Accordingly, CSR returned to normal in B cells homozygous for the H\text{S3a}a or H\text{S1,2a} mutations. In addition, induced expression of the specifically targeted pgk-neo genes was regulated similarly to that of germline C\text{H} genes. Our findings implicate a 3′ CSR regulatory locus that appears remarkably similar in organization and function to the β-globin gene 5′ LCR and which we propose may regulate differential CSR via a promoter competition mechanism.

Key words: immunoglobulin genes • class switching • enhancers • gene-targeted mutation • transcription

Immunoglobulin (Ig) variable regions are encoded by germ-line V, (D), and J gene segments that are assembled during early B cell differentiation by V(D)J recombination (for review see reference 1). The Ig heavy (H) chain locus contains eight different constant region (C\text{H}) genes with the organization: 5′V(D)J-C\text{\mu}-C\text{\delta}-C\text{\gamma}3-C\text{\gamma}1-C\text{\gamma}2b-C\text{\gamma}2a-C\text{\epsilon}-C\text{\alpha}-3′. Differentiating B lymphocytes first produce H chains in the context of an IgM surface receptor. During antigen-driven B cell maturation, B cells can secrete specific antibody with a different C\text{H} region effector function by juxtaposing the antigen-specific V(D)J gene to a different downstream C\text{H} gene via a recombination/deletion process termed class switch recombination (CSR; for review see reference 2). CSR occurs between tandem repetitive switch (S) region sequences present 5′ of individual germline C\text{H} genes.

CSR to particular C\text{H} genes is directed by different combinations of activators and lymphokines (3–6). For example, stimulation of B cells with bacterial LPS induces CSR to the C\text{\gamma}2b and C\text{\gamma}3; whereas LPS plus IL-4 induces CSR to C\text{\gamma}1 and C\text{\epsilon}. Factors that modulate switching to particular C\text{H} genes correspondingly modulate germline transcription of those genes before CSR (7–13). Thus, LPS treatment of splenic B cells induces germline C\text{\gamma}2b and C\text{\gamma}3 transcription; whereas LPS plus IL-4 treatment suppresses germline C\text{\gamma}2b and C\text{\gamma}3 expression, and induces germline C\text{\gamma}1 and C\text{\epsilon} gene transcription. All C\text{H} gene transcripts initiate at an exon termed I that lies 5′ to each S region, proceed through the S region and C\text{H} gene, and are processed to yield noncoding transcripts with the I exon spliced to the C\text{H} exon. Gene-targeted mutational analyses of I region exons/promoters have confirmed that germline C\text{H} transcription and/or transcripts play a direct role in CSR (14–19). Therefore, control of CSR is directly related to ability to control transcription of the various C\text{H} genes.

Understanding of the mechanisms that regulate CSR will require elucidation of both trans- and 5′-acting ele-
ments that modulate germline C<sub>H</sub> transcription. In this context, C<sub>H</sub> gene promoters contain consensus sequences that are responsive to specific lymphokines (reviewed by Coffman et al. [20]). Yet, properly regulated expression of germline C<sub>H</sub> genes requires sequences beyond those of their proximal promoters [21]. In this regard, efficient CSR from C<sub>μ</sub> to a downstream C<sub>H</sub> gene requires the transcriptional enhancer element (IE<sub>μ</sub>) found in the J<sub>μ</sub>/C<sub>μ</sub> intron (22). However, the expression of switched transcripts or translocated oncogenes on alleles in which IE<sub>μ</sub> is absent suggested the presence of additional downstream positive regulatory sequences (23–25).

The first candidate for such a downstream transcriptional enhancer was the so-called 3′ C<sub>α</sub>αE or 3'EH (Fig. 1, A and B), which was identified ~15 kb 3′ of C<sub>α</sub> based on ability to enhance transcription specifically in B lineage cells (26–28). Homozygous replacement of this element (also referred to as H51, see below) with a pgk-neor gene disrupted CSR and germline transcription of a series of C<sub>H</sub> genes, including C-γ3 which lies 120 kb upstream (29). Assuming that these effects were 3′-acting, one hypothesis to explain this phenotype was that H51,2 is critical for induction of germline C<sub>H</sub> gene transcription and that its deletion was the primary cause of the CSR phenotype (29, 30). A second possibility is that insertion of the pgk-neor gene cassette in the 3′ IgH locus disrupts the normal regulation of germline transcription/CSR by interfering with the activities of additional required regulatory elements (29).

The 40-kb region just downstream from C<sub>α</sub> contains four enhancer elements (that correspond to DNA elements hypersensitive or H S sites): H53a (or C<sub>α</sub>3′E), which lies 4 kb 3′ to the C<sub>α</sub>; H51,2 (or 3′C<sub>α</sub>ε), which lies 15 kb 3′ to C<sub>α</sub>; H53b, which lies 25 kb 3′ to C<sub>α</sub>; and H54, which lies ~30 kb 3′ to C<sub>α</sub> (26–28, 31, 32). Like the H51,2 sequence, H53a (31) and H53b (32) enhance reporter gene expression in activated B cells and plasma cells. On the other hand, H54 is active throughout B cell development (32, 33). H53a, H51,2, and H53b appear to represent a unit with H53a and H53b sharing high sequence homology, but lying in inverted orientation in the chromosome (34, 35). Recent studies have shown these enhancer sequences are conserved in man, consistent with an important regulatory function (36, 37).

Combinations of H53b, H51,2, and H54 had synergistic transcriptional enhancing effects when assayed in a transgenic mouse model, and were able to induce copy number and position-independent reporter gene expression, suggesting that these sequences have locus control region (LCR) properties (32). In this regard, a similar set of H S sites that lie upstream of the β-globin gene locus constitute a β-globin LCR, that apparently is responsible for coordinating expression of the various β-globin genes during development (reviewed by Martin et al. [38]). Individual H S sites within the β-globin LCR also have transcriptional enhancer activity and replacement of 2 of these individually with an expressed selectable marker gene cassette resulted in decreased β-globin expression across the locus (39–41), an effect reminiscent of what was observed when H51,2 was replaced with a neor gene (29). Yet "clean" deletion of the β-globin HS sites had no major effect, indicating that the effects of the pgk-neor gene insertion resulted from interference with additional regulatory sequences (40, 41).

To elucidate the function of the putative 3′ IgH regulatory region and assess the roles of specific enhancers, we have generated mice with germline mutations in which a pgk-neor cassette or a loxp site replaced either the H53a or the H51,2 elements and then assayed the effects of these mutations on the CSR process.

**Materials and Methods**

Vector Construction, Transfection, and Embryonic Stem Cell Screening. For the generation of H51,2 mutant mice, a previously described construct (29) was modified by deleting its existing pgk-neor cassette and substituting a loxp flanked pgk-neor cassette in the central N otI site, by blunt end ligation (Fig. 1 D). The deletion spanned from a Pst-I site 1.8 kb 5′ of the H51,2 core element (42) to an EcoR I site 1.7 kb 3′ of the element. This construct was linearized using Pvu-I. A 600-bp EcoR I-Xba fragment 5′ of H51,2 was used as a probe in Southern blotting.

The H53a mutant embryonic stem (ES) cells were derived using pLNTK vector P3 (43), cloning the 3-kb H3 fragment containing the alpha membrane exon in the S aI site and a 3.4-kb HindIII-Xba fragment into the Xho site, and deleting the 2-kb fragment that contains the previously described 900-bp enhancer (31). H53a (Fig. 1 C). This construct was linearized using S aI. A 500-bp EcoR I-H ind3 fragment was used as a probe in Southern blotting.

Approximately 20 μg of linearized construct DNA was electroporated into 2 × 10<sup>7</sup> J1 or E14 ES cells (H51,2 and H53a targets, respectively) and homologous recombinants were selected as previously described (44). One ES clone was injected into C57Bl/6 embryos to generate germline chimeric mice, each where a pgk-neor gene inserted correctly into one allele of either H53a or H51,2. Germline transmitting mice were then interbred to produce either mice homozygous for the H53aN or H51,2N mutation. Females homozygous for either mutation were bred with males containing an EIIa-Cre transgene (43, 45) to produce mice heterozygous for either mutation were bred with males containing an EIIa-Cre transgene (43, 45) to produce mice heterozygous for either mutation were bred with females containing an EIIa-Cre transgene (43, 45) to produce mice heterozygous for H53a or H51,2. Subsequent breeding of these mice yielded animals homozygous for H53a or H51,2. To keep the strains in all mutant mice similar, we bred mice with the H53aN or H51,2N (which were in a 129 × C57BL/6 background) with FVB mice (the strain of the EIIa-Cre Tg mice). Again mice were interbred to produce homozygous mutants for H53aN or H51,2N.

Spleen Cell Cultures. Single-cell suspensions of spleen cells were cultured at 5 × 10<sup>6</sup> cells/ml in RPMI medium supplemented with 10% FCS and 20 μg/ml LPS with or without 50 ng/ml of mouse recombinant IL-4 as previously described (18). Cultures for IgG2a and IgA production were prepared as previously described (29). Cells were harvested for FACs and supernatants assayed on days 4–5.

Flow Cytometry Analysis. Single-cell suspensions from spleens were prepared as previously described (18). Cells from day 4 or 5 cultures were washed in PBS, 2% FCS and stained with various antibodies conjugated with fluorescein (IgG1), phycoerythrin (IgM), biotin (IgG2a, IgG3, IgE, IgG2b/IgG2a, IgG2a), or Cy-chrome (B220; Pharmingen, San Diego, CA). Biotin conjugates were revealed by phycoerythrin-streptavidin (Pharmingen). The cells were analyzed on a FACScan® (Becton Dickinson &
Four independent ES cell lines that contained randomly inserted HS1,2 targeting constructs (HS1,-N) and two HS1,2N/§ constructs were used to introduce each of the mutations into the murine germline. Mice homozygous for either replacement mutation appeared normal and had B cell numbers in peripheral lymphoid organs that were similar to those of wild-type controls (data not shown). To generate mice with a “clean” deletion of each of the respective enhancer elements, the introduced loxP-flanked pgk-neor gene was deleted by breeding the mice containing the HS3aN or HS1,2N mutations with a mouse that expresses an ElaCre recombinase transgene at a very early developmental stage, and which permits generation of progeny that have deleted the neor gene in the germline (45). From the progeny of this cross, we identified individuals in which the pgk-neor gene was deleted, resulting in replacement of the HS3a or HS1,2 sites with only a loxP sequence. Mice homozygous for these deletion mutations (termed HS3aΔ and HS1,2Δ, respectively; Fig. 1) again appeared normal, and contained B cell numbers comparable to those of wild-type mice (data not shown).

**Deficient Serum Isotype Levels in Mice Homozygous for the HS3aN or HS1,2N Mutations.** Previously, homozygous replacement of HS1,2 with a pgk-neor cassette in ES cells followed by assay via the RAG-2–deficient blastocyst complementation system showed that this mutation led to chimeric mice with markedly decreased serum levels of IgG3 and IgG2a, but relatively normal levels of other isotypes including IgM (29). To assay the effects of the germline replacement mutations, we quantified serum Ig levels in mice homozygous for the HS1,2N and HS3aN mutations (referred to as HS1,2N/N and HS3aN/N mice, respectively). The serum IgM levels in both mutant lines were similar to those of wild-type control mice (Fig. 2). Levels of IgG1, IgG2b, and IgA also were substantial but there was no detectable IgG3 or IgG2a (Fig. 2). IgE levels were not determined as they were below the detection level of our assay even in normal mice (not shown). Thus, replacement of either HS1,2 or HS3a with a pgk-neor cassette resulted in essentially identical defects in serum Ig expression, even though the sites of the replacement mutations were separated by 12 kb within the downstream IgH region. This finding indicates that either HS3a and HS1,2 are independently essential for promoting CSR to these isotypes or that the neor gene interferes with additional elements when placed at either site.

**Results**

Generation of Mice with Targeted Replacements or Deletions of HS3a or H51,2. ES cells were transfected separately with constructs that replace either the entire HS3a or HS1,2 with a loxP-flanked pgk-neor gene cassette (Fig. 1, B–D; mutations termed HS3aN and HS1,2N, respectively). ES clones with appropriate targetings of the endogenous loci were used to introduce each of the mutations into the murine germline. Mice homozygous for either replacement mutation appeared normal and had B cell numbers in peripheral lymphoid organs that were similar to those of wild-type controls (data not shown). To generate mice with a “clean” deletion of each of the respective enhancer elements, the introduced loxP-flanked pgk-neor gene was deleted by breeding the mice containing the HS3aN or HS1,2N mutations with a mouse that expresses an ElaCre recombinase transgene at a very early developmental stage, and which permits generation of progeny that have deleted the neor gene in the germline (45). From the progeny of this cross, we identified individuals in which the pgk-neor gene was deleted, resulting in replacement of the HS3a or HS1,2 sites with only a loxP sequence. Mice homozygous for these deletion mutations (termed HS3aΔ and HS1,2Δ, respectively; Fig. 1) again appeared normal, and contained B cell numbers comparable to those of wild-type mice (data not shown).

**Deficient Serum Isotype Levels in Mice Homozygous for the HS3aN or HS1,2N Mutations.** Previously, homozygous replacement of HS1,2 with a pgk-neor cassette in ES cells followed by assay via the RAG-2–deficient blastocyst complementation system showed that this mutation led to chimeric mice with markedly decreased serum levels of IgG3 and IgG2a, but relatively normal levels of other isotypes including IgM (29). To assay the effects of the germline replacement mutations, we quantified serum Ig levels in mice homozygous for the HS1,2N and HS3aN mutations (referred to as HS1,2N/N and HS3aN/N mice, respectively). The serum IgM levels in both mutant lines were similar to those of wild-type control mice (Fig. 2). Levels of IgG1, IgG2b, and IgA also were substantial but there was no detectable IgG3 or IgG2a (Fig. 2). IgE levels were not determined as they were below the detection level of our assay even in normal mice (not shown). Thus, replacement of either HS1,2 or HS3a with a pgk-neor cassette resulted in essentially identical defects in serum Ig expression, even though the sites of the replacement mutations were separated by 12 kb within the downstream IgH region. This finding indicates that either HS3a and HS1,2 are independently essential for promoting CSR to these isotypes or that the neor gene interferes with additional elements when placed at either site.

**Severe Class-switch Defects In Vivo in HS3aN/N and HS1,2N/N Splenic B Cells.** Our previous studies showed that splenic B cells generated from ES cells homozygous for a H51,2-pgk-neor gene via replacement mutation by RAG-2–deficient blastocyst complementation had severe defects in CSR and in transcription of the C-γ3, C-γ2b, C-γ2a, and C-ε genes (29). To determine whether HS1,2N/N or HS3aN/N splenic B cells were similarly affected, we cultured both types of mutant B cells for 4 or 5 d in the presence of either LPS, LPS + IL-4, LPS + IFN-γ, or LPS + TGf-β, agents that collectively are known to induce class switching to C-γ3 and C-γ2b, C-γ1 and C-ε, or C-γ2a and C-α, respectively. Both mutant cell types proliferated similarly to normal cells after the various treatments (data not shown). Supernatant antibody levels in the cultures after 5
days of treatment were measured by ELISA using isotype specific antibodies. After appropriate stimulation, secreted levels of IgM were similar in cultures of HS1,2N/N, HS3aN/N and wild-type B cells, while the levels of IgG1 and IgA secreted by the mutant cells were significant but generally lower than those of normal control B cells (Fig. 3). However, IgG3, IgG2b, IgG2a, or IgE were not detectable in the supernatants of the HS1,2N/N and HS3aN/N B cells, which indicated a reduction of 100-fold or more from wild-type levels (Fig. 3). Surface stains of day 4 stimulated cells confirmed a substantial inhibition of switching to IgG3, IgG2b, IgG2a, and IgE, accompanied by an apparently slight inhibition of switching to IgG1 and relatively normal switching to IgA (data not shown).

To analyze the consequences of replacing HS3a with pgk-neor cassette on expression of germline C_\text{H} transcripts, we assayed total RNA from LPS and LPS plus IL-4–stimulated HS1,2N/N and HS3aN/N B cells for hybridization to an Ig_\text{G2b}–region specific probe (Fig. 4A). These studies demonstrated major inhibition in the expression of germline Ig_\text{G2b} transcripts in LPS cultures of the N/N cells (Fig. 4A). Additional assays revealed a similar lack of germline

Figure 1. Targeted mutations of the HS3a and HS1,2 enhancers. (A) Partial map of the C_\text{H} locus representing the arrangement of the heavy chain constant region genes and enhancers depicted by filled boxes or ovals. The open circle labeled IE_\text{mu} represents the intronic heavy chain enhancer (map not drawn to scale). (B) The open box represents the C_\text{a} membrane coding region. The open ellipses represent various enhancer elements, HS3a (C –EH), HS1,2 (3’ EH), HS3b, and HS4. (C) The targeting for the HS3a was detected using the depicted H3-R1 500-bp probe, yielding a genomic band of 4.7 kb by EcoR1 digest, and a 4.3-kb band after homologous recombination with a lox flanked pgk-neor gene. Upon Cre-mediated deletion of the pgk-neor cassette a 10.6-kb band is detected. (D) HS1,2 was targeted using the depicted construct, where a 600-bp EcoR1-Xba fragment detects a 11.7-kb germline band and a 10.1-kb targeted band. Upon Cre-mediated deletion of the selectable marker, the mutated band is detected at 6.8 kb. Restriction enzymes: B, BamH1; R1, EcoR1; H3, Hind3; Xba, Xba1.

Figure 2. Selective serum immunodeficiency in HS1,2N/N and HS3aN/N mice but not in HS3a\Delta/\Delta or HS1,2\Delta/\Delta mice. Concentrations of specific immunoglobulin isotypes in sera from HS1,2N/N (open squares), HS3aN/N (open circles), HS3a\Delta/\Delta (closed circles), HS1,2\Delta/\Delta (closed squares) mice with their wt (closed triangles) littermates are shown. N represents the N/N mice, \Delta represents the \Delta/\Delta mice, and WT indicates wild-type littermate controls. All isotypes except IgE were quantified by ELISA.
transcripts from other \( C_H \) genes (e.g., \( C_{\gamma 3} \) and \( C_e \)) after appropriate in vitro stimulation of HS1,2/N and HS3aN/N B cells (Fig. 4 C). Together, these findings show that homozgyous replacement of either HS3a or HS1,2 with a pgk-neor gene results in an essentially identical defect of CSR to IgG3, IgG2b, IgG2a, and IgE after in vitro stimulation, and that this defect corresponds in turn to a block in the induction of the respective germline \( C_H \) transcripts. Again, these findings could be consistent with either a required function for both HS3a and HS1,2 in the CSR process or an effect of the inserted pgk-neor gene on an additional regulatory element.

Inhibition of CSR by the pgk-neor Replacement Mutations Occurs in a Cis-acting Fashion. The defect in CSR observed in either the HS3aN/N or HS1,2/N B cells could occur via disruption of a critical cis-acting control element for CSR (29). To directly assay for this, we generated mice harboring one allele with a pgk-neor replaced enhancer element, and one wild-type allele. The ES cells used in our targetings were derived from the 129 mouse strain which carries the IgH^a haplotype. The mutant mice were bred with C57Bl/6 mice that carry the IgH^b haplotype, allowing the generation of heterozygous mutant progeny that harbor an IgH^a allele with the neo^r mutation and a wild-type IgH^b allele. The haplotypic differences between the IgH^a and the IgH^b alleles can be distinguished at the DNA level (based on nucleotide sequence differences manifested as unique restriction endonuclease sites), as well as at the protein level by antibodies specific for the IgH^a and IgH^b polymorphisms.

Splenocytes from the wild-type, HS3aN/+ , and HS1,2/N/+ mutant mice were stimulated in vitro with either LPS or LPS+IL-4, and activated B cells were collected for analysis after 4 d of stimulation. LPS-stimulated cells were doubly stained with a biotin-conjugated antibody that recognizes the IgH^a allele of IgG2b and IgG2a isotypes (IgG2b^a and IgG2a^a, respectively), and one that recognizes total IgG2b (both IgH^a and IgH^b alleles). Wild-type B cells heterozygous for the normal IgH^a and IgH^b alleles had similar numbers of B cells that stained for either surface IgG2b^a or IgG2b^b positive cells (Fig. 5 A). However, mice heterozygous for either mutant IgH^a allele and the wild-type IgH^b allele expressed only surface IgG2b^b positive B cells indicating a cis-acting defect of the mutations on class switching to IgG2b (Fig. 5 A, labeled HS3aN^+/+ or HS1,2N^+/+).

To assay for allele-specific transcripts of the C_e region, we employed PCR for specific amplification of all transcripts through the C_e constant region. The IgE__b haplotype contains an additional Sty-1 restriction site in the 453 base pairs spanning the first 2 C_e constant region exons, as compared with the IgE__a haplotype. Therefore, RT-PCR products of transcripts arising from the two alleles can be differentiated based on the size of fragments generated after digestion with Sty-1. LPS plus IL-4–stimulated B cells from mice heterozygous for the wild-type IgH^a and IgH^b alleles generated an approximately equal ratio of C_e-containing transcripts from the two alleles (Fig. 5 B). In contrast, almost all detectable C_e-transcripts in LPS plus IL-4–stimulated B cells from mice heterozygous for either the HS1,2N or HS3aN IgH^a allele and the wild-type IgH^b allele were generated from the wild-type (IgH^b) allele (Fig. 5 B).

In summary, both pgk-neor replacement of either HS3a or HS1,2 regions resulted in a cis-acting defect in CSR, as measured both by transcripts and surface protein expression, indicating that the effects of the neo^r gene replacement mutations disrupted a cis-acting control element.

Normal Class Switch Recombination and Germline C_e Transcription in HS3aN/Δ or HS1,2Δ/Δ B Cells. To further elucidate the mechanism by which the HS3aN and HS1,2N insertion mutations inhibited CSR, we assayed for class switching by B cells of HS3aN/Δ or HS1,2Δ/Δ mice. Splenic B cells from both homozygous deletion mutant mice expressed a wild-type distribution of surface IgM and IgD (data not shown). Likewise, the levels of serum IgM and all other assayed downstream isotypes were similar to those of the wild-type control animals (Fig. 2). Thus, specific deletion of either the HS3a or HS1,2 enhancers had no readily measurable effect on serum Ig levels. Moreover, after LPS or LPS plus lymphokine stimulation of HS3aN/Δ and HS1,2Δ/Δ splenic B cells, we observed induction of surface and secreted Ig isotypes that were generally similar in proportion to the wild-type.
Heavy Chain Enhancers and Class Switching

in level to those of wild-type control mice (Fig. 3 and data not shown). Although there were potentially small effects on switching to certain isotypes (e.g., IgG2b and IgE; Fig. 3), these are difficult to assess given the inherent variations in these population assays. Overall, our results indicate that neither the HS1,2 nor the HS3a enhancers are required for LPS and lymphokine-stimulated CSR and expression of IgH isotypes.

To test for the effects of specific deletions of HS3a or HS1,2 on expression of germline CH transcripts, we assayed RNA prepared from the LPS or LPS plus IL-4–treated cultures of HS3aΔ/Δ and HS1,2Δ/Δ B cells. We readily observed the induction of IgG2b-containing germline transcripts upon LPS activation of these cells, in striking contrast to the lack of induction observed in LPS-activated cultures of HS3aN/N and HS1,2N/N B cells. (compare Fig. 4, A with B). Although the potential for more modest effects will need to be examined in further detail, we conclude from these studies that neither the HS3a nor the HS1,2 enhancers are absolutely needed for substantial induction of germline CH gene transcription or the CSR process that follows.

The pgk-neor Gene Is LPS Inducible When Inserted into the 3'IgH Locus. Insertion of the pgk-neor cassette into either the H33a or the HS1,2 elements replaced by a pgk-neor cassette on their IgH+ haplotype allele, and a wild-type IgH- haplotype allele, were analyzed. (A) Day 4 splenocyte cultures were stained with an antibody detecting both IgG2bα or IgG2bβ, and one which detects IgG2bβ and IgG2aβ. LPS-stimulated B cells from mutant mice revealed cells staining only for IgG2bβ. (B) RT-PCR of transcripts through Cε, digested with Styl revealed a 200-bp fragment generated from the IgH+ allele, and a 150-bp fragment from the IgH- allele.

Figure 5. The HS1,2N and HS3aN mutations disrupt class switching in cis. Splenocytes from mice with either the HS3a or the HS1,2 elements replaced by a pgk-neor cassette on their IgH+ haplotype allele, and a wild-type IgH- haplotype allele, were analyzed. (A) Day 4 splenocyte cultures were stained with an antibody detecting both IgG2bβ or IgG2aβ, and one which detects IgG2bβ and IgG2aβ. LPS-stimulated B cells from mutant mice reveal cells staining only for IgG2bβ. (B) RT-PCR of transcripts through Cε, digested with Styl reveal a 200-bp fragment generated from the IgH+ allele, and a 150-bp fragment from the IgH- allele.
was inserted in place of the HS1,2 sequences. For this purpose, we assayed total splenocyte RNA from HS1,2N/+ mice for hybridization to a neo gene-specific probe. Expression of endogenous pgk sequences (which are ubiquitously expressed) and the Mb-1 sequence (which is B cell specific) was measured as a control. RNA from thymus and from nonlymphoid tissues had very low levels of pgk-neo transcripts, from the specifically inserted pgk-neo gene (data not shown). However, HS1,2N spleen RNA contained significant levels of neo transcripts (Fig. 6, lanes 3 and 5). To determine if these neo transcripts were expressed and inducible in B lymphocytes, we assayed RNA from cultures of HS1,2N/+ spleen cells treated for 4 or 5 d with LPS. These RNA preparations showed a significantly higher level of neo gene transcripts (representing as much as a fivefold induction; Fig. 6, compare lanes 3 and 5 with lanes 9, 11, 14, and 16). Furthermore, we also observed similarly elevated expression levels of the pgk-neo gene in LPS-treated HS3aN/N splenic B cells (data not shown), indicating that such induction occurs with respect to neo genes targeted at two independent sites in the 3′ IgH locus.

These findings suggested that the pgk-neo′ sequences inserted into the 3′ IgH region are specifically expressed and LPS-inducible in B cells. A control for this experiment, we used ES cell lines that contained randomly inserted HS1,2 targeting constructs to generate splenic B cell populations by the RAG-2-deficient blastocyst complementation method (49). Spleen cells from these chimeric mice were then assayed for neo′ and control gene transcription before and after 5 d of culture in LPS. These cells proliferated and underwent class switching to IgG3 and IgG2b in a manner similar to that of normal splenic B cells. However, none of four independent populations of spleen cells with random integrations of the HS1,2 targeting construct expressed levels of the pgk-neo′ gene above the very low levels found in thymus or non-lymphoid tissues, either before or after LPS treatment (Fig. 6, compare lanes 1, 2, and 4 with lanes 7, 8, 10, and 12, 13, 15).

Together, these data indicate that specific targeting of the pgk-neo′ gene into the 3′ IgH locus leads to its upregulated expression in total splenic B cells and that this expression level is further augmented in LPS-stimulated B cell populations.

Discussion

The 3′ IgH Regulatory Region. The 40-kb region directly 3′ of the IgH locus contains four known transcriptional enhancer sequences, including HS3a, Hs1,2, Hs3b, and Hs4 (reviewed by Birshtein[42]) and is referred to as the 3′ IgH regulatory region. Cell transfection and transgenic studies indicated that the individual enhancers are active in stimulated or terminally differentiated B cells, suggesting they are involved in controlling late B cell differentiation events such as CSR and high level IgH gene expression (26, 30, 32, 50). However, until now, there has been no direct examination of the potential role of any of these elements during normal B cell development. Although we previously demonstrated that replacement of the Hs1,2 enhancer with a pgk-neo′ cassette disrupted CSR to multiple Cγ genes, the mechanism was not clear. Thus, the block in CSR could have resulted from the deletion of the Hs1,2 enhancer, an inhibitory effect of the inserted pgk-neo′ cassette on other elements, or both (29). Furthermore, the effects of the previous mutation could have resulted from disrupting expression of a gene encoding a trans-acting factor necessary for CSR (29). Our current work clearly resolves these possibilities by showing that neither Hs3a nor Hs1,2 are necessary for CSR or IgH gene expression; whereas replacement of either with a pgk-neo′ cassette interferes with CSR and germline transcription of distant, ds-linked Cγ genes.

Hs3a and Hs1,2 Are Not Required for CSR or IgH Expression. Hs1,2 was identified as a strong transcriptional enhancer that is active specifically in stimulated B cells and plasma cells (26, 28). Previous studies demonstrated that Hs1,2 increased expression of linked transgenes and rendered them LPS-inducible in B lineage cells (50, 51). Hs1,2 also contains numerous transcription factor binding sites (52–55), further implicating it in transcriptional regulation or related processes. Hs3a, which lies 12 kb upstream of Hs1,2 and immediately downstream of the Cα gene, was similarly defined based on ability to enhance reporter gene expression specifically in late-stage B lineage cell lines (31). This activity, combined with the finding that Hs3a also contains numerous factor-binding motifs, again led to speculation about its potential roles in Ig H C gene expression (26, 30, 32, 50). However, until now, there has been no direct examination of the potential role of any of these new sequences in

Figure 6. LPS-inducible neo′ gene expression from HS1,2N. Total RNA samples isolated from spleen cells of either unstimulated or day 4 or 5 of LPS activation, and were separated on a denaturing formaldehyde containing 1% agarose gel. Respectively, neo′, pgk′, and mb-1 RNA transcripts were detected with specific probes as mentioned in experimental procedures and are indicated with an arrow. Lanes 1, 2, and 4 contain RNA from unstimulated splenocytes that harbor a randomly integrated HS12 pgk-neo′ targeting construct (HS12RAN) and are derived from ES cell clones R12.3, R12.11 and R12.1, respectively. Lanes 7, 8, and 10, contain RNA samples of ES-derived splenocytes (again clones R12.3, R12.11 and R12.1) after 4 d of LPS stimulation, and lanes 12, 13, and 15 contain RNA samples of the same spleen cells after 5 d of LPS stimulation. Lanes 3 and 5 contain RNA samples derived from unstimulated spleen cells that harbor a targeted replacement of the HS12 pgk-neo′ targeting construct. Lanes 9 and 11 contain RNA samples of the same spleen cells after 4 d of LPS stimulation and lanes 14 and 16 contain RNA samples of the same spleen cells after 5 d of LPS stimulation. Lane 6 contains RNA from unstimulated RAG-2-deficient spleen cells.
expression or CSR (31). Our current studies are consistent with the possibility that these enhancers, in particular H S1,2, may have some role in influencing expression (Fig. 4). However, our finding that neither H S1,2 nor H S3a is essential for V(D)J recombination, substantial expression of germline Cγ1 transcripts, or IgH CSR and IgH expression is surprising and necessitates consideration of other potential functions for these elements. One possibility is in the somatic hypermutation process as 3' IgH region sequences have been implicated by the finding of an increased occurrence of mutations in VμDμ transgenes recombined into the IgH locus (56). The availability of mice containing germ-line deletions of the individual 3' IgH enhancers will facilitate searches for more specific functions.

The lack of major effect of the H S3a or H S1,2 deletions on measured processes might result from redundancy. H S3a and/or H S1,2 share potential transcription factor binding sites with H S3b and/or H S4 (36). Therefore, these enhancers may have overlapping or redundant functions, which could obviate major effects of the deletion of a single element. In this context, disruption of the NF-κB p50 gene led to a phenotype reminiscent of the homozygous H S1,2N/N or H S3aN/N phenotype, with impaired CSR to an overlapping set of Cγ1 genes (57). As there are NF-κB-binding sites in both the H S1,2 and H S4 enhancers (58), it is possible that the NF-κB KO phenotype could result, at least in part, by interfering with the function of both enhancers. Enhancer redundancy is found in the Igκ locus, where the intronic and 3' enhancers appear to have overlapping functions with respect to Igκ gene rearrangement and expression (43, 59). For some processes, the intronic Eμ also may work in conjunction with 3' IgH sequences, as expression of rearranged V(D)J sequences in Eμ-deleted cell lines was suppressed upon replacement of H S1,2 with a pgk-neo' gene (30).

Our studies also demonstrate that expression of the Cγ1 and Cκ genes is less affected in vitro or in vivo even with respect to the H S1,2N or H S3aN mutations, suggesting that expression of these genes may be positively influenced by control elements not influenced by the 3' IgH regulatory locus (29). Likewise, the finding that IgG2b levels are suppressed with respect to in vitro LPS stimulation of H S3aN/N and H S1,2N/N B cells but are relatively normal in vivo in the corresponding mice, supports the notion that Cγ2b can be activated in vivo by a novel pathway which is independent of the 3' IgH regulatory region. The availability of the germline mutant mice will facilitate the search for such novel activating pathways and elements.

Similarities between the 3' IgH Regulatory Region and the β-Globin 5' LCR. The 3' IgH regulatory region is quite reminiscent in organization to the LCR region of the β-globin locus which similarly contains four erythroid-specific HS sites that individually harbor distinct transcriptional enhancer activity (60). The β-globin LCR confers tissue-specific, high level, position-independent expression to βs-linked genes (61, 62), enhances transcription as far as 70 kb away, and influences chromatin structure and timing of replication over >200 kb (63, 64). Similarly, the combined H S1,2, H S3b, and H S4 sequences induced copy number and position independence to transfected constructs, suggesting the 3' IgH region also may function as an LCR (32). In another striking parallel to our current findings, replacement of either the H S3 or H S2 enhancers of the β-globin LCR with an expressed selectable marker gene resulted in a severe block in the expression of the linked β-globin locus; but, in both cases, β-globin locus gene expression was substantially restored upon removal of the selectable marker gene (40, 41). Heterozygous deletion of the complete β-globin LCR in human cells of a thalassemia carrier eliminated β-globin gene expression in its, implicating its essential role in β-globin expression and suggesting that the individual enhancer elements are redundant (65). By analogy, more significant effects on CSR or expression may occur upon simultaneous deletion of multiple 3' enhancer elements (66). As insertion of the pgk-neo' cassette into both the 3' IgH H S3a and H S1,2 locations blocks CSR to the same upstream genes and, in both cases, renders the inserted pgk-neo' cassette LPS inducible, it seems likely that major distal elements necessary for LPS induction of germline Cγ1 transcription still lie downstream of H S1,2, with H S3b and H S4 being prime candidates.

In addition to the 3' IgH locus and the β-globin locus, inhibition of expression due to an inserted pgk-neo' cassette has been observed in several other loci (41, 43, 59, 67–70). Although the effects of the inserted pgk-neo' gene in different loci may not necessarily occur via a single mechanism, a common theme is the potential of complex, long-range mechanisms that have evolved to control expression of developmentally regulated multi-gene loci. The effect of the pgk-neo' gene insertion in the β-globin LCR or the 3' IgH region could be due to the inhibition of the neighboring enhancer elements (38, 40, 41); for example, the H S1,2 replacement might inhibit transcription factors binding to the H S3a, H S3b, or H S4 elements, and thereby inhibit all three enhancer elements. However, a more likely scenario is that the pgk-neo' gene insertion results in interference with long-range transcriptional control elements involved directly with promoter-LCR interactions (71, 72) or long-range effects on chromatin structure that modulate distal promoter function (73). Recent studies of a transgenic β-globin locus showed that a second β-globin gene competed more efficiently with other genes to which it was LCR-proximal (74), supporting the looping model of LCR function in which one gene interacts with the LCR at a time (75).

Additional insight into the potential mechanisms by which the 3' IgH regulatory locus may modulate germline CH transcription and/or CSR comes from recent studies of lymphocytes in which the Cε or the IgY2b exons were replaced with a pgk-neo' gene; class switching to CH genes upstream, but not downstream of the pgk-neo' insertion was inhibited, again with the exception of switching to Igγ1 (Seidl, K., H. Oettgen, and F. Alt, manuscript in preparation). On the other hand, other recent studies of B cells in which the intronic Eμ element was replaced with a pgk-neo' cassette showed that the inserted pgk-neo' cassette
maintained CSR to downstream CH genes at relatively normal levels even in the absence of EM (76). In this case, the expressed pgk-neor cassette may have provided the necessary transcriptional functions to promote CSR at the Sγμ region whereas downstream germline transcription units were unaffected by this 5′ insertion. Together, all of these studies are consistent with the notion that the pgk-neor insertions inhibit CSR in a polarized fashion, primarily affecting germline transcription units 5′ to the insertion site. In this regard, the β-globin LCR has been speculated to regulate differential β-globin locus gene expression via a promoter competition mechanism (71, 77). The 3′ IgH regulatory region might employ a similar mechanism to regulate differential expression of Cλ genes dependent on this region (29). Whatever the absolute mechanism, the many similarities between the overall organization of the β-globin LCR and the 3′ IgH region suggest that these two loci have evolved similar strategies to regulate differential gene expression.

We thank W. Forrester for critical reading of the manuscript.

This work was supported by the Howard Hughes Medical Institute and National Institutes of Health Grants AI-240047 and AI-31541 (to F.W. Alt) and AI-01285 to (J.P. Manis). N. van der Stoep was supported in part by European Molecular Biology Organization fellowship AltF-300-1994, and M. Tian was supported in part by an Irvington Institute fellowship.

Address correspondence to Frederick W. Alt, The Howard Hughes Medical Institute, The Children’s Hospital, 861, 320 Longwood Ave., Boston, MA 02115. Phone: 617-355-7290; Fax: 617-730-0432; E-mail: alt@rascal.med.harvard.edu

Received for publication 24 April 1998 and in revised form 28 July 1998.

References
1. Lansford, R., A. Okada, J. Chen, E. Oltz, T. Blackwell, F. Alt, and G. Rathbourn. 1996. Mechanism and control of immunoglobulin gene rearrangement. In Molecular Immunology. Second edition. B. Hames and D. Glover, editors. Oxford University Press, Oxford. 248–282.
2. Zhang, J., F.W. Alt, and T. Honjo. 1995. Regulation of class switch recombination of the immunoglobulin heavy chain genes. In Immunoglobulin Genes. Second edition. T. Honjo and F.W. Alt, editors. Academic Press, London. 235–265.
3. Snapper, C.M., and W.E. Paul. 1987. Interferon-gamma and B cell stimulatory factor-1 reciprocally regulate Ig isotype production. Science. 236:944–947.
4. Coffman, R.L., J. Ohara, M.W. Bond, J. Carty, A. Zlotnik, and W.E. Paul. 1986. B cell stimulatory factor-1 enhances the IgE response of lipopolysaccharide-activated B cells. J. Immunol. 136:4538–4541.
5. Kearney, J.F., M.D. Cooper, and A.R. Lawton. 1976. B lymphocyte differentiation induced by lipopolysaccharide. III. Suppression of B cell maturation by anti-mouse immunoglobulin antibodies. J. Immunol. 116:1664–1668.
6. Layton, J.E., E.S. Vitetta, J.W. Uhr, and P.H. Krammer. 1984. Clonal analysis of B cells induced to secrete IgG by T cell-derived lymphokines. J. Exp. Med. 160:1850–1863.
7. Yancopoulos, G.D., R.A. DePinho, K.A. Zimmerman, S.G. Lutzker, N. Rosenberg, and F.W. Alt. 1986. Secondary genomic rearrangement events in pre-B cells VH'DJH replacement by a LINE-1 sequence and directed class switching. EMBO J. (Eur. Mol. Biol. Org.). 5:3259–3266.
8. Lutzker, S., P. Rothman, R. Pollock, R. Coffman, and F.W. Alt. 1988. Mitogen- and IL-4-regulated expression of germ-line Igγ2b transcripts: evidence for directed heavy chain class switching. Cell. 53:177–184.
9. Stavnezer, J., G. Radeliff, Y.C. Lin, J. Nietupski, L. Berggren, R. Sitia, and E. Severinson. 1988. Immunoglobulin heavy-chain switch may be directed by prior induction of transcripts from constant-region genes. Proc Natl. Acad. Sci. USA. 85:7704–7708.
10. Esser, C., and A. Radbruch. 1989. Rapid induction of transcription of unarranged S gamma 1 switch regions in activated murine B cells by interleukin 4. EMBO J. (Eur. Mol. Biol. Org.). 8:483–488.
11. Berton, M.T., J.W. Uhr, and E.S. Vitetta. 1989. Synthesis of germ-line gamma 1 immunoglobulin heavy-chain transcripts in resting B cells: induction by interleukin 4 and inhibition by interferon gamma. Proc Natl. Acad. Sci. USA. 86:2823–2833.
12. Rothman, P., S. Lutzker, B. Gorham, V. Stewart, R. Coffman, and F.W. Alt. 1990. Structure and expression of germ-line immunoglobulin gamma 2b heavy chain gene transcripts: implications for mitogen and lymphokine directed class-switching. Int. Immunol. 2:621–627.
13. Rothman, P., Y.Y. Chen, S. Lutzker, S.C. Li, V. Stewart, R. Coffman, and F.W. Alt. 1990. Structure and expression of germ line immunoglobulin heavy-chain epsilon transcripts: interleukin-4 plus lipopolysaccharide-directed switching to C epsilon. Mol. Cell. Biol. 10:1672–1679.
14. Harriman, G.R., A. Bradley, S. Das, P. Rogers-Fani, and A.C. Davis. 1996. IgA class switch in Igα-exon-deficient mice. Role of germline transcription in class switch recombination. J. Clin. Invest. 97:477–485.
15. Xu, L., B. Gorham, S.C. Li, A. Bottaro, F.W. Alt, and P. Rothman. 1993. E selection of germ-line epsilon promoter by gene targeting alters control of immunoglobulin heavy
Heavy Chain Enhancers and Class Switching.

25. Wabl, M.R., and P.D. Burrows. 1984. Expression of immunoglobulin heavy chain class switching. Proc Natl Acad. Sci. USA. 90:3705–3709.

26. Pettersson, S., G.P. Cook, M. Bruggemann, G.T. Williams, and M.S. Neuberger. 1990. A second B cell-specific enhancer in the immunoglobulin heavy chain locus. EMBO J. 9:155–164.

27. Lieberson, R., S.L. Giannini, and B.K. Birshtein. 1991. An enhancer at the C alpha 3 end of the mouse immunoglobulin heavy chain locus, Nucleic Acids Res. 19:933–937.

28. Dariauch, P., G.T. Williams, K. Campbell, S. Pettersson, and M.S. Neuberger. 1991. The mouse IgH 3'-enhancer. Eur J. Immunol. 21:1499–1504.

29. Cogne, M., R. Lansford, A. Bottaro, J. Zhang, J. Gorman, F. Young, H.L. Cheng, and F.W. Alt. 1994. A class switch control region at the 3' end of the immunoglobulin heavy chain locus. EMBO J. 13:7737–747.

30. Lieberson, R., J. Ong, X. Shi, and L.A. Eckhardt. 1995. Immunoglobulin gene transcription ceases upon deletion of a distant enhancer. EMBO J. (Eur. Mol. Biol. Orgn.) J. 14:6229–6238.

31. Maitlis, P., and D. Baltimore. 1993. The immunoglobulin heavy chain locus contains another B-cell-specific 3' enhancer close to the alpha constant region. Mol. Cell. Biol. 13:1547–1553.

32. Madsen, L., and M. Groudine. 1994. Identification of a locus control region in the immunoglobulin heavy-chain locus that deregulates c-myc expression in plasmacytoma and Burkitt's lymphoma cells. Genes Dev. 8:2212–2226.

33. Michaelson, J.S., S.L. Giannini, and B.K. Birshtein. 1995. Identification of 3' alpha-hs4, a novel Ig heavy chain enhancer element regulated at multiple stages of B cell differentiation. Nucleic Acids Res. 23:975–981.

34. Chauveau, C., and M. Cogne. 1996. Palindromic structure of the IgH 3' locus control region [letter]. Nat. Genet. 14:15–16.

35. Saleque, S., M. Singh, R.D. Little, S.L. Giannini, J.S. Michaelson, and B.K. Birshtein. 1997. Dyad symmetry within the mouse IgH regulatory region includes two virtually identical enhancers (C alpha 3 E and hs3). J. Immunol. 158:4780–4787.

36. Chen, C., and B.K. Birshtein. 1997. Virtually identical enhancers containing a segment of homology to murine IgH D C alpha 1 and C alpha 2 genes. J. Immunol. 159:1310–1318.

37. Mills, F.C., N. Harinardanath, M. Mitchell, and E.E. Max. 1997. Enhancer complexes located downstream of both human immunoglobulin C kappa genes. J. Exp. Med. 186:845–858.

38. Martin, D.I., S. Fiering, and M. Groudine. 1996. Regulation of beta-globin gene expression: straightening out the locus. Curr. Opin. Genet. Dev. 6:488–495.

39. Kim, C.G., E.M. Epner, W.C. Forrester, and M. Groudine. 1992. Inactivation of the human beta-globin gene by targeted insertion into the beta-globin locus control region. J. Exp. Med. 267:1825–1838.

40. Fiering, S., E. Epner, K. Robinson, Y. Zhuang, A. Telling, M. Hu, D.I. Martin, T. Enver, T.J. Ley, and M. Groudine. 1995. Targeted deletion of 5' HS2 of the murine beta-globin LCR reveals that it is not essential for proper regulation of the beta-globin locus. Genes Dev. 9:2203–2213.

41. Hug, B.A., R.L. Wesendeschmidt, S. Fiering, M.A. Bender, E. Epner, M. Groudine, and T.J. Ley. 1996. Analysis of mice containing a targeted deletion of beta-globin locus control region 5' hypersensitive site 3. Mol. Cell. Biol. 16:2906–2912.

42. Birshtein, B.K., C. Chen, S. Saleque, J.S. Michaelson, M. Singh, and R.D. Little. 1997. Murine and human 3' IgH regulatory sequences. Curr. Top. Microbiol. Immunol. 224:73–80.

43. Gorman, J.R., N. van der Stoop, R. Monroe, M. Cogne, L. Davidson, and F.W. Alt. 1996. The IgI(kappa) enhancer influences the ratio of IgI(kappa) versus IgI(lambda) B lymphocytes. Immunity 5:241–252.

44. Shinkai, Y., G. R athburn, K.P. Lam, E.M. Oltz, V. Stewart, M. Mendelsohn, J. Charron, M. Datta, F. Young, A.M. Stall, et al. 1992. RAG-2-deficient mice lack mature lymphocytes owing to inability to initiate V(D)J rearrangement. Cell 68:855–867.

45. Lakso, M., J.G. Pichel, J.R. Gorman, B. Sauer, Y. O komato, E. Lee, F.W. Alt, and H. Westphal. 1996. Efficient in vivo manipulation of mouse genomic sequences at the zygote stage. Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA. 93:5860–5865.

46. Laird, P.W., A. Zijdelerd, K. Linders, M.A. Urdu nicki, R. J aenisch, and A. Berns. 1991. Simplified mammalian DNA isolation procedure. Nucleic Acids Res. 19:4293.

47. Zelazowski, P., D. Carrasco, F.R. Rossas, M.A. M oorman, R. Bravo, and C.M. Snapper. 1997. B cells genetically deficient in the c-Rel transactivation domain have selective defects in germline CH transcription and Ig class switching. J. Immunol. 159:3133–3139.

48. Li, Y.S., K. Hayakawa, and R.R. Hardy. 1993. The regulated expression of B lineage associated genes during B cell differentiation in bone marrow and fetal liver. J. Exp. Med. 177:1055–1067.
51. Arulampalam, V., P.A. Grant, A. Samuelsson, U. Lendahl, C. Borrebaeck, I. Lundkvist, and S. Petterson. 1996. Elevated expression levels of an Ig transgene in mice links the IgH 3' enhancer to the regulation of IgH expression. Int. Immunol. 8:1149–1157.

52. Grant, P.A., T. Andersson, M.F. Neurath, V. Arulampalam, A. Bauch, R. Muller, M. Reth, and S. Petterson. 1996. A T cell controlled molecular pathway regulating the IgH locus: CD40-mediated activation of the IgH 3' enhancer. Eur. J. Immunol. 24:1671–1677.

53. Neurath, M.F., E.E. Max, and W. Strober. 1995. Pax5 (BSAP) regulates the murine immunoglobulin 3' alpha enhancer by suppressing binding of NF-alpha P, a protein that controls heavy chain transcription. Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA. 92:5336–5340.

54. Myer, K.B., M. Skogberg, C. Margenfeld, J. Ireland, and S. Petterson. 1995. Repression of the immunoglobulin heavy chain 3' enhancer by helix-loop-helix protein Ids via a functionally important E47/El2 binding site: implications for developmental control of enhancer function. Eur. J. Immunol. 25:1770–1777.

55. Singh, M., and B.K. Birshtein. 1996. Concerted repression of an immunoglobulin heavy-chain enhancer, 3' alpha E(hs1,2). Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA. 93:4392–4397.

56. Tumas-Brundage, K.M., K.A. Vora, and T. Manser. 1997. Evaluation of the role of the 3' alpha heavy chain enhancer [3' alpha E(hs1,2)] in Vh gene somatic hypermutation. Mol. Immunol. 34:367–378.

57. Sha, W.C., H.C. Liou, E.I. Tuomanen, and D. Baltimore. 1995. Targeted disruption of the p50 subunit of NF-kappa B leads to multifocal defects in immune responses. Cell. 80:321–330.

58. Michaelson, J.S., M. Singh, C.M. Snapper, W.C. Sha, D. Baltimore, and B.K. Birshtein. 1996. Regulation of 3' IgH enhancers by a common set of factors, including kappa B-binding proteins. J. Immunol. 156:2828–2839.

59. Xu, Y., L. Davidson, F.W. Alt, and D. Baltimore. 1996. Deletion of the Ig kappa light chain intronic enhancer/matrix attachment region impairs but does not abolish V kappa J kappa rearrangement. Immunity. 4:377–385.

60. Baron, M.H. 1997. Transcriptional control of globin gene switching during vertebrate development. Biochim. Biophys. Acta. 1351:51–72.

61. Blom van Assendelft, G., O. Hanscombe, F. Grosved, and D.R. Greaves. 1989. The beta-globin dominant control region activates homologous and heterologous promoters in a tissue-specific manner. Cell. 56:969–977.

62. Grosved, F., G.B. van Assendelft, D.R. Greaves, and G. Kollas. 1987. Position-independent, high-level expression of the human beta-globin gene in transgenic mice. Cell. 51:975–985.

63. Behringer, R.R., T.M. Ryan, R.D. Palmeter, R.L. Brinster, and T.M. Townes. 1990. Human gamma- to beta-globin gene switching in transgenic mice. Genes Dev. 4:380–389.

64. Forrester, W.C., E. Epner, M.C. Driscoll, T. Enver, M. Brice, T. Papayannopoulou, and M. Groudine. 1990. A deletion of the human beta-globin locus activation region causes a major alteration in chromatin structure and replication across the entire beta-globin locus. Genes Dev. 4:1637–1649.

65. Driscoll, M.C., C.S. Dobkin, and B.P. Alter. 1989. Gamma delta thalassaemia due to a de novo mutation deleting the 5' beta-globin gene activation-region hypersensitive sites. Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA. 86:7470–7474.

66. Gregor, P.D., and S.L. Morrison. 1986. Myeloma mutant with a novel 3' flanking region: loss of normal sequence and insertion of repetitive elements leads to decreased transcription but normal processing of the alpha-heavy-chain gene products. Mol. Cell. Biol. 6:1903–1916.

67. Chen, J., F. Young, A. Bottaro, V. Steward, R.K. Smith, and F.W. Alt. 1993. Mutations of the intronic IgH enhancer and its flanking sequences differentially affect accessibility of the JH locus. EMBO J. (Eur. Mol. Biol. Organ.) 12:4635–4645.

68. Serwe, M., and F. Sablitzky. 1995. (V(D)J) recombination in B cells is impaired but not blocked by targeted deletion of the immunoglobulin heavy chain intron enhancer. EMBO J. (Eur. Mol. Biol. Organ.) 14:2321–2327.

69. Olson, E.N., H.H. Arnold, P.W. Rigby, and B.J. Wold. 1996. Know your neighbors: three phenotypes in null mutants of the myogenic bHLH gene MRF4. Cell. 85:1–4.

70. Pham, C.T., D.M. MacLvor, B.A. Hug, J.W. Heusel, and T.J. Ley. 1996. Long-range disruption of gene expression by a selectable marker cassette. Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA. 93:13090–13095.

71. Hanscombe, O., D. Wyhatt, P. Fraser, N. Yannoutsos, D. Greaves, N. Dillon, and F. Grosved. 1991. Importance of globin gene order for correct developmental expression. Genes Dev. 5:1387–1394.

72. Wijgerde, M., F. Grosved, and P. Fraser. 1995. Transcription complex stability and chromatin dynamics in vivo. Nature. 377:209–213.

73. Walters, M.C., S. Fiering, J. Eidehiller, W. Migrations, M. Groudine, and D.I. Martin. 1995. Enhancers increase the probability but not the level of gene expression. Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA. 92:7125–7129.

74. Dillon, N., T. Trimborn, J. Strouboulis, P. Fraser, and F. Grosved. 1998. The effect of distance on long-range chromatin interactions. Mol. Cell. 1:131–139.

75. Walters, M.C., W. Magis, S. Fiering, J. Eidehiller, S. Scalfio, M. Groudine, and D.I. Martin. 1996. Transcriptional enhancers act in cis to suppress position-effect variegation. Genes Dev. 10:185–195.

76. Bottaro, A., F. Young, J. Chen, M. Serwe, F. Sablitzky, and F. Alt. 1998. Deletion of the IgH intronic enhancer and associated matrix-attachment regions decreases, but does not abolish class switching at the J beta locus. Int. Immunol. 10:799–806.

77. Enver, T., N. Racher, A.J. Ebens, T. Papayannopoulou, F. Costantini, and G. Stamatyannopoulou. 1990. Developmental regulation of human fetal-to-adult globin gene switching in transgenic mice. Nature. 344:309–313.