Metastatic progression and gene expression between breast cancer cell lines from African American and Caucasian women

Haile F Yancy1,2, Jacqueline A Mason2, Sharla Peters2, Charles E Thompson III3, George K Littleton3, Marti Jett4 and Agnes A Day*2

Address: 1Department of Arts and Sciences, Coppin State University, Baltimore, MD, 21216, USA, 2Department of Microbiology, College of Medicine, Howard University, Washington, D.C. 20059, USA, 3Department of Physiology, Howard University, Washington, D.C. 20059, USA and 4Division of Pathology, Walter Reed Army Institute for Research, Silver Spring, MD 20910, USA

Email: Haile F Yancy - Hyancy123@yahoo.com; Jacqueline A Mason - Jacqueline.A.Mason@comcast.net; Sharla Peters - sharlapeters2@hotmail.com; Charles E Thompson - charlesethompsoniii@gmail.com; George K Littleton - glittleton@howard.edu; Marti Jett - marti.jett@us.army.mil; Agnes A Day* - aday@howard.edu

* Corresponding author

Abstract

African American (AA) women have a lower overall incidence of breast cancer than do Caucasian (CAU) women, but a higher overall mortality. Little is known as to why the incidence of breast cancer is lower yet mortality is higher in AA women. Many studies speculate that this is only a socio-economical problem. This investigation suggests the possibility that molecular mechanisms contribute to the increased mortality of AA women with breast cancer. This study investigates the expression of 14 genes which have been shown to play a role in cancer metastasis. Cell lines derived from AA and CAU patients were analyzed to demonstrate alterations in the transcription of genes known to be involved in cancer and the metastatic process. Total RNA was isolated from cell lines and analyzed by RT-PCR analysis. Differential expression of the 14 targeted genes between a spectrum model (6 breast cancer cell lines and 2 non-cancer breast cell lines) and a metastasis model (12 metastatic breast cancer cell lines) were demonstrated. Additionally, an in vitro comparison of the expression established differences in 5 of the 14 biomarker genes between African American and Caucasian breast cell lines. Results from this study indicates that altered expression of the genes Atp1b1, CARD 10, KLF4, Spint2, and Acly may play a role in the aggressive phenotype seen in breast cancer in African American women.

Background

Cancer is characterized by excessive growth and spread of abnormal cells. It affects all populations in the United States and ranks second only to heart disease as the leading cause of death [1]. More than half the recognized types of cancer share the property of metastatic activity [2]. It is estimated that 1,399,790 new cases of cancer will be diagnosed in 2006. More than 564,830 Americans are expected to die of cancer, equaling more than 1,500 people each day. African American (AA) women exhibit a disproportionate burden of cancer. The American Cancer Society reported that in 2005 more than 63,000 AA were expected to die from cancer [3]. For all cancers, cancer death rates among AA are higher than other racial or ethnic populations in the United States [4]. In 2005, it was estimated that 137,910 new cases of cancers would be diagnosed among AA women. Among AA women, the most common cancers will be breast, colon and rectum,
and lung. Cancers among AA women are more frequently diagnosed after the cancer has metastasized and spread to regional or distant sites [3]. In 2006 more than 212,920 new cases of invasive breast cancer will be diagnosed and 41,430 women are expected to die due to the disease [1]. Although the 5-year survival rate among AA women diagnosed with breast cancer has improved, they still have a decreased likelihood of surviving 5 years after diagnosis than Caucasian (CAU) for all cancer sites and at all stages of diagnosis. Much of this difference is believed to be due to factors associated with poverty [5], which include reduced access to medical care [6], diagnoses at a later stage, when the disease has spread to regional or distant tissues [7], and disparities in treatment [8,9]. The goal of this study is to identify biological factors that may lead to or increase the high mortality rate observed in AA.

Metastasis is the main cause of morbidity and mortality in cancer patients. The selective distribution of metastases is dictated by numerous factors, including complementary adhesive contacts, the pattern of vascular flow from the primary site, and molecular interactions between the tumor cell and the stroma at the secondary site [10]. Our lab has previously shown that of the 26 human matrix metalloproteinases (MMPs), 12 have been shown to have elevated expression in AA breast cancer cell lines when compared to their CAU counterparts. Our results suggested that there is altered expression of 12 MMPs in cell lines derived from AA and CAU women. The data demonstrated elevated expression of MMPs 3, 7, 8, 9, 11–15, 23B, 26, and 28 in AA women [11]. This investigation indicated that altered expression of MMPs may play a role in the aggressive phenotype seen in AA women. As a result of the aforementioned study, an expanded gene list of possible biomarkers that may be responsible for the aggressive breast cancer observed in the AA women were examined. The experiments were modeled using 14 of the 43 genes described in the study by Eckhardt et al. [12] to create primers using the human analog gene sequences.

This study investigates the expression levels of 14 genes, which have been shown to play a role in cancer and the metastatic process, using breast cell lines derived from AA and CAU women.

**Methods**

**Cell Culture**

Cell lines were purchased from American Type Culture Collection (Rockville, MD, USA) and Coriell Cell Repositories (Camden, NJ). Cells were propagated in the recommended media and given new media every 2 to 3 days until 90% confluent. The spectrum model (Table 1) contains 6 breast cancer cell lines and 2 non-cancer breast cell lines. Of the 6 cell lines, three are derived from AA and three derived from CAU. This model also contains two cell lines from primary sites and one metastatic cell line. The metastatic model (Table 2) consists of 12 metastatic breast cancer cell lines from 6 AA and 6 CAU women.

**RNA Extractions**

RNA was extracted from the cell lines using RNAqueous (Ambion, Austin, TX). Cells were collected by low speed centrifugation and lysed by adding 200 μl of Lysis/Binding Solution. An equal volume of 64% ethanol was added to the lysate. The lysate/ethanol mixture was transferred to the RNAqueous Filter Cartridge and centrifuged for 1 minute at 13,400 rpm. The flow through was discarded and 700 μl of Wash Solution 1 was added to the RNAqueous Filter Cartridge and centrifuged for 1 minute. The column was washed twice with 500 μl of Wash Solution 2/3 and eluted with 110 μl Elution Solution. Isolated RNA was quantitated using the NanoDrop Spectrophotometer (Wilmington, DE). All RNA samples were stored at -70°C in RNA elution solution (Ambion, Austin, TX).

**Reverse Transcriptase Polymerase Chain Reaction (RT-PCR)**

The RT-PCR reactions were performed in a P/E GeneAmp 9700 thermocycler (Perkin-Elmer Co., Norwalk CT),

| Table 1: Spectrum Model Cell Lines |
|-----------------------------------|
| **CAUCASIAN (CAU)**               |
| **MCF-12A** Mammary gland; breast; epithelial; non-tumorigenic |
| **HS578T** Mammary gland; breast; carcinoma |
| **MCF-7** Mammary gland; breast; epithelial; metastatic site; pleural effusion adenocarcinoma |
| **CRL-2336** Mammary gland epithelial, primary ductal carcinoma |
| **AFRICAN AMERICAN (AA)**         |
| **AG11132** Mammary gland; breast; epithelial; non-tumorigenic |
| **CRL-2315** Breast, primary ductal carcinoma |
| **CRL-2329** Carcinoma, ductal, primary; breast; mammary gland |
| **CRL-2320** Carcinoma, ductal, breast; mammary gland; from metastatic site: lymph node |
using the Access RT-PCR system (Promega, Madison, WI). The reaction mixes were prepared by combining 27.5 μl of nuclease free water, 10 μl of AMV, 1 μl Tfl 5X reaction buffer, 2 μl dNTP mix, 50 μM of upstream primer, 50 μM of downstream primer in 1.5 μl volume each, 3 μl 25 mM MgSO4, 1.0 μl AMV reverse transcriptase, Tfl DNA polymerase and 1 μg of total RNA in a 0.5 ml thin walled Eppendorf tube on ice. The reaction mixes were then vortexed for 5 seconds and centrifuged. The PCR cycling profile was as follows: 48°C for 1 minute for reverse transcription of the RNA into cDNA, 94°C for 4 minutes to deactivate the reverse transcriptase, and 30 cycling sequences of denaturing at 94°C for 45 seconds, annealing at 55°C-58°C (Table 3) for 30 seconds, and extension at 72°C for 1 minute with a final extension at 72°C for 10 minutes. An aliquot of 20 μl of each RT-PCR reaction was run on 1.2% agarose gels, stained with ethidium bromide, photographed and subjected to densitometric measurements using the Chemi-Imager Tm 4000 (Alpha Innotech, Corporation, San Leandro, CA). The primers used in this study are listed in Table 3.

Results

RT-PCR Analysis
In order to ascertain the cells metabolic activity and equal loading of 1 μg of RNA, expression levels of 18S and GAPDH were analyzed. The mRNA expression levels of 18S were similar between AA and CAU cell lines (Figure 1). Differential expression of the mRNA levels GAPDH was observed between AA and CAU cell lines (Figure 2) as is often seen when utilizing this internal marker. The comparison of the individual relative densities of cancer cells in both cell line models between AA and CAU women revealed altered expression in 5 of the 14 potential biomarkers (Atp1b1, CARD 10, KLF4, Spint2, and Acly) (Tables 4 and 5). Elevated expression of Atp1b1, Spint2, and Acly in AA women breast cancer cells were observed when the expression levels of all AA and CAU women cell lines were compared (Figures 3, 4, and 5). Lowered expression of KLF4 and CARD 10 were observed when the expression levels of all AA and CAU women cancer cell lines were compared (Figures 6 and 7). Altered expression of Atp1b1, CARD 10, KLF4, Spint2, and Acly in AA breast cancer cells was observed when the overall averages of the expression levels of all AA and CAU cancer cell lines were compared (Figure 8).

Discussion
Breast cancer is described as heterogeneous because it is a different disease in different women, a different disease in different age groups and has different cell populations within the tumor itself. It is the most frequently diagnosed cancer in women. The main types of breast cancer are ductal carcinoma in situ, invasive ductal carcinoma, lobular carcinoma in situ, invasive lobular carcinoma, medullary carcinoma, and Paget's disease of the nipple. Carcinomas are malignant tumors that begin in the lining layers of organs [13].

There are many factors that contribute to breast cancer development. The risk of being diagnosed increases as individuals' age. The primary factors that increase the risk are an inherited mutation of the BRCA1 and/or BRCA 2 genes, a family history of breast cancer, high breast density, and a confirmed biopsy of hyperplasia. Although the BRCA mutations are one of the primary factors for develop-
opposing breast cancer, it accounts for only 5% of all breast cancer cases. Women that carry these mutations, however, have a lifetime risk of developing breast cancer ranging from 35% to 85%. There are other factors that have been linked to increased risk of breast cancer. These include a long menstrual history, obesity after menopause, recent use of oral contraceptives, having more than one alcoholic drink per day, and postmenopausal hormone therapy. This is especially true of the use of combined estrogen and progestin therapy [14].

This study demonstrates the validity of using the spectrum and metastasis model systems to identify expression profiles that may be unique to metastatic breast cancer in AA women. We expanded our potential biomarker gene list to include 14 genes that have been shown to play roles in cancer. We observed altered expression of 5 genes in AA cell lines when compared to their CAU counterparts. This evidence suggests that the altered expression levels of CARD10, KLF4, Acly, Atp1b1, and Spint2 may be contributing factors in the higher mortality rates of AA breast cancer patients. The candidates identified could not only be useful in early detection of metastatic potential in AA women, but also provide support for the concept that there are clearly genetic factors that play a role in the aggressive phenotype seen in this population.

The data show that the mRNA transcript encoding Na-K-ATPase (Atp1b1) was elevated in the cancer cell lines compared to the normal cell lines and exhibited altered expression profiles between AA and CAU cell lines. The active form of Atp1b1 is composed of a 100–112 kDa catalytic ct-subunit and a 45–60 kDa glycoprotein 13-subunit [15]. Three different isoforms of α (α1, α2, and α3) and β (β1, β2, and β3) subunits are known [16-18]. At the aa level, α isoforms share 85% sequence similarity [16] while 50% similarity is found among β isoforms [18]. Interestingly, the expression of different isoforms seems to follow a tissue-specific pattern. The α1 and β1 isoforms are produced in most tissues, whereas α2, α3 and β2 are produced predominantly in the brain [17,19]. The abundance of ATP1B1 has recently been found to be a useful tool for the proper reclassification of samples as either tumors of low malignant potential or the invasive tumors of epithelial ovarian cancers [20].

We observed decreased levels of both Caspase recruitment domain family (CARD) and Kruppel-like factor 4 (KLF4) expression in both primary and metastatic cell lines compared with the normal cell lines, with the lowest expression levels occurring in the metastatic cell lines. CARDS are protein modules found in many proteins that regulate apoptosis [21-23]. A total of 21 human CARD-containing proteins have been identified. Members of this family include caspases 1, 2, 4, 5, 9, and 13, Apaf-1, CARD4 (Nod1), Nod2, CARD7 (DEFCAP/NAC), c-IAP-1, c-IAP-2, RICK (RIP2/CARDIAK), ARC, BCL10, RAIDD, ASC, Iceberg, CARD9, CARD11, and CARD14. CARD10 is a novel

Table 3: Gene List

| Gene                                | Accession Number | Symbol | Primer Sequence | Annealing Temperature °C | Base pair size (bp) |
|-------------------------------------|------------------|--------|-----------------|--------------------------|---------------------|
| ATP citrate lyase                    | AW538652         | Acly   | CATCCACAGGCTAACACC | 58                       | 179                 |
| ATPase, Na+/K+ transporting, b1 polypeptide | AW544616        | Atpb1  | CTCCTTCTTTGCTTCCCG | 58                       | 145                 |
| Caspase recruitment domain family, member 10 | BG085048        | Card10 | TGGAGCTCTTCTGACCCCTT | 58                       | 275                 |
| Epoxide hydrolase 1, microsomal      | BG072453         | Ephx1  | CCAAGGCTTGACCGCTGAGT | 58                       | 278                 |
| UDP-N-acetyl-a-D-galactosamine/polypeptide | BG068045        | Galnx3 | GCAGGCTGACACGTCTGA | 58                       | 135                 |
| Kruppel-like factor 4 (gut)          | BG069413         | Klf4   | CACCCAGGAAAGACTAC | 55                       | 409                 |
| Peptidylprolyl isomerase C           | BG065249         | Ppic   | TGGGCTTCTCTACCTCCTTCTGCAAA | 55                       | 144                 |
| Serine protease inhibitor, Kunitz type 2 | BG085206        | Spin2  | CTTGGGCTCAAGGAGTTGTGCAGGACCTCA | 55                       | 263                 |
| Protein tyrosine phosphatase, receptor type F | BG088014        | Ptprf  | TCTGCTCTCAACCTCCTCA | 55                       | 136                 |
| Transforming growth factor b2        | BG067564         | Tgb2   | ATGGGCTCTCTACAGACTAGTGT | 55                       | 152                 |
| Tissue inhibitor of Metalloproteinase 1 | NM_003254       | TIMP1  | ACAACCCAGGGGACCTGAC | 55                       | 262                 |
| Tissue inhibitor of Metalloproteinase 2 | NM_003255       | TIMP2  | TGGACCCAGGGGACCTGAC | 55                       | 101                 |
| Tissue inhibitor of Metalloproteinase 3 | NM_003622       | TIMP3  | TGGGAGCTGGTCTGCTGCTTCTTCTTA | 57                       | 310                 |
| Tissue inhibitor of Metalloproteinase 4 | NM_003256       | TIMP4  | TACCCAGGCTGACATTAT | 55                       | 232                 |
| Glyceraldehyde-3-phosphate dehydrogenase | NM_002046      | GAPDH  | TCAATGAGGCTTTAACCAC | 55                       | 590                 |
CARD/MAGUK family member that signals the activation of NF-κB through BCL10. CARD10 and other members of the CARD/MAGUK family likely play an important role in receptor-mediated activation of BCL10 and NF-κB [24].

Krüppel, a group of zinc-finger-containing transcription factors found in *Drosophila melanogaster*, is thought to control embryogenesis [25]. Among these transcription factors, a group named Kruppel-like-factors (KLFs) has recently emerged as important contributors to the development of the mammalian embryo. The KLF family consists of at least 16 members that have been separated into subgroups based on their structure [26]. KLF4 was first identified from a human umbilical vein erythroid cDNA library. The Human KLF4 gene locus is located at chromosome 9q31, which covers a 6.3 kb region [27]. KLF4 has been found to be important in regulating the proliferation and differentiation of specific epithelial and endothelial tissues [28]. The significant loss of KLF4 has been reported in sporadic colonic adenomas and carcinomas [29], gastric cancers [30], bladder cell lines and tissue [31], and lung cancer [32]. The expression of KLF4 has been found to be significantly repressed in human gliomas-associated vascular endothelial cells as compared with that found in non-neoplastic control vascular endothelial cells [33], suggesting that KLF4 is involved in an anti-angiogenic pathway.

Elevated expression of Serine protease inhibitor, Kunitz type 2 (SPINT2)/Hepatocyte growth factor activator inhibitor type 2 (HAI-2) (SPINT2/HAI-2) in both primary and metastatic cell lines compared with the normal cell lines with the highest expression levels occurring in the metastatic cell lines. We additionally observed lowered expression in AA cell lines compared to their CAU counterparts. SPINT2/HAI-2 has a broad inhibitory spectrum and was independently reported to be a placental bikunin [34]. SPINT2/HAI-2 inhibits tissue and plasma kalikreins, trypsin, plasmin, factor Xla, and chymotrypsin. Little is known about the in vivo functions of SPINT2/HAI-2, but disruption of the HAI-2 gene has resulted in embryonic lethality in mice indicating a potentially important role of this inhibitor in cellular development [35]. SPINT2/HAI-2 has been found to be over-expressed in pancreatic cancer [36] and ovarian cancer [37] and has been inversely correlated with tumor progression in renal cell carcinoma [38] and breast cancer [39].

The data revealed elevated levels of ATP citrate lyase (Acly) expression in both primary and metastatic cell lines compared to the normal cell lines with the highest expression levels occurring in the metastatic cell lines. We also observed elevated expression found in AA cell lines compared to their CAU counterparts. Acly is critical for the conversion of glucose to cytosolic acetyl CoA and therefore for glucose-dependent lipogenesis. Acly deficiency in mice has resulted in embryonic lethality, with no viable embryos detectable even at early stages of development [40]. Previous studies have noted that cancers exhibit high levels of glycolysis and lipogenesis [41]. Accelerated fatty acid synthesis (FAS) in tumor tissues was first reported in the 1950s [42]. Elevated expression of FAS in malignant

---

**Figure 1**

**Densitometric measurement of the 18S RT-PCR analyses.** Using the data obtained from the RT-PCR experiments, the amplicons from three different experiments of each cell line was subjected to densitometric scanning. To determine the relative density, area plots were quantitated using the Chemi Imager Tm 4000 software (Alpha Innotect, Corp. San Leandro, CA). Values from the experiments were averaged and error bars represent the standard deviation.
cells has been documented in various cancers including breast [43-47], prostate [48-51], ovarian [52], endometrial [53], colon [54], tongue [55], lung carcinoma, [56] and hepatocellular carcinoma [57].

In conclusion, we have amassed two cell line models that could be used to identify biomarkers and treatments unique to AA women with breast cancer. The significance of the study is that Atp1b1, CARD 10, KLF4, Spint2, and Acly are not only useful in serving as possible biomarkers of metastasis, but also provide support for the concept that they could serve specifically as biomarkers for AA women. To date, this is the only study that has used an AA model system specifically for gene mining to investigate cancer and metastatic gene expression in cell lines derived from African American patients.

Table 4: RT-PCR expression in AA and CAU cells. Expression assessment by RT-PCR of the targeted genes using the spectrum model. Altered expression in AA vs. CAU denoted in bold. Mean ± SD

| Gene Symbol | African American | Normal | Caucasian |
|-------------|-----------------|--------|-----------|
| Card 10     | 46 ± 3.17       | 41 ± 3.49 | 32 ± 0.88 |
| Klf4        | 29 ± 0.72       | 30 ± 0.18 | 28 ± 0.75 |
| Acly        | 64 ± 0.66       | 61 ± 3.80 | 78 ± 0.01 |
| Atplb1      | 60 ± 2.22       | 65 ± 4.69 | 57 ± 0.35 |
| Galnt3      | 37 ± 1.89       | 39 ± 0.40 | 43 ± 2.18 |
| Ppic        | 43 ± 0.76       | 42 ± 2.34 | 55 ± 0.96 |
| Ephx1       | 79 ± 4.67       | 67 ± 5.00 | 69 ± 6.29 |
| Spint2      | 60 ± 0.48       | 58 ± 2.24 | 42 ± 0.10 |
| Ptprf       | 32 ± 0.34       | 33 ± 0.15 | 35 ± 0.02 |
| Tgb2        | 34 ± 0.55       | 37 ± 0.35 | 40 ± 3.22 |
| TIMP1       | 67 ± 2.10       | 64 ± 3.32 | 77 ± 3.48 |
| TIMP2       | 46 ± 4.79       | 66 ± 6.15 | 64 ± 6.95 |
| TIMP3       | 60 ± 0.08       | 65 ± 0.22 | 69 ± 0.76 |
| TIMP4       | 61 ± 0.39       | 63 ± 1.02 | 76 ± 3.38 |
| 18S         | 90 ± 0.28       | 91 ± 0.60 | 89 ± 4.14 |
| GAPDH       | 83 ± 6.83       | 77 ± 2.34 | 76 ± 3.29 |

Figure 2
Densitometric measurement of the GAPDH RT-PCR analyses. Using the data obtained from the RT-PCR experiments, the amplicons from three different experiments of each cell line was subjected to densitometric scanning. To determine the relative density, area plots were quantitated using the Chemi Imager Tm 4000 software (Alpha Innotect, Corp. San Leandro, CA). Values from the experiments were averaged and error bars represent the standard deviation.
Table 5: RT-PCR expression of MMPs in AA and CAU cells. Expression assessment by RT-PCR of the targeted genes using the metastasis model. Altered expression in AA vs. CAU denoted in bold. Mean ± SD

| Gene Symbol | African American | Caucasian |
|-------------|------------------|-----------|
|             | Cell Lines       |           |
|             | CRL 7721 | HTB 24 | CRL 2335 | HTB 132 | CRL 1504 | CRL 2330 | HTB 30 | CRL 2327 | CRL 2351 | CAMA1 | HTB 27 | MCF7 |
| Card 10     | 30 ± 1.08 | 38 ± 2.60 | 34 ± 2.55 | 35 ± 1.56 | 38 ± 2.60 | 33 ± 0.97 | 47 ± 0.02 | 55 ± 2.28 | 59 ± 2.72 | 58 ± 0.98 | 48 ± 1.43 | 45 ± 0.24 |
| Kif4        | 34 ± 0.88 | 35 ± 1.60 | 38 ± 0.99 | 36 ± 1.83 | 34 ± 0.55 | 36 ± 0.06 | 44 ± 0.88 | 44 ± 0.38 | 45 ± 0.70 | 42 ± 0.47 | 44 ± 0.85 | 31 ± 1.49 |
| Acly        | 80 ± 1.43 | 80 ± 2.08 | 86 ± 1.08 | 72 ± 0.066 | 68 ± 0.25 | 87 ± 0.64 | 64 ± 2.49 | 65 ± 2.11 | 69 ± 2.27 | 66 ± 2.11 | 60 ± 2.77 | 44 ± 0.45 |
| Atp1b1      | 55 ± 0.39 | 56 ± 0.31 | 58 ± 1.02 | 57 ± 0.75 | 59 ± 0.02 | 55 ± 0.39 | 48 ± 1.07 | 47 ± 1.57 | 53 ± 1.41 | 48 ± 0.32 | 48 ± 2.51 | 46 ± 1.48 |
| Galnt3      | 43 ± 2.30 | 42 ± 4.41 | 55 ± 0.41 | 60 ± 0.93 | 61 ± 1.57 | 49 ± 4.00 | 48 ± 0.65 | 57 ± 5.22 | 52 ± 1.47 | 53 ± 5.12 | 60 ± 1.49 | 45 ± 1.06 |
| Pplic       | 49 ± 0.24 | 57 ± 1.02 | 59 ± 1.38 | 57 ± 0.45 | 61 ± 2.66 | 55 ± 2.46 | 57 ± 1.53 | 62 ± 1.01 | 62 ± 0.16 | 61 ± 2.71 | 59 ± 1.02 | 43 ± 1.80 |
| Ephx1       | 48 ± 1.08 | 70 ± 0.06 | 63 ± 0.33 | 40 ± 0.52 | 38 ± 0.91 | 61 ± 1.08 | 53 ± 4.66 | 60 ± 1.16 | 66 ± 4.47 | 54 ± 0.88 | 72 ± 5.21 | 51 ± 1.89 |
| Spint2      | 49 ± 2.77 | 43 ± 0.96 | 42 ± 0.70 | 54 ± 0.92 | 52 ± 0.11 | 44 ± 1.14 | 56 ± 1.24 | 55 ± 2.29 | 52 ± 2.76 | 53 ± 1.17 | 52 ± 0.76 | 56 ± 1.39 |
| Ptprf       | 44 ± 1.27 | 40 ± 0.15 | 51 ± 3.00 | 45 ± 3.48 | 57 ± 3.25 | 52 ± 1.23 | 44 ± 1.90 | 48 ± 0.88 | 58 ± 0.87 | 55 ± 1.24 | 57 ± 2.89 | 31 ± 0.08 |
| Tgfb2       | 34 ± 2.23 | 42 ± 0.55 | 39 ± 1.84 | 47 ± 4.51 | 43 ± 2.00 | 37 ± 1.16 | 33 ± 0.29 | 29 ± 1.95 | 39 ± 1.12 | 51 ± 4.43 | 34 ± 0.33 | 32 ± 0.46 |
| TIMP1       | 68 ± 2.13 | 69 ± 0.31 | 63 ± 0.48 | 60 ± 1.30 | 67 ± 3.56 | 60 ± 1.30 | 84 ± 0.99 | 75 ± 4.73 | 59 ± 0.16 | 57 ± 1.18 | 56 ± 3.34 | 74 ± 5.82 |
| TIMP2       | 59 ± 0.29 | 61 ± 3.43 | 62 ± 8.27 | 58 ± 0.44 | 64 ± 1.95 | 66 ± 4.45 | 64 ± 1.95 | 64 ± 0.77 | 61 ± 0.38 | 70 ± 5.21 | 53 ± 6.83 | 64 ± 7.11 |
| TIMP3       | 83 ± 0.07 | 87 ± 0.09 | 62 ± 4.52 | 62 ± 3.93 | 84 ± 4.70 | 87 ± 0.75 | 57 ± 0.14 | 93 ± 1.14 | 77 ± 2.29 | 61 ± 1.17 | 83 ± 0.27 | 76 ± 0.08 |
| TIMP4       | 70 ± 1.72 | 70 ± 5.23 | 69 ± 3.92 | 77 ± 1.65 | 79 ± 1.74 | 79 ± 1.07 | 64 ± 4.54 | 72 ± 0.43 | 66 ± 4.14 | 76 ± 2.18 | 73 ± 0.41 | 75 ± 5.24 |
| IBS         | 89 ± 0.98 | 90 ± 1.23 | 91 ± 1.19 | 89 ± 0.44 | 90 ± 2.22 | 90 ± 3.01 | 90 ± 0.67 | 89 ± 0.43 | 88 ± 1.51 | 88 ± 1.82 | 88 ± 1.73 | 89 ± 4.98 |
| GAPDH       | 58 ± 1.34 | 57 ± 0.78 | 58 ± 2.12 | 56 ± 0.59 | 62 ± 0.28 | 48 ± 1.25 | 63 ± 0.71 | 49 ± 1.57 | 59 ± 1.19 | 56 ± 1.34 | 47 ± 0.41 | 81 ± 7.70 |
**Figure 3**

**Densitometric measurement of the Atp1b1 RT-PCR analyses.** Using the data obtained from the RT-PCR experiments, the amplicons from three different experiments of each cell line was subjected to densitometric scanning. To determine the relative density, area plots were quantitated using the Chemi Imager Tm 4000 software (Alpha Innotect, Corp. San Leandro, CA). Values from the experiments were averaged and error bars represent the standard deviation.

**Figure 4**

**Densitometric measurement of the SPINT2 RT-PCR analyses.** Using the data obtained from the RT-PCR experiments, the amplicons from three different experiments of each cell line was subjected to densitometric scanning. To determine the relative density, area plots were quantitated using the Chemi Imager Tm 4000 software (Alpha Innotect, Corp. San Leandro, CA). Values from the experiments were averaged and error bars represent the standard deviation.
Densitometric measurement of the CARD 10 RT-PCR analyses

Figure 6
Densitometric measurement of the CARD 10 RT-PCR analyses. Using the data obtained from the RT-PCR experiments, the amplicons from three different experiments of each cell line was subjected to densitometric scanning. To determine the relative density, area plots were quantitated using the Chemi Imager Tm 4000 software (Alpha Innotect, Corp. San Leandro, CA). Values from the experiments were averaged and error bars represent the standard deviation.

|        | CRL 7721 | HTB 24 | CRL 2335 | HTB 132 | CRL 1504 | CRL 2330 | HTB 30 | CRL 2327 | CRL 2351 | CAMA1 | HTB 27 | MCF7 |
|--------|----------|--------|----------|---------|----------|----------|--------|----------|----------|-------|--------|------|
| African American |         |        |          |         |          |          |        |          |          |       |        |      |
| Caucasian |          |        |          |         |          |          |        |          |          |       |        |      |

Densitometric measurement of the Acly RT-PCR analyses

Figure 5
Densitometric measurement of the Acly RT-PCR analyses. Using the data obtained from the RT-PCR experiments, the amplicons from three different experiments of each cell line was subjected to densitometric scanning. To determine the relative density, area plots were quantitated using the Chemi Imager Tm 4000 software (Alpha Innotect, Corp. San Leandro, CA). Values from the experiments were averaged and error bars represent the standard deviation.

|        | CRL 7721 | HTB 24 | CRL 2335 | HTB 132 | CRL 1504 | CRL 2330 | HTB 30 | CRL 2327 | CRL 2351 | CAMA1 | HTB 27 | MCF7 |
|--------|----------|--------|----------|---------|----------|----------|--------|----------|----------|-------|--------|------|
| African American |         |        |          |         |          |          |        |          |          |       |        |      |
| Caucasian |          |        |          |         |          |          |        |          |          |       |        |      |
Densitometric measurements of the RT-PCR analyses

**Figure 7**

**Densitometric measurement of the Klf4 RT-PCR analyses.** Using the data obtained from the RT-PCR experiments, the amplicons from three different experiments of each cell line was subjected to densitometric scanning. To determine the relative density, area plots were quantitated using the Chemi Imager Tm 4000 software (Alpha Innotect, Corp. San Leandro, CA). Values from the experiments were averaged and error bars represent the standard deviation.

**Figure 8**

**Densitometric measurements of the RT-PCR analyses.** Using the data obtained from the RT-PCR experiments, the amplicons from three different experiments of each cell line was subjected to densitometric scanning. To determine the relative density, area plots were quantitated using the Chemi Imager Tm 4000 software (Alpha Innotect, Corp. San Leandro, CA). Values from the experiments were averaged and error bars represent the standard deviation.
Abbreviations
AA-African American women, CAU-Caucasian, RT-PCR-Reverse transcriptase Polymerase Chain Reaction, ECM-Extracellular matrix, MMP-Matrix Metalloproteinase

Competing interests
The author(s) declare that they have no competing interests.

Authors’ contributions
HFY conceived the study and participated in its design, was responsible for primer design, performed data analysis, densitometric readings of RT-PCR, and prepared the first draft of the manuscript. JAM participated in the study design, was responsible for primer design, performed the RT-PCR experiments, was involved in tissue culture, and prepared the first draft of the manuscript. SP performed RT-PCR experiments, data analysis, densitometric readings of the RT-PCR, and assisted in the editing of this manuscript. CETIII performed RT-PCR experiments, data analysis and densitometric readings of the RT-PCR. GKL participated in the funding, as well as data analysis and editing of the manuscript. MJ participated in study concept, design and data analysis. AAD participated in the study concept, study design, secured funding, interpretation of the data, as well as preparation of the manuscript. All authors read and approved the final manuscript.

Acknowledgements
This work was supported by a grant from the US Army Research and Materiel Command under DAMD-17-01-1-0268 (Day and Jett) and DHHS/NCI U54 CA091431 (Day). The views expressed by the authors in no way represent the United States Army. We would like to thank the Promega Corporation for their generous gifts of RT-PCR kits to aid in our research.

References
1. American Cancer Society: Cancer Facts & Figures 2006. Atlanta: American Cancer Society; 2006.
2. Liotta LA, Steeg PS, Stetler-Stevenson WG: Cancer metastasis and angiogenesis: an imbalance of positive and negative regulation. Cell 1991, 64(2):327-36.
3. American Cancer Society: Cancer Facts & Figures for African Americans 2005–2006. Atlanta: American Cancer Society; 2005.
4. Ries L, Eisner M: SEER Cancer Statistics Review. Bethesda, National Cancer Institute:1975-2001.
5. Bradley CJ, Given CW, Roberts C: Disparities in cancer diagnosis and survival. Cancer 2001, 91:178-188.
6. Bach PB, Schrag D, Brawley OW, Galaznik A, Yakren S, Begg CB: Survival of blacks and whites after a cancer diagnosis. JAMA 2002, 287:2106-2113.
7. Ghafoor A, Jemal A, Ockenden V, Cardinez C, Murray T, Samuels A, Ghafoor A, Jemal A, Cardinez C, Murray T, Samuels A, McSherry R, Smith R, Ghafoor A, Jemal A, Cardinez C, Murray T, Samuels A, McSherry R, Smith R, Ghafoor A, Jemal A, Cardinez C, Murray T, Samuels A, McSherry R, Smith R, Ghafoor A, Jemal A, Cardinez C, Murray T, Samuels A, McSherry R, Smith R: Cancer metastasis and angiogenesis: an imbalance of positive and negative regulation. Cell 1991, 64(2):327-36.
8. Shavers V, Brown M: Racial and ethnic disparities in the receipt of cancer treatment. J Natl Cancer Inst 2002, 94:334-357.
9. Smedley B, Sath S: Unequal treatment: confronting racial and ethnic disparities in health care. Committee on Understanding and Eliminating Racial and Ethnic Disparities in Health Care. Washington, DC, National Academy Press; 2002.
10. Chambers AF, Groom AC, MacDonald IC: Dissemination and growth of cancer cells in metastatic sites. Nat Rev Cancer 2002, 2:563-72.
11. Mason JA, Yancy HF, Lashley K, Jess M, Day AA: Comparative study of matrix metalloproteinase expression between African American and Caucasian Women. J Natl Cancer Inst 2004, 96:15
12. Eckhardt B, Parker B, van Laar RJ, Reisfeld RA, Tavaria MD, Stanley KL, Sloan EK, Moseley JM, Anderson RL: Genomic Analysis of a Spontaneous Model of Breast Cancer Metastasis to Bone Reveals a Role for the Extracellular Matrix. Mol Cancer Res 2005, 3(1):1-13.
13. National Breast Cancer Foundation Inc: Based on information posted to the NBCF web site 2005 [http://www.nationalbreastcancer.org/signs_and_symptoms/index.html#breastcancertypes].
14. Haafy B, Silber A, Matloff E, Chung J, Lannin D: Racial Differences in the incidence of BRCA1 and BRCA2 mutations in a cohort of Early Onset Breast Cancer patients: African American compared to White Women. J Med Genet 2005:27.
15. 
16. Lingrel J, Orlowski J, Shull M, Price EM: Molecular genetics of Na, K-ATPase. Nucleic Acid Res Mol Biol 1990, 89:37-38.
17. Yet SF, McA’Nulty MM, Folta SC, Yen HW, Yoshizumi M, Hsieh CM, Layne MD, Chin MT, Wang H, Perrella MA, Jain MK, Lee ME: Molecular genetics of Na, K-ATPase beta subunit. J Biol Chem 1989, 264:25812-25817.
18. Good P, Richter K, Dawid IB: A nervous system-specific isoform of the Na+, K+-ATPase expressed during early development of Xenopus laevis. Proc Natl Acad Sci 1990, 87:9088-9092.
19. Young RM, Lingrel J: Tissue distribution of mRNAs encoding the ~isoforms and 13 subunit of Na+, K+-ATPase expressed during early development of Xenopus laevis. Oncogene 2005, 24:4672-4687.
20. Hofmann K: The modular nature of apoptotic signaling proteins. Cell Mol Life Sci 1999, 55:1113-1280.
21. Berrner J, DiStefano PS: The PYRIN domain: a novel motif found in apoptosis and inflammation proteins. Cell Death Differ 2000, 7:1273-1274.
22. Staub E, Dahl E, Rosenthal A: The DAPIN family: a novel domain links apoptotic and interferon response proteins. Trends Biochem Sci 2001, 26:83-85.
23. Wang L, Guo Y, Huang WJ, Ke X, Poyet JL, Manji GA, Merriam S: Tissue distribution of mRNAs encoding the ~isoforms and 13 subunit of Na+, K+-ATPase expressed during early development of Xenopus laevis. Oncogene 2005, 24:4672-4687.
24. Schuh R, Aicher W, Gull U, Cote S, Preis J, Seifert E, Nauber U, Schroder C, Kemler R: A conserved family of nuclear proteins containing structural elements of the finger protein encoded by Krüppel, a Drosophile segmentation gene. Cell 1986, 47:1025-1032.
25. Turner J, Crossley M: Mammalian Krüppel-like transcription factors: more than just a pretty finger. Trends Biochem Sci 1999, 24:236-240.
26. Yet SF, MCA ’Nutty MM, Folta SC, Yeh HW, Yoshizumi M, Hsieh CM, Layne MD, Chin MT, Wang H, Perrella MA, Jain MK, Lee ME: Krüppel-like zinc finger protein is expressed in vascular endothelial cells and contains transcriptional activation and repression domains. J Biol Chem 1992, 277:1026-1031.
27. Chen ZY, Shie J, Tseng C: Up-regulation of gut-enriched krüppel-like factor by interferon-gamma in human colon carcinoma cells. FEMS Lett 2000, 477:67-72.
28. Shie JL, Chen ZY, O’Brien MJ, Peset RG, Lee ME, Tseng CC: Role of gut-enriched Krüppel-like factor in colonic cell growth and differentiation. J Physiol Gastroint Liver Physiol 2000, 279(G806-G814).
29. Katz JP, Perreault N, Goldstein BG, Actman L, McNally SR, Silberg DG, Furth EE, Kaetner KH: Loss of KIF4 in mice causes altered proliferation and differentiation and precancerous changes in the adult stomach. Gastroenterology 2005, 128(4):935-45.
30. Ohnishi S, Ohnami S, Laub F, Aoki K, Suzuki K, Kanai Y, Haga K, Asaka M, Ramirez F, Yoshida T: Downregulation and growth inhibitory effect of epithelial-type Krüppel-like transcription factor
KLF4, but not KLF5, in bladder cancer. Biochem Biophys Res Commun 2003, 308:215-236.

33. Mobley CT, Zhang PS, Reiners B, Nacht M, Weber WD, Callahan MR, Jiang Y, Dufault MR, Zhang X, Zhang W, Walter-Yohrling J, Rouleau C, Akmaev VR, Wang CJ, Cao X, St Martin TB, Roberts BL, Teicher BA, Klinger KW, Stan RV, Lucey B, Carson-Walter EB, Laterra J. Walter KA: Vascular gene expression in nonneoplastic and malignant brain. Am J Pathol 2004, 165:601-618.

34. Bianchi F, Hu J, Pelosi G, Ciricincione R, Ferguson M, Ratcliffe C, Di Fiore PP, Gatter K, Pezzella F, Pastornik O. Lung cancers detected by screening with spiral computed tomography have a malignant phenotype when analyzed by cDNA microarray. Clin Cancer Res 2004, 10:6023-6028.

35. Delaria KA, Muller DK, Marlor CW, Brown JE, Das RC, Roczniak SO, Tamburini PP. Characterization of placental bikunin, a novel human serum protease inhibitor. J Biol Chem 1997, 272:12209-1222.

36. Mitchell KJ, Pinson KI, Kelly OG, Brennan J, Zupicich J, Scherz P, Pasternack GR. Expression of bikunin. Biochim Biophys Acta 1998, 1395:88-95.

37. Muller-Pillasch F, Wallrapp C, Bartels K, Varga G, Friess H, Buchler NC. Cloning of a new Kunitz-type protease inhibitor with a putative transmembrane domain overexpressed in pancreatic cancer. Biochim Biophys Acta 1999, 1440:21-30.

38. Suzuki M, Kobayashi H, Takaoka H, Itoh H, Takayama T, Saga Y, Suzuki M, Ichihara H, Terato T. Suppression of invasion and peritoneal carcinomatosis of ovarian cancer cell line by overexpression of bikunin. Int J Cancer 2003, 10:104-109.

39. Yamauchi M, Kataoka H, Tsuguchi T, Hsuai Y, Osada Y. Hepatic growth factor activator inhibitor type 1 and 2 are expressed by tubular epithelium in kidney and downregulated in renal cell carcinoma. J Urol 2004, 171:890-896.

40. Parr C, Watkins G, Mansel RE, Jiang WG. The hepatocyte growth factor regulatory factors in human breast cancer. Clin Cancer Res 2004, 10:202-211.

41. Beigneux AP, Kosinski C, Gavino B, Horton JD, Skarnes WC, Young SG. ATP-citrate lyase deficiency in the mouse. J Biol Chem 2004, 279:9537-9546.

42. Kuhajda FP. Fatty-acid synthase and human cancer: new perspectives on its role in tumor biology. Nutrition 2000, 16(3):202-208.

43. Medes G, Thomas A, Weinhouse S. Metabolism of neoplastic tissue. IV. A study of lipid synthesis in neoplastic tissue slices in vitro. Cancer Res 1953, 13:27-35.

44. Kuhajda FP, Jenner K, Wood FD, Hennigar RA, Jacobs LB, Dick JD. Pasternack GR. Fatty acid synthesis: a potential selective target for antineoplastic therapy. Proc Natl Acad Sci USA 1994, 91(14):6379-6383.

45. Aito PL, Visca P, Marci A, Mangoni A, Botti C, Di Tondo U. Expression of fatty acid synthase (FAS) as a predictor of recurrence in stage I breast carcinoma patients. Cancer 1996, 77(3):474-482.

46. Nakamura I, Kimijima I, Zhang GJ, Onogi H, Endo Y, Suzuki S, Tuchiya A, Takenoshita S, Kusakabe T, Suzuki T. Fatty acid synthase expression in Japanese breast carcinoma patients. Int J Mol Med 1999, 4(4):381-387.

47. Jensen V, Ladekarl M, Holm-Nielsen P, Melsen F, Soerensen FB. The prognostic value of oncogenic antigen 519 (OA-519) expression and proliferative activity detected by antibody MIB-1 in node-negative breast cancer. J Pathol 1995, 176(4):343-352.

48. Jensen V, Ladekarl M, Holm-Nielsen P, Melsen F, Soerensen FB. Fatty acid synthase (FAS) predictive strength in poorly differentiated early breast carcinomas. Tumori 1999, 85(1):35-40.

49. Epstein JL, Carmichael M, Partin AW. OA-519 (fatty acid synthase) as an independent predictor of pathologic state in adenocarcinoma of the prostate. Urology 1995, 45(1):81-86.

50. Shurbaji MS, Kalbfleisch JH, Thurmond TS. Immunohistochemical detection of a fatty acid synthase (OA-519) as a predictor of progression of prostate cancer. Hum Pathol 1996, 27(9):917-921.

51. Swinnen JV, Roskams T, Jonniau S, Van Poppel H, Oyen R, Baert L, Heyns W, Verhoeven G. Overexpression of fatty acid synthase is an early and common event in the development of prostate cancer. Int J Cancer 2002, 98(1):19-22.

52. Gansler TS, Hardman W 3rd, Hunt DA, Schaffel S, Hennigar RA. Increased expression of fatty acid synthase (OA-519) in ovarian neoplasms predicts shorter survival. Hum Pathol 1997, 28(6):686-692.

53. Pizer ES, Lax SF, Kuhajda FP, Pasternack GR, Kurman RJ. Fatty acid synthase expression in endometrial carcinoma: correlation with cell proliferation and hormone receptors. Cancer 1998, 83(3):528-537.

54. Rashid A, Pizer ES, Moga M, Milgram LZ, Zaharak M, Pasternack GR, Kuhajda FP, Hamilton SR. Elevated expression of fatty acid synthase and fatty acid synthase activity in colorectal neoplasia. Am J Pathol 1997, 150(1):201-208.

55. Krontiras H, Roye GD, Beenken SE, Myers RB, Mayo MS, Peters GE, Grizzle WE. Fatty acid synthase expression is increased in neoplastic lesions of the oral tongue. Head Neck 1999, 21(4):325-329.

56. Piwatthikul C, Frost AR, Manne U, Bell WC, Weiss H, Heimbueger DC, Grizzle WE. The expression of fatty acid synthase (FASE) is an early event in the development and progression of squamous cell carcinoma of the lung. Hum Pathol 2000, 31(9):1068-1073.

57. Yahagi N, Shimano H, Hasegawa K, Ohashi K, Matsuzaka T, Najima Y, Sekiya M, Tomita S, Okazaki H, Tamura Y, Iizuka Y, Ohashi K, Nagai R, Ishibashi S, Kadawaki T, Makuchi M, Ohnishi S, Osuga J, Yamada N. Co-ordinate activation of lipogenic enzymes in hepatocellular carcinoma. European Journal of Cancer 2005, 41(9):1316-1322.