Edar is a downstream target of beta-catenin and drives collagen accumulation in the mouse prostate

Citation for published version:
Wegner, KA, Mehta, V, Johansson, JA, Mueller, BR, Keil, KP, Abler, LL, Marker, PC, Taketo, MM, Headon, DJ & Vezina, CM 2019, 'Edar is a downstream target of beta-catenin and drives collagen accumulation in the mouse prostate', Biology Open. https://doi.org/10.1242/bio.037945

Digital Object Identifier (DOI):
10.1242/bio.037945

Link:
Link to publication record in Edinburgh Research Explorer

Document Version:
Publisher's PDF, also known as Version of record

Published In:
Biology Open

Publisher Rights Statement:
© 2019. Published by The Company of Biologists Ltd. http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0This is an Open Access article distributed under the terms of the Creative Commons Attribution License (http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0), which permits unrestricted use, distribution and reproduction in any medium provided that the original work is properly attributed.

General rights
Copyright for the publications made accessible via the Edinburgh Research Explorer is retained by the author(s) and / or other copyright owners and it is a condition of accessing these publications that users recognise and abide by the legal requirements associated with these rights.

Take down policy
The University of Edinburgh has made every reasonable effort to ensure that Edinburgh Research Explorer content complies with UK legislation. If you believe that the public display of this file breaches copyright please contact openaccess@ed.ac.uk providing details, and we will remove access to the work immediately and investigate your claim.
Edar is a downstream target of beta-catenin and drives collagen accumulation in the mouse prostate

Kyle A. Wegner, Vatsal Mehta, Jeanette A. Johansson, Brett R. Mueller, Kimberly P. Keil, Lisa L. Abler, Paul C. Marker, M. Mark Taketo, Denis J. Headon, Chad M. Vezina

Molecular and Environmental Toxicology Center University of Wisconsin-Madison, Madison, WI 53706, USA.
Department of Comparative Biosciences, University of Wisconsin-Madison, Madison, WI 53706, USA.
The Roslin Institute and Royal (Dick) School of Veterinary Studies, University of Edinburgh, Edinburgh EH25 9RG, United Kingdom
MRC Human Genetics Unit, MRC Institute of Genetics and Molecular Medicine, University of Edinburgh, Edinburgh, EH4 2XR, United Kingdom
CRUK Edinburgh Centre, MRC Institute of Genetics and Molecular Medicine, University of Edinburgh, Edinburgh, EH4 2XR, United Kingdom
School of Pharmacy, University of Wisconsin-Madison, Madison, WI 53706, USA.
Division of Experimental Therapeutics, Graduate School of Medicine, Kyoto University Yoshida-Konoé-cho, Sakyo, Kyoto 606-8501, JAPAN

Author for correspondence:
Chad M. Vezina
chad.vezina@wisc.edu
1656 Linden Drive
Madison, WI 53706

KEYWORDS: Prostate; urogenital sinus; CTNNB1; WNT10B; EDAR; collagen

SUMMARY STATEMENT
This study provides a rare connection between beta catenin and ectodysplasin A receptor in an endoderm derived tissue and presents a potential mechanism for collagen accumulation in the prostate.
ABSTRACT

Beta-catenin (CTNNB1) directs ectodermal appendage spacing by activating ectodysplasin A receptor (EDAR) transcription but whether CTNNB1 acts by a similar mechanism in prostate, an endoderm-derived tissue, is unclear. Here we examined the expression, function, and CTNNB1 dependence of the EDAR pathway during prostate development. In situ hybridization studies reveal EDAR pathway components including Wnt10b in developing prostate and localize these factors to prostatic bud epithelium where CTNNB1 target genes are co-expressed. We used a genetic approach to ectopically activate CTNNB1 in developing mouse prostate and observed focal increases in Edar and Wnt10b mRNAs. We also used a genetic approach to test the prostatic consequences of activating or inhibiting Edar expression. Edar overexpression does not visibly alter prostatic bud formation or branching morphogenesis, and Edar expression is not necessary for either of these events. However, Edar overexpression is associated with an abnormally thick and collagen-rich stroma in adult mouse prostate. These results support CTNNB1 as a transcriptional activator of Edar and Wnt10b in developing prostate and demonstrate Edar is not only important for ectodermal appendage patterning but also influences collagen organization in adult prostate.

INTRODUCTION

The mouse prostate derives from the urogenital sinus (UGS), a fetal structure at the base of the bladder and consisting of endoderm-derived epithelium, mesoderm-derived mesenchyme, and other cell types. Prostate development is initiated by androgen-induced signals from UGS mesenchyme (Cunha and Lung, 1978; Goldstein and Wilson, 1975; Lasnitzki and Mizuno, 1980). Prostate ductal progenitors (prostatic buds) arise as solid epithelial projections in a periodic pattern to establish position and number of mature prostatic ducts.

The Wingless/beta-catenin (Wnt/CTNNB1) is an androgen sensitive signaling pathway critical for prostatic bud formation (He et al., 2018). CTNNB1 and its target genes are present in prostatic buds from the earliest stage of prostate development and continuing at least through postnatal branching morphogenesis (Francis et al., 2013, Simons et al., 2012). Chemical inhibition or genetic deletion of CTNNB1 in UGS epithelium completely prevents prostatic bud formation (Mehta et al., 2013; Simons et al., 2012), while excessive CTNNB1 activation by genetic gain-of-function increases the inter-bud interval and reduces the quantity of prostatic buds formed (Mehta et al., 2013). How CTNNB1 is activated during prostate development and how its activity is restricted to prostatic bud tips is not fully understood.
Ectodysplasin A receptor (Edar), a potential CTNNB1 regulatory signaling molecule, is selectively expressed in prostatic bud tips (Keil et al., 2012). EDAR is an essential patterning molecule in ectodermal appendages including primary hair follicles, feather, mammary gland, salivary gland, and teeth (Drew et al., 2007, Jaskoll et al., 2003, Lindfors et al., 2013, Mou et al., 2006, Tucker et al., 2000, Zhang et al., 2009). In these organs, ectodysplasin A (EDA) activates membrane-bound EDAR, which drives NF-kappa B (NF-κB) activation (Mikkola, 2009, Schmidt-Ullrich et al., 2001). NF-κB-dependent synthesis of Wnt10b and other target genes maintains CTNNB1 activity in ectodermal placodes and restricts the CTNNB1 activation domain size (Zhang et al., 2009). WNT10B is the earliest known secreted protein expressed by prostate epithelium, can drive prostatic fate determination in cells and has been recently identified as a marker of prostate epithelial progenitors (He et al., 2018, Hu et al., 2017).

Co-localization of CTNNB1 target genes with Edar and Wnt10b in prostatic bud tips (Keil et al., 2012a, Mehta et al., 2011) led us to hypothesize EDAR is induced by CTNNB1 in developing prostate and patterns prostatic buds by controlling CTNNB1 domain size as it does in ectoderm-derived appendages. Here, we reveal that Eda, Edar, and Wnt10b are expressed during prostatic bud formation, elongation, and branching morphogenesis. We demonstrate that ectopic CTNNB1 expression induces Edar and Wnt10b in UGS epithelium. We use genetic approaches to show that Edar is expendable for in vivo prostatic bud patterning. Genetically increasing or decreasing expression of Edar has no discernable influence on prostatic bud development. However, genetic gain-of-function experiments demonstrate that EDAR overexpression affects prostate stromal composition by resulting in an abnormally thickened fibromuscular stroma containing excessive collagen. This is the first study to demonstrate EDAR and CTNNB1 signaling pathways intersect during formation of an endoderm-derived tissue (prostate) and EDAR activity influences prostatic extracellular matrix organization.

RESULTS

Edar mRNA localizes to prostatic epithelium during bud formation and branching morphogenesis (Keil et al., 2012a). To determine whether other pathway components are expressed, ISH was used to visualize the EDAR ligand Eda and the putative downstream target of EDAR signaling (Wnt10b) during the periods coinciding with bud elongation (18 days post conception, dpc) and branching morphogenesis (postnatal day 5, P5). Eda mRNA is present in superficial urethral epithelium at 18 dpc and P5. Edar is expressed exclusively in prostate bud tips at 18 dpc, but found much more diffusely in the stroma at P5. Wnt10b is found only in prostatic
bud distal tips at both 18 dpc and P5 (Fig. 1). Together, these results indicate that key EDAR signaling pathway components are present at the appropriate time and space to participate in prostatic ductal development.

CTNNB1 drives expression of Edar and its downstream target Wnt10b (Zhang et al., 2009). To test whether CTNNB1 activates Edar and Wnt10b in developing prostate, we generated mice expressing activated the dominant stable Ctnnb1tm1Mmt gain of function (GOF) allele using ShhcreERT2 to generate Ctnnb1iGOF mice. The mice harbor a floxed Ctnnb1 exon 3 which, when subjected to CRE-mediated recombination, encodes a functional and highly stable CTNNB1 protein form that accumulates in cells. Cre activity was activated by tamoxifen administration to the dam on 13 and 14 dpc. We showed previously that this tamoxifen dosing strategy does not in itself interfere with prostatic bud formation and that in this particular mouse strain, CTNNB1 accumulates in discrete cell islands readily discernable in tissue sections (Mehta et al., 2013). EDAR signaling pathway mRNAs were assessed at 18dpc, after completion of prostatic budding in control mice. The Edar and Wnt10b mRNAs are noticeably more abundant in Ctnnb1iGOF mutant urethras compared to controls and localize to cell islands (Fig. 2) where we localized CTNNB1 overexpression (Mehta et al., 2013). Eda mRNA is not detected within these cell islands and is noticeably less abundant in Ctnnb1iGOF mice compared to controls. (Fig. 2). These results are consistent with CTNNB1 driving the expression of Edar and Wnt10b in developing prostate.

CTNNB1 is required for prostatic bud formation (Mehta et al., 2013). To test whether Edar is required for the downstream activities of CTNNB1, we used a genetic approach involving Edar loss-of-function (LOF) mice that carry a missense mutation (Headon and Overbeek, 1999), and Edar transgenic gain-of-function (GOF) mice that overexpress Edar in the same cells where it is normally expressed (Mou et al., 2008). P1 male mouse lower urinary tracts were collected from each strain and stained in whole mount to visualize Nkx3-1 marked prostatic buds. There are no appreciable strain-related differences in prostate bud size, organization, or number (Fig. 3). These results indicate that Edar is not required for prostatic bud formation, is not sufficient to induce changes in prostatic bud formation, and that CTNNB1 acts through an Edar-independent mechanism to control prostatic bud formation.

To identify potential roles for CTNNB1 and EDAR signaling in prostate maturation, we next examined adult prostates from control, EdarGOF, and EdarLOF mice. Prostates from these mice were examined at P50, after sexual maturation is complete. No gross abnormalities are observed in either mouse strain. All prostate lobes were present and appeared normal in location, size, and morphology. Histological analysis revealed that prostate ducts from all groups are lined by a
continuous luminal epithelial cell layer bounded by a basal epithelial cell layer (Fig 4.), evidence that prostate epithelial cell organization is grossly normal in Edar\textsuperscript{GOF} and Edar\textsuperscript{LOF} mice. However, Edar\textsuperscript{GOF} mouse prostate exhibit an abnormally thickened and eosinophilic periductal stroma, indicative of high collagen content (Fig 4).

We next evaluated collagen composition in adult male Edar\textsuperscript{GOF} mutant mice. CTNNB1/Wnt signaling regulates extracellular matrix density in other organs including skin (Beyer et al., 2012, Lam and Gottardi, 2011, Wei et al., 2011), but how prostatic collagen is deposited and organized during prostate maturation has not been previously examined. Studies aimed at understanding prostate matrix regulation could reveal valuable insight into fibrotic prostatic disease, which has been associated with voiding dysfunction in adult men (Cantiello et al., 2013, Gharaei-Kermani et al., 2013, Ma et al., 2012). To visualize the prostatic collagen network, we used picrosirius red staining and fluorescent confocal microscopy in 5 μm tissue sections of Edar\textsuperscript{GOF} and paired wild-type controls of the same mouse strain. Automated fiber detection software (CT-FIRE) was used to measure individual collagen fiber metrics including density, orientation, alignment, diameter, and length. Collagen architecture in Edar\textsuperscript{GOF} prostates is significantly denser and more fibrous than in controls. (Fig 5).

DISCUSSION

We found that CTNNB1 drives Edar expression in developing prostatic bud epithelium. CTNNB1 and EDAR were previously linked to ectodermal appendage development but this study links them in endodermal tissue development and sheds new light on our previous observation that CTNNB1-responsive target genes (Lef1, Axin2, and Wif1) colocalize with Edar and Wnt10b mRNAs in elongating prostatic bud tips (Keil et al., 2012a, Keil et al., 2012b, Mehta et al., 2011). It is not known whether EDAR is expressed in the terminal portion of buds from other endoderm-derived tissues, such as lung, or whether EDAR refines CTNNB1 signaling in these organs as it does in ectodermal appendages.

CTNNB1-dependent EDAR activation establishes size and periodicity of ectodermal appendages (Drew et al., 2007, Zhang et al., 2009). Though prostatic bud patterning also requires CTNNB1 (Francis et al., 2013, Mehta et al., 2013, Simons et al., 2012), we showed here that this process does not require EDAR. Mouse prostatic buds form in the normal quantity and size when Edar is genetically ablated and when Edar is overexpressed within its normal expression domain.

Edar loss- and gain-of-function mutations do not appreciably affect prostate epithelial maturation but do impact prostatic stromal matrix organization in adult males. In control adult males, the interductal space is largely devoid of thick collagen bundles, with a majority of the
collagen residing in the fibromuscular tunica around ducts but adult Edar\textsuperscript{GOF} mutant mouse prostates inappropriately accumulate collagen fibers. Given the timing of these changes, we conclude that EDAR is not necessary for early prostate formation but is needed for long term prostatic collagen homeostasis. How EDAR regulates prostatic collagens is still unclear. It is possible that EDAR signaling during prostatic development expands progenitors giving rise to collagen producing cells. Alternatively, indirect epithelial EDAR signaling during sexual maturation may drive stromal collagen deposition or reduce stromal collagen degradation. Prostatic matrix composition has drawn considerable clinical interest in recent years for its potential involvement in mediating lower urinary tract symptoms. Prostatic collagen density associates with lower urinary tract symptoms in aging men (Cantiello et al., 2013, Cantiello et al., 2014, Ma et al., 2012). While inflammatory mediators and metabolic syndrome are defined mediators of prostatic fibrosis (Gharae-Kermani et al., 2012, Gharae-Kermani et al., 2013, Wong et al., 2014), the role of other factors, including genetic factors, has not been examined. Our results provide the first evidence that excessive EDAR signaling during prostatic development can lead to an abnormally dense collagen matrix within the prostate and emphasize the need to examine new pathways as potential therapeutic targets for prostate disease.

**MATERIALS AND METHODS**

*Mice (Mus musculus).* All procedures were approved by the Animal Welfare and Ethical Review Body (AWERB) at the Roslin Institute, University of Edinburgh, in accordance with the United Kingdom Home Office Animal (Scientific Procedures) Act 1986, or the University of Wisconsin Animal Care and Use Committee. Edar transgenic gain-of-function (Edar\textsuperscript{GOF}) mice were maintained on an FVB background and carry approximately 19 copies of a 200 kb yeast artificial chromosome (YAC) containing the entire mouse Edar gene, while homozygous Edar\textsuperscript{Tg951/Tg951} (control) mice carry 36 copies (Mou et al., 2008). Edar mutant loss-of-function (Edar\textsuperscript{LOF}) mice were maintained on an FVB background and carry a G to A transition mutation causing a glutamate to lysine substitution in the death domain of the EDAR protein (E379K) (Headon and Overbeek, 1999). Mice carrying the \textit{Ctnnb1} exon 3 targeted deletion gain-of-function (GOF) allele (\textit{Ctnnb1}\textsuperscript{tm1Mmt}) were mated to wild type mice (FVB/C57BL/6J mixed background) or to mice carrying \textit{Shh}\textsuperscript{creERT2} (\textit{Shh}\textsuperscript{tm2(cre/ERT2)Cjt}). To activate \textit{Shh}\textsuperscript{creERT2}, dams were injected with sterile corn oil (2.5 mL/kg \textit{i.p.} maternal dose) containing 10% ethanol, tamoxifen (25 mg/kg maternal dose, Sigma #T56482; St. Louis MO) and progesterone (18.75 mg/kg maternal dose, Watson #NDC0591-3128-79; Corona CA) and dams were euthanized by CO\textsubscript{2} asphyxiation. \textit{Ctnnb1} gain-of-function (iGOF) \textit{Ctnnb1}\textsuperscript{iGOF} (\textit{Shh}\textsuperscript{creERT2/+};\textit{Ctnnb1}\textsuperscript{tm1Mmt/tm1Mmt}) embryos were assessed together.
with their phenotypically normal paired littermate controls (Shh+/--; Ctnnb1tm1Mmt/tm1Mmt) (Brault et al., 2001, Harada et al., 1999, Harfe et al., 2004, Soriano, 1999). Ctnnb1tm1Mmt mice were from Dr. Makoto Mark Taketo, Kyoto University. Wild-type FVB or C57BL/6J mice were acquired from The Jackson Laboratory. The morning of copulatory plug identification was considered E0.5. Genotyping was conducted as described previously (Mehta et al., 2013).

*Immunohistochemistry (IHC).* UGS tissues were fixed in 4% paraformaldehyde, dehydrated in alcohol, cleared in xylene, and infiltrated with paraffin as described previously (Mehta et al., 2011). 5 µm sections were generated and immunolabeled using an antibody against Cadherin 1 (1:200, Cell Signaling Technology; Danvers, MA, Cat# 3195, RRID: AB_10694492). Antibodies were validated in mouse urinary tract previously (Vezina, 2018.). Immunolabeled tissues were mounted in anti-fade media (phosphate-buffered saline containing 80% glycerol and 0.2% n-propyl gallate) and imaged at 20x using a Nikon E600 microscope (Nikon; Tokyo, Japan).

*In situ hybridization (ISH).* Detailed protocols are available at the GUDMAP database, www.gudmap.org and were described previously (Abler et al., 2011). Primer sequences for generating PCR-amplified probe templates are listed in Table S1. The staining pattern for each hybridized riboprobe was assessed in at least three litter-independent mice per genotype. Control and mutant tissues were processed together in the same tubes and as a single experimental unit to allow for qualitative comparisons among biological replicates and between genotypes or treatment groups.

*Hematoxylin and Eosin (H&E):* Adult prostate tissues were fixed in 4% paraformaldehyde, dehydrated in ethanol, cleared in xylene, infiltrated with paraffin and 5 µm sections were stained with hematoxylin and eosin. Brightfield imaging was performed using a Nikon E600 microscope (Nikon; Tokyo, Japan) using a 10x dry objective.

*Picrosirius Red (PSR).* Adult prostate tissues were fixed in 4% paraformaldehyde, dehydrated in alcohol, cleared in xylene, infiltrated with paraffin, and three non-serial 5 µm sections were taken from three litter-independent mice per group. Sections were taken from approximate equivalent tissue depth and stained with PSR as described previously (Wegner et al., 2017). Fluorescent imaging was performed using a SP8 Confocal Microscope (Leica; Wetzlar, Germany) using a 20x oil immersion objective (HC PL Apo CS2 NA = 0.75; Leica). Samples were excited using a 561nm laser and emission was detected between 635 and 685 nm. Laser intensity and gain were held
constant between images. Images were captured at 1024 x 1024 resolution using LAS X software (Leica; Wetzlar, Germany)). Tile scanning was used to stitch together images and generate an image across the entire prostate section. Total collagen density was determined by measuring the area of PSR stain in each section compared to the total cross-sectional area of the section. Automated fiber detection software (CT-FIRE) was used to measure individual collagen fiber metrics including density, orientation, alignment, diameter, and length. CT-FIRE is publicly available from the University of Wisconsin Laboratory for Optical and Computational Instrumentation.

Statistics. For ISH experiments, experimental groups consisted of three to five UGSs from at least three independent litters. Images are representative of each treatment group. For PSR experiments, three non-serial dorsal prostate sections were imaged from three mice originating from three independent litters. A Levene’s test was performed to test whether homogeneity of variances was the same between groups. A Student’s t-test was conducted to identify differences between or among means using the Companion to Applied Regression (CAR) package for R (version 2.13.1) (Fox and Weisberg, 2011). Results are reported as mean ± standard error of the mean (s.e.m.). For all statistical analysis, a difference of p<0.05 was considered significant.
ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS: N/A

COMPETING INTERESTS: Authors have nothing to declare.

FUNDING INFORMATION: This work was supported by National Institutes of Health [grant numbers U54DK104310S1, U54DK104310, F31ES028594, T32ES007015, RO1DK091193]

REFERENCES

ABLER, L. L., MEHTA, V., KEIL, K. P., JOSHI, P. S., FLUCUS, C. L., HARDIN, H. A., SCHMITZ, C. T. & VEZINA, C. M. 2011. A high throughput in situ hybridization method to characterize mRNA expression patterns in the fetal mouse lower urogenital tract. *J Vis Exp*, 54, e2912.

BEYER, C., SCHRAMM, A., AKHMETSHINA, A., DEES, C., KIREVA, T., GELSE, K., SONNYLAL, S., DE CROMBRUGGHE, B., TAKETO, M. M., DISTLER, O., SCHETT, G. & DISTLER, J. H. 2012. beta-catenin is a central mediator of pro-fibrotic Wnt signaling in systemic sclerosis. *Ann Rheum Dis*, 71, 761-7.

BRAULT, V., MOORE, R., KUTSCH, S., ISHIBASHI, M., ROWITCH, D. H., MCMAHON, A. P., SOMMER, L., BOUSSADIA, O. & KEMLER, R. 2001. Inactivation of the beta-catenin gene by Wnt1-Cre-mediated deletion results in dramatic brain malformation and failure of craniofacial development. *Development*, 128, 1253-64.

BREDFELDT J., LIU Y, PEHLKE C., CONKLIN M., SZULCZEWSKI J., INMAN D., KEELY P., NOWAK R., MACKIE T. & ELICEIRI K. 2014. Computational segmentation of collagen fibers from second-harmonic generation images of breast cancer. *J Biomed Opt*, 19, 16007

CANTIELLO, F., CICIONE, A., SALONIA, A., AUTORINO, R., TUCCI, L., MADEO, I. & DAMIANO, R. 2013. Periurethral fibrosis secondary to prostatic inflammation causing lower urinary tract symptoms: a prospective cohort study. *Urology*, 81, 1018-23.

CANTIELLO, F., CICIONE, A., SALONIA, A., AUTORINO, R., UCCIERO, G., TUCCI, L., BRIGANTI, A. & DAMIANO, R. 2014. Metabolic syndrome correlates with peri-urethral fibrosis secondary to chronic prostate inflammation: evidence of a link in a cohort of patients undergoing radical prostatectomy. *Int J Urol*, 21, 264-9.
DREW, C. F., LIN, C. M., JIANG, T. X., BLUNT, G., MOU, C., CHUONG, C. M. & HEADON, D. J. 2007. The Edar subfamily in feather placode formation. *Dev Biol*, 305, 232-45.

FOX, J. & WEISBERG, S. 2011. *An [R] Companion to Applied Regression*, Thousand Oaks, CA, Sage.

FRANCIS, J. C., THOMSEN, M. K., TAKETO, M. M. & SWAIN, A. 2013. beta-Catenin Is Required for Prostate Development and Cooperates with Pten Loss to Drive Invasive Carcinoma. *PLoS Genet*, 9, e1003180.

GHARAAEE-KERMANI, M., KASINA, S., MOORE, B. B., THOMAS, D., MEHRA, R. & MACOSKA, J. A. 2012. CXC-type chemokines promote myofibroblast phenoconversion and prostatic fibrosis. *PLoS One*, 7, e49278.

GHARAAEE-KERMANI, M., RODRIGUEZ-NIEVES, J. A., MEHRA, R., VEZINA, C. A., SARMA, A. V. & MACOSKA, J. A. 2013. Obesity-induced diabetes and lower urinary tract fibrosis promote urinary voiding dysfunction in a mouse model. *Prostate*, 73, 1123-33.

HARADA, N., TAMAI, Y., ISHIKAWA, T., SAUER, B., TAKAKU, K., OSHIMA, M. & TAKETO, M. M. 1999. Intestinal polyposis in mice with a dominant stable mutation of the beta-catenin gene. *Embo J*, 18, 5931-42.

HARFE, B. D., SCHERZ, P. J., NISSIM, S., TIAN, H., MCMAHON, A. P. & TABIN, C. J. 2004. Evidence for an expansion-based temporal Shh gradient in specifying vertebrate digit identities. *Cell*, 118, 517-28.

HE, Y., HOOKER, E., YU, E. J., WU, H., CUNHA, G. R. & SUN, Z. 2018. An Indispensable Role of Androgen Receptor in Wnt Responsive Cells During Prostate Development, Maturation, and Regeneration. *Stem Cells*, 36, 891-902.

HEADON, D. J. & OVERBEEK, P. A. 1999. Involvement of a novel Tnf receptor homologue in hair follicle induction. *Nat Genet*, 22, 370-4.

HU, W. Y., HU, D. P., XIE, L., LI, Y., MAJUMDAR, S., NONN, L., HU, H., SHIODA, T. & PRINS, G. S. 2017. Isolation and functional interrogation of adult human prostate epithelial stem cells at single cell resolution. *Stem Cell Res*, 23, 1-12.

JASKOLL, T., ZHOU, Y. M., TRUMP, G. & MELNICK, M. 2003. Ectodysplasin receptor-mediated signaling is essential for embryonic submandibular salivary gland development. *Anat Rec A Discov Mol Cell Evol Biol*, 271, 322-31.

KEIL, K. P., MEHTA, V., ABLER, L. L., JOSHI, P. S., SCHMITZ, C. T. & VEZINA, C. M. 2012a. Visualization and quantification of mouse prostate development by in situ hybridization. *Differentiation*, 84, 232-9.
KEIL, K. P., MEHTA, V., BRANAM, A. M., ABLER, L. L., BURESH-STIEMKE, R. A., JOSHI, P. S., SCHMITZ, C. T., MARKER, P. C. & VEZINA, C. M. 2012b. Wnt inhibitory factor 1 (Wif1) is regulated by androgens and enhances androgen-dependent prostate development. *Endocrinology*, 153, 6091-103.

LAM, A. P. & GOTTARDI, C. J. 2011. beta-catenin signaling: a novel mediator of fibrosis and potential therapeutic target. *Curr Opin Rheumatol*, 23, 562-7.

LINDFORS, P. H., VOUTILAINEN, M. & MIKKOLA, M. L. 2013. Ectodysplasin/NF-kappaB signaling in embryonic mammary gland development. *J Mammary Gland Biol Neoplasia*, 18, 165-9.

MA, J., GHARAEE-KERMANI, M., KUNJU, L., HOLLINGSWORTH, J. M., ADLER, J., ARRUDA, E. M. & MACOSKA, J. A. 2012. Prostatic Fibrosis is Associated with Lower Urinary Tract Symptoms. *J Urol*, 188, 1375-81.

MEHTA, V., ABLER, L. L., KEIL, K. P., SCHMITZ, C. T., JOSHI, P. S. & VEZINA, C. M. 2011. Atlas of Wnt and R-spondin gene expression in the developing male mouse lower urogenital tract. *Dev Dyn*, 240, 2548-60.

MEHTA, V., SCHMITZ, C. T., KEIL, K. P., JOSHI, P. S., ABLER, L. L., LIN, T. M., TAKETO, M. M., SUN, X. & VEZINA, C. M. 2013. Beta-catenin (CTNNB1) induces Bmp expression in urogenital sinus epithelium and participates in prostatic bud initiation and patterning. *Dev Biol*, 376, 125-35.

MIKKOLA, M. L. 2009. Molecular aspects of hypohidrotic ectodermal dysplasia. *Am J Med Genet A*, 149A, 2031-6.

MOU, C., JACKSON, B., SCHNEIDER, P., OVERBEEK, P. A. & HEADON, D. J. 2006. Generation of the primary hair follicle pattern. *Proc Natl Acad Sci U S A*, 103, 9075-80.

MOU, C., THOMASON, H. A., WILLAN, P. M., CLOWES, C., HARRIS, W. E., DREX, C. F., DIXON, J., DIXON, M. J. & HEADON, D. J. 2008. Enhanced ectodysplasin-A receptor (EDAR) signaling alters multiple fiber characteristics to produce the East Asian hair form. *Hum Mutat*, 29, 1405-11.

SCHMIDT-ULLRICH, R., AEBISCHER, T., HULSKEN, J., BIRCHMEIER, W., KLEMM, U. & SCHEIDEREIT, C. 2001. Requirement of NF-kappaB/Rel for the development of hair follicles and other epidermal appendices. *Development*, 128, 3843-53.

SIMONS, B. W., HURLEY, P. J., HUANG, Z., ROSS, A. E., MILLER, R., MARCHIONNI, L., BERMANT, D. M. & SCHAEFFER, E. M. 2012. Wnt signaling though beta-catenin is required for prostate lineage specification. *Dev Biol*. 

Downloaded from http://bio.biologists.org/ by guest on February 18, 2019
SORIANO, P. 1999. Generalized lacZ expression with the ROSA26 Cre reporter strain. *Nat Genet*, 21, 70-1.

TUCKER, A. S., HEADON, D. J., SCHNEIDER, P., FERGUSON, B. M., OVERBEEK, P., TSCHOPP, J. & SHARPE, P. T. 2000. Edar/Eda interactions regulate enamel knot formation in tooth morphogenesis. *Development*, 127, 4691-700.

VEZINA, C.M. 2019. GUDMAP Consortium. https://doi.org/10.25548/16-26EY

WEGNER, K. A., KEIKHOSRAVI, A., ELICEIRI, K. W. & VEZINA, C. M. 2017. Fluorescence of Picrosirius Red Multiplexed With Immunohistochemistry for the Quantitative Assessment of Collagen in Tissue Sections. *J Histochem Cytochem*, 65, 479-490.

WEI, W., ZEVE, D., SUH, J. M., WANG, X., DU, Y., ZERWEKH, J. E., DECHOW, P. C., GRAFF, J. M. & WAN, Y. 2011. Biphasic and dosage-dependent regulation of osteoclastogenesis by beta-catenin. *Mol Cell Biol*, 31, 4706-19.

WONG, L., HUTSON, P. R. & BUSHMAN, W. 2014. Prostatic inflammation induces fibrosis in a mouse model of chronic bacterial infection. *PLoS One*, 9, e100770.

ZHANG, Y., TOMANN, P., ANDL, T., GALLANT, N. M., HUELSEKEN, J., JERCHOW, B., BIRCHMEIER, W., PAUS, R., PICCOLO, S., MIKKOLA, M. L., MORRISEY, E. E., OVERBEEK, P. A., SCHEIDEREIT, C., MILLAR, S. E. & SCHMIDT-ULLRICH, R. 2009. Reciprocal requirements for EDA/EDAR/NF-kappaB and Wnt/beta-catenin signaling pathways in hair follicle induction. *Dev Cell*, 17, 49-61.
Figures

18dpc Male

A

sv
ed

bl

---

P5 Male

B

sv
ed

Eda+CDH1

C

Edar+CDH1

D

E

Wnt10b+CDH1

F

sv
ed

bl

---

sv
ed

bl

sv

bl

sv

bl

sv

bl
Fig. 1. EDAR signaling pathway mRNA expression patterns in developing and neonatal prostate. Near mid-sagittal sections (50 µm) of 18 days post conception (dpc) and post-natal day (P) 5 male LUT were stained by ISH to visualize mRNA expression (purple) patterns of (A-B) Eda (C-D) Edar, (E-F) Wnt10b. Sections were then stained by immunofluorescence with an anti-cadherin 1 (CDH1) antibody that recognizes all epithelium (red). Results in each panel are representative of three males. Arrowheads indicate prostatic buds. Abbreviations are BL: bladder, ED: ejaculatory duct, SV: seminal vesicle, All images are of the same magnification. Scale bar = 100 µm.
Fig. 2. CTNNB1 induces *Edar* and *Wnt10b* mRNAs in developing prostate. Male *Shh*+/+; *Ctnnb1*tm1Mmt/tm1Mmt (control) and *Shh*creERT2/++;*Ctnnb1*tm1Mmt/tm1Mmt (*Ctnnb1*GOF) embryos were exposed to tamoxifen and progesterone as described. Sections from three, 18 days post conception (dpc) male UGSs per genotype were stained by ISH to visualize (A-B) *Eda*, (C-D) *Edar*, (E-F) *Wnt10b* (purple). Sections were immunofluorescently counterstained to visualize epithelium marked by anti-cadherin 1 (CDH1) to facilitate tissue identification. Abbreviations are bl: bladder, sv: seminal vesicle. Black arrowheads indicate prostatic buds. Red arrowheads indicate epithelial cell islands. Scale bar = 100 µm.
Fig. 3. EDAR is not required for prostatic bud formation and excessive EDAR does not change the number of prostatic buds formed. Lower urinary tracts from post-natal day 1 male (A) control, (B) *Edar* transgenic gain-of-function (*Edar*^GOF^), and (C) *Edar* transgenic loss-of-function (*Edar*^LOF^) mice were stained by ISH to visualize *Nkx3-1* (purple). Arrowheads indicate prostatic buds. Results are representative of three males per group. Abbreviations are bl: bladder, sv: seminal vesicle. Arrowheads indicate prostatic buds. Scale bar = 500 µm.
Fig. 4. Excessive EDAR causes increased periductal stromal thickness. Mouse prostate tissue sections (5 µm) were generated from male control (A) or transgenic Edar gain-of-function (B, *Edar*^GOF^) or loss-of-function (C, *Edar*^LOF^) mice. Sections were stained with hematoxylin and eosin and imaged using bright field microscopy. *Edar*^GOF^ appear to have an increase in the periductal, eosinophilic stromal layer. Arrowheads mark areas of altered periductal stroma thickness. Scale bar = 100 µm.
**Fig. 5. Excessive EDAR increases dorsal prostate collagen density.** Mouse prostate tissue sections (5 µm) were generated from postnatal day (P) 50 male control or transgenic *Edar* gain-of-function (*Edar*GOF) mice. (A) Sections were stained with picrosirius red and fluorescent imaging used to reveal collagen fibers and (B) quantify collagen density both genotypes. Collagen density is the mean±s.e.m. of three non-serial sections from three litter-independent mice per group. Asterisks indicate significant differences from controls (t-test, $p < 0.05$). Scale bar = 100 µm.