Reticular basement membrane thickness is associated with growth- and fibrosis-promoting airway transcriptome profile – study in asthma patients

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Supplementary Materials

Patients and Methods

Patients

The severity of asthma was categorized according to the Global Initiative for Asthma (GINA) guidelines. “Moderate” asthma was defined as mild persistent disease treated with a low dose of inhaled corticosteroids (ICS) (<250 μg of FP or equivalent) combined with long-acting β2-agonists or a medium dose of ICS (250-500 μg of FP or equivalent). “Severe” asthma was defined as asthma that requires a high dose of ICS (>500 μg of FP or equivalent) with a long-acting β2-agonist to prevent it from becoming uncontrolled or asthma that remains uncontrolled despite this treatment.

The exclusion criteria included pregnancy or breastfeeding, any acute illness, congestive heart failure, coronary heart disease, atrial fibrillation, stroke, cancer, hyper- or hypothyroidism, liver injury, and chronic kidney disease (stage 3 or more) in a history.

Diabetes mellitus was defined as the current use of insulin or oral hypoglycemic medications or fasting serum glucose >7.0 mmol/l. Arterial hypertension was determined based on a history of hypertension (blood pressure >140/90 mmHg) or antihypertensive treatment administration. Hypercholesterolemia was defined as previously diagnosed and treated with statins, or serum total cholesterol >5.2 mmol/l. Liver injury was diagnosed if serum alanine aminotransferase was elevated (at least two times above the upper limit of the reference range). Coronary heart disease was defined as a documented history of coronary stenosis or stable angina.

Lung computed tomography

Wall thickness was calculated based on average outer and inner bronchial diameters. The wall area ratio (WAR) was defined as an average difference between the outer wall area and inner wall area divided by the outer wall area. The wall thickness ratio (WTR) was calculated as the average value of the ratio of the wall thickness and the airway diameter.
Results

Gene alias and gene product’s description has been provided based on the Gene Cards (The Human Gene Database) (https://www.genecards.org/) or Entrez Gene (http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/gene).

Gene ontology was derived from GO Biological Process 2018 by Gene Ontology Consortium.

Table S1. Epithelial cell transcriptome. Asthma patients were divided based on the median value of the reticular basement membrane (RBM) thickness as a cut-off point; genes with higher or lower expression in those with thicker RBM are presented.

| Gene     | Alias for gene          | Fold difference | p-value (adjusted) | The biological role of the protein encoded                                                                 | Selected references (PMIDs)                                                                 |
|----------|-------------------------|-----------------|--------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1. TPH1  | Tryptophan hydrolase 1  | 1.209           | 0.0002             | It is an aromatic amino acid hydroxylase that catalyzes the first rate-limiting step in the biosynthesis of serotonin, a vital hormone neurotransmitter, and melatonin | 12379098, 19526457, 18982004, 20043001,                                                 |
| 2. ZNF594| Zinc finger protein 594 | 1.206           | 0.0008             | A transcription factor, a biological role not fully understood, may be involved in transcriptional regulation | 11347906, 7865130                                                                 |
| 3. USH2A | Usherin                | 1.178           | 0.001              | It is a protein that contains laminin epidermal growth factor, a pentraxin domain, and many fibronectin type III motifs; found in the basement membrane of many tissues, including lungs | 19683999, 18452394, 15325563, 14970843, 10729113                                  |
| 4. OAS2  | 2′-5′-oligoadenylate synthetase 2 | 1.168       | 0.0002             | It is an interferon-induced antiviral enzyme that mainly recognizes virally produced double-stranded RNA and initiate RNA destabilization through activation of ribonuclease L; it may also mediate other cellular processes such as apoptosis, cell growth, differentiation, and gene expression | 11682059, 21142819, 10464285, 9880569, 10464285                                      |
| 5. IPO13 | Importin 13            | 1.145           | 0.001              | Functions in nuclear protein import as nuclear transport receptor; serves as a receptor for nuclear localization signals in cargo substrates | 11447110, 19619331, 21139563, 20122403                                           |
| 6. SLC16A6| Solute carrier family 16 member 6 | 1.134    | 0.0007             | Catalyzes the rapid transport across the plasma membrane of many monocarboxylates such as lactate, pyruvate, branched-chain oxo acids derived from leucine, valine, and isoleucine, and the ketone bodies acetoacetate, beta-hydroxybutyrate, and acetate | 16604139, 12739169, 16174808                                                                 |
| 7. CDK20 | Cyclin-dependent kinase 20 | 1.130       | 0.001              | A kinase domain related to the cyclin-dependent protein kinases that may activate cyclin-dependent kinase 2 involved in cell growth and proliferation; it also controls the primary ciliome structure by coordinating the ciliary membrane and axoneme | 14597612, 21986944, 19672860, 19884882, 16954377                                        |
| 8. CLEC9A| C-type lectin domain containing 9A | 1.125   | 0.0002             | Functions as an endocytic receptor on a small subset of myeloid cells, including dendritic cells, specialized for the uptake and processing of material from dead cells; it recognizes a | 22483802, 18497879, 18408006, 12975309,                                               |
9. **HTRA2**  
HtrA Serine Peptidase 2  
| 1.124 | 0.001 |
|---|---|
| Serine protease that promotes or induces cell death either by direct binding to and inhibition of BIRC proteins (also called inhibitor of apoptosis proteins), leading to an increase in caspase activity or by a BIRC inhibition-independent, caspase-independent, and serine protease activity-dependent mechanism (pro-apoptotic function) |

10. **MIS12**  
MIS12 kinetochore complex component  
| 1.2 | 0.0002 |
|---|---|
| It is a part of the MIS12 complex required for normal chromosome alignment and segregation and kinetochore formation during mitosis |

11. **LAMA3**  
Laminin subunit α3  
| 1.199 | 0.0008 |
|---|---|
| Is a protein belonging to the laminin family of secreted molecules; α3 is a subunit of laminin-5, laminin-6, and laminin-7 of ECM proteins, essential for the formation and function of the basement membrane and regulating cell migration and mechanical signal transduction |

12. **RNF157**  
Ring Finger Protein 157  
| 1.190 | 0.0009 |
|---|---|
| It prevents apoptosis and promotes the survival of neurons; is also required for dendrite growth and maintenance |

**Lower mRNA expression in patients with increased reticular basement membrane thickness (RBM values above the median)**

1. **BRINP2**  
BMP/retinoic acid-inducible neural-specific 2  
| -1.486 | 0.001 |
|---|---|
| Inhibits neuronal cell proliferation by negative regulation of the cell cycle transition |

2. **PDS5B**  
Cohesin associated factor B  
| -1.152 | 0.0008 |
|---|---|
| It is a protein that interacts with the cohesin complex that holds together sister chromatids and facilitates accurate chromosome segregation during mitosis and meiosis; a negative regulator of cell proliferation and may be a tumor-suppressor gene |

3. **C21orf58**  
Chromosome 21 open reading frame 58  
| -1.131 | 0.0002 |
|---|---|
| Exact biological roles are unknown |

4. **SLC39A13**  
Solute Carrier Family 39 Member 13  
| -1.112 | 0.0005 |
|---|---|
| A transmembrane protein functions as a zinc transporter |

5. **PMP22**  
Peripheral myelin protein 22  
| -1.11 | 0.0008 |
|---|---|
| An integral membrane protein that is a major component of myelin in the peripheral nervous system; might be involved in growth regulation and myelinization in the peripheral nervous system |
Table S2. Genes for which expression remained in weaker, albeit significant positive associations with reticular basement membrane thickness (correlation coefficients 0.4 to 0.599).

| Gene    | Alias for gene                              | correlation coefficient | The biological role of the protein encoded                                                                                                                                 |
|---------|---------------------------------------------|-------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| RIT1    | Ras-Like Protein Expressed In Many Tissues  | 0.433                   | A member of a subfamily of Ras-related GTPases, involved in regulating p38 MAPK-dependent signaling cascades in cellular stress, cooperates with nerve growth factors to promote neuronal development and regeneration |
| CARS2   | Cysteinyl-TRNA Synthetase 2, Mitochondrial | 0.541                   | A member of the class I family of aminoacyl-tRNA synthetases, encoded by the nuclear genome and transported to the mitochondrion, is essential in protein biosynthesis and catalyzes the ligation of cysteine to tRNA molecules |
| ARID1B  | AT-Rich Interaction Domain 1B              | 0.531                   | A component of the chromatin remodeling complex may play a role in cell-cycle activation                                                                                               |
| PRAMEF9 | PRAME Family Member 9                      | 0.432                   | A protein that negatively regulates the apoptotic process and cell differentiation; positive regulates cell proliferation                                                               |
| TPM2    | Tropomyosin 2                              | 0.43                    | A member of the actin filament binding family binds to actin filaments in muscle and non-muscle cells; in association with the troponin complex, it plays a central role in muscle contraction; in non-muscle cells is implicated in stabilizing cytoskeleton |
| SSX5    | SSX Family Member 5                        | 0.579                   | A protein that belongs to the family of highly homologous synovial sarcoma X (SSX) breakpoint proteins functioning as transcriptional repressors. They are also capable of eliciting spontaneous humoral and cellular immune responses |
| ZNF521  | Zinc Finger Protein 521                   | 0.464                   | A transcription factor acts as an activator or a repressor depending on the context, with recognized regulatory functions in hematopoietic; it may be involved in neural tissue development |
| ZNF594  | Zinc Finger Protein 594                    | 0.583                   | A transcription factor, a biological role not fully understood                                                                                                                         |
| ZNF644  | Zinc Finger Protein 644                    | 0.495                   | A transcription factor, a biological role not fully understood                                                                                                                         |
| ZNF136  | Zinc Finger Protein 136                    | 0.439                   | A transcription factor, a biological role not fully understood                                                                                                                         |
| ESD     | Esterase D, S-Formylglutathione Hydrolase   | 0.572                   | A serine hydrolase active toward numerous substrates; may be involved in recycling sialic acids and in the detoxification of formaldehyde                                                                 |
| BIRC3   | Baculoviral IAP Repeat Containing 3 Inhibitor Of Apoptosis Protein 1 | 0.525                   | A member of the inhibitors of the apoptosis protein family, it inhibits apoptosis by binding to tumor necrosis factor receptor-associated factors TRAF1 and TRAF2, as well as modulates inflammatory signaling and immunity |
| WDR33   | WD Repeat Domain 33                        | 0.576                   | A member of the WD repeat protein family, may facilitate the formation of heterotrimeric or multiprotein                                                                              |
complexes, is involved in various cellular processes, including cell cycle progression, signal transduction, apoptosis, and gene regulation.

| Gene   | Description                                      | Q Value |
|--------|--------------------------------------------------|---------|
| **POMZP3** | POM121 and ZP3 Fusion                           | 0.484   |
| **DLAT**  | Dihydrolipoamide S-Acetyltransferase            | 0.521   |
| **OR8K5** | Olfactory Receptor Family 8 Subfamily K Member 5 | 0.541   |
| **TRMT10A** | TRNA Methyltransferase 10A                     | 0.552   |
| **TCEAL5** | Transcription Elongation Factor A Like 5        | 0.436   |
| **TCEA2** | Transcription Elongation Factor A2              | 0.496   |
| **CNOT2** | CCR4-NOT Transcription Complex Subunit 2        | 0.471   |
| **SCFD1** | Sec1 Family Domain Containing 1                 | 0.469   |
| **COMMD6** | COMM Domain Containing 6                        | 0.485   |
| **KIF27** | Kinesin Family Member 27                        | 0.575   |
| **C1QTNF3** | C1q And TNF Related 3                           | 0.557   |
| **SPRED1** | Sprouty Related EVH1 Domain Containing 1        | 0.477   |
| **HSP90AB1** | Heat Shock Protein 90 Alpha Family Class B Member 1 | 0.472   |
| **MROH2B** | Maestro Heat Like Repeat Family Member 2B       | 0.509   |
| **MUC1**  | Mucin 1, Cell Surface Associated                 | 0.417   |

Involved in fertilization, a biological role in other tissues is not fully understood

A component E2 of the multi-enzyme pyruvate dehydrogenase complex that resides in the inner mitochondrial membrane and catalyzes the conversion of pyruvate to acetyl coenzyme A, is involved in glucose metabolism

The olfactory receptor protein

A protein that belongs to the tRNA methyltransferase family, involved in mitochondrial protein synthesis

A transcription factor, a biological role not fully understood

A transcription elongation factor responsible for appropriate RNA polymerase II function interacts with general transcription factor IIB

A subunit of the multi-component CCR4-NOT complex regulates mRNA synthesis and degradation and is also thought to be involved in mRNA splicing, transport, and localization. The encoded protein interacts with histone deacetylases and functions as a repressor of polymerase II transcription.

Involved in vesicular transport between the endoplasmic reticulum and the Golgi

This protein downregulates activation of NF-kappa-B, inhibits TNF-induced NFKB1 activation

A protein member of the kinesin family, it plays an essential role in microtubule motor activity and epithelial cilium movement.

A member of the adipokine family, It regulates food intake, inflammation, apoptosis, vascular function, and ischemic injury

A member of the Sprouty family of proteins inhibits growth-factor-mediated activation of MAP kinase

A member of the heat shock protein 90 family, a molecular chaperone that promotes the maturation, structural maintenance, and proper regulation of specific target proteins involved in cell cycle control and signal transduction, promotes RNA transcription and cell proliferation.

Involved in fertilization; in other tissues, a biological role is unknown

A membrane-bound protein that is a member of the mucin family; it is expressed on the apical surface of epithelial cells, plays a role in intracellular signaling, and protects the cell against bacteria, virus, and enzyme attack
| Gene   | Description                                                                 | Expression |
|--------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------|
| ACP6   | Acid Phosphatase 6, Lysophosphatidic                                         | 0.573      |
| TP53I3 | Tumor Protein P53 Inducible Protein 3                                         | 0.406      |
| CAMTA1 | Calmodulin Binding Transcription Activator 1                                 | 0.573      |
| RALGPS1| Ral GEF With PH Domain And SH3 Binding Motif 1                                | 0.568      |
| INVS   | Inversin                                                                     | 0.584      |
| ANKS1B | Ankyrin Repeat And Sterile Alpha Motif Domain Containing 1B                  | 0.503      |
| ANKFY1 | Ankyrin Repeat And FYVE Domain Containing 1                                  | 0.461      |
| TSFM   | Elongation Factor Ts, Mitochondrial                                          | 0.457      |
| SPANXD | SPANX Family Member D                                                         | 0.479      |
| THAP5  | THAP Domain Containing 5                                                      | 0.545      |
| LRRFIP2| LRR Binding FLII Interacting Protein 2                                        | 0.535      |
| OLMALIN| Oligodendrocyte Maturation-Associated Long Intergenic Non-Coding RNA         | 0.414      |
| OTOF   | Otoferlin                                                                    | 0.591      |
| URB1   | URB1 Ribosome Biogenesis Homolog                                             | 0.523      |
| FGD5   | RhoGEF And PH Domain Containing 5                                             | 0.524      |
| CXorf51| Chromosome X Open Reading Frame 51A                                           | 0.455      |
| C17orf75| Chromosome 17 Open Reading Frame 75                                           | 0.406      |
| MROH6  | Maestro Heat Like Repeat Family Member 6                                      | 0.502      |
| MAP6   | Microtubule Associated Protein 6                                              | 0.47       |
| MAP4K3 | Mitogen-Activated Protein Kinase Kinase Kinase 3                               | 0.457      |

A member of the histidine acid phosphatase protein family, balancing lipid composition within the cell.

A protein involved in cellular responses to oxidative stresses and irradiation. This gene is induced by the tumor suppressor p53 and is thought to be involved in p53-mediated cell death.

A protein that is a transcription factor with an activation function.

A guanine nucleotide exchange factor (GEF) for the small GTPase RALA; may be involved in cytoskeletal organization.

A protein that is likely involved in kidney development and left-right axis determination; biological roles in other tissues are unknown.

This protein interacts with amyloid-beta precursor and may have a role in the normal development of neuronal cells and Alzheimer disease pathogenesis.

This protein belongs to a subgroup of double zinc finger proteins which may be involved in vesicle or protein transport.

A mitochondrial translation elongation factor.

Involved in fertilization; biological roles in other tissues are unknown.

A regulator of cell-cycle; can function as a transcriptional repressor.

A protein encoded by this gene, along with MYD88, binds to the cytosolic tail of toll-like receptor 4 (TLR4), which results in activation of nuclear factor-kappa B signaling. Also, this protein can downregulate the NLRP3 inflammasome by recruiting the caspase-1 inhibitor to the inflammasome complex.

An RNA gene that belongs to the long non-coding RNA class with a regulatory function.

A protein involved in vesicle membrane fusion.

Immunomodulator of the inflammatory response.

A protein that promotes neovascularization; regulates actin cytoskeleton and cell shape.

A biological role is unknown.

A biological role is unknown.

A biological role is unknown.

A calmodulin-binding and calmodulin-regulated protein that is involved in microtubule stabilization in many cell types.

A member of the mitogen-activated protein kinases; may play a role in response to environmental stress.
| Protein     | Description                                                                 | Score |
|-------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------|
| ERFE        | Erythroferrone, the iron-regulatory hormone that acts as an erythroid regulator after hemorrhage; promotes increased iron absorption and mobilization from stores and lipid uptake | 0.448 |
| NBEAL1      | Neurobeachin Like 1, a protein likely involved in vesicle trafficking, membrane dynamics, receptor signaling, pre-mRNA processing, signal transduction, and cytoskeleton assembly | 0.476 |
| CRISP1      | Cysteine Rich Secretory Protein 1, involved in fertilization; biological roles in other tissues are unknown | 0.454 |
| TRPV3       | Transient Receptor Potential Cation Channel Subfamily V Member 3, a protein that belongs to a family of nonselective cation channels that function in various processes, including temperature sensation and vasoregulation | 0.411 |
| NACRGL      | Parkin Coregulated Like, a biological role is unknown | 0.522 |
| NAA16       | N-Alpha-Acetyltransferase 16, NatA Auxiliary Subunit, a ribosome binding protein, negative regulation of apoptosis, positive regulation of transcription, protein stabilization | 0.57 |
| GRID2       | Glutamate Ionotropic Receptor Delta Type Subunit 2, a protein receptor for L-glutamate which acts as an excitatory neurotransmitter at many synapses in the nervous system | 0.542 |
| CSDE1       | Cold Shock Domain Containing E1, an RNA-binding protein which is required, i.a. for internal initiation of translation of human rhinovirus and RNA turnover | 0.421 |
| FBXL20      | F-Box And Leucine Rich Repeat Protein 20, a substrate-recognition component of the SCF (SKP1-CUL1-F-box protein)-type ligase complex; plays a role in neural transmission | 0.477 |
| EXOSC10     | Exosome Component 10, a protein that participates in a multitude of cellular RNA processing and degradation | 0.577 |
| MS4A6A      | Membrane Spanning 4-Domains A6A, a member of the membrane-spanning 4A gene family; may be involved in signal transduction | 0.479 |
| USP13       | Ubiquitin Specific Peptidase 13, a protein involved in various processes such as autophagy and endoplasmic reticulum-associated degradation | 0.527 |
| PML         | PML Nuclear Body Scaffold, a protein member of the tripartite motif (TRIM) family functions via its association with PML-nuclear bodies (PML-NBs) in a wide range of critical cellular processes, including tumor suppression, transcriptional regulation, apoptosis, senescence, DNA damage response, and viral defense mechanisms | 0.577 |
| SCARA3      | Scavenger Receptor Class A Member 3, a protein that depletes reactive oxygen species and plays an essential role in protecting cells from oxidative stress | 0.533 |
| ISG20       | Interferon Stimulated Exonuclease Gene 20, a protein that exhibits antiviral activity against RNA viruses in an exonuclease-dependent manner | 0.478 |
| NEKS        | NIMA Related Kinase 2, a protein kinase involved in controlling centrosome separation and bipolar spindle formation in mitotic cells and chromatin condensation in meiotic cells | 0.592 |
| TENT4B      | Terminal Nucleotidyltransferase 4B, a terminal nucleotidyltransferase that catalyzes the transfer of ATP and GTP preferentially on RNA 3\(^\prime\) poly(A) tail stabilizing mRNA | 0.563 |
| Gene Symbol | Description | Score |
|-------------|-------------|-------|
| NOP14-AS1   | NOP14 Antisense RNA 1 | 0.435 |
| RBM27       | RNA Binding Motif Protein 27 | 0.448 |
| PNN         | Pinin, Desmosome Associated Protein | 0.543 |
| SENP6       | SUMO Specific Peptidase 6 | 0.495 |
| AP13A5      | ATPase 13A5 | 0.426 |
| CLEC7A      | C-Type Lectin Domain Containing 7A | 0.419 |
| MTO1        | Mitochondrial TRNA Translation Optimization 1 | 0.532 |
| DACT3       | Dishevelled Binding Antagonist Of Beta Catenin 3 | 0.587 |
| AHRR        | Aryl-Hydrocarbon Receptor Repressor | 0.536 |
| TRBV11-1    | T Cell Receptor Beta Variable 11-1 | 0.504 |
| HNRNPLL     | Heterogeneous Nuclear Ribonucleoprotein L Like | 0.454 |
| AP4B1       | Adaptor Related Protein Complex 4 Subunit Beta 1 | 0.523 |
| IL1RAPL2    | Interleukin 1 Receptor Accessory Protein Like 2 | 0.584 |
| APOBEC3F    | Apolipoprotein B MRNA Editing Enzyme Catalytic Subunit 3F | 0.5 |
| CIP2A       | Cell Proliferation Regulating Inhibitor Of Protein Phosphatase 2A | 0.467 |
| SLC6A5      | Solute Carrier Family 6 Member 5 | 0.569 |
| DMRT2       | Doublesex And Mab-3 Related Transcription Factor 2 | 0.508 |
**Table S3.** Genes for which expression remained in weaker, albeit significant negative associations with reticular basement membrane thickness (correlation coefficients -0.599 to -0.4).

| Gene         | Alias for gene                              | correlation coefficient | The biological role of the protein coded |
|--------------|---------------------------------------------|-------------------------|-----------------------------------------|
| **SPR**      | Sepiapterin Reductase                       | -0.523                  | An aldo-keto reductase that catalyzes the biosynthesis of tetrahydrobiopterin, secondary involved in neurotransmitter production, such as serotonin and dopamine |
| **FAM27E5**  | Family with Sequence Similarity E5          | -0.43                   | An RNA gene that belongs to the long non-coding RNA class with a regulatory function |
| **CRHR1**    | Corticotropin Releasing Hormone Receptor 1  | -0.402                  | A G-protein coupled receptor that binds the corticotropin-releasing hormone family and regulates diverse physiological processes, including stress, reproduction, immune response, and obesity |
| **ANO3**     | Anoctamin 3                                 | -0.401                  | A membrane protein with unknown biological function seems to act as a potassium channel regulator, involved in endoplasmic reticulum-dependent calcium signaling. |
| **CDH23**    | Cadherin Related 23                         | -0.511                  | A member of the cadherin superfamily, cell-cell adhesion glycoproteins |
| **DNMT3A**   | DNA Methyltransferase 3 Alpha               | -0.515                  | A DNA methyltransferase to function in CpG and non-CpG motif methylation as an epigenetic modification |
| **CNNM3**    | Cyclin And CBS Domain Divalent Metal Cation Transport Mediator 3 | -0.433                  | Human transmembrane protein, involved in ion transport |
| **XPR1**     | Xenotropic And Polytropic Retrovirus Receptor 1 | -0.579                  | A protein that plays a role in phosphate homeostasis |
| **KCNQ3**    | Potassium Voltage-Gated Channel Subfamily Q Member 3 | -0.587                  | A part of the slow-acting potassium channel, important in the regulation of neuronal excitability |
| **PCDHGC4**  | Protocadherin Gamma Subfamily C4            | -0.41                   | A calcium-dependent cell-adhesion protein that may be involved in the establishment and maintenance of specific neuronal connections |
| **DDX39A**   | DExD-Box Helicase 39A                       | -0.584                  | A member of the DEAD box protein family, implicated in several cellular processes involving alteration of RNA, such as translation initiation, nuclear and mitochondrial splicing, and ribosome and spliceosome assembly |
| **SHPRH**    | SNF2 Histone Linker PHD RING Helicase       | -0.575                  | A ligase involved in DNA repair; also acts as a transcription factor, and helicase |
| **IL1RAP**   | Interleukin 1 Receptor Accessory Protein    | -0.539                  | A component of the interleukin 1 receptor complex; it initiates signaling events that result in the activation of interleukin 1-responsive genes |
| **WWP1**     | WW Domain Containing E3 Ubiquitin Protein Ligase 1 | -0.53                   | A protein that plays an essential role in the regulation of a variety of cellular functions such as protein degradation, transcription, and RNA splicing |
| **CEP112**   | Centrosomal Protein 112                     | -0.554                  | A protein belonging to the cell division control protein 42 effector protein family, a component of the human centrosome |
| **ZNF625**   | Zinc Finger Protein 625                     | -0.582                  | A transcriptional regulator, the exact biological role is unknown |
| Gene Symbol | Description                                      | -log10 P | Notes                                                                 |
|-------------|--------------------------------------------------|---------|----------------------------------------------------------------------|
| GPBP1L1     | GC-Rich Promoter Binding Protein 1 Like 1        | -0.561  | A transcriptional regulator, the exact biological role is unknown   |
| OR2T3       | Olfactory Receptor Family 2 Subfamily T Member 3| -0.548  | The olfactory receptor protein                                        |
| ZBTB40      | Zinc Finger And BTB Domain Containing 40         | -0.466  | A transcriptional regulator, the exact biological role is unknown   |
| DOK4        | Docking Protein 4                               | -0.544  | A DOK protein that provides a docking platform for the assembly of multimolecular signaling complexes; may regulate the immune response induced by T-cells |
| MRPS25      | Mitochondrial Ribosomal Protein S25              | -0.478  | A 28S subunit protein of mitoribosomes (small ribosomal unit) with pro-apoptotic properties |
| LTPB1       | Latent Transforming Growth Factor Beta Binding Protein 1 | -0.543 | A protein that belongs to the family of latent TGF-β binding proteins (LTBPs), it is a crucial regulator of TGF-β activity by maintaining it in a latent state in extracellular space |
| RNFT1       | Ring Finger Protein, Transmembrane 1            | -0.458  | A ligase that acts in the endoplasmic reticulum degradation pathway   |
| NECAP1      | NECAP Endocytosis Associated 1                   | -0.48   | A protein localizes to clathrin-coated vesicles, involved in endocytosis |
| NCALD       | Neurocalcin Delta                               | -0.488  | A protein that belongs to the neuronal calcium sensor family; is involved in vesicle-mediated transport |
| ANK3        | Ankyrin 3                                       | -0.525  | An ankyrin that was initially found in the central and peripheral nervous systems; ankryns are a family of proteins that link the integral membrane proteins to the underlying spectrin-actin cytoskeleton and play roles in cell motility, activation, proliferation, and contact |
| CLDND1      | Claudin Domain Containing 1                     | -0.584  | A membrane protein, component of the tight junctions                 |
| C3orf52     | Chromosome 3 Open Reading Frame 52 or TPA Induced Trans-Membrane Protein | -0.527 | A membrane protein, the exact biological role is unknown            |
| TTMP        |                                                 |         |                                                                    |
| ATM         | ATM Serine/Threonine Kinase                      | -0.512  | This protein and the closely related kinase ATR are master controllers of cell-cycle checkpoint signaling pathways required for cell response to DNA damage and genome stability |
| NLGNI       | Neuroligin 1                                    | -0.558  | A member of a family of neuronal cell surface proteins involved in cell-cell-interactions; plays a role in synapse function and synaptic signal transmission |
Table S4. Biological processes gene ontology terms associated with genes which expression level correlated significantly with reticular basement membrane thickness.
Gene ontology derived from GO Biological Process 2018 by Gene Ontology Consortium

| Biological process                                           | Accession number | Genes                                     | p-value | Z-score | combined log (p-value) *z-score |
|--------------------------------------------------------------|------------------|-------------------------------------------|---------|---------|---------------------------------|
| Positive regulation of synapse assembly                      | GO:0051965       | NLGN1; GRID2; IL1RAP                      | 0.0008  | -38.23  | 119.25                          |
| Negative regulation of the viral life cycle                  | GO:1903901       | ISG20; APOBEC3F; OAS2; PML                | 0.0009  | -21.73  | 66.62                           |
| DNA damage response, signal transduction by p53 class mediator resulting in cell cycle arrest | GO:0006977       | MUC1; CNOT2; ATM; PML                     | 0.0009  | -21.37  | 64.98                           |
| Signal transduction involved in mitotic G1 DNA damage checkpoint | GO:0072431       | MUC1; CNOT2; ATM; PML                     | 0.0010  | -21.04  | 63.40                           |
| Excitatory synapse assembly regulation of synapse assembly    | GO:0051963       | NLGN1; GRID2                              | 0.0013  | -82.83  | 238.86                          |
| Histone mRNA catabolic process                               | GO:0071044       | EXOSC10; ATM                              | 0.0025  | -60.24  | 156.42                          |
| DNA damage response, signal transduction by p53 class mediator | GO:0030330       | MUC1; CNOT2; ATM; PML                     | 0.0026  | -16.16  | 41.86                           |
| Positive regulation of cell cycle arrest                     | GO:0071158       | MUC1; CNOT2; ATM; PML                     | 0.0026  | -16.16  | 41.86                           |
| Positive regulation of cellular component biogenesis         | GO:0044089       | GRID2; NLGN1; ATM; IL1RAP                | 0.0032  | -15.23  | 38.04                           |
| Positive regulation of DNA damage response, signal transduction by p53 class mediator | GO:0043517       | SPRED1; ATM                               | 0.0041  | -47.33  | 112.83                          |
| Positive regulation of calcium ion-dependent exocytosis      | GO:0045956       | NLGN1; CACNA1G                            | 0.0041  | -47.33  | 112.83                          |
| Negative regulation of viral genome replication              | GO:0045071       | ISG20; APOBEC3F; OAS2                     | 0.0051  | -19.88  | 45.62                           |
| Positive regulation of nervous system development            | GO:0051962       | GRID2; NLGN1; IL1RAP                     | 0.0057  | -19.11  | 42.95                           |
| Positive regulation of signal transduction by p53 class mediator | GO:1901798       | SPRED1; ATM                               | 0.0061  | -38.98  | 86.35                           |
| Translational elongation                                     | GO:0006414       | TSFM; MRPS25; MRPL37; EEF2                | 0.0062  | -12.62  | 27.85                           |
| Positive regulation of cellular component organization | GO:0051130 | GRID2; NLGN1; ATM; ILIRAP | 0.0064 | -12.50 | 27.41 |
| Regulation of DNA-templated transcription, elongation | GO:0032784 | TSFM; TCEA2 | 0.0084 | -33.13 | 68.78 |
| Regulation of ruffle assembly | GO:1900027 | NLGN1; STAP1 | 0.0092 | -31.55 | 64.20 |
| Regulation of viral genome replication | GO:0045069 | ISG20; APOBEC3F; OAS2 | 0.0096 | -15.78 | 31.81 |
| Neuronal action potential | GO:0019228 | ANK3; CACNA1G | 0.0110 | -28.81 | 56.40 |
| Membrane assembly | GO:0071709 | NLGN1; ANK3 | 0.0110 | -28.81 | 56.40 |
| Histone mRNA metabolic process | GO:0008334 | EXOSC10; ATM | 0.0120 | -27.61 | 53.06 |
| Regulation of DNA damage response, signal transduction by p53 class mediator | GO:0043516 | SPRED1; ATM | 0.0130 | -26.50 | 50.03 |
| Regulation of cell communication | GO:0010646 | GRID2; NLGN1; BIRC3 | 0.0133 | -14.00 | 26.26 |
| tRNA methylation | GO:0030488 | TRMT10A; MTO1 | 0.0140 | -25.49 | 47.27 |
| Mitotic nuclear division | GO:0140014 | MIS12; KIF11; BIRC3 | 0.0149 | -13.43 | 24.55 |
| Sensory perception of mechanical stimulus | GO:0050954 | PIEZO2; CDH23; USH2A | 0.0171 | -12.74 | 22.51 |
| Positive regulation of telomere maintenance | GO:0032206 | ATM; PML | 0.0208 | -20.71 | 34.85 |
| Mitochondrial translational elongation | GO:0070125 | TSFM; MRPS25; MRPL37 | 0.0228 | -11.42 | 18.76 |
| Actin-myosin filament sliding | GO:0033275 | TPM2; TPM1 | 0.0286 | -17.44 | 26.91 |
| Muscle filament sliding | GO:0030049 | TPM2; TPM1 | 0.0286 | -17.44 | 26.91 |
| Regulation of ATPase activity | GO:0043462 | TPM2; TPM1 | 0.0315 | -16.57 | 24.88 |
| Calcium-dependent cell-cell adhesion via plasma membrane cell adhesion molecules | GO:0016339 | NLGN1; CDH23 | 0.0330 | -16.16 | 23.95 |
| Nuclear-transcribed mRNA catabolic process | GO:000956 | EXOSC10; CNOT2; CSDE1; ATM | 0.0333 | -7.62 | 11.25 |
| Regulation of protein modification process | GO:0031399 | SPRED1; PML | 0.0344 | -15.78 | 23.08 |
| Mitochondrial translation | GO:0032543 | TSFM; MRPS25; MRPL37 | 0.0386 | -9.29 | 13.12 |
| Mitotic spindle assembly | GO:0090307 | KIF11; BIRC3 | 0.0407 | -14.40 | 20.03 |
| Positive regulation of action potential | GO:0045760 | ANK3 | 0.0410 | -55.22 | 76.61 |
| Positive regulation of nucleobase-containing compound transport | GO:0032241 | RBM27 | 0.0410 | -55.22 | 76.61 |
| Biological Process | GO:ID | Gene | Term | q-value | FDR | NES | FC |
|--------------------|-------|------|------|---------|-----|-----|-----|
| Purine ribonucleoside monophosphate catabolic process | GO:0009169 | HPRT1 | 0.0410 | -55.22 | 76.61 |
| Nuclear polyadenylation-dependent RNA catabolic process | GO:0071046 | EXOSC10 | 0.0410 | -55.22 | 76.61 |
| Negative regulation of transforming growth factor beta production | GO:0071635 | HSP90AB1 | 0.0410 | -55.22 | 76.61 |
| Synaptic transmission, glycineric | GO:0060012 | SLC6A5 | 0.0410 | -55.22 | 76.61 |
| Positive regulation of microglial cell activation | GO:1903980 | STAP1 | 0.0410 | -55.22 | 76.61 |
| N-terminal peptidyl-methionine acetylation | GO:0017196 | NAA16 | 0.0410 | -55.22 | 76.61 |
| Prepulse inhibition | GO:0060134 | GRID2 | 0.0410 | -55.22 | 76.61 |
| Regulation of phagocytosis, engulfment | GO:0060099 | STAP1 | 0.0410 | -55.22 | 76.61 |
| Regulation of nuclease activity | GO:0032069 | OAS2 | 0.0410 | -55.22 | 76.61 |
| Regulation of dopamine metabolic process | GO:0042053 | HPRT1 | 0.0410 | -55.22 | 76.61 |
| Cellular triglyceride homeostasis | GO:0035356 | C1QTNF3 | 0.0410 | -55.22 | 76.61 |
| Negative regulation of necroptotic process | GO:0060546 | BIRC3 | 0.0410 | -55.22 | 76.61 |
| Indolalkylamine metabolic process | GO:0006586 | TPH1 | 0.0410 | -55.22 | 76.61 |
| Nuclear polyadenylation-dependent rRNA catabolic process | GO:0071035 | EXOSC10 | 0.0410 | -55.22 | 76.61 |
| Regulation of adiponectin secretion | GO:0070163 | C1QTNF3 | 0.0410 | -55.22 | 76.61 |
| Positive regulation of sodium ion transmembrane transport | GO:1902307 | ANK3 | 0.0410 | -55.22 | 76.61 |
| Positive regulation of clathrin-dependent endocytosis | GO:2000370 | NLGN1 | 0.0410 | -55.22 | 76.61 |
| Cellular response to magnesium ion | GO:0071286 | ANK3 | 0.0410 | -55.22 | 76.61 |
| Negative regulation of delayed rectifier potassium channel activity | GO:1902260 | ANK3 | 0.0410 | -55.22 | 76.61 |
| Maintenance of protein location in extracellular region | GO:0071694 | LTBPI | 0.0410 | -55.22 | 76.61 |
| **Gene**          | **Function**                                              | **GO ID** | **Log2 Fold Change** | **p-value** |
|-------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------|-----------|----------------------|-------------|
| NLGN1             | Negative regulation of dendritic spine development       | GO:0061000 | -55.22               | 0.0410      |
| CDH23             | Equilibrioception                                        | GO:0050957 | -55.22               | 0.0410      |
| ATM               | Peptidyl-serine autophosphorylation                       | GO:0036289 | -55.22               | 0.0410      |
| C1QTNF3           | Negative regulation of interleukin-6 secretion            | GO:1900165 | -55.22               | 0.0410      |
| GAD1              | Glutamate catabolic process                              | GO:0006538 | -55.22               | 0.0410      |
| SLC6A5            | L-amino acid import                                      | GO:0043092 | -55.22               | 0.0410      |
| USH2A             | Inner ear receptor cell differentiation                  | GO:0060113 | -55.22               | 0.0410      |
| RBM27             | Positive regulation of RNA export from nucleus            | GO:0046833 | -55.22               | 0.0410      |
| NLGN1; GRID2      | Heterophilic cell-cell adhesion via plasma membrane cell adhesion molecules | GO:0007157 | -14.10               | 0.0423      |
| TRMT10A; MTO1     | RNA methylation                                           | GO:0001510 | -13.52               | 0.0456      |
| SPRED1; ATM       | Positive regulation of response to DNA damage stimulus    | GO:2001022 | -13.52               | 0.0456      |
| XPR1              | Phosphate ion transmembrane transport                     | GO:0035435 | -47.33               | 0.0477      |
| HPRT1             | Purine nucleotide biosynthetic process                    | GO:0006164 | -47.33               | 0.0477      |
| XPR1              | Cellular divalent inorganic anion homeostasis             | GO:0072501 | -47.33               | 0.0477      |
| CACNA1G           | AV node cell action potential                             | GO:0086016 | -47.33               | 0.0477      |
| C1QTNF3           | Regulation of monocyte chemotactic protein-1 production   | GO:0071637 | -47.33               | 0.0477      |
| XPR1              | Cellular trivalent inorganic anion homeostasis            | GO:0072502 | -47.33               | 0.0477      |
| ANKFY1            | Regulation of pinocytosis                                 | GO:0048548 | -47.33               | 0.0477      |
| SCFD1             | Regulation of ER to Golgi vesicle-mediated transport      | GO:0060628 | -47.33               | 0.0477      |
| USP13             | Melanocyte differentiation                               | GO:0030318 | -47.33               | 0.0477      |
| SCFD1             | Regulation of establishment of protein localization       | GO:0070201 | -47.33               | 0.0477      |
| MUC1              | Positive regulation of histone H4 acetylation             | GO:0090240 | -47.33               | 0.0477      |
| LTBP1             | Sequestering of extracellular ligand from receptor         | GO:0035581 | -47.33               | 0.0477      |
| Biological Process | Gene ID | Gene | q-value | Fold Change | p-value |
|--------------------|---------|------|---------|-------------|---------|
| Pteridine-containing compound biosynthetic process | GO:0042559 | SPR | 0.0477 | -47.33 | 62.56 |
| Negative regulation of telomere capping | GO:1904354 | ATM | 0.0477 | -47.33 | 62.56 |
| Nuclear body organization | GO:0030575 | PML | 0.0477 | -47.33 | 62.56 |
| SA node cell action potential | GO:0086015 | CACNA1G | 0.0477 | -47.33 | 62.56 |
| Negative regulation of dendrite morphogenesis | GO:0050774 | NLGN1 | 0.0477 | -47.33 | 62.56 |
| Positive regulation of membrane depolarization | GO:1904181 | ANK3 | 0.0477 | -47.33 | 62.56 |
| Regulation of microglial cell activation | GO:1903978 | STAP1 | 0.0477 | -47.33 | 62.56 |
| Negative regulation of cell adhesion mediated by integrin | GO:0033629 | MUC1 | 0.0477 | -47.33 | 62.56 |
| Negative regulation of necrotic cell death | GO:0060547 | BIRC3 | 0.0477 | -47.33 | 62.56 |
| Chromatin-mediated maintenance of transcription | GO:0048096 | ARID1B | 0.0477 | -47.33 | 62.56 |
| Cellular phosphate ion homeostasis | GO:0030643 | XPR1 | 0.0477 | -47.33 | 62.56 |
| Regulation of telomere maintenance via telomerase | GO:0032210 | EXOSC10; ATM | 0.0490 | -12.99 | 17.02 |
| Calcium ion transport | GO:0006816 | CDH23; TRPV3; CACNA1G | 0.0492 | -8.42 | 11.02 |
### Table S5. Molecular functions gene ontology terms associated with genes which expression levels correlated significantly with reticular basement membrane thickness.

Gene ontology derived from GO Biological Process 2018 by Gene Ontology Consortium

| Molecular functions                                      | Accession number | Genes                                | p-value | z-score | combined log(p-value) *z-score |
|----------------------------------------------------------|------------------|--------------------------------------|---------|---------|------------------------------|
| 3'-5'-exoribonuclease activity                           | GO:0000175       | ISG20; EXOSC10; CNOT2                 | 0.0013  | -32.06  | 92.74                        |
| Ion channel activity                                     | GO:0005216       | PIEZO2; TRPV3; NCALD; CACNA1G         | 0.0040  | -14.25  | 34.10                        |
| Actin filament binding                                   | GO:0051015       | MYO1B; TPM2; TPM1; CORO2A             | 0.0120  | -10.43  | 20.06                        |
| Actin binding                                            | GO:0003779       | MYO1B; TPM2; TPM1; CORO2A; NCALD      | 0.0324  | -6.52   | 9.71                         |
| Exoribonuclease activity, producing 5' phosphomonoesters | GO:0016896       | ISG20; EXOSC10                        | 0.0130  | -26.50  | 50.03                        |
| NADP binding                                             | GO:0050661       | TP5313; SPR                           | 0.0184  | -22.09  | 38.34                        |
| Phosphatidylinositol phosphate binding                   | GO:1901981       | MYO1B; RNF34; ANKFY1                  | 0.0189  | -12.27  | 21.15                        |
| ATP-dependent microtubule motor activity, plus-end-directed | GO:0008574     | KIF11; KIF27                         | 0.0195  | -21.37  | 36.53                        |
| Motor activity                                           | GO:0003774       | MYO1B; KIF11; KIF27                   | 0.0214  | -11.69  | 19.51                        |
| Exonuclease activity                                     | GO:0004527       | ISG20; EXOSC10                        | 0.0259  | -18.41  | 29.21                        |
| 3'-5' exonuclease activity                               | GO:0008408       | ISG20; EXOSC10                        | 0.0286  | -17.44  | 26.91                        |
| Cation transmembrane transporter activity                | GO:0008324       | PIEZO2; ATP13A5; CACNA1G              | 0.0302  | -10.25  | 15.58                        |
| RNA binding                                              | GO:0003723       | RBM27; TSFM; TRMT10A; APOBEC3F; HSP90AB1; MRPL37; URB1; HNRNPLL; EEF2; MTO1; WDR33; PNN; DDX39A; EXOSC10; OAS2; CSDE1 | 0.0315  | -3.82   | 5.74                         |
| ATP binding                                              | GO:0005524       | MYO1B; HSP90AB1; OAS2; CARS2; MAP4K3  | 0.0329  | -6.50   | 9.63                         |
| Function                              | GO ID     | Gene(s)                  | p-value | log2FoldChange | FDR   |
|---------------------------------------|-----------|--------------------------|---------|----------------|-------|
| Histone methyltransferase binding     | GO:1990226| *HSP90AB1*               | 0.0410  | -55.22         | 76.61 |
| Transforming growth factor beta-activated receptor activity | GO:0005024 | *LTBP1*                | 0.0410  | -55.22         | 76.61 |
| Mechanically-gated ion channel activity | GO:0008381 | *PIEZ02*               | 0.0410  | -55.22         | 76.61 |
| Exoribonuclease activity             | GO:0004532 | *EXOSC10*              | 0.0410  | -55.22         | 76.61 |
| U3 snoRNA binding                    | GO:0034511 | *ISG20*                | 0.0410  | -55.22         | 76.61 |
| ATP-dependent microtubule motor activity | GO:1990939 | *KIF11; KIF27*         | 0.0439  | -13.80         | 18.73 |
| Adenyl ribonucleotide binding        | GO:0032559 | *MYO1B; HSP90AB1; OAS2; CARS2; MAP4K3* | 0.0455  | -5.94          | 7.97  |
| SUMO-specific protease activity      | GO:0016929 | *SENP6*                | 0.0477  | -47.33         | 62.56 |
| Glycine transmembrane transporter activity | GO:0015187 | *SLC6A5*              | 0.0477  | -47.33         | 62.56 |
| U1 snRNA binding                     | GO:0030619 | *ISG20*                | 0.0477  | -47.33         | 62.56 |
| single-stranded DNA exodeoxyribonuclease activity | GO:0008297 | *ISG20*              | 0.0477  | -47.33         | 62.56 |
| ubiquitin protein ligase binding     | GO:0031625 | *USP13; SHPRH; RNF34; AMBRA1; PML* | 0.0484  | -5.83          | 7.67  |
Table S6. Cellular components gene ontology terms associated with genes which expression levels correlated significantly with reticular basement membrane thickness. Gene ontology derived from GO Biological Process 2018 by Gene Ontology Consortium

| Cellular component                              | Accession number | Genes                  | p-value | z-score | combined log(p-value) *z-score |
|------------------------------------------------|------------------|------------------------|---------|---------|------------------------------|
| Clathrin vesicle coat                          | (GO:0030125)     | NECAP1; NCALD          | 0.0007  | -110.44 | 347.98                       |
| Polymeric cytoskeletal fiber                   | (GO:0009513)     | PNN; MYO1B; TPM2; TPM1; MAP6; KIF11; KIF27 | 0.0009  | -10.49  | 31.91                        |
| Axon initial segment                           | (GO:0043194)     | KCNQ3; ANK3            | 0.0017  | -73.62  | 204.43                       |
| Node of Ranvier                               | (GO:0033268)     | KCNQ3; ANK3            | 0.0030  | -55.22  | 139.12                       |
| Actin filament                                 | (GO:0005884)     | MYO1B; TPM2; TPM1      | 0.0066  | -18.07  | 39.38                        |
| Main axon                                     | (GO:0044304)     | KCNQ3; ANK3            | 0.0220  | -20.08  | 33.28                         |
| Nuclear chromosome, telomeric region           | (GO:0000784)     | ORC5; ATM; PML         | 0.0386  | -9.29   | 13.12                         |
| Clathrin coat                                  | (GO:0030118)     | NECAP1                 | 0.0410  | -55.22  | 76.61                         |