Mutations that impair Eyes absent tyrosine phosphatase activity in vitro reduce robustness of retinal determination gene network output in Drosophila

Trevor L. Davis¹,²*, Charlene S. L. Hoi¹,³*, Ilaria Rebay¹,²,³*

¹ Ben May Department for Cancer Research, The University of Chicago, Chicago, Illinois, United States of America, ² Committee on Development, Regeneration and Stem Cell Biology, The University of Chicago, Chicago, Illinois, United States of America, ³ Committee on Genetics, Genomics and Systems Biology, The University of Chicago, Chicago, Illinois, United States of America

Abstract

A limited collection of signaling networks and transcriptional effectors directs the full spectrum of cellular behaviors that comprise development. One mechanism to diversify regulatory potential is to combine multiple biochemical activities into the same protein. Exemplifying this principle of modularity, Eyes absent (Eya), originally identified as a transcriptional co-activator within the retinal determination gene network (RDGN), also harbors tyrosine and threonine phosphatase activities. Although mounting evidence argues for the importance of Eya’s phosphatase activities to mammalian biology, genetic rescue experiments in Drosophila have shown that the tyrosine phosphatase function is dispensable for normal development. In this study, we repeated these rescue experiments in genetically sensitized backgrounds in which the dose of one or more RDGN factor was reduced. Heterozygosity for sine oculis or dachshund, both core RDGN members, compromised the ability of phosphatase-dead eya, but not of the control wild type eya transgene, to rescue the retinal defects and reduced viability associated with eya loss. We speculate that Eya’s tyrosine phosphatase activity, although non-essential, confers robustness to RDGN output.

Introduction

Only tens of signaling pathways and roughly one thousand transcription factors operate in metazoan species [1–3]. One means of increasing regulatory potential is to incorporate feedback that dampens or amplifies signaling flux depending on context [4]. Another strategy is to evolve modular proteins with a physically separable set of biochemical capabilities that can be harnessed in different combinations appropriate to specific developmental, cellular or subcellular situations [5].

Drosophila Eyes absent (Eya), a transcriptional co-factor and protein phosphatase, provides an opportunity to study how multifunctional proteins integrate and deliver regulatory
Eya phosphatase activity may confer robustness to the Drosophila RDGN

In the nucleus, Eya’s C-terminal Eya domain (ED) binds to the homeodomain transcription factor Sine oculis (So), referred to as Six in vertebrates, while its N-terminal transactivation domain (TAD) confers transcriptional activation ability to the complex [12–14]. Along with the other two core members of the retinal determination gene network (RDGN), Eyeless (Ey) and Dachshund (Dac), the Drosophila Eya-So transcription factor controls the expression of target genes that direct many steps in eye formation, including establishment of regional identity, proliferation, specification, and differentiation [15–20].

Less understood are Eya’s two protein phosphatase activities: a threonine phosphatase domain sandwiched between two portions of the N-terminal TAD [21,22] and a tyrosine phosphatase whose key catalytic residues are dispersed in linear sequence across the ED [23–25].

Focusing on the tyrosine phosphatase, initial overexpression experiments in Drosophila suggested functional relevance [23,24,26], but a subsequent loss-of-function based analysis concluded that Eya’s tyrosine phosphatase activity is not required for normal Drosophila development [27]. Specifically, using fully functional genomic BAC rescue transgenes, Jin et al. showed that introducing missense mutations biochemically proven to disrupt tyrosine phosphatase function in vitro and in mammalian cultured cells did not compromise development, fertility, or survival of the fly [27]. In light of the identification of physiologically relevant substrates for mammalian Eya tyrosine phosphatases [28–31], together with the high degree of evolutionary conservation of the residues that form the phosphatase catalytic core, we found the dispensability of Eya’s tyrosine phosphatase activity in the fly puzzling [32].

Here, we tested the alternative model that Eya’s tyrosine phosphatase function confers robustness to RDGN regulatory output by re-examining the genetic rescue capability of the phosphatase-dead eya BAC transgene under conditions of genetic stress. Sensitizing the network with eya, so and/or dac heterozygosity, neither of which on its own or in combination caused overt phenotypes, revealed that “phosphatase-dead” eya lacked sufficient activity to support normal retinal development and survival. While the most parsimonious interpretation is that Eya’s tyrosine phosphatase activity contributes to overall RDGN output, until physiologically relevant substrates are identified, an equally plausible possibility is that the “phosphatase-dead” mutations disrupt some other function or interaction. We hope our work will motivate further study of Eya’s possible enzymatic activities in Drosophila.

Materials & methods

Drosophila strains and crosses

The eya^+GR, eya^{D493N}GR, and eya^{E728Q}GR BAC transgenes, each integrated in the AttP2 (68A) landing site, were generous gifts from Graeme Mardon [27]; the fly strains were sent to us in an eya^{DL} background and were crossed to Sco/CyO,act-GFP; Sb/TM6B,Hu,Tb stocks from which eya^{DL}/CyO,act-GFP; GR/TM6B,Hu,Tb stocks were established. eya^{DL}/CyO,act-GFP; GR/TM6B,Hu,Tb were crossed to: 1) eya^{DL}/CyO,dfd-YFP 2) eya^{dl}/so^{3}/CyO,dfd-YFP 3) eya^{dl}/dac^{3}/CyO,dfd-YFP 4) eya^{dl}, dac^{3}/CyO,dfd-YFP 6) eya^{dl},so^{3}/CyO,dfd-YFP 7) Df(cya)/CyO,dfd-YFP. CyO,dfd-YFP was a gift from Greg Beitel. eya^{388} and eya^{G130} were isolated by Rebay et al., 2000 [33] and characterized in Bui et al., 2000 [8]. eya^{dk}, so^{3}, dac^{3}, Df(2L)BSC354 (Df(cya)), w^{118} and various balancers were from the Bloomington Stock Center. Flies were cultured on standard cornmeal, molasses, agar medium at 25˚C.

For the genetic rescue experiments, crosses were set with 2–3 adult flies of each sex, allowed to lay eggs for 3–4 days, transferred to a fresh vial for another 3–4 days before discarding the parents. Adult progeny were counted daily until all had eclosed. Survival was measured by comparing the expected Mendelian ratio of rescued straight winged eya^{dl};GR/+ animals

Competing interests: The authors have declared that no competing interests exist.
relative to their curly winged (eya\textsuperscript{cl}/CyO,act-GFP;GR/) siblings. Crosses were performed at least five times in parallel.

To assess female fertility, rescued female flies (eya\textsuperscript{cl};GR/) were collected as virgins, fed yeast for 2d at 25°C, and then crossed in pairs to three \textit{w\textsuperscript{118}} males. Parents were tossed after 9 days and progeny were counted daily until all flies eclosed. Ten crosses were set in parallel, but only those in which both females survived were scored.

**Immunohistochemistry and microscopy**

For antibody staining, third instar eye-antennal imaginal discs were dissected in S2 cell medium, fixed for 10 min in 4% paraformaldehyde with 0.1% Triton X-100, washed 3X in PBT (1X PBS, 0.1% Triton), blocked in PNT (1X PBS, 0.1% Triton, 1% normal goat serum), stained with primary antibodies in PNT overnight at 4°C, washed 3X in PBT, and stained with secondary antibodies in PNT for 2 h at room temperature or overnight at 4°C. Primary antibodies were rat α-ELAV (1:50, Developmental Studies Hybridoma Bank [DSHB], 7E8A10) \cite{34} and mouse α-Eya (1:10), DSHB, 10H6 \cite{6}. Secondary antibodies were donkey α-rat-Cy3 (1:2000) and donkey α-mouse-Cy3 (1:2000) from Jackson Immunoresearch. We used DAPI (1:2000, Invitrogen) to detect DNA. Imaging was performed with a Zeiss LSM 510 confocal microscope, using 0.5 to 1.0 μm steps and projecting maximally through the desired tissue.

To image adult eyes, 3–5 day old adult flies were decapitated and photographed with a Canon EOS Rebel camera fitted to a Leica dissecting microscope. Individual slices were merged using iSolution-Lite software (IMT-Digital).

**Adult retina embedding and sectioning**

Adult heads were decapitated, halved, fixed for 30 min in 2.5% glutaraldehyde + 1% O\textsubscript{3}O\textsubscript{4} in 0.1 M sodium phosphate buffer pH 7.2 for 30 min on ice, and incubated in 2% O\textsubscript{3}O\textsubscript{4} in 0.1 M sodium phosphate buffer pH 7.2 for 2h on ice. Retinas were then dehydrated with successive 10 min incubations on ice in 30%, 50%, 70%, 90%, and twice 100% EtOH. The tissue was incubated 3x 10 min on ice in propylene oxide, placed in 50% propylene oxide/50% soft Durcupan resin (Sigma) for 12h at room temperature, and then in 100% resin for 4h at room temperature. Retinas were then transferred to BEEM flat embedding molds (Ted Pella) and baked at 70°C for 12h, cut into 2 μm sections with a microtome, and mounted in DPX (Sigma). Samples were imaged at 100x under phase contrast.

**Results and discussion**

**Lowering so and dac levels reveals a requirement for Eya’s tyrosine phosphatase activity during retinal development**

Under physiologically wild type conditions, Eya’s tyrosine phosphatase activity is dispensable for development and survival \cite{27}. In contrast, overexpression-based genetic rescue and ectopic eye induction assays have found that the same phosphatase-dead mutations diminish or ablate function, suggesting the phosphatase can function in \textit{Drosophila} cells \cite{23,24,26}. This discrepancy led us to hypothesize that there might be sufficient regulatory redundancy within the RDGN to compensate for loss of phosphatase activity under physiological conditions but not under overexpression conditions. If so, then lowering the dosage of other RDGN factors, which on its own does not compromise normal development or survival, might sensitize the system to reveal the essential contributions of the phosphatase. We selected So and Dac to test this idea because of their intimate genetic and physical relationship with Eya in the RDGN.
The three genomic rescue (GR) transgenes used in our experiments, 
\(\text{eya}^{-}\text{GR}, \text{eya}^{E728Q}\text{GR} \) and \(\text{eya}^{D493N}\text{GR}\), were generous gifts from Graeme Mardon and colleagues [27].

We first assayed Eya’s tyrosine phosphatase contribution to retinal development by rescuing \(\text{eya}^{-}\) loss with GR transgenes in genetically sensitized backgrounds and analyzing adult eye morphology. In the control experiment, heterozygosity for \(so\) or \(dac\) or for both \(so\) and \(dac\) did not alter the ability of one copy of the \(\text{eya}^{-}\text{GR}\) wild type rescue transgene to support normal eye morphology in an \(\text{eya}^{D0}\) null background (Fig 1, first two columns). Flies rescued with two copies of any of the three GR transgenes were indistinguishable from wild type (Fig 1A) in these heterozygous backgrounds. In contrast, in all three sensitized backgrounds, the external morphology of eyes from flies rescued with one copy of the phosphatase-dead \(\text{eya}^{E728Q}\text{GR}\) or \(\text{eya}^{D493N}\text{GR}\) transgenes was no longer fully wild type (Fig 1, last four columns). Across the board, qualitative assessment of these fully penetrant rough eye phenotypes indicated that \(\text{eya}^{E728Q}\text{GR}\) rescued \(\text{eya}^{-}\) loss less efficiently than \(\text{eya}^{D493N}\text{GR}\). Phenotypically, in the eyes of the former, the regularity of the ommatidial lattice was noticeably disrupted when viewed under a dissecting microscope, and upon sectioning, some photoreceptor loss was apparent. In contrast, eyes rescued by \(\text{eya}^{D493N}\text{GR}\) exhibited mild disruption of the ommatidial lattice, particularly near the posterior margin and less frequent photoreceptor loss. Based on qualitative assessment of the adult rough eye phenotypes, for both \(\text{eya}^{E728Q}\text{GR}\) and \(\text{eya}^{D493N}\text{GR}\), reducing the dose of \(so\) sensitized the system more effectively than reducing the dose of \(dac\) (Fig 1, compare middle two rows), while the \(so\) \(dac\) double heterozygote heightened sensitivity to loss of phosphatase activity (Fig 1, bottom row). To rule out the possibility that the phenotypes reflected interactions with secondary mutations on the \(\text{eya}^{D0}\) chromosome, we repeated all of the crosses shown in Fig 1 in different transheterozygous backgrounds, including the same \(\text{eya}^{D0}/\text{Df(eya)}\) used by Jin et al., 2013, \(\text{eya}^{D0}/\text{hya}^{G130}\) and \(\text{eya}^{D0}/\text{hya}^{A188}\), and observed identical results (Fig 1). We propose that when Eya, So and Dac are limiting, Eya’s tyrosine phosphatase activity may be required to achieve sufficient RDGN output to support normal retinal development.

To pinpoint more precisely when Eya’s tyrosine phosphatase is needed for RDGN function, we compared the pattern of the differentiating photoreceptor neurons in the third instar eye fields of \(\text{eya}^{-}\text{GR}\) versus \(\text{eya}^{E728Q}\text{GR}\) rescued larvae (Fig 2). In agreement with the phenotypes observed in adult animals (Fig 1), qualitative assessment of the field of Elav+ cells in discs from larvae carrying one copy of \(\text{eya}^{E728Q}\) in a background of reduced \(so\), \(dac\) or \(so\) and \(dac\) dosage showed that it was under-developed compared to wild type (compare Fig 2D, 2F, 2H to 2C, 2E and 2G). Ommatidial organization was also irregular, consistent with the adult rough eye phenotype. Eya protein levels and expression pattern appeared qualitatively similar across the genotypes (Fig 2), as previously reported [27]. We conclude that when other RD proteins are limiting, one copy of the \(\text{eva}^{-}\text{GR}\) chromosome might have accumulated a secondary mutation. We
Fig 1. **so** and **dac** heterozygosity reveals that Eya’s tyrosine phosphatase functions during retinal development. Genotypes on the left refer to the second chromosome, while those on the top refer to the third chromosome. (A,C,E,G,I,K,M,O,Q,S,U,W) Low resolution images of representative adult eyes from three-day-old flies of the indicated genotypes; for each genotype, qualitative examination of a minimum of 400 adults (from multiple independent crosses) under the dissecting microscope revealed all phenotypes were fully penetrant. (B,D,F,H,J,L,N,P,R,T,V,X) Sections from representative adult eyes of the indicated genotypes. Pink dashed circles mark individual ommatidia lacking the full complement of rhabdomeres, except in V where all ommatidia in the field have missing rhabdomeres. All images are oriented anterior to the left. (Y) A minimum of 60 ommatidia were scored from sections of the same eyes shown in (B,D,F,H,J,L,N,P,R,T,V,X); ommatidia were scored as

*Abnormal*

*Normal*
therefore outcrossed to w^{1118} flies for ten generations and then repeated the analysis. The results matched our initial observations (Fig 1C,1I,1O and 1U). Finally, we sequenced all protein coding exons from the two phosphatase dead BAC transgenes. This analysis confirmed the presence of the expected E728Q and D493N missense changes and the absence of other mutations that would alter the protein sequence. However it remains formally possible that a secondary lesion elsewhere in the $eya^{E728Q \text{GR}}$ BAC or in a locus closely linked to the transgene insertion site is responsible for the phenotypes observed in our rescue experiments.

While the molecular explanation for the activity differences between $eya^{E728Q \text{GR}}$ and $eya^{D493N \text{GR}}$ remains unclear, analogous differences have been noted in other contexts. For example, in in vitro phosphatase assays using recombinant murine Eya3, although both the D493N and E728Q equivalent mutations significantly reduced catalytic activity, the former still had measurable phosphatase activity while the latter did not [23]. Greater loss of functionality in $eya^{E728Q}$ than $eya^{D493N}$ has also been reported in overexpression-based ectopic eye induction and genetic rescue assays [23,24]. Assuming the two mutations reduce phosphatase activity to different extents in vivo as they do in vitro, then the phenotypic distinctions between $eya^{E728Q \text{GR}}$ and $eya^{D493N \text{GR}}$ may reflect a threshold of sensitivity in the requirement for phosphatase activity. Alternatively, the different “phosphatase-dead” missense mutations might disrupt different protein-protein interactions or subtly perturb Eya stability, subcellular localization or other functions in ways our analyses were unable to detect. For example, variations in Eya-So transcriptional functions and interactions could explain the activity differences we noted between $eya^{E728Q \text{GR}}$ and $eya^{D493N \text{GR}}$. Considering the overexpression studies in cultured cells and in the fly that show that “phosphatase-dead” missense mutations do not abrogate So-binding or broadly alter Eya-So transcriptional output [20,23], we favor the hypothesis that the “phosphatase-dead” mutants actually impair catalytic activity in fly cells as they do in vitro and in mammalian cells, and that in genetically sensitized backgrounds, i.e. those in which Eya, So and Dac levels are half normal, this perturbs development. However until a substrate is identified, this caveat must be kept in mind.

Eya’s tyrosine phosphatase may contribute to the RDGN’s role in survival but is dispensable for fertility

eya, so and dac are considered essential genes, though dac null flies occasionally reach adulthood [6,36,38–41], raising the possibility that Eya’s tyrosine phosphatase is also required for survival. To evaluate this, we crossed $eya^{e7}$; eyaGR to $eya^{e7}$/CyO and then asked how closely the ratio of $eya^{e7}$/eyaGR/+ to $eya^{e7}$/CyO; eyaGR/+ adult progeny matched the 1:2 Mendelian ratio expected under the null hypothesis that the eyaGR transgene fully rescues the lethality associated with complete eya loss.

$eya^{E728Q \text{GR}}$ reduced the proportion of homozygous $eya^{e7}$ animals that eclosed from the expected 0.3 ratio to 0.2 (Fig 3A), suggesting that Eya’s tyrosine phosphatase contributes to biological processes important for viability. so or so, dac heterozygosity exacerbated this phenotype, whereas dac heterozygosity partially suppressed. In contrast, animals carrying one copy of $eya^{D493N \text{GR}}$ eclosed at the expected rate, even in the sensitized backgrounds. We confirmed that these results were independent of second chromosome background by repeating several of the experiments with eya null transheterozygotes or null alleles over a deficiency that covers the eya locus (Fig 3B). These data indicate that Eya’s tyrosine phosphatase may cooperate with
other RD proteins in contexts outside the eye and that “phosphatase-dead” mutants can compromise viability when these proteins are limiting.

| yea^{Clift}/+  | eya^{E728G}GR/+  | eya^{D433N}GR/+ |
|----------------|------------------|-----------------|
| A              | B                | C               |
| eya^{Clift}/eya^{Clift} | eya^{E728G}/eya^{Clift} | eya^{D433N}/eya^{Clift} |
| D              | E                | F               |
| eya^{Clift},so^{3}/eya^{Clift} | eya^{E728G},so^{3}/eya^{Clift} | eya^{D433N},so^{3}/eya^{Clift} |
| G              | H                | I               |
| eya^{Clift},dac^{3}/eya^{Clift} | eya^{E728G},dac^{3}/eya^{Clift} | eya^{D433N},dac^{3}/eya^{Clift} |
| J              | K                | L               |

Fig 2. Retinal phenotypes in animals lacking Eya’s tyrosine phosphatase activity and heterozygous for so or dac manifest by the third larval instar. All images are maximum projections through representative late third instar eye-antennal imaginal discs. Anterior is to the left and dorsal is up. Only the eye disc is shown. ELAV marks cells undergoing neuronal differentiation, and insets show zoomed views of the ELAV channel. Genotypes on the left refer to the second chromosome, while those on the top refer to the third chromosome. The markers are listed above each column of images. For each genotype, qualitative examination of a minimum of 15 discs revealed fully penetrant phenotypes.

https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pone.0187546.g002
We also assessed the role of Eya's phosphatase in female fertility by counting the number of progeny produced by pairs of eya\textsuperscript{cli}; eya\textsuperscript{GR/+} females outcrossed to wild type males. In contrast to our measurements of retinal development and viability, and in agreement with the earlier study [27], females rescued with the phosphatase dead BAC transgenes were as fertile as...
controls, including when so and/or dac levels were reduced (Fig 4). eya<clii> and eya<clii>,so<sup>3</sup> males were also fertile in all genetic backgrounds, although we did not quantify or compare fertility rates.

**Concluding remarks**

Our work raises the possibility that Eya’s tyrosine phosphatase activity contributes to the robustness of RDGN output during normal retinal development, analogous to its requirement for efficient ectopic eye induction. If correct, this implies that regulation of retinal specification in the eye disc carries sufficient redundancy that it is insensitive to modest genetic stress, including two-fold changes in RDGN protein levels and loss of Eya phosphatase function; only if multiple such perturbations are introduced simultaneously is this buffering capacity overwhelmed. In contrast, we propose that the requirement for higher than usual RDGN output to drive ectopic eye induction makes the system inherently less robust. Thus, while the overexpression-based ectopic eye induction assay may not provide an accurate estimate of RDGN regulatory redundancy during normal retinal development, its inherent lack of robustness makes it exquisitely sensitive, facilitating the discovery of relevant biological regulation. We therefore suggest that the debate as to whether or not *Drosophila* Eya participates in the RDGN as a protein tyrosine phosphatase should remain open and hope our study will motivate further investigations, including a search for physiological substrates.

**Acknowledgments**

We thank Graeme Mardon for the *eyaGR* flies, Rick Fehon for use of his microscope and camera to photograph adult eyes and members of the Rebay lab for helpful discussions.
Author Contributions

Conceptualization: Trevor L. Davis, Charlene S. L. Hoi, Ilaria Rebay.
Formal analysis: Trevor L. Davis, Charlene S. L. Hoi, Ilaria Rebay.
Funding acquisition: Ilaria Rebay.
Investigation: Trevor L. Davis, Charlene S. L. Hoi, Ilaria Rebay.
Methodology: Trevor L. Davis, Charlene S. L. Hoi, Ilaria Rebay.
Project administration: Ilaria Rebay.
Writing – original draft: Trevor L. Davis, Ilaria Rebay.
Writing – review & editing: Trevor L. Davis, Charlene S. L. Hoi, Ilaria Rebay.

References

1. Rhee DY, Cho DY, Zhai B, Slattery M, Ma L, Mintseris J, et al. Transcription factor networks in Drosophila melanogaster. Cell Rep. Elsevier; 2014; 8: 2031–2043. https://doi.org/10.1016/j.celrep.2014.08.038 PMID: 25242320
2. Vaquerizas J, Kummerfeld S, Teichmann S, Luscombe N. A census of human transcription factors: function, expression and evolution. Nat Rev Genet. 2009; 10: 252–263. https://doi.org/10.1038/nrg2538 PMID: 19274049
3. Housden BE, Perrimon N. Spatial and temporal organization of signaling pathways. Trends Biochem Sci. Elsevier Ltd; 2014; 39: 457–464. https://doi.org/10.1016/j.tibs.2014.07.008 PMID: 25155749
4. Vivekanand P, Rebay I. The eyes absent gene: genetic control of cell survival and differentiation in the developing Drosophila eye. Cell. 1993; 72: 379–395. PMID: 8431945
5. Lee MJ, Yaffe MB. Protein Regulation in Signal Transduction. Cold Spring Harb Perspect Biol. 2016; 8: 1–20. https://doi.org/10.1101/cshperspect.a005918 PMID: 27252361
6. Bonini NM, Leiserson WM, Benzer S. The eyes absent gene: genetic control of cell survival and differentiation in the developing Drosophila eye. Cell. 1993; 72: 379–395. PMID: 8431945
7. Bonini NM, Bui QT, Gray-Board GL, Warrick JM. The Drosophila eyes absent gene directs ectopic eye formation in a pathway conserved between flies and vertebrates. Development. 1997; 124: 4819–26. Available: http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/9428418 PMID: 9428418
8. Bui QT, Zimmerman JE, Liu H, Bonini NM. Molecular analysis of Drosophila eyes absent mutants reveals features of the conserved Eya domain. Genetics. 2000; 155: 709–20. Available: http://www.pubmedcentral.nih.gov/articlerender.fcgi?artid=10835393
9. Xu PX, Cheng J, Epstein JA, Maas RL. Mouse Eya homologues of the Drosophila eyes absent gene require Pax6 for expression in lens and nasal placode. Development. 1997; 124: 219–31. Available: http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/9006082 PMID: 9006082
10. Zimmerman JE, Bui QT, Steingrimsson E, Nagle DL, Fu W, Genin A, et al. Cloning and characterization of two vertebrate homologs of the Drosophila eyes absent gene. Genome Res. 1997; 7: 128–141. https://doi.org/10.1101/gr.7.2.128 PMID: 9049631
11. Borsani G, DeGrandi A, Ballabio A, Builone A, Bernard L, Banfi S, et al. EYA4, a novel vertebrate gene related to Drosophila eyes absent. Hum Mol Genet. 1999; 8: 11–23. Available: http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/9887327 PMID: 9887327
12. Silver SJ, Davies EL, Doyon L, Rebay I. Functional Dissection of Eyes absent reveals Nervous Regulation within the Retinal Determination Gene Network. Mol Cell Biol. 2003; 23: 5989–5999. https://doi.org/10.1128/MCB.23.17.5989-5999.2003 PMID: 12917324
13. Pignoni F, Hu B, Zavitz KH, Xiao J, Garrity PA, Zipursky SL. The eye-specific proteins So and Eya form a complex and regulate multiple steps in Drosophila eye development. Cell. 1997; 91: 881–91. Available: http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/9428512 PMID: 9428512
14. Xu PX, Cheng J, Epstein JA, Maas RL. Mouse Eya genes are expressed during limb tendon development and encode a transcriptional activation function. Proc Natl Acad Sci U S A. 1997; 94: 11974–9. Available: http://www.pubmedcentral.nih.gov/articlerender.fcgi?artid=23674&tool=pmcentrez&rendertype=abstract PMID: 9342347
15. Pauli T, Seimiya M, Blanco J, Gehring WJ. Identification of functional sine oculis motifs in the autoregulatory element of its own gene, in the eyeless enhancer and in the signalling gene hedgehog. Development. 2005; 132: 2771–82. https://doi.org/10.1242/dev.01841 PMID: 15901665

16. Pappu KS, Ostrin EJ, Middlebrooks BW, Sili BT, Chen R, Atkins MR, et al. Dual regulation and redundant function of two eye-specific enhancers of the Drosophila retinal determination gene dachshund. Development. 2005; 132: 2895–905. https://doi.org/10.1242/dev.01869 PMID: 15930118

17. Zhang T, Ranade S, Cai CQ, Clouser C, Pignoni F. Direct control of neurogenesis by selector factors in the fly eye: regulation of atonal by Ey and So. Development. 2006; 133: 4881–9. https://doi.org/10.1242/dev.02669 PMID: 17108002

18. Hayashi T, Xu C, Carthew RW. Cell-type-specific transcription of prospero is controlled by combinatorial signaling in the Drosophila eye. Development. 2008; 135: 2787–96. https://doi.org/10.1242/dev.006189 PMID: 18635611

19. Yan H, Canon J, Banerjee U. A transcriptional chain linking eye specification to terminal determination of cone cells in the Drosophila eye. Dev Biol. 2003; 263: 323–329. https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ydbio.2003.08.003 PMID: 14597205

20. Jemc J, Rebay I. Identification of transcriptional targets of the dual-function transcription factor/phosphatase eyes absent. Dev Biol. 2007; 310: 416–29. https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ydbio.2007.07.024 PMID: 17714699

21. Okabe Y, Sano T, Nagata S. Regulation of the innate immune response by threonine-phosphatase of Eyes absent. Nature. 2009; 460: 520–4. https://doi.org/10.1038/nature08138 PMID: 19561593

22. Liu X, Sano T, Guan Y, Nagata S, Hoffmann JA, Fukuyama H. Drosophila EYA Regulates the Immune Response against DNA through an Evolutionarily Conserved Threonine Phosphatase Motif. Kumar J, editor. PLoS One. 2012; 7: e42725. https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pone.0042725 PMID: 22916150

23. Tootle TL, Silver SJ, Davies EL, Newman V, Latek RR, Mills IA, et al. The transcription factor Eyes absent is a protein tyrosine phosphatase. Nature. 2003; 426: 295–8. https://doi.org/10.1038/nature02093 PMID: 14628052

24. Rayapureddi JP, Kattamuri C, Steinmetz BD, Frankfort BJ, Ostrin EJ, Mardon G, et al. Eyes absent represents a class of protein tyrosine phosphatases. Nature. 2003; 426: 295–8. https://doi.org/10.1038/nature02083 PMID: 14628042

25. Li X, Oghi KA, Zhang J, Krones A, Bush KT, Glass CK, et al. Eya protein phosphatase activity regulates Six1-Dach-Eya transcriptional effects in mammalian organogenesis. Nature. 2003; 426: 247–254. https://doi.org/10.1038/nature02083 PMID: 14628042

26. Xiong W, Dabbouseh NM, Rebay I. Interactions with the abelson tyrosine kinase reveal compartmentalization of eyes absent function between nucleus and cytoplasm. Dev Cell. 2009; 16: 271–9. https://doi.org/10.1016/j.devcel.2008.12.005 PMID: 19217428

27. Jin M, Jusiak B, Bai Z, Mardon G. Eyes absent tyrosine phosphatase activity is not required for Drosophila development or survival. PLoS One. 2013; 8: e58818. https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pone.0058818 PMID: 23554934

28. Cook PJ, Ju BG, Telese F, Wang X, Glass CK, Rosenfeld MG. Tyrosine dephosphorylation of H2AX modulates apoptosis and survival decisions. Nature. 2009; 458: 591–6. https://doi.org/10.1038/nature07849 PMID: 19234442

29. El-Hashash AHK, Turcatel G, Al Alam D, Buckley S, Tokumitsu H, Bellusci S, et al. Eya1 controls cell polarity, spindle orientation, cell fate and Notch signaling in distal embryonic lung epithelium. Development. 2011; 138: 1395–407. https://doi.org/10.1242/dev.058479 PMID: 21385765

30. Krishnan N, Jeong DG, Jung S-K, Ryu SE, Xiao A, Allis CD, et al. Dephosphorylation of the C-terminal tyrosyl residue of the DNA damage-related histone H2A.X is mediated by the protein phosphatase eyes absent. J Biol Chem. 2009; 284: 16066–70. https://doi.org/10.1074/jbc.C90032200 PMID: 19351884

31. Yuan B, Cheng L, Chiang HC, Xu X, Han Y, Su H, et al. A phosphotyrosine switch determines the antitumor activity of ERβ. J Clin Invest. 2014; 124: 3378–3390. https://doi.org/10.1172/JCI74085 PMID: 24960160

32. Rebay I. Multiple functions of the Eya phosphotyrosine phosphatase. Mol Cell Biol. 2016; 36: MCB.00976-15. https://doi.org/10.1128/MCB.00976-15 PMID: 26667035

33. Rebay I, Chen F, Hsiao F, Kolodziej PA, Kuang BH, Laverty T, et al. A genetic screen for novel components of the Ras/Mitogen-activated protein kinase signaling pathway that interact with the yan gene of Drosophila identifies split ends, a new RNA recognition motif-containing protein. Genetics. 2000; 154: 695–712. Available: http://www.pubmedcentral.nih.gov/articlerender.fcgi?artid=1460949&tool=pmcentrez&rendertype=abstract PMID: 10655223
34. O’Neill EM, Rebay I, Tjian R, Rubin GM. The activities of two Ets-related transcription factors required for Drosophila eye development are modulated by the Ras/MAPK pathway. Cell. 1994; 78: 137–47. Available: http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/8033205 PMID: 8033205

35. Bessa J, Gebelein B, Pichaud F, Casares F, Mann RS. Combinatorial control of Drosophila eye development by eyeless, homothorax, and teashirt. Genes Dev. 2002; 16: 2415–27. https://doi.org/10.1101/gad.100902 PMID: 12231630

36. Cheyette BN, Green PJ, Martin K, Garren H, Hartenstein V, Zipursky SL. The Drosophila sine oculis locus encodes a homeodomain-containing protein required for the development of the entire visual system. Neuron. 1994; 12: 977–96. Available: http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/7910468 PMID: 7910468

37. Davis TL, Rebay I. Master regulators in development: Views from the Drosophila retinal determination and mammalian pluripotency gene networks. Dev Biol. Elsevier; 2017; 421: 93–107. https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ydbio.2016.12.005 PMID: 27979656

38. Mardon G, Solomon NM, Rubin GM. dachshund encodes a nuclear protein required for normal eye and leg development in Drosophila. Development. 1994; 120: 3473–86. Available: http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/7821215 PMID: 7821215

39. Serikaku MA, O'Tousa JE. sine oculis is a homeobox gene required for Drosophila visual system development. Genetics. 1994; 138: 1137–50. Available: http://www.pubmedcentral.nih.gov/articlerender.fcgi?artid=1206253&tool=pmcentrez&rendertype=abstract PMID: 7896096

40. Nüsslein-Volhard C, Wieschaus E, Kluding H. Mutations affecting the pattern of the larval cuticle in Drosophila melanogaster I. Zygotic loci on the second chromosome. Roux’s Arch Dev Biol. 1984; 193: 267–282. https://doi.org/10.1007/BF00848157 PMID: 28305338

41. Bonini NM, Leiserson WM, Benzer S. Multiple roles of the eyes absent gene in Drosophila. Dev Biol. 1998; 196: 42–57. https://doi.org/10.1006/dbio.1997.8845 PMID: 9527880