Uncovering the genetic lesions underlying the most severe form of Hirschsprung (HSCR) disease by whole genome sequencing (WGS): a pilot study in 8 family trios



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What is Hirschsprung disease (HSCR)?:

- Congenital disorder > abnormal development of the gut
- •Lack of ganglion cells in the distal gut ► no peristalsis
- Surgery only available treatment > lethal if untreated
- •Heterogeneous phenotype
- •Boys 4 times more affected than males





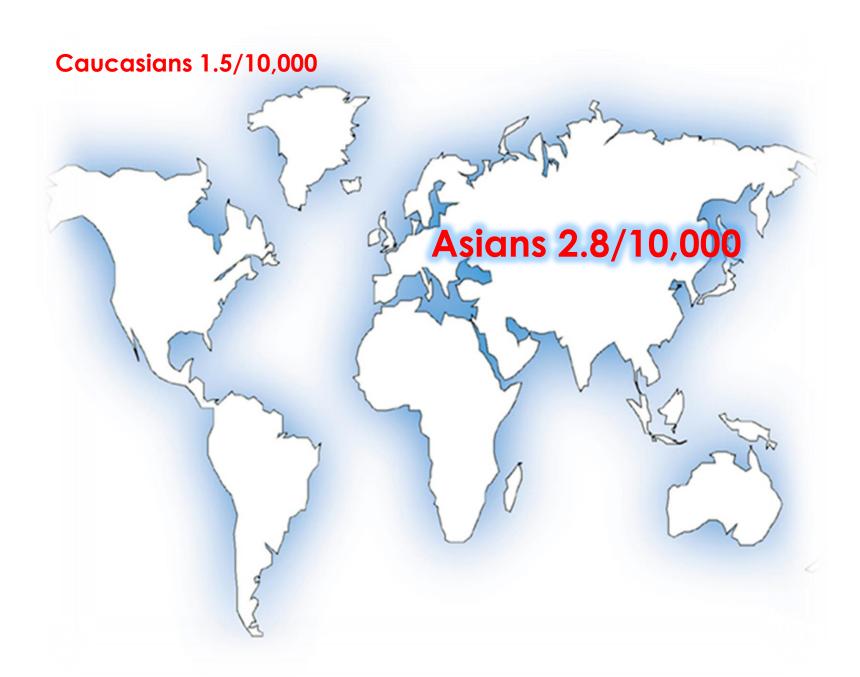


Doctors remove 13kg of faeces from constipated man in China

22-year-old diagnosed with Hirschsprung's disease said he'd been suffering from constipation, stomach pain all his life

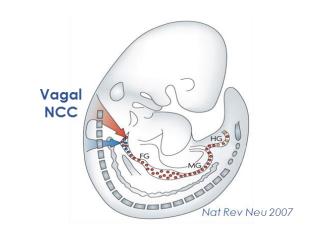
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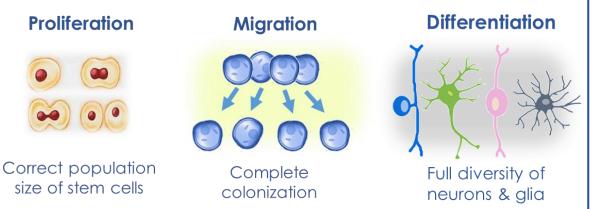


How/why does it happen?

Neural crest cells (NCC) give rise to enteric neurons (EN)

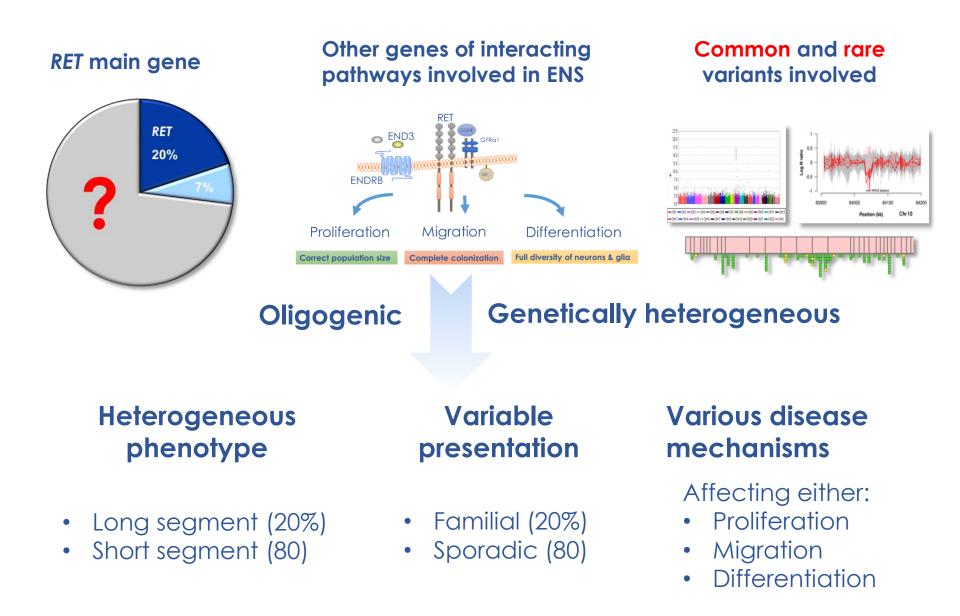






DNA variants impairing genes involved in EN development

What do we know about the genetic risk factors?



What else do we know about the genetic risk factors?

From our and others' observations:

Long segment	Short segment
severity	
	incidence
familial	sporadic
Rare variants	Combination of rare and

common variants

Variants:

- Any type (small/large variants)
- Anywhere in the genome ▶ relevance of regulatory processes during development

Not all patients are accounted for by the known genes



There exist severely affected HSCR patients, sporadic, that cannot be accounted by rare variants in known genes ► suitable for search of new genetic factors

- HSCR patients affected with the most severe phenotype
- Born to unaffected patients > sporadic
- **Devoid** of damaging variants in the coding sequences of known HSCR genes
- Whole genome sequencing
- Trio-based approach > detection of de novo variants



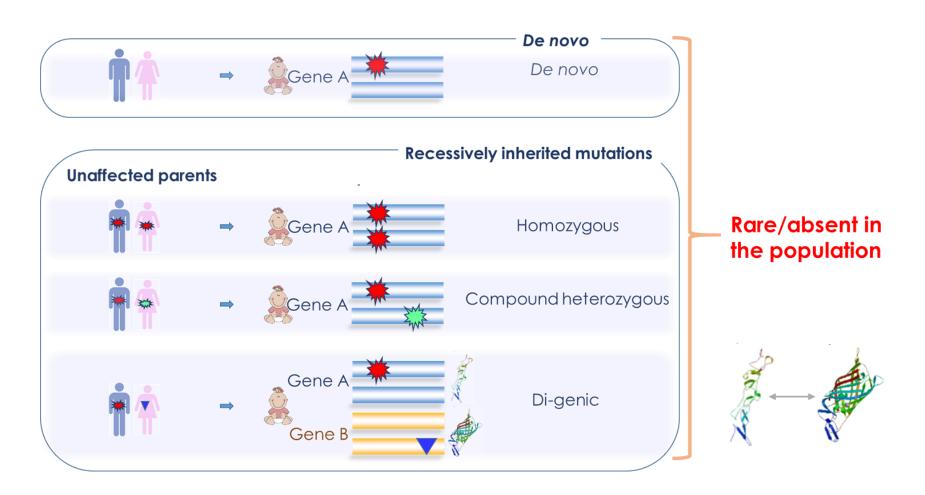
Why whole genome sequencing?

To cover in both coding and regulatory regions:

- Single nucleotide variants (SNV)
- Small deletions and insertions (Indels)
- Rare structural variations/Copy number variants (CNV)

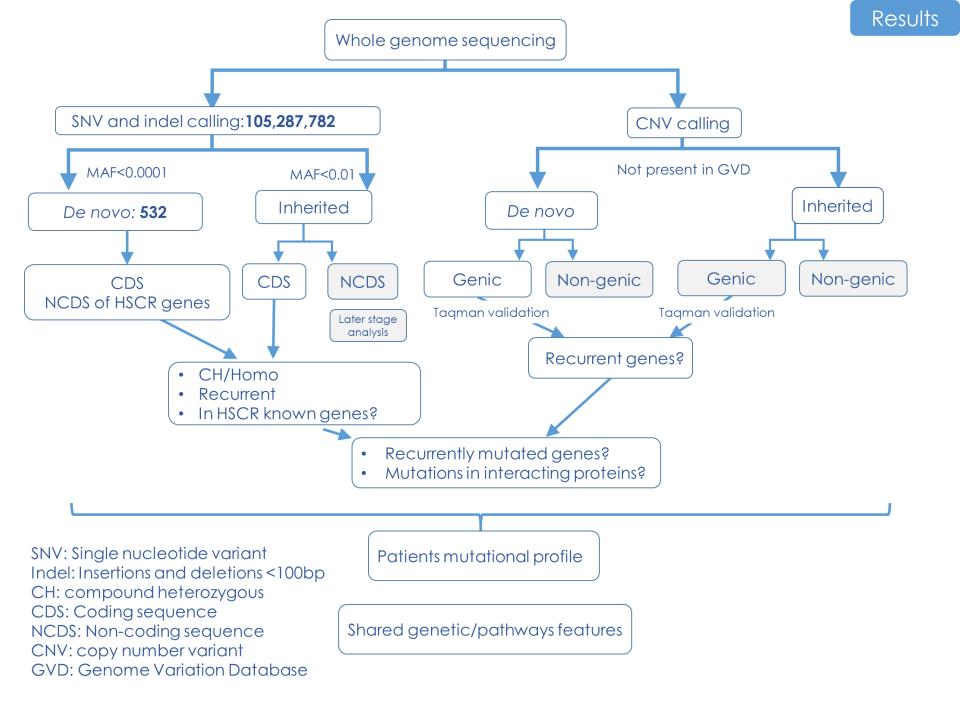
Platform Variants	Common variants array	Whole exome sequencing (WES)	Whole genome sequencing (WGS)
Common variants	v	✓ (only coding)	 ✓
Rare variants		✓ (only coding)	V
CNV	V		V

Long segment HSCR = Rare + Sporadic disorder

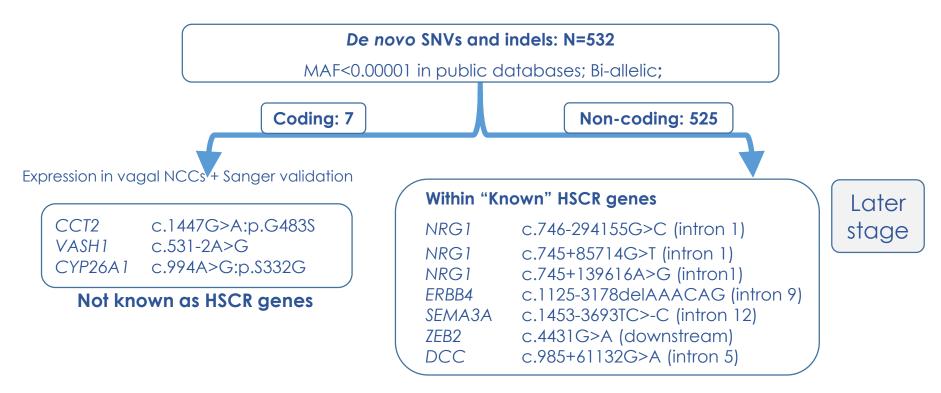


MAF (Minor Allele Frequency)

De novo MAF<0.0001 % or Novel Recessive: < 0.01% or Novel Compound heterozygous: < 0.011% or Novel Digenic : < 1% or Novel



Filtering and selection of de novo single nucleotide and indel variants



Amongst the 10-15% genes most intolerant to changes human genes

- CCT2: formation of the primary cilia. Bardet-Biedl syndrome –can co-exist with HSCR-
- VASH1: secreted protein angiogenesis regulation.
- CYP26A1: retinoic acid (RA)-metabolizing enzyme.

Exonic homozygous mutations: none in "HSCR genes"

Patients	Genes	Variant	Gene function		
HD09C	FOCAD	p.A1709T	Potential tumor suppressor in gliomas		
	BRD 1	p.A689V	Histones H3 and H4 acetylation		
	C5orf42	p.G2168D	Transmembrane protein		
	GINS4	p.V171M	nitiation of DNA replication		
	GLRX3	p.1330V (cu)	Crucial regulator of cellular iron homeostasis		
	HK2	p.A352T	Glycolysis, gluconeogenesis		
	ITGB5	p.L94V	Integrin. Extracellular matrix (ECM)		
HK164C	NEK1	p.R586H	Centrosomal complex. Microtubule assembly		
	PLAT	p.Y425H	Direct role in neuronal migration		
	PPP2R3A	p.Y431C	Intracellular signaling		
	RRP7A	p.T81	Ribosomal RNA Processing		
	STXBP5L	p.R618Q	GTPase activator activity		
	USP42	p.D1220G (cu)	Deubiquitinating enzyme		
	VRK2	p.R491H	Effector of signaling pathways that regulate apoptosis/tumor cell growth		
HK180C	XRN2	p.A529T	5'-3' Exoribonuclease 2		
НК96С	BICD2	p.R398W	Essential for motor neuron physiology		
VH105C	PLEKHA4	p.R571H	Binds to phosphatidylinositol 3-phosphate		
VH108C	SEMA7A	p.V320I	Integrin-mediated signaling. Focal adhesion. Neuronal functions		
cu: case	unique variant				

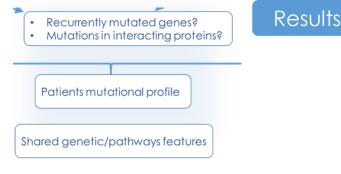
PLAT: direct role in facilitating neuronal migration

Compound heterozygous variants (CH)

RADIL: knockdown of *radil* in zebrafish results in multiple defects in pigment cells and enteric neurons

Patients	Gene	Variants (paternal/maternal)	Disorders in humans
HD09C	BRD4 MAGI3 FGFRL1 SSH2 TFR2	c7165+1G>A/p.E1326D p.D1059G 9(cu)/p.Y285H p.R241Q/p.A288T p.G1378D/p.P1338S(cu) p.A75V/p.S506G	Translocation breakpoints in 2 patients with carcinomas ND Wolf–Hirschhorn syndrome (WHS) ND Hemochromatosis, Type 3
HK164C	DOCK8 CDC14A FRAS1 SLC24A1	p.C871W+p.Y2001* (cu)/p.S1177L p.R582H/p.P125H p.N3119S/p.K1873Q p.E697G/p.S521N	Non-syndromic intellectual disability Deafness, Autosomal Recessive Cryptophthalmos, cutaneous syndactyly and genitourinary anomalies. AR Congenital stationary night blindness (AR)
HK180C	CUL7 ACOX2 ARFGEF3 NACAD	p.L1710V/p.R707C p.A504T/p.R409H p.D87Y (cu)/p.E902Q (cu) p.Q1391E/p.G407R (cu)	3M syndrome (AR). Dubowitz's syndrome ND ND ND
НК97С	PCNT	p.A1495V / p.R1821W	Microcephalic osteodysplastic primordial dwarfism type 2. Primary autosomal recessive microcephaly type 6. Seckel syndrome type 4
НК9С	LAMA5 CMYA5 MGAM RADIL	р.E2378K/p.E2665K p.S308F/p.G450D p.M1073V/p.D1454G p.V337M/p.L200P (си)	ND Cardiomyopathy Intestinal disaccharidase deficiency. ND
VH105C	CUL7 ZSWIM4	p.\$999C (cu)/p.V16911 p.R185W (cu)/p.Q267H	3M syndrome (AR). Dubowitz's syndrome ND
VH106C	SYNE1	p.S2126F/p.R5617*	SYNE1-Related Autosomal Recessive Cerebellar Ataxia. Emery-Dreifuss muscular dystrophy 4, autosomal dominant
VH108C	RFC2	p.E207K/p.P22S	Gene in the Williams-Beuren Syndrome critical region. Infantile hypercalcemia. Aortic stenosis syndrome

Genes recurrently mutated



Considered genes with rare SNVs and/or CNVs

De novo Homozygous Compound heterozygous

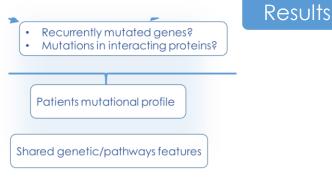
Identified in this study -seed genes-

HSCR / ENS related genes (117 genes)

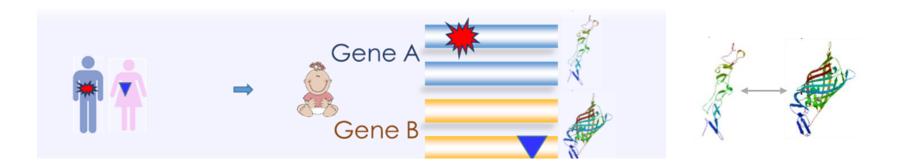
21 genes have different rare variants in more than one patient



Di/oligo-genic model where variants in two or more interacting genes co-exist in a patient

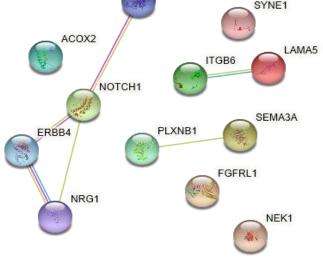


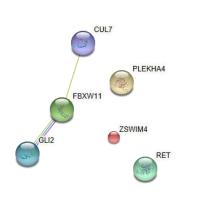
Included genes encoding interacting partners to any of the seed genes / ENS genes

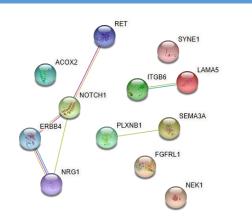


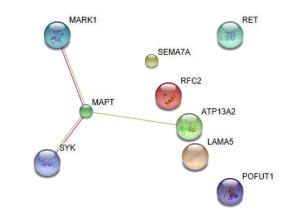
Genetic profile of each patient

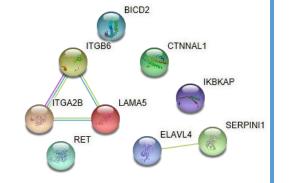
Patients	Gene	Variant	Reason for gene selection	Туре
	SYNE1	p.S2126F/p.R5617*	Seed	СН
	ERBB4	c.1125-3178deIAAACAG (intron 9)	Seed and ENS-gene	NCDS de novo
	NRG1	c.746-294155G>C (intron 1)	Seed and ENS-gene	NCDS de novo
	NOTCH1	р.R1330Н (си)	ENS-gene	Paternally inherited
	ACOX2	p.R88Q	Seed -CH in patient HK180-	Maternally inherited
VH106C	FGFRL1	p.V98L	Seed -CH in patient HD9-	Paternally inherited
	NEK 1	p.R355G	Seed -Homo in patient HK164-	Paternally inherited
	LAMA5	p.L2185F	Seed - CH in patient HK9C-	Paternally inherited
	ITGB6	р.R499Н	Interacting partner of LAMA5	Maternally inherited
	PLXNB1	p.L1686M	ENS-gene	Maternally inherited
	SEM A 3 A	c.1453-3693TC>-C (intron 12)	Seed and ENS-gene	NCDS de novo
			SVNE1	

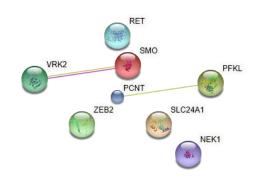


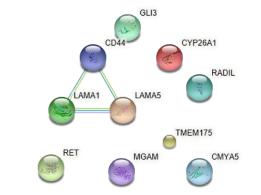


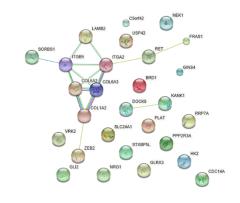


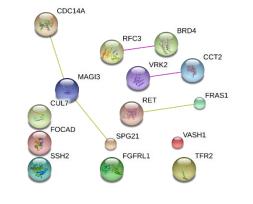


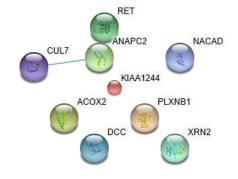












Is there anything in common? Any shared genetic component?

Each patient has variants in at least two interacting and biologically plausible genes

Extra Cellular Matrix-receptor interaction pathway (ECM-receptor) has significantly more interactions than expected ($p=1.5x10^{-11}$)

• Could any EMC molecule be used as a target?

Detected variants in **schizophrenia**, **autism** (NRG1, NRG3, ERBB4, SEMA3A, PLXNB1, DOCK8, CALN1, NBPF) and **ciliopathies** (CCT2) genes

 Frequently observed association between intestinal dysmotility and psychiatric disorders and ciliopathies (Bardet-Biedl; Joubert syndromes)

Pathological alterations affecting pathway(s) **shared by more than one disorder may underlay apparently unrelated diseases**

- How can we make use of this?
- Predictable phenotypic pattern?

Pilot study

First WGS in HSCR

Very instrumental in setting a pipeline at HKU



Human Medical Research Fund 01121516

The University of Hong Kong

Department of Surgery

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Pak Sham Stacey Cherny

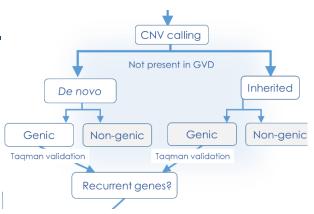


Clara Tang

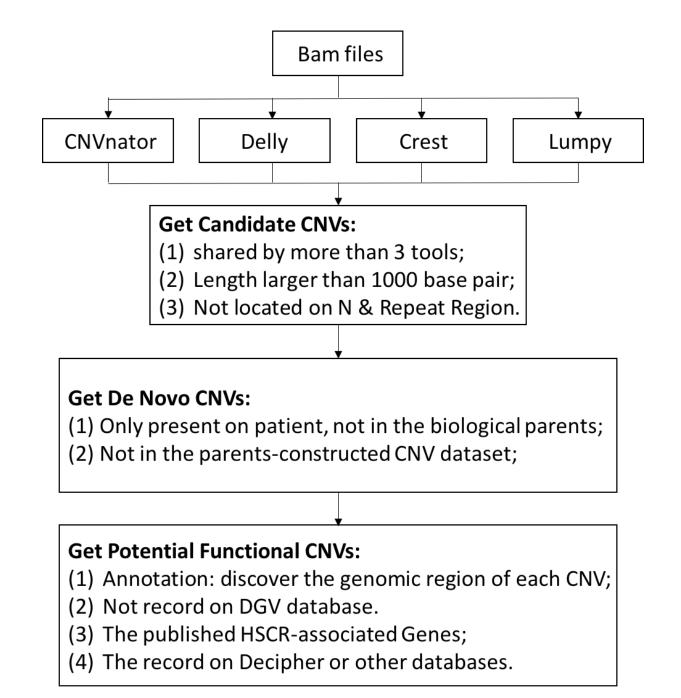


Sunny Zhuang

Preliminary CNV data -genetic profile-

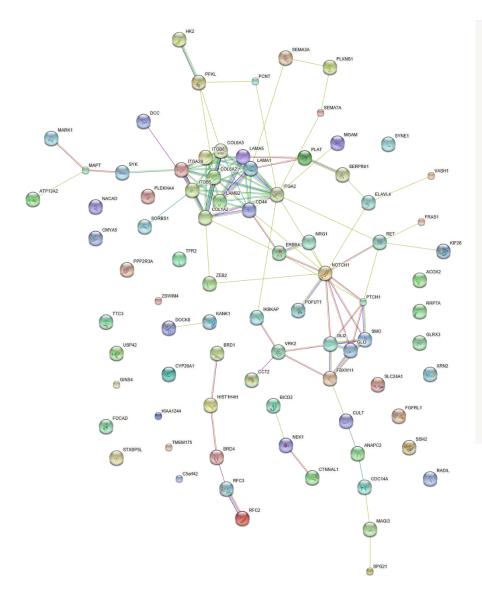


	De novo		Inherited	
	Genes deleted	Genes duplicated	Genes deleted	Genes duplicated
HD09C		CALN1 (6K; intronic) No in 1K project CALN1 (29K; intronic)	GFRA2 (36K; exonic)	NOTCH2 (5K; exonic)
HK164C	NBPF6(3K, exonic)	NBPF8, NBPF9 (9K; exonic)	GFRA2 (36K; exonic)	
Recurrent gene. Duplicated in another HSCR patient	PPM1L (3.5Kb, intronic) No in 1K project		KIAA1279 (5K; exonic) MGAM (28K; intronic)	
HK180C	NRG3 (2K; intron 1 NM_001010848.3)		GFRA2 (36K; exonic) NRG3 (2K; intron 2; NM_001 MGAM (28K; intronic)	NOTCH2 (12K; exonic) 010848.3)
HK96C	KLRC3 (6Kb, exonic)		GFRA2 (36K; exonic)	NOTCH2 (12K; exonic)
HK97C	KIR2DL3, KIR3DL3 (38K, exonic) KIR2DL1, KIR2DL4, KIR3DL1 (37K, exonic)			NOTCH2 (12K; exonic)
НК9С	NBPF20 (116K; exonic)		GFRA2 (36K; exonic)	
VH105C Recurrent. In different patient Recurrent. In different patient.	NBPF20 (8K; exonic) KIR2DL1,KIR2DL4,KIR3DL1(37K, exonic)		GFRA2 (36K; exonic)	NOTCH2 (12K; exonic)
Duplicated.	LILRA6(2Kb, exonic)immunity?		MGAM (28K; intronic)	
VH106C			GFRA2 (36K; exonic) MGAM (28K; intronic)	NOTCH2 (12K; exonic)
VH108C	KLRC3 (4Kb, upstream)		GFRA2 (36K; exonic)	NOTCH2 (12K; exonic)



Samples	 Relationship 	 Gender 	 Aganglionosis lenativi 	Associated anomalies/others	Ethnicity
НК9С	Proband	M	Long		
HK9A	Father	м		Necrotizing enterocolitis; asthma	Chinese
НК9В	Mother	F			
HK96C	Proband	Μ	Total		
HK96A	Father	М		Parathyroid nodules; bilateral hydrocele; necrotizing enterocolitis	Chinese
НК96В	Mother	F			
HK97C	Proband	Μ	Long	Concepted entrol by a continuing and and a (CCUS), providing	
HK97A	Father	М		Congenital central hypoventilation syndrome (CCHS); necrotizing	Chinese
НК97В	Mother	F		enterocolitis; mild mental retardation; epilepsy	
HK164C	Proband	Μ	Long		
HK164A	Father	М		None; consanguineous parents	South-east Asian
HK164B	Mother	F			
HD09C	Proband	Μ	Long	None	
HD09A	Father	М			Chinese
HD09B	Mother	F			
VH105C	Proband	Μ	Long	None	
VH105A	Father	М			Vietnamese
VH105B	Mother	F			
VH106C	Proband	Μ	Long	None	
VH106A	Father	М			Vietnamese
VH106B	Mother	F			
VH108C	Proband	Μ	Long	None	
VH108A	Father	М			Vietnamese
VH108B	Mother	F			
HK180C	Proband	Μ	Long	None	
HK180A	Father	М			Chinese
HK180B	Mother	F			

All genes



Network Stats

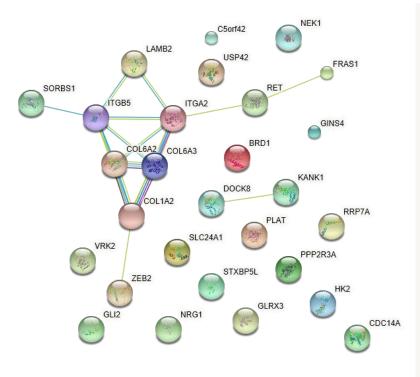
number of nodes: number of edges:	expected number of edges: 35 PPI enrichment p-value: 0
average node degree: clustering coefficient:	your network has significantly more interactions than expected (<u>what does that mean?</u>)

	Biological Process (GO)		
pathway ID	pathway description	count in gene set	false discovery rate
GO:0040011	locomotion	25	8.7e-09
GO:0006928	movement of cell or subcellular component	25	4.3e-08
GO:0009653	anatomical structure morphogenesis	29	5.73e-07
GO:0016477	cell migration	18	1.02e-06
GO:0000902	cell morphogenesis	19	2.73e-06
			(more)

	Cellular Component (GO)		
pathway ID	pathway description	count in gene set	false discovery rate
GO:0043234	protein complex	35	0.000142
GO:0043235	receptor complex	10	0.000142
GO:0008305	integrin complex	4	0.00135
GO:0043256	laminin complex	3	0.00135
GO:0044420	extracellular matrix component	6	0.0018
			(more)

	KEGG Pathways		
pathway ID	pathway description	count in gene set	false discovery rate
04512	ECM-receptor interaction	11	1.19e-11
04151	PI3K-Akt signaling pathway	12	1.03e-06
04510	Focal adhesion	10	1.03e-06
05200	Pathways in cancer	11	4.92e-06
04340	Hedgehog signaling pathway	5	0.000103
			(more)

Patient HK164C



Network Stats

number of nodes:	28
number of edges:	17
average node degree:	1.21
clustering coefficient:	0.912

expected number of edges: 4 PPI enrichment p-value: 4.61e-07 your network has significantly more interactions than expected (what does that mean?)

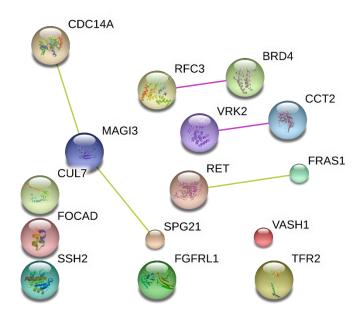
Functional enrichments in your network

	Biological Process (GO)		
pathway ID	pathway description	count in gene set	false discovery rate
GO:0032501	multicellular organismal process	21	0.000422
GO:0044707	single-multicellular organism process	20	0.000862
GO:0040011	locomotion	10	0.00446
GO:0006928	movement of cell or subcellular component	10	0.00863
GO:0007275	multicellular organismal development	16	0.0106
			(more)
	Cellular Component (GO)		
pathway ID	pathway description	count in gene set	false discovery rate
GO:0044420	extracellular matrix component	4	0.0296
	KEGG Pathways		
pathway ID	pathway description	count in gene set	false discovery rate

pathway ID	pathway description	count in gene set	false discovery rate
04512	ECM-receptor interaction	6	4.32e-07
04151	PI3K-Akt signaling pathway	7	2.59e-05
04510	Focal adhesion	6	2.59e-05
04974	Protein digestion and absorption	3	0.0146

Would any individual of the control population have this constellation of mutations?

Patient HD9



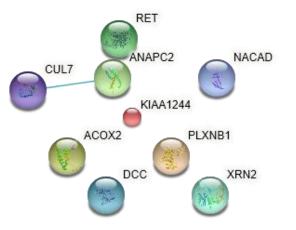
number of nodes: 15 number of edges: 5 average node degree: 0.667 clustering coefficient: 0.933 expected number of edges: 1 PPI enrichment p-value: 0.00144

your network has significantly more interactions than expected (what does that mean?)

Functional enrichments in your network

- no significant enrichment detected -

Patient HK180C



Network Stats

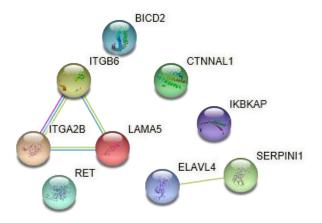
number of nodes:	9
number of edges:	1
average node degree:	0.222
clustering coefficient:	1

expected number of edges: 0 PPI enrichment p-value: 0.286

your network does **not** have significantly more interactions than expected (<u>what does that mean?</u>)

	Biological Process (GO)		
pathway ID	pathway description	count in gene set	false discovery rate
GO:0010769	regulation of cell morphogenesis involved in differentiation	5	0.000693
GO:0010975	regulation of neuron projection development	5	0.000693
GO:0050770	regulation of axonogenesis	4	0.000776
GO:0010976	positive regulation of neuron projection development	4	0.00233
GO:0050773	regulation of dendrite development	3	0.0107
GO:0008361	regulation of cell size	3	0.0218
GO:0022604	regulation of cell morphogenesis	4	0.0239
GO:0010770	positive regulation of cell morphogenesis involved in differentiation	3	0.026
GO:0048799	organ maturation	2	0.0264
GO:0050775	positive regulation of dendrite morphogenesis	2	0.046
			(less)

Patient HK96C



Network Stats

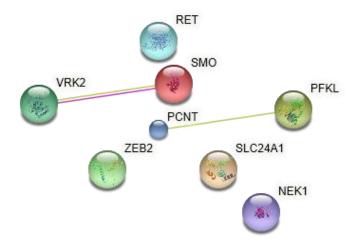
number of nodes:	9
number of edges:	4
average node degree:	0.889
clustering coefficient:	1

expected number of edges: 0 PPI enrichment p-value: 0.000412

your network has significantly more interactions than expected (<u>what does that mean?</u>)

	Cellular Component (GO)		
pathway ID	pathway description	count in gene set	false discovery rate
GO:0008305	integrin complex	2	0.0491
	KEGG Pathways		
pathway ID	pathway description	count in gene set	false discovery rate
04512	ECM-receptor interaction	3	0.00164
04510	Focal adhesion	3	0.0109
04151	PI3K-Akt signaling pathway	3	0.0232
05200	Pathways in cancer	3	0.0232
05222	Small cell lung cancer	2	0.0232
05410	Hypertrophic cardiomyopathy (HCM)	2	0.0232
05412	Arrhythmogenic right ventricular cardiomyopathy (ARVC)	2	0.0232
05414	Dilated cardiomyopathy	2	0.0232
			(less)

Patient HK97C

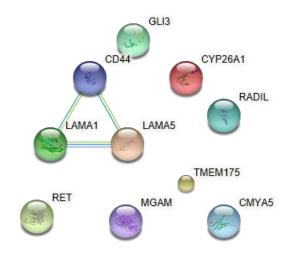


Network Stats expected number of edges: 0 number of edges: 2 PPI enrichment p-value: 0.0211 average node degree: 0.5 your network has significantly more interactions than expected (what does that mean?)

Functional enrichments in your network

- no significant enrichment detected -

Patient HK9C



Network Stats

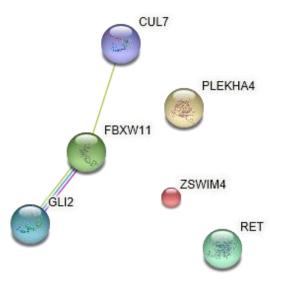
number of nodes: number of edges:	 expected number of edges: 0 PPI enrichment p-value: 0.014
average node degree: clustering coefficient:	your network has significantly more interactions than expected (<u>what does that mean?</u>)

pathway ID	pathway description	count in gene set	false discovery rate
GO:0001657	ureteric bud development	4	0.000272
GO:0001823	mesonephros development	4	0.000272
GO:0022612	gland morphogenesis	4	0.000371
GO:0060562	epithelial tube morphogenesis	5	0.000376
GO:0048754	branching morphogenesis of an epithelial tube	4	0.000754
			(more)

pathway ID	pathway description	count in gene set	false discovery rate
GO:0043256	laminin complex	2	0.00984
GO:0005605	basal lamina	2	0.0404

	KEGG Pathways			
pathway ID	pathway description	count in gene set	false discovery rate	
04512	ECM-receptor interaction	3	0.00164	
05200	Pathways in cancer	4	0.00164	

Patient VH105C



Network Stats

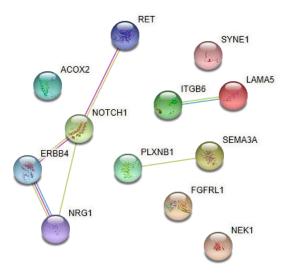
number of nodes: 6 number of edges: 2 average node degree: 0.667 clustering coefficient: 0.833

expected number of edges: 0 PPI enrichment p-value: 0.00828

your network has significantly more interactions than expected (what does that mean?)

	KEGG Pathways		
pathway ID	pathway description	count in gene set	false discovery rate
04340	Hedgehog signaling pathway	2	0.025

Patient VH106C

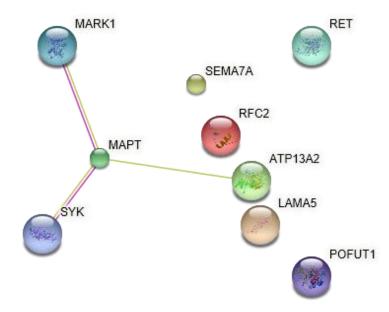


Network Stats

number of nodes: number of edges:	expected number of edges: 1 PPI enrichment p-value: 0.00185
average node degree: clustering coefficient:	your network has significantly more interactions than expected (<u>what does that mean?</u>)

	Biological Process (GO)				
pathway ID	pathway description	count in gene set	false discovery rate		
GO:0014031	mesenchymal cell development	6	1.46e-07		
GO:0048762	mesenchymal cell differentiation	6	1.46e-07		
GO:0014032	neural crest cell development	5	3.13e-07		
GO:0014033	neural crest cell differentiation	5	4.92e-07		
GO:0060485	mesenchyme development	6	7.11e-07		
			(more)		
	Molecular Function (GO)				
pathway ID	pathway description	count in gene set	false discovery rate		
GO:0004714	transmembrane receptor protein tyrosine kinase activity	3	0.0164		
GO:0005102	receptor binding	6	0.0164		
GO:0004713	protein tyrosine kinase activity	3	0.0456		
GO:0004872	receptor activity	6	0.0456		
	Cellular Component (GO)				
pathway ID	pathway description	count in gene set	false discovery rate		
GO:0043235	receptor complex	5	0.000508		

Patient VH108C



Network Stats

number of nodes:	9
number of edges:	3
average node degree:	0.667
clustering coefficient:	0.889

expected number of edges: 0 PPI enrichment p-value: 0.0114

your network has significantly more interactions than expected (what does that mean?)

Functional enrichments in your network

- no significant enrichment detected -

Patients	Gene	Variant	Reason for gene selection	Туре	Gene function	luman	Mouse
VH106C	SYNE1	p.S2126F/p.R5617*	Seed	СН	Spectrin family rS	SYNE1-Relat	SYNE2 is required fo
	ERBB4	c.1125-3178delAAACAG (intron 9)	ENS-gene	NCDS de novo	NRG1 receptor. E	Erbb4-Relate	Abnormal multiorgc
	NRG1	c.746-294155G>C (intron 1)	ENS-gene	NCDS de novo	Direct ligand for A	Associated	Abnormal NCC mig
	NOTCH1	p.R1330H (cu)	ENS-gene	Paternally inherited	Transmembranc A	Adams-Oliv	Abnormal embryon
	ACOX2	p.R88Q	Interacting partner; Seed -CH in patient HK180-	Maternally inherited	Acyl-CoA oxida1	ND	ND
	FGFRL1	p.V98L	Seed -CH in patient HD9-	Paternally inherited	Fibroblast Grow V	Wolf-Hirschh	Development dela
	NEK1	p.R355G	Seed -Homo in patient HK164-	Paternally inherited	Cell cycle reguls	Short-rib tho	Abnormal renal tub
	LAMA5	p.L2185F	Seed - CH in patient HK9C-	Paternally inherited	Extracellular mcN	ND	Arrest of hair develo
	ITGB6	p.R499H	Interacting partner of LAMA5	Maternally inherited	Integrin. Attach: A	Amelogene	ND
	PLXNB1	p.L1686M	ENS-gene	Maternally inherited	Semaphorin rec N	ND	ND
	SEMA3A	c.1453-3693TC>-C (intron 12)	Seed + ENS gene	NCDS de novo	Involved in the H	lypogonad	l Abnormal ENS mor <mark>r</mark>