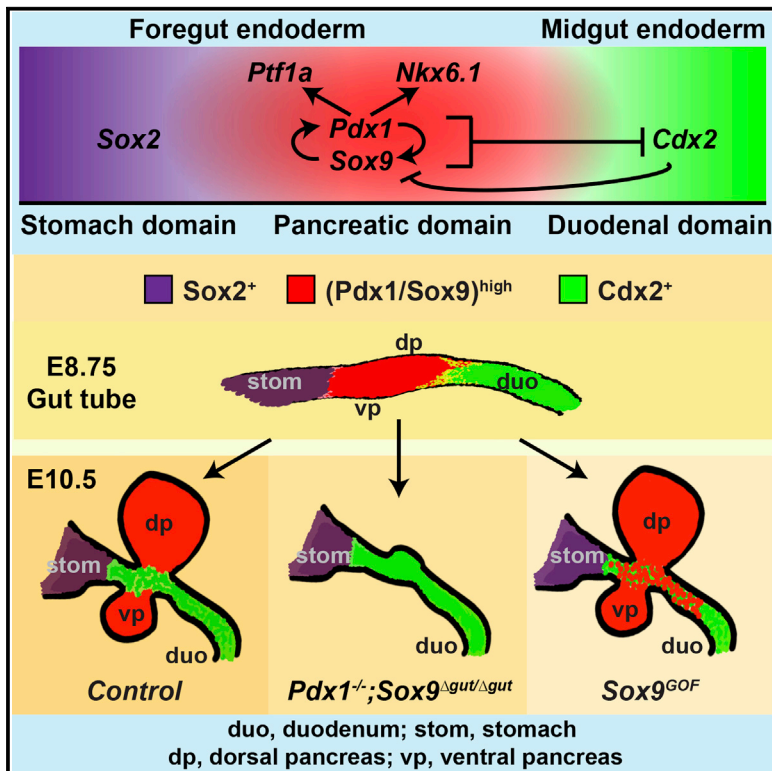


Cell Reports

A Gene Regulatory Network Cooperatively Controlled by Pdx1 and Sox9 Governs Lineage Allocation of Foregut Progenitor Cells

Graphical Abstract



Highlights

- Genetic studies show Pdx1 and Sox9 cooperatively specify the pancreatic lineage
- Pdx1+Sox9 co-occupy regulatory sequences of pancreatic and intestinal genes
- Pdx1+Sox9 cooperatively repress intestinal cell fate determinants such as Cdx2
- Pdx1+Sox9 are necessary and sufficient to repress the intestinal fate choice

Authors

Hung Ping Shih, Philip A. Seymour, Nisha A. Patel, ..., Gene W. Yeo, Mark A. Magnuson, Maïke Sander

Correspondence

masander@ucsd.edu

In Brief

Shih et al. identify a positive cross-regulatory Pdx1-Sox9 loop that promotes expression of the pancreas-specific factors Ptf1a and Nkx6.1 while repressing intestinal cell fate determinants, including Cdx2, favoring adoption of a pancreatic fate.

Accession Numbers

GSE61945
GSE61946
GSE61947
GSE62023



A Gene Regulatory Network Cooperatively Controlled by Pdx1 and Sox9 Governs Lineage Allocation of Foregut Progenitor Cells

Hung Ping Shih,^{1,5,7} Philip A. Seymour,^{1,4,7} Nisha A. Patel,¹ Ruiyu Xie,^{1,6} Allen Wang,¹ Patrick P. Liu,² Gene W. Yeo,² Mark A. Magnuson,³ and Maïke Sander^{1,*}

¹Departments of Pediatrics and Cellular & Molecular Medicine, Pediatric Diabetes Research Center, University of California San Diego, La Jolla, CA 92093, USA

²Department of Cellular & Molecular Medicine, University of California San Diego, La Jolla, CA 92093, USA

³Center for Stem Cell Biology, Vanderbilt University, 2213 Garland Avenue, Nashville, TN 37232, USA

⁴DanStem, University of Copenhagen, Blegdamsvej 3B, DK-2200, Copenhagen N, Denmark

⁵Present address: Department of Translational Research and Cellular Therapeutics, City of Hope, Duarte, CA 91010, USA

⁶Present address: Faculty of Health Sciences, University of Macau, Taipa, Macau, China

⁷Co-first author

*Correspondence: masander@ucsd.edu

<http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.celrep.2015.08.082>

This is an open access article under the CC BY-NC-ND license (<http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc-nd/4.0/>).

SUMMARY

The generation of pancreas, liver, and intestine from a common pool of progenitors in the foregut endoderm requires the establishment of organ boundaries. How dorsal foregut progenitors activate pancreatic genes and evade the intestinal lineage choice remains unclear. Here, we identify Pdx1 and Sox9 as cooperative inducers of a gene regulatory network that distinguishes the pancreatic from the intestinal lineage. Genetic studies demonstrate dual and cooperative functions for Pdx1 and Sox9 in pancreatic lineage induction and repression of the intestinal lineage choice. Pdx1 and Sox9 bind to regulatory sequences near pancreatic and intestinal differentiation genes and jointly regulate their expression, revealing direct cooperative roles for Pdx1 and Sox9 in gene activation and repression. Our study identifies Pdx1 and Sox9 as important regulators of a transcription factor network that initiates pancreatic fate and sheds light on the gene regulatory circuitry that governs the development of distinct organs from multi-lineage-competent foregut progenitors.

INTRODUCTION

During mammalian development, naive endodermal progenitors are directed toward different organ fates, including lung, pancreas, liver, and intestine. At developmental junctures, multipotent progenitors must be allocated to different lineages, exemplified by progenitors in the foregut endoderm, which give rise to pancreas, stomach, duodenum, liver, and the hepatobiliary system. Organ lineage choices are initiated by cross-repressive

interactions between transcription factors (TFs) driving alternative lineage programs, followed by feed-forward induction of additional TFs to further execute the differentiation process (Holmberg and Perlmann, 2012). A large body of work has identified numerous TFs that are required for the early development of individual organs, in particular, the pancreas and liver (Seymour and Sander, 2011; Zaret, 2008). Despite these significant advances, it is still poorly understood which regulatory networks induce specific organ fates and how organ boundaries are established in the foregut endoderm. Identifying the mechanisms responsible for specifying individual organ fates is important for devising cell reprogramming strategies, which are still lacking for ex vivo production of pancreatic cells.

The pancreas arises as two buds on opposing sides of the gut tube at the boundary between the stomach and duodenum, the most rostral portion of the intestine (Shih et al., 2013). The anatomical location of the pancreas implies that an organ boundary must be established that distinguishes pancreatic from stomach and intestinal progenitors. The TF Cdx2 is exclusively expressed in intestinal epithelial cells, spanning the length of the alimentary tract from the proximal duodenum to the distal rectum. Cdx2 is essential for intestinal development and induces intestinal epithelial differentiation by activating the transcription of intestine-specific genes, such as MUC2, sucrase, and carbonic anhydrase I (Gao et al., 2009; Verzi et al., 2011). However, the mechanisms preventing expansion of the Cdx2 expression domain beyond the duodenal boundary in the foregut endoderm remain undefined.

The TFs Pdx1, Foxa2, Mnx1 (Hb9), Onecut-1 (Hnf6), Prox1, Tcf2, Gata4/Gata6, Sox9, and Ptf1a each play an important role in early pancreas development, yet deletion of no single factor alone is sufficient to abrogate pancreatic lineage induction (Carrasco et al., 2012; Harrison et al., 1999; Haumaitre et al., 2005; Jacquemin et al., 2000; Kawaguchi et al., 2002; Lee et al., 2005; Offield et al., 1996; Seymour et al., 2007; Wang et al., 2005; Xuan et al., 2012). These observations imply either

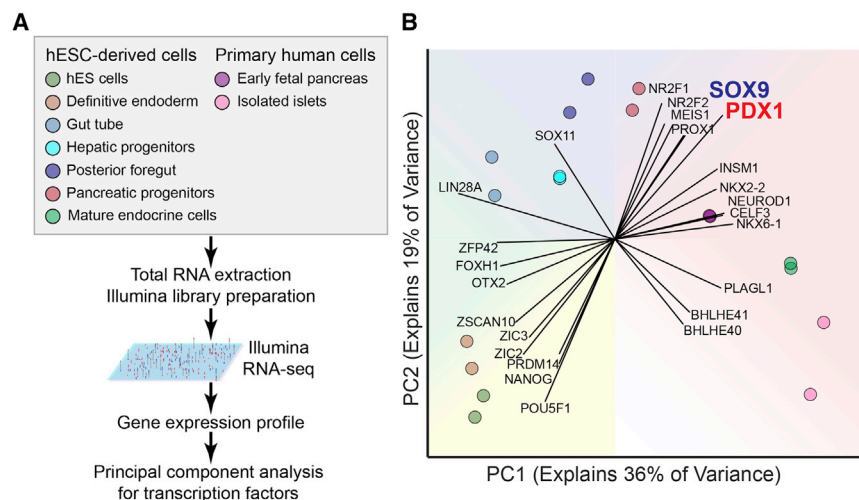


Figure 1. Principal Component Analysis for Expression of Transcription Factors in Endodermal Cell Populations

(A) Experimental strategy for principal component analysis of transcription factors in various endodermal cell populations. (B) Principal component (PC) analysis of the expression values (RPKM) characterizing the variance explained by transcription factors expressed in human embryonic stem cell (hESC)-derived populations and primary human cells. Each vector emanating from the origin represents an individual gene. Each dot represents a sample, and each color represents the type of sample.

that the inducer of the pancreatic fate remains to be identified or that the pancreatic fate is specified through a cooperative mechanism involving multiple TFs.

Combining genetic, cistrome, and transcriptome analysis, we here identify the TFs Pdx1 and Sox9 as cooperative inducers of the pancreatic lineage. The combined inactivation of *Pdx1* and *Sox9* leads to an intestinal fate conversion of the pre-pancreatic domain, illustrated by expansion of the field of *Cdx2* expression. Conversely, ectopic expression of *Sox9* in intestinal progenitors is sufficient to induce *Pdx1* and repress *Cdx2*. At a mechanistic level, we show that *Pdx1* and *Sox9* function as direct and cooperative activators of pancreatic genes and repressors of intestinal lineage regulators. Together, these findings shed light on the transcriptional mechanisms that induce the pancreatic fate and establish the pancreatic-to-intestinal organ boundary.

RESULTS

Pdx1 and Sox9 Cooperatively Induce the Pancreatic Lineage Program

To identify TFs most closely associated with pancreatic lineage induction, we compared expression levels of TFs represented in the RNA-seq data from pancreatic progenitor cells and closely related endodermal cell populations. These comprised human embryonic stem cell (hESC)-derived definitive endoderm, gut tube progenitors, posterior foregut, pancreatic progenitors, hepatic progenitors, and endocrine cells as well as primary human fetal pancreatic anlagen and primary cadaver pancreatic islets (Figure 1A). Principal component analysis of TF expression data clustered the different cell populations by developmental proximity, effectively reconstructing the dynamics of endodermal development and underscoring the importance of TF levels in successfully delineating these cell types (Figure 1B). Two TFs, PDX1 and SOX9, most strongly distinguished pancreatic progenitors from other cell populations (Figure 1B), suggesting possible cooperative roles for PDX1 and SOX9 in pancreatic lineage specification.

First, to define the domains of *Pdx1* and *Sox9* expression during pancreatic specification, we performed co-immunofluo-

rescence staining for *Pdx1* and *Sox9* together with the anterior foregut marker *Sox2* or the mid/hindgut marker *Cdx2*, respectively, at embryonic day (E) 8.75 (15–17 somites). The *Sox2*⁺ domain, from which the stomach develops (McCracken et al., 2014; Sherwood et al., 2009), formed a boundary with both the *Pdx1*⁺ and *Sox9*⁺ domains (Figures 2A–2A''). Very few cells co-expressing *Sox2*, *Pdx1*, and *Sox9* were observed at this boundary (Figures 2A–2A''). Cells in the presumptive proximal duodenum expressed high levels of *Cdx2* and *Sox9* (Figures 2B–2B''). In contrast to *Sox9*, which spanned the proximal duodenal and pre-pancreatic domains, *Pdx1* was restricted to the pre-pancreatic domain (Figures 2B and 2B'). At the boundary between the duodenal and pre-pancreatic domains, we observed a transition from a *Cdx2*^{high} to a *Cdx2*^{low} state (Figures 2B and 2B'', dashed line; Movie S1). Consistent with previous studies (McCracken et al., 2014), *Cdx2* was largely absent from the pancreatic buds (Figure 2C), showing that *Cdx2* is gradually excluded from the pancreatic domain.

To determine the fate of *Sox9*- or *Pdx1*-expressing cells in the foregut endoderm, we performed lineage tracing in embryos carrying the *Rosa26*^{mTomato/mGFP} (*R26*^{mT/mG}) reporter allele and an inducible form of Cre-recombinase, *CreER*, driven by either *Sox9* or *Pdx1* regulatory sequences. In these mice, tamoxifen administration to pregnant dams turns off constitutive expression of membrane-targeted Tomato (mT) and induces heritable expression of membrane-targeted GFP (mGFP), permitting recombined cells and their progeny to be traced by mGFP labeling. Tamoxifen administration at E8.0 resulted in labeling of the pancreatic epithelium in *R26*^{mT/mG};*Pdx1*-*CreER* (Figure 2D) and *R26*^{mT/mG};*Sox9*-*CreER* (Figure 2E) embryos at E10.5. Consistent with the incomplete segregation of the *Cdx2*⁺ and *Pdx1*⁺/*Sox9*⁺ domains at E8.75 (Figures 2B–2B'' and 2C), mGFP labeling was also observed in scattered *Cdx2*⁺ cells of the proximal duodenum (Figures 2D and 2E). mGFP⁺ cells in the *Sox2*⁺ gastric region were extremely rare (data not shown). Together, these findings indicate that the pancreatic-to-stomach boundary is largely established by E8.75, whereas the pancreatic and duodenal domains separate gradually between E8.75 and E10.5.

Previous studies have shown that pancreatic outgrowth and induction of a subset of early pancreatic markers still occur in *Pdx1* null mutants (Offield et al., 1996). Similarly, after conditional

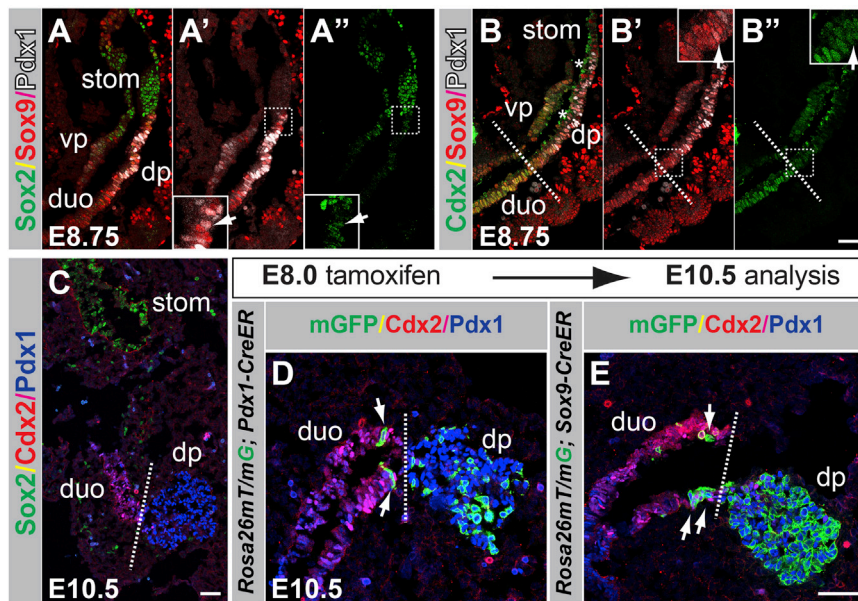


Figure 2. Pdx1 and Sox9 Are Co-expressed in the Pancreatic Domain in the Foregut Endoderm

(A–B'') Immunofluorescence staining for Sox2, Sox9, and Pdx1 (A–A'') and Cdx2, Sox9, and Pdx1 (B–B'') on embryonic sections at embryonic day (E) 8.75. The arrows in (A') and (A'') and (B') and (B'') indicate Pdx1⁺/Sox9⁺ cells co-expressing Sox2 and Cdx2, respectively. The dashed line in (B)–(B'') demarcates the transition from the presumptive duodenal to the pre-pancreatic region. Fields demarcated by white dashed boxes in (A'), (A''), (B'), and (B'') are shown at higher magnification in the same panels. Non-specific signal for Cdx2 is evident in the foregut lumen (B and B'', asterisks) due to antibody trapping.

(C) Immunofluorescence staining for Cdx2, Sox2, and Pdx1 at E10.5.

(D and E) Dams carrying *R26^{mT/mG}* embryos expressing CreER driven by either the *Pdx1* or *Sox9* regulatory sequences were injected with tamoxifen at E8.0, embryos sectioned at E10.5, and immunofluorescence staining performed for Cdx2, Pdx1, and GFP. Recombined, membrane-targeted GFP⁺ (mGFP⁺) cells trace to the pancre-

atic epithelium; scattered labeled cells are also detectable in the proximal duodenum in *R26^{mT/mG};Pdx1-CreER* (D) and *R26^{mT/mG};Sox9-CreER* (E) embryos. dp, dorsal pancreas; vp, ventral pancreas; duo, duodenum; stom, stomach. Scale bars represent 50 μ m.

Sox9 inactivation with a *Pdx1-Cre* transgene pancreatic buds evaginate (Seymour et al., 2007, 2012). However, since *Pdx1-Cre* deletes *Sox9* after the pancreatic program has been initiated, it remains unclear whether *Sox9* is necessary to initiate the pancreatic program. To determine whether *Sox9* is required for pancreatic specification, we generated global *Sox9* null mutant embryos (Figures 3A and 3C). While hypoplastic, dorsal and ventral pancreatic rudiments arise in *Sox9* null embryos (Figures 3B, 3B', 3D, and 3D'), showing that *Sox9* is dispensable for pancreatic fate assignment and outgrowth of the pancreatic buds. Notably, although *Pdx1* staining intensity is reduced, *Pdx1* is expressed in both dorsal and ventral pancreatic buds of *Sox9*^{-/-} embryos (Figures 3B, 3B', 3D, and 3D'), showing that *Sox9* is dispensable for *Pdx1* induction. Similarly, we have previously found *Sox9* to be expressed in *Pdx1*-deficient dorsal pancreatic progenitors at E10.5 (Seymour et al., 2012). Thus, neither *Pdx1* nor *Sox9* is required for pancreas specification or induction of the other's expression.

Based on their early expression in pre-pancreatic cells, we postulated that *Sox9* and *Pdx1* might function together and induce the pancreatic lineage in a cooperative manner. To test this, we generated mice lacking various combinations of either one or two alleles of *Pdx1*, *Sox9*, or both. Since early embryonic lethality of *Sox9* null embryos precluded the analysis of compound mutants beyond E11.5 (Akiyama et al., 2004), we employed a conditional *Sox9* ablation strategy, using the *Foxa3-Cre* transgenic line (Lee et al., 2005), which ablates *Sox9* efficiently in the gut tube by E9.5 (*Sox9^{Δgut}*) (Figures 3E–3H'').

We next generated compound mutants carrying various combinations of the *Pdx1* null (*Pdx1^{LacZko}*) and *Sox9^{Δgut}* alleles and visualized the dorsal and ventral pancreatic buds, antral stomach, and duodenum by X-Gal staining for β -galactosidase

(β -gal) expressed from the *Pdx1^{LacZko}* allele (Figures 3I and 3J). With progressive loss of *Sox9* gene dosage (*Sox9^{+/+}* > *Sox9^{+/Δgut}* > *Sox9^{Δgut/Δgut}*) on the *Pdx1*-heterozygous mutant background, the pancreatic buds became increasingly hypoplastic (Figures 3I–3N). In E12.5 *Pdx1^{+/-};Sox9^{Δgut/Δgut}* embryos, the dorsal pancreas was reduced to a severely hypoplastic remnant, and the ventral pancreatic bud was undetectable (Figure 3N; absent ventral pancreas denoted by asterisk). Notably, the size of the ventral pancreatic bud was significantly reduced in compound-heterozygous mutants (Figures 3K, 3L, and 3U), which contrasted with the normal bud size seen in embryos deficient for a single copy of either *Pdx1* (Figures 3I and 3J) or *Sox9* (Seymour et al., 2008). This phenotype in compound-heterozygous mutants demonstrates genetic interaction between *Pdx1* and *Sox9*. The dorsal pancreas remnant (the ventral pancreas is undetectable in *Pdx1^{-/-}* embryos; Figure 3P, asterisk) became increasingly smaller with decreasing *Sox9* gene dosage on a *Pdx1* null background (Figures 3O–3T) and was morphologically almost indiscernible in compound-homozygous *Pdx1^{-/-};Sox9^{Δgut/Δgut}* mutants (Figures 3S–3U). Combined, these genetic findings demonstrate cooperative functions of *Pdx1* and *Sox9* in early pancreas development.

To determine whether deletion of *Pdx1* and *Sox9* perturbs induction of the pancreatic program, we next analyzed the expression of early pancreatic markers in *Pdx1;Sox9* compound mutants. Confirming previous findings (Seymour et al., 2007, 2012), *Sox9* expression was maintained in pancreatic rudiments of *Pdx1^{-/-}* embryos at E10.5, and conversely, *Pdx1* was also expressed in *Sox9^{Δgut/Δgut}* mutants (Figures S1A–S1N; note that the truncated *Pdx1* protein expressed from the *Pdx1* null allele is detected by the anti-*Pdx1* antibody used). Immunofluorescence staining for *Foxa2*, *Mnx1*, *Onecut-1*, *Tcf2*, *Gata4*, and

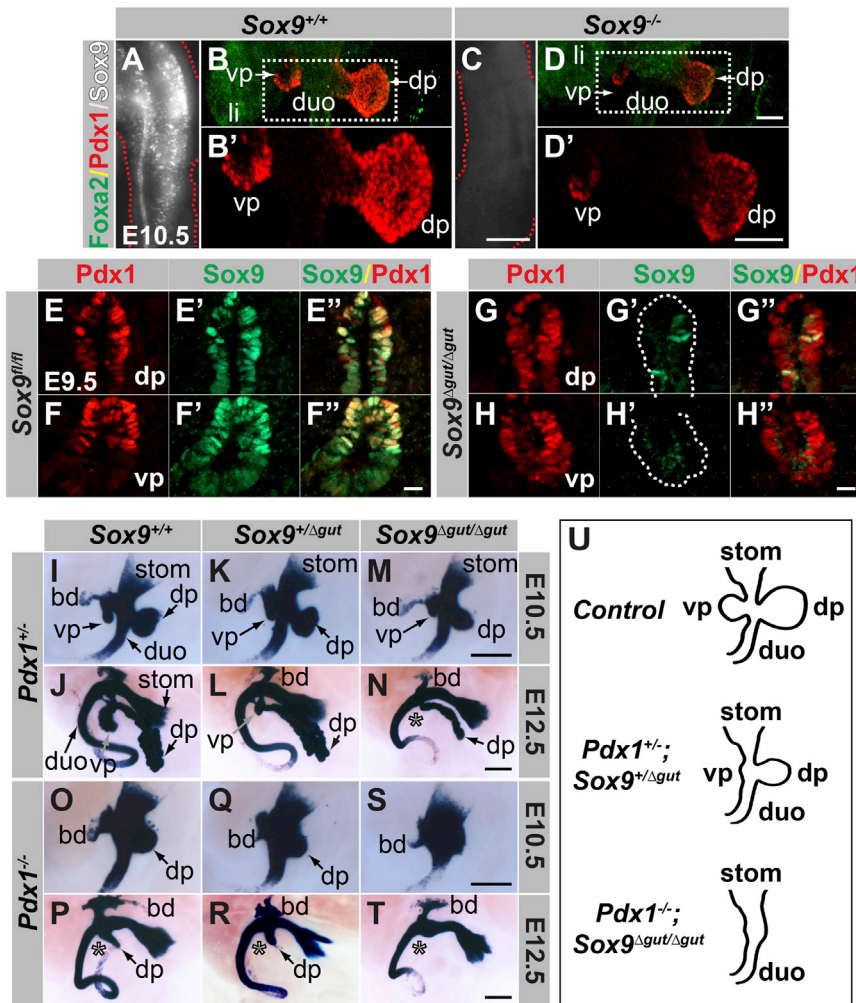


Figure 3. Sox9 and Pdx1 Cooperatively Specify the Pancreatic Lineage

(A and C) Confirmation of global Sox9 deletion by whole mount immunofluorescence staining for Sox9 of tail tips from control (A) and Sox9 null (C) embryos at E10.5.

(B and D) 2D projections of 3D Imapris-reconstructed z stacks through trunks of control (B) and Sox9 null (D) embryos after whole mount immunofluorescence staining for Foxa2 and Pdx1. Although smaller, dorsal and ventral pancreatic buds are present in E10.5 Sox9 null embryos (D and D'). Fields demarcated by white dashed boxes in (B) and (D) are shown at higher magnification in (B') and (D'), respectively. Only single-channel Pdx1 signal is shown in (B') and (D').

(E–H'') Immunofluorescence staining of sections through the pancreatic region of control *Sox9^{fl/fl}* (E–F'') and *Sox9^{fl/fl};Foxa3-Cre* (*Sox9^{Δgut/Δgut}*; G–H'') embryos at E9.5. Sox9 is efficiently deleted in dorsal (G' and G'') and ventral (H' and H'') pancreatic buds of *Sox9^{Δgut/Δgut}* embryos. Dashed line in (G') and (H') demarcates the Pdx1⁺ domain. (I–T) X-Gal staining for β-galactosidase expressed from the *Pdx1^{LacZko}* allele in E10.5 and E12.5 embryos carrying combinations of mutant alleles for *Pdx1* and *Sox9*. With increasing loss of *Sox9* dosage on either *Pdx1*-heterozygous (I–N) or *Pdx1* null (O–T) backgrounds, dorsal and ventral pancreatic buds become increasingly hypoplastic. In *Pdx1^{-/-};Sox9^{Δgut/Δgut}* embryos (S and T), pancreatic buds are not discernible. Note the reduced ventral pancreas in E12.5 compound heterozygous mutants (L). Asterisks denote absence of ventral pancreas.

(U) With decreasing dosage of functional *Pdx1* and *Sox9* alleles, pancreatic morphogenesis becomes increasingly perturbed.

dp, dorsal pancreas; vp, ventral pancreas; duo, duodenum; stom, stomach; li, liver; bd, bile duct. Scale bars represent 50 μm (E–H''), 70 μm (B, B', D, and D'), 200 μm (A and C), and 250 μm (I–T).

Prox1 further revealed maintenance of their expression in embryos lacking either *Pdx1*, *Sox9*, or both (Figures S1O–S1BB and data not shown).

In contrast, expression of the pancreas-specific TF Ptf1a was drastically reduced in *Sox9^{Δgut/Δgut}* and *Pdx1^{-/-};Sox9^{Δgut/Δgut}* embryos (Figures S1CC–S1II), showing that Ptf1a expression is Sox9-dependent. Albeit to a lesser extent, Ptf1a expression was also diminished in *Pdx1^{-/-}* embryos (Figure S1HH). Like Ptf1a, the TF Nkx6.1 is pancreas-specific and, together with Ptf1a, governs the endocrine versus acinar cell fate choice (Schaffer et al., 2010). Nkx6.1 was not detected in *Pdx1^{-/-}* and *Pdx1^{-/-};Sox9^{Δgut/Δgut}* embryos and was reduced in *Sox9^{Δgut/Δgut}* embryos (Figures S1NN–S1PP). This confirms earlier findings in *Pdx1^{-/-}* embryos (Pedersen et al., 2005) and suggests that Pdx1 is dominant over Sox9 in regulating Nkx6.1 expression. Together, our findings show that expression of the pancreas-restricted TFs Ptf1a and Nkx6.1 is under the control of Pdx1 and Sox9, whereas the expression of Foxa2, Mnx1, Onecut-1, Tcf2, Gata4, and Prox1 is Pdx1- and Sox9-independent.

PDX1 and SOX9 Co-regulate Intestinal Cell Fate Determinants

To define the mechanistic basis of the observed cooperativity between Pdx1 and Sox9 in specifying the pancreatic fate, we mapped where PDX1 and SOX9 bind in the genome to explore synergy at the level of gene regulation. As the number of pancreatic progenitors in early mouse embryos is extremely limited, we generated pancreatic progenitors from hESCs (Xie et al., 2013) and performed chromatin immunoprecipitation and sequencing (ChIP-seq) analysis for PDX1 and SOX9. We mapped 55,481 unique binding peaks for PDX1 and 9,767 unique peaks for SOX9 (Figure 4A). PDX1 and SOX9 peaks exhibited surprisingly limited overlap (Figure 4B), which was unexpected given that lineage-determining TFs generally bind to cis-regulatory elements, in particular enhancers, as a collective unit (Spitz and Furlong, 2012). To understand the basis for the limited overlap in PDX1 and SOX9 binding sites, we analyzed PDX1 and SOX9 occupancy specifically at promoters and enhancers, using chromatin maps we recently generated based on histone modifications (Wang et al., 2015). This analysis revealed recruitment of

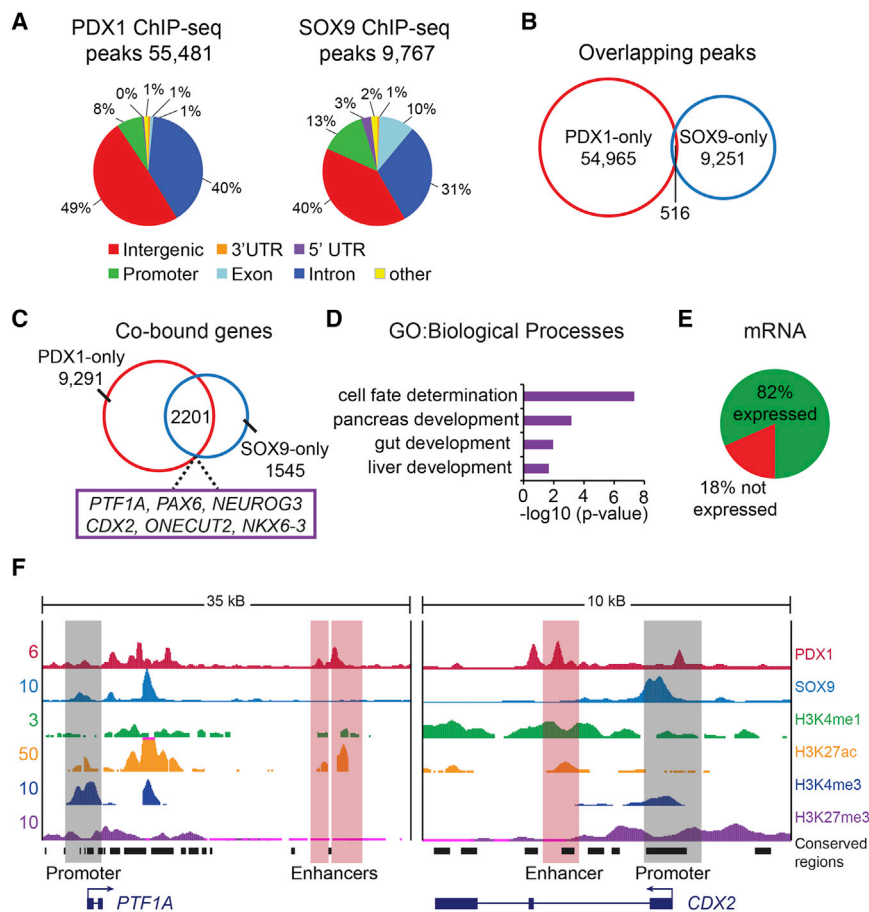


Figure 4. PDX1 and SOX9 Co-occupy Pancreatic and Intestinal Genes

(A) Genome-wide distribution of PDX1 and SOX9 binding peaks within the human genome from ChIP-seq analysis of hESC-derived pancreatic progenitors.

(B) Venn diagram of the overlap between PDX1 binding peaks and SOX9 binding peaks (minimum of 1-bp overlap).

(C) Venn diagram of the overlap between genes bound by PDX1 and SOX9, showing 2,201 genes to be co-bound by PDX1 and SOX9 (hypergeometric analysis: p value = 4.3×10^{-9}).

(D) Gene ontology (GO) analysis of PDX1 and SOX9 co-bound genes (defined as PDX1 and SOX9 binding at enhancers and/or promoters within a 200-kb window).

(E) Analysis of co-bound genes revealed that 82% of the co-bound genes are expressed, and 18% are not expressed in hESC-derived pancreatic progenitors.

(F) ChIP-seq binding profiles (reads per million) for PDX1, SOX9, and histone modifications (H3K4me1, H3K27ac, H3K4me3, and H3K27me3) at the *PTF1A* and *CDX2* loci in hESC-derived pancreatic progenitors. Enhancers were identified based on presence of H3K27ac and H3K4me1 and absence of H3K3me3. Black boxes indicate conserved regions in mice. kB, kilobases.

both PDX1 and SOX9 to promoters, albeit to not entirely overlapping sites (Figure S2A). Strikingly, and in stark contrast to PDX1, there was little recruitment of SOX9 to enhancers (Figure S2B). Other TFs with roles in early pancreatic development, such as FOXA2, ONECUT-1, and TCF2, occupied enhancers together with PDX1 (Figure S2B), consistent with TFs forming regulatory collectives at transcriptional enhancers (Calo and Wysocka, 2013). Together, these findings show that SOX9 is predominantly recruited to promoter regions, while PDX1 and other early pancreatic TFs co-occupy enhancers.

To relate PDX1 and SOX9 binding patterns to gene regulatory functions, we used the Genomic Regions Enrichment of Annotations Tool (GREAT) to predict putative target genes of PDX1-bound enhancers and then cataloged genes with binding peaks for PDX1 and SOX9 around transcriptional start sites and/or at PDX1-bound enhancers. This analysis identified 2,201 PDX1 and SOX9 co-bound genes (Figure 4C; Table S1). Consistent with the cooperative role of Pdx1 and Sox9 in pancreatic fate determination, regulators of pancreatic development are PDX1 and SOX9 co-bound, exemplified by the TFs *PTF1A*, *PAX6*, and *NEUROG3* (Figures 4C and 4F). Interestingly, PDX1 and SOX9 co-bound genes were enriched for Gene Ontology (GO) categories associated with cell developmental processes, including gut and liver development (Figure 4D). Occupancy of hepatic genes by PDX1 and SOX9 provides a possible explanation

for why hepatic genes are ectopically expressed in Pdx1- and Sox9-deficient pancreatic buds (Seymour et al., 2012). PDX1 and SOX9 co-bound genes included several intestinal cell-fate-determining TFs, such as *CDX2*, *ONECUT-2*, and *NKX6-3* (Figures 4C and 4F) (Dusing et al., 2010; Nelson et al., 2005; Pedersen et al., 2005), suggesting a possible role for SOX9 and PDX1 in regulating these genes at the lineage bifurcation of pancreas and gut. Eighteen percent of all PDX1 and SOX9 co-bound genes were not expressed in pancreatic progenitors (Figure 4E), indicating that PDX1 and SOX9 could play a role in gene silencing. Combined, these results suggest cooperative roles for SOX9 and PDX1 in the regulation of pancreatic and intestinal genes.

Based on these findings, we predicted that decreased Pdx1 and Sox9 levels would induce ectopic activation of intestinal genes in the pancreatic domain. To test this, we identified co-regulated genes of both factors through transcriptional profiling of pancreatic progenitors from embryos with reduced *Pdx1* and *Sox9* gene dosage. Given that (1) both pancreatic buds are virtually absent in *Pdx1*;*Sox9* double-homozygous mutants and (2) evidence of genetic interaction in compound *Pdx1*;*Sox9* heterozygous mutants, we reasoned that mRNA profiling of pancreata from compound *Pdx1*;*Sox9* heterozygous mutants versus either single-heterozygous mutant could identify co-regulated genes. Hence, we performed cDNA microarray profiling of dorsal pancreatic epithelia from *Pdx1*^{+/-}, *Pdx1*^{+/-};*Sox9*^{+/ Δ gut}, and *Sox9*^{+/ Δ gut} littermates at E12.5 when the epithelium is still predominantly composed of undifferentiated progenitor cells (Figure 5A).

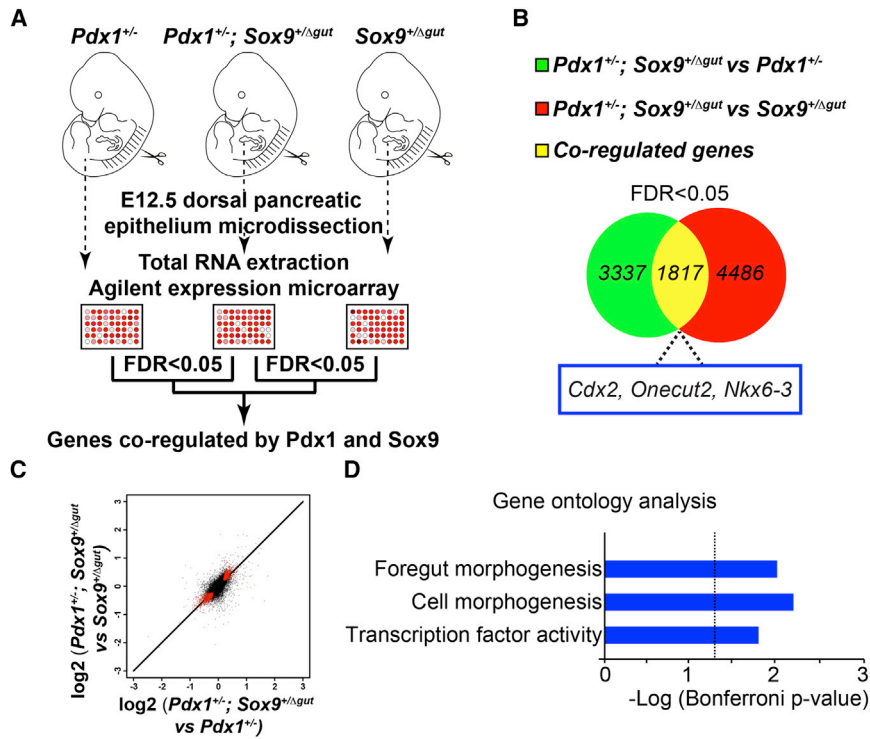


Figure 5. *Pdx1* and *Sox9* Cooperatively Silence Genes Encoding Intestinal Cell Fate Regulators

(A) Illustration of the experimental strategy for gene expression microarray analysis. The mRNA profiles of E12.5 pancreata (n = 12 per genotype) from (1) *Pdx1*^{+/-} versus *Pdx1*^{+/-};*Sox9*^{+/ Δ gut} and (2) *Sox9*^{+/ Δ gut} versus *Pdx1*^{+/-};*Sox9*^{+/ Δ gut} littermates were compared.

(B) A total of 3,337 and 4,486 genes were differentially expressed between (1) and (2), respectively. A total of 1,817 genes were common to both sets of significantly regulated genes (FDR < 0.05) with the same sign of change (i.e., upregulated or downregulated).

(C) *Pdx1*- and *Sox9*-co-regulated genes were identified by cross-comparing mRNA profiles of E12.5 pancreata (n = 12 per genotype) from (1) *Pdx1*^{+/-} versus *Pdx1*^{+/-};*Sox9*^{+/ Δ gut} and (2) *Sox9*^{+/ Δ gut} versus *Pdx1*^{+/-};*Sox9*^{+/ Δ gut} littermates. A total of 1,817 genes (denoted by red pixels) were common to both sets of significantly regulated genes (FDR < 0.05) with the same sign of change.

(D) Gene ontology analysis of the 1,817 *Pdx1*- and *Sox9*-co-regulated genes.

(E) The top 20 *Pdx1*- and *Sox9*-co-repressed genes with the highest fold change.

co-recruitment of PDX1 and SOX9 to their regulatory regions (Figures 4C and 4F; Table S1). These intestinal markers were all upregulated in pancreatic epithelia from compound *Pdx1*;*Sox9* heterozygous mutants, suggesting a synergistic and direct role for *Pdx1* and *Sox9* in repressing genes encoding intestinal lineage regulators.

***Pdx1* and *Sox9* Jointly Control the Pancreatic versus Intestinal Cell Fate Choice**

To determine whether *Pdx1* and *Sox9* indeed control the fate decision between pancreas and intestine, we analyzed the

expression of the intestinal marker *Cdx2* in the pancreatic region of embryos carrying various combinations of the *Pdx1* null and *Sox9* ^{Δ gut} alleles. In control embryos at E10.5, cells of the dorsal pancreatic bud can be identified by high levels of *Pdx1* expression, whereas prospective duodenal cells express the intestinal marker *Cdx2* (Figures 6A–6A'' and 6P). At the duodenal-pancreatic junction, the *Pdx1*^{high} domain forms a boundary with the *Cdx2*⁺ domain; only a few *Pdx1*^{high} cells express *Cdx2* (Figures 6A–6A'' and 6P; note, duodenal precursors express low levels of *Pdx1*; Fukuda et al., 2006). As in control embryos, the *Pdx1*^{high} and *Cdx2*⁺ domains were distinct in embryos deficient for a single copy of either *Pdx1* or *Sox9*, compound *Pdx1*;*Sox9* heterozygous mutant embryos, and *Pdx1* or *Sox9* single-homozygous mutants (Figures 6B–6F''). In stark contrast, immunofluorescence staining for the truncated *Pdx1* protein and *Cdx2* in embryos with a combined homozygous deletion of *Pdx1* and *Sox9*

Comparison of gene expression profiles revealed significant differences in the expression of 3,337 genes (false discovery rate [FDR] < 0.05) between *Pdx1*^{+/-};*Sox9*^{+/ Δ gut} and *Pdx1*^{+/-} pancreatic epithelia and 4,486 genes (FDR < 0.05) between *Pdx1*^{+/-};*Sox9*^{+/ Δ gut} and *Sox9*^{+/ Δ gut} epithelia (Figure 5B; Tables S2 and S3). We then performed a cross-comparison of these two datasets in order to identify *Pdx1*- and *Sox9*-co-regulated genes. A total of 1,817 genes were common to both sets of significantly regulated genes with the same sign of change (i.e., upregulated or downregulated) (Figures 5B and 5C; co-regulated genes are denoted by red pixels in Figure 5C; Table S4) and associated with the GO term foregut morphogenesis (Figure 5D; Table S5). Intriguingly, among the top 20 *Pdx1*- and *Sox9*-co-repressed genes with the highest fold change were several genes encoding intestinal cell fate regulators, including *Cdx2*, *Onecut2*, and *Nkx6.3* (Figure 5E), which also showed

Pdx1- and Sox9-co-repressed genes (Up-regulated genes in <i>Pdx1</i> ^{+/-} ; <i>Sox9</i> ^{+/Δgut})					
Gene Symbol	FDR*	FDR**	Gene Symbol	FDR*	FDR**
<i>Prap1</i>	1.8E-07	1.2E-10	<i>Lars2</i>	5.6E-03	3.7E-02
<i>Sprr2f</i>	7.0E-04	4.8E-03	<i>Itih2</i>	6.4E-06	6.5E-08
<i>D14Ert449e</i>	3.2E-05	1.1E-04	<i>F12</i>	2.6E-07	1.7E-05
<i>Alb1</i>	1.8E-07	1.4E-07	<i>C730009D12</i>	1.2E-03	1.0E-07
<i>Aqp8</i>	9.7E-05	6.1E-05	<i>Centd1</i>	6.5E-03	2.2E-04
<i>Cdx2</i>	9.4E-04	1.5E-03	<i>Myh3</i>	7.2E-03	6.4E-05
<i>Cfb</i>	4.3E-07	8.6E-06	<i>C330003B14</i>	8.0E-05	1.9E-03
<i>Onecut2</i>	2.4E-05	3.6E-09	<i>Nkx6-3</i>	1.9E-02	2.3E-05
<i>Akr1b7</i>	4.7E-06	6.5E-08	<i>Tll2</i>	2.8E-03	6.0E-04
<i>Prdm16</i>	2.0E-03	1.3E-08	<i>Aldob</i>	2.3E-06	3.8E-05

* *Pdx1*^{+/-};*Sox9*^{+/ Δ gut} vs *Pdx1*^{+/-}

** *Pdx1*^{+/-};*Sox9*^{+/ Δ gut} vs *Sox9*^{+/ Δ gut}

revealed extensive overlap between the $Cdx2^+$ and $Pdx1^+$ domains (Figures 6G–6G'', and 6P). Thus, the presence of either $Pdx1$ or $Sox9$ is sufficient to repress the intestinal marker $Cdx2$ in the pancreatic domain, whereas loss of both $Pdx1$ and $Sox9$ results in ectopic $Cdx2$ expression. In contrast, combined $Pdx1$ and $Sox9$ deletion did not result in ectopic expression of the stomach marker $Sox2$ in the $Pdx1^+$ domain (Figures S3A–S3D''), showing that $Pdx1$ and $Sox9$ cooperatively repress intestinal, but not anterior, foregut markers.

To directly test whether $Pdx1$ and $Sox9$ are sufficient to repress the intestinal fate in vivo, we forcibly expressed $Sox9$ in $Pdx1$ -expressing foregut progenitor cells, using a $Pdx1$ -driven tetracycline transactivator mouse ($Pdx1^{TTA}$) and a single copy, tetracycline-regulated $Sox9$ transgene ($mCherry-tetO-Sox9$) inserted into the disabled $Rosa26$ locus ($Rosa26^{mCherry-tetO-Sox9}$) (Figure S3E). In this system, $Sox9$ and the $mCherry$ reporter gene are expressed in the $Pdx1^+$ domain in the absence of doxycycline; administration of doxycycline suppresses transgene expression. In $Pdx1^{TTA};Rosa26^{mCherry-tetO-Sox9}$ ($Sox9^{GOF}$) embryos never exposed to doxycycline, $Sox9$ expression was enforced in $Pdx1^+$ cells of the pancreatic buds, antral stomach, and duodenum (Figures S3F–S3G''). In control embryos, $Sox9$ is detectable in the antral stomach and duodenum, but at much lower levels than in the pancreas (Figures S3F–S3F''). Formation of the pancreatic buds and gross gut morphology in $Sox9^{GOF}$ embryos were comparable to controls (Figures S3H–S3K).

Consistent with previous observations that $Sox9$ reinforces $Pdx1$ expression (Dubois et al., 2011; Seymour et al., 2012), ectopic $Sox9$ expression resulted in increased $Pdx1$ staining intensity in the duodenal domain (Figures 6H–6H''), thus creating an extra-pancreatic $Sox9^{high}/Pdx1^{high}$ domain. In this domain, we observed reduced expression of the intestinal markers $Cdx2$ and $Onecut-2$, showing that the concerted activities of $Pdx1$ and $Sox9$ are sufficient to repress intestinal cell fate determinants (Figures 6J–6M'' and 6P). Notably, despite induction of a $Pdx1^{high}$ state and repression of intestinal markers in $Sox9^{GOF}$ embryos, $Sox9$ overexpression failed to induce $Ptf1a$ in intestinal progenitors (Figures 6N–6O''). Previous work has shown that $Ptf1a$ misexpression in the gut tube induces ectopic pancreas formation (Willett et al., 2014). Consistent with the lack of $Ptf1a$ induction, an ectopic pancreatic bud was not observed in $Sox9^{GOF}$ embryos (Figures 6N–6O''). Combined, these results show that a $Sox9^{high}/Pdx1^{high}$ state prevents foregut endoderm progenitor cells from adopting intestinal lineage identity.

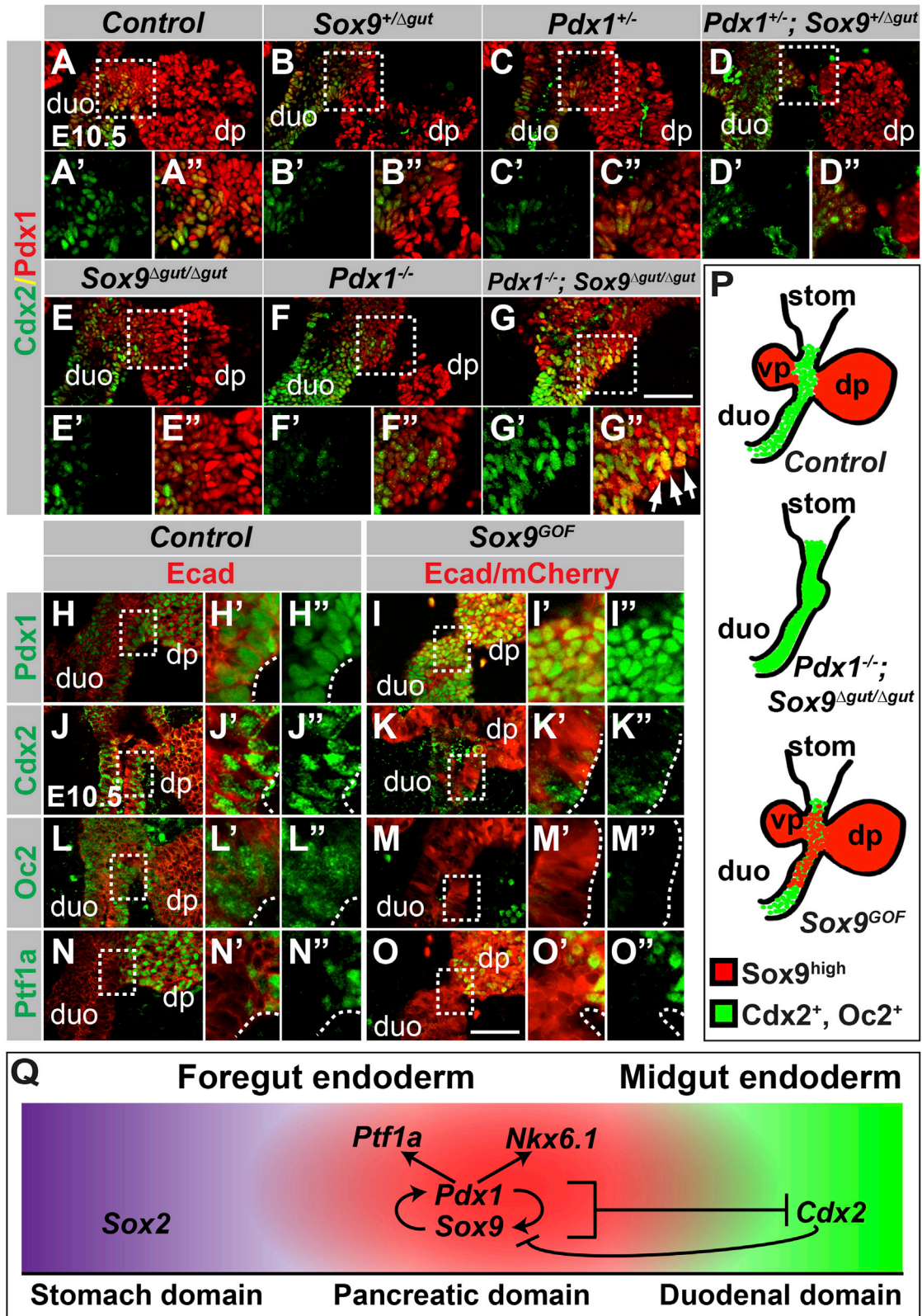
DISCUSSION

In this study, we uncover a cooperative role for $Pdx1$ and $Sox9$ in governing the lineage choice between pancreas and intestine. Our data suggest a model whereby $Pdx1$ and $Sox9$ establish pancreatic lineage identity by excluding intestinal lineage-restricted TFs, such as $Cdx2$, from foregut endoderm progenitor cells (Figure 6Q). Our work further shows that the concerted activities of $Pdx1$ and $Sox9$ induce pancreatic differentiation programs through regulation of the pancreas-specific TFs $Ptf1a$ and $Nkx6.1$. Interestingly, although the TFs $Foxa2$, $Mnx1$, $Onecut-1$, $Tcf2$, $Gata4$, and $Prox1$ are also important in early pancreas

development (Seymour and Sander, 2011; Shih et al., 2013), their expression was not affected by combined $Pdx1$ and $Sox9$ deletion. These findings suggest that $Sox9$ and $Pdx1$ together are essential for driving pancreatic gene expression. The pancreatic program is reinforced by both positive autoregulation of $Pdx1$ (Marshak et al., 2000) and $Sox9$ (Lynn et al., 2007; Mead et al., 2013) and a positive cross-regulatory loop between $Pdx1$ and $Sox9$ (Dubois et al., 2011; Seymour et al., 2012). The mutual reinforcement of expression between $Pdx1$ and $Sox9$ appears to be direct, as $PDX1$ occupied $SOX9$ regulatory sequences and vice versa (Figure S2C). Early pancreatic TFs induce a $Notch^{high}$ state that is important for maintaining the pancreatic state (Ahnfelt-Rønne et al., 2012; Jensen et al., 2000). For example, $Sox9$ and $Ptf1a$ both promote expression of the Notch effector $Hes1$ in the early pancreas, and $Hes1$ in turn reinforces $Ptf1a$ expression (Ahnfelt-Rønne et al., 2012).

Previous studies have shown that a subset of normally pancreas-fated cells adopt intestinal identity in $Ptf1a$ null mutant mice (Kawaguchi et al., 2002). This invokes the question of how $Pdx1$, $Sox9$, and $Ptf1a$ contribute to the gene regulatory network that establishes pancreatic identity and prevents foregut progenitors from becoming intestinal cells. Together with published observations, findings reported here identify $Sox9$ and $Pdx1$ as lying upstream of $Ptf1a$ in the transcriptional regulatory cascade effecting pancreas induction (Figure 6Q). Several observations support this conclusion. First, combined deletion of $Pdx1$ and $Ptf1a$ phenocopies the effects of $Pdx1$ deletion, arguing that $Pdx1$ is required prior to $Ptf1a$ in pancreatic specification (Burlison et al., 2008). Second, we show that $Ptf1a$ is not expressed in the absence of $Sox9$ (Figure S1GG), whereas $Sox9$ and $Pdx1$ induction do not depend on $Ptf1a$ (Seymour et al., 2012). We note that $Sox9$ regulates $Ptf1a$ only during pancreas specification, but not later in pancreas development, when the $Sox9$ and $Ptf1a$ expression domains are distinct (Shih et al., 2012).

It is important to consider that after combined inactivation of $Pdx1$ and $Ptf1a$ in mice or *Xenopus*, the dorsal pancreatic bud still forms and early pancreatic genes are activated (Afeilik et al., 2006; Burlison et al., 2008). Furthermore, we found that despite intestinal fate conversion of some $Ptf1a$ -deficient cells (Kawaguchi et al., 2002), $Cdx2$ remains excluded from the pancreatic domain in $Ptf1a$ null mutants (data not shown). These findings suggest that the pancreatic-to-intestinal boundary is still established in the absence of $Pdx1$ and $Ptf1a$. In contrast, we show that combined deletion of $Sox9$ and $Pdx1$ leads to misspecification of progenitors in the foregut endoderm, converting the pancreatic domain into a $Cdx2$ -expressing intestinal domain (Figure 6G). Moreover, ectopic expression of $Sox9$ in duodenal precursors was sufficient to induce $Pdx1$ and repress $Cdx2$ (Figures 6I and 6K). These findings identify $Sox9$ as a critical early component of the gene regulatory network that governs both the activation of pancreatic genes and the repression of intestinal genes. Consistent with this notion, we found that $SOX9$ occupies genomic regions near genes required for early pancreatic development (i.e., *PTF1A*) as well as intestinal development (i.e., *CDX2*). Mechanistically, our data imply that $Sox9$ can function as either a transcriptional activator or repressor. Such a dual role for $Sox9$ is consistent with its ability to recruit both transcriptional



(legend on next page)

coactivators and corepressors (Lee et al., 2012; Leung et al., 2011).

Of interest is our finding that SOX9 and PDX1 bind to distinct *cis*-regulatory elements within the genome. While PDX1, FOXA2, ONECUT-1, and TCF2 collectively occupy enhancers, SOX9 was predominantly detected in promoter regions, suggesting a unique role for SOX9 in the regulation of gene expression. This observation could be relevant to gene regulatory mechanisms in multiple contexts, as Sox9 controls cell lineage decisions in several tissues, including gonad, lung, and kidney (Reginensi et al., 2011; Rockich et al., 2013; Sekido and Lovell-Badge, 2008). A future direction will be to test whether promoter-specific recruitment of Sox9 is also seen in other tissues and to determine how Sox9 deposition at promoters evokes cooperative effects with tissue-specific TFs bound to enhancers.

EXPERIMENTAL PROCEDURES

Mouse Strains

All animal experiments described herein were approved by the University of California San Diego Institutional Animal Care and Use Committees. The following mouse strains have been previously described: Sox9^{fl^{ox}} (Kist et al., 2002), Pdx1^{LacZ^{KO}} (herein designated Pdx1⁻) (Offield et al., 1996), Foxa3-Cre (Lee et al., 2005), Sox9-CreER (Kopp et al., 2011), Pdx1-CreER (Gu et al., 2002), Prm1-Cre (O’Gorman et al., 1997), Zp3-Cre (de Vries et al., 2000), Pdx1^{IT^A} (Holland et al., 2002), and R26^{mT/mG} (Muzumdar et al., 2007). To generate Sox9 null mice, germline recombination of the Sox9-*lox* allele was employed as previously described (Akiyama et al., 2004). Briefly, Sox9^{fl⁺} mice were bred to carry either the oocyte-specific Zp3-Cre (de Vries et al., 2000) or the spermatid-specific Prm1-Cre (O’Gorman et al., 1997) transgenes. One Sox9 allele was deleted in the oocytes or spermatids of Zp3-Cre; or Prm1-Cre;Sox9^{fl⁺} mice, respectively; these mice were then crossed to obtain Sox9 null embryos. To generate Rosa26^{mCherry-tetO-Sox9} mice, mouse Sox9 coding sequences with MluI and NheI restriction sites on the 5' and 3' ends were generated from E15.5 pancreas by linker-primer PCR. The PCR product was then cloned into MluI and NheI sites of pBR322-hygro-ptight-mcherry, screened for orientation, and confirmed for bidirectionality (primers: Sox9-F MluI, 5'-tcacgcgtATGAATCTCCTGGACCCCTT-3'; Sox9-R NheI, 5'-ggctagcTCAGGGTCTGGTGTGTGT-3'). The bidirectional mCherry-tetO-Sox9 gene was inserted as a single copy transgene into a functionally disabled Rosa26 gene locus using recombinase-mediated cassette exchange as previously described (Chen et al., 2011; Long et al., 2004). Mice bearing the Rosa26^{mCherry-tetO-Sox9} allele were obtained after blastocyst microinjections, chimera matings, and FlpE-mediated removal of an FRT-flanked hygromycin resistance cassette.

A single dose of 2 mg/40 g body weight tamoxifen (Sigma) dissolved at 10 mg/ml in corn oil was administered by intraperitoneal injection. For each

experiment, a minimum of three embryos per genotype was analyzed. Midday on the day of vaginal plug appearance was considered E0.5.

Analysis of ChIP-Seq Data

Raw Illumina sequencing reads were mapped to reference human genomic database (version hg18) using Bowtie (version 1.1.0, <http://bowtie-bio.sourceforge.net/index.shtml>) to generate sam files. Sam files were subsequently converted to tag directories using HOMER (<http://homer.salk.edu/homer/ngs/index.html>). The ChIP-seq peak, peak distribution, and gene annotations were also annotated by HOMER analysis. Input sequencing data were used to normalize background reads for peak calling. Overlapping peaks were determined using the table browser function on the University of California Santa Cruz (UCSC) Genome Browser website, with minimum of 1-bp overlap. A 200-kb window was used to identify genes associated with the peaks.

Transcription factor binding to a promoter was determined by presence of a ChIP-seq peak within 20-kb upstream and 5-kb downstream of a transcriptional start site (TSS) of an annotated gene. Transcription factor binding to an enhancer was determined based on a minimum of 1-bp overlap between a transcription factor ChIP-seq peak and a predicted enhancer (defined as \pm 500 bp from the center of the enhancer using the enhancer prediction tool; Rajagopal et al., 2013). We assigned PDX1-bound enhancers to nearest genes using GREAT (version 2.0, <http://bejerano.stanford.edu/great/public/html/>) with a basal plus 200-kb extension rule setting. In Figures 4C–4E, PDX1-bound genes were defined as genes with PDX1 binding at either promoters or enhancers corresponding to the gene. Since SOX9 did not exhibit significant enrichment at enhancers, SOX9-bound genes were defined as genes with SOX9 binding at promoters. Conserved regions were identified using the vista point tool comparing human to mouse (Frazer et al., 2004).

Gene ontology analysis was performed using the web tool DAVID Functional Annotation Bioinformatics Database (<http://david.abcc.ncifcrf.gov/home.jsp>) (Huang et al., 2009). The complete set of all RefSeq genes was used as a background.

ChIP-seq data for FOXA2, TCF2, and ONECUT-1 in hESC-derived pancreatic progenitors have been previously described (Weedon et al., 2014).

Principal Component Analysis

The quality of the RNA sequencing data was analyzed using the FastQC v0.10.1 software. Once the samples passed quality control, they were aligned to the hg19 genome using RNA-Star 2.3.0e, with the parameters set to default. After alignment, Sailfish 0.6.3 and Cufflinks 2.2.0 were used to determine gene expression values. Datasets incorporating multivariate sequencing information (commonly gene expression values or splicing scores) were analyzed via the dimensionality reduction method principal component analysis (PCA) with the intention of uncovering features of the data that can explain variation within the dataset and as a visual summary of the sample data. The data were stored in pandas dataframes (pandas Python package v0.14.1) and visualized using Matplotlib v0.13.

A detailed description of all methods is available in the [Supplemental Experimental Procedures](#).

Figure 6. Pdx1 and Sox9 Are Necessary and Sufficient to Repress the Intestinal Lineage Choice

(A–G) Immunofluorescence analysis for Pdx1 and Cdx2 on E10.5 embryos carrying various combinations of Pdx1 and Sox9 mutant alleles. In compound Pdx1;Sox9 heterozygous mutant or Pdx1 or Sox9 single-homozygous mutant embryos, Cdx2 expression is restricted to duodenal precursors and excluded from the Pdx1^{high} dorsal pancreas (A–F). In Pdx1^{-/-};Sox9^{Δgut/Δgut} embryos, a duodenal-pancreatic junction is not discernible, and Pdx1 and Cdx2 are co-expressed in a broad domain (arrows in G').

(H–O) Immunofluorescence staining of sections from Sox9^{GOF} and control littermates shows repression of the intestinal markers Cdx2 (J and K) and OneCut-2 (Oc2; L and M) in mCherry⁺ duodenal precursors in Sox9^{GOF} mice. Pdx1 is upregulated (H and I), but Ptf1a is not induced (N and O) in duodenal precursors in Sox9^{GOF} embryos.

Fields demarcated by dashed boxes in (A)–(O) are shown at higher magnification in (A')–(O').

(P) Summary of the phenotypes observed after combined Pdx1 and Sox9 deletion or Sox9 overexpression.

(Q) Graphical model summary. Our data support a model whereby Pdx1 and Sox9 cooperatively specify the pancreatic lineage by inducing the pancreatic transcription factors Nkx6.1 and Ptf1a and repressing the duodenal transcription factor Cdx2. A positive regulatory loop between Pdx1 and Sox9 maintains the pancreatic fate choice. Repression of Sox9 by Cdx2 creates bistability of the fate choice (Gao et al., 2009).

dp, dorsal pancreatic bud; vp, ventral pancreatic bud; duo, duodenum; stom, stomach. Scale bar represents 50 μ m.

ACCESSION NUMBERS

The NCBI GEO (<http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/geo/>) accession numbers for next generation sequencing data reported in this paper are GSE61945: human fetal pancreas transcriptome analysis; GSE61946: hESC-derived liver progenitor cell transcriptome analysis; GSE61947: SOX9 cistrome analysis in hESC-derived pancreatic progenitors. The accession number for the MIAME-Compliant Microarray Data set reported in this paper is NCBI GEO: GSE62023: identification of Sox9/Pdx1-coregulated genes during pancreas organogenesis.

SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION

Supplemental Information includes Supplemental Experimental Procedures, three figures, six tables, and one movie and can be found with this article online at <http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.celrep.2015.08.082>.

AUTHOR CONTRIBUTIONS

H.P.S., P.A.S., and M.S. conceived the project. H.P.S., P.A.S., and M.S. designed the experiments and analyzed the data. H.P.S. and P.A.S. performed all analyses of mouse genetic models. R.X. and A.W. performed ChIP-seq experiments. N.A.P. and A.W. analyzed ChIP-seq data. P.P.L. and G.W.Y. performed PCA. M.A.M. designed and generated the *Rosa26^{mCherry-tetO-Sox9}* mouse strain. H.P.S., P.A.S., and M.S. wrote the manuscript.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

We are grateful to G. Scherer, K. Kaestner, R. MacDonald, D. Melton, and C. Wright for mouse strains, and R. Behringer and H. Chang for Sox9 null embryos. We also thank M. Wegner, C. Wright, B. Bréant, J. Kehrl, and F. Lemaire for antibodies, M. Jørgensen for expert assistance with confocal imaging, B. Armstrong for expert assistance with 3D image rendering, and P. Serup for support. We acknowledge the Core Facility for Integrated Microscopy, Faculty of Health and Medical Sciences, University of Copenhagen. We acknowledge the support of the UC San Diego Biogen Core Facility for microarray analyses, the University of Pennsylvania Functional Genomics Core for ChIP-seq analysis, Q. Zhang and the Vanderbilt Transgenic Mouse/ESC Shared Resource for deriving *Rosa26^{mCherry-tetO-Sox9}* mice, and the Washington Birth Defects Research Laboratory for human fetal pancreas. We thank members of the Sander laboratory for constructive comments on the manuscript. We apologize to our colleagues whose references were omitted because of space constraints. This work was supported by NIH/NIDDK awards to M.S. (DK078803, DK68471, and DK089567) and M.A.M. (DK89523), JDRF postdoctoral fellowships to P.A.S. (3-2004-608), H.P.S. (3-2009-161), A.W. (3-2012-177), and the California Institute for Regenerative Medicine training grant TG2-01154 to N.A.P. and R.X.

Received: February 2, 2015

Revised: July 10, 2015

Accepted: August 29, 2015

Published: October 1, 2015

REFERENCES

- Afelik, S., Chen, Y., and Pieler, T. (2006). Combined ectopic expression of Pdx1 and Ptf1a/p48 results in the stable conversion of posterior endoderm into endocrine and exocrine pancreatic tissue. *Genes Dev.* 20, 1441–1446.
- Ahnfelt-Ronne, J., Jørgensen, M.C., Klinck, R., Jensen, J.N., Füchtbauer, E.M., Deering, T., MacDonald, R.J., Wright, C.V., Madsen, O.D., and Serup, P. (2012). Ptf1a-mediated control of Dll1 reveals an alternative to the lateral inhibition mechanism. *Development* 139, 33–45.
- Akiyama, H., Chaboissier, M.C., Behringer, R.R., Rowitch, D.H., Schedl, A., Epstein, J.A., and de Crombrughe, B. (2004). Essential role of Sox9 in the pathway that controls formation of cardiac valves and septa. *Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA* 101, 6502–6507.
- Burlison, J.S., Long, Q., Fujitani, Y., Wright, C.V., and Magnuson, M.A. (2008). Pdx-1 and Ptf1a concurrently determine fate specification of pancreatic multipotent progenitor cells. *Dev. Biol.* 316, 74–86.
- Calo, E., and Wysocka, J. (2013). Modification of enhancer chromatin: what, how, and why? *Mol. Cell* 49, 825–837.
- Carrasco, M., Delgado, I., Soria, B., Martín, F., and Rojas, A. (2012). GATA4 and GATA6 control mouse pancreas organogenesis. *J. Clin. Invest.* 122, 3504–3515.
- Chen, S.X., Osipovich, A.B., Ustione, A., Potter, L.A., Hipkens, S., Gangula, R., Yuan, W., Piston, D.W., and Magnuson, M.A. (2011). Quantification of factors influencing fluorescent protein expression using RMCE to generate an allelic series in the ROSA26 locus in mice. *Dis. Model. Mech.* 4, 537–547.
- de Vries, W.N., Binns, L.T., Fancher, K.S., Dean, J., Moore, R., Kemler, R., and Knowles, B.B. (2000). Expression of Cre recombinase in mouse oocytes: a means to study maternal effect genes. *Genesis* 26, 110–112.
- Dubois, C.L., Shih, H.P., Seymour, P.A., Patel, N.A., Behrman, J.M., Ngo, V., and Sander, M. (2011). Sox9-haploinsufficiency causes glucose intolerance in mice. *PLoS ONE* 6, e23131.
- Dusing, M.R., Maier, E.A., Aronow, B.J., and Wiginton, D.A. (2010). *Onecut-2* knockout mice fail to thrive during early postnatal period and have altered patterns of gene expression in small intestine. *Physiol. Genomics* 42, 115–125.
- Frazer, K.A., Pachter, L., Poliakov, A., Rubin, E.M., and Dubchak, I. (2004). VISTA: computational tools for comparative genomics. *Nucleic Acids Res.* 32, W273–279.
- Fukuda, A., Kawaguchi, Y., Furuyama, K., Kodama, S., Horiguchi, M., Kuhara, T., Koizumi, M., Boyer, D.F., Fujimoto, K., Doi, R., et al. (2006). Ectopic pancreas formation in *Hes1* -knockout mice reveals plasticity of endodermal progenitors of the gut, bile duct, and pancreas. *J. Clin. Invest.* 116, 1484–1493.
- Gao, N., White, P., and Kaestner, K.H. (2009). Establishment of intestinal identity and epithelial-mesenchymal signaling by *Cdx2*. *Dev. Cell* 16, 588–599.
- Gu, G., Dubauskaite, J., and Melton, D.A. (2002). Direct evidence for the pancreatic lineage: NGN3+ cells are islet progenitors and are distinct from duct progenitors. *Development* 129, 2447–2457.
- Harrison, K.A., Thaler, J., Pfaff, S.L., Gu, H., and Kehrl, J.H. (1999). Pancreas dorsal lobe agenesis and abnormal islets of Langerhans in *Hlx9*-deficient mice. *Nat. Genet.* 23, 71–75.
- Haumaitre, C., Barbacci, E., Jenny, M., Ott, M.O., Gradwohl, G., and Cereghini, S. (2005). Lack of TCF2/vHNF1 in mice leads to pancreas agenesis. *Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA* 102, 1490–1495.
- Holland, A.M., Hale, M.A., Kagami, H., Hammer, R.E., and MacDonald, R.J. (2002). Experimental control of pancreatic development and maintenance. *Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA* 99, 12236–12241.
- Holmberg, J., and Perlmann, T. (2012). Maintaining differentiated cellular identity. *Nat. Rev. Genet.* 13, 429–439.
- Huang, W., Sherman, B.T., and Lempicki, R.A. (2009). Systematic and integrative analysis of large gene lists using DAVID bioinformatics resources. *Nat. Protoc.* 4, 44–57.
- Jacquemin, P., Durviaux, S.M., Jensen, J., Godfraind, C., Gradwohl, G., Guillemot, F., Madsen, O.D., Carmeliet, P., Dewerchin, M., Collen, D., et al. (2000). Transcription factor hepatocyte nuclear factor 6 regulates pancreatic endocrine cell differentiation and controls expression of the proendocrine gene *ngn3*. *Mol. Cell Biol.* 20, 4445–4454.
- Jensen, J., Pedersen, E.E., Galante, P., Hald, J., Heller, R.S., Ishibashi, M., Kagayama, R., Guillemot, F., Serup, P., and Madsen, O.D. (2000). Control of endodermal endocrine development by *Hes-1*. *Nat. Genet.* 24, 36–44.
- Kawaguchi, Y., Cooper, B., Gannon, M., Ray, M., MacDonald, R.J., and Wright, C.V. (2002). The role of the transcriptional regulator Ptf1a in converting intestinal to pancreatic progenitors. *Nat. Genet.* 32, 128–134.
- Kist, R., Schrewe, H., Balling, R., and Scherer, G. (2002). Conditional inactivation of Sox9: a mouse model for campomelic dysplasia. *Genesis* 32, 121–123.
- Kopp, J.L., Dubois, C.L., Schaffer, A.E., Hao, E., Shih, H.-P., Seymour, P.A., Ma, J., and Sander, M. (2011). Sox9+ ductal cells are multipotent progenitors

- throughout development but do not produce new endocrine cells in the normal or injured adult pancreas. *Development* **138**, 653–665.
- Lee, C.S., Sund, N.J., Behr, R., Herrera, P.L., and Kaestner, K.H. (2005). Foxa2 is required for the differentiation of pancreatic alpha-cells. *Dev. Biol.* **278**, 484–495.
- Lee, P.C., Taylor-Jaffe, K.M., Nordin, K.M., Prasad, M.S., Lander, R.M., and LaBonne, C. (2012). SUMOylated SoxE factors recruit Grg4 and function as transcriptional repressors in the neural crest. *J. Cell Biol.* **198**, 799–813.
- Leung, V.Y., Gao, B., Leung, K.K., Melhado, I.G., Wynn, S.L., Au, T.Y., Dung, N.W., Lau, J.Y., Mak, A.C., Chan, D., and Cheah, K.S. (2011). SOX9 governs differentiation stage-specific gene expression in growth plate chondrocytes via direct concomitant transactivation and repression. *PLoS Genet.* **7**, e1002356.
- Long, Q., Shelton, K.D., Lindner, J., Jones, J.R., and Magnuson, M.A. (2004). Efficient DNA cassette exchange in mouse embryonic stem cells by staggered positive-negative selection. *Genesis* **39**, 256–262.
- Lynn, F.C., Smith, S.B., Wilson, M.E., Yang, K.Y., Nekrep, N., and German, M.S. (2007). Sox9 coordinates a transcriptional network in pancreatic progenitor cells. *Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA* **104**, 10500–10505.
- Marshak, S., Benshushan, E., Shoshkes, M., Havin, L., Cerasi, E., and Melloul, D. (2000). Functional conservation of regulatory elements in the *pdx-1* gene: PDX-1 and hepatocyte nuclear factor 3beta transcription factors mediate beta-cell-specific expression. *Mol. Cell. Biol.* **20**, 7583–7590.
- McCracken, K.W., Catá, E.M., Crawford, C.M., Sinagoga, K.L., Schumacher, M., Rockich, B.E., Tsai, Y.H., Mayhew, C.N., Spence, J.R., Zavros, Y., and Wells, J.M. (2014). Modelling human development and disease in pluripotent stem-cell-derived gastric organoids. *Nature* **516**, 400–404.
- Mead, T.J., Wang, Q., Bhattaram, P., Dy, P., Afelik, S., Jensen, J., and Lefebvre, V. (2013). A far-upstream (–70 kb) enhancer mediates Sox9 auto-regulation in somatic tissues during development and adult regeneration. *Nucleic Acids Res.* **41**, 4459–4469.
- Muzumdar, M.D., Tasic, B., Miyamichi, K., Li, L., and Luo, L. (2007). A global double-fluorescent Cre reporter mouse. *Genesis* **45**, 593–605.
- Nelson, S.B., Janiesch, C., and Sander, M. (2005). Expression of Nkx6 genes in the hindbrain and gut of the developing mouse. *J. Histochem. Cytochem.* **53**, 787–790.
- O’Gorman, S., Dagenais, N.A., Qian, M., and Marchuk, Y. (1997). Protamine-Cre recombinase transgenes efficiently recombine target sequences in the male germ line of mice, but not in embryonic stem cells. *Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA* **94**, 14602–14607.
- Offield, M.F., Jetton, T.L., Labosky, P.A., Ray, M., Stein, R.W., Magnuson, M.A., Hogan, B.L., and Wright, C.V. (1996). PDX-1 is required for pancreatic outgrowth and differentiation of the rostral duodenum. *Development* **122**, 983–995.
- Pedersen, J.K., Nelson, S.B., Jorgensen, M.C., Henseleit, K.D., Fujitani, Y., Wright, C.V., Sander, M., and Serup, P.; Beta Cell Biology Consortium (2005). Endodermal expression of Nkx6 genes depends differentially on Pdx1. *Dev. Biol.* **288**, 487–501.
- Rajagopal, N., Xie, W., Li, Y., Wagner, U., Wang, W., Stamatoyannopoulos, J., Ernst, J., Kellis, M., and Ren, B. (2013). RFECs: a random-forest based algorithm for enhancer identification from chromatin state. *PLoS Comput. Biol.* **9**, e1002968.
- Reginensi, A., Clarkson, M., Neirijnck, Y., Lu, B., Ohshima, T., Groves, A.K., Sock, E., Wegner, M., Costantini, F., Chaboissier, M.C., and Schedl, A. (2011). SOX9 controls epithelial branching by activating RET effector genes during kidney development. *Hum. Mol. Genet.* **20**, 1143–1153.
- Rockich, B.E., Hrycaj, S.M., Shih, H.P., Nagy, M.S., Ferguson, M.A., Kopp, J.L., Sander, M., Wellik, D.M., and Spence, J.R. (2013). Sox9 plays multiple roles in the lung epithelium during branching morphogenesis. *Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA* **110**, E4456–4464.
- Schaffer, A.E., Freude, K.K., Nelson, S.B., and Sander, M. (2010). Nkx6 transcription factors and Ptf1a function as antagonistic lineage determinants in multipotent pancreatic progenitors. *Dev. Cell* **18**, 1022–1029.
- Sekido, R., and Lovell-Badge, R. (2008). Sex determination involves synergistic action of SRY and SF1 on a specific Sox9 enhancer. *Nature* **453**, 930–934.
- Seymour, P.A., and Sander, M. (2011). Historical perspective: beginnings of the beta-cell: current perspectives in beta-cell development. *Diabetes* **60**, 364–376.
- Seymour, P.A., Freude, K.K., Tran, M.N., Mayes, E.E., Jensen, J., Kist, R., Scherer, G., and Sander, M. (2007). SOX9 is required for maintenance of the pancreatic progenitor cell pool. *Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA* **104**, 1865–1870.
- Seymour, P.A., Freude, K.K., Dubois, C.L., Shih, H.P., Patel, N.A., and Sander, M. (2008). A dosage-dependent requirement for Sox9 in pancreatic endocrine cell formation. *Dev. Biol.* **323**, 19–30.
- Seymour, P.A., Shih, H.P., Patel, N.A., Freude, K.K., Xie, R., Lim, C.J., and Sander, M. (2012). A Sox9/Fgf feed-forward loop maintains pancreatic organ identity. *Development* **139**, 3363–3372.
- Sherwood, R.I., Chen, T.Y., and Melton, D.A. (2009). Transcriptional dynamics of endodermal organ formation. *Dev. Dyn.* **238**, 29–42.
- Shih, H.P., Kopp, J.L., Sandhu, M., Dubois, C.L., Seymour, P.A., Grapin-Botton, A., and Sander, M. (2012). A Notch-dependent molecular circuitry initiates pancreatic endocrine and ductal cell differentiation. *Development* **139**, 2488–2499.
- Shih, H.P., Wang, A., and Sander, M. (2013). Pancreas organogenesis: from lineage determination to morphogenesis. *Annu. Rev. Cell Dev. Biol.* **29**, 81–105.
- Spitz, F., and Furlong, E.E. (2012). Transcription factors: from enhancer binding to developmental control. *Nat. Rev. Genet.* **13**, 613–626.
- Verzi, M.P., Shin, H., Ho, L.L., Liu, X.S., and Shivdasani, R.A. (2011). Essential and redundant functions of caudal family proteins in activating adult intestinal genes. *Mol. Cell. Biol.* **31**, 2026–2039.
- Wang, J., Kilic, G., Aydin, M., Burke, Z., Oliver, G., and Sosa-Pineda, B. (2005). Prox1 activity controls pancreas morphogenesis and participates in the production of “secondary transition” pancreatic endocrine cells. *Dev. Biol.* **286**, 182–194.
- Wang, A., Yue, F., Li, Y., Xie, R., Harper, T., Patel, N.A., Muth, K., Palmer, J., Qiu, Y., Wang, J., et al. (2015). Epigenetic priming of enhancers predicts developmental competence of hESC-derived endodermal lineage intermediates. *Cell Stem Cell* **16**, 386–399.
- Weedon, M.N., Cebola, I., Patch, A.M., Flanagan, S.E., De Franco, E., Caswell, R., Rodríguez-Seguí, S.A., Shaw-Smith, C., Cho, C.H., Lango Allen, H., et al.; International Pancreatic Agenesis Consortium (2014). Recessive mutations in a distal PTF1A enhancer cause isolated pancreatic agenesis. *Nat. Genet.* **46**, 61–64.
- Willet, S.G., Hale, M.A., Grapin-Botton, A., Magnuson, M.A., MacDonald, R.J., and Wright, C.V. (2014). Dominant and context-specific control of endodermal organ allocation by Ptf1a. *Development* **141**, 4385–4394.
- Xie, R., Everett, L.J., Lim, H.W., Patel, N.A., Schug, J., Kroon, E., Kelly, O.G., Wang, A., D’Amour, K.A., Robins, A.J., et al. (2013). Dynamic chromatin remodeling mediated by polycomb proteins orchestrates pancreatic differentiation of human embryonic stem cells. *Cell Stem Cell* **12**, 224–237.
- Xuan, S., Borok, M.J., Decker, K.J., Battle, M.A., Duncan, S.A., Hale, M.A., Macdonald, R.J., and Sussel, L. (2012). Pancreas-specific deletion of mouse Gata4 and Gata6 causes pancreatic agenesis. *J. Clin. Invest.* **122**, 3516–3528.
- Zaret, K.S. (2008). Genetic programming of liver and pancreas progenitors: lessons for stem-cell differentiation. *Nat. Rev. Genet.* **9**, 329–340.