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Supplemental information

The Janus kinase 1 is critical for

pancreatic cancer initiation and progression

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Supplemental Figure S1. Elevated activation of STAT3 in untransformed pancreatic exocrine cells in the vicinity of primary tumors, Related to Figure 1

A. Relative normalized expression of JAK1 and JAK2 as well as tyrosine phosphorylated STAT3 and STAT1 in human pancreatic cancer cell lines (n=9) in comparison to the average value of two untransformed normal pancreatic cell lysates (HPNE1a/1b in Fig. 1A). The densitometry results for the individual JAK/STAT proteins from three immunoblots were normalized to the corresponding loading controls (beta-actin, ACTB). The bars represent the average expression from three technical repeats $(\pm SD)$ in comparison to the protein levels in HPNE cells. Statistical significance was calculated with unpaired ttests and *P*-values <0.05 (*), <0.01 (**), <0.001 (***), and <0.0001 (****) were considered statistically significant. **B.** Left: quantitative analysis of nuclear STAT3 expression on 29 pancreatic cancer cases, 20 normal pancreatic tissues adjacent to primary tumors (NAT), as well as 5 normal control pancreata. Right: immunofluorescent staining of tyrosine phosphorylated STAT3 (red) along with pan-cytokeratin (panCK, green) illustrating the presence of active STAT3 in pancreatic cancer cells (bottom) and a subset of normal cells adjacent to the primary tumors (middle). Active STAT3 was absent in most exocrine cells of normal pancreata (top). Slides were counterstained with DAPI; bars, 100 μm.

Supplemental Figure S2. Lack of oncogenic KrasG12D-indcued pancreatic tumor initiation in Pdx1- Cre-mediated JAK1 conditional knockout mice, Related to Figure 2

A. H&E-stained histologic sections of pancreata from 3- and 6-month-old transgenic mice that express mutant KRAS^{G12D} in a tissue-specific and constitutive manner under the doxycycline-controlled transactivator (Pdx1-Cre CAG-LSL-tTA TetO-Kras^{G12D}) in a JAK1 wildtype (upper panel) or a JAK1 conditional knockout background (lower panel); bars, 100 μm. Note that the deletion of JAK1 and activation of the CAG promoter-driven transactivator (tTA) and oncogenic KRAS (TetO-Kras^{G12D}) in this model are codependent on the expression of the Pdx1-Cre. Consequently, the deletion of JAK1 occurs prior to neoplastic progression and a selective elimination of JAK1-deficient cells will likely eradicate cells that express the cancer-initiating oncogene. **B.** Representative stereoscopic brightfield and GFP fluorescent images of pancreata from adult mice that carry a GFP-based Cre/lox reporter (CAG-LSL-GFP) in addition to the Pdx1-Cre transgene in the presence of one or two *Jak1* conditional knockout alleles; bar, 0.5 cm. Note the significant reduction in GFP fluorescence in the Pdx1-Cre CAG-LSL-GFP transgenic mouse carrying two *Jak1* conditional knockout alleles (*Jak1fl/fl*) in comparison to its litter mate control expressing JAK1 (*Jak1fl/wt*) which is indicative of a selection against JAK1 knockout cells.

Supplemental Figure S3. A dual recombinase approach facilitates the activation of oncogenic KRAS and the conditional knockout of JAK1 in a temporally controlled manner, Related to Figure 2

A. Graphic illustration of the dual recombinase approach to coactivate oncogenic KRAS from its engineered endogenous locus (*FSF-Kras^{G12D}*) and tamoxifen-inducible Cre recombinase (Cre^{ERT2}) in pancreatic cells expressing the Pdx1-Flp transgene. The administration of tamoxifen (Tam) facilitates the conditional knockout of JAK1 in a ligand-inducible and temporally controlled manner. This feature allows the deletion of JAK1 in adolescent and adult mice independent of the initiation of KRAS^{G12D}-induced tumorigenesis. Expression of GFP from the Cre/lox reporter transgene (CAG-LSL-GFP) can be used to monitor the Flpmediated expression and functionality of CreERT2 following the administration of Tam. **B.** H&E-stained histologic sections of pancreata from untreated (-Tam) or tamoxifen-treated (+Tam) mice that carry the Pdx1-Flp, *Rosa26CAG-FSF-CreERT2*, and CAG-LSL-GFP transgenes in the presence of two *Jak1* conditional knockout alleles (*Jak1fl/fl*), demonstrating the absence of obvious developmental defects following administration of Tam and deletion of JAK1.

A

B

Supplemental Figure S4. Low-grade PanINs deficient in JAK1 have a significantly reduced proliferation rate, Related to Figure 2

A. Low-magnification images of H&E-stained histologic sections of pancreata highlighting the widespread differences in the histopathology between a JAK1 conditional knockout $(Jak)^{f/f/f}$ + Tam) and a JAK1 expressing control animal $(JakI^{j\ell_{wt}} + \text{Tam})$ at 1 year of age, bars, 500 µm. **B**. Immunofluorescent staining of Ki-67 and GFP in pancreatic precursor lesions of the tissues shown in panel A. Blue arrows indicate the location of proliferating cells within GFP-positive (i.e., Cre^{ERT}-expressing) preneoplastic epithelial cells. DAPI was used as counterstain; bars, 50 μm. Note that the columnar cells of low-grade PanINs in JAK1 deficient mice are almost completely devoid of nuclear Ki-67 (*Jak* $I^{f/f}$ + Tam). The box plot of panel B illustrates the statistically significant difference in the relative number of Ki-67-positive nuclei between the JAK1 knockout and wildtype control. Ki-67-positive-nuclei in wildtype control are graphically represented by minimum = 2.381%, maximum = 58.82%, median = 26.19%, 25th percentile = 17.68%, 75th percentile = 35.94%, and the Ki-67-positive-nuclei in JAK1 knockout PanINs were graphically represented by minimum = 0.0% , maximum = 20% , median = 0.3571% , 25th percentile = 0.0% , 75th percentile = 4.082% . The statistical significance was calculated with a two-sided unpaired t-test, resulting in a *P*-value of < 0.0001 .

S DNA ladder

PDAC Metastases

M1 Adrenal gland tumor

M2 Adrenal gland tumor

Controls

C1 no DNA

 $C₂$ *Jak1 fl/fl*

C3 Jak1 -/- **Supplemental Figure S5. PCR analysis to determine the presence of the unrecombined and Cremediated knockout alleles of** *Jak1* **in micro-dissected cancer cells from PDAC metastases to the adrenal glands of two JAK1 conditional knockout mice, Related to Figure 3**

Note the absence or incomplete deletion of *Jak1* in both specimens. DNA control samples (C2, C3) were obtained from isogeneic pancreatic tumor cell lines before and after a retroviral-mediated deletion of both *Jak1* alleles.

Supplemental Figure S6. Isogenic mouse pancreatic tumor cell lines with and without JAK1 reveal a pivotal role for JAK1 in the constitutive activation of STAT3 and STAT1, Related to Figure 4

A. PCR assay to validate the presence of the Flp-activated *KrasG12D* allele in the parental pancreatic tumor cell lines (n=6). **B.**-**E.** Immunoblot analyses to assess the lack of JAK1 in cells expressing Cre recombinase as well as resulting changes in STAT3 and STAT1 activation at steady-state (B) or in response to Oncostatin M (OSM) stimulation (C-E). Note the low abundance of STAT3/1 heterodimers at the time of highest STAT activation following 15 minutes of OSM treatment (D,E). **F**. JAK1 is essential for the interferon gamma (IFNg)-mediated activation of STAT1. GAPDH and ACTB were used as loading controls on all immunoblots. **G**. Viable cells count in monolayer cultures of two isogenic tumor cell lines with and without JAK1. The data points shown represent mean values of cell counts ±SD. Statistical significance was calculated for each time point with t-tests; P-values <0.05 (*) and <0.01 (**).

Supplemental Figure S7. Cytokine response studies to assess the activation of STAT5 and STAT6 in isogenic pancreatic cancer cell lines with and without JAK1, Related to Figure 4

A., **C.** Immunoblot analyses to determine the activation of STAT5 and STAT6 in response to stimulation with IL-4, IL-13, OSM, and hGH. Negative and positive controls (NC, PC) in panel A were mouse pancreatic cancer cells before and after stimulation with hGH (pSTAT5) and IL-4 (pSTAT6). MCF7 cells served as a control for the hGH-mediated activation of human STAT5 in panel C. Beta-actin (ACTB) was used as a loading control on all immunoblots. **B**., **D**. Immunofluorescent staining of active STAT5 in engrafted mouse (B) and human (D) pancreatic cancer cells with a targeted deletion of JAK1 and their parental JAK1-expressing controls. Mammary gland tissues from lactating mice served as controls. Note that JAK1 deficiency and consequential loss of STAT1, 3, and 6 activation does not lead to a compensatory activation of STAT5 *in vitro* and *in vivo*. Unlike human MCF7 breast cancer cells, MIA PaCa-2 pancreatic cancer cells are unresponsive to growth hormone to activate STAT5.

Supplemental Figure S8. The generation of human pancreatic cancer cell lines with a CRISPR/Cas9 mediated knockout of the *JAK1* **gene, Related to Figures 4**

A. Viable cell counts of parental MIA PaCa-2 and AsPC-1 cells and their unselected (i.e., pooled) JAK1 deficient derivatives following a CRISPR/Cas9-mediated knockout of *JAK1*. The data points shown represent mean values of cell counts ±SD. Statistical significance was calculated for each time point with t-tests; P-values <0.05 (*) and <0.01 (**). **B.** and **C.** Immunoblot analyses to assess the efficiency of the JAK1 knockout in MIA PaCa-2 and AsPC-1 cells (pooled cells) and STAT3 activation in clonal derivatives. GAPDH was used as a loading control.

Supplemental Fig. S9

Supplemental Figure S9. The expression and activation of MAP kinase and PI3 kinase signaling are not significantly altered in mouse and human pancreatic cancer cells, Related to Figure 6

A. and **B.** Immunoblot analyses to assess the activation of ERK1/2 and AKT in four isogenic mouse PDAC cell lines before and after Cre-mediated deletion of *Jak1* (A) as well as three human pancreatic cancer cell lines (B) with a gene-edited excision of *JAK1* (AsPC-1, MIA PaCa-2) or shRNA-mediated knockdown of this Janus kinase in a doxycycline (Dox)-dependent manner (PANC-1). **C.** and **D.** Expression analysis of the catalytic and regulatory subunits of the PI3 kinase in mouse (C) and human (D) pancreatic cancer cells with and without JAK1. Actin (ACTB) served as a loading control. Mammary gland tissues from lactating (L10, lactation day 10) and involuting mice (I3, involution day 3) served as controls. Note the significant upregulation of p50/p55 during mammary gland involution but the complete absence of these PI3K subunits in all mouse (n=4 biological replicates) and human pancreatic cancer cell lines (n=3 biological replicates).

Supplemental Figure S10. Lack of JAK1/STAT signaling does not affect common regulators of cellular plasticity, Related to Figure 6

Immunoblot analyses to assess the expression of epithelial and mesenchymal markers or transcription factors that are known regulators of cellular plasticity in four isogenic mouse PDAC cell lines before and after Cre-mediated deletion of *Jak1* (**A**) as well as three human pancreatic cancer cell lines (**B**) with a geneedited excision of *JAK1* (AsPC-1, MIA PaCa-2) or shRNA-mediated knockdown of this Janus kinase in a doxycycline (Dox)-dependent manner (PANC-1, AsPC-1). Actin (ACTB) served as a loading control.

Supplemental Figure S11. RNA sequencing analysis to assess the heterogeneity of expression profiles between mouse pancreatic cancer cell lines and to determine differences in gene expression caused by the knockout of JAK1, Related to Figure 6

A. Multi-dimensional scaling (MDS) plot of RNA-sequencing data of six isogenic pairs of mouse pancreatic cancer cell lines before and after Cre-mediated deletion of JAK1. Note the close location of isogenic lines on the plot, suggesting that gene expression differences between tumor cell lines from different mice are greater than the differences in each isogenic cell line pair caused by JAK1 deficiency. **B.** Plot illustrating the differential gene expression landscape resulting from the paired RNA-seq analysis of the parental cell lines and their JAK1 knockout derivatives.

Supplemental Figure S12. C/EBPδ is upregulated in human high-grade pancreatic intraepithelial neoplasia and in 6 out of 9 human pancreatic cancer cell lines that are commonly used in research, Related to Figure 7

A. Left: H&E-stained histologic sections of low-grade and high-grade human pancreatic intraepithelial neoplasia; bars, 100 μm. Right: corresponding immunofluorescent images of C/EBPδ (CEBPD) and cytokeratin 19 (CK19); bars, 20 μm. **B**. Relative normalized expression of the C/EBPδ protein in human pancreatic cancer cell lines (n=9) in comparison to the average value of two untransformed normal pancreatic cell lysates (HPNE1a/1b shown in Fig. 7B). The densitometry results from C/EBPδ immunoblots were normalized to the corresponding loading controls (beta-actin, ACTB), and the bars represent the average expression from three technical immunoblot repeats (±SD). Statistical significance was calculated with unpaired t-tests and *P*-values <0.05 (*), <0.01 (**), <0.001 (***), and <0.0001 (****) were considered statistically significant.

Supplemental Figure S13. JAK1-dependent expression of C/EBPδ and other CCAAT/enhancer binding proteins in mouse and human pancreatic cancer cells, Related to Figure 7

Immunoblot analyses assessing the expression of C/EBPα, C/EBPβ, C/EBPγ, and C/EBPδ in two isogenic mouse pancreatic tumor cell lines with or without JAK1 (**A**) and human MIA PaCa-2 cancer cells before and after the CRISPR/Cas9-mediated knockout of JAK1 and C/EBPδ (**B**). The analysis of CEBP family proteins in JAK1-deficient MIA PaCa-2 cancer cells with reinstated expression of C/EBPδ shows that expression of the LAP and LIP isoforms is controlled, in part, by JAK1 in a C/EBPδ-independent manner. Beta-Actin (ACTB) and GAPDH were used as loading controls.

Supplemental Fig. S14 Shrestha et al.

B

A

Supplemental Figure S14. C/EBPδ is upregulated in mouse pancreatic tumors in a JAK1-dependent manner, Related to Figure 7

A. Left: H&E-stained histologic sections of low-grade and high-grade human pancreatic intraepithelial neoplasia; bars, 100 μm. Right: corresponding immunofluorescent images of C/EBPδ (CEBPD) and cytokeratin 19 (CK19); bars, 20 μm. **B**. Immunofluorescent staining of C/EBPδ (CEBPD) and cytokeratin 19 (CK19) in the normal mouse pancreas (left) and in a mutant KRAS-induced pancreatic tumor (Pdx1-Flp *FSF-KrasG12D*, right); bars, 20 μm. Blue arrows point to the location of ductal tumor cells with pronounced nuclear expression of C/EBPδ. **C**. Nuclear expression of C/EBPδ in pancreatic tissues of Pdx1-Flp *FSF-Kras^{G12D} Rosa26^{CAG-FSF-CreERT* mice with a tamoxifen-induced (+Tam) heterozygous (*Jak1^{fl/wt}*, left) and} homozygous deletion of JAK1 (*Jak1^{fl/fl}*, middle and right). The panels in the middle and right show images of a more advanced preneoplastic lesion (middle) and low-grade PanINs (right) in the Tam-treated JAK1 knockout; bars, 20 μm. These mice were treated with Tam around 160 days of age, i.e., after preneoplastic lesions started forming, and examined 40 days later.

Supplemental Figure S15. Insignificant effects of a C/EBPδ knockout or its overexpression on the proliferation of MIA PaCa-2 cells in monolayer cultures, Related to Figure 7

A. Viable cell counts of parental MIA PaCa-2 cells (*CEBPDwt*) and their unselected (i.e., pooled) CEBPD knockout derivatives (*CEBPDKO*). **B**. Cell growth curves of JAK1-deficient (*JAK1ko*) MIA PaCa-2 cells without and with exogenous expression of Flag-tagged C/EBPδ (+*Flag-CEBPD*). The data points shown in panels A and B represent mean values of cell counts ±SD. Statistical significance was calculated for each time point with t-tests; P-value < 0.01 (**).

Supplemental Fig. S16 Shrestha et al.

Supplemental Figure S16. Upregulation of C/EBPδ in mouse pancreatic cancer cells with a conditional knockout of JAK1 accelerates the formation and growth of tumorspheres, Related to Figure 7

A. Immunoblot analysis to validate the expression of exogenous Flag-tagged C/EBPδ in mouse pancreatic cancer cells (n=4 independent pools of infected cells) with a conditional knockout of JAK1. Beta-actin (ACTB) was used as a loading control. **B**. Viable cell counts of JAK1-deficient tumor cells (*Jak1-/-*) without and with exogenous expression of Flag-tagged C/EBPδ (+*Flag-CEBPD*). The data points shown represent mean values of cell counts ±SD. Statistical significance was tested for each time point with t-tests. **C**. Comparative analysis of the relative numbers and sizes of tumorspheres of JAK1-deficient pancreatic cancer cells following the expression of C/EBPδ (+*Flag-CEBPD*). **D**. Brightfield images of tumorspheres and corresponding fluorescent images of dTomato expression; bars, 100 μm**. E**. Growth curves of transplanted mouse pancreatic cancer cells with a Cre recombinase-mediated knockout of JAK1 (*Jak1-/-*) with or without exogenous expression of Flag-tagged C/EBPδ; 4 biological repeats per tumor line. The data points shown represent mean values of measured tumor volumes ±SD. Statistical significance between tumor volumes was calculated with t-tests; P-values ≤ 0.05 (*).

Supplemental Fig. S17 Shrestha et al.

A Mouse

$\mathbf B$ MIA PaCa-2

Supplemental Figure S17. The decelerated growth of JAK1-deficient mouse and human pancreatic cancer cells as well as C/EBPδ knockout MIA PaCa-2 cells in comparison to their parental JAK1 wildtype controls is accompanied by a reduced expression of Cyclin D1, Related to Figure 7

Immunofluorescence images of Cyclin D1 in mouse (**A**) and human (**B**) xenografted pancreatic cancer cells that lack JAK1 (*Jak1^{-/-}, JAK1^{ko}*) and their JAK1 wildtype parental controls (*Jak1^{fl/fl}*, *JAK1^{wt}*). Cyclin D1 is also reduced in MIA PaCa-2 cells that lack the JAK1 target C/EBPδ (*CEBPDko*). Reinstating the expression of C/EBPδ in mouse and human JAK1 knockout cells leads to a concomitant upregulation of Cyclin D1; bars, 50 μm. The box plot in panel B shows the statistically significant difference in the relative number of Cyclin D1-positive nuclei between the JAK1 and C/EBPδ knockouts and wildtype control MIA PaCa-2 cells and the rescue of Cyclin D1 expression in JAK1 knockout cells expressing exogenous C/EBPδ. Data are presented as the mean $\pm SD$ of three representative images (400x magnification) of non-overlapping tumor regions of each tumor line. Statistical significance was calculated with t-tests; *P*-values <0.05 (*) and 0.01 (**).

Supplementary Tables

Supplementary Table S1: PCR primers to genotype transgenes and genetically engineered alleles, Related to STAR Methods

Supplementary Table S2: Primary and secondary antibodies for immunostaining, Related to STAR Methods

Supplementary Table S3: gRNA and shRNA sequence information, Related to STAR Methods

Supplementary Table S4: Primary and secondary antibodies for immunoblotting, Related to STAR Methods

Supplementary Table S5: nCounter elements design details, Related to STAR Methods