

1 **Genome-wide genetic screening with chemically-mutagenized haploid**
2 **embryonic stem cells**

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23

24 **Abstract**

25 In model organisms, classical genetic screening via random mutagenesis provides
26 key insights into the molecular bases of genetic interactions, helping defining
27 synthetic-lethality, synthetic-viability and drug-resistance mechanisms. The limited
28 genetic tractability of diploid mammalian cells, however, precludes this approach.
29 Here, we demonstrate the feasibility of classical genetic screening in mammalian
30 systems by using haploid cells, chemical mutagenesis and next-generation
31 sequencing, providing a new tool to explore mammalian genetic interactions.

32

33 Classical genetic screens with chemical mutagens assign functionality to genes in
34 model organisms^{1,2}. Since most mutagenic agents yield single-nucleotide variants
35 (SNVs), mutation clustering provides information on the functionality of protein
36 domains, and defines key amino acid residues within them³. RNA interference
37 (RNAi) allows forward-genetic screening in human cell cultures³, and insertional
38 mutagenesis in near-haploid human cancer cells⁴ and whole-genome CRISPR/Cas9
39 small-guide RNA (sgRNA) libraries have also been used for this purpose^{5,6}. Although
40 powerful, such loss-of-function (LOF) approaches miss phenotypes caused by
41 separation-of-function or gain-of-function SNV mutations, are less informative on
42 defining functional protein regions, and are not well suited to studying functions of
43 essential genes⁷. Here, we describe the generation of chemically mutagenized
44 mammalian haploid cell libraries, and establish their utility to identify recessive
45 suppressor mutations by using resistance to 6-thioguanine (6-TG) as a proof-of-
46 principle.

47

48 Comprehensive libraries of homozygous SNV-containing mutant clones are not
49 feasible to obtain in cells with diploid genomes. To circumvent this, we used H129-3
50 haploid mouse embryonic stem cells (mESCs)⁸ that we had mock-treated or treated
51 with varying doses of the DNA-alkylating agent ethylmethanesulfonate (EMS), a
52 chemical inducer of SNVs⁹ (**Fig. 1a; Supplementary Results, Supplementary Fig.**
53 **1a**). For comparison, the same procedure was performed on diploid H129-3 mESCs
54 (**Supplementary Fig. 1b**). Haploid and diploid mutant libraries were then screened
55 for suppressors of cellular sensitivity to 6-TG (**Fig. 1b**). Ensuing analyses revealed
56 EMS-dose dependent induction of 6-TG resistance, with more clones arising in
57 haploid than in diploid cells (**Fig. 1c**), thus highlighting the advantage of identifying
58 suppressor mutations in a haploid genetic background.

59

60 Next, we isolated 196 6-TG resistant clones from EMS-generated haploid cell
61 libraries. To assess the feasibility of identifying causative suppressor mutations, we
62 subjected DNA samples from seven resistant clones, and from control mESCs not
63 treated with EMS, to whole-exome DNA sequencing. Ensuing analyses, comparing
64 sequences from EMS-resistant clones with control mESCs and the 129S5 mouse
65 genome (see Methods), identified homozygous base insertions/deletions (INDELs)
66 and SNVs. Only 11.3% of these affected coding sequences and were non-

67 synonymous (**Fig. 1d**). Thus, while each resistant clone had ~370 INDEL/SNV
68 mutations (**Supplementary Fig. 1c**), on average only ~40 of these were in coding
69 sequences and non-synonymous.

70

71 We then identified candidate suppressor genes by analyzing this set of non-
72 synonymous mutations. We defined suppressor gene candidates as those being
73 mutated in multiple independent clones and harboring multiple potential deleterious
74 mutations as assigned by prediction software (see Methods and **Supplementary**
75 **Data Set 1**). *Hprt*, the gene encoding the sole 6-TG target¹⁰ (**Fig. 1b**), was mutated
76 in five of the seven sequenced clones (**Supplementary Data Set 1**). Moreover, it
77 was the only gene mutated in multiple clones that carried likely deleterious mutations
78 in all cases (**Fig. 2a**). Furthermore, these *Hprt* mutations affected different residues
79 of the coding sequence (**Supplementary Data Set 1**). By contrast, only three non-
80 synonymous mutations in other genes mutated in more than one clone were
81 predicted to be deleterious, and no other gene contained a likely deleterious
82 mutation in more than one clone (**Fig. 2a, Supplementary Data Set 1**). This
83 analysis established that, without using any previous knowledge regarding the nature
84 of suppressor loci, sequencing just a few clones identified *Hprt* as the top
85 suppressor-gene candidate.

86

87 In addition to HPRT inactivation, mutations in genes for DNA mismatch repair (MMR)
88 proteins confer 6-TG resistance¹¹, as does inactivation of the DNA methyltransferase
89 DNMT1¹². Notably, the two whole-exome sequenced clones that did not carry *Hprt*
90 mutations contained nonsense mutations in MMR genes (**Supplementary Data Set**
91 **1, Supplementary Fig. 1d**). To further analyze coverage of our mutant libraries, we
92 subjected the 189 additional suppressor clones we retrieved to targeted exon
93 sequencing of the six known suppressor genes (**Fig. 1b**). With the exception of
94 *Dnmt1* (see below), we identified predicted deleterious mutations in all known
95 suppressor genes in homozygosis in two or more resistant clones (**Fig. 2b** top
96 panels, **Supplementary Data Set 2**). Importantly, introducing wild-type versions of
97 *Hprt* or *Mlh1* into resistant clones containing mutations in these genes restored 6-TG
98 sensitivity (**Supplementary Figure 2**), confirming them as phenotypic drivers. Thus,
99 if the non-targeted whole-exome sequence approach that we carried out in the initial
100 analysis of seven clones had been applied to all 196 suppressor clones, *Hprt*, *Msh2*,

101 *Msh6*, *Mlh1* and *Pms2* would have been identified as suppressor gene candidates,
102 confirming the feasibility of the approach to identify most or all resistance loci.

103

104 Interestingly, ~20% (40) of clones presented two or more heterozygous deleterious
105 mutations in the same suppressor gene (**Supplementary Data Set 2**). We note that
106 haploid cell cultures cannot be maintained indefinitely and become diploid over
107 time^{8,13}. Accordingly, identified heterozygous mutations could have arisen after
108 diploidization of the original EMS-treated haploid populations, or could have occurred
109 in the small proportion of diploid H129-3 cells in the EMS-treated enriched haploid
110 populations (**Fig. 1a**). Regardless of their origin, deleterious heterozygous mutations
111 could only generate 6-TG resistance if each affected one allele of the gene,
112 effectively inactivating both copies. Heterozygous mutations that we observed in
113 *Dnmt1* occurred in such close proximity that they could be analyzed from the same
114 sequencing reads. As we observed no co-occurrence in the same reads
115 (**Supplementary Fig. 3a**), we concluded that *Dnmt1* mutants were compound
116 heterozygotes, and confirmed this through Sanger sequencing (**Supplementary Fig.**
117 **3b**). Furthermore, as these mutations all scored as potentially deleterious for DNMT1
118 protein function (**Supplementary Data Set 2**), it is likely that they caused 6-TG
119 resistance (see below). *Dnmt1* would thus be included in the list of suppressor gene
120 candidates when considering deleterious heterozygous mutations. Furthermore, this
121 analysis increased the numbers of clones identified with mutations in other
122 suppressor loci (**Fig. 2b**, lower panels).

123

124 Highlighting the applicability of our methodology to identify functionally important
125 protein regions, we retrieved variants linked to *Hprt* mutations causative of Lesch-
126 Nyhan syndrome¹⁴, as well as mutations in MMR genes linked to Lynch syndrome¹⁵
127 (**Fig. 2c**). Partially reflecting the mutational preferences of EMS (see below), we
128 found mRNA splicing variant mutations potentially affecting total protein levels
129 (**Supplementary Data Set 2**). These were particularly prevalent in *Hprt* (**Fig. 2b**),
130 and a detailed analysis confirmed their impacts on reducing HPRT protein levels
131 (**Supplementary Figure 4**). These results highlight how production of aberrant
132 mRNA splicing and associated reduction of protein product is an important
133 consequence of EMS mutagenesis.

134

135 We also identified mutations that had not been previously reported, the majority of
136 which were predicted to have deleterious effects on protein function
137 **(Supplementary Fig. 5a, Supplementary Data Set 2)**. To verify their impacts, we
138 introduced newly identified MLH1 (A612T) and DNMT1 (G1157E) mutations into
139 wild-type mESCs by CRISPR/Cas9 gene editing **(Supplementary Fig. 5b,c)**. H129-
140 3 mESCs carrying these mutations were more resistant to 6-TG than their wild-type
141 counterparts **(Supplementary Fig. 5d)**, supporting these mutations being causative
142 of the suppressor phenotype. mESCs carrying targeted mutations in *Dnmt1* and
143 *Mlh1* also allowed examination of their effects on cell proliferation. As observed
144 under non-selective conditions, mutations in *Mlh1*, and especially in *Dnmt1*, impaired
145 cell proliferation **(Supplementary Fig. 5e)**, potentially helping to explain the low
146 proportion of *Dnmt1* mutant suppressors arising from our screen. DNMT1-deficient
147 cells exhibit 6-TG resistance, but the mechanism for this is not completely
148 understood^{12,16}. Our results point to an important role of Dnmt1 methyltransferase
149 activity in mediating 6-TG sensitivity, as suppressor mutations identified in our
150 screen localized to that domain **(Fig. 2c)**. Collectively, these results further validated
151 our pipeline to identify suppressor mutations.

152

153 Around 12% of resistant clones (23) did not present mutations in any of the known
154 suppressor genes **(Fig. 2b)**. We subjected these clones to whole-exome DNA and
155 RNA sequencing. DNA sequencing of the unassigned clones and control samples
156 allowed an unprecedented description of EMS mutagenic action, confirming its
157 preference for producing SNVs and transition rather than transversion mutations
158 **(Supplementary Fig. 6)**. Although whole-exome sequencing retrieved causative
159 mutations in all control 6-TG resistant samples, no other gene candidate could be
160 identified from the remaining orphan suppressors **(Supplementary Data Set 3)**.
161 RNA sequencing, however, revealed reduced expression levels of *Hprt*, *Mlh1* or
162 *Msh6* as likely causes of suppression in several such clones **(Fig. 2d;**
163 **Supplementary Data Set 4)**. Further studies will be required to define whether
164 epigenetic alterations or mutations outside of exon regions, and hence not covered
165 by exome-targeted DNA sequencing, could explain the nature of remaining orphan
166 suppressor clones.

167

168 Collectively, our findings establish that classical genetic screening can be effectively
169 performed in mammalian systems by combining use of haploid cells, chemical SNV
170 induction, and next-generation sequencing. The use of haploid cells when creating
171 SNV mutant libraries identifies recessive suppressor point-mutations, in contrast to
172 diploid cell screening where only dominant mutations are retrieved¹⁷. Furthermore,
173 EMS induction of SNVs generates complex mutant libraries, increasing the
174 probability of identifying suppressor loci compared to isolation of rare, spontaneous
175 suppressor events¹⁸. Through screening for cellular resistance to 6-TG, we identified
176 point mutations in all described suppressor genes. This highlights the power of our
177 approach to comprehensively identify suppressor loci with low error rates, as no
178 false positive suppressor candidate genes were found. Moreover, as we have
179 established for 6-TG suppressor loci, our methodology has value in delineating key
180 amino-acid residues required for protein function, thus helping to explain molecular
181 mechanisms of suppression. We note that SNV-based mutagenesis will be useful to
182 identify separation-of-function and gain-of-function mutations, including those in
183 essential genes. Also, through studies performed in cells bearing mutations in
184 another gene, our approach has the potential to investigate gene-gene interactions
185 in a comprehensive manner. In addition, we envisage the applicability of this
186 approach in human haploid cells^{19,20}. Chemical mutagenesis of haploid cells, either
187 alone or in combination with LOF screens, has the potential to bring functional
188 genomics in mammalian systems to a hitherto unachieved comprehensive level.

189

190 **Methods**

191 Methods and associated references are available in the online version of this paper.

192

193 **Acknowledgements**

194 We thank all S.P.J. lab members for discussions, especially A. Blackford, F. Puddu,
195 C. Schmidt and P. Marco-Casanova for critical reading of the manuscript, and C. Le
196 Sage and T.-W. Chiang for advice with CRISPR/Cas9 gene editing. We thank M.
197 Leeb for H129-3 cells and advice on haploid ES cell culture conditions, and J.
198 Hackett for advice in generating stable ES cell lines. We thank C.D. Robles-
199 Espinoza for helping designing the array of baits for the exon-capture experiment,
200 and J. Hewinson for technical support. Research in the S.P.J. laboratory is funded by
201 Cancer Research UK (CRUK; programme grant C6/A11224), the European
202 Research Council and the European Community Seventh Framework Programme
203 (grant agreement no. HEALTH-F2-2010-259893; DDResponse). Core funding is
204 provided by Cancer Research UK (C6946/A14492) and the Wellcome Trust
205 (WT092096). S.P.J. receives salary from the University of Cambridge, supplemented
206 by CRUK. J.V.F. was funded by Cancer Research UK programme grant C6/A11224
207 and the Ataxia Telangiectasia Society. J.C. was funded by Cancer Research UK
208 programme grant C6/A11224. D.J.A. is supported by CRUK. Research leading to
209 these results has received funding from the European Research Council under the
210 European Union's Seventh Framework Programme (FP7/2007-2013)/ERC grant
211 agreement no. [311166]. B.V.G. is supported by a Boehringer Ingelheim Fonds PhD
212 fellowship.

213

214 **Author contributions**

215 J.V.F. and S.P.J. designed the project. J.V.F. mutagenized haploid cells, performed
216 6-TG selection and isolated suppressor clones. J.V.F. and J.C. expanded
217 suppressor clones, isolated gDNA and prepared samples for sequencing. M.H.
218 analyzed DNA sequencing data, supervised by T.M.K. and D.J.A. J.V.F. and J.C.
219 produced stable cell lines and CRISPR/Cas9 knock-ins. J.V.F. and J.C. isolated
220 RNA from suppressor clones and prepared samples for sequencing. B.V.G.
221 produced RNA sequencing libraries and T.K. analyzed RNA sequencing data,
222 supervised by S.M.N. J.V.F. and S.P.J. wrote the manuscript, with input from all
223 authors.

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- 271

272 **Figure legends**

273

274 **Figure 1. Generation of mutagenized libraries. (a)** Experimental workflow. **(b)**
275 Schematic of 6-TG metabolism and genotoxicity. Inactivating mutations in genes
276 highlighted in red have been shown to confer 6-TG resistance. **(c)** Suppressor
277 frequencies to 6-TG treatment of different EMS-mutagenized libraries, represented
278 as number of suppressor clones isolated per 10,000 plated cells. **(d)** Locations and
279 consequences of identified mutations.

280

281 **Figure 2. Identification of suppressor mutations. (a)** Genes identified through
282 whole-exome sequencing of seven 6-TG resistant clones, harboring at least two
283 independent mutations in different clones. Mutations were assigned as deleterious or
284 neutral according to PROVEAN and SIFT software (see Methods). **(b) Top panels.**
285 Distribution of mutations identified in suppressor gene candidates; numbers of
286 independent clones are in brackets and types of *Hprt* mutations are shown in more
287 detail on the pie-chart to the right. *Bottom panels.* Distribution of all suppressor gene
288 candidate mutations identified, including heterozygous deleterious mutations. **(c)**
289 Distribution of point mutations on DNMT1, HPRT and MMR proteins; each square
290 represents an independent clone. Asterisks (*) denote STOP-codon gains. Except
291 for HPRT, all proteins are shown at a proportional scale. **(d) *Hprt*, *Mlh1* and *Msh6***
292 mRNA expression levels (fragments per kilobase per million reads). Numbers next to
293 dots are clone identifiers (see Supplementary Data Set 2). Black dots indicate wild-
294 type (WT) samples, red dots represent clonal samples whose mutations were
295 identified via targeted exon capture sequencing (controls; see Supplementary Data
296 Set 2), and white dots represent samples for which no causative mutations were
297 identified. Error bars represent uncertainties on expression estimates. *Lower panel.*
298 Reduced *Hprt* mRNA levels correspond to reduced protein production as detected by
299 western blot. Uncut gel images are available in Supplementary Fig. 7.

300

301 **Online Methods**

302

303 **Cell lines and culture conditions**

304 H129-3 haploid mouse embryonic stem cells (mESCs)⁸ were used for the
305 experiments described in this paper. When pure haploid content was required, cells
306 were grown in chemically defined 2i medium plus LIF as described previously⁸. In all
307 other cases, cells were grown in DMEM high glucose (Sigma) supplemented with
308 glutamine, streptomycin, penicillin, non-essential amino acids, sodium pyruvate, β -
309 mercaptoethanol and LIF. All plates and flasks were gelatinized prior to cell seeding.
310 All cells used in this study were mycoplasma free.

311

312 **Cell sorting**

313 Cell sorting for DNA content was performed after staining with $15\mu\text{g ml}^{-1}$ Hoechst
314 33342 (Invitrogen) on a MoFlo flow sorter (Beckman Coulter). The haploid 1n peak
315 was purified. Analytic flow profiles of DNA content were recorded after fixation of the
316 cells in ethanol, RNase digestion and staining with propidium iodide (PI) on a
317 Fortessa analyzer (BD Biosciences). Cell cycle profiles were produced using FlowJo
318 software (Tree Star).

319

320 **Ethylmethanesulfonate (EMS) treatment**

321 Mutagenesis with EMS and measurement of killing and suppression frequency was
322 performed as described previously⁹, with the following modifications. After cell
323 sorting, haploid cells were grown in 2i medium plus LIF and changed to DMEM plus
324 LIF for the overnight EMS treatment. After EMS treatment, cells were cultured for 5
325 passages in DMEM plus LIF and plated into 6-well plates at a density of 5×10^5 cells
326 per well. Cells were treated with $2\mu\text{M}$ 6-thioguanine (6-TG; Sigma) for 6 days,
327 supplying new media with drug daily. Cells were then grown in medium without 6-TG
328 until mESC colonies could be picked.

329

330 **DNA isolation and exome sequencing**

331 mESC clones were grown into 12-well plates. Genomic DNA was extracted from
332 confluent wells using QIAamp DNA Blood Mini Kit (QIAGEN) and cleaned performing
333 a proteinase K (QIAGEN) digestion step. Genomic DNA (approximately $1\mu\text{g}$) was

334 fragmented to an average size of 150 bp and subjected to DNA library creation using
335 established Illumina paired-end protocols. Adapter-ligated libraries were amplified
336 and indexed via PCR. A portion of each library was used to create an equimolar pool
337 comprising 8 indexed libraries. For whole-exome sequencing, each pool was
338 hybridized to SureSelect RNA baits (Mouse_all_exon; Agilent Technologies). Whole-
339 exome sequencing was performed with 8 DNA samples per sequencing lane (first 7
340 suppressors plus control) or 15 DNA samples per sequencing lane (subsequent 66
341 suppressors analysed). For the exon-capture experiment, samples were hybridized
342 with a specific array of RNA baits (Agilent) covering the exonic sequences of *Dnmt1*,
343 *Hprt*, *Mlh1*, *Mlh3*, *Msh2*, *Msh3*, *Msh4*, *Msh5*, *Msh6*, *Pms1*, *Pms2* and *Setd2* genes.
344 Sequence targets were captured and amplified in accordance with manufacturer's
345 recommendations. Enriched libraries were subjected to 75 base paired-end
346 sequencing (HiSeq 2500; Illumina) following manufacturer's instructions. A single
347 sequencing library was created for each sample, and the sequencing coverage per
348 targeted base per sample is given in Supplementary Data Set 5. All raw sequencing
349 data is available from ENA under accession numbers ERP003577 and ERP005179.

350

351 **DNA sequence analysis**

352 Sequencing reads were aligned to the *Mus musculus* GRCm38 (mm10) assembly
353 (Ensembl version release 68) using BWA (v0.5.10-tpx). All lanes from the same
354 library were merged into a single BAM file with Picard tools
355 (<http://broadinstitute.github.io/picard>), and PCR duplicates were marked by using
356 'MarkDuplicates'²¹. SNVs and INDELS were called using SAMtools (v1.3) mpileup
357 followed by BCFtools (v1.3)²². The following parameters were used for Samtools
358 mpileup: -g -t DP,AD -C50 -pm3 -F0.2 -d10000. BCFtools call parameters were: -vm
359 -f GQ. The variants were annotated using the Ensembl Variant Effect Predictor²³.
360 Variants were filtered to remove any variants detected outside the bait regions and
361 any heterozygous variants where appropriate. Additionally, variants were filtered
362 using VCFtools (v0.1.12b) vcf-annotate with options -H -f +/q=25/SnpGap=7/d=5 and
363 custom filters were written to exclude variants with a GQ score of less than 10²⁴.
364 INDELS were left aligned using BCFtools norm. VCFtools vcf-isec was used to
365 remove variants present in the control sample from all other samples as well as
366 variants present in sequencing of a mouse strain from the 129S5 background²⁵.
367 INDELS called from whole exome sequencing data were further verified using the

368 microassembly based caller Scalpel²⁶ and discarded from the data if not identified by
369 both callers. All remaining variants were used to generate a visualization of
370 mutational patterns. All SNVs were assigned to one of 96 possible triplet channels
371 using the GRCm38 assembly to identify flanking bases.

372

373 **Antibodies**

374 Rabbit anti-HPRT (Abcam ab10479, 1: 10 000 dilution), mouse anti-MSH6 (BD
375 Biosciences 610919, 1: 2 000), mouse anti-PMS2 (BD Biosciences 556415, 1: 1
376 000), rabbit anti-MRE11 (Abcam ab33125, 1: 10 000) and mouse anti-MLH1 (BD
377 Biosciences 554073, 1: 1 000) were used for western blot analysis.

378

379 **Complementation assays**

380 Human *MLH1* was amplified from pEGFP-MLH1²⁷ and cloned into pPB-CMV-HA-pA-
381 IN²⁸ using *EcoRI* and *MluI* sites to generate pPB-Tet-MLH1. Cells from the
382 SC_6TG5758127 *Mlh1* mutant clone (see Supplementary Data Set 2) were
383 transfected with a combination of pCMV-HyPBBase²⁹, pPB-CAG-rtTAM2-IP (a
384 derivative of pPBCAG-rtTAIRESNeo²⁸ where the neomycin resistance cassette was
385 replaced by a puromycin resistance one, gift from J. Hackett) and pPB-CMV-HA-pA-
386 IN or pPB-Tet-MLH1, in a 1:1:10 ratio using TransIT-LT1 transfection reagent (Mirus)
387 and following manufacturer's instructions. 48 h after transfection, selection was
388 applied with 3 µg/ml puromycin for 6 days. Resistant cell populations were plated
389 into 6-well plates (125 000 cells per well) and *MLH1* expression was induced by the
390 addition of 1 µg/ml doxycycline. 24 h after doxycycline induction, cells were left
391 untreated or treated with 2 µg/ml 6-TG for 6 days. Surviving cells were stained using
392 crystal violet.

393 Cells from SC_6TG5758069 and SC_6TG5758117 *Hprt* mutant clones (see
394 Supplementary Data Set 2) were transfected with pEGFP-C1 (Clontech) or pCMV6-
395 AC-Hprt-GFP (OriGene MG202453) using TransIT-LT1 transfection reagent (Mirus)
396 and following manufacturer's instructions. 48 h after transfection, selection was
397 applied with 175 µg/ml G418 for several days, until GFP-positive colonies were
398 picked. Cells were left untreated or treated with 2 µg/ml 6-TG for 6 days. Surviving
399 cells were stained using crystal violet. Microscopy images were obtained from an
400 Olympus IX71 microscope using Cell^F imaging software (Olympus).

401

402 **Prediction of mutation consequences on protein function**

403 Amino acid mutations were analysed using PROVEAN³⁰ and SIFT³¹ software.

404 Scores below -2.5 for PROVEAN and 0.05 for SIFT indicate likely deleterious effects.

405

406 **Sanger sequencing**

407 PCR amplifications from genomic DNA were performed using the following

408 oligonucleotides: Dnmt1-1157F 5'- CGAGATGCCTGGTAGACACA -3', Dnmt1

409 1157R 5'- GAGTAGGCCTGAGGAGAGCA -3', Dnmt1 1477F 5'-

410 GCTACAAAACCCCAGGAAGC -3', Dnmt1 1477R 5'-

411 CAGGATCAGATTGGCGTGAC -3'. PCR products from SC_6TG5758159 and

412 SC_6TG5758161 *Dnmt1* mutant suppressors (see Supplementary Data Set 2) were

413 cloned using Zero Blunt TOPO PCR cloning kit (Thermo Fisher Scientific) and

414 following manufacturer's instructions.

415

416 **Gene editing**

417 Sequences for DNA templates for small guide RNAs were generated using CRISPR

418 Design (<http://crispr.mit.edu>) and cloned into pAiO-Cas9 D10A³². Sequences of the

419 guides were the following: Dnmt1-1 5'- TCGGAAGGATTCCACCAAGC -3', Dnmt1-2

420 5'-ACATCCAGGGTCCGGAGCTT -3', Mlh1-1 5'- AGGACGACGGCCCGAAGGAA -

421 3'; Mlh1-2 5'- GCCACTTTCAGGACTGTCTA -3'. H129-3 cells were transfected with

422 Dnmt1 or Mlh1 targeting plasmids and single-stranded DNA oligonucleotides (200 nt,

423 IDT Technologies) containing the desired mutations using *TransIT-LT1* transfection

424 reagent (Mirus) and following manufacturer's instructions. 48 h after transfection

425 GFP-positive cells were sorted on a MoFlo flow sorter (Beckman Coulter) and

426 seeded into gelatinized plates. Colonies forming after 5-6 days were picked into 96-

427 well plates, DNA was isolated using QuickExtract DNA extraction solution (Epicentre

428 Biotechnologies) and PCR amplifications of the edited regions were performed.

429 Sequences of the oligonucleotides used were as follows: Dnmt1-F 5'-

430 CGAGATGCCTGGTAGACACA -3', Dnmt1-R 5'- GAGTAGGCCTGAGGAGAGCA -

431 3', Mlh1-F 5'- TGTCCCAACCTAGGGACTTG -3', Mlh1-R 5'-

432 TGCTGGCCTTAGACAGTCCT -3'. PCR products (358 bp for *Dnmt1*, 287 bp for

433 *Mlh1*) were digested with *EcoRI* restriction enzyme and run on a 3% agarose 1xTAE

434 gel for 1.5 h at 150 V. Positive clones (those producing two DNA fragments after

435 *EcoRI* digestion of approx. 180 bp (*Dnmt1*) or 200 and 80 bp (*Mlh1*) were confirmed
436 by Sanger sequencing of the PCR products, and tested for resistance to 6-TG as
437 described for the screen.

438

439 **Population doublings**

440 Each cell line was seeded in duplicate into 2 rows of a 24-well plate at a density of
441 25 000 cells/well. Cells were collected daily and cell counts were measured using a
442 Countess II Automated Cell Counter (ThermoFisher Scientific) using Trypan Blue
443 staining to discard dead cells.

444

445 **RNA isolation and sequencing**

446 mESC clones were grown in 24-well plates. Total RNA was extracted from confluent
447 wells using RNeasy Mini Kit (QIAGEN). Libraries for RNA-seq were prepared from
448 500 ng total RNA using the QuantSeq 3' mRNA-Seq kit (Lexogen) according to
449 manufacturer's instructions. An exception to the instruction was the application of 13
450 instead of the recommended 12 PCR cycles for library amplification. Libraries were
451 pooled in equal concentrations. Prior to sequencing, a T-fill reaction was performed
452 on a cBot as described previously³³, providing the T-fill solution in a primer tube strip.
453 Finally, sequencing was carried out using an Illumina HiSeq-2500 using 50 bp single
454 read v3 chemistry. Raw sequencing data is available from ENA under accession
455 number ERP014134.

456

457 **RNA sequence analysis**

458 Reads were trimmed of adapter sequences using Cutadapt (v.1.2.1). High-quality
459 reads were extracted using TriageTools³⁴ (v0.2.2, long reads –length 35, high-quality
460 bases –quality 9, and complex sequences –lzw 0.33). Alignments onto the mm10
461 genome were carried out using GSNAP³⁵ (v2014-02-28) with Gencode gene splice
462 junctions. Expression levels were obtained using Exp3p (github.com/tkonopka/Exp3p
463 v0.1) and then processed with custom R scripts (Supplementary Data Set 6).

464

465 **Statistical analyses**

466 All groups analysed showed comparable variances.

467

468 **Accession codes**

469 DNA sequencing data is available from ENA under accession numbers ERP003577
470 and ERP005179. RNA sequencing data is available from ENA under accession
471 number ERP014134.

472

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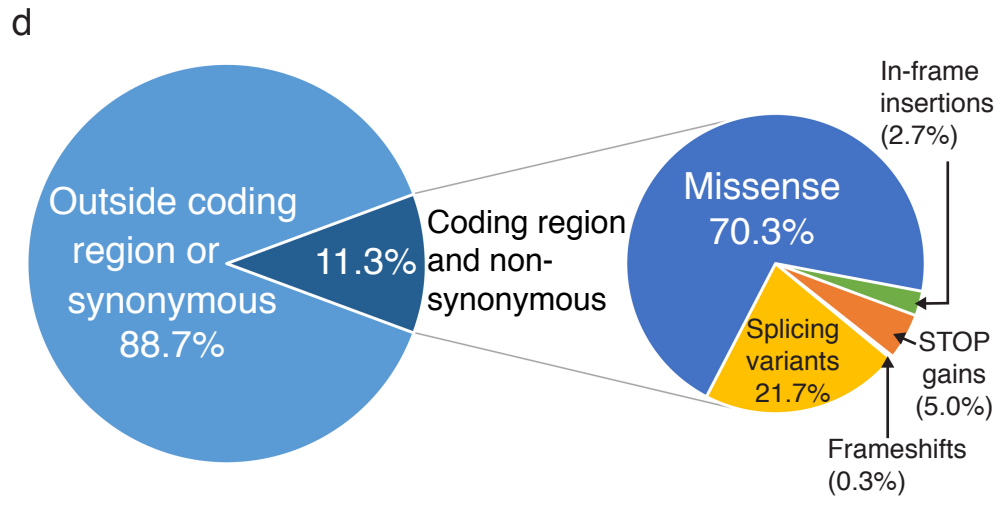
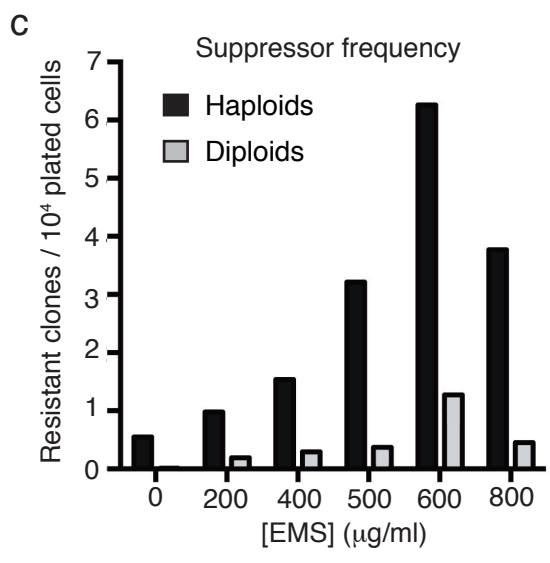
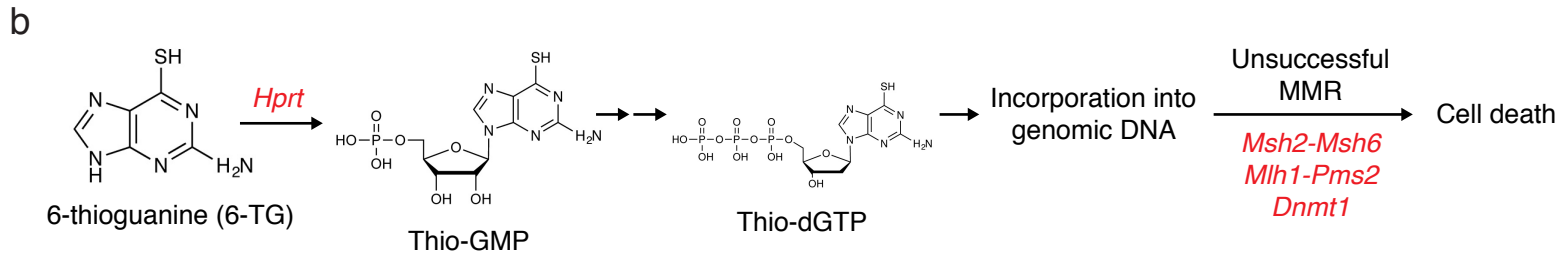
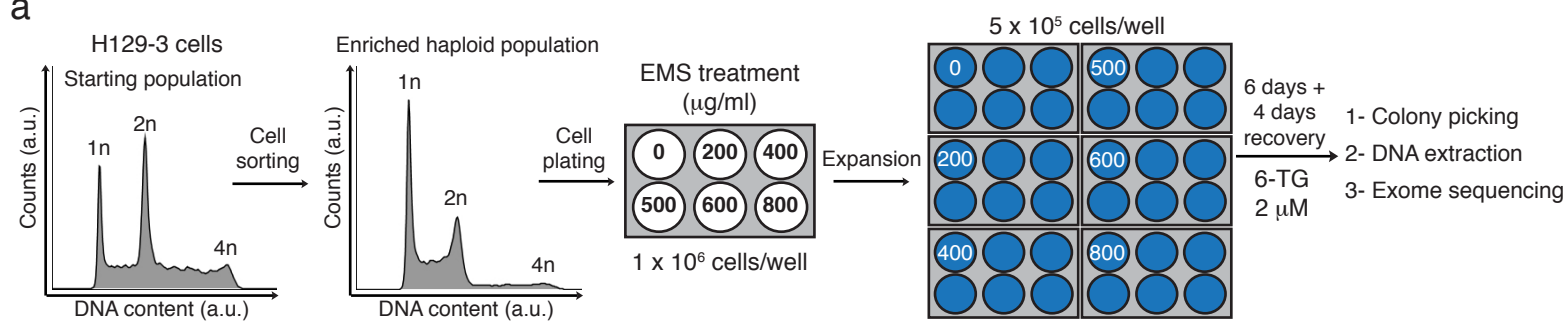
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509

510 **Competing financial interests**

511 The authors declare no competing financial interests.



Forment et al, Figure 1

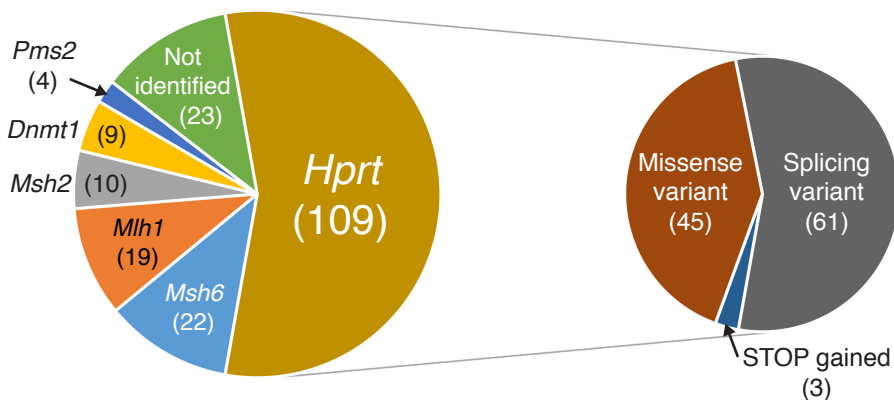
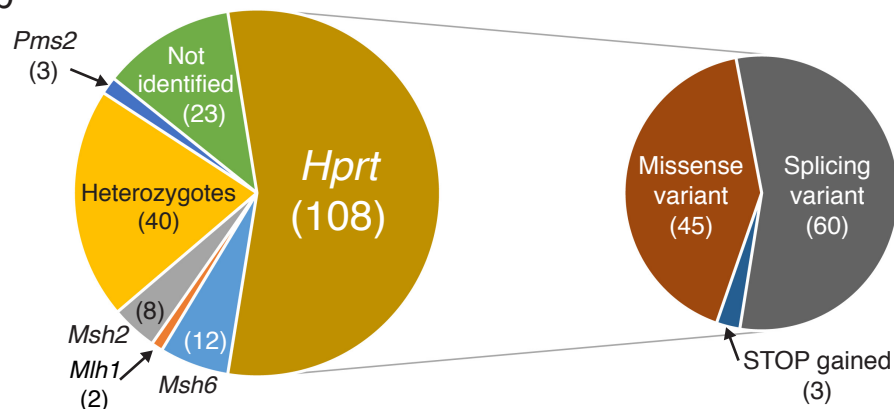
a

Sample \ Gene	Amer1	Armcx2	Dmd	Hprt	Prp2	Spast	Zfp142
A4							
A11							
B3							
D3							
D11							
E11							
F4							

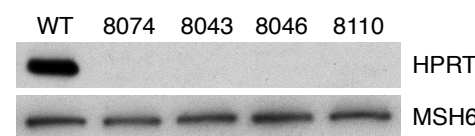
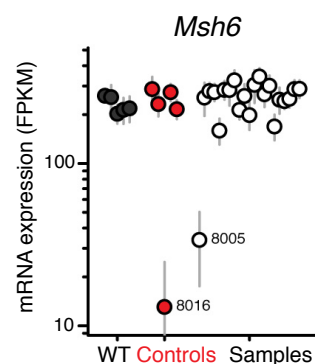
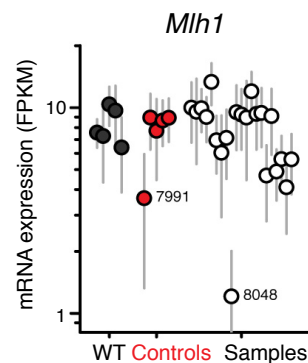
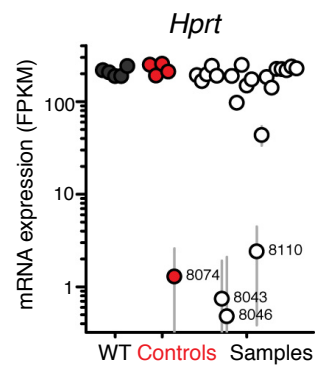
Identified mutation with predicted deleterious consequence

Identified mutation with predicted neutral consequence

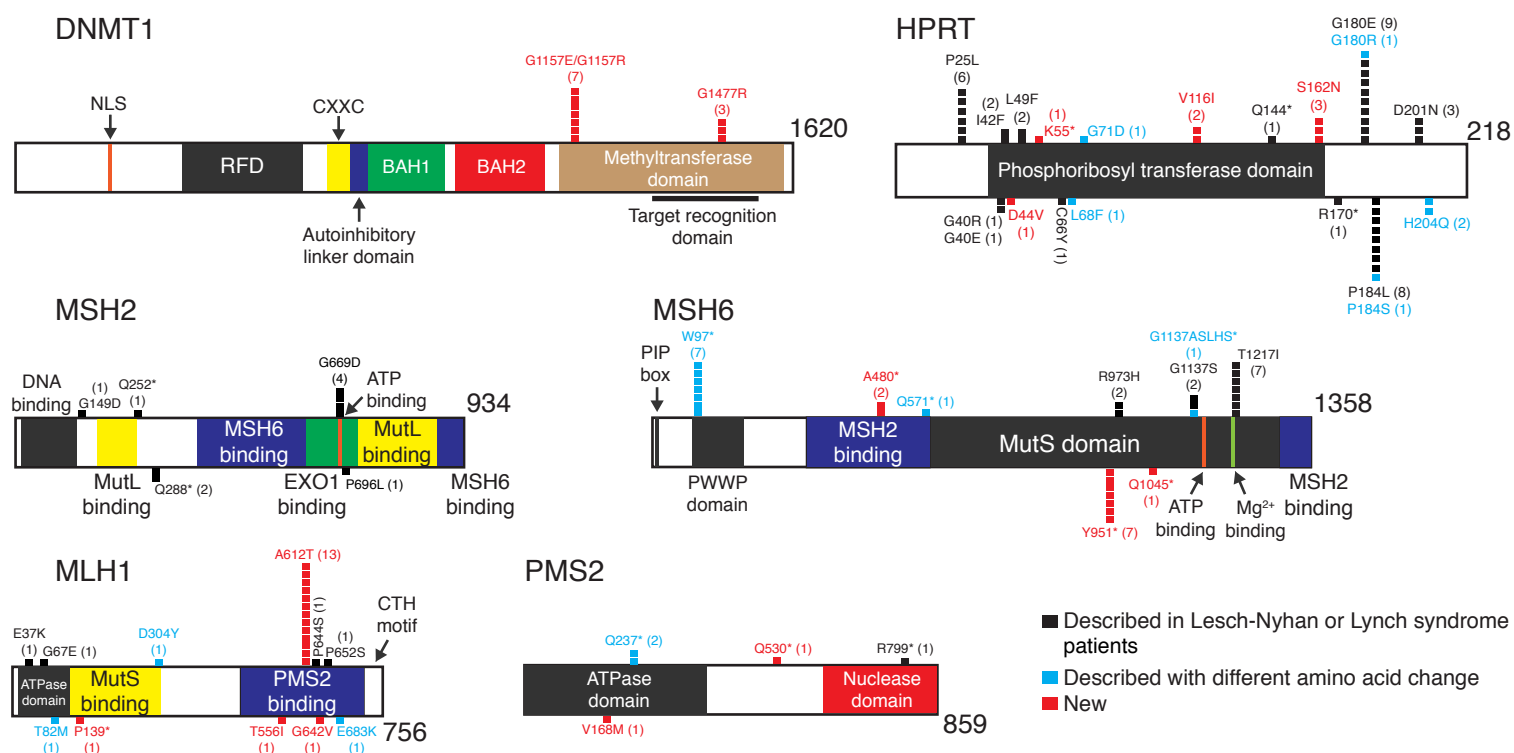
b



d



c



Mouse ES cells



Sorting



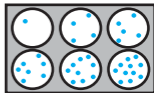
Haploid ES cells



EMS ($\mu\text{g/ml}$)

Toxic drug
selection

6-TG



Next-generation
sequencing

