METHOD FOR INDUCING PLURIPOTENCY IN HUMAN SOMATIC CELLS WITH PRDM14 OR NFRKB

CROSS-REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATION

[0001] This application claims benefit of, and priority from, U.S. provisional patent application No. 61/350,843, filed on June 2, 2010, the contents of which are fully incorporated herein by reference.

FIELD OF THE INVENTION

[0002] The present invention relates to methods for inducing pluripotency in human somatic cells, and for maintaining pluripotency in human embryonic stem cells, with PRDM14 or NFRKB.

BACKGROUND

[0003] The derivation of clinically relevant human embryonic stem cells (hESCs) from human blastocysts represents one of the milestones in stem cell biology [1]. hESCs have the capacity for extensive self-renewal under *in vitro* culture conditions. A second hallmark of these cells is their ability to undergo multi-lineage differentiation; also defined as pluripotency. Hence, the robust self-renewal capability of these pluripotent hESCs makes them a renewable source for the generation of functional cell-types or tissues for potential therapeutic applications and drug discovery. Importantly, hESCs provide an opportunity to study early human developmental biology — an area of study where it is difficult to acquire experimental data.

[0004] In addition to the ability to self-renew and differentiate, hESCs share many similarities with mouse embryonic stem cells (mESCs) [2, 3]. Both of them express genes which are associated with pluripotency [4-6]. *POU5F1* (coding for the protein OCT4) and *NANOG,* both key components of the core transcriptional regulatory network [7-9], are highly expressed in undifferentiated ESCs [10-15] and upon differentiation, the expression of these genes is reduced. These and other transcription regulators, including the co-activator p300, show extensive co-localization at genomic sites and this binding configuration may be important for the expression of pluripotency-specific genes [9, 16, 17].

[0005] However, there are significant and intriguing differences between hESCs and mESCs. One of the differences is the signaling pathways that promote ESC identity. The fibroblast growth factor / Mitogen-Activated Protein Kinase Kinase (FGF/MEK) pathway is important for the propagation of hESCs. In contrast, stimulation of the FGF/MEK pathway promotes differentiation of mESCs. The inhibition of FGF signaling using specific FGF receptor/MEK inhibitors, in combination with glycogen synthase kinase-3 inhibitor, allows mESCs to be propagated in the absence of other growth promoting molecules [18]. The TGFβ/Activin/Nodal pathway maintains the self-renewal of hESCs but not mESCs, through the up-regulation of *NANOG* expression [19, 20]. Leukemia inhibitory factor (LIF) and bone morphogenetic protein 4 (BMP4) are known to sustain mESCs, but LIF does not support hESCs and BMP4 induces hESCs to differentiate [4]. Moreover, hESCs and mESCs are morphologically distinct where mESCs form dome-shaped colonies while the hESC colonies are flat. In addition, certain surface molecules like SSEA-3 and SSEA-4 are present in undifferentiated hESCs but not mESCs [4].

[0006] The differences between both mouse and human ESCs could be due to species-specific differences in embryonic development. Alternatively, the ESCs could be derived from cells originating from different developmental stages. Consistent with this idea is the identification of post-implantation murine epiblast-derived stem cells which show characteristics of hESCs [21, 22]. Hence, it is useful to understand the differences between these ESCs and the molecular basis for the differences. Furthermore, to harness the full potential of hESCs, it is valuable to dissect the mechanisms that maintain the identity of hESCs.

SUMMARY

[0007] The full potential of hESCs in therapeutic and clinical applications requires a detailed understanding of the genetic network that governs the unique properties of hESCs. Previous efforts have focused primarily on murine ESCs, due to the robust nature of their growth and their amenability to animal experimental models. Despite these efforts, little is known about the key players in hESCs.

[0008] The present invention provides methods of inducing pluripotency in a human somatic cell, including for example a human fibroblast cell.

[0009] In one aspect, the present invention provides a method of inducing pluripotency in a human somatic cell, the method comprising culturing the human somatic cell in the presence of (i) OCT4 and SOX2; (ii) at least one of KLF4 and c-MYC; and (iii) at least one of PRDM14 and NFRKB.

[0010] In some embodiments, culturing may comprise contacting the human somatic cell, with the OCT4 and the SOX2, with the at least one of KLF4 and c-MYC and with the at least one of PRDM14 and NFRKB so that the OCT4, the SOX2, the at least one of KLF4 and c-MYC and the at least one of PRDM14 and NFRKB are taken up by the human somatic cell.

[0011] In other embodiments, culturing may comprise expressing the OCT4, the SOX2, the at least one of KLF4 and c-MYC and the at least one of PRDM14 and NFRKB in the human somatic cell. Each of OCT4, SOX2, at least one of KLF4 and c-MYC and at least one of PRDM14 and NFRKB may be expressed from one or more expression vectors, which may be viral vectors.

[0012] In one embodiment, OCT4, SOX2, KLF4 and PRDM14 are expressed in the human somatic cell.

[0013] In another embodiment, OCT4, SOX2, c-MYC and PRDM14 are expressed in the human somatic cell.

[0014] In another embodiment, OCT4, SOX2, KLF4, c-MYC and PRDM14 are expressed in the human somatic cell.

[0015] In another embodiment, OCT4, SOX2, KLF4 and NFRKB are expressed in the human somatic cell.

[0016] In another embodiment, OCT4, SOX2, c-MYC and NFRKB are expressed in the human somatic cell.

[0017] In another embodiment, OCT4, SOX2, KLF, c-MYC and NFRKB are expressed in the human somatic cell.

[0018] The human somatic cell may be partially differentiated prior to the culturing or may be fully differentiated prior to the culturing. In some embodiments, the human somatic cell is a fibroblast, including a human fibroblast prior to the culturing.

[0019] In another aspect, the present invention provides a method of inducing pluripotency in a human fibroblast, the method comprising expressing in the human fibroblast (i) OCT4 and SOX2; (ii) at least one of KLF4 and c-MYC; and (iii) at least one of PRDM14 and NFRKB from one or more expression vectors; and culturing the human fibroblast under conditions suitable for growth of embryonic stem cells.

[0020] In another aspect, the present invention provides a method of inducing pluripotency in a human fibroblast, the method comprising expressing in the human fibroblast (i) PRDM14 or NFRKB; together with (ii) OCT4, SOX2 and KLF4. The method may further comprise expressing c-MYC in the human fibroblast.

[0021] In another aspect, the present invention provides a human somatic cell comprising (i) OCT4 and SOX2; (ii) at least one of KLF4 and c-MYC; and (iii) at least one of PRDM14 and NFRKB.

[0022] In some embodiments, the human somatic cell expresses each of OCT4, SOX2 and KLF4 and at least one of PRDM14 and NFRKB.

[0023] In some embodiments, the human somatic cell expresses each of OCT4, SOX2 and c-MYC and at least one of PRDM14 and NFRKB.

[0024] In some embodiments, the human somatic cell expresses each of OCT4, SOX2, KLF4 and c-MYC and at least one of PRDM14 and NFRKB.

[0025] In some embodiments of the human somatic cell, pluripotency has been induced in the cell.

[0026] In some embodiments, the human somatic cell is a fibroblast.

[0027] In another aspect, the present invention provides a human somatic cell comprising one or more expression vectors encoding (i) OCT4 and SOX2; (ii) at least

one of KLF4 and c-MYC; and (iii) at least one of PRDM14 and NFRKB. In some embodiments, the human somatic cell is a fibroblast, including a human fibroblast.

[0028] In another aspect, the present invention provides a human somatic cell, including a human fibroblast cell, produced according to the described methods. The human somatic cell may be one in which pluripotency has been induced.

[0029] The present invention further provides methods of maintaining pluripotency of a human embryonic stem cell (hESC). Thus, in another aspect, the present invention provides a method of maintaining pluripotency of a hESC comprising culturing the hESC in the presence of (i) OCT4 and SOX2; (ii) at least one of KLF4 and c-MYC; and (iii) at least one of PRDM14 and NFRKB.

[0030] In some embodiments of maintaining pluripotency of a hESC, culturing may comprise contacting the hESC with the OCT4 and the SOX2, with the at least one of KLF4 and c-MYC and with the at least one of PRDM14 and NFRKB so that the OCT4, the SOX2, the at least one of KLF4 and c-MYC and the at least one of PRDM14 and NFRKB are taken up by the hESC.

[0031] In other embodiments of maintaining pluripotency of a hESC, culturing may comprise expressing the OCT4, the SOX2, the at least one of KLF4 and c-MYC and the at least one of PRDM14 and NFRKB in the hESC. Each of OCT4, SOX2, at least one of KLF4 and c-MYC and at least one of PRDM14 and NFRKB may be expressed from one or more expression vectors, which may be viral vectors.

[0032] Other aspects and features of the present invention will become apparent to those of ordinary skill in the art upon review of the following description of specific embodiments of the invention in conjunction with the accompanying figures.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

[0033] In the figures, which illustrate, by way of example only, embodiments of the present invention:

[0034] **Figure 1: Genome-wide screen for regulators that maintain hESC identity. (1A)** Schematic representation of siRNA screen. H1 hESC line with a *GFP* reporter gene driven by the *POU5F1* promoter was used for the screen. For the

primary screen, 21,121 Dharmacon SMARTpooled siRNA were seeded onto 67 384-well plates and the *POU5F1*-GFP reporter hESCs were reverse transfected on these plates. For secondary screen, individual siRNAs for 200 high confidence candidates from the primary screen were reverse transfected into the reporter cells and two other hESC lines HES2 and HES3. **(1B)** Montage representing the images for GFP fluorescence and Hoechst staining for a typical 384-well plate is shown. The hESCs were imaged 4 days post transfection. The negative control siRNA (NT: non-targeting) and the positive controls siRNA (*GFP* and *POU5F1*) were printed at the designated wells as indicated. **(1C)** Dot plot of the genome-wide screen results. The average z-scores of the GFP readouts are shown. Controls are represented by the open square box (NT siRNA), open circle (*POU5F1* siRNA) and filled square box (*GFP* siRNA). Genes with z-score >2, represented by a filled circle above the z-score = 2 line, are considered as potential candidates required for the maintenance of hESC identity. The rest of the genes are indicated as filled circles below the z-score = 2 line.

[0035] Figure 2: Characterization of *POU5F1-GFP* H1 hESC line. (2A) *POU5F1-GFP* reporter cells transfected with non-targeting (NT) siRNA exhibited strong fluorescence while reporter cells transfected with *POU5F1* siRNA resulted in a reduction in GFP expression. Nuclei of the cells were counterstained with Hoechst. Scale bars represent 50 μm. **(2B)** Fluorescent activated cell sorting for GFP quantification. Graphed lines are shown for non-reporter cells (H1 hESC), *POU5F1-GFP* reporter cells transfected with *POU5F1* siRNA (*POU5F1* siRNA) and reporter cells transfected with non-targeting siRNA (NT siRNA). **(2C)** Karyotypic analysis of *POU5F1-GFP* reporter cells. The cells have a normal karyotype with 46XY chromosomes. **(2D)** Teratoma formation assay for *POU5F1-GFP* reporter cells. Teratoma of ectoderm, mesoderm and endoderm lineages were obtained after 8 weeks of injection into SCID mice.

[0036] Figure 3: Gene ontology analysis of F_{av}. (3A) Transcription factors that have been shown to be involved in the maintenance of mESC identity. The human counterparts of these genes were identified from this genome wide siRNA screen and they are ranked based on the z-score. The percentage of ranking of these genes out of the 21,121 genes is indicated in bracket. **(3B)** Components of the mediator complex

are identified among the top hits. **(3C)** Components of the INO80 complex are identified among the top hits.

[0037] Figure 4: Gene ontology analysis of N_{av}. **(4A)** Gene ontology analysis on the molecular function of the top 200 genes ranked by N_{av} scores (Panther classification). Candidate genes involved in cell survivability were enriched in GO categories for nucleic acid binding and ribosomal proteins, mRNA splicing and processing factor and DNA-directed RNA polymerase. **(4B)** Transcripts encoding for RNA polymerase subunits were among the top 200 hits (ranked by N_{av} score). **(4C)** Transcripts encoding for ribosomal subunits were found among the top hits.

[0038] Figure 5: Pathway analyses. **(5A)** Gene Ontology analysis of the 566 genes with z-score >2. Graphs represent the functional categorization of the biological process and molecular function categories that are over-represented. Categories with p-value <0.05 are indicated with * and categories with p-value <0.01 are indicated with **. **(5B)** Reactome analysis. The 566 genes (identifiers) were analyzed using the web-resource Reactome. The reactome map were plotted using Skypainter tool to determine which events (reactions and/or pathways) are statistically over-represented in the set of genes submitted. 113 identifiers could be matched to the 333 out of 4374 events. 12 categories with p-value <0.05 are over-represented. **(5C)** Interaction map. 263 genes were found to be interacting between/among themselves from the 566 genes. **(5D)** Components of the INO80 chromatin remodeling complex, mediator complex, TAF complex, COP9 signalosome, eukaryotic initiation complex and spliceosome complex with z-score >2 are indicated in with an asterisk (*). These complexes are assessed using the STRING database with a high confidence threshold.

[0039] Figure 6: Secondary validation of 200 genes. **(6A)** Deconvoluted siRNA screen on H1-GFP, HES2 and HES3 hESCs lines. 200 genes from the 566 genes with z-score >2 were subjected to further validation by deconvoluting the pooled mixture of 4 siRNAs. The screen was performed on 3 different hESCs lines and different stemness markers were used for analysis. H1-GFP hESCs line were analyzed for GFP, OCT4 and NANOG expression, HES2 and HES3 hESCs lines were analyzed for OCT4 and NANOG expression. Genes were considered positive hits if 2 or more siRNA down-regulate GFP/OCT4/NANOG expression. The

percentage of genes that were validated/cell line/stemness marker are indicated beside the respective bars. **(6B)** Venn diagram showing the overlapping hits for the different marker of analysis in each of the different cell line. 126 genes are validated by GFP, OCT4 and NANOG downregulation in H1-GFP hESCs. 86 genes in HES2 and 124 genes in HES3 were validated based on OCT4 and NANOG downregulation. **(6C)** Venn diagram showing the common overlapping genes among the 3 different hESC lines based on OCT4 or NANOG stemness marker for analysis. 93 common genes are involved in the downregulation of OCT4 and 54 common genes are involved in the down regulation of NANOG in all the 3 hESCs lines. **(6D)** Graphs depicting the GFP VS OCT4, GFP VS NANOG correlation for H1-GFP hESCs and NANOG VS OCT4 correlation for each of H1-GFP, HES2 and HES3 hESCs.

[0040] Figure 7: PRDM14 and NFRKB can enhance reprogramming of human fibroblasts to iPSCs. **(7A)** Graph depicts fold change of the number of hESC-like iPSC colonies generated from PRDM14, NFRKB or YAP1 in conjunction with OCT4, SOX2, KLF4 and c-MYC (OSKM) with respect to the control (OSKM) (upper panel). Samples were subsequently fixed for immuno-staining, and the number of TRA-1-60 positive colonies was recorded (lower panel). Each column represents the average of 3 replicates. All values are means ± s.e.m from 3 independent experiments (n=3). **(7B)** PRDM14 and NFRKB are required for reprogramming of human somatic cell. Retroviruses harboring PRDM14 shRNA or NFRKB shRNA were co-transduced with the 4 reprogramming factors.
2 independent shRNAs were used for the depletion of either PRDM14 or NFRKB. The number of hESC-like iPSC colonies was counted after 4 weeks post infection (upper panel). Samples were subsequently fixed for immunofluorescence staining, and the number of TRA-1-60 positive colonies was recorded (lower panel). All values are means ± s.e.m from 3 independent experiments (n=3). **(7C)** Bright field images show MRC-5 human embryonic lung fibroblasts and iPSC colonies induced by PRDM14 or NFRKB in combination with the 4 factors. Immunofluorescence staining detects hESC markers (NANOG, TRA-1-60, TRA-1-81 and SSEA-4) in PRDM14 or NFRKB-induced hiPSCs. These hiPSC colonies were also stained for alkaline phosphatase (AP). The scale bars represent 200 μm in bright field and IF images, and 2 mm in the AP staining image. **(7D)** Both OSKM+PRDM14 hiPSCs and OSKM+NFRKB hiPSCs showed normal karyotype. **(7E)** *In vitro* differentiation

of hiPSCs. Both PRDM14 and NFRKB-induced hiPSCs can differentiate into different lineages via EB (embryoid body)-mediated or growth factor-induced *in vitro* differentiation. The hiPSCs can differentiate into ectodermal (indicated by NESTIN staining) and mesodermal cells (indicated by α-smooth muscle actin staining) using EB-mediated method. Definitive endodermal cells (as shown by staining for SOX17) derived with activin A induction and trophectodermal cells (as shown by staining for p57kip2) derived with combined BMP4 induction and FGF inhibition (PD0325901) were also obtained from these hiPSCs. The scale bars represent 200 μm. **(7F)** Teratoma formation assay for OSKM+PRDM14 hiPSCs and OSKM+NFRKB hiPSCs. Tissues derived from all three germ layers (ectoderm, mesoderm and endoderm) were obtained. Tissues shown correspond to pigmented epithelium, neural rosettes, muscle and gut epithelium. Bars represent 50 μm. **(7G)** Microarray profiling of hiPSCs. Heatmap showing the gene expression profile of 1,000 hESC-associated genes and fibroblast-associated genes in H1, H9 hESCs, two hiPSC lines and MRC-5. The selection of genes was based on the fold differences in their expression levels in hESCs and fibroblasts. The genes were sorted according to the average expression ratios and mean-centred around the fibroblasts signal. The greyscale bar indicates the gene expression normalized to fibroblasts in log2 scale. **(7H)** DNA methylation analysis of hiPSCs. *POU5F1* and *NANOG* promoter regions in H1 hESCs, MRC-5, PRDM14-induced hiPSCs and NFRKB-induced hiPSCs were analyzed by bisulfite sequencing. Each row of squares represents an individual sequencing result. Grey squares represent unmethylated CpG dinucleotides; black squares represent methylated CpG dinucleotides.

[0041] Figure 8: Characterization of PRDM14 and NFRKB reprogrammed hiPSCs. (8A) PRDM14 and NFRKB can enhance reprogramming mediated by OCT4, SOX2 and KLF4. Graph depicts fold change of number of hESC-like iPSC colonies generated from PRDM14 or NFRKB in conjunction with OCT4, SOX2 and KLF4 (OSK) with respect to the control (OSK). Each column represents the average of 3 replicates. All values are means ± s.e.m from 3 independent experiments (n=3). **(8B)** Both OSK+PRDM14 hiPSCs and OSK+NFRKB hiPSCs showed normal karyotype. **(8C)** Immuno-fluorescence staining showed the expression of hESC markers (NANOG, TRA-1-60, TRA-1-81 and SSEA-4) in hiPSCs induced by PRDM14 or NFRKB in the absence of c-MYC. These hiPSCs were also stained for

alkaline phosphatase (AP). The scale bars represent 200 μm in bright field and IF images, and 2 mm in the AP staining image. **(8D)** *In vitro* differentiation of hiPSCs. Both OSK+PRDM14 hiPSCs and OSK+NFRKB hiPSCs can differentiate into different lineages via EB (embryoid body)-mediated or growth factor-induced *in vitro* differentiation. The hiPSCs can differentiate into ectodermal (indicated by NESTIN staining) and mesodermal cells (indicated by α-smooth muscle actin staining) using EB-mediated method. Definitive endodermal cells (as shown by staining for SOX17) derived with activin A induction and trophectodermal cells (as shown by staining for p57kip2) derived with combined BMP4 induction and FGF inhibition (PD0325901) were also obtained from these hiPSCs. The scale bars represent 200 μm. **(8E)** Teratoma formation assay for OSK+PRDM14 hiPSCs and OSK+NFRKB hiPSCs. Tissues derived from all three germ layers (ectoderm, mesoderm and endoderm) were obtained. Tissues shown correspond to pigmented epithelium, muscle, gut epithelium and kidney-like tissues. Bars represent 50 μm. **(8F)** Microarray profiling of hiPSCs. Heatmap showing the gene expression profile of 1,000 hESC-associated genes and fibroblast-associated genes in H1, H9 hESCs, two hiPSC lines and MRC-5. The selection of genes was based on the fold differences in their expression levels in hESCs and fibroblasts. The genes were sorted according to the average expression ratios and mean-centred around the fibroblasts signal. The greyscale bar indicates the gene expression normalized to fibroblasts in log2 scale. **(8G)** DNA methylation analysis of hiPSCs. *POU5F1* and *NANOG* promoter regions in H1 hESCs, MRC-5, PRDM14 or NFRKB-induced hiPSCs (in the absence of c-MYC) were analyzed by bisulfite sequencing. Each row of squares represents an individual sequencing result. Grey squares represent unmethylated CpG dinucleotides; black squares represent methylated CpG dinucleotides. **(8H)** PRDM14 and NFRKB can replace KLF4 to induce hiPSC in conjunction with OCT4, SOX2 and c-MYC. Immunofluorescence staining showed the expression of hESC markers (NANOG, TRA-1-60, TRA-1-81 and SSEA-4) in hiPSCs induced by PRDM14 or NFRKB in the absence of KLF4. These hiPSCs were also stained for alkaline phosphatase (AP). The scale bars represent 200 μm in bright field and IF images, and 2 mm in the AP staining image. **(8I)** Both OSC+PRDM14 hiPSCs and OSC+NFRKB hiPSCs can differentiate into different lineages via EB (embryoid body)-mediated or growth factor-induced *in vitro* differentiation. The hiPSCs can differentiate into ectodermal (indicated by NESTIN staining) and mesodermal cells (indicated by α-smooth muscle actin staining) using

EB-mediated method. Definitive endodermal cells (as shown by staining for SOX17) derived with activin A induction and trophectodermal cells (as shown by staining for p57kip2) derived with combined BMP4 induction and FGF inhibition (PD0325901) were also obtained from these hiPSCs. The scale bars represent 200 μm.

[0042] Figure 9: PRDM14 and the maintenance of H1 hESCs. (9A) Immunofluorescence staining for stemness markers. *PRDM14* and control knockdown H1 hESCs were stained for OCT4, TRA-1-60 and TRA-1-81 after 4 days of knocked down. The nuclei of the cells were counterstained with Hoechst. Scale bars represent 50 μm. **(9B)** Analysis of PRDM14, OCT4 and NANOG protein levels by western blot. **(9C)** Quantification of pluripotency-related transcript levels. Pluripotency-associated genes *SOX2*, *HELLS* and *DPPA4* were quantified for mRNA expression changes by qPCR. All values are means ± s.e.m from 3 independent experiments (n=3) and fold changes were normalized against control *luciferase* RNAi samples. **(9D)** Quantification of differentiation-related transcript and protein levels. *RUNX1*, *MAFB* and *IGFBP5* were quantified for mRNA expression changes by qPCR. All values are means ± s.e.m from 3 independent experiments (n=3) and fold changes were normalized to control RNAi samples. Immunofluorescence assays were used to detect protein expression upon PRDM14 depletion. Scale bars represent 100 μm.

[0043] Figure 10: Validation for PRDM14 knockdown in HES3 hESCs. (10A) *PRDM14* and control knockdown HES3 hESCs were stained for hESC markers (OCT4, TRA-1-60 ,TRA-1-81and SSEA-4) and alkaline phosphatase after 4 days of knockdown. The nuclei of the cells were counterstained with Hoechst. Scale bars represent 50 μm. **(10B)** Quantification for pluripotency-related transcript levels.

[0044] Figure 11: Validation for PRDM14 for PRDM14 Knockdown in H9 hESCs. (11A) *PRDM14* and control knockdown H9 hESCs were stained for hESC markers (OCT4, TRA-1-60, TRA-1-81 and SSEA-4) and alkaline phosphatase after 4 days of knockdown. The nuclei of the cells were counterstained with Hoechst. Scale bars represent 50 μm. **(11B)** Quantification for pluripotency-related transcript levels.

[0045] **Figure 12: Prdm14 is not required for the maintenance of mouse ESCs and is deficient in mouse EpiSCs.** **(12A)** Knockdown of Prdm14 in mESCs with 3 different shRNA constructs did not induce differentiation as indicated by the alkaline phosphatase staining and morphology. Scale bar represents 50uM. **(12B)** Knockdown of Prdm14 in mESCs does not reduce Oct4, Nanog and Sox2 expression. All qPCR values are means ± s.e.m from 3 independent experiments (n=3) and fold changes were normalized to control RNAi samples. **(12C)** Genes expressed at high and low level in EpiSCs. All qPCR values are means ± s.e.m from 3 independent experiments (n=3) and fold changes were normalized to Gapdh. **(12D)** Prdm14 is expressed at a very low level as compared to mouse ESC. All qPCR values are means ± s.e.m from 3 independent experiments (n=3) and fold changes were normalized to mouse ESC sample.

[0046] **Figure 13: Validation of PRDM14 ChIP-seq dataset.** **(13A)** H1 hESCs were transfected with the *PRDM14* or control knockdown construct and harvested 72 hrs post transfection. 21 genomic loci bound by PRDM14 from the ChIP-seq analysis were chosen for validation. C1 and C2 are control regions showing only background level of enrichment. **(13B)** H1 hESCs were transfected with the HA-tagged *PRDM14* expression construct and harvested 72 hrs post transfection. An antibody specific for the HA tag was used in the ChIP against chromatin extracts from cells transfected with the PRDM14 expression construct and untransfected cells. C1 and C2 are control regions showing only background level of enrichment.

[0047] **Figure 14: PRDM14 regulates *POU5F1* enhancer.** **(14A)** PRDM14 shows co-binding with OCT4, SOX2, NANOG and co-activator p300. Greyscale intensity in the heat map reflects the co-localization frequency of each of the transcription factors (the descending frequency of localization ranges from white to grey to dark grey). **(14B)** PRDM14 motif predicted by the *de novo* motif-discovery algorithm CisFinder. **(14C)** ChIP-seq binding profile of PRDM14, OCT4, NANOG, CTCF at *POU5F1* locus. Control ChIP-seq library was obtained from sequencing of input DNA. **(14D)** PRDM14 binds to CR2 probe. Probe containing putative PRDM14 motif were incubated with purified recombinant PRDM14 DNA binding domain (DBD) protein. Introduction of mutations in the putative motif disrupt the PRDM14 DBD/DNA complex. **(14E)** Native PRDM14 binds to CR2 probe. Probes

containing putative PRDM14 motif were incubated with nuclear extract prepared from hESCs. Introduction of mutations in the putative motif disrupt the PRDM14 DBD/DNA complex. Supershift assay was performed by adding PRDM14 antibodies to the EMSA sample. **(14F)** PRDM14 regulates CR2 enhancer but not CR4 enhancer in hESC. CR2 and CR4 of the *POU5F1* upstream regulatory region were each cloned downstream of the *luciferase* reporter gene driven by a *POU5F1* proximal promoter (~350bp). Each of the constructs was transfected into H1 hESCs to test for enhancer activity. *PRDM14* shRNA construct was co-transfected with the reporter construct and activity was normalized against the knockdown control. All values are means ± s.e.m from 3 independent experiments (n=3). **(14G)** PRDM14 is bound to CR2 but not CR4 region. ChIP assay was performed using a PRDM14 antibody. **(14H)** NANOG binds to PRDM14 in human ES cells. Co-IP using hESC whole cell lysate with anti-Nanog antibody. Western was carried out with PRDM14 antibody. Control IgG antibody was used in the control IP. **(14I, 14J)** NANOG binds to PRDM14 in 293 cells. 293T cells were co-transfected with cDNAs encoding HA tagged PRDM14 and NANOG protein. Whole cell lysate was used for co-IP with anti-HA and anti-Nanog antibody. Anti-GST antibody was used as a control for the anti-HA IP. **(14K)** 3 copies of CR2 consensus motif identified previously are inserted in tandem before the minimal promoter of the reporter construct. *NANOG* and *PRDM14* expression construct were co-transfected with the reporter construct into 293T cells and luciferase activity was normalized against the control vector. All values are means ± s.e.m from 3 independent experiments (n=3). **(14L)** PRDM14 and NANOG synergistically enhance reprogramming of human fibroblasts. Graph depicts fold change of number of TRA-1-60 positive hiPSC colonies generated from PRDM14 or NANOG in conjunction with OCT4, SOX2 and KLF4 (OSK) with respect to the control (OSK). All values are means ± s.e.m from 3 independent experiments (n=3).

[0048] Figure 15: Co-motif analysis. The distribution and enrichment of sequence motifs around PRDM14 ChIP-seq peaks. Except for the PRDM14 motif which was found *de novo* in this study, the other 3 motifs V_OCT4_01, V_SP1_Q6_01 and V_AP2_Q6 shown are the most enriched from the TRANSFAC database. The enrichment score reflects the number of motif matches compared to the expected number of matches in windows around the ChIP-seq peaks.

[0049] Figure 16: PRDM14 regulates CR2 enhancer in different hESCs. **(16A)** Map of luciferase reporters used to test enhancer activity of CR2 and CR4. CR2 and CR4 of the *POU5F1* upstream regulatory region were each cloned downstream of the *luciferase* reporter gene driven by a *POU5F1* proximal promoter (~350bp). **(16B)** Each of the constructs was transfected into HES2 and HES3 hESCs to test for enhancer activity. *PRDM14* shRNA construct was co-transfected with the reporter construct and activity was normalized against the knockdown control. All values are means ± s.e.m from 3 independent experiments (n=3). **(16C)** Mutation of PRDM14 site at CR2 reduces its activity in H1, HES2 and HES3 hESC. All values are means ± s.e.m from 3 independent experiments (n=3).

[0050] Figure 17: Mapping of functional domains for transcriptional regulation and reprogramming. **(17A)** A schematic summary of different molecules generated for PRDM14 functional study. N, N-terminal; SET, PR/SET domain; DBD, DNA binding domain; Δ, deletion. **(17B)** 3 copies of PRDM14 motif found in CR2 enhancer were inserted in tandem before a minimal promoter found in pGL4.23 luciferase reporter vector. Full length cDNA of *PRDM14* or different mutant versions of *PRDM14* were transfected into 293T cells to test for their ability to regulate transcription. Luciferase vector without PRDM14 motif was used as control. The reporter activity was normalized to the activity of control vector in the presence of PRDM14 or deletion mutants. All values are means ± s.e.m from 3 independent experiments (n=3). **(17C)** Functional analysis of PRDM14 domains in reprogramming of human fibroblasts. Graph depicts fold change of number of TRA-1-60 positive hiPSC colonies generated from PRDM14 or its mutant molecules in conjunction with OCT4, SOX2, KLF4 and c-MYC (OSKM) with respect to the control (OSKM). Each column represents the average of 3 replicates. All values are means ± s.e.m from 3 independent experiments (n=3). **(17D)** Deletion of the DNA binding domain at the C-terminal abolished PRDM14 binding activity as indicated in the EMSA. **(17E)** The first 5 zinc fingers but not the last zinc finger are critical for the binding of PRDM14. **(17F)** The first 5 zinc fingers but not the last zinc finger are required for the transcriptional activity of PRDM14.

[0051] Figure 18: Regulation of target genes by PRDM14. **(18A)** Venn diagram showing the intersection of PRDM14-bound genes with genes that were

down-regulated after PRDM14 depletion. This subset of PRDM14 bound genes are positively regulated by PRDM14. **(18B)** Venn diagram showing the intersection of PRDM14-bound genes with genes that were induced after PRDM14 depletion. **(18C)** GO analysis of the overlapping genes shown in (18A). **(18D)** GO analysis of the overlapping genes shown in (18B). **(18E)** Schematic representation of a model for the transcriptional regulatory network governed by PRDM14 in hESC.

[0052] Figure 19: Validation of gene expression (from the different Gene Ontology group) upon PRDM14 depletion. (19A) 20 genes from the different Gene Ontology group of figure 18C were selected for qPCR validation and 19 genes were downregulated upon PRDM14 depletion. All values are means ± s.e.m from 3 independent experiments (n=3). **(19B)** 20 genes from the different Gene Ontology group of figure 18D were selected for qPCR validation and all the 20 genes were upregulated upon PRDM14 depletion. All values are means ± s.e.m from 3 independent experiments (n=3).

[0053] Figure 20: Transcription factors that co-localize to PRDM14 sites at PRDM14 regulated genes. (20A) Top 20 enriched PWMs at PRDM14 sites. **(20B)** Motif logo for V_OCT4_01 TRANSFAC PWM. **(20C)** Examples of 10 PWM not enriched at PRDM14 sites. **(20D)** PRDM14 shows co-binding with OCT4, SOX2, NANOG and co-activator p300. Greyscale intensity in the heat map reflects the co-localization frequency of each of the transcription factors (the descending frequency of localization ranges from white to grey to dark grey).

[0054] Figure 21: PRDM14 recruits polycomb group proteins in hESCs and during reprogramming. (21A) Co-localization analysis for PRDM14 and histone modifications. Greyscale intensity in the heat map reflects the co-localization frequency of each of transcription factors (the descending frequency of localization ranges from white to grey to dark grey). **(21B)** PRDM14 interacts with Ezh2 in hESC. Co-IP assays were performed using hESC whole cell lysate with anti-PRDM14 and anti-Ezh2 antibody. Western was carried out with anti-PRDM14 or anti-Ezh2 antibody. Anti-GST antibody was used in the control IP sample. **(21C)** PRDM14 interacts with Ezh2 in 293T cells. 293T cell were co-transfected with cDNA encoding HA tagged PRDM14 and Myc tagged EZH2 protein. Whole cell lysate was used for co-IP with anti-HA and anti-Myc antibody. Anti-GST antibody

was used in the control IP. **(21D)** H3K27me3 is reduced with PRDM14 depletion. hESC transfected with control knockdown shRNA targeting *Luciferase* or *PRDM14* shRNA were fixed and harvested 48 hr post transfection. ChIP was carried out with anti-H3K27me3 antibodies. All values are means ± s.e.m from 3 independent experiments (n=3). **(21E)** Recruitment of Ezh2 is reduced with PRDM14 depletion. hESC transfected with control knockdown shRNA or *PRDM14* shRNA were fixed and harvested 48 hr post transfection. ChIP was carried out with anti-Ezh2 antibodies. All values are means ± s.e.m from 3 independent experiments (n=3). **(21F)** PRDM14 is targeted to the genes shown in (21D) in fibroblasts. MCR-5 fibroblasts infected with retroviruses expressing PRDM14 or control Red Fluorescent Protein (RFP) were fixed and harvested 5 days post infection. ChIP was carried out with anti-PRDM14 antibodies. All values are means ± s.e.m from 3 independent experiments (n=3). **(21G)** H3K27me3 is induced at PRDM14 targets in fibroblasts. MCR-5 fibroblasts infected with retroviruses expressing PRDM14 or control RFP were fixed and harvested 5 days post infection. ChIP was carried out with anti-H3K27me3 antibodies. All values are means ± s.e.m from 3 independent experiments (n=3). **(21H)** Ezh2 is recruited to PRDM14 targets in fibroblasts. MCR-5 fibroblasts infected with retroviruses expressing PRDM14 or control RFP were fixed and harvested 5 days post infection. ChIP was carried out with anti-Ezh2 antibodies. All values are means ± s.e.m from 3 independent experiments (n=3). **(21I)** PRDM14 represses the genes shown in (21D) in fibroblasts. Total RNA of MCR-5 fibroblasts infected with retroviruses expressing PRDM14 or RFP were extracted. Expression levels of target genes were measured with real time-PCR and relative expression levels were normalized against the RFP infected control. All values are means ± s.e.m from 3 independent experiments (n=3). **(21J)** Overexpression of *NR2F1* and *ZEB1* induce differentiation of hESCs. Expression construct for *NR2F1* or *ZEB1* was transfected into H1 hESCs and cellular morphology was captured by light microscopy. TRA-1-60 staining was performed on the control, *NR2F1* and *ZEB1* transfected cells.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

[0055] Extensive efforts have been made in the identification of regulators for mESCs through the use of loss-of-function genetic approaches [23-26]. However, despite these efforts, little is known about the key regulators that are required for

inducing pluripotency in human somatic cells and the maintenance of human embryonic stem cell (hESC) identity.

[0056] Here, the inventors performed a genome-wide RNAi screen and identified key regulators for the maintenance of hESCs, and which are able to induce pluripotency. PR domain-containing protein 14 (PRDM14) and nuclear factor related kappaB binding protein (NFRKB) were found to be effective in the reprogramming of human somatic cells.

[0057] The present invention thus relates to methods of inducing pluripotency in a human somatic cell, to methods of maintaining hESCs and to human somatic cells comprising OCT4, SOX2, at least one of KLF4 and c-MYC and at least one of PRDM14 and NFRKB.

[0058] It was previously known that human somatic cells could be reprogrammed into induced pluripotent stem cells (iPSCs) through the co-expression of four transcription factors, OCT4, SOX2, KLF4 and c-MYC [27, 42-44]. This is significant since the reprogramming of somatic cells provides unprecedented opportunities for generating patient-specific pluripotent cells which may be used as *in vitro* models for studying and developing applications for treating human diseases [28-31].

[0059] OCT4 is a protein encoded by the human *POU5F1* gene [71]. The POU family of transcription factors consists of at least 14 members, which often act synergistically during vertebrate development with the SOX family of transcription factors [72-74]. The role of OCT4 as an inducer of pluripotency is well established [27, 57]. The sequence of two isoforms of the human OCT4 gene, generated by alternative splicing, is available for example in GenBank under DQ486515 and DQ486516. As will be understood, the reference to OCT4 in the present application may encompass either of the OCT4 isoforms. A representative amino acid sequence for human OCT4 is provided below:

MAGHLASDFAFSPPPGGGGDGPGGPEPGWVDPRTWLSFQGP
PGGPGIGPGVGPGSEVWGIPPCPPPYEFCGGMAYCGPQVGV
GLVPQGGLETSQPEGEAGVGVESNSDGASPEPCTVTPGAVK
LEKEKLEQNPEESQDIKALQKELEQFAKLLKQKRITLGYTQ
ADVGLTLGVLFGKVFSQTTICRFEALQLSFKNMCKLRPLLQ
KWVEEADNNENLQEICKAETLVQARKRKRTSIENRVRGNLE

NLFLQCPKPTLQQISHIAQQLGLEKDVVRVWFCNRRQKGKR
SSSDYAQREDFEAAGSPFSGGPVSFPLAPGPHFGTPGYGSP
HFTALYSSVPFPEGEAFPPVSVTTLGSPMHSN (SEQ ID
NO: 1)

[0060] SOX2 is a transcription factor that is critical to maintain self-renewal of undifferentiated stem cells, and is one of the key transcription factors required in iPSCs [45]. The SOX family of transcription factors consists of at least 20 members [72-74]. Despite their diverse biological roles, the specificity of SOX proteins for DNA elements is largely indistinguishable and highly conserved [75]. Indeed, specificity in transcriptional control may be achieved as a result of selective heterodimerization. For example, SOX2/OCT4 pairs are important factors in embryonic stem (ES) cells [8, 64]. The sequence of the human SOX2 gene is available, for example, in GenBank under BC013923. As will be understood, reference herein to SOX2 may include for example mutated versions of SOX proteins, such as described International Patent Application PCT/SG2010/000423. A representative amino acid sequence for human SOX2 is provided below:

MYNMMETELKPPGPQQTSGGGGGNSTAAAAGGNQKNSPDRV
KRPMNAFMVWSRGQRRKMAQENPKMHNSEISKRLGAEWKLL
SETEKRPFIDEAKRLRALHMKEHPDYKYRPRRKTKTLMKKD
KYTLPGGLLAPGGNSMASGVGVGAGLGAGVNQRMDSYAHMN
GWSNGSYSMMQDQLGYPQHPGLNAHGAAQMQPMHRYDVSAL
QYNSMTSSQTYMNGSPTYSMSYSQQGTPGMALGSMGSVVKS
EASSSPPVVTSSSHSRAPCQAGDLRDMISMYLPGAEVPEPA
APSRLHMSQHYQSGPVPGTAINGTLPLSHM (SEQ ID NO: 2)

[0061] KLF4 is a member of a family of proteins characterized by their three Cys2 His2 zinc fingers located at the C-terminus, each of which is separated by a highly conserved H/C link. KLF4 interacts with p300 histone acetyltransferase to regulate gene transcription by modulating histone acetylation [76]. KLF4 has been shown to play a role in reprogramming human somatic cells into iPSCs [27]. The sequence of the human KLF4 gene is available, for example, in GenBank under AF105036. A representative amino acid sequence for human KLF4 is provided below:

MRQPPGESDMAVSDALLPSFSTFASGPAGREKTLRQAGAPN
NRWREELSHMKRLPPVLPGRPYDLAAATVATDLESGGAGAA

CGGSNLAPLPRRETEEFNDLLDLDFILSNSLTHPPESVAAT
VSSSASASSSSSPSSSGPASAPSTCSFTYPIRAGNDPGVAP
GGTGGGLLYGRESAPPPTAPFNLADINDVSPSGGFVAELLR
PELDPVYIPPQQPQPPGGGLMGKFVLKASLSAPGSEYGSPS
VISVSKGSPDGSHPVVVAPYNGGPPRTCPKIKQEAVSSCTH
LGAGPPLSNGHRPAAHDFPLGRQLPSRTTPTLGLEEVLSSR
DCHPALPLPPGFHPHPGPNYPSFLPDQMQPQVPPLHYQGQS
RGFVARAGEPCVCWPHFGTHGMMLTPPSSPLELMPPGSCMP
EEPKPKRGRRSWPRKRTATHTCDYAGCGKTYTKSSHLKAHL
RTHTGEKPYHCDWDGCGWKFARSDELTRHYRKHTGHRPFQC
QKCDRAFSRSDHLALHMKRHF (SEQ ID NO: 3)

[0062] c-MYC is a member of a family of transcription factors containing a basic Helix-Loop-Helix Leucine. It has been proposed that the role of c-MYC in establishing iPSCs may be as a booster of reprogramming rather than a controller of maintenance [27]. The sequence of the human c-MYC gene may be found, for example, in GenBank under NCBI RefSeq NM_002467. A representative amino acid sequence for human c-MYC is provided below:

MPLNVSFTNRNYDLDYDSVQPYFYCDEEENFYQQQQQSELQ
PPAPSEDIWKKFELLPTPPLSPSRRSGLCSPSYVAVTPFSL
RGDNDGGGGSFSTADQLEMVTELLGGDMVNQSFICDPDDET
FIKNIIIQDCMWSGFSAAAKLVSEKLASYQAARKDSGSPNP
ARGHSVCSTSSLYLQDLSAAASECIDPSVVFPYPLNDSSSP
KSCASQDSSAFSPSSDSLLSSTESSPQGSPEPLVLHEETPP
TTSSDSEEEQEDEEEIDVVSVEKRQAPGKRSESGSPSAGGH
SKPPHSPLVLKRCHVSTHQHNYAAPPSTRKDYPAAKRVKLD
SVRVLRQISNNRKCTSPRSSDTEENVKRRTHNVLERQRRNE
LKRSFFALRDQIPELENNEKAPKVVILKKATAYILSVQAEE
QKLISEEDLLRKRREQLKHKLEQLRNSCA (SEQ ID NO: 4)

[0063] It will be appreciated that reference herein to OCT4, SOX2, KLF4 and c-MYC includes those embodiments described above, as well as sequence variants or fragments (e.g. fragments of at least 25, 50, 100, 150, 200, 250, 300, 350, 400 or more amino acids in length) which retain the ability to direct the specific function of OCT4, SOX2, KLF4 and c-MYC, respectively, including for example either the induction or maintenance of pluripotency. Any such variants or fragments may be used in the methods of the present invention, for example, either in methods involving contacting the human somatic cells with OCT4, SOX2, KLF4 or c-MYC or methods involving expressing OCT4, SOX2, KLF4 or c-MYC in the human somatic cell. In a particular

embodiment, the OCT4, SOX2, KLF4 and c-MYC used in the present invention may be obtained from cDNA found in Addgene plasmids 17217, 17218, 17219 and 17220, respectively [27].

[0064] Polypeptides or peptides that have substantial identity to proteins encoded by the cDNA found in the Addgene plasmids or substantial identity to the representative amino acid sequences provided herein for OCT4, SOX2, KLF4 and c-MYC may also be used. Similarly, nucleotide sequences encoding any of these polypeptides, peptides or proteins, or nucleotide sequences having substantial identity thereto, are also encompassed by the present invention.

[0065] Two sequences are considered to have substantial identity if, when optimally aligned (with gaps permitted), they share at least approximately 50% sequence identity, or if the sequences share defined functional motifs. In alternative embodiments, optimally aligned sequences may be considered to be substantially identical (i.e., to have substantial identity) if they share at least 60%, 70%, 75%, 80%, 85%, 90%, 95%, 96%, 97%, 98%, or 99% identity over a specified region. The term "identity" refers to sequence similarity between two polypeptides molecules. Identity can be determined by comparing each position in the aligned sequences. A degree of identity between amino acid sequences is a function of the number of identical or matching amino acids at positions shared by the sequences, for example, over a specified region. Optimal alignment of sequences for comparisons of identity may be conducted using a variety of algorithms, as are known in the art, including the ClustalW program, available at http://clustalw.genome.ad.jp, the local homology algorithm of Smith and Waterman, 1981, *Adv. Appl. Math* 2: 482, the homology alignment algorithm of Needleman and Wunsch, 1970, *J. MoI. Biol.* 48:443, the search for similarity method of Pearson and Lipman, 1988, *Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci.* USA 85:2444, and the computerised implementations of these algorithms (such as GAP, BESTFIT, FASTA and TFASTA in the Wisconsin Genetics Software Package, Genetics Computer Group, Madison, WI, U.S.A.). Sequence identity may also be determined using the BLAST algorithm, described in Altschul *et al.*, 1990, *J. Mol. Biol.* 215:403-10 (using the published default settings). For example, the "BLAST 2 Sequences" tool, available through the National Center for Biotechnology Information (through the internet at http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/BLAST/bl2seq/wblast2.cqi) may

be used, selecting the "blastp" program at the following default settings: expect threshold 10; word size 3; matrix BLOSUM 62; gap costs existence 11, extension 1. In another embodiment, the person skilled in the art can readily and properly align any given sequence and deduce sequence identity and/or homology by mere visual inspection

[0066] Here, an important role for each of PRDM14 and NFRKB in inducing and maintaining pluripotency in human somatic cells has now been observed and characterized.

[0067] As shown herein, the presence of either PRDM14 or NFRKB during culture of human somatic cells enhances reprogramming of the human somatic cells to iPSCs (*i.e.* imparting pluripotency). This is observed when the cells are cultured in the presence of OCT4, SOX2, at least one of KLF4 and c-MYC, and at least one of PRDM14 and NFRKB. While OCT2 and SOX2 may be required for the generation of iPSCs, PRDM14 and NFRKB are able to substitute for either KLF4 or c-MYC . Thus, the present methods provide a method of using OCT4, SOX2 and KLF4 or c-MYC, together with at least one of PRDM14 and NFRKB to induce pluripotency by converting a non-pluripotent cell to a pluripotent cell, including *in vitro* methods.

[0068] In a particular embodiment, there is provided a method of inducing pluripotency in a human somatic cell comprising culturing the human somatic cell in the presence of (i) OCT4 and SOX2; (ii) at least one of KLF4 and c-MYC; and (iii) at least one of PRDM14 and NFRKB.

[0069] As will be understood, prior to providing OCT4, SOX2, at least one of KLF4 and c-MYC, and at least one of PRDM14 and NFRKB, the human somatic cells may be cultured in conditions appropriate for maintaining the particular human somatic cell type. Appropriate conditions for culturing human somatic cell types are known in the art. For example, in a representative embodiment, human fibroblast cells may be cultured in 15% fetal bovine serum (FBS)/Dulbecco's Modified Eagle Medium (DMEM).

[0070] Methods of inducing pluripotency are known, for example as described in Takahashi and Yamanaka [41]. In the present methods for inducing pluripotency, the human somatic cells are cultured in the presence of OCT4, SOX2, at least one of

KLF4 and c-MYC, and at least one of PRDM14 and NFRKB. The culture conditions may be adjusted during the method from conditions supporting the human somatic cells to conditions which are suitable for the growth and maintenance of embryonic stem cells. The change in culture conditions may be performed, for example, upon the introduction of OCT4, SOX2, at least one of KLF4 and c-MYC, and at least one of PRDM14 and NFRKB, or shortly thereafter (*e.g.* about 24 hours). The cells may then be maintained and expanded in such conditions which are suitable for the growth and maintenance of embryonic stem cells.

[0071] Thus, the present invention provides methods of reprogramming human somatic cells to iPSCs, which are known to be comparable to hESCs [27]. These human iPSCs are able to be maintained in the presence of OCT4, SOX2, at least one of KLF4 and c-MYC, and at least one of PRDM14 and NFRKB. Indeed, a role for these regulators in maintaining pluripotency in hESCs is further shown by the fact that reduction in expression of one of these key regulators, PRDM14, results in a loss of pluripotency.

[0072] Here, it is shown that PRDM14 is required to maintain the expression of a key pluripotency gene, *POU5F1* (coding for the protein OCT4). *De novo* computational methods identified an over-represented PRDM14 motif, which the inventors validated using electrophoretic mobility shift assay (EMSA). Interestingly, PRDM14 shows co-binding with OCT4, SOX2, NANOG and the co-activator p300, indicating that the PRDM14 circuitry is integrated into the core hESC transcriptional regulatory network, and is an important regulatory factor in maintaining pluripotency.

[0073] Also contemplated therefore is a method of maintaining pluripotency of a human embryonic stem cell (hESC) comprising culturing the hESC in the presence of (i) OCT4 and SOX2; (ii) at least one of KLF4 and c-MYC; and (iii) at least one of PRDM14 and NFRKB. Similar to the methods of inducing pluripotency, in the methods for maintaining pluripotency, the hESCs may be cultured under conditions suitable for the growth and maintenance of embryonic stem cells.

[0074] In the methods of the present invention, culturing the cell (human somatic cell or hESC) in the presence of OCT4 and SOX2, at least one of KLF4 and c-MYC, and at least one of PRDM14 and NFRKB includes contacting the cell with the various

pluripotency protein factors so that the pluripotency protein factors are taken up by the cell, as well as transfecting or transducing the cell with nucleic acids encoding the various pluripotency protein factors and expressing the pluripotency protein factors. Procedures for accomplishing such culturing methods are widely known in the art and any of these known culturing techniques may be used in the present invention. As used herein, reference to pluripotency protein factors is a reference to OCT4, SOX2, KLF4, c-MYC, PRDM14 and NFRKB, either alone or in combination.

[0075] Where the methods involve transfecting or transducing the cell with nucleic acids encoding the various pluripotency protein factors, expression of the pluripotency protein factors may involve expression from an expression vector. The expression vector may be of any suitable structure which provides expression of the pluripotency protein factors. As will be appreciated, a suitable promoter will be operably linked to the coding region for the particular pluripotency protein factor. For example, a coding sequence is operably linked to a promoter if the promoter activates the transcription of the coding sequence. The expression vector may for example be a plasmid, bacteriophage, DNA virus, RNA virus, or retrovirus vector. For example, a pMX retroviral plasmid may be used to carry cDNA of human OCT4, SOX2, KLF4, c-MYC, PRDM14 or NFRKB. It will be understood that the pluripotency protein factors may be co-expressed from one or more expression vectors.

[0076] Once the cell has been contacted with the pluripotency protein factors, or once the cell has been transfected or transduced with nucleic acid molecules encoding each of the pluripotency protein factors, the cells may be cultured under conditions suitable for the growth and maintenance of embryonic stem cells. Conditions that are suitable for growth and maintenance embryonic stem cells are known. Exemplary conditions are described herein which were used for the culture of the hESC lines H1, H9, HES2, HES3 and H1 *POU5F1*-GFP lines. Further, commercial medium for human embryonic stem cell culture is available (*e.g.* HEScGRO from Millipore; StemPro from Invitrogen) and other culture media and culture conditions are described, for example, in Lu *et al.* (2006) *PNAS*, 103(15): 5688-5693. In some circumstances, it may be desirable to use feeder cells to promote stem cell growth in culture, in keeping with standard embryonic stem cell culture techniques.

[0077] As used herein, the term "cell" refers to and includes a single cell, as well

as a plurality of cells or a population of cells, where context permits, and unless otherwise specified. Similarly, reference to "cells" also includes reference to a single cell where context permits, unless otherwise specified. The cell or cells may be grown in e.g. batch culture or in tissue culture plates.

[0078] The human somatic cell may be any human somatic cell, for example any human somatic cell that is partially differentiated or fully differentiated, including an *in vitro* cell, a cell in culture, or an explanted cell from a subject. The cell may be of any type of partially or fully differentiated human somatic cell, including for example a human fibroblast cell. Likewise, the hESC may be any type of undifferentiated hESC. The undifferentiated hES cell or cells are typically originally obtained from a blastocyst as is known in the art, but may be previously expanded.

[0079] As used herein, the term "pluripotent" or "pluripotency" refers to a state where the cell has the potential to differentiate into any of the three germ layers: endoderm, mesoderm or ectoderm. Pluripotency may be assessed according to any means known in the art. For example, the expression levels of known pluripotency markers, such as for example NANOG, TRA-1-60, TRA-1-81, SSEA-4 or alkaline phosphatase, may be determined. An increased expression of any of these genes as compared to levels in differentiated human somatic cells may be considered indicative of pluripotency. Also, cells may be identified as pluripotent by their ability to differentiate into different lineages via EB (embryoid body)-mediated or growth factor-induced *in vitro* differentiation or by teratoma formation assays.

[0080] The maintenance of hESCs refers to the maintenance of these cells in their undifferentiated, pluripotent state. Techniques described above for determining pluripotency may also be used to determine if cells are maintained as embryonic stem cells. Other known means may also be used. For example, the expression profile of hESC-associated genes, such as for example SOX2, HELLS and DPPA4, may be determined. Continued expression of these genes during culture may indicate maintenance of hESCs. In contrast, an increased expression of proteins that are expressed in differentiated cells types, such as RUNX1, MAFB and IGFBP5, may signify differentiation, and therefore a loss of hESCs.

[0081] Here, a key role has been identified for PRDM14 in inducing pluripotency

in human somatic stem cells, and maintaining hESCs. PRDM14 is a pluripotency protein factor belongs to a family of PR (PRDI-BFI and RIZ) domain proteins, a common domain found in histone modifying enzymes [50, 51]. In this family, there are predicted to be at least 17 PRDM proteins in primates and 16 PRDM proteins in rodents [70]. The proteins share a characteristic domain organization, each (with the exception of PRDM11) having an N-terminal PR domain followed by a variable number of zinc-finger repeats [70]. The sequence of the human PRDM14 gene may be found, for example, in GenBank under AF319458. A representative sequence for human PRDM14 is provided below:

MALPRPSEAVPQDKVCYPPESSPQNLAAYYTPFPSYGHYRN
SLATVEEDFQPFRQLEAAASAAPAMPPFPFRMAPPLLSPGL
GLQREPLYDLPWYSKLPPWYPIPHVPREVPPFLSSSHEYAG
ASSEDLGHQIIGGDNESGPCCGPDTLIPPPPADASLLPEGL
RTSQLLPCSPSKQSEDGPKPSNQEGKSPARFQFTEEDLHFV
LYGVTPSLEHPASLHHAISGLLVPPDSSGSDSLPQTLDKDS
LQLPEGLCLMQTVFGEVPHFGVFCSSFIAKGVRFGPFQGKV
VNASEVKTYGDNSVMWEIFEDGHLSHFIDGKGGTGNWMSYV
NCARFPKEQNLVAVQCQGHIFYESCKEIHQNQELLVWYGDC
YEKFLDIPVSLQVTEPGKQPSGPSEESAEGYRCERCGKVFT
YKYYRDKHLKYTPCVDKGDRKFPCSLCKRSFEKRDRLRIHI
LHVHEKHRPHKCSTCGKCFSQSSSLNKHMRVHSGDRPYQCV
YCTKRFTASSILRTHIRQHSGEKPFKCKYCGKSFASHAAHD
SHVRRSHKEDDGCSCSICGKIFSDQETFYSHMKFHEDY
(SEQ ID NO: 5)

[0082] Few of the PRDM family members have been studied in detail, and it will be appreciated that the present findings for PRDM14 may also extend to other members of the family. Further, it will be understood that reference herein to PRDM14 may encompass sequence variants or fragments (e.g. fragments of at least 25, 50, 100, 150, 200, 250, 300, 350, 400 or more amino acids in length) which retain the ability to direct the specific function of PRDM14, including for example either the induction or maintenance of pluripotency. Any such variants or fragments may be used in the methods of the present invention, for example, either in methods involving contacting the human somatic cells with PRDM14 or methods involving expressing PRDM14 in the human somatic cell.

[0083] Polypeptides or peptides that have substantial identity to PRDM14 protein sequences known in the art or substantial identity to the representative amino acid

sequences provided herein for PRDM14 may also be used. Similarly, nucleotide sequences encoding any of these polypeptides, peptides or proteins, or nucleotide sequences having substantial identity thereto, are also encompassed by the present invention. The meaning of substantial identity has been described earlier herein and applies equally to nucleotide and amino acid sequences of PRDM14.

[0084] Previous work on a Prdm14 knockout mouse model showed that Prdm14 is critical for the establishment of the germ cell lineage [52]. In addition, Prdm14 is essential for the derivation of embryonic germ cells from primordial germ cells (PGCs). However, the knockout animals do not show early embryonic lethal phenotype, unlike the knockout phenotype of other key regulators essential for the maintenance of pluripotency of mESCs [13, 15, 57, 58]. Prdm14 does not appear to be required to maintain mESC and pluripotent stem cells of the blastocysts [23, 25, 52]. In PGCs, the expression of *Pou5f1* is maintained in the absence of Prdm14. However, the present invention indicates that PRDM14 is critical for activating *POU5F1* in hESCs.

[0085] Without being limited to any particular theory, the present inventors suggest that PRDM14 maintains pluripotency and promotes the acquisition of pluripotency of the germ cell lineage and hESCs through distinctive mechanisms. These differences may arise through cell-type specific or species-specific differences in regulating *Pou5f1*. Also, it is shown that PRDM14 associates with NANOG, another transcription factor important for the establishment of ground state pluripotency [58]. PRDM14 and NANOG can function synergistically to activate *POU5F1* enhancer as well as to mediate reprogramming. Therefore, PRDM14 is connected via multiple points to the pluripotency-specific transcriptional regulatory network.

[0086] Here, a key role has also been identified for NFRKB in inducing pluripotency in human somatic stem cells, and maintaining hESCs. NFRKB, which is thought to be a component of the chromatin-remodelling INO80 complex, is a member of a family of transcription factors and has been shown to bind *in vitro* to several of the kappa B regulatory elements [77]. The sequence of the human NFRKB gene may be found, for example, in GenBank under BC063280. A representative amino acid sequence for human NFRKB is provided below:

MDSLDHMLTDPLELGPCGDGHGTRIMEDCLLGGTRVSLPED
LLEDPEIFFDVVSLSTWQEVLSDSQREHLQQFLPQFPEDSA
EQQNELILALFSGENFRFGNPLHIAQKLFRDGHFNPEVVKY
RQLCFKSQYKRYLNSQQQYFHRLLKQILASRSDLLEMARRS
GPALPFRQKRPSPSRTPEEREWRTQQRYLKVLREVKEECGD
TALSSDEEDLSSWLPSSPARSPSPAVPLRVVPTLSTTDMKT
ADKVELGDSDLKIMLKKHHEKRKHQPDHPDLLTGDLTLNDI
MTRVNAGRKGSLAALYDLAVLKKKVKEKEEKKKKKIKTIKS
EAEDLAEPLSSTEGVAPLSQAPSPLAIPAIKEEPLEDLKPC
LGINEISSSFFSLLLEILLLESQASLPMLEERVLDWQSSPA
SSLNSWFSAAPNWAELVLPALQYLAGESRAVPSSFSPFVEF
KEKTQQWKLLGQSQDNEKELAALFQLWLETKDQAFCKQENE
DSSDATTPVPRVRTDYVVRPSTGEEKRVFQEQERYRYSQPH
KAFTFRMHGFESVVGPVKGVFDKETSLNKAREHSLLRSDRP
AYVTILSLVRDAAARLPNGEGTRAEICELLKDSQFLAPDVT
STQVNTVVSGALDRLHYEKDPCVKYDIGRKLWIYLHRDRSE
EEFERIHQAQAAAAKARKALQQKPKPPSKVKSSSKESSIKV
LSSGPSEQSQMSLSDSSMPPTPVTPVTPTTPALPAIPISPP
PVSAVNKSGPSTVSEPAKSSSGVLLVSSPTMPHLGTMLSPA
SSQTAPSSQAAARVVSHSGSAGLSQVRVVAQPSLPAVPQQS
GGPAQTLPQMPAGPQIRVPATATQTKVVPQTVMATVPVKAQ
TTAATVQRPGPGQTGLTVTSLPATASPVSKPATSSPGTSAP
SASTAAVIQNVTGQNIIKQVAITGQLGVKPQTGNSIPLTAT
NFRIQGKDVLRLPPSSITTDAKGQTVLRITPDMMATLAKSQ
VTTVKLTQDLFGTGGNTTGKGISATLHVTSNPVHAADSPAK
ASSASAPSSTPTGTTVVKVTPDLKPTEASSSAFRLMPALGV
SVADQKGKSTVASSEAKPAATIRIVQGLGVMPPKAGQTITV
ATHAKQGASVASGSGTVHTSAVSLPSMNAAVSKTVAVASGA
ASTPISISTGAPTVRQVPVSTTVVSTSQAGKLPTRITVPLS
VISQPMKGKSVVTAPIIKGNLGANLSGLGRNIILTTMPAGT
KLIAGNKPVSFLTAQQLQQLQQQGQATQVRIQTVPASHLQQ
GTASGSSKAVSTVVVTTAPSPKQAPEQQ (SEQ ID NO: 6)

[0087] It will be understood that reference herein to NFRKB may encompass sequence variants or fragments (e.g. fragments of at least 25, 50, 100, 150, 200, 250, 300, 350, 400 or more amino acids in length) which retain the ability to direct the specific function of NFRKB, including for example either the induction or maintenance of pluripotency. Any such variants or fragments may be used in the methods of the present invention, for example, either in methods involving contacting the human somatic cells with NFRKB or methods involving expressing NFRKB in the human somatic cell.

[0088] Polypeptides or peptides that have substantial identity to NFRKB protein sequences known in the art or substantial identity to the representative amino acid sequences provided herein for NFRKB may also be used. Similarly, nucleotide sequences encoding any of these polypeptides, peptides or proteins, or nucleotide sequences having substantial identity thereto, are also encompassed by the present invention. The meaning of substantial identity has been described earlier herein and applies equally to nucleotide and amino acid sequences of NFRKB.

[0089] Thus, the present methods are based on the finding that PRDM14 and NFRKB enhance reprogramming of human somatic cells. The profound effect of these pluripotency protein factors is exemplified by the conversion of human somatic cells to iPSCs when cultured with OCT4 and SOX2 and at least one of KLF4 and c-MYC.

[0090] In an embodiment, the method of inducing pluripotency in a human somatic cell, or maintaining pluripotency in a hESC, may comprise expression in the human somatic cell or the hESC of PRDM14 or NFRKB together with OCT4, SOX2 and KLF4. The method may further comprise expressing c-MYC. In the human somatic cell, the presence of c-MYC may further enhance generation of iPSCs. Alternatively, KLF4 may be substituted with c-MYC.

[0091] If preferred, individual colonies of induced pluripotent cells may be selected and then expanded in order to obtain a clonal population of an induced pluripotent cell, in accordance with standard cell culture techniques.

[0092] The present invention also provides a human somatic cell comprising (i) OCT4 and SOX2; (ii) at least one of KLF4 and c-MYC; and (iii) at least one of PRDM14 and NFRKB. The cell may comprise one or more expression vectors which provide for the expression these pluripotency protein factors.

[0093] The present methods may be used to conveniently produce a human somatic cell that comprises OCT4, SOX2 and at least one of KLF4 and c-MYC together with at least one of PRDM14 and NFRKB. As described above, the cell may have taken up the pluripotency protein factors or may have been transfected or transduced the cell with nucleic acid for the pluripotency protein factors and thereby expresses the pluripotency protein factors. As well, the human somatic cell that

comprises OCT4, SOX2, at least one of KLF4 and c-MYC together with at least one of PRDM14 and NFRKB may be one in which pluripotency has been induced.

[0094] As will be appreciated, the cell in which pluripotency is to be induced may already express one or more of the pluripotency protein factors, such as OCT4, SOX2, KLF4 and c-MYC and one or both of PRDM14 and NFRKB, but culture in the presence of OCT4, SOX2, at least one of KLF4 and c-MYC and at least one of PRDM14 and NFRKB according to the present invention will enhance reprogramming.

[0095] The induced pluripotent stem cells and hESCs of the present invention may be used in any therapeutic, clinical or research application to which embryonic stem cells generally are capable of being used. For example, patient-specific pluripotent cells of the present invention may have application as *in vitro* models for studying and developing applications for treating human diseases [28-31]. This includes their use in therapies relating to regenerative medicine and tissue replacement after injury or disease. It also includes uses in the treatment of diseases such as, for example, blood and immune-system related genetic diseases, cancers, and disorders; juvenile diabetes; Parkinson's; blindness and spinal cord injuries.

[0096] The invention is further illustrated by way of the following non-limiting examples.

EXAMPLES

[0097] EXAMPLE 1

[0098] Detailed below are procedures in an exemplary method for the identification of PRDM14 and NFRKB as regulators of hESCs.

[0099] Genome-wide RNAi screen for candidates required for the maintenance of hESC identity: Candidates for maintaining hESC identity were identified using a siRNA screen that uses GFP fluorescence as an indicator for the undifferentiated state of hESCs. A *GFP* reporter gene was placed under the control of a 3 kb *POU5F1* upstream regulatory region which had been previously characterized [32]. This reporter construct was introduced into H1 hESC to generate a stable hESC line (Figure 1A). When hESCs differentiate, the *POU5F1* gene regulatory element

will be silenced and correspondingly, the GFP expression will be reduced. The reliability and robustness of this reporter line was tested with a positive control siRNA (targeting *POU5F1*) and a negative control siRNA (non-targeting siRNA). Transfection of *POU5F1* siRNA resulted in differentiation and a reduction in GFP, while negative control siRNA had no effect on GFP (Figures 2A and 2B). Therefore, GFP fluorescence was used as a proxy for the undifferentiated state of hESCs. Further characterization of the *POU5F1-GFP* reporter cell-line showed that they are normal with 46XY chromosomes (Figure 2C) and they formed teratomas containing tissues of the ectoderm, mesoderm and endoderm lineages when injected into SCID mice (Figure 2D).

[00100] For a high throughput screen in a 384-well format, one of the technical challenges is to ensure high transfection efficiency. To enable high transfection efficiency, the cells were dissociated into single cells and reverse transfected with the siRNA/transfection lipid complexes. As hESCs are known for their poor survival rate upon extensive dissociation, ROCK inhibitor was supplemented into the medium to protect singly dissociated cells from apoptosis [33]. A pilot experiment was performed to determine the optimized conditions (amount of transfection reagent and cell density) for reverse transfection. A Z' factor of more than 0.5 was obtained from this pilot screen, indicating a robust dynamic range between the positive (*GFP* siRNA) and negative (non-targeting siRNA) controls for a high throughput screen.

[00101] Thereafter, the genome-wide siRNA screen was performed using the Dharmacon SMARTpooled siRNA library targeting 21,121 human genes. The siRNAs were printed onto 67 matrigel coated 384-well plates where each well contained a mixture of 4 siRNAs targeting a single gene. On each plate, negative controls (non-targeting siRNA) and positive controls (*GFP* siRNA and *POU5F1* siRNA) were included in the designated wells. The screen was carried out in duplicates and the cells were imaged for GFP and Hoechst fluorescence 4 days after transfection (Figures 1A and 1B). The Z' factor for the entire screen was 0.76 and it was reproducibly greater than 0.5 as observed from the pilot screen.

[00102] The mean of the z-score for GFP fluorescence reduction (F_{av}) and nuclei number reduction (N_{av}) were calculated to generate a candidate list (data not shown). *POU5F1*, which is a key regulator in the maintenance of both mouse and

human ESCs, ranked first for GFP fluorescence reduction, with a z-score of 5.15. In addition, several known pluripotency regulators including *HCFC1*, *TCL1A*, *ZSCAN10*, *ZIC3*, *NANOG*, *ZNF143* and *RIF1* were identified among the top 5% of the hits (Figure 3A). PRDM14 and NFRKB demonstrated significant GFP fluorescence reduction with a z-score of 3.79 and 3.13, respectively. This correlates to PRDM14 and NFRKB being ranked 10th and 21st, respectively, out of the 21,121 genes tested.

[00103] In addition to GFP fluorescence changes, the genes that could affect survivability of hESCs were analyzed by quantifying the nuclei number (data not shown). Gene ontology (GO) analysis of the top 200 genes ranked by N_{av} score revealed that gene categories such as nucleic acid binding protein, ribosomal protein and DNA-directed RNA polymerase were significantly enriched (Figures 4A, 4B and 4C). This is expected given the essential roles of ribosomal proteins and RNA polymerase II complex in eukaryotes.

[00104] A F_{av} z-score >2 (2 standard deviations from the negative controls) was set as the cutoff for a gene to be considered a potential candidate and 566 genes were obtained (Figure 1C). GO analysis of the 566 genes showed enrichment for transcription factors and translation factors (Figure 5A). Reactome analysis also revealed enrichment of pathways involved in transcription and translation (Figure 5B, additional data not shown) [34]. The STRING database was used to uncover protein-protein interactions among the protein products encoded by the 566 genes (Figures 5C and 5D). Interestingly, components of the INO80 chromatin remodelling complex [35], the mediator complex [36], the COP9 signalosome [37], the TAF complex [38], the eukaryotic initiation factor complex [39], and spliceosome complex [40] were found among these candidates (Figure 5D, Figures 3B and 3C). Hence, genes coding for proteins in known biochemical complexes which have not been previously implicated as important for hESCs were identified.

[00105] Next, a secondary validation screen for 200 candidates was performed. The majority of these candidates are found within the top 50% of the 566 primary hits. The pooled siRNAs for each gene were deconvoluted into 4 individual siRNAs, *i.e.* a total 800 of siRNAs targeting 200 genes. To further enhance the confidence of the hit genes, a multi-parametric approach was adopted where the importance of each

gene in the maintenance of hESCs was assessed by different stemness markers of analysis and subjecting this mode of analysis on different hESCs cell lines. Since OCT4 and NANOG are key markers for pluripotency, in which depletion will induce differentiation, these 2 factors in addition to GFP (for the H1-GFP reporter cell only) were utilized as markers for assessing hESCs' stemness state.

[00106] For the secondary screen, a threshold cutoff of 0.75 (equivalent to 2 S.D. from the negative control in the primary screen) was set and the number of siRNAs that down-regulated OCT4/NANOG/*POU5F1*-GFP expression to below the threshold were scored. The candidates were considered positive if the assay of assessment was scored by at least 2 siRNAs. For H1-GFP hESCs, the validation rate based on the reduction of GFP reporter, OCT4 and NANOG expression were 86.1%, 87.6% and 63.4% respectively and 127 common genes were obtained with the 3 stemness markers of assessment (Figures 6A and 6B). The 127 common genes are listed in Table 1 below:

Table 1: H1-GFP hESCs – Common Genes for GFP, OCT4 and NANOG

1	ABP1	44	GLTSCR1	87	PDZK11
2	ABTB1	45	GPS1	88	PHB
3	ADA	46	GUSB	89	POLH
4	ADAMTS1	47	H1FX	90	POU5F1
5	ANGPT4	48	HCFC1	91	PPAPDC2
6	ANXA4	49	HELZ	92	PRDM14
7	APLP2	50	HEMK1	93	PROP1
8	BDP1	51	HES6	94	PSMD2
9	BENE	52	HNRPU	94	PXN
10	C22ORF16	53	IGFBP6	96	RASEF
11	CAPN2	54	INCA1	97	REA
12	CDC42	55	KIR3DL1	98	RHOA
13	CGGBP1	56	KIRREL2	99	RPESP
14	COL11A1	57	LARS	100	SAMD7
15	COPS4	58	LCMR1	101	SERPINB2
16	CPSF3	59	LIF	102	SF3A1
17	CREBL2	60	LOC124245	103	SF3A3
18	CRLF1	61	LOC374654	104	SFPQ
19	CRSP2	62	LOC390790	105	SFRS3
20	CYBA	63	LOC400221	106	SFXN3
21	DEFB126	64	LOC56901	107	SOAT2
22	DKFZP564B147	65	LRRC33	108	SON
23	DKFZP564K142	66	LUC7A	109	SOX14
24	E4F1	67	MBTD1	110	SUV39H2
25	EDF1	68	MCRS1	111	TAF2
26	EIF2B1	69	MGC10471	112	TBC1D10
27	EIF2B2	70	MGC21874	113	THRAP2
28	EIF2B3	71	MGC32871	114	TMEM14B
29	EIF2B4	72	MGC39827	115	TNRC11

30	EIF2S2	73	MMP15	116	TPD52L1
31	ELYS	74	MOCS1	117	TPM1
32	ENPP7	75	MR1	118	TPR
33	ETF1	76	MVP	119	TRIP
34	FAM19A1	77	NANOG	120	TRPA1
35	FLJ20898	78	NCBP1	121	VMP
36	FLJ23447	79	NEUROD2	122	YY1
37	FLJ25439	80	NFRKB	123	ZFP36
38	FLJ32954	81	NPEPL1	124	ZIC4
39	FLJ46536	82	NUDT8	125	ZNF206
40	FLJ90652	83	NUP107	126	ZNF35
41	FTSJ1	84	NXF1	127	ZNF434
42	GJA8	85	ODF2		
43	GLRB	86	PCF11		

[00107] The secondary screen was extended to 2 other hESC lines; HES2 and HES3. For HES2 hESCs, 86 common genes were obtained based on OCT4 and NANOG expression and the validation rate was 75.2% and 43.6%, respectively (Figures 6A and 6B). The 86 common genes are listed in Table 2 below:

Table 2: HES2 hESCs – Common Genes for OCT4 and NANOG

1	ANKRD1	31	H1FX	61	PRDM9
2	ANXA4	32	HCFC1	62	PRO2730
3	ATOH8	33	HELZ	63	PROP1
4	BCL6B	34	HEMK1	64	PSMD2
5	BDP1	35	HES6	65	PSTPIP2
6	BENE	36	HIVEP3	66	PXN
7	C22ORF16	37	HNRPU	67	RASEF
8	CAMP	38	IGFBP6	68	REA
9	CAPN2	39	JMJD2B	69	SF3A1
10	CDC42	40	KIAA0274	70	SF3A3
11	CDX2	41	KLK5	71	SFPQ
12	CPSF3	42	LCMR1	72	SFRS3
13	CREBL2	43	LIF	73	SON
14	CRSP2	44	LOC390790	74	SOX14
15	CYBA	45	MGC10471	75	SUV39H2
16	E4F1	46	MGC21874	76	TAF7
17	EIF2B2	47	MGC39827	77	TBC1D10
18	EIF2B3	48	MMP15	78	TCL1A
19	EIF2B4	49	MR1	79	TNRC11
20	EIF2S2	50	NANOG	80	TPR
21	ELYS	51	NCBP1	81	VWF
22	EP300	52	NFRKB	82	ZFP64
23	ETF1	53	NPEPL1	83	ZIC4
24	FAM19A1	54	NUP107	84	ZNF136
25	FLJ90652	55	NXF1	85	ZNF206
26	FOXJ3	56	PCF11	86	ZNF434
27	FTL	57	PDZK11		
28	FTSJ1	58	PHB		
29	GSPT1	59	POU5F1		
30	GUSB	60	PRDM14		

[00108] Likewise, measuring OCT4 and NANOG expression in HES3 hESCs yielded 124 common genes with a validation rate of 64.9% and 72.3%, respectively (Figures 6A and 6B). The 124 common genes are listed in Table 3 below:

Table 3: HES3 hESCs – Common Genes for OCT4 and NANOG

1	ADAMTS1	44	HEMK1	87	PRO2730
2	AGPS	45	HNRPU	88	PROP1
3	ANGPT4	46	IBSP	89	PSMD2
4	ANXA4	47	IGFBP6	90	PSTPIP2
5	ATOH8	48	INCA1	91	PXN
6	BCL6B	49	JMJD2B	92	RBM17
7	BDP1	50	KIAA1076	93	REA
8	CAPN2	51	KIRREL2	94	RPESP
9	CDC42	52	KLK5	94	RRAS
10	CDX2	53	LARS	96	SAMD7
11	CGGBP1	54	LCE1E	97	SF3A1
12	COL11A1	55	LCMR1	98	SF3A3
13	CREBL2	56	LOC124245	99	SFPQ
14	CRK7	57	LOC390790	100	SFRS3
15	CRLF1	58	LOC56901	101	SOAT2
16	DDIT3	59	LPPR2	102	SON
17	DEFB126	60	LRRC33	103	SOX14
18	DKFZP564B147	61	LUC7A	104	SPI1
19	E4F1	62	MAP2K7	105	SUV39H2
20	EDF1	63	MCRS1	106	SYNCRIP
21	EIF2B1	64	MGC21874	107	TAF2
22	EIF2B2	65	MGC39827	108	TAF7
23	EIF2B3	66	MMP15	109	THRAP4
24	EIF2B4	67	MMP24	110	TMEM14B
25	EIF2S2	68	MOCS1	111	TPD52L1
26	ELYS	69	MR1	112	TPM1
27	ENPP7	70	MVP	113	TPR
28	ETF1	71	NANOG	114	TRIP15
29	FLJ23447	72	NCBP1	115	TRPA1
30	FLJ25439	73	NFRKB	116	ULK2
31	FLJ25952	74	NPEPL1	117	VMP
32	FLJ38508	75	NUP107	118	XRCC1
33	FLJ46536	76	NXF1	119	ZFP64
34	FLJ90652	77	OACT1	120	ZNF136
35	FTSJ1	78	ODF2	121	ZNF138
36	FUBP1	79	PCF11	122	ZNF206
37	GLTSCR1	80	PDZK11	123	ZNF35
38	GPS1	81	PHB	124	ZNF43
39	GSPT1	82	PITX1		
40	GUSB	83	POU5F1		
41	H1FX	84	PPAPDC2		
42	HCFC1	85	PPP2R3A		
43	HELZ	86	PRDM9		

[00109] The higher validation rate for H1-GFP hESCs as compared to other hESC lines corroborated the fact that the same cell line was used for the primary

screen. Thus, 93 genes were identified that down-regulated OCT4 expression (see Table 4, below) and 54 genes that down-regulated NANOG expression (see Table 5, below) in the 3 different hESC lines (Figure 6C).

Table 4: Genes that down-regulated OCT4 in all 3 hESCs

1	AGPS	32	HCFC1	63	PDZK11
2	ANXA4	33	HELZ	64	PHB
3	ATOH8	34	HEMK1	65	POU5F1
4	BDP1	35	HNRPU	66	PPAPDC2
5	BENE	36	IGFBP6	67	PRDM14
6	CAPN2	37	INCA1	68	PRDM9
7	CDC42	38	JMJD2B	69	PRO2730
8	CDX2	39	KLK5	70	PROP1
9	COL11A1	40	LARS	71	PSMD2
10	CREBL2	41	LCE1E	72	PSTPIP2
11	CRK7	42	LCMR1	73	PXN
12	DDIT3	43	LIF	74	REA
13	DEFB126	44	LOC124245	75	RPESP
14	E4F1	45	LOC390790	76	RRAS
15	EDF1	46	LOC56901	77	SAMD7
16	EIF2B1	47	LPPR2	78	SF3A1
17	EIF2B2	48	LUC7A	79	SF3A3
18	EIF2B3	49	MGC21874	80	SFPQ
19	EIF2B4	50	MGC39827	81	SFRS3
20	EIF2S2	51	MMP15	82	SOAT2
21	ELYS	52	MMP24	83	SON
22	ENPP7	53	MOCS1	84	SOX14
23	ETF1	54	MR1	85	SPI1
24	FLJ90652	55	NANOG	86	SUV39H2
25	FTSJ1	56	NCBP1	87	TAF7
26	FUBP1	57	NFRKB	88	TPD52L1
27	GLTSCR1	58	NPEPL1	89	TPR
28	GPS1	59	NUP107	90	ZFP64
29	GSPT1	60	NXF1	91	ZNF136
30	GUSB	61	ODF2	92	ZNF206
31	H1FX	62	PCF11	93	ZNF43

Table 5: Genes that down-regulated NANOG in all 3 hESCs

1	ANXA4	19	H1FX	37	NXF1
2	BDP1	20	HCFC1	38	PCF11
3	CAPN2	21	HELZ	39	PDZK11
4	CDC42	22	HEMK1	40	PHB
5	CGGBP1	23	HNRPU	41	POU5F1
6	CREBL2	24	IGFBP6	42	PROP1
7	CYBA	25	LCMR1	43	PSMD2
8	E4F1	26	LOC390790	44	PXN
9	EIF2B2	27	MCRS1	45	REA
10	EIF2B3	28	MGC21874	46	SF3A1
11	EIF2B4	29	MGC39827	47	SF3A3
12	EIF2S2	30	MMP15	48	SFPQ
13	ELYS	31	MR1	49	SFRS3

14	ETF1	32	NANOG	50	SON
15	FAM19A1	33	NCBP1	51	SOX14
16	FLJ90652	34	NFRKB	52	SUV39H2
17	FTSJ1	35	NPEPL1	53	TPR
18	GUSB	36	NUP107	54	ZNF206

[00110] In addition, a positive correlation was observed between the different stemness markers (Figure 6D). Overall, the secondary validation assay enabled the selection of genes for further functional assays for pluripotency. In particular, PRDM14 and NFRKB were identified for further analysis.

[00111] **EXAMPLE 2**

[00112] Detailed below are exemplary methods of inducing pluripotency in human somatic cells, and maintaining pluripotency in hESCs, using PRDM14 and NFRKB.

[00113] **PRDM14 and NFRKB enhance reprogramming of human somatic cells:** Pluripotency can be reinstated in somatic cells through the introduction of defined transcription factors [41]. In human cells, OCT4, SOX2, KLF4 and c-MYC can reprogram human fibroblasts into human iPSCs (hiPSCs) [27, 42-44]. To date, a limited number of transcription factors such as NANOG, UTF1 and SALL4 have been shown to mediate reprogramming in conjunction with OCT4, SOX2 and/or KLF4 [44-46].

[00114] To assess the role of PRDM14, NFRKB and YAP1, human fibroblasts were transduced with retroviruses containing expression constructs for OCT4 (0), SOX2 (S), KLF4 (K), and c-MYC (M) to generate hiPSC colonies that resembled hESCs. Interestingly, the number of hiPSC colonies was increased by 3.5 fold when human fibroblasts were co-introduced PRDM14 (P) along with OSKM (Figure 7A). NFRKB (N) enhanced reprogramming by 2 fold, while YAP1 did not show a positive effect on reprogramming.

[00115] To further address the role of PRDM14 and NFRKB in reprogramming and inducing pluripotency, shRNAs targeting PRDM14 or NFRKB were introduced along with the OSKM retroviruses. Remarkably, knockdown of PRDM14 by different shRNA constructs reduced the number of hiPSC colonies formed, indicating that reprogramming of human somatic cells is dependent on PRDM14 (Figure 7B).

Knockdown of NFRKB had a weaker effect than PRDM14, but also resulted in a reduced number of hiPSC colonies, indicating a role for NFRKB in the reprogramming of human somatic cells (Figure 7B).

[00116] The OSKMP and OSKMN hiPSCs expressed pluripotency markers such as NANOG, TRA-1-60, TRA-1-81, SSEA-4 and alkaline phosphatase and showed normal karyotypes (Figures 7C and 7D). The hiPSCs are pluripotent as determined by *in vitro* differentiation and teratoma formation assays (Figures 7E and 7F). In addition, both OSKMP and OSKMN hiPSCs have a similar gene expression profile to the two hESCs lines, but not the fibroblasts (Figure 7G) and they also showed loss of DNA methylation at the *POU5F1* and *NANOG* promoters (Figure 7H). The results indicate that PRDM14 and NFRKB can enhance reprogramming mediated by the OSKM combination of transcription factors. c-MYC is not necessary for reprogramming, but it can enhance the generation of iPSCs [47].

[00117] Next, it was tested whether PRDM14 and NFRKB can affect reprogramming efficiency mediated by OSK. In the absence of c-MYC (OSK transduction), only a few hiPSC colonies were recovered. However, OSKP reprogramming resulted in 7 fold more colonies than in the absence of PRDM14 (Figure 8A). NFRKB was able to enhance reprogramming by 3 fold (Figure 8A). The OSKP and OSKN hiPSCs are also karyotypically normal, expressed hESC markers, and are pluripotent as shown by *in vitro* and *in vivo* differentiation (Figures 8B-8E). These hiPSCs also showed hESC-specific gene expression pattern and loss of DNA methylation at the *POU5F1* and *NANOG* promoters (Figures 8F and 8G). Hence, PRDM14 and NFRKB are able to substitute for c-MYC.

[00118] Interestingly, it was also found that PRDM14 and NFRKB can replace KLF4 since it was possible to generate hiPSCs using OSCP and OSCN (Figures 8H and 8I). However, in the absence of OCT4 or SOX2, no hiPSCs were obtained.

[00119] Taken together, these results demonstrate that PRDM14 and NFRKB have important functions in the acquisition of pluripotency in human cells.

[00120] **PDRM14 is important for hESC pluripotency**: Although the genome-wide RNAi screen was effective in uncovering novel genes that are important in the maintenance of hESCs and reprogramming, their mechanisms of action remain

elusive. Therefore, a candidate gene was selected for further study in order to gain new insights into its link with pluripotency in hESCs.

[00121] Depletion of PRDM14 by the pooled siRNAs resulted in a significant GFP reduction with a z-score of 3.79 (ranked 10^{th} in the primary screen) and it was validated in the secondary screen. Furthermore, PRDM14 is highly expressed in a variety of hESCs [48] and is a target of the core transcription factors in hESCs [8].

[00122] Therefore, to further characterize PDRM14 and to further elucidate its role in maintaining hESCs, knockdown of PDRM14 with the 4 shRNA constructs was performed in non-reporter hESCs and their loss of pluripotency was examined.

[00123] Depletion of PRDM14 resulted in a reduction in the expression of stemness markers like OCT4, TRA-1-60, TRA-1-81 and SSEA-4 in 3 different hESC lines (H1, H9 and HES3) as determined by immunofluorescence staining (Figures 9A, 10A and 11A). Western blot analysis also showed a downregulation of OCT4 and NANOG with PRDM14 depletion (Figure 9B). In addition, the expression of other hESC-associated genes such as *SOX2, HELLS* and *DPPA4* was also downregulated (Figures 9C, 10B and 11B). On the other hand, proteins that are expressed in differentiated cell-types (RUNX1, MAFB and IGFBP5) were up-regulated upon PRDM14 depletion (Figure 9D), indicating differentiation of the hESCs.

[00124] In mice, *Prdm14* is highly expressed in the primordial germ cells (PGCs) and is essential for the establishment of the germ cell lineage [52]. *Prdm14* is not essential for early embryonic development as the knockout mice were born with an expected Mendelian ratio.

[00125] Here, the inventors have knocked down Prdm14 in mouse ESC and have found no observable phenotypic change and no significant reduction in OCT4 and SOX2 (Figures 12A and 12B). This result is consistent with the *in vivo* phenotype of Prdm14 null embryos. As mouse epiblast-derived stem cells (EpiSCs) are also pluripotent and exhibit characteristics of hESCs [21, 22], the present inventors also examined and compared *Prdm14* levels against that of other genes that are characteristic of mouse EpiSCs. Surprisingly, it was found that Prdm14 is deficient in mouse EpiSCs (Figures 12C and 12D). Thus, Prdm14 is differentially regulated in mouse EpiSCs and may only be required for the maintenance of hESCs.

[00126] **EXAMPLE 3**

[00127] **PRDM14 regulates the proximal enhancer of POU5F1:** To further investigate the function of PRDM14, chromatin immunoprecipitation coupled with massively parallel short-tag-based sequencing (ChIP-seq) was used to map the *in vivo* binding loci using our PRDM14 antibody (data not shown). The specificity of the PRDM14 ChIP-seq data was validated with two different assays. First, PRDM14 ChIP was performed on PRDM14-depleted hESCs and a reduction of ChIP signals at 21 randomly chosen binding sites was observed (Figure 13A). Second, HA ChIP was performed on hESCs that expressed HA-tagged PRDM14 and an enrichment at the same 21 sites was obtained (Figure 13B). Both assays confirmed that PRDM14 is bound to the tested sites.

[00128] Next, an examination of the co-occupancy of PRDM14 with other transcription factors mapped by the inventors and other laboratories was examined. The inventors had previously shown that Oct4, Sox2 and Nanog co-localize with the co-activator p300 in a cluster distinct from the c-Myc containing cluster in mESCs [9]. Interestingly, the present co-occupancy analysis revealed that PRDM14 co-localizes with OCT4, SOX2, NANOG and p300 as well (Figure 14A). Co-motif analysis of the PRDM14 binding loci revealed a significant enrichment of a joint Sox2-Oct4 motif, confirming the co-occurrence of PRDM14, OCT4 and SOX2 sites (Figure 15). This indicates that PRDM14 is integrated into the core hESC transcriptional regulatory circuitry.

[00129] The PRDM14 protein has a putative DNA binding domain at the carboxyl-terminus. However, the DNA binding specificity of its C2H2 zinc finger is unknown. To determine the *in vivo* sequence specificity of PRDM14, the consensus sequence motifs were derived by using the *de novo* motif-discovery algorithm, CisFinder [53]. Interestingly, a motif that does not resemble any known motifs in the TRANSFAC, JASPAR or UniPROBE databases was discovered (Figure 14B). Hence, the *bona fide* PRDM14 binding sites were identified through ChIP-seq analysis.

[00130] The ChIP-seq analysis identified 2,755 genes that were bound by PRDM14 (data not shown). Interestingly, a PRDM14 peak was observed at the

POU5F1 upstream regulatory region (Figure 14C). This region is known to contain a proximal enhancer and a distal enhancer [54-56]. There is differential usage of these enhancers *in vivo*. The distal enhancer, containing a conserved region 4 (CR4), activates *Pou5f1* expression in pre-implantation embryos and in primordial germ cells but not in cells of the epiblast [56]. On the other hand, the proximal enhancer containing a conserved region 2 (CR2) is responsible for epiblast-specific *Pou5f1* expression *in vivo*. Using EMSA, it was here confirmed that the CR2 sequence, which contains the PRDM14 motif, is indeed bound directly by recombinant PRDM14 protein (Figure 14D) and native PRDM14 protein (Figure 14E).

[00131] Next, the relative activity of the two CRs that were cloned downstream of a *luciferase* reporter and transfected into hESCs was assessed. Similar to the differential activity of the proximal and distal enhancers in mouse EpiSCs, the CR2 reporter was found to be more active than the CR4 reporter in hESCs (Figure 14F) [22, 54]. Depletion of PRDM14 led to a downregulation of CR2 enhancer activity (Figure 14F; Figures 16A and 16B). Mutation of PRDM14 site at CR2 could also reduce its activity (Figure 16C). Using ChIP assay, it was confirmed that PRDM14 binds to CR2 but not CR4 (Figure 14G). These data indicate that PRDM14 is regulating CR2 but not CR4 activity.

[00132] The functional domains of PRDM14 were further mapped by generating constructs expressing different fragments of the protein (Figure 17A). These constructs were co-transfected with a CR2 reporter into 293T cells. The putative DNA binding domain (DBD) and the N-terminal region are required for transcriptional activation whereby the absence of these domains reduced the reporter activity. On the other hand, the PR/SET domain has transcriptional repression activity as deleting this domain led to a 5-fold enhancement of transcription (Figure 17B). Importantly, it is shown that all three domains are required for the acquisition of pluripotency using the reprogramming assay (Figure 17C). The DNA binding activity resides within the C-terminal zinc finger region as deleting this region abolished direct interaction with DNA (Figure 17D). Five of the six zinc fingers are required for DNA binding as well as transcriptional activity (Figures 17E and 17F).

[00133] As PRDM14 showed co-localization with NANOG (Figure 14A), the inventors sought to determine whether PRDM14 interacts with NANOG.

Co-immunoprecipitation (co-IP) experiments revealed an association between the two proteins (Figures 14H-14J). To address whether PRDM14 can activate CR2 in somatic cells, the inventors co-transfected *PRDM14* expression construct with CR2 reporter into 293T cells (Figure 14K). Although PRDM14 could activate the CR2 reporter, NANOG can further enhance this activity in the presence of PRDM14, indicating a synergistic interaction between the two proteins (Figure 14K). More importantly, a synergistic enhancement of reprogramming with PRDM14 and NANOG was also observed (Figure 14L).

[00134] Taken together, it is shown that PRDM14 cooperates with NANOG to activate the CR2 enhancer of *POU5F1* in hESC as well as to mediate reprogramming in human somatic cells.

[00135] EXAMPLE 4

[00136] PRDM14 recruits polycomb group proteins in hESC and during reprogramming. The findings above show a positive regulation of *POU5F1* expression by PRDM14, which is unexpected as previous studies implicate PRDM14 as a transcriptional repressor [49, 52]. To identify the genes which are regulated by PRDM14, microarray experiments were performed to capture the transcriptome changes after the depletion of PRDM14. It is found that 358 of the 2,645 PRDM14 bound genes (13.5%) were down-regulated (Figure 18A, Table 6). A listing of down-regulated genes is provided below in Table 6:

Table 6: Genes down-regulated after depletion of PRDM14

Gene Name	Fold change (3d after knock-down)	q-value (%)	Gene Name	Fold change (3d after knock-down)	q-value (%)	Gene Name	Fold change (3d after knock-down)	q-value (%)
GDF3	0.18	0.4	C14orf115	0.63	0.5	C21orf63	0.76	6.0
CDCA7	0.28	0.6	LOC644096	0.64	0.2	PHLDB2	0.76	14.8
NASP	0.31	0.0	NCL	0.64	3.5	TLN2	0.76	4.5
HEY1	0.32	0.0	RASAL2	0.64	2.6	SNCAIP	0.76	6.0
PHF17	0.33	0.3	SNRP70	0.64	2.6	TMEM30B	0.76	1.1
SOX2	0.36	0.5	PRRT3	0.64	6.0	AGK	0.76	4.5
C18orf56	0.36	0.0	C9orf46	0.65	1.9	ATP1B2	0.76	14.8
MYCN	0.36	0.2	MSC	0.65	3.5	ACTL6A	0.76	11.1
TRIM71	0.37	2.6	CRLF1	0.65	1.9	TRAF2	0.76	6.0
ZSCAN2	0.37	0.4	PPARGC1B	0.65	3.5	NPTX1	0.76	6.0
PUNC	0.37	0.4	LRAT	0.65	8.2	ZNF341	0.76	6.0
PRDM14	0.38	0.3	MTIF3	0.66	2.6	PHF14	0.76	11.1
IQGAP2	0.38	0.3	TFRC	0.66	2.6	BAT3	0.76	3.5
MAP7	0.38	0.3	NLGN1	0.66	0.3	GRPEL1	0.76	0.2
CA4	0.38	3.5	ROR1	0.66	0.2	MTX2	0.76	8.2
PDCD5	0.39	0.0	ERICH1	0.66	0.4	SH2D4B	0.77	1.4

METTL7A	0.39	0.0	TSN	0.66	8.2	ARHGAP8	0.77	8.2
SALL2	0.39	0.3	NMU	0.66	14.8	KIAA0182	0.77	0.2
CHCHD3	0.40	0.2	SEPT11	0.66	8.2	SMAD6	0.77	3.5
STMN1	0.42	0.2	LHFPL4	0.66	2.6	LMO3	0.77	11.1
GLDC	0.42	1.1	ZNF219	0.67	0.4	FAM125A	0.77	1.9
FZD5	0.43	0.3	JARID2	0.67	2.6	POU2F1	0.77	14.8
CHST9	0.43	0.6	RPS7	0.67	14.8	ST6GALNAC6	0.77	6.0
AK3L1	0.43	0.0	IER3IP1	0.67	3.5	SRF	0.77	8.2
TGIF2	0.43	0.0	PRKCB1	0.67	4.5	SALL3	0.77	14.8
ETV4	0.43	0.5	C1orf106	0.67	0.2	UPK1A	0.77	11.1
RTN4IP1	0.43	0.0	POU5F1	0.67	14.8	RALY	0.77	1.9
BCL11A	0.44	2.6	DEPDC2	0.68	0.6	ZCCHC7	0.77	6.0
AXIN2	0.44	0.2	WBP4	0.68	3.5	LAPTM4B	0.78	1.9
ZNF649	0.44	0.6	FBXL10	0.68	0.8	PSME4	0.78	6.0
PPFIBP2	0.44	0.4	GOLM1	0.68	4.5	C14orf118	0.78	8.2
SUV420H1	0.45	0.3	CCNYL1	0.68	4.5	METT10D	0.78	11.1
SLC7A2	0.45	1.4	SPHK2	0.68	3.5	SFRS12	0.78	11.1
HAS2	0.45	1.4	HSD17B8	0.68	1.4	GTF3C4	0.78	4.5
KCND2	0.45	0.2	CRYBA4	0.68	1.4	MMAA	0.78	4.5
GSTZ1	0.45	0.2	PIAS2	0.68	6.0	PPP2R2B	0.78	2.6
FANCL	0.47	1.4	LARS2	0.69	0.0	ALS2CR13	0.78	8.2
PHLPP	0.47	0.8	C3orf26	0.69	1.9	ZNF74	0.78	14.8
MTA3	0.48	0.2	C21orf59	0.69	0.3	GRRP1	0.78	6.0
FOXO4	0.48	0.2	MAT2B	0.69	0.8	KIRREL2	0.79	11.1
FAM33A	0.48	0.3	EPB41L2	0.69	0.4	TAF15	0.79	6.0
COMTD1	0.48	3.5	KIAA1576	0.69	1.1	CCDC4	0.79	11.1
LRFN5	0.48	1.1	PKP4	0.69	3.5	ADIPOR2	0.79	4.5
SLC39A8	0.48	0.2	RBM17	0.69	4.5	SP110	0.79	3.5
DLG2	0.49	0.5	CEP110	0.69	1.9	SLC25A13	0.79	14.8
SUOX	0.49	0.3	FABP6	0.69	4.5	TUBE1	0.79	0.4
PPM1H	0.49	0.0	FOXD3	0.69	0.4	SEMA4A	0.79	6.0
TNS3	0.51	1.1	RBM23	0.69	0.3	CECR5	0.79	8.2
DET1	0.51	0.8	XYLT1	0.69	4.5	PTCH1	0.79	8.2
LIN28	0.51	0.6	TDGF1	0.69	4.5	VPS52	0.79	1.9
SEMG1	0.52	1.9	NICN1	0.70	1.1	PVRL1	0.79	11.1
VARS	0.52	1.1	ACSS2	0.70	11.1	PANK2	0.79	11.1
RIT2	0.52	1.9	FLAD1	0.70	0.6	SNX13	0.79	8.2
CCDC28B	0.52	0.5	INTS10	0.70	1.1	ZCCHC3	0.79	11.1
ARRB1	0.53	0.2	TIPRL	0.70	0.8	RFC3	0.79	14.8
SEPHS1	0.53	0.2	SORL1	0.70	3.5	MMP25	0.79	2.6
LAMA3	0.53	1.9	MSRA	0.70	3.5	SOX4	0.79	6.0
DBC1	0.54	1.1	SULF1	0.70	11.1	DSCAML1	0.79	14.8
TIPIN	0.54	1.4	ABHD12B	0.70	11.1	BNC2	0.79	11.1
RND2	0.54	0.8	MYO5C	0.70	2.6	KCNQ1	0.79	14.8
TCF7L1	0.54	6.0	CPS1	0.70	14.8	WDR25	0.79	14.8
USP44	0.54	6.0	CD1D	0.70	1.1	KIAA0406	0.80	2.6
MYO10	0.55	2.6	CDC25A	0.70	1.4	LRP2	0.80	14.8
TBC1D16	0.55	6.0	DHX35	0.71	0.6	NLN	0.80	11.1
ITPR2	0.56	0.5	TMEM144	0.71	3.5	PDZRN3	0.80	11.1
CDA	0.56	0.5	SP8	0.71	8.2	SSH3	0.80	11.1
SOHLH2	0.56	0.3	PCMTD2	0.71	14.8	ADAMTSL1	0.80	6.0
NOL11	0.56	0.4	AKR1A1	0.71	0.8	MFAP3L	0.80	8.2
SDCCAG10	0.56	0.0	TRERF1	0.71	6.0	NOSTRIN	0.80	6.0
C12orf43	0.56	0.4	TBC1D8	0.71	1.9	CAMK1D	0.80	1.9
KAL1	0.56	0.6	ZMYM6	0.71	1.9	ZNF607	0.80	8.2
SRBD1	0.56	6.0	WWC1	0.71	3.5	ZNF660	0.81	4.5
MRPS28	0.57	3.5	MRPL40	0.72	6.0	TMEM16K	0.81	8.2
FOXO1	0.57	0.8	KIAA1012	0.72	1.4	SH3BGRL2	0.81	8.2
SVOPL	0.57	0.3	POLD3	0.72	1.9	SEMA5B	0.81	6.0
RASL11B	0.57	1.9	SCG5	0.72	4.5	E2F3	0.81	6.0
EFHC2	0.57	0.4	C6orf70	0.72	0.8	ACADSB	0.81	14.8
DNMT1	0.57	11.1	CD40	0.72	1.9	ZFP90	0.81	2.6
HOOK2	0.58	0.5	DDX43	0.72	3.5	FREM2	0.81	14.8
SLC35D3	0.58	0.8	ZNF23	0.72	6.0	BCL9	0.81	1.1
FOS	0.58	0.8	AUTS2	0.72	1.4	BMPR1A	0.81	11.1
CACHD1	0.58	1.4	RAB37	0.72	11.1	HOXB1	0.81	8.2
HMMR	0.58	1.4	SEPT9	0.72	6.0	APC	0.81	11.1
NOC4L	0.58	4.5	ARV1	0.72	2.6	RBMS1	0.81	8.2
B4GALT6	0.58	3.5	ALDH1A1	0.72	3.5	DAAM1	0.81	14.8
ZMYND8	0.58	0.3	GMPPA	0.73	4.5	HDGF	0.82	1.4
BMS1	0.58	0.6	FAM108C1	0.73	4.5	WNT3A	0.82	8.2

BST2	0.58	3.5	GRHL2	0.73	4.5	TDRD3	0.82	4.5
SOX13	0.59	1.4	UGDH	0.73	4.5	SLCO4C1	0.82	4.5
CLYBL	0.59	6.0	POLR3GL	0.73	11.1	BDH1	0.82	11.1
C12orf35	0.59	1.9	KHDRBS1	0.73	6.0	HERC1	0.82	3.5
PBX1	0.59	1.1	CCNE2	0.74	4.5	ATP4A	0.82	14.8
YTHDF2	0.60	8.2	ICA1	0.74	4.5	EIF4A3	0.82	3.5
SNTB1	0.60	0.4	NSUN6	0.74	8.2	GPC3	0.82	8.2
HSD17B4	0.60	2.6	MYO3A	0.74	11.1	PCCA	0.82	11.1
BCOR	0.61	1.9	PLXDC2	0.74	11.1	ERCC6	0.82	11.1
RUNX1T1	0.61	0.3	FBXL6	0.74	14.8	RSF1	0.82	6.0
WDR72	0.61	1.1	C1orf172	0.74	2.6	LRRC2	0.82	8.2
SASH1	0.61	2.6	UBE2G1	0.74	11.1	ZNF429	0.82	8.2
WDR67	0.61	1.9	RAD1	0.74	6.0	SLC44A3	0.82	14.8
AFG3L2	0.61	3.5	CD247	0.74	0.8	PGM1	0.82	8.2
PLCH1	0.61	3.5	ZFP161	0.74	0.8	CDCA4	0.82	11.1
ITPK1	0.61	0.3	MFNG	0.75	6.0	LYPD6	0.82	8.2
MPPED2	0.61	3.5	ZCWPW1	0.75	8.2	MYO5A	0.83	14.8
LRBA	0.61	4.5	C20orf94	0.75	6.0	SPIRE2	0.83	14.8
GRM4	0.62	6.0	ZNF675	0.75	6.0	ORAI3	0.83	11.1
SLC29A3	0.62	1.1	KIAA0999	0.75	1.1	GABRG2	0.83	6.0
RCOR2	0.62	8.2	NFATC1	0.75	14.8	JMJD2C	0.83	1.9
C17orf61	0.62	4.5	LYRM2	0.75	6.0	CAB39L	0.83	8.2
LSM6	0.62	0.3	HMG20A	0.75	14.8	IQCE	0.83	14.8
INTS3	0.63	3.5	RING1	0.75	8.2	ACTL6B	0.83	8.2
FABP3	0.63	1.9	HPS5	0.75	0.8	AQP2	0.83	14.8
EFCAB4A	0.63	0.2	KIAA0644	0.75	2.6	FLJ46082	0.83	14.8
STAP2	0.63	0.5	TTC4	0.75	0.2	CPSF6	0.83	6.0
SP3	0.63	2.6	THOC1	0.75	2.6	BTBD16	0.83	14.8
ANGPT1	0.63	0.3	WDR59	0.75	1.9	ART3	0.83	6.0
NOLC1	0.63	0.5	GNG2	0.75	1.9	TRIM9	0.83	3.5
NLK	0.63	1.9	GDF11	0.76	11.1	TARBP1	0.83	11.1
DHX30	0.63	2.6	LEPREL1	0.76	3.5			
ZFP37	0.63	0.2	PITX2	0.76	3.5			

[00137] Conversely, 638 of the PRDM14 bound genes (24.1%) were induced (Figure 18B, Table 7). A listing of induced genes is provided below in Table 7:

Table 7: Genes induced after depletion of PRDM14

Gene Name	Fold change (3 days after knock-down)	q-value (%)	Gene Name	Fold change (3 days after knock-down)	q-value (%)	Gene Name	Fold change (3 days after knock-down)	q-value (%)
IGFBP5	37.31	0.0	GDPD5	1.95	0.5	GABBR2	1.43	3.5
FOXD1	17.60	0.0	CORO2B	1.94	0.6	C11orf49	1.43	2.6
FZD2	11.44	0.0	LSAMP	1.94	0.0	TGIF1	1.43	0.4
CST1	10.06	0.0	STARD13	1.93	0.0	RFFL	1.42	8.2
TIMP3	9.64	0.6	KCNMA1	1.92	0.0	MLL	1.42	0.0
PAPPA	9.45	0.0	COBL	1.92	0.4	TBC1D20	1.42	1.4
MSX1	9.07	0.0	PKM2	1.92	0.2	SPCS3	1.42	11.1
ANKRD1	9.00	0.1	TSPAN14	1.91	8.2	TRIM44	1.42	0.8
CCDC92	8.77	0.0	GPC6	1.90	0.3	CHD9	1.42	1.9
CADM1	8.60	0.0	TSPAN18	1.89	8.2	COG5	1.42	1.4
ALPK2	8.46	0.0	PKNOX2	1.88	0.6	TRIP4	1.42	6.0
PTHLH	7.75	0.0	GPC1	1.87	0.8	CNOT6	1.42	3.5
PRICKLE2	7.45	0.0	KLF9	1.87	0.6	SLMO1	1.41	2.6
S100A6	7.41	0.0	TRIO	1.87	0.6	GPC4	1.41	3.5
NOX4	7.38	0.0	CADM4	1.87	0.3	GLRX2	1.41	8.2
ITGA5	7.29	0.0	PPARGC1A	1.87	1.1	DSCR6	1.41	1.4
F2RL1	7.28	0.1	CLEC16A	1.86	0.6	SLC29A4	1.41	2.6
UBE2J1	6.98	0.0	NUAK1	1.86	1.1	GTF2IRD2B	1.41	2.6
TBC1D9	6.83	0.1	SLC35F2	1.85	0.2	ZNF503	1.41	1.1
PALLD	6.33	0.0	ZAK	1.85	0.5	FAM116A	1.40	6.0
PNMA2	6.28	0.0	TBL2	1.85	0.4	ITFG1	1.40	3.5
SPP1	6.00	0.2	TMEM41B	1.85	0.1	ZNF154	1.40	0.4
RHOB	5.78	0.0	ASXL1	1.84	0.1	RHOG	1.40	3.5

MAFB	5.76	0.0	ELL2	1.84	0.3	ATN1	1.40	8.2
CAPN2	5.40	0.0	TBC1D19	1.84	0.6	MGC24039	1.40	4.5
UNC84B	5.40	0.0	LAMB1	1.83	0.5	RABL5	1.40	8.2
PDGFB	5.33	0.1	SPRED2	1.83	0.1	YPEL2	1.40	3.5
S100A16	5.25	0.0	LEMD2	1.83	0.8	FAM62B	1.40	0.4
NUAK2	4.85	0.2	PPFIBP1	1.81	0.3	TCF12	1.39	14.8
BCAR3	4.84	0.0	UFM1	1.81	0.5	HP1BP3	1.39	0.5
ZFHX3	4.75	0.5	CDC25B	1.81	0.3	ANP32B	1.39	4.5
PLAUR	4.73	0.2	USP53	1.80	0.5	FBXW7	1.39	4.5
OAF	4.72	0.0	C11orf17	1.80	1.1	STX12	1.39	6.0
GPR177	4.55	0.3	RRAGD	1.80	0.0	SSR2	1.39	11.1
BTG2	4.42	0.1	NT5C2	1.80	0.0	CALN1	1.39	1.9
HNT	4.39	0.2	PDE4D	1.79	0.5	BCL7C	1.39	0.4
ANTXR2	4.33	0.0	COTL1	1.78	6.0	PTPLB	1.38	8.2
AFAP1L2	4.32	0.0	ZNF823	1.78	0.4	ZDHHC14	1.38	2.6
RUNX1	4.30	0.2	CNTNAP2	1.78	0.2	GAB2	1.38	1.9
COL1A2	4.15	0.0	ZMIZ1	1.76	0.1	TRH	1.38	4.5
RGS20	4.14	0.1	TMEM16F	1.76	1.4	CLDN3	1.38	2.6
TNFRSF19	4.13	0.1	GPR176	1.76	2.6	RAB25	1.37	0.5
ASS1	4.07	0.2	EFNB1	1.75	0.3	YWHAQ	1.37	0.4
PTRF	4.02	0.0	SGPL1	1.75	1.1	EEF1G	1.37	8.2
SMYD2	3.90	0.0	PRKCH	1.75	2.6	NBPF1	1.37	6.0
CAMK2N1	3.82	0.3	CDH10	1.75	0.6	IGF2BP2	1.37	4.5
GPRC5C	3.80	0.2	HERPUD1	1.75	1.4	SLC35C1	1.37	11.1
CALCA	3.60	0.0	DUSP12	1.75	0.6	KRT8	1.37	2.6
PHC2	3.58	0.1	PTK7	1.75	0.8	RNF130	1.36	6.0
FBN2	3.56	0.4	TMEM14A	1.74	0.2	AVEN	1.36	8.2
RBM24	3.53	0.0	XKR4	1.74	2.6	CCKBR	1.36	11.1
GPR87	3.51	0.8	ACTR3	1.74	2.6	MAP3K7	1.36	1.4
SFN	3.47	0.2	LASS6	1.74	3.5	TLN1	1.36	1.9
PAG1	3.45	0.0	MTMR3	1.73	1.9	PLAC8	1.36	1.4
SEMA3C	3.41	0.3	UBE2H	1.73	1.1	MGC70863	1.36	11.1
CLDN11	3.38	0.2	RAPH1	1.73	0.0	NKTR	1.35	8.2
CDC42EP3	3.37	0.3	PM20D2	1.73	0.6	AADACL1	1.35	8.2
USP3	3.37	0.2	CDS2	1.72	1.4	SMAD5	1.35	11.1
BMP4	3.33	0.3	JDP2	1.72	0.2	CACNA2D3	1.35	14.8
LHX1	3.31	0.0	AFAP1	1.71	1.4	TEGT	1.35	0.3
FRMD6	3.26	0.3	ADAMTS9	1.71	1.9	HKDC1	1.35	4.5
NGF	3.25	0.0	B4GALT1	1.71	0.6	MAP4K4	1.35	1.1
MN1	3.24	0.0	RCAN2	1.71	2.6	ITGA11	1.35	4.5
RHOBTB3	3.24	0.3	CLDN6	1.71	2.6	RP9	1.35	8.2
BMF	3.23	0.3	FOXA1	1.71	0.2	LHX2	1.35	6.0
EMILIN2	3.23	0.0	HIVEP1	1.70	0.5	DYSF	1.35	14.8
ATP2B4	3.19	0.1	FNBP1	1.70	0.0	AIG1	1.35	4.5
EFNB2	3.17	0.0	C10orf141	1.70	0.0	SYT7	1.35	3.5
FGF1	3.17	0.4	NANOS3	1.70	0.4	ROR2	1.35	8.2
LPP	3.16	0.2	PARVA	1.69	0.0	FAT	1.34	11.1
RAB31	3.15	0.1	CNN2	1.69	0.6	WDR51B	1.34	4.5
CDC42EP1	3.15	0.1	JUND	1.69	0.3	DOCK3	1.34	1.9
CDC2L6	3.12	0.0	PIGG	1.69	1.9	MEIS1	1.34	0.3
SVIL	3.11	0.0	JUP	1.69	0.8	GOLSYN	1.34	8.2
ZNF518B	3.10	0.0	AKAP13	1.69	0.2	ARF5	1.34	1.1
CDH2	3.09	0.0	PXN	1.69	0.2	SUPT3H	1.33	6.0
RUNX3	3.05	0.0	PHF19	1.69	0.3	IL1RAPL1	1.33	3.5
TMEM123	3.04	1.1	IGFBP2	1.68	0.0	RNF4	1.33	0.8
CCDC50	3.02	0.0	LHFP	1.68	4.5	FXR2	1.33	4.5
NRP2	2.98	0.2	TMEM88	1.68	1.9	MEX3B	1.33	1.4
MBNL2	2.97	0.2	RRAS	1.68	0.1	CPEB4	1.33	6.0
FAM24B	2.96	0.4	MBOAT1	1.68	0.2	UBE2E2	1.32	3.5
MYH9	2.96	0.3	C2orf18	1.68	4.5	ODF2L	1.32	6.0
GJB2	2.93	0.2	GAD1	1.67	8.2	TTYH3	1.32	3.5
CUEDC1	2.93	0.8	PARP3	1.67	0.2	CLASP2	1.32	14.8
LIMCH1	2.91	0.0	PLEKHG3	1.66	2.6	PMAIP1	1.32	6.0
SPON1	2.89	0.0	RAB11A	1.65	0.2	C10orf116	1.32	6.0
PTPRM	2.89	0.3	DDAH1	1.65	1.4	TMOD3	1.32	14.8
ANXA2	2.86	0.1	LIMS2	1.64	1.4	STK24	1.32	1.4
PEAR1	2.83	0.6	FAM110B	1.64	1.9	YWHAZ	1.32	4.5
SMAD3	2.79	0.1	PID1	1.64	0.3	IL1RAP	1.32	6.0
TSPAN5	2.77	1.4	TOX3	1.64	0.8	RGS9	1.31	6.0
CYP1B1	2.76	0.5	EGLN1	1.63	1.1	MGST3	1.31	3.5
SLC1A4	2.75	0.0	TANC1	1.63	1.4	GOT1	1.31	2.6

LIMS1	2.75	0.1	CDYL	1.63	1.4	CSHL1	1.31	0.6
IER5L	2.73	0.5	WNT5B	1.63	0.6	MEX3D	1.31	2.6
GSN	2.72	1.1	PCDH19	1.63	0.5	CYP26B1	1.31	6.0
CAMK2D	2.72	0.5	ABTB2	1.63	8.2	ARHGEF2	1.31	6.0
TNFRSF10B	2.70	0.1	CENTG3	1.62	3.5	UNC5A	1.31	11.1
SIPA1L2	2.68	0.0	JAG1	1.62	0.8	SLC15A4	1.31	6.0
FLRT2	2.67	0.6	SMCR7L	1.62	2.6	ARHGAP30	1.31	4.5
SCHIP1	2.66	0.2	GFOD1	1.62	0.3	DLX5	1.31	0.3
CALD1	2.66	0.6	NBPF3	1.62	2.6	KIAA0746	1.31	1.4
STEAP3	2.66	0.2	PICALM	1.62	4.5	RHEB	1.30	0.1
MAMDC2	2.63	1.4	IQCK	1.62	1.9	TACSTD2	1.30	1.4
SLC25A37	2.62	0.0	ARID3A	1.61	0.5	NAG	1.30	14.8
IER5	2.61	0.0	GRHL3	1.61	1.9	SNAP25	1.30	3.5
CPXM2	2.59	0.0	SFRP1	1.61	0.6	DACT1	1.30	8.2
CDKN2A	2.57	0.8	KCTD20	1.60	0.6	SLC4A2	1.30	2.6
TTC3	2.57	0.2	NAV2	1.60	6.0	GBF1	1.30	11.1
ARNTL	2.56	0.2	PTK2	1.60	0.0	UHRF2	1.30	2.6
ID3	2.54	1.1	LYL1	1.60	4.5	CCDC109A	1.30	14.8
PRKCA	2.54	0.1	CAP1	1.59	0.3	MICAL2	1.30	14.8
GALNT10	2.54	0.5	KCNK1	1.59	4.5	ARAF	1.30	4.5
C6orf15	2.54	0.0	NENF	1.59	8.2	PLLP	1.30	4.5
ACTN1	2.52	0.2	TNS1	1.59	0.3	PPP1R14C	1.30	8.2
OLFML3	2.51	0.1	TCEA3	1.58	1.4	THRA	1.29	6.0
FOSL1	2.49	0.1	ADCY9	1.58	0.4	TEAD3	1.29	6.0
H2AFY2	2.48	0.0	C12orf5	1.58	2.6	MYO1D	1.29	0.3
PQLC1	2.48	0.1	NCOA6	1.58	0.2	ACOX3	1.29	3.5
SH3BGRL3	2.48	0.8	DENND1A	1.57	1.4	PHF21A	1.29	1.9
TNFRSF21	2.46	0.3	FYN	1.57	0.2	MTA2	1.29	14.8
CHST7	2.46	0.0	C1orf144	1.57	1.9	SCUBE3	1.29	4.5
PGCP	2.45	0.5	NDFIP1	1.57	3.5	MAGED1	1.29	11.1
DUSP10	2.45	0.0	DCTN5	1.57	0.0	RRAS2	1.29	11.1
ODZ3	2.44	0.1	NUMB	1.57	1.4	MLL5	1.28	8.2
LAMC1	2.43	0.3	HCK	1.57	2.6	STARD3	1.28	0.8
GRK5	2.43	0.2	SERPINB8	1.57	1.1	TOMM34	1.28	11.1
CDC42EP4	2.42	0.2	MAPKAPK2	1.56	1.1	WDR51A	1.28	3.5
C10orf59	2.42	0.0	RNF24	1.56	0.3	CCDC126	1.28	3.5
AFF3	2.38	0.2	TRAF5	1.56	0.3	NELL1	1.28	1.4
RGS16	2.38	0.0	LMAN2L	1.56	0.0	DPF3	1.28	1.9
DDEF1	2.38	0.2	ZNF521	1.56	0.2	MAN1A1	1.28	6.0
EDEM1	2.37	0.1	DLGAP4	1.55	1.1	MEMO1	1.28	4.5
ANXA3	2.37	0.1	ADAMTS5	1.55	1.9	FSCN1	1.28	4.5
ARID5B	2.37	0.3	KIAA1128	1.55	2.6	RAPGEF1	1.28	14.8
COL4A2	2.35	1.4	NFIC	1.55	11.1	SORCS1	1.28	1.9
ALDH1A3	2.35	0.0	CDC42BPA	1.55	1.9	AATF	1.28	2.6
H2AFY	2.34	0.2	TMEM131	1.54	0.5	MEIS2	1.28	4.5
APCDD1	2.34	0.1	MACF1	1.54	0.2	CCNG2	1.28	14.8
SH3PXD2A	2.34	0.2	MAST4	1.54	6.0	ANXA11	1.28	1.1
DERA	2.32	0.0	IL4R	1.54	0.0	DDAH2	1.28	11.1
WBP5	2.32	0.1	P2RX4	1.54	6.0	SLFN13	1.28	3.5
ZHX2	2.32	0.2	ZEB2	1.53	0.3	LCP1	1.27	14.8
HERC4	2.30	1.1	C16orf72	1.53	1.4	SERP1	1.27	0.5
RTN4	2.29	0.3	KCTD10	1.53	1.1	TSPAN9	1.27	11.1
CES1	2.28	1.4	GARNL4	1.53	1.4	MKX	1.27	1.4
ETV5	2.27	0.2	ARHGEF17	1.53	4.5	ZNF436	1.27	3.5
SH3RF2	2.27	0.2	RNF216	1.53	3.5	SEC11A	1.27	4.5
WEE1	2.27	0.8	KIAA0922	1.52	1.4	SH3GL1	1.27	8.2
EFNA1	2.26	0.3	ACADL	1.52	2.6	CD58	1.27	6.0
NBPF10	2.26	6.0	MPZL1	1.52	0.2	ENO1	1.27	11.1
BDNF	2.25	0.3	SPRYD3	1.52	8.2	PHGDH	1.26	11.1
ARHGAP21	2.24	0.1	RARA	1.52	0.8	ANGPT2	1.26	8.2
S100A11	2.24	0.4	SOCS3	1.52	2.6	KIAA1217	1.26	1.4
RFTN1	2.24	0.0	DR1	1.52	4.5	DIP2C	1.26	8.2
EXT1	2.24	0.2	GLT25D1	1.52	0.3	ACCN1	1.26	6.0
HS6ST2	2.23	0.0	CRIP1	1.52	6.0	SOCS5	1.26	0.8
SULF2	2.23	0.3	ARHGEF6	1.51	0.6	IGF2R	1.26	6.0
MEF2D	2.23	0.2	SLC46A1	1.51	0.8	CSK	1.26	4.5
ST3GAL1	2.23	0.0	TSPAN15	1.51	0.8	ADCY6	1.26	8.2
CNTNAP1	2.23	0.2	SH3GL3	1.51	6.0	TSC22D4	1.26	14.8
VPS37B	2.22	0.4	COL4A6	1.51	0.0	C7orf10	1.26	6.0
MAP1A	2.21	1.1	CENTG2	1.51	2.6	HIPK2	1.25	11.1
CTSL2	2.20	0.1	SRGAP1	1.51	8.2	FAIM3	1.25	6.0

GLIPR1L1	2.18	0.4	FAM125B	1.51	0.2	FAM135A	1.25	6.0
SIRPA	2.17	0.5	PIGH	1.50	1.9	SERAC1	1.25	2.6
COL4A1	2.16	0.0	DDR1	1.50	4.5	CRK	1.25	14.8
CDK6	2.16	0.0	CSMD2	1.50	0.6	CACNA1C	1.25	3.5
DACH1	2.15	0.0	CSAD	1.50	1.1	ARID5A	1.25	8.2
CUGBP2	2.15	0.2	CEBPG	1.50	0.0	EMD	1.25	6.0
PTPN14	2.14	0.1	PACS1	1.50	3.5	INADL	1.25	8.2
SAMD4A	2.14	0.4	NFKB2	1.50	3.5	F13A1	1.24	14.8
SETD8	2.14	1.4	GCH1	1.49	8.2	DNAJC15	1.24	8.2
CDH13	2.13	0.1	BCAT2	1.49	0.3	STON1	1.24	14.8
SPAG1	2.13	0.2	CANT1	1.49	0.8	AMOT	1.24	2.6
EFHD1	2.13	2.6	ENDOD1	1.49	0.6	INTS7	1.24	4.5
MMP2	2.12	1.9	CAP2	1.48	3.5	FAM70A	1.24	14.8
TXNRD1	2.11	2.6	PRKD1	1.48	3.5	COL9A2	1.23	14.8
TMCO3	2.10	0.4	MAN1B1	1.48	2.6	HMBOX1	1.23	11.1
LOC162073	2.10	1.4	IRS1	1.48	0.1	ZFR	1.23	14.8
PPARG	2.10	0.1	KIF5B	1.48	8.2	RALA	1.23	8.2
IGF1R	2.09	0.1	BASP1	1.48	2.6	EVI1	1.23	1.9
FOXK1	2.07	0.4	DHX32	1.47	4.5	SOAT1	1.23	11.1
TUBA4A	2.07	0.6	SLC35B3	1.47	1.1	FOXP4	1.23	14.8
ADAM17	2.06	0.1	SPTAN1	1.46	6.0	TGFA	1.23	0.8
NBPF20	2.04	6.0	SFXN5	1.46	8.2	OSBPL6	1.23	11.1
MERTK	2.04	0.0	KCTD1	1.46	8.2	SKAP2	1.23	6.0
CMBL	2.03	0.0	CTTN	1.46	8.2	SNX2	1.23	8.2
PRDM8	2.03	1.4	C20orf43	1.46	0.8	HES2	1.23	11.1
CPNE4	2.03	0.2	ANK1	1.45	2.6	SBF2	1.23	2.6
HMGA2	2.03	0.0	PARP6	1.45	2.6	DCLK1	1.22	8.2
ACVR1B	2.02	0.0	C18orf24	1.45	0.6	MCTP1	1.22	4.5
PMP22	2.02	0.2	GGH	1.45	0.6	SLC35F3	1.22	11.1
RAI1	2.02	1.1	GLT25D2	1.45	0.8	PLD1	1.22	11.1
NTNG1	2.02	0.3	PURA	1.45	1.1	UAP1L1	1.22	14.8
NECAP2	2.01	0.1	C18orf1	1.45	3.5	PTP4A2	1.22	8.2
ZNF532	2.01	0.1	HSF2BP	1.45	1.9	MAP6	1.22	14.8
GOLGA8B	2.01	0.0	KIAA1026	1.45	1.4	SLC10A7	1.21	2.6
FILIP1L	2.01	0.2	RGAG4	1.44	14.8	UNC5B	1.21	11.1
BACH2	2.01	0.3	GJA3	1.44	4.5	GFRA1	1.21	8.2
MYL7	2.00	0.8	ABHD14A	1.44	0.5	TMEM41A	1.21	14.8
CDCP1	2.00	0.3	HHAT	1.44	4.5	C14orf101	1.21	11.1
PPP1R14A	1.99	0.0	ZNF213	1.44	0.3	CBFA2T2	1.21	3.5
ZNF800	1.99	0.5	AMMECR1L	1.44	6.0	FOSL2	1.21	2.6
SLC7A5	1.99	0.3	GNA14	1.44	3.5	DYM	1.21	6.0
BIN1	1.98	0.6	SMYD3	1.43	2.6	ABHD10	1.20	14.8
FAM129A	1.97	4.5	IFFO	1.43	3.5	PTPRJ	1.20	8.2
LCOR	1.96	0.2	SERTAD2	1.43	0.8	BPTF	1.20	8.2
BCL2L1	1.96	0.5	OLIG2	1.43	3.5	C20orf194	1.20	6.0
NOPE	1.96	0.2	DNAJB5	1.43	0.8	SLC35D1	1.20	14.8
GNG3	1.96	0.2	KLF13	1.43	4.5	CTBS	1.20	14.8
CDX1	1.95	1.1	BCAS4	1.43	3.5			

[00138] GO analysis of the PRDM14-activated genes showed that they are enriched for biological processes such as nucleic acid metabolism and mRNA transcription (Figures 18C and 19A). In contrast, GO analysis of PRDM14-repressed genes showed enrichment for GO categories such as developmental processes, neurogenesis, mesoderm development, ectoderm development and embryogenesis (Figures 18D and 19B). This finding suggests that PRDM14 can play both positive and negative roles on transcription.

[00139] To investigate the other transcription factors that co-bind with PRDM14 at the PRDM14 regulated genes, 953 vertebrate position weight matrices

(PWMs) were scanned for enrichment proximal to PRDM14 sites. An OCT4 PWM was among the top 20 significantly enriched PWMs (Figure 20A). The OCT4 PWM, which is a joint Sox2 and Oct4 motif (Figure 20B), was derived from previous ChIP-seq datasets for Oct4, Sox2 and Nanog in mouse ES cells. Of note, not all PWMs are enriched at PRDM14 sites (Figure 20C). Next, co-localization analysis was performed with 10 other ChIP-seq datasets. Again, significant co-localization of PRDM14 with OCT4, SOX2 and NANOG was observed (Figure 20D).

[00140] Hence, the genome-wide PRDM14 binding site profiling data and expression analysis unveiled that the target genes of PRDM14 are involved in diverse cellular processes. Genes coding for transcription factors (*POU5F1*, *N-MYC*, *ETV4*, *TCF7L1*), chromatin modifiers (*TET2*), growth factors (*TDGF1*, *GDF3*), microRNA biogenesis factor (*LIN28*) and cell cycle regulator (*CDC25A*) are positively regulated by PRDM14 (Figure 18E). On the other hand, genes coding for tissue-specific transcription factors and certain growth factor (BMP4) are negatively regulated by PRDM14.

[00141] To further investigate the mechanism in which PRDM14 regulates transcription, the PRDM14 ChIP-seq data was analyzed with publicly available histone modification ChIP-seq datasets generated from hESC. Interestingly, co-occurrence of PRDM14 and H3K27me3, a histone mark associated with transcriptional repression, was observed (Figure 21A). This raises the possibility that PRDM14 may recruit the polycomb repressive complex to mediate H3K27 methylation. Indeed, it was found that PRDM14 associates with Ezh2, a component of polycomb repressive complex 2 (Figures 21B and 21C). Upon depletion of PRDM14, the levels of H3K27me3 and Ezh2 at PRDM14 bound targets (*HES7*, *NR2F1*, *OAF*, *ZEB1*) were reduced (Figures 21D and 21E). As it has been shown here that PRDM14 has a role in the conversion of human fibroblasts into hiPSCs, the effect of expression of PRDM14 in human fibroblasts was examined. Ectopic expression of PRDM14 led to the induction of H3K27me3 and recruitment of Ezh2 to these PRDM14 targets (Figures 21F, 21G and 21H). *NR2F1* and *ZEB1* are highly expressed in fibroblasts, but these genes are silenced in hESCs. The expression of *NF2F1* and *ZEB1* were also downregulated by PRDM14 (Figure 21I). As over-expression of these genes induced differentiation of hESCs (Figure 21J), silencing of

these genes in fibroblasts will be required for the conversion of somatic cells into iPSCs.

[00142] Together, the results demonstrate that PRDM14 can mediate the recruitment of polycomb group proteins in hESCs and fibroblasts.

[00143] **MATERIALS AND METHODS**

[00144] *Cell Culture and generation of POU5F1-GFP reporter cell line:* The hESC lines H1 (WA-01, passage 28), H9 (WA-09, passage 26), HES2 (ES-02, passage 79), HES3 (ES-03, passage 97) and H1 *POU5F1*-GFP reporter cells (passage 56) were used for the genome-wide RNAi screen [1, 59]. They were cultured feeder-free on matrigel (BD) [60]. Condition medium used for culturing hESCs contained 20% KO serum replacement, 1 mM L-glutamine, 1% non-essential amino acids and 0.1 mM 2-mercaptoethanol and an additional 8 ng/ml of basic fibroblast growth factor (Invitrogen) supplemented to the hESCs unconditioned medium. Medium was changed daily. The hESCs were subcultured with 1 mg/ml collagenase IV (Gibco) every 5-7 days.

[00145] A 3064 bp upstream region of human *POU5F1* gene was cloned upstream of a *GFP* reporter gene into a N-EGFP plasmid with Geneticin (Gibco) drug selection marker. 2 μg of the *POU5F1-GFP* construct was transfected into the hESCs using 6 μl of Fugene (Roche). Drug resistant colonies appeared after 2 weeks of drug selection.

[00146] *Transfection, staining and imaging in 384-well plates:* The 384-well plates (Grenier) were coated with 10 μl of matrigel for 30mins at 37°C before removing the excess matrigel. 5 μl of 500 nM pooled siRNAs (siGenome, Dharmacon) or 5 ul of 500 nM individual siRNAs were printed onto the plate and frozen at -20°C before use. During reverse transfection, a master mix of 0.05 μl of Dharmafect1 (Dharmacon) transfection reagent and 4.95 μl of OptiMEM (Invitrogen) mix was added to siRNA plates and incubated for 20 mins. Subsequently, 3,000 cells in 40 μl of conditioned medium with 10 μM Rock inhibitor (Calbiochem) were seeded in each well. Reagents and cells were added to the plate using a multidrop (Thermoscientific) and the above mentioned volume refers to the amount added to each well.

[00147] For the genome-wide screen, the cells were fixed and stained after 4 days of transfection. Medium from the cells was replaced with 30 μl of 4% paraformaldehyde (Sigma). Cells were fixed for 15 mins before washing with PBS. Hoechst 3342 (1:10,000, Invitrogen) in 0.1%Triton-X/1% BSA was added to each well and stained for 30mins. The cells were then washed once with PBS and covered in 30 μl of PBS.

[00148] Cells were imaged with IXU ultra confocal microscope (Research Instruments) at 20x magnification and 4 frames per well were taken. Integrated fluorescent intensity and number of nuclei were quantitated using MetaXpress Image Acquisition and Analysis software V1.7. Z' factor was calculated for the primary screen based on the formula $Z' = 1-3(\sigma p+\sigma n)/(\mu p-\mu n)$ where σp = standard deviation of the positive control, σn = standard deviation of the negative control, μp = mean of the positive control and μn = mean of the negative controls. z-score was calculated using the formula $z = (X-\mu)/SD$ where μ is the mean of the negative controls and SD is the standard deviation of the whole population. X is the sample value calculated based on the integrated fluorescent intensity/number of cells. For the secondary assays, the screen was carried out in duplicate for the different stemness marker of analysis in the 3 different hESCs (H1 GFP reporter line, HES2 and HES3). The average of the duplicate data was taken and the value was normalized to the wells transfected with non-targeting siRNA. The value for each well is a relative expression to that of the average of the negative control wells. The antibodies used for staining are OCT4 antibody (ab19857, Abcam, 0.6mg/ml), NANOG antibody (AF1997, R&D), Alexa Fluor 647 anti-goat IgG and Alexa Fluor 594 anti-rabbit IgG (Invitrogen). All antibodies are added in the dilution of 1:600.

[00149] *Informatics analysis – Gene ontology (GO) analysis:* GO analysis was performed with Panther classification (www.pantherdb.org) for the molecular functions and biological processes.

[00150] *Informatics analysis – Reactome analysis:* A web-resource Reactome (www.reactome.org) is used for the analysis of reactions and/or pathways that are statistically over-represented from the 566 genes with z-score>2 submitted. The Entrez gene ID of the hits were input as gene-identifiers using "sky-painter tool" which calculates a one-tailed Fisher's exact test for the probability of observing at

least N genes from an event if the event is not over-represented among the 566 genes. Events with p-value<0.05 are statistically significant and over-represented. These events are highlighted in the map with the accompanying genes listed.

[00151] *Informatics analysis – STRING network analysis:* Protein-protein interaction network is generated using STRING database which comprises a database of known and predicted protein interactions (http://string.embl.de/). 566 genes were input into STRING and 263 genes formed interactions among themselves. A medium confidence score criterion is set for the building of the protein network. Active prediction methods used are experiments, databases and text-mining. The resulting network is imported into cytoscape. Stem cells and transcription related genes based on Gene Ontology prediction are indicated in green in the cytoscape. The rest of the genes are indicated in pink. A high confidence score criterion is set for the individual protein complexes; INO80 complex, mediator complex, TAF complex, COP9 signalosome, eukaryotic initiation factor complex and spliceosome complex. Active prediction methods used for these smaller protein-protein network networks are the same as that for the 263 genes protein-protein network. The protein complexes are imported into pathway studio for further text-mining and additional interactions. Pathway studio highlights the entities that have a z-score of greater than 2 in red.

[00152] *Informatics analysis – Peak Calling:* Peak calling of the PRDM14 ChIP-seq data (12,824,267 uniquely mapped tags) was carried out using MACS [65] with a P value cutoff of 1e-10. 7,002 peaks were called. The control ChIP-seq library (sequencing of input DNA) contained 15,975,557 uniquely mapped tags.

[00153] Enriched sequence motifs were identified by *de novo* motif discovery programs Weeder, MEME [66] and CisFinder [53]. These programs identified the most overrepresented motif in PRDM14 ChIP-seq peak regions. All three programs identified a motif with the core 9-mer GGTCTCTAA as the most or second most enriched motif. The logo shown in Figure 14B is an extended motif identified by CisFinder using as input the sequences of the top 2000 PRDM14 ChIP-seq peaks (peak summit +/–100 bp.). In running CisFinder, we applied clustering of the initial candidate motifs using a match threshold of 0.5.

[00154] A novel method was used for assessing the enrichment of known motif in ChIP-seq peaks based on the distribution of motif matches around the peak center (Chang et al., manuscript in preparation). Sequences around ChIP-seq peaks were scored using position weight matrices (PWM) from TRANSFAC 11.4 [67] and a match of the PWM to the sequence was recorded if the score exceeded the 99.99 percentile score as observed across the whole genome (this is equivalent to one match in 10 kbp). The distributions of such matches in a flanking region +/–5000 bp from the peak center were used to calculate a score which reflects the enrichment of the PWM in windows around the peak centers.

[00155] Co-occurrence analysis to study the overlap of PRDM14 with other transcription factors binding sites was performed as described previously [12]. CTCF, OCT4 and NANOG ChIP-seq datasets were generated and processed in the same way as the PRDM14 dataset. KLF4, MYC, p300, SOX2 and histone modifications ChIP-seq data were obtained from GEO (GSE18292, GSE17917 and GSE16256) [17]. Peak calling for these external ChIP-seq datasets was done using MACS with the same parameters and corresponding hESC sequencing background data. To avoid bias in background sequencing we used an in-house control sequencing library of the same tag length (25 nt). Gene ontology analysis was done using PANTHER DB [68].

[00156] *Knockdown of genes with shRNA constructs:* Prior to transfection, cells were trypsinized for 30 secs at 37°C. Cells subcultured from one well of a 6-well dish were plated to nine wells one day in advance at 70% confluency. Individual shRNA for each gene were designed using WI siRNA selection program (http://jura.wi.mit.edu/bioc/siRNAext/). 1.5 μg of shRNA construct (pSuper, Oligoengine) and 4.5 μl of Fugene HD (Roche) were used for transfection. 0.8 μg/ml of puromycin was added to the condition medium 24hrs after transfection. Cells were harvested for alkaline phosphatase staining (according to manufacturer's protocol) and RNA extraction was performed using Trizol (Invitrogen) after 4 days of knock down. 500ng RNA was reverse transcribed using superscript II (Invitrogen) utilizing oligo $(dT)_{18}$ primer. mRNA expression changes were quantitated from qPCR using Kappa Sybr green enzyme. Measured transcript was normalized to GAPDH and samples were run in triplicate.

[00157] *Immunofluorescence:* Human ESCs, iPSCs or differentiation culture were fixed with 4% paraformaldehyde in PBS. After permeablization in 1% triton X-100/PBS for 30 min, immunostaining was performed using the following primary antibodies: NANOG (AF1997, R&D system), OCT4 (ab19857, Abcam), TRA-1-60 (sc-21705, Santa Cruz), TRA-1-81 (sc-21706, Santa Cruz), SSEA-4 (sc-21704, Santa Cruz), NESTIN (ab5968, Abcam), cardiac actin (10R-C116a, Fitzgerald), SOX17 (sc-17355, Santa Cruz), $p57^{kip2}$ (RB-1637-P, Neomarkers), anti-α-Smooth Muscle Actin (ab18460, Abcam), RUNX1 (ab61753, Abcam), MAFB (sc-22830, Santa Cruz) and IGFBP5 (sc-6006, Santa Cruz). Secondary antibodies used are Alexa Fluor 488/546 anti-mouse IgM, and Alexa Fluor 488/546 anti-mouse or anti-rabbit IgG (Invitrogen). DAPI or Hoechst (Invitrogen) was used for staining the nuclei.

[00158] *Teratoma formation*: hESCs or hiPSCs were treated with type IV collagenase and resuspended in 0.9% normal saline at a concentration of $1x10^7$ cells/ml. 100μl of the cell suspension was injected into the dorsal flanks of SCID mice that were anesthetized with Avertin. Teratomas were formed after 6 to 8 weeks and they were surgically dissected, fixed in Bouin's solution and embedded in paraffin. They were sectioned and analyzed with Mallory's Tetrachrome staining.

[00159] *Retroviral production and human iPSC induction*: pMXs retroviral plasmids that carry cDNA of human OCT4, SOX2, KLF4 and c-MYC genes were obtained from Addgene (plasmids 17217, 17218, 17219 and 17220) [27]. cDNA of human PRDM14 gene was cloned into pMX vector for retrovirus mediated over-expression. Retroviruses were packaged using Pantropic Retroviral Expression System (Clontech) and concentrated with centrifugal filter devices (Millipore). MRC-5 cells obtained from ATCC were cultured in 15% FBS/DMEM. Confluent MRC-5 cells were split into 24 wells at one day before being transduced with equal amount of the retroviruses stock in presence of 4 μg/ml polybrene (Sigma). After 24 hours, the cells were changed to fresh 15% FBS/DMEM medium, and then split from a single 24-well into two 6-wells with pre-seeded CF-1 feeders in the next day. The cultures were then maintained in human ESC culture medium and fed every two days. To expand and characterize hiPSCs, each emerged hESC-like colony was mechanically dissociated to small clamps and transferred into one 6-well with CF-1 feeder.

[00160] *In vitro Differentiation:* For spontaneous differentiation through embryoid body formation, hiPSCs were dissociated by collagenase IV treatment and transferred to low attachment 10 cm dishes. After 1 week, embryoid bodies were transferred to gelatin-coated plates and cultured in the same medium for another 6 days. For growth factor-induced differentiation, hiPSCs were dissociated by collagenase IV treatment and seeded on Matrigel, then induced for definitive endoderm differentiation using 100 ng/ml Activin A [61], or for trophectoderm differentiation using 100 ng/ml BMP4 and 1 μM PD0325901 [62].

[00161] *Karyotyping:* Cells were treated with colcemid for mitotic arrest and harvested by standard hypotonic treatment and methanol: acetic acid (3:1) fixation. Slides were prepared by standard air drying method and G-band karyotyping was performed.

[00162] *Bisulfite Sequencing:* Bisulfite treatment of DNA was performed with the Imprint™ DNA Modification Kit (Sigma) according to manufacturer's instructions. Amplified products were cloned into the pGEM-T easy vector (Promega), and sequenced with M13 forward and reverse primers.

Primers used for amplifying *POU5F1* promoter are:

5'- ATTTGTTTTTTGGGTAGTTAAAGGTTG (SEQ ID NO: 7);

5'- ACCAACTATCTTCATCTTAATAACATCCA (SEQ ID NO: 8) [63].

Primers used for amplifying *NANOG* promoter are:

5'- TGGTTAGGTTGGTTTTAAATTTTTG (SEQ ID NO: 9);

5'- AACCCACCCTTATAAATTCTCAATTA (SEQ ID NO: 10) [63].

[00163] *Genotyping:* PCR amplification was carried out using 500 ng of genomic DNA extracted from MRC-5, H1 hESC and reprogrammed cells for each reaction.

Sense primer used for amplifying:

5'-GACGGCATCGCAGCTTGGATACAC (SEQ ID NO: 11)

Antisense primers used for amplifying

PRDM14: 5'-TCGTAGAGAGGCTCCCTCTGTAGGC (SEQ ID NO: 12)

OCT4: 5'-CAGGTCCGAGGATCAACCCAGC (SEQ ID NO: 13)

SOX2: 5'-GGGTTCTCCTGGGCCATCTTGC (SEQ ID NO: 14)

KLF4: 5' -TCCCGCCAGCGGTTATTCGG (SEQ ID NO: 15)

c-MYC: 5'- CCTCCTCGTCGCAGTAGAAATACGG (SEQ ID NO: 16)

NFRKB: 5'-GCAGAAACTGCTGGAGGTGTTCACG (SEQ ID NO: 17)

[00164] *Western analysis:* After 48 h transfection, 293-T cells were lysed with RIPA buffer (Pierce) supplemented with protease inhibitor cocktail (Roche). Protein concentration was measured with a Bradford assay kit (Bio-Rad). 50 μg of cell lysate was resolved on a 10% SDS-polyacrylamide gel and transferred to a polyvinylidine difluoride membrane (Millipore). The membrane was blocked with 5% skim milk. After blocking, the blot was incubated with either anti-PRDM14 (1:2000, Home-made), anti-Oct4 (1:5000, Abcam), anti-Nanog (1:800, R&D) or anti-Gapdh (1:5000, Santa-Cruz) primary antibodies for 1 h, washed with PBST and incubated with either horse-radish peroxidase (HRP)-conjugated anti-rabbit IgG (1:5000, Santa Cruz), HRP-conjugated anti-goat IgG (1:5000, Santa Cruz) or HRP-conjugated anti-mouse IgG (1:5000, Santa Cruz), respectively. After washing with PBST, signals were detected using the Western Blotting Luminol Reagents (Santa Cruz).

[00165] *Reporter assays:* A minimal *pou5f1* proximal promoter region (350bp) was cloned into the PGL3 basic vector (Promega), driving the *luciferase* gene via the cloning site BglII and NcoI. The CR2 and CR4 fragments (550 and 500bp, respectively) were cloned into the PGL3-*Pou5f1* pp vector downstream of the *luciferase* gene via the cloning sites BamHI and SalI. For the cloning of reporter vector used to test the functional domains of PRDM14, 3 copies of 30bp CR2 consensus motif was synthesized and cloned into XhoI and BglII site in front of the minimal promoter of pGL4.23 vector (Promega) in tandem. H1, HES2 and HES3 hESCs were transfected with the reporter constructs using Fugene (Roche) and E14 mESCs and 293T cells using Lipofectamine 2000 (Invitrogen). Cells were harvested

48-60hrs after transfection and the luciferase activities were quantified using the Dual-luciferase Reporter Assay System (Promega).

[00166] *Electrophorectic mobility shift assay:* Recombinant PRDM14 DNA binding domain (His tagged) was used in the gel shift assays. Briefly, a cDNA encoding 179 amino acids of the C terminus of PRDM14 was cloned into the pET42b (Novagen) vector using cloning sites NdeI and XhoI. The fusion construct was transformed into BL21 competent cells (Strategene) according to the supplier's instructions. Purified proteins were dialyzed against a dialysis buffer (10mM Tris-HCl, pH 7.4, 100mM NaCl, 10mM $ZnCl_2$ and 10% glycerol) at 4°C for 6 hr. Oligonucleotides (Proligo) labeled with biotin at the 5' end of the sense strands were annealed with the antisense strands in the annealing buffer (10mM Tris-HCl , pH8.0, 50mM NaCl, 1mM EDTA) and purified with agarose gel DNA extraction kit (Qiagen). DNA concentrations were determined by the NanoDrop ND-1000 spectrophotometer. The gel shift assays were performed using a LightShift Chemiluminescent EMSA kit (Pierce Biotechnologies). 100 ng of protein was added to a 5 µl reaction mixture (final) containing 1µg of poly(dI-dC) (Amersham), 1 ng of biotin-labeled oligonucleotide in the binding buffer (12mM HEPES, pH7.9, 10% glycerol, 60 mM KCl, 0.25 mM EDTA, 1 mM DTT, 10 mM $ZnCl_2$). Binding reaction mixtures were incubated for 20min at room temperature. Binding reaction mixtures were resolved on pre-run 6% native polyacrylamide gels in 0.5X Tris-buffered EDTA (1st Base). Gels were transferred to Biodyne B nylon membranes (Pierce Biotechnologies) using western blot techniques and detected using chemiluminescence. Probe sequences for Figures 14D and 14E:

CR2 probe:

CAGCTCTAACCCTAAACAAGTGCTCAACCCTTGAATGGGCCTGGA TGGCT (SEQ ID NO: 18)

CR2 Mutant:

CATTTTTAACCCTAAACAAGTTTTTAACCCTTGAATGGGCCTGGA TGGCT (SEQ ID NO: 19)

[00167] *ChIP assay.* ChIP assays were performed as described previously [64]. In short, cells were crosslinked with 1% formaldehyde for 10 min at room

temperature and the formaldehyde was quenched with 125 mM glycine. Cell lysates were sonicated and chromatin extracts were immunoprecipitated by using the respective antibodies. Quantitative PCR analyses were performed as previously described.

[00168] *Microarray analysis:* mRNAs derived from hESCs, hiPSCs and human MRC-5 fibroblasts were reverse transcribed, labeled and analyzed on Illumina microarray platform (HumanRef-8 v3 .0 Expression BeadChips). Arrays were processed according to manufacturer's instructions. For each cell type or cell line, biological replicate microarray data were generated. Rank invariant normalization was used to normalize the microarrays. For *PRDM14* knockdown, mRNAs derived from *PRDM14* shRNA and *luciferase* shRNA-treated H1 hESCs were reverse transcribed, labeled and similarly analyzed on Illumina microarray platform (HumanRef-8_v3 .0 Expression BeadChips). Biological triplicates were included in the profiling of PRDM14-depleted H1 cells. Cluster 3.0 was used for hierarchical clustering and Java Treeview for visualization.

[00169] PRDM14 associated genes (data not shown) were defined by PRDM14 ChIP-seq peak location in +/-20Kbp distance to RefSeq gene borders (either to 5' or 3' end) or in gene. 2,645 genes of 2,755 PRDM14 associated genes were presented on Illumina microarray platform. SAM software [69] was used to define sets of gene up- and down-regulated genes in triplicate data on gene expression in hESC after PRDM14 siRNA knockdown. A 1.2 fold change threshold and q-values less than 15% were used to detect differentially expressed genes: 358 RefSeq genes were defined as down-regulated and 638 RefSeq genes as up-regulated at 3 days after PRDM14 knockdown (see Tables 6 and 7, above); Figures 18A and 18B).

[00170] 1,458 PRDM14 sites (ChIP-seq peaks) associated with 996 PRDM14 regulated genes (+/-20Kb to the gene borders) were analyzed for co-occurring PWMs found in the TRANSFAC database (158 transcription factor families with 953 vertebrate PWM) (Figure 20). The frequency of these TRANSFAC PWM occurring within 200 bp from these PRDM14 sites were counted. The p-values were calculated with statistics of binomial distribution using StatXact software.

[00171] *Co-immunoprecipitation:* H1 hESCs and transfected 293T cells were lysed in the cell lysis buffer (50 mM Tris-HCl, pH 8.0, 150 mM NaCl, 10 uM ZnCl, 0.5% Nonidet P-40, 5% glycerol with protease inhibitor) for 1 h. The whole cell lysate was precleared, collected and incubated overnight with beads coated with antibodies at 4°C. The beads were washed 4 times with the cell lysis buffer and boiled 10mins for elution. The interacting protein bands are resolved with 10% SDS-PAGE gel and transferred to the PVDF membrane, followed by detection with an appropriate primary antibody, an HRP-conjugated second antibody, and an ECL reagent. Antibodies used in Co-IP: Anti-GST (sc-469, Santa Cruz), anti-PRDM14 (custom-made), anti-NANOG (AF1997, R&D), anti-HA (sc-7392, Santa Cruz), anti-cMyc (sc-40, Santa Cruz) and anti-EZH2 (Active motif) antibodies were used to pull down the protein complexes.

[00172] All publications and patent applications cited in this specification are herein incorporated by reference as if each individual publication or patent application were specifically and individually indicated to be incorporated by reference. The citation of any publication is for its disclosure prior to the filing date and should not be construed as an admission that the present invention is not entitled to antedate such publication by virtue of prior invention.

[00173] As used in this specification and the appended claims, the singular forms "a," "an," and "the" include plural reference unless the context clearly dictates otherwise. Unless defined otherwise all technical and scientific terms used herein have the same meaning as commonly understood to one of ordinary skill in the art to which this invention belongs.

[00174] Although the foregoing invention has been described in some detail by way of illustration and example for purposes of clarity of understanding, it is readily apparent to those of ordinary skill in the art in light of the teachings of this invention that certain changes and modifications may be made thereto without departing from the spirit or scope of the appended claims.

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WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A method of inducing pluripotency in a human somatic cell, the method comprising culturing the human somatic cell in the presence of (i) OCT4 and SOX2; (ii) at least one of KLF4 and c-MYC; and (iii) at least one of PRDM14 and NFRKB.

2. The method of claim 1 wherein said culturing comprises contacting the human somatic cell with the OCT4 and the SOX2, with the at least one of KLF4 and c-MYC and with the at least one of PRDM14 and NFRKB so that the OCT4, the SOX2, the at least one of KLF4 and c-MYC and the at least one of PRDM14 and NFRKB are taken up by the human somatic cell.

3. The method of claim 1 wherein said culturing comprises expressing the OCT4, the SOX2, the at least one of KLF4 and c-MYC and the at least one of PRDM14 and NFRKB in the human somatic cell.

4. The method of claim 3 wherein each of the OCT4, the SOX2, the at least one of KLF4 and c-MYC and the at least one of PRDM14 and NFRKB are expressed from an expression vector.

5. The method of claim 4 wherein each of the OCT4, the SOX2, the at least one of KLF4 and c-MYC and the at least one of PRDM14 and NFRKB are expressed from a viral vector.

6. The method of any one of claims 1 and 3 to 5 wherein PRDM14 is expressed in the human somatic cell together with OCT4, SOX2 and KLF4.

7. The method of claim 6 wherein c-MYC is also expressed in the human somatic cell.

8. The method of any one of claims 1 and 3 to 5 wherein PRDM14 is expressed in the human somatic cell together with OCT4, SOX2 and c-MYC.

9. The method of any one of claims 1 and 3 to 5 wherein NFRKB is expressed in the human somatic cell together with OCT4, SOX2 and KLF4.

10. The method of claim 9 wherein c-MYC is also expressed in the human somatic cell.

11. The method of any one of claims 1 and 3 to 5 wherein NFRKB is expressed in the human somatic cell together with OCT4, SOX2 and c-MYC.

12. The method of any one of claims 1 to 11 wherein the human somatic cell is partially differentiated prior to said culturing.

13. The method of any one of claims 1 to 11 wherein the human somatic cell is fully differentiated prior to said culturing.

14. The method of any one of claims 1 to 13 wherein the human somatic cell is a human fibroblast prior to said culturing.

15. A human somatic cell comprising (i) OCT4 and SOX2; (ii) at least one of KLF4 and c-MYC; and (iii) at least one of PRDM14 and NFRKB.

16. The human somatic cell of claim 15 that expresses OCT4, SOX2, KLF4 and at least one of PRDM14 and NFRKB.

17. The human somatic cell of claim 15 that expresses OCT4, SOX2, c-MYC and at least one of PRDM14 and NFRKB.

18. The human somatic cell of claim 16 that further expresses c-MYC.

19. The human somatic cell of any one of claims 15 to 18 in which pluripotency has been induced.

20. The human somatic cell of any one of claims 15 to 19 that is a fibroblast.

21. The human somatic cell of claim 15 comprising one or more expression vectors encoding (i) the OCT4 and SOX2; (ii) the at least one of KLF4 and c-MYC; and (iii) the at least one of PRDM14 and NFRKB.

22. The human somatic cell of claim 21 that is a fibroblast.

23. A method of maintaining pluripotency of a human embryonic stem cell (hESC) comprising culturing the hESC in the presence of (i) OCT4 and SOX2; (ii) at least one of KLF4 and c-MYC; and (iii) at least one of PRDM14 and NFRKB.

24. The method of claim 23 wherein said culturing comprises contacting the hESC with the OCT4 and the SOX2, with the at least one of KLF4 and c-MYC and with the at least one of PRDM14 and NFRKB so that the OCT4, the SOX2, the at least one of KLF4 and c-MYC and the at least one of PRDM14 and NFRKB are taken up by the hESC.

25. The method of claim 23 wherein said culturing comprises expressing the OCT4, the SOX2, the at least one of KLF4 and c-MYC and the at least one of PRDM14 and NFRKB in the hESC.

26. The method of claim 25 wherein each of the OCT4, the SOX2, the at least one of KLF4 and c-MYC and the at least one of PRDM14 and NFRKB are expressed from an expression vector.

27. The method of claim 26 wherein each of the OCT4, the SOX2, the at least one of KLF4 and c-MYC and the at least one of PRDM14 and NFRKB are expressed from a viral vector.