



HAL
open science

The influence of space and time on the establishment of B cell identity

Ramy Elsaid, Junjie Yang, Ana Cumano

► **To cite this version:**

Ramy Elsaid, Junjie Yang, Ana Cumano. The influence of space and time on the establishment of B cell identity. *Biomedical journal*, 2019, Review Article: Special Edition, 42 (4), pp.209-217. 10.1016/j.bj.2019.07.008 . pasteur-02365637

HAL Id: pasteur-02365637

<https://pasteur.hal.science/pasteur-02365637v1>

Submitted on 15 Nov 2019

HAL is a multi-disciplinary open access archive for the deposit and dissemination of scientific research documents, whether they are published or not. The documents may come from teaching and research institutions in France or abroad, or from public or private research centers.

L'archive ouverte pluridisciplinaire **HAL**, est destinée au dépôt et à la diffusion de documents scientifiques de niveau recherche, publiés ou non, émanant des établissements d'enseignement et de recherche français ou étrangers, des laboratoires publics ou privés.



Distributed under a Creative Commons Attribution - NonCommercial - NoDerivatives 4.0
International License

Available online at www.sciencedirect.com

ScienceDirect

Biomedical Journal

journal homepage: www.elsevier.com/locate/bj

Review Article: Special Edition

The influence of space and time on the establishment of B cell identity

Ramy Elsaïd ^{a,b}, Junjie Yang ^{a,b,c}, Ana Cumano ^{a,b,*}^a Unit of Lymphopoiesis, Immunology Department, Institut Pasteur, U1223, INSERM, Paris, France^b Université Paris Diderot, Sorbonne Paris Cité, Paris, France^c CNBG Company, China

Dr. Ana Cumano

ARTICLE INFO

Article history:

Received 26 April 2019

Accepted 1 July 2019

Available online 19 September 2019

Keywords:

Lymphopoiesis

B cell

Embryo

Yolk sac

Hematopoietic stem cells

ABSTRACT

During embryonic development multiple waves of hematopoietic progenitors with distinct lineage potential are differentially regulated in time and space. Consistent with this view, some specialized lymphocytes emerge during a limited time-window in embryogenesis and migrate to the tissues where they contribute to organogenesis and to tissue homeostasis. These cells are not constantly produced by bone marrow derived hematopoietic stem cells but are maintained in tissues and self-renew throughout life. These particular cell subsets are produced from lymphoid restricted progenitors only found in the first days of fetal liver hematopoietic activity. Growing evidence of the heterogeneity and layered organization of the hematopoietic system is leading to a common view that some lymphocyte subsets are functionally different because they follow distinct developmental programs and emerge from distinct waves of lymphoid progenitors. However, understanding the influence of developmental origin and the relative contribution of local microenvironment on the development of these specialized lymphocyte subsets needs further analysis. In this review, we discuss how different pathways followed by developing B cells during ontogeny may contribute to the diverse functions.

Circulating blood cells are continuously produced from bone marrow (BM)-derived hematopoietic stem cells (HSCs), however, recent studies have challenged this view by establishing an exclusive embryonic origin of some tissue resident immune cells that persist throughout life [1–4]. These cells that comprise B-1 B, some subsets of $\gamma\delta$ T and lymphoid tissue inducer (LTi) cells are capable of self-renewing and respond to

changes in tissue environment [4]. In addition, they contribute to tissue homeostasis and represent the first line of defense against pathogens [2,4,5]. The layered immune system hypothesis was first introduced by Herzenberg and Herzenberg [6] to highlight the unique fetal origin of some hematopoietic cell populations correlated with a more primitive phylogenetic origin. Recent advances in lineage tracing and cellular

* Corresponding author. Unit of Lymphopoiesis, Immunology Department, Institut Pasteur, U1223, INSERM, 75724, Paris, France.

E-mail address: cumano@pasteur.fr (A. Cumano).

Peer review under responsibility of Chang Gung University.

<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.bj.2019.07.008>

2319-4170/© 2019 Chang Gung University. Publishing services by Elsevier B.V. This is an open access article under the CC BY-NC-ND license (<http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc-nd/4.0/>).

barcoding of hematopoietic progenitors contributed to reinforce the idea of a multi-layered immune system. Growing evidence is linking immune cell heterogeneity in homeostasis to their developmental origin during ontogeny, although the relative contribution of origin or of environmental signals to function is still under investigation. One clear example of embryonic origin and HSC-independency is the microglia and other tissue resident macrophages [7] shown by Perdiguero et al. to be derived from yolk sac (YS) erythro-myeloid progenitors (EMP). Whether the origin rather than the immediate location of tissue resident macrophages modulate their diverse functions and what are the differences in gene expression inherent to YS-derived macrophages are issues that remain to be resolved. In line with the view that the immune system is composed of cells that are generated in successive waves, some specialized lymphocytes produced during embryogenesis are tissue resident cells and share innate-like properties such as rapid response to antigen stimulation and contribution to tissue homeostasis [2]. The origin of these lymphocytes remain controversial as they have been suggested to emerge before definitive HSCs are detected [8,9]. So, similar to tissue resident macrophages, innate-like B-1a cells, $V\gamma 5^+$ or $V\delta 1^+$ IL-17 $^+$ $\gamma\delta$ T cells or LTi could derive from hematopoietic progenitors independent from HSC [10]. Here we discuss how developmental origins and local tissue signals may contribute to the multi-layered developmental programs of lymphocyte subsets during ontogeny.

HSC-independent lymphopoiesis

Fetal hematopoiesis occurs in distinct waves starting with a primitive wave from the YS which gives rise to nucleated erythrocytes and megakaryocytes [11]. Around embryonic day 8 (E8) the blood circulation is established [12] and the YS

harbors multipotent erythro-myeloid progenitors (EMPs), which lack long term reconstitution capacity and showed recently to be the origin of tissue resident macrophages and mast cells [Fig. 1] [7,13–15]. One day later, around E9.5, the pre-HSCs emerge in the major arteries [16,17] through an endothelial to hematopoietic transition mechanism (EHT) [18–20], show multipotency *in vitro* but do not reconstitute hematopoiesis *in vivo* [17]. Only after maturation in an organ culture system can they behave like their adult BM counterparts. Consistent with these observations, fate mapping studies showed that pre-HSCs labeled between E9.5 and E10.5 are the main source of adult HSC in the BM [21–23] and *de novo* production of HSC is no longer detected after E10.5. Thus at E10.5 the fetal liver (FL), the main hematopoietic organ during embryonic development, harbors highly proliferative multipotent progenitors of dual origin derived from both pre-HSCs generated in the major arterial vessels and from EMP generated in the YS [24]. This tight sequence of events and the dual source of blood cell generation raise the possibility that distinct lymphoid progenitors may exist before the emergence of HSC. Using $Ncx1^{-/-}$ mice, which lack heartbeat, Yoshimoto et al. showed that E9.5 YS harbors T-cell, B-1 cell and MZ B-cell progenitors suggesting that they originate *in situ*. However, while $Ncx1^{-/-}$ mice die at E11 both YS-derived and HSC-derived progenitors emerge normally [25]. Considering that pre-HSCs emerge from the dorsal aorta but also from the vitellin and umbilical arteries [26,27] that connect the embryo proper to the YS arterial vessels, it is likely that the lymphoid progenitors found in the YS correspond to emerging pre or immature HSC. In a different approach, Kobayashi et al. used HSC-deficient embryos to probe the origin of B and T cells in the mouse embryo [28]. $Cbfb^{-/-}$ mice are not viable after E13 and have severe defects in EMPs and HSCs because the function of all *Runx* genes is compromised [29]. When endothelial-specific receptor tyrosine kinase (*Tek*)

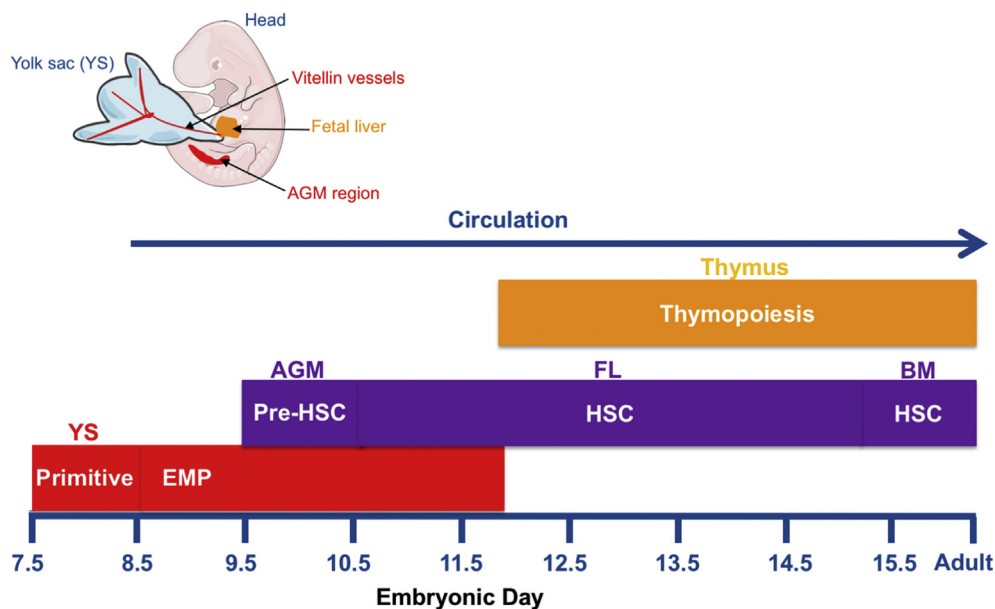


Fig. 1 Emergence of waves of hematopoietic progenitors in the mouse embryo. Abbreviations: YS: yolk sac; EMP: erythromyeloid progenitors; AGM: aorta, gonads and mesonephros; HSC: hematopoietic stem cells; BM: bone marrow.

regulatory regions were used to drive *Cbfb* expression, EMP cells were restored but not HSC. However, low numbers of LSK cells were detected possibly accounting for the B and T found in these mice although long-term reconstitution was severely compromised.

Combining reporter mouse lines with lineage tracing, Boiers et al. identified a population of progenitors contributing to fetal lymphocytes and myeloid cells (though not tissue resident macrophages), with no contribution to erythrocytes or megakaryocytes [8]. This lymphomyeloid (LMPs) restricted progenitors were further shown to co-express lymphoid and myeloid-associated genes (*Il7r*, *Rag1*, *Rag2*, *Flk2*, *Csf1r*, *Csf2r* and *Csf3r*). That they preceded long-term reconstitution ability was used as argument to their HSC independence and potential YS origin. However, the lineage potential of these progenitors at early developmental stages has not been thoroughly addressed and, as we previously mentioned, although long term reconstitution is detected at low levels before E12.5 the immature or pre-HSC emerge between E9.5 and E10.5, are highly proliferative and can progress to differentiate before acquiring adult reconstitution capacity.

In conclusion it is now established that the B cell compartment is composed of cells that develop in successive waves differentially regulated in time and space, the contribution of the YS-derived progenitors to lymphopoiesis remains controversial and further studies are required to show to what extent, if at all, HSC-independent progenitors contribute to the lymphoid compartment.

Early B cell differentiation and commitment

Lymphocyte homeostasis is dependent on the constant production of B cells from HSC-derived progenitors in the bone marrow. However, whereas follicular B cells are profoundly affected when BM B cell production is interrupted, marginal zone and B-1 B cells are minimally affected. These results suggest that B-1 B cells and marginal zone B cells are preferentially produced early in life.

B-1a cell development during embryogenesis

Unlike adult HSCs, fetal HSCs are highly proliferative in FL and are unique in their capacity to generate innate-like lymphocyte subsets [30,31]. Why are innate-like lymphocytes only produced by fetal HSCs? And to what extent are developmental timing and signals from the microenvironment orchestrating this process? Tissue resident B-1a cells are found in the peritoneal and pleural cavities, they are the main producers of natural IgM antibodies and respond to bacterial products in a T-independent manner [32]. B-1a cell generation decreases after birth and the B-1a cell compartment is sustained by self-renewal independent of adult HSCs input, unlike B-2 B cells that need continuous replenishment from adult HSCs [33]. Although it was shown that B-1a cells can also be produced from BM HSCs, it is consensual that FL hematopoietic progenitors are more efficient than their BM counterparts in the generation of this cell subset [34]. In order to identify which cells in FL are capable of generating B-1a cells, Ghosn et al. purified E15 FL LSK [35] that failed to generate B-1a cells.

These data suggest that B-1a could be a distinct lineage independent of fetal HSCs, although, differences in the gating strategy for identifying HSCs might result in differences in the cellular output (reviewed in Beaudin et al., 2016) [36]. Moreover fetal HSCs are CD11b⁺, and some might have been eliminated due to the presence of anti-CD11b antibody in the lineage cocktail [31,36].

Following similar line of research data from the Forsberg laboratory [37] used a Flk-Switch mouse model to define two distinct populations of fetal HSCs. The authors identified a developmentally restricted Flk2 dependent HSCs population with apparent long-term reconstituting capacity particularly efficient in generating B-1 cells that ceased to persist after birth [38]. These cells are different from adult HSCs in their bias to generate lymphoid cells particularly innate-like B-1a and V γ 5⁺ T cells and express lymphoid-associated genes (*Il7r*, *Rag1*, *Flk2*, *Rag2* and *Ccr9*). This work raised the possibility of the existence of distinct fetal HSC lineages and again providing evidence that B-1a cells might be derived from progenitors distinct from those generating other B cell subsets. In this study however, the transient nature of these progenitors and their expression of lymphoid specific transcripts do not coincide with the generally accepted definition of HSC [39]. Therefore, further investigations are required to clarify the extent to which these cells differ from the lymphomyeloid primed progenitors (LMPP).

In line with these data, a recent report from Dorshkind laboratory supported that B-1a cells emerge from multiple waves of fetal progenitors [40]. The analysis of a PU.1 hypomorphic mouse model (*URE^{Δ/Δ}*) showed that both B-1 and B-2 B cells are differentially sensitive to different levels of PU.1 expression depending on whether they were generated from early or later embryonic stages, further reinforcing the idea that fetal and adult B cells follow different developmental programs.

Following a different strategy, cellular barcoding was used to label fetal HSCs and evaluate heterogeneity in fetal B cell production [41]. It was shown that unlike some previously mentioned studies fetal HSC generate upon transfer both B-1 and B-2 cells and the same barcodes are shared between B-1, B-2 and HSCs indicating their common origin. Interestingly, secondary transplantation of sorted LSK cells from a recipient of barcoded fetal LSK exhibited a lower B-1a potential compared to primary recipients. These data indicated that fetal HSC progressively lose the capacity to generate B-1 cells upon transfer and this coincided with the downregulation of *Lin28b*, a negative regulator of the *let-7* family of microRNA expressed in fetal but not adult HSCs [42]. Consistent with this observation, *Lin28b* overexpression in BM HSCs restored the capacity to generate fetal lymphopoiesis (though not V γ 5⁺ T cells) including B-1a cells providing evidence that *Lin28b* is a key modulator of B-1 cell production. In line with this study, *in vivo* barcoding experiments in the absence of transplantation found similar barcodes expressed in adult B-1 and B-2 cells indicating that HSC do generate both B cell compartments [23]. Furthermore, work from the Rajewsky laboratory showed that switching specificities of mature B cells from a B-2 to a B-1 B-cell receptor is sufficient to induce cell proliferation and acquisition of the B-1 phenotype and function. Altogether these latter experiments argue against a distinct HSC-independent origin of B-1 lymphocytes [43]. The role of

Lin28b in the process of B-1 cell selection remains to be identified, as the B-2 to B-1 lineage transition induced by B cell receptor switch appears to be Lin28b independent.

Key transcriptional regulators of B-cell lineage

Lineage priming and commitment during hematopoiesis is a stepwise process starting in HSCs. During lymphoid specification, CLPs derived from HSC express the *IL7R α* which is a hallmark of lymphoid commitment [44]. This lineage commitment process is achieved through differential expression of lineage specific transcription factors such as *Pu.1*, *Ikaros*, *E2a*, *Ebf1* and *Pax5*. We will review the role of these key transcriptional factors in the establishment of B-cell identity [Fig. 2].

PU.1

Pu.1 is an ETS-domain transcription factor encoded by the *Spi-1* gene that is exclusively expressed in hematopoietic cells during ontogeny [45,46]. *Pu.1* acts by binding to a purine-rich sequence (PU-box) near the promoter region of target genes. PU.1 deficient mice die around embryonic day E18 and lack both B cells and myeloid cells in the FL [46]. Of note, HSC [47], lympho-myeloid progenitors (AA4.1⁺, Lin⁻) [48], as well as CLPs and early B cell precursors (IL7R⁺Kit⁺) are dramatically reduced in PU.1 deficient embryos. *In vitro* cultures of any of these progenitors showed reduced capacity to differentiate into B or myeloid cells, indicating that *Pu.1* acts at different stages of hematopoietic differentiation. Conditional deletion of *Pu.1* in CD19-expressing B cells resulted in an increased compartment of cells resembling B-1 cells while B-2 cells were compromised. This imbalance of B-1/B-2 cell development indicated a role of *Pu.1* in B-2/B-1 cell reprogramming [49] and is consistent with its role in the development of different B cell subsets [40].

Ikaros

Ikaros belongs to the family of zinc finger transcription factors, widely expressed in hematopoietic cells and one of the key regulators of hematopoiesis. In lymphoid lineage development, *Ikaros* deficient mice showed impaired B, T and

NK cell production, while the myeloid and erythroid lineages were not significantly affected [50]. Similar deficiency of B, T, and NK compartments was observed in an *Ikaros* null mouse model in which the DNA binding site was deleted [51].

Ikaros regulates different aspects of B cell specification, development, maturation and response. *Ikaros* null LMPPs failed to express the lymphoid-associated transcripts *Il7r α* and *Flt3*, that are critical for early B lineage specification from lymphoid progenitors [51]. *Ikaros* also induced *Ebf1* expression, which in turn promoted B cell differentiation by activating the B cell transcriptional program, and over expression of *Ebf1* but not of *Il7r α* or *Flt3* in *Ikaros*^{-/-} LSK cells rescued B cell potential [52]. However, these rescued B lineage cells failed to recombine *Igh* locus demonstrating that *Ikaros* also activates *Rag* gene expression and controls VH gene accessibility [52].

During B cell responses in the periphery, *Ikaros* regulates B cell activation threshold [53], and antibody isotype selection via Ig class switch recombination (CSR). *Ikaros* deficient B cells showed higher sensitivity to anti-IgM stimulation and *Ikaros* regulates class switch recombination (CSR) by activating epigenetic marks and transcription at constant region gene promoters. *Ikaros* mutant mice exhibit reduction in serum IgG3 and IgG1, and increased in IgG2 β and IgG2 production [53]. *Ikaros* binds the 3' enhancer and S region promoters of *Igh* locus to increase AID accessibility to S γ 2 β and S γ 2 α to induce AID dependent CSR to IgG2 β and IgG2 α . Thus, *Ikaros* is a crucial regulator of CSR through modulating transcriptional competition between S regions.

E2A

The transcription factor *E2a* regulates gene expression by binding to the E box domain of DNA [54] and belongs to the helix-loop-helix (HLH) protein family. *E2a* is required for lymphopoiesis in regulating both B and T cell development. Further differentiation from CLP to B lineage is dependent on the successive expression of the transcriptional factors *E2a*, *Ebf1*, and *Pax5* [55].

B cell development in E2A-deficient mice is arrested at the very early Pre-proB cell stage [56–58]. In the absence of *E2a*, lymphoid progenitors failed to express B lineage-associated genes, such as *Rag1*, *Pax5*, *CD19*, *CD79a* (*mb1*) and λ 5, in

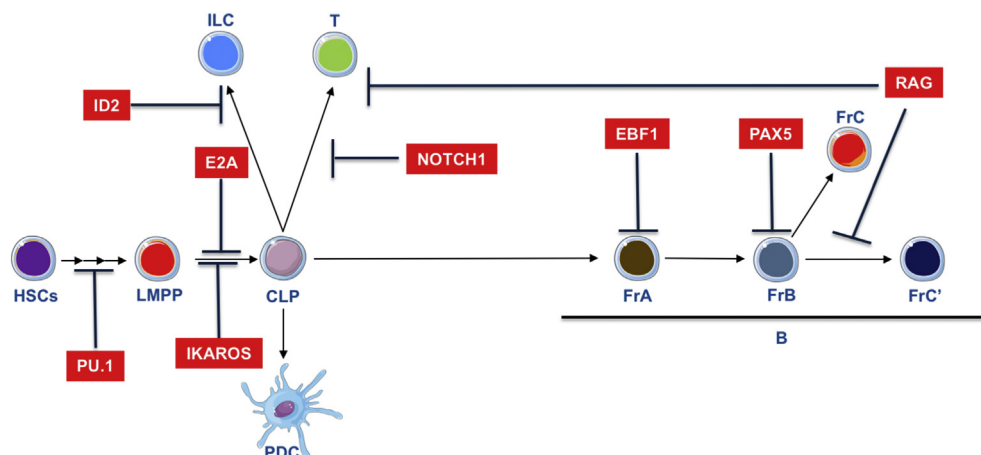


Fig. 2 Major transcriptional requirements for lymphocyte development.

addition, *Ebf1* expression was suppressed. Moreover, induced expression of *E2a* in *E2A*-deficient progenitors can restore *Ebf1* expression by binding and activating the promoter of *Ebf1* [59–61]. Forced retroviral expression of *Ebf1* in *E2A*-deficient progenitors restores their capacity to generate proB cells *in vitro* cultures, with normal V(D)J recombination at the IgH locus and normal expression of B-lymphoid-associated genes [62]. Altogether, these data indicate that *E2a* acts upstream of *Ebf1* and *Pax5* in the initiation of the B lineage differentiation program [56,63].

Id2 that blocks E box protein function inhibits the T and B developmental programs restricting *Id2* expressing CLP to the innate lymphoid differentiation pathway.

Ebf1

Ebf1 (Early B cell factor 1) is exclusively expressed in B lineage cells and has a regulatory role in the earliest stages of B cell specification and development [64]. Mice deficient in *Ebf1* fail to express B lineage specific genes, such as *Pax5*, *mb-1*, surrogate light chain $\lambda 5$ and *VpreB* [45,64,65]. B cell development in *Ebf1*^{-/-} mice was blocked at Pre-proB stage and no heavy chain rearrangements were detected. This phenotype is similar to that found in *E2A* deficient mice, suggesting these two factors orchestrate B cell development. However, *Ebf1* inactivation exclusively affects B cell development. This observation indicates that the transcription factors PU.1, Ikaros, and *E2A*, are expressed prior to *Ebf1*.

Ebf1 overexpression can launch the B cell program in progenitors deficient in upstream transcription factors, including PU.1 and *E2A*. Ectopic *Ebf1* expression in *E2A*^{-/-} [62], PU.1^{-/-} [66], IL-7^{-/-} [67,68] mice can to some extent restore B cell development. *Ebf1* is expressed in CLPs and coincides with B lineage restriction in Ly6D⁺IL7R⁺ CLPs [69], a stage at which most B cell specific genes are not expressed. Expression of *Ebf1* in these cells is sufficient to activate a B lineage transcriptional network, comprising *Pax5* [70] and silencing genes involved in T and NK cell development. Conditional deletion of *Ebf1* in committed pro-B cells generated innate lymphoid cell (ILCs) and T cells after transfer into alymphoid mice. However, the T cells derived from *Ebf1*-deficient pro-B cells had rearrangements of loci encoding both B cell and T cell antigen receptors [71]. Thus, *Ebf1* is required for B lineage commitment by blocking alternative cell fates.

Conditional deletion of *Ebf1* at later B cell developmental stages did not result in major differences in the expression of a number of *Ebf1* target genes, such as *Pax5*, *mb-1* and *CD79b* [72].

Pax5

Pax5, also called B cell lineage specific activator protein (BSAP), is a member of a paired box family 5. *Pax5* is exclusively expressed in B cells, starting at the pro-B cell stage [73]. One of the important roles of *Pax5* is the regulation of *CD19* expression. Deficiency of *Pax5* arrests B cell development at a stage before pro-B stage in both fetal and adult cells [74].

Ebf1^{-/-} deficient B cell progenitors cannot be rescued by *Pax5* over-expression [66], suggesting that *Pax5* acts downstream of *E2a* and *Ebf1* in the transcriptional network of

early B cell development [74]. *In vitro* cultures of *Pax5*^{-/-} progenitors in the presence of IL-7 generated proB-like cells that further differentiated into macrophages, granulocytes, dendritic cells, or natural killer cells when IL-7 was withdrawn. *In vivo* in *Rag*^{-/-} mice and *in vitro* co-culture with OP9-DL1 stromal *Pax5*^{-/-} pro-B progenitor generated T cells [74]. These studies showed that *Pax5* is critical to restrict the differentiation to B lineage pathway and inhibit alternative pathways.

B-cell lineage commitment: timing for lineage choice

B cell development is one of the best studied differentiation processes orchestrated by known transcription factors that are activated early in B cell development and sustain their activity throughout the life of a B-cell [45]. Immune cells are produced from multipotent and self-renewing HSCs that give rise to multipotent progenitors (MPP). In the bone marrow, B cells develop from HSCs through a series of stepwise restriction towards the B cell lineage. Long-term (LT) HSCs give rise to short-term (ST) HSCs that expand and produce MPPs [75]. The MPPs are capable of generating all blood lineages but lack self-renewing capacity in transplantation experiments and give rise to LMPPs, which are the earliest progenitor cell to express lymphoid-associated genes (*Il7r*, *Rag1*, *Rag2* and *Flk2*) and maintain myeloid potential but lack megakaryocyte-erythroid potential [21,39,76,77]. LMPPs differentiate into common lymphoid progenitors (CLPs) that are Lin⁻c-Kit^{lo}-Sca1^{lo}IL-7R⁺ [44]. These cells are different from LMPPs as they lost their myeloid potential and give rise to plasmacytoid dendritic cells (pDC), ILC, B and T cells [2,45]. Of note, B cell developmental program depends on the successive upregulation of *E2A*, *EBF1* and *Pax5*. In order to understand the initial stages of B lineage priming, we and others analyzed the CLP compartment in the FL. In the FL, CLPs [78] are identified as Lin⁻c-Kit⁺Sca1^{lo}IL-7R⁺ and they represent a heterogeneous compartment capable of generating all lymphoid lineages including CD3⁻LTi [2]. *Flk2* surface expression separates fetal CLPs into *Flk2*⁻ population with restricted progenitors to B and ILC and a *Flk2*⁺ population representing immature progenitors capable of differentiating into B, T and ILC [Fig. 3] [79,80]. Moreover, the integrin $\alpha_4\beta_7$ further separate progenitors that lost B cell potential and retain T and ILC potential [81,82]. The loss of T cell potential and the restriction to ILC is concomitant to the loss of *Flk2* and the upregulation of C-X-C motif chemokine receptor 6 (CXCR6) [82]. Therefore, Lin⁻IL-7R α^+ c-Kit⁺Sca-1^{lo}Flk2⁺ $\alpha_4\beta_7$ FL CLPs are the most immature CLPs (iCLPs) that generate all lymphoid lineages.

In order to further understand the molecular cues that control lineage choice before commitment, Berthault et al. used a combination of markers (*Flk2*, $\alpha_4\beta_7$, HSA (also known as *CD24*) and *PIRA/B*) to address this question [83]. Based on the expression of HSA, the immature (i) CLPs (*Flk2*⁺ $\alpha_4\beta_7$ ⁻ IL-7R α^+) were separated into three different populations with different transcriptional signature and lymphocyte potential [Fig. 3]. The majority of iCLPs expressed intermediate levels of HSA (HSA^{int}) and retained a robust B, T and ILC potential. The two other populations were either expressing high levels of HSA (HSA^{hi}) or low level of HSA (HSA^{lo}). While HSA^{lo} iCLPs were biased toward T and ILC potential and had low B cell potential, HSA^{hi} iCLPs were biased to generate B cells with low T and ILC

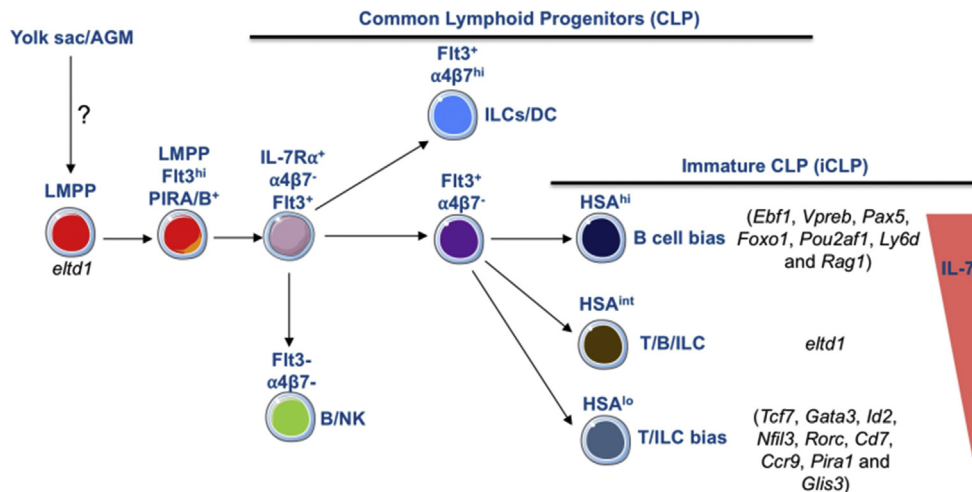


Fig. 3 Lymphoid lineage choice during early stages of development in fetal liver. Abbreviations: LMPP: lympho-myeloid progenitors; HSA: heat stable antigen; ILC: innate lymphoid cells; DC: dendritic cells.

potential. Single-cell multiplex transcriptional analysis showed that the B cell and T cell-bias signature were initiated at different stages of differentiation. While the transcriptional signature that marked cells biased towards the T/iLC lineage was detected in LMPPs, the B cell-bias signature was concomitant with the upregulation of *IL-7 α* and appeared only in CLPs. *HSA^{int}* iCLPs were shown to derive from LMPPs that further differentiated into *HSA^{hi}* iCLPs and *HSA^{lo}* iCLPs. While *HSA^{hi}* iCLPs expressed B-lineage associated genes (*Ebf1*, *Vpreb*, *Pax5*, *Foxo1*, *Pou2af1*, *Ly6d* and *Rag1*), *HSA^{lo}* iCLPs expressed ILC-lineage associated genes (*Tcf7*, *Gata3*, *Id2*, *Nfil3*, *Rorc*, *Cd7*, *Ccr9*, *Pira1* and *Glis3*) and some transcripts found in adult ETP (IMMGEN data base). However, they did not express known Notch1 signaling targets that are essential for T cell differentiation. Therefore, *HSA^{lo}* iCLP although having partially lost B cell potential do not appear to be engaged in the T cell pathway of differentiation, only when they reach the thymus do we find signs of Notch activation (*Hes1*, *Dtx*) [83]. This sequence of events leads to the conclusion that the establishment of B versus T cell identity occurred at sequential stages of differentiation and it is not a binary choice, and, importantly, the loss of B cell lineage potential may take place before colonizing the thymus (for further discussion on this topic, also refer to Cumano et al., 2019 [84]).

Fetal hematopoietic microenvironment and lymphoid commitment

The FL provides the unique hematopoietic environment where in the mouse hematopoietic progenitors expand and differentiate. Once in the FL, lymphoid progenitors initiate differentiation and major differences between fetal and adult hematopoiesis have been detected. For example, *IL-7* is an important cytokine for B cell development, in mice although not in humans. *IL-7*-deficient mice showed a complete absence of adult B cell development in BM and adult CLPs were reduced in numbers and in their B cell differentiation

capacity [85]. However, fetal B cell development, although affected, was not absent and the numbers of CLPs were normal in the FL. These data indicated that fetal lymphopoiesis is partially independent of *IL-7*. Only when *IL-7* and *Flt3* deficiencies were combined, fetal lymphopoiesis were totally absent [86]. Because the analysis of FL CLP indicated that the B cell transcriptional program was only initiated after the expression of the *IL-7 α* chain we investigated the role of *IL-7* in B cell lineage priming and commitment in FL. In *IL-7*-deficient mice, the numbers of *HSA^{lo}* iCLPs (that had lost B cell differentiation potential) were significantly increased while the numbers of *HSA^{hi}* iCLPs (B biased) were reduced. In addition although the numbers of *HSA^{int}* multipotent CLP were normal the numbers of cells that exhibited a B cell transcriptional priming was reduced compared to WT whereas the numbers of cells with T/iLC priming were increased [83]. These experiments indicated that *IL-7* plays a role in determining the numbers of B and T/iLC biased progenitors during fetal development.

Between E12 and E15 the thymus is colonized by a first wave of fetal thymic settling progenitors (TSPs) similar in phenotype and function to *HSA^{lo}* iCLPs and to circulating CLPs (CRLPs). At later stages the thymus is colonized by a second wave of LMPPs-like progenitors and FL does no longer support the production of *HSA^{lo}* iCLPs [87]. A time course analysis showed that *HSA^{lo}* iCLPs are abundant in FL between E11 and E15 and after E16 they were no longer detected. In contrast, *HSA^{hi}* iCLPs were barely detected before E13 and gradually increased at later stages of development. This progression of events coincides with an upregulation in *IL-7* production as development progresses in the FL suggesting a link between the presence of *HSA^{lo}* iCLP and *IL-7* availability. Consistent with this at E11 where availability of *IL-7* is low the B lineage transcriptional signature is undetectable in *IL-7 α ⁺* CLP. Taken together this data indicates that *HSA^{lo}* iCLPs are a transient population only found at early stages of development and their presence is dependent on the absence of *IL-7*. At later stages *IL-7* secures the expression of

the B lineage transcriptional program and the thymus is colonized thereafter by multipotent progenitors that no longer can generate innate like lymphocytes and LTi. Therefore after the initial stages of FL hematopoiesis the CLP is devoted to B and ILC development and although maintaining T cell potential *in vitro* these progenitors show decreased efficiency in repopulating the T cell compartment, *in vivo* [51]. These data indicate that developmental timing and microenvironmental signals are associated with lineage choice and explain why only during early stages unique subsets of the immune system emerge.

Perspectives

In this review we discussed the origin(s) of lymphoid precursors and how the developmental timing and microenvironmental signals may contribute to the diversity of the immune system. It is clear that B cell development occurs in a multi-layered unique developmental program through successive waves of B cell progenitors. However, the origin of the first wave of B cell progenitors and tissue resident innate-like B-1a cells remains controversial. To determine the relative contribution of developmental timing on B cell output, efficient and faithful lineage tracing models will have to be developed. Lineage tracing or reporter mouse models that might be reliable and predictable during adult lymphopoiesis might not be so during FL lymphoid development that as we discussed above have a particular features.

The heterogeneity of fetal HSCs with respect to fetal lymphocyte production compared to their adult counterpart needs further investigation. Future work aimed at the functional characterization of cells derived from distinct origins will improve our understanding on how this HSC heterogeneity impacts on the establishment of the B cell compartment. Moreover, the transcriptional regulatory networks that govern B cell development are different in fetal and adult lymphopoiesis. How this molecular regulation is related to their cellular origin? And to what extent microenvironmental signals contribute to a lineage choice? Addressing these questions represent a major challenge in B cell development and understanding lymphoid cell ontogeny in general. Advances in lineage tracing and the growing field of high-throughput single cell transcriptional and epigenetic analysis might help in providing new insights into how successive layers during ontogeny contribute to different lineage output and deciphering their functional heterogeneity.

Conflicts of interest

The authors declare they have no conflict of interests.

Acknowledgments

We thank to members of the A.C. laboratory for many fruitful discussions.

This work was financed by the Institut Pasteur, INSERM, ANR (grant Twothyme) to A.C., REVIVE Future Investment Program to A.C. and R.E. and Pasteur-Weizmann Foundation through grants to A.C. J.Y. is part of the Pasteur – Paris University (PPU) International PhD program. This project has received funding from the CNBG Company, China.

REFERENCES

- [1] Cumano A, Godin I. Ontogeny of the hematopoietic system. *Annu Rev Immunol* 2007;25:745–85.
- [2] De Obaldia ME, Bhandoola A. Transcriptional regulation of innate and adaptive lymphocyte lineages. *Annu Rev Immunol* 2015;33:607–42.
- [3] Kristiansen TA, Vanhee S, Yuan J. The influence of developmental timing on B cell diversity. *Curr Opin Immunol* 2018;51:7–13.
- [4] Perdiguero EG, Geissmann F. The development and maintenance of resident macrophages. *Nat Immunol* 2016;17:2–8.
- [5] Nielsen MM, Witherden DA, Havran WL. $\gamma\delta$ T cells in homeostasis and host defence of epithelial barrier tissues. *Nat Rev Immunol* 2017;17:733–45.
- [6] Herzenberg LA, Herzenberg LA. Toward a layered immune system. *Cell* 1989;59:953–4.
- [7] Gomez Perdiguero E, Klapproth K, Schulz C, Busch K, Azzoni E, Crozet L, et al. Tissue-resident macrophages originate from yolk-sac-derived erythro-myeloid progenitors. *Nature* 2015;518:547–51.
- [8] Böiers C, Carrelha J, Lutteropp M, Luc S, Green JCA, Azzoni E, et al. Lymphomyeloid contribution of an immune-restricted progenitor emerging prior to definitive hematopoietic stem cells. *Cell Stem Cell* 2013;13:535–48.
- [9] Yoshimoto M, Montecino-Rodriguez E, Ferkowicz MJ, Porayette P, Shelley WC, Conway SJ, et al. Embryonic day 9 yolk sac and intra-embryonic hemogenic endothelium independently generate a B-1 and marginal zone progenitor lacking B-2 potential. *Proc Natl Acad Sci U S A* 2011;108:1468–73.
- [10] Grönwall C, Vas J, Silverman GJ. Protective roles of natural IgM antibodies. *Front Immunol* 2012;3:66.
- [11] Palis J, Robertson S, Kennedy M, Wall C, Keller G. Development of erythroid and myeloid progenitors in the yolk sac and embryo proper of the mouse. *Dev Camb Engl* 1999;126:5073–84.
- [12] McGrath KE, Koniski AD, Malik J, Palis J. Circulation is established in a stepwise pattern in the mammalian embryo. *Blood* 2003;101:1669–75.
- [13] Bertrand JY. Three pathways to mature macrophages in the early mouse yolk sac. *Blood* 2005;106:3004–11.
- [14] Gentek R, Ghigo C, Hoeffel G, Bulle MJ, Msallam R, Gautier G, et al. Hemogenic endothelial fate mapping reveals dual developmental origin of mast cells. *Immunity* 2018;48:1160–71. e5.
- [15] Hoeffel G, Chen J, Lavin Y, Low D, Almeida FF, See P, et al. C-Myb+ erythro-myeloid progenitor-derived fetal monocytes give rise to adult tissue-resident macrophages. *Immunity* 2015;42:665–78.
- [16] Cumano A, Dieterlen-Lievre F, Godin I. Lymphoid potential, probed before circulation in mouse, is restricted to caudal intraembryonic splanchnopleura. *Cell* 1996;86:907–16.
- [17] Medvinsky A, Dzierzak E. Definitive hematopoiesis is autonomously initiated by the AGM region. *Cell* 1996;86:897–906.

- [18] Kissa K, Herbomel P. Blood stem cells emerge from aortic endothelium by a novel type of cell transition. *Nature* 2010;464:112–5.
- [19] Bertrand JY, Chi NC, Santoso B, Teng S, Stainier D, Traver D. Hematopoietic stem cells derive directly from aortic endothelium during development. *Nature* 2010;464:108–11.
- [20] Boisset J-C, van Cappellen W, Andrieu-Soler C, Galjart N, Dzierzak E, Robin C. In vivo imaging of haematopoietic cells emerging from the mouse aortic endothelium. *Nature* 2010;464:116–20.
- [21] Busch K, Klapproth K, Barile M, Flossdorf M, Holland-Letz T, Schlenner SM, et al. Fundamental properties of unperturbed haematopoiesis from stem cells in vivo. *Nature* 2015;518:542–6.
- [22] Samokhvalov IM, Samokhvalova NI, Nishikawa S. Cell tracing shows the contribution of the yolk sac to adult haematopoiesis. *Nature* 2007;446:1056–61.
- [23] Pei W, Feyerabend TB, Rössler J, Wang X, Postrach D, Busch K, et al. Polylox barcoding reveals haematopoietic stem cell fates realized in vivo. *Nature* 2017;548:456–60.
- [24] McGrath KE, Frame JM, Fegan KH, Bowen JR, Conway SJ, Catherman SC, et al. Distinct sources of hematopoietic progenitors emerge before HSCs and provide functional blood cells in the mammalian embryo. *Cell Rep* 2015;11:1892–904.
- [25] Rhodes KE, Gekas C, Wang Y, Lux CT, Francis CS, Chan DN, et al. The emergence of hematopoietic stem cells is initiated in the placental vasculature in the absence of circulation. *Cell Stem Cell* 2008;2:252–63.
- [26] de Bruijn MFTR, Speck NA, Peeters MCE, Dzierzak E. Definitive hematopoietic stem cells first develop within the major arterial regions of the mouse embryo. *EMBO J* 2000;19:2465–74.
- [27] Gordon-Keylock S, Sobiesiak M, Rybtsov S, Moore K, Medvinsky A. Mouse extraembryonic arterial vessels harbor precursors capable of maturing into definitive HSCs. *Blood* 2013;122:2338–45.
- [28] Kobayashi M, Shelley WC, Seo W, Vemula S, Lin Y, Liu Y, et al. Functional B-1 progenitor cells are present in the hematopoietic stem cell-deficient embryo and depend on Cbf for their development. *Proc Natl Acad Sci* 2014;111:12151–6.
- [29] de Bruijn M, Dzierzak E. Runx transcription factors in the development and function of the definitive hematopoietic system. *Blood* 2017;129:2061–9.
- [30] Hadland B, Yoshimoto M. Many layers of embryonic hematopoiesis: new insights into B-cell ontogeny and the origin of hematopoietic stem cells. *Exp Hematol* 2018;60:1–9.
- [31] Morrison SJ, Hemmati HD, Wandycz AM, Weissman IL. The purification and characterization of fetal liver hematopoietic stem cells. *Proc Natl Acad Sci* 1995;92:10302–6.
- [32] Herzenberg LA. Layered evolution in the immune system: a view from history: layered evolution in the immune system. *Ann N Y Acad Sci* 2015;1362:1–5.
- [33] Herzenberg LA, Kantor AB, Herzenberg LA. Layered evolution in the immune system: a model for the ontogeny and development of multiple lymphocyte lineages. *Ann N Y Acad Sci* 1992;651:1–9.
- [34] Duber S, Hafner M, Krey M, Lienenklaus S, Roy B, Hobeika E, et al. Induction of B-cell development in adult mice reveals the ability of bone marrow to produce B-1a cells. *Blood* 2009;114:4960–7.
- [35] Ghosn EEB, Waters J, Phillips M, Yamamoto R, Long BR, Yang Y, et al. Fetal hematopoietic stem cell transplantation fails to fully regenerate the B-lymphocyte compartment. *Stem Cell Rep* 2016;6:137–49.
- [36] Beaudin AE, Forsberg EC. To B-1a or not to B-1a: do hematopoietic stem cells contribute to tissue-resident immune cells? *Blood* 2016;128:2765–9.
- [37] Boyer SW, Schroeder AV, Smith-Berdan S, Forsberg EC. All hematopoietic cells develop from hematopoietic stem cells through Flk2/Flt3-positive progenitor cells. *Cell Stem Cell* 2011;9:64–73.
- [38] Beaudin AE, Boyer SW, Perez-Cunningham J, Hernandez GE, Derderian SC, Jujjavarapu C, et al. A transient developmental hematopoietic stem cell gives rise to innate-like B and T cells. *Cell Stem Cell* 2016;19:768–83.
- [39] Adolfsson J, Månsson R, Buza-Vidas N, Hultquist A, Liuba K, Jensen CT, et al. Identification of Flt3+ lympho-myeloid stem cells lacking erythro-megakaryocytic potential. *Cell* 2005;121:295–306.
- [40] Montecino-Rodriguez E, Fice M, Casero D, Berent-Maoz B, Barber CL, Dorshkind K. Distinct genetic networks orchestrate the emergence of specific waves of fetal and adult B-1 and B-2 development. *Immunity* 2016;45:527–39.
- [41] Kristiansen TA, Jaensson Gyllenbäck E, Zriwil A, Björklund T, Daniel JA, Sitnicka E, et al. Cellular barcoding links B-1a B cell potential to a fetal hematopoietic stem cell state at the single-cell level. *Immunity* 2016;45:346–57.
- [42] Yuan J, Nguyen CK, Liu X, Kanellopoulou C, Muljo SA. Lin28b reprograms adult bone marrow hematopoietic progenitors to mediate fetal-like lymphopoiesis. *Science* 2012;335:1195–200.
- [43] Graf R, Seagal J, Otipoby KL, Lam K-P, Ayoub S, Zhang B, et al. BCR-dependent lineage plasticity in mature B cells. *Science* 2019;363:748–53.
- [44] Kondo M, Weissman IL, Akashi K. Identification of clonogenic common lymphoid progenitors in mouse bone marrow. *Cell* 1997;91:661–72.
- [45] Rothenberg EV. Transcriptional control of early T and B cell developmental choices. *Annu Rev Immunol* 2014;32:283–321.
- [46] McKercher SR, Torbett BE, Anderson KL, Henkel GW, Vestal DJ, Baribault H, et al. Targeted disruption of the PU.1 gene results in multiple hematopoietic abnormalities. *EMBO J* 1996;15:5647–58.
- [47] Kim H-G. The ETS family transcription factor PU.1 is necessary for the maintenance of fetal liver hematopoietic stem cells. *Blood* 2004;104:3894–900.
- [48] Scott EW, Fisher RC, Olson MC, Kehrl EW, Simon MC, Singh H. PU.1 functions in a cell-autonomous manner to control the differentiation of multipotential lymphoid–myeloid progenitors. *Immunity* 1997;6:437–47.
- [49] Ye M, Ermakova O, Graf T. PU.1 is not strictly required for B cell development and its absence induces a B-2 to B-1 cell switch. *J Exp Med* 2005;202:1411–22.
- [50] Georgopoulos K, Moore D, Derfler B. Ikaros, an early lymphoid-specific transcription factor and a putative mediator for T cell commitment. *Science* 1992;258:808–12.
- [51] Allman D, Sambandam A, Kim S, Miller JP, Pagan A, Well D, et al. Thymopoiesis independent of common lymphoid progenitors. *Nat Immunol* 2003;4:168–74.
- [52] Reynaud D, Demarco IA, Reddy KL, Schjerven H, Bertolino E, Chen Z, et al. Regulation of B cell fate commitment and immunoglobulin heavy-chain gene rearrangements by Ikaros. *Nat Immunol* 2008;9:927–36.
- [53] Kirstetter P, Thomas M, Dierich A, Kastner P, Chan S. Ikaros is critical for B cell differentiation and function. *Eur J Immunol* 2002;32:720–30.
- [54] Lin H, Grosschedl R. Failure of B-cell differentiation in mice lacking the transcription factor EBF. *Nature* 1995;376:263–7.
- [55] Sigvardsson M, Clark DR, Fitzsimmons D, Doyle M, Akerblad P, Breslin T, et al. Early B-cell factor, E2A, and pax-5 cooperate to activate the early B cell-specific mb-1 promoter. *Mol Cell Biol* 2002;22:8539–51.
- [56] Seet CS, Brumbaugh RL, Kee BL. Early B cell factor promotes B lymphopoiesis with reduced interleukin 7 responsiveness in the absence of E2A. *J Exp Med* 2004;199:1689–700.

- [57] Medina KL, Pongubala JMR, Reddy KL, Lancki DW, DeKoter R, Kieslinger M, et al. Assembling a gene regulatory network for specification of the B cell fate. *Dev Cell* 2004;7:607–17.
- [58] Dias S, Silva H, Cumano A, Vieira P. Interleukin-7 is necessary to maintain the B cell potential in common lymphoid progenitors. *J Exp Med* 2005;201:971–9.
- [59] Kikuchi K, Lai AY, Hsu C-L, Kondo M. IL-7 receptor signaling is necessary for stage transition in adult B cell development through up-regulation of EBF. *J Exp Med* 2005;201:1197–203.
- [60] Inlay MA, Bhattacharya D, Sahoo D, Serwold T, Seita J, Karsunky H, et al. Ly6d marks the earliest stage of B-cell specification and identifies the branchpoint between B-cell and T-cell development. *Genes Dev* 2009;23:2376–81.
- [61] Mansson R, Zandi S, Welinder E, Tsapogas P, Sakaguchi N, Bryder D, et al. Single-cell analysis of the common lymphoid progenitor compartment reveals functional and molecular heterogeneity. *Blood* 2010;115:2601–9.
- [62] Nechanitzky R, Akbas D, Scherer S, Györy I, Hoyler T, Ramamoorthy S, et al. Transcription factor EBF1 is essential for the maintenance of B cell identity and prevention of alternative fates in committed cells. *Nat Immunol* 2013;14:867–75.
- [63] Hagman J, Travis A, Grosschedl R. A novel lineage-specific nuclear factor regulates mb-1 gene transcription at the early stages of B cell differentiation. *EMBO J* 1991;10:3409–17.
- [64] Fuxa M, Busslinger M. Reporter gene insertions reveal a strictly B lymphoid-specific expression pattern of Pax5 in support of its B cell identity function. *J Immunol* 2007;178:3031–7.
- [65] Nutt SL, Heavey B, Rolink AG, Busslinger M. Commitment to the B-lymphoid lineage depends on the transcription factor Pax5. *Nature* 1999;401:556–62.
- [66] Massari ME, Murre C. Helix-loop-helix proteins: regulators of transcription in eucaryotic organisms. *Mol Cell Biol* 2000;20:429–40.
- [67] Nutt SL, Kee BL. The transcriptional regulation of B cell lineage commitment. *Immunity* 2007;26:715–25.
- [68] Robanus EC, Izon DJ, Amsen D, Weintraub C, Krop I, Schlissel MS, et al. E2A proteins are required for proper B cell development and initiation of immunoglobulin gene rearrangements. *Cell* 1994;79:885–892.
- [69] Borghesi L, Aites J, Nelson S, Lefterov P, James P, Gerstein R. E47 is required for V(D)J recombinase activity in common lymphoid progenitors. *J Exp Med* 2005;202:1669–77.
- [70] Zhuang Y. The helix-loop-helix gene E2A is required for B cell formation. *Cell* 1994;79:875–84.
- [71] Smith EMK, Gisler R, Sigvardsson M. Cloning and characterization of a promoter flanking the early B cell factor (EBF) gene indicates roles for E-proteins and autoregulation in the control of EBF expression. *J Immunol* 2002;169:261–70.
- [72] Roessler S, Gyory I, Imhof S, Spivakov M, Williams RR, Busslinger M, et al. Distinct promoters mediate the regulation of Ebf1 gene expression by interleukin-7 and Pax5. *Mol Cell Biol* 2007;27:579–94.
- [73] Ikawa T, Masuda K, Lu M, Minato N, Katsura Y, Kawamoto H. Identification of the earliest prethymic T-cell progenitors in murine fetal blood. *Blood* 2004;103:530–7.
- [74] Bain G, Maandag ECR, te Riele HPJ, Feeney AJ, Sheehy A, Schlissel M, et al. Both E12 and E47 allow commitment to the B cell lineage. *Immunity* 1997;6:145–54.
- [75] Höfer T, Busch K, Klapproth K, Rodewald H-R. Fate mapping and quantitation of hematopoiesis in vivo. *Annu Rev Immunol* 2016;34:449–78.
- [76] Månsson R, Hultquist A, Luc S, Yang L, Anderson K, Kharazi S, et al. Molecular evidence for hierarchical transcriptional lineage priming in fetal and adult stem cells and multipotent progenitors. *Immunity* 2007;26:407–19.
- [77] Sawai CM, Babovic S, Upadhaya S, Knapp DJHF, Lavin Y, Lau CM, et al. Hematopoietic stem cells are the major source of multilineage hematopoiesis in adult animals. *Immunity* 2016;45:597–609.
- [78] Mebius RE, Miyamoto T, Christensen J, Domen J, Cupedo T, Weissman IL, et al. The fetal liver counterpart of adult common lymphoid progenitors gives rise to all lymphoid lineages, CD45+CD4+CD3- cells, as well as macrophages. *J Immunol* 2001;166:6593–601.
- [79] Karsunky H, Inlay MA, Serwold T, Bhattacharya D, Weissman IL. Flk2+ common lymphoid progenitors possess equivalent differentiation potential for the B and T lineages. *Blood* 2008;111:5562–70.
- [80] Pereira de Sousa A, Berthault C, Granato A, Dias S, Ramond C, Kee BL, et al. Inhibitors of DNA binding proteins restrict T cell potential by repressing Notch1 expression in flt3-negative common lymphoid progenitors. *J Immunol* 2012;189:3822–30.
- [81] Yoshida H, Kawamoto H, Santee SM, Hashi H, Honda K, Nishikawa S, et al. Expression of alpha(4)beta(7) integrin defines a distinct pathway of lymphoid progenitors committed to T cells, fetal intestinal lymphotoxin producer, NK, and dendritic cells. *J Immunol* 2001;167:2511–21.
- [82] Possot C, Schmutz S, Chea S, Boucontet L, Louise A, Cumano A, et al. Notch signaling is necessary for adult, but not fetal, development of RORγt(+) innate lymphoid cells. *Nat Immunol* 2011;12:949–58.
- [83] Berthault C, Ramond C, Burlen-Defranoux O, Soubigou G, Chea S, Golub R, et al. Asynchronous lineage priming determines commitment to T cell and B cell lineages in fetal liver. *Nat Immunol* 2017;18:1139–49.
- [84] Cumano A, Berthault C, Ramond C, Petit M, Golub R, Bandeira A, et al. New molecular insights into immune cell development. *Annu Rev Immunol* 2019;37:497–519.
- [85] Carvalho TL, Mota-Santos T, Cumano A, Demengeot J, Vieira P. Arrested B lymphopoiesis and persistence of activated B cells in adult interleukin 7(-/-) mice. *J Exp Med* 2001;194:1141–50.
- [86] Vosshenrich CAJ, Cumano A, Muller W, Di Santo JP, Vieira P. Pre-B cell receptor expression is necessary for thymic stromal lymphopoietin responsiveness in the bone marrow but not in the liver environment. *Proc Natl Acad Sci* 2004;101:11070–5.
- [87] Ramond C, Berthault C, Burlen-Defranoux O, de Sousa AP, Guy-Grand D, Vieira P, et al. Two waves of distinct hematopoietic progenitor cells colonize the fetal thymus. *Nat Immunol* 2013;15:27–35.