[REVIEW ARTICLE]

Podocyte-specific Transcription Factors: Could MafB become a Therapeutic Target for Kidney Disease?

Naoki Morito, Toshiaki Usui, Shun Ishibashi and Kunihiro Yamagata

Abstract:

The increasing number of patients with chronic kidney disease (CKD) is being recognized as an emerging global health problem. Recently, it has become clear that injury and loss of glomerular visceral epithelial cells, known as podocytes, is a common early event in many forms of CKD. Podocytes are highly specialized epithelial cells that cover the outer layer of the glomerular basement membrane. They serve as the final barrier to urinary protein loss through the formation and maintenance of specialized foot-processes and an interposed slit-diaphragm. We previously reported that the transcription factor MafB regulates the podocyte slit diaphragm protein production and transcription factor Tcf21. We showed that the forced expression of MafB was able to prevent CKD. In this review, we discuss recent advances and offer an updated overview of the functions of podocyte-specific transcription factors in kidney biology, aiming to present new perspectives on the progression of CKD and respective therapeutic strategies.

Key words: podocyte, transcription factor, chronic kidney disease, MafB, focal segmental glomerulosclerosis

(Intern Med Advance Publication)

(DOI: 10.2169/internalmedicine.9336-22)

Introduction

Chronic kidney disease (CKD) is highly prevalent in many countries, increasing the risk of cardiovascular disease as well as end-stage kidney disease (ESKD) (1). The number of ESKD patients requiring renal replacement therapy is increasing worldwide and becoming a major social burden. CKD has become a global public health problem, and effective therapeutic targets are urgently required to slow CKD progression and improve the prognosis (2).

Podocytes are highly specialized epithelial cells that cover the outer layer of the glomerular basement membrane (GBM). They serve as the final barrier to urinary protein loss through the formation and maintenance of specialized foot-processes and an interposed slit diaphragm (3). Because podocytes are highly differentiated cells, their injury and loss can only partially be compensated for by hypertrophy of the remaining podocytes (4).

Focal segmental glomerulosclerosis (FSGS) is a syndrome resulting from podocyte injury characterized by segmental sclerotic lesions in the glomeruli, cellular hypertrophy, loss

of foot processes, pseudocyst formation, and changes of the microvilli. Podocyte loss or dysfunction is closely related to the development of FSGS lesions, proteinuria, and loss of nephrons (5,6) (Fig. 1). Many inheritable genetic forms of FSGS have been described, caused by mutations in genes whose products are mainly expressed in podocytes and which have important roles in the maintenance of the glomerular function. These proteins are mainly those regulating slit diaphragm structures, the actin cytoskeleton, foot process structures, and transcription factors in podocytes (7). Several transcription factors responsible for both podocyte differentiation and morphogenesis contribute to the development of proteinuria due to podocyte dysregulation.

We recently reported that transcription factor MafB is expressed in podocytes and that its mutation results in FSGS in humans and mice. Consistent with this, forced MafB expression was able to prevent CKD (8, 9). In the present report, we summarize relevant studies and highlight recent data on MafB and its role in renal biology, aiming to provide insights into potential areas for further investigation. We also review the presence and functions of other podocyte-specific transcription factors that might be viable

Figure 1. Schematic model of the podocyte injury pathogenesis. Podocyte injury leads to the development of FSGS lesion, proteinuria, and loss of nephron. GPF: Glomerular Permeability Factor, ESKD: End stage kidney disease, HIV: human immunodeficiency virus, ROS: Reactive oxygen species, FSGS: focal segmental glomerulosclerosis

as alternative therapeutic targets in CKD.

I. Podocyte-specific transcription factor MafB

1. Large Maf proteins and MafB

Members of the Maf transcription factor family are homologs of the v-maf oncogene, which was identified from the AS42 virus and causes Musculoaponeurotic fibrosarcoma in chicks (10). Maf family proteins share a conserved basic region and leucine zipper (bZip) motif that mediates dimer formation and DNA binding to the Maf recognition element (MARE) (11-13). The MAF family is divided into two sub-families: large Maf transcription factors with a bZip domain and a transcriptional activation domain, and small Maf transcription factors with only a bZip domain (11, 13, 14). In mammals, four large Maf proteins (MafA, MafB, c-Maf, and Nrl) have been identified (15) (Fig. 2). MafB is known to be essential for the development of pancreatic endocrine cells, formation of the inner ear, and functional differentiation of macrophages and osteoclasts (16). In addition, the t(14;20)(q32;q11)/IGH-MAFB translocation is found in multiple myeloma, accounting for 1%-2% of cases (17). In kidneys, MafB is expressed in podocytes (18).

2. Role of MafB in kidney development

To elucidate the MafB function, we created *MafB*-knockout (KO) mice. These animals died soon after birth

due to hindbrain and renal abnormalities and respiratory failure (18). In newborn *MafB*-KO kidneys, the population of mature glomeruli was significantly reduced, and podocyte foot-process effacement was observed. A significant reduction in nephrin, podocin, and CD2AP expression, which is required for slit-diaphragm formation of glomeruli, was observed in *MafB*-KO mice. We thus concluded that MafB is essential for podocyte differentiation and foot process formation (18).

3. The MafB function in podocytes

Because mice deficient in conventional MafB die soon after birth (18), it is impossible to analyze the MafB function in adults. To overcome this hurdle, we generated conditional podocyte-specific *MafB*-KO (cKO) mice to analyze the MafB function in adults. *MafB*-cKO mice developed FSGS characterized by the depletion of slit diaphragm-related proteins (Nphs1 and Magi2) and deficiency in podocyte-specific transcription factor Tcf21(8). Nephrin, mutations of which are a major cause of congenital nephrotic syndrome, is specifically located at the slit-diaphragm of glomerular podocytes (19). Membrane-associated guanylate kinase, WW, and PDZ domain-containing 2 (Magi2) is also known to cause congenital nephrotic syndrome (20).

Although the relationships between TCF21 and human FSGS are not clear, *Tcf21* podocyte-specific conditional knockout mice do develop FSGS (21). Liang et al. reported that spermidine is a key regulator in maintaining a high

Figure 2. Structural features of Maf proteins. Schematic diagrams of four large Maf and three small Maf protein structures. Large Maf proteins contain a transactivation domain, but the small Maf proteins not. There are two forms of human c-Maf, as the result of differential splicing.

level of basal autophagy in podocytes (22). They examined the role of ornithine decarboxylase (ODC) and spermidine synthase (SRM) in autophagy. MafB is an upstream regulatory transcription factor of spermidine synthesis in podocytes, regulating the expression of ODC and SRM. Autophagy in turn regulates MafB, forming a positive feedback loop (22). In the diabetic state, MafB overexpression might ameliorate nephropathy through Nephron, Gpx3, and Notch2 induction in podocytes (9). Gpx3, a member of the glutathione peroxidase family, can protect cells against oxidative stress (23). The Notch2 pathway plays a critical role in protecting damaged podocytes from apoptosis (24) (Fig. 3).

4. MAFB mutations in human disease

Because *MafB*-deficient mice die during the perinatal period, it was suspected that *MAFB* deficiency-related human diseases would not exist. However, in the past decade, human *MAFB* mutations have been reported in patients with multicentric carpotarsal osteolysis (MCTO) and Duane retraction syndrome (DRS) (25-27).

MCTO is a rare skeletal dysplasia characterized by aggressive osteolysis, particularly affecting the carpal and tarsal bones. Because all carpal bones are present in MCTO patients during childhood, with osteolysis progressively occurring as patients age, it was hypothesized that this syndrome is caused by excessive bone resorption (28, 29). MCTO patients have mutations in the phosphorylation sites of the MAF transcriptional activation domain and exhibit

abnormal phosphorylation (30) (Fig. 4A). The mechanisms responsible for osteoclast disease as a result of the *MAFB* mutation are unknown. MCTO cases are reportedly complicated by hereditary FSGS, which is characterized by podocyte injury (31-33). To analyze the pathogenesis of this syndrome, we used CRISPR/Cas9 genome editing to create homozygous mice harboring the MCTO mutation. These animals manifested FSGS similar to that seen in MCTO patients (34).

Park et al. reported that *MAFB* mutations cause DRS, a congenital eye movement disorder characterized by abnormal abduction (26). However, the authors did not report any renal involvement in their case. Recently, we and collaborators found that DRS patients carrying a *MAFB* mutation in the DNA-binding domain p.Leu 239 Pro developed FSGS (27). To validate the identified mutation as the direct cause of disease, the same mutation was introduced into mice by genome editing. Mice homozygous for the DRS mutation exhibited impaired podocyte differentiation resembling that seen in *MafB*-deficient mice (27, 35).

Five DRS mutations in *MAFB* have been reported (26, 27, 36). Four are deletions, and the remaining one is a missense variant in the DNA-binding domain that renders binding to the MARE sequence impossible (Fig. 4B). Although MCTO and DRS with FSGS animals displayed the same renal phenotype, the extra-renal manifestations differed markedly, manifesting as osteoclast dysfunction or abducens nerve paralysis. Therefore, it is important

Figure 3. Schematic model of the MafB function in podocytes. MafB directly regulates slit-diaphragm proteins and transcription factor Tcf21. Schematic displaying the role of MafB in the interplay of autophagy and polyamine metabolism in podocytes. In diabetic states, Gpx3 and Notch2 are induced by MafB.

to analyze these mutant mice in greater detail in order to understand the pathological mechanisms involved.

5. Role of MafB in CKD

To analyze the relationship between MAFB and primary glomerular diseases, and diabetic kidney disease (DKD), we performed MAFB immunofluorescence studies in a variety of biopsy specimens (minimal change disease, IgA nephropathy, primary FSGS and DKD). We found a significantly lower MAFB expression in primary FSGS and DKD patients than minimal change disease and IgA nephropathy people. Primary FSGS is presumably caused by a circulating factor, possibly a cytokine produced from extrarenal sources, which causes generalized injury to podocytes (37). Similarly, in DKD, podocytes seem to be highly susceptible to injury, which leads to their loss by apoptosis or detachment from the GBM (38). In experimental murine models of FSGS and DKD, the MAFB expression in podocytes was decreased, as in human disease (8, 9). These results imply that MAFB plays a crucial role in FSGS and DKD pathogenesis. Consistent with this, streptozotocin-induced DKD was ameliorated by MafB overexpression in the podocytes of MafB podocyte-specific transgenic mice. Furthermore, MafB-enforced overexpression, or treatment with a MafB inducer, protected against adriamycin-induced FSGS in mice (8). Thus, MafB may be a new therapeutic target for CKD.

II. Transcription factors of podocytes related to FSGS

The transcription factor mutations described below result

in FSGS (Table) and may also be related to FSGS progression.

1. Wilms tumor 1 (WT1)

The WT1 gene encodes a zinc finger DNA-binding protein that acts as a transcriptional activator or repressor. It is vital for kidney development and is highly expressed in mature podocytes (39). *WT1* regulates the expression of *MafB*, *Lmx1b*, *Foxc1/2*, and *Tcf21*, which are podocyte-specific transcription factors expressed by mature podocytes (40). Various different mutations of the *WT1* gene have been identified as causes of syndromic hereditary FSGS (41). Mutations within the c-terminal zinc finger domains encoded by exons 8 and 9 have been shown to impair the transactivating functions of WT1. This results in significant alterations in the expression of genes, the products of which are essential slit diaphragm components, such as nephrin, podocin, and podocalyxin (39, 42-46). Renal phenotypes associated with *WT1* mutations include Wilms' tumor as a component of WAGR syndrome (Wilms' tumor, aniridia, genitourinary anomalies and mental retardation), Denys-Drash syndrome (Wilms' tumor, male pseudohermaphroditism and early onset nephrotic syndrome with FSGS), and Frasier syndrome (male pseudohermaphroditism, nephrotic syndrome with FSGS histology and development of gonadoblastoma) (42, 47-51). WT1 mutations are found in approximately 8%-13% of patients with congenital nephrotic syndrome (52).

2. Paired Box gene 2 (PAX2)

PAX2 is a transcription factor playing a central role dur-

Figure 4. Domain structure and the location of mutations in the human MAFB. **A:** Each position indicates the amino acid substitution of the observed mutations in patients where mutations were previously reported for multicentric carpotarsal osteolysis (MCTO) and Duane retraction syndrome (DRS). **B:** MCTO is known to be caused by a dominant missense mutation in the transactivation domain. DRS Mutations in the zinc finger DNA-binding domain of MAFB results in the domain deletion or missense mutation.

ing early embryonic kidney development. Heterozygous mutations in *PAX2* result in papillorenal syndrome, also known as renal-coloboma syndrome. This is a rare autosomal-dominant disease characterized by renal hypodysplasia, optic nerve abnormalities, and deafness (53). *PAX2* mutations can also cause FSGS through haploinsufficiency and dominant negative effects (54). *PAX2* mutations were found in 8% of congenital abnormalities of the kidney and urinary tract (CAKUT) cases and in 4% of adult-onset familial FSGS cases (54).

3. LIM homeodomain transcription factor 1 (*LMX1B*)

Mutations in the *LMX1B* gene cause nail-patella syndrome (NPS). This is an autosomal-dominant disease characterized by dysplastic nails and elbows, hypoplastic or ab-

sent patellae, iliac horns, and nephropathy (55). *LMX1B* mutants without extrarenal manifestations are recognized as *LMX1B*-associated nephropathy (56, 57). *LMX1B* contains two LIM-domains (LIM-A and LIM-B), which are involved in protein-protein interactions, and a homeodomain, which interacts with specific DNA elements in target genes (58). The genes encoding podocin, CD2AP and the $\alpha 3$ and $\alpha 4$ chains of collagen IV appear to be natural target gene candidates for *LMX1B*. Hence, *LMX1B* mutation results in FSGS (59, 60). In patients with NPS, the prevalence of nephropathy is 25% (61). Electron microscopy typically demonstrates focal or diffuse irregular thickening of the GBM with electron-lucent areas. Some patients with NPS progress to ESKD (58).

Table. Transcription Factors in Genetic FSGS.

Gene	Protein	List of disease	Renal phenotype	Mode of inheritance
<i>MAFB</i>	v-maf musculoaponeurotic fibrosarcoma oncogene homolog B	MCTO Duane retraction syndrome	FSGS	AD
<i>WT1</i>	Wilms tumor 1	Denys-Drash syndrome Fraiser syndrome	FSGS DMS	AD
<i>PAX2</i>	Paired box gene 2	Renal-coloboma syndrome	FSGS CAKUT	AD
<i>LMX1B</i>	LIM homeobox transcription factor 1 beta	Nail-patella syndrome	FSGS	AD
<i>SMARCAL1</i>	SWI/SNF-related matrix-associated actin-dependent regulator of chromatin subfamily A-like protein 1	Schimke immuno-osseous dysplasia	FSGS	AR
<i>NXF5</i>	Nuclear RNA export factor 5	X-linked familial FSGS with co-segregating heart block disorder	FSGS	XR

MCTO: multicentric carpotarsal osteolysis, FSGS: focal segmental glomerulosclerosis, DMS: diffuse mesangial sclerosis, CAKUT: congenital anomalies of the kidney and urinary tract, AD: autosomal dominant, AR: autosomal recessive, and XR: X-linked recessive

4. *SWI / SNF-related, matrix-associated, actin-dependent regulator of chromatin, subfamily a like 1 (SMARCAL1)*

SMARCAL1, a member of the SWI2/SNF2 protein family, stabilizes replication forks during DNA damage. Schimke immuno-osseous dysplasia (SIOD) is a rare autosomal recessive disorder characterized by spondyloepiphyseal dysplasia with disproportionate growth failure, typical facial appearance, nephrotic syndrome with FSGS and progressive renal failure, recurrent lymphopenia, T-cell immunodeficiency, and pigment naevi (62, 63). Whole-exome sequencing of 300 families with steroid-resistant nephrotic syndrome revealed *SMARCAL1* mutations in 8 families (64). Although *SMARCAL1* is required for DNA double-strand-break repair (65), the mechanisms linking *SMARCAL1* mutation to podocytopathy are not clear at present.

5. Nuclear RNA export factor 5 (*NXF5*)

NXF5 is a member of the nuclear RNA export factor family. There is one report that an Australian pedigree carrying an *NXF5* mutation manifested X-linked familial FSGS with co-segregating heart block disorder (66).

III. Podocyte-specific transcription factors: Any association with FSGS?

Although the transcription factors described below have not been reported as mutated in human FSGS, they play important roles in podocytes and may therefore have some relationship with FSGS.

1. Kruppel-like factor (*KLF*) 4

KLFs are zinc finger transcription factors involved in various cellular processes, such as cell differentiation, apoptosis, and proliferation (67). Hayashi et al. reported that *Klf4* is highly expressed in glomerular podocytes, and its expression is decreased in individuals with proteinuria in both animal

models and humans. Podocyte-specific *Klf4*-KO mice were shown to be particularly susceptible to adriamycin-induced FSGS (68). *Klf4* overexpression in cultured podocytes increased the expression of nephrin and other epithelial markers and reduced mesenchymal gene expression. These investigators reported that *Klf4* epigenetically modulates the podocyte phenotype and function and that the podocyte epigenome can be targeted for direct intervention and reduction of proteinuria (68). It was also reported that *Klf4* expression in podocytes is required to maintain parietal epithelial cell (PEC) quiescence through podocyte-PEC crosstalk. Targeting podocyte-PEC crosstalk might be a useful therapeutic strategy in proliferative glomerulopathies (69).

2. Transcription factor 21 (*TCF21*)

TCF21 (POD1/capsulin/epicardin) is a basic helix-loop-helix (bHLH) transcription factor whose expression is highest in podocyte precursors and is maintained in mature podocytes. Maezawa et al. reported that podocyte-specific *Tcf21*-KO mice develop massive proteinuria and lesions similar to FSGS (70). In addition, Usui et al. reported that *TCF21* is present in not only the nuclei but also the cytoplasm of injured podocytes. Therefore, *TCF21* overexpression may have functional effects in injured podocytes (71).

3. *FOXC1* and *FOXC2* (*FOXC1/2*)

FOXC1 and *FOXC2* (*FOXC1/2*) belong to subgroup C of the Forkhead-box (FOX) transcription factor superfamily involved in the development of many organs (72). In humans, mutations of *FOXC1* are responsible for Axenfeld-Rieger syndrome, and mutations in *FOXC2* underlie lymphedema-distichiasis syndrome (73, 74). *Foxc1/2* regulate and stabilize podocyte-specific gene transcription, including the expression of *Tcf7 l2* and *Klf6*, which have been linked to kidney disease progression and podocyte damage (75). The kidneys of conditional-*Foxc1/2*-null mice showed proteinaceous casts, protein reabsorption droplets in tubules, and huge vacuoles in podocytes, indicating severe podocyte in-

jury and massive proteinuria with FSGS lesions (76).

4. *Dachshund* homolog 1 (*DACH1*)

DACH1, a key cell-fate determinant, regulates transcription by DNA sequence-specific binding. *DACH1* expression is reportedly reduced in human FSGS glomeruli (77). Global *Dach1*-KO mice manifest renal hypoplasia and die perinatally. Podocyte-specific *Dach1*-KO mice, however, maintain a normal glomerular architecture at baseline but rapidly develop podocyte injury after diabetes onset (78). In DKD, diminished *DACH1* expression intensifies vulnerability to podocyte injury via epigenetic derepression of multiple *DACH1* target genes. Furthermore, podocyte-specific augmentation of *DACH1* expression in mice protects them from DKD. Podocyte-specific *Dach1*-KO mice are also extremely sensitive to ADR-induced FSGS (78).

Summary

In this review, we summarized the diverse roles of MafB and elaborated on its protective effects in kidney disease, providing new insights into progression and therapy for CKD. The identification of direct targets of MafB may result in the establishment of new therapeutic approaches for proteinuric renal diseases, including FSGS and DKD. In addition, we reviewed recent knowledge on other podocyte-specific transcription factors, which can also represent therapeutic targets. Further clarification of the mechanisms underlying the development of CKD in relation to these transcription factors is warranted.

The authors state that they have no Conflict of Interest (COI).

Acknowledgement

The authors wish to thank Dr. Satoru Takahashi, Professor of anatomy and embryology, University of Tsukuba, for his help in interpreting the significance of the results of this study. This work was supported in part by the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology (MEXT) of Japan through Grants-in-Aid for Scientific Research (21K16157).

References

- Levin A, Tonelli M, Bonventre J, et al. Global Kidney Health 2017 and beyond: a roadmap for closing gaps in care, research, and policy. *Lancet* **390**: 1888-1917, 2017.
- Hill NR, Fatoba ST, Oke JL, et al. Global prevalence of chronic kidney disease: a systematic review and meta-analysis. *PLoS One* **11**: e0158765, 2016.
- Berger K, Moeller MJ. Podocytopenia, parietal epithelial cells and glomerulosclerosis. *Nephrol Dial Transplant* **29**: 948-950, 2014.
- Wiggins JE, Goyal M, Sanden SK, et al. Podocyte hypertrophy, "adaptation", and "decompensation" associated with glomerular enlargement and glomerulosclerosis in the aging rat: prevention by calorie restriction. *J Am Soc Nephrol* **16**: 2953-2966, 2005.
- Marshall CB, Shankland SJ. Cell cycle and glomerular disease: a minireview. *Nephron Exp Nephrol* **102**: 39-48, 2006.
- Wharram BL, Goyal M, Wiggins JE, et al. Podocyte depletion causes glomerulosclerosis: diphtheria toxin-induced podocyte depletion in rats expressing human diphtheria toxin receptor transgene. *J Am Soc Nephrol* **16**: 2941-2952, 2005.
- Fogo AB. Causes and pathogenesis of focal segmental glomerulosclerosis. *Nat Rev Nephrol* **11**: 76-87, 2015.
- Usui T, Morito N, Shawki HH, et al. Transcription factor MafB in podocytes protects against the development of focal segmental glomerulosclerosis. *Kidney Int* **98**: 391-403, 2020.
- Morito N, Yoh K, Ojima M, et al. Overexpression of MafB in podocytes protects against diabetic nephropathy. *J Am Soc Nephrol* **25**: 2546-2557, 2014.
- Nishizawa M, Kataoka K, Goto N, Fujiwara KT, Kawai S. v-maf, a viral oncogene that encodes a "leucine zipper" motif. *Proc Natl Acad Sci USA* **86**: 7711-7715, 1989.
- Kataoka K, Noda M, Nishizawa M. Maf nuclear oncoprotein recognizes sequences related to an AP-1 site and forms heterodimers with both Fos and Jun. *Mol Cell Bio* **14**: 700-712, 1994.
- Yoshida T, Ohkumo T, Ishibashi S, Yasuda K. The 5'-AT-rich half-site of Maf recognition element: a functional target for bZIP transcription factor Maf. *Nucleic Acids Res* **33**: 3465-3478, 2005.
- Motohashi H, Katsuoka F, Shavit JA, Engel JD, Yamamoto M. Positive or negative MARE-dependent transcriptional regulation is determined by the abundance of small Maf proteins. *Cell* **103**: 865-875, 2000.
- Igarashi K, Kataoka K, Itoh K, Hayashi N, Nishizawa M, Yamamoto M. Regulation of transcription by dimerization of erythroid factor NF-E2 p45 with small Maf proteins. *Nature* **367**: 568-572, 1994.
- Takahashi S. Functional analysis of large MAF transcription factors and elucidation of their relationships with human diseases. *Exp Anim* **70**: 264-271, 2021.
- Hamada M, Tsunakawa Y, Jeon H, Yadav MK, Takahashi S. Role of MafB in macrophages. *Exp Anim* **69**: 1-10, 2020.
- Stewart AK, Bergsagel PL, Greipp PR, et al. A practical guide to defining high-risk myeloma for clinical trials, patient counseling and choice of therapy. *Leukemia* **21**: 529-534, 2007.
- Moriguchi T, Hamada M, Morito N, et al. MafB is essential for renal development and F4/80 expression in macrophages. *Mol Cell Biol* **26**: 5715-5727, 2006.
- Kestilä M, Lenkkeri U, Männikkö M, et al. Positionally cloned gene for a novel glomerular protein--nephrin--is mutated in congenital nephrotic syndrome. *Mol Cell* **1**: 575-582, 1998.
- Ruotsalainen V, Ljungberg P, Wartiovaara J, et al. Nephrin is specifically located at the slit diaphragm of glomerular podocytes. *Proc Natl Acad Sci USA* **96**: 7962-7967, 1999.
- Bierzynska A, Soderquest K, Dean P, et al. UK study of Nephrotic Syndrome. MAGI2 Mutations Cause Congenital Nephrotic Syndrome. *J Am Soc Nephrol* **28**: 1614-1621, 2017.
- Liang W, Yamahara K, Hernandez-Erhard C, et al. A reciprocal regulation of spermidine and autophagy in podocytes maintains the filtration barrier. *Kidney Int* **98**: 1434-1448, 2020.
- Reddy AT, Lakshmi SP, Banno A, Reddy RC. Role of GPx3 in PPARgamma-induced protection against COPD-associated oxidative stress. *Free Radic Biol Med* **126**: 350-357, 2018.
- Tanaka E, Asanuma K, Kim E, et al. Notch2 activation ameliorates nephrosis. *Nat Commun* **5**: 3296, 2014.
- Zankl A, Duncan EL, Leo PJ, et al. Multicentric carpotarsal osteolysis is caused by mutations clustering in the amino-terminal transcriptional activation domain of MAFB. *Am J Hum Genet* **90**: 494-501, 2012.
- Park JG, Tischfield MA, Nugent AA, et al. Loss of The MafB function in humans and mice causes Duane Syndrome, aberrant extraocular muscle innervation, and inner-ear defects. *Am J Hum Genet* **98**: 1220-1227, 2016.
- Sato Y, Tsukaguchi H, Morita H, et al. A mutation in transcription factor MAFB causes Focal Segmental Glomerulosclerosis with Duane Retraction Syndrome. *Kidney Int* **94**: 396-407, 2018.

28. Klein C, Bellity J, Finidori G, Glorion C, Pannier S. Multicentric carpotarsal osteolysis syndrome: long-term follow-up of three patients. *Skeletal Radiol* **47**: 1015-1019, 2018.
29. Zhuang L, Adler S, Aeberli D, Villiger PM, Trueb B. 2017. Identification of a MAFB mutation in a patient with multicentric carpotarsal osteolysis. *Swiss Med Wkly* **147**: w14529, 2017.
30. Herath NI, Rocques N, Garancher A, Eychène A, Pouponnot C. 2014. GSK3-mediated MAF phosphorylation in multiple myeloma as a potential therapeutic target. *Blood Cancer J* **4**: e175, 2014.
31. Connor A, Highton J, Hung NA, Dunbar J, MacGinley R, Walker R. Multicentric carpal-tarsal osteolysis with nephropathy treated successfully with cyclosporine A: a case report and literature review. *Am J Kidney Dis* **50**: 649-54, 2007.
32. Park PG, Kim KH, Hyun HS, et al. Three cases of multicentric carpotarsal osteolysis syndrome: a case series. *BMC Med Genet* **19**: 164, 2018.
33. Närhi A, Fernandes A, Toiviainen-Salo S, et al. A family with partially penetrant multicentric carpotarsal osteolysis due to gonadal mosaicism: First reported case. *Am J Med Genet A* **185**: 2477-2481, 2021.
34. Tsunakawa Y, Hamada M, Matsunaga Y, et al. Mice harboring an MCTO mutation exhibit renal failure resembling nephropathy in human patients. *Exp Anim* **68**: 103-111, 2019.
35. Kanai M, Jeon H, Ojima M, et al. Phenotypic analysis of mice carrying human-type MAFB p.Leu239Pro mutation. *Biochem Biophys Res Commun* **523**: 452-457, 2020.
36. Kaimori JY, Mori T, Namba-Hamano T, et al. Cyclosporine A Treatment of Proteinuria in a New Case of MAFB-Associated Glomerulopathy without Extrarenal Involvement: A Case Report. *Nephron* **145**: 445-450, 2021.
37. De Vriese AS, Sethi S, Nath KA, Glassock RJ, Fervenza FC. Differentiating Primary, Genetic, and Secondary FSGS in Adults: A Clinicopathologic Approach. *J Am Soc Nephrol* **29**: 759-774, 2018.
38. Pagtalunan ME, Miller PL, Jumping-Eagle S, et al. Podocyte loss and progressive glomerular injury in type II diabetes. *J Clin Invest* **99**: 342-348, 1997.
39. Ratelade J, Arrondel C, Hamard G, et al. A murine model of Denys-Drash syndrome reveals novel transcriptional targets of WT1 in podocytes. *Hum Mol Genet* **19**: 1-15, 2010.
40. White JT, Zhang B, Cerqueira DM, Tran U, Wessely O. Notch signaling, wt1 and foxc2 are key regulators of the podocyte gene regulatory network in *Xenopus*. *Development* **137**: 1863-1873, 2010.
41. Kaltenis P, Schumacher V, Jankauskiene A, Laurinavicius A, Royer-Pokora B. Slow progressive FSGS associated with an F392 L WT1 mutation. *Pediatr Nephrol* **19**: 353-356, 2004.
42. Mucha B, Ozaltin F, Hinkes BG, et al. Mutations in the Wilms' tumor 1 gene cause isolated steroid resistant nephrotic syndrome and occur in exons 8 and 9. *Pediatr Res* **59**: 325-331, 2006.
43. Palmer RE, Kotsianti A, Cadman B, Boyd T, Gerald W, Haber DA. WT1 regulates the expression of the major glomerular podocyte membrane protein Podocalyxin. *Curr Biol* **11**: 1805-1809, 2001.
44. Guo G, Morrison DJ, Licht JD, Quaggin SE. WT1 activates a glomerular-specific enhancer identified from the human nephrin gene. *J Am Soc Nephrol* **15**: 2851-2856, 2004.
45. Gao F, Maiti S, Sun G, et al. The Wt1+/R394W mouse displays glomerulosclerosis and early-onset renal failure characteristic of human Denys-Drash syndrome. *Mol Cell Biol* **24**: 9899-9910, 2004.
46. Morrison AA, Viney RL, Saleem MA, Lodomery MR. New insights into the function of the Wilms tumor suppressor gene WT1 in podocytes. *Am J Physiol Renal Physiol* **295**: F12-F17, 2008.
47. Niaudet P, Gubler MC. WT1 and glomerular diseases. *Pediatr Nephrol* **21**: 1653-1660, 2006.
48. Gbadegesin R, Hinkes BG, Hoskins BE, et al. Mutations in PLCE1 are a major cause of isolated diffuse mesangial sclerosis (IDMS). *Nephrol Dial Transplant* **23**: 1291-1297, 2008.
49. Chernin G, Vega-Warner V, Schoeb DS, et al. Genotype/phenotype correlation in nephrotic syndrome caused by WT1 mutations. *Clin J Am Soc Nephrol* **5**: 1655-1662, 2010.
50. Royer-Pokora B, Beier M, Henzler M, et al. Twenty-four new cases of WT1 germline mutations and review of the literature: Genotype/phenotype correlations for Wilms tumor development. *Am J Med Genet A* **127A**: 249-257, 2004.
51. Denamur E, Bocquet N, Mougnot B, et al. Mother-to-child transmitted WT1 splice-site mutation is responsible for distinct glomerular diseases. *J Am Soc Nephrol* **10**: 2219-2223, 1999.
52. Sadowski CE, Lovric S, Ashraf S, et al. A single-gene cause in 29.5% of cases of steroid-resistant nephrotic syndrome. *J Am Soc Nephrol* **26**: 1279-1289, 2015.
53. Sanyanusin P, Schimmenti LA, McNoe LA, et al. Mutation of the PAX2 gene in a family with optic nerve colobomas, renal anomalies and vesicoureteral reflux. *Nature genetics* **9**: 358-364, 1995.
54. Barua M, Stellacci E, Stella L, et al. Mutations in PAX2 Associate with Adult-Onset FSGS. *J Am Soc Nephrol* **25**: 1942-1953, 2014.
55. McIntosh I, Dreyer SD, Clough MV, et al. Mutation analysis of LMX1B gene in nail-patella syndrome patients. *Am J Hum Genet* **63**: 1651-1658, 1998.
56. Boyer O, Woerner S, Yang F, et al. LMX1B mutations cause hereditary FSGS without extrarenal involvement. *J Am Soc Nephrol* **24**: 1216-1222, 2013.
57. Shimohata H, Miyake Y, Yoshida Y, et al. LMX1B-associated nephropathy that showed myelin figures on electron microscopy. *CEN Case Rep* **10**: 588-591, 2021.
58. Witzgall R. Nail-patella syndrome. *Pflugers Arch* **469**: 927-936, 2017.
59. Morello R, Zhou G, Dreyer SD, et al. Regulation of glomerular basement membrane collagen expression by LMX1B contributes to renal disease in nail patella syndrome. *Nat Genet* **27**: 205-208, 2001.
60. Heidet L, Bongers EM, Sich M, et al. In vivo expression of putative LMX1B targets in nail-patella syndrome kidneys. *Am J Pathol* **163**: 145-155, 2003.
61. Ghoumid J, Petit F, Holder-Espinasse M, et al. Nail-Patella Syndrome: clinical and molecular data in 55 families raising the hypothesis of a genetic heterogeneity. *Eur J Hum Genet* **24**: 44-50, 2016.
62. Boerkoel CF, Takashima H, John J, et al. Mutant chromatin remodeling protein SMARCA1 causes Schimke immuno-osseous dysplasia. *Nat Genet* **30**: 215-220, 2002.
63. Lücke T, Franke D, Clewing JM, et al. Schimke versus non-Schimke chronic kidney disease: an anthropometric approach. *Pediatrics* **118**: e400-e407, 2006.
64. Warejko JK, Tan W, Daga A, et al. Whole Exome Sequencing of Patients with Steroid-Resistant Nephrotic Syndrome. *Clin J Am Soc Nephrol* **13**: 53-62, 2018.
65. Keka IS, Mohiuddin, Maede Y, Rahman MM, et al. Smarcal1 promotes double-strand-break repair by nonhomologous end-joining. *Nucleic Acids Res* **43**: 6359-6372, 2015.
66. Esposito T, Lea RA, Maher BH, et al. Unique X-linked familial FSGS with co-segregating heart block disorder is associated with a mutation in the NXF5 gene. *Hum Mol Genet* **22**: 3654-3666, 2013.
67. Mallipattu SK, Estrada CC, He JC. The critical role of Kruppel-like factors in kidney disease. *Am J Physiol Ren Physiol* **312**: F259-F265, 2017.
68. Hayashi K, Sasamura H, Nakamura M, et al. KLF4-dependent epigenetic remodeling modulates podocyte phenotypes and attenuates proteinuria. *J Clin Invest* **124**: 2523-2537, 2014.
69. Pace JA, Bronstein R, Guo Y, et al. Podocyte-specific KLF4 is re-

- quired to maintain parietal epithelial cell quiescence in the kidney. *Sci Adv* **7**: eabg6600, 2021.
70. Maezawa Y, Onay T, Scott RP, et al. Loss of the podocyte-expressed transcription factor Tcf21/Pod1 results in podocyte differentiation defects and FSGS. *J Am Soc Nephrol* **25**: 2459-2470, 2014.
71. Usui J, Yaguchi M, Yamazaki S, et al. Transcription factor 21 expression in injured podocytes of glomerular diseases. *Sci Rep* **10**: 11516, 2020.
72. Kaestner KH, Knochel W, Martinez DE. Unified nomenclature for the winged helix/forkhead transcription factors. *Genes Dev* **14**: 142-146, 2000.
73. Rice R, Rice DP, Olsen BR, Thesleff I. Progression of calvarial bone development requires Foxc1 regulation of Msx2 and Alx4. *Dev Biol* **262**: 75-87, 2003.
74. Kume T, Deng KY, Winfrey V, Gould DB, Walter MA, Hogan BLM. The forkhead/winged helix gene Mf1 is disrupted in the pleiotropic mouse mutation congenital hydrocephalus. *Cell* **93**: 985-996, 1998.
75. Yang J, Zhang D, Motojima M, et al. Super-Enhancer-Associated Transcription Factors Maintain Transcriptional Regulation in Mature Podocytes. *J Am Soc Nephrol* **32**: 1323-1337, 2021.
76. Motojima M, Kume T, Matsusaka T. Foxc1 and Foxc2 are necessary to maintain glomerular podocytes. *Exp Cell Res* **352**: 265-272, 2017.
77. Hodgins JB, Borczuk AC, Nasr SH, et al. A molecular profile of focal segmental glomerulosclerosis from formalin-fixed, paraffin-embedded tissue. *Am J Pathol* **177**: 1674-11686, 2010.
78. Cao A, Li J, Asadi M, Basgen JM, et al. DACH1 protects podocytes from experimental diabetic injury and modulates PTIP-H3K4 Me3 activity. *J Clin Invest* **131**: e141279, 2021.

The Internal Medicine is an Open Access journal distributed under the Creative Commons Attribution-NonCommercial-NoDerivatives 4.0 International License. To view the details of this license, please visit (<https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc-nd/4.0/>).