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Long non-coding RNA mitophagy and ALK⁻ anaplastic lymphoma associated transcript: a novel regulator of mitophagy in T cell lymphoma

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Author's contributions

V.M. and A.T. performed experiments and analyzed data, B.D. performed gene expression and Nanostring analysis, V.M., F.T., E.S., E.V. performed RNA-seq, ChIP-seq, and bioinformatics analyses. F.R. performed FACS analyses and cell sorting experiments, M.Z., S.A., G.I., F.S. C.F., M.P., A.R., G.M, S.L., A.P.D.S., and A.B. provided tissue samples and lymphoma diagnosis. M.T. and A.N. provided important experimental and analytic support. A.C. interpreted the results and helped to discuss the results. V.F. designed the project, interpreted the results, and wrote the manuscript. All the authors read and approved the final version of the manuscripts.

Disclosures

No conflicts of interest to disclose.

Running head

Transcriptional role of lncRNA MTAAT in Lymphoma

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Data sharing statement

All data generated and/or analyzed in this study are included in this article and its Online Supplementary Appendix. The MTAAT sequence has been deposited in the GenBank database with the accession number OM642832. Gene expression profile data are available at the Gene Expression Omnibus (GEO) repository (accession number: GSE217426).

RNA-seq raw data in fastq.gz format are available in the ArrayExpress repository, dataset E-MTAB-12462 (<https://www.ebi.ac.uk/arrayexpress/experiments/E-MTAB-12462>).

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Abstract

Long noncoding RNAs (lncRNAs) are emerging as powerful and versatile regulators of transcriptional programs and distinctive biomarkers of T-cell Lymphoma progression disease. Their role in the aggressive ALK⁻ Anaplastic Large Cell Lymphoma (ALCL) subtype has been only in part elucidated. Starting from our previously identified ALCL-associated lncRNA signature and performing digital gene expression profiling of a retrospective cohort of ALCLs, we defined an 11 lncRNA signature able to discriminate among ALCL subtypes. We selected a not previously characterized lncRNA, MTAAT, with an ALK⁻ ALCL preferential expression, for molecular and functional studies. We demonstrated that lncRNA MTAAT contributes to an aberrant mitochondrial turnover restraining mitophagy and promoting cellular proliferation. Functionally, lncRNA MTAAT acts as a repressor of a set of genes related to mitochondria quality control via chromatin reorganization.

Collectively, our work demonstrates the transcriptional role of lncRNA MTAAT in orchestrating a complex transcriptional program sustaining ALK⁻ ALCL progression.

Introduction

T-cell lymphoma (TCL) is a complex and heterogeneous group of neoplasms with different biology and outcome¹. Its diagnostic classification is still a challenge making its treatment sub-optimal. ALK⁻ Anaplastic Large cell Lymphoma (ALCL) is one of the most aggressive T-cell lymphoma subtypes characterized by dismal prognosis and high mortality²⁻⁴. The molecular details of ALK⁻ ALCL pathogenesis are largely unknown, thus limiting the

development of targeted strategies⁵. Therefore, clarifying the mechanisms underlying this disease is of utmost importance. The fast and massive implementation of deep sequencing technologies has highlighted the role of the non-coding genome in regulating cancer proliferation, especially in complex tumors without a clear genetic driver^{6,7}. Particular attention has been paid to a family of transcripts of about 200bp with no coding potential known as long non-coding RNAs (lncRNAs)⁸. lncRNAs possess the striking ability to interact with protein-coding and non-coding transcripts regulating and integrating a complex network of processes simultaneously⁹⁻¹². Thanks to their peculiar and versatile features, lncRNAs are able to influence – in a context-dependent manner – several aspects of cancer biology like cellular proliferation, apoptosis, metabolic reprogramming, genomic instability, drug resistance, invasion, and metastasis^{13,14}. Thus, deregulating the expression of certain lncRNAs can directly influence the pathogenesis and/or progression of different types of cancers, including T-cell lymphoma¹⁵.

Previously, we investigated the contribution of lncRNAs to ALCL pathogenesis by performing deep transcriptomic profiling of a cohort of ALCLs. We identified a unique set of 18 lncRNAs overexpressed in neoplastic T-lymphocytes compared to normal T-lymphocytes¹⁶. We were able to show that among those, lncRNA *BlackMamba* acts as a major transcriptional regulator of neoplastic T-lymphocytes in the ALK⁺ALCL subtype, influencing lymphoma progression^{16,17}. Therefore, the identified lncRNAs are not only distinctive biomarkers of disease but play relevant functional roles in the biogenesis of ALCL.

In this work, we expand our knowledge regarding lncRNAs' functional relevance in the development and progression of ALCL. Starting from our previously identified lncRNA signature and integrating the gene expression profiles (GEPs) of a large cohort of ALCL patients with clinical information, we defined a powerful lncRNA signature that discriminates between ALK⁻ and ALK⁺ subtypes. Then, we focused on the XLOC_211989 transcript – which resulted specifically associated with the ALK⁻ ALCL subtype – and we characterized its

function by using multiple functional approaches. Our data suggest that this noncoding transcript coordinates the expression of a set of genes involved in mitochondrial homeostasis and mitophagy promoting lymphoma cell survival. We named this novel lncRNA *MiTophagy* and ALK *Anaplastic Lymphoma Associated Transcript* (MTAAT).

Methods

Patients' specimen

Fresh and viable cryopreserved cells and formalin-fixed paraffin-embedded (FFPE) sections of two retrospective cohorts of ALCL were isolated from diagnostic/relapsed primary lymphoma biopsies. Diagnoses were assigned according to the WHO classification¹. Tissues used for expression analyses were selected for their high tumor cell content (>50%). The FFPE cohort of ALCL included 54 cases whereas the freshly frozen cohort included 18 ALCL cases. Regarding clinicopathological characteristics of the FFPE cohort eligible for the analysis (n=44): among ALK⁻ ALCL, 17/29 (59%) patients were male and the median age was 70 years (range 31-88). Regarding ALK⁺ ALCL, 8/15 (53%) patients were male and the median age was 39 years (range 21-75). Considering follow-up data available for 29/44 patients, the median follow-up of the cohort was 44 months (range, 2.2-152 months). The 4-year progression-free survival (PFS) rate was 70.6% (95%CI 55.2 to 90.3). The freshly frozen cohort of ALCL and immunophenotypic features of resting and donor CD4⁺ T-lymphocytes have been previously described¹⁶.

The study was approved through institutional human ethics review boards of the Ethical Committee AVEN and AUSL-IRCCS di Reggio Emilia (287/2018/OSS/IRCCSRE), and patients provided written informed consent in accordance with the Declaration of Helsinki.

RNA extraction and quantitative PCR (RT-qPCR)

Total RNA from cells was extracted by TRIzol (Thermo Fisher Scientific) according to the manufacturer's instructions. One microgram of total RNA was retrotranscribed using the iScript cDNA kit, (Biorad). The amplified transcript level of each specific gene was normalized on the CHMP2A housekeeping gene. $\Delta\Delta\text{Ct}$ quantification method was used for RT-qPCR analyses. The list of primers used is provided in **supplementary table 1**.

Antisense LNA GapmeRs transfection

MAC2A and TLBR-2 cells (1×10^6) were transfected with 50nM Antisense LNA GapmeRs concentration for a single KD. Antisense LNA GapmeR transfections were performed using the Cell Line Nucleofector Kit SF and Amaxa 4D Nucleofector (program DS-130 for TLBR-2, FI115 for MAC2A). Twenty-four hours after transfection, cells were harvested and plated 2.5×10^5 cells/ml. Antisense LNA GapmeR Negative Control (Cat. No. / ID: 33951, Qiagen) was used as a negative control. For lncRNA_211989/MTAAT we used 2 different GapmeRs (Cat. No. / ID: 339511, Qiagen), and their sequences are provided in **supplementary table 2**.

Mitochondria staining

Mitochondria were stained with Mitotracker (Thermo Fisher Scientific) accordingly to manufacturer instructions. Cells were then harvested, fixed in 4% PFA in PBS 1X for 10 min at room temperature, and spotted on glass slides using Cytospin (Thermo Scientific) as previously reported¹⁸. Dots were washed in PBS 1X for three times and nuclei were stained with DAPI.

Tetramethylrhodamine Methyl Ester Perchlorate (TMRM) staining was performed accordingly to manufacturer instructions (Thermo Fisher Scientific) and without substantial changes. Cells were then harvested and washed one time in RPMI media without serum. Membrane

potential was immediately measured by flow cytometry with FACSCanto™ II Cell Analyzer (BD Biosciences).

Statistical analysis

Statistical analyses were performed using GraphPad Prism Software (GraphPad). Statistical significance was determined using Student's t-test. Each experiment was replicated multiple times (>3 up to 6). All analyses were performed using R software version 4.1.3.

Results

XLOC_211989 is a novel biomarker that stratifies ALK⁻ALCL patients

We assessed whether the previously generated ALCL-associated lncRNA-signature¹⁶ might be used to distinguish ALCL subtypes in a retrospective cohort of 54 ALCL cases. Gene expression analyses were performed by digital multiplexing profiling using a custom panel of probes targeting the 17 previously identified lncRNAs and four additional genes used for the molecular classification of ALCL subtypes¹⁹.

Out of the 54 total samples, 44 ALCLs GEPs passed stringent quality controls and resulted eligible for the analysis (**Figure 1A**). 15/44 (34%) samples were classified as ALK⁺ALCL and 29/44 (66%) samples scored as ALK⁻ALCL (**Figure 1A, Supplementary Figures 1A-B, Supplementary Table 4**). Focusing on lncRNAs, we confirmed that 17/17 (100%) lncRNAs were expressed in the ALCL cohort. Principal Component Analysis (PCA) showed that lncRNA expression profiles well segregated ALK⁺ and ALK⁻ ALCL samples (**Figure 1B**) resulting in 11 of the 17 (65%) lncRNAs significantly deregulated between the two subtypes (**Figure 1C, Supplementary Figure 1C**). In particular: 7 lncRNAs were over-expressed in ALK⁻ ALCL patients while 4 lncRNAs were over-expressed in ALK⁺ ALCL patients (**Figure 1C**). According to our previously observations¹⁶, lncRNA *BlackMamba* showed a significant and negative correlation with ALK expression (**Figure 1C**).

We focused our attention on the six uncharacterized lncRNAs that were significantly associated with ALK⁻ subtype (**Figure 1D**). First, we confirmed their association with the ALK⁻ subtype by targeted RT-qPCR performed in a previously published cohort of 15 freshly frozen ALCL¹⁶. From this analysis, XLOC_211989 – herein named lncRNA MTAAT – showed the strongest and most significant association with ALK⁻ALCL (**Figures 1D-E, Supplementary Figure 1D**). No detectable MTAAT expression was observed in donor resting or activated CD4⁺ cells (**Supplementary Figure 1E**) further confirming ALCL-restricted MTAAT expression.

To strengthen these observations, we explored the correlation between MTAAT and ALK expression in the retrospective cohort of ALCLs. Linear regression analysis showed that MTAAT was inversely correlated with ALK expression and positively correlated with lncRNA BlackMamba (**Figure 1F**). ROC curve for ALK subtype classification showed that MTAAT has a high capacity (70%) to discriminate between ALK⁻ and ALK⁺ patients (AUC 0.70 0.54-0.85) (**Figure 1G, Supplementary Figure 1F**).

MTAAT promoter is bound by RNA Polymerase II and enriched for active histone marks

Genomic annotation showed that the MTAAT sequence matches an uncharacterized intergenic transcript encoded on the plus strand of chromosome 3 with an estimated transcript length of 7,189 bp and no predicted alternative isoforms (**Figure 2A**). *In silico* analysis predicted four potential open reading frames (ORFs) with irrelevant coding potential within MTAAT sequence, confirming the non-coding nature of this transcript (**Supplementary Table 5**).

Given the specificity of MTAAT expression in the ALK⁻ALCL subtype, we sought to define *in vitro* the molecular mechanisms that control its expression. For this analysis, we chose the two ALK⁻ALCL cell lines – TLBR2 and MAC2A – displaying the highest levels of MTAAT

expression (**Supplementary Figure 2A**). To identify the promoter of MTAAT, we first analyzed RNAPII genomic occupancy and histone 3 trimethyl lysine 4 (H3K4me3) profile using the Chromatin Immunoprecipitation followed by sequencing (ChIP-seq) in TLBR-2 cells. A high-density distribution of RNAPII within a 2000 bp region spanning the putative transcription start site (TSS) of MTAAT (P3-P6) was observed. This region was also enriched in H3K4me3 confirming the promoter-like nature of its sequence (**Figure 2A**). We confirmed the findings by ChIP-qPCR in both TLBR-2 and MAC2A cell lines (**Figures 2B-C, Supplementary Figure 2B**). We also showed that this region is marked by a high level of histone H3 acetyl-lysine 27 (H3K27ac) confirming that this locus is transcriptionally active in these cellular models (**Figure 2D, Supplementary Figure 2B**). Notably, ChIP-qPCR analysis did not show RNAPII or histone modifications enrichment in a cell line - CUTLL1 - negative for MTAAT expression (**Supplementary Figure 2C**), validating the specificity of our observations. To assess whether MTAAT putative promoter is able to transactivate transcription, we cloned the 2000bp DNA sequence spanning from -1,500bp to +500 bp of MTAAT-TSS upstream of a luciferase reporter cassette. In this “promoter-like” configuration, high luciferase activity was detected in both MAC2A and TLBR-2 cells (**Figure 2E**).

Next, we asked what are the signaling pathways underlying MTAAT expression. Based on the genomic profiles observed in ChIP-seq, we selected a 500bp region spanning the TSS of MTAAT and performed a motif search analysis to identify potential transcriptional factors (TFs) binding sites. For this, we used the FIMO analysis pipeline²⁰ and identified 117 hypothetical TFs (**Supplementary Table 6**). Notably, some TFs – including STATs, GATAs, and IRFs – were pertinent to signaling pathways known to be active and deregulated in ALK⁺ ALCL⁵ (**Figure 2F**). Specifically, we found a significant enrichment of several pathways related to the cellular response to cytokines, interferon, interleukins, and regulation of T-cell differentiation.

MTAAT is a chromatin-associated lncRNA essential for the transcriptional control of mitochondrial processes

To examine the biological role of MTAAT in T-cell lymphoma, we first studied MTAAT cellular localization performing sub-cellular fractionation. We found that MTAAT was enriched in the nucleus and strongly associated with the chromatin fraction of lymphoma cells (**Figure 3A**, **Supplementary Figure 3A**) suggesting a putative role in chromatin organization and gene expression regulation. To investigate the role of this lncRNA in regulating lymphoma transcription, we silenced MTAAT expression by targeting different regions – single or in combination – with gapmers technology. MTAAT expression was measured by RT-qPCR and the delivery of multiple gapmers by electroporation resulted in effective knockdown (KD) (>50%) of MTAAT across all ALK⁺ALCL cell lines tested (**Figure 3B**). Next, we used next-generation RNA sequencing to evaluate the genome-wide transcriptional changes triggered by MTAAT silencing (MTAAT^{KD}). TLBR-2 cells were subjected to MTAAT^{KD} and RNA was collected 24h hours after. In parallel and as a control, a scrambled gapmer was also delivered. RNA-seq analysis revealed 2217 differentially expressed genes in MTAAT^{KD} compared to gapmer control. Among these, 67.5% – 1497 genes – were protein-coding. Specifically, we detected 524 downregulated and 937 upregulated genes upon lncRNA MTAAT^{KD} (FDR \leq 0.1) (**Figure 3C**). These findings suggest a role for MTAAT in both the activation and the repression of transcription. Notably, the genomic regions of MTAAT targets are far beyond chromosome 3 (**Figure 3D**). This suggests that MTAAT could regulate ALK⁺ALCL transcriptional programs *in trans* and at a genome-wide level.

Gene-set enrichment analysis revealed diverse biological processes associated with deregulated genes. Specifically, down-regulated transcripts showed significant enrichment in several gene sets related to mitochondrial respiratory chain complexes, DNA damage response, and chromatin organization. In contrast, up-regulated transcripts are mostly implicated in immune response, glycolytic process, integrated stress response as well as

regulation of mitochondrion organization (**Figure 3E**). Using RT-qPCR, we validated a representative set of upregulated genes confirming the RNA-sequencing results (**Figure 3F**). To exclude off-target effects of the gapmers designed for MTAAT^{KD}, we decided to corroborate the results by silencing MTAAT with a CRISPR-interference system, by using doxycycline-inducible dCas9-KRAB and two different single-guide RNAs (sgRNAs) targeting MTAAT promoter. Following lentiviral transduction of ALK⁻ALCL cells, we induced dCas9-KRAB for 48 hours with doxycycline and evaluated MTAAT expression. RT-qPCR confirmed that both sgRNAs repressed the level of MTAAT by $\geq 60\%$ (**Supplementary Figures 3B-D**). Importantly, the expression of 10/12 (83%) gene targets after dCas9-KRAB mediated MTAAT silencing was consistent with gapmer MTAAT^{KD}, ruling out any off-target effects (**Supplementary Figure 3E**). Collectively, the transcriptional changes that we observed upon MTAAT^{KD} indicated that this lncRNA acts as a repressor of a set of genes related to mitochondria quality control.

lncRNA MTAAT represses BNIP3 and BNIP3L via histone modifications

To understand how lncRNA MTAAT regulates the expression of mitochondria-related genes, we evaluated changes in the chromatin organization triggered upon MTAAT^{KD} investigating, by ChIP, the distribution of H3K4Me3, H3K27Ac, and RNAPII on BCL2 Interacting Protein 3 (BNIP3) and BCL2 Interacting Protein 3 Like (BNIP3L also known as NIX). These proteins resulted in target genes of lncRNA MTAAT and their loss has been implicated in the accumulation of dysfunctional mitochondria in the hematopoietic system^{21,22}. After the depletion of MTAAT, H3K4Me3 and H3K27Ac levels increased significantly in BNIP3 and BNIP3L promoters (**Figures 4A-C**). Likewise, RNAPII was found to be dramatically enriched around the TSS of both genes upon MTAAT^{KD} (**Figure 4D**). Similar changes were observed in additional MTAAT target genes such as Activating Transcriptional Factor 4 (ATF4) and X-Box Binding Protein 1 (XBP1) (**Supplementary Figures 4A-D**). Concordantly with the gene

expression profile, no changes were observed in Optineurin (OPTN) gene (**Supplementary Figures 4A-E**). Furthermore, *in silico* analysis performed with catRAPID²³, showed a high interaction propensity of MTAAT with H3K27 methylation complex (**Supplementary Figure 4F**). Collectively, these data confirm that changes in chromatin markers are directly linked to MTAAT activity on its target genes.

To strengthen the clinical relevance of MTAAT regulation on these genes, we investigated the expression of BNIP3 and BNIP3L in the retrospective cohort of ALCLs included in this study. In line with the repressive effect of MTAAT, BNIP3 expression was lower in ALK⁻ALCL compared to ALK⁺ALCL patients (**Figure 4E**). A similar gene expression correlation was observed in a panel of non-TCL cell lines (**Supplementary Figure 4G**). By contrast, no significant differences were observed between ALCL subtypes for BNIP3L expression (**Figure 4E**).

MTAAT sustains ALCL growth by regulating mitophagy

The transcriptional changes observed upon MTAAT^{KD} are suggestive of specific disruptions in mitochondrial homeostasis, such as an aberrant increase in mitochondrial density or changes in mitochondrial morphology. We wondered if MTAAT promotes ALCL progression by controlling mitochondrial clearance. First, we asked if mitochondrial abundance changes in T-cell lymphoma upon dCas9-KRAB inducible MTAAT^{KD}. We evaluated mitochondrial mass by mitotracker staining and cytofluorimetric analysis. This analysis showed a time-dependent reduction in mitotracker intensity signal upon MTAAT^{KD} (**Figure 5A**), whereas doxycycline treatment alone did not lead to changes (data not shown). Along the same line of evidence, we observed a strong reduction in mtDNA copy number, as determined by RT-qPCR analysis on mitochondrial gene ND1 (**Figure 5B**). Furthermore, the steady-state level of several mitochondrial proteins (Cytochrome c oxidase subunit IV -COX IV, Superoxide dismutase -SOD1, Cytochrome C -CytC, and Prohibitin 1 -PHB1) assessed by western blot,

confirmed these findings (**Figure 5C**). Since the oxidative function is strictly linked to mitochondrial network dynamics, we evaluated the mitochondrial morphology of mitotracker-stained cells using immunofluorescence. In basal condition, ALK⁻ ALCL cells showed the mitochondrial network predominantly distributed around the perinuclear region. Upon depletion of MTAAT, mitochondria displayed a more apical/basal localization which is indicative of a less active mitochondrial state²⁴ (**Figure 5D**). Concordantly, mitochondrial membrane potential – evaluated by TMRM staining – was reduced upon MTAAT^{KD}, suggesting mitochondrial dysfunction (**Figure 5E**). In line with these data, ALK⁻ALCL patients with high expression of MTAAT showed a high intensity and diffuse staining for SOD1 when compared to those expressing low levels of MTAAT (**Supplementary Figure 5A**).

Growing evidence points to a strong relationship between BNIP3 – which acts as an adaptor for tethering mitochondria to nascent autophagosomes – and the activation of a selective form of macroautophagy known as mitophagy²⁵. Having observed the overexpression of BNIP3 upon MTAAT^{KD}, we asked if the observed changes in mitochondrial mass were due to the activation of mitophagy. First, we assessed if canonical mitophagy markers are detected upon MTAAT silencing. Noticeably, MTAAT^{KD} induced a time-dependent decrease of LC3 and of the autophagy receptor SQSTM1/p62 in both cell lines, suggestive of increased autophagy flux. Supporting this, the treatment with chloroquine, an autophagy inhibitor that blocks the fusion of autophagosomes with lysosomes, blocked the MTAAT-dependent increase of the autophagic flux (**Supplementary Figure 5B**). To strengthen these results, we sought to analyze the co-localization of specific mitophagy adaptors with the autophagosomes. We co-transfected TLBR-2 cells with plasmids encoding LC3-GFP and BNIP3-Flag and analyzed their behavior upon MTAAT^{KD}. In control cells, both markers showed diffuse and homogeneous staining across the cytoplasm (**Figure 6A**). By contrast, upon MTAAT^{KD}, both LC3 and BNIP3 accumulated into bright cytoplasmic puncta suggestive

of LC3 lipidation and BNIP3 recruitment. Importantly, LC3 and BNIP3 puncta colocalize upon MTAAT^{KD} (**Figure 6A**), indicating active mitophagy.

We hypothesized that tumor cells specifically block mitophagy to increase mitochondria mass and sustain proliferation. Therefore, we asked whether MTAAT^{KD} impacts ALK⁻ALCL cell viability. Noticeably, growth curve analysis and viability assays showed that depleting MTAAT significantly reduces cellular proliferation in both TLBR-2 and MAC2A cell lines (**Figure 6B**). No changes were recorded in cell cycle profiles and apoptosis was not induced upon MTAAT^{KD}, consistent with energy deprivation, rather than cell death (**Supplementary Figures 5C-D**).

Altogether, our data support a model where lncRNA MTAAT exerts its function by stimulating an increase in mitochondrial mass – and energy output – that is used by ALK⁻ALCL cells to sustain cell proliferation (**Figure 6C**).

Discussion

The implementation of digital gene expression profiling paved the way for the implementation of the transcriptomics approach in the classification of TCL, increasing the precision of diagnosis over conventional methods²⁶. Progresses toward understanding the transcriptional complexity of tumors revealed how coding genes are not the only drivers of cancer progression, with non-coding transcripts – like lncRNAs – regulating essential transcriptional cascades during tumorigenesis^{9,27,28}. However, how lncRNAs drive cellular and clinical phenotypes of aggressive TCL subtypes remains unknown.

In this study, we identified a set of lncRNAs that act as molecular classifiers to distinguish ALK⁺ and ALK⁻ALCL. We also reported the role of one of these lncRNAs, which we renamed MTAAT, in regulating mitochondrial turnover and progression of aggressive ALK⁻ALCL.

We identified MTAAT as significantly associated with ALK⁻ ALCL phenotype in two independent cohorts of ALCL patients: first from a cohort of FFPE diagnostic biopsies analyzed by digital expression profiling with the Nanostring nCounter platform and subsequently in a cohort of frozen tissues by RT-qPCR. We also demonstrated the high accuracy of MTAAT in predicting ALK⁻ subtypes in ALCL classification. Although the use of lncRNAs as biomarkers is still in its infancy, our results strongly suggest how digital lncRNA profiling could be integrated into diagnostic panels to improve the accuracy and precision of ALCL stratification.

We selected the lncRNAs MTAAT for functional studies based on its ALK⁻ALCL association. Analysis of its regulatory elements showed MTAAT's intrinsic ability to regulate transcription. Transcriptional regulation by lncRNAs appears to be a mechanism widely used by hematological malignancies to control the transcription of selective pathways tuning aberrant proliferation and survival of B and T-cell²⁹⁻³².

By performing RNA-sequencing on MTAAT^{KD} cell lines, we highlighted how the transcriptional program supported by MTAAT converges on the regulation of mitochondrial pathways. Mechanistic investigations showed that the loss of MTAAT is linked to a unique phenotype characterized by an increased mitochondrial turnover through positive mitophagy stimulation, accompanied by a reduction in cell proliferation. Remarkably, lymphomas are characterized as oxidative tumors – indicating a requirement of mitochondrial function for tumor progression^{33,34}. Mitochondria work as metabolic hubs to support cell growth and proliferation, and act as sensors of intracellular stresses that could threaten survival^{35,36}. Although the role of mitophagy in lymphoid malignancies is still debated, some evidence indicates that the constitutive repression of autophagy/mitophagy contributes to lymphomagenesis³⁷⁻⁴¹. The increase in the mitochondrial pool in tumor cells is also emerging as a key factor in the success of immunotherapeutic treatments⁴²⁻⁴⁴, like the chimeric antigen

receptor (CAR) expressing T-cells (CAR-T) strategy⁴⁵. CAR-T represents an incredible promise for the treatment of several malignancies and for this reason, further investigations aimed to elucidate the role of MTAAT are warranted.

Among the downstream targets of MTAAT, we identified BNIP3 whose expression is upregulated upon MTAAT^{KD} via chromatin reorganization. BNIP3 was originally reported to function as a BH3-only protein that induced programmed cell death^{46,47}. More recently, it has been shown to function as a stress-induced mitophagy receptor that interacts directly with LC3 to promote the turnover of otherwise healthy mitochondria^{48,49}. Although various human solid cancers overexpress BNIP3 as they become hypoxic⁵⁰, its inactivation via promoter hypermethylation is a common feature of aggressive and advanced-stage cancers such as triple-negative breast cancer, hematological malignancies and advanced-stage pancreatic cancer⁵¹⁻⁵⁴. In these tumors, epigenetic silencing of BNIP3 correlates with high cancer cell proliferation, poor prognostic features, and chemoresistance^{55,56}. According to this finding, we found a significant reduction of BNIP3 expression in a cohort of ALK⁺ALCL patients. This finding suggests a tumor-suppressive function of BNIP3 also in the context of ALCL. We speculate that the loss of BNIP3 associated with reduced mitophagy may create a more aggressive tumor phenotype and contribute – at least in part – to the chemoresistance observed in this malignancy. This evidence paves the way for the implementation of targeted therapeutics strategies able to re-express BNIP3 in this lymphoid malignancy.

In conclusion, we have characterized the novel lncRNA MTAAT as a new potential biomarker in ALCLs' patient stratification. Functionally, MTAAT acts as a transcriptional brake on mitophagy promoting the accumulation of mitochondria and supporting lymphoma progression. These findings corroborate our previous data showing a key role of lncRNA in the control of different transcriptional programs in ALK⁺ALCL.

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Figure Legends

Figure 1. XLOC_211989 stratifies ALK⁻ ALCL patients

(A) Outline of the study workflow for the FFPE training cohort to classify ALCL patients based on transcriptomic profiles. Created with BioRender.com. (B) Principal component analysis (PCA) shows the variance between ALK⁺ ALCL (red dots) and ALK⁻ ALCL (grey dots) samples of the FFPE training cohort explained by the expression level of the 17 lncRNAs. (C) Dot plots show gene expression counts distribution of the 11 statistically significant lncRNAs among ALK⁺ ALCL (red dots) and ALK⁻ ALCL (black dots) of the FFPE training cohort. Comparisons were considered significant for $p \leq 0.05$ (*). (D) The alluvial plot shows the workflow for the identification and validation of XLOC_211989. (E) Boxplot representing the expression of XLOC_211989 among ALK⁺ (red) and ALK⁻ (grey) ALCL evaluated by RT-qPCR in the validation cohort. The comparison was considered significant for $p \leq 0.05$ (*). (F) Correlation plot between ALK and XLOC_211989 normalized and log₂ transformed gene counts in the FFPE training cohort (left panel). Correlation plot between BlackMamba and XLOC_211989 normalized and log₂ transformed gene counts training cohort (right panel). (G) ROC curve showing the performance of XLOC_211989-based scoring system in the training cohort of ALCL patients. The curve is colored according to XLOC_211989 adjusted values, the relation between colors and different values is represented by the bar on the right. The formula has been generated by the generalized linear regression model.

Figure 2. MTAAT is a novel lncRNA

(A) Schematic representation of locus and structure of MTAAT showing the position and enrichment level of active marks of transcription assessed by ChIP-seq in TLBR-2 cells. ChIP-RT-qPCR detection of RNAPII (B), H3K4me3 (C), and H3K27Ac (D) markers on MTAAT fragments in ALK⁻ALCL cell lines. GAPDH promoter was used as CTR+ whereas a non-coding intergenic region (CTR-) served as a negative control. The values are

representative of three independent experiments. (E) Luciferase activity of MTAAT-fragment into pGL3 vector. Data are represented as a normalized ratio of firefly-Renilla luciferase activities and are expressed as mean values \pm SD ($n = 3$). $**p \leq 0.01$. (F) Graphs show the most representative enriched TFs-related pathways. For each pathway, the TF with the major number of interactions was colored in yellow. These graphs were created using cytoscape software.

Figure 3. MTAAT KD results in transcriptional changes

(A) Relative expression of MTAAT in cytoplasm, nucleus, and chromatin fraction of ALK-ALCL cell lines (average of three independent experiments \pm S.D.). One-tailed-t-test. $**$, $p \leq 0.01$. (B) RT-qPCR analysis of MTAAT expression 24 hours after gapmers nucleofection in MAC2A and TLBR-2 cells. One-tailed-t-test. $**$, $p \leq 0.01$. (C) The heatmap depicts hierarchical clustering based on 2217 differentially expressed genes, whose read counts are Z-score normalized. Unsupervised hierarchical clustering was performed between gapmer control and gapmers #1+#2 samples (as indicated by the colored bar on columns) with a complete linkage method. Color intensity for each gene shows Z-score values ranging from red for upregulation to green for downregulation (left panel). The graph shows the number and the category of deregulated genes after RNA-seq in TLBR-2 nucleofected with gapmers #1+#2 compared to gapmer control. (D) The circular plot displays the genomic location of MTAAT (highlighted with a red line) and the protein-coding genes differentially expressed upon its knockdown. Red links connect lncRNA MTAAT to upregulated genes, green links connect lncRNA MTAAT to downregulated genes (right panel). (E) Most significant enriched pathways (adjusted p -value <0.05) are represented showing the up and the down-regulated number of DE genes mapped in each considered pathway (left panel). The heatmap depicts validated significantly downregulated genes. The orange-red color bar shows the fold difference on the Log_2 scale calculated between DOX and CTR samples. Lighter orange

represents the most downregulated genes (right panel). (F) RT-qPCR validation of significantly upregulated genes obtained from RNA-sequencing in TLBR-2 cells after nucleofection with gapmers (24 hours). Each data represents the mean \pm SEM ($n = 3$). Two-tailed t -test. * $p < 0.05$; ** $p < 0.01$.

Figure 4. MTAAT KD modifies active transcriptional markers on regulatory elements of its gene targets

(A) Graphs show the TSS and fragments around the TSS of BNIP3 and BNIP3L. ChIP-qPCR detection of H3K4me3 (B), H3K27Ac (C), and RNAPII (D) on MTAAT-genes target fragments in TLBR-2 MTAAT^{KD} cell lines. The values are representative of three independent experiments. (E) Box plots show the expression level of BNIP3 and BNIP3L in the FFPE-ALCL cohort. One-tailed- t -test. *, $p \leq 0.01$

Figure 5. MTAAT inactivation impairs mitochondria homeostasis.

(A) Histograms of FACS analysis show a left shift of mitotracker red fluorescence in MTAAT^{KD} cell lines (red and yellow) compared to control (grey) at 48 and 72 hours after doxycycline treatment. Bar plots show the mean fluorescence intensity (MFI) of cells stained with mitotracker-red and analyzed by FACS. Each data represents the mean \pm SEM ($n = 3$). Two-tailed t -test. * $p < 0.05$; ** $p < 0.01$ relative to CTR. (B) Copy number analysis of mitochondrial gene ND1 normalized on nuclear gene β -actin (48 and 72 hours after doxycycline treatment). Each data represents the mean \pm SEM ($n = 3$). Two-tailed t -test. * $p < 0.05$; ** $p < 0.01$ relative to CTR. (C) Western blots show the expression of a set of mitochondrial proteins after MTAAT KD in TLBR-2 and MAC2A cells (72 hours). (D) Immunofluorescences show the localization of mitochondria in MTAAT^{KD} cells. Cells were stained with mitotracker-red dye and DAPI. The white scale bar represents 10 μ m. Relative bar plots indicate the percentage of mitotracker-red stained cells with apical/basal

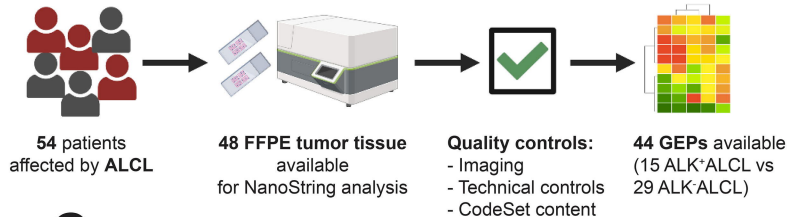
mitochondria (n=500 cells). Each data represents the mean \pm SEM (n= 3). Two-tailed *t*-test. **p*<0.05; ***p*<0.01 relative to CTR. (E) Histograms of FACS analysis show a right shift of TMRM fluorescence in MTAAT^{KD} cell lines (red and yellow) compared to the control (grey). Bar plots show the mean fluorescence intensity (MFI) of cells stained with TMRM and analyzed by FACS. Each data represents the mean \pm SEM (n= 3). Two-tailed *t*-test. **p*<0.05; ***p*<0.01 relative to CTR.

Figure 6. MTAAT KD promotes mitophagy and reduces cellular proliferation

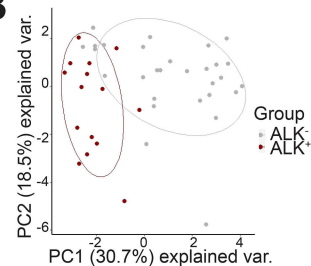
(A) Immunofluorescence images of TLBR-2 MTAAT^{KD} cells after 48 h of doxycycline (DOX) induction. Cells were stained with DAPI and FLAG antibodies for BNIP3 detection. The white scale bar represents 10 μ m. (B) Growth curves show the proliferation of cells after MTAAT depletion. Each data represents the mean \pm SEM (n= 3). Two-tailed *t*-test. ***p*<0.01 relative to CTR. (C) Graphical model of MTAAT function in lymphoma. Created with BioRender.com

Figure 1

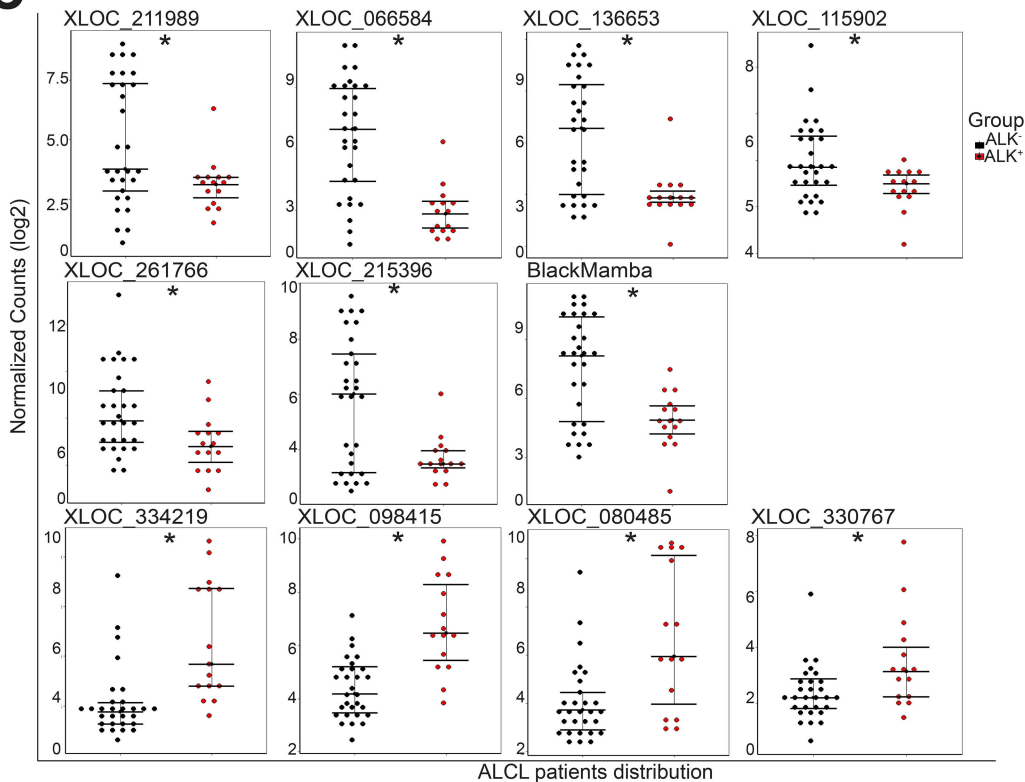
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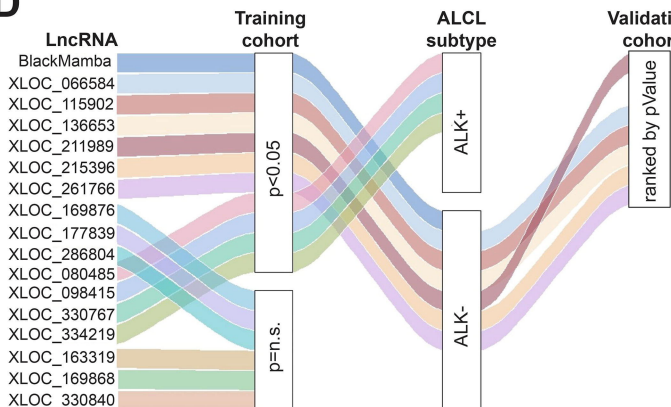
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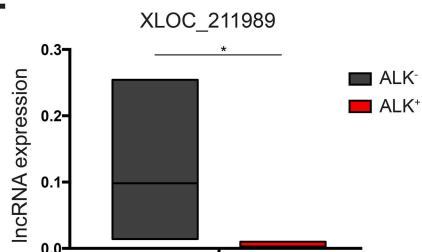
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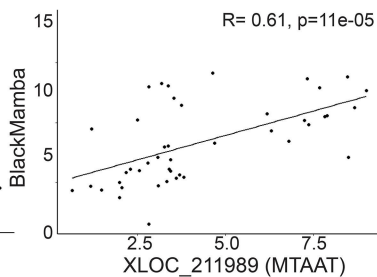
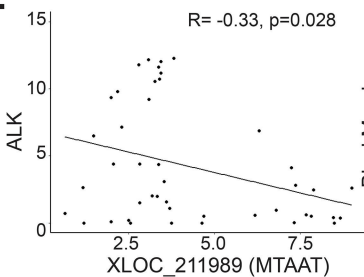
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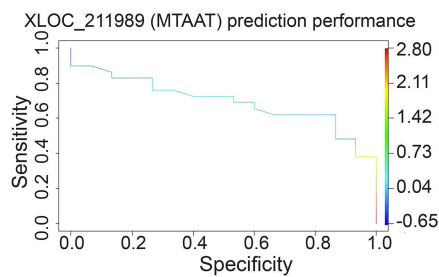


Figure 2

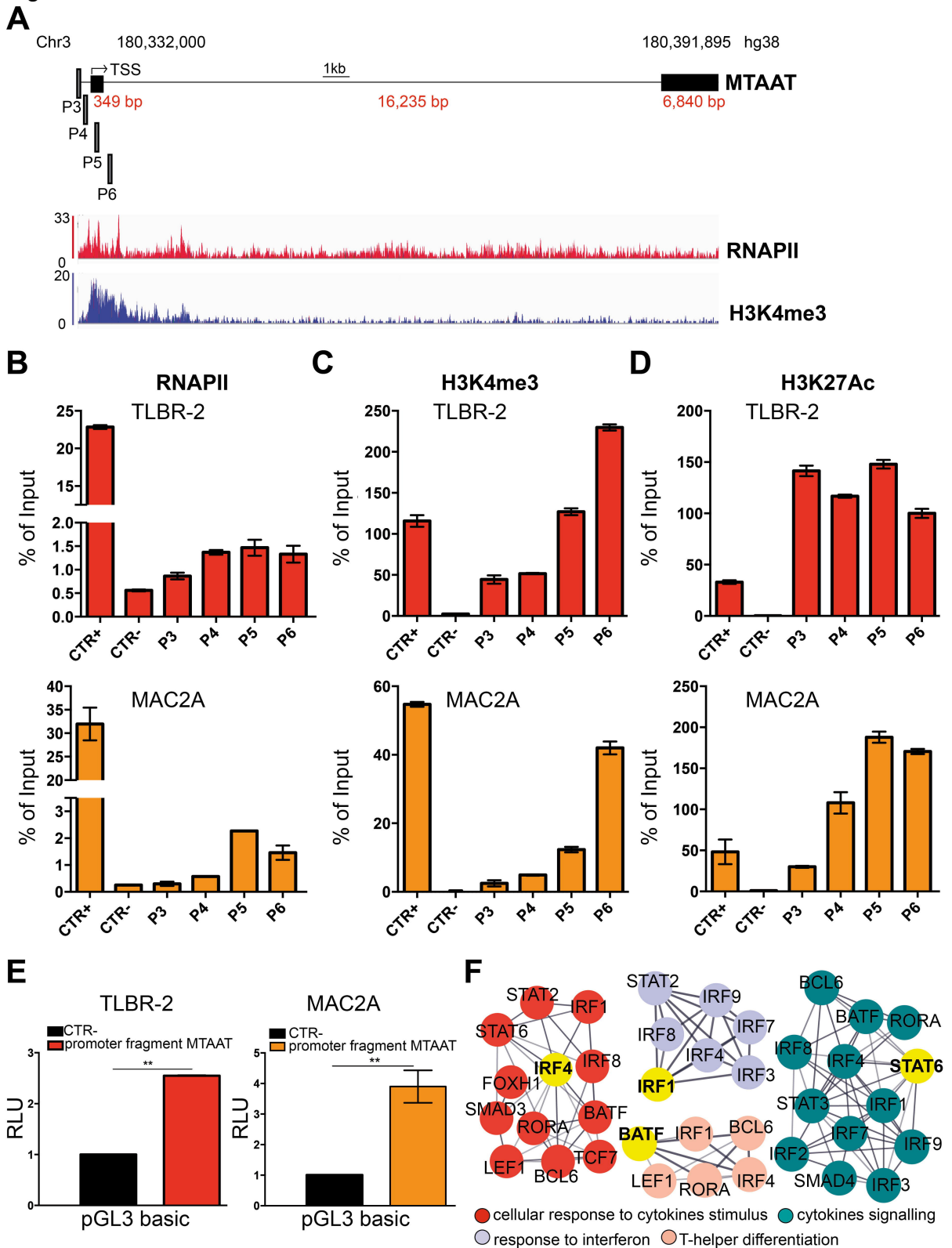


Figure 3

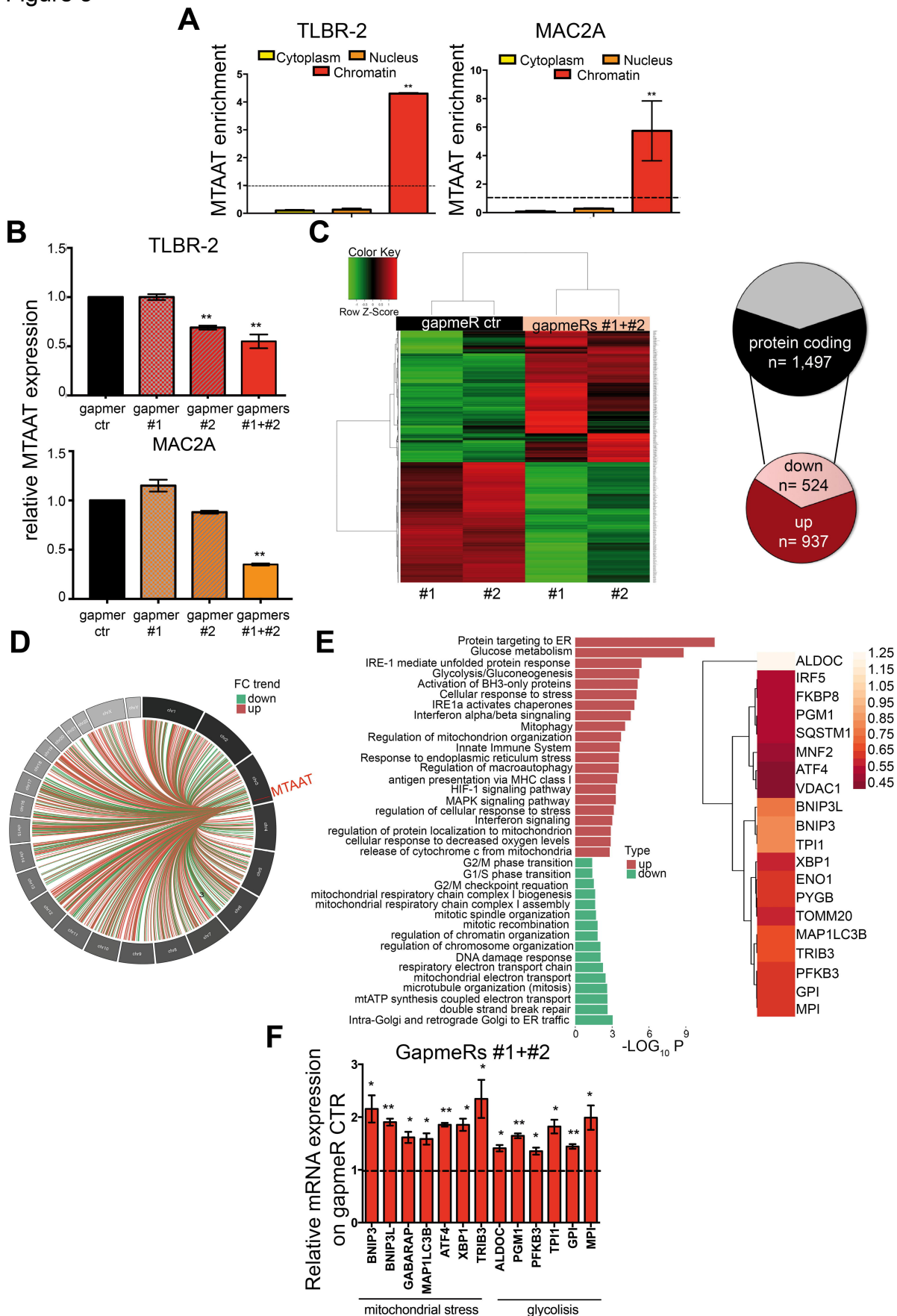
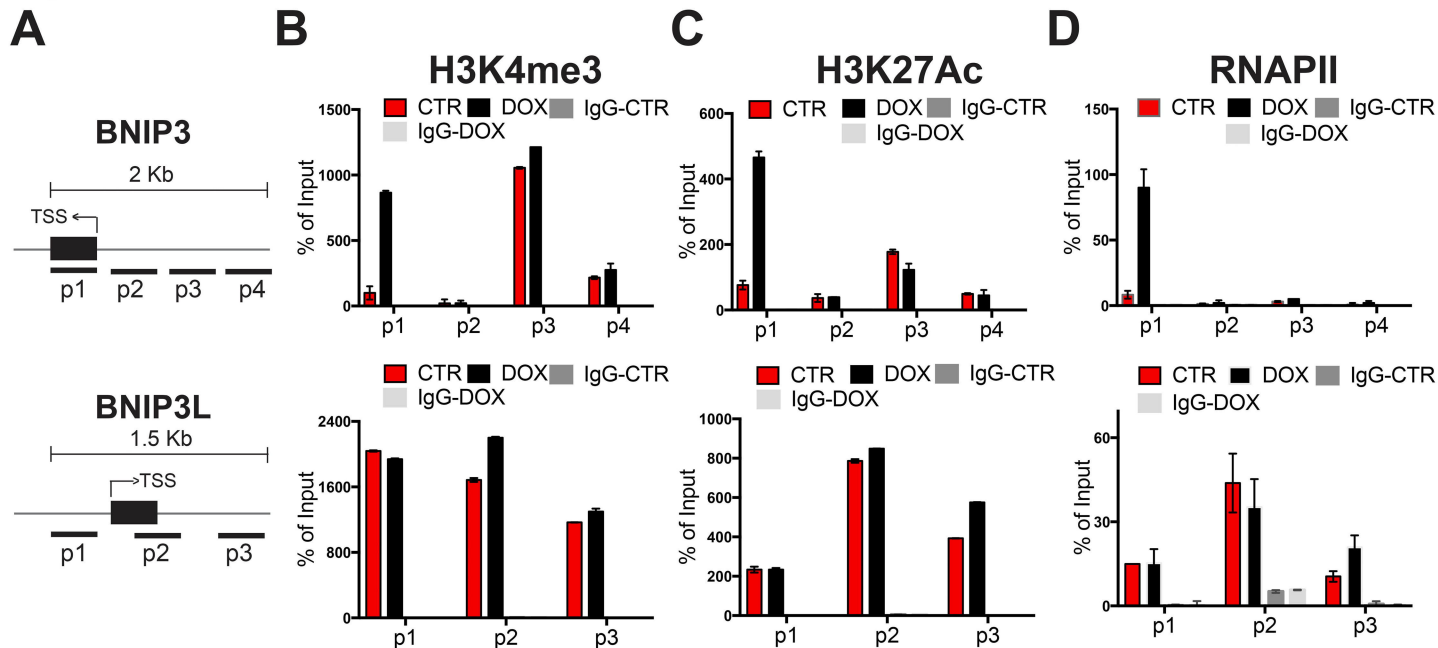


Figure 4



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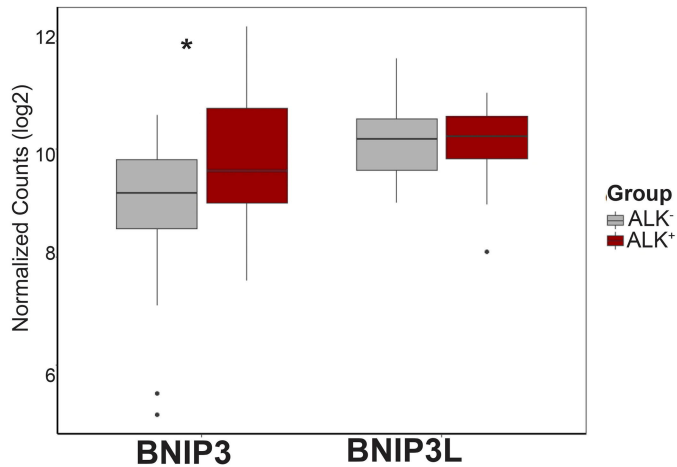


Figure 5

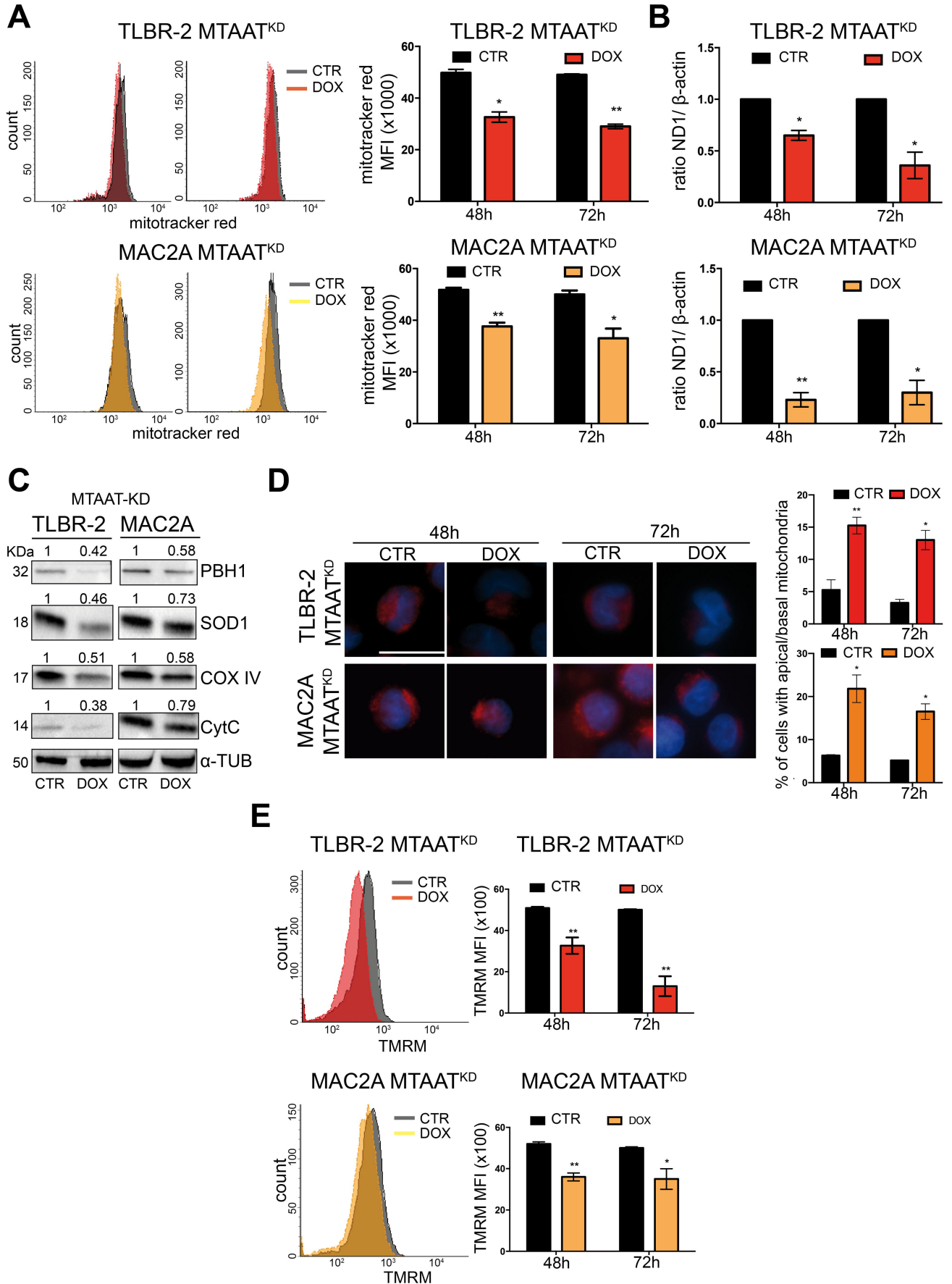
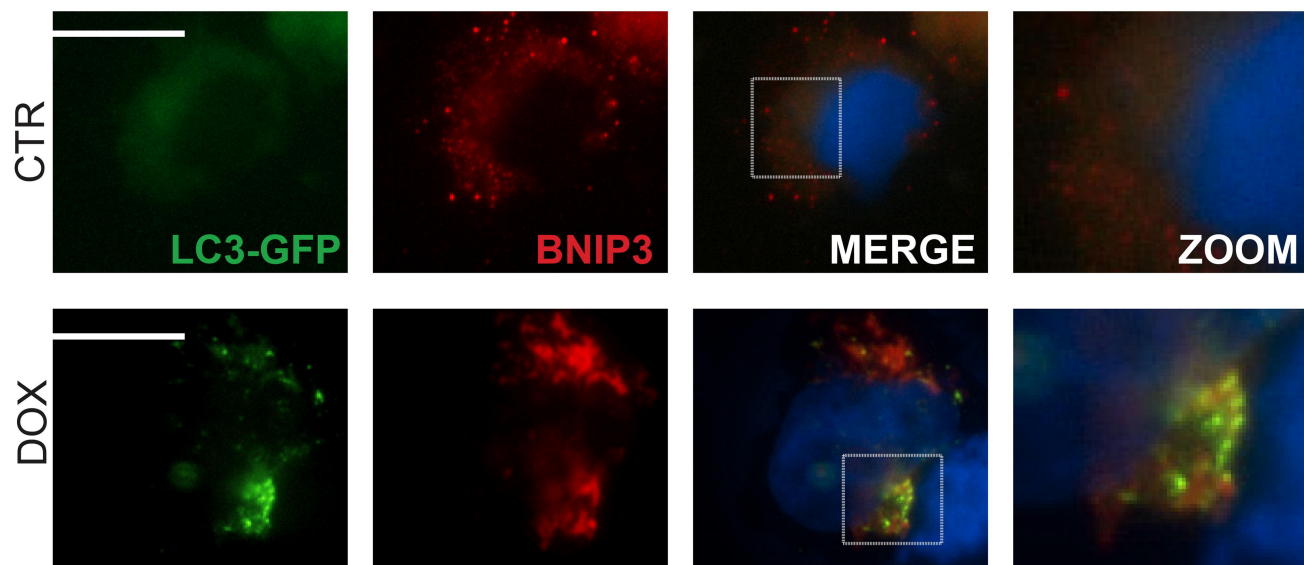
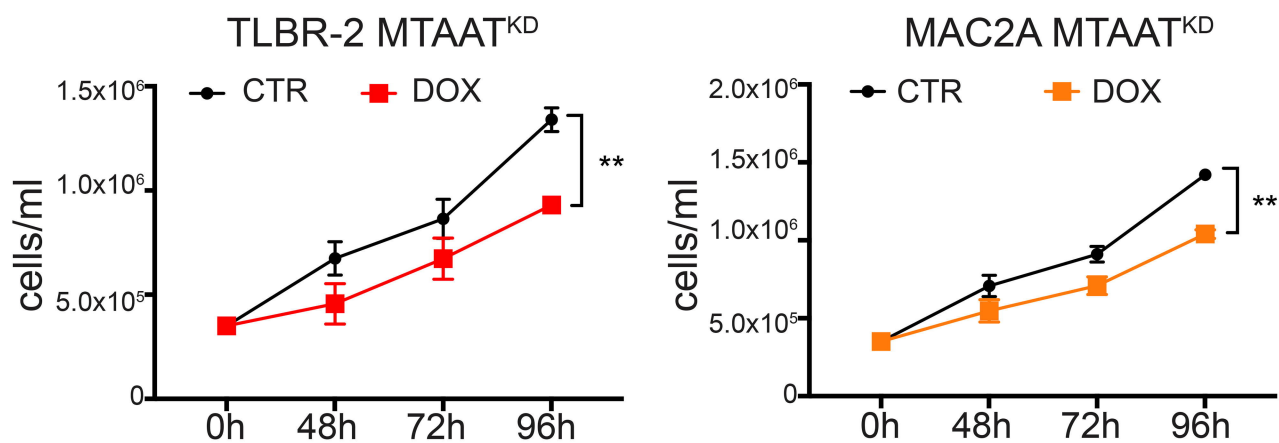


Figure 6

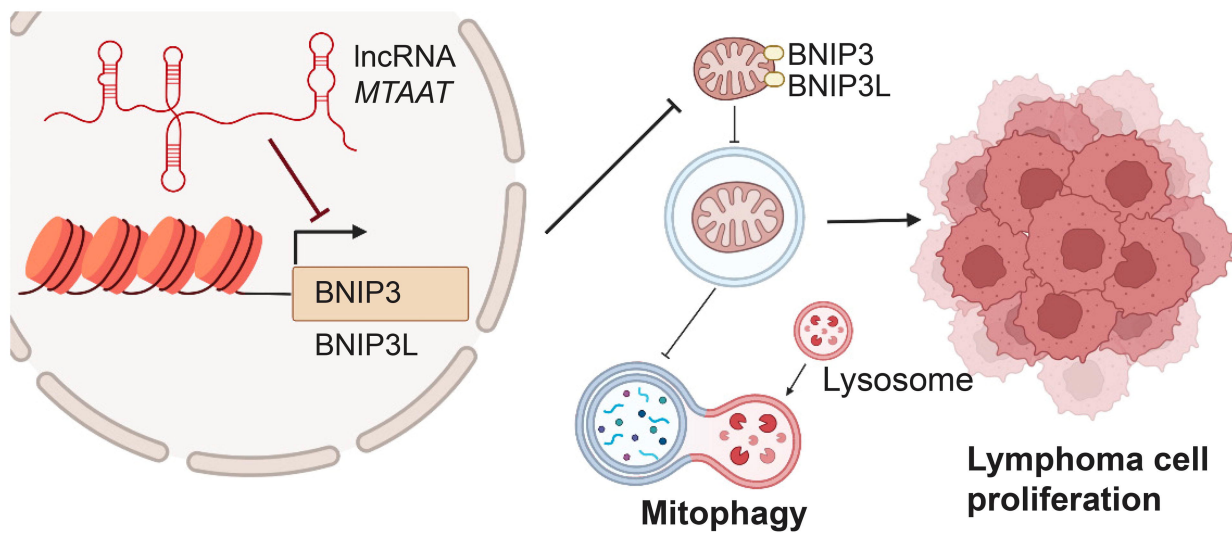
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Long non-coding RNA mitophagy and ALK⁻ anaplastic lymphoma associated transcript: a novel regulator of mitophagy in T cell Lymphoma

Supplementary Methods

Cell culture and treatments

The human ALK⁻ and ALK⁺ALCL cell lines MAC2A, FePD, L82, SUPM2, SUDHL1, and KARPAS299 were a kind gift of Dr. Giorgio Inghirami. The human Breast Implanted Associated (BIA)-ALCL cell lines TLBR-2 and TLBR-3 were a kind gift of Dr. Alain Epstein. The human CUTLL1 were a kind gift from Dr. Iannis Aifantis while human K562, MJ, and KCL22 cell lines were a kind gift from Dr. Bruno Calabretta. The human cell lines TPC1, BCPAP, 8505, CAL62, H1299, H1975, H1650, MB231, OCI-LY10, OCI-LY13 and NUDUL1 were a kind gift of Dr. Ciarrocchi. Cell identity was determined yearly. All cell lines were genotyped and routinely tested for Mycoplasma contamination. Cell lines were cultured in RPMI-1640 medium (Gibco) supplemented with 10% FBS at 37 °C in an atmosphere of 5% CO₂. TLBR-2 cells were supplemented with IL2 (20U/ml). Doxycycline hyclate was purchased from Sigma and dissolved in H₂O.

Chloroquine was purchased from Sigma and dissolved in H₂O.

Cytoplasm/Nucleus fractionation

ALCL cells were resuspended in hypotonic buffer (20mM Tris-HCl pH 7; 10mM NaCl; 3mM MgCl₂; 0.3% NP40) supplemented with SUPERase•In (Ambion) for 15 min on ice. After a centrifugation at 800g for 10 min, the supernatant was collected as the cytoplasmic fraction. The pellet was resuspended in cell extraction buffer (10mM Tris pH 7.4; 2mM Na₃VO₄; 100mM NaCl; 1% Triton-x100; 1mM EDTA; 10% glycerol; 1mM EGTA; 0.1% SDS; 1mM NaF; 0.5% Na-deoxycholate; 20mM Na₄P₂O₇) supplemented with RNase inhibitors for 30 min on ice. After a centrifugation at 14,000g for 30 min, the supernatant was collected as the nuclear

fraction. Chromatin was pelleted at maximum speed for 3 min. All fractions were resuspended in TRIzol (Invitrogen) and RNA was extracted following the standard protocol. All fractions were resuspended in TRIzol (Invitrogen) and RNA was extracted following the standard protocol.

Generation of TLBR-2 and MAC2A dCas9-KRAB MTAAT^{KD} cell lines

pHAGE TRE dCas9-KRAB was a gift from Rene Maehr & Scot Wolfe (Addgene plasmid # 50917; <http://n2t.net/addgene:50917>; RRID:Addgene_50917). Vector was packaged into lentiviral particles HEK 293T-cell line and used for infection of low passages MAC2A or TLBR-2. Cells were selected with 0.5 mg/ml of Geneticin™ Selective Antibiotic (G418 Sulfate, Gibco), for 3 days (both MAC2A and TLBR-2).

Annealed sgRNA oligomers were ligated into BsmB1 digested LRG2.1 plasmid (a gift from Christopher Vakoc, addgene plasmid #108098; <http://n2t.net/addgene:108098>; RRID:Addgene_108098) and lentiviral particles were created as previously described¹⁶. Viral particles were used to infect TLBR-2 dCas9-KRAB and MAC2A dCas9-KRAB previously derived cell lines. Infected cells were then purified by gating GFP⁺ cells using BD FACS Melody cell sorter. The list of sgRNA sequences is provided in **supplementary table 2**.

Gene Expression Profiling (GEP) by Nanostring

Total RNA was extracted by Maxwell® RSC RNA FFPE kit (Promega) starting from 5 slides of 5µm FFPE tissue. RNA quantity and quality were assessed by NanoDrop2000 (Thermo Fisher Scientific). For samples that reached the quality standards ($A_{260}/A_{280} \geq 1.7$ and $A_{260}/A_{230} \geq 1.8$), we evaluated the gene expression profile (GEP) by nCounter platform (NanoString Technologies) using a custom panel. This panel includes a total of 39 transcripts: 17/18 lncRNAs from the non coding-signature previously generated by RNA-seq platform¹⁶, that showed a suitable sequence to generate unique and specific nCounter

probes, 4 ALCL-restricted coding transcripts (ALK, TMOD1, BATF, TNFRSF8), 1 ALCL-specific non-coding transcript (ERBB4)²⁰, BNIP3, BNIP3L and 15 housekeeping (**supplementary table 3**). Analysis of detected gene counts was performed by nSolver Analysis Software 4.0 (NanoString Technologies) as previously described²¹. Briefly, for samples that passed imaging quality controls, raw counts of coding genes were subjected to background subtraction as mean counts of negative controls plus two standard deviation and then normalized on synthetic positive controls. On the contrary, no background subtraction was applied to non coding transcript that were normalized on synthetic positive controls only. After that, counts normalized on technical controls were further normalized on the 3 housekeeping genes with the lowest coefficient of variation (COG7, DNAJC14, ERCC3) and log₂ transformed. Applying the *3 gene model*²² and considering the lack of ALK expression, 29 patients were classified as ALK⁻ ALCL. Almost all these patients (n=26, 90%) showed the expression of at least one among TMOD, BATF and TNFRSF8 genes (**supplementary table 4**). On the contrary, 14 patients were classified as ALK⁺ ALCL because of high ALK expression. This group included 3 ALK⁻ ALCL that were re-classified as ALK⁺ because of their high level of ALK mRNA. Moreover, one patient that showed a low level of both ALK and 3 genes model was classified as ALK⁺ ALCL according to the current WHO diagnostic criteria classification¹.

Positive expression of the genes included in the 3 genes model (TMOD, BATF and TNFRSF8) was considered for level of expression over the 1st quartile of normalized gene counts distribution.

To investigate lncRNAs differential expression a build ratio analysis was performed by comparing the transcriptomic profiles of ALK⁻ and ALK⁺ samples. For each comparison, the p-value was calculated as Kruskal-Wallis test since data were not normal distributed. Correlation between normalized gene counts was evaluated by Pearson correlation coefficient. ERBB4, was used as positive technical control for lncRNA detection.

To evaluate the performance of MTAAT in predicting ALCL subtypes, we constructed the receiver operating characteristic (ROC) curve and calculated the area under the ROC curve (AUC) and the relative accuracy of prediction. Bioinformatic analyses on GEP were conducted by R Software v4.1.3 using the following R packages: ggplot2, ggbiplot (function prcomp), corrplot, pROC and ROCR.

Chromatin immunoprecipitation (ChIP) and ChIP-sequencing

TLBR-2 cells (15×10^6 /IP) were crosslinked for 15 min with 1% formaldehyde, lysed and sonicated for 15 cycles (30 min ON, 30 min OFF) using Bioruptor Pico Sonicator (Diagenode, Denville, NJ, USA) to obtain 100-200 bp chromatin fragments. Chromatin was precipitated overnight using Dynabeads Protein G magnetic beads (Thermo Fisher Scientific) and 1,5ug of H3K4me3 (Rabbit Polyclonal, Abcam), 1,5ug of H3K27Ac (ab4729, Rabbit Polyclonal, Abcam), 2,5ug of RNAPII (Rabbit Monoclonal, #14958, Cell Signaling Technology), or IgG-isotype control (#66362, Cell Signaling Technology). A fraction equal to 0.25% of total chromatin was used as input. For Chip, each RT-qPCR value was normalized over the appropriate input control and reported in graphs as a % of input. The list of primers used is provided in **supplementary table 1**.

For ChIP-seq, samples were quantified with Qubit (Thermo Fisher Scientific), and the quality was evaluated by Bioanalyzer (Agilent Technologies). Library for sequencing was obtained following the NEBNext Ultra II DNA Library Prep Kit for Illumina (New England BioLabs, Ipswich, MA, USA) using 3-10 ng ChIP DNA as starting material. Triplicates were sequenced on Illumina NextSeq500 high-output cartridge (single stranded, reads length 75 bp-1 × 75).

Library preparation and RNA-sequencing

RNA-seq libraries were obtained starting from 100 ng of total RNA following Illumina Stranded TotalRNA Prep Ligation with Ribo-zero Plus protocol. Sequencing was performed using Illumina NEXTSeq high-output cartridge (double-stranded, reads length 75bp-2 ×75).

Sequencing data processing

Sequencing data quality was assessed using the FastQC v0.11.8 software (www.bioinformatics.babraham.ac.uk/projects/fastqc/), low quality reads were discarded, and where residual adapters were present, they were removed using Trimmomatic (v.0.39) software.

For ChIP-seq, filtered reads were aligned to the human reference genome (GRCh38/hg38 assembly) by using Bowtie2 version 2.3.5.1. Picard tool (<http://broadinstitute.github.io/picard>) and samtools 1.9v (<http://samtools.sourceforge.net/>) were used to remove duplicates and unmapped reads and to retain uniquely aligned reads for downstream analyses. Peak calling was performed using MACS2 (v.2.1.3.3). Significant peaks ($q < 0.05$) were merged, and high confidence peaks enriched in at least 2 of 3 replicates were retained for the analysis.

ChIPseeker R package was used for assigning peaks to the nearest genes, according to GRCh38/hg38 annotation, using a transcription start site (TSS) window of ± 3 kb.

For RNA-seq, filtered paired-end reads were aligned to the human reference transcriptome (GRCh38, Gencode release 30 using STAR version 2.7), and gene abundances were estimated with RSEM algorithm (v1.3.1). Differential analysis was performed with R package DESeq2, considering a false discovery rate (FDR) of 10% and excluding genes with low read counts. Significantly deregulated genes underwent enrichment analysis, performed through enrichR package on Gene Ontology biological processes using a significance threshold of 0.05 on P value adjusted for multiple testing using the Benjamini–Hochberg correction.

Prediction of TF binding sites

TFs binding sites prediction was performed applying FIMO algorithm on a selected region of 500bp around MTAAT TSS. HOCOMOCO and JASPAR were used as reference motifs databases and q-value <0.1 was considered for significant motif enrichment.

Western blot

Western blot analysis was performed using standard techniques. The primary antibodies were: Caspase-3 (#9662, Rabbit Monoclonal, Cell Signaling Technology), PARP-1 (ab137653, Rabbit Polyclonal, Abcam), p62/SQSTM (ab91526, Rabbit Polyclonal, Abcam), LC3 A/B (#4108, Rabbit Monoclonal, Cell Signaling Technology), HA (C29FA, Rabbit, Cell Signaling Technology), B-Actin (AC-15, Mouse, Sigma-Aldrich). All secondary antibodies (rabbit and mouse) were HRPconjugated (GE Healthcare) and diluted 1:3000. Densitometric analysis was performed using ImageJ software.

Cell cycle analysis

For cell cycle analysis, the hypotonic propidium iodide (PI) method was used. All flow cytometry analyses were performed with FACSCanto™ II Cell Analyzer (BD Biosciences).

Generation of promoter and enhancer plasmids

pGL3 basic and pGL3 promoter plasmids (Promega) with the selected putative promoter/enhancer region of MTAAT were generated as follow: the selected region was amplified by PCR from genomic DNA of TLBR-2 using Phusion™ Plus DNA Polymerase kit (Thermo Fisher Scientific) with an upstream oligomer containing a 5'-KpnI site and a downstream oligomer containing a 3'-XhoI site (**supplementary table1**). PCR product of the right length was isolated from a 1% agarose gel, purified, and finally cloned into KpnI-XhoI-digested pGL3 basic/ pGL3 promoter vectors. The plasmids were sequenced and checked for right sequence.

Plasmid transfection

p3XFlagCMV10_BNIP3 was obtained cloning the gBlock Gene Fragment (IDT) for BNIP3 into the p3XflagCMV10 (Sigma Aldrich). For EGFP-LC3 expression, gBlock Gene Fragment (Integrated DNA Technologies, IDT) for LC3 was cloned into the pEGFP-C3 (Diatech Lab Line). 48 hours after induction with doxycycline, cells were nucleofected with a total of 400ng of plasmids and the co-localization of the two proteins was evaluated by immunofluorescence 24 hours after nucleofection.

Luciferase Assay

MAC2A and TLBR-2 cells (1×10^6) were transfected with 400 ng of reporter pGL3-luciferase plasmids using the Cell Line Nucleofector Kit SF and 4D Amaxa Nucleofector (program FI115 for MAC2A, DS-130 for TLBR-2). Twenty-four hours after transfection, cells were harvested, and luciferase activity was measured using the Dual-Luciferase Reporter Assay System (Promega) in a GloMax Discover Luminometer (Promega) according to the manufacturer's instructions. For each sample, firefly luciferase activity was normalized on *Renilla* luciferase activity and transactivation of the various reporter constructs was expressed as fold induction on empty vector (pGL3-basic or pGL3-promoter) activity.

Immunohistochemistry (IHC)

Formalin-fixed paraffin-embedded (FFPE) tissue sections were stored and classified by the Pathology Division of the Arcispedale S. Maria Nuova IRCCS, Reggio Emilia, Italy. IHC was performed on 4 μ m-thick formalin-fixed, paraffin-embedded sections of 3 ALK⁻ ALCL using anti-SOD1 (#37385, Rabbit Monoclonal, Cell Signaling Technology, 1:800) monoclonal primary antibody. The immunohistochemical staining was developed on platform Ventana Bench-ULTRA using the OptiView DAB Detection Kit (Ventana-Roche, Tucson, Az) and

amplified with OptiView Amplification Kit (Ventana-Roche, Tucson Az). Slides were counterstained with Hematoxylin II counterstain and Bluing Reagent. The IHC have been evaluated independently by two Pathologists (M.Z and S.A.). ALK⁻ ALCL FFPE sections were considered SOD1-positive when at least 50% of the cells expressed this antigen. Diagnoses were assigned according to the WHO classification¹.

Supplementary Figure Legends

Supplementary Figure 1. Coding and non-coding profiling of ALCLs

(A) Boxplots representing the expression of ALK, BATF3, TMOD1, TNFRSF8 among ALK⁺ (red) and ALK⁻ (grey) ALCL evaluated by nCounter platform in the FFPE cohort. Comparisons were considered significant for $p \leq 0.05$ (*). (B) Boxplot representing the expression of ERBB4 among ALK⁺ (red) and ALK⁻ (grey) ALCL evaluated by nCounter platform in the FFPE cohort. Comparison was considered significant for $p \leq 0.05$ (*). (C) Dot plots show gene expression counts distribution of the six not statistically significant lncRNAs among ALK⁺ ALCL (red dots) and ALK⁻ ALCL (black dots) of the FFPE training cohort. (D) Graphs show the expression of lncRNAs among ALK⁺ (red) and ALK⁻ (grey) ALCL evaluated by RT-qPCR in the validation cohort. (E) RT-qPCR analysis expression of MTAAT level in donor resting (n=3) and activated (n=3) CD4⁺ T-lymphocytes. (F) Graph shows the high discriminatory accuracy (70%) of the ROC curve.

Supplementary Figure 2. Regulatory features of MTAAT

(A) RT-qPCR analysis expression of MTAAT level in a panel of cell lines. (B) CHIP-PCR detection of IgG on MTAAT fragments in ALK⁻ ALCL cell lines. GAPDH promoter was used as CTR⁺ whereas a non-coding intergenic region (CTR⁻) served as negative control. The values are representative of three independent experiments. (C) CHIP-PCR detection of RNAPII, H3K4me3, and H3K27Ac markers on MTAAT fragments in MTAAT-negative cell line

CUTLL1. GAPDH promoter was used as CTR+ whereas a noncoding intergenic region (CTR-) served as negative control. The values are representative of three independent experiments.

Supplementary Figure 3. Functional validation of MTAAT KD through CRISPR dCAS9-KRAB system

(A) Relative expression of OIPS5-AS1, DANCR, NEAT1, and KCNQ1OT1 used as controls for cytoplasmic, nucleic, and chromatinic fractions, respectively (representative three independent experiment). (B) Dot plots show physical parameters and setting strategy to sort ALCL dCas9-KRAB cells expressing MTAAT-sgRNA-GFP guides. (C) Western blot shows time course expression of dCAS9-KRAB-HA after doxycycline treatment. (D) RT-qPCR analysis of MTAAT expression 48 hours after doxycycline treatment in TLBR-2 dCAS9-KRAB (MTAAT^{KD}) and MAC2A dCAS9-KRAB (MTAAT^{KD}). Comparison was considered significant for $p \leq 0.01$ (**). (E) RT-qPCR expression analysis of a panel of MTAAT-target genes in ALCL dCas9-KRAB cells expressing sgRNA#3 (48 hours after doxycycline treatment). Comparison was considered significant for $p \leq 0.05$ (*) and $p \leq 0.01$ (**).

Supplementary Figure 4. Loss of MTAAT promotes RNAPII recruitment on its target genes.

(A) Graphs show the TSS and fragments around TSS of a set of genes deregulated after MTAAT^{KD} ChIP-qPCR detection of H3K4me3 (B), H3K27Ac (C) and RNAPII (D) on MTAAT-genes target fragments in TLBR-2 MTAAT^{KD} cell lines. The values are representative of three independent experiments. (E) RT-qPCR analysis of OPTN expression after MTAAT-KD (48 hours after doxycycline treatment) in TLBR-2 dCAS9-KRAB cells. (F) Graph shows interaction propensities of MTAAT with a set of chromatin modifier enzyme. In red, a representative group of H3K4-modifier proteins and in blue, a representative group of H3K9-

modifier proteins. In green, the most important catalytic subunit of RNAPII. The interaction propensity between EZH2 and HOTTIP was used as CTR+ whereas the interaction propensity between Wdr5 and HYMAI was set as CTR-. **(G)** RT-qPCR expression analysis of MTAAT and BNIP3 expression in a panel of non-TCL cell lines (thyroid cancer, purple; lung cancer, blue; breast, red; diffuse large B cell lymphoma, green).

Supplementary Figure 5. Loss of MTAAT does not affect cell cycle nor apoptosis

(A) Representative immunohistochemistry analysis of SOD1 in FFPE section of ALK⁺ALCL patients expressing different level of MTAAT. Magnification 200X. **(B)** Western blots show the expression of autophagic markers after 48hr of MTAAT KD in TLBR-2 and MAC2A dCas9-KRAB sgRNA#3 cells. Densitometric analysis of LC3 refers to LC3II band. Cloroquine (CQ) was added to cells for the last for 2 hours of doxycycline -DOX- treatment (20µM for TLBR-2 and 40µM for MAC2A). **(C)** Histograms show the percentage of cell in each cell cycle phase (72 hours after doxycycline -DOX- treatment). **(D)** Western blot shows the expression of CASP3 and PARP-1 in TLBR-2 MTAAT^{KD} (72 hours after doxycycline treatment).

Supplementary Table

Supplementary Table 1. List of primers used in this study

Primer qPCR MTAAT Promoter	
KpnI_MTAAT Prom F	atcaaggtaccggtaccGTGTCTCCTCAACAGC TGTG
XhoI_MTAAT Prom R	gttcactcgagctcgagACAACGTGCCAGAATCT GTG

Primer IncRNAs	Sequence (5'-3')
XLOC_115902 F	TGGGTCACCAGTTCTGCTCT
XLOC_115902 R	AAGGGTGCTGTTTTGAGTGC
XLOC_066584 F	AGGAACTCTACTCAAGATTCTGGG
XLOC_066584 R	TCACTGTAAGTTAGATCAACGGGT
XLOC_211989 F	ATTTGACCCCTCTGCACCTG
XLOC_211989 R	TGCCAGGATGTATGGGTTCTG
XLOC_215396 F	GGATGCACTTGTCAAGGTAGG
XLOC_215396 R	GGTACTTGTCCCTACACCCC
XLOC_261766 F	ACATACCTTTCCGTAGAGCAGT
XLOC_261766 R	CAAAGGTCTCAAAGCGGTCC
XLOC_136653 F	ATGCCAAACTGTACCCTGCC
XLOC_136653 R	TGCTTTTGTGTCCAAGGGGT
DANCR F	GAAGTGCAGCTGCCTCAGTTCTTA
DANCR R	AATGGCTTGTGCCTGTAGTTGTC
NEAT1 F	CTTCTTCCCTTTAACTTATCCATTAC
NEAT1 R	CTCTTCCCTCCACCATTACCAACAATAC
KCNQ1OT1 F	GGCTACGACCACAGGTGAAA
KCNQ1OT1 R	GTCTGCTGGCTTGTGTGTTG
OIP5-AS1 F	TTTCCTTGACCTTTAGGTGCTTT
OIP5-AS1 R	GAAGCAGGACTACCCACTCTAGG

Primers RNAseq validation	Sequence (5'-3')
BNIP3 F	CGGGATGCAGGAGGAGAG
BNIP3 R	TAGAAACCGAGGCTGGAACG

BNIP3L F	CAGCAGGGACCATAGCTCTC
BNIP3L R	TGATACCCAGTCCGCACTTT
MAP1LC3B F	TTCAGGTTACAAAAACCCGC
MAP1LC3B R	TCTCACACAGCCCGTTTACC
GABARAP F	CGAAAGAAATACCCGGACCG
GABARAP R	GAGATCAGAAGGCACCAGGT
XBP1 F	CTGGAGCTATGGTGGTGGTG
XBP1 R	CCCCGACAGAAGCAGAACTT
TRIB3 F	CAGCGGATGCAGAGGAGAGA
TRIB3 R	GCCGTCTGATGCCCTCG
ATF4 F	GAAGCGATTTAACGAGCGCC
ATF4 R	ATCTTGGTTCCTGCCACGTT
ALDOC F	GGGCGCTTACCTTCTCCTAT
ALDOC R	ACTGCCTTCATACTTGCCCT
PGM1 F	TGGGAAAGCAGCAGTTTGAC
PGM1 R	CCCACAACCTCCATGCATAGC
PFKB3 F	CACTTGCATTACCGTCCCTG
PFKB3 R	ACTCTTCCGACCTTCCCAAG
TPI1 F	GGGGCTTTTACTGGGGAGAT
TPI1 R	CCAATGCAGGCGATTACTCC
GPI F	AAGACAATAGTGGGGTGGGG
GPI R	TTGTCCAGGAATTCACCCGA
MPI F	AGGAAAGGGAAAGGGTAGGC
MPI R	TGTAGGGAGGGCTCTTTTGG
OPTN F	TTGGAGTGACTTTTCCACAGGA

OPTN R	GGGGCTGTCCTCCTTTTCAG
CHMP2A F	ATGGACCTATTGTTCGGGCG
CHMP2A R	TCTCTAGTTTCTGTCGCTCGC

Primer ChIP	Sequence (5'-3')
P6 MTAAT F	TACTGGGGGAAACAGCAAAC
P6 MTAAT R	TGTGGGACACAGCTAAAGCA
P3 MTAAT F	GCCTCTGCCATGCCCTAATA
P3 MTAAT R	GATTCTTTATCTGCTGTCTGTGC
P4 MTAAT F	TCTCACCATTGTTCAAAGTCT
P4 MTAAT R	GGGTCTTGAGCTATGTGACG
P5 MTAAT F	TCCTCTGAATGATCTCTGTCTGT
P5 MTAAT R	TTGCTGCTCTGACTGTTCCA
P1 BNIP3 F	CTCTCCTCCTGCATCCCG
P1 BNIP3 R	CTGCCCTGTGAGTTCCTCC
P2 BNIP3 F	TGCTAGTGGGGAAACTGAGG
P2 BNIP3 R	TCCCGAGACGCTCAGCTC
P3 BNIP3 F	TCCCGAGACGCTCAGCTC
P3 BNIP3 R	GACCCCGTTTCAGCTTCT
P4 BNIP3 F	ACCGCCAGAGATACATAGCA
P4 BNIP3 R	GGAGTCTTTCTGTGTTGCCA
P1 BNIP3L F	TCCCCAAGACACCTATTGCA
P1 BNIP3L R	GCAGTGGGAGAGAGGATGAG
P2 BNIP3L F	GCGAGGAAAATGAGCAGTCT
P2 BNIP3L R	GCCAATGAGCTGCCTTCTC

P3 BNIP3L F	TCGTCTAGGGTTGGCTTCAG
P3 BNIP3L R	ATCTTGGGTGGTTCAGGAGG
P1 ATF4 F	GCACTTGAGCCGGATGAAAA
P1 ATF4 R	TTTCCAGAGGCCCCATTTCAT
P2 ATF4 F	CAGGCCACAAATCACCACC
P2 ATF4 R	GGTCGCTGCTAGTCCTCAG
P3 ATF4 F	CGTCCTCGGCCTTCACAATA
P3 ATF4 R	TCACGAAAGGAGAGAGGTGT
P1 XBP1 F	CCAAACCGAGAGCTTTCCAG
P1 XBP1 R	GTCTTTTCGAACCCAAGGCC
P2 XBP1 F	GTTTCAGGACCGTGGCTATG
P2 XBP1 R	TCAGTCTGGAAGCTCTCGG
P1 OPTN F	GCCTGGCATTCTCCTCTTTC
P1 OPTN R	GCTCTAAGGCGTCACTGTGA
P2 OPTN F	ATGGGCGGGGTATGGGAT
P2 OPTN R	GTCACTGTTTCCTCGGCATC
P3 OPTN F	GCGGCCTGAAAACGGTAC
P3 OPTN R	ACGTCACCTCCAAGTCTCTG
GAPDH Exon1 F	AAGACCTTGGGCTGGGACT
GAPDH Exon1 R	GCTGCGGGCTCAATTTATAG
RUNX2 Upstream F	TCTCAAGGTGCCTGTCTGC
RUNX2 Upstream R	TGAAGTTTGGCCTCTGGTCT
D17Z1 (α -Sat) F	CTTTGGATGGAGCAGGTTTGAGAC
D17Z1 (α -Sat) R	CCGTTTAGTTAGGTGCAGTTATCC

Supplementary Table 2. List of sgRNA and GapmeRs sequences

sg_RNA	Primer Forward	Primer Reverse
sgRNA_MTAA T #2	CACCGTAATCTTCTGAGGTTGCT GA	AAACTCAGCAACCTCAGAAGATT AC
sgRNA_MTAA T #3	CACCGGCACCTACTGTGTATTTC CT	AAACTCAGCAACCTCAGAAGATT AC

GapmeR	Sequence	Cat.no. * Qiagen
Negative control	AACACGTCTATACGC	339515
lncRNA_MTAAT #1	TCATTAGCTAGGAGTA	339511
lncRNA_MTAAT #2	TCAATAAAGCGGGATC	339511

Supplementary Table 3. List of genes analysed by nCounter platform

Gene	Type
XLOC_043524	lncRNA
XLOC_066584	lncRNA
XLOC_080485	lncRNA
XLOC_098415	lncRNA
XLOC_115902	lncRNA
XLOC_163319	lncRNA

XLOC_169868	lncRNA
XLOC_136653	lncRNA
XLOC_169876	lncRNA
XLOC_177839	lncRNA
XLOC_211989	lncRNA
XLOC_215396	lncRNA
XLOC_261766	lncRNA
XLOC_286804	lncRNA
XLOC_330767	lncRNA
XLOC_330840	lncRNA
XLOC_334219	lncRNA
ERBB4	lncRNA
ALK	Coding gene
TMOD	Coding gene
BATF3	Coding gene
TNFRSF8	Coding gene
BNIP3	Coding gene
BNIP3L	Coding gene
CHMP2A	Coding gene/housekeeping
REEP5	Coding gene/housekeeping
EMC7	Coding gene/housekeeping

COG7	Coding gene/housekeeping
DNAJC14	Coding gene/housekeeping
EIF2B4	Coding gene/housekeeping
ERCC3	Coding gene/housekeeping
G6PD	Coding gene/housekeeping
GUSB	Coding gene/housekeeping
MRPS5	Coding gene/housekeeping
PPIA	Coding gene/housekeeping
MTMR14	Coding gene/housekeeping
HPRT1	Coding gene/housekeeping
SF3A3	Coding gene/housekeeping
TLK2	Coding gene/housekeeping

Supplementary Table 4. Expression level of genes used to classify ALCL patients

Sample	ALK traslocatio n	BATF3	TMOD1	TNFRSF8	Other translocati on	ALCL Classificat ion
It2	+	-	-	-	-	ALK+
It3	+	+	-	+	-	ALK+
It4	+	+	+	+	-	ALK-
It5	+	+	+	+	-	ALK-
It6	-	+	+	+	-	ALK-
It7	+	+	+	+	-	ALK+
It8	-	+	-	+	-	ALK-
It9	+	+	+	+	-	ALK+
It10	-	-	-	-	-	ALK-
It11	+	+	+	+	-	ALK-
It12	+	+	+	+	-	ALK-
It13	+	-	-	-	-	ALK+
It14	-	+	-	+	-	ALK-
It15	+	+	+	+	-	ALK-
It17	-	+	+	-	-	ALK-
It19	+	+	+	+	-	ALK+
It20	-	-	-	-	-	ALK-
It21	+	+	+	+	-	ALK+
It22	+	+	+	+	-	ALK-
It23	+	+	+	+	-	ALK+
It24	-	-	-	-	+	ALK+
It25	+	+	-	+	-	ALK+
It26	+	+	+	+	-	ALK+
It27	+	+	+	+	-	ALK-
It28	+	+	+	+	-	ALK+
It29	-	-	-	-	-	ALK-
It30	-	-	+	+	-	ALK-
It31	+	+	+	+	-	ALK-
It32	+	+	+	+	-	ALK-
It34	+	+	+	+	-	ALK-
It35	+	+	+	+	-	ALK-
It36	+	+	+	+	-	ALK-
It37	+	+	+	+	-	ALK-
It38	+	+	+	+	-	ALK-
It39	+	+	-	+	-	ALK+
It40	+	-	-	+	-	ALK+
It42	-	-	+	+	-	ALK-
It44	+	+	+	+	-	ALK-
It45	-	-	+	-	-	ALK-
It47	+	+	+	+	-	ALK+
It48	+	+	+	+	-	ALK-
It50	+	+	+	+	-	ALK-
It51	+	+	+	+	-	ALK-
It52	-	-	+	-	-	ALK-

Supplementary Table 5. In silico analysis of MTAAT open reading frames (ORFs)

Label	Strand	Frame	Start	Stop	Lenght (nt aa)
ORF1	+	1	4012	4182	171 56
ORF2	+	3	2127	2285	159 52
ORF3	-	1	5266	5072	195 64
ORF4	-	1	2620	2429	192 63

Supplementary Table 6. TF binding sites prediction by FIMO algorithm

motif	sequence	start	stop	score	p.value	q.value	matched_sequence	database
IRF3	chr3:18033	347	366	18,53	2,04E	0,00	GAAGAGGAAAGG	HOCO
	2773- 180333239			72	-07	0171	AAAAGGGT	MOCO
ZKSC1	chr3:18033	270	288	17,34	6,69E	0,00	TAAGCACCTACTG	HOCO
	2773- 180333239			38	-07	0589	TGTATT	MOCO
ZFP82	chr3:18033	347	370	16,38	0,000	0,00	TTCCACCCTTTTC	HOCO
	2773- 180333239			33	00119	0984	CTTTCCTCTTC	MOCO
IRF3	chr3:18033	346	365	16,07	0,000	0,00	AGAAGAGGAAAG	HOCO
	2773-			44	00155	0648	GAAAAGGG	MOCO

	180333239							
ZN467	chr3:18033 2773- 180333239	347	368	13,73 4	0,000 00235	0,00 15	GAAGAGGAAAGG AAAAGGGTGG	HOCO MOCO
MAZ	chr3:18033 2773- 180333239	361	382	14,55 08	0,000 00282	0,00 236	AAGGGTGGAAACA GTCAGAGCAG	HOCO MOCO
NR1H3	chr3:18033 2773- 180333239	165	183	14,84 56	0,000 00313	0,00 275	CTGAGGTTGCTGA AGGCC	HOCO MOCO
FLI1	chr3:18033 2773- 180333239	350	367	15,17 19	0,000 00316	0,00 267	GAGGAAAGGAAA AGGGTG	HOCO MOCO
ZN467	chr3:18033 2773- 180333239	350	371	12,88 3	0,000 00358	0,00 15	GAGGAAAGGAAA AGGGTGG AAC	HOCO MOCO
ETS2	chr3:18033 2773- 180333239	353	365	13,95 31	0,000 00376	0,00 324	GAAAGGAAAAGG G	HOCO MOCO
ETV5	chr3:18033 2773- 180333239	352	365	14,04 76	0,000 00569	0,00 264	GGAAAGGAAAAG GG	HOCO MOCO
ZN394	chr3:18033 2773- 180333239	352	371	13,36 62	0,000 00604	0,00 43	GGAAAGGAAAAG GGTGG AAC	HOCO MOCO

ETV5	chr3:18033 2773- 180333239	347	360	13,95 24	0,000 0062	0,00 264	GAAGAGGAAAGG AA	HOCO MOCO
BC11A	chr3:18033 2773- 180333239	346	362	13,89 17	0,000 00624	0,00 526	AGAAGAGGAAAG GAAAA	HOCO MOCO
CRX	chr3:18033 2773- 180333239	226	238	13,87 5	0,000 00633	0,00 55	TCAGAGGATTAAG	HOCO MOCO
IRF1	chr3:18033 2773- 180333239	70	89	14,09 38	0,000 00675	0,00 585	AAAAATGAAAATG AAAATGT	HOCO MOCO
OTX2	chr3:18033 2773- 180333239	226	236	13,69 47	0,000 00678	0,00 593	AGAGGATTAAG	HOCO MOCO
KLF3	chr3:18033 2773- 180333239	357	375	12,92 19	0,000 00718	0,00 615	GGAAAAGGGTGG AACAGTC	HOCO MOCO
ANDR	chr3:18033 2773- 180333239	46	63	13,85 12	0,000 00723	0,00 631	AGTTCTGTCAAGT TTGCT	HOCO MOCO
ZFX	chr3:18033 2773- 180333239	163	172	14,32 81	0,000 00851	0,00 771	GAAGGCCCCA	HOCO MOCO
ZN341	chr3:18033	353	374	13,07	0,000	0,00	GAAAGGAAAAGG	HOCO

	2773- 180333239			69	00881	348	GTGGAACAGT	MOCO
ZN341	chr3:18033 2773- 180333239	362	383	13,05 13	0,000 00894	0,00 348	AGGGTGG AACAG TCAGAGCAGC	HOCO MOCO
VEZF1	chr3:18033 2773- 180333239	348	369	13,01 48	0,000 00902	0,00 482	AAGAGGAAAGGA AAAGGGTGG A	HOCO MOCO
CDX2	chr3:18033 2773- 180333239	379	390	13,06 67	0,000 0091	0,00 828	CTTTATTGCTGC	HOCO MOCO
ZN394	chr3:18033 2773- 180333239	347	366	12,81 69	0,000 0103	0,00 43	GAAGAGGAAAGG AAAAGGGT	HOCO MOCO
KLF15	chr3:18033 2773- 180333239	350	368	11,25	0,000 0104	0,00 904	GAGGAAAGGAAA AGGGTGG	HOCO MOCO
SP4	chr3:18033 2773- 180333239	356	375	12,75 21	0,000 0107	0,00 915	AGGAAAAGGGTG GAACAGTC	HOCO MOCO
MAZ	chr3:18033 2773- 180333239	346	367	12,04 24	0,000 0115	0,00 479	AGAAGAGGAAAG GAAAAGGGTG	HOCO MOCO
VEZF1	chr3:18033 2773-	344	365	12,59 26	0,000 0116	0,00 482	GCAGAAGAGGAA AGGAAAAGGG	HOCO MOCO

	180333239							
ZN467	chr3:18033 2773- 180333239	344	365	10,39 36	0,000 0117	0,00 324	GCAGAAGAGGAA AGGAAAAGGG	HOCO MOCO
ZN350	chr3:18033 2773- 180333239	350	367	12,93 94	0,000 012	0,01 01	CACCCTTTTCCTT TCCTC	HOCO MOCO
IRF9	chr3:18033 2773- 180333239	410	421	13,47 11	0,000 0121	0,01 1	AAAAGAGAAATT	HOCO MOCO
ZN341	chr3:18033 2773- 180333239	343	364	12,46 15	0,000 0126	0,00 348	TGCAGAAGAGGA AAGGAAAAGG	HOCO MOCO
LYL1	chr3:18033 2773- 180333239	158	171	12,46 15	0,000 0146	0,01 27	CCTTCTGGGGCC TT	HOCO MOCO
LEF1	chr3:18033 2773- 180333239	346	359	12,15 15	0,000 0168	0,01 46	TCCTTTCCTCTTC T	HOCO MOCO
SPI1	chr3:18033 2773- 180333239	345	361	12,42 19	0,000 0169	0,01 44	CAGAAGAGGAAA GGAAA	HOCO MOCO
VEZF1	chr3:18033 2773- 180333239	343	364	11,71 11	0,000 0195	0,00 538	TGCAGAAGAGGA AAGGAAAAGG	HOCO MOCO

ZN257	chr3:18033 2773- 180333239	349	360	12,51 56	0,000 0208	0,01 82	TTCCTTTCCTCT	HOCO MOCO
IRF2	chr3:18033 2773- 180333239	70	89	11,39 06	0,000 0209	0,01 81	AAAAATGAAAATG AAAATGT	HOCO MOCO
FLI1	chr3:18033 2773- 180333239	345	362	11,89 06	0,000 0214	0,00 903	CAGAAGAGGAAA GGAAAA	HOCO MOCO
FOXJ3	chr3:18033 2773- 180333239	103	115	13,04 69	0,000 0214	0,01 88	ATGTTTTTGTGTTG	HOCO MOCO
BC11A	chr3:18033 2773- 180333239	423	439	12,26 67	0,000 0234	0,00 988	GATACAGGAACTC AGAA	HOCO MOCO
STAT6	chr3:18033 2773- 180333239	261	271	12,56 19	0,000 0235	0,02 06	TGCCCAGGAAA	HOCO MOCO
PRDM1	chr3:18033 2773- 180333239	353	366	12,43 75	0,000 0239	0,02 07	GAAAGGAAAAGG GT	HOCO MOCO
ERG	chr3:18033 2773- 180333239	347	359	12,57 81	0,000 0239	0,01 69	GAAGAGGAAAGG A	HOCO MOCO
PATZ1	chr3:18033	350	371	10,84	0,000	0,02	GAGGAAAGGAAA	HOCO

	2773- 180333239			03	0256	16	AGGGTGG AAC	MOCO
ZN140	chr3:18033 2773- 180333239	360	383	9	0,000 0262	0,02 27	GCTGCTCTGACTG TTCCACCCTTT	HOCO MOCO
MAZ	chr3:18033 2773- 180333239	349	370	10,41 53	0,000 0269	0,00 748	AGAGGAAAGGAA AAGGGTGGAA	HOCO MOCO
SPIB	chr3:18033 2773- 180333239	345	361	10,62 5	0,000 0273	0,01 49	CAGAAGAGGAAA GGAAA	HOCO MOCO
ETV4	chr3:18033 2773- 180333239	348	358	12,39 06	0,000 0274	0,02 39	AAGAGGAAAGG	HOCO MOCO
ETV2	chr3:18033 2773- 180333239	350	365	11,54 41	0,000 028	0,02 44	GAGGAAAGGAAA AGGG	HOCO MOCO
IRF4	chr3:18033 2773- 180333239	422	439	11,35 79	0,000 0294	0,01 36	GATACAGGAACTC AGAAT	HOCO MOCO
ZN341	chr3:18033 2773- 180333239	344	365	10,82 91	0,000 0312	0,00 647	GCAGAAGAGGAA AGGAAAAGGG	HOCO MOCO
BATF3	chr3:18033 2773-	415	431	12,04 62	0,000 0312	0,02 77	CTCTTTTATTCTG AGTT	HOCO MOCO

	180333239							
ZIC3	chr3:18033 2773- 180333239	273	287	11,02 74	0,000 0314	0,02 8	AAGCACCTACTGT GT	HOCO MOCO
IRF4	chr3:18033 2773- 180333239	346	363	11,18 95	0,000 032	0,01 36	AGAAGAGGAAAG GAAAAG	HOCO MOCO
COE1	chr3:18033 2773- 180333239	155	169	11,04 69	0,000 0336	0,02 94	AATCCTTCTGGGG CC	HOCO MOCO
KLF6	chr3:18033 2773- 180333239	359	377	10,92 19	0,000 0337	0,02 95	AAAAGGGTGGAA CAGTCAG	HOCO MOCO
SPIB	chr3:18033 2773- 180333239	424	440	10,03 12	0,000 0348	0,01 49	TGATACAGGAACT CAGA	HOCO MOCO
STAT2	chr3:18033 2773- 180333239	68	86	11,17 19	0,000 0366	0,02 53	TTAAAAATGAAAA TGAAAA	HOCO MOCO
STF1	chr3:18033 2773- 180333239	165	175	11,75 24	0,000 0372	0,03 33	GCTGAAGGCC	HOCO MOCO
ZBT17	chr3:18033 2773- 180333239	355	373	10,93 4	0,000 0384	0,01 14	AAGGAAAAGGGT GGAACAG	HOCO MOCO

ZBT17	chr3:18033 2773- 180333239	350	368	10,87 74	0,000 0396	0,01 14	GAGGAAAGGAAA AGGGTGG	HOCO MOCO
ERG	chr3:18033 2773- 180333239	352	364	11,70 31	0,000 04	0,01 69	GGAAAGGAAAAG G	HOCO MOCO
ETS1	chr3:18033 2773- 180333239	352	364	11,56 25	0,000 0405	0,03 51	GGAAAGGAAAAG G	HOCO MOCO
ZBT17	chr3:18033 2773- 180333239	344	362	10,83 02	0,000 0407	0,01 14	GCAGAAGAGGAA AGGAAAA	HOCO MOCO
MAZ	chr3:18033 2773- 180333239	344	365	9,508 47	0,000 0423	0,00 884	GCAGAAGAGGAA AGGAAAAGGG	HOCO MOCO
ZN502	chr3:18033 2773- 180333239	353	372	2,904 11	0,000 0425	0,03 73	GAAAGGAAAAGG GTGGAACA	HOCO MOCO
NR4A2	chr3:18033 2773- 180333239	114	122	11,91 95	0,000 0432	0,03 94	AAAGGTCAT	HOCO MOCO
SMCA5	chr3:18033 2773- 180333239	38	52	11,33 9	0,000 0433	0,03 79	GAAGAGAGAGCA AAC	HOCO MOCO
NR4A1	chr3:18033	114	122	11,15	0,000	0,03	AAAGGTCAT	HOCO

	2773- 180333239			33	0448	92		MOCO
HXC9	chr3:18033 2773- 180333239	381	390	11,63 55	0,000 0458	0,04 16	CTTTATTGCT	HOCO MOCO
ZN467	chr3:18033 2773- 180333239	351	372	7,244 68	0,000 0461	0,00 914	AGGAAAGGAAAA GGGTGGAACA	HOCO MOCO
BATF	chr3:18033 2773- 180333239	97	114	11,52 31	0,000 0462	0,04 11	TGTTTTTGTTTGA CTAAT	HOCO MOCO
VEZF1	chr3:18033 2773- 180333239	349	370	10,17 04	0,000 0462	0,00 789	AGAGGAAAGGAA AAGGGTGGAA	HOCO MOCO
RXRG	chr3:18033 2773- 180333239	114	126	8,796 88	0,000 0469	0,04 19	CTTAAAAGGTCAT	HOCO MOCO
VEZF1	chr3:18033 2773- 180333239	358	379	10,11 85	0,000 0475	0,00 789	GAAAAGGGTGGAA ACAGTCAGAG	HOCO MOCO
ZN350	chr3:18033 2773- 180333239	388	405	11,26 26	0,000 0481	0,02 03	GAGTTCATTTCTT ACCTT	HOCO MOCO
LEF1	chr3:18033 2773-	351	364	11,12 12	0,000 0498	0,02 17	CCTTTTCCTTTCC T	HOCO MOCO

	180333239							
ZN143	chr3:18033 2773- 180333239	139	160	7,151 16	0,000 05	0,04 45	AGGATTTGGGTAG ATGTATTTC	HOCO MOCO
PRDM6	chr3:18033 2773- 180333239	353	365	11,54 69	0,000 0513	0,04 13	GAAAGGAAAAGG G	HOCO MOCO
ZN274	chr3:18033 2773- 180333239	32	51	9,865 55	0,000 0515	0,02 89	GCCACTGAAGAG AGAGCAAA	HOCO MOCO
IRF1	chr3:18033 2773- 180333239	408	427	10,21 88	0,000 0522	0,01 54	CAGAATAAAAGAG AAATTAT	HOCO MOCO
IRF1	chr3:18033 2773- 180333239	347	366	10,17 19	0,000 0534	0,01 54	GAAGAGGAAAGG AAAAGGGT	HOCO MOCO
SPI1	chr3:18033 2773- 180333239	424	440	9,953 12	0,000 0545	0,02 32	TGATACAGGAACT CAGA	HOCO MOCO
ZN467	chr3:18033 2773- 180333239	362	383	6,829 79	0,000 0548	0,00 914	AGGGTGGAACAG TCAGAGCAGC	HOCO MOCO
BC11A	chr3:18033 2773- 180333239	351	367	11,10 83	0,000 0553	0,01 55	AGGAAAGGAAAA GGGTG	HOCO MOCO

NR6A1	chr3:18033 2773- 180333239	109	121	9,372 09	0,000 0562	0,04 99	AAGGTCATGTTTT	HOCO MOCO
NR112	chr3:18033 2773- 180333239	398	416	10,69 77	0,000 0588	0,05 2	AGAAATTATAAGA GTTCAT	HOCO MOCO
IRF3	chr3:18033 2773- 180333239	70	89	10,56 2	0,000 0589	0,01 65	AAAAATGAAAATG AAAATGT	HOCO MOCO
RFX1	chr3:18033 2773- 180333239	163	184	7,578 12	0,000 0592	0,05 11	TCTGAGGTTGCTG AAGGCCCCA	HOCO MOCO
STAT2	chr3:18033 2773- 180333239	350	368	10,20 31	0,000 0592	0,02 53	GAGGAAAGGAAA AGGGTGG	HOCO MOCO
ELF5	chr3:18033 2773- 180333239	345	359	10,89 06	0,000 0597	0,05 15	CAGAAGAGGAAA GGA	HOCO MOCO
PATZ1	chr3:18033 2773- 180333239	362	383	9,134 45	0,000 0623	0,02 63	AGGGTGGAACAG TCAGAGCAGC	HOCO MOCO
ZN816	chr3:18033 2773- 180333239	359	379	8,078 12	0,000 0628	0,03 24	AAAAGGGTGGAA CAGTCAGAG	HOCO MOCO
ZN121	chr3:18033	162	181	5,095	0,000	0,05	CTGGGGCCTTCA	HOCO

	2773- 180333239			24	0632	53	GCAACCTC	MOCO
ZN263	chr3:18033 2773- 180333239	366	385	8,437 5	0,000 0657	0,05 66	TGGAACAGTCAGA GCAGCAA	HOCO MOCO
ZN335	chr3:18033 2773- 180333239	354	375	8,675 68	0,000 0657	0,05 6	GACTGTTCCACCC TTTTCTTT	HOCO MOCO
ZN490	chr3:18033 2773- 180333239	332	355	- 8,625	0,000 0665	0,05 71	TTCCTCTTCTGCA GGCAAAGATA	HOCO MOCO
ZN274	chr3:18033 2773- 180333239	341	360	9,369 75	0,000 0665	0,02 89	CCTGCAGAAGAG GAAAGGAA	HOCO MOCO
NFAC1	chr3:18033 2773- 180333239	350	364	11,07 62	0,000 0689	0,05 91	GAGGAAAGGAAA AGG	HOCO MOCO
ZN341	chr3:18033 2773- 180333239	359	380	9,264 96	0,000 0706	0,01 17	AAAAGGGTGGAA CAGTCAGAGC	HOCO MOCO
ETS2	chr3:18033 2773- 180333239	348	360	10,98 44	0,000 0708	0,03 05	AAGAGGAAAGGA A	HOCO MOCO
ETV4	chr3:18033 2773-	263	273	11,15 62	0,000 0715	0,03 12	CCCAGGAAATA	HOCO MOCO

	180333239							
NR2C1	chr3:18033 2773- 180333239	114	126	10,04 26	0,000 0721	0,06 33	CTTAAAAGGTCAT	HOCO MOCO
IRF2	chr3:18033 2773- 180333239	408	427	8,515 62	0,000 0735	0,02 7	CAGAATAAAAGAG AAATTAT	HOCO MOCO
PAX6	chr3:18033 2773- 180333239	1	12	10,85 95	0,000 0738	0,06 6	TCTCACTTGAGT	HOCO MOCO
COT2	chr3:18033 2773- 180333239	111	123	10,84 38	0,000 0749	0,06 67	AAAAGGTCATGTT	HOCO MOCO
AP2A	chr3:18033 2773- 180333239	164	178	9,656 25	0,000 0753	0,06 64	GGGGCCTTCAGC AAC	HOCO MOCO
ZN816	chr3:18033 2773- 180333239	358	378	7,625	0,000 0758	0,03 24	GAAAAGGGTGGGA ACAGTCAGA	HOCO MOCO
KLF15	chr3:18033 2773- 180333239	362	380	6,609 38	0,000 0761	0,02 22	AGGGTGGAACAG TCAGAGC	HOCO MOCO
KLF15	chr3:18033 2773- 180333239	351	369	6,593 75	0,000 0766	0,02 22	AGGAAAGGAAAA GGGTGGA	HOCO MOCO

GCR	chr3:18033 2773- 180333239	367	381	10,46 88	0,000 0779	0,06 79	TGCTCTGACTGTT CC	HOCO MOCO
ZN214	chr3:18033 2773- 180333239	221	242	10,36	0,000 0783	0,06 87	CAGATCTTAATCC TCTGAATGA	HOCO MOCO
SMAD3	chr3:18033 2773- 180333239	36	47	10,67 8	0,000 0806	0,07 18	CTCTCTCTTCAG	HOCO MOCO
PTF1A	chr3:18033 2773- 180333239	158	175	9,704 76	0,000 0812	0,07 01	CCTTCTGGGGCC TTCAGC	HOCO MOCO
PRDM1	chr3:18033 2773- 180333239	347	360	10,23 44	0,000 0815	0,02 8	GAAGAGGAAAGG AA	HOCO MOCO
IRF7	chr3:18033 2773- 180333239	353	362	10,91 11	0,000 082	0,03 98	GAAAGGAAAA	HOCO MOCO
ETV2	chr3:18033 2773- 180333239	260	275	8,985 29	0,000 0826	0,03 6	GTGCCCAGGAAA TACA	HOCO MOCO
IRF3	chr3:18033 2773- 180333239	414	433	9,900 83	0,000 0854	0,01 79	GGAACTCAGAATA AAAGAGA	HOCO MOCO
ZNF76	chr3:18033	154	175	7,282	0,000	0,07	AAATCCTTCTGGG	HOCO

	2773- 180333239			05	0859	58	GCCTTCAGC	MOCO
BCL6	chr3:18033 2773- 180333239	197	209	10,47 69	0,000 0864	0,07 72	TGTTGTCTAGGGA	HOCO MOCO
HSF1	chr3:18033 2773- 180333239	160	174	9,75	0,000 0873	0,07 72	CTGAAGGCCCCA GAA	HOCO MOCO
NR5A2	chr3:18033 2773- 180333239	165	175	10,14 06	0,000 0876	0,07 87	GCTGAAGGCC	HOCO MOCO
IRF7	chr3:18033 2773- 180333239	76	85	10,84 44	0,000 0883	0,03 98	GAAAATGAAA	HOCO MOCO
STAT2	chr3:18033 2773- 180333239	74	92	9,296 88	0,000 0908	0,02 59	ATGAAAATGAAAA TGTA	HOCO MOCO
MAZ	chr3:18033 2773- 180333239	350	371	7,923 73	0,000 0909	0,01 52	GAGGAAAGGAAA AGGGTGGAAAC	HOCO MOCO
KLF5	chr3:18033 2773- 180333239	362	375	8,953 12	0,000 092	0,08 22	AGGGTGGAAACAG TC	HOCO MOCO
ZN467	chr3:18033 2773-	352	373	5,542 55	0,000 0923	0,01 28	GGAAAGGAAAAG GGTGGAAACAG	HOCO MOCO

	180333239							
PRDM6	chr3:18033 2773- 180333239	348	360	10,87 5	0,000 0929	0,04 13	AAGAGGAAAGGA A	HOCO MOCO
IRF2	chr3:18033 2773- 180333239	347	366	7,906 25	0,000 094	0,02 7	GAAGAGGAAAGG AAAAGGGT	HOCO MOCO
IRF8	chr3:18033 2773- 180333239	420	439	8,609 38	0,000 0967	0,04 21	GATACAGGAACTC AGAATAA	HOCO MOCO
PRDM1	chr3:18033 2773- 180333239	352	365	9,890 62	0,000 0968	0,02 8	GGAAAGGAAAAG GG	HOCO MOCO
ELF3	chr3:18033 2773- 180333239	346	359	10,03 12	0,000 0971	0,08 4	AGAAGAGGAAAG GA	HOCO MOCO
IRF8	chr3:18033 2773- 180333239	70	89	8,562 5	0,000 0987	0,04 21	AAAAATGAAAATG AAAATGT	HOCO MOCO
ZFP28	chr3:18033 2773- 180333239	342	361	7,312 5	0,000 0994	0,04 22	TTTCCTTTCCTCTT CTGCAG	HOCO MOCO
ZFP28	chr3:18033 2773- 180333239	413	432	7,312 5	0,000 0994	0,04 22	TTCTCTTTTATTCT GAGTTC	HOCO MOCO

ZNF263	chr3:18033 2773- 180333239	349	369	13,5	0,000	0,00	AGAGGAAAGGAA AAGGGTGGA	JASPA R
HIC2	chr3:18033 2773- 180333239	260	268	13,67 92	0,000 00814	0,00 726	GTGCCCAGG	JASPA R
IRF1	chr3:18033 2773- 180333239	71	91	13,7	0,000 00837	0,00 715	GTACATTTTCATTT TCATTTT	JASPA R
SP2	chr3:18033 2773- 180333239	357	371	12,41 07	0,000 0108	0,00 916	GTTCCACCCTTTT CC	JASPA R
DMRT3	chr3:18033 2773- 180333239	432	442	12,78 33	0,000 0116	0,01 03	CCTGTATCAAC	JASPA R
CRX	chr3:18033 2773- 180333239	227	237	13,58 93	0,000 0136	0,01 2	CAGAGGATTAA	JASPA R
ZFX	chr3:18033 2773- 180333239	158	171	12,23 44	0,000 0145	0,01 25	CCTTCTGGGGCC TT	JASPA R
IRF7	chr3:18033 2773- 180333239	74	87	12,45	0,000 0148	0,01 31	ATGAAAATGAAAA T	JASPA R
ZNF263	chr3:18033	346	366	11,60	0,000	0,00	AGAAGAGGAAAG	JASPA

	2773- 180333239			42	015	634	GAAAAGGGT	R
IRF3	chr3:18033 2773- 180333239	345	365	7,547 95	0,000 0155	0,01 09	CAGAAGAGGAAA GGAAAAGGG	JASPA R
NR4A1	chr3:18033 2773- 180333239	114	123	13,88 24	0,000 0165	0,01 5	AAAAGGTCAT	JASPA R
ZNF24	chr3:18033 2773- 180333239	453	465	12,24 76	0,000 0167	0,01 48	AATTCATTTATTC	JASPA R
NR2F6(VAR.2)	chr3:18033 2773- 180333239	115	129	- 0,205 882	0,000 0175	0,01 56	CTGCTTAAAAGGT CA	JASPA R
NR2F2	chr3:18033 2773- 180333239	113	123	13,35 9	0,000 0196	0,01 77	AAAAGGTCATG	JASPA R
GSC2	chr3:18033 2773- 180333239	226	235	11,60 34	0,000 0211	0,01 86	CTTAATCCTC	JASPA R
CDX2	chr3:18033 2773- 180333239	380	390	13,17 74	0,000 0215	0,01 95	CAGCAATAAAG	JASPA R
GATA1: :TAL1	chr3:18033 2773-	330	347	12,69 81	0,000 0216	0,01 91	CATATCTTTTGCC TGCAG	JASPA R

	180333239							
IRF3	chr3:18033 2773- 180333239	68	88	6,191 78	0,000 0249	0,01 09	TTAAAAATGAAAA TGAAAATG	JASPA R
BCL6	chr3:18033 2773- 180333239	196	209	12,33 33	0,000 026	0,02 33	GTCCCTAGACAAC A	JASPA R
KLF5	chr3:18033 2773- 180333239	362	371	11,18 75	0,000 0301	0,02 65	GTTCCACCCT	JASPA R
SP1	chr3:18033 2773- 180333239	361	371	10,33 33	0,000 0332	0,02 92	GTTCCACCCTT	JASPA R
IRF1	chr3:18033 2773- 180333239	348	368	10,85	0,000 0348	0,01 49	CCACCCTTTTCCT TTCCTCTT	JASPA R
IRF9	chr3:18033 2773- 180333239	73	87	0,660 377	0,000 0359	0,03 17	AATGAAAATGAAA AT	JASPA R
ZNF263	chr3:18033 2773- 180333239	350	370	9,645 83	0,000 0399	0,01 13	GAGGAAAGGAAA AGGGTGGAA	JASPA R
IRF8	chr3:18033 2773- 180333239	74	87	- 0,056 6038	0,000 0435	0,03 92	ATGAAAATGAAAA T	JASPA R

GSC	chr3:18033 2773- 180333239	226	235	11,5 0,000	0,04 0475	0,04 31	CTTAATCCTC	JASPA R
NR1H2: :RXRA	chr3:18033 2773- 180333239	113	129	- 4,829 79	0,000 0506	0,04 4	CTGCTTAAAAGGT CATG	JASPA R
CDX1	chr3:18033 2773- 180333239	382	390	10,83 02	0,000 0507	0,04 64	GCAATAAAG	JASPA R
ZIC1	chr3:18033 2773- 180333239	274	287	3,739 13	0,000 0532	0,04 64	AAGCACCTACTGT G	JASPA R
FOXH1	chr3:18033 2773- 180333239	267	277	11,58 82	0,000 0534	0,04 74	GGAAATACACA	JASPA R
ELF1	chr3:18033 2773- 180333239	262	273	8,226 42	0,000 0574	0,05 13	GCCCAGGAAATA	JASPA R
ZNF263	chr3:18033 2773- 180333239	376	396	8,666 67	0,000 0634	0,01 34	AGAGCAGCAATAA AGGTAAGA	JASPA R
RORA	chr3:18033 2773- 180333239	115	124	12,03 19	0,000 0663	0,05 99	TAAAAGGTCA	JASPA R
ESRRA	chr3:18033	114	124	6,647	0,000	0,06	TAAAAGGTCAT	JASPA

	2773- 180333239			06	0742	75		R
TCF7	chr3:18033 2773- 180333239	347	358	9,333 33	0,000 0751	0,06 62	GAAGAGGAAAGG	JASPA R
MEIS2	chr3:18033 2773- 180333239	53	60	11,12 5	0,000 0769	0,06 93	TTGACAGA	JASPA R
KLF1	chr3:18033 2773- 180333239	362	372	8,859 38	0,000 0774	0,06 93	TGTTCCACCCT	JASPA R
IRF4	chr3:18033 2773- 180333239	74	88	0,156 25	0,000 0776	0,06 99	ATGAAAATGAAAA TG	JASPA R
POU2F 2	chr3:18033 2773- 180333239	72	84	10,69 64	0,000 0799	0,07	TTCATTTTCATTT	JASPA R
NR2F1	chr3:18033 2773- 180333239	111	123	10,14 58	0,000 0806	0,07 31	AAAAGGTCATGTT	JASPA R
VDR	chr3:18033 2773- 180333239	399	406	10,66 42	0,000 0815	0,07 46	AGAGTTCA	JASPA R
SMAD4	chr3:18033 2773-	199	206	12,13 33	0,000 0817	0,07 41	TGTCTAGG	JASPA R

	180333239							
IRF2	chr3:18033 2773- 180333239	75	92	4,701 92	0,000 0818	0,07 29	TGAAAATGAAAAT GTACT	JASPA R
IRF1	chr3:18033 2773- 180333239	406	426	8,883 33	0,000 0818	0,02 33	TTATAATTTCTCTT TTATTCT	JASPA R
RXRB	chr3:18033 2773- 180333239	115	128	- 0,924 528	0,000 0821	0,07 29	TGCTTAAAAGGTC A	JASPA R
GFI1B	chr3:18033 2773- 180333239	175	185	10,67 86	0,000 0844	0,07 35	CAACCTCAGAA	JASPA R
HLTF	chr3:18033 2773- 180333239	357	366	9,093 02	0,000 0859	0,07 76	ACCCTTTTCC	JASPA R
ELK4	chr3:18033 2773- 180333239	264	274	9,490 57	0,000 0862	0,07 62	GTATTTCTGG	JASPA R
PITX3	chr3:18033 2773- 180333239	226	234	10,81 48	0,000 0862	0,07 9	CTTAATCCT	JASPA R
MEIS1	chr3:18033 2773- 180333239	53	59	10,45 45	0,000 0863	0,07 93	TTGACAG	JASPA R

SPIB	chr3:18033 2773- 180333239	349	355	11,41 86	0,000 0863	0,07 77	AGAGGAA	JASPA R
ELF4	chr3:18033 2773- 180333239	262	273	7,2	0,000 0926	0,08 29	GCCCAGGAAATA	JASPA R
EHF	chr3:18033 2773- 180333239	262	273	8,816 67	0,000 0945	0,08 44	GCCCAGGAAATA	JASPA R

Figure S1

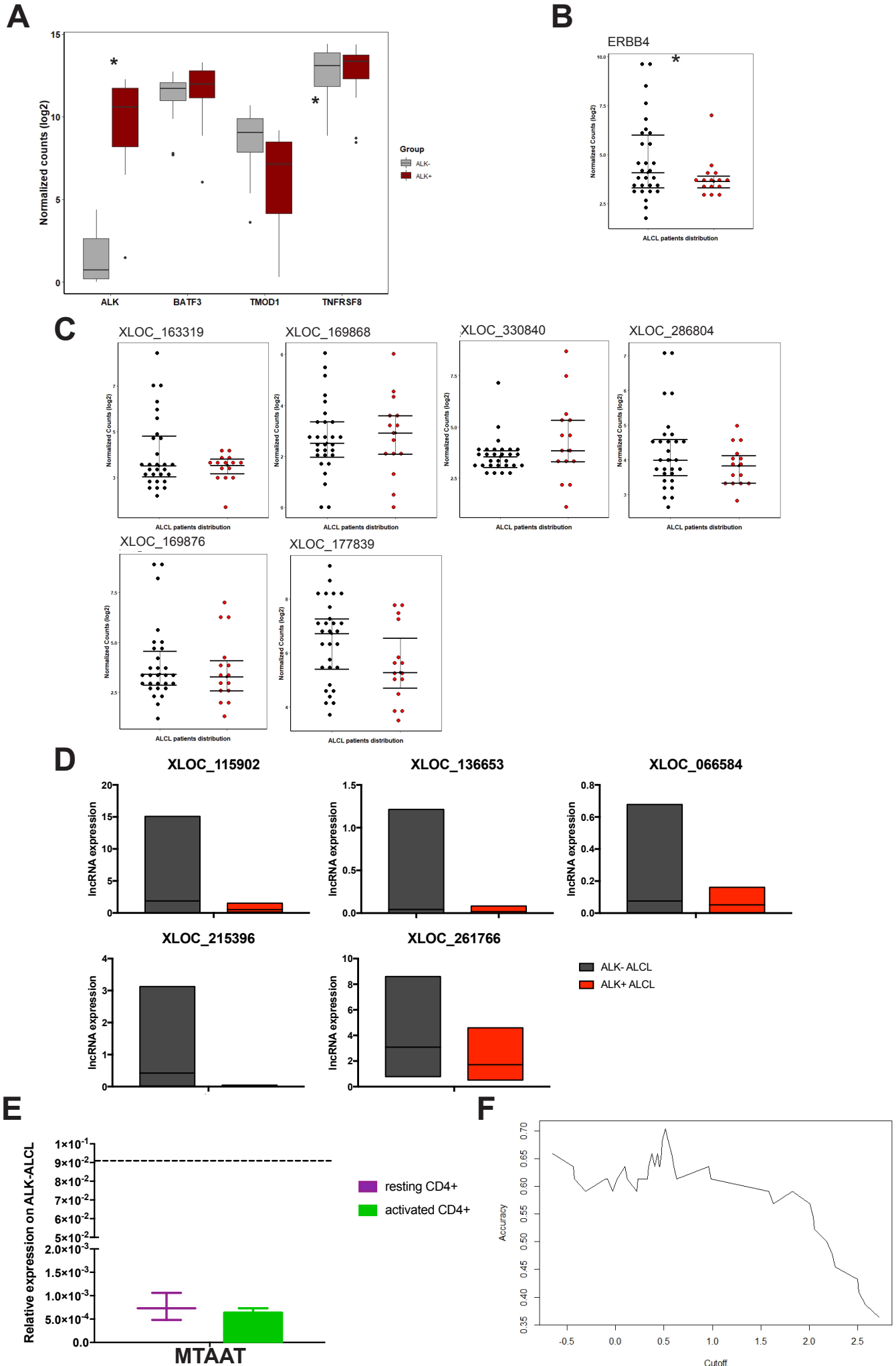


Figure S2

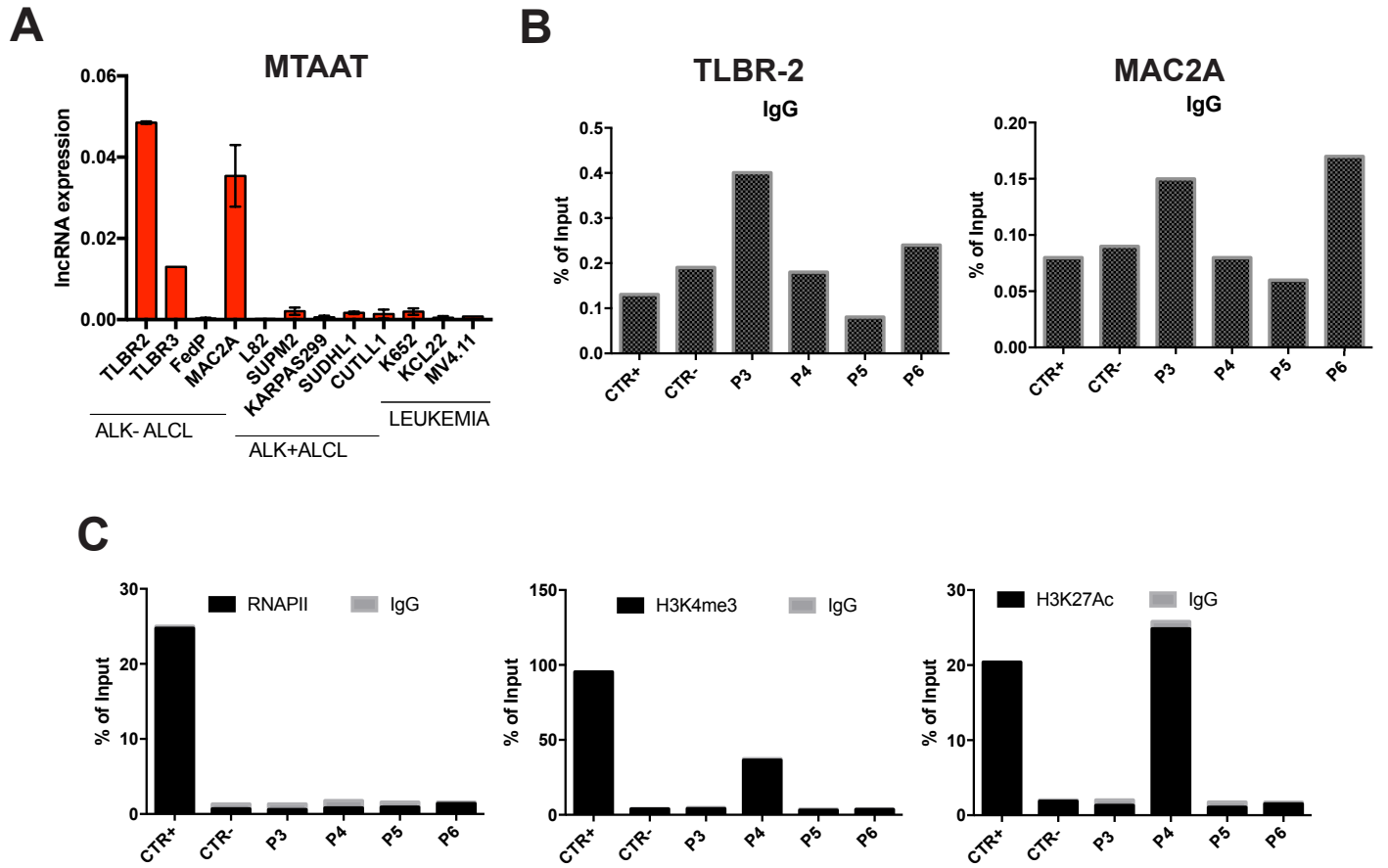
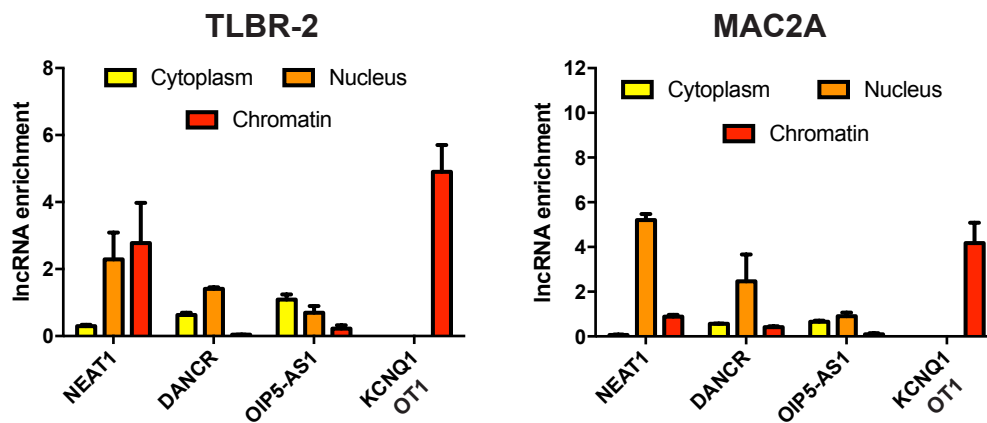
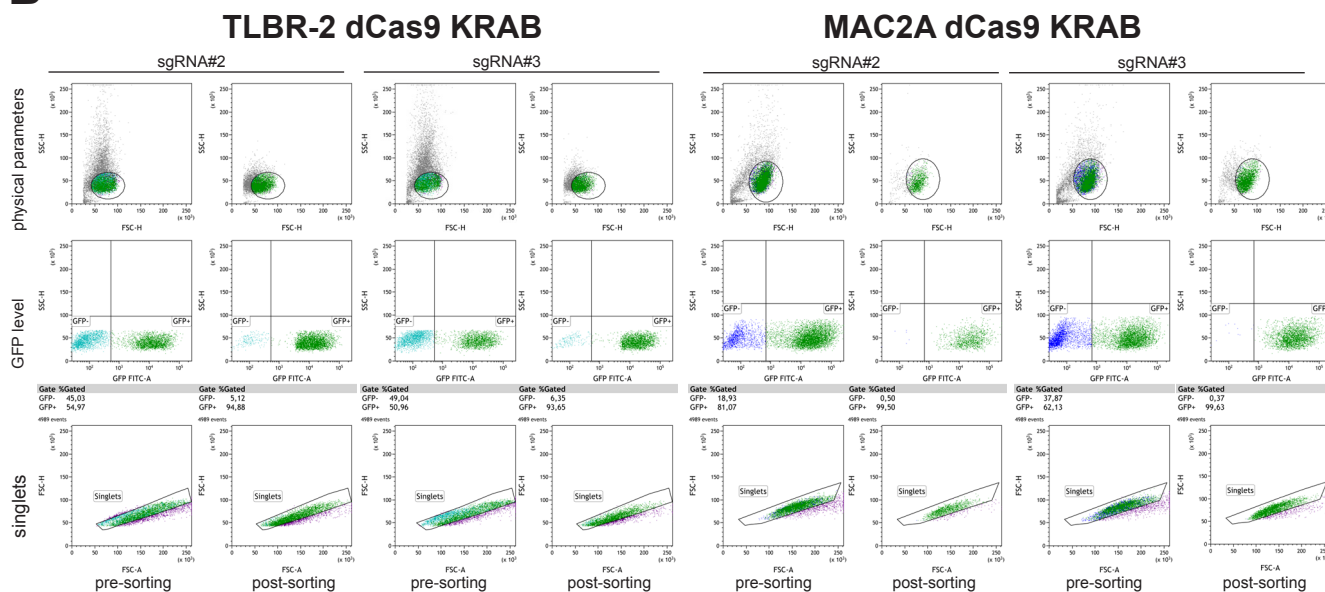


Figure S3

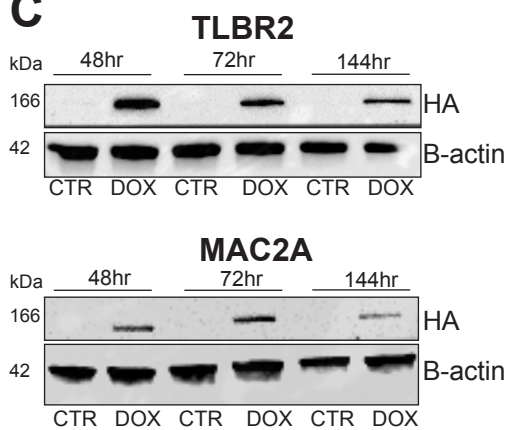
A



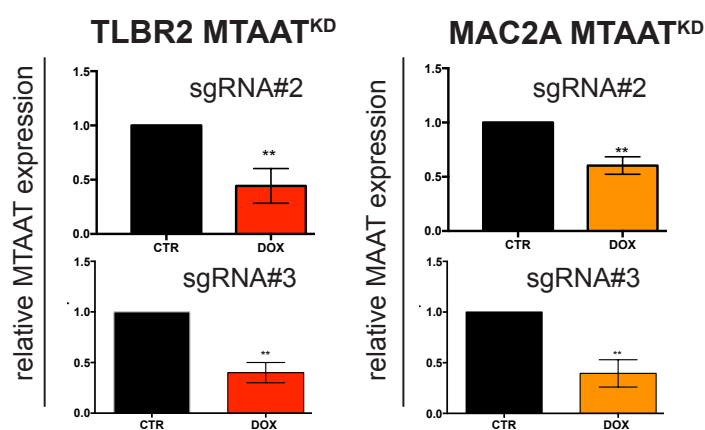
B



C



D



E

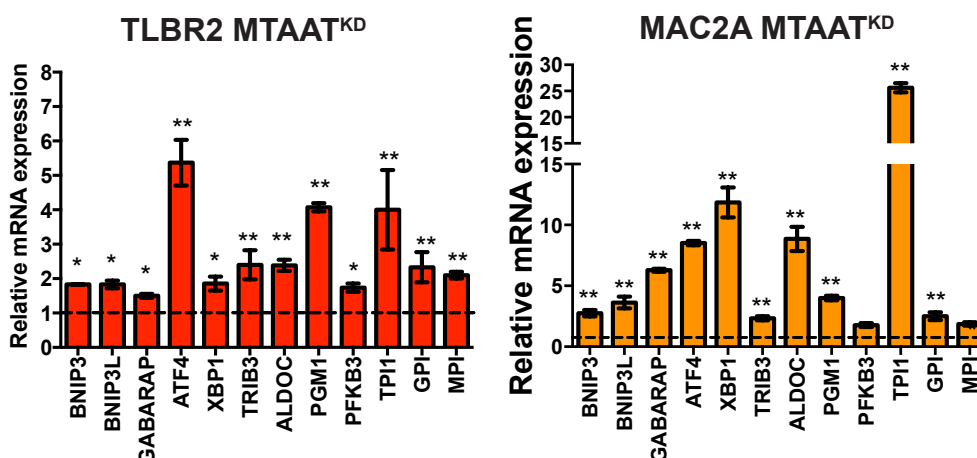


Figure S4

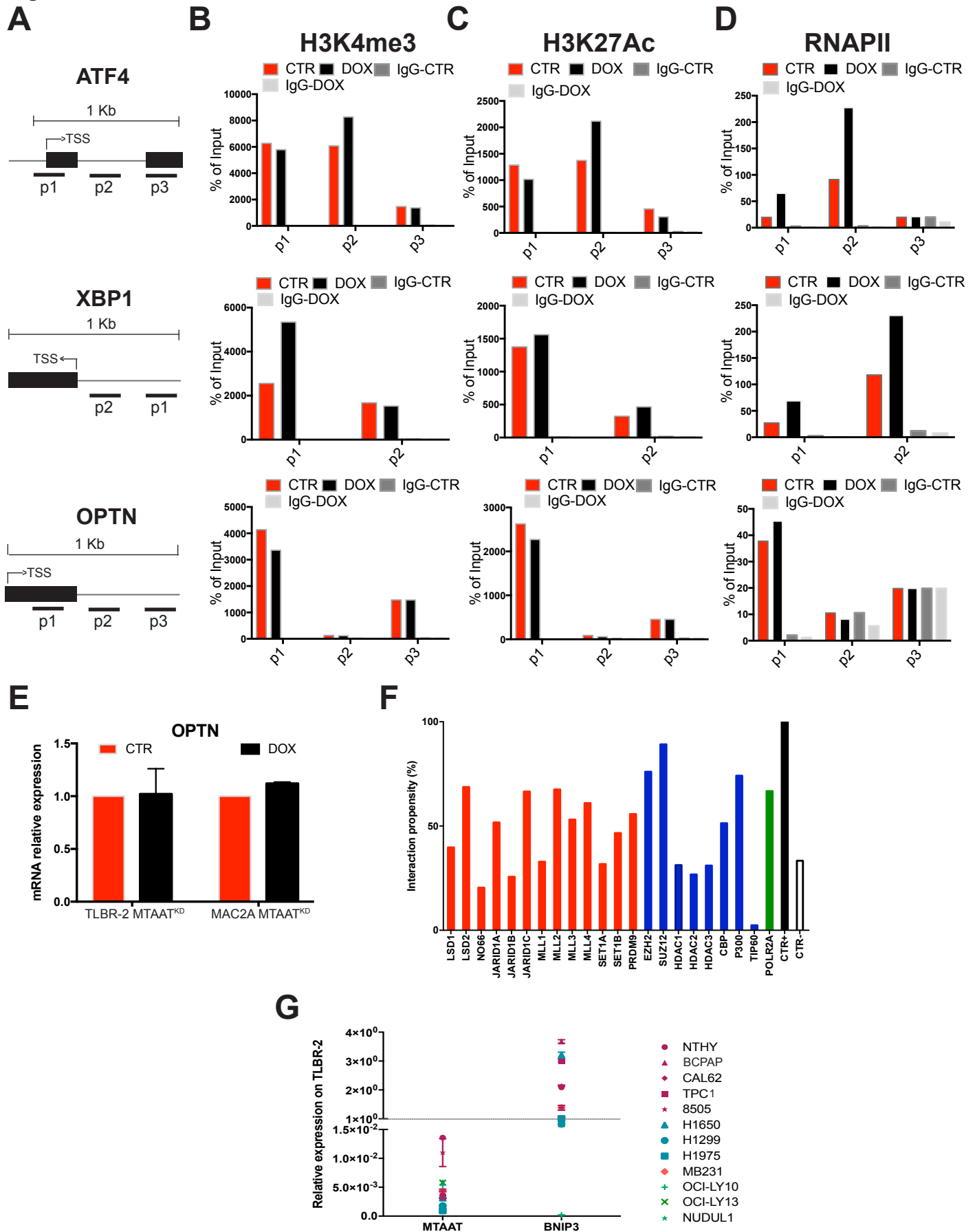


Figure S5

