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Inherited bone marrow failure syndromes (IBMFs) such as Fanconi Anemia (FA) and Shwachman-Diamond syndrome (SDS) feature progressive cytopenia and a risk of acute myeloid leukemia (AML). Using deep phenotypic analysis of early progenitors in FA/SDS bone marrow samples we revealed selective survival of progenitors that phenotypically resembled granulocyte-monocyte progenitors (GMP). Whole exome and targeted sequencing of GMP-like cells in leukemia-free patients revealed a higher mutation load than in healthy controls and molecular changes that are characteristic of AML: increased G>A/C>T variants, decreased A>G/T>C variants, increased trinucleotide mutations at Xp(C>T)pT and decreased mutation rates at Xp(C>T)pG sites compared to other Xp(C>T)pX sites and enrichment for Cancer signature 1 (X indicates any nucleotide). Potential pre-leukemic targets in the GMP-like cells from FA/SDS patients included SYNE1, DST, HUWE1, LRP2, NOTCH2 and TP53. Serial analysis of GMPs from a SDS patient, who progressed to leukemia revealed a gradual increase in mutational burden, enrichment of G>A/C>T signature and emergence of new clones. Interestingly, the molecular signature of marrow cells from two FA/SDS patients with leukemia was similar to that of FA/SDS patients without transformation. The predicted founding clones in SDS-AML harbored mutations in several genes including TP53, while in FA-AML the mutated genes included ARID1B and SFPQ. We described an architectural change in the hematopoietic hierarchy of FA/SDS with remarkable preservation of GMP-like populations harboring [...]

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## Cellular and Molecular Architecture of Hematopoietic Stem Cells and Progenitors in Genetic Models of Bone Marrow Failure

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**ABSTRACT**

Inherited bone marrow failure syndromes (IBMFSs) such as Fanconi Anemia (FA) and Shwachman-Diamond syndrome (SDS) feature progressive cytopenia and a risk of acute myeloid leukemia (AML). Using deep phenotypic analysis of early progenitors in FA/SDS bone marrow samples we revealed selective survival of progenitors that phenotypically resembled granulocyte-monocyte progenitors (GMP). Whole exome and targeted sequencing of GMP-like cells in leukemia-free patients revealed a higher mutation load than in healthy controls and molecular changes that are characteristic of AML: increased G>A/C>T variants, decreased A>G/T>C variants, increased trinucleotide mutations at Xp(C>T)pT and decreased mutation rates at Xp(C>T)pG sites compared to other Xp(C>T)pX sites and enrichment for Cancer signature 1 (X indicates any nucleotide). Potential pre-leukemic targets in the GMP-like cells from FA/SDS patients included *SYNE1*, *DST*, *HUWE1*, *LRP2*, *NOTCH2* and *TP53*. Serial analysis of GMPs from a SDS patient, who progressed to leukemia revealed a gradual increase in mutational burden, enrichment of G>A/C>T signature and emergence of new clones. Interestingly, the molecular signature of marrow cells from two FA/SDS patients with leukemia was similar to that of FA/SDS patients without transformation. The predicted founding clones in SDS-AML harbored mutations in several genes including *TP53*, while in FA-AML the mutated genes included *ARID1B* and *SFPQ*. We described an architectural change in the hematopoietic hierarchy of FA/SDS with remarkable preservation of GMP-like populations harboring unique mutation signatures. GMP-like cells might represent a cellular reservoir for clonal evolution.

## INTRODUCTION

Myelodysplastic syndrome (MDS) and acute myeloid leukemia (AML) comprise a spectrum of hematopoietic disorders. Despite intensive chemotherapy and hematopoietic stem cell (HSC) transplantation the overall survival of advanced MDS/AML remains low; ~60% in children and ~30% in adults (1). The outcome is further compromised by treatment-related, long-term adverse events (2).

Hematopoiesis is a complex developmental system that is organized as a hierarchy sustained by multipotent HSCs. Although typically depicted with increasingly restricted oligopotent and unipotent progenitors downstream of the HSC, recent studies demonstrated a reshaping of the architecture of human hematopoietic hierarchy between in-utero fetal liver and adulthood timepoints (3-5). Transcriptional and functional analysis suggests that by adulthood, there is predominantly a two tier hierarchy of multipotent and unipotent HSPCs (5).

AML is a heterogeneous disorder that derives from early HSCP, which undergoes malignant transformation to leukemic blast and clonal expansion. Deep sequencing of leukemic samples extrapolated the existence of founding clones and derived subclones (6). AML is sometimes preceded by MDS. MDS is a clonal pre-leukemic disease state with cytopenia due to underproduction, abnormal differentiation, increased apoptosis, varying degrees of leukemic blasts and a high risk of progression to leukemia. The incidence of both, MDS and AML, increases with age (7), but both can present in early childhood (8, 9).

Several cytogenetic abnormalities have been identified in bone marrow samples from patients with de novo MDS/AML, including -7, +8, del(12q). Genes that are mutated and might be involved in MDS/AML evolution have been recently discovered; for example, RNA-splicing machinery (e.g. *SRSF2*, *SF3B1*, *U2AF1*), DNA methylation (e.g. *IDH1*, *IDH2*, *TET2*, *DNMT3A*), transcription factors (e.g. *RUNX1*), chromatin modification (e.g. *EZH2*, *ASXL1*), signal transduction (e.g. *FLT3*), RAS pathway (e.g. *KRAS*), cohesin complex (e.g. *STAG2*) and DNA repair (e.g. *FANCL*) genes (reviewed in(10)). These data advanced our knowledge about MDS/AML pathology; however, the mechanisms underlying clonal initiation and progression are largely unknown.

Although rare, inherited bone marrow failure syndromes (IBMFSs) provide an opportunity to study AML evolution and progression due to a high risk of MDS/AML (11, 12) and stepwise progression from non-malignant hematopoietic phase, to MDS (13) and on to AML (14-16). We previously showed that by the age of 18 years, patients with the more common IBMFSs, Fanconi anemia (FA) and Shwachman Diamond syndrome (SDS), have 75% and 25% risk respectively of developing marrow cytogenetic abnormalities/MDS/AML (11). AML secondary to MDS has particularly poor outcome. Only few studies that focused on clonal hematopoiesis in IBMFSs have been published. *TP53* mutations were identified in some SDS patients with (17) or without MDS/AML (18). *RUNX1* mutations have been detected in whole marrow cells from several patients with FA patients without transformation (19). *CSFR3*(18, 20, 21) and *RUNX1* (22) mutations have been detected in whole marrow cells from severe congenital neutropenia patients with and without MDS/AML. Further studies are necessary to decipher the cells that found transformation and why they abnormally accumulate mutations.

In this study, we aimed to discover cellular and molecular signatures underlying early clonal evolution when no clinical signs of MDS/AML are detected in two relatively prevalent IBMFSs that feature an initial marrow failure phase and frequently progress to MDS/AML: FA and SDS. FA is caused by germline mutations in one of 23 DNA repair genes collectively referred to as the FA pathway (23), and SDS is caused by germline mutations in genes that are involved in late stage of 60S ribosome subunit maturation, *SBDS* (24), *DNAJC21*(25) and *EFL1* (26), but also in *SRP54* (27), which is involved in the cotranslation protein-targeting pathway. We found that granulocyte-monocyte progenitor (GMP)-like population are relatively preserved compared to marked exhaustion of other cell populations, they carry a high mutation load and a unique trinucleotide mutation signature; suggesting that GMP-like cells are a reservoir for clonal evolution.

## RESULTS

### **Hematopoietic stem cells and multipotent progenitors are markedly reduced in FA/SDS**

We and others showed global reduction in hematopoietic cells and in CD34+ cells in bone marrows from patients with FA (28) and SDS (29). We hypothesized that in both disorders defects begin within the most early hematopoietic cells, and applied 12-parameter deep

immunophenotyping profiling methodology based on recently developed approaches (5, 30)(Figure 1A). Cell numbers were normalized to the viable (propidium iodide-negative) cells in the sample. Within the CD34+CD38- primitive progenitor compartment and compared to healthy controls, the relative numbers of CD90+CD45RA- hematopoietic stem cells (HSC) were reduced 14.1 and 4.6-fold in FA and SDS, respectively, and the CD90-/CD45RA- multipotent progenitors (MPP) were reduced 17.7 and 7.8-fold in FA and SDS, respectively (Figure 1B-C). Since most FA/SDS patients included in this study had hypocellular bone marrow specimens (Supplemental Table 1), we suggest that the average fold decrease in absolute numbers of patients' HSCPs compared to healthy controls is probably higher than that of the above relative numbers.

#### **FA/SDS are characterized by variable levels of oligopotential hematopoietic progenitor loss**

CD34+CD38+ progenitors include the common myeloid progenitors (CMP), megakaryocyte erythroid progenitor (MEP) and GMPs. CMPs and MEPs were markedly and significantly reduced in the patients. CMPs were reduced 8.1 and 3.5-fold in FA and SDS, respectively. MEPs were reduced 12.3 and 15.5-fold in FA and SDS, respectively (Figure 1D-E).

Unexpectedly, the reduction of HSCs did not result in universal reduction of all their downstream progenies. In SDS, MEPs represented the most affected population compared to CMPs or GMPs. In FA, MEPs and CMPs were markedly reduced compared to GMPs. Furthermore, in both SDS and FA, GMPs (CD34+/CD38+/FLT3+/CD45RA+) were least affected and relatively preserved, with only 1.5-fold reduction in SDS and 2.3-fold reduction in FA. In SDS, the percentages of GMPs were not significantly different from controls (Figure 1D-E). Remarkable, when HSCP frequencies were normalized to the total number of CD34+ cells in the respective sample, the average percentage of SDS GMPs was a modest 1.56 fold higher than the average percentage of healthy controls' GMPs ( $p=0.03$ ). In FA, the average GMPs was 1.15 time higher than that of controls, but the difference did not reach statistical significance (Supplemental Figure 1). These data about FA/SDS GMPs were surprising for both disorders, but particularly in SDS, as granulopoiesis is the most affected series in SDS (29, 31).

#### **FA/SDS feature abnormally high frequency of somatic variants in GMPs**

The IBMFS are difficult to study genetically since there is a paucity of cells to work with. Therefore, we undertook genetic analysis to gain insight into the mutations present within the GMP population that seemed to be persisting more extensively than other progenitors. In addition, because of the relative abundance of GMP-like cells we reasoned that they are more likely to carry mutations that confer growth advantage than other progenitors that were markedly reduced.

We analyzed somatic tier 1-2 variants in GMP-like cells, as described in the Methods. Bone marrow fibroblasts were used as a surrogate germline tissue. The cogency of variant detection was supported by a high congruence of mapped reads across the genome (Supplemental Figure 2) and per chromosome (Supplemental Figure 3). Analysis of a marrow fibroblast sample demonstrated that this congruence was seen between amplified and non-amplified DNA before whole exome sequencing (WES). Importantly, we consistently saw lower variant numbers when GMPs were compared to self fibroblasts versus fibroblasts from other subjects; which is expected given normal genomic variations between individuals (Supplemental Figure 4). There was a consistently higher number variants in patients versus controls who were processed and analyzed in an identical fashion (see below). Detection of calls by MuTect2 and by other mutation caller software programs (Sterlka and VarScan) was also highly congruent (Data not shown). In addition, there was no correlation between gene size and number of variants detected, which would be expected from random mutations along the genome. Also, we found no aberrantly high rates of C>T (G>A) errors in analysis of a GMP DNA sample compared to a blood DNA sample amplified by single cell REPl-G whole-genome amplification kit and by VarScan mutation caller software (Data not shown). Last, detecting variants by WES and the Cancer gene panel showed high congruence (Supplemental Table 2).

The numbers of somatic variants among FA patients (mean 111) and SDS patients (mean 108) were remarkably higher than that among control subjects (mean 25), whose samples were processed in the same way (P values of 0.04 and 0.02, respectively)(Figure 2A). All variants were rare (minor allele frequency of  $\leq 1\%$ ) or absent in the general population's databases (Data not shown). There was no significant age difference between FA/SDS patients and controls

( $p=0.34$  and  $p=0.41$ , respectively). Interestingly, the frequency of variants in FA was not statistically different from SDS (Figure 2A).

The total number of variants in each subject according to age at sampling are in Figure 2B-D. Statistically significant correlation between mutation burden and age could not be accurately determined since a larger number of subjects in each group are required for this analysis. Importantly, the variants in SDS/FA appeared in significantly higher allele frequencies compared to those of controls ( $p<0.0001$ )(Figure 2E).

### **Types of nucleotide change across patients**

Due to their AML-predisposition, we reasoned that mutations in FA/SDS GMP-like cells are characterized by previously published AML mutational patterns. Therefore, we employed multiple analytical techniques to understand the mutational process and patterns underlying the high mutational load in FA/SDS. First, we determined the variants underlying transition changes (interchanges between purines bases or between pyrimidine bases, Figure 3A) and transversion changes (interchanges between purine and pyrimidine bases, Supplemental Figure 5). We found that the most abundant single nucleotide variants (SNVs) in all groups (FA, SDS and controls) was as seen in AML (32); namely G>A/C>T transitions, followed by A>G/T>C transitions and G>T/C>A, C>G/G>C transversions. Nevertheless, the proportions of G>A/C>T transitions in FA/SDS were significantly higher than those of control subjects ( $p<0.05$ ).

To gain further insight into the mutational processes in FA/SDS, we analyzed variants in the context of a trinucleotide change: the six options of nucleotide substitutions and the 16 combinations of bases immediately 3' and 5' to this variant. Overall, this results in a mutational signature that comprises 96 different trinucleotide frames for each subject that are displayed in a heatmap in Figure 3B. All the subject groups showed a high C>T mutation rate regardless of the flanking 5' and 3'-nucleotide (Xp(C>T)pX sites). However, but this propensity was much more prominent in FA ( $p=0.04$ ) and SDS ( $p=0.02$ ) patients than in controls. The visualization of vertical rows on the heatmap suggests that the 3' base has a greater influence on the mutational pattern. The vertical rows seen within the C>T region indicate that most patients have greater mutation rates at Xp(C>T)pT and lesser mutation rates at Xp(C>T)pG sites (Arrows in Figure

3B) compared to other Xp(C>T)pX sites. This pattern was less prominent in healthy control subjects. The low amount of mutations seen at Xp(C>T)pG sites may be attributed to the relatively low amount of CpG sites in the genome and could be the result of the deamination of methylated cytosines (33). Last, there was a modestly increased mutational load at T>C sites in FA/SDS.

Different cancers generate mutations through distinct processes and leave their mark on the genome through a unique mutational signatures (34). To identify the specific cancer trinucleotide signature of GMP-like cells from each subject, we first normalized variants to the relative contribution of each trinucleotide in the exome region using the DeconstructSigs R package and then compared our results to those in the Catalogue of Somatic Mutation in Cancer (COSMIC) database. Normalization entails determining the amount of a certain trinucleotide variant relative to the amount of native trinucleotides occurring within the respective genome. De novo AML has previously been characterized by the COSMIC database to have a trinucleotide pattern contributed by Signatures 1 (spontaneous deamination of 5-methylcytosine) and 5 (transcriptional strand bias for T>C substitutions at ApTpX context). Due to a minimum 50 variant criterion for analysis, cancer signatures could be constructed from 9 of the 14 FA/SDS GMP-like cell samples, but from none of the control subjects (Supplemental figure 6-14). Importantly, the AML signature 1 was more frequent (8 of the 9 patients), and more often the dominant signature (4 of the 9 patients) than other signatures (Supplemental Table 3).

The analysis of tier 1-2 SNVs and indels predicted varying degrees of damage to the encoded protein from stopgain, frameshift, start lost, splicing and missense alterations to potentially less severe effect of 3' UTR, 5' UTR and synonymous changes (Figure 3C). The distribution of mutation types for patients was similar to controls although the rates of mutations was higher.

### **Mutated genes and mutational trees**

To identify genes that might be involved in malignant myeloid transformation and to construct mutational trees, we selected genes with mutations that fulfilled the criteria described in the Methods and had moderate to high software-predicted impact on the protein; namely, nonsense,

splicing, frameshift, indel/inframe, start site loss and missense. The average number of mutated genes per subject was significantly higher in FA (61) and SDS (58) compared to controls (14) (Figure 3D); but was not statistically different when FA and SDS were compared.

Importantly, there were a substantial number of genes with moderate to high impact mutations in more than one FA/SDS patient (Table 1). Commonly mutated cancer-related genes in both, FA and SDS, included the nuclear membrane gene *SYNE1* and the ubiquitin E3 ligase gene *HUWE1*. Genetic mutations or dysregulation of these genes have previously been implicated in several solid tumor such colon and gastric cancer, though not in leukemia. Several known MDS/AML-driver genes were recurrently mutated in SDS (e.g. *ASXL1*, *TP53* and *CUX1*) and FA (e.g. *BCOR*)(Supplemental Table 4). It is noteworthy that mutations in the TP53 binding protein 1 gene, *TP53BP1* (p.Asp11Asn and p.Val687Ile) were seen in two SDS patients. The number of variants in mutated genes was not related to the gene size (Supplemental Figure 15), indicating a non-random distribution of mutations.

Compilation of a dominant mutational tree in samples without clinical evidence of transformation was performed as described (35) in all FA (Supplemental Figure 16A-F) and SDS samples (Supplemental Figure 17A-G). The specific genes and variants in each clone are listed in Supplemental Table 5. In all samples there were mutations in known MDS/AML genes and in other cancer-related genes that have not previously been reported in MDS/AML. Interestingly, in two FA samples the founding clones harbored somatic mutations in MDS/AML-related genes (*KDM6A* in FA3 and *FANCE* in FA5); while in the rest of the FA samples the founding clones harbored cancer-related genes that have not been previously associated with MDS/AML. *TP53* mutations were part of the founding clones in two SDS patients (SDS1 and SDS5) (Supplemental Table 5), but in none of the samples of FA patients without leukemia. Other MDS/AML related genes were identified in the founding clones in three other patients with SDS (Supplemental Table 5).

Analysis of MDS/AML-related gene pathways showed high rates of mutations in the transcription factors/regulation pathway, DNA repair/checkpoint gene pathway, and activated signaling molecules pathway in FA/SDS (Supplemental Figure 18).

### **Clonal landscape of AML samples in FA/SDS**

To gain insight into the relevance of variants and mutated genes detected in samples without transformation, we analyzed leukemic cells from one FA (FA7) patient with AML and one SDS patient (SDS7) with AML. Although only two AML cases from these rare disorders were available for the study, these anecdotes provide a unique opportunity to observe processes that appeared at two stage: before any clinical and standard laboratory evidence of transformation and at an ultimate catastrophic phase of leukemia. Blast cell samples were paired with marrow fibroblasts or T-cells from the same subject, and somatic variants in blasts were analysed as described in the Methods. The mutations rate in SDS-AML blasts was slightly higher than the rates in all other SDS samples without transformation, but the number of variants in FA-AML blasts was within the range of those in non-transformed FA samples (Figure 4A).

Similar to our findings in non-AML samples, both FA/SDS samples showed higher G>A/C>T transition rates than controls; the predominant mutation type in de-novo AML (Figure 4B)(34). The number of transversion was low (Supplemental Figure 19), and meaningful comparison between transformed to non-transformed samples was impossible.

The trinucleotide heatmap depicting the variant change and adjacent 5' and 3' bases in non-AML and AML patients is in Figure 4C. All samples, including AML-blasts and GMPs from subjects at no transformation, featured high mutation rates at Xp(T>C)pX sites. Importantly, the AML signature 1 was the predominant trinucleotide signature in FA-AML blasts (64%), and comprised a substantial fraction also in SDS-AML blasts (22%) (Supplemental Figure 20-21).

Analysis of the potential impact of mutations on the protein showed a generally similar pattern in FA/SDS-AML samples compared to those without AML (Figure 4D).

Cancer-associated genes with moderate to high impact mutations in AML samples are listed in Table 2. The genes with the highest variant allele frequency are in Figure 5A-B. Several genes harbored variants with high frequency in FA-AML and were predicted to be part of the founding clone by mutational tree analysis (Supplemental Figure 22A and Supplemental Table 5). These genes were *ARID1B*, *SFPQ*, *PCDH15*, *EPPK1* and *MAP2K1*. The founding clone gave rise to three sub-clones that included mutations in the MDS/AML genes *NUP98*, *PML/BRCA1* and *TP53/BRCA2*, respectively. The first clone gave rise to an additional clone with mutations in the *CREBBP* MDS/AML associated gene.

The genes that appeared in highest allele frequency in SDS-AML included *MYH1*, *TP53*, *FLT4*, *LPHN3* and *DICER1* (Table 2). These genes were predicted to be part of the founding clone, which gave rise to two sub-clones (Supplemental Figure 22B and Supplemental Table 5). The mutated genes in one of the sub-clones included the MDS/AML gene *PTPRD*, and other cancer genes (e.g. *JAK1* and an additional mutation in *DICER1*). This sub-clone gave rise to additional clones harbouring mutations in MDS/AML genes such as *BRAF* and *SETD2*. The second sub-clone featured a mutation in *SFPQ* and subsequent clones included mutations in *NCOR1*, *SMAD4*, *NF1* and *BRCA1*. Similar to samples without AML (Supplemental Figure 18), in both, FA-AML and SDS-AML, commonly mutated pathways included the transcription factor or transcription factor regulation and DNA repair (Figure 5C).

Last, we evaluated whether genes with high/moderate impact mutations that appeared in patients without transformations were also mutated in the AML phase. In FA, 18 of the 255 genes that were part of clonal hematopoiesis in patients without MDS/AML appeared in the AML blasts (Supplemental Figure 23 and Supplemental Table 6). In SDS, 52 of the 282 genes that were part of clonal hematopoiesis in patients without transformation appeared also in the AML blasts (Supplemental Figure 23 and Supplemental Table 6).

### **Clonal evolution and progression observed in sequential samples**

From the SDS patient who developed leukemia, two additional samples 36 months and 25 months prior to the development of AML were available. The number of mutations grew prominently from stage to stage (Pearson R value 0.99)(Figure 6A). The growth was more

prominent than the age-related mutation increment we found in our SDS patient cohort (Figure 2C). Interestingly, there was a gradual increase in G>A (R= 0.99) and C>T transitions (R= 0.99938), but not in A>G or T>C transitions (Figure 6B). There was also a gradual accentuation of the trinucleotide signature (Heatmap in Figure 6C). The number of transversions was low (Supplemental Figure 24), and did not show a conclusive pattern.

Construction of trinucleotide cancer signatures using the COSMIC database was feasible for the last 2 sequential samples. Interestingly, signature 1 accounted for 9.2% of the mutational signature in the second sequential sample (Supplemental Figure 14) and increased to 22.2% at the stage of AML (Supplemental Figure 21).

Similar to the variant numbers, there was also a gradual increase in the number of genes with moderate/high impact mutations in each sequential sample; 15, 65 and 103 respectively (Table 3) (R=0.945). Of the 15 genes with mutations in first sequential sample, two were mutated in the second and third samples. Of the 65 mutated genes in second sequential sample, 10 were mutated in the third sample.

In each of the sequential samples a dominant mutational tree could be constructed. However, as seen with bone marrow cytogenetic abnormalities in FA (36) and SDS (37), the dominant tree may arise and regress, and in each sequential sample a different dominant tree was apparent. The founding clone in sequential sample 1 harbored 13 genes with high/moderate impact mutations including *ARHGEF12* and *NOTCH2*; in sequential sample 2 there were 28 such genes, including *IDH2* and *MYH2*; in the third sample (AML) there were 6 such genes including *TP53*. The known pathogenic mutation in *TP53* (c.742C>T; p.Arg248Trp) was dominant in the AML stage (52%). It is noteworthy that with progression from sequential sample 1 to 3, the proportion of mutations in transcription factors, transcription factor regulation, activated signaling molecules and DNA repair and checkpoint molecules increased (Figure 6D).

## DISCUSSION

The present study focused on evaluating the cellular and molecular events before overt leukemia develops and their potential impact on malignant transformation. We report for the first time,

detailed analysis of the very early hematopoietic cells (HSC, MPP) and subsequent progenitors (CMPs, MEPs, GMPs) in FA and SDS. Most HSCPs were markedly reduced except for GMPs, which were much more preserved. Molecular analysis of phenotypically GMP cells, revealed a high number somatic mutations compared to control subjects and genetic signatures that resembled those seen in AML. Using sequential SDS samples before and at AML stage we were able to show that somatic nucleotide-level mutations develop and disappear very rapidly in this disorder; resembling observations related to some large clonal marrow cytogenetic abnormalities (36, 37). The reconstructed founding clone at the AML stage harbored mutations in several genes including in *TP53*.

The overrepresentation of immunophenotypic GMPs versus other myeloid progenitors in FA/SDS patients suggests that these cells feature higher survival or growth properties and possibly harbour some of the initial transformational events that lead to MDS/AML. We cannot rule out the possibility that relative preservation of GMP-like cells reflects a general compensatory mechanism for the bone marrow failure unrelated to leukemia risk. Although possibly, it would be surprising that a compensatory mechanism targets GMPs regardless of whether the mostly affected lineage is granulocytic (SDS) or megakaryocytic/erythrocytic (FA). It is noteworthy that the initiating events may occur in an earlier HSPC, which then acquire the immunophenotype of GMPs. The markedly elevated somatic variants in FA/SDS GMP-like cells is in keeping with this hypothesis. It is possible that some of these mutations enhance proliferation or inhibit cell death; thereby confer growth advantage to these progenitors. For example, the *TP53* mutation p.Arg248Trp seen in SDS patients inactivate the protein and its proliferation regulatory properties. Future studies are necessary to decipher the mechanism underlying the relative preservation of GMP-like cells in FA/SDS bone marrows and whether it is related to increased proliferation, decreased apoptosis or self-renewal.

Interestingly, despite different functions of FA genes from SDS genes, in both conditions GMPs were relatively more preserved and there were no significant differences in the average number of somatic mutations. This raises the possibility that at least in part clonal evolution in bone marrow failure disorders does not depend on the direct biochemical sequela of the germline

mutation, and might be related to the consequent growth disadvantage of bone marrow cells, mitotic stress and a drive for survival through growth-promoting somatic mutations.

The cause of an increased propensity for MDS/AML in IBMFSs and the mechanisms of leukemogenesis are unclear, and several hypotheses have been proposed (38, 39). Our findings of an increased mutation rate in GMP-like cells and their relative preservation provide a groundwork for research focusing on these questions. Several pathological processes have been identified in FA/SDS, and may be considered while trying to explain an increased risk of somatic mutations. FA proteins are involved in correction of interstrand DNA crosslinks (40) and telomere length maintenance (41) leading to chromosomal instability. There is also evidence for short telomeres and genomic instability in SDS (42, 43). These pathologies may lead to somatic structural chromosomal abnormalities that are commonly seen in SDS (37, 43, 44) and in FA (45, 46); however, they may not directly explain the increased numbers of SNVs seen in our study. In FA, DNA interstrand crosslinks may lead to DNA double-strand breaks due to prolonged stalling of the replication fork or collapse. This may eventually lead to errors during repair or replication. Oxidative stress has been implicated in causing DNA damage and cancer development (47, 48), and is increased in both, FA (49-51) and SDS (52, 53). In addition, the accelerated cell death and slow-growing cells in FA (49, 50, 54) and SDS (55-57) may lead to replicative stress, which can consequently increase the rate of randomly occurring mutations. Interestingly, it has been suggested that the slow-growing HSCPs in bone marrow failure disorders are under selective pressure for mutations that reverse their growth defect and ameliorate the restraints on proliferation (58, 59). Last, similar to AML (60) and MDS (61), SDS bone marrow stroma features increased angiogenesis (62). SDS bone marrow stroma has also been shown to be functionally impaired in humans (29) and in mice (63). In the latter study, deletion of *slds* in mouse mesenchymal stem cells resulted in DNA damage in HSCPs and in pro-inflammatory response that was shown to contribute to leukemic transformation (63).

To our knowledge, there are no published data about the rate, type and signature of somatic variants in GMPs from inherited leukemia-predisposition syndromes, and only little information is available about somatic mutations in bone marrow samples from patients with FA (19) and SDS (17, 18). An explicit comparison between results from the present work to those from

previously published studies on IBMFSs is challenging due to different methodologies and analytic approaches. Nonetheless, the number of variants in our study might be different from that reported in few published papers on FA/SDS, and there are several possible explanations for that. First, mutation rates in GMP-like cells have not previously been published. GMP-like cells were relatively preserved in FA/SDS, which might be attributed to higher rate of somatic mutations that confer growth advantage. Second, published studies focused on mutations with high allele frequency; for example, in the study on somatic mutations in FA patients (19), mainly Sanger sequencing was utilized; the technique typically detect variant with allele frequency of over 10-20%. In the published WES data on two patients with SDS (18), few variants were reported; however, the authors focused on variants at the expected binomial distribution around 50%. Due to the analysis of highly purified progenitors and limited number of progenitors in FA/SDS, we used amplified DNA. Quality assessment of the data, paired analysis of amplified and non-amplified DNA from control marrow fibroblasts across the genome (described in the Results section) and our internal robust methodology suggest that the trends seen herein are real and that significant bias by the DNA amplification is unlikely.

The molecular changes found herein in FA/SDS GMP-like cells are reminiscent of those seen in AML; for example, abundance of G>A/C>T and G>T.(32) G>A/C>T hypermutations have been attributed to the endogenous process of deamination at methylated cytosine sites (32). Importantly, this pattern was also dominant in FA/SDS-AML samples and steadily increased in sequential samples from a SDS patient who eventually developed AML. Studies of sequential samples from additional cases are needed to determine whether gradual acquirement of this pattern is indeed part of the transformational process in FA/SDS.

The characterization of mutational signatures unveils a new hypothesized mutational aetiology that could give insight into the mutational processes underlying leukemic predisposition in FA/SDS. By the COSMIC, AML features a trinucleotide pattern contributed by Signatures 1 (spontaneous deamination of 5-methylcytosine and increased mutations at CpG sites) and signature 5 (transcriptional strand bias for T>C substitutions at ApTpX sites). To our knowledge, the COSMIC trinucleotide signature database has not been previously applied to FA/SDS bone marrow samples. Our results suggest that GMP-like cells are prone to develop AML-type

trinucleotide signature in FA/SDS. This hypothesis is solidified by finding Signature 1 in AML cells derived from FA/SDS patients, and by observing an increment in the proportion of Signature 1 in sequential samples from a patient with SDS who eventually developed AML. The predominance of signature 1 indicates that deamination of methylated cytosines plays a role in the mutations seen in FA/SDS; however, mutational processes related to the other concomitant signatures may also be in play.

In most samples we were able to reconstruct a dominant mutational tree. However, most mutations were not part of the dominant mutational tree, suggesting that FA/SDS marrows contain multiple non-related clones. Further, we cannot rule out a possibility that at the stage of AML, additional smaller non-related AML clones co-existed. Importantly, using sequential samples, we found that similar to large cytogenetic abnormalities that may appear and disappear with time in FA (36) and SDS (37) (including *del(20q10-11)* and *i(7q)*), SNVs may also appear and disappear; as described in one patient with severe congenital neutropenia (21). Our study further shows that most clones do not culminate in leukemia evolution, and despite a burst of evolving clones, most of them disappear and become outnumbered by new clones. This process probably continues until a combination of critical mutations appear in the same clone and drive progression towards MDS/AML.

It is noteworthy that the frequency of mutations in genes, which are commonly mutated in de-novo MDS/AML (e.g. *DNMT3A*, *TET2* and *SF3B1*), was low in FA/SDS patients, particularly in the cases who developed AML, suggesting that transformation in FA/SDS may utilize novel mechanisms. *PCDH15* was mutated in FA-AML with high VAF (69%) and was predicted to be part of the founding clone of the dominant mutational tree. *PCDH15* is a member of the cadherin superfamily, which encode integral membrane proteins that mediate calcium-dependent cell-cell adhesion. It is mutated in several solid cancers including breast cancer, glioma and lymphoma (64-66). The findings of mutations in this gene also in two SDS patient without AML (one of them in the founding clone) suggest a potential pathogenic role.

It is noteworthy that *SFPQ* was mutated in both our AML patients; in the founding clone in FA and in a sub-clone in SDS. To our knowledge, *SFPQ* was previously reported to be mutated only

in one AML subject (67). A recent study suggested downregulation of *SFPQ* by MicroRNA-1296 in colorectal cancer as a mechanism for cell proliferation (68). The published mutation in an AML patient was described as non-synonymous without further details. The mutation in our FA-AML patient was a missense variant in the N-terminal domain (p.Gly14Ser). The mutation in the SDS-AML patient was a missense variant in the C-terminal domain (p.Glu699Lys). It is possible that loss or aberrant *SFPQ* alters spliceosome function and drives MDS/AML. Further studies are necessary to determine whether *SFPQ* mutations are more common in IBMFS-associated MDS/AML than in de novo MDS/AML, and whether there is synergism between hematopoietic stem cell loss and *SFPQ* in developing leukemia.

It is important to note that *TP53* was mutated herein mainly in SDS patients. It was mutated in the SDS-AML founding clone and in two SDS patients without transformation, indicating that it is indeed an early transformational event. It is interesting that in sequential samples, the *TP53* mutation p.Arg248Trp (previously reported as pathogenic) was detected in the founding clone of SDS-AML but not in the founding clone in previous samples. This information supports the notion that early hematopoietic cells in IBMFSs have heightened tendency for clonal evolution, but most clones eventually subside and do not progress.

In summary, FA/SDS are characterized by a burst of clonal evolution. Although the molecular changes largely follow AML features, most hematopoietic clones do not progress, and at a leukemic stage only a few clones become predominant. The differences between clones that progress to leukemia and those that do not need to be further elucidated. Future studies should also evaluate the prognostic value of the identified molecular changes in this study and their potential use for early detection of irreversible transformation or therapeutic targets in FA and SDS. Last, since AML blasts from only two FA/SDS patients were available for this study, the molecular data at the AML stage are anecdotal and multicenter collaborative efforts are required to collect larger number of AML samples from these rare disorders to validate our observations.

## **METHODS**

### **Flow cytometry**

Bone marrow HSCP population sizes were evaluated by multi-parametric immunophenotyping (Figure 1A) as previously described (5). Cell frequencies were normalized as previously described to the total bone marrow mononuclear cells (5, 69) and to total bone marrow CD34+ cells (70, 71).

### **DNA preparation for genomic studies**

To identify the spectrum of somatic mutations and affected genes, we analyzed DNA from phenotypical sorted GMP cells. DNA samples from 200-965 sorted GMPs were amplified by whole genome amplification (REpli-G Mini Kit) for 16 hours with adjustment of reagents to cell number as per the manufacturer instructions and as previously described (72-75).

To eliminate germline variants we paired each subject's data with their marrow fibroblast genome as a source of non-hematopoietic DNA. We enriched marrow fibroblasts by culturing marrow cells, removing floating hematopoietic cells and passaging 3-5 times. Due to poor growth of passaged patient cells, DNA of marrow fibroblasts from close to half of the patients (and one healthy subject for quality control) was amplified, with no apparent effect on the number of filtered somatic variants (Supplemental Table 7) and no apparent bias toward specific nucleotide change (Supplemental Table 8). Furthermore, matched amplified and non-amplified DNA from fibroblasts showed a high congruence of mapped reads across the genome and per chromosome (Supplemental Figure 2-3).

To study molecular events in AML samples, we sorted blast cells. In a case of SDS patient with AML, amplified DNA from marrow myeloblasts underwent paired analysis with DNA from marrow fibroblasts. In a FA patient with AML, peripheral blood sample was available and amplified DNA from myeloblasts underwent paired analysis with amplified DNA from T-cells.

### **Whole exome sequencing**

DNA underwent exome enrichment by the Sure Select 50 Mb Human All Exon Capture Kit (Agilent Technologies, Santa Clara, CA) according to the manufacturer's instructions, and sequenced on the Illumina HiSeq2500 at The Center for Applied Genomics (The Hospital for Sick Children, Toronto) as previously described (25). The average reads per nucleotide among the analyzed subjects was 146 (range 116-189).

### **Next generation sequencing cancer gene panel assay**

To augment mutation discovery by deep variant analysis and validate variants in cancer-related genes found by WES, we used a deep sequencing panel of 877 genes, which were either known cancer-related genes from the COSMIC or are hypothesized to play a role in cancer (based on published expression in tumors, known function or constitutive mutation in cancer-predisposition syndromes). The total number of bases for non-overlapping exons covered by the panel +/- 10 bp is 3,012,823 base pairs. The panel was developed by our group (AS) as previously described (76). The average reads per nucleotide among the analyzed subjects was 1216 (range 775-2098).

### **Variant calling**

Somatic variant calling followed the bcbio pipeline (<https://github.com/bcbio/bcbio-nextgen/>). The pipeline is used to identify somatic variants by comparing them to normal human genome alignments and annotating the mutations for subsequent analysis. The pipeline includes alignment of FASTQ files to the reference genome (GRCh37) using Burrows-Wheeler Aligner (BWA) mem v0.7.17 (<http://bio-bwa.sourceforge.net>), duplication of marking using biobambam v2.0.87 (<https://github.com/gt1/biobambam>), and removal of low complexity regions by bedtools v2.27.1 (<https://github.com/arq5x/bedtools2>).

GMP and marrow fibroblast FASTQ files were aligned and mapped separately to the reference genome to create binary alignment map (BAM) files, and both BAM files were then processed using MuTect v1.1.5 (<https://www.broadinstitute.org/cancer/cga/mutect>) for somatic point mutations and indels.

Variants from GMP WES and Cancer Panel sequencing were selected as true somatic variants if 1) they appeared in GMPs from both, WES and the Cancer Panel, 2) the variant frequency in marrow fibroblasts was 0, 3) the variant comprised >7% of the total reads for the respective nucleotides in GMPs; using this threshold, >90% of the variants fulfilled all criteria in both, WES and Cancer Panel (Supplemental Table 2), and 4) the read depths by the Cancer Panel in GMP and in the marrow fibroblasts was >50.

### **Analysis of somatic variants**

Somatic variants were classified into tiers as described (77). As conventionally done in cancer genomics analysis, we used only tier 1 and 2 variants, which are more likely to have a pathogenic effect than tier 3 and 4 variants.

The R package, deconstructSigs (<https://github.com/raerose01/deconstructSigs>) was used to construct tumor signatures from somatic variants, to normalize signatures according to variant frequencies and compare them to known tumor signatures in COSMIC. A mutation signature is determined by comparing the total variant profile of a patient to the known variant profile of different cancers. For this analysis a minimum of 50 somatic variants per sample is required to construct a signature. ComplexHeatmap (<https://bioconductor.org>) was employed to create sample heatmap of somatic variants. Variant Effect Predictor (<http://grch37.ensembl.org/info/docs/tools/vep/index.html>) was used to annotate the mutations for functional consequence.

Mutational trees were reconstructed by the PhyloWGS software program as developed by Dr. Quaid Morris' group (35) (<https://github.com/morrislab/phylowgs>). The program can reconstruct related clonal subpopulations in tumor samples from WGS/WES data. It is based on variant allele frequencies of the mutations and uses the Markov chain Monte Carlo procedure. It can construct mutational trees with or without data about CNV (<https://genomebiology.biomedcentral.com/articles/10.1186/s13059-015-0602-8>). Using this software we designated marrow fibroblasts cells as molecular group 0. Subsequent clones were ordered and numbered by the software program.

### **Statistical analysis**

Descriptive analysis was used to characterize groups. Two tail Student's t-test was used to determine the statistical significance of differences between two means. To determine significant differences between multiple means, the non-parametric Kruskal-Wallis test was performed followed by Dunn's post hoc test. Wilcoxon signed-rank test was used for testing whether 3 samples have different VAF distributions. P value of <0.05 was considered significant. The statistical analyses were performed using Excel or XLSTAT Version 2019.1.2 (Addinsoft, New

York, NY) or GraphPad v8. The bioinformatics software programs used in this study are described with the respective analyses in the Methods and Results sections.

### **Study approval**

SDS patients were eligible for the study if they fulfilled the international consensus diagnostic criteria (78) and had biallelic *SBDS* mutations. FA patients were eligible if they had clinical diagnosis of FA and positive chromosome fragility testing. At the time of testing, most patients without leukemia had cytopenia and hypocellular bone marrow (Supplemental Table 1); no patient had clonal marrow cytogenetic abnormalities. Healthy control subjects were donors for bone marrow transplantation. The study was approved by the Research Ethics Board and informed written consent was obtained from all enrolled subjects. Usage of a sample that had been cryopreserved in the Tissue Bank at The Hospital for Sick Children was according to the Research Ethics Board's regulations and approval. A total of 7 FA, 8 SDS, and 8 healthy control subjects were studied. The list of subjects and samples is in Supplemental Table 7.

## **AUTHOR CONTRIBUTIONS**

SH contributed to design, acquisition of data, analysis and interpretation of data, and assisted in writing the manuscript. BB contributed to design, acquisition of data, analysis and interpretation of data, drafted the article and revised it for important intellectual content. SZ contributed to design, acquisition of data, analysis and interpretation of data and assisted in writing the manuscript. HL contributed to design, acquisition of data, analysis and interpretation of data and assisted in writing the manuscript. SA contributed to analysis and interpretation of data, reviewed/revised the manuscript for important intellectual content. RJK heads one of the Canadian Inherited Marrow Failure Registry site research team that contributed acquisition of vital data and interpretation of data; reviewed/revised the manuscript for important intellectual content. SA heads one of the Canadian Inherited Marrow Failure Registry site research team that contributed acquisition of vital data and interpretation of data; reviewed/revised the manuscript for important intellectual content. MR heads one of the Canadian Inherited Marrow Failure Registry site research team that contributed acquisition of vital data and interpretation of data; reviewed/revised the manuscript for important intellectual content. VRB heads one of the Canadian Inherited Marrow Failure Registry site research team that contributed acquisition of vital data and interpretation of data; reviewed/revised the manuscript for important intellectual content. RDB contributed to design, analysis and interpretation of data. HM contributed to analysis, generation of figures and interpretation of data. SD contributed to design, interpretation of data, and review of the manuscript. AS contributed to design, analysis and interpretation of data and assisted in writing the manuscript. JED contributed to design, analysis and interpretation of data and assisted in writing the manuscript. YD contributed to conception, design, acquisition of data, analysis and interpretation of data; drafted and revised the article.

## **CONFLICT OF INTERST**

The authors have no conflict of interest to declare.

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## FIGURES

**Figure 1** **Deep immunophenotyping revealed striking loss of most, but not all, hematopoietic stem cells and progenitors in bone marrows from FA/SDS patients.** **A.** Analytic strategy of bone marrow aspirate cells by immunophenotyping. **B-C.** Comparison of multipotent cells between FA (n=6), SDS (n=7) and control (n=8). The mean percentage of each HSCPs among the viable bone marrow mononuclear cells is presented with standard error of mean (SEM). **D-E.** Comparison of oligopotent progenitors between FA, SDS and control patients. The mean percentage of each HSCPs among the viable bone marrow mononuclear cells is presented with standard error of mean (SEM). HSC, hematopoietic stem cell; MPP, multipotent progenitor cell; MEP, megakaryocyte erythroid progenitor; GMP, granulocyte monocyte progenitor. Student's t-test was used to compare between patients and controls. The same control data in Figures 1C and 1E are also presented in Figure 1B and 1D, respectively.

**Figure 2** **Frequency of somatic variants in bone marrow samples from patients with SDS, FA and healthy control subjects.** **A.** Comparison of average (+/-standard error of the mean) variant rate between FA (n=6), SDS (n=7) and healthy control subjects (n=6). Results by student T-test are shown. P value by Kruskal-Wallis test with Dunn's post hoc test was 0.0695. **B, C** and **D** show the variant rate among controls, FA and SDS subjects organized according to ages. **E.** Allele frequency of the various variants in controls, FA and SDS. The group were compared using the Wilcoxon signed-rank test. Asterisk (\*) indicates statistical significance compared to controls with  $p < 0.0001$ . The Y-axis represent the variant frequency and the X-axis represent the variants arranged from those with the highest allele frequency to the lowest. In each group, each number may represent a different variant.

**Figure 3** **Patterns of single and tri-nucleotide alterations among FA, SDS and healthy control subjects.** **A.** Average number (+/- standard error of the mean) of each transition (inside the CT purine group or inside the GA pyrimidine group) variant

per subject among the FA, SDS and healthy control groups. \*indicate statistically significant differences ( $P < 0.05$ ). P value by Kruskal-Wallis test with Dunn's post hoc test was 0.9313 for A>G, 0.0735 for G>A, 0.086 for C>T, and 0.2586 for T>C. The average numbers of transversions (change from pyrimine to pyrimidine or vice versa) are in Supplemental Figure 5. **B.** Heatmap depicting trinucleotide SNV patterns. The heatmap depicts specific trinucleotide variants (SNV including the base immediately 3' and 5' to the SNV site). The 5' base is shown on the y-axis and the 3' base on the x-axis. Z-score of the log transformed values from 0-2 was used. To generate the heatmap, number of each variant plus 1 was converted to log. **C.** Percentage of SNVs and indels according to their damaging effects on the protein in each of the study subject group. **D.** Mean number of mutated genes in FA, SDS and controls with standard error of the means. Results by student T-test are shown. P value by Kruskal-Wallis test was 0.069.

**Figure 4** **Patterns of single and tri-nucleotide alterations in FA/SDS-associated AML**  
**A.** Mutation rate in FA/SDS patients with AML or without AML. **B.** Percentage of each type of transition mutations across FA/SDS patients with or without AML samples. Percentages of transversions are in Supplemental Figure 19. **C.** Trinucleotide heatmap of FA, FA-AML, SDS, SDS-AML patients. The trinucleotide mutations are shown with the 5' base on the y-axis and the 3' base on the x-axis. **D.** Type of mutations in AML versus non-AML samples.

**Figure 5** **Genes mutated in FA/SDS-associated AML.** **A.** Top 30 genes mutated in AML cells from a patient with FA. **B.** Top 30 genes mutated in AML cells from a patient with SDS. **C.** Pathways that are disrupted in AML blasts from a patient with FA and in a patient with SDS.

**Figure 6** **Transformational alterations in sequential samples from a non-malignant to malignant state.** The figure displays results from three sequential samples from a patient with SDS. **A.** Total number of mutations in each sequential sample. **B.** Percentage of total transition mutations in each sequential sample. Percentages of

transversions are in Supplemental Figure 24. **C.** Changes in trinucleotide signature heatmap in each sequential sample. **D.** Pathways affected in each sequential sample.

**Table 1:** Recurrently mutated genes in each study group according to the number of patients with mutations in the gene.

	<b>Recurrence in 5 subjects</b>	<b>Recurrence in 4 subjects</b>	<b>Recurrence in 3 subjects</b>	<b>Recurrence in 2 subjects</b>
<b>FA</b>			<i>ARID1A, CHD4, HUWE1, INTS1, ITPKB, SYNE1, THBS1</i>	<i>APC, ATF7IP, ATP2B3, ATRX, BCOR, BCR, BRCA2, CSMD3, CYLD, DST, EPHA7, FBN2, FES, FLCN, FLT4, GF11B, GPC3, HIP1, KIAA1549, KMT2C, KMT2D, LRP1B, LRP2, LRRC7, LRRK1, MYH1, NAV1, NCAPD3, PDGFRB, PER1, PRDM1, PRKDC, PTPN13, PTPRT, RELN, SETBP1, SETDB1, SPTAN1, SRCAP, SRGAP3, STIL, TET1, TNF, TRIM24, TRIP11, UBR5, WAS, WDFY3, WDFY4, XPO1</i>
<b>SDS</b>	<i>SYNE1</i>	<i>RNF213</i>	<i>ASXL1, CAMTA1, COL1A1, COL7A1, EP400, EPPK1, HUWE1, KDM5A, LRP1B, NCOR2, PRKDC</i>	<i>ADAMTS20, ALK, AMER1, ARHGEF12, ATM, BUB1B, CDK12, CIITA, CNTN5, CNTRL, COL5A1, COLEC12, CREBBP, CUX1, DDX60, DNAH14, DSCAM, PB41L3, EPHA2, FAT1, FGFR1, FGFR3, FLG, FNI, FOXO1, IGF2R, KDM5C, KMT2D, LRIG3, MARK4, MGA, MLLT6, MN1, MPO, MTOR, MYC, MYH11, NOTCH2, NOTCH4, ODC1, PCDH15, PCMI, RABEP1, RAP1GDS1, RBL1, RPS6KA2, RUNX1, SETD2, SLC26A3, SMARCB1, SPTAN1, TP53, TP53BP1, TPR, TRIM33, UBR5, USP6, WDFY3, WDFY4, ZMYM3</i>
<b>Healthy</b>				<i>HUWE1, PIK3CB, SRCAP</i>

**Table 2:** Genes that were somatically mutated in leukemic blasts from a FA patient and a SDS patient

	<b>VAF &gt;0.07 to 0.25</b>	<b>VAF &gt;0.25 to 0.75</b>	<b>VAF &gt;0.75-1</b>
<b>FA- AML</b>	<i>AFF1, AKT2, BCL9L, BRCA1, BRCA2, CENPF, CHD8, CLSTN2, COL11A1, CREBBP, DAB2IP, DDX60, DICER1, EPHA7, ERBB3, ERC1, KAT6B, KMT2C, LCP1, LRP2, MLLT1, MLLT10, NBN, NTRK1, NUP98, PIK3CB, PML, POLQ, PRCC, PTPN13, RAD50, ROS1, SOS1, STK19, SUFU, TP53, UBR5, TRIP11</i>	<i>PCDH15, ARID1B, SFPQ, EPPK1, MAP2K1, IL21R, HMGA1</i>	
<b>SDS- AML</b>	<i>AKAP9, AKT3, AMER1, ARID5B, ASTN1, ATF1, ATF7IP, BAI3, BAP1, BRAF, BRCA1, CACNA1D, CARD11, CDC6, CDH1, CDK12, CHD1, CHD7, COL5A1, CSMD3, DCC, DNM2, DYNC1H1, EGR3, ELF4, EP400, EPCAM, ERCC6, FGFR2, FLT1, GALNT15, GNAQ, GOLGA5, GRM3, HOXD11, HUWE1, KALRN, KMT2A, KMT2C, KMT2D, KTN1, LIFR, LRRC7, LRRK1, MBD1, MDC1, MED13, MGA, MKL1, MTCPI, MYH9, NAV3, NCOA2, NCOR1, NF1, NFE2, NUP214, OLIG2, PARK2, PBRM1, PDGFB, PHF20, PIK3CA, POT1, PRCC, PREX2, PTGS2, RSPO2, SERPINE1, SETD2, SETDB1, SFPQ, SMAD4, SOX2, SUZ12, SYNE1, TAF1, TBX18, TFE3, THBS1, TP53BP1, TRIM24, UBR5, WDFY3, WHSC1, XIRP2, ZNF91</i>	<i>DICER1, FLG, FLT4, HNF1A, IKZF1, JAK1, LPHN3, LRP2, MAST4, NCKIPSD, PTPRD, STK4, TCEB1, TNFR, TP53</i>	<i>MYH1</i>

**Table 3:** Genes mutated in sequential samples from an SDS patient who eventually develop leukemia (Sequential sample 3)

	<b>VAF &gt;0.07 to 25</b>	<b>VAF &gt;0.25 to 75</b>	<b>VAF &gt;0.75-1</b>
<b>Seq-1</b>	<i>BTK, AKT1, AXIN2, TET2</i>	<i>ARHGEF12</i>	<i>CACNA1D, CDH1, CHD3, DST, JAK3, KDM3B, NOTCH2, SDHC, TRRAP, WRN</i>
<b>Seq -2</b>	<i>ACVR1B, ARHGEF12, ARID1B, ATM, BUB1B, CHD6, COL1A1, COL7A1, DEK, DYNC1H1, EPHA6, EPHB4, FANCA, FGFR1, GABRG1, HDAC9, HUWE1, JMJD1C, KALRN, KDM5A, KDR, LRP1B, LRP2, MET, MNI, PRKDC, PRRC2A, SYNGAP1, TET2, TPR, ZMYND8</i>	<i>ALK, BCL11B, CAMTA1, CDK6, CNTN5, CREBBP, FLI1, HNF1A, IDH2, KDM5C, MARK4, MAST4, MDC1, MLLT6, MYH11, NCOR2, NOTCH4, OLIG2, PCDH15, POT1, RARA, RBM10, SYNE1</i>	<i>AMER1, CHN1, FLT1, IL7R, MYH2, NCAPD3, NF2, ODC1, PRDM2, RUNX1T1, TSC2</i>
<b>Seq-3 (AML)</b>	<i>AKAP9, AKT3, AMER1, ARID5B, ASTN1, ATF1, ATF7IP, BAI3, BAP1, BRAF, BRCA1, CACNA1D, CARD11, CDC6, CDH1, CDK12, CHD1, CHD7, COL5A1, CSMD3, DCC, DNM2, DYNC1H1, EGR3, ELF4, EP400, EPCAM, ERCC6, FGFR2, FLT1, GALNT15, GNAQ, GOLGA5, GRM3, HOXD11, HUWE1, KALRN, KMT2A, KMT2C, KMT2D, KTN1, LIFR, LRRC7, LRRK1, MBD1, MDC1, MED13, MGA, MKL1, MTCP1, MYH9, NAV3, NCOA2, NCOR1, NF1, NFE2, NUP214, OLIG2, PARK2, PBRM1, PDGFB, PHF20, PIK3CA, POT1, PRCC, PREX2, PTGS2, RSPO2, SERPINE1, SETD2, SETDB1, SFPQ, SMAD4, SOX2, SUZ12, SYNE1, TAF1, TBX18, TFE3, THBS1, TP53BP1, TRIM24, UBR5, WDFY3, WHSC1, XIRP2, ZNF91</i>	<i>DICER1, FLG, FLT4, HNF1A, IKZF1, JAK1, LPHN3, LRP2, MAST4, NCKIPSD, PTPRD, STK4, TCEB1, TNF, TP53</i>	<i>MYH1</i>

Seq, sequential sample from the same subject; VAF, variant allele frequency

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**Figure 1**      **Deep immunophenotyping revealed striking loss of most, but not all, hematopoietic stem cells and progenitors in bone marrows from FA/SDS patients.** **A.** Analytic strategy of bone marrow aspirate cells by immunophenotyping. **B-C.** Comparison of multipotent cells between FA (n=6), SDS (n=7) and control (n=8). The mean percentage of each HSCPs among the viable bone marrow mononuclear cells is presented with standard error of mean (SEM). **D-E.** Comparison of oligopotent progenitors between FA, SDS and control patients. The mean percentage of each HSCPs among the viable bone marrow mononuclear cells is presented with standard error of mean (SEM). HSC, hematopoietic stem cell; MPP, multipotent progenitor cell; MEP, megakaryocyte erythroid progenitor; GMP, granulocyte monocyte progenitor. Student's t-test was used to compare between patients and controls. The same control data in Figures 1C and 1E are also presented in Figure 1B and 1D, respectively.

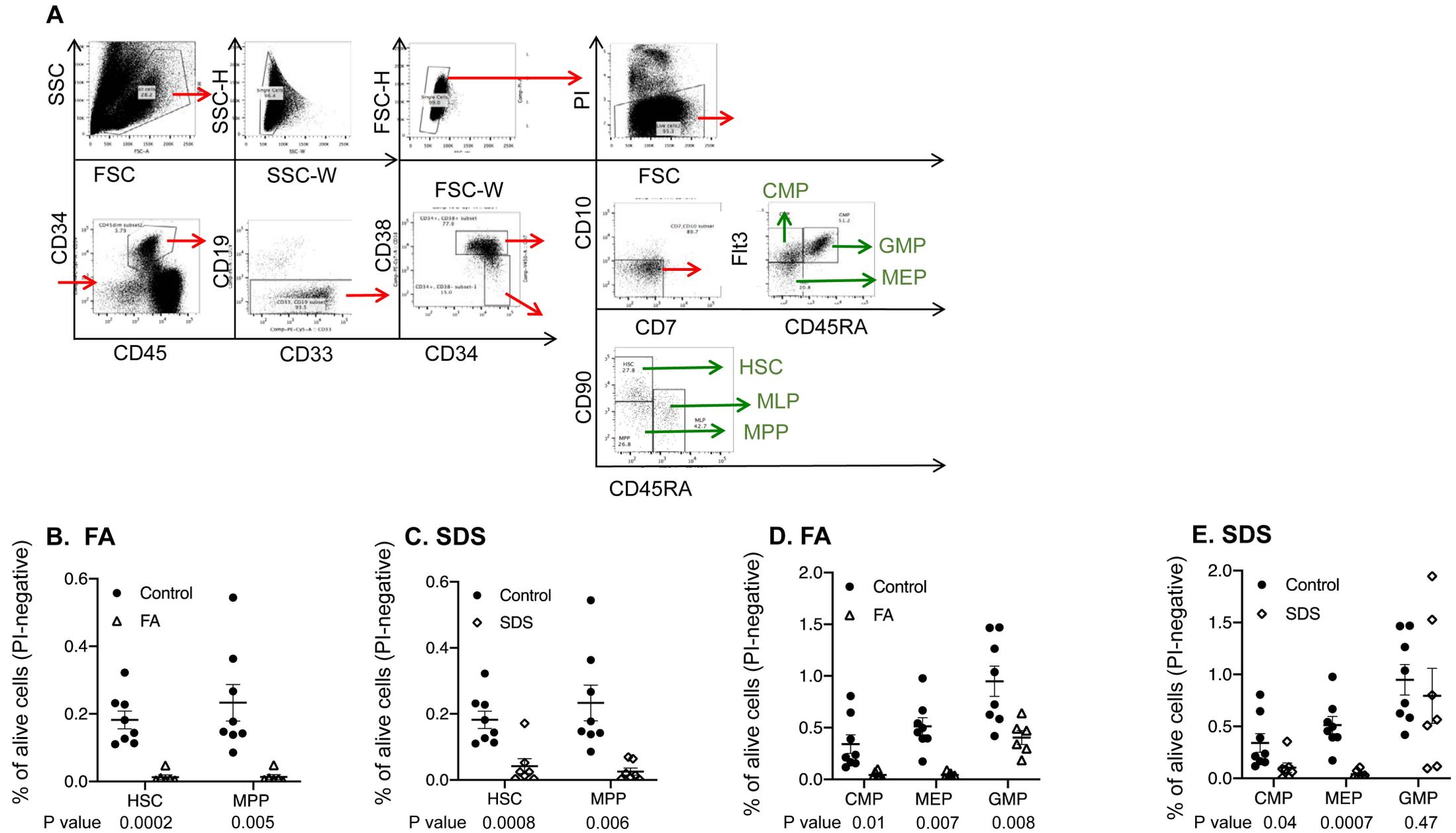
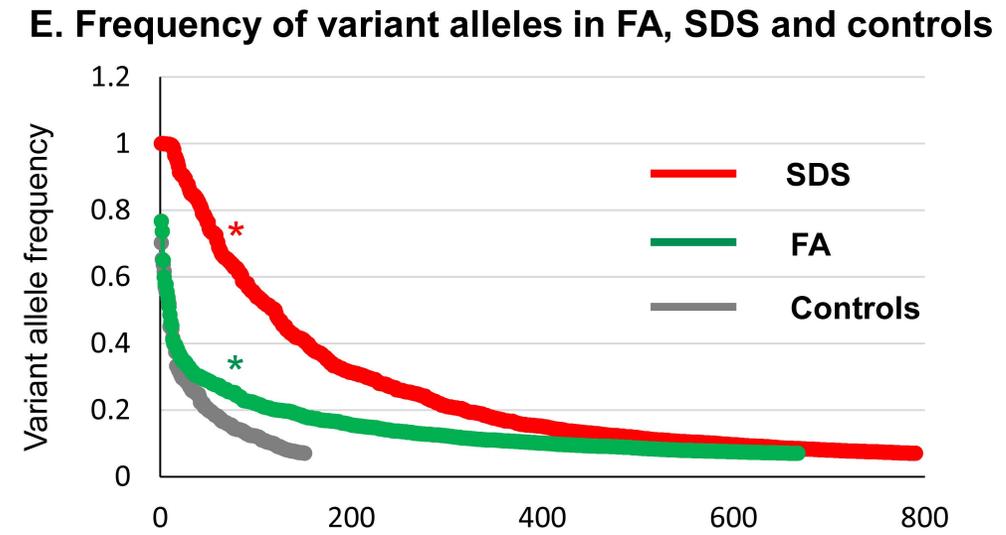
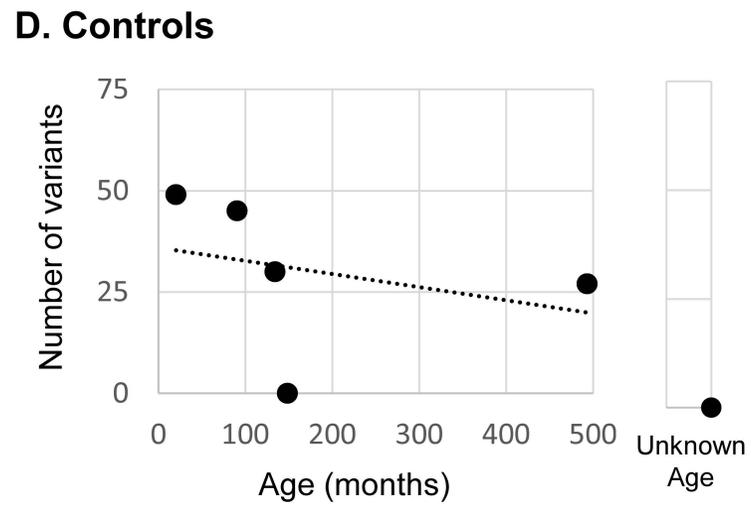
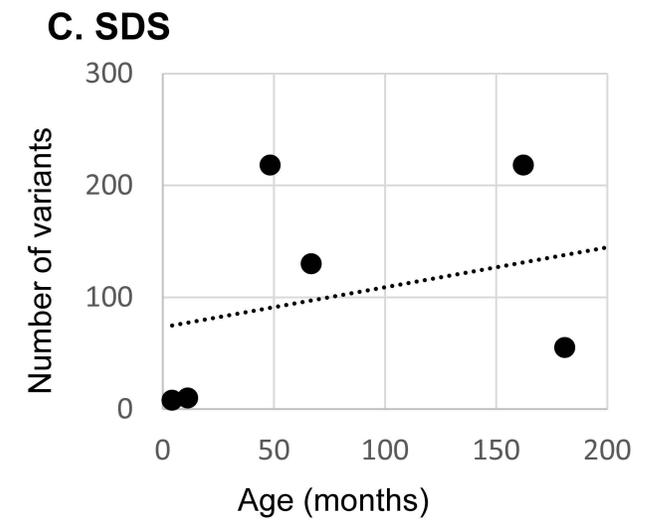
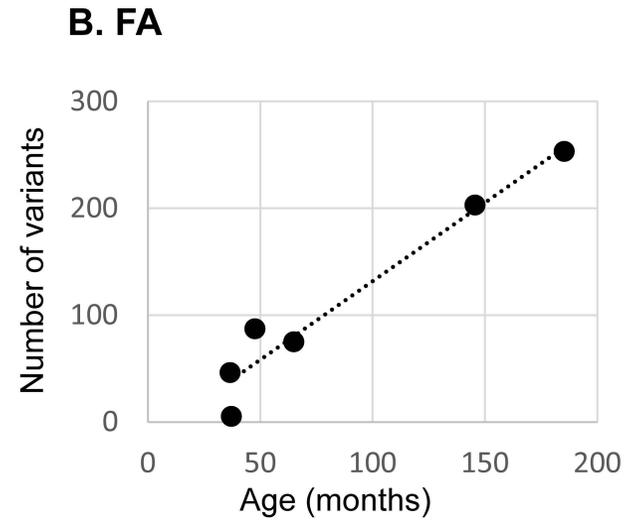
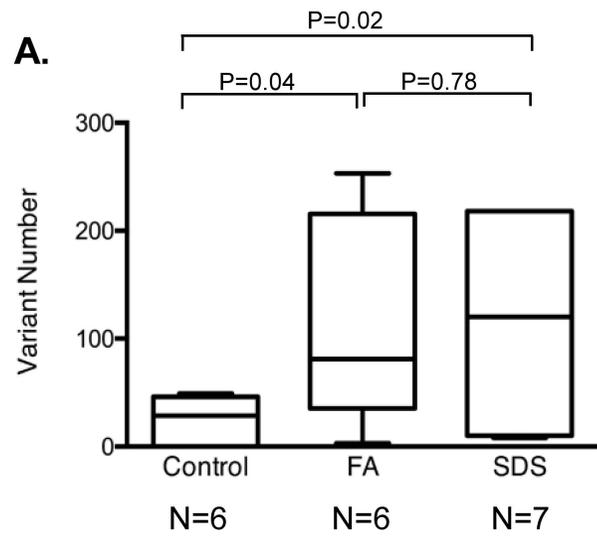


Figure 1

**Figure 2**      **Frequency of somatic variants in bone marrow samples from patients with SDS, FA and healthy control subjects.** **A.** Comparison of average ( $\pm$ -standard error of the mean) variant rate between FA (n=6), SDS (n=7) and healthy control subjects (n=6). Results by student T-test are shown. P value by Kruskal-Wallis test with Dunn's post hoc test was 0.0695. **B, C** and **D** show the variant rate among controls, FA and SDS subjects organized according to ages. **E.** Allele frequency of the various variants in controls, FA and SDS. The group were compared using the Wilcoxon signed-rank test. Asterisk (\*) indicates statistical significance compared to controls with  $p < 0.0001$ . The Y-axis represent the variant frequency and the X-axis represent the variants arranged from those with the highest allele frequency to the lowest. In each group, each number may represent a different variant.



Variants arranged from highest allele frequency to the lowest (in each group, each number may represent a different variant)

Figure 2

**Figure 3** **Patterns of single and tri-nucleotide alterations among FA, SDS and healthy control subjects.** **A.** Average number (+/- standard error of the mean) of each transition (inside the CT purine group or inside the GA pyrimidine group) variant per subject among the FA, SDS and healthy control groups. \*indicate statistically significant differences ( $P < 0.05$ ). P value by Kruskal-Wallis test with Dunn's post hoc test was 0.9313 for A>G, 0.0735 for G>A, 0.086 for C>T, and 0.2586 for T>C. The average numbers of transversions (change from pyrine to pyrimidine or vise versa) are in Supplemental Figure 5. **B.** Heatmap depicting trinucleotide SNV patterns. The heatmap depicts specific tricucleotide variants (SNV including the base immediately 3' and 5' to the SNV site). The 5' base is shows on the y-axis and the 3' base on the x-axis. Z-score of the log transformed values from 0-2 was used. To generate the heatmap, number of each variant plus 1 was converted to log. **C.** Percentage of SNVs and indels according to their damaging effects on the protein in each of the study subject group. **D.** Mean number of mutated genes in FA, SDS and controls with standard error of the means. Results by student T-test are shown. P value by Kruskal-Wallis test was 0.069.



**Figure 4**      **Patterns of single and tri-nucleotide alterations in FA/SDS-associated AML**

**A.** Mutation rate in FA/SDS patients with AML or without AML. **B.** Percentage of each type of transition mutations across FA/SDS patients with or without AML samples. Percentages of transversions are in Supplemental Figure 19. **C.** Tricucleotide heatmap of FA, FA-AML, SDS, SDS-AML patients. The tricucleotide mutations are shown with the 5' base on the y-axis and the 3' base on the x-axis. **D.** Type of mutations in AML versus non-AML samples.

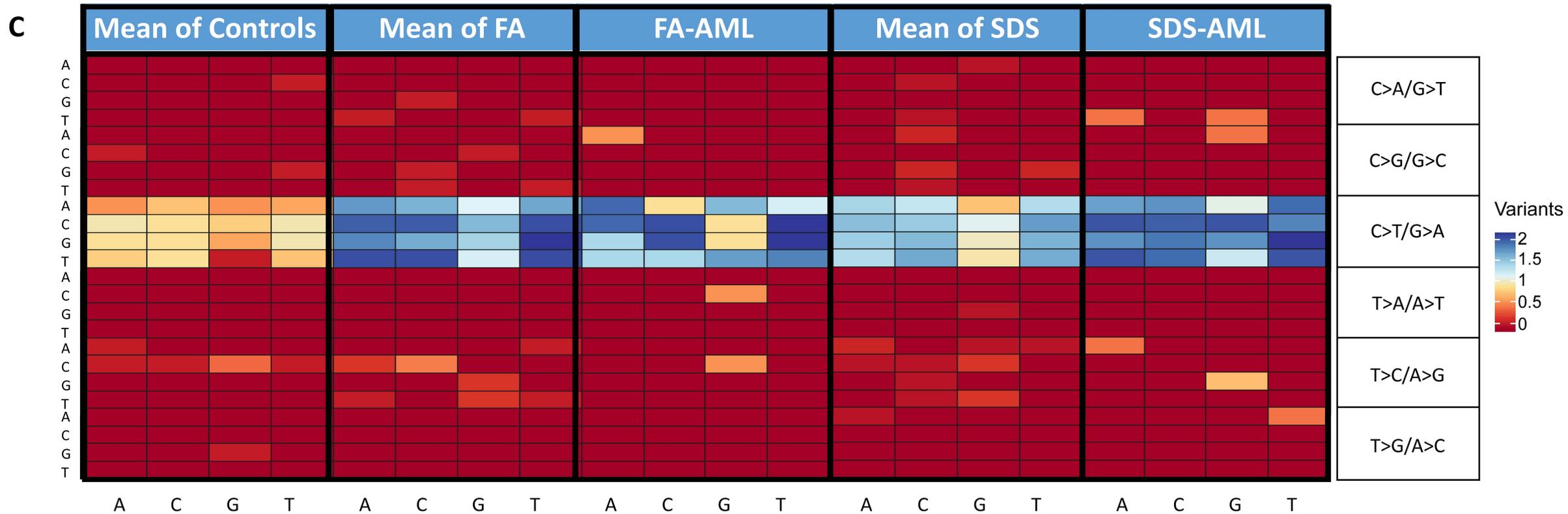
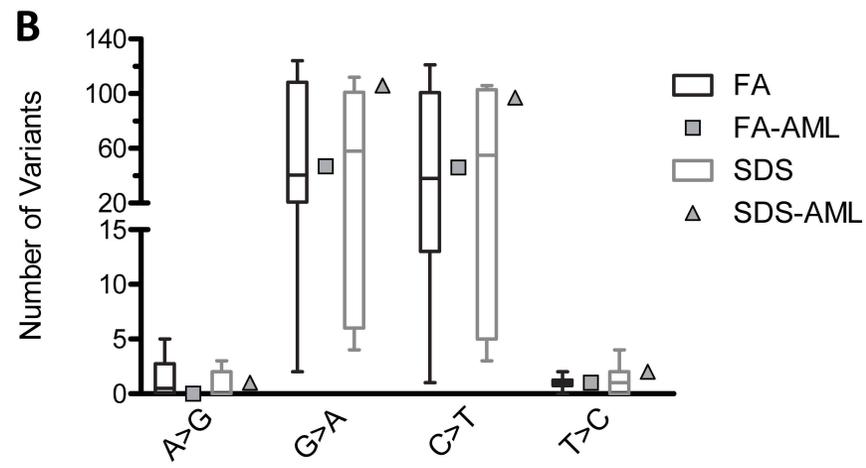
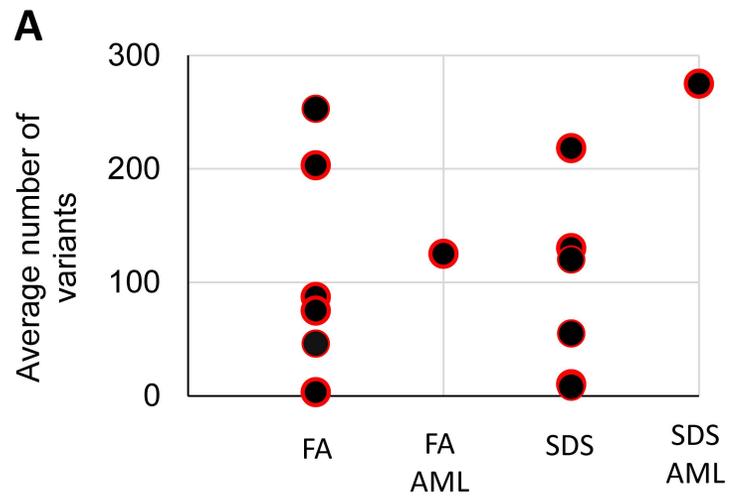
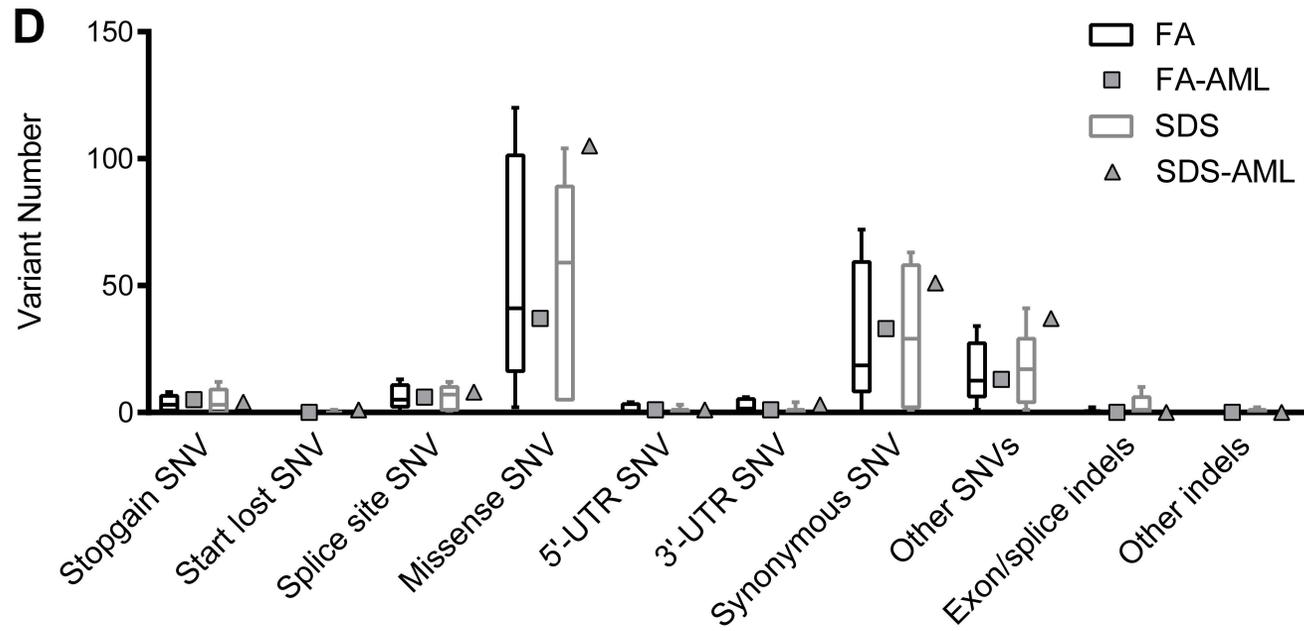
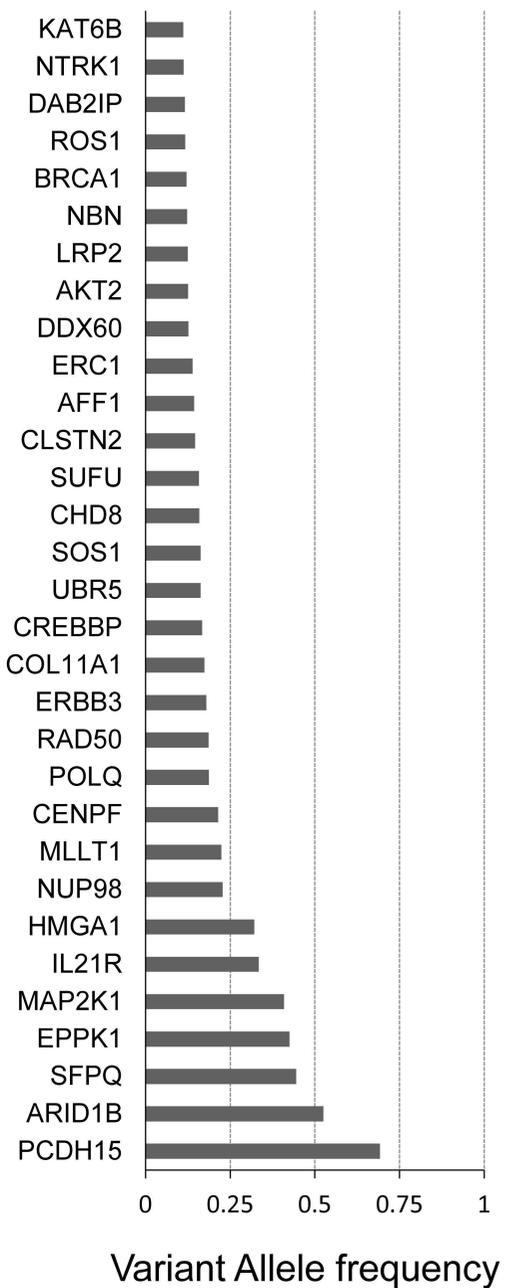


Figure 4A-C

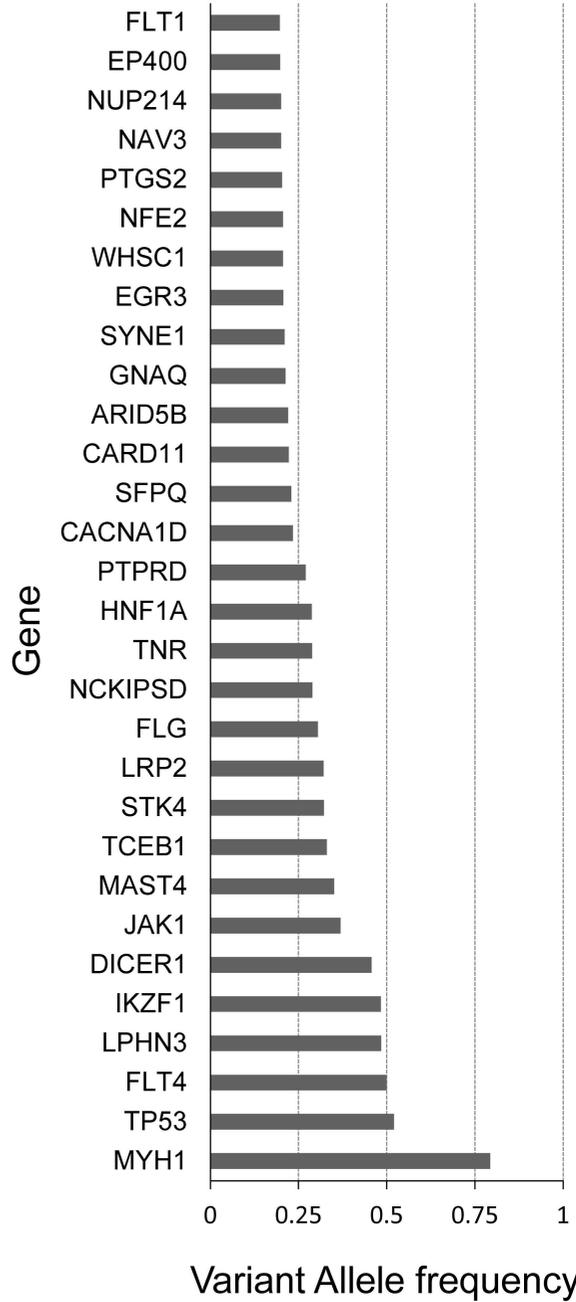


**Figure 5** **Genes mutated in FA/SDS-associated AML.** **A.** Top 30 genes mutated in AML cells from a patient with FA. **B.** Top 30 genes mutated in AML cells from a patient with SDS. **C.** Pathways that are disrupted in AML blasts from a patient with FA and in a patient with SDS.

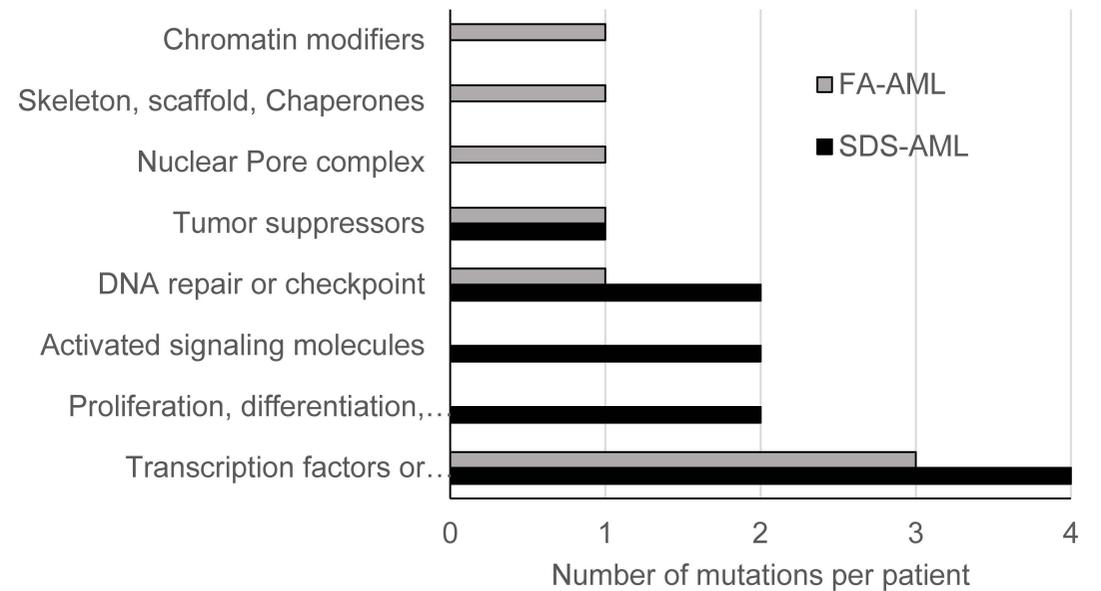
## A. FA-AML



## B. SDS-AML



## C. Pathways



**Figure 6**      **Transformational alterations in sequential samples from a non-malignant to malignant state.** The figure displays results from three sequential samples from a patient with SDS. **A.** Total number of mutations in each sequential sample. **B.** Percentage of total transition mutations in each sequential sample. Percentages of transversions are in Supplemental Figure 24. **C.** Changes in trinucleotide signature heatmap in each sequential sample. **D.** Pathways affected in each sequential sample.

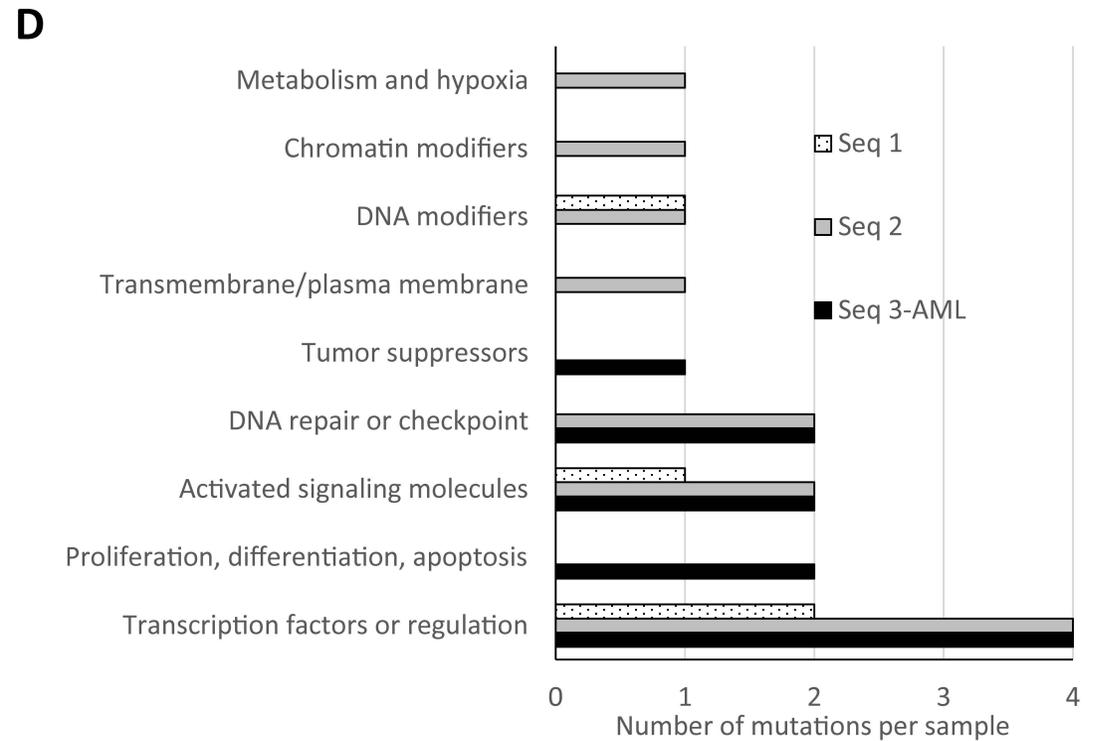
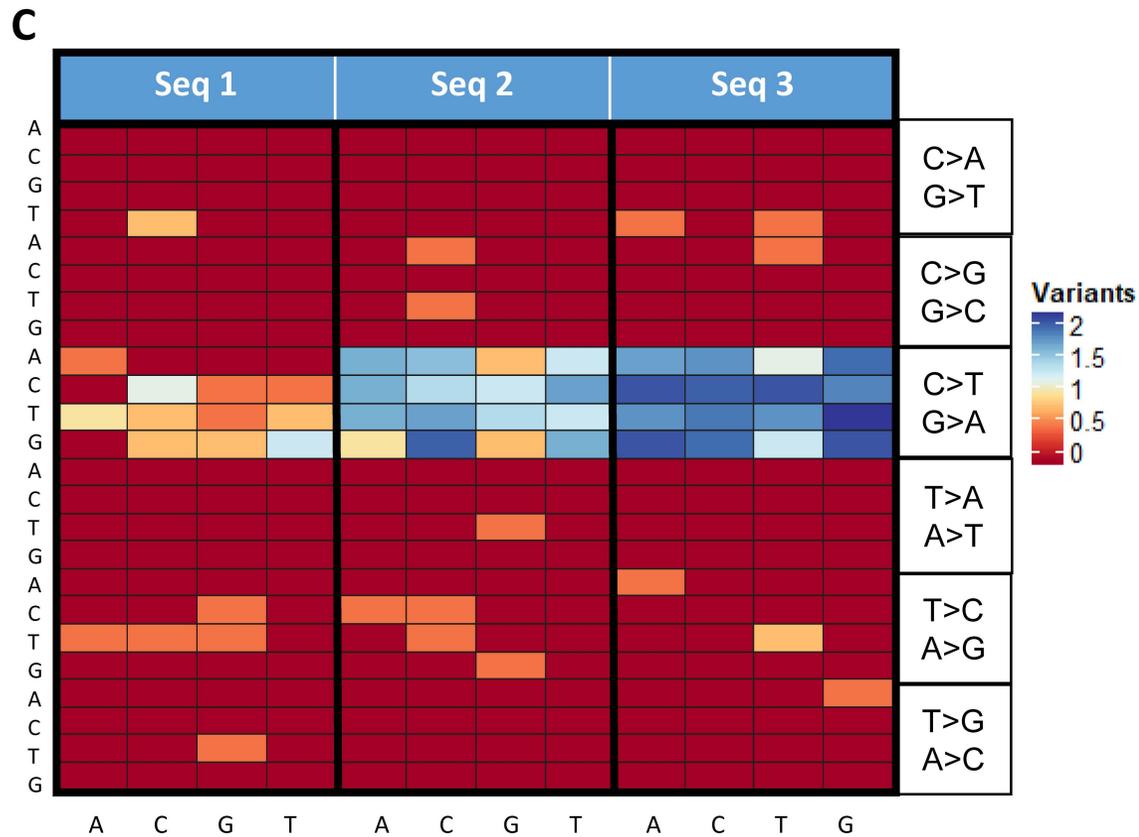
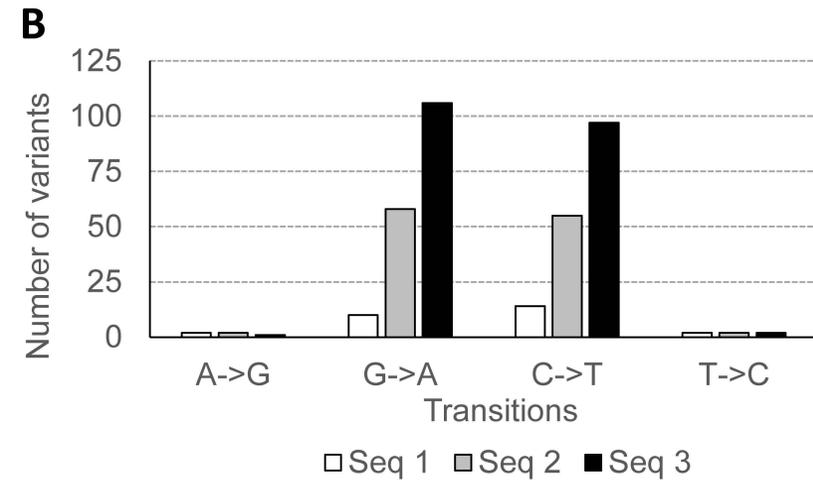
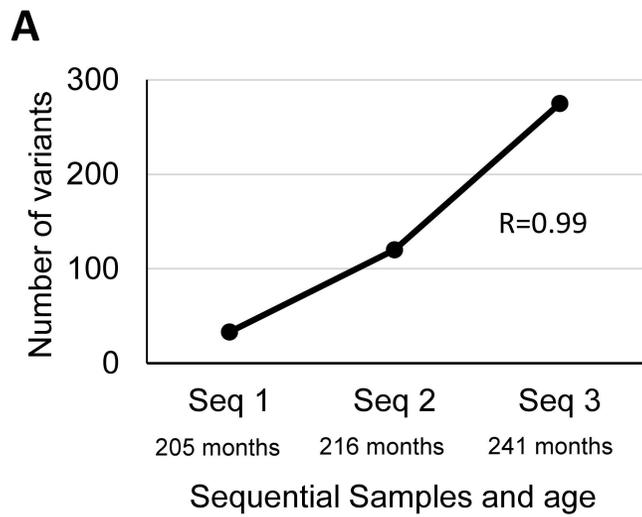


Figure 6