

# **Establishment of hepatocellular cancer stem cell line using reprogramming technique**

**Sangchul Yun<sup>1</sup>, Dongho Choi<sup>1</sup> and Seung Bum Lee<sup>2</sup>**

**<sup>1</sup>Department of Surgery, Soonchunhyang University Hospital, College of Medicine,**

**<sup>2</sup>Laboratory of Experimental Pathology, Korea Institute of Radiological & Medical Science**

# Introduction

- **Hepatocellular carcinoma (HCC) is a highly malignant tumor with limited treatment options in its advanced state.**
- **The molecular mechanisms of HCC remain unclear because of the complexity of its multi-step development process.**
- **There have been two theories concerning the mechanism of carcinogenesis, the stochastic (clonal evolution) model and the hierarchical (cancer stem cell-driven) model.**
- **Cancer stem cells (CSCs) are defined as a small population of cells within a tumor that possess the capability for self-renewal and the generation of heterogeneous lineages of cancer cells.**

# Introduction

- **The concept of the CSC has been established over the past decade, and the roles of CSCs in the carcinogenic processes of various cancers, including HCC, have been emphasized.**
- **Although definitive cell surface markers for liver CSCs have not yet been found, several putative markers have been identified, which allow the prospective isolation of CSCs from HCC.**
- **The identification and characterization of CSCs in HCC is essential for a better understanding of tumor initiation or progression in relation to signaling pathways.**
- **However, CSCs of HCC in humans are not fully elucidated.**

# Introduction

## Colon cancer stem cells

LETTERS

---

### Identification and expansion of human colon-cancer-initiating cells

Lucia Ricci-Vitiani<sup>1</sup>, Dario G. Lombardi<sup>2</sup>, Emanuela Pilozi<sup>3</sup>, Mauro Biffoni<sup>1</sup>, Matilde Todaro<sup>4</sup>, Cesare Peschle<sup>1</sup>  
& Ruggero De Maria<sup>1,2</sup>

Nature. 2007 445:111-5.

LETTERS

---

### A human colon cancer cell capable of initiating tumour growth in immunodeficient mice

Catherine A. O'Brien<sup>1</sup>, Aaron Pollett<sup>2</sup>, Steven Gallinger<sup>3</sup> & John E. Dick<sup>1,4</sup>

Nature. 2007 445:106-10.

# Introduction

## Pancreatic, prostate, head & neck cancer stem cells

### Identification of Pancreatic Cancer Stem Cells

Chenwei Li,<sup>1</sup> David G. Heidt,<sup>1</sup> Piero Dalerba,<sup>4</sup> Charles F. Burant,<sup>2,3</sup> Lanjing Zhang,<sup>3</sup>  
Volkan Adsay,<sup>4</sup> Max Wicha,<sup>3</sup> Michael F. Clarke,<sup>5</sup> and Diane M. Simeone<sup>1,2</sup>

Departments of <sup>1</sup>Surgery, <sup>2</sup>Molecular and Integrative Physiology, and <sup>3</sup>Internal Medicine, University of Michigan Medical Center, Ann Arbor, Michigan; <sup>4</sup>Department of Pathology, Karmanos Cancer Center, Detroit, Michigan; and <sup>5</sup>Department of Internal Medicine, Stanford University School of Medicine, Palo Alto, California

Cancer Res 2007; 67: (3). February 1, 2007

### Identification of a subpopulation of cells with cancer stem cell properties in head and neck squamous cell carcinoma

M. E. Prince\*, R. Sivanandan† A. Kaczorowski\*, G. T. Wolf\*, M. J. Kaplan†, P. Dalerba‡, I. L. Weissman‡, M. F. Clarke‡, and L. E. Ailles‡§

\*Department of Otolaryngology–Head and Neck Surgery, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, MI 48109; and †Department of Otolaryngology–Head and Neck Surgery and ‡Stanford Institute for Stem Cell Biology and Regeneration

PNAS | January 16, 2007 | vol. 104 | no. 3 | 973–978

### Identification of Putative Stem Cell Markers, CD133 and CXCR4, in hTERT–Immortalized Primary Nonmalignant and Malignant Tumor-Derived Human Prostate Epithelial Cell Lines and in Prostate Cancer Specimens

Jun Miki,<sup>1</sup> Bungo Furusato,<sup>2</sup> Hongzhen Li,<sup>1</sup> Yongpeng Gu,<sup>1</sup> Hiroyuki Takahashi,<sup>4</sup> Shin Egawa,<sup>5</sup>  
Isabell A. Sesterhenn,<sup>2</sup> David G. McLeod,<sup>1,3</sup> Shiv Srivastava,<sup>1</sup> and John S. Rhim<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Center for Prostate Disease Research, Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences, Bethesda, Maryland; <sup>2</sup>Department of Genitourinary Pathology, Armed Forces Institutes of Pathology; <sup>3</sup>Urology Service, Department of Surgery, Walter Reed Army Medical Center, Washington, District of Columbia; and Departments of <sup>4</sup>Pathology and <sup>5</sup>Urology, Jikei University School of Medicine, Tokyo, Japan

Cancer Res 2007; 67: (7). April 1, 2007

# Introduction

## HCC cancer stem cells



Available online at [www.sciencedirect.com](http://www.sciencedirect.com)



Biochemical and Biophysical Research Communications 351 (2006) 820–824

BBRC

[www.elsevier.com/locate/ybbrc](http://www.elsevier.com/locate/ybbrc)

### Characterization of CD133<sup>+</sup> hepatocellular carcinoma cells as cancer stem/progenitor cells <sup>☆</sup>

Atsushi Suetsugu <sup>a</sup>, Masahito Nagaki <sup>a,\*</sup>, Hitomi Aoki <sup>b</sup>, Tsutomu Motohashi <sup>b</sup>,  
Takahiro Kunisada <sup>b</sup>, Hisataka Moriwaki <sup>a</sup>

<sup>a</sup> Department of Gastroenterology, Gifu University Graduate School of Medicine, Gifu 501 1194, Japan

<sup>b</sup> Department of Tissue and Organ Development, Regeneration and Advanced Medical Science, Gifu University Graduate School of Medicine,  
Gifu 501 1194, Japan

GASTROENTEROLOGY 2007;132:2542–2556

### Identification and Characterization of Tumorigenic Liver Cancer Stem/Progenitor Cells

STEPHANIE MA,<sup>\*,‡</sup> KWOK-WAH CHAN,<sup>\*</sup> LIANG HU,<sup>‡</sup> TERENCE KIN-WAH LEE,<sup>§</sup> JANA YIM-HUNG WO,<sup>§</sup>  
IRENE OI-LIN NG,<sup>\*</sup> BO-JIAN ZHENG,<sup>||</sup> and XIN-YUAN GUAN<sup>‡</sup>

<sup>\*</sup>Department of Pathology, <sup>‡</sup>Department of Clinical Oncology, <sup>§</sup>Department of Surgery, and <sup>||</sup>Department of Microbiology, The University of Hong Kong, Pokfulam,  
Hong Kong, China

# Cancer stem markers in solid cancers

| Solid Cancer  | Cancer stem cell markers             | References  |
|---------------|--------------------------------------|---|
| HCC           | CD133, side population<br>CD90, CD13 | Hepatology 2006 44:240-251<br>Gastroenterology 2007 132:2542-2556 |
| Colon cancer  | CD133                                | Nature. 2007 445:106-110.<br>Nature. 2007 445:111-115.            |
| Breast cancer | CD44, CD24 low                       | PNAS 2003 100:3983-3988   |
| Brain cancer  | CD133                                | Nature 2004 432:396-401   |
| Head and Neck | CD44, CD24                           | PNAS 2007 104:973-978   |
| Pancreas      | CD44, CD24, ESA                      | Cancer Research 2007 67:1030-1037                                 |
| Prostate      | CD133, CXCR4                         | Cancer Research 2007 67:3153-3161                                 |

# Introduction

## Cancer stem cell theory(HCC)

- **First,** Side population (SP) cells.

Haraguchi N, et al. Stem Cells 2006;24:506-513.

- **Second,** Various CD markers positive cells from HCC cell lines

Yang ZF, et al. Cancer Cell 2008;13:153-166.(CD90)

Ma S, et al. Gastroenterology 2007;132:2542-2556. (CD133)

Zhu Z, et al. Int J Cancer 2010;126:2067-2078. (CD44)

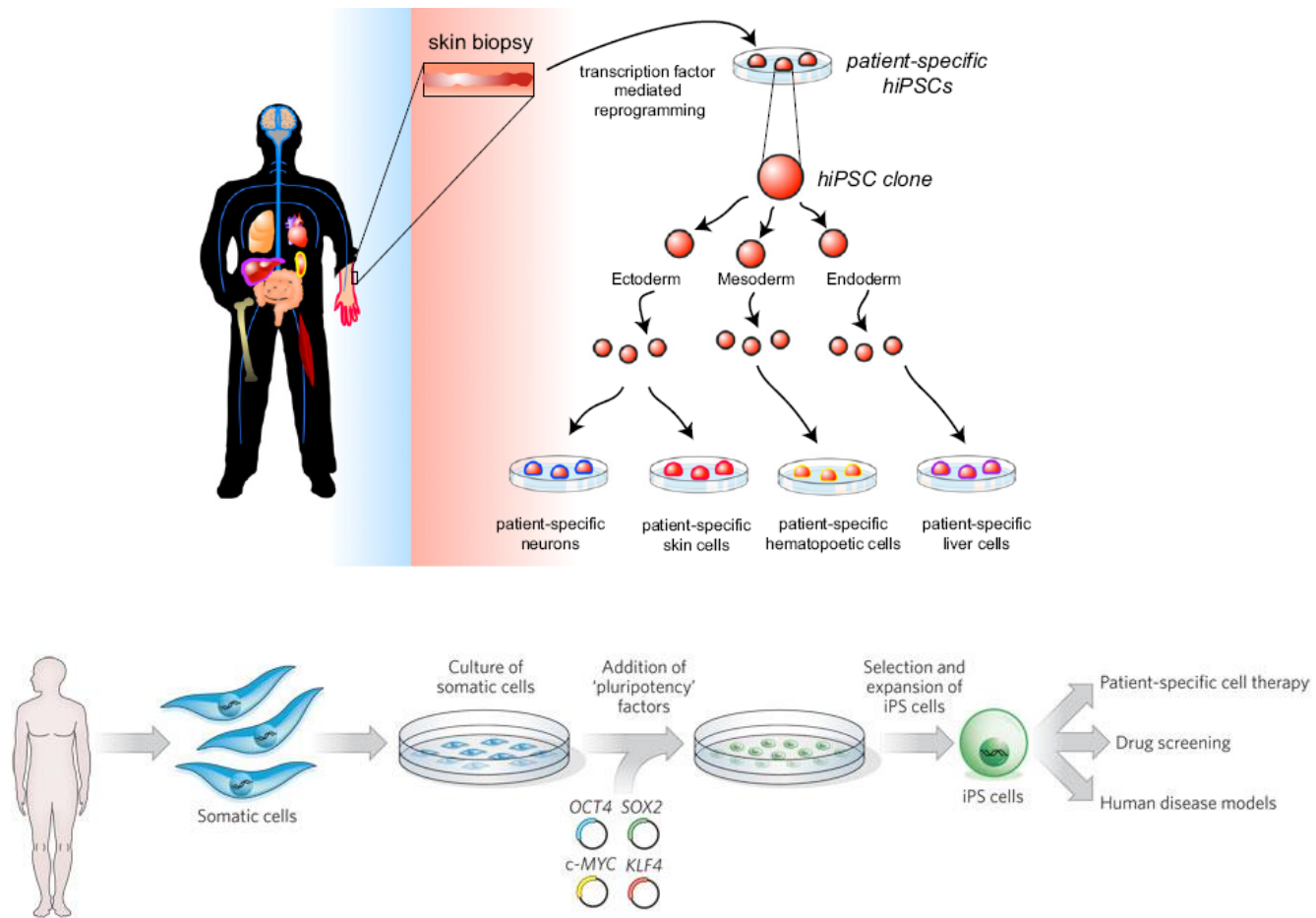
Haraguchi N, et al. J Clin Invest 2010;120:33263339.(CD13)

- **Third,** Induced cancer stem cells from HCC cell lines



# Introduction

## Induced pluripotent stem cells

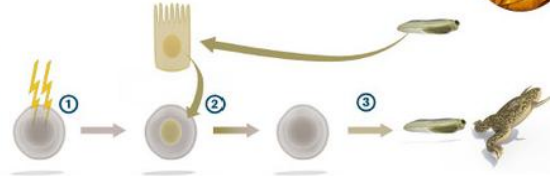


# Introduction

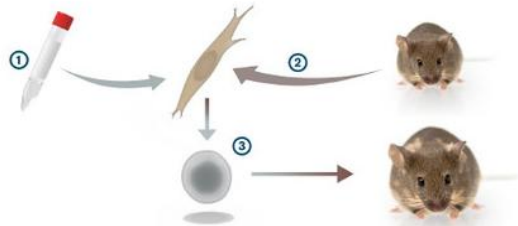
## The Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine 2012



John B. Gurdon

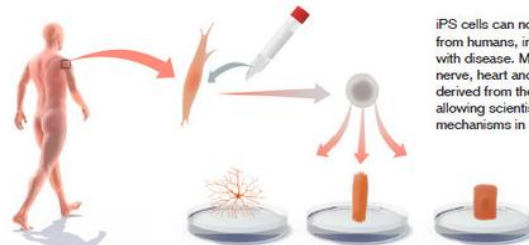


John B. Gurdon eliminated the nucleus of a frog egg cell (1) and replaced it with the nucleus from a specialised cell taken from a tadpole (2). The modified egg developed into a normal tadpole (3). Subsequent nuclear transfer experiments have generated cloned mammals (4).



Shinya Yamanaka

Shinya Yamanaka studied genes that are important for stem cell function. When he transferred four such genes (1) into cells taken from the skin (2), they were reprogrammed into pluripotent stem cells (3) that could develop into all cell types of an adult mouse. He named these cells induced pluripotent stem (iPS) cells.



iPS cells can now be generated from humans, including patients with disease. Mature cells including nerve, heart and liver cells can be derived from these iPS cells, thereby allowing scientists to study disease mechanisms in new ways.

# Introduction

- Recently, reprogramming is the fundamental part of stem cell biology understanding basic cellular mechanism of stem cells.
- In terms of reprogramming, induced pluripotent stem cells (iPSCs) are derived by introducing a combination of four transcription factors (KLF4, Oct4, Sox2 and Myc) into somatic cells.
- Although cancer is a disease with genetic and epigenetic origins, the possible effects of reprogramming by defined factors remain to not be fully understood.

# Introduction

## Induced pluripotent cancer stem cells



Human somatic cells

Retrovirus-KOSM  
vector



Human induced pluripotent  
stem cells



Human HCC cancer cells



Human HCC induced  
cancer stem cells

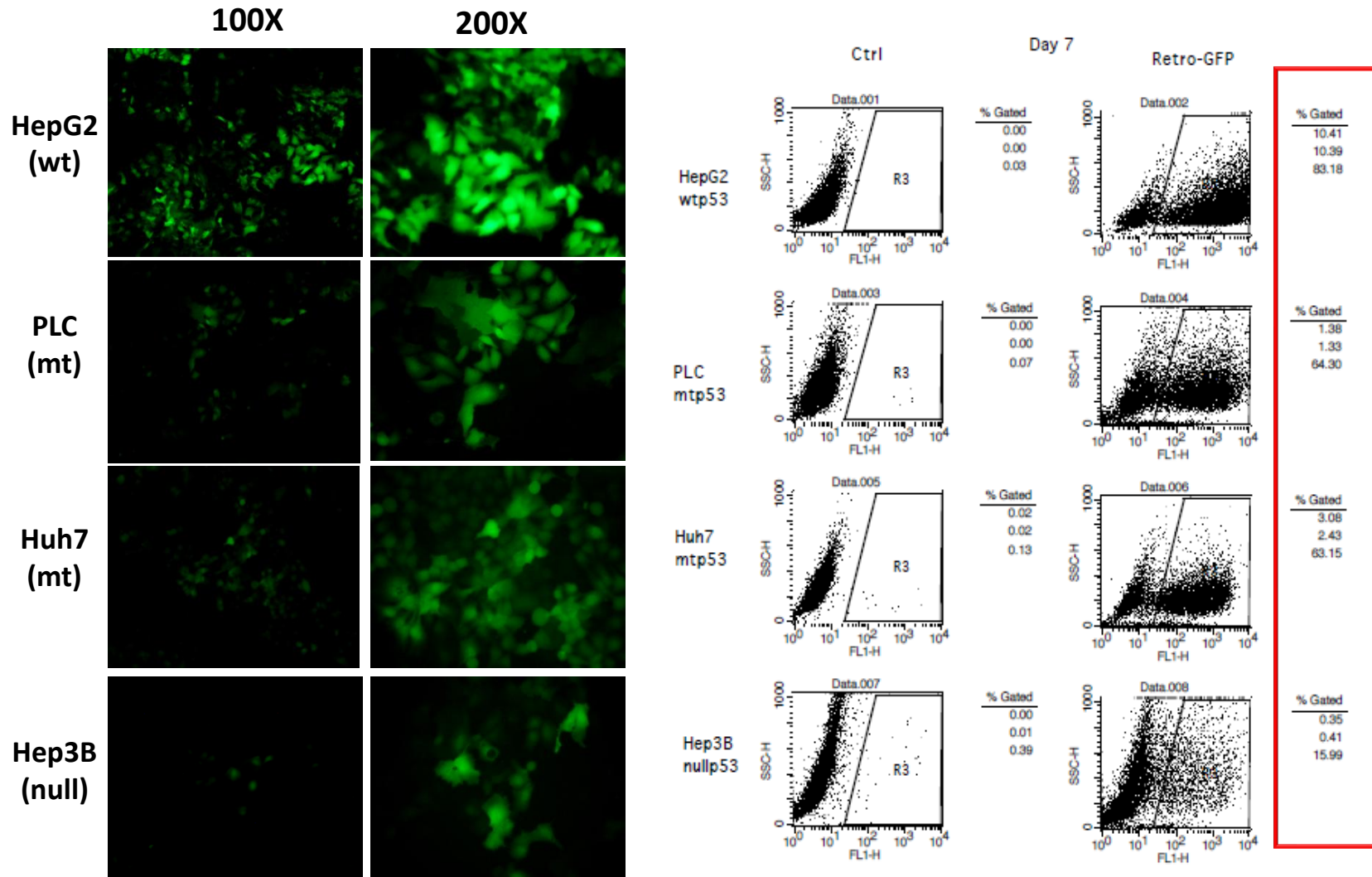
# Aim

- To know the effects of the induction of pluripotent-related genes of HCC cancer cells and whether to get induced HCC stem cell lines from various HCC cell lines

# Materials and methods

- To better understand cancer specific-iPSCs, We used 4 liver cancer cell lines (HepG2, Hep3B, Huh7 and PLC).
- Different mutant state of p53 from the liver cancer cells (HepG2:wild p53, Hep3B:null p53, Huh7:mutant p53 and PLC: mutant p53) were used.
- Retroviral mediated introduction of induced pluripotent stem (iPS) cell genes (KLF4, Oct4, Sox2 and Myc) were used for inducing various HCC cell lines
- Expression of pluripotent status related proteins, including Tra1-81 and Nanog were used for identification of pluripotent cells in cancer cells.

# Result



Efficiency of infection on various liver cancer cells using Retrovirus-GFP

# Result

Colony number after 3-4 weeks on feeder  
(1X10<sup>4</sup> /six well plate)

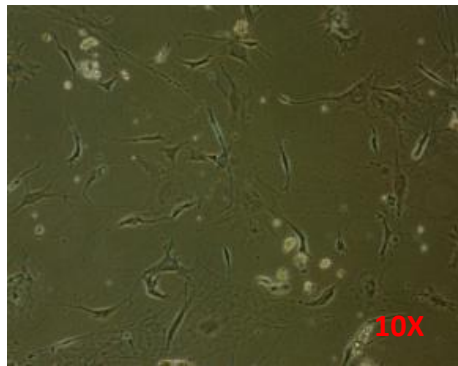
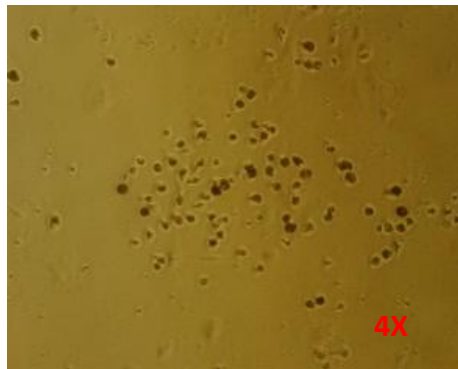
|                | 3 weeks |                |          | 4 weeks |         |         |
|----------------|---------|----------------|----------|---------|---------|---------|
|                | Density | Number (about) | Tra1- 81 | Density | Number  | Tra1-81 |
| HepG2 (wtp53)  | 40%     | <100           | X        | 50%     | >100    | X       |
| PLC (mtp53)    | 80%     | >200           | X        | >100%   | Mess up | X       |
| Huh7 (mtp53)   | 60%     | 100-200        | X        | 80%     | 100-200 | X       |
| Hep3B nullp53) | 60%     | 100-200        | 2        | 80%     | 100-200 | 2       |

Staining Tra1-81 Ab (pluripotent surface mark) after reprogramming using Retrovirus-KOSM

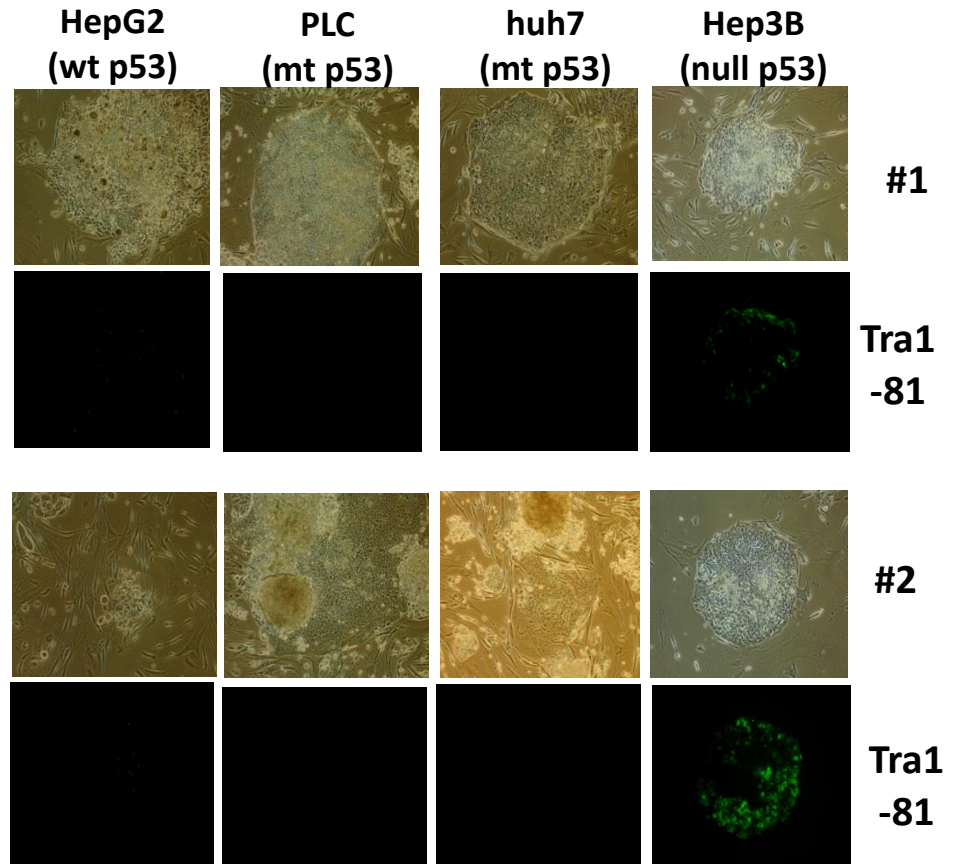


# Result

Non-transduced cells  
(control-HepG2)

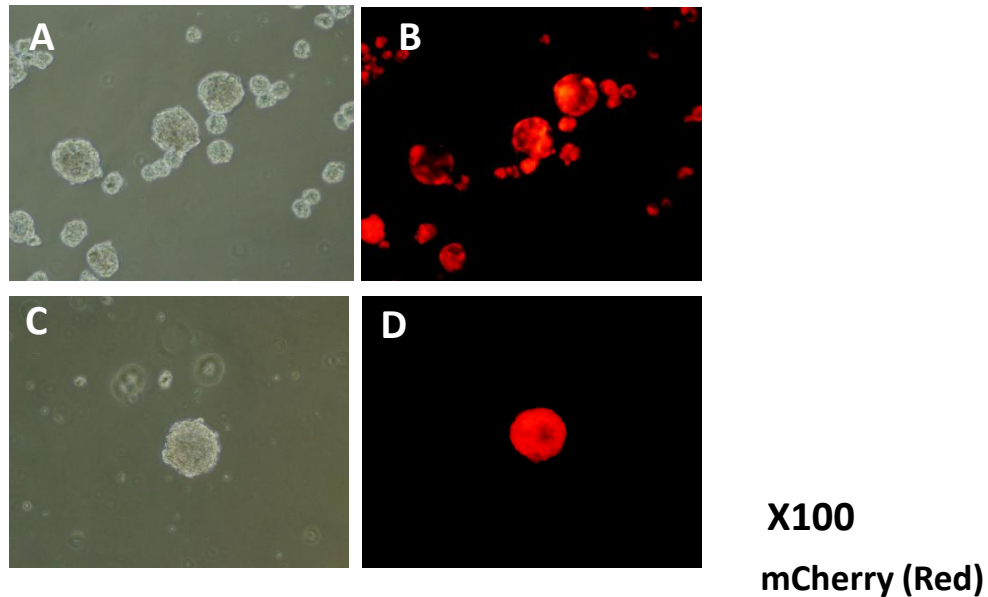


Transduced cells with KOSM  
3 weeks on feeders



Staining Tra1-81 Ab (pluripotent surface mark) after reprogramming using Retrovirus-KOSM

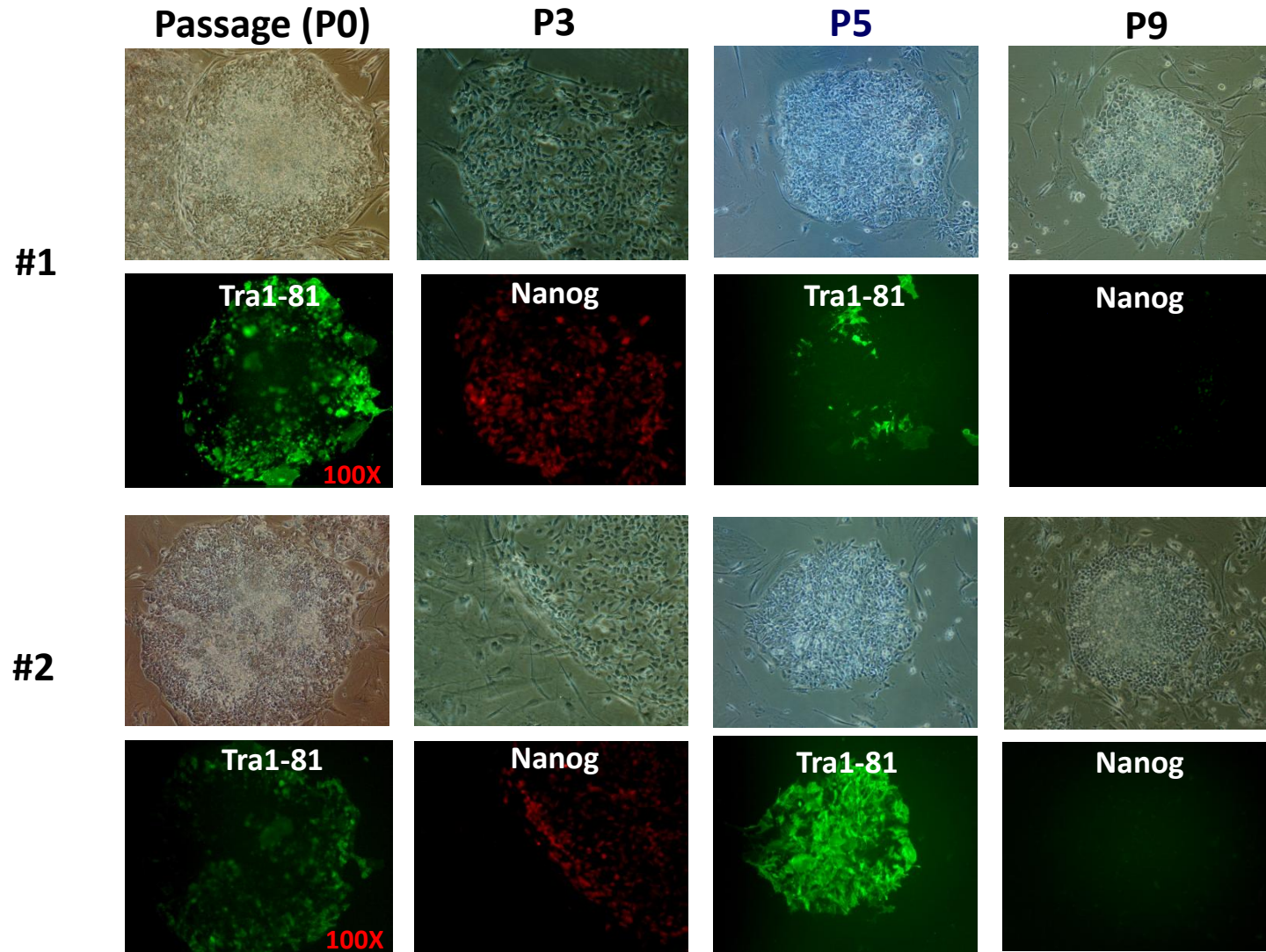
# Result



**EB formation at Day 3 from mCherry stable hep3B-iPC cells**

**Embryonic body (EB) at different wells (A-D)**

# Result



**The stemness of Hep3B-iPC is disappeared upon continual passage**

**Staining of Tra1-81 Ab in Hep3B-iPC after continual passage**

# Summary

- Hep3B (null p53) showed the better efficiency of reprogramming compared to other liver cancer cell lines.
- Characterization of reprogrammed Hep3B-iPC expressed pluripotent markers such as Tra1-81 and Nanog.
- Hep3B-iPCs were able to form embryonic body (EB).
- Even though loss of stemness in Hep3B-iPC was detected during continual passage. Induced cells, but not parental cells, possessed the potential to express morphological patterns of iPSC and express pluripotent markers.
- Further studies should be done for maintenance of HCC iPC with long term passages





*Thank you for your attention !*