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Article Title: Enhanced protein synthesis is a defining requirement for neonatal B cell development

Running title: Translation dictates neonatal B lymphopoiesis

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Abstract

Protein synthesis is a stringently regulated process that fundamentally dictates capacity for
cellular growth. Rapid fluctuations in cell size and proliferation mark the developmental
transitions between B cell precursor stages. However, little is known about how ribosomal
control may impact this process. Here, we identify elevated protein synthesis as a defining
feature of early-life B cell development and a determinant for the output of self-reactive CD5+
B-1a cells in mice. The LIN28B heterochronic RNA binding protein is a key molecular
regulator of fetal and neonatal B lymphopoiesis and can reinitiate B-1a cell generation when
ectopically expressed in adult hematopoiesis. Interactome analyses in primary B cell precursors
showed direct binding of LIN28B to ribosomal protein transcripts, which correlated with their
elevated protein expression *in vivo*. Genetic perturbations demonstrated that LIN28B is
necessary and sufficient to promote enhanced protein synthesis during the small Pre-B and
immature B cell stages. Furthermore, subdued protein synthesis in a ribosomal hypomorphic
mouse model was detrimental for neonatal B lymphopoiesis and the output of B-1a cells,
without affecting B cell development in the adult at steady state. Finally, Rapamycin treatment
inhibited LIN28B induced positive selection of self-reactive CD5+ immature B cells destined
for the B-1a lineage. Taken together, our results identify elevated protein synthesis as a key
mechanism for LIN28B induced B cell development and the generation of B-1a cells early in
life.

Introduction
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B-cell development is centered around alternating stages of cellular proliferation and V(D)J
recombination at the immunoglobulin heavy and light chain loci, with the goal of producing a
diverse yet self-tolerant B cell repertoire. During the Pro-B cell stage, productive IgH
rearrangement results in the expression of a pre-BCR complex and differentiation into the large
Pre-B cell stage. The latter is marked by a transient burst of clonal expansion. Cell cycle exit
is accompanied by the initiation of light chain recombination and entry into the small Pre-B
cell stage. IL-7 signaling is an essential trophic factor during the Pro- and large Pre-B cell
stages, promoting cell survival, proliferation, and differentiation, through distinct effects
mediated by the Stat5 and mTORC1/c-MYC signaling axes (1, 2). IL-7 signaling wanes as
large Pre-B cells move away from IL-7 producing stromal cells in vivo and its attenuation is
required for the developmental progression into the small Pre-B cell stage and the onset of IgK
light chain recombination (3). Generation of a productive immunoglobulin heavy and light
chain complex leads to membrane IgM expression and developmental progression into the
immature B (Imm-B) cell stage. Here, cells carrying innocuous BCRs are allowed to mature
while self-reactive specificities are subject to central tolerance mechanisms including receptor
editing and apoptosis to remove potentially harmful recognition of "self" (4). Progression
through these stages is accompanied by dramatic fluctuations in bioenergetic states. Although
metabolic capacity has been proposed to modulate the central tolerance checkpoint (5), this
theory has not been empirically proven.
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Much of what we know about B cell development comes from studies in adult mice, which
differs significantly from fetal and neonatal life. For example, while B cell development in
adult bone marrow strictly requires IL-7 mediated signaling, B cell output can take place in
neonatal mice lacking IL-7Ra until around two weeks of age (6). Furthermore, both the pre-
BCR and mature BCR checkpoints are less stringent during neonatal life allowing for the
positive selection of poly and self-reactive specificities in mice and men (7-9). This correlates
with the output of self-reactive CD5+ B-1a cells in mice, which secrete natural antibodies
important for the clearance of cellular debris and act as a first line of defense against pathogens
(10). Despite these differences, the basis for the developmental switch in B cell output is not
well understood.
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One molecular program that distinguishes early life lymphopoiesis is centered around the post-
transcriptional regulator LIN28B. It is one of two mammalian homologs of *lin-28* first
identified in *Caenorhabditis elegans* to encode a heterochronic RNA binding protein in control
of the timing of larval development (11). In the mammalian hematopoietic system, *Lin28b*
expression is abundant during fetal life and gradually silenced within the first two to three
weeks of life, critically controlling a neonatal switch in hematopoietic stem cell function and
lineage output patterns (12). Like its mammalian paralog *Lin28a*, *Lin28b* plays an established
role in regulating organismal growth and cellular metabolism, most famously through the direct
inhibition of the biogenesis of the evolutionarily conserved Let-7 family of microRNAs.
LIN28A/B expression de-represses Let-7 targets which include the proto-oncogenes *Myc*,
Arid3a, *Hmga2* and *Igf2bp1-3* (13-15). We and others have previously shown that ectopic

LIN28A/B expression in the adult promotes key aspects of fetal-like lymphopoiesis, including
the efficient production of CD5+ B-1a cells (13, 16-18). Furthermore, studies from both BCR
poly-clonal and transgenic mouse models make clear that LIN28B relaxes the central tolerance
checkpoint to allow for the positive selection of self-reactive BCR specificities and thereby
uniquely shapes the neonatal B cell repertoire (19, 20). Immunophenotypically, this
phenomenon is marked by the developmental progression of CD5+ imm-B cells destined for
the B-1a cell lineage (19). The mechanism for this effect is, although not fully understood, at
least in part linked to augmentation of c-MYC protein levels in Imm-B cells and the
CD19/PI3K/c-MYC positive feedback loop (19) known to promote B cell positive selection
(21).

A less understood mechanism of LIN28B action is through the direct binding of coding
mRNAs to either positively or negatively regulate transcript stability and protein translation,
in a context dependent manner (22-31). In particular, several studies have demonstrated the
ability of LIN28B to promote the translation of ribosomal proteins, through Let-7 independent
direct binding to their transcripts in human ES cells (32), transformed human kidney (22) and
neuroblastoma (31) cell lines. However, the role of the protein synthesis pathway in LIN28B
dependent B cell positive selection is not known. Here we demonstrate that LIN28B directly
interacts with ribosomal protein transcripts in primary B cell precursors. Importantly, LIN28B
expression is necessary and sufficient to elevate protein synthesis specifically during the later
stages of IL-7 independent bone marrow B cell maturation. Finally, we show that an augmented
mode of protein synthesis is a hallmark of neonatal B cell development and a pre-requisite for
the positive selection of CD5+ Imm-B cells and the output of B-1a cells early in life. We
conclude that LIN28B augments protein synthesis to support neonatal B cell output.

Materials and methods

Mice

tet-LIN28B mice were generated by intercrossing *Col1a^tetO-LIN28B* (The Jackson Laboratory,
#023911) to *Rosa26^rtTA*m2* (The Jackson Laboratory, #006965) mice and were originally
obtained from the laboratory of George Daley (Harvard Medical School) (33). Monoallelic
transgene expressing mice were used for experiments. *Rosa26^rtTA*m2* heterozygous littermates
were used as control mice. For *in vivo* experiments, Doxycycline (Dox) chow (200 mg/kg,
Ssnif, cat#A112D70203) was fed to tet-LIN28B and littermates for 10 days before analysis.
B6.Cg-*Lin28b^tm1.1Gqda*/J (*Lin28b* KO) (The Jackson Laboratory, #023917) and C57BLKS-
Rpl24^Bst/J (Bst) (The Jackson Laboratory, #000516) were originally purchased from the
Jackson laboratory. Wildtype mice were originally purchased from Taconic (B6NTAC,
Taconic). The *Lin28b*-eGFP knock-in strain was generated as previously described (34). Adult
mice were used at 10 to 16 weeks of age, neonates were analyzed at the indicated days post-
birth. Male and female mice were used interchangeably throughout the experiments. Animal
husbandry and experimental procedures were performed in accordance with ethical permits
issued by the Swedish Board of Agriculture.

Bone marrow cultures

Adult bone marrow B cell precursors from untreated adult mice were expanded and enriched
ex vivo, as previously described (35). Briefly, single cell suspension of red blood cell lysed
bone marrow was plated in pre-warmed RPMI-1640 (Fischer Scientific, cat#21875091) and
incubated for 15 min at 37 °C. The non-adherent cells were isolated and seeded at a cell density
of 0.75-1.5 million/mL using fully supplemented RPMI-1640, IL-7 (20 ng/mL, Peprotech,
cat#217-17), and Dox (0.1 µg/ml, Sigma-Aldrich, cat#D3072). Dox treatment for bone marrow
cultures was always initiated at the start of the culture, never *in vivo*. The cell culture medium
was refreshed every second day.

RNA Immunoprecipitation Sequencing (RIP-seq)

Cells from day 5 bone marrow cultures from tet-LIN28B or littermate control mice were used
for lysis and RIP using Magna RIP RNA-Binding Protein Immunoprecipitation kit (Millipore,
cat#17-700) according to the manufacturer's instructions. Briefly, 10% of the total lysate was
kept as input sample. 4 µg of anti-Flag antibody (Sigma) and 50 µl of A/G beads (Millipore,
cat#16-663) were added to the lysate and incubated for 3 hours. Beads were washed 6 times
with ice-cold RIP wash buffer (Millipore, cat#17-700). RNA was extracted using RNAzol
(Sigma-Aldrich, cat#R4533) and Direct-zol RNA MicroPrep kit (Zymo Research, cat#R2060).
For RNA quantification and quality control respectively, Qubit with RNA HS kit
(Thermofisher Scientific, cat# Q32852) and Agilent Bioanalyzer with RNA Pico kit (Agilent,
cat#5067-1513) were used according to the manufacturer's instructions. 20ng of total RNA
was used for the cDNA synthesis and amplification with the SMART-Seq v4 Ultra Low Input
RNA Kit for Sequencing (Takara, cat#634889) according to instructions. Library tagmentation
and indexing was performed using Nextera XT DNA Kit (Illumina, cat#FC-121-1030) and
Nextera XT v2 set A Indexing kit (Illumina, cat#15052163). Library quantification and library
size were measured using Qubit DNA HS kit (Thermofisher Scientific, cat#Q32851) and

BioAnalyzer DNA HS kit (Agilent, cat#5067-4626). The samples were run in NextSeq 550
using NextSeq High output 150 cycles 2x76bp. Reads were aligned using STAR aligner v2.7.1
to mm10 and counted using RSEM v1.28. Genes were filtered for an FPKM of at least 50 in
total tet-LIN28B input samples and following LIN28B immunoprecipitation. Enrichment was
calculated as IP over Input FPKM for each of the two tet-LIN28B samples individually. 238
transcripts had an average enrichment of at least 2-fold and were considered for subsequent
analyses. Littermate control sample was not considered when generating this list. Gene
ontology analysis was done using the Panther database (pantherdb.org, release 17.0). Data is
accessible through GEO, GSE217788.
164
RNA sequencing
B cell precursor subsets were FACS sorted from adult BM of Dox induced mice of the indicated
genotypes. RNA sequencing libraries were generated as previously described (19) and
sequenced on Illumina NextSeq and NovaSeq. Note that FSC-A low, small Pro-B cells were
excluded from the FACS sorting gate. All data was processed and analyzed as previously
described (19). Data is accessible through GSE217788 except for Imm-B that was previously
generated (19) and is accessible through GSE135603. GSEA used Wald's stat as ranking
metric. MSigDB Mouse collections Hallmark_MYC_target_v1 and MirDB
CTACCTC_LET7A_LET7B_LET7C_LET7D_LET7E_LET7F_MIR98_LET7G_LET7I
gene sets were used for GSEA.
175
Metabolic labeling of nascent proteins
Cells were depleted of endogenous methionine by pre-culturing them in methionine free RPMI
(Fisher Scientific, cat#A1451701). After 45 minutes, the medium was supplemented with L-
azidhomoalanine (AHA, 1 mM final concentration, Fisher Scientific, cat#C10102) and labeled
for one hour. AHA uptake was visualized using Click-iT Plus Alexa Fluor 555 Picolyl Azide
Toolkit (Fisher Scientific, cat#C10642), following the manufacturer's protocol. Briefly, up to
3×10^6 cells were fixed in 400 µL of 4% formaldehyde (Fischer Scientific, cat#28906) for 20
minutes at room temperature, washed, and then permeabilized in equal volume of 0.1% saponin
(Sigma, cat#S4521) for 20 minutes. Alexa Fluor 488 Alkyne (Fisher Scientific, cat#A10267)
was used in place of Alexa Fluor 555 for FACS analysis.
186
Flow cytometry
Bone marrow cells were extracted by crushing bones from hind- and front limbs, hips, and
sternum, using mortar and pestle. Peritoneal cavity was isolated by flushing adult mice with 8
mL of FACS buffer (Hank's Balanced Salt Solution (Gibco, cat#14175-053) supplemented
with 0.5% Bovine Serum Albumin (Sigma, cat#A9647) and 2 mM EDTA (Invitrogen,
cat#15575-038)), or neonates 1-8 mL depending on the age. Red blood cell lysis was performed
on bone marrow and spleens using ACK lysis buffer (Fischer Scientific, cat#A1049201), only
for mice that were at least 19 days old. Lineage depletion was carried out before cell sorting by
MACS Cell Separation and LS columns (Miltenyi Biotec, cat#130-042-401) to deplete CD3+,
TER119+, or Gr-1+ cells, according to manufacturer's instructions.
197
Antibody staining of surface antigen was performed using FACS buffer, at a cell density of 1

x 10^7 cells per 100 µL of FACS buffer with antibodies, for 30 minutes at 4 °C. Analysis of
intracellular antigens was done by using the same fixation and permeabilization as was
described under "Metabolic labeling of nascent proteins", or using BD Cytofix/Cytoperm
fixation/permeabilization kit (BD Biosciences, cat#554714). Maximum of 3 x 10^6 cells per
reaction. All flow cytometry experiments were gated on live CD19+ B cells and the following
immunophenotypes: Pro-B cells (CD93+IGM–cKIT+), Pre-B cells (CD93+IGM–cKIT– and
FSC-A to separate large from small), Imm-B cells (CD93+IGM+), peritoneal cavity B-1a B
cells (CD5+CD23–B220low and CD43+), and peritoneal cavity B-2 B cells (B220high CD23+
and CD43–). All flow cytometry experiments were performed at the Lund Stem Cell Center
FACS Core Facility (Lund University, Lund, Sweden) using BD Fortessa, BD Fortessa X20,
BD FACS Aria III, or BD FACS Aria II instruments. Cell sorting was performed using a 70
µm nozzle, 0.32.0 precision mask, and a flow rate below 6000 events/s. Analysis was
performed using FlowJo version 10. Antibodies are listed in Supplemental table S1.
212
Bone marrow HSPC transplantation
4000 bone marrow Lineage$^-$ Sca1$^+$ cKit$^+$ (LSK) donor cells (CD45.1) from day 10 neonatal
Rpl24$^{WT/Bst}$ or WT mice were FACS sorted and mixed at a 1:2 ratio with 8000 sorted CD45.1
competitor LSK cells and 200,000 CD45.1 total BM support cells. Cells were transplanted into
lethally irradiated (2 × 450 cGy) and CD45.1+ CD45.2+ double positive adult recipients by tail
vein injection. Endpoint analysis was performed 13–14 weeks after transplantation.
219
In vivo treatment with Rapamycin
Rapamycin (Enzo LifeSciences, cat#BML-A275-0005) was dissolved in Ethanol (99.5%,
Solveco, cat#11594139) and kept in -20 as stocks at a concentration of 10 mg/mL. Prior to
injection, stocks were further diluted in sterile DPBS (Cytiva, cat#SH30028.02) before
administering a single intraperitoneal injection of Rapamycin (2.5 mg/kg) or vehicle control
(36).
226
Western Blot
Sorted B cells were lysed in RIPA buffer (CST, cat#9806S), protease inhibitor (Roche,
cat#4693132001), and PMSF (CST, cat#8553S). Loading samples were prepared with
Laemmli buffer (Bio-Rad, cat#1610747) with β-mercaptoethanol (Bio-Rad, cat#1610710).
Proteins were separated by SDS–polyacrylamide gel electrophoresis (Any kD Mini-Protean
TGX gel, Bio-Rad, cat#4568125) and transferred to a nitrocellulose membrane (Trans-Blot
Turbo Mini Nitrocellulose Transfer Packs, Bio-Rad, cat#1704158). Membranes were blocked
for 1 hour at RT in 5% skimmed milk. Antibodies are listed in Supplemental table S1. The
ECL Select kit (GE Healthcare, cat#RPN2235) was used to detect protein bands with a
ChemiDoc XRS+ system (Bio-Rad).
237
For RIP validation western blot of Pro-B cells cultured ex vivo from bone marrow, 10% of the
total protein extract was collected to validate the immunoprecipitation efficiency. Proteins were
separated by SDS–polyacrylamide gel electrophoresis (12% Mini-Protean TGX gel, Bio-Rad,
cat#4561043) and transferred to a nitrocellulose membrane (Trans-Blot Turbo Mini

Nitrocellulose Transfer Packs, Bio-Rad, cat#1704158). Membranes were blocked for 1 hour at
RT in 5% skimmed milk. Antibodies are listed in Supplemental table S1.
244
qRT-PCR
50.000 sorted cells were lysed in RNAzol (Sigma-Aldrich, cat#R4533) and total RNA was
extracted using Direct-zol RNA MicroPrep kit (Zymo Research, cat#R2060) according to the
manufacturer's instructions. Total RNA (8 μl) was used in random primed cDNA synthesis
with TaqMan Reverse Transcription Reagents (Applied Biosystem, cat#N8080234). Diluted
cDNA 1:2 (4 μl) was used in every qPCR reaction using KAPA probe Fast qPCR kit (Kapa
Biosystem, cat#KK4706) with primers targeting 45S (Thermofisher Scientific, cat#
Mm03985792_s1) and 18S (Thermofisher Scientific, cat# 4333760T) rRNA transcripts. The
relative expression levels of rRNA were evaluated using log2 (2ΔCt) calculation.
254
255 **Statistical analysis**
256 All statistical analysis was carried out in R (version 4.1.2) and RStudio (version 1.4.1717),
257 using functions from the following packages: tidyverse (version 1.3.1), DESeq2 (version
258 1.32.0), rstatix (version 0.7.0), and ggpubr (version 0.4.0).

Results

The LIN28B mRNA interactome in primary B cell precursors is enriched for ribosomal protein transcripts

The developmentally restricted RNA binding protein LIN28B is a post-transcriptional regulator capable to regulating mRNA stability and translation. Using a tet-LIN28B inducible mouse model containing monoallelic expression of the $Col1a^{tetO-LIN28B}$ and $Rosa26^{rtTA*m2}$ transgenes, we have previously demonstrated its ability to re-initiate fetal-like selection of B-1a cells in a cell intrinsic manner when ectopically expressed in hematopoietic progenitor cells(17, 19). To identify direct mRNA targets of LIN28B that could be important during B cell development, we took advantage of the FLAG tagged human LIN28B in the $Col1a^{tetO-LIN28B}$ allele of tet-LIN28B mice for immunoprecipitation of its mRNA interactome (33). To obtain sufficient cell numbers for interactome profiling, B cell precursors from uninduced tet-LIN28B and control mice were expanded for 5 days by culturing whole bone marrow cells in the presence of IL-7 and supplemented with Doxycycline (Dox) *ex vivo* to induce LIN28B expression. After five days with IL-7, the cultures reached above 80% B cell purity (Supplemental figure 1A). Cells were harvested and subjected to RNA immunoprecipitation (IP) coupled with poly-A selected RNA-sequencing (RIP-seq) (Figure 1A). Immunoprecipitation efficiency of LIN28B was validated by western blot analysis (Supplemental figure 1B). Total RNA sequencing of corresponding input samples was used for calculating RIP-seq enrichment. RIP/input ratio of the technical replicates showed a high degree of correlation (R=0.93, p < 2.2e-16) (Figure 1B) and were averaged for downstream analyses. 238 transcripts displayed a higher than two-fold RIP/input enrichment in tet-LIN28B samples but showed no trend in the control (Supplemental Table S2 and Figure 1C). Gene ontology (GO) analysis revealed a prominent enrichment for ribosomal protein coding transcripts (Figure 1D), suggesting that ribosomal function might be a core target pathway of LIN28B during B cell development. Interestingly, similar observations were previously made in other cell types, including 293T cells (22) and BE(2)-C neuroblastoma cells (31). Indeed, cross comparison of our identified targets with these studies yielded cytoplasmatic translation as the predominant overlapping GO term (Figure 1E-F). Our analysis also identified other GO terms involved in RNA splicing and oxidative phosphorylation, consistent with previous LIN28A/B interactome studies in various cell types (23, 37). We conclude that the direct LIN28B mRNA regulon in the context of primary bone marrow B cell progenitor cells is dominated by transcripts implicated in universal biosynthetic pathways, which are shared across a wide range of cell types. In particular, our findings implicate the ribosome as a potential target for LIN28B regulation in B cell progenitors.

LIN28B enhances protein synthesis in the small Pre-B and Imm-B stages of B cell development

LIN28B bound mRNA targets have been linked to both translational increase and decrease in a context dependent manner (22-31). In the case of ribosomal protein transcripts, enhanced protein translation has been shown by stable isotope labeling using amino acid in culture (22) as well as polysome profiling (31). To assess ribosomal protein levels during B cell

development, we performed western blot analysis on 50,000 sorted B cell precursors from tet-
LIN28B and control mice following 10 days of Dox induction *in vivo* (Supplemental figure
2A). As expected, based on the dynamic changes in bioenergetic states during B cell
development, the expression of ribosomal proteins rise and fall during the large and small Pre-
B cells, respectively (Figure 2A). Consistent with enhanced translation, we found increased
levels of ribosomal proteins upon LIN28B induction throughout B cell development.

Given this increase in ribosomal proteins, we expected a corresponding increase in ribosomal
RNA (rRNA) content upon tet-LIN28B induction. To this end, we measured the 18S rRNAs
by qRT-PCR of FACS sorted B cell precursors. In Pro and large-Pre-B cells, which are highly
proliferative, we observed generally high rRNA content but no LIN28B dependent differences.
rRNA content first began to increase in a LIN28B dependent manner in the quiescent small
Pre-B cell stage and reached statistical significance in Imm-B cells (Figure 2B). Additional
analysis of the 45S precursor rRNA showed the same trend (Figure 2C). Thus, the observed
increase in ribosomal protein levels throughout B cell development (Figure 2A) does not
exactly mirror the increase in ribosome biogenesis which is confined to the later stages of
LIN28B induced B cell development. To evaluate whether this observation correlated with
changes in global protein synthesis rates we measured newly synthesized proteins in freshly
isolated B cell precursors using metabolic labelling with the methionine analog L-
azidohomoalanine (AHA) (38). As expected, FACS readout of AHA uptake from Dox induced
control and tet-LIN28B mice showed highly dynamic protein synthesis levels during B cell
development (Figure 2D). Pro-B cells exhibited a bimodal profile with respect to protein
synthesis that correlated with cell size (AHA^{high} or AHA^{low}, Supplemental figure 2B). Although
there was a slight tendency towards more AHA^{high} Pro-B cells in tet-LIN28B induced mice, no
statistical significance was detected in either the median fluorescence intensity (MFI) or
frequency of the two subsets (Figure 2E, Supplemental figure 2C). Instead, LIN28B induced
an increase in global protein synthesis in the small Pre-B and Imm-B cell stages. This result
closely mirrors the observed effects on ribosome biogenesis (Figure 2B-C). Analysis of mature
B cells showed that protein synthesis in peritoneal cavity B-1 and B-2 cells were not affected
by LIN28B expression (Figure 2F), consistent with small Pre-B and Imm-B cells being
uniquely sensitive to LIN28B induced changes in protein synthesis. Taken together, we
conclude that LIN28B enhances ribosome content and global protein synthesis levels during
the later stages of bone marrow B cell development.

IL-7 responsiveness dictates the stage specific effects of LIN28B during B cell
development
Elevated ribosomal biogenesis is a hallmark of c-MYC activity (39). We have previously
shown that LIN28B upregulates c-MYC protein levels in Imm-B cells (19). To investigate
whether c-MYC up-regulation followed the observed LIN28B dependent effects on ribosome
biogenesis and protein synthesis, we next analyzed c-MYC protein levels throughout B cell
development using intracellular FACS. Consistent with its known IL-7 driven expression in
Pro-B cells (2, 40), we found that c-MYC peaked in a subset of Pro-B cells regardless of
genotype. The impact of LIN28B on c-MYC expression began in the small Pre-B cell stage
and culminated in Imm-B cells (Figure 3A-B), mirroring the trend for ribosome biogenesis and

protein synthesis. This finding was consistent with changes at the transcriptome level, where
LIN28B induced a clear c-MYC target gene signature in the small Pre- and Imm-B cell stages
(Figure 3C). Interestingly, LIN28B induced de-repression of Let-7 targets was most apparent
during the IL-7 dependent Pro- and large Pre-B cell stages (Figure 3C) verifying the expected
effects of LIN28B action during early B cell development. Our results therefore indicate that a
shift in the LIN28B induced molecular program takes place during B cell development from a
largely c-MYC independent to a c-MYC dominated mode upon entry into quiescence in the
small Pre-B cell stage.
354
We next investigated the basis for the resistance to LIN28B induced effects on the c-MYC
/protein synthesis axis during the Pro- and large Pre-B cell stages. Here, IL-7 is a major trophic
factor driving c-MYC expression prior to the Pre-BCR checkpoint (2, 40). We therefore
hypothesized that IL-7 signaling might mask any LIN28B mediated effects on c-MYC. To test
this, we expanded B cell precursors from control and tet-LIN28B bone marrow under saturating
IL-7 conditions for five days, before replating the cells under limiting doses of IL-7 (Figure
3D) as previously described (Mandal 2019). Two days following IL-7 withdrawal, cultured
cells were harvested and FACS analyzed for LIN28B-dependent effects on c-MYC expression
and global protein synthesis in Pro-B cells. As expected, IL-7 withdrawal resulted in to a dose
dependent decrease in c-MYC and a collapse in the protein synthesis of Pro-B cells (Figure
3E-F). Interestingly, the observed decrease in c-MYC was partially alleviated by tet-LIN28B
induction *ex vivo* at limiting IL-7 conditions (Figure 3E left). A similar trend was observed for
protein synthesis (Figure 3E right). Taken together, we demonstrate that LIN28B exerts an
upregulation of the c-MYC/protein synthesis axis during B cell development. During the Pro-
and Pre-B cell stages, the LIN28B effect is normally masked by IL-7 signaling and is only
revealed upon acute IL-7 withdrawal. In contrast, c-Myc is consistently sensitive to LIN28B in
small Pre-B and Imm-B cells which are not responsive to IL-7. These findings provide an
explanation to the observed stage specific effects on the c-MYC/protein synthesis axis exerted
by LIN28B during B cell development (Figure 3F).
374
Neonatal B cell development relies on a heightened level of protein synthesis
Endogenous LIN28B expression is developmentally limited to fetal and neonatal life. FACS
analysis of LIN28B-eGFP reporter mice (34) captured its window of expression in B cell
precursors as it gradually diminished to background levels after day 10 (Figure 4A). During
the same window, protein synthesis in wildtype neonatal bone marrow small Pre-B and Imm-
B cells was also elevated (Figure 4B). This effect was LIN28B dependent and fully abolished
in 3-day-old neonates that lacked endogenous *Lin28b* (Figure 4C). In contrast, *Lin28b*
deficiency did not affect protein synthesis in neonatal Pro-B cells. These findings confirm our
results from tet-LIN28B induction in adulthood and establish increased protein synthesis by
endogenous *Lin28b* as a hallmark of early life B cell development in wildtype mice.
385
To investigate the importance of elevated protein synthesis for neonatal B cell development,
we took advantage of the ribosomal protein hypomorphic $Rpl24^{WT/Bst}$ mouse model. This model
carries a mutation that disrupts *Rpl24* mRNA splicing and thereby ribosome biogenesis,
exhibiting a 30% reduction in overall protein synthesis (41). This reduction does not affect

steady-state adult B lymphopoiesis (38), but is sufficient to impair Eµ-MYC driven
oncogenesis (42). Given our findings in neonates and tet-LIN28B mice, we hypothesized that
early-life B lymphopoiesis would be more sensitive to the constraints in protein synthesis
imposed by the Bst mutation (Figure 4D). Indeed, analysis of $Rpl24^{WT/Bst}$ bone marrow revealed
decreased overall B cell frequency on postnatal day three and ten (Figure 4E). Thus, a
heightened sensitivity to constrained protein synthesis in the B cell lineage coincided with the
time window for endogenous *Lin28b* expression. Reduced bone marrow B cell frequency
reflected a decrease in B cell precursors during this window, which was fully resolved by day
19 (Figure 4F). This defect translated into a decrease in the frequency of both CD5+ B-1a and
B-2 cells early in life, consistent with a reduction in the overall quantitative output of B cells
in neonatal $Rpl24^{WT/Bst}$ mice (Figure 4G). To verify that these observed effects were cell
intrinsic, we performed competitive transplantations of neonatal $Rpl24^{WT/Bst}$ or wildtype
littermate bone marrow hematopoietic stem and progenitor cells (HSPCs) into lethally
irradiated hosts (Figure 4H). Analysis of host peritoneal cavity at 14 weeks post-transplantation
showed a selective decrease in B-1a cell reconstitution from $Rpl24^{WT/Bst}$ donor cells. In contrast,
contribution to the B-2 compartment, that is continuously replenished by adult B
lymphopoiesis, was comparable between the $Rpl24^{WT/Bst}$ and wildtype donor HSPCs (Figure
4I). Taken together, these findings demonstrate that neonatal B lymphopoiesis in a cell intrinsic
manner exhibits heightened sensitivity to constraints in protein synthesis compared to the adult.
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Elevated protein synthesis is required for the output of self-reactive B-1a cells early in life
The early-life expression of *Lin28b* allows for the developmental progression of self-reactive
B cell precursors into the mature B cell pool, including the output of CD5+ B-1a cells (19, 20).
This relaxation of central tolerance is evident in recently selected Imm-B cells where LIN28B
expression increases surface levels of CD5, a marker for self-reactivity (19). Interestingly,
analysis of tet-LIN28B induced Imm-B cells revealed that CD5 expression positively
correlated with protein synthesis levels (Figure 5A-B). Thus, enhanced protein synthesis may
be particularly important for the developmental progression of self-reactive B cells destined
for the CD5+ B-1a cell fate. To test this, we treated tet-LIN28B induced mice with a single
dose of intraperitoneally administered Rapamycin to acutely dampen protein synthesis (Figure
5C) (43). As expected, the treatment yielded a moderate reduction in protein synthesis levels
in both control and tet-LIN28B Imm-B cells, reducing the tet-LIN28B Imm-B cells to untreated
wildtype levels of protein synthesis (Figure 5D). Interestingly, this treatment selectively
diminished the CD5 levels in tet-LIN28B induced Imm-B cells (Figure 5E-F). We conclude
that LIN28B dependent output of self-reactive B cells depends on increased protein synthesis.
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Finally, to investigate the qualitative impact of constrained protein synthesis on early life B
cell output, we measured the abundance of the known ontogenically restricted B-1 cell
specificity against the self-membrane component phosphatidyl choline (PtC) in 19-day-old Bst
mice. This timepoint was selected to evaluate PtC+ B-1 cell output with minimal influence by
peripheral homeostatic expansion (44). Indeed, FACS analysis using PtC liposomes revealed
a three-fold decrease of reactive B cells in the peritoneal cavity of $Rpl24^{WT/Bst}$ mice (Figure 5G-
H). We therefore conclude that elevated protein synthesis is a central distinguishing parameter

of overall neonatal B lymphopoiesis that potentiates the output of CD5+ B-1 cells with self-
reactive BCR specificities.

Discussion

Our findings identified elevated protein synthesis as a hallmark of neonatal B cell development
that was required for overall B cell output early in life including the time restricted output of
self-reactive B-1 cells. This was mediated in part by the endogenous expression of the
heterochronic RNA-binding protein LIN28B. Its expression naturally waned during the first
weeks of life and ectopic LIN28B expression was sufficient to recapitulate elevated protein
synthesis in adult small Pre- and Imm-B cells. Consistent with previous reports, we showed
that LIN28B directly bound to ribosomal protein transcripts and correlated with enhanced
ribosomal protein expression in primary B cell precursors. Interestingly, an increase in
ribosomal biogenesis and protein synthesis coincided with LIN28B induced c-MYC expression
in the quiescent small Pre- and Imm-B cell stages. The precise extent and mechanism by which
LIN28B post-transcriptionally cooperates with a c-MYC induced transcriptome was not
disentangled in this study. Nevertheless, our findings implicate ribosomal regulation in the
control of neonatal B cell development with important implications in the layered formation of
the immune system.

Protein synthesis is the most energy consuming biosynthetic process in the cell and subject to
the constraints imposed by hundreds of components required for ribosome assembly (45).
Indeed, protein synthesis rates give an accurate account of the overall cellular metabolism (46).
And yet, its ability to control the development and function of immune cells that require rapid
expansion and contraction of cellular growth has been an under-explored subject of
investigation. Our results using AHA metabolic labelling to measure protein synthesis
confirmed dynamic changes in cellular metabolism that underly proliferative bursts following
successful BCR checkpoints (1). Importantly, we demonstrated the ability of LIN28B to
partially alleviate the biggest drop in protein synthesis upon entry into the small Pre-B cell
stage. The restricted metabolism of small Pre-B cells was previously implicated as a
mechanism to safeguard the central tolerance checkpoint through enforcing nutrient stress and
negative selection upon strong BCR engagement (5). This notion is highly compatible with our
observation that LIN28B promoted protein synthesis to augment the output of self-reactive
CD5+ B-1 cells early in life. Thus, we propose that the relatively mild increase in protein
synthesis mediated by LIN28B provides sufficient relaxation of the metabolic constraints
during B cell maturation to qualitatively alter the B cell output.

In Pro-B cells, IL-7 signaling and downstream mTORC1 activation is the principal driver of c-
MYC expression and acts to promote biomass accumulation and proliferation (Zeng et al
2018). In this study, we showed that the attenuation of IL-7 signaling during B cell
development correlated with distinct outcomes of LIN28B mediated effects. While de-
repression of Let-7 targets was most prominent during the IL-7 dependent stages, the effect on
protein synthesis instead appeared later during the IL-7 independent stages. This could be due
to changes in the abundance of LIN28B/Let-7 RNA substrates in proliferating versus quiescent
cells respectively. Therefore, our findings implicate metabolic status as a powerful rheostat of
LIN28B action. Interestingly, IL-7 withdrawal of Pro-B cells *ex vivo* mimicked the situation
during the later IL-7 independent, small Pre-B and Imm-B cell, stages revealing a LIN28B
mediated effect on c-MYC and protein synthesis. This finding is consistent with the ability of

LIN28B to mitigate the strict requirement for IL-7Ra during adult B lymphopoiesis (16). Thus,
overlapping but milder effects by LIN28B on the same c-MYC/protein synthesis axis may offer
an explanation to the lessened reliance on IL-7 for early life B lymphopoiesis (6).
482
In this study we did not resolve the fates of LIN28B bound transcripts in the rapidly alternating
stages of B cell development. One obstacle preventing the examination of the context
dependent, direct effects of LIN28B is the limited cellular material from quiescent cell types
in vivo, particularly from neonates. Methods such as polysome sequencing to profile changes
in protein translation are optimized for proliferating cells and require a sizable cell pool.
However, our findings suggest that artificial increases in cellular metabolism by *in vitro*
culturing or oncogene mediated transformation might obscure any physiological LIN28B
mediated effects. Despite this limitation, our results demonstrate that protein synthesis is an
important differentially regulated feature of neonatal B lymphopoiesis and open new avenues
for future investigations. In the context of B cell neoplasms, protein synthesis is a key mediator
of c-MYC driven oncogenesis (42). Considering the strong infant and childhood association of
B cell precursor acute lymphoblastic leukemia incidence, it will be important to investigate a
potential role for increased ribosome addiction in the pathogenesis of the disease. In the context
of neonatal immunity, we and others have previously demonstrated that neonatal antigen
exposure produces unique B cell memory clones not generated by adult mice immunized with
the same antigen (47, 48). Our current findings that enhanced protein synthesis quantitatively
and qualitatively alters neonatal B cell output implicates ribosomal control in the formation of
a layered immune system.

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Commensal-Bacteria-Derived Antigens Directs Polysaccharide-Specific B-1 B Cell Repertoire
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Table S1. Antibodies and reagents used for Flow Cytometry, Western Blot, or IP

Antigen	Fluorochrome	Clone	Manufacturer	Reference#
7-AAD	-	-	BD Bioscience	559925
B220	APC Cy7	RA3-6B2	BioLegend	103224
B220	PE CF594	RA3-6B2	BD Biosciences	562313
CD117	BV421	2B8	BD Biosciences	562609
CD117	PE	2B8	Invitrogen	12-1171-82
CD19	APC Cy7	1D3	BD Biosciences	557655
CD19	BV786	1D3	BD Biosciences	563333
CD23	PE Cy7	B3B4	BioLegend	101614
CD25	PE eFluor610	PC61.5	Invitrogen	61-0251-82
CD3	PE Cy5	145-2C11	BioLegend	100310
CD43	FITC	S7	BD Biosciences	553270
CD5	BV421	53-3.3	BD Biosciences	562739
CD5	PE	53-7.3	BioLegend	100608
CD93	APC	AA4.1	BioLegend	136510
CD93	BV786	AA4.1	BD Biosciences	740941
c-MYC	Unconjugated	Y69	Abcam	Ab32072
Goat anti-Rabbit IgG (H+L) Cross-Adsorbed Secondary Antibody	AF647	Polyclonal	Invitrogen	A-21244
Gr-1	PE Cy5	RB6-8C5	BioLegend	108410
IgM	FITC	11/41	BD Biosciences	553437
IgM	PE Cy7	RMM-1	BioLegend	406514
Alkyne, 5-isomer	AF488	-	Invitrogen	A10267
PtC	Marina Blue	DOPC/CHOL Liposomes	Formumax	F60103F-MB
Ter119	PE Cy5	TER-119	BioLegend	116210
Tubulin alpha			CST	2125
RPL23			Abcam	ab264369
RPL36a			Invitrogen	PA5-70719
RPS9			Abcam	ab157125
FLAG M2			Sigma	F1804
LIN28B			CST	4196

629 **Captions**
630
631 **Figure 1. LIN28B binds to ribosomal protein transcripts in primary B cell precursors**
632
(A) Schematic of experimental setup for the identification of LIN28B-mRNA targets in bone
marrow (BM) B cell precursors. Uninduced total BM cells were expanded for Pro-B cells in
the presence of IL-7 (20 ng/mL) and Doxycycline (Dox, 0.1 μg/mL) for five days prior to
RNA-IP. Co-immunoprecipitated mRNA from two tet-LIN28B and one control mouse were
individually subjected to Poly-A RNA-seq and enrichment over input RNA was determined.
(B) IP/input enrichment ratios from the two tet-LIN28B samples were plotted against each
other showing high correlation between the two biological replicates. LIN28B IP/input
enrichment ratio of least two-fold (n=238 transcripts) were used for subsequent analyses. **(C)**
Average enrichment ratio ranking of the tet-LIN28B samples compared to the control sample.
(D) Top ten gene ontology terms of the 238 enriched transcripts. **(E)** Analysis of overlapping
genes between the 238 LIN28B enriched transcripts (Åkerstrand et al) and previously
published LIN28B-mRNA interactome data sets (22, 31). **(F)** Gene ontology analyses of
overlapping LIN28B enriched transcripts between the indicated study and the 238 transcripts.
646
647 **Figure 2. LIN28B enhances ribosome biogenesis and protein synthesis in small Pre-B and**
648 **Imm-B cells**
649
(A) Western blot analysis for the indicated ribosomal proteins from 50,000 FACS sorted B cell
progenitors from tet-LIN28B or littermate control mice following 10 days of *in vivo* Dox
induction. Representative of at least two biological replicates per cell type and genotype. **(B-**
C) qRT-PCR for 18S rRNA or 45S pre-rRNA from 50,000 FACS sorted B cell progenitors.
Expression values were normalized relative to the littermate control Imm-B cells. Large and
small Pre-B cells are indicated as Lg and Sm respectively. **(D)** Representative FACS histogram
overlays of L-Azidohomoalanine (AHA) uptake, corresponding to their protein synthesis rates,
in the indicated subsets. **(E)** Average AHA median fluorescence intensity (MFI) for indicated
bone marrow B cell progenitor stage, after normalization to the littermate control small Pre-B
MFI. **(F)** Average AHA MFI for the indicated, mature peritoneal cavity (PerC) B cells, plotted
relative to the control B-2 values on a Log2 scale. Wilcox test was used to calculate p-values.
*p<0.05, **p<0.01, ***p<0.001. Error bars show standard deviation.
662
663 **Figure 3. IL-7 signaling masks the effects of LIN28B on the c-MYC / protein synthesis**
664 **axis in Pro-B cells**
665
(A) Representative histograms showing intracellular FACS analysis of c-MYC protein
expression in the indicated populations from littermate control or tet-Lin28b mouse. **(B)**
Average c-MYC MFI for indicated subsets shown as relative values to the control small Pre-B
cell population. **(C)** Gene set enrichment analysis (GSEA) of differentially expressed genes
between tet-LIN28B induced and control B cell precursor subsets as identified by RNAseq
(See methods). Vertical line indicates Zero cross point. **(D)** Experimental setup for measuring

the impact of IL-7 availability on sensitivity to LIN28B mediated effects on Pro-B cells. Following 5 days of expanding B cell precursors in 20 ng/mL IL-7, the culture were split into conditions with decreasing concentrations of IL-7. Two days later, the cultures were analyzed by FACS for intracellular c-MYC and AHA uptake. **(E)** Representative FACS histograms for the indicated IL-7 conditions show c-MYC protein expression (left) and AHA uptake (right) in Pro-B cells. **(F)** Schematic illustration of the proposed LIN28B impact on protein synthesis in B cell precursors in the presence or absence of IL-7 signaling. Wilcox test was used to calculate p-values in B. **p<0.01, ***p<0.001. Error bars show standard deviation.

Figure 4. Neonatal B cell development is dependent on enhanced protein synthesis
(A) Analysis of BM B cell precursors from *Lin28b*-eGFP mice at the indicated ages. The average frequency of *Lin28b*-eGFP positive cells is shown for each day. **(B)** Average AHA MFI are plotted relative to the adult control for each experiment. **(C)** Average AHA MFI in 3-day old WT or *Lin28b* KO neonates. Values are displayed relative to small Pre-B cells from *Lin28b* KO neonates in each experiment. **(D)** Experimental overview for investigating age-specific defect under limited protein synthesis rates. $Rpl24^{wt/Bst}$ and wildtype littermate controls were analyzed by FACS at different ages for phenotypic BM B cell development. **(E)** Average CD19+ B cell frequencies out of total BM cells at the indicated ages. **(F)** Average BM B cell precursor subset frequencies at the indicated ages presented as frequency of total BM cells. **(G)** Average mature PerC B-1a and B-2 cell frequencies out of total PerC cells in $Rpl24^{wt/Bst}$ or WT littermate control mice at the indicated ages. **(H)** Experimental overview for assessment of cell intrinsic defect of the Bst mutation. Lineage–, Sca1+, cKit+ (LSK) hematopoietic stem and progenitor cells (HSPCs) from 10-day-old donor and competitor mice of the indicated genotypes were sorted and transplanted into lethally irradiated recipients. 13-14 weeks later, the steady state donor and competitor derived mature PerC B cells were compared to assess B-1a and B-2 cell output. **(I)** CD19+ PerC B cells of the indicated subtypes were compared for donor versus competitor contribution. Average frequencies are displayed. T-test was used to calculate p-values *p<0.05, **p<0.01, ***p<0.001. Error bars show standard deviation.

Figure 5. Elevated protein synthesis is required for the output of CD5+ B-1 cells early in life
(A) (Left) Representative FACS plots for CD5 expression in Imm-B cells from the indicated genotypes (left) and corresponding AHA uptake of the indicated subsets (right). **(B)** Average AHA MFI within individual CD5 slices, after normalization to AHA MFI in littermate control Imm-B cells. **(C)** Schematic for treatment of tet-LIN28B and littermate control mice with Rapamycin (Rapa, 2 mg/kg), or vehicle control (EtOH). Mice were given a single, intra-peritoneal injection and analyzed 24hrs later. **(D)** AHA MFI from Imm-B cells of the indicated genotype and treatment. MFI was normalized to EtOH treated littermate control Imm-B cells. **(E)** Representative FACS histograms show Imm-B CD5 levels following the indicated treatment. **(F)** Summary of data shown in E. Data is normalized to EtOH treated littermate controls within each experiment and averaged between biological replicates. **(G)** Representative FACS plots showing the frequency of CD5+ PtC reactive B cells in 19-day old wildtype littermate control or $Rpl24^{wt/Bst}$ neonates. **(H)** Average CD5+PtC+ frequency out

715   of PerC CD19+ B cells in 19-day old mice. Wilcox test was used to calculate p-values

716   *p<0.05, **p<0.01. Error bars show standard deviation.

Figure 1

Figure 2

Figure 3

Figure 4

Figure 5