1 **Comprehensive structural and interactome analysis reveals novel interactions and**
2 **protein binding sites in miR-675: a non-coding RNA critically involved in multiple**
3 **diseases**
4

5 Abhishek Dey[1]
6
7 [1]Department of Biotechnology, National Institute of Pharmaceutical Education and Research
8 (NIPER-R)-Raebareli, Lucknow-226002, India
9 contact: rf.abhishek.dey@niperrbl.ac.in, dey.abhishek@niperraebarelu.eu.in

10
11 **Abstract**
12

miR-675 is a microRNA expressed from exon 1 of H19 long non-coding RNA. H19 lncRNA is
temporally expressed in humans and atypical expression of miR-675 has been linked with
several diseases and disorders. To execute its function inside the cell, miR-675 is folded into
a particular conformation which aids in its interaction with several other biological molecules.
However, the exact folding dynamics of miR-675 and its complete interaction map are
currently unknown. Moreover, how H19 lncRNA and miR-675 crosstalk and modulate each
other's activities is also unclear. Detailed structural analysis of miR-675 in this study
determines its conformation and identifies novel protein binding sites on miR-675 which can
make it an excellent therapeutic target against numerous diseases. Mapping of the
interactome identified some of known and unknown interactors of miR-675 which aid in
expanding our repertoire of miR-675 involved pathways in the cell. This analysis also identified
some of the previously unknown and yet to be characterised proteins as probable interactors
of miR-675. Structural and base pair conservation analysis between H19 lncRNA and miR-
675 results in structural transformations in miR-675 thus describing the earlier unknown
mechanism of interaction between these two molecules. Comprehensively, this study details
the conformation of miR-675, its interacting biological partners and explains its relationship
with H19 lncRNA which can be interpreted to understand the role of miR-675 in the
development and progression of various diseases.

31
32 **Keywords**
33
34 miR-675, H19 lncRNA, miRNA, SHAPE assay, interactome, RNA-cofold, tumours,
35 neurodegenerative disease
36
37 **Introduction**
38
microRNAs (miRNAs) are small non-coding RNA which post-transcriptionally regulate gene
expression by interacting with mRNA in multicellular organisms. Their interaction with mRNAs
affects later stability and translation thus modulating multiple processes including proliferation,
differentiation, and apoptosis etc. miR-675 is 73 nucleotides long micro-RNA which is
expressed from the exon 1 of H19 long noncoding RNA (lncRNA). H19 lncRNA is temporally
expressed in humans where it is expressed during the placental stage while the expression is
drastically reduced after birth [1]. Interestingly, abnormal expression of H19 lncRNA has been
associated with various diseases in humans including tumorigenesis, neurogenesis,
angiogenesis, and fibrosis progression [1].
48

Being expressed from H19 lncRNA, aberrant expression of mir-675 has also been associated
with various disorders in humans [2]. Enhanced expression of miR-675 is associated with
indefinite proliferation and growth of hepatic cells resulting in hepatocellular carcinoma [3].
Studies have also shown that miR-675-3p (a mature form of miR-675) can promote colorectal
cancer, esophageal squamous cell carcinoma and regulate skeletal muscle regeneration and
differentiation [4-6]. Recently, association between abnormal expression of miR-675 and
cardiovascular disease have also been identified [7]. Elevated levels of miR-675 in the patient
serum suffering from atherosclerosis highlights the need to use miR-675 as a new diagnostic
biomarker in early diagnosis of cardiovascular disorder [7]. Abnormal expression of miR-675
has also been linked to various neurological diseases. Downregulated expression of miR-675
has been found to be associated with the cases of treatment resistant schizophrenia (TRS)
[8]. H19 lncRNA, precursor of miR-675 was also found to be highly activated in human
dopaminergic neuron loss which results in Parkinson's diseases [9]. In contrast,
downregulated H19 lncRNA along with upregulated miR-129 was found to rescue PC12 cells
mimicking AD model by increasing cell viability and restraining apoptosis [10].
64
miRNAs regulate gene expression either by repressing translation or by promoting mRNA
degradation by binding to their 3' UTR. Atypical expression of miRNAs results in an anomaly
within associations between miRNA and their interactors that can result in disease progression
and pathology. Multiple studies have indicated the interplay between miR-675 and multiple
interactors during the advancement of various diseases. Higher plasma levels of miR-675 and
its precursor H19 lncRNA in the breast cancer patients indicate an interplay between both
miRNA and lncRNA [11]. Indeed, overexpression of miR-675 was able to mitigate the inhibitory
effect of siRNA on H19 lncRNA in breast cancer cell line MCF-7 [11]. Interaction of mir-675-
5p with serine-threonine phosphatases have been shown to activate Glycogen Synthase
Kinase 3β (GSK 3β), thus enhancing the nuclear localization of β-catenin which aids in the
progression of colorectal cancer [12]. Direct interaction between miR-675 and mRNA of
ubiquitin 3 ligase family (c-Cbl and Cbl-b) have shown to enhance tumorigenesis and
metastasis in breast cancer cells [13]. Contrary to the progression of tumours, miR-675 has
also been shown to suppress tumour growth by binding to Fas-associated protein with death
domain (FADD) and inhibiting its activity in cellular apoptosis, thus promoting necroptosis in
human hepatocellular carcinoma cell lines [14].
81
Despite the advancement in identification of miR-675 interacting partners involved in the
progression and metastasis of various tumours, our knowledge regarding the role of miR-675
in the advancement of other diseases is still obscure. Micro RNAs are known to fold into
specific conformations which are essential for their interactions with specific
proteins/interactors and hence their function. Regardless of in-depth biochemical analysis of
miR-675 and its involvement in various tumours, the knowledge about its detailed folding
dynamics, interacting partners and the RNA-binding protein (RBP) interacting sites on miR-
675 is still missing. Understanding how the folding of miR-675 contributes its crosstalk with
various proteins and RNA will be key in defining the involvement of miR-675 in the
development and progression of various diseases like cancers, neurological, and
cardiovascular disorders. Here we report the very first detailed conformational analysis of *in*
vitro synthesised miR-675 by performing Selective 2' Hydroxyl Acylation analysed by Primer
Extension (SHAPE) assay. Multiple algorithm searches were also performed to determine the
interactome network of miR-675 and to map the protein binding site on miR-675 itself. Co-fold
analysis of miR-675 with its precursor H19 lncRNA was also undertaken to understand any

conformational changes incurred on both interactors upon their binding that could explain the
mechanistic role of miR-675 in progression of various pathogenesis or diseases. This current
study identifies previously unknown interactors of miR-675. Understanding its conformation,
interactome and performing co-fold analysis with H19 lncRNA further lays the foundation for
future studies of miR-675 role in disease pathogenesis.
102
Materials and Methods:

Selective 2' Hydroxyl acylation analyzed by Primer Extension (SHAPE) assay:

dsDNA construct of miR-675 was procured as g-blocks from Integrated DNA Technologies
(IDT). Each construct is flanked by structural RNA adapters [15] and a T7 promoter region at
the 5′ end. These DNA constructs were used as a template to *in vitro* transcribed RNA using
T7 high yield RNA kit (New England Biolabs). The synthesized RNA was DNase treated
(TURBODNase), purified using Purelink RNA mini kit (Invitrogen) and quantified with
nanodrop.

Samples of 6 µg of *in vitro* transcribed RNA were denatured at 65 °C for 5 min and snap-
cooled in ice. After the addition of a folding buffer (100 mM KCl, 10 mM MgCl2, 100 mM Bicine,
pH 8.3), RNA was incubated at 37 °C for 10 min. The folded RNA was treated with 10 µL of
5-Nitro Isatoic Anhydride (5NIA, 25 mM final concentration). Subsequently, for negative
controls (unmodified RNA) an equivalent amount of Dimethyl Sulfoxide (DMSO) was added to
the folded RNA. The complete reaction mixture was further incubated for 5 min at 37 °C to
allow complete modifications of the unpaired RNA nucleotides. Both the modified and
unmodified RNAs were purified using the PurelinkRNA mini kit and quantified with nanodrop.

Purified RNA from above was reverse transcribed using Gene-specific reverse primer (Table
S1) directed against the 3′ RNA adapter sequence and SuperScript II reverse transcriptase
under error prone conditions as previously described [16]. The resultant cDNA was purified
using G50 column (GE healthcare) and subjected to second strand synthesis (NEBNext
Second Strand Synthesis Module). For library generation primers specific to the 5′ and 3′ RNA
adapter sequence were synthesized (Table S1) and the whole cDNA was PCR amplified using
the NEB Q5 HotStart polymerase (NEB). Secondary PCR was performed to introduce
TrueSeq barcodes [16]. Samples were purified using the Ampure XP (Beckman Coulter)
beads and the resultant libraries were quantified using Qubit dsDNA HS Assay kit
(ThermoFisher). Final libraries were run on Agilent Bioanalyzer for quality check. These
TrueSeq libraries were then sequenced as necessary for their desired length, primarily as
paired end 2 × 151 read multiplex runs on MiSeq platform (Illumina). We used the
ShapeMapper2 algorithm [17] to determine the mutation frequency in chemically modified
(5NIA) and control (DMSO treated) RNA samples and to calculate chemical reactivity for each
RNA nucleotide using the following equation:

$$R = mutr_m - mutr_u$$

where R is the chemical reactivity, $mutr_m$ is the mutation rate calculated for chemically modified
RNA and $mutr_u$ is the mutation rate calculated for untreated control RNA samples. We used
this chemical reactivity to inform a minimum free energy structure using Superfold [18] and
visualized the model using VARNA [19]. RNA arc and secondary structure models were
generated using RNAvigate [20]. Comparative miR-675 chemical reactivity plots were

generated using the plot skyline function from RNAvigate package [20]. SHAPE reactivities
calculated for all the replicates and merged datasets are available in the supplementary file
miR-675_SNRNASM.xlsx.

Identification and construction of miR-675 network:
144
To determine potential interacting partners, mapping interacting networks and to identify the
protein binding sites on the miR-675, searches from three web-based algorithms: RNAinter
[21], TargetScan [22] and RBPsuite [23 were executed, and each search was run on default
parameters. RNAinter provides information about the interconnected partners, structure,
localization, modification, experimental evidence of any queried RNA from multiple species.
Scoring parameters for RNAinter were selected between 0.0 to 1.0 for RNAinter and any hits
with the value less than 0.0 were excluded from further analysis.
152
Targetscan predicts interactors of any query miRNA by identifying the conserved sequences
(8mer, 7mer and 6mer) in the 3' UTR of potential interactors that should be complementary to
the seed region of mature miRNA. Seed regions are 2-8 nucleotide long sequences in mature
miRNA which are recognised by the target molecules (mRNA, miRNA, lncRNA) to form stable
miRNA-target complex [24]. Predictions were segregated based on their context++ score
which is a cumulative sum of multiple features like site type, supplementary pairing, local AU,
minimum distance, target site abundance, seed-pairing stability etc [25].
160
RBPsuite is the web-based server to identify the protein binding nucleotides in any given RNA
molecule. It uses two-deep learning-based algorithms to identify the RNA binding protein sites
in both linear and circular RNA. Search was performed by selecting miR-675 as linear
RNA/circular RNA with the general model being designated as prediction model. Protein
binding site on RNA sequence is being depicted by binding score on the scale of 0-1. Higher
the score, greater will be the probability of the presence of RBP site on the queried RNA
sequence. RNA motifs less than 0.5 binding scores were excluded. If the server identifies a
verified motif with binding score more than 0.5, then those are highlighted in red, and the motif
logo is provided in the output.
170
171   **RNA co-fold analysis:**
172
Co-fold analysis between miR-675 and H19 lncRNA exons was performed using RNAcofold
algorithm from vienna RNA websuite [26, 27]. RNAcofold calculates hybridization energy and
base pairing probabilities between two interacting RNA molecules. RNAcofold links the two
sequences together and the junction is treated as an exterior loop while calculating the
hybridization energies. In addition to the minimum free energy structure, the algorithm also
provides the fraction of suboptimal structures and the equilibrium concentrations of the
duplexes formed. Base pairing conservation was computed to identify the changes in the base
pairing pattern within two interacting RNA molecules.
181
182   **Statistical analysis:**
183
Most of the statistical analyses were performed using the R software package unless
otherwise stated. Pearson correlation test was used to evaluate correlation between
chemically probed replicates (n = 2) across all test samples. Validity of the folding

conformation of two replicates was accessed by the scorer algorithm embedded in
RNAstructure package [28]. Scorer determines the Positive predictive value (PPV) and
sensitivity (Sens) between two RNA conformations. Positive predictive value (PPV) is the
fraction/percentage of the base pairs in the predicted minimum free energy (MFE) structure
where the known structure is determined by comparative sequence analysis. Sensitivity
(Sens) is the maximum expected accuracy of RNA structure determined by
fraction/percentage of known base pairs correctly predicted in minimum free energy (MFE)
structure where the known base pairs are determined by comparative sequence analysis.
195

Results:

Secondary structure of miR-675 represents canonical stem loop helical conformation:

To experimentally analyse the folding conformation of nascent miR-675, mutational profiling
was performed after treating synthetic miR-675 with 5NIA. Being a SHAPE reagent, 5NIA is
known to modify the backbone of RNA molecules by forming a chemical adduct with 2'
hydroxyl group of the unpaired RNA nucleotides [29]. The modifications can be identified by
mutational profiling followed by massively parallel sequencing. SHAPE analysis of the two
independent replicates (n=2) of *in vitro* transcribed miR-675 resulted in chemical reactivity
profile for both replicates with most of the nucleotides having low chemical modification except
for nucleotides G12, U13, A18, A34, C35, U36, U37, G38, G39, U40 and A49 (Fig. 1A, 1B).
This suggest that these nucleotides are highly flexible and are not involved in base-pairing
interactions. Comparative analysis showed that both replicates have identical chemical
reactivity profiles (Pearson Correlation coefficient, R= 0.98) (Fig. 1C, 1D) while Scorer analysis
[30] on the models obtained from replicates showed that both RNA folds into an identical
conformation with the positive predictive value (PPV) and sensitivity (Sens) of 100% (Fig. 1E).
Once it was confirmed that both replicates' folds into an identical conformation, average
nucleotide chemical profiling was generated (by merging the fastq files for both replicates and
re-running the shapemapper algorithm on the merged fastq files) and the final model was
created for miR-675 (Fig. 1H).

Based on the SHAPE constraints and minimum free energy, miR-675 folds into a stem loop
helical conformation which includes multiple internal bulges or loops and culminates in an
apical loop. The basal stem of the miR-675 helix was stabilised by 7 base pairs (nts 1-7 and
nts 67-70) which includes 6 GC base pairs (Fig. 1H, 1G). There are three internal loops (Loop
1, Loop 2 and Loop 3) and a single bulge (Bulge I). Loop I and Loop II are formed by 2 unpaired
or flexible nucleotides (U8 and C67-Loop 1) and (A18 and A57-Loop 2) (Fig. 1G) while Loop
III was the largest internal loop which was formed by 4 unpaired nucleotides (C25, C26, A49,
U50) in the stem loop helix structure of miR-675. A single nucleotide bulge (U13) was also
present which was sandwiched between internal loop 1 and loop 2. Interestingly, only
nucleotides U13 (bulge I), A18 (loop II) and A49 (loop III) were found to be accessible to
SHAPE reagent, 5NIA, thus suggesting that the remaining inaccessible nucleotides present in
loops were either arranged alternatively or involved in intermolecular interaction thus resulting
in minor conformations which are energetically least favourable and hence remain undetected
in current study. The apical end of the miR-675 ends with a formation of 10 nucleotide apical
loop starting from G33 to A42 (5'-GACUUGGUGA-3') (Fig. 1G). Closer examination of the
loop nucleotides suggests that most of them were highly reactive to 5NIA, thus suggesting
that they were not involved in any base-pair interactions and were highly flexible. A

hexanucleotide base pairs forms a bridge between internal loop 3 and terminal apical loop
(Fig. 1G). Overall, the chemical probing strategy of miR-675 reveals a tight canonical stem-
loop helical conformations with most nucleotides involved in base-pairing interactions thus
being inaccessible to 5NIA.
239
240 **miR-675 interacts with array of biological molecules:**
241
microRNAs are known to regulate gene expression by interacting with various biomolecules
inside the cells. Any abnormalities in this interaction will result in altered gene expression and
disease conditions. Multiple studies have identified various interactors of miR-675, however
the overall interaction network of miR-675 is still obscure. To identify the molecular partners
of miR-675 and to map its interactome multiple searches with three different algorithm
(RNAinter, RBPsuite and TargetScan) were performed. Search with RNAinter resulted in
approximately 300 interactors with varying scores with miR-675. However, interactors with the
binding score between 1.0-0.0 were taken forward for further analysis. This segregation
resulted in the identification of 168 interactors (Fig. 2A) which mainly belong to three
categories viz. Transcription factor (86.8%), Histone modifications (9.5%) and Proteins (4.7%)
(Fig. 2B). Although the total number of histone modifications identified as possible interactors
of miR-675 is very less than the transcription factor, the top 5 miR-675 interactors identified
from RNAinter belong to the group of former with the binding score ranging between 0.77 to
0.72 (Fig. 2A, Table S2). Nevertheless, results from RNAinter suggest that miR-675 is
involved in regulating gene expression by interacting with epigenetic regulators and various
transcription factors.
258
Within a cellular system, RNA Binding Proteins (RBPs) are involved in multiple biological
processes including gene expression and regulation of cellular pathways. Determining the
RBPs binding site on RNA is essential to gain mechanistic understanding on above processes
which are regulated through microRNA or non-coding RNA. RBPsuite was used to determine
the miR-675 binding proteins and its motif/sequences involved in RNA-protein interactions.
The results were segregated based on the binding scores (Fig. 2C) and only proteins having
binding score more than 0.5 are reported here (Table S3). Proteins with verified motif for miR-
675 are also reported with sequence logo (Fig. 3). The obtained sequence was further mapped
on the stem-helix loop model of miR-675 (Fig. 3). Interestingly, most of the motifs were found
to be assembled from nucleotides which either constitute bulge, internal loop, or the apical
loop of miR-675. FUS protein motif was found to be located on the bulge I of miR-675 (Fig.
3A, 3G). Surprisingly, for proteins FXR2, Lin28B and SRSF1, RBPsuite identified a common
motif spanning from G16-G23 for FXR2 and Lin28B (Fig. 3) and A18-C26 for SRSF1 (Fig. 3).
Nevertheless, this region also contains nucleotide A18 which is the part of loop II in the stem
loop helix model of miR-675. Motif for SRSF9 was detected at the downstream end of SRSF1
motif spanning from A27-A35, which also includes a part of the apical loop (Fig. 3). Apical loop
of miR-675 was also found to harbour the binding site for Human Antigen R (HuR) protein
(Fig. 3F, 3G).
277
To further identify additional targets of miR-675, targetSCAN analysis was performed. Total
2599 hits were identified by targetSCAN as potential interactors of miR-675. Since microRNAs
execute gene regulation by binding to the 3' untranslated regions (3' UTRs) of mRNA, hits
from targetSCAN were further sequestered based on the number of binding sites in 3'UTR of
each identified interactor (Fig. 4A). Most of the interactors identified have more than one 8

nucleotides seed binding site for miR-675 (Fig. 4A). Furthermore, some hits also displayed 7
nucleotide and 6 nucleotide seed binding sites for miR-675 (Fig. 4A). In addition to the seed
binding site for each microRNA, targetSCAN also relies other parameters to partition the
predictions or hits. Cumulatively, these features give rise to total context++ score and
cumulative weighted context++ score. Score ≤0.4 indicates better binding interactions
between miRNA and its target molecule. Analysis of miR-675 cumulative weighted context++
score shows that most of the predicted interactors have scored less than 0.4 thus indicating
higher confidence of interactions between the two molecules (Fig. 4B). Since targetSCAN
resulted in around 2599 probable interactors for miR-675, these interactors were further
categorised into different families/groups of protein (Fig. 4C). Protein families which have ≤4
members were annotated as others (30%) (Fig. 4C). The largest member of protein families
which probably act as an interactor to miR-675 was found to be various receptors (~8%), Zinc
finger proteins (ZNF) (~5%), transferase and kinase (~3%) (Fig. 4C). ZNF proteins are
implicated in numerous cellular processes like transcriptional regulation, cell migration and
DNA repair pathways [31] while receptors, kinases and transferases are majorly involved in
cell signalling and cellular transduction [32, 33].
299
Comparative analysis between the interactors identified from all the three searches (RNAinter,
RBPsuite and targetSCAN) resulted in the identification of common interactors (Fig. 4D). Four
interactors (Zinc Finger protein (ZNF), Argonaute (AGO) protein, Eukaryotic initiation factors
(EIFs) and DNA directed RNA polymerase (ploR)) were commonly identified by all the three,
while 118 indicators were common to RNAInter and targetSCAN, 18 interactors were common
to RBPsuite and targetSCAN and only 1 common interactor was identified by RBPsuite and
RNAinter (Fig. 4D). Overall, the search resulted in an array of miR-675 interactors to which it
can either bind directly or to the 3'UTR of their mRNA and can modulate gene expression and
cellular processes.
309

H19 long noncoding RNA (lncRNA) interacts with miR-675 by modifying its
conformation:

Although miRNAs regulate various cellular activities by interacting with a wide array of
biological molecules, their activities are themselves controlled by the sponging effect of
lncRNA, where lncRNAs can interact directly with miRNA and sequester them from their
respective pathways. It has been known for a while that H19 lncRNA can interact with miR-
675 [11], however how H19 lncRNA and miR-675 crosstalk is currently unknown. To
understand the nature of interactions between miR-675 and H19 lncRNA, RNAcofold followed
by comparative base-pair conservation analysis between individual RNA and co-folded hybrid
molecules was performed. Surprisingly, it was found that all the H19 exons interact with miR-
675 and these interactions rearrange the intramolecular base-pair interactions within both H19
lncRNA and miR-675 itself (Fig. 5). Interactions between H19-exon1 and miR-675 resulted in
two identical heterodimeric conformations with different binding energies (Table S4). Closer
examination of both models suggests that the 5' end of miR-675 interacts with the 3' end of
H19-exon1 with global rearrangements in nucleotides interactions and opening of miR-675
stem loop helical conformation (Fig. 5A). Similarly, interactions between H19-exon3 and miR-
675 also resulted in two identical heterodimeric conformations with global rearrangements in
nucleotide pairing (Fig. 5C). This rearrangement also resulted in the opening of miR-675
conformation (Fig. 5C) and binding of 5' end of miR-675 to 3' end of H19-exon3 lncRNA.

However, interactions between H19-exon2/exon4 with miR-675 resulted in two different
heterodimeric conformations with different binding energies (Table S4). One model consists
of unperturbed folding dynamics of both H19-exon2/exon4 lncRNA and miR-675 thus
suggesting that miR-675 doesn't interact with the exon2 and exon4 region of H19 lncRNA.
Interestingly, the second model however resulted in some localised re-arrangements in the
base pairing patterns of both H19 lncRNA and miR-675 (Fig. 5B, 5D). This demonstrates
occurrence of minute and subtle base pair rearrangements upon the interaction between
exon2/exon4 of H19 lncRNA and miR-675. This interaction however does not result in the
destabilisation of miR-675 helical conformation (Fig. 5B, 5D).
339
340 **Discussion**
341
microRNAs (miRNAs) are known to regulate gene expression and other cellular pathways by
influencing translation and stability of mRNAs. To execute these miRNAs had to adopt a stable
conformation which aids in its interaction with other biomolecules inside the cell. Disruption in
microRNA expression/activity results in the development of anomalies like tumours and
neurological disorders. Determining the structural complexity and interacting partners of any
miRNAs will be pivotal in understanding the pathways they are involved in and will further help
in determining the progression of these disorders. The current study reports the very first
secondary structure model of miR-675 and its unknown interactors. With RNAcofold and base
pair conservation analysis the mechanism of interaction between H19 lncRNA and miR-675
was also elucidated for the very first time.
352
The current miR-675 model folds into a canonical stem loop helical conformation consisting of
3 internal loops and a bulge which are sandwiched between a basal stem and a terminal apical
loop (Fig. 1H). The basal stem is highly stabilised due to base pairing interactions between 6
GC nucleotides. Most of the miR-675 was chemically unmodified thus suggesting highly stable
conformation (Fig. 1H). However, nucleotides comprising loops (especially apical loop
nucleotides) and bulges were found to be highly reactive to SHAPE reagent thus illustrating
that they are flexible and single stranded in the final model (Fig. 1H). Within the cells these
loops/bulges act as the protein binding sites and thus form the basis of RNA-protein
interactions. It is possible that nucleotides involved in the formation of internal and apical loops
of miR-675 act as the site for RNA-protein interactions. Indeed, analysis from RBPsuite
identified proteins whose binding sites involved nucleotides of loop II, loop III, and apical loop
of miR-675. More in-cell RNA SHAPE analysis will be required to accurately pinpoint the
different protein binding sites on miR-675. Repeated attempts to understand the folding
dynamics of the mature form of miR-675 (miR-675-3p and miR-675-5p) resulted in failure. It
seems that the mature forms of miR-675 adopt more single stranded nature within cells and
they execute their regulatory effect by identifying their complementary sequences in the 3'UTR
of mRNA.
370
To accurately map miR-675 interactome and identify its binding partners, three web-based
tools were searched simultaneously. Search with RNAinter resulted in the identification of
various transcription factors and histone modification sites as the possible interactors of miR-
675. Histone modifications are the basis of epigenetic regulation and interactions between
these regions and miR-675 suggest mutual epigenetic role between the two. Furthermore,
these interactions suggest that miR-675 is involved in regulating certain pathways that are
implicated in the onset and development of various disorders by controlling the extent of

histone methylation/acetylation. Indeed, it was found that during hepatocarcinogenesis, miR-
675 epigenetically regulates histone modification sites like H3K9me3, H3k27me3 resulting in
disease development and progression [34]. Additionally, RNAinter search also identified
multiple transcription factors (~87%) as possible interactors for miR-675. CTCF and ESR1
were one of the transcription factors which showed stronger interaction with miR-675 (0.69
and 0.58 respectively, Table S2). CTCF is a CCCTC-binding factor which regulates the
expression of H19 lncRNA and miR-675 in particular [35]. It has been known that
CTCF/h19/miR-675/Histone deacetylase (HDAC) pathway results in the differentiation of bone
marrow mesenchymal stem cells into adipocytes [36]. However, the exact mechanistic role of
CTCF/h19/miR-675/Histone deacetylase axis in the hepatic cancer is still not clear and will
further require more in-depth biochemical analysis to understand the same. Estrogen
Receptor 1 (ESR1) is a key ligand activated transcription factor for normal growth, metabolism,
and sexual development. Role of ESR1 has also been implicated in the various disorders like
paediatric asthma [37], breast cancer [38], and Alzheimer's disease [39]. Elevated levels of
miR-675 was found in the children's suffering from asthma [37] however, the exact correlation
between miR-675 and ESR1 in the progression of breast cancer and Alzheimer's disease is
still not clear though ESR1 is known to interact with various other miRNA during these
diseases [38, 39]. It would be interesting to further investigate the role of miR-675-ESR1 axis
in the onset and development of breast cancer and Alzheimer's disease.
397
miRNAs generally interact with the 3'UTR of their targeted mRNA and confer gene regulation
accordingly. However, there are instances where miRNAs also bind to specific RNA binding
proteins (RBP) [40, 41]. These interactions are not only useful in the miRNA biogenesis but
also have been implicated in the development of several diseases especially tumours,
melanomas, and neurological disorders [41]. Search with RBPsuite not only resulted in
identification of additional protein interactors but also determined the protein binding footprints
on miR-675. Amongst all, binding sites for FUS, SRSF1, SRSF9, FXR2, LIN28B and HUR
proteins were clearly identified on miR-675. Fused in Sarcoma (FUS) protein, an RNA binding
protein is known to aid in gene silencing by simultaneously interacting with both miRNA and
mRNA [42] and impairment in FUS protein has also been linked with several
neurodegenerative diseases like amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS) [42]. Lin-28 homolog B
(Lin28B) is an evolutionary conserved RNA binding protein which can bind to precursor
miRNAs and can interfere with their maturation process [43]. Overexpression of Lin28b is
known to be linked with the development of ovarian cancer [43] and cellular proliferation in
acute myeloid leukaemia [44]. Likewise, HuR is an RNA binding protein belonging to the
embryonic lethal and altered vision (ELAV) family of proteins [45] and is essential for the
stability and translation of mRNAs [40]. In this study, it was observed that HuR may bind to
the apical loop of miR-675 (Fig. 3G). Though it primarily binds to mRNA, interactions between
HuR and other miRNA have also been linked to various disorders. For instance, interaction
between HuR and let-7a miRNA represses the expression of c-myc, thus advancing
tumorigenesis in cervical cancer cell lines [46]. In another case inhibition of miR-16 and miR-
331 by HuR resulted in the promotion and development of colorectal and prostate cancer [47,
48]. It is possible that the binding of HuR to miR-675 might have some kind of regulatory
impact (positive or negative) on either of the interactors thus resulting in disease progression.
As stated above these proteins interact with the nucleotides which are present in the loops
and bulges of miR-675 (Fig. 3G). These single-stranded regions within miRNAs have
therapeutic importance and serve as an excellent site for designing small molecule inhibitors
and Antisense Oligos (ASOs). Small molecules tend to bind to these small pockets or grooves

of miRNAs and can impact their biological activity while interaction between ASOs and miRNA
can destabilise miRNA leading to its degradation inside the cell. Targeting miR-675 with either
small molecule inhibitor or ASOs could be a way to develop novel therapeutic intervention
against certain diseases like cancers and neurodegenerative disorders. Similarly, the protein
binding site of miR-675 can be targeted with small molecules or ASOs to develop novel
therapeutic platforms to combat above diseases.
432
Cellular interactions and cell signalling pathways play an indispensable role in tumour
progression and metastasis. Cancerous cells interact with each other thus promoting cellular
proliferation and their survival rate. Identification of cellular receptors by targetSCAN as
potential interactors of miR-675 suggest that miR-675 can develop and aid in the progression
of tumours and malignancies by regulating the expression of several receptors on the cell
surface. Elevated levels of miR-675 have been found to upregulate the expression of tyrosine
kinase receptors thus resulting in contentious division of breast cancer cell lines [13]. Other
prominent interactors identified for miR-675 from targetSCAN searches were ZNF protein.
ZNF can act as transcriptional regulators and regulating their expression can give rise to
various tumours and malignances. Many microRNAs are known to regulate ZNF protein levels
which in turn control disease progression. Reduced level of miR-491-5p results in increased
level of ZNF-703 which results in Breast Cancer Progression [49]. Surprisingly, search with
targetSCAN also resulted in the identification of 23 uncharacterized proteins as potential
interactors of miR-675 (Fig. 4C). Further biochemical and biophysical studies will be required
to characterize these proteins, investigate the extent of their interactions with miR-675, and to
determine their biological consequences.
449
Deeper analysis on the results obtained from the above searches (RNAInter, RBPsuite,
targetSCAN) resulted in the identification of 4 common miR-675 interacting partners: ZNF,
Argonaute (AGO), Eukaryotic Initiation Factors (EIF) and DNA directed RNA polymerase
(polR). Identification of AGO was not surprising as it is an essential protein involved in RNA
induced silencing complex (RISC) mediating gene regulation through RNA interference [50].
Though, exact mechanistic role of miR-675 and EIF is unknown, it has been found that miR-
141 induced during viral infection targets EIF4E mRNA resulting in shut down of host
translation machinery and promoting viral proliferation [51]. Currently, it is unknown how miR-
675 expression and activity is regulated during viral infection like Hepatitis C virus (HCV),
Japanese encephalitis virus (JEV), severe acute respiratory syndrome-Coronavirus 2 (SARS-
CoV 2) or other viral infections. However, more studies are required to determine the unique
effect of miR-675 during these viral infections which will aid in proliferation of virus and its
pathogenesis, thus making miR-675 a novel anti-viral therapeutic target against above
diseases.
464
Though being expressed from the exon 1 of H19 lncRNA itself, both miR-675 and H19 lncRNA
interact to modulate each other activities thus exerting feedback regulatory mechanisms. As
stated above, interactions between miR-675 and its parent molecule H19 lncRNA has been
implicated in many disorders however the nature and extent of these interactions are still
unknown. Here in conjunction with RNAcofold and base-pair conservation analysis, we have
shown for the first time the detailed co-interaction pattern between individual exons of H19
lncRNA and miR-675. Interaction between miR-675 and exon1/exon3 of H19 lncRNA resulted
in the opening of miR-675 stem helical structure as the 5' end of latter interacts with the 3' end
of former suggesting of global rearrangements in miR-675 (Fig. 5A, 5C). Interactions between

miR-675 and exon 2/exon4 however resulted in very localized subtle nucleotide rearrangements in miR-675 (Fig 5B, 5D). This suggests that miR-675 preferably binds to exon 1 and exon 3 of H19 lncRNA. Exact consequences of these interactions are yet to be determined; however, one hypothesis is that binding of miRNA to lncRNA results in the degradation of lncRNA by mimicking the targets of miRNA [52]. Alternatively, binding of H19 lncRNA and opening of miR-675 helical conformation also suggests that H19 lncRNA is sequestering away miR-675 from its intended target and thus modulating the gene expression. It will be interesting to see whether interactions between miR-675 and H19 lncRNA upregulate or downregulate the activity of either of them or both. More structural, biochemical, and cell-based reporter assays will be required to ascertain the biological consequences of this interaction and how they shape up disease progression.

Comprehensively, the work described here provides the first detailed analysis of miR-675 stem-loop helical conformation. Based on the secondary structure model of miR-675 and interaction analysis, this study allows identification of previously unknown protein binding sites which can be further harnessed to develop small molecule inhibitors or ASOs against miR-675. Interactome analysis also determines some of the very first unknown and uncharacterised interactors of miR-675. Detailed analysis between H19 lncRNA and miR-675 illustrates the preference of miR-675 for exon 1 and exon 3 of H19 lncRNA. Opening of miR-675 is indicative of the sponging effect of H19 lncRNA over miR-675. This contributes to the necessary groundwork for future mutational and genetic analyses and will further aid in detailed understanding of the mechanism of miR-675 biogenesis, and its function in various disorders and pathogenic stages.

Funding:
This work is supported by the Ramalingaswami Re-entry fellowship awarded to Dr. Abhishek Dey by the Department of Biotechnology-India.

This article bears the NIPER-R communication number: NIPER-R/Communication/430

Data Availability:
The author confirms that the data supporting the findings of this study are available within the article and its supplementary materials.

References

1. Yang J, Qi M, Fei X, Wang X, Wang K. LncRNA H19: A novel oncogene in multiple cancers. Int J Biol Sci. 2021;17:3188-208.
2. Zhao CC, Guo H, Wang Y, Li JH. Comprehensive upstream and downstream regulatory analyses identify miR-675-3p as a potential prognostic biomarker in melanoma. Hum Cell. 2021;34:654-66.
3. Hernandez JM, Elahi A, Clark CW, Wang J, Humphries LA, Centeno B, et al. miR-675 mediates downregulation of Twist1 and Rb in AFP-secreting hepatocellular carcinoma. Ann Surg Oncol. 2013;20 Suppl 3:S625-35.
4. Yang X, Lou Y, Wang M, Liu C, Liu Y, Huang W. miR-675 promotes colorectal cancer cell growth dependent on tumor suppressor DMTF1. Mol Med Rep. 2019;19:1481-90.
5. Xiao Q, Chen T, Wu Y, Wu W, Xu Y, Gong Z, et al. MicroRNA-675-3p promotes esophageal squamous cell cancer cell migration and invasion. Mol Med Rep. 2018;18:3631-40.

6. Dey BK, Pfeifer K, Dutta A. The H19 long noncoding RNA gives rise to microRNAs miR-675-3p and miR-675-5p to promote skeletal muscle differentiation and regeneration. Genes Dev. 2014;28:491-501.

7. Wang S, Shao W, Gao Y, Zhao H, Du D. Diagnostic and Prognostic Significance of miR-675-3p in Patients With Atherosclerosis. Clin Appl Thromb Hemost. 2021;27:10760296211024754.

8. Funahashi Y, Yoshino Y, Iga JI, Ueno SI. Impact of clozapine on the expression of miR-675-3p in plasma exosomes derived from patients with schizophrenia. World J Biol Psychiatry. 2023;24:303-13.

9. Freed WJ, Chen J, Bäckman CM, Schwartz CM, Vazin T, Cai J, et al. Gene expression profile of neuronal progenitor cells derived from hESCs: activation of chromosome 11p15.5 and comparison to human dopaminergic neurons. PLoS One. 2008;3:e1422.

10. Zhang YY, Bao HL, Dong LX, Liu Y, Zhang GW, An FM. Silenced lncRNA H19 and up-regulated microRNA-129 accelerates viability and restrains apoptosis of PC12 cells induced by Aβ. Cell Cycle. 2021;20:112-25.

11. Müller V, Oliveira-Ferrer L, Steinbach B, Pantel K, Schwarzenbach H. Interplay of lncRNA H19/miR-675 and lncRNA NEAT1/miR-204 in breast cancer. Mol Oncol. 2019;13:1137-49.

12. Saieva L, Barreca MM, Zichittella C, Prado MG, Tripodi M, Alessandro R, et al. Hypoxia-Induced miR-675-5p Supports β-Catenin Nuclear Localization by Regulating GSK3-β Activity in Colorectal Cancer Cell Lines. Int J Mol Sci. 2020;21.

13. Vennin C, Spruyt N, Dahmani F, Julien S, Bertucci F, Finetti P, et al. H19 non coding RNA-derived miR-675 enhances tumorigenesis and metastasis of breast cancer cells by downregulating c-Cbl and Cbl-b. Oncotarget. 2015;6:29209-23.

14. Harari-Steinfeld R, Gefen M, Simerzin A, Zorde-Khvalevsky E, Rivkin M, Ella E, et al. The lncRNA H19-Derived MicroRNA-675 Promotes Liver Necroptosis by Targeting FADD. Cancers (Basel). 2021;13.

15. Wilkinson KA, Merino EJ, Weeks KM. Selective 2'-hydroxyl acylation analyzed by primer extension (SHAPE): quantitative RNA structure analysis at single nucleotide resolution. Nat Protoc. 2006;1:1610-6.

16. Smola MJ, Rice GM, Busan S, Siegfried NA, Weeks KM. Selective 2'-hydroxyl acylation analyzed by primer extension and mutational profiling (SHAPE-MaP) for direct, versatile and accurate RNA structure analysis. Nat Protoc. 2015;10:1643-69.

17. Busan S, Weeks KM. Accurate detection of chemical modifications in RNA by mutational profiling (MaP) with ShapeMapper 2. RNA. 2018;24:143-8.

18. Siegfried NA, Busan S, Rice GM, Nelson JA, Weeks KM. RNA motif discovery by SHAPE and mutational profiling (SHAPE-MaP). Nat Methods. 2014;11:959-65.

19. Darty K, Denise A, Ponty Y. VARNA: Interactive drawing and editing of the RNA secondary structure. Bioinformatics. 2009;25:1974-5.

20. Irving PS, Weeks KM. RNAvigate: Efficient exploration of RNA chemical probing datasets. bioRxiv. 2023.

21. Kang J, Tang Q, He J, Li L, Yang N, Yu S, et al. RNAInter v4.0: RNA interactome repository with redefined confidence scoring system and improved accessibility. Nucleic Acids Res. 2022;50:D326-D32.

22. McGeary SE, Lin KS, Shi CY, Pham TM, Bisaria N, Kelley GM, et al. The biochemical basis of microRNA targeting efficacy. Science. 2019;366.

23. Pan X, Fang Y, Li X, Yang Y, Shen HB. RBPsuite: RNA-protein binding sites prediction suite based on deep learning. BMC Genomics. 2020;21:884.

24. Broughton JP, Lovci MT, Huang JL, Yeo GW, Pasquinelli AE. Pairing beyond the Seed
Supports MicroRNA Targeting Specificity. Mol Cell. 2016;64:320-33.
25. Agarwal V, Bell GW, Nam JW, Bartel DP. Predicting effective microRNA target sites in
mammalian mRNAs. Elife. 2015;4.
26. Gruber AR, Lorenz R, Bernhart SH, Neuböck R, Hofacker IL. The Vienna RNA websuite.
Nucleic Acids Res. 2008;36:W70-4.
27. Bernhart SH, Tafer H, Mückstein U, Flamm C, Stadler PF, Hofacker IL. Partition function
and base pairing probabilities of RNA heterodimers. Algorithms Mol Biol. 2006;1:3.
28. Mathews DH. Using the RNAstructure Software Package to Predict Conserved RNA
Structures. Curr Protoc Bioinformatics. 2014;46:12.4.1-22.
29. Schlick T, Zhu Q, Dey A, Jain S, Yan S, Laederach A. To Knot or Not to Knot: Multiple
Conformations of the SARS-CoV-2 Frameshifting RNA Element. J Am Chem Soc.
2021;143:11404-22.
30. Mathews DH. Using the RNAstructure Software Package to Predict Conserved RNA
Structures. Curr Protoc Bioinformatics. 2014;46:12.4.1-.4.22.
31. Cassandri M, Smirnov A, Novelli F, Pitolli C, Agostini M, Malewicz M, et al. Zinc-finger
proteins in health and disease. Cell Death Discov. 2017;3:17071.
32. Klaus A, Zorman S, Berthier A, Polge C, Ramirez S, Michelland S, et al. Glutathione S-
transferases interact with AMP-activated protein kinase: evidence for S-glutathionylation and
activation in vitro. PLoS One. 2013;8:e62497.
33. Nair A, Chauhan P, Saha B, Kubatzky KF. Conceptual Evolution of Cell Signaling. Int J
Mol Sci. 2019;20.
34. Li H, Li J, Jia S, Wu M, An J, Zheng Q, et al. miR675 upregulates long noncoding RNA
H19 through activating EGR1 in human liver cancer. Oncotarget. 2015;6:31958-84.
35. Lu Y, Song S, Jiang X, Meng Q, Wang C, Li X, et al. miR675 Accelerates Malignant
Transformation of Mesenchymal Stem Cells by Blocking DNA Mismatch Repair. Mol Ther
Nucleic Acids. 2019;14:171-83.
36. Huang Y, Zheng Y, Jin C, Li X, Jia L, Li W. Long Non-coding RNA H19 Inhibits Adipocyte
Differentiation of Bone Marrow Mesenchymal Stem Cells through Epigenetic Modulation of
Histone Deacetylases. Sci Rep. 2016;6:28897.
37. Dong X, Xu M, Ren Z, Gu J, Lu M, Lu Q, et al. Regulation of CBL and ESR1 expression
by microRNA-22-3p, 513a-5p and 625-5p may impact the pathogenesis of dust mite-induced
pediatric asthma. Int J Mol Med. 2016;38:446-56.
38. Gao S, Ding B, Lou W. microRNA-Dependent Modulation of Genes Contributes to ESR1's
Effect on ERα Positive Breast Cancer. Front Oncol. 2020;10:753.
39. Barh D, García-Solano ME, Tiwari S, Bhattacharya A, Jain N, Torres-Moreno D, et al.
BARHL1 Is Downregulated in Alzheimer's Disease and May Regulate Cognitive Functions
through ESR1 and Multiple Pathways. Genes (Basel). 2017;8.
40. Ciafrè SA, Galardi S. microRNAs and RNA-binding proteins: a complex network of
interactions and reciprocal regulations in cancer. RNA Biol. 2013;10:935-42.
41. Kim S, Chang HR, Kim D, Park J, Son N, Yoon M, et al. The regulatory impact of RNA-
binding proteins on microRNA targeting. Nat Commun. 2021;12:5057.
42. Zhang T, Wu YC, Mullane P, Ji YJ, Liu H, He L, et al. FUS Regulates Activity of MicroRNA-
Mediated Gene Silencing. Mol Cell. 2018;69:787-801.e8.
43. Lin X, Shen J, Dan Peng, He X, Xu C, Chen X, et al. RNA-binding protein LIN28B inhibits
apoptosis through regulation of the AKT2/FOXO3A/BIM axis in ovarian cancer cells. Signal
Transduct Target Ther. 2018;3:23.

44. Zhou J, Bi C, Ching YQ, Chooi JY, Lu X, Quah JY, et al. Inhibition of LIN28B impairs
leukemia cell growth and metabolism in acute myeloid leukemia. J Hematol Oncol.
2017;10:138.
45. Redmon IC, Ardizzone M, Hekimoğlu H, Hatfield BM, Waldern JM, Dey A, et al. Sequence
and tissue targeting specificity of ZFP36L2 reveals Elavl2 as a novel target with co-regulation
potential. Nucleic Acids Res. 2022;50:4068-82.
46. Kim MY, Hur J, Jeong S. Emerging roles of RNA and RNA-binding protein network in
cancer cells. BMB Rep. 2009;42:125-30.
47. Bhattacharyya SN, Habermacher R, Martine U, Closs EI, Filipowicz W. Relief of
microRNA-mediated translational repression in human cells subjected to stress. Cell.
2006;125:1111-24.
48. Epis MR, Barker A, Giles KM, Beveridge DJ, Leedman PJ. The RNA-binding protein HuR
opposes the repression of ERBB-2 gene expression by microRNA miR-331-3p in prostate
cancer cells. J Biol Chem. 2011;286:41442-54.
49. Guo J, Luo C, Yang Y, Dong J, Guo Z, Yang J, et al. MiR-491-5p, as a Tumor Suppressor,
Prevents Migration and Invasion of Breast Cancer by Targeting ZNF-703 to Regulate
AKT/mTOR Pathway. Cancer Manag Res. 2021;13:403-13.
50. Müller M, Fazi F, Ciaudo C. Argonaute Proteins: From Structure to Function in
Development and Pathological Cell Fate Determination. Front Cell Dev Biol. 2019;7:360.
51. Ho BC, Yu SL, Chen JJ, Chang SY, Yan BS, Hong QS, et al. Enterovirus-induced miR-
141 contributes to shutoff of host protein translation by targeting the translation initiation factor
eIF4E. Cell Host Microbe. 2011;9:58-69.
52. Meng X, Li A, Yu B, Li S. Interplay between miRNAs and lncRNAs: Mode of action and
biological roles in plant development and stress adaptation. Comput Struct Biotechnol J.
2021;19:2567-74.

641
642 **Figure legend:**
643
644 **Figure 1:**
645
In vitro architecture and statistical analysis of miR-675 **A.** Normalized 5-NIA reactivity profile
for *in vitro* synthesized miR-675 replicate 1 **B.** Normalized 5-NIA reactivity profile for *in vitro*
synthesized miR-675 replicate 2. Some of the nucleotides were found to have high preference
for 5-NIA as compared to others in both the replicates. **C.** Overlapped normalized 5-NIA
reactivity profile of *in vitro* synthesized miR-675 replicates. miR-675-Replicate 1 is represented
in red color while miR-675-Replicate 2 is represented as blue color. The reactivity profile was
found to be highly similar for both the replicates. **D.** Scatter plot with Pearson Correlation
coefficient between the normalized reactivity profiles of miR-675 replicates. R=0.98 illustrates
identical and reproducible reactivity profiles between both the replicates of miR-675. **E.**
Overlapped RNA arcplot (depicting secondary structure) with scorer results for miR-675,
Replicate 1 and Replicate 2. Both miR-675 replicates fold into identical conformation with
PPV=100% and SENS=100%. **F.** Normalized 5-NIA reactivity profile generated after
averaging the reactivity profiles of miR-675 replicate 1 and replicate 2. Also shown is the
overlapped arc profile representing the secondary structure of miR-675. **G**. Secondary
structure model of miR-675 was obtained after feeding superfold with obtained SHAPE
constraints. Black color represents 5-NIA reactivity <0.4, orange represents 5-NIA reactivity
between 0.4 and 0.8 while Red represents 5-NIA reactivity >0.8 for nucleotides.
663

Figure 2:

miR-675 interacting partners identified from RNAinter and RBPsuite. **A**. Heatmap of miR-675
interacting partners identified from RNAinter. The interaction score ranges from 0.8 to 0.2, with
0.8 means strong interactions and 0.2 means weak interaction with miR-675. **B.** Pie chart
depicting the percentage of miR-675 interactors identified through RNAinter. ~86% of miR-
675 interacting partners belong to the group of transcription factors. Interestingly, 9% of
histone modification sites were also identified as possible interaction sites for miR-675 and
the remaining 5% belong to the group of other proteins which can also interact with miR-675.
C. Heatmap of RNA binding proteins from RBPsuite bound to miR-675. The binding scores
for these proteins range from ≥0.9 to ≤0.6, with ≥0.9 means strong binding and ≤0.6 means
weak binding.

Figure 3:

miR-675 protein binding sites of different RNA binding proteins identified through RBPsuite.
miR-675 binding sequences identified for proteins **A.** Fused in Sarcoma (FUS) **B.**
Serine/arginine-rich splicing factor 1 (SRSF1) **C.** FMR1 autosomal Homolog 2 (FXR2) **D.**
Serine/arginine-rich splicing factor 9 (SRSF9) **E.** Lin-28 homolog B (Lin28B) **F.** Human Antigen
R (HuR) **G.** Protein binding sites in miR-675. Most of the protein binding sites in miR-675
include the nucleotides from the loop region thus making miR-675 an excellent target of
therapeutic importance.

Figure 4:

miR-675 interacting partners identified from targetSCAN. targetSCAN identifies the partners
based on the miRNA target binding sites in mRNA. **A.** Heatmap of targetSCAN identified
interactors with miR-675 based on the number of miRNA binding sites present in the 3' UTR
of target mRNA. **B.** Heatmap of miR-675 identified interactors from targetSCAN based on their
total context++ score of binding. **C.** Bar Graph depicting the fractions of each protein family
identified by targetSCAN. As stated in the main text protein families ≤4 members were
annotated as others (30%). This is followed by proteins belonging to the families of receptors,
kinases, and transferases. **D.** Venn diagram highlighting the number of common and unique
interactors identified from RNAinter, RBPSuite and targetSCAN. As stated earlier 118
indicators were common to RNAInter and targetSCAN, 18 interactors were common to
RBPsuite and targetSCAN and only 1 common interactor was identified between RBPsuite
and RNAinter. About 4 interactors were commonly identified from RNAinter, RBPsuite and
targetSCAN.

Figure 5:

RNA cofold and base pair conservation analysis between miR-675 and exons **A.** Exon 1
(Model 1) **B.** Exon 2 (Model 2) **C.** Exon 3 (Model 1) **D.** Exon 4 (Model 2) of precursor H19
lncRNA. Upper panel in each figure represents the folding dynamics of individual H19-Exons,
miR-675 and their co-folding pattern analysed by RNAcofold [26, 27] in dot-bracket notation.
"&" in co-fold pattern of hybrid structure is the separator between two RNA molecules. Middle
panel represents the H19-Exons and miR-675 base pairs which either got modified or
remained unchanged during co-folding of both the RNA molecules. Lower panel explains the

meaning of each symbol/notations used to determine the base-pair conservation during the co-folding process of H19-exons and miR-675. miR-675 had shown to prefer Exon 1 and Exon 3 of H19 lncRNA resulting in opening of its canonical stem-loop helical structure while its interaction with Exon 2 and Exon 4 results more in localized rearrangements in base-pairing between nucleotides.

Supplementary Figure:

Figure S1:

RNA cofold and base pair conservation analysis between miR-675 and exons **A.** Exon 1 (Model 2) **B.** Exon 2 (Model 1) **C.** Exon 3 (Model 2) **D.** Exon 4 (Model 1) of precursor H19 lncRNA. Upper panel in each figure represents the folding dynamics of individual H19-Exons, miR-675 and their co-folding pattern of hybrid structure analysed by RNAcofold [26, 27] in dot-bracket notation. "&" in co-fold pattern of hybrid structure is the separator between two RNA molecules. Middle panel represents the H19-Exons and miR-675 base pairs which either got modified or remained unchanged during co-folding of both the RNA molecules. Lower panel explains the meaning of each symbol/notations used to determine the base-pair conservation during the co-folding process of H19-exons and miR-675.

Supplementary Table:

Table S1:

Primers Used for the SuperScript II Error Prone Reverse Transcriptase PCR and Library Generation.

Table S2:

List of miR-675 interactors identified from RNAinter.

Table S3:

List of RNA binding proteins binding to miR-675 identified from RBPsuite.

Table S4:

Free binding energies of H19 lncRNA and miR-675 heterodimers identified from RNAcofold.

A

H19_Exon1='.(((((.(((..(((((((((....(((...((...((...((.....))....))....))).))))).)))))))...(((((.((.(((((..(((((((..((((...((((.((.(((((((....)))))))...)..)))).)))...)).)))))))...(((((...)))))........))))))).)))))..)))).........'
miR-675='((((((((.((((.((((.(((((..(((((..........)))))))..))))))).))))))))).)))))))'
cofold='.......((((((((((..((((((.(((.((((.(((((((....))..)).....((((((....)))))...))).((((....(((((.....((((.(((((.(((((((((....))))))))).)))))))...))))))))((((....))))).)))))))..))))).).((((((.....&.))))).)))))).))))......))))...)).)))))))....)))...)))))))).'

pairing_conservation

'U----U-PP++PPPPPP--++++PPP+U+PP+UU+PP+U+PPUU++U--UUU--UUUUPPUU+PP-UU---UPPPPPU---++++P---P+P-+P----U++PP----UUPPP+U++PPPU-PP+PP+-PPPPP++++PPPP--UUUPP+PPP+PPPUUU---++PP--PP+++PPPPPUUUUUUPPPP++U++++PPPPPP-UPPPPP+U-PPP+UUUUUUUU&-PPPP-P+PPP-+PPP-U----PP++----PPU++++++UUPPPP-P++PPPPP-U--PPP---+PPPPPP-'

Legend: * = unknown, U = conserved unpaired, + = unpaired -> paired, x = unpaired -> pseudoknot P = conserved paired, p = paired -> pseudoknot,
- = paired -> unpaired S = conserved pseudoknot, s = pseudoknot -> paired, _ = pseudoknot -> unpaired

B

H19_Exon2='.........(((..(((.(((((((((((..((..(((((....(((...(((((.((-(((-((..(((.........))))-))))).))))))...))).).)))).)).)))))))).)))..))((((((-(((.((((.(((((((..(((((..........)))))..))))).)))))))).))))))'
miR-675='((((((((.((((-(((-(((((((..(((((..........)))))..))))))).)))))))).))))))'
cofold='{{{(,....(((..(((.(((((((((..((..((((.....(((..((((((-{{,((,(,{{-|(((-.......,,|}}}-}}}}),))))))...)))..)).)))).)).)))))))).)))..))((&,{{{((((.((((-(((((.((((((((..((((((..........)))))..))))).)))))))).)))),)))))))),'

pairing_conservation

'xxx+*UUUUPPPUUPPPUPPPPPPPPPPPUUPPPUUPPPPPUUUUPPPUUUPPPPPPUpP*PP*UppUU*PPpUUUUUUU****pppUppppP*PPPPPPPUUUPPPUUPPUPPPUPPUPPPPPPPPPPPUPPPUUPPP&*pppPPPPUPPPPUPPPPUPPPPPPUUPPPPPPUUUUUUUUUUUPPPPPPUUPPPPPPUPPPPPPPP*PPPPPP*'

Legend: * = unknown, U = conserved unpaired, + = unpaired -> paired, x = unpaired -> pseudoknot P = conserved paired, p = paired -> pseudoknot,
- = paired -> unpaired S = conserved pseudoknot, s = pseudoknot -> paired, _ = pseudoknot -> unpaired

C

H19_Exon3='..............(((((((....))(((((((((....)))))))).((((......))))).(((((.........)))).((((((....))))).)))))..........'
mir-675='(((((((.(((((.(((((.(((((..(((((..........)))))..))))))).)))))).))))))).))))))'
cofold='....((..(((((((((((((((((((((....))))))).........(((.(((((((....(((((.(((.(((((((..((.(((((.((((.((((.........&....)))))))).)).....)))))))).)).)))))))).))))))))).))).)))))).))).)))).....)))))...)).'

pairing_conservation

UUUU++UUU+++++PPPPPPP++++PPPPPPPPPPUUUUPPPPPPPPPU-----UUU+++-PPPP+----++++U+++U-PPP+PPP--++UUPPPPPUPPP--UUUUUUUUUU&----PPP+PPPPUPP--+PPPPPP++P-PPPP+++++U+++U-PPPPP+UPPPP-P+PP----PP+P---PP-

Legend: * = unknown, U = conserved unpaired, + = unpaired -> paired, x = unpaired -> pseudoknot P = conserved paired, p = paired -> pseudoknot,
- = paired -> unpaired S = conserved pseudoknot, s = pseudoknot -> paired, _ = pseudoknot -> unpaired

D

H19_Exon4='.....((((((((((..((((......(((.(((...(((((((.((..((...(((...((.((.....))..)...))))).....((((((..((.....((((....))))...)..)))))).).((((......))))...((((((...((......)))))))))).....))))))))))))).......))).....)))))))))))......((((((((.(((((((((((((..((.(..((......((((.((((........))))))......))..)).))))))))))).))).))))))))).......))))...)))))))))).((((((...((((....((((((((...(((.(.((((((((((...)))))))))))...))))))))...)))).(((((......))))).((......))..))))...)))))).)))......((((((((.(((((((((((((..((.(..((......((((.((((..........))))))..))..)).))))))))).))).))))))))).)))))).'
miR-675='((((((((.((((-((((.(((((..(((((..........)))))..))))))).))))))))).)))))))'
cofold=',,,,,((,{{(((((((.((((......((.(..(((((-((((((.((-((.((..(((...(.(-(.....}}.}}------{(((({-{|,,,-(((((-.))))....}..)))||-||,,((((.......((((((.......((((((-((.....(((((..(((((........))))).))))).((((,,,,,-,,)))))))))..,,})))}-,,,,-(((((((((((((,,{,..{{..(({......((,,(((((......)))))-....,,}}--)),)))......))-).......)))))).))).))...)))))))......)))))))))....)))))))(((((((...((((....((((((((...(((.(.((((((((((...)))))))))))...))))))))...)))).((((((...)))))).{|.....}}.}}}}}-....||........))))))........((((((((((.(((((((((((((..((.(..((......((((.((((..........))))))..))..)).))))))))).)))..))).)))))))).)))))..}}..&|(((((((.((((-((((.(((((..(((((..........)))))..))))))).))))))))).)))))))}'

pairing_conservation

'*U***Pp*pPPPPPPUUPPPPUUUUUPPPUPPUUUUPPPPPUPPUUUUPPPUUUPPUPPUUUUPppUppUUUUU--pPPPpUUp***UUUPPPPUUUUPPPUUUU*pUUPPP**U****PPPPPUUUUPPPPUuUUUUPPPPPPPUUUPPPP**UUU**UPPPPPPPPPPPU**x++xxUUUUUUUUUUUUUUUUUUUUUUUPPPUUUUPPUPPPPPPUUUPPPUPPUUUUUPPPPPPPPPPPPPP*UUUppUUUPpUUUUUUPP**PPPPPUUUUUUUUPPPPPPPPUUU*UppUPPU*PPPPPPPPPPPPUUUPPPUPPPPPPPPPPUPPPUUPPPPUUUPPPUUUPPPPUUUUUUPPPUUUPPPPPPPPPPPPPPPPPPUUUUUUUUUUUUPPPPPP+*PPPPPPPPPPUUPPPUPPPUPPPUUUPPPUUPPPPUUUPPPUUPPPPPPPPpPPp*PPPPPPUUUUUUUUUUUPPPPPUp**UUUUUUppUpppppUUUU**UUUUUUUUPPPPPPPPPPUUUUUUUUUUPPPPPPPPPPPUUUPPPPPPPPPPPPPUPPPPPUUPPPUUUUPPPPPUUPPP*ppUU&*PPPPPUPPPPUPPPPUPPPPPPUUPPPPPPUUUUUUUUUUPPPPPPUUPPPPPPUPPPPPPPPPUPPPPPPPp'

Legend: * = unknown, U = conserved unpaired, + = unpaired -> paired, x = unpaired -> pseudoknot P = conserved paired, p = paired -> pseudoknot,
- = paired -> unpaired S = conserved pseudoknot, s = pseudoknot -> paired, _ = pseudoknot -> unpaired

Figure 5

Figure 1

Figure 2

Figure 3

Figure 4