Introduction

The highly conserved Notch signaling pathway regulates many different cell fate decisions in both vertebrate and invertebrate species [1-4]. It is important for pattern formation during development such as neurogenesis, angiogenesis or myogenesis and regulates T cell development and stem cell maintenance [5-7]. But Notch signaling is also involved in cellular processes throughout adulthood [8]. Signaling via Notch occurs between neighbouring cells and both the receptor and its ligands are transmembrane proteins (see Figure 1).

Notch ligands are single-pass transmembrane proteins with a DSL (Delta, Serrate, LAG-2)-domain and varying numbers of EGF-like repeats. There are two classes of canonical Notch ligands, the Delta/Delta-like and the Serrate/Jagged class. The later has an additional domain of cysteine rich repeats close to the transmembrane domain. There are 5 canonical Notch ligands in mammals: Jagged-1, Jagged-2, DLL1, DLL3 and DLL4. These can bind to the four Notch receptors Notch 1-4.

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FIGURE 1: Notch Receptors and Their Ligands.

Drosophila contains one Notch receptor (dNotch) that is bound by two transmembrane DSL-ligands (Delta and Serrate). Mammals possess four Notch receptors (Notch1–4) and five ligands (Jagged-1 and -2, which are homologous to Serrate, and Delta-like (DLL) 1, 3 and 4, which are homologous to Delta). Additional noncanonical Notch ligands are Dlk1, Dlk2 and DNER.


In contrast to mammals, *Drosophila* has only two Notch ligands - Delta and Serrate - that can activate the single Notch receptor [9-11].

The noncanonical Notch ligands lack the DSL domain, among these are Dlk1, Dlk2 and DNER [12-15]. Other noncanonical ligands lack all typical Notch ligand domains and can have a completely different structure, some are not even membrane-tethered [16]. They are thought to act as co-ligands to enhance or inhibit Notch activation and might be important modulators of the Notch pathway [14, 16].

Endocytosis of Notch ligands in the signal-producing cells is absolutely required for the initiation of Notch signaling. Two structurally distinct E3 ubiquitin ligases, Neuralized (Neur) and Mind bomb (Mib), are known to regulate the endocytosis of Notch ligands in Drosophila and zebrafish, respectively [42, 43]. In mammals, 2 Neur homologs, Neur1 [44, 45] and Neur2 [46], and 2 Mib homologs, Mind bomb-1 (Mib1) [47] and Mib2 [48], have been identified. Although all 4 E3 ubiquitin ligases are known to induce the endocytosis of Notch ligands *in vitro*, only Mib1 has an obligatory role in the activation of Jag- as well as DLL-mediated Notch signaling in mammalian development, while Neur1, Neur2, and Mib2 are dispensable [49].

Upon ligand binding, the Notch receptor is cleaved proteolytically (see Figure 2). This cleavage occurs in a two step-process releasing the extracellular and the intracellular part of Notch from the membrane. First the extracellular domain with the bound ligand attached to it is released by the action of a ADAM family metalloprotease creating a membrane-bound intermediate called Notch extracellular truncation (NEXT) (S2 cleavage). In a second step, NEXT is cleaved within the transmembrane domain by γ-secretase (S3/S4 cleavage), releasing the Notch intracellular domain (NICD). NICD translocates to the nucleus and with the help of additional enhancers and co-activators activates target genes [10, 17, 18].

Each Notch molecule signals only once without signal amplification by second messengers. This allows a rapid and highly responsive downregulation and reactivation of the signaling pathway. The activity of Notch and its ligands requires endocytosis and is regulated through glycosylation, ubiquitylation and microRNAs by mechanisms not yet fully understood [19-27]. The Notch pathway plays an important role in many different processes in a wide range of tissues, this is why aberrations in Notch signaling components have been associated with various human disorders such as cancer, immune disorders, developmental syndromes, stroke and cognitive symptoms [10, 28-36]. A mutation in JAG1 can cause the Alagille syndrome [37-39] and other cognitive dysfunctions such as CADASIL or schizophrenia have been associated with mutations of the Notch receptors [40, 41].

![Figure 2: The Notch Pathway](image-url)

FIGURE 2: The Notch Pathway.

Binding of the Notch ligand (green) on one cell to the Notch receptor (blue) on another cell results in two proteolytic cleavages of the receptor. First a protease of the ADAM family cleaves off most of the extracellular part of Notch leaving a Notch extracellular truncation (NEXT) (S2 cleavage). Second γ-secretase cleaves NEXT at positions S3 and S4 within the transmembrane domain releasing the Notch intracellular domain (NICD). NICD enters the nucleus and interacts with the DNA-binding CSL protein (red), Mastermind (Mam; green) and additional co-activators (Co-A; green). Co-repressors (Co-R; blue and grey) are released and target genes become active.

**DLL1 [Delta-like Protein 1; Delta1]**

**DLL1 (human) (rec.)**
AG-40A-0073-C010 10 µg
AG-40A-0073-C050 50 µg
Produced in HEK 293 cells. Signal peptide and extracellular domain of recombinant human DLL1 (aa 1-545) is fused at the C-terminus to a FLAG®-tag.

**DLL1 (human):Fc (human) (rec.)**
AG-40A-0116-C010 10 µg
AG-40A-0116-C050 50 µg
Produced in HEK 293 cells. Signal peptide and extracellular domain of recombinant human DLL1 (aa 1-545) is fused at the C-terminus to the Fc portion of human IgG. Interacts with human Notch1 (as confirmed by flow cytometry).

**Anti-DLL1 (human), mAb (D1L165-6)**
AG-20A-0074-C050 50 µg
AG-20A-0074-C100 100 µg

**Anti-DLL1 (human), pAb**
AG-25A-0062-C100 100 µg

**Anti-DLL1 (human), pAb**
AG-25A-0079-C100 100 µg

**NEW** DLL1, Soluble (human) ELISA Kit
AG-45A-0027EK-KI01 96 wells
AG-45A-0027TP-KI01 Twin Plex 2 x 96 wells
AG-45A-0027PP-KI01 Penta Plex 5 x 96 wells
For the quantitative determination of soluble DLL1 in human serum, plasma or cell culture supernatant. Sensitivity: 120pg/ml (range 0 to 16ng/ml).


**METHOD:** HEK 293 cells transfected with a human Notch1 or a control vector were incubated with 25µg/ml of GITR (human):Fc (human) (rec.) or DLL1 (human):Fc (human) (rec.) (Prod. No. AG-40A-0116). Cells were stained with anti-human IgG (Fc specific) FITC conjugate for DLL1-Fc binding.

**DLL3 [Delta-like Protein 3; Delta3]**

**DLL3 (human):Fc (human) (rec.)**
AG-40A-0113-C010 10 µg
AG-40A-0113-C050 50 µg
Produced in HEK 293 cells. Signal peptide and extracellular domain of recombinant human DLL3 (aa 1-546) is fused at the C-terminus to the Fc portion of human IgG1.

**DLL4 [Delta-like Protein 4; Delta4]**

**DLL4 (human):Fc (human) (rec.)**
AG-40A-0077-C010 10 µg
AG-40A-0077-C050 50 µg
Produced in HEK 293 cells. Signal peptide and extracellular domain of recombinant human DLL4 (aa 1-529) is fused at the C-terminus to the Fc portion of human IgG. Interacts with human Notch1 (as confirmed by flow cytometry).

**Anti-DLL4 (human), mAb (DL86-3AG)**
AG-20A-0080-C050 50 µg
AG-20A-0080-C100 100 µg

**Anti-DLL4 (human), pAb**
AG-25A-0080-C100 100 µg

**NEW** DLL4, mouse:Fc (human) (rec.)
AG-40A-0145-C010 10 µg
Produced in HEK 293 cells. Signal peptide and extracellular domain of recombinant mouse DLL4 (aa 1-532) is fused at the C-terminus to the Fc portion of human IgG.

**NEW** anti-DLL4 (human), mAb (DL86-3AG)
AG-20A-0080-C050 50 µg
AG-20A-0080-C100 100 µg

**Anti-DLL4 (human), pAb**
AG-25A-0080-C100 100 µg
LITERATURE REFERENCES:


SELECTED LATEST REVIEW ARTICLES

• The role of Notch in patterning the human vertebral column: S. L. Dunwoodie; Curr. Opin. Genet. Dev. 19, 329 (2009)
• The many facets of Notch ligands: B. D’Souza, et al.; Oncogene 27, 5148 (2008)
• The canonical Notch signaling pathway: unfolding the activation mechanism: R. Kopan & M. X. Ilagan; Cell 137, 216 (2009)
• Intracellular trafficking of Notch receptors and ligands: C. Brou; Exp. Cell Res. 315, 1549 (2009)
• Notch activity in the nervous system: to switch or not switch?: E. Cau & P. Blader; Neural. Dev. 4, 36 (2009)
Dlk1 [Delta-like Protein; Pref-1]

**Dlk1 (human) (rec.)**
- AG-40A-0133-C010 10 µg
- AG-40A-0133-C050 50 µg
Produced in HEK 293 cells. The signal peptide and the extracellular domain of human Dlk1 (aa 1-303) is fused at the C-terminus to a FLAG®-tag.

**Dlk1 (human):Fc (human) (rec.)**
- AG-40A-0118-C010 10 µg
- AG-40A-0118-C050 50 µg
Produced in HEK 293 cells. The signal peptide and the extracellular domain of human Dlk1 (aa 1-303) is fused at the C-terminus to the Fc portion of human IgG.

**Dlk1 (mouse):Fc (human) (rec.)**
- AG-40A-0107-C010 10 µg
- AG-40A-0107-C050 50 µg
Produced in HEK 293 cells. The signal peptide and the extracellular domain of mouse Dlk1 (aa 1-305) is fused at the C-terminus to the Fc portion of human IgG.

**anti-Dlk1 (human), mAb (PF13-3)**
- AG-20A-0069-C050 50 µg
- AG-20A-0069-C100 100 µg

**anti-Dlk1 (human), mAb (PF299-1)**
- AG-20A-0070-C050 50 µg
- AG-20A-0070-C100 100 µg

**anti-Dlk1 (mouse), mAb (PF105B)**
- AG-20A-0057-C050 50 µg
- AG-20A-0057-C100 100 µg

**anti-Dlk1 (mouse), mAb (PF183E)**
- AG-20A-0058-C050 50 µg
- AG-20A-0058-C100 100 µg

**anti-Dlk1 (human), pAb**
- AG-25A-0092-C100 100 µg

**anti-Dlk1 (human), pAb**
- AG-25A-0091-C100 100 µg

**Notch Ligands Inhibit Adipocyte Differentiation**

Not only Dlk1/Pref-1 [Y. Wang & H.S. Sul; Cell Metab. 9, 287 (2009)] but also the human Notch ligands DLL1, DLL4, DNER have been shown to inhibit adipocytes differentiation (adipogenesis) [unpublished data], therefore being interesting tools for stem cell research.

**Experimental: Adipogenesis Inhibition**

3T3L1 cells were maintained in DMEM supplemented with 10% FBS and penicillin-streptomycin. When the cells were confluent grown, adipogenesis was initiated by adding IBMX, dexamethasone, and insulin to 0.5mM, 1µM, and 10µg/ml, respectively and continued for 2 days (day 0). The medium was replaced every 2 days with new medium containing insulin in the presence or absence of 5µg/ml of each human recombinant Notch ligand-Fc fusion protein (human DLL1-Fc, human DNER-Fc, or human Dlk1/Pref-1) and human CD137-Fc as a control-Fc. Staining with Oil Red O was typically performed on day 7.
**Jagged-1 [HJ1; CD339]**

**Jagged-1 (human):Fc (human) (rec.)**

- **AG-40A-0081-C010**
  - 10 µg
- **AG-40A-0081-C050**
  - 50 µg

Produced in HEK 293 cells. Signal peptide and extracellular domain of human Jagged-1 (HJ1; CD339) (aa 1-1067) are fused at the C-terminus to the Fc portion of human IgG.

**anti-Jagged-1 (human), mAb (J1G53-3)**

- **AG-20A-0049-C100**
  - 100 µg
- **AG-20A-0049F-C050**
  - FITC
- **AG-20A-0049PC-C050**
  - PerCP

**Clone:** J1G53-3. **Isotype:** Mouse IgG1. **Immunogen:** Recombinant human Jagged-1. **Specificity:** Recognizes human Jagged-1. **Application:** FC, WB.

**METHOD:**

MSCs were maintained in DMEM, supplemented with 10% fetal bovine serum, penicillin-streptomycin and glutamine. For differentiation of MSCs they were cultured in adipogenic medium consisting of growth medium supplemented with 1µM dexamethasone, 0.5mM IBMX, 10µg/ml insulin and 100µM indomethacin (day 1). Medium was changed every 3 days. Staining with Oil Red O was typically performed on day 30. For negative controls Tri-fluoroacetic acid (TFA) (20µg/ml) was added. To immobilize Notch ligands on the plastic surface of the culture plates, plates were incubated with a solution of Jagged-1 (human):Fc (human) (rec.) (Prod. No. AG-40A-0081) (5µg/ml) or CD137L:Fc (5µg/ml) in PBS for 2 hours at 37°C. These plates were then used to differentiate MSCs.

**FIGURE:**

Differentiation of human mesenchymal stem cells (MSCs) into adipocytes in the presence or absence of Notch ligands that inhibit adipogenic differentiation of MSCs.

**anti-Jagged-1 (human), pAb**

- **AG-25A-0081-C100**
  - 100 µg

From rat. **Immunogen:** Recombinant human Jagged-1 (extracellular domain). **Specificity:** Recognizes the extracellular domain and full-length human Jagged-1. **Application:** WB.

**DNER**

**DNER (extracellular domain) (human) (rec.)**

- **AG-40A-0119-C010**
  - 10 µg
- **AG-40A-0119-C050**
  - 50 µg

Produced in HEK 293 cells. The signal peptide and the extracellular domain of human DNER (aa 1-637) is fused at the C-terminus to the Fc portion of human IgG.

**new anti-DNER (human), mAb (DR324-4)**

- **AG-20A-0078-C050**
  - 50 µg
- **AG-20A-0078-C100**
  - 100 µg

**Clone:** DR324-4. **Isotype:** Mouse IgG2. **Immunogen:** Recombinant human DNER (ectodomain). **Specificity:** Recognizes human DNER. **Application:** WB.

**new anti-DNER (human), pAb**

- **AG-25A-0102-C100**
  - 100 µg

From rabbit. **Immunogen:** Recombinant human DNER (ectodomain). **Specificity:** Recognizes human DNER. **Application:** WB.

**FIGURE:** Flow Cytometry. Surface staining method was used to stain normal human peripheral blood cells (CD4+ selections) with anti-DNER (human), mAb (DR324-4) (PerCP). An appropriate isotype control was used for PerCP mouse IgG1.