

1	Pluripotent stem cell model of early hematopoiesis in Down syndrome reveals
2	quantitative effects of short-form GATA1 protein on lineage specification
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4	Shiori Matsuo ¹ , Yoko Nishinaka-Arai ^{1,5,*} , Yasuhiro Kazuki ^{2,3} , Mitsuo Oshimura ² , Tatsutoshi
5	Nakahata ⁴ , Akira Niwa ^{1,*} and Megumu K. Saito ^{1,*}
6	
7	¹ Department of Clinical Application, Center for iPS cell Research and Application, Kyoto University,
8	Kyoto, Japan
9	² Chromosome Engineering Research Center, Tottori University, Tottori, Japan
10	³ Division of Genome and Cellular Functions, Department of Molecular and Cellular Biology, School
11	of Life Science, Faculty of Medicine, Tottori University, Tottori, Japan
12	⁴ Drug Discovery Technology Development Office, Center for iPS cell Research and Application,
13	Kyoto University, Kyoto, Japan
14	⁵ Department of Human Health Sciences, Graduate School of Medicine, Kyoto University, Kyoto,
15	Japan
16	
17	* Corresponding authors
18	

- 19Category for the Table of Contents Nonmalignant Hematologic Hematologic diseases, 20Malignancies 2122Keywords myeloid proliferation, syndrome-related Transient abnormal Down 23megakaryoblastic leukemia, short-form GATA1 2425Address for Correspondence 26Megumu K. Saito, M.D., Ph.D., Akira Niwa, M.D., Ph.D. or Yoko Nishinaka-Arai 27Center for iPS Cell Research and Application (CiRA), Kyoto University
- 28 53, Shogoin-Kawahara-cho, Sakyo-ku, Kyoto, Japan
- 29
- 30 Phone: +81-75-366-7085
- 31 FAX: +81 -75-366-7091
- 32 E-mail : msaito@cira.kyoto-u.ac.jp
- 33 <u>akiranw@cira.kyoto-u.ac.jp</u>

35 Abstract

37Children with Down syndrome (DS) are susceptible to two blood disorders, transient abnormal 38myelopoiesis (TAM) and Down syndrome-associated acute megakaryocytic leukemia (DS-AMKL). 39Mutations in GATA binding protein 1 (GATA1) have been identified as the cause of these diseases, and the expression levels of the resulting protein, short-form GATA1 (GATA1s), are known to correlate 40 41 with the severity of TAM. On the other hand, despite the presence of GATA1 mutations in almost all 42cases of DS-AMKL, the incidence of DS-AMKL in TAM patients is inversely correlated with the expression of GATA1s. This discovery has required the need to clarify the role of GATA1s in 4344 generating the cells of origin linked to the risk of both diseases. Focusing on this point, we examined 45the characteristics of GATA1 mutant trisomy-21 pluripotent stem cells transfected with a doxycycline 46 (Dox)-inducible GATA1s expression cassette in a stepwise hematopoietic differentiation protocol. We 47found that higher GATA1s expression significantly reduced commitment into the megakaryocytic lineage at the early hematopoietic progenitor cell (HPC) stage, but once committed, the effect was 4849reversed in progenitor cells and acted to maintain the progenitors. These differentiation stage-50dependent reversal effects were in contrast to the results of myeloid lineage, where GATA1s simply 51sustained and increased the number of immature myeloid cells. These results suggest that although 52GATA1 mutant cells cause the increase in myeloid and megakaryocytic progenitors regardless of the

- 53 intensity of GATA1s expression, the pathways vary with the expression level. This study provides
- 54 experimental support for the paradoxical clinical features of *GATA1* mutations in the two diseases.

56 Introduction

58Children with Down syndrome (DS) are known to be susceptible to two blood disorders in their early 59years. Approximately 10% of infants with DS develop transient abnormal myelopoiesis (TAM), a 60 myeloproliferative disorder with an increase in leukocytes and blasts in peripheral blood [1, 2]. While 61most patients experience spontaneous remission within 6 months, about 10% of patients will have fatal 62liver dysfunction due to blastic infiltration [1, 3-6] and another 10-20% of patients develop Down 63 syndrome-associated acute megakaryocytic leukemia (DS-AMKL) within 5 years [1, 3, 5, 7-9]. Metaanalyses of clinical reports of TAM and DS-AMKL [7, 10-14] and a case report of monozygotic twins 64 65[2, 13, 15, 16] have shown that almost all TAM and DS-AMKL cases have somatic mutations of GATA-66 binding protein 1 (GATA1) gene and that these mutations are essential in the multi-step development 67process of DS-AMKL. 68 GATA1 is a representative hematopoietic transcription factor involved in early hematopoiesis and 69 erythro-megakaryocytic cell development [17-27]. Various mutations in exons 2 to 3 of GATA1 result 70 in the loss of the full-length protein (GATA1fl) and the production of only the short-form protein 71(GATA1s) translated from the second ATG site, which lacks the amino-terminal activation domain [10, 7228]. This means that, regardless of the pattern of the mutation, the resulting protein is always a single alternative form produced even without the mutation, albeit in small amounts. This distinguishes this 73

74 mutation from other oncogenic mutations.

75Despite the obvious necessity for GATA1 mutations in trisomy-21 cells, the quantitative impact of 76 GATA1s protein produced as a result of the mutations has not been fully elucidated. Indeed, although 77 some meta-clinical analyses have shown a significant association between the GATA1s expression 78levels predicted from the variants and the severity of TAM and the frequency of AMKL [29], the early 79stage pathogenesis is not fully understood. In particular, it remains unclear whether there is a direct 80 causal relationship beyond correlation between the amount of GATA1s protein, rather than its presence 81 per se, and early hematopoietic cell fate associated with disease-specific blood findings. An in vitro model using PSCs was reported to be useful for analyzing diseases of early hematopoiesis 82[31-33]. Of course, it is hard to precisely address if the level of gene expressions in PSC-derived 83 84 hematopoietic cells be the same in cells of comparable stages in primary disease development during 85 fetal hematopoiesis, but several PSC models of TAM have been already reported to recapitulate a 86 differentiation preference for myelocytes due to GATA1 mutations and an increase in CD34⁺ immature 87 megakaryoblasts associated with expression level of GATA1s [34-36], which correspond to the 88 features observed in patients. Furthermore, recent study using trisomy-21 PSCs identified an 89 CD34⁺CD43⁺CD11b⁻CD71⁺CD41⁺CD235a⁻ megakaryocytic progenitor population largely 90 responsible for the myeloid proliferation in the absence of GATA1fl [37]. Interestingly, despite being 91an erythro-megakaryocytic progenitor population, cells in this fraction possessed an expression profile

92	that showed a tendency for myeloid differentiation, which suggested the need for a more detailed
93	analysis of the effect of GATA1s on the nature of progenitors in earlier developmental stages. Current
94	study therefore examined the effects of higher or lower amount of GATA1s protein levels on each
95	lineage cell by additionally induce GATA1s expression in early-stage hematopoietic cells derived from
96	GATA1 mutant PSCs.

98 Materials and methods

99

100 Ethical statement

101 To establish and use induced pluripotent stem cells (iPSCs), written informed consent was obtained

- 102 from the guardians of the DS patient (ID: CiRA12345 at Kyoto University and 778 at Hirosaki
- 103 University) in accordance with the Declaration of Helsinki. The use of human embryonic stem cells
- 104 (ESCs) in Kyoto University and Tottori University was approved by the Ministry of Education Culture,
- 105 Sports, Science and Technology of Japan (MEXT). This study was approved by the Ethics Committee
- 106 and the recombinant DNA Experiments Safely Committee of Kyoto University. All methods were

107 performed in accordance with the relevant guidelines and regulations.

108

109 Cells and cell culture

The cell line Ts21-ES-*GATA1*-WT, in which a human chromosome 21 was transferred into the human ESC line, KhES-1-derived subline, and Ts21-ES-*GATA1s*, in which the GATA1 mutation was introduced into the KhES-1-derived subline and then a human chromosome 21 was transferred into the *GATA1s*-ES, were previously established [34]. TAM-iPS-*GATA1s*, which was generated from the blasts of TAM patients with DS, and TAM-iPS-*GATA1*-WT, in which the *GATA1* mutation of TAMiPS-*GATA1s* was repaired, were established as described previously [37]. All PSCs were cultured on

116	0.25 µg/cm ² Laminin511-E8 fragment iMatrix-511 silk (Nippi, Tokyo, Japan)-coated culture plates
117	with StemFit AK02 medium (Ajinomoto, Tokyo, Japan). For passage, the cells were dissociated into
118	single cells with 0.5×TrypLE Select (Thermo Fisher Scientific, Waltham, MA, USA) and plated at 265
119	cells/cm ² . 10 µM Rock inhibitor Y-27632 (Nacalai Tesque, Kyoto, Japan) was used at the time of the
120	plating, and the medium was exchanged with fresh AK02 medium without Y-27632 the next day.

122 Generation of stable Dox-inducible GATA1fl-HA and GATA1s-

123 HA cell lines

124The adeno-associated virus integration site 1 (AAVS1) targeting pAAVS1-Tet-on-hGATA1Aex2-HA 125vector was generated by replacing the CRISPRi cassette of pAAVS1-NDi-CRISPRi (Gen2) purchased 126 from Addgene (plasmid #73498; http://n2t.net/addgene:73498; RRID:Addgene 73498) [38] with C-127terminal HA-tagged GATA1\Dex2 amplified from the cDNA of the cell line K562 using an In-Fusion 128HD Cloning Kit (Clontech, Mountain View, CA, USA). The neomycin resistant gene expression 129cassette was replaced with the hygromycin resistant gene generated by DNA synthesis. The resulting 130pAAVS1-Tet-on-hGATA1Aex2-HA vector and Cas9/gRNA expressing vector AAVS1 T2 CRISPR in 131pX330 (plasmid http://n2t.net/addgene:72833; purchased from Addgene #72833; 132RRID:Addgene 72833) [39] were electroporated into Ts21-ES clones using a NEPA21 electroporator (NEPAGENE, Chiba, Japan). Transfected cells were selected with 50 µg/mL hygromycin (InvivoGen, 133

134	San Diego, CA, USA). Hygromycin-resistant clones were picked, and successful targeting was
135	confirmed by Sanger sequencing. To generate PB-Tet-on-hGATA1fl-HA vector, the second ATG of
136	the C-terminal HA-tagged GATA1fl fragment amplified from the cDNA of K562 cells was replaced
137	with CTC and cloned into an all-in-one PiggyBac-based Tet-inducible expression cassette vector
138	synthesized in our laboratory. PB-Tet-on-hGATA1-HA vector and PiggyBac transposase vector were
139	electroporated into Ts21-ES-GATA1s using the NEPA21 electroporator. Transfected cells were
140	selected with 0.5 - 1 µg/mL puromycin (InvivoGen).

142 Hematopoietic differentiation

143	The hematopoietic differentiation was performed as previously described (Fig 1B) [40, 41]. In brief,
144	undifferentiated PSC colonies were prepared on Laminin511-E8 fragment-coated culture plates with
145	StemFit AK02 medium by seeding single cells or spheroids. When individual colonies reached 750 to
146	1000 μ m in diameter, the culture medium was replaced with Essential 8 medium (Thermo Fisher
147	Scientific) containing 80 ng/mL BMP4 (R&D Systems, Minneapolis, MN, USA), 80 ng/mL VEGF
148	(R&D Systems) and 2 µM GSK-3 inhibitor CHIR99021 (Merck Millipore, Burlington, MA, USA).
149	The cells were cultured at 37 $^{\circ}$ C, 5% CO2 and 5% O2 during differentiation. On day 2, the medium
150	was replaced with Essential 6 medium (Thermo Fisher Scientific) containing 25 ng/mL bFGF (Wako,
151	Osaka, Japan), 80 ng/mL VEGF, 50 ng/mL SCF (R&D Systems) and 2 μM SB431542 (Sigma-Aldrich,

152	St. Louis, MO, USA). On day 4, the medium was replaced with Stemline [®] II medium (Sigma-
153	Aldrich) containing 80 ng/mL VEGF, 50 ng/mL SCF, 50 ng/mL Flt-3 Ligand (R&D Systems), 50
154	ng/mL IL-3 (R&D Systems), 50 ng/mL IL-6 (R&D Systems) and 5 ng/mL thrombopoietin (TPO, R&D
155	Systems). On day 6, the cultured cells were gently dissociated with 0.5×TrypLE Select and filtered
156	through a 40 μ m cell strainer. Hematopoietic progenitor cells (HPCs) sorted by FACS Aria II (BD
157	Biosciences, San Jose, CA, USA) were cultured at a density of 1×10^4 cells per well in 24-well plate
158	with Stemline [®] II medium containing 50 ng/mL SCF, 50 ng/mL Flt-3 Ligand, 50 ng/mL IL-3, 50
159	ng/mL IL-6, 5 ng/mL TPO and 2 U/mL erythropoietin (EPO, Merck Millipore). The same amount of
160	medium was added every 2 days, and the cells were re-seeded at a density of 2×10^4 cells per well in a
161	24-well plate on day 9 and day 12.

163 Cell sorting and flow cytometric analyses

164 The isolation of HPCs on day 6 and subsequent flow cytometric analysis were performed by using a 165 FACS Aria II (BD Biosciences). The antibodies used are described in **Table 1**. Collected cells were 166 counted using C-chip (NanoEnTek, Seoul, Korea) or Countess[®] II FL automated cell counter 167 (Thermo Fisher Scientific) and stained in PBS containing 2% FBS for 20 minutes on ice. Samples 168 were analyzed using FlowJo software (FlowJo LLC, Ashland, OR, USA).

Antigen	Fluorochrome	Clone	Clonality	Source	Catalog #
CD309	Alexa Fluor [®] 647	7D4-6	monoclonal	Biolegend	359910
(KDR)					
CD235a	BV421	GA-R2 (HIR2)	monoclonal	BD Biosciences	562938
CD34	Brilliant Violet 605	581	monoclonal	Biolegend	343529
CD43	PE/Cy7	CD43-10G7	monoclonal	Biolegend	343208
CD45	FITC	2D1	monoclonal	Biolegend	368508
CD42b	PE	HIP1	monoclonal	Biolegend	303906
CD71	APC	CY1G4	monoclonal	Biolegend	334108
CD33	PE/Cy7	WM53	monoclonal	Biolegend	303434
CD41	APC/Cy7	HIP8	monoclonal	Biolegend	303716
CD11b	PerCP/Cy5.5	ICRF44	monoclonal	Biolegend	301328

170 Table 1. Antibodies used for flow cytometric analysis.

171 (Biolegend, San Diego, CA, USA)

172 List of antibodies used for flow cytometric analysis.

173

174 Immunoblotting

175 To confirm the expression of Dox-inducible GATA1 protein, protein was extracted from human PSCs

176	treated with or without 1 $\mu g/mL$ Dox for 24 hours with RIPA buffer (Wako) supplemented with 2%
177	protease inhibitor cocktail (Nacalai, Kyoto, Japan). Each sample was separated by 10% sodium
178	dodecyl sulfate polyacrylamide gel electrophoresis and transferred to PVDF membranes (Merck
179	Millipore). The membrane was blocked with 5% dry milk and incubated with an anti-GATA1 primary
180	antibody (CST #4589, 1/1,000, Danvers, MA, USA) overnight at 4 $^\circ\mathrm{C}$. The membrane was then
181	incubated with anti-rabbit IgG, HRP-linked secondary antibody (CST #7074, 1/5,000) for 1 hour at
182	room temperature. To confirm the amount of loaded protein, the membrane was stripped with WB
183	stripping solution strong (Nacalai) and probed with β -actin (13E5) rabbit mAb (CST #4970, 1/2,000).
184	Signals were detected with Chemi-Lumi One Super (Nacalai) and scanned with ImageQuant LAS
185	4000 (GE Healthcare, Chicago, IL, USA).

186

Statistical analyses 187

Statistical analyses were performed with GraphPad Prism 6 (GraphPad Soft, La Jolla, CA, USA). 188

189 Results are shown as the mean \pm SD and compared with the unpaired Student's *t*-test.

Results

CD235a⁻CD34⁺CD43⁺ early-phase multipotent progenitors recapitulate the hematopoietic features of TAM

196	In order to precisely analyze the effect of GATA1 genotype on the hematopoietic differentiation
197	process, we prepared two sets of isogenic PSC pairs with trisomy of chromosome 21. One pair was
198	human ESCs transferred chromosome 21 (Ts21-ES-GATA1-WT) and the same line with GATA1
199	mutation introduced (Ts21-ES-GATA1s) [34]. The other pair was iPSCs (TAM-iPS-GATA1s)
200	established from the blasts of a TAM patient with DS and with the GATA1 mutation that repaired
201	(TAM-iPS-GATA1-WT) [37] (Fig 1A). To compare these isogenic pairs, we conducted hematopoietic
202	differentiation (Fig 1B).
203	
204	
	Fig 1. CD235a ⁻ CD34 ⁺ CD43 ⁺ early-phase multipotent progenitors recapitulate the hematopoietic
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205 206	 Fig 1. CD235a⁻CD34⁺CD43⁺ early-phase multipotent progenitors recapitulate the hematopoietic features of TAM. (A) Scheme of the <i>GATA1</i>-WT and <i>GATA1s</i> Ts21-PSC isogenic pairs used in this study. (B) Schematic
205 206 207	 Fig 1. CD235a⁻CD34⁺CD43⁺ early-phase multipotent progenitors recapitulate the hematopoietic features of TAM. (A) Scheme of the <i>GATA1</i>-WT and <i>GATA1s</i> Ts21-PSC isogenic pairs used in this study. (B) Schematic method for hematopoietic differentiation. CD235a⁺CD34⁺CD43⁺ cells or CD235a⁻CD34⁺CD43⁺ cells
205 206 207 208	 Fig 1. CD235a⁻CD34⁺CD43⁺ early-phase multipotent progenitors recapitulate the hematopoietic features of TAM. (A) Scheme of the <i>GATA1</i>-WT and <i>GATA1s</i> Ts21-PSC isogenic pairs used in this study. (B) Schematic method for hematopoietic differentiation. CD235a⁺CD34⁺CD43⁺ cells or CD235a⁻CD34⁺CD43⁺ cells (HPCs) were sorted on day 6 and transferred to suspension culture. HPCs were continuously cultured,

209	and cell count and flow cytometry were performed on day 9, day 12 and day 16. (C, E) Representative
210	flow cytometry results and counts of each lineage on day 16 differentiated from the CD235a-
211	CD34 ⁺ CD43 ⁺ population of day 6 (C) Ts21-ES clones and (E) TAM-iPS clones. (D, F) Changes in the
212	number of immature myeloid cells differentiated from the CD235a ⁻ CD34 ⁺ CD43 ⁺ population of day 6
213	(D) Ts21-ES clones and (F) TAM-iPS clones ($n = 5$ biologically independent experiments for Ts21-
214	ES, n = 4 for TAM-iPS- <i>GATA1</i> -WT, n = 3 for TAM-iPS- <i>GATA1s</i>). Data are presented as the mean \pm
215	SD. * $p < 0.05$, ** $p < 0.01$, *** $p < 0.001$, **** $p < 0.0001$ by two-tailed unpaired Student's <i>t</i> -test for
216	myeloid lineages. Ery, erythrocytic cells; Meg, megakaryocytic cells; Mye, myeloid cells.

218	In our hematopoietic differentiation system, KDR ⁻ CD34 ⁺ CD43 ⁺ early-phase HPCs arose from both
219	GATA1-WT and GATA1s strains on day 6 of the initial differentiation and were divided into two
220	fractions: CD235a positive and negative, respectively (S1A Fig). From the early period of the
221	secondary culture after sorting, CD235a ⁺ HPCs in the GATA1-WT strains already showed commitment
222	to erythroid (CD235a ⁺ CD42b ⁻) cells on day 9 (S1B-S1C and S1E-S1F Figs) and almost no production
223	of immature myeloid cells (CD34 ⁺ CD235a ⁻ CD41 ⁻ CD42b ⁻ CD45 ⁺) (S1D and S1G Figs). In contrast,
224	CD235a ⁻ HPCs produced immature myeloid cells (S1D and S1G Figs) and finally differentiated into
225	all erythroid, megakaryocytic (CD235a ⁻ CD41 ⁺) and myeloid (CD235a ⁻ CD41 ⁻ CD42b ⁻ CD45 ⁺) lineage
226	cells on day 16 (Figs 1C and 1E), which suggested the multipotency of the later subpopulation in our

227hematopoietic system. To dissect the spatiotemporal impact of GATA1 mutation on each lineage cell 228 fate, we applied the KDR⁻CD235a⁻CD34⁺CD43⁺ fraction to subsequent cultures as early-phase 229multipotent HPCs (hereafter called "early HPCs"). 230Compared to the GATA1-WT strains, early HPCs in GATA1s strains produced few erythroid lineage 231cells and much more myeloid lineage cells (Figs 1C and 1E). Of note, while immature myeloid cells 232derived from the GATA1-WT strains continued to decrease with time, those from the GATA1s strains 233increased until day12 of the culture and were maintained significantly longer than in the GATA1-WT 234strains thereafter (Figs 1D and 1F). Both strains gave rise to megakaryocytic lineage cells (Figs 1C and 1E), which is consistent with previous studies that showed GATA1fl is not essential for 235specification into megakaryocytes, unlike erythrocytes [22, 30, 34-36, 42]. Taken together, these data 236237indicated that early HPCs can recapitulate the hematopoietic features of TAM [1].

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239 Establishment of Doxycycline-inducible GATA1s- or GATA1fl-

240 expressing clones

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Previous studies have reported that GATA1s is not just the cause of increased myelocytes in TAM, but also that higher expression levels correlate with severe disease groups [29, 30]. On the other hand, the incidence of DS-AMKL, which is an oncogenic blast proliferation derived from megakaryocytic

245	progenitors, correlates with a lower expression of GATA1s, suggesting that GATA1s has different
246	effects on the myeloid and megakaryocytic lineages in the absence of GATA1fl [7, 29]. To clarify this
247	spatiotemporal quantitative effect of GATA1s protein on the nature of multipotent progenitors and
248	each lineage cell type, we next analyzed the differentiation properties of GATA1s strains introduced
249	with Dox-inducible GATA1s expression cassettes (Fig 2A and S2A-S2B Figs). Additionally, we
250	generated GATA1-WT strains with Dox-inducible GATA1s expression cassettes and GATA1s strains
251	in which we added the Dox-inducible GATA1fl expression cassettes to evaluate the emergence and
252	rescue of disease phenotypes, respectively (S2C Fig and Fig 2B). The insertion of the GATA1s
253	expression cassette was confirmed by genomic PCR (S2B Fig), and protein expressions induced by
254	Dox treatment were confirmed by western blotting analyses (Fig 2C). Karyotypes of each clones was
255	confirmed by Q-banding analysis (S3A-S3E Figs). To confirm whether there is reproducibility beyond
256	the clones, we also generated corresponding subclones in TAM-iPS clones (S4A Fig), and confirmed
257	karyotypes and Dox-inducible expression of GATA1 protein (S4B-S4G Figs).
258	
259	Fig 2. Establishment of Dox-inducible GATA1s or GATA1fl Ts21-ES cells.
260	(A) Scheme of the Dox-inducible GATA1s. (B) Parental clones and generated GATA1s or GATA1fl

- 261Dox-inducible subclones. The Dox-inducible GATA1s construct was knocked into AAVS1 locus with
- the CRISPR-Cas9 system, and the Dox-inducible GATA1fl construct was transduced by the PiggyBac 262

system. (C) Western blot analysis of GATA1s and GATA1fl expression in untreated ESCs and ESCs

treated with 1 μ g/ml Dox for 24 h. K562 was used as the positive control.

265

GATA1s protein acts to quantitatively sustain immature myeloid cells in competition with GATA1fl

269Using the series of modified cells, we examined the quantitative effects of GATA1s by lineage. 270GATA1s overexpression in early HPCs on day 6 significantly increased commitment into myeloid 271lineage (Figs 3A and 3B). Moreover, overexpression from day 9 of the differentiation, when immature myeloid progenitors had already appeared in culture (Fig 1D), also significantly increased the number 272273of immature myeloid progenitors (Figs 3C and 3D). Considering that GATA1fl deficiency itself led 274to an increase in myeloid cells even without exogenous GATA1s expression (Fig 1D), these results 275suggested that GATA1s leads to a further proliferation of the myeloid lineage brought about by the 276loss of GATA1fl by sustaining committed progenitors. Consistent with this result, we observed that 277overexpression of GATA1s tended to increase the number of colonies containing non-megakaryocytic 278(non-Mk) cells in colony-forming unit assay of megakaryocytic progenitors (CFU-Mk) (S5A-S5B and 279S5D Figs) and larger non-Mk colonies was seen in GATA1s overexpressed samples (S5E Fig) as previously reported [30]. In TAM-iPS-GATA1s derived clones, due to differences in the differentiation 280

281	properties, it was not possible to detect increase myeloid commitment by quantitative increase of
282	GATA1s (S6A and S6B Figs), but there was tendency toward enhanced maintenance of immature
283	myeloid cells (S6C and S6D Figs). These results are consistent with the exacerbation of
284	myeloproliferation in patients with a higher expression of GATA1s. Similar results were obtained in
285	GATA1-WT strains introduced with GATA1s (S7A and S7B Figs) and similar result was obtained for
286	TAM-iPS-GATA1-WT derived clone (S8A and S8B Figs). Whereas, the opposite was observed in
287	GATA1s strains that overexpressed GATA1fl (Figs 3C and 3D), demonstrating that GATA1s and
288	GATA1fl competitively increase and decrease myeloid lineages.

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290Fig 3. Quantitative increase of GATA1s in early-phase increases myeloid commitment and 291enhances the maintenance of immature myeloid cells.

(A) Representative flow cytometry of staining for CD34 and CD45 among myeloid cells on day 9. 292

293Upper panels indicate the Dox-untreated sample and lower panels indicate the Dox-treated sample

294from day 6 for each clone. (B) Fold changes of immature myeloid cells over each untreated sample on

- 295day 9. (C) Representative flow cytometry of staining for CD34 and CD45 among myeloid cells on day
- 29616 with or without Dox treatment from day 9. (D) Fold changes of immature myeloid cells over each
- 297untreated sample on day 16 (n = 5 biologically independent experiments for Ts21-s and Ts21-s- Δ ex2,

298 n = 3 for Ts21-s-fl). Data are presented as the mean \pm SD. *p < 0.05, **p < 0.01 vs. Ts21-s under the

same treatment by two-tailed unpaired Student's *t*-test.

300

301 GATA1s protein has conflicting effects on megakaryocyte 302 commitment and persistence in the absence of GATA1fl

304 Contrary to the correlation with myeloproliferation seen in TAM, meta-clinical analyses on the impact 305of GATA1 mutation in DS-AMKL are somewhat paradoxical. Although almost all DS-AMKL patients 306 have a GATA1 mutation, some studies have shown that an increased expression of GATA1s is inversely 307associated with the risk of DS-AMKL [29]. We therefore evaluated the spatiotemporal effects of 308 GATA1s on megakaryocytic lineage, a potential origin of DS-AMKL, following differentiation. 309 GATA1s overexpression in early HPCs significantly reduced megakaryocytic commitment in GATA1s 310 strains (Figs 4A and 4B). Similar results was obtained with TAM-iPS-GATA1s derived clone (S9A 311and S9B Figs). Consistent with this result, we observed that the overexpression of GATA1s significantly reduced the total number of CFU-Mk (S5A-S5C Figs). Furthermore, an effect of 312313GATA1s overexpression was observed in GATA1s strains but not in GATA1-WT strains (S7C and S7D 314Figs) and in TAM-iPS-GATA1-WT derived clone (S8C and S8D Figs), suggesting that the effects on megakaryocytic lineage are counteracted by endogenous GATA1fl, even at high concentrations of 315

316	GATA1s. On the other hand, unexpectedly, GATA1fl overexpression did not restore the
317	megakaryocytic differentiation of GATA1s strains, but rather reduced it as in the case of GATA1s
318	overexpression (S10A-S10B and S11A-S11B Figs). Because the predominant restoration of erythroid
319	differentiation was observed at this time (S10C-S10E and S11C-S11E Figs), these results indicated
320	that GATA1fl at the endogenous expression level is important for the commitment to both erythroid
321	and megakaryocytic lineages, but a higher expression at this stage leads to a significant bias towards
322	erythroid commitment due to its essential role in erythropoiesis, which consequently suppresses
323	megakaryocyte commitment.



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336

on day 16 (n = 5 biologically independent experiments for Ts21-s and Ts21-s- Δ ex2, n = 3 for Ts21-sfl). Data are presented as the mean ± SD. *p < 0.05, ***p < 0.001, ****p < 0.0001 vs. Ts21-s under the same treatment by two-tailed unpaired Student's *t*-test.

337

338 The inhibitory effects of GATA1s on megakaryocytic commitment could explain the lower risk of 339 DS-AMKL progression in cases of high GATA1s expression among TAM patients [29]. Nevertheless, 340 it is still clinically evident that GATA1 mutations are by far the most important risk factor for 341developing DS-AMKL, even in patients with a high expression of GATA1s [1, 2]. These facts led us 342to examine if there is another cause of the accumulation of immature megakaryocytes that could be responsible for DS-AMKL even in GATA1s high-expressing cells with suppressed commitment. 343344 Indeed, we found the overexpression of either GATA1s and GATA1fl significantly increased the 345percentage of total megakaryocytes in GATA1s strains after day 12 of the differentiation (Figs 4C and 346 **4D**). However, when focusing on immature megakaryocytic progenitor cells, GATA1s overexpression 347had a significantly increased CD34⁺CD41⁺ subpopulation, but GATA1fl overexpression did not. (Figs 3484E and 4F). In TAM-iPS-GATA1s derived clone, although there was no significant difference in total 349megakaryocytes, there was a trend toward an increase (S9C-S9D Figs). Whereas, when we focused 350on immature megakaryocytic cells, we found that the overexpression of GATA1s in megakaryocytic 351progenitors on later stage significantly increased the persistence of immature megakaryocytic cells,

352	but GATA1fl overexpression did not (S9E-S9F Figs). These results indicated that GATA1s works to
353	maintain immature cells in megakaryocytic lineage as well as myeloid lineage, but unlike the myeloid
354	lineage, the overexpression of GATA1s in the GATA1-WT strain did not have any effect on immature
355	megakaryocytic cells (S7E-S7F and S8E-S8F Figs). Therefore, the effects of higher GATA1s
356	expression on the maintenance of mutant strain-derived megakaryocytic progenitors are dependent on
357	differences in the responsiveness of the target cells to GATA1s protein, which are conferred by the
358	mutation itself.

Discussion

362	The exclusive expression of GATA1s protein as a result of GATA1 mutations is an essential process
363	for the onset of both TAM and DS-AMKL. Even though blasts in patients in most cases have been
364	found to be a heterogeneous population with a variety of GATA1 mutations at different expression
365	levels, no study has experimentally examined how the intensity of the gene expression contributes to
366	the pathologies of both diseases. Focusing on this point, we clarified how the spatiotemporal shift of
367	GATA1s protein expression affects the progenitor cells from which both diseases originate by using a
368	PSC model and stepwise hematopoietic differentiation. We successfully observed the quantitative
369	impact of the GATA1s expression level on each stage of each lineage by utilizing a Dox-inducible
370	expression system.
371	PSC-based studies can reveal new effects of mutant genes that cannot be elucidated by studies using
372	patient primary cells after the disease onset or cell lines that are already addicted to the mutations
373	themselves. Moreover, with respect to DS, there is no suitable mouse model that replicates the
374	phenotypes of human trisomy-21. While previous studies including the over-expression of GATA is in
375	fetal liver progenitor cells of $Gata l^{\Delta N}$ mice and cord blood CD34 ⁺ hematopoietic progenitor cells have
$\frac{375}{376}$	fetal liver progenitor cells of $Gata1^{AN}$ mice and cord blood CD34 ⁺ hematopoietic progenitor cells have reported the GATA1s-dependent expansion of $GATA1$ mutant cells in myeloid and megakaryocytic

378	of the myeloid and megakaryocytic lineages in the absence of GATA1fl by focusing on the progenitor
379	cells which correspond to common myeloid progenitors, originally defined as an origin of both
380	granulocyte/macrophage progenitors and megakaryocyte/erythrocyte progenitors. Specifically, we
381	found that commitment to megakaryocytes at the early HPC stage were significantly reduced by
382	elevated GATA1s expression, and only in the absence of GATA1fl were the megakaryocyte
383	progenitors maintained in response to GATA1s expression levels. These mutation- and differentiation
384	stage-specific reversal effects contrasted the results regarding myeloid lineage, where GATA1s simply
385	sustained and increased progenitor cells in competition with GATA1fl.
386	Two hypotheses may explain why once committed megakaryocytic progenitors acquire the ability to
387	proliferate in response to GATA1s like myeloid progenitors only under conditions without GATA1fl.
388	First, some additional genetic or epigenetic modifications that occur during tumorigenesis might
389	confer GATA1s-responsive growth characteristics. Alternatively, GATA1fl deficiency itself might
390	provide intracellular signaling for the perturbation. Indeed, a previous study using trisomy-21 PSCs
391	revealed that the expression profile of a GATA1fl-deficient megakaryocytic progenitor subpopulation
392	responsible for myeloproliferation was biased toward the myeloid lineage [37]. Therefore, GATA1s
393	could hijack the myeloid mechanism to promote the proliferation of megakaryocytic progenitors.
394	Further study of this hypothesis using methods that directly examine access of the GATA1 protein to
395	genomic DNA, such as electrophoretic mobility shift assays and chromatin immunoprecipitation, are

needed. Such studies could also reveal new molecular mechanisms, by which the higher expression of

397 GATA1s suppresses megakaryocytic commitment in early HPCs.

- 398 Collectively, our results suggested that although *GATA1* mutant cells cause the increase in myeloid
- and megakaryocytic progenitors regardless of the intensity of GATA1s expression, the pathways vary
- 400 with their expression levels (Fig 5). This model provides an explanation for the paradoxical clinical
- 401 features in which higher and lower GATA1s expressions are inversely correlated with the severity of
- 402 TAM and development of DS-AMKL among patients with TAM even though GATA1 mutations are
- 403 the definitive etiology of both diseases. Future in vitro and in vivo studies are expected to provide
- 404 more definitive evidence for this model.
- 405
- Fig 5. Graphical abstract of *GATA1*-WT, *GATA1s* and the effects of GATA1s overexpression on
 GATA1s strain.

408 With wild-type *GATA1* (*GATA1*-WT), which expresses both the full length (GATA1fl) and short form

- 409 (GATA1s) of GATA1 protein, all erythrocytic (Ery), megakaryocytic (Meg) and myeloid (Mye)
- 410 lineages are produced. In the case of *GATA1s* mutation, erythroid differentiation is markedly impaired
- 411 and myeloid cells are increased. With the additional overexpression of GATA1s, GATA1s mutation
- 412 suppresses megakaryocytic differentiation and increases myeloid commitment. In addition, the
- 413 persistence of immature megakaryocytic cells is enhanced in the later phase.

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- 418 obtaining informed consent from the patient and harvesting primary cells for the establishment of
- 419 iPSCs.

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589 Supporting information

590

591 Supplemental materials and methods

592

593 Karyotyping

594 For karyotyping, cultured PSCs were incubated with 0.4 μg/mL KaryoMAXTM ColcemidTM solution 595 (Thermo Fisher Scientific) for 1 h. Dissociated cells were treated with hypotonic solution and fixed 596 with carnoy solution. Karyotyping of fixed samples was requested to Trans Chromosomics Co., Ltd. 597 (Tottori, Japan).

598

599 Colony-forming unit assay of megakaryocytic progenitors

600	Colony-forming	unit	assay	of	megakaryocytic	progenitors	(CFU-Mk)	was	performed	with

- 601 MegaCultTM-C with cytokines (#04901, STEMCELL technologies, Vancouver, Canada). 2.5×10³
- 602 sorted CD235a⁻CD34⁺CD43⁺ cells on day 6 were plated in MegaCultTM-C collagen based medium
- 603 with or without 1 µg/mL Dox and cultured for 10 days. Staining for GP II b/III a antibody and scoring
- 604 of CFU colonies were performed in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions.

606	S1 Fig.	Characterization of	of CD235a ⁺ CD34 ⁺ CD43 ⁺	cells compared	with CD235a ⁻ CD34 ⁺ CD43 ⁺

607 cells.

608	(A) Gating strategy used to sort CD235a ⁺ CD34 ⁺ CD43 ⁺ and CD235a ⁻ CD34 ⁺ CD43 ⁺ HPCs on day 6.
609	(B-C, E-F) Representative flow cytometric analysis and cell number of each population on day 9
610	compared with the CD235a ⁺ CD34 ⁺ CD43 ⁺ (235a ⁺) and CD235a ⁻ CD34 ⁺ CD43 ⁺ (235a ⁻) populations of
611	(B, C) Ts21-ES-GATA1-WT and (E, F) TAM-iPS-GATA1-WT. (D, G) Changes in the number of
612	immature myeloid cells compared with the CD235a ⁺ CD34 ⁺ CD43 ⁺ and CD235a ⁻ CD34 ⁺ CD43 ⁺
613	populations differentiated on day 6 of (D) Ts21-ES-GATA1-WT and (G) TAM-iPS-GATA1-WT (n = 3
614	biologically independent experiments for CD235a ⁺ CD34 ⁺ CD43 ⁺ of Ts21-ES-GATA1-WT and TAM-
615	iPS-GATA1-WT, $n = 5$ for CD235a ⁻ CD34 ⁺ CD43 ⁺ of Ts21-ES-GATA1-WT and $n = 4$ for CD35a ⁻ CD34 ⁺ CD43 ⁺ of Ts21-ES-GATA1-WT and $n = 4$ for CD35a ⁺ CD43 ⁺ CD43 ⁺ of Ts21-ES-GATA1-WT and $n = 4$ for CD35a ⁺ CD43 ⁺ CD43 ⁺ of Ts21-ES-GATA1-WT and $n = 4$ for CD35a ⁺ CD43 ⁺ CD43 ⁺ of Ts21-ES-GATA1-WT and $n = 4$ for CD35a ⁺ CD43 ⁺ CD
616	CD34 ⁺ CD43 ⁺ of TAM-iPS- <i>GATA1</i> -WT). Data are presented as the mean \pm SD. * $p < 0.05$, ** $p < 0.01$,
617	*** $p < 0.001$ by two-tailed unpaired Student's <i>t</i> -test. Ery, erythrocytic cells; Meg, megakaryocytic
618	cells; Mye, myeloid cells.

619

620 S2 Fig. Establishment of GATA1 isoform Dox-inducible clones.

621 (A) Schematic overview of the AAVS1 targeting strategy by CRISPR-Cas9 to generate Dox-inducible

622 GATA1s for Ts21-ES lines. (B) Genomic PCR to confirm the integration of the Dox-inducible

- 623 GATA1s cassette. Expected fragment size: integration of Dox-inducible GATA1 Δ ex2-HA, 8510 bp;
- 624 no integration, 1956 bp. (C) Scheme of Dox-inducible GATA1fl and PiggyBac vector for Dox-

625	inducible GATA1fl.	The second ATG	was replaced with	CTC to express	only GATA1fl.
			1	1	<i>.</i>

627	S3 Fig. Karyotyping of parental Ts21-ES clones and Dox-inducible GATA1s or GATA1fl knock-
628	in subclones.
629	(A-E) Representative Q-banding karyotypes of (A) Ts21-ES-GATA1-WT (Ts21-WT), (B) Ts21-ES-
630	<i>GATA1s</i> (Ts21-s), (C) Ts21-WT-Δex2, (D) Ts21-s-Δex2 and (E) Ts21-s-fl.

631

632	S4 Fig. Establishment of Dox-inducible GATA1s or GATA1fl TAM-iPS cells
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633 (A) Parental clones and generated GATA1s or GATA1fl Dox-inducible subclones. The Dox-inducible

- 634 GATAs construct was knocked into AAVS1 locus with CRISPR-Cas9 system, and the Dox-inducible
- 635 GATA1fl construct was transduced by the PiggyBac system. (B-F) Representative Q-banding

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636 karyotypes of (B) TAM-iPS-GATA1-WT (TAM-WT), (C) TAM-iPS-GATA1s (TAM-s), (D) TAM-WT-
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- 637 Δex2, (E) TAM-s-Δex2 and (F) TAM-s-fl. (G) Western blot analysis of GATA1s and GATA1fl
- 638 expression in untreated iPSCs and iPSCs treated with 1 µg/mL Dox for 24 h. K562 was used as the
- 639 positive control.

640

641 S5 Fig. CFU-Mk is significantly decreased by GATA1s overexpression in *GATA1s* strains.

642 (A) Representative images of each types of colonies in colony-forming unit assay of megakaryocytic

643	progenitors. (B-D) Numbers of CFUs resulting from 2,500 CD235a ⁻ CD34 ⁺ CD43 ⁺ cells on day 6 with
644	or without Dox treatment, (B) total, (C) total of CFU-Mk and (D) total of mixed CFU-Mk/ non-Mk
645	and non-Mk (n = 3 biologically independent experiments for Ts21-WT and Ts21-s- Δ ex2 and n = 4 for
646	Ts21-s). (E) Representative images of non-Mk colonies observed in Dox-untreated and Dox-treated
647	Ts21-s- Δ ex2. Scale bars: 100 µm. Data are presented as the mean ± SD. ** $p < 0.01$ vs. untreated
648	sample of each clones by two-tailed unpaired Student's t-test.

650 S6 Fig. Quantitative increase of GATA1s in TAM-iPS-GATA1s derived cells shows tendency to
651 enhance the sustain of immature myeloid cells.

- (A) Representative flow cytometry of staining for CD34 and CD45 among myeloid cells on day 9.
- 653 Upper panels indicate the Dox-untreated sample and lower panels indicate the Dox-treated sample
- from day 6 for each clone. (B) Fold changes of immature myeloid cells over each untreated sample on
- day 9. (C) Representative flow cytometry of staining for CD34 and CD45 among myeloid cells on day
- 656 12 with or without Dox treatment from day 9. (D) Fold changes of immature myeloid cells over each
- 657 untreated sample on day 16 (n = 3 biologically independent experiments). Data are presented as the
- 658 mean \pm SD. ns vs. TAM-s under the same treatment by two-tailed unpaired Student's *t*-test.
- 659
- 660 S7 Fig. Overexpression of GATA1s has little effect on immature megakaryocytic cells in the

661 presence of GATA1fl.

662 (A) Representative flow cytometry of staining for CD34 and CD45 among myeloid cells on day 12.

- 663 Upper panels indicate the Dox-untreated sample and lower panels indicate the Dox-treated sample
- from day 9. (B) The fold changes of immature myeloid cells over each untreated sample on day 12
- and day 16. (C, E) Representative flow cytometry of staining for CD34 and CD41 (C) on day 9 with
- or without Dox treatment from day 6 and (E) on day 16 with or without Dox treatment from day 12.
- 667 (D, F) The fold changes of immature megakaryocytic cells over each untreated sample (D) on day 9
- and (F) on day 16 (n = 4 biologically independent experiments for Ts21-WT and n = 3 for Ts21-WT-
- 669 $\Delta ex2$). Data are presented as the mean \pm SD. *p < 0.05 vs. Ts21-WT under same treatment by two-
- 670 tailed unpaired Student's *t*-test.
- 671

672 S8 Fig. Over expression of GATA1s also has little effect on immature megakaryocytic cells of

673 TAM-iPS-GATA1-WT derived cells.

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(A) Representative flow cytometry of staining for CD34 and CD45 among myeloid cells on day 12.
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675 Upper panels indicate the Dox-untreated sample and lower panels indicate the Dox-treated sample

from day 9. (B) The fold change of immature myeloid cells over untreated sample on day 12 and day

- 677 16. (C, E) Representative flow cytometry of staining for CD34 and CD41 (C) on day 9 with or without
- 678 Dox treatment from day 6 and € on day 16 with or without Dox treatment from day 9. (D, F) The fold

679 changes of immature megakaryocytic cells over each untreated sample (D) on day 9 and (F) on day 680 16 (n = 3 biologically independent experiments). Data are presented as the mean \pm SD. ***p < 0.001 681 vs. Ts21-WT under same treatment by two-tailed unpaired Student's *t*-test.

682

683 S9 Fig. Conflicting effects of quantitative increase of GATA1s on commitment and persistence
684 is also observed in TAM-iPS-GATA1s derived cells.

(A) Representative flow cytometry of staining for CD34 and CD41 on day 9. Upper panels indicate

686 the Dox-untreated sample and lower panels indicate the Dox-treated sample from day 6 for each clone.

- 687 (B) Fold changes of immature megakaryocytic cells over each untreated sample on day 9. (C)
- 688 Representative flow cytometry of staining for CD41 and CD42b on day 16 with or without Dox
- 689 treatment from day 9. (D) Fold changes of megakaryocytic cells over each untreated sample on day
- 690 16. (E) Representative flow cytometry of staining for CD34 and CD41 on day 16 with or without Dox
- treatment from day 9. (F) Fold changes of immature megakaryocytic cells over each untreated sample
- 692 on day 16 (n = 3 biologically independent experiments). Data are presented as the mean \pm SD. *p <
- 693 0.05, **p < 0.01 by two-tailed unpaired Student's *t*-test.

694

695 S10 Fig. Erythroid differentiation defect of *GATA1s* is remarkably recovered by GATA1fl

696 overexpression in the early stage.

697 (A) Representative flow cytometry of staining for CD34 and CD41 on day 9. Upper panels indicate 698 the Dox-untreated sample and lower panels indicate the Dox-treated sample from day 6. (B) The fold 699 changes of immature megakaryocytic cells over each untreated sample on day 9. (C) Representative 700 flow cytometry of staining for CD71 and CD235a on day 16 with or without Dox treatment from day 701 6. (D) Average number of $CD235a^+$ erythrocytic cells on day 16 (n = 5 biologically independent 702 experiments for Ts21-s and n = 3 for Ts21-s-fl). (E) May-Giemsa staining of Ts21-s-fl on day 16 with 703 or without Dox treatment from day 6. Scale bars: 50 μ m. Data are presented as the mean \pm SD. **p <704 0.01, ***p < 0.001 vs. Ts21-s under same treatment by two-tailed unpaired Student's *t*-test.

706

707 S11 Fig. Erythroid differentiation defect is also remarkably recovered in TAM-iPS-GATA1s

708 derived cells by GATA1fl overexpression.

(A) Representative flow cytometry of staining for CD34 and CD41 on day 9. Upper panels indicate the Dox-untreated sample and lower panels indicate the Dox-treated sample from day 6. (B) The fold changes of immature megakaryocytic cells over each untreated sample on day 9. (C) Representative flow cytometry of staining for CD71 and CD235a on day 16 with or without Dox treatment from day 6. (D) Average number of CD235a⁺ erythrocytic cells on day 16 (n = 3 biologically independent experiments). (E) May-Giemsa staining of TAM-s-fl on day 16 with or without Dox treatment from day 6. Scale bars: 50 µm. Data are presented as the mean \pm SD. **p < 0.01, ***p < 0.001 vs. TAM-s 716 under same treatment by two-tailed unpaired Student's *t*-test.

718	S12 Fig. The original uncropped and unadjusted gel and blot images.
719	(A) The original image of electrophoretic gel of S2B Fig . lane 1, Marker; lane 2, water; lane 3, Ts21-
720	WT; lane 4, Ts21-WT- Δ ex2; lane 5, Ts21-s; lane 6, Ts21-s- Δ ex2; lane 7 – 8, not shown. (B, C) Original
721	uncut gel images of western blot analysis. (B) Ts21-ES clones on Fig 2C; lane $1 - 7$, not shown; lane
722	8, Marker; lane 9, Ts21-WT-Δex2 Dox (-); lane 10, Ts21-WT-Δex2 Dox (+); lane 11, Ts21-s-Δex2
723	Dox (-); lane 12, Ts21-s-Δex2 Dox (+); lane 13, Ts21-s-fl Dox (-); lane 14, Ts21-s-fl Dox (+); lane 15,
724	K562. (B) TAM-iPS clones on S4G Fig ; lane 1, Marker; lane 2, TAM-WT-Δex2 Dox (-); lane 3, TAM-
725	WT-Δex2 Dox (+); lane 4, TAM-s-Δex2 Dox (-); lane 5, TAM-s-Δex2 Dox (+); lane 6, TAM-s-fl Dox
726	(-); lane 7, TAM-s-fl Dox (+); lane 8, K562.

Fig 1 A









Fig 3 A





Fig 4 A







S1 Fig A





С









Ts21-s-∆ex2



S4 Fig A



В



D



F



TAM-iPS-GATA1s

С

Ε



TAM-s-∆ex2





S5 Fig





Ts21-s-∆ex2

S6 Fig Α

CD34



Day 12

S7 Fig A



Day 16

S8 Fig A



Day 16

S9 Fig A











Ts21-s-fl











Ε

TAM-s-fl



S12 Fig A

