

Transcriptional (dys)regulation of epithelial homeostasis

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Epithelia represent the defining tissue type in metazoans. Polarization of individual epithelial cells along the apico-basal axis is essential for the maintenance of epithelial function and homeostasis. Conversely, loss of polarity contributes to cancer development and metastasis formation. By combining unbiased genomic and genetic approaches in a *Drosophila* model, we have identified a novel polarity regulator and characterized a transcription factor network that promotes tumor malignancy in response to loss of polarity and oncogenic Ras signaling.