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Title: Identification of the key pathways and genes related to polycystic ovary syndrome using bioinformatics analysis

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Abstract

Polycystic ovary syndrome (PCOS) is the most common hormonal and metabolic disorder among women of reproductive age. Although the clinical features and pathology of PCOS have been well documented, the molecular mechanisms underlying this unique pathogenesis remain largely unknown. The present study was therefore designed to identify candidate genes, along with their potential targeting pathways, which are involved in the occurrence and development of PCOS, using bioinformatics analysis. The gene expression profiles of GSE34526 from 7 PCOS and 3 controls were downloaded from Gene Expression Omnibus (GEO) database. Differentially expressed genes (DEGs) were then identified using GCBI online tool. Expression levels of candidate genes were finally verified using quantitative RT-PCR (qRT-PCR) and Western blot. There were 426 DEGs identified by GCBI online tool, including 418 up-regulated and 8 downregulated genes. Function and pathway enrichment analyses showed that these DEGs were significantly enriched in inflammation and immune-related pathways. Additionally, protein–protein interaction (PPI) network and module analysis showed that two modules involved the Toll-like receptor signaling pathway were ranked among the most upregulated modules, and the candidate genes involved in this signaling pathway consisted of TLR1, TLR2, TLR8, and CD14. Finally, the expression levels of TLR2, TLR8 and CD14 were significantly increased in samples from PCOS patients, evidenced by qRT-PCR and Western blot analysis. Collectively, the results suggested that the Toll-like receptor signaling pathway might play an important role in the pathogenesis of PCOS, and TLR2, TLR8 and CD14 may be the key target genes that are regulated by the Toll- like receptor signaling pathway.

Keywords: bioinformatics analysis; PCOS; microarray differentially expressed genes (DEGs); gene ontology (GO)

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1	Identification of the key pathways and genes related to				
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26 Abstract Polycystic ovary syndrome (PCOS) is the most common hormonal and metabolic disorder among women of reproductive age. Although the clinical features and 27 28 pathology of PCOS have been well documented, the molecular mechanisms underlying 29 this unique pathogenesis remain largely unknown. The present study was therefore 30 designed to identify candidate genes, along with their potential targeting pathways, which 31 are involved in the occurrence and development of PCOS, using bioinformatics analysis. 32 The gene expression profiles of GSE34526 from 7 PCOS and 3 controls were 33 downloaded from Gene Expression Omnibus (GEO) database. Differentially expressed genes (DEGs) were then identified using GCBI online tool. Expression levels of candidate 34 genes were finally verified using quantitative RT-PCR (gRT-PCR) and Western blot. There 35 were 426 DEGs identified by GCBI online tool, including 418 up-regulated and 8 36 down-regulated genes. Function and pathway enrichment analyses showed that these 37 38 DEGs were significantly enriched in inflammation and immune-related pathways. Additionally, protein-protein interaction (PPI) network and module analysis showed that 39 40 two modules involved the Toll-like receptor signaling pathway were ranked among the most upregulated modules, and the candidate genes involved in this signaling pathway 41 consisted of TLR1, TLR2, TLR8, and CD14. Finally, the expression levels of TLR2, TLR8 42 43 and CD14 were significantly increased in samples from PCOS patients, evidenced by 44 qRT-PCR and Western blot analysis. Collectively, the results suggested that the Toll-like receptor signaling pathway might play an important role in the pathogenesis of PCOS, and 45 TLR2, TLR8 and CD14 may be the key target genes that are regulated by the Toll-like 46 receptor signaling pathway. 47

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55 Introduction

Polycystic ovary syndrome (PCOS) is a common cause of anovulatory infertility in 56 57 5%-10% reproductive-aged women (Wang and Alvero 2013). It is characterized by hyperandrogenmia, irregular or absent ovulation, and polycystic ovary. Currently, it is 58 59 believed that both genetic and environmental factors may play important roles in the occurrence and development of PCOS(de Melo et al. 2015). Due to the diversity and 60 complexity of PCOS, its etiologies and mechanisms are largely unknown. Therefore, 61 understanding the molecular mechanism of occurrence and development in PCOS is 62 crucial to develop the more effective diagnostic and therapeutic strategies. 63

Microarrays technology, as one of the large-scale and efficient techniques to collect 64 biological information, can monitor genome-wide changes in gene expression levels and 65 66 detect sequence changes of tens of thousands of genes simultaneously (Zhang et al. 2004). At present, microarray technology has been widely employed in studies on many 67 diseases(Duan et al. 2017; Pereira et al. 2017; Zhang et al. 2017). Recently, there are 68 69 studies using microarrays to identify potentially candidate genes associated with 70 PCOS(Aydos et al. 2016; Lei et al. 2017; Su et al. 2017). However, the involved signaling pathways and related candidate genes in the occurrence and development of PCOS 71 72 remain to be further defined.

In this study, we downloaded the original data (GSE21815) from Gene Expression
Omnibus (GEO, <u>http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/geo/</u>). The DEGs of granulosa cells (GCs)
from PCOS patients were screened using GCBI online tool. Subsequently, the function
and pathways enrichment analysis for DEGs were analyzed. Additionally, we established

PPI network of the DEGs and picked out major signaling pathways and the related candidate genes. Expression levels of these candidate genes were finally verified by qRT-PCR analysis. Overall, our systematic analysis will gain insights into PCOS pathogenesis at molecular level and help to identify the potential candidate biomarkers for diagnosis, prognosis, and drug targets for PCOS.

82 Materials and methods

83 Microarray data

The gene expression profiles of GSE34526 were downloaded from GEO database (http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/geo). The GSE34526, which was based on Agilent GPL570

86 platform ([HG-U133_Plus_2] Affymetrix Human Genome U133 Plus 2.0 Array).

87 Differentially expressed genes (DEGs) analysis

88 The DEGs analyzed web-based GCBI (https://www.gcbi. was by tool com.cn/gclib/html/index), which is a platform that combines a variety of research findings, 89 genetic informations, sample informations, data algorithms and bioinformatics (Xiao et al. 90 91 2017). The adjusted P value < 0.05 and fold change $|\log FC| \ge 2$ were defined as DEGs.

92 Enrichment analysis of DEGs

In order to analyze the biological processes involved in the pathogenesis of PCOS, GO enrichment analysis was performed using DAVID (The Database for Annotation, Visualization and Integrated Discovery). P < 0.05 was considered significantly different. To further improve interpretation of the biological significance, we constructed pathway relation network for the DEGs and identified the relationship among the pathways using the ClueGO plug-in of Cytoscape software. 99

Protein-protein interaction (PPI) network and module analysis

To evaluate the functional interactions between DEGs, we carried out PPI network analysis. First, we mapped the DEGs to STRING version 10.5 (http://string-db.org/), and a combined score with values >0.4 was set as the cut off criterion. Then, PPI networks were constructed and visualized using the Cytoscape version 3.6.0. The plug-in Molecular Complex Detection (MCODE) app was used to screen the modules of PPI network in Cytoscape. The criteria was set as follows: MCODE scores≥4 and number of nodes>4. Moreover, the genes of pathway analysis were performed in the top 3 modules by DAVID.

107 Subjects

78 patients were enrolled into the study from Reproductive Medicine Center, Shanxi 108 women and children's hospital. PCOS patients were diagnosed according to 2003 109 Rotterdam diagnostic criteria and patients with normal ovulatory function due to tubal 110 blockage or male factor infertility were included as controls. The patients, who had 111 undergone IVF/intracytoplasmic sperm injection (ICSI)-embryo transfer (ET) for the first 112 113 time, were subjected to the same ovulation protocol. The demographic and clinical data were recorded accordingly. Human luteinized granulosa cells (GCs) were obtained during 114 oocyte retrieval and stored at -80°C until further use. The remaining follicular fluid was 115 116 used for ELISA detection. The study protocol, strictly following the ethical standards of Helsinki Declaration, was approved by the Ethics Committee of Shanxi women and 117 children's hospital, and informed consents were obtained from all participants. 118

119 Validation of the expression levels of candidate genes by qRT-PCR

120 Total RNA was extracted from human GCs using RNeasy Mini Kit (Qiagen, Hilden,

Germany), and cDNA was synthetized using a SuperScript® III Kit (Thermo Fisher 121 Scientific, Shanghai, China). Samples were amplified according to the following protocol: 122 123 an initial denaturation of 3 min at 95°C followed by 40 cycles denaturing for 10 sec at 95°C, annealing for 1 min at 60°C, and extension for 1 min at 72°C. Primer sequences and 124 product size of genes are listed in Table 3. Glyceraldehyde 3-phosphate dehydrogenase 125 126 (GAPDH) was used as an internal control for quantification. The relative expression levels of target transcripts were calculated using the $2^{-\Delta\Delta Ct}$ method (Dong et al. 2016). 127 Quantification of qRT-PCR results was performed in which the level of a target transcript 128 129 was normalized against the target transcript level in Ctrl patient #1, which was arbitrarily 130 set at 1.

131 Determination of inflammatory biomarkers in follicle fluid (FF) supernatants

According to the manufacturer's instructions, inflammatory biomarkers (TNF-α, IL-6, and
CRP) were measured in FF supernatants. TNF-α, IL-6, and CRP were determined using
an ELISA (R&D Systems, Minneapolis, MN, USA).

135 Western blot

Western blot was performed as described elsewhere (Zhang et al. 2014). Briefly, total protein samples were isolated and purified using Total Protein Extraction Kit from Merck (Burlington, MA, USA), as per the manufacturer's instructions. ~25 mg of protein samples were separated by on SDS/PAGE and transferred to Polyvinylidene difluoride (PVDF) membrane (Thermo Fisher Scientific), followed by incubation with the primary antibodies at 4°C overnight. The primary antibodies employed in the current study were rabbit anti-TLR1, anti-TLR2 and anti-TLR8 polyclonal (Thermo Fisher Scientific) and goat

143 anti-CD14 polyclonal (Abcam, Shanghai, China). Final signals were finally detected using

144 an ECL system (Amersham Biosciences) according to the manufacturer's instructions.

145 Densitometric scanning of immunoblots was performed with the aid of Image J software.

146 **Statistical analysis.**

147 The statistical analyses were performed with SPSS13.0 software package (SPSS Inc.,

148 Chicago, IL, USA). Results were presented as the mean ± S.E.M. Continuous variables

149 between two groups were compared using Student's t-test. The P-value < 0.05 was

150 considered significantly different.

151 Results

152 Identification of DEGs

153 The GSE34526 dataset contained 10 granulosa cell samples, including 7 PCOS and 3

154 controls. The gene expression profiles were analyzed using GCBI and identified the DEGs.

Based on the GCBI analysis, P value < 0.05 and $|logFC| \ge 2$ were used as cut-off criteria.

426 DEGs, which included 418 up-regulated and 8 down-regulated genes, were identified.

157 The details of DEGs expression heat map were shown in Figure 1.

158 Function and pathways enrichment analysis

All DEGs was uploaded to the DAVID software to identify GO function. GO enrichment 159 160 analysis results were presented in Table 1. For biological processes (BP), the top 5 GO terms of DEGs, namely inflammatory response, innate immune response, leukocyte 161 migration, interferon-gamma-mediated signaling pathway, and adaptive immune response, 162 were included. The top 5 GO terms of DEGs for molecular function (MF) were enriched in 163 receptor activity, signaling pattern recognition receptor activity, low-density lipoprotein 164 165 particle binding, transmembrane signaling receptor activity, and receptor binding. In addition, GO cell component (CC) analysis also showed that the top 5 GO terms of DEGs 166 were significantly enriched in plasma membrane, extracellular exosome, integral 167

168 component of plasma membrane, cell surface, and cytosol.

In order to visualize the gene interactions among DEGs, a pathway relation network
for the DEGs was constructed using the ClueGO plug-in of Cytoscape software (Figure 2).
The pathway relation network for DEGs consisted of B cell receptor signaling pathway,
Natural killer cell mediated cytotoxicity, TNF signaling pathway, cytokine-cytokine receptor
interaction, chemokine signaling pathway, *etc.* These pathways were primarily associated
with immune and inflammation.

175 PPI network construction and module analysis

Based on the information in the STRING database, PPI network was constructed using 176 177 the MCODE plug-in of Cytoscape software. A total of 118 nodes and 421 edges were 178 included in the total of DEGs with significant interaction relation. The top 3 significant modules were selected, and the KEGG pathway enrichment of the genes involved in the 179 modules were analyzed (Figure 3). Enrichment analysis revealed that the genes in top 3 180 modules were mainly associated with Fc gamma R-mediated phagocytosis, B cell 181 receptor signaling pathway, Toll-like receptor signaling pathway, Cell adhesion molecules 182 183 (CAMs), Chemokine signaling pathways. These selected pathways were also associated 184 with immune and inflammation. Furthermore, PPI network and module analysis showed that two modules were involved in the Toll-like receptor signaling pathway in the top 3 185 modules, and these candidate genes in this signaling pathway consisted of TLR1, TLR2, 186 TLR8, and CD14. 187

188 Patients characteristics

A total of 78 patients were enrolled in this study, including 38 PCOS patients and 40 189 controls. Demographic and clinical characteristic parameters of the subjects were 190 191 summarized in Table 2. Women in PCOS and control groups had a similar mean age, and duration of infertility except BMI. In basal hormonal levels, there was no significant 192 193 difference in LH, E2 and P levels. However, the FSH, T and LH/FSH was significantly 194 different between PCOS and Control groups (p < 0.05). In addition, concentration of 195 cytokines (IL-6, TNF-a, and CRP) in FF as inflammatory markers was detected by ELISA 196 (Table 2). The results showed that IL-6, TNF-a, and CRP levels of FF were significantly

increased in PCOS group compared with those in control group.

198 Validation of candidate Genes \

199 To verify the candidate genes revealed by microarray, four above-mentioned genes (TLR1, TLR2, TLR8, and CD14) were re-examined by gRT-gPCR and Western blot in the 78 200 samples (38 from PCOS patients and 40 from Controls). As shown in Figure 4A, the 201 mRNA levels of TLR2, TLR8, and CD14 were significantly increased in GCs from PCOS 202 203 when compared to those in GCs from the controls (P < 0.01). However, no significant 204 difference in the expression levels of TLR1 was observed between two experimental groups. These results were further validated at the protein level by Western blot analysis 205 206 (Figure 4B).

207 Discussion

In the current study, we used published microarray data and bioinformatics analysis method to explore the DEGs in ovarian granulosa cells of PCOS, and our systematic analysis will help to understand the complicated pathogenesis of PCOS at the molecular level.

The GO term analysis showed that the top 5 GO terms of DEGs were mainly 212 engaged in inflammatory response, innate immune response, leukocyte migration, 213 interferon-gamma-mediated signaling pathways, and adaptive immune response in 214 215 biological processes (BP). In order to visualize of gene interactions among DEGs, KEGG pathway enrichment analysis was performed using ClueGO plug-in of Cytoscape software. 216 217 The results showed that these significant pathways with the DEGs, including B cell receptor signaling pathway, Natural killer cell mediated cytotoxicity, TNF signaling pathway, 218 219 cytokine-cytokine receptor interaction, chemokine signaling pathway, etc. Hence, we 220 speculated that inflammation may play an essential role in the induction of PCOS.

PCOS is towel known to be correlated to low-grade chronic inflammation (El Khoudary et al. 2011), and the alternation of ovarian environment is an fundamental pathophysiological characteristic of PCOS, while GCs as the dominant cell community, regulate the development of follicles and oocytes (Zuo et al. 2017). In 2001, Kelly *et al.* firstly reported that women with PCOS have significantly higher CRP levels compared to

226 those in healthy women with normal menstrual rhythm and normal androgens (Kelly et al. 2001). In recent years, several studies have shown that the levels of inflammatory factors 227 228 (TNF, CRP, II-6, et al) in peripheral blood and FF from PCOS patients are significantly 229 increased (Atabekoglu et al. 2011; Escobar-Morreale et al. 2011). These data suggest that 230 low degree of chronic inflammation may be related to the pathogenesis of PCOS. In our study, the expressions of TNF-a, IL-6 and CRP were all upregulated in the FF of PCOS 231 patients. At present, chronic low inflammation has not been applied in the clinical 232 233 diagnosis and treatment of PCOS patients. It is necessary to further study the potential mechanisms of low degree inflammation in PCOS pathophysiological process. 234

235 To further understand the possible mechanisms underlying the low degree 236 inflammation in PCOS, we constructed the PPI network with DEGs. Module analysis of the PPI network revealed that the development of PCOS was associated with Fc gamma 237 R-mediated phagocytosis, B cell receptor signaling pathway, Toll-like receptor signaling 238 pathway, Cell adhesion molecules (CAMs), Chemokine signaling pathway. Moreover, 239 toll-like receptor (TLR) signaling pathway was involved in two of top three modules, so we 240 241 speculate that TLR signaling pathway may play an important role in PCOS. TLR is one of 242 pathogen pattern recognition receptors (Aderem and Ulevitch 2000; Akira and Sato 2003). 243 It has been reported that TLRs are important in adipose tissue inflammation of chronic 244 disease (Lucas and Maes 2013). Meanwhile, it is suggested that TLRs are associated with tissue damage and inflammation (Kawai and Akira 2010). Moreover, Liu et al. 245 246 indicated that TLRs localized in mammalian granulosa cells, cumulus cells and theca cells, 247 and TLRs expression are related with cumulus-oocyte complex expansion and fertilization (Liu et al. 2008). In addition, the activation of toll-like receptor signaling pathway leads to 248 249 the stimulation of chemokine and cytokine expression including IL-6 and IL-8 (Zarember and Godowski 2002). The cytokines modulated local and systemic inflammatory and 250 251 immune responses (Lotteau et al. 1990). The study found that TLR activation resulted in 252 excessive expression of COX-2, which was associated with the inflammatory response (Sirois et al. 2004; Williams and DuBois 1996).Conversely, IL-10 as an anti-inflammatory 253 254 cytokine controlled inflammation response via inhibiting TLR signaling pathways (Williams

et al. 2004). In addition, our results showed that toll-like receptor signaling pathway was
related to TLR1, TLR2, TLR8, CD14. But, qRT-PCR results showed that TLR2, TLR8 and
CD14 expression increased in PCOS ovary granulosa cells in the validation cohort. While,
Western blot showed that the expression level of TLR8 had significantly difference
between PCOS and control group.

TLR2 recognizes LPS ligands and mediates signal transductions. Accumulated 260 evidences indicate that TLR2-mediated inflammation condition may favor sustained 261 262 cytokine production. On the other hand, it may further favor androgen excess in women (Ojeda-Ojeda et al. 2016). Shimada, et al. proved that the expression of IL-6 can be 263 264 regulated by TLR2 and TLR4 (Shimada et al. 2006). In 2008, Shimada rediscovered that 265 TLR2/4-stimulated COCs secreted chemokines, which could induce sperm capacitation and enhance fertilization (Shimada et al. 2008). In an in vitro fertilization assay, Jiang et al 266 proved that cumulus cells activated by TLR2/4 enhanced fertilization by releasing 267 cytokines and chemokines (Jiang et al. 2005). 268

TLR8 is an inert receptor, but recent studies have shown that it can identify 269 270 pathogens RNA and induce immune inflammation (Cervantes et al. 2013; Guiducci et al. 271 2013). Taghavi, S. A. investigated the expression of TLRs in follicular cells of infertile 272 PCOS women, and found the expression levels of TLR1-6, TLR8 and TLR9 were higher in 273 PCOS (Taghavi et al. 2013). Forsbach observed that the activation of TLR-8 led to the secretion of inflammatory cytokines such as IFN- γ , TNF- α and IL-12 (Ospelt and Gay 274 275 2010). Moreover, the accumulating evidence indicates that CPG-52364 as TLR antagonist, could block several inflammatory autoimmune diseases induced by activation of TLR7, 276 TLR8 and TLR9 in clinical trials (Lai et al. 2017). It meant that TLR8 was associated with 277 278 systemic inflammation, which was involved in pathophysiology of PCOS.

279 Clusters of differentiation 14 (CD14), as a pattern recognition receptor, is expressed 280 on the surfaces of monocytes and macrophages, and contributes to TLR-induced cell 281 activation (Aderem and Ulevitch 2000; Antal-Szalmas 2000). In 2012, Lei *et al* indicated 282 that inhibition of CD14 by RNA interference could inhibit TNF- α secretion and NO 283 production in RAW264.7 cells induced by LPS (Lei et al. 2012).Moreover, using in vitro

test Thorgersen EB, *et al.* found CD14 antibody binding sites on the surface, prevented their combination with LBP and made LPSCD14 TLR4-MyD2 receptor complexes formation blocked, which reduce the secretion of TNF- α and IL-1 β (Thorgersen et al. 2009).They all suggested that the regulation of CD14 can inhibit the inflammatory response to a certain extent. Above all, the results indicate that these candidate gene (TLR2, TLR8 and CD14) and their related Toll-like receptor signaling pathway may play key roles in PCOS.

291 Additionally, there were eight DEGs including HAS2, THSD7A, LPHN3, DLX2, COCH, SPOCK3, CNTN4 and ACOT4, whose expression levels were found to be significantly 292 293 down-regulated in GCs from PCOS patients when compared to those in GCs from Ctrl 294 patients (data not shown). Some of these downregulated DEGs may also play potential 295 roles during the pathogenesis of PCOS. For example, HAS2 and CNTN4 are both 296 distinctly expressed in GCs (Liu et al. 2016; Wigglesworth et al. 2015). Overexpression of HAS2 promotes resistance to apoptosis in GCs (Liu et al. 2016). More importantly, HAS2 297 and CNTN4 are both regulated fundamentally by insulin signaling pathway (Grado-Ahuir 298 299 et al. 2009; Kuroda et al. 2001). Given the close association between insulin-signaling 300 pathway and gonadotrophin hormone action in PCOS (Aydos et al. 2016; Szczuko et al. 301 2016), we therefore propose that HAS2 and CNTN4 are both functionally involved in the 302 pathogenesis of PCOS. This intriguing hypothesis is currently under investigation in our lab. 303

In conclusion, our data collectively provide a comprehensive bioinformatics analysis of DEGs in PCOS. Our results confirm that the inflammation and immune play important roles in the occurrence and development of PCOS. Meanwhile, toll-like receptor signaling pathway mediating inflammation and immune might be involved in the pathogenesis of PCOS, and TLR2, TLR8, CD14 may be core target genes. Therefore, the hub genes and pathways may be potential therapeutic targets of PCOS treatment.

Nevertheless, the potential caveats and other alternative explanations would be very insightful for future research, such as the limited control numbers in the database, and future directions of single-RNA profiling.

313 Acknowledgments We are grateful to the researchers who have deposited their data in the public database. 314 315 **Conflict of interest** The authors declare that there are no conflicts of interest. 316 317 References 318 319 320 Aderem A, Ulevitch RJ (2000) Toll-like receptors in the induction of the innate immune response 321 Nature 406:782-787 doi:10.1038/35021228 322 Akira S, Sato S (2003) Toll-like receptors and their signaling mechanisms Scandinavian journal of 323 infectious diseases 35:555-562 324 Antal-Szalmas P (2000) Evaluation of CD14 in host defence European journal of clinical investigation 325 30:167-179 326 Atabekoglu CS, Sonmezer M, Ozmen B, Yarci A, Akbiyik F, Tasci T, Aytac R (2011) Increased monocyte 327 chemoattractant protein-1 levels indicating early vascular damage in lean young PCOS patients 328 Fertility and sterility 95:295-297 doi:10.1016/j.fertnstert.2010.08.030 329 Aydos A et al. (2016) Identification of Polycystic Ovary Syndrome (PCOS) Specific Genes in Cumulus 330 and Mural Granulosa Cells PloS one 11:e0168875 doi:10.1371/journal.pone.0168875 331 Cervantes JL, La Vake CJ, Weinerman B, Luu S, O'Connell C, Verardi PH, Salazar JC (2013) Human TLR8 332 is activated upon recognition of Borrelia burgdorferi RNA in the phagosome of human 333 monocytes Journal of leukocyte biology 94:1231-1241 doi:10.1189/jlb.0413206 334 de Melo AS et al. (2015) Pathogenesis of polycystic ovary syndrome: multifactorial assessment from 335 the foetal stage to menopause Reproduction 150:R11-24 doi:10.1530/REP-14-0499 336 Dong YS et al. (2016) Unexpected requirement for a binding partner of the syntaxin family in 337 phagocytosis by murine testicular Sertoli cells Cell Death Differ 23:787-800 doi:cdd2015139 [pii] 338 10.1038/cdd.2015.139 339 Duan H, Yan Z, Chen W, Wu Y, Han J, Guo H, Qiao J (2017) TET1 inhibits EMT of ovarian cancer cells 340 through activating Wnt/beta-catenin signaling inhibitors DKK1 and SFRP2 Gynecologic oncology 341 147:408-417 doi:10.1016/j.ygyno.2017.08.010 342 El Khoudary SR, Wildman RP, Matthews K, Powell L, Hollenberg SM, Edmundowicz D, Sutton-Tyrrell K 343 (2011) Effect modification of obesity on associations between endogenous steroid sex 344 hormones and arterial calcification in women at midlife Menopause 18:906-914 345 doi:10.1097/gme.0b013e3182099dd2 346 Escobar-Morreale HF, Luque-Ramirez M, Gonzalez F (2011) Circulating inflammatory markers in 347 polycystic ovary syndrome: a systematic review and metaanalysis Fertility and sterility 348 95:1048-1058 e1041-1042 doi:10.1016/j.fertnstert.2010.11.036 349 Grado-Ahuir JA, Aad PY, Ranzenigo G, Caloni F, Cremonesi F, Spicer ⊔ (2009) Microarray analysis of 350 insulin-like growth factor-I-induced changes in messenger ribonucleic acid expression in 351 cultured porcine granulosa cells: possible role of insulin-like growth factor-l in angiogenesis J 352 Anim Sci 87:1921-1933 doi:jas.2008-1222 [pii] 353 10.2527/jas.2008-1222

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487 Figure legends

Figure 1 Heat map of the differentially expressed genes of GSE34526. Red: up-regulation;
green: down-regulation.

490 Figure 2 Pathway relation network for the total differentially expressed genes (DEGs).

Each GO term is represented by a circle, and each group is represented by a different color. The larger the size of the circle is, the more the number of genes is contributing to the GO term.

494 Figure 3 Top 3 modules from the protein-protein interaction network. (A) module 1, (B) the

495 enriched pathways of module 1, (C) module 2, (D) the enriched pathways of module 2, (E)

496 module 3, (F) the enriched pathways of module 3.

497 Figure 4 (A) qRT-PCR analysis of the expression of TLR1, TLR2, TLR8, and CD14 gene

498 in human ovarian luteinized granulosa cells (GCs) from PCOS and Controls. *P < 0.05,

499 **P< 0.01. (B) Western blot analysis of the expression levels of TLR1, TLR2, TLR8, and

500 CD14 in human ovarian luteinized GCs from PCOS and Controls. Densitometric scanning

501 of immunoblots was performed in which the level of a target protein was normalized

502 against the protein level in Ctrl #1, which was arbitrarily set at 1 (lower panel). Each bar

503 represents the mean±S.E.M. of results from three experiments using different batches of

GCs. Each experiment had replicate cultures. *P < 0.05, **P < 0.01.

505 **Supplementary Figure 1** Representative RT-PCR analysis of TLR2 expression in human

506 ovarian luteinized GCs from PCOS and Controls. Parallel amplification of GAPDH mRNA

507 served as internal control.



Fig. 1 Download full resolution image

Fig. 2 Download full resolution image



Fig. 3 Download full resolution image







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	Term	P value	FDR	Gene	
				PTPRC, LYN, FCGR2B,	
	Fc gamma R-mediated phagocytosis	1.46E-06	0.00149	FCGR1A, PIK3CD, PLCG2,	
				PIK3R5, SYK	
				LYN, FCGR2B, GRB2,	
	B cell receptor signaling pathway	5.62E-06	0.00573	PIK3CD, PLCG2, PIK3R5,	
				SYK	
				NCF2, MMP9, PIK3CD,	
	Leukocyte transendothelial migration	7.61E-05	0.077493	PLCG2, PIK3R5, ITGB2,	
				ITGAM	
	Hematopoietic cell lineage	0.001911	1.930742	CR1, CD36, CD33, FCGR1A,	
				ITGAM	
	Toll-like receptor signaling pathway	0.003439	3.450576	PIK3CD, TLR1, TLR2,	
		1919933333		PIK3R5, TLR8	
D					
	Term	P value	FDR	Gene	
				C1QA, C1QB, HLA-DRB1,	
	Systemic lupus erythematosus	4.40E-06	0.003611	HLA-DPA1, FCGR2A,	
				HLA-DRA	
				ICAM1. HLA-DRB1.	

B cell receptor signaling pathway	0.001503	1.46896	PIK3CG, PIK3AP1, BLNK,	
Term	P value	FDR	Gene	
Hematopoietic cell lineage	0.001486	1.212095	HLA-DRA, CD1D	
Manager alable call Research	0.000.000	1 212005	CD44, HLA-DRB1,	
Cell adhesion molecules (CAMs)	3.55E-04	0.29062	ICAM1, HLA-DRB1, HLA-DPA1, HLA-E, HLA-DRA	
Autoimmune thyroid disease	3.20E-04	0.262222	HLA-E, HLA-DRA	
	0.0000000	00.010.000	HLA-DRB1, HLA-DPA1,	
Viral myocarditis	3.14E-05	0.025781	HIA DRAT HIA E HIA DRA	

B cell receptor signaling pathway	0.001503	1.46896	BTK	PIKSAP1,	BLNK,
Champhing signation anthrony	0.002277	2.217082	PIK3CG,	DOCK2,	NCF1,
Chemokine signaling pathway			HCK, ELMO1		
Fc gamma R-mediated phagocytosis	0.002965	2.878819	PIK3CG, DOCK2, NCF1, HCK		
Leukocyte transendothelial migration	0.005471	5.252746	PIK3CG,	ACTB, CYBB	NCF1
Toll-like receptor signaling pathway	0.039114	32.45961	PIK3CG,	CD14, SPP1	



Fig. 4 Download full resolution image