

# Epigenetic modification and their role in normal development, regeneration, IPSC generation and disease progression

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## ABSTRACT

*It has been thoroughly studied and proved that histone and DNA modifications are essential requirements for development processes, regeneration, pluripotency and disease progression[1-3]. Various studies have shown that a global change in gene expression is associated with various developmental processes. Various enzymes like histone methyltransferases, acetyltransferases, histone demethylases and DNA methyltransferases are responsible for various epigenetic modifications and associated epigenetic changes [4]. Some of the epigenetic modifications are associated with gene silencing by formation of heterochromatin while some modification are associated with gene activation by formation of open active form euchromatin [5]. All epigenetic modifications are tightly regulated in cells [6].*

**Keywords:** *Regeneration, pluripotency, methyltransferase, nacyltranmsferase, heterochromatin and euchromatin*

## I. INTRODUCTION

Epigenetic modifications are dynamic cellular processes essential for development and regeneration[7]. Epigenetic modification is tightly regulated and aberrant epigenetic changes are responsible for many diseases in humans diseases[8]. Various cellular enzymes are responsible for epigenetic changes and the related biological properties associated with them[9, 10]. Epigenetic modifications are responsible for silencing and activation of various genes(Figure 1)[11]. Histone acetylation of histones present in chromosomes open up chromosomes and the heterochromatin is converted into euchromatin and genes associated with them are activated[12]. While histone methylation are responsible for both activation and inhibition of genes[13]. Methylation H3K9me1/me2/me3, H3K27me1, me2, me3, H4K20me1, me2, me3 are responsible for gene inactivation while histone modifications H3K4me1/me2 and H3K36me1, me2 are responsible for gene activation[14, 15]. Epigenetic changes associated with DNA methylation play an important role in normal development processes in mammals as well as promoter hypermethylation in some diseases like cancer[16].

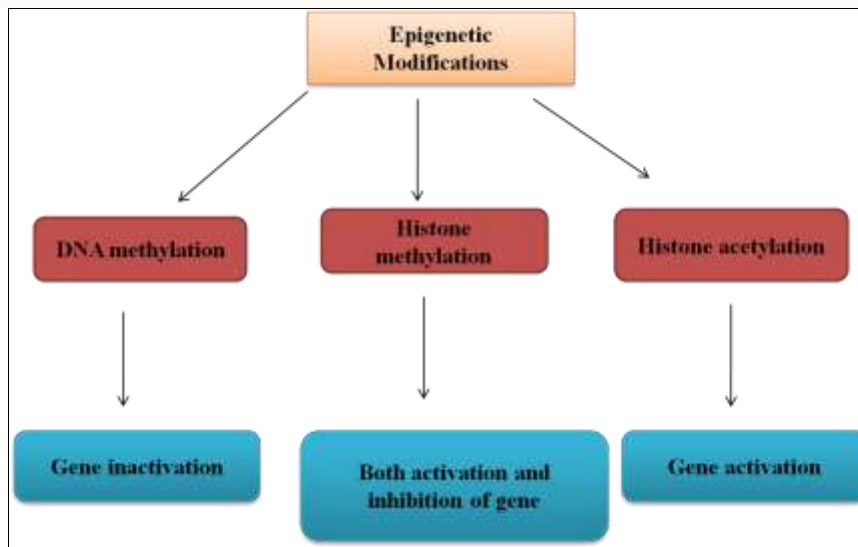


Figure 1: Epigenetic modifications associated with activation and inactivation of genes.

## II. ROLE OF DNA METHYLATION IN NORMAL DEVELOPMENT, EPIGENETIC REPROGRAMMING AND CARCINOGENESIS

DNA methylation is an important guide for differentiation of cells during embryonic development into various lineages[17]. DNA methylation also represses the activation of retrotransposons and maintains genome integrity[17]. Hypermethylation of promoters of tumour suppressor genes which lead to their inactivation and cancer[18]. Studies have shown that DNA methylation of centromeric DNA is responsible for proper alignment of chromosomes during segregation[19]. Various studies have shown that DNA methylation is very essential for genome imprinting and dosage compensation[17]. Also various research reports have shown that DNA hypermethylation is responsible for inactivation of pluripotency genes OCT4 and SOX2 [20].

## III. ROLE OF HISTONE METHYLATION IN NORMAL DEVELOPMENT, EPIGENETIC REPROGRAMMING AND CARCINOGENESIS

H3K9me3 and H3K27me3 methylation marks are downregulated in embryonic stages while as these methylation markers are upregulated in differentiated cells [21]. Studies in zebra fish have shown that H3K27me2 and H3K27 me3 methylation marks and histone demethylases are essential for caudal fin regeneration in zebra fish[22]. Various studies have shown that H3K9 me2 downregulation increase iPSC generation[23, 24]. Histone H3K9 me2/me3 marks are also upregulated in various cancers and inhibition of H3K9me2 and H3K9me3 methylation by small molecule inhibitors of histone methyltransferases inhibit cancer progression [25, 26].

#### IV.ROLE OF HISTONE ACETYLATION IN NORMAL DEVELOPMENT, EPIGENETIC REPROGRAMMING AND CARCINOGENESIS

Various studies have shown that histone acetylations are upregulated during various stages of embryonic development[12]. Recent studies have shown that small molecule inhibition of histone deacetylases increase iPSC efficiency[27]. Also many studies have shown inhibition of histone deacetylases inhibit cancer growth of various cancer cells[28]. Various reports have shown that there is upregulation H3 and H4 acetylation marks during development of spinal cord and cerebral cortex [29, 30].

#### V. CONCLUSION

Epigenetic modifications are the important mechanisms involved in normal the development processes, regeneration and progression of various diseases like cancer. So any modification of epigenetic change help in prevention of diseases, as well as have an important role in increasing efficiency of stem cell generation as well as help in study of developmental processes in a better and efficient manner.

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