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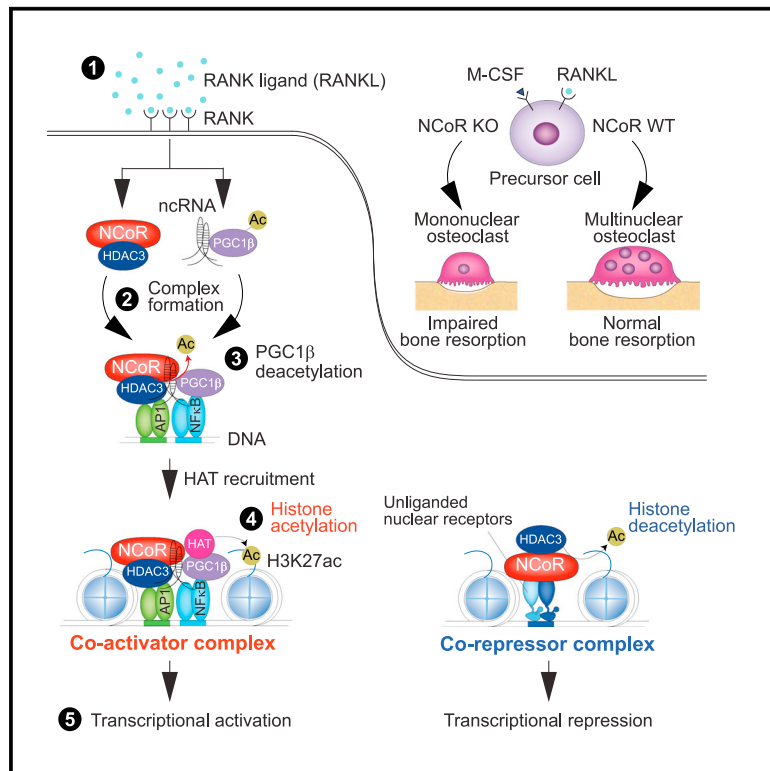
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RANK ligand converts the NCoR/HDAC3 co-repressor to a PGC1 β - and RNA-dependent co-activator of osteoclast gene expression

Graphical abstract



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In brief

Nuclear receptor co-repressor (NCoR) is found to maintain normal bone density by co-activating RANKL-dependent gene transcription in osteoclasts. Abe et al. resolve this paradox by demonstrating that RANKL induces RNA-dependent assembly of an NCoR/HDAC3/PGC1 β complex that co-activates NF- κ B and AP-1 target genes required for osteoclast differentiation.

Highlights

- NCoR is required for osteoclast differentiation and normal bone density
- RANK signaling converts NCoR/HDAC3 co-repressor complexes to co-activator complexes
- RANK signaling induces RNA-dependent interaction of NCoR/HDAC3 with PGC1 β
- The major function of NCoR in osteoclasts is RANKL-dependent gene activation



Article

RANK ligand converts the NCoR/HDAC3 co-repressor to a PGC1 β - and RNA-dependent co-activator of osteoclast gene expression

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SUMMARY

The nuclear receptor co-repressor (NCoR) complex mediates transcriptional repression dependent on histone deacetylation by histone deacetylase 3 (HDAC3) as a component of the complex. Unexpectedly, we found that signaling by the receptor activator of nuclear factor κ B (RANK) converts the NCoR/HDAC3 co-repressor complex to a co-activator of AP-1 and NF- κ B target genes that are required for mouse osteoclast differentiation. Accordingly, the dominant function of NCoR/HDAC3 complexes in response to RANK signaling is to activate, rather than repress, gene expression. Mechanistically, RANK signaling promotes RNA-dependent interaction of the transcriptional co-activator PGC1 β with the NCoR/HDAC3 complex, resulting in the activation of PGC1 β and inhibition of HDAC3 activity for acetylated histone H3. Non-coding RNAs *Dancr* and *Rnu12*, which are associated with altered human bone homeostasis, promote NCoR/HDAC3 complex assembly and are necessary for RANKL-induced osteoclast differentiation *in vitro*. These findings may be prototypic for signal-dependent functions of NCoR in other biological contexts.

INTRODUCTION

Nuclear receptor co-repressor (NCoR) and silencing mediator of retinoid and thyroid hormone receptor (SMRT, also known as NCoR2) are critical transcriptional co-repressors of nuclear receptors and other signal-dependent transcription factors,^{1–3} underlying their diverse and essential roles in development, ho-

meostasis, and immunity. The co-repressor functions of NCoR and SMRT are dependent on histone deacetylase 3 (HDAC3), which mainly deacetylates K27 on the histone H3 N-terminal tail (H3K27).^{4–6} NCoR/HDAC3 and SMRT/HDAC3 co-repressor complexes interact with a subset of unliganded nuclear receptors bound to their cognate recognition motifs in enhancers and promoters, including thyroid hormone receptors, liver X



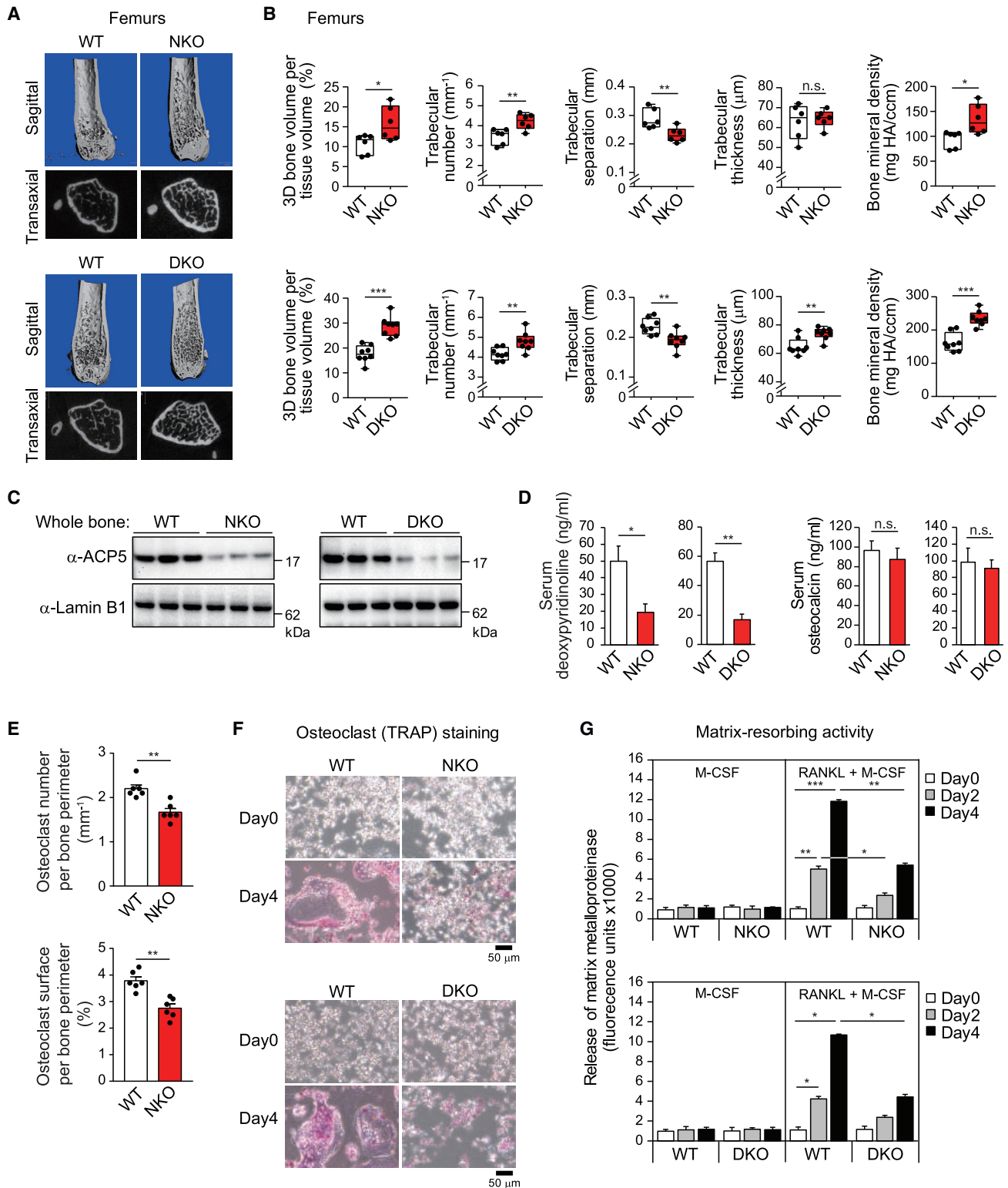


Figure 1. NCoR is required for osteoclast differentiation and normal bone development

(A and B) Representative micro-computed tomography (μ CT) images of the femurs (A) in 5-month-old male WT and NKO or DKO mice. Trabecular bone volume, trabecular number, trabecular separation, trabecular thickness, and bone mineral density in the femurs (B) determined by μ CT analysis. All boxplots show the interquartile range. Data are mean \pm SD ($n = 6-8$ each). Student's t test was performed for comparisons.

(legend continued on next page)

receptors (LXRs), and retinoic acid receptors, resulting in histone deacetylation and transcriptional repression. The binding of activating ligands to each of these receptors causes NCoR/HDAC3 and SMRT/HDAC3 co-repressor complexes to dissociate in exchange for co-activator complexes with histone acetyltransferase (HAT) activity that promote transcriptional activation.³ This paradigm of co-repressor/co-activator exchange for signal-dependent gene activation was subsequently extended to other classes of transcription factors, including recombination signal binding protein for immunoglobulin kappa J region (Rbpj)⁷ and members of the activator protein 1 (AP-1) family.⁸

Unexpectedly, deletion of NCoR from macrophages was associated with an attenuated response to Toll-like receptor 4 (TLR4) signaling and an anti-inflammatory/insulin-sensitive phenotype under high-fat diet.⁹ This result could be partially explained by de-repression of LXR target genes encoding enzymes that catalyze the synthesis of anti-inflammatory omega 3 fatty acids. However, omega 3 fatty acids only suppressed a small fraction of the genes that were hypo-responsive to TLR4 signaling in NCoR-deficient macrophages,⁹ leaving most of the attenuated response unexplained. To gain further insights into functions of NCoR in regulating macrophage phenotypes, we examined the consequences of NCoR deletion on the development and function of osteoclasts. These studies revealed the requirement of NCoR for activation of receptor activator of nuclear factor κ B ligand (RANKL)-dependent genes and osteoclast differentiation. Consequently, mice lacking NCoR in the myeloid lineage exhibit a high bone mass phenotype. Genome-wide location analysis of NCoR and HDAC3 in RANKL-treated bone marrow cells indicated a paradoxical gain of local histone acetylation and gene activation, rather than the expected loss of histone acetylation and gene repression.

We present evidence that the RANKL-induced co-activator function of NCoR involves HDAC3-dependent deacetylation of peroxisome proliferator-activated receptor gamma (PPAR γ) co-activator 1 beta (PGC1 β), analogous to the prior finding that NCoR/HDAC3 complexes deacetylate PGC1 α as a prerequisite for co-activation of estrogen-related receptor α (ERR α) and induction of thermogenesis in brown adipose tissue.¹⁰ We extend this concept to demonstrate that RANK signaling promotes the assembly of a \sim 2 MDa NCoR/HDAC3/PGC1 β complex that is dependent on non-coding RNAs and results in the conversion of NCoR from a constitutive co-repressor to a signal-dependent co-activator of gene expression. These findings raise the possibility that NCoR complexes are broadly used as signal-dependent co-activators and therefore challenge the current view that they primarily function as co-repressors.

RESULTS

NCoR is required for osteoclast differentiation and normal bone development

To explore potential roles of NCoR in osteoclast function, we crossed *LysM-Cre* mice to *Ncor*^{fl/fl} mice to establish myeloid-specific NCoR-deficient (NKO) mice⁹ (Figure S1A). Bone microstructure imaging by high-resolution micro-computed tomography (μ CT) of femurs revealed that NKO male mice exhibited a high bone mass phenotype accompanied by significantly increased trabecular bone volume (top panels, Figures 1A and 1B) and trabecular bone number (top panel, Figure 1B), compared with wild-type (WT) mice. These findings were further supported by markedly decreased trabecular bone separation and increased bone mineral density in femurs of NKO male mice (top panels, Figure 1B). To investigate the extent to which SMRT might compensate for loss of NCoR, we also evaluated bone homeostasis in mice in which both NCoR and SMRT were deleted (DKO) in the myeloid lineage by crossing *LysM-Cre* mice to *Ncor*^{fl/fl} *Smrt*^{fl/fl} mice (Figure S1B). DKO male mice exhibited a slightly more severe phenotype than NKO male mice, as shown by the significantly increased trabecular bone thickness in femurs (Figure 1B) and cortical thickness of diaphysis (Figure S1C) by NCoR/SMRT deficiency not observed in NKO male mice (Figure 1B). These results suggest that SMRT partially compensates for the loss of NCoR in the regulation of bone homeostasis. NKO or DKO female mice also exhibited a high bone mass phenotype, compared with WT female mice (Figure S1D). Notably, the expression of tartrate-resistant acid phosphatase 5 (ACP5) protein as a mature osteoclast marker was decreased in whole tibia and femur bone lysates of NKO or DKO mice (Figure 1C). Additionally, the serum level of deoxypyridinoline, a bone resorption marker, was lower in both NKO and DKO mice, but there was no difference in the serum level of osteocalcin, a bone formation maker (Figure 1D), which suggests that the high bone mass phenotype in NCoR deficiency results from altered bone resorption, not formation. Osteoclasts were visualized in femoral longitudinal sections by cell staining for tartrate-resistant acid phosphatase (TRAP). Quantitative analysis of osteoclast number and surface area indicated significant reductions in NKO mice (Figures 1E and S1E), consistent with a defect in osteoclast differentiation and the increase in bone mass.

As RANKL is required for the development of osteoclasts from myeloid progenitor cells,^{11–13} we examined the impact of NCoR or NCoR/SMRT deficiency on RANKL-induced osteoclast differentiation *in vitro*. Bone marrow cells were cultured with macrophage colony-stimulating factor (M-CSF) alone for 3 days and

(C) Immunoblot analysis for ACP5 protein in whole bone (tibia and femur) from 5-month-old male WT and NKO or DKO mice (n = 3 each).

(D) Serum deoxypyridinoline and osteocalcin concentrations in 5-month-old male WT and NKO or DKO mice. Data are mean \pm SEM (n = 4 biological replicates). Student's t test was performed for comparisons.

(E) Quantitative analysis of osteoclast number (upper panel) and surface area (lower panel) in the femurs from 5-month-old male WT and NKO mice. Data are mean \pm SEM (n = 6 each). Student's t test was performed for comparisons.

(F) Representative TRAP-stained cell images showing the effect of NKO or DKO on bone marrow-derived osteoclast formation at day 0 and day 4 after RANKL treatment (12-week-old male mice).

(G) Matrix-resorbing activity on bone-marrow-derived osteoclasts from WT and NKO or DKO mice (12-week-old male) in the presence of only M-CSF or M-CSF plus RANKL. Data are mean \pm SD (n = 3 biological replicates). ANOVA was performed followed by Tukey's post hoc comparison.

For (B), (D), (E), and (G), *p < 0.05, **p < 0.01, and ***p < 0.001.

See also Figure S1.

then stimulated with M-CSF and RANKL for 4 days (Figure S1F). Osteoclasts were stained with TRAP. RANKL promoted the formation of multinucleated osteoclasts in bone marrow cells from WT mice, but this effect was suppressed in cells from NKO or DKO mice (Figure 1F). Next, to examine osteoclast function, bone marrow cells were seeded on a collagen-coated plate, and the resorption activity of osteoclasts, as reflected by matrix metalloproteases released in culture media, was measured. RANKL-induced matrix resorption activity in NKO or DKO cells was lower compared with WT cells (Figure 1G). Collectively, these findings establish signal-dependent roles of NCoR downstream of RANK and a previously unknown requirement of NCoR for osteoclast differentiation and function.

Signal-specific NCoR-dependent gene expression

NCoR deficiency had a substantial impact on RANKL-dependent gene expression (Figure 2A). Of the 1,686 mRNAs induced >1.5-fold by RANKL (false discovery rate [FDR] < 0.05) following the full differentiation process in WT cells, 757 exhibited significantly attenuated responses in NKO cells (hypo-responsive genes) (Figure 2A), exemplified by transcription factor genes *Jdp2* (encoding Jun dimerization protein 2), *Fosl2* (encoding Fos-like 2), and *Nfatc1* (encoding nuclear factor of activated T cells 1), required for osteoclast differentiation,^{14–16} and osteoclast-specific genes *Acp5* (encoding tartrate-resistant acid phosphatase 5, also known as TRAP) and *Ocstamp* (encoding osteoclast stimulatory transmembrane protein) (Figure 2B). The 757 genes exhibiting reduced responsiveness to RANKL in NKO cells were also significantly enriched for functional annotations related to mitochondrial organization and mitochondrial gene expression (Figure S2A), suggesting NCoR regulates mitochondrial biogenesis and activity, which have been linked to osteoclast differentiation and function.¹⁷ In contrast, the LXR target genes *Abca1* (encoding ATP-binding cassette subfamily A member 1) and *Abcg1* (encoding ATP-binding cassette subfamily G member 1) were de-repressed (Figure 2B), consistent with conventional co-repressor activity of NCoR in the same cells. In contrast to the comparison of WT and NKO cells following 4 days of treatment with RANKL, the comparison between WT day 0 and NKO day 0 resulted in only 7 upregulated genes, including *Abca1* as shown in Figure 2B, and only 3 downregulated genes (Figure S2B). These findings indicate that in this context, the major transcriptional function of NCoR is acquired in a signal-dependent manner.

NCoR/HDAC3 complexes bind to RANKL-induced enhancers and promoters

To investigate mechanisms underlying the requirement of the NCoR complex for RANKL-induced gene expression, we used chromatin immunoprecipitation sequencing (ChIP-seq) to define the genome-wide locations of NCoR and HDAC3 in WT cells under control conditions and in response to RANKL. RANKL resulted in substantial increases in the number of confident genomic binding sites of NCoR (Figure S2C) and HDAC3 (Figure S2D). In parallel, we performed ChIP-seq for H3K27ac under control and RANKL treatment conditions as a surrogate for promoter and enhancer activity.¹⁸ RANKL treatment resulted in significant increases in H3K27ac at 1,525 locations (Figure S2E). To define the relationship between NCoR/HDAC3 binding and gain

or loss of promoter/enhancer activity, we annotated NCoR and HDAC3 peaks for local H3K27ac (± 500 bp) under control and RANKL treatment conditions and determined their overlaps. In the case of RANKL treatment, >2,700 of the genomic locations exhibiting constitutive or gained presumptive NCoR/HDAC3 complexes localized to promoters and putative enhancers that exhibited a paradoxical >2-fold increase in H3K27ac, whereas less than 120 of such regions were associated with the expected loss of H3K27ac (Figure 2C). NCoR/HDAC3-associated peaks gaining H3K27ac were most highly enriched for motifs recognized by AP-1 and NF- κ B-p65 family members, along with the motif for the macrophage lineage determining transcription factor PU.1 (Figure 2D). Signal-dependent recruitment of NCoR/HDAC3 to sites of gained H3K27ac is exemplified at the promoters and enhancers associated with *Acp5* and *Ocstamp* (Figure 2E). ChIP-seq experiments confirmed RANKL-dependent increases in the binding of NF- κ B-p65, the AP-1 factor *Fosl2*, and PU.1 at sites of NCoR/HDAC3 binding (Figure 2E).

We previously demonstrated that interleukin (IL)-1 β causes nuclear export of NCoR, resulting in de-repression of a specific subset of NF- κ B-p50 (but not p65)-regulated genes in 293T and CV-1 cells.¹⁹ In addition, we also reported that IL-1 β signaling leads NCoR/TGF-beta activated kinase 1 (MAP3K7) binding protein 2 (TAB2) complexes to dissociate from nuclear receptors via TAB2-phosphorylation followed by inflammatory gene activation in LNCaP cells.²⁰ In the present studies, the effect of RANK signaling to significantly increase, rather than decrease, the binding of NCoR to osteoclast-related genes is clearly established by ChIP assays (Figures 2C and 2E). Consistent with the ChIP-seq experiments, RANKL induced the amount of NCoR in nuclear fraction (Figure S2F). Importantly, NCoR did not interact with TAB2 or NF- κ B-p50 either under basal or RANKL treatment conditions (Figure S2F). In contrast, NCoR was associated with NF- κ B-p65 in response to RANKL treatment (Figure S2F), which is consistent with the enriched motifs of transcription factor for RANKL-induced NCoR/HDAC3-associated gained H3K27ac (Figure 2D). Collectively, these findings indicate that cellular trafficking of NCoR complexes is regulated in a cell- and signal-dependent manner.

NCoR and HDAC3 activity are required for RANKL-induced H3K27 acetylation

To investigate whether there was a causal relationship between NCoR/HDAC3 binding and increased H3K27ac, we performed ChIP-seq for H3K27ac in NCoR-deficient bone marrow cells. Remarkably, NCoR deficiency resulted in a marked reduction in H3K27ac at genomic locations in which NCoR/HDAC3 binding was associated with RANKL-induced H3K27ac (Figures 2C and 3A). In parallel, we investigated the role of HDAC3 deacetylase activity by examining the consequences of the HDAC3-specific inhibitor RGFP966²¹ on RANKL-dependent gene expression and histone acetylation. Treatment of bone marrow cells with the combination of RANKL and RGFP966 resulted in an attenuated activation of a large fraction of genes (Figure 3B) including *Acp5* and *Ocstamp* (Figure 3D) that were hypo-responsive in the context of the NCoR knockout (KO) (Figure S3A) and significant loss of H3K27ac peaks (Figures 3C and 3E). At a functional level, RANKL-induced bone resorption activity was attenuated by

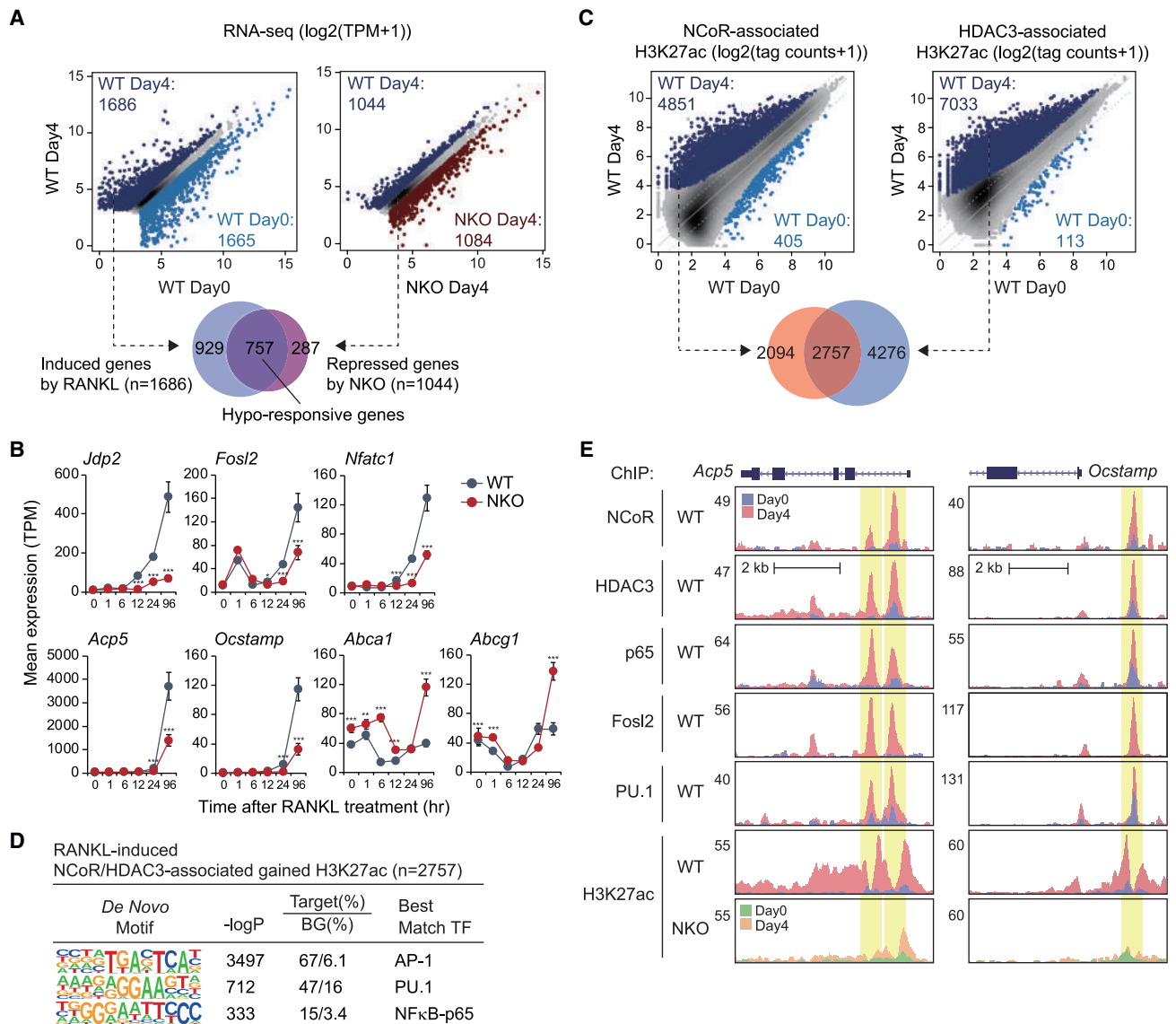


Figure 2. NCoR/HDAC3 complexes bind to RANKL-induced enhancers and promoters

(A) Scatterplots of RNA-seq data showing RANKL-regulated gene expression in WT cells (left panel) and NKO-regulated gene expression in the presence of RANKL (right panel) (light blue dots in left panel: significantly RANKL-suppressed genes, dark blue dots in left panel: significantly RANKL-induced genes, dark red dots in right panel: significant NKO-induced genes, dark blue dots in right panel: significant NKO-suppressed genes; FDR < 0.05; FC > 1.5). The overlap between RANKL-induced genes in WT cells (n = 1,686) and NKO-suppressed genes in the presence of RANKL (n = 1,044) is shown by Venn diagram.

(B) Expression of *Jdp2*, *Fosl2*, *Nfatc1*, *Acp5*, *Ocstamp*, *Abca1*, and *Abcg1* in WT and NKO cells as a function of time following RANKL treatment. The significance symbols indicate statistical significance comparing NKO with WT, *p adj < 0.05, **p adj < 0.01, and ***p adj < 0.001.

(C) Scatterplot of distal NCoR-associated (41,058 peaks in Figure S2C) (left panel) or HDAC3-associated (31,832 peaks in Figure S2D) (right panel) H3K27ac in WT at day 0 versus WT at day 4. RANKL-induced NCoR- or HDAC3-associated H3K27ac peaks (FDR < 0.05, FC > 2) are color coded (light blue dots: significantly NCoR- or HDAC3-associated lost H3K27ac in WT at day 4, dark blue dots: significantly NCoR- or HDAC3-associated gained H3K27ac in WT at day 4). The overlap between NCoR-associated gained H3K27ac (n = 4,851) and HDAC3-associated gained H3K27ac (n = 7,033) is shown by Venn diagram.

(D) *De novo* motif enrichment analysis of RANKL-induced NCoR- and HDAC3-associated gained H3K27ac peaks (n = 2,757 in C) using a GC-matched genomic background.

(E) Genome browser tracks of NCoR, HDAC3, p65, Fosl2, PU.1, and H3K27ac ChIP-seq peaks in the vicinity of the *Acp5* and *Ocstamp* loci at day 0 and day 4 after RANKL treatment. Yellow shading: RANKL-induced peaks.

See also Figure S2.

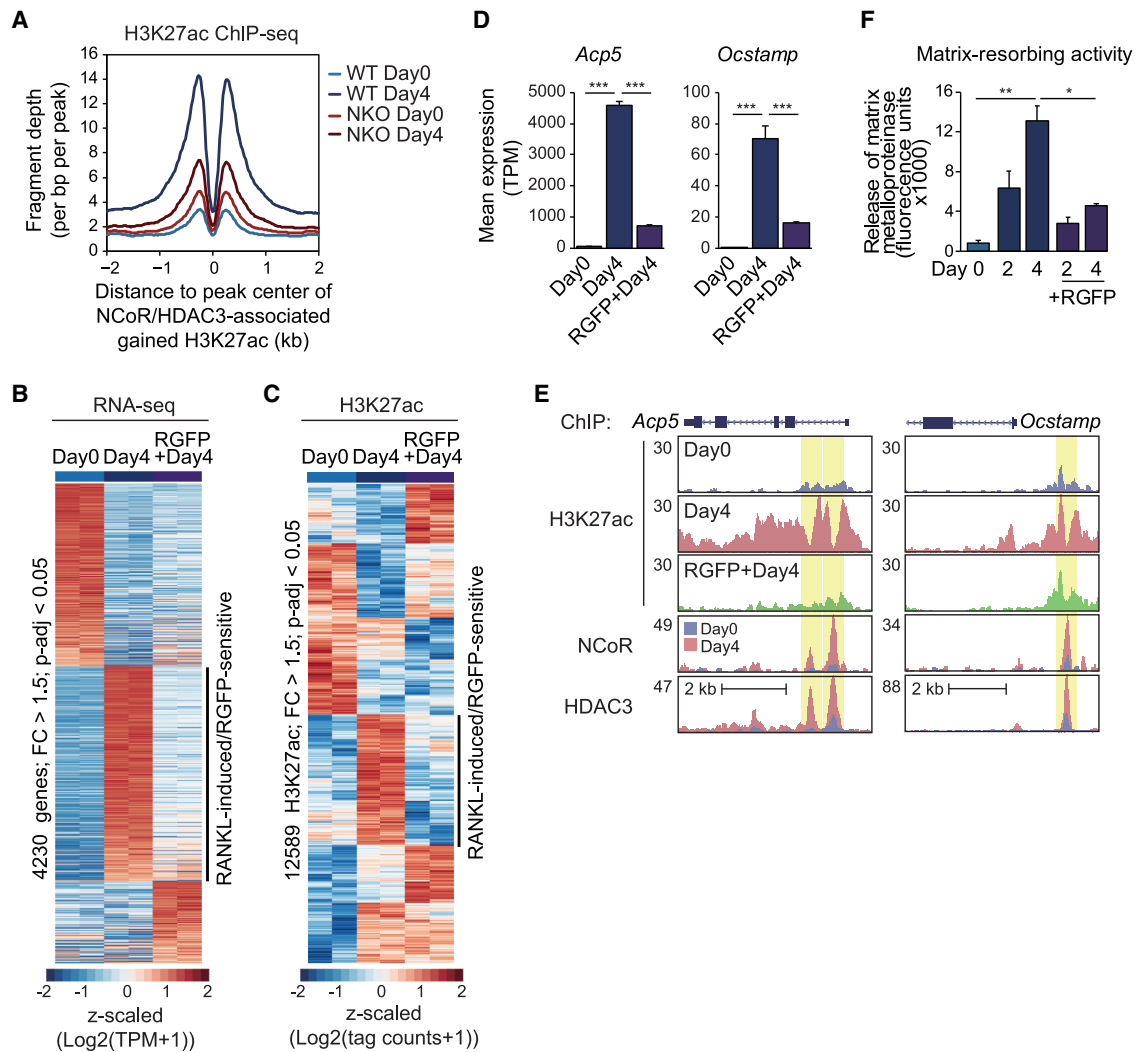


Figure 3. NCoR and HDAC3 activity are required for RANKL-induced H3K27 acetylation

(A) Normalized distribution of H3K27ac tag density in WT and NKO at the vicinity of NCoR- and HDAC3-associated gained H3K27ac peaks in WT at day 4 after RANKL treatment (n = 2,757 in Figure 2C).

(B) Heatmap of differential gene expression (FC > 1.5, p adj < 0.05) in WT cells treated with the combination of RGFP966 and RANKL.

(C) Heatmap of differential H3K27ac ChIP-seq irreproducibility discovery rate (IDR) peaks associated with assay for transposase-accessible chromatin with sequencing (ATAC-seq) IDR peaks (FC > 1.5, p adj < 0.05) at day 0 in a 1,000-bp window.

(D) Bar plots for expression of *Acp5* and *Ocstamp*. ***p adj < 0.001.

(E) Genome browser tracks of H3K27ac ChIP-seq peaks in WT at day 0 and day 4 with or without RGFP966, and NCoR and HDAC3 ChIP-seq peaks in WT at day 0 and day 4 in the vicinity of the *Acp5* and *Ocstamp* loci. Yellow shading: RANKL-induced RGFP966-sensitive peaks.

(F) RANKL-induced matrix-resorbing activity on bone marrow cells from WT mice (12-week-old male) in the presence or absence of RGFP966. Data are mean \pm SEM (n = 3 biological replicates). ANOVA was performed followed by Tukey's post hoc comparison. *p < 0.05 and **p < 0.01.

See also Figure S3.

HDAC3 inhibition (Figure 3F). Collectively, these results provide evidence that the NCoR/HDAC3 complex is paradoxically required for histone acetylation and gene activation in response to RANK signaling.

RANK signaling induces NCoR/HDAC3/PGC1 β interaction required for H3K27 acetylation

Recent studies linked HDAC3 to gene activation in brown adipose tissue by a mechanism involving deacetylation of PGC1 α ,

which was found to be required for its ability to function as a co-activator for ERR α and enable a transcriptional program supporting thermogenesis.¹⁰ Although PGC1 α mRNA (*Ppargc1a*) is not expressed in bone marrow cells, PGC1 β mRNA (*Ppargc1b*) is expressed (Figure 4A). PGC1 β has been previously suggested to contribute to alternative macrophage activation in response to IL-4 signaling by serving as a PPAR γ co-activator²² and to activation of osteoclastogenesis linking to bone destruction in rheumatoid arthritis.²³ Intriguingly, *Ppargc1b* is strongly induced by

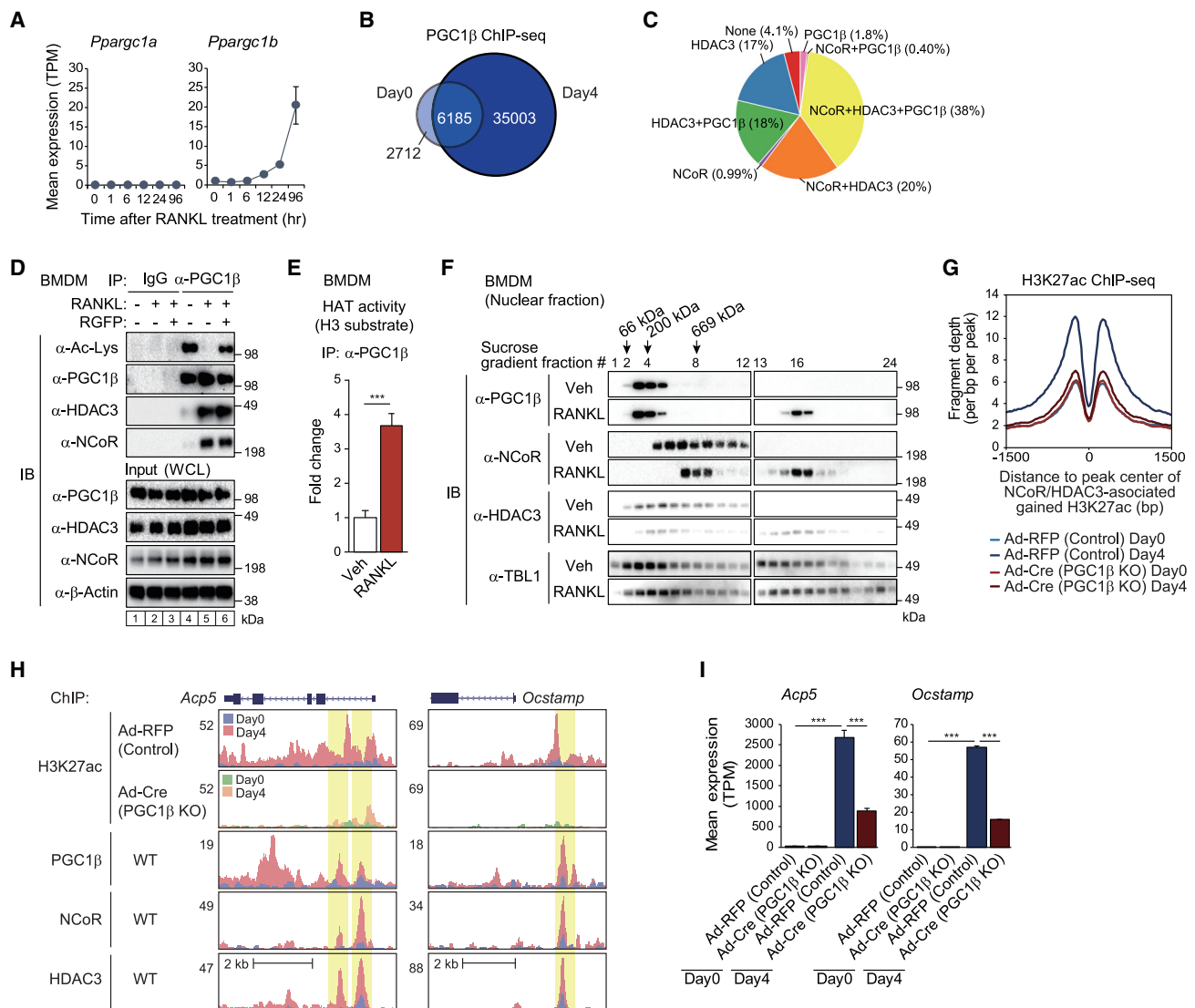


Figure 4. RANK signaling induces NCoR/HDAC3/PGC1β interaction required for H3K27 acetylation

(A) Expression of *Ppargc1a* and *Ppargc1b* in WT cells as a function of time following RANKL treatment.

(B) The overlap between IDR-defined PGC1β ChIP-seq peaks at day 0 and at day 4 is shown by Venn diagram.

(C) The overlaps of ATAC-defined gained H3K27ac peaks in the presence of RANKL ($n = 1,525$ in Figure S2E) with NCoR, HDAC3, and/or PGC1β ChIP-seq peaks at day 4 are shown by pie chart.

(D) BMDMs were treated with or without RANKL for 6 h in the presence or absence of RGFP966, and then the whole-cell lysates (WCLs) were subjected to immunoprecipitation (IP) using anti-PGC1β antibody and immunoblot (IB) analysis with anti-acetylated lysine, PGC1β, HDAC3, or NCoR antibody.

(E) Histone acetyltransferase (HAT) activity of immunoprecipitated PGC1β protein in whole-cell lysates from BMDMs treated with or without RANKL for 6 h was measured in the presence of acetyl-CoA and histone H3 substrate. Data are mean \pm SD ($n = 3$ biological replicates). Student's t test was performed for comparisons. *** $p < 0.001$.

(F) 10%–30% sucrose density gradient centrifugation was performed on nuclear fractions from BMDMs treated with or without RANKL for 6 h. All fractions (1–24, top to bottom) were subjected to IB analysis with anti-PGC1β, NCoR, HDAC3, or TBL1 antibody. The molecular weight standards are indicated at the top of the panel; 66 kDa, bovine serum albumin; 200 kDa, β -amylase; 669 kDa, thyroglobulin.

(G) Normalized distribution of H3K27ac ChIP-seq tag density in control (Ad-RFP) and PGC1β KO (Ad-Cre) at the vicinity of NCoR- and HDAC3-associated gained H3K27ac peaks in WT at day 4 after RANKL treatment ($n = 2,757$ in Figure 2C).

(H) Genome browser tracks of H3K27ac, PGC1β, NCoR, and HDAC3 ChIP-seq peaks in the vicinity of *Acp5* and *Ocstamp* loci. Yellow shading: lost H3K27ac by PGC1β KO at RANKL-induced NCoR, HDAC3, and PGC1β binding regions.

(I) Bar plots for expression of *Acp5* and *Ocstamp* in control (Ad-RFP) and PGC1β KO (Ad-Cre) at day 0 and day 4 after RANKL treatment. *** p adj < 0.001. See also Figure S4.

RANKL (Figure 4A). To investigate the possibility that PGC1 β might have a previously unrecognized function required for NCoR/HDAC3-dependent gene activation, we evaluated its genome-wide locations under control and RANKL treatment conditions. ChIP-seq experiments revealed \sim 9,000 high-confidence PGC1 β binding sites in bone marrow cells under control conditions (day 0) (Figure 4B). RANKL treatment (day 4) led to increased binding at >35,000 sites (Figure 4B). Intersection of PGC1 β binding sites under RANKL treatment conditions with the 1,525 regions of open chromatin exhibiting >2-fold increases in H3K27ac indicated that 577 (38%) were occupied by the combination of NCoR and HDAC3 (Figure 4C), which were enriched for AP-1, PU.1, and NF- κ B-p65 recognition motifs (Figure S4A). In contrast, this combination was only observed at 190 (17%) of the 1,112 regions of open chromatin exhibiting >2-fold decreases in H3K27ac (Figures S2E and S4B), which were enriched for binding sites for PU.1 but not for AP-1 and NF- κ B-p65 (Figure S4C).

These findings suggest the signal-dependent assembly of PGC1 β /NCoR/HDAC3 complexes with co-activator function at specific genomic loci. As shown in Figure 4A, PGC1 β is expressed at low levels in undifferentiated bone marrow cells before RANKL treatment (day 0). In contrast, bone marrow-derived macrophages (BMDMs) express PGC1 β at appreciable levels in the absence of RANKL (Figure 4D), providing a relevant system to monitor acute changes of the complex formation and the state of PGC1 β acetylation in response to RANKL signaling by co-immunoprecipitation (coIP) assays. Treatment of BMDMs with RANKL for 6 h resulted in coIP of PGC1 β with NCoR/HDAC3 and its deacetylation (Figure 4D, compare lanes 4 and 5). The HDAC3-specific inhibitor RGFP966 prevented signal-dependent deacetylation of PGC1 β but not its interaction with NCoR/HDAC3 (Figure 4D, compare lanes 5 and 6). In addition, immunoprecipitated NCoR complexes acquired HAT activity following RANKL treatment (Figure 4E), consistent with NCoR-dependent H3K27 acetylation in response to RANKL (Figure 3A).

To examine the properties of the protein complexes in the absence or presence of RANKL, we performed sucrose density gradient centrifugation and analyzed gradient fractions by immunoblotting (IB) (Figure 4F). In vehicle-treated BMDMs, PGC1 β was primarily found in fractions 3–5, consistent with its monomeric molecular weight of 113 kDa. In contrast, NCoR and HDAC3 were both observed in fractions 5–12, consistent with previously described NCoR/HDAC3 co-repressor complexes. Following treatment with RANKL for 6 h, substantial portions of NCoR, HDAC3, and PGC1 β shifted to high molecular weight fractions, with co-sedimentation of all three proteins in fractions 15–17 (Figure 4F), consistent with the signal-dependent induction of a distinct stable NCoR/HDAC3/PGC1 β complex. Based on the sedimentation of a thyroglobulin reference in a parallel gradient tube,²⁴ the protein size of the PGC1 β /NCoR/HDAC3 complex is estimated to be \sim 2 MDa (Figure S4D). On the other hand, transducin β -like protein 1 (TBL1), which is a well-known component of NCoR/HDAC3 complex in other cell types,^{25,26} was distributed throughout the gradient regardless of RANKL treatment, suggesting participation in complexes in addition to NCoR/

HDAC3 complexes that are not affected by RANKL signaling (Figure 4F).

To confirm the functional importance of PGC1 β in osteoclasts, we utilized an adenovirus to express Cre recombinase (Ad-Cre) in bone marrow cells from homozygous floxed PGC1 β (*Pgc1b*^{ff}) mice.²⁷ An adenovirus directing expression of red fluorescent protein (Ad-RFP) was used as a control. Loss of function of PGC1 β resulted in a global loss of RANKL-induced H3K27ac at genomic locations bound by NCoR and HDAC3 (Figures 2C and 4G), exemplified at the *Acp5* and *Ocstamp* genes (Figure 4H). In accordance with these findings, expression of NCoR/HDAC3-dependent RANKL-induced genes was reduced in *Pgc1b*^{ff} bone marrow cells expressing adenovirus-directed Cre recombinase (Figure 4I). As expected, RANKL-induced bone resorption activity in the PGC1 β -deficient cells was lower compared with control cells (Figure S4E). On enhancer/promoter regions of classical NCoR LXR target genes (*Abcg1*, *Abga1*, and *Scd2*), H3K27ac signals were higher in NKO cells, while there was no change in H3K27ac signals between PGC1 β KO and the control cells (yellow shading in Figure S4F). These findings are consistent with NCoR/HDAC3 functioning as classical co-repressors at LXR target genes in the same cells in which NCoR/HDAC3/PGC1 β complexes function as co-activators of AP-1/NF- κ B target genes.

RANK- and TLR4-induced interaction of PGC1 β with NCoR/HDAC3 prevents histone H3K27 deacetylation by HDAC3

Although HDAC3-dependent deacetylation of PGC1 β provides an explanation for acquisition of co-activator activity, a remaining paradox is the lack of histone deacetylation at sites of NCoR/HDAC3/PGC1 β binding. To investigate whether the association of PGC1 β with the NCoR/HDAC3 complex alters HDAC3 substrate specificity, we established estrogen receptor (ER)-Hoxb8-immortalized hematopoietic progenitor cells from Cas9 knockin mice as described,²⁸ and PGC1 β guide RNAs (gRNAs) were transduced to establish a clonal KO cell line (Figure 5A, compare lanes 1–3 and 4–6 of input). After differentiation into macrophages by M-CSF, the Hoxb8 cell-derived macrophages were used for the assays of IP for NCoR. The immunoprecipitated NCoR complex in control cells fully deacetylated nucleosomal H3K27ac under basal condition, while RANKL treatment attenuated deacetylation of nucleosomal H3K27ac accompanied by interaction of NCoR with PGC1 β (Figure 5A, compare lanes 1 and 2). In contrast, the immunoprecipitated NCoR in PGC1 β -deficient macrophages completely deacetylated nucleosomal H3K27ac in the presence of RANKL (Figure 5A, compare lanes 2 and 5). To confirm that the interaction of PGC1 β with the NCoR/HDAC3 complex inhibits HDAC3-dependent H3K27 deacetylation, pCMV-mouse PGC1 β plasmid, which has silent mutations at gRNA-targeted sequences, was transfected into PGC1 β gRNA-induced KO cells (Figure 5A, compare lanes 4–6 and 7–9 of input). The re-expression of PGC1 β rescued the knockdown phenotype by decreasing the deacetylation of H3K27 by immunoprecipitated NCoR (Figure 5A, compare lanes 5 and 8).

Based on our prior finding that deletion of NCoR from macrophages was associated with an attenuated response to TLR4

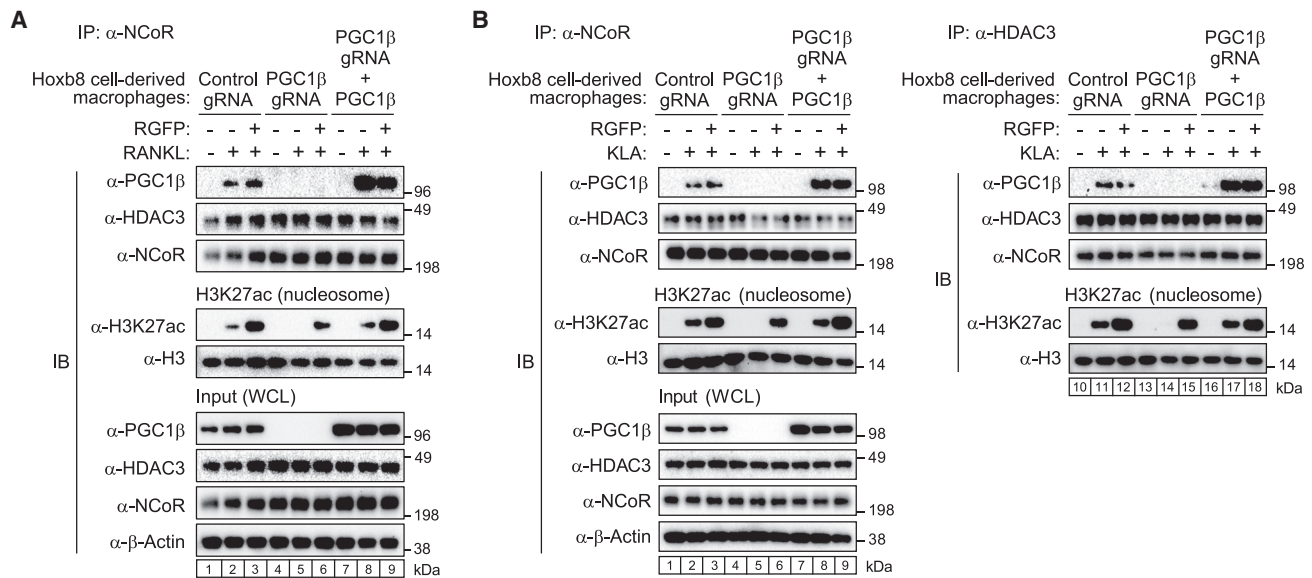


Figure 5. RANK and TLR4-induced interaction of PGC1β with NCoR/HDAC3 prevents histone deacetylation by HDAC3

(A and B) Exogenous PGC1β was transiently expressed in PGC1β gRNA-introduced Cas9-Hoxb8 macrophages. Immunoprecipitants with anti-NCoR or HDAC3 antibody in the cells treated with or without RANKL (A) or KLA (B) for 6 h in the presence or absence of RGFP966 were incubated with nucleosomal H3K27ac, followed by immunoblotting with anti-H3K27ac or H3 antibody.

signaling and an anti-inflammatory/insulin-sensitive phenotype under high-fat diet,⁹ we investigated whether TLR4 signaling also induced interaction of NCoR/HDAC3 complexes with PGC1β and altered the substrate specificity of HDAC3. The control and PGC1β KO Hoxb8 cell-derived macrophages used for RANKL studies were treated with the specific TLR4 agonist Kdo2-lipid A (KLA)²⁹ in the presence and absence of RGFP966. As in the case of RANKL, treatment of Hoxb8 cell-derived macrophages with KLA induced interaction of NCoR with PGC1β in a manner that was not affected by RGFP966 (left panel, Figure 5B, compare lanes 1, 2, and 3). NCoR complexes completely deacetylated nucleosomal H3K27ac in the absence of KLA treatment, but this activity was significantly reduced following KLA treatment (left panel, Figure 5B, compare lanes 1 and 2). Complete H3K27 deacetylation in the presence of KLA was observed when NCoR complexes were immunoprecipitated from PGC1β KO cells, while inhibition of acetylation was restored by rescue of PGC1β expression (Figure 5B, left panel, compare lanes 2, 5 and 8). Similar results were obtained by directly evaluating HDAC3 immunoprecipitates following treatment of Hoxb8 cell-derived macrophages with KLA (right panel, Figure 5B). These findings support a mechanism in which the signal-dependent interaction of NCoR/HDAC3 complexes with PGC1β switches HDAC3 substrate specificity from H3K27ac to acetylated PGC1β.

The PGC1β RRM mediates RNA-dependent interaction with NCoR/HDAC3 complexes

All full-length isoforms of the PGC1 protein family (PGC1α, PGC1β, and PGC1-related co-activator (PRC)) share a conserved C-terminal RNA recognition motif (RRM), pointing to potential RNA-binding activity.³⁰ While PGC1α has been shown

to bind RNAs with metabolic functions,³¹ the functional significance of these interactions has not been established and the potential RNA-binding activity of PGC1β has not been probed. To evaluate whether RNA species might facilitate the interaction between PGC1β and NCoR/HDAC3 complex, PGC1β immunoprecipitants from BMDMs treated with or without RANKL were incubated with ribonuclease (RNase) or deoxyribonuclease (DNase). IB after IP showed RNase treatment repressed the RANKL-induced interaction of PGC1β with NCoR/HDAC3 complex but DNase did not (Figure 6A, compare lanes 6 and 7/8). These results suggest that RNAs are necessary for the assembly of the NCoR/HDAC3/PGC1β complex. To confirm whether this RNA-dependent complex formation is dependent specifically on an interaction between RNAs and the PGC1β RRM region, we transiently introduced FLAG-tagged PGC1β WT or the RRM deletion mutant (Δ RRM) in RAW 264.7 cells and pulled down the FLAG-tagged PGC1β followed by IB. The RANKL-induced interaction between FLAG-tagged PGC1β WT and NCoR/HDAC3 (Figure 6B, compare lanes 2 and 5) was nearly abolished by the deletion of RRM in FLAG-tagged PGC1β (Figure 6B, compare lanes 5 and 6). These findings prompted us to identify RNAs that interact with PGC1β.

We performed enhanced crosslinking and IP (eCLIP)³² in RAW 264.7 cells treated with RANKL for 4 days. Among the 609 high-confidence peaks called across both replicates, log₂-fold change compared with size-matched input was highly correlated ($R^2 = 0.83$) (Figure S5A). Although coding and non-coding transcripts were similarly represented among PGC1β binding targets (Figure S5B), there were more unique PGC1β binding sites on non-coding exons than on protein-coding regions, indicating that the non-coding transcripts contain multiple PGC1β binding sites more often than the coding transcripts (Figure 6C). Motif

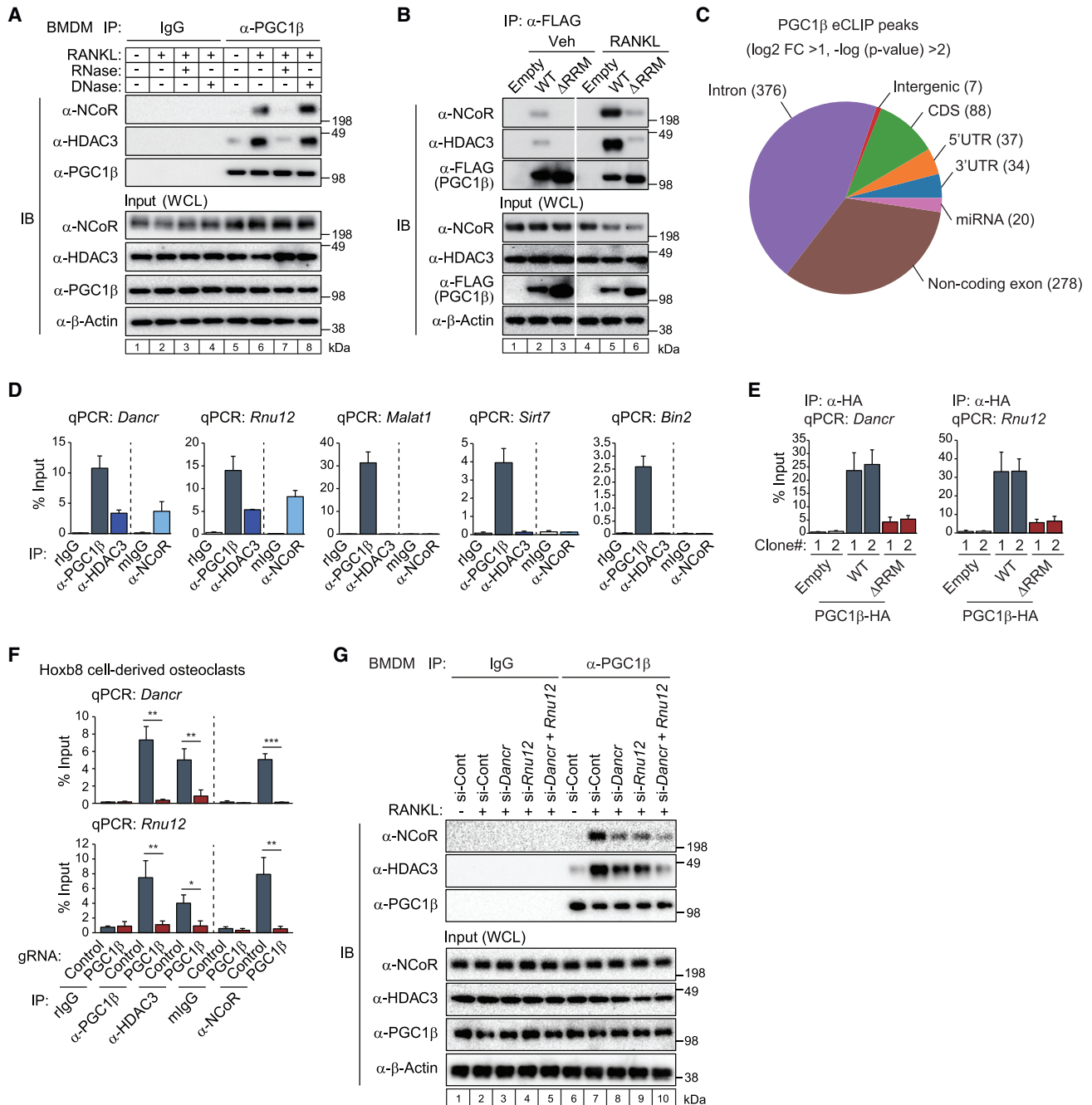


Figure 6. The PGC1β RRM mediates RNA-dependent interaction with NCoR/HDAC3 complexes

(A) Bone-marrow-derived macrophages (BMDMs) were treated with or without RANKL for 6 h, and then the whole-cell lysates (WCLs) were subjected to immunoprecipitation (IP) using anti-PGC1β antibody. The immunoprecipitants were incubated with RNase or DNase followed by immunoblot (IB) analysis with anti-NCoR, HDAC3, or PGC1β antibody.

(B) FLAG-tagged PGC1β WT or RNA recognition motif deletion mutant (ΔRRM)-expressed RAW 264.7 cells were treated with or without RANKL for 6 h, and then the whole-cell lysates (WCLs) were subjected to IP using anti-FLAG antibody followed by IB analysis with anti-NCoR, HDAC3, or FLAG antibody.

(C) High-confidence PGC1β eCLIP peaks in RAW 264.7 cells treated with RANKL for 4 days (n = 2 biological replicates) were evenly split between protein-coding and non-coding transcripts.

(D) RNA immunoprecipitation (RIP)-qPCR for *Dancr*, *Rnu12*, *Malat1*, *Sirt7*, or *Bin2* using anti-PGC1β, HDAC3, or NCoR antibody in RAW 264.7 cells treated with RANKL for 4 days. Control rabbit IgG (rlgG) for anti-PGC1β and HDAC3 antibodies and control mouse IgG (mlgG) for anti-NCoR antibody were used. Data are mean ± SD (n = 2 biological replicates).

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analysis of eCLIP peaks on non-coding versus coding targets revealed divergent sequences, but most enriched motifs were GC-rich (Figure S5C), a feature shared with the enriched motifs found in PGC1 α eCLIP peaks.³¹ The results of the eCLIP assay were validated for non-coding RNAs *Dancr*, *Rnu12*, and *Malat1* and mRNAs *Sirt7* and *Bin2* by RNA immunoprecipitation (RIP)-quantitative polymerase chain reaction (qPCR) with anti-PGC1 β antibody, using RANKL-treated RAW 264.7 cells (Figure 6D).

Of the many non-coding PGC1 β -interacting RNAs, two in particular—differentiation antagonizing non-protein-coding RNA (*Dancr*) and U12 small nuclear (*Rnu12*)—were of interest because they have previously determined associations with bone homeostasis and notably robust eCLIP peak signals (Figure S5D). The expression of *Dancr* is elevated in circulating monocytes from patients with low bone density, pointing to *Dancr* as a potential biomarker associated with osteoporosis.³³ Meanwhile, *Rnu12* is highly expressed in peripheral blood mononuclear cells from psoriatic arthritis patients.³⁴ It is of note that the 5-mer UGCC, which is partially represented in the 2nd and 3rd most significantly enriched motifs when looking at all non-coding regions (Figure S5C), was found within both the *Dancr* and *Rnu12* peaks. We therefore investigated whether PGC1 β interactions with NCoR/HDAC3 complexes were associated with specific RNAs. To do this, we independently immunoprecipitated PGC1 β , NCoR, or HDAC3 from RANKL-treated cells and performed RIP-qPCR for *Dancr*, *Rnu12*, *Malat1*, *Sirt7*, and *Bin2*. Strikingly, while these assays confirmed interaction of all five RNAs with PGC1 β , only *Dancr* and *Rnu12* were associated with NCoR and HDAC3 (Figure 6D), despite levels of expression of *Malat1*, *Sirt7*, and *Bin2* that were similar or greater than *Dancr* or *Rnu12*.

To confirm the contribution of RRM in PGC1 β to these binding events, we generated hemagglutinin (HA)-tagged PGC1 β WT or RRM deletion mutant (Δ RRM)-induced RAW 264.7 cell lines using lentiviral integration. The HA-tagged and mRuby-fused PGC1 β can be overexpressed via doxycycline (Dox) induction. Upon Dox induction and mRuby-based fluorescence-activated cell sorting (FACS), two single clones of each cell line expressing high levels of the transgene (Figure S5E) were used for further RIP-qPCR assays. IP with anti-HA tag antibody was performed following 4 days of RANKL treatment, followed by qPCR for *Dancr* and *Rnu12*. While WT-PGC1 β interacted with *Dancr* and *Rnu12*, the deletion of RRM nearly abolished these interactions (Figure 6E). In addition, to confirm whether the binding of *Dancr* or *Rnu12* to NCoR/HDAC3 complex would be dependent on PGC1 β , we performed RIP-qPCR assay using anti-NCoR, HDAC3, or PGC1 β antibody in PGC1 β KO Hoxb8 cells treated with RANKL for 4 days. PGC1 β transcript (*Ppargc1b*) was suppressed in the PGC1 β KO cells at day 0 and day 4 after

RANKL treatment, but the loss of PGC1 β did not affect *Ncor1*, *Hdac3*, *Dancr*, and *Rnu12* expressions (Figure S5F). In the control cells, PGC1 β , NCoR, or HDAC3 immunoprecipitants interacted with *Dancr* or *Rnu12* in the presence of RANKL (Figure 6F). In contrast, PGC1 β KO completely abolished the interaction of NCoR or HDAC3 with *Dancr* or *Rnu12* (Figure 6F), suggesting PGC1 β is necessary for NCoR/HDAC3 complex to be associated with *Dancr* or *Rnu12*. We then investigated whether *Dancr* or *Rnu12* was required for RANKL-induced complex formation. Individual knockdowns each modestly reduced the interaction of PGC1 β with NCoR/HDAC3, while combined knockdown substantially reduced interaction (Figure 6G, compare lanes 5 and 6). Collectively, these findings indicate that *Dancr* and *Rnu12* are preferentially incorporated into PGC1 β /NCoR/HDAC3 complexes in response to RANKL and play quantitatively important roles in their assembly.

Dancr and Rnu12 are required for RANKL-induced osteoclast differentiation

To investigate possible roles of *Dancr* or *Rnu12* in osteoclastogenesis, we performed small interfering RNA (siRNA)-mediated knockdown studies in bone marrow-derived osteoclastogenesis (Figures S6A and S6B), using two independent siRNAs for each target. Here, 1,466 mRNAs were induced >1.5-fold by RANKL (FDR < 0.05) following the full differentiation process in control cells (Figure 7A). Notably, 190 of these genes exhibited significantly attenuated responses for both *Dancr* siRNAs, and 245 of these genes exhibited significantly attenuated responses for both *Rnu12* siRNAs (Figure 7A), containing 139 common genes exhibiting osteoclast differentiation as the top term in gene ontology enrichment analysis (Figure 7B). Genes affected by knockdown of both RNAs not only included osteoclast-specific genes such as *Acp5* and *Ocstamp* but also the RANKL induction of PGC1 β (*Ppargc1b*) itself (Figure 7C). In addition, knockdown of *Dancr* and *Rnu12* severely impaired RANKL-induced bone resorption activity (Figure 7D).

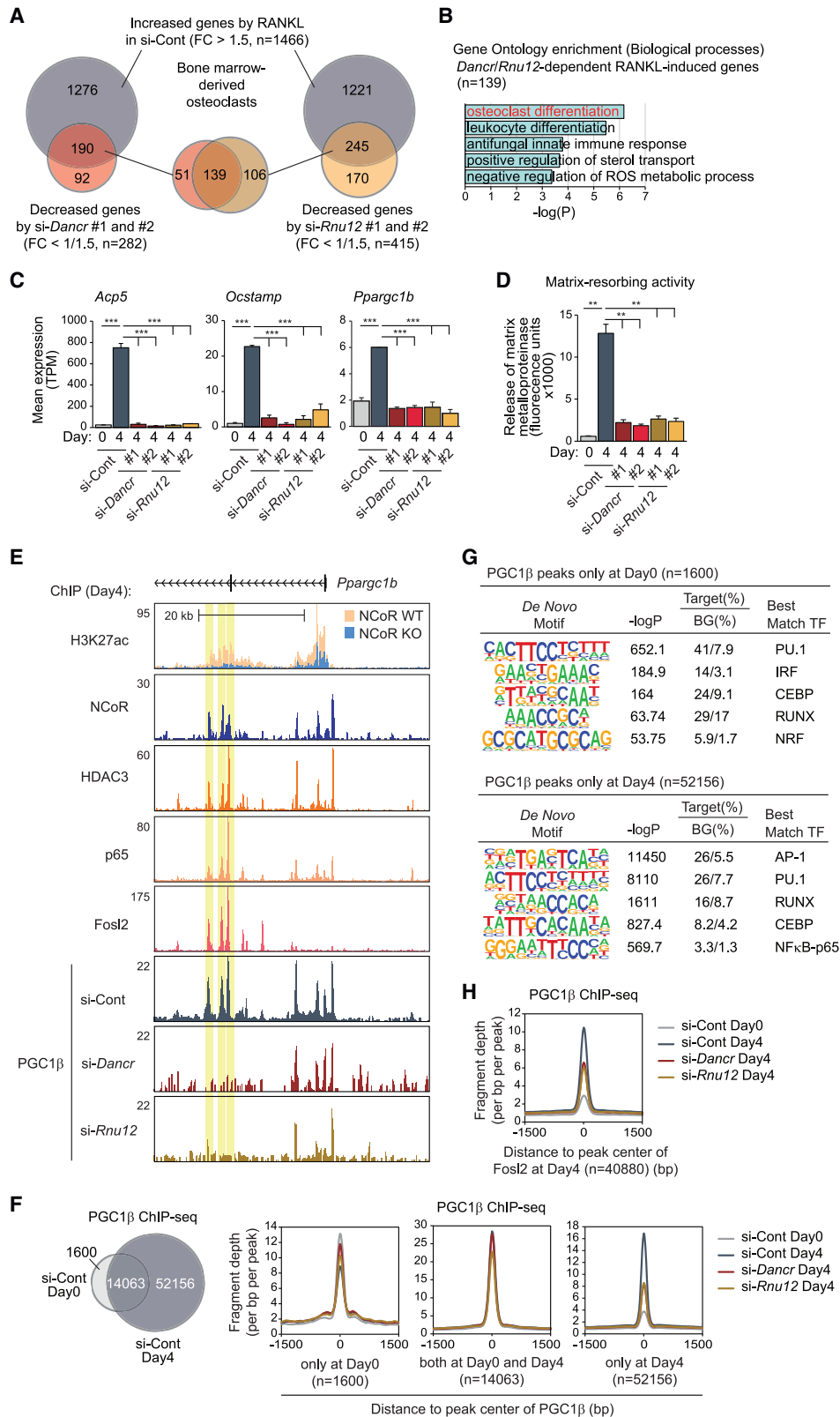
The observation that siRNA-mediated knockdown of *Dancr* and *Rnu12* resulted in reduction of RANKL-induced expression of PGC1 β but not its basal expression (Figure 7C) raised the question of whether PGC1 β is a direct target of the NCoR/HDAC3/PGC1 β complex in response to RANK signaling. Consistent with this possibility, RANKL-induced expression of PGC1 β was attenuated in NCoR KO mice (Figure S6C). To investigate this further, we performed ChIP-seq for PGC1 β in si-*Dancr*- or si-*Rnu12*-transfected bone marrow cells in comparison with si-control-transfected cells treated with RANKL for 4 days. As expected, due to the lack of induction of PGC1 β expression, these experiments demonstrated significant reduction in the global PGC1 β signal at NCoR/HDAC3 binding sites exhibiting gain of H3K27ac in response to RANKL in comparison with

(E) RIP-qPCR for *Dancr* or *Rnu12* using anti-HA tag antibody in HA-tagged PGC1 β (WT or Δ RRM) or the empty (Emp) vector-introduced RAW 264.7 cells in the presence of RANKL and doxycycline (Dox) for 4 days. Data are mean \pm SEM (n = 4 biological replicate).

(F) RIP-qPCR for *Dancr* or *Rnu12* using anti-PGC1 β , HDAC3, or NCoR antibody in PGC1 β gRNA or control gRNA-introduced Cas9-Hoxb8 cells treated with RANKL for 4 days. Data are mean \pm SEM (n = 3 biological replicates). Student's t test was performed for comparisons. *p < 0.05, **p < 0.01, and ***p < 0.001.

(G) IB analysis showing interaction of PGC1 β with NCoR/HDAC3 in *Dancr* and *Rnu12* siRNA knockdown BMDMs. Whole-cell lysates (WCLs) were subjected to IP using anti-PGC1 β antibody, followed by IB analysis with anti-NCoR, HDAC3, or PGC1 β antibody.

See also Figure S5.



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control cells (Figure S6D). Overall, more than 6,000 PGC1 β peaks exhibited a >1.5-fold reduction in normalized tag counts in si-*Dancr*-transfected cells, and more than 9,000 peaks exhibited a similar reduction in si-*Rnu12*-transfected cells (Figure S6E). Consistent with the result of H3K27ac ChIP-seq in PGC1 β KO cells (Figure 4G), *Dancr/Rnu12* knockdown suppressed H3K27ac in NCoR/HDAC3 binding sites exhibiting gain of H3K27ac in response to RANKL (right panel, Figure S6F). This is shown at a composite level for all of the NCoR/HDAC3 peaks that gain H3K27ac in response to RANKL. In contrast, *Dancr/Rnu12* knockdown had much less effect on the binding of NCoR or HDAC3 at these locations (middle and right panels, Figure S6F). Thus, *Dancr* and *Rnu12* are required to form a NCoR/HDAC3/PGC1 β co-activator complex but not for localization of NCoR/HDAC3 to the genomic loci at which histone acetylation occurs in response to RANKL signaling.

Notably, the *Ppargc1b* gene exhibits numerous enhancer-like regions that gain H3K27ac in response to RANKL in an NCoR-dependent manner in concert with the recruitment of NCoR/HDAC3/PGC1 β complexes (Figure 7E). Of particular interest, siRNA knockdown of *Dancr* or *Rnu12* did not alter binding of PGC1 β at promoter proximal locations, but it strongly reduced binding at multiple downstream enhancer-like regions (denoted by vertical yellow stripes in Figure 7E). These regions are distinguished from stable PGC1 β binding sites in the vicinity of the promoter by strong induction of the occupancy of p65 and Fos12 in response to RANKL. These findings provide evidence for a feedforward loop in which RANK signaling directly upregulates PGC1 β expression by a mechanism involving *Dancr/Rnu12*-dependent assembly of NCoR/HDAC3/PGC1 β complexes at enhancers that are activated by AP-1 and NF- κ B transcription factors.

To investigate whether this relationship was observed at a genome-wide level, we compared the effects of siRNA knockdown of *Dancr* or *Rnu12* on the RANKL-induced binding of PGC1 β at genomic locations characterized by PGC1 β binding in the absence or presence of RANKL. This analysis indicated RANKL-induced PGC1 β binding was strongly suppressed by the knockdown of *Dancr* or *Rnu12* at the locations of RANKL-induced PGC1 β peaks ($n = 52,156$), while pre-existing PGC1 β peaks regardless of RANK signaling ($n = 1,600$ and 14,063)

were much less affected (Figure 7F). *De novo* motif enrichment analysis identified recognition elements for AP-1 and NF- κ B transcription factors among the top motifs at RANKL-induced PGC1 β binding regions (bottom panel, Figure 7G) but not at pre-existing PGC1 β binding regions (top panel, Figure 7G). Consistent with these findings, knockdown of *Dancr* or *Rnu12* significantly reduced PGC1 β binding at sites occupied by Fos12 (Figure 7H). These findings are consistent with *Dancr* and *Rnu12* regulating osteoclast differentiation by mechanisms that include roles in RANKL-dependent assembly of NCoR/HDAC3/PGC1 β complexes on AP-1/NF- κ B-dependent enhancers.

DISCUSSION

In concert, these studies provide evidence that RANK signaling converts NCoR/HDAC3 co-repressor complexes to PGC1 β -dependent co-activator complexes that are required for normal osteoclast differentiation. Although an RRM has long been recognized as a conserved feature of the PGC1 family of co-activators, its function has been enigmatic. Here, we provide evidence that the RRM is required for RNA-dependent interaction of PGC1 β with the NCoR/HDAC3 complex that mediates its deacetylation and activation. The identification of *Dancr* and *Rnu12* as two of the many RNAs that associate with PGC1 β and the consequences of their loss of function suggest that they play functionally important roles in osteoclasts that may underlie associations with human bone diseases. The present finding that knockdown of *Dancr* inhibits osteoclast differentiation and bone resorption *in vitro* is consistent with the prior report that high levels of *Dancr* in monocytes are associated with osteoporosis.³³ Similarly, the finding that knockdown of *Rnu12* inhibits osteoclast differentiation is consistent with the possibility that elevated *Rnu12* expression reported in individuals with psoriatic arthritis³⁴ could drive osteoclast activity and contribute to bone erosion.

The observation that many RNAs interact with PGC1 β but *Dancr* and *Rnu12* were strongly preferred among the comparisons tested implies that there is specificity in the mechanism by which RNAs promote PGC1 β interactions with the NCoR/HDAC3 complex. The finding that knockdown of *Dancr* and *Rnu12* was not enough to completely abolish the interaction of

Figure 7. *Dancr* and *Rnu12* are required for RANKL-induced osteoclast differentiation

- (A) The overlaps between RANKL-induced genes in si-Cont ($FC > 1.5$, $FDR < 0.05$) and suppressed genes by si-*Dancr* (left, #1 and #2) or si-*Rnu12* (right, #1 and #2) ($FC < 1/1.5$, $FDR < 0.05$) in bone marrow-derived osteoclasts are shown by Venn diagram.
- (B) Significant gene ontology terms associated with *Dancr/Rnu12*-dependent RANKL-induced genes ($n = 139$ in A).
- (C) Bar plots for expression of *Acp5*, *Ocstamp*, and *Ppargc1b* in siRNA (si-Cont, si-*Dancr*, or si-*Rnu12*)-introduced bone marrow cells at day 0 and day 4 after RANKL treatment. *** p adj < 0.001 .
- (D) Matrix-resorbing activity on siRNA (si-Cont, si-*Dancr*, or si-*Rnu12*)-introduced bone marrow cells at day 0 and day 4 after RANKL treatment. Data are mean \pm SEM ($n = 3$ biological replicates). ANOVA was performed followed by Tukey's post hoc comparison. ** $p < 0.01$.
- (E) Genome browser tracks of H3K27ac, NCoR, HDAC3, p65, Fos12, and PGC1 β ChIP-seq peaks in bone marrow cells at day 4 after RANKL treatment in the vicinity of *Ppargc1b* locus. Yellow shading: lost PGC1 β peak by knockdown of *Dancr/Rnu12*.
- (F) The overlap between IDR-defined PGC1 β ChIP-seq peaks in control siRNA-introduced bone marrow cells at day 0 and day 4 after RANKL treatment is shown by Venn diagram. Normalized distribution of PGC1 β ChIP-seq tag density in siRNA (si-Cont, si-*Dancr*, or si-*Rnu12*)-introduced bone marrow cells at the vicinity of PGC1 β binding regions at day 0 and/or day 4.
- (G) *De novo* motif enrichment analysis of PGC1 β peaks at day 0 ($n = 1,600$ in F) and at day 4 ($n = 52,156$ in F) using a GC-matched genomic background.
- (H) Normalized distribution of PGC1 β ChIP-seq tag density in siRNA (si-Cont, si-*Dancr*, or si-*Rnu12*)-introduced bone marrow cells at the vicinity of Fos12 binding regions at day 4.

See also Figure S6.

PGC1 β with NCoR/HDAC3 complexes could be due to incomplete loss of their expression. However, it is likely that additional RNAs make quantitative contributions to the complex formation. It will also be of interest to determine whether these observations extend to PGC1 α and whether alternative RNAs are utilized to mediate NCoR/HDAC3 interactions in other signaling contexts, such as signals driving thermogenesis. It is also important to note that *Dancr* and *Rnu12* have previously identified functions that may contribute to the observed consequences of their loss of function. In the case of *Rnu12*, prior studies have shown that it is a component of the minor spliceosome, which contains four stem-loops.³⁵ Based on PGC1 β eCLIP peak footprints, PGC1 β interacts with the stem-loop III element in *Rnu12*, which also binds to the RRM of U11/U12-65K protein, which is essential for splicing activity.³⁶ These findings raise the possibility that PGC1 β also plays a role in shaping the alternative splicing landscape in osteoclastogenesis. Intriguingly, *Dancr* has previously been reported as a central node to enhance multiple kinase cascades, leading to gene activation in cancer cells.^{37–40} From the perspective that *Dancr* activates the NF- κ B signaling pathway,³⁸ the localization of PGC1 β /*Dancr* to sites of NF- κ B-p65 binding raises the possibility of an additional function of *Dancr* to facilitate local activation of NF- κ B.

In concert, the present studies provide support for a model in which RANK signaling induces the interaction of PGC1 β with NCoR/HDAC3 complexes on NF- κ B/AP-1-containing enhancers or promoters in a manner that is dependent on the PGC1 β RRM and RNAs. In this context, the dominant function of NCoR is as a co-activator, with only minimal evidence for co-repressor activity at nuclear receptor target genes. In view of the large size of the RANKL-induced complex, it will be of interest to determine the other components that contribute to its co-activator function. Notably, signaling through TLR4 induces an analogous complex formation that may contribute to the reduced magnitude of lipopolysaccharide (LPS) responses observed in NCoR-deficient macrophages.⁹ These findings therefore raise the broader question of whether NCoR/HDAC3/PGC1 β complexes also function as co-activators downstream of other signaling pathways that regulate development and homeostasis.

Limitations of the study

The biochemical studies demonstrating that the association of PGC1 β with NCoR/HDAC3 alters the substrate specificity of HDAC3 does not exclude the possibility that the specific HAT that acetylates and deactivates PGC1 β under basal conditions might also have its substrate switched to histones as a consequence of RANKL-induced NCoR/HDAC3 interaction. Although *Dancr*/*Rnu12* knockdown suppressed H3K27ac in NCoR/HDAC3 binding sites exhibiting gain of H3K27ac in response to RANKL, the knockdown had much less effect on the binding of NCoR or HDAC3. Thus, *Dancr* and *Rnu12* are required to form a NCoR/HDAC3/PGC1 β co-activator complex, but not for localization of NCoR/HDAC3 to the genomic loci at which histone acetylation occurs in response to RANK signaling, suggesting that NCoR/HDAC3-PGC1 β interaction mediated by *Dancr*/*Rnu12* as an intermolecular glue might change the complex structure, which would facilitate HDAC3-dependent PGC1 β de-

acetylation and gene activation. While the present findings establish the principle that RANKL-dependent assembly of NCoR/HDAC3/PGC1 β complexes is dependent on RNA in an *in vitro* model of osteoclastogenesis, the relative contributions of *Dancr* and *Rnu12* to osteoclast differentiation and function *in vivo* will require further study.

STAR★METHODS

Detailed methods are provided in the online version of this paper and include the following:

- KEY RESOURCES TABLE
- RESOURCE AVAILABILITY
 - Lead contact
 - Materials availability
 - Data and code availability
- EXPERIMENTAL MODEL AND STUDY PARTICIPANT DETAILS
 - Animal studies
 - Bone-marrow-derived osteoclast culture
 - RAW 264.7 cell-derived osteoclast culture
 - Bone-marrow-derived macrophage culture
- METHOD DETAILS
 - Serum parameters
 - Bone imaging
 - Histology
 - Antibodies
 - CRISPR knockout in Hoxb8 cells
 - Adenoviral transduction
 - Osteoclast resorbing activity assay
 - TRAP staining
 - RNA interference
 - Plasmid construction and transfection
 - Immunoblotting and immunoprecipitation
 - H3K27ac deacetylase activity assay
 - Histone acetyltransferase activity assay
 - RNase/DNase treatment
 - Real-time quantitative PCR
 - RNA immunoprecipitation
 - Preparation of bone cell extracts
 - Sucrose density gradient centrifugation
 - eCLIP assay
 - ATAC-seq library preparation
 - ChIP-seq library preparation
 - RNA-seq library preparation
 - eCLIP analysis
 - ATAC-seq and ChIP-seq analysis
 - RNA-seq analysis
 - Motif analysis
 - Gene ontology enrichment analysis
 - Data visualization
- QUANTIFICATION AND STATISTICAL ANALYSIS

SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION

Supplemental information can be found online at <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.molcel.2023.08.029>.

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AUTHOR CONTRIBUTIONS

Conceptualization, Y.A., E.R.K., N.J.S., J.D.S., and C.K.G.; methodology, Y.A., E.R.K., M.A., and N.J.S.; formal analysis, Y.A., E.R.K., Z.O., and C.K.G.; investigation, Y.A., E.R.K., M.A., F.P., J.R.M., G.C.-B., M.S., T.A.P., N.J.S., A.R.-C., J.S.S., J.D.S., H.T., W.F., V.M.L., I.C., J.C.M.S., T.H., K.J., J.S., and M.D.; writing – original draft, Y.A. and C.K.G.; writing – review & editing, Y.A., E.R.K., M.A., G.C.-B., M.S., V.M.L., I.C., J.C.M.S., J.S., M.D., R.M.E., G.W.Y., J.T.K., S.C.M., M.G.R., and C.K.G.; visualization, Y.A., E.R.K., Z.O., V.M.L., and C.K.G.; funding acquisition, C.K.G.; supervision, C.K.G.

DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

C.K.G. is a co-founder, equity holder, and member of the Scientific Advisory Board of Asteroid Therapeutics. J.T.K. is on the *Molecular Cell* advisory board.

INCLUSION AND DIVERSITY

One or more of the authors of this paper self-identifies as a gender minority in their field of research.

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STAR★METHODS

KEY RESOURCES TABLE

REAGENT or RESOURCE	SOURCE	IDENTIFIER
Antibodies		
H3K27ac	Active Motif	Cat# 39133; RRID: AB_2561016
H3	Active Motif	Cat# 39163; RRID: AB_2614978
NCoR	Gifted from Dr. Hamakubo	Cat# IgG-Y8129; RRID: N/A
SMRT	Novus	Cat# NB100-58826; RRID: AB_877767
HDAC3	GeneTex	Cat# GTX113303; RRID: AB_10721050
PU.1	Santa Cruz	Cat# sc-352; RRID: AB_632289
p65	Santa Cruz	Cat# sc-372; RRID: AB_632037
p50	Santa Cruz	Cat# sc-1190; RRID: AB_632033
FosI2	Santa Cruz	Cat# sc-166102; RRID: AB_2107079
PGC1 β	Abcam	Cat# ab176328; RRID: AB_2893194
Acetylated-Lysine	Cell Signaling Technology	Cat# 9441; RRID: AB_331805
ACP5	Millipore	Cat# MABF96; RRID: AB_10845145
TAB2	Proteintech	Cat# 14410-1-AP; RRID: AB_2281638
TBL1	Santa Cruz	Cat# sc-137006; RRID: AB_2199796
FLAG	Sigma-Aldrich	Cat# F1804; RRID: AB_262044
HA	Abcam	Cat# ab9110; RRID: AB_307019
Lamin B	Santa Cruz	Cat# sc-374015; RRID: AB_10947408
Lamin A/C	Cell Signaling Technology	Cat# 2032; RRID: AB_2136278
β -Actin	Sigma-Aldrich	Cat# A2228; RRID: AB_476697
Polyclonal Goat Anti-Mouse Immunoglobulins-HRP	Dako	Cat# P0447; RRID: AB_2617137
Polyclonal Goat Anti-Rabbit Immunoglobulins-HRP	Dako	Cat# P0448; RRID: AB_2617138
Mouse monoclonal anti-rabbit IgG light chain-HRP	Abcam	Cat# ab99697; RRID: AB_10673897
Bacterial and virus strains		
Ad-RFP	Vector Biolabs	Cat# 1660
Ad-CMV-iCre	Vector Biolabs	Cat# 1045
Chemicals, peptides, and recombinant proteins		
PMI 1640	Corning	Cat# 10-014-CV
alpha MEM	Sigma-Aldrich	Cat# M8042
Opti-MEM	Thermo Fisher Scientific	Cat# 11058021
FBS	Omega Biosciences	Cat# FB-02
Penicillin/streptomycin + L-glutamine	Thermo Fisher Scientific	Cat# 10378016
eBioscience™ 1X RBC Lysis Buffer	Invitrogen	Cat# 00-4333-57
Polybrene	Sigma-Aldrich	Cat# H9268
Lipofectamine™ RNAiMAX Transfection Reagent	Invitrogen	Cat# 13778075
Lipofectamine™ LTX Reagent with PLUS™ Reagent	Invitrogen	Cat# 15338030
X-tremeGENE™ HP DNA Transfection Reagent	Roche	Cat# 6366546001
Mouse M-CSF	Shenandoah Biotechnology	Cat# 200-08
β -estradiol	Sigma-Aldrich	Cat# E2758
GM-CSF	PeprTech	Cat# 315-03
RGFP966	Selleckchem	Cat# S7229
KLA	Avanti Polar Lipids	Cat# 699500P
RANKL	PeprTech	Cat# 315-11
SCF	PeprTech	Cat# 250-03

(Continued on next page)

Continued

REAGENT or RESOURCE	SOURCE	IDENTIFIER
IL3	PeptoTech	Cat# 213-13
IL6	PeptoTech	Cat# 216-16
Ficoll-Paque-Plus	Sigma-Aldrich	Cat# GE17-1440-02
LentiBlast™ Transduction Reagent	OZ Biosciences	Cat# LB00500
Fibronectin	Sigma-Aldrich	Cat#F0895
G418	Thermo Fisher Scientific	Cat# 10131035
Poly-D-lysine	Sigma-Aldrich	Cat# DLW354210
KOD Xtreme™ Hot Start DNA Polymerase	Millipore	Cat# 71975
NuPAGE™ LDS Sample Buffer	Thermo Fisher Scientific	Cat# NP0007
NuPAGE™ Sample Reducing Agent	Thermo Fisher Scientific	Cat# NP0009
SuperSignal™ West Femto Maximum Sensitivity Substrate	Thermo Fisher Scientific	Cat #34095
Luminata™ Forte Western HRP Substrate	Merck Millipore	Cat# WBLUF0100
Dynabeads Protein A	Thermo Fisher Scientific	Cat# 10002D
Dynabeads Protein G	Thermo Fisher Scientific	Cat# 10004D
SpeedBeads magnetic carboxylate modified particles	GE Healthcare	Cat# 65152105050250
Dynabeads My One Silane	Thermo Fisher Scientific	Cat# 37002D
TRIzol Reagent	Thermo Fisher Scientific	Cat# 15596018
Formaldehyde	Thermo Fisher Scientific	Cat# BP531-500
Disuccinimidyl glutarate	ProteoChem	Cat# c1104-100mg
Proteinase K	NEB	Cat# P8107S
Oligo d(T) ₂₅ Magnetic Beads	NEB	Cat# S1419S
DTT	Thermo Fisher Scientific	Cat# P2325
SUPERase-In	Ambion	Cat# AM2696
RNase Inhibitor	NEB	Cat# M0314S
FastAP	Thermo Fisher Scientific	Cat# EF0651
Oligo dT primer	Thermo Fisher Scientific	Cat# 18418020
RNA Clean XP Beads	Beckman Coulter	Cat# A63987
10 X Blue Buffer	Enzymatics	Cat# P7050L
dNTP mix	Thermo Fisher Scientific	Cat# R0191
RNase A	NEB	Cat# T3018L
RNase H	Enzymatics	Cat# Y9220L
RNase I	Thermo Fisher Scientific	Cat# AM2295
DNase I	NEB	Cat# M0303S
Turbo DNase	Thermo Fisher Scientific	Cat# AM2238
DNA polymerase I	Enzymatics	Cat# P7050L
T4 PNK	NEB	Cat# M0201S
T4 RNA ligase	NEB	Cat# M0204S
NEXTflex® DNA Barcodes	Bioo Scientific	Cat# NOVA-514104
Random primers	Thermo Fisher Scientific	Cat# 48190011
SuperScript III Reverse Transcriptase	Thermo Fisher Scientific	Cat# 18080044
5X SuperScript III first-strand buffer	Thermo Fisher Scientific	Cat# 18080044
Actinomycin D	Sigma-Aldrich	Cat# A1410
NEBNext High-Fidelity 2X PCR Master Mix	NEB	Cat# M0541S
KAPA SYBR FAST qPCR Master Mix	Kapa Biosystems	Cat# KR0389
Exo SAP-IT	Applied Biosystems	Cat# 78201.1.ML
PMSF	Sigma-Aldrich	Cat# P7626
Protease inhibitor cocktail	Sigma-Aldrich	Cat# P8340
Sodium butylate	Sigma-Aldrich	Cat# B5887

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REAGENT or RESOURCE	SOURCE	IDENTIFIER
Recombinant Mononucleosomes H3K27ac	Active Motif	Cat# 81077
Phenol/chloroform/isoamyl alcohol (125:24:1)	Sigma-Aldrich	Cat# P1944
Critical commercial assays		
HAT Assay Kit	Active Motif	Cat# 56100
Direct-zol RNA MicroPrep Kit	Zymo Research	Cat# R2062
ChIP DNA Clean & Concentrator Kit	Zymo Research	Cat# D5205
NEBNext Ultra II Library Preparation Kit	NEB	Cat# E7645L
Nextera DNA Library Prep Kit	Illumina	Cat# 15028212
Qubit dsDNA HS Assay Kit	Invitrogen	Cat# Q32851
KAPA HiFi HotStart PCR Kit	Kapa Biosystems	Cat# KK2501
Mouse Deoxyripyridinoline ELISA Kit	LSBio	Cat# LS-F25774-1
Mouse Osteocalcin EIA Kit	Alfa Aesar	Cat# 15406279
OsteoLyse™ Assay Kit	Lonza	Cat# PA-1500
TRAP Staining Kit	Cosmo Bio	Cat# PMC-AK04F
Q5 Site-Directed Mutagenesis Kit	NEB	Cat# E0554S
DC™ Protein Assay Kit	Bio-Rad Laboratories	Cat# 5000112
NucleoSpin Tissue kits	Macherey-Nagel	Cat# 740952
NucleoSpin Gel and PCR Clean-Up kits	Macherey-Nagel	Cat# 740609
Deposited data		
UCSC hub of all sequencing data	This paper	GEO: GSE211676
Experimental models: Cell lines		
Lenti-X 293T cell	Clontech	Cat# 632180
RAW 264.7 cell	ATCC	Cat# TIB-71; RRID: CVCL_0493
Experimental models: Organisms/strains		
Mouse: Ncor ^{fllox/fllox}	Li et al. ⁹	N/A
Mouse: Smrt ^{fllox/fllox}	Lee et al. ⁴¹	N/A
Mouse: Ncor ^{fllox/fllox} Smrt ^{fllox/fllox}	This paper	N/A
Mouse: Pgc1b ^{fllox/fllox}	Sonoda et al. ²⁷	N/A
Mouse: B6.129P2-Lyz2tm1(cre)lfo/J	The Jackson Laboratory	Cat# 004781
Mouse: B6(C)-Gt(ROSA)26Sor ^{em1.1(CAG-cas9*,-EGFP)Rsky/J}	The Jackson Laboratory	Cat# 028555
Oligonucleotides		
Mouse Dancr siRNA (individual #1), See method details	Dharmacon	Customized
Mouse Dancr siRNA (individual #2), See method details	Dharmacon	Customized
Mouse Rnu12 siRNA (individual #1), See method details	Dharmacon	Customized
Mouse Rnu12 siRNA (individual #2), See method details	Dharmacon	Customized
siGENOME Non-Targeting siRNA #2	Dharmacon	Cat# D-001210-02
Mouse PGC1β_1 gRNA GGAAGAGCTCGGAGTCATCG	This paper	N/A
Mouse PGC1β_2 gRNA AGCGTCTGACGTGGACGAGC	This paper	N/A
Mouse Control gRNA GCACTACCAGAGCTAACTCA	This paper	N/A
Recombinant DNA		
lentiGuide-puro	Addgene	Cat# 52963
psPAX2	Addgene	Cat# 12260
pVSVG	Addgene	Cat# 138479
pLIX403-APOBEC-HA-P2A-mRuby	Brannan et al. ⁴²	N/A
pcDNA3.1-FLAG-mouse PGC1β	NovoPro Bioscience	Cat# 759974-2

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REAGENT or RESOURCE	SOURCE	IDENTIFIER
Software and algorithms		
Bowtie2	Langmead and Salzberg ⁴³	http://bowtie-bio.sourceforge.net/bowtie2/
HOMER	Heinz et al. ⁴⁴	http://homer.ucsd.edu/homer/
Irreproducibility Discovery Rate (IDR)	Li et al. ⁴⁵	https://www.encodeproject.org/software/idr/
Metascape	Tripathi et al. ⁴⁶	http://metascape.org/gp/index.html#/main/step1
R package: DeSeq2	Love et al. ⁴⁷	https://bioconductor.org/packages/release/bioc/html/DESeq2.html
STAR	Dobin et al. ⁴⁸	https://github.com/alexdobin/STAR
UCSC Genome Browser	Kent et al. ⁴⁹	https://genome.ucsc.edu/
GraphPad Prism 8 software	Dotmatics	https://www.graphpad.com/

RESOURCE AVAILABILITY

Lead contact

Further information and requests for resources and reagents should be directed to and will be fulfilled by the lead contact, Christopher K. Glass (ckg@ucsd.edu).

Materials availability

All materials used in this study are either commercially available or obtained through collaboration, are available from the lead contact upon request.

Data and code availability

- All sequencing data including RNA-seq, ChIP-seq, ATAC-seq, and eCLIP assay were deposited in the Gene Expression Omnibus (GEO) under the accession number GSE211676.
- This paper does not report any original code.
- Any information required to reanalyze the data reported in this paper is available from the [lead contact](#), Christopher K. Glass (ckg@ucsd.edu) upon request.

EXPERIMENTAL MODEL AND STUDY PARTICIPANT DETAILS

Animal studies

All animal procedures were in accordance with University of California, San Diego research guidelines for the care and use of laboratory animals. Mice were maintained under a 12 hr light/12 hr dark cycle at constant temperature (20–23°C) with free access to food and water. Animals were fed a normal chow diet (T8604, Envigo). *Ncor^{fl/fl}* and *Ncor^{fl/fl} LysM-Cre* mice were described previously.⁹ *Smrt^{fl/fl}* mice described previously⁴¹ were crossbred with *Ncor^{fl/fl}* mice⁹ to generate *Ncor^{fl/fl} Smrt^{fl/fl}* mice. *Ncor^{fl/fl}* and *Ncor^{fl/fl} Smrt^{fl/fl}* mice were used as WT mice for *Ncor^{fl/fl} LysM-Cre* and *Ncor^{fl/fl} Smrt^{fl/fl} LysM-Cre* mice, respectively. *Pgc1b^{fl/fl}* mice were described previously.²⁷ 5-month-old male and female mice were used for in vivo experiments. Bone marrow cells were isolated from 8- to 12-week-old male mice and differentiated to macrophages or osteoclasts for each in vitro experiment.

Bone-marrow-derived osteoclast culture

Bone marrow cells were obtained by flushing the tibia and femur from 8- to 12-week-old C57BL/6 mice with alpha MEM (Sigma-Aldrich) containing 10% FBS (Omega Biosciences), 1% penicillin/streptomycin+L-glutamine (Thermo Fisher Scientific) and lysed using red blood cell lysis buffer (Invitrogen). 0.1 million cells per wells of 96-well plates (Sigma-Aldrich) for TRAP staining and osteoclast bone resorption assay, 3 million cells per wells of 6-well plates for ATAC-seq and RNA-seq, 18 million cells per 10 cm tissue culture plates (Thermo Fisher Scientific) for immunoblotting and immunoprecipitation or 48 million cells per 15 cm tissue culture plates (Thermo Fisher Scientific) for ChIP-seq were cultured in alpha MEM containing 10% FBS, 1% penicillin/streptomycin+L-glutamine and 10 ng/ml M-CSF (Shenandoah Biotechnology) for 3 days to generate osteoclast precursor cells. After non-adherent cells were washed off with alpha MEM, adherent osteoclast precursor cells were cultured in alpha MEM containing 10% FBS, 1% penicillin/streptomycin+L-glutamine, 10 ng/ml M-CSF and 50 ng/ml RANKL (PeproTech) for 4 days to differentiate to osteoclasts. The M-CSF plus RANKL containing culture media was replaced every 2 days. 5 μM RGFP966 (Selleckchem) was treated alone with M-CSF and RANKL for 4 days.

RAW 264.7 cell-derived osteoclast culture

RAW 264.7 cells were maintained in RPMI 1640 (Corning) containing 10% FBS, 1% penicillin/streptomycin+L-glutamine. 3.5 million cells per 10 cm tissue culture plates for RIP-qPCR or 20 million cells per 15 cm tissue culture plates for eCLIP were seeded. To differentiate osteoclasts, the cells were cultured in RPMI 1640 containing 10% FBS, 1% penicillin/streptomycin+L-glutamine and 50 ng/ml RANKL for 4 days. The RANKL containing culture media was replaced every 2 days.

Bone-marrow-derived macrophage culture

Bone marrow cells were obtained by flashing the tibia and femur from 8- to 12-week-old C57BL/6 mice with RPMI 1640 containing 10% FBS, 1% penicillin/streptomycin+L-glutamine and lysed using red blood cell lysis buffer. After counting, 20 million cells were seeded per 15 cm non-tissue culture plates in RPMI 1640 containing 10% FBS, 30% L929 cell conditioned laboratory-made media (as source of M-CSF) and 1% penicillin/streptomycin+L-glutamine. After 3 days, 16.7 ng/ml M-CSF was added into the media. After an additional 4 days, non-adherent cells were washed off and adherent bone-marrow-derived macrophages (BMDMs) were harvested. 10 million cells per 15 cm tissue culture plates for immunoblotting and immunoprecipitation were cultured in RPMI 1640 containing 10% FBS, 1% penicillin/streptomycin+L-glutamine and 16.7 ng/ml M-CSF overnight. After the serum starvation in RPMI 1640 containing 1% FBS and 1% penicillin/streptomycin+L-glutamine for 12 hrs, cells were treated with 50 ng/ml RANKL for 6 hrs. The treatment of 5 μ M RGFP966 was performed at the same time as the serum starvation.

METHOD DETAILS

Serum parameters

5-month-old male mice were humanely euthanized by exposure to CO₂ and whole blood was collected in tubes. The blood was leaved to clot at room temperature for 30 min, and then at 4°C for 16 hrs. To remove the clot, the blood was centrifuged at 1200 g for 10 min at 4°C. The resulting supernatant was used as serum in the experiments. Serum deoxy pyridinoline and osteocalcin concentrations were measured by Mouse Deoxy pyridinoline ELISA Kit (LSBio) and Mouse Osteocalcin EIA Kit (Alfa Aesar) respectively, according to the manufacturer's instructions.

Bone imaging

Micro-CT analysis (μ CT40, Scanco Medical, Bruttisellen, Switzerland) was performed on femora dissected and cleaned from the muscle. Bones were fixed in 10% Millonig's formalin, dehydrated with ethanol and kept in 100% ethanol until analysis. Femora were scanned at 12 μ m nominal isotropic voxel size, 500 projection (medium resolution, E=55 kVp, I=72 μ A, 4W, integration time 150 ms and threshold 200 mg/cm³), and integrated into 3-D voxel images (1024 x 1024 pixel matrices for each individual planar stack). Femora were scanned from the distal epiphysis to the mid-diaphysis to obtain a number of slices variable between 650 and 690. Two-dimensional evaluation of cancellous bone was performed on contours of the cross sectional acquired images; primary spongiosa and cortex were excluded. Contours were drawn from the distal metaphysis to the diaphysis of the femur to obtain 151 slices (12 μ m/slice). For cancellous bone measurements, contours were drawn every 10 to 20 slices. Voxel counting was used for bone volume per tissue volume measurements and sphere filling distance transformation indices were used for cancellous micro-architecture with a threshold value of 200, without pre-assumptions about the bone shape as a rod or plate. Micro-CT measurements were expressed in 3-D nomenclature as recommended by the American Society for Bone and Mineral Research.⁵⁰

Histology

Femurs fixed in Millonig's 10% formalin were decalcified in 14% EDTA pH 7.4 for 7 days, dehydrated, and paraffin-embedded. 5 μ m longitudinal sections were cut and stained for tartrate-resistant acid phosphatase (TRAP) activity and counterstained with toluidine blue after removal of paraffin and rehydration. The number and the surface of TRAP-positive cells on the trabecular perimeter were measured using the OsteoMeasure Analysis System (OsteoMetrics, Inc. Atlanta, GA) interfaced to an Axio image M2 (Carl Zeiss, NY). To exclude the primary spongiosum, bone within 440 μ m of the growth plate was not included in the analysis. Histomorphometric measurements were restricted to the secondary spongiosa in an area extending for approximately 1100 μ m. One section per sample was analyzed in a blinded fashion. The results are reported using the terminology recommended by the Histomorphometry Nomenclature Committee of the American Society for Bone and Mineral Research.⁵¹

Antibodies

Mouse monoclonal antibody immunoglobulin G-Y8129 (IgG-Y8129) against mouse NCoR (amino acids 1817-1879) was produced by immunizing mice with gp64 fusion protein expressed by baculoviral system as described previously.⁵² A list of other antibodies used in this article is shown in [Table S1](#).

CRISPR knockout in Hoxb8 cells

Bone marrow cells were isolated from femurs and tibias of Cas9-expressing transgenic mice (Jackson Laboratory, No.028555). Cas9-expressing ER-Hoxb8 conditionally immortalized myoid progenitor cells were generated following established protocols.²⁸ In brief, bone marrow cells were purified with a Ficoll gradient (Ficoll-Paque-Plus, Sigma-Aldrich) and resuspended in RPMI 1640

containing 10% FBS, 1% penicillin/streptomycin and 10 ng/ml each of SCF, IL3 and IL6 (PeproTech). After 48 hrs culture, 250000 cells in 1 ml were transduced with 2 ml of ER-Hoxb8 retrovirus (in DMEM with 30% FBS) containing 0.5 μ l/ml lentiblast A (OZ Biosciences), 2.5 μ l/ml lentiblast B (OZ Biosciences) and 8 μ g/ml polybrene (Sigma-Aldrich) in a well of fibronectin (Sigma-Aldrich)-coated 6-well culture plates and centrifuged at 1000 g for 90 min at 22°C. Murine stem cell virus-based expression vector for ER-Hoxb8 was gifted from Dr. David Sykes (Massachusetts General Hospital, Boston, MA). After transduction, 6 ml of ER-Hoxb8 cell media (RPMI 1640 supplemented with 10% FBS, 1% penicillin/streptomycin, 0.5 μ M β -estradiol (Sigma-Aldrich), and 20 ng/ml GM-CSF (PeproTech)) were added and an additional half-media exchange with ER-Hoxb8 media performed the next day. Transduced cells were selected with G418 (Thermo Fisher) at 1 mg/ml for 48 hrs. Thereafter, cells were maintained in ER-Hoxb8 media. Cells were single-cell sorted with a Sony MA900 and cells from a single clone used for the following experiments. gRNA lentiviruses were prepared as previously described⁵³ with modifications as follows. LentiGuide-mCherry was generated by modifying lentiGuide-puro (Addgene) to remove a puromycin-resistant gene and replace it with mCherry. gRNA sequences directed against exons of the murine PGC1 β gene were designed with CHOPCHOP web tool for genome engineering.⁵⁴ 2 CRISPR gRNA oligonucleotides were inserted for each target via PCR amplification with the H1 promoter (BsmBI site/guide 1/scaffold/H1 promoter/guide 2/BsmBI site) for 2 guides per virus (U6 and H1 driven). A list of gRNA targets used in this article is shown in [key resources table](#). Lenti-X 293T cells (Clontech) were seeded in poly-D-lysine (Sigma-Aldrich) coated 10 cm tissue culture plates at a density of 3.5 million cells per plate in 10 ml of DMEM containing 10% FBS and 1% penicillin/streptomycin, and then incubated overnight at 37°C. After replacement of the media to 6 ml of DMEM containing 30% FBS, plasmid DNAs (5 μ g of lentiviral vector, 3.75 μ g of psPAX2 (Addgene) and 1.25 μ g of pVSVG (Addgene)) were transfected into LentiX-293T cells using 20 μ l of X-tremeGENE™ HP DNA Transfection Reagent (Roche) at 37°C overnight. The media was replaced with 8 ml of DMEM containing 30% FBS and 1% penicillin/streptomycin, and then cultured at 37°C overnight. The supernatants were filtrated with 0.45 μ m syringe filter and used as lentivirus media. Cell culture media was replaced and virus collected again after 24 hrs. 1 million Cas9-expressing ER-Hoxb8 cells were transduced with virus in 2 ml of lentivirus media and 1 ml of ER-Hoxb8 cell media containing 0.5 μ l/ml lentiblast A, 2.5 μ l/ml lentiblast B and 8 μ g/ml polybrene in a well of fibronectin-coated 6-well culture plates and centrifuged at 1000 g for 90 min at 22°C. After the transduction, 6 ml of ER-Hoxb8 cell media was added to each well. Half of the media was exchanged the following day and in the following days, cells were passaged into flasks. After 5 days, cells were single-cell sorted into 96-well culture plates by FACS using a Sony MA900. Successful transduction was assessed by fluorescence of mCherry. After sorting, clones were expanded in ER-Hoxb8 cell media. Genomic DNA was isolated from clones using NucleoSpin Tissue kits (Macherey-Nagel), and PCR reactions were optimized with 100 ng of genomic DNA and 1 μ l of KOD Xtreme™ Hot Start DNA Polymerase (Millipore) to amplify PGC1 β gRNA target regions. PCR amplicons were evaluated using agarose gel electrophoresis and purified using NucleoSpin Gel and PCR Clean-Up kits (Macherey-Nagel). Successful knockout in clones with frameshift mutations at both alleles were confirmed by immunoblot for PGC1 β . Cells transduced with control gRNA were grown in parallel and treated equally throughout as cells with PGC1 β knockout. Presence of PGC1 β in control gRNA clones was confirmed by immunoblot in the same experiment as the confirmation of the knockout. The Hoxb8 cells were differentiated into macrophages and osteoclasts as well as [bone marrow-derived macrophage \(BMDM\) culture](#) and [bone marrow-derived osteoclast culture](#), respectively. Hoxb8-derived macrophages were treated with 100 ng/ml KLA (Avanti Polar Lipids) or 50 ng/ml RANKL for 6 hrs.

Adenoviral transduction

Bone marrow cells were obtained by flushing the tibia and femur from 12-week-old *Pgc1b*^{fl/fl} mice gifted from Dr. Ronald M. Evans with alpha MEM containing 10% FBS and 1% penicillin/streptomycin+L-glutamine, and then lysed using red blood cell lysis buffer. 18 million cells per 10 cm tissue culture plates were cultured in alpha MEM containing 10% FBS, 1% penicillin/streptomycin+L-glutamine and 10 ng/ml M-CSF overnight. 20 ml of RFP-tagged adenovirus (Ad-RFP) (Vector Biolabs) or RFP-tagged Cre recombinase adenovirus (Ad-Cre) (Vector Biolabs) were incubated with 8 μ g/ml polybrene in 10 ml of Opti-MEM (Thermo Fisher Scientific) for 5 min at room temperature. After non-adherent cells were washed off with PBS, the adenovirus mixtures were added into adherent osteoclast precursor cells and incubated at 37°C for 2 hrs. The cells were washed off with PBS and cultured in alpha MEM containing 10% FBS, 1% penicillin/streptomycin+L-glutamine and 10 ng/ml M-CSF for 2 days. To differentiate osteoclasts, 50 ng/ml RANKL was treated with cells and cultured for 4 days. The M-CSF plus RANKL containing culture media was replaced every 2 days.

Osteoclast resorbing activity assay

Bone marrow cells or Hoxb8 cells were seeded onto the surface of the 96-well OsteoLyse™ plate (Lonza) and cultured in the presence or absence of RANKL for 4 days as described above. 10 μ l of culture media was sampled from each well every 2 days and stored at -20°C until ready for assays. Osteoclast resorbing activity was measured by OsteoLyse™ Assay Kit (Lonza) according to the manufacturer's instructions. Briefly, 200 μ l of Fluorophore Releasing Reagent was incubated with 10 μ l of culture media for 10 min at room temperature in each well of 96-well black assay plate (Lonza). The fluorescence was determined at 340 nm of excitation and 615 nm of emission.

TRAP staining

Cells were rinsed with PBS and fixed with 10% (vol/vol) formaldehyde for 5 min at room temperature. After two washes in water, cells were stained with chromogenic substrate (TRAP Staining Kit, Cosmo Bio) for 1 hr at 37°C. The substrate was then removed, and the cells were washed twice with water and photographed by Fluorescence Microscope (BZ-X710, Keyence).

RNA interference

Non-coding RNA *Dancr* or *Rnu12* was depleted from RAW 264.7 cells or bone marrow cells with siRNAs targeting mouse *Dancr* (Dharmacon, Customized individual #1 (5'-GCAAAGAUUUC AUGCUAGAUU) or #2 (5'-ACAAGAAACCCGUGACUGAUU-3')) or *Rnu12* (Dharmacon, Customized individual #1 (5'-GCUUAUGUGAGAAGAAUUUUU-3') or #2 (5'-GGGUUAGGUUGCAAUCU GUU-3')). siGENOME Non-Targeting siRNA #2 (Dharmacon, D-001210-02) was used for a negative control. RAW 264.7 cells were cultured overnight as described in [RAW 264.7 cell-derived osteoclast culture](#), and then transfected with each 30 nM siRNA using Lipofectamine™ RNAiMAX Transfection Reagent (Invitrogen) according to the manufacturer's instructions with modifications as follows. Lipofectamine/siRNA complexes were formed in Opti-MEM for 15 min at room temperature, and then added into cells in culture media containing 50 ng/ml RANKL. Cells were incubated for 4 days to differentiate to osteoclasts. For bone marrow-derived osteoclasts, each 30 nM siRNA was introduced at day -2, 0 and 2 after RANKL treatment as described in [bone marrow-derived osteoclast culture](#). The RANKL and siRNA-containing culture media was replaced every 2 days. For bone marrow-derived macrophages, each 30 nM siRNA was introduced two days before the cells were harvested as described in [bone marrow-derived macrophage \(BMDM\) culture](#).

Plasmid construction and transfection

For the construction of lentiviral vector pLIX403-mouse PGC1 β (WT (a.a.1-1022) or Δ RRM (a.a.1-901))-APOBEC-HA-P2A-mRuby, a synthetic gene block (Integrated DNA technology) containing mouse PGC1 β (WT or Δ RRM) sequence was inserted into MluI digested backbone pLIX403-APOBEC-HA-P2A-mRuby⁴² in frame and immediately upstream of the APOBEC. The open-reading frames (ORFs) of mouse PGC1 β were obtained from pCMV-mouse PGC1 β plasmid. Lenti-X 293T cells were seeded in 10 cm tissue culture plates at a density of 3.5 million cells per plate in 8 ml of DMEM (Gibco) containing 10% FBS and 1% penicillin/streptomycin, and then incubated overnight at 37°C. The plasmid DNAs (5 μ g of lentiviral vector, 3.75 μ g of psPAX2 and 1.25 μ g of pVSVG) were transfected into LentiX-293T cells using 20 μ l of X-tremeGENE™ HP DNA Transfection Reagent at 37°C overnight. The media was replaced with 7 ml of DMEM containing 10% FBS and 1% penicillin/streptomycin, and then cultured at 37°C overnight. The supernatants were filtered with 0.45 μ m syringe filter and used as lentivirus media. 4 million RAW 264.7 cells were transduced with virus in 4 ml of lentivirus media containing 0.5 μ l/ml lentiblast A, 2.5 μ l/ml lentiblast B and 8 μ g/ml polybrene in 10 cm tissue culture plates and centrifuged at 1400 g for 1 hr at 22°C. After the transduction, 4 ml of DMEM containing 10% FBS and 1% penicillin/streptomycin was added to each dish. After 2 days, the media was exchanged to DMEM containing 10% FBS, 1% penicillin/streptomycin and 2 μ g/ml puromycin (Sigma-Aldrich). The puromycin containing culture media was replaced every 2 days until negative control (non-infected) cells completely died. Lentivirus infected RAW 264.7 cells were cultured with 1 μ g/ml doxycycline in RPMI 1640 containing 10% FBS and 1% penicillin/streptomycin+L-glutamine for 72 hrs. The cells with fluorescence of mRuby were single-cell sorted with a Sony MA900, and then maintained in RPMI 1640 containing 10% FBS and 1% penicillin/streptomycin+L-glutamine. The cells were cultured with 1 μ g/ml doxycycline in RPMI 1640 containing 10% FBS, 1% penicillin/streptomycin+L-glutamine and 50 ng/ml RANKL for 4 days, followed by experiments.

For the transient expression of PGC1 β in RAW 264.7 cells or Hoxb8 cells, 2 μ g of pcDNA3.1-FLAG-mouse PGC1 β (NovoPro Bioscience) (WT or Δ RRM) plasmid was incubated with 0.625 μ l of PLUS™ Reagent (Invitrogen) in 300 μ l of Opti-MEM for 5 min at room temperature followed by another incubation with 1.6 μ l of Lipofectamine LTX Reagent (Invitrogen) for 30 min at room temperature. The DNA-lipofectamine complex was added into cells cultured in 10 cm tissue culture plates 2 days before the cells were harvested.

Immunoblotting and immunoprecipitation

Whole cell lysates were prepared as previously described⁵⁵ with modifications as follows. Cells were sonicated in cell lysis buffer (50 mM HEPES-KOH (pH 7.9), 150 mM NaCl, 1.5 mM MgCl₂, 1% NP-40, 1 mM PMSF (Sigma-Aldrich), 1X protease inhibitor cocktail (Sigma-Aldrich)) by ultrasound homogenizer (Bioruptor, Diagenode) for 10 min at 4°C. After centrifugation at 15000 g for 10 min at 4°C, the supernatant was used as whole cell lysate. To isolate nuclear fraction from cells, cells were homogenized in STM buffer (250 mM Sucrose, 50 mM Tris-HCl (pH 7.4), 5 mM MgCl₂, 1 mM PMSF, 1X protease inhibitor cocktail) and incubated on ice for 30 min. After centrifugation at 800 g for 15 min at 4°C, the pellet was washed with STM buffer twice and resuspended in NET buffer (20 mM HEPES (pH 7.9), 1.5 mM MgCl₂, 0.5 M NaCl, 0.2 mM EDTA, 20% Glycerol, 1% Triton-X, 1 mM PMSF, 1X protease inhibitor cocktail). The suspension was passed through the needle 18 gage 15 times and sonicated by ultrasound homogenizer for 10 min at 4°C. After centrifugation at 9000 g for 30 min at 4°C, the supernatant was used as nuclear fraction.

For immunoblotting, aliquots of whole cell lysate or nuclear fraction were boiled at 95°C for 5 min in NuPAGE™ LDS Sample Buffer (Thermo Fisher Scientific) with NuPAGE™ Sample Reducing Agent (Thermo Fisher Scientific), subjected to SDS-PAGE, and transferred to Immobilon-P transfer membranes (Merck Millipore). Immunodetection was carried out with the indicated antibodies (Table S1) and bound antibodies were visualized with peroxidase-conjugated affinity-purified donkey anti-mouse or anti-rabbit IgG (Dako), or mouse monoclonal anti-rabbit IgG light chain (Abcam) using SuperSignal™ West Femto Maximum Sensitivity

Substrate (Thermo Fisher Scientific) or Luminata™ Forte Western HRP Substrate (Merck Millipore), and luminescence images were analyzed by ChemiDoc XRS+ System (Bio-Rad Laboratories). For immunoprecipitation, whole cell lysates or nuclear fractions were immunoprecipitated in cell lysis buffer (50 mM HEPES-KOH (pH 7.9), 150 mM NaCl, 1.5 mM MgCl₂, 1% NP-40, 1mM PMSF, 1X protease inhibitor cocktail) by wheel rotating overnight at 4°C in the presence of Dynabeads protein G (Thermo Fisher Scientific) and each antibody described in [Table S1](#). After immunoprecipitation, beads were washed three times with cell lysis buffer and three times with PBS, and then eluted with sample buffer. The elution was subjected to immunoblotting as described above.

H3K27ac deacetylase activity assay

The endogenous NCoR was immunoprecipitated with anti-NCoR antibody in 300 µg of whole cell lysate from Hoxb8 cell-derived macrophages as described in [immunoblotting and immunoprecipitation](#). After washing the NCoR antibody-Dynabeads Protein G complex three times each with cell lysis buffer and HDAC3 assay buffer from HDAC3 Activity Assay Kit (Sigma-Aldrich), HDAC3 assay buffer in presence or absence of 5 µM RGFP966 was added, and then incubated for 10 min at 37°C. 500 ng of recombinant mono-nucleosomal H3K27ac (Active Motif) was added and reacted overnight at 37°C. The supernatants and beads were separated and boiled with sample buffer for 5 min at 95°C, and then subject to immunoblotting.

Histone acetyltransferase activity assay

Histone acetyltransferase (HAT) activity in BMDMs was measured using a HAT Assay Kit (Active Motif) according to the manufacturer's protocol. The HAT activity of immunoprecipitated PGC1β with anti-PGC1β antibody (Abcam) in 300 µg of whole cell lysate as described in [immunoblotting and immunoprecipitation](#). Briefly, 50 µl of 1X assay buffer containing 50 µM acetyl-CoA and 50 µM Histone H3 was added to the PGC1β antibody-Dynabeads Protein G complex and incubated for 30 min at room temperature. Once the incubation was complete, 50 µl of stop solution was mixed. Then 100 µl of developing solution was added and incubated for 15 min in the dark at room temperature. The reaction solutions were transferred to a 96-well plate and the fluorescent signals were determined at 380 nm of excitation and 450 nm of emission.

RNase/DNase treatment

The antibody-bound Dynabeads after immunoprecipitation as described in [immunoblotting and immunoprecipitation](#) were washed three times with cell lysis buffer and three times with PBS, and then incubated with 1 µg/µl RNase A (NEB) plus 1 U/ µl RNase H (Enzymatics) or 0.4 U/µl DNase I (NEB) in 50 µl of each reaction buffer at 37°C for 1 hr. After washed twice with PBS, the beads were used for immunoblotting or HAT activity assay.

Real-time quantitative PCR

Total RNA was isolated from cells by Direct-zol RNA MicroPrep Kit (Zymo Research). First strand cDNA was synthesized from the total RNA with the use of a Super-Script III First-Strand Synthesis System (Thermo Fisher Scientific), and then PCR was performed with KAPA SYBR FAST qPCR Master Mix (Kapa Biosystems) and mouse *Ppargc1b* primers (Forward; 5'-CTCTGACACG CAGGGTGG-3', Revers; 5'-AGTCAAAGTCACTGGCGTCC-3'), mouse *Dancr* primers (Forward; 5'-AGAAACCCGTGACTGAA TGG-3', Revers; 5'-ACTCACATGGCCCTCACTTC-3') or mouse *Rnu12* primers (Forward; 5'-TTTGAGCGGGTATAGGTTGCA-3', Revers; 5'-CAGATCGCGTCACCCAGG-3') on StepOnePlus Real-Time PCR System (Thermo Fisher Scientific). Relative mRNA abundance was calculated by the standard curve method and was normalized by the corresponding amount of mouse *Actb* (Forward primer; 5'-CTTCTACAATGAGCTGCGTG-3', Revers primer; 5'-TCATGAGGTAGTCTGTCAGG-3') or *Gapdh* (Forward primer; 5'-AATGTGTCCGTCTGGATCT-3', Revers primer; 5'-CATCGAAGGTGGAAGAGTGG-3').

RNA immunoprecipitation

RAW 264.7 cells or Hoxb8 cells cultured in media with 50 ng/ml RANKL for 4 days were cross-linked with 1% (vol/vol) formaldehyde (Thermo Fisher Scientific) in PBS for 10 min at room temperature. The cells were incubated in hypotonic buffer (10 mM NaCl, 10 mM Tris-HCl (pH 7.4), 0.5% NP-40, 1 mM DTT (Thermo Fisher Scientific), 200 U/ml RNase OUT (Thermo Fisher Scientific), 1X protease inhibitor cocktail (Sigma)) and homogenized for 1 min at 4°C. The cells were centrifuged at 1000g for 10 min at 4°C, and then nuclear pellets were resuspended in nuclei resuspension buffer (50 mM HEPES-NaCl (pH 7.0), 10 mM MgCl₂, 1 mM DTT, 200 U/ml RNase OUT). The cells were sonicated at 4°C for 45 min by ultrasound homogenizer, and then incubated with 250 U/ml DNase I for 30 min at 37°C. The DNase reaction was quenched by 20 mM EDTA (Invitrogen) and mixed with 1% Triton X-100, 0.1% sodium deoxycholate, 0.01% SDS and 140 mM NaCl. The lysate was centrifuged at 20000 g for 10 min at 4°C and the supernatant was used for immunoprecipitation. Before immunoprecipitation, 1% of the lysate was kept as the paired-input sample. The nuclear lysate was rotated with each antibody pre-bound to 25 µl of beads (12.5 µl of Dynabeads protein A (Thermo Fisher Scientific) + 12.5 µl of Dynabeads protein G) at 4°C overnight. After the immunoprecipitation, beads were collected on a magnet and washed three times each with wash buffer (150 mM NaCl, 10 mM Tris-HCl (pH7.4), 1 mM EDTA, 1 mM EGTA, 1% Triton X-100, 0.5% NP-40, 1 mM DDT, 200 U/ml RNase OUT), and then resuspended in 150 µl of Proteinase K buffer (50 mM Tris-HCl (pH 7.4), 150 mM NaCl, 1 mM MgCl₂, 0.05% NP-40, 1% SDS, 1.2 mg/ml Proteinase K (NEB)), followed by incubation for 30 min at 55°C. The isolated protein-associated RNAs by phenol/chloroform/isoamyl alcohol (125:24:1) (Sigma-Aldrich) were subjected to first strand cDNA synthesis, and then PCR was performed with KAPA SYBR FAST qPCR Master

Mix and mouse *Dancr* primers (Forward; 5'-AGAAACCCGTGACTGAATGG-3', Revers; 5'-ACTCACATGGCCCTCACTTC-3'), mouse *Rnu12* primers (Forward; 5'-TTTGAGCGGGTATAGTTGCA-3', Revers; 5'-CAGATCGCGTCACCCAGG-3'), mouse *Malat1* primers (Forward; 5'-GAGGCTGAC CAGAGCAGTTT-3', Reverse; 5'-GCCGACCTTCAAACCTAGAACC-3'), mouse *Sirt7* primers (Forward; 5'-GTGTACGCATCCTGAGGAA-3', Reverse; 5'-GGTCAT CACACACCTCTCC-3') or mouse *Bin2* primers (Forward; 5'-CCCAGGAGAAGG TTCTGCAG-3', Reverse; 5'-TGGTAGAAGTTGCTGGCACT-3') on StepOnePlus Real-Time PCR System.

Preparation of bone cell extracts

Protein extracts were prepared from tibia and femur of 5-month-old male mice. The bones were pulverized on dry ice and the bone powder was sonicated at 4°C for 10 min in lysis buffer (50 mM Tris-HCl (pH 8.0), 150 mM NaCl, 2 mM EDTA, 1% Triton X-100, 0.1% SDS, 0.5% sodium deoxycholate, 1 mM PMSF, 1X protease inhibitor cocktail) by ultrasound homogenizer. The bone lysates were centrifuged at 15000 rpm for 10 min at 4°C and the protein concentration in supernatants was measured by DC™ Protein Assay Kit (Bio-Rad Laboratories) according to the manufacturer's instructions. The supernatants were boiled at 95°C for 5 min in NuPAGE™ LDS Sample Buffer with NuPAGE™ Sample Reducing Agent for SDS-PAGE.

Sucrose density gradient centrifugation

20 million BMDMs were homogenized in STM buffer (250 mM Sucrose, 50 mM Tris-HCl (pH 7.4), 5 mM MgCl₂, 1 mM PMSF, 1X protease inhibitor cocktail) and incubated on ice for 30 min. After centrifugation at 800 g for 15 min at 4°C, the pellet was washed with STM buffer twice and resuspended in 150 μl of lysis buffer (50 mM HEPES-KOH (pH 7.9), 150 mM NaCl, 1.5 mM MgCl₂, 1% NP-40, 1 mM PMSF, 1X protease inhibitor cocktail) by ultrasound homogenizer (Bioruptor, Diagenode) for 10 min at 4°C. The suspension was passed through an 18 gauge needle 15 times and sonicated by ultrasound homogenizer for 10 min at 4°C. After centrifugation at 9000 g for 30 min at 4°C, the supernatant was used as nuclear fraction. 150 μl of nuclear fraction at a concentration of 5.1 μg/μL were layered on top of a 12 ml 10%–30% (w/v) continuous sucrose gradient (in buffer containing 50 mM HEPES-KOH (pH 7.9), 150 mM NaCl, 1.5 mM MgCl₂, 1 mM PMSF and 1X protease inhibitor cocktail). Gradients were centrifuged at 32000 rpm for 12 hrs at 4°C in an SW41 Ti rotor (Beckman). Molecular weight standards (Sigma-Aldrich) in lysis buffer were run in parallel. 24 fractions (500 μl each) were collected from each gradient, and 125 μl of 100% (w/v) trichloroacetic acid (Sigma-Aldrich) containing 4 mg/ml sodium deoxycholate was added to each fraction. After incubation on ice for 15 min, the samples were spun for 15 min, and the supernatant was removed. 1 ml of acetone (Sigma-Aldrich) was added to each pellet. Each sample was incubated for 10 min at room temperature and spun for 15 min. The supernatant was discarded, and the pellet was dissolved in NuPAGE™ LDS Sample Buffer (Thermo Fisher Scientific) with NuPAGE™ Sample Reducing Agent (Thermo Fisher Scientific). After heating at 95°C for 5 min, the samples were subjected to SDS-PAGE.

eCLIP assay

20 million RAW 264.7 cells per 15 cm tissue culture plates were cultured in RPMI 1640 containing 10% FBS, 1% penicillin/streptomycin+L-glutamine with 50 ng/ml RANKL for 4 days. eCLIP assay was performed as previously described³² with modifications as follows. The UV-crosslinked cells were lysed in CLIP lysis buffer (50 mM Tris-HCl (pH 7.4), 100 mM NaCl, 1% NP-40, 0.1% SDS, 0.5% sodium deoxycholate, 1X protease inhibitor cocktail) and sonicated by ultrasound homogenizer (Bioruptor, Diagenode) for 5 min at 4°C, followed by treatment with 0.01 U/μl Turbo DNase (Thermo Fisher Scientific) and 0.04 U/μl RNase I (Thermo Fisher Scientific) for 5 min at 37°C. After treatment with 0.4 U/μl RNase Inhibitor (NEB), the cell lysates were centrifuged at 15000 g for 3 min at 4°C and the supernatants were used for the following immunoprecipitation. Anti-PGC1β antibody and dynabeads were added to the cell lysates and incubated overnight at 4°C. Before beads wash, 2% of sample was kept as the paired-input sample. The remaining beads were washed three times with high-salt wash buffer (50 mM Tris-HCl (pH 7.4), 1M NaCl, 1 mM EDTA, 1% NP-40, 0.1% SDS, 0.5 % sodium deoxycholate) and three times with low-salt wash buffer (20 mM Tris-HCl (pH 7.4), 10 mM MgCl₂, 0.2 % Tween 20, 5 mM NaCl). The beads were incubated with 0.6 U/μl FastAP (Thermo Fisher Scientific), 1.6 U/μl RNase Inhibitor and 0.08 U/μl Turbo DNase for 10 min at 37°C for RNA dephosphorylation, and with 0.2 U/μl T4 PNK (NEB) for 20 min at 37°C for RNA phosphorylation. After beads wash two times with high-salt wash buffer and three times with low-salt wash buffer, 3'RNA adaptor was ligated with 3 U/μl T4 RNA ligase (NEB) and 0.64 U/μl RNase Inhibitor. After beads wash three times with high-salt wash buffer and three times with low-salt wash buffer, the beads were denatured in 1X NuPAGE LDS Buffer with 0.1 M DTT for 10 min at 70°C. The supernatants (RNA-protein complexes) were run on 4%–12% Bis-Tris protein gel and transferred to PVDF membrane. The membrane (the region 65–140 kDa) was excised off and treated with proteinase K (NEB). RNA was then reverse transcribed with Superscript III (Thermo Fisher Scientific) followed by treatment with Exo SAP-IT (Applied Biosystems) to remove excess oligonucleotides. Samples were cleaned up with Dynabeads My One Silane (Thermo Fisher Scientific) and subject to qPCR to determine the appropriate number of PCR cycles. Libraries were amplified with NEBNext High-Fidelity 2X PCR Master Mix (NEB) and sequenced on the HiSeq 4000.

ATAC-seq library preparation

70000 cultured cells were washed once with PBS and once with cold lysis buffer (10 mM Tris-HCl (pH 7.4), 10 mM NaCl, 3 mM MgCl₂, 0.1% NP-40). The cells were suspended in 50 μl of 1X Reaction Buffer (25 μl of Tagment DNA Buffer, 2.5 μl of Tagment DNA enzyme I, and 22.5 μl of water) (Nextera DNA Library Preparation Kit, Illumina) as previously described.⁵⁶ Transposase reactions were carried

out at 37°C for 30 min, and then DNA was purified using ChIP DNA Clean & Concentrator Kit (Zymo Research). DNA was amplified using the Nextera primer Ad1 and a unique Ad2.n barcoding primer using NEBNext High-Fidelity 2X PCR Master Mix (NEB) for 7 cycles. The amplified libraries were purified with 2 μ l of SpeedBeads (GE Healthcare) in 20% PEG 8000/2.5 M NaCl (Final 13% PEG 8000), eluted with 15 μ l of EB (Zymo Research), size selected using PAGE/TBE gel (Invitrogen) for 175–225 bp fragments by gel extraction, and single-end sequenced on HiSeq 4000 (Illumina).

ChIP-seq library preparation

Chromatin immunoprecipitation (ChIP) was performed in biological replicates as previously described⁵⁷ with modifications as follows. For H3K27ac ChIP assays, cells were cross-linked with 1% (vol/vol) formaldehyde in PBS for 10 min at room temperature. For NCoR, HDAC3, p65, Fosl2, PU.1 and PGC1 β ChIP assays, cells were cross-linked with 2 mM disuccinimidyl glutarate (DSG) (ProteoChem) in PBS for 30 min at room temperature, and then directly a second crosslinking was performed by the addition of 1% (vol/vol) formaldehyde in PBS for 10 min. The crosslinking reaction was quenched by 0.125 M glycine (Sigma-Aldrich). Cells were washed once with ice-cold PBS and pelleted at 1000 g for 5 min at 4°C. Crosslinked cells were resuspended in ice-cold hypotonic buffer (10 mM HEPES-KOH (pH 7.9), 85 mM KCl, 1 mM EDTA, 1% NP-40, 1 mM PMSF, 0.5 mM sodium butyrate (Sigma-Aldrich), 1X protease inhibitor cocktail), and centrifuged at 1000 g for 5 min at 4°C to obtain a nuclear fraction. Nuclear pellets were resuspended in 100 μ l of either LB3 buffer (10 mM Tris-HCl (pH 7.5), 100 mM NaCl, 1 mM EDTA, 0.5 mM EGTA, 0.1% sodium deoxycholate, 0.5% N-lauroylsarcosine, 1 mM PMSF, 0.5 mM sodium butyrate, 1X protease inhibitor cocktail, for H3K27ac ChIP) or PIPA-NR buffer (20 mM Tris-HCl (pH 7.5), 150 mM NaCl, 1 mM EDTA, 0.5 mM EGTA, 0.4% sodium deoxycholate, 0.1% SDS, 1% NP-40, 0.5 mM DTT, 1 mM PMSF, 0.5 mM sodium butyrate, 1X protease inhibitor cocktail, for NcoR, HDAC3, p65, Fosl2, PU.1 and PGC1 β ChIP). Chromatin DNA was sonicated in a 96 Place icrotube Rack (Covaris) using a Covaris E220 for 12–16 cycles with the following setting: time, 60 seconds; duty, 5.0; PIP, 140; cycles, 200; amplitude, 0.0; velocity, 0.0; dwell, 0.0. Samples were centrifuged at 15000 rpm for 10 min at 4°C, and the supernatant was used for immunoprecipitation. LB3 lysate was diluted 1.1-fold with 10% Triton X-100. 1% of the lysate was kept as ChIP input. The lysates were rotated with each antibody pre-bound to 20 μ l of beads (10 μ l of Dynabeads protein A + 10 μ l of Dynabeads protein G) overnight at 4°C. After the immunoprecipitation, beads were collected on a magnet and washed three times each with wash buffer I (20 mM Tris-HCl (pH 7.5), 150 mM NaCl, 1% Triton X-100, 0.1% SDS, 2 mM EDTA, 1 mM PMSF, 0.5 mM sodium butyrate, 1X protease inhibitor cocktail), wash buffer III (10 mM Tris-HCl (pH 7.5), 250 mM LiCl, 1% Triton X-100, 0.7% sodium deoxycholate, 1 mM EDTA, 1 mM PMSF, 0.5 mM sodium butyrate, 1X protease inhibitor cocktail) and twice with TET (10 mM Tris-HCl (pH 7.5), 1 mM EDTA, 0.2% Tween-20, 1 mM PMSF, 0.5 mM sodium butyrate, 1X protease inhibitor cocktail), and then resuspended in 25 μ l of TT (10mM Tris-HCl (pH 7.5), 0.05% Tween-20). The immunoprecipitated chromatin samples were used for library preparation with NEBNext Ultra II Library kit (NEB) according to the manufacturer's instructions. DNA in 46.5 μ l of NEB reactions was revers crosslinked by adding 4 μ l of 10% SDS, 4.5 μ l of 5 M NaCl, 3 μ l of 500 mM EDTA, 1 μ l of 20 mg/ml proteinase K and 20 μ l of water by incubation for 1 hr at 55°C, and then 30 min at 65°C. DNA was purified with 2 μ l of SpeedBeads in 20% PEG 8000/1.5 M NaCl (Final 12% PEG 8000), and eluted with 25 μ l of TT. The eluted DNA was amplified for 14 cycles in 50 μ l of PCR reactions using NEBNext High-Fidelity 2X PCR Master Mix and 0.5 mM each of primers Solexa 1GA and Solexa 1GB. The amplified libraries were purified with 2 μ l of SpeedBeads in 20% PEG 8000/2.5 M NaCl (Final 13% PEG 8000), eluted with 20 μ l of TT, size selected using PAGE/TBE gel for 225–325 bp fragments by gel extraction, and single-end sequenced on HiSeq 4000 or NovaSeq 6000 (Illumina). ChIP input material (1% of sheared DNA) in 46.5 μ l of TE was revers crosslinked by adding 4 μ l of 10% SDS, 4.5 μ l of 5 M NaCl, 3 μ l of 500 mM EDTA, 1 μ l of 20 mg/ml proteinase K and 20 μ l of water by incubation for 1 hr at 55°C, and then 30 min at 65°C. The input DNA was purified with SpeedBeads as described above, and eluted with 25 μ l of TT. The eluted input DNA was prepared for libraries and amplified as described for ChIP samples.

RNA-seq library preparation

Total RNA was isolated from culture cells and purified using a Direct-zol RNA MicroPrep Kit as described by the manufacturer. mRNAs were enriched by incubation with Oligo d(T)₂₅ Magnetic Beads (NEB). To fragment Poly A-enriched mRNA, mRNAs were incubated in 2X Superscript III first-strand buffer (Thermo Fisher Scientific) with 10 mM DTT at 94°C for 9 min. The 10 μ l of fragmented mRNAs were incubated with 0.5 μ l of Random primers (3 μ g/ μ l) (Thermo Fisher Scientific), 0.5 μ l of Oligo dT primer (50 μ M) (Thermo Fisher Scientific), 0.5 μ l of SUPERase-In (Ambion) and 1 μ l of dNTPs (10 mM) (Thermo Fisher Scientific) at 50°C for 1 min. After the incubation, 5.8 μ l of water, 1 μ l of DTT (100 mM), 0.1 μ l of Actinomycin D (2 μ g/ μ l) (Sigma-Aldrich), 0.2 μ l of 1% Tween-20 and 0.5 μ l of Superscript III (Thermo Fisher Scientific) were added and incubated on the following conditions: 25°C for 10 min, 50°C for 50 min, and 4°C hold. The mixture was purified with RNAClean XP beads (Beckman Coulter) as described by the manufacturer and eluted with 10 μ l of water. For second-strand synthesis with dUTP, the RNA/cDNA double-stranded hybrid was then added to 1.5 μ l of Blue Buffer (Enzymatics), 1.1 μ l of dUTP mix (10 mM dATP, dCTP, dGTP and 20 mM dUTP) (Promega), 0.2 μ l of Rnase H (5 U/ μ l), 1.05 μ l of water, 1 μ l of DNA polymerase I (Enzymatics) and 0.15 μ l of 1% Tween-20. The mixture was incubated at 16°C for 2.5 hrs. The resulting dUTP-marked dsDNA was purified with 2 μ l of SpeedBeads in 20% PEG 8000/2.5M NaCl (final 13% PEG 8000), and eluted with 40 μ l of EB. The eluted dsDNA was carried out end repair by blunting, A-tailing and adapter ligation as previously described⁴⁴ using barcoded adapters (Bioo Scientific). The end repaired dsDNA was amplified for 14–16 cycles using

0.05 U/ μ l KAPA High Fidelity HotStart DNA polymerase (Kapa Biosystems) and 1 μ M each of primers Solexa 1GA and Solexa 1GB. The amplified libraries were selected using PAGE/TBE gel for 225–325 bp fragments by gel extraction, and single-end sequenced on HiSeq 4000 or NovaSeq 6000.

eCLIP analysis

The eCLIP peak calling computational tool Clipper⁵⁸ was used to call peaks for both replicates of the PGC1 β eCLIP experiment, using size-matched inputs as backgrounds for peak-calling. Replicate peaks were overlapped, and only shared peaks where both the log₂ fold change over respective inputs and $-\log_{10}$ p-value were greater than 2 in both replicates were retained.

ATAC-seq and ChIP-seq analysis

FASTQ files were mapped to the mm10 mouse reference genome with Bowtie2.⁴³ Peaks were called with HOMER (findPeaks) using parameters “-style factor -minDist 200 -size 200”. After merging these peaks, correlations among replicates from the same cell subset/treatment were evaluated by correlation using tag counts. The two most highly correlated samples were used for identifying the most robust peaks using the irreproducible discovery rate (IDR) method.⁴⁵ For this step, peaks were called with HOMER’s findPeaks, using parameters “-L 0 -C 0 -fdr 0.9 -minDist 200 -size 200”. IDR peaks from different conditions involved in a comparison merged with HOMER’s mergePeaks and annotated with HOMER’s annotatePeaks.pl. The raw tags of all samples which had reasonable correlation were quantified with HOMER (annotatePeaks.pl) using parameter “-noadj”. Peaks which contained at least 4 tags in at least 1 sample were used to identify differentially bounded peaks (DBP) by DESeq2. Peaks were categorized as distal peaks which are 2 kb away from known TSS and promoter peaks which are located within 2 kb region of known TSS sites. Histone marks, such as H3K27ac single, were quantified by either ATAC IDR peaks under the same conditions or nuclear protein ChIP IDR peaks. ATAC peak quantification was normalized to the total tags in peaks, while the ChIP peak single was normalized to the sequence depth.

RNA-seq analysis

FASTQ files were processed to assess quality by determining general sequencing bias, clonality, and adapter sequence contamination. RNA sequencing reads were aligned to the mm10 mouse reference genome using STAR.⁴⁸ Gene expression levels were calculated using HOMER⁴⁴ by counting all strand specific reads within exons. Only the most abundant transcripts, including multiple alternative variants, were selected for each gene, and the genes with a length smaller than 250 bp were removed. Transcripts per million (TPM) were used to evaluate the correlation among replicates. Differential gene expression was calculated using DESeq2⁴⁷ to assess both biological and technical variability between experiments. Unsupervised hierarchical clustering was used to cluster the gene expression in the heatmaps.

Motif analysis

To identify motifs enriched in peak regions over the background, HOMER’s motif analysis “findMotifsGenome.pl” including known default motifs and *de novo* motifs was used.⁴⁴ The background peaks used either from random genome sequences or from peaks in comparing condition were indicated throughout the main text and in the figure legends.

Gene ontology enrichment analysis

Metascape was used for the analysis. All genes in the genome have been used as the enrichment background.

Data visualization

ChIP-seq data were visualized in the UCSC genome browser.⁴⁹

QUANTIFICATION AND STATISTICAL ANALYSIS

The significance of differences in the experimental data were determined using GraphPad Prism 8.0 software. All data involving statistics are presented as mean \pm s.d. or s.e.m. The number of replicates and the statistical test used are described in the figure legends.