

## RESEARCH ARTICLE

# Genetic redundancy of GATA factors in the extraembryonic trophoblast lineage ensures the progression of preimplantation and postimplantation mammalian development

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**ABSTRACT**

GATA transcription factors are implicated in establishing cell fate during mammalian development. In early mammalian embryos, GATA3 is selectively expressed in the extraembryonic trophoblast lineage and regulates gene expression to promote trophoblast fate. However, trophoblast-specific GATA3 function is dispensable for early mammalian development. Here, using dual conditional knockout mice, we show that genetic redundancy of *Gata3* with paralog *Gata2* in trophoblast progenitors ensures the successful progression of both pre- and postimplantation mammalian development. Stage-specific gene deletion in trophoblasts reveals that loss of both GATA genes, but not either alone, leads to embryonic lethality prior to the onset of their expression within the embryo proper. Using ChIP-seq and RNA-seq analyses, we define the global targets of GATA2/GATA3 and show that they directly regulate a large number of common genes to orchestrate stem versus differentiated trophoblast fate. In trophoblast progenitors, GATA factors directly regulate BMP4, Nodal and Wnt signaling components that promote embryonic-extraembryonic signaling cross-talk, which is essential for the development of the embryo proper. Our study provides genetic evidence that impairment of trophoblast-specific GATA2/GATA3 function could lead to early pregnancy failure.

**KEY WORDS:** Mammalian development, GATA2, GATA3, Trophoblast stem cells, Placenta, Mouse, Human

**INTRODUCTION**

The extraembryonic trophoblast cell lineage is unique to mammals and is essential for successful progression of mammalian reproduction. Trophoblast cells only exist during embryonic development and originate during the first cell fate decision in preimplantation embryos (Cockburn and Rossant, 2010; Pfeffer and

Pearnton, 2012; Roberts and Fisher, 2011; Rossant and Cross, 2001). Subsequently, trophoblast cells mediate implantation of the developing embryo into the uterus and establish a maternal-fetal interface for vascular connection with the mother for nutrient and gas transport to the embryo (Rossant and Cross, 2001). Failure in the determination of the trophoblast lineage during preimplantation development leads to defective embryo implantation (Cockburn and Rossant, 2010; Pfeffer and Pearnton, 2012; Roberts and Fisher, 2011; Rossant and Cross, 2001), which is a leading cause of infertility. After implantation, defective development and function of trophoblast progenitors lead to either early pregnancy failure or pregnancy-associated complications such as intrauterine growth retardation (IUGR), pre-eclampsia (Myatt, 2006; Pfeffer and Pearnton, 2012; Redman and Sargent, 2005; Rossant and Cross, 2001), or cause postnatal or adult diseases (Gluckman et al., 2008).

Development of the trophoblast cell lineage is a multistep process (Fig. S1) and begins with the establishment of the trophoblast (TE) in blastocysts. The TE mediates blastocyst implantation and is the source of trophoblast stem and progenitor cells (TSPCs). In the early postimplantation mouse embryo, TSPCs proliferate and differentiate to develop the extraembryonic ectoderm (ExE). Later, at about embryonic day (E) 7.0–8.0, the ectoplacental cone (EPC) and chorion develop. Subsequently, lineage-specific trophoblast progenitors arise from TSPCs, which differentiate to specialized trophoblast subtypes leading to successful placentation. Thus, trophoblast lineage development relies upon the proper spatial and temporal regulation of gene expression during: (1) TE development in the preimplantation embryo; (2) maintenance of self-renewal within TSPCs of the early postimplantation embryo; and (3) subsequent differentiation of trophoblast progenitors to specialized trophoblast subtypes of the mature placenta.

Studies with gene knockout mice and mouse trophoblast stem cells (TSCs) implicated several transcription factors, including GATA3, in the regulation of trophoblast lineage development (Barak et al., 1999; Hemberger et al., 2010; Home et al., 2009; Keramari et al., 2010; Nishioka et al., 2008; Ralston and Rossant, 2008; Russ et al., 2000; Strumpf, 2005; Yagi et al., 2007). Our and other laboratories have reported that GATA3 is selectively expressed in extraembryonic TE and TSPCs during early mouse development and is involved in TE-specific gene regulation (Home et al., 2009; Ralston et al., 2010). Also, ectopic expression of *Gata3* in mouse embryonic stem cells (ESCs) or mouse fibroblasts is able to instigate trophoblast fate (Benchetrit et al., 2015; Kubaczka et al., 2015; Ralston et al., 2010). However, *Gata3*-null mouse embryos die at ~E11.5 due to defective neuroendocrine system development (Lim et al., 2000; Pandolfi et al., 1995), indicating that trophoblast-specific GATA3 function is not essential for early mammalian development.

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Like GATA3, GATA2 is also implicated in the regulation of a few trophoblast genes in the mouse placenta (Bai et al., 2011; Ma et al., 1997; Ray et al., 2009). Both GATA2 and GATA3 are selectively expressed in the TE of the preimplantation human embryo (Assou et al., 2012; Blakeley et al., 2015). However, *Gata2*-null mouse embryos die at ~E10.5 due to defective hematopoiesis (Tsai and Orkin, 1997), indicating that, like GATA3, trophoblast-specific GATA2 function is not essential for early mammalian development. Thus, although both GATA2 and GATA3 are implicated in gene regulation at different stages of trophoblast lineage development, individual functions of GATA2 or GATA3 are dispensable for this process.

As GATA factors often show functional redundancy during the development of other tissues (Fujiwara et al., 2004; Peterkin et al., 2007), we hypothesized that GATA2 and GATA3 might exhibit functional redundancy in the developing trophoblast lineage. To test this hypothesis, we established inducible gene knockout mice, in which *Gata2* and *Gata3* could be conditionally deleted individually or in combination. We discovered that combinatorial functions of GATA2 and GATA3 are important to establish trophoblast lineage development in both pre- and postimplantation embryos. Both GATA2 and GATA3 target transcriptionally active and silent genes to orchestrate developmental stage-specific gene expression programs in TSPCs, which in turn ensure both pre- and early postimplantation mammalian development. Owing to the lack of an early trophoblast phenotype in these gene knockouts, it remains unknown whether trophoblast-specific functions of GATA2 and GATA3 are essential to assure the early development of mammalian embryos.

## RESULTS

### Expression of GATA2 and GATA3 is restricted to extraembryonic trophoblast cells during early mouse development

During preimplantation mouse development, *Gata3* mRNA expression is induced at the 4-cell stage, and GATA3 protein is detectable during the 8- to 16-cell transition (Home et al., 2009; Ralston et al., 2010). However, in a mature blastocyst, GATA3 mRNA and protein expression becomes restricted to the TE lineage (Home et al., 2009; Ralston et al., 2010). Recently, other studies showed that both *GATA2* and *GATA3* mRNAs are selectively expressed within the TE lineage of the human preimplantation embryo (Assou et al., 2012; Blakeley et al., 2015). However, GATA2 protein expression is not well documented during preimplantation development. We therefore followed GATA2 protein expression at different stages of mouse preimplantation development. We found low levels of GATA2 protein in blastomeres of 2- to 16-cell embryos. However, GATA2 expression was upregulated in outer TE lineage cells and repressed in the inner cell mass during blastocyst maturation (Fig. 1A). In mature blastocysts, both GATA2 and GATA3 were only expressed within the TE lineage (Fig. 1B).

We also tested GATA2 and GATA3 protein expression in early postimplantation mouse embryos. Up to Theiler stage 10c (~E7.25), expression of GATA2 and GATA3 was mostly confined to the extraembryonic trophoblast cells, including TSPCs within the EPC (Fig. 1C). At ~E7.25–7.5, a few cells of the extraembryonic yolk sac mesoderm also began to express GATA2 protein (Fig. 1C). However, GATA2 and GATA3 proteins were not expressed in the embryonic cells prior to E7.5. Subsequently, GATA2 and GATA3 expression was induced in the embryo proper and also maintained in trophoblast cells (Fig. 1D).

Thus, our study confirmed a trophoblast-specific expression pattern of GATA2 and GATA3 during blastocyst maturation and

early postimplantation development in the mouse. We also examined GATA2 and GATA3 expression within trophoblast progenitors of developing first-trimester human placenta and found that the simultaneous expression of GATA2 and GATA3 in cytotrophoblast progenitors is a conserved event during early human development (Fig. 1E).

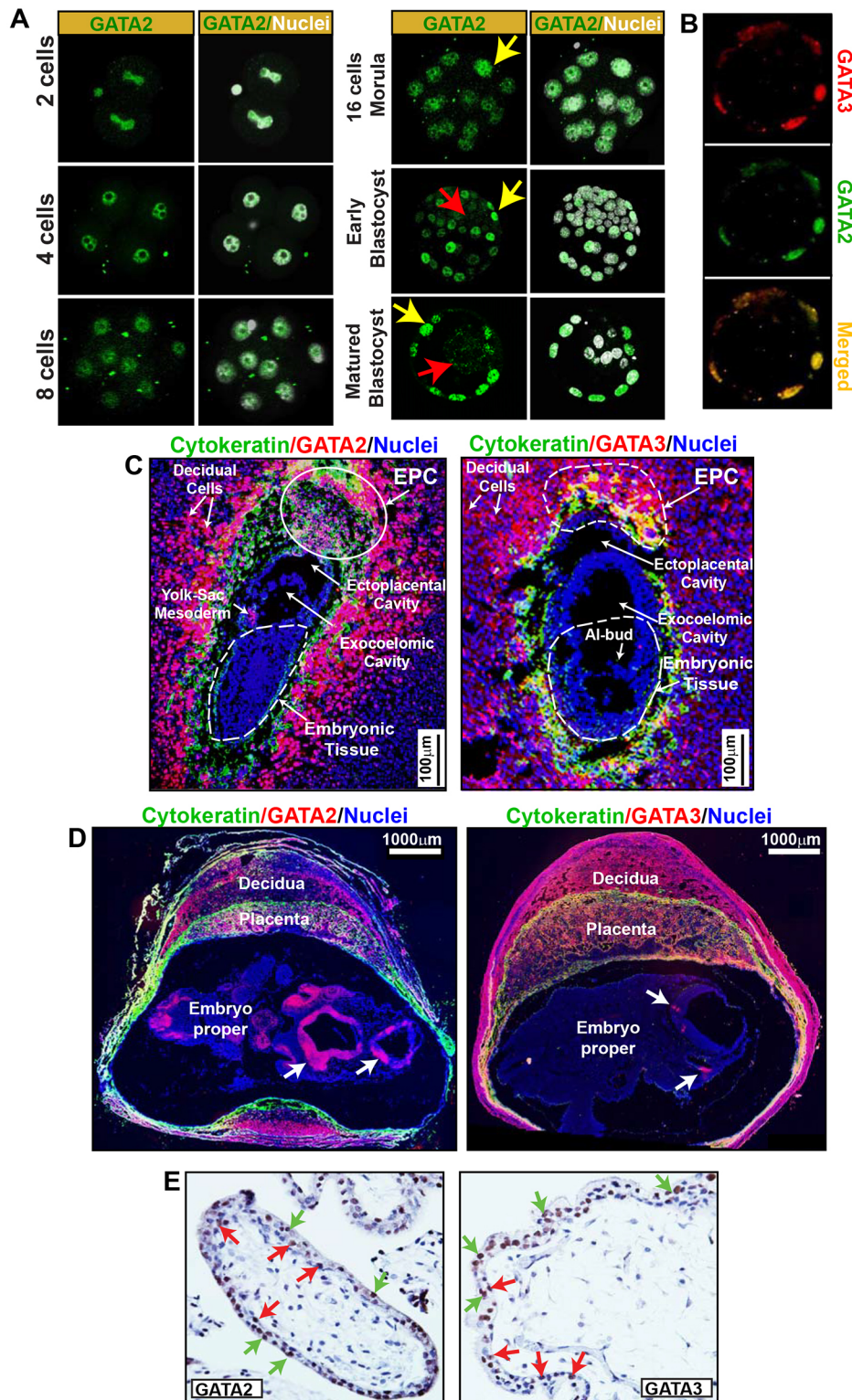
### GATA factors are essential to establish a functional TE lineage during preimplantation mouse development

To test the functional importance of GATA2 and GATA3 during early mouse development, we studied conditional knockout mice in which *Gata2* and *Gata3* could be efficiently deleted individually (*Gata2*-KO or *Gata3*-KO) or in combination (*Gata*-DKO), by inducing the activity of a Cre-ERT2 recombinant protein with tamoxifen (Fig. S2). Given that the expression of both GATA factors is restricted to within the developing trophoblast lineage of the early mouse embryo, this inducible gene knockout system allowed us to study trophoblast-specific GATA2/GATA3 functions at distinct stages of early mouse development.

Previously, using an RNAi strategy, we showed that GATA3 depletion in preimplantation mouse embryos partially impairs blastocyst maturation (Home et al., 2009). However, preimplantation mouse development in the absence of both GATA2 and GATA3 was not tested. Therefore, we began our study by examining the importance of individual as well as combinatorial GATA2/3 function during preimplantation mouse development. We isolated fertilized embryos at E0.5, induced GATA gene deletion with tamoxifen and monitored preimplantation development *ex vivo* (Fig. 2A–D). We found that GATA2 is dispensable for blastocyst maturation (Fig. 2B,C) and, similar to the RNAi findings, conditional deletion of *Gata3* partially affected blastocyst maturation (Fig. S3A). Interestingly, combinatorial loss of both GATA factors also resulted in a mixed preimplantation phenotype. A large number of *Gata*-DKO embryos failed to form blastocysts. However, several of the *Gata*-DKO embryos matured to the blastocyst stage (Fig. 2B,C) despite the fact that Cre-mediated gene excision resulted in the loss of both GATA proteins in those embryos (Fig. 2D).

Next, we tested whether *Gata*-DKO blastocysts have altered expression of TE-specific genes. Our analysis confirmed that the mRNA expression of several TE-specific genes, including the GATA targets *Cdx2*, *Eomes* and *Elf5*, was strongly downregulated (Fig. 2E) in *Gata*-DKO preimplantation embryos. By contrast, mRNA expression of *Pr13b1* and *Ascl2*, which are predominantly expressed in differentiated trophoblast cells, was highly induced in *Gata*-DKO preimplantation embryos (Fig. 2E). Interestingly, except for *Cdx2* mRNA expression in *Gata3*-KO embryos, none of these genes was significantly altered in expression in *Gata2*-KO or *Gata3*-KO embryos (Fig. 2E). *Cdx2* expression was repressed by ~40% in *Gata3*-KO embryos and reduced by >80% in *Gata*-DKO embryos. These results indicated that although a few *Gata*-DKO preimplantation embryos could mature to the blastocyst stage, TE-specific gene expression is altered in those embryos. We next tested the *in utero* implantation efficiency of *Gata*-DKO blastocysts.

As continuous tamoxifen exposure could negatively affect the implantation efficiency of a blastocyst (Dao et al., 1996), we used two different experimental strategies to test implantation efficiency of *Gata*-DKO blastocysts. First, we ectopically expressed Cre recombinase in *Gata2<sup>fl/fl</sup>;Gata3<sup>fl/fl</sup>* preimplantation embryos via lentiviral transduction (Fig. S3B). We found that ectopic Cre-mediated excision of GATA genes also resulted in a mixed phenotype and several *Gata*-DKO embryos matured to the



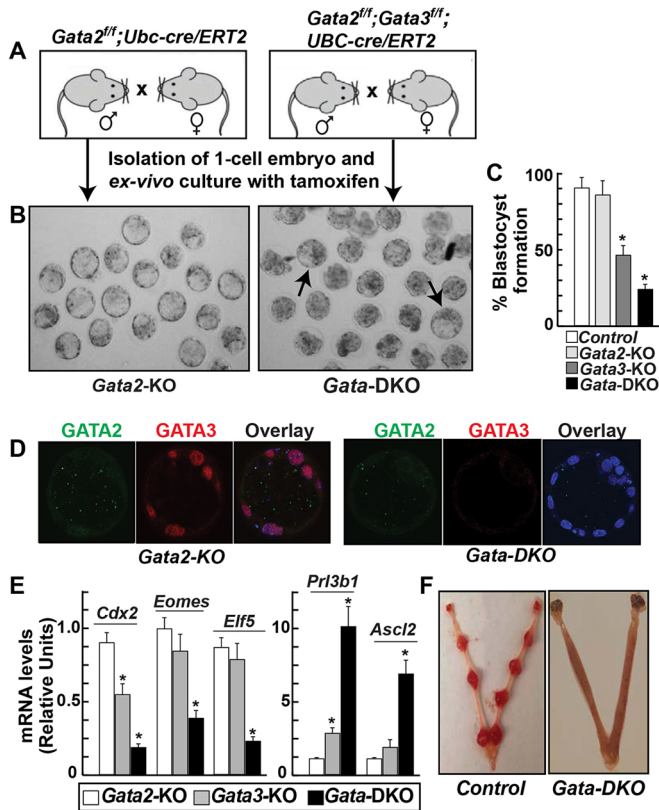
**Fig. 1. GATA2 and GATA3 are selectively expressed in trophoblast cells of preimplantation and early postimplantation mammalian embryos.**

(A) Immunofluorescence images showing GATA2 expression at different stages of preimplantation mouse development. During blastulation, GATA2 is induced in the outer TE lineage (yellow arrows) but is repressed in the inner cell mass lineage (red arrows). (B) A mouse blastocyst showing that both GATA2 and GATA3 are selectively expressed within the TE lineage. (C) ~E7.5 mouse implantation sites showing pan-cytokeratin, GATA2 (left), GATA3 (right) and nuclei (DAPI). Outlined areas show ectoplacental cone (EPC) and embryonic tissue. (D) E10.5 mouse implantation sites showing pan-cytokeratin, GATA2 (left), GATA3 (right) and nuclei (DAPI). At this stage, GATA2 and GATA3 are expressed in both embryonic cells (arrows) and extraembryonic tissues. (E) Immunohistochemistry showing that both GATA2 (left) and GATA3 (right) are selectively expressed within trophoblast cells [both cytotrophoblast progenitors (red arrows) and syncytiotrophoblasts (green arrows)] of a first-trimester (8 week) human placenta.

blastocyst stage (Fig. S3B). However, those *Gata*-DKO blastocysts failed to implant when they were transferred to the uterine horns of pseudopregnant surrogate female mice (Fig. 2F).

In the second approach, we transiently cultured both wild-type and *Gata2<sup>fl/fl</sup>;Gata3<sup>fl/fl</sup>;UBC-cre/ERT2* preimplantation embryos with tamoxifen (Fig. S4). The transient tamoxifen exposure ensured GATA gene deletion and defective blastocyst maturation in the majority of the *Gata*-DKO embryos (data not shown). We

transferred transiently tamoxifen-exposed *Gata2<sup>fl/fl</sup>;Gata3<sup>fl/fl</sup>;UBC-cre/ERT2* and wild-type embryos, which matured to the blastocyst stage, to the uterine horns of pseudopregnant mice. Wild-type blastocysts with tamoxifen exposure readily implanted (Fig. S4), indicating that transient exposure to tamoxifen does not affect blastocyst implantation efficiency. However, blastocysts that developed from *Gata*-DKO blastocysts after transient exposure to tamoxifen failed to implant (Fig. S4). Collectively, these results



**Fig. 2. Combinatorial loss of GATA2 and GATA3 impairs functional TE development.** (A) Experimental strategy to define the importance of GATA factors during mouse preimplantation development. (B) Micrographs show that the loss of GATA2 is dispensable for blastocyst maturation, whereas loss of both GATA2 and GATA3 results in a partial defect in blastocyst formation. Arrows indicate matured blastocysts with deleted GATA genes. (C) The percentage of preimplantation embryos that matured to the blastocyst stage upon loss of GATA factors. Mean $\pm$ s.e.,  $n=3$ ,  $*P\leq 0.01$ . (D) Immunofluorescence confirmed the loss of GATA2 expression in *Gata2*-KO blastocysts and loss of both GATA2 and GATA3 expression in *Gata*-DKO blastocysts. Blue stain is DAPI. (E) Analysis of mRNA expression, showing significant changes in TE-specific genes in *Gata*-DKO embryos compared with *Gata2*-KO or *Gata3*-KO embryos. The expression level of a gene in control embryos was considered 1. Mean $\pm$ s.e.,  $n=3$ ,  $*P\leq 0.001$ . (F) Uterine horns from E7.5 pseudopregnant female mice that received control (left) or *Gata*-DKO (right) blastocysts. *Gata*-DKO blastocysts showed implantation failure.

indicated that although GATA2 and GATA3 functions are not essential for blastocoel cavitation they are required to maintain proper gene expression balance and implantation efficiency within the developing TE lineage.

### GATA2/GATA3 functions in the trophoblast lineage are essential for postimplantation mammalian development

As GATA2 and GATA3 are selectively expressed in TSPCs of the early postimplantation mouse embryo (Fig. 1), we also tested the importance of TSPC-specific GATA2/GATA3 function during early postimplantation development. For this study, we started tamoxifen treatment at  $\sim$ E5.5, as the presence of tamoxifen on or before E4.5 affects the implantation process (Bloxham and Pugh, 1977; Dao et al., 1996; Pugh and Sumano, 1982). Also, we crossed *Gata2*<sup>fl</sup>/*Gata3*<sup>fl</sup>; *Ubc-cre/ERT2* males with *Gata2*<sup>fl</sup>/*Gata3*<sup>fl</sup> females to confine GATA gene deletion to within developing embryos.

Individual deletion of *Gata2* or *Gata3* induces mouse embryonic lethality after E10.5 (Pandolfi et al., 1995; Tsai et al., 1994). Therefore, after inducing *Gata2/Gata3* deletion at E5.5, we

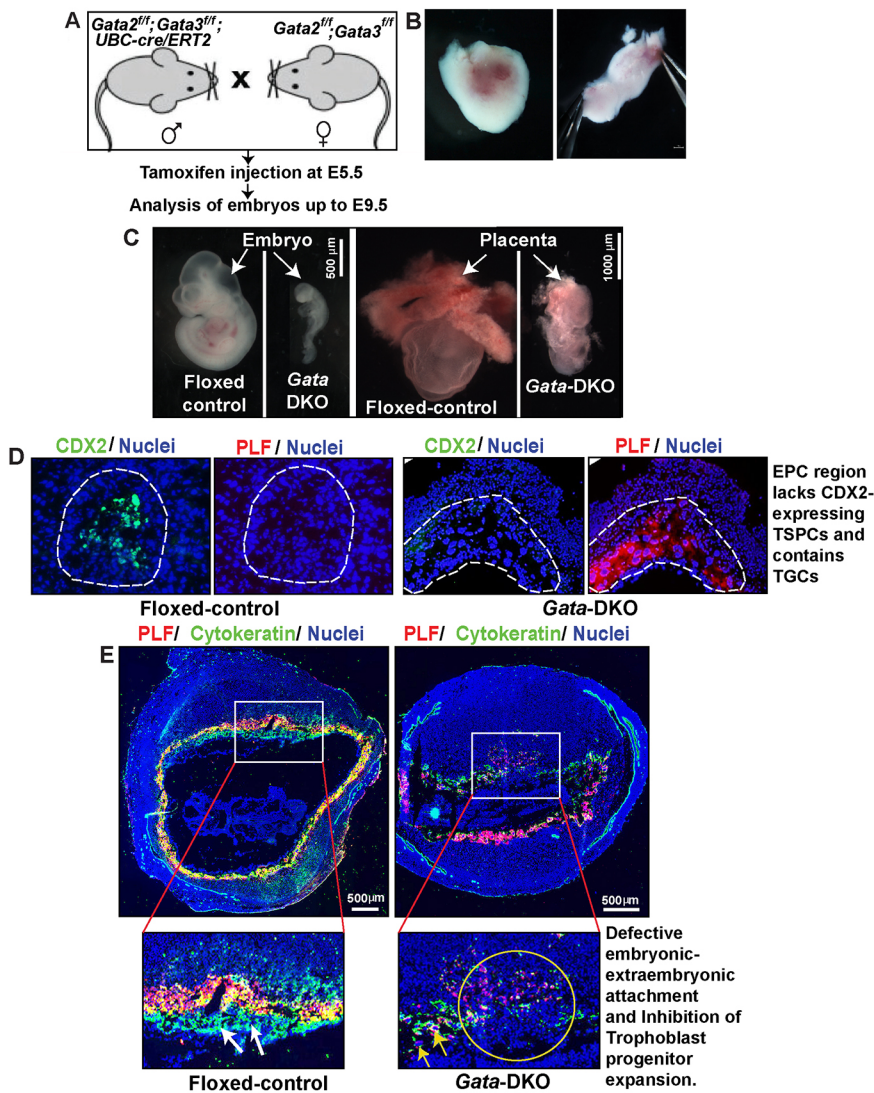
monitored embryonic development on or before E9.5 (Fig. 3A). As expected, individual loss of GATA2 or GATA3 did not induce embryonic lethality by E9.5 (Table 1). However, combinatorial deletion of *Gata2* and *Gata3* at E5.5 prevented development of most of the embryos, resulting in embryonic death/loss at implantation sites before E7.5 (Fig. 3B). Although a few embryos developed, they died at  $\sim$ E7.5–8.0 and none developed beyond Theiler stage 12a ( $\sim$ E8) (Fig. 3C). Furthermore, analysis of surviving *Gata*-DKO conceptuses revealed impaired placentation (Fig. 3C–E). ExE/EPC regions were not properly developed in *Gata*-DKO conceptuses and were characterized by near complete loss of CDX2-expressing TSPCs (Fig. 3D). Similarly, when analyzed at E9.5, the *Gata*-DKO conceptuses revealed defective embryonic-extraembryonic attachment and were characterized by near complete loss of trophoblast progenitors (Fig. 3E) at the maternal-fetal interface.

Next, we asked whether combinatorial functions of GATA2 and GATA3 are essential for the development of differentiated trophoblast subtypes. In a developing mouse embryo, progenitors for differentiated trophoblast subtypes arise within the EPC and the chorionic ectoderm at  $\sim$ E8.0–8.5 (Fig. S1). Therefore, to test the importance of GATA factors during trophoblast progenitor differentiation, we induced *Gata2/Gata3* deletion at E7.5. At E7.5, GATA3 is not expressed in embryonic cells, and we were unable to determine GATA2 protein expression in the embryo proper before E7.5. Individual knockout of *Gata2* or *Gata3* induces mouse embryonic death on or after E10.5, so we analyzed embryonic development on or before E10.5 (Fig. 4A). Deletion of both GATA factors at E7.5 induced embryonic death at an earlier stage ( $\sim$ E9.5) than the individual knockouts (Fig. 4B). Placenta development was not overtly affected in either *Gata2*-KO or *Gata3*-KO embryos (Fig. 4B). By contrast, placentae in *Gata*-DKO embryos were significantly smaller, with severely reduced labyrinth zones and significantly smaller junctional zones (Fig. 4C,D). Furthermore, junctional zones of *Gata*-DKO placentae were characterized by significant reduction of spongiotrophoblast (SpT) cells (Fig. 4E) without any significant loss in the trophoblast giant cell (TGC) population. Interestingly, complete loss of blood development (a more severe phenotype than that shown by *Gata2*-KO embryos) was also observed in *Gata*-DKO embryos and placentae (Fig. 4B). This complete loss of hematopoiesis is being studied in detail and will be reported elsewhere.

Collectively, conditional gene deletions at distinct developmental stages revealed that GATA2 and GATA3 functions in the extraembryonic trophoblast lineage are essential for both pre- and postimplantation embryonic development.

### GATA factors fine-tune gene expression to maintain trophoblast stem state

Trophoblast genes that are directly regulated by GATA2 and/or GATA3 are incompletely defined. An earlier study (Kidder and Palmer, 2010) used chromatin immunoprecipitation (ChIP) with DNA microarray hybridization analysis to investigate GATA3 binding at 28,000 promoter regions in mouse TSCs. However, global targets of GATA2, as well as GATA3 targets beyond the gene promoters, have not been defined in TSCs. Also, how GATA2 and GATA3 orchestrate different stages of trophoblast development is not well characterized. We hypothesized that, being pioneer transcription factors (Chen and Dent, 2014; Zaret and Carroll, 2011), GATA2 and GATA3 could target both open and silent chromatin regions in trophoblast cells to instigate developmental stage-specific gene expression programs, thereby establishing stem/progenitor versus differentiated cell fate. To test this hypothesis, we established TSCs in which *Gata2* and *Gata3* could be conditionally deleted individually



**Fig. 3. Concurrent loss of GATA2 and GATA3 impairs early postimplantation development.**

(A) Mating strategy to define the importance of GATA2 and GATA3 during early postimplantation mouse development. (B) An E7.5 *Gata*-DKO conceptus without the developing embryo inside. Left, before dissection; right, after dissection. (C) Control and *Gata*-DKO conceptuses were isolated at ~E9.5 and examined for embryonic morphology (left) and placentation (right). The image of the *Gata*-DKO embryo is representative of a few embryos that developed to Theiler stage 12a. None of the *Gata*-DKO embryos developed beyond this stage. (D) Fluorescence images showing loss of CDX2-expressing (green) TSPCs but the presence of proliferin-expressing (PLF, also known as PRL2C2; red) TGCs within the prospective EPC region of an E7.5 *Gata*-DKO conceptus. (E) Placentation at control and *Gata*-DKO implantation sites was analyzed at ~E9.5 (images are not on the same scale). Sections were immunostained with pan-cytokeratin (green) and for the TGC marker PLF (red). The maternal-fetal interface in the *Gata*-DKO embryo lacks trophoblast progenitors (insets, white arrows in control) but contains the primary TGC layer (yellow arrows). Also, unlike the control, the developmentally arrested *Gata*-DKO embryo proper is attached to the placentation site.

(*Gata2*-KO and *Gata3*-KO) or in combination (*Gata*-DKO) (Fig. 5A, Fig. S5A,B) and asked whether a GATA factor-dependent transcriptional program is important to balance TSC self-renewal with differentiation. Our *in vitro* cell culture studies of TSCs maintained in undifferentiated culture with fibroblast growth factor 4 (FGF4) and heparin showed that loss of GATA2 and GATA3 induced TSC differentiation, leading to loss of stem-state colony morphology (Fig. 5A). Furthermore, the *Gata*-DKO TSCs failed to form chimera with the developing TE lineage when they were injected into developing preimplantation mouse embryos (Fig. 5B,C). By contrast, *Gata2*-KO TSCs or *Gata3*-KO TSCs maintained their self-renewal

ability, although they showed a higher propensity for spontaneous differentiation than the wild-type control TSCs in standard TSC culture conditions (Fig. S5A). These studies indicated that whereas either GATA2 or GATA3 is dispensable, TSCs that have lost both GATA factors are unable to maintain the stem state.

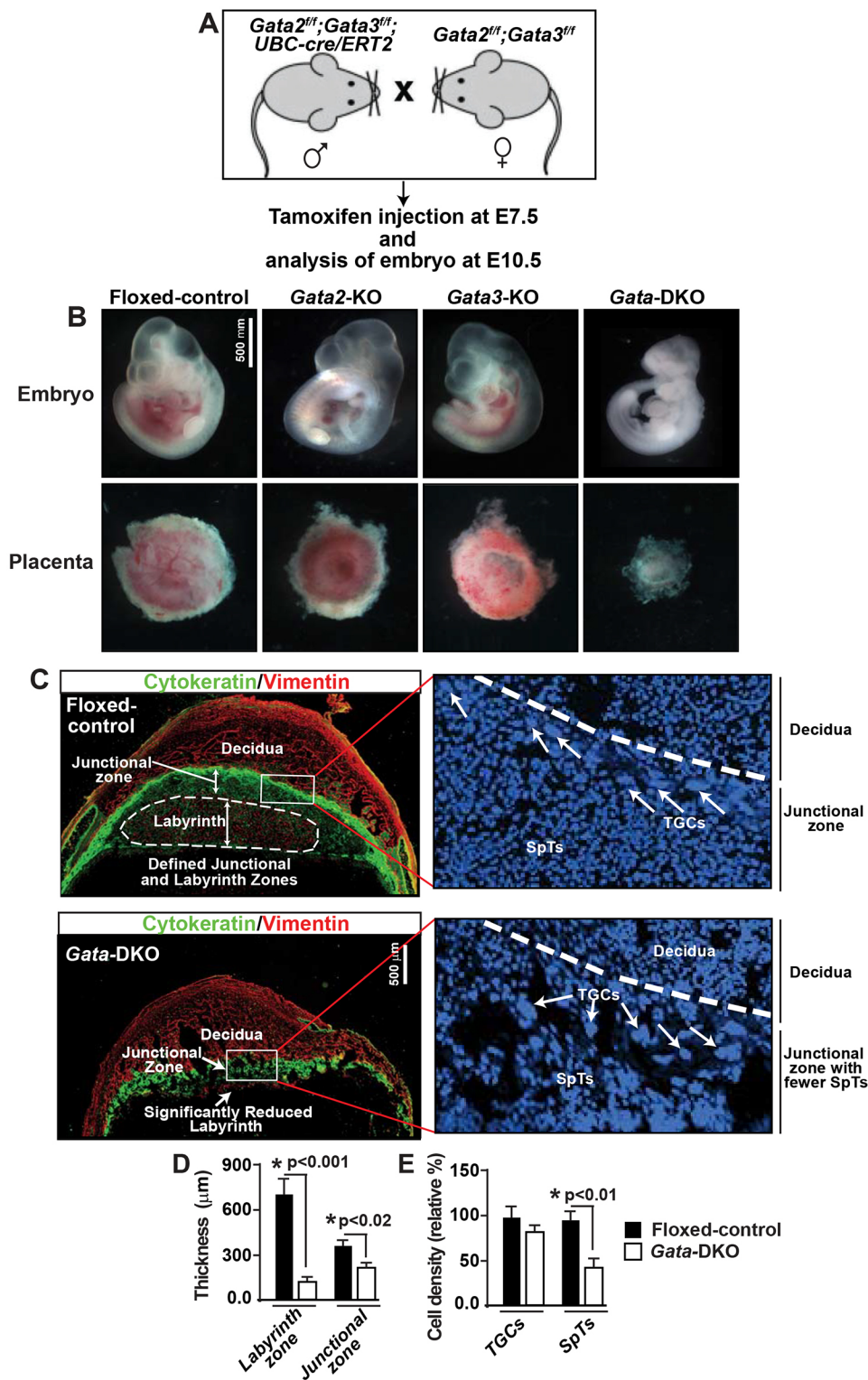
To validate that GATA factors directly regulate key trophoblast genes we performed ChIP-seq analysis in wild-type control TSCs. We identified 12,949 GATA2 binding and 5638 GATA3 binding regions in the mouse TSC genome (Table S1A,B). RNA-seq analysis in control versus *Gata*-DKO TSCs showed that loss of both GATA factors altered the expression of 9775 genes by  $\geq 1.5$  fold (Table S2). A comparative analysis of the ChIP-seq and RNA-seq data revealed that, among those 9775 genes, ~68% are direct targets of either GATA2 (6667 genes) or GATA3 (4746 genes) and that ~43% (4243 genes) have both GATA2 and GATA3 occupancy at their chromatin domains (Table S3, Fig. 5D). Thus, our global genomics analysis revealed that ~90% of GATA3 target genes (4243 out of 4746 genes) are also targets of GATA2 in TSCs, strongly supporting functional redundancy of these two GATA factors in gene regulation during early trophoblast development.

Our analyses showed altered expression of a large number of genes that are targeted by both GATA2 and GATA3 in TSCs (Fig. 5E) and revealed multi-modal biological functions of dual GATA-regulated

**Table 1. Lethality analysis of GATA knockout mouse embryos**

Genotype	Total	Died before E7.5	Died between E7.5 and E8.5	Survived at E9.5
<i>Gata2<sup>fl/fl</sup>; Gata3<sup>fl/fl</sup></i>	84	0	0	84
<i>Gata2</i> -KO	32	0	0	32
<i>Gata3</i> -KO	36	0	0	36
<i>Gata</i> -DKO	22	16	6	0

GATA gene deletions were induced in embryos by tamoxifen injection of pregnant females at E5.5. Values indicate the number of embryos of the indicated genotype.

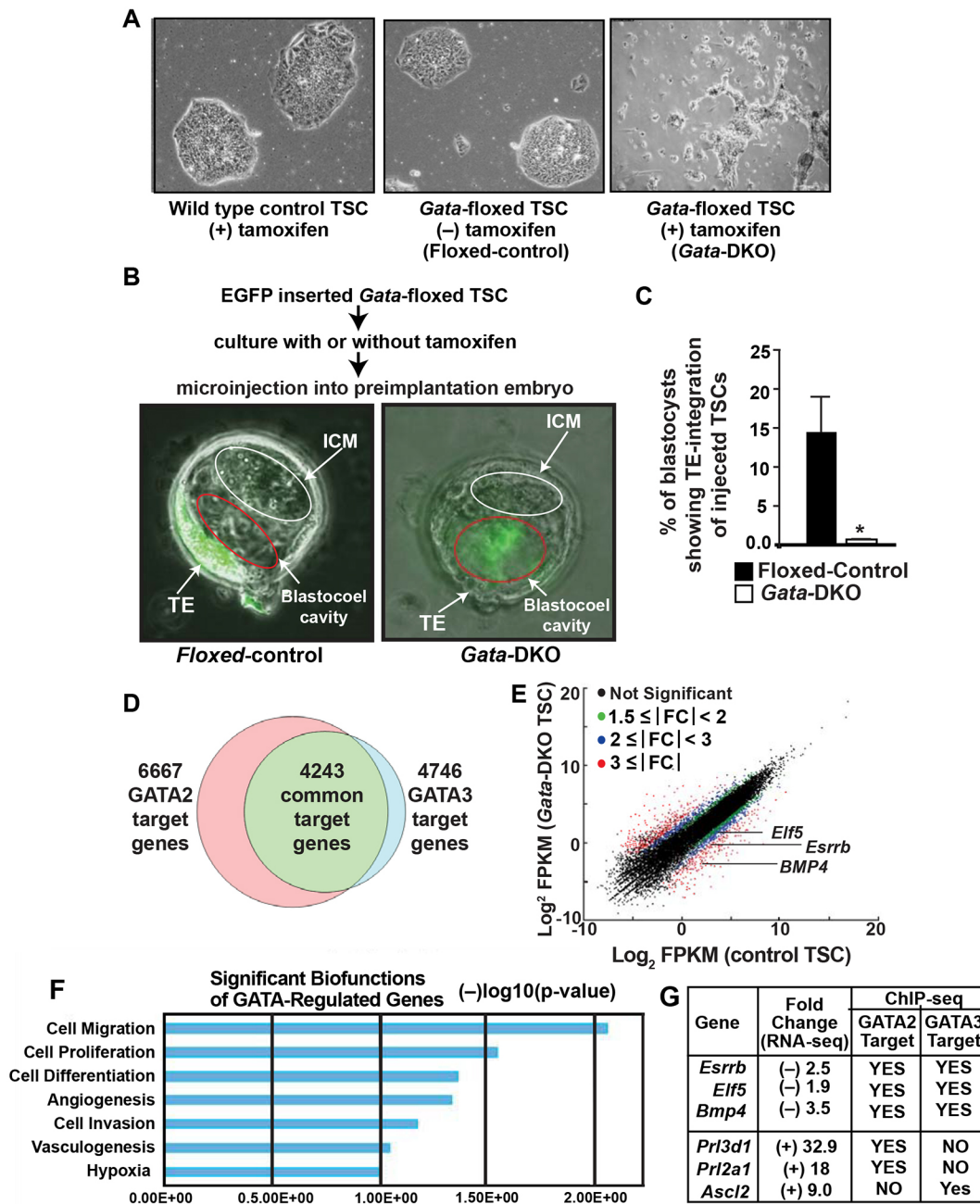


**Fig. 4. *Gata2* and *Gata3* ablations in differentiating trophoblast cells impair placental development and induce early embryonic lethality.** (A) Experimental strategy to define the importance of GATA factors during the differentiation of trophoblast progenitors to specialized trophoblast cells. (B) E10.5 embryos and placentae showing severe developmental defects in *Gata*-DKO compared with *Gata2*-KO, *Gata3*-KO and control embryos. (C) Immunofluorescence analyses showing a severe reduction of the labyrinth zone in the *Gata*-DKO placenta compared with the control. Pan-cytokeratin was used to mark the trophoblast layers, while vimentin was used to differentiate the junctional zone from the labyrinth zone and the uterine tissue. Insets show magnified regions of junctional zones with the presence of TGCs (arrows). (D) Quantitative analysis of the width of the labyrinth and junctional zones in control and *Gata*-DKO placentae. (E) Quantitative cell density analysis showing that the junctional zone in *Gata*-DKO placentae contains a similar number of TGCs to the control but is associated with significantly fewer spongiotrophoblast (SpT) cells. Error bars indicate mean  $\pm$  s.e.,  $n=3$ .

genes (Fig. 5F). Several of those GATA target genes are implicated in trophoblast and placenta development. For example, mRNA expression of *Elf5*, *Esrrb* and *Bmp4*, which are direct targets of both GATA2 and GATA3 (Fig. 5G) and are implicated in TSC self-renewal, was strongly repressed in *Gata*-DKO TSCs (Fig. 5E). Our qRT-PCR analyses also validated the RNA-seq data (Fig. S5C). By contrast, mRNA expression of the GATA targets *Prl3d1* and *Prl2a1*, which are only expressed in terminally differentiated TGCs, and *Ascl2*, which is induced in SpT cells, was upregulated in *Gata*-DKO

TSCs (Fig. 5G). Furthermore, ChIP-seq analyses confirmed that all these genes are direct targets of either GATA2 or GATA3 in TSCs (Fig. 5G). Thus, our ChIP-seq and RNA-seq analyses indicated that GATA2 and GATA3 mediate two important functions in undifferentiated TSCs: (1) to maintain the transcription of key genes that promote the trophoblast stem state; and (2) to suppress the transcription of genes that promote TSC differentiation.

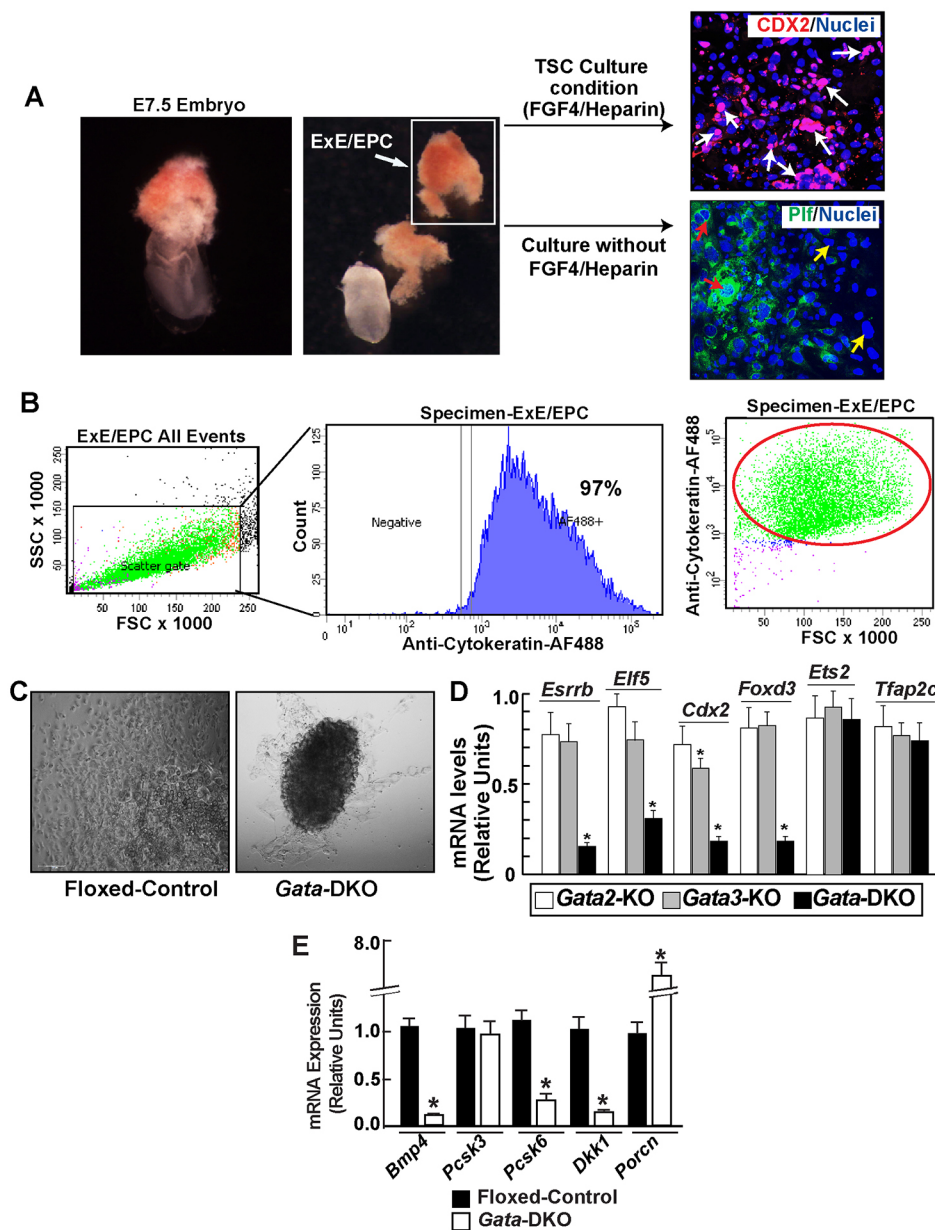
To confirm GATA-mediated regulation of stem-state genes, we studied gene expression in primary TSPCs. We established *ex vivo*



**Fig. 5. Loss of GATA factors impairs the stem-state gene expression program in TSCs and primary TSPCs.** (A) Micrographs of control and *Gata2<sup>fl/fl</sup>;Gata3<sup>fl/fl</sup>;Ubc-cre/ERT2* (*Gata*-floxed) TSC colonies in standard TSC culture conditions. Unlike wild-type TSCs (left), *Gata*-floxed TSCs that were cultured with tamoxifen to delete GATA genes (*Gata*-DKO, right) lost the stem-state colony morphology. *Gata*-floxed TSCs that were cultured without tamoxifen (floxed-control, middle) maintained stem-state colony morphology. (B) TE chimerism analyses of TSCs. Micrographs show that, unlike floxed-control TSCs, *Gata*-DKO TSCs failed to integrate into the TE and remained within the blastocoel cavity. ICM, inner cell mass. (C) Quantitative plot of TE chimerism analyses. Mean  $\pm$  s.e.,  $n=3$ , \* $P < 0.001$ . (D) Venn diagram showing the number of genes that are direct targets of GATA2 and/or GATA3 and that also showed significant changes in mRNA expression in *Gata*-DKO TSCs. (E) The scatter plot shows fold change in mRNA expression of common GATA2 and GATA3 target genes, including the TSC-specific genes *Bmp4*, *Esrrb* and *Elf5*, in control versus *Gata*-DKO TSCs. (F) Ingenuity pathway analysis showing major biological functions associated with GATA2/GATA3-regulated genes in TSCs. (G) Downregulation of TSC-specific genes and upregulation of differentiated trophoblast markers in *Gata*-DKO TSCs. These representative genes are also direct targets of GATA2 and/or GATA3.

explant cultures with ExE/EPC from early postimplantation mouse embryos (Fig. 6A). These explant cultures contain nearly pure ( $\geq 97\%$ ) primary trophoblast cells (Fig. 6B) and could be maintained in stem/progenitor states in the presence of FGF4 and heparin in TSC culture conditions (Fig. 6A). Also, in the absence of FGF4 and heparin, TSPCs in the explant culture undergo differentiation (Fig. 6A).

We performed gene expression analysis with these primary TSPCs after maintaining them in TSC culture conditions. We found that loss of both GATA factors often impairs the expansion of primary TSPCs (Fig. 6C) and represses mRNA expression of several TSC/TSPC-specific genes, including *Esrrb*, *Elf5* and *Cdx2* (Fig. 6D). Also, the expression of *Foxd3* (a GATA target), which is important for TSPC self-renewal (Tomper et al., 2005), was strongly downregulated in



**Fig. 6. GATA factors are required to activate developmental stage-specific gene expression in trophoblast progenitors to ensure differentiation and embryonic-extraembryonic cross-talk.** (A) ExE/EPC explant cultures, maintained in the presence of FGF4 and heparin, showed the presence of CDX2-expressing TSPCs (white arrows). Explants cultured in the absence of FGF4 undergo differentiation. In this condition, TSPCs differentiate into multiple cell types, including TGCs with (red arrows) or without (yellow arrows) expression of proliferin, a marker of parietal TGCs. (B) FACS using intracellular cytokeratin labeling shows that ExE/EPC explant culture consists of a high percentage of trophoblast cells. (C) Micrographs show *ex vivo* primary TSPC culture from floxed-control and *Gata*-DKO embryos treated with tamoxifen in the absence of FGF4. The *Gata*-DKO samples often showed reduced cell numbers, indicating abnormal proliferation of TSPCs. (D) Analysis of mRNA expression, showing significant reduction of several TSPC-specific genes in the *Gata*-DKO TSPCs compared with *Gata2*-KO and *Gata3*-KO. The expression level of a gene in control TSPCs was considered as 1. Mean  $\pm$  s.e.,  $n=3$ ,  $*P \leq 0.001$ . (E) Analysis of mRNA expression in control and *Gata*-DKO TSPCs showing altered expression of BMP4, Nodal and Wnt signaling genes that are implicated in successful gastrulation. Mean  $\pm$  s.e.,  $n=3$ ,  $*P \leq 0.01$ .

*Gata*-DKO TSPCs. By contrast, the expression of these genes was either unaltered or only marginally affected in *Gata2*-KO or *Gata3*-KO TSPCs (Fig. 6D). Interestingly, mRNA expression of *Ets2* (a GATA target) and *Tfap2c*, which are implicated in the maintenance of TSPCs in the early postimplantation embryo (Choi et al., 2012; Georgiades and Rossant, 2006; Kuckenberget al., 2012), was not significantly altered in *Gata*-DKO TSPCs (Fig. 6D).

Collectively, our studies in *Gata*-DKO TSCs and primary TSPCs strongly indicated that functional redundancy of GATA2 and GATA3 ensures an appropriate gene expression balance to promote self-renewal and expansion of TSPCs during early postimplantation mammalian development.

#### In TSPCs GATA factors regulate key signaling components that mediate embryonic-extraembryonic signaling cross-talk

How does the loss of GATA2 and GATA3 in the extraembryonic trophoblast lineage impair development at an early postimplantation stage? Postimplantation embryonic development depends on BMP4

and Nodal signaling cross-talk between TSPCs and cells of the embryo proper (Beppu et al., 2000; Brennan et al., 2001; Kimura et al., 2000; Mishina et al., 1995; Rodriguez et al., 2005; Soares et al., 2005, 2008; Tam and Loebel, 2007; Winnier et al., 1995). TSPCs produce BMP4, which is required for primitive streak development (Murohashi et al., 2010; Streit et al., 1998). TSPCs also express the convertase enzymes PCSK3 (furin) and PCSK6, which process Nodal precursors to ensure proper embryo patterning (Guzman-Ayala et al., 2004). In addition to Nodal and BMP4, TSPCs also produce other factors that regulate the Wnt signaling pathway to control postimplantation development. For example, the secretory protein dickkopf 1 (DKK1), which negatively regulates the Wnt/ $\beta$ -catenin pathway, is required for gastrulation (Peng et al., 2008). Also, TSPCs express porcupine homolog (*Porcn*), which is necessary for the palmitoylation and secretion of functional Wnt molecules (Biechele et al., 2013).

RNA-seq analysis confirmed that along with *Bmp4*, the expression of additional GATA targets *Pcsk6* and *Dkk1* is repressed in *Gata*-DKO TSCs (Table S2), whereas the GATA



target *Porcn* is expressed at very low levels in both control and *Gata*-DKO TSCs. As the loss of GATA factors strongly downregulated *Bmp4*, *Pcsk6* and *Dkk1* expression in TSCs, we tested whether GATA factor loss also impairs their expression in the primary TSPCs of a postimplantation embryo. Our gene expression analysis confirmed that loss of GATA factors strongly represses *Bmp4*, *Pcsk6* and *Dkk1* expression in TSPCs (Fig. 6E). By contrast, *Porcn* expression is induced in *Gata*-DKO TSPCs (Fig. 6E). These results indicate that GATA2 and GATA3 regulate the expression of BMP4, Nodal and Wnt signaling components in TSPCs, thereby facilitating embryonic-extraembryonic signaling cross-talk during early postimplantation development.

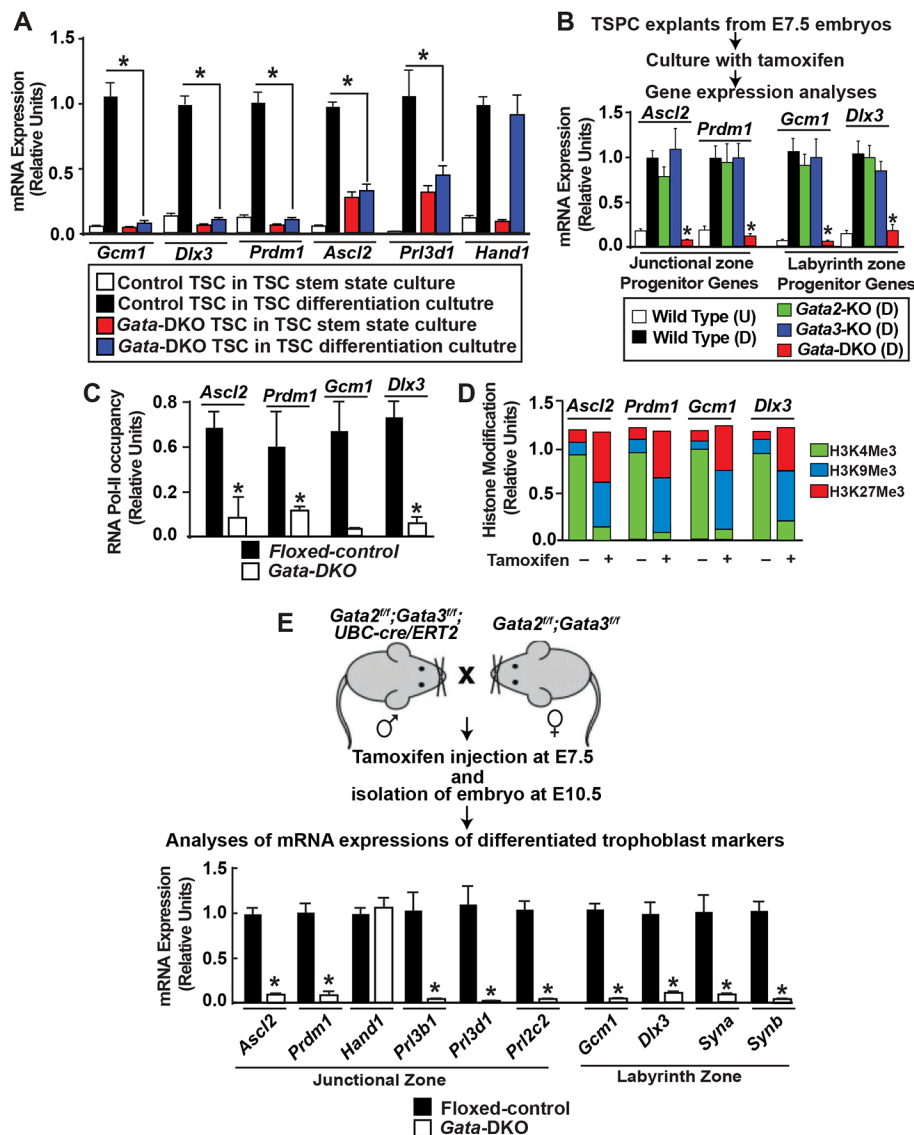
### GATA factors promote trophoblast differentiation by activating differentiation-specific genes

In mice, attachment of chorion to the allantois gives rise to GCM1<sup>+</sup> (Basyuk et al., 1999) and DLX3<sup>+</sup> (Morasso et al., 1999) labyrinth trophoblast progenitors (LTPs), which differentiate to syncytiotrophoblasts within the labyrinth zone (Fig. S1). In the EPC, ASCL2<sup>+</sup>, PRDM1<sup>+</sup> and TPBPA<sup>+</sup> progenitors (Mould et al., 2012; Simmons et al., 2007; Tanaka et al., 1997) arise. These

progenitors subsequently differentiate into specialized trophoblast subtypes of the junctional zone, which contains TGCs, SpT cells and glycogen trophoblasts (GlyTs) (Fig. S1). As *Gata2* and *Gata3* deletion in E7.5 embryos leads to defective development of both the labyrinth and the junctional zones, we examined whether GATA factors exert a differentiation stage-specific function by promoting the transcription of key genes during trophoblast progenitor differentiation.

The global transcriptome profile in TSCs revealed that GATA factors occupy chromatin domains of key trophoblast genes that are transcriptionally repressed in TSCs but are crucial to induce trophoblast lineage differentiation (Table S4). For example, we identified GATA factor occupancy at the chromatin domains of the GATA targets *Gcm1*, *Dlx3* and *Prdm1*, which are implicated in the development of syncytiotrophoblasts and TGCs (Basyuk et al., 1999; Berghorn et al., 2005; Hughes et al., 2004; Morasso et al., 1999; Mould et al., 2012). These genes are transcriptionally silent in TSCs (Table S4). However, their expression is induced in differentiated cultures of TSCs (Fig. 7A, Fig. S5D).

We examined whether *Gcm1*, *Dlx3*, *Prdm1* and other trophoblast differentiation markers are induced in *Gata*-DKO TSCs in FGF4-



**Fig. 7. Functional redundancy of GATA2 and GATA3 ensure proper gene expression during trophoblast progenitor differentiation.**

(A) Control and *Gata*-DKO TSCs were cultured for 4 days in TSC differentiation culture conditions, and mRNA expression of trophoblast differentiation genes was determined by qRT-PCR. Mean±s.e.,  $n=3$ ,  $*P<0.001$ . Except for *Hand1*, the induction of trophoblast markers was impaired in *Gata*-DKO TSCs.

(B) Scheme of gene expression analyses in differentiating TSPCs. The plot shows impaired induction of key differentiation genes in *Gata*-DKO TSPCs. (C) RNA Pol II recruitment at promoters of key trophoblast genes in differentiating control and *Gata*-DKO TSPCs. Mean±s.e.,  $n=3$ ,  $*P<0.01$ .

(D) Maintenance of repressive histone markers (H3K9Me3 and H3K27Me3) and loss of H3K4Me3 at the promoter regions of key differentiation genes in differentiating *Gata*-DKO TSPCs. (E) Scheme of gene expression analyses in *Gata*-DKO placentae. The plot shows relative mRNA expression of trophoblast genes in control and *Gata*-DKO placentae. Mean±s.e.,  $n=3$  individual experiments,  $*P<0.01$ .

free differentiating culture conditions. In particular, we wanted to test whether genes such as *Ascl2*, *Prl3d1* and *Prl3b1*, which are expressed at higher levels in *Gata*-DKO TSCs in standard TSC culture conditions, are altered in expression in differentiating culture conditions. Intriguingly, these gene expression analyses revealed that differentiation potential is impaired in *Gata*-DKO TSCs (Fig. 7A, Fig. S5D). *Gcm1*, *Dlx3* and *Prdm1* remained suppressed in *Gata*-DKO TSCs when cultured in differentiating condition for several days (Fig. 7A, Fig. S5D). Also, mRNA expression of *Ascl2*, *Prl3d1* and *Prl3b1* was not further induced. However, *Hand1* (a GATA target), a gene that promotes TGC differentiation (Hemberger et al., 2004), was upregulated in *Gata*-DKO TSCs. Collectively, these results indicated that GATA2 and GATA3 promote trophoblast differentiation by directly regulating the expression of key differentiation genes.

To further validate the importance of GATA-mediated gene regulation during the differentiation of trophoblast progenitors to specialized trophoblast cells, we tested gene expression in *Gata*-DKO TSPC explants. For gene expression analysis in the differentiating TSPCs we isolated ExE/EPC explants from E7.5 embryos, cultured them in differentiating culture conditions and induced GATA gene deletion with tamoxifen (Fig. 7B). Gene expression analyses confirmed that the presence of either GATA2 or GATA3 is sufficient for the induction of key trophoblast differentiation genes, namely *Ascl2*, *Prdm1*, *Gcm1* and *Dlx3* (Fig. 7B). However, the loss of both GATA2 and GATA3 impaired induction of these genes during the differentiation of TSPCs to specialized trophoblast cells (Fig. 7B). Furthermore, analysis of their chromatin domains in TSPCs revealed that loss of both GATA factors impaired RNA polymerase II (Pol II) recruitment and maintained repressive histone marks at these gene loci (Fig. 7C,D).

We also assessed gene expression in differentiated trophoblast cells of *Gata*-DKO placentae (Fig. 7E). Similar to the TSPC explant cultures, there was strong repression of *Gcm1*, *Prdm1*, *Dlx3* and *Ascl2* in *Gata*-DKO placentae (Fig. 7E). Loss of GATA factors strongly inhibited the expression of other TGC-specific genes including *Prl3b1*, *Prl3d1* and *Prl2c2* (Fig. 7E), an observation previously reported with individual GATA gene knockout placentae (Ma et al., 1997). Expression of syncytin A (*Syna*) and syncytin B (*Synb*), which are essential for labyrinth trophoblast syncytialization (Dupressoir et al., 2005, 2009, 2011), was also strongly repressed in *Gata*-DKO placentae. However, similar to *Gata*-DKO TSCs, expression of *Hand1* was not significantly altered in *Gata*-DKO placentae.

In summary, gene expression analysis in the TE, TSCs and primary trophoblast populations provided developmental snapshots of gene regulatory mechanisms of GATA2 and GATA3 during trophoblast lineage development. The loss-of-function analysis in *Gata*-DKO TSCs, TSPCs and placentae showed that the functional redundancy of GATA2 and GATA3 not only maintains trophoblast stem-state genes in TSPCs, but is also important to ensure the induction of key genes that initiate trophoblast progenitor differentiation to specialized trophoblast cells during placentation.

## DISCUSSION

Recently, multiple studies have implicated GATA2 and GATA3 in orchestrating gene expression patterns during trophoblast development (Bai et al., 2011; Home et al., 2009; Ma and Linzer, 2000; Ma et al., 1997; Ralston et al., 2010; Ray et al., 2009). However, owing to the lack of an overt phenotype in individual gene knockouts, the importance of trophoblast cell-specific GATA function during early mammalian development was difficult to interpret. Here, by studying a dual gene knockout model, we show

that trophoblast-specific GATA2 and GATA3 functions are essential at multiple stages of early embryonic development. Our analyses also revealed that both GATA2 and GATA3 directly regulate a large number of trophoblast genes. These findings strongly support a complementary role of GATA2 and GATA3 during trophoblast development and explain the lack of an overt trophoblast phenotype in individual knockout studies.

Unlike *Gata2*-KO preimplantation embryos, *Gata3*-KO preimplantation embryos show a partial defect in blastocyst maturation, which is surprising as ChIP-seq analyses revealed that ~90% of the GATA3 target genes in TSCs are also GATA2 targets. However, the ChIP-seq studies in TSCs provided snapshots of GATA factor binding at their chromatin targets in a large cell population. Thus, it is possible that during blastocyst maturation GATA3 and GATA2 exhibit dynamic chromatin occupancy, with more genes being bound by GATA3. Alternatively, a few genes that are selectively regulated by GATA3 might be more important for blastocyst maturation. Nevertheless, blastocyst formation in most of the *Gata2*-KO and the majority of *Gata3*-KO preimplantation embryos supports a functional redundancy of GATA2 and GATA3 during blastocyst maturation.

Developmental snapshots of gene expression in *Gata*-DKO TSCs and TSPCs showed that temporal fine-tuning of gene expression by GATA2/GATA3 regulates distinct stages of trophoblast development. For example, expression of *Prl3b1* and *Ascl2* is induced in *Gata*-DKO TE. By contrast, these genes are repressed in *Gata*-DKO differentiated trophoblast cells. These findings imply that GATA2 and GATA3 orchestrate trophoblast lineage development by ensuring developmental stage-specific gene expression patterns. How GATA factors fine-tune temporal gene expression in trophoblast cells is a subject of further study. One hypothesis is that, in response to different cellular signaling, GATA2/GATA3 form distinct protein-protein complexes at different chromatin domains, leading to alternative transcriptional outcomes. Also, pioneer transcription factors are known for RNA Pol II recruitment at both poised and transcribed genes (Hsu et al., 2015). Thus, it will be interesting to identify how GATA-dependent mechanisms regulate trophoblast chromatin at different stages of development and whether these mechanisms are conserved in multiple mammalian species, including human.

Interestingly, unlike labyrinth trophoblast and SpT cells, the development of TGCs, including parietal TGCs that separate the developing placenta from the maternal decidua, was not overtly affected in *Gata*-DKO placentae. Studies with mouse TSCs indicated that TGC development might be a default pathway, as withdrawal of FGF4 and other TSC self-renewal factors promotes the spontaneous differentiation of TSCs to TGCs (Tanaka et al., 1998). Also, expression of HAND1, a factor implicated in TGC development (Hemberger et al., 2004), is not dependent upon GATA factors. Thus, TGC development during mouse placentation is not absolutely dependent on GATA factor function. However, GATA2 and GATA3 are expressed in TGCs and regulate the expression of the TGC-specific genes *Prl2c2*, *Prl3d1* and *Prl3b1* (Ma et al., 1997). Thus, GATA factors might be important to maintain proper TGC functions that include the production of placental hormones and other secretory molecules to ensure the progression of pregnancy. Also, GATA2/GATA3 function might be important in the development of other TGC subtypes, including the invasive trophoblast population. Future studies with TGC-specific *Gata2/Gata3* deletion will provide more in-depth information regarding their importance in TGCs.

Another interesting finding is the complete lack of blood development in *Gata*-DKO placenta and embryo when gene deletion

is induced at E7.5. The placenta is a major site of hematopoiesis and the placental hematopoiesis in mice begins after E9.0, when definitive multilineage progenitors appear (Alvarez-Silva et al., 2003). By contrast, mature hematopoietic stem cells in the embryo proper are first found at ~E10.5 (Gekas et al., 2005; Ottersbach and Dzierzak, 2005). Although previous studies (Minegishi et al., 1998; Shi et al., 2014) reported that *Gata2* mRNA and protein are expressed in the lateral mesoderm of the ~E7.5–8.0 mouse embryo, we found that at ~E7.5 GATA2 and GATA3 proteins are mainly expressed in trophoblast cells (Fig. 1C). At this stage, no hematopoietic cell exists in the embryo proper or in the placenta. Also, *Gata*-DKO embryos under that experimental condition do not mature beyond E9.5, a developmental stage before the augmentation of definitive hematopoiesis in the embryo proper. Thus, it is possible that trophoblast cell-specific GATA function is required for proper hematopoiesis during embryonic development, a hypothesis that awaits future studies of GATA gene deletion in specific trophoblast cell types.

## MATERIALS AND METHODS

### Derivation of mouse TSC lines

*Gata2<sup>fl/fl</sup>;Gata3<sup>fl/fl</sup>;UBC-cre/ERT2/+* TSCs were established from E3.5 blastocysts according to the protocol of Tanaka et al. (1998) and cultured in the presence of FGF4 and heparin. *Gata2* and *Gata3* floxed alleles were efficiently excised from *Gata2<sup>fl/fl</sup>;Gata3<sup>fl/fl</sup>;UBC-cre/ERT2* TSCs by culturing the cells in the presence of tamoxifen (1 µg/ml). *Gata2<sup>fl/fl</sup>* and *Gata3<sup>fl/fl</sup>* TSCs were established in a similar fashion. Gene deletions were induced in these cell lines by transient transfections with Puro.Cre empty vector (Addgene plasmid 17408) (Kumar et al., 2008) according to a protocol described previously (Home et al., 2009). All cell lines were confirmed negative for contamination.

### Generation of conditional knockout mouse strains

All procedures were performed after obtaining IACUC approvals at the University of Kansas Medical Center. Female *Gata2<sup>fl/fl</sup>* mice (Charles et al., 2006) were mated with B6;129S-Tg(*UBC-cre/ERT2*)1Ejb/J male (JAX Lab, stock 007001) (Ruzankina et al., 2007) in order to generate *Gata2<sup>fl/fl</sup>;UBC-cre/ERT2*. In the next step, *Gata2<sup>fl/fl</sup>;UBC-cre/ERT2* female mice were bred with *Gata2<sup>fl/+</sup>;UBC-cre/ERT2* males to generate *Gata2<sup>fl/+</sup>;UBC-cre/ERT2*. Similarly, female *Gata3<sup>fl/fl</sup>* mice (Zhu et al., 2004) were used to generate *Gata3<sup>fl/fl</sup>;UBC-cre/ERT2*. Again, *Gata2<sup>fl/fl</sup>;UBC-cre/ERT2* and *Gata3<sup>fl/fl</sup>;UBC-cre/ERT2* mice were crossed to generate *Gata2<sup>fl/+</sup>;Gata3<sup>fl/+</sup>;UBC-cre/ERT2*. Subsequently, *Gata2<sup>fl/+</sup>;Gata3<sup>fl/+</sup>;UBC-cre/ERT2* males and females were crossed to generate the *Gata2<sup>fl/fl</sup>;Gata3<sup>fl/fl</sup>;UBC-cre/ERT2* strain.

### GATA gene deletion in postimplantation embryos

For gene deletion in postimplantation embryos, matings were set between *Gata2<sup>fl/fl</sup>;UBC-cre/ERT2* males and *Gata2<sup>fl/fl</sup>* females, *Gata3<sup>fl/fl</sup>;UBC-cre/ERT2* males and *Gata3<sup>fl/fl</sup>* females, and *Gata2<sup>fl/fl</sup>;Gata3<sup>fl/fl</sup>;UBC-cre/ERT2* males and *Gata2<sup>fl/fl</sup>;Gata3<sup>fl/fl</sup>* females. Once copulation plugs were confirmed (E0.5), intraperitoneal injections of 200 µl tamoxifen solution (10 mg/ml in corn oil) were administered on desired days for each of the females.

### Collection, culture and GATA gene deletion in preimplantation embryos

One-cell stage mouse embryos were harvested according to a published protocol (Home et al., 2012; Saha et al., 2013) and were cultured in KSOM (Millipore) in the presence or absence of 1 µg/ml tamoxifen at 37°C in a humidified chamber, maintained at 5% CO<sub>2</sub> and 5% oxygen. For gene deletion using Cre recombinase-expressing vector, one-cell embryos were subjected to perivitelline space microinjection with lentiviral vectors expressing Cre recombinase. Further details are provided in the supplementary Materials and Methods.

### Explant culture of ExE/EPC

ExE/EPC regions were harvested from E7.5 pregnancies and cultured with or without FGF4 and heparin. Cultures were treated with tamoxifen to

induce gene deletions. Outgrowths were allowed to grow for 72–96 h before RNA was prepared.

### TSC injections in embryos

*Gata*-DKO and control TSCs were transfected with pLKO.3G (Addgene plasmid 14748) and cell sorted (flow cytometry is described in the supplementary Materials and Methods) for strong GFP expression. Sorted cells were cultured in the presence or absence of tamoxifen. Gene deletions were confirmed by PCR. Eight to ten TSCs were microinjected into morulae or very early stage blastocysts using standard techniques. Embryos were allowed to grow to expanded blastocyst stage and micrographed for GFP fluorescence.

### First-trimester human placental tissue

De-identified and discarded first-trimester placental tissues were obtained from the Research Centre for Women's and Infants' Health (RCWIH) BioBank, Toronto, Canada after obtaining Institutional IRB approval from the University of Kansas Medical Center and Mount Sinai Hospital, Toronto, Canada.

### Genotyping, RT-PCR and immunofluorescence analyses

For genotyping, genomic DNA was prepared using tail tissue. Quantitative RT-PCR (qRT-PCR) analyses and immunofluorescence were performed following published protocols (Home et al., 2012; Saha et al., 2013). Further details are provided in the supplementary Materials and Methods. Oligonucleotides and antibodies are detailed in Tables S5 and S6.

### RNA-seq and ChIP-seq analyses

RNA-seq analyses were performed using the Illumina Genome Analyzer II platform with libraries that were prepared with purified mRNAs from control and *Gata*-DKO TSCs. Quantitative ChIP and ChIP-seq analyses were performed following published protocols (Home et al., 2009; Home et al., 2012). Further details are provided in the supplementary Materials and Methods.

### Statistical analyses

Independent data sets were analyzed by analysis of variance (ANOVA) using Student's *t*-test and are presented as mean±s.e.

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### Competing interests

The authors declare no competing or financial interests.

### Author contributions

P.H. and S.P. planned and performed experiments, analyzed data and wrote the manuscript. R.P.K., A.G., B.S., J.M.-F., B.B. and S.R. performed experiments. S.G. and A.P. analyzed data. S.A.C. and P.E.F. provided reagents.

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### Data availability

RNA-seq and ChIP-seq datasets are available at Gene Expression Omnibus under accession number GSE92295 ([www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/geo/query/acc.cgi?acc=GSE92295](http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/geo/query/acc.cgi?acc=GSE92295)).

### Supplementary information

Supplementary information available online at <http://dev.biologists.org/lookup/doi/10.1242/dev.145318.supplemental>

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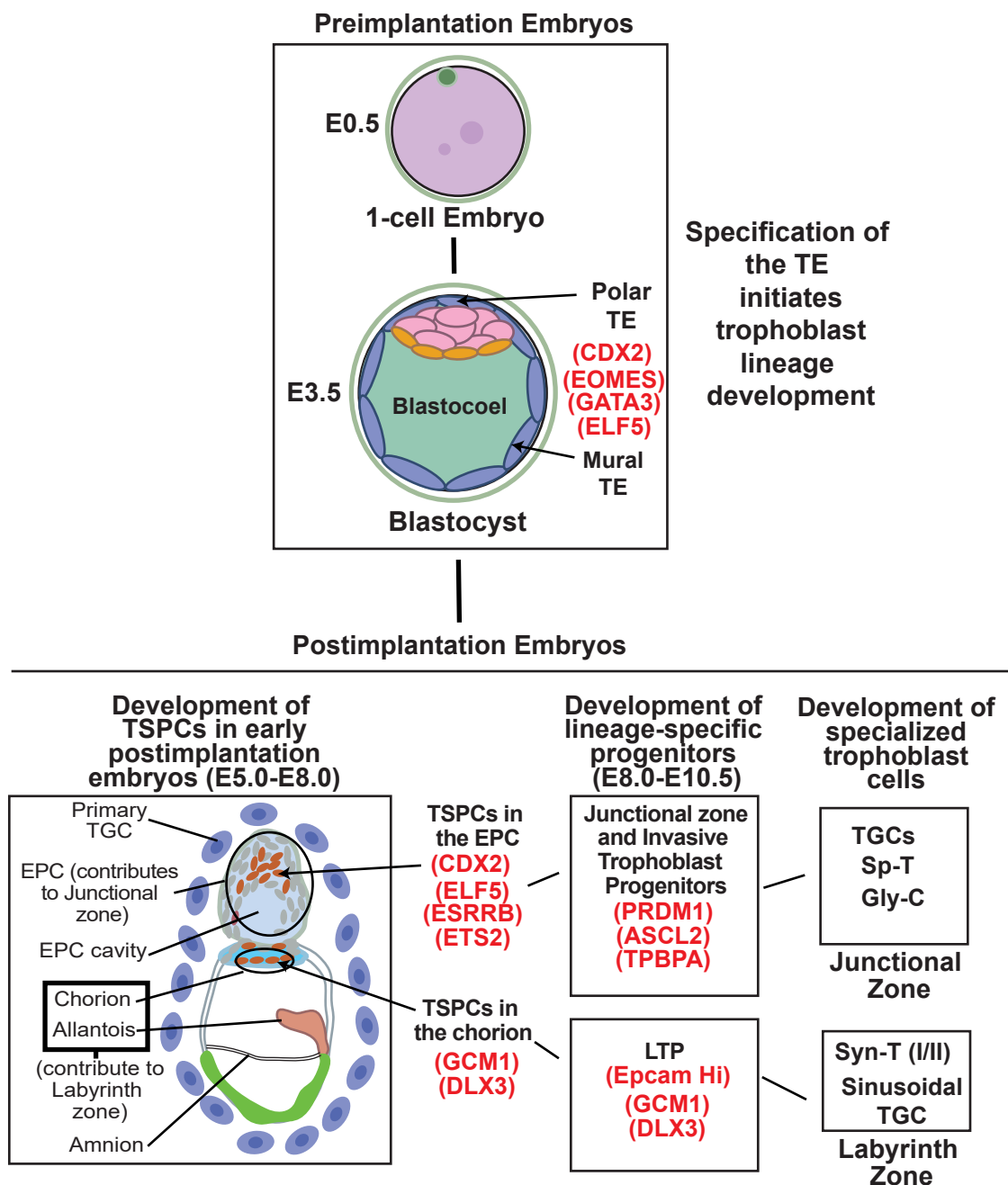
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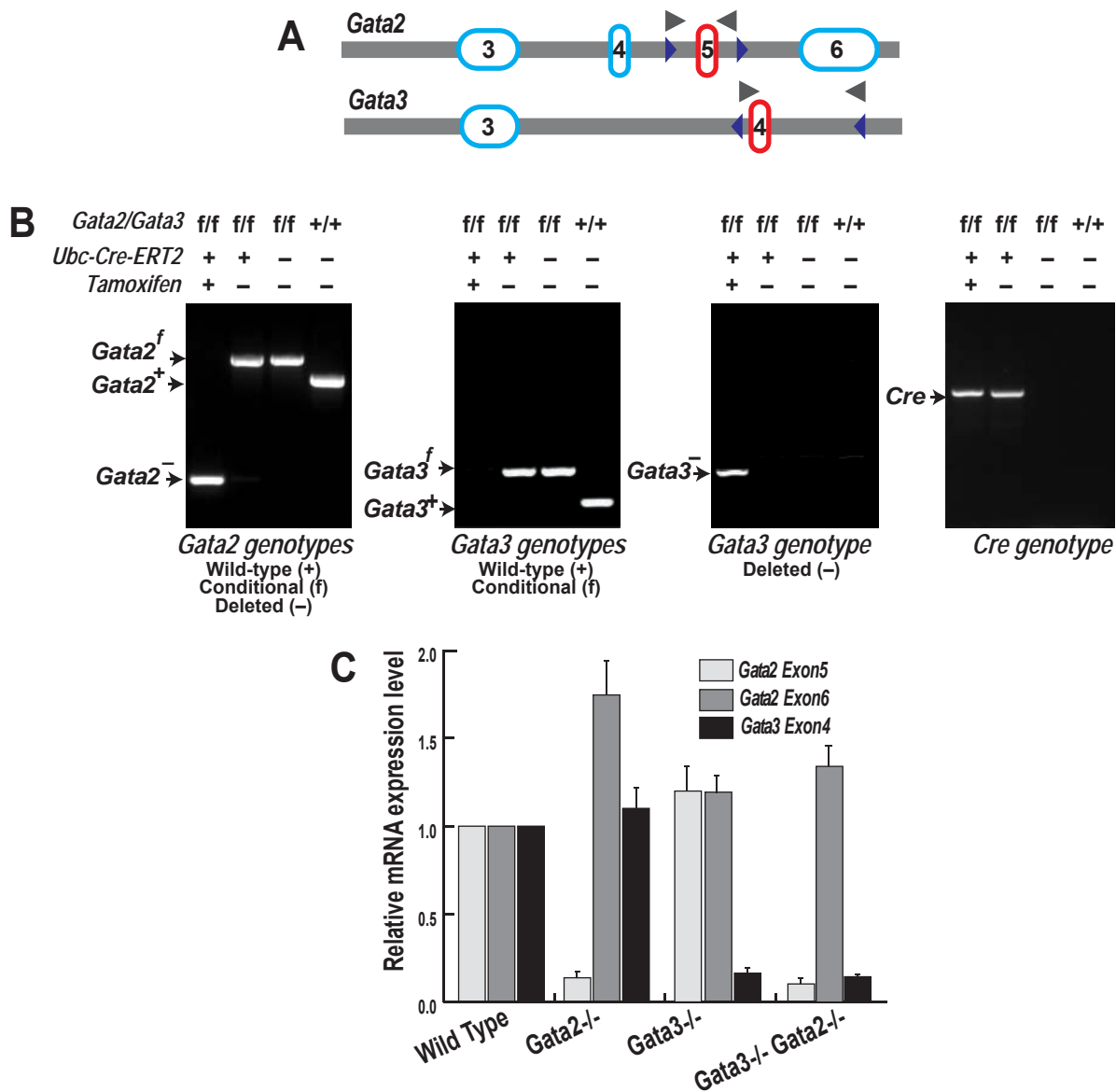
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## Contents

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Fig. S2	Genotyping data confirming <i>Gata</i> gene deletion upon tamoxifen treatment.
Fig. S3	Experiments showing preimplantation embryonic development in <i>Gata3</i> -KO and <i>Gata</i> -DKO mice.
Fig. S4	Experiments showing the importance of GATA2 and GATA3 functions in embryo implantation.
Fig. S5	Experiments showing importance of GATA2 and GATA3 functions in differentiation of TSCs.
Supplementary Materials and Methods	Describes additional materials and methods, details of bioinformatics analysis of ChIP-seq and RNA-seq data.
Supplementary References	Lists references mentioned in the Supplementary Materials and Methods.
Table S5	Primer List: Oligonucleotides used in the study.
Table S6	Antibodies used in the study.

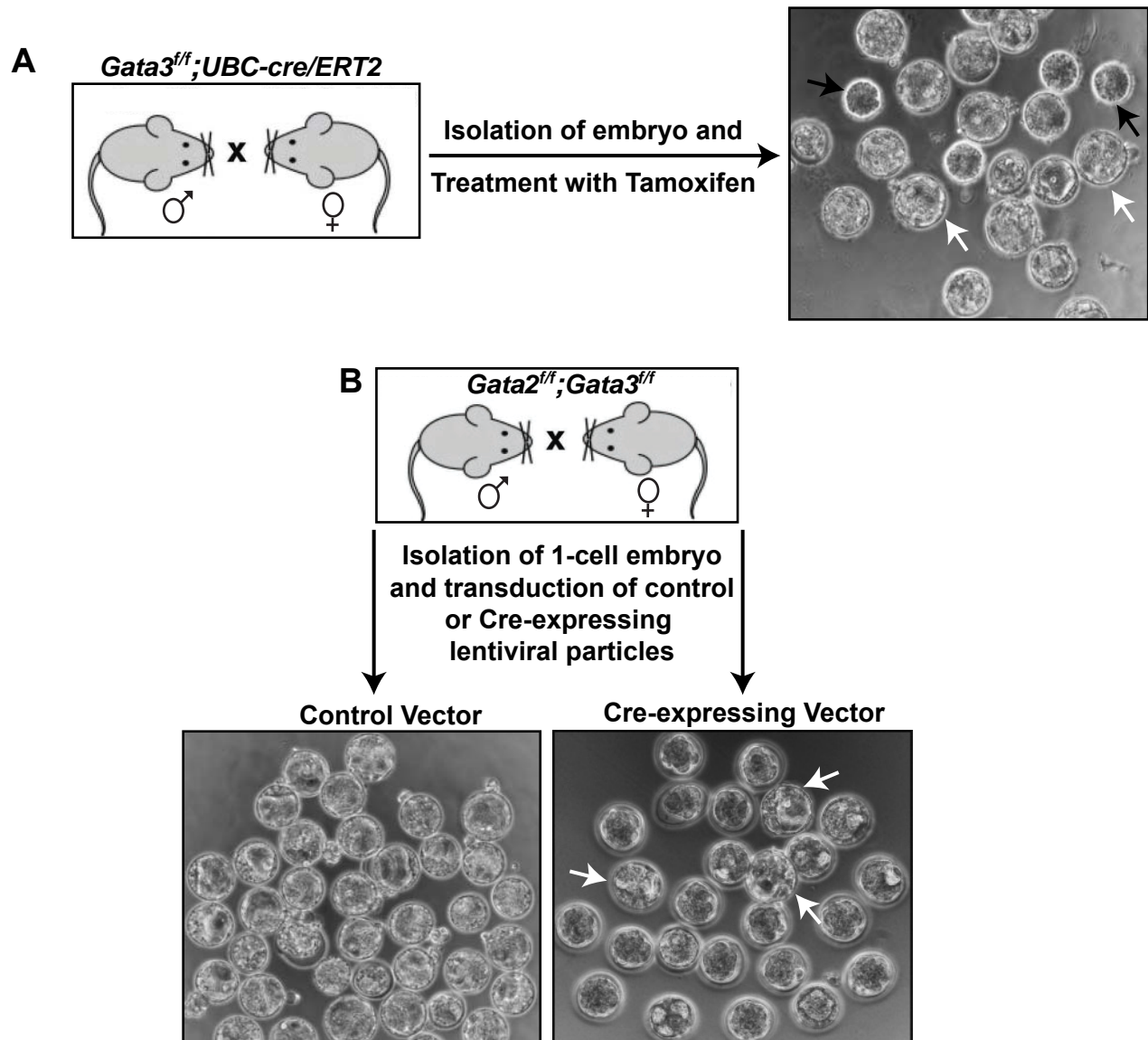


**Fig. S1.** Schematic presentation of different stages of trophoblast lineage development in mouse. Developmental stage-specific markers are indicated in red. In the preimplantation embryo, trophoblast development starts with the specification of TE-lineage, which mediates embryo implantation. In an early postimplantation embryo, trophoblast stem and progenitor cells (TSPCs) arise. Both TE cells and TSPCs express stem-state markers, like CDX2, EOMES and ELF5. GATA3 is also implicated in gene regulation within the TE. Later, TSPCs within the EPC and chorion differentiate into the specific trophoblast progenitor populations. PRDM1<sup>+</sup>, ASCL2<sup>+</sup> and TPBPA<sup>+</sup> junctional zone progenitors arise in the EPC, whereas GCM1<sup>+</sup> and DLX3<sup>+</sup> labyrinth trophoblast progenitors (LTPs) arise upon chorio-allantoic attachment. Finally, specialized trophoblast subtypes like trophoblast giant cells (TGCs), Spongiotrophoblast cells (Sp-T), Glycogen cells (Gly-C), and Syncytiotrophoblasts I. and II (SynTI, SynTII) arise to form a mature placenta

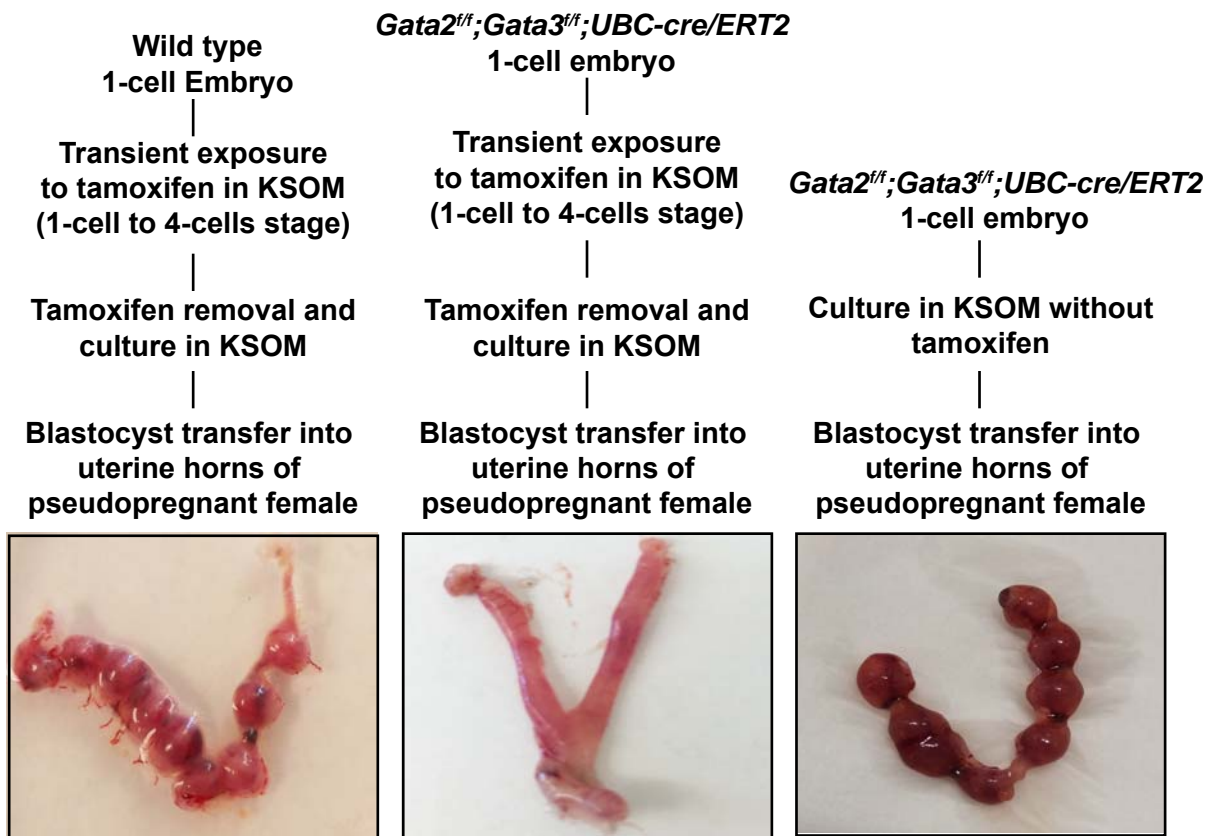


**Fig. S2.** (A) Schematic diagram showing part of the *Gata2* and *Gata3* loci on chromosome 6 and chromosome 2 respectively. *Gata2* exons 3, 4, 5 and 6 are shown on the diagram where exon 5 is flanked by loxP sites (blue triangle). Similarly, *Gata3* exons 3 and 4 are shown on the diagram where exon 4 is flanked by loxP sites (blue triangle). (B) Genotyping data confirming tamoxifen treatment induces deletion of floxed *Gata2* and *Gata3* alleles in the Cre expressing mouse embryos. PCR products corresponding to *Gata2* +, *Gata3* +, *Gata2* flox, *Gata3* flox, *Gata2* -, *Gata3* - are indicated. (C) Exon-specific RT-PCR analyses of the embryonic tissues showing efficient Cre-mediated excision of *Gata2* and *Gata3* floxed alleles.

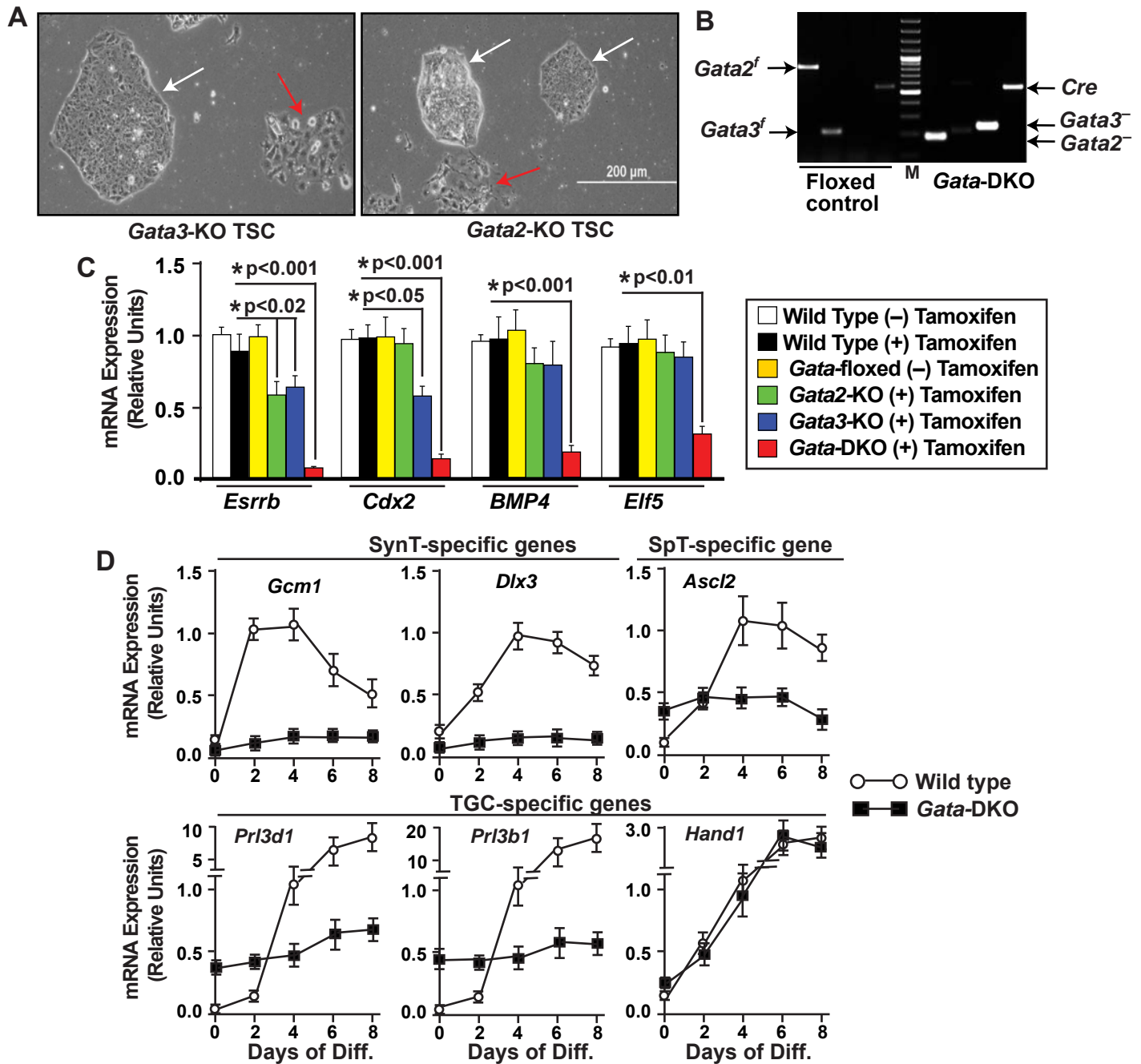




**Fig. S3.** (A) Schematic presentation of isolation and culture of one-cell stage *Gata3<sup>fl/fl</sup>;UBC-cre/ERT2* mouse zygotes in the presence of tamoxifen results in the partial impairment of trophoctoderm development. While several embryos did not develop beyond morula (black arrow), other embryos matured to the blastocyst stage (white arrows). (B) Transduction of *Gata2<sup>fl/fl</sup>;Gata3<sup>fl/fl</sup>* one-cell stage mouse embryos with Cre recombinase expressing lentiviral particle results in the partial impairment of trophoctoderm development but several of them matured to the blastocyst stage (white arrows). Almost all control embryos, transduced with lentiviral particles containing empty vector, matured to the blastocyst stage.



**Fig. S4.** Experimental strategy showing the importance of GATA2 and GATA3 function in blastocyst implantation. Wild type and *Gata2<sup>ff</sup>;Gata3<sup>ff</sup>;UBC-cre/ERT2* 1-cell embryos were treated with tamoxifen. At 4-cells stage, embryos were transferred to KSOM medium without tamoxifen and allowed to develop *ex vivo* for blastocyst maturation. In addition, *Gata2<sup>ff</sup>;Gata3<sup>ff</sup>;UBC-cre/ERT2* embryos without tamoxifen exposure were used as control. Although, transient exposure to tamoxifen impaired blastocyst development in the majority of *Gata2<sup>ff</sup>;Gata3<sup>ff</sup>;UBC-cre/ERT2* embryos, several of them developed to the blastocyst stage. Blastocyst developments were unaffected in wild type embryos upon transient tamoxifen exposure. Finally, matured blastocysts from each experimental condition were transferred into uterine horns of pseudopregnant mice. Images show impaired implantation efficiency of *Gata2<sup>ff</sup>;Gata3<sup>ff</sup>;UBC-cre/ERT2* blastocysts that were developed after tamoxifen exposure. In contrast, blastocysts from tamoxifen exposed wild type embryos and *Gata2<sup>ff</sup>;Gata3<sup>ff</sup>;UBC-cre/ERT2* embryos without tamoxifen exposure readily implanted.



**Fig. S5.** (A) Micrographs show colony morphologies of *Gata2*-KO and *Gata3*-KO TSCs that were maintained in standard TSC culture condition. Both *Gata2*-KO and *Gata3*-KO TSCs largely maintains stem-state colony morphology (white arrows). However, both have higher propensities for spontaneous differentiation as revealed by the presence of colonies with differentiated cells (red arrows). (B) Genotyping shows *Gata* genes deletion in TSCs. (C) qRT-PCR analyses shows that mRNA expression of trophoblast stem state genes are strongly repressed in *Gata*-DKO TSCs. The plot shows that tamoxifen treatment does not alter gene expression in wild type control TSCs (black bars). The starting TSC population for *Gata*-DKO TSCs [*Gata* floxed TSCs (-) tamoxifen (yellow bars)] and wild type TSCs (white bars) have similar levels of gene expression. mRNA expression of *Esrrb*, which is a target gene of both GATA2 and GATA3, are repressed by ~50% in both *Gata2*-KO (green bars) and *Gata3*-KO (blue bars) TSCs. However, *Esrrb*, as well as other stem state genes were more strongly repressed in *Gata*-DKO TSCs (red bars). The expression level of a gene in wild type TSCs was considered as 1 (mean  $\pm$  SE;  $n = 3$ ). (D) qRT-PCR analyses showing mRNA expressions of trophoblast differentiation markers in wild-type and *Gata*-DKO TSCs when they were cultured in TSC differentiation culture condition different time interval. Representative genes of syncytiotrophoblast (SynT), spongiotrophoblast (SpT) and trophoblast giant cells (TGC) were analyzed. The expression level of a gene in wild type TSCs at day 4 of differentiation was considered as 1 (mean  $\pm$  SE;  $n = 3$ ).

## Supplementary Materials and Methods

### Cell culture and reagents

Mouse trophoblast stem cells (TSCs) were cultured with FGF4, Heparin and MEF-conditioned medium (CM) according to the protocol (Tanaka et al., 1998). To induce differentiation, Fibroblast Growth Factor 4 (FGF4), Heparin, as well as CM, were withdrawn from the culture and cells were allowed to grow. ExE/ EPCs were harvested from ~E7.0-E7.5 pregnant female mouse and were grown in the presence of FGF4, Heparin, and CM (to maintain undifferentiated state) or in mouse TSC media only (for differentiation) at the normoxic condition. For time course analysis differentiation was induced, and cells were harvested at different day point for RNA analysis.

### Gene deletions in preimplantation embryos

For lentiviral-mediated Cre expression, 1-cell stage embryos were harvested from superovulated females. These embryos were subjected to perivitelline space microinjection, (Home et al., 2012), with concentrated lentiviral particles prepared from Puro.Cre empty vector expressing Cre recombinase. Injected embryos were allowed to grow in KSOM as described above. PCR confirmed successful expression of Cre recombinase and subsequent gene deletions.

For implantation efficiency experiments, wild type and *Gata2<sup>f/+</sup>;Gata3<sup>f/+</sup>;UBC-cre/ERT2* 1-cell embryos were treated with tamoxifen. At 4-cells stage, embryos were transferred to KSOM medium without tamoxifen and allowed to develop ex vivo for blastocyst maturation. In addition, *Gata2<sup>f/+</sup>;Gata3<sup>f/+</sup>;UBC-cre/ERT2* embryos without tamoxifen exposure were used as control. Matured blastocysts were transferred to surrogate females following earlier described procedures (Saha et al., 2013)

### **Tissue collection from postimplantation embryos**

Injected animals were euthanized on at desired day points as indicated in the main text. Uterine horn and conceptuses were photographed. Conceptuses were dissected to isolate embryos, yolk sacs, and placentae. All embryos, yolk sacs, and placentae were photographed at equal magnification for comparison purposes. Uteri containing placentation sites were dissected from pregnant female mice on E7.5, E9.5, E11.5, E13.5, and E18.5 and frozen in dry ice-cooled heptane and stored at  $-80^{\circ}\text{C}$  until used for histological analysis. Tissues were subsequently embedded in optimum cutting temperature (OCT) (Tissue-Tek) and were cryosectioned ( $10\mu\text{m}$  thick) for immunohistochemistry (IHC) studies using Leica CM-3050-S cryostat.

### **Flowcytometry**

96 hours explant cultures of mouse ectoplacental cones were trypsinized. Single cell suspension was formaldehyde fixed and permeabilized using BD Cytotfix/Cytoperm Fixation and Permeabilization solution (BD Biosciences, #554722) according to the manufacturer's protocol. All washings were done using saponin containing wash buffer. A standard protocol for doing FACS staining & analysis was followed using anti-wide spectrum Cytokeratin antibody (Abcam) to analyze Cytokeratin-positive placental trophoblast populations in a BD LSR II flow cytometer.

### **Genotyping**

Genomic DNA was prepared using tail tissue from mouse using REExtract-N-Amp Tissue PCR kit (Sigma-Aldrich). Genotyping was done using REExtract-N-Amp PCR ReadyMix (Sigma-Aldrich) and respective primers. Genomic DNA from individual blastocysts was prepared

by the following technique using REExtract-N-Amp Tissue PCR kit (Sigma-Aldrich). Each blastocyst was collected into separate PCR tubes and was lysed with 4  $\mu$ l of Extraction buffer and 1  $\mu$ l of Tissue Prep buffer. Briefly, they were incubated at 42°C for 10 mins followed by heat inactivation at 98°C for 3 mins. and neutralization with 4  $\mu$ l of Neutralization buffer. 4  $\mu$ l of this genomic DNA was used for a 20  $\mu$ l PCR reaction. For genotyping in embryos, part of the yolk sac or embryo proper from each conceptus was used to prepare genomic DNA as described above. Respective primers are listed in the Table S5.

### **Quantitative RT-PCR**

Total RNA from cells was extracted with RNeasy Mini Kit (Qiagen) with on-column DNaseI digestion. Purified RNA was used to prepare cDNA using cDNA preparation kit. All these samples were analyzed by qRT-PCR following procedures described earlier (Dutta et al., 2008). For expression analysis in preimplantation embryos, total RNA was isolated from embryos using PicoPure RNA isolation kit (Thermo Fisher Scientific) and processed as described earlier (Home et al., 2012). Primers, used for qRT-PCR analysis, are listed in the Table S5.

### **Immunofluorescence**

For immunostaining, preimplantation embryos were fixed with 4% paraformaldehyde, permeabilized in 0.25% Triton X-100, and blocked with 10% fetal bovine serum and 0.1% Triton X-100 in phosphate-buffered saline (PBS) for 1 h at room temperature. Embryos were incubated with antibodies (1:100 dilution) overnight at 4 °C, washed with 0.1% Triton X-100 in PBS. After incubation (1:400, 1 hour, room temperature) with conjugated secondary antibodies, embryos were washed and mounted using anti-fade mounting medium (Thermo Fisher Scientific) containing DAPI and viewed in LSM 5 Laser Scanning Microscope (Carl Zeiss Microimaging). For IHC with mouse tissues, slides containing cryosections were thawed and fixed with 4% PFA

followed by permeabilization with 0.25% Triton X-100 and blocking with 10% fetal bovine serum and 0.1% Triton X-100 in PBS. Sections were incubated with primary antibodies overnight at 4 °C, washed with 0.1% Triton X-100 in PBS. After incubation (1:400, 1 h, room temperature) with conjugated secondary antibodies, sections were washed, mounted using anti-fade mounting medium (Thermo Fisher Scientific) containing DAPI and visualized using Nikon Eclipse 80i fluorescent microscope. To test expression of GATA3 in postimplantation embryos, *Gata3-LacZ* knock-in mice (Pandolfi et al., 1995) were used. Staining was done using placental sites from pregnant *Gata3*<sup>+/+</sup> female mice (*lacZ* knock-in). Anti- $\beta$  Galactosidase antibody was used to stain  $\beta$  Galactosidase in the GATA3 expressing cells. Antibodies, used for immunofluorescence analyses are mentioned in Table S6.

### **Immunohistochemistry**

Paraffinized placental sections were processed for immunostaining according to the protocol described by Holets et al. (Holets et al., 2006). Briefly, 10- $\mu$ m tissue sections were cut from paraffinized first-trimester placentas. Sections (10 $\mu$ m thick) were placed onto slides, rehydrated and were subjected to heat mediated antigen retrieval using citrate based Reveal buffer (BioCare Medical). Non-specific immunoglobulin binding was blocked with 10% normal goat serum (Thermo Fisher Scientific). The primary antibody or its isotype-specific control (IgG1) was incubated with the tissue sections for 4°C overnight. Secondary antibody (biotinylated goat anti-mouse/ rabbit IgG) (Vector Laboratories) incubation was followed by endogenous peroxidase depletion using 3% H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub>. Reactivity was detected using the streptavidin-peroxidase (Thermo Fisher Scientific) and DAB reagent kit (Dako) and tissues were counterstained with Mayer's hematoxylin (Sigma-Aldrich). Positive staining was confirmed as a brown coloration under the microscope.

### **Quantitation of trophoblast cell population**

Tissue sections from three individual placentation sites were used to quantitate trophoblast giant cell (TGC) and spongiotrophoblast (SpT) numbers in *Floxed*-control and *Gata*-DKO embryos. Cell populations at three different areas of equal size within the junctional zone of each tissue sections were counted for TGCs and SpTs. The data was plotted as a relative percentage considering the average cell number/area in control embryos as 100%.

### **Statistical analyses**

We used at least 3 independent cultures for the experiments with single KO or double KO analyses and indicated those numbers with “n” in the legends. Similarly, at least 3 biological replicates were used for the analyses with blastocysts, ExE/ EPC explant cultures, placentae and conceptuses.

### **ChIP and ChIP-Seq**

Quantitative ChIP analysis was performed following published protocols (Home et al., 2009; Home et al., 2012). TSCs, homogenized EPCs, and homogenized placentae cells were cross-linked by with 0.4% formaldehyde (Sigma) for 10 mins at room temperature with gentle rotation. Chromatin crosslinking were stopped with glycine (125mM). These samples were sonicated. Chromatin fragments were immunoprecipitated with different antibodies. Quantification of the precipitated DNA was performed using qPCR amplification. A list of the primers used for ChIP analysis and the antibodies used for ChIP analysis are mentioned in the Table S5 and S6. For ChIP-seq in TSCs, immunoprecipitated chromatin fragments from three independent



experiments were pooled. Libraries were sequenced in Illumina Genome Analyzer II using TruSeq SBS kit v5-GA chemistry and in Illumina HiSeq using TruSeq SBS v2-HS chemistry (Illumina, San Diego, CA) to generate 35 bp single-end reads. Binding of the nonspecific immunoglobulin G (IgG) antibody was used as the negative control for eliminating false positive peaks.

Sequences were aligned using ELANDv2 (CASAVA 1.7) to the mouse reference genome (NCBI37/mm9) using default parameters. Peak detection was performed using the Model-based Analysis of ChIP-Seq (MACS) software (Zhang et al., 2008). MACS was run with the peak detection p-value cutoff set at  $1e-5$  (default). Highly enriched peaks were selected from the two experiments based on a false discovery rate (FDR) cutoff of 1% for GATA2 sites and 15% for GATA3 sites. We further searched for the GATA2 and GATA3 consensus sequence in their respective ChIP-Seq targets within a 250 bp region from either side of the peak center using a weight-matrix match with at least 80% similarity. The weight matrices were obtained from the JASPAR database (Sandelin et al., 2004). A substantial proportion of the highly enriched GATA2 and GATA3 ChIP-Seq binding sites consisted of at least one instance of the consensus motif. All raw data for ChIP-seq analyses are submitted to the GEO database (<http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/gds>), with accession number GSE92295.

### **RNA-Seq analysis**

The changes in gene expression as a result of the double knockout of GATA2 and GATA3 was measured by whole transcriptome sequencing (RNA-Seq) of control and *Gata*-DKO TSCs. Sequencing was performed on an Illumina HiSeq 2000 sequencing machine (Illumina, San Diego, CA) at a 50 bp single-end resolution. Sequence reads were mapped to the mouse reference genome (GRCm38) using STAR (Dobin et al., 2013) with default parameters. Transcript abundance estimates were generated using Cufflinks (Trapnell et al., 2010) and

differential gene expression calculated using Cuffdiff (Trapnell et al., 2013) with default parameters. Approximately, 44.3 and 41.1 million reads were generated of which around 96.7% and 96.6% were mapped to the genome for the control and *Gata*-DKO TSC samples respectively. In the absence of replicate samples, Cuffdiff uses a heuristic approach to generate a significance p-value (adjusted for false discovery by the Benjamini and Hochberg method (Benjamini and Hochberg, 1995) giving a q-value) where the variance is measured across conditions under the assumption that most transcripts are not differentially expressed. While these p-values do not substitute for a p-value derived with biological replicates, they form a reasonable statistic to filter the gene list. Genes with an absolute fold change  $\geq 1.5$  fold and a q-value  $\leq 0.05$  were deemed significant for further analysis. All raw data for RNA-seq analyses are submitted to the GEO database (<http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/gds>), with accession number GSE92295.

### **Combining ChIP-Seq and RNA-Seq data**

Genes with a highly enriched GATA2 and GATA3 binding site within 50,000 bp upstream from the 5 prime end or downstream from the 3 prime end or overlapping the gene were selected. These genes were further filtered to include genes that were significantly differentially expressed or remained silent in the *Gata*-DKO sample. Ingenuity Systems Pathway Analysis software (IPA, Ingenuity Systems, [www.ingenuity.com](http://www.ingenuity.com)) was used to identify the biological functions that are associated with significantly differentially expressed genes (from the *Gata*-DKO samples) that contained both an enriched GATA2 and GATA3 site in its vicinity. IPA performs this task with the aid of its knowledge base which has curated information from the literature of genes and gene products that interact with each other. IPA use the right-tailed Fisher's exact test to calculate a significance p-value of the overlap between these genes and genes associated with a particular biological function. A *p-value* less than or equal to 0.05 is considered significant. The IPA database contains information from the literature on the relative

direction of a gene's expression in relation to a biological function. Using this information, IPA calculates an activation z-score for a biological function in relation to a set of genes (with expression information) indicating whether the function is activated or inhibited, based on the directionality of expression of the genes (Kramer et al., 2014). A positive activation z-score signifies an increase in the biological function's activity and a negative score signifies a decrease in its activity. Biological functions with an absolute activation z-score greater than or equal to 2 were considered significant.

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## **Table S1A**

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## **Table S1B**

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## **Table S2**

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### **Table S3**

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### **Table S4**

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**Table S5. Primer list**

<b>Primers used for genotyping</b>			
Mouse	Gata2-floxed and Gata2-null	GCCTGCGTCCTCCAACACCTCTAA	TCCGTGGGACCTGTTTCCTTAC
Mouse	Gata3-flox	CAGTCTCTGGTATTGATCTGCTTCTT	GTGCAGCAGAGCAGGAACTCTCAC
Mouse	Gata3-null	TCAGGGCACTAAGGGTTGTTAACTT	GTGCAGCAGAGCAGGAACTCTCAC
	Cre	AAAATTTGCCTGCATTACCG	ATTCTCCCACCGTCAGTACG
<b>Primers used for quantitative RT-PCR analysis</b>			
<b>Species</b>	<b>Gene</b>	<b>Forward 5'</b>	<b>Reverse 3'</b>
Mouse	<i>Gata3 Ex3/4</i>	CGGGTTCGGATGTAAGTCGA	GTAGAGGTTGCCCCGCAGT
Mouse	<i>Gata2 Ex5</i>	CAGACGACAACCACCACCTT	GCTTGTAGTAGAGGCCACAGG
Mouse	<i>Gata2 Ex6</i>	GGAAGATGTCCAGCAAATCC	TGGAGAGCTCCTCGAAACAT
Mouse	<i>Cdx2</i>	GCAGTCCCTAGGAAGCCAA GTGA	CTCTCGGAGAGCCCGAGTGTG
Mouse	<i>Hand1</i>	GGCAGCTACGCACATCATCA	CCTGGCATCGGGACCATAG
Mouse	<i>Prl3d1</i>	ACATTTATCTTGGCCGCAGATGTGT	TTTAGTTTCGTGGACTTCCTCTCGAT
Mouse	<i>Prl3b1</i>	GGGGCACTCCTGTTGCTGGCA	GGAATTGCTCGCTGTTTTCTGGA
Mouse	<i>Elf5</i>	ATGTTGGACTCCGTAACCCAT	GCAGGGTAGTAGTCTTCATTGCT
Mouse	<i>Ascl2</i>	AAGTGGACGTTTGCACCTTCA	AAGCACACCTTGACTGGTACG
Mouse	<i>Gcm1</i>	CTGACTGGTTCCAGGAGTGG	TGTCGTCCGAGCTGTAGATG
Mouse	<i>Prl2c2</i>	GACCATTCCCTCATTGCACA CA	TCCTGGATACTGCTCCTACTACT
Mouse	<i>Prdm1</i>	TCAAGCCGAGGCATCCTTAC	AGCGTGTTCCCTTCGGTATG
Mouse	<i>Esrrb</i>	AGTACAAGCGACGGCTGG	CCTAGTAGATTGAGACGATCTTAGTCA



Mouse	<i>Tfap2c</i>	ATCCCTCACCTCTCCTCTCC	CCAGATGCGAGTAATGGTCC G
Mouse	<i>Dlx3</i>	CACTGACCTGGGCTATTAC AGC	GAGATTGAACTGGTGGTGGTA G
Mouse	<i>Foxp1</i>	GGTCTGAGACAAAAAGTAA CGGA	CGCACTCTAGTAAGTGGTTGC
Mouse	<i>Bmp4</i>	GACTTCGAGGCGACACTTC TA	GAATGACGGCGCTCTTGCTA
Mouse	<i>Foxd3</i>	ACCACGTCGCTCATCAAGT C	GCGCCTATGATGTTCTCGAT
Mouse	<i>Ets2</i>	ACGGGCCTGGATTCTGTCT	TGAGCAAAGGCAGCTCGC
Mouse	<i>Pcsk3</i>	TCGGTGACTATTACCACTTC TGG	CTCCTGATACACGTCCCTCTT
Mouse	<i>Pcsk6</i>	CAGGCGCGAAGTGA CTCTC	GACCGACAGCGACTGTTCTT
Mouse	<i>Porcn</i>	GCATGCTTCAGGTAAGACG G	CCATCTGCTTCGCCTGCC
Mouse	<i>18s rRNA</i>	AGTTCCAGCACATTTTGCG AG	TCATCCTCCGTGAGTTCTCCA
Mouse	<i>Gapdh</i>	TGCCCCCATGTTTGTGATG	TGTGGTCATGAGCCCTTCC
<b>Primers used for quantitative ChIP analyses</b>			
Mouse	<i>Prdm1 promoter</i>	CGAAGTACGTCGGATCCT GT	GGGGACTCCTCCTCAAAGA
Mouse	<i>Gcm1 promoter</i>	TGATTGGACAGTTGCCAGA G	AAGTGGTCGCTGTTCCCTAA
Mouse	<i>Dlx3 promoter</i>	TCCTTCCACAAACACCCAA T	GGTGGGCTTAGGTGAGATGA
Mouse	<i>Ascl2 promoter</i>	GGAGAGCTGGCTGTAAGGTG	TTGCCCTGACCTGAGAGAAT

**Table S6. Antibody list**

Primary antibodies	Species raised in	Vendor	Catalog number	Batch/ Lot number	Dilutions used
anti-GATA2	Rabbit	Abcam	ab109241	GR143635-2	1:100 (IF/IHC), 6 $\mu$ g/10 million cells for ChIP
anti-GATA3	Mouse	BD Biosciences	558686	5288632	1:100 (IF/IHC), 6 $\mu$ g/10 million cells for ChIP
anti- $\beta$ -Galactosidase	Mouse	Promega	Z3781	0000125058	1:200 (IF)
anti-CDX2	Rabbit	Abcam	EPR2764Y	GR133702-8	1:100 (IF)
anti-Oct-3/4	Mouse	Santa Cruz Biotechnology	sc-5279	G1610	1:100 (IF)
anti-wide spectrum Cytokeratin	Rabbit	Abcam	ab9377	GR218349-5	1:100 (IF)
anti-pan Cytokeratin	Mouse	Abcam	ab7753	GR185314-12	1:100 (IF)
anti-Vimentin	Mouse	Santa Cruz Biotechnology	sc-373717	K2713	1:100 (IF)
anti-Proliferin	Goat	Santa Cruz Biotechnology	sc-47347	K1212	1:75 (IF)
anti-trimethyl Histone H3 (Lys9)	Mouse	Millipore	05-1242	NG1698976	6 $\mu$ g/10 million cells for ChIP
anti-trimethyl Histone H3 (Lys27)	Rabbit	Millipore	CS200603	1987188	6 $\mu$ g/10 million cells for ChIP
anti-trimethyl Histone H3 (Lys4)	Rabbit	Millipore	CS200580	DAM1612220	6 $\mu$ g/10 million cells for ChIP
Anti- RNA Pol II (H5)	Mouse	BioLegend	MMS-129R	14862302	6 $\mu$ g/10 million cells for ChIP

Purified IgG1 k isotype control	Mouse	BD Biosciences	554121	4324640	6µg/10 million cells for ChIP
Purified IgG	Rabbit	BD Biosciences	550875	2139944	6µg/10 million cells for ChIP
<b>Secondary antibodies</b>	<b>Species raised in</b>	<b>Vendor</b>	<b>Catalog number</b>	<b>Batch/ Lot number</b>	<b>Dilutions used</b>
Alexa Fluor 568 anti-rabbit IgG	Donkey	Thermo Fisher Scientific	A10042	1606268	1:400 (IF)
Alexa Fluor 488 anti-mouse IgG	Donkey	Thermo Fisher Scientific	A21202	1562298	1:400 (IF)
Alexa Fluor 647 anti-goat IgG	Donkey	Thermo Fisher Scientific	A21447	1661244	1:400 (IF)
Biotinylated anti-mouse IgG	Goat	Vector Labs	BA-9200	W0206	10µg/ml (IHC)
Biotinylated anti-rabbit IgG	Goat	Vector Labs	BA-1000	X0212	10µg/ml (IHC)