NEW MARKERS FOR TRACKING ENDODERM INDUCTION AND HEPATOCYTE DIFFERENTIATION FROM HUMAN PLURIPOTENT STEM CELLS

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Key words: human pluripotent stem cell, endoderm marker, hepatocyte differentiation

Abstract

The efficient generation of hepatocytes from human pluripotent stem cells (hPSCs) requires the induction of a proper endoderm population, broadly characterized by the expression of the cell surface marker CXCR4. Strategies to identify and isolate endoderm subpopulations predisposed to the liver fate do not exist. In this study, we generated mouse monoclonal antibodies against hESC-derived definitive endoderm with the goal of identifying cell surface markers that can be used to track the development of this germ layer and its specification to a hepatic fate. Through this approach, we identified two endoderm-specific antibodies, HDE1 and HDE2 that stain different stages of endoderm development and distinct derivative cell types. HDE1 marks a definitive endoderm population with high hepatic potential whereas staining of HDE2 tracks with developing hepatocyte progenitors and hepatocytes. When used in combination, the staining patterns of these antibodies enable one to optimize endoderm induction and hepatic specification from any hPSC line.

Introduction

Human pluripotent stem cells (hPSCs) including both embryonic (hESCs) and induced pluripotent stem cells (hiPSCs) represent an unlimited source of differentiated cell types and tissues for modeling human development and disease in vitro, for developing novel cell based therapeutics and for establishing new drug discovery and predictive toxicology platforms (Cherry and Daley, 2012; Diecke et al., 2014; Fox et al., 2014; Holmgren et al., 2014; Leung et al., 2013; Medine et al., 2013; Roelandt et al., 2013; Sjogren et al., 2014; Szkolnicka et al., 2014; Trounson et al., 2012; Zhou et al., 2014). Translating this potential of stem cells to practice is, however, dependent on the availability of directed differentiation strategies that enable the efficient, reproducible and cost effective generation of the lineage of interest. Of the different cell types that can be generated from hPSCs, substantial effort in recent years has been directed at the generation of endoderm derived lineages, specifically pancreatic beta cells for transplantation for the treatment of Type 1 diabetes and hepatocytes for predictive toxicology and drug metabolism studies (Holditch et al., 2014; Sun et al., 2013). This effort has led to advances in our basic understanding of human development and the generation of protocols for directed differentiation of hPSCs to pancreatic and hepatic fates that yield seemingly highly enriched end stage populations (Chen et al., 2012; Ogawa et al., 2013; Pagliuca et al., 2014; Rezania et al., 2014; Si-Tayeb et al., 2010). Despite this progress, efficiencies of differentiation vary considerably between different hPSC lines (Toivonen et al., 2013b; Vitale et al., 2012), even with the most advanced protocols, and end stage populations are immature and in some instances contaminated with other cell types.

The first step in the derivation of pancreatic and hepatic lineage cells from hPSCs is the induction of definitive endoderm. Sub-optimal endoderm induction is one likely cause of cell line to cell line and experiment-to-experiment variability as the non-endoderm cell types that differentiate under these conditions can influence pancreatic and hepatic differentiation and contribute to the development of heterogeneous end stage populations. The efficiency of endoderm induction is monitored through changes in gene expression patterns and/or changes in the expression of surface markers as assessed by flow cytometry (D'Amour et al., 2005). The latter approach provides a rapid quantitative read-out, but is dependent on the availability of antibodies against surface markers that are ideally found only on the cells of interest. Currently the markers most commonly used for monitoring endoderm induction from hPSCs are CD184 (CXCR4), CD117 (C-KIT) and EPCAM (D'Amour et al., 2005; Green et al., 2011; Jiang et al., 2013; Loh et al., 2014; Nostro et al., 2011; Ogawa et al., 2013). When used in combination, they do provide a reasonable assessment of the efficiency of endoderm development. However, as none of these markers is endoderm specific (Kataoka et al., 1997; McGrath et al., 1999; Sherwood et al., 2007; Witte, 1990), expression patterns can be misleading. The list of markers that can be used to monitor endoderm development has recently been extended to include CD49e and CD51 at the stage of definitive endoderm induction and CD141 and CD238 at the stage of patterning of the endoderm to a primitive gut tube stage (Brafman et al., 2013; Wang et al., 2011). As with the above markers, these are also not specific to the endoderm lineage. Currently, there are no known endoderm specific cell surface markers that can be used to monitor endoderm induction or to isolate definitive endoderm populations from hPSC differentiation cultures.

To address this issue, we generated two monoclonal antibodies, HDE1 and HDE2 that specifically recognize hPSC-derived definitive endoderm. These antibodies show strikingly different patterns, as HDE1 broadly stains the entire endoderm population as it is induced from all hPSC lines tested. In contrast, HDE2 stains only a subpopulation of the early endoderm that can vary in size between different hPSC lines. By monitoring HDE1 staining following different times of activin-induction, we show that the extent of staining correlates with endoderm potential and that populations that are uniformly HDE1$^+$ are most efficient at generating hepatic progeny. Following pancreatic and hepatic lineage specification, the patterns of HDE1 and HDE2 diverge, as HDE1 stains the non-endocrine cells in the pancreatic population but no hepatic cells, whereas HDE2 does not stain pancreatic lineage cells, with the exception of a few ductal cells, but does stain the emerging hepatic cells following specification. With these staining patterns, it is now possible to monitor both the endoderm induction and hepatic specification steps, enabling the optimization of hepatic differentiation from any hPSC line.

Results

HDE1 and HDE2 are specific for hESC-derived definitive endoderm

To generate endoderm specific antibodies, we used a strategy similar to the one we used to generate antibodies to mouse ESC-derived endoderm (Gadue et al., 2009). Here, BALB/c mice were immunized with HES2 hESC-derived definitive endoderm using standard polyethylene-mediated fusion technology (Kohler and Milstein, 1975). Supernatants from 800 successfully fused clones were originally screened for cell surface reactivity with hESC-derived definitive endoderm by flow cytometry. The endoderm population used for immunization was generated by inducing hESCs as

embryoid bodies (EBs) with high concentrations of activin A for 4 days (day 1 to 5). Greater than 95% of the induced population co-expressed the surface markers CXCR4, CD117 and EPCAM and more than 90% of the cells expressed the endoderm transcription factor SOX17 as determined by intracellular flow cytometry (Fig. 1A). The purity of the population was further documented by the lack of contaminating $KDR^+PDGFR\alpha^+$ mesodermal cells (Fig. 1A). We previously demonstrated that this endoderm population displays both pancreatic and hepatic potential (Nostro et al., 2011; Ogawa et al., 2013).

The resulting antibodies were initially screened for their ability to recognize the day-5 endoderm population and subsequently for a lack of reactivity with hESCs and hESC-derived mesoderm and neuroectoderm. With this strategy, we identified two antibodies, HDE1 and HDE2 that displayed interesting staining patterns. Both antibodies stained a subset of the day 5 $CXCR4^+$ endoderm population (Fig. 1B). In contrast, the vast majority of cells in the undifferentiated hESC population (Fig. 1C) as well as in the day 5 $PDGFR\alpha^+$ cardiac mesoderm, the day 3 KDR^+CD56^+ hematopoietic mesoderm (Figs 1D, E) and the day 7 $KDR^-PDGFR\square^-CD117^-$ neuroectoderm (Fig. 1F) populations did not stain with either antibody. The small number of $HDE1^+$ positive cells detected in the mesoderm populations likely reflects low levels of contaminating $CXCR4^+CD117^+$ endoderm. Cardiac mesoderm-derived populations including the stages containing specified progenitors (days 8-12) and contracting cardiomyocytes (day 12-17) also did not stain with either antibody (data not shown). We next analyzed hESC-derived parietal-like endoderm to determine if the HDE1 and HDE2 staining patterns would distinguish definitive and extra-embryonic endoderm. Parietal-like endoderm was generated using the protocol of Feng *et al* (Feng et al., 2012), and characterized as a $COL4A1^+$ population that

expresses *SOX17*, *LAMB1*, *SPARC*, *THBD* and *SOX7* as described (Figure 1G). HDE1 stained a small subpopulation of these cells, whereas none was positive for HDE2. Collectively, these findings demonstrate that both HDE1 and HDE2 show specificity for definitive endoderm at early stages of hESC differentiation.

Kinetic analyses of HES2-derived endoderm induction showed that low numbers of HDE1$^+$ cells were detected within 2 days of differentiation. The proportion of positive cells increased dramatically over the next 24 hours and continued to increase to represent almost 90% of the entire population by day 5 of differentiation (Figs 2A, B). This pattern is similar to that observed for the upregulation of SOX17 expression. CXCR4$^+$CD117$^+$ cells emerged rapidly, between days 2 and 3 of differentiation and by day 4, greater than 95% of the population expressed these markers (Figs 2A, B). In contrast to the pattern of HDE1, relatively few cells stained with HDE2 during the first 4 days of differentiation. At day 5, a small HDE2$^+$ population was detected (Figs 2A-C). The patterns for HDE1 staining were similar for H1 hESC-derived cells although the proportion of positive cells at day 5 was lower than observed in the HES2-derived populations. Additionally we observed the development of a transient population of HDE2$^+$ cells at day 3 of differentiation that was not detected in the HES2-derived cultures. Together, these findings show that the HDE1$^+$ cells develop in the EBs over a 5-day differentiation period, consistent with the emergence of definitive endoderm as measured by expression of the transcription factor SOX17, and by the surface markers CXCR4 and CD117. The observation that the day 4 and 5 populations that are comprised of greater than 95% CXCR4$^+$CD117$^+$ cells, have both HDE1$^+$ and HDE1$^-$ fractions suggests that they may still contain non-endodermal cell types.

HDE1$^+$ populations are enriched for endoderm potential

To determine if HDE1 can be used to enrich definitive endoderm from mixed lineage populations, we isolated and analyzed the HDE1$^+$CXCR4$^+$ and HDE1$^-$CXCR4$^+$ fractions from a differentiated population that was induced with sup-optimal concentrations of activin A (1 to 5ng/ml Activin A), to ensure the presence of contaminating non-endodermal cells (50-60% CXCR4$^+$CD117$^+$) (Fig. 3A). RT-qPCR analyses revealed that the HDE1$^+$CXCR4$^+$ (+ +) cells expressed significantly lower levels of the pluripotent factor *OCT4*, the mesodermal genes *MESP1, MEOX1*, CD56, the primitive streak/anterior mesoderm gene *MIXL1* and the extraembryonic endoderm marker *SOX7* than the HDE1$^-$CXCR4$^-$(- -) cells. The reverse pattern was observed for the definitive endoderm genes *SOX17* and *FOXA2*. Similarily, the expression levels of *OCT4* and the mesoderm genes was lower in the HDE1$^+$ cells than in the presort population (Fig. 3A). The HDE1$^+$CXCR4$^+$ and HDE1$^-$CXCR4$^+$ cells showed similar expression patterns for many of these genes, a finding consistent with the fact that CXCR4 is also a marker of definitive endoderm. There were however, several differences, including higher levels of *OCT4*, *MIXL1* and *CD56* in the HDE1$^-$CXCR4$^+$ cells than in the HDE1$^+$CXCR4$^+$cells. Together, these findings indicate that HDE1 can be used to isolate definitive endoderm from hESC-derived populations containing mesodermal and other non-endoderm contaminants.

To further investigate the utility of HDE1 for enriching definitive endoderm able to generate hepatocytes, we next isolated and analyzed the developmental potential of HDE1^{hi}CXCR4$^+$ and HDE1$^-$CXCR4$^+$ fractions from a day 5 endoderm population that was induced under optimal conditions and consisted of greater than 90% CXCR4$^+$. Although highly enriched in definitive endoderm, we have previously shown that populations with these marker profiles can contain residual mesoderm that

generates CD90 derivatives in hepatic differentiation cultures (Ogawa et al., 2013). Additionally, we have observed CDX2[+] contaminants in some of our hepatic cultures, indicating that this day 5 endoderm population is heterogenous and contains posterior gut tube progenitors in addition cells patterned to a hepatic fate. To determine if HDE1 can be used to enrich for hepatic endoderm, the isolated fractions were cultured for 28 days under conditions to promote hepatic development and the resulting populations analyzed for the presence of albumin (ALB)[+] cells by immunostaining and intracellular flow cytometric analyses and for *ALB*, *AFP*, *CDX2* and *CD90* message by RT-qPCR . These analyses showed that the HDE1[hi]CXCR4[+]-derived population was enriched for ALB[+] cells (Fig. 3B, C; p<0.01, S1) compared to the population generated from the pre-sort cells and the HDE1[-]CXCR4[+] fraction.   In contrast, the HDE1[hi]CXCR4[+]-derived population expressed lower levels of *CDX2* and *CD90* than the population that developed from the presort cells.   Flow cytometric analyses confirmed the lack of CD90[+] cells in the HDE1-derived population (Fig. S1). The *CDX2* expressing cells segregated to the population generated from the HDE1[-]CXCR4[+] fraction, indicating that it is possible to separate endoderm with different fates based on HDE1 staining.

Monitoring pancreatic development with HDE1 and HDE2.

To determine if HDE1 and HDE2 stain endoderm derivatives, we next analyzed hESC-derived pancreatic and hepatic populations differentiated using previously described protocols (Nostro et al., 2011; Ogawa et al., 2013). To generate pancreatic lineage cells, the day 7 population was treated with FGF10 for 3 days to pattern a foregut fate and then with the combination of retinoic acid (RA), cyclopamine and noggin for another 3 days to induce the development of PDX1[+] progenitors. These

progenitors were matured to c-peptide$^+$ cells by culture in the presence of the TGFβ

and BMP inhibitors SB-431542 and noggin for an additional 4 days. At this stage,

the cells were maintained in basal medium for 8 days. This protocol preferentially

promotes the generation of first transition, polyhormonal cells. As shown in Figs. 4A

and S2A, the endoderm population remained HDE1$^+$ through the FGF10 patterning

stage to day 10. Following pancreatic induction (day 13), however, HDE1 staining

decreased dramatically, indicating that the specified progenitors are initially HDE1$^-$.

A HDE1$^+$ population emerged by day 15 and persisted throughout the 20-day time

course of the experiment. A HDE2$^+$ population was detected at day 7. Beyond this

stage, the proportion of positive cell declined and remained low throughout the 20-

day differentiation period (Figs. 4A, S2A). Flow cytometric and immunostaining

analyses of the differentiated populations at day 25 of culture revealed that HDE1 did

not stain the c-peptide$^+$ polyhormonal cells, but rather marked clusters of large cells

present at this stage (Fig. 4B). These cells may represent the emerging exocrine

lineage as analyses of fetal and adult pancreas revealed that HDE1 stains the exocrine

compartment of these tissues (Fig. 4C, D). HDE1 also stains ductal cells within the

fetal and adult pancreas (not shown) as well a human pancreatic duct epithelial cell

line (HPDE6) (Ouyang et al., 2000) (Figs. 4E, S2B). Consistent with our observations

in hESC-derived pancreas cultures, the majority of exocrine and endocrine cells in the

fetal and adult pancreas were HDE2$^-$. HDE2 did stain some ductal cells in the adult

pancreas (Fig. 4C,D). HDE2 also stained a subset of HPDE6 cells (Figs. 4E, S2B).

These findings show HDE1 staining declines as endoderm is induced to a pancreatic

fate. Following emergence of the pancreatic lineages, the HDE1$^+$ population is

restricted to the non-endocrine fraction of the population that may represent the

developing exocrine and ductal lineages.

Monitoring hepatic development with HDE1 and HDE2.

To monitor hepatic development we used a modification of our previous protocol, in which the cells are induced as a monolayer rather than EBs (Ogawa et al., 2015). Given that Activin A is already present at day 0 in this format, the kinetics of endoderm induction, as demonstrated by the staining patterns of CXCR4, CD117, EPCAM and HDE1, are accelerated by approximately 24 hours compared to those observed in the EBs (Fig. S3). At day 7 of monolayer culture, the population was specified to a hepatic fate by culture in the presence of BMP4 and bFGF for 6 days. The specified population was then cultured in HGF, oncostatin M and dexamethasone to promote maturation and the development of ALB$^+$ cells. With this protocol, ALB$^+$ cells are detected by day 16 of differentiation. By day 24, the majority of the population is ALB$^+$, although the proportion of positive cells varies between cells lines (Figs 5A, S4A, S4D). We have recently demonstrated that this ALB$^+$ population represents the hepatoblast stage of liver development (Ogawa et al. 2015). With the HES2 cell line, the entire BMP4/bFGF-specified population remained HDE1$^+$ between days 7 and 14 of differentiation. The proportion of HDE1$^+$ cells began to decline with the emergence of ALB$^+$ cells (day 16) and continued to decline to represent approximately half of the population at day 25 (Figs 5A, S4B). The proportion of HDE2$^+$ cells in the culture increased between days 7 and 10, declined until day 12-14 and then increased with the development of the ALB$^+$ cells (Figs 5A, S4C). By day 24 of culture, the majority of the population was HDE2$^+$. Similar trends were observed in the H9 hESC-derived populations although the changes in staining patterns were much more dramatic (Figs 5B, S4B, S4C). As observed with the HES2-derived cells, the early H9 BMP4/bFGF specified population (day 10) was

HDE1$^+$. However, beyond this stage, the proportion of HDE1$^+$ cells dropped dramatically and remained low (<5%) for the duration of the culture (Figs 5B, S4B). The proportion of HDE2$^+$ cells declined until day 12, then increased to represent more than 95% or the population by day 24. At this stage, 90% of the cells in the H9-derived population were ALB$^+$. (Figs 5B, S4C, S4D). Together these findings indicate that HDE2, but not HDE1, tracks with the emerging hESC-derived hepatic lineage.

To further characterize the hepatic staining patterns of these antibodies, we analyzed fetal and adult liver as well as two liver carcinoma cell lines Huh7 and HepG2. Fetal and adult hepatocytes were HDE2$^+$, as determined by immunostaining. Neither population stained with HDE1 (Fig. 6A,B). Flow cytometric analyses were consistent with these findings and showed that HDE2, but not HDE1 stained primary hepatocytes, the entire Huh7 population and a portion of the HepG2 cell line (Figs 6C, D).

Given these staining patterns, our interpretation of the persistence of HDE1$^+$ cells in the HES2-derived hepatic population is that they likely represent non-hepatic contaminants. Findings from cell sorting studies support this interpretation and showed that the HDE1$^+$ fraction isolated from day 26 cultures expressed lower levels of ALB mRNA and contained significantly fewer ALB$^+$ cells than the HDE1$^-$ fraction (Fig. 6E; p<0.01). Immunostaining analyses of the day 26 hESC-derived population revealed that HDE1 stains large, ALB$^-$ and AFP$^-$ cells consistent with the interpretation that they are not hepatic lineage cells (Fig. 6F) As the levels of FOXA2 were similar in the two populations, the cells likely represent a non-hepatic endoderm-derived lineage (Fig. 6E).

HDE1 definitive endoderm staining patterns correlate with hepatic potential

Previous studies have shown that prolonged activin signaling during endoderm induction from hPSCs enhances the hepatic potential of the population (Ogawa et al., 2013). Since HDE1 staining increases over time during activin induction (Fig. 2, S3), we next wanted to determine if the staining patterns of HDE1 correlate with these differences in potential. To address this, we analyzed H9 hESC-derived endoderm that was induced with activin for 3, 5, 7 or 9 days for the proportion of HDE1$^+$, CXCR4$^+$ and CD117$^+$ cells. These different endoderm populations were specified to a hepatic fate with bFGF and BMP4 following the activin induction step and matured to the ALB$^+$ hepatoblast stage as described above. The different populations were analyzed for the presence of ALB$^+$ and HDE2$^+$ cells 19 days following the end of the endoderm induction step (DE), at the beginning of hepatic specification. As shown in Fig. 7A, 85% of the cells were CXCR4$^+$ and CD117$^+$ within day 3 of differentiation of H9 hESCs and by day 5 greater than 95% were positive. As observed with the HES2 and H1 cell lines (Figs 2, S3) the emergence of the H9 HDE1$^+$ population was slower than the CXCR4$^+$CD117$^+$ population, as only 37% of the cells at day 3 stained with the antibody. The proportion of HDE1$^+$ cells increased over the next 6 days of induction to represent 96% of the population by day 9 (Figs 7A, S5). The size of the ALB$^+$ population detected 19 days following specification showed a good correlation with the degree of HDE1 staining at the endoderm stage of differentiation (Figs 7A, S5). Notably, the levels of HDE2 staining in the final stage also correlated well with the size of the ALB$^+$ population, consistent with our earlier findings that it tracks with the developing hepatocyte-like cells (Fig. 7A).

Kinetic analyses showed that the proportion of HDE1$^+$ cells in all induced populations declined to less than 5% following specification with bFGF and BMP4

(Fig. 7B). The overall patterns of HDE2 staining were similar between the different groups. At the early stages of differentiation (days 3-5), the proportion of HDE2$^+$ cells was consistently higher in the H9-derived populations than in those generated from either HES2 or H1 hESCs. The proportion of HDE2$^+$ cells declined within 5 to 7 days of bFGF/BMP specification and then increased to reach maximal levels between days 13 and 19 (Fig. 7C). The HDE2 profiles in the different groups at the DE+19 days time point reflected the hepatic potential of the population, as determined by the proportion of ALB$^+$ cells (Fig. 7A). RT-qPCR analysis of the different populations at day 19 post specification showed that those derived from the 5, 7 and 9 day induced endoderm expressed higher levels of *ALB* than the cells derived from the 3 day induced endoderm (Fig. 7D, p<0.05) The expression patterns of *CD90* and *CDX2* were opposite to that of *ALB* indicating that populations derived from endoderm induced for shorter periods of time contained contaminating CD90$^+$ mesenchymal cells and CDX2$^+$ posterior gut tube cells (Fig. 7D, p<0.05).

Analyses of 2 hiPSC lines, BJ and MSC-iPS1 revealed similar correlations between HDE1 endoderm staining patterns and hepatic potential. With both cell lines, populations with the highest proportion of ALB$^+$ cells were generated from endoderm that was greater than 90% HDE1 positive (Figs S6A, S7A). Seven days of activin induction was sufficient to induce optimal hepatic endoderm populations from both hiPSC lines (Figs S6, S7). Molecular analyses showed that hepatic populations generated from day 3- and 5-induced BJ hiPSC endoderm expressed significantly lower levels of *ALB* and higher levels of *CD90* and *CDX2* than populations generated from day 7 and 9- induced endoderm (Fig S6C, p<0.05). Similar patterns were observed for the MSC-iPS1 derived populations, as cells generated from the day 7- induced endoderm expressed higher levels of *ALB* and lower levels of *CD90* and

CDX2 than those derived from the day 3-induced endoderm (Fig S7C, p<0.01 and p<0.05 respectively). Taken together, these findings demonstrate that the staining patterns of HDE1 reflect differences in the hepatic potential of hPSC-derived endoderm and as such can be used be used to optimize the induction of hepatic endoderm from different hPSC lines.

Discussion

The efficient and reproducible production of highly enriched hPSC-derived populations is dependent on our ability to recapitulate key stages of embryonic lineage development in the differentiation cultures. The earliest step in this process, germ layer induction is among the most important, as inefficiencies at this stage result in mixed populations, with contaminants from other germ layers. Advances over the past decade have provided insights into the signaling pathways that regulate both the endoderm induction and subsequent steps, allowing for the generation of a range of derivative cell types, including pancreatic insulin producing cells, hepatocytes, intestinal cells and lung cells (D'Amour et al., 2005; Gouon-Evans et al., 2006; Huang et al., 2014; Ogawa et al., 2013; Pagliuca et al., 2014; Rezania et al., 2014; Si-Tayeb et al., 2010; Spence et al., 2011). Optimization of these differentiation steps is essential for the efficient production of these cells and is ideally monitored quantitatively by flow cytometric analyses of the expression of cell type and/or lineage specific surface makers. Currently, the efficiency of endoderm induction is routinely assessed by co-expression of CXCR4, CD117 and/or EPCAM. While useful, these markers are neither endoderm specific and nor are they able to distinguish subpopulations with different fates. The two antibodies generated and

characterized in this study HDE1 and HDE2, provide new tools for monitoring endoderm induction and hepatic specification.

At the early stages of development, HDE1 shows remarkable endoderm specificity and is able to discriminate endoderm and non-endoderm cell types in the differentiating populations. In the sub-optimally induced population, HDE1 staining marked the definitive endoderm fraction and enabled the isolation of these cells from the contaminating mesoderm, undifferentiated hESCs and other non-endoderm cell types. Importantly, HDE1 staining also revealed the presence of CD90$^+$ mesoderm contaminants in optimally induced endoderm populations that were not detected based on CXCR4 staining. These findings confirm our previous studies that showed that CXCR4$^+$CD117$^+$ endoderm displays the potential to generate CD90$^+$ cells and suggest that most populations induced with the combination of Wnt and activin A may contain low levels of this mesoderm. Our analyses of the day 5 endoderm population indicate that HDE1 staining can also distinguish subtypes of endoderm as the population derived from the CXCR4$^+$HDE1$^+$ fraction was enriched for hepatic potential and depleted of *CDX2* expressing cells whereas the CXCR4$^+$HDE1$^-$-derived population contained *CDX2* expressing cells and a lower proportion of ALB$^+$ cells. Taken together, these observations indicate that HDE1 can be segregate hepatic endoderm from mesoderm and non-hepatic endoderm in optimally induced CXCR4$^+$ populations.

Previous studies have shown that sustained activin/nodal signaling is essential for optimal generation of endoderm with hepatic potential (Ogawa et al., 2013; Si-Tayeb et al., 2010; Toivonen et al., 2013a). The duration of this induction step in our culture

conditions was found to vary between hPSC lines and optimal timing could only be determined by measuring the proportion of ALB$^+$ cells at day 25 of culture. Our observation that the extent of HDE1 staining correlates with hepatic potential provides a new and rapid method to optimize this induction step. We observed that endoderm populations generated by sustained activin signaling (days 7-9) and comprised of >90% HDE1$^+$ cells display high hepatic potential and a reduced capacity to generate *CD90* and *CDX2* expressing cells compared to populations containing a lower proportion of HDE1$^+$ cells induced for shorter period of time (days 3-5). These findings are in line with those of Spence et al. (2011) who showed that prolonged induction of hPSC-derived endoderm with activin led to a reduction in intestinal potential. Whether or not other patterns of HDE1 staining correlate with other endoderm fates is currently under investigation. With our ability to isolate highly enriched HDE1$^+$ endoderm populations at different stages, it will be possible to investigate the molecular and epigenetic changes associated with this hepatic endoderm.

The staining patterns of HDE1 and HDE2 in the later stage specified populations show remarkable diversity and highlight potential novel utilities of these antibodies. For instance, the staining patterns of HDE1 in the pancreatic tissue and populations strongly suggest that this antibody marks the emerging exocrine and ductal progenitors in the hPSC differentiation cultures. If further analyses confirm this, it will be possible to monitor the efficiency of endocrine versus exocrine induction in the differentiation cultures and to deplete the population of non-endocrine cells. Additionally it will be possible to isolate the early stage exocrine and ductal progenitors and evaluate their developmental potential, both in vitro and following

transplantation in vivo. Although the staining pattern of HDE2 was somewhat variable in the early endoderm stages, it did track well with the emerging ALB$^+$ population, suggesting that this antibody uniquely recognizes the developing hepatocyte lineage. Our analyses of liver tissue demonstrated that this specificity for the hepatocyte lineage was retained through fetal and adult life. Given these patterns, HDE2 can be used to monitor the efficiency of hepatic development in hPSC differentiation cultures as well as to isolate hepatic cells from mixed populations.

A number of recent studies have identified other cell surface markers as well as developed other complimentary techniques to monitor the efficiency of endoderm induction. With respect to markers, two integrins CD49e and CD51 have recently been shown to be expressed on hPSC-derived definitive endoderm (Brafman et al., 2013). However, as with CXCR4, CD117 and EPCAM, neither is endoderm specific as both are expressed on the CXCR4$^-$ population. In preliminary analyses, we found that CD49e was expressed on entire sub-optimal induced populations (70% CXCR4$^+$CD117$^+$) between days 3 and 7 of differentiation, confirming that expression of this integrin is not endoderm specific. Using a different approach, Iwashita et al. showed that the levels of secreted CEREBERUS1 (CER1) quantified by ELISA correlated with the amount of endoderm in the culture (Iwashita et al., 2013). While informative, the analyses cannot distinguish between CER1 secreted from visceral and definitive endoderm and the approach cannot be used to enrich populations of interest. Pan et al developed a technique (referred to as tfFACS) to FACS subpopulations of fixed endodermal cells based on transcription factor expression (Pan et al., 2011). This method has the advantage of being able to isolate and analyze specific subsets of endoderm based on differential expression of transcription factors.

However, as cells are fixed in the process, this approach cannot be used to carryout functional analyses of the isolated fixed populations.

In summary, we have generated and characterized two antibodies, HDE1 and HDE2 that display interesting and informative staining patterns on hPSC-derived endoderm and derivative populations. With these reagents, we were able to develop new stringent flow cytometric based analyses for monitoring the efficiency of endoderm induction and in doing so, demonstrate that populations considered to be highly enriched for endoderm by current criteria can contain residual mesoderm potential. Additionally, we show that with the combination of staining patterns of the two antibodies, it is now possible to monitor the optimization of two stages of hepatic development, endoderm induction and hepatic specification by flow cytometry. Together, these findings highlight the importance of stage and lineage specific markers for developing efficient and reproducible differentiation strategies for the generation of functional hPSC-derived cell types.

Material and Methods

Generation of hESC-derived endoderm for production of monoclonal antibodies
HES2 hESCs were differentiated as embryoid bodies (EBs) in low cluster 6-well plates ($4x10^5$ cells/ml) in Serum Free Differentiation (SFD) medium (Gouon-Evans et al., 2006) supplemented with 2 mM L-glutamine (Gibco-BRL), 1 mM ascorbic acid (Sigma), 4×10^{-4} M monothioglycerol (MTG) (Sigma), and 10 ng/ml BMP4 (R&D systems). After 24 hours (day 1), the medium was changed to SFD supplemented with 2 mM glutamine, 0.5 mM ascorbic acid, 4×10^{-4} M MTG, 0.25 ng/ml BMP4, 2.5ng/ml bFGF, 100 ng/ml activin A for 3 days. At day4, EBs were transferred to fresh day 1 medium with 10 ng/ml VEGF. The resulting day 5 population was harvested and used for immunization for the generation of antibodies.

Antibody production

Monoclonal antibodies were generated using standard polyethylene-mediated fusion technology (Kohler and Milstein, 1975). Briefly, BALB/c mice were immunized three times with day 5 HES2 hESC-derived definitive endoderm. Immunizations were conducted at three weeks intervals, and for each immunization, mice received approximately 0.5×10^6 cells delivered IP. Imject Alum (Thermo Scientific; Rockford, IL) was used as an adjuvant/carrier. Four days after the final immunization, animals were humanely euthanized and their spleens were removed for hybridoma generation. Splenocytes were fused with SP2/0 Ag14 myeloma cells using standard PEG and successfully fused cells were cloned using ClonaCell-HY media (Stem Cell Technologies Inc., Vancouver, Canada). Approximately 600 isolated clones per fusion were transferred to liquid media in 96 well plates, and supernatants from those wells were collected for screening, with screening for cell surface reactivity performed as describe below (Flow Cytometry and Cell Sorting).

HESCs and hiPSCs maintenance and differentiation

hESCs and iPSCs were cultured on irradiated mouse embryonic fibroblasts in hESC medium, as previously described (Kennedy et al., 2007). For pancreas differentiation, hESCs were first passaged onto matrgiel-coated dishes for 24h to deplete the feeder cells. hESCs/hiPSCs were then dissociated using collagenase B (1 mg/ml) for 20 min, followed by a 1-2 min trypsin-EDTA (0.05%) treatment. Single cell suspensions were seeded in low-cluster dishes (Corning) at a 4×10^5 cells/ml density to generate EBs. Pancreatic differentiation was then carried out as described (Nostro et al., 2011). Briefly, EBs were treated with 100 ng/ml Activin to generate definitive endoderm (see above). At day 5, the EBs were dissociated and the cells plated on gelatin at a concentration of 130 000 cells/cm^2, in 50 ng/ml Activin A. At day 7, the posterior foregut was patterned with 100 ng/ml FGF10 for 3 days. The pancreatic progenitors were then induced by 50 ng/ml noggin, 250 nM KAAD-cyclopamine and 2 uM all-trans retinoic acid, for 3 days. Pancreatic maturation was then achieved by keeping the cells in 6 uM SB431542 and 50 ng/ml noggin. For liver differentiation, the definitive endoderm was either induced as EBs (as described above), or as monolayer (Ogawa et al., 2015). For the monolayer induction, the hESCs were passaged on matrigel-coated dishes and cultured for 24h at a concentration of 40000 cells/cm^2 in hESC medium. Following this step, the cells were induced with 100ng/ml ActivinA

(R&D Systems) and 1uM CHIR 99021 for 1 day in RPMI supplemented with 2 mM glutamine (Gibco-BRL) and 4.5×10^{-4} M MTG (Sigma), then with 100ng/ml ActivinA and 1uM CHIR 99021 and 2.5ng/ml bFGF (R&D Systems) for 1 day in RPMI supplemented with glutamine, 0.5 mM ascorbic acid (Sigma), and MTG. The media was then changed to 100ng/ml ActivinA and 2.5ng/ml bFGF for an additional day in RPMI supplemented with glutamine, ascorbic acid, and MTG. For longer activin exposure the media was changed at day 3, 5, and 7 and replaced with 100ng/ml ActivinA and 2.5ng/ml bFGF in SFD supplemented with glutamine, ascorbic acid, and MTG. Hepatic differentiation was carried out as previously described (Ogawa et al., 2013). Briefly, hepatic specification was induced from the definitive endoderm (DE) with 40 ng/ml bFGF (20 ng/ml for Hes2) and 50 ng/ml BMP4, for 6 days (DE+6 days). At DE+6 days, the medium was changed to 20 ng/ml HGF, 40 ng/ml dexamethasone, 20 ng/ml oncostatin M, until DE+16 days. At DE+16, HGF was removed from the culture medium. For cardiac mesoderm and cardiomyocyte differentiation, hESCs were processed as described (Kattman et al., 2011). Hematopoietic mesoderm induction was carried as described previously (Kennedy et al., 2012). Neuroectoderm differentiation was perfomed as described (Chambers et al., 2009).

Flow cytometry and cell sorting

Cells were trypsinized and resuspended in PBS+10% Knockout serum replacement (Gibco). For cell surface proteins, cells were stained in PBS+10% Knockout serum replacement. For intracellular staining, cells were first fixed in 2 to 4% paraformaldehyde in PBS for 20 min at room temperature. Cells were then permeabilized on ice in 90% methanol in PBS for 20 minutes, and stained in PBS+0.3%BSA+0.3%tritonX-100 (Krutzik and Nolan, 2003). Cells were analyzed on a LSRII flow cytometer (BD biosciences). Data analysis was done using FlowJo software (Treestar, Ashland, OR, USA). The antibodies and concentrations are listed in Supplemental Table 1-3. Cell sorting was performed using FACSAria™II (BD biosciences) cell sorter (SickKids-UHN Flow Cytometry Facility, Toronto, ON, Canada). The antibodies and concentrations are listed in Table S1-S3. For the experiment shown in Figure 3C,D, the sorted and presort populations were plated on matrigel-coated 12-well plates at a density if 600,000 cells/well.

Immunohistochemistry

Cells were fixed with 4% paraformaldehyde for 20 minutes at room temperature, permeabelized in 0.2% triton-X for 20 minutes at room temperature, and then blocked in PBS+2%BSA+10% secondary antibody-specific serum for 45 minutes at room temperature. Incubations with primary and secondary antibodies were performed in PBS+0.05% triton-X+2% BSA. DAPI was used for nuclei staining. Pictures of immunostained cells were acquired using a Leica CTR6000 fluorescence microscope and the Leica Application Suite software. For co-staining with HDE1 or HDE2, fixed cells were first blocked and stained with HDE1/2 and secondary antibody in PBS+2%BSA, then permeabilized and stained for intracellular proteins. The antibodies and concentrations are listed in Table S1-S3.

Real Time PCR analysis

Total RNA was extracted with the RNAqueous-Micro Kit (Ambion) and DNase treated (Ambion). Reverse transcription was performed with 1 μg RNA using Superscript III Reverse Transcriptase (Invitrogen). QPCR was done in a MasterCycler EP RealPlex (Eppendorf) using QuantiFast SYBR Green PCR Kit (Qiagen). The fetal liver sample was a pool of 63 spontaneously aborted fetus (22-40 weeks, Clontech, cat # 636540, lot # 7030173). Primer sequences are listed in table S4. Analysis of expression levels was performed using the delta-CT method, using TBP (TATA Binding Protein) as the housekeeping gene and the control sample value set to 1.

Tissue sections and Cell lines

The fetal pancreas frozen sections came from a 40-week-old male fetus (Biochain, cat # T1244188). The fetal liver frozen sections originate from a 20-week-old female fetus (Biochain, cat#T6244700-1). Cadaveric donor tissues were used as the source of adult pancreas and adult liver sections, and these tissues were obtained thru the OHSU tissue donation program. The HPDE6 cells were a gift from Senthil K. Muthuswamy (UHN, Toronto). The human primary hepatocytes were purchased from Celsis In Vitro Technologies, (Baltimore, USA, lot# OSI). The liver carcinoma cells HepG2 and Huh7 were a gift from Dr Rebecca R. Laposa (University of Toronto).

Statistical Analysis

Statistical Analysis was performed using the one-way ANOVA and paired t-tests.

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Primary antibody list

Antibody	Company	Catalogue number	Ig Species	Conjugate	Dilution
HDE1	n/a	n/a	Mouse IgG1	none	1:100 (flow and IHC)
HDE2	n/a	n/a	Mouse IgG1	None	1:100 (flow and IHC)
SOX17	R&D	MAB1924	Mouse	None	1:40
CXCR4 (CD184)	BD	555976	Mouse	APC	1:50
CD117	BD	340529	Mouse	PE	1:25
EPCAM (CD326)	eBioscience	12-9326-42	Mouse	PE	1:100
KDR	R&D	FAB357A	Mouse	APC	15:100
KDR	R&D	FAB357P	Mouse	PE	15:100
PDGFRa (CD140a)	BD	556002	Mouse	PE	1:20
CD56	BD	555518	Mouse	APC	1:20
ALBUMIN	Bethyl	A80-129A	Goat	None	1:200 (flow) 1:400 (IHC)
ALBUMIN	DAKO	A0001	Rabbit	None	1:400 (flow) 1:4000 (IHC)
AFP	DAKO	A00008	Rabbit	None	1:2000
CD90	Biolegend	328110	Mouse	PE	1:400
5H10	Streeter lab	n/a	Mouse IgM	None	50ul (supernatant)
HICO 3-C5	Streeter lab	n/a	Mouse IgM	None	50ul (supernatant)
c-peptide	Beta Cell Biology Consortium	AB1921	Rat	None	1:300 (flow) 1:1000 (IHC)

IgG control list

| Antibody	Company	Catalogue number	Conjugate	Stock concentration
Goat IgG	Sigma	I5256	none	1mg/ml
Rabbit IgG	Jackson Immunoresearch	001-000-003	None	11mg/ml
Mouse IgG1	Life technologies	MG105	APC	4.1mg/ml

Secondary antibody list

Antibody	Company	Product Code	Conjugate	Dilution
Goat anti-Mouse IgG	Jackson immunoresearch	115-115-164	PE	1:200
Goat anti-Mouse IgM	Jackson immunoresearch	115-096-075	FITC	1:100
Goat anti-Mouse IgG	Jackson immunoresearch	115-165-164	Cy3	1:200
Donkey anti-Rat IgG	Life technologies	A21208	Alexa488	1:400
Donkey anti-Goat IgG	Life technologies	A11055	Alexa488	1:400
Donkey anti-Rabbit IgG	Life technologies	A11008	Alexa488	1:400
Donkey anti-Rabbit IgG	Jackson immunoresearch	711-165-152	Cy3	1:300

RT-qPCR primer list

GENE	Forward sequence	Reverse sequence
ALBUMIN	5'-GTGAAACACAAGCCCAAGGCAACA-3'	5'-TCAGCCTTGCAGCACTTCTCTACA-3'
CD90	5'-ATACCAGCAGTTCACCCATTCAGT-3'	5'-AATTGCTGGTGAAGTTGGTTCGGG-3'
CER	5'-CTTGTCTCAGCTCTGCCACTAACT-3'	5'-TCATCTAGGTCGGGTCCGTCATTT-3'
CXCR4	5'-AGGGAACTGAACATTCCAGAGCGT-3'	5'-AAACGTTCCACGGGAATGGAGAGA-3'
FOXA2	5'-GCATTCCCAATCTTGACACGGTGA-3'	5'-GCCCTTGCAGCCAGAATACACATT-3'
MEOX1	5'-TGAGGACTGATGGCCAAAGAGCAT-3'	5'-ATCCAAACTCACGTTGACCTCCCT-3'
MESP1	5'-AGCCCAAGTGACAAGGGACAACT-3'	5'-AAGGAACCACTTCGAAGGTGCTGA-3'
OCT4	5'-ATGCATTCAAACTGAGGTGCCTGC-3'	5'-CCACCCTTTGTGTTCCCAATTCCT-3'
SOX17	5'-AGGAAATCCTCAGACTCCTGGGTT-3'	5'-CCCAAACTGTTCAAGTGGCAGACA-3'
SOX7	5'-AGCATGCTTCCTTTAGCTGCTGTG-3'	5'-TTGCTCTAAAGCACTGGCTGAGGA-3'
TBP	5'-GCGCAAGGGTTTCTGGTTTGCC-3'	5'-AGGGATTCCGGGAGTCATGGC-3'
ZIC1	5'-GTCTTCGCGCGCTCCGAGAATT-3'	5'-CTTGCGGTCGCTGCTGTTAGCG-3'

Figures
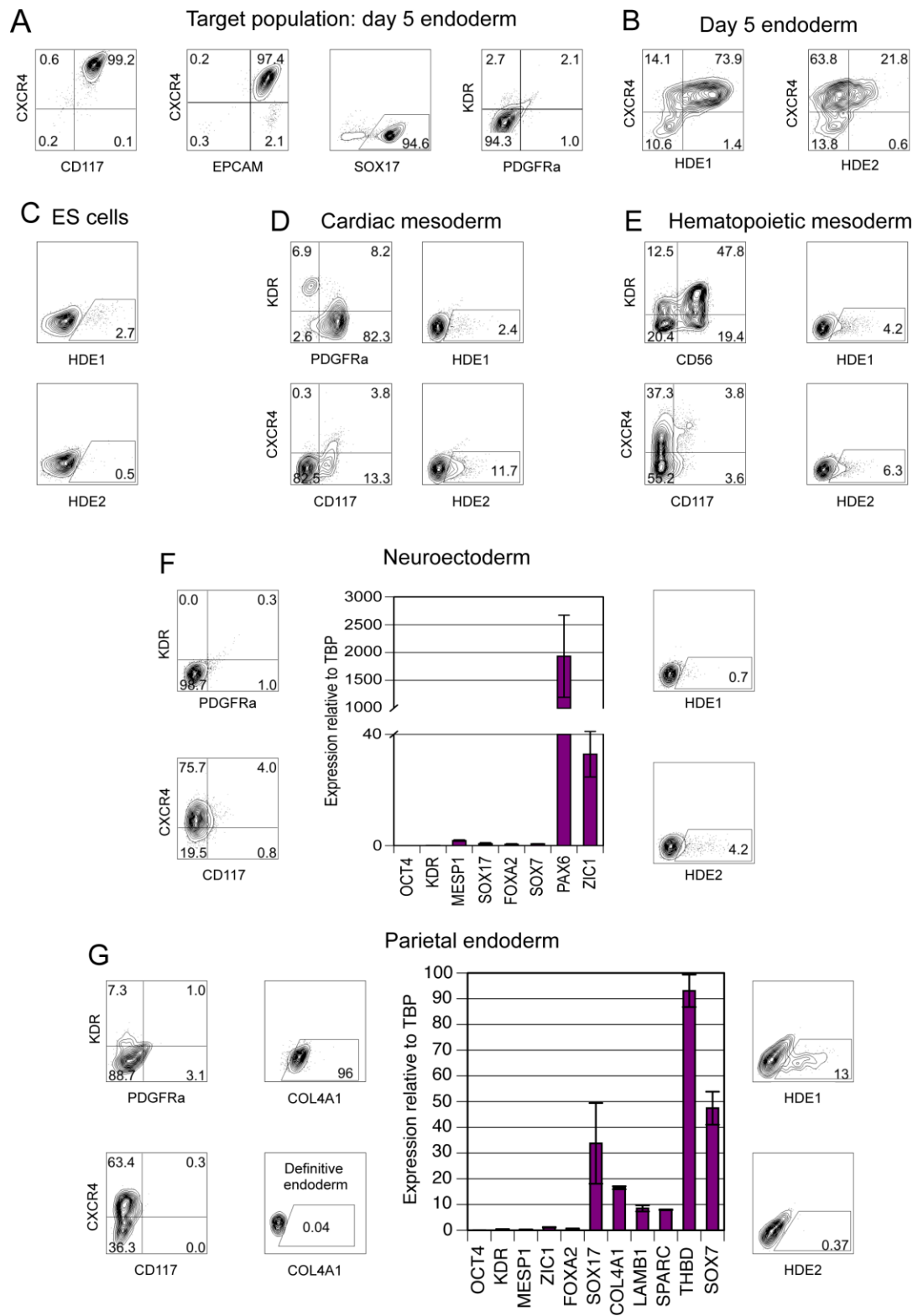
Figure 1. Staining patterns of HDE1 and HDE2 on hESC-derived endoderm, mesoderm, ectoderm and parietal endoderm.

(A) Flow cytometric analysis of the target hESC-derived endoderm population used to generate the HDE1 and HDE2 antibodies. The endoderm is characterized by the expression of CXCR4, CD117, EPCAM and SOX17, and does not express the mesodermal markers KDR and PDGFRα.

(B) Flow cytometric analysis of HDE1, HDE2 and CXCR4 staining on day 5 hESC-derived endoderm.

(C) Flow cytometric analysis of HDE1 and HDE2 staining on undifferentiated HES2 hESCs. .

(D) Flow cytometric analysis of HDE1 and HDE2 staining on hESC-derived PDGFRα^+ cardiac mesoderm.

(E) Flow cytometric analysis of HDE1 and HDE2 staining on hESC-derived KDR$^+$CD56$^+$ hematopoietic mesoderm.

(F) Flow cytometric analysis of HDE1 and HDE2 staining on hESC-derived KDR$^-$, PDGFRα^- CD117$^-$ neuroectoderm. RT-qPCR analyses for expression of mesoderm (KDR, MESP1), endoderm (SOX17, FOXA2), extraembryonic endoderm (SOX7) and neuroectoderm (PAX6 and ZIC1) genes in the neuroectoderm population. . Values shown for the RT-qPCR were determined relative to TBP and compared to hESCs (hESCs set at 1) (n=3, data are represented as mean +/- SEM).

(G) Flow cytometric analyses of KDR, PDGFRα, CXCR4, CD117, COL4A1, HDE1 and HDE2 staining on hESC-derived parietal endoderm and RT-qPCR analyses of expression of the indicated genes in the population. Values shown for the RT-qPCR were determined relative to TBP and compared to hESCs levels. (hESCs set at 1, n=3, data are represented as mean +/- SEM). The parietal endoderm population is characterized by its specific expression of COL4A1 and high expression of *SOX17, COL4A1, LAMB1, SPARC, THBD AND SOX7*. All FACS plots are representative results from at least 3 independent experiments.
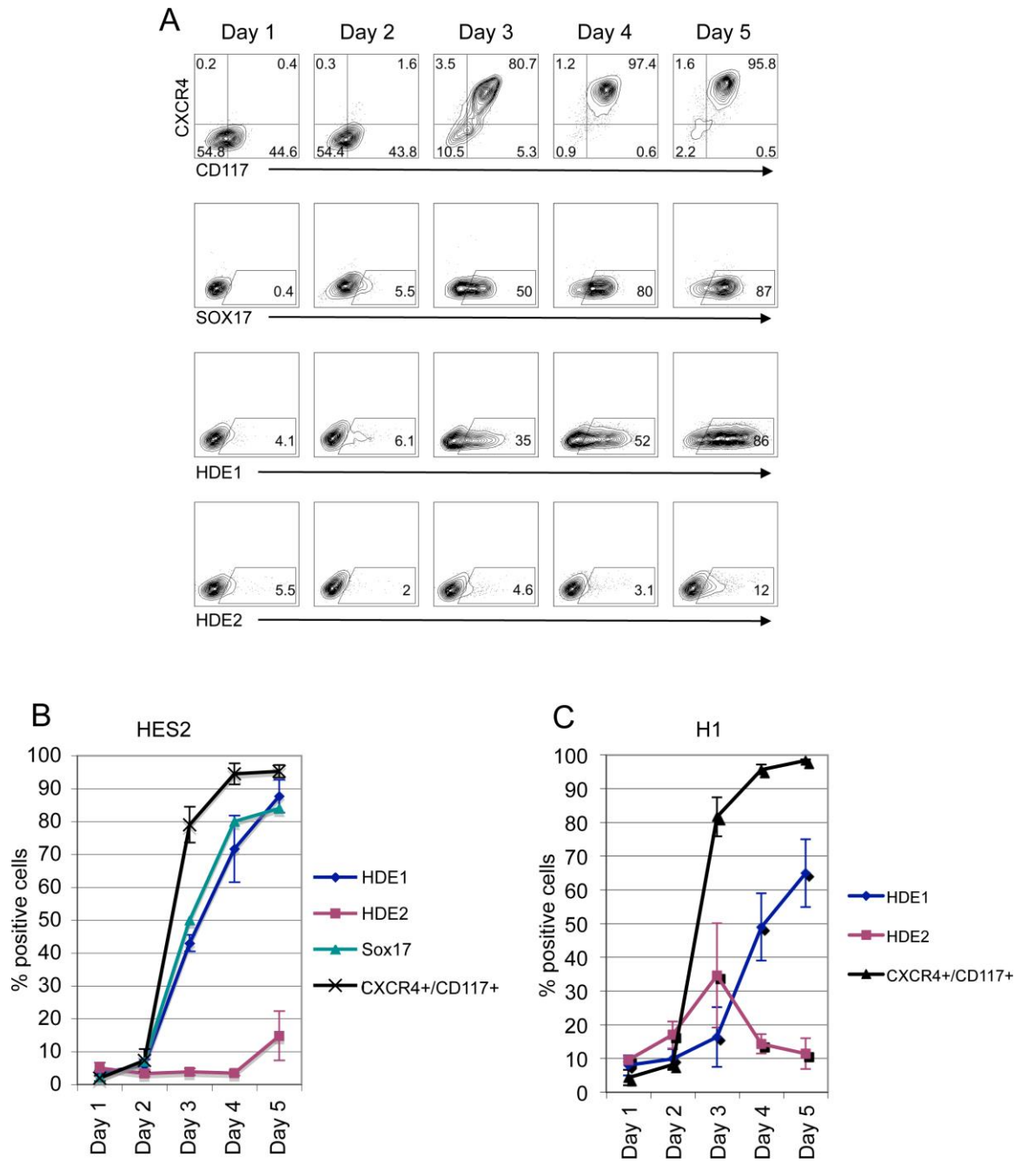
Figure 2. Kinetics of HDE1 and HDE2 staining during definitive endoderm induction from hESCs.

(A) Representative flow cytometry analyses of the staining patterns of CXCR4/CD117, SOX17, HDE1 and HDE2 on HES2 hESC-derived endoderm populations between days 1 and 5 of differentiation.

(B) Kinetics of HDE1, HDE2, SOX17 and CXCR4/CD117 staining during endoderm induction of HES2 hESCs. (n=3, data are represented as mean +/- SEM).

(C) Kinetics of HDE1, HDE2 and CXCR4/CD117 staining during endoderm induction of H1 hESCs. (n=3, data are represented as mean +/- SEM).
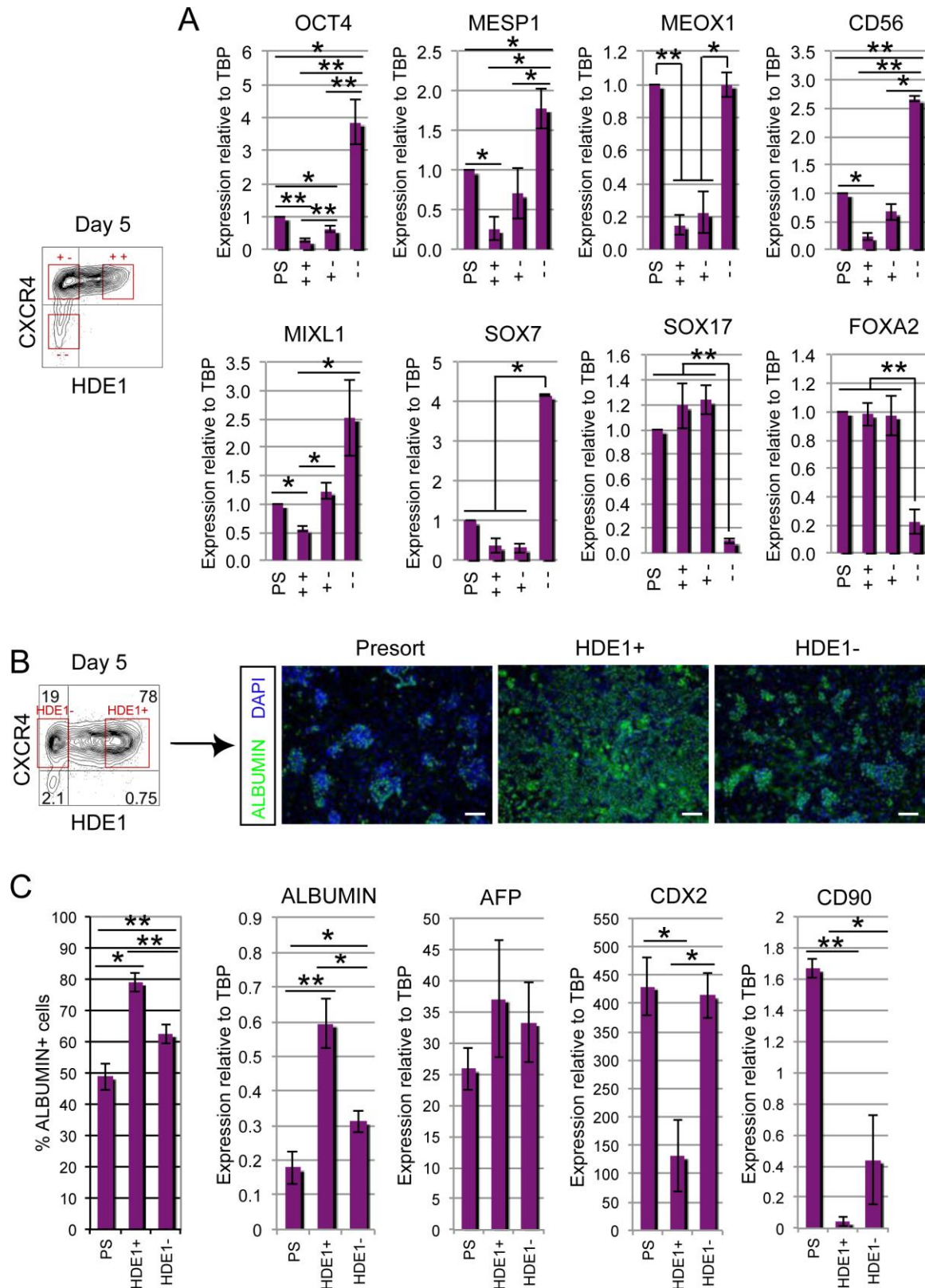
Figure 3. Isolation and characterization of HDE1+ populations.

(A) Representative flow cytometric profile of CXCR4 and HDE1 staining in a HES2-derived day 5 EB population induced with suboptimal levels of Activin A (5ng/ml). Red boxes indicate the three subpopulations isolated by

FACS for RT-qPCR analyses for expression of the pluripotency marker *OCT4*, the mesoderm markers *MESP1*, *MEOX1*, *CD56*, the mesendoderm marker *MIXL1*, the extra-embryonic endoderm marker *SOX7* and the endoderm markers *SOX17* and *FOXA2*. Values shown were determined relative to TBP and compared to presort levels which were set at 1 (n=3, data are represented as mean +/- SEM. * indicates p<0.05. ** indicates p<0.01).

(B) Left: Representative flow cytometric profile of CXCR4 and HDE1 staining in a HES2-derived day 5 EB population induced under optimal endoderm induction conditions. Red boxes indicate the two subpopulations isolated for functional analyses. The presort and CXCR4$^+$HDE1$^-$ and CXCR4$^+$HDE1$^+$ cells were cultured in hepatocyte conditions for 28 days. The resulting populations were analyzed by immunocytochemistry (Right) for expression of ALB (green). Nuclei were visualized by DAPI staining. Scale bar: 200um.

(C) Intra-cellular flow cytometric analysis of ALB$^+$ cells (left panel) in populations generated from the presort and CXCR4$^+$HDE1$^-$ and CXCR4$^+$HDE1$^+$ fractions (described in (B)) following 33 days of culture in hepatic conditions. RT-qPCR analysis of *ALBUMIN*, *AFP*, *CDX2*, and *CD90* expression in the day 33 hepatic populations. (n=4, data are represented as mean +/- SEM. * indicates p<0.05. ** indicates p<0.01. Values shown were determined relative to TBP and compared to fetal liver (FL set at 1).
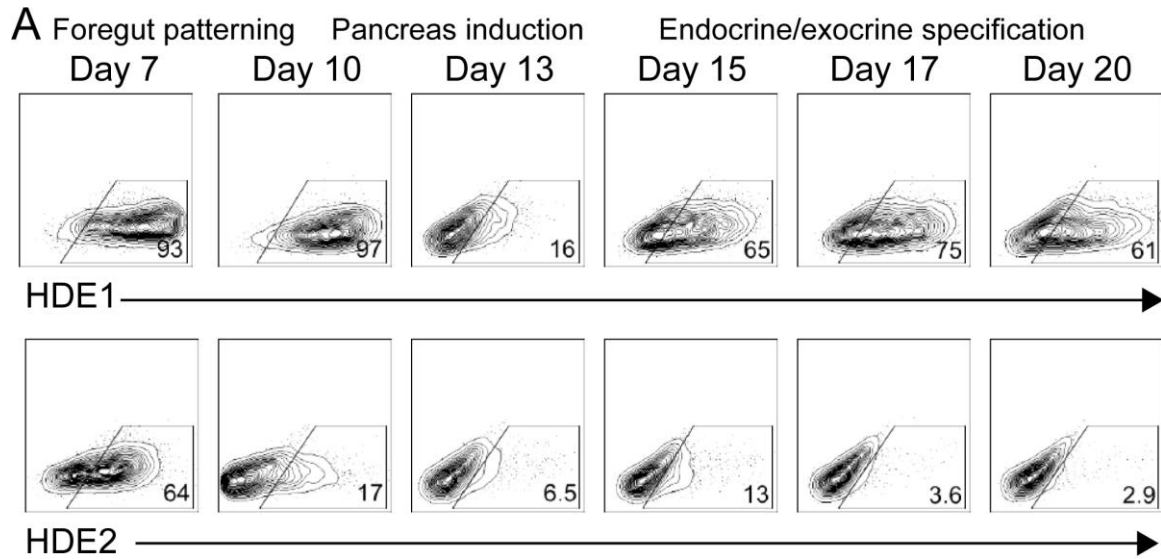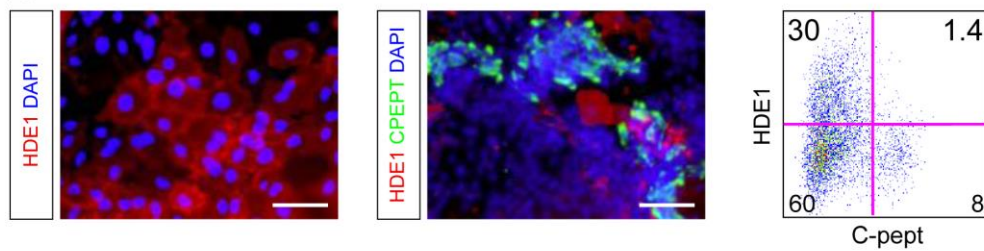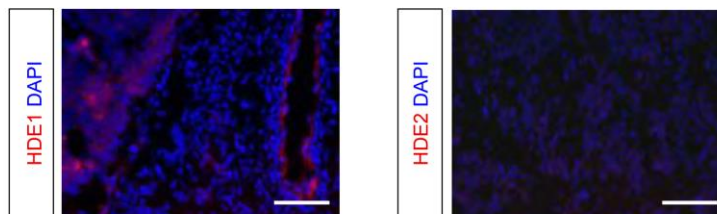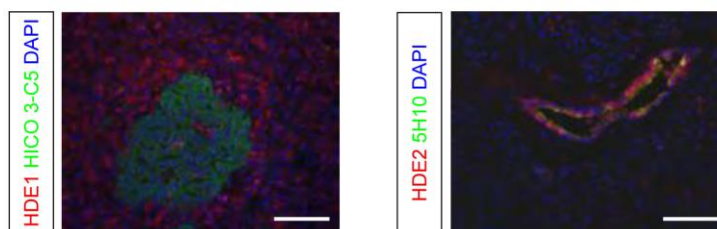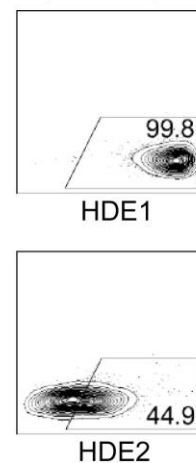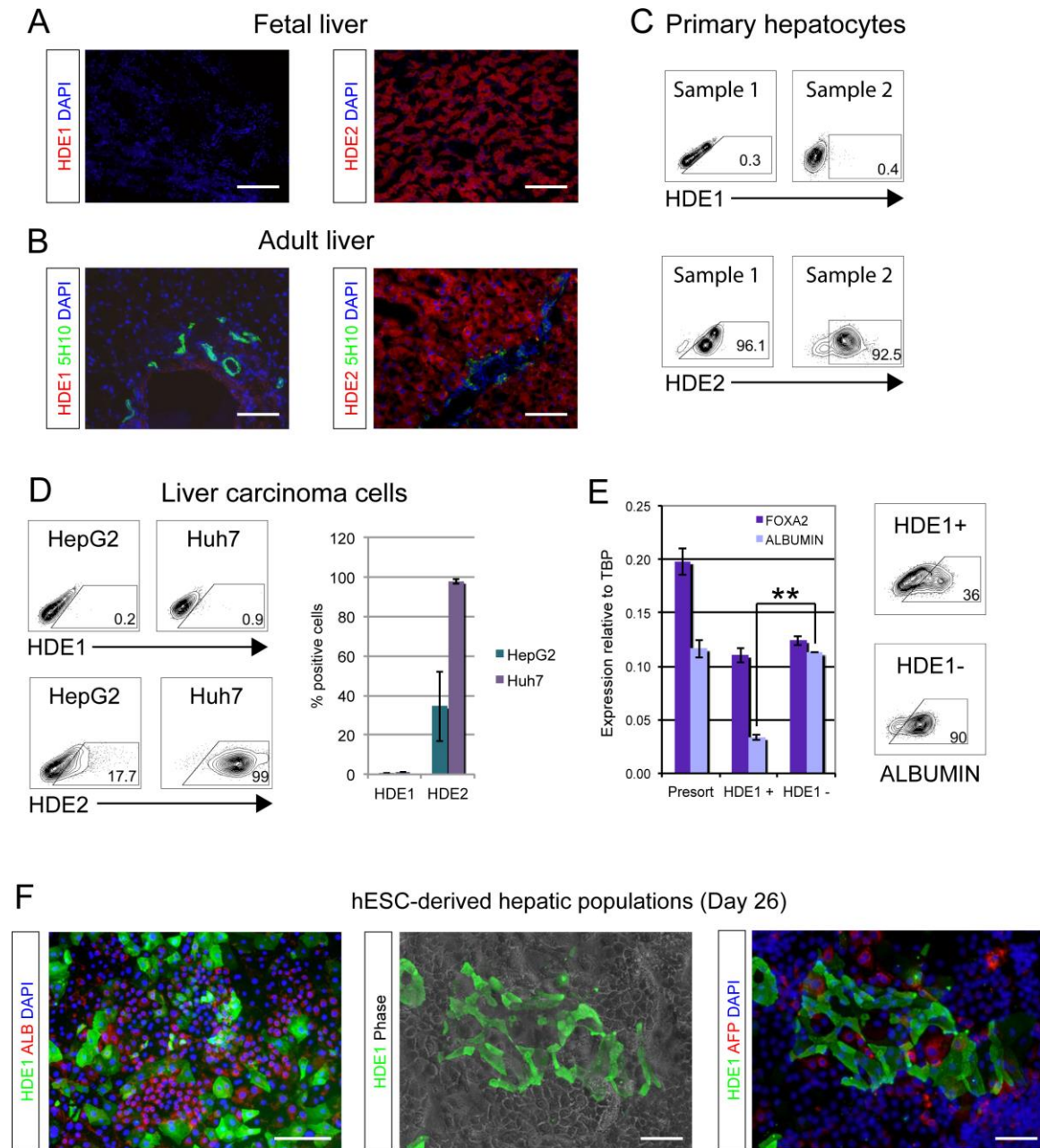
Figure 4. HDE1 and HDE2 staining patterns on hESC-derived pancreatic cells and pancreatic tissue.

(A) Representative flow cytometric analyses of HDE1 and HDE2 staining patterns of HES2 hESC-derived populations undergoing pancreatic differentiation between days 7 and 20 of culture. Similar patterns were found in three independent experiments (Figure S1A).

(B) Immunocytochemistry analyses of HDE1$^+$ (red) and c-peptide$^+$ (green) cells in HES2-derived pancreatic populations at day 25 of differentiation Scale bars: 100 um. Representative flow cytometric analysis of the frequency of HDE1$^+$ and c-peptide$^+$ cells in comparable day 25 pancreatic populations (right panel)

(C) Immunocytochemistry analyses of HDE1$^+$ (red, left panel) and HDE2$^+$ (red, right panel) cells in human fetal pancreas (week 40 gestation). Nuclei are visualized by DAPI staining. , Scale bars: 100 um.

(D) Immunocytochemistry analyses of HDE1$^+$ (red, left panel) and HDE2$^+$ (red, right panel) cells in normal adult pancreas. Ductal structures are indicated by staining with the ductal antibody 5H10 (green, right panel) and islets with the islet antibody HICO 3C5 (green, left panel). Nuclei are visualized by DAPI staining. Scale bars:100 um.

(E) Representative flow cytometric analyses of HDE1 and HDE2 staining on the pancreatic duct epithelial cell line HPDE6. Similar patterns were found in three independent experiments (Figure S1B).

Figure 5. Kinetics of HDE1 and HDE2 staining during hepatic differentiation of hESCs.

(A) Representative flow cytometric analyses of ALB and HDE1 and HDE2 staining patterns of HES2 hESC-derived populations at different stages of hepatic differentiation.

(B) Representative flow cytometric analyses of HDE1 and HDE2 staining patterns of H9 hESC-derived populations at different stages of hepatic differentiation.

Similar patterns were found in three independent experiments (Figure S3).

Figure 6. HDE1 and HDE2 staining patterns on human liver tissue, cell lines and hESC-derived hepatic populations.

(A) Immunocytochemistry analyses of HDE1$^+$ (red, left panel) and HDE2$^+$ (red, right panel) cells in human fetal liver (week 20 gestation). Nuclei are visualized by DAPI staining. Scale bars:100 um.

(B) Immunocytochemistry analyses of HDE1$^+$ (red, left panel) and HDE2$^+$ (red, right panel) cells in normal adult liver. Ductal structures are stained with the ductal antibody 5H10 (green) and nuclei visualized by DAPI. Scale bars:100 um.

(C) Flow cytometric analysis of HDE1 and HDE2 staining on 2 independent samples of human primary hepatocytes.

(D) Flow cytometric analyses of HDE1 and HDE2 staining on human fetal (HepG2) and adult (Huh7) liver carcinoma cells. Left panel shows a

representative example. Right panel shows the combined values of 3 independent experiments. (n=3, data are represented as mean +/- SEM).

(E) Left panel: RT-qPCR analysis of *FOXA2* and *ALBUMIN* expression in presort, and HDE1$^+$ and HDE1$^-$ cells isolated from day 26 HES2-derived hepatic populations. Values were determined relative to TBP and compared to fetal liver (FL set at 1, n=3, data are represented as mean +/- SEM. ** indicates $p<0.01$). Right panel: Flow cytometry analysis of ALBUMIN expression in HDE1$^+$ and HDE1$^-$ cells isolated from day 26 HES2-derived hepatic populations.

(F) Immunocytochemistry analyses of HDE1$^+$ (green), ALBUMIN$^+$ (red, left picture), and AFP$^+$ (red, right picture) cells in day 26 HES2-derived hepatic populations (right picture, scale bars: 200 um: left pictures: scale bars:100 um).
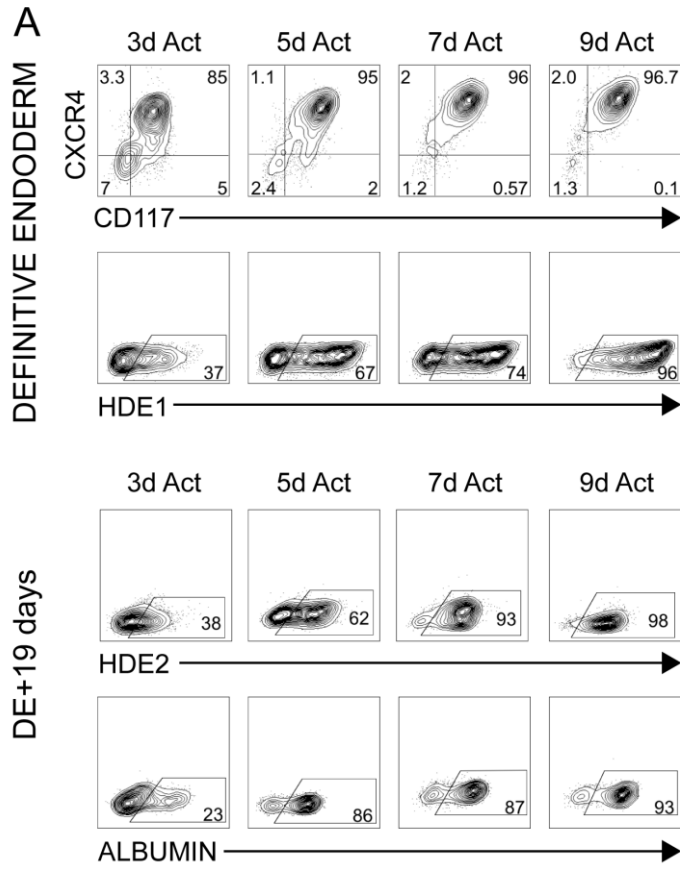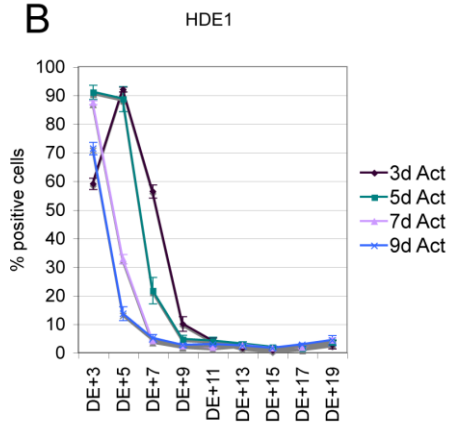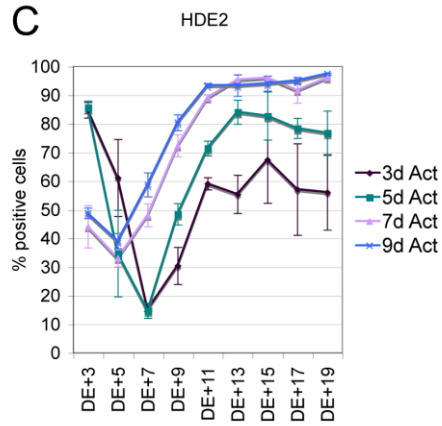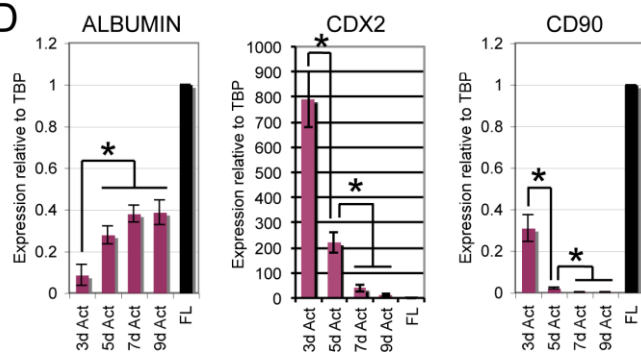
Figure 7. Hepatic potential of hESC-derived endoderm correlates with HDE1 staining patterns

(A) Upper two rows: representative flow cytometric analysis showing the proportion of CXCR4$^+$, CD117$^+$ and HDE1$^+$ cells in H9 hESC-derived endoderm populations induced with activin A for the indicated period of time (days). Similar patterns were found in three independent experiments (Figure S4).

Lower two rows: representative flow cytometric analysis showing the proportion of HDE2$^+$ and ALB$^+$ cells in hepatic cultures generated from endoderm induced for the indicated periods of time. Cells were analyzed 19 days following the endoderm stage (DE+19 days).

(B) Flow cytometric analyses of HDE1 staining at different stages of hepatocyte development in populations generated from the endoderm populations induced for different periods of time. (n=3, data are represented as mean +/- SEM).

(C) Flow cytometric analyses of HDE2 staining at different stages of hepatocyte development in populations generated from the endoderm populations induced for different periods of time.

(D) RT-qPCR analyses of *ALB*, *CDX2* and *CD90* expression in the hepatic populations (DE+19) generated from the endoderm induced with activin A for different periods of time. (FL=Fetal Liver). Values were determined relative to TBP and compared to fetal liver (FL set at 1, n=3, data are represented as mean +/- SEM. * indicates p<0.05).