AIM1 suppresses migration and metastatic dissemination in prostate cancer.

Michael C. Haffner1,2, David M. Esopi1, Alcides Chaux2, Meltem Gürel1, Susmita Ghosh2, Ajay M. Vaghasia1, Harrison Tsai2, Kunhwa Kim1, Nicole Castagna1, Hong Lam4, Jessica Hicks2, Nicolas Wyhs1, Debika Biswal Shinohara1, Paula J. Hurley1,3, Brian W. Simons3, Edward M. Schaeffer1,2,3, Tamara L. Lotan2, William B. Isaacs1,3, George J. Netto1,2,3, Angelo M. De Marzo1,2,3, William G. Nelson1,2,3, Steven S. An4,5,6 and Srinivasan Yegnasubramanian1,4,6.

1Sidney Kimmel Comprehensive Cancer Center, 2Department of Pathology, 3Brady Urological Institute, School of Medicine, 4Department of Environmental Health and Engineering, Bloomberg School of Public Health, 5Department of Chemical and Biomolecular Engineering, 6Johns Hopkins Physical Sciences in Oncology Center, Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore, Maryland, USA.

Background:
A defining hallmark of primary and metastatic cancers is the migration and invasion of malignant cells. These invasive properties involve altered dynamics of the cytoskeleton and one of its major structural components β-actin. Here, we identify AIM1 (absent in melanoma 1) as an actin binding protein that suppresses pro-invasive properties in benign prostate epithelium.

Methods and Results:
Depletion of AIM1 in prostate epithelial cells increases cytoskeletal remodeling, intracellular traction forces, cell migration and invasion, and anchorage independent growth. In addition, decreased AIM1 expression results in increased metastatic dissemination in vivo. AIM1 strongly associates with the actin cytoskeleton in prostate epithelial cells in normal tissues, but not in prostate cancers. In addition to a mislocalization of AIM1 from the actin cytoskeleton in invasive cancers, advanced prostate cancers often harbor AIM1 deletion and reduced expression.

Conclusions:
These findings implicate AIM1 as a key suppressor of invasive phenotypes that becomes dysregulated in primary and metastatic prostate cancer.

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