

Two distinct populations of exosomes released from LIM1863 colon carcinoma cell-derived organoids

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ABBREVIATIONS

A33-Exos, exosomes isolated using anti-A33 immunoaffinity beads

CCM, concentrated culture medium

CM, culture medium

CRC, colorectal cancer

EM, electron microscopy

eMVs, extracellular microvesicles

EpCAM, epithelial cell adhesion molecule

EpCAM-Exos, exosomes isolated using anti-EpCAM immunoaffinity beads

ESCRT, endosomal sorting complex required for transport

FCS, fetal calf serum

GI, gastrointestinal

HMGB, high mobility group box

ILV, intraluminal vesicle

ITS, insulin-transferrin-selenium

MACS, magnetic activated cell sorting

MVB, multivesicular body

MVs, microvesicles

PDCD6IP/Alix, programmed cell death 6 interacting protein

PM, plasma membrane

sMVs, shed microvesicles

SSM, solid support magnet

TEM, tetraspanin enriched microdomains

TGN, trans-Golgi network

TNTs, tunnelling nanotubes

TSG101, tumour susceptibility gene 101

ABSTRACT

Exosomes are naturally occurring biological nanomembrane vesicles (~40-100 nm) of endocytic origin that are released from diverse cell types into the extracellular space. They have pleiotropic functions such as antigen presentation and intercellular transfer of protein cargo, mRNA, miRNA, lipids and oncogenic potential. Here we describe the isolation, by sequential immunocapture using anti-A33- and anti-EpCAM-coupled magnetic beads, of two distinct populations of exosomes released from the highly polarized human colon carcinoma cell line LIM1863 derived organoids. Both exosome populations (A33-Exos and EpCAM-Exos) were indistinguishable by electron microscopy and contained stereotypical exosome markers such as TSG101, Alix and HSP70. The salient finding of this study, revealed by GeLC-MS/MS, was the exclusive identification in EpCAM-Exos of the classical apical trafficking molecules CD63 (LAMP3), mucin 13 (MUC13), apical intestinal enzymes sucrase isomaltase (SI) and increased expression of dipeptidyl peptidase IV (DPP4) and the apically-restricted pentaspan membrane glycoprotein prominin 1 (PROM1). By comparison, the A33-Exos preparation was enriched with basolateral trafficking molecules such as early endosome antigen 1 (EEA1), the Golgi membrane protein ADP-ribosylation factor (ARF1) and clathrin. Our observations are consistent with EpCAM- and A33-Exos being released from the apical and basolateral surfaces, respectively, and the EpCAM-Exos proteome profile with widely-published stereotypical exosomes. A proteome analysis of LIM1863-derived shed microvesicles (sMVs) was also performed to clearly distinguish A33- and EpCAM-Exos from sMVs. Intriguingly, several members of the MHC class I family of antigen presentation molecules were exclusively observed in A33-Exos – neither MHC

class I or II molecules were observed by MS in EpCAM-Exos. Additionally, we report for the first time in any extracellular vesicle study the colocalisation of EpCAM, claudin-7 and CD44 in EpCAM-Exos. Given that these molecules are known to complex together to promote tumour progression, further characterisation of exosome sub-populations will enable a deeper understanding of their possible role in regulation of the tumour microenvironment.

INTRODUCTION

The microenvironment in which a tumour originates plays a critical role in its initiation, progression and metastasis [1-3]. Recent advances have indicated that while the microenvironment provides crucial signalling to maintain tissue architecture, inhibit cell growth and constrain the malignant phenotype it can also promote and induce cancer [4]. In addition to cancer cells, the tumour microenvironment also comprises normal cells, blood cells, secreted proteins and peptides and constituents of the extracellular matrix that actively influence cell behaviour. Secreted proteins, peptides and physiological small molecules such as soluble cytokines and chemokines are currently recognized as the main exocrine and juxtacrine factors that underlie cell-to-cell communication within the tumour microenvironment, as well as providing the metastatic niche in distant organs [5]. As well as soluble-secreted proteins and peptides, most cell types also release extracellular membrane vesicles (eMVs) that transfer information between cells in the microenvironment – it is now recognized that eMVs can also influence cell-to-cell communication during tumour progression [6, 7]. Another emerging means by which cells relay information to other cells is via long thin interconnecting membranous bridges that connect neighbouring cells by adhesion mechanisms (e.g., actin-based cytonemes or filopodial bridges) or tunnelling nanotubes (TNTs) which can establish direct tubular conduits between the cytoplasms of adjacent cells (for a review, see [8]).

Over the past decade eMVs have been shown to exhibit important pleiotropic roles in many biological processes. For example, eMVs are enriched in various bioactive

molecules such as growth factors, lipids, membrane receptors (adhesion molecules, oncogenic receptors), mRNA, microRNA, transcriptional factors, splicing factors, infectious particles (HIV, prions) [9], see reviews by [6, 10-12]. These bioactive molecules have been reported to - (i) directly stimulate target cells via bioactive lipids or acting like soluble cell-surface signalling complexes, - (ii) transfer oncogenic cargo and cancer cell properties to nearby indolent or normal cells, - (iii) epigenetically reprogram recipient cells by the transfer of mRNA, microRNA, transcription factors, and - (iv) serve as a delivery vehicle, in a 'Trojan horse' manner, to transfer pathological cargo such as plant toxins, prions or HIV particles. While many of these properties have been ascribed to exosomes, it should be noted that functional studies were commonly performed on eMVs preparations, which in many cases are heterogeneous mixtures of sMVs, exosomes, exosome-like particles and apoptotic blebs [13].

Exosomes, along with shed microvesicles (sMVs) that bud off from the plasma membrane (PM) and apoptotic bodies, represent specific subtypes of eMVs (reviewed in [13]). Of these, exosomes have been the most widely studied at both biochemical and functional levels. Exosomes are a small homogeneous population of intraluminal vesicles (ILVs) (40-100 nm in diameter) that derive by inward budding of the luminal membranes of late endosomes to form within multivesicular bodies (MVBs). ILVs are constitutively exocytosed from the cell when the MVBs fuse with the PM; upon release of the ILVs into the microenvironment they are referred to as exosomes. Exosomes are quite distinct from shed microvesicles (sMVs) (heterogeneous 500-1000 nm diameter vesicles) being shed from the PM into the extracellular space upon cellular activation by various stimuli [14].

While exosomes typically float at a buoyant density of 1.08-1.22 g/cm³ [15] and their proteome profiles defined from a variety of cell types and body fluids [10, 16], the biophysical properties of sMVs are less well understood.

Several strategies have been used for exosome isolation including ultracentrifugation, density gradient separation, and immunoaffinity capture. Our group recently performed a proteomic analysis evaluating the ability of each of these techniques to enrich for exosome markers and proteins involved in exosome biogenesis, trafficking, and release from LIM1863 cells [17]. Although exosomes prepared using all three isolation strategies contained 40-100 nm vesicles positive for exosome markers Alix, TSG101, and HSP70, GeLC-MS/MS combined with label-free spectral counting revealed that immunoaffinity capture enriched for exosome and exosome-associated proteins by at least two-fold more than the other two methods studied. In that study, EpCAM, a ubiquitously expressed epithelial cancer marker [18] was the immunoaffinity capture target.

In our studies aimed at understanding the physiological role of exosomes in colorectal cancer (CRC) biology we previously described a robust procedure for isolating and characterizing exosomes secreted from LIM1215 CRC cells [19]. This study, using the colon epithelial cell-specific A33 antibody [20] for immunoaffinity capture, afforded the isolation of homogeneous A33-containing exosomes for biophysical characterisation. A comparative proteome profiling of A33-positive LIM1215 exosomes with previously published murine mast cell [21] and human urine-derived exosomes [22] revealed a

subset of proteins common to the three exosomes types and, for the first time, a human colon cancer exosomal proteome ‘signature’. As this signature may reflect the CRC exosomal profile of a restricted CRC subtype - LIM1215 cells were originally derived from a patient with inherited nonpolyposis colorectal cancer (HNPCC) [23] - we have extended these studies to another CRC cell subtype and report here a robust proteome study of exosomes isolated from the CRC cell line (LIM1863) which grows as organoids with spontaneous differentiation into crypt-like structures *in vitro* [24].

EXPERIMENTAL PROCEDURES

Cell culture and preparation of concentrated culture medium (CCM) - Human colon carcinoma LIM1863 cells grow as free-floating multicellular spheres (organoids) where highly polarized cells localise around a central lumen. These organoids resemble colonic crypts in that they contain morphologically differentiated columnar and goblet cells {Whitehead, 1987 #23}. LIM1863 cells were cultured in RPMI-1640 medium (Invitrogen, Carlsbad, CA) containing 5% FCS, α -thioglycerol (10 μ M), insulin (25 units/L), hydrocortisone (1 mg/L), with 10% CO₂ at 37 °C. LIM1863 cells (6×10^8 cells) were washed four times with 30 mL of RPMI-1640 medium and cultured for 24 h in 150 mL serum-free RPMI-medium supplemented with 0.6% insulin-transferrin-selenium (ITS) solution (Invitrogen). Culture medium (CM) was collected and centrifuged at 4 °C ($480 \times g$ for 5 min followed by $2,000 \times g$ for 10 min) to remove intact cells and cell debris. CM was centrifuged at $10,000 \times g$ for 30 min to isolate sMVs. CM was filtered using a VacuCap[®] 60 filter unit fitted with a 0.1 μ m Supor[®] Membrane (Pall Life Sciences, Port Washington, NY) and then concentrated to 500 μ L using an Amicon[®] Ultra-15, Ultracel centrifugal filter device with a 5K nominal molecular weight limit (NMWL) (Millipore, MA, USA).

Preparation of hA33 immunoaffinity capture Dynabeads - Protein G Dynabeads[™] (500 μ L, 5×10^8 beads) (Invitrogen) in citrate-phosphate buffer (pH 5.0) were mixed with hA33 capture antibody (100 μ L, 300 μ g) (a kind gift from A. Scott, Ludwig Institute for Cancer Research Ltd. - Austin Campus) and incubated for 40 min at RT with gentle

rotation, according to manufacturer's instructions, as described elsewhere [19]. Briefly, hA33-Dynabeads were placed on a solid support magnet (SSM), separated for 2 min, and washed twice with 1 mL citrate-phosphate buffer, (pH 5.0) followed by 1 mL 0.2 M triethanolamine, pH 8.2. Washed hA33-Dynabeads were suspended in 1 mL of freshly prepared 20 mM DMP (dimethyl pimelimidate) in 0.2 M triethanolamine, pH 8.2 for 30 min with gentle agitation. hA33-Dynabeads were placed on the SSM for 2 min, the supernatant discarded, and the beads mixed with 1 mL 50 mM Tris, pH 7.5 for 15 min with gentle agitation. The cross-linked hA33-Dynabeads were again magnetically bound using the SSM and washed three times with PBS containing 0.05% Tween-20.

Isolation of exosomes using hA33 immunoaffinity capture Dynabeads - LIM1863 CCM (500 μ L, from 6×10^8 cells) was pre-incubated with Dynabeads (5×10^8 beads), for 2 h at 4 °C with gentle rotation to reduce non-specific binding. The beads were harvested using the SSM and the supernatant retained and incubated with prepared hA33 immunoaffinity capture Dynabeads for 2 h at 4 °C with gentle rotation. The exosome-hA33-Dynabead complexes were magnetically held using the SSM and washed three times for 5 min in 1 mL PBS. Bound exosomes were eluted from the hA33-Dynabead complex with 0.2 M glycine (pH 2.8) for electron microscopy (EM) analysis or 100 μ L 2 \times SDS sample loading buffer for GeLC-MS/MS analysis [27].

Sequential A33/EpCAM immunoaffinity capture of exosomes - After removal of A33-Exos from the CCM, A33-depleted CCM (unbound material) was then subjected to

EpCAM immunoaffinity capture (EpCAM (CD326) magnetic microbeads from Miltenyi Biotec, Auburn, CA), according to manufacturer's instructions. Briefly, 500 μ L of A33-depleted CCM was incubated with EpCAM-microbeads (100 μ L) for 4 h at 4 °C. An empty 3 mL LS Microcolumn was placed on a SSM and rinsed three times with Rinsing Solution (MACS[®] BSA Stock Solution diluted 1:20 with autoMACS[®] Rinsing Solution, Miltenyi Biotec). Exosome-bound microbeads were pipetted into the column and washed three times with 1 mL Rinsing Solution. The column was removed from the SSM and exosome-bound microbeads were recovered by rinsing the column at RT with 3 x 1 mL Rinsing Solution. Exosome-bound microbeads were washed twice with 1 mL PBS and centrifuged at 100,000 $\times g$ for 1 h at 4 °C. The supernatant was removed and EpCAM-Exos were eluted from the microbeads with either 100 μ L 0.2 M glycine, Tris-HCl, pH 2.8 for EM imaging, or lysed with 100 μ L of SDS sample buffer for GeLC-MS/MS analysis.

Protein quantitation - The protein content of the sMV, A33-Exos and EpCAM-Exos was estimated by 1D-SDS-PAGE / SYPRO[®] Ruby protein staining densitometry [28]. Briefly, 5 μ L sample aliquots were solubilised in SDS sample buffer (2% (w/v) sodium dodecyl sulfate, 125 mM Tris-HCl, pH 6.8, 12.5% (v/v) glycerol, 0.02% (w/v) bromophenol blue) and loaded into 1 mm, 10-well NuPAGE[™] 4-12% (w/v) Bis-Tris Precast gels (Invitrogen). Electrophoresis was performed at 150 V for 1 h in NuPAGE[™] 1 \times MES running buffer (Invitrogen) using an Xcell Surelock[™] gel tank (Invitrogen). After electrophoresis, gels were removed from the tank and fixed in 50 mL fixing solution (40% (v/v) methanol, 10% (v/v) acetic acid in water) for 30 min on an orbital

shaker and stained with 30 mL SYPRO[®] Ruby (Life Technologies, NY, USA) for 30 min, followed by destaining twice in 50 mL of 10% (v/v) methanol with 6% (v/v) acetic acid in water for 1 h. Gels were imaged on a Typhoon 9410 variable mode imager (Molecular Dynamics, Sunnyvale, USA), using a green (532 nm) excitation laser and a 610BP30 emission filter at 100 µm resolution. Densitometry quantitation was performed using ImageQuant software (Molecular Dynamics) to determine protein concentration relative to a BenchMark[™] Protein Ladder standard of known protein concentration (Invitrogen).

Western blot analysis - Exosome samples (~10 µg protein) were lysed in SDS sample buffer and reduced with 50 mM DTT (when required), heated for 5 min at 95 °C and subjected to electrophoresis using precast NuPAGE[™] 4-12% (w/v) Bis-Tris Precast gels (Invitrogen) in MES running buffer at a constant 150 V for 1 h. Proteins were electrotransferred onto nitrocellulose membranes using the iBlot[™] Dry Blotting System (Invitrogen) and the membranes blocked with 5% (w/v) skim milk powder in Tris-buffered saline with 0.05% (v/v) Tween-20 (TTBS) for 1 h. Membranes were probed with primary mouse anti-TSG101 (BD Biosciences; 1:500), mouse anti-Alix (Cell Signaling Technology; 1:1000), rabbit anti-EpCAM (Abcam, 1:1000) and mouse anti-A33 - 1 µg/mL, a kind gift from A. Scott, Ludwig Institute for Cancer Research Ltd. - Austin Campus, for 1 h in TTBS (50 mM Tris, 150 mM NaCl, 0.05% (v/v) Tween 20) followed by incubation with the secondary antibody, IRDye 800 goat anti-mouse IgG or IRDye 700 goat anti-rabbit IgG (1:15000, LI-COR Biosciences), for 1 h in darkness. All antibody incubations were carried out using gentle orbital shaking at RT. Western blots

were washed three times in TTBS for 10 min after each incubation step and visualised using the Odyssey Infrared Imaging System, version 3.0 (LI-COR Biosciences, Nebraska USA).

Electron microscopy (EM) - EM imaging of exosome preparations was performed as previously described [19], with modifications. Briefly, exosome preparations (~2 µg protein) were fixed in 1% (v/v) glutaraldehyde, layered onto Formvar coated 200 mesh copper grids (ProSciTech, Queensland, Australia) and allowed to dry. Grids were then washed twice with water for 5 min, and stained with 1% (w/v) aqueous uranyl acetate (ProSciTech, Queensland, Australia) for 10 min. Imaging was performed using a Gatan UltraScan 1000 (2k × 2k) CCD (charge-coupled device) camera coupled to a Tecnai F30 (FEI, Netherlands) electron microscope with an acceleration voltage of 200 kV.

GeLC-MS/MS – A33-Exos, EpCAM-Exos and sMV samples (20 µg) were electrophoresed using SDS-PAGE [27] and proteins visualized by Imperial™ Protein Stain (Thermo Fisher Scientific, Rockford, USA), according to manufacturer's instructions. Gel lanes were cut into 20 × 2 mm bands using a GridCutter (The Gel Company, San Francisco, CA) and individual bands subjected to in-gel reduction, alkylation and trypsinization, as previously described [27]. Briefly, gel bands were reduced with 10 mM DTT (Calbiochem, San Diego, USA) for 30 min, alkylated for 20 min with 25 mM iodoacetic acid (Fluka, St. Louis, USA), and digested with 150 ng trypsin (Worthington Biochemical Corp, Freehold, USA) for 4.5 h at 37 °C. Tryptic peptides were extracted with 50 µL 50% (v/v) acetonitrile, 50 mM ammonium

bicarbonate, concentrated to ~10 μ L by centrifugal lyophilisation and analysed by LC-MS/MS. RP-HPLC was performed on a nanoAcquity[®] (C18) 150 \times 0.15-mm-internal diameter reversed phase UPLC column (Waters, Milford, USA) using an Agilent 1200 HPLC coupled online to an LTQ-Orbitrap mass spectrometer equipped with a nanoelectrospray ion source (Thermo Fisher Scientific) [29]. The column was developed with a linear 60 min gradient with a flow rate of 0.8 μ L/min at 45 °C from 0-100% solvent B where solvent A was 0.1% (v/v) aqueous formic acid and solvent B was 0.1% (v/v) aqueous formic acid/60% acetonitrile. Survey MS scans were acquired with the resolution set to a value of 30,000. Real time recalibration was performed using a background ion from ambient air in the C-trap [30]. Up to five selected target ions were dynamically excluded from further analysis for 3 min.

Database searching and protein identification - Parameters used to generate peak lists, using Extract-MSn as part of Bioworks 3.3.1 (Thermo Fisher Scientific), were as follows: minimum mass 700; maximum mass 5,000; grouping tolerance 0 Da; intermediate scans 200; minimum group count 1; 10 peaks minimum and TIC of 100. Peak lists for each LC-MS/MS run were merged into a single MASCOT generic file (MGF). Automatic charge state recognition was used due to the high resolution survey scan (30,000). LC-MS/MS spectra were searched against the human RefSeq [31] protein database (38,791 sequences) using MASCOT (v2.2.01, Matrix Science, U.K.). Searching parameters included: fixed modification (carboxymethylation of cysteine; +58 Da), variable modifications (oxidation of methionine; +16 Da), up to three missed tryptic cleavages, 20 ppm peptide mass tolerance and 0.8 Da fragment ion mass tolerance.

Peptide identifications were deemed significant if the ion score was greater than the identity score. Significant protein identifications contained at least 2 unique peptide identifications. The false-discovery rate (derived from corresponding decoy database search) was less than 0.3% for each sample preparation. The UniProt database was used to classify identified proteins based on their annotated function, subcellular localisation, and specify genes reportedly involved in colon cancer [32]. Transmembrane-spanning alpha helices were predicted using the web-based prediction program transmembrane hidden Markov model (TMHMM) v2.0 (<http://www.cbs.dtu.dk/services/TMHMM-2.0>) [33]. The Human Protein Atlas (www.proteinatlas.org) was used as an annotated resource to assess the tissue expression of proteins identified in this study [34].

Label-free spectral counting - To compare relative protein abundance between A33- and EpCAM-Exos, the ratio of normalised spectral counts (Rsc) was estimated (Eq. 1), as previously described [35].

$$\text{Rsc} = [(nB+f) (tA-nA+f) / (nA+f) (tB-nB+f)] \quad \text{Eq. 1}$$

where n is the significant protein spectral count, t is the total number of significant MS/MS spectra in the sample, f is a correction factor set to 1.25, where A is A33-Exos, and B is EpCAM-Exos.

LIM1863 cell imaging using confocal microscopy - Approximately 1×10^7 LIM1863 cells were washed twice with 20 mL PBS before fixing in 4% (v/v)

formaldehyde in PBS for 10 min at RT. Cells were then permeabilised in 0.2% (v/v) Triton X-100 in PBS, washed twice with washing buffer (0.1% (w/v) BSA and 0.1% (v/v) Tween 20 in PBS), and blocked with Serum Blocking Buffer (5% (v/v) goat serum, 5% (w/v) BSA, 0.1% (w/v) cold fish gelatin, 0.05% (v/v) Tween 20, 0.05% (w/v) sodium azide, 0.01 M PBS pH 7.2) for 2 h at RT. Cells were incubated with primary antibodies, mouse anti-A33 - 1 µg/mL; Rabbit anti-EpCAM - 1 µg/mL, (Abcam, Australia) in washing buffer for 1 h at RT, washed twice with washing buffer, and incubated with secondary antibodies AlexaFluor488-conjugated goat anti-mouse IgG and AlexaFluor546-conjugated goat anti-rabbit IgG (Life Technologies) diluted 1:200 in washing buffer for 30 min at RT in the dark. Cells were finally washed three times with washing buffer, and imaged using a Nikon ECLIPSE TE2000-E confocal microscope equipped with a Nikon plan APO VC 60x/1.20 WI water-immersion lens.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Immunoaffinity Capture Isolation of Two Populations of Exosomes from LIM1863 Cells – Immunoaffinity capture using magnetic bead technology is an effective method for isolating homogeneous exosomes for MS-based proteomics [17, 19]. Here we use a hA33-immunoaffinity magnetic bead strategy that we previously applied to purify exosomes derived from LIM1215 CRC cells [19]. LIM1863 cells were first grown to 80% confluence and then cell culture was continued in serum-free medium for 24 h to minimise FCS contaminants in the CM. Under these culture conditions, cell viability was approximately 95%, as previously reported [17]. Intact cells, cell detritus and large membranous particles were removed from the CM by low-speed centrifugation ($480 \times g$ for 5 min followed by $2,000 \times g$ for 10 min). The CM was centrifuged at $10,000 \times g$ for 30 min to isolate sMVs. The CM (600 mL) was then filtered through a $0.1 \mu\text{m}$ membrane using centrifugal ultrafiltration to remove large membranous vesicles. The filtered CM was concentrated to 500 μL by centrifugal filtration using a 5K NMWL membrane filter. The concentrated CM (CCM) was pretreated with control Dynabeads (i.e., beads not treated with antibodies) and then mixed with hA33mAb-coated beads for 2 h at 4°C . The A33-coated beads were recovered magnetically. An outline of the purification strategy is shown in **Fig. 1**. EM revealed that the A33-Exos were essentially homogeneous and 40-60 nm in diameter (**Fig. 2A**), western blot analysis revealed the presence of common exosomes molecular markers Alix/PDCD6IP and TSG101 (**Fig. 2B**). Using a large excess of anti-A33-coated beads approximately 90% of A33-containing exosomes (A33-Exos) were captured from the CCM (**Fig. 2B**) with an overall yield of $\sim 50 \mu\text{g}$ protein from 6×10^8 LIM1863 cells. Because a significant amount of A33-negative exosomes

that were positive for Alix, TSG101 and EpCAM remained in the CCM (**Fig. 2B**) we decided to further isolate and characterise these exosomes from the A33-Exos depleted CCM using EpCAM-immunocapture (**Fig. 1**). This second population of exosomes (EpCAM-Exos) are homogenous in size (40-60 nm in diameter), as revealed by EM (**Fig. 2B**), and yielded ~110 µg protein from 6×10^8 LIM1863 cells.

Proteomic Profiling of A33-Exos and EpCAM-Exos – We further compared the proteome profiles of the two populations of immune-captured LIM1863 exosomes using GeLC-MS/MS, as previously described [17, 27]. This resulted in 1024 and 898 proteins identified in A33-Exos and EpCAM-Exos, respectively. Of the 684 proteins in common there was clear evidence at the MS level of typical exosome marker proteins such as ESCRT-I component TSG101, the ESCRT accessory protein Alix, HSP70 and CD9 (**Fig. 2B**, and **Supplemental Table S1**). The number of unique protein identifications in each of the A33- and EpCAM-exosome samples, 340 and 214 proteins, respectively, is quite striking (**Fig. 2C**).

LIM1863 organoids comprise polarised epithelial cells (columnar and goblet cells) with well formed brush borders containing microvilli located at the luminal membrane [24]. While accumulating evidence points to two general protein-sorting processes in multivesicular body (MVB)/ intraluminal vesicle (ILV) biogenesis in non-polarized cells – namely, partitioning into cholesterol/ sphingolipid-rich microdomains ('lipid rafts') [36] and higher-order oligomerization at the plasma membrane [37] - there is a paucity of information about exosome biogenesis in polarized cells (for a review, see [38]). Because A33 and the tight junction glycoprotein EpCAM [39] localise to the

basolateral and apical surfaces of LIM1863 cells, respectively, (**Fig. 3**) we reasoned that A33-Exos and EpCAM-Exos may exocytose from these corresponding basolateral and apical regions. If indeed this is the case, A33-Exos and EpCAM-Exos are likely to harbor proteins involved in the organisation of vesicular trafficking and tissue polarity [40]. To test this hypothesis, we examined our A33-Exos and EpCAM-Exos datasets in the context of recycling pathways for apical and basolateral cell surface proteins and their associated sorting proteins. We first focused on the 214 proteins uniquely expressed in EpCAM-Exos (**Fig. 2C**) for the presence of apically sorted proteins.

EpCAM-Exos are enriched with Tetraspanins and Proteins with Apical Localisation – **Table 1** shows a selected list of proteins enriched in EpCAM-Exos (for a complete list of all proteins identified in this exosome preparation see **Supplemental Table S1**). Of note is the unique expression of the tetraspanin protein CD63 (LAMP3), a marker of the late endosome compartment [41] and typically found in ILVs, and secreted exosomes following fusion of endosomes with the plasma membrane [42]. . In addition to CD63, the tetraspanins TSPAN3, TSPAN6 were uniquely identified in EpCAM-Exos and TSPAN14 (Rsc -3.6), TSPAN15 (Rsc -2.1) and CD81 (Rsc -4.2) – while also present in A33-Exos, were enriched in EpCAM-Exos (**Table 1**). There is accumulating evidence that points to an important role for N-glycosylation in promoting trafficking from the trans-Golgi network (TGN) and endosomes to the apical membrane of polarized cells [43-45]. Although the tetraspanins TSPAN3, TSPAN6, and CD63 all contain N-glycosylation sequons we did not identify any tryptic peptides containing these putative post-translational modification sites. The tetraspanins are a family of proteins that cross

the plasma membrane four times and form complexes (referred to as a ‘tetraspanin web’) by interacting with other tetraspanins and a variety of transmembrane (principally the $\alpha 3\beta 1$, $\alpha 4\beta 1$ and $\alpha 6\beta 1$ integrins) and cytosolic proteins required for their function (for a review see [46]). In our study there is MS evidence for the presence of $\alpha 6\beta 1$ in EpCAM-exos and $\alpha 6\beta 1/\alpha 3\beta 1$ in A33-Exos. Interestingly, the tetraspanin-like protein claudin-7 (CLDN7) (Rsc -21.1) is uniquely expressed in the EpCAM-Exos (**Table 1**). The adhesion protein CLDN7 regulates EpCAM-mediated functions in tumour progression [47], presumably through its complex with EpCAM and a CD44 isoform [48]. This EpCAM-CLDN7 complex co-localizes with a tetraspanin-enriched membrane microdomain (TEM) [49] and the complex, rather than EpCAM and/or CLDN7 alone, is reported to promote cell motility, proliferation, survival, tumorigenicity and metastasis [47]. To our knowledge this is the first report of a co-localisation of EpCAM/CLDN7/CD44 in exosomes (or extracellular vesicles). Interestingly, while both EpCAM (Rsc -2.1) and CD44 (Rsc -3.5) are present in A33-Exos preparation, CLDN7 is not; CLDN3, CLDN4 and CLDN15 are present in both exosome preparations, however enriched in EpCAM-Exos (Rsc -1.8 – -2.3).

In the original LIM1863 cell line description Whitehead and colleagues report that the intestinal enzymes sucrase isomaltase (SI, α -glucosidase) and dipeptidyl peptidase IV (DPP4) localized to the luminal membrane and apical cytoplasm. In our present study, we observe unique expression of SI in the EpCAM-Exos and a pronounced enrichment of DPP4 (Rsc -2.5). Although there are at least five cell-surface mucins expressed in the gastrointestinal (GI) tract [50], only mucin 13 (MUC13) was observed in this study – uniquely expressed in the apical EpCAM-Exos (**Table 1**). MUC13 has been

shown by immunohistochemistry to be expressed exclusively on the apical membrane surface of normal columnar and goblet cells in the GI tract deep in crypts; it is aberrantly expressed in a variety of epithelial carcinomas including gastric, colorectal and ovarian cancers where, in addition to apical surfaces, it also localises to lateral and basolateral surfaces [51]; there was no evidence of MUC13 expression in the A33-Exos preparation.

Prominin 1 (PROM1; CD133), an apically-restricted pentaspan membrane glycoprotein, is enriched (Rsc -4.8) in EpCAM-Exos (**Table 1**). PROM1 localises to cholesterol-based membrane microdomains and has been implicated in apical plasma membrane protrusion formation during (neuro) epithelial differentiation [52]. Previously PROM1 has been observed in two types of MVs (~600 nm P2 particles and 50-80 nm P4 particles) released from neuronal progenitor cells as well as other epithelial cells such as the colon cancer Caco-2 cells [53]. In contrast to the findings of Marzeco and colleagues [53] for the Caco-2 cell-derived 50-80 nm P4 MVs, the EpCAM-Exos contain both PROM1 and the exosomal marker CD63 (**Table 1**). Interestingly, in our study PROM2, which is structurally related to PROM1 and also released in extracellular vesicles [54], appears to be distributed in a polarized fashion being restricted to EpCAM-Exos (but not A33-Exos).

We next focused on protein classes uniquely expressed/ enriched in EpCAM-Exos. Intriguingly, the complement mediated lysis inhibitors CD59 and CD46 (membrane cofactor protein) are uniquely expressed on EpCAM-Exos (**Table 1**). In previous studies it has been shown that antigen-presenting exosomes can be protected from complement mediated lysis by CD59 and CD55 [55] and human embryonic mesenchymal stem cell-derived exosomes by CD59 [56]. Another interesting observation

was the significant enrichment in EpCAM-Exos of the high mobility group box (HMGB) class of proteins -1, -1L1, -1L10, -2 and -3 (Rsc -24.0 – -152.3). Although the EpCAM-Exos are devoid of the adaptive immunity-related MHC class I and II molecules, the HMGB proteins have been reported to function as universal sentinels for nucleic-acid-mediated innate immune responses [57] – intriguingly, the EpCAM-Exos also contain the Toll-interacting protein (TOLLIP) (Rsc -6.2) a component of the signaling pathway of Toll-like receptors which mediate innate immune responses by nucleic acids.

A33-Exos are Enriched for Basolateral Sorting Proteins – We next examined A33-Exos in the context of basolateral sorting signals (A33 localizes to the basolateral surface of LIM1863 cells (**Fig. 3**). A33 has previously been reported to localise to the basolateral surface of polarized intestinal epithelial cells [58]. Several basolateral trafficking/ sorting proteins were observed to be uniquely expressed or significantly enriched in A33-Exos. For example, the early endosome antigen 1, (EEA1), a hydrophilic peripheral membrane protein that localises to early endosomes [55], and a subset of basolateral-type endosomal compartments [56], is present only in A33-Exos (**Table 2**). The Golgi membrane protein ADP ribosylation factor 1 (ARF1) which recruits the cytosolic coatamer complex I (COPI) to facilitate early-to-late endosome trafficking [57] of basolateral cargo proteins [58, 59] is uniquely identified in A33-Exos along with enriched populations of several COPI subunits (Rsc 1.1 – 5.4). A striking observation was the significant enrichment of clathrin heavy and light chains (Rsc 2.2 – 6.5) in A33-Exos and the clathrin adapter proteins (AP1/3) (Rsc 1.7 – 13.3) (**Table 2**). Clathrin, a key regulator of basolateral polarity [60] and mediator of transport between the TGN and

endosomes [62] has been shown to associate directly with EEA1 on early endosomes [61]. As mentioned earlier, EEA1 is uniquely expressed in A33-Exos. Rab13, also implicated in TGN/ basolateral endosome transport [63], uniquely localizes to A33-Exos (**Table 2**).

In addition to well-recognized basolateral sorting proteins, several other protein classes are uniquely expressed/ enriched in A33-Exos. Foremost amongst these are the major histocompatibility (MHC) complex I subunits A, B, C, E. and A29.1 – these MHC class I molecules are uniquely expressed in A33-Exos (**Table 2**); there was no evidence of MHC class II molecules in either A33- or EpCAM-Exos. These findings are in contrast to an earlier report which found MHC class I and class II molecules in both apical and basolateral-derived exosomes from intestinal epithelial cells [58]. It is tempting to speculate that exogenous protein antigens in the crypt lumen may be presented by MHC class I molecules, a process involving ‘cross presentation’ [59], to CD8+ T cells present in the lamina propria. One means of conveying antigenic information from IECs to the lamina propria or systemic immune cells might involve transmission of 40-80 nm diameter antigen-loaded MHC class I-positive basolateral exosomes through the 3 µm basement membrane pores; further studies will be required to clarify the function of MHC class I A33-Exos.

Colon Cancer Related Transmembrane Proteins Feature Highly in EpCAM- and A33-Exos – In order to determine the membrane topology of A33- and EpCAM-Exos, we performed a transmembrane (TM) domain analysis using the TMHMM algorithm [33].

This analysis revealed a total of 119 TM-containing proteins, of which 13 have been previously implicated in CRC (**Table 3**). In addition to the integrins ITGA2, ITGAV, ITGA6 and ITGB1 - the presence of the tumour-associated calcium signal transducer 2 protein (TACSTD2), and the sheddase, ADAM metallopeptidase domain 10 (ADAM10) - involved in cell-surface substrate cleavage and regulation of Notch [60] and HER2 signalling [61] were identified. Additionally, syndecan binding protein (SDCBP), E-cadherin (CDH1) and basigin (BSG/EMMPRIN), identified in malignant ascites-derived exosomes and implicated in tumour progression [62], were observed.

To morphologically distinguish colon-derived exosomes in blood, and other body fluids, from exosomes that derive from other tissue/ cell types, we next interrogated our data for the presence of colon tissue-specific membrane proteins. An examination of Human Protein Atlas expression database [34] revealed three cell surface proteins specifically expressed on normal colon epithelium - mucin 13 (MUC13), tetraspanin 8 (TSPAN8), and A33 (GPA33) (**Table 3**). Although the tissue expression of these TM proteins is colon specific in normal tissue, elevated expression is seen in many cancer tissues. For example, MUC13 is frequently expressed in gastric, colorectal, and ovarian cancers [50], TSPAN8 is overexpressed in colorectal, liver, lung, ovarian, prostate, and stomach cancers [63], while A33 has been observed in colorectal, stomach, liver and ovarian cancers [34].

Protein Expression Profile of Shed Microvesicles (sMVs) is Distinct from that of A33- and EpCAM-Exos - While the protein profile of EpCAM-Exos is consistent with

that of stereotypical exosomes reported thus far [9, 13], to ask whether A33-Exos were sMVs we analysed LIM1863 sMVs (also referred to as ‘microvesicles’) For this undertaking we used the 10,000 × g centrifugation method described for ARF6-regulated shedding of plasma membrane-derived microvesicles from LOX cell lines [64]; for a more general purification protocol, see [65]. A total of 1392 proteins were seen in the sMV preparation (**Supplemental Table S2**). Of these, 462 proteins were unique to sMVs when compared with the A33- and EpCAM-Exos datasets. A majority of the apical and basolateral sorting proteins uniquely observed in the EpCAM- and A33-Exos preparations – mentioned above – were not identified by MS in the sMV preparation (**Supplemental Table S2**). Intriguingly, the sMV preparation is enriched for several members of the ATP-binding cassette superfamily family (e.g., ABC transport proteins such as ABCB1, ABCB4, ABCC1, ABCC2, ABCE1 and ABCG2) that are typically found in microsomal and plasma membrane preparations. The lack of cytochrome P450 proteins in our LIM1863 sMV preparation, however, would argue against significant microsomal contamination [66]. It is interesting to note that human urinary exosomes extensively characterized by Knepper and colleagues [67, 68] are also enriched for ABC transporter proteins as well as angiotensin converting enzyme (ACE) isoforms and aldehyde dehydrogenase (ALDH) isoforms – all of which are observed in our sMV preparation but not the A33-Exos (or EpCAM-Exos) preparations. Taken together, our studies assert that the A33-Exos are not sMVs but, most likely, basolateral exosomes.

In summary, we have demonstrated that there are two distinct populations of exosomes released from LIM1863 organoids, one that can be purified to homogeneity

using anti-EpCAM antibody loaded magnetic beads (EpCAM-Exos), the other by anti-A33 antibody loaded magnetic beads (A33-Exos). We find that the proteome profile of EpCAM-Exos is consistent with stereotypical exosomes analysed from diverse cell line/tissue sources. We have shown that EpCAM-Exos are enriched for apical sorting proteins and A33-Exos for basolateral sorting proteins. Our observations are consistent with the notion that LIM1863 organoids release two distinct exosome populations - apical (EpCAM-Exos) and basolateral exosomes (A33-Exos) (**Fig. 4**). Because earlier efforts from Hayward and Whitehead {Hayward, 1992 #66}, as were our own efforts, to isolate single cell populations (columnar and goblet cells) from LIM1863 cells have been unsuccessful - it is not possible to establish whether EpCAM-Exos and A33-Exos originate from a single cell type. Protein profiling of LIM1863 sMVs revealed that A33- and EpCAM-Exos are distinct from sMVs. We show that only one of these exosome subtypes (A33-Exos) contains MHC class I molecules – there was no evidence of MHC class II molecules. Our study provides the first example of colocalisation of EpCAM, claudin-7 and CD44 in exosomes (EpCAM-Exos). Given that these molecules are known to complex together to promote tumour progression, further proteome characterisation of tumour-derived exosome sub-populations will enable a deeper understanding of the emerging role of exosomes as mediators of tumorigenesis [69].

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The authors declare no conflict of interest.

Figure Legends

Fig. 1. Isolation of exosomes and shed microvesicles from the colon carcinoma cell line LIM1863. LIM1863 cells were grown in serum-free medium supplemented with insulin-transferrin-selenium (ITS) for 24 h, and the CM collected. Shed microvesicles (sMVs) were first isolated from the CM by differential centrifugation. The supernatant was then filtered (0.1 μm) and concentrated by centrifugal ultrafiltration through a 5K NMWL membrane. A33-positive exosomes (A33-Exos) were isolated from the CCM by anti-A33 antibody immunocapture. EpCAM-Exos were isolated from A33-Exos-depleted CCM by immunocapture using EpCAM-loaded magnetic beads.

Fig. 2. Morphological characterisation and proteome analysis of LIM1863 cell-derived A33- and EpCAM-Exos. Electron micrographs of A33- and EpCAM-Exos negatively stained with uranyl acetate and examined at 200 kV, scale bar, 100 nm (**panel A**). Western blot analysis of A33-Exos, unbound material (flow through of anti-A33 antibody capture beads), and EpCAM-Exos (10 μg per lane) for Alix (PDCD6IP), TSG101, A33 and EpCAM (**panel B**). Two-way Venn diagram depicting the overlap of exosomal proteins derived from A33- and EpCAM-Exos. 684 proteins were common to both exosomal dataset, while 340 and 214 proteins were unique to A33- and EpCAM-Exos, respectively (**panel C**).

Fig. 3. A confocal optical section through a preparation of LIM1863 organoids.

LIM1863 cells were incubated with mouse anti-A33 antigen IgG and rabbit anti-EpCAM antigen IgG (1 µg/mL) followed by an AlexaFluor546-conjugated goat anti-rabbit IgG and AlexaFluor488-conjugated goat anti-mouse IgG secondary antibodies (1:200). The A33 antigen (green) distributes to the basolateral cell periphery and the EpCAM antigen to the apical ring (red). Scale bar, 30 µm.

Fig. 4. A model depicting the molecular structure of two discreet populations of LIM1863-derived exosomes.

Selected proteins expressed in both apical exosomes (EpCAM-Exos) and basolateral exosomes (A33-Exos) include exosomal marker proteins (Alix, TSG101, HSP70, CD9), integrins (ITGA2, ITGAV, ITGA6, ITGB6), ephrin receptors (EPHB1, B2, B3, B4, A2, A5, A6, A7), tetraspanin proteins (TSPAN8, TSAN14, TSPAN15, CD81) and the tetraspanin-like claudin proteins (CLDN3, CLDN4, CLDN15). For a detailed list of ubiquitously-expressed proteins found in both A33- and EpCAM-Exos see **Supplemental Table S1**. Apical exosomes also contained - (i) tetraspanin proteins (CD63, TSPAN3, TSPAN6), tetraspanin-like claudin 7 (CLDN7), (ii) apically-localised sucrase-isomaltase (SI), and mucin 13 (MUC13), - (iii) complement mediated lysis inhibitors (CD46, CD59), and - (iv) innate immunity response high-mobility group box proteins (HMGB2, HMGB3). Apical exosomes contained EpCAM, CLDN7 and CD44, which are reported to complex together to mediate tumour progression. Basolateral exosomes contained early endosome antigen 1 (EEA1), RAB13, basolateral sorting proteins (clathrins CLTA, and CLTB, clathrin adaptor proteins AP1G1, AP1M1, AP1M2, and AP3B1, coatomer subunit COPB2, as well as ADP-

ribosylation factor 1, ARF1). Basolateral exosomes also contained the cell membrane-spanning proteins colon-specific antigen GPA33, calyntenin 1 (CLSTN1), receptor accessory protein 6 (REEP6), and MHC class I molecules (HLA-A, B, C, E, A29.1).

Table 1 – Representative list of proteins either uniquely localised or significantly enriched in EpCAM-Exos

Gene symbol	Gene ID	Protein Description	A33-Exos SpC ^a	EpCAM-Exos SpC ^b	R _{sc} (A33-Exos/EpCAM-Exos) ^c
CD44	960	CD44 molecule	20	47	-3.5
CD63	967	CD63 molecule		12	-16.2
CD81	975	CD81 molecule	9	27	-4.2
CLDN3	1365	claudin 3	30	35	-1.8
CLDN4	1364	claudin 4	11	17	-2.3
CLDN7	1366	claudin 7		16	-21.1
CLDN15	24146	claudin 15	8	11	-2.0
TSPAN3	10099	tetraspanin 3		3	-5.2
TSPAN6	7105	tetraspanin 6		9	-12.5
TSPAN14	81619	tetraspanin 14	6	16	-3.6
TSPAN15	23555	tetraspanin 15	7	10	-2.1
SI	6476	sucrase-isomaltase (alpha-glucosidase)		9	-12.5
DPEP1	1800	dipeptidase 1 (renal)	29	49	-2.5
DPP4	1803	dipeptidyl-peptidase 4 (CD26)	32	54	-2.5
MUC13	56667	mucin 13, cell surface associated		14	-18.6
PROM1	8842	prominin 1	9	31	-4.8
PROM2	150696	prominin 2		3	-5.2
EPCAM	4072	epithelial cell adhesion molecule	63	85	-2.1
CD46	4179	CD46 molecule, complement regulatory protein		7	-10.1
CD59	966	CD59 molecule, complement regulatory protein		6	-8.8
HMGB1	3146	high-mobility group box 1	11	190	-24.0
HMGB1L1	10357	high-mobility group box 1-like 1	3	105	-38.3
HMGB1L10	100130561	high-mobility group box 1-like 10	3	136	-49.5
HMGB2	3148	high-mobility group box 2		123	-152.3
HMGB3	3149	high-mobility group box 3		20	-25.9
TOLLIP	54472	toll interacting protein	6	28	-6.2

^a – Significant MS/MS spectral counts identified in A33-Exos

^b – Significant MS/MS spectral counts identified in EpCAM-Exos

^c – Relative spectral count ratio (R_{sc}) for proteins identified in A33-Exos, compared with EpCAM-Exos (Eq. 1)

Table 2 – Representative list of proteins either uniquely localised or significantly enriched in A33-Exos

Gene symbol	Gene ID	Protein Description	A33-Exos SpC ^a	EpCAM-Exos SpC ^b	R _{sc} (A33-Exos/EpCAM-Exos) ^c
AP1G1	164	adaptor-related protein complex 1, gamma 1 subunit	24		13.3
AP1M1	8907	adaptor-related protein complex 1, mu 1 subunit	8		4.9
AP1M2	10053	adaptor-related protein complex 1, mu 2 subunit	20		11.2
AP1S1	1174	adaptor-related protein complex 1, sigma 1 subunit	17	6	1.7
AP3B1	8546	adaptor-related protein complex 3, beta 1 subunit	5		3.3
ARF1	375	ADP-ribosylation factor 1	44		23.8
CLSTN1	22883	calsyntenin 1	10		5.9
CLTC	1213	clathrin, heavy chain (Hc)	1322	144	6.2
CLTCL1	8218	clathrin, heavy chain-like 1	308	30	6.5
CLTA	1211	clathrin, light chain (Lca)	10		5.9
CLTB	1212	clathrin, light chain (Lcb)	3		2.2
COPA	1314	coatamer protein complex, subunit alpha	57	14	2.5
COPB1	1315	coatamer protein complex, subunit beta 1	33	7	2.7
COPB2	9276	coatamer protein complex, subunit beta 2 (beta prime)	9		5.4
COPG	22820	coatamer protein complex, subunit gamma	30	17	1.1
EEA1	8411	early endosome antigen 1	8		4.9
GPA33	10223	glycoprotein A33 (transmembrane)	47		25.3
HLA-A29.1	649853	major histocompatibility complex class I HLA-A29.1	13		7.5
HLA-A	3105	major histocompatibility complex, class I, A	15		8.5
HLA-B	3106	major histocompatibility complex, class I, B	5		3.3
HLA-C	3107	major histocompatibility complex, class I, C	6		3.8
HLA-E	3133	major histocompatibility complex, class I, E	4		2.8
RAB13	5872	RAB13, member RAS oncogene family	8		4.9
REEP6	92840	receptor accessory protein 6	24		13.3

^a – Significant MS/MS spectral counts identified in A33-Exos

^b – Significant MS/MS spectral counts identified in EpCAM-Exos

^c – Relative spectral count ratio (R_{sc}) for proteins identified in A33-Exos, compared with EpCAM-Exos (Eq. 1)

Table 3 – List of colon cancer-related and normal colon tissue specific membrane proteins in LIM1863-derived exosomes

Gene symbol	Gene ID	Protein Description	TMHMM ^a	A33-Exos SpC ^b	EpCAM-Exos SpC ^c	R _{sc} (A33-Exos/EpCAM-Exos) ^d
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Colon cancer-related transmembrane proteins

ADAM10	102	ADAM metallopeptidase domain 10	1	20	16	-1.2
BSG	682	basigin (Ok blood group)	2	25	40	-2.4
CD44	960	CD44 molecule (Indian blood group)	1	20	47	-3.5
CDH1	999	cadherin 1, type 1, E-cadherin (epithelial)	1	20	23	-1.7
DPP4	1803	dipeptidyl-peptidase 4	1	32	54	-2.5
ITGA2	3673	integrin, alpha 2 (CD49B, alpha 2 subunit of VLA-2 receptor)	1	48	55	-1.7
ITGA6	3655	integrin, alpha 6	1	94	110	-1.8
ITGAV	3685	integrin, alpha V (vitronectin receptor, antigen CD51)	1	9	8	-1.4
ITGB1	3688	integrin, beta 1 (fibronectin receptor, antigen CD29)	1	63	64	-1.5
MDK	4192	midkine (neurite growth-promoting factor 2)	1	6	48	-10.4
PROM1	8842	prominin 1	5	9	31	-4.8
SDCBP	6386	syndecan binding protein (syntenin)	1	21	63	-4.4
TACSTD2	4070	tumor-associated calcium signal transducer 2	1	17	13	-1.2

Normal colon tissue-specific transmembrane proteins

GPA33	10223	glycoprotein A33 (transmembrane)	1	47		25.3
MUC13	56667	mucin 13, cell surface associated	1		14	-18.6
TSPAN8	7103	tetraspanin 8	4	44	22	1.3

^a – Predicted number of transmembrane spanning domains, derived from TMHMM (<http://www.cbs.dtu.dk/services/TMHMM-2.0>)

^b – Significant MS/MS spectral counts identified in A33-Exos

^c – Significant MS/MS spectral counts identified in EpCAM-Exos

^d – Relative spectral count ratio (R_{sc}) for proteins identified in A33-Exos, compared with EpCAM-Exos (Eq. 1)

Figure 1

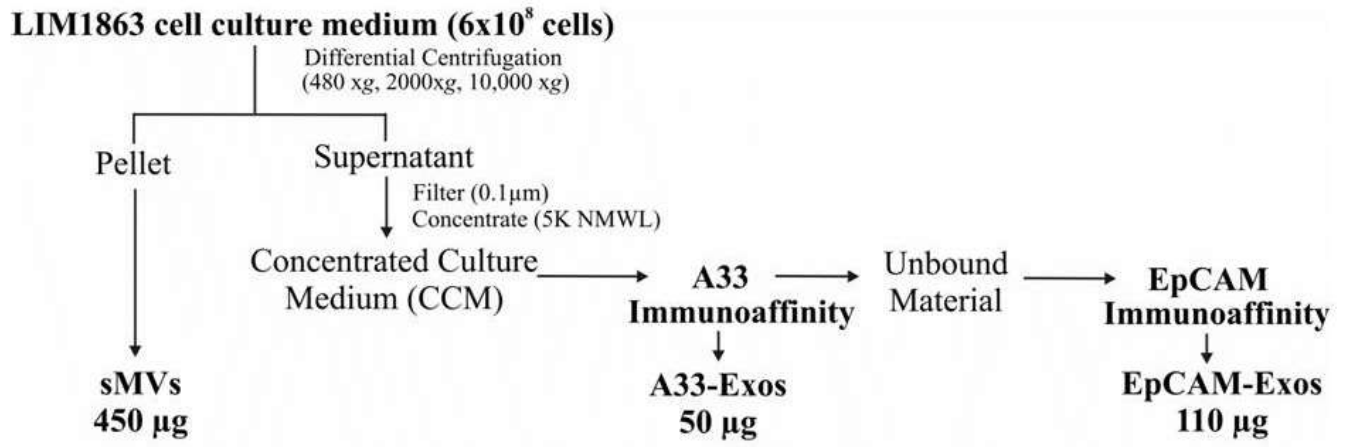


Figure 2

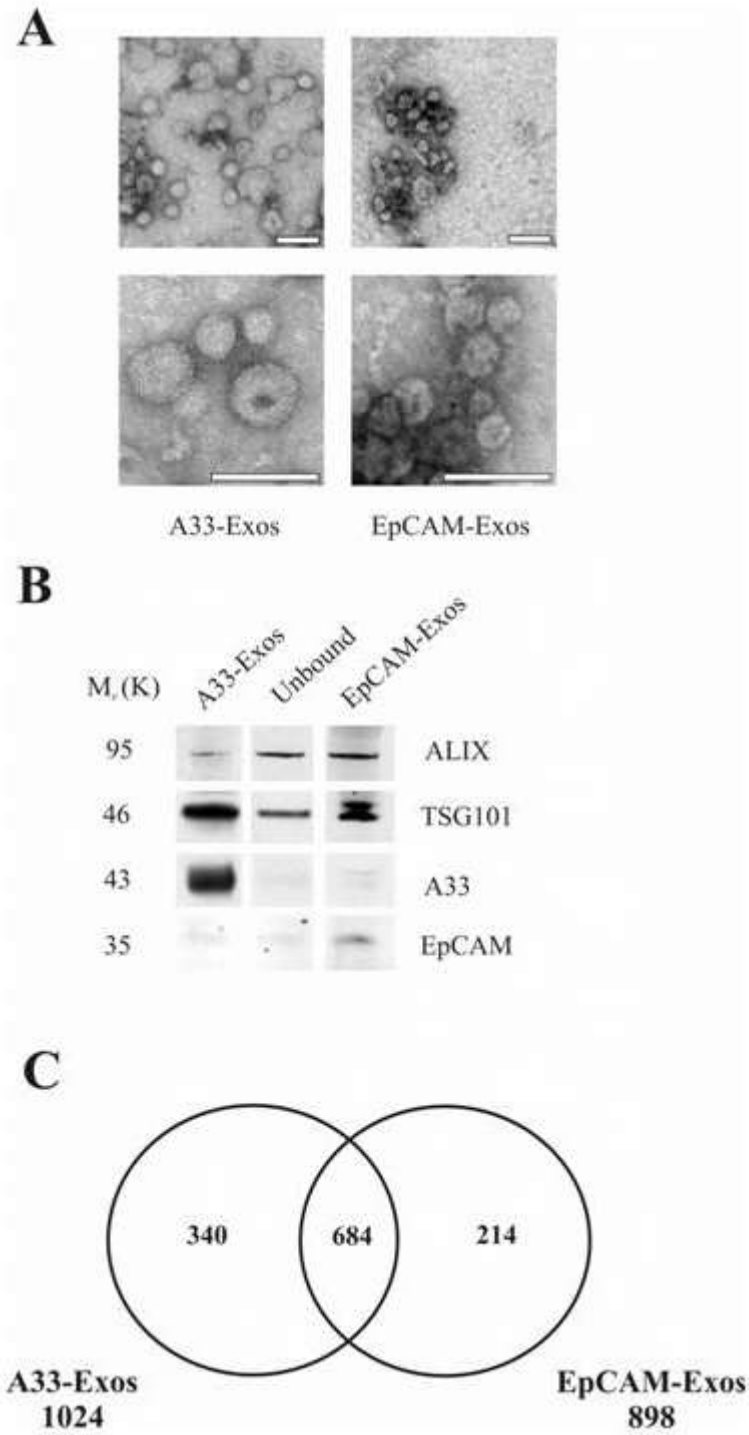


Figure 3

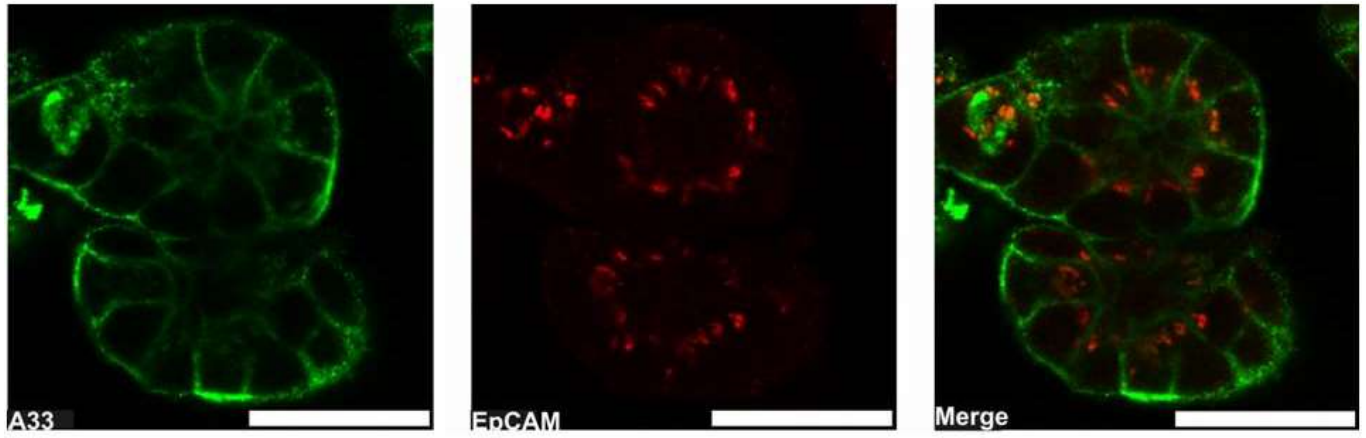
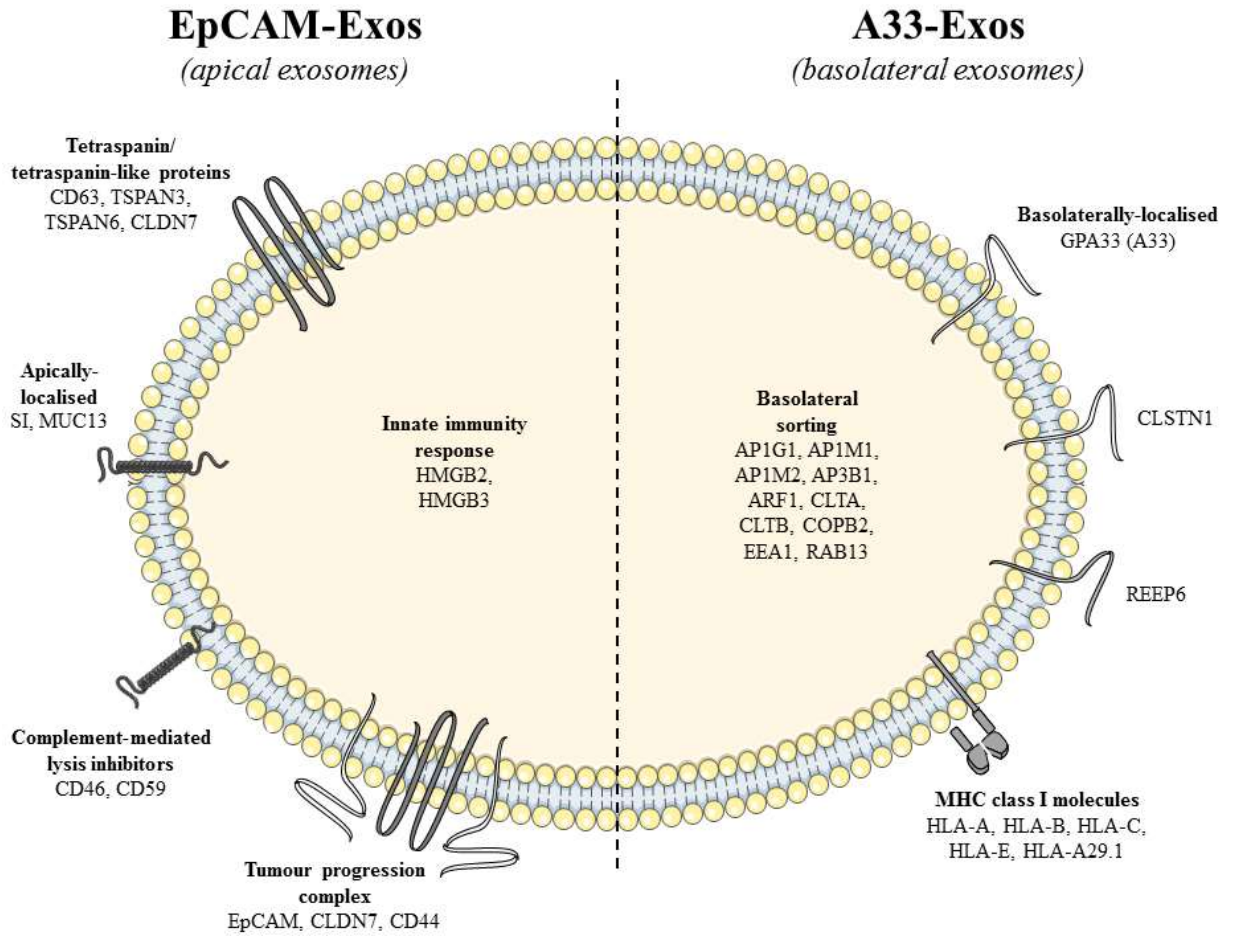


Figure 4



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