1	Antibodies specific for nucleic acid modifications
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32 Abstract

33 Nucleotide modifications constitute marks in RNA and DNA that contribute to gene 34 regulation, development and other cellular processes. The understanding of their 35 intricate molecular roles has been hampered by the high number of different 36 modifications, the lack of effective methods and tools for their detection and 37 quantification as well as by their complex structure-function relationship. The recent 38 development of RNA and DNA immunoprecipitation followed by high-throughput 39 sequencing (RIP- and DIP-seq) initiated detailed transcriptome- and genome-wide 40 studies. Both techniques depend on highly specific and sensitive antibodies to 41 specifically enrich the targeted modified nucleotides without background or potential 42 biases. Here, we review the challenges and developments when generating and 43 validating antibodies targeting modified nucleotides. We discuss antibody-antigen 44 interactions, different strategies of antigen generation and compare different binder 45 formats suitable for state-of-the-art high resolution mapping and imaging 46 technologies.

47

48 Introduction

49 A wide range of chemically modified nucleic acids is present in DNA and RNA. It is 50 generally accepted that the modification and isomerization of nucleotides serve as a 51 regulatory layer to fine-tune vital cellular processes. More than 150 different 52 modifications have been identified in different RNA families so far, approximately half 53 of them in eukaryotes, but the functions of many of these modifications are still 54 unclear¹⁻³. In the past, most studies focussed on tRNA, rRNA and, to a lower extent, 55 mRNA, mainly because rRNA and tRNA are the most abundant RNA families and also exhibit the largest diversity in modified nucleotides³. In recent years, modified 56 nucleotides have also been discovered in snRNA and miRNA precursor molecules⁴⁻⁶. 57 58 In mRNA, beside various types of N7-methylguanosine (m7G) as 5'-capping 59 nucleotides, only very few types of modified nucleotides have been identified in 60 coding RNA sequences, e.g. 5-methylcytidine (5mC) and its oxidized form 5-61 hydroxylmethylcytidine (5hmC), N6-methyladenosine (m6A), N1-methyladenosine (m1A), pseudouridine (Ψ) and inosine (I)⁷⁻¹². A more detailed review on modified 62 63 RNA nucleotides and their role in gene regulation has been published recently¹³.

In vertebrate genomes, 5-methyldeoxycytidine (5mdC) was already discovered in
 1948¹⁴. 5mdC has a relatively high abundance of about 4% in the human genome

and is the major heritable modification in DNA¹⁵. Once the 5mdC pattern is 66 67 established, it has to be maintained in dividing cells to ensure the lineage specific 68 gene expression pattern. Therefore, 5mdC was believed to be a stable modification except during early embryogenesis¹⁶. The fact that the 5mdC mark is actively 69 removed in the paternal genome of the zygote was reported earlier^{17, 18}, but the 70 71 discovery of TET-proteins in 2009 initiated a wealth of studies that shed light into the dynamic regulatory network which includes several oxidized 5mdC variants^{19, 20}. 72 73 5mdC clusters in so called CpG islands in transcriptional regulatory regions. The 74 balanced establishment and maintenance of the CpG methylation pattern is vital for 75 development and normal cellular processes. After fusion of sperm and oocyte, an 76 epigenetic reprogramming occurs including a massive reduction of CpG methylation^{17, 21}. The development of the totipotent zygote into pluripotent stem cells 77 78 and further cell fate decisions correlate with a cell-type specific re-establishment of CpG-methylation patterns (reviews^{22, 23}). CpG methylation is challenged by active 79 80 and passive processes which can lead to DNA demethylation, e.g. by reduced DNA 81 methyltransferase activity or DNA repair pathways. It is becoming increasingly clear 82 that lifestyle and environmental stress leads to altered methylation patterns, affecting ageing and disease development including cancer progression²³⁻²⁶. 5-methylcytidine 83 is also found in tRNA, rRNA, and mRNA, with 5mC stabilizing tRNA, regulating 84 85 translational fidelity in rRNA, in mRNA it is overrepresented in UTRs and in near Ago 86 binding sites but the function of 5mC is not understood²⁷⁻²⁹.

87 With the advent of more sensitive high-throughput profiling techniques, it was 88 demonstrated that adenosine methylation in RNA and DNA provides an additional 89 regulatory layer to many cellular processes including transcription, translation and 90 epigenetic inheritance. For example, early studies proposed the existence of 6-91 methyldeoxyadenosine (m6dA) in eukaryotes, but direct evidence was only reported recently³⁰⁻³³. The abundance of m6dA differs in the genomes of various eukaryotic 92 species, but is less frequent than 5mdC³⁰⁻³³. These studies also revealed that m6dA 93 94 is functionally involved in transcriptional regulation, albeit using different mechanisms 95 in distinct species. In mammalian mRNA, m6A constitutes 0.1-0.4% of all adenosine nucleotides³⁴⁻³⁶. m6A has also been identified in snoRNA⁶ and miRNA⁴. In mRNA, 96 m6A is enriched around stop codons and levels increase during development ^{37, 38}. 97 Functionally, m6A affects alternative splicing patterns³⁷, regulates translation by 98 destabilizing mRNA³⁸⁻⁴¹ and some steps of the translation process itself⁴²⁻⁴⁴. A 99

related modification, N6-2'O-dimethyladenosine (m6A_m), was recently reported as a cap-associated modified nucleotide stabilizing mRNA^{6, 45}. Currently, it is conceivable that some functions that have been originally attributed to m6A are in fact caused by m6A_m, as the specificity of the used antibodies was unclear (ibid).

104 Transcriptome-wide mapping of m1A revealed an enrichment of this modification 105 around the start codon. m1A dynamically acts as a positive regulator of translation 106 upon stress conditions^{46, 47}. Also pseudouridine, a modified nucleobase that has been 107 mainly analysed in tRNA, is discussed as a modification with a regulatory function in 108 mRNA⁴⁸⁻⁵⁰.

109 These recent publications show that epitranscriptomics and epigenomics have 110 become two of the most dynamic areas of research in cell biology. RIP- and DIP-seq 111 techniques and also high-resolution imaging approaches to generate landscapes of 112 appearance and dynamics of modified nucleic acids in eukaryotic cells depend on 113 very specific and sensitive antibodies. However, many antibodies are often used 114 without determining potential secondary effects in the experimental setting. In this 115 review, we want to discuss the challenges in generating monoclonal antibodies 116 against modified nucleotides. We will discuss aspects of antibody-antigen 117 interactions, antigen generation, immunization and antibody validation.

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119 Antibody-antigen interactions

120 The fundamental properties of specificity and affinity of each antibody molecule are 121 determined by the variable domains of the heavy (VH) and light chains (VL), (Figure 122 1). The affinity of the primary B cell repertoire is low and increases if immunoglobulin 123 genes of activated B cells undergo somatic hypermutation upon repeated encounter 124 with antigens⁵¹. These mutations accumulate preferentially in the complementarity-125 determining regions (CDRs) of both the heavy and the light variable immunoglobulin genes (Figure 1)⁵². Each VH and VL domain contains three hypervariable CDRs 126 127 (CDRH1 to 3 and CDRL1 to 3). CDRs are surface-exposed loops that form the 128 antigen-binding site, and hypermutation of the CDRs results in structural changes in the antigen binding sites⁵³. The CDRH3 loop is highly variable in length, sequence, 129 and structure⁵⁴. In humans and mice, the other five CDRs are less variable and 130 assume only a limited number of canonical backbone conformations (reviews^{55, 56}). 131 132 This hypervariability, particularly in CDRH3, determines antigen specificity and affinity⁵⁶. In rabbits, however, due to a higher junctional diversity during VJ 133

recombination, the CDRL3 loops are also heterogeneous in sequence and length
 and further contribute to high-affinity antigen binding^{57, 58}.

136 Crystallographic X-ray analyses of antibody-antigen complexes have revealed a 137 closer insight into the residues of CDRs interacting with the antigen^{59, 60}. The number 138 and positions of the residues interacting with the antigen largely depend on the size of the antigen and determine the overall shape of the antigen-binding site^{61, 62}. 139 140 Comparative studies of more than hundred immune complexes showed that large 141 antigens such as proteins are bound in planar interaction sites, peptides within grooves, whereas small antigens, so-called haptens, are burried in deep cavities 142 (review⁶³). Haptens are defined as small molecules of < 1kDa in size⁶⁴. Modified 143 144 nucleotides, which have an average molecular weight of 0.35 kDa, are therefore 145 haptens.

146 On the molecular level, the interactions between antibody and antigen are non-147 covalent and reversible. They are based on a combination of hydrogen bonds, 148 hydrophobic interactions, electrostatic and van der Waals forces⁶⁵. To the best of our 149 knowledge, no crystal structures of antibody complexes with modified nucleotides 150 have been published yet. So far, analyses of several autoimmune anti-DNA antibody 151 complexes revealed that high-affinity binding to DNA is mainly mediated through 152 electrostatic forces between arginine residues in the CDR3H region and the bases or 153 phosphate groups of the nucleic acid⁶⁶. Small changes in the antigen alter the 154 electrostatic and hydrophobic interactions and have a profound effect on the strength 155 of the antibody-antigen interaction. For example, the addition of a methyl group to 156 guanosine completely abolished binding of an anti-ssDNA antibody⁶⁷. Similarly, 157 substitution of a single arginine residue in the CDR3H loop by glycine abrogated 158 antibody binding to ssDNA, while introduction of additional arginine residues into CDRH2 improved the binding affinity⁶⁸. A study comparing six monoclonal antibodies 159 160 raised against various modified nucleotides (5mC, m7G, Ψ, m1In, m1A, 4AcC) 161 revealed high specificity of each antibody towards the respective antigen and no cross-reactivity against the other nucleotides⁶⁹. These data demonstrate that 162 163 modified positions of a nucleobase are part of the antibody interaction site and any 164 change significantly alters the specificity and affinity of the interaction. Systematic 165 structural analyses of antibodies bound to different modified nucleotides are required 166 to gain insights of how specificity is achieved for nucleic acids that differ only in one 167 position.

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169 Modified nucleosides as antigens for antibody generation

170 Early attempts to generate antibodies against DNA were largely unsuccessful until it 171 was discovered that carrier molecules improve the immune response (review⁷⁰). It is 172 thought that antibodies against the most common B-DNA-form are difficult to 173 generate in experimental settings because responsive B-lymphocytes are eliminated as self from natural repertoires^{71, 72}. Only certain ssDNA and less common DNA 174 175 forms (e.g. Z-DNA), triplexes or DNA-RNA hybrids are targets of natural antibody 176 responses (summarized⁷³). Humans and animals therefore exhibit an 177 immunotolerance to B-form DNA and autoantibodies against dsDNA are only found 178 in patients diagnosed with e.g. systemic lupus erythematosus (SLE) or lupus nephritis as a result of progressive hypermutation in the CDR3⁷⁴. The first antibodies 179 180 against unusual and modified nucleotides were generated in the 1970s and early 181 1980s when it was discovered that tRNA contains a number of differently modified nucleotides^{75, 76} and that 5mdC is important in gene regulation and cell development 182 (reviews^{77, 78}). 183

184 RNA or DNA nucleotides are too small to elicit an immune response but it is possible 185 to generate antibodies targeting single nucleosides by coupling the latter to an 186 immunogenic carrier protein. Studies in the early 1960s identified BSA, a basic 187 protein with many free –NH2 groups, as an appropriate carrier⁷⁰. A stable covalent 188 coupling of ribonucleosides was achieved by oxidation of the ribose ring with sodium 189 periodate followed by a reductive condensation of the resulting aldehyde groups to the NH2-group of the lysine side chain⁷⁹. The oxidation step opens the ribose ring 190 191 between the 2' and 3' position and covalently couples the nucleobase via the opened 192 ribose to the carrier protein (Figure 2). As a consequence, antibodies generated 193 against such antigens cannot discriminate between molecules differing at the ribose 194 moiety, e.g. between RNA and DNA or nucleic acids with modified or non-modified 2'- and 3'-ribose OH-groups⁶. All antibodies directed against modified nucleosides 195 196 generated so far are based on this coupling method. They target single nucleotides in 197 DNA or RNA chains and neighbouring nucleotides appear not to influence antibody 198 binding. Consequently, these antibodies allow an unbiased determination of 199 sequences flanking modified nucleotides and their potential consensus motifs. For 200 example, antibodies generated against m6A led to the identification of the DRACH motif flanking m6A^{6, 37, 38, 80}. Other examples of antibodies currently in the spotlight 201

are those specific for 5mC, m1A and m7G^{69, 81-83}. Table 1 summarises available
 antibodies against modified nucleosides and their applications.

204 Presently, a modified nucleobase-coupling protocol allows a more efficient binding of 205 the hapten and also the coupling of nucleobases sensitive to oxidation or reduction 206 such as m1A (pers. communication R. Hett / G. Meister). The use of cationized BSA, 207 in which the carboxy groups of acidic amino acids are converted to aminoethylamide 208 groups, enhances the resulting T-cell immune response and increases the immunogenicity of poorly immunogenic molecules⁸⁴⁻⁸⁶. In addition, it increases the 209 210 number of -NH2 groups available for coupling with the nucleoside. The higher 211 coupling efficiency increases the likelihood that two or more modified nucleobases 212 are in close vicinity to each other on the carrier so that antibodies that specifically 213 recognize pairs of adjacent modified nucleobases might be raised. Such antibodies, if 214 undesired, have to be eliminated during the validation process or by affinity purification. Modern Click Chemistry⁸⁷ provides an alternative strategy to couple DNA 215 216 or RNA nucleosides to the carrier protein. Here, the 5'OH group of the ribose is 217 activated with azide allowing the copper(I)-catalysed addition of the alkyne-linker 218 molecule. This coupling method has the advantage that the ribose is kept intact, thus 219 potentially allowing the generation of antibodies that discriminate between DNA and 220 RNA nucleosides or recognize modified ribose OH groups. This is of special 221 importance for the generation of antibodies that allow discrimination between highly 222 related modified nucleosides, for example nucleosides having the same chemical 223 modification at one position in the nucleobase but differ in an additional modification 224 of the ribose such as a methylated OH-group (e.g. m7G versus m7G_m). We are 225 currently trying to establish monoclonal antibodies using DNA nucleosides coupled 226 by Click chemistry to the carrier protein as antigens (in collaboration with T. Carell). 227 One possible drawback of this method is the generation of antibodies that might bind 228 to the modified nucleoside only in conjunction with the 1,2,3-triazole resulting from 229 the Click reaction. These antibodies need to be excluded during the antibody 230 validation procedure.

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232 **Comparison of different antibody formats**

The validity of high-throughput approaches in epitranscriptomics and epigenomics directly depends on the specificity and affinity of the employed antibody. Currently, polyclonal and monoclonal antibodies are used to target modified nucleic acids 236 (Table 1). Both have their advantages and disadvantages. A systematic comparison 237 of monoclonal and polyclonal antibodies targeting modified nucleotides has not been 238 performed so far. However, a detailed comparison of polyclonal and monoclonal 239 antibodies targeting different post-translational histone modifications in ChIP-seq 240 experiments showed that monoclonal antibodies exhibit the same sensitivity as 241 polyclonal antibodies, yet offer higher reproducibility⁸⁸. Polyclonal antibodies, which are mainly produced in rabbits, comprise a heterogeneous mixture of antibodies that 242 243 target different epitopes and bind the antigen with different affinities. They often 244 perform well in multiple applications, as they can bind their targets under conditions of different pH and salt concentrations⁸⁹. A major drawback of polyclonal antibodies 245 246 is batch-to-batch inconsistencies. Affinity column purification, e.g. on modified and 247 unmodified nucleotides is required to reduce carrier-specific and other unspecific 248 antibodies from the immune serum. However, due to their heterogenic nature, 249 validation for cross-reactivity, e.g. against similar nucleotide modifications or binding 250 of two adjacent modified nucleotides, is difficult. In general, polyclonal antibodies 251 exhibit a broader but less well characterized interaction pattern, which is the 252 disadvantage of the larger antibody pool. In contrast, monoclonal antibodies, which 253 are secreted from a single B cell clone, recognize a defined epitope with a given 254 affinity and specificity. Their generation is more expensive and time-consuming as 255 compared to polyclonal antibodies⁹⁰. However, once a monoclonal antibody is 256 established it can be repeatedly produced in large amounts and with consistent 257 guality between different batches. In addition, cross-reactive or unspecific clones can 258 be eliminated already during primary antibody screening (see next chapter).

259 The development of a rabbit myeloma cell line allowing the efficient fusion of rabbit B cells from immunised animals was a major improvement on the antibody market^{58, 91}. 260 Because rabbit monoclonal antibodies often display high affinities⁵⁸ they could be a 261 262 valuable alternative to those from mouse and rat for antibody DIP-and RIPseq 263 studies. At present, we are not aware of rabbit monoclonals generated against 264 modified nucleic acids. Unfortunately, the rabbit myeloma fusion cell line is not freely 265 available for the scientific community. The recombinant cloning of smaller antibody 266 formats, such as Fab or single-chain variable fragments (scFv) from established hybridoma cell lines^{92, 93} or of nanobodies dervied from camelid heavy chain 267 antibodies⁹⁴ can be useful especially for high-resolution imaging. Recombinant 268 269 antibody technologies provide an alternative to the hybridoma technology. Different

display technologies are now available to isolate the best binders from either immune
or naive antibody libraries (summarized⁹⁵). However, as far as we know, these
technologies have not been applied for modified nucleotides so far.

273

274 Antibody validation

275 To serve as valuable and reliable research tools, antibodies need to be thoroughly validated regarding their affinity, specificity and reproducibility in the context of their 276 intended use⁹⁶. The primary screening process during monoclonal antibody 277 278 generation already identifies hybridoma candidate clones that produce the strongest 279 and most specific binders. Supernatants from several hundred hybridomas can easily 280 be tested in a high-throughput manner in solid-phase enzyme-linked immunosorbent (ELISA) assays⁹⁷. Detection ELISA assays are ideal to identify antibodies that 281 282 recognize the desired antigen, e.g. by testing the binding of modified nucleobases 283 coupled to a different carrier protein or on small modified oligonucleotides to assure 284 the identification of hapten-specific antibodies and to exclude carrier-specific ones^{69,} ^{83, 92, 98}. Capture ELISA identifies antibodies that immunoprecipitate antigen with high 285 286 affinity, a prerequisite for antibody-based mapping studies of modified nucleic acids. 287 Competitive ELISA can further determine antibody specificity and cross-reactivity. 288 Here, antibodies are pre-incubated with increasing amounts of the target antigen or 289 potentially cross-reactive antigens as competitors before binding to the target antigen 290 is assessed. The combination of these ELISA-based techniques allows identification 291 of antibodies binding the desired antigens with high affinity and to eliminate those

showing cross-reactivity^{69, 83, 92, 98}.

293 Further validation is essential to verify the antibodies' performance in particular 294 applications. Antibodies targeting modified nucleic acids were validated e.g. by DNA or RNA immunoprecipitation^{32, 46, 99}, immuno-Northern blotting⁹⁹ or high-resolution 295 nucleic acid mapping technologies^{6, 32, 37, 100}. Potential off-target binding and biases 296 297 can be detected by using methylation-deficient control cells, as recently 298 demonstrated for anti-m6A antibodies in mapping studies with N6-adeninemethylases-negative bacteria or yeast cells^{32, 100}. A study by Linder et al. revealed, 299 300 that antibodies described as 6mA-specific, which were generated by coupling 6mA to the carrier protein by the reductive coupling method described above⁷⁹ (Figure 2) do 301 not discriminate between m6A and m $6A_m^6$. This is not surprising, as the antigen used 302 303 for immunization does not contain the intact 2'- and 3'-moieties of the ribose. These

304 studies highlight the importance of antibody validation, especially if highly related 305 targets exist in the same molecule, as it is the case in RNA and DNA. Antibodies 306 targeting nucleic acids or modified nucleic acids are generated by coupling single 307 (modified) nucleosides to the BSA carrier protein⁷⁹. However, the resulting antibodies 308 are used to detect the respective target in the context of complex structures, e.g. 309 chromatin, dsDNA, protein-bound RNA or structured regions of RNA. These 310 structures may impede antibody-antigen interactions. Most parts of RNA are single-311 stranded, but in DNA and in structured regions in RNA, nucleic acids pair with each 312 other to make double-strands, and may therefore not be readily accessible for the 313 antibody. For example, we observed that some antibody clones detecting a single 314 modified nucleoside coupled to BSA in ELISA, did not bind to the same modified 315 nucleotide in the context of RNA or DNA (own unpublished data). In mammalian 316 cells, the generation of CRISPR/Cas9-targeted methyltransferase knock-out cell lines 317 will be instrumental to identify antibodies without or low off-target activity.

Interestingly, apart from specific antigen binding, antibodies can be used to generate
 signatures on modified RNA after UV-induced crosslinking and mutations introduced
 during reverse transcription, allowing a precise mapping of modified nucleobases⁶.
 However, although directed against the same modification, some antibodies were
 shown to induce an inconsistent mutation pattern⁶.

323

324 Summary and Perspective

325 Modifications of nucleic acids are widespread, and the function of many of these 326 modifications is far from understood. Antibodies specific for modified nucleotides are 327 essential tools to address fundamental questions on the molecular regulation of life in 328 this new era of epigenomics and epitranscriptomics. At present, antibodies against a 329 limited number of DNA and RNA modifications are available. The generation of new 330 specific antibodies will be instrumental to decipher the function of those modifications 331 that have been neglected so far. Comparative structural studies of antibody 332 complexes with modified nucleobases are required for an improved understanding of 333 specific target recognition.

Antibodies directed against modified nucleobases have traditionally been generated by immunization with nucleosides coupled to a carrier protein using the ribose part as a linker. Modern Click Chemistry now allows coupling by maintaining the sugar intact, thus permitting the generation of antibodies that may, in addition to recognizing

338 specific modified nucleobases, be able to distinguish between different forms of the 339 ribose moiety, such as ribose, deoxyribose, and O-methylated variants. Careful 340 antibody validation is essential to reduce background through off-target activity and 341 also to verify the applicability in a particular technique. Whenever possible, cellular 342 knock-out controls should be part of the validation process. Polyclonal antibodies are 343 often not sufficiently characterized, and their functionality may vary from batch to 344 batch, which may hamper reproducibility and comparability of results. Monoclonal 345 antibodies from stable hybridoma cell lines have unlimited availability, allow for 346 precise definition of specificity and affinity, and therefore more consistent 347 experimentation. Several monoclonal antibody clones should be used to validate 348 nucleotide mapping in RIP- and DIP-based experiments. The generation of high-349 affinity nucleotide-specific monoclonal antibodies in rabbits might further advance the 350 epitranscriptomics field, especially for very rare modifications or in single-cell 351 settings. Smaller binder formats, e.g. scFv that can be obtained by recombinant 352 cloning of nucleoside-specific monoclonal antibodies or by recombinant display 353 technologies, will be useful tools for high-resolution imaging.

354

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365

366 **Table legend**

Table 1: Overview of the most commonly studied nucleic acid modifications and their

368 analyses using antibody-based approaches.

³⁶⁹ [#]Occurrence of modified nucleobases in DNA and different RNA species. For more

370 details see RNAMDB and MODOMICS databases^{1, 3}.

- 371 [¶] Performed applications using polyclonal or monoclonal antibodies (bold) and the
 372 respective references. Clone names of mAbs are included.
- 373 ¹Listed are the clone names of monoclonal antibodies, the publication describing
 374 their generation, and the species in which the antibodies were generated.
- 375 * Commercially available monoclonal antibodies.
- Abbreviations: pAb: polyclonal antibody; mAb: monoclonal antibody; scFv: singlechain variable fragment; DIP: DNA immunoprecipitation; RIP: RNA
 immunoprecipitation; IHC: immunohistochemistry; IF immunofluorescence, ms:
 mouse; mt: mitochondria.
- 380

381 Figure legends

382 Figure 1: Schematic overview of the organisation and expression of immunoglobulin 383 (Ig) genes. Different germline gene segments coding for the variable Ig heavy and 384 light chains are joined by somatic V(D)J gene rearrangement (upper panels). 385 Addition or removal of nucleotides during recombination at the junctions (symbolised 386 by asterics) and somatic hypermutation (arrows) in the complementary-determining 387 regions (CDR) of the VL and VH genes results in a high diversity of the Ig repertoire. 388 The constant regions of the heavy chain are joined by RNA splicing to the variable 389 regions. The heavy and light chains are covalently linked by disulfide bridges and fold 390 into the typical Y-shaped immunoglobulin molecule. The antigen-binding site is 391 formed by the CDRs of the heavy and light variable chains. A 3D shape of an Ig 392 molecule can be found in the RCSB Protein Data Bank PDB ID: 1IGT (doi: 393 10.2210/pdb1igt/pdb)

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Figure 2: Conjugation of nucleosides to carrier proteins. In a first step the 2' and 3' hydroxyl groups of the ribose of the nucleic acid are oxidized with IO_4^- at pH9-9.5. This allows the coupling to primary amino groups of carrier proteins, e.g. ϵ -NH₂-group of lysine residues. The resulting unstable acid is subsequently stabilized by reduction with NaBH₄.

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- 675

Figure 1





Figure 2

modified nucleoside (R=OH or H)	occurrence [#] (eukarya)	pAb application [¶]	mAb application [¶]	mAb sources⁵
5-methyldeoxycytidine	DNA	PAR-CLIP-RIP ⁴⁰	Immunoblot	ms: 5-MeC ⁶⁹
5-methylcytidine	tRNA, rRNA, mRNA, viral		FMC-9 ⁹⁹	ms: FMC-9 ^{92,} *
NH ₂	ncRNA (reviewed in : ²⁷)		IF	(m5dC)
H ₃ C N			33D3 ^{101, 102} ; FMC-9 ¹⁰³	scFv ⁹³
			MeDIP	ms: 33D3 ^{99,} *
			33D3 ^{104, 105}	
OH R				
5-hydroxymethyldeoxycytidine	DNA	IF ¹⁰⁶	IF	ms: Ab3/63.3*
5-hydroxymethylcytidine	rRNA	hMeDIP ¹⁰⁴	AB63/3 ¹⁰⁶	ms: 4D9*
OH NH			MeDIP	ms: 31HMC*
N			4D9 ¹⁰⁷	rat: 633HMC*
LN CO			633HMC ^{7, 108}	
HO			31HMC	
OH R				
5-formydeoxycytidine	DNA			rabbit: D5D4K*
5-formylcytidine	tRNA (mt)			
HO O O HO O HO O HO O R				

1-methyladenosine	tRNA, rRNA		RIP	ms: m1A ⁶⁹
NH			AMA-2 ^{46, 99}	ms: AMA-2 ^{83,} *
N N CH ₃			IHC	
			AMA-2 ^{99, 109}	
0			Immunoblot	
он он			AMA-2 ^{99, 110}	
6-methyladenosine	tRNA, rRNA, mRNA,	RIP ^{6, 37-39, 43}	DIP	rabbit: EpiMark®
6-methyldeoxyadenosine	snRNA, DNA	PAR-CLIP ³⁹	212B11 ³²	N6-
LINI CH3		Immunoblot ⁹⁹	RIP ^{40, 111}	Methyladenosine
				Enrichment Kit
				ms: clone 17 ^{40, 111}
HO				ms: 212B11*
OH R				
7-methylguanosine	mRNA, tRNA, rRNA		RIP	ms: 7-MeGuo ⁶⁹
2,7,2'-methylguanosine			H-20 ¹¹²	ms: H-20 ¹¹²
$HO \qquad O \qquad H_3C \qquad O \qquad H_3C \qquad HO \qquad H$				

Pseudouridine	tRNA, rRNA, snoRNA,	Immunoblot	ms: Ψ -Urd ⁶⁹
Q	mRNA	APU-6 ⁹⁹	ms: APU-6 ⁹⁸
HN		ІНС	
		APU6 ¹⁰⁹	
HO			
OH OH			