Full Title: Contribution of Non-Canonical Splice Variants to TTNtv Cardiomyopathy

Short Title: Splice-Altering Variants and TTNtv Cardiomyopathy

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Abstract (250 words)

BACKGROUND: Heterozygous truncating variants in titin (TTNtv) cause 10-20% of idiopathic dilated cardiomyopathy (DCM). Though variants which disrupt canonical splice signals (i.e. GT, AG) at exon-intron junctions are readily recognized as TTNtv, the effects of other nearby sequence variations on splicing and their contribution to disease is uncertain.

METHODS AND RESULTS: Rare variants of unknown significance (VUS) located in the splice regions of highly expressed *TTN* exons from 203 DCM cases and 3329 normal subjects were identified. The effects of these variants on splicing were assessed using an *in vitro* splice assay. Splice-altering VUS were enriched in DCM cases over controls and present in 2% of DCM patients ($p=0.002$). Application of this method to clinical variant databases demonstrated 20% of similar VUS in *TTN* splice regions affect splicing. Non-canonical splice-altering variants were most frequently located at position +5 of the donor site ($p=4.4e-7$) and position -3 of the acceptor site ($p=0.002$). SpliceAI, an emerging *in-silico* prediction tool, had a high positive predictive value (86-95%) but poor sensitivity (15-50%) for the detection of splice-altering variants. Alternate exons spliced out of most *TTN* transcripts frequently lacked the consensus base at +5 donor and -3 acceptor positions.

CONCLUSION: Non-canonical splice-altering variants in *TTN* explain 1-2% of DCM and offer a 10-20% increase in the diagnostic power of *TTN* sequencing in this disease. These data suggest rules that may improve efforts to detect splice-altering variants in other genes and may explain the low percent splicing observed for many alternate *TTN* exons.

Keywords: Titin, Splicing, Splice-Altering, Variants of Unknown Significance, Cardiomyopathy

Introduction

Dilated cardiomyopathy (DCM) is a progressive disease of cardiac muscle characterized by systolic dysfunction, ventricular enlargement, and heart failure.¹⁻³ DCM can arise from a wide variety of insults to the myocardium, or be idiopathic, occurring in the absence of cardiovascular or systemic conditions. Although some cases of idiopathic DCM are known to be caused by genetic variants, the actual contribution of inherited or de novo variants to overall disease burden is uncertain. Current estimates suggest that 30-50% of idiopathic cases may have a gene mutation accounting for their disease.³⁻⁶

Next-generation sequencing of clinical cohorts has revealed that heterozygous loss-of-function variants in titin (*TTN*), the largest human protein, are the leading genetic cause of idiopathic DCM (Figure 1A).^{1,6-8} *TTN* truncating variants (TTNtv), which include nonsense, frameshift, splicing, and copy number variants that damage the structure of the 35991 amino acid polypeptide, account for ~15% of sporadic and ~25-30% of familial cases.^{7,9} Identification of pathogenic, disease-causing TTNtv can clarify the diagnosis in DCM patients without a definitive etiology and stratify risk in closely related family members. However, genetic testing often yields rare synonymous, missense, or intronic *TTN* variants with uncertain pathogenic effects. Current methods of variant interpretation categorize variants commonly seen in the general population (allele frequency $> 1 \times 10^{-4}$) as unlikely to cause disease.^{10,11} Additionally, of the 364 *TTN* exons, approximately half are alternative exons that are not included (measured by "Percent Spliced In" or PSI) in most mature *TTN* mRNAs.^{1,8,12} Variants located in these regions of *TTN* are also clinically classified as benign. Distinguishing the clinical consequences of the remaining rare variants of unknown significance (VUS) in highly expressed exons remains a considerable challenge.

VUS that disrupt splicing are generally under recognized because methods for identifying splice-altering variants remain imperfect.^{13,14} While many residues may help guide intron splicing, nucleotides flanking the 5' exon (donor site) and 3' exon (acceptor site) are most frequently implicated (Figure 1B). The splice donor site comprises 9 base pairs (bp) that span the 5' exon-intron boundary and encodes the GT dinucleotide found at the 5' end of virtually all introns. The 23 bp splice acceptor site spans the 3' intron-exon boundary and contains an invariant AG dinucleotide in this sequence at the 3' end of the excised intron.¹⁵ Variants in *TTN* that disrupt the GT or AG dinucleotides of high PSI exons are routinely characterized as likely pathogenic or pathogenic TTNtv.^{1,6,8,12,16} Variants that occur within the remaining 7 bp of the splice donor site, or 21 bp of the splice acceptor site, also have the potential to disrupt splicing. However, due to time and cost restraints of earlier versions of *in vitro* splicing assays, these nearby sequence variations have been commonly classified as VUS.^{17,18}

We previously described a method for identifying the variants within the splice donor and splice acceptor regions that disrupt normal splicing (Figure S1-S3)^{13,19} and hypothesized that an analysis of VUS near *TTN* splice sites would expand the spectrum of pathogenic mutations that cause disease and define other VUS that are likely benign. Further, due to the large number of *TTN* exons and the hundreds of splice sites utilized in normal processing, we hypothesized that any patterns present in the data could provide insights into splicing biology and thereby inform variant interpretation for other disease genes.

Methods

Full details of the methods used in this study can be accessed online in the Supplemental Material. All study participants provided informed written consent and protocols were approved by the institutional human ethics committees as previously described for UK cases⁷ and for all other sites.²⁰ All data and supporting materials have been provided with the published article and are available in the online supplement.

Results

Burden of Splice-Altering VUS in TTN Among DCM Cases and Controls

To compare the relative burden of *TTN* splice-altering VUS in DCM patients to that of ‘normal’ subjects, we analyzed *TTN* variants identified from 203 DCM cases (30% familial, 59% male, mean age at diagnosis 35 ± 18 years) and 3329 individuals with Alzheimer's disease who were unlikely to have DCM. In total, 59.6% of subjects in the DCM cohort and 39.2% of subjects in the control cohort had a rare *TTN* variant detected by gene sequencing. As expected, TTNtv (i.e. nonsense, frameshift, and essential GT/AG splice disrupting variants) in high PSI exons were significantly enriched in individuals with DCM (23.1% vs. 0.5%, $p=3.7e-47$, Fisher's exact test, Figure 2). The characteristics of these TTNtv are detailed in the Supplemental Material (Table S1). The rate of TTNtv seen in controls was similar to that seen in gnomAD v2, where 536 TTNtv in high PSI exons are noted among 141,456 unique individuals (0.4%).

Among the remaining rare variants in these cohorts, 7 variants in cases and 36 variants in controls were located within the splice donor site or splice acceptor site of highly expressed exons, indicating that 3.4% of cases ($n=7$) and 1.1% of controls ($n=36$) possessed a rare *TTN* VUS near a known splice site. All 43 variants were computationally prioritized using MaxEnt scoring (an *in silico* splice prediction tool) and functionally assessed for splicing effects using pairs of minigenes in a cellular assay as described in the Supplemental Methods. After assessing all candidate variants in the minigene assay, 4 splice-altering VUS were identified in cases whereas 6 were found in the control cohort (Table S2). Hence, splice-altering VUS were present in 2.0% of DCM cases and 0.2% of control subjects ($p=0.002$, Fisher's exact test, Figure 2).

Reclassification of Splice Region VUS in Two Databases of Human Genetic Variation

To better annotate the thousands of *TTN* VUS reported from clinical genetic testing, we applied our stepwise bioinformatic and functional analysis to identify additional splice-altering variants in two large databases of human genetic variation. As of 2017, the Laboratory of Molecular Medicine of Partners Healthcare had reported 6,882 unique *TTN* variants from clinical genetic testing of 2410 subjects. At the same time, 3,070 variants had been publicly reported by ClinVar, an NIH-sponsored database of human variants associated with clinical phenotypes, though the number of subjects from which these variants were obtained was not available. Rare *TTN* variants that were located within the splice donor or splice acceptor regions, but not in the canonical AG or GT sequences, of high PSI exons were identified for further study. After applying all selection criteria, 201 variants (2.0% of all *TTN* variants reported) were identified as rare, candidate variants. Review of the clinical significance of these variants revealed that many of these variants were classified as VUS (n=167). A smaller fraction had been classified as likely benign (n=31) or benign (n=3).

All 201 rare splice region variants from high PSI exons in *TTN* were bioinformatically sorted and assessed for splicing effects through the minigene assay (Table S3). Assessment of this variant set identified 45 splice-altering variants (33 LMM, 12 ClinVar); the remaining 156 splice region variants had no effect on mRNA processing (Table 1). Therefore, of the 201 rare splice region variants reported in these two clinical databases at non-canonical positions, 22.4% were determined to be likely pathogenic while 77.6% were found to be likely benign. This represented 0.5% and 1.6% of all *TTN* variants reported in these databases.

Across both cohorts, 75 GT/AG disrupting variants in high PSI exons had already been labeled as likely pathogenic or pathogenic. The identification of 45 additional splice-altering variants increased the total number of splicing *TTN*tv by 60%. Among the subset of variants

obtained through LMM, 33 splice-altering variants, previously characterized as VUS, were present among 2410 individuals (1.4%).

Location of Splice-Altering Variants

Splice-altering *TTN* variants were non-randomly distributed within donor and acceptor sites (Figure 3). Of the 45 likely pathogenic *TTN* splice-altering variants identified in the cell based splicing assay, 25 variants were located within a 5' donor site and 20 variants were located within a 3' acceptor site. Given the relative length of donor and acceptor sequences, pathogenic variants were more likely to disrupt the donor site than the acceptor site ($p=1.6e-04$, binomial test). Among 25 splice-altering variants in the donor site, 9 perturbed the +5 position, significantly more than expected by chance ($p=0.006$, binomial test). Similarly, 7 of 25 splice-altering donor site variants were located at the last nucleotide of the upstream exon (donor position -1, $p=0.078$) (Figure 3A). In the acceptor site, most splice-altering variants were located at the -3 position ($n=3$, $p=0.067$) or the first base of the downstream exon (position +1, $n=3$, $p=0.067$; Figure 3B).

To assess whether this distribution of splice-altering variants was unique to *TTN*, we extended our application of the minigene assay to identify damaging splice region variants in *MYBPC3* and *LMNA*, two additional autosomal dominant cardiomyopathy genes. After identifying LMM and ClinVar variants within the splice region of both genes, exclusive of common and GT/AG-disrupting variants, a total of 150 variants were identified (Table S4).

In total, 67 of 150 rare variants tested in the minigene assay altered splicing (*MYBPC3*: 47, *LMNA*: 20, Table S4). Again, splice-altering variants in these genes were not randomly distributed across the splice site. Splice-altering variants identified in *MYBPC3* donor sites and

LMNA donor sites (Figure 3A) were most frequently located at the last base of the exon (position -1, $n=12$, $p=0.027$, binomial test) and at position +5 ($n=21$, $p=1.3e-7$), significantly more than expected by chance. Similarly, splice-altering variants in *MYBPC3* and *LMNA* acceptor sites (Figure 3B) were most commonly found at the -3 position ($n=5$, $p=0.004$).

Probability of Damaging Splice Effects by Site and Position

In a meta-analysis of all 143 rare variants reported by LMM and ClinVar in splice donor regions of the three studied cardiomyopathy genes, 48.3% (69/143) were found to be splice-altering variants by the *in vitro* minigene assay. Variants at donor position +5 were more likely to be splice-altering than the rest of the splice region (90.9%, $p=4.4e-7$, binomial test). In contrast, no splice-altering variants were identified 3 bases into the donor exon (0.0%, $p=4.6e-6$) and variants at the donor +6 position were unlikely to alter splicing (9.1%, $p=0.01$). Other positions did not deviate significantly from expectation. The fraction of rare variants which affected splicing at each position was consistent with the conservation displayed at each position of the genome-wide splice consensus sequence (Figure 4A).

A similar meta-analysis of all 208 rare variants reported by LMM and ClinVar in splice acceptor regions of these three genes demonstrated that 20.7% (43/208) of these variants altered splicing. Only the -3 position was more likely to contain pathogenic variants than the remainder of the splice region (61.5%, $p=0.002$). By contrast, splice-altering variants were rarely found at positions -20 to -14 (grouped: 2.9%, $p=0.006$). As with the donor site, the positions that appeared to be most intolerant of variation also displayed the greatest nucleotide conservation in the splice consensus sequence (Figure 4B).

Performance of SpliceAI in Identifying Pathogenic Splice Region Variants

We assessed the performance of SpliceAI in this dataset of *TTN*, *LMNA*, and *MYBPC3* variants that had been functionally characterized for their impact on mRNA splicing [n=43 from case vs control comparison (Table S2), n=351 from clinical variant databases (Table S3, S4); n=394 in total]. Among rare variants reported in the splice regions that did not disrupt the canonical GT/AG residues, a SpliceAI score threshold ≥ 0.2 for donor or acceptor site loss resulted in a positive predictive value (PPV) of 85.7%, a negative predictive value (NPV) of 80.9%, and a sensitivity of 49.2%. When using a more stringent SpliceAI score threshold ≥ 0.8 , the PPV for identifying splice site loss variants increased to 94.7%, but was accompanied by decreases in NPV to 72.3% and overall sensitivity to 14.8% (Table 2). The PPVs and NPVs seen at these thresholds were consistent across all three genes studied (Table S5). In line with the higher frequency of splice-altering variants at certain positions, variants at the +5 position of the donor site, -3 position of the acceptor site, and last nucleotide of the donor exon had the highest average SpliceAI score (Figure S4).

Exon PSI and Nucleotide Conservation

Because variants in some positions of splice donor and splice acceptor sites conferred a bigger effect on splicing than others, we hypothesized that splice site sequences in high PSI exons might differ from those of low PSI exons. Using data from the Genotype-Tissue Expression (GTEx) project, we calculated average exon PSI in skeletal (n=451 subjects), left ventricular (n=246), and right atrial (n=217) tissue. A total of 177 exons demonstrated constitutive expression ($\text{PSI} \geq 0.9$) across all tissues whereas 58 exons displayed non-constitutive expression ($\text{PSI} < 0.7$) in all tissue types (Figure 5A), consistent with previous observations.^{8,12}

We compared consensus donor and acceptor splice signal sequence motifs for high and low PSI exons. There were significant differences in nucleotide distribution at several non-canonical positions. In the donor site, usage of the widely-conserved guanine base at the +5 position of the donor site was significantly more frequent among constitutive versus non-constitutive exons (67.3% vs. 8.6%, $p=9.1\text{e-}09$, Fisher's exact test with Holm-Bonferroni correction, Figure 5B). In the acceptor site, high PSI exons were far more likely to contain a cytosine at position -3 than low PSI exons (62.1% vs. 6.9%, $p=7.4\text{e-}35$, Figure 5C). A lack of conservation of the +4 adenine in the donor site (67.3% vs. 12.1%, $p=1.2\text{e-}07$) and of the -16 to -8 polypyrimidine tract in the acceptor site (each $p<7.5\text{e-}03$) were additional features strongly associated with exon exclusion.

Discussion

Using bioinformatic prioritization and an *in vitro* minigene splice assay we investigated the contribution of non-canonical splice-altering variants near *TTN* splice signals to TTNtv cardiomyopathy. Approximately 20% of rare variants of unknown significance located in *TTN* splice regions prevent normal mRNA processing and currently represent a group of unrecognized pathogenic variants. We provide evidence that these splice-altering VUS are enriched in cohorts of DCM and are present in 1-2% of DCM cases. Recognition of splice-altering synonymous, missense, and intronic variants in *TTN* improves the yield of DNA sequence-based analysis in individuals with DCM who were previously thought to have no known genetic cause for their condition.

We have previously used the same technology to identify rare variants that cause *LMNA* and *MYBPC3* cardiomyopathies.^{13,19} By combining these lists of splice-altering variants in these genes we provide insights that can be broadly applicable to variants beyond the scope of this study. Krawczak et al.²¹ first noted that disease-causing mutations across 38 genes tended to cluster at certain positions throughout extended splice sites. Supporting these earlier findings, our data suggest that sequence variations at many positions of the splice signals are tolerated, whereas variations which disrupt the "G" at the +5 position of the donor site and the "C" at the -3 position of the acceptor site have the highest likelihood of affecting splicing. VUS at these positions in other genes that cause disease by haploinsufficiency may well be pathogenic.

The higher impact of sequence variation at the donor +5 position and acceptor -3 positions on splicing also helps to explain the large number of alternate (low PSI) exons in *TTN*. Low PSI exons in *TTN* demonstrate a paucity of guanine residues at donor position +5, cytosine residues at acceptor position -3, and exhibit poor conservation of the polypyrimidine tract in the

acceptor site. The degree to which these aspects of the reference gene sequence and other *trans*-acting elements direct exon usage in *TTN* will warrant further study. We note that splicing of many *TTN* low PSI exons is more complicated than splicing of most alternate exons, with RBM20, a known RNA binding protein, closely regulating this process.^{22–24}

Lastly, we have used this list of splice-altering variants validated in the mini-gene assay to provide an assessment of SpliceAI, a recently described *in silico* prediction tool, for the detection of pathogenic variants near exon-intron junctions. For rare non-canonical variants with a donor or acceptor loss score ≥ 0.8 , the positive predictive value for the detection of splice-altering variants was 94.7%. Though prior computational splice prediction methods have been limited by poor specificity, the high positive predictive value observed with SpliceAI in this study suggests that this method may be reliably applied to identify likely pathogenic variants, especially those predicted to cause donor or acceptor site loss. This is of considerable interest given the costly and cumbersome nature of functional assays required to confirm splice-altering variants, and the exponential accumulation of rare genetic variation from clinical DNA sequencing.

We anticipate that the data provided in this study will inform reclassification of several hundred variants in publicly available genetic databases. As clinicians rely on these public resources to determine variant pathogenicity, inclusion of our findings in each database will eventually allow these results to be applied to clinical practice. Furthermore, these data should provide an important stimulus to clinical laboratories seeking to determine the pathogenicity/non-pathogenicity of other VUS reported near *TTN* splice sites in the absence of functional testing. Our findings suggest that VUS that are (1) located within a 9 bp donor or 23 bp acceptor splice site, (2) have allele frequency less than 1×10^{-4} , (3) affect an exon with $PSI \geq$

0.90, and (4) have a SpliceAI score ≥ 0.80 are highly likely to be pathogenic. We note that this algorithm may only identify 15% of all non-canonical splice altering variants. A need exists for clinical genetic testing programs to implement splicing minigene-like assays to assess the functional consequences of all VUS near splice sites.

In summary, the identification of DNA variants in splice regions that affect mRNA processing of the giant gene *TTN* increases the burden of TTNtv in DCM, improves the yield of clinical genetic testing, and suggests rules that govern exon selection in *TTN* transcripts.

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Disclosures:

Christine E. Seidman and Jonathan G. Seidman are founders of, and own shares in, Myokardia Inc., a startup company that is developing therapeutics that target the sarcomere.

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Tables

	Splice Donor	Splice Acceptor	Total
Total Variants Assessed	75	126	201
Variant Type			
Synonymous	7	10	17
Missense	33	22	55
Intronic	35	94	129
Minigene Assay Result			
Splice-Altering Variants	25	20	45
Benign Variants	50	106	156

Table 1: Functional assessment of all splice region VUS reported in two clinical genetic testing databases. Review of all variants submitted to the Laboratory of Molecular Medicine of Partners Healthcare and/or reported in ClinVar revealed that 201 rare variants (2.0% of all *TTN* variants reported) were located near *TTN* splice sites. Many of these were categorized as variants of unknown significance. Functional assessment of this entire variant set using an *in vitro* assay identified 45 splice-altering variants; the remaining 156 splice region variants had no effect on mRNA processing and are more likely to be benign.

	SpliceAI Score ≥ 0.2		SpliceAI Score ≥ 0.8	
	All Score Types Included	Acceptor / Donor Loss Only	All Score Types Included	Acceptor / Donor Loss Only
True Positive	72	60	27	18
False Positive	22	10	5	1
True Negative	200	262	267	271
False Negative	50	62	95	104
PPV	76.6%	85.7%	84.4%	94.7%
NPV	80.0%	80.9%	73.8%	72.3%

Table 2: Performance of SpliceAI among all rare variants analyzed in this study. A total of 394 variants were analyzed using an *in vitro* minigene assay. When all SpliceAI score types were considered (any of the four acceptor gain, acceptor loss, donor gain, or donor loss scores were greater than the threshold), the positive predictive values (PPVs) of SpliceAI scores of 0.2 and 0.8 were 76.6% and 85.7%, respectively. Limiting this analysis to predicted splice site loss (either the acceptor loss or donor loss SpliceAI scores exceeded the threshold) led to PPVs of 84.4% and 94.7% at SpliceAI scores of 0.2 and 0.8, respectively.

Figures + Legends

Figure 1: (A) The giant protein titin is a key component of the cardiac sarcomere. A standard cardiac sarcomere is composed of thick filaments (dark green), thin filaments (light green), and a filament composed of the giant protein titin (orange). A single full-length titin molecule spans the Z-disk, I-band, A-band and M-band regions, serving as a spring that preserves the precise structural integrity of the sarcomere. Being the largest human protein, the *TTN* gene contains 364 exons, corresponding with 726 exon-intron junctions, each of which need to be correctly recognized and processed to create a functional full-length polypeptide. The sarcomere image is adapted from Herman et al.⁷ and Roberts et al.⁸ The location of 4 non-canonical splice-altering variants identified in 203 DCM cases (red hash marks) and 6 non-

canonical splice altering variants in 3329 controls (blue hash marks) is indicated on the schematic.

(B) Splice donor and splice acceptor sites are defined by conserved 9 bp and 23 bp sequences at exon-intron junctions. A gene segment containing two exons (blue) and flanking introns (grey) with consensus 9 bp splice donor and 23 bp splice acceptor sequences is shown. The nucleotide letter sizes denote usage of that base in splice sites across the genome. Dinucleotides GT (donor site) and AG (acceptor site) are invariant, and variants that disrupt these canonical splicing residues are readily classified as TTNtv. Variants located in the other positions of these sequences may also affect splicing, but are often left labeled as VUS. *TTN* = Titin; bp = base pair; TTNtv = titin truncating variant; VUS = variants of unknown significance.

Figure 2. Burden of splice-altering VUS in *TTN* Among DCM cases and controls.

Cohorts of cases with DCM (n=203) and controls without DCM (n=3329) underwent gene sequencing of *TTN*. The DCM cohort had significantly more nonsense, frameshift, and canonical splice signal TTNtv than the control cohort in highly expressed exons (23.1% vs. 0.5%, $p=3.7 \times 10^{-47}$), consistent with prior studies of TTNtv. In addition to these established TTNtv, a splice region VUS was present in 3.4% of cases and 1.1% of controls. Functional assessment of each VUS using the minigene assay demonstrated that splice-altering VUS were present in 2.0% of DCM cases and 0.2% of control subjects ($p=0.002$).

Figure 3. Location of splice-altering variants in *TTN*, *MYBPC3*, and *LMNA*. The total counts of splice-altering variants identified by direct *in vitro* analysis are plotted against location within the splice donor and acceptor sites. As variants that disrupted “GT” at the +1 and +2 positions of the donor site and “AG” at the -1 and -2 positions of the acceptor site were excluded from this analysis, these positions are marked with nucleotide placeholders. **(A)** In *TTN*, *MYBPC3*, and *LMNA* splice donor sites, splice-altering variants were most commonly located at the +5 position and the last base of the exon **(B)** In *TTN*, *MYBPC3*, and *LMNA* splice acceptor sites, splice-altering variants were most commonly found at the -3 position and at the first base of the downstream exon.

Figure 4. Probability of damaging splice effects by site and position. The percent of *TTN*, *MYBPC3*, and *LMNA* variants affecting splicing among all rare variants reported by LMM and ClinVar at the position is shown. **(A)** On average, 48.3% of rare variants located in a splice donor site disrupted splicing. Substitutions located at the +5 position were significantly more likely to alter splicing than this average (90.9%, $p=4.4e-7$). **(B)** In total, 20.7% of reported rare variants in splice acceptor regions affected splicing. The -3 position was more likely to contain pathogenic variants than the expectation (61.5%, $p=0.002$). Below each graph is a sequence logo representing the relative usage of each base at each position in splice sites across the genome. While GT and AG are invariant, other positions display variable conservation of the consensus nucleotide.

Figure 5. Nucleotide conservation among high and low PSI exons across multiple tissue types. (A) Exon PSI for skeletal, left ventricular, and right atrial tissue samples is shown. One hundred and seventy-seven exons had $\text{PSI} \geq 0.90$ in all three tissues, whereas 58 exons had $\text{PSI} < 0.7$ in all tissue types. (B) Sequence motifs for the donor sites of high and low PSI exons. The conservation of guanine at the +5 position was strongly associated with exon inclusion ($p=9.1\text{e-}09$). (C) Sequence motifs for the acceptor sites of high and low PSI exons. The presence of cytosine at the -3 position promoted exon inclusion ($p=7.4\text{e-}35$). Sequence logos were created using WebLogo (<https://weblogo.berkeley.edu/logo.cgi>). PSI=Proportion Spliced In.