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T-cell growth factor: Complete nucleotide sequence and organization of the gene in normal and malignant cells

(gene structure/human DNA library screening/lymphokines/interleukin 2)

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ABSTRACT Using a cloned cDNA copy of T-cell growth factor (TCGF) mRNA from the Jurkat leukemic T-cell line, we have isolated three overlapping *TCGF* genomic clones from a human DNA library. The entire *TCGF* gene is contained within two adjacent *EcoRI* fragments spanning about 8 kilobases. The complete nucleic acid sequence was determined. The gene is divided into four exons. The 5' untranslated region and the first 49 amino acids of the protein, 20 of which constitute a signal polypeptide and are not present in the secreted protein, are encoded by the first exon. Exons 2 and 3, separated from each other by a long intervening sequence, contain coding information for the next 20 and 48 amino acids, respectively. The remaining 36 amino acids and the 3' untranslated region are contained in the fourth exon. A promoter sequence T-A-T-A-A-A is present 77 base pairs (bp) upstream from the translation initiation site, and a CAT homology region occurs 104 bp upstream from the initiation site. A putative site for initiation of mRNA transcription was identified 53 bp 5' of the translation initiation codon. The organization of the gene was shown by Southern blot analysis to be identical in normal peripheral blood lymphocytes and in a variety of malignant lymphoid cell types. Restriction analysis of these cellular DNAs produced results exactly as predicted by the map for the cloned genomic *TCGF*, indicating that there is only a single copy of the human *TCGF* gene.

T-cell growth factor (TCGF), also known as interleukin 2 (IL-2), is a protein produced by T lymphocytes that is capable of initiating and maintaining long term *in vitro* growth of activated T cells (1). TCGF was first shown to be released into media from lectin-stimulated human peripheral blood and bone marrow T-cell cultures, but it has since been shown to be present in other mammalian systems (1, 2). Human TCGF has been purified to homogeneity and has a molecular weight of about 15,000 (3-5). Taniguchi *et al.* (6) recently reported the first cloning and nucleotide sequence of the cDNA coding for TCGF from the human Jurkat leukemic T-cell line. The cDNA codes for a protein of 153 amino acids, the first 20 of which appear to constitute a signal polypeptide and do not appear in the secreted protein (6).

Because it plays a key regulatory role in mediating T-cell proliferation, TCGF has been suggested as a possible treatment for immunodeficiency syndromes as well as a means of obtaining large numbers of tumor-specific cytotoxic cells for immunotherapy of malignancy. Mitogens such as phytohemagglutinin and concanavalin A induce TCGF production in human T lymphocytes (3, 7). Phorbol myristic acetate by itself does not induce TCGF production, but it greatly enhances the induction by mitogen (3, 7). An understanding of

the processes involved in the mitogenic stimulation of TCGF activity would surely contribute to our overall understanding of T-cell differentiation. To investigate the molecular mechanisms through which mitogens induce TCGF we have cloned the gene from a human DNA library. We report the complete nucleotide sequence of the gene for TCGF and its organization in normal and malignant cells.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

Preparation and Screening of a cDNA Library for TCGF. Polyadenylated TCGF RNA was prepared (8) from the human Jurkat leukemic T-cell line after stimulating the cells for 6 hr with phytohemagglutinin (1.5 μ g/ml) and phorbol myristic acetate (50 ng/ml). The RNA was fractionated on a sucrose density gradient and TCGF mRNA activity was monitored by translation in a rabbit reticulocyte lysate and immunoprecipitation of TCGF using a monoclonal antibody to TCGF (9). Double-stranded cDNA was prepared and the cDNA was inserted into pBR322 at the *Pst* I site using the standard G-C tailing method (10). The library was screened for TCGF sequences after transformation into *Escherichia coli* HB101 using an 18-mer synthetic oligonucleotide probe (G-C-A-C-C-T-A-C-T-T-C-A-A-G-T-T-C-T) from positions 108-125 of the reported sequence of TCGF cDNA (6). Colonies grown overnight on nitrocellulose filters overlying LB agar containing tetracycline (20 μ g/ml) were lysed as described by Thayer (11). Filters were hybridized overnight at 50°C with the probe end-labeled with [γ -³²P]ATP in 6 \times NET (1 \times NET is 0.15 M NaCl/0.015 M Tris-HCl, pH 7.5/0.001 M EDTA), 5 \times Denhardt's solution (1 \times Denhardt's solution is 0.02% bovine serum albumin/0.02% Ficoll/0.02% polyvinylpyrrolidone)/0.5% Nonidet P-40/10% (vol/vol) dextran sulfate/salmon sperm DNA (250 μ g/ml). The filters were washed at 0°C with four changes each in 6 \times standard saline citrate (1 \times standard saline citrate is 0.15 M NaCl/0.015 M sodium citrate, pH 7.2) for a total of 20 min, then at 50°C for 1 min in 6 \times standard saline citrate.

Isolation and Mapping of the Gene. Approximately 1 \times 10⁶ plaques from three human genomic libraries were screened by the Benton-Davis procedure (12) using the ³²P-labeled cDNA probe for TCGF. DNA was prepared from plaque-purified clones according to Maniatis *et al.* (13). Restriction endonuclease digestions were carried out on the resulting samples according to the manufacturers' instructions and samples were analyzed on 0.8-1.2% agarose gels. The structural organization of the *TCGF* gene in normal peripheral blood lymphocytes and various malignant lymphoid cell types was examined by hybridization of cellular DNA to ³²P-labeled TCGF cDNA using the standard Southern blot procedure (14).

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Abbreviations: TCGF, T-cell growth factor; bp, base pair(s); kb, kilobase(s).

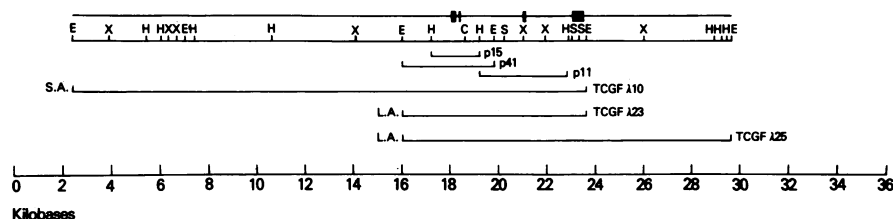


FIG. 1. Restriction map of human *TCGF*. *TCGF* λ10, λ23, and λ25 were isolated from a human DNA library in Charon 4A. The 2.1-kilobase (kb) *HindIII* fragment (p15), 3.7-kb *EcoRI* fragment (p41), and 3.6-kb *HindIII* fragment (p11) were subcloned into pBR322 for DNA sequence analysis. The locations of exons are indicated by black rectangles. E, *EcoRI*; H, *HindIII*; C, *ClaI*; S, *StuI*; X, *XbaI*. The sequence is represented from 5' to 3' going left to right.

DNA Sequence Analysis. DNA nucleotide sequences were determined by the dideoxynucleotide termination method of Sanger *et al.* (15) after subcloning restriction endonuclease fragments into M13-mp8, mp9, mp10, and mp11 phage vectors. Sequences were analyzed and compared on an IBM system 370 computer using the program described by Queen and Korn (16).

mRNA Sequence Analysis and Identification of the Transcription Initiation Site. A 5' ³²P-end-labeled 31-base-pair (bp) fragment from the *TCGF* cDNA beginning just after the translation initiation codon and extending 3' was isolated by cleavage of the cDNA with *DdeI* and *RsaI*. This fragment was used as a primer for mRNA sequence analysis following the procedure of Bina-Stein *et al.* (17).

Materials. Human spleen, placental, and peripheral blood lymphocyte genomic libraries were graciously provided by P. Leder, T. Maniatis, and E. Benz, respectively. DNA polymerase and DNase I were from Boehringer Mannheim; restriction endonucleases were from Bethesda Research Laboratories, New England BioLabs and Boehringer Mannheim; T₄ DNA ligase, M13 phage vectors, T₄-polynucleotide kinase, and unlabeled deoxynucleotide triphosphates and dideoxynucleotide triphosphates were from P-L Biochemicals; and [γ- and α-³²P]deoxynucleotide triphosphates were from Amersham.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Isolation and Sequence of cDNA Clones for *TCGF*. Of >6000 cDNA clones tested for hybridization to the synthetic oligonucleotide probe based on the published *TCGF* cDNA sequence only 2 positives were detected. Neither of these clones, which were 420 and 450 bp long, contained the complete cDNA sequence. Nucleic acid sequence analysis showed them both to contain the 5' portion of the message with sequence identical to that reported by Taniguchi *et al.* (6). The 420-bp clone started at the same place as the clone reported by Taniguchi and extended to position 420 of that clone. The 450-bp clone contained a few more residues 5' to the 420-bp clone and extended farther 3'. The fact that both of these clones contained the 5' end rather than 3' portion of the cDNA, is likely due to selection of this region, because

the synthetic probe we used was directed toward the 5' end of the message. Rescreening of the 6000 clones with these partial cDNAs did not produce any other positive clones.

Isolation and Characterization of Genomic Clones. Approximately 10⁶ plaques from three different human genomic libraries in bacteriophage Charon 4A were screened for *TCGF* using the cDNA probe. We were unsuccessful in isolating the gene from two of these libraries (spleen and placental). However, three overlapping clones containing the entire *TCGF* gene and 5'- and 3'-flanking regions were isolated from the peripheral blood lymphocyte library (Fig. 1). These are designated λ23, λ10, and λ25. Digestion of these clones with restriction endonucleases and hybridization with a ³²P-labeled cDNA probe showed the gene to be contained within two contiguous *EcoRI* fragments of ≈3700 bp each. Two *HindIII* sites were shown to occur in one of these, while the other contained a single *HindIII* site. These sites were used to subclone the regions containing *TCGF* into pBR322, generating the three overlapping subclones p15, p41, and p11. Further analysis of these subclones with a variety of restriction endonucleases and their known sites of cleavage in the cDNA allowed the proper orientation of the two *EcoRI* fragments and the construction of the map of the gene shown in Fig. 1.

Sequence and Structure of the Isolated *TCGF* Gene. A combination of directed and nondirected strategies was used to determine the sequence of the *TCGF* gene (Fig. 2). The entire sequence is shown in Fig. 3. The gene is 5040 bp long. The sequence includes 292 nucleotides upstream from the translation initiation site and extends 297 bp downstream from the polyadenylation signal. Consistent with other genes, a promoter sequence T-A-T-A-A-A occurs 77 bp upstream from the translation initiation site. A CAT homology region, also implicated in the regulation of other genes, occurs 104 nucleotides upstream from the translation initiation site. To determine the site at which transcription is initiated, we analyzed the sequence of *TCGF* mRNA by extension of a 31-bp primer using reverse transcriptase. The primer, complementary to the beginning of the coding region just after the translation initiation site, was annealed to total Jurkat poly(A) RNA, and extended by incorporation of deoxy- and dideoxynucleotides. Analysis of the products indicates that

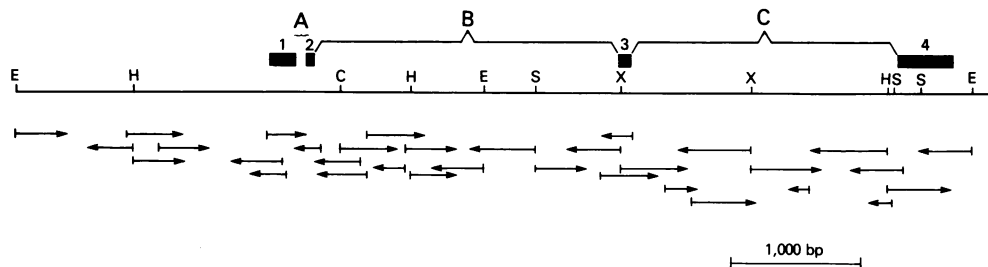


FIG. 2. Sequence analysis strategy for the human *TCGF* gene. The locations of the exons are indicated by black rectangles. Symbols for the endonuclease restriction sites are the same as for Fig. 1. The introns are labeled A, B, and C. Arrows indicate the direction and length of the clones used for sequence analysis.

10 20 30 40 50 60 70 80 90 100 110
 CGAATTC CCC TATCACCTAA GTGTGGGCTA ATGTAACAAA GAGGGATTTC ACCTACATCC ATTCACTCAG TCTTTGGGGG TTAAAGAAA TTCAAAGAG TCATCAGAAG
 120 130 140 150 160 170 180 190 200 210
 AGGAAAAATG AAGGTAATGT TTTTTCAGAC TGTGAAAGTC TTTGAAAAATA TGTGTAATAT GTAAACATT TTGACACCCC CATAATATTT TTCCAGAATT
 220 230 240 250 260 270 280 290 307
 AACAGTATAA ATTGCATCTC TTGTTCAAGA GTTCCTATC ACTCTTTAAT CACTACTCAC AGTAACCTCA ACTCCTGCCA CA ATG TAC AGG ATG CAA CTC
 MET Tyr Arg Met Gln Leu
 322 337 352 367 382 397
 CTG TCT TGC ATT GCA CTA AGT CTT GCA CTT GTC ACA AAC AGT GCA CCT ACT TCA AGT TCT ACA AAG AAA ACA CAG CTA CAA CTG GAG
 Leu Ser Cys Ile Ala Leu Ser Leu Ala Leu Val Thr Asn Ser Ala Pro Thr Ser Ser Thr Lys Lys Thr Gln Leu Gln Leu Glu
 412 427 449 459 469 479 489 499
 CAT TTA CTG CTG GAT TTA CAG ATG ATT TTG AAT GGA ATT AAT GTAAGTATAT TTCCTTTCTT ACTAAAATTA TTACATTAG TAATCTAGCT GGAGATCATT
 His Leu Leu Leu Asp Leu Gln Met Ile Leu Asn Gly Ile Asn
 509 519 529 544 559 574 589
 TCTTAATAAC AATGCATTAT ACTTTCCTAG AAT TAC AAG AAT CCC AAA CTC ACC AGG ATG CTC ACA TTT AAG TTT TAC ATG CCC AAG AAG
 Asn Tyr Lys Asn Pro Lys Leu Thr Arg Met Leu Thr Phe Lys Phe Tyr Met Pro Lys Lys
 599 609 619 629 639 649 659 669 679 689 699
 GTAAGTACAA TATTTTATGT TCAATTTCTG TTTTAATAAA ATTCAAAGTA ATATGAAAAT TTGCACAGAT GGGACTAATA GCAGCTCATC TGAGGTAAAG AGTAACTTTA
 709 719 729 739 749 759 769 779 789 799 809
 ATTTGTTTT TTGAAAACCC AAGTTTGATA ATGAAGCCTC TATTAAACA GTTTTACCTA TATTTTAAAT ATATATTGTG GTGTGTGGTG GGGTGGGAGA AAACATAAAA
 819 829 839 849 859 869 879 889 899 909 919
 ATAATATTCT CTCACCTTAT CGATAAGACA ATTCTAAACA AAAATGTGCA TTTATGGTTT CATTTAAAAA TGTAAAACTC TAAAATATTT GATTATGTCA TTTTAGTATG
 929 939 949 959 969 979 989 999 1009 1019 1029
 TAAAATACCA AAATCTATT CCAAGGAGCC CACTTTTAAA AATCTTTTCT TGTTTTAGGA AAGGTTTCTA AGTGAGAGGC AGCATAACAC TAATAGCACA GAGTCTGGGG
 1039 1049 1059 1069 1079 1089 1099 1109 1119 1129 1139
 CCAGATATCT GAAGTGAAAT CTCAGCTCTG CCATGTCCTA GCTTTCATGA TCTTTGGCAA ATTACCTACT CTGTTTGTGA TTCAGTTTCA TGTCTACTTA AATGAATAAC
 1149 1159 1169 1179 1189 1199 1209 1219 1229 1239 1249
 TGTATATCT TAATATGGCT TTGTGAGAAT TAGTAAGTAA ATGTAAAGCA CTCAGAACC GGTCTGGCAT AAGGTAAATA CCATACAAGC ATTAGCTATT ATTAGTAGTA
 1259 1269 1279 1289 1299 1309 1319 1329 1339 1349 1359
 TTAAAGATAA AATTTTCACT GAGAAATACA AAGTAAATTT TTGGACTTTA TCTTTTACC AATAGAACTT GAGATTATA ATGCTATATG ACTTATTTTC CAAGATTAAA
 1369 1379 1389 1399 1409 1419 1429 1439 1449 1459 1469
 AGCTTCATTA GGTGTTTTT GGATTGAGT AGAGCATAAG CATAATCATC CAAGCTCCTA GGCTACATTA GGTGTGTAAA GCTACCTAGT AGCTGTGCCA GTTAAGAGAG
 1479 1489 1499 1509 1519 1529 1539 1549 1559 1569 1579
 AATGAACAAA ATCTGGTGCC AGAAGAGCT TGTGCCAGGG TGAATCCAAG CCCAGAAAAT AATAGGATT T AAGGGGACAC AGATGCAATC CCATTGAGCT AAATCTATT
 1589 1599 1609 1619 1629 1639 1649 1659 1669 1679 1689
 AATTCAAGAG AAATCTGCTT CTAACCTACC TTCTGAAAGA TGTAAGAGAG ACAGCTTACA GATGTTACTC TAGTTTAATC AGAGCCACAT AATGCAACTC CAGCAACATA
 1699 1709 1719 1729 1739 1749 1759 1769 1779 1789 1799
 AAGATACTAG ATGCTGTTTT CTGAAGAAAA TTTCTCCACA TTGTTCATGC CAAAACCTTA AACCCGAATT TGTAGAAATT GTAGTGGTGA ATTGAAGCGC CAATAGATGG
 1809 1819 1829 1839 1849 1859 1869 1879 1889 1899 1909
 ACATATCAGG GGATTGGTAT TGTCTTGACC TACCTTTCCC ACTAAAGAGT GTTAGAAAGA TGAGATTATG TGCATAAATT AGGGGTGTA GAATTCATGG AAATCTAAGT
 1919 1929 1939 1949 1959 1969 1979 1989 1999 2009 2019
 TTGAAACCAA AAGTAATGAT AAATCTTATT CATTGTGTTA TTAAACCTC ATTGCACATT TACAAAAGAT TTTAGAACT AATAAAAAATA TTTGATTCCA AGGATGCTAT
 2029 2039 2049 2059 2069 2079 2089 2099 2109 2119 2129
 GTTAATGCTA TAATGAGAAA GAAATGAAAT CTAATTCTGG CTCTACCTAC TTATGTGGTC AAATCTGAG ATTTAGTGTG CTTATTATA AAGTGAGAT GATACTTCAC
 2139 2149 2159 2169 2179 2189 2199 2209 2219 2229 2239
 TGCCTACTTC AAAAGATGAC TGTGAGAAGT AAATGGGCCT ATTTGGGAGA AAATCTTTT AAATGTAAAT ATACCATAGA AATATGAAAT ATTATATATA ATATAGAATC
 2249 2259 2269 2279 2289 2299 2309 2319 2329 2339 2349
 AAGAGGCCTG TCCAAAGTC CTCCCAAGT ATTATAATCT TTTATTTCAC TGGGACAAAC ATTTTAAAAA TGCATCTTAA TGTAGTGATT GTAGAAAAGT AAAAAATTTAA
 2359 2369 2379 2389 2399 2409 2419 2429 2439 2449 2459
 GACATATTTA AAAATGTGTC TTGCTCAAGC CTATATTGAG AGCCACTACT ACATGATTAT TGTACCTAG TGTAAATGT TGGGATTGTG ATAGATGGCA TCCAAGAGTT
 2469 2479 2489 2499 2509 2519 2529 2539 2549 2559 2569
 CCTCTCTCT CAACATTCTG TGATTCTTAA CTCTTAGACT ATCAAAATAT ATAATCATAG AATGTGATT TTTAGCTTC CACATTCTAA TCTCATCTGG TTCTAATGAT
 2579 2589 2599 2609 2619 2629 2639 2649 2659 2669 2679
 TTTCTATGCA GATTGAGAAA GTAATCAGCC TACATCTGTA ATAGGCATT AGATGCAGAA AGTCTAACAT TTTGCAAGC CAAATTAAGC TAAACCAGT GAGTCAACTA
 2689 2699 2709 2719 2729 2739 2749 2759 2769 2779 2789
 TCACTTAACG CTAGTCATAG GTACTTGAGC CCTAGTTTT CCAGTTTTAT AATGTAAACT CTACTGGTCC ATCTTTACAG TGACATTGAG AACAGAGAGA ATGGTAAAAA
 2799 2809 2819 2829 2839 2849 2859 2869 2879 2896
 CTACATACTG CTACTCCAAA TAAAAATAA TGGAAATTAA TTTCTGATT TGACCTCTAT GTAAACTGAG CTGATGATAA TTATTATTCT AG GCC ACA GAA CTG AAA
 Ala Thr Glu Leu Lys

(Fig. 3 continues on the next page.)

2911	2926	2941	2956	2971	2986
CAT CTT CAG TGT CTA GAA GAA GAA CTC AAA CCT CTG GAG GAA GTG CTA AAT TTA GCT CAA AGC AAA AAC TTT CAC TTA AGA CCC AGG GAC					
His Leu Gln Cys Leu Glu Glu Glu Lys Pro Leu Glu Glu Val Leu Asn Leu Ala Gln Ser Lys Asn Phe His Leu Arg Pro Arg Asp					
3001	3016	3035	3045	3055	3065
TTA ATC AGC AAT ATC AAC GTA ATA GTT CTG GAA CTA AAG GTAAGGCATT ACTTTATTG CTCTCCTGGA AATAAAAAA AAAAAGTAGG GGGAAAAAGTA					
Leu Ile Ser Asn Ile Asn Val Ile Val Leu Glu Leu Lys					
3095	3105	3115	3125	3135	3145
CCACATTTTA AAGTGACATA ACATTTTGG TATTTGTAAA GTACCCATGC ATGTAATTAG CCTACATTTT AAGTACACTG TGAACATGAA TCATTTCTAA TGTAAATGA					
3205	3215	3225	3235	3245	3255
TTAACTGGGG AGTATAAGCT ACTGAGTTTG CACCTACCAT CTACTAATGG ACAAGCCTCA TCCCAAACCT CATCACCTTT CATATTAACA CAAAAGTGG AGTGAGAGAG					
3315	3325	3335	3345	3355	3365
AAGTGACTGA GTTGAGTTTC ACAGAAACGC AGGCAAGATT TTATTATATA TTTTCAAGT TCCTTCACAG ATCATTACTT GGAATAGCCA ATACTGAGTT ACCTGAAAGG					
3425	3435	3445	3455	3465	3475
CTTTTCAAAT GGTGTTTCCT TATCATTGTA TGAAGGACT ACCATAAGA GATTGTGCTT AAAAAAATA ACTGGAGCCA TTAATAATGG CAGTGGACTA AACAAACAAC					
3535	3545	3555	3565	3575	3585
AATCTTTTGA GAGGCAATCC CACTTTCAGA ATCTTAAGTA TTTTAAATG CACAGGAAGC ATAAATATG CAAGGGACTC AGGTGATGTA AAAGAGATTC ACTTTGTCT					
3645	3655	3665	3675	3685	3695
TTTATATACC CGTCTCTTAA GGTATAAAAT TCATGAGTTA ATAGGTATCC TAAATAAGCA GCATAAGTAT AGTAGTAAAA GACATTCCTA AAAGTAATCT CAGTTGTGTC					
3755	3765	3775	3785	3795	3805
CAATGAATC ACTTATTAGT GGACTGTTTC AGTGAATTA AAAAAATACA TTGAGATCAA TGTCATCTAG ACATTGACAG ATTCAAGTCC TTATCTATGG CAAGAGTTTT					
3865	3875	3885	3895	3905	3915
ACTCTAAAT AATTAACATC AGAAAACTCA TTCTTAACTC TTGATACAAA TTTAAGACAA AACCATGCAA AAATCTGAAA ACTGTGTTTC AAAAGCCAAA CACTTTTAA					
3975	3985	3995	4005	4015	4025
AATAAAAAA TCCCAAGATA TGACAATATT TAAACAATTA TGCTTAAGAG GATACAGAAC ACTGCAACAG TTTTAAAAA GAGAATACCT ATTTAAAGGG AACACTCTAT					
4085	4095	4105	4115	4125	4135
CTCACCTGCT TTTGTTCCCA GGGTAGGAAT CACTTCAAAAT TTGAAAGCT CTCTTTTAAA TCTCACTATA TATCAAAATA GTTGCTCTCT TAGCTTATCA ACTAGAGGAA					
4195	4205	4215	4225	4235	4245
GCGTTTAAAT AGCTCCTTTC AGCAGAGAAG CCTAATTCTT AAAAAAGCAG TCCACAGAAC AAAATTCTTA ATGTTTAAAG CTTTAAAAA TTGGCAAATT CACCTGCATT					
4305	4315	4325	4335	4345	4355
GATACTATGA TGGGGTAGGG ATAGGTGTAAT GTATTATGA AGATGTTCAT TCACACAAAT TTACCCAAAC AGGAAGCATG TCCTACCTAG CTACTCTAG TGTAGCTCGT					
4415	4425	4435	4445	4455	4465
TTGCTCTTG GGGAAATAT AAGGAGATTC ACTTAAGTAG AAAAAATAGGA GACTCTAATC AAGATTAGA AAAGAAGAAA GTATAATGTG CATATCAATT CATACATTTA					
4525	4535	4545	4555	4565	4575
ACTTACACAA ATATAGGTGT ACATTGAGAG GAAAAGCGAT CAAGTTTATT TCACATCCAG CATTTAATAT TTGTCTAGAT CTATTTTAT TTAATCTTT ATTTGCACCC					
4635	4645	4655	4665	4675	4685
AATTTAGGGA AAAAATTTT GTGTTCATTG ACTGAATTAA CAAATGAGGA AAATCTCAGC TTCTGTGTTA CTATCATTG GTATCATAC AAAATACGCA ATTTTGGCAT					
4745	4755	4765	4775	4785	4795
TCATTTTGAT CATTTCAGA AAATGTGAAT AATTAATATG TTTGTAAGC TTGAAAAATA AGGCAACAGG CCTATAAGAC TTCAATTGGG AATAACTGTA TATAAGGTAA					
4855	4865	4875	4885	4901	4916
ACTACTCTGT ACTTTAAAA ATTAACATTT TTCTTTATA G GGA TCT GAA ACA ACA TTC ATG TGT GAA TAT GCT GAT GAG ACA GCA ACC ATT GTA GAA					
Gly Ser Glu Thr Thr Phe Met Cys Glu Tyr Ala Asp Glu Thr Ala Thr Ile Val Glu					
4946	4961	4976	4991	5004	5014
TTT CTG AAC AGA TGG ATT ACC TTT TGT CAA AGC ATC ATC TCA ACA CTG ACT <u>TGATAATTAA</u> GTGCTTCCCA CTAAAAACAT ATCAGGCCTT					
Phe Leu Asn Arg Trp Ile Thr Phe Cys Gln Ser Ile Ile Ser Thr Leu Thr					
5044	5054	5064	5074	5084	5094
CTATTTATTT AAATATTAA ATTTTATATT TATTGTTGAA TGTATGGTTT GCTACCTATT GTAACATTA TTCTTAATCT TAAAACTATA AATATGGATC TTTTATGATT					
5154	5164	5174	5184	5194	5204
CTTTTGTAA GCCCTAGGG CTCTAAATG GTTTCACCTA TTTATCCCAA AATATTATT ATTATGTTGA ATGTTAAATA TAGTATCTAT GTAGATTGGT TAGTAAACT					
5264	5274	5284	5294	5304	5314
<u>ATTTAATAAA</u> TTTGATAAAT ATAAACAAGC CTGGATATTT GTTATTTGG AAACAGCACA GAGTAAGCAT TTAAATATTT CTAGTTACT TGTGTGAAC GTAGGATGTT					
5374	5384	5394	5404	5414	5424
TAAATGCTT ACAAAGTCA CTCCTTCTCT GAAGAAATAT GTAGAACAGA GATGTAGACT TCTCAAAGC CCTTGCTTTG TCCTTCAAG GGCTGATCAG ACCCTTAGTT					
5484	5494	5504	5514	5524	5534
CTGGCATCTC TTAGCAGATT ATATTTCTCT TCTTCTTAAA ATGCCAAACA CAAACACTCT TGAACCTCT CATAGATTG GTGTGGC					

FIG. 3. DNA sequence of the human *TCGF* gene. The amino acid sequences encoded by exons of *TCGF* are shown below the DNA sequences. The 3'- and 5'-untranslated regions are underlined. The T-A-T-A-A box, putative transcription initiation site, translation initiation codon, termination codon, and polyadenylation signal are enclosed in rectangles.

transcription starts 53 nucleotides from the translation initiation site. Consistent with these findings, an A (indicated in Fig. 2), which occurs at most transcription initiation sites, is present at this position.

Comparison of the human genomic *TCGF* sequence with that of the cDNA revealed that the gene is divided into four exons separated by intervening sequences. Exon 1 contains the 5'-nontranslated region and codes for the first 49 amino

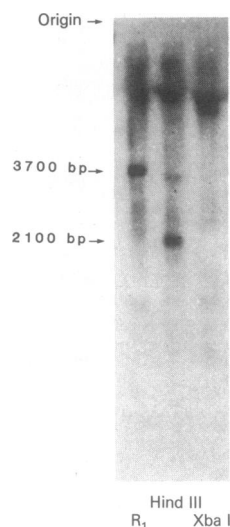


FIG. 4. Southern blot analysis of the *TCGF* gene in cellular DNA. Cellular DNA (10 μ g) prepared from normal peripheral mononuclear cells of an individual and digested with *Eco*RI (R_1), *Hind*III, and *Xba* I was fractionated on an agarose gel, transferred to nitrocellulose paper, and hybridized with a 32 P-labeled *TCGF* cDNA probe.

acids of *TCGF*, 20 of which constitute the putative signal polypeptide (6). An intervening sequence of 91 bp separates this exon from exon 2, 60 bp long, which codes for the next 20 amino acids. The second and third exons are separated by a long intervening sequence of 2292 bp. Exon 3 (144 bp), which codes for the next 48 amino acids, is again followed by a long intervening sequence 1364 bp long. The fourth and final exon codes for the remaining 36 amino acid residues followed by the termination codon TGA. The polyadenylation signal occurs 261 nucleotides after the termination codon. The consensus sequences, A-G and G-T, occur at the 5' and 3' exon-intron junctions, respectively, in all cases. A single difference in the nucleotide sequence of the gene coding for *TCGF* and that reported for the cDNA by Taniguchi *et al.* (6) was noted. Those workers reported an A at position 503 of their cDNA clone. This corresponds to position 4879 of our genomic sequence, where we find a G residue. Either nucleotide results in a codon for leucine. Computer analysis of the sequence revealed no segments of repetitive sequence within the introns.

It is worth noting that several regions of homology with a number of different potential enhancer core elements are present in the second intron. These include position 678–691 homologous with the Mo-MSV core sequence (18), position 1430–1440 homologous with the SV40 core element (19), position 1514–1527 homologous with the SNV element (20), and position 1702–1715 homologous with the mouse Ig heavy-chain core element (21).

The *TCGF* Gene in Normal and Malignant Cells. The organization of *TCGF* in cellular DNAs prepared from peripheral blood lymphocytes of 6 normal individuals, lymphoma tissue from 15 patient specimens, epithelial thymoma tissue from 1 patient specimen, and 7 cell lines was compared by Southern blot analysis after digestion of the DNA with the restriction endonucleases *Eco*RI, *Hind*III, and *Xba* I. The lymphoma tissues included 14 B- and 1 T-cell malignancies. The cell lines included the following: 4 MLA (gibbon ape T cell) subclones, 2 Jurkat (human T cell) subclones, and 1 HUT (human T-cell leukemia virus infected T-cell line) subclone. The findings were similar in all cases examined and a representative Southern blot is shown in Fig. 4. The restriction fragments hybridizing to the cDNA clone are precisely those predicted from the map in Fig. 1. The 900-bp *Xba* I fragment hybridizes weakly, because it has only 124 nucleotides ho-

mologous to the cDNA. The 4000-bp *Xba* I fragment and the 5000-bp *Hind*III fragment (Fig. 2) do not hybridize, because our cDNA has only 16 nucleotides from the fourth exon and therefore would not be expected to form a stable hybrid to this exon under the highly stringent conditions used. Since all of the restriction fragments hybridizing to the cDNA can be explained by the locus shown in Fig. 1, it is likely there is only a single copy of the human *TCGF* gene and in the limited number of malignant cells examined, the gene is not rearranged. This latter point must be qualified by the recognition that we have not examined a large number of malignant human T cells and that a more extensive survey is essential.

Although it is clear that *TCGF* plays a key role in mediating the T-cell proliferation that results from activation of T cells by mitogen, nothing is known of the molecular mechanisms associated with these processes. With the organization and sequence of the *TCGF* gene established, we are now in a position to study directly at the genomic level how mitogens regulate *TCGF*. Such studies should lead to an increased understanding of T-cell differentiation.

Note Added in Proof. Fujita *et al.* (22) also recently reported the complete nucleotide sequence for human *TCGF*. It is valuable to compare these two sequences obtained by different sequencing procedures as there are a number of small discrepancies, particularly within the third intron. There are no discrepancies in the coding or enhancer-like sequences.

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