



# EIF2S2 Retroposition into IRF2BP2 Underlies Fleece Variation in Sheep through the Formation of a Long Endogenous Double-Stranded RNA

Julie Demars, Margarita Cano, Laurence Drouilhet, Stéphane Fabre, Bertrand Servin, Philippe Mulsant, Gwenola Tosser-Klopp, Daniel Allain

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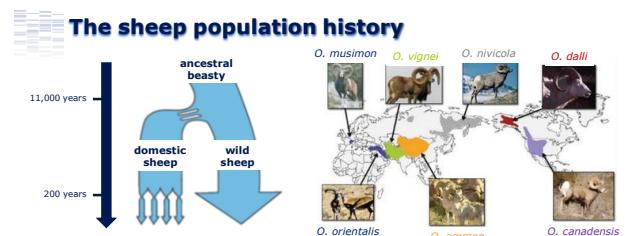
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**EIF2S2 retroposition into *IRF2BP2* underlies fleece variation in sheep through the formation of a long endogenous double-stranded RNA**

J. Demars, M. Cano, L. Drouilhet, S. Fabre, B. Servin, P. Mulsant, G. Tosser and D. Allain

Abstract W132  
PAGXXV - Cattle/Sheep/Goat Workshop  
Sunday, January 15, 2017

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**The sheep population history**

11,000 years  
200 years

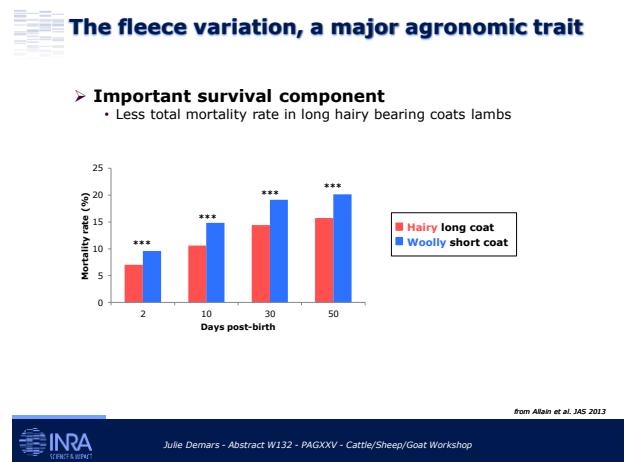
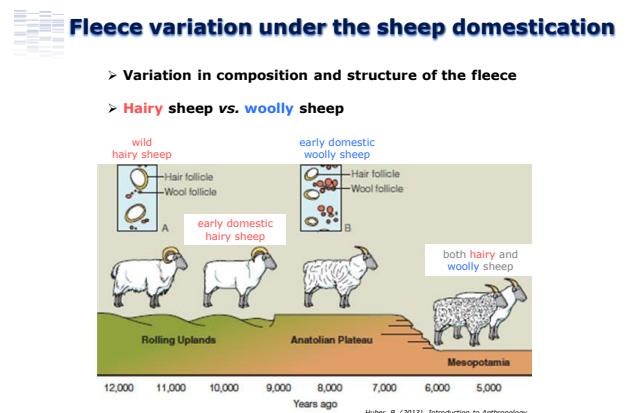
ancestral beast  
domestic sheep  
wild sheep

O. musimon O. vignei O. nivicola O. dalli  
O. orientalis O. ammon O. canadensis

fine wool size, meat carpet wool  
milk tropically adapted colour morphs

➤ Multiple domestication events  
➤ Morphological traits modifications  
adapted from Kijas (PAG XVIII) and Rezaei et al. Mol Phylogenet Evol. 2010

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## The fleece variation, a major agronomic trait

### ➤ Important survival component

- Less total mortality rate in long hairy bearing coats lambs
- More heat losses in woolly bearing coat lambs
- Long hairy coat lambs are more resistant to weather changes

### ➤ Heritability of lamb birthcoat type

- Binary trait, heritability = 0.85
- Continuous trait, heritability = 0.56

### ➤ Sheep breeding permanent outdoor

- Economical and agronomical trait = Importance to use in selection
- French Romane breed, high productive potential breed

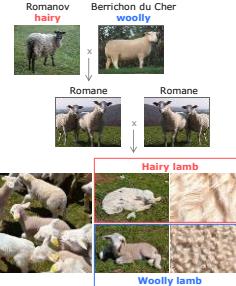


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## Description of the study design

### A familial strategy

The French Romane breed



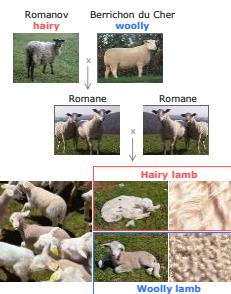
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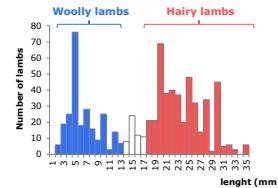


#### • Animals

Half-sib QTL design in Romane  
8 sires Romane \* dams Romane

#### • Phenotype

Length of lamb's fleece (quantitative)  
Type of lamb's fleece (binary)

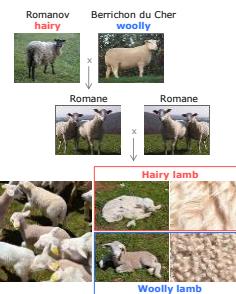


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Length of lamb's fleece (quantitative)  
Type of lamb's fleece (binary)

#### • Genotype

OvineSNP50 Genotyping BeadChip (n = 759)  
Ovine Infinium® HD SNP BeadChip (n = 135)

#### • Methodology

Imputation  
Genome-Wide Association Analysis (GWAS)  
Linkage Analysis



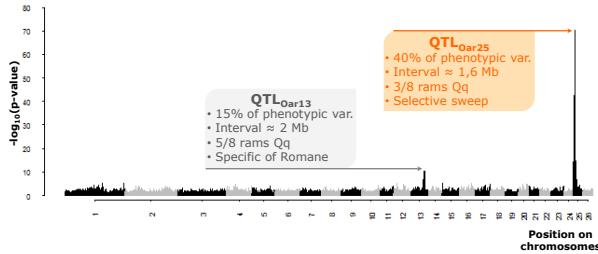
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## Two loci underlie fleece variation in Romane

### ➤ Genetic determinism

- 66% of hairy lambs vs. 33% of woolly lambs
- **Hairy dominant allele from Romanov (Q)**
- **Woolly recessive allele from Berrichon du Cher (q)**



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## Fine-mapping of the QTL<sub>Oar25</sub>

### A familial strategy

The French Romane breed

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8 sires Romane \* dams Romane

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Length of lamb's fleece (quantitative)  
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#### • Genotype

OvineSNP50 Genotyping BeadChip (n = 759)  
Ovine Infinium® HD SNP BeadChip (n = 135)

#### • Methodology

Identity By State Haplotype Identification

### A population strategy

Ancestral species and French breeds

#### • Hairy ancestral species

*Ovis orientalis* (n = 15)  
*Ovis musimon* (n = 18)  
*Ovis canadensis* (n = 3)  
*Ovis dalli* (n = 2)

#### • Hairy domestic breeds

(6 breeds and 116 individuals)  
Causse du Lot, Corse, Limousine, Manech tête rousse, Rava, **Romanov**

#### • Woolly modern breeds

(18 breeds and 402 individuals)  
**Berrichon du Cher**, Blanche du Massif Central, Charmoise, Charollais, Île-de-France, Lacaune (lait), Lacaune (viande), **Mérino d'Ariès**, Mérino de Ramillat, Mourreux, Ouessant, Prépaïs du Sud, Rouge de l'Ouest, Roussin de la Hague, Suffolk, Tarasconnaise, Texel, Vendée



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## The insertion discriminates hairy / woolly sheep

Breed	Genotyped animals (n)	Phenotype	Frequency ( <i>IRF2BP2<sup>wt</sup></i> )	Frequency ( <i>IRF2BP2<sup>asEIF2S2</sup></i> )
Ovis orientalis	15	Hairy	1.00	
Ovis aries	18	Hairy	1.00	
Ovis canadensis	3	Hairy	1.00	
Ovis dalli	2	Hairy	1.00	
Causses du Lot	20	Hairy	0.85	0.15
Corinne	16	Hairy	1.00	
Limousine	18	Hairy	0.94	0.06
Manech tête rousse	25	Hairy	1.00	
Rava	19	Hairy	0.92	0.08
Romanov	18	Hairy	0.94	0.06
	154		<b>0.96</b>	0.04
Berrichon du Cher	35	Woolly	1.00	
Blanche du Massif Central	20	Woolly	1.00	
Charollais	22	Woolly	1.00	
Charollais	22	Woolly	1.00	
Île-de-France	23	Woolly	1.00	
Lacauane (lait)	35	Woolly	1.00	
Lacauane (Viande)	34	Woolly	1.00	
Mérino d'Alpes	18	Woolly	1.00	
Mérino de Rambouillet	27	Woolly	1.00	
Mourerous	16	Woolly	0.06	0.94
Ouessant	18	Woolly	1.00	
Provençal du Sud	17	Woolly	0.03	0.97
Rouge de l'Ouest	16	Woolly	1.00	
Roussin de la Hague	21	Woolly	1.00	
Suffolk	18	Woolly	1.00	
Tarasconnaise	15	Woolly	1.00	
Texel	24	Woolly	0.04	0.96
Vendéen	21	Woolly	1.00	
	402		0.01	<b>0.99</b>



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## The *IRF2BP2/asEIF2S2* mRNA is transcribed

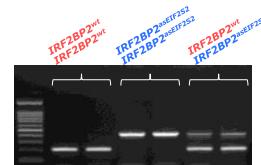
### • The *IRF2BP2* transcript



### • The chimeric *IRF2BP2/asEIF2S2* transcript



### • Genotyping of RNA extracted from skin



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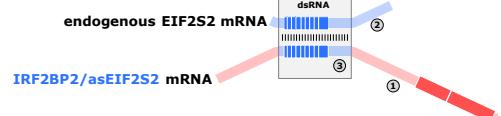


## A double-stranded EIF2S2 RNA is created



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## A double-stranded EIF2S2 RNA is created



### ► RNaseA protection assay

- ribonuclease that cleves only ssRNA (EIF2S2 dsRNA is protected)
- *IRF2BP2<sup>wt</sup>/IRF2BP2<sup>wt</sup>* versus *IRF2BP2<sup>asEIF2S2</sup>/IRF2BP2<sup>asEIF2S2</sup>*



## A double-stranded EIF2S2 RNA is created



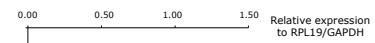
### ► RNaseA protection assay

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- *IRF2BP2<sup>wt</sup>/IRF2BP2<sup>wt</sup>* versus *IRF2BP2<sup>asEIF2S2</sup>/IRF2BP2<sup>asEIF2S2</sup>*

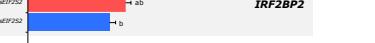


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## The dsRNA alters EIF2S2 and IRF2BP2 stability



*IRF2BP2*



*genuine EIF2S2*



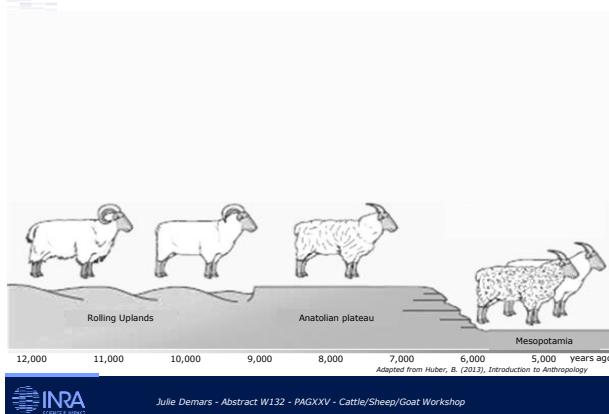
*asEIF2S2 retrogene*



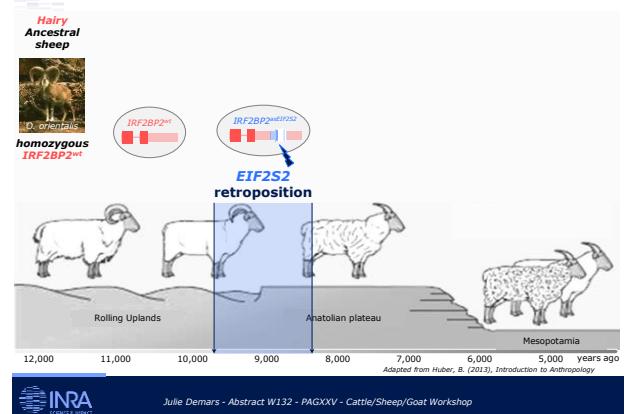
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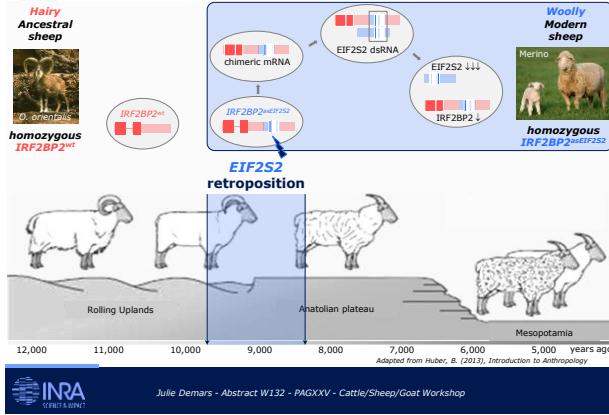
## To conclude ...



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## To conclude ...



A future **permanent position** is still under evaluation  
in the **Animal Genetic Division**  
of the **French National Institute for Agricultural Research**

How epigenetic mechanisms contribute to  
the determinism of agronomic importance traits ?

- GenPhySE lab, INRA, Toulouse, France  
<http://genphuse.toulouse.inra.fr/groups/genepi>
- GenEpi group, Juliette Riquet  
[juliette.riquet@inra.fr](mailto:juliette.riquet@inra.fr)
- INRA job opportunities, news at the end of january  
<http://jobs.inra.fr/en/Career-opportunities/Researchers/Research-scientists>



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