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INK and ARF in chicks

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The mammalian *CDKN2A* locus contains a gene that encodes two unrelated proteins: the cyclin-dependent kinase inhibitor p16^{INK4a} and ARF, a regulator of p53 stability. In the Early Edition of the *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences* Kim *et al.* report that the chicken genome lacks an INK4a orthologue and has a truncated *ARF* gene (*Proc Natl Acad Sci USA* 2002, 10.1073/pnas.0135557100). Sequencing of genomic and cDNA clones revealed the structure around the chicken *CDKN2A* locus. The chicken genome lacks the INK4a-specific primary exon1 α . Furthermore, splicing of the chicken ARF transcript generates a stop codon and a truncated 60-residue protein. This truncated chicken ARF protein was localized to the nucleolus and increased p53 stability in human cells.

References

1. The INK4a/ARF network in tumour suppression.
2. *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*, [<http://www.pnas.org>]