

Transcriptional Regulatory Elements and Transcription Factors That Control Kaposi's Sarcoma Human Virus Genes.

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Kaposi's sarcoma human virus (KSHV) is a tumor developing agent that belongs to the human herpes virus 8 family. Functional studies of KSHV indicate that its genes interfere with established tumor suppressor pathways, modify the host cellular environment, and thus contribute to the pathogenesis of KSHV-associated disorders. We are currently endeavoring to identify the transcriptional sites and factors that are involved in regulating the KSHV genome. In reaching this goal we have characterized the upstream regions of all the protein coding genes. These upstream sequences will be loaded into a web program that will identify transcription factors by comparing them against the database of known transcription factors. With the identification of these transcription factors we hope to better understand the regulation and infection of the Kaposi virus.