In Situ hybridisation (ISH)

ISH for LGR5expression was performed as previously described (Baker et al. 2015) on 5 μm sections using the RNAscope 2.5 High Definition Brown assay according to the manufacturer’s instructions (Advanced Cell Diagnostics, Hayward, CA). Briefly, samples were baked at 60 °C for 1 hour, followed by de-paraffinisation and incubation with Pretreat 1 buffer for 10 minutes at room temperature (RT). Slides were boiled in Pretreat 2 buffer for 15 minutes, followed by incubation with Pretreat 3 buffer for 15 minutes at 40°C. Slides were incubated with the relevant probes for 2 hours at 40 °C, followed by successive incubations with Amp 1 to 6 reagents. Staining was visualised with 3,3′-diaminobenzine (DAB) 20 minutes, then lightly counterstained with Gill's haemotoxylin. RNAscope probes used were LGR5 ([{"type":"entrez-nucleotide","attrs":{"text":"NM\_003667.2","term\_id":"24475886","term\_text":"NM\_003667.2"}}NM\_003667.2](https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/nuccore/NM_003667.2), region 560–1589, catalog number 311021), POLR2A (positive control probe, [{"type":"entrez-nucleotide","attrs":{"text":"NM\_000937.4","term\_id":"306482654","term\_text":"NM\_000937.4"}}NM\_000937.4](https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/nuccore/NM_000937.4), region 2514–3433, catalog number 310451) and dapB (negative control probe, [{"type":"entrez-nucleotide","attrs":{"text":"EF191515","term\_id":"124441914","term\_text":"EF191515"}}EF191515](https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/nuccore/EF191515), region 414–862, catalog number 310043) (Supplementary figure 1). LGR5expression was quantified according to the five-grade scoring system recommended by the manufacturer and previously described(Baker et al. 2015)

### Analysis of immunohistochemistry (IHC)

Percentage of nuclear Ki67 immuno-positive cells of any intensity was evaluated as the Ki67-labelling index (Ki67-LI). The entire section was evaluated at × 40 magnification (minimum 25 fields) as previously described(Al Kushi et al. 2002) and the 3 epithelial compartments were scored separately. SOX9 and SSEA-1 immunostaining was assessed by multiplying the proportion of positive cells (0=no staining, 1=25%, 2=50%, 3=75% and 4=100%) by the staining intensity (0=no staining, 1=weak, 2=moderate and 3=strong) giving a final score between 0 and 12(Valentijn et al. 2013). All slides were scored by two independent observers who were blinded to the sample identity.

Systems Biology

A list of all (313) potential transcription factors (TFs) and regulating genes of *LGR5* were generated (Supplementary table II) by amalgamating 3 lists (Supplementary methods); 1.) Over-represented TFs in the human *LGR5* gene promoter constructed with oPPOSUM (<http://www.cisreg.ca/oPOSSUM/>)(Mathew et al. 2016) 2.) All TFs binding to *LGR5* gene promotor identified with Con Tra V3(Broos et al. 2011). 3.) Genes when perturbed (over expression/ knockout/ knockdown) affect the expression of *LGR5,* produced using Nextbio Knockout Atlas application in Illumina’s BaseSpace Correlation Engine (BSCE;(Kupershmidt et al. 2010) software; https://www.illumina.com/informatics/research/biological-data-interpretation/nextbio.html; Illumina, San Diego, CA, USA). The differential expression of the genes in Supplementary table II was examined in the secretory compared with the proliferative menstrual cycle phase in all publically available microarray datasets of normal, premenopausal endometrial samples from women not on hormonal treatments (n=65) (Burney et al. 2007; Talbi et al. 2006; Nguyen et al. 2012; Sigurgeirsson et al. 2017) (Supplementary table III) and in the only published array examining the sorted healthy normal endometrial epithelial side population cells that represent the endometrial epithelial stem cell population, against unsorted epithelial cells (Cervello et al. 2010) (n=8/group; Supplementary table IV) using the BaseSpace Correlation Engine. Genes common to Supplementary table III & IV were uploaded into the ‘Core analysis’ tool of the Ingenuity (IPA) software and upstream analysis was performed to identify progesterone target genes.

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