



Supplementary Figure 2. Comparison of miR-221 expression levels between Kit⁺ and Kit^{neg} subsets of “bottom-of-the-crypt” mouse colon epithelial cells (Epcam⁺, Cd66a^{low}, Cd44⁺), **using reads per million mapped reads (RPM) as a gene-expression metric.** The expression levels of miR-221 were analyzed by microRNA-seq on purified preparations of the two target populations, isolated in pairs from primary mouse colon tissues using *fluorescence activated cell sorting* (FACS). The analysis confirmed that miR-221 expression levels were higher in Epcam⁺, Cd66a^{low}, Cd44⁺, Kit^{neg} cells (a population enriched in Lgr5⁺ cells) as compared to Epcam⁺, Cd66a^{low}, Cd44⁺, Kit⁺ cells (a population enriched in goblet cells). The difference in the log₂ of miR-221 RPM values between the two populations (Kit⁺ vs. Kit^{neg}) was tested for statistical significance using a t-test for paired samples (*p<0.05; one-tailed).