



Figure 10. Transcriptional Repression Determines the Germinal Center B Cell and Plasma Cell Fates

Pax5 and Bcl6 (together with MTA3) regulate the B-cell gene expression program and maintain the GC (germinal center) B-cell fate by transcriptional repression of the plasma cell regulator Blimp1. Strong BCR signaling at the end of GC B-cell development leads to degradation of the Bcl6 protein and concomitant expression of Blimp1, which subsequently represses *Bcl6* and *Pax5* and, together with XBP1, induces the plasma cell transcription program. Blimp1 most likely activates *XBP1* expression indirectly as part of the unfolded protein response, by inducing the expression of secreted immunoglobulins. For detailed description, see text.