

NATIONAL HUMAN GENOME RESEARCH INSTITUTE Division of Intramural Research



*Current Topics in Genome Analysis  
Spring 2008*

*Regulatory and Epigenetic Landscapes of  
Mammalian Genomes*

*Laura Elnitski, Ph.D.*

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES | NATIONAL INSTITUTES OF HEALTH | genome.gov/DIR



## Outline

- I. Global regulatory organization
- II. Techniques for assessing chromosomal interactions
- III. Functional elements
- IV. Pattern searching in the genome
- V. Epigenomics
- VI. Genome methylation
- VII. The landscape of regulatory mutations

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## Elusive Genomic Attributes



- Physical Traits
- Illnesses
- Behaviors



Evolution at two levels in humans and chimpanzees  
King and Wilson  
Science 11 April 1975: 107-116  
DOI: 10.1126/science.1090005

- “the modest divergence observed in protein sequences **cannot** account for the profound phenotypic differences between humans and chimps”

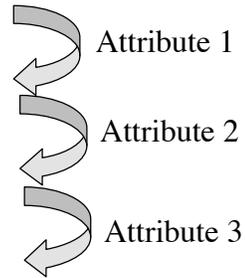
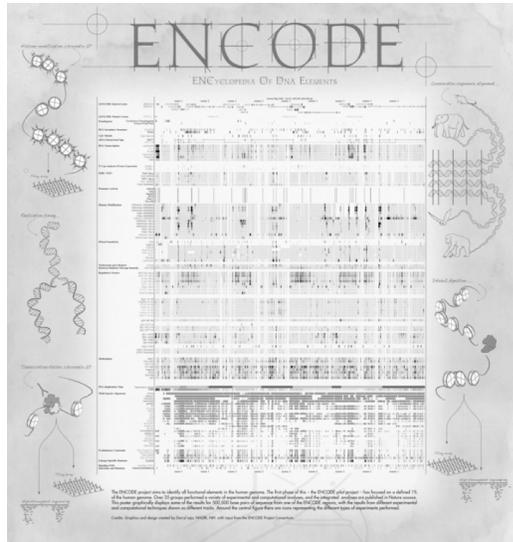
1.5% of the genome contains coding sequences

## Regulatory Influence

Biological processes such as proliferation, apoptosis, differentiation, development, and aging

It is essential to identify **all** the DNA regulatory elements in the human genome

## Deductive Reasoning



## Functional sites

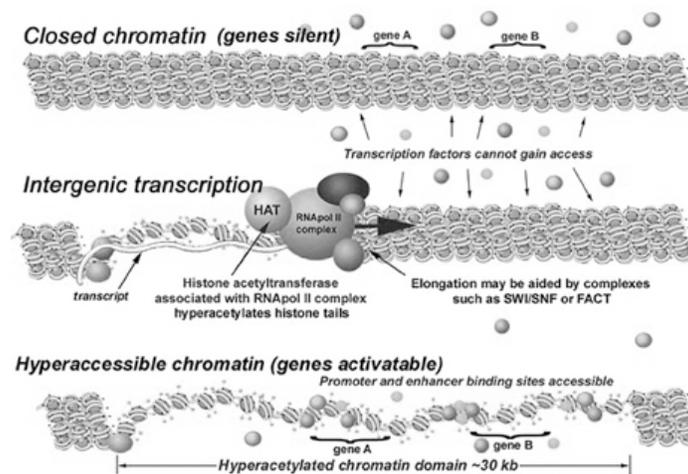
Often presented as  
static images ...

... are dynamic  
processes  
within the cell



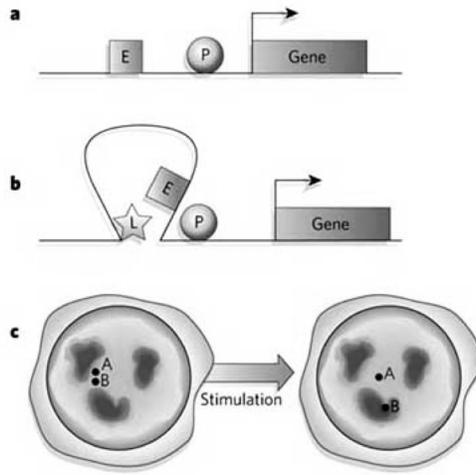
## I. Global regulatory organization

### Linear Concept of Regulation



Peter Fraser

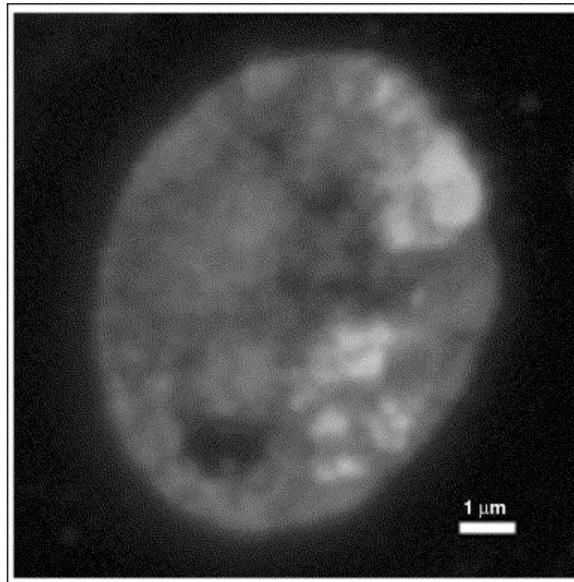
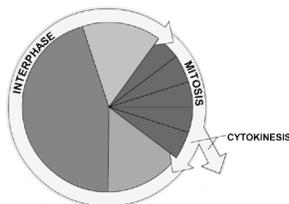
### 3-Dimensional Regulation



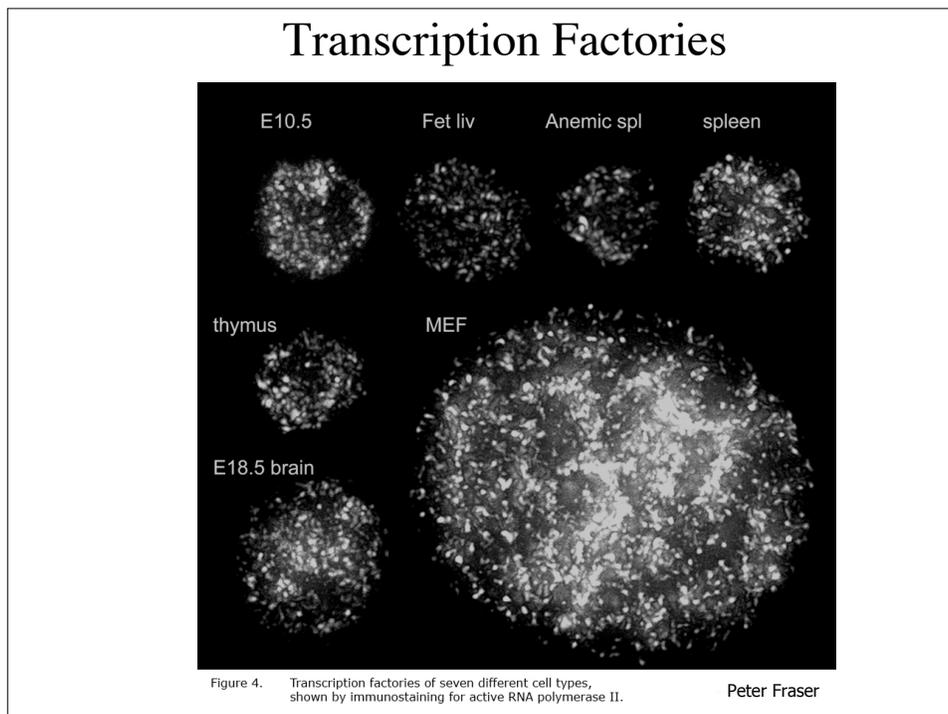
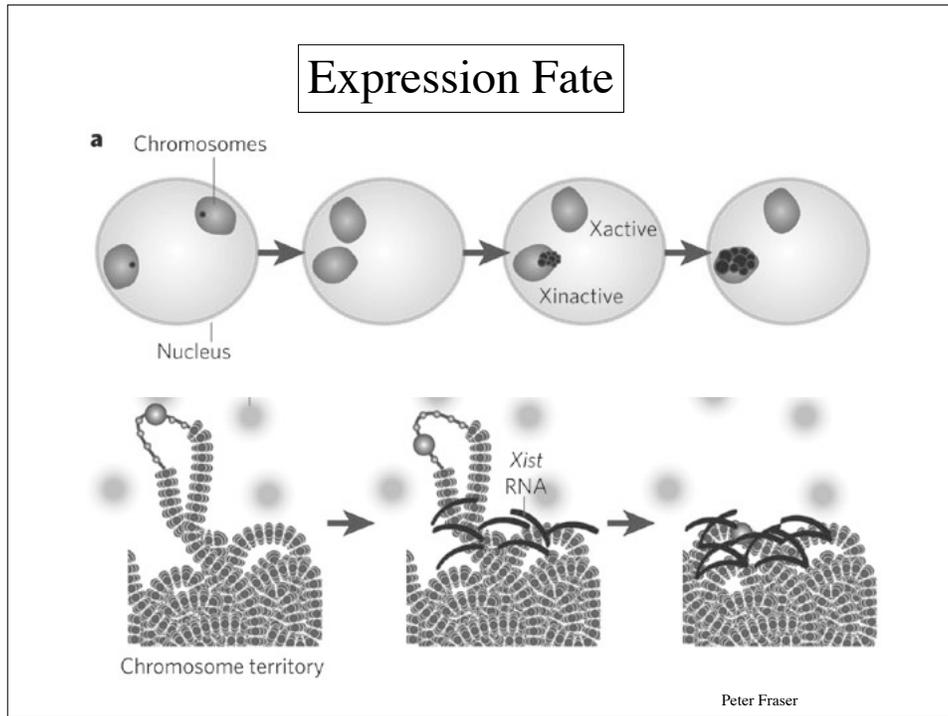
Kioussis, Nature (2005)

### Chromosome Territories

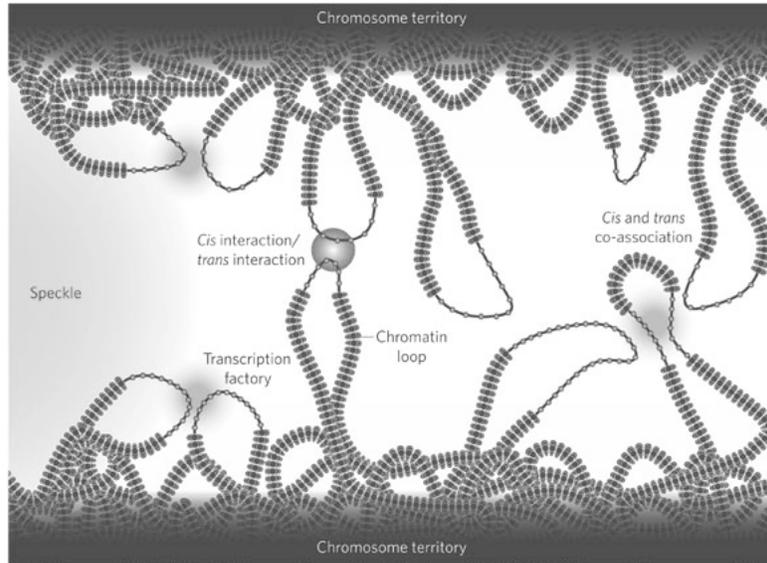
Chromosome 1 = green  
Chromosome 2 = red



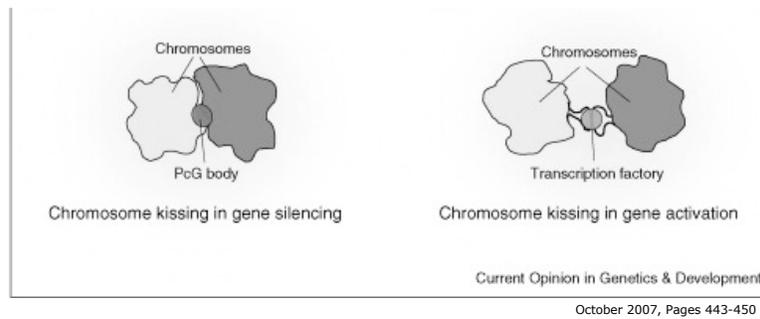
Branco and Pombo, 2007



## Interchromosomal Interactions



## Chromosome Kissing



X-inactivation

T-lymphocyte **activation**

## Types of Chromatin

**Heterochromatin**- a tightly packed form of DNA, aggregates at the periphery of the interphase nucleus

- **Constitutive heterochromatin**
- **Facultative heterochromatin**
- **Euchromatin**

## Types of Chromatin

### **Constitutive heterochromatin**

- stable during all stages of development and in all tissues  
centromeres, telomeres (and pericentromerically)
- tandemly repeated sequences
- gene-poor
- late-replicating

## Types of Chromatin

### **Facultative heterochromatin**

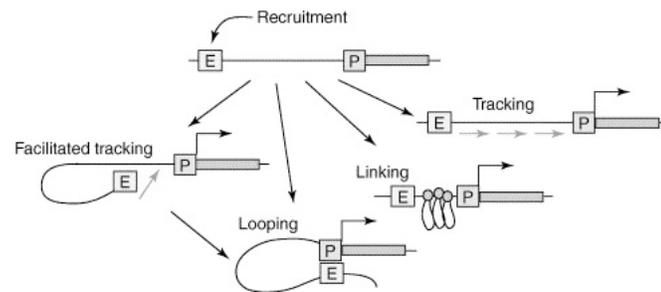
- reversible
- depends on the stage of development or cell type
- The inactive X chromosome
- relatively poor in genes
- these genes are usually not transcribed

## Types of Chromatin

### **Euchromatin**

- lightly stained appearance reflecting its less compact structure
- condensed during mitosis
- gene-rich
- often active transcribed
- early-replicating

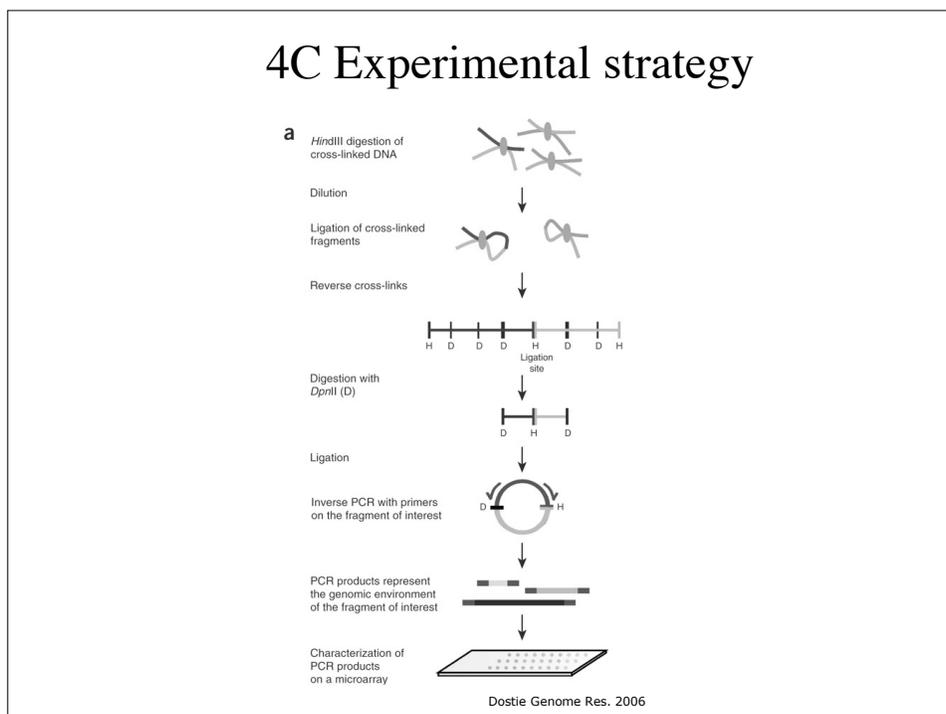
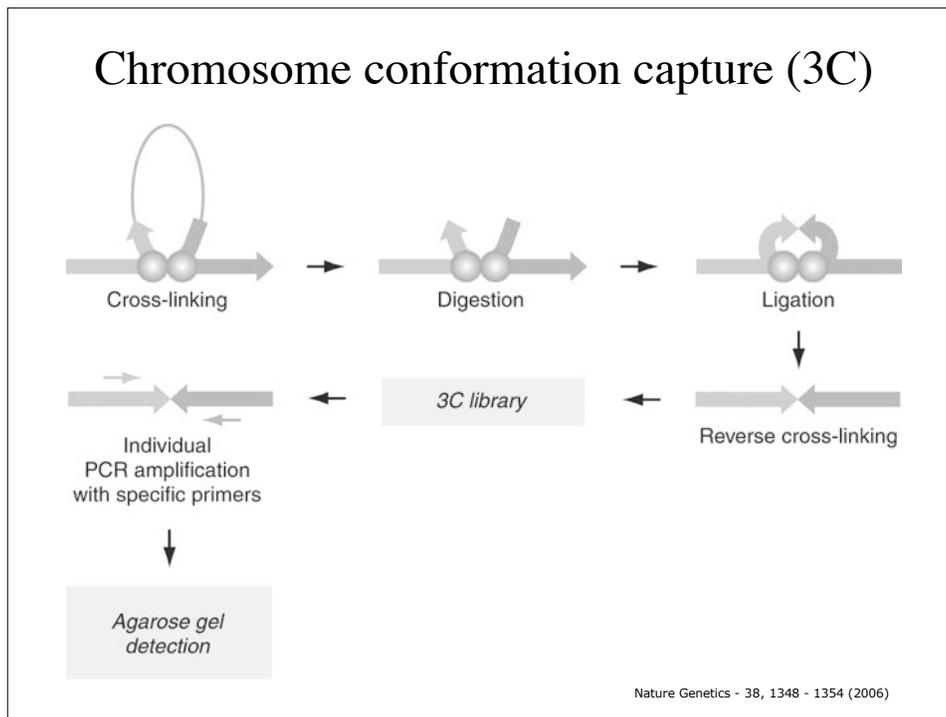
## Intrachromosomal Interactions

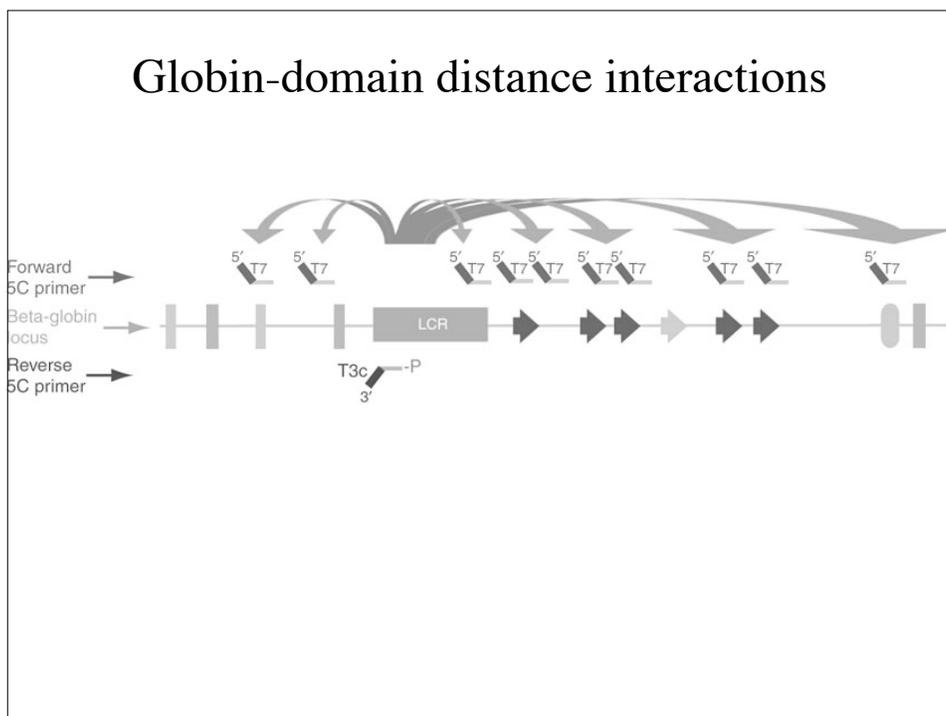
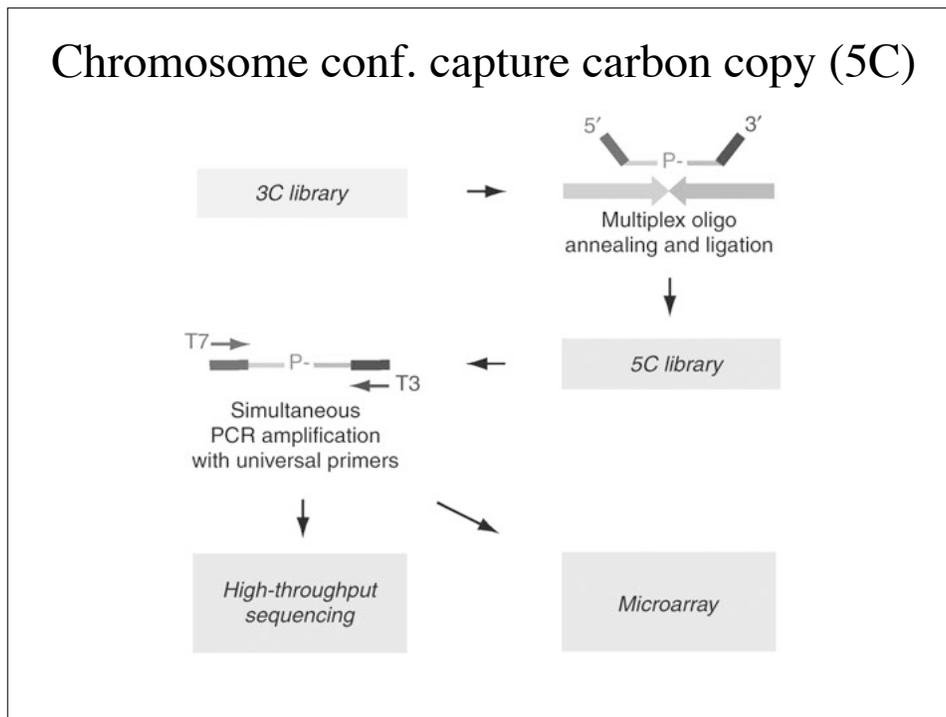


*TRENDS in Genetics*  
Ann Dean, 2005

-Yet another model - ratcheting a gene  
through an immobilized transcription factory

## II. Techniques for assessing chromosomal interactions





### III. Functional Elements

#### Boundary Elements (I)

**Systematic discovery of regulatory motifs in conserved regions of the human genome, including thousands of CTCF insulator sites**

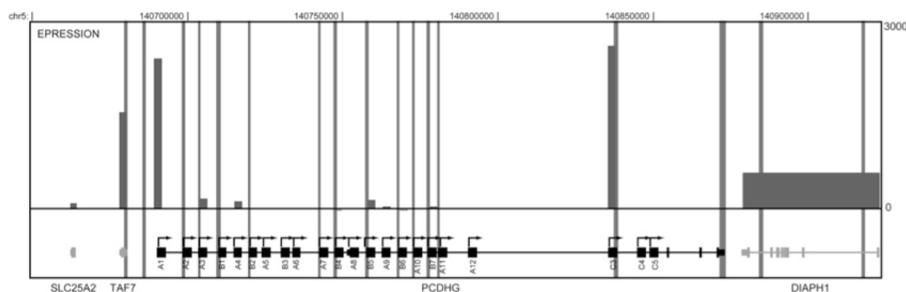
Xiaohui Xie<sup>†</sup>, Tarjei S. Mikkelsen<sup>†‡</sup>, Andreas Gnirke<sup>†</sup>, Kerstin Lindblad-Toh<sup>†</sup>, Manolis Kellis<sup>§</sup>, and Eric S. Lander<sup>†¶||††</sup>

ID	Motif profile	No. of conserved instances
LM1		5,332
LM2		7,549

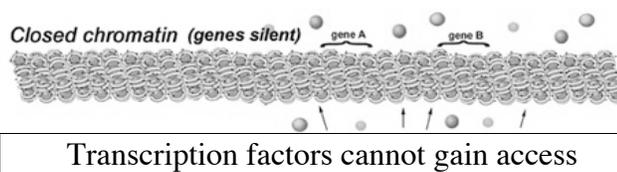
## Boundary Elements (II)

### Analysis of the Vertebrate Insulator Protein CTCF-Binding Sites in the Human Genome

Tae Hoon Kim,<sup>1,5,□</sup> Ziedulla K. Abdullaev,<sup>2</sup> Andrew D. Smith,<sup>3</sup> Keith A. Ching,<sup>1</sup> Dmitri I. Loukinov,<sup>2</sup> Roland D. Green,<sup>4</sup> Michael Q. Zhang,<sup>3</sup> Victor V. Lobanenkov,<sup>2</sup> and Bing Ren<sup>1,□□</sup>



## DNase I Hypersensitivity



- Useful for finding functional regions in a given cell type
- includes all types of functional elements
  - represents removal or modification of histones

OPEN ACCESS Freely available online PLOS GENETICS

## Identification and Characterization of Cell Type-Specific and Ubiquitous Chromatin Regulatory Structures in the Human Genome

Hualin Xi<sup>1</sup>, Hennady P. Shulha<sup>2</sup>, Jane M. Lin<sup>2</sup>, Teresa R. Vales<sup>3</sup>, Yutao Fu<sup>1</sup>, David M. Bodine<sup>4</sup>, Ronald D. G. McKay<sup>5</sup>, Josh G. Chenoweth<sup>5</sup>, Paul J. Tesar<sup>5</sup>, Terrence S. Furey<sup>3</sup>, Bing Ren<sup>6</sup>, Zhiping Weng<sup>1,2\*</sup>, Gregory E. Crawford<sup>3\*</sup>

- On average for each cell type:
  - 32% are **cell type specific**
  - 46% are **common**
  - 22% are **ubiquitous**

## HS sites

DNase I hypersensitive sites

- 22% are ubiquitously present
- 86% near TSS
- 10% bound by CTCF

Cell type-specific sites

- enriched for enhancer elements
- enriched for cell-type specific features & nucleosome modifications

DNase I HS Sites

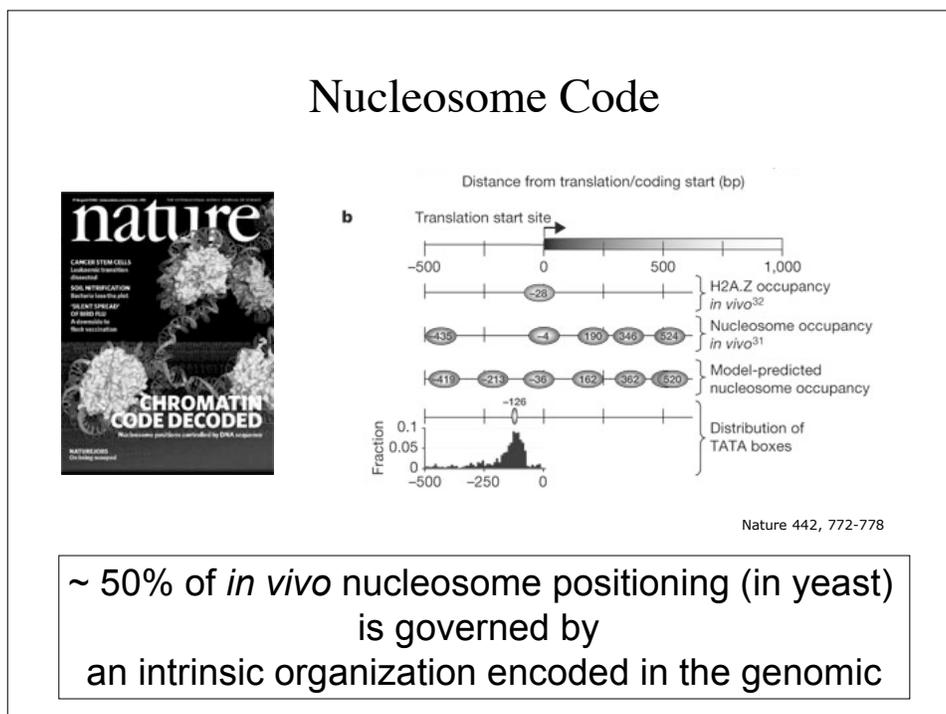
IMR90 CD4 GM06990 HeLa H9 K562

Mapping in all cell types will be important to find cell-type specific regulatory elements

**Table 2. Tissue-Specific DNaseI HS Sites Are Enriched in Motifs I**

Cell Type	TF Motif Group
CD4	TAL1 (T-cell acute lymphocytic leukemia) [25,26], E2A, E12, AP-4, or Lmo2 complex ETS family factors
GM12892	Lmo2 complex, Ebox, E12, or E47
	IPF1
	NF-1
H9 ES	Octamer [29] or Oct-1 Sp-1, KROX, or VDR STAT1, STAT3, STAT6, or TEF-1
	SOX-9
K562	GATA [28] PR or GR GEN_INI
	Tel-2
IMR90	AP-4, Lmo2 complex, myogenin, MyoD, or LBP-1 STAT3, STAT5A, or Ets
	AP-1
	AR
	ER
	TEF-1

These studies implicate 8% of the genome as being functional



## Nucleosome positioning signals in genomic DNA

Heather E. Peckham,<sup>1,2</sup> Robert E. Thurman,<sup>3</sup> Yutao Fu,<sup>1</sup> John A. Stamatoyannopoulos,<sup>4</sup>  
William Stafford Noble,<sup>4,5</sup> Kevin Struhl,<sup>6</sup> and Zhiping Weng<sup>1,2,7</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Bioinformatics Program, Boston University, Boston, Massachusetts 02215, USA; <sup>2</sup>Department of Biomedical Engineering, Boston University, Boston, Massachusetts 02215, USA; <sup>3</sup>Division of Medical Genetics, University of Washington, Seattle, Washington 98195, USA; <sup>4</sup>Department of Genome Sciences, University of Washington, Seattle, Washington 98195, USA; <sup>5</sup>Department of Computer Science and Engineering, University of Washington, Seattle, Washington 98195, USA; <sup>6</sup>Department of Biological Chemistry and Molecular Pharmacology, Harvard Medical School, Boston, Massachusetts 02115, USA

## Genomic Sequence Is Highly Predictive of Local Nucleosome Depletion

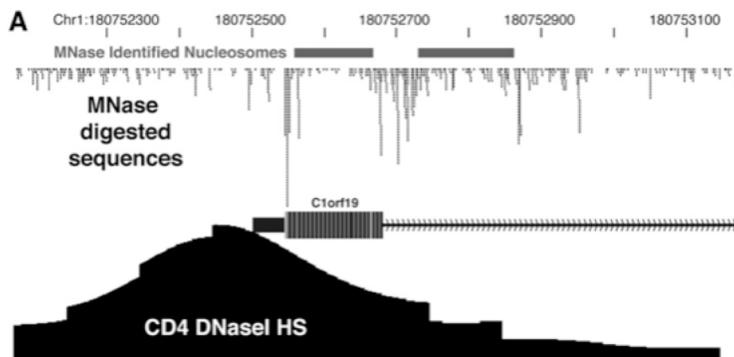
Guo-Cheng Yuan<sup>1,2\*</sup>, Jun S. Liu<sup>1,3\*</sup>

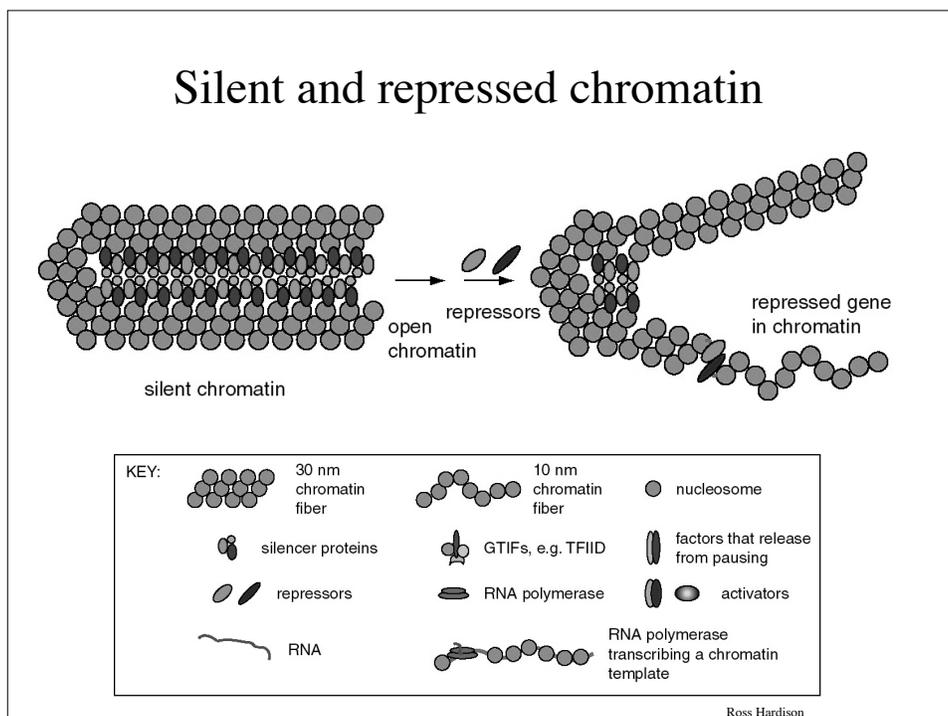
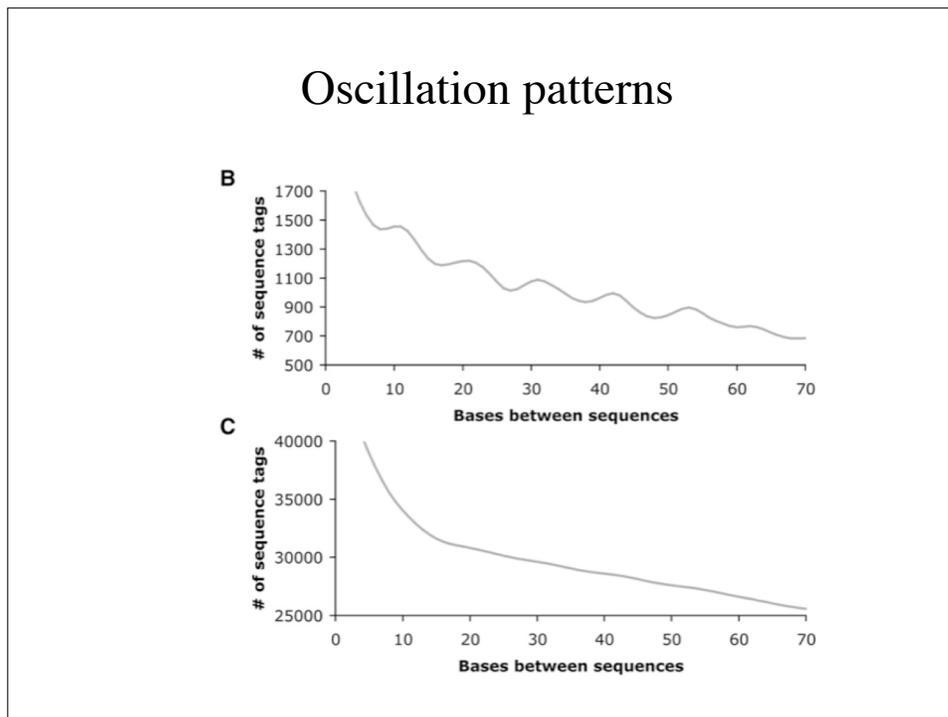
<sup>1</sup> Department of Biostatistics, Harvard School of Public Health, Boston, Massachusetts, United States of America, <sup>2</sup> Department of Biostatistics and Computational Biology, Dana-Farber Cancer Institute, Boston, Massachusetts, United States of America, <sup>3</sup> Department of Statistics, Harvard University, Cambridge, Massachusetts, United States of America

## Mononucleosome Data

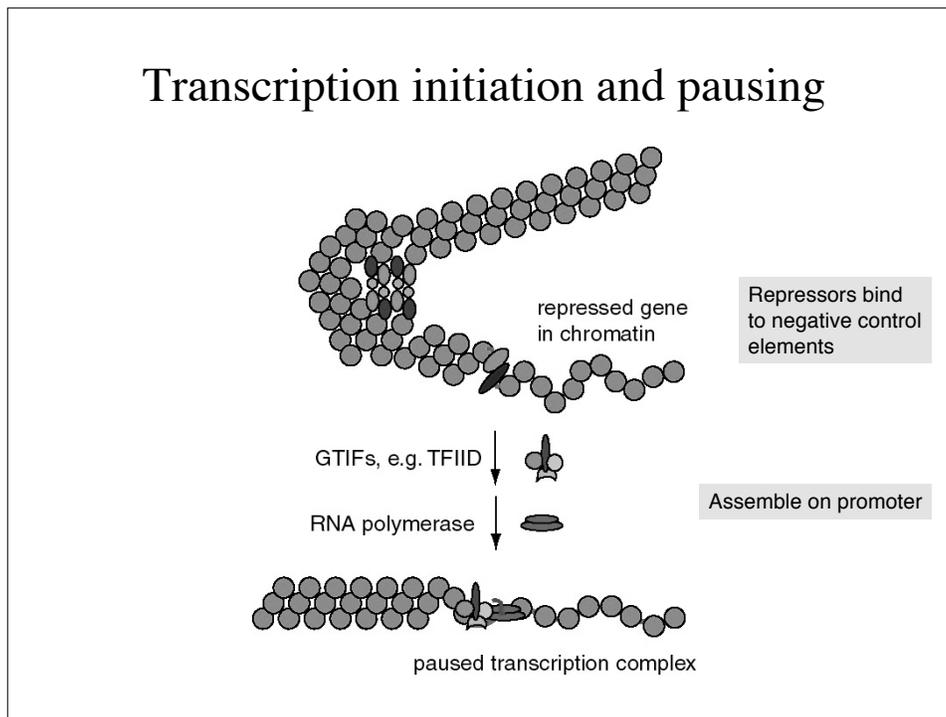
### High-Resolution Mapping and Characterization of Open Chromatin across the Genome

Alan P. Boyle,<sup>1</sup> Sean Davis,<sup>3</sup> Hennady P. Shulha,<sup>2</sup> Paul Meltzer,<sup>3</sup> Elliott H. Margulies,<sup>4</sup> Zhiping Weng,<sup>2</sup>  
Terrence S. Furey,<sup>1,\*</sup> and Gregory E. Crawford<sup>1,\*</sup>

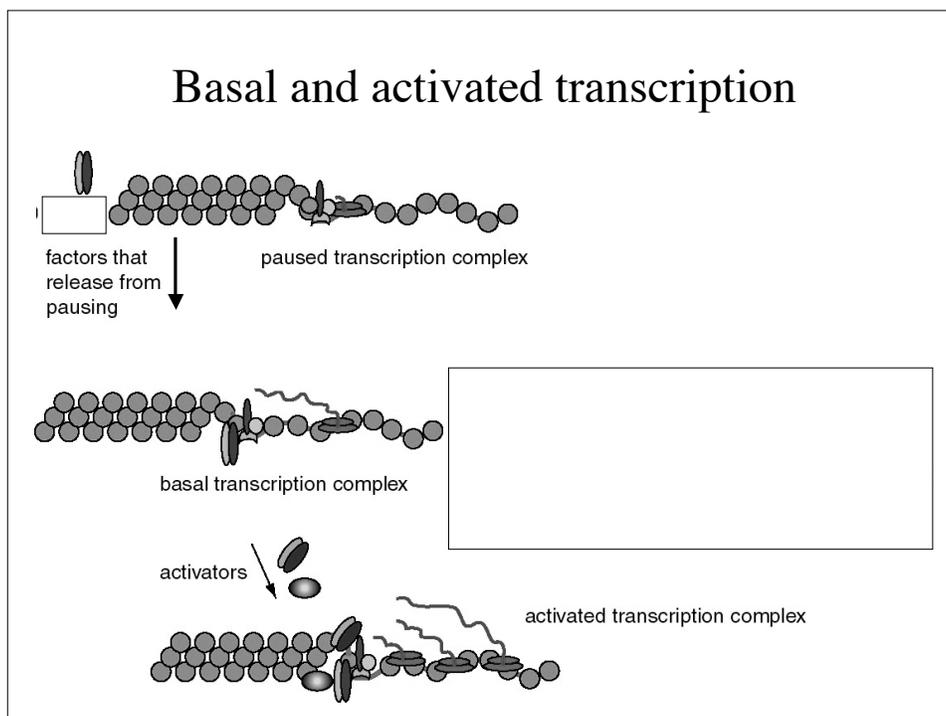




## Transcription initiation and pausing



## Basal and activated transcription

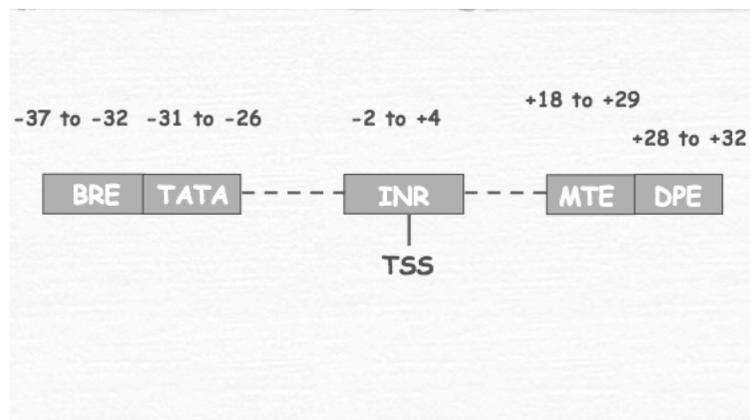


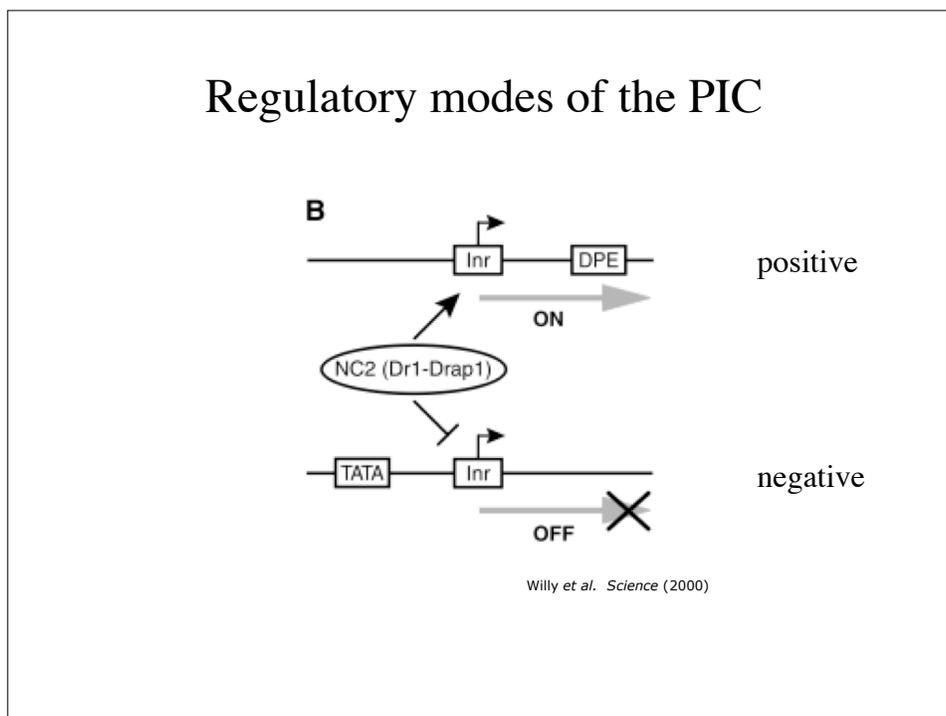
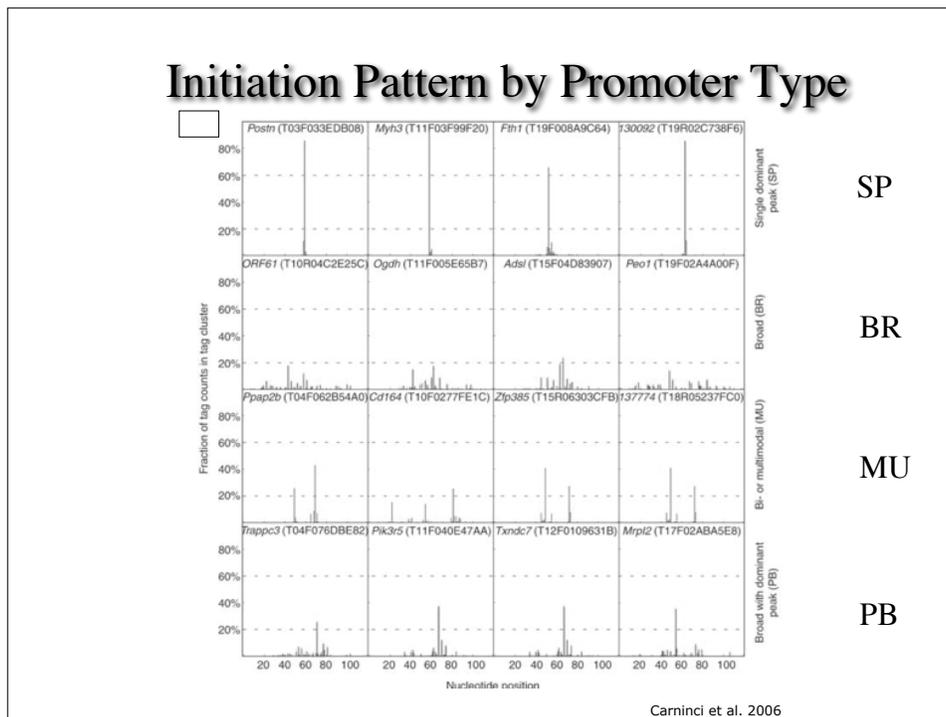
## Mapping promoters

Use collections of mapped transcription start sites (TSSs)

- Categorize by motif composition
- Experimental tests of promoter mechanisms
- Computational identification of new motifs

## Core Promoter Elements

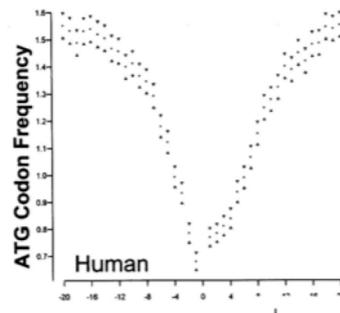




## ATG deserts

### ATG deserts define a novel core promoter subclass

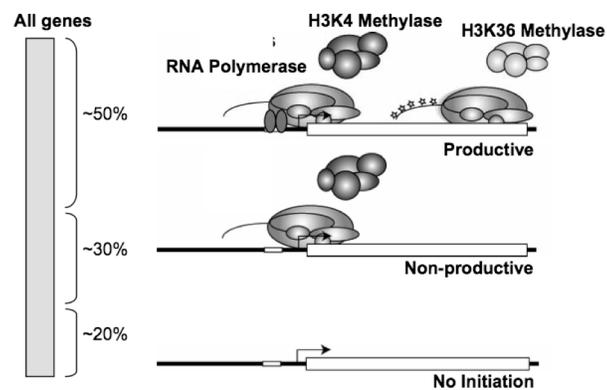
Maxwell P. Lee,<sup>2,3</sup> Kevin Howcroft,<sup>3,4</sup> Aparna Kotekar,<sup>1</sup> Howard H. Yang,<sup>2</sup>  
Kenneth H. Buetow,<sup>2</sup> Dinah S. Singer<sup>1,5</sup>



## PIC Occupancy

### A Chromatin Landmark and Transcription Initiation at Most Promoters in Human Cells

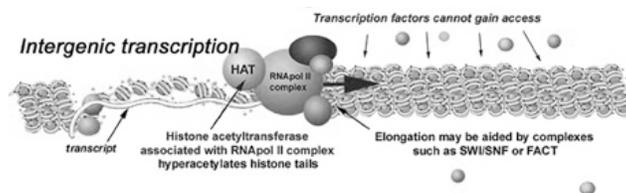
Matthew G. Guenther,<sup>1,3</sup> Stuart S. Levine,<sup>1,3</sup> Laurie A. Boyer,<sup>1</sup> Rudolf Jaenisch,<sup>1</sup> and Richard A. Young<sup>1,2,3</sup>



## Promoter Summary

Limited number of core promoter motifs  
Near transcription start site  
DNase hypersensitive  
Occupied by PIC *in vivo*  
Clusters of binding sites

## Intergenic Transcription



Much of the genome is transcribed

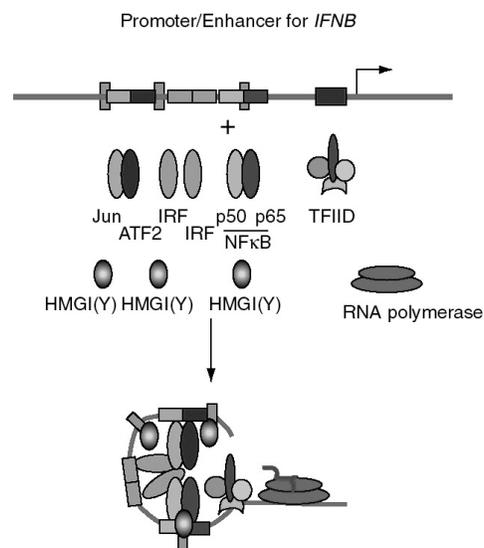
- TARS
- TUFs
- ncRNAs
  - evidence of tracking mechanism?
  - importance of ncRNA?
  - spurious events?

## Enhancers

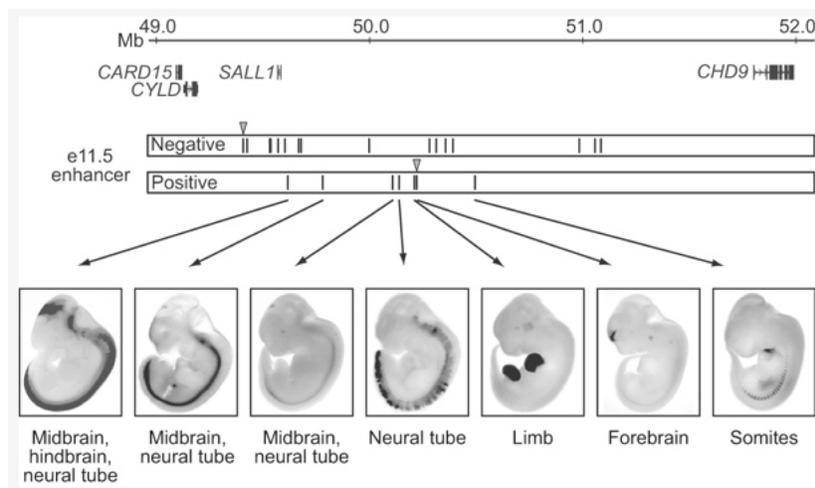
Classically defined as *cis*-acting DNA regulatory elements  
stimulate transcription,  
act independent of their position and orientation

- often encompass repressive sites
- usually defined by DNA sequences
- function as nucleoprotein complexes
- modify chromatin structures
- interact with components of the basal machinery

## Interferon beta Enhancer-Promoter

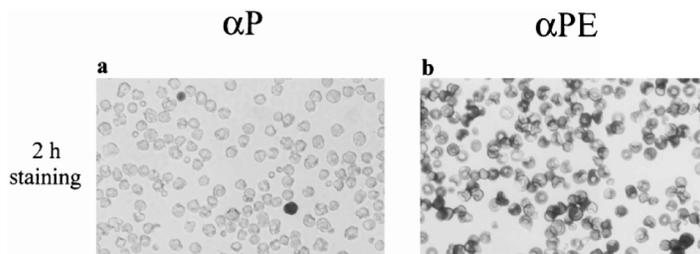
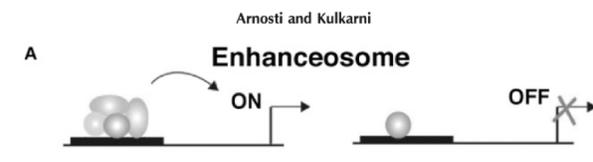


## Conservation Identifies Enhancers



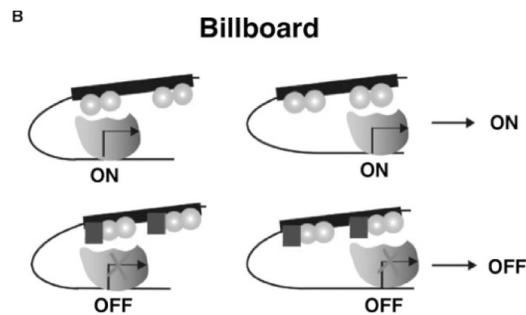
## Binary Function

- The transcription rate of the gene is on or off.
- The enhancer shifts the balance to the active state.



Sutherland et al. MCB (1997)

## Billboard Enhancers

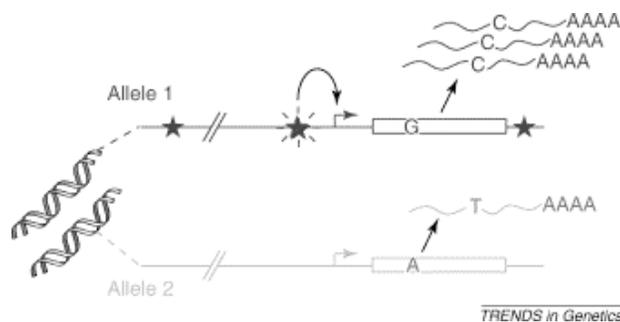


Arnosti and Kulkarni J. Cell. Biochem. (2005)

Binding sites are flexibly positioned  
Ensemble of separately acting factors  
Independently interact with their targets

## Rheostat Function

Enhancers can quantitatively regulate transcription rates  
through a continuous spectrum.



TRENDS in Genetics

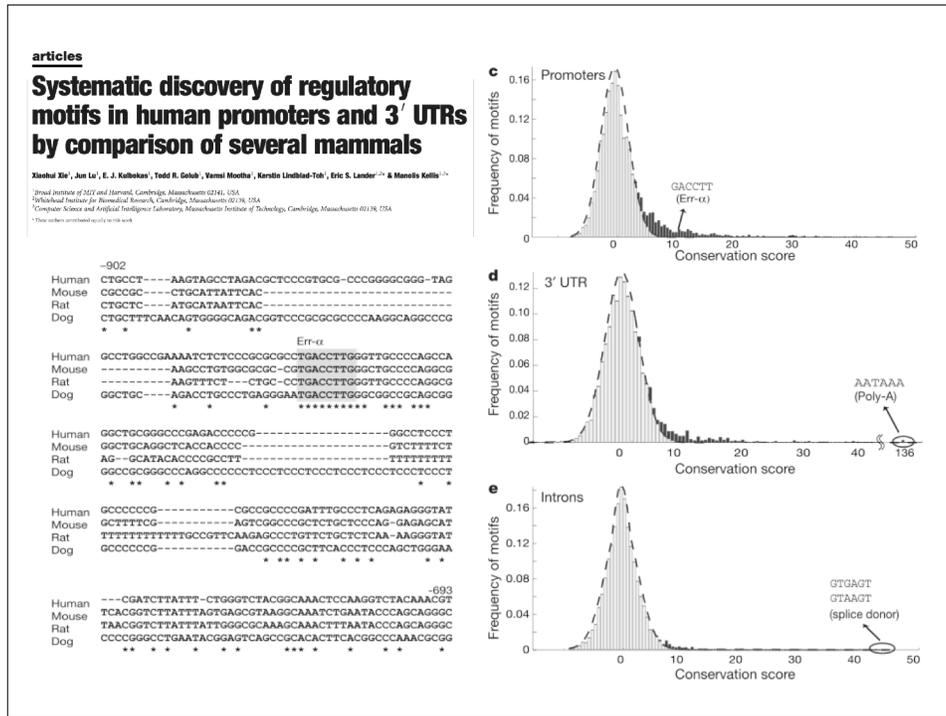
## Bioinformatic Implications

- Using phylogenetic analyses to identify *cis* regulatory grammar will work for enhanceosomes, but may not work for billboards.
- A lack of sequence conservation does not indicate a lack of relevance for transcriptional regulation.
- The placement of repressors relative to activators influences function.
- As the specific rules of the grammar are learned, effective bioinformatic analyses will ensue.

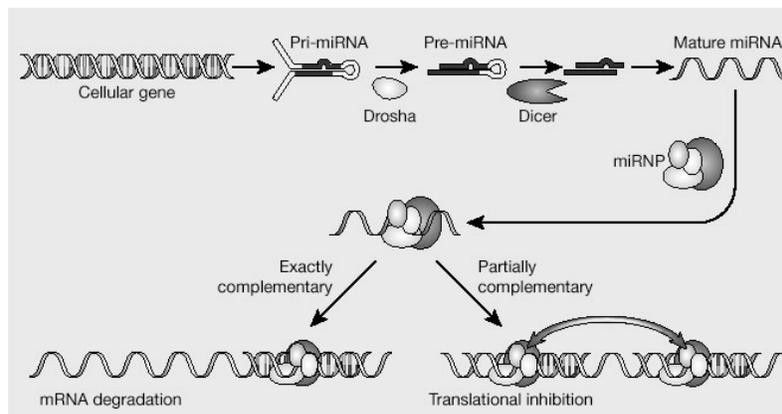
## IV. Pattern searching in the genome

Most functional elements lends themselves to pattern mapping  
or discovery

- 3' UTRs are targets of microRNA
- Display conserved patterns
- Interfere with transcription or translation

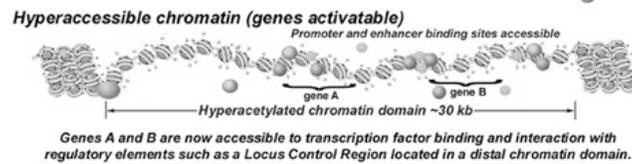


## MiRNA Interference



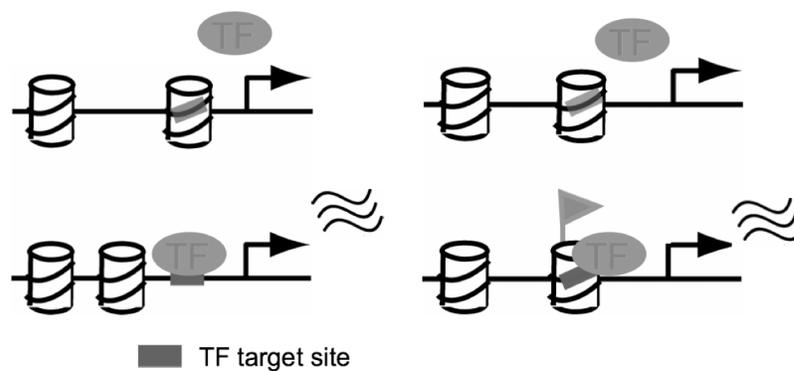


## V. Epigenetics/Epigenomics

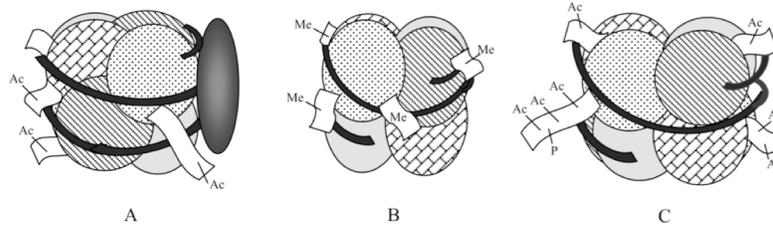


## Transcriptional regulation by chromatin

- Nucleosome positioning
- Histone modification



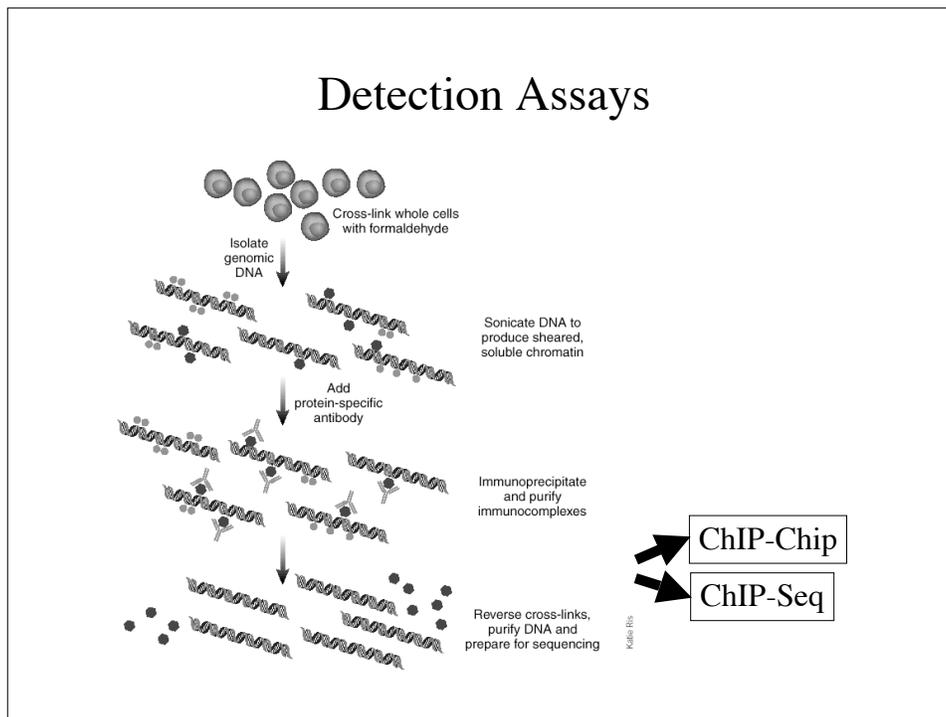
## Histone Modifications



He and Lehming, 2003

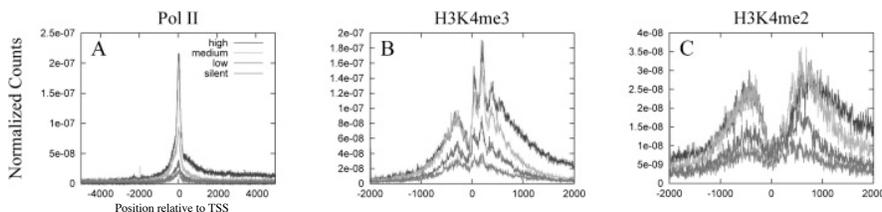
## Histone tail modifications





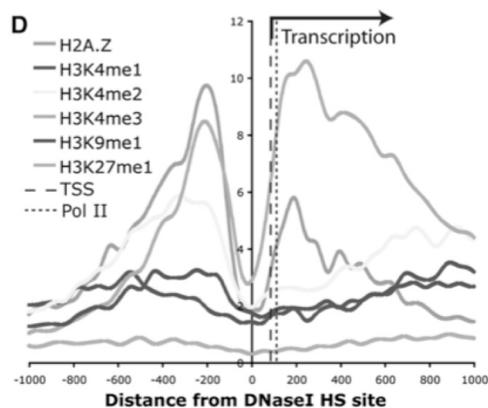
## High-Resolution Profiling of Histone Methylations in the Human Genome

Artem Barski,<sup>1,3</sup> Suresh Cuddapah,<sup>1,3</sup> Kairong Cui,<sup>1,3</sup> Tae-Young Roh,<sup>1,3</sup> Dustin E. Schones,<sup>1,3</sup> Zhibin Wang,<sup>1,3</sup> Gang Wei,<sup>1,3</sup> Iouri Chepelev,<sup>2</sup> and Keji Zhao<sup>1,\*</sup>



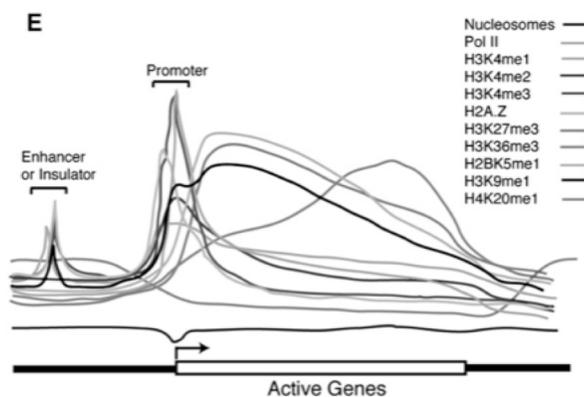
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Alan P. Boyle,<sup>1</sup> Sean Davis,<sup>3</sup> Hennady P. Shulha,<sup>2</sup> Paul Meltzer,<sup>3</sup> Elliott H. Margulies,<sup>4</sup> Zhiping Weng,<sup>2</sup>  
Terrence S. Furey,<sup>1,\*</sup> and Gregory E. Crawford<sup>1,\*</sup>



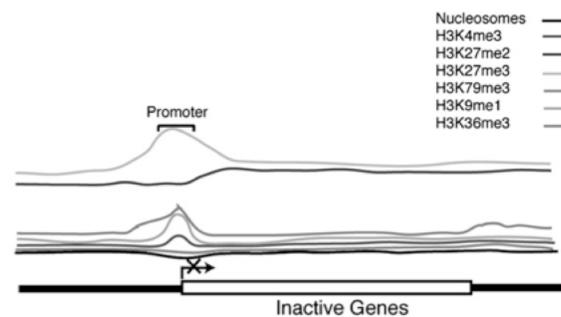
## Activation Marks

High levels of H3K4me (1-3), H3K9me1, H2A.Z near the TSS  
H3K36me3 and H4K20me1 in transcribed regions.

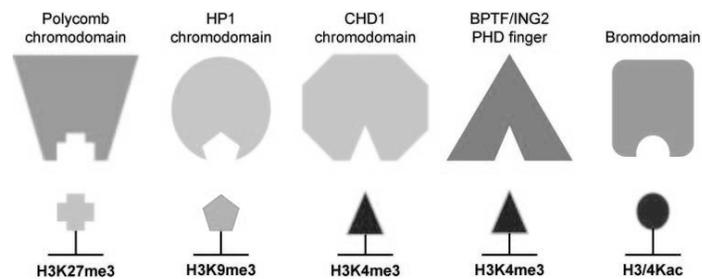


## Repressive Marks

High levels of H3K27me3 and H3K9me3



## Translator Proteins

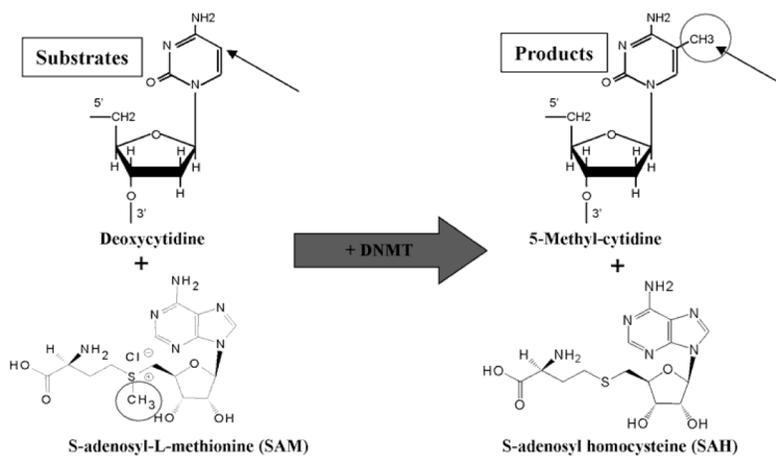


 Higgs DR, et al. 2007.  
Annu. Rev. Genomics Hum. Genet. 8:299-325

## VI. Genome Methylation

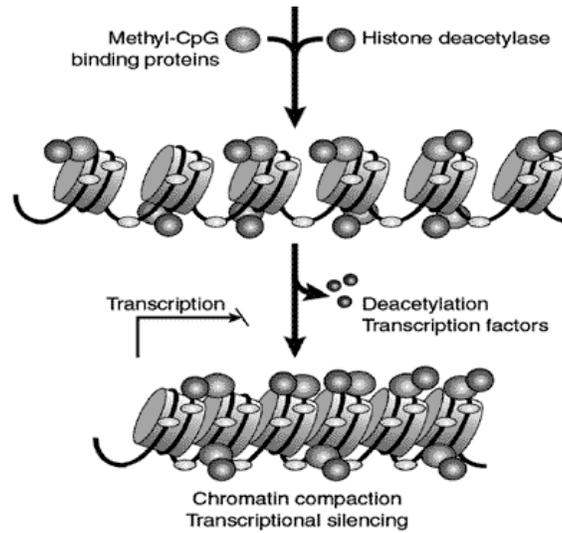
- Embryonic development
- Transcription
- Chromatin structure
- X chromosome inactivation
- Genomic imprinting
- Chromosome stability
- Human disease

### Methylation of Cytosine in a CpG Dinucleotide

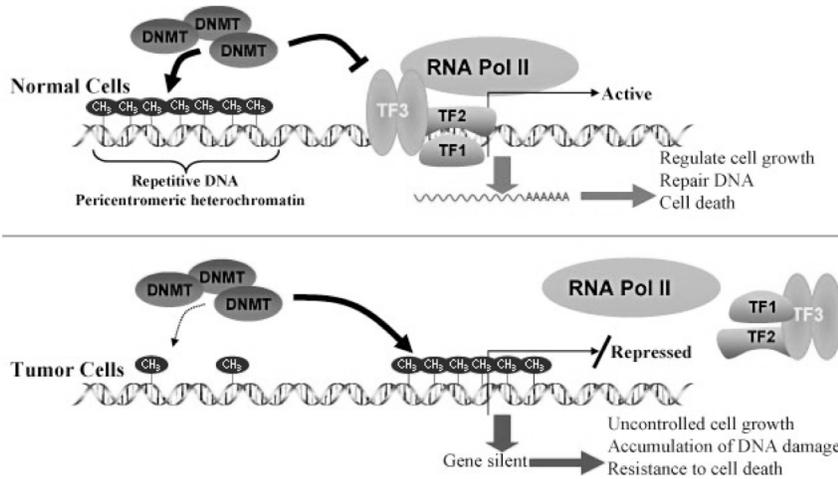


Keith D. Robertson, Ph.D.

## DNA Methylation Coincides with Gene Silencing



## Methylation Targets

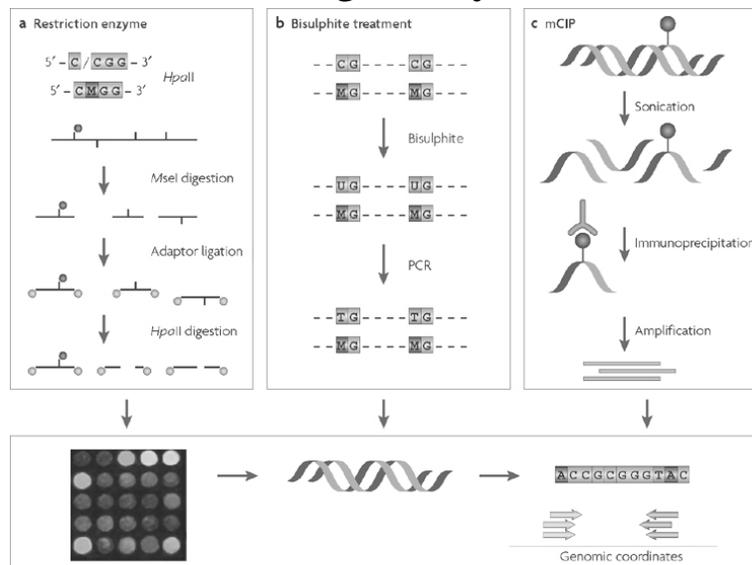


Keith D. Robertson, Ph.D.

## DNA Methylation is a biomarker for cancer

- CpG island hypermethylation, have been extensively studied and are very frequent and early events
- A distinct subset of many tumor types has a CpG-island-methylator phenotype
- Detection of methylated DNA in body fluids has the potential for early cancer detection

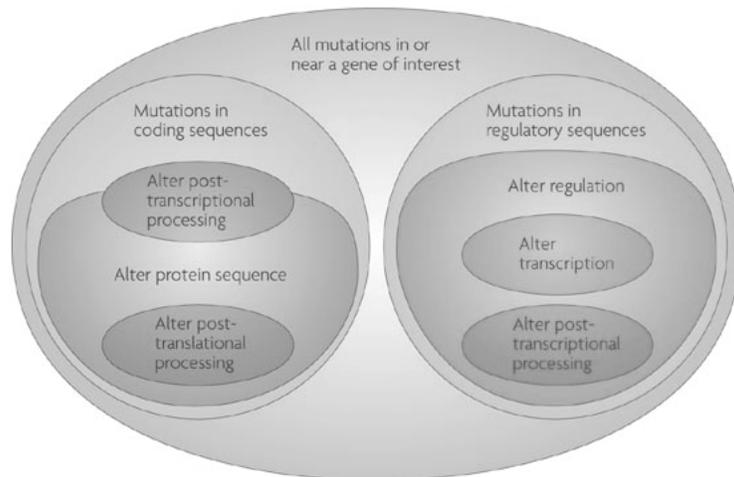
## Detecting Methylation



## DNA Methylation as a Chemoprevention Target

- Genes silenced by DNA methylation are intact and can be reactivated by small molecule inhibitors of the DNMTs
- Inhibitors of DNA methylation, such as 5-aza-2'-deoxycytidine (5-azadC) are capable of gene reactivation and restoration of cell growth control, apoptosis, and DNA repair capacity

## VII. The landscape of regulatory mutations



Nature Reviews | Genetics

Wray *Nature Reviews Genetics* (2007)

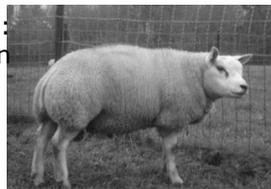
## Cis-regulatory mutations

Gene	Function of product	Phenotype
AVPR1A	Vasopressin receptor	Creative dance performance
Avpr1a	Vasopressin receptor	Paternal care
Cyp6G1	P450 enzyme	Pesticide resistance
DARC	Chemokine receptor	Resistance to infection with malaria
e	Pigment synthesis	Colour pattern of abdomen
hsp70	Heat shock protein	Thermal tolerance
HTR2A	Serotonin receptor	Obsessive-compulsive behaviour
IL10	Interleukin	Outcome of infection with HIV and infection with leprosy
IL10	Interleukin	Susceptibility to schizophrenia
LCT	Digestive enzyme	Lactose persistence
LDH	Metabolic enzyme	Cardiac physiology

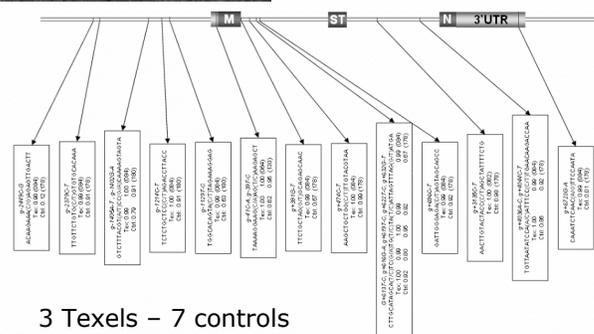
## Polymorphic miRNA–target interactions: a novel source of phenotypic variation

Michel Georges

Hypermuscléd Texel:  
 Patrocles mutation



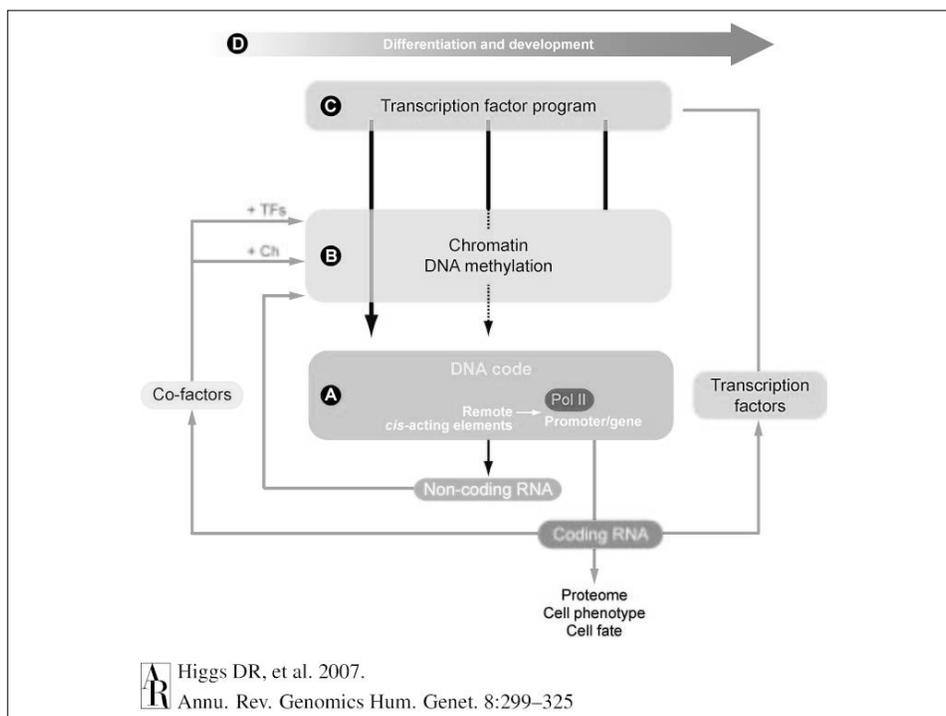
Resequencing  
 the *MSTN* gene  
 identifies 20 non-  
 coding SNPs ...



## UTR (mis)Regulation

- Predicted to be a target site for *miR1*, *miR206*
- *miR1* and *miR206* are conserved in sheep and strongly expressed in skeletal muscle ...
- Texel sheep have  $\approx$  3-fold reduction in circulating MSTN levels ...
- mRNA allelic imbalance in *GA* heterozygotes ...

The polymorphism created an illegitimate miRNA target site



## Summary

1. Understand how mammalian genes are switched on and off during development and differentiation.
2. Understand and integrate the transcriptional program with the epigenetic program.
3. Apply techniques to chromosomal domains, whole chromosomes, and the entire genome by using microarray or sequencing technology.
4. Gain insights into transcriptional and epigenetic regulation to understand how they are perturbed in human genetic disease.

## Current Topics in Genome Analysis

Next Lecture:

### **Microarray Analysis**

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