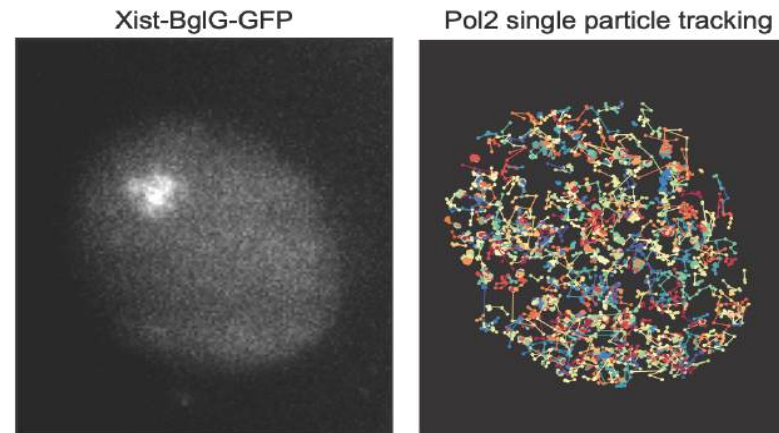


CHAIRE ÉPIGÉNÉTIQUE ET MÉMOIRE CELLULAIRE

Année 2024-2025 :

Nouvelles connaissances sur les mécanismes épigénétiques :
l'inactivation du chromosome X et d'autres exemples d'expression monoallélique



Cours III, 26 mai 2025

*Évolution de l'inactivation du chromosome X et
dynamique développementale*

Steve Quake: 2nd Lecture

“Understanding the Mysteris of the Cell: How do Mutations arise in our Bodies?”

Lundi 26 mai, 17.00-18.00

E. Heard, May

COURS 2025

12 mai 2025

Découverte de l'inactivation du chromosome X
(lyonisation)

19 mai 2025

La génétique et l'épigénétique de l'inactivation du
chromosome X et d'autres exemples d'expression
monoallélique

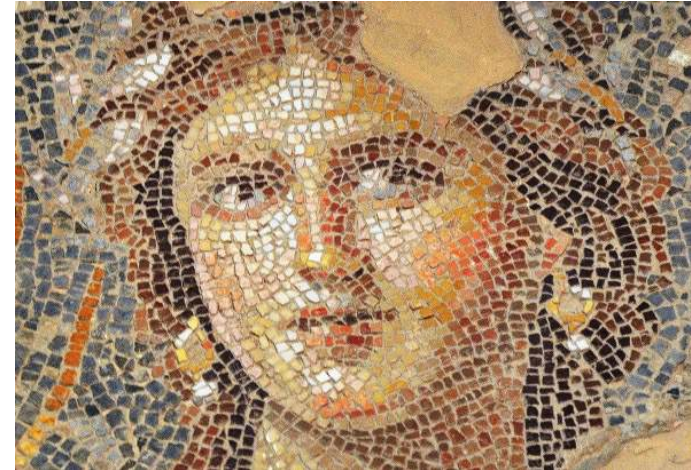
26 mai 2025

Évolution de l'inactivation du chromosome X
et dynamique développementale

2 juin 2025

Implications de l'inactivation du chromosome X
pour la biologie féminine

10-11 juin 2025 Colloque



Edith HEARD

CHAIRE ÉPIGÉNÉTIQUE & MÉMOIRE CELLULAIRE

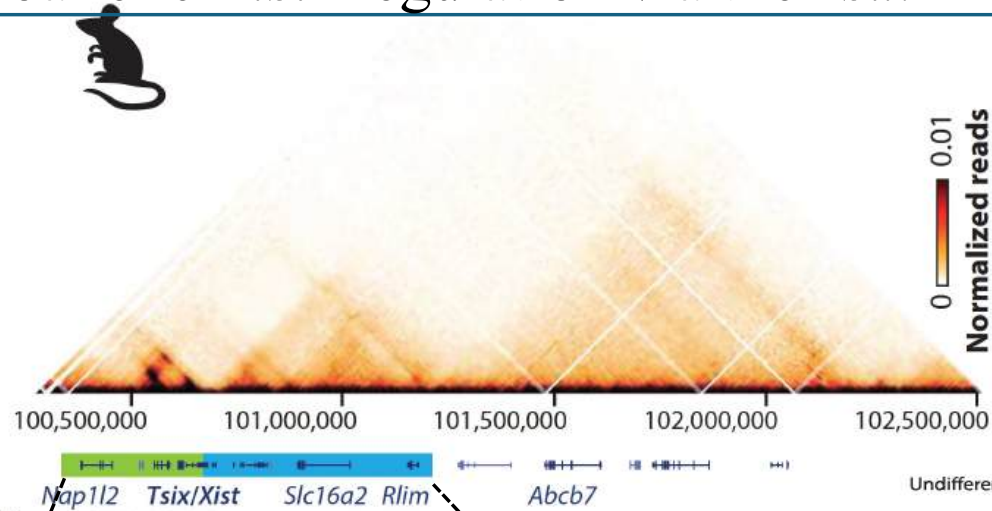
**Nouvelles connaissances sur
les mécanismes épigénétiques :
l'inactivation du chromosome X
et d'autres exemples
d'expression monoallélique**

12 mai > 2 juin 2025

SUMMARY of COURS 2

- Notion that the Xic not only has to trigger XCI in *cis*, but also enable XX cells to:
Sense their X-chromosome number and trigger XCI if there is >1 X
Count the number of X's relative to autosomes to ensure one X stays active per diploid autosome set
Choose which X will stay active (and/or which X will be silenced)
- Quest for the X-inactivation centre (Xic): the region on the X that is both *necessary* and *sufficient* for initiation of X inactivation.
- Serendipitous discovery of *Xist* non-coding RNA within candidate XIC region in humans and mice (and other eutherians) and demonstration that its deletion prevents XCI *in cis* in mice.
- Discovery that multicopy *Xist* transgenes can trigger XCI in *cis* in mice and ESCs.
However single copy Transgenes even up to 460kb in length cannot recapitulate full Xic function during random XCI in ESCs or in mice => **search for missing sequences**
- Discovery of Topologically Associating Domains (TADs) and implications for *Xist*'s developmental and monoallelic regulation, as well as for gene regulation in general.
- Demonstration that *Xist* RNA can induce gene silencing during defined differentiation time windows and definition of the essential regions for its different functions (cis-silencing, chromosome coating, recruitment of chromatin factors etc). *More next week*
- Current understanding of the Xic and *Xist* regulation.

The Organisation of the X-inactivation Centre into TADs may help to ensure accurate monoallelic *Xist* Regulation via the *Tsix* TAD in the mouse?



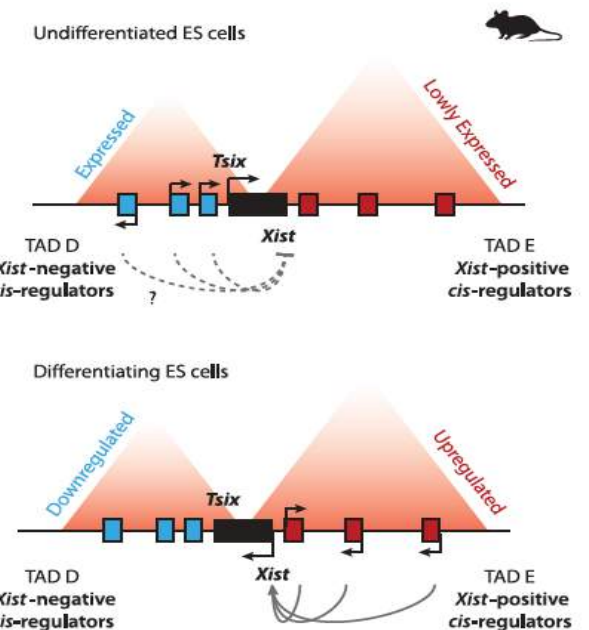
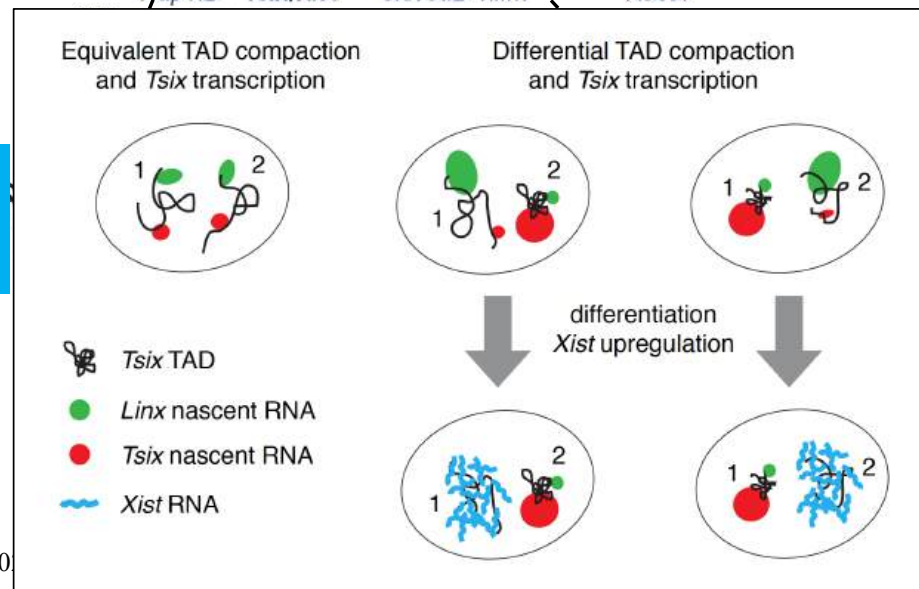
Adapted from Galupa and Heard, Annu. Rev. Genet. 2018. 52:535–66

Predictive Polymer Modelling Reveals Coupled Fluctuations in Chromosome Conformation and Transcription.
Giorgetti et al, Cell 2014

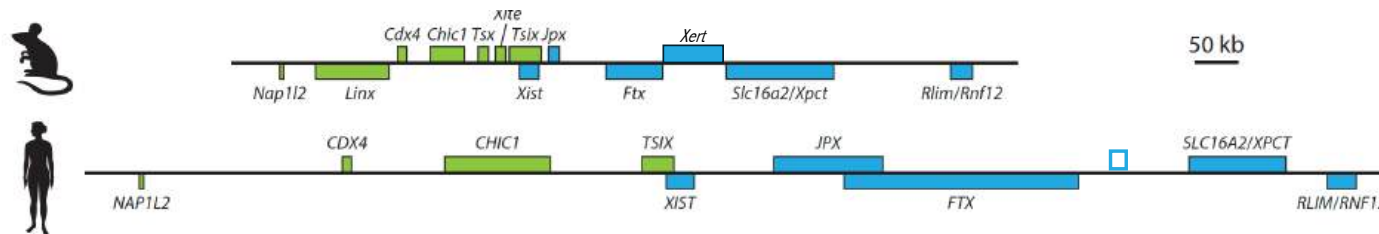


Luca Giorgetti

E. Heard, May 26th, 20



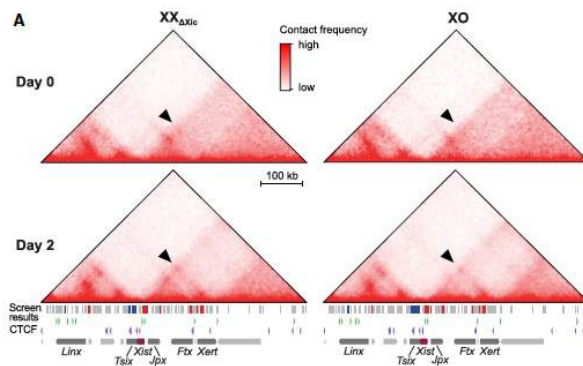
Further definition of specific *cis* and *trans* regulators: the 5' *Xist* TAD



- In the mouse *Xic*, promoter-proximal elements control female-specific *Xist* expression in a binary fashion
- Some long-range repressors control *Xist* even across the TAD boundary eg *Linx* promoter (Galupa et al, 2020)
- Long-range enhancer elements regulate developmental timing of *Xist* upregulation
- Several distal enhancers are associated with a previously unannotated lncRNA, *Xert*
- *Xert* is upregulated concomitantly with *Xist* and activates *Xist* in *cis*
- *Xert* lncRNA does not seem to be conserved in humans but an enhancer similarly bound by SMAD2/3 may be present



Edda Schulz
MPI for Molecular
Genetics, Berlin

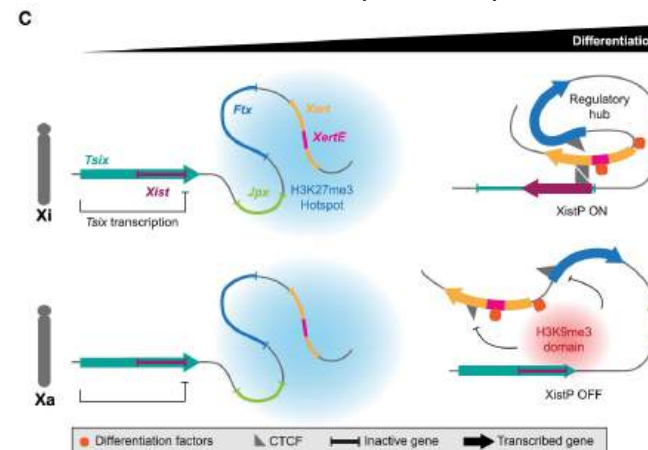


Article

Distal and proximal *cis*-regulatory elements sense X chromosome dosage and developmental state at the *Xist* locus

Rutger A.F. Gjaltema,^{1,2} Tili Schwämmle,^{1,2} Pauline Kautz,¹ Michael Robson,^{2,3} Robert Schöpllin,^{2,4,5} Ute Ravid Lustig,¹ Lennart Brandenburg,¹ Ilona Dunkel,¹ Carolina Vecchiato,¹ Evgenia Nitini,¹ Verena Mutzel,¹ Vera Schmiedel,¹ Annalisa Marsico,⁶ Stefan Mundlos,^{2,4} and Edda G. Schulz^{1,2}

E. Heard, May 26th, 2025

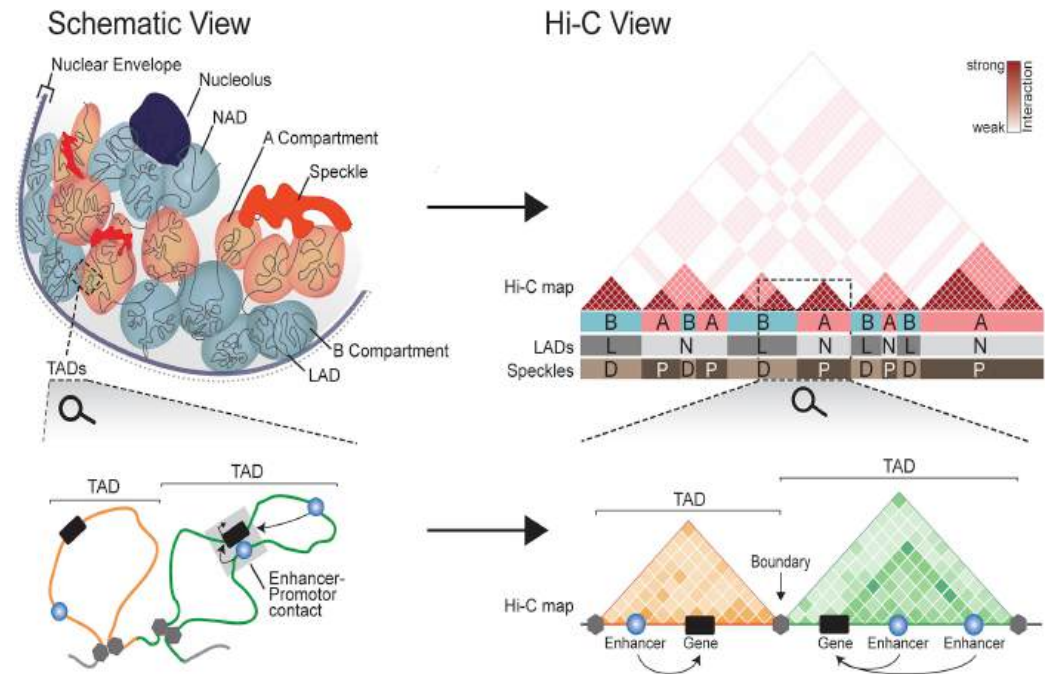
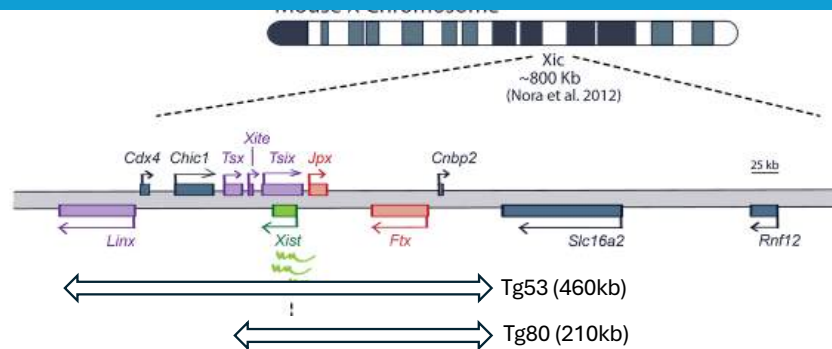


COLLÈGE
DE FRANCE
—1530—

Chromatin Folding into TADs Partitions the *Xic* and *Xist*'s regulatory landscape

The *Xic* is partitioned into 2 TADs spanning ~800kb
Containing *Xist*'s complex regulatory landscape

In general, TADs may help Define the Operational
Limits of Regulatory Landscapes



Molecular Cell 2019 74:1110-1122 DOI: (10.1016/j.molcel.2019.05.032)



Job Dekker
(UMass, USA)

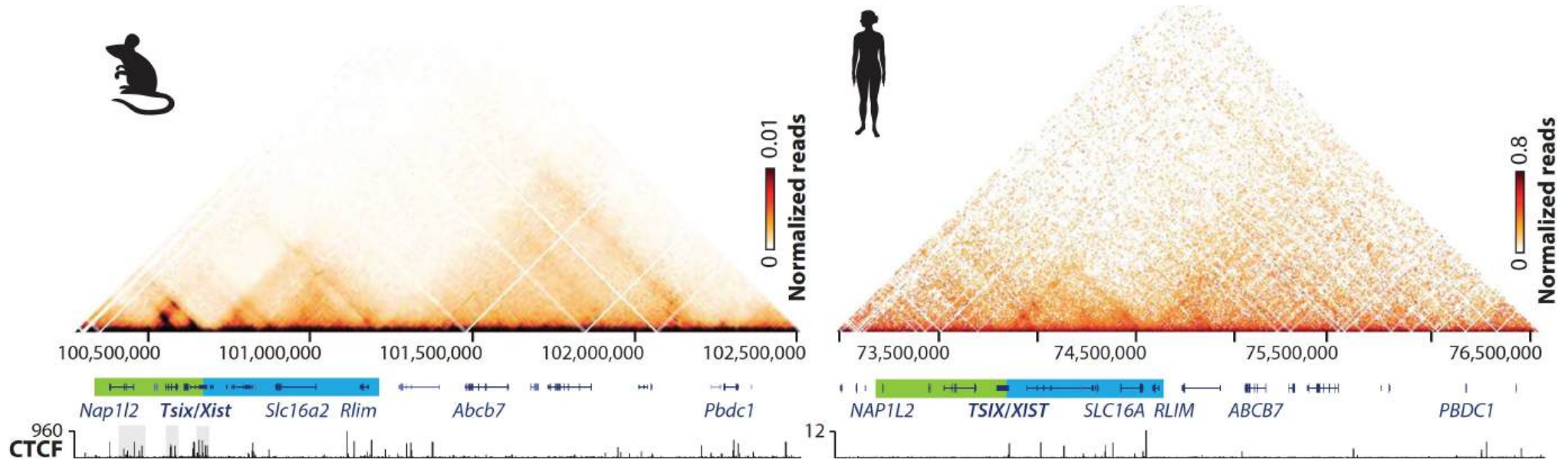


Elphege Nora

Nora et al "Spatial partitioning of the regulatory landscape of the X-inactivation centre". Nature, 2012

E. Heard, May 26th, 2025

How conserved is the X-inactivation Centre and *Xist* Regulation?



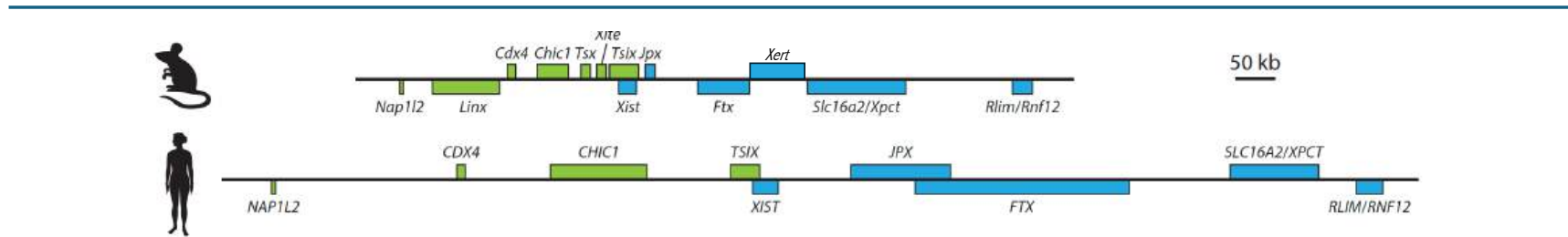
In the murine Xic region, the *Xist* promoter and the *Tsix* promoter are organised into two separate TADs within which direct regulators of *Xist*, and *Tsix* are located, respectively.

In the human XIC region, the *XIST* promoter is also within a **TAD** spanning similar loci as the mouse, but *TSIX* is not well conserved and the extent or role of a corresponding **TAD**, downstream of *XIST*, is not so clear.

Galupa and Heard, Annu. Rev. Genet.
2018. 52:535–66

E. Heard, May 26th, 2025

Current understanding of the mouse *Xic* and *Xist* Regulation during random XCI



Adapted from Galupa and Heard, Annu. Rev. Genet. 2018. 52:535–66

Table 2 Loci within the *Tsix* TAD and their involvement in XCI

Locus	Coding potential	KO phenotype in mice	Mechanism of action in XCI	Additional observations
<i>Tsix</i>	Noncoding	XCI-related lethality (108, 118)	Repressive role on <i>Xist</i> through <i>Tsix</i> transcription across its promoter (113, 133, 134, 143, 166, 187, 191)	<i>Tsix</i> lncRNA seems to be dispensable for <i>Xist</i> regulation (167, 177, 191)
<i>Xite</i>	Noncoding	Unknown	Deletion in female ESCs leads to preferential <i>Xist</i> upregulation in <i>cis</i> (142)	Reported to be an enhancer of <i>Tsix</i> (188) but unclear whether it can influence <i>Xist</i> independently of <i>Tsix</i>
<i>Tsx</i>	Protein coding (44, 54) and noncoding (2)	Subfertility and neurological alterations (2)	<i>Tsix</i> and <i>Xist</i> expression are slightly affected in KO ESCs but no skewing observed (2)	Testis-specific expression (2, 54)
<i>Chic1</i>	Protein coding	Unknown	Unknown; harbors a structural element involved in the folding of the <i>Tsix</i> TAD (77)	Expressed in ESCs and in brain (179)
<i>Cdx4</i>	Protein coding	No significant phenotype (104)	Never implicated in XCI	Homeobox protein
<i>Linx</i>	Noncoding (lncRNA)	Unknown	Unknown; levels of expression correlated with those of <i>Tsix</i> and with the compaction of the <i>Tsix</i> TAD (77, 138)	Expression restricted to the inner cell mass, absent from extraembryonic tissues (138)
<i>Ppxx</i>	Protein coding	Unknown	Never implicated in XCI	Testis-specific expression (44); also reported in ESCs, but it shares exons with <i>Linx</i>
<i>Nap1l2</i>	Protein coding	Lethality associated with neural tube defects in embryo chimeras (163)	Never implicated in XCI	Brain-specific expression (164)

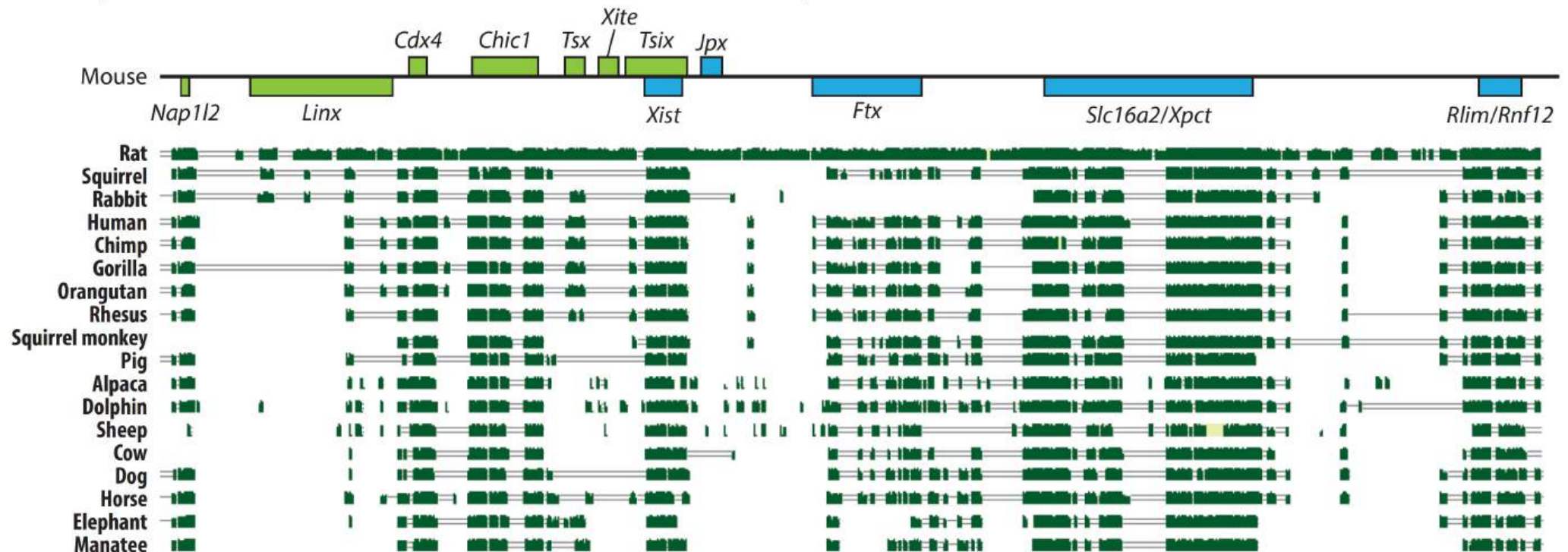
Table 1 Loci within the *Xist* TAD and their involvement in XCI

Locus	Coding potential	KO phenotype in mice	Mechanism of action in XCI	Additional observations
<i>Xist</i>	Noncoding (lncRNA)	Female-specific lethality (119)	The key lncRNA for XCI; coats the X-chromosome in <i>cis</i> and triggers gene silencing, chromatin remodeling, and structural reorganization of the X chromosome	<i>Xist</i> RNA is essential to trigger XCI and becomes dispensable once the inactive state is maintained by epigenetic mechanisms (209)
<i>Jpx</i>	Noncoding (lncRNA)	Unknown	Some studies describe the <i>Jpx</i> lncRNA as a <i>trans</i> -activator of <i>Xist</i> (199); this would be achieved by evicting CTCF from the <i>Xist</i> locus (192). A recent study reported no <i>trans</i> -activity for <i>Jpx</i> but rather a <i>cis</i> -effect on <i>Xist</i> (9)	
<i>Ftx</i>	Noncoding (lncRNA)	Viable mice, no apparent XCI-related phenotype (183)	Transcription of <i>Ftx</i> is required for <i>Xist</i> activation and establishment of XCI during differentiation of female ESCs (71), but its RNA products are not required. KO in early differentiated male ESCs leads to reduced <i>Xist</i> upregulation (43)	Hosts microRNAs in its introns (43), which do not seem involved in <i>Xist</i> regulation (71)
<i>Cnbp2</i>	Protein coding	Unknown	Never implicated in XCI	Zinc-finger protein (44)
<i>Xpr</i>	Within <i>Xpct</i>	Unknown	Mediates X-chromosome pairing during early differentiation (4)	X-chromosome pairing, through <i>Xpr</i> or <i>Tsix/Xite</i> , is dispensable for XCI (9, 128)
<i>Xpct</i>	Protein coding	Unknown	Never implicated in XCI	Transmembrane transporter (106)
<i>Rnf12</i>	Protein coding	Female-specific lethality (178)	<i>Rnf12</i> ubiquitin ligase targets <i>Rex1</i> for degradation, thereby triggering and sustaining <i>Xist</i> activation (in <i>trans</i>) (8, 9, 80, 96)	<i>Rnf12</i> ^{+/-} mice are viable (178) and some <i>Rnf12</i> ^{+/-} cells undergo XCI (96), implying the involvement of other <i>Xist</i> activators during random XCI (128)

Abbreviations: ESCs, embryonic stem cells; KO, knockout; lncRNA, long noncoding RNA; TAD, topologically associating domain; XCI, X-chromosome inactivation.

What is the Evolutionary Conservation of the Xic region across Eutherian mammals?

Sequence conservation of the X-inactivation center across placental mammals



Galupa and Heard, Annu. Rev. Genet.
2018. 52:535–66

E. Heard, May 26th, 2025

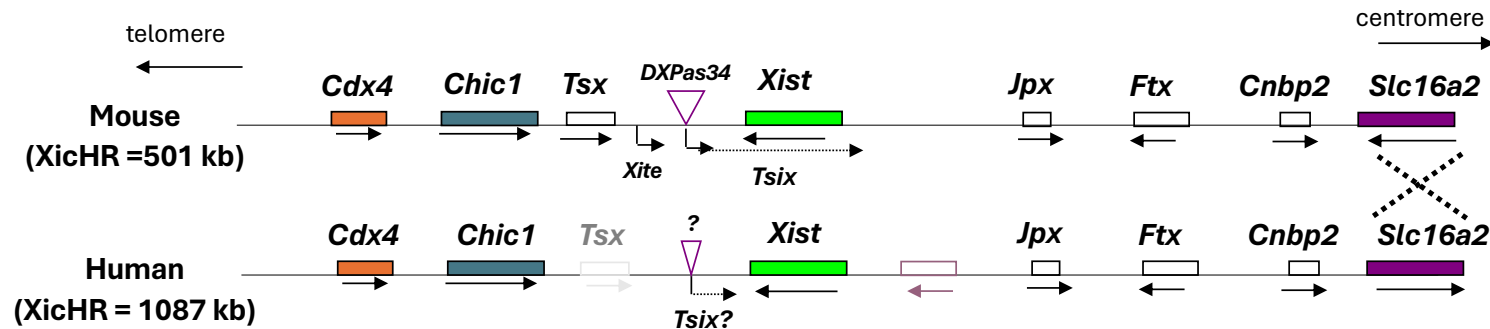
Conservation of the Xic and evolution of *Xist* ?



Laurent Duret
LBBE, Lyon, France



Phil Avner
Pasteur Institute
Paris, France



The *Xist* RNA Gene Evolved in Eutherians by Pseudogenization of a Protein-Coding Gene

Laurent Duret,^{1*} Corinne Chureau,² Sylvie Samain,³ Jean Weissenbach,³ Philip Avner²

- *Xist* evolved only in eutherians (pseudogenisation of the protein coding *Lnx* gene)
- Two exons of *Lnx3* are homologous to *Xist* (probability of this happening by chance is very low (5×10^{-5}))
- In marsupials : there is no *Xist* gene, and the Xic region is broken up (in particular the *Xist* upstream region)

How is marsupial XCI controlled? Another locus?

Carry over of meiotic sex chromosome inactivation (SEE LATER)

Chureau et al, 2002; Duret et al, 2006; Hore et al, 2007; Davidow et al, 2007 ; Zakharova et al, 2007; Elisaphenko et al., 2008

Conservation of the Xic and evolution of alternative strategies

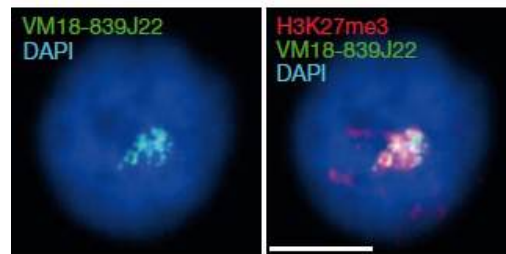


James Turner
The Francis Crick Institute
London, UK

***Rsx* is a metatherian RNA with *Xist*-like properties in X-chromosome inactivation**

Jennifer Grant¹, Shantha K. Mahadevaiah¹, Pavel Khil², Mahesh N. Sangrithi¹, John R. McCarrey⁴, John L. VandeBerg⁵, Marilyn B. Renfree⁶, Willie Taylor¹, G. Mike J. Gilchrist¹ & James M. A. Turner¹

Grant et al (2012) Nature 487, 254-258



Article

A single-cell transcriptome atlas of marsupial embryogenesis and X inactivation

Mahadevaiah et al (2020) Nature 586, 612-634

- *Rsx* is a non-coding RNA with no homology to *Xist* but potentially similar role
- The origin of *Rsx* is unknown
- The syntenic region in eutheria is flanked by *HPRT* and *FAM122B* and contains the placenta-specific gene *PLAC1*
- An antisense to *Rsx* – *Xsr* – has also been identified and may play a role in its monoallelic control.

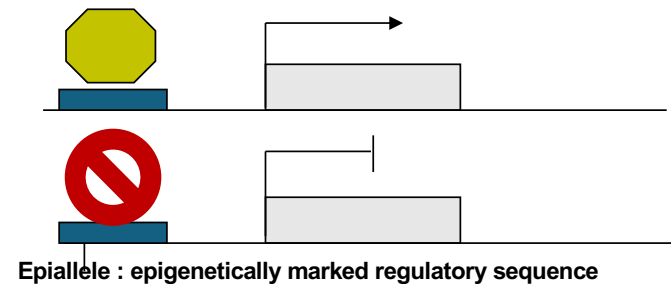
- Non-coding RNAs such as *Xist*, *Rsx* (and their antisense RNAs) may be easier to evolve for rapidly needed “dosage compensation strategies) than proteins
- Such ncRNAs are often driven by retransposon – see COURS 2016)
- Easy to regulate dynamically in development
- Could be useful “triggers” or modulators for epigenetic processes

The Epigenetics of X-Chromosome Inactivation

E. Heard, May 26th, 2025

The Epigenetics of X-Chromosome Inactivation

- The two X chromosome can be genetically identical
- Yet one of them will have its genes “turned off” and this state will be maintained through tens to hundreds of mitotic cell divisions
- X inactivation is therefore a classic example of epigenetic regulation, monoallelic gene expression and heterochromatin formation on a chromosome-wide scale.

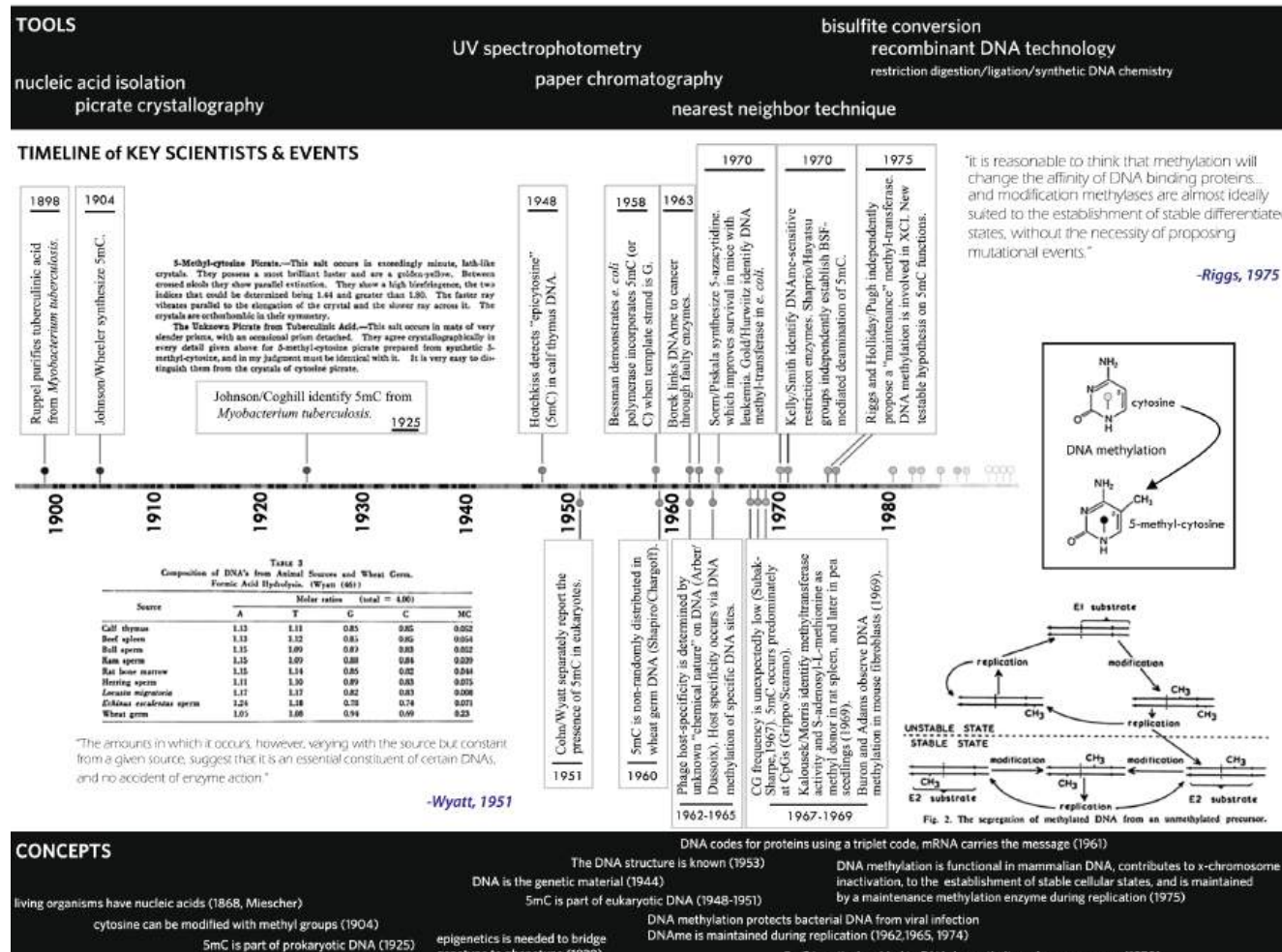


What are the epigenetic mechanisms that ensure the propagation of inactivity through cell divisions as well as in non-dividing cells?

DNA Methylation was the first “EPIGENETIC MARK” proposed to account for spreading and maintenance of XCI

Riggs, A. D. 1975. X inactivation, differentiation and DNA methylation. Cytogellet. Cell Gellet. 14:9-25

DNA Methylation: its discovery, its proposed role in epigenetic memory and XCI



Tomkins, Discovering DNA Methylation the History and Future of the Writing on DNA
Journal of the History of Biology (2022) 55:865–887; doi.org/10.1007/s10739-022-09691-8

E. Heard, May 26th, 2025

(Re-)Définition de l'épigénétique (Holliday – Riggs)

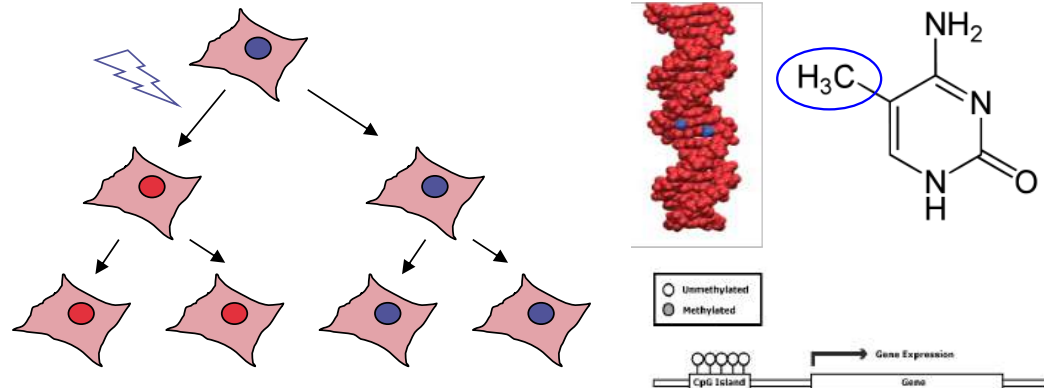
L'étude des changements d'expression des gènes transmissibles au travers des divisions cellulaires (voire des générations), sans changement de la séquence de l'ADN

Epigénétique et Mémoire Cellulaire

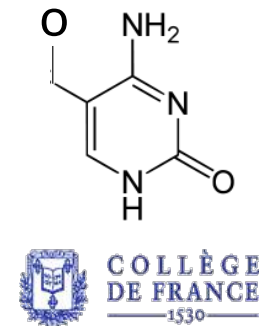
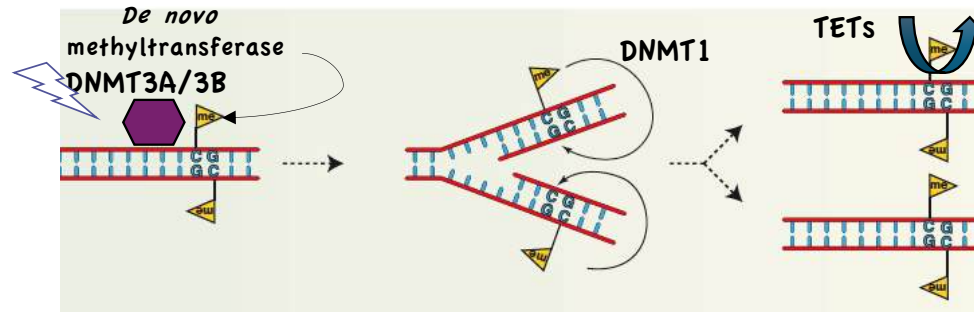
Russo, V.E.A., R.A. Martienssen & A.D. Riggs Eds. 1996.
Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory Press.



Robin Holliday (1935-2014) Art Riggs (born 1939)



Faithful transmission of DNA methylation patterns from one cell to its daughters...
May be less faithful than DNA sequence replication ...



ART RIGGS – one of the fathers of modern Epigenetics



Arthur D. Riggs
1939–2022

The maintenance
methylase model
1975

The “way station”
model for the spread
of X inactivation
1983

(in Gartler and Riggs, ARG
1983)

X inactivation, differentiation, and DNA methylation

A.D. RIGGS

City of Hope National Medical Center, Duarte, Calif.

A model based on DNA methylation is proposed to explain the initiation and maintenance of mammalian X inactivation and certain aspects of other permanent events in eukaryotic cell differentiation. A key feature of the model is the proposal of sequence-specific DNA methylases that methylate unmethylated sites with great difficulty but easily methylate half-methylated sites. Although such enzymes have not yet been detected in eukaryotes, they are known in bacteria. An argument is presented, based on recent data on DNA-binding proteins, that DNA methylation should affect the binding of regulatory proteins. In support of the model, short reviews are included covering both mammalian X inactivation and bacterial restriction and modification enzymes.

Cytogenetics and Cell Genetics. 2003;99(1-4):17-24. doi:10.1159/000071569

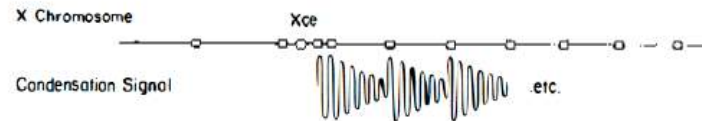


Figure 4 A “way station” model for the spreading of X-chromosome inactivation. The squares represent X-chromosome-specific DNA sites that function, by interacting with specific proteins, to stabilize and thereby enhance the spreading of the condensed and inactive state. The amplitude of the oscillating line represents the strength of the condensation signal, which at the molecular level depends on the stability of cooperative protein-protein and protein-DNA interactions.

18

RIGGS X inactivation

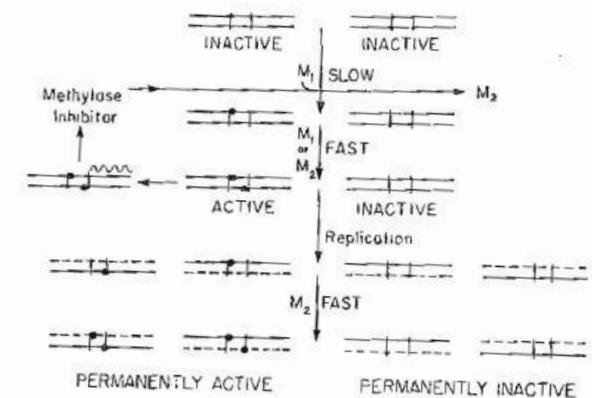


Fig. 4. A DNA methylation model for X inactivation. Given a sequence-specific DNA methylase that acts efficiently only on half-methylated sites, the differentiated state of the X inactivation center can easily be maintained through DNA replication. See text for additional details.

ART RIGGS – one of the fathers of modern Epigenetics



Arthur D. Riggs
1939–2022

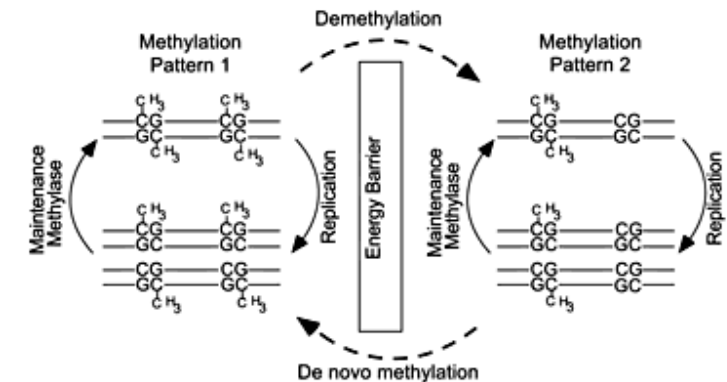
THE ORIGINS OF THE MODERN DEFINITION OF EPIGENETICS

- In the 1970s, Riggs played a key role in launching the field of modern epigenetics. Inspired by his earlier studies on the Lac repressor in bacteria, Riggs had become fascinated with DNA modifications, recognizing that these modifications may interfere with protein–DNA interactions, perhaps best exemplified by the bacterial restriction and modification systems. In a landmark conceptual paper published in 1975.
- Riggs proposed that in mammals, patterns of DNA methylation, which exist chiefly in the form of 5-methylcytosines at CpG dinucleotide sequences, can be faithfully copied during DNA replication by a DNA methyltransferase (DNMT1). This enzyme maintains fully methylated CpG sites by acting preferentially on hemi-methylated intermediates arising shortly after DNA replication.
- He also proposed that DNA methylation sites could control gene expression by interfering with the binding of regulatory proteins and could be involved in X-chromosome inactivation.
- Therefore, the heritability of DNA methylation provides a mechanism for maintaining epigenetic states during cell divisions.
- All these predictions turned out to be correct.
- A conceptually similar proposal for DNA methylation maintenance during replication was developed independently by Holliday and Pugh and published in that same year.

The maintenance methylase model 1975

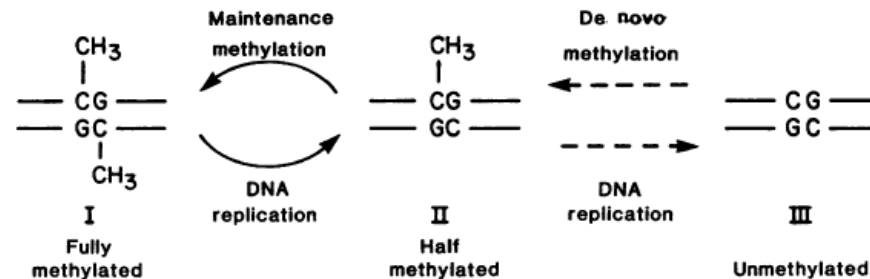
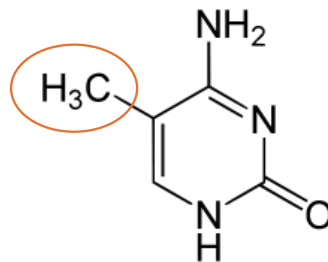
The “way station” model for the spread of X inactivation 1983

(in Gartler and Riggs, ARG 1983)



A role for DNA Methylation in X inactivation

First proposed by Riggs, 1975, Cytogenet. Cell Genet. 14, 9-25



Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA
Vol. 79, pp. 5357-5361, September 1982
Genetics

CpG islands of X-linked genes are hypermethylated on the inactive X chromosome
Unlike their counterparts on the active X

Evidence for DNA modification in the maintenance of X-chromosome inactivation of adult mouse tissues

(Searle's translocation/DNA-mediated cell transformation/hypoxanthine phosphoribosyltransferase)

V. M. CHAPMAN*, P. G. KRATZER*, L. D. SIRACUSA*, B. A. QUARANTILLO*, R. EVANS†, AND R. M. LISKAY†

Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA
Vol. 81, pp. 1759-1763, March 1984
Genetics

Differential methylation of hypoxanthine phosphoribosyltransferase genes on active and inactive human X chromosomes

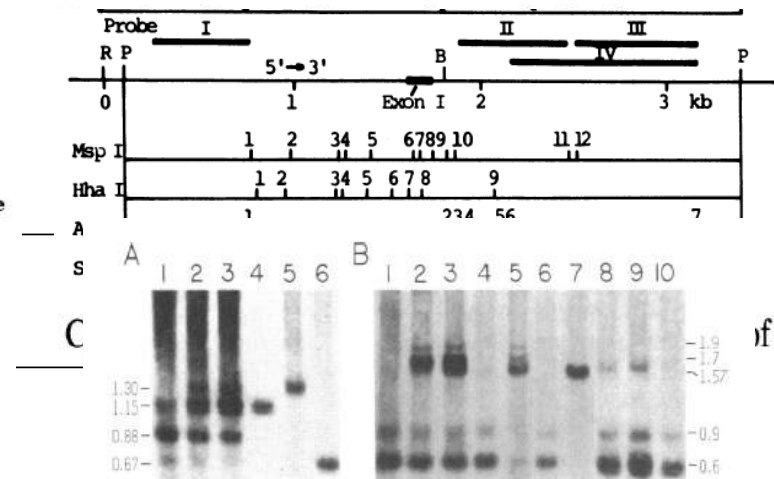
(X inactivation/5-azacytidine/mouse-human hybrid cell/Southern blotting)

PAULINE H. YEN*†, PRAGNA PATEL‡, A. CRAIG CHINAULT‡, T. MOHANDAS*†, AND LARRY J. SHAPIRO*†§

Methylation of the hypoxanthine phosphoribosyltransferase locus on the human X chromosome: Implications for X-chromosome inactivation

(dosage compensation/"housekeeping" genes/5-azacytidine/X-chromosome reactivation/mouse-human hybrids)

STANLEY F. WOLF*, DOUGLAS J. JOLLY†, KEITH D. LUNNEN*, THEODORE FRIEDMANN†, AND BARBARA R. MIGEON*



The Epigenetics of X-Chromosome Inactivation

Reactivation of an Inactive Human X Chromosome:

Evidence for X Inactivation by DNA Methylation

Abstract. A mouse-human somatic cell hybrid clone, deficient in hypoxanthine-guanine phosphoribosyltransferase (HPRT) and containing a structurally normal inactive human X chromosome, was isolated. The hybrid cells were treated with 5-azacytidine and tested for the reactivation and expression of human X-linked genes. The frequency of HPRT-positive clones after 5-azacytidine treatment was 1000-fold greater than that observed in untreated hybrid cells. Fourteen independent HPRT-positive clones were isolated and analyzed for the expression of human X markers. Isoelectric focusing showed that the HPRT expressed in these clones is human. One of the 14 clones expressed human glucose-6-phosphate dehydrogenase and another expressed human phosphoglycerate kinase. Since 5-azacytidine treatment results in hypomethylation of DNA, DNA methylation may be a mechanism of human X chromosome inactivation.

- DNA methylation is clearly involved in maintenance of X inactivation *but* there was no clear mechanism of action on the Xi: DNA binding proteins? Chromatin accessibility?
- Replication timing?
- Furthermore CpG island DNA methylation does not seem to be conserved in marsupials!
- And DNA methylation on the Xi appears to be a relatively late event during mouse development...

E. Heard, May 26th, 2025

Treatment and concentration	Frequency of HPRT-positive clones (per 10 ⁵ cells)							
	37-26R-D			A9		37-26R-A		
	I	II	Relative plating efficiency (%)	I	II	I	II	
Control	0.1	0	100	0	0	0	0	
Cytidine (10 μM)	0.1	0	136	0	0	0	0	
6-Azacytidine (10 μM)	0							
6-Azacytidine (2 μM)		0	80					
5-Azacytidine (10 μM)	28.3			0	0	0	0	
5-Azacytidine (5 μM)	74.5							
5-Azacytidine (2 μM)		117.4	63		0		0	
5-Azacytidine (2 μM)		0	61					
+ cytidine (10 μM)								
5-Azacytidine (2 μM)		0.4	63					
+ cytidine (20 μM)								
Arabinosylcytosine (2 μM)		0	5					
5-Bromodeoxyuridine (10 μM)		0	45					

5-azacytidine treatment on cultured human/hamster hybrid cells with an inactive X chromosome revealed that **X-linked genes (Hprt) could be reactivated by inhibiting DNA methylation maintenance.**

The Epigenetics of X-Chromosome Inactivation

Cell, Vol. 48, 39–46, January 16, 1987, Copyright © 1987 by Cell Press

Methylation of the *Hprt* Gene on the Inactive X Occurs after Chromosome Inactivation

Leslie F. Lock,^{*,†} Nobuo Takagi,[‡] and Gail R. Martin^{*}

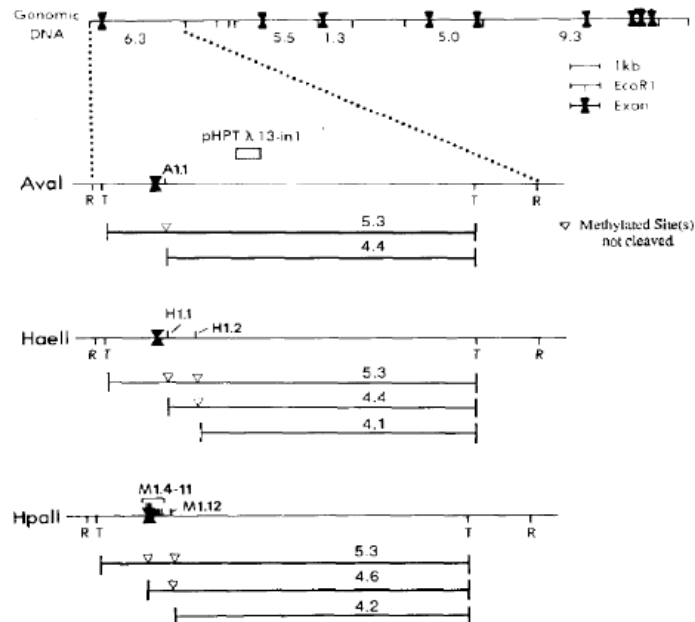
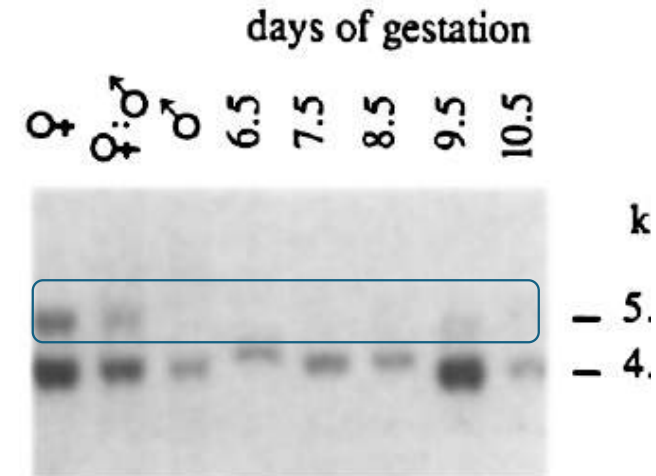


Figure 1. Map of the Mouse *Hprt* Gene Showing the Location of Restriction Sites in and near the First Intron That Are Methylated on Xⁱ and Unmethylated on X^a

The *Hprt* gene has nine exons that are contained within almost 40 kb of genomic DNA. Its structure, including the placement of exons and a map of EcoRI restriction sites, is shown (from Melton et al., 1984). Below, expanded maps show the locations of the Aval (A1.1), HaeII (H1.1, H1.2), and HpaII (M1.4-11, M1.12) sites in the EcoRI (R) fragment containing the first exon; the only restriction endonuclease sites depicted are those that have been shown to be differentially methylated on the Xⁱ and X^a (Lock et al., 1986). Beneath each of these maps are depicted the restriction fragments detected in Southern blots of female genomic DNA digested with Aval, HaeII, or HpaII in combination with TaqI (T) and hybridized to the pHPTλ13-in1 (intron 1) probe. The location in the expanded map of the genomic DNA sequence represented by this probe is indicated by the stippled box. For each restriction fragment, the location of a differentially methylated site that has not been cleaved is marked by an open triangle.

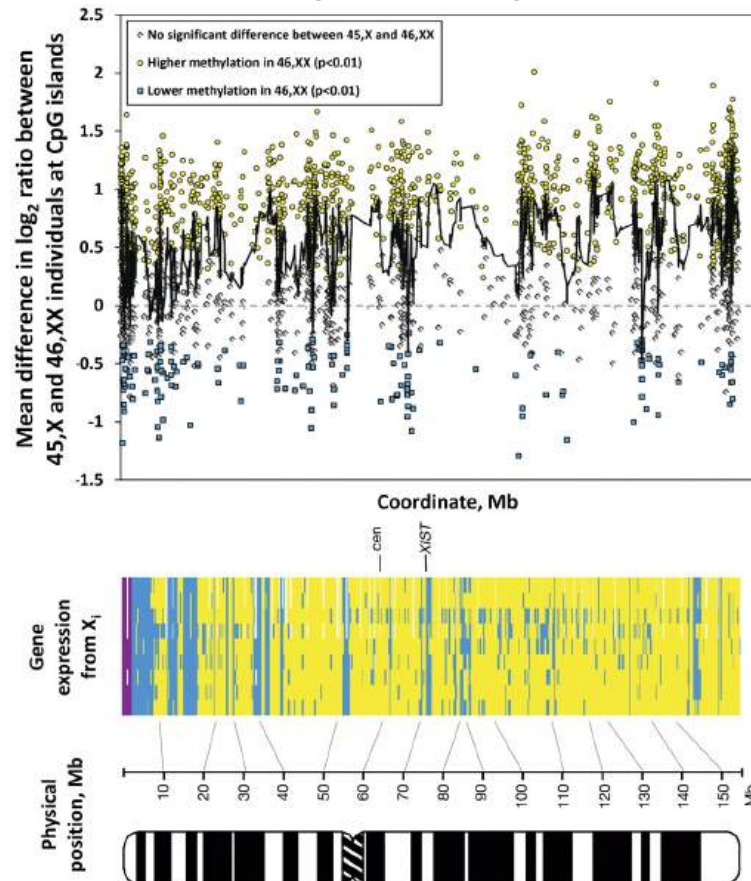


- And DNA methylation on the Xi appears to be a relatively late event during mouse development...

E. Heard, May 26th, 2025

X-Chromosome wide DNA methylation status

X inactivation results in highly variable changes in methylation of CpG islands that correlate with the location of genes escaping X inactivation.



How exactly 5mC can regulate gene expression when present at promoters remains unclear, but classically it is thought to recruit methyl-binding domain-containing factors, which would execute its repressive function.

Alternatively, CpG methylation within binding motifs seems to change the binding affinity of multiple TFs.

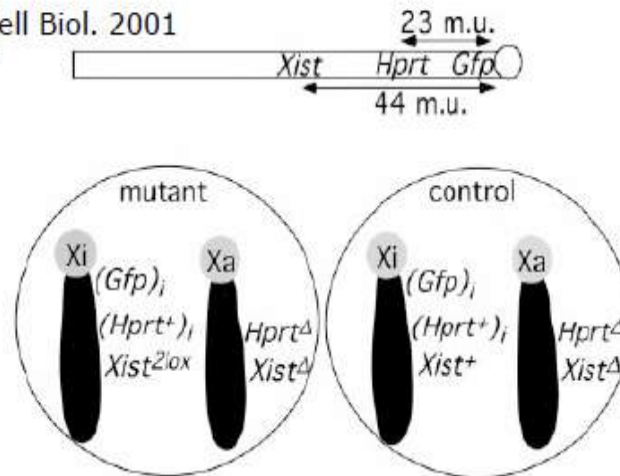
A whole range of other chromatin marks are also associated with transcriptional silencing. These include not only repressive histone modifications (e.g. H4K20me1, H3K9me3, H3K27me3) but also histone variants that replace canonical histones (e.g. macroH2A).

Synergy of Multiple Epigenetic Mechanisms to maintain the Xi

Synergy between Xist RNA, DNA methylation Histone hypoacetylation, Polycomb - in maintaining the Inactive state

Csankovszki et al, J. Cell Biol. 2001

Zhang et al, Cell 2007



Evaluating **reactivation** of the inactive state :

- GFP - fluorescence
- Hprt - HAT resistance
- Synchronous replication

Xist KO:

lose Xist RNA coating => loss of macroH2A , HRK27me3

5-azadC or Dnmt1 KO :

Lose DNA methylation

Trichostatin A, (TSA, inhibitor of HDACs):

Re-acetylation of X chromosome

Reactivation frequencies using GFP (1/10⁴) transgenesis

Xist KO	-> 2 X	primary and immortalised cells
Treatment TSA	-> no effect	
Treatment 5-azadC	-> 20 X	
Treatment 5-azadC + TSA	-> 30 X	
Dnmt1 KO	-> 1500 X	
Xist and Dnmt1 KOs	-> 3000 X	

Spontaneous reactivation of Hprt (1/10⁹)

Xist KO	-> 160 X	Immortalised cells
5-azadC	-> 60 X	
Xist KO + 5-azadC	-> 10 000 X	

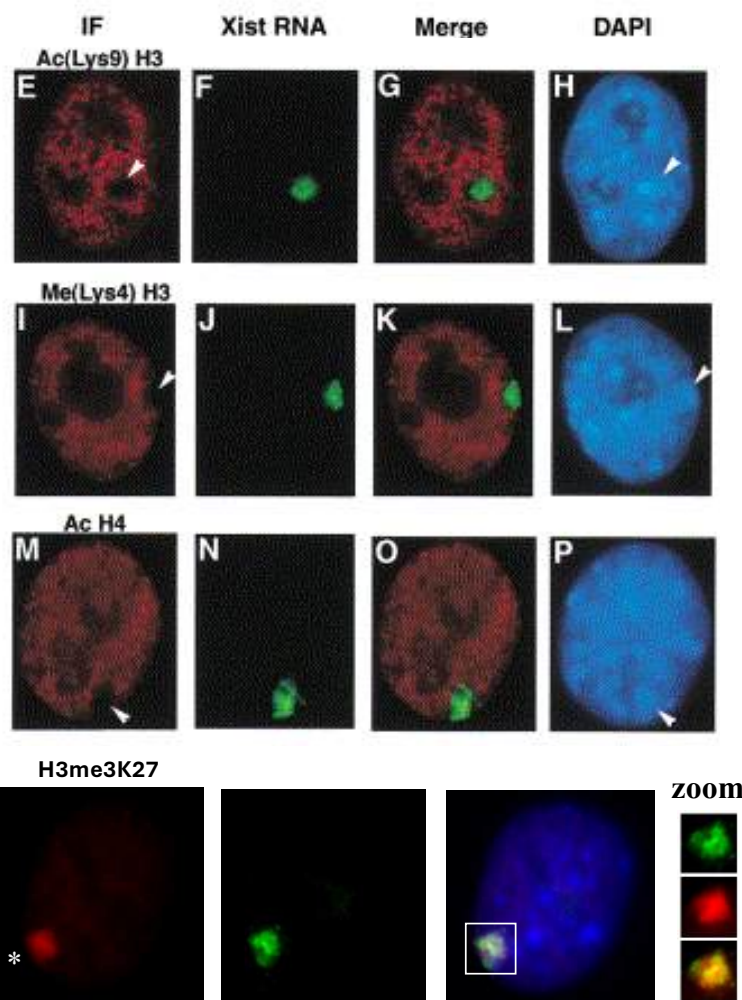
Synergy between different marks maintains the inactive state

Csankovski et al, 2001

Zhang et al, 2007

E. Heard, May 26th, 2025

Xist RNA coating is followed by numerous chromatin changes on the X during ES cell differentiation



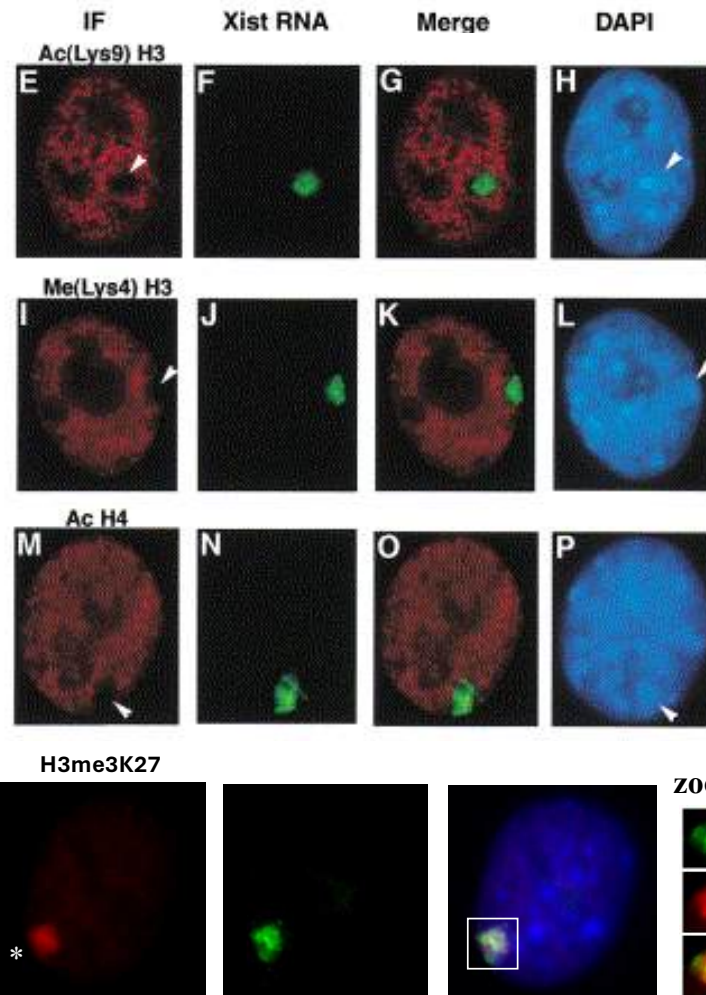
COURS 2013, 2015

- ➔ Exclusion of euchromatic marks from the Xist RNA-coated chromosome
- ➔ Enrichment for H3K27me3, H3K9me2, H4K20me1, macroH2A
Polycomb complexes PRC2, PRC1
- ➔ Chromatin modifications on the X(i) are Xist RNA dependent initially
– some become *Xist-independent* eg H4Ac

Heard 2001, Chaumeil et al, 2002
Plath et al 2003, Silva et al 2003

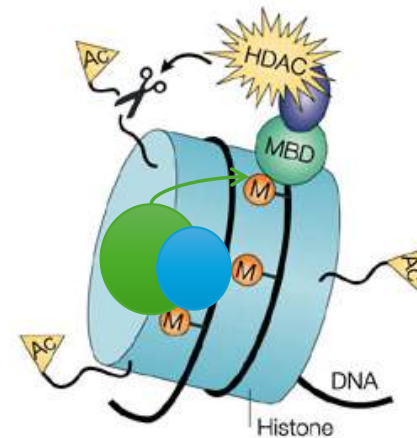
E. Heard, May 26th, 2025

Xist RNA coating is followed by numerous chromatin changes on the X



E. Heard, May 26th, 2025

COURS 2013, 2015



Histone 'readers' and 'writers' of the Xi ?

So far, PRC2/H3K27me3/PRC1/H2Aub
Polycomb group complexes can write certain marks
(eg H3K27me3 by PRC2) (eg H2AK119ub by PRC1)
that can be "read" by others
(Cbx7 in PRC1 can bind H3K27me3)
Jarid2 in PRC2 can bind H2AK119Ub)

X inactivation: a classic example of facultative heterochromatin and a paradigm for epigenetic control

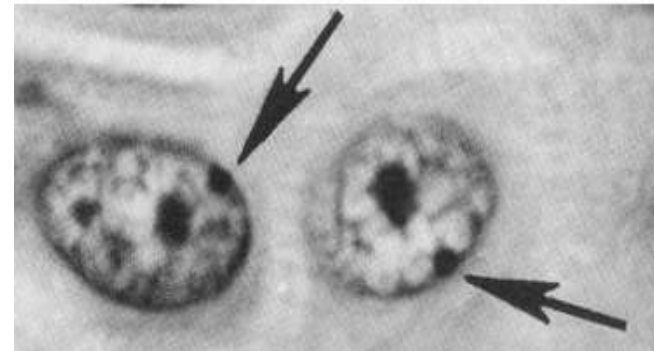
- Transcriptionally inert
- Compact chromatin
- Unusual 3D organisation
- Particular nuclear localisation
- Silent nuclear compartment
- Depletion of active chromatin marks (H3K4me3, H3K9ac, H4ac, H3K27ac)
- Enriched for repressive histone marks (H3K9me2, H3K27me3, H2AK119Ub)

1. How is facultative heterochromatin established?
2. How does chromosome organisation influence gene activity on the X?

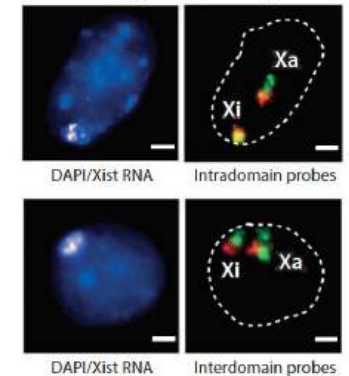
Also see COURS 2013, 2015, 2018

E. Heard, May 26th, 2025

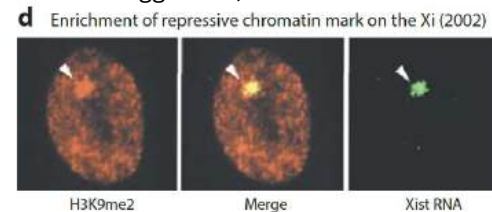
Bertram et Barr, 1949



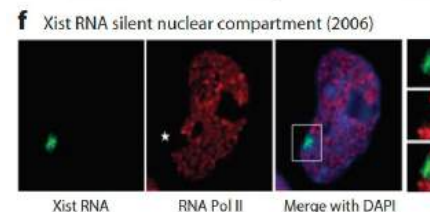
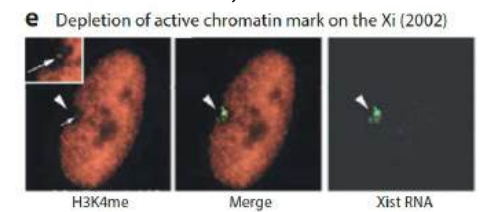
Giorgetti et al, 2001



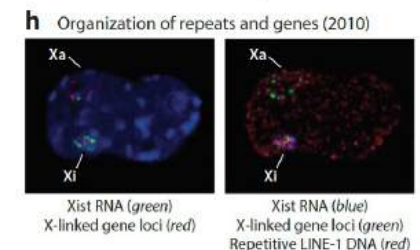
Boggs et al, 2001



Heard et al, 2001



Chameil et al, 2002



Chow et al, 2010

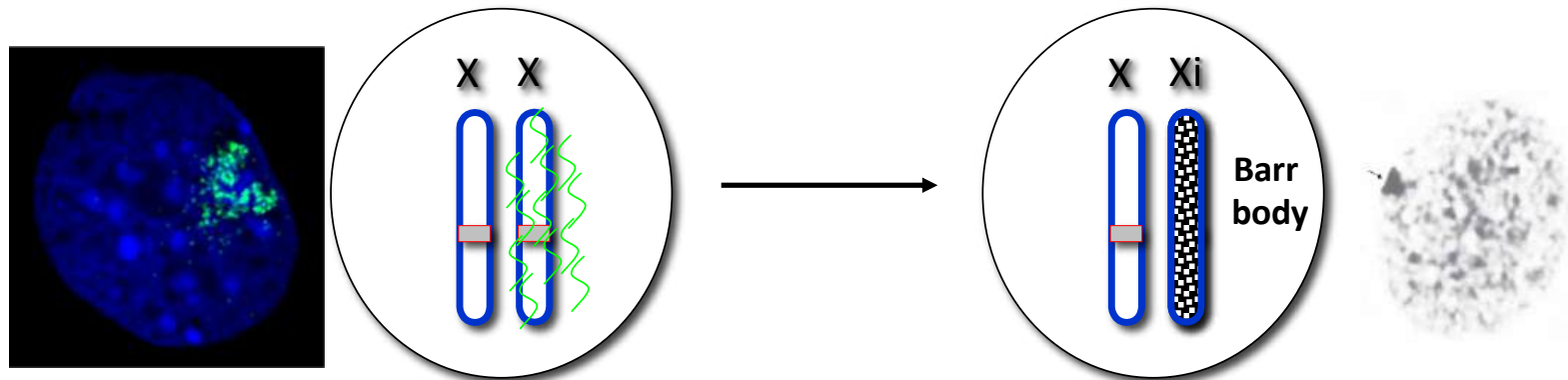
DE FRANCE
—1530—

From Galupa and Heard, ARG 2018

Xist RNA is the trigger for X-Chromosome Inactivation in *cis*

Differential treatment of the two X chromosomes in the same nucleus

This means that technologies that can distinguish the two X chromosomes have to be used!

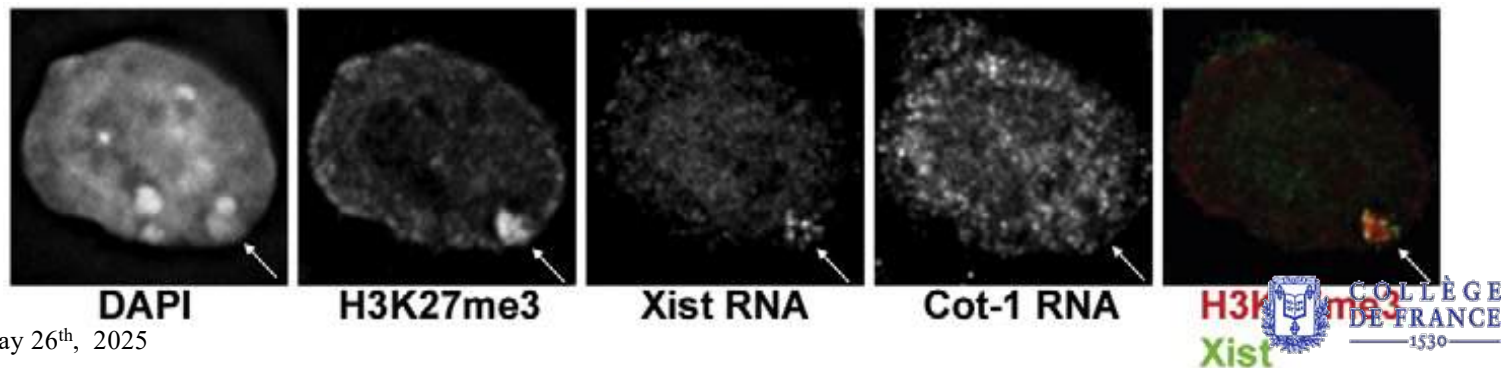


Xist RNA triggers X inactivation

A multitasking RNA: gene silencing, chromatin changes,
chromosome reorganisation

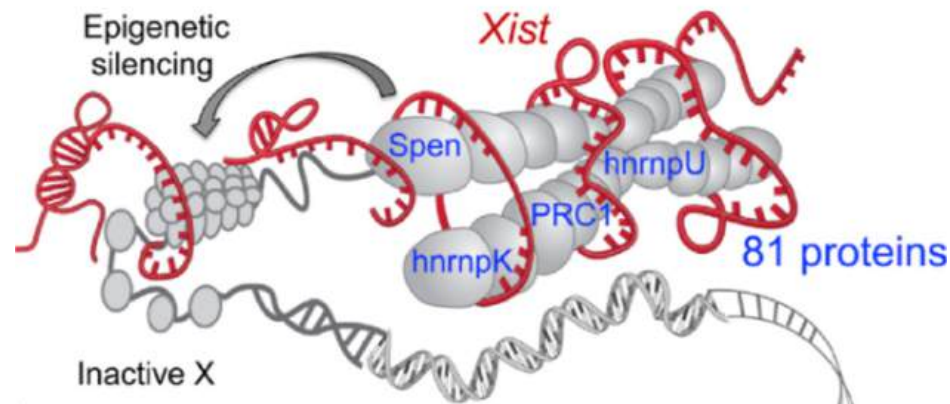
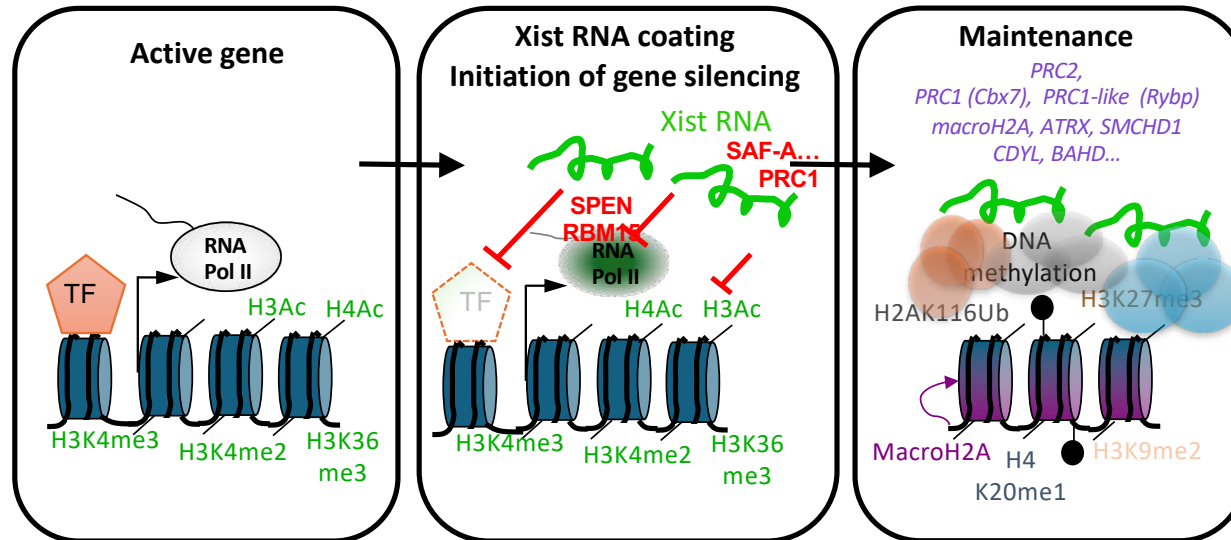
Maintenance (Epigenetics)

Chromatin status , chromosome structure
nuclear organisation, asynchronous replication



Xist RNA is the trigger for gene silencing *and* epigenetic marking of the Xi

(Last week COURS 2)



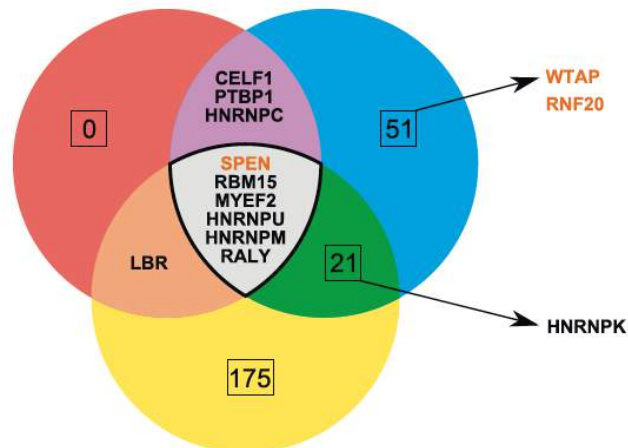
Xist RNA recruits key **factors** involved in gene silencing and induces chromatin changes that stably propagate the inactive state

Chu et al, Cell 2015
McHugh et al, Nature 2015
Chen et al Science 2016
Minajigi et al, Science 2015
Moindrot et al, Cell Rep. 2015
Monfort et al, Cell Rep. 2015
E. Heard, May 26th, 2025

Xist is a multi-tasking RNA that recruits gene silencing & maintenance factors

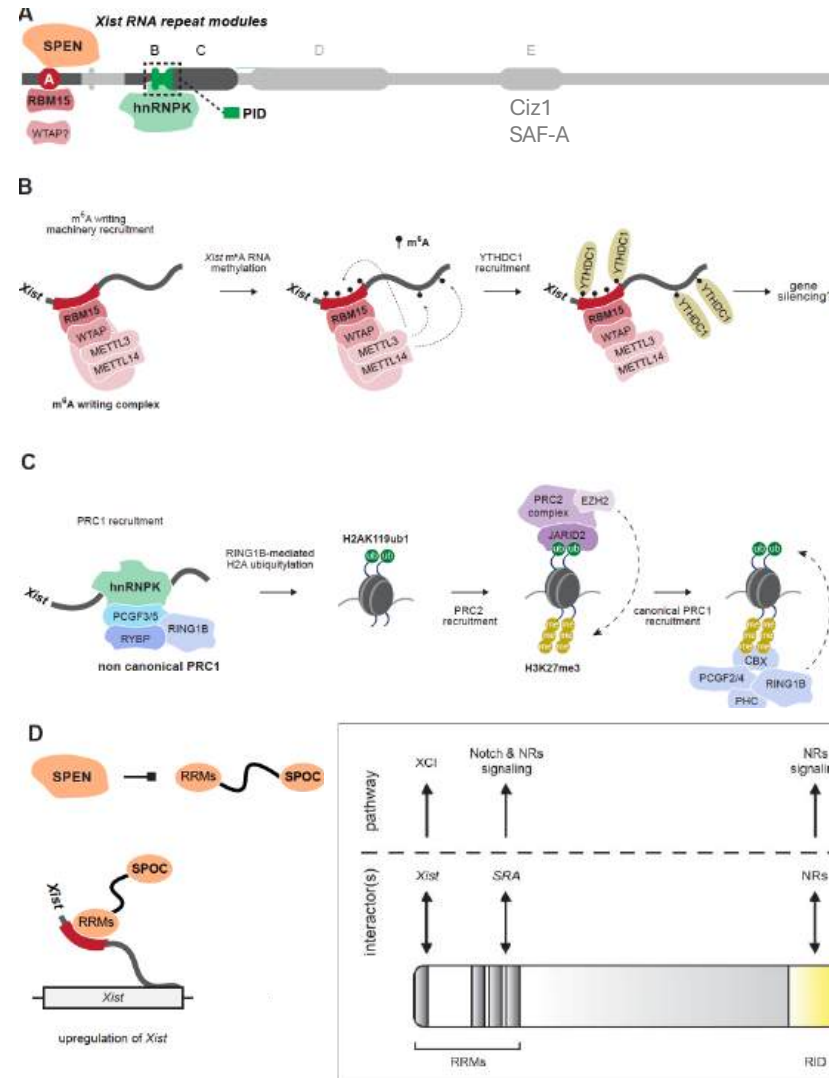
GUTTMAN LAB
UV-crosslink followed by
Xist pull-down [21]

CHANG LAB
Formaldehyde-crosslink
followed by Xist pull-down [20]



SPEN / SHARP : 3,664 a.a. protein Implicated in RNA-directed transcriptional regulation in the context of hormone responsive nuclear receptor pathways

Spen's SPOC domain interacts with the ubiquitous transcriptional co-repressors, SMRT/NCOR2 and NCOR1 and recruits histone deacetylases, including HDAC3.



SPEN is Recruited by Xist RNA and brings with it Transcriptional and Epigenetic Regulators

SPEN integrates transcriptional and epigenetic control of X-inactivation

<https://doi.org/10.1038/s41586-020-1974-9>

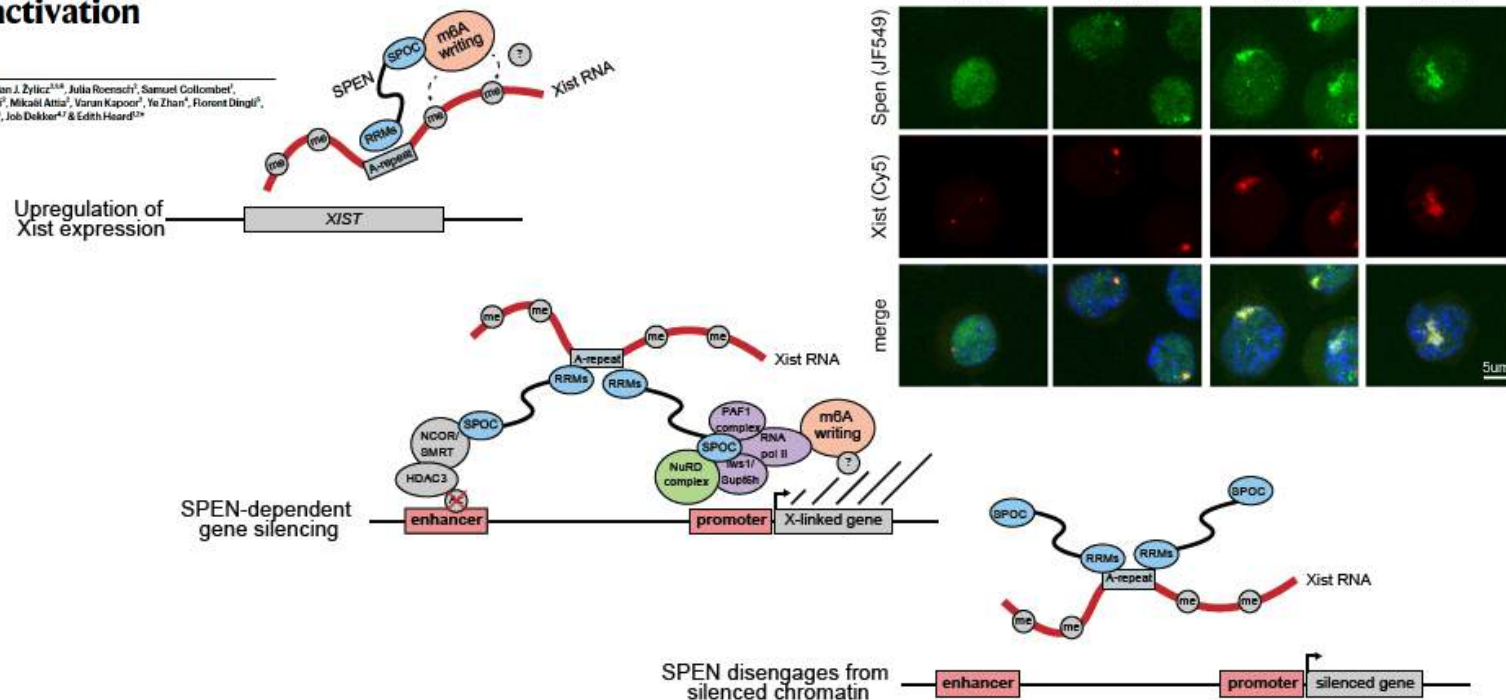
Received: 4 June 2019

Accepted: 10 January 2020

François Dossin¹, Inês Pinheiro^{1,2}, Jan J. Zyllicz^{1,3,4}, Julia Roensch¹, Samuel Collombet¹, Agnès Le Saux¹, Tomasz Chelwicki¹, Mikail Attia², Varun Kapoor², Ye Zhan², Florent Dingli², Damarys Loew², Thomas Mercher⁴, Job Dekker^{4,5} & Edith Heard^{1,2}



François Dossin



SPEN is an essential regulator of gene silencing in X inactivation

Xist RNA recruits SPEN through its RNA binding motifs

Through its SPOC domain, SPEN interacts with transcriptionally active promoters and enhancers

SPEN disengages from chromatin as soon as gene silencing occurs

SPEN remains associated with Xist RNA even after XCI is established

Dossin et al, Nature (2020) « SPEN integrates transcriptional and epigenetic control of X-inactivation »

SPEN integrates transcriptional and epigenetic control of XCI

SPEN integrates transcriptional and epigenetic control of X-inactivation

<https://doi.org/10.1038/s41586-020-1974-9>

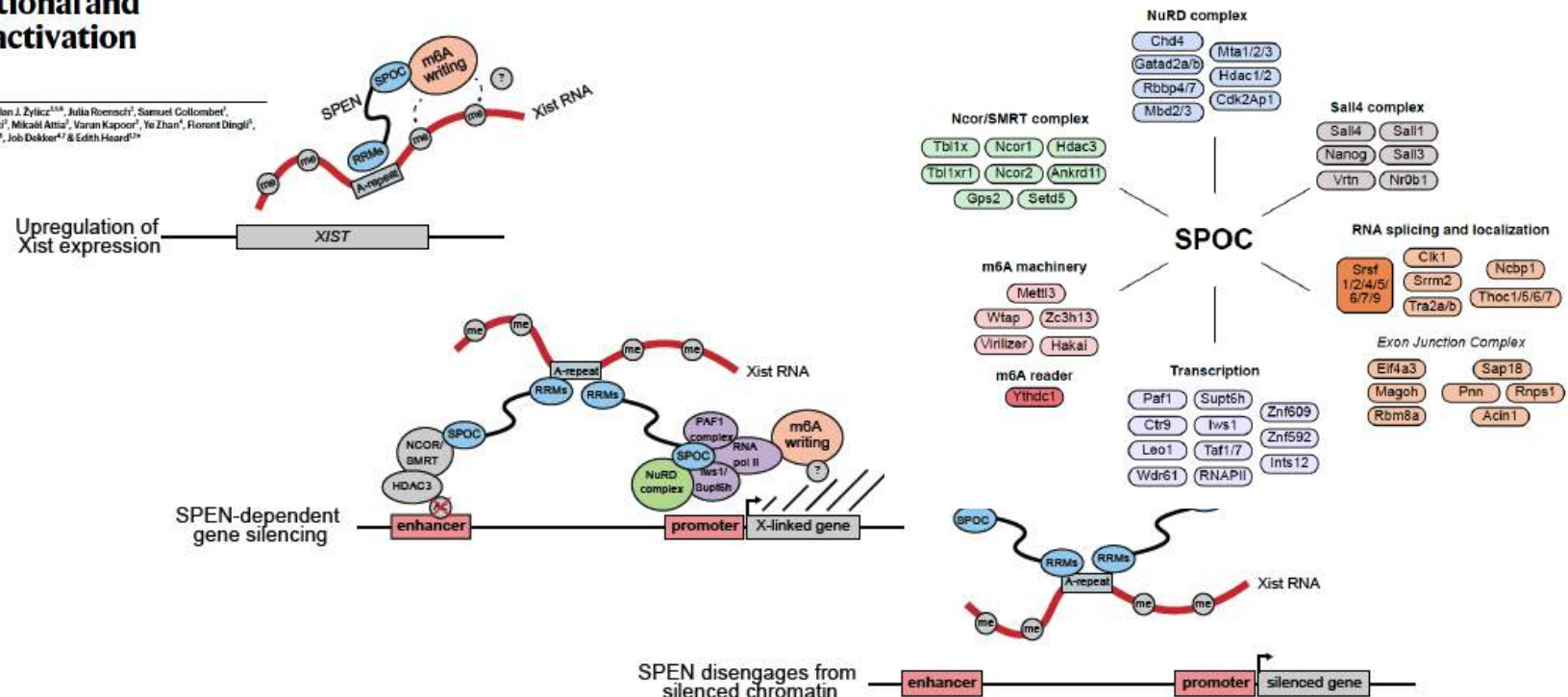
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François Dossin



SPEN is an essential regulator of gene silencing in X inactivation

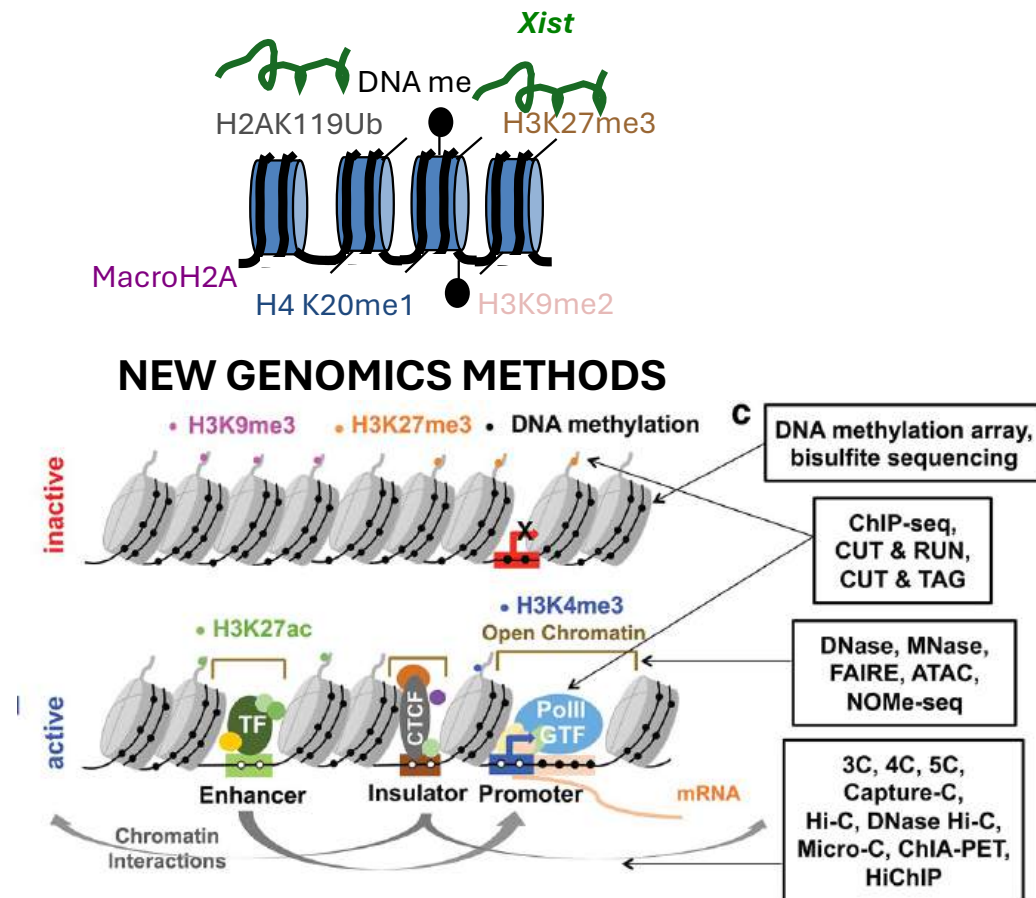
The SPOC domain of SPEN acts as a platform for recruitment of multiple protein complexes including SMRT/NCOR/HDAC3 (cf Oswald et al, 2016; Zyllicz et al, 2019) the NuRD complex, the m6A machinery and RNA PolII machinery

Dossin et al, Nature (2020) « SPEN integrates transcriptional and epigenetic control of X-inactivation »

X inactivation: a classic example of facultative heterochromatin and a paradigm for epigenetic control

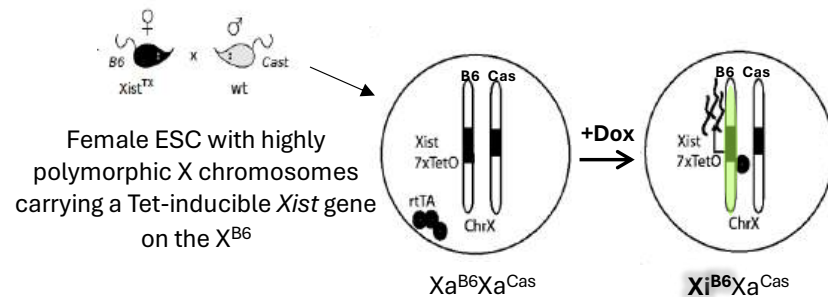
- Transcriptionally inert
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1. How is facultative heterochromatin established?
2. How does chromosome organisation influence gene activity on the X?

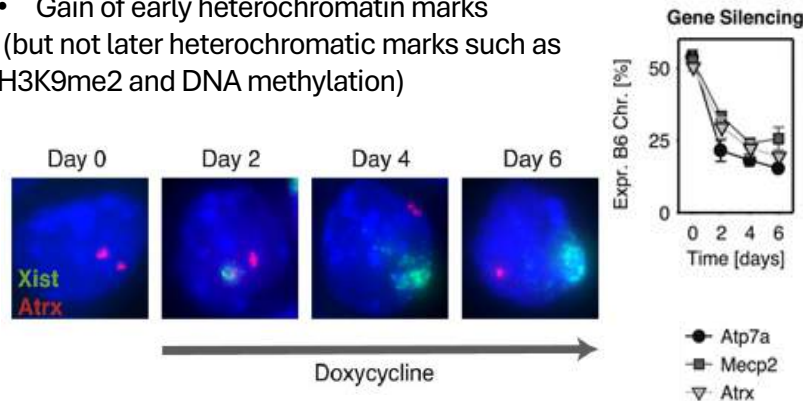


Kinetics of Epigenetic marks during X inactivation *in vitro*

Mouse embryonic stem cells (mESCs) with inducible, non-random X-chromosome inactivation uncoupled from differentiation



- Gene silencing similar to *in vivo* kinetics
- Rapid loss of euchromatic marks after *Xist* coating
- Gain of early heterochromatin marks (but not later heterochromatic marks such as H3K9me2 and DNA methylation)

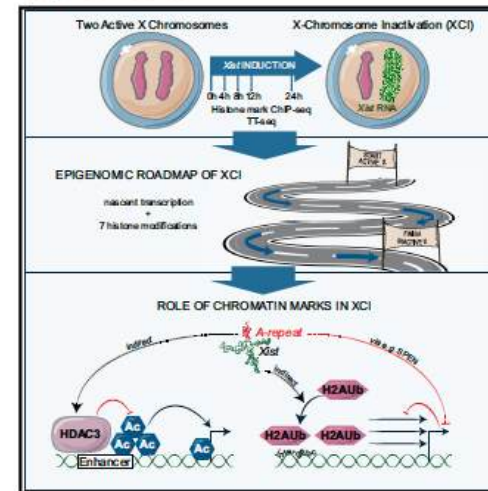


Schulz et al, Cell Stem Cell 2014

E. Heard, May 26th, 2025

The Implication of Early Chromatin Changes in X Chromosome Inactivation

Graphical Abstract



Highlights

- An epigenomic roadmap for initiation of X chromosome inactivation (XCI)
- Histone deacetylation and H2A ubiquitination are among the earliest XCI events
- HDAC3-mediated histone deacetylation is required for efficient XCI
- PcG marks are first deposited intergenically and spread when gene silencing occurs

Authors

Jan Jakub Żylicz, Aurélie Bousard, Kristina Žumer, ..., Damarys Loew, Patrick Cramer, Edith Heard

Correspondence

edith.heard@curie.fr

In Brief

Żylicz et al. provide a detailed characterization of the earliest stages of X chromosome inactivation, tracing chromatin modification dynamics and uncovering the key role of chromatin changes in initiation of gene silencing.

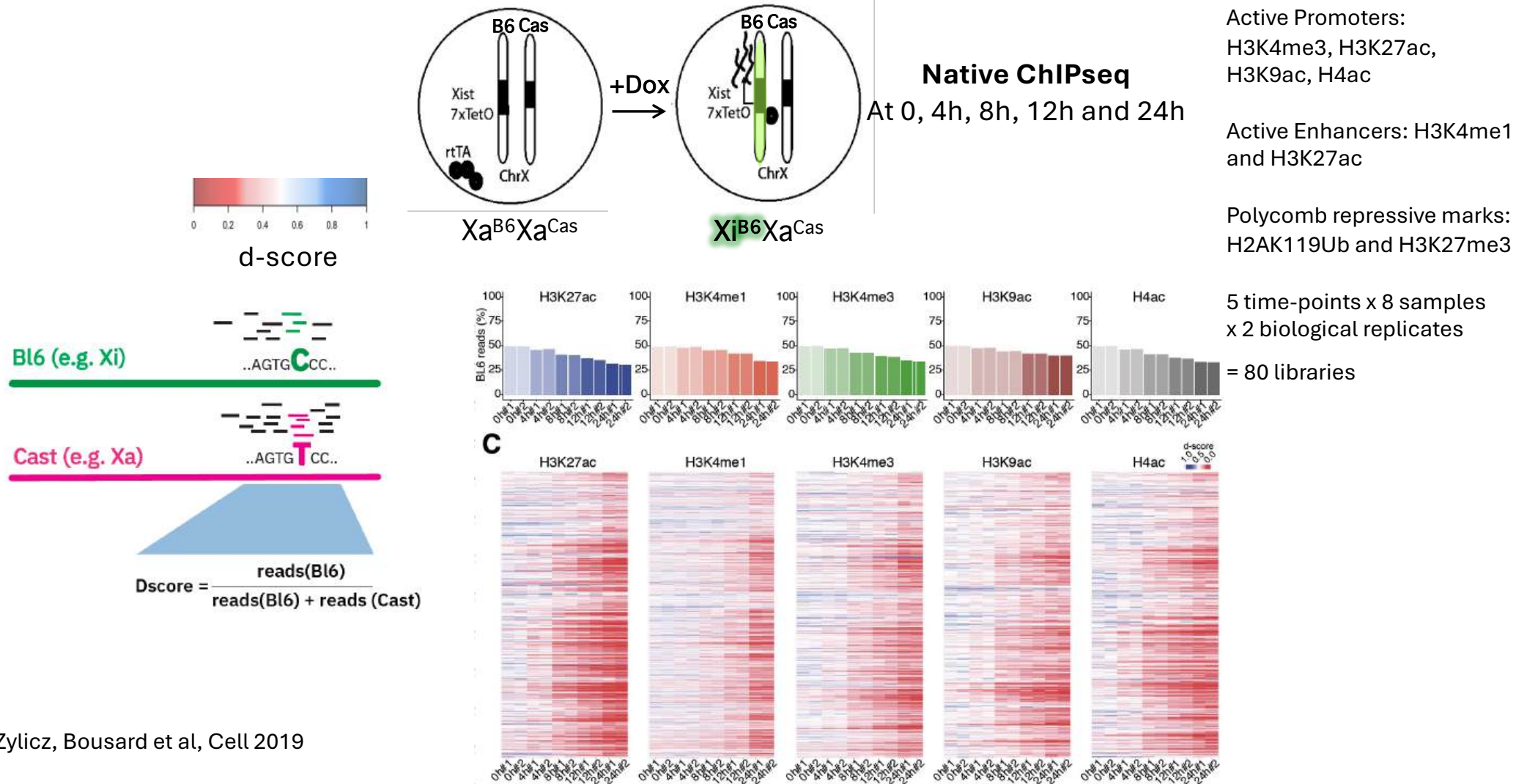


Jan Żylicz

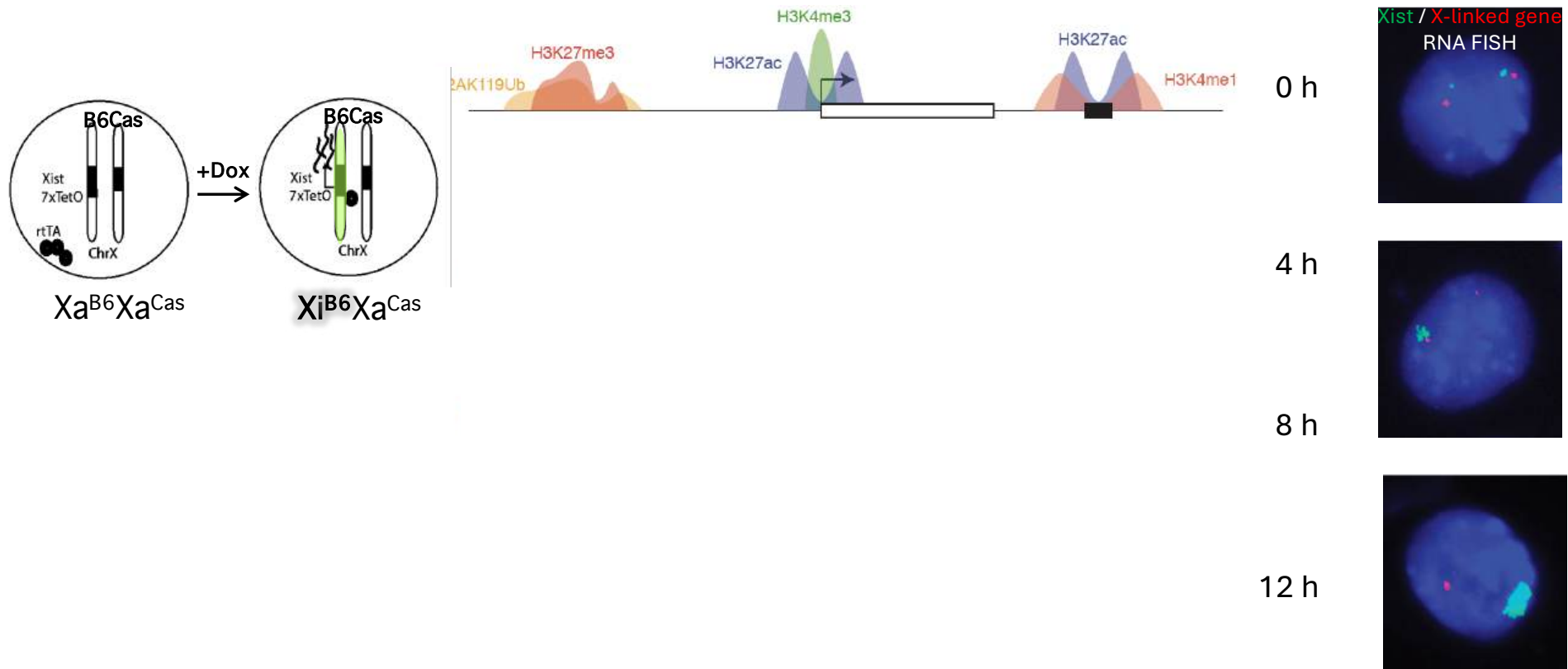


Aurélien Bousard

The Implication of Early Chromatin Changes in X Inactivation

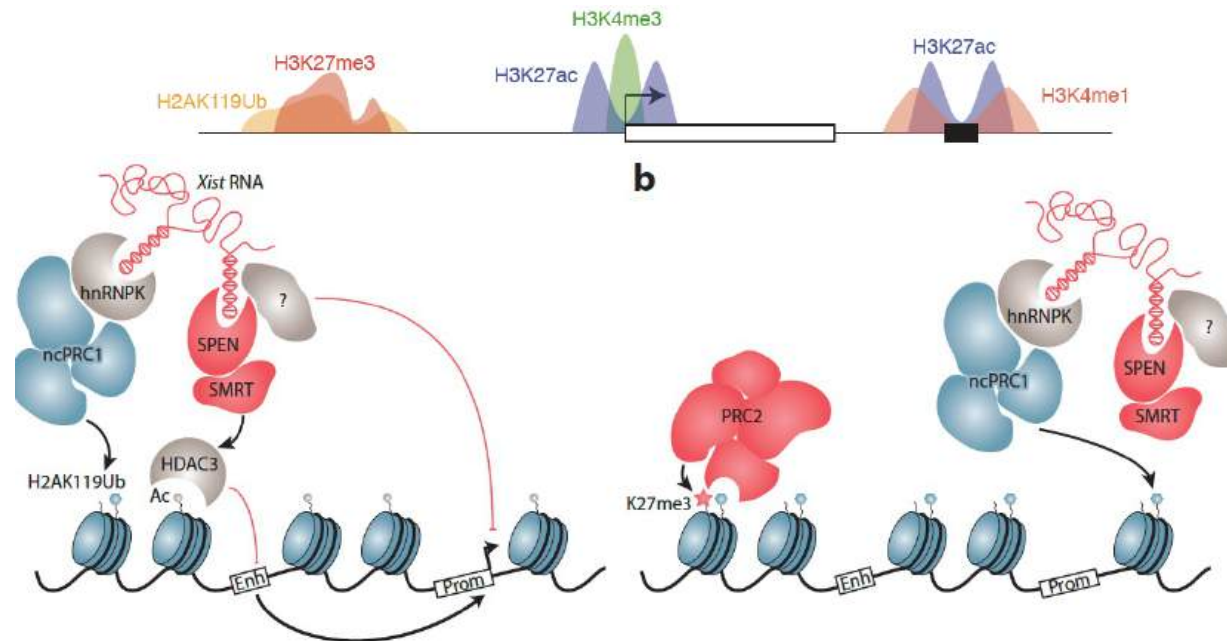


The Implication of Early Chromatin Changes in X Inactivation



- Histone deacetylatic
- HDAC3 is required for efficient XCI of most, but not all x-linked genes
- PRC1-mediated H2AK119Ub precedes H3K27me3 (PRC2) on the Xist RNA-coated X
- Both Polycomb marks accumulate initially at intergenic regions, then spread to genic regions but only after gene silencing has occurred

The Implication of Polycomb Complexes in X Inactivation

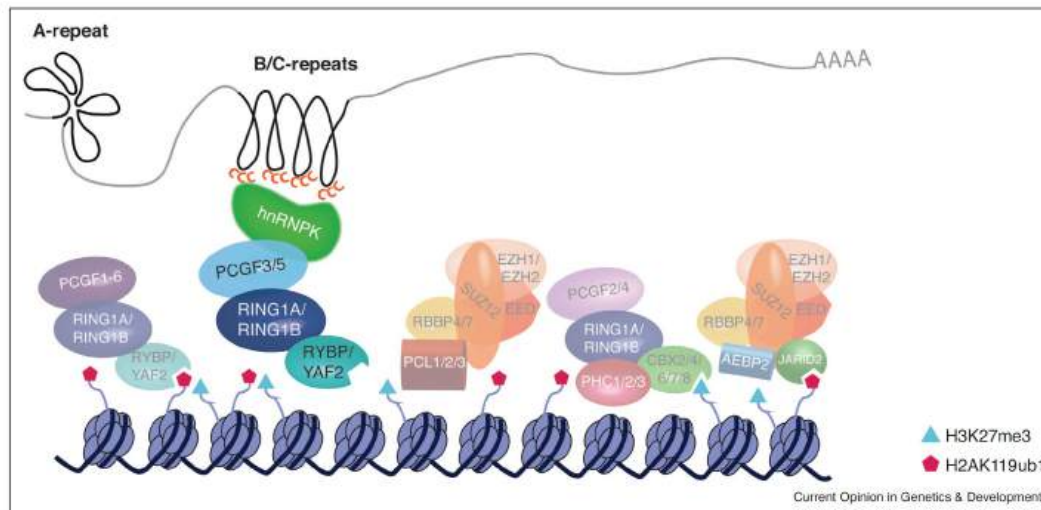


From Zylitz and Heard,
Ann Rev Biochem 2020

- Histone deacetylation via HDAC3 is a very early event in XCI
- HDAC3 is required for efficient XCI of most, but not all X-linked genes
- PRC1-mediated H2AK119Ub precedes H3K27me3 (PRC2) on the Xist RNA-coated X
- Both Polycomb marks accumulate initially at intergenic regions, then spread to genic regions but only after gene silencing has occurred
- During Initiation of XCI PRC1 precedes PRC2; during maintenance both PRC1 and PRC2 are required
- Different genes may have different requirements for PRC1, PRC2 or both...

Zylitz, Bousard et al, Cell 2019
Bousard et al EMBO Reports 2019

Multiple Polycomb Combinations at Different Stages of Life May Contribute to the Silent State of the Inactive X Chromosome



- Expression of Xist RNA promotes enrichment of multiple subtypes of Polycomb complexes on the inactive X chromosome.
- This is mediated by the direct interaction between the Xist B/C-repeat region of the RNA and a nuclear matrix protein, hnRNPK, which specifically engages PCGF3/5-PRC1 complexes.
- Downstream of initial PCGF3/5-PRC1 catalytic activity, self-reinforcing loops of recruitment acting through recognition mechanisms involving all non-canonical PRC1 complexes (via RYBP binding H2AK119ub1), PRC2 (via JARID2 binding H2AK119ub1) and canonical PRC1 (via CBX binding H3K27me3 deposited by PRC2)
- Once established – different genes on the inactive X have different Polycomb dependencies (for ex. in early extra-embryonic tissues) (Masui, Corbel et al, 2023 –next week)

Publication	Model(s)	Xist sequence for Polycomb recruitment	Effect on gene silencing	Identification of hnRNPK	Effect of hnRNPK KD
da Rocha <i>et al.</i> , 2014 [52]	XY mESCs with Xist transgene targeted to the <i>Hprt</i> locus	XN region: F-repeat, B-repeat and C-repeat regions (3.8kb)	No defect in gene silencing by RNA-FISH after four days of Δ XN Xist induction and similar to WT in cell survival assay (five days)	n/a	n/a
Chu <i>et al.</i> , 2015 [47]	XY mESCs with autosomal Xist transgene	n/a	n/a	Xist ChIRP-MS in mESCs	Reduced H3K27me3/ H2AK119ub1 enrichment and gene silencing after four days of Xist induction
Almeida <i>et al.</i> , 2017 [57*]	XY mESCs with autosomal Xist transgene	XN region: F-repeat, B-repeat and C-repeat regions (3.8kb)	Defect after three days of Xist induction in <i>Pcgl3/5</i> knockout mESCs compared to <i>Pcgl5</i> knockout	n/a	n/a
Pintacuda <i>et al.</i> , 2017 [58**]	XY mESCs with autosomal Xist transgene	B-repeat + partial C-repeat (0.6kb)	Defect after three days of Δ B/C Xist induction	Quantitative MS comparison of binding to <i>in vitro</i> transcribed A versus B/C repeat sequences	Reduced H2AK119ub1 enrichment after one day of Xist induction
Colognori <i>et al.</i> , 2019 [59*]	Tetraploid MEFs and XX mESCs	B-repeat only (0.3kb)	No defect in Δ B/C MEFs, major defect after fourteen days of Δ B/C mESC differentiation	LC-MS/MS of aptamer-tagged B-repeat RNA, EMSA confirming interaction <i>in vitro</i>	Loss of Xi enrichment in MEFs after two days (H2AK119ub1) or six days (H3K27me3) of RNAi
Bousard <i>et al.</i> , 2019 [60]	XY mESCs with inducible Xist	B-repeat + total C-repeat (2kb)	Little defect after two days of Δ B/C Xist induction with differentiation	ChIRP-MS comparison of full length versus Δ B/C Xist RNA	n/a
Nesterova <i>et al.</i> , 2019 [46*]	XX mESCs with inducible Xist	B-repeat + partial C-repeat (1.1kb)	Moderate defect after one day of Δ B/C Xist induction in mESCs or six days of Δ B/C Xist induction with differentiation	n/a	n/a
Schertzer <i>et al.</i> , 2019 [70**]	Trophoblast stem cells (imprinted XCI)	n/a	n/a	n/a	Reduced enrichment of H3K27me3 on ChrX and other lncRNA-imprinted regions

mESC= mouse embryonic stem cells; MEF= mouse embryonic fibroblasts; MS=mass spectrometry; ChIRP-MS= comprehensive identification of RNA-binding proteins by MS; LC= liquid chromatography; EMSA= electrophoretic mobility assay.

mESC, mouse embryonic stem cells; MEF, mouse embryonic fibroblasts; MS, mass spectrometry; ChIRP-MS, comprehensive identification of RNA-binding proteins by MS; LC, liquid chromatography; EMSA, electrophoretic mobility shift assay.

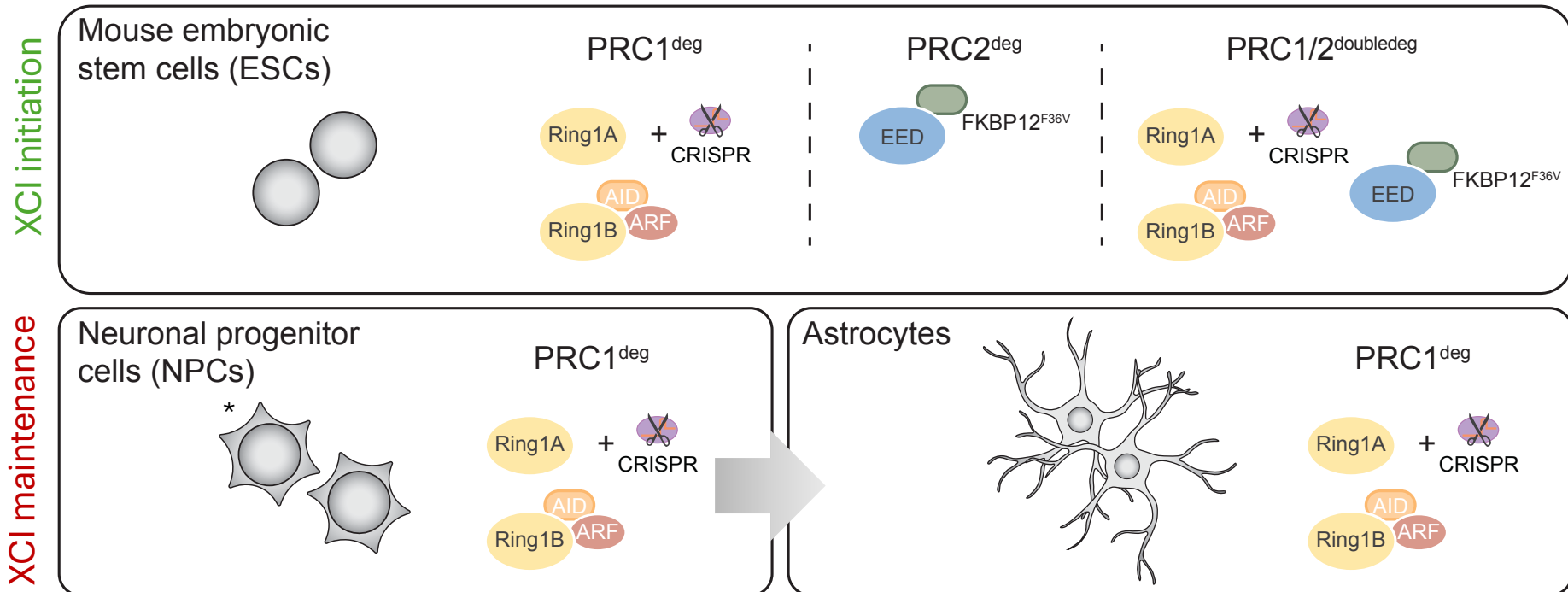
Almeida et al (2020) Curr. Op. Gen.Dev
<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.gde.2020.02.023>

Dissecting the roles of Polycomb complexes during X-chromosome inactivation (XCI)

Knock out of PRC1 or PRC2 in vivo (NEXT WEEK)

Polycomb complex degrades in F1 hybrid Xist-inducible mouse embryonic stem cells, neuronal progenitor cells + astrocytes (ongoing work in Heard lab):

- Dox-inducible upregulation of *Xist* in ESCs or random XCI by cellular differentiation
- Remove PRC1 and PRC2 acutely and reversibly via targeted proteasomal degradation

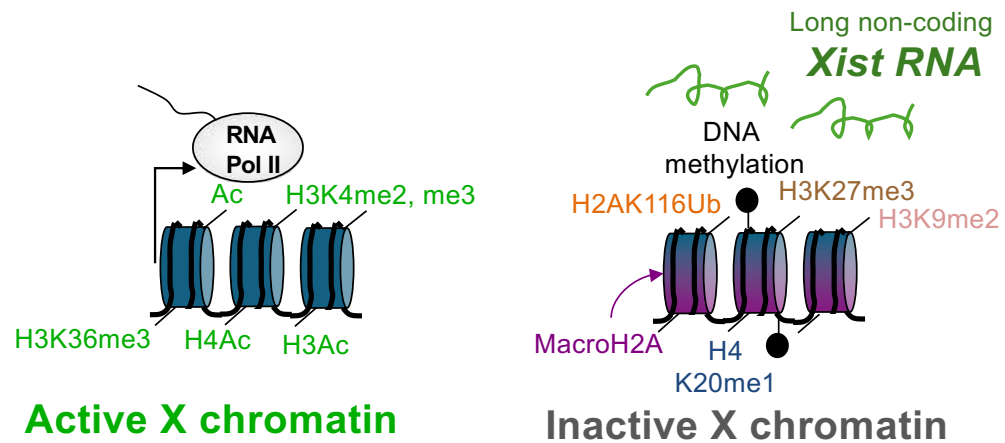


Chromatin Characteristics of the inactive X Chromosome

Identical (or almost) DNA sequences

Opposite gene activity states

Heritable through cell divisions



Chromatin proteins and histone modifications:

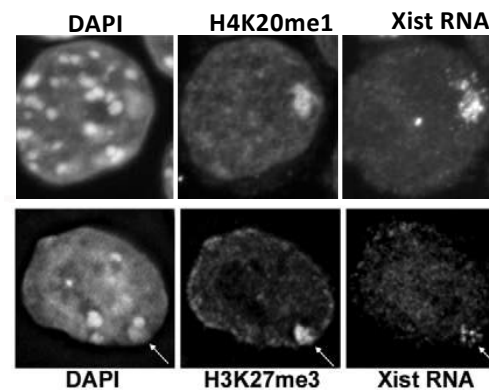
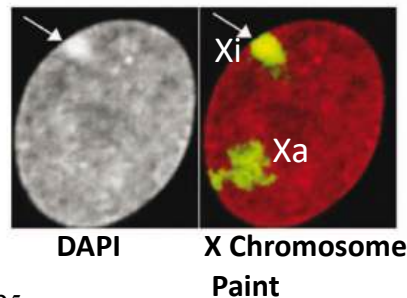
PRC1 and PRC2 complexes play roles in early maintenance of XCI

DNA methylation

Plays a role in maintenance of the stable inactive state

Asynchronous replication timing?

Chromosome architecture?



Xi-associated proteins:

SPEN

SAF-A
macroH2A

PRC2

PRC1

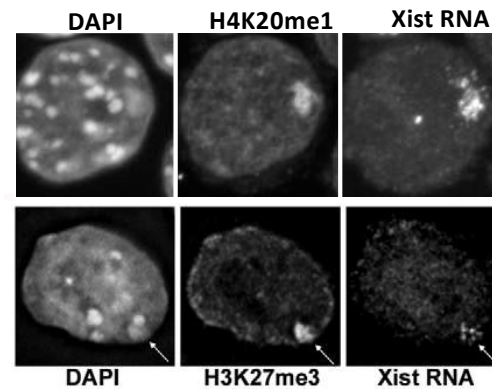
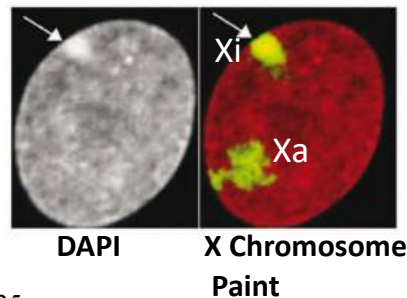
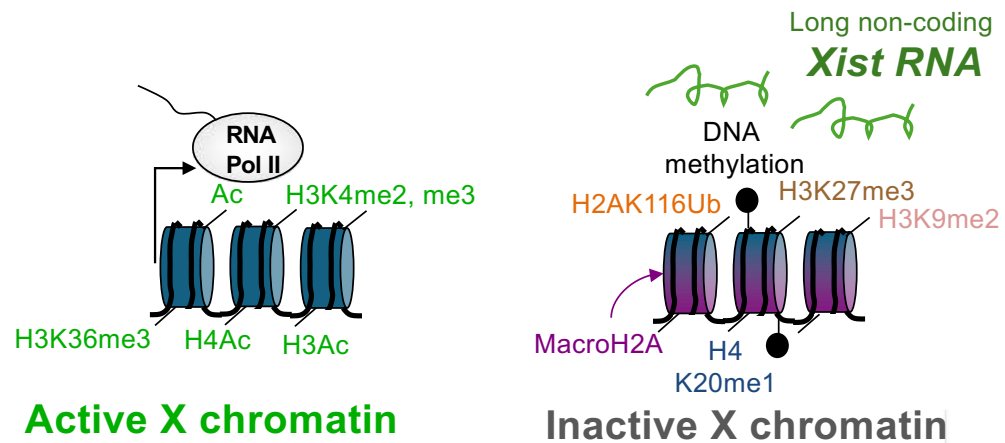
ATRX
SMCHD1
CDYL

Chromatin and 3D Organisation of the Inactive X Chromosome

Identical (or almost) DNA sequences

Opposite gene activity states

Heritable through cell divisions



Chromatin proteins and histone modifications:

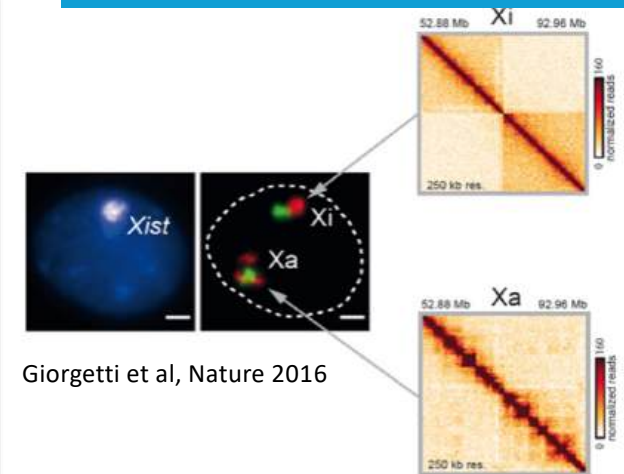
PRC1 and PRC2 complexes play roles in early maintenance of XCI

DNA methylation

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Asynchronous replication timing?

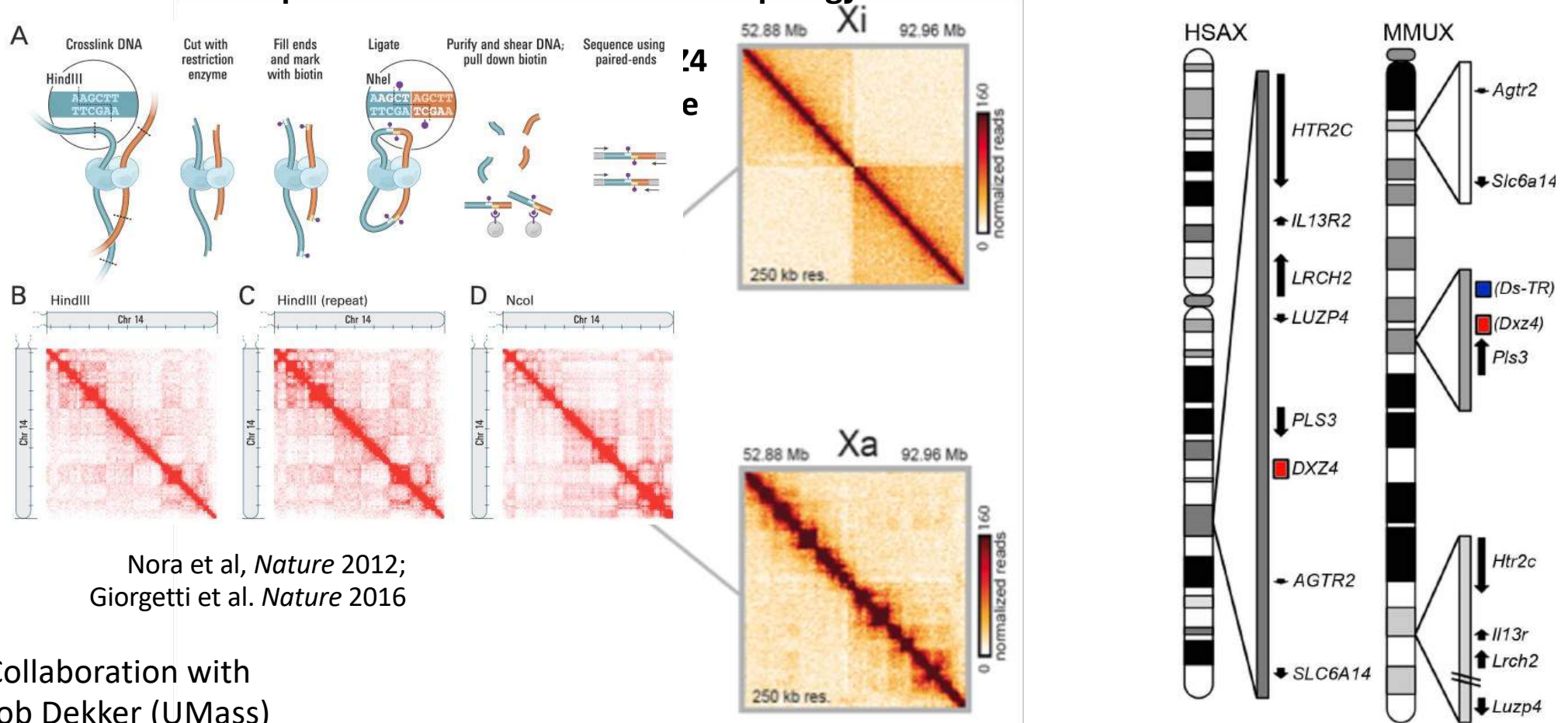
Chromosome architecture?



Giorgetti et al, Nature 2016

Inactive X-Chromosome 3D Organisation

Allele-specific HiC: 3D chromosome topology of the active and inactive X chromosomes

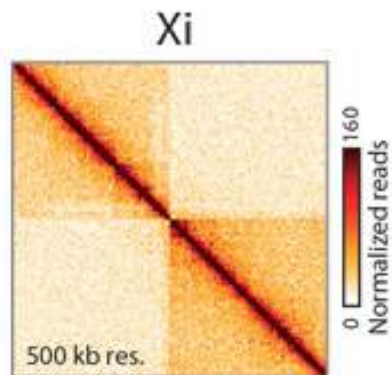
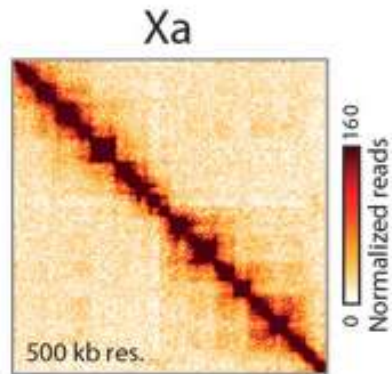


Nora et al, *Nature* 2012;
Giorgetti et al. *Nature* 2016

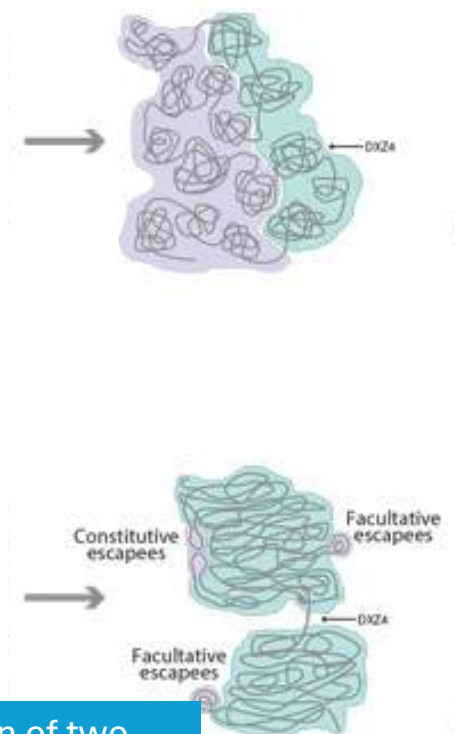
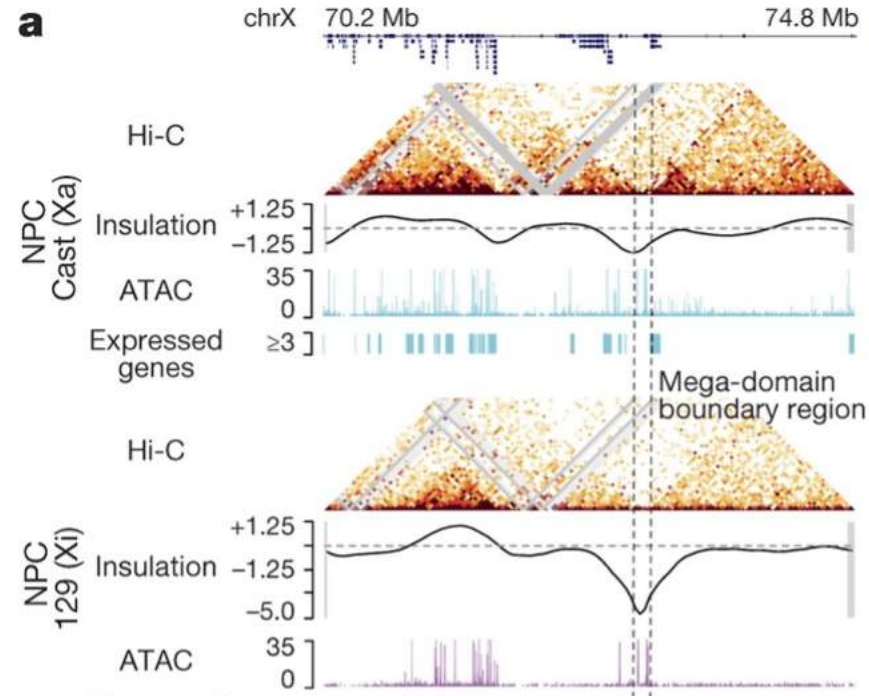
Collaboration with
Job Dekker (UMass)

E. Heard, May 26th, 2025

Inactive X-Chromosome 3D Organisation



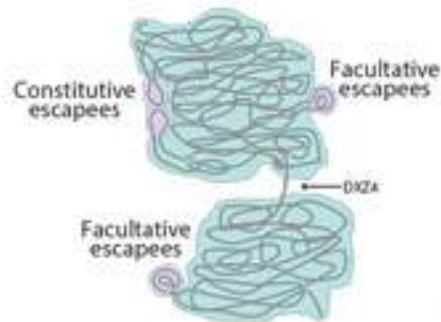
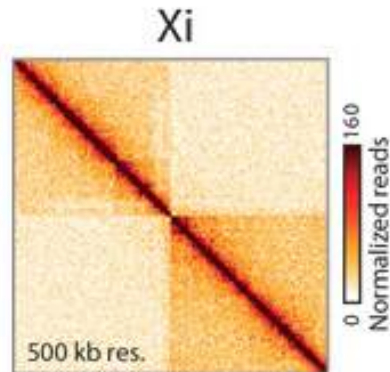
Giorgetti et al. *Nature* 2016



- The inactive X is “unstructured” except for the formation of two megadomains, spearated by DXZ4 macrosatellite
- Plus a few TAD-like domains that correspond to genes escaping XCI: are these a cause or consequence of escape?
- The CTCF-enriched DXZ4 macrosatellite does NOT influence XCI but it does influence frequency of escape (NEXT WEEK)

E. Heard, May 26th, 2025

Inactive X-Chromosome 3D Organisation



The non-canonical SMC protein SmcHD1 antagonises TAD formation and compartmentalisation on the inactive X chromosome

Michal R. Gdula¹, Tatyana B. Nesterova¹, Greta Pintacuda¹, Jonathan Godwin¹, Ye Zhan¹, Hakan Ozadam², Michael McClellan³, Daniella Moralli⁴, Felix Krueger⁵, Catherine M. Green⁴, Skirmantas Kiaucionis³, Edith Heard⁷, Job Dekker² & Neil Brockdorff¹

- Non-canonical SMC family protein, SMCHD1 is essential for the maintenance of XCI (Gendrel et al 2012)
- It localizes to the Xi and may be involved in the hypermethylation of CpG islands, SMCHD1 contributes to the formation of H3K9me3 blocks on the Xi, which may also stabilize gene repression
- SMCHD1 may collaborate with Polycomb Repressive Complex 1 (PRC1) to reorganize the 3D structure of the inactive X chromosome (Xi) – eliminating compartments?

Smchd1-Dependent and -Independent Pathways Determine Developmental Dynamics of CpG Island Methylation on the Inactive X Chromosome

Anne-Valerie Gendrel^{1,7,8}, Anwyn Apedalle^{3,8}, Heather Coker¹, Ausma Termanis⁴, Ilona Zvetkova^{3,9}, Jonathan Godwin¹, Y. Amy Tang^{3,10}, Derek Huntley⁵, Giovanni Montana⁶, Steven Taylor², Eleni Giannoulidou², Edith Heard⁷, Irina Stancheva⁴ and Neil Brockdorff^{1,*}

Cell Reports

Article

Smchd1 Targeting to the Inactive X Is Dependent on the *Xist*-HnrnpK-PRC1 Pathway

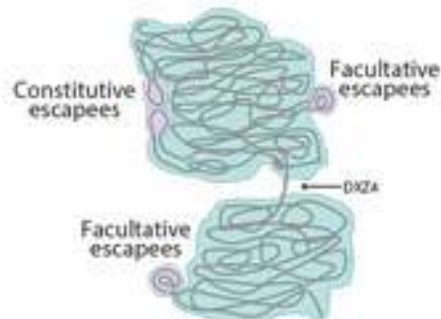
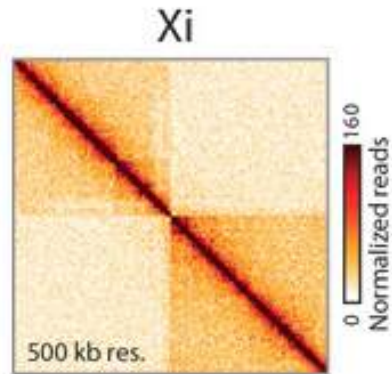
Authors

Natasha Jansz, Tatyana Nesterova, Andrew Keniry, ..., Neil Brockdorff, James M. Murphy, Marnie E. Blewitt

SMCHD1 Merges Chromosome Compartments and Assists Formation of Super-Structures on the Inactive X

Chen-Yu Wang^{1,2,3}, Teddy Jégu^{1,2,3}, Hsueh-Ping Chu^{1,2,3}, Hyun Jung Oh^{1,2,3} and Jeannie T. Lee^{1,2,3,4,*}

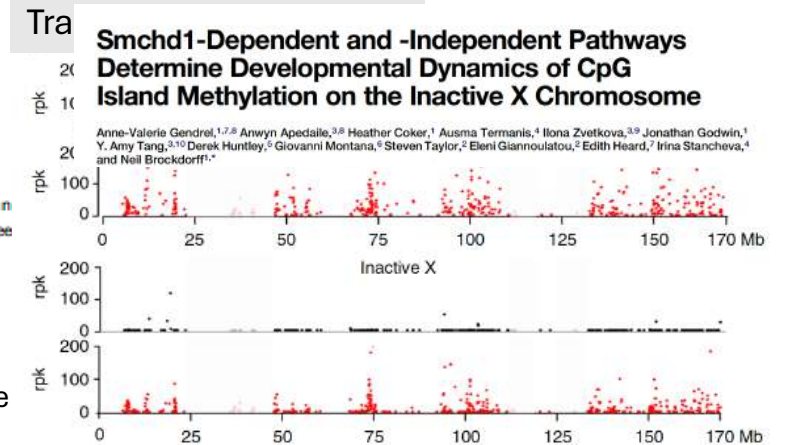
Inactive X-Chromosome 3D Organisation



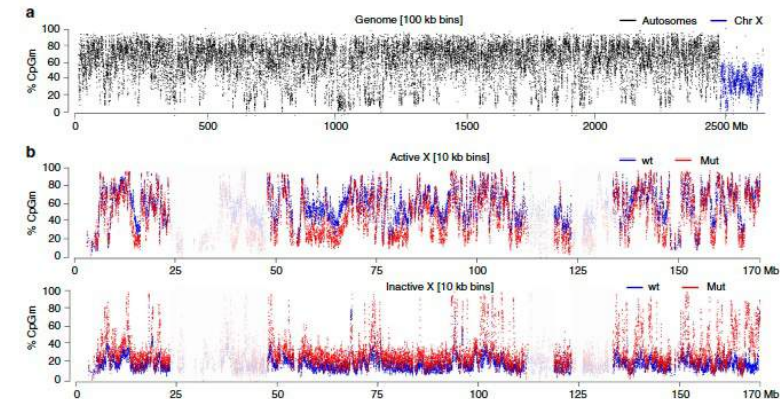
The non-canonical SMC protein SmcHD1 antagonises TAD formation and compartmentalisation on the inactive X chromosome

Michal R. Gdula¹, Tatyana B. Nesterova¹, Greta Pintacuda¹, Jonathan Godwin¹, Ye Zhan Hakan Ozadam², Michael McClellan³, Daniella Moralli⁴, Felix Krueger⁵, Catherine M. Gree Skirmantas Kiaucionis³, Edith Heard⁷, Job Dekker² & Neil Brockdorff¹

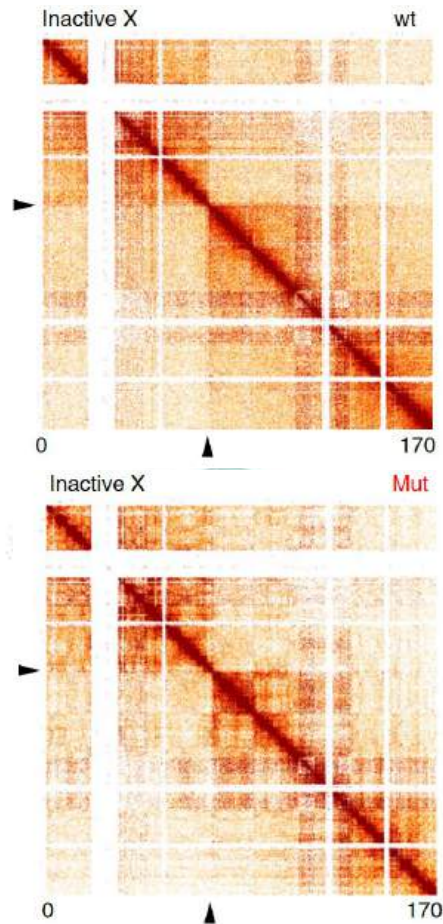
- Non-canonical SMC family protein, SmcHD1 is a key factor in defining the unique chromosome architecture of the Xi.
- Specifically, allelic mapping of the transcriptome and epigenome in SmcHD1 mutant cells reveals the appearance of submegabase domains defined by gene activation, CpG hypermethylation and depletion of Polycomb-mediated H3K27me3.



DNA Methylomes



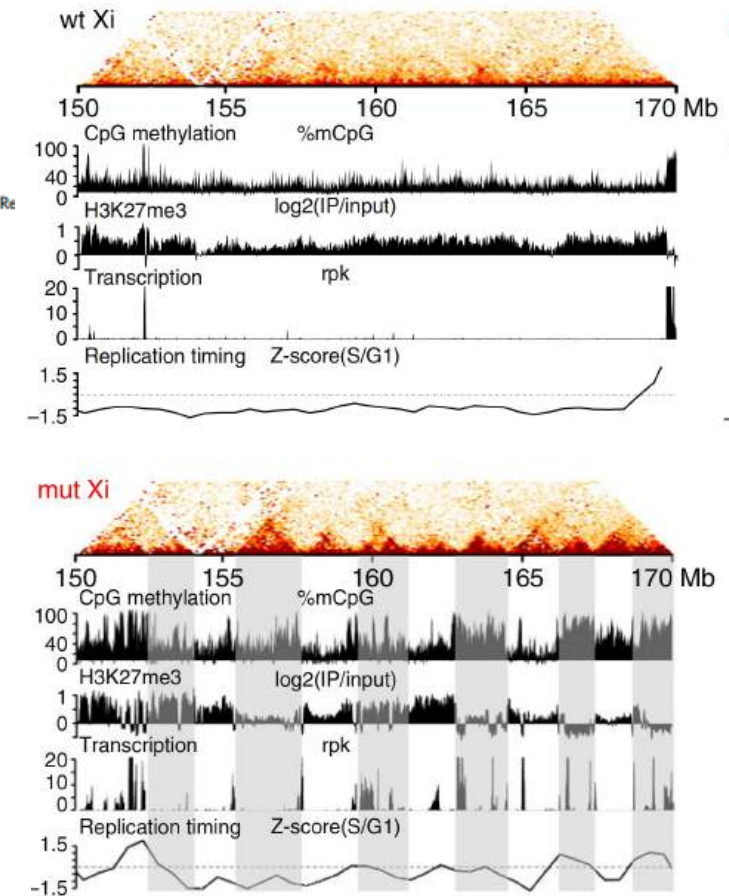
Inactive X-Chromosome 3D Organisation



The non-canonical SMC protein SmcHD1 antagonises TAD formation and compartmentalisation on the inactive X chromosome

Michal R. Gdula¹, Tatyana B. Nesterova¹, Greta Pintacuda¹, Jonathan Godwin¹, Ye Zhan², Hakan Ozadam², Michael McClellan³, Daniella Moralli⁴, Felix Krueger⁵, Catherine M. Green⁴, Wolf R. Skirnantas³, Edith Heard⁷, Job Dekker² & Neil Brockdorff¹

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- Specifically, allelic mapping of the transcriptome and epigenome in SmcHD1 mutant cells reveals the appearance of submegabase domains defined by gene activation, CpG hypermethylation and depletion of Polycomb-mediated H3K27me3.
- These domains, which correlate with sites of SmcHD1 enrichment on Xi in wild-type cells, additionally adopt features of active X chromosome higher-order chromosome architecture, including A/B compartments and partial restoration of TAD boundaries.
- Xi chromosome architecture changes also occurred following SmcHD1 knockout in a somatic cell model, but in this case, independent of Xi gene derepression.



Inactive X-Chromosome DNA Replication

Replication dynamics identifies the folding principles of the inactive X chromosome

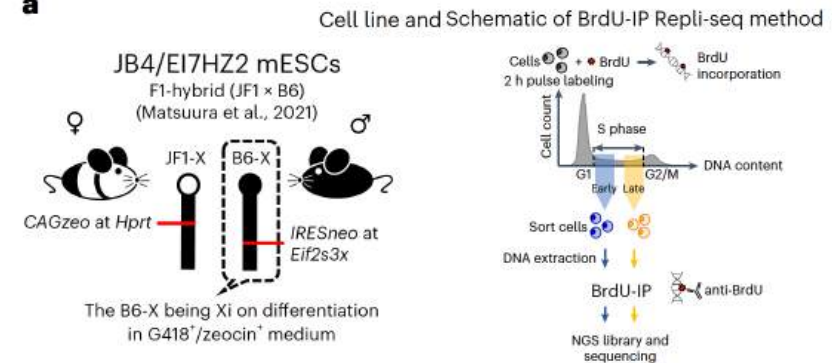
Received: 20 September 2022

Rawin Poonperm¹, Saya Ichihara^{2,5}, Hisashi Miura¹, Akie Tanigawa¹,
Koji Nagao³, Chikashi Obuse³, Takashi Sado^{2,4} & Ichiro Hiratani¹✉

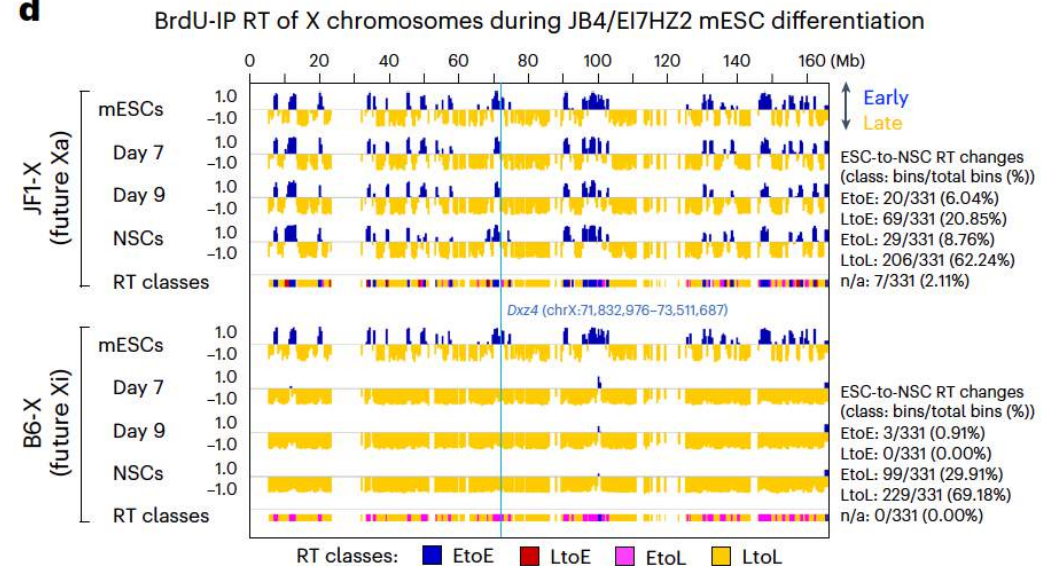
Accepted: 28 June 2023

- Chromosome-wide late replication is an enigmatic hallmark of the inactive X chromosome (Xi). How it is established and what it represents remains obscure.
- By single-cell DNA replication sequencing, we show that the entire Xi is reorganized to replicate rapidly and uniformly in late S-phase during X-chromosome inactivation (XCI), reflecting its relatively uniform structure revealed by Chromosome Conformation Capture.
- Despite this uniformity, only a subset of the Xi became earlier replicating in SmcHD1-mutant cells.

a



d



Inactive X-Chromosome DNA Replication

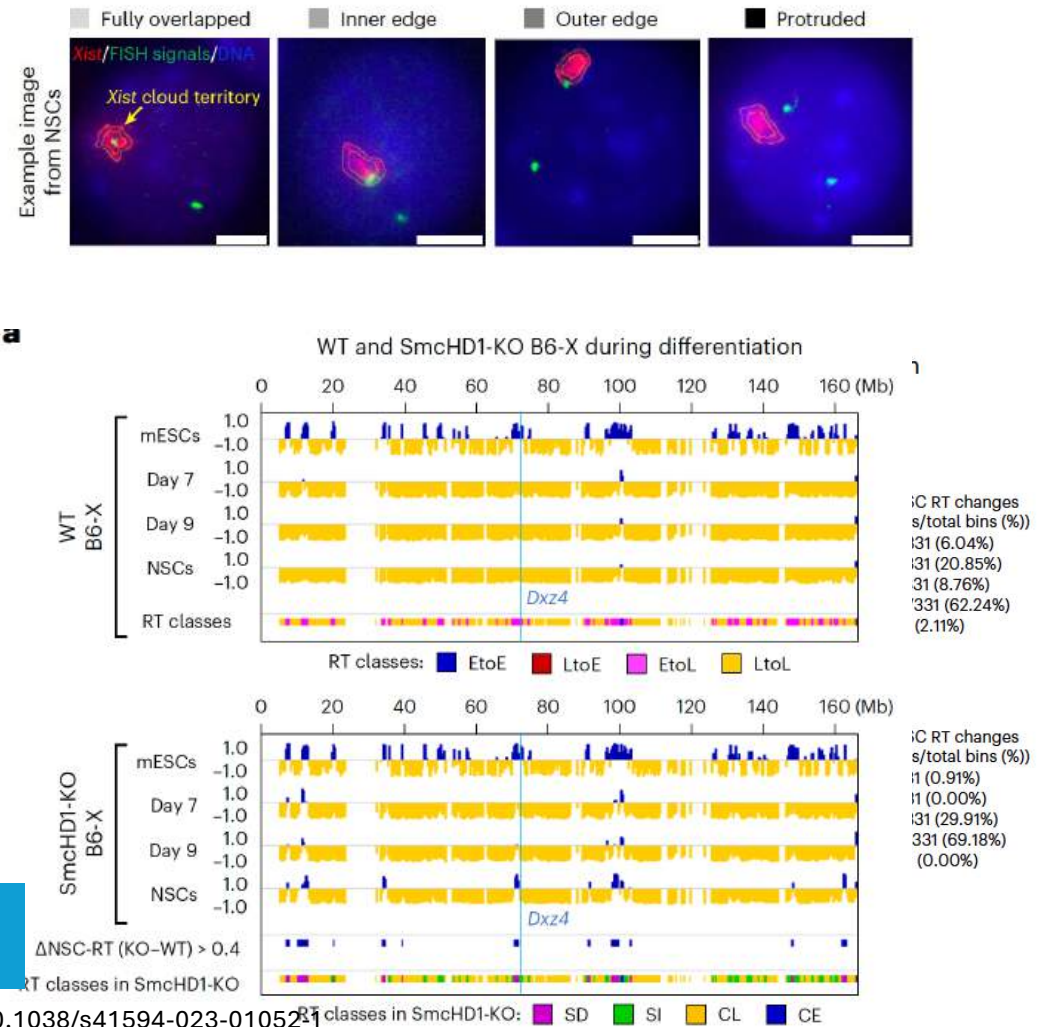
Replication dynamics identifies the folding principles of the inactive X chromosome

Received: 20 September 2022

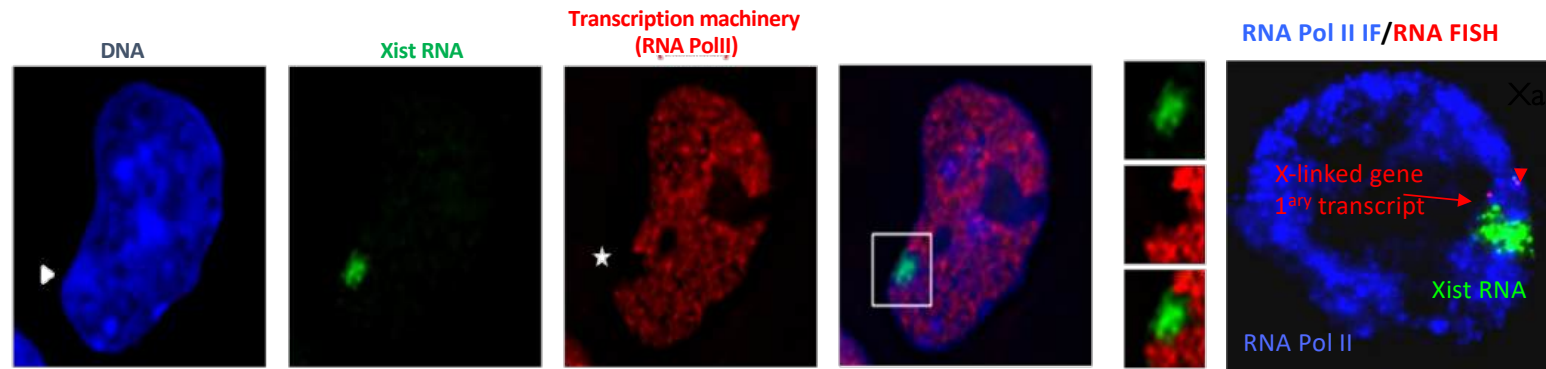
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- Despite this uniformity, only a subset of the Xi became earlier replicating in SmcHD1-mutant cells.
- In the mutant, these domains protruded out of the Xi core, contacted each other and became transcriptionally reactivated. 4C-seq suggested that they constituted the outermost layer of the Xi even before XCI and were rich in escape genes.
- This default positioning may form the basis for their inherent heterochromatin instability in cells lacking the Xi-binding protein SmcHD1 or exhibiting XCI escape.
- These observations underscore the importance of 3D genome organization for heterochromatin stability and gene regulation.



Xist RNA forms a Nuclear Compartment depleted of Transcription

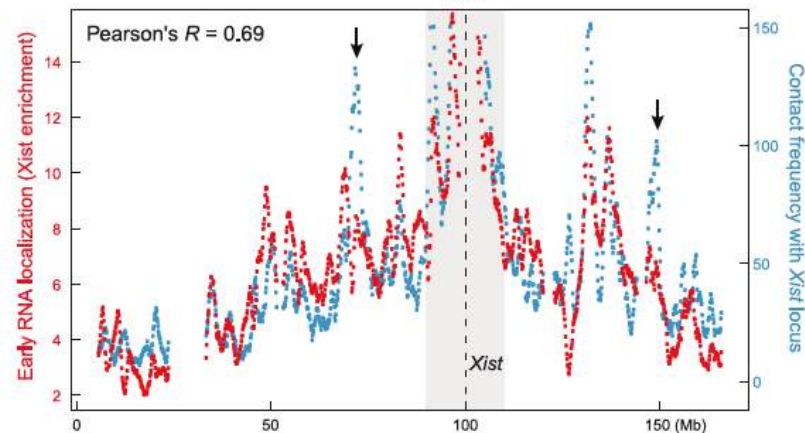


Xist RNA forms a silent “compartment” that is depleted for RNA PolII and transcription factors
 Genes are positioned at the edge of the compartment but move into the Xist RNA domain as they are silenced.
 Genes that escape XCI remain external to the Xist domain...

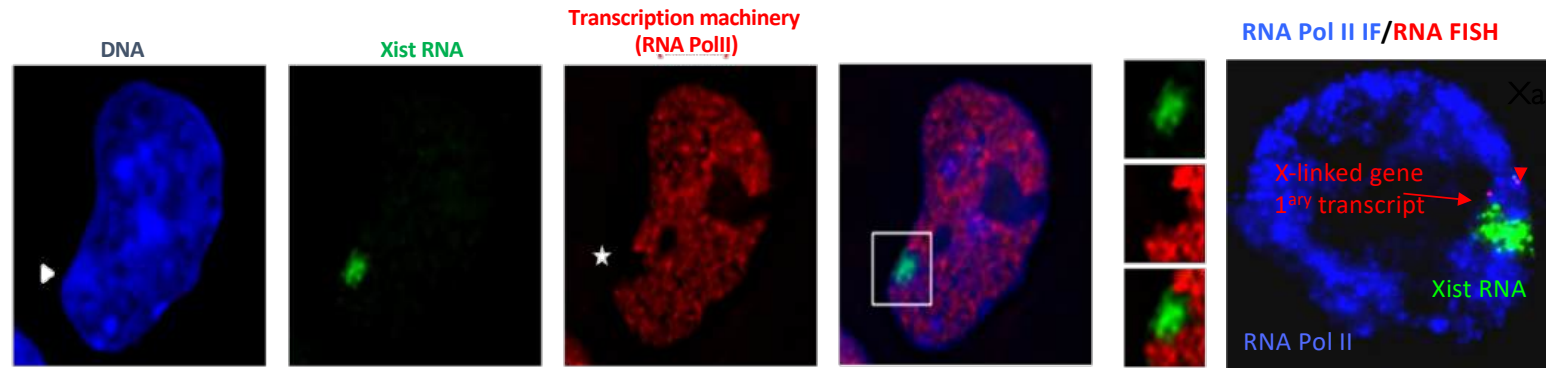
The Xist lncRNA Exploits Three-Dimensional Genome Architecture to Spread Across the X Chromosome

Jesse M. Engreitz,^{1,2} Amy Pandya-Jones,³ Patrick McDonel,¹ Alexander Shishkin,¹
 Klara Sirokman,¹ Christine Surka,¹ Sabah Kadri,¹ Jeffrey Xing,¹ Alon Goren,¹
 Eric S. Lander,^{1,4,5*} Kathrin Plath,^{3*} Mitchell Guttman^{2*†}

Okamoto et al, Science 2004
 Chaumeil et al, Genes Dev. 2006
 Chow et al, Cell 2010



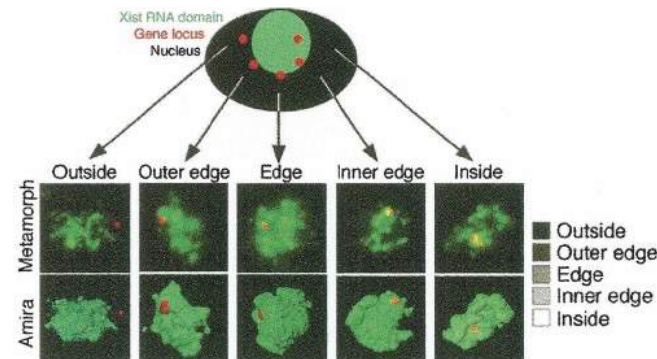
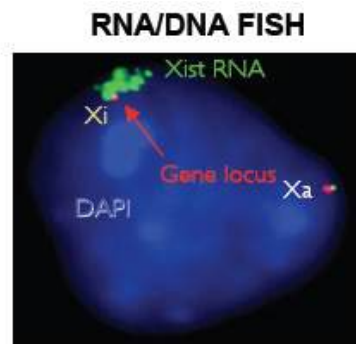
Xist RNA forms a Nuclear Compartment depleted of Transcription



Xist RNA forms a silent “compartment” that is depleted for RNA PolII and transcription factors

Genes are positioned at the edge of the compartment but move into the Xist RNA domain as they are silenced.

Genes that escape XCI remain external to the Xist domain...



Does this RNA polymerase II depletion from the inactive X chromosome territory represent a physical compartmentalization?

Okamoto et al, Science 2004
 Chaumeil et al, Genes Dev. 2006
 Chow et al, Cell 2010

Does Xist RNA lead to RNA PolII physical exclusion/ phase separation?

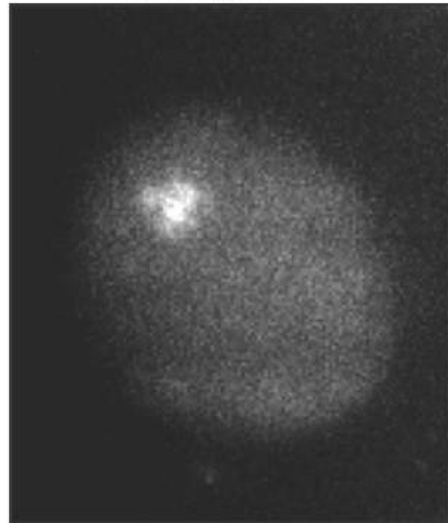
SPT-PALM: single particle tracking

Xist-BGL-GFP
imaging and RNAPII
RPB1 and RPB3
single particle
tracking

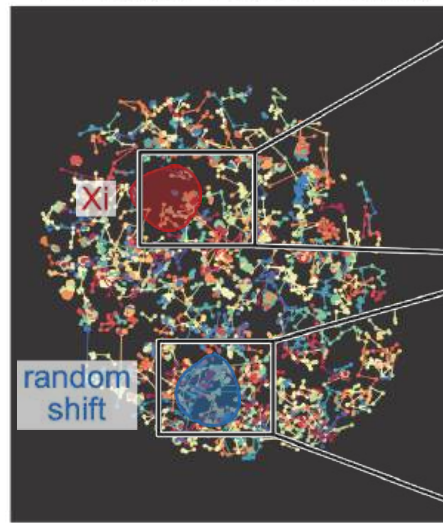
(5.477ms between
frames, 1ms exposure, 3
min tracking) in the same
cell.

Each trajectory is shown
with a random color.

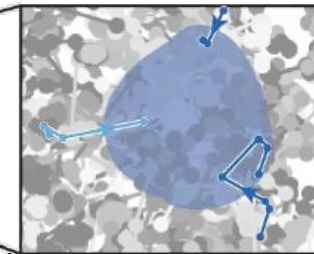
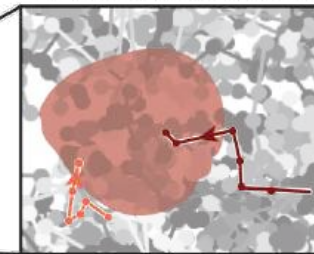
Xist-BglG-GFP



Pol2 single particle tracking



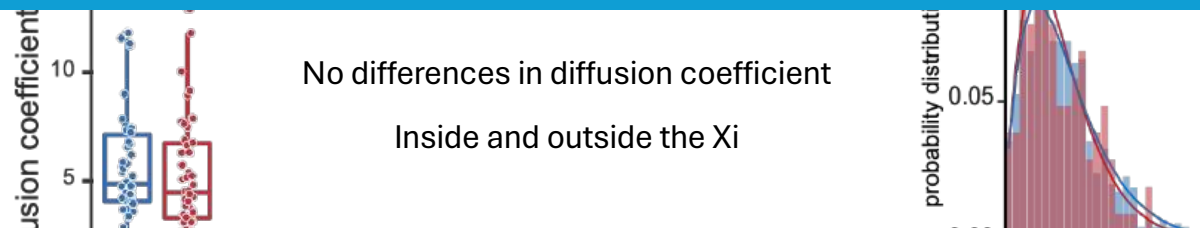
entering trajectories



Samuel
Collombet

Collaboration with
Darzaq/Tjian lab

No “barrier” effect on Xist-coated X chromosome
preventing RNA PolII diffusion during initiation of XCI

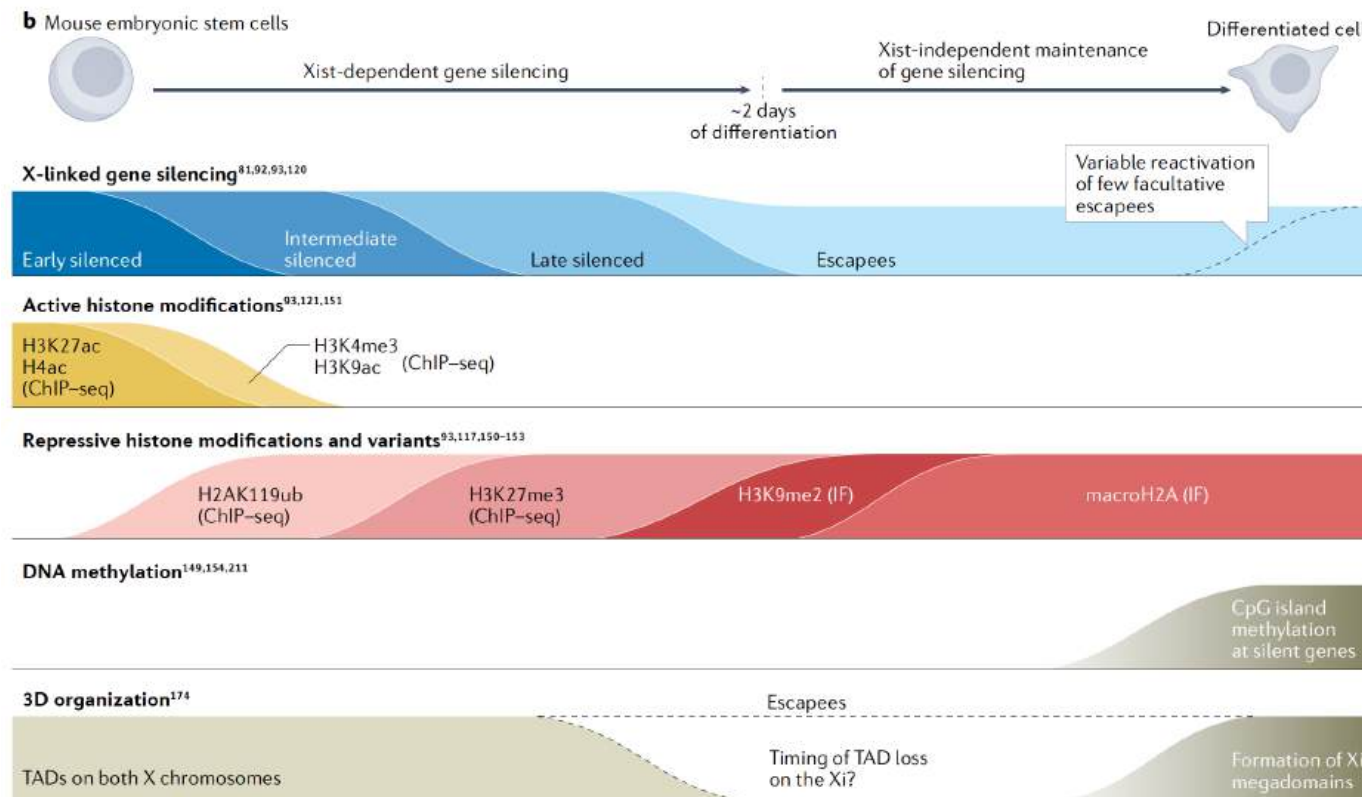


Early “exclusion” of RNA PolII during initiation of XCI
is presumably due to the factors that Xist RNA recruits to silence genes

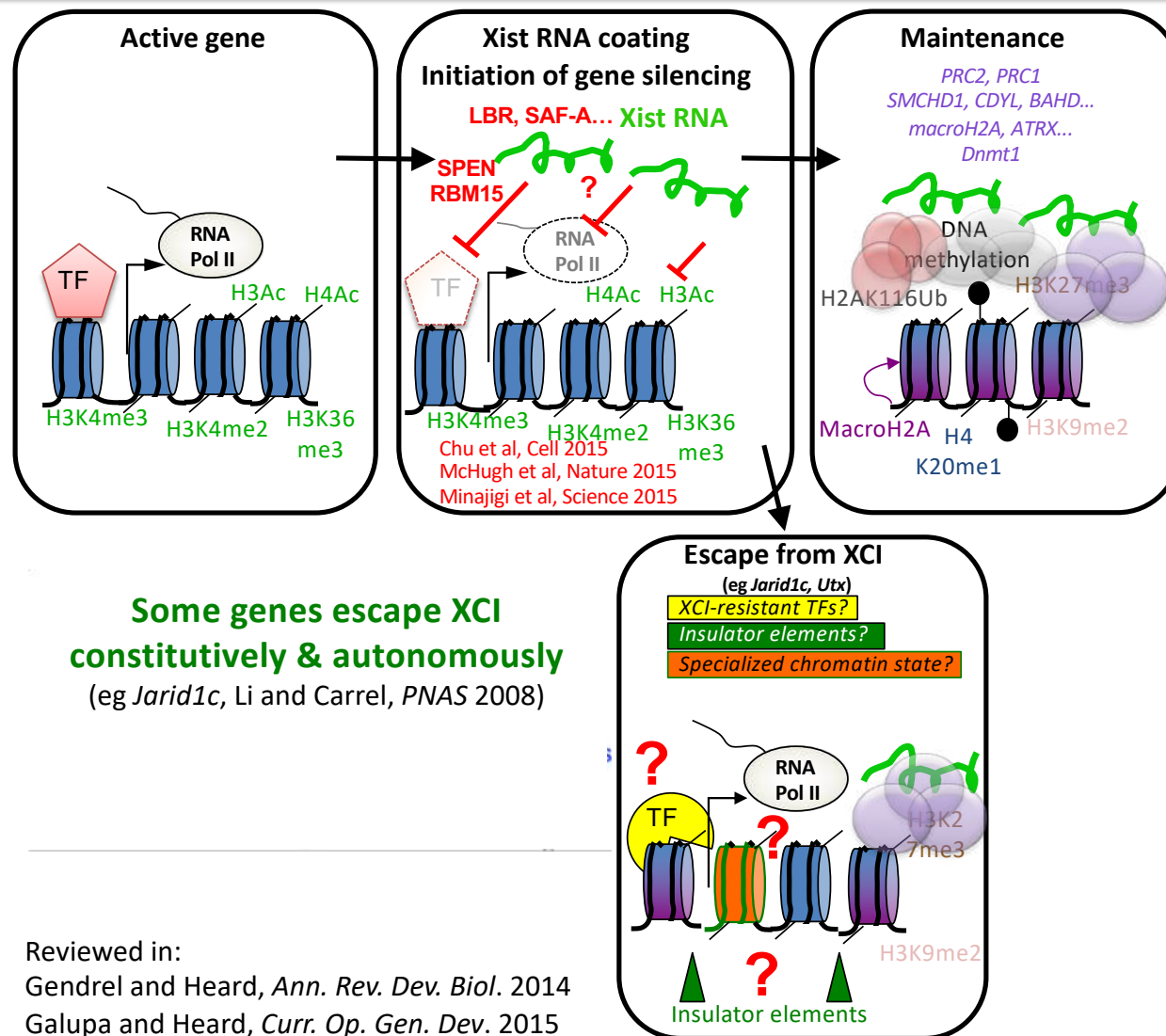
Collombet et al., *bioRxiv*, 2016; *Nature Communications*, in press

X inactivation: a classic example of facultative heterochromatin and a paradigm for epigenetic control

Kinetics of Random XCI in Embryonic Stem Cells

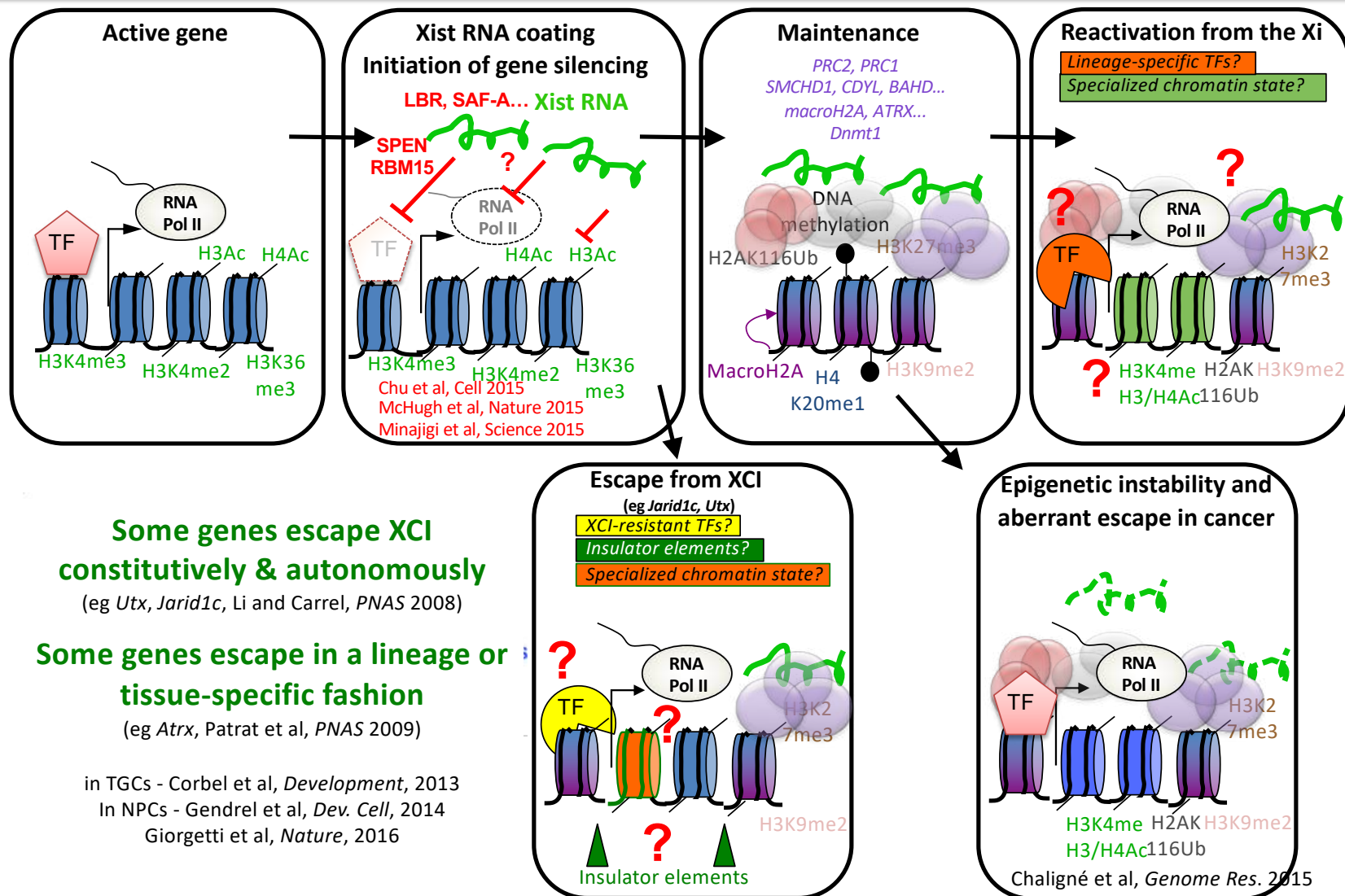


Silencing and Escape from X-chromosome inactivation



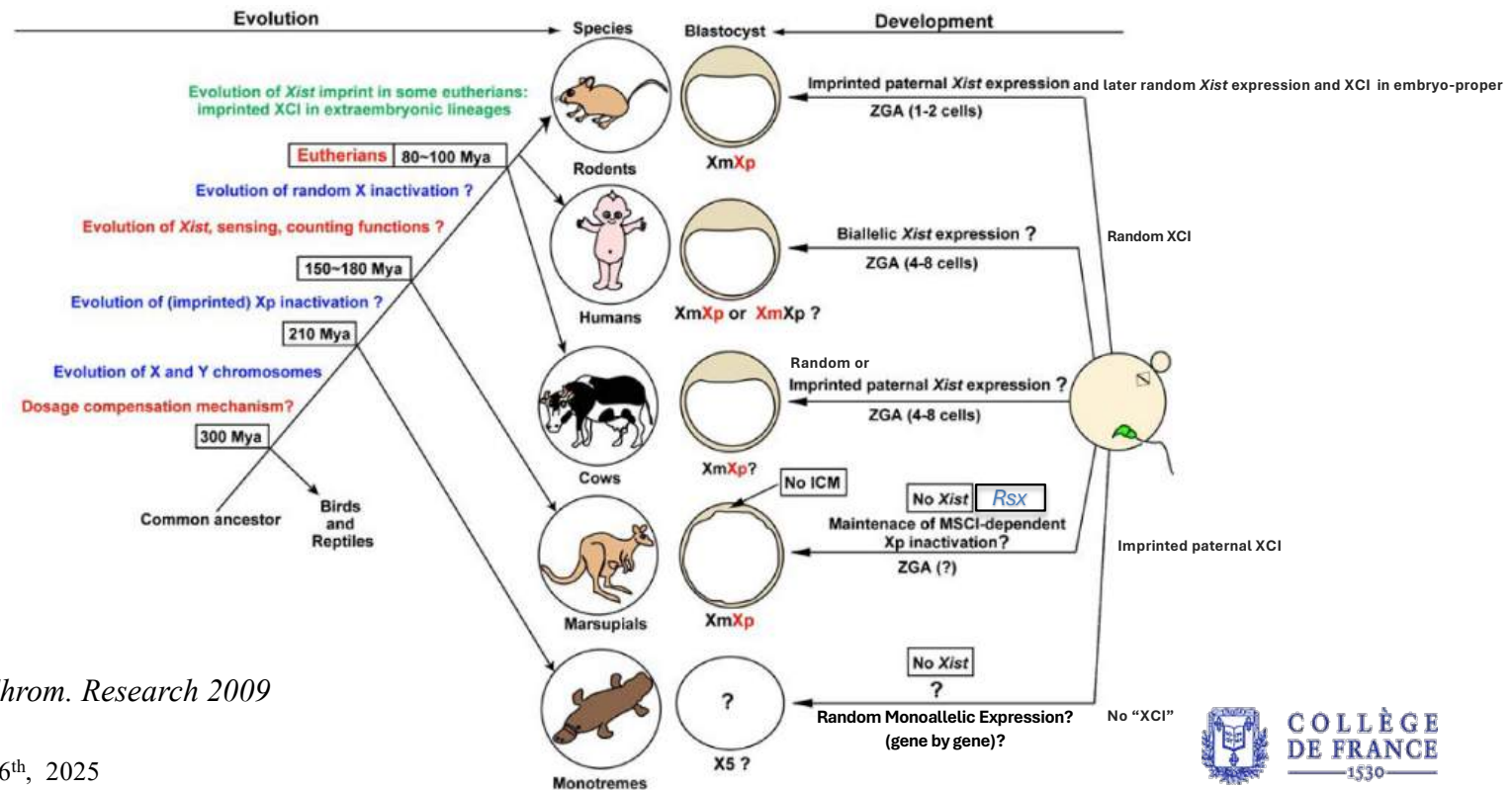
Reviewed in:
Gendrel and Heard, *Ann. Rev. Dev. Biol.* 2014
Galupa and Heard, *Curr. Op. Gen. Dev.* 2015

Silencing and Escape from X-chromosome inactivation



NEXT WEEK: Developmental and Evolutionary Dynamics of XCI

Different mammals have chosen different strategies of paternally imprinted X inactivation and/or random X inactivation



From Okamoto and Heard, *Chrom. Research* 2009

E. Heard, May 26th, 2025

COURS 2025

12 mai 2025

Découverte de l'inactivation du chromosome X
(lyonisation)

19 mai 2025

La génétique et l'épigénétique de l'inactivation du
chromosome X et d'autres exemples d'expression
monoallélique

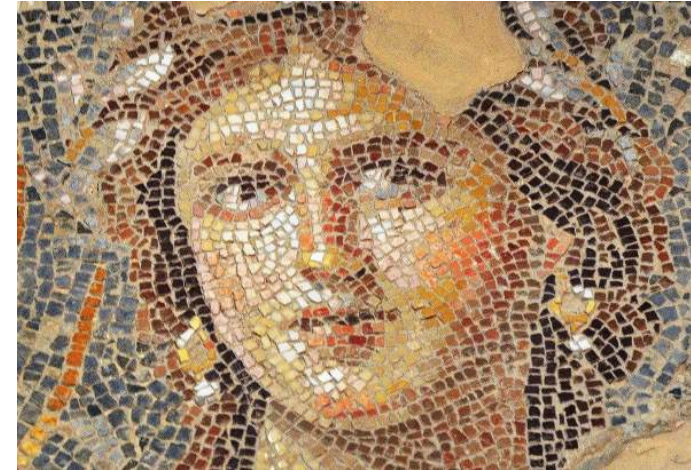
26 mai 2025

Évolution de l'inactivation du chromosome X
et dynamique développementale

2 juin 2025

**Implications de l'inactivation du chromosome X
pour la biologie féminine**

10-11 juin 2025 Colloque



Edith HEARD

CHAIRE ÉPIGÉNÉTIQUE & MÉMOIRE CELLULAIRE

**Nouvelles connaissances sur
les mécanismes épigénétiques :
l'inactivation du chromosome X
et d'autres exemples
d'expression monoallélique**

12 mai > 2 juin 2025