ONCOGENIC SUPER-ENHANCERS IN TUMOR PROGRESSION

ONCOGENE REGULATION

An oncogenic super-enhancer formed through somatic mutation of a noncoding intergenic element

Marc R. Mansour,[1,2] Brian J. Abraham,[3*] Lars Anders,[3*] Alla Berezovskaya,[1] Alejandro Gutierrez,[1,4] Adam D. Durbin,[1] Julia Etchin,[1] Lee Lawton,[3] Stephen E. Sallan,[1,4] Lewis B. Silverman,[1,4] Mignon L. Loh,[5] Stephen P. Hunger,[6] Takaomi Sanda,[7] Richard A. Young,[3,8†] A. Thomas Look[1,4†]

In certain human cancers, the expression of critical oncogenes is driven from large regulatory elements, called super-enhancers, that recruit much of the cell's transcriptional apparatus and are defined by extensive acetylation of histone H3 lysine 27 (H3K27ac). In a subset of T-cell acute lymphoblastic leukemia (T-ALL) cases, we found that heterozygous somatic mutations are acquired that introduce binding motifs for the MYB transcription factor in a precise noncoding site, which creates a super-enhancer upstream of the *TAL1* oncogene. MYB binds to this new site and recruits its H3K27 acetylase–binding partner CBP, as well as core components of a major leukemogenic transcriptional complex that contains RUNX1, GATA-3, and TAL1 itself. Additionally, most endogenous super-enhancers found in T-ALL cells are occupied by MYB and CBP, which suggests a general role for MYB in super-enhancer initiation. Thus, this study identifies a genetic mechanism responsible for the generation of oncogenic super-enhancers in malignant cells.

BACKGROUND

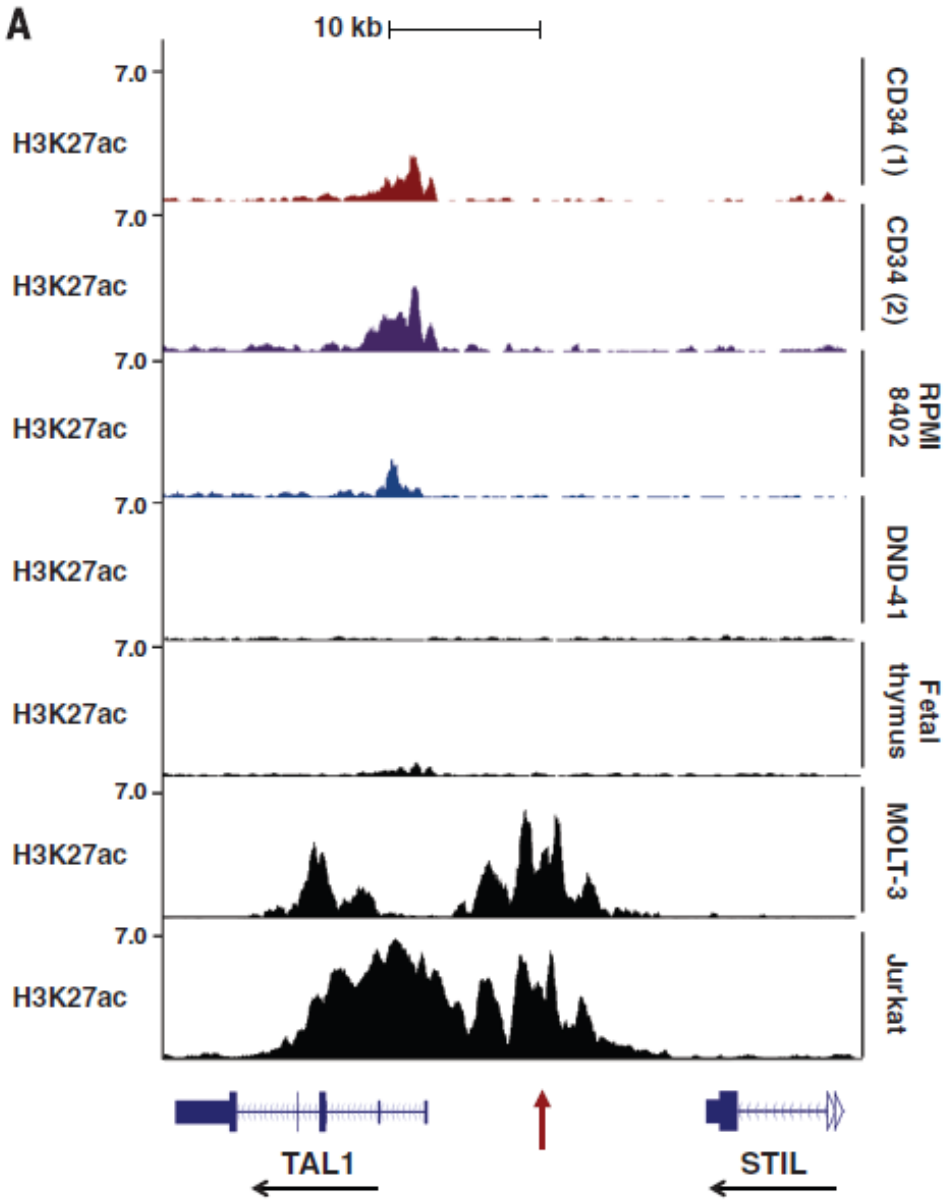
Super-enhancers (SE) upstream TAL1

MYB form Leukemogenic Transcriptional Complex

MYB binds T-ALL cells SEs

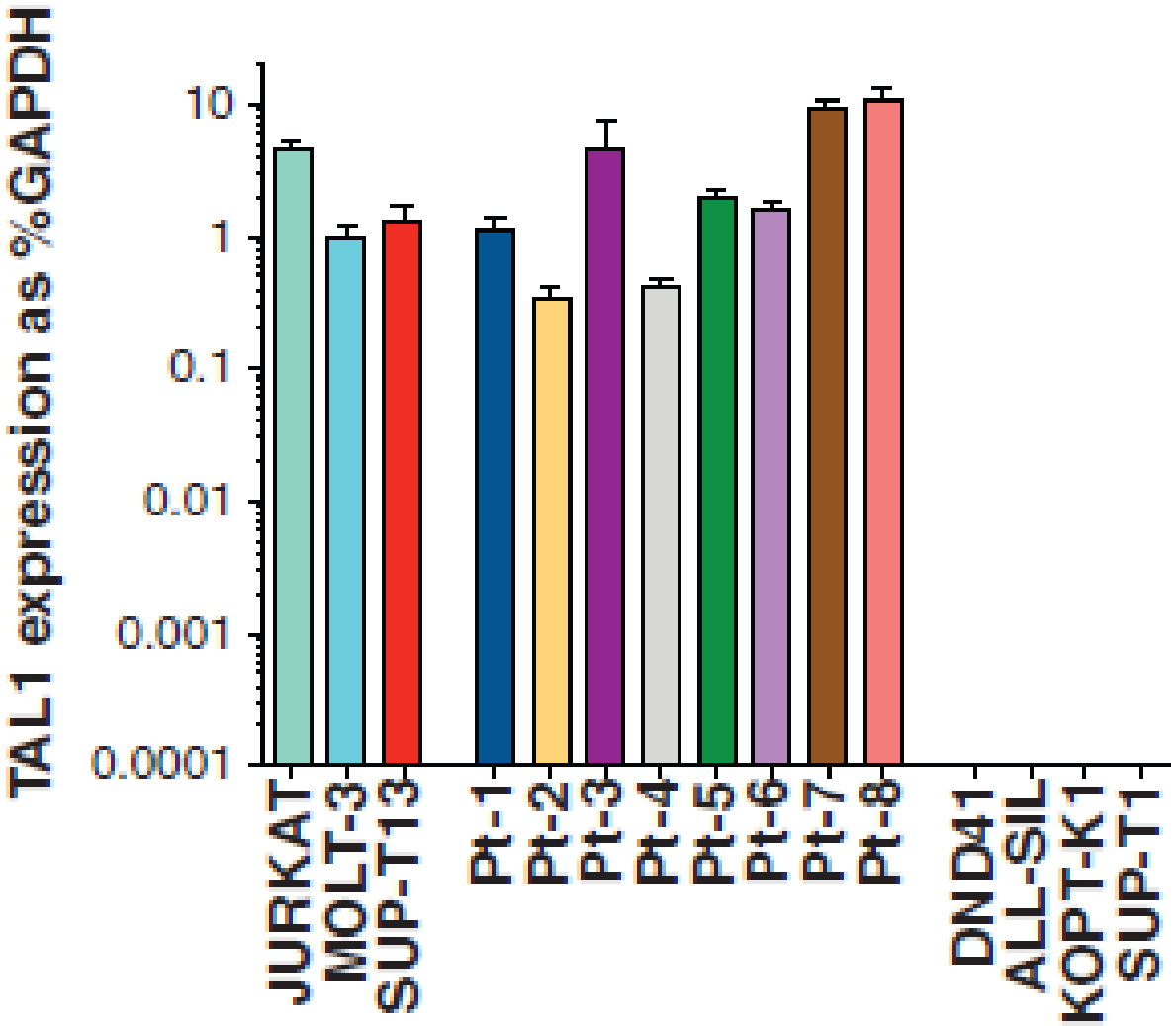
CONCLUSION

ChIP-Seq profile for H3K27ac (active enhancer mark) in different cell lines



Sequence alignments of the –7.5 kb site showing wild-type (WT) sequences in **black** and inserted sequences in **red** for Jurkat and MOLT-3 T-ALL cell lines and eight pediatric T-ALL patients. hg19, human genome build 19.

TAL1 mRNA expression as determined by quantitative polymerase chain reaction (PCR) and expressed as percentage of glyceraldehyde-3-phosphate dehydrogenase (GAPDH).



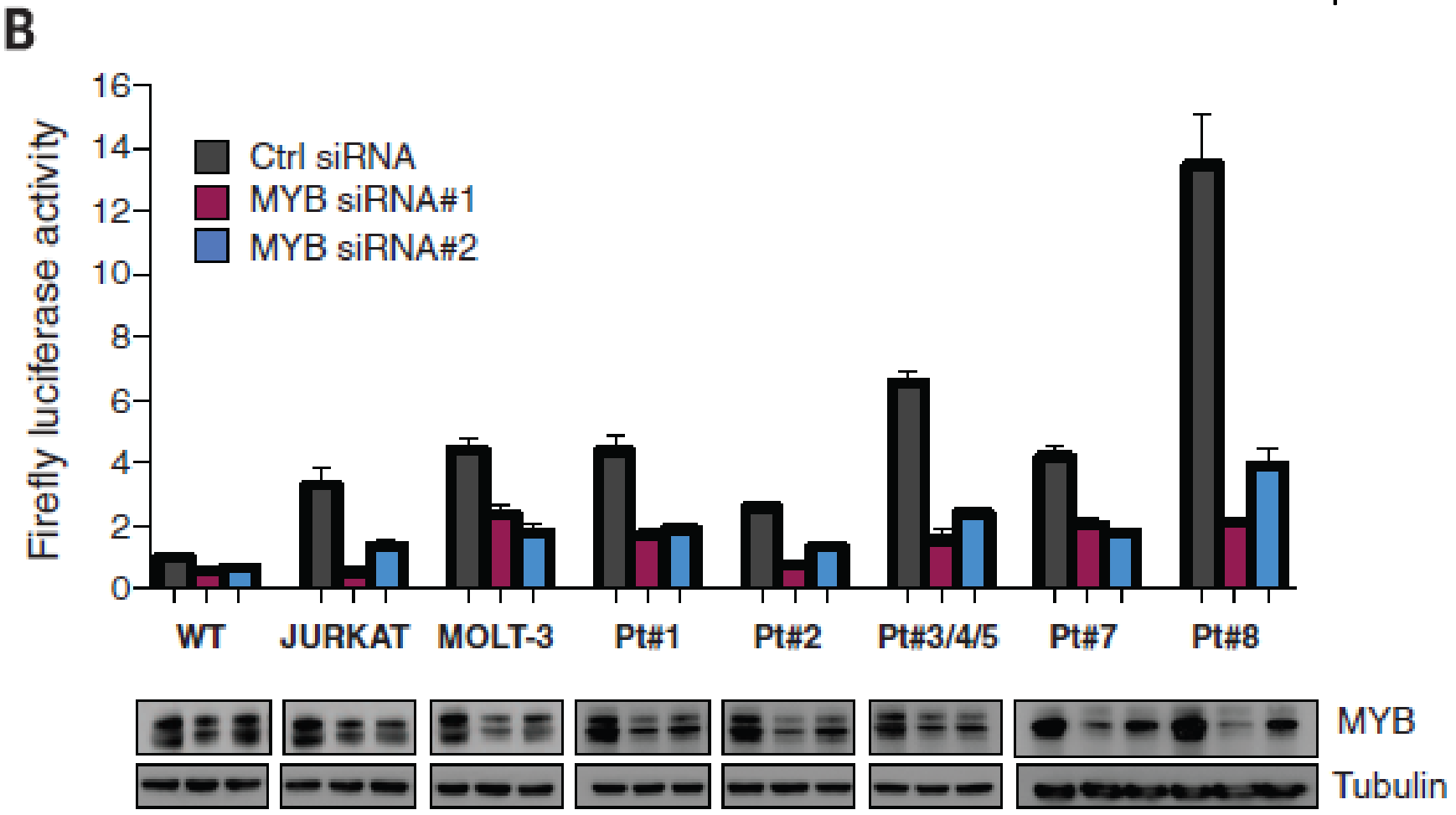
Mutations of the TAL1 enhancer activate through recruitment of MYB.

A Myb primary motif

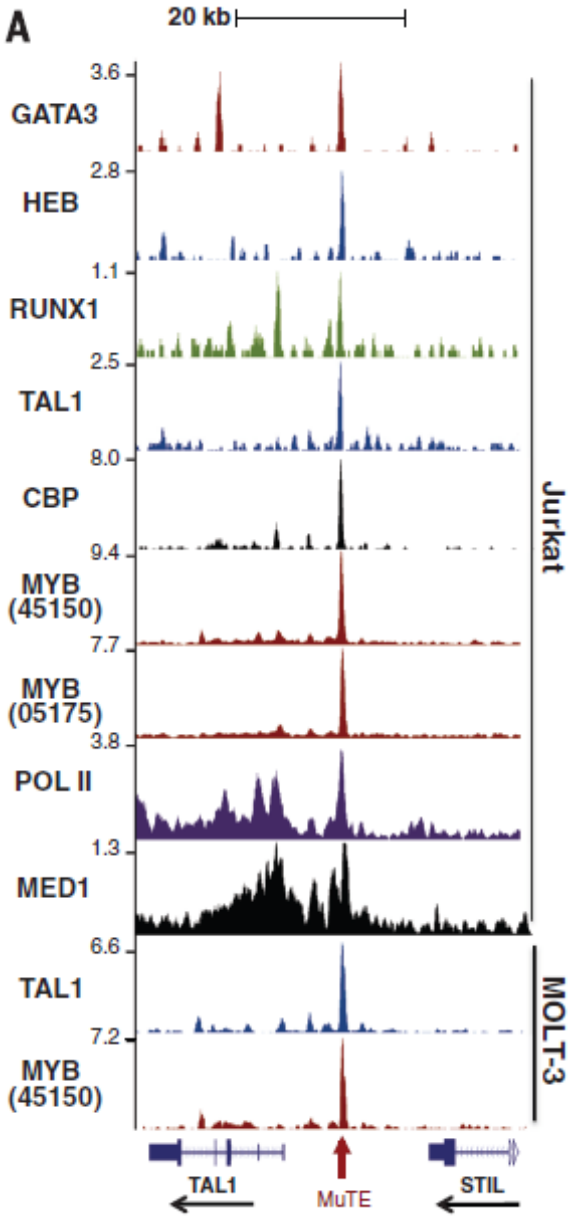
WT	GACGTA
Jurkat	[GACGGTTA]GGA[AACGGTA]
MOLT-3	GACGGTTA
Patient #1	GACCGTTTA
Patient #2	GCCGTTA
Patient #3	GACCGTTA
Patient #4	GACCGTTA
Patient #5	GACCGTTA
Patient #6	GACGGTTA
Patient #7	GACGGTTA
Patient #8	GACGGTTTA

TAL1 enhancer TRANSCRIPTION ACTIVITY USING LUCIFERASE ASSAY

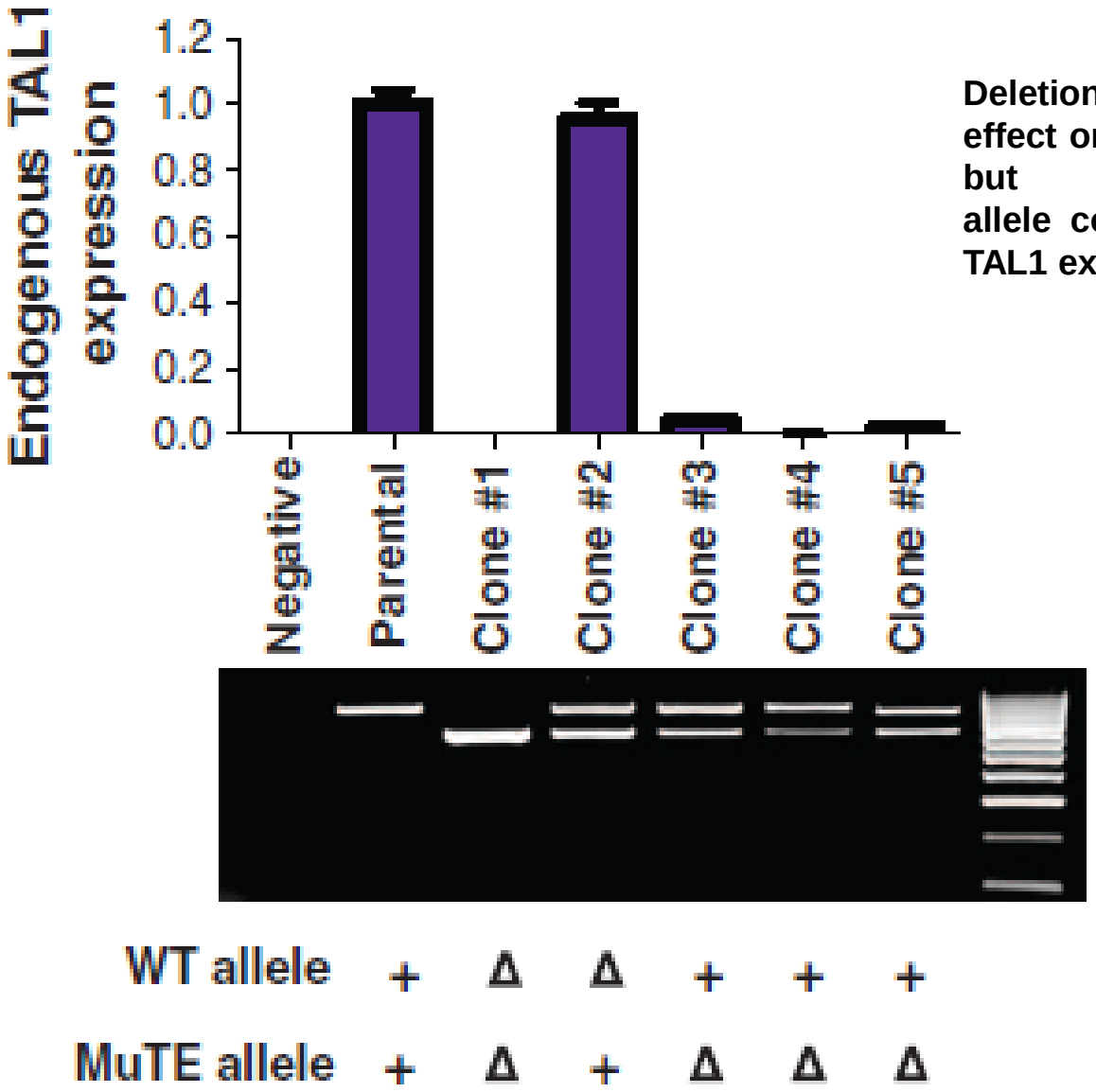
MYB binds the mutant TAL1 enhancer site and is a member of the TAL1 complex



MYB binds the mutant TAL1 enhancer (MuTE) site and is a member of the TAL1 complex

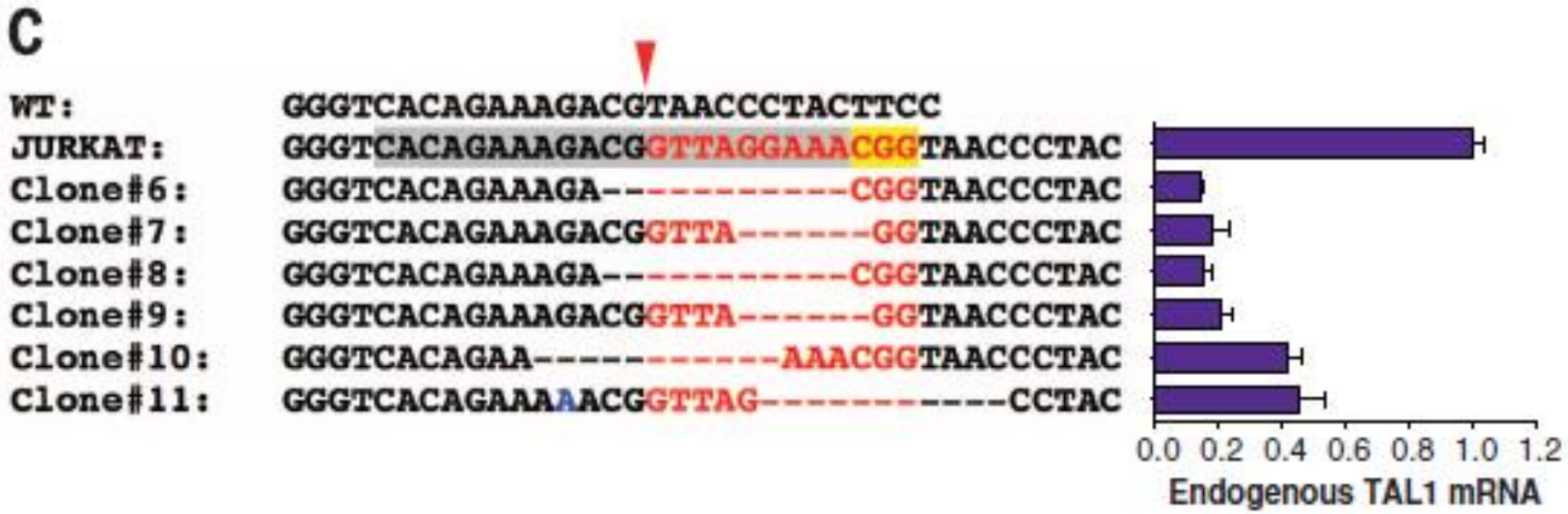


Targeted deletion of 177 to 193 bp of the mutant (CRISPRCas9), but not wild-type, allele in Jurkat cells abrogates expression of endogenous TAL1

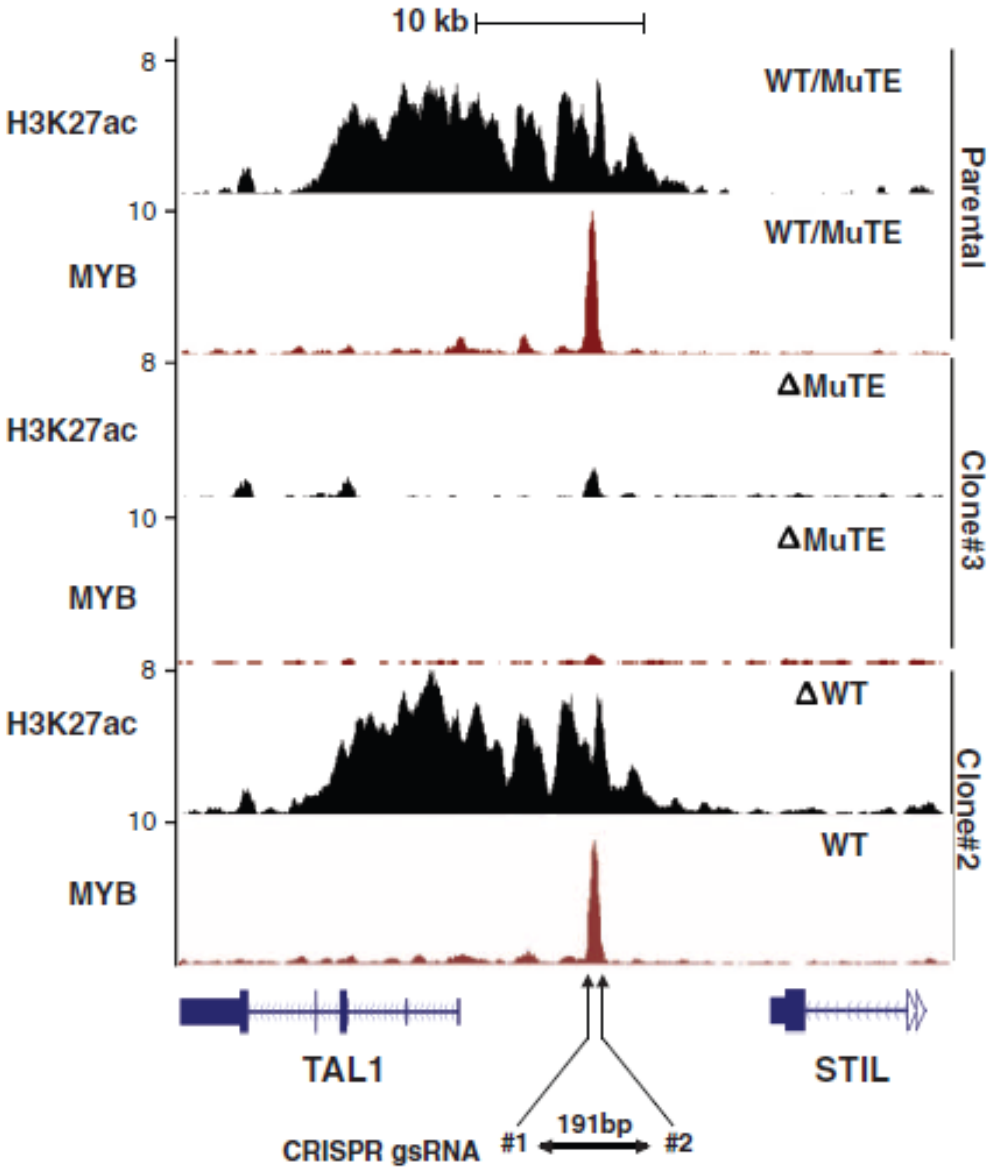


Deletion of the wild type allele had no effect on endogenous TAL1 mRNA levels, but deletion of the mutant allele completely abrogated endogenous TAL1 expression

Targeted deletion of 177 to 193 bp of the mutant (CRISPRCas9), but not wild-type, allele in Jurkat cells abrogates expression of endogenous TAL1

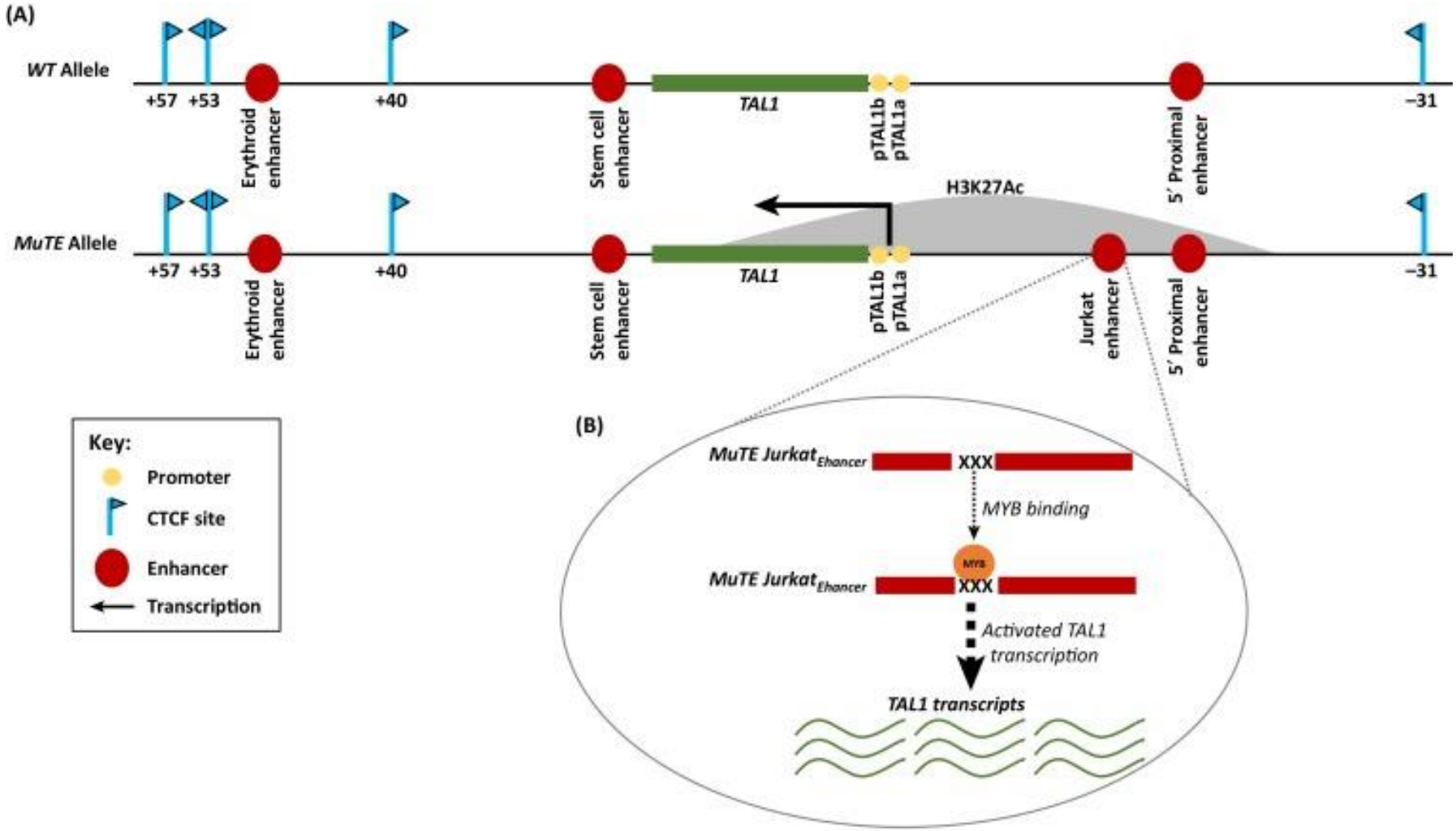


ChIP-seq tracks for H3K27ac and MYB at the STIL-TAL1 locus from selected CRISPR-Cas9 clones

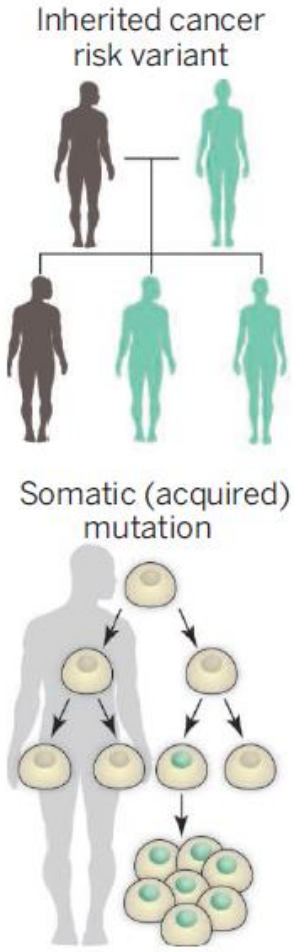


Deletion of the wild type allele had no effect on H3K27ac signal and MYB binding, but deletion of the mutant allele completely abrogated H3K27ac signal and MYB binding

An Acquired Super-Enhancer Activates Monoallelic *TAL1* Transcription in T-ALL (T cell acute lymphoblastic leukemia) Cells



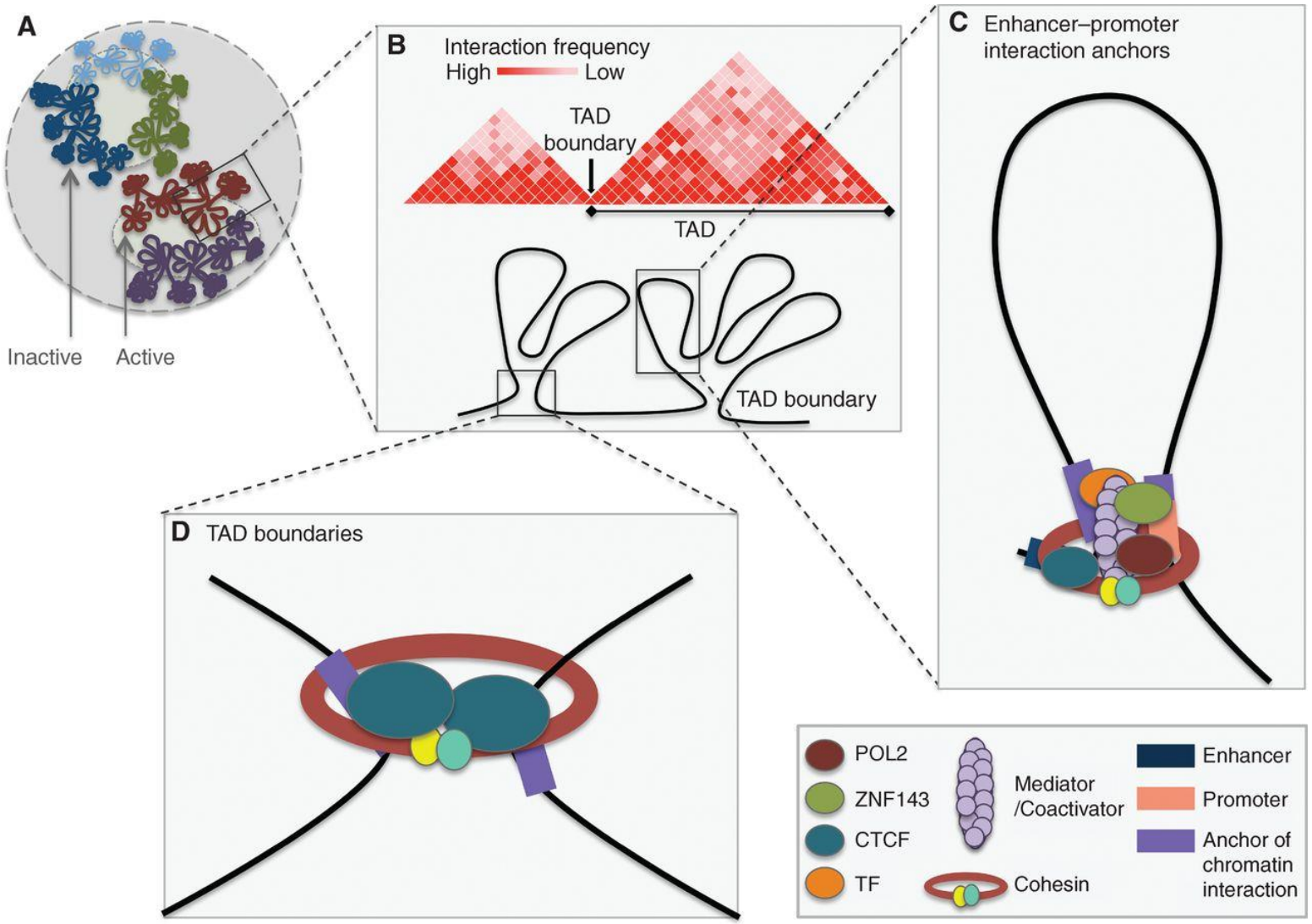
Trends in Molecular Medicine



Genetics of cancer. Both inherited variants (**top**) and acquired mutations (**bottom**) can contribute to tumorigenesis.

Our findings show that **somatic mutation of noncoding intergenic elements** can lead to **binding** of master transcription factors, such as **MYB**, which in turn aberrantly initiate super-enhancers that mediate overexpression of oncogenes. This raises the possibility that **acquisition of such enhancer mutations may constitute a general mechanism of carcinogenesis** used in other types of human cancers. Mechanisms of aberrant superenhancer formation in malignancy have broad implications not only for molecular pathogenesis but also for clinical management. Drugs that target key components of the transcriptional machinery, such as BRD4 and CDK7, have recently been shown to preferentially target tumor-specific super-enhancers, which provides a novel strategy to capitalize on these abnormalities for improved cancer therapy.

GENE REGULATION:
ROLE OF LONG RANGE INTERACTIONS



Activation of proto-oncogenes by disruption of chromosome neighborhoods

Denes Hnisz,[1*] Abraham S. Weintraub,[1,2*] Daniel S. Day,[1] Anne-Laure Valton,[3] Rasmus O. Bak,[4] Charles H. Li,[1,2] Johanna Goldmann,[1] Bryan R. Lajoie,[3] Zi Peng Fan,[1,5] Alla A. Sigova,[1] Jessica Reddy,[1,2] Diego Borges-Rivera,[1,2] Tong Ihn Lee,[1] Rudolf Jaenisch,[1,2] Matthew H. Porteus,[4] Job Dekker,[3,6] Richard A. Young[1,2]†

Oncogenes are activated through well-known chromosomal alterations such as gene fusion, translocation, and focal amplification. In light of recent evidence that the control of key genes depends on chromosome structures called insulated neighborhoods, we investigated whether proto-oncogenes occur within these structures and whether oncogene activation can occur via disruption of insulated neighborhood boundaries in cancer cells. We mapped insulated neighborhoods in T cell acute lymphoblastic leukemia (T-ALL) and found that tumor cell genomes contain recurrent microdeletions that eliminate the boundary sites of insulated neighborhoods containing prominent T-ALL proto-oncogenes. Perturbation of such boundaries in nonmalignant cells was sufficient to activate proto-oncogenes. Mutations affecting chromosome neighborhood boundaries were found in many types of cancer. Thus, oncogene activation can occur via genetic alterations that disrupt insulated neighborhoods in malignant cells.

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BACKGROUND

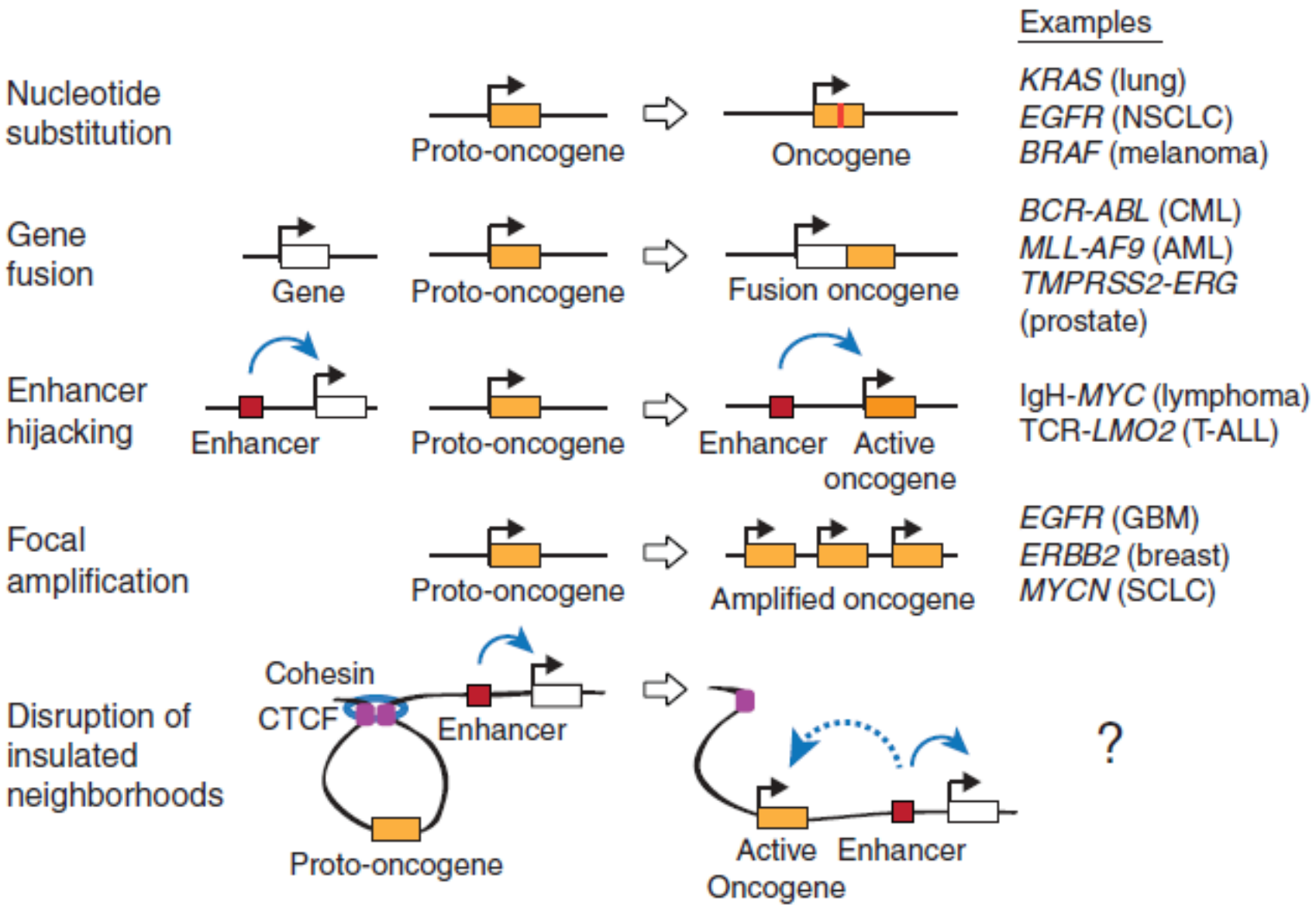
Focus

Maps of boundaries and Mutations

Mute in boundaries Are in Cancer

CONCLUSION

Mutations in oncogene activation

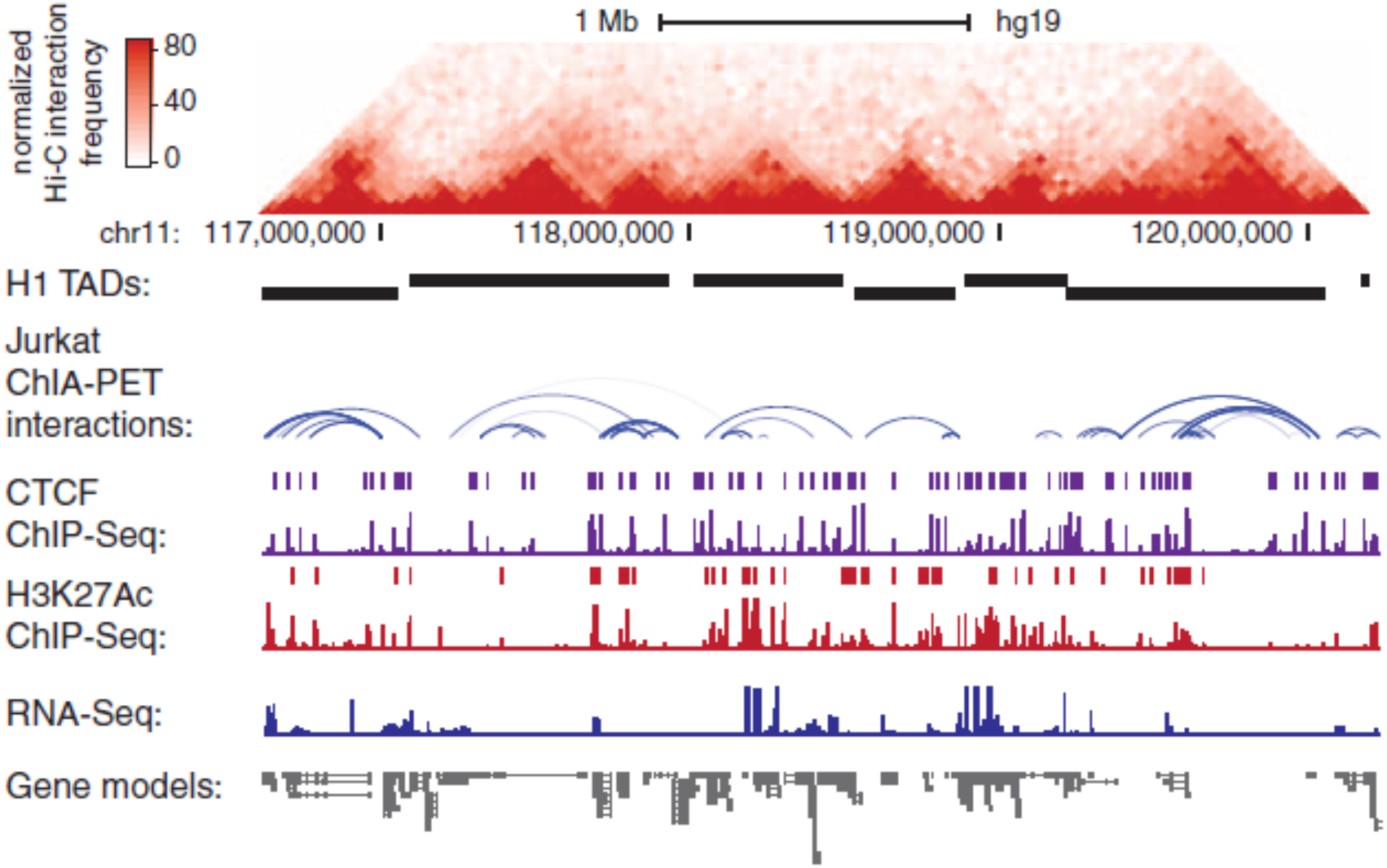


Transcriptional enhancers normally interact with their target genes through the formation of DNA loops

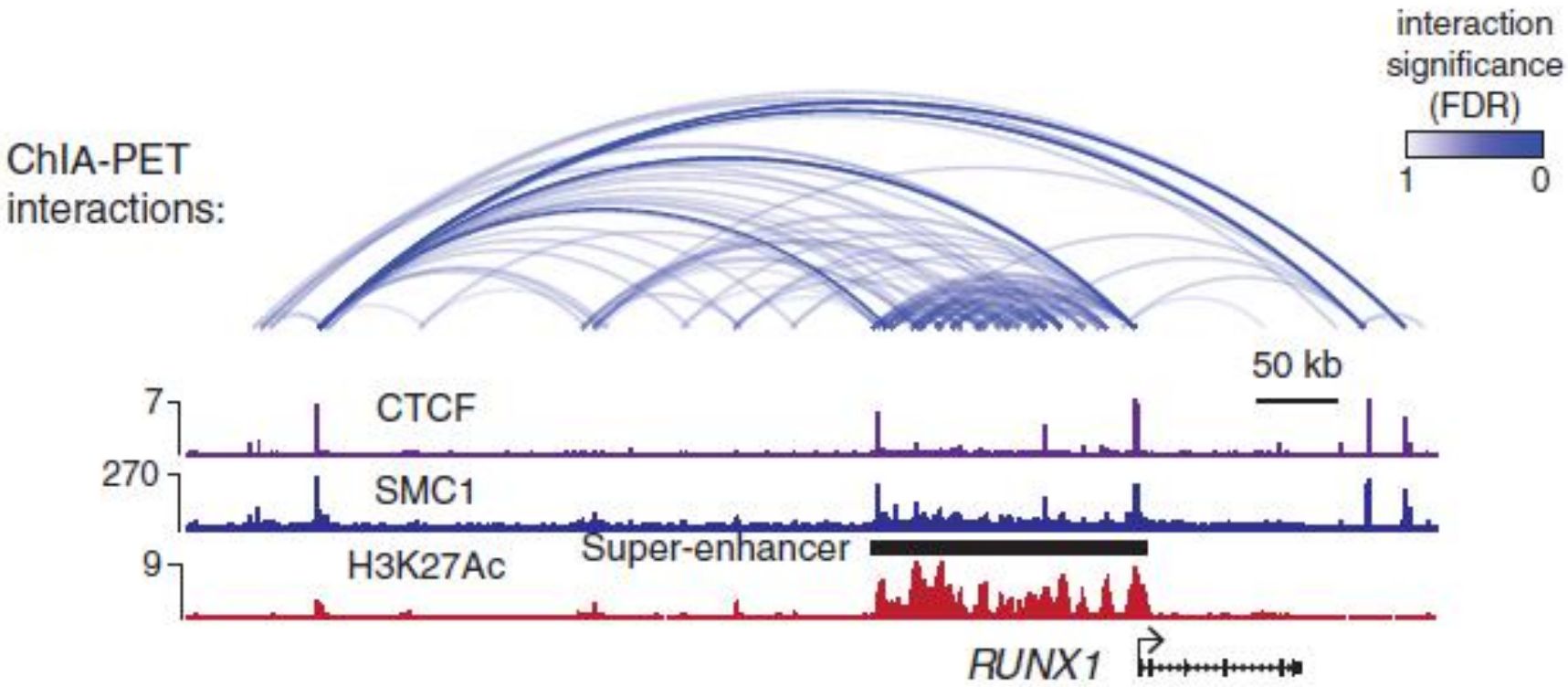
DNA loops typically are constrained within larger CCCTCbinding factor (CTCF) cohesin–mediated loops called insulated neighborhoods

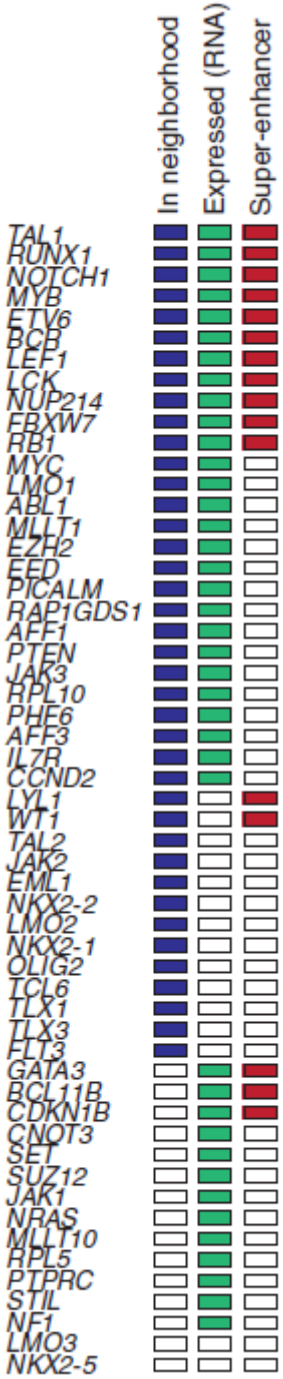
DNA loops can form clusters that contribute to topologically associating domains (TADs)

Map of the three-dimensional (3D) regulatory landscape of a tumor cell genome



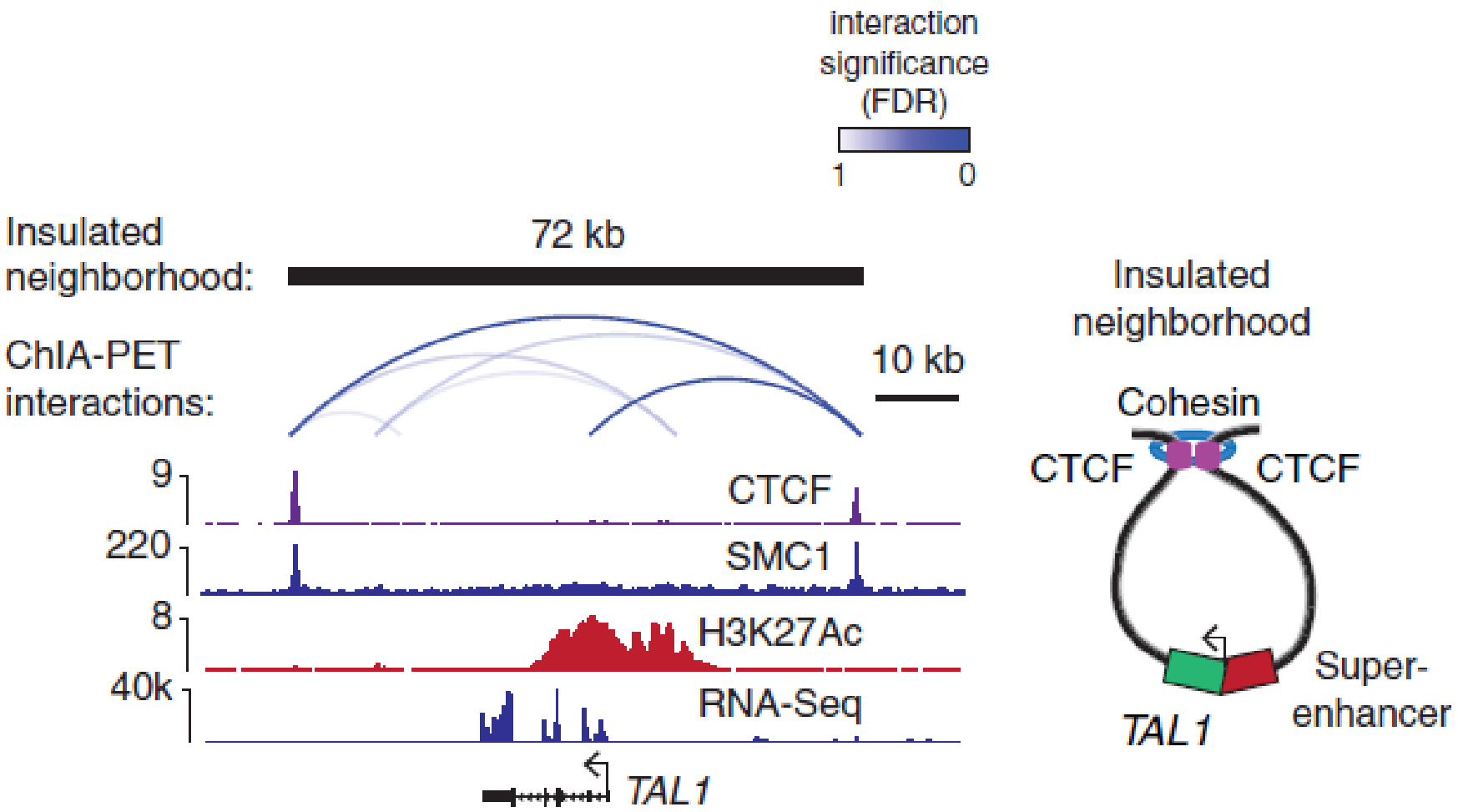
Insulated neighborhoods:
Genomic regulatory unit





Genes involved in tumorigeneis are associated with Insulated neighborhoods

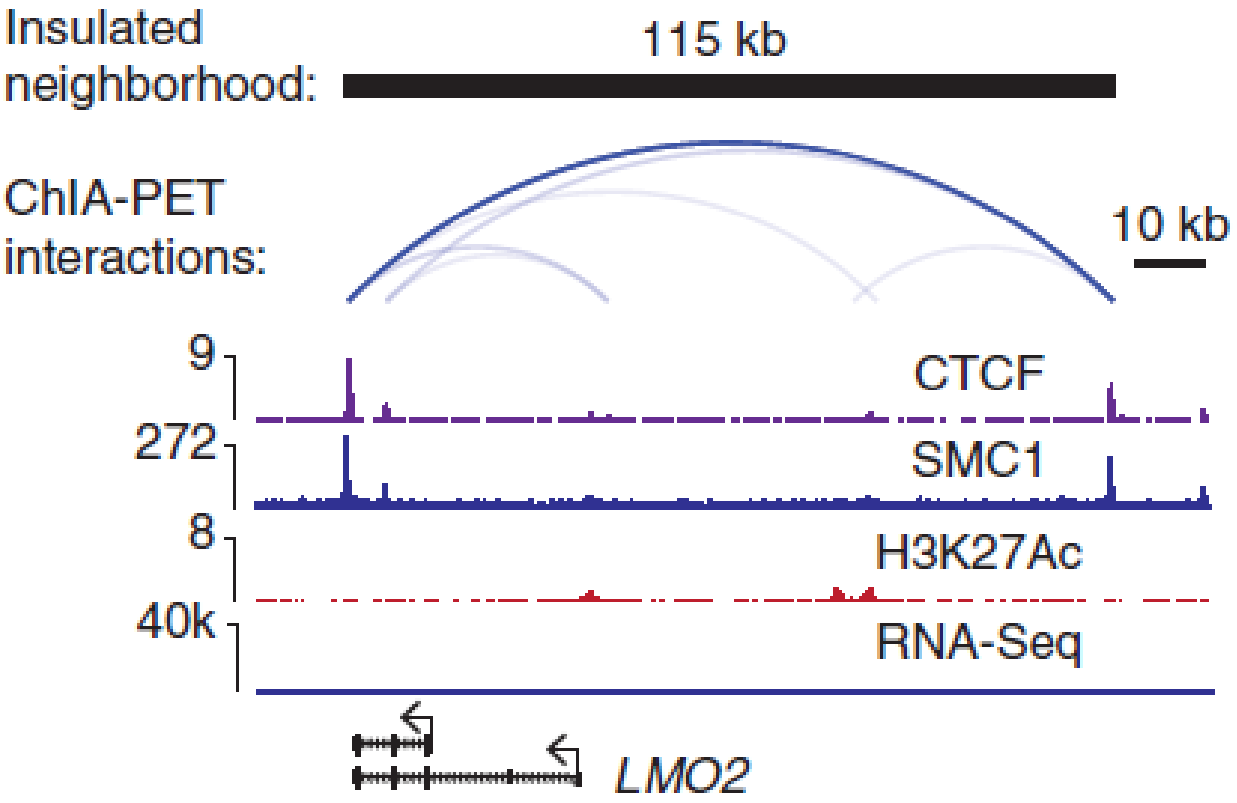
TAL1 and active super-enhancer are located within insulated neighborhood

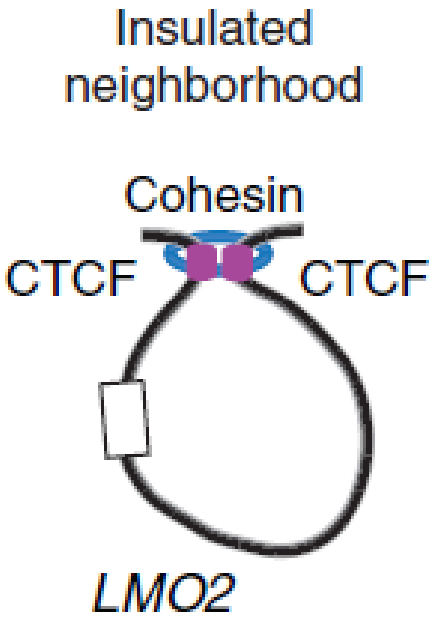


cohesin (SMC1)

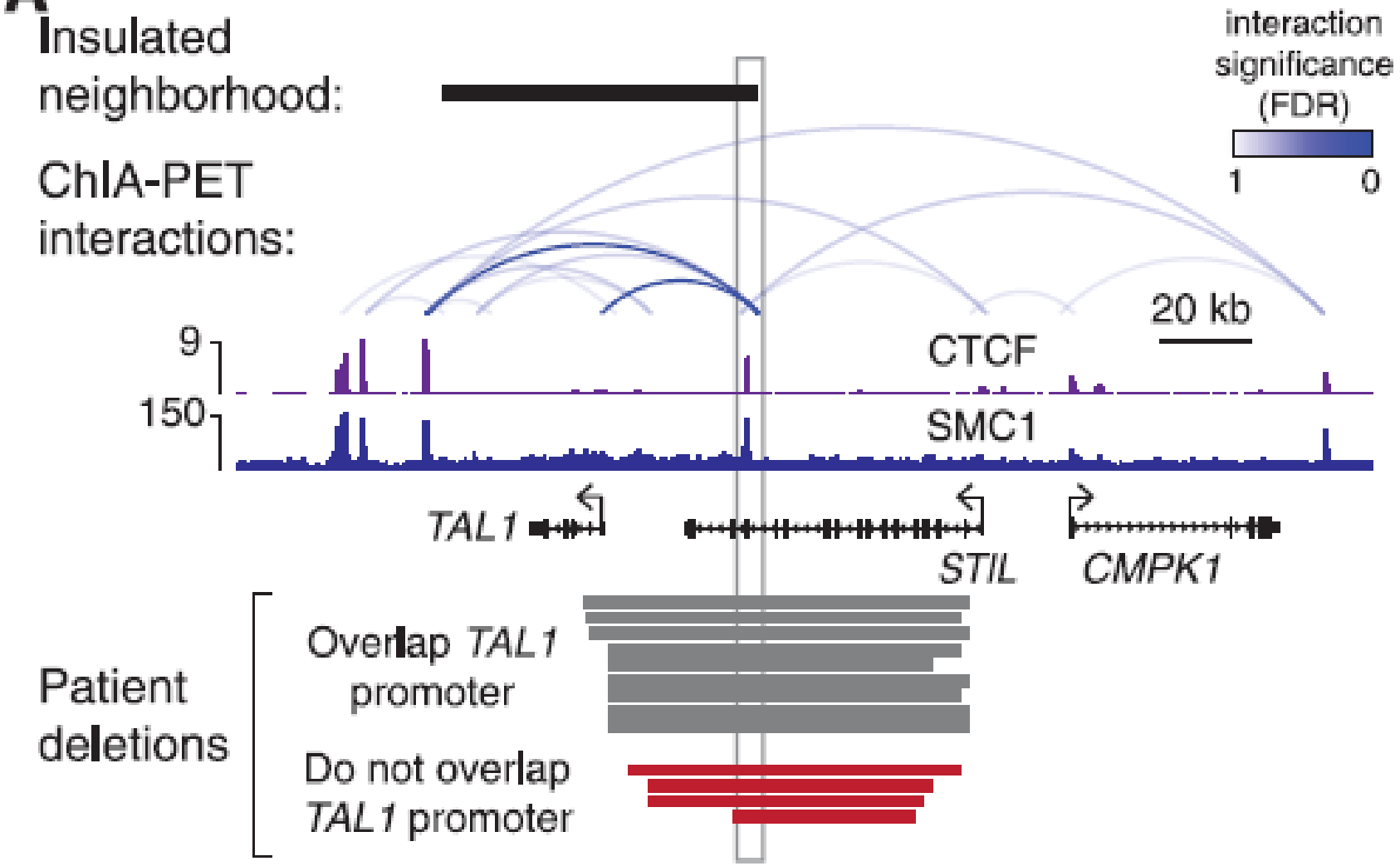
T cell acute lymphoblastic leukemia (T-ALL)
Jurkat cell line

LMO2 are in the silence region and are located within insulated neighborhood

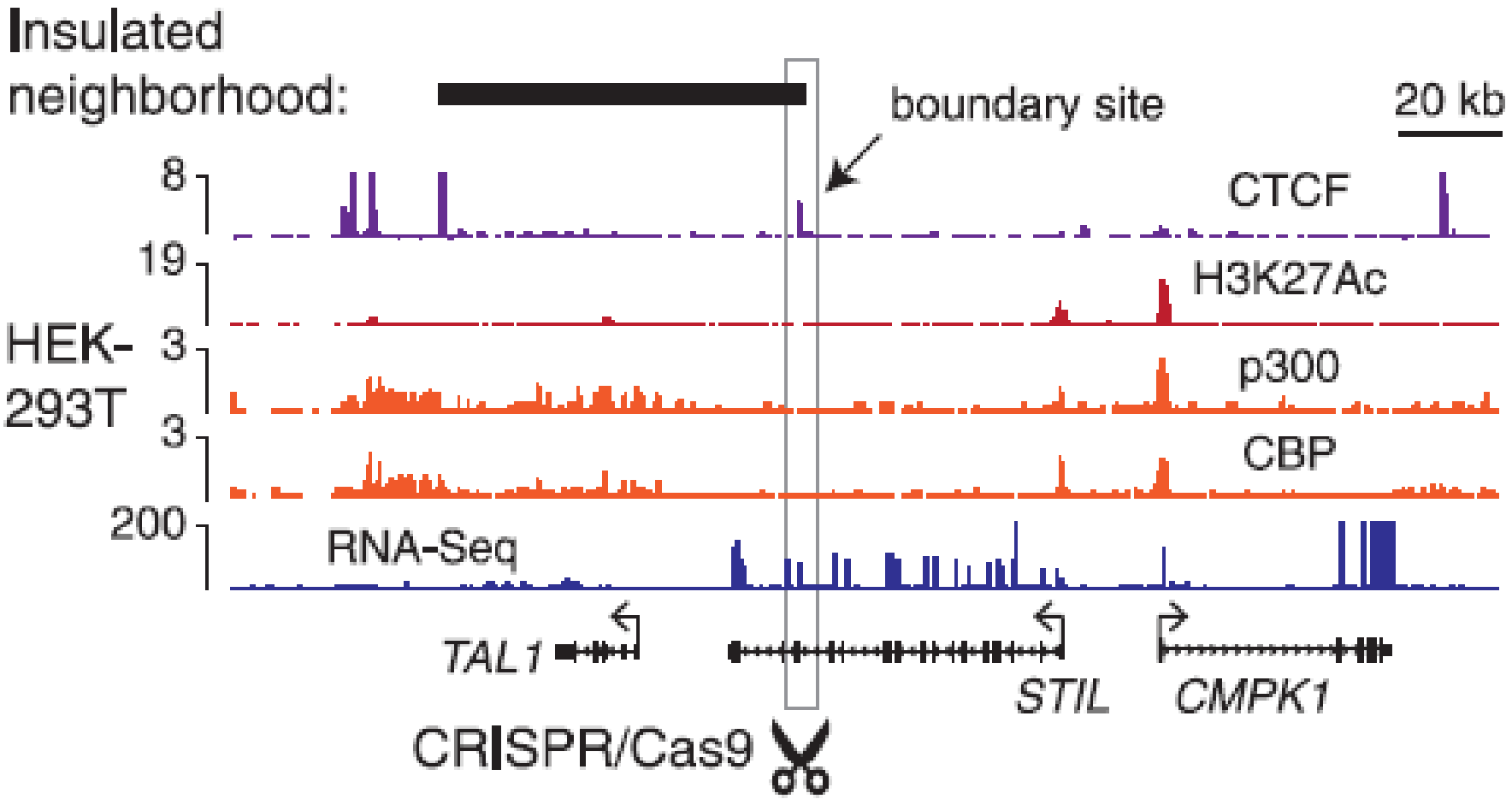




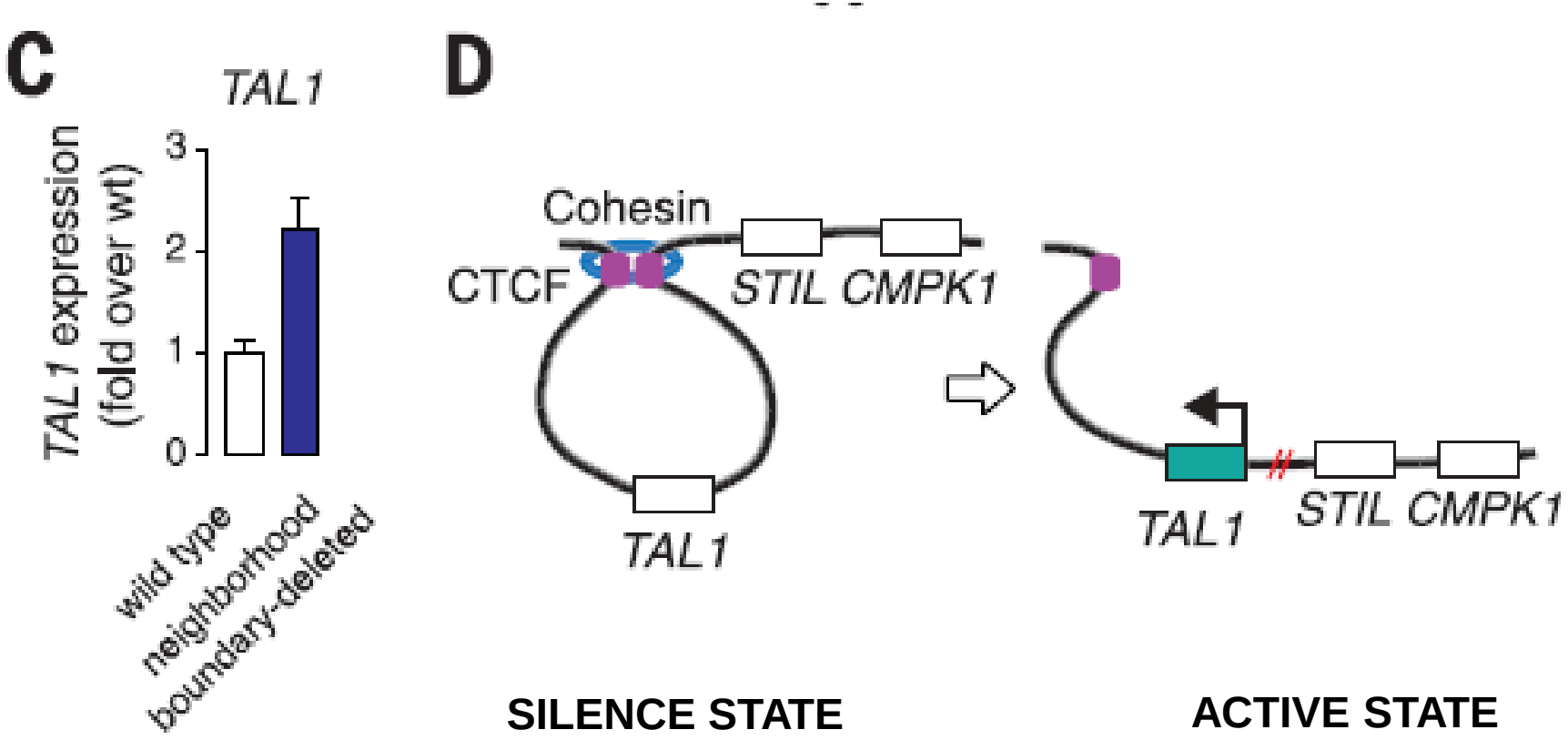
Disruption of insulated neighborhood boundaries is linked to proto-oncogene activation: TAL1 can be activated in many patients with deletions



TAL1 is silent in HEK293T cells
CTCF signals define long range interactions

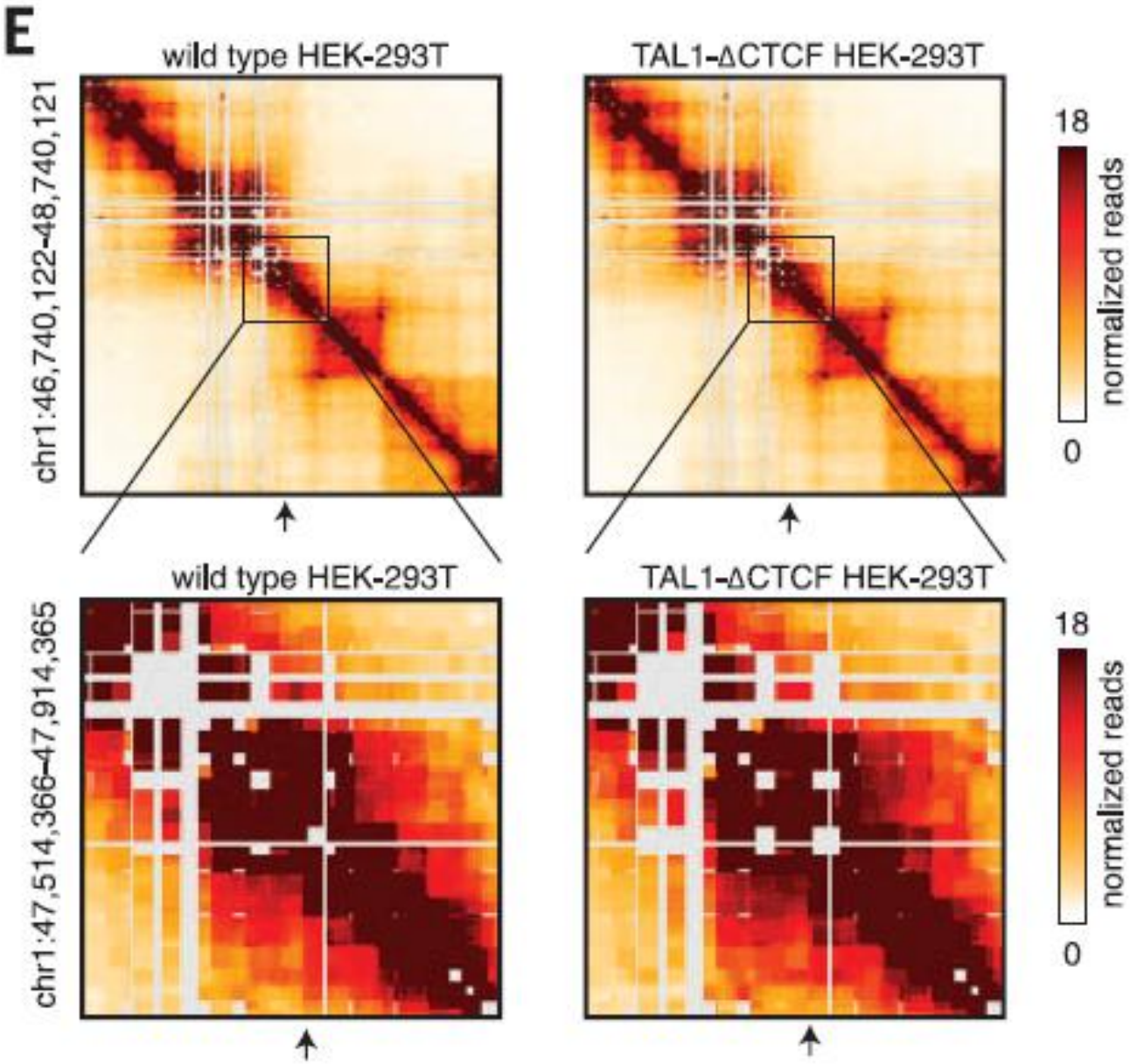


TAL1 is expressed in HEK293T using CRISPR-Cas9 system that deletes the neighborhood boundaries



SILENCE STATE **ACTIVE STATE**

Long range interaction in the boundaries are showed by 5C assay. Disruption of interactions.



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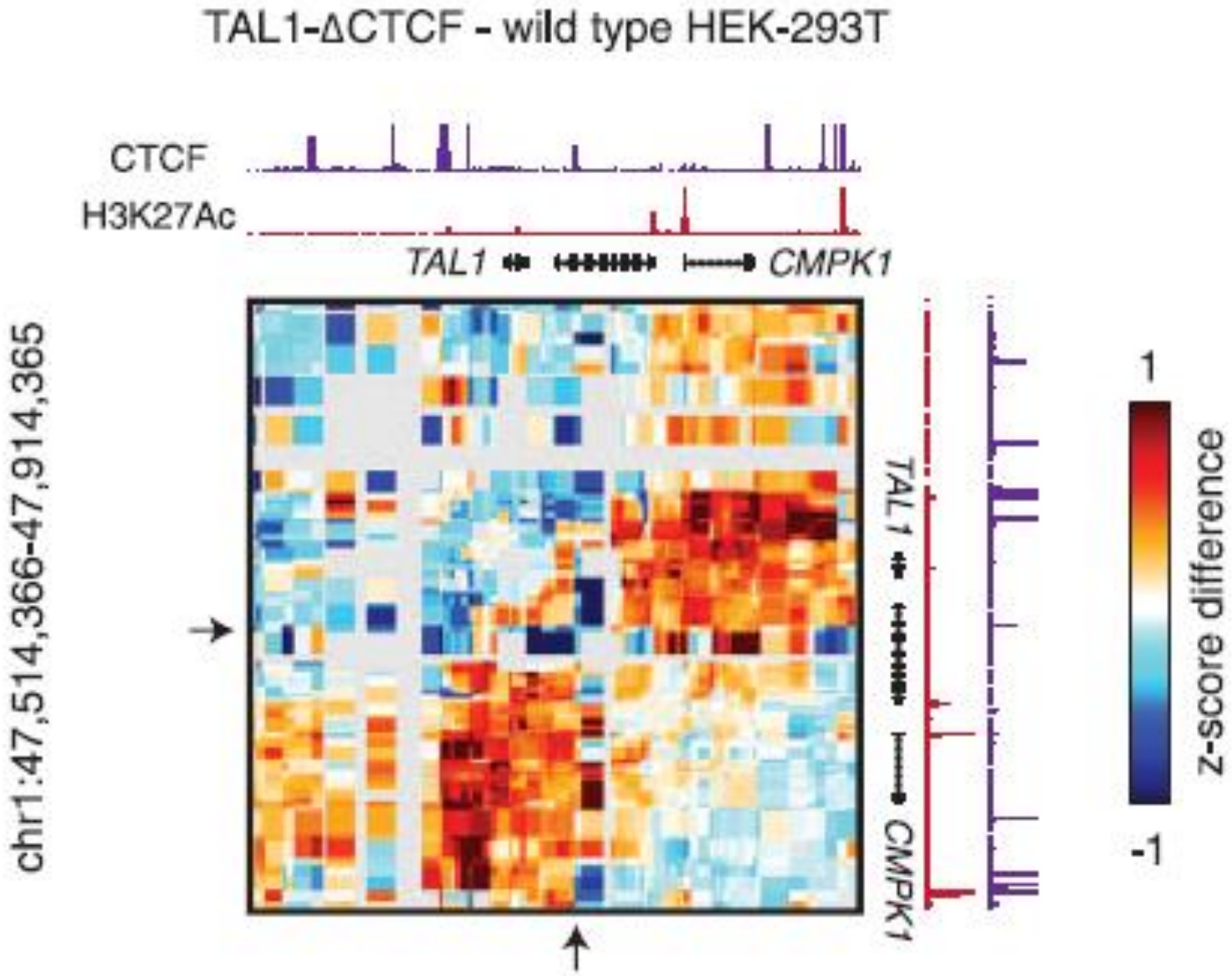
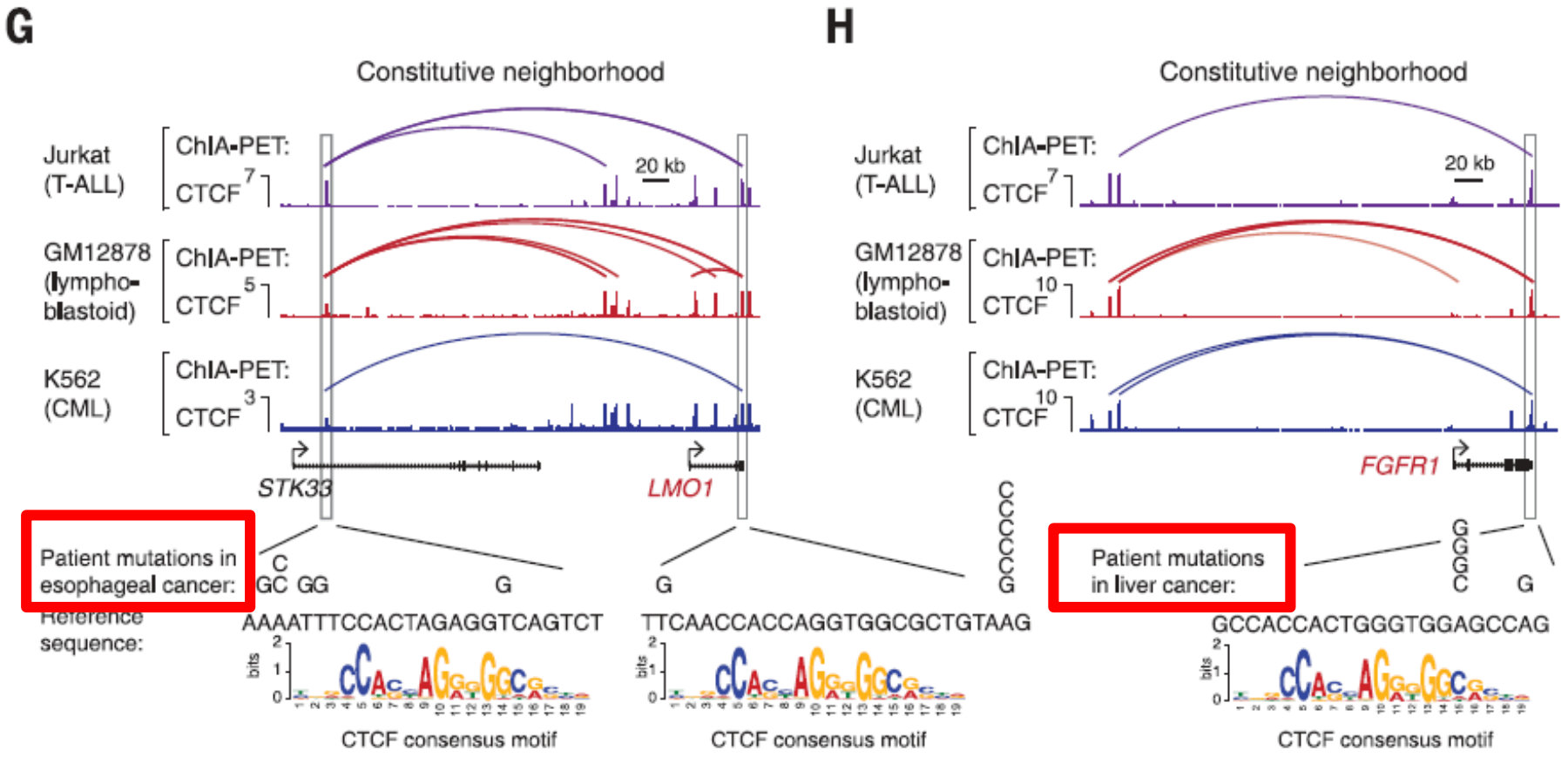
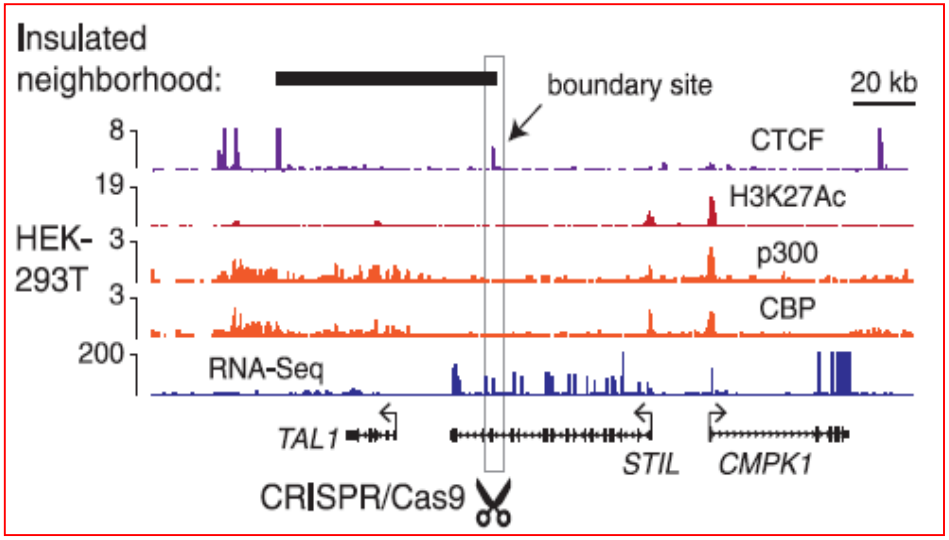


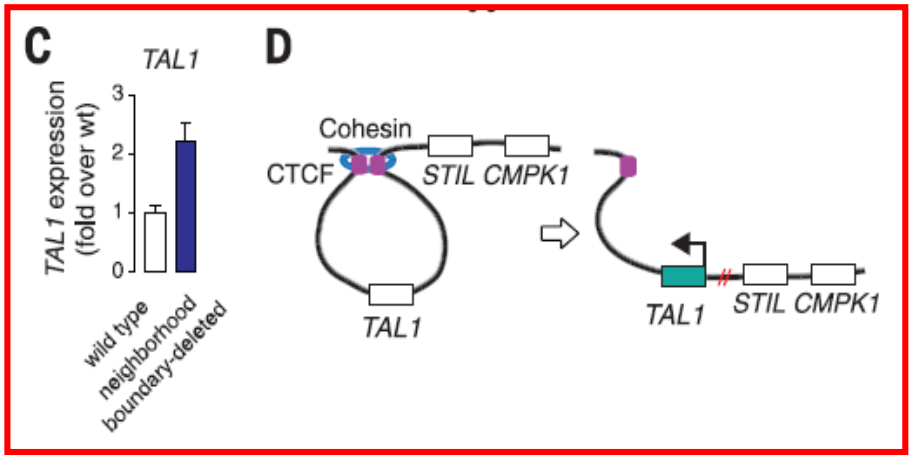
Somatic mutations of neighborhood boundaries

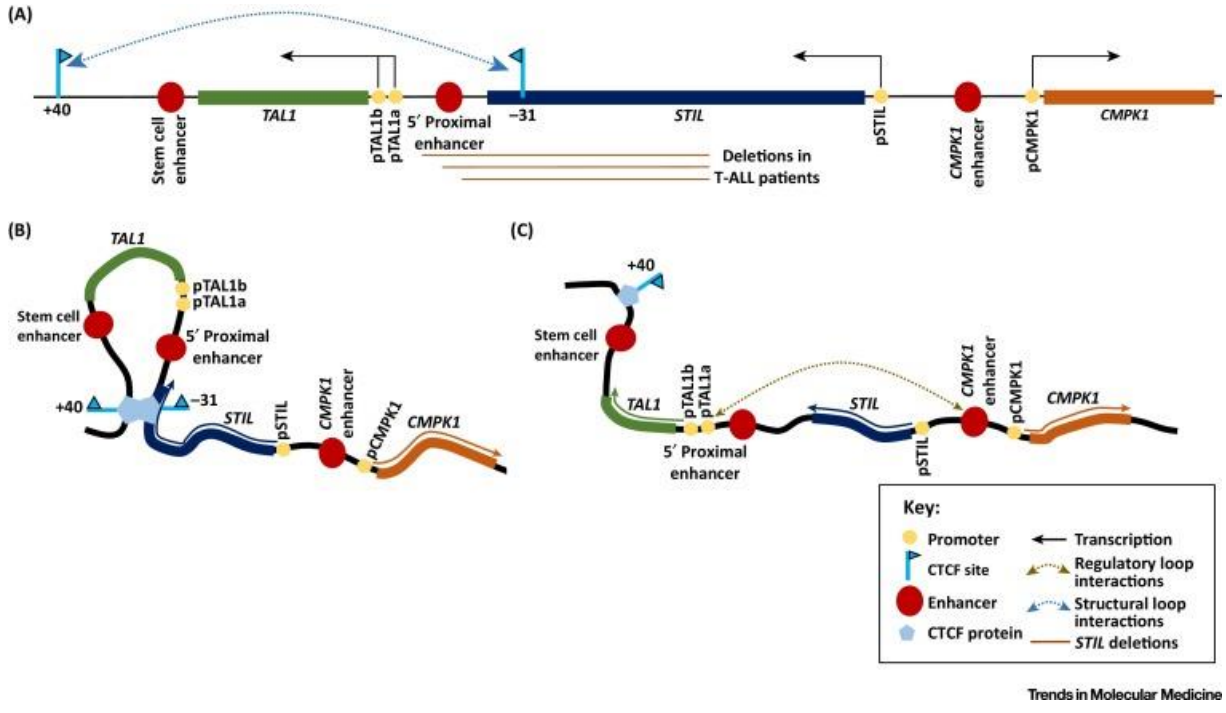
occur in many cancers.

Mutations in the boundery sites
In cancers

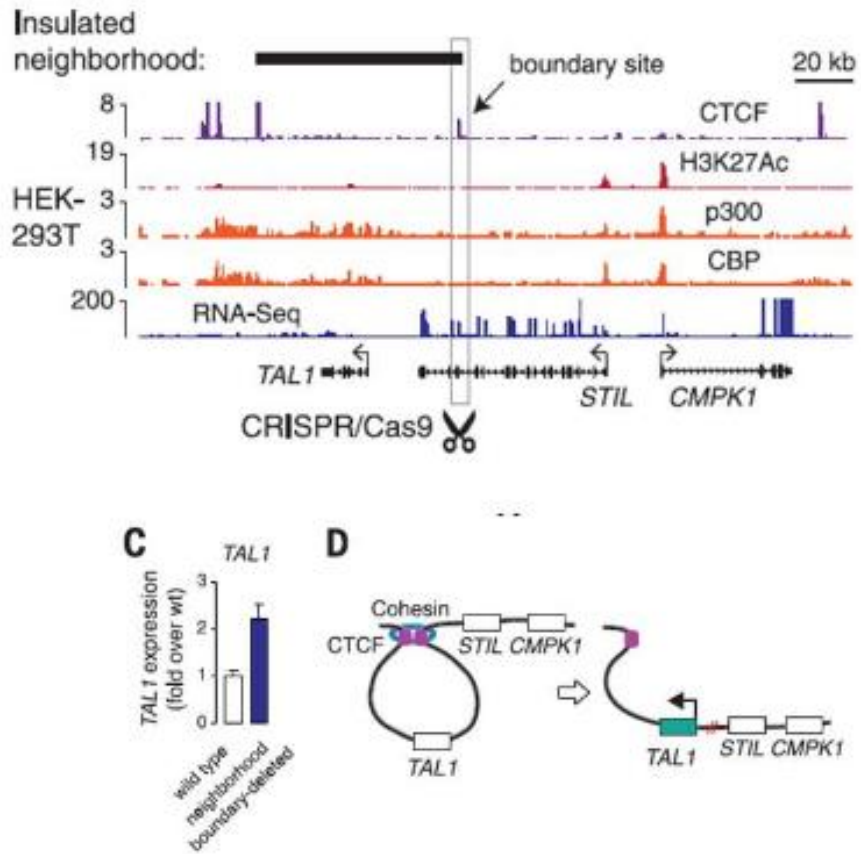




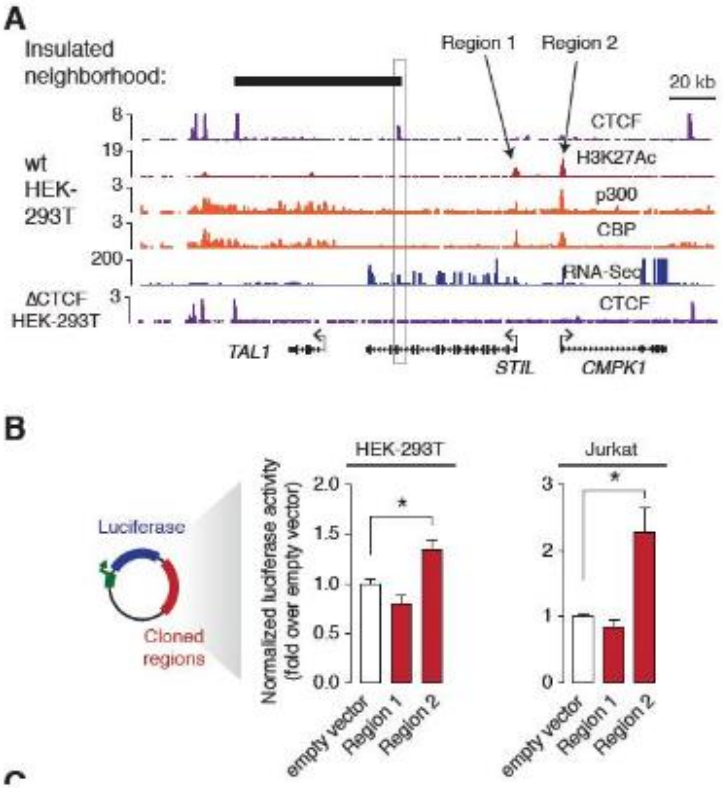




Trends in Molecular Medicine



The CRISPR-Cas9 cleavage of CTCF regions gives an increase in the expression of TAL1 probably under the action of STIL and CMPK1 promoters which will act as Enhancers on TAL1. H3K27Ac is a marker of active enhancer and might be involved in TAL1 expression.

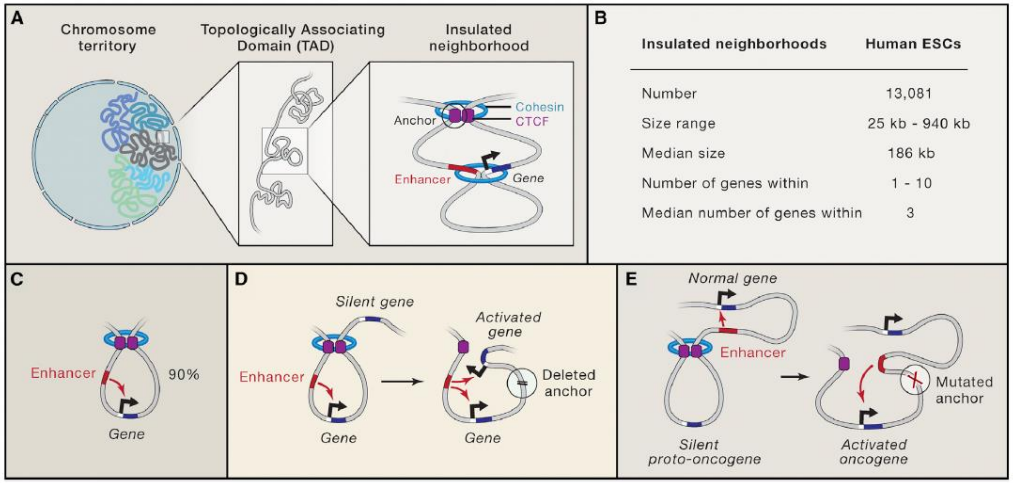


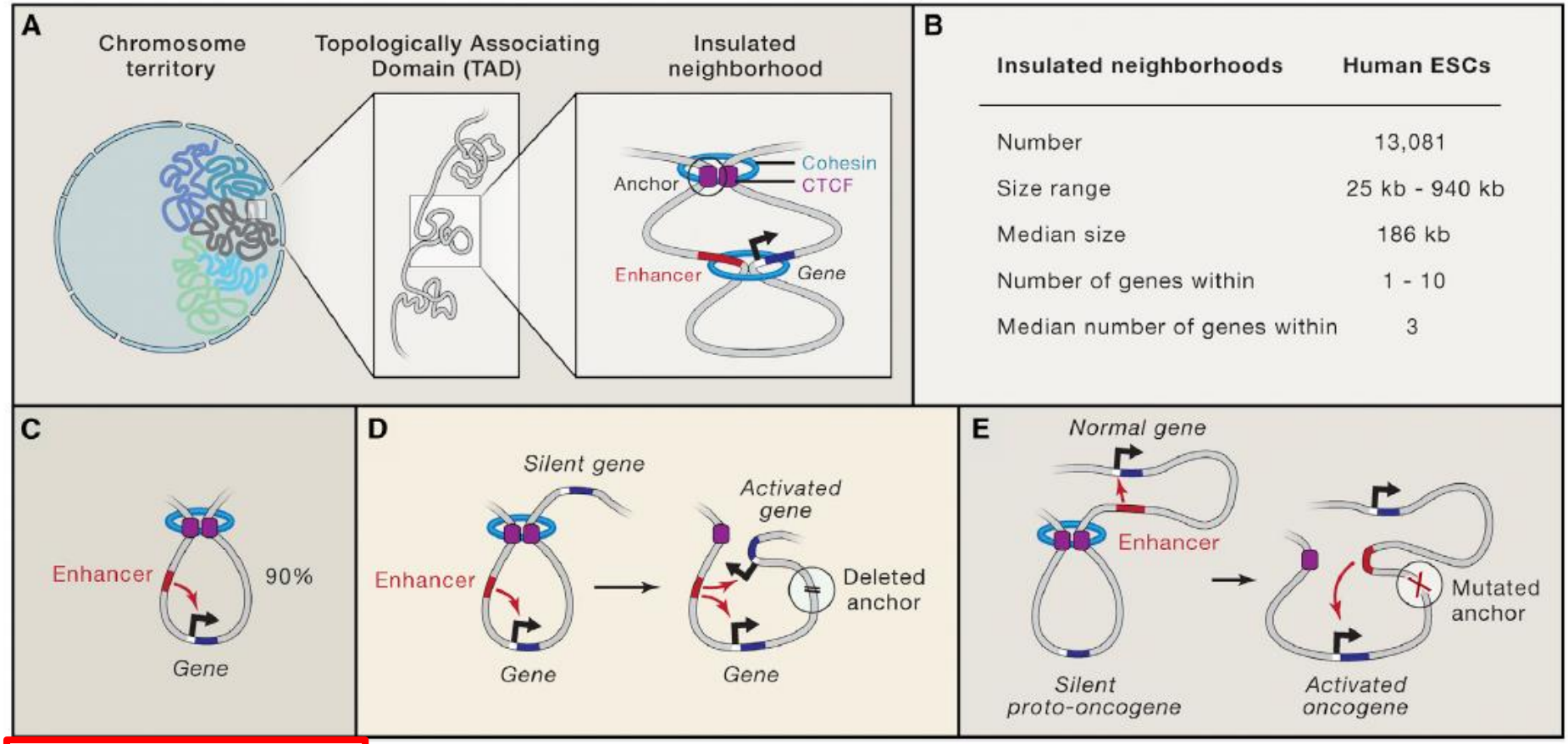
They test these two regions to see if they are responsabile of the attivation of TAl1. These regions are attive as is possibile to see from Chip seq analysis for H3k27ac, p300 and CBP and to verify if they are responsible for the proto oncogene activation they clone these regions in a vector carrying the luciferase reporter.From these analysis they see that only the region 2 leads to an increase in luciferase expression indicating that this region is the responsible for tal1 expression.

Insulated Neighborhoods: Structural and Functional Units of Mammalian Gene Control

Denes Hnisz,[1,3,*] Daniel S. Day,[1,3,*] and Richard A. Young[1,2,*]
[1]Whitehead Institute for Biomedical Research, 9 Cambridge Center, Cambridge, MA 02142, USA
[2]Department of Biology, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Cambridge, MA 02139, USA
[3]Co-first author
*Correspondence: hnisz@wi.mit.edu (D.H.), dsday@wi.mit.edu (D.S.D.), young@wi.mit.edu (R.A.Y.)
http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.cell.2016.10.024

Understanding how transcriptional enhancers control over 20,000 protein-coding genes to maintain cell-type-specific gene expression programs in all human cells is a fundamental challenge in regulatory biology. Recent studies suggest that gene regulatory elements and their target genes generally occur within insulated neighborhoods, which are chromosomal loop structures formed by the interaction of two DNA sites bound by the CTCF protein and occupied by the cohesin complex. Here, we review evidence that insulated neighborhoods provide for specific enhancer-gene interactions, are essential for both normal gene activation and repression, form a chromosome scaffold that is largely preserved throughout development, and are perturbed by genetic and epigenetic factors in disease. Insulated neighborhoods are a powerful paradigm for gene control that provides new insights into development and disease.





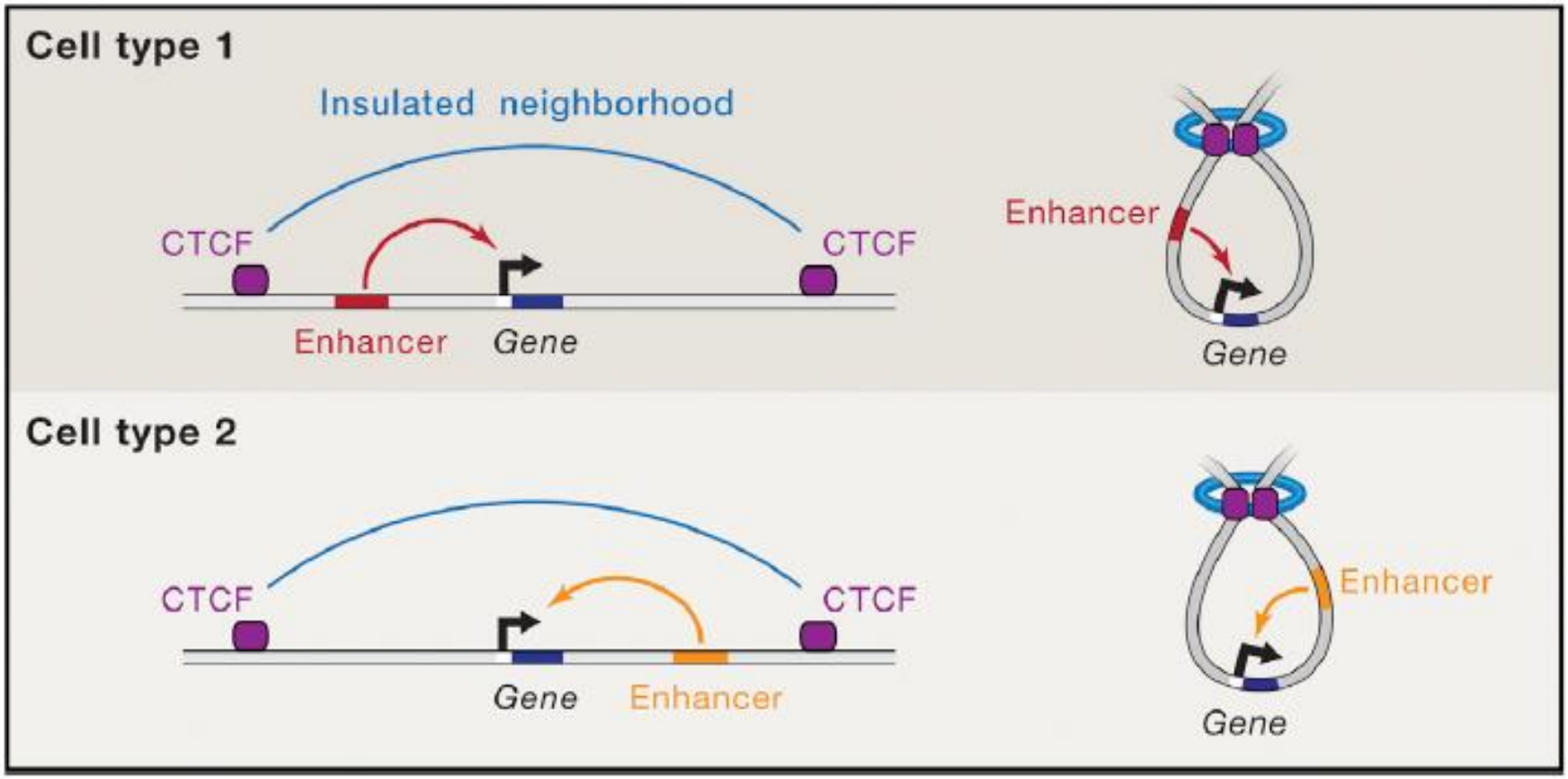
90% of enhancer-gene interactions occur **within insulated neighborhoods** in human ESCs

deletion of insulated neighborhood anchors leads to gene misregulation

mutations of insulated neighborhood anchors in tumor cells lead to oncogene activation

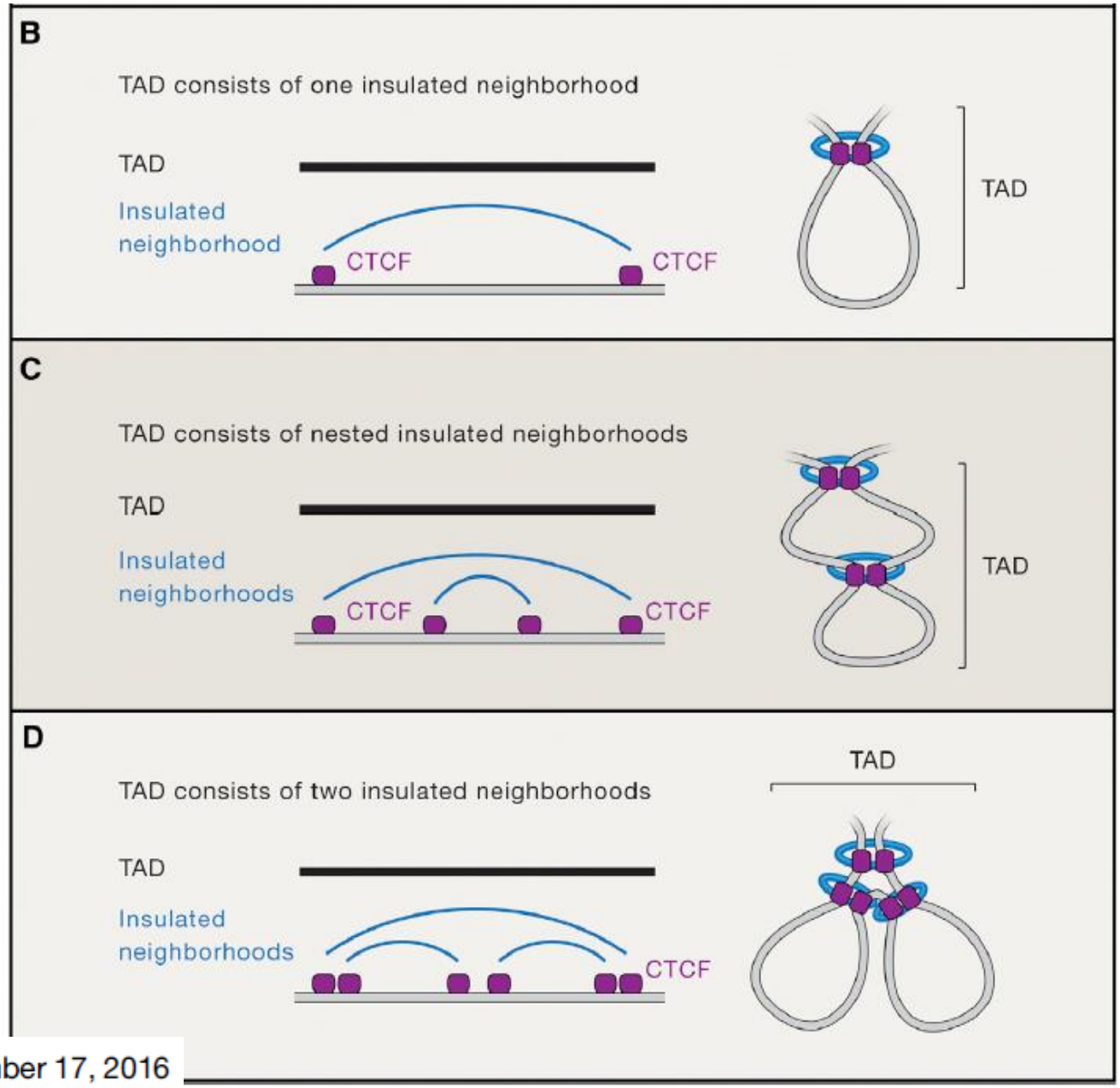
Cell *167*, November 17, 2016

Cell-type specific enhancers –gene interactions occur within the boundaries



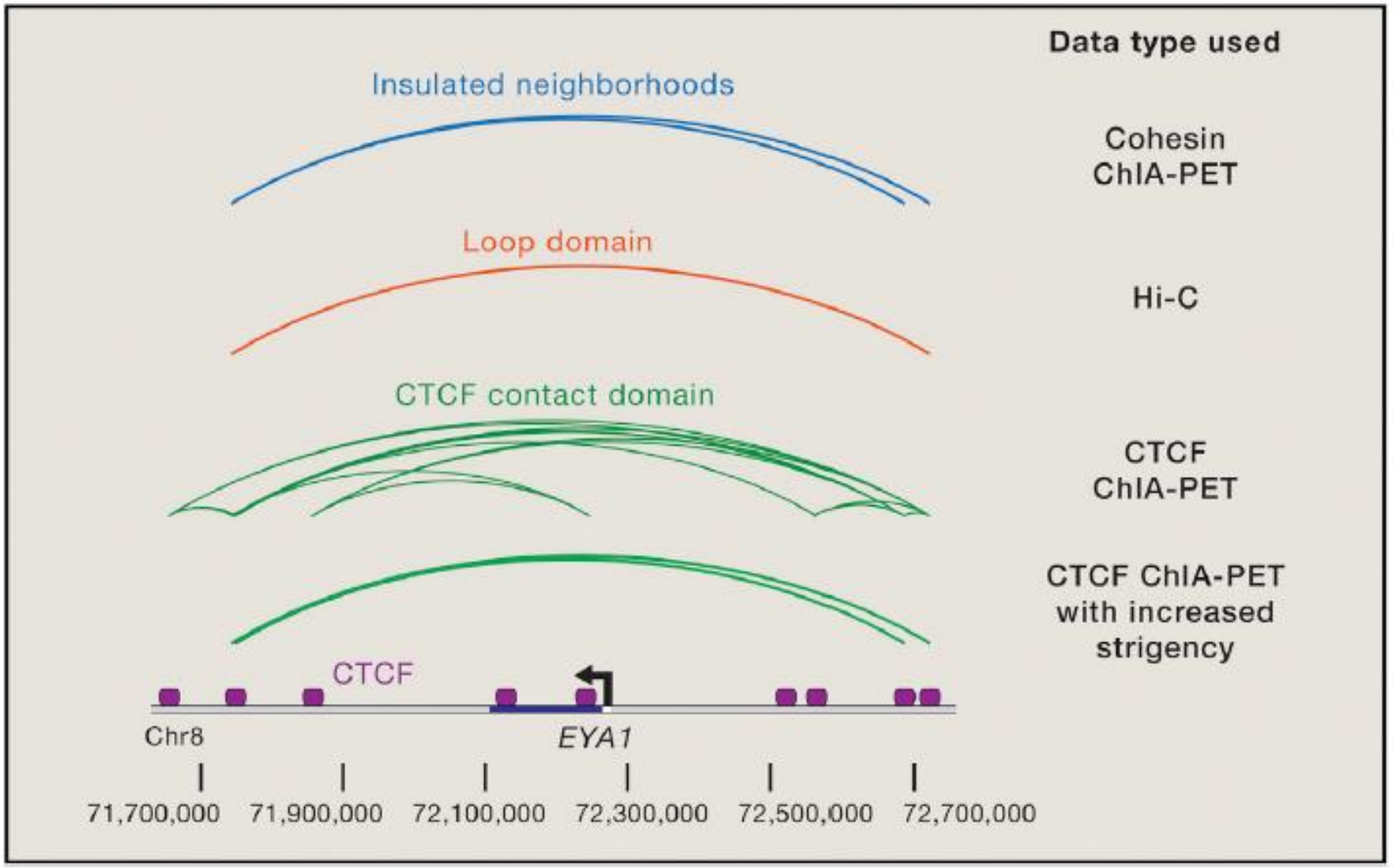
Cell *167*, November 17, 2016

Insulated neighborhoods are a major structuring component of TADs.



Cell *167*, November 17, 2016

Comparation between several techniques for identification of long range interaction



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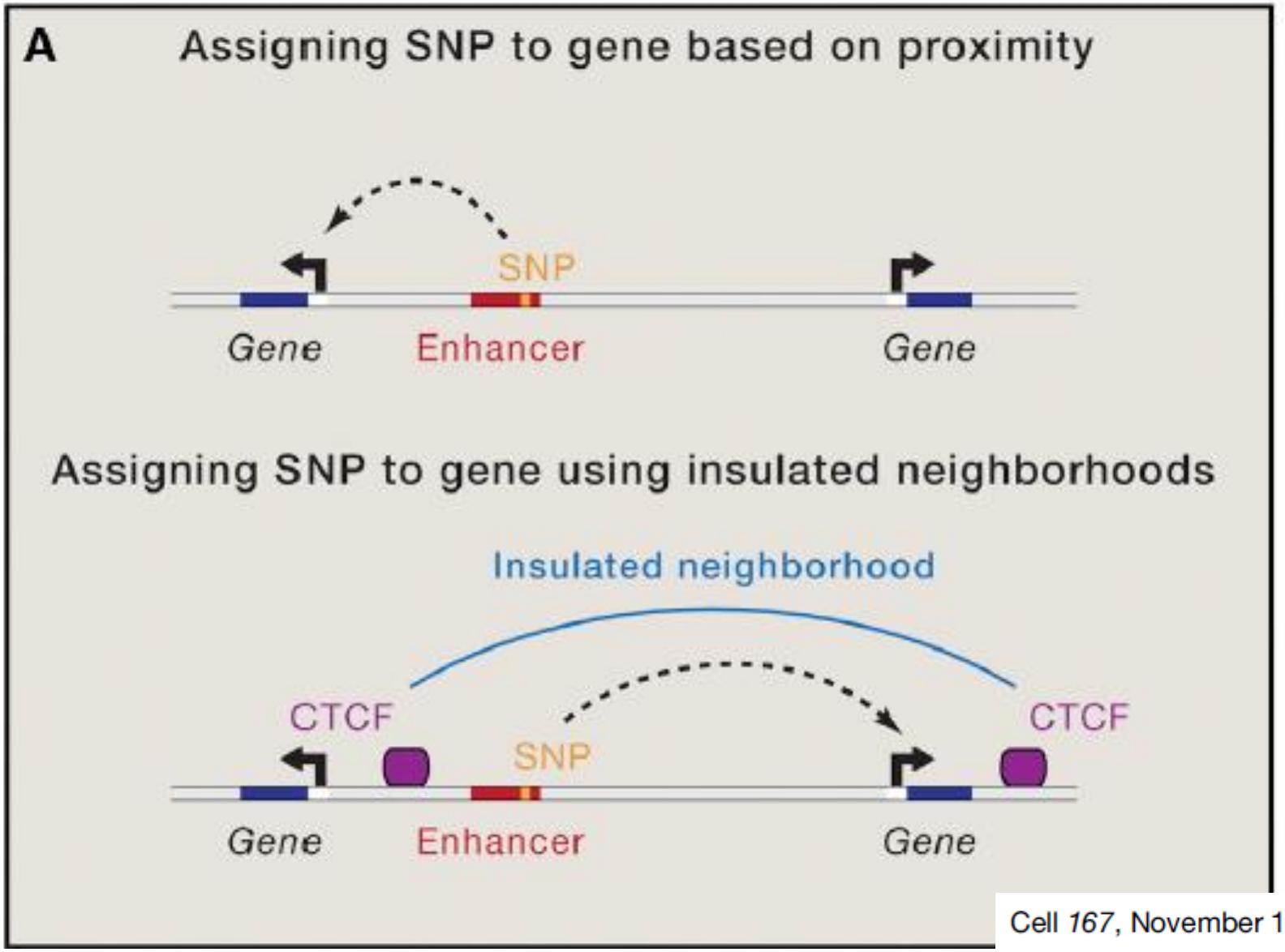
How SNPs affect long range interactions of the chromatin



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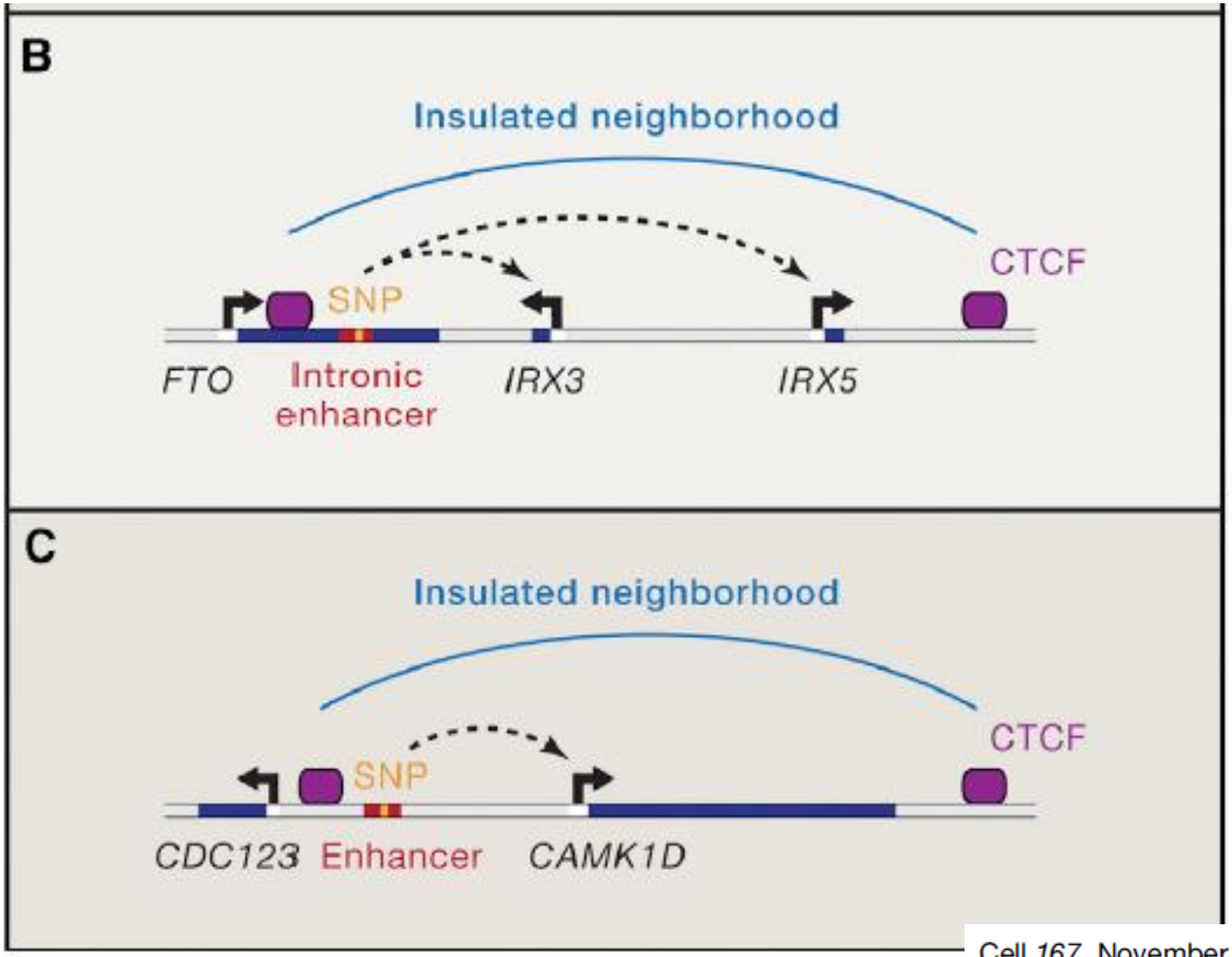

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Insulated neighborhoods:

are structural and functional units of gene control

are used during development to control the diverse cell identities that contribute to complex animals

form the mechanistic basis of higher-order chromosome structures, such as topologically associating domains (TADs)

genetic and epigenetic perturbations of neighborhood boundaries contribute to disease.