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# Transcriptional regulation\*

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## Table of Contents

1. Introduction .....	2
2. Tools to study transcriptional regulation .....	2
3. Locating cis-acting regulatory elements .....	4
4. Simple promoters .....	4
5. Complex promoters .....	5
5.1. <i>myo-2</i> : activation of a terminal differentiation gene by the combined activities of organ- and cell type-specific regulatory elements .....	5
5.2. <i>hlh-1</i> : activation of gene expression by lineage-preference regulatory elements. ....	6
5.3. <i>lin-26</i> : activation of gene expression by tissue-specific regulatory elements. ....	7
6. Trans-acting factors .....	8
7. Spatial specificity .....	29
7.1. Organ specificity: control of pharyngeal gene expression by a master regulator .....	29
7.2. Tissue specificity: regulation of gut gene expression by a cascade of redundant GATA factors. ..	30
7.3. Cell type specificity: regulation of AIY neuronal expression by a single core motif .....	31
8. Future .....	31
9. Acknowledgements .....	31
10. References .....	31

## Abstract

The regulation of transcription in *C. elegans* shares many similarities to transcription in other organisms. The details of how specific transcription factors bind to target promoters and act as either activators or repressors are still being examined in many cases, but an increasing number of factors and their binding sites are being characterized. This chapter reviews the general concepts that have emerged with regards to promoter function in *C. elegans*. Included are the methods that have been successfully employed as well as limitations encountered to date. Specific cis-acting promoter elements from *myo-2*, *hlh-1* and *lin-26*

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are discussed as examples of complex promoters regulated by multiple sequence elements. In addition, examples of organ-, tissue-, and cell type-specific mechanisms for generating spatial specificity in gene expression are discussed.

## 1. Introduction

Regulation of Polymerase II (Pol II) transcription in *C. elegans* can be described as typical for eukaryotes. Pol II appears to act in concert with TATA Binding Protein (TBP) and TBP-Associated Factors (TAFs) at the promoter of protein coding genes (Dantonel et al., 2000; Kaltenbach et al., 2000; Lichtsteiner and Tjian, 1993; Walker et al., 2004). Active Pol II is phosphorylated on the C-terminal domain (CTD) at serine 2 and 5 like other eukaryotes (Seydoux and Dunn, 1997; Wallenfang and Seydoux, 2002; Zhang et al., 2003). The functions of these proteins at the core of transcription are beginning to be defined and are reviewed in [Transcription mechanisms](#). However, there are many things about transcription in *C. elegans* that we do not yet know for sure. For example, putative TATA and CAT boxes upstream of the coding region are often described, but this is largely done subjectively without any firm experimental evidence for the function of these elements. We also have not fully explored the role of histone modifications and chromatin organization in somatic cell transcription. Progress on these fronts has primarily been made in the areas of dosage compensation (see [X-chromosome dosage compensation](#)) and germline chromatin organization (see [Germline chromatin](#)). For these cases, the evolutionary conservation suggests that somatic cell transcription will similarly be influenced by typical eucaryotic mechanisms of chromatin organization. In many ways then, our understanding of transcription in *C. elegans* is still in its infancy, reflecting the fact that *C. elegans*, as a model biological system, is still a growing field that has primarily been exploited for its genetics.

The purpose of this chapter is to provide an overview of transcriptional regulation in *C. elegans*. It is geared towards an audience that is naïve in the ways of *C. elegans* gene regulation, but, it also includes information that should be helpful even to the seasoned veteran. The tools for studying transcription in *C. elegans* will be described in an effort to illustrate successful approaches and highlight techniques that, while useful in other systems, are challenging in the nematode. A review of the general trends in regulatory elements is followed by specific examples of spatial and temporal regulatory strategies. The hope is that this information will serve as both a useful review and an entry point into literature appropriate for specific applications.

## 2. Tools to study transcriptional regulation

Reporter genes are the most commonly used method to study transcriptional regulation in *C. elegans*. It is straightforward to generate transgenic lines (see [Transformation and microinjection](#)), and, as *C. elegans* is transparent throughout its life, it is easy to visualize reporter gene expression in all cells. Early studies of gene expression relied on *lacZ* reporter genes and were aided by the development of a set of vectors by the Fire lab (Fire et al., 1990). These *lacZ* reporters were very useful for determining cis-acting transcriptional control elements (Fire and Waterston, 1989; MacMorris et al., 1994; Okkema et al., 1993) and *lacZ* continues to be a robust marker that can be pushed to detect even low levels of expression (Wilkinson and Greenwald, 1995).

More recently, Green Fluorescent Protein (GFP), or one of its variants, serves as the common reporter. A GFP coding cassette can be inserted in different locations within a large genomic clone (tens of kilobases) to generate transcriptional and/or translational fusions. These constructs provide the greatest chance of capturing required cis-acting regulatory elements. However, it is more common to make the assumption that genomic sequences 5' to the coding region represent the core promoter. This region, usually a few kilobases in length, can be PCR amplified and easily cloned into the reporter gene backbone of choice. Alternatively, the Promoterome Project can serve as a source for many promoter regions and is useful if the reporter gene cloning strategy is Gateway (Invitrogen) compatible (Dupuy et al., 2004). These constructs are commercially available through [Open Biosystems](#).

There are several considerations to take into account when making reporter genes. One is the distinction between transcriptional and translational reporters; often one would like to have both. For transcriptional reporters, expression can be engineered to highlight the cytoplasm, nucleus or other cellular compartments in the expressing cell. Nuclear localized reporters are useful for embryonic cell identification whereas cytoplasmic reporters are often more useful for larval cells, particularly in neurons where they highlight the axonal and dendritic tracks. The Chalfie lab is developing a two-part fluorescent expression system that has the potential to simplify cell type identification (Zhang et al., 2004). Translational reporter genes can provide information on the subcellular localization of the endogenous gene product. In this case, it is advisable to use the fusion protein to rescue a mutant phenotype, thus demonstrating that some or all aspects of the expression pattern and subcellular localization are biologically relevant.

Once a pattern of expression is determined, promoter analyses can be used to home in on important regulatory elements. Sequential deletions of putative promoter regions linked to a GFP reporter gene are easily made by traditional cloning or Splicing by Overlap Extension (SOEing) Polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR) amplification (Horton et al., 1990). The latter technique allows high throughput and convenience as PCR reactions can be injected directly into animals without purification or cloning (Hobert, 2002). As the control elements become localized to small genomic regions (several hundred base pairs or less), they can be placed upstream of “basal” promoters to assay for enhancer activity. These approaches are common in the *C. elegans* literature and can be very successful in defining important cis-acting regulatory sequences.

The use of reporter genes has several important caveats. First and foremost is that they are artificial and can easily misrepresent the pattern of gene expression. Important positive- and negative-acting control elements can be excluded by assuming promoter location leading to mosaicism, loss of expression, or ectopic expression (Krause et al., 1994). For example, reporter genes that lack sufficient control elements for fidelity are often expressed in the anterior and posterior intestinal cells or a small set of head neurons. Moreover, small changes in promoter regions can dramatically alter expression patterns as illustrated by the studies of the *ges-1* gene (Egan et al., 1995). It is critical to confirm reporter gene expression patterns with an independent technique such as *in situ* hybridization, antibody staining, or mutant phenotype.

A second concern of reporter genes is the nature of any additional modules in the construct or in a co-injected marker that may have an effect on expression. For example, many of the standard constructs available from the Fire Lab have a 3' untranslated region (UTR) derived from the *unc-54* gene encoding muscle myosin heavy chain. These sequences may not be neutral when combined with promoters from other cell types. There are also reports of dramatic effects of co-transformation markers on expression levels suggesting that you should not rely on a single co-transformation marker when exploring the expression of a novel gene (Fukushige and Siddiqui, 1995). Similarly, “basal” promoters (e.g., *pes-10*) may be biased in working with certain types of genomic elements. This may cause them to fail to respond in certain cell types resulting in false information about a particular enhancer element (Natarajan et al., 2004). As long as you keep these limitations in mind, reporter genes can be very helpful in characterizing transcriptional control elements for the gene of interest.

Genome-wide approaches provide a more global assessment of transcriptional regulation and have begun to become more common in *C. elegans*. The availability of both spotted cDNA (see Kim Lab) and oligonucleotide microarrays (e.g., Affymetrix) for *C. elegans* has given birth to a large amount of gene expression data in response to tissue type (e.g., germline-enriched; Reinke et al., 2004), growth conditions (e.g., dauer; Liu et al., 2004), or mutant background (e.g., DAF-16; McElwee et al., 2003). Much of this data is available on web sites (e.g., <http://genome-www5.stanford.edu/cgi-bin/login.pl>) or is linked in Wormbase to individual genes. A second global approach for gene expression profiling is Serial Analysis of Gene Expression (SAGE) that has recently been combined with tissue isolation or cell type sorting (McKay et al., 2003; <http://elegans.bcgsc.ca/home/sage.html>). These approaches give an overview of expression. For specific genes, this data should be validated by an independent method, such as reverse transcriptase (RT)-PCR or reporter genes.

Bioinformatics provides another way to study gene regulation, either alone or in combination with other methods. Currently, the genome sequence of two *Caenorhabditis* species are finished (*elegans* and *briggsae*), one is in draft (*remanei*), and two are planned (*japonica* and CB5161). Interspecific comparisons of non-coding regions provides a powerful tool in identifying important cis-acting regulatory elements controlling gene expression, as functional elements will remain constrained through evolution. Comparisons between *C. elegans* and *C. briggsae* revealed important cis-acting sequences controlling the vitellogenin genes and helped to identify GATA-type transcription factors as likely regulators (MacMorris et al., 1994; Spieth et al., 1991; Winter et al., 1996; Zucker-Aprison and Blumenthal, 1989). Such comparisons continue to provide valuable information about cis-acting sequences within gene promoter regions with many examples in the literature (Culetto et al., 1999; Kirouac and Sternberg, 2003; Marshall and McGhee, 2001; Natarajan et al., 2004; Teng et al., 2004). The power of these comparisons is increased as the number of species is increased and will thus become more informative as sequences of additional species are finished. Recently developed programs, such as FamilyJewels, provide methods for sophisticated multiple alignments (Brown et al., 2002). This approach will become widely exploited in coming years to pinpoint regulatory promoter elements.

Bioinformatic analysis of known transcription factor binding sites upstream of coding regions has also been successful. Given a known binding consensus site of sufficient length, the CisOrtho program can be used to ferret out a list of potential genes sharing expression patterns (Bigelow et al., 2004). Bioinformatic comparisons of

promoters from genes with the same or overlapping expression patterns can also be informative to home in on potential regulatory elements (for example, see Chang et al., 2004; Guhathakurta et al., 2004). A nice combination of bioinformatics and *in vitro* studies used the DNA binding properties of DAF-12, a regulator of dauer development and lifespan, to define potential binding sites and gene targets (Shostak et al., 2004). Regardless of the method used, candidate elements and gene targets should be validated experimentally by an independent means.

There are also several techniques for studying gene expression that, while commonplace in other organisms, are not routinely used in the worm. For example, one would ideally isolate pure populations of cells and tease apart transcriptional regulation at a biochemical level. At only 1mm in length as an adult, *C. elegans* makes tissue dissections tedious or impossible for generating enough homogeneous tissue for biochemical analysis. The recent development of cell culture techniques (see [Methods in Cell biology](#)), coupled with cell sorting, may make biochemical approaches more feasible in the future. However, the technique is still challenging enough that most researchers have opted for other methods to study transcription.

*In situ* hybridization is another common technique for cataloging transcriptional profiles in many organisms but it is less often used in *C. elegans* studies. The impermeable egg shell of *C. elegans* embryos and the cuticle of larvae and adults often lead to background hybridization or partially permeabilized animals, making it difficult to get *in situ* hybridization signals that are reproducible or trustworthy. Despite these difficulties, a genome-scale effort to catalog gene transcription profiles using *in situ* hybridization by the Kohara group is now underway. Their protocols and data are useful and can be accessed at <http://nematode.lab.nig.ac.jp/db2/index.php>.

### 3. Locating cis-acting regulatory elements

The majority of protein coding genes in *C. elegans* are within gene-dense regions of the genome. Consequently, cis-acting regulatory regions are usually close to the coding region. The minimal promoter region required for proper expression of most Pol II transcripts lies within a couple of kilobases upstream of the start codon. There are notable exceptions to this compact view of cis-acting sequences. For example, *egl-1* expression is controlled, in part, by an element located greater than 2 kb downstream of the coding region and beyond an unrelated, intervening gene (Thellmann et al., 2003). For *lin-39*, proper reporter gene expression required inclusion of ~30 kb of genomic DNA that extended upstream and downstream of the protein coding region (Wigmaister and Eisenmann, personal communication). Clearly *C. elegans* genes can have complex and distant control regions. However, a rule-of-thumb of 2 kb upstream of the ATG works well as a starting point in the search for cis-acting control elements.

It is important to remember that the minimal promoter region is not synonymous with the natural promoter. The natural promoter may span a much larger region due to redundancy in the function of regulatory elements that ensure proper and robust regulation of the endogenous gene. One common site of additional control elements is within introns. Most *C. elegans* introns are small (e.g., <100 bp; see [Alternative splicing in C. elegans](#)) and are thus unlikely to contain elements controlling expression. However, introns larger than several hundred base pairs do often have such elements (e.g., Nam et al., 2002; Okkema et al., 1993). Therefore, intron size can provide a clue in searching for transcriptional control sequences. Large introns, particularly at the beginning of a coding region, may also provide a clue to promoter organization and the presence of multiple transcriptional initiation sites. For example, *nhr-23* has a 1.8 kb intron at the start of the gene that is included in one transcript and absent in a second (Kostrouchova et al., 1998). In cases such as this, the presence of a trans-spliced leader (see [Trans-splicing and operons](#)) on two or more different transcripts from a single gene can be an indicator of multiple messages, possibly encoding different protein isoforms.

### 4. Simple promoters

A simple promoter is defined here as one in which the cis-acting control elements necessary for proper expression are confined to a small region (a few hundreds of bp) of the genome. Housekeeping genes expressed in all tissues might be good candidates for regulation by simple promoters. Unfortunately, few housekeeping genes in *C. elegans* have been characterized. Among the best characterized simple promoters are those of the *hsp-16* family of genes. This family consists of pairs of divergently transcribed genes with promoter regions sufficient for heat-regulated expression contained within the short (~350 bp) intragenic regions (Jones et al., 1986; Rusnak and Candido, 1985; Stringham et al., 1992). Despite these compact promoters, distinct tissue expression patterns are induced from different *hsp-16* promoters (Stringham et al., 1992), suggesting the presence of multiple regulatory sites within these simple promoters. Another excellent example of simple promoters are in the vitellogenin (*vit*) genes, which exhibit stage-, tissue- and sex-specific expression controlled, in the case of *vit-2*, by a 247 bp promoter

(MacMorris et al., 1992; MacMorris et al., 1994). *vit-2* promoter activity depends on GATA-factor binding sites and a novel VPE2 site (TGTC AAT) conserved in *vit* gene promoters in *C. elegans* and *C. briggsae* (Spieth et al., 1985; Zucker-Aprison and Blumenthal, 1989). Certain cell cycle promoters have also been shown to be remarkably simple. Analysis of several genes expressed only in proliferative cells and encoding G1 phase regulators (e.g., cyclin D) revealed that proper regulation minimally required a 67 bp region of the promoter (Brodigan et al., 2003; Park and Krause, 1999). How could genes with such dynamic expression profiles throughout development be regulated in an apparently simple way? The answer is likely that they are end effectors of a cell's decision to divide rather than integrating lineage or temporal information governing proliferation.

## 5. Complex promoters

The term complex is used here to describe a promoter in which the overall pattern of gene expression is the result of the composite action of several dispersed elements, each influencing or contributing to the overall expression pattern. This piecemeal organization has been described for the promoter region of several genes, including *myo-2*, *hlh-1* and *lin-26*. These studies reveal examples in which spatial control of transcription is regulated by elements active in groups of cells related by cell-, tissue- and organ-type and by lineage history.

### 5.1. *myo-2*: activation of a terminal differentiation gene by the combined activities of organ- and cell type-specific regulatory elements

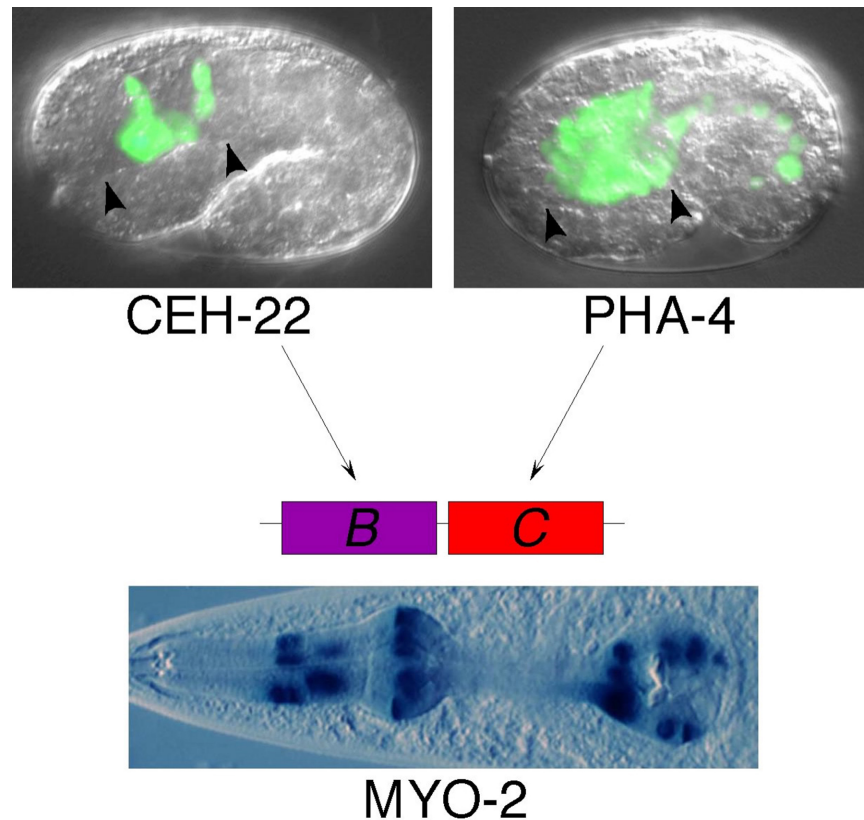
*myo-2* encodes a myosin heavy chain expressed exclusively in the pharyngeal muscles as these cells undergo terminal differentiation (Ardizzi and Epstein, 1987; Miller et al., 1983). Characterization of the *myo-2* promoter region in transgenic *C. elegans* and identification of trans-acting regulators indicates expression is regulated by a combination of organ- and cell type-specific signals targeting distinct regulatory sequences.

High level activity of the *myo-2* promoter requires a transcriptional enhancer located approximately 300 bp upstream of the transcriptional start (Okkema et al., 1993). The intact *myo-2* enhancer is active exclusively in the pharyngeal muscles, but, surprisingly, its activity depends on distinct cell-type-specific and organ-specific subelements, termed *B* and *C*, that can separately activate gene expression either specifically in the pharyngeal muscles, or more globally in all pharyngeal cell types (Okkema and Fire, 1994). In their endogenous context within the *myo-2* gene, these subelements synergistically activate pharyngeal muscle gene expression.

Consistent with their distinct activities, the *B* and *C* subelements are targeted by transcription factors expressed in different spatial patterns in the pharynx (Figure 1). The cell-type-specific *B* subelement binds and is activated by the pharyngeal muscle specific NK-2 family homeodomain factor CEH-22 (Okkema and Fire, 1994; Okkema et al., 1997), which is structurally and functionally related to factors controlling cardiac muscle development in other species (Haun et al., 1998). The organ-specific *C* subelement binds and is activated by the pan-pharyngeal FoxA family transcription factor PHA-4 (Kalb et al., 1998), which is required for formation of pharyngeal muscle and all other pharyngeal cell types during embryonic development (see below).

CEH-22 is not the only factor functioning with PHA-4 to activate *myo-2* expression. CEH-22 is expressed in most, but not all, *myo-2* expressing pharyngeal muscles (Okkema and Fire, 1994). Likewise a *ceh-22* mutant expresses *myo-2*, although these animals exhibit defects in *B* subelement activity and pharyngeal muscle development and function (Okkema et al., 1997). Thus, other as yet unidentified factors must contribute to *myo-2* expression, and the characterization of these factors will enhance our understanding of pharyngeal muscle development.



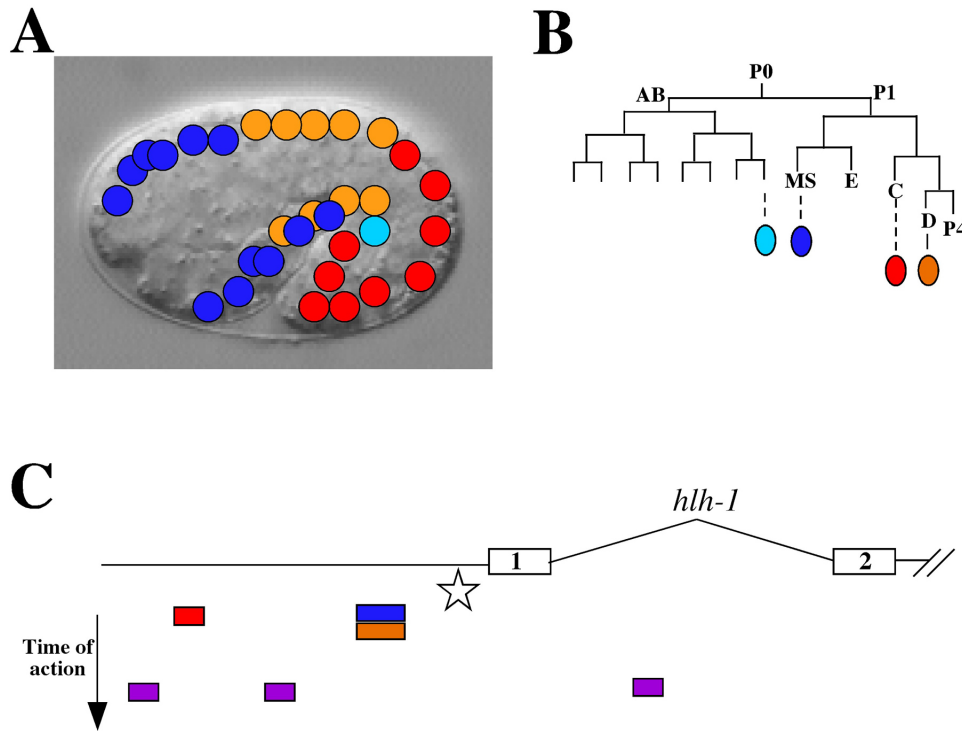


**Figure 1.** CEH-22 and PHA-4 function in combination to activate pharyngeal muscle expression of *myo-2*. *myo-2* expression is activated by the pharyngeal muscle-specific CEH-22 and the pan-pharyngeal PHA-4, which bind the *myo-2* enhancer *B* and *C* subelements, respectively. Micrographs indicate transgenic embryos expressing *ceh-22::gfp* in pharyngeal muscles and *pha-4::gfp* in all pharyngeal cells (top, delimited by arrowheads), and a transgenic adult expressing *myo-2::lacZ* in the pharyngeal muscles (bottom). Note *pha-4::gfp* is also expressed in the gut. GFP and  $\beta$ -galactosidase are targeted to nuclei to facilitate cell identification.

## 5.2. *hlh-1*: activation of gene expression by lineage-preference regulatory elements.

*hlh-1* encodes a basic helix-loop-helix transcription factor expressed in all body wall muscle cells and their precursors (Krause et al., 1990). The body wall muscle cells are derived from multiple cell lineages. Of the 81 body wall muscle cells born during embryogenesis, 1 is from the AB lineage, 28 are from the MS lineage, 32 are from the C lineage and 20 are from the D lineage (Sulston et al., 1983). An additional 14 body wall muscle cells (and other cell types) are born postembryonically from the M mesoblast (Sulston and Horvitz, 1977).

Dissection of the *hlh-1* promoter shows that gene expression can be properly regulated by multiple elements spanning ~3 kb upstream of the ATG (Figure 2; Krause et al., 1994). A core element required for all expression resides just upstream of the ATG. In addition, there are several individual elements that drive expression preferentially in one or more lineages. However, no single element is specific for expression in just one lineage. In addition, the expression during embryogenesis is controlled by a different region than that controlling postembryonic expression. The overall pattern of *hlh-1* expression is thus a composite of the action of several lineage-preference elements with overlapping domains of action, working in concert with an essential core element. Superimposed on this spatial pattern of regulation are distinct temporal control elements regulating timing of expression during development. As yet, no trans-acting factors have been identified that bind to the defined cis-acting elements, illustrating the difficulty in using promoter analysis alone to identify trans-acting factors.

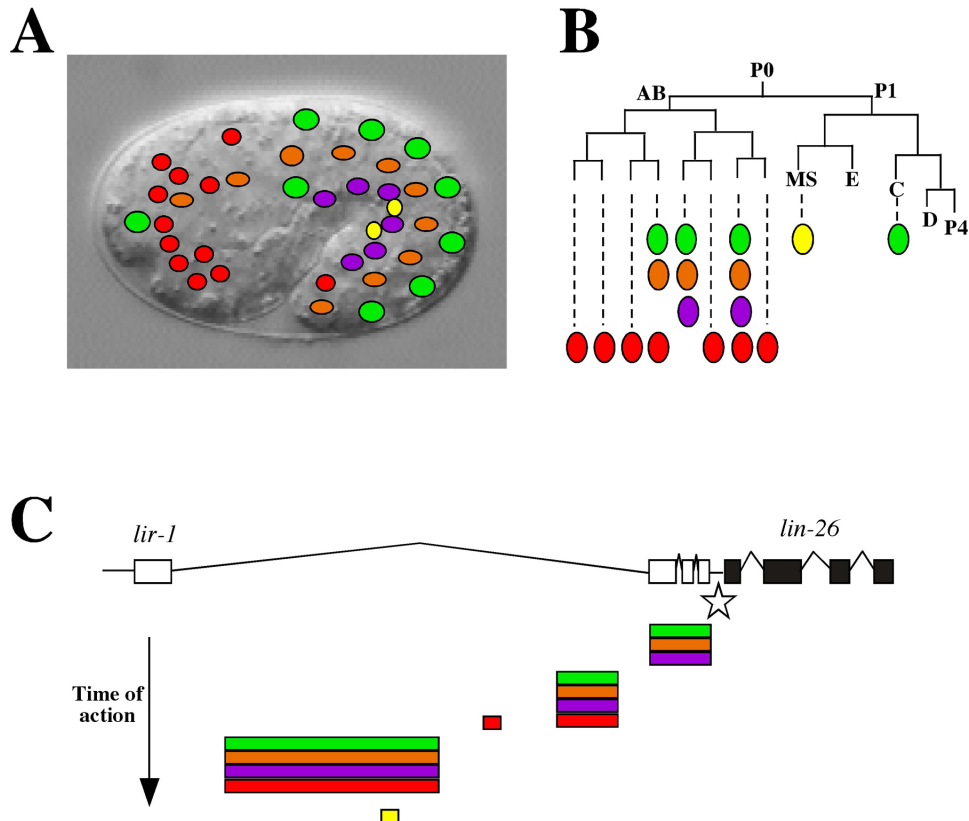


**Figure 2.** Regulation of *hhh-1* expression by lineage-preference elements. A) A schematic of body wall muscle nuclei is super-imposed on an image of a comma stage embryo. Each of four different lineages of origin is color-coded as shown in (B) (adapted from (Sulston et al., 1983)). C) The promoter and partial coding region (exons 1 and 2) of *hhh-1* are shown (adapted from (Krause et al., 1990)). All expression is dependent on a “core” element (star) located upstream of the ATG of exon 1. Below the gene structure diagram are color-coded elements that can direct lineage-preference expression of transgenes during embryogenesis; color coding as in (A) and (B). Mature body wall muscle is dependent on distinct temporal elements (purple boxes) that do not have lineage preferences.

### 5.3. *lin-26*: activation of gene expression by tissue-specific regulatory elements.

*lin-26* encodes a predicted zinc-finger transcription factor expressed in a broad range of ectodermally derived epithelial tissues, the somatic gonad and uterus (Labouesse et al., 1996; Labouesse et al., 1994). Within these ectodermally-derived epithelial tissues are the major hypodermis surrounding the body of the animal, specialized hypodermal cells located at the anterior and posterior ends of the body, and interfacial cells such as rectal cells connecting the external epithelium to the endoderm. A recent characterization of the *lin-26* promoter region revealed this gene is regulated by a core element required for all expression working in concert with tissue-specific elements, rather than lineage-preference elements as discussed above for *hhh-1* (Landmann et al., 2004).

*lin-26* is the downstream gene in an alternatively spliced operon including *lir-1* (Dufourcq et al., 1999), and proper expression of *lin-26* requires an 11 kb upstream region including most of the *lir-1* gene itself (den Boer et al., 1998). Within this region are tissue specific regulatory modules that activate gene expression in subsets of *lin-26* expressing tissues (Figure 3; Landmann et al., 2004). For example, separable modules control expression in the major hypodermal cells, in the minor hypodermal cells and sheath and socket support cells, in rectal cells, or in the somatic gonad. In some cases, redundant elements contribute to expression in particular tissues (e.g., major hypodermal cells), and, in the case of the minor hypodermis and support cells located at the worms anterior and posterior ends, separable elements active either in anterior or posterior ends were identified. Thus, the *lin-26* promoter region contains cis-regulatory elements active in cells that belong to the same organ, are functionally related, or have similar positions along the body (Landmann et al., 2004), and these elements together produce the full *lin-26* expression pattern in a piecemeal fashion.



**Figure 3.** Regulation of *lin-26* by tissue-specific elements. A) A diagram of some of the cell types expressing *lin-26* (adapted from (Landmann et al., 2004) is shown super-imposed on an image of a comma stage embryo. B) A partial embryonic lineage showing the origin of *lin-26* expressing cells with color coding matching the cell types shown in (A) (adapted from (Landmann et al., 2004): major hypodermal cells include *hyp 7* (green), seam cells (orange), and P cells (purple); support cells (red); somatic gonad precursors Z1 and Z4 (yellow). C) The promoter elements for *lin-26*. All expression is dependent on a “core” element (star) located in the intergenic region between *lin-26* and its upstream neighbor *lir-1*. Tissue-specific control elements, located within a *lir-1* intron, are shown below the gene structure diagram with color-coding as in (A) and (B). Most control elements function in cells related by tissue-type but not by lineage. Note also that temporal control is achieved by sequentially acting elements that are progressively further upstream from the ATG of *lin-26*.

One common theme to emerge from these three examples is redundancy of regulatory elements. In most cases, even when sub-elements are identified with specific tissue, lineage or organ activity, their loss does not prevent all expression in that region. Clearly endogenous gene regulation has evolved to include multiple and overlapping regulatory regions to ensure proper expression during development. The deconstruction of a promoter is most useful in showing a minimal set of cis-acting control elements. As studies employ more sophisticated techniques and assays, we may learn how extensive this redundancy is.

## 6. Trans-acting factors

The completion of the *C. elegans* genome makes it possible, in theory, to define all transcription factors in the worm. In practice, this effort is more difficult because of several uncertainties when surveying the properties of a given gene. For example, zinc finger motifs can bind DNA but also can serve other functions including RNA binding and protein-protein interactions. It is therefore difficult to conclude that a given gene product is indeed a transcription factor based solely on the presence of signature motifs. For factors that modify chromatin or participate in a transcription complex, the definition of a transcription factor often lies in the eyes of the investigator. A first-pass attempt at defining a list of *C. elegans* transcription factors is presented in Table 1. Originally compiled in the Sternberg Lab (courtesy of T. Ririe and J. Fernandes), we present a modified version of their list with the understanding that it will necessarily need refinement over time to correct inaccuracies and omissions. The current list includes 664 genes representing only about 3.5% of the predicted genes in *C. elegans*. This number is surprisingly low and about one half the number of transcription factors estimated previously (McGhee and Krause, 1997).



Table 1. *C. elegans* transcription factors

Gene	Affy probe set	Description
<i>gfl-1</i>	190531_at	AF-9-like
<i>taf-11.3</i>	188157_at	an ortholog of human TATA-binding protein associated factor TAF11
<i>R07C12.4</i>	185116_s_at	AP-1-like
<i>F28C6.1</i>	191919_at	AP-2-like
<i>F28C6.2</i>	191940_at	AP-2-like
<i>K06A1.1</i>	191145_at	AP-2-like
<i>Y62E10A.17</i>	186925_at	AP-2-like
<i>Y73E7A.2</i>	176887_at	Apoptosis antagonizing transcription factor
<i>aha-1</i>	172967_x_at, 172057_x_at	bHLH
<i>ahr-1</i>	193149_at	bHLH
<i>C15C8.2</i>	192573_at	bHLH
<i>cnd-1</i>	187594_at	bHLH
<i>F38C2.8</i>	172921_x_at	bHLH
<i>hif-1</i>	183824_s_at	bHLH
<i>hlh-1</i>	193759_at	bHLH
<i>hlh-10</i>	189550_at	bHLH
<i>hlh-11</i>	171841_x_at	bHLH
<i>hlh-12</i>	186469_at	bHLH
<i>hlh-13</i>	182960_at	bHLH
<i>hlh-14</i>	192984_at	bHLH
<i>hlh-15</i>	182141_at	bHLH
<i>hlh-16</i>	192331_at	bHLH
<i>hlh-17</i>	172921_x_at	bHLH
<i>hlh-19</i>	193041_at	bHLH
<i>hlh-2</i>	193176_s_at	bHLH
<i>hlh-21</i>	183551_at	bHLH
<i>hlh-25</i>	184961_s_at	bHLH
<i>hlh-26</i>	183674_at	bHLH
<i>hlh-27</i>	184961_s_at	bHLH
<i>hlh-28</i>	179991_s_at	bHLH
<i>hlh-29</i>	179991_s_at	bHLH
<i>hlh-3</i>	192523_at	bHLH
<i>hlh-4</i>	190064_at	bHLH
<i>hlh-6</i>	193106_at	bHLH
<i>hlh-8</i>	193985_at	bHLH
<i>hnd-1</i>	192707_at	bHLH
<i>lin-32</i>	188671_at	bHLH
<i>mdl-1</i>	193723_s_at	bHLH

Gene	Affy probe set	Description
<i>ngn-1</i>	176272_at	bHLH
<i>T01D3.2</i>	190290_at	bHLH
<i>W02C12.3</i>	190299_at	bHLH
<i>Y105C5B.29</i>	172921_x_at	bHLH
<i>Y39A3CR.6</i>	186966_at	bHLH
<i>mxl-1</i>	193662_at	bHLH/ZIP
<i>mxl-2</i>	184737_s_at	bHLH/ZIP
<i>mxl-3</i>	192645_at	bHLH/ZIP
<i>bra-2</i>	172599_x_at	BMP receptor associated protein family
<i>taf-3</i>	177494_at	bromodomain
<i>atf-2</i>	189943_at	bZIP
<i>atf-5</i>	192027_s_at	bZIP
<i>atf-6</i>	188462_at	bZIP
<i>atf-7</i>	173892_s_at, 172407_x_at	bZIP
<i>C27D6.4</i>	188956_at, 187831_at, 176715_at, 193833_s_at	bZIP
<i>C34D1.5</i>	193844_at	bZIP
<i>C48E7.11</i>		bZIP
<i>ces-2</i>	193437_s_at	bZIP
<i>crh-1</i>	189423_s_at	bZIP
<i>F17A9.3</i>	191134_at	bZIP
<i>F23F12.9</i>	187591_at	bZIP
<i>F23F12.9</i>	171733_x_at	bZIP
<i>F29G9.4</i>	191088_at	bZIP
<i>F57B10.1</i>	185841_s_at	bZIP
<i>K02F3.4</i>	181230_at	bZIP
<i>mgl-2</i>	173929_s_at, 193356_s_at	bZIP
<i>pha-1</i>	188075_at	bZIP
<i>R07H5.10</i>	181517_at	bZIP
<i>skn-1</i>	188421_at	bZIP
<i>srx-41</i>	183336_at	bZIP
<i>T24H10.7</i>	180818_at, 188946_at	bZIP
<i>T27F2.4</i>	179204_s_at	bZIP
<i>W02H5.7</i>	182521_at	bZIP
<i>W07G1.3</i>	179163_at, 179658_at	bZIP
<i>W08E12.1</i>	184700_at	bZIP
<i>xbp-1</i>	190863_at	bZIP
<i>Y75B8A.29</i>	185348_at	bZIP
<i>ZC376.7</i>	189598_s_at	bZIP
<i>ZC8.4a.1</i>	191675_s_at	bZIP
<i>zip-1</i>	173457_s_at	bZIP

Transcriptional regulation

Gene	Affy probe set	Description
<i>T05C1.4</i>	179917_at, 182254_s_at	calmodulin-binding transcription activator (CAMTA)
<i>cbp-1</i>	173017_at, 191123_s_at	CBP/p300 homolog
<i>lpd-2</i>	182912_at	CCAAT-binding
<i>T08D10.1</i>	189859_s_at	CCAAT-binding
<i>F23F1.1</i>	174270_s_at	CCAAT-binding, subunit C (HAP5)
<i>Y51H1A.5</i>	182089_at	CCAAT-binding
<i>F22F1.3</i>	194040_at	KIX domain, coactivator CBP
<i>lag-1</i>	175617_at, 192000_s_at	CSL
<i>cdk-8</i>	190709_at	cyclin C interactor
<i>pqn-45</i>	177704_at	DEC-1-like
<i>pqn-47</i>	182066_s_at	DEC-1-like
<i>mab-23</i>		DM DNA-binding
<i>mab-3</i>	192765_at	DM DNA-binding
<i>C27C12.6</i>	173904_at	DM DNA-binding
<i>Y53F4B.3</i>	181571_s_at	DNA Polymerase epsilon, subunit C
<i>F10C1.5</i>	192453_at	Doublesex
<i>dpl-1</i>	191593_s_at	E2F/DP1
<i>F49E12.6</i>	175552_at, 189678_at	E2F/DP1
<i>elf-1(mex-2)</i>	186476_s_at	E2F/DP1
<i>elf-2</i>	186271_at	E2F/DP1
<i>C24A1.2</i>	174325_at	ETS domain
<i>C33A11.4</i>	188664_at	ETS domain
<i>C42D8.4</i>	189894_at	ETS domain
<i>C50A2.4</i>	183564_at	ETS domain
<i>C52B9.2</i>	180922_at	ETS domain
<i>F19F10.1</i>	190163_at	ETS domain
<i>F19F10.5</i>	190230_at	ETS domain
<i>F22A3.1</i>	192249_at	ETS domain
<i>lin-1</i>	173446_s_at, 175607_s_at	ETS domain
<i>T08H4.3</i>	188791_s_at	ETS domain
<i>Y73F8A.14</i>		ETS-related
<i>peb-1</i>	188015_at	Zn-finger, FLYWCH
<i>C34B4.2</i>	192149_at	Forkhead
<i>daf-16</i>	188176_s_at, 181992_s_at	Forkhead
<i>pes-1</i>	188273_at	Forkhead
<i>pha-4</i>	193962_at	Forkhead
<i>T27A8.2</i>	189248_at	Forkhead
<i>unc-130</i>	190731_s_at	Forkhead
<i>fkh-10</i>	190179_at	Forkhead
<i>fkh-2</i>	193957_s_at, 174011_at	Forkhead

Transcriptional regulation

<b>Gene</b>	<b>Affy probe set</b>	<b>Description</b>
<i>fkh-3</i>	190724_s_at	Forkhead
<i>fkh-4</i>	172877_x_at	Forkhead
<i>fkh-5</i>	187411_at	Forkhead
<i>fkh-6</i>	191946_at	Forkhead
<i>fkh-7</i>	187837_at	Forkhead
<i>fkh-8</i>	181677_at	Forkhead
<i>fkh-9</i>	188781_at	Forkhead
<i>let-381</i>	175474_at	Forkhead
<i>lin-31</i>	188600_at	Forkhead
<i>C18G1.2</i>	191147_at, 183542_at, 174326_s_at	GATA
<i>egl-18</i>	190079_at	GATA
<i>elt-1</i>	192655_s_at	GATA
<i>elt-2</i>	193259_at	GATA
<i>elt-3</i>	193640_s_at	GATA
<i>elt-4</i>		GATA
<i>elt-6</i>	185110_at	GATA
<i>elt-7</i>		GATA
<i>end-1</i>	193618_at	GATA
<i>end-3</i>	193616_at	GATA
<i>med-1</i>	188376_at	GATA
<i>med-2</i>		GATA
<i>F55A3.3</i>	171809_s_at, 190137_s_at	global transcriptional regulator
<i>F31F7.3</i>	182888_at	Golden2-like
<i>unc-37</i>	173188_s_at, 193614_s_at	Groucho
<i>egr-1</i>	188149_s_at, 188166_s_at	HDAC, GATA-like)
<i>K08B5.2</i>	182979_at	heat shock
<i>dro-1</i>	192105_at	histone-like
<i>W10D9.4</i>	180226_s_at	histone-like
<i>lin-22</i>	175682_at	HLH
<i>ref-1</i>	193898_at	HLH
<i>sbp-1</i>	192735_s_at	HLH
<i>hmg-1.1</i>	175799_at	HMG box
<i>hmg-1.2</i>	175806_at	HMG box
<i>hmg-11</i>	193301_at	HMG box
<i>hmg-12</i>	188169_at	HMG box
<i>hmg-3</i>	193484_s_at	HMG box
<i>hmg-4</i>	188651_s_at	HMG box
<i>hmg-5</i>	187989_at	HMG box
<i>pop-1</i>	188002_at	HMG box
<i>gei-3</i>	178044_at, 192981_at	HMG-box
<i>C02F12.5</i>	192268_at	homeobox domain

<b>Gene</b>	<b>Affy probe set</b>	<b>Description</b>
<i>C07E3.6</i>	189406_at, 178029_at	homeobox domain
<i>C09G12.1</i>	189632_at	homeobox domain
<i>C12D12.4</i>	184383_at	homeobox domain
<i>C12D12.5</i>	184573_at	homeobox domain
<i>C17H12.9</i>	189669_at	homeobox domain
<i>C18B12.3</i>	189424_at	homeobox domain
<i>C36F7.1</i>	189594_at	homeobox domain
<i>C49C3.5</i>	189172_s_at	homeobox domain
<i>ceh-1</i>	176628_at	homeobox domain
<i>ceh-10</i>	176624_at	homeobox domain
<i>ceh-12</i>	192019_at	homeobox domain
<i>ceh-13</i>	176615_at	homeobox domain
<i>ceh-14</i>	192631_s_at	homeobox domain
<i>ceh-16</i>	188939_at	homeobox domain
<i>ceh-17</i>	191721_at	homeobox domain
<i>ceh-19</i>	192315_at	homeobox domain
<i>ceh-2</i>	191750_at	homeobox domain
<i>ceh-22</i>	175701_at, 193693_s_at	homeobox domain
<i>ceh-23</i>	189145_at	homeobox domain
<i>ceh-24</i>	193511_at	homeobox domain
<i>ceh-26</i>	176620_at	homeobox domain
<i>ceh-27</i>	192317_at	homeobox domain
<i>ceh-28</i>	193479_at	homeobox domain
<i>ceh-30</i>	189850_at	homeobox domain
<i>ceh-31</i>	189951_at	homeobox domain
<i>ceh-32</i>	193576_at	homeobox domain
<i>ceh-33</i>	188645_at	homeobox domain
<i>ceh-34</i>	192166_at	homeobox domain
<i>ceh-35</i>	192928_at	homeobox domain
<i>ceh-36</i>	173826_s_at	homeobox domain
<i>ceh-37</i>	192014_s_at	homeobox domain
<i>ceh-40</i>	192022_at	homeobox domain
<i>ceh-41</i>	193249_at	homeobox domain
<i>ceh-43</i>	193833_at	homeobox domain
<i>ceh-5</i>	191117_at	homeobox domain
<i>ceh-6</i>	194028_s_at	homeobox domain
<i>ceh-7</i>	191844_at	homeobox domain
<i>ceh-8</i>	193515_at	homeobox domain
<i>ceh-9</i>		homeobox domain
<i>egl-5</i>	175712_s_at	homeobox domain
<i>F17A9.6</i>	189546_s_at	homeobox domain



Gene	Affy probe set	Description
<i>F22A3.5</i>	190371_at	homeobox domain
<i>F42G2.6</i>	181119_s_at	homeobox domain
<i>F45C12.15</i>	186689_s_at	homeobox domain
<i>K02F3.8</i>	181123_at	homeobox domain
<i>lin-39</i>	189637_at	homeobox domain
<i>M6.3</i>	189007_at	homeobox domain
<i>mab-18</i>	194012_s_at	homeobox domain
<i>mab-5</i>	173387_at, 176579_s_at	homeobox domain
<i>mls-2</i>	173754_at, 189498_s_at, 182023_at	homeobox domain
<i>nob-1</i>	191468_s_at	homeobox domain
<i>pal-1</i>	193341_at, 193342_s_at	homeobox domain
<i>pax-1</i>	192418_at	homeobox domain
<i>pax-3</i>	193866_at	homeobox domain
<i>php-3</i>	191509_at	homeobox domain
<i>R04A9.5</i>	193949_s_at	homeobox domain
<i>R06F6.6</i>	189665_at	homeobox domain
<i>T13C5.4</i>	189464_at	homeobox domain
<i>tab-1</i>	189979_at	homeobox domain
<i>ttx-1</i>	186833_s_at	homeobox domain
<i>unc-39</i>	192928_at	homeobox domain
<i>unc-4</i>	193581_at	homeobox domain
<i>unc-42</i>	191585_at	homeobox domain
<i>vab-7</i>	193846_at	homeobox domain
<i>Y38E10A.6</i>	171992_x_at, 186209_s_at	homeobox domain
<i>Y80D3A.3</i>	182349_s_at	homeobox domain
<i>zag-1</i>	193363_at	homeobox domain
<i>ceh-20</i>	177324_s_at	homeobox domain, cofactor
<i>ceh-21</i>	190942_at	homeobox domain, CUT
<i>ceh-38</i>	189668_at	homeobox domain, CUT
<i>ceh-39</i>	174323_at	homeobox domain, CUT
<i>ceh-44</i>	176483_at, 176499_at	homeobox domain, CUT
<i>ZK1193.5</i>	185625_at	homeobox domain, CUT
<i>egl-13</i>	188167_s_at, 193037_s_at	homeobox domain, HMG
<i>sox-2</i>	191681_at	homeobox domain, HMG
<i>C25G4.4</i>	188729_at	homeobox domain, HMG, SAND domain
<i>eat-1</i>	174122_s_at, 188775_s_at	homeobox domain, LIM
<i>vab-15</i>	192609_at	homeobox domain, MSH
<i>K03A11.5</i>	180454_s_at	homeobox domain, Nkx2
<i>cog-1</i>	189136_at	homeobox domain, Nkx6.1
<i>R08B4.2</i>	192223_at	homeobox domain, Paired domain
<i>unc-30</i>	174442_s_at, 193622_at	homeobox domain, Paired domain

Transcriptional regulation

Gene	Affy probe set	Description
<i>Y53C12C.1</i>	192900_at	homeobox domain, Paired domain
<i>egl-38</i>	193140_at	homeobox domain, Paired domain
<i>vab-3</i>	194012_s_at	homeobox domain, Paired domain
<i>ceh-18</i>	187890_at	homeobox domain, POU
<i>unc-86</i>	187875_s_at	homeobox domain, POU
<i>unc-62</i>	192045_s_at	homeobox domain, TALE
<i>B0496.7</i>	181555_at	LIM domain
<i>B0496.8</i>	189866_s_at	LIM domain
<i>C26C6.6</i>	188741_at	LIM domain
<i>C28H8.6</i>	189207_at	LIM domain
<i>C34B2.4</i>	181869_at	LIM domain
<i>F20D12.5</i>	184796_s_at	LIM domain
<i>F25H5.1</i>	180879_at, 193411_s_at, 193324_at, 181484_s_at, 181483_at	LIM domain
<i>F28F5.3</i>	181521_at	LIM domain
<i>F33D11.1</i>	188952_at	LIM domain
<i>F42H10.4</i>	176229_at	LIM domain
<i>lim-4</i>	191102_at	LIM domain
<i>lim-6</i>	187894_at	LIM domain
<i>lim-7</i>	191686_at	LIM domain
<i>lin-11</i>	194088_at	LIM domain
<i>ltd-1</i>	188644_at	LIM domain
<i>mec-3</i>	194097_s_at	LIM domain
<i>ttx-3</i>	172067_x_at, 194096_s_at	LIM domain
<i>unc-115</i>	190640_s_at	LIM domain
<i>unc-95</i>	176968_s_at	LIM domain
<i>unc-97</i>	193526_s_at	LIM domain
<i>Y1A5A.1</i>	193268_at	LIM domain
<i>Y57G11A.1</i>	192213_s_at	LIM domain
<i>Y57G11A.3</i>	192211_at	LIM domain
<i>Y65B4A.7</i>	176112_at, 176123_at	LIM domain
<i>ZK381.5</i>	180400_at, 181271_s_at	LIM domain
<i>ZK622.4</i>	187981_at	LIM domain
<i>zyx-1</i>	192073_at	LIM domain
<i>pin-2</i>	189051_at	LIM domain (Focal adhesion protein PINCH-1)
<i>B0379.4a</i>	193257_at, 178388_at	LIM domain, (basal component)
<i>grh-1</i>	186593_at	LSF/GRH-like
<i>unc-120</i>	188706_at	MADS box
<i>mef-2</i>	190718_s_at	MADS-box
<i>dpy-22</i>	187986_s_at, 173764_at	mediator
<i>sur-2</i>	172005_x_at, 190922_s_at	mediator

## Transcriptional regulation

Gene	Affy probe set	Description
<i>Y62F5A.1</i>	172520_x_at, 185066_s_at	mediator
<i>F58H1.2</i>	179510_at	Metencephalon-mesencephalon-olfactorystranscription factor 1
<i>C50F4.12</i>	183467_at	Mitochondrial transcription termination factor, mTERF
<i>egl-27</i>	188531_s_at, 188530_at, 187748_s_at, 175679_at	Myb-like DNA binding, GATA Zn finger
<i>K11H12.8</i>	184428_at, 184429_s_at	Myb-related
<i>F40F9.7</i>	190650_at	NC2-like transcriptional repressor
<i>R11H6.5</i>	190505_at	NFAT-like
<i>C13C4.1</i>	194101_at	NHR
<i>C14C6.4</i>	190050_at	NHR
<i>C17A2.1</i>	190255_s_at	NHR
<i>C25E10.1</i>	192196_at	NHR
<i>C26B2.4</i>	190868_at	NHR
<i>C33G8.10</i>	190253_at	NHR
<i>C33G8.12</i>	191187_at	NHR
<i>C33G8.7</i>	190077_at	NHR
<i>C33G8.8</i>	190084_at	NHR
<i>C41G6.5</i>	192406_at	NHR
<i>C49D10.9</i>	190255_s_at	NHR
<i>C50B6.8</i>	194133_at	NHR
<i>C54E10.5</i>	192526_at	NHR
<i>dpr-1</i>	192538_at	NHR
<i>F16B4.1</i>	190004_at	NHR
<i>F16B4.11</i>	190260_at	NHR
<i>F16H9.2</i>	194105_at	NHR
<i>F38H12.3</i>	191042_at	NHR
<i>F41D3.3</i>	192456_at	NHR
<i>F44A2.4</i>	190088_at	NHR
<i>F44E7.8</i>	189031_at	NHR
<i>F47C10.1</i>	186434_at	NHR
<i>F47C10.3</i>	191031_at	NHR
<i>F47C10.4</i>	185749_at	NHR
<i>F47C10.7</i>	185192_at	NHR
<i>F47C10.8</i>	191126_at	NHR
<i>F59E11.10</i>	190380_at	NHR
<i>F59E11.11</i>	1872090_at	NHR
<i>fax-1</i>	175757_s_at	NHR
<i>M02H5.5</i>	176016_at	NHR
<i>nhr-1</i>	192168_at	NHR
<i>nhr-10</i>	191884_s_at	NHR

<b>Gene</b>	<b>Affy probe set</b>	<b>Description</b>
<i>nhr-100</i>	194112_at	NHR
<i>nhr-101</i>	172572_x_at	NHR
<i>nhr-102</i>	173975_s_at	NHR
<i>nhr-103</i>	190850_at	NHR
<i>nhr-104</i>	190875_at	NHR
<i>nhr-105</i>	189902_at	NHR
<i>nhr-106</i>	189964_at	NHR
<i>nhr-107</i>	191205_s_at	NHR
<i>nhr-108</i>	192601_s_at	NHR
<i>nhr-109</i>	175463_at, 182895_at	NHR
<i>nhr-11</i>	174023_at, 192634_at	NHR
<i>nhr-110</i>	188585_at, 188586_s_at	NHR
<i>nhr-111</i>	192431_at	NHR
<i>nhr-112</i>	173159_s_at	NHR
<i>nhr-113</i>	192511_s_at	NHR
<i>nhr-114</i>	177144_at	NHR
<i>nhr-115</i>	189980_at	NHR
<i>nhr-116</i>	190812_at	NHR
<i>nhr-117</i>	190287_at	NHR
<i>nhr-118</i>	189855_at	NHR
<i>nhr-119</i>	187893_s_at, 190018_at, 176194_at	NHR
<i>nhr-12</i>	193687_at	NHR
<i>nhr-120</i>	180497_at	NHR
<i>nhr-121</i>	181125_at	NHR
<i>nhr-122</i>	176072_at	NHR
<i>nhr-123</i>	175973_at	NHR
<i>nhr-124</i>	190854_at	NHR
<i>nhr-125</i>	182971_at	NHR
<i>nhr-126</i>	188808_at	NHR
<i>nhr-127</i>	192488_at	NHR
<i>nhr-128</i>	189920_at	NHR
<i>nhr-129</i>	194133_at	NHR
<i>nhr-13</i>	176625_at	NHR
<i>nhr-130</i>	190001_at	NHR
<i>nhr-131</i>	189948_at	NHR
<i>nhr-132</i>	190237_at	NHR
<i>nhr-133</i>	189999_at	NHR
<i>nhr-134</i>	190842_at	NHR
<i>nhr-135</i>	177337_at	NHR
<i>nhr-136</i>	194102_at	NHR
<i>nhr-137</i>	185968_at	NHR

## Transcriptional regulation

<b>Gene</b>	<b>Affy probe set</b>	<b>Description</b>
<i>nhr-138</i>	–	NHR
<i>nhr-14</i>	193175_at	NHR
<i>nhr-15</i>	192935_at	NHR
<i>nhr-16</i>	190172_at	NHR
<i>nhr-17</i>	192635_at	NHR
<i>nhr-18</i>	192777_at	NHR
<i>nhr-19</i>	193637_at	NHR
<i>nhr-2</i>	193015_s_at	NHR
<i>nhr-20</i>	193638_s_at	NHR
<i>nhr-21</i>	194090_s_at	NHR
<i>nhr-22</i>	193245_s_at	NHR
<i>nhr-23</i>	194130_s_at	NHR
<i>nhr-25</i>	193001_s_at	NHR
<i>nhr-28</i>	173241_at	NHR
<i>nhr-3</i>	193679_s_at	NHR
<i>nhr-31</i>	192541_s_at	NHR
<i>nhr-32</i>	192460_at	NHR
<i>nhr-34</i>	174018_at, 193049_at	NHR
<i>nhr-35</i>	190373_at	NHR
<i>nhr-38</i>	193582_at	NHR
<i>nhr-4</i>	194123_s_at	NHR
<i>nhr-40</i>	175720_at, 194035_s_at	NHR
<i>nhr-41</i>	176582_at, 186589_at	NHR
<i>nhr-42</i>	192603_at	NHR
<i>nhr-43</i>	193483_at	NHR
<i>nhr-44</i>	192173_s_at	NHR
<i>nhr-45</i>	193486_at	NHR
<i>nhr-46</i>	192835_at	NHR
<i>nhr-47</i>	192271_s_at	NHR
<i>nhr-48</i>	193671_at	NHR
<i>nhr-49</i>	194120_at	NHR
<i>nhr-5</i>	188223_at	NHR
<i>nhr-50</i>	172035_x_at	NHR
<i>nhr-51</i>	193556_at	NHR
<i>nhr-52</i>	193670_at	NHR
<i>nhr-53</i>	193701_s_at	NHR
<i>nhr-54</i>	193559_s_at	NHR
<i>nhr-55</i>	192136_at	NHR
<i>nhr-56</i>	192231_at	NHR
<i>nhr-57</i>	192189_at	NHR
<i>nhr-58</i>	192282_at	NHR



Transcriptional regulation

<b>Gene</b>	<b>Affy probe set</b>	<b>Description</b>
<i>nhr-59</i>	172034_x_at, 172722_x_at	NHR
<i>nhr-6</i>	194121_s_at	NHR
<i>nhr-60</i>	194128_s_at	NHR
<i>nhr-61</i>	193603_s_at	NHR
<i>nhr-62</i>	192819_at	NHR
<i>nhr-63</i>	193566_at	NHR
<i>nhr-64</i>	193768_at	NHR
<i>nhr-65</i>	173003_s_at, 193567_at	NHR
<i>nhr-66</i>	192260_at	NHR
<i>nhr-67</i>	192717_at	NHR
<i>nhr-68</i>	192782_at	NHR
<i>nhr-69</i>	194132_at	NHR
<i>nhr-7</i>	192920_s_at	NHR
<i>nhr-70</i>	193658_at	NHR
<i>nhr-71</i>	193513_s_at	NHR
<i>nhr-72</i>	192209_at	NHR
<i>nhr-73</i>	192748_s_at	NHR
<i>nhr-74</i>	192640_at, 192641_s_at	NHR
<i>nhr-75</i>	192291_at	NHR
<i>nhr-76</i>	182867_at, 192270_at	NHR
<i>nhr-77</i>	193530_at	NHR
<i>nhr-78</i>	188348_at	NHR
<i>nhr-79</i>	193540_s_at	NHR
<i>nhr-8</i>	193749_at	NHR
<i>nhr-80</i>	190236_s_at, 191574_at	NHR
<i>nhr-81</i>	193507_at	NHR
<i>nhr-82</i>	193508_at	NHR
<i>nhr-83</i>	192858_at	NHR
<i>nhr-84</i>	193542_at	NHR
<i>nhr-85</i>	193753_at	NHR
<i>nhr-86</i>	176830_s_at	NHR
<i>nhr-87</i>	176042_s_at	NHR
<i>nhr-88</i>	189858_at, 190898_at	NHR
<i>nhr-89</i>	193577_at	NHR
<i>nhr-9</i>	188454_at	NHR
<i>nhr-90</i>	189961_at	NHR
<i>nhr-91</i>	193433_at	NHR
<i>nhr-92</i>	174019_s_at, 176050_at	NHR
<i>nhr-94</i>	184113_at	NHR
<i>nhr-95</i>	183502_at	NHR
<i>nhr-96</i>	187786_at	NHR

Transcriptional regulation

Gene	Affy probe set	Description
<i>nhr-97</i>	194122_at	NHR
<i>nhr-98</i>	175979_at	NHR
<i>nhr-99</i>	176003_at	NHR
<i>R11G11.12</i>	190367_at	NHR
<i>R13D11.8</i>	185889_at	NHR
<i>sex-1</i>	172940_x_at, 188033_s_at, 171736_x_at	NHR
<i>T01G6.5</i>	189965_at	NHR
<i>T01G6.6</i>	191004_at	NHR
<i>T03E6.3</i>	189871_at	NHR
<i>T09D3.4</i>	190944_at	NHR
<i>Y116A8C.18</i>	186548_at	NHR
<i>Y17D7A.1</i>	192543_at	NHR
<i>Y17D7B.1</i>	192565_s_at	NHR
<i>Y22F5A.1</i>	192564_at	NHR
<i>Y41D4B.21</i>	176108_at	NHR
<i>Y54F10AM.1</i>	176503_at	NHR
<i>Y80D3A.4</i>	182290_at	NHR
<i>ZK455.6</i>	192466_at	NHR
<i>ZK488.4</i>	189947_at	NHR
<i>ZK697.2</i>	190022_at	NHR
<i>lin-14</i>	193913_s_at	novel nuclear protein
<i>unc-3</i>	193538_s_at	HLH
<i>F21A10.2</i>	180693_at	p53-like
<i>Y51H4A.19</i>	184538_s_at	p53-like
<i>pax-2</i>	192273_at	homeobox domain, Paired domain
<i>C28H8.9</i>	187205_at	PHD-finger
<i>C36C5.13</i>	185704_at	PHD-finger
<i>C44B9.4</i>	193372_at	PHD-finger
<i>F17A2.3</i>	188658_at	PHD-finger
<i>lin-49</i>	175774_at, 192161_s_at	PHD-finger
<i>lin-59</i>	188202_s_at	PHD-finger
<i>phf-5</i>		PHD-finger
<i>T06A10.4</i>	174921_s_at, 186168_at	PHD-finger
<i>T23B12.1</i>	185082_at	PHD-finger
<i>Y51H1A.4</i>	188811_s_at	PHD-finger
<i>Y51H4A.12</i>	184300_s_at	PHD-finger
<i>Y53G8AR.2</i>	174165_at, 187052_at	PHD-finger
<i>ZC132.2</i>	179825_at	PHD-finger
<i>K04C1.2</i>	182794_s_at	Polycomb-group
<i>mes-2</i>	190261_s_at	Polycomb-group
<i>mes-6</i>	187971_at	Polycomb-group

Transcriptional regulation

Gene	Affy probe set	Description
<i>sop-2</i>	185770_at, 186277_at	Polycomb-group
<i>mix-1</i>	173070_s_at, 193889_at	possible T.F.
<i>T12A7.6</i>	175158_s_at	possible T.F.
<i>arx-6</i>	187615_at	possible T.F., ARp2/3 complex component
<i>cdk-9</i>	193890_s_at	P-TEF-b component
<i>lin-35</i>	188392_s_at	RB-like
<i>daf-19</i>	190486_s_at	RFX
<i>lin-41</i>	187703_s_at	RING finger
<i>C36E8.1</i>	186636_s_at	RNA polymerase I transcription factor
<i>C15H11.8</i>	192503_at	RNA polymerase I transcription factor TFIIS
<i>icd-1</i>	174688_at, 192927_s_at	RNA polymerase II BTF3 (basal component)
<i>Y73B3A.8</i>	175882_at	RNA polymerase II subunit 9
<i>R03D7.4</i>	186827_s_at	RNA polymerase II transcription elongation factor
<i>spt-5</i>	193747_s_at	RNA polymerase II transcription elongation factor DSIF/SUPT5H/SPT5
<i>pqn-51</i>	185179_s_at	RNA polymerase II transcription initiation factor TFIIA, large chain
<i>T16H12.4</i>	174400_s_at	RNA polymerase II transcription initiation TFIIH
<i>ZK1128.4</i>	180510_s_at	RNA polymerase II transcription initiation TFIIH, subunit TFB4
<i>ZK856.13</i>	189860_s_at	RNA polymerase III transcription factor TFIIC
<i>C01B12.2</i>	186210_at	SAND domain
<i>C44F1.2</i>	188653_at	SAND domain
<i>T21B10.5</i>	192141_at	SET domain
<i>dac-1</i>	189843_at	SKI/SNO domain
<i>elc-1</i>	192714_at	SKP1 component
<i>daf-14</i>	175659_at, 190867_s_at	SMAD
<i>daf-3</i>	188906_s_at	SMAD
<i>daf-8</i>		SMAD
<i>R05D11.1</i>	188788_at	SMAD
<i>Y113G7B.14</i>	187096_at	SNF2-related
<i>R07E5.3</i>	175088_at, 188857_at	SWI/SNF
<i>taf-11.2</i>	192267_at	TAFII28-like protein
<i>Y37E11B.2</i>	186683_at	TATA binding factor
<i>mab-9</i>	192729_at	T-box
<i>mls-1</i>	186222_at	T-box
<i>tbx-11</i>	187486_at	T-box
<i>tbx-18</i>	185577_s_at	T-box
<i>tbx-2</i>	188633_at	T-box
<i>tbx-30</i>	186686_s_at	T-box

Transcriptional regulation

Gene	Affy probe set	Description
<i>tbx-31</i>	182311_at	T-box
<i>tbx-32</i>	188373_at, 188374_s_at	T-box
<i>tbx-33</i>	176669_at	T-box
<i>tbx-34</i>	186275_s_at	T-box
<i>tbx-35</i>	187661_at	T-box
<i>tbx-36</i>	178364_at	T-box
<i>tbx-37</i>	186121_at	T-box
<i>tbx-38</i>	188023_at	T-box
<i>tbx-39</i>	184577_at	T-box
<i>tbx-40</i>	184249_at, 184250_s_at	T-box
<i>tbx-41</i>	189631_at	T-box
<i>tbx-7</i>	188450_at	T-box
<i>tbx-8</i>	190477_at	T-box
<i>tbx-9</i>	190539_s_at	T-box
<i>Y59E9AR.5</i>		T-box
<i>taf-5</i>	193468_at	TBP-associated T.F.
<i>taf-6.1</i>	188098_s_at	TBP-associated T.F.
<i>taf-7.1</i>	188233_at	TBP-associated T.F.
<i>taf-8</i>		TBP-associated T.F.
<i>egl-44</i>	193230_at	TEA/ATTS domain
<i>Y73F8A.24</i>	184394_s_at	Tfb2 T.F.
<i>B0336.13</i>	176733_at	TFIIA, (basal component)
<i>taf-10</i>	188274_at	TFIID
<i>taf-13</i>	190935_at	TFIID
<i>thp-1</i>	188606_at	TFIID
<i>tlf-1</i>	187785_s_at, 193370_s_at, 193369_at	TFIID
<i>taf-4</i>	174570_s_at, 187952_at	TFIID component
<i>taf-9</i>	178055_at	TFIID; TAFII-31
<i>cdk-7</i>	172068_x_at, 176484_s_at	TFIIH complex (basal component)
<i>brf-1</i>	193633_s_at	TFIIIB (basal component)
<i>Y77E11A.6</i>	186842_at	TFIIS
<i>Y97E10AR.5</i>	176591_s_at	TFIIS
<i>F10D7.4</i>	180109_at	Transcription elongation factor (basal component)
<i>F59E12.9</i>	185204_s_at	Transcription elongation factor S-II, central region
<i>sqt-4</i>	188021_at	Transcription elongation factor SPT4
<i>T24H10.1</i>	191738_at	Transcription elongation factor TFIIS
<i>Y51B9A.5</i>	182001_at	Transcription factor 21-related motif
<i>Y38E10A.1</i>	185362_at	Transcription factor Sp3
<i>C25H3.6</i>	175492_at	Transcription factor TFIIS elongin A-like
<i>Y38F2AR.13</i>	176361_at	Transcription factorsIIIC-alpha subunit

Transcriptional regulation

Gene	Affy probe set	Description
<i>Y38F2AR.5</i>	176179_at, 176323_at	Transcription factorsIIC-alpha subunit
<i>Y111B2A.13</i>	193715_at	Transcription initiation factor IIA, gamma subunit
<i>F54D5.11</i>	193310_s_at	Transcription initiation factor IIE, beta subunit
<i>C01F1.1</i>	190074_s_at, 173313_s_at	Transcription initiation factor IIF, alpha subunit
<i>Y39B6A.36</i>	183088_at	Transcription initiation factor IIF, small subunit (RAP30)
<i>ttb-1</i>	172103_x_at, 192210_at	Transcription initiation factor TFIIB
<i>Y56A3A.4</i>	183864_s_at	transcription initiation factor TFIID 20/15 kDa subunits
<i>taf-1</i>	193610_s_at	Transcription initiation factor TFIID, subunit TAF1
<i>taf-12</i>	183864_s_at	Transcription initiation factor TFIID, subunit TAF12
<i>F01G4.1</i>	174598_s_at	trithorax family
<i>sdc-2</i>	173447_s_at	X chromosome transcription repressor
<i>eor-1</i>	189910_s_at	Zn finger
<i>eor-2</i>	177725_at	Zn finger
<i>F22D6.2</i>	179366_at	Zn finger
<i>arc-1</i>	194111_at	Zn-finger
<i>asc-1</i>	184727_s_at	Zn-finger
<i>C03G6.12</i>	191749_at	Zn-finger
<i>C06E1.8</i>	176000_at	Zn-finger
<i>C09F5.3</i>	187378_at	Zn-finger
<i>C28G1.6</i>	192344_at	Zn-finger
<i>C38D4.7</i>	178513_at	Zn-finger
<i>C55C2.1</i>	192307_at	Zn-finger
<i>ces-1</i>	192612_at	Zn-finger
<i>che-1</i>	188612_at	Zn-finger
<i>D1046.2</i>	189843_at	Zn-finger
<i>daf-12</i>	187714_at, 192797_s_at	Zn-finger
<i>dpy-20</i>	191799_at	Zn-finger
<i>egl-43</i>	193452_at	Zn-finger
<i>egl-46</i>	192272_at	Zn-finger
<i>egl-9</i>	187973_s_at	Zn-finger
<i>F33E11.2</i>	174322_s_at, 184231_at	Zn-finger
<i>F36F12.8</i>	190224_at	Zn-finger
<i>F45H11.1</i>	190574_at	Zn-finger
<i>F47H4.1</i>	173993_s_at	Zn-finger
<i>F53B3.1</i>	182205_s_at	Zn-finger
<i>F53B3.1</i>	182204_at	Zn-finger



## Transcriptional regulation

Gene	Affy probe set	Description
<i>F53F8.1</i>	192448_at	Zn-finger
<i>F56F11.3</i>	190273_at	Zn-finger
<i>ham-2</i>	190176_at	Zn-finger
<i>hbl-1</i>	192791_s_at	Zn-finger
<i>K01H12.1</i>	180815_at	Zn-finger
<i>K11D2.4</i>	192478_at	Zn-finger
<i>lin-13</i>	189214_s_at	Zn-finger
<i>lin-26</i>	190309_at	Zn-finger
<i>lin-28</i>	172855_x_at, 191973_s_at	Zn-finger
<i>lin-29</i>	193019_s_at	Zn-finger
<i>lin-36</i>	172020_x_at, 176610_s_at	Zn-finger
<i>lin-48</i>	175830_at, 192611_s_at	Zn-finger
<i>lir-1</i>	176605_s_at	Zn-finger
<i>lir-2</i>	193382_at	Zn-finger
<i>lir-3</i>	192263_s_at	Zn-finger
<i>mex-1</i>	194039_s_at	Zn-finger
<i>mex-5</i>	193943_at	Zn-finger
<i>mex-6</i>	192002_at	Zn-finger
<i>mua-1</i>	186941_at	Zn-finger
<i>ncl-1</i>	176869_s_at	Zn-finger
<i>nhl-2</i>	184111_s_at	Zn-finger
<i>nhl-3</i>	175228_at, 190138_at	Zn-finger
<i>odd-1</i>	187380_at	Zn-finger
<i>oma-1</i>	189867_s_at	Zn-finger
<i>oma-2</i>	173110_at	Zn-finger
<i>pag-3</i>	193449_at	Zn-finger
<i>pie-1</i>	175605_s_at	Zn-finger
<i>pos-1</i>	175810_at, 192079_s_at	Zn-finger
<i>pqm-1</i>	192333_at	Zn-finger
<i>R02E12.4</i>	193931_at	Zn-finger
<i>R06C7.9</i>	175549_s_at	Zn-finger
<i>R08E3.4</i>	190402_at	Zn-finger
<i>ref-2</i>	190155_at	Zn-finger
<i>sdc-1</i>	174953_s_at, 193642_at	Zn-finger
<i>sdc-3</i>	192294_s_at	Zn-finger
<i>sem-4</i>	175707_s_at, 193521_s_at	Zn-finger
<i>spr-3</i>	190210_at	Zn-finger
<i>spr-4</i>	192576_s_at	Zn-finger
<i>T05G11.1</i>	192021_at	Zn-finger
<i>T10B11.9</i>	185854_s_at	Zn-finger
<i>T22C8.5</i>	192372_at	Zn-finger

Gene	Affy probe set	Description
<i>tlp-1</i>	187904_at	Zn-finger
<i>tra-1</i>	175693_at, 188843_s_at, 175694_s_at	Zn-finger
<i>unc-55</i>	192833_at	Zn-finger
<i>unc-98</i>	188814_s_at	Zn-finger
<i>Y37E11B.1</i>	175198_at, 190343_at, 175531_s_at	Zn-finger
<i>Y40B1A.4</i>	190543_at	Zn-finger
<i>Y53H1A.2</i>	182098_at	Zn-finger
<i>Y55F3AM.7</i>	186536_at	Zn-finger
<i>Y5F2A.4</i>	192396_at	Zn-finger
<i>Y66D12A.12</i>		Zn-finger
<i>Y6G8.3</i>	192301_at	Zn-finger
<i>Y75B8A.6</i>	179697_at	Zn-finger
<i>ZC328.2</i>	189940_at	Zn-finger
<i>ZK1240.1</i>	186412_at	Zn-finger
<i>ZK1240.3</i>	185446_at	Zn-finger
<i>ZK1240.8</i>	186272_at	Zn-finger
<i>ZK337.2</i>	192490_at	Zn-finger
<i>ZK856.9</i>	174049_s_at	Zn-finger
<i>ZK867.1</i>	188821_at	Zn-finger
<i>ZK945.5</i>	188263_at	Zn-finger
<i>F56F3.4</i>	189303_at	Zn-finger, AN1-like
<i>C16A3.7</i>	193714_at	Zn-finger, RING domain
<i>let-418</i>	189004_at	Zn-finger, RING domain, PHD finger
<i>ZC123.3</i>	189909_at	Zn-finger; homeobox domain
<i>F19B2.6</i>	178024_at	
<i>pha-4</i>	193963_s_at	

The goal in studying transcription is to make the link between transcription factors and their target genes. For a small number of genes in *C. elegans*, this connection has been made and a chart showing some of these is presented in Table 2. Notice that most transcription factors have been defined as either activators or repressors. However, for some, both modes of action have been described highlighting the importance of co-factors and promoter context within chromatin in determining the transcriptional outcome of DNA binding by these proteins. The list of potential target genes for several transcription factors will explode over the coming years with the application of microarray methods. However, most of these will not be specifically tested to determine if the regulation is direct and which cis-acting elements mediate the effect.

Table 2. Transcription factor target genes

Class	Number of genes	Factor type	Factor	Partner	Activator	Repressor	Putative target genes	DNA binding sequence	References
Homeo-domain	83								Ruvkun and Hobert, 1998
		HOX	LIN-39	CEH-20	YES	Possible	<i>hllh-8, egl-17, egl-18/ elt-5,</i>	TGATTAAT (G/T) (G/A)	Cui and Han, 2003; Koh et al.,

Class	Number of genes	Factor type	Factor	Partner	Activator	Repressor	Putative target genes	DNA binding sequence	References
							<i>elt-6</i> , possible direct repressor of <i>eff-1</i>		2002; Liu and Fire, 2000; Shemer and Podbilewicz, 2002
		Paired-like	CEH-10	TTX-3	YES	N.D.	<i>ceh-23</i> and 38 other AIY terminal genes	AATTGG (C/T) TT (A/C) (G/A) TTA (G/A)	Wenick and Hobert, 2004
			UNC-4	UNC-37		YES	VB motor neuron genes	TAATY-NR-ATTA	Winnier et al., 1999
			UNC-30	N.D.	YES	N.D.	<i>unc-25</i> , <i>unc-47</i>	TAATCC	Eastman et al., 1999; Jin et al., 1994
			EGL-38	N.D.	YES	N.D.	<i>lin-48</i>	TGNNG-CG-TGAC (C/G)	Johnson et al., 2001
		Even-skipped	VAB-7	N.D.	N.D.	YES	<i>unc-4</i> (may be indirect)	N.D.	Esmaeili et al., 2002
		LIM	TTX-3	CEH-10	YES	N.D.	<i>ceh-23</i> and 38 other AIY terminal genes	AATTGG (C/T) TT (A/C) (G/A) TTA (G/A)	Wenick and Hobert, 2004
			MEC-3	UNC-86	YES	N.D.	<i>mec-4</i> , <i>mec-7</i> ; see also UNC-86	CATNNNN-AATGCAT	Duggan et al., 1998; Way and Chalfie, 1988
		POU	UNC-86	MEC-3	YES	N.D.	<i>mec-3</i> , 50 plus candidate genes from screen; <i>snap-25</i>	CATNNNN-AATGCAT	Zhang et al., 2002; Hwang and Lee, 2003
		Zn-Finger	CHE-1	N.D.	YES	N.D.	<i>cog-1</i> , <i>ceh-36</i> , <i>gcy-5</i> other undefined ASE genes	N.D.	Chang et al., 2003
		NK Class	CEH-22	N.D.	YES	N.D.	<i>myo-1</i> , <i>myo-2</i> (B element)	TNNAGTG	Okkema and Fire, 1994; Okkema et al., 1997
		EXD	CEH-20	LIN-39, UNC-62 (genetic evidence only)	YES	N.D.	<i>hlh-8</i>	TGATTAAT	Liu and Fire, 2000; Van Auken et al., 2002
Zn-Finger									
		GATA	ELT-1	N.D.	YES	N.D.	<i>msp-113</i>	AAGATAA, AGATCT	Shim, 1999; Shim et al., 1995
			ELT-2	N.D.	YES	N.D.	<i>ges-1</i> , <i>pho-1</i> , <i>mtl-1</i> , <i>mtl-2</i>	WGATAR	Egan et al., 1995; Fukushige et al.,

Transcriptional regulation

Class	Number of genes	Factor type	Factor	Partner	Activator	Repressor	Putative target genes	DNA binding sequence	References
									1998; Moilanen et al., 1999
			END-1	N.D.	YES	N.D.	<i>elt-2</i>	GATA	Fukushige et al., 1998; Shoichet et al., 2000
			MED-1, MED-2	N.D.	YES	N.D.	<i>end-1, end-2</i>	GATA	Maduro et al., 2001; Maduro and Rothman, 2002; JHR unpublished
		SAL	SEM-4	N.D.	N.D.	YES	<i>elg-5, mec-3</i>	ACACAA	Toker et al., 2003
		Snail	CES-1	N.D.	N.D.	YES	<i>egl-1</i>	CACCTG	Thellmann et al., 2003
		Gli	TRA-1A	N.D.	N.D.	YES	<i>egl-1, mab-3</i>	TGTGAGG-TC	Zarkower and Hodgkin, 1993; Conradt and Horvitz, 1999; Yi et al., 2000
		DM domain	MAB-3	N.D.	N.D.	YES	<i>vit-2</i> (probably all vits)	AATGTTG-CGA (T/A) NT	Yi and Zarkower, 1999
		O/E	UNC-3	PAG-3?	YES	Possible	<i>acr-2</i> (indirect activator?)	N.D.	Prasad et al., 1998
		GFI	PAG-3	UNC-3?	N.D.	YES	<i>pag-3</i>	TAAATCAC (A/T) GCA	McDermott and Aamodt, unpublished; Zweidler-Mckay et al., 1996
			LIN-29	N.D.	YES	N.D.	<i>col-19</i>	N.D.	Rougvie and Ambros, 1995
NHR	284								Maglich et al., 2001
		FTZ-F1	NHR-25	N.D.	YES	N.D.	<i>lin-3</i>	TCAGGGT-CA	Hwang and Sternberg, 2004
		ROR/RZR	NHR-23	N.D.	YES	N.D.	<i>dpy-7?</i>	AGGTCAN-NNNNAG-GTCA	Kostrouchova et al., 1998; Kostrouchova et al., 2001
		Vit D	DAF-12	N.D.	YES	YES	<i>ceh-22, myo-2</i> , many others	CA(C/G)AC (A/G); AGT-GCANNNN-NAGTGCA	Ao et al., 2004; Shostak et al., 2004
bHLH	39								Ledent et al., 2002
		MyoD	HLH-1	HLH-1	YES	N.D.	N.D.	CAGCTG	Krause et al., 1992; Blackwell et al., 1994
		E/Daughterless	HLH-2	HLH-2; HLH-3;	YES	N.D.	<i>lin-3, lag-2</i>	CACCTG	Hwang and Sternberg, 2004;

## Transcriptional regulation

Class	Number of genes	Factor type	Factor	Partner	Activator	Repressor	Putative target genes	DNA binding sequence	References
				LIN-32					Karp and Greenwald, 2003
		Achaete-scute	HLH-3	HLH-2	YES	N.D.	<i>egl-1</i>	CACCTG	Krause et al., 1997; Thellmann et al., 2003
		Twist	HLH-8	HLH-8, HLH-2	YES	N.D.	<i>ceh-24</i> , <i>egl-15</i> , <i>mls-1</i>	CATATG; CAGGTG	Corsi et al., 2000; Harfe and Fire, 1998; Harfe et al., 1998; Kostas and Fire, 2002
		Atonal	LIN-32	HLH-2	YES	N.D.	N.D.; several genes identified that respond to overexpression	CACGTG	Portman and Emmons, 2004
bZIP	19								Ruvkun and Hobert, 1998
		Cap'n' Collar	SKN-1	N.D.	YES	N.D.	<i>med-1</i> , <i>med-2</i> , <i>end-1?</i> , <i>gcs-1</i>	WWTRTC-AT	An and Blackwell, 2003; Blackwell et al., 1994; Carroll et al., 1997; Maduro et al., 2001; Walker et al., 2000
Forkhead	15								Hope et al., 2003
		FOXO	DAF-16	N.D.	YES	YES	microarray	TTGTTTAC	Furuyama et al., 2000; Lee et al., 2003; McElwee et al., 2003
			PHA-4	PEB-1	YES	N.D.	<i>myo-2</i> (C element)	TGTTTGC	Gaudet and Mango, 2002; Kalb et al., 1998; Okkema and Fire, 1994; Vilimas et al., 2004
			UNC-1-30	N.D.	N.D.	YES	<i>unc-129</i>	WTRTTNN-NNY	Nash et al., 2000
ETS	10								Hart et al., 2000
			LIN-1	N.D.	N.D.	N.D.	N.D.	GGA (A/T) (core only; ACCGGAA-GTAA was in oligo tested)	Miley et al., 2004
T-box	20								Pocock et al., 2004

Class	Number of genes	Factor type	Factor	Partner	Activator	Repressor	Putative target genes	DNA binding sequence	References
			TBX-30	N.D.	N.D.	YES	<i>vab-7</i>	GGTGTGAA	Pocock et al., 2004
Others		CSL	LAG-1	N.D.	YES	N.D.	<i>lin-12, glp-1</i>	RTGGGAA	Christensen et al., 1996
		NOVEL	PEB-1	PHA-4	YES	N.D.	<i>myo-2</i> (C element)	TGCCGT	Beaster-Jones and Okkema, 2004; Thatcher et al., 2001
		ARID	CFI-1	N.D.	Possible	Possible	N.D. (some <i>gfp</i> reporters respond although could be indirect)	TCAATTA-AATGA	Shaham and Bargmann, 2002
		AHR	AHR-1	AHA-1	YES	N.D.	N.D.	TGCGTG	Powell-Coffman et al., 1998
		LSF/Grainyhead	GRH-1	N.D.	N.D.	N.D.	binds promoter element for <i>dbl-1, mab-5, pcn-1</i>	(A/T) CNGGTTT	Venkatesan et al., 2003
		co-SM-AD	DAF-3	N.D.	N.D.	YES	<i>myo-2</i> (C element)	GTCTG	Thatcher et al., 1999
		MADS Box	MEF-2	had-7	N.D.	N.D.	N.D.	CTAAAAA-TA	Choi et al., 2002; Dichoso et al., 2000

## 7. Spatial specificity

Spatial specificity refers to a pattern of gene expression that is limited to one or a few organs, tissues, or cell types. Examples of control mechanisms governing these types of spatial restriction are presented to show the logic underlying these patterns. Our current understanding shows that spatial specificity can be achieved by multiple mechanisms, ranging from the combinatorial action of overlapping transcription factors to transcriptional cascades.

### 7.1. Organ specificity: control of pharyngeal gene expression by a master regulator

The *C. elegans* pharynx is a complex organ consisting of five very different cell types, including muscles, neurons, epithelia, glands and marginal cells (Albertson and Thomson, 1976). The pharynx initially forms as a primordium of undifferentiated cells around mid-embryogenesis, and these cells subsequently differentiate and express cell type-specific genes (Sulston et al., 1983).

Formation of the pharynx and differentiation of all pharyngeal cell types depends on a single FoxA family transcription factor PHA-4 (Horner et al., 1998; Kalb et al., 1998; Mango et al., 1994). PHA-4 is expressed in all pharyngeal cells beginning at the time these cells become committed to a pharyngeal cell fate, as well as in the hindgut and intestine (Horner et al., 1998; Kalb et al., 1998). PHA-4 is believed to directly regulate most or all genes specifically expressed in the pharynx, including both early genes specifying fate of different pharyngeal cell types and late genes expressed during terminal differentiation (Gaudet and Mango, 2002). A major question in understanding pharyngeal development is how does PHA-4 regulate genes expressed in different pharyngeal cell types and at different times in pharyngeal development.

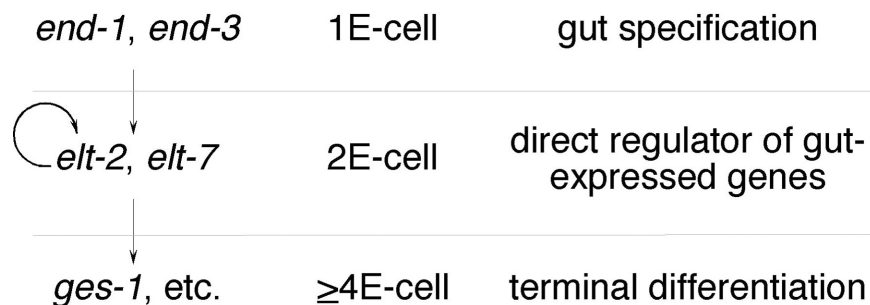
The function of **PHA-4** in cell-type specific differentiation is best understood in the pharyngeal muscles. As discussed above, **PHA-4** functions with the pharyngeal muscle-specific homeodomain factor **CEH-22** to activate *myo-2* expression during muscle cell differentiation (Kalb et al., 1998; Okkema and Fire, 1994). **PHA-4** and **CEH-22** similarly target a late functioning auto-regulatory enhancer from *ceh-22* itself (Gaudet and Mango, 2002; Kuchenthal et al., 2001), suggesting these factors function together to control many regulatory sequences that function during terminal differentiation of the pharyngeal muscles. Earlier in pharyngeal muscle development, **PHA-4** is also required for the initiation of *ceh-22* expression (Mango et al., 1994; Vilimas et al., 2004), but the mechanism by which **PHA-4** initially activates *ceh-22* in the pharyngeal muscles remains unknown.

Less is known of how **PHA-4** regulates specific gene expression in other pharyngeal cell types, largely because other pharyngeal specific promoters have not been extensively characterized. This situation, however, appears soon to be changed based on pioneering microarray studies that have identified >300 genes preferentially expressed in the pharynx (Ao et al., 2004; Gaudet and Mango, 2002). Analyses of these genes' known expression patterns, *in situ* hybridization patterns, and placement on the Gene Expression Topo Map have identified clusters of genes expressed preferentially in subsets of pharyngeal cells, and comparisons of the promoters of genes within these clusters have identified conserved regulatory elements that likely impart positional or cell type specificity to **PHA-4** target genes (Ao et al., 2004).

**PHA-4** also regulates genes in temporally distinct patterns in the pharynx. This temporal regulation may involve both the affinity of **PHA-4** for its binding sites in various gene promoters (Gaudet and Mango, 2002), and the presence of binding sites for additional factors functioning with **PHA-4** (Gaudet et al., 2004). These mechanisms are likely not mutually exclusive and may be interdependent, as additional factors could affect **PHA-4** binding affinity by cooperative binding.

## 7.2. Tissue specificity: regulation of gut gene expression by a cascade of redundant GATA factors.

The E blastomere is the clonal precursor of the gut, and the maternal factors specifying E blastomere identity are well understood. One effect of these maternal factors is to initiate zygotic gene expression, including expression of a series of sequentially functioning GATA family transcription factors expressed exclusively in the gut lineage (reviewed in Maduro and Rothman, 2002; Figure 4). These GATA factors bind WGATAR motifs required in many gut specific genes and directly activate gut gene expression (e.g., Britton et al., 1998; Egan et al., 1995; MacMorris et al., 1992; Nam et al., 2002)



**Figure 4.** Sequentially functioning GATA factors regulate gut gene expression. Genetic pathway indicating genes encoding gut-specific GATA factors and the terminal differentiation gene *ges-1*, the stage at which their expression begins, and the proposed function of these genes in promoting gut differentiation. An arrow indicates an autoregulatory mechanism that maintains *elt-2* expression.

The first of these gut-specific GATA factors is **END-1**, which is expressed transiently in the E lineage, beginning in the E cell itself and continuing until approximately the 8E stage (Figure 4; Zhu et al., 1997). **ELT-2** is then expressed one cell division later, beginning at the 2 E-cell stage (Fukushige et al., 1998). *elt-2* expression is activated by **END-1** (Zhu et al., 1998), but, unlike *end-1*, *elt-2* remains expressed in the gut throughout the life of the worm through an autoregulatory mechanism (Fukushige et al., 1998; Fukushige et al., 1999). Interestingly, both *end-1* and *elt-2* appear to be members of redundant gene families. While ectopic expression of either of these genes activates widespread gut differentiation, loss-of-function studies reveal surprisingly mild defects in gut gene expression (Fukushige et al., 1998; Zhu et al., 1998; Zhu et al., 1997). Indeed, *end-1* loss-of-function produces no phenotype. In comparison, *elt-2* loss produces gut defects and lethality, while the effect on gene expression varies



from promoter to promoter (Fukushige et al., 2005; Fukushige et al., 1998; Oskouian et al., 2005). In both cases, the likely suspects for redundant genes encode additional GATA factors. *end-1* may be redundant with the linked gene *end-3*, while *elt-2* may be partially redundant with *elt-7* (Maduro and Rothman, 2002). Thus, *end-1* and *end-3* are believed to establish endoderm fate in the E lineage, while *elt-2* and *elt-7* are likely the direct regulators of most genes expressed in the gut (Figure 4).

While most gut-specific promoters contain WGATAR motifs, their accurate regulation depends on more than simply turning on ELT-2. Gut genes are expressed under distinct temporal, sex-specific, and environmental controls, indicating other factors must contribute to gut gene regulation. In the case of the *vit-2* gene, which encodes a yolk protein expressed only in the gut of adult hermaphrodites, repression in males requires the MAB-3 DM-domain protein (Yi and Zarkower, 1999). Likewise, *ges-1*, which encodes a gut-specific esterase, is activated in the gut by ELT-2 while being repressed in other regions of the digestive system by an unknown factor binding near the WGATAR motifs (Fukushige et al., 1996; Marshall and McGhee, 2001). In most cases, the identity of factors functioning with ELT-2 remain unknown, and there remains much to be learned about gut transcription.

### 7.3. Cell type specificity: regulation of AIY neuronal expression by a single core motif

Cell type specificity of gene expression is best exemplified by studies of neuronal gene expression (for example Chang et al., 2004; Zhang et al., 2004). Hobert and colleagues have studied the mechanism that regulates gene expression in a single pair of bilateral interneurons in the head called AIY left and right (AIYL & AIYR) that function in sensory input processing, learning, and memory (Ishihara et al., 2002; Mori and Ohshima, 1995; Tsalik et al., 2003). Differentiation of these interneurons is dependent on the transcription factors *ceh-10* (Paired homeobox) and *ttx-3* (LIM homeobox; Altun-Gultekin et al., 2001). Analysis of several promoters of genes expressed in AIY, including *ceh-10* and *ttx-3*, revealed a consensus 16 bp AIY motif responsible for proper expression and comprising the core of an element that functions as an AIY-specific enhancer (Wenick and Hobert, 2004). This enhancer element is active in combination with some non-neuronal cell type promoters but not others demonstrating that promoter context is an important aspect of transcriptional regulation. Both *ceh-10* and *ttx-3* are part of an autoregulatory loop that activates their own expression, explaining the presence of an AIY motif within each of their promoters.

Control of AIY gene expression by *ceh-10* and *ttx-3* provides some insight into the logic of cell type-specific gene regulation (Wenick and Hobert, 2004). Cell type specificity is generated by using a combination of transcription factors that are unique to AIY interneurons in concert with a modular AIY response element upstream of target genes. Although some of the identified *ceh-10/ttx-3* target genes were AIY specific, others were generally expressed in neurons or non-neuronal tissues. However, in most cases, expression in AIY was dependent on the AIY motif demonstrating that widespread expression may often be the composite action of several cell type-specific cis-acting elements. Finally, cis-acting control of gene targets encoding terminal differentiation products in AIY appeared to lack repressive elements. This suggests that the integration of positive and negative signals influencing cell type specificity is carried out by upstream transcription factors, *ceh-10* and *ttx-3* in this case. Once these upstream factors are activated, the downstream target gene battery will ensue largely independent of other influences.

## 8. Future

There is little doubt that the field of transcriptional regulation is on the verge of an information explosion. The combination of genome sequences from multiple *Caenorhabditis* species, microarray transcriptional profiling, and improved methodology will soon lead to a wealth of information on transcriptional activators and downstream target genes. One challenge will be the experimental verification of the mountains of data that will become available about upstream activators and downstream targets. Can these relationships be confirmed by independent approaches and are the interactions direct or indirect? We are entering an age in which the connections between most trans-acting factors and cis-acting regulatory target elements will be defined. Understanding how these connections regulate development will add an exciting chapter in the study of the worm and for transcriptional regulation in general.

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