

1 **Active DNA demethylation during the vertebrate phylotypic period**

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1 **Abstract**

2 The vertebrate body plan and organs are shaped during a highly conserved embryonic phase
3 called the phylotypic stage, however the mechanisms that guide the epigenome through this
4 transition and their evolutionary conservation remain elusive. Here we report widespread DNA
5 demethylation of thousands of enhancers during the phylotypic period in zebrafish, *Xenopus* and
6 mouse. These dynamic enhancers are linked to essential developmental genes that display
7 coordinated transcriptional and epigenomic changes in the diverse vertebrates during
8 embryogenesis. Phylotypic stage-specific binding of Tet proteins to (hydroxy)methylated DNA,
9 and enrichment of hydroxymethylcytosine on these enhancers, implicated active DNA
10 demethylation in this process. Reduced chromatin accessibility and increased methylation levels,
11 specifically on these enhancers, in a zebrafish *tet1/2/3* loss of function system, is indicative of
12 DNA methylation being an upstream regulator of phylotypic enhancer function. Overall, our
13 study reveals a novel regulatory module associated with the most conserved phase of vertebrate
14 embryogenesis and uncovers an ancient developmental role for the Tet dioxygenases.

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1 Methylation of cytosine residues (mC) is a major, mostly repressive epigenomic modification
2 associated with key biological processes {Bird, 2002 #138}. Early vertebrate embryos display
3 notable mC dynamics associated with totipotency establishment {Santos, 2002 #70;Borgel, 2010
4 #25;Andersen, 2012 #68;Smith, 2012 #30;Jiang, 2013 #22;Potok, 2013 #23}. Interestingly, these
5 mC remodelling events occur in a species-specific fashion. Mammalian embryos employ a
6 combination of active and passive mechanisms to remodel their methylomes after fertilization
7 {Wang, 2014 #21}. The active mechanism consists of Tet dependent oxidation of mC that
8 involves the hydroxymethylcytosine (hmC) intermediate, whereas the passive mechanism is
9 based on mC dilution throughout cell divisions in the absence of methylation maintenance
10 {Seisenberger, 2013 #133}. In zebrafish for example, no Tet activity was detected during
11 pluripotency, and the mC dynamics in the early embryo are reduced to passive reconfiguration of
12 the maternal methylome to match the sperm methylation pattern {Jiang, 2013 #22;Potok, 2013
13 #23}. However, very little is known about the mechanisms and evolutionary conservation of
14 DNA methylation patterning during later stages of vertebrate embryogenesis. Of particular
15 interest is the vertebrate phylotypic stage, a period during which a developing embryo displays
16 the most morphological and transcriptomic similarities compared to embryos of other vertebrate
17 species, and during which the body plan is established {Domazet-Loso, 2010 #66;Irie, 2011
18 #20}.

19 Here we report widespread DNA demethylation of thousands of enhancers associated
20 with highly conserved regulatory pathways during the phylotypic period in zebrafish, *Xenopus*
21 and mouse. Through whole genome bisulfite sequencing (WGBS) {Cokus, 2008 #111;Lister,
22 2008 #37;Yu, 2012 #67}, quantitative interaction proteomics {Spruijt, 2013 #46}, and loss-of-
23 function approaches we found that this widespread demethylation event is Tet dependent and

1 required for vertebrate body plan and organ formation. Finally, ATAC-seq and whole genome
2 methylome profiling of *tet1/2/3* morphant embryos demonstrated an upstream regulatory role for
3 DNA methylation on these conserved genomic elements.

4 These findings have major implications for the understanding of fundamental processes
5 that guide vertebrate embryogenesis. By unravelling the dependence of key developmental
6 pathways on Tet-dependent demethylation of distal regulatory elements during the vertebrate
7 phylotypic period, we shed light on a previously undescribed developmental role of Tet proteins
8 that was missed in knockout studies in mice due to complex developmental requirements for Tet
9 proteins in mammals {Dawlaty, 2013 #117;Gu, 2011 #59;Moran-Crusio, 2011 #95}. Overall,
10 our study reveals a novel regulatory module associated with the most conserved phase of
11 vertebrate embryogenesis and uncovers an ancient developmental role for the Tet dioxygenases.

12

13 **RESULTS**

14 **Phylotypic hypomethylation**

15 To select equivalent embryonic stages of vertebrate embryos spanning the phylotypic period, we
16 utilized as guidelines the interspecies relationships deduced from reciprocal best transcriptome
17 similarity {Irie, 2011 #20} (Fig. 1a). The phylotypic stage in zebrafish and *Xenopus* correspond
18 to 24 hours post-fertilization (hpf) and stage (st.) 30 respectively, whereas in mouse this stage
19 coincides with embryonic day E9.5 (Fig. 1a – hourglass). We generated WGBS DNA methylome
20 profiles for four stages of zebrafish, *Xenopus* and mouse embryogenesis corresponding to
21 blastula (1K cell {Jiang, 2013 #22} , st.9, E3.5 {Wang, 2014 #21}), gastrula (80% epiboly, st.12,
22 E7.5 {Wang, 2014 #21}), pharyngula (24hpf, st.30, E9.5) and tailbud/fetus (48hpf, st.43, E14.5)

1 stages, (for details on non-conversion rates and sequencing statistics see Supplementary Table 1).
2 Overall, both zebrafish and *Xenopus* genomes are globally highly methylated during these
3 developmental stages, with average mC levels of 85% and 91%, respectively (Fig. 1a). Unlike
4 zebrafish and *Xenopus*, mammalian embryos including mouse, display significant alterations in
5 mC levels during early embryonic stages (Fig. 1a) as previously described {Oswald, 2000
6 #72;Santos, 2002 #70;Smith, 2012 #30;Smith, 2014 #28;Guo, 2014 #9;Wang, 2014 #21}.

7 To identify genomic regions displaying developmental changes in mC, we searched the
8 DNA methylome profiles for differentially methylated regions (DMRs, FDR = 0.05) {Lister,
9 2013 #6} (Supplementary Tables 2-4 and Supplementary Fig. 1a). While in zebrafish embryos
10 the transition from the 1K cell (blastula) to 80% epiboly (gastrula) stage is characterized by both
11 developmental hyper- and hypo-methylation (Supplementary Fig. 1b), the transitions associated
12 with the phylotypic stage are overwhelmingly characterized by developmental hypomethylation
13 (Fig. 1b and Supplementary Fig. 1b). A similar trend can be observed in *Xenopus* embryos, where
14 only a single DMR was identified between blastula and gastrula stages and the mC remodelling
15 appears to be limited to demethylation surrounding the phylotypic stage (Fig. 1b). Similarly, the
16 majority of mouse DMRs found between late gastrula (E7.5) and the phylotypic stage (E9.5) are
17 being developmentally demethylated.

18 To explore whether the DMRs associated with developmental demethylation surrounding
19 the phylotypic stage are implicated in similar processes in the three examined species, we have
20 employed the GREAT tool {McLean, 2010 #80} to search for enriched and conserved ontology
21 terms. Strikingly, we identified 133 conserved and significantly enriched ($FDR Q. val. < 0.01$)
22 terms for early phylotypic DMRs (late gastrula - phylotypic stage demethylation) in all species,
23 whereas for the late phylotypic DMRs (phylotypic stage – tailbud/fetus demethylation), that

1 number was 109 (Fig. 1c and Supplementary Tables 5-6). The enriched ontologies include terms
2 such as “organ development”, “pattern specification process”, “tissue development” and
3 “anatomical structure development” (Fig. 1c). Of note, no conserved ontology terms were found
4 for other developmental stages. Given their similar mC dynamics and implication in various
5 developmental processes, from now forward the set of DMRs associated with developmental
6 hypomethylation surrounding the phylotypic stage will be referred to as phylo-DMRs.

7 To address the potential influence of tissue heterogeneity of later stage embryos, and to
8 recapitulate our results within a specific cell lineage, we generated a WGBS DNA methylome of
9 a pure neural crest cell population (*sox10+*) {Dutton, 2001 #69} isolated from 24hpf zebrafish
10 embryos. As expected, we observe a clear decrease of phylo-DMR mC levels in *sox10+* cells
11 when compared to blastula (1K cell) embryos and a further loss of methylation in the adult
12 zebrafish brain (Fig. 1d). Similar mC profiles were obtained when comparing embryonic with
13 adult brain mC levels in *Xenopus* and mouse (Fig. 1d) {Lister, 2013 #6}. Next we wanted to
14 explore whether phylo-DMRs affect only certain lineages or whether their usage is a more
15 widespread phenomenon. To that end we took advantage of methylome maps corresponding to a
16 number of adult tissues derived from all three embryonic layers (ectoderm, endoderm and
17 mesoderm) {Hon, 2013 #113}. Average mC profiles revealed strong phylo-DMR demethylation
18 (40 – 50%) across all lineages and in 16 different organs, indicative of widespread phylo-DMR
19 usage during organ formation (Fig. 1e). Overall, our base-resolution DNA methylome profiling
20 reveals a highly conserved process of mC reconfiguration that takes place throughout the
21 phylotypic period in diverse vertebrate species, involves developmental hypomethylation and
22 affects organs derived from all embryonic layers.

1 **Phylo-DMRs are developmentally activated enhancers**

2 To explore the chromatin configuration and genomic context of phylo-DMRs, we utilized ChIP-
3 seq data for promoter (H3K4me3), poised enhancer (H3K4me1) and active enhancer (H3K27ac,
4 p300) chromatin marks {Bogdanovic, 2012 #52;Shen, 2012 #162}. Sorted heatmaps of phylo-
5 DMRs in zebrafish and *Xenopus* demonstrate a strong developmental enrichment for enhancer,
6 but not promoter, histone marks (Fig. 2a). Similarly, the mouse phylo-DMRs are strongly
7 enriched with H3K4me1, H3K27ac but not H3K4me3, indicative of active enhancer chromatin
8 {Creyghton, 2010 #76;Rada-Iglesias, 2011 #15;Heintzman, 2007 #128}. Notably, the early
9 zebrafish DMRs did not display such enrichment in enhancer chromatin (Supplementary Fig.2),
10 however, they coincided with promoters of *vasa*, *dazl* and *ntla* genes, previously identified as
11 differentially methylated between early embryos and differentiated tissues {Jiang, 2013
12 #22;Potok, 2013 #23} (Supplementary Fig. 2b-d). Inspection of the CpG density of phylo-DMRs
13 by analysing mean CpG levels within and flanking phylo-DMR regions revealed similar CpG
14 densities in zebrafish and mouse DMRs, while lower CpG density was observed in *Xenopus*
15 DMRs (Fig. 2b). While the CpG density of phylo-DMRs in zebrafish and mouse was similar to
16 that of CpG islands identified through unmethylated DNA pulldowns {Illingworth, 2010
17 #129;Long, 2013 #93}, *Xenopus* phylo-DMRs displayed considerably lower CpG density than
18 those CpG islands (Fig. 2c). These results reveal phylo-DMRs as developmentally activated
19 distal regulatory elements of variable CpG density and confirm previous notions that CpG
20 density alone is not a major driver of regulatory function {Cohen, 2011 #141;Krebs, 2014
21 #16;Wachter, 2014 #17}.

22 To provide further proof that phylo-DMRs act as developmental enhancers, we
23 intersected the phylo-DMR genomic positions with previously validated enhancers from the

1 VISTA enhancer browser database {Visel, 2007 #163;Visel, 2009 #164} and obtained 13
2 intersections corresponding to enhancers with diverse expression patterns, consistent with phylo-
3 DMR demethylation throughout various lineages (Fig. 1e and Supplementary Table 7).
4 Examples of such heart and limb enhancers and their overlaps with phylo-DMRs are visualized
5 in Fig. 2d.

6 Given the high conservation of gene ontology enrichments (Fig. 1c) and highly
7 comparable chromatin configuration of phylo-DMRs (Fig. 2a), we postulated that phylo-DMR-
8 linked genes should be co-regulated during zebrafish, *Xenopus* and mouse embryogenesis.
9 Firstly, we identified orthologous genes linked to phylo-DMRs in all examined species ($N= 211$,
10 Supplementary Table 8) and subjected them to pathway enrichment analyses {Huang da, 2009
11 #166;Huang da, 2009 #165}. Indeed, we found that orthologues phylo-DMR-linked genes are
12 enriched in pathways such as *Wnt*, *Notch* and *TGF-beta*, implicated in body plan and organ
13 formation (Supplementary Fig. 3 and Supplementary Table 9). To our knowledge this is the first
14 notion of these key developmental pathways being regulated through DNA methylation in
15 multiple vertebrate species. Next we compared the developmental expression profiles of these
16 orthologous phylo-DMR linked genes in *Xenopus*, zebrafish and mouse at three developmental
17 time-points corresponding to blastula (1K cell, st9, blastocyst), late gastrula (bud, st12, E8.5) and
18 the phylotypic stage (28hpf, st30, E9.5) {Pauli, 2012 #82;Paranjpe, 2013 #83;Auclair, 2014
19 #85;Shen, 2014 #84}. Hierarchical clustering analysis of scaled RNA-seq data (TPMs) (Fig. 2e)
20 revealed a strong developmental correlation of the orthologous genes, with the samples
21 clustering by developmental stage rather than species, further supporting that phylo-DMRs are
22 involved in conserved regulatory networks. Finally, assessment of the evolutionary conservation
23 of zebrafish and mouse phylo DMRs by mapping aggregate conservation scores {Siepel, 2005

1 #137} revealed that phylo-DMRs display significantly higher evolutionary conservation
2 (Kruskal-Wallis test, $P < 0.01$) than the early (blastula/gastrula) or late (adult organ) DMRs (Fig.
3 2f). This is consistent with previous studies that described a similar phenomenon through DNaseI
4 hypersensitivity and CHIP-seq profiling {Nord, 2013 #140;Stergachis, 2013 #112;Harmston,
5 2013 #142}. Together, these findings support a role of phylotypic enhancer demethylation in the
6 activation and deployment of the pan-vertebrate developmental toolkit necessary for body plan
7 formation and organ specification.

8

9 **Active demethylation in vertebrate embryos**

10 In zebrafish and *Xenopus* several DNA demethylation pathways have been described {Barreto,
11 2007 #132;Rai, 2008 #131;Almeida, 2012 #60}. To obtain a better insight into which cellular
12 factors might be implicated in phylo-DMR demethylation, we performed a quantitative
13 interaction-proteomics screen using mC-modified, hmC-modified and unmodified DNA
14 oligonucleotides {Spruijt, 2013 #46} and nuclear extracts from zebrafish embryos, to identify
15 developmentally regulated mC readers in dome (blastula) and 24hpf (phylotypic stage) stages.
16 We also profiled binding to hydroxymethylcytosine (hmC), as this active demethylation
17 intermediate was previously observed in zebrafish 24hpf embryos {Almeida, 2012 #60}.
18 Proteins displaying differential binding enrichment between unmethylated and methylated DNA
19 oligonucleotides were identified by an adapted *t*-test on label-free quantification (LFQ)
20 intensities {Spruijt, 2013 #46} (Supplementary Fig. 4, 5 and Supplementary Tables 10, 11). We
21 also performed absolute quantification of the nuclear extract proteomes (Supplementary Fig. 4)
22 to directly assess the effects of stage-specific protein abundance on binding enrichments. In total,

1 we identified 98 context-specific mC readers, the majority of which display stage-specific
2 binding profiles. Of 45 quantified readers, only 19 could be explained by differential protein
3 abundance (Supplementary Fig. 5), thereby demonstrating the dynamics of the mC interactome
4 during early vertebrate embryogenesis.

5 To investigate the evolutionary conservation of (h)mC readers in vertebrates, we
6 compared our set of zebrafish readers to the readers previously identified in mouse ESCs and
7 NPCs {Spruijt, 2013 #46}. In total, 96 proteins for which orthologues are annotated in both
8 species were identified as either mC or C readers in dome or mESC nuclear extracts. 45 of these
9 96 proteins show conserved binding (47%, $P < 1.1 \times 10^{-45}$, hypergeometric test) (Fig. 3a, b and
10 Supplementary Fig. 6). Readers for C, mC and hmC in NPCs and 24hpf embryos also display
11 substantial overlap; 99 out of 249 proteins (40%, $P < 5 \times 10^{-37}$, hypergeometric test) for which
12 orthologues are annotated in both species display conserved binding (Fig. 3a,b and
13 Supplementary Fig. 6). Notably, the hmC readers are highly enriched for proteins related to
14 DNA repair and DNA demethylation including Tet proteins and Uhrf2 (Fig. 3b, c), a protein
15 associated with increased Tet processivity in mouse NPCs {Spruijt, 2013 #46}. All proteins
16 involved in DNA repair/demethylation show a clear trend towards a higher binding affinity to
17 mC in the differentiated states, and strongest binding to hmC (Fig. 3c, average row). Together,
18 this reveals an enrichment of active, Tet-dependent DNA demethylation pathways occurring
19 during the vertebrate phylotypic period.

20 The observed enrichment in Tet and DNA repair protein binding to mC and hmC in
21 zebrafish phylotypic stage embryos and mouse NPCs suggests that phylo-DMRs may be
22 demethylated through a Tet-dependent mechanism. While the diverse vertebrate species display
23 different Tet expression profiles during development, for all species the phylotypic period is

1 characterized by the expression of at least one Tet family member (Fig. 4a). To assess whether
2 phylo-DMRs become demethylated through an active mechanism that involves the hmC
3 intermediate, zebrafish (24hpf), *Xenopus* (st30) and mouse (E9.5) embryos were profiled by Tet-
4 assisted bisulfite sequencing (TAB-seq) {Yu, 2012 #67} (for details on non-conversion and other
5 associated TAB-seq statistics see Supplementary Table 1). Notable enrichment of hmC was
6 detected in regions marked by active enhancer chromatin and corresponding to phylo-DMRs
7 (Fig. 4b). Similarly, average profiles of hmC and mC over phylo-DMRs in fish, frogs and mice
8 demonstrate the enrichment in hmC and depletion of the mC signal occurring during the same
9 embryonic stage (Fig. 4c). Altogether, these base resolution maps reveal strong hmC enrichment
10 on phylo-DMRs and provide further evidence of active DNA demethylation during the vertebrate
11 phylotypic period.

12

13 **Tet proteins demethylate phylo-DMRs**

14 To assess the effects of inhibiting Tet function in zebrafish embryos, we took advantage of the
15 morpholino (MO) knockdown approach to target the Tet3 protein, a major phylotypic mC/hmC
16 interactor discovered in our quantitative proteomics screen (Fig. 3c). Embryos injected with Tet3
17 MO showed only minor defects, with 23% of the morphants displaying varying degrees of
18 microphthalmia (Supplementary Fig. 7a) as previously reported in a Tet3 MO study performed in
19 *Xenopus* embryos {Xu, 2012 #89}. To exclude the potential effects of Tet protein functional
20 redundancy, zebrafish embryos were injected with a triple Tet (Tet1/2/3) MO {Ge, 2014 #92}.
21 The triple morphants were severely affected, with the majority displaying embryonic lethality.
22 The embryos that survived gastrulation (23%) displayed short and blended axes, impaired head

1 structures, small eyes, reduced pigmentation and heart oedemas (Supplementary Fig. 7a). We
2 next performed WGBS (Supplementary Table 1) upon morphant embryos ($N = 50$) and
3 compared the mC profiles to their wild type counterparts. Global mCG levels (1 kb non-
4 overlapping windows) are similar in both Tet3 and Tet1/2/3 morphants when compared to wild-
5 type embryos, and are highly correlated with mCG levels in the wild-type embryos (Fig. 5a). A
6 similar pattern was observed in CpG islands, key regulatory features of vertebrate genomes
7 associated with gene regulation, identified through CxxC profiling {Long, 2013 #93}. However,
8 comparisons between the Tet1/2/3 morphants and wild-type embryos revealed a striking increase
9 in mCG levels of phylo-DMRs in the morphants, affecting almost all (92%) of these regions.
10 Similarly, there was an increase of mCG in a subpopulation of CpG islands that corresponds to
11 phylo-DMRs, and thus with sites of aberrant demethylation in the Tet1/2/3 morphant (Fig. 5a
12 and Supplementary Fig. 7b,c). Taken together, these data reveal an embryonic requirement for
13 Tet proteins and demonstrate abnormalities in mC remodelling at key regulatory elements caused
14 by the absence of these proteins.

15 Next, we wanted to determine whether the loss of Tet proteins and thus increase in phylo-
16 DMR mC would result in decreased chromatin accessibility of these regulatory elements. We
17 therefore performed ATAC-seq {Buenrostro, 2013 #168} on two pools of *tet1/2/3* MO embryos
18 and their wild type counterparts. Both wild type and morphant embryos display notable ATAC-
19 seq signal enrichment on phylo-DMRs, however that enrichment is significantly (Kruskal-Wallis
20 test, $P < 0.001$) decreased in *tet1/2/3* MO embryos (Fig. 5b,c). Importantly, such a change is not
21 observed on a general population of putative regulatory elements (PDREs) identified in 24hpf
22 embryos through ChIP-seq profiling {Bogdanovic, 2012 #52}. Next, we identified phylo-DMRs
23 displaying a statistically significant change (Fisher's exact test, FDR Q value < 0.05) in ATAC-

1 seq signal between wild type and morphant embryos. This population consists of ~40% phylo-
2 DMRs and is characterized by reduced ATAC-seq signal in > 90% regions consistent with the
3 average ATAC-seq profiles (Fig. 5d). Finally we wanted to address the impact of Tet1/2/3 loss
4 on embryonic transcription and performed RNA-seq on two pools of *tet1/2/3* morphants and
5 their wild type controls. Of note, unsupervised clustering of zebrafish embryonic transcriptomes
6 revealed a cluster of the *tet1/2/3* MO samples, their wild type 24hpf controls and other zebrafish
7 phylotypic stage samples {Pauli, 2012 #82}, indicative of MO phenotype specificity
8 (Supplementary Fig. 7d). Differential gene expression analyses {Anders, 2010 #169} unravelled
9 bi-directional changes in the transcriptomes of *tet1/2/3* morphants ($N = 718$ upregulated genes
10 and $N = 780$ downregulated genes in the morphant) (Fig. 5e and Supplementary Table 12). Gene
11 ontology analyses {Huang da, 2009 #166;Huang da, 2009 #165} of down-regulated genes
12 resulted in an overrepresentation of terms associated with transcriptional regulation similar to
13 those described enriched in phylo-DMR-associated genes (Fig. 5f, Supplementary Tables 5 and
14 6) whereas no statistically significant enrichments were associated with the upregulated group of
15 genes. An example of aberrant phylo-DMR demethylation in the *tet1/2/3* morphant resulting in
16 reduced chromatin accessibility and reduced transcription is depicted in Fig. 5g. Taken together,
17 our data links *tet1/2/3*-dependent demethylation with the proper activation of phylotypic-stage
18 enhancers and suggests a regulatory role for mC in phylo-DMR usage.

19

20 **DISCUSSION**

21 It is well established that vertebrates remodel their epigenomes during embryogenesis to achieve
22 totipotency {Santos, 2002 #70;Borgel, 2010 #25;Vastenhouw, 2010 #171;Lindeman, 2011

1 #173;Andersen, 2012 #68;Smith, 2012 #30;Jiang, 2013 #22;Potok, 2013 #2;Lee, 2014 #172}.
2 However, to date only very limited insights have been obtained regarding mC dynamics and the
3 evolutionary conservation of mC patterning in later stage vertebrate embryos. Here we describe
4 widespread enhancer demethylation that starts before and continues throughout the phylotypic
5 stage of fish, frog and mouse embryogenesis. This demethylation activity is almost exclusively
6 targeted to a subset of embryonic enhancers (phylo-DMRs) found in the vicinity of genes that
7 play conserved roles in the establishment of the vertebrate body plan, including key
8 developmental pathways such as *Notch/Delta*, *Wnt* and *TGF-beta*. These observations are in line
9 with a recent study that identified distal regulatory elements as targets of mC remodelling in
10 zebrafish embryos {Lee, 2015 #97}. Furthermore, we demonstrate that this observed wave of
11 enhancer demethylation requires Tet proteins and mC to hmC conversion during the phylotypic
12 period. Notwithstanding the implications of active demethylation pathways in this widespread
13 epigenomic reconfiguration event, we do not exclude the possibility that transcription factor
14 binding participates in the demethylation of these genomic regions, as previously described for
15 low-methylated regions in mouse cell cultures {Stadler, 2011 #4}. In fact, a recent study
16 demonstrated Tet3 targeting through transcription factor binding in the mammalian neural
17 lineage {Perera, 2015 #130}, whereas Tet1 was shown to associate with the transcription factor
18 Tex10 to regulate chromatin conformation on super-enhancers in ESCs {Ding, 2015 #170}.

19 Mammals display complex embryonic requirements for Tet activity; the Tet3^{-/-} KO
20 results in early embryonic lethality {Gu, 2011 #59}, whereas the Tet1^{-/-} {Dawlaty, 2011 #101}
21 and Tet2^{-/-} {Ko, 2011 #96;Moran-Crusio, 2011 #95} KOs are viable. The double Tet1/Tet2 KO
22 is lethal in the majority of embryos, however, a small percentage of Tet1/Tet2 KO mice can
23 successfully be grown to adulthood {Dawlaty, 2013 #117}. On the other hand, anamniotes such

1 as fish and frogs do not express Tet proteins during early embryonic stages and no hmC signal
2 was detected in pluripotent zebrafish embryos {Potok, 2013 #23;Jiang, 2013 #22} . Nonetheless,
3 here we demonstrate that both anamniotes and mammals employ Tet-dependent demethylation
4 of enhancers for gene regulation during the phylotypic period, thereby suggesting an ancient,
5 pan-vertebrate regulatory logic. These findings are supported by the higher evolutionary
6 conservation of phylo-DMRs in fish and mice, when compared to early or late DMRs. Finally,
7 this work provides important insights into the roles that mC plays on embryonic enhancer
8 elements and implicates mC as an upstream regulator of enhancer function. Our study reveals a
9 highly conserved mechanism used by vertebrates during the specification of the enhancer
10 repertoire needed for body plan formation. This sets the foundation for future studies that will
11 aim to address the precise hierarchical relationships between Tet-dependent demethylation,
12 enhancer activation and transcription factor binding and determine the embryonic requirements
13 for each of these processes.

14

15 **ONLINE METHODS**

16 **Data access**

17 The raw data have been deposited in GEO under the accession number GSE68087:
18 (<http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/geo/query/acc.cgi?token=ghsxkymxszkxfut&acc=GSE68087>).

19 The mass spectrometry proteomics data have been deposited to the ProteomeXchange
20 Consortium (<http://proteomecentral.proteomexchange.org>) via the PRIDE partner repository with
21 the dataset identifier PXD001164.

22

1 **MethylC-seq**

2 Genomic DNA from zebrafish and *Xenopus* embryos was obtained as described before
3 {Bogdanovic, 2013 #49}. MethylC-seq library generation was performed as described
4 previously {Lister, 2013 #6}. Library amplification was performed with KAPA HiFi HotStart
5 Uracil+ DNA polymerase (Kapa Biosystems, Woburn, MA), using 6 cycles of amplification.
6 Single-read MethylC-seq libraries (for details see Table S1) were processed and aligned as
7 described previously {Lister, 2011 #33}. For reference genomes used in this study, please see
8 Table S1. Previously published {Jiang, 2013 #22;Potok, 2013 #23;Wang, 2014 #21} paired-read
9 MethylC-seq data was mapped and processed as described previously {Lister, 2011 #33} with
10 the following parameters: -e 120 -l 20 -n 1 -k 10 -o 4 -I 0 -X 1000, except the previous filter that
11 excluded reads containing >3 cytosine bases in the CH context was not applied in this study. To
12 estimate the bisulfite non-conversion frequency, the frequency of all cytosine base-calls at
13 reference cytosine positions in the lambda genome (unmethylated spike in control) was
14 normalized by the total number of base-calls at reference cytosine positions in the lambda
15 genome (Table S1).

16

17 **TAB-seq**

18 TAB-seq library generation was performed with the 5hmC TAB-seq Kit (WiseGene, USA - Cat#
19 K001) kit as per manufacturer's instructions. 5-hydroxymethylated pUC19 DNA (WiseGene,
20 USA - Cat# S002) was used as the hmC standard for the estimate of β -glucose protection of hmC
21 from Tet conversion, whereas lambda phage DNA with methylation of all cytosines at CpG sites

1 (WiseGene, USA - Cat# S001) was used as the 5mC/C spike-in control. Calculation of the level
2 of hmC was performed as described previously {Lister, 2013 #6}.

3

4 **ATAC-seq**

5 ATAC-seq experiments were performed as previously described {Buenrostro, 2013 #149}.
6 Briefly, 10 zebrafish embryos were manually dechorionated and disrupted in 500 μ l of Ginzburg
7 Fish Ringers (55 mM NaCl, 1.8 mM KCl, 1.25 mM NaHCO₃). After washing with cold PBS,
8 75,000 cells were lysed (lysis buffer: 10 μ M Tris pH7.4, 10 μ M NaCl, 3 μ M MgCl₂, 0.1%
9 IGEPAL) and incubated for 30 min at 37°C with the TDE1 enzyme. The sample was then
10 purified with Qiagen Minelute kit, and a PCR was performed with 13 cycles using Ad1F and
11 Ad2.1R primers and KAPA HiFi hotstart enzyme (Kapa Biosystems). Reads were aligned using
12 zebrafish danRer7 assembly as the reference genome. Duplicated pairs or those ones separated
13 by more than 2Kb were removed. The enzyme cleavage site was determined as the position -4
14 (minus strand) or +5 (plus strand) from each read start, and this position was extended 5 bp in
15 both directions.

16

17 **Identification of CG Differentially Methylated Regions (CG-DMRs)**

18 CG-DMRs were identified as described previously {Lister, 2013 #6} with the following
19 differences: the *P* values were simulated using 5000 permutations. The largest *P* value cut-off
20 was chosen that still satisfied the 0.05 FDR requirement. Significant differentially methylated
21 sites were combined into blocks if they were within 500 bases of one another and had

1 methylation changes in the same direction. Furthermore, blocks that contained fewer than 10
2 differentially methylated sites were discarded. Finally, CG-DMR blocks were filtered based on a
3 requirement for a minimum number of samples to all show the same significant differential
4 methylation patterns.

5

6 **ChIP-seq and Bio-CAP data analysis**

7 Zebrafish, mouse and *Xenopus* CGIs/NMIs are part of a previously published dataset {Long,
8 2013 #93}. The raw reads corresponding to the zebrafish 24hpf post fertilization Bio-CAP
9 sample (SRX/SRX217/SRX217160) were mapped to the zebrafish genome (Zv9/danRer7) using
10 Bowtie 1.0.0 {Langmead, 2009 #103}, allowing up to two mismatches in the seed and retaining
11 only uniquely mapped reads. Zebrafish ChIP-seq, H3K27ac, H3K4me3 and H3K27me3 reads
12 were obtained from a previously published study {Bogdanovic, 2012 #52} (GSE32483). Mouse
13 embryonic H3K4me1/H3K27ac/H3K4me3 mapped reads corresponding to mouse fetal brain,
14 liver, limb and heart were obtained from a previously published study {Shen, 2012 #73}(GEO
15 data GSE29184). The mapped reads were pulled together and analysed as one embryonic
16 sample. The *Xenopus tropicalis* data was obtained from Hontelez *et al* (manuscript in
17 preparation). The data is associated with the following GEO identifier: GSE67974
18 <http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/geo/query/acc.cgi?token=ilypiqmm1fidzol&acc=GSE67974>).

19

20

21

1 **RNA-seq data analysis**

2 Data corresponding to zebrafish (GSE32900) {Pauli, 2012 #82}, mouse (GSE60334,
3 GSM1502476, GSE47966) {Auclair, 2014 #85;Shen, 2014 #84;Lister, 2013 #6} and *Xenopus*
4 {Paranjpe, 2013 #83} embryos were mapped using Kallisto (<http://pachterlab.github.io/kallisto/>)
5 with default settings. Prior to mapping the mouse RNA-seq data, the reads were trimmed to 51
6 bp using the FASTX trimmer from the FASTX toolkit
7 (http://hannonlab.cshl.edu/fastx_toolkit/index.html) to normalize for read length differences
8 among different studies. The reference transcriptomes were obtained from ENSEMBL and only
9 canonical isoforms, as identified by ENSEMBL, were used. The Kallisto TPM (Transcripts Per
10 Million) values were used to assess transcript abundance. Differential gene expression was
11 performed as described before using the DEseq package {Anders, 2010 #169}. Only genes with
12 an *FDR Q* value < 0.05 were considered significant.

13

14 **Gene ontology analyses**

15 Gene ontology analyses were performed using the GREAT tool {McLean, 2010 #80}
16 (<http://bejerano.stanford.edu/great/public/html/>) or DAVID tool {Huang da, 2009 #165;Huang
17 da, 2009 #166}, as indicated in the main text. For *Xenopus* GREAT analyses, we have calculated
18 the GREAT regions as described before {McLean, 2010 #80} using “Basal plus extension”
19 association rule settings. Briefly, each gene was assigned a basal regulatory domain of a
20 minimum distance upstream and downstream of the TSS (regardless of other nearby genes, 5kb
21 upstream, 1kb downstream). The gene regulatory domain was extended in both directions to the
22 nearest gene's basal domain but no more than the maximum extension in one direction. The

1 XTEV *Xenopus* gene models (with human gene IDs) {Paranjpe, 2013 #135} were used for that
2 purpose.

3

4 **Expression analysis of orthologous genes**

5 The genes corresponding to phylo-DMRs were identified using GREAT {McLean, 2010 #80}.
6 The TPM values for zebrafish, mouse and *Xenopus* were calculated as described above and
7 assigned to the orthologous genes identified through the ENSEMBL orthology tool {Vilella,
8 2009 #107}. The highest expression value for each gene within each species was assigned a
9 value of “1” and the other TPM values were scaled accordingly. Such scaled expression values
10 were clustered using the Ward method and Pearson correlation distance.

11

12 **Morpholino knockdown of Tet proteins**

13 The morpholinos (MOs) specific for each Tet protein are described in {Ge, 2014 #92}. We also
14 designed a specific splice junction MO for the zebrafish Tet3 protein. (5'-
15 TGCATGTCCACAGTAACTTACCACA-3'). Either 12 ng of this MO or 3 ng of a combination
16 of all four MOs were injected in zebrafish embryos at the one cell stage. The observed
17 phenotypes were documented at different time points using a stereoscope (SZX16–DP71,
18 Olympus).

19

20 **Nuclear extracts from zebrafish embryos**

1 Zebrafish embryos at dome ($N = 100,000$) and 24 hpf ($N = 25,000$) stages were collected and
2 dechorionated as described before {Bogdanovic, 2013 #49}. Nuclear extracts were prepared
3 using a previously described protocol for mass-spectrometry based proteomics {Cox, 2008 #86}
4 with modifications. A minimal 1:10 ratio of tissue:lysis buffer was ensured during every
5 homogenization. The embryonic tissue was homogenized using a Dounce homogenizer (20 X
6 loose pestle, 20 X tight pestle). Batches of nuclear extract were snap frozen in liquid nitrogen
7 and kept at -80°C . Before proceeding with DNA-pulldowns, the extracts were defrosted and
8 combined into a single tube, following a 20 min centrifugation in a chilled (4°C) table top
9 centrifuge.

10

11 **DNA pull-downs and Mass spectrometry**

12 DNA pull-downs were performed as described previously {Spruijt, 2013 #46}, except that
13 streptavidin sepharose beads were used for the affinity purifications (GE Healthcare). Following
14 incubations and washes, bound proteins were digested with trypsin. Tryptic peptides were
15 desalted and concentrated using stage-tips {Rappsilber, 2003 #108} and applied to nanoLC
16 (Proxeon) coupled online to an LTQ-Orbitrap Velos mass spectrometer (Thermo Scientific). 4
17 hour gradients (5% - 80% acetonitrile) were applied and the top 15 MS/MS spectra were
18 recorded.

19

20 **Proteomics data analysis**

1 Raw data were analyzed using MaxQuant version 1.3.0.5 using default settings and the options
2 label-free quantification and match between runs enabled {Cox, 2008 #86}. The uniprot *Danio*
3 *rerio* database was used as reference proteome. The resulting ‘proteingroups.txt’ table was
4 filtered for contaminants and reverse hits. Obtained label-free quantification (LFQ) intensities
5 were log₂ transformed and the proteins were filtered to have at least three valid values in one
6 group (C, mC or hmC). For the resulting proteins, missing values were semi-random imputed by
7 a normal distribution (width = 0.3 and shift = 1.8), based on the assumption that these proteins
8 were under/close to the detection limit. To identify significant interactors, an adapted two-tailed
9 t-test was performed (Persues software), which corrects for multiple testing by applying a
10 permutation-based false discovery rate (FDR). Volcano plots were made in R, in which the LFQ
11 ratio ((h)mC/C) is plotted against the calculated FDR (-log₁₀). The FDR and s₀ significance-
12 threshold values used are depicted in these volcano plots (Supplementary Fig. 3). The obtained
13 significant (h)mC readers were clustered on their enrichments ratios in R. iBAQ was performed
14 as described {Schwanhauser, 2011 #109;Spruijt, 2013 #46}. In brief, 3.3 μg UPS2 standard
15 (Sigma) was spiked in 10 μg nuclear extract. Filter-aided sample preparation (FASP) was
16 performed {Wisniewski, 2009 #110} and the peptides were applied to LC-MS/MS. Linear
17 regression was performed on the exact known amounts of the UPS2 standard proteins and their
18 measured iBAQ intensities, followed by extrapolation of the absolute protein amounts for the
19 zebrafish proteins. In parallel, 100 μg extract was digested using FASP and peptides were
20 fractionated using strong anion exchange (SAX) in five fractions, which resulted in a deep-
21 proteome. Proteins quantified in the single FASP sample were matched with the iBAQ intensities
22 measured in the deep-proteome, which were used for linear regression and extrapolation of
23 absolute quantification for all proteins in the measured proteome.

1

2 **Isolation of zebrafish *sox10*+ cells**

3 Neural crest cells were isolated from 24hpf zebrafish transgenic embryos, expressing mCherry
4 under the control of *sox10* regulatory locus (TgBAC(Sox10:Cherry)), using Fluorescence
5 Activated Cell Sorting (FACS). Embryos were dissociated to a single cell suspension using
6 collagenase (20mg/ml)/trypsin (0.05%) solution at 30°C for 12 mins with three intermittent
7 homogenization steps. Reaction was stopped with Hank's blocking solution (1X HBSS Ca-, Mg-
8 , phenol red-free, 0.25% BSA, 10mM Hepes pH8), cells collected by centrifugation at 500g for
9 10 mins, re-suspended in Hanks solution and passed through a cell strainer to remove the cell
10 aggregates. Single cells, concentrated by another centrifugation were resuspended in ~500ul of
11 Hank's solution and processed by FACS. Genomic DNA for further analysis was isolated from
12 collected mCherry-positive, *sox10*-expressing neural crest cells using Purelink Genomic DNA
13 Mini Kit (#K182002, Life Technologies).

14

15

16

17 **Animal procedures**

18 All animal experiments were conducted following the guidelines established and approved by the
19 local governments and the Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee, always in accordance
20 with best practices outlined by the European Union.

21

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14

15 **Author Contributions** O.B, M.V, J.L.G-S and R.L designed the study. O.B. and E.F. prepared
16 and sequenced MethylC-seq libraries. The data were analysed by O.B. with the help of R.L.,
17 E.F., M.S and J.R.E. Embryo work was performed by O.B., E. d.l. C. M., J.J.T, T.R., M.M., and
18 J.L.G-S. Zebrafish *sox10*⁺ line was prepared by R.W., U.S., and T. S-S. *Xenopus* ChIP-seq data
19 was generated by S.H., I. v. K., and G.J.C.V. Quantitative interaction proteomics experiments
20 were performed by A.S., F.G., T.C., and M.V. Proteomics data were analysed by A.S. and M.V.
21 The study was written by O.B, A.S., M.V, J.L.G-S and R.L.

22

1 **FIGURE LEGENDS**

2

3 **Figure 1** DNA methylome dynamics during vertebrate embryogenesis and the phylotypic stage.

4 **(a)** Global DNA methylation (mC) levels at four stages of *Xenopus tropicalis* embryogenesis,

5 zebrafish post-ZGA embryogenesis, and mouse embryogenesis. **(b)** Number, directionality and

6 developmental stage of differentially methylated regions (DMRs, FDR = 0.05) identified in

7 zebrafish, *Xenopus* and mouse embryos. The regions of developmental demethylation are

8 denoted as phylo-DMRs. **(c)** Conserved gene ontology (Biological Process) terms associated

9 with phylo-DMRs in zebrafish *Xenopus* and mouse. **(d)** Progressive demethylation of phylo-

10 DMRs in embryonic tissues and adult brains. **(e)** mC levels of phylo-DMRs in adult mouse

11 tissues.

12

13 **Figure 2** Phylo-DMRs correspond to evolutionarily conserved developmentally activated

14 enhancers associated with vertebrate body plan formation. **(a)** Sorted heatmaps of mC and

15 normalized ChIP-seq read density for H3K4me1, H3K4me3, H3K27ac, p300 at phylo-DMRs in

16 zebrafish, *Xenopus* and mouse embryos. **(b)** Mean CpG density (CpGs / 100bp) in zebrafish,

17 *Xenopus* and mouse phylo-DMRs. **(c)** Comparisons of mean CpG density (CpGs / 100bp) in

18 phylo-DMRs and CpG islands. **(d)** Genomic overlaps and expression patterns of validated

19 VISTA enhancers associated with phylo-DMRs. **(e)** Hierarchical clustering of transcript

20 abundance (scaled TPMs) of orthologous genes ($N = 211$) linked to phylo-DMRs. **(f)**

21 Evolutionary conservation (aggregate PhastCons scores) of DMRs in zebrafish and mouse

22 embryos (Kruskal – Wallis test, $P < 0.01$).

23

1 **Figure 3** Active demethylation components bind mC/hmC during the phylotypic period in
2 vertebrates. **(a)** Total numbers of nuclear proteins found to interact with C, mC or hmC oligos.
3 *P*-values (hypergeometric test) represent the significance of interspecies correlations. **(b)**
4 Enriched GO terms in the conserved C, mC or hmC readers for pluripotent (dome, ESCs) and
5 differentiated stages (NPCs, 24hpf). **(c)** Hierarchical correlation-based clustering of the
6 enrichment of DNA demethylation and DNA repair linked mC / hmC readers identified in
7 zebrafish embryos and mouse cell nuclear extracts.

8

9 **Figure 4** Phylo-DMRs are characterized by hmC enrichment in vertebrate embryos. **(a)** Steady
10 state abundance (TPMs) of Tet1/2/3 transcripts during zebrafish, *Xenopus* and mouse
11 embryogenesis. **(b)** Genome browser display demonstrating the co-occurrence of phylo-DMRs,
12 hydroxymethylation (hmC, TAB-seq) and active enhancer marks. **(c)** Average profiles of hmC
13 and mC levels over phylo-DMRs extended to -3kb/3kb (zebrafish, *Xenopus*) or -10kb/10kb
14 (mouse).

15

16 **Figure 5** Tet proteins are required for phylo-DMR demethylation and body plan formation in
17 vertebrates. **(a)** Correlation of mC levels in wild type and Tet3 and Tet1/2/3 knockdown embryos
18 genome wide (1 kb non-overlapping windows), in CpG islands (CGIs) and in phylo-DMRs. **(b)**
19 Average profiles (normalized read density) of ATAC-seq signal over phylo-DMRs in wild type
20 and *tet1/2/3* morphant embryos. **(c)** Reduced ATAC-seq signal (Kruskal Wallis test, $P < 0.01$) in
21 phylo-DMRs when compared to a general population of PDREs identified in 24hpf zebrafish
22 embryos. **(d)** Number of regions displaying significantly altered (Fisher's exact test, $FDR Q <$
23 0.05) chromatin accessibility in *tet1/2/3* mutants.

24

1 **Supplementary Figure 1** DMR size, distribution and dynamics. **(a)** Size distribution of DMRs
2 in zebrafish, *Xenopus* and mouse. **(b)** Numbers and directionality of identified DMRs in
3 zebrafish, *Xenopus* and mouse

4
5 **Supplementary Figure 2** Chromatin state and examples of zebrafish DMRs. **(a)** Sorted
6 heatmaps of normalized ChIP-seq read density for H3K4me1, H3K4me3, H3K27ac histone
7 marks at phylo-DMRs and early zebrafish (1K cell vs 80% epiboly) DMRs. **(b)** Genome browser
8 examples of zebrafish promoter DMRs.

9
10 **Supplementary Figure 3** KEGG pathway enrichment of phylo-DMR-linked genes. Gene
11 ontology (GO) enrichments (KEGG pathway) of orthologous genes linked to zebrafish, *Xenopus*
12 and mouse phylo-DMRs.

13
14 **Supplementary Figure 4** Stage-specific mC/hmC/C readers and differential protein expression
15 analyses. **(a – c)** The ratio between the measured label-free quantification (LFQ) intensities of
16 the mC or hmC bait over the C bait (x-axis) is plotted against the $-\log$ false discovery rate (FDR)
17 (y-axis) as determined by an adapted two-tailed t-test. The used FDR and s_0 (the weight of the
18 ratio in the calculation of the significance-threshold) are depicted in the lower-left corner of the
19 plots. The black dots represent the significant proteins for the unmodified (left side of the plot)
20 and modified (right side of the plot) baits. **(d)** The linear regression curves for the UPS2 standard
21 (amount versus iBAQ intensity) and for the FASP iBAQ (amount versus SAX iBAQ intensity) in
22 both the dome and 24hpf nuclear extract (top panel). **(e)** Differential expression analysis of the
23 quantified proteins (4960 in at least one sample) yield enriched GO terms for dome and 24hpf
24 specific proteins.

1

2 **Supplementary Figure 5** Dynamic c/mC/hmC readers during zebrafish embryogenesis. **(a – b)**

3 Schematic representation of quantitative interaction proteomics and nuclear extract quantitation

4 approaches used in this study. **(c)** Hierarchical correlation-based clustering of the enrichment of

5 mC readers in dome and 24hpf zebrafish extracts and hmC readers in 24hpf zebrafish extracts.

6 Colors indicate the extent of enrichment; white to red indicates no enrichment to high

7 enrichment. Absolute abundance of the readers is depicted in the last two columns, in which

8 yellow to blue indicates sub-femtomole to picomoles per 100 µg extract. Components of active

9 DNA demethylation/DNA repair pathways are indicated by dotted lines.

10

11 **Supplementary Figure 6** Evolutionary conservation of developmental c/mC/hmC/C readers in

12 zebrafish and mouse. Conserved C and mC readers in mESC and zebrafish dome embryos (left

13 panel) and conserved C, mC and hmC readers in mouse NPC and zebrafish 24hpf embryos (right

14 panel). Colors indicate the degree of binding conservation between the two organisms; purple –

15 significant; blue just below the significance threshold; green – enrichment; brown - family

16 members of this protein are found to be significantly enriched; salmon - protein bears a domain

17 that is significantly enriched in readers for this modification in both organisms. The names are

18 zebrafish gene names, however the homologue mouse gene name is used in cases with no

19 informative zebrafish name available (*italic*).

20 **Supplementary Figure 7** Tet1/2/3 depletion in zebrafish embryos. **(a)** Morpholino (MO) Tet3

21 and Tet1/2/3 knockdown phenotypes in zebrafish. **(b)** Sorted heatmap of CGIs (Kdm2b CxxC

22 BIOcap signal) over zebrafish phylo-DMRs. **(c)** Genome browser displays of zebrafish phylo-

23 DMR examples associated with key developmental regulators (*sox21b* and *neurog1*). **(d)**

1 Hierarchical clustering of gene expression profiles (TPMs) of zebrafish *tet1/2/3* and wild type
2 embryos.

3

4 **Supplementary Table 1** Overview of (hydroxy)methylome data used in this study. Organism,
5 library type, developmental stage (tissue), sequencing statistics, reference genome and data-
6 related references.

7

8 **Supplementary Tables 2 – 4** Genomic positions and directionality of phylo-DMRs. Genomic
9 positions and directionality of statistically significant ($FDR = 0.05$) phylo-DMRs in zebrafish
10 (Supplementary Table 2), *Xenopus* (Supplementary Table 3) and mouse (Supplementary Table
11 4).

12

13 **Supplementary Table 5 - 6** Conserved gene ontology (biological Process) enrichments ($FDR =$
14 0.01) of early (gastrula – phylotypic stage, Supplementary Table 5) and late (phylotypic stage –
15 tailbud/fetus, Supplementary Table 6) phylo-DMRs.

16

17 **Supplementary Table 7** Orthologous genes associated with phylo-DMRs in zebrafish, *Xenopus*
18 and mouse. Mouse gene IDs corresponding to orthologous genes ($N = 211$) linked to phylo-
19 DMRs in all the three species.

20 **Supplementary Table 8** Genomic positions of VISTA enhancers overlapping phylo-DMRs.
21 Genomic positions (mouse mm10 genome reference) of previously validated VISTA enhancers
22 overlapping with phylo-DMRs in mouse.

23

1 **Supplementary Table 9** KEGG pathway enrichments of orthologous phylo-DMR linked genes.

2 Only statistically significant enrichments (Benjamini Hochberg FDR < 0.05) are displayed.

3

4 **Supplementary Tables 10 – 11** Label-free quantification (LFQ) intensities for zebrafish dome

5 and 24hpf samples. Proteins displaying significantly different enrichment between unmethylated

6 and methylated DNA oligonucleotides in zebrafish dome (Supplementary table 9) and zebrafish

7 24hpf (Supplementary Table 10) samples were identified by an adapted t-test on label-free

8 quantification (LFQ) intensities.

9

10 **Supplementary Table 12** Differentially expressed genes (*FDR* < 0.05) between zebrafish

11 *tet1/2/3* morphant and wild type embryos.

12

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Figure 1

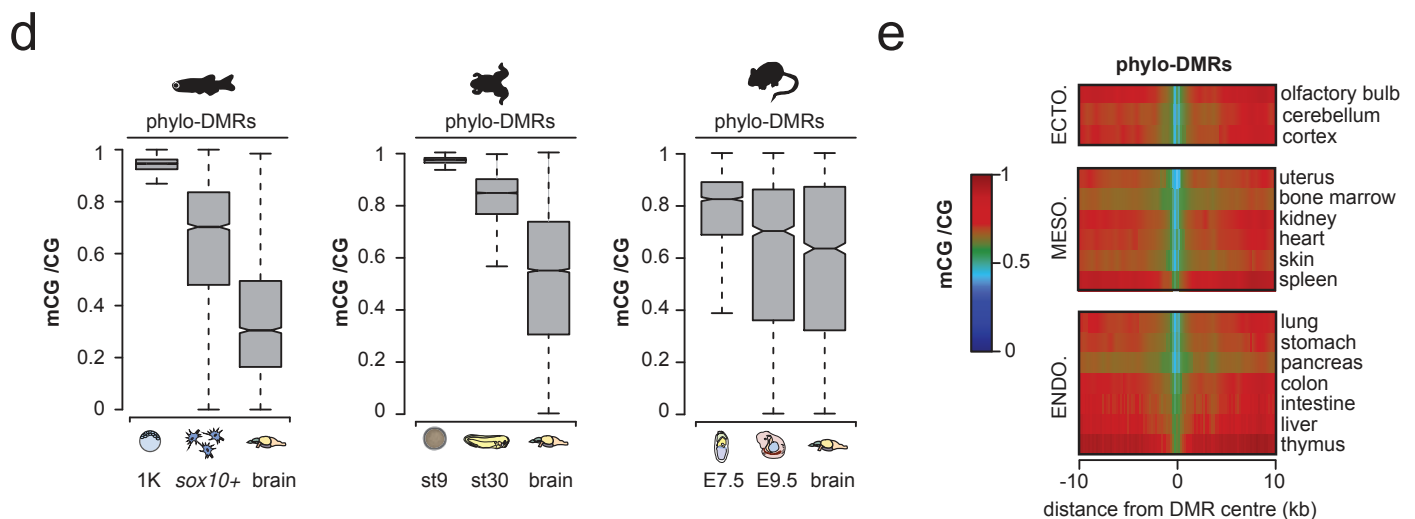
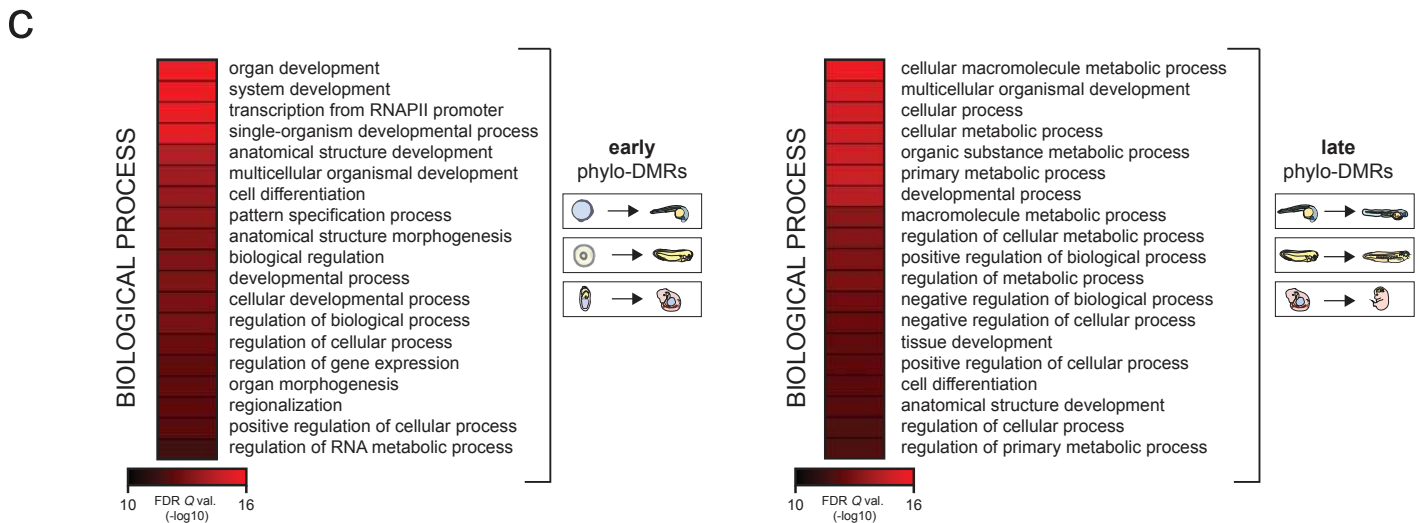
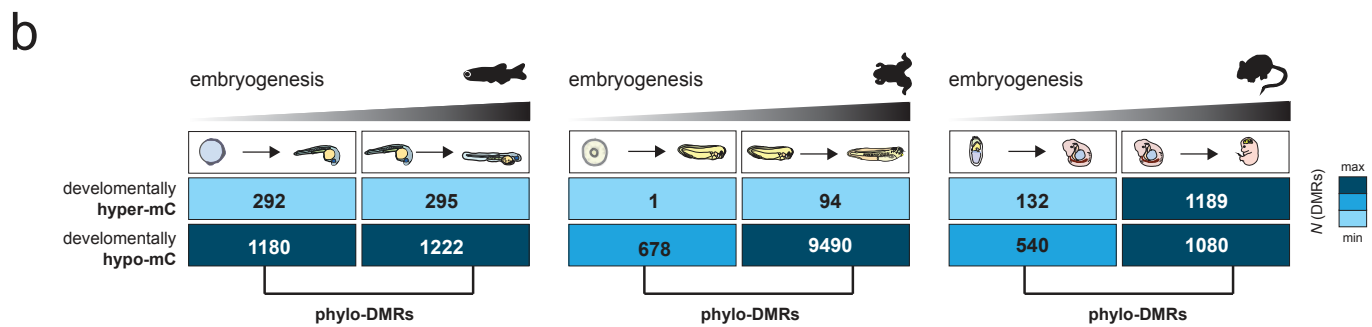
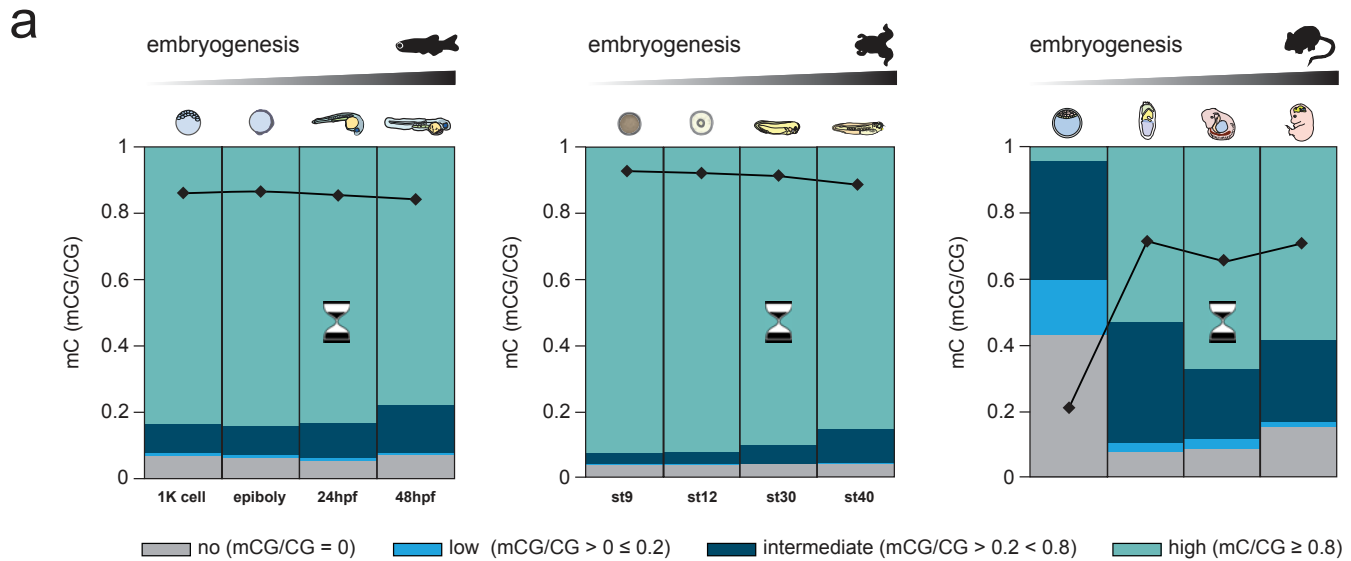


Figure 2

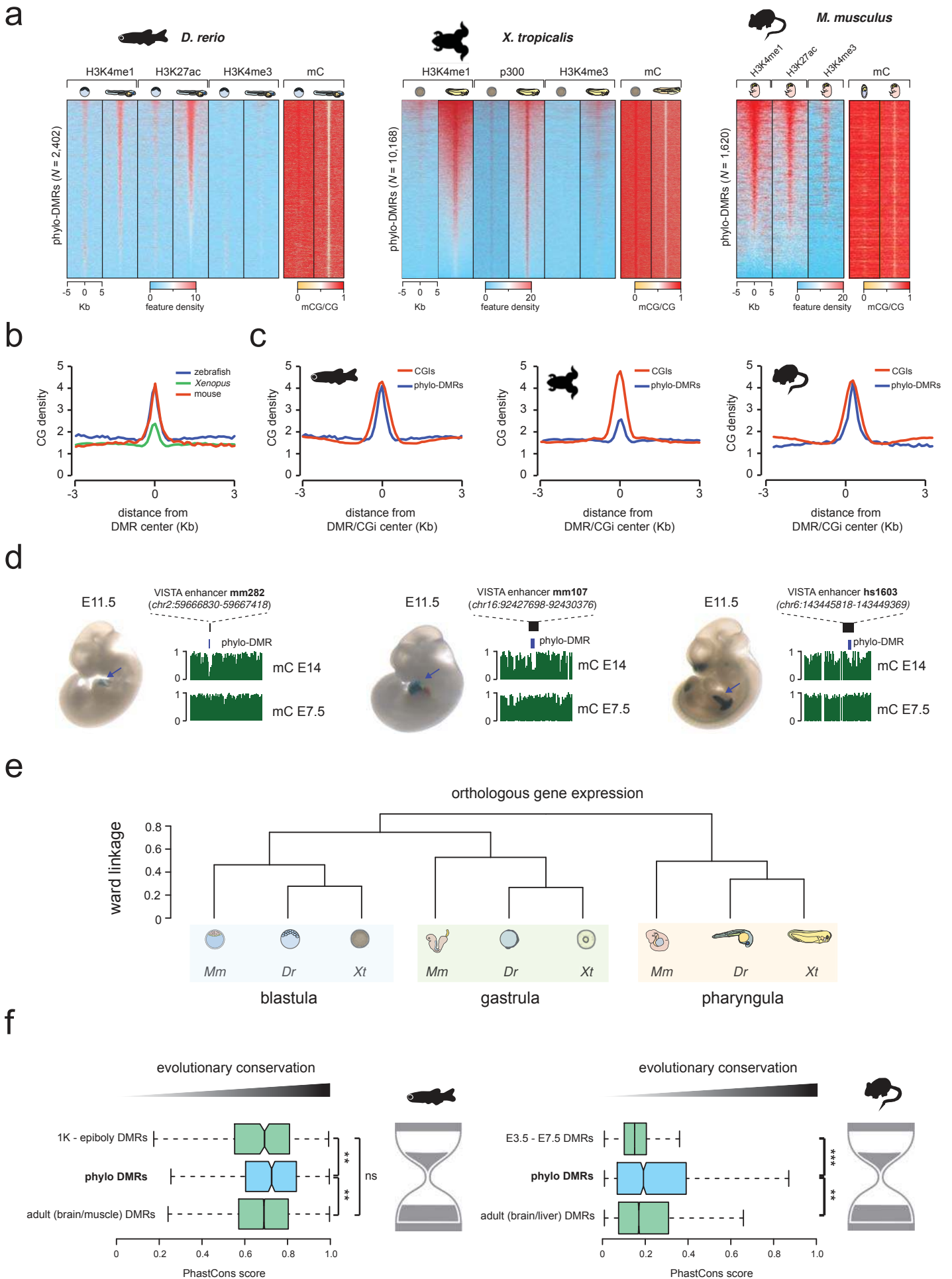


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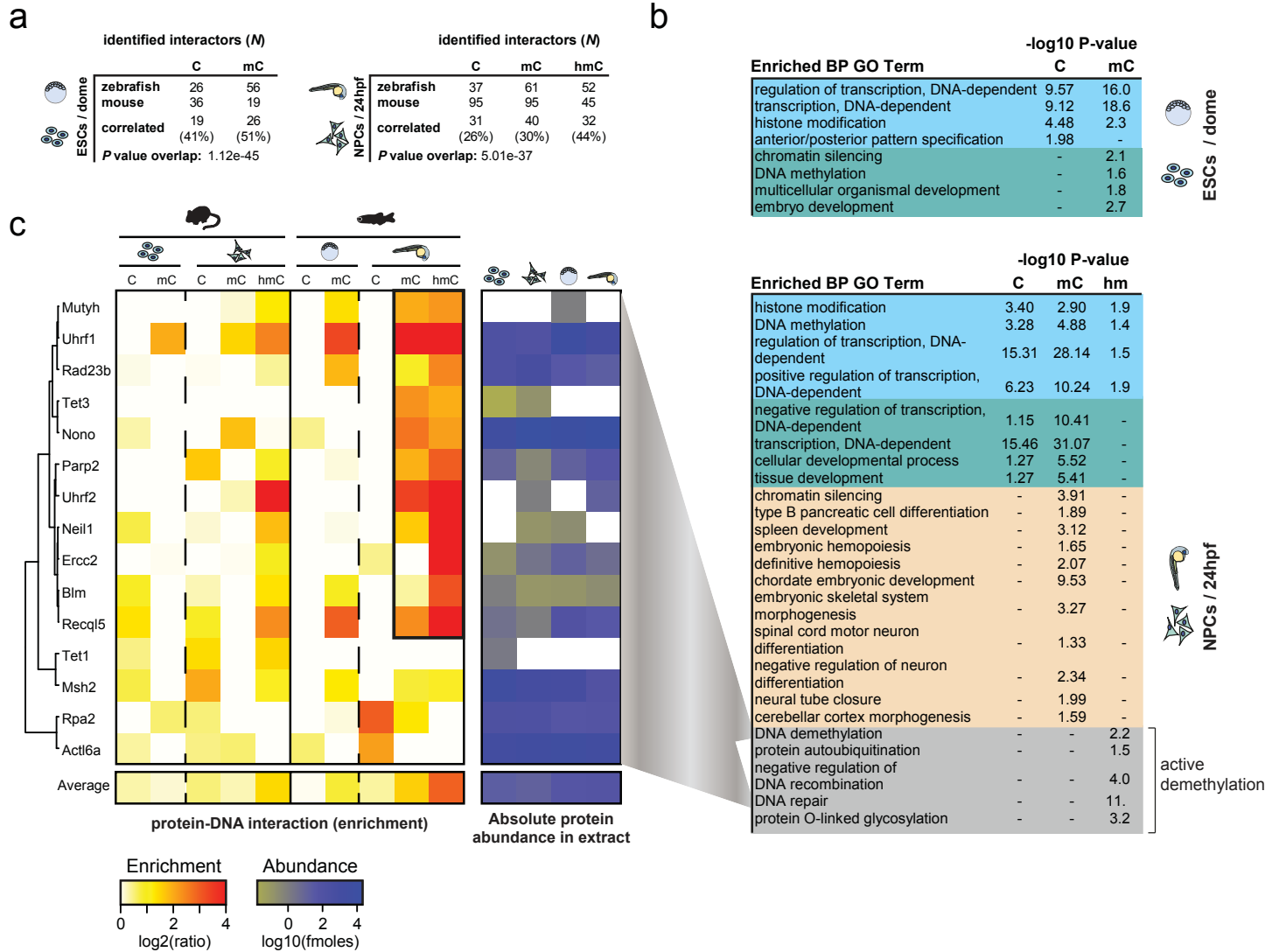
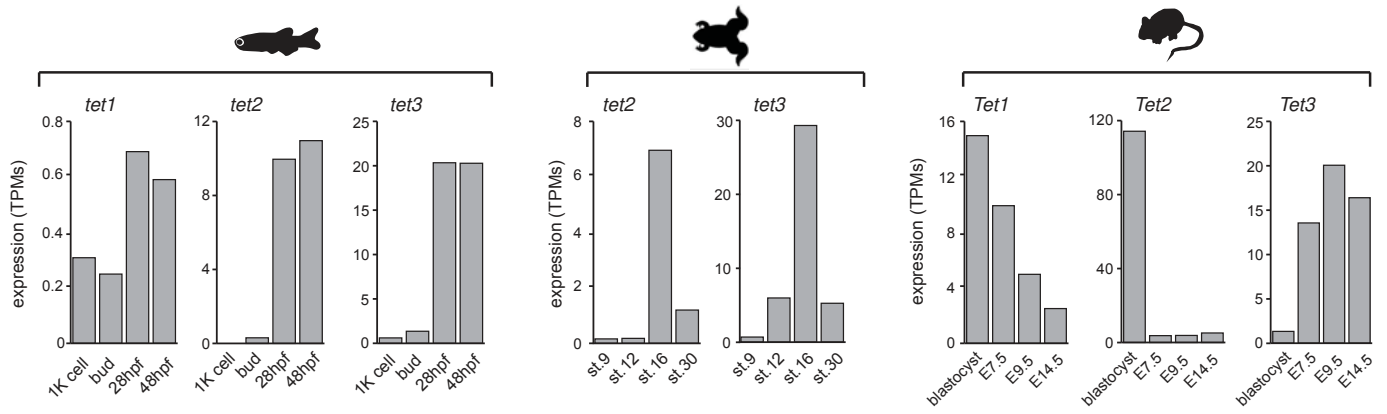
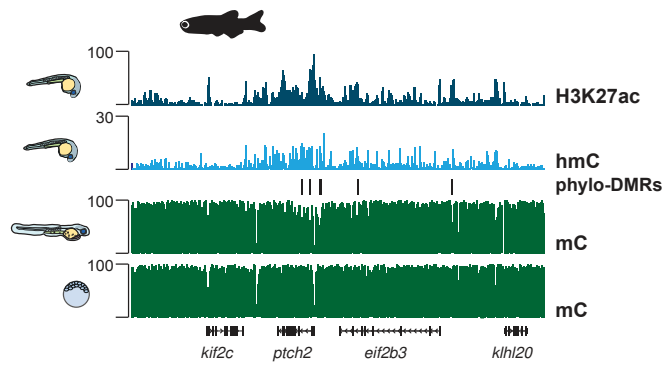


Figure 4

a



b



c

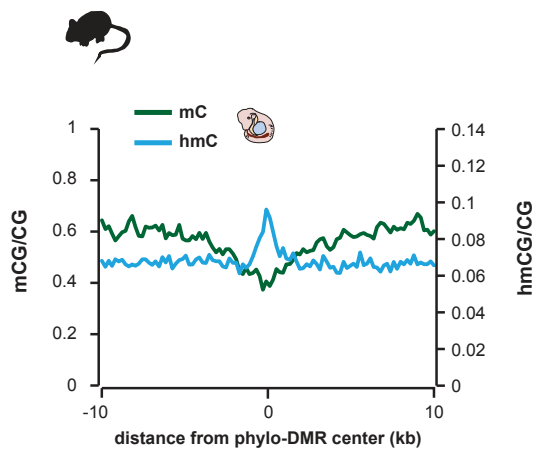
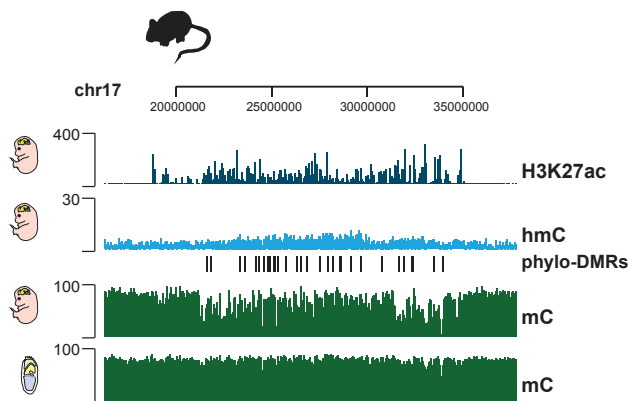
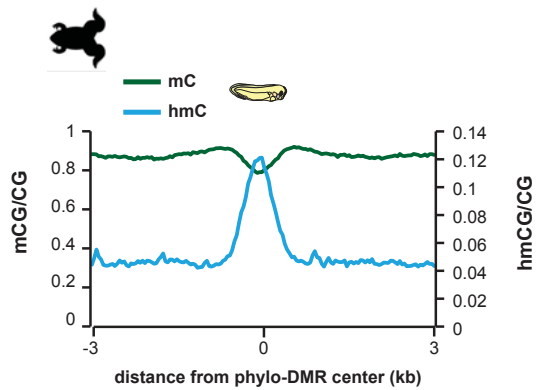
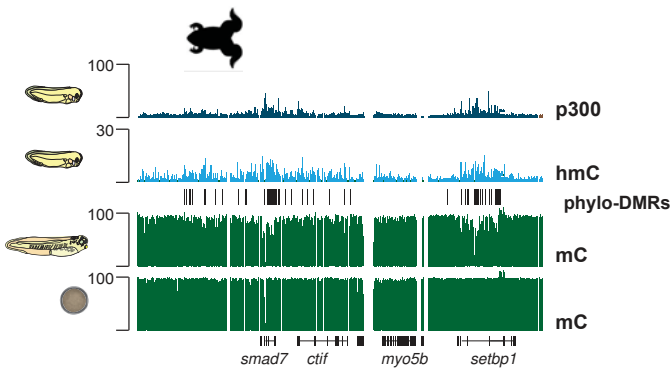
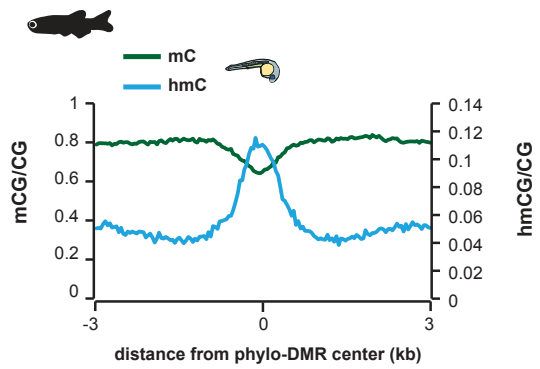
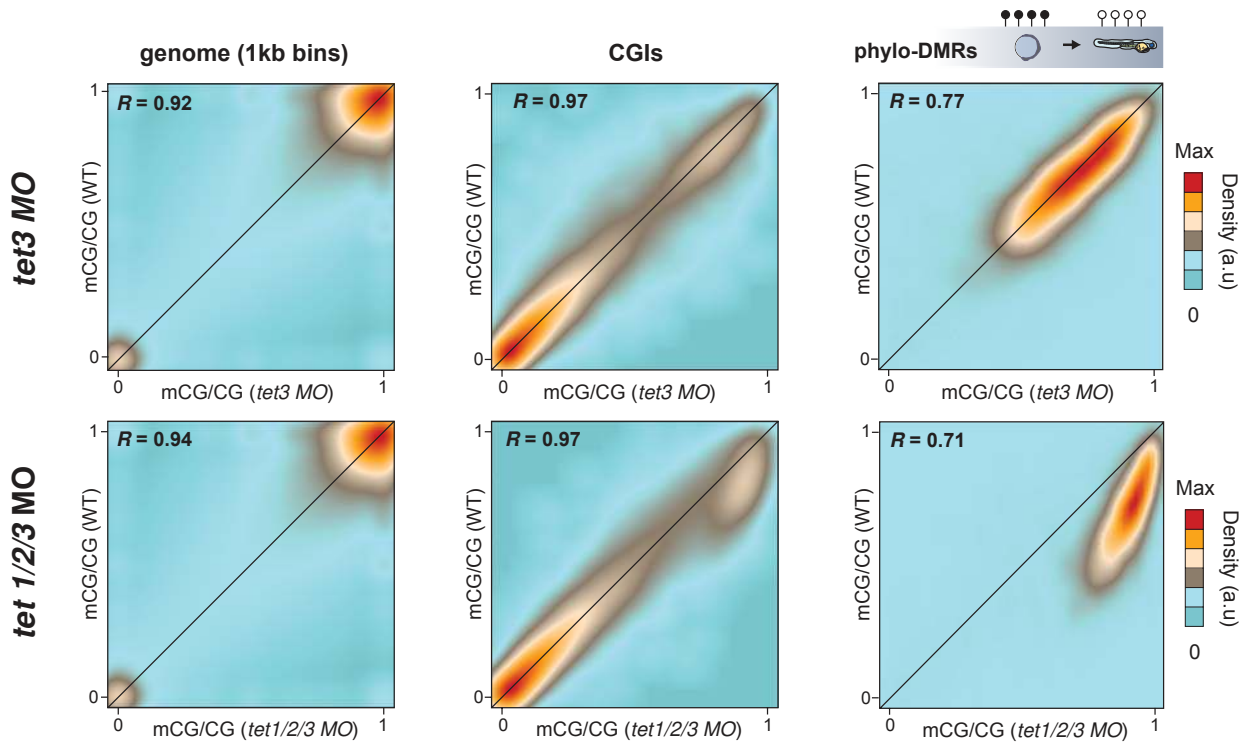
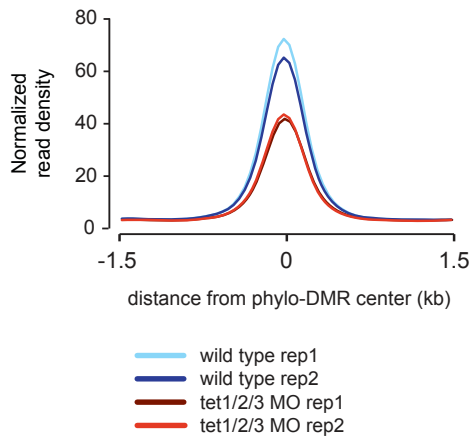


Figure 5

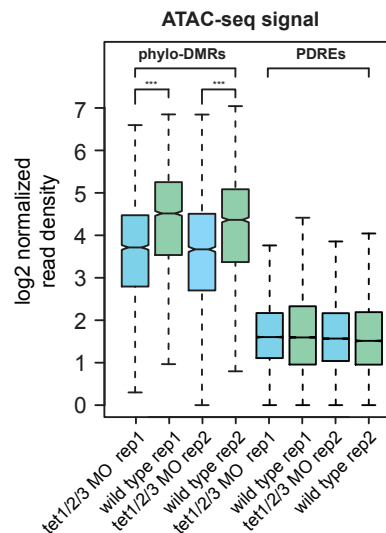
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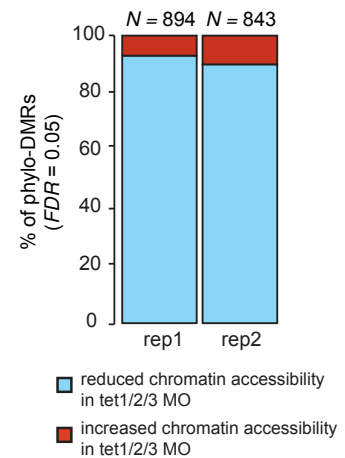
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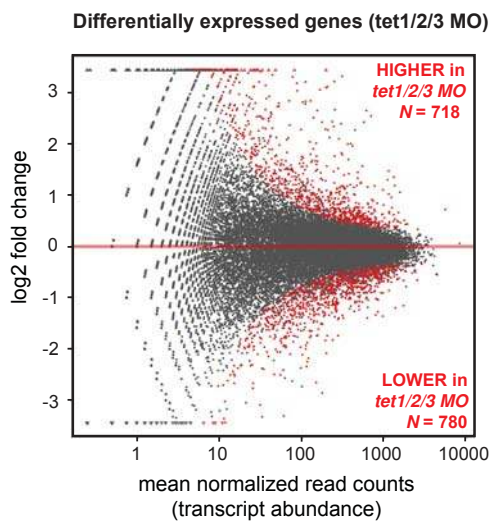
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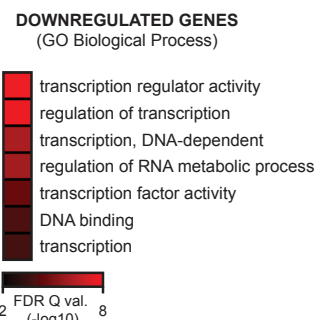
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e



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