

1 High Resolution Epigenomic Atlas of Early Human Craniofacial Development

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11

12 Abstract

13

14 Defects in embryonic patterning resulting in craniofacial abnormalities are common birth
15 defects affecting up to 1 in 500 live births worldwide, and are mostly non-syndromic.
16 The regulatory programs that build and shape the craniofacial complex are thought to
17 be controlled by information encoded in the genome between genes and within intronic
18 sequences. Early stages of human craniofacial development have not been interrogated
19 with modern functional genomics techniques, preventing systematic analysis of genetic
20 associations with craniofacial-specific regulatory sequences. Here we describe a
21 comprehensive resource of craniofacial epigenomic annotations and systematic,
22 integrative analysis with a variety of human tissues and cell types. We identified
23 thousands of novel craniofacial enhancers and provide easily accessible genome
24 annotations for craniofacial researchers and clinicians. We demonstrate the utility of our
25 data to find likely causal variants for craniofacial abnormalities and identify a large
26 enhancer cluster that interacts with *HOXA* genes during craniofacial development.

27 **Introduction**

28 Formation of the craniofacial complex is an intricate process of precisely timed events
29 that occurs relatively early in vertebrate embryonic development. For example, in
30 human embryonic development the majority of the events that lead to the formation of
31 the human face and skull occur during the first ten weeks of gestation¹. Defects in the
32 orchestration of these events result in several different congenital abnormalities
33 including failure of features to fuse (orofacial clefting) and premature fusion of structures
34 (craniosynostosis). Worldwide, orofacial clefting is one of the most common birth
35 defects, affecting ~1 in 700 live births². The majority of those affected with these types
36 of clefting do not have defects in other tissues or organ systems and thus are referred to
37 as “non-syndromic”³. While these birth defects are largely repairable through surgical
38 means, the financial, sociological, and psychological effects have a much broader
39 impact and represent a significant public health burden⁴⁻⁷. Screening, prevention, and
40 non-surgical therapeutic options are thus highly desirable. The high heritability of such
41 disorders suggests a major genetic component^{8,9}; however, causative genetic changes
42 have only been identified in a fraction of those affected¹⁰. Candidate gene approaches
43 have identified mutations in seven different genes that explain less than ten percent of
44 non-syndromic orofacial clefting cases¹¹. In the past decade, several genome wide
45 association studies, copy number variant analyses, and whole exome sequencing
46 studies have sought to identify additional genetic sources of non-syndromic orofacial
47 clefting¹¹⁻²¹. These studies identified common and rare variants associated with
48 orofacial clefting, but most are located in non-coding portions of the genome. Our
49 genomes are littered with gene regulatory sequences, located primarily in intronic and
50 intergenic sequences, that are active in a small number of tissues and/or developmental
51 stages in humans²². While the regulatory potential of the human genome is still not
52 completely understood, defects in regulatory sequences can cause non-syndromic
53 developmental defects in humans and mice²³⁻²⁶. These findings, coupled with the non-
54 syndromic nature of most orofacial clefting cases, suggest defective gene regulatory
55 sequences may underlie much of the incidence of orofacial clefting. However, mapping
56 of chromatin states and identification of craniofacial-specific regulatory sequences has
57 been ignored by large functional genomics efforts such as ENCODE and Roadmap

58 Epigenome²². The lack of craniofacial-specific gene regulatory information has impeded
59 the identification of regulatory circuitry important for human craniofacial development
60 and has prevented accurate interpretation of clinical genetic findings in patients with
61 craniofacial disorders. Lastly, without sufficient biological context, prioritization and
62 developing of hypotheses to test genetic associations with craniofacial abnormalities are
63 hindered²⁷⁻³⁰. Here we present a comprehensive resource of functional genomics data
64 and predicted chromatin states for important stages of early human craniofacial
65 development. We have profiled multiple biochemical marks of chromatin activity in
66 developing human craniofacial tissue samples encompassing 4.5 to 8 post conception
67 weeks. We have comprehensively compared these data with publicly available genomic
68 and genetic data from 127 epigenomes which include a wide variety of adult and fetal
69 tissues. We provide annotations consistent with large consortia efforts²² in formats
70 easily loadable into modern genome browsers to enable exploration by other
71 researchers without large computational effort. We demonstrate how to mine this data
72 for biological features relevant to craniofacial development and how to experimentally
73 validate target gene interactions. In total, our analyses have identified thousands of
74 previously unknown craniofacial enhancer sequences. These analyses will facilitate
75 interpretation of genetic variation in the context of congenital craniofacial defects, and
76 will enable future experimental testing of enhancer-target gene interactions in
77 developing craniofacial tissues.

78 **Results**

79 **Profiling of Histone Modifications in Developing Human Embryonic Craniofacial** 80 **Tissue.**

81 Chromatin immunoprecipitation of post-translational histone modifications coupled with
82 next generation sequencing (ChIP-Seq) is a powerful method to identify active
83 regulatory sequences in a global fashion from a wide variety of biological contexts²².
84 Many of the regulatory elements identified by this method are specific to the biological
85 context queried^{31,32} (i.e. tissue type or developmental stage) and are enriched for
86 genetic associations with disease in a relevant tissue (i.e. immune-related disorder

87 associations in immune cell-specific enhancers)^{33,34}. To identify regulatory sequences
88 important for human craniofacial development, we utilized ChIP-Seq of six post-
89 translational histone modifications across multiple stages and multiple biological
90 replicates of early human craniofacial development. We focused our efforts on histone
91 modifications both profiled by large consortia and strongly associated with multiple
92 states of chromatin activity. We performed parallel ChIP-Seq experiments on
93 craniofacial tissues obtained from 17 individual human embryos spanning the critical
94 window for the formation of the human orofacial apparatus (**Fig. 1a**). Specifically, we
95 profiled marks ranging from those associated with repression (H3K27me3), promoter
96 activation (H3K4me3), active transcription (H3K36me3), and various states of enhancer
97 activation (H3K4me1, H3K4me2, and H3K27ac) (**Fig. 1b**)³⁵. We profiled at least three
98 biological replicates for four distinct Carnegie stages (CS) (CS13, CS14, CS15, and
99 CS17) encompassing 4.5 post conception weeks (pcw) to 6 pcw. We also profiled single
100 biological samples from CS20 (8 pcw) and 10 pcw embryos (**Fig. 1c**). We obtained over
101 5.3 billion ChIP-Seq reads across a total of 106 datasets, with mean total reads and
102 uniquely aligned reads per sample of 50.3 and 37.3 million respectively
103 (**Supplementary Table 1**). Overall the samples correlated well by mark and stage of
104 development (**Fig. 2a and Supplementary Fig. 1**). We uniformly processed these data
105 to identify reproducibly enriched regions for each mark within each stage. The genomic
106 features identified by each set of enriched regions closely mirror what has previously
107 been reported for each of these post-translational marks (**Fig. 2b and Supplementary**
108 **Fig. 2**)^{32,35}. For example, we observed very strong enrichment of H3K4me3 at
109 promoters of genes and identified a large number of intronic or intergenic regions
110 enriched for H3K27ac. When we examined all the samples for a given Carnegie stage,
111 we identified thousands of enriched regions, at each stage for each mark, that were
112 found in at least two biological replicates (**Fig. 2c**). Combined, these results indicated
113 our ChIP-Seq data from human embryonic tissues were of high quality, reflected the
114 previously described nature of these marks, and was likely to identify tissue-specific
115 regulatory sequences.

116 **Generation of Human Craniofacial Chromatin State Segmentations**

117 Defining enriched regions for a single histone modification such as H3K27ac has
118 been utilized to identify active regulatory sequences from a variety of tissues, biological
119 contexts, and different species³⁶⁻⁴⁰. However, in the absence of H3K27ac, other marks
120 can identify active regulatory sequences, and low levels of H3K27ac may be present at
121 enhancers that are either about to become active or are no longer active⁴¹⁻⁴³. More
122 advanced methods, such as using machine learning techniques and integrating multiple
123 chromatin signals from a single tissue, allow segmentation of the genome into a more
124 complex array of biological states^{44,45}. These techniques can identify tissue-specific and
125 disease-relevant regulatory information in a large cohort of tissues^{35,46}. To leverage
126 such available data to identify regulatory information likely to be critical for craniofacial
127 development, we processed our data in a uniform fashion to match those generated by
128 Roadmap Epigenome (Methods)²². Using p-value based signals^{47,48} for each of the six
129 epigenomic marks we assayed, along with the same type of signals for 12 epigenomic
130 marks for 127 tissues and cell types generated by Roadmap Epigenome, we imputed
131 our data to create a uniform, directly comparable dataset⁴⁹ (**Fig. 1c**). The imputed
132 samples' signals correlated well with their primary signals and clustered generally by
133 mark and biological function (**Fig. 3a and Supplementary Fig. 3**). Using the imputed
134 craniofacial data, we then segmented the genome for each embryonic sample based on
135 previously generated models of 15, 18, and 25 states of chromatin activity²². We
136 identified similar numbers and proportions of segments in each state in our tissues (**Fig.**
137 **3b and Supplementary Fig. 4**). The 25-state model results showed the most similar
138 trends across these measures and utilized all of the primary data generated in our study
139 when compared to those previously generated by Roadmap Epigenome (**Fig. 3c,d and**
140 **Supplementary Fig. 4**); therefore we focused our downstream analyses on these
141 segmentations. Using the 25-state segmentations, we reproducibly identified 75928
142 segments in at least one of six enhancer categories defined by Roadmap Epigenome
143 (EnhA1, EnhA2, EnhAF, EnhW1, EnhW2, and EnhAc). To determine if these
144 segmentations are enriched for craniofacial enhancers, we first turned to a large catalog
145 of experimentally validated developmental enhancers tested in mouse embryos and
146 available in the Vista Enhancer Browser⁵⁰. We identified over 80% of all craniofacial-

147 positive enhancers in this database. Moreover, our enhancer annotations were
148 significantly enriched for craniofacial enhancers versus those that lacked craniofacial
149 activity ($p = 3.28 \times 10^{-14}$) (**Fig. 4a,b and Supplementary Fig. 5**). While these results are
150 encouraging - namely, that our data identified craniofacial enhancers - they did not
151 reveal any specificity for craniofacial tissues in our chromatin state annotations. To
152 address this problem, we quantitatively compared H3K27ac signals at all enhancer
153 segments in our data with 127 samples from Roadmap Epigenome. Both hierarchical
154 clustering and principal component analysis showed that our samples were well
155 correlated with one another in this multi-tissue context (**Fig. 4c and Supplementary**
156 **Fig. 6**). They were most similar to embryonic stem cells (ESC) and cell types derived
157 from them (ESDR), but distinct from fetal and adult samples present in Roadmap
158 Epigenome data. Previous analyses of Roadmap Epigenome have identified a
159 significant number of enhancers that are tissue-specific²². To identify such novel
160 enhancers in craniofacial tissue we first determined if any of our enhancer segments
161 were ever annotated as such in the 127 samples obtained from Roadmap Epigenome.
162 We identified 6651 enhancer segments (8.7% of total craniofacial enhancer segments)
163 in our craniofacial epigenomic atlas that were never annotated as any type of enhancer
164 state in all of Roadmap Epigenome (**Supplementary Table 2**). To determine if these
165 sites are relevant for craniofacial development or represent spurious segmentations in
166 our data we analyzed sequence content of these regions and functional enrichments of
167 genes potentially regulated by these regions. When we assessed the novel craniofacial-
168 specific enhancers for enrichment of transcription factor binding sites, we identified
169 motifs matching those of *TWIST2*, *LMX1B*, *SIX1*, *NKX6.1*, multiple members of the *LHX*
170 and *HOX* families, and *TCF12*, all of which have been implicated in craniofacial and
171 skeletal development⁵¹⁻⁵⁷ (**Fig. 4d and Supplementary Table 3**). Utilizing the Genomic
172 Regions Enrichment of Annotations Tool (GREAT)⁵⁸, we found significant enrichment of
173 craniofacial-specific enhancers assigned to genes associated with craniofacial
174 abnormalities such as cleft palate in both humans and mice (**Fig. 4e and**
175 **Supplementary Fig. 7**). Interestingly, we also identified more general categories of
176 enrichment amongst the putative gene targets including general transcriptional
177 activators (**Supplementary Table 4**). When we interrogated this list of transcription

178 factors, we found significant enrichment for expression in both craniofacial and
179 appendicular skeleton (**Fig. 4f**). These results suggest that many of the novel
180 craniofacial enhancers we identified are likely to play a direct role in patterning of the
181 bones of the face, jaws, and portions of the skull. However, it is unclear whether they
182 are directly involved in human craniofacial abnormalities.

183 To begin to explore this uncertainty, we turned to genome wide association data
184 obtained from the GWAS catalog related to orofacial clefting and craniofacial
185 morphology^{17,21,59-63}. We overlaid associations from these studies with each of the
186 segmentation maps from our data, as well as data from Roadmap Epigenome, and
187 assessed enrichment. We observed significant enrichment of orofacial clefting tag SNPs
188 in most of our craniofacial samples and relatively few Roadmap Epigenomes
189 (**Supplementary Fig. 8a**). These analyses identified several enhancer segments that
190 directly contain strong genetic associations. For instance, we identified a discrete
191 enhancer state in the noncoding region between *IRF6* and *DIEXF* that contains a tag
192 SNP previously associated with non-syndromic cleft lip and palate⁶⁴ (**Supplementary**
193 **Fig. 8b**). This particular region can directly influence *IRF6* expression and is potentially
194 a causative allele for orofacial clefting⁶⁵. We also identified 13 other regions that are
195 identified in craniofacial tissue and directly contain such tag SNPs, including an intronic
196 sequence of the *TXNDC16* gene⁵⁹ (**Supplementary Fig. 8c and Supplementary Table**
197 **5**). These findings suggest that our chromatin state maps will be extremely useful in
198 identifying and prioritizing causative variation in patients affected by craniofacial
199 abnormalities.

200 **Machine learning approaches to mining of activated craniofacial enhancer data.**

201 To more comprehensively explore our data for regions likely to be important for
202 craniofacial development and human disease, we turned to the unsupervised machine
203 learning method known as self-organizing maps. This approach is a powerful means to
204 identify relationships within large genomic datasets, but also allows fine-grained
205 analysis relevant to specific biological questions⁶⁶. We first extracted H3K27ac signals
206 from all of our craniofacial samples and all Roadmap Epigenome samples across all
207 enhancer segmentations, resulting in signal measurements for 425000 enhancer

208 segments in 146 epigenomes. The resulting matrix was used to train a self-organizing
209 toroid map with a map size of 2500 units; we selected the best scoring map from 50
210 map building trials. We then clustered each of the units of the map into metaclusters
211 and found 199 that identify enhancer segments that have similar signal properties and
212 are likely to be biologically related (**Fig. 5a**). For each enhancer segment, we assigned
213 potential target genes and overlaid the gene assignments to each unit. Based on these
214 gene assignments, we then determined the gene and human phenotype ontology
215 enrichments of each unit. This resource is available for interrogation via a standard web
216 browser, allowing for retrieval of regions, genes, and functional associations for each
217 unit and metacluster. Inspection of this map identified several metaclusters that showed
218 distinct H3K27ac activation in craniofacial tissues. These clusters were enriched for a
219 number of ontologies related to craniofacial biology and abnormalities. For example, we
220 identified a metacluster that showed significantly increased H3K27ac signal in
221 craniofacial samples relative to other tissue types and that is enriched for potential
222 target genes associated with various craniofacial abnormalities (**Fig. 5b**). We obtained
223 similar types of functional enrichments when performing k-means clustering directly on
224 the matrix of H3K27ac signals using the same number of clusters utilized for the self-
225 organizing map (**Supplementary Fig. 9a and Supplementary Table 6**). When we
226 assessed the sequence content of clusters most specific for craniofacial activity, we
227 identified enrichment of motifs for the *ALX*, *DLX*, *HOX*, and *MSX* families of transcription
228 factors (**Supplementary Fig. 9b**).

229 **Identification of novel craniofacial locus control region and potential regulatory** 230 **targets**

231 Thus far, our analyses have focused on the annotation and activation state of individual
232 genome segments in bulk. However, these enhancers likely do not operate in isolation
233 and clusters of enhancers activated in concert have been shown to be powerful
234 regulators of important genes for a given tissue or cell type⁶⁷. To identify such enhancer
235 clusters, we applied a sliding window approach to detect enrichment of craniofacial
236 enhancer states relative to both randomly chosen sequences as well as those identified
237 by Roadmap Epigenome. We identified 582 regions across the genome that

238 demonstrate high levels of craniofacial enhancer activity (**Supplementary Table 7**).
239 These windows had an average size of ~400kb but ranged up to 2 Mb in length. In
240 many cell types these clusters of enhancers, sometimes referred to as super
241 enhancers, are embedded in the genome both surrounding and within the introns of
242 their likely tissue-specific target⁶⁸. Indeed, most of the windows we identified contained
243 multiple genes and were enriched for developmental genes, including multiple *Frizzled*,
244 *WNT*, *ALX*, *DLX*, and *TBX* family members (**Supplementary Table 8**). Interestingly, we
245 identified 37 large windows that were located entirely in intergenic space and did not
246 overlap a promoter region for any known genes. These windows represent potentially
247 novel large clusters of regulatory regions, but their targets and activities are difficult to
248 interpret using linear genomic annotations and distances. Given that studies have
249 shown that our genome can form numerous long range interactions^{69,70}, especially
250 between regulatory regions, we sought to determine if any of these intergenic clusters of
251 putative enhancers could be important for craniofacial development by identifying direct
252 three-dimensional interactions in relevant tissues. To ensure that we were interrogating
253 bona fide enhancer clusters, we focused our downstream efforts on regions that
254 contained *in vivo*-validated craniofacial enhancers. We identified a single window
255 encompassing a 450kb region located on chromosome 7 that contains five confirmed
256 craniofacial enhancers from the Vista Enhancer Browser⁵⁰ (**Fig. 6a**). This region also
257 contains a unique chromatin signature at its 3' end, where strongly active and repressed
258 states are directly adjacent. This is most commonly observed at looping or topological
259 domain boundaries. Indeed, long-range contact maps from human umbilical vein
260 endothelial cells⁶⁹ indicate this observed chromatin state transition is a topologically
261 associated domain (TAD) boundary (**Supplementary Fig. 10**). We tested an element
262 annotated as a bivalent chromatin state, which is highly conserved across mammals,
263 near this chromatin boundary for enhancer activity⁷¹. It displayed strong craniofacial and
264 limb enhancer activity in the E11.5 mouse embryo (**Fig. 6a**). Inspection of chromatin
265 data from Mouse ENCODE⁷² indicate similar patterns of activation in the orthologous
266 window, suggesting functional conservation of chromatin state in this large region
267 (**Supplementary Fig. 11**). Having demonstrated that this region is enriched for
268 craniofacial enhancers and active chromatin states, we sought to determine the gene(s)

269 this region interacts with and potentially regulates. This region is located between the
270 *NPVF* and *NFE2L3* genes, neither of which appears to be active based on observed
271 chromatin states in developing human craniofacial tissue. The next closest target is
272 *CBX3*, which is strongly expressed in most cell types and has similar chromatin states
273 in both our tissues and in Roadmap Epigenome. Comparisons of the mouse and human
274 genomes revealed this window is part of a large syntenic block between the two species
275 which stretches nearly 10 Mb in length with the *HOXA* gene cluster at its center
276 (**Supplementary Fig. 12**). The enrichment for craniofacial enhancer annotations,
277 harboring of six *in vivo* validated craniofacial enhancers, potential TAD boundary, and
278 conservation both at the sequence and epigenomic level suggest this region is an
279 important regulatory hub.

280 Two control regions, the early limb control region (ELCR) and the global control
281 region (GCR), have been identified for the *HOXD* gene cluster that are important for
282 regulation of the cluster's expression in the developing mammalian limb. The exact
283 coordinates of the ELCR are unknown, but they are thought to be located in the large
284 noncoding region adjacent to the cluster, while the GCR is approximately 250kb away,
285 beyond the *LNP* gene^{73,74}. No such control regions have been identified or described for
286 the *HOXA* cluster. Furthermore, loss of at least one gene in the cluster, *HOXA2*, has
287 been implicated in cranial neural crest skeletal morphogenesis and results in mice born
288 with cleft palates and other craniofacial abnormalities^{57,75}. The region we have identified
289 is located nearly 1.5 Mb from the *HOXA* cluster and contains at least seven annotated
290 genes in the intervening genomic sequence; thus it is not clear whether this region
291 could regulate the *HOXA* gene cluster. Utilizing circularized chromosome conformation
292 capture with sequencing⁷⁶ (4C-seq) we assessed the interactions of four viewpoints in
293 this window in E11.5 mouse craniofacial tissue. For two viewpoints, we identified
294 extensive interactions within the identified window that do not cross the putative TAD
295 boundary. When we assessed viewpoints flanking the TAD boundary, one of which
296 contained the active enhancer HACNS50⁷¹, we observed interactions within this
297 identified region as well as significant interactions with the *HOXA* gene cluster (**Fig. 6b**).
298 To confirm these interactions, we performed additional 4C-seq experiments utilizing
299 viewpoints located directly within the *HOXA* cluster and the promoter of the *SKAP2*

300 gene. We observed strong interactions between both of these viewpoints and the TAD
301 boundary of the original window. Interestingly, *HOXA* made contacts with the outer
302 limits of this window but not within the window. These findings illustrate that the region
303 we identified in human craniofacial tissue makes strong contacts over nearly 1.5 Mb
304 with genes of the *HOXA* cluster in developing mouse craniofacial tissue and indicate it
305 could be a conserved global control region important for craniofacial development.

306 **Discussion**

307 Our understanding of the regulation of craniofacial development and the genetic
308 changes that give rise to developmental defects has not advanced greatly in the last
309 decade despite it being a heavily studied area of human and mouse biology and the
310 advent of more advanced genomic technologies. Recent large consortia efforts to
311 identify the genetics of common disease have gained traction utilizing tissue-specific
312 annotations of the genome to identify potential regulatory regions and overlaying
313 genetic associations^{33,34}. Such genetic association data exist for craniofacial
314 abnormalities, but the lack of craniofacial-specific annotations of regulatory function
315 have prevented systematic identification of causal genetic changes. We have
316 addressed this need by generating an extensive resource of functional genomics data
317 obtained directly from human craniofacial tissues during important stages of formation
318 of the orofacial apparatus. We have uniformly processed our data to allow integration of
319 these data with similarly generated signals from a variety of human tissues and
320 developmental stages. These analyses have allowed us to generate craniofacial-
321 specific annotations of chromatin states across the human genome. These chromatin
322 state segmentations reveal tens of thousands of regions with potential gene regulatory
323 activity in craniofacial development. Over 6000 of the enhancer segments we identified
324 have never been annotated previously as having enhancer activity in 127 different cell
325 types. These regions are strongly enriched near genes implicated in craniofacial
326 development and would have remained unknown to craniofacial researchers relying
327 solely on the current state of genome annotations. Indeed, recent targeted sequencing
328 of GWAS intervals at 13 loci in patients affected by craniofacial abnormalities likely
329 excluded important craniofacial regulatory regions due to the lack of appropriate

330 chromatin state annotations⁷⁷ (**Supplementary Fig. 13**). These findings illuminate that
331 our current understanding of the regulatory information our genomes encode is
332 incomplete and reinforces the need for more and higher resolution tissue-specific
333 chromatin state annotations.

334 To illustrate the utilization of this resource we analyzed these data in many
335 different fashions to narrow down particular regions of interest and to interrogate them
336 for genetic and functional associations with craniofacial development. Furthermore, we
337 demonstrated that once a region of interest has been identified, it is possible to develop
338 a hypothesis of potential gene regulatory targets and directly test them *in vivo* in the
339 context of both genomic and functional conservation in the mouse. Here, we chose to
340 focus on clusters of craniofacial enhancer segments that have been functionally verified
341 in the developing mouse embryo to ensure relevance for craniofacial biology. Our
342 windowing approach identified an extremely dense, large array of craniofacial
343 enhancers, suggesting we have identified an important regulatory hub. The
344 conservation of activating histone modification signals in developing mouse craniofacial
345 tissues indicates this region is likely important for the formation of craniofacial features
346 in multiple species. Additionally, the identification of direct long-range interactions
347 between portions of this unique enhancer region, including a rapidly evolving conserved
348 non-coding sequence (HACNS50)⁷¹, with the *HOXA* gene cluster suggest this region
349 could be important not only for normal craniofacial development but also for evolution of
350 the human skull. Lastly, this region has been implicated as a uniquely deleted segment
351 in a patient with facial dysgenesis⁷⁸ (**Supplementary Figure 10**). This patient was
352 noted to have overtly normal organs and brain activity despite lacking most features of a
353 face resembling other non-syndromic abnormalities caused by regulatory sequence
354 defects²³⁻²⁶. Further genetic dissection of this region in cultured human cells or in the
355 developing mouse are needed to determine the role this region plays in regulating this
356 conserved cluster of *HOXA* genes .

357 We provide all our craniofacial functional genomics data and resulting chromatin
358 state segmentations in several standard formats as well as a complete catalog of tracks
359 that can be easily loaded into many modern genome browsers. Additionally, we provide
360 our self organizing map of active enhancers across 146 samples as a website that can

361 be explored by a variety of researchers to interrogate the regions, genes, and
362 phenotypes relevant for their research without high level computational processing or
363 expertise.

364 (https://cotneylab.cam.uhc.edu/~jcotney/CRANIOFACIAL_HUB/Craniofacial_H3K27ac_SOM/). This
365 will allow the craniofacial community to develop hypotheses related to craniofacial
366 abnormalities which are rooted in craniofacial biology instead of using chromatin state
367 annotations from other tissues not directly related to the tissue of interest. These
368 resources stand to bring the craniofacial research world firmly into the functional
369 genomics era, advance our understanding of these disorders, and provide tools for
370 clinicians seeking to diagnose patients utilizing whole genome sequencing.

371

372 **Acknowledgements**

373 We would like to thank the donors to HDBR, as without them this resource would not be
374 possible. We would also like to thank Camden Jansen and Ali Mortazavi for assistance
375 in generation of the self-organizing map resource and Heather Adinolfi for technical
376 assistance in the transgenic enhancer assay. Funding support was provided by an R00
377 award from NIDCR to J.C.

378 **Author Contributions**

379 All ChIP experiments were performed by J.C. Sequencing libraries and sequencing runs were
380 performed by J.K. Data analysis was performed by J.C. 4C-Seq experiments and analysis were
381 performed by A.W. Writing and data interpretation were performed by all authors.

382 **Data and Code Availability**

383 All data can be visualized in the UCSC Genome Browser using track hub functionality. Hub files
384 and interesting browser examples can be found on our website:
385 <http://cotney.research.uhc.edu/data/>

386

387 ChIP-Seq signals, peak calls, chromatin state segmentations and 4C-Seq data are available at
388 GEO accessions GSE98251 and GSE97752.

389

390 All generic scripts used in processing ChIP-Seq and generating chromatin states are available
391 on github: <https://github.com/cotneylab/ChIP-Seq>

392

393 All generic scripts for processing of 4C-Seq data from mouse are available on github:
394 <https://github.com/cotneylab/Mouse-HOXA-4C-Seq>

395

396 **Methods**

397 **Tissue Collection and fixation**

398 Use of human fetal tissue was reviewed and approved by the Human Subjects Protection
399 Program at UConn Health. Human embryonic craniofacial tissue was collected, staged and
400 provided by the Joint MRC/Wellcome Trust Human Developmental Biology Resource
401 (www.hdbr.org). Tissues were flash frozen upon collection and stored at -80°C. Fixation for
402 ChIP-Seq was performed as described in Cotney and Noonan, 2015⁷⁹. Briefly, each tissue
403 sample was rapidly thawed in 1 mL of ice cold phosphate buffered saline (PBS) and briefly
404 homogenized with a disposable plastic pestle in a 1.5 mL microcentrifuge tube. Samples were
405 then fixed by the addition of formaldehyde to a final concentration of 1% and incubated at room
406 temperature on a rotisserie for 15 minutes. Samples were then quenched with 150 mM glycine
407 at 10 minutes at room temperature. Tissue was collected by centrifugation (5 min, 2500g, 4°C)
408 and washed with 1 mL of fresh PBS. Fixed tissue pellets were then rapidly frozen in a dry
409 ice/alcohol bath and stored at -80°C until batch processing for chromatin immunoprecipitation
410 (ChIP).

411 **Antibody Specifications**

412 Antibodies used in this study: anti-H3K27ac (ab4729, Abcam), anti-H3K4me1 (ab8895, Abcam),
413 anti-H3K4me2 (ab7777, Abcam), anti-H3K4me3 (ab8580, Abcam), anti-H3K27me3 (07-449,
414 EMD Millipore), anti-H3K36me3 (ab9050, Abcam).

415 **ChIP-Seq**

416 Fixed tissue pellets were processed for ChIP as previously described⁷⁹. Briefly, samples were
417 thawed in 1 mL of 1x Cell Lysis buffer and incubated on ice for 20 minutes. Cells were lysed
418 with dounce homogenization and nuclei were collected by centrifugation (5 min, 2500g, 4°C).

419 Nuclei were resuspended in 300 μ L of 1x Nuclear Lysis buffer + 0.3% SDS + 2 mM sodium
420 butyrate and incubated on ice for 20 minutes. Chromatin was sheared with a Qsonica Q800R1
421 sonicator system operating at amplitude 20 and 2 \square for 30 minutes (10 seconds duty, 10
422 seconds rest). Samples were cleared by centrifugation (5 min, 20,000g, 4 \square) and soluble
423 chromatin was transferred equally into six separate tubes with 10% reserved as an input control.
424 SDS concentration was reduced to 0.18% with ChIP Dilution buffer. Protein G Dynabeads
425 (ThermoFisher) separately preloaded with 2 μ g of antibodies listed above were added to each
426 chromatin aliquot. ChIP samples were incubated overnight at 4 \square on a rotisserie. Chromatin was
427 then immunoprecipitated on a magnet and supernatant was discarded. Beads were washed 8
428 times with 1 mL of 500 mM LiCl ChIP-Seq Wash Buffer and once with 1 mL of TE. Chromatin
429 was eluted from the beads twice with ChIP Elution buffer at 65 \square for 10 minutes with constant
430 agitation. Combined eluates for each ChIP were subjected to crosslink reversal overnight at
431 65 \square . Samples were then sequentially treated with RNAse A and proteinase K, purified with a
432 PCR Purification Kit (Qiagen), and eluted in 50 μ L of EB. ChIP samples were then quantified
433 with picoGreen (ThermoFisher) and prepared for sequencing on Illumina instruments using the
434 ThruPLEX 48S Library Prep kit (Rubicon Genomics) according to manufacturer's instructions.
435 Final libraries were quantified by QPCR (NEBNext Library Quant Kit for Illumina), multiplexed,
436 and sequenced for 75 cycles across multiple flow cells on an Illumina NextSeq 500 instrument.

437 **Primary ChIP-Seq Data Analysis**

438 Sequencing data was directly retrieved from Illumina's BaseSpace Cloud service using
439 Basemount command line tools provided by Illumina. Multiple FASTQs for each ChIP were
440 combined and assessed for quality using FASTQC (v0.11.2)⁸⁰ and compared visually using
441 MultiQC (v0.9)⁸¹. Reads were then aligned to the human genome (hg19) using Bowtie2
442 (v2.2.5)⁸² keeping only uniquely mapped reads. Fragment sizes of each library were estimated
443 using PhantomPeakQualTools (v.1.14)⁴⁷. Histone modification enriched regions were identified
444 and annotated using HOMER (v4.8.3)⁸³. Reproducibly enriched regions were determined by
445 creating a union of all enriched regions for a respective histone modification from all replicates
446 of a single Carnegie stage and filtering for regions identified in at least two biological replicates
447 using BEDtools (v2.25.0)⁸⁴. We then generated p-value based signal tracks relative to
448 appropriate input controls based on estimated library fragment size using MACS2
449 (2.1.1.20160309)⁴⁸. All signal and enriched region files were converted for display in the UCSC
450 Genome Browser using the Kent Source Tools (v329)⁸⁵. Correlations of ChIP-Seq signals and

451 Principal Component Analysis across samples and marks were calculated in non-overlapping
452 10kb windows using deepTools2 (v2.5.0.1)⁸⁶.

453 **Roadmap Epigenome Data Retrieval**

454 Aligned and consolidated primary ChIP-Seq reads in tagAlign format were retrieved from
455 Roadmap Epigenome for eleven epigenomic signals: H2A.Z, H3K4me1, H3K4me2, H3K4me3,
456 H3K9ac, H3K9me3, H3K27ac, H3K27me3, H3K36me3, H3K79me2, and H4K20me1.
457 (<http://egg2.wustl.edu/roadmap/data/byFileType/alignments/consolidated/>). To ensure the most
458 compatible signals with our data, p-value signals were generated by MACS2 from these data
459 based on library fragment sizes reported by Roadmap Epigenome as above. DNase p-value
460 signals were retrieved directly from Roadmap Epigenome
461 (<http://egg2.wustl.edu/roadmap/data/byFileType/signal/consolidated/macs2signal/pval/>) and
462 converted from bigWig to bedGraph for use with ChromImpute⁴⁹ using Kent Source Tools⁸⁵.
463 Chromatin state segmentations for 127 epigenomes and associated 15-, 18-, and 25-state
464 model files were retrieved from Roadmap Epigenome
465 (<http://egg2.wustl.edu/roadmap/data/byFileType/chromhmmSegmentations/ChmmModels/>).

466 **Chromatin Imputation**

467 Bedgraph files for all p-value signals from primary ChIP-Seq data were converted to 25 bp
468 resolution and processed for model training and generation of imputed signals for all samples
469 using ChromImpute (v1.0.1) as previously described⁴⁹. Resulting imputed signal tracks were
470 converted to bigWig format for display in UCSC genome browser and converted to combined
471 signal format at 200 bp resolution for use with ChromHMM (v1.12)⁴⁴ using deepTools2⁸⁶.

472 **Chromatin State Segmentation**

473 Signal files for individual chromosomes for each craniofacial epigenome were binarized and
474 segmentation was performed using previously published joint 15-, 18-, and 25-state chromatin
475 models using ChromHMM as previously described²². Following segmentation, annotation of
476 states and generation of genome browser files was performed based on annotations provided
477 by Roadmap Epigenome. Individual models of 15, 18 and 25 chromatin states were also
478 learned for each craniofacial epigenome using default settings in ChromHMM. Pearson
479 Correlations and Principal Component Analyses were performed on total H3K27ac signals
480 extracted observed in all imputed p-value signal tracks for craniofacial and Roadmap

481 Epigenome samples from the union of all enhancer state segmentations (EnhA1, EnhA2,
482 EnhAF, EnhW1, EnhW2, and EnhAc) using deepTools2⁸⁶. All plots were made using tabular
483 data generated by deepTools2 in R (v3.3.3)⁸⁷.

484 **Functional Enrichments in Craniofacial Epigenomes**

485 Craniofacial enhancer state segmentations (EnhA1, EnhA2, EnhAF, EnhW1, EnhW2, and
486 EnhAc) were interrogated for tissue activity in the developing mouse embryo from the Vista
487 Enhancer Browser⁵⁰. Significance of overlap of enhancers identified in human craniofacial tissue
488 and shown to be active in mouse craniofacial tissue relative to all other tissue annotations was
489 determined using Fisher's exact test. To identify totally novel craniofacial enhancers, enhancer
490 state segmentations for all craniofacial segmentations were interrogated for single base overlap
491 with the same states from all Roadmap Epigenomes using BEDtools⁸⁴. These novel craniofacial
492 enhancer segmentations were assessed for gene ontology and functional enrichments based on
493 assigned target genes using GREAT (v3.0.0)⁵⁸. Genes identified as transcriptional regulators by
494 GREAT were assessed for enrichment of anatomical expression using default parameters in
495 GeneORGANizer⁸⁸. Sequence from novel craniofacial enhancer segmentations was extracted
496 from hg19 using fastaFromBed within BEDTools⁸⁴. The resulting sequences were assessed for
497 transcription factor motif enrichment using HOMER⁸³. Enhancer state segmentations from
498 craniofacial epigenomes and all Roadmap epigenomes were interrogated for significance of
499 overlap with GWAS tag SNPs associated with orofacial clefting and craniofacial
500 morphology^{17,21,59-63} obtained from the GWAS Catalog (retrieved 2017-02-20)⁸⁹ using Fisher's
501 exact test within BEDTools⁸⁴.

502 **Self-Organizing Maps of Enhancer Activation**

503 The self-organizing map of H3K27ac signal at all enhancer segments was generated as
504 previously described⁶⁶. Briefly, a union of all enhancer segmentations from craniofacial tissues
505 and all samples in Roadmap Epigenome was generated and merged to form a consistent
506 annotation of enhancers across the entire genome resulting in 425380 individual enhancer
507 segments. H3K27ac signals from imputed p-value signal tracks for each of the 146 epigenomes
508 were extracted for each of the 425380 enhancer segments. This matrix was then used to train a
509 self-organizing map with 50 rows and 50 columns (2500 units) to allow for the possibility of
510 small numbers of highly tissue-specific enhancers (<200) to be clustered together. We
511 performed 50 training trials and retained the best scoring map. For this final self-organizing map

512 we then annotated each unit with Ensembl (v75) genes based on association rules defined by
513 GREAT⁵⁸. Based on these unit/gene assignments we then determined enrichment of gene
514 ontologies (<http://geneontology.org/ontology/go.obo>) and human phenotype ontologies from the
515 Monarch Initiative⁹⁰ (<http://purl.obolibrary.org/obo/hp.obo>) as previously described⁹¹. Clusters of
516 units, or metaclusters, were then determined with four separate trials testing for the presence of
517 up to 250 metaclusters as previously described⁶⁶. The algorithm converged on 199 clusters as
518 optimal for the self-organizing map generated above. Metaclusters were then assessed for
519 functional enrichments as was done for individual units above. Metaclusters identified as
520 specific for craniofacial and brain tissues were visualized using a JavaScript web-based viewer
521 of the self-organizing map available here:
522 https://cotneylab.cam.uchc.edu/~jcotney/CRANIOFACIAL_HUB/Craniofacial_H3K27ac_SOM/

523 **K-means clustering of Enhancer Activation**

524 K-means clustering of the same H3K27ac signal matrix utilized for the self-organizing map was
525 performed using Cluster (v3.0)⁹². Rows were centered on the mean value of the row and
526 normalized, the number of metaclusters identified in the self-organizing map analysis above was
527 used as the k parameter, and 100 runs were performed. The clustering result was then
528 visualized and craniofacial-specific clusters were extracted using Java TreeView⁹³. Sequences
529 underlying the enhancers in the craniofacial-specific clusters were extracted as above for novel
530 craniofacial enhancers. We performed motif enrichment within these sequences using a
531 combination of multiple tools for more robust enrichment determination⁹⁴. Functional enrichment
532 for these enhancers was determined as above using GREAT⁵⁸.

533 **Identification of Enhancer Clusters**

534 To identify clusters of craniofacial enhancers we first generated overlapping 200kb windows
535 with a 50kb step size⁸⁴. Next, we intersected these windows with all enhancer chromatin state
536 segmentations from craniofacial tissues. We then calculated the fraction of each window
537 annotated as an enhancer state. We tested for enrichment of enhancers in each window using
538 permutation testing by randomly shuffling the craniofacial enhancer segments across the
539 genome 1000 times using BEDtools⁸⁴ and determining the fraction of each window annotated as
540 an enhancer. Overlapping windows of significant enrichment were merged into a single
541 contiguous region. Final enriched regions were assessed for overlap with gene annotations and
542 validated craniofacial enhancers using BEDtools⁸⁴.

543 **Transgenic Enhancer Assay**

544 A 2.6 kb segment centered on the conserved sequence corresponding to HACNS50⁷¹ was
545 amplified from human genomic DNA by polymerase chain reaction (PCR) using the following
546 primers: HACNS50 F 5'-CACCCCATTTCTGAGGGGAAATAA-3', HACNS50 R 5'-
547 TTATTTCTTCAGGCCCTTG-3', and cloned into an Hsp68-lacZ reporter vector as previously
548 described⁹⁵. Generation of transgenic mice at the Yale University Transgenic Mouse Facility and
549 embryo staining were carried out as previously described⁹⁵. We required reporter gene
550 expression in a given structure to be present in at least three independent transgenic embryos
551 as assessed by two researchers to be considered reproducible.

552

553 **Circularized Chromosome Conformation Capture with Sequencing (4C-Seq)**

554 All animal work was done in accordance with approved University of Connecticut Health Center
555 IACUC protocols. 4C-seq was performed according to van de Werken et al. (2012)⁷⁶ with
556 modifications for tissue. Input mouse embryonic craniofacial and brain tissue from the same
557 litter was fixed and nuclei isolated following homogenization with a dounce tissue grinder as
558 described⁷⁹. Each replicate consists of tissue from an individual litter. Subsequent digestion and
559 ligation steps were followed from van de Werken et al. (2012)⁷⁶. Chromatin was digested
560 sequentially with NlaIII and DpnII. Amplification of final libraries was performed with primers
561 selected using a primer database generated for NlaIII/DpnII digestion as previously described⁷⁶.
562 The sequences added to these primers were modified to allow hybridization to NextSeq 500
563 flow cells and split across two sets of primers to improve efficiency and allow for dense
564 multiplexing (Table S9).

565 **4C-seq Data Analysis**

566 4C-seq libraries were sequenced for 75 cycles using the NextSeq500 (Illumina). Fastq files
567 were demultiplexed by barcode yielding Fastq files for each tissue replicate. Tissue replicate
568 Fastq files were further demultiplexed by viewpoint using Cutadapt (v1.8.3)⁹⁶. Trimmed reads
569 were uniquely aligned to mm9 using bowtie2⁸². Significant interactions in craniofacial tissue
570 were assessed using r3Cseq⁹⁷ with a modification allowing a larger viewing window near the
571 viewpoint (<https://github.com/cotneylab/r3Cseq>) and using brain as a control. The significant
572 interactions are represented in the accompanying track hub as bigBed files. The location of the
573 viewpoint and sequenced interacting fragment are denoted with thick bars. A thin bar is included
574 to denote the connection between the viewpoint and the distal sites.

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576

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- 803

804 **Figure Legends**

805 **Figure 1. Overview of Epigenomic Profiling of Early Human Craniofacial Development. a.**
806 Stages and craniofacial tissues (orange shading) of human embryonic development sampled in
807 this study indicated as Carnegie Stages (CS) or approximate post-conception weeks (pcw).
808 Voids or cleavages in the embryo are indicated by black shaded regions. **b.** Six post-
809 translational modifications of histones were profiled in parallel from individual human embryos
810 via ChIP-Seq. **c.** Signals from primary ChIP-Seq data were imputed using ChromImpute⁴⁹ to
811 match the 12 epigenomic signals profiled by Roadmap Epigenome²². Asterisks indicate signals
812 containing only imputed data. These imputed datasets were then used to predict chromatin
813 states using a Hidden Markov Model approach (ChromHMM)⁴⁴ across the genome for each
814 craniofacial tissue sample. These chromatin states were then used for downstream functional
815 analyses to determine relevance for craniofacial biology and disease.

816 **Figure 2. Histone Modification Profiles in Human Craniofacial Development.** **a.** Heatmap
817 and hierarchical clustering of pairwise Pearson correlations for non-overlapping 10kb bins
818 across the human genome for 114 individual histone modification profiles from human
819 craniofacial tissues. Relatedness of epigenomic profiles by sample indicated by dendrogram
820 along vertical axes of heatmap. Darker orange indicates positive correlation between datasets.
821 **b.** Genomic feature annotations identified by peak calls from six histone modification profiles
822 from the same tissue sample plotted as cumulative percentage of total peaks. Peak enrichments
823 and genomic annotations were performed using HOMER⁸³. **c.** Histone modification peaks
824 identified in at least two separate tissue samples from the same developmental stage and
825 annotated into three broad categories: promoter (2kb upstream of TSS), exons, and all other
826 intronic or intergenic locations.

827 **Figure 3. Imputation of Craniofacial Epigenomic Signals and Chromatin State**
828 **Segmentation.** **a.** Principal component analysis projection of first two component dimensions
829 for 252 imputed and 114 primary epigenomic profiles for human craniofacial samples across
830 non-overlapping 10kb bins. Samples are color coded by epigenomic mark and shapes indicate
831 primary versus imputed data types. Samples generally cluster into three broad categories of
832 activity: repression, regulatory element activation, and transcription regulation. **b.** Numbers of
833 individual chromatin state segments identified by each of the color coded 25 states of chromatin
834 activity based on imputed epigenomic signals for each of the 21 tissue samples profiled. **c.**
835 Comparison of cumulative percentage of each chromatin state between craniofacial samples
836 profiled here and 127 segmentations generated by Roadmap Epigenome²². **d.** Mean numbers of
837 segments annotated in each of the 25 states across 21 craniofacial samples (orange) and 127
838 Roadmap Epigenomes (gray). Error bars represent standard deviation. Overall chromatin state
839 segmentation in craniofacial samples identifies similar numbers and percentages of each of 25
840 states published by Roadmap Epigenome²².

841 **Figure 4. Chromatin State Segmentations Identify Novel Craniofacial Regulatory**
842 **Sequences.** **a.** Percentage of *in vivo* validated embryonic enhancers with (orange) or without
843 (grey) craniofacial activity from the Vista Enhancer Browser⁵⁰ identified by craniofacial
844 chromatin segments annotated as enhancer states. Significance determined by Fisher's exact
845 test. **b.** Selected validated enhancers with craniofacial activity identified by this study from the
846 the Vista Enhancer Browser. **c.** Principal component analysis projection of second and third
847 component dimensions for 146 H3K27ac profiles at 425380 regions annotated as enhancer
848 segments in any of the samples profiled here or Roadmap Epigenome. Samples are color
849 coded by group annotations assigned by Roadmap Epigenome or craniofacial samples from this

850 study. Percent of variance across samples explained by each component are indicated along
851 each axis. **d.** Transcription factor position weight matrices identified by HOMER⁸³ as enriched in
852 novel craniofacial enhancer segments. **e.** Significant enrichments of human disease phenotypes
853 for genes assigned to novel craniofacial enhancer segments as reported by GREAT⁵⁸. **f.**
854 Enrichment of anatomical expression of transcription factors identified as potentially regulated
855 by novel craniofacial enhancer segments as reported by GeneORGANizer⁸⁸. Heat indicates fold
856 enrichment of expression in individual anatomical region or organ. Craniofacial and
857 appendicular skeleton showed most significant enrichments.

858 **Figure 5. Self-Organizing Map for Biological Mining of Craniofacial Enhancers** **a.** Flattened
859 projections of toroid self-organizing map generated from H3K27ac signals from 146 samples
860 across 425380 enhancer segments consisting of 2500 individual hexagonal units for four
861 craniofacial tissues, four embryonic stem-cell and related cell types, and four adult brain tissues.
862 Higher scoring units in a given tissue are indicated by red, lower scoring units by blue. Two
863 selected metaclusters scoring highly for craniofacial or brain tissues are indicated by black
864 outlines. **b.** Fold enrichment (dots) and significance (bars) of top human disease phenotypes
865 associated with genes assigned to enhancer segments by GREAT⁵⁸ in each metacluster. A
866 metacluster highly scoring reproducibly in craniofacial tissues is enriched for enhancers
867 putatively assigned to genes associated with a wide variety of craniofacial abnormalities. A
868 metacluster highly scoring across brain tissues is enriched for diverse brain and neurological
869 diseases. While PCA and hierarchical clustering identified craniofacial tissues were more similar
870 to ESC and ESC-derived cell types, the self-organizing map identifies distinct clusters of
871 enhancers specific to craniofacial tissues.

872 **Figure 6. Identification of Potential Craniofacial Locus Control Region for *HOXA* Gene**
873 **Cluster.** **a.** Large 450kb window lacking any annotated protein-coding genes with extensive
874 enrichment of activated enhancer (yellow and orange) and transcriptionally active (green)
875 segment annotations in human craniofacial tissue. See Figure 3b for full annotations. Multiple
876 validated craniofacial enhancers have been identified in this window by the Vista Enhancer
877 Browser. In this study we tested and validated the craniofacial enhancer activity of HACNS50,
878 located within the bivalent chromatin state at the right of the displayed window. Segments
879 interrogated by 4C-Seq indicated by vertical colored viewpoint bars **b.** Approximately 3Mb
880 window of the human genome encompassing the window identified in panel **a** (black box) and
881 containing the *HOXA* gene cluster. **c.** Spidergrams indicating significant interactions between
882 color-coded viewpoints and distal sites identified by 4C-Seq in mouse E11.5 craniofacial tissue.
883 Viewpoints 1 and 2 do not cross putative TAD boundary near HACNS50 enhancer. Viewpoints 3

884 and 4 make significant contacts within identified window and with the *HOXA* gene cluster.
885 Reciprocal experiments from the *HOXA* gene cluster (viewpoint 6) indicated significant long-
886 range interactions with both boundaries of the window in panel **a**.

887 **Supplemental Figure and Table Legends**

888 **Supplemental figures and tables can be obtained from FigShare:**

889 [10.6084/m9.figshare.4954202](https://doi.org/10.6084/m9.figshare.4954202)

890

891 **Supplementary Figure 1. Detailed Histone Modification Profiles in Human Craniofacial**
892 **Development. a.** Heatmap and hierarchical clustering of pairwise Pearson correlations for 114
893 individual histone modification profiles from human craniofacial tissues. Darker orange indicates
894 positive correlation between datasets. Enlarged from **Fig. 2a** to include sample details, showing
895 samples cluster closely by histone mark. **b.** Correlation of only H3K27ac data contained in the
896 area boxed in black in part **a**. Heatmap and hierarchical clustering show that the samples cluster
897 well into groups by early or late stage of development.

898 **Supplementary Figure 2. Complete Histone Modification Profiles in Human Craniofacial**
899 **Development** Genomic feature annotations identified by peak calls from six histone
900 modification profiles from all craniofacial samples, across all Carnegie stages, plotted as
901 cumulative percentage of total peaks. Peak enrichments and genomic annotations were
902 performed using HOMER⁸³.

903 **Supplementary Figure 3. Imputed Histone Modification Profiles in Human Craniofacial**
904 **Development. a.** Heatmap and hierarchical clustering of pairwise Pearson correlations for
905 imputed histone modification profiles from human craniofacial tissues. Darker orange indicates
906 positive correlation between datasets. **b.** Heatmap and hierarchical clustering of pairwise
907 Pearson correlations for imputed and primary histone modification profiles from human
908 craniofacial tissues. Darker orange indicates positive correlation between datasets.

909 **Supplementary Figure 4. Imputation of Craniofacial Epigenomic Signals and Chromatin**
910 **State Segmentation in the 15-State (Primary) and 18-State (Auxiliary) ChromHMM models.**
911 **a.** Numbers of individual chromatin state segments identified by each of the color- coded 15
912 states of chromatin activity based on imputed epigenomic signals for each of the 21 tissue
913 samples profiled. **b.** Comparison of cumulative percentage of each chromatin state between
914 craniofacial samples profiled here and 127 segmentations generated by Roadmap
915 Epigenome²². **c.** Mean numbers of segments annotated in each of the 15 states across 21
916 craniofacial samples (orange) and 127 Roadmap Epigenomes (gray). **d.** Mean percentages of

917 segments annotated in each of the 15 states across 21 craniofacial samples (orange) and 127
918 Roadmap Epigenomes (gray). **e.** Same as in panel **a**, but for 18-State Model. **f.** Same as in
919 panel **b**, but for 18-State Model. **g.** Same as in panel **c**, but for 18-State Model. **h.** Same as in
920 panel **d**, but for 18-State Model. Error bars represent standard deviation. Overall chromatin
921 state segmentation in craniofacial samples identifies similar numbers and percentages of each
922 of the states published by Roadmap Epigenome²².

923 **Supplementary Figure 5. All Enhancers Tested for Craniofacial Activity** All enhancers
924 identified and tested by this study from the Vista Enhancer Browser. Enhancers with *hs* prefix
925 indicated the human genomic sequence was tested while those with the *mm* prefix indicate that
926 the orthologous sequence from mouse identified by this study was tested.

927 **Supplementary Figure 6. H3K27ac Signal at Enhancer Segments Allows for Correlation**
928 **by Tissue Type.** **a.** Heatmap and hierarchical clustering of pairwise comparisons of H3K27ac
929 signals at all enhancer segments in our craniofacial data and the 127 samples from Roadmap
930 Epigenome. Red coloring indicates positive correlation between datasets, blue indicates less
931 correlation. **b.** Principal component analyses of the first four component dimensions of H3K27ac
932 signals in a serial progressive fashion (i.e PC1 vs PC2, PC2 vs PC3, etc.). Samples are color
933 coded by tissue type.

934 **Supplementary Figure 7. Identification of Craniofacial-specific Enhancers Flanking *MSX2*.**
935 Enhancer states annotated by the 25-state model that are found only in craniofacial tissue but
936 not the 127 samples from Roadmap Epigenome are located upstream and downstream of
937 *MSX2*, a gene implicated in multiple craniofacial abnormalities. The enhancer states fall within a
938 region of conservation and are supported at top by ChIP signals from a single human
939 craniofacial tissue sample.

940 **Supplementary Figure 8. Integration of CL/P GWAS Data Places SNPs within**
941 **Craniofacial-specific Enhancers.** **a.** Enrichment analysis identified orofacial cleft GWAS tag
942 SNPs preferentially among craniofacial tissue. **b.** Enhancer state analysis permits placement of
943 a potentially causative allele for non-syndromic CL/P (rs642961) within a predicted early
944 development enhancer state. This enhancer state is located between *IRF6* and *DIEXF* and may
945 influence expression of *IRF6*. **c.** The orofacial cleft-associated tag SNP rs745080 resides within
946 the intron of *TXNDC16*, which is marked by a craniofacial-specific enhancer state.

947 **Supplementary Figure 9. Clustering Identifies Similar Functional Enrichment to Self-**
948 **Organizing Maps** **a.** K-means clustering performed directly on the matrix of H3K27ac signals,
949 using the same number of clusters utilized for the self-organizing map (199), showed distinct
950 H3K27ac activation in craniofacial tissues (enlarged section on the right). **b.** Analysis of the

951 sequence content of enhancer clusters most specific for craniofacial activity identified
952 enrichments of motifs for the *HOX*, *LHX*, *MSX* and *DLX* families of transcription factors.

953 **Supplementary Figure 10. Incorporation of Topologically Associated Domain Structure**
954 **and Clinical Case Suggests Interaction Between Distal Enhancer and HoxA Region.** Hi-C
955 data from HUVEC visualized using the Hi-C browser (<http://promoter.bx.psu.edu/hi-c/view.php>)
956 indicates an interaction between the *HOXA* cluster and an intergenic region approximately 1Mb
957 away from the anterior side. A deletion covering this region and notably leaving the *HOXA*
958 cluster intact has been described in a patient with facial dysgenesis⁷⁸ (indicated in purple).
959 The intergenic region contains a 450kb enhancer state, as represented by the 15-, 18-
960 and 25-state ChromHMM model of craniofacial data, with regions of high conservation.
961 Four viewpoints used in 4C-seq are indicated, flanking the region of interest. Seven
962 enhancers with craniofacial activity are located within this region, indicated by black
963 bars and representative images. Enhancers mm403-407 and hs1600 were tested by the
964 Vista Enhancer Browser⁵⁰, HACNS50 was tested independently.

965 **Supplementary Figure 11. Distal Regulatory Region Shares Chromatin State in Mouse.**
966 ChIP-Seq data from Mouse Encode for embryonic day 11.5 facial prominence display a
967 conserved set of chromatin marks in the region distal to the *HOXA* cluster suggesting a
968 conserved function in mouse craniofacial development.

969 **Supplementary Figure 12. Syntenic Block Near *HOXA* Cluster.** A comparison of a 10 Mb
970 window around the *HOXA* cluster on human Chromosome 7 shows synteny with mouse
971 Chromosome 6. In addition to the preservation of gene order, there is also preservation of a
972 large non-coding region distal to the anterior side of the *HOXA* cluster in mouse.

973 **Supplementary Figure 13. Targeted Sequencing of 13 Loci Identified by GWAS Studies to**
974 **be Important In Craniofacial Development Misses a Regulatory Region in *BMP4*.** The
975 study by Leslie et al.⁷⁷ performed targeted sequencing of a region of ~60 kb surrounding the
976 *BMP4* gene (black bar at top of figure). This region excluded a region immediately adjacent
977 (outlined by green box) identified as an enhancer by the 25-State, Imputed ChromHMM model
978 in all 21 craniofacial tissues analyzed.

979 **Supplementary Table 1.** Table showing, for each sample, for each mark, the number of total
980 sequencing reads, the number of uniquely mapped reads, the number of multi-mapped reads,
981 percentage of mapped reads, and percentage of uniquely mapped reads. Total numbers, in
982 billions, and means, in millions, are displayed in bottom two rows of the table.

983 **Supplementary Table 2.** Table showing all enhancer segments in craniofacial epigenomic atlas
984 that were never annotated as any type of enhancer state in all of Roadmap Epigenome.

985 **Supplementary Table 3.** Motifs identified for enrichment of transcription factor binding sites for
986 novel craniofacial-specific enhancers found in this study. Consensus motif sequence, p-values,
987 q-values, number of target sequences with the motif, percent of target sequences with the motif,
988 number of background sequences with the motif, and percent of all background sequences with
989 the motif are all indicated.

990 **Supplementary Table 4.** Functional categories with significant enrichment based on
991 assignment of craniofacial-specific enhancers to the nearest gene, using Genomic Regions
992 Enrichment of Annotations Tool (GREAT)⁵⁸.

993 **Supplementary Table 5.** Regions containing tag SNPS identified in craniofacial tissue and
994 associated with orofacial clefting, including gene assignments where applicable. Of note is a tag
995 SNP in the noncoding region between *IRF6* and *DEXIF*, as well as an intronic sequence within
996 the *TXNDC16* gene.

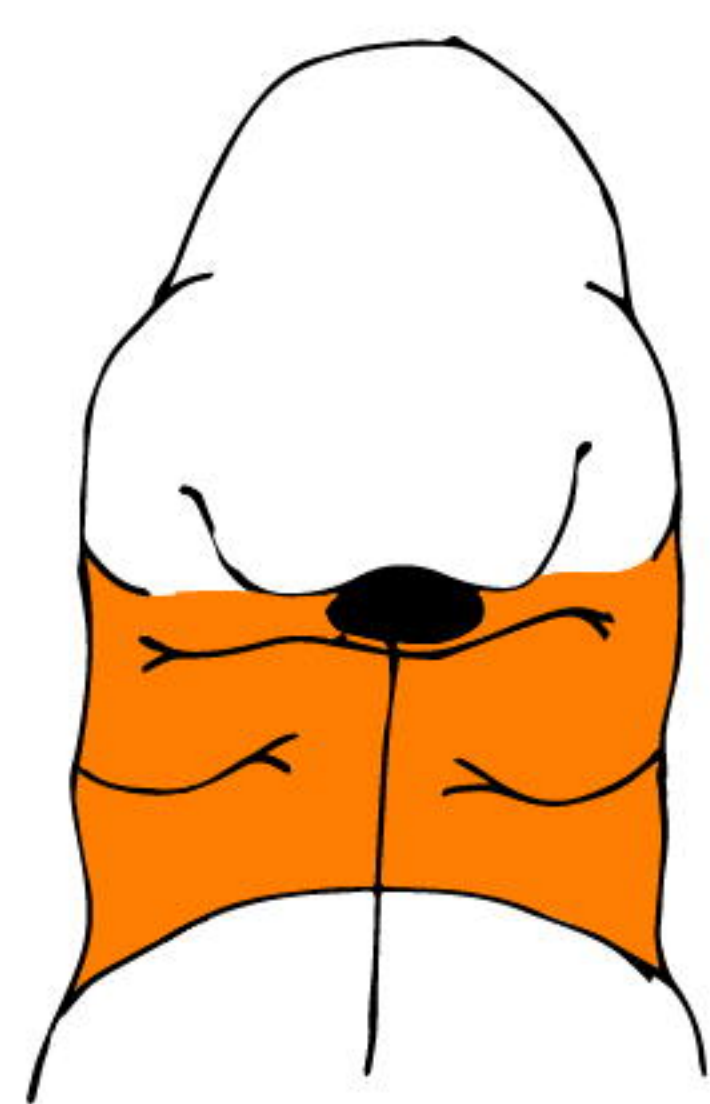
997 **Supplementary Table 6.** Functional categories with significant enrichment in the clusters of
998 craniofacial-specific enhancers (annotated to the the nearest gene) obtained from K-means
999 clustering on the matrix of H3K27ac signals using the same number of clusters utilized for the
1000 self-organizing map, using Genomic Regions Enrichment of Annotations Tool (GREAT)⁵⁸.

1001 **Supplementary Table 7.** Sheet1: 582 regions identified across the genome as containing
1002 significant fractions of bases annotated as craniofacial enhancers; start position, end position,
1003 and fraction of bases annotated as an enhancer state are shown. The second sheet shows
1004 individual window analysis with fold enrichment versus randomized enhancer segmentations
1005 and permutation p-values.

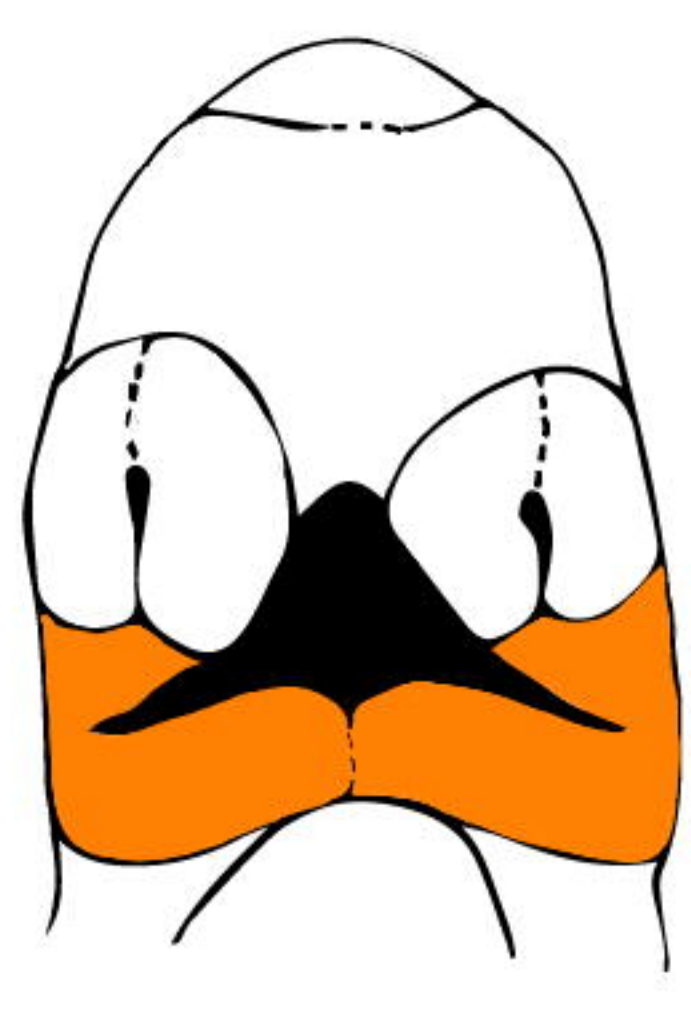
1006 **Supplementary Table 8.** Functional categories with significant enrichment based on
1007 assignment of enriched enhancer windows to the nearest gene, using Genomic Regions
1008 Enrichment of Annotations Tool (GREAT)⁵⁸.

1009 **Supplementary Table 9.** Primers used for 4C-Seq analysis in mouse craniofacial tissue.

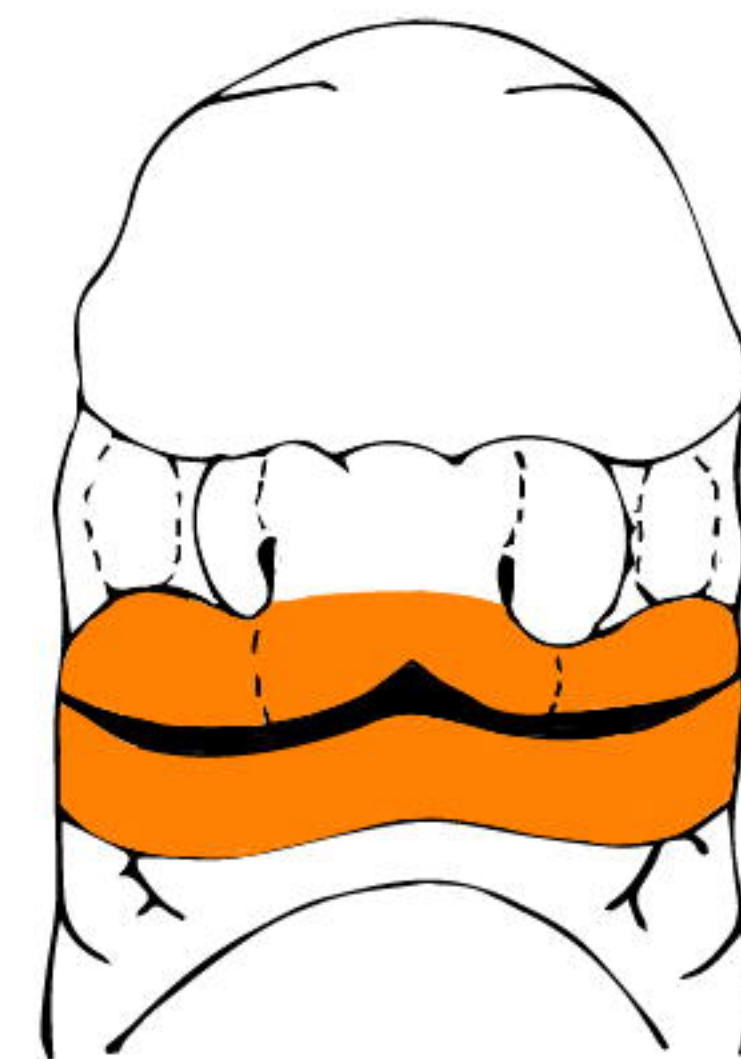
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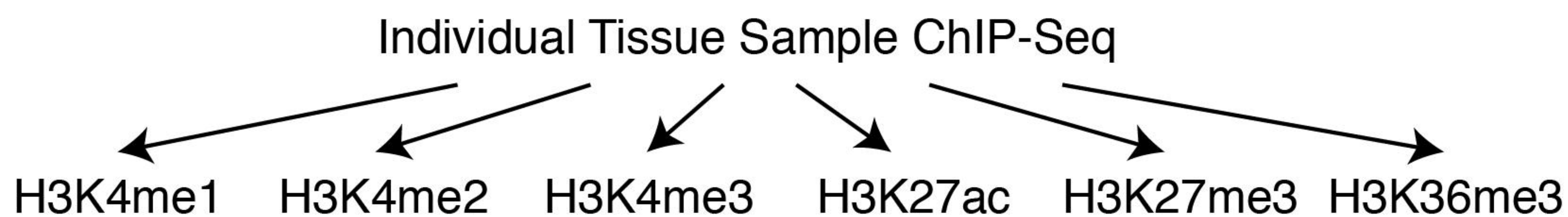
CS13
4 PCW



CS14-15
4.5 - 5.5 PCW

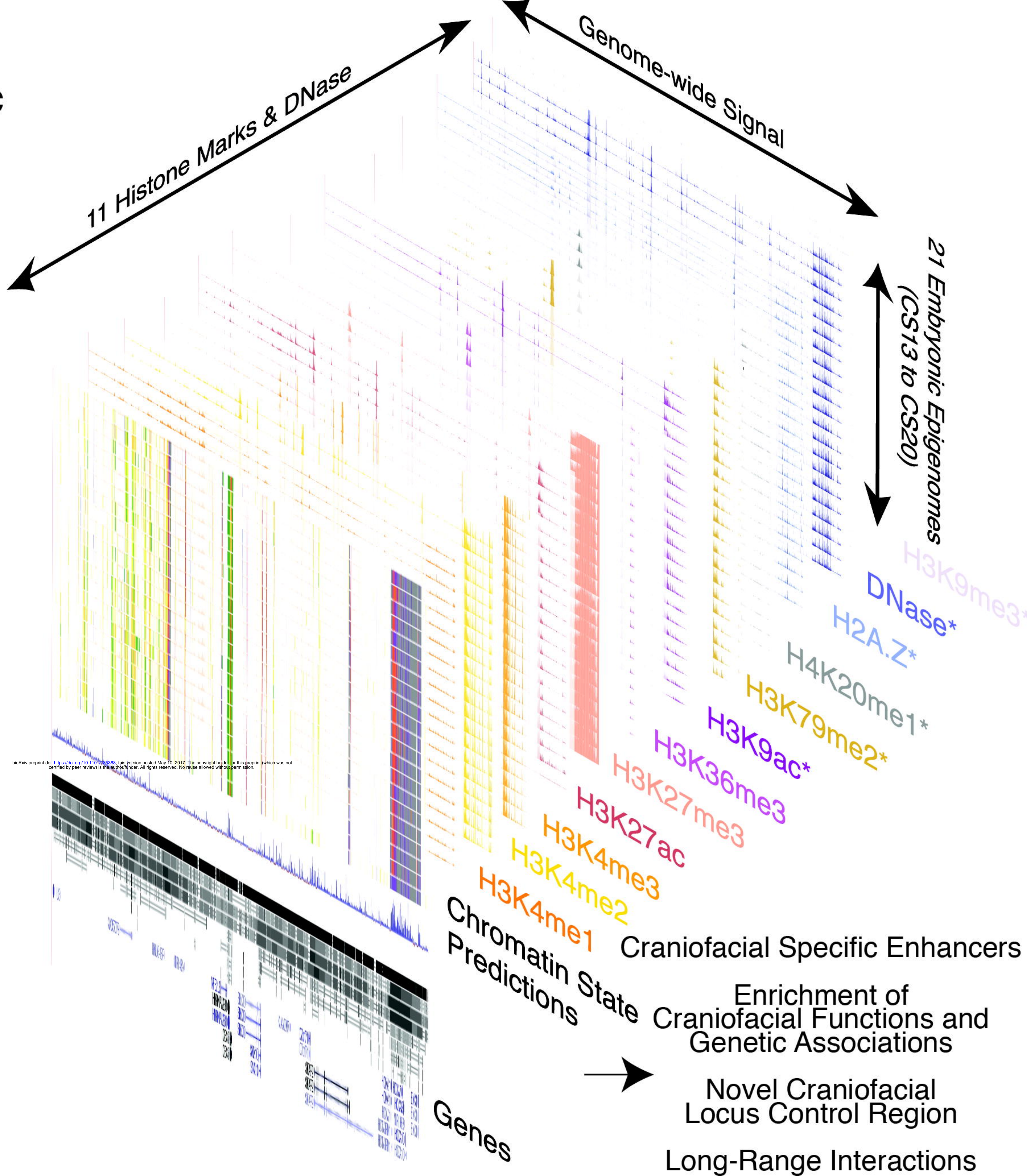


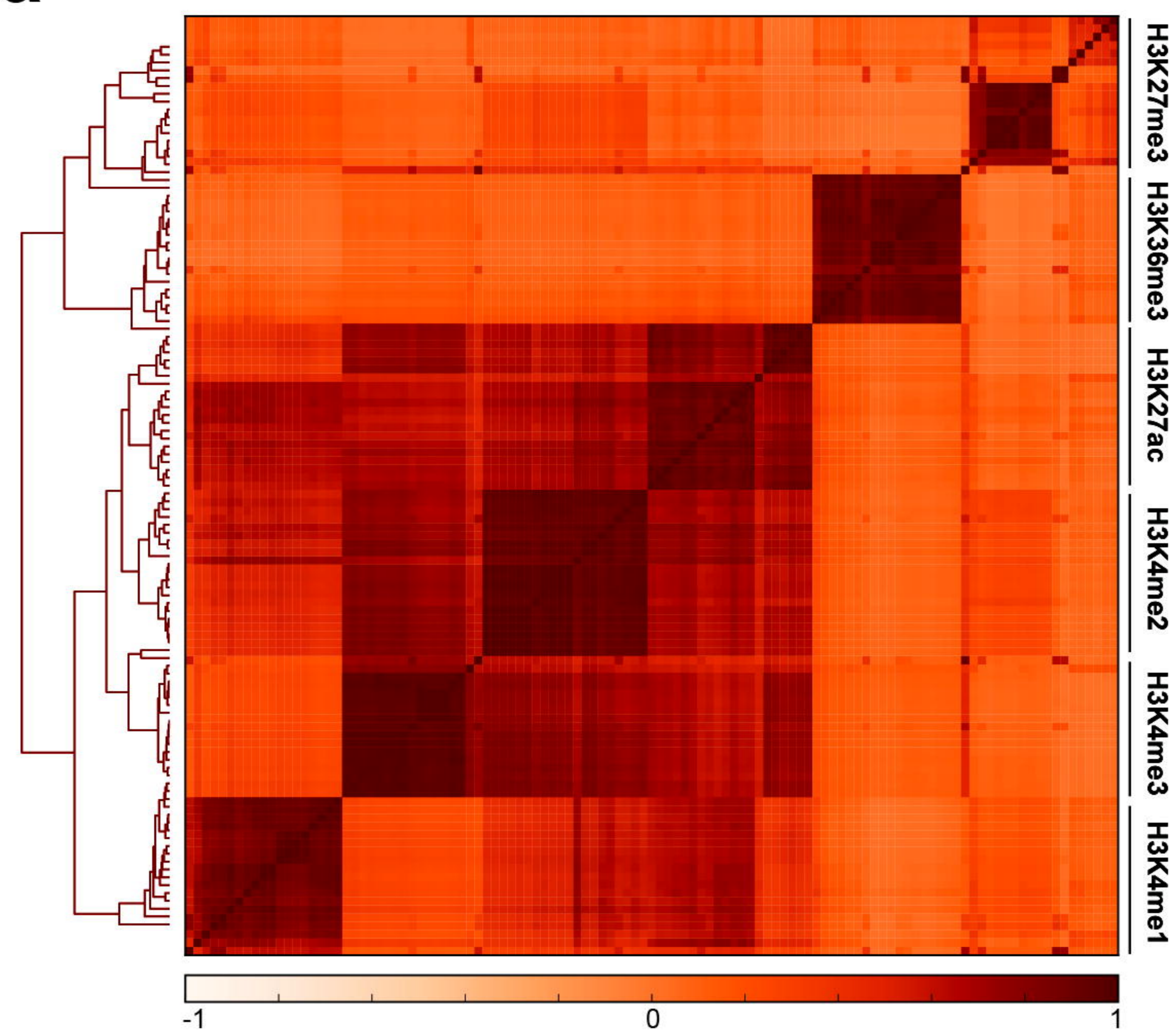
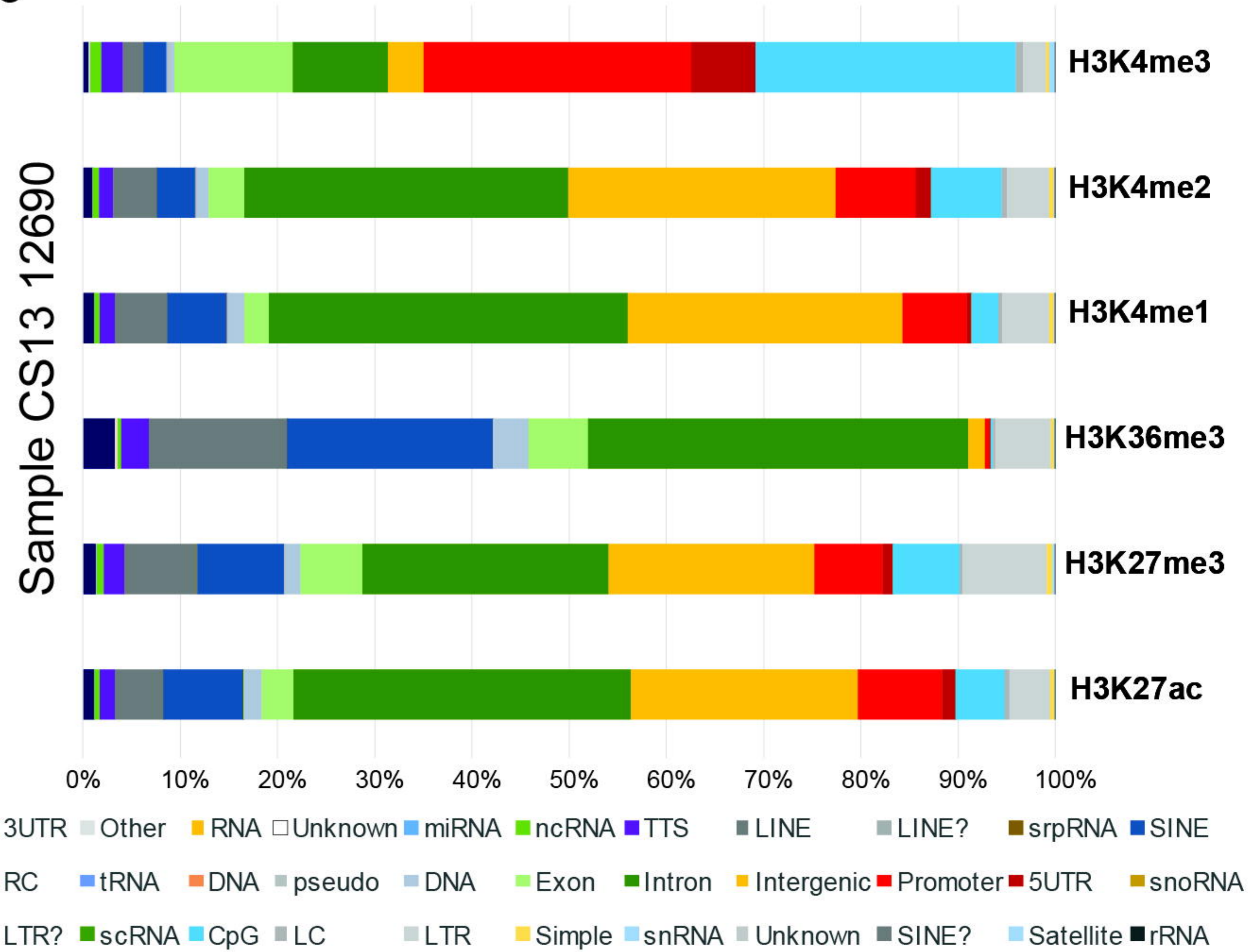
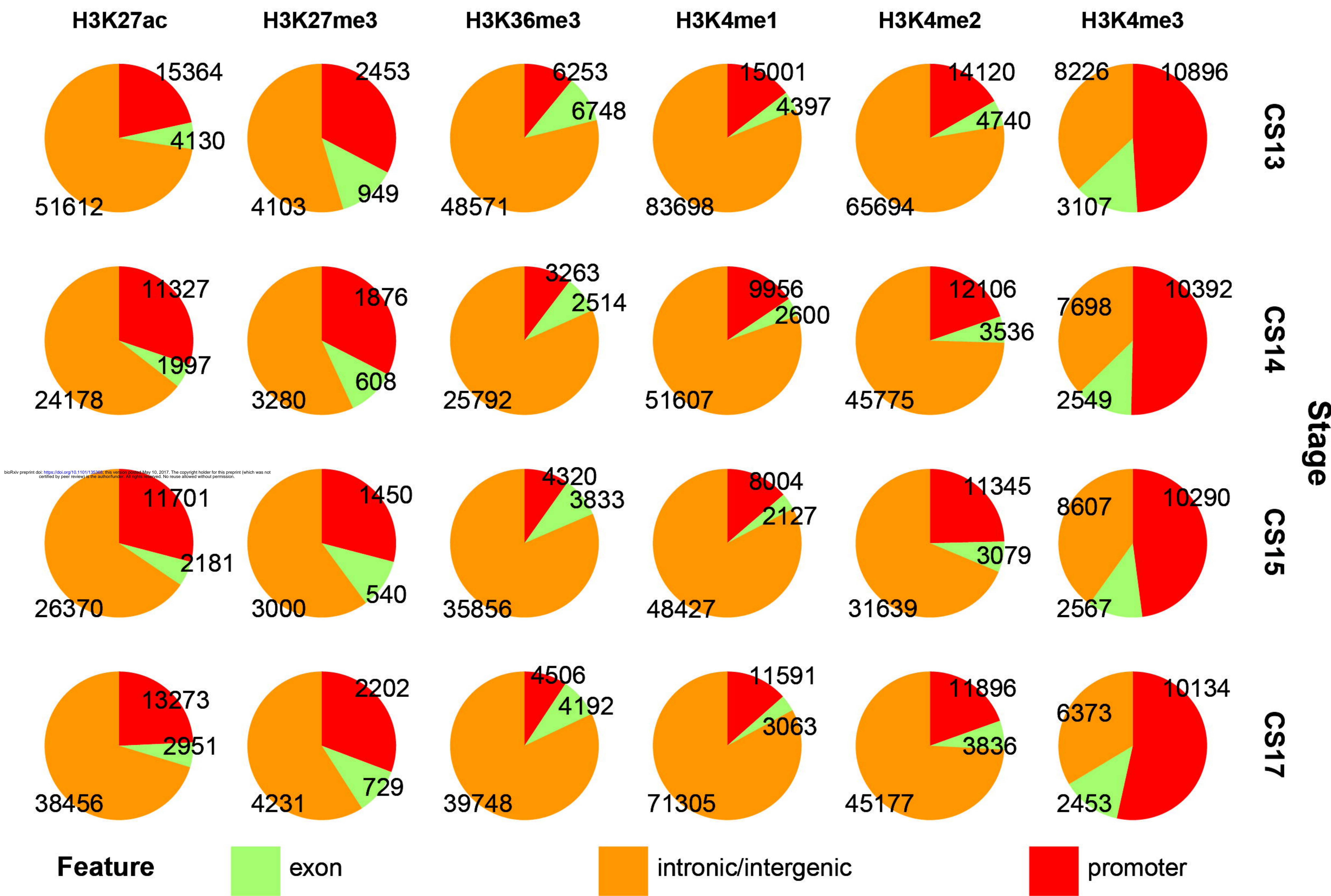
CS17
6 PCW

b

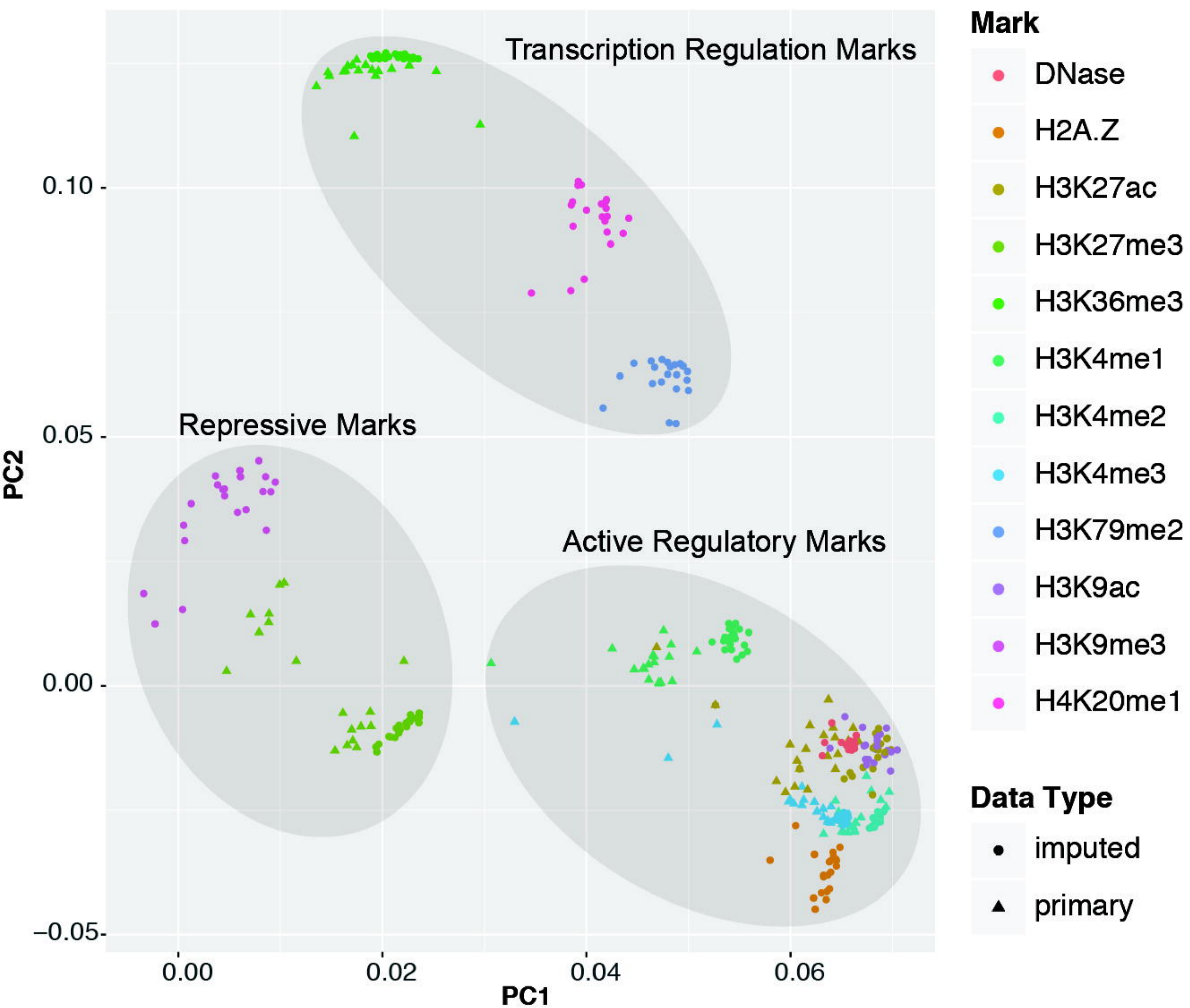
**Chromatin Signal
Imputation**

**Chromatin State
Segmentation**

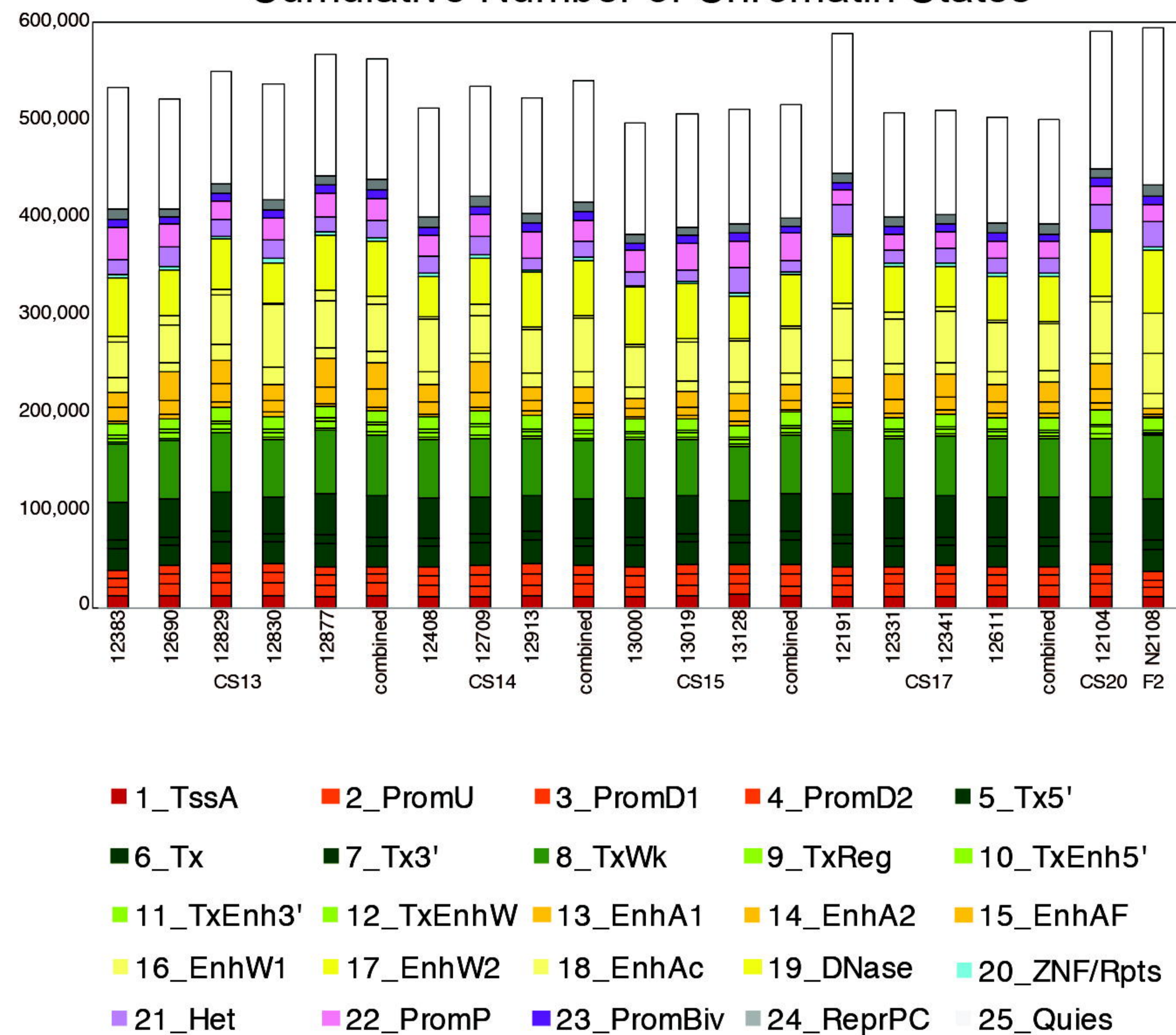
c

a**Primary ChIP-Seq Data****b****Genomic Features Identified by Each Mark****c****Reproducibly Enriched Regions**

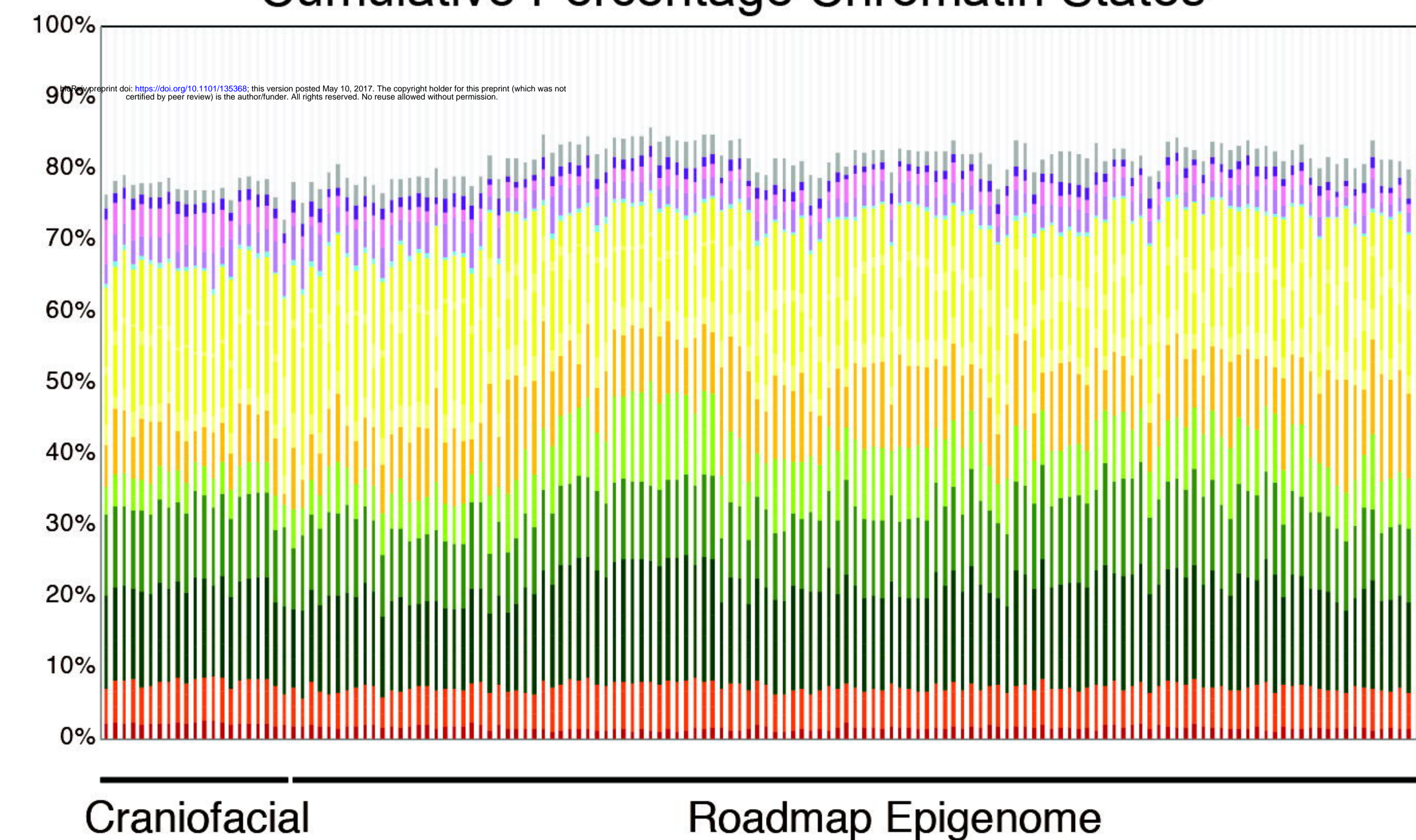
a Imputed ChIP-Seq Signals for Craniofacial Tissues



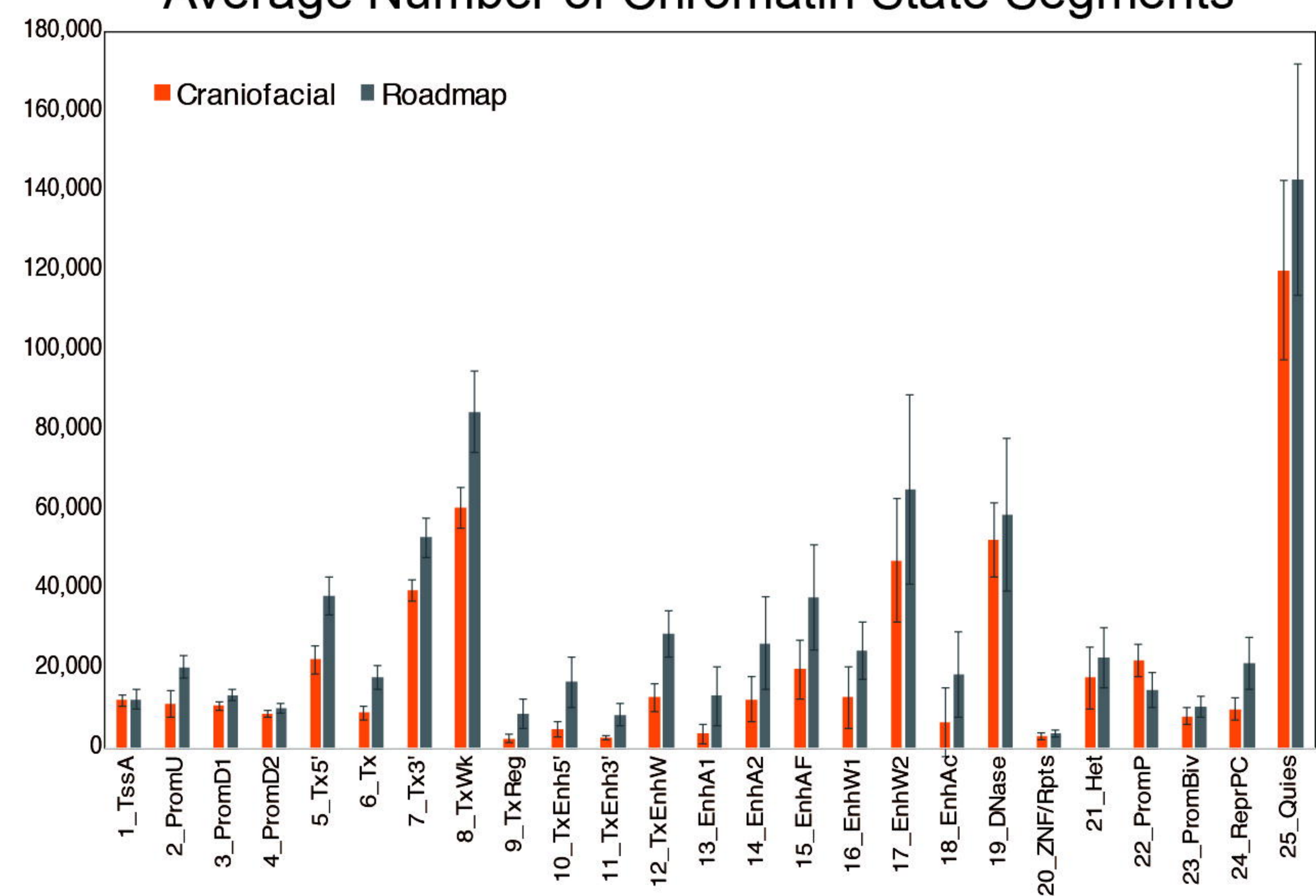
b Cumulative Number of Chromatin States

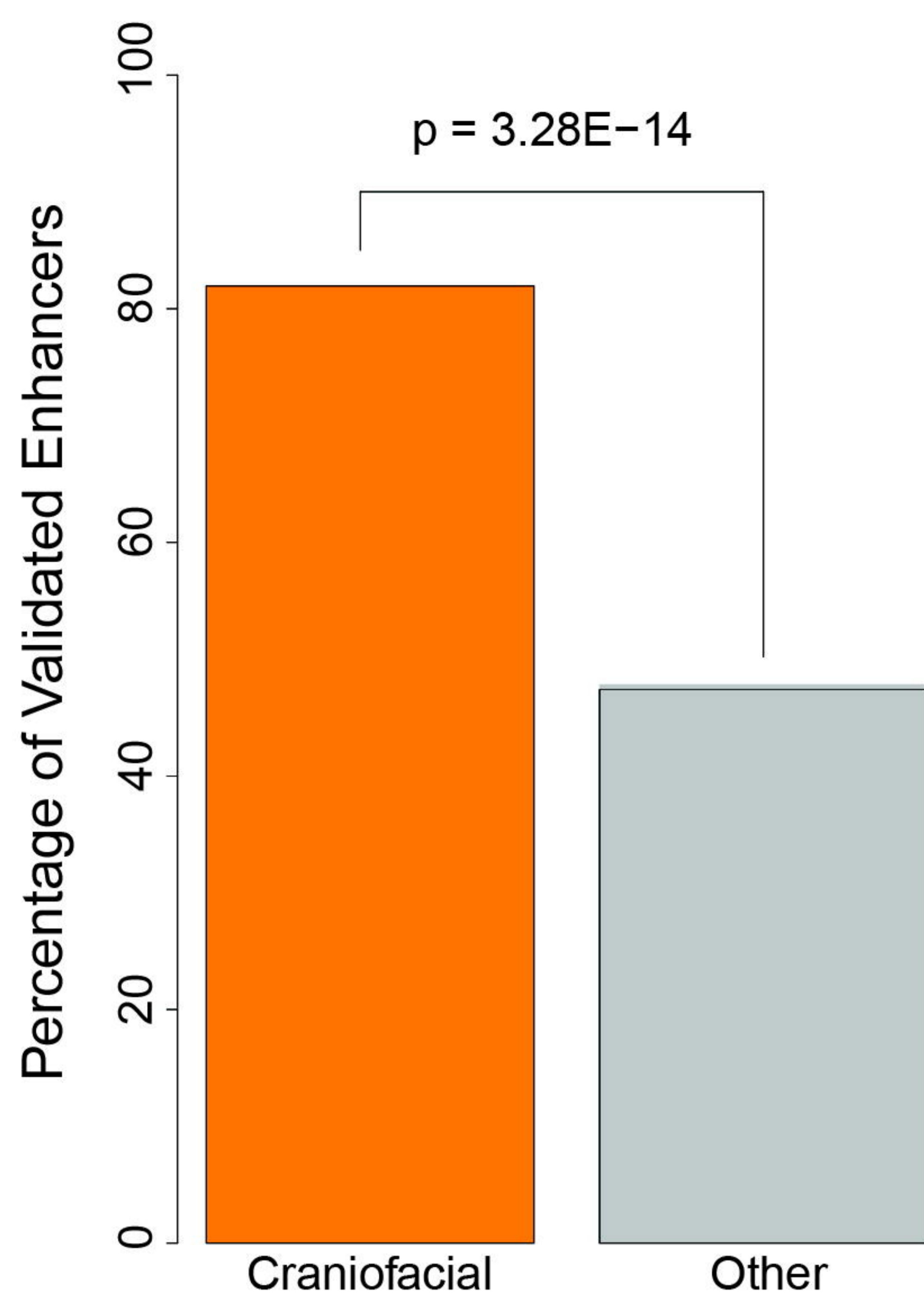
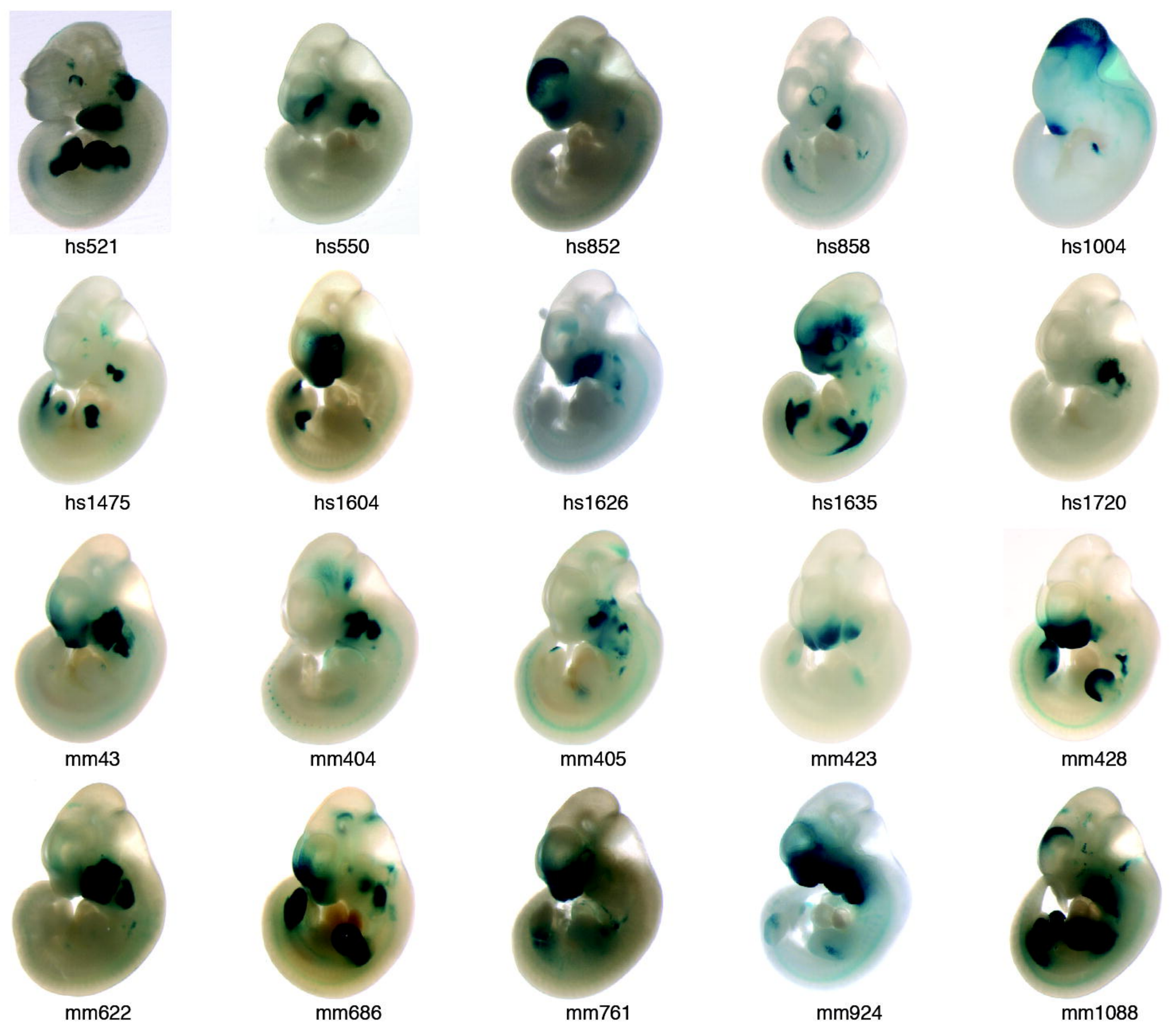
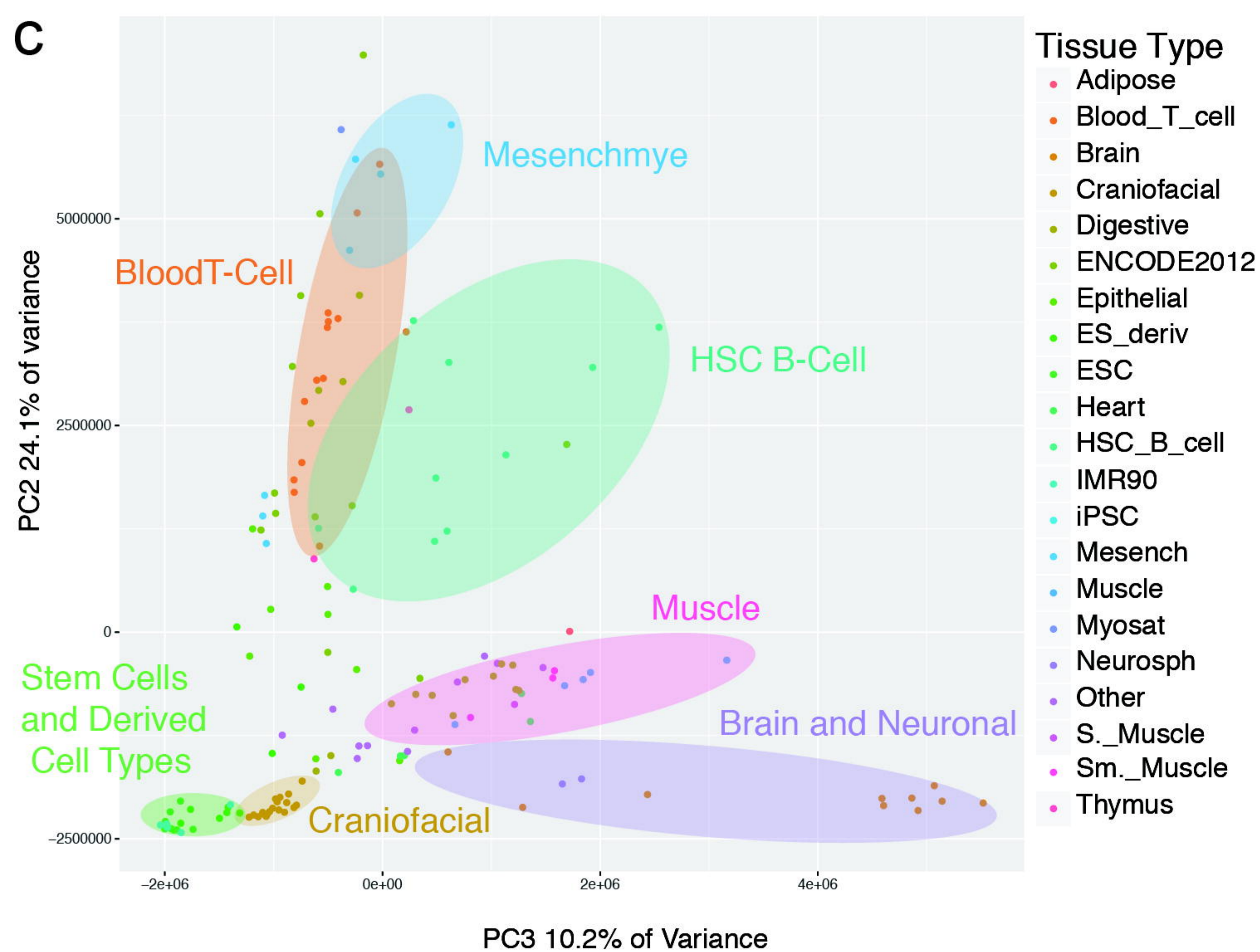
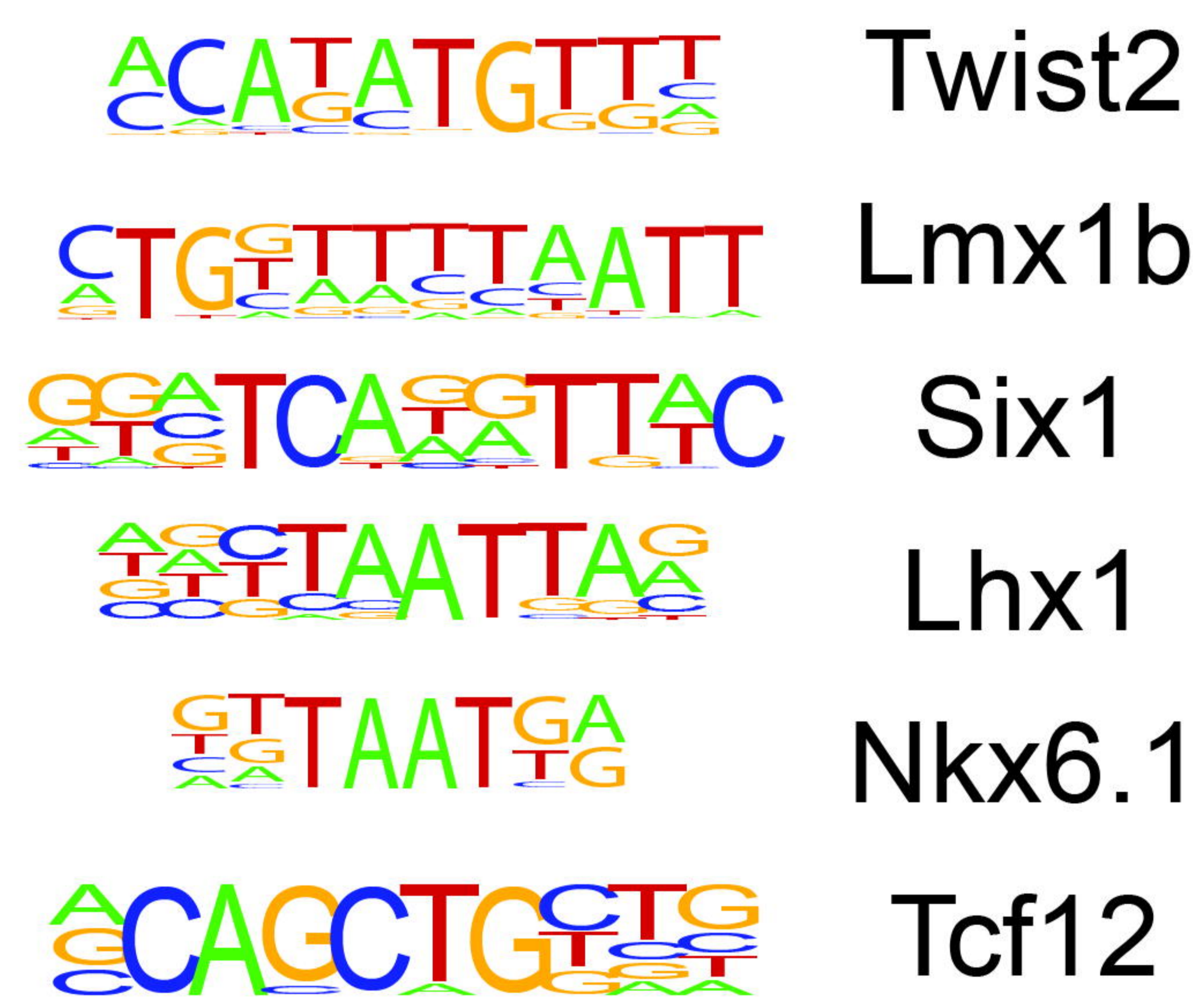
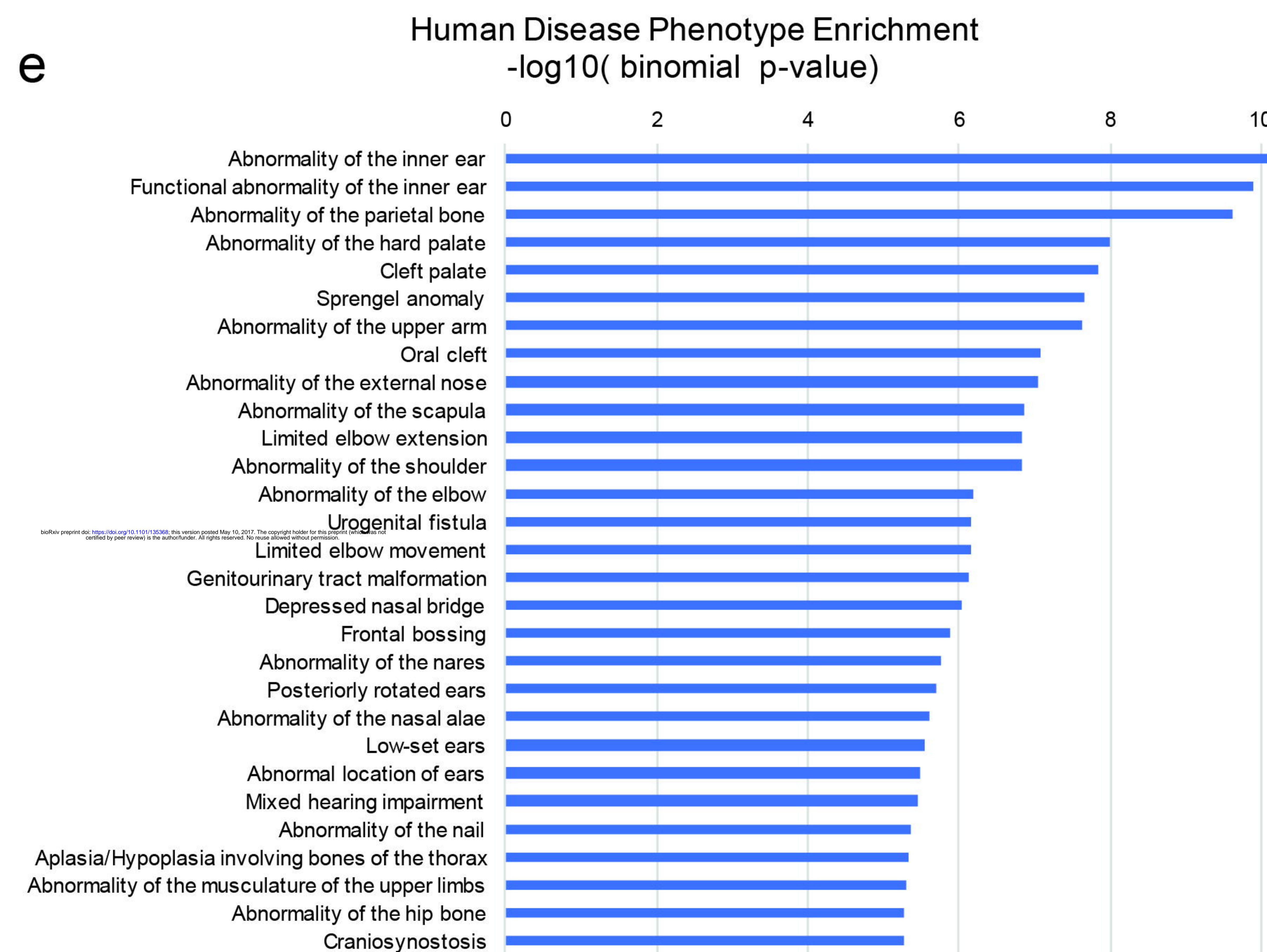
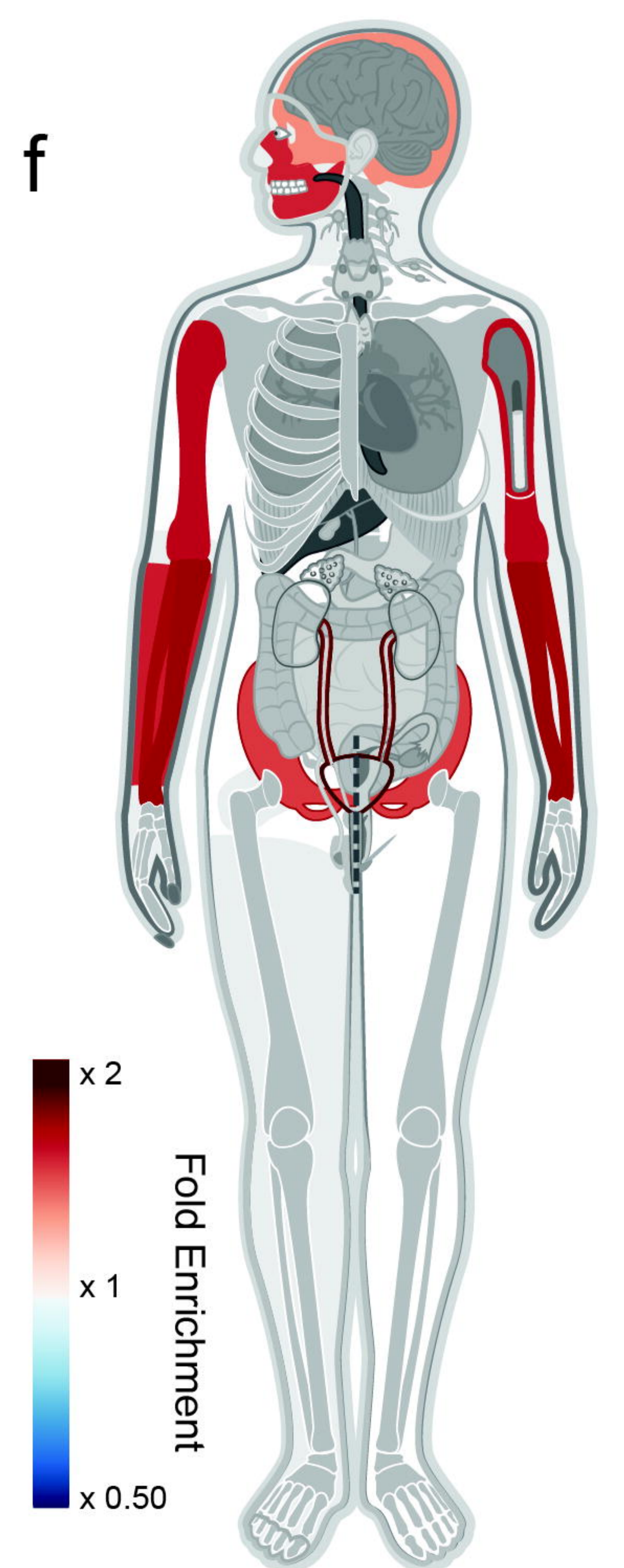


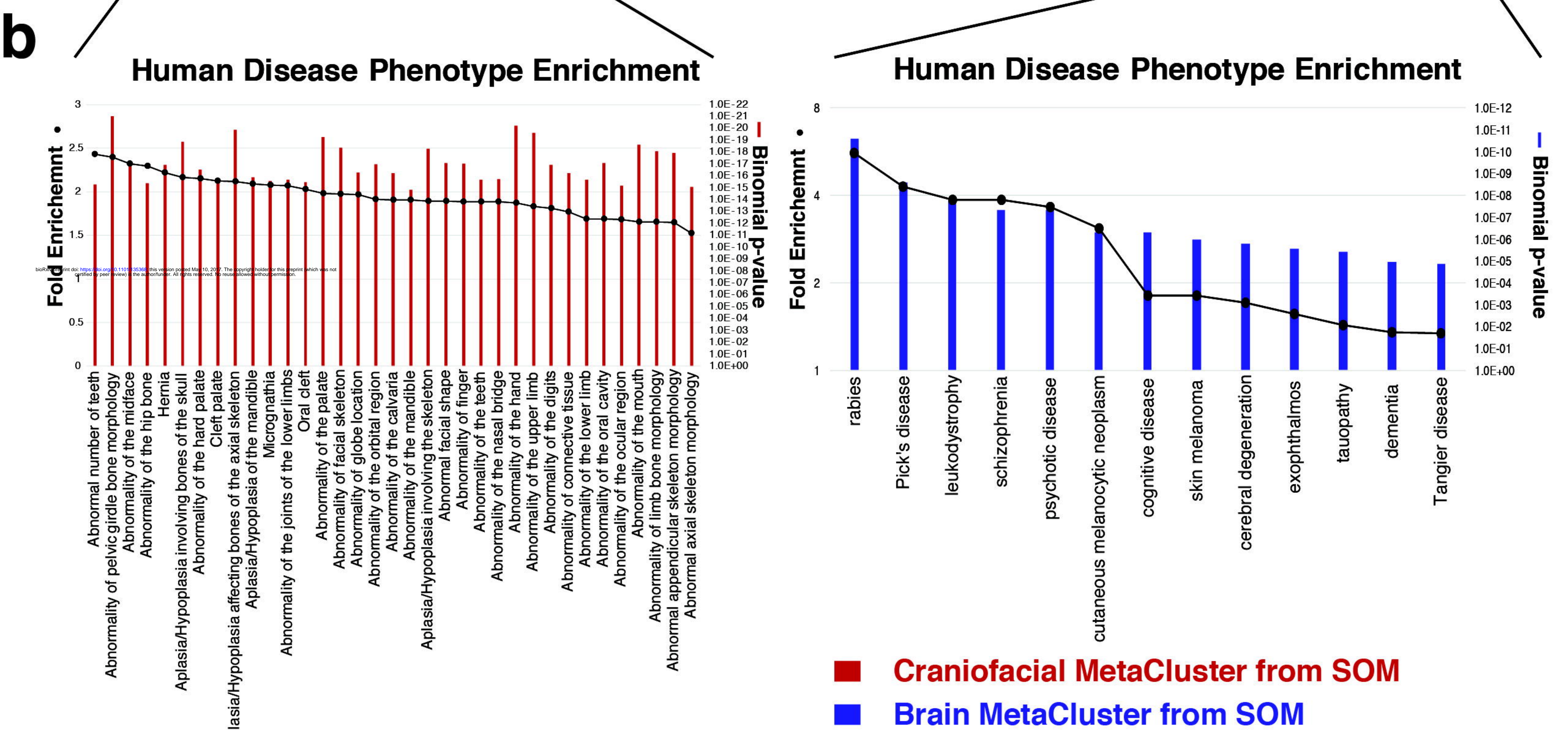
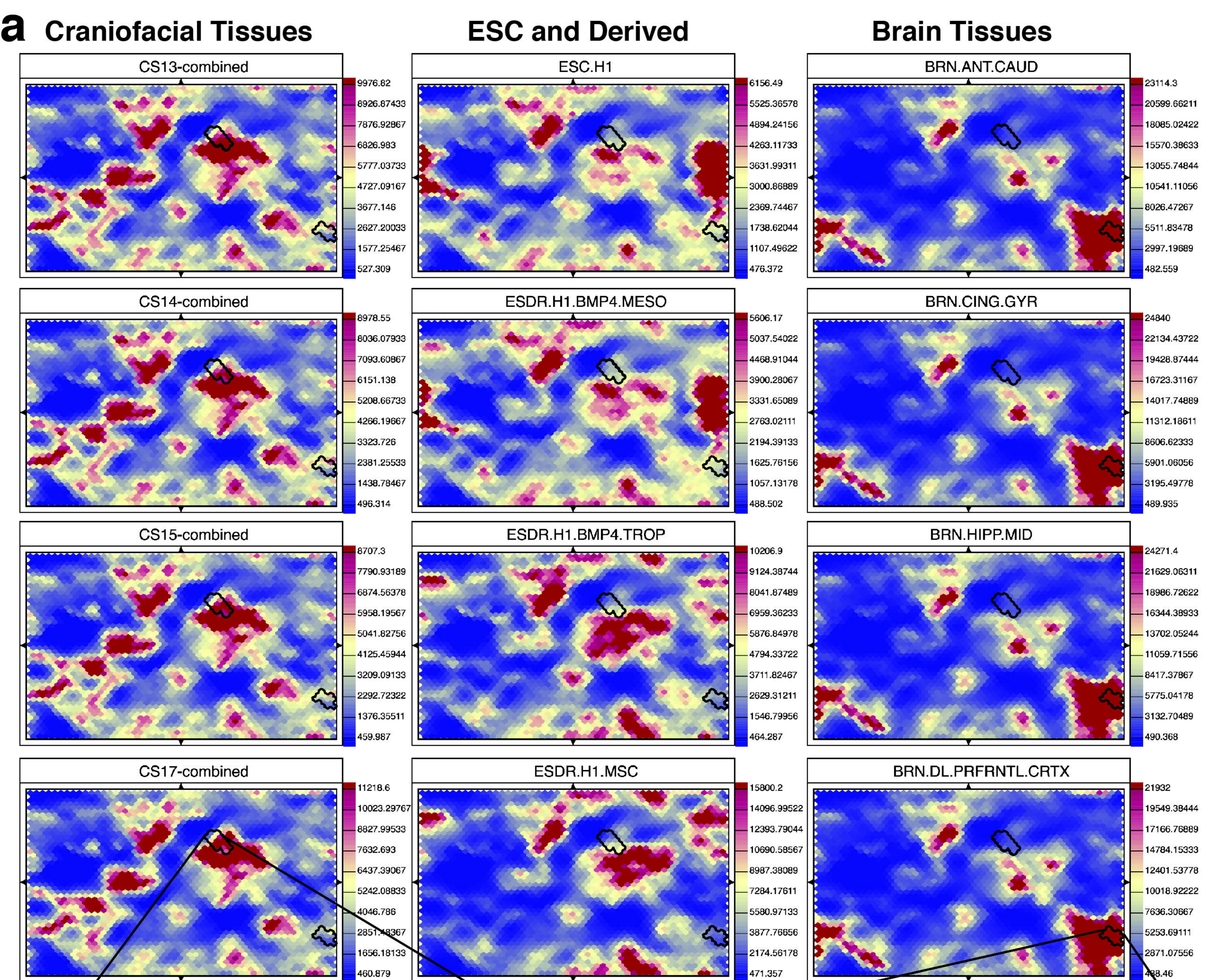
c Cumulative Percentage Chromatin States

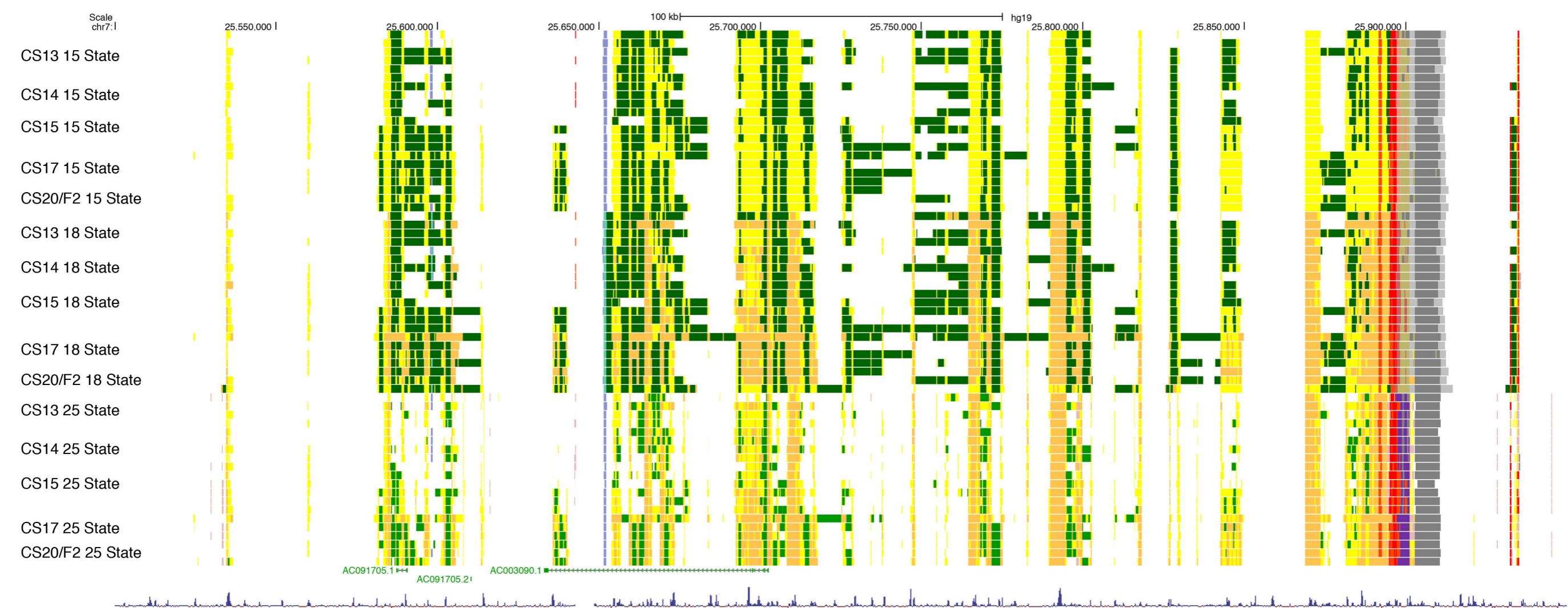
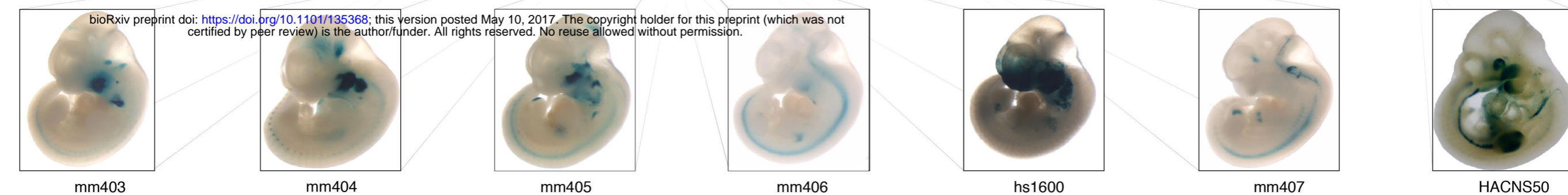
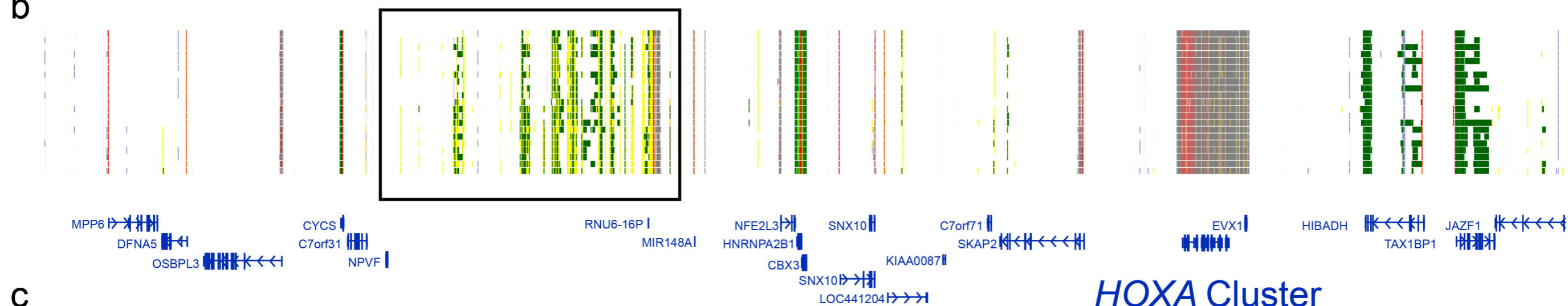


d Average Number of Chromatin State Segments



a**b****c****d****e****f**



a**Mouse 4C Viewpoints****Enhancers****b****c**