

1 **Chromatin Topology Reorganization and Transcription Repression by PML/RAR α** 2 **in Acute Promyeloid Leukemia**

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15

16 **Abstract**

17 **Background**

18 Acute promyeloid leukemia (APL) is characterized by the oncogenic fusion protein PML/RAR α ,
19 a major etiological agent in APL. However, the molecular mechanisms underlying the role of
20 PML/RAR α in leukemogenesis remains largely unknown.

21

22 **Results**

23 Using an inducible system, we comprehensively analyzed the 3D genome organization in
24 myeloid cells and its reorganization after PML/RAR α induction, and performed additional
25 analyses in patient-derived APL cells with native PML/RAR α . We discovered that PML/RAR α

26 mediates extensive chromatin interactions genome-wide. Globally, it redefines the chromatin
27 topology of the myeloid genome toward a more condensed configuration in APL cells; locally, it
28 intrudes RNAPII-associated interaction domains, interrupts myeloid-specific transcription factors
29 binding at enhancers and super-enhancers, and leads to transcriptional repression of genes
30 critical for myeloid differentiation and maturation.

31

32 **Conclusions**

33 Our results not only provide novel topological insights for the roles of PML/RAR α in transforming
34 myeloid cells into leukemia cells, but further uncover a topological framework of a molecular
35 mechanism for oncogenic fusion proteins in cancers.

36

37 **Key words:**

38 PML/RAR α , ChIA-PET, 3D Genome Architecture, CTCF, RNA Polymerase II (RNAPII),
39 Transcription Factor, Transcriptional Regulation, Super Enhancer (SE)

40

41 **Introduction**

42 Leukemias are often triggered by chromosomal rearrangements, such as translocations
43 and inversions, which can generate oncogenic fusion transcription factors [1,2]. A hallmark in
44 acute promyeloid leukemia (APL) is a chromosomal translocation that fuses the promyelocytic
45 leukemia gene (*PML*) on chromosome 15 and the retinoic acid receptor alpha gene (*RAR α*) on
46 chromosome 17 into a fusion gene *PML/RAR α* [3,4]. This translocation, denoted as
47 t(15;17)(q24;q21), occurs in 98% of APL patients, and this fusion gene encodes a fusion protein
48 PML/RAR α , considered a major etiological agent of APL. In normal myeloid cells, RAR α (a
49 nuclear receptor and transcription factor) plays important roles in myelopoiesis, especially in
50 granulocytic and monocytic differentiation programs [5,6]. However, the fusion protein

51 PML/RAR α in APL has been suggested to compete with endogenous RAR α for binding at the
52 same RA response elements (RAREs), which in turn leads to repression of normal RAR α
53 signaling in a dominant negative manner [7]. It has also been hinted that PML/RAR α could
54 predominantly target promoters regulated by transcription factor PU.1 through protein-protein
55 interactions between PU.1 and RAREh binding sites genome-wide [8]. Early studies have
56 suggested that PML/RAR α may also abnormally recruit a histone deacetylase (HDAC) and/or
57 polycomb repressive complexes (PRCs) to target genes important in hematopoietic
58 differentiation [9,10], indicating that PML/RAR α may have a role in altering chromosome
59 configuration during APL genesis. Taken together, these investigations suggest a significant
60 range of genome-wide restructuring induced by PML-RAR α ; however, how the comprehensive
61 molecular mechanisms underlying the role of PML/RAR α in leukemogenesis remain largely
62 unknown.

63 Over the last decade, it has become clear that the human genomes are folded in
64 complex 3-dimensional (3D) organizations in nuclei, and that 3D chromatin architectures may
65 be important in the higher order regulation of transcription regulation [11]. Several studies have
66 hinted that chromosomal rearrangements in acute myeloid leukemia (AML) with inv(3)/t(3,3)
67 lead to long-range interactions characterized by the 3D repositioning of a *GATA2* enhancer to
68 the *EVI1* promoter to ectopically activate *EVI1*, which can cause dysregulation of both genes,
69 with AML as the outcome [12,13]. Another study has shown that the deletion of insulated
70 chromatin domain boundaries could activate proto-oncogene expression through aberrant distal
71 regulatory elements, thereby contributing to T-cell acute lymphoblastic leukemia (T-ALL) [14].
72 Although these reports together indicated that chromatin configuration change might be an
73 important feature in the transformation of normal cells into leukemic cells by oncogenic fusion
74 proteins, specific evidence is lacking.

75 Considering that RAR α binds directly to DNA genome-wide, we posit that the oncogenic
76 fusion protein PML/RAR α may also possess chromatin interaction properties, and alter the 3D
77 genome topology as an critical event during leukemogenesis. To this end, we comprehensively
78 analyzed normal myeloid cells with inducible PML/RAR α , and patient-derived APL cells with
79 native PML/RAR α , to determine the roles of PML/RAR α in 3D genome organization and
80 transcription regulation, using integrative approaches including ChIA-PET for chromatin
81 interactions, ChIP-seq for epigenomic states, and RNA-seq for transcriptional outputs. We
82 discovered that PML/RAR α mediated extensive long-range chromatin interactions genome-wide,
83 distorted the established chromosomal folding topology in normal myeloid cells, and specifically
84 repressed transcription of genes that are important to myeloid differentiation and maturation,
85 together suggesting a topological mechanism for PML/RAR α in leukemogenesis.

86

87 **Results**

88 **Genome-wide chromatin interactions in normal myeloid cells and APL cells.**

89 To investigate the mechanisms through which PML/RAR α leads to the development of
90 promyelocytic leukemia phenotypes in myeloid cells, we employed a well-established PR9 cell
91 line, which is derived from U937 myeloid precursors at the promonocytic stage. PR9 cell line
92 possesses normal endogenous PML and RAR α genes, but also contains a transgenic construct
93 inducible for PML/RAR α expression via addition of ZnSO₄. Upon induction, the expression of
94 PML/RAR α in PR9 drives the cells to develop promyelocytic leukemia phenotypes [15]. It has
95 also been shown that the protein expression level of PML/RAR α in ZnSO₄-treated PR9 cells is
96 comparable to that in APL patient-derived NB4 cells [8]. Hence, by comparing PR9 cells under
97 normal condition (without PML/RAR α protein) with PR9 cells under ZnSO₄-induction conditions
98 (with induced PML/RAR α), we can investigate the dynamic changes of the myeloid genome
99 mediated by the nascent fusion protein PML/RAR α in PR9 cells (Fig. 1a).

100 To map the PML/RAR α -initiated chromatin interactions to the myeloid genome, we
101 performed ChIA-PET experiments using anti-PML and anti-RAR α antibodies in both PR9 and
102 PR9+Zn cells (Supplementary Table 1). Although the PR9 cells carry a transgenic PML/RAR α
103 construct, they would not express PML/RAR α fusion protein without ZnSO₄ induction, and
104 should retain the endogenous *PML* and *RAR α* genes and normal expression of native PML and
105 RAR α proteins. After ZnSO₄ treatment, hereafter referred to as PR9+Zn cells, the PR9+Zn cells
106 should acquire the induced PML/RAR α protein while still retain the native PML and RAR α
107 proteins. Therefore, the PML- and RAR α -enriched ChIA-PET experiments were expected to
108 detect both of the native proteins and the induced PML/RAR α in PR9+Zn cells, but only the
109 native proteins in PR9 ocells. As shown in the 2D chromatin contact profiles of the ChIA-PET
110 data (Fig. 1b), the RAR α ChIA-PET experiment generated distinctive and typical chromatin
111 contact data that mapped along the 2D contact diagonal, whereas the PML ChIA-PET
112 experiment produced no meaningful chromatin contact data. This was expected, as RAR α is a
113 DNA-binding transcription factor, and PML does not interact with chromatin in nuclei. In contrast,
114 we obtained extensive chromatin contact data in both the PML and RAR α ChIA-PET
115 experiments, from PR9+Zn cells (Fig. 1b). The striking similarity of chromatin contact patterns
116 exhibited by these two ChIA-PET experiments in PR9+Zn cells using different antibodies (anti-
117 PML and anti-RAR α) validates that the induced fusion protein PML/RAR α mediated new
118 chromatin interactions in PR9+Zn cells.

119 To systematically investigate the impact of PML/RAR α on the genomes, it is necessary
120 to characterize the 3D genome organization in both normal myeloid cells and APL cells.
121 Therefore, we first generated high-quality CCCTC-binding factor (CTCF)-enriched ChIA-PET
122 data (Supplementary Table 1) and mapped the higher-order chromosomal folding architectures
123 and the detailed chromatin domain topology mediated by CTCF in PR9 cells and PR9 cells with
124 induced PML/RAR α expression *via* addition of ZnS04. Overall, these two CTCF datasets were

125 highly correlated (Supplementary Fig. 1a-b), and the 2D contact profiles appeared to be
126 identical (Fig. 1c), indicating that the ZnSO₄ treatment did not directly alter the CTCF-mediated
127 chromatin interactions in the myeloid genome.

128 In addition, we also performed RNA polymerase II (RNAPII) ChIA-PET experiments
129 (Table S1) to map transcriptional chromatin interactions involving promoters and enhancers for
130 active genes in PR9 and PR9+Zn cells. Globally, the two RNAPII ChIA-PET datasets appeared
131 highly comparable (Fig. 1d; Supplementary Fig. 1c-d); however, locally, we observed significant
132 difference (Fig. 1e). For example, at the locus of the gene *CEBPB* (encoding an important
133 transcription factor for myeloid differentiation), it is observed that although the CTCF-mediated
134 chromatin interactions in PR9 and PR9+Zn cells were very similar, the overwhelming chromatin
135 contacts mediated by PML/RAR α (detected by PML and RAR α ChIA-PET data) in PR9+Zn cells
136 appeared to overwrite the normal chromatin folding architecture pre-defined by CTCF around
137 the *CEBPB* (Fig. 1e). Remarkably, the extensive RNAPII occupancy at the *CEBPB* promoter
138 and the abundant looping contacts from the promoter to enhancers shown in PR9 cells (Fig. 1e
139 left) were abolished in PR9+Zn cells (Fig. 1e right). Consequently, the transcription of *CEBPB*
140 was repressed in PR9+Zn cells as measured by RNA-seq data. Together, these observations
141 imply that PML/RAR α could potentially have a strong impact on the chromatin folding
142 architecture and transcription regulation in myeloid cells.

143 **Topological reorganization of the myeloid genome by PML/RAR α .**

144 To meticulously characterize the myeloid 3D genome organization and the impact of
145 PML/RAR α on myeloid genome topology, we first comprehensively characterized the CTCF
146 ChIA-PET data in PR9 and PR9+Zn cells for their 3D chromatin organization, which reflected
147 the native genome status of the myeloid genome. Because the two CTCF datasets were highly
148 consistent (Fig. 1c) and that the ZnSO₄ treatment in PR9 cells did not significantly change the
149 CTCF chromatin interaction domains in myeloid genome, we combined the two CTCF ChIA-

150 PET datasets for increased data coverage to create a reference topological map mediated by
151 CTCF of the myeloid genome in PR9 cells. Based on the connectivity of the CTCF loop clusters,
152 we identified 2,699 CTCF contact domains (CCD) covering the majority of the myeloid genome
153 (Fig. 2a), which is comparable with the CCDs previously detected in the genome of B-
154 lymphoblastoid GM12878 cells [16].

155 We then analyzed the RAR α ChIA-PET and PML ChIA-PET data in PR9 and PR9+Zn
156 cells. The analysis of the RAR α ChIA-PET data in PR9 cells to detect endogenous RAR α is
157 straightforward, same as we did for CTCF and RNAPII ChIA-PET data. However, in PR9+Zn
158 cells, it is complicated, because both of the native RAR α and the induced PML/RAR α were
159 expressed. Therefore, to distinguish the PML/RAR α -associated chromatin contacts from the
160 RAR α -associated contacts, we dissected the ChIA-PET data (RAR α) from PR9 cells and the
161 data (PML and RAR α) from PR9+Zn cells based on binding sites and chromatin loops. Hereby,
162 we first analyzed the protein binding sites of the ChIA-PET data in both PR9 (with native RAR α)
163 and PR9+Zn cells (with native RAR α and induced PML/RAR α). To filter for high-confidence
164 data, we defined a reliable binding site that was supported by at least two of the three
165 independent ChIA-PET datasets (RAR α data in PR9, RAR α in PR9+Zn, and PML in PR9+Zn).
166 Using this criterion, we identified 9,458 RAR α binding sites in PR9 cells and 8,568 PML/RAR α
167 binding loci in PR9+Zn cells (Fig. 2b). The majority of the RAR α binding sites (6,748; 71%) were
168 RAR α -specific (detected in both PR9 and PR9+Zn cells, but not in PML data in PR9+Zn cells).
169 However, there were 2,710 (29%) RAR α binding sites in PR9 cells that were also found in PML
170 and RAR α data in PR9+Zn cells, suggesting a possible co-occupancy or a competition mode at
171 those loci by the native RAR α and the induced PML/RAR α . In addition, we identified 5,858
172 PML/RAR α -specific loci in PR9+Zn cells (Fig. 2b). Overall, both the native RAR α and fusion
173 protein PML/RAR α demonstrated similar genome-wide chromatin binding capacity (9,458 vs.

174 8,568). Proportionally, 28% (1,921 / 6,748) of the RAR α -specific binding sites were located
175 proximal to gene transcription start sites (TSS), whereas 41% (2,405 / 5,858) of the PML/RAR α -
176 specific binding sites and 55% (1,483 / 2,719) of PML/RAR α sites co-localized with RAR α sites
177 were proximal to TSS (Fig. 2c). This observation suggests an increased tendency for
178 PML/RAR α to target to gene promoters for alteration of gene transcription regulation, in addition
179 to binding at non-genic regions to impact chromatin architecture.

180 Next, we analyzed the chromatin contact loops mediated by RAR α or PML/RAR α , which
181 identified 7,223 high-confidence loops by RAR α in PR9 cells, and 24,208 loops in PR9+Zn cells
182 by a combinatorial effects of native RAR α and the induced nascent PML/RAR α (Fig. 2d).
183 Intriguingly, although the binding capacities of RAR α and PML/RAR α were similar (Fig. 2b),
184 extensive chromatin interactions detected in PR9+Zn cells were largely associated with
185 PML/RAR α binding loci, particularly the PML/RAR α -specific binding loci. Collectively, our
186 observations imply a substantial impact from PML/RAR α to alter the topological architecture of
187 the myeloid genome.

188 To investigate how PML/RAR α affects the myeloid genome, we aggregated the
189 PML/RAR α -associated chromatin interactions into PML/RAR α contact domains, similarly to
190 what we did for CTCF domains (Fig. 2a). Intriguingly, when integrating the PML/RAR α complex
191 domains into the CTCF-defined topological framework of the myeloid genome (Supplementary
192 Fig. 2a), we found that many (249) PML/RAR α chromatin domains extended across the
193 boundaries of two adjacent CCDs and connected parts of them, resembling “stitches” weaving
194 multiple CCDs together. These “stitch” PML/RAR α complex domains usually involved high
195 levels of chromatin contacts (Supplementary Fig. 2b), and were prevalently spread across the
196 entire genome (Supplementary Fig. 2c). The resulting “stitched CCD” by PML/RAR α exhibited
197 extended domain coverage (Supplementary Fig. 2d), and thus potentially had a global impact
198 on the overall topological organization of the myeloid genome. Such impacts were particularly

199 visible at the level of topological domains. For example, at a 2.17 Mb segment of chr20, the two
200 adjacent but separated CCD with scattered RAR α binding and looping in PR9 cells were
201 brought together by a PML/RAR α chromatin domain with extensive binding and looping as
202 shown in PR9+Zn cells (Fig. 2e-f). This observation was further validated by a two-color DNA-
203 FISH experiment, showing that the two separated CTCF domains in PR9 cells were in much
204 closer contacts in PR9+Zn cells than in PR9 cells (Fig. 2g). An ensemble structure-based
205 algorithm was applied to the chromatin interaction data derived from PR9 and PR9+Zn cells
206 (Supplementary Methods), and elucidated the topological structural changes resulting from the
207 action of the induced PML/RAR α (Fig. 2h). Another example of the topological changes in PR9
208 cells before and after the ZnSO₄ induction of PML/RAR α was at a 3 Mb segment on chr18
209 (Supplementary Fig. 2e-g). Taken together, our data demonstrated that the fusion oncoprotein
210 PML/RAR α acts through extensive chromatin binding and looping genome-wide, and results in
211 strong ectopic chromatin interactions that extend across the boundaries of CTCF-defined
212 chromatin architectures in normal myeloid cells, thus leading to the topological reorganization of
213 the myeloid genome into aberrant configurations in APL cells.

214 **Alteration of gene expression by PML/RAR α .**

215 Subsequently, we systematically analyzed the RNAPII ChIA-PET data in PR9 and
216 PR9+Zn cells in relation to PML/RAR α -defined chromatin domains, and found that large
217 numbers of RNAPII-associated chromatin interaction sites (proximal or distal to TSS) were co-
218 occupied by PML/RAR α in PR9+Zn cells (Supplementary Fig. 3a), indicating that PML/RAR α
219 may also directly interfere with the transcription programs in myeloid cells. We then quantified
220 RNAPII occupancy at these sites in PR9 cells before and after ZnSO₄ induction of PML/RAR α ,
221 to assess the effects of PML/RAR α on RNAPII. While most of the loci showed insignificant
222 changes after 4 hours of ZnSO₄ induction, we identified 871 (20%) loci that exhibited significant
223 reduction of RNAPII binding intensity (Fig. 3a). As analysis controls, less than 10% of the non-

224 PML/RAR α sites, including the RAR α binding sites, showed changes in RNAPII occupancy,
225 presumably due to systems noise. Therefore, our observation suggests that PML/RAR α might
226 specifically target a subset of RNAPII interaction loci and induce functions that repress gene
227 transcription.

228 Next, we focused on the genes (n=288) that were associated with the reduced RNAPII
229 occupancy due to co-occupancy by PML/RAR α , and analyzed their transcription output using
230 RNA-seq data over a timecourse during ZnSO₄ induction of PML/RAR α in PR9+Zn cells.
231 Remarkably, more than half (n=146) of these genes exhibited a corresponding pattern of
232 transcriptional reduction over the timecourse during ZnSO₄ treatment (Fig. 3b). To test if the
233 observed transcriptional repression was directly related to the induction of PML/RAR α , we
234 added all-trans retinoic acid (ATRA) to PR9+Zn cells in order to rescue the gene expression
235 potentially hampered by the induced PML/RAR α . ATRA is an important drug in APL treatment.
236 It causes degradation of the PML/RAR α fusion protein through the ubiquitin-proteasome and
237 caspase system [17,18]. We therefore performed a “rescuing” experiment by adding ATRA to
238 the PR9 cells that were under ZnSO₄ induction of PML/RAR α . Remarkably, in the “rescuing”
239 experiments, most of the genes (81.5%; 119 / 146) were recovered by ATRA treatment,
240 showing increased transcription (Fig. 3b; Supplementary Fig. 3b). Among these genes are many
241 that are known for their functions involved in myeloid cell differentiation, including transcription
242 factors and cytokines, such as the previously reported *CEBPB* [19], *ID2* [20], and *SPI1* [21]
243 involved in megakaryocytic and granulocytic differentiation. Gene Ontology analysis to this set
244 of genes showed that they are significantly enriched in biological processes associated with
245 hemopoiesis, immune processes, myeloid cell activation and differentiation (Fig. 3c), further
246 validating that at least part of the functions of PML/RAR α is to act via repressing the
247 transcription of genes involved in myeloid cell differentiation during APL pathogenesis.

248 As mentioned in Fig. 1e, the abundant RNAPII bindings and looping at the *CEBPB*
249 promoter and its enhancer sites observed in PR9 cells were repressed by the induced
250 PML/RAR α in PR9+Zn cells while the CTCF-mediated chromatin folding structures unchanged,
251 exemplifying a profound repressive function to transcription by PML/RAR α . Similarly, at the
252 *IRF2BP2* locus, there was modest RAR α ChIA-PET data and strong RNAPII-associated
253 chromatin interactions between the *IRF2BP2* promoter and multiple enhancers detected in PR9
254 cells. However, after induction by ZnSO₄, robust PML/RAR α binding peaks and chromatin loops
255 appeared, which directly overlapped with the RAR α and RNAPII associated chromatin sites as
256 detected in PR9 cells. Coincidentally, the RNAPII signals were much reduced in PR9+Zn cells
257 (Fig. 3d). Furthermore, the RNA-seq data at this region showed more than 2-fold reduction of
258 *IRF2BP2* expression when PML/RAR α was induced in PR9+Zn cells, and, strikingly, rebounded
259 after the addition of ATRA (Fig. 3d-e). Together, the high degree of correlation between the
260 repression by ZnSO₄ induction for PML/RAR α expression and the liberation by ATRA treatment
261 for PML/RAR α degradation convincingly suggest that this set of genes may be the direct targets
262 of PML/RAR α for transcriptional repression in APL cells. It may also suggest mechanistically
263 that PML/RAR α forcefully compress the chromatin topological structure around myeloid-specific
264 transcriptional cassette through its extensive chromatin binding and looping, and thus limit the
265 access for transcription machinery.

266 **Interference with transcription factor binding at enhancer sites by PML/RAR α .**

267 We reasoned that the potential specificity of PML/RAR α targeting to a subset of actively
268 transcribed genes in myeloid cells might be through interference with specific transcription
269 factors (TF). It is widely known that TFs can facilitate the physical chromatin contacts between
270 promoters and distal regulatory elements by looping the intervening DNA between them [22,23].
271 Specifically, PU.1 (also known as SPI1), known as a lymphoid-specific transcription activator,
272 has been suggested to be associated with PML/RAR α (Wang et al., 2010). To identify specific

273 TFs involved at the PML/RAR α chromatin interaction sites, we performed TF motif analysis
274 (Supplemental Methods), and identified seven protein factors that were significantly enriched at
275 PML/RAR α binding sites (Supplementary Fig. 4a), including three TFs-PU.1, CEBPB, and IRF1
276 (Fig. 4a) -that are the most relevant and specific TFs in myeloid cells [8]. To further characterize
277 these TFs, we performed ChIP-seq experiments and generated genome-wide binding profiles
278 for PU.1, CEBPB, and IRF1 in PR9 and PR9+Zn cells, along with ChIP-seq of H3K9K14ac and
279 P300 for promoters and enhancers. Interestingly, more than half of the TF binding sites found in
280 PR9 cells were no longer present, or the binding signal intensities were significantly reduced,
281 after PML/RAR α induction in PR9+Zn cells (Fig. 4b). It is noteworthy that the binding profiles of
282 these TFs were highly correlated with transcriptionally active marks for promoters (H3K9K14ac)
283 and enhancers (P300), and RNAPII-associated chromatin interactions, higher in PR9 control
284 cells (PR9) but lower in the cells under ZnSO₄ induction of PML/RAR α (PR9+Zn). For example,
285 at the *PU.1* locus, PML/RAR α bound specifically at the PU.1 promoter site and interacted with a
286 number of enhancers, as indicated by H3K9K14ac and P300 binding profiles. In particular, at
287 the enhancer sites, the occupancy by the three TFs (PU.1, CEBPB, and IRF1) were notably
288 abolished or reduced in intensity (Fig. 4c). Simultaneously, the binding peaks for H3K9K14ac
289 and P300 at the enhancers were also either decreased in signal intensity or abolished. The
290 same observations were also exemplified at the *CEBPB* (Fig. 4d), and *IRF1* loci (Supplementary
291 Fig. 4b).

292 Taken together, our results indicate that PML/RAR α directly interacts with specific
293 chromatin loci and disrupts the transcription of specific TFs. More importantly, the reduced TF
294 activities likely further dysregulate the transcription programs of downstream target genes that
295 are important for normal myeloid cell differentiation.

296 **Disruption of super enhancers by PML/RAR α .**

297 The experiments above showing that PML/RAR α disrupts the cobinding of multiple
298 cofactors at RAR α sites suggest that PML/RAR α would perturb superenhancer function. Super-
299 enhancers (SE), as a subset of regulatory elements, have been proposed to facilitate
300 interactions between enhancers and promoters primarily associated with highly transcribed
301 genes controlling cell identity and characteristically engaged multiple TFs at high intensity
302 [24,25]. Previous studies have shown that SEs are critical in establishing and maintaining cell-
303 specific transcriptional regulation of gene expression as well as fine-tuning of expression of
304 many oncogenes [26,27]. Given that the induced PML/RAR α prominently targeted at genomic
305 regions with high levels of H3K9K14ac modification (Fig. 5a), we used the H3K9K14ac ChIP-
306 seq data to catalogue SEs using the ROSE algorithm [26,27] in PR9 and PR9+Zn cells (Fig. 5b).
307 In total, we identified 521 SEs overlapped with PML/RAR α binding sites in PR9+Zn cells
308 (Supplementary Fig. 5a), implying that PML/RAR α may broadly interfere with the functions of
309 SEs. Remarkably, of the 480 SEs identified in PR9 cells, more than half (n=247) lost their SE
310 characteristics (H3K9K14ac signals) after Zn induction for PML/RAR α PR9+Zn cells (Fig. 5c). It
311 is observed that the RNAPII ChIA-PET data intensities (peaks and loops) associated with these
312 SEs in PR9 cells were significantly decreased in PR9+Zn cells, in contrast, to the induction of
313 PML/RAR α and associated binding peaks and loops in PR9+Zn cells (Fig. 5d).

314 Based on the connectivity of RNAPII ChIA-PET data, we detected 282 genes that were
315 linked to the PML/RAR α -affected SEs (n=247). Subsequent GO analysis of this gene set
316 identified 123 genes that were highly associated with functions in myeloid cell differentiation,
317 and positive regulation of myeloid leukocyte differentiation and myeloid cell homeostasis
318 (Supplementary Fig. 5b). Many of these 123 genes, including *FOS*, *IRF2BP2*, *ID2*, *IRF1*,
319 *IRF2BPL*, and *BHLHE40*, were highly expressed in PR9 cells but repressed under ZnSO₄
320 treatment conditions (Supplementary Fig. 5c), and as highlighted in Fig. 5b. In contrast,
321 although 215 genes were found associated with the SEs (n=233) that were not affected by

322 PML/RAR α , most of those genes were not associated with myeloid specific functions
323 (Supplementary Fig. 5b).

324 At the *IRF2BPL* locus, only base-level RAR α signals but substantial RNAPII peaks and
325 loops connecting the *IRF2BPL* promoter and enhancers in PR9 cells (Fig. 5e). However,
326 following ZnSO₄ induction, strong PML/RAR α binding peaks and loops were observed in
327 PR9+Zn cells overlapping directly with the RNAPII binding sites loops observed in PR9 cells.
328 Consequently, the RNAPII signals in in PR9+Zn cells were significantly diminished compared to
329 the RNAPII signals in PR9 cells (Fig. 5e). Evidently, the H3K9K14ac peak profile in this region
330 called for two SEs (Fig. 5f) interconnecting with the *IRF2BPL* promoter by a substantial number
331 of RNAPII loops in PR9 cells. Notably, the SE signals were substantially reduced in PR9+Zn
332 cells, presumably by the PML/RAR α effects. Similarly, P300, another enhancer mark showed the
333 same pattern, with strong signals in PR9 cells, but diminished signals in PR9+Zn cells (Fig. 5f).
334 Interestingly, the occupancy of IRF1 (a TF important for hematopoiesis) at the SE1 site was also
335 much reduced in PR9+Zn cells. Correspondingly, the *IRF2BPL* expression was 2.5-fold down-
336 regulated in PR9+Zn cells (Fig. 5f). Another example is at the *FOS* locus (Supplementary Fig.
337 5d).

338 Altogether, the above results demonstrated that PML/RAR α may directly intrude super-
339 enhancers, and the loss of properties of SEs may contribute to the disruption of RNAPII-
340 mediated SE-to-promoters connectivity, consequently dysregulating gene transcription and alter
341 the cell lineage controls during APL genesis.

342 **Native PML/RAR α in patient-derived APL cells functions similarly to the inducible** 343 **PML/RAR α .**

344 To validate the above findings in the PR9 cellular system, we analyzed NB4 cells, a cell
345 line derived from an APL patient harboring the t(15,17) translocation and expressing an native
346 PML/RAR α fusion protein [28]. Therefore, the cellular state of NB4 (with native PML/RAR α)

347 would be comparable to PR9+Zn cells (with induced PML/RAR α). We also treated NB4 cells
348 with ATRA (NB4+ATRA) to deplete the native PML/RAR α . These NB4+ATRA cells (with
349 PML/RAR α depleted) thus match with the PR9 cells (no PML/RAR α). We reasoned that, with
350 these parallels between the NB4 and the PR9 inducible systems, a comparative analysis of the
351 two systems would yield insights into the property and function differences between the
352 inducible and native PML/RAR α (Fig. 6a). First, we performed RNA-seq for gene expression
353 analysis in the pairs of NB4 vs. PR9+Zn cells, and the NB4+ATRA vs. PR9 cells. The overall
354 gene expression profiles between the two pairs exhibited high correlations (Fig. 6b,
355 Supplementary Fig. 6a), indicating that the cellular systems of NB4 and PR9 were very
356 comparable. However, when comparing the NB4 and NB4+ATRA cells, we observed that
357 significant numbers of genes were up regulated, including many myeloid specific genes
358 (Supplementary Fig. 6b). Specifically to the set of genes (n=146) targeted by PML/RAR α (Fig.
359 3b), all of them were up-regulated in NB4+ATRA cells (Fig. 6c), suggesting that native
360 PML/RAR α had similar effects to myeloid specific genes as in the PR9 cellular system by the
361 induced PML/RAR α fusion protein.

362 Next, we performed ChIA-PET analyses for protein factors CTCF, PML/RAR α , and
363 RNAPII in NB4 cells, and then compared with the same datasets derived from PR9+Zn (Fig. 6a;
364 Fig. 1b-d). Similarly, the RNAPII and PML/RAR α binding peak profiles between NB4 and
365 PR9+Zn cells were also highly correlated (Supplementary Fig. 6b). We further analyzed the
366 chromatin contacts of the ChIA-PET data. The 2D contact profiles of the PML/RAR α ChIA-PET
367 data obtained in NB4 cells appeared to be very similar to the PML/RAR α data in PR9+Zn cells,
368 and obviously different from the RAR α (no PML) data in PR9 cells (Fig. 6d), clearly indicating
369 that the native PML/RAR α in NB4 cells behaved similarly to the induced PML/RAR α in PR9+Zn
370 cells. As a reference, the CTCF-mediated chromatin contacts in NB4, PR9+Zn and PR9 cells
371 were highly comparable, as expected. More specifically, the CTCF loops and peaks were highly

372 consistent in the three samples, and the PML/RAR α loops and peaks were also consistent in
373 NB4 and PR9+Zn cells, but not the same in PR9 cells, where there were no PML/RAR α data
374 except the data derived from RAR α (Fig. 6e). Collectively, these observations suggested that
375 the behavior of native PML/RAR α in genome topological organization in NB4 cells was similar to
376 that of the induced PML/RAR α in PR9+Zn cells.

377 Furthermore, we observed that PML/RAR α in NB4 cells also strongly inhibite RNAPII
378 occupancy and transcriptional chromatin interactions at many myeloid-specific gene loci in PR9
379 cells (Supplementary Fig. 6a). For instance, at the *BHLHE40* locus in PR9 cells (Fig. 6f),
380 RNAPII showed abundant occupancy at the gene promoter and mediated extensive chromatin
381 loops to enhancers. However, at the same locus in PR9+Zn and NB4 cells, strong PML/RAR α
382 binding and looping were observed, and the RNAPII signals were diminished (Fig. 6f). To further
383 investigate whether the native PML/RAR α in NB4 cells affects the gene expression of myeloid-
384 specific genes, as we showed in PR9 and PR9+Zn cells, we added ATRA to NB4 cells to
385 deplete the native PML/RAR α and then measured the transcripts by RNA-seq analysis.
386 Differential expression analysis showed that many myeloid specific genes expressed at high
387 levels in PR9 cells (*HCK*, *BHLHE40*, *CEBPB*, *IRF1*, etc) were repressed in NB4 cells and were
388 reactivated after 24 hours and 48 hours of ATRA treatments (Supplementary Fig. 6a). For
389 example, the normal expression of *BHLHE40* in PR9 cells was in a modest level (6.06 FPKM),
390 and was repressed more than twofold (2.73 FPKM) after 4 hours of ZnSO₄ induction of
391 PML/RAR α in PR9+Zn cells. At the same locus in NB4 cells, *BHLHE40* was repressed.
392 However, after ATRA treatment, the expression of this gene increased more than tenfold (Fig.
393 6g). Another prominent example is at the *FOS* locus (Supplementary Fig. 6c). Together, these
394 results further suggested that our observations for PML/RAR α in the PR9 inducible system
395 faithfully reflected the native PML/RAR α functions for chromosomal reorganization and
396 transcriptional repression in patient-derived APL cells.

397

398 **Discussion**

399 In this study, we comprehensively mapped the 3D genome organizations and epigenomic
400 features of normal myeloid cells and APL cells using integrative approaches including ChIA-PET
401 for chromatin topology, ChIP-seq for epigenomic state, and RNA-seq for transcriptional output,
402 to analyze the effects of the oncogenic fusion protein PML/RAR α on the myeloid genomes.
403 Significantly, we employed an inducible myeloid system, in which the expression of the
404 PML/RAR α protein is precisely control by ZnSO₄ induction. With this system, we investigated
405 the dynamic changes in chromatin topology triggered by nascent PML/RAR α in the initial
406 transformation stage, beginning at the normal myeloid state in leukemogenesis. We also
407 analyzed the patient-derived APL cells harboring native PML/RAR α to validate our observations
408 in the inducible myeloid system.

409 Collectively, in this study we provided convincing data demonstrating that the
410 PML/RAR α proteins are aggressively involved in extensive chromatin interactions genome-wide
411 in a specific manner. Although the DNA-binding properties of PML/RAR α are derived from
412 RAR α , more than two thirds (2/3) of the PML/RAR α binding loci did not overlap with RAR α
413 binding sites, indicating that this fusion protein acquired novel chromatin interacting capacities.
414 Intriguingly, our data indicated that PML/RAR α did not directly interfere with CTCF binding and
415 chromatin looping, but rather that many of the PML/RAR α -mediated chromatin loops overlapped
416 the boundaries of CTCF-defined topological structures, and acted as a “stitch” or “staple” to
417 interconnect separate chromatin topological structures into much larger domains with more
418 condensed configuration, thereby reshaping the chromatin topology in normal myeloid cells
419 leading to leukemogenesis.

420 Importantly, we also demonstrated that PML/RAR α specifically intrude upon RNAPII-
421 associated chromatin interaction domains of active genes in myeloid cells interrupting the

422 binding of myeloid-specific TFs such as PU.1, IRF1, and CEBPB at enhancers and super-
423 enhancers. The extensive chromatin binding and looping by PML/RAR α could substantially
424 compressed the chromatin topological structures around myeloid-specific transcriptional
425 cassettes, thus leading to transcriptional repression of genes that are critical for myeloid
426 differentiation and maturation. Perturbation experiments via induction (by ZnSO₄) and depletion
427 (by ATRA) of *in vivo* PML/RAR α in PR9 cells to repress and to rescue the normal myeloid
428 differentiation expression cassette further validated the specificity of PML/RAR α -targeted genes.
429 Additional perturbation experiments with native PML/RAR α in patient-derived NB4 cells by
430 ATRA treatment provided further evidence verifying PML/RAR α 's target specificity in gene
431 transcription repression.

432 Taken together, our findings comprised a comprehensive view of the involvement of
433 PML/RAR α in chromatin topology during the early transformation process of PML/RAR α -
434 triggered APL genesis. Mechanistically, we posit that PML/RAR α overrides the normal
435 regulatory control of myeloid differentiation by reshaping the higher-order chromatin topology
436 and compressing the transcriptional chromatin architectures. Therefore, the compressed
437 chromatin domains would have reduced access by specific TFs and RNAPII, thus repress the
438 transcription of genes critical to myeloid differentiation, and ultimately lead to leukemogenesis. In
439 sum, our results provide novel topological insights for the roles of PML/RAR α in transforming
440 myeloid cells into leukemia cells, likely a general mechanism for oncogenic fusion proteins in
441 cancers.

442

443 **Methods**

444 **Availability of data and materials**

445 Genome-wide sequencing raw reads and processed files has been deposited at GEO.
446 The accession number for the ChIA-PET, ChIP-Seq and RNA-Seq datasets for PR9 and NB4

447 cells reported in this paper is GEO: GSE137662. All datasets, materials and softwares used in
448 this study are listed in the supplementary Table S1, S2 and S3, respectively.

449 **Cell Lines and Culture Conditions**

450 PR9 (U937-PR9) cell line is a PML/RAR α -inducible model constructed from U937, a normal
451 myeloid precursor cell line without the t(15;17) translocation but expressing many myeloid-specific
452 transcription factors important in myeloid development, including PU.1. To avoid the potential bias of
453 clonal variations in culture, a single-cell subclone was selected. NB4 is an patient-derived APL cell line,
454 carrying the t(15;17) translocation and expressing the PML/RAR α fusion protein. Both PR9 and NB4 cells
455 were cultured in RPMI 1640 (ThermoFisher, A10491), supplemented with 10% fetal bovine serum
456 (ThermoFisher, 10082147). These cells were cultured at 37 °C, 5% CO₂, and ambient oxygen levels.

457 ZnSO₄ (Sigma, Z0251) was dissolved in sterile water as a stock solution at 100 mM. Induction for
458 PML/RAR α by ZnSO₄ in PR9 cells: 100 μ M ZnSO₄ for 4 hours.

459 ATRA (Sigma, R2625) was dissolved in ethanol as a stock solution at 1 mM. ATRA treatment in
460 NB4 cells: 10⁻⁶M ATRA for 24 or 48 hours.

461 **ChIA-PET library preparation**

462 ChIA-PET libraries with antibody against PML, RAR α , RNAPII, and CTCF were constructed using
463 about 10⁸ input cells from PR9, PR9+Zn, and NB4 cell cultures, following the ChIA-PET protocol [29,30].
464 The ChIA-PET libraries were sequenced by paired-end reads using Illumina instrument.

465 **ChIP-Seq**

466 In this study, we generated ChIP-seq data from PR9 and PR9+Zn cells for TFs of P300, PU.1,
467 CEBPB, and IRF1, using the antibodies: anti-P300 (Abcam, ab14984), anti-PU.1 (Santa Cruz, sc-352X),
468 anti-IRF1 antibody (Santa Cruz, sc-497x), anti-CEBPB antibody (Santa Cruz, sc-150x), and followed
469 standard ChIP-seq protocol [8].

470 **RNA isolation and RNA-Seq library preparation**

471 Total RNA was extracted with RNeasy mini kit (Qiagen, 74106) from the following cells: PR9 cells,
472 PR9 cells treated with ZnSO₄ (final concentration is 100 μ M) at different time points (4h, 6h, 12h, 24h),
473 PR9 cells pre-incubated with ZnSO₄ for 4 hours and then treated with ATRA (final concentration is 1 μ M)

474 for another 24 or 48 hours, NB4 cells and NB4 cells treated with ATRA (final concentration is 1 μ M) for 24
475 and 48 hours. Prior to RNA-Seq library preparations, rRNAs were depleted using Ribo-Zero rRNA
476 removal kits (Illumina Inc, MRZH11124) from total RNA. Then, RNA libraries were prepared by ScriptSeq
477 RNA-Seq library preparation kit (Illumina Inc, SSV21124). The RNA-Seq libraries were sequenced using
478 NextSeq 500 platform for paired-end sequencing.

479 **3D DNA FISH**

480 The 3D DNA-FISH was performed with custom-synthesized oligonucleotides probes (MYcroarray)
481 according to candidate genome loci (probe A: chr20: 31,261,904-31,361,904, probe B: chr20:
482 30,141,728-30,241,728) [16]. PR9 cells and PR9 cells treated with ZnSO₄ (final concentration is 100 μ M)
483 for 4 hours were spin down onto a coverslip slide coating with poly-lysine for 20 minutes; then wash the
484 slides with PBS for 3 times and air dried. The cells were fixed in methanol/acetic acid solution (3:1) for 5
485 minutes at 4 degrees, air dried, wash with PBS for 5 minutes. The cells were dehydration through an
486 ethanol series (70%, 90%, 100%) and air-drying. Then the cells were permeabilized with 0.5% Triton X-
487 100 in PBS on ice for 5 minutes, and wash with PBS for 5 minutes. Customized FISH probe (MYcroarray)
488 was warmed and mixed with hybridization buffer well. The cells and the probe mix were simultaneously
489 subjected to DNA denaturation at 80°C for 5 min. The hybridization was performed at 37°C in the humid
490 dark chamber for overnight. After coverslip removing, once washing of 10min at RT with 2 \times SSC/50%
491 deionized formamide, pH 7.0, followed by once wash of 10 min at RT with 2 \times SSC and twice washes of 10
492 min at 55°C with 0.2 \times SSC were performed. Then cells on the slides were incubated with ProLong™ Gold
493 Antifade Mountant with DAPI (ThermoFisher, 36931) in PBS buffer for 5 minutes and examined under the
494 Leica SP8 confocal microscope. The distances between the probe pair were measure in 3D with IMARIS
495 9 software.

496

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507 **Author contributions**

508 Y.R. conceptualized and supervised this study. P.W. designed the experiments and
509 generated all genomic data with assistance from X.R. and M.Z. on library construction. Z.T.,
510 B.L., and S.Z.T. analyzed the data. J.J.Z and L.C. performed 3D DNA-FISH experiments and
511 data analysis. P.S. and D.P. performed simulation and visualization of 3D chromatin folding
512 models. P.W, Z.T, and Y.R. interpreted the results and wrote the manuscript with inputs from
513 E.T.L and C-L.W.

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516 **Ethics declarations**

517 **Ethics approval and consent to participate**

518 Not applicable

519 **Competing interests**

520 The authors declare that they have no competing interests.

521

522 **Supplementary information**

523 Supplemental information includes three tables and six figures can be found with this
524 article.

525 **Figure titles and legends:**

526 **Figure 1. Mapping of 3D epigenome organizations in myeloid cells with inducible**
527 **PML/RAR α**

- 528 a. Schematic of experimental designs using an inducible system. PR9 cells contain an
529 inducible construct of the fusion gene PML/RAR α . Upon ZnSO₄ induction, the fusion
530 gene will be activated, and the PML/RAR α protein is expressed and interacts with the
531 myeloid genome. Both PR9 and PR9+Zn cells were analyzed by ChIA-PET, ChIP-seq,
532 and RNA-seq to map the 3D epigenomes.
- 533 b. 2D chromatin contact maps of the PML and RAR α ChIA-PET data from PR9 (top) and
534 PR9+Zn (bottom) cells. To be noted, PML ChIA-PET did not produce meaningful data,
535 while the RAR α ChIA-PET generated abundant data mapping RAR α -mediated
536 chromatin interactions in PR9 cells (top). However, both PML and RAR α experiments in
537 PR9+Zn cells produced equal amounts of data with same patterns, indicating the
538 detection of chromatin interactions mediated by the fusion protein PML/RAR α . The
539 boxed segments were zoomed-in for details in E.
- 540 c. 2D chromatin contact maps of the CTCF ChIA-PET data from PR9 (top) and PR9+Zn
541 (bottom) cells.
- 542 d. 2D chromatin contact maps of the RNAPII ChIA-PET data from PR9 (top) and PR9+Zn
543 (bottom) cells.
- 544 e. Screenshots of browser views displaying a genomic segment at *CEBPB* loci in chr20,
545 exemplifying the chromatin interactions detected by ChIA-PET using PML, RAR α , CTCF,
546 and RNAPII antibodies in PR9 (left) and PR9+Zn (right) cells. As shown, the CTCF data
547 (green) exhibited same patterns and intensity in both PR9 and PR9+Zn cells; No PML
548 data (pink) in PR9 cells, but extensive data in PR9+Zn cells; weak RAR α signals in PR9
549 but strong strong and abundant (purple) in PR9+Zn; strong RNAPII (red) binding at the

550 CEBPB gene locus and interaction loops to enhancer sites in PR9 cells, but absent
551 in PR9+Zn cells. The RNA-seq data showing that CEBPB is expressed in PR9 cells, but
552 reduced by twofold in PR9+Zn cells.

553

554 **Figure 2. Reorganization of chromatin topology by PML/RAR α -mediated chromatin**
555 **interactions**

556 a. Chromatin domains and genomic coverages by CTCF (combined data in PR9 and
557 PR9+Zn cells), RAR α (PR9) and PML/RAR α (combined data in PR9+Zn). Summary
558 table shows domain numbers and size of interaction domains. CTCF data from B-
559 lymphoblastoid cells (GM12878) was given as a reference.

560 b. Schematic of RAR α and PML/RAR α binding sites detected in PR9 and PR9+Zn cells
561 detected by RAR α - and PML- ChIA-PET experiments. RAR α -specific (I), RAR α and
562 PML shared (II), and PML/RAR α -specific binding sites were identified based on the
563 combination patterns of the data in both PR9 and PR9+Zn cells.

564 c. Characterized RAR α and PML/RAR α binding sites in relation to TSS of genes.

565 d. Identification and classification of RAR α - and PML/RAR α -associated chromatin
566 interactions in PR9 and PR9+Zn cells. Three types of RAR α and PML/RAR α binding
567 sites (b) involved in interactions are indicated as circles. The interactions between two
568 sites are indicated with lines. The thickness of lines corresponds to the number of
569 interactions. Numbers of chromatin interactions in each category are given alongside
570 the lines.

571 e. Screenshot of genome browser view of chromatin interaction loop, binding peak and
572 chromatin interaction domain for CTCF (green), RAR α (blue), and PML/RAR α (purple)

573 at the *ID1-HCK* locus. Binding and looping signals for each protein factor were
574 normalized.

575 f. Integrated 2D chromatin contact maps for genomic segment (same as in E) on chr20 for
576 CTCF, RAR α , and PML/RAR α ChIA-PET data from PR9 and PR9+Zn cells. The red
577 signals in the contact maps were from the combined CTCF and RAR α data (left, PR9
578 cells) and the combined CTCF, RAR α , and PML data (right, PR9+Zn cells). Light green
579 and dark green triangles depict CTCF loop and CCD, respectively; light blue and dark
580 blue triangles depict RAR α loops and domains; light and dark purple depict PML/RAR α
581 loops and domains. Red triangles indicate RNAPII-mediated loops and domains.

582 g. 3D DNA-FISH validation. Two probes (red and blue) were designed at the corresponding
583 position in the two separated CTCF domains as shown in E. Left panel: Example 3D
584 DNA-FISH images of separated and merged views for the two probes (A in red, B in
585 green) were shown in both PR9 and PR9+Zn cells. Right panel: Boxplot of spatial
586 distance between the two probes measured microscopically from 300 nuclei in each of
587 the PR9 and PR9+Zn cells. Mann-Whitney u test was used to test difference. ** $p < 0.01$.

588 h. 3D chromatin folding rendering. Simulated 3D models of average structure and
589 ensemble cloud in PR9 (left) and PR9+Zn (middle) using the data in corresponding
590 region in F. Boxplot of radial diameter of simulated 3D models. K-S test was used to test
591 differences. ** $p < 2.2e-16$.

592

593 **Figure 3. PML/RAR α selectively disrupt RNAPII transcriptome**

594 a. Scatter plots showing signal reduction of RNAPII occupancy at PML/RAR α binding sites
595 (left), RAR α binding sites (middle), and other loci (right) in PR9+Zn cells. The red dots
596 represent the data points of RNAPII binding intensity was significantly higher in PR9
597 than in PR9+Zn cells. The gray dots denote the RNAPII data points without significant

598 changes in binding intensity between PR9 and PR9+Zn cells. The numbers of
599 corresponding sites and the percentages of RNAPII changes are shown in each plot.

600 b. Expression profiles of representative genes (n=280) whose promoters both exhibited
601 decreased RNAPII binding intensity and overlapped with PML/RAR α binding in PR9,
602 PR9+Zn, and PR9+Zn+ATRA cells. The blue dashed box highlights the genes that were
603 repressed by PML/RAR α . The yellow dashed box highlights the genes (n=119) that
604 were repressed by PML/RAR α but rescued by ATRA treatment. Key genes known to be
605 involved in leukemia biogenesis are indicated.

606 c. Gene ontology (GO) enrichment analysis of genes (n=280) whose promoters represent
607 decreased RNAPII binding intensity (control vs. treatment) in the PML/RAR α category
608 that were characterized in (A). X axis denotes enrichment score of $-\log_{10}$ (FDR).

609 d. Screenshot of browser views of chromatin interaction loops and peaks for RAR α (blue),
610 RNAPII (red), and PML/RAR α (purple) at the *SIGIRR* locus in PR9 and PR9+Zn cells.
611 Strand-specific RNA-seq data in PR9 and PR9+Zn cells with time course of ATRA
612 treatment. The *SIGIRR* region is highlighted. The expression data (RPKM) for *SIGIRR*
613 expression are given in each RNA-seq track.

614 e. Line plot shows mean expression level of *IRF2BP2* over the timepoints of ZnOS4 and
615 ATRA treatments.

616

617 **Figure 4. PML/RAR α interrupted the transcription activity of key transcription factors**

618 a. Motif enrichments of hematopoietic transcription factor at PML/RAR α binding sites.

619 b. Venn diagrams of the overlapped binding sites by three TFs (PU.1, CEBPB and IRF1) in
620 PR9 and PR9+Zn cells.

621 c. Two examples (left, on chr11; right, chr20) showing PML/RAR α binding and looping,
622 where the occupancy by H3K9K14ac (pink), P300 (red), PU.1 (orange), CEBPB (green),
623 and IRF1 (blue) in PR9 cells was notably reduced in PR9+Zn cells. The promoter site is
624 highlighted in light red and the enhancer sites are highlighted in light blue. RNA-seq data
625 from PR9 cells and from the time course treatments in PR9+Zn cells are also shown.

626

627 **Figure 5. Super-enhancers affected by PML/RAR α**

628 a. Boxplots of H3K9K14ac ChIP-seq intensity at the PML/RAR α (P/R, purple) interaction
629 binding sites or not as identified in PR9+Zn cells. The control (grey) represents
630 H3K9K14ac signals at non-PML/RAR α anchor loci (None). Paired t-test was used to test
631 difference. ** $p < 0.001$.

632 b. Distribution plots of H3K9K14ac ChIP-seq signals and the super-enhancers (SEs)
633 identified in PR9 and PR9+Zn cells. SEs were ranked by increasing H3K9K14ac signals.
634 SEs associated with genes critical in myeloid differentiation are highlighted in red.

635 c. Venn diagram for the numbers of unique and common SEs in PR9 and ZnSO₄-treated
636 PR9 cells based on differential analysis of H3K9K14ac signals.

637 d. Boxplots for normalized data signal intensity of RNAPII binding and loops at SE sites in
638 PR9 and PR9+Zn (+Zn) cells (left), and the RAR α binding and looping in PR9 cells and
639 PML/RAR α binding and looping in PR9+Zn (+Zn) cells at SE sites (right). ** $p < 0.001$.
640 by Kolmogorov-Smirnov test.

641 e. An example of chromatin interactions at the *IRF2BPL* locus identified by ChIA-PET of
642 RAR α (blue) and RNAPII (red) in PR9 cells, and PML/RAR α (purple) and RNAPII (red)
643 in PR9+Zn cells. Each ChIA-PET data are shown in tracks of loops (up) and peaks
644 (below).

645 f. At the same location as in E, two SEs (highlighted) were identified with clusters of
646 multiple H3K9K14ac peaks in PR9 cells. The H3K9K14ac peak signals were notably
647 reduced in PR9+Zn cells. Similarly, the ChIP-seq signals for P300 and IRF1obserevd in
648 PR9 cells were aalso reduced in PR9+Zn cells. Also, the expression of *IRF2BPL* as
649 measured by RNA-seq data (RPKM) in PR9 cells was reduced by more than twofold in
650 PR9+Zn cells.

651

652 **Figure 6. Native PML/RAR α in patient-derived APL cells behaved the same as induced**
653 **PML/RAR α .**

654 a. Schematic design for comparison of transcription (RNA-seq) and 3D genome
655 organization (ChIA-PET of PML/RAR α , RNAPII, and CTCF) between patient-derived
656 APL cells (NB4, with native PML/RAR α) vs. PR9 cells by ZnSO₄ induction (PR9+Zn,
657 with induced PML/RAR α), as well as for comparison of transcription (RNA-seq) between
658 NB4 cells under ATRA treatment (NB4+ATRA, with native PML/RAR α depleted) vs. PR9
659 cells without PML/RAR α .

660 b. Contour plots for correlation of gene expression (FPKM) between NB4 vs. PR9+Zn cells
661 (left) and NB4+ATRA vs. PR9 cells (right).

662 c. Contour plots for correlation of gene expression (FPKM) of the 146 PML/RAR α target
663 genes between NB4 vs. NB4+ATRA cells.

664 d. Integrated 2D contact maps of PML/RAR α (up, purple) and CTCF (low, green) ChIA-
665 PET data in NB4 (left), PR9+Zn (middle), and PR9 (right) cells.

666 e. A screenshot of browser view for chromatin loops and pleaks by CTCF (green) and
667 PML/RAR α (purple) showing high similarity between NB4 (top) and PR9+Zn (middle)

668 cells. Chromatin loops and peaks by CTCF (green) and RAR α (blue) in PR9 cells are
669 included as a reference of normal myeloid cells.

670 f. An example for comparison at the *BHLHE40* locus of chromatin loops peaks by CTCF
671 (green), PML/RAR α (purple) or RAR α (blue), and RNAPII (red) in cells of NB4 (orange
672 box), PR9+Zn (purple box), and PR9 (blue box) cells. It indicated that the chromatin
673 structures mediated by CTCF, and PML/RAR α , and RNAPII in NB4 cells and PR9+Zn
674 cells were highly comparable. When compared to the data in PR9 cells, both NB4 and
675 PR9+Zn cells exhibited high levels of PML/RAR α chromatin interactions, but basal
676 levels of RNAPII occupancy.

677 g. At the same *BHLHE40* locus, the expression (FPKM) of gene *BHLHE40* as measured in
678 PR9 were significantly reduced in PR9+ZN and NB4 cells, but recovered in NB4 cells
679 afater ATRA treatments.

680

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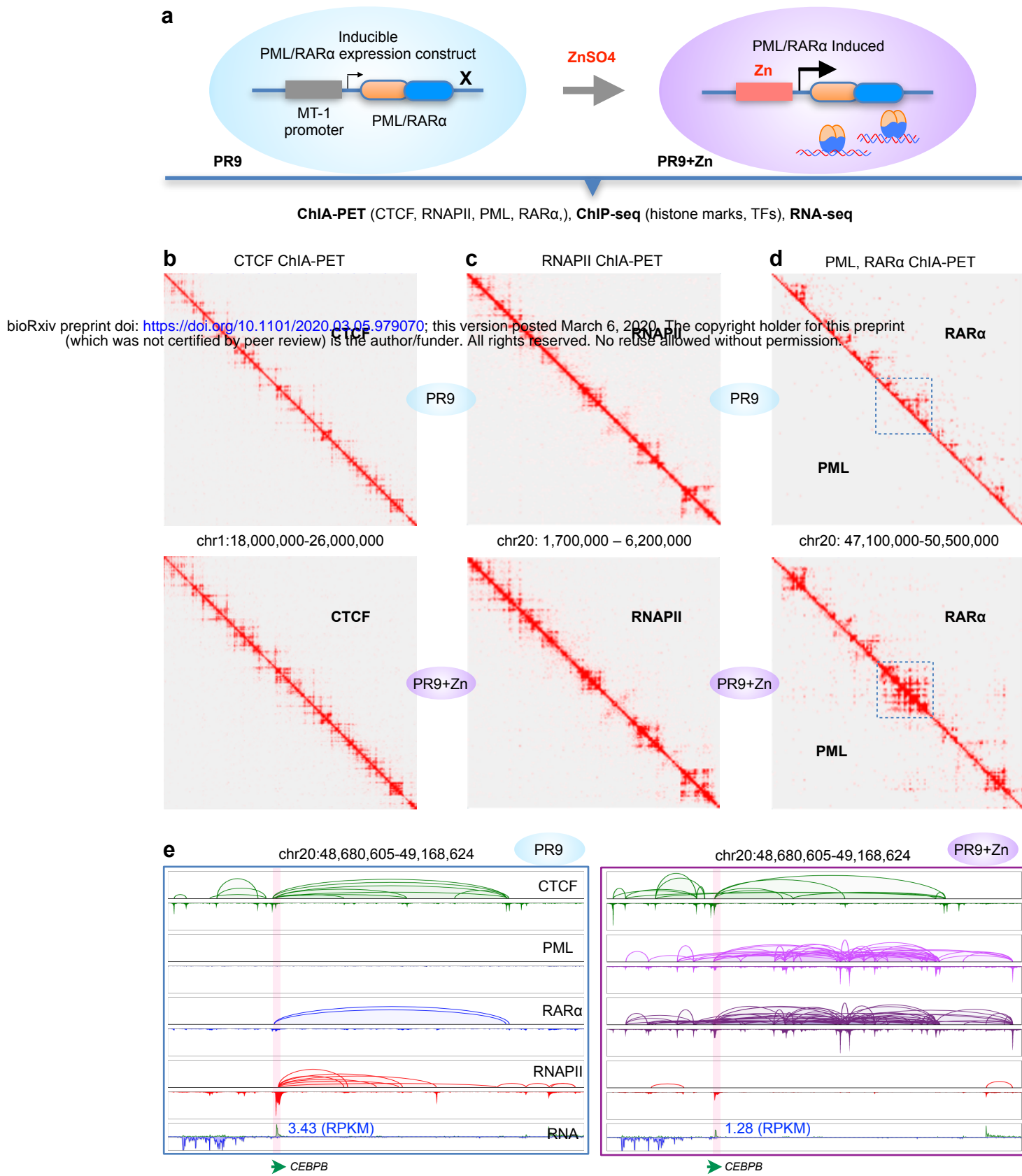


Figure 1

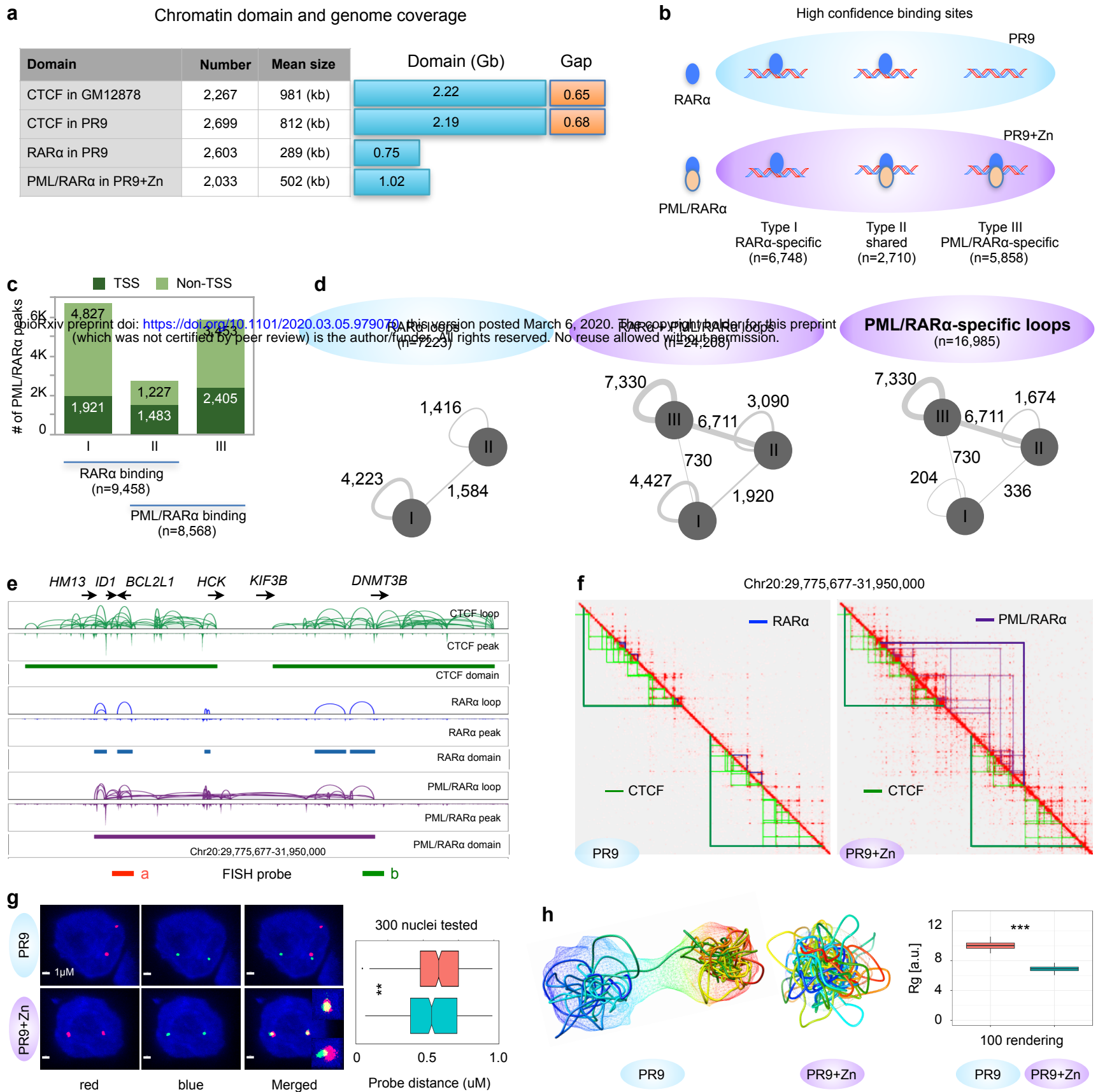


Figure 2

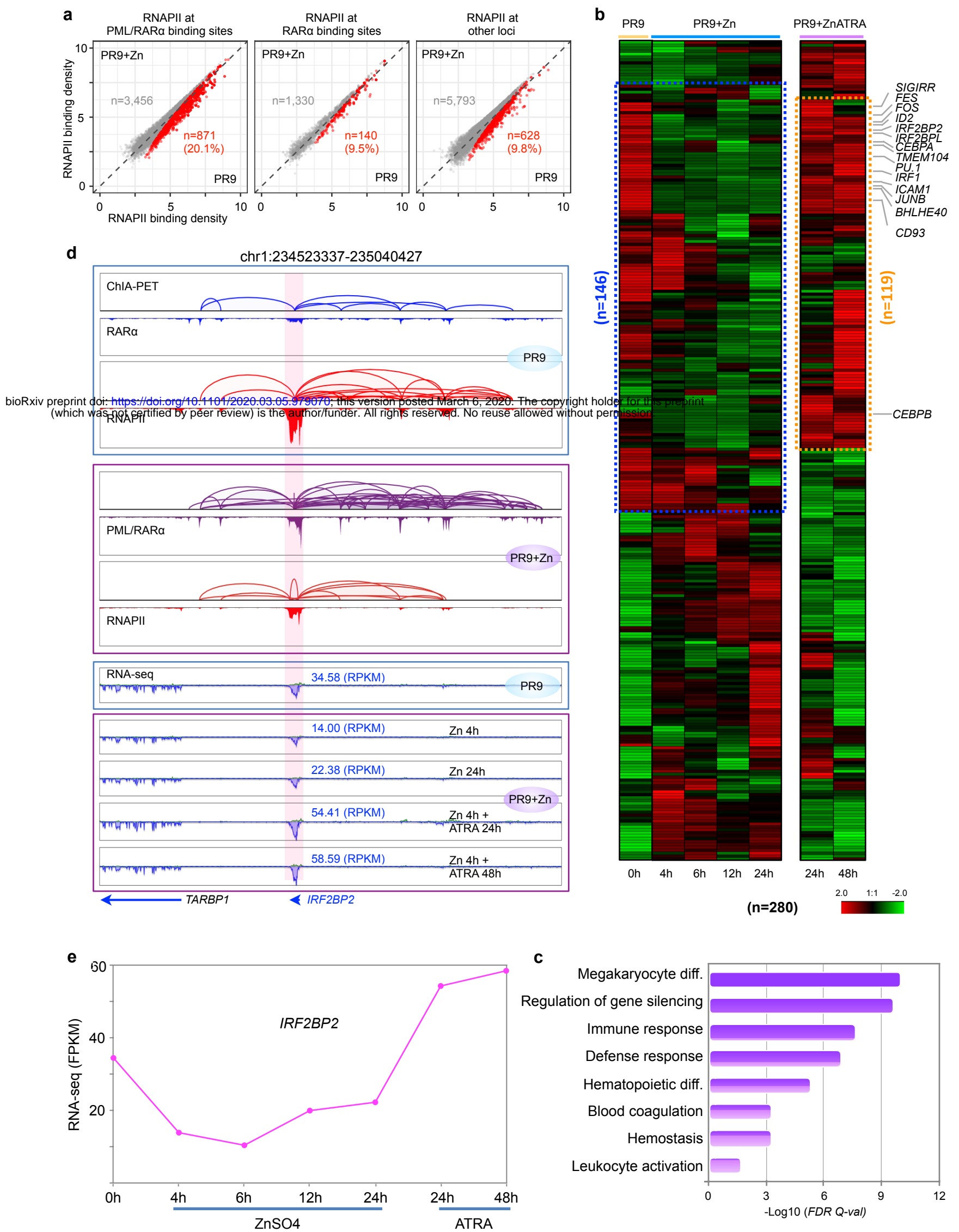


Figure 3

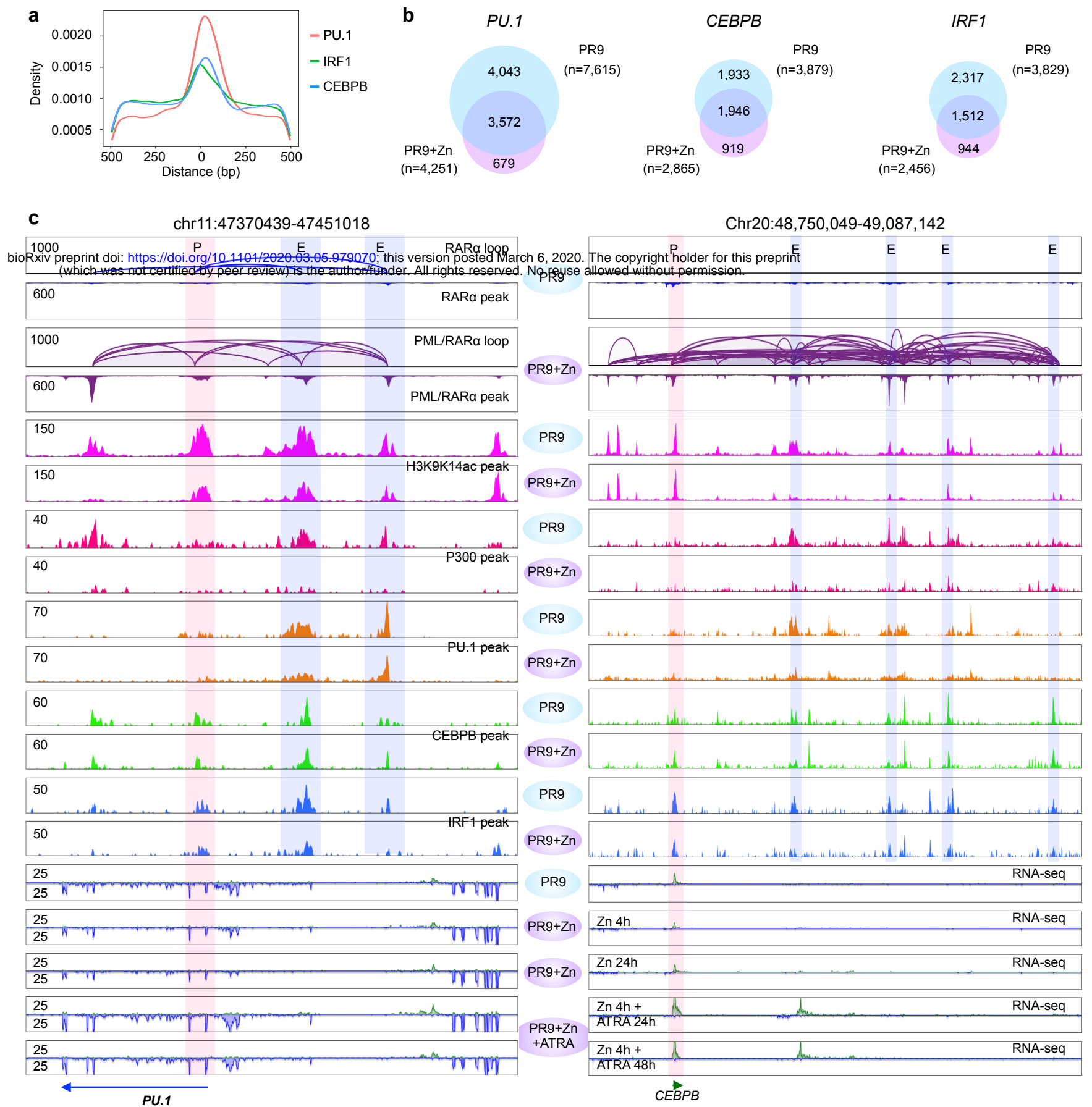


Figure 4

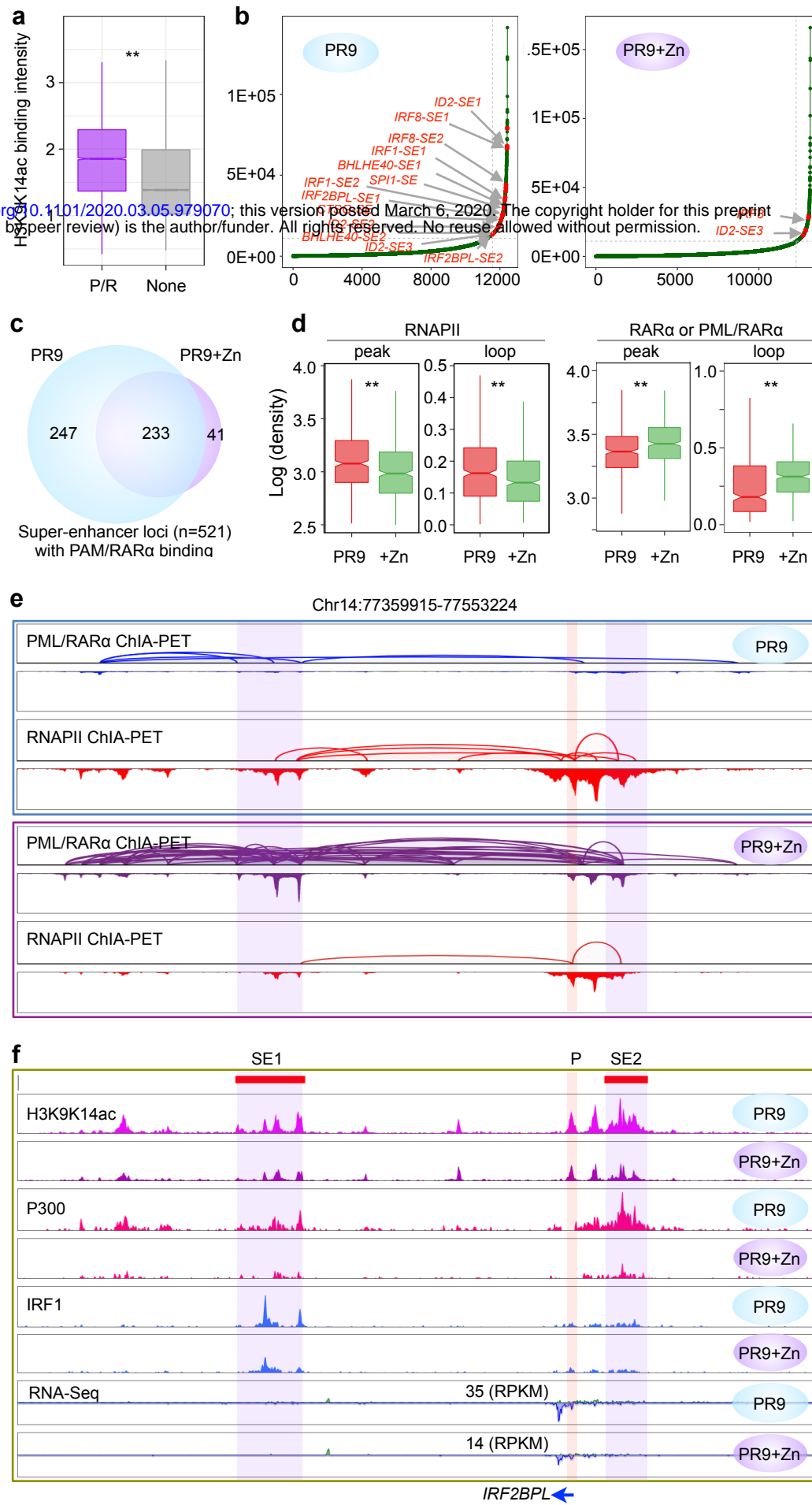


Figure 5

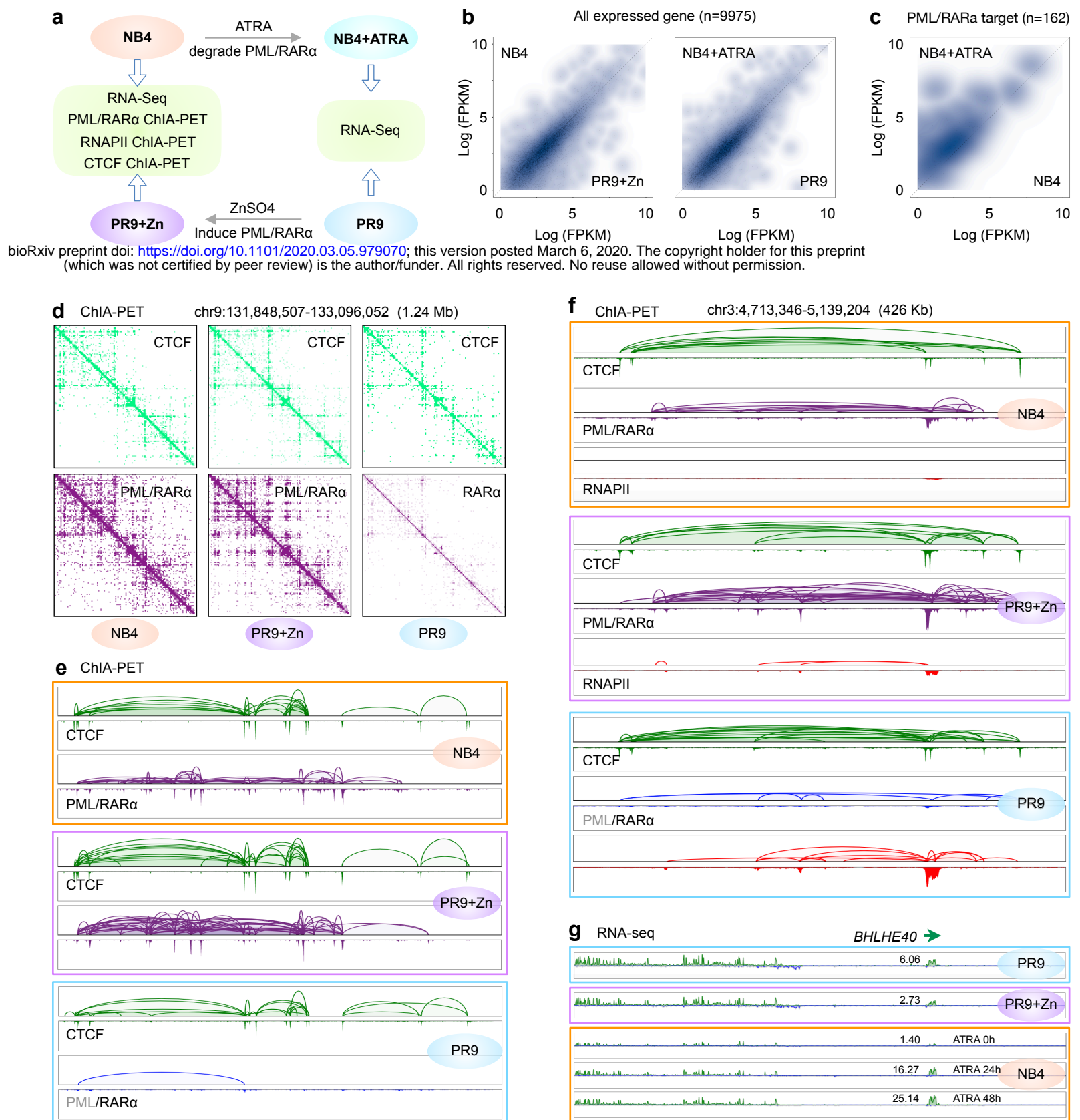


Figure 6