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Recursive splicing is a rare event in the mouse brain

Sohyun Moon[1], Ying-Tao Zhao[1*]

[1]Department of Biomedical Sciences, New York Institute of Technology College of

Osteopathic Medicine, Old Westbury, NY, 11568, USA.

*Corresponding author

E-mail: yzhao47@nyit.edu (YTZ)

Abstract

Recursive splicing (RS) is a splicing mechanism to remove long introns from messenger RNA precursors of long genes. Compared to the hundreds of RS events identified in humans and drosophila, only ten RS events have been reported in mice. To further investigate RS in mice, we analyzed RS in the mouse brain, a tissue that is enriched in the expression of long genes. We found that nuclear total RNA sequencing is an efficient approach to investigate RS events. We analyzed 1.15 billion uniquely mapped reads from the nuclear total RNA sequencing data in the mouse cerebral cortex. Unexpectedly, we only identified 20 RS sites, suggesting that RS is a rare event in the mouse brain. We also identified that RS is constitutive between excitatory and inhibitory neurons and between sexes in the mouse cerebral cortex. In addition, we found that the primary sequence context is associated with RS splicing intermediates and distinguishes RS AGGT site from non-RS AGGT sites, indicating the importance of the primary sequence context in RS sites. Moreover, we discovered that cryptic exons may use an RS-like mechanism for splicing. Overall, our findings provide novel insights into RS in long genes.

Introduction

Recursive splicing (RS) is a splicing mechanism that removes a long intron into several smaller segments as opposed to in a large single unit(1-11). RS is untraceable in the mature messenger RNA (mRNA), and the direct evidence of RS is the splicing intermediates. However, RS splicing intermediates are unstable, making them difficult to be captured and analyzed. Whole-cell ribosomal RNA-depleted total RNA sequencing (total RNA-seq) and nascent RNA-seq have been used to identify RS splicing intermediates(3, 5, 7-9, 11).

RS has been widely studied in humans. Two earlier studies identified five and nine RS events in humans(3, 5), suggesting that RS might be a rare splicing mechanism for a small group of long introns. Intriguingly, a recent study using nascent RNA-seq identified 342 candidate RS sites in three human cell lines(9). Similarly, another study using nascent RNA-seq reported 5,468 RS events in a human cell line(11). These two studies suggested that RS might be a widely used splicing mechanism in mammals. However, given these extensive studies of RS in humans, only ten RS events have been reported in mice so far. Thus, the extent to which RS is used for intron splicing in mice remains largely unexplored.

Here, we report that nuclear total RNA-seq is enriched for RS splicing intermediates and nascent transcripts, which suggests that it is an efficient approach to investigate RS events. Using nuclear total RNA-seq data generated from the mouse brain, we identified novel RS events, examined the cell-type and sex specificity of RS, and analyzed RS splicing intermediates. We found that RS is a rare process of intron splicing in the mouse

brain. We also found that some cryptic exons use an RS-like mechanism for splicing.

Together, our findings provide novel insights into the mechanisms of RS in long genes.

Results

Nuclear total RNA is enriched for nascent transcripts and RS splicing intermediates

in the mouse brain.

Compared to hundreds of RS events identified in humans, only nine RS events have been

reported in mice(5). Because RS tends to occur in long genes, to further investigate RS

in mice, we analyzed RS in the mouse brain, a tissue that is enriched in the expression

of long genes. To determine whether nascent transcripts and RS splicing intermediates

are enriched in nuclear RNA (Fig. 1a), we analyzed nuclear ribosomal RNA-depleted total

RNA sequencing (total RNA-seq) and whole-cell total RNA-seq data that we recently

generated from the mouse cerebral cortex(12, 13) (Supplementary Figure S1a). As a

control data set, we also analyzed poly(A) enriched messenger RNA-seq (mRNA-seq)

data that were generated from the same mouse brain region(14).

Fig. 1 Nuclear total RNA is enriched for nascent transcripts and RS splicing intermediates in the
mouse brain. **(a)** Schematic of the isolation of different types of RNA. **(b)** Schematic of the two
features of RS, the saw-tooth pattern (red triangles) and the RS splicing intermediate. **(c)** Pie
charts of loci of uniquely mapped reads in gene regions. **(d)** Sequencing profile at *Hs6st3*. r1,
replicate 1. kb, kilobases. **(e)** Boxplot of normalized numbers of RS junction reads at *Hs6st3* RS
site. RPM, reads per million uniquely mapped reads. *, P = 0.03, one-tailed t-test.
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Nascent transcripts, which can be indicated by the sequencing reads mapped to

introns(15), are important to identify RS events, because RS introns exhibit a saw-tooth

pattern of nascent transcript signals from total RNA-seq data(3, 5) (red triangles, Fig. 1b).

To determine the enrichment of nascent transcripts in nuclear RNA, we calculated the

proportions of reads mapped to introns in nuclear total RNA-seq data, whole-cell total

RNA-seq data, and mRNA-seq data. We found that 77% of the uniquely mapped reads

from the nuclear total RNA-seq data are localized in introns, which is significantly higher

than the 41% from the whole-cell total RNA-seq data and the 23% from the mRNA-seq

data ($P < 2.2^{-16}$, one-tailed Fisher's Exact Test) (Fig. 1c and Supplementary Figure S1a).

In addition, at a known RS intron in *Hs6st3*, we observed a more distinct saw-tooth pattern

in the nuclear total RNA-seq data than in the whole-cell total RNA-seq data (Fig. 1d).

These results suggest that nuclear total RNA is enriched for nascent transcripts.

RS splicing intermediates, which can be indicated by the junction reads spanning

the upstream exon and the RS AGGT site (RS junction reads, Fig. 1b), is also important

to identify RS events. To examine RS splicing intermediates in nuclear RNA, we

calculated the numbers of junction reads at a known RS site in *Hs6st3*. We found that the

number of RS junction reads at *Hs6st3* is 3-fold higher in nuclear total RNA-seq data than

in whole-cell total RNA-seq data (Fig. 1e). Together, these results indicate that nuclear

total RNA is enriched for nascent transcripts and RS splicing intermediates.

Identify RS sites using nuclear total RNA-seq data.

To identify RS sites from nuclear total RNA-seq data, we modified a previously developed

pipeline and incorporated additional criteria(5) (Fig. 2a). First, we extracted all junction

reads spanning the AGGT sites in the mouse genome and then focused on the AGGT

sites located in introns that are longer than 1 kb. To exclude unannotated exons from our

analyses, we selected AGGT sites that show more than two-fold enrichment of RS

junction reads in nuclear total RNA-seq than in mRNA-seq. To increase the degree of

confidence, we selected sites containing 10 or more RS junction reads as RS site

candidates. To enhance the detection of RS junction reads, one of the nuclear total RNA-

seq sample was sequenced to extra depth, resulting in 428 million uniquely mapped reads

(Supplementary Figure S1a). Lastly, we visually inspected the candidates to select sites

that show saw-tooth patterns in their host introns as RS sites.

Fig. 2 Identify RS sites using nuclear total RNA-seq data. (**a**) Schematic of the pipeline using
nuclear total RNA-seq data to identify RS sites. (**b**) The 84 RS candidates. (**c**) Bar plot of RS sites
identified using the two sequencing methods in the mouse cerebral cortex. (**d**) Sequencing profile
at *Lsamp* locus. Green arrows indicate the four novel RS sites. **(e)** Using RT-PCR to detect RS
splicing intermediates. Left, schematic of the primer design. Right, RT-PCR and gel results. Note,
there are two bands in the positive control and RSi-3 in *Lsamp*, because there is an alternative
splicing exon (60 bp) located between RS site 2 and RS site 3 in *Lsamp*.
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RS is a rare event in the mouse brain.

By applying the pipeline to the 506 million uniquely mapped reads from our nuclear

total RNA-seq data, we identified 84 RS site candidates (Supplementary Figure S1b). To

further refine these candidates, we manually inspected the 84 sites, including the profiles

of all sequencing reads and the junction reads at these genomic loci. We found that 19 of

the 84 candidates are RS events that show a saw-tooth pattern (Fig. 2b,c and

Supplementary Figure S1b). For the other candidates, 46 of them are exons

(Supplementary Figure S1b,c) that were not annotated in the Ensembl release 93

database; 17 of them are likely nascent transcripts in introns (Supplementary Figure S1b,

c); and 2 of them are unknown sites in the introns of *Etl4* and *Nufip1* (Supplementary

Figure S1b).

The 19 RS sites include all the ten known RS sites in mice(5) (Supplementary Figure

S1d). Nine RS sites (47%) we identified are novel in mice, including the four sites in the

introns of *Lsamp* (Fig. 2d, green arrows). To validate the identified RS sites, we conducted

RT-PCR to detect the RS splicing intermediates for three known RS sites in *Hs6st3* and

Cadm2 and three novel RS sites in *Lsamp* (Fig. 2e). Notably, we detected RS splicing

intermediates for all the six RS sites (Fig. 2e), which independently supported the RS

sites that we identified using the nuclear total RNA-seq data.

We next applied the same pipeline to the whole-cell total RNA-seq data and

identified nine RS sites (Supplementary Figure S1d). We found that using nuclear total

RNA-seq identified two-fold more RS sites than using whole-cell total RNA-seq (Fig. 2c),

suggesting that nuclear total RNA-seq is an efficient approach to identify RS events.

To determine whether our criteria were too stringent, we lowered the cutoff of the

counts of RS junction reads from 10 to five. We identified 103 additional RS site

candidates (Supplementary Figure S1e). However, none of them exhibited saw-tooth

patterns in the host introns, suggesting that lowering the cutoff of the counts of RS junction

reads did not identify additional RS sites. Together, the finding that only 19 RS sites were

identified from 506 million uniquely mapped reads indicates that RS is a rare event in the

mouse brain.

RS is restricted to the AGGT motif.

Although GT is the most highly used motif for 5' splice sites (5'SS), other motifs can also

be used for 5'SS. To determine whether RS occurs in AGNN motifs where NN is not GT,

we used a pipeline to identify RS sites in AGNN motif. This pipeline is similar to the one

in Fig. 2a. Briefly, we extracted all junction reads spanning the AGNN sites, focused on

the AGNN sites located in introns, selected AGNN sites that show more than two-fold

enrichment of RS junction reads in nuclear total RNA-seq than in mRNA-seq, and then

selected sites containing 10 or more RS junction reads as RS site candidates. As a result,

we identified 405 AGNN RS site candidates (Supplementary Figure S2). However, visual

inspection revealed that none of them exhibit saw-tooth patterns in the host introns. Thus,

these results indicate that RS is restricted to the AGGT motif.

RS is constitutive between cell types and sexes in the mouse cerebral cortex.

RS has been shown to be constitutive in Drosophila and cell-type-specific in humans(3,

9). To determine the cell-type specificity of RS in mouse brain, we focused on two types

of neurons, the excitatory neurons and the inhibitory neurons, which account for 85% and

15% of the neurons in the mouse cerebral cortex(12). We recently developed a genetic

approach to tag and isolate cell-type-specific nuclei from the mouse brain and profiled

gene expression in the excitatory and inhibitory neurons using nuclear total RNA-seq(12).

We analyzed the nuclear total RNA-seq data from the two neuronal cell types

(Supplementary Figure S1a). We applied our pipeline to these data and identified 17 RS

sites in excitatory neurons and 18 RS sites in inhibitory neurons (Fig. 3a and

Supplementary Figure S1d). Notably, all but one of the RS sites are common in both

neuronal cell types (Fig. 3a). The only RS site unique to inhibitory neurons resides in the

Kcnip1 gene, which is only expressed in the inhibitory neurons (Fig. 3b and 3c). Thus,

these results indicate that RS is largely constitutive between the two types of neurons in

the mouse cerebral cortex.

Fig. 3 Cell-type and sex specificity of RS in the mouse cortex. **(a)** Heatmap of RS sites identified
in male cortex, male cortical excitatory and inhibitory neurons, and female cortical excitatory
neurons. **(b)** Nuclear total RNA-seq profile (male) at *Kcnip1* locus. **(c)** Heatmap of expression
levels of five genes in three cell types. FPKM, fragment per million uniquely mapped reads per
kilobase of exonic region.
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We recently also profiled gene expression in the excitatory neurons in the cerebral

cortex of female mice using nuclear total RNA-seq(12). To investigate the sex specificity

of RS, we analyzed the nuclear total RNA-seq data of excitatory neurons from the cerebral

cortex of female mice(12). We identified 15 RS sites (Supplementary Figure S1d), which

are all included in the 17 RS sites we identified from male excitatory neurons (Fig. 3a).

The remaining two RS sites are unlikely male specific, because we also identified seven

and five junction reads for them in the female data (Supplementary Figure S1d), although

they failed to pass our criteria of 10 junction reads. Together, these results indicate that

RS is constitutive between male and female excitatory neurons in the mouse cerebral

cortex.

Characteristics of RS sites.

In consistent with previous reports, RS sites are highly conserved (Supplementary Figure

S3a), are located in long introns (Supplementary Figure S3b), prefer the first two introns

(Supplementary Figure S3c, 75% in first intron and 25% in second intron), and are located

in genes that are specifically expressed in the brain (Supplementary Figure S3d).

Furthermore, compared to non-RS AGGT sites, RS AGGT sites are enriched for

AGGTAAGT motif that complements with the 5' conserved sequence of U1 snRNA

(Supplementary Figure S3e-g), are enriched for thymine and cytosine in the 20 nt regions

upstream of RS AGGT sites (polypyrimidine tract, Supplementary Figure S3h), and show

higher 3' splice site scores when examined using MaxEntScan(16) (Supplementary

Figure S3i).

Splicing intermediates linking RS exons to the downstream annotated exons.

RS uses exon definition mechanism(5, 7), thus suggesting a possibility of splicing

intermediates linking RS exons to the downstream annotated exons (downstream splicing

intermediates, Fig. 4a). Although Sibley et al. reported that RS exons were not detectable

in mRNA transcripts and were included only after blocking the 5'SS using antisense

oligonucleotide(5), the extent to which the downstream splicing intermediates exist in

physiological conditions remains largely unexplored.

To identify downstream splicing intermediates of RS sites, we developed a

computational pipeline to identify junction reads that link RS exons to downstream

annotated exons (down-junction reads, Fig. 4a). Briefly, we obtained all the junction reads

from our nuclear total RNA-seq data and then scanned the 350 nt region downstream of

the RS AGGT site for junction reads that link to the downstream exons. We found down-

junction reads for 10 RS sites, but not for the other 10 sites (Supplementary Figure S4a).

To validate the findings of down-junction reads, we conducted RT-PCR to detect the

downstream splicing intermediates for four RS sites (Fig. 4b). Notably, for the two RS

sites that show both up- and down-junction reads, we detected both upstream and

downstream splicing intermediates (Fig. 4b, left panel). However, for the two RS sites that

only show up-junction reads, we only detected the upstream splicing intermediates, not

the downstream splicing intermediates (Fig. 4b, right panel). Thus, the RT-PCR results

are consistent with the results from the nuclear total RNA-seq. Together, these results

indicate that ten RS sites have downstream splicing intermediates, while the other ten

sites do not have downstream splicing intermediates.

Fig. 4 Downstream RS splicing intermediates. **(a)** Schematic of the up- and down-junction reads
that represent the upstream and downstream RS splicing intermediates and the primer design.
(b) Validation of the upstream (Up-i) and downstream (Down-i) RS splicing intermediates using
RT-PCR. P, positive control. N, negative control. Left, RT-PCR and gel results. Right, numbers
of junction reads from the nuclear total RNA-seq data. **(c)** Scatter plot of the numbers of up- and

down-junction reads of the 20 RS sites. **(d)** The reconstituted 5'SS (r5'SS) and the downstream 5'SS (Down 5'SS). **(e)** Sequence logos of the r5'SS and the Down 5'SS of RS sites with or without down-junction reads. **(f)** Scatter plot of the MaxEnt scores of r5'SS and Down 5'SS of RS sites. **(g)** Model of the 5'SS strengths and the downstream splicing intermediates.

Downstream splicing intermediates are associated with high strengths of the 5' splice sites at the 3' end of the RS exons.

To understand why some RS sites do not show downstream splicing intermediates, we first asked whether these RS sites also show low abundance of upstream splicing intermediates. We analyzed the numbers of up- and down-junction reads for the 20 RS sites. However, we found no positive correlation between the two (Fig. 4c), suggesting that the absence of downstream splicing intermediates for the 10 RS sites is not associated with the low abundance of upstream splicing intermediates.

Previous studies have showed that the competition between the two 5'SS was associated with the inclusion of the RS exons in mature transcripts(5, 7, 9). Thus, another hypothesis is that the 5'SS at the two ends of the RS exons, the reconstituted 5'SS (r5'SS) after the first step of splicing and the downstream 5'SS (Down 5'SS) (Fig. 4d), affect the existence of the downstream splicing intermediates. To test this hypothesis, we quantified the strengths of r5'SS and Down 5'SS using MaxEntScan(16). We found that RS sites with down-junction reads show higher MaxEnt scores of Down 5'SS compared to RS sites without down-junction reads ($P = 4.28^{-9}$, one-tailed t-test) (Fig. 4e,f and Supplementary Figure S4a). By contrast, the scores of r5'SS are comparable between the two groups (Fig. 4e,f and Supplementary Figure S4a). Together, these results support a model that the downstream splicing intermediates of RS sites are likely associated with the high strengths of 5'SS at the 3' end of the RS exons (Fig. 4g).

Cryptic exons use a RS-like splicing mechanism.

During our analysis of RS site candidates, we found genomic loci that show exon-like

splicing patterns (Fig. 2b). Some of these loci were later annotated as exons in Ensembl

database, while the others are not. We termed these unannotated genomic loci as RS-

like cryptic exons (Fig. 5a). To systematically identify RS-like cryptic exons, we developed

a computational pipeline (Supplementary Figure S4b). To exclude unannotated exons

from our downstream analysis, we used a criterion that the normalized count of up-

junction reads in nuclear total RNA-seq should be higher than that in mRNA-seq. By

applying this pipeline to our nuclear total RNA-seq data, we identified 22 RS-like cryptic

exons in the introns of 21 long genes (Supplementary Figure S4c). To validate the RS-

like cryptic exons, we conducted RT-PCR to detect splicing intermediates for three RS-

like cryptic exons. We confirmed the upstream and downstream splicing intermediates for

all the three RS-like cryptic exons (Fig. 5b). Notably, we found that although the cryptic

exons in *Lrrc4c* and *Magi1* were not included in the mature mRNA, the cryptic exon in

Nova1 was included in a part of the mature mRNA (Fig. 5b), suggesting that RS-like

cryptic exons may be included in the mature mRNA.

Fig. 5 Cryptic exons use a RS-like splicing mechanism. **(a)** Schematic of RS-like cryptic exons
and the primer design. **(b)** Validation of the upstream (Up-i) and downstream (Down-i) splicing
intermediates using RT-PCR. P, positive control. N, negative control. Left, RT-PCR and gel
results. Right, numbers of junction reads from the nuclear total RNA-seq data. **(c)** Scatter plot of
the numbers of up- and down-junction reads of the RS-like cryptic exons. **(d)** Sequence logos of
the r5'SS and Down 5'SS of the RS-like cryptic exons. **(e)** Scatter plot of the MaxEnt scores of
the r5'SS and Down 5'SS of the RS-like cryptic exons.

To identify features of RS-like cryptic exons, we analyzed the correlation between

the up- and down-junction reads for them. We found that RS-like cryptic exons exhibit a

positive correlation between the numbers of up- and down-junction reads (Pearson

correlation coefficient *r* = 0.53, *P-value* = 0.01, Fig. 5c), which contrasts with the results

of RS sites (Fig. 4c). To investigate the strengths of the 5'SS at the two ends of RS-like

cryptic exons, we examined the sequence compositions of the r5'SS and Down 5'SS

using WebLogo(17). We found that the RS-like cryptic exons show an enrichment of 5'SS

motif (AGGTAAGT) at the Down 5'SS but not at the r5'SS (Fig. 5d). Furthermore, we

quantified the strengths of r5'SS and Down 5'SS using MaxEntScan(16) and found that

the MaxEnt scores of r5'SS are significantly lower than that of Down 5'SS in RS-like

cryptic exons (*P-value* < 0.0001, one-tailed t-test, Fig. 5e). One exception is the RS-like

cryptic exon in *Magi1*, which shows a much higher MaxEnt score at the r5'SS than the

Down 5'SS (Fig. 5e and Supplementary Figure S4c). Notably, the *Magi1* intron exhibits a

weak saw-tooth pattern (Supplementary Figure S4d), which failed to pass the stringent

criteria in our identification of RS sites. Taken together, these results demonstrate that

some cryptic exons may use an RS-like mechanism for splicing.

Discussion

In this study, we demonstrated that RS is a rare event in the mouse brain and that

nuclear total RNA-seq is an efficient approach to investigate RS events. We developed a

novel pipeline to identify RS sites, determined the cell-type and sex specificity of RS, and

characterized the genomic features of RS sites. Through analysis of the primary

sequences, we found that RS splicing intermediates are associated with the primary

sequence context. We also discovered that some cryptic exons use an RS-like

mechanism for splicing.

The extent to which RS is used for intron splicing in mammals remains inconclusive.

Here we analyzed high-depth nuclear total RNA-seq data and identified 20 RS sites in

mice, which is consistent with previous studies(3, 5) that RS is a rare splicing process for

a small group of long introns in the mammalian genome. We found that whether or not

including the saw-tooth patterns to define RS sites might be the major reason for the

differences of the reported numbers of RS events(3, 5, 9, 11). For example, we identified

65 AGGT sites and 405 AGNN sites that have 10 or more junction reads, but they did not

show saw-tooth patterns in the host introns. Therefore, we did not consider them as RS

sites. Notably, the relationship between saw-tooth patterns and RS events remains

unclear. Further studies are needed to investigate whether the saw-tooth pattern should

be a required criterion to define an RS event.

Long introns exhibit a high rate of creating new exons during evolution(18), but the

underlying mechanisms are not fully understood. Our discovery of RS-like cryptic exons

indicates that long introns may acquire novel exons via the RS-like cryptic exons. This is

supported by the findings that more than 6000 human annotated exons are RS-like

exons(19). In addition, the numbers of RS sites in *Drosophila melanogaster* are about 15

times more than that in humans(3, 5, 7-9), but the numbers of RS-like annotated exons

in *Drosophila* are 2~100 times less than that in humans(5, 7, 19). Thus, future studies are

needed to investigate RS, RS-like cryptic exons, and RS-like annotated exons in

evolutionarily distinct species to determine their associations during evolution.

RS genes are genetically linked to various human brain disorders. For example,

ANK3 encodes ankyrin-G and is linked to autism spectrum disorders, attention deficit

hyperactivity disorder, intellectual disability, and bipolar disorder(20-23). Also, *NTM*

encodes neurotrimin and is linked to autism spectrum disorders and attention deficit

hyperactivity disorder(24, 25). The *PDE4D* encodes phosphodiesterase 4D and is linked

to schizophrenia, psychosis, acrodysostosis, and neuroticism(26-28). Notably, PDE4D

Inhibitors are in clinical trials for the treatment of Alzheimer's disease and Fragile X

syndrome(29, 30). Given that the disruption of the RS process interfered with the RS gene

function and caused abnormality in the central nervous system(7), further investigation

will be necessary to illuminate whether RS mechanism contributes to the pathophysiology

of these human brain disorders.

Materials and Methods

Animals. The C57BL/6 mice were obtained from the Jackson Laboratory. Mice were

maintained in the same genetic background and were kept on a regular 12-hour light/12-

hour dark cycle. Animal studies were carried out in accordance with the National Institutes

of Health's Guide for the Care and Use of Laboratory Animals recommendations. The

study protocol was approved by the Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee

(IACUC) of the New York Institute of Technology. The study is reported in accordance

with the ARRIVE guidelines (https://arriveguidelines.org).

RNA isolation and RT-PCR.

The brain was dissected from 8-week-old mice. Total RNA was extracted from the brain tissues using TRIzol reagent (Invitrogen, #15596026) according to the manufacturer's instructions. The integrity and quality of the isolated RNA were determined by the Nanodrop and the Bioanalyzer. The Prime script reverse transcript kit (Takara, #RR037A) was used to synthesize the cDNA. The RT-PCR experiments were conducted using the GoTaq G2 Hot Start Master mix (Promega #M7422). The PCR primers were listed in the Supplementary Figure S5. The RT-PCR were conducted using the following setting: 94 °C for 3 minutes, followed by 32-40 cycles of thermocycling (94 °C for 30 seconds, 52 °C-56 °C for 30 seconds, 72 °C for 30 seconds), and 72 °C for 3 minutes.

Statistical analysis. All statistical analyses were performed in the R software version 3.6.1 (https://www.r-project.org/).

Nuclear total RNA-seq data analysis. The analysis pipeline was described previously(12, 13, 31, 32). In brief, raw data in sra files were downloaded from the EBI European Nucleotide Archive database(33) using the accession numbers listed in Figure S1. The fastq-dump.2.9.6 of NCBI SRA ToolKit was used to extract the FASTQ files using the parameter of "--split-3". STAR(34) was used to map the FASTQ raw reads into mouse mm10 genome using the parameters of "--runThreadN 40 --outFilterMultimapNmax 1 --outFilterMismatchNmax 3". The samtools view(35) was used to convert sam files into bam files. The samtools sort was used to sort the bam files. The samtools index was used to index the sorted bam files. The bamCoverage(36) was used to convert the sorted bam files into strand-specific bigwig files. The bamCoverage parameters that were used

included "--filterRNAstrand forward --binSize 1 -p 40 -o" for plus strand and "--

filterRNAstrand reverse --binSize 1 -p 40 -o" for minus strand.

Sequencing data visualization. All sequencing data, including the bigwig files and bam

files, were visualized in the IGV_2.8.2 genome browser(37).

Genome annotation. The gtf file of mouse genome annotation was downloaded from the

Ensembl release 93(38).

Junction reads. A read pair is considered as a junction read if its CIGAR in sam files

contains "N". Junction reads were extracted from sam files and were saved into a junction-

read-specific sam files. These sam files were further converted into bam files using

samtools. The junction-read-specific bam files were loaded into IGV for visualization.

Junction reads spanning AGGT sites. All AGGT sites (20,403,114) in the mouse mm10

genome were identified, and only AGGT sites (4,767,575) located in the gene sense

regions were kept for further analysis. The AGGT sites that were kept were used to screen

the junction-read-specific sam files. The numbers of junction reads spanning each AGGT

site (joining the upstream exon and sequences following GT) were counted. The counts

of junction reads were further normalized to the sequencing depth to obtain the RPM

values.

Pipeline to identify RS sites. The schematic of this pipeline is shown in Fig. 2a. Briefly,

AGGT sites located in introns longer than or equal to 1 kb were extracted. Sites that

showed a larger than two-fold RPM value of junction reads in total RNA-seq data than in

mRNA-seq data were kept for downstream analyses. The counts of junction reads of

biological replicates were merged, and AGGT sites that contained 10 or more junction

reads were identified as RS site candidates. The RS site candidates were further refined

as RS sites if the host intron showed a clear saw-tooth pattern by visual inspection.

FPKM of nuclear total RNA-seq data. The number of reads mapped to the exonic

regions of each gene were calculated to get the raw counts. The raw counts were then

normalized to the exon lengths of that gene and to the sequencing depth of that data set

to get the FPKM values.

Phylogenetic p-value (phyloP) scores. The phyloP scores, which were calculated by

the PHAST package for multiple alignments of 59 vertebrate genomes to the mouse

genome,   were   obtained   from   the   UCSC   Genome   Browser

(http://hgdownload.cse.ucsc.edu/goldenpath/mm10/phyloP60way/).

Gene expression profiles in 22 mouse tissues. The expression profiles (FPKM values)

of RS genes in 22 mouse tissues were obtained from the LongGeneDB database

(https://longgenedb.com).

WebLogo analysis. WebLogo 3(17) (http://weblogo.threeplusone.com) was used to

perform the sequence logo analysis. The Output Format was chosen as "PNG (high res.)",

and the Stacks per Line was set to "80". The default values were used for other

parameters.

MaxEntScan 3'SS analysis. The 3'SS scores were calculated by MaxEntScan::score3ss

(http://hollywood.mit.edu/burgelab/maxent/Xmaxentscan_scoreseq_acc.html)(16).   The

input sequences were composed of the 18 nt region upstream of the AGGT, the AGGT

motif, and the one nucleotide following AGGT (18nt + AGGT + 1nt). The three models -

Maximum Entropy Model, First-order Markov Model, and Weight Matrix Model - were

selected. The MaxEnt scores were used as the 3'SS scores.

Reconstituted 5' splice sites (r5'SS). The r5'SS sequences were composed of the last

30 nucleotides of the upstream exon, the GT motif, and the 20 nucleotides following

AGGT (30nt + GT + 20nt).

MaxEntScan 5'SS analysis. The 5'SS scores were calculated by MaxEntScan::score5ss

(http://hollywood.mit.edu/burgelab/maxent/Xmaxentscan_scoreseq.html)(16). The input

sequences for 5'SS were composed of three nucleotides before the GT, the GT motif,

and the four nucleotides following AGGT (3nt + GT + 4nt). The input sequences of r5'SS

and Down 5'SS were listed in Supplementary Figure S4a and S4c.

Pipeline to identify RS-like cryptic exons. The schematic of this pipeline is shown in

Supplementary Figure S4b. Briefly, AGGT sites located in introns longer than or equal to

50 kb were extracted. The AGGT sites that showed a larger RPM value of junction reads

in total RNA-seq data than in mRNA-seq data were kept for downstream analyses. The

counts of the junction reads of the biological replicates were merged. AGGT sites

contained 10 or more up-junction reads and two or more down-junction reads were

identified as candidates of RS-like cryptic exons. The RS-like cryptic exon candidates

were further refined as RS-like cryptic exons if the host intron showed an exon-like but

not saw-tooth like pattern.

Data availability

The data sets supporting the conclusions of this article are available in the NCBI GEO

database with the accession numbers listed in Supplementary Figure S1a. The custom

code supporting the conclusions of this article is available in the GitHub repository,

https://github.com/Jerry-Zhao/RS2020.

Competing interests

460 The authors declare that they have no competing interests.

Author contributions

463 SM and YTZ conceived the project, designed the experiments, curated data, and wrote

464 the manuscript. SM performed the experiments. YTZ performed the computational

465 analyses. All authors read and approved the final manuscript.

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Supporting information

Supplementary Figure S1: Novel RS sites. (**a**) The mapping statistics and access numbers of RNA-seq data utilized in this study. (**b**) The loci and numbers of junction reads (#) of the 84 RS site candidates. (**c**) Snapshots of the junction reads at the Huwe1 and Lmbrd1 RS candidate sites. (**d**) Heatmap of numbers of RS junction reads at each RS site in different total RNA-seq data sets. A green box indicates that the RS site was identified in that data set. Note, the enrichment of junction reads in whole cell data compared to that in mRNA-seq data is less than 2-fold for Ank3. (**e**) The loci and read numbers (#) of the top 50 additional RS site candidates when lowering the cutoff of junction read count from 10 to 5.

Supplementary Figure S2: The 405 AGNN RS site candidates. #, number of junction reads.

Supplementary Figure S3. Characteristics of RS sites. (**a**) Heatmap of phyloP score of RS sites and the flanking regions. (**b**) Boxplot of lengths of RS introns and introns transcribed in the mouse cortex. ***, $P < 0.0001$, one-tailed t-test. (**c**) Pie chart of locations of RS introns in host genes. (**d**) Heatmap of expression levels of RS genes in 22 mouse tissues. (**e**) The sequence motifs, nucleotide percentages, and 3'SS MaxEnt scores of the 20 RS sites. (**f**) Sequence logos of the 64 nt regions surrounding the 2640 non-RS AGGT sites and the 20 RS AGGT sites. (**g**) Schematic of the sequence base pairing between the AGGTAAGT motif and U1 snRNA. (**h**) Boxplots of the percentages of nucleotides in the 20 nt region upstream of the 2640 non-RS AGGT sites and the 20 RS AGGT sites. (**i**) Boxplot of MaxEnt 3' splice site (3'SS) scores of the 20 RS AGGT sites and the 2640 non-RS AGGT sites. ***, $P < 0.0001$, one-tailed t-test.

Supplementary Figure S4. RS exons and RS-like cryptic exons. (**a**) The genomic loci, numbers of junction reads, 5'SS sequences, and 5'SS MaxEnt scores of RS exons. (**b**) Schematic of the pipeline utilizing nuclear total RNA-seq data to identify RS-like cryptic exons. (**c**) The genomic loci, numbers of junction reads, 5'SS sequences, and 5'SS MaxEnt scores of RS-like cryptic exons. (**d**) Sequencing profile at *Magi1* locus. Green arrows indicate the putative RS AGGT loci.

Supplementary Figure S5. RT-PCR primer sequences for the RS sites (top table) and RS-like cryptic exons (bottom table). *Cadm2* RS1: chr16:67364249. *Cadm2* RS2: chr16:67142935. *Lsamp* RS1: chr16:40262266. *Lsamp* RS2: chr16:40655810. *Lsamp* RS3: chr16:40979498.

Supplementary Figure S6. The full-length gels for plots in Figure 2.

Supplementary Figure S7. The full-length gels for plots in Figure 4.

Supplementary Figure S8. The full-length gels for plots in Figure 5.

a

F1 F2 R1

Exon   Exon

Intermediate

R3 R2

Positive control (**P**): F1 + R1
Up intermediate (**Up-i**): F1 + R2
Down intermediate (**Down-i**): F2 + R1
Negative control (**N**): F1 + R3

b

Cadm2 (chr16:67364249)   Junction reads
   P   Up-i   Down-i   N
    Up: 317
    Down: 22

Cadm2 (chr16:67142935)   Junction reads
   P   Up-i   Down-i   N
    Up: 219
    Down: 22

Hs6st3 (chr14:119537648)   Junction reads
   P   Up-i   Down-i   N
    Up: 202
    Down: 0

Ncam1 (chr9:49719366)   Junction reads
   P   Up-i   Down-i   N
    Up: 135
    Down: 0

c

No. of down-junction reads vs No. of up-junction reads

d

r5'SS
Down 5'SS

e

RS with down-junction reads

RS without down-junction reads

r5'SS   Down 5'SS

f

▲ Down-junction reads
▲ No down-junction reads

MaxEnt score of r5'SS vs MaxEnt score of Down 5'SS

g

r5'SS   Down 5'SS

Downstream splicing intermediate   No downstream splicing intermediate

a

RS-like cryptic exon

Positive control (**P**): F1 + R1
Up intermediate (**Up-i**): F1 + R2
Down intermediate (**Down-i**): F2 + R1
Negative control (**N**): F1 + R3

b

Lrrc4c

	Junction reads
Up:	59
Down:	68

Magi1

	Junction reads
Up:	41
Down:	13

Nova1

	Junction reads
Up:	61
Down:	50

c

r = 0.53
P = 0.006

No. of down-junction reads
No. of up-junction reads

d

Bits
r5'SS

Bits
Down 5'SS

e

MaxEnt score of r5'SS
MaxEnt score of Down 5'SS

a

	Exon	Intron	Intron and exon	Intergenic	Totally uniquely mapped reads	NCBI SRA access number
mRNA-seq rep 1	169,199,705	52,536,837	9,942,820	18,955,236	250,634,598	SRR5048041
mRNA-seq rep 2	169,212,702	54,408,558	9,418,272	24,448,180	257,487,712	SRR5048042
Whole cell total RNA-seq rep 1	28,025,020	21,276,188	1,708,014	4,537,328	55,546,550	SRR3679862
Whole cell total RNA-seq rep 2	24,025,585	18,552,805	1,481,557	3,816,417	47,876,364	SRR3679863
Nuclear total RNA-seq rep 1	12,802,711	55,975,659	2,066,992	7,376,058	78,221,420	SRR3679866
Nuclear total RNA-seq rep 2	84,581,864	291,193,877	12,151,804	40,616,263	428,543,808	SRR9202881
Excitatory neurons rep 1	7,493,883	46,181,238	1,421,238	5,474,411	60,570,770	SRR3679830
Excitatory neurons rep 2	7,592,500	58,702,729	1,502,461	7,037,646	74,835,336	SRR3679831
Excitatory neurons rep 3	7,028,945	49,007,305	1,469,493	5,869,141	63,374,884	SRR3679832
Excitatory neurons rep 4	8,665,201	71,350,839	1,771,990	8,080,848	89,868,878	SRR3679833
Inhibitory neurons rep 1	10,620,896	51,820,218	1,846,752	5,923,736	70,211,602	SRR3679842
Inhibitory neurons rep 2	11,526,209	61,516,565	1,991,467	7,354,451	82,388,692	SRR3679843
Inhibitory neurons rep 3	10,531,020	44,429,100	1,591,223	5,326,315	61,877,658	SRR3679844
Inhibitory neurons rep 4	8,673,268	50,820,368	1,494,799	6,176,575	67,165,010	SRR3679845
Female excitatory neurons rep 1	12,995,467	56,964,384	1,920,090	7,096,375	78,976,316	SRR3679869
Female excitatory neurons rep 2	9,548,905	49,872,640	1,579,266	6,385,437	67,386,248	SRR3679870

b

Loci	#	Loci	#	Loci	#	Loci	#	Loci	#
chr9_-_29674405	357	chr16_+_41206970	75	chr3_-_158361563	23	chrX_-_139990713	15	chrX_-_79478788	10
chr1_-_183339388	332	chr9_-_82916025	75	chr5_-_86060897	23	chr13_+_13755115	14	chr8_-_50162064	10
chr9_+_28029505	283	chr7_-_61241446	74	chr2_+_179627792	21	chr7_+_96232097	14	chr16_-_57444992	10
chr16_-_67364249	264	chr9_-_49719366	72	chr2_-_7282579	21	chr3_+_14131308	13	chr4_-_48248658	10
chrX_+_151836220	200	chr11_+_80386178	66	chrX_-_51473340	20	chr13_+_13753787	13		
chr11_-_77601762	197	chr16_+_40655810	64	chr18_-_12893721	19	chr14_+_32217381	12		
chr2_-_60076912	180	chr6_-_102503526	64	chr14_-_123590928	19	chr14_+_76119201	12		
chr14_+_119537648	171	chr9_+_47633924	60	chr7_+_87589088	19	chr1_+_180121414	12		
chr16_-_67142935	170	chr4_+_84984367	59	chrY_+_90808704	19	chr1_+_180121489	12		
chr15_-_73365196	146	chrX_+_112602663	54	chr2_-_39082928	19	chr19_+_47602798	12		
chr16_+_40262266	144	chr2_+_35124192	52	chr7_-_84005996	18	chr19_-_28354760	11		
chr10_+_69595048	143	chr1_-_156893013	45	chr4_-_56904127	18	chr12_+_102967315	11		
chr9_-_16029361	129	chr13_+_13755388	45	chr12_-_67059699	18	chr4_-_25728363	11		
chr9_-_49642259	113	chr13_+_13753651	44	chr3_+_159150264	18	chr8_-_99410596	11		
chr13_+_109333510	101	chr13_+_13754977	37	chr15_-_35088437	18	chr9_-_123653345	11		
chr12_-_104738849	91	chr13_+_109550007	33	chr2_-_136200636	17	chr1_-_123810502	10		
chr16_+_40979498	88	chr6_-_94050767	33	chr1_+_24684097	17	chr2_+_20490509	10		
chr16_-_74151684	83	chr1_-_55016183	30	chr13_+_13753821	17	chr14_-_73297836	10		
chr9_+_72309250	79	chr13_+_13755217	29	chr13_+_13753923	16	chr16_+_6158058	10		
chr6_-_37058429	77	chr13_+_109614417	28	chr6_-_148206211	16	chr12_+_65101518	10		

c

Exon
151,836,200   151,836,400

Huwe1

Intron transcripts
24,683,900   24,684,300

Lmbrd1

d

	Gene	Whole cell	Nuclear	Excitatory	Inhibitory	Excitatory (female)	Novel
chr9_-_29674405	Ntm	24	357	144	113	49	Yes
chr9_+_28029505	Opcml	57	283	139	89	55	-----
chr16_-_67364249	Cadm2	37	264	98	104	49	-----
chr10_+_69595048	Ank3	14	143	149	97	71	-----
chr16_-_67142935	Cadm2	31	170	56	60	43	-----
chr14_+_119537648	Hs6st3	14	171	23	25	29	-----
chr9_-_49642259	Ncam1	12	113	33	37	18	-----
chr13_+_109333510	Pde4d	6	101	28	16	20	-----
chr16_-_74151684	Robo2	4	83	25	28	13	-----
chr9_+_47633924	Cadm1	10	60	25	21	24	-----
chr9_-_49719366	Ncam1	6	72	15	22	11	Yes
chr13_+_109614417	Pde4d	5	28	23	24	15	-----
chr13_+_109550007	Pde4d	2	33	5	9	4	Yes
chr16_+_40262266	Lsamp	20	144	77	132	31	Yes
chr16_+_40979498	Lsamp	12	88	33	47	11	Yes
chr16_+_40655810	Lsamp	6	64	19	55	15	Yes
chr16_+_41206970	Lsamp	8	75	27	31	7	Yes
chr2_+_179627792	Cdh4	0	21	11	13	5	Yes
chrX_-_51473340	Hs6st2	3	20	2	1	3	Yes
chr11_-_33718266	Kcnip1	1	8	1	70	0	Yes

e

Loci	#	Loci	#
chr7_+_123384756	9	chr9_+_113765922	8
chr2_-_125842760	9	chr14_+_105299009	8
chr9_+_76128920	9	chr6_-_108179985	8
chr1_-_154841063	9	chr13_+_96575819	7
chr11_-_37156217	9	chr1_-_97759169	7
chr10_+_21309092	9	chr1_+_11548381	7
chr2_+_177075009	9	chr1_-_183103753	7
chr1_+_7090857	9	chr9_-_112228936	7
chr11_-_11429127	9	chr11_-_47058958	7
chr11_-_77596357	9	chr1_-_136304718	7
chr13_+_13755081	9	chr2_+_102665261	7
chr8_+_20631694	9	chr4_+_24521096	7
chr1_-_13257060	9	chrX_-_85721958	7
chr8_+_88702858	9	chr2_+_20293447	7
chr8_-_128953205	8	chr3_+_40857854	7
chr2_-_37697912	8	chr2_-_64027968	7
chr14_+_105298953	8	chr11_-_76535247	7
chr11_+_77809797	8	chr12_+_82286608	7
chr5_+_108069164	8	chr8_-_50500205	7
chr7_-_98650773	8	chr2_-_39094563	7
chr16_-_56703624	8	chr14_+_14807267	6
chr13_+_13632543	8	chr14_+_122681487	6
chr17_+_21569014	8	chr15_+_22649279	6
chr11_-_33718266	8	chr4_-_36041544	6
chr6_-_43519253	8	chr7_-_34213648	6

Supplementary Figure S1: Novel RS sites. (**a**) The mapping statistics and access numbers of RNA-seq data utilized in this study. (**b**) The loci and numbers of junction reads (#) of the 84 RS site candidates. (**c**) Snapshots of the junction reads at the Huwe1 and Lmbrd1 RS candidate sites. (**d**) Heatmap of numbers of RS junction reads at each RS site in different total RNA-seq data sets. A green box indicates that the RS site was identified in that data set. Note, the enrichment of junction reads in whole cell data compared to that in mRNA-seq data is less than 2-fold for Ank3. (**e**) The loci and read numbers (#) of the top 50 additional RS site candidates when lowering the cutoff of junction read count from 10 to 5.

Loci	#	Motif	Loci	#	Motif	Loci	#	Motif	Loci	#	Motif	Loci	#	Motif
5_+_109932925	245	AGGC	1_-_124753317	71	AGAT	15_+_35665136	27	AGAC	2_-_94328885	12	AGCC	3_-_26132804	177	AGTA
16_-_48972609	239	AGGC	9_-_10168834	63	AGAT	8_+_112803002	24	AGAC	9_-_107838931	12	AGCC	2_-_112860532	139	AGTA
6_+_104544118	201	AGGC	2_-_39150415	53	AGAT	3_+_40870094	21	AGAC	2_+_65668739	11	AGCC	1_-_52217299	47	AGTA
7_-_61276541	106	AGGC	4_-_126392561	38	AGAT	5_+_71760382	21	AGAC	8_-_48837059	11	AGCC	12_-_98242533	39	AGTA
5_-_107837447	90	AGGC	5_+_34842732	30	AGAT	15_+_39536794	16	AGAC	17_+_79618976	10	AGCC	1_-_155961191	30	AGTA
11_+_94024915	83	AGGC	3_+_159080765	29	AGAT	X_+_155736382	15	AGAC	1_+_66638582	46	AGCG	5_-_128770054	19	AGTA
7_-_61177531	53	AGGC	12_+_61604964	29	AGAT	15_+_35616038	15	AGAC	16_+_5953417	17	AGCG	5_-_107814716	18	AGTA
2_-_150343156	45	AGGC	12_+_3476947	29	AGAT	3_-_30909135	15	AGAC	X_-_103591907	181	AGCT	15_+_8182520	17	AGTA
6_-_37059005	43	AGGC	6_+_111239501	27	AGAT	4_+_83437585	15	AGAC	4_-_24693635	79	AGCT	6_-_35067813	17	AGTA
11_-_106869109	42	AGGC	2_-_146459719	26	AGAT	4_+_42919790	15	AGAC	8_+_90973922	70	AGCT	6_+_45826164	16	AGTA
6_-_135971965	42	AGGC	7_-_61233587	22	AGAT	8_+_66703006	14	AGAC	9_+_27336115	66	AGCT	4_-_3562147	15	AGTA
13_+_83876759	41	AGGC	7_+_63461661	21	AGAT	10_+_85008655	14	AGAC	11_+_80399427	35	AGCT	10_-_49650033	11	AGTA
16_-_31129626	37	AGGC	9_+_86479623	20	AGAT	16_-_37230076	13	AGAC	3_+_60616059	35	AGCT	7_+_113553294	11	AGTA
16_-_96059674	33	AGGC	17_+_55463017	20	AGAT	8_+_45739954	11	AGAC	2_-_6849356	33	AGCT	1_+_86812510	116	AGTC
16_-_4147165	31	AGGC	9_+_94873127	19	AGAT	X_-_19232047	11	AGAC	6_-_122483223	32	AGCT	12_+_29708833	64	AGTC
12_-_55695897	28	AGGC	2_-_113816737	17	AGAT	5_-_86153367	10	AGAC	11_+_23682506	27	AGCT	4_-_36739098	46	AGTC
2_+_158430383	26	AGGC	2_+_166049646	17	AGAT	15_-_71681548	10	AGAC	7_-_78325452	24	AGCT	12_+_16934239	30	AGTC
11_-_76440037	20	AGGC	1_+_115689399	17	AGAT	1_-_154799699	135	AGAG	1_-_25752435	20	AGCT	10_+_106835175	27	AGTC
18_-_34491113	20	AGGC	2_+_164081521	17	AGAT	7_+_87586513	127	AGAG	7_-_61151350	18	AGCT	3_+_29311798	24	AGTC
1_+_146564463	17	AGGC	7_-_84083045	16	AGAT	12_+_116350140	124	AGAG	5_+_16284880	15	AGCT	14_+_27699639	15	AGTC
1_+_105716092	17	AGGC	14_-_124574599	16	AGAT	9_+_121729995	123	AGAG	9_-_79679432	15	AGCT	10_-_5175929	14	AGTC
15_+_81617839	14	AGGC	1_-_66807605	15	AGAT	2_-_17525490	76	AGAG	11_-_65743466	14	AGCT	16_+_43282969	14	AGTC
6_-_128196834	13	AGGC	5_-_67781092	15	AGAT	7_-_61197854	61	AGAG	2_+_67843337	13	AGCT	14_+_64731659	13	AGTC
7_+_91367286	13	AGGC	X_+_155806465	15	AGAT	4_+_98469218	51	AGAG	4_+_150431889	13	AGCT	2_+_20438936	11	AGTC
7_-_62185448	13	AGGC	1_-_119779051	15	AGAT	X_-_102408966	49	AGAG	14_-_62733851	13	AGCT	5_+_109927200	11	AGTC
1_-_9079601	12	AGGC	6_-_102514241	15	AGAT	9_-_78569945	48	AGAG	3_+_156920055	13	AGCT	2_+_102751260	10	AGTC
11_-_81227425	11	AGGC	5_+_81105225	15	AGAT	12_+_116353825	48	AGAG	7_-_61279511	12	AGCT	10_+_106828875	102	AGTG
3_+_68114083	11	AGGC	6_-_37004587	15	AGAT	6_+_55406755	32	AGAG	9_-_53213140	10	AGCT	2_-_39082853	45	AGTG
6_-_135826847	11	AGGC	2_+_50369944	14	AGAT	2_-_66371099	29	AGAG	2_+_20407682	10	AGCT	15_+_81415845	33	AGTG
2_-_70784811	10	AGGC	13_+_104369652	12	AGAT	X_+_155843739	28	AGAG	4_+_21811465	10	AGCT	15_-_38011943	21	AGTG
1_+_128176822	781	AGGG	6_+_143192859	12	AGAT	11_-_109982269	28	AGAG	3_+_68064042	10	AGCT	4_-_19539181	20	AGTG
14_+_77365024	196	AGGG	5_+_150750195	12	AGAT	15_+_91768084	27	AGAG	3_-_85121870	10	AGCT	6_+_110703440	18	AGTG
3_-_56043120	132	AGGG	3_-_56045343	12	AGAT	9_+_92578417	27	AGAG	14_-_103220149	714	AGGA	10_+_101866675	16	AGTG
X_-_103588172	88	AGGG	16_-_17703150	12	AGAT	12_+_16935149	23	AGAG	1_-_52204517	517	AGGA	8_+_65670877	14	AGTG
6_+_140536606	84	AGGG	14_+_15006634	11	AGAT	9_+_113841157	22	AGAG	13_-_103057916	200	AGGA	1_+_192226324	14	AGTG
4_-_36122181	57	AGGG	11_-_37224567	11	AGAT	18_+_49921499	16	AGAG	15_+_22817626	142	AGGA	9_-_119290866	13	AGTG
4_+_109737141	44	AGGG	X_+_155927605	11	AGAT	9_-_10658288	15	AGAG	4_+_104280468	125	AGGA	14_-_39470887	13	AGTG
12_+_4970404	41	AGGG	X_-_111595382	10	AGAT	14_-_105140017	15	AGAG	2_-_59983971	120	AGGA	2_+_37555478	13	AGTG
6_+_105678014	41	AGGG	8_+_85896667	10	AGAT	2_-_34714295	13	AGAG	7_-_61279760	109	AGGA	15_+_97789651	13	AGTG
6_+_65085726	34	AGGG	2_+_18094951	10	AGAT	9_-_16017279	13	AGAG	16_-_37156845	106	AGGA	9_+_120947066	12	AGTG
8_+_14454399	34	AGGG	13_+_18800321	10	AGAT	4_-_87133582	11	AGAG	10_-_5412191	102	AGGA	14_-_119063306	12	AGTG
7_+_123188393	32	AGGG	2_-_162295753	10	AGAT	17_+_55490910	10	AGAG	16_-_96008215	93	AGGA	6_+_106077480	11	AGTG
9_-_95497294	26	AGGG	8_+_65721127	10	AGAT	15_-_48039542	10	AGAG	18_+_49903412	86	AGGA	15_+_39394199	10	AGTG
17_+_55463884	25	AGGG	12_+_88853103	761	AGAA	6_+_110761323	10	AGAG	6_-_114031474	58	AGGA	4_+_110428203	10	AGTG
9_-_104196331	23	AGGG	4_+_135858840	318	AGAA	9_+_111347464	342	AGCA	4_-_58872098	57	AGGA	18_+_38454313	10	AGTG
4_-_70383419	23	AGGG	3_+_35808607	106	AGAA	11_-_102537147	259	AGCA	2_-_18295709	52	AGGA	4_-_36279317	237	AGTT
2_-_18298980	22	AGGG	9_+_111374733	100	AGAA	17_+_11303588	151	AGCA	15_-_53657526	45	AGGA	16_-_37241245	215	AGTT
X_-_103605310	21	AGGG	12_+_52938338	96	AGAA	3_-_158263393	146	AGCA	9_+_86510613	45	AGGA	10_-_9004654	58	AGTT
2_+_28846761	20	AGGG	10_+_39742689	95	AGAA	5_-_25415027	109	AGCA	4_+_33323653	43	AGGA	2_-_62845339	56	AGTT
5_-_9702032	18	AGGG	4_-_35967938	89	AGAA	12_+_89191151	68	AGCA	2_-_66293896	41	AGGA	12_+_61768006	52	AGTT
14_-_7310298	17	AGGG	7_-_61243933	77	AGAA	2_-_23541616	61	AGCA	10_+_90069848	38	AGGA	14_-_57643490	49	AGTT
13_+_63017857	17	AGGG	1_-_8996619	76	AGAA	9_-_121257422	59	AGCA	3_-_120797291	33	AGGA	16_-_6636524	43	AGTT
13_-_93177259	17	AGGG	11_-_33404200	42	AGAA	5_-_106921077	37	AGCA	1_-_84809033	31	AGGA	6_+_33307200	42	AGTT
3_-_26246847	16	AGGG	7_-_110456965	37	AGAA	18_+_36626002	35	AGCA	7_-_61181703	30	AGGA	7_-_6725524	40	AGTT
14_-_119081379	16	AGGG	18_-_62521491	36	AGAA	6_+_81933726	31	AGCA	16_-_37225135	28	AGGA	3_-_127244269	34	AGTT
1_-_162075787	15	AGGG	11_-_36957961	30	AGAA	8_+_45688296	25	AGCA	15_-_24990196	26	AGGA	4_-_76388148	33	AGTT
14_-_103264399	15	AGGG	2_-_66411458	29	AGAA	4_+_86780291	25	AGCA	9_-_65000178	23	AGGA	X_+_50884576	31	AGTT
11_+_72869177	14	AGGG	10_+_29196224	29	AGAA	1_+_128260829	25	AGCA	7_-_61129946	21	AGGA	4_-_36339631	28	AGTT
16_+_5886118	14	AGGG	9_-_4518942	28	AGAA	8_-_48311696	24	AGCA	3_+_95451656	21	AGGA	X_-_21059804	27	AGTT
10_+_14086014	13	AGGG	2_+_147034828	27	AGAA	1_+_66593459	20	AGCA	2_-_62762877	19	AGGA	1_-_123433116	25	AGTT
9_+_66424938	13	AGGG	5_-_107843897	23	AGAA	4_-_76101589	17	AGCA	6_-_104730653	19	AGGA	1_+_140383258	24	AGTT
X_-_47843695	13	AGGG	16_-_45718909	23	AGAA	1_-_54181363	13	AGCA	1_+_63456102	17	AGGA	11_-_29819185	23	AGTT
14_+_60831447	11	AGGG	3_-_56016556	21	AGAA	12_+_116342043	13	AGCA	1_+_86820839	17	AGGA	4_-_123479060	20	AGTT
X_+_69407511	11	AGGG	4_-_126375477	21	AGAA	8_-_32441050	12	AGCA	1_+_159258645	17	AGGA	13_-_59801259	20	AGTT
2_+_147052659	11	AGGG	5_-_107811403	16	AGAA	11_-_33304011	11	AGCA	10_+_63249952	16	AGGA	14_-_103292665	20	AGTT
5_-_5644501	11	AGGG	10_+_115390236	16	AGAA	10_+_58906407	11	AGCA	19_+_29535172	16	AGGA	6_+_119906384	20	AGTT
11_-_26036909	11	AGGG	12_+_53640695	14	AGAA	8_+_35779842	11	AGCA	10_+_98926312	15	AGGA	6_-_37016750	19	AGTT
1_+_86812486	11	AGGG	2_+_48989026	13	AGAA	19_+_57673405	11	AGCA	2_+_97555336	14	AGGA	5_-_36630577	18	AGTT
9_-_106713666	10	AGGG	4_-_36365137	12	AGAA	8_-_17392675	10	AGCA	9_-_10532185	14	AGGA	7_+_96969500	16	AGTT
7_-_75255477	10	AGGG	4_-_151579857	11	AGAA	4_+_49638923	10	AGCA	14_-_23604448	14	AGGA	2_-_136318423	15	AGTT
8_+_79662433	10	AGGG	2_+_96911007	11	AGAA	2_-_17462857	113	AGCC	10_+_14101625	14	AGGA	2_+_49073840	15	AGTT
7_-_62100437	417	AGAT	13_+_91538752	11	AGAA	1_-_9249411	90	AGCC	4_+_104346080	12	AGGA	5_-_45727743	15	AGTT
4_+_102281769	142	AGAT	19_+_55340712	11	AGAA	11_-_77605639	77	AGCC	4_+_11295505	11	AGGA	5_+_81173433	15	AGTT
4_-_36409784	120	AGAT	9_-_29011413	10	AGAA	5_-_49385846	63	AGCC	1_-_25827430	11	AGGA	9_+_72298680	14	AGTT
12_+_4978451	118	AGAT	3_+_116012185	10	AGAA	7_-_61221933	61	AGCC	1_+_86813653	11	AGGA	12_-_3308193	12	AGTT
10_+_50635031	110	AGAT	16_-_60483911	97	AGAC	12_+_89103786	22	AGCC	16_-_16469373	11	AGGA	15_-_35104421	12	AGTT
15_+_35491126	97	AGAT	3_-_148861290	73	AGAC	14_-_119083959	22	AGCC	Y_-_1216512	10	AGGA	8_+_23694298	11	AGTT
7_-_61195040	91	AGAT	9_-_110546662	54	AGAC	12_+_52783308	21	AGCC	1_-_132542239	10	AGGA	9_-_10791688	11	AGTT
18_-_22951206	89	AGAT	9_+_66418367	46	AGAC	18_-_61390087	17	AGCC	2_+_102751345	10	AGGA	4_+_33392713	11	AGTT
16_+_6636583	84	AGAT	13_+_108685992	34	AGAC	11_+_29210900	15	AGCC	4_-_36434683	10	AGGA	14_-_12694475	10	AGTT
13_+_91525613	82	AGAT	19_+_36982810	29	AGAC	X_-_102618379	12	AGCC	14_-_12776073	10	AGGA	8_-_8444936	10	AGTT

Supplementary Figure S2: The 405 AGNN RS site candidates. #, number of junction reads.

e

	Motif	Sequence of 20 nt upstream of AGGT	(T+C)%	T%	C%	G%	A%	3'SS MaxEnt score
chr16_+_40655810_Lsamp	AGGTAAGT	TTTCTTCTTTTCTCTCTTCC	1	0.65	0.35	0	0	14.81
chr9_+_47633924_Cadm1	AGGTAAGT	TTTTCTCTCCTCTTTCTTTT	1	0.7	0.3	0	0	13
chr13_+_109333510_Pde4d	AGGTAAGT	CTCATCTCTCTTTCTCTTTT	0.95	0.6	0.35	0	0.05	14.12
chr13_+_109614417_Pde4d	AGGTAAGT	TGCTTTTCTTTTTCTTTTTC	0.95	0.75	0.2	0.05	0	15.18
chr16_+_41206970_Lsamp	AGGTAAGT	TTTTTTTTTCATTCTCTCCTT	0.95	0.7	0.25	0	0.05	12.87
chr16_+_40262266_Lsamp	AGGTAAGT	TTTTCTATTTTTTTCTTCT	0.95	0.8	0.15	0	0.05	12.03
chr9_+_28029505_Opcml	AGGTAAGT	CCCTTTCTTTGTCTTTCCCT	0.95	0.55	0.4	0.05	0	13.71
chr10_+_69595048_Ank3	AGGTAAGT	TTTCTCTCTTTTTCTTTTAC	0.95	0.7	0.25	0	0.05	14.57
chr9_-_29674403_Ntm	AGGTAAGT	TCTCCCGTCTCTCTTTTTAT	0.9	0.55	0.35	0.05	0.05	12.55
chr16_+_40979498_Lsamp	AGGTAAGT	TGTTGTTTCTTTTTTCTTTC	0.9	0.75	0.15	0.1	0	13.26
chr16_-_74151682_Robo2	AGGTAAGT	TGGCTCTTCATTTCTTCTTC	0.85	0.55	0.3	0.1	0.05	10.73
chr2_+_179627792_Cdh4	AGGTAAGT	AAACCTTTCCTCTTATTCCT	0.8	0.45	0.35	0	0.2	10.26
chr11_-_33718264_Kcnip1	AGGTAAGT	ACTTCTGTGTTCTTTCTTGC	0.8	0.55	0.25	0.15	0.05	13.77
chr13_+_109550007_Pde4d	AGGTAAGT	TTTGTGTGTTTTGTTTTTTT	0.8	0.8	0	0.2	0	12.59
chr14_+_119537648_Hs6st3	AGGTAAGT	TGACTTCTGTCCCATATCTC	0.75	0.4	0.35	0.1	0.15	9.3
chr16_-_67142933_Cadm2	AGGTAAGC	TTTTGTTTCCTTTTATTTTT	0.9	0.8	0.1	0.05	0.05	11.73
chr16_-_67364247_Cadm2	AGGTGAGT	CTCCCCCTTCTTGTTTTTAT	0.9	0.55	0.35	0.05	0.05	12.33
chr9_-_49642257_Ncam1	AGGTAAGG	TATCTCACCTCACAACCAAA	0.6	0.2	0.4	0	0.4	3.15
chr9_-_49719364_Ncam1	AGGTAAGG	TCACTCTGCCCTGTTAAAAC	0.65	0.3	0.35	0.1	0.25	7.31
chrX_-_51473338_Hs6st2	AGGTAAGG	CTCTGGCCATCTGGACACTC	0.65	0.25	0.4	0.2	0.15	2.98

Supplementary Figure S3. Characteristics of RS sites. (**a**) Heatmap of phyloP score of RS sites and the flanking regions. (**b**) Boxplot of lengths of RS introns and introns transcribed in the mouse cortex. ***, *P* < 0.0001, one-tailed t-test. (**c**) Pie chart of locations of RS introns in host genes. (**d**) Heatmap of expression levels of RS genes in 22 mouse tissues. (**e**) The sequence motifs, nucleotide percentages, and 3'SS MaxEnt scores of the 20 RS sites. (**f**) Sequence logos of the 64 nt regions surrounding the 2640 non-RS AGGT sites and the 20 RS AGGT sites. (**g**) Schematic of the sequence base pairing between the AGGTAAGT motif and U1 snRNA. (**h**) Boxplots of the percentages of nucleotides in the 20 nt region upstream of the 2640 non-RS AGGT sites and the 20 RS AGGT sites. (**i**) Boxplot of MaxEnt 3' splice site (3'SS) scores of the 20 RS AGGT sites and the 2640 non-RS AGGT sites. ***, *P* < 0.0001, one-tailed t-test.

a

RS exon	Strand	Gene	Number of Junction reads Up	Down	Upstream exon ending	r5'SS Sequence	r5'SS MaxEnt score	Down 5'SS Sequence	Down 5'SS MaxEnt score
chr16:67364176-67364248	-	Cadm2	317	22	chr16:67620171	AAGGTGAGT	10.47	TGGGTAAGT	10.24
chr16:67142893-67142934	-	Cadm2	219	22	chr16:67620171	AAGGTAAGC	10.22	AAGGTAAAA	8.38
chr16:41206972-41207028	+	Lsamp	100	5	chr16:40786060	CAGGTAAGT	10.86	GAGGCAAGT	3.32
chr9:29674281-29674404	-	Ntm	475	5	chr9:29962845	AAGGTAAGT	11	CAGGTAGGT	10.28
chr16:40262268-40262469	+	Lsamp	161	5	chr16:39984727	AAGGTAAGT	11	AAGGTAAGT	11
chr10:69595050-69595128	+	Ank3	173	4	chr10:69534284	AAGGTAAGT	11	AAGGTTCGT	8.44
chr16:40655812-40655859	+	Lsamp	79	4	chr16:39984727	AAGGTAAGT	10.86	GTGGTAAGT	10.36
chr9:47633926-47634076	+	Cadm1	62	4	chr9:47530505	CAGGTAAGT	10.86	CAGGTAATT	8.55
chr16:40979500-40979631	+	Lsamp	112	3	chr16:40786060	CAGGTAAGT	11	CAGGTGCTT	4.83
chr9:28029507-28029642	+	Opcml	334	1	chr9:27791446	CAGGTAAGT	10.86	AAGGTATGG	9.26
chr14:119537650-119537790	+	Hs6st3	202	0	chr14:119139118	CAGGTAAGT	10.86	TTGGTGACA	-1.41
chr13:109550009-109550238	+	Pde4d	42	0	chr13:109442353	ACGGTAAGT	11.81	CAAGTACAA	-1.09
chr13:109614419-109614568	+	Pde4d	33	0	chr13:109442353	ACGGTAAGT	11.81	TTGGTTTGG	-1.65
chr2:179627794-179627953	+	Cdh4	25	0	chr2:179444811	AAGGTAAGT	11	TTGGTCTGT	0.67
chr9:49642143-49642258	-	Ncam1	135	0	chr9:49798678	CAGGTAAGG	11.08	AAAGTGTGA	-1.44
chr13:109333512-109333719	+	Pde4d	128	0	chr13:109117080	ACGGTAAGT	11.81	AAAGTTGGA	-3.21
chr16:74151336-74151683	-	Robo2	97	0	chr16:74352551	CATGTAAGT	8.31	TTGGTTATA	-5.68
chr9:49719316-49719365	-	Ncam1	83	0	chr9:49798678	CAGGTAAGG	11.08	AAGGTTTCT	0.28
chrX:51473121-51473339	-	Hs6st2	26	0	chrX:51679890	CAGGTAAGG	11.08	ATGGTTTTA	-5.54
chr11:33718032-33718265	-	Kcnip1	8	0	chr11:33843130	AAGGTAAGT	11	CTGGTGGCC	-2.74

b / d

c

RS-like cryptic exon	Strand	Gene	Number of Junction reads Up	Down	Upstream exon ending	r5'SS Sequence	r5'SS MaxEnt score	Down 5'SS Sequence	Down 5'SS MaxEnt score
chr2:17526050-17526130	-	Nebl	51	154	chr2:17529910	AATGTGGAA	-11.32	ATGGTAAGT	11.01
chr2:97522122-97522199	+	Lrrc4c	59	68	chr2:97468420	ACAGTGGAT	-7.51	AAGGTTGGA	5.64
chr7:61241310-61241445	-	A230006K03Rik	91	51	chr7:61282776	AAGGTGTTT	2.06	CAGGTTTGT	7.44
chr12:46766290-46766391	-	Nova1	61	50	chr12:46816886	CAGGTGCTG	4.87	ACTGTAAGT	8.59
chr5:57785821-57785880	+	Pcdh7	62	41	chr5:57722278	CAGGTGGAT	3.56	AATGTATGT	5.87
chr1:123595259-123595324	-	Dpp10	25	31	chr1:123650288	CAGGTGCTT	4.83	GAGGTAACA	8.1
chr1:124638974-124639139	-	Dpp10	43	34	chr1:124845719	AAGGTGTCT	2.57	CAGGTACGG	10.88
chr12:44527672-44527848	+	Nrcam	55	31	chr12:44456702	AAGGTTCCT	0.89	TTGGTATAT	1.75
chr3:158361404-158361562	-	Lrrc7	27	31	chr3:158413130	CAAGTCTCC	-11.96	AAGGTGAGA	8.68
chr7:75224697-75224831	-	Sv2b	43	25	chr7:75308205	AAGGTCTGG	3.93	CTGGTCAGT	6.6
chr2:136200589-136200635	-	Pak7	23	23	chr2:136269323	AAAGTTTCT	-9	AAGGTAAAA	8.38
chrX:77584794-77584859	+	Tbl1x	27	20	chrX:77511269	GAGGTAATT	8.88	TGAGTAAGT	8.82
chr3:159150266-159150351	+	Gm20752	21	19	chr3:159090393	AAGGTACAG	8.04	TTAGTAAGT	7.79
chr2:7282441-7282578	-	Celf2	24	18	chr2:7395858	CTGGTCTTT	-3.78	AAAGTAAGT	9.72
chr7:64506937-64507022	+	Apba2	17	17	chr7:64502253	CAGGTCTCC	0.85	GAGGTAGGA	8.24
chr16:6158060-6158206	+	Rbfox1	12	14	chr16:5885864	TAGGTGCAG	0.29	AAAGTAAGT	9.72
chr6:94050641-94050766	-	Magi1	41	13	chr6:94283010	AAGGTAAGG	10.51	GTTGTAAGT	8.3
chr3:29170414-29170593	+	Egfem1	18	13	chr3:29153601	ATGGTTAAA	-2.37	AAGGTAAAG	9.06
chr8:54881710-54881841	-	Wdr17	38	12	chr8:54886907	AAGGTGCTT	4.72	CAGGTACCA	7.88
chr8:50161927-50162063	-	Gm45341	10	11	chr8:50415134	AACGTGTTC	-7.75	CTGGTGAGT	10.1
chr7:96232099-96232201	+	Tenm4	15	9	chr7:96211990	ACTGTGAAG	-5.79	ACTGTAAGG	5.19
chr7:84005117-84005995	-	Cemip	23	2	chr7:84086258	GAGGTGACA	3.85	CAGGTCCGA	4.4

Supplementary Figure S4. RS exons and RS-like cryptic exons. (**a**) The genomic loci, numbers of junction reads, 5'SS sequences, and 5'SS MaxEnt scores of RS exons. (**b**) Schematic of the pipeline utilizing nuclear total RNA-seq data to identify RS-like cryptic exons. (**c**) The genomic loci, numbers of junction reads, 5'SS sequences, and 5'SS MaxEnt scores of RS-like cryptic exons. (**d**) Sequencing profile at *Magi1* locus. Green arrows indicate the putative RS AGGT loci.

Primer name	Sequence (5' -> 3')
Cadm2 RS1 Forward Upstream-exon	GATCCTTCCCCAGACCCTTA
Cadm2 RS1 Reverse Downstream-exon	TGAGCTGGATTTGACCACTG
Cadm2 RS1 Forward RS-exon	GCTCCTTTATTAATGTCCTGTGG
Cadm2 RS1 Reverse RS-exon	CCACAGGACATTAATAAAGGAGC
Cadm2 RS1 Reverse Negative-control intron	CTATAAAAACAAGAAGGGGGA
Cadm2 RS2 Forward Upstream-exon	GATCCTTCCCCAGACCCTTA
Cadm2 RS2 Reverse Downstream-exon	TGAGCTGGATTTGACCACTG
Cadm2 RS2 Forward RS-exon	GTAAGCACATTAGTCATTCCTGT
Cadm2 RS2 Reverse RS-exon	TTGATGCAGTCTGATTATACAGG
Cadm2 RS2 Reverse Negative-control intron	CTAAAAATAAAAGGAAACAA
HS6ST3 Forward Upstream-exon	CTGGACCGAGCTCACCAAC
HS6ST3 Reverse Downstream-exon	CGTCGCACATATGGAGAGAGGT
HS6ST3 Forward RS-exon	CCTGTGTTGGAGTGACATACGA
HS6ST3 Reverse RS-exon	TCGTATGTCACTCCAACACAGG
HS6ST3 Reverse Negative-control intron	CTGAGATATGGGACAGAAGT
Ncam1 Forward Upstream-exon	GTCTGCTCCTCGGTCCA
Ncam1 Reverse Downstream-exon	CTCCTTGGCTGGGAACAATA
Ncam1 Forward RS-exon	GTAAGGAACTGCCAATCACG
Ncam1 Reverse RS-exon	CACGTGATTGGCAGTTCC
Ncam1 Reverse Negative-control intron	CTTTTGGTTGTGAGGTGAGAT
Lsamp Forward Upstream-exon	TGAGGGAAACCAAGGGAAGC
Lsamp Reverse Downstream-exon	CGCAAGCCCTACCTGAGGAT
Lsamp RS1 Reverse RS-exon	ACTCATCATTGCTGTGGGTGG
Lsamp RS2 Reverse RS-exon	TTTCTAAAGGACAGTCTGGGGA
Lsamp RS3 Reverse RS-exon	CTATGAGAATTGCCACCTGTGC
Lsamp Reverse Negative-control intron	TCTCTCCAGACTGATGGAGGAT

Primer name	Sequence (5' -> 3')
Lrr4c Forward Upstream-exon	TTGGTGTCAAGACCGTGCATTC
Lrr4c Reverse Downstream-exon	AGCCAACAGCACCACAAGC
Lrr4c Forward Cryptic-exon	CCATGGCCGGAATGGAATAAG
Lrr4c Reverse Cryptic-exon	CTTATTCCATTCCGGCCATGG
Lrr4c Reverse Negative-control intron	CTACAAATCCAAGAAGGGGA
Nova1 Forward Upstream-exon	AACTGGAGCCACTATCAAGCTG
Nova1 Reverse Downstream-exon	GATGCGATCAGGATTAACGGTG
Nova1 Forward Cryptic-exon	TGCCAGCGGCAGAAGAGAT
Nova1 Reverse Cryptic-exon	TGTGGTACTCCTAGTCAGTGTC
Nova1 Reverse Negative-control intron	CTAGGGGAAAGCGCGCTGTT
Magi1 Forward Upstream-exon	TCCAGAAGAAGAACCACTGGAC
Magi1 Reverse Downstream-exon	CATGGCGGTAGAGGTTGTC
Magi1 Forward Cryptic-exon	CAGATGCTGTCTTCCTGTGTTC
Magi1 Reverse Cryptic-exon	GTAGGCGAGCATATTGTGAACG
Magi1 Reverse Negative-control intron	CTGAAAAACATAAACACATA

Supplementary Figure S5. RT-PCR primer sequences for the RS sites (top table) and RS-like cryptic exons (bottom table). *Cadm2* RS1: chr16:67364249. *Cadm2* RS2: chr16:67142935. *Lsamp* RS1: chr16:40262266. *Lsamp* RS2: chr16:40655810. *Lsamp* RS3: chr16:40979498.

Supplementary Figure S6. The full-length gels for plots in Figure 2.

Cadm2 (chr16:67364249)

Cadm2 (chr16:67142935)

Hs6st3

Ncam1

Supplementary Figure S7. The full-length gels for plots in Figure 4.

Supplementary Figure S8. The full-length gels for plots in Figure 5.