CDK9 and PP2A regulate RNA polymerase II transcription termination and coupled RNA maturation.

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Abstract

CDK9 is a critical kinase required for the productive transcription of protein-coding genes by RNA polymerase II (pol II). As part of P-TEFb, CDK9 phosphorylates the carboxyl-terminal domain (CTD) of pol II and elongation factors, including SPT5, which allows pol II to elongate past the early elongation checkpoint (EEC) encountered soon after initiation. We show that, in addition to halting pol II at the EEC, loss of CDK9 activity causes premature termination of transcription across the last exon, loss of polyadenylation factors from chromatin, and loss of polyadenylation of nascent transcripts. Inhibition of the phosphatase PP2A abrogates the premature termination and loss of polyadenylation caused by CDK9 inhibition, indicating that this kinase/phosphatase pair regulates transcription elongation and RNA processing at the end of protein-coding genes. Our phosphoproteomic analyses after CDK9 inhibition, using either DRB or an analog-sensitive CDK9 cell line, confirm the splicing factor SF3B1 as an additional key target of this kinase. These results emphasize the important roles that CDK9 plays in coupling transcription elongation and termination to RNA maturation downstream of the EEC.

Introduction

Transcription of human protein-coding genes by RNA polymerase (pol) II is a complex process comprising initiation, elongation, and termination. In addition, mRNA capping, splicing, and cleavage and polyadenylation, which are required to produce a mature mRNA, are largely co-transcriptional. The dynamic phosphorylation and dephosphorylation of proteins that control transcription and pre-mRNA processing, including pol II itself, are fundamental to the regulation of gene expression. Phosphorylation of pol II mostly occurs on the carboxyl-terminal domain (CTD) of its largest subunit, RBP1, which comprises 52 repeats of the heptapeptide sequence Tyr1,Ser2,Pro3,Thr4,Ser5,Pro6,Ser7 (YSPTSPS) (Zaborowska, Egloff et al., 2016). During transcription, tyrosine, serine and threonine residues are reversibly and dynamically phosphorylated whilst the two prolines are subject to cis-trans isomerisation. The pattern of heptapeptide phosphorylation and proline isomerisation during the transcription process creates distinct CTD profiles throughout the transcription cycle to coordinate the recruitment of transcription elongation and pre-mRNA processing factors in space and time (Buratowski, 2009, Corden, 2013, Hsin & Manley, 2012, Zaborowska et al., 2016). For example, CTD Ser5 phosphorylation helps to recruit capping proteins at the 5' end of genes and Ser2 phosphorylation helps to recruit polyadenylation and termination factors at the 3' end of genes.

In human cells, phosphorylation of the pol II CTD heptapeptide is mainly carried out by cyclin-dependent kinases (CDKs), including CDK7, CDK9, and CDK12 (Zaborowska et al., 2016). CDK9, together with Cyclin T1, forms the Positive Transcription Elongation Factor b complex (P-TEFb), which phosphorylates Ser2, Thr4, and Ser5 of the CTD heptapeptide. In addition, P-TEFb phosphorylates several proteins involved in regulation of transcriptional elongation, including the negative elongation factor subunit E (NELFE), the SPT5 subunit of DSIF, and SPT6 (Peterlin & Price, 2006, Vos, Farnung et al., 2018a, Vos, Farnung et al., 2018b, Yamada, Yamaguchi et al., 2006). Soon after initiation of transcription of protein-coding genes, pol II stalls at an early elongation checkpoint (EEC) due to the recruitment of NELF and DSIF. Phosphorylation of these complexes by P-TEFb results in release of NELF and turns DSIF into a positive elongation factor, allowing productive elongation to proceed (Jonkers, Kwak et al., 2014, Laitem, Zaborowska et al., 2015, Vos et al., 2018a, Vos et al., 2018b). Accordingly, inhibition of CDK9 by small molecule inhibitors causes pol II to pause at the EEC genome-wide (Jonkers et al., 2014, Laitem et al., 2015, Vos et al., 2018a, Vos et al.,

2018b). Using short-term treatment of cells with CDK9 inhibitors, we have shown that inhibition of CDK9 also disrupts transcription at the 3'end of protein-coding genes, causing premature termination of pol II close to the poly(A) site (Laitem et al., 2015). This premature termination is associated with the loss of several pol II-associated factors, including CDK9 itself, SPT5, SSU72, and Cstf64 from the 3' end of protein-coding genes (Laitem et al., 2015). This led us to hypothesize the presence of a poly(A)-associated checkpoint (PAAC), where CDK9 is required to overcome the pause and transcribe past the poly(A) site for cleavage and polyadenylation to occur (Laitem et al., 2015, Tellier, Ferrer-Vicens et al., 2016).

Termination of transcription downstream of an active polyadenylation site requires the action of the exonuclease Xrn2, which degrades the uncapped RNA left associated with pol II after cleavage of the nascent pre-mRNA at the poly(A) site (Proudfoot, 2016). This is thought to destabilize pol II to allow termination of transcription. Interestingly, phosphorylation of Xrn2 by CDK9 enhances its activity (Sanso, Levin et al., 2016).

As the functions of transcriptional kinases are becoming clearer, thanks in part to the development of cell lines with analog-sensitive kinases (Bishop, Ubersax et al., 2000, Tellier, Zaborowska et al., 2020b), the role of phosphatases in this process are beginning to emerge. Several CDK9 targets, including SPT5 and Xrn2, are dephosphorylated by the multifunctional protein phosphatases (PP)1, PP2A, and PP4 (Huang, Jee et al., 2020, Parua, Booth et al., 2018, Parua, Kalan et al., 2020, Vervoort, Welsh et al., 2021), which also have roles in splicing (Mermoud, Cohen et al., 1992, Shi, Reddy et al., 2006). In addition, PP1 was recently shown to regulate poly(A)-site-dependent transcription termination by dephosphorylation of SPT5 (Cortazar, Sheridan et al., 2019, Eaton, Francis et al., 2020). Knockdown of PP1 or its associated subunit, PNUTS, or inhibition of PP1 with the small molecule inhibitor Tautomycetin, leads to hyperphosphorylation of SPT5 and the elongation rate of pol II no longer decreases downstream of the poly(A). This leads to a transcription termination defect as the exonuclease Xrn2 fails to "catch up" with the elongating pol II (Cortazar et al., 2019, Eaton et al., 2020). PP2A interacts with Integrator, a protein complex that cleaves RNA and regulates the amount of paused pol II at the EEC (Huang et al., 2020, Vervoort et al., 2021, Zheng, Qi et al., 2020). PP2A is also thought to dephosphorylate the pol II CTD and other factors involved in the early stages of transcription (Huang et al., 2020, Vervoort et al., 2021, Zheng et al., 2020).

Termination of transcription of intron-containing protein-coding genes in human cells is thought to be coupled to terminal exon definition, which requires the coordinated recognition of the 3'SS and the poly(A) site (Cooke, Hans et al., 1999, Tellier, Maudlin et al., 2020a). Accordingly, mutation of the 3'SS causes a transcription termination defect due to failure to recognise the poly(A) site (Dye & Proudfoot, 1999). Interactions between splicing factors, such as SF3B1 or U2AF65, and CPA factors, such as CPSF100 or poly(A) polymerase, PAPOLA, have been demonstrated (Gunderson, Beyer et al., 1994, Kyburz, Friedlein et al., 2006, Niwa, Rose et al., 1990, Tellier et al., 2020a, Vagner, Vagner et al., 2000). In addition, subunit CDC73 of the PAF complex, which plays a role in elongation, interacts with the CPSF73 CPA endonuclease (Rozenblatt-Rosen, Nagaike et al., 2009). Thus, inhibition of CDK9 may trigger premature termination by disrupting the balance of kinase and phosphatase activities required for enabling protein-protein/-DNA/-RNA interactions.

To elucidate the function of CDK9 in the PAAC, we generated, using CRISPR/Cas9, a HEK293 cell line where the endogenous genes express analog-sensitive CDK9 (CDK9as). Inhibition of CDK9as or small molecule CDK9 inhibitors promote premature termination of pol II, impair CPA factors recruitment to chromatin, and cause loss of polyadenylation of newly-made pre-mRNA. Interestingly, bioinformatic analysis indicates that the defect in transcription caused by CDK9 inhibition starts across the last exon, rather than at the poly(A) site, implicating disruption of definition of the last exon in premature termination.

Using phosphoproteomics, we have identified numerous targets of CDK9 including, as expected, SPT5 and NELF, in addition to the U2 snRNP splicing factor component SF3B1, with SPT5 T806 and SF3B1 T142 confirmed as targets of PP1. PP1 inhibition promotes a transcription termination defect, as previously shown (Eaton et al., 2020) but does not reverse the effect of CDK9 inhibition on transcription and pol II CTD phosphorylation. Instead, inhibition of PP2A reverses the effect of CDK9 inhibition on premature termination, indicating that this phosphatase has a previously unsuspected role at the 3'end of protein-coding genes. Inhibition of PP2A also restores recruitment of poly(A) factors and the polyadenylation of newly-made pre-mRNA disrupted by CDK9 inhibition. PP2A inhibition alone causes an increase in pol II signal across the last exon and a higher production of polyadenylated mRNA indicating that PP2A is a negative regulator of mRNA CPA.

Taken together our results highlight an additional kinase/phosphatase switch at the end of protein-coding genes regulating the coordination of pre-mRNA splicing, cleavage/polyadenylation, and termination of transcription.

Results

CDK9 inhibition abrogates polyadenylation.

We have previously shown that CDK9 inhibition leads to loss of pol II association downstream of the poly(A) site of human protein-coding genes (Laitem et al., 2015). This premature termination of transcription could be accompanied by loss of polyadenylation and failure to make a mature mRNA. Alternatively, polyadenylation/termination is more efficient and fully mature mRNA is produced. We have already shown that levels of the polyadenylation factor CstF64 at the 3' end of genes is reduced after CDK9 inhibition, suggesting that polyadenylation is compromised. In order to follow the production of newly-polyadenylated mRNA, we have analysed production of transcripts from TNFα-inducible genes. HeLa cells were treated with DMSO or TNFα for 30 minutes followed by treatment with DMSO or 5,6-dichlorobenzimidazone-1-β-D-ribofuranoside (DRB) for 30 minutes and 3'READS was then carried out on the purified nuclear mRNAs to measure the production of newly polyadenylated mRNA (Figure 1A) (Neve, Burger et al., 2016). There are 307 genes where mRNA production is induced more than two-fold by TNFα in both repeats. Pol II ChIP-qPCR on one of these genes, *LDLR*, was carried out to analyse induction of transcription by TNFα and the effect of DRB treatment on pol II at the 3'end (Supplementary Figure 1A). Polyadenylation of the 307 TNFα-induced mRNAs in the nucleus is significantly decreased, both for all of the genes included and for genes longer than 40 kb, where pol II is still elongating at the 3'end (Figure 1B and Supplementary Figure 1A). qRT-PCR of the nuclear polyadenylated mRNAs encoded by selected TNFα-induced genes confirmed that DRB causes a marked reduction in polyadenylation (Supplementary Figure 1B).

We also performed western blotting to assess the amount of the polyadenylation/termination factors Xrn2, CPSF2, CPSF73, total pol II, and CTD Ser2P in chromatin and nucleoplasm fractions after treatment of HeLa cells for 15 or 30 minutes with DRB (Figure 1C-E and Supplementary Figure 1C). As expected, Ser2P is decreased on the chromatin following CDK9 inhibition. There is also a loss of Xrn2, CPSF2 and CPSF73 from the

chromatin fraction, with a stronger loss after 30 than 15 minutes. In contrast, the level of these factors in the nucleoplasm fraction increases, indicating that these factors dissociate from chromatin after CDK9 inhibition. Importantly, there is no reduction of these factors in whole cell extract, indicating that the loss from chromatin is not due to active degradation (Supplementary Figures 1D and 1E). Levels of the poly(A) polymerase (PAPOLA), Xrn2 and CPSF30, measured by ChIP-qPCR on our model gene, *KPNB1*, are also reduced after 30 minutes treatment with DRB, whether ratioed to pol II levels or not (Figures 1F and G).

This data indicates that CDK9 inhibition causes both premature termination of pol II and failure to recruit polyadenylation factors, which causes the production of polyadenylated mRNA to be aborted.

CDK9 inhibition causes an elongation defect starting at the last exon of protein-coding genes.

To better understand the kinetics of premature termination of pol II caused by CDK9 inhibition, mNET-seq was carried out with a total pol II antibody after treatment of HeLa cells with DRB for 5, 10, 15, or 30 minutes (Figure 2A-C and Supplementary Figure 2A and 2B). The results are similar to those we previously obtained using GRO-seq (Laitem et al., 2015), and metagene profiles analysis indicates that DRB treatment of cells causes an increase in pol II pausing close to the TSS, a loss of pol II entering productive elongation, and premature termination of pol II close to the poly(A) site is detected on genes longer than 40 kb where pol II has not yet "run off" (Figures 2B-D, and Supplementary Figure 2A and 2B). Pol II ChIP-qPCR on our model gene, *KPNB1*, gives the same result (Supplementary Figure 2C). DRB concentrations between 12.5 to 100 µM and treatment of HEK293 cells with a different CDK9 inhibitor, SNS-032 (Chen, Wierda et al., 2009), give the same result (Supplementary Figure 2C).

To focus on the effect of CDK9 inhibition on pol II behaviour at the 3' end of genes, a metagene analysis was carried out with the pol II signal scaled across the last exon (Figure 2E). Interestingly, the metaprofile indicates that CDK9 inhibition causes an increase in pol II signal across the last exon followed by loss of pol II signal downstream of the poly(A) site. Importantly, the increase in the pol II signal after CDK9 inhibition is specific to the last exon as the pol II signal over the penultimate exons or other internal exons is either unchanged or

decreased (Figure 2F and Supplementary Figure 2D). This is particularly apparent on, for example, *ARHGAP23* where pol II levels increase specifically across the last exon (Figure 2G).

Inhibition of analog-sensitive (as) CDK9 has the same effect on elongation as small molecule CDK9 inhibitors.

Small molecule kinase inhibitors may target more than one kinase *in vivo* (Bensaude, 2011). To confirm that the results we observed with DRB are due solely to inhibition of CDK9, we used CRISPR/Cas9 to change the gatekeeper phenylalanine to an alanine in all endogenous copies of CDK9 HEK293 cells to make a CDK9 analog-sensitive (as) cell line (Supplementary Figure 3-1A). Mutation of the gatekeeper residue does not greatly affect the cell growth rate (Supplementary Figure 3-1B). Treatment of wild type HEK293 or CDK9as cells with 7.5, 10, or 15 µM of the ATP-analogue 1-NA-PP1 (NA), which should specifically inhibit CDK9as, affects the growth rate of the CDK9as cells with little effect on the wild type HEK293 cells (Supplementary Figure 3-1C). Pol II ChIP-qPCR of *KPNB1* in CDK9as cells after treatment of cells with 7.5, 10, or 15 µM NA for 15 minutes show that at all NA concentrations, pol II pausing and pol II entry into productive elongation is affected (Supplementary Figure 3-1D). Readily detectable premature termination of pol II close to the poly(A) site is caused by 15 µM NA (Supplementary Figure 3-1D). Importantly, 15 µM NA has no effect on pol II in wild-type HEK293 (Supplementary Figure 3-1E). Introduction of the CDK9as mutation or treatment with 15 µM NA also do not affect the level of CDK9 or Cyclin T1 in whole cell extract (Supplementary Figures 3-1F and G).

As CDK9 phosphorylates the pol II CTD, the effect of CDK9 inhibition on pol II CTD phosphorylation was analysed by western blotting of chromatin fractions (Figures 3A and B). As expected, CDK9as inhibition causes loss of Ser2P and Ser5P with two different phosphoantibodies to each CTD mark (ab5095 and ab5121 from Abcam, 13499S and 13523S from Cell Signaling) while NA treatment has no effect on CTD phosphorylation in wild-type HEK293 cells. ChIP-qPCR on *KPNB1* also indicates that CDK9as inhibition causes loss of Ser2P and Ser5P, whether ratioed to pol II or not (Figure 3C and Supplementary Figure 3-2), indicating that *in vivo* CDK9 activity is necessary for efficient Ser2 and Ser5 phosphorylation.

CDK9 phosphorylates several transcription and splicing factors *in vivo*.

Phosphorylation of several non-CTD CDK9 targets plays critical roles in gene expression (Sanso et al., 2016, Zaborowska et al., 2016). To identify the *in vivo* targets of CDK9, we performed biological duplicates of SILAC phosphoproteomics in HeLa cells treated with DMSO or DRB for 30 minutes (Figure 4A and Supplementary Figure 4-1A, Supplementary Table 1). We found 100 phosphosites across 74 proteins decreased more than 1.5 fold and with a p-value < 0.1. Amongst these phosphosites, 34 have a SP or a TP motif and are located in 25 different proteins (Supplementary Figure 4-1B). In line with previous similar studies, most CDK9 targets are factors involved in transcription, RNA processing, and RNA biology. Importantly, we identified several known targets of CDK9, including MED1 (T1440), MEPCE (T213, S217, T291), NELFA (S225), SPT5 (S666, S671), and SPT6 (T1523) (Decker, Forne et al., 2019, Sanso et al., 2016, Vos et al., 2018a, Vos et al., 2018b). We also identified several residues of the splicing factors SF3B1 (T142, T227, T436) and CDC5L (T377, T396, T430, T442) as targets of CDK9. However, there is only limited overlap with previously published CDK9 *in vitro* or *in vivo* phosphoproteomics (Supplementary Figure 4-1C) (Decker et al., 2019, Sanso et al., 2016).

We have generated new phosphoantibodies for SPT5 T806P and SF3B1 T142P, as these two proteins are known to have functions at the 3'end of protein-coding genes, either in transcription (SPT5) or in splicing and definition of the last exon (SF3B1) (Cortazar et al., 2019, Kyburz et al., 2006, Parua et al., 2020, Tellier et al., 2020a). Kinase-phosphatase switches have recently been shown to regulate transcription at the 3' end of gene and CDK9 and PP1 activities play a major role in controlling SPT5 T806 phosphorylation and pol II elongation close to poly(A) sites (Cortazar et al., 2019, Parua et al., 2018, Parua et al., 2020). In addition, PP2A is known to dephosphorylate SPT5 S666P (Huang et al., 2020, Parua et al., 2018, Parua et al., 2020). Accordingly, we have analysed the effect on transcription of low concentrations of three small molecule inhibitors, 25 nM Tautomycetin (TT), which inhibits PP1, and 2.5 nM Calyculin A (CA) or 2.5 nM LB-100, which inhibits PP2A. H3S10P and Myc S62P, which are known targets of PP1 and PP2A, respectively, were used to control for specific inhibition (Supplementary Figure 4-1D). We observed that at the concentrations used, TT preferentially inhibits PP1, while CA and LB-100 mainly inhibit PP2A.

Western blotting of the chromatin fraction of cells treated or not with CDK9 inhibitors confirms that CDK9 phosphorylates SPT5 T806P and SF3B1 T142P while PP1, but not PP2A, dephosphorylates these two phosphoresidues (Figures 4B and C).

PP2A counteracts CDK9 activity at the 3' end of genes.

As PP1 and PP2A reverse CDK9-mediated phosphorylation of several residues of SPT5 and SF3B1 (Figure 4B and C) (Cortazar et al., 2019, Parua et al., 2018, Parua et al., 2020) the effect of PP1 and PP2A inhibition on pol II CTD Ser2 and Ser5 phosphorylation in the absence or presence of CDK9as inhibition was investigated (Supplementary Figures 4-2B and C). As expected, NA causes loss of Ser2P and Ser5P while inhibition of PP1 with TT or PP2A with CA results in an increase of Ser2P and Ser5P, in line with the known roles of PP1 and PP2A as both CTD Ser2 and Ser5 phosphatases (Vervoort et al., 2021, Washington, Ammosova et al., 2002, Zheng et al., 2020). TT in addition to NA does not reverse the decrease in Ser2P and Ser5P levels seen in CDK9as cells, whereas the CA in addition to NA causes an increase in Ser2P and Ser5P levels compared to NA alone, indicating that, for CTD phosphorylation, PP1 inhibition cannot overcome CDK9 inhibition whereas PP2A inhibition can.

The effect of inhibition of these two phosphatases on transcription of the *KPNB1* gene was therefore investigated by pol II ChIP-qPCR (Figure 5A). Inhibition of PP1 leads to an increase in pol II pausing at the TSS coupled to a termination defect downstream of the poly(A) site (primer TerDef), as previously reported (Eaton et al., 2020). Inhibition of PP2A by CA or LB-100 also results in an increase in pol II pausing at the TSS with apparent termination of pol II closer to the poly(A) site (primer TerDef). Inhibition of CDK9 and PP1 at the same time has the same effect as CDK9 inhibition alone (Figure 5B). However, inhibition of PP2A and CDK9 at the same time mitigates the effect of CDK9 inhibition at the 3'end of the gene (see primer pA +1.4 for both DRB + CA and DRB + LB-100). Inhibition of CDK9 for 15 minutes followed by treatment with CA for another 15 minutes, or vice-versa, gives a similar outcome, although there is an increased level of pol II in the gene body when DRB is followed by CA (Figure 5C). A similar approach with TT results in the same outcome as TT treatment alone (Figure 5D). Treatment of cells with DRB, CA, and TT together has the same effect as DRB and CA (Figure 5E).

To confirm our ChIP-qPCR results, we performed mouse spike-in total pol II ChIP-seq in HeLa cells treated for 30 minutes with DMSO, DRB, CA, or a combination DRB and CA (Figure 6A-C). Inhibition of CDK9 with DRB promotes an increase in pol II pausing, a loss of pol II entering productive elongation, and an increase of the level of pol II across the last exon

coupled to premature termination. CA treatment results in a small increase in pol II pausing but does not affect pol II entry into productive elongation. Interestingly, inhibition of PP2A with CA promotes a specific increase in pol II signal across the last exon, indicating that both CDK9 and PP2A activities are required across the last exon to ensure a proper transcription elongation. Inhibition of both CDK9 and PP2A does not reverse the effect of CDK9 inhibition on pol II pausing downstream from the TSS and at the EEC but abrogates the effect of CDK9 inhibition on pol II transcription at the 3'end of protein-coding genes. The combination of CDK9 and PP2A inhibition results in pol II elongating further downstream of the poly(A) site than after CDK9 inhibition alone. This is noted on two single gene examples, *SUPT5H* and *WDR43* (Figure 6D).

CDK9 and PP2A regulate mRNA cleavage and polyadenylation.

As inhibition of PP2A abrogates the effect of CDK9 inhibition on transcription at the 3'end of the gene, we tested whether PP2A inhibition also reverses the effect of CDK9 inhibition on cleavage and polyadenylation. Treatment of cells for 30 minutes with DRB or DRB and CA followed by qRT-PCRs of newly-synthesized nuclear polyadenylated mRNA from TNFα-induced genes indicates that inhibiting PP2A fully reverses the effect of CDK9 inhibition on the production of polyadenylated mRNA (Figures 7A and B). Surprisingly, inhibiting PP2A alone causes increased production of polyadenylated mRNA for most of the genes tested, indicating that PP2A can act as a negative regulator of CPA. To confirm that CA does not block mRNA export, which could explain the increase in nuclear poly(A)+ mRNAs, we also investigated the cytoplasmic fraction by qRT-PCR (Figure 7C). CA treatment also results in an increase in poly(A)+ mRNAs in the cytoplasmic fraction, indicating that CA does not affect mRNA export. We confirmed these results with another PP2A inhibitor, LB-100 (Supplementary Figure 6-1A-C). Inhibition of PP1 instead has little effect on polyadenylation of newly-synthesized RNA (Supplementary Figure 6-1D and E).

To determine whether CPA factor recruitment is affected by PP2A inhibition, we performed western blots of Xrn2, CPSF2, and CPSF73 on the chromatin and nucleoplasm fractions following 30 minutes of treatment with DRB, CA, or DRB and CA (Supplementary Figure 6-2A-C). Whereas CDK9 inhibition causes a decrease in Xrn2, CPSF2, and CPSF73 on chromatin, CA or DRB and CA treatment cause an increase in CPSF2 and CPSF73 recruitment to chromatin and a decrease of CPSF2 in the nucleoplasmic fraction. Importantly, there was

no effect of DRB, CA, or DRB and CA on the total protein level of these termination factors in whole cell extract (Supplementary Figure 6-2D). As pol II CTD Ser2P is associated with the recruitment of CPA factors and CDK9 and PP2A modulate Ser2P, we next investigated by ChIP-qPCR on the *KPNB1* model gene how pol II, Ser2P, CPSF73, and CPSF2 levels are affected by 30 minutes treatment of cells with DRB, CA, or DRB and CA (Figure 7D and Supplementary Figure 6-2E). DRB and CA treatment together results in a localized increase of the Ser2P/pol II ratio and an increased ratio of CPSF73/pol II and CPSF2/pol II at the 3'end of *KPNB1*. Analysis of the nuclear polyadenylated mRNA level of KPNB1 shows that as expected from the 3'READS experiments, it is not induced by TNFα (Supplementary Figure 6-2F). However, the level of nuclear polyadenylated RNA from *KPNB1* increases after CA treatment while DRB+TT and DRB+CA lead to a relatively small decrease in poly(A)+ mRNA level compared to the strong loss induced by DRB treatment. In addition, total pol II immunoprecipitation indicates that, as expected, DRB reduces Ser2P while CA or DRB and CA together do not. Interestingly, DRB treatment strongly decreases the interaction between pol II and CPSF2 and to a lesser extent to Xrn2 (Figure 7E). In contrast, DRB and CA treatment together preserves the interaction between pol II and CPSF2 and Xrn2, indicating that CDK9 and PP2A regulate the interaction between pol II and CPA complex components.

Discussion

We previously showed that CDK9 inhibition, in addition to halting pol II at the EEC, also leads to premature termination of pol II close to the poly(A) site (Laitem et al., 2015). We show here that premature termination of pol II is associated with a loss of mRNA polyadenylation and a loss of recruitment of polyadenylation and termination factors to chromatin. Although we have termed this 3' end CDK9 checkpoint the poly(A)-associated checkpoint, analysis of pol II transcription at single nucleotide resolution using mNET-seq indicates that pol II slows down prematurely from the start of the last exon. Thus, CDK9 inhibition may be causing failure to properly define the last exon, which helps to ensure the correct transition of pol II between elongation and termination (Figure 8). In support of this, we found several proteins involved in definition of the last exon and the transition between transcription elongation and termination, including SPT5, SF3B1, CDC5L, or METTL3, to be phosphorylated by CDK9 (Cortazar et al., 2019, Ke, Alemu et al., 2015, Kyburz et al., 2006, Parua et al., 2020, Tellier et al., 2020a).

In addition to the previously-demonstrated roles of PP1 and PP2A in transcription regulation, at the 5' and 3' ends of genes, respectively (Cortazar et al., 2019, Eaton et al., 2020, Huang et al., 2020, Vervoort et al., 2021, Zheng et al., 2020), we found that inhibiting PP2A abrogates the premature termination caused by CDK9 inhibition. In addition, inhibition of PP2A reverses the loss of CPA factors from chromatin caused by CDK9 inhibition and production of polyadenylated mRNA is restored, indicating that the CDK9/PP2A kinase/phosphatase pair is involved in regulating the recruitment and activity of the CPA complex (Figure 8).

We show here that, in addition to phospho-SPT5, SF3B1 is a target of the phosphatase PP1, supporting a role for this phosphatase in splicing and potentially in the definition of the last exon (Mermoud et al., 1992, Shi et al., 2006).

Although a low concentration of Tautomycetin or Calyculin A can specifically inhibit PP1 or PP2A, respectively, we cannot rule out that these small molecule inhibitors affect other proteins. However, another PP2A inhibitor, LB-100 gave similar results. In addition, PP1 and PP2A are clearly not completely redundant as PP1, but not PP2A, dephosphorylates SPT5 T806P and SF3B1 T142P. In addition, both phosphatases are active at the 5' and 3' ends of protein-coding genes but have different functions. PP1 inhibition leads to a termination defect, likely due to a high pol II elongation rate after the poly(A) site caused by hyperphosphorylation of SPT5, which impedes Xrn2-mediated transcription termination (Cortazar et al., 2019, Eaton et al., 2020). Conversely, PP2A inhibition seems to promote more efficient cleavage and polyadenylation of transcripts (Figure 8). However, the mechanism behind this remains unclear as the Ser2P level or CPA factor recruitment to the pol II are not higher than in untreated conditions, implicating a different PP2A target.

A decrease in the pol II level downstream of the poly(A) site can be associated with premature non-productive termination, where gene expression is aborted (CDK9 inhibition) (Figure 8) or more efficient termination coupled to the production of mature polyadenylated mRNA (CDK9 and PP2A inhibition (Figure 8)). Premature termination of pol II caused by inhibition of CDK9 is associated with a decreased level of Ser2P and Ser5P and reduced recruitment of CPA factors (Figure 8). In contrast, inhibition of CDK9 and PP2A together promote more efficient termination of pol II with the production of de novo nuclear polyadenylated mRNA, which is associated with higher Ser2P, efficient recruitment of CPA factors, and termination closer to the poly(A) site (Figure 8). A surprising observation

is that while CDK9 and PP1 inhibition results in increased SPT5 T806 and SF3B1 T142 phosphorylation, Ser2 and Ser5 phosphorylation remains at a level similar to CDK9 inhibition alone (Figures 4B, 4C, 8 and Supplementary Figures 4-2B and 4-2C). This result reinforces the notion that dephosphorylation of Ser2P and Ser5P by PP1 is redundant with other CTD phosphatases, including PP2A.

In line with previous findings, we found that CDK9 activity is needed for CTD phosphorylation on Ser2P and Ser5P *in vivo* (Czudnochowski, Bosken et al., 2012, Ghamari, van de Corput et al., 2013, Greifenberg, Honig et al., 2016, Laitem et al., 2015). However, Ser2 does not seem to always be an *in vivo* target of CDK9 (Decker et al., 2019, Parua et al., 2020). This is reminiscent of identification of CDK12 targets in the pol II CTD, which may be Ser2P, Ser5P, and/or Ser7P (Chirackal Manavalan, Pilarova et al., 2019, Krajewska, Dries et al., 2019, Tellier et al., 2020b). The differing results could be explained by the use of different methods (whole cell extract vs chromatin fraction), different treatment times (minutes vs hours), different molecules (analog sensitive cell lines vs small molecule inhibitors), and different cell lines.

Our DRB mNET-seq time course indicates that after 5 minutes of CDK9 inhibition, the effect on pol II at the EEC is more drastic than at the 3'end of the genes, where a defect becomes clear only after 10 minutes of inhibition. However, the drastic effect of CDK9 inhibition on mRNA CPA may indicate that the loss of mRNA polyadenylation occurs before premature termination of pol II. Thus, dephosphorylation of CDK9 targets including SPT5 and SF3B1 and the loss of the CPA complex from chromatin occurs rapidly. The subsequent slowing down of pol II over the last exon and early disengagement of pol II may be caused by the loss of elongation factors, such as SPT5, SPT6, or the PAF1 complex, which are known to keep the pol II clamped on the chromatin (Bernecky, Plitzko et al., 2017, Hou, Wang et al., 2019, Vos et al., 2018a).

Materials and methods

Cell culture

HEK293 and HeLa cells were obtained from ATCC (ATCC® CRL-1573™ and ATCC® CCL-2™, respectively). HeLa, HEK293 parental cells, and CDK9as HEK293 cells were grown in DMEM medium supplemented with 10% foetal calf serum, 100 U/ml penicillin, 100 µg/ml streptomycin, 2 mM L-glutamine at 37°C and 5% CO_2. HEK293 and CDK9as cells were

treated with 7.5, 10, or 15 µM 1-NA-PP1 (Cayman Chemical Company) for 15 and 30 minutes. HEK293, CDK9as, or HeLa cells were treated with 10 ng/ml of TNFα (PeproTech), 2.5 nM Calyculin A (Sigma), 25 nM Tautomycetin (Bio-Techne), 2.5 nM LB-100 (Stratech Scientific Ltd), 100 µM DRB (Sigma) for 5, 10, 15 or 30 minutes, or 0.5 or 1 µM SNS-032 (LKT labs). As a negative control, HEK293, CDK9as, and HeLa cells were treated with DMSO (the resuspension vehicle for NA, DRB, Calyculin A, LB-100, and Tautomycetin). Cells were routinely checked to be free of mycoplasma contamination using Plasmo Test Mycoplasma Detection Kit (InvivoGen, rep-pt1).

Analog sensitive cell line creation

Guide RNAs were computationally designed.

Guide RNA 1: 5'-GCTCGCAGAAGTCGAACACC-3'
Guide RNA 2: 5'-CTTCTGCGAGCATGACCTTGC-3'

The modified CDK9 genomic sequence (NCBI RefSeq Accession NG_033942.1) (500 bp either site of the mutation) was cloned into pcDNA3 and used as the repair template for genome editing. The repair template contains a TTC (phenylalanine) to GCT (alanine) mutation. The guide (g)RNAs inserts were cloned into the pX462 vector (obtained from Addgene). HEK293 cells were transfected with the gRNA vectors and correction template using Lipofectamine 2000 (Life Technologies) following the manufacturer instructions. Single clones were isolated by low density plating after Puromycin and Neomycin selection. Genomic DNA from each clone was analysed using PCR and Sanger sequencing.

gDNA preparation

HEL293 and CDK9as cells were incubated in 180 µl ChIP lysis buffer (10 mM Tris–HCl ph8.0, 0.25% Triton X-100, 10 mM EDTA) for 10 min and sonicated for 3 min (30 seconds on/30 seconds off) using a Q800R2 sonicator (QSONICA). 20 µl ammonium acetate was added (final concentration of 400 mM) and samples were mixed with 200 µl phenol/chloroform by vortexing. The samples were centrifuged at 13,000 g for 5 minutes at 25°C and the upper phase was transferred to a new tube. Genomic DNA was precipitated in 70% ethanol, pelleted by centrifugation at 13,000 g for 5 minutes at 25°C and dissolved in nuclease free

water. A CDK9 fragment was PCR amplified using the following primers: Forward: 5′-AAGGCTTCTGAGACAGCTGG-3′; Reverse: 5′-CAACCAGCTTCTTTCTTCCTGC-3′. DNA was purified using a QIAquick PCR purification kit (Qiagen) and sequenced by the Source Bioscience Sanger Sequencing Service, Oxford.

RNA preparation

RNA was extracted from HEK293 and CDK9as cells using a *Quick*-RNA Miniprep kit (Zymo Research) according to the manufacturer's instructions. Reverse-transcription (RT) was performed with 500 ng of RNA using random hexamers with the SuperScript III kit (Invitrogen) according to the manufacturer's instructions. Sequencing was performed on a cDNA PCR fragment generated with Forward primer: 5'-AAAGCAGTACGACTCGGTGG-3' and Reverse primer: 5'-GTAGAGGCCGTTAAGCAGCA-3', purified using a QIAquick PCR purification kit (Qiagen) and sequenced by the Source Bioscience Sanger Sequencing Service, Oxford.

Cell proliferation analysis

Cells were seeded at 500/well in 95 µl in 96-well microplates (Greiner, 655090) and measured every 12 or 24 hours by adding alamarBlue HS (Invitrogen) (1/20) and reading in a fluorimeter after 1 hour's incubation, according to the manufacturer's instructions. 1-NA-PP1 or DMSO was added to the cells as noted on the figure.

Chromatin immunoprecipitation (ChIP)

ChIP analysis were performed as previously described (Tellier et al., 2020b). HeLa, HEK293, and CDK9as cells were grown in 100 or 150 mm dishes until they reached ~80% confluency. The cells were fixed with 1% formaldehyde for 10 minutes at room temperature with shaking. Formaldehyde was quenched with 125 mM glycine for 5 minutes at room temperature with shaking. The cells were washed twice with ice-cold PBS, scraped with ice-cold PBS, and transferred into 1.5 or 15 ml Eppendorf tubes. Cells were pelleted for 10 minutes at 1,500 rpm at 4°C. The pellets were then resuspended in ChIP lysis buffer (10 mM Tris–HCl ph8.0, 0.25% Triton X-100, 10 mM EDTA, protease inhibitor cocktail, and phosphatase inhibitor) and incubated 10 minutes on ice before being centrifuged at 1,500 g for 5 minutes at 4°C. Pellets were resuspended in ChIP wash buffer (10 mM Tris–HCl pH8.0,

200 mM NaCl, 1 mM EDTA, protease inhibitor cocktail, and phosphatase inhibitor) and centrifuged at 1,500 g for 5 minutes at 4°C. Pellets were resuspended in ChIP sonication buffer (10 mM Tris–HCl pH 8.0, 100 mM NaCl, 1 mM EDTA, protease inhibitor cocktail, and phosphatase inhibitor) and incubated 10 minutes on ice. HeLa cells were sonicated for 30 cycles, 30 seconds on/30 seconds off using a Bioruptor Pico (Diagenode). HEK293 and CDK9as cells were sonicated for one hour, 30 seconds on/30 seconds off, 40% amplitude, using a Q800R2 sonicator (QSONICA). Chromatin was pelleted at 13,000 rpm for 15 minutes at 4°C and supernatant transferred to a new Eppendorf tube.

Chromatin was pre-cleared for 30 min on a rotating wheel at 4°C with 10 µl of Protein G Dynabeads, previously washed with 100 µl of RIPA buffer (10 mM Tris–HCl pH8.0, 150 mM NaCl, 1 mM EDTA, 0.1% SDS, 1% Triton X-100, 0.1% sodium deoxycholate). Chromatin was quantified on a NanoDrop One with 60-100 µg of chromatin used per IP (antibodies described in Table 1) and incubated overnight on a rotating wheel at 4°C. 15 µl of Dynabeads per IP were washed in 100 µl RIPA buffer. The beads were saturated with 15 µl RIPA containing 4mg/ml of bovine serum albumin (BSA) and mixed overnight on a rotor at 4°C.

Dynabeads were then mixed for 1 hour on a rotating wheel at 4°C with the chromatin incubated with the antibody. Beads were then washed three times with 300 µl ice-cold RIPA buffer, three times with 300 µl High Salt Wash buffer (10 mM Tris–HCl pH8.0, 500 mM NaCl, 1 mM EDTA, 0.1% SDS, 1% Triton X-100, 0.1% sodium deoxycholate), twice with 300 µl LiCl Wash buffer (10 mM Tris–HCl pH8.0, 250 mM LiCl, 1 mM EDTA, 1% NP-40, 1% sodium deoxycholate), and twice with 300 µl TE buffer (10 mM Tris–HCl pH 7.5, 1 mM EDTA). Each sample was eluted twice from the Dynabeads with 50 µl of Elution buffer (100 mM NaHCO3, 1% SDS, 10 mM DTT) for 15 minutes at 25°C at 1,400 rpm on a Thermomixer. For each input sample, 90 µl of Elution buffer was added to 10 µl total input. Each sample was treated with RNase A (0.6 µl of 10 mg/ml) for 30 minutes at 37°C followed by the addition of 200 mM NaCl and a five hours incubation at 65°C to reverse the crosslinks. Precipitation was performed overnight at -20°C following the addition of 2.5x volume of 100% ethanol. Ethanol was removed after a 20 minutes centrifugation at 13,000 rpm at 4°C and pellets resuspended in 100 µl TE, 25 µl 5x Proteinase K buffer (50 mM Tris–HCl pH 7.5, 25 mM EDTA, 1.25% SDS) and 1.5 µl Proteinase K (20 mg/ml). The samples were incubated two

hours at 45°C to degrade the proteins. DNA was purified using Qiagen PCR Purification Kit and kept at -20°C.

ChIP samples were analysed by real-time qPCR using QuantiTect SYBR Green PCR kit (Qiagen) and Rotor-Gene RG-3000 (Corbett Research). Signals are presented as percentage of Input after removing the background signal from the IP with the IgG antibody. The sequence of primers used for ChIP-qPCR is given in Table 2. Experiments were replicated three times and each ChIP sample was measured in triplicate by qPCR.

ChIP-seq of total pol II (Active Motif, 39097) in HeLa cells treated with DMSO, 100 µM DRB, 2.5 nM CA, or 100 µM DRB + 2.5 nM CA were performed in biological duplicates. Preparation of ChIP-seq library and ChIP sequencing was prepared with the NEBNext Ultra II DNA Library Prep Kit for Illumina (NEB), according to the manufacturer's instructions. DNA sequencing was conducted by the high throughput genomics team of the Wellcome Trust Centre for Human Genetics (WTCHG), Oxford or by Novogene UK.

Co-immunoprecipitation

For each sample and IgG control: 120 µl of Dynabeads M-280 Sheep anti-mouse IgG (Thermo Fisher) were pre-blocked overnight at 4°C on a wheel in 1 ml of PBS supplemented with 0.5% BSA. The next day, the beads were washed three times in IP buffer (25 mM Tris–HCl pH 8.0, 150 mM NaCl, 0.5% NP-40, 10% Glycerol, 2.5 mM MgCl2), before being incubated for two hours at 4°C on a wheel in 600 µl of IP buffer supplemented with 5 µg of total pol II antibody (MABI0601, MBL International) and protease inhibitor cocktail (cOmplete™, EDTA-free Protease Inhibitor Cocktail, Sigma-Aldrich). In the meantime, a 70–80% confluent 15 cm dish of HeLa cells was washed twice with ice-cold PBS and scrapped with ice-cold PBS supplemented with protease inhibitor cocktail. The cells were pelleted at 500 g for 5 minutes at 4°C. The pellets were re-suspended in 800 µl of Lysis buffer (50 mM Tris–HCl pH 8.0, 150 mM NaCl, 1% NP-40, 10% glycerol, 2.5 mM MgCl2, protease inhibitor cocktail, PhosSTOP (Sigma-Aldrich), 1× PMSF (Sigma-Aldrich), and 25–29 units of Benzonase (Merck Millipore)) and incubated at 4°C on a wheel at 16 rpm for 30 minutes. After centrifuging for 15 minutes at 13,000 g at 4°C, 800 µl of Dilution buffer (150 mM NaCl, 10% glycerol, 2.5 mM MgCl2, protease inhibitor cocktail, PhosSTOP, and 1× PMSF) was added to each supernatant

The beads conjugated with antibodies were washed three times with IP buffer supplemented with protease inhibitor cocktail before being incubated with 1 mg of proteins at 4°C on a wheel at 16 rpm for 2 hours. The beads were washed three times with IP buffer supplemented with protease inhibitor cocktail and three times with IP buffer without NP-40 supplemented with protease inhibitor cocktail. Proteins were eluted in 40 µl of 1× LDS plus 100 mM DTT for 10 minutes at 70°C. Western blots were performed with NuPAGE Novex 3–8% Tris-Acetate Protein Gels (Life Technologies).

Protein extraction and western blot

Western blot analysis was performed on chromatin and nucleoplasm extracts as previously described in the mNET-seq procedure (Nojima, Gomes et al., 2015) until purification of the chromatin fraction. The chromatin pellet was digested in 100 µl of nuclease-free water supplemented with 1 µl of Benzonase (25–29 units, Merck Millipore) for 15 minutes at 37°C in a thermomixer at 1,400 rpm. 10 µg of proteins were boiled in 1× LDS plus 100 mM DTT. Western blots were performed with NuPAGE Novex 4–12% Bis–Tris Protein Gels (Life Technologies).

For whole cell extract, cells were washed in ice-cold PBS twice, collected in ice-cold PBS with a 3,000 rpm centrifugation for 5 minutes at 4°C. The pellets were re-suspended in RIPA buffer supplemented with protease inhibitor cocktail and PhosSTOP, kept on ice for 30 minutes with a vortexing step every 10 minutes. After centrifugation at 14,000 g for 15 minutes at 4°C, the supernatants were kept and quantified with the Bradford method. 20 µg of proteins were boiled in 1× LDS plus 100 mM DTT. Western blots were performed with NuPAGE Novex 4–12% Bis–Tris Protein Gels (Life Technologies). The list of primary antibodies is shown in Table 1.

Secondary antibodies were purchased from Merck Millipore (Goat Anti-Rabbit IgG Antibody, HRP-conjugate, 12-348, and Goat Anti-Mouse IgG Antibody, HRP conjugate, 12-349), the chemiluminescent substrate (SuperSignal West Pico PLUS) from Thermo Fisher, and the membranes visualized on an iBright FL1000 Imaging System (Thermo Fisher). Quantification of the western blots was performed with Image Studio Lite software.

RNA subcellular fractionation

RNA subcellular fractionation as performed as described before (Neve et al., 2016). Briefly, a ~80% confluent 10 or 15 cm dish was washed twice with ice-cold PBS, scrapped in ice-cold PBS. The cells were pelleted at 1,000 rpm for 5 minutes at 4°C and then resuspended with slow pipetting in 1 ml of Lysis Buffer B (10 mM Tris-HCl pH 8, 140 mM NaCl, 1.5 mM MgCl2, 0.5 % NP-40). Following centrifugation at 1,000 g for 3 minutes at 4°C, 500 µl of the supernatant was moved to a new tube, centrifuged at 10,000 g for one minute at 4°C, and the supernatant moved to a new tube as the purified cytoplasmic fraction. The pellets were resuspended in 1 ml of Lysis Buffer B and 100 µl of the Detergent Stock Solution (3.3 % (w/v) sodium deoxycholate, 6.6 % (v/v) Tween 40) was added under slow vortexing. The nuclei were then spun down at 1000 g for 3 minutes at 4°C. The nuclei pellet was then washed once more in 1 ml of Lysis Buffer B and spun down at 1000 g for 3 minutes at 4°C. The nuclei pellet was resuspended in 1 ml of TRIzol using a 21-gauge syringe while 500 µl of TRIzol was added to the cytoplasmic fraction and incubated 5 minutes at room temperature. Following the addition of 100 µl or 200 µl of chloroform to the cytoplasmic or nuclear fraction, respectively, the samples were vortexed vigorously for 15 seconds and spun at 12,000 g for 15 minutes at 4°C. The aqueous fraction was transferred to a new tube containing 580 µl (nuclear) or 750 µl (cytoplasmic) of isopropanol. After a 10 minutes incubation at room temperature, the samples were spun at 12,000 g for 10 minutes at 4°C. The pellets were resuspended in 87 µl of water, 10 µl of 10 X DNase buffer, 2 µl of DNase I (Roche), and 1 µl of RNase OUT (ThermoFisher Scientific), and incubated 30 minutes at 32°C. RNA were then purified twice with phenol:chloroform extraction and finally resuspended in nuclease free water and concentrations determined using a NanoDrop One.

qRT-PCR

For each qRT-PCR reaction, 500 ng of RNA were reverse transcribed with Oligo(dT)12-18 Primer (ThermoFisher Scientific) and the SuperScript III kit (ThermoFisher Scientific), according to the manufacturer's instructions. cDNA was amplified by qPCR with a QuantiTect SYBR Green PCR kit (QIAGEN) and a Rotor-Gene RG-3000 (Corbett Research). The sequence of primers used for qRT-PCR is given in Table 2. Values are normalized to GAPDH mRNA, used as control. Experiments were replicated at least three times to ensure reproducibility, and each RNA sample was measured in triplicate by qPCR.

3'READS Protocol

The 3'READS protocol was originally described in (Hoque, Ji et al., 2013). Briefly, 25-30 µg of RNA was subjected to one round of poly(A) selection using the Poly(A)PuristTM MAG kit (Ambion) according to the manufacturer's protocol, followed by fragmentation using Ambion's RNA fragmentation kit at 70°C for 5 minutes. Poly(A)-containing RNA fragments were isolated using the CU5T45 oligo (a chimeric oligo containing 5 Us and 45 Ts, Sigma) which were bound to the MyOne streptavidin C1 beads (Invitrogen) through biotin at its 5' end. Binding of RNA with CU5T45 oligo-coated beads was carried out at room temperature for 1 hour in 1x binding buffer (10 mM Tris-HCl pH 7.5, 150 mM NaCl, 1 mM EDTA), followed by washing with a low salt buffer (10 mM Tris-HCl pH 7.5, 1 mM NaCl, 1 mM EDTA, 10% formamide). RNA bound to the CU5T45 oligo was digested with RNase H (5U in 50 µl reaction volume) at 37°C for 1 hour, which also eluted RNA from the beads. Eluted RNA fragments were purified by phenol:chloroform extraction and ethanol precipitation, followed by phosphorylation of the 5' end with T4 kinase (NEB). Phosphorylated RNA was then purified by the RNeasy kit (Qiagen) and was sequentially ligated to a 5'-adenylated 3'-adapter (5'-rApp/NNNNGATCGTCGGACTGTAGAACTCTGAAC/3ddC) with the truncated T4 RNA ligase II (Bioo Scientific) and to a 5' adapter (5'- GUUCAGAGUUCUACAGUCCGACGAUC) with T4 RNA ligase I (NEB). The resultant RNA was reverse-transcribed to cDNA with Superscript III (Invitrogen) followed by a library preparation with the NEBNext Fast DNA Library Prep Set for Ion Torrent (NEB). cDNA libraries were sequenced on an Ion Torrent Proton.

mNET-seq and library preparation

mNET-seq was carried out as previously described (Nojima et al., 2015) with minor changes. In brief, the chromatin fraction was isolated from four ~80% confluent 15 cm dish cells treated with DMSO or DRB (5, 10, 15, or 30 minutes). Chromatin was digested in 100 µl of MNase (40 units/µl) reaction buffer for 2 minutes at 1,400 rpm at 37°C in a Thermomixer. MNase was inactivated by the addition of 10 µl EGTA (25mM). The soluble digested chromatin was collected after centrifugation at 13,000 rpm for 5 minutes at 4°C. The supernatant was diluted with 400 µl of NET-2 buffer and antibody-conjugated Dynabeads M-280 Sheep anti-mouse IgG (ThermoFisher Scientific) beads were added. Antibodies used: Pol II (MABI0601, MBL International) and Ser5P (MABI0603, MBL International).

Immunoprecipitation was performed at 4°C for one hour. The beads were washed in the cold room six times with 1 ml of NET-2 buffer, and once with 100 µl of 1xPNKT (1xPNK buffer and 0.05% Triton X-100) buffer. Washed beads were incubated in 200 µl PNK reaction mix at 1,400 rpm at 37°C in a Thermomixer for 6 minutes. After the reaction, beads were washed once with 1 ml of NET-2 buffer and RNA was extracted with Trizol reagent. RNA was suspended in urea Dye and resolved on 6% TBU gel (ThermoFisher Scientific) at 200 V for 5 minutes. In order to size select 35–100 nt RNAs, a gel fragment was cut between BPB and XC dye markers. A 0.5 ml tube was prepared with 3–4 small holes made with 25G needle and placed in a 1.5 ml tube. Gel fragments were placed in the layered tube and broken down by centrifugation at 12,000 rpm for 1 minute at room temperature. The small RNAs were eluted from the gel using RNA elution buffer (1 M NaOAc and 1 mM EDTA) at 25°C for one hour on a rotating wheel at 16 rpm at room temperature. Eluted RNA was purified with SpinX column (Coster) with two glass filters (Millipore) and the flow-through RNA was ethanol precipitated. RNA libraries were prepared according to manual of TruSeq Small RNA Library Preparation Kit (Illumina). 12–14 cycles of PCR were used to amplify the library. Libraries were resolved on a 6% TBE polyacrylamide gel (ThermoFisher Scientific), size-selected to remove primer-primer ligated DNA, and eluted from the gel with the RNA elution buffer. Deep sequencing (Hiseq4000, Illumina) was conducted by the high throughput genomics team of the Wellcome Trust Centre for Human Genetics (WTCHG), Oxford.

SILAC phosphoproteomics

SILAC phosphoproteomics was performed as previously described (Poss, Ebmeier et al., 2016). For stable isotope labelling with amino acids in cell culture (SILAC), Hela cells were grown in DMEM media for SILAC (minus L-Lysine and L-Arginine, Fisher Scientific) and with SILAC dialysed Foetal Bovine Serum (Dundee Cell Products). The medium was supplemented with either Arg10 (33.6 mg/ml) and Lys8 (73 mg/ml) or Arg0 and Lys0 for heavy and light treatment, respectively. After six passages at 1:3 ratio, SILAC incorporation test in HeLa cells was validated by mass spectrometry analysis.

Cells were passaged 7-8 times in SILAC media on 15 cm dishes. For each replicate, approximately 20 mg total protein was harvested for analysis after treatment with either DMSO or DRB for 30 minutes (first replicate: heavy cells DRB; light cells: DMSO; second

replicate: heavy cells DMSO; light cells: DRB). After removing the media, each dish was scraped in 750 µl 95°C SDT (4% SDS, 100 mM Tris pH 7.9, 10 mM TCEP) buffer with subsequent heating at 95°C for 10 minutes. Lysates were sonicated for two minutes each. Protein concentrations were determined using a Bradford assay and samples were mixed 1:1 based on total protein concentrations. FASP was carried out in two 10 kDa MWCO filters with a 50 mM iodoacetamide alkylation step and proteins were digested in 2M urea with 2% wt/wt Lys-C (Wako) for 6 h and 2% modified trypsin (Promega) for 12 h at 37°C. FASP eluates were acidified and desalted on Oasis HLB extraction cartridges.

TiO2 Phosphopeptide Enrichment, ERLIC Chromatography, and LC-MS/MS

Protocols were carried out as described (Stuart, Houel et al., 2015). An Orbitrap Velos (Thermo Fisher) was used for quantitative proteome analysis while an Orbitrap LTQ (Thermo Fisher) was used for phosphoproteomics. The samples were run on a 60 mins gradient / 10 HCD method.

Proteomics data analysis

All raw mass spectrometry files for phosphoproteomics and quantitative proteomics were searched using the MaxQuant (v1.5.0.35) software package. Duplicate proteomic and phosphoproteomic were searched individually against the Uniprot human proteome database (downloaded on 16/01/2013) using the following MaxQuant parameters: multiplicity was set to 2 (heavy/light) with Arg10 and Lys8 selected, LysC/P was selected as an additional enzyme, “re-quantify” was unchecked, and Phospho (STY) was selected as a variable modification in both runs.

For phosphosite analysis, the Phospho (STY) table was processed with Perseus (v1.6.2.3) using the following workflow: reverse and contaminant reads were removed, the site table was expanded to accommodate differentially phosphorylated peptides, and rows without any quantification were removed after site table expansion. Normalized heavy to light ratios were log2 transformed for statistical analyses. Differential abundance of peptides following DRB treatment was estimated by t-tests with Welch correction, two sided, unpaired. The volcano plot was prepared with GraphPad Prism 9.1. Sequence motif plots were prepared with WebLogo 3 (Crooks, Hon et al., 2004).

Generation of phosphoantibodies

Rabbit phosphoantibodies against SPT5 T806P and SF3B1 T142P were generated by Eurogentec based on the peptide sequences: H - CYG SQT(PO3H2) PLH DGS R - NH2 for SPT5 and H - CAD GGK T(PO3H2)PD PKM N - NH2 for SF3B1. Phosphoantibodies specificity was ensured by selecting against recognition of the unphosphorylated peptide.

QUANTIFICATION AND STATISTICAL ANALYSIS

Gene annotation

The Gencode V35 annotation, based on the hg38 version of the human genome, was used to extract the list of protein-coding genes. A list of 9,883 expressed protein-coding genes was obtained by keeping only the genes longer than 2 kb and with their highest transcript isoform expressed in two nuclear RNA-seq in HeLa cells (Nojima, Tellier et al., 2018) at more than 0.1 transcript per million (TPM), following quantification of transcript expression with Salmon version 0.14.1 (Patro, Duggal et al., 2017). The list of used exons was obtained by extracting the location of exons from Gencode V35 from the highest transcribed nuclear poly(A)+ RNA of each of the 9,883 protein-coding genes.

mNET-seq data processing

Adapters were trimmed with Cutadapt version 1.18 (Martin, 2011) in paired-end mode with the following options: --minimum-length 10 -q 15,10 -j 16 – A GATCGTCGGACTGTAGAACTCTGAAC – a AGATCGGAAGAGCACACGTCTGAACTCCAGTCAC. Trimmed reads were mapped to the human GRCh38.p13 reference sequence with STAR version 2.7.3a (Dobin, Davis et al., 2013) and the parameters: --runThreadN 16 --readFilesCommand gunzip -c -k --limitBAMsortRAM 20000000000 --outSAMtype BAM SortedByCoordinate. SAMtools version 1.9 (Li, Handsaker et al., 2009) was used to retain the properly paired and mapped reads (-f 3). A custom python script (Nojima et al., 2015) was used to obtain the 3′ nucleotide of the second read and the strandedness of the first read. Strand-specific bam files were generated with SAMtools. Samples normalization was checked against the termination region of the *RNU2* snRNA, which is known to be insensitive to DRB (Medlin, Uguen et al., 2003), and also verified for consistency against a previously published GRO-seq performed by our group in HeLa cells treated for 30 minutes

with DMSO or DRB (Laitem et al., 2015). FPKM-normalized bigwig files were created with deepTools version 3.4.2 (Ramirez, Ryan et al., 2016) bamCoverage tool with the parameters -bs 1 -p max –normalizeUsing RPKM.

Spike-in ChIP-seq processing

Adapters were trimmed with Cutadapt with the following options: --minimum-length 10 -q 15, 10 -j 16 -a AGATCGGAAGAGCACACGTCTGAACTCCAGTCA. Trimmed reads were mapped to the human GRCh38.p13 and to the mouse GRCm38 reference genomes with STAR and the parameters: --runThreadN 16 --readFilesCommand gunzip -c -k –alignIntronMax 1 --limitBAMsortRAM 20000000000 --outSAMtype BAM SortedByCoordinate. SAMtools was used to retain the properly mapped reads and to remove PCR duplicates. Reads mapping to the DAC Exclusion List Regions (accession: ENCSR636HFF) were removed with BEDtools version 2.29.2 (Quinlan & Hall, 2010). SAMtools view with the –s option was used to subsample all the bam files to the bam file containing the lowest number of reads. The normalization factor was then calculated as: (number of mouse reads) / (number of mouse + number of human reads)) and applied to the generation of the bigwig files with deepTools bamCoverage tool with the parameters -bs 10 -p max –e –scaleFactor.

Analysis of 3'READS data

Raw reads were mapped to the human genome (hg19) with Bowtie 2 (Langmead & Salzberg, 2012) using the option "-M 8 --local". This mode allows the ends of the sequence not to be part of the alignment (soft clipped). This is useful for reads containing sequence corresponding to the poly(A) tail which are not present in the genomic sequence. Reads that were shorter than 15 nt, were non-uniquely mapped to genome (MAPQ < 10), or contained more than 2 mismatches in alignment were discarded. FPKM-normalized bigwig files were created with deepTools bamCoverage tool with the parameters -bs 10 -p max --normalizeUsing RPKM.

Metagene profiles

Metagene profiles of genes scaled to the same length were then generated with Deeptools2 computeMatrix tool with a bin size of 10 bp and the plotting data obtained with plotProfile –outFileNameData tool. Graphs representing the (IP – Input) signal (ChIP-seq) or the mNET-

seq signal were then created with GraphPad Prism 9.1. Metagene profiles are shown as the average of two biological replicates.

P-values and significance tests

P-values were computed with an unpaired two-tailed Student's t test. Statistical tests were performed in GraphPad Prism 9.1.

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Competing interests

The authors declare that they have no conflict of interest.

Data availability

Sequencing data have been deposited in GEO under accession code GSE176541. The mass spectrometry proteomics data have been deposited to the ProteomeXchange Consortium via the PRIDE (Perez-Riverol, Csordas et al., 2019) partner repository with the dataset identifier PXD026720. All data generated or analysed during this study are included in the manuscript and supporting files. We include full excel spreadsheets representing original mass spectrometry data.

Author contributions

MT performed all the experiments and bioinformatics analysis except for the following: initial help with the mNET-seq from JZ and TN, JN performed the 3'READS libraries preparation and sequencing, and SH processed the phosphoproteomics samples. AF

supervised JN. SM made the CDK9as cell line, carried out the cell proliferation analyses and supervised MT and JZ. MT and SM wrote the manuscript.

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Antibody	Supplier	Catalogue number	Applications
Mouse monoclonal anti-Pol II CTD, Total	MBL international	MABI0601	mNET-seq
Rpb1 NTD (D8L4Y) Rabbit mAb	Cell Signaling Technology	14958S	ChIP, ChIP-seq, Western blot
Phospho-Rpb1 CTD (Ser2) (E1Z3G) Rabbit mAb	Cell Signaling Technology	13499S	ChIP, Western blot
Phospho-Rpb1 CTD (Ser5) (D9N5I) Rabbit mAb	Cell Signaling Technology	13523S	ChIP, Western blot
RNA pol II antibody (mAb)	Active Motif	39097	Co-immunoprecipitation
Anti-RNA polymerase II CTD repeat	Abcam	ab5095	Western blot

YSPTSPS (phospho S2) antibody			
Anti-RNA polymerase II CTD repeat YSPTSPS (phospho S5) antibody	Abcam	ab5131	Western blot
Rabbit anti-SF3b155/SAP155 Antibody, Affinity Purified	Bethyl Laboratories	A300-996A	Western blot
SF3b1 T142P	This study	/	Western blot
Rabbit anti-SUPT5H Antibody, Affinity Purified	Bethyl Laboratories	A300-868A	Western blot
SPT5 T806P	This study	/	Western blot
Myc	Santa Cruz Biotechnology	sc-764X	Western blot
Myc S62P	Abcam	ab51156	Western blot
Anti-Cdk9 antibody [EPR3119Y]	Abcam	ab76320	Western blot
Cyclin T1 (H-245)	Santa Cruz Biotechnology	sc-10750	Western blot
Rabbit anti-CPSF30 Antibody, Affinity Purified	Bethyl Laboratories	A301-584A	ChIP, Western blot
Rabbit anti-CPSF73 Antibody, Affinity Purified	Bethyl Laboratories	A301-091A	ChIP, Western blot
Rabbit anti-CPSF100 Antibody, Affinity Purified	Bethyl Laboratories	A301-581A	ChIP, Western blot
Rabbit anti-PAPOLA Antibody, Affinity Purified	Bethyl Laboratories	A301-008A	ChIP, Western blot
Rabbit anti-XRN2 Antibody, Affinity Purified	Bethyl Laboratories	A301-103A	ChIP, Western blot
Histone H3	Abcam	ab1791	Western blot
Histone H3 S10P	Life Technologies	PA517869	Western blot
Nucleolin	Abcam	ab22758	Western blot
Beta-actin	Cell Signaling	4967S	Western blot
Anti-beta Tubulin antibody - Loading Control	Abcam	ab6046	Western blot

Table 1: List of antibodies used in mNET-seq, ChIP, co-immunoprecipitation, and western blots.

Name	Forward primer	Reverse primer
ChIP primers		
KPNB1 TSS	TTACTTCCTCCCTCCAAATGGG	ACAGCCTCCCTTCCTTCTTTC
KPNB1 TSS+3.2	GCCCAGAGAACAAGAAATCG	GGAATGGACAAGCTGTGTTG

KPNB1 TSS+20.2	TGCAAGAGCCAGTGGGAACACTT	CCTCTACTCAGCAATGATACTTC
KPNB1 pA-4.8	CTGAGGAAACTGAAGAACCAAG	GAAGGCAGTGCTTGCCAGAAT
KPNB1 pA-2.9	GAGGAGTGTGCACGGATGCTGAA	CCAAGATGGCCGATGTTATGG
KPNB1 pA-0.4	TAGTTACCGTCTGCTTGGGAAGATG	CCTCTGACAGCAAGTCCAACATT
KPNB1 pA+1.4	GACTCATCACACCAAGGTCAC	GATAGTGCTGGGAAGGAAATGG
KPNB1 pA+2.6	GTACATCTCAGCTTTGGCATATG	GCCCAGAACATAGCAGGCATTGC
KPNB1 pA+4.1	GTTTCACCGTGTTAGCCAGGATGG	CCACAGCCATGTTCATTTCTGC
KPNB1 TD	AGGAGCATGGCTTTTCTCTG	TCATGCTGGAACTGGTTGAG
Neg	TGGTACAACCACAGCTCAGTG	AAGCTGGACATGGTTGTGTG
LDLR TSS	AATCACCCCACTGCAAACTC	TAGCTGGAAACCCTGGCTTC
LDLR TSS +1.9	TGGGATTGCCTGATGAACAC	AAGGCAGTTCAAAGCTCTCC
LDLR TSS +25	TTCAGTGTGGTGCTGACAAC	TTCTCTGCTGGAAACCCAAC
LDLR pA -1.8	CAGAGAAGACCAAAGCATTGCC	AATCCCAACCCAAGCCATTG
LDLR pA	AATCGCCGTGTTACTGTTGC	TGCCAATCCCTTGTGACATC
LDLR pA +1.6	GTGATTGTGTTCTCTGCTGTCG	TCGCACTTAGCACTCAACAG
qRT-PCR primers		
ATF3	AACCACAGTCAGTGGAGAGATG	TTCTCACAGCTGCAAACACC
LDLR	TTTGACGGGACTTCAGGTTC	TCCCTTGTGACATCTTCACG
NR4A3	AAGCCACCAGCTGTTAATGG	GCAATGCTGTTAGAGGAGCAG
PHLDB2	GAAACGACTTCAGGCAAGTCTC	GCCATGTTTTAGGAAAGAGCAC
SLCO4A1	TCCTCTTCTTTGCCATAGCC	ACAAGTTTCCAGGCCATCTG
ATP5F1B	ACCCATTGAAGAAGCTGTGG	CAATCAAGGCTCTTGTGCAG
TARS1	CATGGAAAAGGAGGAACAGC	CTTTGCCAAACTCCTCCAAG
TUBB	ATATGTTCCTCGTGCCATCC	TTTGGCCCAGTTGTTACCTG
GAPDH	CAACGACCACTTTGTCAAGC	TTCCTCTTGTGCTCTTGCTG
KPNB1	CAGTCTGTGATGGCATTTAAG	TCTGACTTTCAAACCATTTCACCTCC

Table 2: List of primers used for ChIP-qPCR and qRT-PCR

Figure 1. CDK9 inhibition abrogates polyadenylation.

A. Schematic of the nuclear 3'READS experiments. **B.** Violin plots of the 3'READS signal on all the TNFα induced genes (n=307) or the set of TNFα induced genes longer than 40 kb (n=111). **** $p < 0.0001$. Statistical test: Friedman test with Dunn's multiple test correction. **C.** Western blot of total pol II, Ser2P, Xrn2, CPSF2, CPSF73, and histone H3 as a loading control, on the chromatin fraction. **D.** Western blot of Xrn2, CPSF2, and Nucleolin as a loading control, on the nucleoplasm fraction. The CPSF73 antibody does not provide reliable

results on the nucleoplasm fraction. **E.** Quantification of the western blots shown in **C** and **D**. n=2 biological replicates, p-value: * $p < 0.05$, ** $p < 0.01$, *** $p < 0.001$. Statistical test: two-tailed unpaired t test. **F.** ChIP-qPCR of total pol II, CPSF73, PAPOLA, and Xrn2 on the model gene, KPNB1. n=3 biological replicates, p-value: * $p < 0.05$, ** $p < 0.01$, *** $p < 0.001$. Statistical test: two-tailed unpaired t test. **G.** Ratio of the different CPA and termination factors to total pol II. n=3 biological replicates, p-value: * $p < 0.05$, ** $p < 0.01$. Statistical test: two-tailed unpaired t test.

Figure 2. CDK9 inhibition causes an elongation defect starting at the last exon of protein-coding genes.

A. Schematic of the total pol II mNET-seq experiments. **B.** Metagene profile of total pol II after 30 minutes treatment with DMSO (black) or DRB (green) around the TSS of expressed protein-coding genes (n=6,965). **C.** Metagene profile of total pol II after 30 minutes treatment with DMSO (black) or DRB (green) around the used poly(A) site of expressed protein-coding genes longer than 40 kb (n=2,816). **D.** Screenshot of the genome browser mNET-seq tracks across the protein-coding gene *KPNB1*. Red arrows indicate increased pol II pausing, loss of pol II entering productive elongation, and premature termination. **E.** Metagene profile of total pol II after 30 minutes treatment with DMSO (black) or DRB (green) around the used last exon of expressed protein-coding genes (n=2,526). **F.** Metagene profile of total pol II after 30 minutes treatment with DMSO (black) or DRB (green) around the penultimate exon of expressed protein-coding genes (n=2,426). **G.** Screenshot of the genome browser mNET-seq tracks at the 3'end of protein-coding gene *ARHGAP23*. The red arrow indicates increased pol II signal across the last exon.

Figure 3. Inhibition of analog-sensitive (as) CDK9 has the same effect on elongation as small molecule CDK9 inhibitors.

A. Western blot of total pol II, Ser2P (Abcam or Cell Signaling), Ser5P (Abcam or Cell Signaling), and histone H3 as a loading control, on the chromatin fraction of CDK9as or wild-type HEK293 cells treated with DMSO or 15 μM 1-NA-PP1 for 15 or 30 minutes. **B.** Quantification of the western blots shown in A. n=3 biological replicates, p-value: * $p < 0.05$. Statistical test: two-tailed unpaired t test. **C.** ChIP-qPCR of total pol II and of Ser2P (Abcam or Cell Signaling), and Ser5P (Abcam or Cell Signaling) ratioed to total pol II on the model

gene, *KPNB1*. n=3 biological replicates, p-value: * $p < 0.05$, ** $p < 0.01$, *** $p < 0.001$. Statistical test: two-tailed unpaired t test.

Figure 4. CDK9 phosphorylates several transcription and splicing factors *in vivo*.

A. Distribution of the proteins found to be phosphorylated by CDK9 in SILAC phosphoproteomics in HeLa cells treated or not with 100 μM DRB for 30 minutes (fold change > 1.5 in both biological duplicates, p-value < 0.1, number of phosphopeptides decreased shown in brackets). **B.** Western blot of total SPT5, SPT5 T806P, total SF3B1, SF3B1 T142P, and histone H3 as a loading control, on the chromatin fraction of CDK9as cells treated for 30 minutes with DMSO, NA, tautomycetin (TT), calyculin A (CA), NA+TT, or NA+CA. **C.** Quantification of the western blots shown in B. n=2 biological replicates, p-value: ** $p < 0.01$, *** $p < 0.001$. Statistical test: two-tailed unpaired t test.

Figure 5. PP1 and PP2A regulates transcription of protein-coding genes.

A. ChIP-qPCR of total pol II after 30 minutes treatment with DMSO, DRB, TT, CA, or LB-100 on the model gene, *KPNB1*. **B.** ChIP-qPCR of total pol II after 30 minutes treatment with DMSO, DRB, DRB + TT, DRB + CA, or DRB + LB-100 on the model gene, *KPNB1*. **C.** ChIP-qPCR of total pol II after 30 minutes treatment with DMSO or DRB, or 15 minutes treatment with DRB or CA followed by another 15 minutes with CA (DRB->CA) or DRB (CA->DRB), respectively, on the model gene, *KPNB1*. **D.** ChIP-qPCR of total pol II after 30 minutes treatment with DMSO or DRB, or 15 minutes treatment with DRB or TT followed by another 15 minutes with TT (DRB->TT) or DRB (TT->DRB), respectively, on the model gene, *KPNB1*. **E.** ChIP-qPCR of total pol II after 30 minutes treatment with DMSO or DRB+CA+TT on the model gene, *KPNB1*. n=3 biological replicates, p-value: * $p < 0.05$, ** $p < 0.01$, *** $p < 0.001$. Statistical test: two-tailed unpaired t test.

Figure 6. PP2A counteracts CDK9 activity at the 3' end of genes.

A. Metagene profile of mouse spiked-in total pol II ChIP-seq in HeLa cells after 30 minutes treatment with DMSO (blue), DRB (red), CA (purple), or DRB and CA (orange) across scaled expressed protein-coding genes longer than 30 kb (n=3,490). **B.** Metagene profile of mouse spiked-in total pol II ChIP-seq in HeLa cells after 30 minutes treatment with DMSO (blue), DRB (red), CA (purple), or DRB and CA (orange) around the TSS. Only a part of the y-axis is

presented to show the entry of pol II into productive elongation. **C.** Metagene profile of mouse spiked-in total pol II ChIP-seq in HeLa cells after 30 minutes treatment with DMSO (blue), DRB (red), CA (purple), or DRB and CA (orange) around the scaled last exon of expressed genes longer than 40 kb (n=2,525). **D.** Screenshot of the genome browser of mouse spiked-in total pol II ChIP-seq tracks around the 3'end of the protein-coding genes *SUPT5H* and *WDR43*. Red arrows indicate premature termination of pol II (DRB tracks, red) and transcription further downstream the poly(A) site (DRB + CA tracks, orange).

Figure 7. CDK9 and PP2A regulate mRNA cleavage and polyadenylation.

A. Schematic of the nuclear and cytoplasmic qRT-PCR experiments. **B.** qRT-PCR of nuclear polyadenylated mRNAs of several TNFα induced or non-induced genes with a 30 minutes DMSO, DRB, CA, or DRB+CA treatment. n=6 biological replicates, p-value: * $p < 0.05$, ** $p < 0.01$, *** $p < 0.001$. Statistical test: two-tailed unpaired t test. **C.** qRT-PCR of cytoplasmic polyadenylated mRNAs of several TNFα induced or non-induced genes with a 30 minutes DMSO, DRB, CA, or DRB+CA treatment. n=4 biological replicates, p-value: * $p < 0.05$, ** $p < 0.01$, *** $p < 0.001$. Statistical test: two-tailed unpaired t test. **D.** ChIP-qPCR of Ser2P, CPSF73, or CPSF2 ratioed to total pol II after 30 minutes treatment with DMSO, DRB, CA, or DRB+CA on the model gene, *KPNB1*. n=3 biological replicates, p-value: * $p < 0.05$, ** $p < 0.01$, *** $p < 0.001$. Statistical test: two-tailed unpaired t test. **E.** Co-immunoprecipitation of total pol II from HeLa cells treated for 30 minutes with DMSO, DRB, CA, or DRB+CA followed by western blot with total pol II, Ser2P, CPSF2, Xrn2, and GAPDH antibodies.

Figure 8. Model of CDK9 and PP2A functions in transcription.

During the transcription cycle, CDK9 phosphorylates in addition to the pol II CTD on Ser2 and Ser5, proteins found in the elongation complex and the U2 snRNP complex, such as SPT5 and SF3B1. The phosphatase PP2A dephosphorylates the pol II CTD on Ser2P and Ser5P. Inhibition of PP2A results in a specific higher pol II signal level across the last exon coupled to a higher production of mature polyadenylated mRNAs, indicating a derepression of mRNA CPA**.** Following CDK9 inhibition, a general decrease in pol II CTD phosphorylation and of proteins found in the elongation complex and the U2 snRNP is observed, coupled to a loss of recruitment of the CPA complex, resulting in the premature termination of pol II and

the production of poly(A)- mRNAs. Inhibition of CDK9 and PP2A together results in more phosphorylation of the pol II CTD, but not of SPT5 T806P, and SF3B1 T142P. However, CDK9 and PP2A inhibition is sufficient to counteract the effect of CDK9 inhibition on transcription and on CPA resulting in a more efficient transcription termination.

Supplementary Figure 1. CDK9 inhibition abrogates polyadenylation.

A. Pol II ChIP-qPCR on the TNFα-induced gene *LDLR* and screenshot of the genome browser track of the 3'READS experiments for this gene. n=3 biological replicates, p-value: * $p < 0.05$, ** $p < 0.01$. Statistical test: two-tailed unpaired t test. **B.** qRT-PCR of nuclear polyadenylated mRNAs of several TNFα-induced or non-induced genes with a 30 minutes DMSO or a DRB (100 μM here and in all other figures unless stated otherwise) treatment. n=5 biological replicates, p-value: * $p < 0.05$, ** $p < 0.01$, *** $p < 0.001$. Statistical test: two-tailed unpaired t test. **C.** Western blot of β-tubulin, Nucleolin, and Histone H3 on whole cell extract, nucleoplasm, and chromatin fractions. **D.** Western blot of total pol II, Ser2P, Xrn2, CPSF2, CPSF73, and β-tubulin as a loading control, on whole cell extract. **E.** Quantification of the western blots shown in E. n=2 biological replicates, p-value: n.s. not significant. Statistical test: two-tailed unpaired t test.

Supplementary Figure 2. CDK9 inhibition causes an elongation defect starting at the last exon of protein-coding genes.

A. Metagene profile of total pol II after treatment with DMSO (black) or 5 (red), 10 (orange), or 15 (purple) minutes with DRB (green) around the TSS of expressed protein-coding genes (n=6,965). **B.** Metagene profile of total pol II after treatment with DMSO (black) or 5 (red), 10 (orange), or 15 (purple) minutes with DRB (green) around the TSS of expressed protein-coding genes longer than 40 kb (n=2,816). **C.** ChIP-qPCR of total pol II with different treatment times or different concentrations of DRB or SNS-032 on the model gene, *KPNB1*. n=3 biological replicates, p-value: * $p < 0.05$, ** $p < 0.01$, *** $p < 0.001$. Statistical test: two-tailed unpaired t test. **D.** Metagene profile of total pol II after 30 minutes treatment with DMSO (black) or DRB (green) around internal exons, not including first, penultimate or last exons, of expressed protein-coding genes (n=26,094).

Supplementary Figure 3-1. Inhibition of analog-sensitive (as) CDK9 produces similar results to small molecule CDK9 inhibitors.

A. Schematic of the genome editing of the CDK9as cell line. **B.** alamarBlue cell viability of wild-type HEK293 and CDK9as cells. Each line represents a biological replicate. **C.** alamarBlueHS cell viability assay of wild-type HEK293 and CDK9as cells with different concentrations of 1-NA-PP1 added at the 36-hour time point. n=3 biological replicates, p-value: ** $p < 0.01$, *** $p < 0.001$. Statistical test: paired t-test with FDR multiple testing correction. **D.** ChIP-qPCR of total pol II with different concentrations of 1-NA-PP1 in CDK9as cells on the model gene, *KPNB1*. n=3 biological replicates, p-value: * $p < 0.05$, *** $p < 0.001$. Statistical test: two-tailed unpaired t test. **E.** ChIP-qPCR of total pol II treated with 1-NA-PP1 in wild-type HEK293 cells on the model gene, *KPNB1*. n=3 biological replicates, p-value: n.s. not significant. Statistical test: two-tailed unpaired t test. **F.** Western blot of CDK9, Cyclin T1, and β-tubulin as a loading control, on whole cell extracts of wild-type HEK293 and the CDK9as cell line treated with DMSO or 1-NA-PP1 for 15 or 30 minutes. **G.** Quantification of the western blots shown in F. n=2 biological replicates, p-value: n.s. not significant. Statistical test: two-tailed unpaired t test.

Supplementary Figure 3-2. Inhibition of a CDK9 analog sensitive (as) cell line produces similar results to the current CDK9 inhibitors.

ChIP-qPCR of Ser2P (Abcam or Cell Signaling), and Ser5P (Abcam or Cell Signaling) in CDK9as cells treated with 15μM 1-NA-PP1 for 15 minutes on the model gene, *KPNB1*. n=3 biological replicates, p-value: * $p < 0.05$, ** $p < 0.01$, *** $p < 0.001$. Statistical test: two-tailed unpaired t test.

Supplementary Figure 4-1. CDK9 phosphorylates several transcription and splicing factors *in vivo*.

A. Volcano plot of SILAC phosphoproteomics in HeLa cells treated or not with 100 μM DRB for 30 minutes (in red: fold change > 1.5 in both biological duplicates, p-value < 0.1). **B.** Motif found around all the phosphorylation sites decreased following CDK9 inhibition of only the phosphorylation sites containing a ST or TP sites. **C.** Overlap between the proteins found to have at least one phosphopeptides decreased in our study versus an alternative experimental strategy used to identify CDK9 targets in cell extracts (Sanso et al., 2016). **D.**

Western blot of Myc, Myc S62P, Histone H3, Histone H3 S10P, and Nucleolin as a loading control, on whole cell extract of HeLa cells treated for 30 minutes with DMSO, DRB, CA, LB-100, or TT.

Supplementary Figure 4-2. CDK9 phosphorylates several transcription and splicing factors *in vivo*.

A. Western blot of total pol II, Ser2P, Ser5P, and histone H3 as a loading control, on the chromatin fraction of CDK9as cells treated for 30 minutes with DMSO, NA, CA, TT, NA+CA, or NA+TT. **B.** Quantification of the western blots shown in C. n=2 biological replicates, p-value: * $p < 0.05$, *** $p < 0.001$. Statistical test: two-tailed unpaired t test.

Supplementary Figure 6-1. CDK9 and PP2A regulate mRNA cleavage and polyadenylation.

A. Schematic of the nuclear and cytoplasmic qRT-PCR experiments. **B.** qRT-PCR of nuclear polyadenylated mRNAs of several TNFα induced or non-induced genes with a 30 minutes DMSO, DRB, LB, or DRB+LB-100 treatment. n=3 biological replicates, p-value: * $p < 0.05$, ** $p < 0.01$, *** $p < 0.001$. Statistical test: two-tailed unpaired t test. **C.** qRT-PCR of cytoplasmic polyadenylated mRNAs of several TNFα induced or non-induced genes with a 30 minutes DMSO, DRB, LB-100, or DRB+LB-100 treatment. n=3 biological replicates, p-value: * $p < 0.05$, ** $p < 0.01$, *** $p < 0.001$. Statistical test: two-tailed unpaired t test. **D.** Schematic of the nuclear qRT-PCR experiments. **E.** qRT-PCR of nuclear polyadenylated mRNAs of several TNFα induced or non-induced genes with a 30 minutes DMSO, DRB, TT, or DRB+TT treatment. n=4 biological replicates, p-value: * $p < 0.05$, ** $p < 0.01$, *** $p < 0.001$. Statistical test: two-tailed unpaired t test.

Supplementary Figure 6-2. CDK9 and PP2A regulate mRNA cleavage and polyadenylation.

A. Western blot of Xrn2, CPSF2, CPSF73, and histone H3 as a loading control, on the chromatin fraction of HeLa cells after 30 minutes DMSO, DRB, CA, or DRB+CA treatment. **B.** Quantification of the western blots shown in C. n=3 biological replicates, p-value: * $p < 0.05$, ** $p < 0.01$, *** $p < 0.001$. Statistical test: two-tailed unpaired t test. **C.** Western blot of Xrn2, CPSF2, and Nucleolin as a loading control, on the nucleoplasm fraction of HeLa cells after a 30 minutes DMSO, DRB, CA, or DRB+CA treatment. The CPSF73 antibody is not shown at it does not provide reliable results on the nucleoplasm fraction. **D.** Western blot of

total pol II, Ser5P, Xrn2, CPSF2, CPSF73, and β-tubulin as a loading control, on whole cell extract of HeLa cells treated for 30 minutes with DMSO, DRB, CA, or DRB+CA. **E.** ChIP-qPCR of pol II, Ser2P, CPSF73, or CPSF2 after 30 minutes treatment with DMSO, DRB, CA, or DRB+CA on the model gene, *KPNB1*. n=3 biological replicates, p-value: * $p < 0.05$, ** $p < 0.01$, *** $p < 0.001$. Statistical test: two-tailed unpaired t test. **F.** qRT-PCR of nuclear polyadenylated mRNAs of the *KPNB1* gene with a 30 minutes DMSO, DRB, TT, CA, DRB+TT, or DRB+CA treatment. n=4 biological replicates, p-value: * $p < 0.05$, ** $p < 0.01$, *** $p < 0.001$. Statistical test: two-tailed unpaired t test.

Supplementary Table 1. Results of the DRB vs DMSO SILAC phosphoproteomics in HeLa cells treated for 30 minutes.

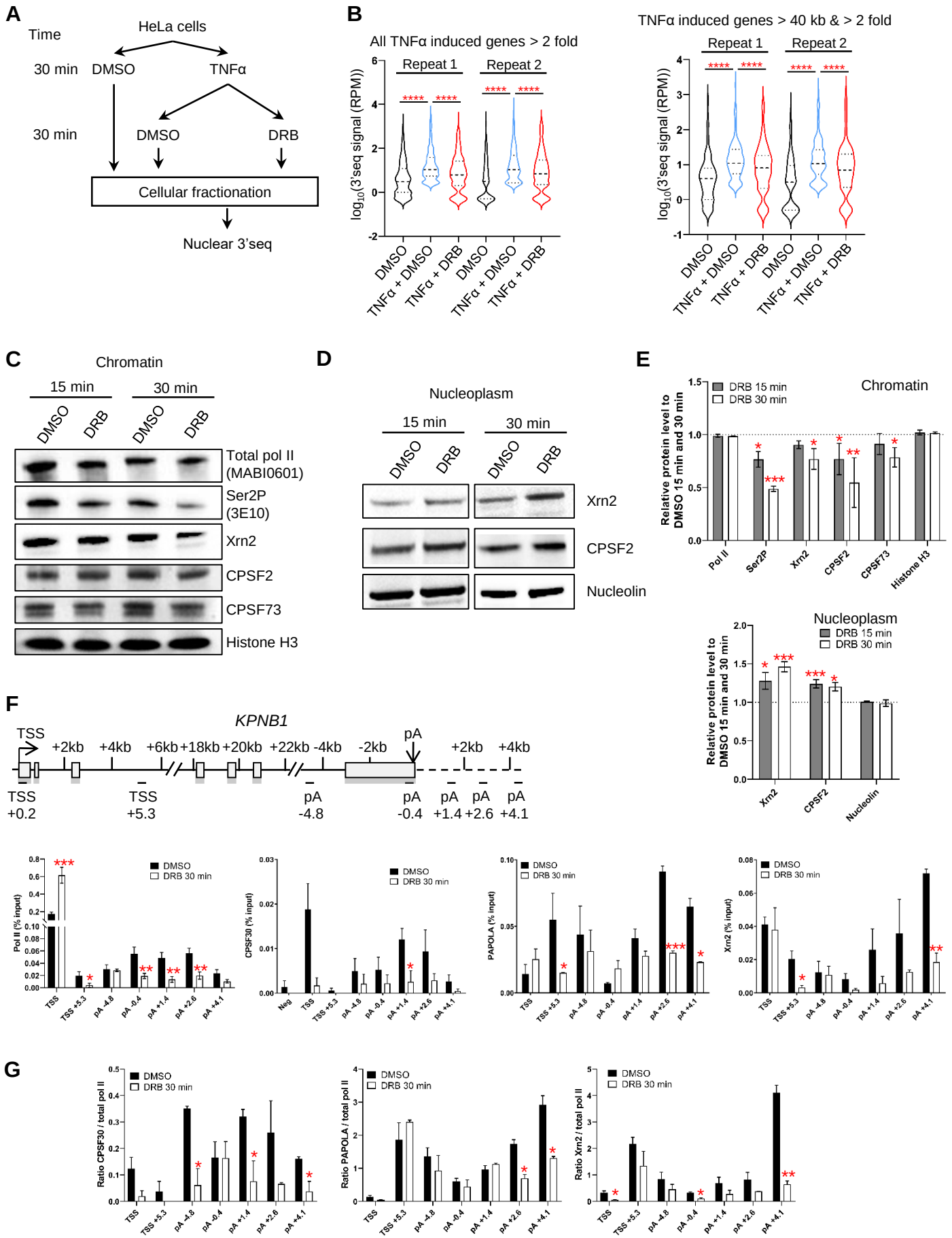

A
Time
HeLa cells
30 min
DMSO
TNFα
30 min
DMSO
DRB
Cellular fractionation
Nuclear 3'seq
B
All TNFα induced genes > 2 fold
Repeat 1
Repeat 2
log10(3'seq signal (RPM))
DMSO
TNFα + DMSO
TNFα + DRB
TNFα induced genes > 40 kb & > 2 fold
C
Chromatin
15 min
30 min
DMSO
DRB
Total pol II (MABI0601)
Ser2P (3E10)
Xrn2
CPSF2
CPSF73
Histone H3
D
Nucleoplasm
Xrn2
CPSF2
Nucleolin
E
Chromatin
DRB 15 min
DRB 30 min
Relative protein level to DMSO 15 min and 30 min
Pol II
Ser2P
Xrn2
CPSF2
CPSF73
Histone H3
Nucleoplasm
F
KPNB1
TSS
+2kb
+4kb
+6kb
+18kb
+20kb
+22kb
-4kb
-2kb
pA
TSS +0.2
TSS +5.3
pA -4.8
pA -0.4
pA +1.4
pA +2.6
pA +4.1
Pol II (% input)
CPSF30 (% input)
PAPOLA (% input)
Xrn2 (% input)
Neg
G
Ratio CPSF30 / total pol II
Ratio PAPOLA / total pol II
Ratio Xrn2 / total pol II

Figure 1

Figure 1. CDK9 inhibition abrogates polyadenylation.

A. Schematic of the nuclear 3'READS experiments. **B.** Violin plots of the 3'READS signal on all the TNFα induced genes (n=307) or the set of TNFα induced genes longer than 40 kb (n=111). **** $p < 0.0001$. Statistical test: Friedman test with Dunn's multiple test correction. **C.** Western blot of total pol II, Ser2P, Xrn2, CPSF2, CPSF73, and histone H3 as a loading control, on the chromatin fraction. **D.** Western blot of Xrn2, CPSF2, and Nucleolin as a loading control, on the nucleoplasm fraction. The CPSF73 antibody does not provide reliable results on the nucleoplasm fraction. **E.** Quantification of the western blots shown in **C** and **D**. n=2 biological replicates, p-value: * $p < 0.05$, ** $p < 0.01$, *** $p < 0.001$. Statistical test: two-tailed unpaired t test. **F.** ChIP-qPCR of total pol II, CPSF73, PAPOLA, and Xrn2 on the model gene, KPNB1. n=3 biological replicates, p-value: * $p < 0.05$, ** $p < 0.01$, *** $p < 0.001$. Statistical test: two-tailed unpaired t test. **G.** Ratio of the different CPA and termination factors to total pol II. n=3 biological replicates, p-value: * $p < 0.05$, ** $p < 0.01$. Statistical test: two-tailed unpaired t test.

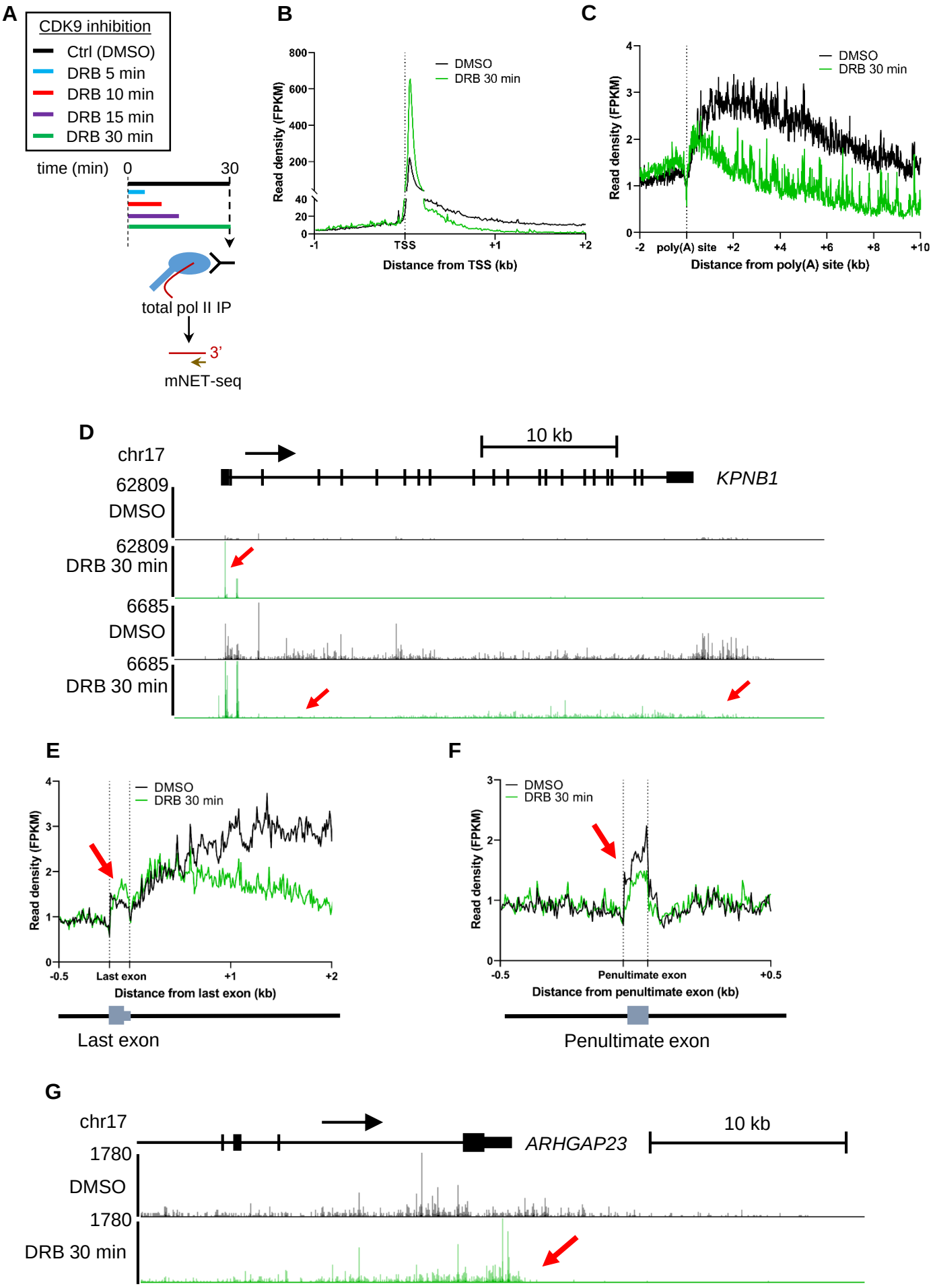

A
CDK9 inhibition
Ctrl (DMSO)
DRB 5 min
DRB 10 min
DRB 15 min
DRB 30 min
time (min)
0
30
total pol II IP
3'
mNET-seq
B
Read density (FPKM)
DMSO
DRB 30 min
TSS
Distance from TSS (kb)
C
Read density (FPKM)
DMSO
DRB 30 min
poly(A) site
Distance from poly(A) site (kb)
D
chr17
10 kb
KPNB1
62809
DMSO
62809
DRB 30 min
6685
DMSO
6685
DRB 30 min
E
Read density (FPKM)
DMSO
DRB 30 min
Last exon
Distance from last exon (kb)
Last exon
F
Read density (FPKM)
DMSO
DRB 30 min
Penultimate exon
Distance from penultimate exon (kb)
Penultimate exon
G
chr17
ARHGAP23
10 kb
1780
DMSO
1780
DRB 30 min

Figure 2

Figure 2. CDK9 inhibition causes an elongation defect starting at the last exon of protein-coding genes.

A. Schematic of the total pol II mNET-seq experiments. **B.** Metagene profile of total pol II after 30 minutes treatment with DMSO (black) or DRB (green) around the TSS of expressed protein-coding genes (n=6,965). **C.** Metagene profile of total pol II after 30 minutes treatment with DMSO (black) or DRB (green) around the used poly(A) site of expressed protein-coding genes longer than 40 kb (n=2,816). **D.** Screenshot of the genome browser mNET-seq tracks across the protein-coding gene *KPNB1*. Red arrows indicate increased pol II pausing, loss of pol II entering productive elongation, and premature termination. **E.** Metagene profile of total pol II after 30 minutes treatment with DMSO (black) or DRB (green) around the used last exon of expressed protein-coding genes (n=2,526). **F.** Metagene profile of total pol II after 30 minutes treatment with DMSO (black) or DRB (green) around the penultimate exon of expressed protein-coding genes (n=2,426). **G.** Screenshot of the genome browser mNET-seq tracks at the 3'end of protein-coding gene *ARHGAP23*. The red arrow indicates increased pol II signal across the last exon.

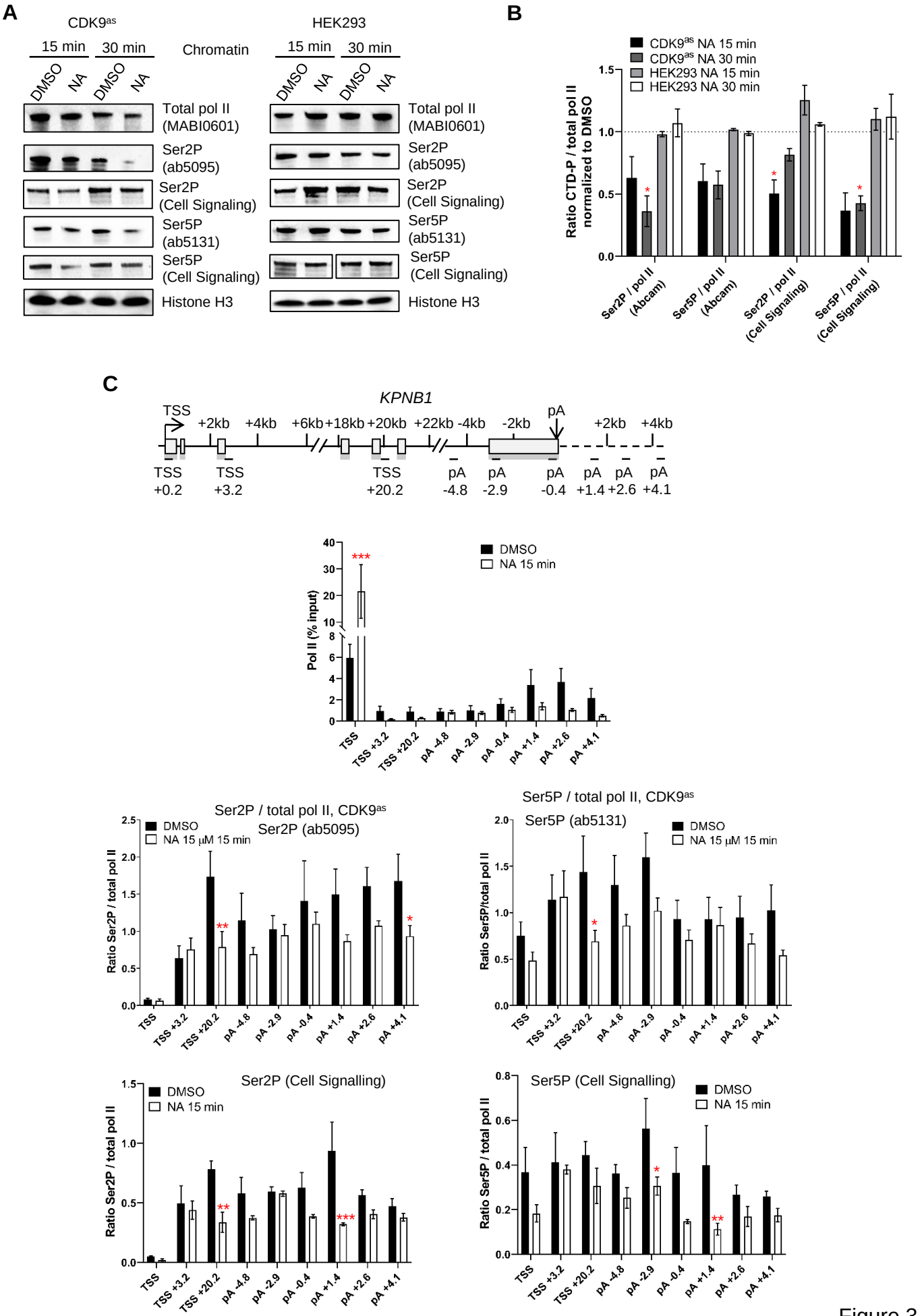

A
CDK9as
15 min
30 min
Chromatin
HEK293
DMSO
NA
Total pol II (MABI0601)
Ser2P (ab5095)
Ser2P (Cell Signaling)
Ser5P (ab5131)
Ser5P (Cell Signaling)
Histone H3
B
CDK9as NA 15 min
CDK9as NA 30 min
HEK293 NA 15 min
HEK293 NA 30 min
Ratio CTD-P / total pol II normalized to DMSO
Ser2P / pol II (Abcam)
Ser5P / pol II (Abcam)
Ser2P / pol II (Cell Signaling)
Ser5P / pol II (Cell Signaling)
C
KPNB1
TSS
pA
+2kb
+4kb
+6kb
+18kb
+20kb
+22kb
-4kb
-2kb
TSS +0.2
TSS +3.2
TSS +20.2
pA -4.8
pA -2.9
pA -0.4
pA +1.4
pA +2.6
pA +4.1
Pol II (% input)
DMSO
NA 15 min
Ser2P / total pol II, CDK9as
Ser2P (ab5095)
NA 15 μM 15 min
Ratio Ser2P / total pol II
Ser5P / total pol II, CDK9as
Ser5P (ab5131)
Ratio Ser5P/total pol II
Ser2P (Cell Signalling)
Ser5P (Cell Signalling)
Ratio Ser5P / total pol II

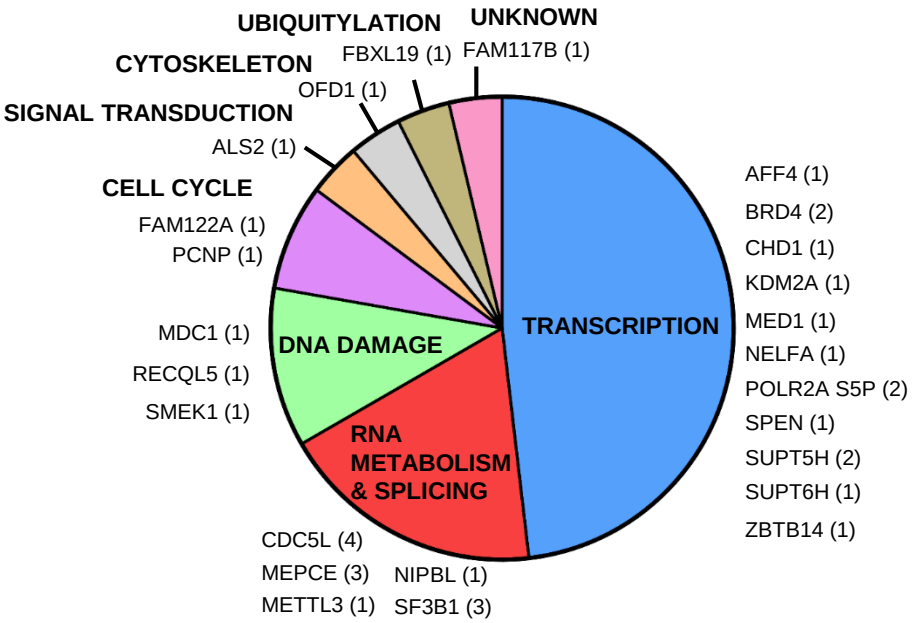
Figure 3

Figure 3. Inhibition of analog-sensitive (as) CDK9 has the same effect on elongation as small molecule CDK9 inhibitors.

A. Western blot of total pol II, Ser2P (Abcam or Cell Signaling), Ser5P (Abcam or Cell Signaling), and histone H3 as a loading control, on the chromatin fraction of CDK9as or wild-type HEK293 cells treated with DMSO or 15 μM 1-NA-PP1 for 15 or 30 minutes. **B.** Quantification of the western blots shown in A. n=3 biological replicates, p-value: * $p < 0.05$. Statistical test: two-tailed unpaired t test. **C.** ChIP-qPCR of total pol II and of Ser2P (Abcam or Cell Signaling), and Ser5P (Abcam or Cell Signaling) ratioed to total pol II on the model gene, *KPNB1*. n=3 biological replicates, p-value: * $p < 0.05$, ** $p < 0.01$, *** $p < 0.001$. Statistical test: two-tailed unpaired t test.

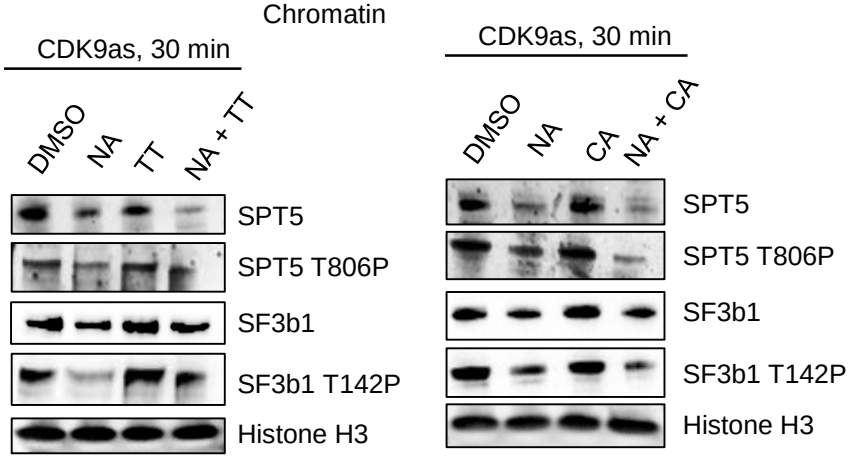
A

SILAC phosphoproteomics, HeLa cells, DRB 30 minutes



B

Chromatin



TT: Tautomycetin, PP1 inhibitor

CA: Calyculin A, PP2 inhibitor

C

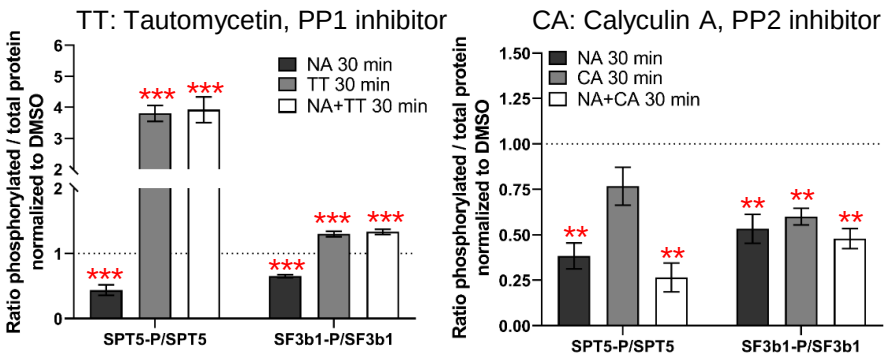


Figure 4

Figure 4. CDK9 phosphorylates several transcription and splicing factors *in vivo*.

A. Distribution of the proteins found to be phosphorylated by CDK9 in SILAC phosphoproteomics in HeLa cells treated or not with 100 μM DRB for 30 minutes (fold change > 1.5 in both biological duplicates, p-value < 0.1, number of phosphopeptides decreased shown in brackets). **B.** Western blot of total SPT5, SPT5 T806P, total SF3B1, SF3B1 T142P, and histone H3 as a loading control, on the chromatin fraction of CDK9as cells treated for 30 minutes with DMSO, NA, tautomycetin (TT), calyculin A (CA), NA+TT, or NA+CA. **C.** Quantification of the western blots shown in B. n=2 biological replicates, p-value: ** $p < 0.01$, *** $p < 0.001$. Statistical test: two-tailed unpaired t test.

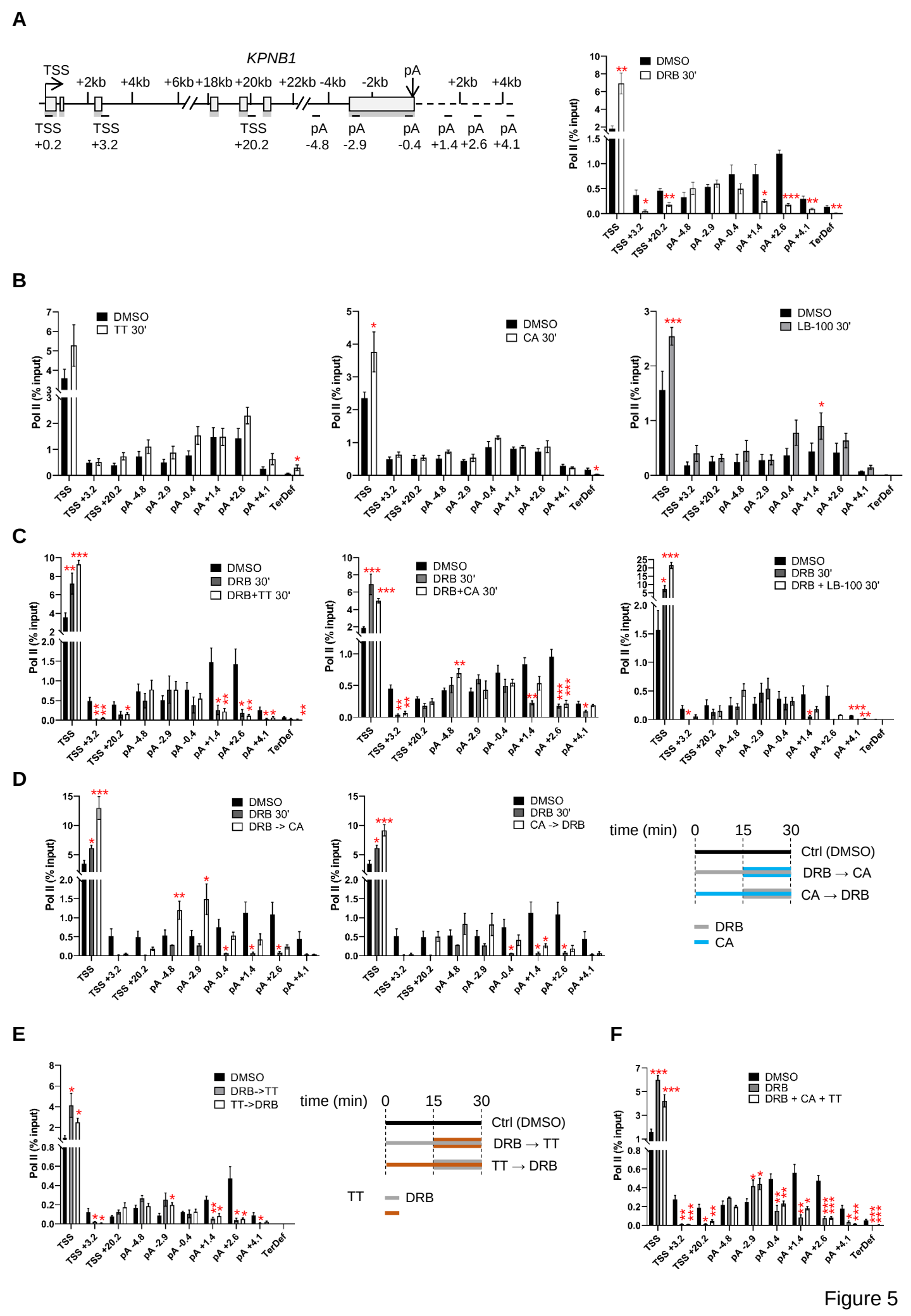

A
KPNB1
TSS
+2kb
+4kb
+6kb
+18kb
+20kb
+22kb
-4kb
-2kb
pA
+2kb
+4kb
TSS +0.2
TSS +3.2
TSS +20.2
pA -4.8
pA -2.9
pA -0.4
pA +1.4
pA +2.6
pA +4.1
DMSO
DRB 30'
Pol II (% input)
TSS
TSS +3.2
TSS +20.2
pA -4.8
pA -2.9
pA -0.4
pA +1.4
pA +2.6
pA +4.1
TerDef
B
DMSO
TT 30'
CA 30'
LB-100 30'
C
DRB+TT 30'
DRB+CA 30'
DRB + LB-100 30'
D
DRB -> CA
CA -> DRB
time (min)
0
15
30
Ctrl (DMSO)
DRB → CA
CA → DRB
DRB
CA
E
DRB->TT
TT->DRB
TT → DRB
TT
F
DRB + CA + TT

Figure 5

Figure 5. PP1 and PP2A regulates transcription of protein-coding genes.

A. ChIP-qPCR of total pol II after 30 minutes treatment with DMSO, DRB, TT, CA, or LB-100 on the model gene, *KPNB1*. **B.** ChIP-qPCR of total pol II after 30 minutes treatment with DMSO, DRB, DRB + TT, DRB + CA, or DRB + LB-100 on the model gene, *KPNB1*. **C.** ChIP-qPCR of total pol II after 30 minutes treatment with DMSO or DRB, or 15 minutes treatment with DRB or CA followed by another 15 minutes with CA (DRB->CA) or DRB (CA->DRB), respectively, on the model gene, *KPNB1*. **D.** ChIP-qPCR of total pol II after 30 minutes treatment with DMSO or DRB, or 15 minutes treatment with DRB or TT followed by another 15 minutes with TT (DRB->TT) or DRB (TT->DRB), respectively, on the model gene, *KPNB1*. **E.** ChIP-qPCR of total pol II after 30 minutes treatment with DMSO or DRB+CA+TT on the model gene, *KPNB1*. n=3 biological replicates, p-value: * $p < 0.05$, ** $p < 0.01$, *** $p < 0.001$. Statistical test: two-tailed unpaired t test.

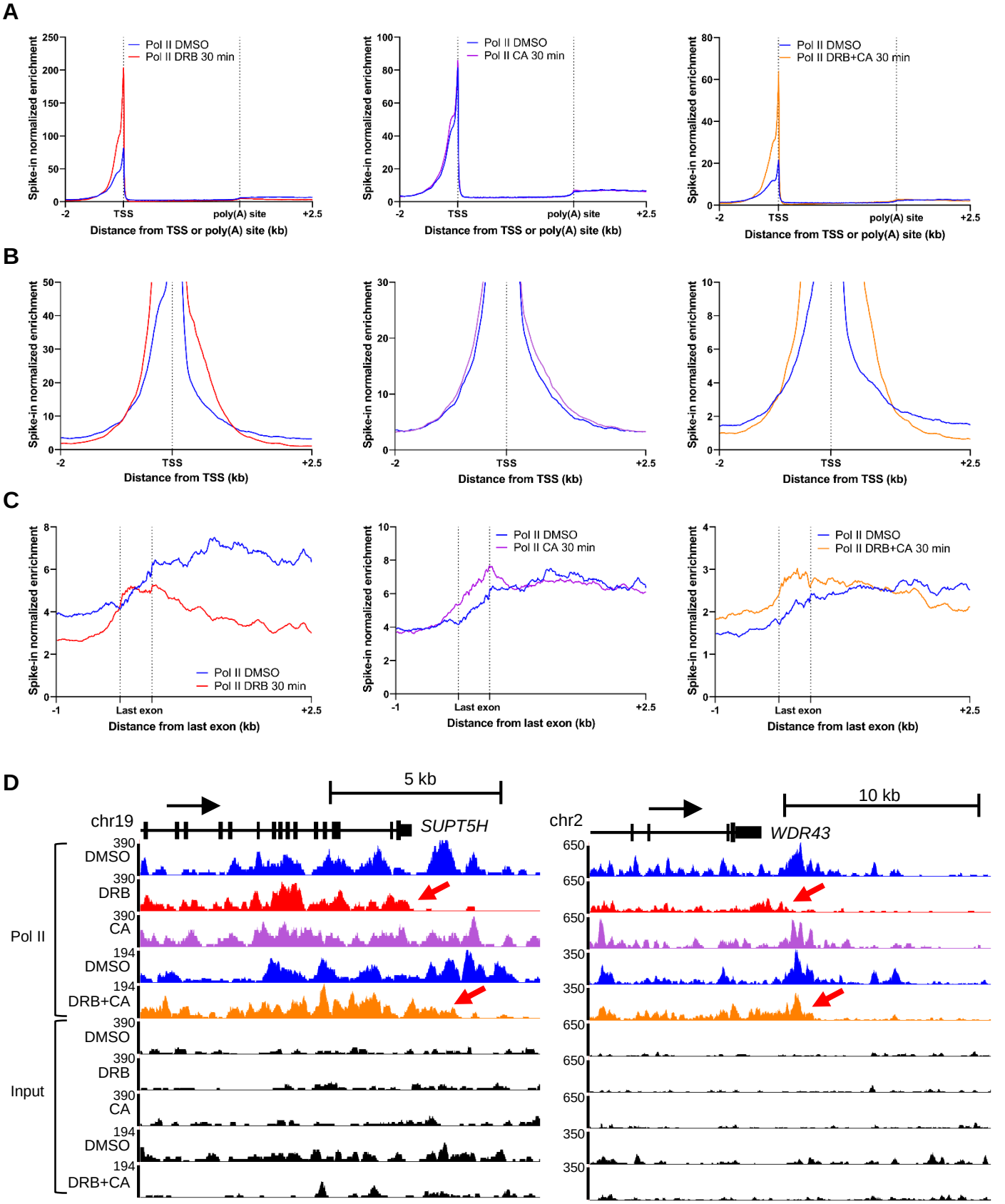

A
Pol II DMSO
Pol II DRB 30 min
Pol II CA 30 min
Pol II DRB+CA 30 min
Spike-in normalized enrichment
Distance from TSS or poly(A) site (kb)
TSS
poly(A) site
B
Distance from TSS (kb)
C
Last exon
Distance from last exon (kb)
D
5 kb
10 kb
chr19
SUPT5H
chr2
WDR43
Pol II
Input
DMSO
DRB
CA
DRB+CA

Figure 6

Figure 6. PP2A counteracts CDK9 activity at the 3' end of genes.

A. Metagene profile of mouse spiked-in total pol II ChIP-seq in HeLa cells after 30 minutes treatment with DMSO (blue), DRB (red), CA (purple), or DRB and CA (orange) across scaled expressed protein-coding genes longer than 30 kb (n=3,490). **B.** Metagene profile of mouse spiked-in total pol II ChIP-seq in HeLa cells after 30 minutes treatment with DMSO (blue), DRB (red), CA (purple), or DRB and CA (orange) around the TSS. Only a part of the y-axis is presented to show the entry of pol II into productive elongation. **C.** Metagene profile of mouse spiked-in total pol II ChIP-seq in HeLa cells after 30 minutes treatment with DMSO (blue), DRB (red), CA (purple), or DRB and CA (orange) around the scaled last exon of expressed genes longer than 40 kb (n=2,525). **D.** Screenshot of the genome browser of mouse spiked-in total pol II ChIP-seq tracks around the 3'end of the protein-coding genes *SUPT5H* and *WDR43*. Red arrows indicate premature termination of pol II (DRB tracks, red) and transcription further downstream the poly(A) site (DRB+CA tracks, orange).

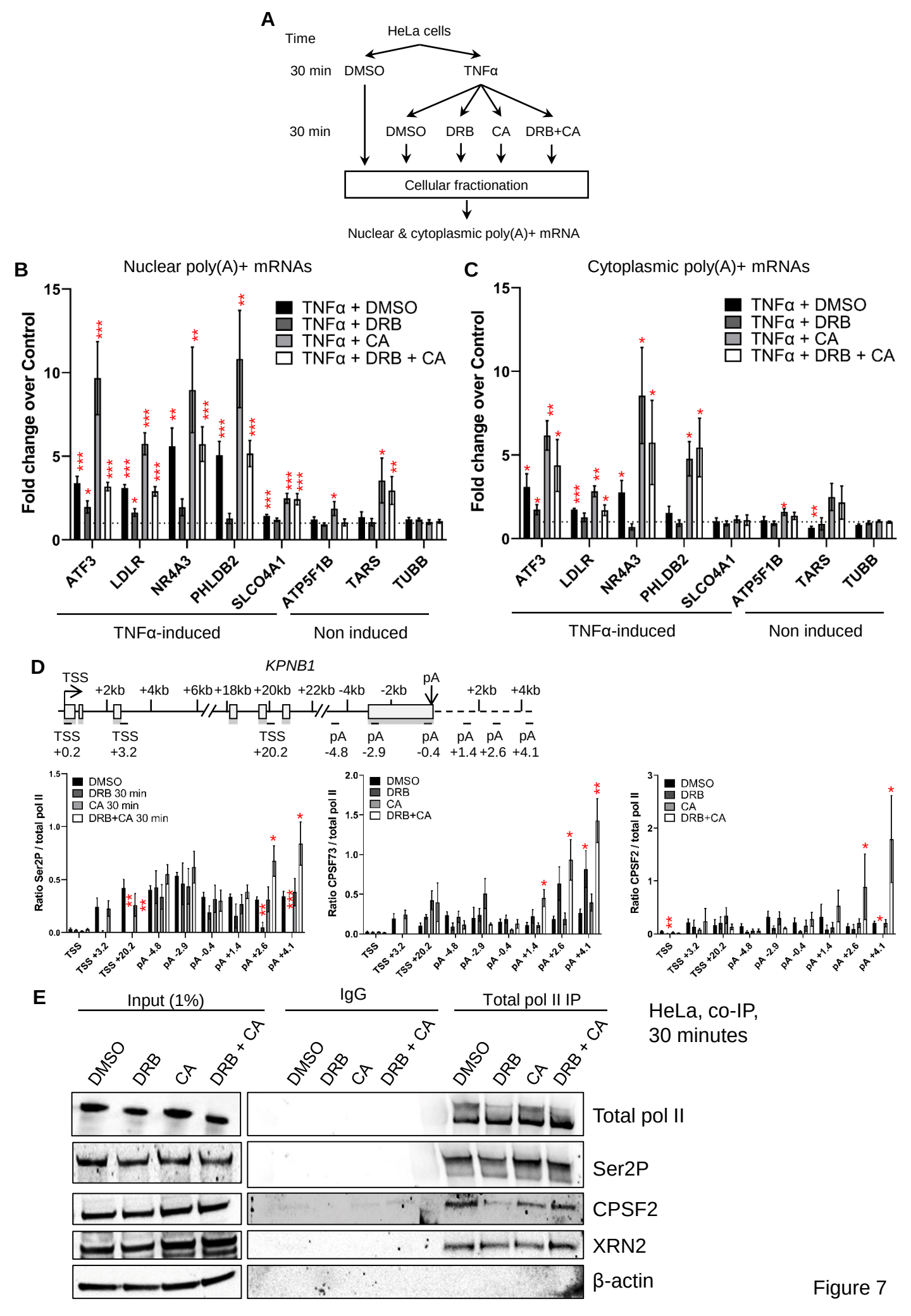

A
Time
HeLa cells
30 min
DMSO
TNFα
30 min
DMSO
DRB
CA
DRB+CA
Cellular fractionation
Nuclear & cytoplasmic poly(A)+ mRNA
B
Nuclear poly(A)+ mRNAs
Fold change over Control
TNFα + DMSO
TNFα + DRB
TNFα + CA
TNFα + DRB + CA
ATF3
LDLR
NR4A3
PHLDB2
SLCO4A1
ATP5F1B
TARS
TUBB
TNFα-induced
Non induced
C
Cytoplasmic poly(A)+ mRNAs
Fold change over Control
TNFα + DMSO
TNFα + DRB
TNFα + CA
TNFα + DRB + CA
ATF3
LDLR
NR4A3
PHLDB2
SLCO4A1
ATP5F1B
TARS
TUBB
TNFα-induced
Non induced
D
KPNB1
TSS
+2kb
+4kb
+6kb
+18kb
+20kb
+22kb
-4kb
-2kb
pA
+2kb
+4kb
TSS +0.2
TSS +3.2
TSS +20.2
pA -4.8
pA -2.9
pA -0.4
pA +1.4
pA +2.6
pA +4.1
Ratio Ser2P / total pol II
DMSO
DRB 30 min
CA 30 min
DRB+CA 30 min
Ratio CPSF73 / total pol II
DMSO
DRB
CA
DRB+CA
Ratio CPSF2 / total pol II
DMSO
DRB
CA
DRB+CA
TSS
TSS +3.2
TSS +20.2
pA -4.8
pA -2.9
pA -0.4
pA +1.4
pA +2.6
pA +4.1
E
Input (1%)
IgG
Total pol II IP
HeLa, co-IP,
30 minutes
DMSO
DRB
CA
DRB + CA
Total pol II
Ser2P
CPSF2
XRN2
β-actin

Figure 7

Figure 7. CDK9 and PP2A regulate mRNA cleavage and polyadenylation.

A. Schematic of the nuclear and cytoplasmic qRT-PCR experiments. **B.** qRT-PCR of nuclear polyadenylated mRNAs of several TNFα induced or non-induced genes with a 30 minutes DMSO, DRB, CA, or DRB+CA treatment. n=6 biological replicates, p-value: * $p < 0.05$, ** $p < 0.01$, *** $p < 0.001$. Statistical test: two-tailed unpaired t test. **C.** qRT-PCR of cytoplasmic polyadenylated mRNAs of several TNFα induced or non-induced genes with a 30 minutes DMSO, DRB, CA, or DRB+CA treatment. n=4 biological replicates, p-value: * $p < 0.05$, ** $p < 0.01$, *** $p < 0.001$. Statistical test: two-tailed unpaired t test. **D.** ChIP-qPCR of Ser2P, CPSF73, or CPSF2 ratioed to total pol II after 30 minutes treatment with DMSO, DRB, CA, or DRB+CA on the model gene, *KPNB1*. n=3 biological replicates, p-value: * $p < 0.05$, ** $p < 0.01$, *** $p < 0.001$. Statistical test: two-tailed unpaired t test. **E.** Co-immunoprecipitation of total pol II from HeLa cells treated for 30 minutes with DMSO, DRB, CA, or DRB+CA followed by western blot with total pol II, Ser2P, CPSF2, Xrn2, and GAPDH antibodies.

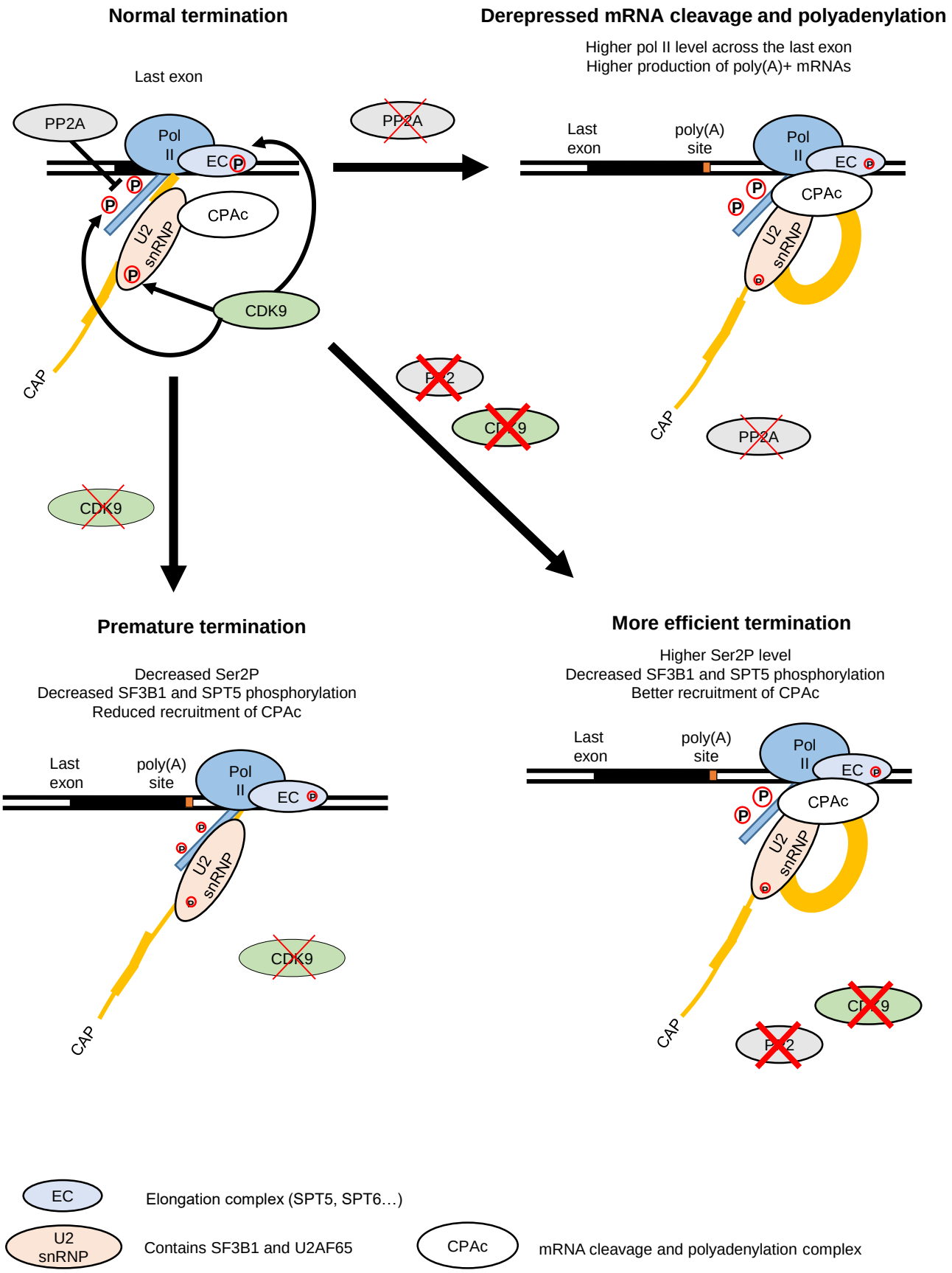

Normal termination
Last exon
PP2A
Pol II
EC
P
CPAc
U2 snRNP
CDK9
CAP
Derepressed mRNA cleavage and polyadenylation
Higher pol II level across the last exon
Higher production of poly(A)+ mRNAs
Last exon
poly(A) site
Pol II
EC
CPAc
U2 snRNP
CAP
PP2A
Premature termination
Decreased Ser2P
Decreased SF3B1 and SPT5 phosphorylation
Reduced recruitment of CPAc
Last exon
poly(A) site
Pol II
EC
U2 snRNP
CDK9
CAP
More efficient termination
Higher Ser2P level
Decreased SF3B1 and SPT5 phosphorylation
Better recruitment of CPAc
Last exon
poly(A) site
Pol II
EC
CPAc
U2 snRNP
CAP
EC
Elongation complex (SPT5, SPT6…)
U2 snRNP
Contains SF3B1 and U2AF65
CPAc
mRNA cleavage and polyadenylation complex

Figure 8

Figure 8. Model of CDK9 and PP2A functions in transcription.

During the transcription cycle, CDK9 phosphorylates in addition to the pol II CTD on Ser2 and Ser5, proteins found in the elongation complex and the U2 snRNP complex, such as SPT5 and SF3B1. The phosphatase PP2A dephosphorylates the pol II CTD on Ser2P and Ser5P. Inhibition of PP2A results in a specific higher pol II signal level across the last exon coupled to a higher production of mature polyadenylated mRNAs, indicating a derepression of mRNA CPA**.** Following CDK9 inhibition, a general decrease in pol II CTD phosphorylation and of proteins found in the elongation complex and the U2 snRNP is observed, coupled to a loss of recruitment of the CPA complex, resulting in the premature termination of pol II and the production of poly(A)- mRNAs. Inhibition of CDK9 and PP2A together results in more phosphorylation of the pol II CTD, but not of SPT5 T806P, and SF3B1 T142P. However, CDK9 and PP2A inhibition is sufficient to counteract the effect of CDK9 inhibition on transcription and on CPA resulting in a more efficient transcription termination.