S-adenosylmethionine synthases specify distinct H3K4me3 populations and gene expression patterns during heat stress

Adwait A. Godbole[1], Sneha Gopalan[2], Thien-Kim Nguyen[1], Alexander Munden[1], Paula Vo[1], Caroline A. Lewis[1], Jessica B. Spinelli[1,2], Thomas G. Fazzio[2], Amy K. Walker[1]

1. Program in Molecular Medicine, UMASS Chan Medical School, Worcester, MA 01605
2. Cancer Center, UMASS Chan Medical School, Worcester, MA 01605
3. Department of Molecular, Cell, and Cancer Biology, UMASS Chan Medical School, Worcester, MA 01605

Abstract

Methylation is a widely occurring modification that requires the methyl donor S-

adenosylmethionine (SAM) and acts in regulation of gene expression and other

processes. SAM is synthesized from methionine, which is imported or generated

through the 1-carbon cycle (1CC). Alterations in 1CC function have clear effects on

lifespan and stress responses, but the wide distribution of this modification has made

identification of specific mechanistic links difficult. Exploiting a dynamic stress-induced

transcription model, we find that two SAM synthases in *Caenorhabditis elegans*, SAMS-

1 and SAMS-4*,* contribute differently to modification of H3K4me3, gene expression and

survival. We find that *sams-4* enhances H3K4me3 in heat shocked animals lacking

sams-1, however, *sams-1* cannot compensate for *sams-4*, which is required to survive

heat stress. This suggests that the regulatory functions of SAM depend on its

enzymatic source and that provisioning of SAM may be an important regulatory step

linking 1CC function to phenotypes in aging and stress.

Introduction

The 1-Carbon cycle (1CC) is a group of interconnected pathways that link essential

nutrients such as methionine, folate and vitamin B12 to the production of nucleotides,

glutathione, and S-adenosylmethionine (SAM), the major methyl donor [1] (**Fig1A**). SAM

is important for the production of polyamines and phosphatidylcholine (PC), a

methylated phospholipid, and is also essential for the methylation of RNA, DNA and

proteins such as histones [2]. Thus, 1CC connects nutrients with the production of a key

cellular regulator of epigenetic function, SAM.

Alterations in 1CC function can cause a variety of defects [1], including intriguing

connections between this cycle, stress responses and aging. Lifespan lengthens in

yeast, *C. elegans*, *Drosophila* and rodent models when methionine is restricted, genes

in the methionine-SAM (Met-SAM) cycle are mutated, or polyamines are supplemented

[3]. While multiple aspects of 1CC function could affect aging, the Met-SAM cycle has

particularly strong links. For example, a *C. elegans* SAM synthase, *sams-1*, was

identified in a screen for long-lived animals [4] and multiple SAM-utilizing histone

methyltransferases are also implicated as aging regulators [5–7]. Of bioactive molecules,

SAM is second only to ATP in cellular abundance [8], which raises the question of how

such an abundant metabolite can exert specific phenotypic effects. Strikingly, studies in

multiple organisms from a variety of labs have shown that reduction in SAM levels

preferentially affects H3K4me3 levels [9–12]. However, changes in SAM production may

affect other histone modifications as well. For example, the Gasser lab showed that

sams-1 and *sams-3* have distinct roles in heterochromatin formation, which involves

H3K9me3 [13] A yeast SAM synthase has also been shown to act as part of the SESAME

histone modification complex [14] or to cooperate with the SIN3 repressor [15]. In addition,

most eukaryotes have more than one SAM synthase, which could allow partitioning of

enzyme output by developmental stage, tissue type or cellular process and underlie

specific phenotypic effects. Indeed, in budding yeast, SAM1 and SAM2 are co-

expressed but regulated by different metabolic events, have distinct posttranslational

modifications, and act differently in phenotypes such as genome stability [16]. The two

SAM synthases present in mammals are expressed in distinct tissues: MAT2A is

present throughout development and in most adult tissues, whereas MAT1A is specific

to adult liver [17]. MAT2A may be present in distinct regulatory conformations with its

partner MAT2B [17]. However, the distinct molecular mechanisms impacted by these

synthases are less clear. Studies exploring specificity of metazoan SAM synthase

function have been difficult, as MAT1A expression decreases *ex vivo* and MAT2A is

essential for cell viability [18]. Finally, the high methionine content of traditional cell

culture media has limited functional studies [19].

We have explored SAM synthase function in *C. elegans*, where the gene family has

undergone an expansion. In *C. elegans*, genetic and molecular assays allow separation

of SAM synthase expression and function *in vivo*. Furthermore, no single SAM

synthase is required for survival in normal laboratory conditions or diets. *sams-1* and

the highly similar *sams-3*/*sams-4* are expressed in adult animals, whereas *sams-5* is

present at low levels in adults and *sams-2* is a pseudogene [20]. We previously found

that *sams-1* had multiple distinct functions, contributing to PC pools and stimulating lipid

synthesis through a feedback loop involving *sbp-1*/SREBP-1 [21] as well as regulating

global H3K4me3 levels in intestinal nuclei [12]. Our studies also showed that loss of

sams-1 produced different phenotypes in bacterial or heat stress. While *sams-1* was

necessary for pathogen challenge, promoter H3K4me3 and expression of immune

genes, animals surprisingly survived better during heat shock when they lacked *sams-1*

[12]. Because heat shocked animals require the H3K4me3 methyltransferase *set-16/MLL*

for survival, we hypothesized that SAM from a different source may be important for

histone methylation and survival in the heat shock response. Here, we find that SAM

source impacts the functional outputs of methylation. While the SAM and the 1CC are

well associated with regulation of lifespan and stress responses, direct molecular

connections have been difficult to discover. Mechanisms controlling provisioning of

SAM, therefore, could provide a critical level of regulation in these processes. We show

that *sams-1* and *sams-4* differentially affect different populations of histone methylation

and thus gene expression in the heat shock response, and that their loss results in

opposing phenotypes. Our study demonstrates that SAM synthases have a critical

impact on distinct methylation targets and phenotypes associated with the stress

response. Thus, defining the specificity of SAM synthases may provide a method to

identify from broad effects methylation events that are specific phenotypic drivers.

Results

sams-1 and *sams-4* have overlapping and distinct expression patterns and gene regulatory effects

Animals respond to stress by activating specialized protective gene expression programs [22]. While these programs depend on specific signaling and transcriptional activators, they may also be impacted by histone methylation and the production of SAM. For example, we found that *C. elegans* lacking *sams-1* die rapidly on pathogenic bacteria, have low global H3K4me3 and fail to upregulate immune response genes [12]. In contrast, heat shocked animals survive better without *sams-1*[23]. *sams-1(RNAi)* animals induced heat shock genes to normal levels and acquired additional changes in the transcriptome, including downregulation of many metabolic genes. However, the H3K4me3 methyltransferase *set-16*/MLL was essential for survival [23], suggesting that methylation was required. We hypothesized that other SAM synthases could play an important role in mediating survival during heat shock (**Fig1A**).

In order to test these hypotheses, we first compared expression of each synthase, SAM levels and gene expression after RNAi in adult unstressed animals. ModEncode data[24] from young adult animals shows that in young adult levels, *sams-1* is expressed at the highest levels, comparable to the metabolic enzyme GAPDH (*gpdh-1*) (**FigS1A**). *sams-3* and *sams-4* are expressed at lower levels, but comparable to other enzymes of the 1-Carbon cycle such as *metr-1*, whereas *sams-5* is minimally expressed (**FigS1A**). In order to determine the tissue-specific patterns of the SAM synthases expressed in adult animals, we obtained strains where each protein was tagged with RFP, GFP or mKate,

via CRISPR (**Fig1B, FigS1B, C**). RFP::*sams-1* and GFP::*sams-4* animals were also

crossed to allow visualize expression of both synthases (**Fig1B**). RFP::SAMS-

1fluorescence was evident in much of the adult animal, including intestine, hypodermis

and cells in the head (**Fig1B, FigS1B**), in line with mRNA expression patterns derived

from tissue-specific RNA seq [25]. However, RFP::SAMS-1was not present in the

germline, which did express GFP::SAMS-4 and SAMS-3::mKate (**Fig1B, S1C**).

GFP::SAMS-4 and SAMS-3::mKate was also present in intestinal and hypodermal cells

(**Fig1B, FigS1C**), demonstrating that these tissues, which are major contributors to the

stress response [26] contain each of these SAM synthases. *sams-3* and *sams-4* are

expressed bidirectionally from the same promoter and share 95% sequence identity at

the nucleotide level thus RNAi targeting is likely to affect both genes. Indeed SAMS-

3::mKate and GFP::SAMS-4 were reduced after either RNAi (**FigS1C**). Next, we used

mass spectrometry to compare SAM levels after *sams-3* and *sams-4* RNAi and found

that like *sams-1*[12,21], reduction in any synthase significantly reduced but did not

eliminate SAM (**Fig S1D**).

In order to compare gene expression after RNA of each SAM synthase in basal

conditions, we used RNA sequencing (RNAseq). Principal component analysis showed

that *sams-1(RNAi)* and *sams-5* formed distinct clusters on the first two principal

components, however *sams-3* and *sams-4* were overlapping (**FigS2; Table S1: Tabs**

A-C). About half of the genes upregulated after *sams-4* knockdown also increased in

sams-1(RNAi) animals (**FigS3B).** To determine if genes related to distinct biological

processes were present, we compared genes upregulated after *sams-1* RNAi[23] with

those changing in *sams-4* RNAi with WormCat [27], which provides enrichment scores for

three category levels (Cat1, Cat2, Cat3) for broad to more specific comparisons.

WormCat finds that gene function categories at the Cat1 and Cat 2 level, such as

METABOLISM: Lipid (**FigS2C**) or STRESS RESPONSE: Pathogen (**FigS2D-F**), are

enriched at lower levels and contain different genes in *sams-4(RNAi)* animals (**Table**

S1: Tabs D-F). Notably, *fat-7* and other lipid synthesis genes that respond to low PC in

sams-1 animals are not upregulated after *sams-4(RNAi)* (**TableS1:Tab:B**). These

findings strengthen the idea that these SAM synthases could have distinct functions.

Opposing roles and requirements for *sams-1* and *sams-4* in the heat shock

response

In order to determine if other SAM synthases expressed in adult animals contributed to

survival in heat shock, we compared the heat shock survival phenotypes of *C. elegans*

with deletions in *sams-1*, *sams-3* and *sams-4* to avoid effects of co-targeting by RNAi.

sams-1(ok3033) has a deletion covering the majority of the open reading frame and

extracts from these animals lack SAMS-1 protein in immunoblots[12], therefore we refer to

this allele as *sams-1(lof)*. *sams-4(ok3315)* animals have a deletion that removes

around a third of the open reading frame. Strikingly, *sams-4(ok3315)* mutants had the

opposite phenotype from *sams-1(lof)*, and died rapidly after heat shock (**Fig1C, D,**

Table S2:Tabs B, C). *sams-3(2932)* harbors a deletion removing most of the ORF, but

in contrast to *sams-4* and *sams-1,* is indistinguishable from wild type animals in a heat

shock response (**FigS3B**). Although *sams-3* may be co-targeted in RNAi experiments,

we will refer solely to *sams-4* in our discussion because it has the most direct link to the

heat shock phenotypes. Finally, *sams-4(RNAi)* phenotypes in the heat stress response

were not linked to a general failure to thrive, as *sams-4(RNAi)* animals under basal

conditions had modestly enhanced lifespan (**FigS3C; Table S2: Tab A**).

Next, we used immunostaining to compare global levels of H3K4me3 in *sams-1* and

sams-4 RNAi nuclei during heat shock. In contrast to the reduction in H3K4me3 in

basal conditions in *sams-1(lof), sams-4(ok 3315)* or RNAi animals (**Fig1E-F, H-I**), we

detected robust levels of H3K4me3 in *sams-1(lof)* nuclei after heat shock (2 hours at

37°C) (**Fig1E, H**), suggesting that *sams-1*-independent mechanisms act on H3K4me3

during heat shock. These increases in H3K4me3 did not appear in heat shocked *sams-*

4(RNAi) intestinal nuclei (**Fig1F, I**), raising the possibility that *sams-4* contributed to the

effects in *sams-1(lof)* animals. Next, we wanted to test effects of reducing both *sams-1*

and *sams-4* levels on H3K4me3 during heat shock. Loss of multiple SAM synthases

reduces viability in *C. elegans* [13]. In order to circumvent this, we used dietary choline to

rescue PC synthesis and growth of *sams-1(RNAi)* or *(lof)* animals during development

[12,21]. *sams-1(lof); sams-4(RNAi)* animals were raised on choline until the L4 stage, then

moved to normal media for 16 hours before heat shock. Immunostaining of *sams-1(lof);*

sams-4(RNAi) intestines showed that *sams-4* is required for the H3K4me3 in heat

shocked *sams-1(lof)* nuclei (**Fig1G, J**).   These results were identical when we used

RNAi to reduce *sams-1* in *sams-4(ok3315)* animals (**FigS3E**). We also asked if *sams-4*

was necessary for the increased survival of *sams-1* animals after heat shock and found

that the survival advantage in *sams-1(RNAi)* was decreased in *sams-4(ok3315)* animals

(**FigS3D**). These results suggest that H3K4me3 may be remodeled during heat shock

with SAM from distinct synthases and that *sams-4*-dependent methylation is critical for

survival. Previously, it was shown that H3K4me3 deposition is independent *of sams-4*

in embryonic nuclei [13], however, our finding that it is broadly decreased in *sams-4(RNAi)*

intestinal nuclei suggests it may have important roles in H3K4 methylation in adults.

Increases in H3K4me3 have also been shown to occur in budding yeast when blocks in

phospholipid synthesis relieve a drain on SAM and increase levels[28], which we have

confirmed in *C. elegans*[23]. In order to determine if SAM levels could explain differences

in H3K4me3 in *sams-1* and *sams-4* animals during heat shock, we used targeted

LC/MS to compare SAM, it's precursor methionine and S-adenosylhomocysteine (SAH),

the product after methyl transfer, before and after heat shock. As in our previous

assays, SAM decreased significantly after *sams-1* or *sams-4(RNAi)* in basal conditions

(**FigS3F**), whereas SAM levels increased in each population as *sams-1* or *sams-4*

animals were shifted to 37°C for 2 hours (**FigS3F**). Levels of methionine and SAH also

decreased when comparing control, *sams-1* or *sams-4(RNAi)* animals in basal vs heat

shocked conditions (**FigS3G, H**), consistent with increased production and utilization of

SAM. The increase in SAM in heat shocked animals is consistent with our data

showing the contribution of SAMS-4 to H3K4me3 and survival in heat shocked *sams-1*

animals, however, a reduction in demand for SAM if other metabolic processes are

reduced after heat shock could also contribute. Finally, levels of SAM in heat shocked

sams-4(RNAi) animals also rise to levels comparable to control animals at basal

temperatures, however, H3K4me3 remains low in these conditions.

Histone methyltransferase and histone demethylation machinery have modest,

separable effects on *sams* mutant heat shock phenotypes

SAM is necessary for histone methylation; however, histone methylation dynamics are

also influenced by methyltransferase (KMT) or demethylase (KDMT) activity [29].

Therefore, changes in histone methylation dynamics could also impact H3K4me3

patterns during heat shock. H3K4me3 is catalyzed by multiple versions of the

COMPASS complex, which each consist of one of several SET domain histone

methyltransferases and several shared accessory subunits [30]. In mammals, seven

methyltransferases in the SET1, MLL or THX groups can methylate H3K4. *C. elegans*

contain single orthologs from two of these groups: *set-2/*SET1 and *set-16/*MLL,

respectively, with roles in embryonic development [31–33], lipid accumulation and

transgenerational inheritance [6,7]. In adult *C. elegans*, *set-2* RNAi results in extensive

loss of H3K4me3 in intestinal nuclei and although *set-16(RNAi)* causes an intermediate

reduction in bulk H3K4me3 levels, it has a broader requirement for survival during

stress [23]. Because specificity for H3K4 mono, di or trimethylation has not been verified

on a genome-wide scale for KDMTs, we examined multiple members of the H3K4 KDM

family.

In order to determine if KMTs or KDMT dynamics played a role in the change of

H3K4me3 during heat shock, we used RNAi to deplete them in *sams-1(lof)* or *sams-*

4(ok3315) animals and measured survival after heat shock and intestinal H3K4me3

levels. RNAi of *set-2/SET1* (**Fig2A**) or *set-16/MLL* (**Fig2B**) increased survival in *sams-*

1(lof) animals after heat shock (also **Table S2:Tabs:C, E**) and did not limit heat shock-

induced H3K4me3 in *sams-1(RNAi)* nuclei (**FigS4A, B**).   RNAi of two KDMTs, *rbr-2*

(**Fig2C**) and *spr-5* (**Fig2D**) had opposite effects from the KMTs, moderately reducing

survival (**TableS2: Tab F**), whereas *amx-1* and *lsd-1* had no effect (**FigS4G, H;**

TableS2: Tabs I, J).   RNAi of *set-2* (**Fig2E**) or *set-16* (**Fig2F**) had slight, but statistically

significant effects, increasing survival of *sams-4(ok3315)* animals (**TableS2: Tabs G,**

H).   However, survival was still significantly below controls in *sams-4(ok3315)* with or

without the KMT RNAi.   Taken together, this suggests that *set-2* and *set-16* may act

redundantly in the deposition of H3K4me3 after heat shock and are important to survival

in *sams-1(lof)* animals.   Furthermore, our data illustrate that the context is critical for

understanding role of SAM and H3K4me3 in stress; *sams-4* and *set-16* are generally

required for survival after heat shock, but loss of either H3K4 KTM enhances survival in

sams-1(lof) animals.

Distinct patterns of H3K4me3 and gene expression in *sams-1(RNAi)* versus *sams-*

***4(RNAi)* animals during heat shock**

H3K4me3 is a prevalent modification enriched near the transcription start sites (TSSs)

of actively expressed genes [34].   Differing global patterns of H3K4me3 in *sams-1(RNAi)*

and *sams-4(RNAi)* nuclei suggest this histone modification at specific sites could also

be distinct.   In order to identify loci that might link H3K4me3 to these phenotypes, we

used CUT&Tag, (Cleavage Under Targets and Tagmentation, C&T) [35], to determine

genome-wide H3K4me3 levels in Control RNAi, *sams-1* and *sams-4(RNAi)* in basal

(15°C) and after heat shock (37°C/2 hours) from two biologically independent replicates

along with no antibody controls.   C&T is uniquely suited to the small sample sizes

available from these stressed populations. In this approach, a proteinA-Tn5

transposase fusion protein binds to the target antibody in native chromatin and DNA

libraries corresponding to antibody binding sites are generated after transposase

activation. After sequencing of libraries, we used the HOMER analysis suite[36] to

analyze reads mapped to the *C. elegans* genome and called peaks using

ChIPSeqAnno[37] for more detailed peak annotation. Bar plots from ChIPSeqAnno

annotations and TSS plots generated with HOMER show robust mapping of H3K4me3

to promoter-TSS regions, validating this approach (**Fig3A; TableS3: Tabs A-F**). While

promoter-TSS regions were the largest feature in each sample, heat shocked *sams-*

4(RNAi) animals had fewer overall peaks (**Fig3A**). Correlation plots also show strong

similarity between replicates (**FigS5A**). Because C&T has not been extensively used in

C. elegans, we compared data from basal conditions in our study to three previously

published ChIP-Seq data sets[38,3940]. We compared our C&T data from wild type young

adult animals grown at 15°C on control RNAi food (HT115) against ModEncode (L3

animals), *glp-1(e2141)* mutants from Pu et al.[41] and wild type adults grown at 20°C on

OP50 bacteria from Wan et al. [40] by computing a pair-wise Pearson correlation. We

found our C&T clustered most closely with the ChiPSeq from wild type animals in Wan

et al., along with one of the modEndode replicates (**FigS5B**) with moderate correlation

scores. Both our C&T data and the Wan ChiPseq data correlated poorly with the Pu et

al. ChIP seq, which is likely due to the lack of germline nuclei in these animals. The

moderate correlation between our data and ChiP seq from Wan et al may be due to

differences in growth temperature and bacterial diet. As a part of our quality control, we

visually inspected browser tracks around the *pcaf-1* gene, which is a long gene and has

been used by our labs and others as a positive control for H3K4me3 localization in the 5

prime regions [12,32]. H3K4me3 peaks are prominent upstream of the transcript as

expected and the no antibody libraries showed few reads (**FigS5C**).

Next, we compared TSS distributions and examined overlap between H3K4me3 peaks

in Control RNAi animals in basal and heat shock conditions and found moderate

reductions occurred with heat shock (**Fig3B**). Around 20-30% of peaks were specific to

at either at basal (15°C) vs. heat shock (37°C) temperature (**Fig3C)**, suggesting that

H3K4me3 could be remodeled upon heat shock in *C. elegans*. TSS enrichment of

H3K4me3 was sharply reduced in both *sams-1* and *sams-4* samples at 15°C, however

this difference was less marked in heat shocked animals, in line with lower TSS

localization in Control animals (**Fig3D, E**). While aggregate TSS enrichment for

H3K4me3 was similar for *sams-1* and *sams-4* RNAi animals, this analysis could miss

distinct sets of H3K4me3 marked genes in each condition. Indeed, Control, *sams-1* and

sams-4(RNAi) animals each showed 500-1000 specific peaks in basal conditions, with

moderate increases in these numbers after heat shock (**Fig3D, E**). As H3K4me3 is a

widely occurring modification, we hypothesized that we might better understand

potential SAM synthase-specific requirements if we focused on peaks that change in the

Control RNAi heat shock response and asked how they are affected by loss of *sams-1*

or *sams-4*. We used two different methods for comparing potential SAM synthase

requirements for H3K4me3 in the heat shock response. First, we used differential peak

calling (ChIPPeakAnno [37]) followed by WormCat category enrichment to determine the

classes of genes which might be affected (**FigS6A-F; TableS3; Tabs G-I**). Peaks

present in both basal and heat shocked conditions were enriched for genes in the

METABOLISM category (including Lipid: phospholipid, sphingolipid, sterol and lipid

binding, along with mitochondrial genes) as well as in core function categories such as

those involved in trafficking, DNA or mRNA functions (**Fig3F, FigS6D-E; Table S3:**

Tabs G-I). There was no significant category enrichment specific to 15°C animals, but

after heat shock, Control RNAi animals gain enrichment in peaks at the Category 1 level

in PROTEOSOME PROTEOLYSIS (**Fig3F**). This enrichment was driven by increases

in H3K4me3 at E3: Fbox genes (**FigS6A, B; Table S3:Tab A,B**), which could be

important for eliminating mis-folded proteins during heat shock. Comparison of peaks

differentially present in *sams-1* and *sams-4* RNAi animals showed that only *sams-*

1(RNAi) exhibited a similar enrichment to Control RNAi in the PROTEOLYSIS

PROTEOSOME category (**Fig3G, FigS6C, D**), which could help explain the reduced

survival of *sams-4(RNAi)* animals relative to *sams-1(RNAi)* animals. *sams-1* RNAi

animals also gained enriched peaks in a wide range of gene categories within

METABOLISM, whereas *sams-4(RNAi)* enriched peaks in these categories were more

limited (**FigS6C-F**). Thus, loss of *sams-1* or *sams-4* differentially affects H3K4me3

peaks within functional gene classes that also change in the heat shock response.

Next, we hypothesized that H3K4me3 at peaks in Control RNAi animals might reflect

multiple differently regulated populations, some which are linked to SAM synthase

function and others that are regulated at other levels. In order to test this, we divided

peaks in Control animals at 15°C or 37°C into those that did not change after SAM

synthase RNAi (*sams-1* or *sams-4* independent peaks) or those that were dependent on

sams-1 or *sams-4* and examined aggregations around TSS regions. There was little

difference between TSS plots of *sams-1* or *sams-4*-independent genes at either

temperature (**Fig3H, I**). However, in basal conditions, Control peaks that depended on

sams-1 had more marked TSS localization (**Fig3J**), demonstrating that *sams-1* and

sams-4 dependent peaks have distinct TSS architectures. TSS localization was low in

all 37°C samples, following the general trend of decrease after heat shock (**Fig3K**). We

next separated Control peaks into those that were generally SAM synthase-dependent

and those that were specific to loss of *sams-1* or *sams-4*. Aggregation of these peaks

shows that peaks in Control 15°C samples that were lost only in *sams-4* RNAi also had

the lowest levels of H3K4me3 in TSS regions, whereas promoters that lost this

modification only after *sams-1* RNAi had higher levels of H3K4me3 (**FigS6G**).   Control

37°C samples exhibited a similar pattern, with a lower H3K4me3 level overall consistent

with what we have observed in heat shock samples (**FigS6H**). Thus, genome wide

H3K4me3 contain multiple populations with distinct TSS patterns. Peaks that are

present even when *sams-1* or *sams-4* are depleted have the highest levels, whereas

sams-1-dependent peaks have moderate H3K4me3, and peaks that are lost after *sams-*

4 RNAi have the lowest levels. Taken together, this shows that individual SAM

synthases are linked to distinct sets of H3K4me3 within the genome.

RNAi of *sams-1* or *sams-4* has similar effects on TSS peaks at tissue-specific

genes

Our C&T and RNA seq assays were performed on whole animals. While *sams-1* and

sams-4 are co-expressed in the intestine and hypodermis, which are major stress-

responsive tissues, the germline nuclei contain only *sams-4* (**Fig1B** and **FigS1B**).   This

aligns with our previous observations that *sams-1(RNAi)* animals had normal patterns of

H3K4me3 in germline nuclei (Ding, et al. 2015), whereas RNAi of *sams-4* abrogates

H3K4me3 staining in germline nuclei (**FigS7A**). However, embryo production and

development appear broadly normal in *sams-4* RNAi embryos (not shown). In order to

determine how H3K4me3 might align with tissue-specific expression patterns, we

aggregated peaks from tissue-specific RNA seq data published by Serizay, et al [42].

Serizay et al. separated nuclei based on tissue specific GFP expression and defined

gene sets that were expressed that were ubiquitously, as well as those that were

present only in a single tissue. They also performed ATAC seq (Assay for

Transposase-Accessible Chromatin using sequencing).   Serizay, et al. defined

transcripts by expression pattern and defined sets that were specific to (*tissue*_only), or

represented in across multiple tissues (*tissue*_all).   ubiquitious_all and Germline_only

genes had the most defined patterns of open chromatin around TSSs [42] We compared

our C&T data with Ubiquitious_all, Germline_only and Intestine_only genes and found

that we identified peaks for around half of these genes in Control RNAi animals at 15°C

or 37°C (**FigS7B-D)**. We found the ubiquitous_all and germline_only genes also had

strong H3K4me3 peaks that were reduced equally by *sams-1* or *sams-4* RNAi in both

temperature conditions (**FigS7D, G; E, H**). Intestine_only genes showed lower TSS

enrichment but were similarly reduced after *sams-1* or *sams-4* RNAi (**FigS7H, I**). These

data suggest that differences in germline expression for *sams-1* and *sams-4* are not

sufficient to explain differential effects on H3K4me3 peak populations.

Poor expression of heat shock gene suite in *sams-4(RNAi)* animals

H3K4me3 is found at the promoters of many actively transcribed genes, but it is not

necessarily required for gene expression [29]. However, studying chromatin modification

in stress responses may reveal additional regulatory effects [43]. We previously found

using ChIP-PCR in the context of the stress response in *C. elegans* that H3K4me3

increased at promoters of genes that responded to bacterial stress in a *sams-1-*

dependent manner[12]. However, during the stress response, H3K4me3 did not change

at multiple non-stress responsive genes, suggesting that stress-responsive loci might be

more sensitive to SAM levels[12].   In order to identify genes that changed in SAM-

deficient animals, we performed RNA seq, then compared genes induced by heat shock

in control and *sams-1(RNAi)*[23] with genes induced in *sams-4(RNAi)* animals **(TableS4:**

A-C). Upregulated genes for control and *sams-1(RNAi)* animals appeared closely

grouped in principal component analysis, with sams-4(RNAi) upregulated genes and all

downregulated gene sets forming distinct groups (**FigS8A**). We previously noted that

while *sams-1(RNAi)* animals could not mount the full transcriptional response to

bacterial stress, most genes activated by heat increased similarly to controls[23]. *sams-*

4(RNAi) animals, in contrast, activate less than 25% of the genes induced by heat in

control animals (**Fig4A**). *sams-1(RNAi)* and *sams-4(RNAi)* animals also induce more

that 600 genes in response to heat that are SAM-synthase-specific and which do not

increase in control animals (**Fig4A**). WormCat pathway analysis shows that *sams-*

4(RNAi) animals lack the robust enrichment in STRESS RESPONSE (Cat1) and

STRESS RESPONSE: Heat (Cat2) evidenced in both Control and *sams-1(RNAi)*

samples (**Fig4B; TableS4: D-F**). In addition, enrichment of the CHAPERONE,

PROTEOLYSIS PROTEOSOME categories occurring in *sams-1(RNAi)* animals does

not occur after *sams-4(RNAi)*, reflecting lack of induction of these genes which could be

important for proteostasis in the heat shock response (**Fig4C**). Thus, reduction in

sams-1 or *sams-4* results in distinct gene expression programs in both basal conditions

(**FigS2A-F**) and during the heat stress response (**Fig4A-C**).   This differentiation of gene

expression programs clearly shows that *sams-1* and *sams-4* have distinct functional

roles.

Gene expression changes occurring after *sams-1* or *sams-4* depletion could result from

direct effects on H3K4me3 or other potential methylation targets, or from indirect

effects.   Evaluating the impact H3K4me3 on gene expression is also complex, as this

modification is generally associated but not necessary for expression of actively

transcribed genes [29]. In our analysis of H3K4me3 peaks during the heat stress

response, we found evidence of multiple peak populations that depend on or occur

independently of *sams-1* or *sams-4* (**Fig2H-K, FigS6A-F**). We reasoned, therefore, that

it was also critical to determine H3K4me3 levels at *sams-1-* or *sams-4*-dependent genes

in the heat shock response.

First, we examined H3K4me3 peak levels at genes with increased in Control RNAi,

sams-1(RNAi) or *sams-4(RNAi)* during heat shock. We found that genes dependent on

sams-1 or *sams-4* in the heat shock response were marked by lower overall H3K4me3

levels at the TSSs (**Fig4D**). However, this analysis included large numbers of

upregulated genes in *sams-1* or *sams-4* outside of the wildtype heat stress response.

Therefore, we next focused on genes normally upregulated during heat shock and

divided them according to SAM synthase dependence. Strikingly, isolating the *sams-1-*

dependent genes revealed a strong peak 5' to the TSS, which was not evident in the

larger subset of Control or *sams-4(RNAi)*-dependent upregulated genes (**Fig4E, F**).

Among the genes with robust peaks in heat shocked *sams-1(RNAi)* animals were two F-

box proteins, *fbxa-59* and T27F6.8, which were robustly expressed in *sams-1* but not

sams-4 animals (**Fig4C, G-I**). Down regulation of T27F6.8 did not affect the survival of

the animals after heat shock (**FigS8B**) while survival of animals fed *fbxa-59* RNAi was

modestly affected (**FigS8C**). Survival in heat shock may be multi-genic and rely on

pathway responses rather than single genes. However, our data reveals genes

upregulated in the heat shock response may have different H3K4me3 levels depending

on requirements for *sams-1* or *sams-4*. In addition, our results suggest that roles for

H3K4me3 may become clearer when genome-wide methylation populations are

separated into biologically responsive categories.

SAM synthase-specific effects on genes downregulated in the heat shock

response

Transcriptional responses to heat shock largely focus on rapidly induced genes that

provide protection from changes in proteostasis [44,45]. However, downregulated genes

could also play important roles. For example, the WormCat category of

TRANSMEMBRANE TRANSPORT (TM TRANS) is enriched in genes downregulated

after heat shock in *C. elegans* (**Fig5A, B**). Previously we observed that heat shocked

animals depended on *sams-1* for normal expression of nearly 2,000 genes, falling within

WormCat Categories of METABOLISM, TRANSCRIPTION FACTOR (TF),

SIGNALLING and STRESS RESPONSE[23] (**Fig5A, B**). Interestingly, the metabolic

genes dependent on *sams-1* include those in lipid metabolism, whereas the TF

enrichment was centered around nuclear hormone receptors (NHRs) (**Fig5C, D**), which

regulate many metabolic and stress responsive genes in *C. elegans* [46]. However,

neither the shared TM TRANSPORT nor the *sams-1* specific categories depend on

sams-4 (**Fig5B, C**).   Thus, as in genes upregulated during the heat shock response,

genes downregulated in the heat shock response also have differential requirements for

sams-1 and *sams-4*.

Next, we examined H3K4me3 levels around TSSs of genes that lost expression during

heat shock in Control, *sams-1* or *sams-4(RNAi)* animals. Genes decreasing in Control

animals had a slight reduction of H3K4me3 peaks when comparing15°C and 37°C

samples, consistent with global levels after heat shock (**Fig5D**). RNAi of *sams-1 or*

sams-4 also broadly reduced H3K4me3 TSS enrichment at downregulated genes

(**Fig5D-F**). However, there were minimal differences before or after heat shock,

suggesting expression patterns affecting survival could be established before induction

of the stress.

H3K4me3 has been reported to act as a bookmarking modification, therefore we

hypothesized that some loci could be affected before heat shock, with expression

changing afterward. Therefore, we more closely examined genes with *sams-1-*

dependent H3K4me3 at 15°C that lost expression during heat shock. Those genes

were highly enriched for METABOLISM: Lipid: beta oxidation and NHR transcription

factors (**Fig6A**). We noted they included multiple members of a regulatory circuit that

control expression of a beta-oxidation-like pathway that degrades toxic fatty acids

identified by the Walhout lab [47], including *nhr-68*, *nhr-114* and beta-oxidation genes

acdh-1, hach-1 ech-6, -8, and *-9* (**Fig6B, C**). Indeed, *nhr-68*, the initiating TF in this

regulatory circuit, shows lower levels of H3K4me3 at its promoter in basal conditions,

compared to Control or *sams-4* RNAi animals (**Fig6D**). The H3K4me3 peak overlaps

with another gene, *pms-2*, whose expression does not change after heat shock or upon

SAM synthase RNAi (**TableS4: Tabs A-C**). In order to test if H3K4me3-dependent

regulation of *nhr-68* was important for survival during heat shock, we made use of a

construct expressing *nhr-68* under the intestine-specific *ges-1* promoter[47], where

H3K4me3 peaks do not change after RNAi of *sams-1* or *sams-4* (**FigS9A**). Expression

of *nhr-68* under this heterologous promoter had a moderate, but significant effect on

survival (**Fig6E**). Thus, downregulation of *nhr-68* in sams-1 animals after heat shock

could be part of a program enhancing survival.   Taken together, our results suggest

differences in H3K4me3 patterns in *sams-1* and *sams-4* animals before heat shock may

also influence gene expression patterns during the stress response. This demonstrates

that *sams-1* and *sams-4* are required for distinct sets of genes in the heat stress

response and contribute to different H3K4me3 patterns.

Discussion

The molecules that modify chromatin are produced by metabolic pathways [48]. Use of

ATP, AcetylCoA or SAM for phosphorylation, acetylation or methylation of histones is

tightly regulated and many studies have focused on control of enzymes or enzyme-

containing complexes. Acetylation and methylation may also be regulated by

metabolite levels [49,50]. This allows the chromatin environment to sense and respond to

changes in key metabolic pathways. However, effects of methylation on chromatin are

multifaceted: DNA and H3K9me9 have strong repressive effects, whereas other

modifications such as H3K4me3 and H3K36me3 are associated with active transcription

[29]. These marks, especially H3K4me3, are most sensitive to SAM levels, most likely

due to the kinetics of the H3K4me3 MTs [51]. SAM is an abundant metabolite that

contributes to multiple biosynthetic pathways in addition to acting as the major donor for

histone, DNA and RNA methylation [52]. Reduction in SAM levels has major phenotypic

consequences in animals, altering lipid levels in murine liver and *C. elegans* [21,53],

altering differentiation potential in iPS cells [10] and changing stress resistance [23]. In

addition, 1CC has been identified as a causal regulator of aging [54] and is important in

cancer development [19,55]. However, the abundance of SAM and its targets have made

it difficult to connect changes in methylation to molecular pathways regulating these

physiological effects. In addition, studying effects of SAM is difficult in culture because

SAM itself is labile [56] and tissue culture media is replete with 1CC metabolites [19].

Important insights have been made into the impact of SAM on the breadth of H3K4me3

peaks using methionine depletion [9,57,58], however, this approach could affect other

pathways. In this study, we have taken the approach of limiting SAM synthase

expression in *C. elegans*, then using genetic and molecular approaches to link

methylation-dependent pathways to changes in stress responses. We found that

individual SAM synthases could have distinct effects even on a single methylation target

such as H3K4me3. This observation not only shows that examining how SAM is

produced within the cells allows differentiation of phenotypic effects, but also supports

the striking notion of 'where' SAM comes from affects its functional output. While

mammalian cells express either one of two SAM synthases, MAT2A, which is present in

non-liver cells, may be present in multiple regulatory isoforms [59]. Thus, the isoform-

specific production and functional targets for SAM synthases we uncover could also be

important in mammals. Hints of this exist in other cellular systems – 1CC enzymes, for

example, have been associated with chromatin modifying complex in yeast [14] and

mammalian cells [60].

H3K4me3 is clearly an important link between SAM levels, aging and stress

phenotypes, as loss or reduction of H3K4 MT function phenocopy aspects of SAM

depletion [12,23]. However, this modification is also wide-spread, and transcription may

occur even when this mark is not present [61]. By studying acute changes in gene

expression during heat stress response in *C. elegans*, we have found that H3K4me3

populations can also be separated based on SAM synthase requirements. The

importance of H3K4me3 during heat shock is also reflected in the interactions between

the SAM synthases and the KMTs/KDMTs as lowering levels of *set-2* or *set-16* increase

survival. This suggests that the context of low SAM from SAMS-1, reducing H3K4me3

can have additional benefits. Future studies identifying genomic targets of H3K4me3

KMTs together with SAM synthases may be important for untangling these effects.

SAM synthase-specific effects may also vary according to the biological context, as loss

of *sams-1* improves the ability of *C. elegans* to survive heat stress, while limiting its

ability to withstand bacterial pathogens [23]. Our previous studies showed that the

induction of bacterial pathogen induced genes was limited in the absence of *sams-1*,

however, in this study, we find links between *sams-1*-dependent genes in basal

conditions and effects on survival after heat shock. Thus, the altered methylation

landscape in *sams-1* animals provides a context favorable to extended lifespan and

survival in heat stress but which limits other stress responsive genes. This context may

depend on systems level effects and not on a single "target" gene, as our analysis of

genes that lose peaks in *sams-1* or *sams-4(RNAi)* animals have modest effects, but do

not recapitulate the entire phenotype. It is also possible that there are genes or specific

modules that drive enhanced survival in *sams-1* animal or responsible for viability after

loss of *sams-4(RNAi)*. Our approach dividing peaks into groups based on

responsiveness to *sams-1* or *sams-4* demonstrates the importance of identifying

specific populations of H3K4me3; combining *set-2* or *set-16* sensitive loci may provide

the resolution to identify these loci in future studies. Manipulation of the 1CC is of

interest as a modulator of aging[54] and affects multiple biological processes. Our studies

demonstrate that lowering SAM, or reducing levels of a key methylation target such as

H3K4me3, does not represent a single biological state and that it is important to

consider that effects may depend on synthase-specific regulation or context. Future

identification of these regulators will provide the mechanistic details key to

understanding the role of the 1CC in aging and stress.

Limitations:

The genetic tools used in our study provide a method to reduce SAM from a specific

enzymatic source. However, the roles for SAM in the cell are broad and can affect

methylation of multiple targets. While our metabolomics assays show that SAM

increases in heat shocked *sams-1(RNAi)* animals, we have not demonstrated that this

SAM is derived from *sams-4*. In addition, survival benefits after heat shock occur

across broad cellular functions including proteostasis and other methylation marks such

as H3K9me3 [62]. Thus, there may be multiple additional methylation-dependent

mechanisms that influence survival of *sams-1* or *sams-4* animals during heat shock. In

addition, we measured gene expression and H3K4me3 at two hours post heat shock,

whereas the survival assay occurs over multiple days. Thus, there may be changes in

gene expression or histone modifications occurring at later times that also affect

survival.

Materials and methods

C. elegans strains

N2(Caenorhabditis Genetics Center); *sams-1(lof)(ok3033)*; *sams-3(ok2932) IV, sams-4((ok3315) IV*, Caenorhabditis Genetics Center), tagRFP::SAMS-1 (WAL500, this study); GFP::SAM-4(WALK501, this study); SAMS-1::RFP;GFP::SAMS-4(WAL502, this study), SAMS-3::mKate (WAL305). *Pges-1*::NHR-68::GFP (VL1296)[47]. CRISPR tagging for WAL500 and WAL501 were done by the UMASS Medical School transgenic core, confirmed by PCR for genotype and outcrossed three times to wild type animals. Next, each strain was crossed to the respective deletion allele to create WAL503 (RFP::*sams-1(ker5); sams-1(ok3033)*) and WAL504(GFP::*sams-4(ker6); sams-4(ok3315)*). *sams-3::mKate(nu3139)* (COP2476) was constructed using CRISPR by In Vivo biosystems then outcrossed 3 times (WAL305).

C. elegans **culture, RNAi and stress applications.**

C. elegans (N2) were cultured using standard laboratory conditions on *E. coli* OP50 or HT115 expressing appropriate RNAi. RNAi expression was induced using 6 mM IPTG. Adults were bleached onto RNAi plates and allowed to develop to the L4 to young adult transition before stresses were applied. For heat stress applications, animals were raised at 15°C from hatching then at the L4/young adult transition replicate plates were placed at 15°C or 37°C for 2 hours. After each stress, animals were washed off the plates with S-basal, then pellets frozen at -80°C. RNA was prepared as in[12]. For survival assays, ~10 -15 adult N2 animals were bleached on 60 mm RNAi plates. The eggs were allowed to hatch and grow to young adults at 15°C. 25-30 young adults were

then moved to 35 mm plates in triplicate (75-90 animals per RNAi treatment) and

subjected to heat shock at 37°C for 2 hours. Animals were kept at 20°C for the

remainder of the assay. Dead animals were identified by gentle prodding, were counted

and removed each day. Animals that died of bagging or from desiccation on the side of

the plate were not counted. Three independent non blinded biological replicates were

carried out and Kaplan-Meir curves were generated with GraphPad Prism v8.0. For

lifespan experiments, the N2 adults were bleached on 60 mm RNAi plates. The eggs

were allowed to hatch and grow to young adults at 20°C. 25-30 young adults were then

moved to 35 mm plates in triplicate (75-90 animals per RNAi treatment). Adults were

moved to fresh plates every day and dead animals were identified by gentle prodding

and removed each day. Three independent non blinded biological replicates were

carried out and Kaplan-Meir curves were generated with GraphPad Prism v8.0.

Gene expression analysis, RNA sequencing and analysis

RNA for deep sequencing was purified by Qiagen RNAeasy. Duplicate samples were

sent for library construction and sequencing at BGI (China).   Raw sequencing reads

were processed using an in-house RNA-Seq data processing software Dolphin at

University of Massachusetts Medical School [63]. The raw read pairs were first aligned to

C. elegans reference genome with ws245 annotation. The RSEM method was used to

quantify the expression levels of genes and Deseq was used to produce differentially

expressed gene sets with more than a 2-fold difference in gene expression, with

replicates being within 0.05 in a Students T test and a False Discovery Rate (FDR)

under 0.01. Statistics were calculated with DeBrowser [64]. Venn Diagrams were

constructed by BioVenn [65]. WormCat analysis was performed using the website

www.wormcat.com[27,66] and the whole genome annotation version 2 (v2) and indicated

gene sets. PCA was conducted by using *prcomp* in R and graphed with *ggplot* in R

studio.

Immunofluorescence

For H3K4me3 (Cell Signaling Technology, catalogue number C42D8) staining,

dissected intestines were incubated in 2% paraformaldehyde, freeze cracked, then

treated with -20^{0}C ethanol before washing in PBS, 1% Tween-20, and 0.1% BSA.

Images were taken on a Leica SPE II at identical gain settings within experimental sets.

Quantitation was derived for pixel intensity over nuclear area for at least seven

dissected intestines, with at least 3 nuclei per intestine. Three biological repeats were

carried out for every experiment.

Sample preparation for LC-MS

C. elegans (N2) gravid adults (~15-20) were bleached onto 60 mm RNAi plates, eggs

were allowed to hatch and grow to young adults at 15°C. For heat stress application,

replicate plates were placed at either 15°C or 37°C for 2 hours. At the end of the heat

stress, worms were collected in S-Basal, and pellets were frozen at -80°C. Four

independent biological replicates were collected. To prepare the samples for LC-MS,

the pellet was thawed on ice and washed with 0.9% NaCl. Washed worms were then

transferred to 2 mL FASTPREP tubes (MP Biomedicals) containing 1.4 mm ceramic

beads (Qiagen). The samples were then resuspended in 1 mL 80% methanol (LC-MS

grade) and homogenized using a bead beater (6.5 m/s; 20 seconds). The samples were

cooled on ice between cycles. The homogenized samples were then vortexed at 4°C for

10 min and centrifuged at 21,000 RPM for 10 min at 4°C. The supernatant was removed

at dried under vacuum. The pellet was resuspended in ice cold RIPA buffer and

vortexed at 4°C for 10 min and centrifuged at 21,000 RPM at 4°C for 10 min. The

supernatant was removed and used for protein quantification using Pierce Protein BCA

assay kit (ThermoFisher). The protein quantification was then used to resuspend the

pellet for an equal input of 0.5 μg/ml of protein per sample.

LC-MS analysis

Absolute quantification of SAM:

Samples were extracted in 80% methanol containing 500 nM methionine-$^{13}C_5$-^{15}N

(Cambridge Isotope Laboratories, Inc.) as an internal standard and metabolites were

detected as described above. Absolute quantification of SAM was performed using an

external calibration curve prepared with synthetic standard, and peak areas were

normalized to methionine-$^{13}C_5$-^{15}N. Normalized peak areas from the standard curve

were fit to a quadratic log-log equation with an r^2 value of >0.995 which was then used

to calculate the concentration of SAM in each sample. Statistical analysis was carried

out for the data using GraphPad Prism (v8.0).

Relative metabolite profiling

Metabolomics was conducted on a QExactive Plus bench top orbitrap mass

spectrometer equipped with an Ion Max source and a HESI II probe, which was coupled

to a Vanquish Horizon HPLC system (Thermo Fisher Scientific, San Jose, CA). External

mass calibration was performed using the standard calibration mixture every 7 days.

Dried extracts were reconstituted in enough water to achieve a final concentration of 0.5

μg/ml protein per sample. 2 μL of this resuspended sample were injected onto a

SeQuant® ZIC®-pHILIC 150 x 2.1 mm analytical column equipped with a 2.1 x 20 mm

guard column (both 5 mm particle size; Millipore Sigma). Buffer A was 20 mM

ammonium carbonate, 0.1% ammonium hydroxide; Buffer B was acetonitrile. The

autosampler tray was held at 4°C. The chromatographic gradient was run at a flow rate

of 0.150 mL/min as follows: 0-20 min: linear gradient from 80-20% B; 20-20.5 min: linear

gradient form 20-80% B; 20.5-28 min: hold at 80% B. The mass spectrometer was

operated in full-scan, polarity-switching mode, with the spray voltage set to 4.0 kV, the

heated capillary held at 320°C, and the HESI probe held at 350°C. The sheath gas flow

was set to 10 units, the auxiliary gas flow was set to 1 units, and the sweep gas flow

was set to 1 unit. MS data acquisition was performed in a range of m/z = 70–1000, with

the resolution set at 70,000, the AGC target at $1x10^6$, and the maximum injection time at

20 msec. An additional scan (m/z 220-700) in negative mode only was included to

enhance detection of nucleotides. Relative quantitation of polar metabolites was

performed TraceFinder 5.1 (Thermo Fisher Scientific) using a 5 ppm mass tolerance

and referencing an in-house library of chemical standards. Statistical analysis was

carried out for the data using GraphPad Prism (v8.0).

CUT&Tag

C. elegans (N2) were cultured using standard laboratory conditions on *E. coli* OP50.

Adults were bleached onto RNAi plates and allowed to develop to the L4 to young adult

transition before heat stress was applied. For heat stress applications, animals were

raised at 15°C from hatching then at the L4/young adult transition replicate plates were

placed at 15°C or 37°C for 2 hours. At the end of the heat stress, animals were washed

off the plates with S-basal, then pellets frozen at -80°C. Worm pellets were washed with

S-Basal to remove bacteria, then resuspended in 750 uL of chilled Nuclei Purification

Buffer (50 mM HEPES pH = 7.5, 40 mM NaCl, 90 mM KCl, 2 mM EDTA, 0.5 mM EGTA,

0.2 mM DTT, 0.5 mM PMSF, 0.5 mM spermidine, 0.1% tween 20, and cOmplete

proteinase inhibitor cocktail (Roche)). The suspension was then transferred to Potter-

Elvehjem Tissue Grinder (3 mL). The worms were ground with 2-3 cycles consisting of

~45-50 strokes of the grinder. The samples were chilled on ice for ~5 minutes between

consecutive cycles. The lysates were passed through 100 micron filter (X3) followed by

40 micron (X3) (Pluriselect). The lysates were then centrifuged at 4500 RPM for 10

minutes at 4°C. The pellets were resuspended gently in wash buffer (1M HEPES pH

7.5, 5 M NaCl, 2 M spermidine). Concanavalin bead slurry (10 uL/sample) was added

gently to the samples and allowed to incubate at room temperature for 15 min in an

end-over-end rotator. The sample tubes were then transferred to a magnetic stand and

liquid was gently removed. The nuclei were gently resuspended in 50 uL of chilled

antibody buffer (8 µL 0.5 M EDTA, 6.7 µL 30% BSA in 2 mL Dig-wash buffer (400 µL

5% digitonin with 40 mL Wash buffer)). 1 uL anti-H3K4me3 antibody (Cell Signaling

Technology, catalogue number C42D8) was added to the suspension and allowed to

bind overnight at 4°C on a nutator shaker. Samples without any antibody added were

used as controls to correct for background reads and further processed per the

CUT&Tag protocol [67] to generate sequencing libraries. The libraries were amplified by

mixing 21 µL of DNA with 2µL each of (10 µM) barcoded i5 and i7 primers, using a

different combination for each sample. 25 µL NEBNext HiFi 2 × PCR Master mix (NEB)

was added, and PCR was performed using the following cycling conditions: 72 °C for

5 minutes (gap filling); 98 °C for 30 seconds; 17 cycles of 98 °C for 10 seconds and

63 °C for 30 s; final extension at 72 °C for 1 minute and hold at 4 °C. 1.1 × volume of

Ampure XP beads (Beckman Coulter) was incubated with libraries for 10 minutes at

room temperature to clean up the PCR mix. Bead bound DNA was purified by washing

twice with 80% ethanol and eluting in 20 µL 10 mM Tris pH 8.0. Size distribution of the

libraries was determined by Fragment analyzer and concentration by the KAPA Library

Quantification Kit before sequencing to determine the H3K4me3 landscape in basal and

heat stress condition in worms fed on control, *sams-1* or *sams-4* RNAi. Sequencing of

the prepared libraries was carried out on Illumina NextSeq 500.

Data analysis

Paired end reads from each sample were aligned to the *C. elegans* genome (ce11 with

ws245 annotations) using Bowtie2 [68]with the parameters -N 1 and -X 2000. Duplicate

reads were removed using Picard (http://broadinstitute.github.io/picard/) and the reads

with low quality scores (MAPQ < 10) were removed. HOMER software suite was used

to process the remaining mapped reads [36]. The "makeUCSCfile" command was used

for generating genome browser tracks. Data was normalized to library size.   the

"findPeaks <tag directory> -style histone -o auto" command was used for calling

H3K4me3 peaks and the "annotatePeaks" command was used for making aggregation

plots. Differential peak calling was accomplished using [37]the command ".   We used the

findOverlapsOfPeaks command in ChipSeqAnno[37] with a max gap of 1000 basepairs to

determine peak overlap. TSS plots were generated using HOMER [36] and Venn

Diagrams were constructed by BioVenn [65].

Correlation matrices were generated with deeptools version 3.5.1[69]. Multibamsummary

was used to compare bam files from each sample, using default values except --binSize

2000. This data was visualized using plotCorrelation with --removeOutliers and the

Pearson method. Previously published datasets were used to compare H3K4me3 Cut

and Tag versus previously published data sets. Young adults fed a normal diet were

used from Wan et al. 2022[40]. Day 2 *glp-1* adults were chosen from Pu et al[39].

modENCODE ChIP-seq data drew from L3 animals[38].

Acknowledgements

We would like to acknowledge the Walker lab for reading of the manuscript, Drs. Marian

Walhout and Craig Peterson for helpful discussions and Life Science editors for

manuscript assistance. Absolute quantification of SAM was carried out at the

Whitehead Metabolomics Core (Cambridge, MA). We thank the UMASS Transgenic

animal core (Dr. Paola Perrat and Dr. Michael Francis) for construction of RFP::SAMS-

1and GFP::SAMS-4. Funding is from NIH: 1R01AG053355 to AKW and R01HD072122

to TGF.

Figure legends

Figure 1 *sams-1*-independent acquisition of H3K4me3 in heat shocked animals

(A) Methionine intake through diet enters the 1 carbon cycle and is used by SAM

synthases for the synthesis of SAM which is used by methyltransferases to add methyl

moieties to proteins, nucleic acids and lipids. **(B)** Representative confocal images of

animals co-expressing RFP::SAMS-1and GFP::SAMS-4 in the germline and intestine.

Kaplan-Meier survival plots of *sams-1(lof)* (**C**) or *sams-4(ok3315)* (**D**) following heat

shock. Statistical significance is shown by Log-rank test. Each graph represents the

compiled data from 3 biologically independent repeats; data is compiled in Table S2.

Representative immunofluorescence images of intestinal nuclei stained with H3K4me3-

specific antibody and quantification in *sams-1(lof)* animals (**E, H**), *sams-4(RNAi)* (**F, I**) or

in *sams-1(lof); sams-4(RNAi)* animals (**G, J**). *sams-3* may also be targeted; see also

Figure S3E). Statistical significance was calculated using unpaired Student's t-test. ns=

not significant, **** = p<0.0001, *** = p<0.001. Graph represents compiled data from

three biologically independent repeats per condition.

Figure 2: H3K4me3 demethylases modulate SAM synthase phenotypes
784
Kaplan-Meier plots of survival assays comparing basal and heat shocked wild type (N2)

or *sams-1(lof)* animals grown on RNAi for the histone methyltransferases *set-2* (**A**) and

set-16 (**B**), or demethylases *rbr-2* (**C**) and *spr-5* (**D**). Heat shock survival assays for

sams-4(ok3315) animals exposed to *set-2* or *set-16* RNAi are shown in **E, F**. Statistical

significance is shown by Log-rank test. Each graph represents compiled data from 3

biologically independent repeats. Data for each replicate is compiled in Table S2.

Figure 3 H3K4me3 modifying enzymes modulate SAM synthase phenotypes

(A) Bar graph showing the distribution of the enrichment of H3K4me3 over different

genomic loci in animals fed control RNAi, *sams-1(RNAi)* or *sams-4(RNAi)* at 15°C and

37°C. **(B)** Aggregation plots showing TSS enrichment in the H3K4me3 peaks identified

in animals fed control RNAi at 15°C and 37°C. The Y axis on TSS plots shows Peaks

per base pair of gene.   **(C)** Venn diagram comparing the overlap in the H3K4me3

peaks identified in animals fed control RNAi at 15°C and 37°C. **(D)** Aggregation plots

showing TSS enrichment in the H3K4me3 peaks identified in animals fed control RNAi

or *sams-1(RNAi)* or *sams-4(RNAi)* at 15°C and Venn diagram comparing the overlap in

the H3K4me3 peaks identified in animals fed control RNAi or *sams-1(RNAi)* or *sams-*

4(RNAi) at 15°C. **(E)** Aggregation plots showing TSS enrichment in the H3K4me3 peaks

identified in animals fed control RNAi or *sams-1(RNAi)* or *sams-4(RNAi)* at 15°C and

Venn diagram comparing the overlap in the H3K4me3 peaks identified in animals fed

control RNAi or *sams-1(RNAi)* or *sams-4(RNAi)* at 37°C. **(F)** Bubble chart showing

enriched gene categories in differential peaks as determined by WormCat in animals

fed control RNAi at 15°C only, 37°C only and common between 15°C and 37°C (**G**) or

sams-1(RNAi) and *sams-4(RNAi)* at 37°C. Aggregation plots showing TSS enrichment

of Control peaks that did not change after *sams-1(RNAi)* and *sams-4(RNAi)*

(independent) **(H)** 15°C or **(I)** 37°C. Shaded areas in the Venn diagrams indicate the

population of genes used for plotting the TSS enrichment plots. Aggregation plots

showing TSS enrichment of Control peaks that were dependent on *sams-1(RNAi)* or

sams-4(RNAi) **(J)** 15°C or **(K)** 37°C. Shaded areas in the Venn diagrams indicate the

population of genes used for plotting the TSS enrichment plots.

Figure 4 Distinct gene expression and H3K4me3 patterns after heat shock in

***sams-1* and *sams-4* RNAi animals**

(A) Venn diagram showing overlap of genes upregulated by heat shock in control,

sams-1 or *sams-4* RNAi animals. *sams-1* data is from Ding, et al. 2018. **(B)** Bubble

charts show broad category enrichment of up genes determined by Worm-Cat in control

(RNAi) or *sams-1* or *sams-4* animals in genes changed (FDR<0.01) after heat shock.

(C) Heat map for heat shock response genes up regulated following heat shock in

animals fed control RNAi, *sams-1* or *sams-4(RNAi).* TSS plots showing aggregation of

H3K4me3 in genes upregulated in control, *sams-1* or *sams-4* RNAi at **(D)** 15°C or **(E)**

37°C. TSS plots showing aggregation of H3K4me3 in all genes upregulated in control or

sams-1 dependent or *sams-4* RNAi dependent at **(F)** 15°C or **(G)** 37°C. The Y axis on

TSS plots shows Peaks per base pair of gene. Genome browser tracks for **(H)** *fbxa-59*

and **(I)** *T27F6.8* to visualize changes in H3K4me3 enrichment in animals fed control,

sams-1 or *sams-4(RNAi)* at 15°C or 37°C.

Figure 5 Genes that depend on *sams-1* or *sams-4* for expression have reduced

H3K4me3

(A) Venn diagram showing overlap in down regulated genes in animals fed control,

sams-1 or *sams-4(RNAi)* at 37°C. **(B)** Bubble charts show broad category enrichment of

metabolism genes determined by Worm-Cat in *sams-1* or *sams-4* animals in genes

changed (FDR<0.01) after heat shock. **(C)** Bubble charts show broad category

enrichment of transcription factor and metabolism genes determined by Worm-Cat in

sams-1 or *sams-4* animals in genes changed (FDR<0.01) after heat shock. Aggregation

plots showing average enrichment of reads around the transcription start site (TSS) in

animals fed **(D)** control, **(E)** *sams-1* or **(F)** *sams-4(RNAi)* at 15°C or 37°C. The Y axis on

TSS plots shows Peaks per base pair of gene.

Figure 6 *nhr* and lipid beta oxidation genes lose H3K4me3 after *sams-1* RNAi but

expression after heat shock

(**A**) Venn diagram showing the overlap between H3K4me3 peaks identified in animals

fed control or *sams-1(RNAi)* at 15°C and down regulated genes identified in heat

shocked animals fed *sams-1(RNAi)*. Heat map for **(B)** nuclear hormone response genes

and **(C)** lipid β-oxidation genes down regulated following heat shock in animals fed

control RNAi, *sams-1* or *sams-4(RNAi)*. Genes linked to nhr-68 feedback loop[47] are

marked in red. **(D)** Genome browser tracks for *nhr-68* to visualize changes in H3K4me3

enrichment in animals fed control, *sams-1* or *sams-4(RNAi)* at 15°C or 37°C.

Supplemental data

Fig S1: Expression patterns of SAM synthases in adult *C. elegans*

(A) Comparison of polyA+ RNA levels of SAM synthases with selected other metabolic

genes in adult animals from the modEncode data set[24]. **(B)** Representative confocal

images of animals expressing RFP::SAMS-1or GFP::SAMS-4. hypodermis is (h),

intestine (i) and germline (gl). (**C**) Confocal projections of GFP::SAMS-4 and SAMS-

3::mKate subjected to *sams-3* or *sams-4(RNAi)*. (**D**) Absolute quantification of the SAM

level in animals fed on control RNAi or sams-*4(RNAi).* The levels are expressed as

mM/mg tissue.

Figure S2: Distinct patterns of gene expression after *sams-1 or sams-4* RNAi in

basal conditions

(A) Principal component analysis showing overlapping components between genes

regulated in *sams-3* and *sams-4(RNAi)* animals. **(B)** Venn diagram showing the overlap

in up regulated genes in animals fed *sams-1* or *sams-4(RNAi).* **(C)** Bubble charts show

broad category enrichment of up regulated genes in animals fed *sams-1* or *sams-*

4(RNAi). **(D)** Bubble charts show broad category enrichment of down regulated genes in

animals fed *sams-1* or *sams-4(RNAi).* **(E)** Venn diagram showing the overlap in up

regulated genes involved in lipid metabolism in animals fed *sams-1* or *sams-4(RNAi).*

(F) Venn diagram showing the overlap in up regulated genes involved in pathogen

stress response in animals fed *sams-1* or *sams-4(RNAi).*

Fig S3: *sams-4* is important for survival and H3K4me3 in *sams-1* animals after

heat shock.

(A) Schematic for the heat stress assay. (**B**) Survival assays comparing response to

heat in SAM synthase mutants. (**C**) Lifespan assay with *sams-4(RNAi)* animals where

sams-3 may also be targeted. (**D**) Heat shock survival assays showing that genetic loss

of *sams-4* limits survival in *sams-1(RNAi)* animals after heat shock. For B-D, statistical

significance is shown by Log-rank test. Each graph represents compiled data from 3

biologically independent repeats. Data for each replicate is compiled in Table S2. **(E)**

Quantification of immunofluorescence imaging of intestinal nuclei stained with HK4me3

antibody after heat shock from *sams-4(ok3315); sams-1(RNAi)* animals. Statistical

significance was calculated using unpaired Student's t-test. ns= not significant, **** =

$p<0.0001$, *** = $p<0.001$. Graph represents compiled data from three biologically

independent repeats per condition. LC/MS relative quantitation of SAM (**F**), Methionine

(**G**) and S-adenosylhomocysteine (SAH) (**H**). Graphs represent 4 independent

biological replicates (1-4: red, blue, orange and green) that were normalized for protein

levels before quantitating relative levels of metabolites.

Figure S4: H3K4me3 demethylases modulate SAM synthase phenotypes

Representative immunofluorescence images and quantitation of intestinal nuclei stained

with H3K4me3 specific antibody for *set-2* (**A, D**), *set-16* (**B, E**) and *rbr-2* (**C, F**).

Statistical significance was calculated using unpaired Student's t-test. ns= not

significant, **** = $p<0.0001$, *** = $p<0.001$. Graph represents compiled data from three

biologically independent repeats per condition. Heat shock survival assays examining

the impact of demethylase knockdown on *sams-1(lof)* animals for *amx-1* (**G**) and *lsd-1*

(**H**). Survival was determined by plotting Kaplan-Meier survival plots. Statistical

significance is shown by Log-rank test. Each assay represents compiled data from 3

biologically independent repeats (**Table S2**).

Figure S5: H3K4me3 C&T correlation with published H3K4me3 ChipSeq data.

(**A**) Correlation plots showing r values for C&T replicates. (**B**) Comparison of

H3K4me3ChIP seq from modEncode (L3)[38], Pu et al (Adult *glp-1(e2141)*)[41], Wan et al

(adult)[40] and our C&T data. (C) IGV browser tracks showing no antibody controls

around the pcaf-1 gene, which has been used as positive control for H3K4me3 5 prime

peaks in *C. elegans*[12,32].

Figure S6. Distinct gene expression and H3K4me3 patterns after heat shock in

***sams-1* and *sams-4* RNAi animals**

Sunburst diagram showing the enriched gene categories in animals fed control RNAi at

(A) 15°C or **(B)** 37°C. Sunburst diagram showing the overall enriched gene categories

(C) and genes involved in metabolism **(D)** in animals fed *sams-1(RNAi)* at 37°C.

Sunburst diagram showing the overall enriched gene categories **(E)** and genes involved

in metabolism **(F)** in animals fed *sams-4(RNAi)* at 37°C. Aggregation plots showing

average enrichment of reads around the transcription start site (TSS) for genes which

are *sams-1* dependent only dependent on either *sams-1* or *sams-4* or *sams-4*

dependent only at **(G)** 15°C or **(H)** 37°C. The Y axis on TSS plots shows Peaks per

base pair of gene.

Fig S7. SAM synthase-specific patterns H3K4me3 in germline nuclei.

(A) Representative immunofluorescence images of H3K4me3 staining in the germline

in animals fed on control, *sams-1* or *sams-4(RNAi)*. **(B)** Venn diagrams showing the

overlap in H3K4me3 peaks identified on ubiquitously expressed genes in control

animals at 15°C or 37°C. **(C)** Venn diagrams showing the overlap in H3K4me3 peaks

identified on germline specific genes in control animals at 15°C or 37°C. Aggregation

plots showing average enrichment of reads around the transcription start site (TSS) of

(D) ubiquitously or **(E)** germline specific or **(F)** intestine specific genes in animals fed

control, *sams-1* or *sams-4(RNAi)* at 15°C. The Y axis on TSS plots shows Peaks per

base pair of gene. Aggregation plots showing average enrichment of reads around the

transcription start site (TSS) of **(G)** ubiquitously or **(H)** germline specific or **(I)** intestine

specific genes in animals fed control, *sams-1* or *sams-4(RNAi)* at 37°C.

Figure S8: *sams-1* and *sams-4* have distinct gene expression patterns after heat

shock.

(**A**) PCA plot showing groupings of up and down regulated genes from Control, *sams-1*

or *sams-4(RNAi)* animals. Survival curves examining heat shock responses after RNAi

of T27F6.8 or *fbxa-59*. Survival was determined by plotting Kaplan-Meier survival plots.

Statistical significance is shown by Log-rank test. Each assay represents compiled data

from 3 biologically independent repeats (**Table S2**).

Figure S9: Schematic of potential *nhr-68* module regulation in sams-1 animals.

(**A**) Genome browser tracks for *ges-1* showing H3K4me3 enrichment in animals fed

control, *sams-1* or *sams-4(RNAi)* at 15°C or 37°C. (**B**) Schematic showing the dynamic

changes in the transcription and H3K4me3 landscape in low SAM animals following

heat shock.

Table S1 (Microsoft Excel File): RNA seq for SAM synthase knockdown in basal

conditions. Tabs A-C show *sams-3, sams-4, sams-5 (RNAi)* RNA seq data then **Tabs**

D-F show WormCat gene enrichment. *sams-1* data is from Ding, et al. 2018. Enriched

categories from WormCat. Red color denoted categories with a p value of less than

0.01. NS is not significant, NV is no value, RGS is regulated gene set.

Table S2 (Microsoft Excel File) Statistics for survival curves. Each tab contains

data for replicate experiments (R1, R2, R3). Statistical information from GraphPad

Prism is also included.

959
Table S3 (Microsoft Excel File). Tabs A-F: Cut and Tag peaks from Control, *sams-1*

and *sams-4* RNAi animals at 15 and 37 degrees determined by HOMER. **Tabs G-I:**

Enriched categories from WormCat. Color denoted categories with a p value of less

than 0.01 NS is not significant, NV is no value, RGS is regulated gene set.

Table S4 (**Microsoft Excel File). Limited activation of heat shock response in**

***sams-4* RNAi animals.** Tabs show RNA seq from control (**A**), *sams-1* (**B**) *or sams-4*

(**C**) animals subjected to heat shock that was used for comparison with C&T data.

Differential genes were identified using Deseq2 in DolphinNext. Data for control and

sams-1 RNAi animals is from Ding, et al 2018. WormCat batch output of two-fold

regulated genes for Categories 1, 2 and 3 are in tabs E-G). Highlighting denotes genes

with significantly p values. NS is not significant, NV is no value, RGS is regulated gene

set.

974
975 **References**
976

1. Ducker, G.S., and Rabinowitz, J.D. (2016). One-Carbon Metabolism in Health and
Disease. Cell Metab *25*. 10.1016/j.cmet.2016.08.009.

2. Mato, J.M., Martínez-Chantar, M.L., and Lu, S.C. (2008). Methionine Metabolism and
Liver Disease. Annu Rev Nutr *28*, 273 293. 10.1146/annurev.nutr.28.061807.155438.

3. Parkhitko, A.A., Jouandin, P., Mohr, S.E., and Perrimon, N. (2019). Methionine
metabolism and methyltransferases in the regulation of aging and lifespan extension
across species. Aging Cell *18*, e13034. 10.1111/acel.13034.

4. Hansen, M.H.A.L.D.A.K.C. (2005). New Genes tied to Endocrine, Metabolic and
Dietary Regulation of Lifespan from a *Caenorhabditis elegans* RNAi Screen. Cell *1*, 119
128. 10.1016/j.cell.2015.04.005.

5. Han, S., and Brunet, A. (2012). Histone methylation makes its mark on longevity.
Trends Cell Biol *22*, 42–49. 10.1016/j.tcb.2011.11.001.

6. Greer, E.L., Maures, T.J., Hauswirth, A.G., Green, E.M., Leeman, D.S., Maro, G.S.,
Han, S., Banko, M.R., Gozani, O., and Brunet, A. (2010). Members of the H3K4
trimethylation complex regulate lifespan in a germline-dependent manner in *C. elegans*.
Nature *466*, 383 387. 10.1038/nature09195.

7. Han, S., Schroeder, E.A., Silva-García, C.G., Hebestreit, K., Mair, W.B., and Brunet,
A. (2017). Mono-unsaturated fatty acids link H3K4me3 modifiers to *C. elegans* lifespan.
Nature *544*, 185 190. 10.1038/nature21686.

8. Ye, C., and Tu, B.P. (2018). Sink into the Epigenome: Histones as Repositories That
Influence Cellular Metabolism. Trends Endocrinol Metabolism *29*, 626 637.
10.1016/j.tem.2018.06.002.

9. Mentch, S.J., Mehrmohamadi, M., Huang, L., Liu, X., Gupta, D., Mattocks, D.,
Gómez Padilla, P., Ables, G., Bamman, M.M., Thalacker-Mercer, A.E., et al. (2015).
Histone Methylation Dynamics and Gene Regulation Occur through the Sensing of One-
Carbon Metabolism. Cell Metab *22*. 10.1016/j.cmet.2015.08.024.

10. Shyh-Chang, N., Locasale, J.W., Lyssiotis, C.A., Zheng, Y., Teo, R.Y.,
Ratanasirintrawoot, S., Zhang, J., Onder, T., Unternaehrer, J.J., Zhu, H., et al. (2013).
Influence of Threonine Metabolism on *S*-Adenosylmethionine and Histone Methylation.
Science *339*, 222 226. 10.1126/science.1226603.

11. Kraus, D., Yang, Q., Kong, D., Banks, A.S., Zhang, L., Rodgers, J.T., Pirinen, E.,
Pulinilkunnil, T.C., Gong, F., Wang, Y., et al. (2014). Nicotinamide N-methyltransferase

knockdown protects against diet-induced obesity. Nature *508*, 258 262.
10.1038/nature13198.

12. Ding, W., Smulan, L.J., Hou, N.S., Taubert, S., Watts, J.L., and Walker, A.K. (2015).
s-Adenosylmethionine Levels Govern Innate Immunity through Distinct Methylation-
Dependent Pathways. Cell Metab *22*, 633 645. 10.1016/j.cmet.2015.07.013.

13. Towbin, B.D., González-Aguilera, C., Sack, R., Gaidatzis, D., Kalck, V., Meister, P.,
Askjaer, P., and Gasser, S.M. (2012). Step-wise methylation of histone H3K9 positions
heterochromatin at the nuclear periphery. Cell *150*, 934 947. 10.1016/j.cell.2012.06.051.

14. Li, S., Swanson, S.K., Gogol, M., Florens, L., Washburn, M.P., Workman, J.L., and
Suganuma, T. (2015). Serine and SAM Responsive Complex SESAME Regulates
Histone Modification Crosstalk by Sensing Cellular Metabolism. Mol Cell *60*, 408 421.
10.1016/j.molcel.2015.09.024.

15. Liu, M., and Pile, L.A. (2017). The Transcriptional Corepressor SIN3 Directly
Regulates Genes Involved in Methionine Catabolism and Affects Histone Methylation,
Linking Epigenetics and Metabolism*. J Biol Chem *292*, 1970–1976.
10.1074/jbc.m116.749754.

16. Hoffert, K.M., Higginbotham, K.S.P., Gibson, J.T., Oehrle, S., and Strome, E.D.
(2019). Mutations in the S-adenosylmethionine Synthetase Genes, SAM1 and SAM2,
Differentially Impact Genome Stability in Saccharomyces cerevisiae. Genetics *213*,
genetics.302435.2019. 10.1534/genetics.119.302435.

17. Maldonado, L.Y., Arsene, D., Mato, J.M., and Lu, S.C. (2018). Methionine
adenosyltransferases in cancers: Mechanisms of dysregulation and implications for
therapy. Exp Biol Med *243*, 107–117. 10.1177/1535370217740860.

18. Mato, J.M., Corrales, F.J., Lu, S.C., and Avila, M.A. (2002). S-Adenosylmethionine:
a control switch that regulates liver function. FASEB Journal *16*, 15 26.

19. Sullivan, M.R., Darnell, A.M., Reilly, M.F., Kunchok, T., Joesch-Cohen, L.,
Rosenberg, D., Ali, A., Rees, M.G., Roth, J.A., Lewis, C.A., et al. (2021). Methionine
synthase is essential for cancer cell proliferation in physiological folate environments.
Nat Metabolism *3*, 1500–1511. 10.1038/s42255-021-00486-5.

20. Harris, T.W., Arnaboldi, V., Cain, S., Chan, J., Chen, W.J., Cho, J., Davis, P., Gao,
S., Grove, C.A., Kishore, R., et al. (2019). WormBase: a modern Model Organism
Information Resource. Nucleic Acids Res *48*, D762–D767. 10.1093/nar/gkz920.

21. Walker, A.K., Jacobs, R.L., Watts, J.L., Rottiers, V., Jiang, K., Finnegan, D.M.,
Shioda, T., Hansen, M., Yang, F., Niebergall, L.J., et al. (2011). A Conserved SREBP-
1/Phosphatidylcholine Feedback Circuit Regulates Lipogenesis in Metazoans. Cell *147*,
840 852. 10.1016/j.cell.2011.09.045.

22. Nadal, E. de, Ammerer, G., and Posas, F. (2011). Controlling gene expression in
response to stress. Nat Rev Genet *12*, 833–845. 10.1038/nrg3055.

23. Ding, W., Higgins, D.P., Yadav, D.K., Godbole, A.A., Pukkila-Worley, R., and
Walker, A.K. (2018). Stress-responsive and metabolic gene regulation are altered in low
S-adenosylmethionine. Plos Genet *14*, e1007812. 10.1371/journal.pgen.1007812.

24. Gerstein, M.B., Lu, Z.J., Nostrand, E.L.V., Cheng, C., Arshinoff, B.I., Liu, T., Yip,
K.Y., Robilotto, R., Rechtsteiner, A., Ikegami, K., et al. (2010). Integrative analysis of the
Caenorhabditis elegans genome by the modENCODE project. Science *330*, 1775 1787.
10.1126/science.1196914.

25. Kaletsky, R., Yao, V., Williams, A., Runnels, A.M., Tadych, A., Zhou, S.,
Troyanskaya, O.G., and Murphy, C.T. (2018). Transcriptome analysis of adult
Caenorhabditis elegans cells reveals tissue-specific gene and isoform expression. Plos
Genet *14*, e1007559. 10.1371/journal.pgen.1007559.

26. McGhee, J. (2007). The C. elegans intestine. Wormbook, 1–36.
10.1895/wormbook.1.133.1.

27. Holdorf, A.D., Higgins, D.P., Hart, A.C., Boag, P.R., Pazour, G.J., Walhout, A.J.M.,
and Walker, A.K. (2019). WormCat: An Online Tool for Annotation and Visualization of
Caenorhabditis elegans Genome-Scale Data. Genetics, genetics.302919.2019.
10.1534/genetics.119.302919.

28. Ye, C., Sutter, B.M., Wang, Y., Kuang, Z., and Tu, B.P. (2017). A Metabolic
Function for Phospholipid and Histone Methylation. Mol Cell *66*, 180 193.e8.
10.1016/j.molcel.2017.02.026.

29. Bannister, A.J., and Kouzarides, T. (2011). Regulation of chromatin by histone
modifications. Cell Res *21*, 381–395. 10.1038/cr.2011.22.

30. Shilatifard, A. (2012). The COMPASS family of histone H3K4 methylases:
mechanisms of regulation in development and disease pathogenesis. Annu Rev
Biochem *81*, 65 95. 10.1146/annurev-biochem-051710-134100.

31. Li, T., and Kelly, W.G. (2011). A role for Set1/MLL-related components in epigenetic
regulation of the *Caenorhabditis elegans* germ line. Plos Genet *7*, e1001349.
10.1371/journal.pgen.1001349.

32. Xiao, Y., Bedet, C., Robert, V.J.P., Simonet, T., Dunkelbarger, S., Rakotomalala, C.,
Soete, G., Korswagen, H.C., Strome, S., and Palladino, F. (2011). *Caenorhabditis*
elegans chromatin-associated proteins SET-2 and ASH-2 are differentially required for
histone H3 Lys 4 methylation in embryos and adult germ cells. Proc National Acad Sci
108, 8305 8310. 10.1073/pnas.1019290108.

33. Wenzel, D., Palladino, F., and Jedrusik-Bode, M. (2011). Epigenetics in *C. elegans*:
facts and challenges. Genesis *49*, 647 661. 10.1002/dvg.20762.

34. Eissenberg, J.C., and Shilatifard, A. (2010). Histone H3 lysine 4 (H3K4) methylation
in development and differentiation. Dev Biol *339*, 240 249. 10.1016/j.ydbio.2009.08.017.

35. Kaya-Okur, H.S., Wu, S.J., Codomo, C.A., Pledger, E.S., Bryson, T.D., Henikoff,
J.G., Ahmad, K., and Henikoff, S. (2019). CUT&Tag for efficient epigenomic profiling of
small samples and single cells. Nat Commun *10*, 1930. 10.1038/s41467-019-09982-5.

36. Heinz, S., Benner, C., Spann, N., Bertolino, E., Lin, Y.C., Laslo, P., Cheng, J.X.,
Murre, C., Singh, H., and Glass, C.K. (2010). Simple Combinations of Lineage-
Determining Transcription Factors Prime cis-Regulatory Elements Required for
Macrophage and B Cell Identities. Mol Cell *38*, 576–589. 10.1016/j.molcel.2010.05.004.

37. Zhu, L.J., Gazin, C., Lawson, N.D., Pagès, H., Lin, S.M., Lapointe, D.S., and Green,
M.R. (2010). ChIPpeakAnno: a Bioconductor package to annotate ChIP-seq and ChIP-
chip data. Bmc Bioinformatics *11*, 237–237. 10.1186/1471-2105-11-237.

38. Ho, J.W.K., Jung, Y.L., Liu, T., Alver, B.H., Lee, S., Ikegami, K., Sohn, K.-A.,
Minoda, A., Tolstorukov, M.Y., Appert, A., et al. (2014). Comparative analysis of
metazoan chromatin organization. Nature *512*, 449 452. 10.1038/nature13415.

39. Pu, M., Ni, Z., Wang, M., Wang, X., Wood, J.G., Helfand, S.L., Yu, H., and Lee, S.S.
(2015). Trimethylation of Lys36 on H3 restricts gene expression change during aging
and impacts life span. Gene Dev *29*, 718 731. 10.1101/gad.254144.114.

40. Wan, Q.-L., Meng, X., Wang, C., Dai, W., Luo, Z., Yin, Z., Ju, Z., Fu, X., Yang, J.,
Ye, Q., et al. (2022). Histone H3K4me3 modification is a transgenerational epigenetic
signal for lipid metabolism in *Caenorhabditis elegans*. Nat Commun *13*, 768.
10.1038/s41467-022-28469-4.

41. Pu, M., Wang, M., Wang, W., Velayudhan, S.S., and Lee, S.S. (2018). Unique
patterns of trimethylation of histone H3 lysine 4 are prone to changes during aging in
Caenorhabditis elegans somatic cells. Plos Genet *14*, e1007466.
10.1371/journal.pgen.1007466.

42. Serizay, J., Dong, Y., Janes, J., Chesney, M., Cerrato, C., and Ahringer, J. (2020).
Distinctive regulatory architectures of germline-active and somatic genes in C. elegans.
Genome Res, gr.265934.120. 10.1101/gr.265934.120.

43. Weiner, A., Chen, H.V., Liu, C.L., Rahat, A., Klien, A., Soares, L., Gudipati, M.,
Pfeffner, J., Regev, A., Buratowski, S., et al. (2012). Systematic dissection of roles for
chromatin regulators in a yeast stress response. Plos Biol *10*, e1001369.
10.1371/journal.pbio.1001369.

44. Morimoto, R.I. (2006). Stress, Aging, and Neurodegenerative Disease. New Engl J
Medicine *355*, 2254–2255. 10.1056/nejmcibr065573.

45. Mahat, D.B., Salamanca, H.H., Duarte, F.M., Danko, C.G., and Lis, J.T. (2016).
Mammalian Heat Shock Response and Mechanisms Underlying Its Genome-wide
Transcriptional Regulation. Mol Cell *62*, 63 78. 10.1016/j.molcel.2016.02.025.

46. Arda, H.E., Taubert, S., MacNeil, L.T., Conine, C.C., Tsuda, B., Gilst, M.V.,
Sequerra, R., Doucette-Stamm, L., Yamamoto, K.R., and Walhout, A.J.M. (2010).
Functional modularity of nuclear hormone receptors in a *Caenorhabditis elegans*
metabolic gene regulatory network. Mol Syst Biol *6*, 367. 10.1038/msb.2010.23.

47. Bulcha, J.T., Giese, G.E., Ali, Md.Z., Lee, Y.-U., Walker, M.D., Holdorf, A.D., Yilmaz,
L.S., Brewster, R.C., and Walhout, A.J.M. (2019). A Persistence Detector for Metabolic
Network Rewiring in an Animal. Cell Reports *26*, 460-468.e4.
10.1016/j.celrep.2018.12.064.

48. Cheng, C., and Kurdistani, S.K. (2022). Chromatin as a metabolic organelle:
Integrating the cellular flow of carbon with gene expression. Mol Cell *82*, 8–9.
10.1016/j.molcel.2021.12.003.

49. Hsieh, W.-C., Sutter, B.M., Ruess, H., Barnes, S.D., Malladi, V.S., and Tu, B.P.
(2022). Glucose starvation induces a switch in the histone acetylome for activation of
gluconeogenic and fat metabolism genes. Mol Cell *82*, 60-74.e5.
10.1016/j.molcel.2021.12.015.

50. Wellen, K.E., Hatzivassiliou, G., Sachdeva, U.M., Bui, T.V., Cross, J.R., and
Thompson, C.B. (2009). ATP-Citrate Lyase Links Cellular Metabolism to Histone
Acetylation. Science *324*, 1076 1080. 10.1126/science.1164097.

51. Mentch, S.J., and Locasale, J.W. (2016). One-carbon metabolism and epigenetics:
understanding the specificity. Ann Ny Acad Sci *1363*, 91 98. 10.1111/nyas.12956.

52. Walsh, C.T., Tu, B.P., and Tang, Y. (2017). Eight Kinetically Stable but
Thermodynamically Activated Molecules that Power Cell Metabolism. Chem Rev *118*,
acs.chemrev.7b00510. 10.1021/acs.chemrev.7b00510.

53. Lu, S.C., Alvarez, L., Huang, Z.-Z., Chen, L., An, W., Corrales, F.J., Avila, M.A.,
Kanel, G., and Mato, J.M. (2001). Methionine adenosyltransferase 1A knockout mice
are predisposed to liver injury and exhibit increased expression of genes involved in
proliferation. Proc National Acad Sci *98*, 5560–5565. 10.1073/pnas.091016398.

54. Annibal, A., Tharyan, R.G., Schonewolff, M.F., Tam, H., Latza, C., Auler, M.M.K.,
Grönke, S., Partridge, L., and Antebi, A. (2021). Regulation of the one carbon folate
cycle as a shared metabolic signature of longevity. Nat Commun *12*, 3486.
10.1038/s41467-021-23856-9.

55. Gao, X., Sanderson, S.M., Dai, Z., Reid, M.A., Cooper, D.E., Lu, M., Richie, J.P.,
Ciccarella, A., Calcagnotto, A., Mikhael, P.G., et al. (2019). Dietary methionine links
nutrition and metabolism to the efficacy of cancer therapies. Nature *572*, 397–401.
10.1038/s41586-019-1437-3.

56. Sun, Y., and Locasale, J.W. (2021). Rethinking the bioavailability and cellular
transport properties of S-adenosylmethionine. Cell Stress *6*, 1–5.
10.15698/cst2022.01.261.

57. Tang, S., Fang, Y., Huang, G., Xu, X., Padilla-Banks, E., Fan, W., Xu, Q.,
Sanderson, S.M., Foley, J.F., Dowdy, S., et al. (2017). Methionine metabolism is
essential for SIRT1-regulated mouse embryonic stem cell maintenance and embryonic
development. Embo J *36*, 3175–3193. 10.15252/embj.201796708.

58. Dai, Z., Mentch, S.J., Gao, X., Nichenametla, S.N., and Locasale, J.W. (2018).
Methionine metabolism influences genomic architecture and gene expression through
H3K4me3 peak width. Nat Commun *9*, 1955. 10.1038/s41467-018-04426-y.

59. Murray, B., Barbier-Torres, L., Fan, W., Mato, J.M., and Lu, S.C. (2019). Methionine
adenosyltransferases in liver cancer. World J Gastroentero *25*, 4300–4319.
10.3748/wjg.v25.i31.4300.

60. Greco, C.M., Cervantes, M., Fustin, J.-M., Ito, K., Ceglia, N., Samad, M., Shi, J.,
Koronowski, K.B., Forne, I., Ranjit, S., et al. (2020). S-adenosyl-l-homocysteine
hydrolase links methionine metabolism to the circadian clock and chromatin remodeling.
Sci Adv *6*, eabc5629. 10.1126/sciadv.abc5629.

61. Hödl, M., and Basler, K. (2012). Transcription in the Absence of Histone H3.2 and
H3K4 Methylation. Curr Biol *22*, 2253 2257. 10.1016/j.cub.2012.10.008.

62. Das, S., Min, S., and Prahlad, V. (2021). Gene bookmarking by the heat shock
transcription factor programs the insulin-like signaling pathway. Mol Cell *81*, 4843-
4860.e8. 10.1016/j.molcel.2021.09.022.

63. Yukselen, O., Turkyilmaz, O., Ozturk, A.R., Garber, M., and Kucukural, A. (2020).
DolphinNext: a distributed data processing platform for high throughput genomics. Bmc
Genomics *21*, 310. 10.1186/s12864-020-6714-x.

64. Kucukural, A., Yukselen, O., Ozata, D.M., Moore, M.J., and Garber, M. (2019).
DEBrowser: interactive differential expression analysis and visualization tool for count
data. Bmc Genomics *20*, 6. 10.1186/s12864-018-5362-x.

65. Hulsen, T., Vlieg, J. de, and Alkema, W. (2008). BioVenn – a web application for the
comparison and visualization of biological lists using area-proportional Venn diagrams.
Bmc Genomics *9*, 488. 10.1186/1471-2164-9-488.

66. Higgins, D.P., Weisman, C.M., Lui, D.S., D'Agostino, F.A., and Walker, A.K. (2022).
Defining characteristics and conservation of poorly annotated genes in *Caenorhabditis*
elegans using WormCat 2.0. Genetics. 10.1093/genetics/iyac085.

67. Kaya-Okur, H.S., Wu, S.J., Codomo, C.A., Pledger, E.S., Bryson, T.D., Henikoff,
J.G., Ahmad, K., and Henikoff, S. (2019). CUT&Tag for efficient epigenomic profiling of
small samples and single cells. Nat Commun *10*, 1930. 10.1038/s41467-019-09982-5.

68. Langmead, B., Trapnell, C., Pop, M., and Salzberg, S.L. (2009). Ultrafast and
memory-efficient alignment of short DNA sequences to the human genome. Genome
Biol *10*, R25–R25. 10.1186/gb-2009-10-3-r25.

69. Ramírez, F., Ryan, D.P., Grüning, B., Bhardwaj, V., Kilpert, F., Richter, A.S., Heyne,
S., Dündar, F., and Manke, T. (2016). deepTools2: a next generation web server for
deep-sequencing data analysis. Nucleic Acids Res *44*, W160–W165.
10.1093/nar/gkw257.

1199

1200

A

Diet
1-CC

↓

Met
+ ATP

SAMS-1
SAMS-4

→ SAM ⬤ MT ↗ Proteins
Nucleic acids
Lipids

B

| GFP::SAMS-4 | RFP::SAMS-1 | Merge |

germline

intestine

C

% Survival

Control RNAi
sams-1(lof)

p < 0.0001

Hours

D

% Survival

Control RNAi
sams-4(ok3315)

p < 0.0001

Hours

E

H3K4me3 DAPI

15°C

WT

sams-1
(lof)

37°C

WT

sams-1
(lof)

F

H3K4me3 DAPI

15°C

Control
RNAi

sams-4
(RNAi)

37°C

Control
RNAi

sams-4
(RNAi)

G

H3K4me3 DAPI

37°C

Control
RNAi

sams-1
(lof)

sams-4
(RNAi)

sams-1(lof);
sams-4
(RNAi)

H

H3K4me3

intensity

**** ***

C   s1(lof)   C   s1(lof)
15°C   37°C

I

H3K4me3

Pixel Intensity

**** ****

RNAi: C   s4   C   s4
15°C   37°C

J

H3K4me3

Pixel Intensity

****
****
ns

C   s1(lof)   s4(R)   s1(lof);
s4(R)

37°C

A

UP Genes (15°C vs 37°C)

- Control RNAi
- *sams-1(RNAi)*
- *sams-4(RNAi)*

B

Godbole et al
Figure 4

UP Genes (15°C vs 37°C)

C

UP Genes: HSP, Chaperone, Proteosome

hsp-16.41
hsp-16.2
fbxb-14
hsp-16.11
hsp-16.48
hsp-16.49
hsp-70
F44E5.4

hsp-4
hsp-110
T27F6.8

fbxa-59

hsp-1
hsp-43

Fold Change

D TSS: Control 15°C Peaks

- Control UP genes
- *sams-1(RNAi)* up genes
- *sams-4(RNAi)* up genes

Distance

E TSS: Control 37°C Peaks

- Control UP genes
- *sams-1(RNAi)* up genes
- *sams-4(RNAi)* up genes

Distance

F TSS: Control 15°C Peaks

- All Control UP Genes
- dependent on *sams-1*
- dependent on *sams-4*

Distance

G TSS: Control 37°C Peaks

- All Control UP Genes
- dependent on *sams-1*
- dependent on *sams-4*

Distance

H

15°C
Control
sams-1
sams-3/4
37°C
Control
sams-1
sams-4

fbxa-59

I

15°C
Control
sams-1
sams-3/4
37°C
Control
sams-1
sams-4

T27F6.8

A DOWN Genes (15°C vs 37°C)

Control
sams-1
sams-4

B DOWN Genes (15°C vs 37°C)

	Control	*sams-1 (RNAi)*	*sams-4 (RNAi)*
TM: TRANS			
METABOLISM			
TF			
SIGNALLING			
STRESS RES			

C

TF	Control	*sams-1 (RNAi)*	*sams-4 (RNAi)*
NHR			

METABOLISM	Control	*sams-1 (RNAi)*	*sams-4 (RNAi)*
Lipid			
b ox			
fatty acid			
Amino acid			

150 100 75 50 25 10 5   10⁻⁴⁰ 10⁻²⁰ 10⁻¹⁰ 10⁻⁵ 10⁻³ 0.05 NS

E

D TSS: Genes Control down

Control Peaks
15°C
37°C

E TSS: Genes *sams-1* down

sams-1 Peaks
15°C
37°C

F TSS: Genes *sams-4* down

sams-4 Peaks
15°C
37°C

A

H3K4me3 peaks
Control 15°C

1410

2742

DOWN Genes
37°C
sams-1
(RNAi)

1590

1772

H3K4me3 peaks
sams-1(RNAi) 15°C

METABOLISM ●

TF ●
NHR ·

B

	con	*s1*	*s4*
nhr-156			
nhr-284			
nhr-57			
nhr-65			
nhr-226			
nhr-140			
nhr-208			
nhr-144			
nhr-108			
nhr-138			
nhr-130			
nhr-163			
nhr-260			
nhr-211			
nhr-5			
nhr-230			
nhr-161			
nhr-68			
nhr-100			
nhr-114			
nhr-60			
nhr-162			
nhr-193			
nhr-206			
nhr-142			
nhr-22			
nhr-76			
nhr-106			
nhr-137			
nhr-210			
nhr-173			
nhr-31			
nhr-176			
nhr-36			
nhr-139			
nhr-212			
nhr-153			
nhr-177			
nhr-13			
nhr-115			
nhr-97			
nhr-16			

-5 -10 -15 -20
Fold DOWN

C

	con	*s1*	*s4*
F08A8.4			
F58A6.1			
F58F9.7			
cpt-5			
T05E7.1			
C31H5.6			
acox-1			
T22B7.7			
cpt-6			
acox-5			
acox-3			
B0272.4			
maoc-1			
acox-1			
T07D3.9			
D2021.4			
F09F7.4			
ech-6			
ech-9			
ech-8			
acdh-1			

-5 -10 -15 -20
Fold DOWN

D

11,573,000 bp   11,574,000bp   11,575,000 bp

15°C
Control (0-200)

sams-1 (0-200)

sams-4 (0-200)

37°C
Control (0-200)

sams-1 (0-200)

sams-4 (0-200)

pms-2   *nhr-68*

E

P*ges-1*::*nhr-68* heat shock

WT

P*ges-1::nhr-68* **

Probability of Survival

hours