Histone H2B Monoubiquitylation Regulates Elongation-to-Termination Transition in RNA Polymerase II Transcription

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RNA Polymerase II (Pol II)-dependent transcription is meticulously regulated during initiation, elongation, termination, and two pivotal transitions: from initiation to elongation and from elongation to termination [1]. The successful transition from

elongation to termination is vital for accurate transcription termination [2,3]. While

elongation and termination have been extensively studied, the regulatory mechanisms

governing the transition between these stages are not fully understood. Here we report

that, in fission yeast *Schizosaccharomyces pombe* (*S. pombe*) and human cells, Cdk9

and its cyclin partner (Cyclin T in humans, and Pch1 in *S. pombe*) disengage from the

elongation machinery near gene 3'-ends, as Pol II crosses the cleavage and

polyadenylation signal (CPS). Concurrently, chromatin immunoprecipitation (ChIP) data

shows an increased association of Dis2 (the PP1 ortholog in *S. pombe*)[4] beyond the CPS.

Additionally, ChIP-seq indicates that histone H2B monoubiquitylation (H2Bub1) is pivotal

for Cdk9 occupancy but serves differential roles along the gene. H2Bub1 facilitates Cdk9

chromatin recruitment during elongation but prompts Cdk9 dissociation from the

elongation complex as Pol II traverses the CPS. Furthermore, in *S. pombe*, disruptions of

H2Bub1 in *htb1-K119R* [5] and sustained levels in *ubp8D* [6] inversely affect the chromatin

occupancy of Pol II, Pol II CTD phosphorylation within the heptad repeats, Spt5,

phosphorylated Spt5 (pSpt5), Dis2, components of the mRNA 3'-end processing complex

(Pfs2 and Pla1), and termination factors Rhn1 (Rtt103) and Pcf1 around the CPS—

diminishing with H2Bub1 loss and increasing with H2Bub1 stabilization. In essence, our

data indicates that the H2Bub1-mediated eviction of Cdk9 as Pol II navigates the CPS

precipitates a rise in PP1 binding, which, in turn, dephosphorylates pSpt5, slowing Pol II

to facilitate efficient termination. The unique modulation of Cdk9 occupancy by H2Bub1

during transcription progression presents a compelling, novel concept requiring further

exploration.

The elongation to termination transition in RNA Polymerase II (Pol II)-dependent

transcription is regulated by a switch mechanism involving cyclin-dependent kinase 9 (Cdk9)

and protein phosphatase 1 (PP1) that modulates the phosphorylation of Spt5 (Fig. 1a) [7]. Yet, the

precise mechanisms overseeing the activity switch of Cdk9 and PP1, as Pol II transits through

the cleavage and polyadenylation sequence (CPS), remain undefined. While investigating the

mechanism of timely reversal of Cdk9-PP1 activity (Fig. 1a) we hypothesized that either Cdk9

becomes inactive or dissociates from the elongation complex as Pol II transits through the CPS.

To understand the distribution of Cdk9 and its cyclin partner cyclin T1 (CycT1; Pch1, ortholog of

CycT1 in fission yeast) we conducted ChIP experiments in *Schizosaccharomyces pombe* (*S.*

pombe). The ChIP-qPCR results showed a gradual decrease of the chromatin occupancy of

Cdk9 and Pch1 towards the 3'-end of $psu1^+$, $pgk1^+$, and $pyk1^+$—more predominant

corresponding to the amplicon positioned beyond the CPS of these genes (Extended Data Fig.

1a-c). The ChIP-seq browser tracks indicate a diminished level of Cdk9 and Pch1 beyond the

CPS of $exg1^+$, $eno101^+$, $pma1^+$ and $act1^+$ (Fig. 1b, Extended Data Fig. 1d). Wherever the

chromatin occupancy of Cdk9 and Pch1 dropped, Pol II and Spt5 accumulated, but pSpt5

reduced (Fig. 1b). The metagene plots further supported the notion of a global decrease in the

chromatin occupancy of Cdk9 and Pch1 as Pol II approaches the 3'-end of genes, with a

pronounced reduction beyond the CPS (Fig. 1c,d; Extended Data Fig. 1e,f). Similar to protein-

coding genes, the occupancy of Cdk9 and Pch1 decreases at the 3'-end of small nucleolar RNA

(snoRNA) coding genes (Extended Data Fig. 1g).

Similar to *S. pombe*, in human cells, the ChIP-qPCR distributions of Cdk9 across *cMYC,*

ERRFI1, *GAPDH* and *VEGFA* showed the gradual reduction of Cdk9 occupancy towards the 3'-

end of those genes (Extended Data Fig. 2a-d). The ChIP-seq browser tracks of four

representative genes (*TGIF1*, *KITLG*, *AREG*, and *ERRFI1*) indicated diminished levels of Cdk9

beyond the CPS, where Pol II and Spt5 peaked but the Spt5 CTR1 (C-terminal repeat region 1)

phosphorylation (Spt5-pCTR1) dropped (Fig. 1e, Extended Data Fig. 2e). Furthermore,

metagene plots demonstrated a global decrease in Cdk9 chromatin occupancy beyond the CPS

at location corresponding to the 3'-paused Pol II (Fig. 1f, Extended Data Fig. 2f-h). Overall,

these findings suggested that Cdk9 dissociated from the elongation complex as Pol II traverses

the CPS and this phenomenon is conserved in *S. pombe* and human.

Previous studies have shown that during elongation, Cdk9-mediated phosphorylation

inhibits the activity of Dis2, a PP1 ortholog in *S. pombe*, and reduces its chromatin occupancy [7].

In this study, we demonstrate the dissociation of Cdk9 from the elongation complex as Pol II

traverses the CPS. Drawing from consistent findings in both *S. pombe* and human studies, we

propose that the disengagement of Cdk9 and its partner CycT (Pch1) from the elongation

complex leads to increased chromatin occupancy of Dis2. The ChIP-qPCR analysis in *S. pombe*

indicates a dramatic incline in the occupancy of Dis2 beyond the CPS of the representative

genes, *psu1*$^+$, *pgk1*$^+$ and *pyk1*$^+$ (Fig. 2a-c, Extended Data Fig. 3a-c). The ChIP-seq browser

tracks for the sample genes display a significant buildup of Dis2 past the CPS, aligning with the

location of the 3'-paused Pol II (Fig. 2d, Extended Data Fig. 3d). Metagene analyses further

indicated a gradual increase in Dis2 occupancy towards the 3'-end of Pol II-transcribed genes,

with a sharp peak beyond the CPS (Fig. 2e, Extended Data Fig. 3e). To the best of our

knowledge, this is the first report detailing the genome-wide distribution of Dis2 (PP1),

demonstrating significant accumulation of Dis2 beyond the CPS. Overall, our results suggested

an inverse relationship between Cdk9 and Dis2: as the former leaves the elongation complex,

the latter begins to accumulate. This accumulation likely explains the Dis2-mediated rapid

dephosphorylation of pSpt5 beyond the CPS [7], which in turn appears to slow Pol II, promoting

faithful termination. However, the question remains: What triggers the eviction of Cdk9 from the

elongation complex during the transition from elongation to termination?

Earlier studies identified the functional interconnection between Cdk9 and the mono-

ubiquitylation of histone H2B (H2Bub1) at K120 in humans (K123 in *S. cerevisiae*, and K119 in

S. pombe) [8]. A decrease in Cdk9 activity negatively impacts the stability of H2Bub1, partly

through the phosphorylation of Spt5, which facilitates the formation of H2Bub1 [9-14]. In a

feedback scenario, H2Bub1, which is highly enriched in the gene bodies of active genes and

sharply decreases after the CPS [15,16], also controls Cdk9 recruitment in *S. pombe* [8] and human

cells [17,18]. The loss of H2Bub1 levels decreases chromatin occupancy of Cdk9 on gene body,

although this has been explored only at a limited number of loci. We propose that H2Bub1

preserves the chromatin occupancy of Cdk9 during the elongation phase of transcription, and

the loss of H2Bub1 as Pol II traverses the CPS might trigger the disengagement of Cdk9 from

the elongating Pol II complex. The ChIP-seq browser tracks showed that across the genes

act1$^+$, *exg1$^+$*, and *eno101$^+$*, disruption of H2Bub1 led to a decrease in Cdk9 occupancy at the 5'-

end and within the gene body (Fig. 3a, Extended Data Fig. 4a). However, upstream and

downstream of the CPS, the Cdk9 occupancy was increased in *htb1-K119R* cells compared to

wildtype. The metagene plot showed a sharp increase in Cdk9 occupancy around the CPS upon

loss of H2Bub1 (Fig. 3b, Extended Data Fig. 4b). The upstream increase of Cdk9 occupancy

indicates H2Bub1 rearranges Cdk9 association with the elongation complex before Pol II

passes through the CPS. These results suggest that H2Bub1 differentially impacts the

chromatin occupancy of Cdk9 across a transcription cycle. The decrease in Cdk9 occupancy

upon loss of H2Bub1 at the 5'-end to gene body is consistent with the previous findings

determined by ChIP-qPCR for a few genes [8]. However, the effects of H2Bub1 on Cdk9

occupancy at the 3'-end of genes have not been examined before. These potential paradigm-

shifting roles of H2Bub1 in regulating Cdk9's occupancy differentially across a gene is intriguing

and warrant further investigation.

Should H2Bub1 regulate Cdk9 occupancy during the elongation to termination transition,

we anticipated observing reversal of H2BK119R-phenotype in distribution of Cdk9 when H2B

undergoes hyper-monoubiquitylation. To examine this, we checked Cdk9 distribution in *ubp8D*

cells by ChIP-seq. Ubp8 serves as a ubiquitin C-terminal hydrolase in the SAGA complex and

its absence fortifies H2Bub1 at K119. In *ubp8D* cells, the ChIP-seq browser tracks showed a

reduced level of Cdk9 towards the 3'-end of the genes *act1$^+$*, *exg1$^+$*, and *eno101$^+$* (Fig. 3c,

Extended Data Fig. 4a). The metagene plot revealed no accumulation of Cdk9 upstream of the

CPS; however, a sharp and widespread decline in Cdk9 occupancy beyond the CPS upon Ubp8

loss (Fig. 3d, Extended Data Fig. 4c). These observations reinforced our hypothesis that hyper-

monoubiquitylation of H2B, situated upstream of the CPS [16], aids in dislodging Cdk9 from the

elongation complex as it traverses the CPS. Accordingly, the loss of H2Bub1 engages Cdk9

around the CPS.

We identified an inverse relationship between Cdk9 and Dis2 distribution throughout the

transcription cycle. We expanded our studies to determine whether H2Bub1 inversely regulates

Dis2 occupancy relative to Cdk9. To investigate this, we examined Dis2 occupancy in *htb1-*

K119R and *ubp8Δ* cells using ChIP. The ChIP-qPCR results indicate that the loss of H2Bub1

decreases Dis2 occupancy, specifically beyond the CPS of three genes, *psu1+*, *pgk1$^+$* and *pyk1$^+$*

(Fig. 3e; Extended Data Fig. 4d,e, top panel). Conversely, persistent levels of H2Bub1 increase

Dis2 occupancy in the same region (Fig. 3f; Extended Data Fig. 4d,e, bottom panel). In *htb1-*

K119R cells, consistent with the alterations in Cdk9 and Dis2 occupancy, ChIP-seq browser

tracks show an increase in Spt5 phosphorylation (pSpt5) around the CPS and a decrease at the

5'-end of genes, respectively (Fig. 3g, Extended Data Fig. 5a,b). However, in agreement with

previous reports, Spt5 phosphorylation decreases in whole-cell extracts following the loss of

H2Bub1 (in *htb1-K119R* cells), whereas it increases upon stabilization of H2Bub1 in *ubp8Δ* cells

[8] (Extended Data Fig. 5c). Presumably, the loss of Spt5 phosphorylation from the 5'-end to the

middle of the gene body seen in *htb1-K119R* cells accounts for the global decrease in whole-cell

extracts. Metagene analyses reveal a sharp accumulation of pSpt5 levels around the CPS in

htb1-K119R cells (Fig. 3h, Extended Data Fig. 5d). However, in *ubp8Δ* cells, pSpt5 decreases

around the CPS (Fig. 3i, Extended Data Fig. 5e,f), agreeing with the accumulation of H2Bub1

upstream of the CPS, where pSpt5 decays progressively [16]. Overall, our results demonstrate

that H2Bub1 inversely regulates Cdk9 and Dis2 occupancy during the transition from elongation

to termination, leading to the modulation of Spt5 phosphorylation.

The transition from elongation to termination is closely linked with pre-mRNA 3'-end

cleavage and polyadenylation. Once Pol II transcribes the cleavage and polyadenylation

sequence, the cleavage and polyadenylation factor (CPF), a multiprotein complex, is recruited.

This in turn facilitates the 3'-end cleavage and polyadenylation of pre-mRNA [19]. We sought to

determine whether the cleavage and polyadenylation of pre-mRNA triggers the dissociation of

Cdk9 from the elongation complex. To investigate this, we conducted Cdk9 ChIP in *pfs2-11*

cells. Since Pfs2 is a crucial component of the CPF complex, the *pfs2-11* mutant shows a

deficiency in mRNA 3'-end processing at 37°C [20]. ChIP-qPCR analysis demonstrated that there

were no changes in Cdk9 distribution on representative genes following the heat inactivation of

Pfs2 (Extended Data Fig. 6a,b). This finding aligns with previous reports showing no changes in

CPF occupancy when Cdk9 is inhibited and no alterations in chromatin-bound levels of Spt5

phosphorylation upon Pfs2 heat inactivation [7]. However, under these same conditions, Pol II

occupancy increased at the 3'-end of the genes, suggesting termination defects. These findings

suggest that: 1) the productive cleavage and polyadenylation event is not the trigger for Cdk9's

dissociation from the elongation complex; it is either independent of or occurs prior to mRNA

cleavage and polyadenylation, and 2) the accumulation of Cdk9 upon loss of H2Bub1 is not due

to the accumulation of Pol II.

These results invoked us to determine whether H2Bub1 regulates the recruitment of

CPF complex. To investigate that we conducted ChIP-qPCR for Pla1, mRNA cleavage and

polyadenylation specificity factor poly(A) polymerase, and Pfs2 in *htb1-K119R* and *ubp8Δ* cells.

The ChIP-qPCR results show a decrease or an increase or in both Pfs2 (Extended Data Fig.

6c,d) and Pla1 (Extended Data Fig. 6e,f) recruitment beyond the CPS of the representative

genes when H2Bub1 is disrupted (in *htb1-K119R* cells) or persistent (in *ubp8Δ* cells),

respectively. These results indicate that H2Bub1 facilitates the recruitment of CPF complex.

Moreover, these effects of H2Bub1 on the occupancy of these two factors of the 3'-end

processing complex, are opposite of the effects on the occupancy of Cdk9 at the similar regions.

Additionally, our results imply that H2Bub1-mediated Cdk9 eviction happens upstream of 3'-end

processing.

Previous studies report that PP1-mediated Spt5 dephosphorylation facilitates Pol II

slowing beyond the CPS [7]. This slow Pol II favors faithful termination by allowing the recruitment

of termination factors. In our current study, we found that the loss of H2Bub1: 1) leads to

accumulation of Cdk9 around the CPS, 2) disrupts the chromatin occupancy of Dis2,

subsequently, 2) increases the Spt5 phosphorylation beyond the CPS, and 3) decreases the

association of cleavage and polyadenylation factors with the elongation complex, which is

required for proper 3'-end processing of mRNA. Given that Spt5 dephosphorylation and proper

3'-end processing are essential for faithful termination, we aimed to investigate whether H2Bub1

regulates termination. To examine this, we conducted Pol II ChIP-seq in *htb1-K119R* and *ubp8Δ*

cells. In *htb1-K119R* cells, the ChIP-seq bowser tracks showed a wider distribution of Pol II past

the CPS, indicating readthrough transcription (Fig. 4a,b, Extended Data Fig 7). Conversely, in

cells lacking Ubp8 (*ubp8Δ*), there was a tighter distribution of Pol II around the termination

region, which suggests a more effective termination process (Fig. 4a,b, Extended Data Fig 7).

Interestingly, Cdk9 inhibition in *htb1-K119R* cells narrowed the Pol II distribution beyond the

CPS, indicating a rescue of the termination defects observed in these cells (Fig. 4a,b, Extended

Data Fig 7). This result suggests that the accumulation of Cdk9 following the loss of H2Bub1 is

the primary trigger for the termination defects by disrupting Dis2 recruitment and subsequently

stabilizing Spt5 phosphorylation. To investigate the termination defects further, we performed

regular PCR and RT-qPCR for selected regions upstream and downstream of the CPS. The

DNA gel and RT-qPCR showed transcript production beyond the canonical termination zone of

psu1⁺, *pgk1⁺*, *pyk1⁺* and *pho1+* genes in *htb1-K119R* cells, implying readthrough transcription

(Fig. c, Extended Data Fig 8).

In investigating the molecular mechanisms of termination defects upon disruption of

H2Bub1, we conducted ChIP for the termination factors, Pcf11, and Rhn1 (Rtt103). ChIP-qPCR

showed a significant reduction in the occupancy of the termination factors Rhn1 and Pcf11 past

the CPS in *htb1-K119R* cells (Fig. 4d, Extended Data Fig. 9a,c). However, in Ubp8-deficient

backgrounds, there was a marked increase in the chromatic occupancy of Rhn1 and Pcf11

beyond the CPS (Fig. 4e, Extended Data Fig. 9b,d). Thus, the impairment in the recruitment of

termination factors can explain the termination defects *in htb1-K119R* cells. During termination,

the phosphorylation of Tyr1 (pTyr1) and Ser2 (pSer2) within Pol II CTD heptad repeats assists in

recruiting mRNA 3'-end processing and termination factors [21-24]. The ChIP-qPCR results indicate

a substantial decrease in both pTyr1 and pSer2 levels following the disruption of H2Bub1 in

htb1-K119R cells (Fig. 4f, Extended Data Fig 10a,b,e,f), with only minimal or no changes

observed in *ubp8Δ* cells (Fig. 4g, Extended Data Fig. 10c,d,g,h). Consistently, immunoblot

revealed a significant decrease in pTyr1 and pSer2 levels in whole cell extract upon the loss of

H2Bub1; however, these marks remained unchanged following the stabilization of H2Bub1

(Extended Data Fig. 10i). Consequently, the changes observed in the chromatin occupancy of

Rhn1 and Pcf11 in both *htb1-K119R* and *ubp8Δ* strains seem to result directly from the altered

levels of pTyr1 and pSer2 on chromatin. In conclusion, our findings suggest that hyper-

monoubiquitylation ensures faithful termination by: (i) facilitating the dissociation of Cdk9 from

the elongation complex as Pol II traverses the CPS, thus (ii) increasing Dis2's occupancy and

the subsequent dephosphorylation of Spt5, (iii) enhancing the recruitment of cleavage and

polyadenylation factors for proper 3'-end processing of mRNA, (iv) subsequently increasing the

phosphorylation levels of Tyr1 and Ser2 on the Pol II CTD, which in turn facilitates (v) the

chromatin recruitment of termination factors (Fig. 4h; top panel). Actually, in physiological

conditions, H2Bub1 accumulates just upstream of the CPS, where pSpt5 gradually decays,

explaining its decisive role in the elongation-to-termination transition (Extended Data Fig. 10j) [16].

However, the loss of H2Bub1 leads to the accumulation of Cdk9 around the CPS, reversing all

downstream sequential events and resulting in termination defects (Fig. 4h; bottom panel). Our

findings highlight the need for further investigation to uncover the molecular mechanisms by

which H2Bub1 differentially regulates Cdk9's chromatin occupancy throughout the transcription

cycle.

The major roles of H2Bub1 in transcription regulation have been depicted in the stages

of initiation and elongation. However, the direct role of H2Bub1 in regulating the transition from

elongation to termination has not been reported earlier. Therefore, identifying the role of

H2Bub1 in termination is novel and adds a new layer of mechanism in transcription regulation. It

would be interesting in the future to investigate how H2Bub1 regulates Cdk9 occupancy, pTyr1,

and pSer2 during the elongation to termination transition. Does H2Bub1 influence the

recruitment of the kinase(s) and/or phosphatase(s) of pTyr1 and pSer2? Several mechanistic

explanations for the role of H2Bub1 in transcription have already been proposed. H2Bub1

stimulates FACT-mediated displacement of an H2A/H2B dimer from the core nucleosome,

thereby enhancing the passage of Pol II through the nucleosome [25]. H2Bub1 promotes the

reassembly of nucleosomes in the wake of elongating Pol II [26,27]. Moreover, H2Bub1 regulates

transcription by facilitating the recruitment of Set1, a component of the COMPASS complex

(MLL complex in humans), and by Dot1, which catalyzes the methylation of histone H3 lysine 4

(H3K4me) and 79 (H3K79me), respectively [28-30]. These two marks are linked to active

transcription. Therefore, in the future, it would be interesting to determine whether any of these

mechanisms play intermediate roles in regulating the chromatin occupancy of Cdk9 by H2Bub1.

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Author Contributions T.B. conducted immunoblot analysis and performed ChIP-qPCR

analysis. T.B. conducted ChIP-seq and data analysis to map genome-wide distribution of Cdk9,

Pch1, Spt5, pSpt5, Pol II, and Dis2. B.B. isolated RNA from yeast and conducted RT-qPCR

analysis. P.K.P and T.B. generated yeast strains. P.K.P. and T.B. prepared the manuscript.

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METHODS

Yeast strains and growth conditions. Yeast strains used in the study are listed in Extended

Data Table 1. Strains were grown in YES (5% yeast extract, 30% dextrose, 250 mg/l each of

adenine, leucine, lysine, histidine and uracil) media at 30°C[31,32], unless otherwise indicated.

New strains were generated by mating or random spore analysis[33,34]. Strains with epitope tags

and deletions were generated by homologous recombination of DNA fragments either

synthesized by PCR or fragmented from a donor plasmid[35,36]. Correct marker integration was

confirmed by PCR.

Cell lines and media. Colon carcinoma-derived HCT116 cells were cultured in McCoy's 5A

medium with L-glutamine (Corning) supplemented with 10% Fetal Bovine Serum (FBS, Gibco)

and 1x Penicillin-Streptomycin (Corning).

Immunoblotting. Antibodies used in this study recognized Pol II (BioLegend, Clone: CTD4H8,

Catalog No: 904004), Pol II CTD phospho Ser2 (Abcam; Catalog No. Ab5095), Pol II CTD

phospho Tyr1 (Active Motif; Catalog No. 61383), H2B (Active Motif; Catalog No. 39237),

H2Bub1(Active Motif; Catalog No. 39623) and phospho Spt5 or total Spt5 (*S. pombe*) (Dr.

Larochelle (21st Century Biochemicals; Pr1357) [8]. For immunoblot analysis, proteins were

separated by SDS-PAGE and transferred to Protran™ 0.45 µm nitrocellulose membranes

(Cytiva Amersham™). The membranes were probed with primary antibodies at dilutions

recommended by the suppliers. Immunoblots were developed with Horseradish Peroxidase

(HRP) conjugated donkey anti-rabbit (GE Healthcare Life Sciences; Catalog No. NA934V),

sheep anti-mouse (GE Healthcare Life Sciences; Catalog No. NA9310V) and Alexa Fluor-

coupled goat anti-rabbit (A21076, Life Technologies). Proteins were detected by enhanced

chemiluminescence (Pierce ECL Western Blotting Substrate, Thermo Scientific; Catalog No.

32106).

Chromatin immunoprecipitation in fission yeast. Chromatin immunoprecipitation (ChIP) was

performed as previously described [7,16].. Briefly, *S. pombe* cell cultures were grown in YES to an

O.D$_{600}$ of 0.5 – 0.6 and crosslinked with 1% formaldehyde for 15 minutes at room temperature.

Crosslinking was terminated by adding 2.5 M glycine to a final concentration of 125 mM for 5

minutes. Cells were pelleted by centrifugation, washed with cold 1x TBS (10 mM Tris pH 7.5,

150 mM NaCl), frozen on dry ice, and stored at -80°C. Cell pellets from 50 ml cultures were

resuspended in ChIP lysis buffer I (50 mM HEPES pH 7.5, 140 mM NaCl, 1 mM EDTA, 1%

Triton X-100, 0.1% Na-deoxycholate, 1 mM PMSF, and protease and phosphatase inhibitor

cocktail) and lysed in a Mini-Beadbeater-16 (BioSpec Products; Catalog No. 607) in the

presence of glass beads (0.1 mm diameter) (BioSpec Products; Cat. No. 11079101) at 4°C for 1

minute (with 1 minute intervals on ice). Lysates were centrifuged at 16,100 x g for 20 minutes at

4°C. Pellets containing chromatin were resuspended in 1 ml ChIP lysis buffer II (50 mM HEPES

pH 7.5, 140 mM NaCl, 1 mM EDTA, 1% Triton X-100, 0.1% SDS, 0.1% Na-deoxycholate, 1 mM

PMSF, and protease and phosphatase inhibitor cocktail) and transferred to 15 ml polycarbonate

tubes. Lysates were sonicated for 30 minutes at 4°C (30 seconds ON, 30 seconds OFF, output

setting high) using a water bath sonicator (Diagenode Bioruptor® Plus; Cat. No. B01020001),

transferred to new 1.5 ml tubes, and centrifuged at 16,100 x g for 20 minutes at 4°C. 250 – 300

µg of chromatin extract was incubated with antibodies, FLAG (SIGMA; Catalog No. F3165-

1MG), Myc (Clone: 9E10; BioLegend; Catalog No. 626802), Pol II (8WG16) (Biolegend; Catalog

No. 664906), Pol II CTD phospho Ser2 (Abcam; Catalog No. Ab5095), Pol II CTD phospho Tyr1

(Active Motif; Catalog No. 61383), V5 (PK) (Fortis Life Sciences; Catalog No. A190-120A), H2B

(Active Motif; Catalog No. 39237), H2Bub1(Active Motif; Catalog No. 39623), H3 (Active Motif;

Catalog No. 39763), phospho Spt5 [8] (*S. pombe*) (Dr. Larochelle (21st Century Biochemicals;

Pr1357), overnight at 4°C with constant nutation. Extracts from *S. cerevisiae* strain BY4742 were

also prepared in parallel and spiked into each immunoprecipitation (1% of the weight) for

normalization. The suspension was incubated at room temperature for an additional 1.5 – 2

hours with Dynabeads Protein G beads (Invitrogen™; Cat. No. 10004D), preblocked with 1

mg/ml BSA and 0.3 mg/ml Salmon Sperm DNA (Invitrogen™; Catalog No. AM9680). The beads

were then washed 2x with ChIP lysis buffer I, 2x with high salt ChIP wash buffer (50 mM HEPES

pH 7.5, 500 mM NaCl, 1 mM EDTA, 1% Triton X-100, 0.1% Na-deoxycholate), 2x with ChIP

wash buffer (10 mM Tris-HCl pH 8.0, 0.25 M LiCl, 0.5% NP-40, 0.5% Na-deoxycholate, 1 mM

EDTA), and 1x with 1x TE buffer (10 mM Tris-HCl pH 8.0, 1 mM EDTA). After washing, the

suspension was centrifuged at 1700 x g for 20 – 30 seconds. Protein-DNA complexes were

eluted from the beads with 1x ChIP elution buffer (50 mM Tris-HCl pH 8.0, 1% SDS, 1mM EDTA)

by incubating at 65°C for 20 – 30 minutes with occasional vortexing. To reverse the protein-DNA

crosslinks, the suspension was incubated overnight at 65°C with 0.2 M NaCl. The non-

crosslinked suspension was treated with 1 μg of RNase A (Thermo Scientific™; Catalog No.

FEREN0531) at 37°C for 30 minutes and with 0.8 units of Proteinase K (Thermo Scientific™;

Catalog No. FEREO0491) at 45°C for 45 minutes. The DNA was purified using the QIAquick

PCR Purification Kit (Qiagen; Catalog No. 28106) according to the manufacturer's protocol. The

purified DNA was subjected to either qPCR with Radiant™ Green qPCR Master Mix (2x) (Alkali

Scientific; Catalog No. QS1001) in 384-well plates or library preparation for sequencing.

Chromatin immunoprecipitation in human cells. ChIP-qPCR experiments were done as

described previously [37]. Briefly, HCT116 cells grown to 50-60% confluence were crosslinked with

1% formaldehyde for 10 minutes at 25°C. Crosslinking was quenched with 125 mM glycine for 5

minutes at 25°C. Cells were washed twice with ice-cold PBS and collected into 1 ml of RIPA

(150 mM NaCl, 1% v/v Nonidet P-40, 0.5% w/v deoxycholate, 0.1% w/v SDS, 50 mM Tris pH

8.0, 5 mM EDTA) buffer supplemented with protease and phosphatase inhibitors for each 150-

mm dish. Cells were lysed, and chromatin was sheared by sonication in a Bioruptor at high

power, for 3 x 10 minutes with cycles of 30 seconds ON and 30 seconds OFF. Lysates were

clarified by centrifugation at 20,000 x g for 20 minutes at 4°C. Before immunoprecipitation,

lysates (~5 x 10^6 cells per experiment) were pre-cleared with Pierce™ Protein A Agarose

(Thermo Scientific™; Catalog No. PI20333) for 2 hours at 4°C. Beads were separated by

centrifugation at 4000 x g for 1 minute at 4°C. The resulting supernatant was incubated with anti-

Cdk9 antibody (Abclonal; Catalog No. A11145) and Pol II (D8L4Y) (Cell Signaling Technology;

Catalog No. 14958S) for 4 hours at 4°C with constant nutation. The suspension was incubated

at 25°C for an additional 2 hours with Dynabeads Protein G beads, pre-blocked with 1 mg/ml

BSA and 0.25 mg/ml Salmon Sperm DNA. The beads were washed 2x with RIPA buffer, 4x with

Szak IP wash buffer (100 mM Tris-HCl, pH 8.5, 500 mM lithium chloride, 1% (v/v) nonidet-P-40,

1% (w/v) sodium deoxycholate), 2x with RIPA buffer, and 2x with TE buffer. After all wash steps,

centrifugation was performed at 1700 x g for 1 minute at 4°C. Protein-nucleic acid complexes

were eluted from the beads with elution buffer (46 mM Tris-HCl, pH 8.0, 0.65 mM EDTA, 1%

SDS) by incubating at 65°C for 15 minutes with occasional vortexing. Crosslinking was reversed

by incubating at 65°C for 16 hours. The un-crosslinked suspension was treated with 1 µg of

RNase A at 37°C for 30 minutes and with 0.8 units of Proteinase K at 45°C for 45 minutes. DNA

was purified using the QIAquick® PCR Purification Kit according to the manufacturer's protocol.

The purified DNA was subjected to either qPCR or library preparation for sequencing.

ChIP-seq analysis. Multiplexed ChIP-seq libraries were prepared using the NEBNext® Ultra™

II DNA Library Preparation kit (E7103S) with 25-50 ng of input or IP DNA and barcode adaptors

(NEBNext Multiplex Oligos for Illumina [Set 1, E7335] & [Set 2, E7500]). 150-nucelotides (150-

nt) paired-end sequencing (PE150) was performed on NovaSeq 6000. Quality control and

adapter trimming of FASTQ (raw sequencing) files were done in Galaxy using FastQC Read

Quality reports (Galaxy Version 0.74) and Trimmomatic flexible read trimming tool for Illumina

NGS data (Galaxy Version 0.39), respectively. Processed FASTQ files were aligned to the *S.*

pombe or human genome (version hg19) using Bowtie2[38] (Galaxy Version 2.5.3). Aligned

sequences of each biological replicate were fed into MACS2[39] (Galaxy Version 2.2.9.1) to call

peaks from alignment results. Generated "bedgraph treatment" files were converted to bigwig

using "Convert BedGraph to BigWig" (Galaxy Version 1.0.1), mean signal was computed using

"bigwigCompare" (Galaxy Version 3.5.4). Generated bigwig files were processed using

computeMatrix (Galaxy Version 3.5.4) in DeepTools[40] to prepare data for plotting heatmaps and/

or profiles of given regions. Heatmap and Metagene plots were generated using "plot Heatmap"

(Galaxy Version 3.5.4) and "plotProfile" (Galaxy Version 3.5.4) tools, respectively. The $\log_2$

signal ratios were calculated using "bigwigCompare" (Galaxy Version 3.5.4).

Quantitative RT-PCR (RT-qPCR). *S. pombe* cell cultures (50 mL) of strains JS78 (WT), LV259

(*htb1-K119R*), and TB4 (*ubp8D*) were grown to OD_{600} of 0.5. Total RNA was extracted by a hot

phenol method [41] and further purified on Qiagen RNeasy columns. For strand-specific RT-qPCR

to measure levels of *psu1*$^+$, *pgk1*$^+$, *pyk1*$^+$ and *pho1*$^+$ transcripts, 1 µg total RNA was converted to

cDNA using the superscript III kit (Invitrogen) and gene-specific primers listed in Extended Data

Table 2. Expression levels were normalized to those of the 18sDNA transcript in each strain.

Data Access

The raw and processed sequencing files have been submitted to the NCBI Gene Expression

Omnibus (GEO; https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/geo/query/acc.cgi) (Accession number:

GSE271342). The published data used in this study under the following accession code:

GSE115682 [16] and GSE138548 [42].

Figure 1 | Cdk9 and Pch1 dissociate from the elongation complex when Pol II passes the

CPS. a, The model shows the Cdk9-PP1 switch controlling the transition from elongation to

termination (PP1, protein phosphatase 1). The figure is prepared using

(https://www.biorender.com/). **b**, In fission yeast, Cdk9 and Pch1 leave the elongation complex

during the transition to termination. Individual gene tracks show that Cdk9 and Pch1 occupancy

drops downstream of the CPS at the Pol II 3'-pause site (indicated by a gray shade). At the

same location, Spt5 accumulates while Spt5 phosphorylation (pSpt5) decreases. **c**, **d**, Genome-

wide distribution of Cdk9 and Pch1 on 1 kb separated genes (*n* = 918). Metagene analyses

reveal a sharp drop in Cdk9 and Pch1 occupancy when Pol II approaches the CPS (marked by

a vertical dotted line). Genes were sorted based on region length between -5 kb to +1 kb

relative to the CPS. The mean $\log_2$ ratio over Pol II was plotted in the summary image. **e**, In

humans, Cdk9 releases from the elongation complex after the CPS. Representative gene tracks

show that Cdk9 occupancy decreases downstream of the CPS where the Pol II 3'-pause peak is

positioned (indicated by a gray shade). At the same location, Spt5 accumulates while Spt5-

CTR1 phosphorylation (Spt5-pCTR1) decreases. Pol II, Spt5, and Spt5-pCTR1 ChIP data

utilized in this analysis were obtained from a published study [42]. Peaks are indicated by a red

arrow. **f**, Genome-wide distribution of Cdk9 and Pol II on 10 kb separated genes (*n* = 7723).

Metagene analyses reveal reduced levels of Cdk9 occupancy downstream of the CPS where

Pol II accumulates (indicated by a red arrow). Genes were sorted based on Pol II occupancy.

(Note: In this representation, the regions between the TSS and the CPS have been scaled to

enable comparisons among genes of different lengths.) The TSS and CPS are marked by

vertical dotted lines.

Figure 2 | Dis2 accumulates beyond the CPS. a-c, Dis2 ChIP was performed using chromatin

extract from *S. pombe* cells expressing Dis2-FLAG, which is a C-terminal FLAG-tagged version

of Dis2. ChIP-qPCR analyses show the distribution of Dis2 on *psu1*⁺, *pgk1*⁺, and *pyk1*⁺ genes.

The results reveal a sharp increase in Dis2 occupancy beyond the CPS at the location of the

fourth amplicon. In the schematic diagram of genes, the 5'-untranslated region (5'-UTR), the

coding sequence (CDS), and the 3'-UTR are demarcated by black, green, and gray,

respectively. The regions of the genes scanned are indicated by amplicon positions. The

experiments were performed with three biological replicates; one-sided error bars show

standard deviation (s.d.) of mean; *p*-values (Student's *t*-test) are indicated in the plots between

third (upstream of the CPS) and fourth (downstream of the CPS) amplicons. **d**, ChIP-seq

browser tracks show the distribution of Dis2 and Pol II across *psu1*⁺, *pgk1*⁺, and *pyk1*⁺ genes.

The results show accumulation of Dis2 after the CPS corresponding to the position where Pol II

accumulates. **e**, Metagene analyses show a sharp accumulation of Dis2 beyond the CPS of Pol

II-transcribed genes (*n* = 3329). In this plot, the regions between the TSS and the CPS have

been scaled to enable comparisons among genes of different lengths. Vertical dotted lines mark

the TSS and CPS.

Figure 3 | H2Bub1 regulates Cdk9's chromatin occupancy. **a**, H2Bub1 differentially

regulates Cdk9's chromatin occupancy throughout the transcription cycle. Individual browser

tracks display an increase in Cdk9 occupancy downstream of the CPS (marked by an arrow)

and a decrease at the 5' end (marked by a gray shaded area) of the example genes upon loss

of H2Bub1. Cdk9 ChIP-seq was performed in cells expressing 13Myc-tagged Cdk9 in the $htb1^+$

and *htb1-K119R* backgrounds using an anti-Myc antibody. Blue and pink tracks represent the

Cdk9 distribution in $htb1^+$ and *htb1-K119R* cells, respectively, overlaid. **b**, The metagene plot

shows the genome-wide distribution of Cdk9 on 1 kb separated genes (*n* = 918) from -5.0 to

+1.0 kb relative to the CPS. Results indicate accumulation of Cdk9 upstream and downstream

of the CPS in *htb1-K119R* cells. The $\log_2$ ratio of mean ChIP-seq values in *htb1-K119R* over

$htb1^+$ is plotted. **c**, Similar to panel **a**, but Cdk9-13Myc ChIP was conducted in $ubp8^+$ and *ubp8Δ*

cells. Browser tracks reveal minimal changes in Cdk9 distribution at the 5' end (indicated by a

gray shaded area) of genes, but a decrease beyond the CPS (indicated by an arrow) in *ubp8Δ*

cells. Blue and orange tracks represent the Cdk9 distribution in $ubp8^+$ and *ubp8Δ* cells,

respectively, overlaid. **d**, The metagene plot shows the genome-wide distribution of Cdk9 on 1

kb separated genes (*n* = 918) from -5.0 to +1.0 kb relative to the CPS. Results indicate a rapid

drop of Cdk9 downstream of the CPS. The $\log_2$ ratio of mean ChIP-seq values in *ubp8Δ* over

$ubp8^+$ is plotted. **e**, ChIP-qPCR analyses show the distribution of Dis2-FLAG on the $psu1^+$ gene

in $htb1^+$ (gray bar) and *htb1-K119R* (black bar) cells. Results indicate a significant decrease in

Dis2 occupancy after the CPS in *htb1-K119R* cells. **f**, ChIP-qPCR analyses show the distribution

of Dis2-FLAG on the $psu1^+$ gene in $ubp8^+$ (gray bar) and *ubp8Δ* (black bar) cells. Results

indicate a significant increase in Dis2 occupancy after the CPS in *ubp8Δ* cells. For **e**, **f**,

experiments were performed in cells expressing Dis2 as C-terminal FLAG tagged; graphs

plotted the ratio of Dis2-FLAG ChIP over Pol II along the Y-axis. **g**, Similar to panel **a**, but pSpt5

ChIP-seq was conducted in $htb1^+$ and *htb1-K119R* cells. Individual browser tracks display an

increase in pSpt5 occupancy downstream of the CPS (marked by an arrow) and a decrease at

the 5' end (marked by a gray shaded area) of the example genes upon loss of H2Bub1. Blue

and cyan tracks represent the pSpt5 distribution in $htb1^+$ and *htb1-K119R* cells, respectively,

overlaid. **h**, The metagene plot shows the genome-wide distribution of pSpt5 on 1 kb separated

genes (n = 918) from -5.0 to +1.0 kb relative to the CPS. Results indicate accumulation of pSpt5

around the CPS in *htb1-K119R* cells. The $\log_2$ ratio of mean ChIP-seq values in *htb1-K119R*

over *htb1$^+$* is plotted. **i**, ChIP-qPCR analyses show the distribution of pSpt5 on the *psu1$^+$* gene in

ubp8$^+$ (gray bar) and *ubp8Δ* (black bar) cells. Results indicate a significant decrease in pSpt5

occupancy after the CPS in *ubp8Δ* cells. For panels **e**, **f**, and **i**, experiments were performed

with three independent biological replicates (n = 3); one-sided error bars show the standard

deviation (s.d.) of mean ChIP values; *p*-values (Student's t-test) are indicated in the plots. For

panels **a-i**, vertical dotted lines mark the CPS.

Figure 4 | H2Bub1 controls termination. a, Loss of H2Bub1 impairs termination. ChIP-seq

browser tracks reveal an extended Pol II distribution in *htb1-K119R* cells beyond the regular

termination zone seen in *htb1⁺* cells, indicating readthrough transcription, i.e., termination

defects. The blue and pink tracks, representing the Pol II distribution in *htb1⁺* and *htb1-K119R*

cells, respectively, are overlaid. Conversely, persistent levels of H2Bub1 favor termination.

ChIP-seq browser tracks show a narrowed Pol II distribution in the termination zone in *ubp8Δ*

cells, indicating that hyper mono-ubiquitylation favors termination. The green and orange tracks,

representing the Pol II distribution in *ubp8+* and *ubp8Δ* cells, respectively, are overlaid. Cdk9

inhibition in the *htb1-K119R* background narrows Pol II distribution, suggesting a rescue of

termination defects. This indicates that the accumulation of Cdk9 following the loss of H2Bub1 is

the main trigger for termination defects by continuing elongation. The black and red tracks,

representing the Pol II distribution in *htb1-K119R*, with or without inhibition of Cdk9, respectively,

are overlaid. Pol II ChIP-seq data following Cdk9 inhibition in *htb1-K119R* cells, used in this

analysis, were obtained from a published study [16]. The regions of alterations in Pol II distribution

after the CPS are indicated by red arrows. The vertical dotted lines mark the CPS. **b**, The

metagene plot shows the genome-wide distribution of Pol II on 1 kb separated genes (*n* = 918)

from -0.1 kb to +1.0 kb relative to the CPS. Results indicate a broadening of Pol II distribution in

the termination zone in *htb1-K119R* cells, implying termination defects. Conversely, in *ubp8Δ*

cells, the Pol II distribution narrowed compared to wildtype (*ubp8+*) cells, indicating premature

termination. Cdk9 [16] inhibition in the *htb1-K119R* background narrows Pol II distribution,

indicating a rescue of termination defects. The $\log_2$ ratio of mean ChIP-seq values in *htb1-*

K119R (or *ubp8Δ*) with active or inactive Cdk9 over wildtype (*htb1+/ubp8+*) is plotted. **c**, The left

panel shows an agarose gel visualizing transcript production from the upstream (A) and

downstream (B) regions of the CPS of the *psu1+* gene. The results indicate the synthesis of

psu1+ mRNA beyond the regular termination zone in *htb1-K119R* cells, with little to no mRNA

synthesis in *htb1+* cells. The right panel shows RT-qPCR analyses quantifying *psu1+* mRNA

production from the same regions, A and B, indicating increased mRNA synthesis beyond the

termination zone in *htb1-K119R* cells. For panel **c**, individual data points shown in the plots were

obtained from three independent biological replicates (*n* = 3); two-sided error bars represent the

standard deviation (s.d.) of mean qRT-PCR values; *p*-values (Student's t-test) are indicated in

the plots. **d**, Loss of H2Bub1 impairs the recruitment of termination factors. ChIP-qPCR

analyses reveal a significant decrease in the recruitment of termination factors, Pcf11-Myc and

Rhn1-V5, after the CPS of *psu1⁺* in *htb1-K119R* cells. **e**, Persistent levels of H2Bub1 facilitate

termination factor recruitment. ChIP-qPCR analyses show a significant increase in the

recruitment of Pcf11 and Rhn1 beyond the CPS of *psu1⁺* gene in *ubp8Δ* cells. **f**, ChIP-qPCR

analyses demonstrate a significant reduction of Pol II CTD phosphorylation at Tyr1 and Ser2 in

htb1-K119R cells. **g**, ChIP-qPCR analyses illustrate little to no changes in Tyr1 and Ser2

phosphorylation of Pol II CTD in *ubp8Δ* cells. For panels **c-g**, experiments were performed with

three independent biological replicates ($n = 3$); one-sided error bars represent the standard

deviation (s.d.) of mean qRT-PCR values. *p*-values (Student's t-test) are indicated in the plots.

h, A model for elongation to termination suggests that proper levels of H2Bub1 cause Cdk9 to

dissociate from the elongation complex. This dissociation allows the recruitment of cleavage

and polyadenylation factor (CPF)-associated Dis2, which dephosphorylates Spt5, signaling Pol

II to slow down. Slow Pol II leads to the accumulation of Pol II CTD phosphorylation (pTyr1 and

pSer2), which facilitates the recruitment of termination factor, Pcf11 and Rhn1. However, when

H2Bub1 is absent, Cdk9 remains associated with the elongation complex, preventing the

recruitment of CPF-Dis2. As a result, high levels of phosphorylated Spt5 (pSpt5) persist,

promoting active elongation and leading to read-through transcription. The CPS is marked by

dotted lines.

Extended Data Figure 1 | Release of Cdk9 and Pch1 from the elongation complex in

fission yeast when Pol II traverses the CPS. **a**, ChIP-qPCR analyses show a gradual

decrease in the occupancy of Cdk9 and Pch1 towards the 3'-end of the $psu1^+$ gene. **b**, ChIP-

qPCR analyses show a gradual decrease in the occupancy of Cdk9 and Pch1 towards the 3'-

end of the $pgk1^+$ gene. **c**, ChIP-qPCR analyses show a gradual decrease in the occupancy of

Cdk9 and Pch1 towards the 3'-end of the $pyk1^+$ gene. For panels **a-c**, individual data values

were obtained from three (n = 3) independent experiments; one-sided error bars represent the

standard deviation (s.d.) of mean ChIP values. **d**, Correlation between ChIP-seq samples.

Paired-end sequencing reads were mapped to the fission yeast genome using Bowtie2 (Galaxy

Version 2.5.3+galaxy1). Mapped reads of each biological replicate were used to calculate the

correlation between pairs of replicates. Values in boxes represent the Pearson correlation

coefficient between corresponding samples (n = 2 biological replicates). **e**, Genome-wide

distribution of Cdk9. Metagene analyses (top) and heatmaps (bottom) show a comparison

between $\log_2$ ratios of Cdk9:Pol II for Pol II-transcribed genes (1 kb separated; n = 918). **f**,

Genome-wide distribution of Pch1. Metagene analyses (top) and heatmaps (bottom) show a

comparison between $\log_2$ ratios of Pch1:Pol II for Pol II-transcribed genes (1 kb separated; n =

918). For panels **e** and **f**, genes were sorted based on region length between -5 kb to +1 kb

relative to the CPS. **g**, Distribution of Cdk9 and Pch1 on snoRNA genes. Metagene analyses

show genome-wide comparison between $\log_2$ ratios of Cdk9:Pol II or Pch1:Pol II for Pol II-

transcribed snoRNA genes (n = 66) from -0.5 kb to +0.5 kb relative to the CPS. The CPS is

marked by vertical dotted lines.

Extended Data Figure 2 | Cdk9 dissociation as Pol II crosses the CPS in human cells. **a**-**d**,

ChIP-qPCR analyses show a gradual decrease in Cdk9 occupancy towards the 3'-end of *MYC*

(**a**), *ERRFI1* (**b**), *GAPDH* (**c**), and *VEGFA* (**d**). Individual data values in panels **a**-**d** were

obtained from three independent experiments (n = 3). One-sided error bars represent the

standard deviation (s.d.) of the mean ChIP values. **e**, Correlation between Cdk9 ChIP-seq

samples. Paired-end sequencing reads were mapped to the human genome (hg19) using

Bowtie2 (Galaxy Version 2.5.3+galaxy1). Mapped reads of each biological replicate were used

to calculate the correlation between pairs of replicates. Values in boxes represent the Pearson

correlation coefficient between corresponding samples (n = 2 biological replicates). **f**, Genome-

wide distribution of Pol II. Metagene analyses (top) and heatmaps (bottom) show the distribution

of Pol II. Pol II ChIP data utilized in this analysis were obtained from a published study [42]. **g**,

Genome-wide distribution of Cdk9. Metagene analyses (top) and heatmaps (bottom) show the

distribution of Cdk9. **h**, Genome-wide distribution of Cdk9 with a CPS-centered focus. Metagene

analyses (top) and heatmaps (bottom) display the distribution of Cdk9 on Pol II-transcribed

genes from -5.0 kb to +5.0 kb. The $\log_2$ ratios of Cdk9:Pol II were plotted. For **f**, **g**, the regions

between the TSS and the CPS have been scaled for comparison among genes of different

lengths. For **f**-**h**, plots were generated using 10 kb separated Pol II-transcribed genes (n =

7723). The TSS and CPS are marked by vertical dotted lines.

Extended Data Figure 3 | Sharp accumulation of Dis2 after the CPS in fission yeast

genes. **a-c**, ChIP-qPCR analyses show a gradual increase in Dis2 occupancy towards the 3'-

end of $psu1^+$ (**a**), $pgk1^+$ (**b**), and $pyk1^+$ (**c**) genes, with a sharp increase in occupancy after the

CPS (marked by vertical dotted lines). Experiments were performed with three biological

replicates (n = 3). Individual data points are shown in the plots. One-sided error bars represent

the standard deviation (s.d.) of the mean ChIP values. **d**, Correlation between Dis2-FLAG ChIP-

seq samples. Paired-end sequencing reads were mapped to the fission yeast genome using

Bowtie2 (Galaxy Version 2.5.3+galaxy1). Mapped reads of each biological replicate were used

to calculate the correlation between pairs of replicates. Values in boxes represent the Pearson

correlation coefficient between corresponding samples (n = 2 biological replicates). **e**, Genome-

wide distribution of Dis2. Metagene analyses (top) and heatmaps (bottom) demonstrate the

dramatic accumulation of Dis2 beyond the CPS of Pol II-transcribed genes (n = 7723). Genes

are sorted based on Pol II occupancy. The regions between the TSS and the CPS have been

scaled for comparison among genes of different lengths. The TSS and CPS are marked by

vertical dotted lines.

Extended Data Figure 4 | H2Bub1 regulates the distribution of Cdk9 and Dis2. a,

Correlation between ChIP-seq samples. Paired-end sequencing reads were mapped to the

fission yeast genome using Bowtie2 (Galaxy Version 2.5.3+galaxy1). The correlation between

pairs of replicates was calculated using mapped reads from each biological replicate. Values in

boxes represent the Pearson correlation coefficient between corresponding samples ($n = 2$

biological replicates). **b**, Genome-wide distribution of Cdk9 upon loss of H2Bub1. Metagene

analyses (top) and heatmaps (bottom) compare the $\log_2$ ratios of mean ChIP values in *htb1-*

K119R and *htb1⁺* for Pol II-transcribed genes ($n = 918$). **c**, Genome-wide distribution of Cdk9

under persistent levels of H2Bub1. Metagene analyses (top) and heatmaps (bottom) compare

the $\log_2$ ratios of mean ChIP values in *ubp8D* and *ubp8⁺* for Pol II-transcribed genes ($n = 3329$).

For **b**, **c**, genes were sorted based on region length between -5 kb to +1 kb relative to the CPS.

d, Distribution of Dis2 on *pgk1⁺* gene. ChIP-qPCR analyses show a significant decrease in Dis2

occupancy after the CPS (marked by a vertical dotted line) in *htb1-K119R* cells (top panel), with

a modest increase in *ubp8D* cells (bottom panel). **e**, Distribution of Dis2 on *pyk1⁺* gene. ChIP-

qPCR analyses reveal a significant decrease in Dis2 occupancy after the CPS (marked by a

vertical dotted line) in *htb1-K119R* cells (top panel). Conversely, Dis2 occupancy is increased in

ubp8D cells (bottom panel). For **d**,**e**, experiments were performed with three independent

biological replicates ($n = 3$); one-sided error bars show the standard deviation (s.d.) of mean

ChIP values; *p*-values (Student's t-test) are indicated in the plots; Y-axis show ratio plots of Dis2

ChIP over Pol II.

Extended Data Figure 5 | H2Bub1 regulates Spt5 phosphorylation on chromatin. **a**,

Correlation between ChIP-seq samples. Paired-end sequencing reads were mapped to the

fission yeast genome using Bowtie2 (Galaxy Version 2.5.3+galaxy1). The correlation between

pairs of replicates was calculated using mapped reads from each biological replicate. Values in

boxes represent the Pearson correlation coefficient between corresponding samples ($n = 2$

biological replicates). **b**, Individual browser tracks display an increase in pSpt5 occupancy

downstream of the CPS (marked by an arrow) and a decrease at the 5' end (marked by a gray

shaded area) of *psu1*+, *pgk1*+ and *pyk1*+ upon loss of H2Bub1. Blue and cyan tracks represent

the pSpt5 distribution in *htb1*+ and *htb1-K119R* cells, respectively, are overlaid. **c**, The

immunoblot shows a reduction in pSpt5 in the whole-cell extract of *htb1-K119R*, whereas it is

slightly stabilized in *ubp8Δ* cells. Additionally, there is a loss of H2Bub1 in *htb1-K119R* and a

slight increase in H2Bub1 in *ubp8Δ* cells. **d**, Genome-wide distribution of pspt5 upon loss of

H2Bub1. Metagene analyses (top) and heatmaps (bottom) compare the $\log_2$ ratios of mean

pSpt5 ChIP values in *htb1-K119R* and *htb1*+ for Pol II-transcribed genes ($n = 918$). The genes

were sorted based on region length between -5 kb to +1 kb relative to the CPS. **e**, ChIP-qPCR

analyses show the distribution of pSpt5 on *pgk1*+ gene in *ubp8*+ (gray bar) and *ubp8Δ* (black

bar) cells. Results indicate a significant decrease in pSpt5 occupancy after the CPS in *ubp8Δ*

cells. **f**, ChIP-qPCR analyses show the distribution of pSpt5 on *pyk1*+ gene in *ubp8*+ (gray bar)

and *ubp8Δ* (black bar) cells. Results indicate a significant decrease in pSpt5 occupancy after

the CPS in *ubp8Δ* cells. For **e**,**f**, experiments were performed with three independent biological

replicates ($n = 3$); one-sided error bars show the standard deviation (s.d.) of mean ChIP values;

p-values (Student's t-test) are indicated in the plots. The vertical dotted lines mark the CPS.

Extended Data Figure 6 | Cdk9 evictions occur upstream of cleavage and

polyadenylation. **a**, Chromatin distribution of Cdk9, where ChIP-qPCR results reveal no

alterations in Cdk9 occupancy on $psu1^+$ upon heat inactivation of Pfs2 at 37°C, while Pol II

occupancy on $psu1^+$ increased at the 3'-end of the gene under the same condition. **b**, ChIP-

qPCR analyses demonstrate no changes in Cdk9 occupancy on $pgk1^+$ upon heat inactivation of

Pfs2 at 37°C, with a concurrent increase in Pol II occupancy at the 3'-end of the gene of $pgk1^+$.

c, ChIP-qPCR results indicating a decrease in Pfs2 occupancy on $psu1^+$ in *htb1-K119R* cells

(top panel) and an increase in Pfs2 occupancy in *ubp8Δ* cells (bottom panel). **d**, ChIP-qPCR

results show a parallel pattern for $pgk1^+$, with decreased Pfs2 occupancy in *htb1-K119R* cells

(top panel) and increased occupancy in *ubp8Δ* cells (bottom panel). **e**, ChIP-qPCR results

demonstrating a decrease in Pla1 occupancy on $psu1^+$ in *htb1-K119R* cells (top panel) and an

increase in *ubp8Δ* cells (bottom panel). **f**, ChIP-qPCR reveals a decrease in Pla1 occupancy on

$pgk1^+$ in *htb1-K119R* cells (top panel) and an increase in *ubp8Δ* cells (bottom panel). For panels

a-**f**, individual data points were obtained from three independent biological replicates ($n = 3$).

One-sided error bars represent the standard deviation (s.d.) of mean ChIP values, and p-values

(Student's t-test) are indicated in the plots. Vertical dotted lines mark the CPS.

Extended Data Figure 7 | H2Bub1 regulates transcription termination. **a**, Correlation

between Pol II ChIP-seq samples in *htb1-K119R* and *ubp8Δ* cells. Paired-end sequencing reads

were mapped to the fission yeast genome using Bowtie2 (Galaxy Version 2.5.3+galaxy1). The

correlation between pairs of replicates was calculated using mapped reads from each biological

replicate. Values in boxes represent the Pearson correlation coefficient between corresponding

samples (*n* = 2 biological replicates). **b**, Loss of H2Bub1 impairs termination. ChIP-seq browser

tracks reveal an extended Pol II distribution in *htb1-K119R* cells beyond the regular termination

zone seen in *htb1$^+$* cells, indicating readthrough transcription, i.e., termination defects. The blue

and pink tracks, representing the Pol II distribution in *htb1$^+$* and *htb1-K119R* cells, respectively,

are overlaid. Conversely, persistent levels of H2Bub1 favor termination. ChIP-seq browser

tracks show a narrowed Pol II distribution in the termination zone in *ubp8Δ* cells, indicating that

hyper mono-ubiquitylation favors termination. The green and orange tracks, representing the

Pol II distribution in *ubp8$^+$* and *ubp8Δ* cells, respectively, are overlaid. Cdk9 inhibition in the

htb1-K119R background narrows Pol II distribution, suggesting a rescue of termination defects.

This indicates that the accumulation of Cdk9 following the loss of H2Bub1 is the main trigger for

termination defects by continuing elongation. The black and red tracks, representing the Pol II

distribution in *htb1-K119R*, with or without inhibition of Cdk9, respectively, are overlaid. Pol II

ChIP-seq data following Cdk9 inhibition in *htb1-K119R* cells, used in this analysis, were

obtained from a published study [16]. The regions of alterations in Pol II distribution after the CPS

are indicated by red arrows. **c**, Metagene analyses (top) and heatmaps (bottom) display a

genome-wide distribution of Pol II beyond the CPS of 1 kb separated genes (*n* = 918) in *htb1-*

K119R cells, both with and without Cdk9 inhibition, as well as in *ubp8Δ* cells. Metagene plots

further support global termination defects in *htb1-K119R* cells, proper termination upon hyper-

monoubiquitylation in *ubp8Δ* cells, and the rescue of termination defects in *htb1-K119R* cells

upon Cdk9 inhibition. The genes are sorted based on Pol II occupancy between regions -0.1 kb

to +1.0 kb of the CPS. For **b,c**, the vertical dotted lines mark the CPS. The Cdk9 inhibition ChIP-

seq data was used from previous report [16].

Extended Data Figure 8 | H2Bub1 regulates transcription termination. **a**, The top panel

shows an agarose gel visualizing transcript production from the upstream (A) and downstream

(B) regions of the CPS of the *pho1⁺* gene. The results indicate the synthesis of *pho1⁺* mRNA

beyond the regular termination zone in *htb1-K119R* cells, with little to no mRNA synthesis in

htb1⁺ cells. The bottom panel shows RT-qPCR analyses quantifying *pho1⁺* mRNA production

from the same regions, A and B, indicating increased mRNA synthesis beyond the termination

zone in *htb1-K119R* cells. **b**, RT-qPCR analyses quantifying *pgk1⁺* mRNA production from the

regions, A and B, indicating increased mRNA synthesis beyond the termination zone in *htb1-*

K119R cells. **c**, RT-qPCR analyses quantifying *pyk1⁺* mRNA production from the regions, A and

B, indicating increased mRNA synthesis beyond the termination zone in *htb1-K119R* cells. For

panels **a-c**, individual data points shown in the plots were obtained from three independent

817   biological replicates (n = 3); two-sided error bars represent the standard deviation (s.d.) of mean

818   qRT-PCR values; p-values (Student's t-test) are indicated in the plots.

Extended Data Figure 9 | H2Bub1 controls termination factor recruitment. **a**, Distribution of

Pcf11 and Rhn1 on *pgk1⁺*. ChIP-qPCR analyses show a significant decrease in the occupancy

of Pcf11 and Rhn1 in *htb1-K119R* cells. **b**, ChIP-qPCR analyses show a significant increase in

the occupancy of Pcf11 and Rhn1 in *ubp8Δ* cells. **c**, Distribution of Pcf11 and Rhn1 on *pyk1⁺*.

ChIP-qPCR analyses show a significant decrease in the occupancy of Pcf11 and Rhn1 in *htb1-*

K119R cells. **d**, ChIP-qPCR analyses show a significant increase in the occupancy of Pcf11 and

Rhn1 in *ubp8Δ* cells. For panels **a-d**, experiments were performed with three independent

biological replicates (*n* = 3); one-sided error bars represent the standard deviation (s.d.) of

mean ChIP values. *p*-values (Student's t-test) are indicated in the plots. The CPS is marked by

dotted lines.

Extended Data Figure 10 | H2Bub1 influences Pol II CTD Tyr1 and Ser2 phosphorylation.

Distribution of Pol II CTD Tyr1 and Ser2 phosphorylation on *pgk1⁺* and *pyk1⁺*. **a**, **b**, ChIP-qPCR

analyses indicate a significant reduction in Pol II CTD Tyr1 phosphorylation in *htb1-K119R* cells.

c, **d**, Panels reveal minimal to no change in Pol II CTD Tyr1 phosphorylation in *ubp8Δ* cells, as

demonstrated by ChIP-qPCR analyses. **e**, **f**, Similarly, illustrate a notable decrease in Pol II CTD

Ser2 phosphorylation in *htb1-K119R* cells through ChIP-qPCR analyses. **g**, **h**, Panels confirm

that *ubp8Δ* cells exhibit little to no change in Pol II CTD Ser2 phosphorylation according to

ChIP-qPCR analyses. All experiments (panels **a**-**h**) were conducted with three independent

biological replicates (n = 3); one-sided error bars represent the standard deviation (s.d.) of

mean ChIP values, and *p*-values (Student's t-test) are shown in the plots. The CPS is marked

by dotted lines. **i**, Immunoblot showing a loss of Pol II CTD Tyr1 (pTyr1) and Ser2 (pSer2)

phosphorylation in whole cell extracts of *htb1-K119R* cells, whereas these modifications remain

nearly unchanged in *ubp8Δ* cells. **j**, Metagene analyses (top) and heatmaps (bottom) display a

genome-wide distribution of pSpt5:Spt5 and H2Bub1:H2B around the CPS of 1 kb separated

genes (n = 918). The results indicate the accumulation of H2Bub1 upstream of the CPS, where

phospho-Spt5 gradually decays. The genes are sorted based on Pol II occupancy between

regions -0.5 kb to +1.0 kb of the CPS. H2B, H2Bub1, Spt5, pSpt5 ChIP-seq data used in this

analysis were obtained from a published study [16].

Extended Data Table 1 | Yeast Strains

Strain	Genotype	Source
JS78	*leu1-32 ura4-D18 his3-D1 ade6-M210 h*	43
LV239	*htb1-K119R-FLAG::kanMX6 spt5-13myc::kanMX6 leu1-32 ura4-D18 his3-D1 ade6-M21X h?*	8
LV259	*htb1-K119R-FLAG::kanMX6 cdk9-13myc::kanMX6 leu1-32 ura4-D18 his3-D1 ade6-M210 h?*	8
HD6-51	*cdk9-13myc::kanMX6 leu1-32 ura4-D18 his3-D1 ade6-M210 h+*	44
CS112	*cdk9T^{120G}::kanMX6 spt5-13myc::kanMX6 leu1-32 ura4-D18 his3-D1 ade6-*	41
CS172	*pch1-13myc::kanMX6 leu1-32 ura4-D18 his3-D1 ade6-M216 h*	45
VV1484	*dis2-3xFLAG::natMX6 h-*	46
TB4	*h+ cdk9-13myc::kanMX6 ubp8Δ::ura4*	This article
TB11	*rhn1-PK::hph pcf11-myc::kanMX6 htb1-K119R::kanMX6 h?*	This article
TB21	*dis2-3xFLAG::natMX6 htb1-K119R::kanMX6*	This article
TB27	*dis2-3xFLAG::natMX6 ubp8Δ::ura4*	This article
TB29	*rhn1-PK::hph pcf11-myc::kanMX6 ubp8Δ::ura4 h?*	This article
TB32	*pla1-myc::kanMX6 ubp8Δ::ura4*	This article
TB38	*pfs2-11 cdk9-myc::kanMX6 h+*	This article
TB54	*cdk9as::natMX6 htb1K119R::kanMX6 pfs2-FLAG::kanMX6*	This article

TB55	*pla1-myc::kanMX6 htb1K119R::kanMX6*	This article
TB57	*pfs2-FLAG::kanMX6 ubp8Δ::ura4*	This article
FY23510	*h90 leu1-32 ura4-D18 ade6-M210 red1-FLAG::kanMX6 pla1-myc::kanMX6*	Yeast Genetic Resource Center (YGRC), Japan
FY23525	*h90 leu1-32 ura4-D18 ade6-M210 or M216 rhn1-PK::hph pcf11-myc::kanMX6*	Yeast Genetic Resource Center (YGRC), Japan
FY23541	*h90 or h- leu1-32 ura4-D18 ade6-210 red5-myc::hph pfs2-FLAG::kanMX6*	Yeast Genetic Resource Center (YGRC), Japan

886 **Extended Data Table 2 | Oligonucleotides**

Name	Sequence	Direction	Amplicon
psu1-1F	GCCATCCTCATCACTTGCTT	Forward	+289
psu1-1R	GAGTAACTGAAGCGGCAACC	Reverse	
psu1-2F	TTGAGGGTGCCTACTGCTCT	Forward	+835
psu1-2R	TTGGCCAAGTGTGTTTTGAA	Reverse	
psu1-3F	TGATGGCGCTTCTGTTAGTG	Forward	+1364/A
psu1-3R	AATCCCCTACGTCCCAAATC	Reverse	
psu1-4F	GTTAGCAAAGCTGCGTTGTG	Forward	+2142
psu1-4R	GCAATGGTTAGTCCCTTTGG	Reverse	
psu1-6F	GAGCATGGTTTGATTGATATG	Forward	B
psu1-6R	CAGTTTAGAAATGTCTGAACC	Reverse	
pgk1-1F	CTTGAAGCCTGTTGCTGCTG	Forward	+355
pgk1-1R	GGATGACCTCACCACCCTTG	Reverse	
pgk1-2F	TCACCGTGCTCACTCCTCTA	Forward	+628
pgk1-2R	AAGATGGCAAGGAAGGGACG	Reverse	
pgk1-3F	GGTCCCGCTGGTGTCTTTG	Forward	+1130/A
pgk1-3R	AGACGTGGGAAAGAGCATCCT	Reverse	
pgk1-4F	CGCGTTGCTCTATCCATCGG	Forward	+1921
pgk1-4R	TCGCAAGCAAAAAATCCACGG	Reverse	
pgk1_6F	CACTAGATTCAAGCTTGAACCTG	Forward	B
pgk1_6R	CGCTTAGATGAACTGTGCCG	Reverse	
pyk1-1F	CAACGTTGAGACCTTGTGCA	Forward	+220
pyk1-1R	TCGTCGGTGGTGAAGATCAT	Reverse	
pyk1-2f	CCGTGAAGTTTTGGGTGAGG	Forward	+796
pyk1-2R	TTGGGCGACGAAAACTTGAG	Reverse	
pyk1-3F	ATGGTTACTCGTTGCCCTCA	Forward	+1391/A
pyk1-3R	AGACGGAAGATGGAGGTGTG	Reverse	
pyk1-4F	GCGAAAAGTGCCTGATGAA	Forward	+2018
pyk1-4R	ATTCCCATTGCTCTGGCTTA	Reverse	
pyk1_9F	AGCTAAGCCAGAGCAATGGG	Forward	B
pyk1_9R	CTCTTCAGAATCTACGTTCC	Reverse	
pho1_GeneBody_F2	TCTTTGGAGGTGCCTATGCT	Forward	A
pho1_GeneBody_R2	CCAGCAAATGGGACAAATTC	Reverse	
pho1_RT_F4	CAGTTAAGACACTTTCAGCCC	Forward	B
pho1_RT_R4	GTTTCATCGTAGCACTTCATACG	Reverse	
cMYC			
PP562	GTAGTTAATTCATGCGGCTCTCTTACT	Forward	-200
PP563	GGGCAGCCGAGCACTCTA	Reverse	
PP564	GGAGGGATCGCGCTGAGTA	Forward	+1

PP565	TCTGCCTCTCGCTGGAATTAC	Reverse	
PP566	GCCGCATCCACGAAACTTT	Forward	+190
PP567	TCCTTGCTCGGGTGTTGTAAG	Reverse	
PP568	TGCCCCTCAACGTTAGCTTC	Forward	+2018
PP569	GGCTGCACCGAGTCGTAGTC	Reverse	
PP570	GTCCAAAGCCTCATTAAGTCTTAGGTA	Forward	+3589
PP571	CAACTTCCCAGGATAGGACATTG	Reverse	
PP572	AAGTACATTTTGCTTTTTAAAGTTGATT	Forward	+5155
PP573	GGCTCAATGATATATTTGCCAGTTATTTTA	Reverse	
PP574	TCCCCATATTAGAAGTAGAGAGGGAA	Forward	+6028
PP575	CTTGGGCATGTGGATGAGTCT	Reverse	
PP576	TGAAGGATGTTGGAGCATGAGTA	Forward	+11382
PP577	TCTCTTCCCAGTTGAGTCTTGAAA	Reverse	
GAPDH			
PP655	CAATTCCCCATCTCAGTCGT	Forward	-300
PP656	GCAGCAGGACACTAGGGAGT	Reverse	
PP657	CTCCTGTTCGACAGTCAGC	Forward	+55
PP658	TTCAGGCCGTCCCTAGC	Reverse	
PP659	AAGTCAGGTGGAGCGAG	Forward	+929
PP660	TAAACCCACTTCTTTGATTTACCAGAG	Reverse	
PP663	CACCCTGGTCTGAGGTTAAATATAG	Forward	+1407
PP664	GTGGGAGCACAGGTAAGT	Reverse	
PP665	CCCTGTGCTCAACCAGT	Forward	+3882
PP666	CTCACCTTGACACAAGCC	Reverse	
PP667	AGATGTGTCAGGGTGACTTAT	Forward	+4511
PP668	TAGGTCCCAGCTACACGC	Reverse	
PP669	CCTATACCGAGGCATTGTGAA	Forward	+5100
PP670	GCTTCCTCCGTGTCTGTCATA	Reverse	
PP671	TTCACATTCCTGATACGTGGACAA	Forward	+5747
PP672	CGTGGGTGTCTGCTACT	Reverse	
VEGFA			
-941_hVEGFA_F	TCACTGACTAACCCCGGAAC	Forward	-941
-941_hVEGFA_R	GCCTGCAGACATCAAAGTGA	Reverse	
+148_hVEGFA_F	TCCGGGTTTTATCCCTCTTC	Forward	+148
+148_hVEGFA_R	TCTGCTGGTTTCCAAAATCC	Reverse	
+1947_hVEGFA_F	AGACCCTACCTCTGCCCAGT	Forward	+1947
+1947_hVEGFA_R	GCCACGACTTCTGACAGTGA	Reverse	
+2958_hVEGFA_F	TGTGACCTTGGCTGTCTCTG	Forward	+2958
+2958_hVEGFA_R	CTCCAGCTCTCACCAACTCC	Reverse	
+4158_hVEGFA_F	AAGGAGGAGGGCAGAATCAT	Forward	+4158
+4158_hVEGFA_R	GACCTGAACAGCGGAGAGTC	Reverse	
+7428_hVEGFA_F	CCCACTGAGGAGTCCAACAT	Forward	+7428
+7428_hVEGFA_R	CATACCTCCCCTGTGCAACT	Reverse	
+12840_hVEGFA_F	TACTGGGGACCAAGGAAGTG	Forward	+12840

+12840_hVEGFA_R	AGTCTTGCCTCCCTGACTGA	Reverse	
+18362_hVEGFA_F	CACTGGCTGTCCTCTCTTCC	Forward	+18362
+18362_hVEGFA_R	AGGGATGGTGAAAAGGAGGT	Reverse	
ERRFI1			
-1168_hERRFI1_F	CTCTCCAAAGCCAAAAGACG	Forward	-1168
-1168_hERRFI1_R	TGACTGCGTTGGAATATGGA	Reverse	
-121_hERRFI1_F	GGCATCGCCCCTTTAAGC	Forward	-121
-121_hERRFI1_R	GCTCCCGCTAGCACTCTG	Reverse	
+681_hERRFI1_F	CACCGTGTACCCGTAAATCC	Forward	+681
+681_hERRFI1_R	TTTTGCAGTCCGATTCCATT	Reverse	
+2228_hERRFI1_F	AGGAGCAGAGGAAGGAAAGG	Forward	+2228
+2228_hERRFI1_R	CCGCAAAGGATGCTAAATGT	Reverse	
+3553_hERRFI1_F	GTTTCTGTTCCTGCCTCTGC	Forward	+3553
+3553_hERRFI1_R	CAGCATTTTCCCCACACTTT	Reverse	
+6777_hERRFI1_F	CAGGGGGAAAGCATAAATCA	Forward	+6777
+6777_hERRFI1_R	AGCTCTACCCTGCCTTCTCC	Reverse	
+9857_hERRFI1_F	GGGTGTTTCACAAAGGAGGA	Forward	+9857
+9857_hERRFI1_R	TGGGGAGACAAATTCTCCAG	Reverse	
+11709_hERRFI1_F	CTTTGAACCACACCATGTGC	Forward	+11709
+11709_hERRFI1_R	ATTCATCGGAGCAGATTTGG	Reverse	