

## **Interactome comparison of human embryonic stem cell lines with the inner cell mass and trophectoderm**

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## Abstract (193 words)

Human embryonic stem cells (hESCs) derived from the pluripotent Inner cell mass (ICM) of the blastocyst are fundamental tools for understanding human development, yet are not identical to their tissue of origin. To investigate this divergence we compared the transcriptomes of genetically paired ICM and trophectoderm (TE) samples with three hESC lines: MAN1, HUES3 and HUES7 at similar passage. We generated inferred interactome networks using transcriptomic data unique to the ICM or TE, and defined a hierarchy of modules (highly connected regions with shared function). We compared network properties and the modular hierarchy and show that the three hESCs had limited overlap with ICM specific transcriptome (6%-12%). However this overlap was enriched for network properties related to transcriptional activity in ICM ( $p=0.016$ ); greatest in MAN1 compared to HUES3 ( $p=0.048$ ) or HUES7 ( $p=0.012$ ). The hierarchy of modules in the ICM interactome contained a greater proportion of MAN1 specific gene expression (46%) compared to HUES3 (28%) and HUES7 (25%) ( $p=9.0 \times 10^{-4}$ ).

These findings show that traditional methods based on transcriptome overlap are not sufficient to identify divergence of hESCs from ICM. Our approach also provides a valuable approach to the quantification of differences between hESC lines.

## Glossary of Network Concepts

**Modular Hierarchy** – *Biological networks form regions of higher connectivity than would be expected by chance, known as modules. Modules represent functionally related elements of a network and their relative influence in a system can be estimated by their centrality.*

**Metanode** – *The most central ten connected genes within a module.*

**Connectivity** – *The number of links existing between a given node and its neighbours. An increased connectivity is indicative of a gene which is involved in numerous processes.*

**Community Centrality** – *A measure of the relative ‘importance’ of a node, characterised by high connectivity or connections between areas of high connectivity.*

**Bridgeness** – *A property of a node in a network which sits between two areas of high connectivity, such that if removed, it would cause the separation of a single module into two. These nodes act as ‘bridges’ between modules and an increased bridgeness identifies a node which connects multiple modules.*

**Party hub** – *A node with multiple connections which, in a biological system, is thought to represent a gene with many active simultaneous interactions, such as protein complexes. It is characterised by a node which has a reduced bridgeness at a given centrality when compared to a date-hub.*

**Date hub** – *A node with multiple connections which, in a biological system, has non-concurrent interactions with other nodes. These are thought to represent transcription factors. It is characterised by a node which has an increased bridgeness at a given centrality when compared to a party-hub.*

**Similarity Network Fusion** – *A network approach which uses nearest neighbour relationships to combine datasets and identify regions of similarity within and between them. In the context of this manuscript, coherency between datasets represents genes whose expression patterns are conserved between cells derived from embryonic tissue and human embryonic stem cell lines.*

## 1 Introduction

2 Embryonic stem cell lines are generally derived from the inner cell mass of the preimplantation  
3 blastocyst. The proteins OCT4 (*POU5F1*), SOX2 and NANOG are core pluripotency-associated factors  
4 that define a network of interactions involved in self-renewal and maintenance of the pluripotent  
5 state for human and mouse embryonic stem cells (1). Each of the core pluripotency factors has been  
6 detected in at least some early trophoblast cells, however, they have often not been detected in all  
7 cells of the inner cell mass (ICM)/epiblast, for a given embryo (2, 3). This heterogeneity has been  
8 confirmed by RNAseq analysis of single human preimplantation epiblast cells (4). Recently the central  
9 role of OCT4 not only in maintenance of the inner cell mass stem cell population but also in the  
10 differentiation of the extra-embryonic trophoderm (TE) has been established using CRISPR/Cas 9  
11 gene editing in human preimplantation embryos and embryonic stem cells (ESCs)(5). Data from the  
12 mouse and cynomolgus monkey indicate that the ICM generates a series of epiblast states before  
13 giving rise, after implantation, to progenitors of differentiated lineages (6-8). Pluripotency-associated  
14 transcriptional networks continue to be expressed in the preimplantation human epiblast (4, 9) and  
15 early post-implantation cynomolgus epiblast (8). Thus, the preimplantation epiblast has  
16 transcriptional heterogeneity which is likely to relate to initiation of differentiation events that take  
17 place in the early post implantation epiblast and will also impact the generation of ESC lines.

18 Expression of a number of genes has been associated with the development of extraembryonic cell  
19 lineages including *Tead4* (10), *Tsfap2c* (11), *Gata3* (12) and *Cdx2* (13). There is evidence suggesting  
20 divergence between species in the utilisation of some of these genes such as the Gata family (14-17)  
21 known to play a role in TE generation (8). These observations imply that networks of interacting co-  
22 regulated proteins might distinguish the transiently pluripotent ICM/preimplantation epiblast from  
23 the early differentiated trophoderm (TE) in a species specific manner.

24 In mouse the ground state pluripotency of the ICM appears to be maintained in murine ESCs derived  
25 from the ICM and cultured in the presence of LIF together with MEK and GSK3 $\beta$  inhibitors (7). This is

26 not the case for human ESCs derived from day 6-7 blastocysts and cultured in standard medium with  
27 TGF $\beta$  family molecules and FGF-2. It is established in the literature that human ESC lines have more  
28 similarities to the murine epiblast after implantation (18, 19) than to the murine ICM and ESCs. In  
29 order to understand this difference, it is important to determine how similar hESCs are to the *human*  
30 ICM.

31 Transcriptional analysis of isolated ICM and TE samples from individual human embryos has also been  
32 performed, highlighting key metabolic and signalling pathways (20). A recent study of 1529 individual  
33 cells from 88 human preimplantation embryos has defined a transcriptional atlas of this stage of  
34 human development (4), however inter-individual heterogeneity has been shown to have a major  
35 effect on gene expression (21) (Smith *et al*, accepted for publication). Together these data show the  
36 relevance of transcriptome based analysis and highlight the need for approaches that account for  
37 inter-individual variation.

38 In the work presented here we have set out to examine how far the gene expression profile of ICM  
39 and TE have diverged from one another at the blastocyst stage, when hESC derivation occurs, and to  
40 compare these data to the transcriptome of hESCs. We have compared transcriptomic data between  
41 sets of matched ICM and TE pairs from the same human embryo and used these data to generate ICM-  
42 and TE-specific interactome network models. This approach has allowed us to use quantitative  
43 network analysis to compare both TE and ICM with hESCs and to evaluate the extent of similarity  
44 between ICM/TE and hESC cell lines as well as the hESC lines with each other. These analyses provide  
45 an important framework which highlights the development origins of hESCs.

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## 50 **Results**

### 51 **Similarities between the transcriptome of inner cell mass, trophoctoderm and human embryonic** 52 **stem cell lines.**

53 Barcode Z scores for the entire transcriptome (n=54613 gene probe sets) were compared using partial  
54 least squares discriminant analysis (PLSDA) to assess the relationship between ICM, TE and the hESC  
55 lines MAN1, HUES3, HUES7 (**Figure 1**). The hESC sample groups were distinct from each other and  
56 from ICM and TE (p<0.05). All hESC cell lines were of equivalent distance from both ICM and TE along  
57 the X-axis (X-variate 1), however along the Y-axis (X-variate 2) MAN1 was closer to ICM than HUES3 or  
58 HUES7.

59

### 60 **Gene expression unique to inner cell mass and trophoctoderm and associated gene ontology**

61 Gene barcode was used to isolate gene probe sets present in each embryonic cell line resulting in 2238  
62 probe sets in ICM and 2484 probe sets in TE. This subset of the transcriptome in the ICM and TE  
63 samples was used to determine the overlap and unique gene expression in each of these blastocyst  
64 tissues (**Figure 2A**). We found 881 and 1227 gene probesets uniquely expressed in the ICM and TE  
65 respectively, corresponding to 719 and 924 unique genes (**Supplemental Table S1**). The genes defined  
66 as having unique expression in ICM or TE significantly overlapped with single cell RNA-seq data from  
67 human epiblast and trophoctoderm cells respectively (both  $p < 1.0 \times 10^{-4}$ ), identified in previously  
68 published analysis (4).

69 The genes associated with ICM and TE were grouped by “biological process” ontology showing a  
70 similar proportion and ordering in both gene sets, the only difference being a reduction in the  
71 proportion of genes of the category “cell communication” in the TE compared to the ICM (**Figure 2B**).  
72 More detailed comparison of biological pathways identified “epithelial adherens junction signalling”  
73 (ICM  $p = 4.2 \times 10^{-5}$ , TE  $p = 7.3 \times 10^{-4}$ ) as strongly associated with both TE and ICM, and EIF2 translation  
74 initiation activity (TE  $p = 4.4 \times 10^{-6}$ , ICM  $p = 0.39$ ) as significantly associated with TE, consistent with the

75 TE being at an early stage of diverging differentiation towards trophoctoderm epithelium (22), with  
76 an active requirement for new biosynthesis (23) (**Supplemental Table S2**).

77 It was noted that NANOG regulation was strongly associated with the ICM ( $p=5.9 \times 10^{-6}$ ) but not the TE  
78 and that CDX2 regulation was associated with TE ( $p=9.8 \times 10^{-3}$ ) but not ICM, as would be anticipated  
79 (24). Using causal network analysis we identified master regulators of gene expression associated with  
80 the transcriptomic data. This approach identified MYC ( $p=7.6 \times 10^{-8}$ ), a co-ordinator of OCT4 activity  
81 (25), and ONECUT1 (HNF6) ( $p=4.0 \times 10^{-8}$ ), a regulator of the development of epithelial cells (26), as the  
82 most significantly associated regulatory factors in ICM and TE respectively (**Supplemental Tables S3**).

83

#### 84 **Similarities between the inner cell mass and trophoctoderm unique transcriptomes and the** 85 **transcriptome of human embryonic stem cells**

86 Similarity Network Fusion (SNF) was used to assess the similarity of gene expression patterns between  
87 cell lines. Genes form clusters within each cell line based on their expression patterns across each  
88 sample. We are able to identify regions where this pattern is *coherent* between MAN1, HUES3 or  
89 HUES7 and either ICM or TE. A region of coherency across a stem cell line and either TE or ICM  
90 represents a group of genes whose expression pattern is conserved between embryonic tissue and  
91 hESCs. The analysis highlighted a limited similarity of hESC lines with ICM (between 6% and 12%  
92 similarity) and TE (between 9% and 11%), consistent with the distance between the hESC lines and TE  
93 and ICM as observed by PLSDA analysis (**Figure 3A & Supplemental Figure S1**). Three primary clusters  
94 of similarity were identified in all comparisons between the hESC lines and ICM or TE (**Figure 3B**).  
95 These clusters were of equivalent similarity in TE with all hESC lines, as indicated by uniform yellow  
96 intensity indicating coherency with nearest co-expressed neighbours, implying highly co-ordinated  
97 expression. However, when ICM was compared with hESCs, coherency was noted only with MAN1 and  
98 not with the other hESC lines (**Figure 3B**).

99

100 **An interactome network model of gene expression unique to ICM can be used as a framework to**  
101 **assess similarity with human embryonic stem cells.**

102 An interactome network model can be used to consider the proteins derived from the differentially  
103 expressed genes and the proteins that they interact with. Using this approach allowed us to consider  
104 the wider context of biological influence generated by the gene expression unique to either the ICM  
105 or TE and to implement these models as a framework to assess similarity with the hESC lines. We first  
106 used the genes with unique expression in either ICM or TE to generate interactome network models  
107 by inference to known protein-protein interactions (**Figure 4A & 4B**). As interactome networks  
108 account for inferred interactions these may be shared between models. Comparing the TE and ICM  
109 interactome network models an overlap of 5659 inferred genes was present that represented  
110 potentially shared protein:protein interactions, accounting for 72% of the ICM interactome and 66%  
111 of the TE interactome.

112 Both networks were enriched for genes associated with pluripotency, for example NANOG with the  
113 ICM network and CDX2 with the TE network, as identified by gene ontology analysis. The ICM network  
114 contained 93/167 and 161/240 genes and the TE network contained 94/167 and 185/240 genes  
115 related to core pluripotency associated factors by RNAi (27-31) and protein interaction (31-35) screens  
116 respectively. The similarity of TE with ICM networks for pluripotency factors is likely to reflect the fact  
117 that this tissue has only very recently begun to diverge.

118 The shared transcriptome between ICM or TE and each human embryonic stem cell line was mapped  
119 onto the respective ICM or TE interactome network model. For ICM and MAN1 255 out of 517 shared  
120 genes (49%), for ICM and HUES3 405 out of 856 shared genes (47%) and for ICM and HUES7 463 out  
121 of 1010 shared genes (46%) mapped from the overlap of the transcriptomes to the network model.  
122 This means that almost 50% of these genes are concerned with shared protein interactions. For TE  
123 and MAN1 335 out of 780 shared genes (43%), for TE and HUES3 512 out of 964 shared genes (53%)  
124 and for TE and HUES7 573 out of 1108 shared genes (52%) mapped from the overlap of the  
125 transcriptomes to the network model, again suggesting relatively high shared protein interactions. Of



126 the genes shared between the hESC lines and ICM there was no difference in the proportions shared  
127 with the network model ( $p=0.74$ ), for the genes shared between the hESC lines and TE, MAN1 had a  
128 significantly smaller proportion of genes shared with the TE network model ( $p= 0.03$ ).

129

130 **Similarities and differences in topology between human embryonic stem cell lines in relation to**  
131 **inner cell mass and trophoctoderm network models**

132 As the ICM and TE interactome models shared a significant proportion of the same genes, we went on  
133 to assess the network topology of these models to determine further similarities and differences with  
134 the genes shared with the hESC lines. Analysis of the network topology of the ICM and TE interactome  
135 demonstrated that the genes shared with the hESC lines were enriched for highly connected genes (as  
136 measured by degree, the number of interactions made to other genes) and the enrichment seen was  
137 not statistically different between the hESC lines (**Figure 6A & 6B**).

138 To further investigate the putative functional relevance of genes shared between the ICM or TE  
139 interactome models and the hESC lines we determined whether these genes had “party” or “date”  
140 like properties. In protein interaction networks party hubs co-ordinate local activity by protein  
141 complexes, whereas date hubs regulate global effects and are assumed to represent the transient  
142 interactions that occur with transcription factors (36, 37). Date-like network hubs have been shown  
143 to possess a higher “bridgeness” property at any position within the interactome (38). Bridgeness is a  
144 network property that measures overlap between network modules and this score can be compared  
145 at different positions within the network by plotting it against “centrality”, a network property that  
146 measures the influence of a node in a network (38). All three hESC lines were shown to be enriched  
147 for bridgeness score in relation to centrality when compared to the full ICM or TE networks (**Figure 6C**  
148 **& 6D**). This observation implies an enrichment for date-like network hubs in the genes shared between  
149 the hESC lines and the ICM or TE interactome network models, implying in turn an enrichment of  
150 transcription factor activity.

151 Above, we identified the overlap of genes expressed in the ICM or TE and the hESC cell lines (**Figure**  
152 **5**). There were 590 and 652 genes shared genes between all the three hESC lines and ICM and TE  
153 respectively (**Supplemental Figure S2A**). When we examined genes uniquely expressed in each of the  
154 hESC lines (**Supplemental Figure S2A**), the highly central genes in both networks (centrality score  
155  $>100$ ) were significantly enriched for bridgeness in ICM ( $p=0.016$ ) but not TE ( $p=0.105$ ), indicating  
156 more date-like properties in ICM (**Figure 6E & 6F**). In the ICM interactome network model MAN1 was  
157 significantly more date-like than HUES3 ( $p=0.048$ ) and HUES7 ( $p=0.012$ ). This observation implies that  
158 the MAN1 cell line shared significantly more transcription factor activity and that these are  
159 hierarchically more important within the ICM interactome, than either HUES3 or HUES7. Biological  
160 pathways associated with genes uniquely expressed in each of the hESC lines are shown in  
161 **Supplemental Figure S2B**. In MAN1 “PDGF signalling” and “cell cycle control of chromosome  
162 replication” were associated with the unique gene expression shared with ICM. PDGF signalling is  
163 required for primitive endoderm cell survival in the inner cell mass of the mouse blastocyst (39) and  
164 NANOG (referred to above) has been shown to influence replication timing in the cell cycle (40, 41).

165

166 **Modular hierarchy of the ICM and TE interactome network models reveal an enrichment in MAN1**  
167 **for ICM and an enrichment in HUES7 for TE**

168 Network modules are sub-structures of a network that have a greater number of internal connections  
169 than expected by chance. Modules are known to represent functionally related elements of a network  
170 and can be ranked hierarchically by their centrality within a network, with the assumption that the  
171 more central modules are functionally dominant within the network. We defined modules within the  
172 TE and ICM interactome network modules allowing for overlap and arranged these into a hierarchy of  
173 influence by centrality score (38) (**Figure 7A**). The ICM and TE interactome network models had a  
174 hierarchy of 163 and 201 modules of different sizes respectively. There was no difference in the  
175 proportion of modules compared to network size between the ICM and TE interactome network  
176 models ( $p=0.2$ ) (**Supplemental Figure S3 & Supplemental Tables S4 & S5**). The robustness of the

177 definition of network modules in the ICM and TE interactome network models was confirmed by  
178 permutation analysis of the proportional random removal of genes (**Supplemental Figure S4**). This  
179 established that the majority of modules were robust to the removal of large proportions of the  
180 network, with only 2 of the top 47 ICM and 8 of the top 49 TE modules analysed experiencing a  
181 significant ( $p < 0.05$ ) reduction in connectivity within the module following the removal of a random  
182 20% of the network iterated 100 times.

183 The genes with shared expression between ICM or TE and the hESC lines were mapped to each  
184 interactome module. In the ICM network 116/163 modules (71%) were still enriched for gene  
185 expression shared between hESC lines and ICM. A greater proportion of hESC associated modules in  
186 the ICM interactome network model were enriched for MAN1 gene expression (0.46) compared to  
187 HUES3 (0.28) and HUES7 (0.25) ( $p = 9.0 \times 10^{-4}$ , chi squared test). In the TE interactome network model  
188 132/201 modules (65%) were enriched for gene expression shared between hESC lines and TE. The  
189 smallest proportion of enriched hESC associated modules occurred in HUES7 (0.17) compared to  
190 MAN1 (0.39) and HUES3 (0.44) ( $p = 3.1 \times 10^{-6}$ , chi squared test) (**Figure 7B**).

191 The modules assessed as having enriched gene expression in specific hESC lines were mapped to the  
192 module hierarchy in the ICM or TE interactome network model (**Figure 7C**). These data show an  
193 enrichment of the modules that have the greatest proportion of shared gene expression with MAN1  
194 in the upper part of the module hierarchy in both ICM and TE indicating that the MAN1 associated  
195 modules were likely to be more functionally active in both the ICM and TE interactomes.

196 Gene expression uniquely present in each of the hESC lines (**Supplemental Figure S2A**) was mapped  
197 to the central core (most central 10 genes) of each of the modules in the ICM and TE interactome  
198 network models (**Supplemental Figure S5**). This analysis highlighted only gene expression present  
199 uniquely in MAN1 or HUES7 in the upper part of the module hierarchy in the ICM and TE interactome  
200 network models indicating that HUES3 associated modules had a reduced role in the function of the  
201 ICM. The upper part of the TE network model module hierarchy was enriched for both HUES7 and

202 MAN1 uniquely expressed genes, indicating a dominant effect of these hESC lines on TE function,  
203 compared to HUES3.

204 Finally, relating these analyses to the enrichment for pluripotency associated genes we defined in the  
205 ICM and TE interactome models, we examined this relationship to the modular hierarchy of the ICM  
206 and TE interactome network models. We assessed whether any of the pluripotent genes mapped to  
207 the central core of 10 genes in a network module (coloured black in **Figure 7C**). In the ICM modular  
208 hierarchy 16, 13 and 11 of the modules enriched in MAN1, HUES3 and HUES7 respectively also  
209 mapped to pluripotency genes. In the TE modular hierarchy 18, 11 and 15 of the modules enriched in  
210 MAN1, HUES3 and HUES7 respectively also mapped to pluripotency genes. It was noted that OCT4  
211 (*POU5F1*), a primary marker of ICM (42), was present in the central core of the modules from the ICM  
212 but not the TE network models. *NANOG*, another marker of ICM (42), was present four times in the  
213 ICM and only once in the TE network models. Also estrogen-related-receptor beta (*ESRRB*), a marker  
214 of TE (43, 44), was present three times in the TE but not at all in the ICM network models. In the ICM  
215 network model, 2 of the 3 *NANOG* associated modules are enriched for MAN1 gene expression and  
216 the module associated with both *NANOG* and *OCT4* had equivalent enrichment in MAN1, HUES3 and  
217 HUES7. In the TE network model the *NANOG* associated module was low in the hierarchy (76/201)  
218 and had equivalent enrichment in MAN1, HUES3 and HUES7. In the TE network model the three *ESRRB*  
219 associated modules were at the upper end of the module hierarchy with the highest ranked (8/201)  
220 being enriched in HUES3 and HUES7 and the other two being associated with MAN1 (**Figure 6C**). These  
221 data combined show that the key transcription factors (and partners) known to be associated with  
222 ICM and TE have biologically logical but different associations with hESC lines within the modular  
223 hierarchies of the interactome network models.

224

225 **Discussion**

226 The analysis presented in this manuscript has defined gene interactome network models of ICM and  
227 TE and used these to quantitatively assess the relationship to pluripotency of several human  
228 embryonic stem cell lines derived from the ICM.

229 The MAN1 human embryonic stem cell line was furthest from both ICM and TE using distance metrics  
230 on the unsupervised transcriptome. Only ~10% of genes uniquely expressed by the ICM (compared to  
231 TE) were shown to have similarity to expression patterns in MAN1, HUES3 and HUES7 using SNF.  
232 However MAN1 was found to be most similar to ICM as it had both a greater enrichment of genes and  
233 a greater coherency with nearest neighbours in comparison to HUES3 and HUES7. Substantial  
234 enrichment of human embryonic stem cell line gene expression was also observed in relation to TE  
235 but, whilst this was shown to be coherent with nearest neighbours, it showed a reduced similarity  
236 compared to ICM in MAN1 and HUES7 and an increased similarity compared to HUES3.

237 We used interactome network models of ICM and TE as frameworks to map overlapping gene  
238 expression from MAN1, HUES3 and HUES7. Using network topology as a marker of functionality we  
239 demonstrated that all the human embryonic stem cell lines had gene interaction networks with  
240 increased connectivity in both the ICM and TE interactome network models generated from gene  
241 expression data. All human embryonic stem cell lines also showed an enrichment for network  
242 topology that was associated more with date hubs than with party hubs, in ICM and TE network  
243 models. Date hubs are network positions that are associated with non-concurrent signalling and are  
244 more likely to represent transcription factor activity related to the execution of a developmental  
245 programme (31, 36-38). A key finding of this study is that date hubs central to the network model, and  
246 therefore likely to influence a greater proportion of network function, were significantly enriched in  
247 the overlap of genes uniquely shared between MAN1 and the ICM compared to genes uniquely shared  
248 between HUES3 or HUES7 and ICM.

249 We defined a functional hierarchy of overlapping network modules in both the ICM and TE  
250 interactome network models and used this as a framework to study the relationship of MAN1, HUES3  
251 and HUES7 with ICM and TE gene expression. MAN1 was shown to have the greatest proportion of

252 shared expression with the ICM network modules and HUES7 had the greatest proportion of shared  
253 expression with the TE network modules. MAN1 had greater enrichment in the upper hierarchy for  
254 both ICM and TE network models both overall and for uniquely expressed genes.

255 Taken together these observations demonstrate the utility of network approaches to quantify  
256 underlying similarities based on the position of transcriptomic differences in an interactome network  
257 model. Quantitative comparison of the hierarchy of the ICM and TE interactome network modules in  
258 relation to the expressed genes in the human embryonic stem cell lines provided further insight into  
259 similarities and differences between the cell lines beyond those defined by traditional distance  
260 metrics.

261 An assessment of master regulators of transcription associated with the ICM and TE specific gene  
262 expression identified known tissue specific transcriptional regulators – NANOG in ICM (31, 42) and  
263 CDX2 in TE (9, 45). Both the ICM and TE network models were enriched for genes associated with  
264 pluripotency (31, 42) an observation in alignment with recent diversification of these tissues. The  
265 upper part of the hierarchy of network modules in both the ICM and the TE interactome network  
266 models was enriched for pluripotency associated genes. However MAN1 was more closely associated  
267 with gene modules including NANOG in the ICM interactome network model compared to HUES3 and  
268 HUES7 cell lines. In the TE interactome network model HUES3 and HUES7 were associated with the  
269 *ESRRB* related module at the highest position in the module hierarchy whilst MAN1 was also primarily  
270 associated with two further *ESRRB* related modules. *ESRRβ*, a direct target of Nanog (46), has been  
271 shown to be important in murine ES cells as a co-regulator of Oct4 with Nanog (47) and a regulator of  
272 Gata6 through promoter binding (48). Using chromosome conformation capture sequencing Nanog  
273 interacting modules were found to be more enriched with target sites for *Esrrb* as well as Klf4, Sox2  
274 and cMyc target sequences with less consistency in Nanog and Oct4 target sequences (40). *ESRRβ*  
275 works with p300 to maintain pluripotency networks, generating a permissive chromatin state for  
276 binding of Oct4, Nanog and Sox2 and has been implicated in reprogramming epistemic cells to an iPSC  
277 state (49). Thus the prevalence of *ESRRβ* in the hESC interactome could be interpreted as indicating

278 hESC line position in the spectrum from the naïve to the epistem like state, but further work would be  
279 needed to confirm this.

280 Overall these data reveal that the MAN1 cell line had the greatest similarity to ICM compared to the  
281 other human embryonic stem cell lines despite being least related to ICM in the PLSDA analysis. This  
282 observation is based on **I)** greater coherency in the SNF analysis with nearest neighbour genes, **II)**  
283 significantly increased proportion of genes with a date-like hub property in the ICM network, **III)** an  
284 increased proportion of genes mapping to ICM interactome network modules and **IV)** an association  
285 with ICM network gene modules that map to NANOG activity. Concordance has been identified  
286 between transcriptomic regulation in human induced pluripotent stem cells and the ICM (50) but this  
287 has not been fully mapped at the level of the interactome. We propose that the network approach  
288 presented in this manuscript represents a significant advance on distance metrics in the comparison  
289 on hESC lines.

290 By using a barcode approach to define genes uniquely expressed we were able to define ICM- and TE-  
291 specific interactome network models, an important advance from more traditional comparative  
292 modelling using differential gene expression (51-53). We also confirmed similarity of the underlying  
293 transcriptomic data with findings from single cell RNAseq data (4) corroborating our observations.  
294 These comparisons also confirmed the importance of network structure in the analysis we have  
295 undertaken (54). We demonstrated the robustness of our network models by establishing module  
296 coherency over successive reductions of network model size (by gene removal), therefore establishing  
297 a high level of confidence in the analysis of related gene modules and network topology (55).

298 The differences between ICM and TE with all three hESC lines may partially reflect the genetic  
299 background of the infertile couples donating embryos for analysis and stem cell derivation. Previously  
300 we have performed re-analysis of single cell ICM and TE RNAseq from Petropoulos *et al* 2016 (4) and  
301 shown a strong effect of inter-individual genetic variation (Smith *et al*, unpublished). To account for  
302 this we have restricted our analysis in this manuscript to only genetically matched pairs of ICM and  
303 TE. The similarities we have established by comparison to other work (4) indicate that the data

304 presented in this manuscript is robust to inter-individual differences. The greater dissimilarity of  
305 MAN1 to HUES7 and HUES3, revealed in the overlap of the transcriptome to the ICM interactome  
306 network modules, may reflect differences in genetic background of individual lines, or derivation  
307 regime since HUES3 and HUES7 were derived in the same lab at a similar time (56, 57). However it  
308 should be noted that all hESC lines were enriched for connectivity, a marker of function, within the  
309 ICM interactome, an observation in agreement with a fundamental similarity between hESC lines,  
310 despite different genetic background and embryo generation or hESC derivation methods (56). It was  
311 also noted that hESC lines are different in very many gene modules to ICM. Although the ICMs have  
312 totally different genetic background to the hESC lines assessed here, the fact that the hESCs are more  
313 dissimilar than the ICMs are to each other does add further weight to this conclusion.

314 The use of network approaches to quantify similarities between hESCs and their tissue of origin is a  
315 developing field. Network summary approaches have been used with promising results (e.g. CellNet  
316 (58)). Correlation networks generated from gene expression have been used to generate quantitative  
317 comparison based on the analysis of discrete network modules (59). Network driven approaches can  
318 also be used to deal with the large number of comparisons present in the analysis of 'omic data sets,  
319 e.g. topological data analysis (TDA) (54) and SNF (60). In the work presented here we have used an  
320 efficient method to generate hierarchies of overlapping gene modules (38, 61), thus accounting for  
321 the underlying network topology, and supported this analysis using SNF (60) to generate quantitative  
322 comparison of hESC lines with ICM and TE. The approach we have developed accounts for both the  
323 hierarchy of modules within a network and the large number of comparisons performed in an  
324 unsupervised manner to generate robust conclusions. This has allowed us to apply quantitative  
325 approaches to determine the similarities of three hESC lines to each other in relation to ICM and TE.  
326 We have identified overall similarity of the transcriptomes and we have also defined how these  
327 similarities manifest at the level of the interactome. Our findings highlight the diversity inherent in the  
328 establishment of hESC lines and also present methods to quantitatively compare similarity and identify  
329 key differences using a network approach.



330

331

## 332 **Methods**

### 333 **Embryos**

334 Human oocytes and embryos were donated to research with fully informed patient consent and  
335 approval from Central Manchester Research Ethics Committee under Human Fertility and Embryology  
336 Authority research licences R0026 and R0171. Fresh oocytes and embryos surplus to IVF requirement  
337 were obtained from Saint Mary's Hospital Manchester, graded and prepared as described in Shaw et  
338 al 2013 (62).

### 339 **Embryo sample preparation and microarray analysis of transcriptome**

340 Donated embryos were cultured in ISM-1/2 sequential media (Medicult, Jyllinge, Denmark) until  
341 blastocyst formation. At embryonic day 6 the zona pellucida of the embryos were removed by brief  
342 treatment with Acid Tyrode's solution pH 5.0 (Sigma-Aldrich, Gillingham, UK), and denuded  
343 blastocysts were washed in ISM2 (Medicult). Four blastocysts were lysed and reverse transcribed as  
344 previously described (63, 64) and cDNA was prepared by polyA-PCR amplification (65) which amplifies  
345 all poly-adenylated RNA in a given sample, preserving the relative abundance in the original sample  
346 (66, 67). A second round of amplification using EpiAmp™ (Epistem, Manchester, UK) and Biotin-16-  
347 dUTP labelling using EpiLabel™ (Epistem) was performed in the Paterson Cancer Research Institute  
348 Microarray Facility. For each sample, our minimum inclusion criterion was the expression of  $\beta$ -actin as  
349 evaluated by gene-specific PCR. Labelled PolyAcRNA was hybridised to the Human Genome U133 Plus  
350 2.0 Array (HGU133plus2.0, Affymetrix, SantaClara, CA, USA) and data was initially visualised using  
351 MIAMIVICE software. Quality control of microarray data was performed using principal component  
352 analysis (PCA) with cross-validation undertaken using Qlucore Omics Explorer 2.3 (Qlucore, Lund,  
353 Sweden).

354 The trophectoderm (TE) and inner cell mass (ICM) of day 6 human embryos were separated by  
355 immunosurgically lysing the whole TE (recovering RNA from both mural and polar TE), to leave a

356 relatively pure intact ICM. Eight microarray datasets were obtained, corresponding to 4 genetically  
357 paired matched TE and ICM transcriptomes. Frozen robust multiarray averaging (fRMA) (68) was used  
358 to define absolute expression by comparison to publically available microarray datasets within R  
359 (3.1.2) (69). An expression barcode and a z-score of gene expression in comparison to 63331 examples  
360 of HGU133plus2.0 was defined for each tissue (52, 53) and used for unsupervised analysis. For analysis  
361 of gene expression specific to each tissue a z-score of 5 was used to call a gene present and a barcode  
362 was assigned scoring 1 for presence and 0 for absence of gene expression (51, 52, 68). All  
363 transcriptomic data are available on the Gene Expression Omnibus (GEO) [GSE121982].

#### 364 **hESC lines**

365 HUES7, HUES3 (kind gift of Kevin Eggan (57)) and MAN1 (70) hESC lines were cultured as previously  
366 described (71). Briefly, hESCs (p21-27) were cultured and expanded on Mitomycin C inactivated mouse  
367 embryonic fibroblasts (iMEFs) in hESC medium KO-DMEM (Invitrogen, Paisley, UK) with 20% knockout  
368 serum replacement (KO-SR, Invitrogen), 8 ng/ml basic fibroblast growth factor (bFGF, Invitrogen), 2  
369 mM L-glutamine, 1% NEAA (both from Cambrex, Lonza Wokingham, UK), and 0.1 mM  $\beta$ -  
370 mercaptoethanol (Sigma-Aldrich, Dorset, UK). For feeder-free culture, cells were lifted from the iMEF  
371 layers with TrypLE (Thermo Fisher, Loughborough, UK), and plated onto fibronectin-coated (Millipore)  
372 tissue culture flasks with StemPro (Thermo Fisher, Loughborough, UK) feeder-free medium. After 3  
373 passages 100 hESC cells were isolated from each line (assessed separately as > 85% Oct4 positive),  
374 lysed and subjected to polyA-PCR amplification, hybridisation to the microarray chip and analysis as  
375 described above.

376

#### 377 **Analysis of differential gene expression**

378 Principal component analysis was performed to provide further quality control using cross-validation  
379 (Qlucore Omics Explorer [QoE] 2.3). Partial least square discriminant analysis (PLSDA) was used to  
380 assess the Euclidean distance between the unsupervised transcriptomic samples using the MixOmics  
381 package for R (72).

382 We analysed published single-cell RNA-Seq data from human epiblast (inner cell mass) and  
383 trophectoderm tissue (4). Transcripts per million (TPM) expression values were visualised in QoE and  
384 outliers were removed.

385

### 386 **Similarity Network Fusion**

387 Gene probe set similarity network fusion (SNF) (60) was performed on the fRMA derived data as an  
388 independent test for similarity, using the *SNFTool* R-package. Euclidean distances were calculated  
389 between gene probe sets for each hESC line as well as TE and ICM. Using a non-linear network method  
390 based on nearest neighbours, any two of the Euclidean distance matrices could be combined over 20  
391 iterations to produce a final network which accurately describes the relationship between gene probe  
392 sets across both initial sets. This method was used to combine each hESC line with TE or ICM gene  
393 expression data. The fused data was subjected to spectral clustering to identify groups of gene probe  
394 sets with similar patterns of expression across the hESC and TE or ICM samples. This data was  
395 presented as a heatmap.

396

### 397 **Network model construction and comparison**

398 Lists of differentially expressed genes were used to generate interactome network models of protein  
399 interactions related to the transcriptomic data in Cytoscape (73) by inference using the BioGRID  
400 database (74).

401 The Cytoscape plugin Moduland (38, 61) was applied to identify overlapping modules, an approach  
402 that models complex modular architecture within the human interactome (37) by accounting for non-  
403 discrete nature of network modules (38). Modular hierarchy was determined using a centrality score  
404 and further assessed using hierarchical network layouts (summarising the underlying network  
405 topology). The overlap between the central module cores (metanode of the ten most central  
406 elements) was determined. Community centrality and bridgeness scores were assessed across  
407 network models using the Moduland package (61). The bridgeness score was used in combination with

408 centrality scores to categorise party and date hubs within the network i.e genes that interact  
409 simultaneously or sequentially respectively with neighbours (75, 76).

410 The Network Analyser (77) Cytoscape plugin was used to calculate associated parameters of network  
411 topology. Hierarchical network layouts were used along with centrality scores to assess the hierarchy  
412 of network clusters. Significance of the overlap between network elements was calculated using  
413 Fisher's exact test on the sum of each group compared to the expected sum.

414 The robustness of defined modules is an essential analytical step (55) and was assessed using  
415 permutation analysis in R (version 3.3.2) (78). Robustness of network module and network topology  
416 properties was determined in the ICM and TE interactome network models with 100 permutations of  
417 removal of 5, 10, 20, 30, 40 and 50% of the nodes, an approach that has been shown to assess the  
418 coherency of network modules (55). These data were used to assess the stability of network  
419 observations.

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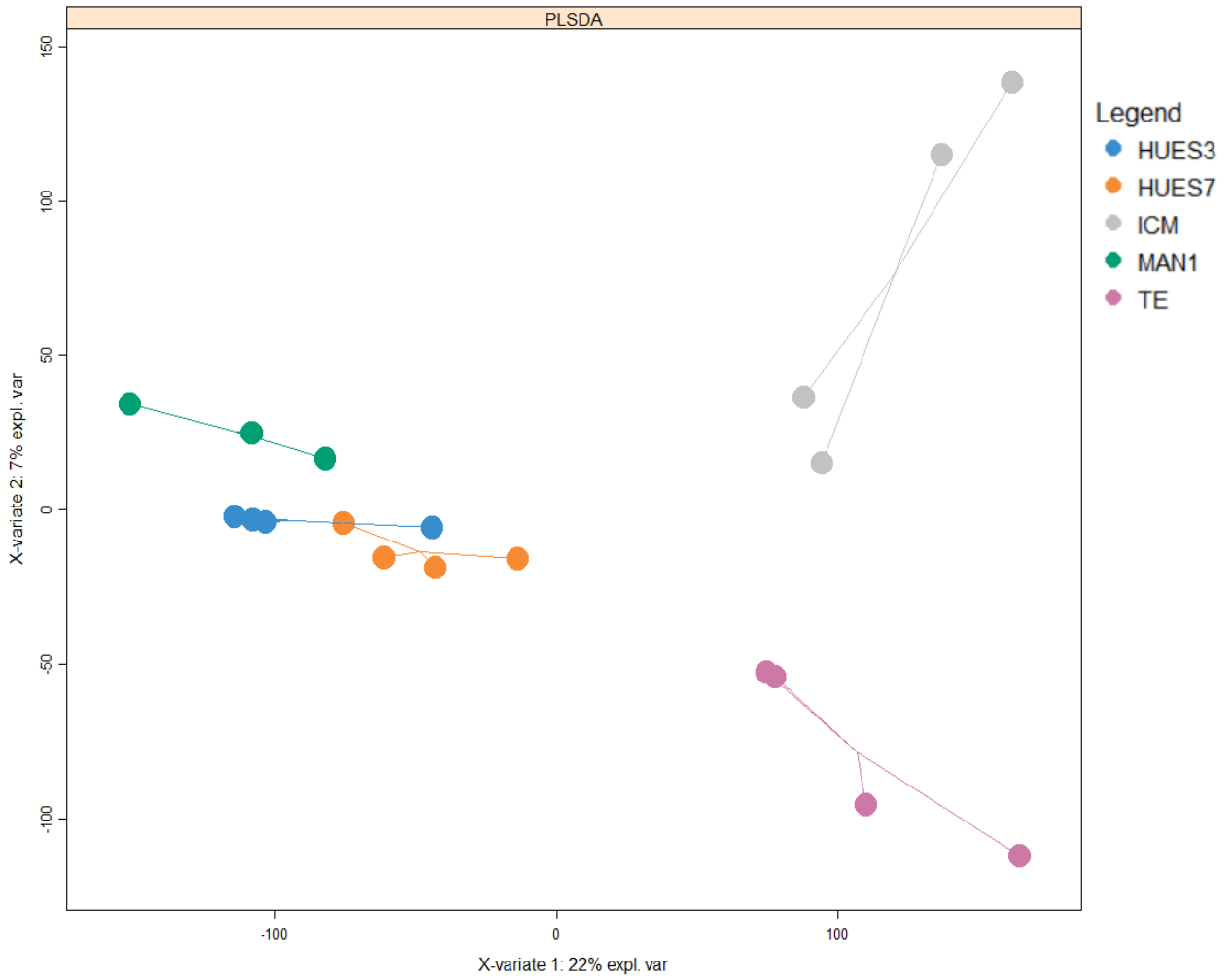
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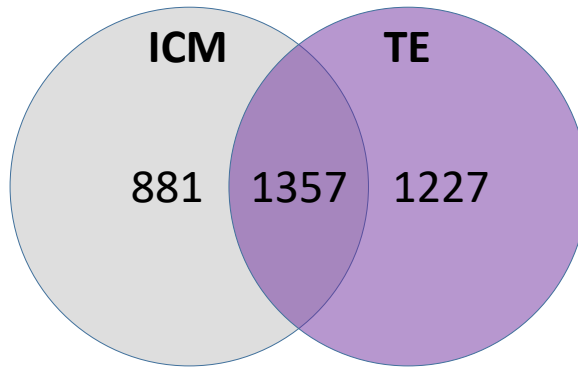


**Figure 1. Distance between the transcriptomes of inner cell mass, trophoctoderm and human embryonic cell lines as a measure of similarity.**

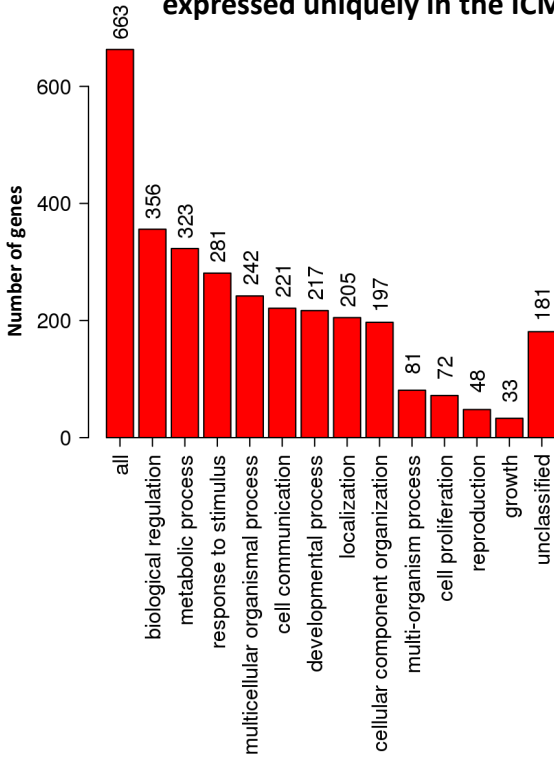
Gene expression over the entire transcriptome (54613 gene probesets) was defined using the gene barcode approach as a z-score in comparison to a database of 63331 examples of HGU133plus2.0. The Euclidean distances between samples were assessed using partial least square discriminant analysis (PLSDA).

Two components are used (X-variate 1 & 2) and the amount of explained variance is listed on the axis. The star plot shows sample distance from the centroid, the arithmetic mean position of all the points in each group.

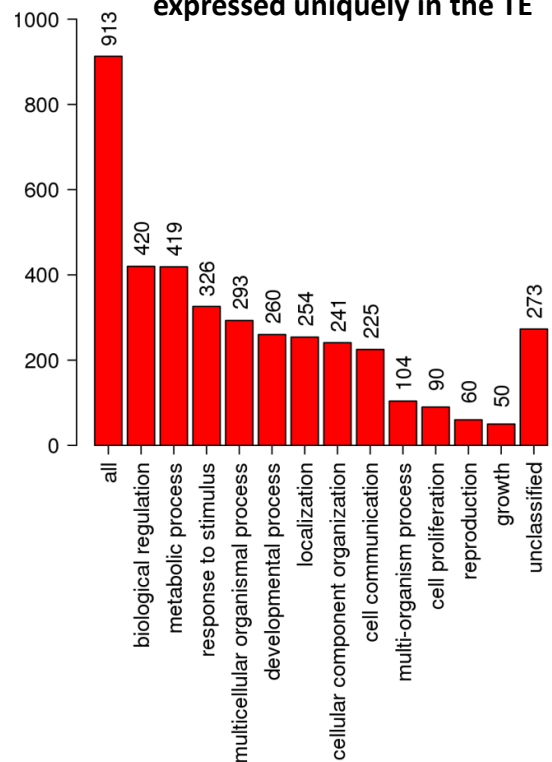
**A) Overlap between transcriptomes of ICM and TE**



**B) Biological Process Associated with genes expressed uniquely in the ICM**



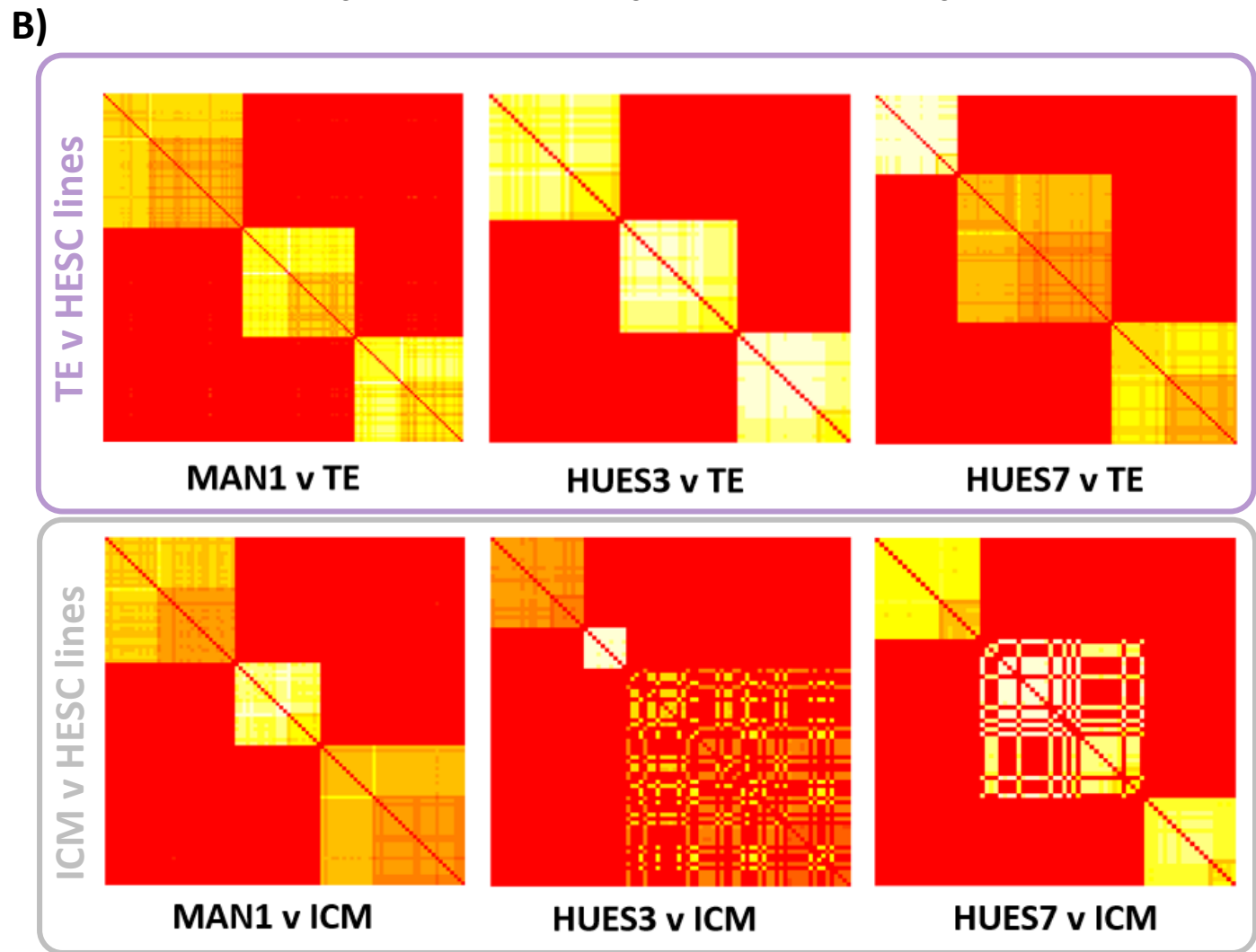
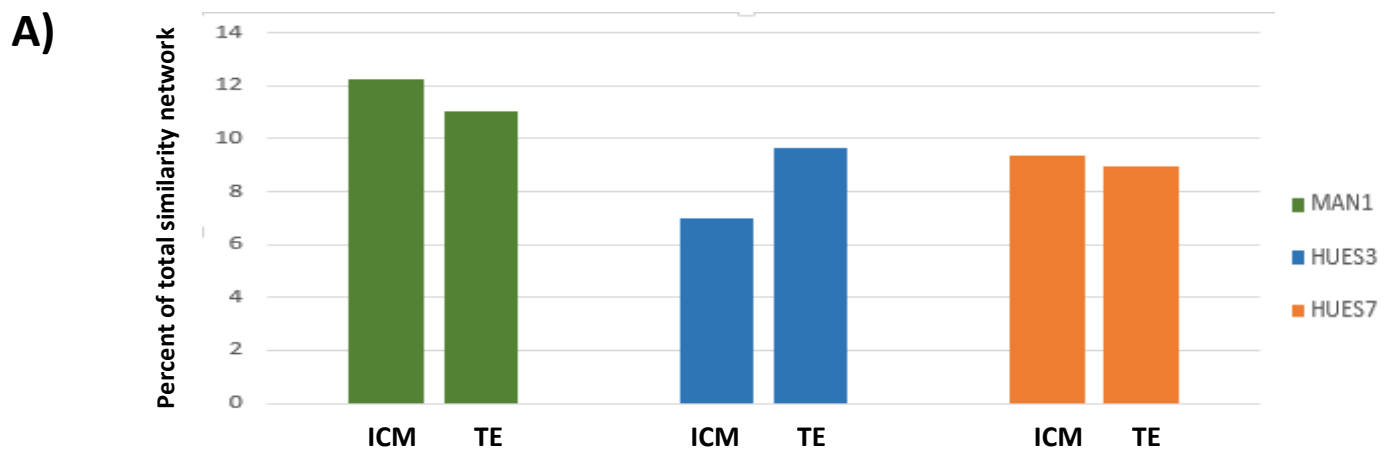
**Biological Process Associated with genes expressed uniquely in the TE**



**Figure 2. Inner cell mass and trophectoderm specific transcriptome and associated gene ontology**

Gene expression over the entire transcriptome was assigned as present or absent using the gene barcode approach, present was defined as a z-score  $\geq 5.0$  for a gene probeset in comparison to a database of 63331 examples of hgu133plus2.0. This resulted in a set of 2238 gene probesets in ICM and 2484 gene probesets in TE. **A)** A Venn diagram showing the overlap and unique expression of gene probesets in the ICM and TE. **B)** Biological process gene ontology (GO Slim) for 663/719 genes used from 881 gene probesets uniquely mapped to the ICM and 913/924 genes used from 1227 gene probesets uniquely mapped to TE.





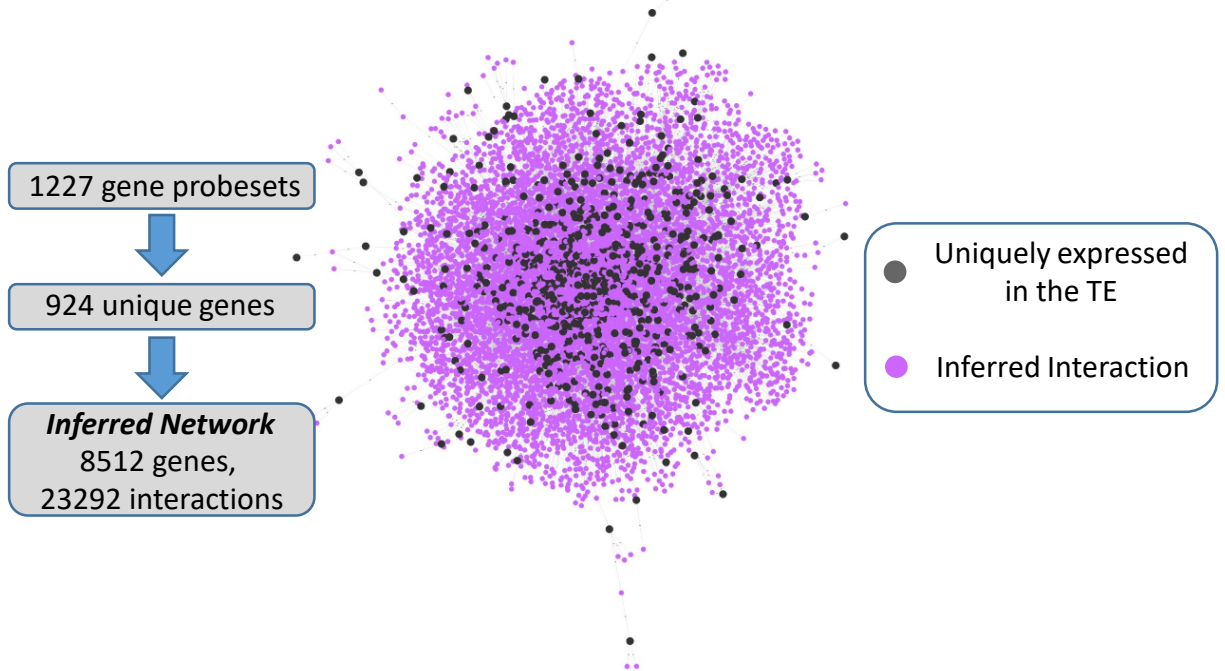
**Figure 3. Similarity network fusion to compare homology between the transcriptome of inner cell mass and trophectoderm and human embryonic stem cell lines.**

Similarity network fusion matrix showing similarity groups between the uniquely expressed ICM and TE gene probesets and the human embryonic stem cell lines (square matrix of gene probesets with leading diagonal showing equivalence mapped to red). Similarity is coloured by intensity from white to yellow, red is dissimilar. Groups of genes with similar expression patterns across both comparisons appear as yellow, whilst those with dissimilar patterns of expression within or between cell lines appear red. Clusters therefore represent genes whose expression patterns are similar to one another both within and between input datasets. Similarity measures not only distance between ICM and the human embryonic stem cell lines but also coherency based on 15 nearest neighbours. **A)** Proportion of gene probesets in ICM or TE that are similar to human embryonic cell line transcriptome (**Supplementary Figure S1**). **B)** Similarity groups between ICM or TE and the human embryonic stem cell lines forming three clusters. Coherency in gene expression patterns with nearest neighbours is indicated by uniform yellow intensity.

## A) Network Model of ICM Unique Transcriptome



## B) Network Model of TE Unique Transcriptome

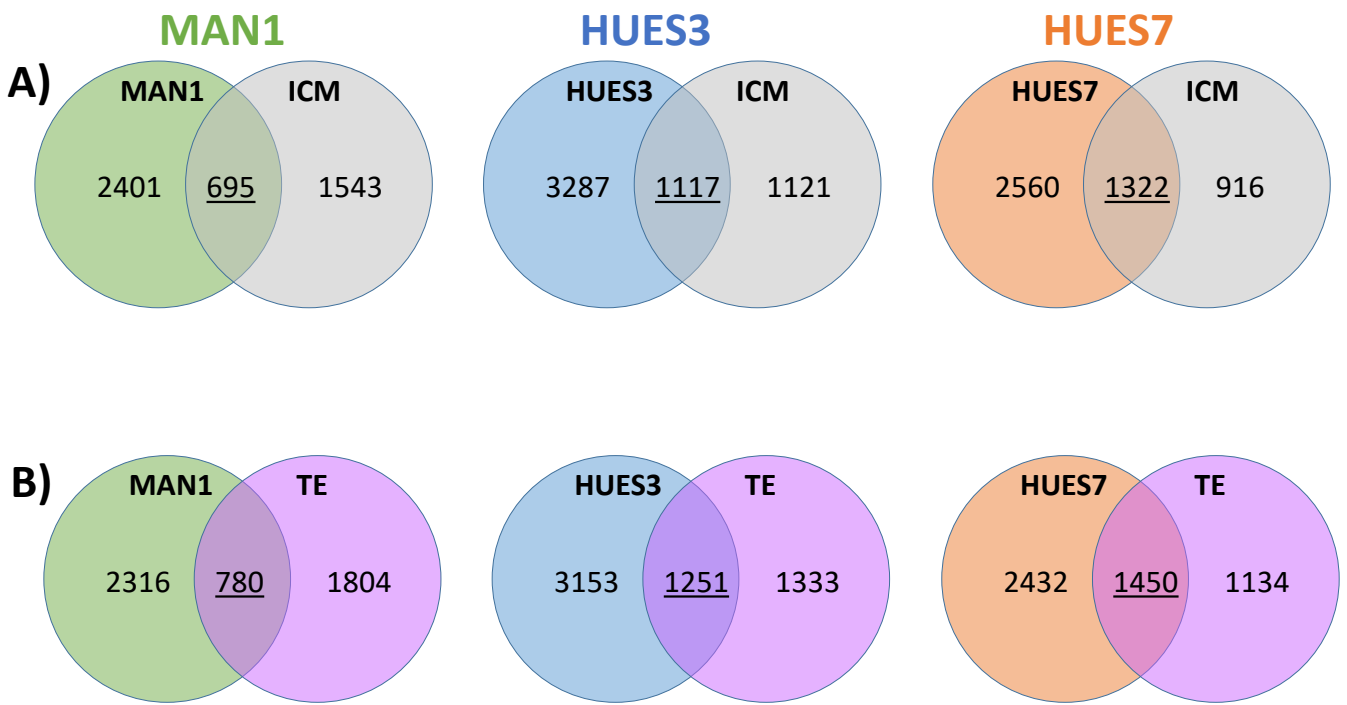


**Figure 4. Interactome network models of gene expression unique to ICM or TE.**

**A)** Interactome network model of the 719 genes (881 gene probesets) uniquely expressed in ICM.

**B)** Interactome network model of the 924 genes (1227 gene probesets) uniquely expressed in TE.

These were used to infer interactome network models using the BioGRID database version 3.4.158.

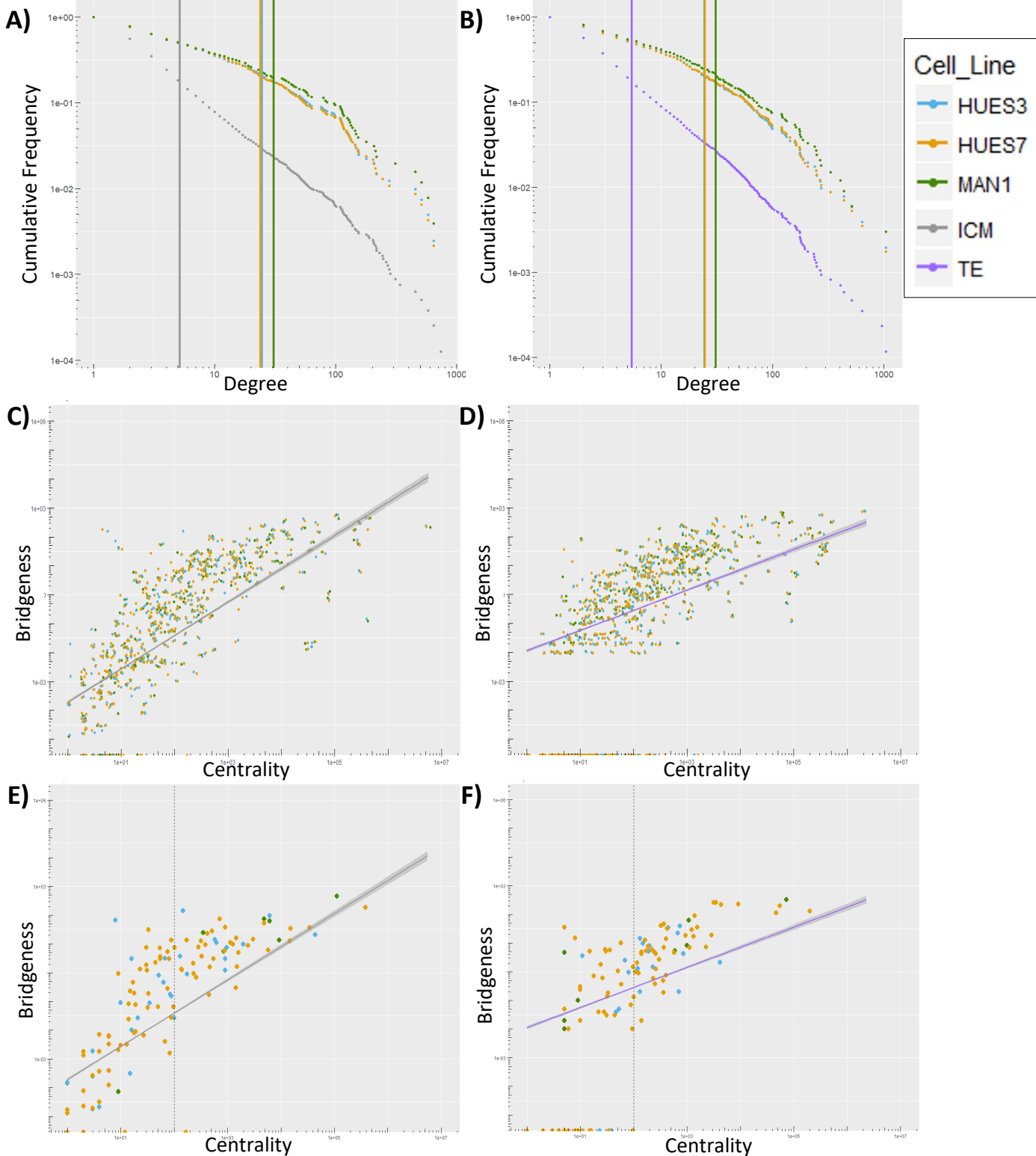


**Figure 5. The interactome network models of gene expression unique to ICM or TE can be used as a framework to assess similarity with human embryonic stem cells.**

Gene probesets were identified that had shared expression between human embryonic stem cell lines and the ICM (A) and in TE (B). The gene probe sets that were expressed in ICM or in TE and the human embryonic stem cell lines were mapped to the ICM or TE interactome network models for the MAN1, HUES3 and HUES7 human embryonic stem cell lines. In ICM the overlaps were as follow: MAN1 cell line 695 (22%) gene probesets (517 genes), in HUES3 1117 (25%) gene probesets (856 genes) and in HUES7 1322 (34%) gene probesets (1010 genes). In TE the overlaps were as follows: MAN1 cell line 780 (30%) gene probesets (593 genes), in HUES3 1251 (48%) gene probesets (964 genes) and in HUES7 1450 (56%) gene probesets (1108 genes).

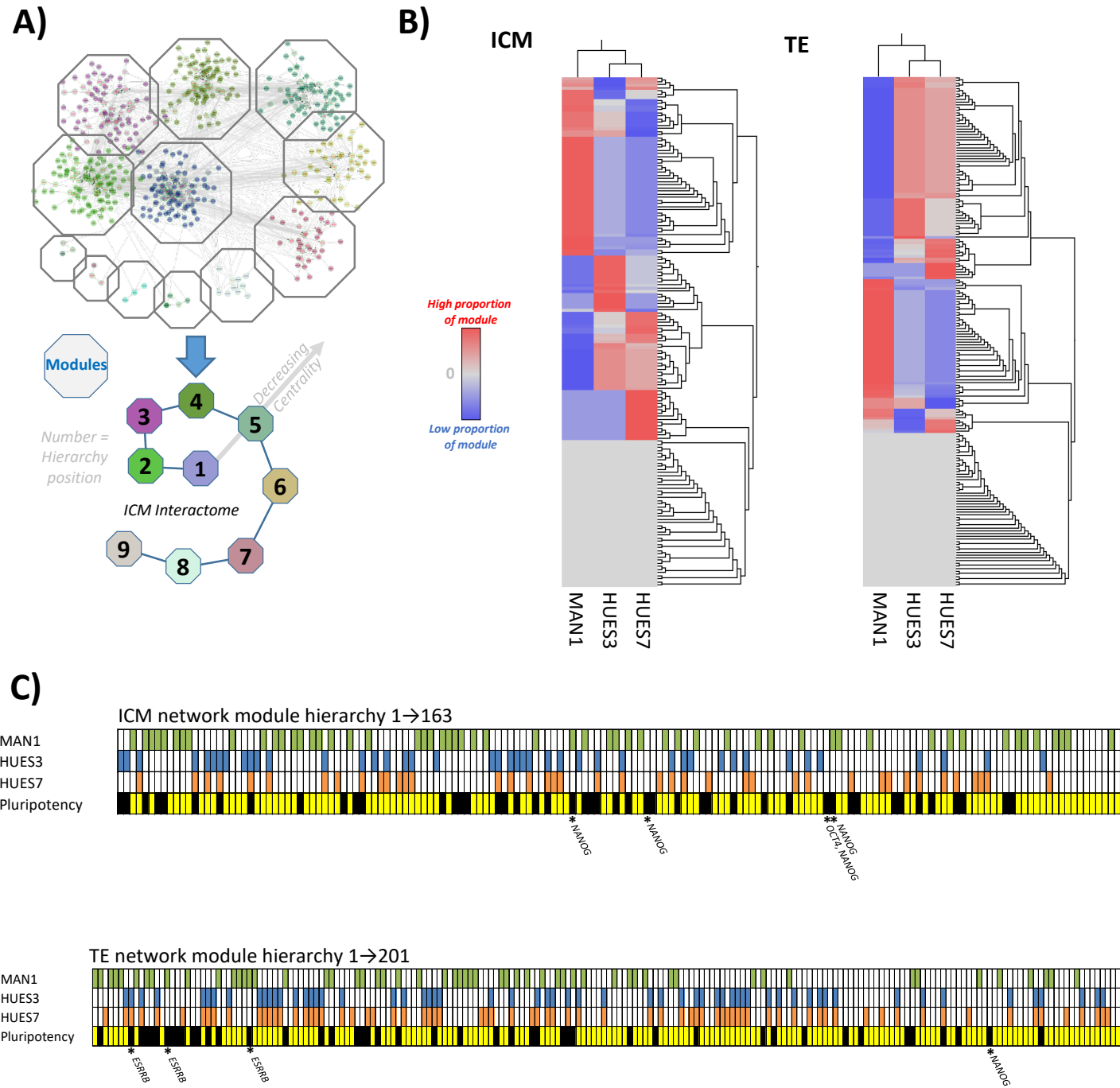
## Inner Cell Mass

## Trophectoderm



**Figure 6. The network topology of the ICM and TE interactome is enriched in human embryonic stem cells.**

**A)** ICM interactome connectivity and **B)** TE interactome network connectivity as measured by the degree (connectivity) of each gene within the network model (x-axis) plotted against the frequency of that connectivity within the network (y-axis). **C)** ICM interactome and **D)** TE interactome centrality score (x-axis), a network property that measures the influence of a node, plotted against bridgeness (y-axis), a network property measuring the bridge-like role of genes between network modules. The line with 95% confidence intervals shaded represents the centrality and bridgeness values over the entire network, genes shared with the human embryonic stem cells are marked. **E)** ICM interactome and **F)** TE interactome centrality versus bridgeness shown for genes uniquely expressed in each human embryonic stem cell line. Dotted vertical line placed at centrality value of 100 separates two perceived trajectories in the data.

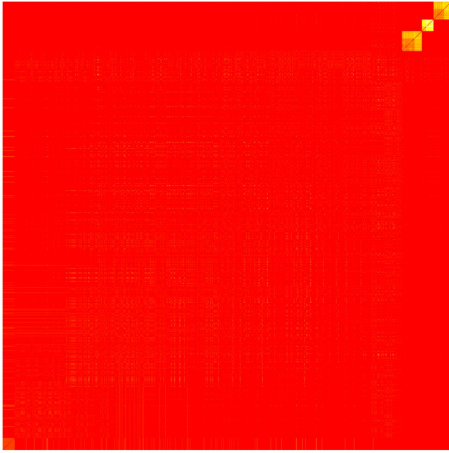


**Figure 7. The modular structure of the interactome network model of gene expression unique to ICM and TE can be used as a framework to assess similarity with human embryonic stem cells.**

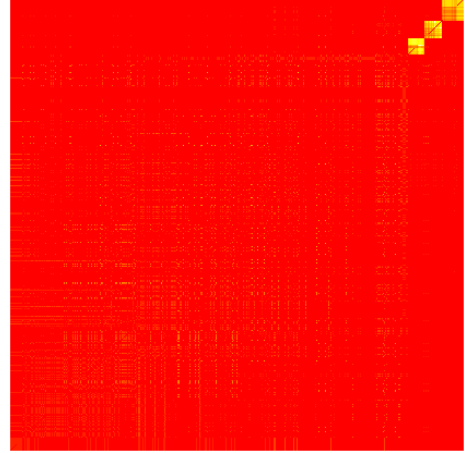
**A)** The modular structure of the ICM interactome was defined using the Moduland algorithm to assess the presence of highly connected gene modules. These were then formed into a hierarchy based on their centrality score, a measurement of network topology related to the influence of a network element on the rest of the network. **B)** The proportion of each module shared with the human embryonic stem cell lines was defined and clusters of modules with similar shared gene expression were assessed using a heatmap. **C)** The clusters of modules with similar proportions shared with specific human embryonic stem cell lines is represented in hierarchical order. Clusters are coloured to mark for which human embryonic cell line they are enriched. Pluripotency track represents which modules contain known pluripotency associated genes in black. An asterisk is used to mark where NANOG, OCT4 and ESRRB are situated in the modular hierarchy.

## Supplementary Figures

MAN1 v ICM



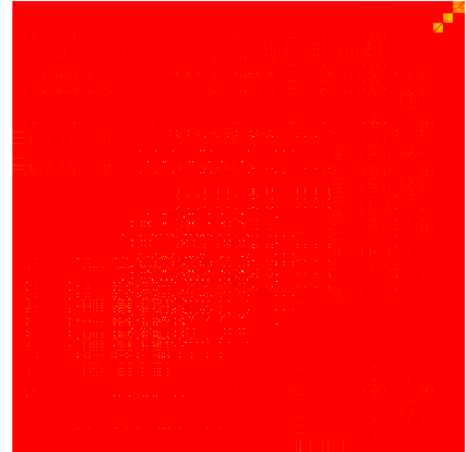
MAN1 v ICM



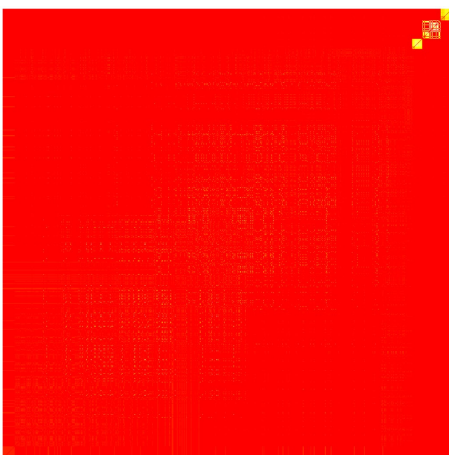
HUES3 v ICM



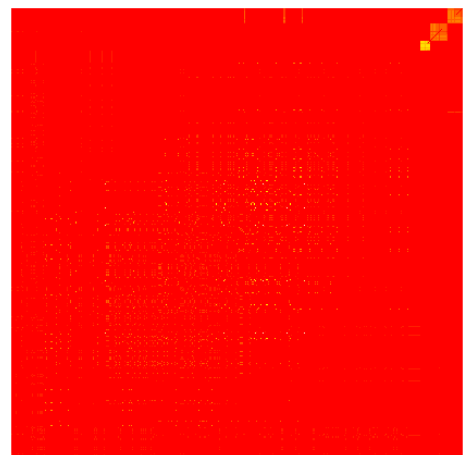
HUES3 v TE



HUES7 v ICM



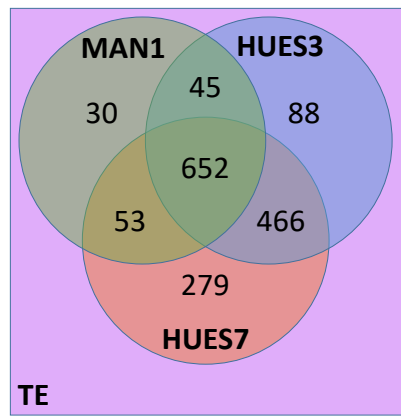
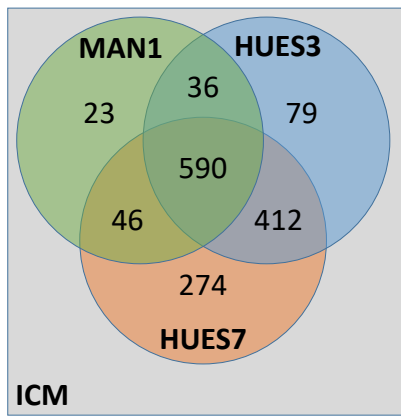
HUES7 v TE



**Supplemental Figure S1. Full similarity network fusion to compare homology between the transcriptome of inner cell mass and trophectoderm and human embryonic stem cell lines.**

Similarity network fusion matrix showing similarity groups between the uniquely expressed ICM gene probesets from both ICM and the human embryonic stem cell lines (square matrix of gene probesets with leading diagonal showing equivalence mapped to red). Similarity is coloured by intensity from white to yellow, red is dissimilar. The proportion of genes which are similar between a hESC line and either ICM or TE can be determined by the proportion of either axis which contains yellow signal.

**A)**



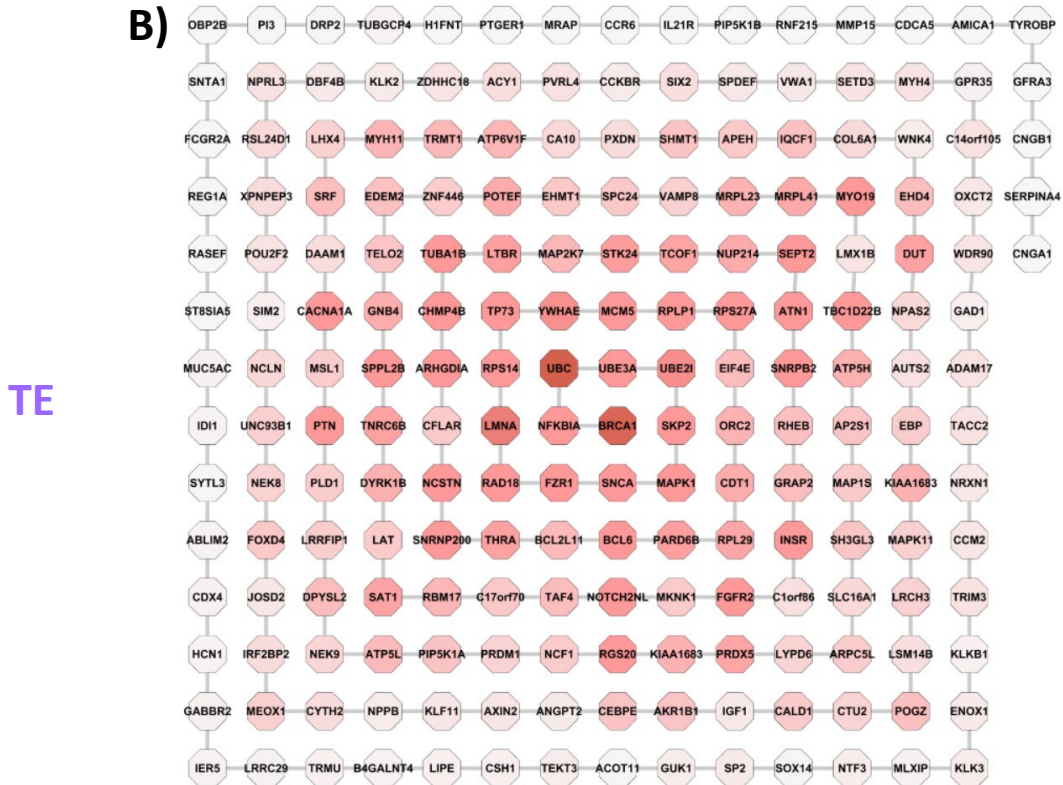
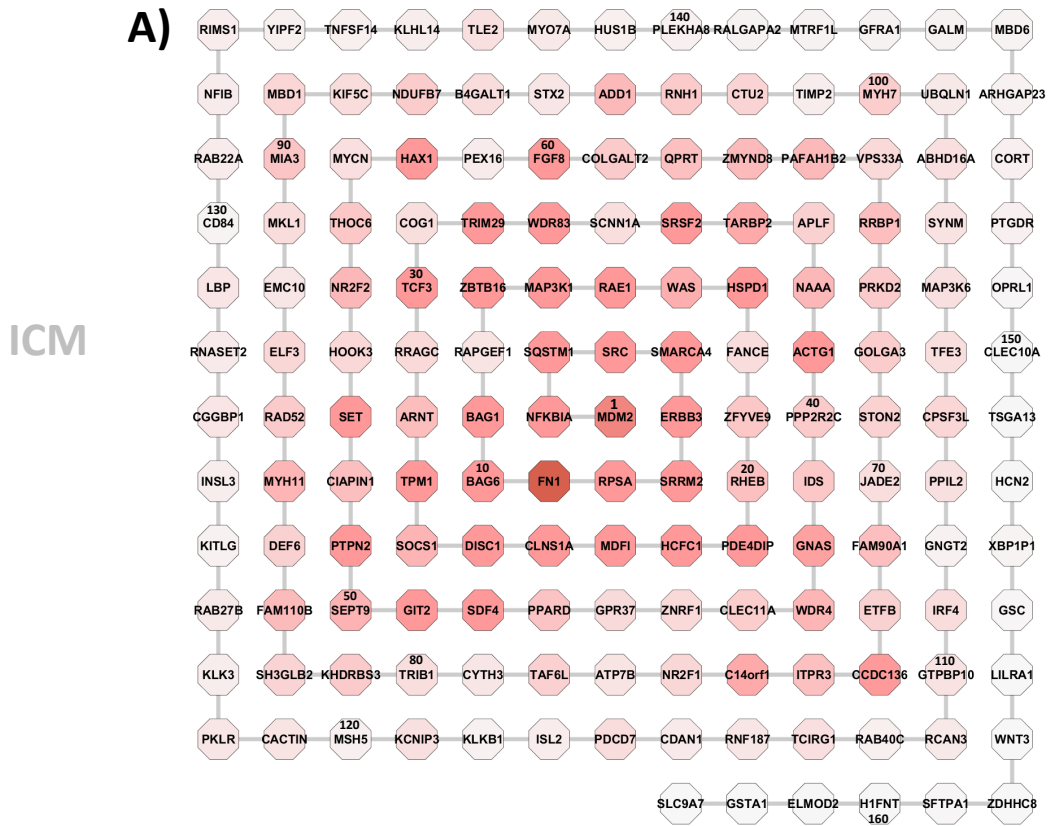
**B)**

| Canonical Pathway  | HUES7 TE | HUES3 TE | MAN1 TE | HUES7 ICM | HUES3 ICM | MAN1 ICM |
|--|----------|----------|---------|-----------|-----------|----------|
| Intrinsic Prothrombin Activation Pathway                                     |          |          |         |           |           |          |
| Spermine and Spermidine Degradation I  |          |          |         |           |           |          |
| Role of Pattern Recognition Receptors in Recognition of Bacteria and Viruses |          |          |         |           |           |          |
| Dolichyl-diphosphooligosaccharide Biosynthesis                               |          |          |         |           |           |          |
| Differential Regulation of Cytokine Production by IL-17A and IL-17F          |          |          |         |           |           |          |
| Catecholamine Biosynthesis   |          |          |         |           |           |          |
| Dermatan Sulfate Degradation (Metazoa)                                       |          |          |         |           |           |          |
| Chondroitin Sulfate Degradation (Metazoa)                                    |          |          |         |           |           |          |
| PDGF Signaling   |          |          |         |           |           |          |
| Cell Cycle Control of Chromosomal Replication                                |          |          |         |           |           |          |
| ERK5 Signaling   |          |          |         |           |           |          |
| Eicosanoid Signaling   |          |          |         |           |           |          |
| Myc Mediated Apoptosis Signaling   |          |          |         |           |           |          |
| Cell Cycle: G2/M DNA Damage Checkpoint Regulation                            |          |          |         |           |           |          |
| Notch Signaling  |          |          |         |           |           |          |
| Gustation Pathway  |          |          |         |           |           |          |
| FXR/RXR Activation   |          |          |         |           |           |          |
| Parkinson's Signaling  |          |          |         |           |           |          |
| Glucocorticoid Receptor Signaling  |          |          |         |           |           |          |
| RhoGDI Signaling   |          |          |         |           |           |          |
| Glycerol-3-phosphate Shuttle   |          |          |         |           |           |          |
| Glutamate Receptor Signaling   |          |          |         |           |           |          |
| Gas Signaling  |          |          |         |           |           |          |
| eNOS Signaling   |          |          |         |           |           |          |
| IL-17A Signaling in Gastric Cells  |          |          |         |           |           |          |
| Sperm Motility   |          |          |         |           |           |          |
| Signaling by Rho Family GTPases  |          |          |         |           |           |          |
| Heparan Sulfate Biosynthesis (Late Stages)                                   |          |          |         |           |           |          |
| Heparan Sulfate Biosynthesis   |          |          |         |           |           |          |
| Gα12/13 Signaling  |          |          |         |           |           |          |
| Dermatan Sulfate Biosynthesis (Late Stages)                                  |          |          |         |           |           |          |
| Chondroitin Sulfate Biosynthesis (Late Stages)                               |          |          |         |           |           |          |
| Dermatan Sulfate Biosynthesis  |          |          |         |           |           |          |
| Chondroitin Sulfate Biosynthesis   |          |          |         |           |           |          |

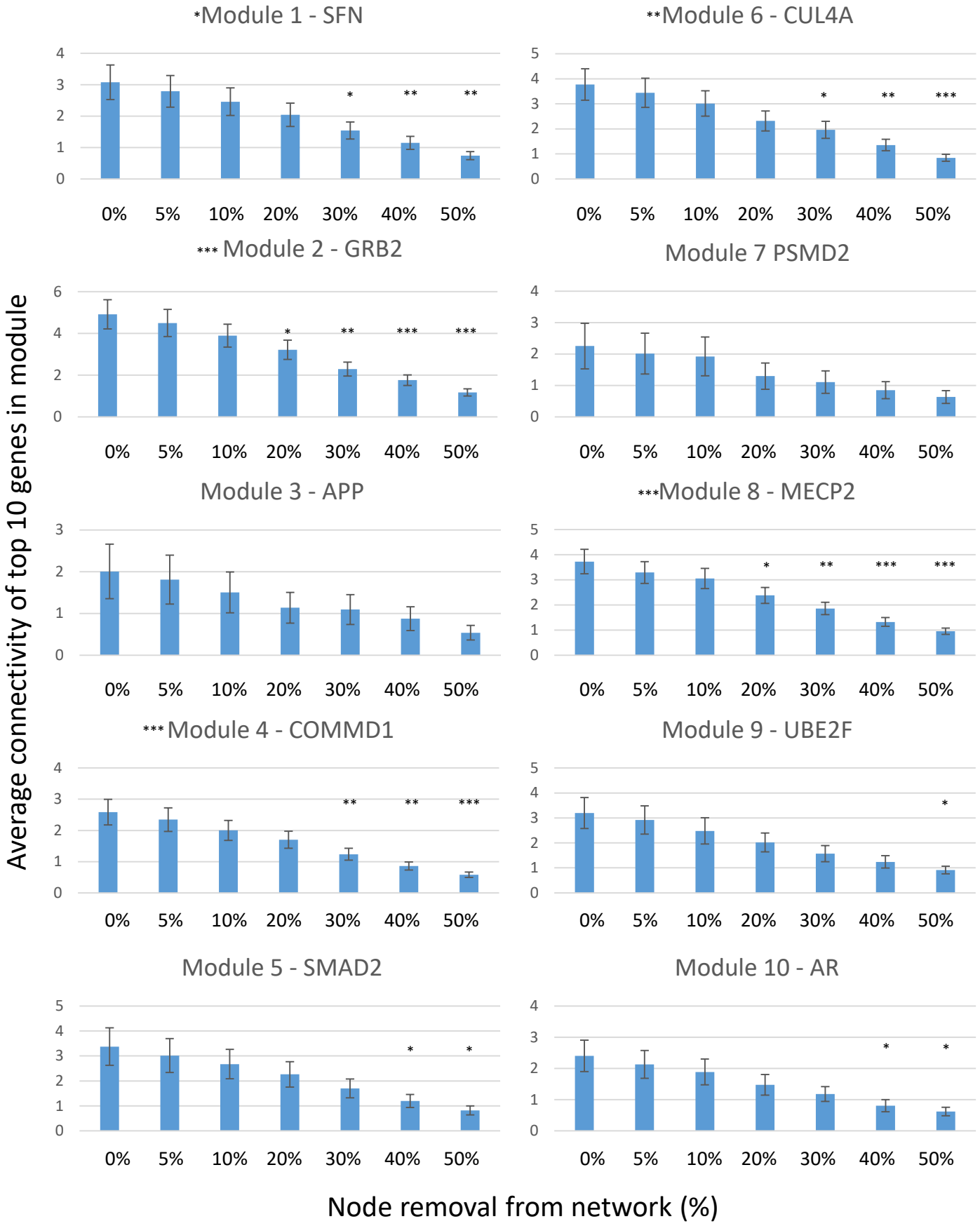
**Supplemental Figure S2. Expressed genes uniquely shared between each human embryonic stem cell line and either the Inner Cell Mass (ICM) or the Trophectoderm (TE).**

**A)** Overlap of the gene expression (gene probe sets) shared between the human embryonic stem cell lines and ICM or TE. **B)** Biological pathways associated with the gene expression uniquely shared between each human embryonic stem cell line and either ICM or TE. Intensity of red shade is proportional to p-value of right sided Fisher's Exact test.

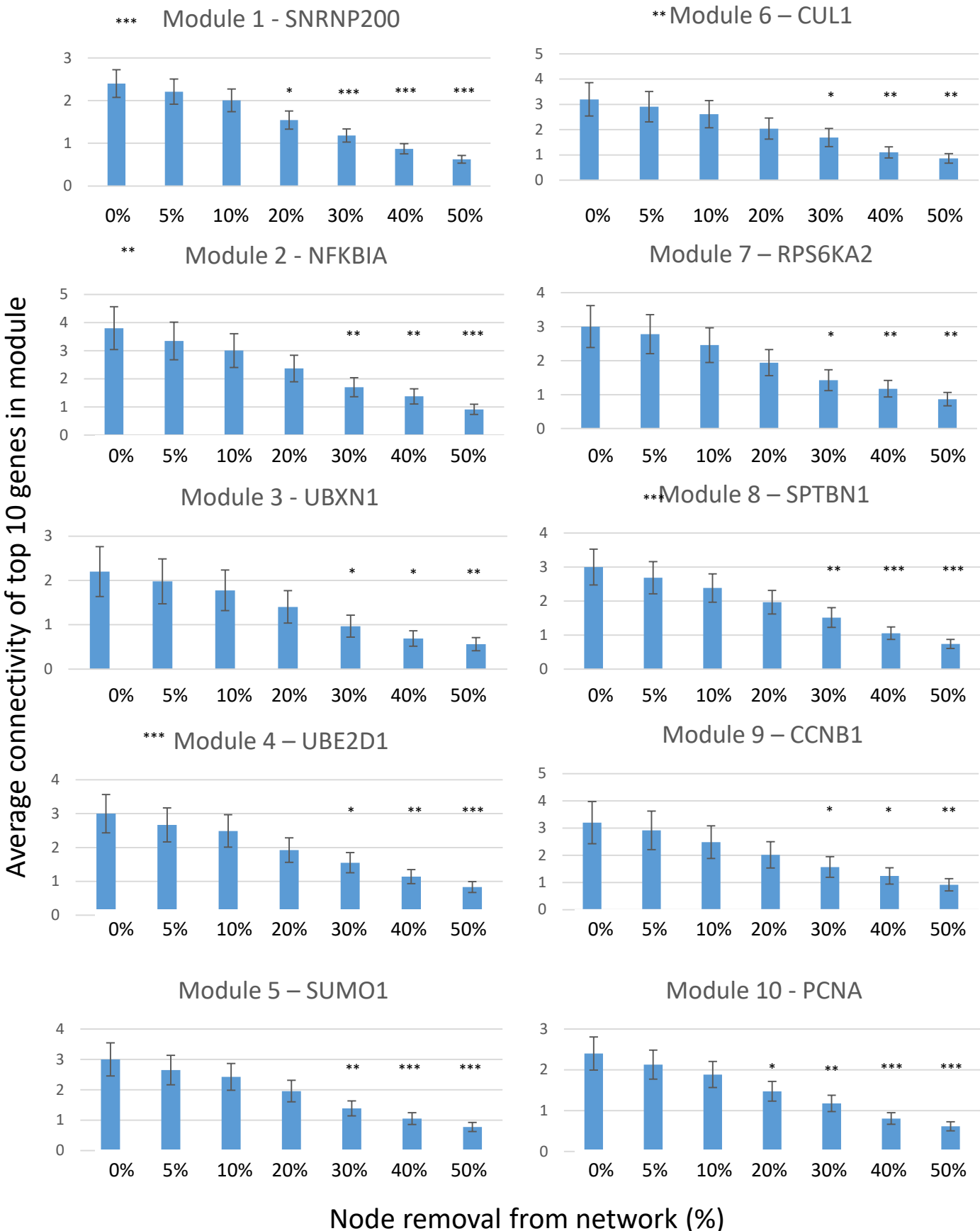




**Supplemental Figure S3. Hierarchy of modules within the interactome network models of ICM and TE.**  
**A)** The modules of the ICM and **B)** the TE interactome network represented as octagons named with the most central gene. Modules are arranged in a hierarchy represented as a spiral with numbers defining the position in the hierarchy. Modules are shaded red in relation to connectivity to highlight the relationship between network connectivity and centrality.



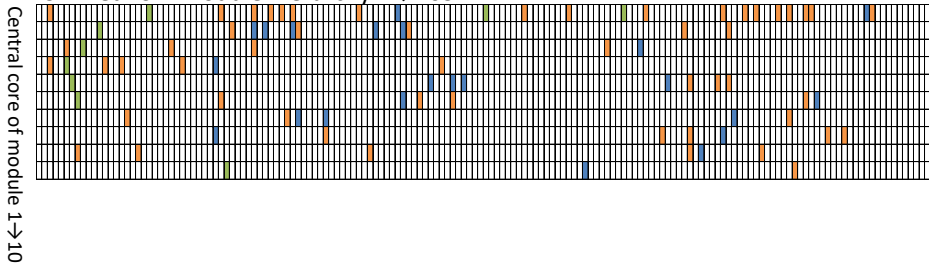
**Supplemental Figure S4A. Robustness of 10 most central network modules of an ICM network.** Robustness was determined by the mean change in connectivity between the 10 most connected nodes in each network module upon the removal of random nodes from the network. Up to 50% of nodes were removed before recalculating connectivity, iterated 100 times. Significance for each module was determined using ANOVAs whilst between samples t-tests determined significant differences from 0% node loss in each case. Modules whose mean connectivity was not significantly reduced at 20% node removal can be described as robust. [\*  $p < 0.05$ ; \*\*  $p < 0.01$ ; \*\*\*  $p < 0.001$ ].



**Supplemental Figure S4B. Robustness of 10 most central network modules of a TE network.** Robustness was determined by the mean change in connectivity between the 10 most connected nodes in each network module upon the removal of random nodes from the network. Up to 50% of nodes were removed before recalculating connectivity, iterated 100 times. Significance for each module was determined using ANOVAs whilst between samples t-tests determined significant differences from 0% node loss in each case. Modules whose mean connectivity was not significantly reduced at 20% node removal can be described as robust. [\* p < 0.05; \*\* p < 0.01; \*\*\* p < 0.001].

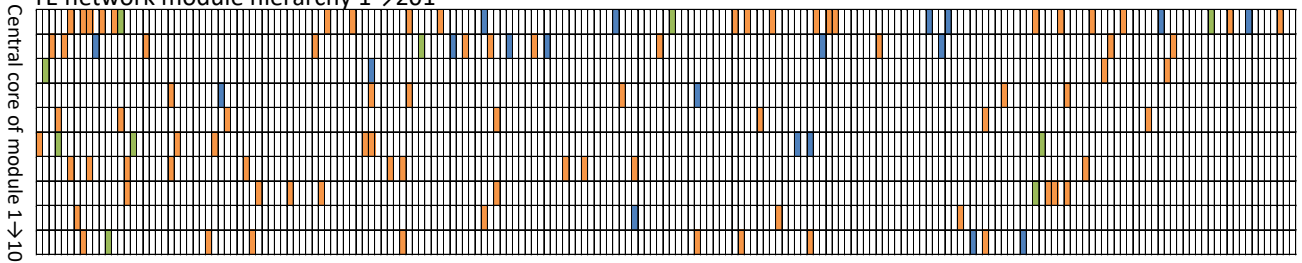
## ICM

ICM network module hierarchy 1→163



## TE

TE network module hierarchy 1→201



### Cell Line

- MAN1
- HUES3
- HUES7

**Supplemental Figure S5. Gene expression uniquely present in each of the human embryonic stem cell lines mapped to the central core of each of the modules in the ICM and TE interactome network models**  
The core of each module (listed horizontally) was defined as the most central ten genes (vertical columns). The overlap of these core genes with the unique gene expression shared with the human embryonic stem cell lines and either ICM or TE is shown coloured by cell line.