1 **Distinct features of nucleolus-associated domains in mouse embryonic stem cells**

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## Abstract

Background: Heterochromatin in eukaryotic interphase cells frequently localizes to the nucleolar periphery (nucleolus-associated domains, NADs) and the nuclear lamina (lamina-associated domains, LADs). Gene expression in somatic cell NADs is generally low, but NADs have not been characterized in mammalian stem cells.

Results: Here, we generated the first genome-wide map of NADs in mouse embryonic stem cells (mESCs) via deep sequencing of chromatin associated with biochemically-purified nucleoli. As we had observed in mouse embryonic fibroblasts (MEFs), the large Type I subset of NADs overlaps with constitutive LADs and is enriched for features of constitutive heterochromatin, including late replication timing and low gene density and expression levels. Conversely, the Type II NAD subset overlaps with loci that are not lamina-associated, but in mESCs, Type II NADs are much less abundant than in MEFs. mESC NADs are also much less enriched in H3K27me3 modified regions than are NADs in MEFs. Additionally, comparision of MEF and mESC NADs revealed enrichment of developmentally regulated genes in cell type-specific NADs. Together, these data indicate that NADs are a developmentally dynamic component of heterochromatin.

Conclusions: These studies implicate association with the nucleolar periphery as a mechanism for developmentally-regulated gene silencing, and will facilitate future studies of NADs during mESC differentiation.

## Introduction

Eukaryotic genomes are broadly subdivided into more accessible, transcriptionally active euchromatin, and less accessible, less active heterochromatin. These functional classifications

are accompanied by spatial separation: heterochromatin is mainly found at the nuclear periphery

and nucleolar periphery, where they comprise nucleolus-associated domains (NADs) (Németh et

al. 2010; van Koningsbruggen et al. 2010) and lamina-associated domains (LADs) (Pickersgill et

al. 2006; Guelen et al. 2008; Peric-Hupkes et al. 2010), respectively. Studies in multiple

organisms indicate that sequestration of heterochromatin to the nuclear and nucleolar peripheries

contributes to gene silencing (Fedoriw et al. 2012b; Zullo et al. 2012; Jakociunas et al. 2013).

Therefore, there is great interest in discovering the molecular bases for these localizations.

Notably, some trans-acting factors that specifically affect lamina (Zullo et al. 2012; Harr et al.

2015) or nucleolar (Yusufzai et al. 2004; Zhang et al. 2007; Mohammad et al. 2008; Padeken and

Heun 2014; Smith et al. 2014; Matheson and Kaufman 2017; Singh et al. 2018) associations

have been reported, suggesting that distinct mechanisms contribute at the two locations.

Both NADs and LADs are enriched for silent genes and histone modifications

characteristic of constitutive heterochromatin, e.g. H3K9me2 and H3K9me3 (Matheson and

Kaufman 2016; van Steensel and Belmont 2017). LADs have been mapped and studied in

multiple species and cell types (Pickersgill et al. 2006; Guelen et al. 2008; Peric-Hupkes et al.

2010; Kind et al. 2013; Borsos et al. 2019). In contrast, NADs have been characterized in a few

human somatic cell lines (Németh et al. 2010; van Koningsbruggen et al. 2010; Dillinger et al.

2017), in the plant *Arabidopsis thaliana* (Pontvianne et al. 2016), and recently, in mouse

embryonic fibroblasts (MEFs) (Vertii et al. 2019). Several experiments indicate that LADs can

be redistributed to the nucleolar periphery after passage through mitosis, and vice versa (van

Koningsbruggen et al. 2010; Kind et al. 2013). However, the extent of overlap between LADs

and NADs is unknown in most organisms and cell types.

Here, we mapped and characterized NADs in mouse embryonic stem cells (mESC), a

tractable system for studying how NADs change during differentiation. As in MEFs (Vertii et al.

2019), we identified a large subset of mESC NADs that overlap with LADs (Type I NADs), and

a smaller subset of NADs that do not overlap LADs (Type II NADs).  However, Type II NADs

are less prevalent in mESCs than in MEFs. mESC NADs are also notably less enriched in

H3K27me3 modifications. Comparisons of MEF and mESC NADs also revealed enrichment of

developmentally regulated genes in cell type-specific NADs. These analyses will facilitate future

studies of genome dynamics during stem cell differentiation.

**Results**

*Isolation of nucleoli from crosslinked F121-9 mESCs.* We isolated nucleoli from formaldehyde-

crosslinked hybrid F121-9 mES cells using methods previously shown to yield reproducible data

using MEF cells (Vertii et al. 2019). In those studies, crosslinked and non-crosslinked MEFs

were directly compared, and shown to yield highly overlapping results, with crosslinked samples

detecting a greater proportion of the genome associated with nucleoli (Vertii et al. 2019). This

suggests crosslinking could assist detection of weak or transient nucleolar interactions.

Therefore, we used crosslinking for all nucleoli isolation experiments here (Fig. 1A). The purity

of isolated nucleoli was confirmed using phase-contrast microscopy (Fig. 1B). Immunoblot

analysis of nucleolar fractions showed that they were enriched for nucleolar protein fibrillarin

relative to beta-actin (Fig. 1C). Quantitative PCR analysis revealed 9-18-fold enrichment of 45S

rDNA sequences in purified nucleolar DNA relative to genomic DNA (Fig 1D). These results

indicated the enrichment of nucleoli in our preparations, hence we proceeded with whole-

genome sequencing of nucleolar DNA.

*Bioinformatic analysis of NADs.* We performed two biological replicate preparations of

crosslinked F121-9 mESC nucleoli.  In each replicate experiment, we extracted nucleolar-

associated DNA from nucleoli, along with genomic DNA from whole cells from the same

population of cells.  We sequenced approximately 50 million reads from each nucleolar and

genomic DNA sample. We note that subsampling analyses of larger MEF datasets previously

showed that the number of peaks detected had reached a plateau at this sequencing depth (Vertii

et al. 2019). Genomic reads were mostly uniformly distributed across the genome, whereas

nucleolar reads contained well-defined peaks and valleys, with peaks overlapping known

heterochromatic regions, such as constitutive LADs (cLADs) (Peric-Hupkes et al. 2010) and late

replicating regions (Hiratani et al. 2010) (Fig 2A, B). cLADs were previously defined as LADs

that are lamina-associated in mESCs, and also in neural precursor cells (NPCs) and astrocytes

differentiated from these mESCs (Peric-Hupkes et al. 2010). Previous studies of NADs have

identified frequent overlap of NADs with LADs (van Koningsbruggen et al. 2010; Németh et al.

2010; Dillinger et al. 2017; Vertii et al. 2019) and with late-replicating regions (Dillinger et al.

2017; Vertii et al. 2019), thus we concluded that the nucleolar reads are enriched with bona fide

nucleolar heterochromatic regions in F121-9 mESCs.

Calculating the log ratio of nucleolar reads to genomic reads resulted in a raw metric of

nucleolar association across the genome (Nucleolus/gDNA ratio tracks in Fig. 2A, B). As in

MEFs, visual inspection of the nucleolus/genomic ratio in mESC revealed a negative slope

across chromosomes, especially noticeable on large chromosomes (Fig. 2B). Mouse

chromosomes are acrocentric, i.e. the centromere is found at one end of a chromosome, and by

convention these are annotated on the left. Because pericentromeric regions frequently associate

with nucleolar periphery (Ragoczy et al. 2014), nucleolar associations on centromeric end of

chromosomes are usually more frequent. As we have demonstrated previously using MEFs data,

peak calling based only on nucleolar/genomic ratio would result in identifying peaks mostly at

the centromeric end and missing the smaller peaks at the end of chromosome distal to the

centromere. For this reason, we used our previously described Bioconductor package named

*NADfinder* (Vertii et al. 2019) to call NAD peaks in F121-9 mESCs. This software uses local

background correction, which was important for detection of validated NAD peaks distal from

centromeres in MEFs (Vertii et al. 2019). *NADfinder* peak calling was performed using the

default settings with a 50kb window size, a testing threshold of log2(1.5) for background

corrected log2(nucleolar/genomic) ratio to define the null hypothesis, and adjusted p-value <

0.05 (Vertii et al. 2019). Potential peaks were further filtered to be > 50 kb long and to have log2

ratio > 1.7.

*3D immuno-FISH confirmation of NAD peaks in F121-9 mESCs.* To validate associations of

NADs with nucleoli by an orthogonal method, we performed 3D immuno-FISH experiments,

scoring association of BAC DNA probes with nucleolar marker protein fibrillarin (Figs. 3-4). We

tested the association of a euchromatic negative control probe, pPK871, which lacks nucleolar

association in MEFs (Vertii et al., 2019) and did not contain a peak in our F121-9 NAD-seq data.

The frequency of nucleolar association for this probe was ~24% (Fig. 4A, B). Three additional

non-NAD BAC probes (pPK825, pPK1000, and pPK1003) displayed similar levels of nucleolar

association (Fig. 4A). The average association frequency for these non-NAD probes in F121-9

cells is 22%, similar to the 20% frequency observed in MEF cells (Vertii et al., 2019). These

observations result from stochastic positioning of loci within the nuclear volume. We note that

pPK825 was also not associated with nucleoli in MEFs, whereas pPK1000 and pPK1003 had not

been tested in MEFs (Vertii et al. 2019).

We also analyzed BAC probes pPK914 and pPK915 (Fig. 3A, B), which overlap NAD

peaks in both our F121-9 data and in MEFs (Vertii et al. 2019). In F121-9 cells, we observed that

both of these probes displayed more frequent nucleolar association than did the the set of non-

NAD probes (pPK914, p < 0.0001; pPK915, p = 0.0002, Welch's t-test), indicating that these

regions are NADs in both MEFs and F121-9 mESCs (Fig. 4A, B). Both the pPK914 and pPK915

probes overlap ciLAD regions, which means that these regions were not observed to associate

with lamina in mESCs or MEFs (Peric-Hupkes et al. 2010). However, recent LAD maps of early

mouse embryogenesis (Borsos et al. 2019) show that pPK914 probe is lamina-associated in 2-

cell and 8-cell embryos (Fig. 3A). Therefore, this region is nucleolar-associated in both mESCs

and somatic cells, but lamina-associated only during limited periods in very early development.

We also analyzed a region detected as a NAD in mESCs, but not in MEFs (pPK999, Fig. 3C).

FISH analysis showed that this probe indeed displayed increased nucleolar association compared

to non-NAD probes in F121-9 cells (Fig. 4A; p = 0.0220, Welch's t-test). We note that this probe

is lamina-associated throughout early embryonic stages (zygote, 2-cell, 8-cell embryos and

mESCs), but not in somatic MEF cells (Fig. 3C). Furthermore, pPK999 contains the *Egfr* gene,

for which transcript levels are higher in MEFs (FPKM value 51.5) (Delbarre et al. 2017)

compared to mESCs (FPKM value 0.2 (Supplemental Table 1)). This is an example of a genomic

locus that is nucleolar-associated and transcriptionally repressed in mESCs, and which is no

longer associated and becomes more active in MEFs. In sum, these FISH data demonstrate that

the identified NADs include bona fide nucleolar heterochromatic regions in F121-9 mESCs,

conserved or regulated during cell differentiation.

The length of F121-9 NADs ranges up to 8 Mb (Fig. 4C), with median length 1.1 Mb,

which is slightly larger than median length of MEF NADs, 0.7 Mb (Vertii et al. 2019). We noted

that NADs in F121-9 cells covered 31% of the non-repetitive genome, a smaller percentage than

observed in crosslinked MEF NADs (41%) (Vertii et al. 2019). The 31% fraction of the mESC

genome in NADs is also smaller than the fraction of the mouse genome in LADs, either for

embryonic stem cells or somatic cells (~40%) (Peric-Hupkes et al. 2010), or during early mouse

embryogenesis (~40-60%) (Borsos et al. 2019) (see Discussion).

*Two types of NADs in F121-9 mESCs.* In our previous analysis of MEF data, we had

defined a "Type I" class of NADs as those overlapping LADs (Vertii et al. 2019). Additionally, a

contrasting "Type II" class of NADs was defined which overlaps "constitutive interLADs"

(ciLADs), the regions defined as those which were not lamina-associated during multiple steps

of cellular differentiation (Peric-Hupkes et al. 2010). In MEFs, Type I NADs are approximately

five-fold more abundant, and tend to replicate late; in contrast, the less abundant Type II NADs

more frequently overlap with early replicating regions (Vertii et al. 2019). In F121-9 mESC

NADs, we also observed abundant Type I NADs that overlap with cLADs (421 Mb of the total

845Mb NAD population; Fig. 5A). However, Type II NADs that overlap with ciLADs comprise

only 77 Mb, much less than the 147 Mb observed in similarly crosslinked MEFs (Fig. 5A; Vertii

et al. 2019). Visual inspection of the distribution of the two classes in a genome browser

illustrated the greater size of the Type I subset compared to Type II regions (Fig. 5B). Despite

the small size of the F121-9 Type II NAD subset, we note that we have validated nucleolar

association of two Type II NAD probes (pPK914, pPK915; Fig. 4A, B). These two probes have

previously been confirmed to lack significant lamina association in MEFs (Vertii et al. 2019).

Both overlap ciLAD regions (Fig. 3A, B), indicating that they lack lamina association during

multiple steps in the process of differentiation from mES cells to astrocytes (Peric-Hupkes et al.

2010; Meuleman et al. 2013). We conclude that in mES cells, as in MEFs, a large proportion of

NADs overlap LAD regions, but that the amount of ciLAD overlap in mES cells is smaller.

We then analyzed gene density and gene expression characteristics of the different NAD

subsets from F121-9 cells. As we had observed in MEFs (Vertii et al., 2019), gene density of

Type II NADs was greater than that of NADs as a whole, which in turn have higher gene density

compared to Type I NADs (Fig. 5C). Using RNA-seq data we obtained from the same

preparations of F121-9 cells that were used for nucleolar purification, we analyzed genomic

trends in steady-state mRNA levels by plotting the distributions of the FPKM values. As in

MEFs (Vertii et al. 2019), F121-9 NADs displayed lower FPKM values than the genome-wide

average ($p < 0.0001$). In addition, FPKM values for the Type I NAD subset were significantly

lower than those for NADs as a whole ($p < 0.0001$) (Fig. 5D). Thus, Type I NADs in both MEFs

and F121-9 cells display low gene expression levels characteristic of heterochromatin. In

contrast, in F121-9 cells Type II NADs displayed mean gene expression levels that are slightly

higher than those observed in the whole genome ($p < 0.0003$) or even in non-NAD regions ($p <$

0.0233) (Fig. 5D). Therefore, in both F121-9 cells and MEFs (Vertii et al., 2019), Type II NADs

can become associated with nucleoli without adopting the highly silenced status of Type I

NADs.

However, F121-9 NADs displayed a prominent difference from those in MEFs, regarding

overlap with H3K27me3 peaks. We note that H3K27me3 is functionally important for

heterochromatin localization because Ezh2 inhibitors that block this modification decrease

laminar and nucleolar associations by heterochromatin (Harr et al. 2015; Vertii et al. 2019). In

MEFs, we observe frequent overlap of H3K27me3 peaks (Delbarre et al. 2017) with both Type I

(117 Mb out of 567 Mb) and Type II NADs (101 Mb out of 147 Mb) (Fig. 5G, H; Vertii et al.

2019). In contrast, in F121-9 cells we observed that overlap of NADs with H3K27me3-enriched

domains (Cruz-Molina et al. 2017) was much smaller than observed in MEFs: only 9 Mb of the

421 Mb of Type I NADs and 22 Mb of 77 Mb of Type II NADs overlap with H3K27me3

domains (Fig. 5E, F). These differences likely reflect the lower abundance of repressive histone

marks in mESCs compared to differentiated cells; this includes H3K27me3, which becomes

more abundant during differentiation ((Martens et al. 2005; Hawkins et al. 2010; Atlasi and

Stunnenberg 2017); see Discussion). Indeed, our analysis of an F121-9 data set (Cruz-Molina et

al. 2017; see Methods) detected 517 Mb of H3K27me3 peak regions in F121 cells, and an almost

two-fold larger amount (990 Mb) was found in MEFs (GSM1621022; Delbarre et al. 2017)).

However, we note that the amount of H3K27me3 peaks in NADs is much more than two-fold

greater in MEFs (417 Mb, Fig. 5G, H) than in F121-9 cells (66 Mb, Fig. 5E,F). Together, these

data suggest that H3K27 methylation is a key aspect of NAD chromatin maturation that has not

yet occurred fully in mES cells (see Discussion).

*Cell type-specific and conserved NADs.* We compared F121-9 stem cell NADs with

crosslinked MEF NADs (Vertii et al. 2019), defining overlapped regions on a nucleotide-by-

nucleotide basis (e.g. Fig. 6A). Close to 80% (660 Mb) of nucleotides in stem cell NADs overlap

with nucleotides in MEF NADs (Fig. 5A). We designate NADs shared by MEFs and F121-9

stem cells as "conserved NADs". Analysis of the intersection of conserved NADs with cLAD

and ciLAD regions revealed that more than half of conserved NADs overlap cLADs (370 Mb;

Fig. 5A), which are the most gene-poor subset of LADs and are generally poorly expressed,

constitutive heterochromatin (Peric-Hupkes et al. 2010; Meuleman et al. 2013; van Steensel and

Belmont 2017). Consistent with these trends, Jaccard similarity coefficient analysis indicated

high correlation of conserved NADs with cLADs and late replicating regions (Marchal et al.

2018) (Fig. 6B). Furthermore, the conserved NADs display the lowest transcript levels in both

cell types (Fig. 6C-F), as expected due to the constitutive heterochromatic features of these

regions.

We next turned our attention to NADs found only in one of the two analyzed cell types.

The Jaccard analysis indicated that these cell type-specific NAD regions (i.e. "MEF-specific

NADs" and "F121-9-specific NADs") are distinct from the conserved NADs, clustering

separately from conserved NADs, cLAD and late replicating regions (Fig. 6B). We analyzed

steady-state mRNA levels in conserved and cell type-specific NADs by using FPKM values

from F121-9 and MEF (Delbarre et al. 2017) RNA-seq data (Fig. 6C, D). As we expected, MEF

RNA-seq data revealed lower levels of transcripts from genes within MEF-specific NADs than

from F121-9-specific NADs (p-value < 0.0001) (Fig. 6C), indicating that in MEFs, nucleolar

association correlates with transcriptional silencing. In contrast, our RNAseq data from F121-9

cells showed that transcript levels within both the MEF-specific NADs and the F121-9-specific

NADs are statistically indistinguishable (p-value = 0.82) (Fig. 6D). We observed similar trends

in independent sets of MEF and mESC RNA-seq data from the literature (Lowe et al. 2015;

Chronis et al. 2017) (Fig. 6 E, F). These observations were unexpected in that the MEF-specific

NADs are not nucleolar-associated in the F121-9 cells, yet are on average less highly expressed

than non-NAD genes in these cells. These data suggest that in F121-9 stem cells, gene repression

could precede localization to the nucleolar periphery that occurs later during cellular

differentiation (see Discussion).

*Gene Ontology analysis of conserved and cell-type specific NADs.* To further characterize the

conserved NADs, we next analyzed enriched GO-terms within these. The most significantly

enriched Molecular Functions term was "Response to smell detection" (Fig. 7A; Supplemental

Table 3), including olfactory receptor (OR) and vomeronasal receptor genes. These clustered

genes are not expressed in either stem cells or fibroblasts and are frequently within NADs in both

F121-9 stem cells and MEFs (e.g. the OR genes on chr11, Fig. 7B). Among other well-

represented gene families in conserved NADs were cytochrome P450 family members: *Cyp2a12,*

*Cyp2b10, Cyp2c50* ("heme-interacting genes" in Fig. 7A), which are responsible for breaking

down toxins, as well as synthesizing steroid hormones, fats and acids, and are most highly

expressed in liver (Hannemann et al. 2007). Neurotransmitter receptors were also enriched for

conserved NADs, for example, genes that encode for glutamate receptors (*Gria2, Grid2*, etc.),

GABA-A receptors (*Gabra5, Gabrb1*, etc.) and glycine receptors (*Glra1, Glrb*, etc.). The

common thread among these gene classes is in that they are developmentally regulated, and most

strongly induced in lineages not represented by embryonic stem cells or fibroblasts.

        We next analyzed the F121-9-specific NADs. Among these, chemotactic cytokines were

the GO-derived "Molecular Functions" class with the lowest q-value (Fig. 7C; Supplemental

Table 4). The majority of these chemokines are represented by the CC chemokine ligand family,

a cluster of which is shown in Fig. 7D. This cluster of *Ccl2, Ccl12 and Ccl1* genes has

heterochromatic features in the F121-9 cells: late replication timing, no steady-state mRNA

transcripts, presence within both LAD and NAD regions. In contrast, in MEFs this gene cluster is

within neither NAD nor LAD sequences and has euchromatic features, including early

replication timing and high gene transcript levels. This is an example of a genomic region in

which multiple features are altered, becoming more euchromatic upon differentiation.

We then considered the converse case, the MEF-specific NADs. Among these, the

"Biological Processes" GO classifications included genes responsible for differentiation along

the anterior-posterior axis (Fig. 7E; Supplemental Table 5), an example of which is *Pcska6* gene

(Fig. 7F). This genomic region displays euchromatic features (overlapping a ciLAD region, early

replicating timing and high transcript levels: FPKM value 22.2) in mESCs, befitting the need for

anterior-posterior axis establishment factors at this early developmental stage. In MEFs, this

locus displays altered features, becoming nucleolar-associated, and generating reduced transcript

levels (FPKM value 6.6) (Delbarre et al. 2017). In general, both conserved and cell type-specific

NADs generally include genes that display reduced expression levels, suggesting that nucleolar

localization could contribute to (or be a consequence of) the transcriptional silencing of resident

genes. A major question remains as to how functionally distinct classes of NADs (e.g. Type I

and Type II NADs) are targeted to nucleoli, and how this has distinct transcriptional

consequences in each case (e.g. Fig. 5D; see Discussion).

**Discussion**

**Heterochromatin formation during differentiation.** Several types of evidence indicate

that compared to differentiated cells, chromatin in mESCs is less condensed, and the ratio of

euchromatin to heterochromatin is higher (Gaspar-Maia et al. 2011). For example, fluorescence

recovery after photobleaching experiments demonstrated that mESCs display more highly

mobile core and linker histones, as well as Heterochromatin Protein 1 (HP1α) than do

differentiated cells. These features are thought to contribute to the transcriptional hyperactivity in

pluripotent stem cells (Meshorer et al. 2006; Bhattacharya et al. 2009). For example, many

repetitive elements that are silent in somatic cells are transcribed in mESCs (Efroni et al. 2008).

Microscopy studies showed that electron-dense heterochromatic structures are less condensed

and less frequently localize near nuclear lamina in mESCs compared to heterochromatin in

differentiated cells (Hiratani et al. 2010; Ahmed et al. 2010; Mattout et al. 2015). Particularly

relevant to our studies, more prominent electron-dense perinucleolar heterochromatin-like

structures have been observed in differentiated cells, such as NPCs, compared to mESCs (Savić

et al. 2014). In concert with changes in the appearance and localization of heterochromatin, the

abundance of heterochromatic marks such as H3K27me3, and H3K9me3 increases during

differentiation (Lee et al. 2004; Martens et al. 2005; Meshorer et al. 2006; Wen et al. 2009;

Hawkins et al. 2010). Together, these data are consistent with our observation that NADs in

mESCs comprise a smaller fraction of the genome compared to MEFs (31 vs. 41%). Likewise,

genome coverage by LADs increases during differentiation. For example, a recent study shows

that LADs are first established immediately after fertilization, preceding TAD formation and

instructing A/B compartment establishment (Borsos et al. 2019).

**The Type II class of NADs is different in stem cells and fibroblasts.** Two functionally

distinct classes of NADs have recently been reported in mouse embryonic fibroblasts (Vertii et

al. 2019). Here, we show that in F121-9 mESCs, Type I NADs that overlap LAD regions are

frequently the same as those found in MEFs (Fig. 5A), and exhibit similar low gene expression

levels as expected for constitutive heterochromatin (Fig. 5D). In contrast, the Type II NADs

defined by their overlap with ciLAD regions is much smaller in F121-9 than in MEF cells (Fig.

5A). We also note that NADs in F121-9 cells display much less overlap with H3K27me3 peaks

than do MEF NADs (Fig. 5E-H). Together, these data suggest that acquisition of H3K27me3, the

hallmark of facultative heterochromatin (Trojer and Reinberg 2007) by NADs is part of the

process of cellular differentiation. Indeed, we note that GO analysis of MEF Type II NADs

showed enrichment for developmentally regulated GO terms, for example, organ morphogenesis

and sensory organ development (Vertii et al. 2019). Thus, stem cells prevent developmentally

important genes from acquiring characteristics of facultative heterochromatin including nucleolar

association, whereas these genes can become NADs after they are no longer required during

development.

**How are NADs targeted to nucleoli?** The precise mechanisms for targeting the two

distinct classes of NADs to nucleoli remain unclear. Several studies implicate phase separation in

the formation of heterochromatin domains (Larson et al. 2017; Strom et al. 2017; Shin et al.

2018) and nuclear bodies, such as nucleoli (Brangwynne et al.; Feric et al. 2016; Mitrea et al.

2016). Our recent data suggest that Type II NADs are more sensitive than Type I NADs to

hexanediol treatment (Vertii et al. 2019). Hexanediol perturbs phase separation, likely due to

interfering with weak hydrophobic interactions that are important for liquid-like condensate

formation (Ribbeck and Görlich 2002). Liquid-liquid demixing reactions frequently involve

proteins that have intrinsically disordered regions (IDR) and RNA recognition motifs (Feric et al.

2016), as found for example in nucleolar proteins fibrillarin (Fbl) and nucleophosmin (Npm1).

Notably, depletion of Nlp, the *Drosophila* homolog of Npm1, led to declustering of centromeres

and decreased association of centromeres with nucleolar periphery (Padeken et al. 2013).

Therefore, it is possible that Type II NADs are specifically targeted to nucleolar periphery

through the interactions between nucleolar proteins with IDRs (e.g. Npm1) with RNA species

that are yet to be identified. Additionally, Polycomb repressive complex 1 (PRC1) protein

chromobox 2 (CBX2) undergoes phase separation and forms liquid-like condensates in mESCs

(Tatavosian et al. 2019), and Polycomb proteins are part of the MiCee complex that together

with let-7 family miRNAs confers nucleolar association to specific loci (Singh et al. 2018).

Therefore, Polycomb group (PcG) proteins are good candidates for nucleolar targeting of Type II

NADs via phase separation. This may be especially important during differentiation, when PcG

proteins gain special importance (Aloia et al. 2013; Lavarone et al. 2019). However, inhibition of

PRC2 enzymatic activity decreases both nucleolar (Singh et al. 2018; Vertii et al. 2019) and

laminar heterochromatin localizations (Harr et al. 2015), making it unlikely that PRC2 can target

loci to a unique destination. Additionally, nucleolar localization of the *Kcnq1* locus can occur in

cells lacking functional Polycomb complexes (Fedoriw et al. 2012a), indicating that multiple

mechanisms likely exist. Other candidate trans-acting factors that could specifically target

genomic regions to the nucleolar periphery are the proteins Ki-67 and the p150 subunit of

Chromosome Assembly Factor-1 (CAF-1) (Smith et al. 2014; Matheson and Kaufman 2017),

and the Kcnq1ot1 (Mohammad et al. 2008) and Firre (Yang et al. 2015) long non-coding RNAs.

**Anomalies of MEF-specific NADs in stem cells.** One question of interest is whether

nucleolar association leads to, or is a consequence of, transcriptional repression. Notably,

previous studies have shown that tethering of loci to the nucleolar periphery via 5S rDNA

sequences results in transcriptional silencing (Fedoriw et al. 2012b), so at least in that case a

causal relationship has been established.

In MEF cells, genes in the MEF-specific NADs display mean expression levels lower

than genes in the F121-9-specific NADs ($p < 0.0001$) (Fig. 6C, E). This is the expected situation,

in which genes that had been in NADs earlier in development (e.g. in stem cells) become

derepressed if that localization is lost.  In contrast, in F121-9 cells, genes within MEF-specific

NADs showed similar transcript levels as genes within F121-9-specific NADs ($p = 0.82$, Fig.

6D); the same was true in other mES cells analyzed (p = 0.13, Fig. 6F). Why aren't the MEF-

specific NADs more transcriptionally active in stem cells, since they haven't yet acquired

nucleolar association? This could be due to other repressive mechanisms acting on regions

within MEF-specific NADs, for example, lamina association: 40% of MEFs-specific NADs

overlap with cLADs (Fig. 5A). Alternatively, additional factors contributing to transcriptional

repression may precede (and perhaps contribute to) nucleolar association. Development of

reagents allowing control of perinucleolar associations will be key to exploring the relationship

between nucleolar localization and transcriptional repression.

**Materials and Methods**

*F121-9 mESC nucleoli isolation.* For each preparation, cells were grown in eleven 15-cm plates

and harvested one or two days after seeding them, with total cell numbers of 3-5 x $10^8$ per

preparation. One hour prior to nucleoli isolation, old cell culture medium was replaced with fresh

medium. Plates grown in parallel were used for genomic DNA extraction (DNeasy Blood &

Tissue kit, Qiagen), and RNA extraction (TRIzol, ThermoFisher Scientific and RNeasy mini kit,

Qiagen).

*Crosslinked isolation of nucleoli* was done as described previously (Vertii et al. 2019)).

*Cell culture.* F121 mouse embryonic stem cell (mESC) line is a female cell line derived from a

cross between male *Castaneus* and female *129* mice in Jaenisch lab (Rasmussen et al. 1999), and

F121-9 was subcloned in Gribnau lab. F121-9 cells were obtained from Gilbert lab at passage 8.

The cells were grown on gelatin-coated plates and cultured in 2i medium. Accutase (EMD

Millipore SF006) was used to detach cells from plates and passage into new dishes. Prior to

seeding cells, dishes were coated with 0.1% gelatin (EMD Millipore, SF008) for at least 25 min

at room temperature, after which gelatin was aspirated. Dishes were rinsed with DPBS (Gibco,

14190144), which was aspirated, and cells were seeded in these dishes. 2i medium was obtained

as described previously (Vertii et al. 2019). Cells were passaged at $3 \times 10^4/cm^2$ density. 2X

HyCryo-STEM cryopreservation medium (GE Healthcare, SR30002.02) was used to freeze cells.

*Quantitative PCR*. DNA was extracted from input whole cells and purified nucleoli using

DNeasy Blood & Tissue kit (Qiagen). Quantitative PCR analysis was done as outlined

previously (Vertii et al. 2019).

*Antibodies*. The following antibodies were used: fibrillarin (Abcam, ab5821), actin (Sigma-

Aldrich, A1978) and nucleophosmin (Abcam, ab10530). Secondary antibody for

immunofluorescence was Alexa 594-conjugated donkey anti-rabbit (ThermoFisher, A-21207)

and Alexa 594-conjugated goat anti-mouse (ThermoFisher, A-11020). For western blots,

horseradish peroxidase (HRP) anti-mouse and anti-rabbit secondary antibodies (Jackson

ImmunoResearch) were used.

*Immunoblotting*. Proteins from total cell lysates and purified nucleoli were analyzed as noted

previously (Vertii et al. 2019).

*DNA isolation, deep sequencing, and read preprocessing and mapping*. Total genomic and

nucleolar DNA was purified using DNeasy Blood & Tissue kit (Qiagen). Libraries were

generated using NEBNext Ultra II DNA Library Prep Kit for Illumina (New England Biolabs).

The DNA was fragmented to a size of 350 bp, and these fragments were size selected with

sample purification beads. 150 bp paired-end sequencing was performed using Illumina reagents.

52.1 and 51.5 million reads were obtained for two replicates of genomic samples, and 49.4 and

52.8 million reads were obtained for two replicates of nucleolar samples. >95% of nucleolar

samples, and >96% of genomic samples were mappable. For more information regarding

sequencing, please see the files at data.4dnucleome.org under accession numbers

4DNESXE9K9DB, 4DNESUJZ5FL2. Trimming and alignment of mapped reads to the mouse

genome (mm10) was done as previously described (Vertii et al. 2019).

*RNA isolation, deep sequencing, and read preprocessing and mapping*. Total RNA from two

replicates of F121-9 mESC were extracted using TRIzol (ThermoFisher Scientific) and purified

using RNeasy mini kit (Qiagen). Libraries were constructed using NEBNext Ultra II RNA

Library Prep kit for Illumina (New England Biolabs). The mRNA was fragmented, and double-

stranded cDNA library synthesized, and completed through size selection and PCR enrichment.

150 bp paired-end sequencing was achieved using Illumina HiSeq 4000 platform. 22.2 and 26.7

million reads were obtained for each of the two replicates of mESC RNA. >92% of replicate 1,

and >86% of replicate 2 were mappable. For more information regarding sequencing, please see

the files at data.4dnucleome.org under accession number 4DNESDHILYLU. The quality of the

sequencing reads was evaluated with fastqc (0.11.5)

(https://www.bioinformatics.babraham.ac.uk/projects/fastqc/ The paired-end reads were aligned

to the mouse genome (ensemble GRCm38) using STAR (version 2.5.3a) with ENCODE

standard options as --outFilterMultimapNmax 20, --alignSJoverhangMin 8, --

alignSJDBoverhangMin 1, --outFilterMismatchNmax 999, --alignIntronMin 20, --

alignIntronMax 1000000  and  --alignMatesGapMax 1000000. Additional parameter settings are

--outFilterMismatchNoverReadLmax 0.04 and --outSAMattributes NH HI NM MDTo visualize

the mapped reads, bigwig files were generated using bamCoverage function in deepTools2 with

the parameter setting as --normalizeUsingRPKM

*DNA-FISH probes.* The bacterial artificial chromosomes (BACs) were obtained from the

BACPAC Resource Center of Children's Hospital Oakland Research Institute (Oakland, CA).

DNA was isolated using BAC DNA miniprep Kit (Zymo Research). BAC probes were labeled

using BioPrime Labeling Kit (ThermoFisher). Streptavidin, Alexa Fluor 488 conjugate

(ThermoFisher, S-32354) was used to stain biotin-labeled BAC probes. Probes are described in

Supplemental Table 2.

*3-D DNA FISH/ immunocytochemistry and microscopy.*3-D DNA FISH/ immunocytochemistry-

labeling was performed as described previously (Vertii et al. 2019), except that DNA FISH-

labeling was done after immunocytochemistry, and coverslips were not treated with RNA

removal solution. F121-9 mESC were seeded on 0.1% gelatin-coated 22 x 22 mm coverslips

(Corning, 2850-22), with total cell number 150-250 x $10^3$ cells/coverslip, and permeabilized and

fixed the next day. Nucleoli were stained with anti-fibrillarin antibodies, except in the third

biological replicates of the pPK999 and pPK1000 analyses anti-nucleophosmin antibodies were

used instead.

Images were acquired using Zeiss LSM 700 laser scanning confocal microscope and PMT

detector (63x 1.40 Oil DIC M27 Plan-Apochromat objective). DNA-FISH probes were counted

through z-stacks manually and scored as "associated" if there was no gap between the probe and

the nucleolar marker. Each probe was analyzed in at least three biological replicates, with at least

100 alleles scored in each replicate.  Z stacks are represented as 2D maximum projections using

Fiji software (Schindelin et al. 2012). Statistical analyses were done using GraphPad Prism

software. p-values were calculated using arcsine values of the square roots of nucleolus-

associated proportions.

*NAD identification and annotation.* We used the same workflow for NAD-seq data analysis as

described previously (Vertii et al. 2019), except that we removed 20 NAD peaks that are less

than 50 kb long (totaling 0.74 MB). Because there are 624 peaks totaling 845 Mb in the F121-9

NAD-seq data, this represents 0.087% of the NAD nucleotides. We used version 1.6.1 of

NADfinder for NAD identification in this manuscript.

Nucleotide-level overlap analyses of F121-9 NADs with cLADs, ciLADs (Peric-Hupkes et al.

2010), MEF NADs (Vertii et al. 2019), and H3K27me3-enriched domains (GSM2416833;

(Cruz-Molina et al. 2017); GSM1621022; (Delbarre et al. 2017)) were performed using

*GenomicRanges* (Lawrence et al. 2013) as described in detail in Vertii et al., 2019. These

nucleotide-based overlap analyses in some cases generated small overlapped regions, such that

single genes would end up with both Type I and Type II designations, or both MEF-specific and

F121-9-specific designations. Because the biology of NADs is centered on large (~1 MB-sized)

domains, we removed regions <50 kb in length from overlap analyses of Type I and II NADs and

from cell-type-specific NADs to avoid these confounding designations.  GO enrichment analyses

of conserved and cell type-specific NADs derived from the overlap analysis were performed

using *ChIPpeakAnno* . mESC H3K27me3-enriched domains were identified based on

H3K27me3 ChIP-seq data (GSM2416833; Cruz-Molina et al. 2017) using RSEG (v0.4.9) with

20 iterations for Baum training . MEF H3K27me3-enriched domains were obtained from

GSM1621022 (Delbarre et al. 2017). FPKM values based on MEF RNA-seq data were obtained

from GSM1621026 (Delbarre et al. 2017) and GSE90894 (Chronis et al. 2017). FPKM values

from mES RNA-seq data were obtained from GSM1418813 (Lowe et al. 2015). Calculations of

the statistical significance of pairwise comparisons were performed using Welch's t-test in

GraphPad Prism.

The *NADfinder* software is available at:

https://urldefense.proofpoint.com/v2/url?u=https-

3A__bioconductor.org_packages_release_bioc_vignettes_NADfinder_inst_doc_NADfinder.html

&d=DwIFAw&c=WJBj9sUF1mbpVIAf3biu3CPHX4MeRjY_w4DerPlOmhQ&r=JqQ8_Clm34x

p32rT3DzotqsofamUUUyNmo3M4_tlIEI&m=Lq6n57MH0XVDSsayaTs25TVTysYxezReg6cH

QXKhVNk&s=BG-jkVe3qQRszk64lZLOGYCGqyYe-h9NoghI0r8I1bM&e=,

We calculated Jaccard indexes among NADs, cLAD/ciLAD (Peric-Hupkes et al. 2010), and

F121-9 early/late replication timing (GSE95091 (Marchal et al. 2018)). The Jaccard index is the

size of the intersect divided by the size of the union of two sets. The higher the Jaccard index, the

higher the extent of the overlap.

Boxplots and comparisons of gene densities (genes/Mb) and gene expression distributions were

performed using R For statistical comparisons, p-values were calculated using Welch's t-test.

**Declarations:**

**Ethics approval and consent to participate:** Not applicable.

**Consent for publication:** Not applicable.

**Availability of data and materials**: The datasets supporting the conclusions of this article are

publically available at the 4D Nucleome Data Portal (https://data.4dnucleome.org/). The

RNAseq data is at https://data.4dnucleome.org/experiment-set-

replicates/4DNESDHILYLU/#raw-files. The DNAseq data for the total genomic samples is at

https://data.4dnucleome.org/experiment-set-replicates/4DNESUJZ5FL2/, and the DNAseq data

for the nucleolar samples is at https://data.4dnucleome.org/experiment-set-

replicates/4DNESXE9K9DB/ .

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bioinformatics analyses, and PDK directed and analyzed the wet lab experimentation. AB, LJZ

and PDK wrote the manuscript. All authors read and approved the final manuscript.

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**Figure Legends**

**Figure 1. Isolation and characterization of purified nucleoli in mESC.**

A. Schematic diagram of nucleoli isolation from crosslinked cells.

B. Phase-contrast microscopy images of F121-9 mESC grown in colonies (left panel), and

nucleoli purified from them (right panel). 20x magnification, scale bar 200 μm. The inset (lower

right) shows a 3x magnified image of the purified nucleoli.

C. Immunoblots of fractions generated during nucleoli isolation from two replicate experiments.

Fractions are labeled as shown in Fig. 1A. Fibrillarin was enriched, and beta-actin depleted, in

nucleolar fractions.

D. RT-qPCR measurement of 45S rDNA enrichment in nucleolar DNA from replicate

experiments 1 and 2. Two different primer sets were used. Data are represented as mean

enrichment relative to genomic DNA, error bars represent standard deviations for triplicate

technical measurements.

**Figure 2. Analysis of F121-9 NAD sequencing data and comparison with heterochromatin.**

A. All of chromosome 19 is shown, which contains strongly nucleoli-associated regions. From

the top, tracks shown are: Constitutive interLADs (ciLADs, cyan) and Constitutive LADs

(cLADs, red) (Peric-Hupkes et al. 2010); mESC replication timing (Hiratani et al. 2010, early

replicating regions in cyan and late replicating regions in red); F121-9 cell NAD peaks ("F121-9

NADs", called using *NADfinder* software based on two replicate experiments); Nucleolar/gDNA

ratios, shown for both replicate experiments; raw read counts from both replicates for nucleoli-

associated ("Nucleolus", brown) DNA and total genomic DNA ("gDNA", dark blue).

B. As in panel A, with all of chromosome 9 shown.

**Figure 3. Genomic locations of BACs used for FISH experiments.**

For each panel, BAC locations are outlined by a black box and indicated with a red horizontal

bar above the top track. From the top, tracks include cLADs (red) and ciLADs (cyan) (Peric-

Hupkes et al. 2010), followed by mESC replication timing (Hiratani et al. 2010). Next are LADs

from the indicated early embryonic stages (magenta) (Borsos et al. 2019), followed by F121-9

cell NAD peaks (blue) and RNA-seq data from the same preparations of F121-9 cells used to

generate the NAD data. At the bottom are data from MEF cells for comparison: replication

timing (Hiratani et al. 2010), LADs (Peric-Hupkes et al. 2010), NAD peaks from crosslinked

cells (Vertii et al. 2019) and RNA-seq (GSM2453368 (ENCODE Project Consortium 2012)).

A. pPK914. This BAC is within a NAD in both F121-9 and MEF cells, and its overlap with a

ciLAD region (cyan) indicates a lack of lamina association in these cell types. However, it does

become lamina-associated in the 2-cell and 8-cell stages of early embryonic development

(Borsos et al. 2019). This NAD contains ion channel genes (Kcnj6, Kcnj15) and Ets-family

transcription factors (Erg, Ets2).

B. pPK915. This ciLAD-overlapped BAC is a NAD in both F121-9 and MEF cells, encoding

solute carrier membrane transport proteins (Slc22a1, 2, 3) and plasminogen (Plg).

C. pPK999. This BAC overlaps a late-replicating LAD that contains the genes encoding

epidermal growth factor receptor (Egfr), EGFR Long Non-coding Downstream RNA (Eldr),

pleckstrin (Plek), and cannabinoid receptor interacting protein 1 (Cnrip1). This NAD is part of a

LAD throughout early embryonic development, at zygote, 2-cell, 8-cell and mESC stages

(Borsos et al. 2019). Note that in MEF cells this region is not identified as a NAD, is early

replicating, and displays greater expression of Egfr.

**Figure 4. 3D DNA-FISH experiments validate nucleolar association of NADs in F121-9**

**mESC.**

A. *Left*: graph of percentage of alleles that are nucleolar-associated (mean ± standard deviation

for n = 3 biological replicates) for the indicated (see Supplmental Table 2) non-NAD BAC

probes (blue bars) and NAD probes (red bars). *Right*: data from the left graph were grouped into

non-NADs (blue bar) and NADs (red bar). NADs display significantly greater nucleolar

association than non-NADs (p < 0.0001, Welch's t-test).

B. Maximum projection images from 3D immuno-FISH experiments with nuclear DAPI staining

in blue, anti-fibrillarin antibody staining in red, and DNA probes (pPK871, pPK914 and

pPK915) in green. 63x magnification, scale bar 10 μm.

C. Length distribution of F121-9 NADs, compared to those from crosslinked MEF cells (Vertii et

al. 2019).

**Figure 5. Two types of NADs in F121-9 mESC.**

A. Venn diagram illustrating the overlaps among F121-9 NADs, MEF NADs (Vertii et al. 2019),

cLAD, and ciLAD regions (Peric-Hupkes et al. 2010). Numbers show the size of the indicated

regions in Mb.

B. Chromosomal view of F121-9 NADs overlapping cLADs and ciLADs. The entire

chromosome 19 is shown. Euchromatic features (early replication timing, ciLAD) are displayed

in cyan, and heterochromatic features (late replication timing, cLAD) are shown in red. From the

top, displayed tracks are mESC replication timing (Hiratani et al. 2010), cLAD (Peric-Hupkes et

al. 2010), NAD overlap with cLAD (i.e. Type I NADs, magenta), nucleolar/genomic ratio and

NAD peaks (blue), NAD overlap with ciLAD (i.e. Type II NADs, green), ciLAD (Peric-Hupkes

et al. 2010), H3K27me3 domains, and mESC H3K27me3 ChIP-seq data (Cruz-Molina et al.

2017) used for H3K27me3 domain identification (olive green).

C. Gene densities (genes/Mb) of the indicated regions, ranked left to right. "NAD" indicates all

F121-9 NADs.

D. A box plot of gene expression levels from F121-9 RNA-seq data, expressed as

$\log_{10}$(FPKM+1) for the same indicated genomic regions as in panel C. The top of the red box

indicates the mean value for each population, and the standard deviation is marked by the red

error bar.

E. Venn diagram illustrating the overlaps among F121-9 NADs, cLADs (Peric-Hupkes et al.

2010) and mESC H3K27me3 domains (Cruz-Molina et al. 2017). Numbers indicate the size of

regions in Mb. The overlaps among all three sets (9 Mb) and between the cLAD and H3K27me3

sets (10 Mb) are left off the diagram because of their small sizes. Diagram was generated using

eulerAPE 3.0 .

F. As in panel E, except here the overlap analysis includes ciLADs (Peric-Hupkes et al. 2010)

instead of cLADs.

G. As in panel E, except here Venn diagram illustrates the overlaps among crosslinked MEF

NADs (Vertii et al. 2019), cLADs (Peric-Hupkes et al. 2010) and MEF H3K27me3 domains

(Delbarre et al. 2017).

H. As in panel G, except here the overlap analysis includes ciLADs (Peric-Hupkes et al. 2010)

instead of cLADs.

**Figure 6. Conserved and cell type-specific NADs.**

A. IGV browser view of entire chromosome 15. Euchromatic features (early replication timing,

ciLAD) are displayed in cyan, and heterochromatic features (late replication timing, cLAD) are

shown in red. From the top, tracks shown are cLAD, ciLAD (Peric-Hupkes et al. 2010), mESC

replication timing (Hiratani et al. 2010), F121-9 nucleolar/genomic ratio and F121-9 NAD peaks

(blue), "F121-9 specific NADs", i.e. NADs found only in F121-9 cells (light blue), "conserved

NADs", or NADs shared between F121-9 and MEFs (magenta), "MEF-specific NADs" (dark

green), MEF NAD peaks and MEF nucleolar/genomic ratio (Vertii et al. 2019) in green, and

MEF replication timing (Hiratani et al. 2010).

B. Jaccard similarity coefficients were grouped based on similarities among the indicated

regions. "F121-9 NAD" indicates all NADs identified in F121-9 cells in this study. "Conserved

NAD" indicates NADs shared between F121-9 and MEF NADs (Vertii et al. 2019), whereas

"F121-9-specific NAD" indicates NADs detected in F121-9, but not MEF cells. Conversely,

"MEF-specific NAD" indicates NADs found in MEFs, but not in F121-9 cells. "Type I NAD"

indicates F121-9 NADs that overlap with cLADs, and "Type II NAD" indicates F121-9 NADs

that overlap with ciLADs (Peric-Hupkes et al. 2010). "cLAD" and "ciLAD" regions are from

Peric-Hupkes et al. 2010, and F121-9 early replication timing and late replication timing regions

are from Marchal et al. 2018. Note that F121-9 NADs, conserved F121-9 NADs, cLADs and

Type I NADs are highly similar. In contrast, Type II NADs are most similar to F121-9-specific

NADs.

C. A box plot of gene expression levels from MEF RNA-seq data (GSM1621026; Delbarre et al.

2017), expressed as $\log_{10}(FPKM+1)$ for the indicated subsets of NAD, non-NAD and whole

genome regions. The statistical significance of pairwise comparisons were all $p < 0.0001$

(Welch's t-test).

D. As in panel C, except our F121-9 RNA-seq data is used for FPKM analysis. The indicated

pairwise comparisons were all statistically significant ($p < 0.0001$), except for that between

F121-9 and MEF-specific NADs do not achieve statistical significance ($p = 0.82$**).**

E. As in panel C, except different MEF RNA-seq data (GSE90894; (Chronis et al. 2017)) was

used for FPKM analysis. The changes between cell type-specific NADs achieve statistical

significance ($p<0.0001$, Welch's t-test).

F. As in panel C, except mESC RNA-seq data (GSM1418813; (Lowe et al. 2015)) is used for

FPKM analysis. The changes between F121-9 and MEF-specific NADs do not achieve statistical

significance ($p=0.13$).

**Fig. 7. GO analysis of conserved and cell type-specific NADs**

A. Molecular Functions subset of GO enrichment analysis of conserved NADs, with -$\log_{10}$(q-

values) shown.

B. Genomic region containing NAD peak (red box) conserved in both MEF and F121-9 cells.

This peak contains a cluster of olfactory genes on chromosome 11. ciLAD, mESC and MEF

replication timing tracks are displayed as in Fig. 5B. The other tracks shown from the top are

mESC LADs (Peric-Hupkes et al.2010; red), F121-9 nucleolar/genomic ratio, NADs and RNA-

seq data (blue), MEF LADs (Peric-Hupkes et al. 2010), MEF nucleolar/genomic ratio, NADs

(Vertii et al. 2019) (green) and RNA-seq (GSM2453368 (ENCODE Project Consortium 2012))

(blue).

C. Molecular Functions subset of GO enrichment analysis of F121-9-specific NADs.

D. As in panel B, showing genomic region corresponding to F121-9-specific NAD (red box),

overlapping *Ccl* family of chemokine ligands.

E. Biological Functions subset of GO enrichment analysis of MEF-specific NADs.

F. As in panel B, showing genomic region containing MEF-specific NAD (red box), overlapping

the *Pcsk6* gene important for differentiation along anterior-posterior axis.

**Supplemental Tables**

Supplemental Table 1: Average RNA-seq FPKM values from two biological replicate RNA-seq

samples, made from the same preparations of F121-9 cells used for the nucleolar purifications.

Supplemental Table 2: mm10 genomic coordinates, laboratory BAC probe names, systematic

BACPAC names, FISH and NADfinder results for DNA-FISH probes.

Supplemental Table 3: GO-derived Molecular Functions terms of conserved NADs, with q-

values (termed "BH adjusted p-value" in the table) below 0.05.

Supplemental Table 4: GO-derived Molecular Functions terms of F121-9-specific NADs, with q-

values below 0.05.

Supplemental Table 5: GO-derived Biological Processes terms of MEF-specific NADs, with q-

values below 0.05.

Supplemental Table 6: mESC H3K27me3-enriched domains identified based on H3K27me3

ChIP-seq data (GSM2416833; Cruz-Molina et al. 2017) using RSEG software. The first three

columns show for each H3K27me3-enriched domains the chromosome name, start and end

nucleotides. The 4th column (Average Count) gives the average read count in the domain. The

5th column (Domain Score) is the sum of posterior scores of all bins within this domain; it

measures both the quality and size of the domain.

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# Figure 1

# Figure 3

# Figure 4

B.

pPK871

pPK914

pPK915

# Figure 5

# Figure 6

# Figure 7