

Contents

1	Introduction	1
1.1	Mouse embryonic stem cells: control of the pluripotent state	4
1.2	Downstream differentiation events triggered by the pluripotency network	7
2	Global regulation of expression in early differentiation of mESCs	15
2.1	The X:A ratio is fine tuned by two opposing processes	15
2.1.1	Introduction	15
2.1.2	The transcriptome time series captures the signature of X inactivation	19
2.1.3	No X chromosome upregulation in undifferentiated cells . . .	22
2.1.4	Ancestral X-linked genes are upregulated during differentiation	25
2.1.5	Discussion and outlook	31
2.2	Progress of differentiation is timed to compensation of X dosage . .	35
2.2.1	Introduction	35
2.2.2	Female mESC are delayed in differentiation	36
2.2.3	Methylation is linked to differentiation delay	40
2.2.4	X dosage and methylation are connected via MAPK signaling	43
2.2.5	Discussion and outlook	49
3	A mechanism for coordinated expression of adjacent genes	53
3.1	Introduction	53
3.2	Topological domains and co-expression modules	55
3.3	Both the Tsix and Xist module are essential for proper Xist expression	59
3.4	Association of co-expression and domains holds genome-wide	61
3.5	Expression fluctuations of neighboring loci are reduced in domains .	67
3.6	Proteins encoded in the same domain preferentially interact	69
3.7	Discussion and outlook	74

4	Uncovering regulation of individual genes by transcription factors in mESCs	77
4.1	Introduction	77
4.2	Statistical measures of association used for network prediction . . .	83
4.3	Gold standards for determining direct TF-gene interactions	86
4.4	How the transcriptome data was obtained	89
4.5	Benchmark of network predictions: pruning determines success . . .	91
4.6	Predicted topologies of the TF-TF network differ strongly	94
4.7	Discussion and outlook	100
5	Conclusions	103
6	Materials and Methods	129
6.1	Array Analysis for the three cell lines XO,XY and XX	129
6.2	Chapter 2	129
6.3	Chapter 3	135
6.4	Chapter 4	137
7	Supplementary Figures	143