



**Figure S1**

**Additional modifications of the WISH protocol that prevent DNA cross-hybridization of the *eGFP* probe.**

Chick embryos were co-electroporated with Cer0.4-*eGFP* and pCAGGS-RFP (ubiquitous reporter) and processed for WISH. (A, E) Merge of bright field with fluorescence images. (B, F) RFP fluorescence. (C, G) *eGFP* fluorescence. (D, H) WISH using the *eGFP* antisense probe. (D) After the post-hybridization washes, embryos were treated with RNase H (Ambion; 8 U/ml in 75 mM KCl, 50 mM Tris-HCl, pH 8.3, 3 mM MgCl<sub>2</sub>) for 1h at 37° C. (H) The pre-hybridization and hybridization steps of the WISH protocol were performed at 55° C.

At stages HH6-7, RFP fluorescence was detected in all electroporated cells (B, F), whereas *eGFP* fluorescence was specifically observed in the anterior mesendoderm (C, G). When embryos were treated with RNase H (D) or hybridized at 55° C (H), the *eGFP* antisense probe labeled only the *eGFP*-expressing cells. At stage 7, *eGFP* transcripts start to be detected also in the left paraxial and lateral plate mesoderm (D; see [14]).