

Compilation of vertebrate-encoded transcription factors

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INTRODUCTION

Since the discovery of DNA elements controlling the initiation of transcription by RNA polymerase II some ten years ago, it has become evident that the frequency of transcription initiation depends on proteins interacting with specific DNA elements of gene regulatory regions. Especially during the last three years an enormous number of such proteins, called transcription factors, have been isolated and characterized.

In the following table, we present a listing of transcription factors. It may serve as a dictionary of transcription factors, and should help to identify putative regulatory DNA elements of not yet analysed promoter regions. To keep the listing manageable, it was limited to vertebrate-encoded factors regulating the expression of genes transcribed into mRNA, i.e. by RNA polymerase II. An alphabetical order of the listing was chosen, since otherwise most of the well characterized factors had to be placed into more than one of the listed categories, such as protein families (e.g. zinc finger proteins) or factor families (e.g. steroid hormone receptor superfamily). Names of synonyms or of homologues derived from other species are listed in the second column. In the third column, the specific regulatory DNA element (if possible, the consensus sequence) that is recognized by the respective factor, is given (please note, that also the complementary sequence represents a specific binding site, since most transcription factors act in an orientation-independent manner).

In the following columns, structural features, tissue specificity and some general informations of each factor are noted. Unfortunately, the broad range of this listing left little space to describe all important features of well characterized factors such as AP1, NF κ B or Sp1. Also, we are sure to have missed some important elements. Hence, the following table, and especially the 'features' column, represents a rather personal and selective view, which might restrict its usefulness for some purposes. Hence, in order to avoid misinterpretations, readers are encouraged to refer to the original publications cited in the table, and to references therein.

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Legend to the table:

- 1) The species in which a factor has been identified is given in superscript letters (b: bovine; c: calf; ch: chicken; f: frog; h: human; ha: hamster, m: murine; r: rat; s: simian).
- 2) The names of factors listed here are synonyms of the names listed in the first column, or homologous factors found in other species, or both. The species in which the factors have been identified are given in superscript letters (cf. 1))
- 3) If possible, consensus sequences derived from several binding sites are given. Since most transcription factors act in an orientation-independent manner, also the complementary sequence represents a specific binding site (R: purine; P: pyrimidine; N: any nucleotide).
- 4) The molecular weight of the factors was determined by different methods as indicated by superscript letters (a: SDS–PAGE; b: gel filtration; c: estimated from the corresponding cDNA). If a factor exists in two distinct forms, the M_r of the two forms is shown with a slash (e.g. 45/50); if a factor exists in several forms, or if the size was not exactly determined, the range of the M_r is shown (e.g. 45 – 50); if a factor consists of two or more polypeptides, the M_r of the polypeptides is shown (e.g. 45 + 50).
- 5) bHLH: helix-loop-helix protein containing a basic domain; bZIP: leucine zipper protein containing a basic domain; FHD: fork head domain; HD: homeodomain; HSH: helix-span-helix protein; POU: POU specific domain; zinc f.: zinc finger.
- 6) Posttranslational modifications are given in brackets (Ph: phosphoprotein; O-gly: O-glycosylated).
- 7) Compounds inhibiting the action of the respective factor are given in brackets.

Factor 1	Synonyms, Homologs ²	Binding sequence ³	M _r (kDa): ⁴ domains ^{5,6}	Tissue specificity	Inducers (repressors) ⁷	Features	References
αA-CRYBP1 _m		GGGAAATCCC	zinc f.			Implicated in lens-specific expression of the αA-crystallin gene. Lens-specific transactivation requires a single binding site. Related to MBP-1 and AGIE-BP1.	1, 2
AAPh		TTTCATATTACTCT			INF-α, INF-γ	Has characteristics very similar to those of GAF. Induction of AAF by INF-γ does not depend on ongoing protein synthesis.	3
AHR _{m,r}		TCCGTGAGAAGA	280 ^a		β-naphthoflavone, tetrachlorodibenzo- p-dioxin, 3-methyl- cholanthrene	Binds to Xenobiotic response element (XRE). Soluble protein complex containing the ligand-binding subunit (95kDa ^a) and the 90 kDa heat shock protein. Translocates to the nucleus after ligand binding. Member of the steroid hormone receptor superfamily.	4, 5
AGIE-BP1 _r		GGTTGGGAAATCCC	>250 ^a zinc f.			Binding specificity is indistinguishable from NFκB. Related to αA-CRYBP1 and MBP1.	6
ANFh _m		CTTTATCTGG		ubiquitous		Negative regulating factor of albumin gene expression.	7
AP1 _{h,m,r,ch}	PEA1 _m	TGAG/C ^c /AA	v-Jun: 65 ^a c-Jun: 39 ^a v-Fos: 55 ^a /75 ^a c-Fos: 55 ^a -65 ^a bZIP (Ph)	ubiquitous	TPA, EGF, Ha-ras, raf, v-mos, IL-2, NGF, TGFβ, ConA, picrotoxin, Py-mt, metrazole, serum, cAMP, retinoic acid, cell. transfection, brain seizure activity, membrane depolarization	Homodimer of Jun or heterodimer between members of the Jun and Fos or Jun and ATF families. Positive or negative regulating factor of various cellular and viral promoters. Fos down-regulates immediate-early gene expression via CAG boxes. DNA-binding is inhibited by IP1 (30-40kDa) which may interact with the Jun/Fos bZIP.	8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17

Factor ¹	Synonyms, Homologs ²	Binding sequence ³	M _r (kDa) ⁴ , domains ^{5,6}	Tissue specificity	Inducers (repressors) ⁷	Features	References
AP2 ^{h,r,f}		CCC^A/CN^G/C^G/C^G/C	50 ^a HSH	most abundant in the neural crest lineage	TPA, cAMP, retinoic acid, forskalin (SV40 Tag, DNA methylation)	Also binds to Sp1, NF-1, and SV40 T antigen binding sites. Developmentally regulated. Binds as a dimer to a palindromic binding site.	18, 19, 20, 21, 22
AP3 ^h		TGTGGA^T^A^T^A^T	48 ^a /57 ^a		(Cyclosporin A)	Relatedness of the two proteins described as AP3 is not clear. is not clear. Both proteins bind to the GTTC motif of the SV40 promoter. May be related to TEF-2.	23, 24, 25
AP4 ^h		C^T^CAGCTG^C^T^GG	48 ^a bHLH, bZIP			Contains multiple protein-protein interfaces to promote homodimer formation. Interacts with AP1 in regulation of SV40 gene expression	26, 27
AR ^{h,m,r}		AGAACAN^3TGTCT	98.9 ^c		androgen	Androgen receptor, member of the steroid hormone receptor superfamily.	28, 29
ARP-1 ^h		TGANCCCTTGACCCT	47 ^a zinc f.	ubiquitous		Member of the steroid hormone receptor superfamily. Heterodimerizes with COUP. May participate in regulation of lipid metabolism and cholesterol homeostasis.	30
ATF ^{h,m,r}	CREB ^{h,m} , NF2 ^{1h} , E4TF3 ^h , CRE-BP1 ^h , CRE-BP2 ^m , PKREM ^m , TREB ^h , Eiv ^{Ph} , Tc1 ^h , ECREM ^m	TGACG^C^T^C/A^G/A	43 ^a - 72 ^a , bZIP, (Ph)	ubiquitous (CRE-BP1 and HB16 are most abundant in brain)	cAMP, Ca ⁺⁺	Binds to the cAMP response element (CRE). Family of at least ten different transcription factors encoded either by different genes or generated by differential splicing. Forms homo- or hetero-dimers with members of the ATF- or Jun families. Different dimers have different DNA-binding specificities. ATF-8 binds more efficiently to an AP1- than to an ATF site.	31, 32, 33, 34, 35, 36, 37, 38, 39, 40, 41, 42, 43, 316
BGP1 ^{ch}		CGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGG	zinc f.	erythrocytes		Different from Sp1.	44

Factor 1	Synonyms, Homologs ²	Binding sequence ³	M _r (kDa), ⁴ domains ^{5,6}	Tissue specificity	Inducers (repressors) ⁷	Features	References
BSAP ^{h,m}		GACCCANCTGG ^{G/A} T ^{T/A} N ₃ C ^{C/A} G	50a	B cells		Binds to the promoter of tissue-specific late histone genes, no binding sites in Ig or MHC class II promoters. Present at early but not at late stages of differentiation.	45
CBF ^h	MAPF ^{2ch}	ACACCCAAAATATGGCGAC	35a (Ph)			Binds to muscle regulatory element. May be closely related to SRF. Binds also to serum response element, but does not activate it.	46, 47
CBP-1 ^{h,m}	CBF-1 CP1 ^h	TCAC ^{G/A} TGATA	39a-49a bHLH			Heat stable, centromere (CDE I) binding protein, implicated in chromosome segregation and transcriptional activation. Similar or identical to USF.	48, 49, 50, 51
CD28R ^{Ch}		AAAGAAATTC			CD28	Activates IL-2 promoter.	52
C/EBP ^{h,m,r,Ch}	EBP2 ^{0h,m,r}	GTGG ^{T/A} T ^{T/A} C ^{C/A} G ATTCC	42 ^a bZIP	most abundant in liver, but also in brain, fat, intestine, lung, and skin		Heat resistant, is presumed to be involved in energy metabolism and may have a role in regulating the balance between cell growth and differentiation. Reveals a rather loose binding specificity that includes CCAAT boxes, the enhancer core motif, and cAMP response elements.	53, 54, 55, 56, 57, 313
CF1 ^m		ANATGG		ubiquitous		Acts on c-myc-, Igh-, and α-actin promoters. Interacts with PCF.	58
COUP ^{h,r,Ch}	Ear-3 ^m	GTGTCAAAGGTCA	45-50a			Member of the steroid hormone receptor superfamily, interacts with the non DNA-binding factor S300II. Reveals similar binding properties as v-ErbA.	29, 59, 60
CP1 ^h	NF-Y ^m	C ^T T ^N 6 ^A /G ^A /GCCAATCANC ^T T ^G T	A: 40 ^a ; 34 ^c B: 32 ^a ; 23 ^c		v-src, serum	Consists of two subunits (A and B). Binds to CCAAT boxes found in Y boxes.	61, 62, 63, 64, 65
CP2 ^h	NF-Y ^{*m}	C ^T T ^A GC ^T T ^N 3 ^A /GRCCAATCN ₃ ^{G/A}			v-src, serum	CCAAT box binding factor	61, 62, 64, 65

Factor 1	Synonyms, Homologs ²	Binding sequence ³	M _r (kDa), ⁴ domains ^{5,6}	Tissue specificity	Inducers (repressors) ⁷	Features	References
CTCFch		CCCTC	130 ^a	erythrocyte, muscle, fibroblast		Binds to three repeats of this motif spaced at five to six basepairs intervals. Adjacent sequences are required for tight binding.	66
DBP α		TGATTTGT	43 ^a basic domain	ubiquitous in adults (except testis), liver- enriched	(chemically induced liver regeneration)	Highest DBP levels are found at 8 p.m., not detectable during the night or in the morning. Member of the C/EBP family, but lacks a leucine zipper domain. Related to VBP.	67, 68
E2A ^h	E12 ^h =pan1m E47 ^h =pan2m	G ₁ A ₁ CAGNTG	E12: 67,4c E47: 67,7c bHLH	ubiquitous (related E2 box binding factors may be myocyte or B cell-specific)		E12 and E47 are generated by differential splicing of the E2A gene. Binds as a dimer to the κE2 motif, but also to the AP4 and USF binding sites. The E2A gene is rearranged in 95% of the t(1;19) chromosomal translocations found in acute lymphatic lymphomas. The rearrangement results in the replacement of the bHLH by a HD. E2A activates IgD-to-J rearrangement. Forms heterodimers with other bHLH proteins (such as MyoD or Id).	69, 70, 71, 72, 73, 74, 75
E2BPch		TGCAAC ₁ TAC ₁ T				Heat-labile, acts on U3 region of the RSV-LTR	76
E2F _{h,s,m}		TTTTG ₁ C ₁ CCG ₁ C	54 ^a		E1a, serum (cAMP, retinoic acid)	Activity most abundant during S-Phase. Factor in a proliferation-dependent signal transduction pathway. Forms complexes with the retinoblastoma gene product, cyclin A and adenovirus E4 protein. Complexes are dissociated by adenovirus E1a protein. DNA-binding is inhibited by DNA methylation.	77, 78, 79, 80, 81, 82, 83
E4F _h	ETF-A ^h	TGACGTAAC	50 ^a (Ph)		E1a	Binds to a site containing the cAMP response element (CRE). Does not confer cAMP- but E1a inducibility. (cf. ATF)	84, 35

Factor 1	Synonyms, Homologs ²	Binding sequence ³	M _r (kDa); ⁴ domains ^{5,6}	Tissue specificity	Inducers (repressors) ⁷	Features	References
E4TF1h		CGGAAGTG	60 ^a + 53 ^a		ras, raf	Consists of two subunits: A DNA-binding one of 60 kDa and a transactivating one of 53 kDa. Not induced by SV40, myc and fos. May be related or identical to EF-1A.	85
EBP1h		GGGACTTTC	57 ^a -60 ^a			Binds to the κB motif and to the SV40 enhancer core. Different from NFκB, but may be related to LBP.	86, 87
EF-1A ^{h,m,r}		CGGAAGTG		ubiquitous		Binds cooperatively to two binding sites. May be related or identical to E4TF1.	88
EF-Ch ^m	Eph	GTTGC ^T CGNG ^G /ACAAC		present in various human cell lines		Binds as a dimer to the Py and HBV enhancer. Alteration of the spacing between the inverted repeats of the binding site decreases binding affinity.	89
EGR-1 ^{m,r}	NGF1-A ^m Krox-24 ^m Tis8, zif268 ^m	CGCCCC ^G /GCGC	82+88 ^a zinc f. (Ph)	ubiquitous, most abundant in brain	TPA, growth factors, metrazole, picrotoxin, retinoic acid, brain seizure activity	Consists of two polypeptides, short-lived, encoded by an immediate early response gene. Has a broad role in signal transduction pathways. (cf. WT-ZFP).	90, 91, 92, 93
EGR-2 ^h	Krox-20 ^m	CCGCCCCCGC	43 ^a zinc f.		PMA, mitogen	May be involved in the regulation of the expression of homeobox-containing genes.	94, 95
ELP ^m		CAAGGTCA		undiff. embr. carcinoma cells		Implicated in negative regulation of Mo-MuLV LTR.	96
ER ^{h,m,r,ch,f}		AGGTCA ^N GTGACCT	h:65C zinc f.		estrogen	Estrogen receptor (steroid hormone receptor superfamily). The three spacing nucleotides are essential for the binding affinity. ER and GR binding sites are similar. May cooperate with AP.	29, 60, 97, 98, 314

Factor 1	Synonyms, Homologs ²	Binding sequence ³	M _r (kDa) ⁴ , domains ^{5,6}	Tissue specificity	Inducers (repressors) ⁷	Features	References
v-ErbA ^{h,m,ch}		GTGTCAAAGGTCA	75 ^a zinc f. (Ph)			Member of the steroid hormone receptor superfamily. Consists of the thyroid receptor fused to the viral gag protein. Acts as antagonist to the thyroid receptor. Its oncogenic potential correlates with its ability to repress RAR action.	60, 29, 99
ETF ^h		CAGCCCCCGGCAGC	120 ^a ; 270 ^b		phorbol esters	Has a rather loose binding affinity, binds to GC-rich sequences not recognized by SP1. Acts on EGF receptor gene promoter.	100, 101
Eis-1 ^{h,m,ch}		G/C ^A /C ^{GGA} A ^T G ^T /C	54 ^a (68 ^a) (Ph)	B cells resting T cells	c-Ha-ras, v-src, v-mos (ConA, T cell stimulation)	In chickens also a 68 kDa-form exists. Short-lived protein with high turn-over rate. DNA-binding activity is phosphorylation-dependent. Binds <i>in vitro</i> to the PEA3 motif. May be a component of the signalling network.	102, 103, 104, 105, 106, 107
F-ACT1 ^{ch}		TGGCGA		ubiquitous		Binds to the serum response element (SRE). Its binding is mutually exclusive with that of SRF. May be a negative regulator of α -actin gene expression.	108
GAF ^h		TTTCATATTA ^{CTCT}			INF- α , INF- γ	Has characteristics very similar to AAF. Induction of GAF by INF- γ depends on ongoing protein synthesis.	109, 3
GATA-1 ^{h,m,ch}	Eryf1 ^{ch} , GF-1 ^{h,m} , EF-1 ^m , NF-E1 ^{a,m,ch}	T/A ^{GATAR}	GF-1: 51 ^a NF-E1a: 40 ^a (18 ^a + 19 ^b) zinc f.	erythroid cells megacaryocytes mast cells		May consist of two polypeptides, required for erythroid differentiation. Activates globin genes. Erythroid cell-specific transactivation requires multiple binding sites. Plays auto-regulatory role in its own expression.	110, 111, 112, 113, 114, 115
GATA-2 ^{ch}	NF-E1b ^{ch}	T/A ^{GATAR}	56 ^a zinc f.	erythroid cells (limited in other tissues)		Reveals tissue-specific RNA splicing. Early factor in differentiation, whereas GATA-1 and -3 are late factors.	113, 111

Factor 1	Synonyms, Homologs ²	Binding sequence ³	M _r (kDa): ⁴ domains ^{5,6}	Tissue specificity	Inducers (repressors) ⁷	Features	References
GATA-3 ^{h,m,ch,f}	NF-E1 ^{c,h}	T ₁ A ₁ GATAR	h: 49 ^a ; 48 ^c ch: 55 ^a zinc f.	T cells, brain, definitive erythrocytes		May play a regulatory role in developing chicken brain and T cell-specific gene expression. The human GATA3 is only expressed in T cells.	113, 111, 116, 117, 118
GCFh		C ₁ GCGC ₁ G ^c /G ^c C ₁ G ^c C	100 ^a ; 91 ^c			Negative regulator of EGF receptor gene.	100
GHP-1 ^{h,f}	Pic-1 ^{m,r} , PUF-1	A ₁ T ₁ TATC ₁ T ₁ CAT	34 ^a POU	adult anterior pituitary (somato-, thyro-, and lactotrophs)		Activates the growth hormone gene and the prolactin gene, which has several binding sites.	119, 120, 121
GHP-5 ^f		A ₁ T ₁ TATC ₁ T ₁ CAT		variety of cells		Activates the growth hormone gene, binds to two sites.	121
GHP-7 ^f		A ₁ T ₁ TATC ₁ T ₁ CAT		adult anterior pituitary (somatotrophs)		Activates the growth hormone gene, binds to two sites.	121
GR ^h		AGAACA ₃ TGTTCT	88 ^a ; 94 ^a zinc f.		glucocorticoid	Glucocorticoid receptor, member of the steroid hormone receptor superfamily. May be negatively regulated by AP1. The same binding site is recognized by AR, MR, and PR.	29, 122
H1TF1 ^h		AACAACACAAA	90 ^a ?			Binds to AC box of the H1 histone gene. Most probably not identical to H1NF-A.	123
H1TF2 ^h		GCACCAATCAGCGCGC	47 ^a			CCAAT box binding factor of H1 histone genes. Distinct from NF1.	123
H2R1B ^{ph}		TCAGGTCACAGTGACCTGA	50 ^{a,c} zinc f.			Member of the steroid hormone receptor superfamily, binds to the cAMP response element and to the ER site.	124
H2TF1 ^{h,m,r}	MBP-2 ^h KB3 ^m	TGGGGATTCCCCA	48 ^a , 58 ^a zinc f.	ubiquitous	(N-myc)	Exists in two forms. Constitutively expressed. Binds to the κB motif. Implicated in MHC class II expression.	125, 126, 127, 128

Factor 1	Synonyms, Homologs ²	Binding sequence ³	M _r (kDa): ⁴ domains ^{5,6}	Tissue specificity	Inducers (repressors) ⁷	Features	References
H4TF1h		CGGGGAGGG	105 ^a +110 ^a zinc f.			Acts specifically on H4 histone gene promoter, different from SP1.	129
H4TF2h		GGTTCTCN ₄ CGGTCCG	65 ^a			Acts specifically on H4 histone gene promoter.	129
H-APP-1h		CTGGRAA			IL-6	Cooperates with NF-IL6, is qualitatively and quantitatively changed by IL-6.	130
HINF-Ah		ATTN ₄ ATTT				Acts on human H1, H3, and H4 histone gene promoters.	131
HIP1h		ATTCN(1-30)GCCA				Acts on TATA-less promoters of housekeeping genes to specify the site of transcription initiation. Was suggested to be E2F.	132, 133
HIVEN86Ah		TGGGGATTCCCCA	86 ^a	activated T cells, B lymphocytes		Binds to κB site of the IL2Rα and HIV promoters. May be closely related to NFκB.	134, 135
HNF-1h,r,m	LF-B1 ^{h,r} , HPI, APF, HNF-1α	GTTAATNATTAAC	92 ^a POU	differentiated liver, kidney, stomach, intestine, spleen		May be implicated in endodermic differentiation. Dimerizes in the absence of its DNA recognition sequence.	136, 137, 138, 139
vHNF-1h,r,m	LF-B3 ^r + LF-Bu ^r , HNF-1β	GTTAATNATTAAC	72 ^a POU	liver, lung	retinoic acid	Replaces HNF-1 in dedifferentiated cells. Exclusive expression of vHNF-1 is associated with repression of liver-specific genes. HNF-1 and vHNF-1 have the potential to interact to produce an embryologically complex pattern of gene expression.	136, 140, 141, 142, 143
HNF-3A ^r	HNF-3α ^r	TATTGAC ^c TTT ^r ATG	50 ^a , 48.7 ^c FHD	liver, intestine, lung		May contribute to the differentiation of cells in internal organs.	144, 145
HNF-3B ^r	HNF-3β ^r	TATTGAC ^c TTT ^r ATG	47 ^a , 46 ^c FHD	liver, intestine, lung		May contribute to the differentiation of cells in internal organs.	144, 145

Factor 1	Synonyms, Homologs ²	Binding sequence ³	M _r (kDa), ⁴ domains ^{5,6}	Tissue specificity	Inducers (repressors) ⁷	Features	References
HNF-3C	HNF-3 γ	TATTGACATTAAATG	42 ^a , 43 ^c FHD	liver, intestine, testis		May contribute to the differentiation of cells in internal organs.	144, 145
HNF-4h,r		GTTGCAATAAGGTGGTCACT	54 ^a zinc f.	liver, kidney, intestine		Member of the steroid hormone receptor superfamily, does not bind to the almost identical TR site. May be identical to LF-A1.	5, 146, 147
HNF-5f		TG/A TTTGGCT		liver		Binding sites are located close to those of other liver-specific factors.	148
HSPh,m		(NGAAN) ₃	h: 83 ^a	ubiquitous	heat shock	Does not bind prior to or after recovery from heat shock. Does not disturb binding of other factors to the same promoter. May trimerize. Each subunit thought to bind a GAA trinucleotide.	149, 150, 151, 152
IAPf	IEF1r,ha	GCCATCTGCT		pancreatic- β -cells		Binds to insulin control element of the insulin II gene. Binds also to the USF site, where it is inactive.	153, 154
Ig/EBP1m	μ EBP-Em	AATGNATTNTGCTAAAT- -A/GNTNAAT	45 ^{a,b} bZIP	ubiquitous (highest levels in early B cells)		Member of the C/EBP family. Binds to E sites in IgH gene promoter and to the RSV LTR.	155, 156
IREBF-1m		CGGAAATGGAAACTG	35,5 ^c bZIP		interferon α , β	Binds to interferon response element, unrelated to ISGF-1, -2, and -3.	157
IRBPm		AGTGCACT	110 ^a		TPA, PKA	Acts on Jun family gene promoters.	158
ISGF1h	IRF-2 ^m , ICSBP	CTTTCAGTTT		differentiated cells	interferon β	Constitutively expressed repressor of INF genes.	159, 160
ISGF2h,r (M+G)	IRF-1 ^m , IBP-1	CTTTCCTTT	M: 56 ^a ; G: 37 ^a (Ph)	differentiated cells	interferon α (M;G), interferon γ (G), prolactin (rat), virus infection, dsRNA	M- and G-forms of ISGF2 are generated by posttranscriptional modifications. Slow interferon response factor, depends on protein synthesis. The rat homolog is an immediate-early gene in prolactin-stimulated T cells and may play a role in cell proliferation.	159, 160, 161, 162

Factor 1	Synonyms, Homologs ²	Binding sequence ³	M _r (kDa), ⁴ domains ^{5,6}	Tissue specificity	Inducers (repressors) ⁷	Features	References
ISGF3h		GCTTCAGTTT	48a +84a + 91a + 113a		interferon α and γ (N-ethyl maleimide)	Multimeric complex, rapid interferon response factor. Translocates to the nucleus after interferon treatment.	160, 163
KBF-1h	Relh	TGGGGATTCCCA	50a	ubiquitous		p50 subunit of NFκB, but also acts independently. Member of the Rel family.	165
Ker1h		GCCTGCAGGC		keratinocytes		Controls keratinocyte-specific gene expression.	166
LBPm		TAAAGCCATTT				Binds to Mo-MuLV LTR, may be related to EBP1.	96
LF-A1 ^{h,c,r}		TGGAC ^T _C ^T /C ^T _{N_x} TGGCCC	c: 40a,b	liver		Binding site is bipartite, insertion or deletion of 1 to 4 nucleotides in the spacer region does not abolish DNA-binding.	167
LFB3m		GTTAATNATTAAC	POU	epithel of endo- and mesodermal origin	retinoic acid	Is related to and forms heterodimers with HNF-1 (cf. vHNF-1).	140, 141
LIT-1h		CGGCCCTTTGGACCT	200b			Acts on apolipoprotein B gene promoter.	168
LSPh		GGGGCGN ₄ GGGGG GGTCTTTCCGCC	63a			Binds to two different sites on the SV40 promoter with the same affinity. Unrelated to Sp1 and MTF-1. Binds to SV40 GC boxes 2 and 3 and regulates SV40 late expression.	169
LyF-1m		PPTGGGAGR	50a	most abundant in B and T cells		May be a member of the Eis family.	170
MBF-1m		C ₁₁ TAAAAAATAAC ₁₁ C ₁₁ T ₁₁ C ₁₁ T		myocytes	FGF, TGFβ	Is regulated in a reciprocal manner to MEF-2.	164
MBF-1m		TGCRRC	74a		zinc	Binds to metal response element, may be related to MTF-1.	171

Factor 1	Synonyms, Homologs ²	Binding sequence ³	M _r (kDa), ⁴ domains ^{5,6}	Tissue specificity	Inducers (repressors) ⁷	Features	References
MBP-1h	PRDII-BF1h HIV-EP1h	TGGGGATTCCCA	298c zinc f.	ubiquitous (low levels in B cells)	TPA, serum, mitogen, virus infection	Acts on MHC class II promoter, distinct from NFκB. May be regulator of cell proliferation. May be related to PRDII-BF1, HIV-EP1, αA-CRYBP1 and AGIE-BP1.	172, 173, 174
MCBFch		CATTCT		embryonic muscle tissue		Factor regulating muscle-specific expression of the cTNT and α-actin promoters.	175
MEF-2m		C ₁ T ₁ T ₁ A ₁ A ₁ T ₁ AAATAA ₁ G		myocytes	myogenin (mitogens, FGF, TGFβ)	May participate in the coordinate regulation of genes during myogenesis. Regulated in a reciprocal manner to MBF-1.	164, 176
MEP-1h,m		TGCRNC	115 ^a			Binds to metal response elements (MRE _d ≥ MRE _a = MRE _c > MRE _b > MRE _e > MRE _f).	177
MR _{h,r}		AGAACAN ₃ TGTTCT	107c zinc f.		mineralocorticoids glucocorticoids	Mineralocorticoid receptor, member of the steroid hormone receptor superfamily.	178, 29
MTF-1m		TGCRNC			zinc	Binds to the metal response elements, related to Sp1.	179, 180
mtTF1h		TTAACAGTCACCCCAAC	24.4c HMG			Mitochondrial transcription factor. Activates mtDNA promoters.	181
Myb _{h,m,r,ch}		T ₁ C ₁ AACTG	v-Myb: 48 ^a c-Myb: 75 ^a	haematopoietic system, tumor cell lines		Short-lived protein with higher affinity to tandem motifs, although it binds as a monomer. Plays a critical role in cell proliferation and differentiation.	182, 183, 184, 185
Myc _{h,m,r,ch}		CACGTG TCTCTTA	c-Myc: 64 ^a /67 ^a b/HLH/ZIP			Binds to random DNA sequences and to at least two specific DNA sequences. Functions both in transcriptional regulation and DNA replication. Binds to DNA as a homodimer, or, with altered activity, as a heterodimer with Max.	186, 187, 188, 189, 190

Factor 1	Synonyms, Homologs ²	Binding sequence ³	M _r (kDa), ⁴ domains ^{5,6}	Tissue specificity	Inducers (repressors) ⁷	Features	References
MyoDh.s,m	MEF-1m, ch	CAACTGAC	45 ^a bHLH (Ph)	proliferating myoblasts and differentiated myotubes	(FGF, TGFβ)	Implicated in myocyte differentiation, needs thirteen amino acids of its basic region for myocyte-specific activation. Forms heterodimers with other bHLH proteins (e. g. E2A or Id)	69, 191, 192, 193
NF1h,m,r	CTFh,m	T ₁ /CGGA/CN5.6GCCAA	52 ^a -66 ^a basic domain (O-glycol.)	ubiquitous	TGFβ	Family of at least six proteins. The quantity of the different forms of NF1 varies with the growth conditions of the cells, but overall binding activity remains stable. Binds as a dimer both to palindromic and to half-side sequences. Flanking sequences, length and composition of the spacer region can greatly influence the binding affinity. Interacts also with DNA polymerase to enhance DNA replication.	20, 213, 214, 211, 215, 216
NF-AT ^{h,m}	NF-IL2-Eh	GGAGGAAAAAAGCTGTTTCAT		activated T cells	PHA (CsA, FK506)	The concentration of NF-AT must exceed a critical threshold before transcription is initiated. Consists of a cytoplasmic and a nuclear subunit. Translocation of the cytoplasmic subunit to the nucleus is inhibited by Cyclosporin A (CsA) and FK506. Could account for the immunosuppressive effect of CsA.	25, 217, 218, 219
NF-E2 ^m		TGACTCAG		foetal liver, myeloid cells		Binds to AP1 site, but different from AP1.	220, 221
NF-D ^m		GATGGGG		ubiquitous		Transcription and replication factor. Acts on Py enhancer domain D.	222
NFe.h,m		GTGTCAGTCA				Activates embryonic myosin heavy chain promoter, different from AP1 and ATF.	223
NF-GMa ^h		G ^A /GGA/GTT ^T /GCA ^T /C			PMA, ConA	Acts on cytokine gene promoter.	224
NF-GMb ^h		TCAGG ^G /ATA			PMA, ConA	Acts on cytokine gene promoter.	224

Factor 1	Synonyms, Homologs ²	Binding sequence ³	M _r (kDa); ⁴ domains ^{5,6}	Tissue specificity	Inducers (repressors) ⁷	Features	References
NF-IL6h	LAP ^r IL-6DBPh,r H-APF-2h,r AGP/EBPm	T ^T /G ^N NGNAA ^T /G	NF-IL6: 40 ^a LAP: 32 ^a bZIP (Ph)	ubiquitous, most abundant in liver, heart, and muscle	lipopolysaccharide, IL-1, IL-6	Member of the C/EBP family, binds with higher affinity as heterodimer with C/EBP than as homodimer. Is involved in acute phase reactions, inflammation, and haematopoiesis. AGP/EBP may play a role in the glucocorticoid induction of the α 1-acid glycoprotein gene.	130, 225, 226, 227, 228, 229, 310
NFkBh.r,m	Relh	GGGA ^A /CTN ^T /CCC	50 ^a + 65 ^a >200 ^b	ubiquitous	PMA, cAMP, IL-1, lipopolysaccharide, TNF α , TNF γ	Heterodi- or tetramer. NFkB may be one factor out of a family of rel-related proteins (40 - 125 kDa). Released after stimulation from an inactive cytoplasmic complex formed with I κ B α or I κ B β . Constitutive in mature B cells, inducible in immature B cells, T cells, and non-lymphoid cells. A role for NFkB in the G ₀ -to-G ₁ transition was suggested.	126, 194, 195, 196, 197, 198, 199, 312
NF- μ E3h,m	CD2Bpm	GCCACATGACC	42.5 ^a +44 ^a +45 ^a			Binds to IgH μ E3 motif. Oligomer of two to four polypeptides. Probably different from TFE3.	200, 201
NF-Sh		P γ GTCAAGC			cAMP?	Binds to MHC class II α -chain gene promoters.	202
NF-W1m		GTTCATC	64 ^a	mature B cells		Acts on MHC class II gene promoter, different from Oct-1 and -2.	203
NF-W2m		GTTCATC	64 ^a + 20 ^a	ubiquitous		Acts on MHC class II gene promoter, different from Oct-1 and -2.	203
NGFI-B ^r	nur77m N10 ^r	AGGTCATGACCT	63 ^a -88 ^a 61 ^c zinc f. (Ph)		growth hormones, brain seizure activity, TPA	Member of the steroid hormone receptor superfamily.	204, 205

Factor 1	Synonyms, Homologs ²	Binding sequence ³	M _r (kDa); ⁴ domains ^{5,6}	Tissue specificity	Inducers (repressors) ⁷	Features	References
NRF-1h,s		T ₁ C ₁ CGCCGCA ₁ T ₁ C ₁ CGCCGCA/G				Nuclear factor acting on genes whose products function in mitochondria. May coordinate the expression of nuclear and mitochondrial genetic systems in response to cellular energy demands.	206
NTFh		GGAACCTCCCC		ubiquitous		Interacts on heavy chain VH gene promoter with Oct-2.	207
Oct-1h,m,r	NF-A1h, NF-111h,m, OTF-1h, OBP100h, TRF, NF-1L2h	ATGCAAAAT (CTCATGA)	90 ^a , 100 ^a POU (Ph)	ubiquitous	TPA, P11A	Preferentially expressed in early S-phase, also stimulates DNA replication. Has no apparent activation domains. Also binds to heptamer motif when dimerized with Oct-2. Differential phosphorylation during the cell cycle.	104, 208, 209, 210, 211, 212
Oct-2h,m,r,f	NF-A2h,m, OTF-2h	ATGCAAAAT (CTCATGA)	Oct-2A: 60 ^a Oct-2B: 75 ^a POU, bZIP	lymphoid cells, intestine, testis, kidney, nervous system	TPA, PHA, IL-1 lipopolysaccharides (TGFB)	Trimer, acts on IgH and MHC class II gene promoters. Also binds to the heptamer motif when dimerized with Oct-1. Multiple isoforms are generated by alternative splicing. Stimulates DNA replication.	209, 210, 230, 231, 232
Oct-4h,m	Oct-3h,m, Oct-5m, NF-A3h,m	ATGCT ₁ A ₁ AAT (TTAAAAATTCA)	42 ^a (35 ^a) POU	embryonic cells, adult ovary and testis	(retinoic acid)	Most probably, Oct-3, 4, and 5 are identical proteins. Exists in a minor form of 35 kDa. Maternal factor that is also implicated in DNA replication.	233, 234, 235, 236
Oct-6m	Tst1r, SCIPr	ATGCAAAAT TAATGARAT	45 ^a POU	embryonic stem cells, germ cells, adult brain and nerve cells	retinoic acid	May be identical to N-Oct-3. May control events at very early and late stages of development.	236, 237, 238
Oct-Rf		ATGCAAA ₁ C ₁ T		ubiquitous		Binds to the motif only in the context of the H2B box.	239
Pax-1h,m		CACCGTCCGGCTCTAGATATCTC	42 ^a 37,9 ^c			Mutation of this factor leads to altered DNA-binding specificity and is associated to malformations of the vertebral column in mice.	240

Factor 1	Synonyms, Homologs ²	Binding sequence ³	M _r (kDa), ⁴ domains ^{5,6}	Tissue specificity	Inducers (repressors) ⁷	Features	References
PCFm		AGAAAGGGAACGGA		plasmocytoma		Negative regulating factor of c-myc gene expression.	241
PEA3h,m,r,ch		AGGAA _{G/A}			TPA, EGF, serum, v-src, c-Ha-ras, v-mos, v-raf, Py-mt	The factor binding to this motif has not yet been identified (Ets-1 has been shown to bind this motif <i>in vitro</i>). The factor is not induced by fos. Represents a primary target of signal transduction.	103, 243, 244, 245
PPAR ^m		AGGTCA	52.4 ^c zinc f.	liver, kidney heart, brown adipose tissue	peroxisome proliferators	Member of the steroid hormone receptor superfamily. Important for triglyceride and cholesterol homeostasis. May play a role in the development of liver tumors.	246
PRh, ch		AGAACAN ₃ TGTTCT	h: 94 ^a /120 ^a ch: 79 ^a /109 ^a zinc f.		progesterone (hsp90)	Progesterone receptor, member of the steroid hormone superfamily. Exists in two forms with different promoter specificities. Dimerization is inhibited by the hsp90 heat shock protein.	29, 247, 248
PRDI-BF1h		AAGTGAAAGT	88 ^c zinc f.		virus infection	Potent repressor of INFB gene expression.	249
PTF		TCAGAGTATAAACTACT	40 ^b	pituitary		May be a modified form of TFIID. Responsible for pituitary-specific expression of the transcription factor GHF1.	250
PTF1m,r		ATGGGAN ₄ CTCAGCTGTGC	64 ^a + 48 ^a	fetal and adult pancreas (from day 15 of gestation)		May be implicated in the coordinate expression of genes transcribed in the acinar pancreas and in differentiation of the pancreas.	251, 252, 253
Pu.1ch	Sfp1-1ch	AGAGGAACT		Most abundant in B lymphocytes and macrophages		Related to members of the Ets family. Might block proerythroblast differentiation, thereby causing immortalization.	254, 255
PuFh		CGGTGGG				Acts on c-myc gene promoter.	256

Factor 1	Synonyms, Homologs ²	Binding sequence ³	M _r (kDa), ⁴ domains ^{5,6}	Tissue specificity	Inducers (repressors) ⁷	Features	References
RAR ^{h,s,m,f}		AGGTCAATGACCT	48.5 ^a , 49.9 ^c zinc f.		retinoic acid	Retinoic acid receptor. Member of the steroid hormone receptor superfamily. Heterodimerizes with TR. May compete with AP1. Also binds to the VDR site. Three subtypes (α,β,γ) exist. Developmentally regulated.	242, 257, 258, 259, 311
RFX ^h		CCCCTAGCAACAGATG			interferon γ	Binds as a monomer or as a dimer. Acts on X boxes of MHC class II α-chain gene promoters. RFX is defective in MHC class II-deficient combined immunodeficiency.	202, 260
RVF ^{h,m,r}		AAGATAAAACC	60 ^a			Acts on neu gene promoter.	261
SEF-1 ^m	S-CBF ^m	TCTGTGGTTAA	30 ^a -35 ^a	ubiquitous		Activates SL3-3 virus promoter.	262, 263
SIF ^{m,r}		CCCGTC/A			c-sis/PDGF	Activates c-fos gene expression in the same time course as SRF.	264
Sp1 ^{h,s,m,r,ch}		G _T G _A GGC _G T _G /A _G /A _G T	95 ^a /105 ^a zinc f. (Ph, O-glycol.)	ubiquitous	SV40 infection	Has a rather loose binding specificity to G-rich sequences upstream of TATA boxes. Also binds to methylated DNA, and is phosphorylated <i>in situ</i> by a DNA-binding kinase. Does not increase the number of initiation complexes, but the number of productive transcription complexes. Developmentally regulated. DNA-bound Sp1 can self-associate, bringing together distant DNA segments.	265, 266, 267, 268, 269, 270, 271
SRF ^{h,m,ch,f}		GGATGTCATATTAGGACATCT	67 ^a (Ph)	ubiquitous	serum	Binds to the serum response element (SRE). Is suggested to adopt different conformations depending on the SRE to which it is bound. Depending on its conformation it is recognized by other proteins in order to confer protein kinase C-dependent or -independent signals. Phosphorylation alters the conformation of the factors DNA-binding domain.	272, 46, 273, 274

Factor ¹	Synonyms, Homologs ²	Binding sequence ³	M _r (kDa); ⁴ domains ^{5,6}	Tissue specificity	Inducers (repressors) ⁷	Features	References
TBP _{h,m,r}		TATAAA	h: 38 ^a m: 35 ^a	ubiquitous		TATA box-binding factor. TBP is part of the TFIID protein complex implicated in RNA polymerase II positioning. TFIID-binding to the TATA box is stimulated by TFIIA and TFIIB. Binds as a monomer.	281, 282, 283, 284
TCF-1 _h	TCF-1 ^{αh} LEF-1 ^m	C/AA ^c /AAG	53 ^a , 57 ^a HMG	T cells		Distally related to the Ets family. Exists in three alternative splice forms. The DNA-binding domain is similar to that of high mobility group proteins.	275, 276, 277, 278
TCF-2 _{αh}		G/CAGGAAG ^T /C	63 ^a	T cells		Member of the Ets family.	277
TEF-1 _h		AAG ^T /CATGCA TGGAAATGT	53 ^a			Binds cooperatively to the Sph- and tandem repeats of the GTTC motifs on the SV40 promoter.	279, 280
TEF-2 _h		GGGTGTGG	57 ^a			Binds to the GT-IC motif on the SV40 promoter. May be related to AP3.	279, 284
TFE3 _m		GCCACATGACC	59 ^c b/HLH/ZIP			Binds to IgH μE3 motif and the USF binding site. Probably different from NF-μE3. Closely related to TFEF.	73, 200
TFEB _h		GGCCACGTGACC	60 ^a b/HLH/ZIP			Closely related to TFE3. Binds to E boxes of IgH gene promoters.	285
TGT3 _h		AAGTGTTCG		liver		Acts on hepatitis B virus enhancer.	286
TIN-1 ^r		AGGAAGTTC	43 ^a /45 ^a	testis		Acts as a transcriptional inhibitor.	287

Factor 1	Synonyms, Homologs ²	Binding sequence ³	M _r (kDa) ⁴ , domains ^{5,6}	Tissue specificity	Inducers (repressors) ⁷	Features	References
TRh,s,m,ch	c-ErbA _{h,m,r,ch}	(AGGTCA) ₂	46 ^a zinc f. (Ph)	ubiquitous	thyroid hormone	Thyroid hormone receptor. Member of the steroid hormone receptor superfamily. Vertebrates express two different forms, TR α and TR β , with different functions in early embryonic brain as well as during the late phase of hormone requirement. Binds to DNA as a monomer or as a homo- or heterodimer. Binds to head-to-head or tail-to-tail palindromes or to direct repeats of the half-site shown.	29, 288, 289, 290, 291, 292
TTF-1h,m,r,c	TgTF-1f T/EBP τ	GNNCACTCAAG	38 ^a HD	thyroid, lung	(ras)	Is largely responsible for thyroid-specific gene expression and may be implicated in the differentiation of the thyroid.	293, 294, 295
UBP-1h		CTCTCTGG	61 ^a , 63 ^a			Binds to the HIV tar element, but also to the TATA box.	86
USFh,m,r	MLTFh,m,r B1f	GGG/CACG/ATGAC	43 ^a /44 ^a b/HLH/ZIP	ubiquitous	high mobility group proteins 1 and 2 (DNA methylation)	Heat-stable, may be implicated in the regulation of tissue-specific and developmentally regulated genes. Has been suggested to be related to the centromere binding protein CBF-1. USF mRNA is alternatively spliced. Increases rate or stability of TFIIID binding during <i>in vitro</i> chromatin assembly.	50, 296, 297, 298, 299, 300
VBpch		GTTTACATAAAC	bZIP	ubiquitous, most abundant in the oviduct		Appears to play a pivotal role in the estrogen-dependent regulation of the chicken vitellogenin gene.	301
VDRh,m,r,ch		AGGTCATGACCT	h: 48.3c ch:58a/60 ^a zinc f. (Ph)		vitamin D	Vitamin D receptor, member of the steroid hormone receptor superfamily.	242, 302

Factor 1	Synonyms, Homologs ²	Binding sequence ³	M _r (kDa); ⁴ domains ^{5,6}	Tissue specificity	Inducers (repressors) ⁷	Features	References
WT-ZFph	WT1m	CGCCCCCGC	h: 21.5 ^a m: 47/49 ^c zinc f.	developing kidney and Bowman's capsule, meta- nephric blastema		Encoded by the Wilms' tumor locus. Could act as antagonistic to EGR-1 and EGR-2. Reveals homology to EGR-1. Exists in two alternative splice forms. May regulate transcription during nephroblast development. Acts as a transcriptional repressor.	303, 304, 305, 306
XF1/2 ^{m,r}		TCTTCTCACGCAACT			(cycloheximide)	Binds to the xenobiotic response element (XRE) of the cytochrome P450c (CYP1A1) gene promoter. Not responsive to polycyclic compounds. Distinct from Ahr.	307
XPF-1m		CACCTGN ₄ ITTTCCC	60 ^a	exocrine pancreas		Implicated in transcriptional activation of exocrine pancreas-specific gene expression.	308
YB-1h		ATTTTCTGATTGGCCAAAG	35 ^c		(PMA, INFγ)	May be a Y-box binding protein, but is also suspected to be involved in maintenance of chromatin structure or DNA repair as a non-specific DNA- binding protein.	309, 315