### **Supplementary Note 1**

# TALE-based two-hybrid approaches appear ineffective at targeting RNAs to individual DNA loci.

In our initial strategy the chromatin-targeting protein "conduits" were based upon transcription activator-like effectors (TALEs, **Supplementary Fig. 2a**), a versatile class of customizable DNA-binding repeat proteins derived from *Xanthomonas sp.*<sup>1, 2</sup>. Synthetic TALE domains are attractive because of the relative ease and modularity of their design: a TALE that specifically targets a given DNA sequence can be designed by altering the repeat-variable diresidues (RVDs) harbored within each of its repeats, according to a simple code<sup>3, 4</sup>. As such, TALEs have been exploited to precisely modulate the genome, transcriptome and epigenome in a wide variety of biological systems. In our design, the TALE was fused to a non-aggregating mutant of the MS2 phage-coat protein, a high-affinity, highly specific RNA-binding domain that has been extensively characterized<sup>5</sup>. Likewise, the ncRNA of interest was fused a cassette of cognate stem-loops recognized by the MS2 protein (MS2-SL). Hence, the TALE~MS2 chimera should serve as a "molecular bridge" that targets the ncRNA~MS2-SL chimera to a DNA locus, in a scheme reminiscent of a classic two-hybrid system (**Supplementary Fig. 2a**).

We confirmed that a TALE domain could regulate our dual reporter system (**Supplementary Fig. 2b,c**), through direct activation. In mixed populations of integrated reporter cells, expression of an optimized GLuc-targeting TALE domain fused to the VP64 transcription activator (TALE~VP, **Supplementary Fig. 2a**) dramatically increased levels of mCerulean and *Gluc*, activating them 4.1-fold relative to control cells expressing an unmodified TALE (**Supplementary Fig. 2b**). Some isolated clonal cell lines exhibited even higher direct activation: in one line, mCerulean and *GLuc* expression increased ten-fold in response to TALE~VP (*data not shown*). Next, we tested if noncovalent TALE•RNA complexes could also modulate reporter function. However, since it is unclear *a priori* which, if any, natural ncRNA can be functionally reconstituted ectopically, we first employed a synthetic ncRNA scaffold designed to serve as a positive control, in a scheme reminiscent of a classic three-hybrid system (**Supplementary Fig. 2a**), and analogous to the "bridged activation" assay we employed in the development of CRISP-Disp (**Fig. 1b**). As in that system, the RNA scaffold (analogous to the CRISP-Disp TOP1–4"accessory domain," **Fig. 1a**) was derived from the *T. thermophila* Group I intron P4–P6 domain, a well studied ~250 nucleotide, autonomously folding motif<sup>6</sup> (**Supplementary Fig. 4a,b**). We replaced a dispensable internal loop within P4–P6 (L6b, Ref. 6) with a GAAA tetraloop, or with a cassette of five high-affinity stem-loops for the bacteriophage PP7 coat protein<sup>7</sup>, generating "0xSL" and "5xSL" constructs, respectively. These constructs were coexpressed with the TALE~MS2 chimera and with PP7~VP. Hence, TALE recruitment of the 5xSL complex, but not of the 0xSL complex, should concomitantly recruit the PP7~VP protein to the reporter site and activate expression (**Supplementary Fig. 2a**).

Using transient reporters, we observed robust bridged activation by the 5xSL complex (~75-fold activation, p < 0.005, Student's one-tailed t-test, relative to cells expressing an unmodified TALE; n=3), corresponding to approximately 31% of direct activation exhibited by the TALE~VP fusion under equivalent conditions (**Supplementary Fig. 2c**). As expected, no bridged activation was observed with the 0xSL complex. In stably integrated reporter cells, however, we did not observe bridged activation using the three-hybrid system: cells expressing the 5xSL complex exhibited *Gluc* levels indistinguishable from those expressing the 0xSL complex or the TALE domain alone (**Supplementary Fig. 2c**, P > 0.1, Student's one-tailed t-test relative to cells expressing an unmodified TALE; n=9). This is in stark contrast with the results

of the analogous CRISP-Disp experiments. There, bridged activation by U6-driven TOP1 and INT, scaled relative to the direct activation exhibited by each construct, was comparable using transient or integrated reporters (**Fig. 1c**). We confirmed by qRT-PCR that all components of the TALE 5xSL complex were expressed at comparable levels (*data not shown*). Furthermore, RNA Immunoprecipitation (RIP) against the TALE~MS2 and PP7~VP proteins demonstrated that the predicted TALE~MS2•RNA and 5xSL•PP7~VP binary complexes were formed

(Supplementary Fig. 2d). Co-IP/western –blotting likewise indicated measurable formation of the expected TALE~MS2•5xSL•PP7~VP ternary complex (Supplementary Fig. 2d). Hence, the lack of reporter induction cannot be explained by the absence of a critical component or complex.

While the sizable RNA yields in the TALE RIP experiments (approximately 2.0% of inputs, **Supplementary Fig. 2d**) imply that a substantial fraction of the Scaffold RNA is bound by the protein chimera, the converse quantity–the fraction of TALE protein bound by RNA–is opaque to this method. Since translation of the TALE mRNA likely amplifies TALE protein abundance by several orders of magnitude, relative to that of the Scaffold RNA<sup>8</sup>, we anticipate that this fraction may be very low. Moreover, because binding of TALE~MS2 chimera to its DNA and RNA targets are essentially independent events, we hypothesized that the lack of bridged activation in integrated reporter cells resulted from the pool of free TALE protein outcompeting the comparably smaller pool of TALE•RNA complexes for the target DNA locus (**Supplementary Fig. 2e**). Hence, the limiting concentrations of target DNA and excess of conduit protein preclude the formation of DNA•Protein•RNA ternary complexes<sup>9</sup>. Our observations with transient reporters are consistent with this hypothesis, since these conditions essentially increase the concentration of available DNA target sites, facilitating population of the

ternary complex and, consequently, bridged activation. However, given the difficulty of simultaneously measuring the absolute abundances of unrelated RNA and protein species<sup>8</sup>–as well as their effective  $K_Ds$ –*in vivo*, we have not exhaustively tested this model.

In theory, several strategies might be employed to rescue the fundamental stoichiometric imbalance that we suspected of hampering the TALE two-hybrid system. First, we could elevate the ncRNA concentration to approximate that of the TALE component. However, this approach is technically challenging, may require re-optimization for each new ncRNA construct tested, and would move the ncRNA into an expression regime far above physiological levels populated by its natural counterparts<sup>10, 11</sup>. An alternate approach would be to diminish the TALE concentration to approximate that of the ncRNA component. This too is technically challenging: in pilot experiments, titrating the TALE concentration downward-either by decreasing the transfected plasmid mass, or by decreasing the TALE promoter strength-caused a loss of direct activation without facilitating bridged activation (data not shown). We suspect that, while lowering the TALE fusion concentration would cause a larger proportion of TALEs to be bound by its cognate ncRNA (for which the K<sub>D</sub> is in the low-nM to high-pM range<sup>5</sup>), it would also weaken the binding of the TALE to its DNA target. Hence, the efficacy of this approach would be ultimately constrained by the TALE•DNA K<sub>D</sub>, a parameter for which optimization is expected to be cumbersome and target-dependent $^{12}$ .

A final approach toward circumventing the TALE-ncRNA stoichiometric imbalance entails reengineering the system so as to directly couple the TALE's DNA-binding and RNAbinding activities. Were these two activities intrinsically linked–as is naturally accomplished with the CRISPR system (**Supplementary Fig. 1b**)–then a naked TALE~MS2 protomer would be incapable of competing with TALE~MS2•ncRNA complexes for the DNA target locus (Supplementary Fig. 2e). Towards this end, we devised as "split TALE" approach, analogous to split-fluorescent protein methods<sup>13</sup>, in which a full-length TALE was divided into two smaller domains that are assembled by approximation on a "Splint RNA" scaffold (Supplementary Fig. 3a). In our design, the optimized 12 nt-binding TALE domain<sup>2</sup> was split at the boundary between the sixth and seventh repeats (between GLY34 and LEU1), generating six nt-binding N–TALE and 6.5 nt-binding<sup>2</sup> C–TALE constructs (Supplementary Fig. 3a). The N–TALE construct was appended at its C-terminus with an MS2 domain; C–TALE was likewise appended at its N–terminus with PP7. To facilitate RNA-templated assembly, these domains were coexpressed with Splint RNAs bearing cassettes of MS2 and PP7 stem-loops (Supplementary Fig. 3b).

To test the viability of our approach, we devised a variation in our Bridged Activation assay, in which C–TALE was appended with a C-terminal VP64 transcription activator (**Supplementary Fig. 3a**). Templated assembly of the N–TALE•RNA•C–TALE ternary complex should therefore recruit VP64 to the reporter locus, mimicking activation by the full TALE~VP construct (**Supplementary Fig. 2a–c**). We surveyed four Splint RNAs–designed in reference to established constructs<sup>13-15</sup> –for the ability to nucleate split TALE assembly (**Supplementary Fig. 3b**). Unfortunately, our design proved unviable in several regards. With transient reporters, coexpression of the split TALE domains alone, in absence of a Splint RNA, was sufficient to induce measurable reporter activity to ~20% of the level observed with the intact TALE~VP construct (**Supplementary Fig. 3c**). This activation was diminished upon Splint RNA coexpression, impling both that high copy-number target DNA was sufficient to template the formation of N–TALE•C–TALE dimers, and that Splint RNA–contrary to its design–diminished this activity. Furthermore, with integrated reporters, we did not observe bridged activation in any context (**Supplementary Fig. 3c**). As observed the full TALE two-hybrid system (Supplementary Fig. 2c), we could not explain these results through an absence of any individual component or subcomplex (*data not shown*). We concede that a more systematic exploration of the experimental variables (*e.g.*, testing additional Splint RNA designs, additional TALE~phage coat linkers, different TALE domain cut sites or mutagenizing residues that might stabilize untemplated interdomain complexation) might render the split TALE approach more viable. However, such these experiments appear cumbersome and, given the comparable success of our CRISPR-based system, unnecessary.

Taken together, these data imply that under common experimental conditions, TALEbased two-hybrid approaches–and potentially, mammalian two-hybrid approaches in general– appear to be markedly less robust than CRISP-Disp. This, combined with the simplicity, flexibility and multiplexability of CRISPR-based technologies makes CRISP-Disp the superior method for ectopic ncRNA localization at individual target loci.

## **Supplementary Note 2**

#### **Overview of CRISPR-Display Pol II expression systems**

In the initial implementation of CRISPR-Display (**Fig. 1a**), RNA constructs were driven from a human U6 promoter, the standard used in many CRISPR-based applications in mammalian cells (**Supplementary Fig. 1c**). Although extremely powerful, like other RNA Polymerase III (Pol III) promoters, U6 is limited in the length and sequence of its products: Pol III cannot produce transcripts longer than few hundred nucleotides, and is often terminated by stretches of consecutive uridines. Since this would preclude the use of CRISP-Disp with natural long noncoding RNAs (lncRNAs) or synthetic lncRNA-like devices, we sought a method to express functional sgRNAs driven by RNA Pol II.

The majority of Pol II transcripts are spliced and polyadenylated. This enhances export into the cytoplasm, which we reasoned would render them unsuitable for CRISP-Disp. Recently, methods have been described that generate unspliced, non-adenylated sgRNAs from Pol IIproducts<sup>16, 17</sup>. These methods excise mature sgRNAs from longer primary transcripts, using selfcleaving ribozymes<sup>16</sup>, by co-expressing them with a sequence-specific ribonuclease, or by exploiting endogenous nucleolytic RNA processing pathways<sup>17</sup>. However, we feared that the RNAs generated via these methods would resemble spontaneous hydrolysis products, which might diminish the stability or complex formation of the sgRNAs' accessory domains. Therefore, we instead sought a biogenesis scheme that generates nuclear-retained sgRNAs *de novo*.

Towards this end, we tested the efficacy of our five extended sgRNA topology constructs (**Fig. 1a**), expressed from six different Pol II backbones (**Supplementary Fig. 6a**). Two ("EF1 $\alpha$ /SV40pA", and "CMV/SV40pA") were canonical expression systems, pairing the EF1 $\alpha$  promoter (which contains an internal ~1 kb intron) or the Cytomegalovirus (CMV) immediate-early promoter-enhancer, with an SV40 polyadenylation site. Transcripts arising from each system should be capped and polyadenylated, though only those driven by the EF1 $\alpha$ -SV40pA backbone should be spliced.

Three additional systems ("CMV/3'Box," "CMV/PAN" and "CMV/MASC") paired the CMV promoter-enhancer with nonstandard Pol II terminators (**Supplementary Fig. 6a**). The "CMV/3'Box" system employed the U1 3'-Box, an ~80 nt element, derived from the U1 small nuclear RNA (snRNA) gene, that directs specialized Pol II transcription termination without polyadenylation<sup>18</sup>. The 3'Box is a modular motif that can functionally replace the terminators of other snRNA genes<sup>18</sup> and of noncanonical Pol II transcripts<sup>19</sup>. Although synthesis of a *bona fide* snRNA 3' terminus is greatly enhanced by coupling the 3'-Box with an snRNA promoter<sup>20, 21</sup>, it

has been shown that transcripts synthesized from strong viral promoters and terminated by the 3'-Box are preferentially enriched in the nucleus<sup>22</sup>. This effect is enhanced with longer transcripts<sup>22</sup>.

The "CMV/PAN" and "CMV/MASC" systems employed so-called expression and nuclear retention elements (ENEs). The "CMV/PAN" ENE is derived from the Kaposi's sarcoma-associated herpesvirus (KSHV) polyadenylated nuclear (PAN) lncRNA. This ENE facilitates stabilization and nuclear retention of the lncRNA by sequestering its poly(A) tail into an extended RNA triplex structure<sup>23-25</sup>. The *MALAT1* ENE used in our "CMV/MASC" system forms a similar triple-helical structure<sup>26, 27</sup>, though it is derived from an endogenous human gene and is generated through a fundamentally different biogenesis pathway. This ENE precedes a genomically encoded adenosine-rich sequence and a tRNA-like structure termed the *MALAT1*-associated small cytoplasmic RNA (mascRNA)<sup>27, 28</sup>. RNase P cleaves the mascRNA from the primary transcript, liberating the poly(A)-like *MALAT1* 3′-terminus<sup>28</sup>, which is sequestered within the ENE<sup>26</sup>. Our constructs included all three elements required for this process: the ENE, the A-rich tract and the mascRNA motif (**Supplementary Fig. 6a**).

Our final expression system ("U1/Sm/3'Box") was designed to mimic the biogenesis of most small nuclear RNAs (snRNAs), which are transcribed by a noncanonical Pol II complex, exported into the cytoplasm and subsequently reimported into the nucleus<sup>29, 30</sup>. Reimport, via snurportin<sup>30</sup>, requires two elements on the snRNA: a nonstandard 5'-(2,2,7) trimethyl guanosine cap, and an "Sm" box motif, onto which the SM protein complex assembles<sup>29</sup>. To express sgRNAs modified in this manner, we drove transcription from the U1 snRNA promoter, appended the 3' terminus with the U2 Sm Box, and terminated transcription with the U1 3'Box. The U2 Sm box was chosen because, unlike its U1 counterpart, it is isolated within a modular

structural domain at the RNA's 3'-terminus, and can functionally replace the analogous motifs of other snRNAs<sup>18, 29</sup>.

Direct activation activities of all constructs, driven from each expression system, are summarized in (**Supplementary Fig. 6b**). As predicted, the capped, spliced and polyadenylated transcripts arising from the EF1 $\alpha$ -SV40pA backbone were the least effective, exhibiting activities reduced to ~0.6–6.8% that of a minimal (U6-driven) sgRNA. Activities of the unspliced transcripts arising from the CMV/SV40pA were improved ~2–fold relative to their spliced EF1 $\alpha$ /SV40pA counterparts, even though overall RNA expression levels were equivalent (**Supplementary Fig. 7d**). Activities of the CMV/PAN products were essentially indistinguishable from those of CMV/SV40pA transcripts.

However, we observed notable improvements when constructs were expressed from the CMV/MASC, CMV/3'Box and U1/Sm/3'Box systems. Under CMV/MASC expression, direct activation by TOP2 was improved ~10–fold relative to its  $EF1\alpha/SV40pA$ , CMV/SV40pA and CMV/PAN counterparts. Using transient reporters, the direct activation activities of CMV/3'Box-driven TOP1, TOP2 and INT were ~25–31% that of the minimal (U6-driven) sgRNA. Overall, however, the most robust system tested was U1/Sm/3'Box, under which the activity of TOP1 exceeded that of the U6-driven minimal sgRNA, and those of TOP2, TOP3 and INT rivaled or exceeded the efficacies of their CMV/3'Box counterparts (**Supplementary Fig. 6b**).

Bridged activation assays for the best-performing constructs (TOP1, TOP2, INT), expressed from the most proficient backbones (CMV/3'Box, CMV/MASC, U1/Sm/3'Box) are summarized in (**Supplementary Fig. 6c**). From these data, two points are notable. First, as discussed in the text, expression from the CMV/3'Box system appears to restore bridged activation to TOP2 (Supplementary Fig. 6c-e). Second, the comparable inefficiency of Pol IIdriven INT in direct activation assays, relative to its Pol III-driven counterpart (compare Supplementary Fig. 6b-d and Figure 1c-d), is rescued in bridged activation assays when INT is expressed from the CMV/MASC and U1-Sm-3'Box backbones. This was not observed with INT species expressed from CMV/3'Box (Supplementary Fig. 6c-d), EF1a/SV40pA, CMV/SV40pA or CMV/PAN backbones (not shown). We hypothesize, but have not tested, that this restoration of activity may be due to an RNA folding issue, wherein misfolded RNAs are funneled back into a viable conformation by the binding of PP7~VP64. This would correlate with the broader observation that, although dCas9 accommodates single insertions at the INT site or on the sgRNA termini, it appears less tolerant to the addition of multiple large accessory domains (as in Double TOP0, Fig. 2a,b and Supplementary Fig. 8). All of our Pol II expression systems append sequences to the 3' terminus (poly(A) tails, ENEs, Sm boxes and or 3'Box elements). Of these, the 3'-terminal domains added by the CMV/MASC and U1/Sm/3'Box systems are the most structured and compact: the isolated 3'Box (as in CMV/3'Box constructs) is relatively unstructured in absence of the Sm Box, and all other systems append long poly(A) tails, which may preclude folding and dCas9 complexation.

While the U1/Sm/3'Box system may be of general use for the expression of unmodified sgRNAs and of artificial CRISP-Disp devices, we disfavor its use with natural lncRNAs. Transcripts generated from this backbone would lack a conventional 5'-cap and would be assembled into complexes with Sm proteins; this may influence their subnuclear localization and overall complex formation<sup>29</sup>. For that reason, in our own experiments, we have focused on the CMV/3'Box and CMV/MASC systems.

# **Supplementary Note 3**

# "Best Practices" for CRISRP-Display construct design

Based on the results presented here, we propose a preliminary set of "best practices" for CRISP-Disp construct design. In general, the conventional U6 expression system was the most robust we employed. Surprisingly, although the U6 promoter naturally drives a product of only ~100 nt, we were able to generate transcripts several times that length at high levels (**Supplementary Fig. 12**); the overall length limitation of this system remains unclear. Under U6 control, by far the most robust insertion site for exogenous RNA domains is the "engineered loop,"

(Supplementary Fig. 1b), which can tolerate diverse, large (>250 nt) and structurally varied inserts. This site is therefore ideal if the RNA domain of interest does not require an exposed terminus, and would not be functionally constrained by placement within a stem-loop. Although we have not tested if other internal insertion points can accommodate exogenous sequences with this degree of modularity, we anticipate that other such amenable points exist, given the structural plasticity of the sgRNA core<sup>31, 32</sup>, and its ability to accommodate short stem-loops at other positions<sup>33, 34</sup>. We furthermore hypothesize that certain internal inserts might perturb sgRNA folding or dCas9-binding, potentially in a guide-dependent manner, though we have not examined this exhaustively. We note, however, that problems of this sort appear more pronounced when INT-like constructs are expressed from a Pol II system (Supplementary Fig. 6b–d). In lieu of an INT-like design, display on the 3' terminus, as in TOP1, is viable, although overall efficacy may be limited by the local structure near the attachment point<sup>34</sup>.

For substantially larger structures, however, or those containing stretches of poly(uridine), several expression systems are available (Refs. 16, 17, 35, and the CMV/3'-Box,

CMV/MASC and U1/Sm/U2 constructs outlined in Supplementary Fig. 6a). For example, the activities of constructs expressed from the U1 promoter (a "nonstandard" Pol II promoter that lacks the sequence and length limitations of U6, Ref. 19) nearly rivaled those driven by U6 (Supplementary Fig. 6b,c). Our U1/Sm/U2 backbone is intended to mimic the biogenesis of natural snRNAs, including their nuclear reimport<sup>29, 30</sup>. While the Sm box is also expected to influence protein complexation and RNA subnuclear localization<sup>29</sup> (and therefore might diminish general CRISPR-Display efficacy), for the purpose of CRISP-Disp it appears dispensable and should be eliminated (*data not shown*). If a canonical 5'-cap is required, expression from the CMV/3'Box or CMV/MASC systems should suffice. If the ncRNA domain requires display on the sgRNA 5'-terminus to function, then only the CMV/3'Box system appears sufficient (Supplementary Fig. 6c-e). For these larger constructs, we generally prefer TOP1-type (and in the case of CMV/3'Box-transcripts, TOP2-type) chimeras, since INT-like construct efficacy appears to diminish somewhat with increasing insert size (Fig. 3a,b, e and Supplementary Fig. 12), and since Pol II-driven INT-like constructs appear less efficient overall. It should be noted that, for some of the TOP1-type lncRNA constructs tested here, some accessory domain loss was evident (Fig. 2e). However, this apparent degradation was not simply contingent upon RNA length, suggesting that RNA structure might contribute to a particular sgRNA~lncRNA's overall stability, as has been observed with smaller accessory domains<sup>34</sup>. Therefore, when implementing a CRISPR-Display lncRNA experiment, we anticipate that one may need to screen several constructs, surveying subdomains within the lncRNA, and or altering the structure at the sgRNA attachment point, so as to maximize construct efficacy and stability.

# Supplementary Tables

**Supplementary Table 1**: Sequences of the Target and Non-target cassettes in the "Reporter" and "Normalizer" constructs, respectively. Target/Non-Target motifs are boxed in gray; PAM sequences in beige; the minimal CMV Promoter in green.

Construct	Sequence
<b>Reporter</b> (GLuc/ mCerulean/ Hygro <sup>R</sup> )	5 <sup>´</sup> -ATCTAGATACGACTCACTAT AGG CAAAGCTCTA- ATCTAGATACGACTCACTAT AGG AAAGGAAGCAGCCAC- ATCTAGATACGACTCACTAT AGG ATAACGTTAG- ATCTAGATACGACTCACTAT AGG GTGAAGTAGTCTTTGCGGTA- ATCTAGATACGACTCACTAT AGG CAAAGCTCTA- ATCTAGATACGACTCACTAT AGG AAAGGAAGCAGCCAC- ATCTAGATACGACTCACTAT AGG ATAACGTTAG- ATCTAGATACGACTCACTAT AGG GTGAAGTAGT- ATCTAGATACGACTCACTAT AGG ATCACGTAGT- ATCTAGATACGACTCACTAT AGG ATCCACGTATGTCGAGG- TAGGCGTGTACGGTGGGGAGGCCTATATAAGCAGAGCTCGTTTAGTGAACCGTCAGATCGC-3 <sup>´</sup>
<b>Normalizer</b> (CLuc/ Venus/ Puro <sup>R</sup> )	5 <sup>´</sup> - ATCTAGATCGCCCGTCCCCT AGG CAAAGCTCTA- ATCTAGATCGCCCGTCCCCT AGG AAAGGAAGCAGCCAC- ATCTAGATCGCCCGTCCCCT AGG ATAACGTTAG- ATCTAGATCGCCCGTCCCCT AGG GTGAAGTAGTCTTTGCGGTA- ATCTAGATCGCCCGTCCCCT AGG CAAAGCTCTA- ATCTAGATCGCCCGTCCCCT AGG AAAGGAAGCAGCCAC- ATCTAGATCGCCCGTCCCCT AGG ATAACGTTAG- ATCTAGATCGCCCGTCCCCT AGG GTGAAGTAGT- ATCTAGATCGCCCGTCCCCT AGG CCGAACTCAC- ATCTAGATCGCCCGTCCCCT AGG CCGAACTCAC- ATCTAGATCGCCCGTCCCCT AGG CCGAACTAG-

Target	Sequence	Reference
GLuc	GAUCUAGAUACGACUCACUAU	This work
ASCL1-1	GCUGGGUGUCCCAUUGAAA	Ref. 39
ASCL1–2	GCAGCCGCUCGCUGCAGCAG	Ref. 39
ASCL1–3	GUGGAGAGUUUGCAAGGAGC	Ref. 39
ASCL1–4	GUUUAUUCAGCCGGGAGUC	Ref. 39
IL1RN-1	GUGUACUCUCUGAGGUGCUC	Ref. 39
IL1RN-2	GACGCAGAUAAGAACCAGUU	Ref. 39
IL1RN–3	GCAUCAAGUCAGCCAUCAGC	Ref. 39
IL1RN-4	GAGUCACCCUCCUGGAAAC	Ref. 39
<i>NTF3</i> –1	GAGCGCGGAGCCAUCUGGCC	Ref. 37
NTF3-2	GCGCGGCGCGGAAGGGGUUA	Ref. 37
<i>NTF3</i> –3	GCGGCGCGGCGCGGGCCGGC	Ref. 37
<i>NTF3</i> –5	GCGGUUAUAACCAGCCAACC	Ref. 37
TTN-1	GCCUUGGUGAAGUCUCCUUUG	Ref. 57
TTN-2	GAUGUUAAAAUCCGAAAAUGC	Ref. 57
TTN–3	GGGCACAGUCCUCAGGUUUG	Ref. 57
TTN-4	GAUGAGCUCUCUUCAACGUUA	Ref. 57
Telomere	GUUAGGGUUAGGGUUAGGGUUA	Ref. 36

Supplementary Table 2: gRNA sequences used in this work.

Supplementary Table 3: qPCR primers used in this work, in the order cited

Target	Forward Primer	Reverse Primer	Name <sup>a</sup>	Efficiency <sup>b</sup>
sgRNA(GLuc)	AGATACGACTCACTATGTTTAAGAGC	TCAAGTTGATAACGGACTAGCCT	p1	0.848
P4–P6	CAGCCGTTCAGTACCAAGTCT	GGACCATGTCCGTCAGCTT	p2	0.858
GAPDH	TTCGACAGTCAGCCGCATCTTCTT	GCCCAATACGACCAAATCCGTTGA		0.847
ASCL1 <sup>c</sup>	GGAGCTTCTCGACTTCACCA	AACGCCACTGACAAGAAAGC		0.848
IL1RN °	GGAATCCATGGAGGGAAGAT	TGTTCTCGCTCAGGTCAGTG		0.827
NTF3 <sup>d</sup>	GATAAACACTGGAACTCTCAGTGCAA	GCCAGCCCACGAGTTTATTGT		0.851
TTN <sup>e</sup>	TGTTGCCACTGGTGCTAAAG	ACAGCAGTCTTCTCCGCTTC		0.851
Double P4–P6	GGATGCAGTTCACACCTCCA	CCTTTCCCGCAATTCCGAAG	рЗ	0.840
pRNA_GSP1 <sup>f</sup>	GTCGGTGACGCGACCT	TAACTTGCTACGAATACGAGTCC		0.892
FALEC_GSP1	GCAGGTTTCACAGAGGGAAGA	CCACTGAGGACACCGACTAC		0.852
FALEC_GSP2	AGTCGGTGTCCTCAGTGGTA	AAGAGCAGGCTACAAGTGCT		0.859
TRERNA1_GSP1	GTGGTTTTACGTGGCCGATT	GCCTGACGTGAAGTAGCTTT		0.873
ncRNA-a3_GSP1	AGTACCCGACGAGCGTTATG	AGGCTGGTACAGATGGGTCT		0.814
ncRNA-a3_GSP2	GGAGTTTGCAGTGAGCCAAG	ACGAATCGAGAAAGAGCCTCA		0.852
RepA_GSP1 <sup>f</sup>	AGTCGGTGCTTCATTCACTCT	GCCCCGATGGGCGAATAA		0.815
RepA_GSP2	GGGTTGTTGCACTCTCTGGA	TCATTCTCTGCCAAAGCGGT		0.884
RepA_GSP3	AAGGTCTTGCCGCAGTGTAA	CAACGCCTGCCATATTGTCC		0.845
HOTTIP_GSP1	ATGGTAGGGTGTTGGTGCTG	CCCAGAACCCCTCGACAAAA		0.861
HOTTIP_GSP2	TCTCGCCTCTGACTCTGTTC	GAAGAGTCGGTAAACACCGC		0.888
HOTTIP_GSP3	TTACGCCCGCAACAAAACAG	CCCTCCTTCCTTCAAACGCT		0.886
HOTTIP_GSP4	TTCCACCTTTGCCCGATACA	GGAGATGGGTACCTAGGGGT		0.871
HOTTIP_GSP5	GCTTGGCAACTTCAGAAAGCA	AGCAGCCGGGTAGTGTAAAA		0.871
XIST	CCCTACTAGCTCCTCGGACA	ACACATGCAGCGTGGTATCT		0.850
SNHG5	GTGGACGAGTAGCCAGTGAA	GCCTCTATCAATGGGCAGACA		0.844
INT(GLuc)	CTCGTATTCGCAGCATAGCAA	TTCAAGTTGATAACGGACTAGCCT	pINT	0.891

<sup>a</sup> As referred to in the main text, Fig. 2a,c and Supplementary Figs. 4f, 6e, and 12

<sup>b</sup> As calculated using Realtime qPCR Miner (Ref 58.)

 $^{\mbox{\tiny c-e}}$  After Refs. 39, 37 and 57, respectively

<sup>f</sup> Italicized nucleotides correspond to linker regions joining the IncRNA core to the sgRNA backbone

#### Supplementary Table 4: Sequences of natural IncRNA constructs used in this study

#### pRNA

CGAUGGUGGCGUUUUUUGGGGACAGGUGUCCGUGUCGCGUGUCGCGUCGCCUGGGCCGGCGUGGUCGGUGACGCGACCUCCCGGCCCCGGGGA

#### FALEC (ncRNA-a1)

#### TRERNA1 (ncRNA-a7)

CCGUUCCUGCCUCCACAGACACCUAUUAAGUGCCUCCAGUUUUAGGAACUGGGUAUAGAUAUGGCUGGGAACAAAAUGGAAGAAAACAAAAACAAAAAUCCCUGC CCUCAUGGUGCUGACUCUCCUGUGGCAGAGACGGAGAAGAUGAACAGGGAUUUUAUACCAGGCGUCAGAAGGGAACCAGUGCUAAAGAAAAUGAAAACACCAGGCC GGGAGAGGCAGCUGGCAUGCGGGCCGUGGUGGUUUUACGUGGCCGAUUUGAGAGAGUGAGACCCCUGGGGUCUUGGAGCCAGGCCUGGGAAAAGCUACUUCACGUC AGGCCAGGGGCUGUAGCCCUGGCAACCUCCACUCCGCCUGGAAAUCCUCCACCUCGGGGCCUCUCUUUGCCCAGACCUGGCCCAGGAGGAGCACAUGGGAGCCGGG ACCUUCCCAACAAUCCUUGCCGUUGGCUCCACAAACCUCAGCCAGUCCUGCGAACCUGGGAUGCCUUUUCCACCAGGAUGCCUGCUACUGUCACUGUCACUGUCAUUAGA UAAUUAAUGAACUAUAAUUAGAAAUCAUAUCAAUAAAAUUUCACAGUCUAAGGCUGUUGAAAUAGG

#### ncRNA-a3

#### RepA

(continued on next page)

#### Supplementary Table 4 (continued):

#### HOTTIP

GUGAGACCACAGGACGGACAUCGGCGCCUUCGGCUUCGAUGGAGUUGCGAUUUUGCUCUUUCCAGGGAAACAGUGGCAGGGUGUUUGCUGCUUAUCGGUUCCUGCG GAUAUGCCUGGGUCCCAGGACAUUCCACUGGAGGCUUGGACUGCAUUUAGGAGCCCCUAUCCCUUCCCUGUCCACACUGUUAGUGAGCAAUUUCAUAUGUUUGCAU GGCUUAAGAGGAACAAGCCCCAGCUGUGCUUCUGGGCUGGGACUUAAACCCCCCUUCUGGGCCCUAAAGCCACGCUUCUUUGUGGACCGGACCUGACUCUCCAGGAA UCUGGGAACCCGCUAUUUCACUCUAUUUUGGGACAAGAAAAAGGGGCUCUUUGGGGCCACUUCCUGCCUUCCCCUCAAGUAGGAUCUCCAGCCUGCAGAGGGUGCC UAGUCCUUCUUUGCCCAAGAACCAGUCCAAGAAGCCUUUCCUCUGUGCCUGGGAAAUGCAACCUUUUCUUGGGAGCAUGGUAGGGUGUUGGUGCUGAAGAACCAAG CAGCGACCCGUCUUGUAGCUGCCAUGUUUUGUCGAGGGGUUCUGGGGGUCCUGCUGCUUUAGAGCCACAUACUUCCACUUCCUGAUUCACUACUGUGAGCUGGUCA GAUGCCUAGAAGAGGAACAAGCGUUCAAAGUGAAAGUGGGCACAUUACCGGAAUAGUGCUGGGGAGAGUGCUGGAUUCUUUUCCACCCCAGGCGGACUGGUGAGAA CCCCUGGGCUUCCUGCAGGAUCCAGACCAAUGUGGCUGGGCUUGGGCUUUUAUCUGUCCUGAUCCUGGAUUUGUCCUGACCAAUGUAAGUGUCGCCCAAUAAAACC UUCUAUGACCCCCACACCAGCCACCCCCCCCCCCCCACCAAGUGUGCCCUUUCUUGACUUUUUAGCAGUUCUGGGUAAAUAUUGAUUUGCCCCCCAGUUUACCUUCUCC CUGACUGGCCAUUUGCAGACUCAGGAACUAGCCUCUGUAGGGACUUGAUUUUUCUGUUACUUUCUGGCCGUUUCACCACCCCCCUUCCUCCAAGUGGCAUUG UAAAACUCACAGUGACAAAGAGACAGAGUAGGGUUCUAGGCCCCUGUUCCUGGGGACUUGAAGGCGGUUUUACAUACUGGUCAGACACGGCUGGAGGCCAAGGUCA AGUUGAAAGUUGCAGUCCAGCCAGCAUGAGAACUGCCAUGCGAGCGUAGAGACACAGGCAGCAGCAAAAGGCCCCAUUGCCCACAUCCCCUCACUCUUAAUUUUCUC UCUCUUUUUAAAAUUCUCGCCUCUGACUCUGUUCGGCUGCCCAGAAUUUUUUGGUGCCUUCGUGGGGUUUUUGGGGCGGUGUUUACCGACUCUUCUCUGCCUCCGC CCUGCUCAGCCAGGGCUUUGAGCCUCUUCGGUUUUCCGGCCAGACCCGGAAAAACGAAAACCAGCUUGGGGAGCCCCCACUAGCCGGCGCCUGUGCCAGCUCACC GGGUCUCAGCUCCACAGACGACUGGGUCCCUCCUCACCAAAAAUGGUGAGACAAGAUUUCAUCUGUCGGCCGAGGAGCCACAAGCAGGUACCACAAAGCCACUAGU GCACAGGGACUCAGAAAAGACGGCAGGAGCCCAAGGAAAACUCCAAUUUGAGUACAGCCCUGCCUUGUUUCCCCCCAGAGAGUCCCUGAGCAAGGAGACCUCCACCC CACACACCAUUUCAGAACAACCAGGUUCCAGACUCCCAUGAGGAGCAUCUCCCACUGCAGAGCCUUGGCCAGCCCCGGACUCCUCAGAGCUGGCGCAAAC CCUUCUCGCAGUGCGCGGCCAGCCCGCGGGGGGACACCGGCUUGCUGGACUGCAGGGGCCCGUGCCACCCAGGAAGUGACCUGCGGGUCACUCAGCCGGGGCGCUGG GCGAGCGCGGGACGGCCCGGAGAAUUCCGUGCGGCUGCGACGGGGAAAAGGACGAGGGGUCUCUGUACCCGACGCUGCCACUGGCCCAAAGGAAUUUUACCCGCGAG CGCCCACCCCAGCCUUGAUGCUUACGCCCGCAACAAAACAGGAAACCAGGACUGGGCAGUGCAUUCUUUAAGUCAACAAAUACACUGAAGACUUCGAGCGUU UGUCGGACCAGGCUGGUGACAUACUUCGCUGGCGCAUCUCCUUACUCUUACUUUUCCGACCCUCACCAUUCCCUCUCCUGUGGCUUGGUAAAUACACCUGC CCUCCGUGGAAGGUGAGUCCUGGACUGGCGUUGCCAGGUUCGCAUGUCCUCCCCAGAACCUCCGUCUGGCUCCAGGGACUCUCACUGAGCGGGUCUAGAGCACCCA GCACUUUUCAAGGAACAGCCGCGGUUCCUUUGUCCCGCGGCUCCAGCCCCGUUCGGCCCAGCUCUCAGGGAAACGAAGCGCUCAGUAAGAACUUUUGAUAUUAGUU UUGCCGGAAAGAAAGCAUCAAGGUUGGCCGCUGACUCCAGAGAAAUGAAAAGGGAGCAAGGUCGUUUUCUGGUUUCUGGAAAUCAAGAAUUAGGAAUGGGCAACUAC GGAAUUUGUCAAACACACACAAGCAUAACAAACCCCUAGGUACCCAUCUCCAAGUUUUGACCCCUAUUAUAAUUUCAUCUUCAGUGUUUUAUUAUUCACUUCCU CUCUCUCUAUCUUUAGUAUUUUAAAGUAAAUCCCAGAUAGCAUCACAUCAUUUCACCCCCACCAUAGGAUUUCAAAAGUCUGUUAUAUUUUCAAGAUUGAGUAAAAG GGCUUGAAAUUGGGUUAUUGCAAUGAAACUCUAGAAAAAGCUUGAGGGUUCACCCAGGAGUAAGCUGGACAAAAAAGGGGUUUGAGGGGUGGACCCAUCUUGCCUA AAAAUCUUGUCUCAUCUUUCUAAAAAAUUACAUAUGAAAGAGGAAGAUUUAUGUUACUUUUUUAUAUGAGAGAAUCGUCCUUUAAUAGAAAAUUUCUAUUGCUGCAU CAGAAUUAUGGAGGAACACAAAAAACAUACCUCAGUCCUUAGUGUGUCCUAAAUUAACACAUAUUCACUUAUUAGUGGGUAAAUGACUAUAUUUCAUUUCAGCACA ACUUCUCCCCUGGUAGAAACACAAAAGAAAUUUCUAAUGAUUAAACUAGGAAAGUUUGCACUGAAUUGAUGGCUUAUCAGAGCAACCGCAGUUUUCAGGAAGAAAU UACAACGAGCAUGAUUCUCCCUGUCGAACUCUGAAAGUGACUUAACUGAAAGGCUUGGCAACUUCAGAAAGGCAAAAAGGUAAAAACAGAAAAUAGCACACGGUUGA AUUUGACAACUUUUACACUACCCGGCUGCUUAAUAAAUUCUAACCCCACUU

#### Supplementary Table 5: Sequences of the internal insertion constructs in Figures 3a, b, e, f and 4. All constructs had the constant backbone:

GAUCUAGAUACGACUCACUAUGUUUAAGAGCUAUGCUGCGAAUACGAGXXXXCUCGUAUUCGCAGCAUAGCAAGUUUAAAUAAGGCUAGUCCGUUAUCAACUUGAAAAAGUGGCACCGAGUCGGUGCUUUUUUU

Construct	Insert Sequence
1xPP7 SL	GGAGCAGACGAUAUGGCGUCGCTCC
S1 Aptamer	CCGACCAGAAUCAUGCAAGUGCGUAAGAUAGUCGCGGGCCGGC
3xMS2 SL	CGUACACCAUCAGGGUACGUCUCAGACACCAUCAGGGUCUGUCU
3xCsy4 SL	UCUUACUGCUGUAUAAGCAGCUCUUACUGCCGUGUAGGCAGCUUCUACUUCUGUAUAAGAAGCUUUC
3xPP7 SL ("INT")	GGAGCAGACGAUAUGGCGUCGCUCCUCUCCACGAGAGCAUAUGGGCUCCGUGGUCUCCAGCAGACGAUAUGGCGUCGCUGG
GFP Aptamer	GCUUCUGGACUGCGAUGGGAGCACGAAACGUCGUGGCGCAAUUGGGUGGG
Spinach2	GAUGUAACUGAAUGAAAUGGUGAAGGACGGGUCCAGUAGGCUGCUUCGGCAGCCUACUUGUUGAGUAGAGUGUGAGCUCCGUAA- CUAGUUACAUC
3xK–T	UCUGCUCCCGUGAUGGCGAAAGCCUGAGGAGCUCUCUGGCCGUGAUGGCGAAAGCCUGAGCCAGUCUCUGCCCGUGAUGGCGAA- AGCCUGAGGCAGUCU
Bunch of baby Spinach (BoBS)	AAGGACGGGUCCGGACGCAAGGACGGGUCCGACCGAAAGGACGGGUCCAAUGGUGGAAACACCAUUGUUGAGUAGAGUGUGAGU– CGGUCGUUGAGUAGAGUGUGAGGCGUCCGUUGAGUAGAGUGUGAG
5xPP7 SL	GGAGCAGACGAUAUGGCGUCGCUCCUCUCCACGAGAGCAUAUGGGCUCCGUGGUCUGCAGCAGACGAUAUGGCGUCGCUGCUCU– CGUAGAUGCCAUAUGGGGCACUACGUCUCCAGCAGACGAUAUGGCGUCGCUGG
P4–P6[3xPP7 SL]	UCUGGAAUUGCGGGAAAGGGGUCAACAGCCGUUCAGUACCAAGUCUCAGGGGAAACUUUGAGAUGGCCUUGCAAAGGGUAUGGU– AAUAAGCUGACGGACAUGGUCCUAACACGCAGCCAAGUCCUAAGUCAACAGUCUGGAGCAGACGAUAUGGCGUCGCUCCUCUCCA– CGAGAGCAUAUGGGCUCCGUGGUCUCCAGCAGACGAUAUGGCGUCGCUGGUCUCUGUUGAUAUGGAUGCAGUUCAUCU

PP7 SL: cognate stem-loop recognized by the PP7 phage coat protein<sup>7</sup>. S1: an artificial streptavidin aptamer<sup>53</sup>. MS2 SL: cognate stem-loop recognized by the MS2 phage coat protein<sup>5</sup>. Csy4 SL: cognate stem-loop recognized by the *P. aeruginosa* Csy4 protein<sup>54</sup>. GFP aptamer: an artificial GFP/YFP/CFP aptamer<sup>55</sup>. Spinach2: an artificial, small-molecule-binding fluorescent aptamer<sup>51</sup>. K–T: a cognate "kink-turn" motif recognized by the *A. fulgidus* L7Ae protein<sup>56</sup>. BoBS: "Bunch of Baby Spin-ach" (**Supplementary Fig. 11**). P4–P6: the thermostable ΔC209 mutant of the *T. thermophila* group I intron P4–P6 domain<sup>40</sup>, as in (**Supplementary Fig. 4a–b**).

 $\textbf{Supplementary Table 6:} Amplification \ primers \ used \ to \ generate \ INT-N_{25} Pool \ sequencing \ libraries$ 

Primer	Sequence
RT Primer	CGACTCGGTGCCACTTTT
Forward Library <sup>a,b</sup>	CAAGCAGAAGACGGCATACGAGATXXXXXXGTGACTGGAGTTCAGACGTGTGCTCTTCCGATCT TCAAGTTGATAACGGACTAGC
Reverse Library <sup>a</sup>	AATGATACGGCGACCACCGAGATCTACACTCTTTCCCTACACGACGCTCTTCCGATCTAGCTATG- CTGCGAATACGAG

<sup>a</sup>Illumina<sup>™</sup> adapters are highlighted in blue; indexes in yellow <sup>b</sup>X's correspond to Illumina<sup>™</sup> indexes 1–7.

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