

Reporting Summary

Nature Research wishes to improve the reproducibility of the work that we publish. This form provides structure for consistency and transparency in reporting. For further information on Nature Research policies, see [Authors & Referees](#) and the [Editorial Policy Checklist](#).

Statistical parameters

When statistical analyses are reported, confirm that the following items are present in the relevant location (e.g. figure legend, table legend, main text, or Methods section).

n/a | Confirmed

- The exact sample size (n) for each experimental group/condition, given as a discrete number and unit of measurement
- An indication of whether measurements were taken from distinct samples or whether the same sample was measured repeatedly
- The statistical test(s) used AND whether they are one- or two-sided
Only common tests should be described solely by name; describe more complex techniques in the Methods section.
- A description of all covariates tested
- A description of any assumptions or corrections, such as tests of normality and adjustment for multiple comparisons
- A full description of the statistics including central tendency (e.g. means) or other basic estimates (e.g. regression coefficient) AND variation (e.g. standard deviation) or associated estimates of uncertainty (e.g. confidence intervals)
- For null hypothesis testing, the test statistic (e.g. F , t , r) with confidence intervals, effect sizes, degrees of freedom and P value noted
Give P values as exact values whenever suitable.
- For Bayesian analysis, information on the choice of priors and Markov chain Monte Carlo settings
- For hierarchical and complex designs, identification of the appropriate level for tests and full reporting of outcomes
- Estimates of effect sizes (e.g. Cohen's d , Pearson's r), indicating how they were calculated
- Clearly defined error bars
State explicitly what error bars represent (e.g. SD, SE, CI)

Our web collection on [statistics for biologists](#) may be useful.

Software and code

Policy information about [availability of computer code](#)

Data collection

bcl2fastq2 v2.19 conversion software (Illumina) to convert images (BCL) into sequencing reads (FASTQ); SRA toolkit (NCBI) to download external deep sequencing datasets; and LC480II (Roche) software to collect qPCR data.

Data analysis

Deep sequencing data: Picard (Broad Institute) for library metrics and marking redundant reads; trim_galore v0.4.2 (Babraham Institute, UK) for trimming reads; Bowtie v1.0.1, Bowtie2 v2.2.9 and STAR v2.5.3a for mapping reads; VERSE v0.1.5 for counting gene-specific reads; FLASH v1.2.11 for merging overlapping paired-end reads; HOMER v4.8.3 for post-alignment analysis; samtools v1.3.1 and bedtools v2.25.0 for processing alignment and annotation files; RSeQC v2.6.4 and IGV genome browser v2.3.92 for visualisation of deep sequencing data; DESeq2 v1.14.1 and DiffBind v2.4.8 (both in R) for differential expression and DNA binding analysis; GOstats v2.40.0 (in R) and BLAST2GO for gene ontology analysis; and ISMARA v1.2.2 for motif analysis. Genome analysis: RepeatMasker v4.0.6, crossmatch search engine v1.090518, CENSOR v4.2.29 and Tandem Repeat Finder v4.09 for masking genomic repeats. qPCR analysis: Excel 15.39 and Prism7. The following platforms were used for various data analyses and data visualisations: R v3.4.1 / Bioconductor v3.5, Perl v5.18.2 or Python v2.7.12

For manuscripts utilizing custom algorithms or software that are central to the research but not yet described in published literature, software must be made available to editors/reviewers upon request. We strongly encourage code deposition in a community repository (e.g. GitHub). See the Nature Research [guidelines for submitting code & software](#) for further information.

Data

Policy information about [availability of data](#)

All manuscripts must include a [data availability statement](#). This statement should provide the following information, where applicable:

- Accession codes, unique identifiers, or web links for publicly available datasets
- A list of figures that have associated raw data
- A description of any restrictions on data availability

Raw and processed deep sequencing data will be available from Gene Expression Omnibus (GEO) under accession number GSE113186.

Field-specific reporting

Please select the best fit for your research. If you are not sure, read the appropriate sections before making your selection.

Life sciences Behavioural & social sciences Ecological, evolutionary & environmental sciences

For a reference copy of the document with all sections, see [nature.com/authors/policies/ReportingSummary-flat.pdf](https://www.nature.com/authors/policies/ReportingSummary-flat.pdf)

Life sciences study design

All studies must disclose on these points even when the disclosure is negative.

Sample size	No statistical method was used for determining sample size. We followed the literature to select the appropriate sample size.
Data exclusions	Unviable embryos and tissues were excluded from our analyses. We also excluded trials of establishing and optimising next-generation sequencing protocols (ChIP-Seq, DNase-Seq and next-generation capture-C).
Replication	Once the protocols were established, all attempts of replication were successful.
Randomization	Due to the nature of experiments, there was no need of randomization.
Blinding	Due to the nature of experiments, the authors were not blinded to allocation during experiments and results analysis.

Reporting for specific materials, systems and methods

Materials & experimental systems

n/a	Involvement in the study
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unique biological materials
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Antibodies
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> Eukaryotic cell lines
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> Palaeontology
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Animals and other organisms
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> Human research participants

Methods

n/a	Involvement in the study
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ChIP-seq
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> Flow cytometry
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> MRI-based neuroimaging

Unique biological materials

Policy information about [availability of materials](#)

Obtaining unique materials Affinity-purified rabbit polyclonal antibodies were generated against different amino acid sequences of *X. tropicalis* Tbx6. These antibodies will be available from the authors upon request.

Antibodies

Antibodies used

Rabbit polyclonal anti-beta-catenin (Santa-Cruz, H-102), rabbit polyclonal anti-H3K4me1 (Abcam, ab8895), rabbit polyclonal anti-HA (Abcam, ab9110), mouse monoclonal anti-RNAPII (Covance, MMS-126R), rabbit polyclonal anti-Sox3 (Klymkowsky Lab); rabbit polyclonal anti-VegT (Gurdon Lab), rabbit polyclonal anti-Tbx6 (our lab, #4596 and #5061), mouse monoclonal anti-alfa-Tubulin (Sigma, T5168), rabbit polyclonal anti phospho-Smad1/5/9 (Cell Signalling, #9511), goat polyclonal Smad2/3 (R&D Systems, AF3797), TrueBlot HRP-conjugated anti-rabbit IgG (Rockland Immunochemicals, 18-8816-31), normal goat HRP-conjugated anti-

mouse IgG (Thermo Fisher Scientific, 31430), goat anti-rabbit IgG-HRP (ThermoFisher Scientific, G-21234), donkey anti-goat IgG-HRP (Santa Cruz Biotechnology, sc-2020).

Validation

All antibodies have been validated for Xenopus.
 Anti-beta-catenin (H-102) validated in our lab and by Nakamura et al. (2016) for ChIP.
 Anti-H3K4me1 (ab8895): validated in our lab for ChIP.
 Anti-HA (ab9110): validated in our lab for ChIP.
 Anti-RNAPII (MMS-126R): validated in our lab for ChIP.
 Anti-Sox3 (Klymkowsky Lab): validated in our lab for WMIHC (1:1,000), IP, WB (1:2,000) and ChIP.
 Anti-VegT (Gurdon Lab): validated in our lab for IP, WB (1:2,000) and ChIP; validated by Stennard et al. (1999) for WMIHC.
 Anti-Tbx6 (our lab, #4596 and #5061): validated in our lab for IP (#4596), WB (#5061, 1:2,000) and ChIP (#4596).
 Anti-alfa-Tubulin (T5168): validated in our lab for WB (1:5,000).
 Anti-phospho-Smad1/5/9 (#9511): validated in our lab for WMIHC (1:500) and ChIP.
 Anti-Smad2/3 (AF3797): validated in our lab for WMIHC (1:500) and ChIP.

Animals and other organisms

Policy information about [studies involving animals](#); [ARRIVE guidelines](#) recommended for reporting animal research

Laboratory animals

Outbred X. tropicalis and X. laevis were obtained from Nasco (Wisconsin, USA)

Wild animals

This study did not involve wild animals.

Field-collected samples

This study did not involve collecting samples from the field.

ChIP-seq

Data deposition

Confirm that both raw and final processed data have been deposited in a public database such as [GEO](#).

Confirm that you have deposited or provided access to graph files (e.g. BED files) for the called peaks.

Data access links

May remain private before publication.

<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/geo/query/acc.cgi?acc=GSE113186>
 Reviewer token: yrkjyomkzltfcr

Files in database submission

HA_st10p_oe_myodHA_rep1.fastq.gz
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 uni_st9p_frogF_TS022.exon.txt
 uni_st9p_frogF_TS022.intron.txt
 uni_st10p_frogA_TS007.exon.txt
 uni_st10p_frogA_TS007.intron.txt
 uni_st10p_frogE_TS016.exon.txt
 uni_st10p_frogE_TS016.intron.txt
 uni_st10p_frogF_TS025.exon.txt
 uni_st10p_frogF_TS025.intron.txt

Genome browser session
 (e.g. [UCSC](#))

We have uploaded genomic tracks (bigWig or BedGraph) to GEO which can be viewed on the UCSC or IGV genome browser. Viewing requires genome assembly 7.1 of X. tropicalis to be installed.

Methodology

Replicates

Specified in Supplementary Table 1. All comparisons between two conditions were carried in biological duplicates or triplicates.

Sequencing depth

Specified in Supplementary Table 1 (overall total: 8.5 billion reads).
 ChIP-Seq: 37.5 +/- 16.2 million reads (mean +/- SD), 2.4 billion reads (total).
 DNase-Seq: 193.1 +/- 230.9 million reads (mean +/- SD), 1.1 billion reads (total).
 Next-generation capture-C: 12.4 +/- 4.5 million reads (mean +/- SD), 74.5 million reads (total).
 RNA-Seq: 38.5 +/- 15.5 million reads (mean +/- SD), 4.8 billion reads (total).

Antibodies

Rabbit polyclonal anti-beta-catenin (Santa-Cruz, H-102), rabbit polyclonal anti-H3K4me1 (Abcam, ab8895), rabbit polyclonal anti-HA (Abcam, ab9110), mouse monoclonal anti-RNAPII (Covance, MMS-126R), rabbit polyclonal anti-Sox3 (Klymkowsky Lab); rabbit polyclonal anti-VegT (Gurdon Lab), rabbit polyclonal anti-Tbx6 (our lab, #4596), rabbit polyclonal anti phospho-Smad1/5/9 (Cell Signalling, #9511), and goat polyclonal Smad2/3 (R&D Systems, AF3797).

Peak calling parameters

ChIP-Seq peaks called by HOMER v4.8.3: findpeaks -style factor -minDist 175 -fragLength 175 -inputFragLength 175 -fdr 0.001 -gsize 1.435e9 -F 3 -L 1 -C 0.97. This means that both ChIP and input alignments were extended 3' to 175 bp for the detection of significant (0.1% FDR) peaks being separated by ≥ 175 bp. The effective size of the X. tropicalis genome assembly v7.1 was set to 1.435 billion bp, an estimate obtained from the mappability profile. These peaks showed equal or higher tag density than the surrounding 10 kb, ≥ 3 -fold more tags than the input and ≥ 0.97 unique tag positions relative to the expected number of tags. To detect focal RNAPII recruitment to putative CRMs and avoid calling peaks within broad regions of RNAPII reflecting transcript elongation, the threshold of focal ratio and local enrichment within 10 kb was elevated to 0.6 and 3 (-L 3), respectively. To further eliminate any false positive peaks, we removed any peaks with < 0.5 (TFs including signal mediators) or < 1 (RNAPII) CPM and those falling into blacklisted regions showing equivocal mappability due to genome assembly errors, gaps or simple/tandem repeats. Regions of equivocal mappability were identified by a two-fold lower (poor) or three-fold higher (excessive) read coverage than the average detected in 400-bp windows sliding at 200-bp intervals through normalised ChIP input and DNase-digested naked genomic DNA.
 DNase-Seq peaks called by HOMER v4.8.3: findpeaks -style factor -minDist 100 -fragLength 100 -inputFragLength 100 -fdr 0.001 -gsize 1.435e9 -F 3 -L 1 -C 0.97. This means that alignments of DNase-digested chromatin fragments (or naked genomic DNA fragments considered here as 'input') were extended 3' to 100 bp from the DNase cleavage site to detect significant (0.1% FDR) DNase-mediated read enrichments (hereafter called peaks) being separated by ≥ 100 bp. The effective size of the X. tropicalis genome assembly v7.1 was set to 1.435 billion bp, an estimate obtained from the mappability of ChIP input reads. These peaks showed equal or higher tag density than the surrounding 10 kb, at least three-fold more tags than the input and ≥ 0.97 unique tag positions relative to the expected number of tags. Peaks falling into blacklisted regions (see Post-sequencing analysis of ChIP-Seq) were removed.

Data quality

All ChIP-Seq libraries were of high complexity yielding $> 75\%$ unique reads and low adapter contamination ($< 5\%$). In most cases peak calling (0.1% FDR) revealed between several thousands to hundreds of thousands of binding events. De novo motif analysis of peaks revealed the expected DNA recognition sequences of the transcription factor.

Software

HOMER v4.8.3