Supplementary Figures and legends



Supplementary Fig. 1: Transcriptional profiling of developing somites. a PCA plot of PSM, ES, MS and DS replicates. **b** Number of differentially expressed (upregulated, red; downregulated, blue) genes comparing PSM, ES, MS and DS. **c-e** Volcano plots showing enriched genes (Log Fold Change >1) comparing DS vs PSM, (**d**) MS vs PSM and (**e**) ES vs PSM. **f** GO analysis on k-means cluster showing associated terms, adjusted P-values and number of genes in each associated term.



Supplementary Fig. 2: Genome-wide profile of chromatin accessibility dynamics during somite development. a Correlation heat maps of accessible chromatin regions (ATAC-seq peak-sites) comparing PSM and MS, (b) PSM and DS and (c) ES and DS. d MA plots of significantly differential peak-sites in PSM with MS, (e) ES with DS and (f) ES with DS. g-I PCA plots using only the differentially accessible peak-sites using an FDR threshold of 0.05.



Supplementary Fig. 3: Differential footprints identified for key paraxial mesoderm transcription factors. a Gene expression for *Pax3* from mRNA-seq (error bars = SEM, n = 3). b Tn5 insertion frequency across all accessible regions containing at least one Pax3 motif, at nucleotide resolution in PSM, ES, MS and DS reveals presence of a footprint centered on the Pax3 motif. Differential footprinting for Pax3 motif comparing PSM (blue) and ES (red), (c) PSM (blue) and MS (red) and (d) PSM (blue) and DS (red). e Gene expression for *Twist2* from mRNA-seq (error bars = SEM, n = 3). f Differential footprinting for Twist2 motif comparing PSM (blue) and ES (red), (g) PSM (blue) and MS (red) and (h) PSM (blue) and DS (red). i Gene expression for *RARA* from mRNA-seq (error bars = SEM, n = 3). j Differential footprinting for RARA motif comparing PSM (blue) and ES (red), (k) PSM (blue) and MS (red) and (I) PSM (blue) and DS (red). The total number of footprints detected is shown in each panel, n.



Supplementary Fig. 4: Chromatin accessibility and gene expression for *HoxB*, *HoxC* and *HoxD* clusters. a Gene expression from mRNA-seq for *HoxB* cluster (error bars = SEM, n = 3). b Genome browser views of ATAC-seq profile at *HoxB* cluster. c Gene expression from mRNA-seq for *HoxC* cluster (error bars = SEM, n = 3). d Genome browser views of ATAC-seq profile at *HoxD* cluster. e Gene expression from mRNA-seq for *HoxD* cluster (error bars = SEM, n = 3). d Genome browser views of ATAC-seq profile at *HoxD* cluster. e Gene expression from mRNA-seq for *HoxD* cluster (error bars = SEM, n = 3). f Genome browser views of ATAC-seq profile at *HoxD* cluster. PSM ATAC is shown in green, ES shown in blue, MS shown in yellow and DS in red.



Supplementary Fig. 5: Differential chromatin accessibility highlights putative CREs and time-lapse imaging reveals *TCF15* Enh-2 activity in prospective paraxial mesoderm and somites. a-f Examples of ATAC-seq accessible regions that define PSM (*Msgn1*, *Wnt8c*, *Fgf*4) or DS (*MyoG*) or developing somites (*Rdh10*, *Grem1*). Gene expression from mRNA-seq (error bars = SEM, n = 3) is shown in the bar charts on the right. Grey bars are examples of differential accessible regions across the four samples flanking the gene locus. **g** Schematic representation of putative enhancer Citrine reporter construct. Injection of constructs into HH3+ chick embryos with positive electrode at the top and negative electrode at the bottom. **h** Electroporation of pCAGG-GFP at HH3+, embryo developed for 20 hours showing electroporation efficiency. **i** Still images from a time-lapse movie of *TCF15* Enh-2 with the primitive streak (Ps) indicated. Fluorescent activity first observed in paraxial mesoderm (Pm) at HH6 and continuous expression in the paraxial mesoderm (Psm) at HH7 prior to expression in somites (So) at HH8 and HH10. Scale bars = 500 microns



Supplementary Fig. 6: *MEOX1* enhancer reporter single mutants and MEOX1 footprints across different samples. a-b *MEOX1* Enh reporter constructs with mutation in either (a) ZIC (n = 4/4/) or (b) FOXO (n = 5/5) transcription factor binding sites show normal activity after electroporation into gastrula stage chick embryos. c Differential footprints for MEOX1 motif comparing PSM (blue) and ES (red), (d) PSM (blue) and MS (red) and (e) PSM (blue) and DS (red). Total number of footprints shown on each panel, n.



Supplementary Fig. 7: Testing avian putative Meox1 Enhancer in Xenopus. a *MEOX1* Enh with both Zic and FOXO mutations injected in Xenopus embryos. Activity is not observed in stage 42 embryos (n = 20/20). b *MEOX1* Enh shows expression similar to early paraxial mesoderm marker (*MYOD*) in gastrula-stage embryos. *MYOD* in situ hybridisation performed on same stage. Purple shows expression in paraxial mesoderm (white arrow heads, n = 10/10). Scale bars = 250 microns

Supplementary Table 1. Primers and sgRNAs.

Name of primer	Primer sequence
MEOX1 Enh E	
MEOX1 Enh R	
TCF15 Enh-1 E	
TCF15 Enh-1 R	
TCE15 Enh-2 E	
TCE15 Eph-2 R	
Human MEOX1 Enh E	
Human MEOX1 Enh R	
MEOX1 gRNA-1 F	
MEOX1 gRNA-1 R	
MEOX1 gRNA-2 F	
TOF15 aDNA 1 F	
TCF15 gRNA-2 F	
TCF15 gRNA-2 R	
TCF15 gRNA-3 F	
TCF15 gRNA-3 R	
ICF15 gRNA-4 F	
TCF15 gRNA-4 R	TTTCGTCTCtaaacGTTACACATGAGGACAGCCCcGACTgGAGACGAAA
Scrambled control gRNA F	TTTCGTCTCcAGTCgTGCAGTGCTTCAGCCGCTgtttaGAGACGAAA
Scrambled control gRNA R	TTTCGTCTCtaaacAGCGGCTGAAGCACTGCAcGACTgGAGACGAAA
MEOX1 Enh FOXO1 ZIC3 Mut F	GGGCCACCAGAATTCCTTCCTTCAGGAATGAAGTGTCAGG
MEOX1 Enh FOXO1 ZIC3 Mut R	CTGCTGCTGTCACTCAGCAGCCCAG
TCF15 Enh-2 RARA Mut F	TGGTTCCTTCAAACAGGGTCAGGGCCCCTCAGCAA
TCF15 Enh-2 RARA Mut R	ACCCTGTTTGAAGGAACCATTTGTCCTCCTGTGCAGAGCCCGTAAA
Human MEOX1 Enh FOXO1 ZIC3 Mut F	TCTGGCACCCCGGAG
Human MEOX1 Enh FOXO1 ZIC3 Mut R	GTGCCCGGCCTTCAT
cMEOX1 RT F	GAGATCGCTGTGAACCTGG
cMEOX1 RT R	CGCTTCCACTTCATCCTTCT
cMEOX2 RT F	AGCAGTAAACCTTGACCTCAC
cMEOX2 RT R	CATTCACCAGTTCCTTTTCCG
cPax3 RT F	AGCAGAGCAACTGGAAGAGC
cPax3 RT R	GGTGGTTGAAAGCCATCAGT
cGAPDH RT F	TCTCTGGCAAAGTCCAAGTG
cGAPDH RT R	TCACAAGTTTCCCGTTCTCAG
cFAT4 RT F	TGGCAGCTCAAGGAATCTTAG
cFAT4 RT R	GGCAGTGTCGGCAGTAATATC
cTGFB2 RT F	TTGATGTCACTGAGGCTGTAC
cTGFB2 RT R	CAAATCTTGCTTCAGGCTCC
cUNCX RT F	CCTGGCTGTAAGAGGAGACG
cUNCX RT R	CGGCTCGTTGAAAGAGAAAC
cTBX18 RT F	GTAATGCTGACTCCCCGGTA
cTBX18 RT R	GTGGACACGAGGCTGGTATT
cNKX3-2 RT F	GACGCAGGTGAAGATCTGGT
cNKX3-2 RT R	GGCAGGCAGTAGTAGGGGTA
MEOX1 Enh FOXO1 Mut F	AGGGCTGTTGTTTT
MEOX1 Enh FOXO1 Mut R	AAAAACAACAGCCCTCCCCTCTTGCCCAA
MEOX1 Enh ZIC3 Mut F	GGCAAACAAGCCCCC
MEOX1 Enh ZIC3 Mut R	GGGGGCTTGTTTGCCCTCTGCATCT