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Supplemental information

The BTB transcription factors

**ZBTB11 and ZFP131 maintain pluripotency by
repressing pro-differentiation genes**

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Figure S1

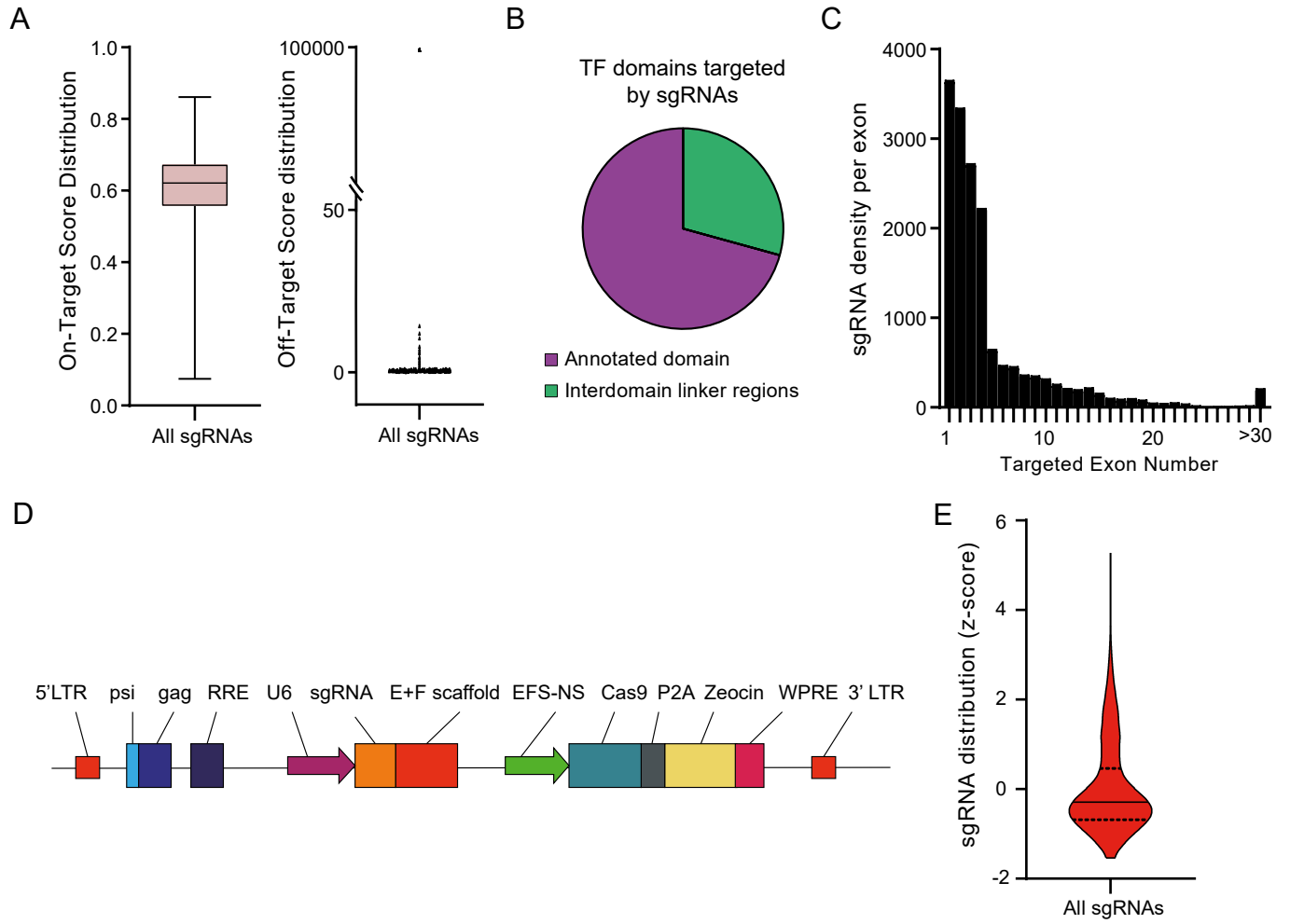


Figure S1. CRISPR TF library targets 1682 TFs in the mouse genome.

(A) On-target and off-target score distribution of all sgRNAs in the library based on the GUIDES algorithm.

(B) Percentage of targeted annotated TF domains in the library based on Pfam. 71% of the sgRNAs target an annotated functional domain.

(C) Exon targeting density of sgRNAs in the library. sgRNAs were designed to target 5' exons to increase the chance of generating a frameshift.

(D) The lentiviral expression vector for sgRNA and Cas9. psi+, Psi packaging signal; RRE, Rev response element; EFS, elongation factor 1a short promoter; P2A, 2A self-cleaving peptide; WPRE, post-transcriptional regulatory element.

(E) Representation of the normalized number of reads of sgRNAs in the plasmid library with Z-score distribution. The solid line represents the mean z-score. Dashed lines represent quartiles.

Related to Figure 1.

Figure S2

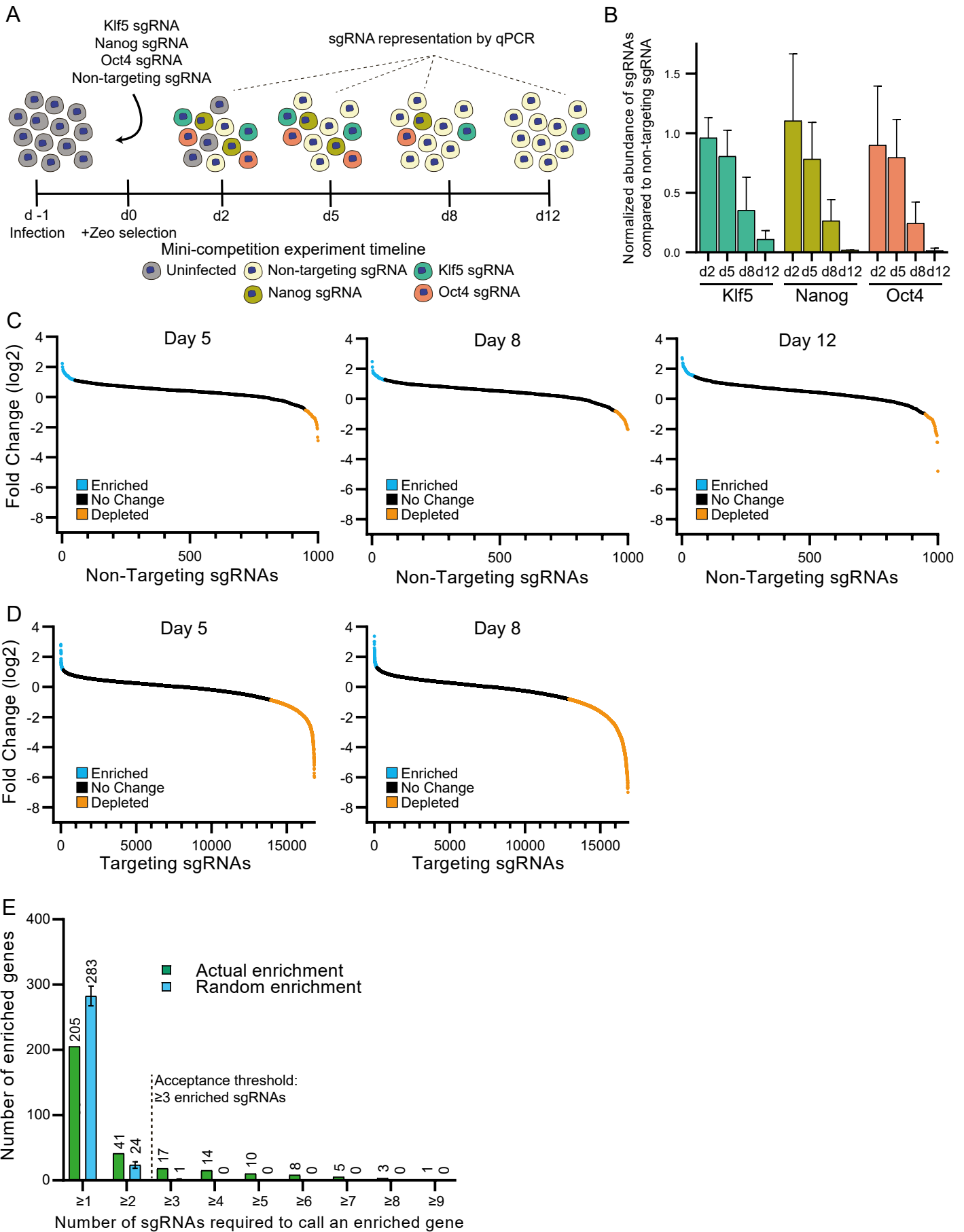


Figure S2. Determination of candidate factors based on the false discovery rate (FDR) from non-targeting sgRNAs.

(A) Schematic overview of the qPCR competition assay to identify depletion dynamics. Representation of non-targeting and *Klf5*, *Oct4*, and *Nanog* targeting sgRNAs infected cells over 12 days of culture.

(B) Normalized abundance of *Klf5*, *Oct4*, *Nanog* targeting sgRNAs compared to non-targeting sgRNA with qPCR in collected samples for each time point (n=2). The abundance of pluripotency TFs is nullified within 12d.

(C) Log₂ fold change of non-targeting sgRNAs on day 5, day 8, day 12 compared to the initial library representation. 50 most enriched sgRNAs are in blue and 50 most depleted sgRNAs are in orange. 50th most enriched and 50th most depleted sgRNAs were selected as the thresholds to call depleted and enriched targeting sgRNAs for each timepoint.

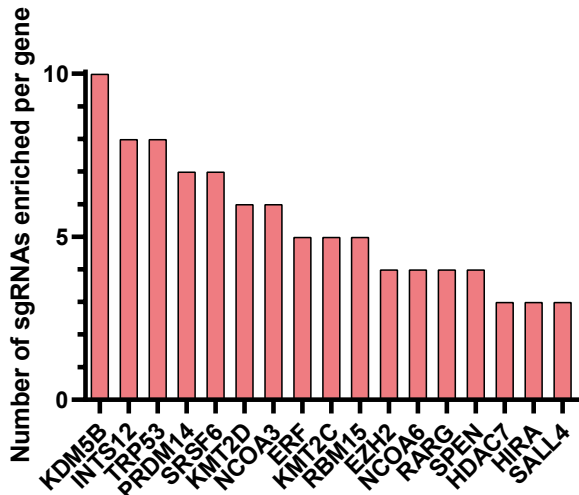
(D) Log₂ fold change of targeting sgRNAs on day 5 and day 8 compared to the initial library representation. sgRNAs depleted more than the 50th most depleted non-targeting sgRNA are in orange and enriched more than the 50th most enriched non-targeting sgRNA are in blue.

(E) The number of actual sgRNAs enriched and mean sgRNAs number with random enrichment calculated by 1000 permutation tests with a different number of sgRNA per gene thresholds. TFs with more than or equal to 3 enriched sgRNAs are unlikely to be false positives.

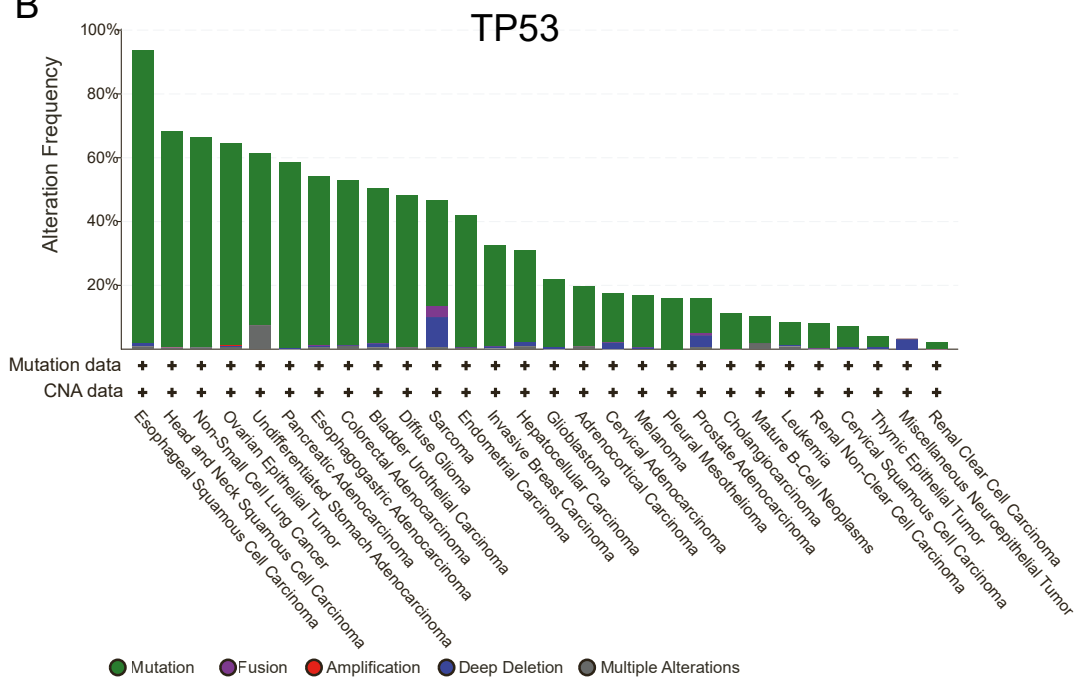
Related to Figure 1.

Figure S3

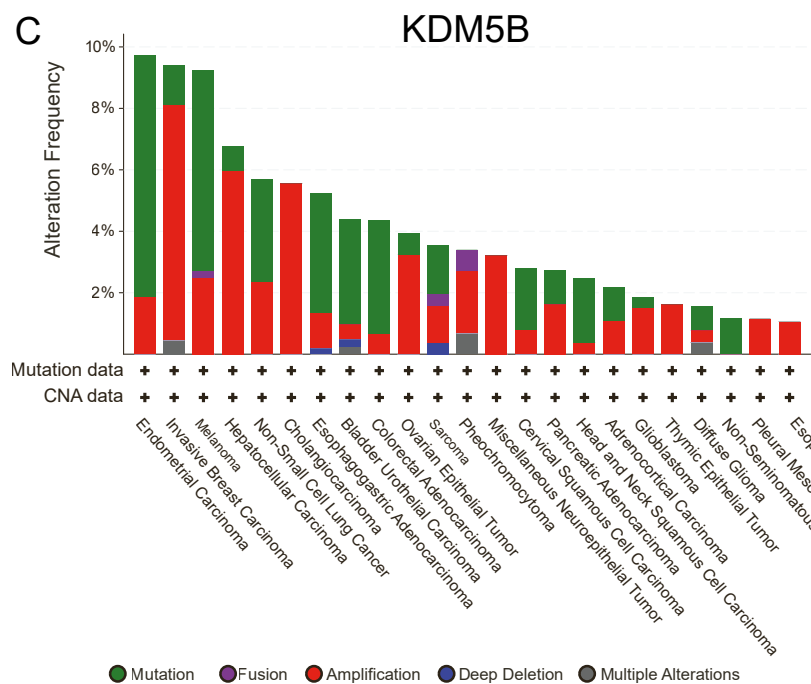
A



B



C



D

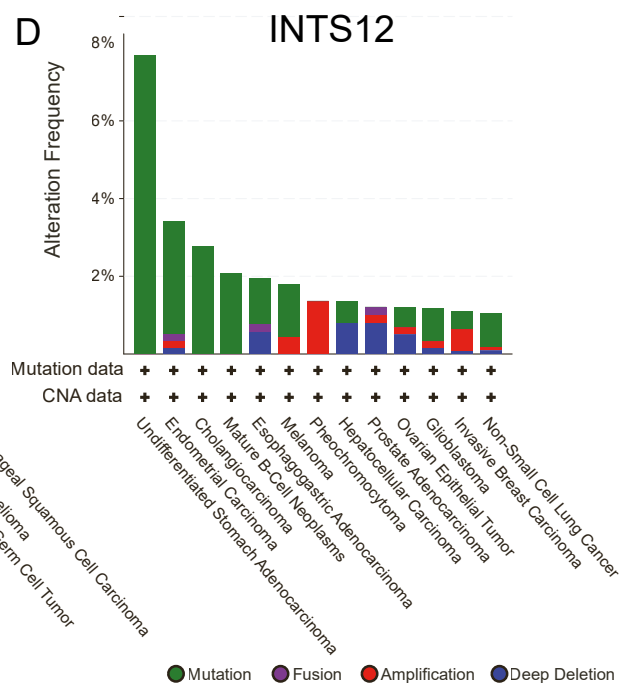


Figure S3. Enriched genes are mutated in cancers.

(A) 17 genes have 3 or more sgRNAs enriched on day 12.

(B) *Tp53*, (C) *Kdm2b*, (D) *Ints12* mutations incidence in various types of cancers (51799 patients). Data obtained from cBioPortal for Cancer Genomics. Enriched sgRNAs are targeting genes that are growth limiting, which are also found in cancer types.

Related to Figure 1.

Figure S4

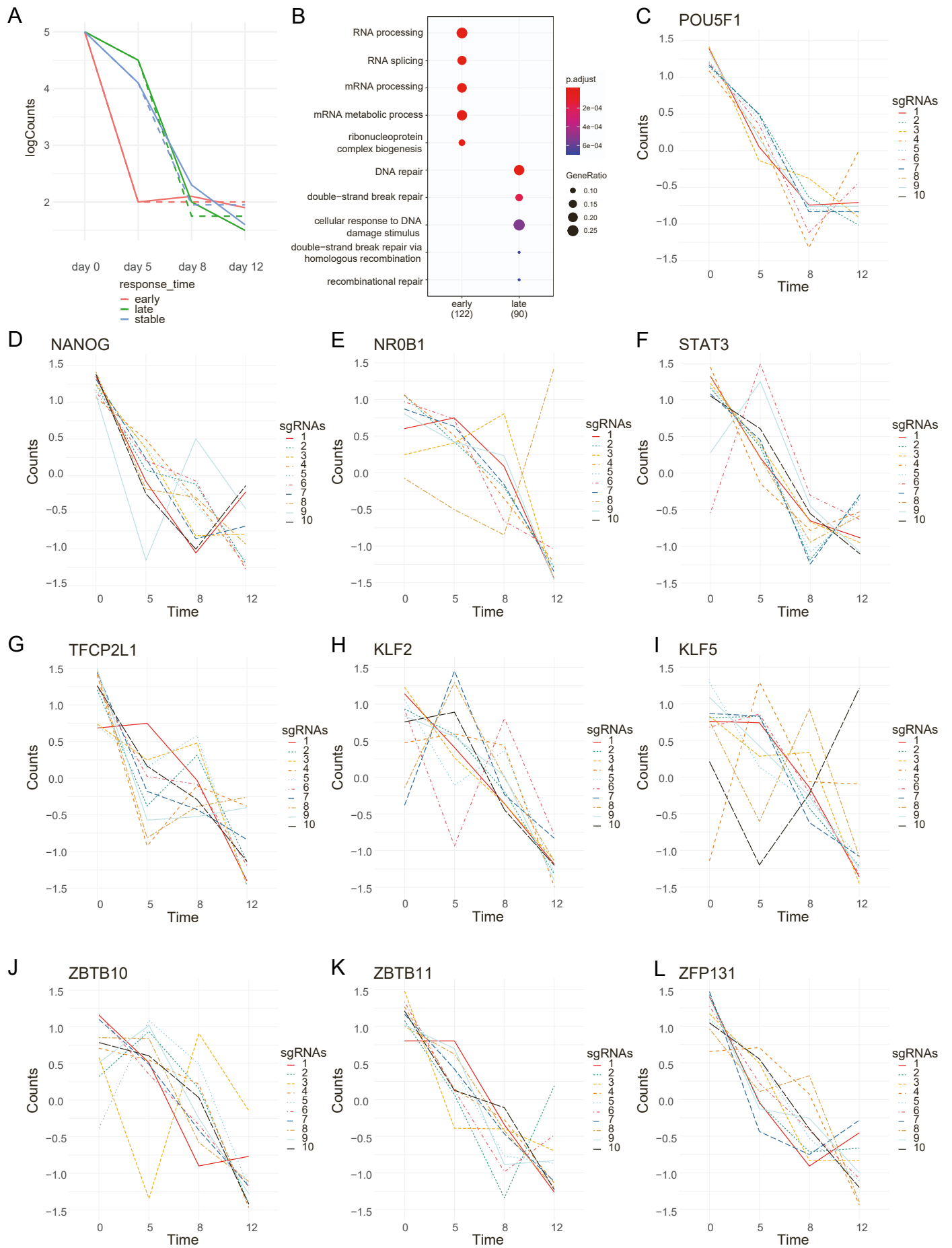


Figure S4. Determination of candidate factors using a linear modeling method.

(A) Linear modeling for differential depletion categories of genes based on normalized sgRNA log counts. Three categories: early, stable, and late depleting were identified. The solid line is how the linear modeling is predicted and the dashed line is how the data fit to the projection.

(B) GO-enrichment analysis of early (n=122) and late (n=90) depleting factors throughout the screen. Gene Ratio is calculated with the number of occurrences in specific GO categories divided by the total amount of depleted TFs per category. Early category contains genes that are in core transcription machinery whereas late category contains genes that are playing roles in DNA damage.

(C) Linear regression of 10 sgRNAs targeting known core pluripotency factors *Oct4*, (D) *Nanog*, accessory factors ((E) *Nr0b1*, (F) *Stat3*, (G) *Tfcp2l1*), redundant accessory factors ((H) *Klf2*, (I) *Klf5*) and candidate hits from the screen ((J) *Zbtb10*, (K) *Zbtb11*, (L) *Zfp131*). *Oct4*, *Nanog*, *Zbtb11*, and *Zfp131* are in the early depleting category whereas accessory factors and *Zbtb10* are in the stable and the late depleting categories.

Related to Figure 1.

Figure S5

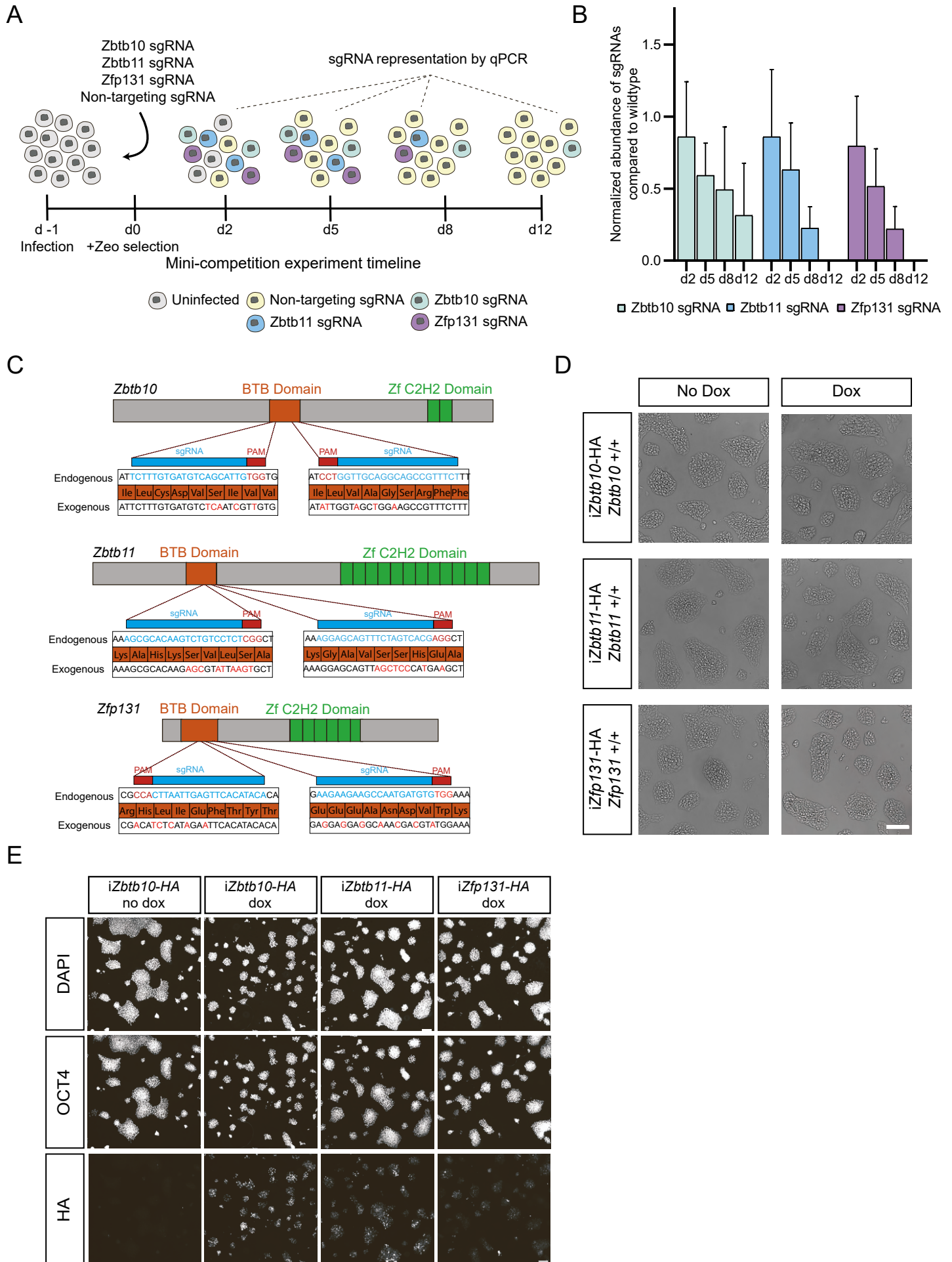


Figure S5. Generation of conditional *Zbtb10Δ*, *Zbtb11Δ*, and *Zfp131Δ* lines

(A) Schematic overview of the TF candidate qPCR competition assay. Non-targeting and *Zbtb10*, *Zbtb11*, and *Zfp131* targeting sgRNAs infected cells representation over 12 days of culture.

(B) Normalized abundance of targeting sgRNAs compared to non-targeting sgRNA measured by qPCR in the competition experiment (n=2). *Zbtb10*, *Zbtb11*, and *Zfp131* targeting sgRNAs deplete compared to non-targeting one recapitulating the TF screen depletion dynamics.

(C) *Zbtb10*, *Zbtb11* and *Zfp131* genes illustrated with coding regions for interdomain linker regions (gray), BTB domain (orange) and C2H2 Zinc Finger domain (green). Two sgRNAs (blue sequences) targeting PAM sites (red sequences) at the endogenous BTB domain. HA-tagged exogenous copy of ZBTB10, ZBTB11, and ZFP131 expressed at the HPRT site contain silent mutations that disable the sgRNA binding and Cas9 cutting.

(D) Inducible *Zbtb10-HA*, *Zbtb11-HA* and *Zfp131-HA* lines with 48 h expression of exogenous alleles. Inducing transgenes do not cause any distinct morphological changes in ESCs. Scale bar = 200 μm.

(E) Oct4 and HA staining of inducible *Zbtb10-HA*, *Zbtb11-HA* and *Zfp131-HA* lines with 48h expression of exogenous alleles. Inducing transgenes do not alter *Oct4* expression in ESCs. Scale bar = 100 μm.

Related to Figure 1.

Figure S6

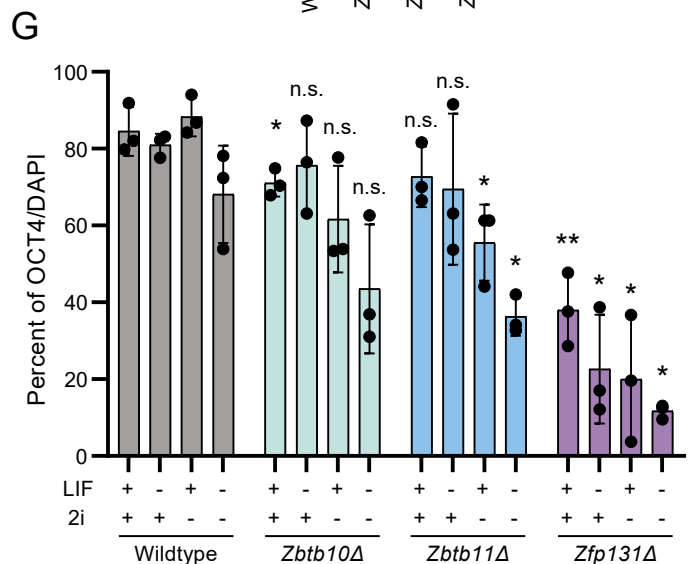
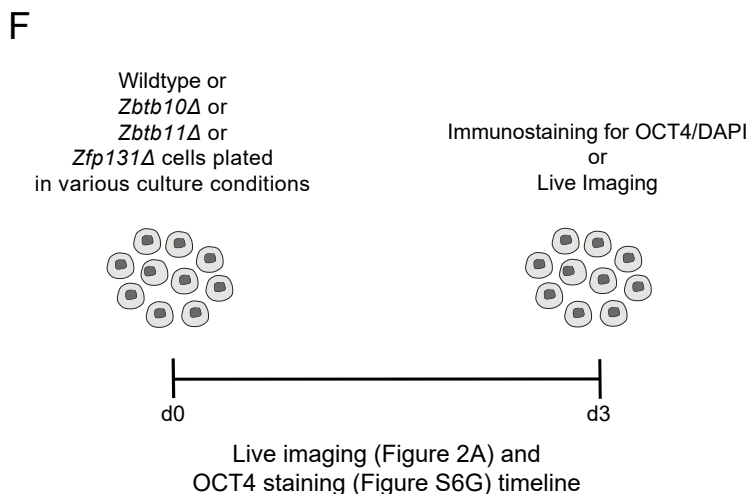
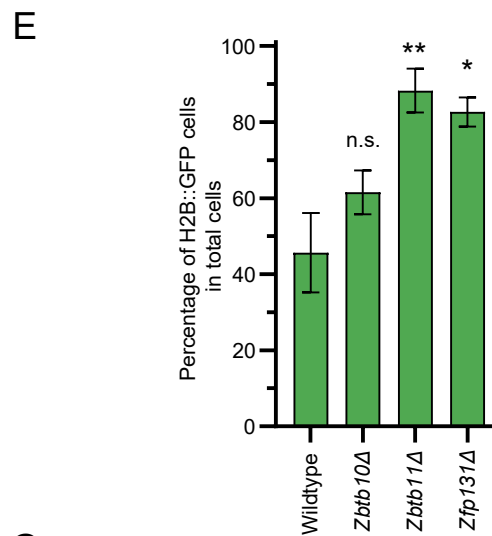
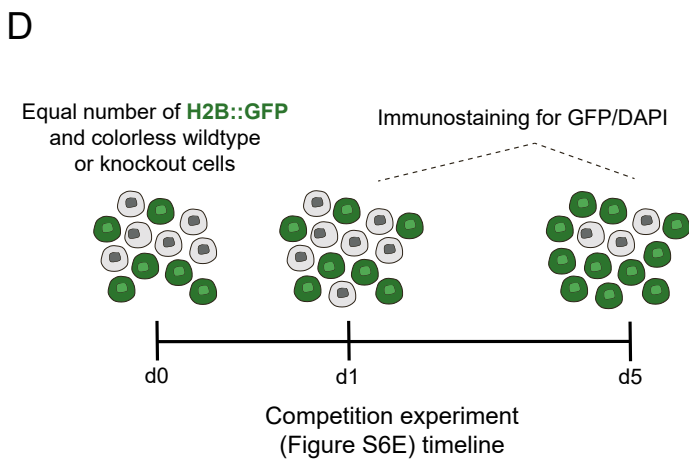
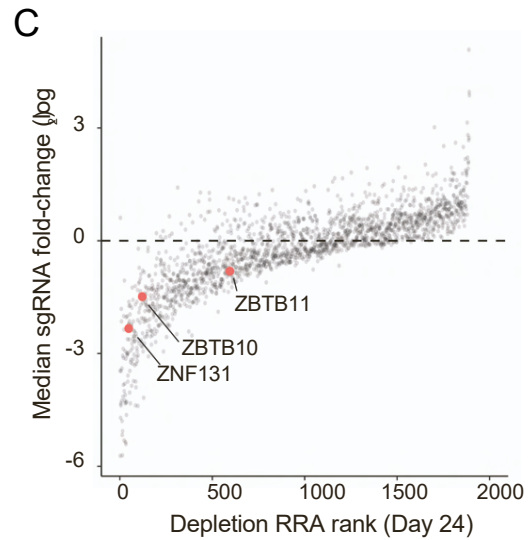
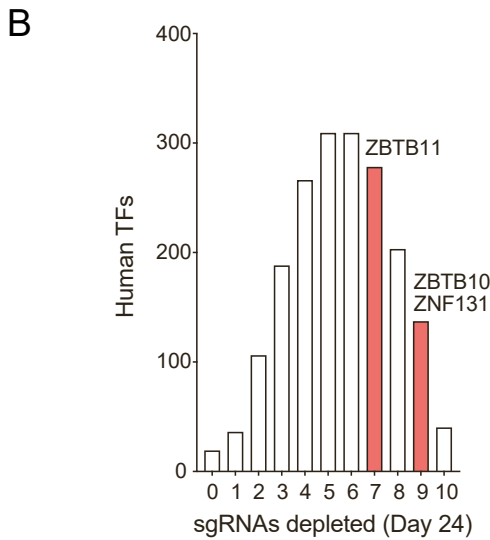
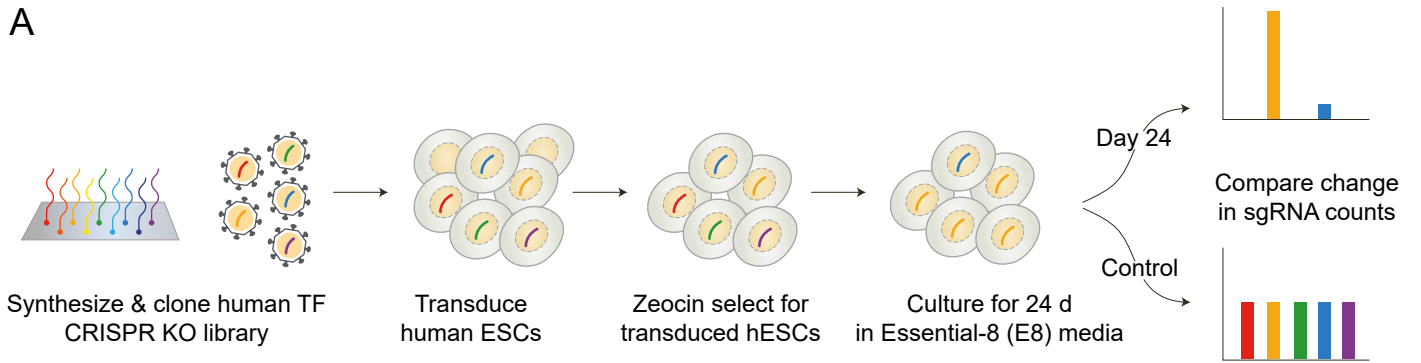


Figure S6. Human embryonic stem cell CRISPR loss-of-function screen identifies ZBTB10, ZBTB11, and ZNF131 as depleting genes.

(A) Schematic of human embryonic stem cell screen for TFs.

(B) Number of depleted sgRNAs for each TF using FDR < 0.05 threshold, as calculated from the non-targeting sgRNAs. ZBTB11 has 7 depleted sgRNAs, whereas ZBTB10 and ZNF131 have 9 depleted sgRNAs in hESCs.

(C) Median sgRNAs fold-change (log₂) at day 24 as a function of RRA gene rank. sgRNAs targeting ZBTB10, ZBTB11 and ZFP131 have lower median rank denoting their role in hESCs.

(D) Schematic overview of the cell-growth competition assay. Clonal knockout *Zbtb10Δ*, *Zbtb11Δ*, and *Zfp131Δ* cells compete with GFP-labeled wt mouse ESCs.

(E) Percentage of non-GFP cells over time in cell growth competition assay of wt, *Zbtb10Δ*, *Zbtb11Δ*, and *Zfp131Δ* cells versus *H2b::Gfp* (n=3). Statistical analysis was performed by student's t-test, *p<0.05, **p<0.005. Mirroring pooled mutant analysis, wt ESCs readily outcompete *Zbtb11Δ* and *Zfp131Δ* cells.

(F) Schematic overview of the timeline for live imaging and immunostating experiments.

(G) OCT4/DAPI staining for wildtype, *Zbtb10Δ*, *Zbtb11Δ* and *Zfp131Δ* cells in 2i and LIF combination conditions (n=3). Statistical analysis was performed by student's t-test, *p<0.05, **p<0.005. *Zbtb11Δ* and *Zfp131Δ* cells have decreased OCT4 signal in specific culture conditions.

Related to Figure 1 and 2.

Figure S7

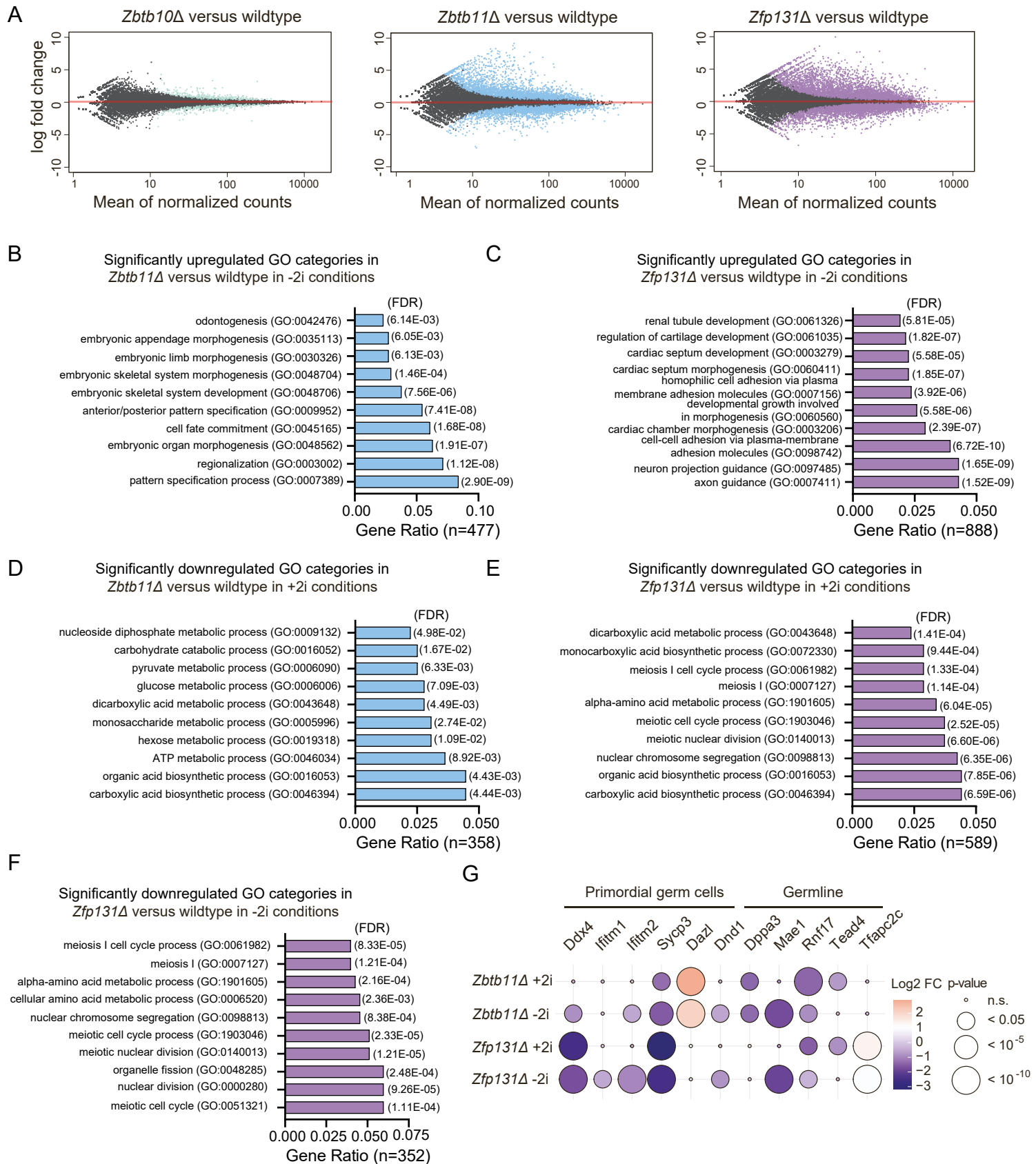


Figure S7. *Zbtb11Δ* and *Zfp131Δ* knockout cells express multiple lineage-specific markers in -2i conditions.

(A) Volcano plots of log₂ fold change of transcripts expressed in *Zbtb10Δ*, *Zbtb11Δ* and *Zfp131Δ* cells versus wt cells grown in the absence of doxycycline for 3d in -2i+LIF media (n=3). Significant changes (* p<0.05) marked in color for each genotype. *Zbtb11* and *Zfp131* mutations induce aberrant gene expression.

(B) GO-enrichment analysis of significantly upregulated genes in *Zbtb11Δ* in -2i condition (n=477), (C) significantly upregulated genes in *Zfp131Δ* in -2i condition (n=888), (D) significantly downregulated genes in *Zbtb11Δ* in +2i condition (n=358), (E) significantly downregulated genes in *Zfp131Δ* in +2i condition (n=589), and (F) significantly downregulated genes in *Zfp131Δ* in -2i condition (n=352). Gene Ratio is calculated with the number of occurrences in specific GO categories divided by the total amount of genes. The low number of downregulated genes in -2i conditions for *Zbtb11Δ* produced no significant GO-term enriched.

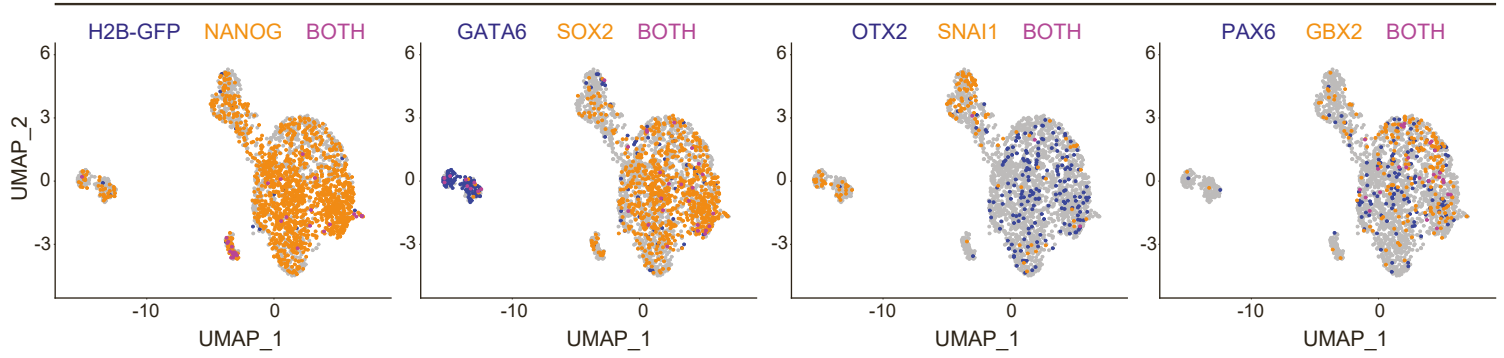
(G) The log₂ fold change of TFs obtained from bulk RNAseq experiment in *Zbtb11Δ* and *Zfp131Δ* cells versus wildtype in plus and minus 2i conditions. (n.s. Not significant) (n=3). No aberrant expression of primordial germ cells and germline TFs detected in *Zbtb11Δ* and *Zfp131Δ* cells.

Related to Figure 2.

Figure S8

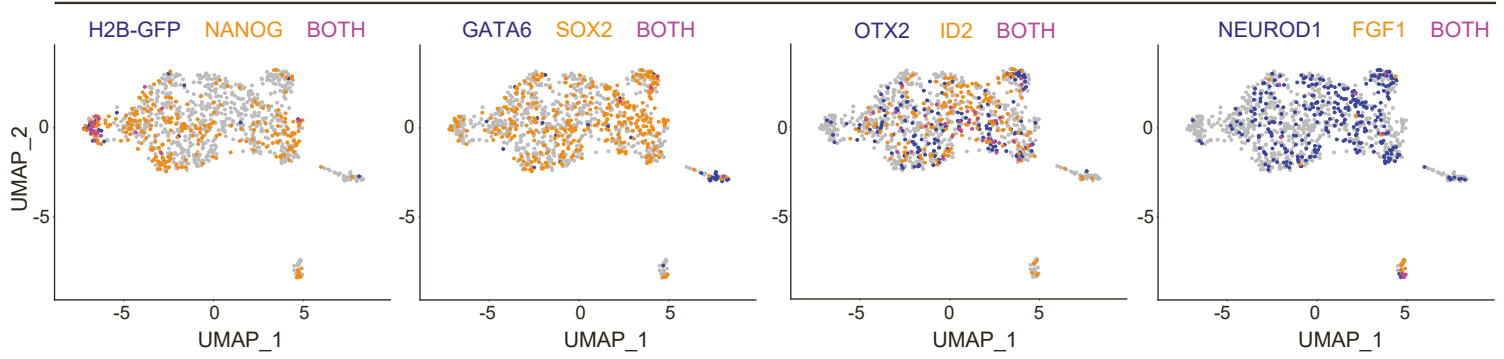
A

H2B-Gfp and *Zbtb11Δ*



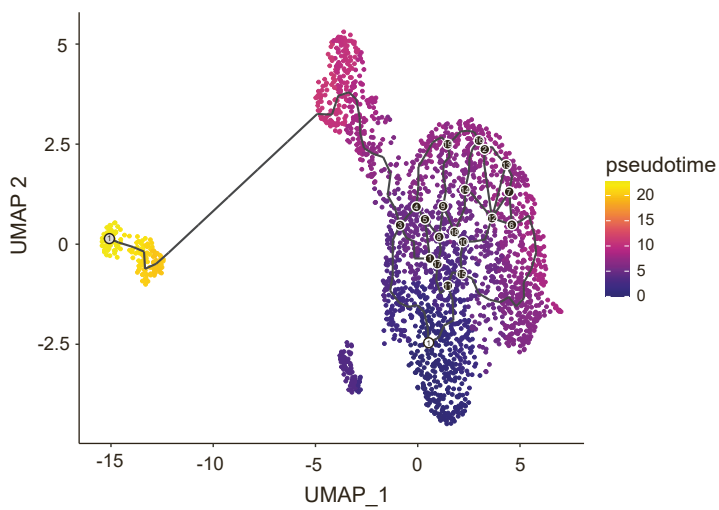
B

H2B-Gfp and *Zfp131Δ*



C

H2B-Gfp and *Zbtb11Δ*



D

H2B-Gfp and *Zfp131Δ*

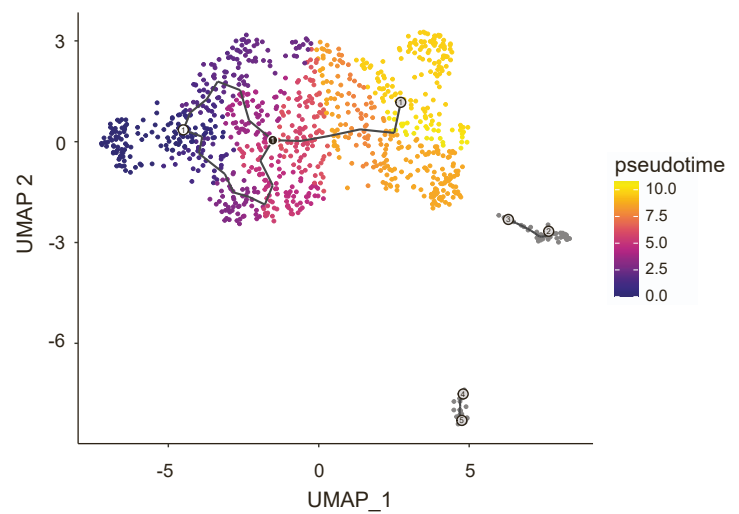


Figure S8. *Zbtb11Δ* and *Zfp131Δ* knockout cells differentiate into multiple lineages.

(A) Expression of H2B-GFP and genes associated with pluripotency (NANOG, SOX2) and germ layers (GATA6, OTX2, SNAI, GBX2, PAX6, ID2, FGF1, NEUROD1) in *Zbtb11Δ* and H2B-Gfp cells, and (B) *Zfp131Δ* and *H2B-Gfp* cells. *Zbtb11* and *Zfp131* knockout cells segregate in different clusters compared to *H2b::Gfp* and express developmentally regulated genes.

(C) Differentiation trajectories of *Zbtb11Δ* and (D) *Zfp131Δ* using pseudotime analysis with Monocle3 algorithm. Black lines show the structure and trajectory of the graph. The white circle with the number 1 is the origin of differentiation. Light gray circles denote a different outcome (individual cell fates in this case). Every branching node is denoted with a black circle with numbers. Gray circles with numbers.

Related to Figure 3.

Figure S9

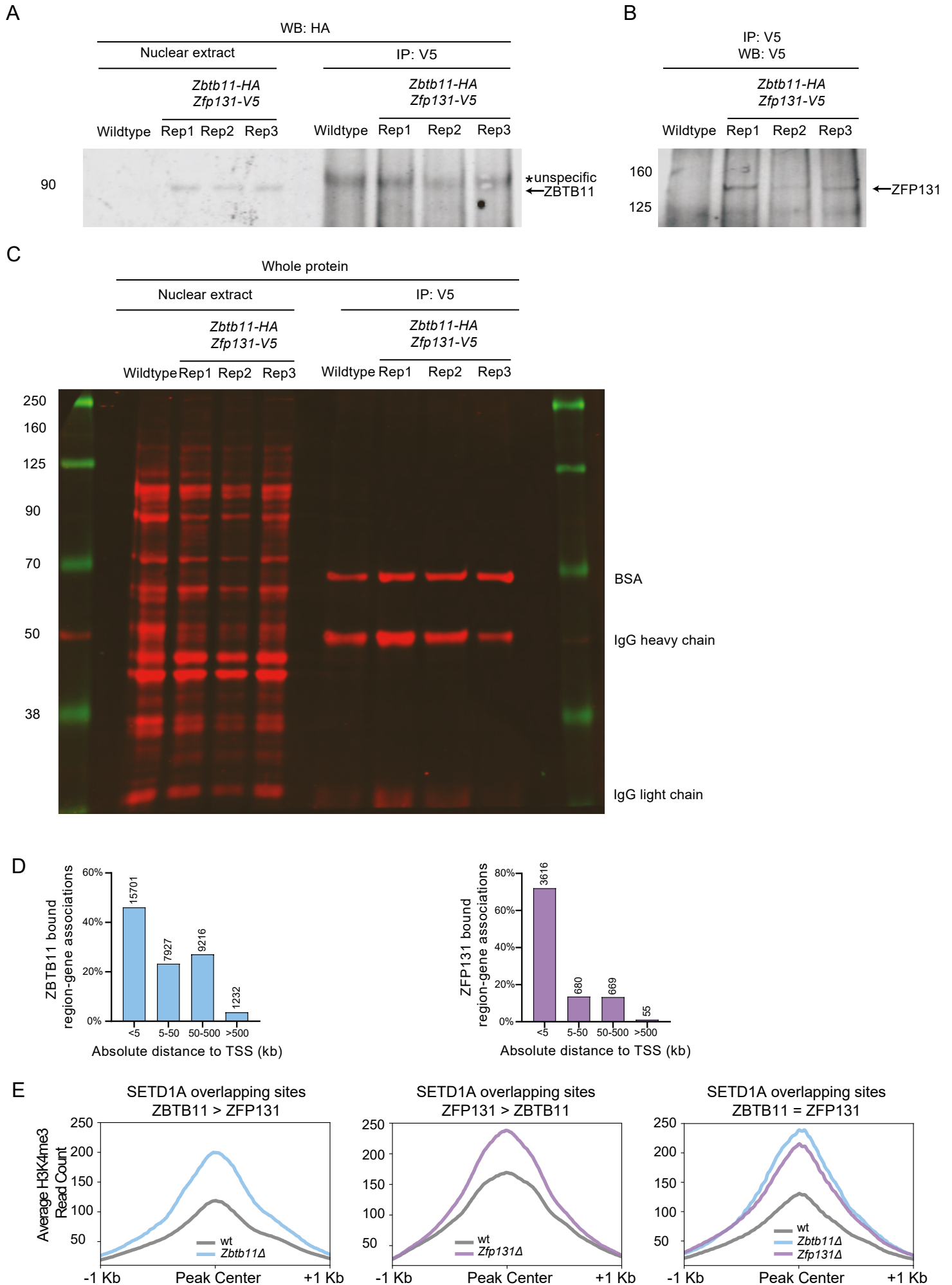


Figure S9. ZBTB11 and ZFP131 do not heterodimerize in ESCs, bind proximally to TSS and *Zbtb11* and *Zfp131* mutation leads to high H3K4me3 gain at SETD1A present sites

- (A) Western blot for ZBTB11-HA in whole nuclear extract and V5 immunoprecipitated samples in *Zbtb11-HA Zfp131-V5* ESCs (n=3). Wildtype does not have any HA and V5 tags. Therefore, the band presenting in the IP V5 wildtype lane indicated nonspecific HA in all IP V5 samples. ZBTB11 and ZFP131 do not heterodimerize in ESCs.
- (B) Western blot for ZFP131-V5 in V5 immunoprecipitated samples in *Zbtb11-HA Zfp131-V5* ESCs (n=3), showing the IP was successful.
- (C) Whole protein staining of the membrane shown in panel A and B.
- (D) The proximity of all ZBTB11 and ZFP131 bound regions to TSS based on GREAT algorithm. Both TFs bind proximal to TSSs.
- (E) Metagene plots for H3K4me3 signal difference in ZBTB11 and SETD1A co-bound sites in *Zbtb11Δ* versus wt, in ZFP131 and SETD1A co-bound sites in *Zfp131Δ* versus wt, in ZBTB11, ZFP131 and SETD1A co-bound sites in all three lines (n=2 for all). ZBTB11 and ZFP131 removal induced H3K4me3 gain at SETD1A present sites in wt cells. H3K4me3 comparison was done on -2i+LIF condition.

Related to Figure 4.

Figure S10

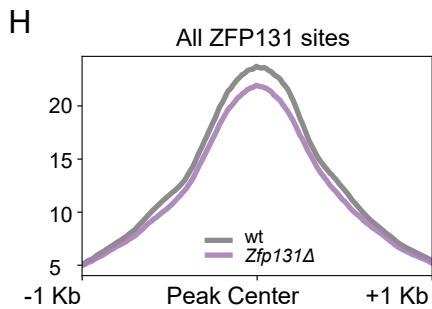
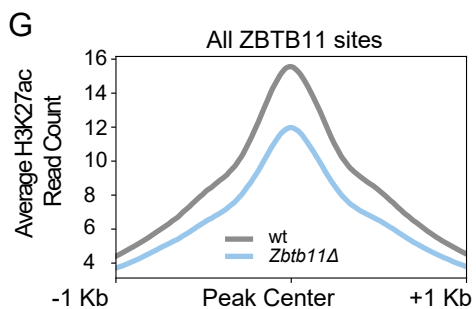
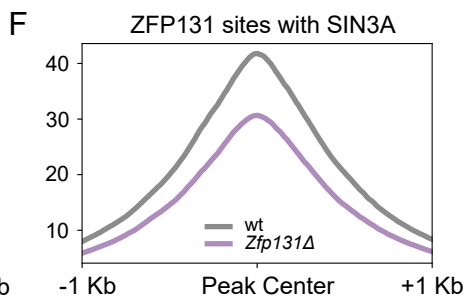
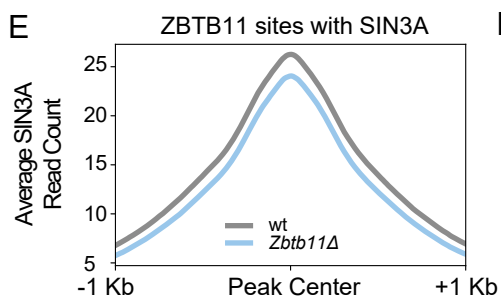
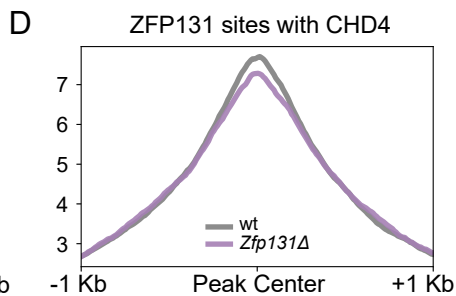
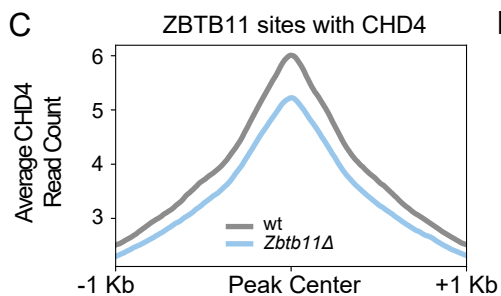
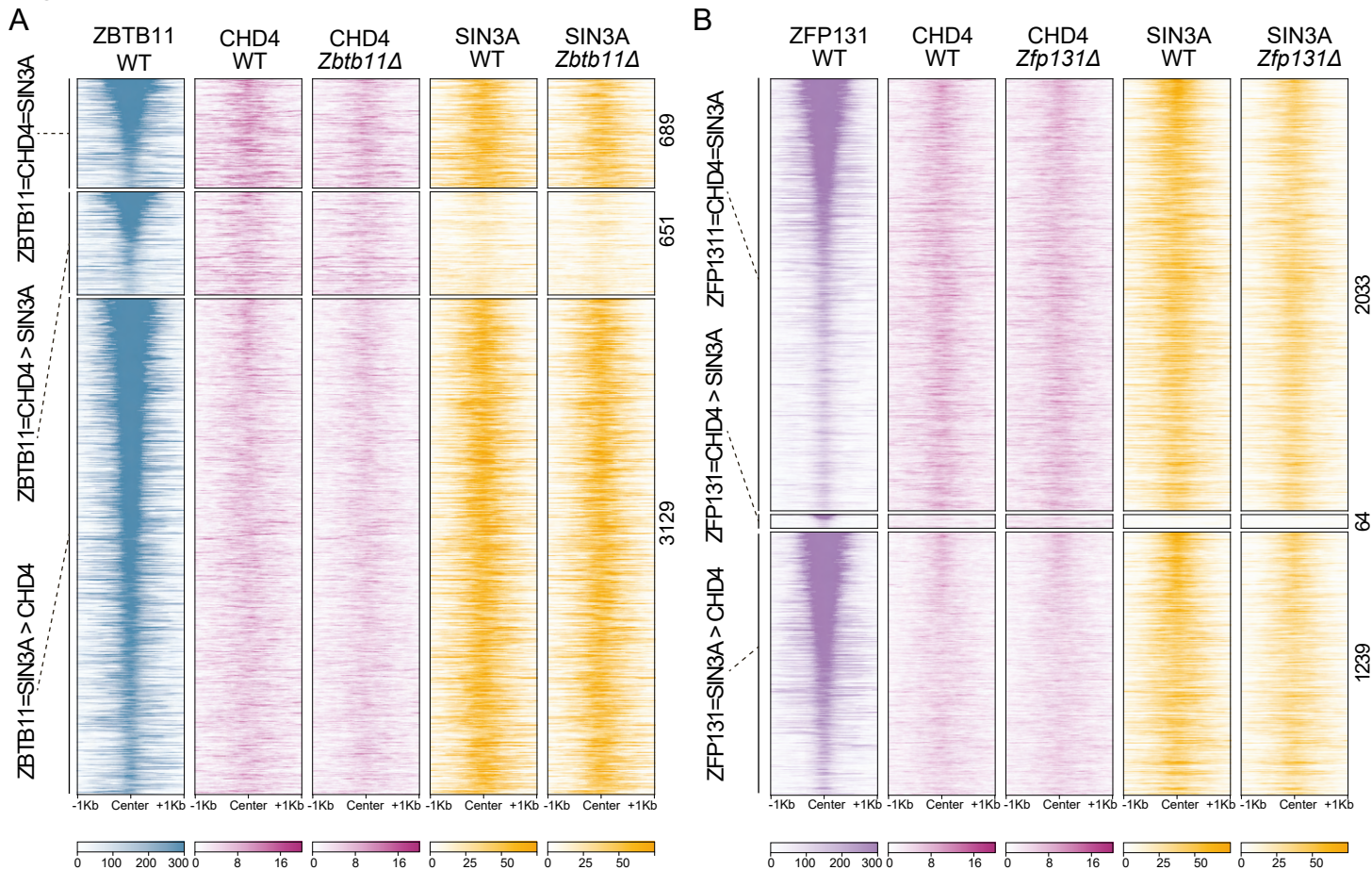


Figure S10. ZBTB11 and ZFP131 cobound with CHD4 and SIN3A.

(A) ChIP-seq heatmap for ZBTB11 overlap with CHD4 and SIN3A in *Zbtb11Δ* and wt cells (n=2 for all).

(B) ChIP-seq heatmap for ZFP131 overlap with CHD4 and SIN3A in *Zfp131Δ* and wt cells (n=2 for all).

(C) Metagene plots for CHD4 binding difference in *Zbtb11Δ* versus wt (n=2) and in (D) *Zfp131Δ* versus wt (n=2).

(E) Metagene plots for SIN3A binding difference in *Zbtb11Δ* versus wt (n=2) and in (F) *Zfp131Δ* versus wt (n=2).

Both knockouts have a slight decrease in CHD4 and SIN3A binding compared to wt.

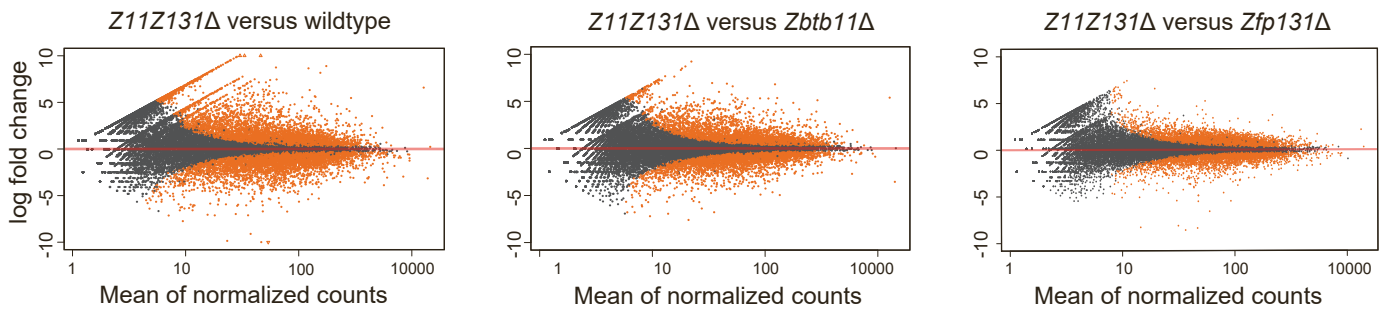
(G) Metagene plots for H3K27ac at ZBTB11 bound sites in *Zbtb11Δ* and wt ESCs (n=2) and (H) at ZFP131 bound sites in *Zfp131Δ* versus wt (n=2). Both knockouts have a decrease in H3K27ac contrary to the expected increase.

CHD4, SIN3A and H3K27ac comparison were done in -2i+LIF condition.

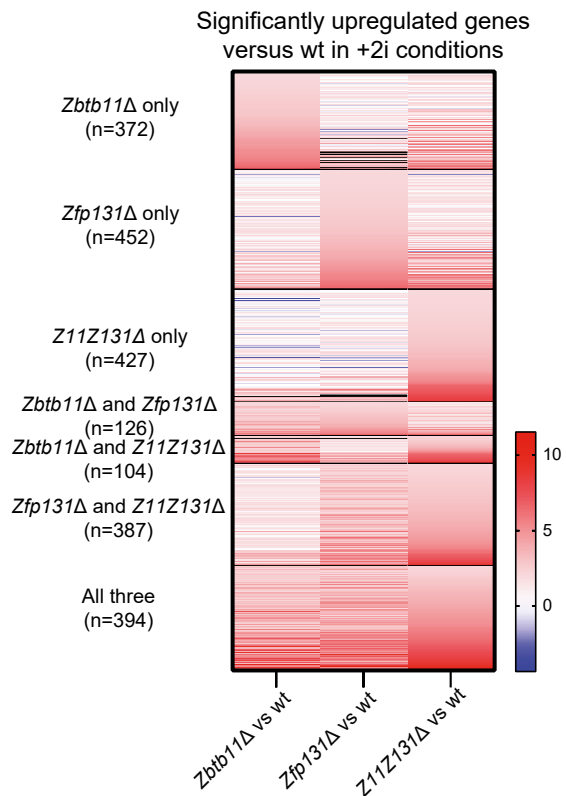
Related to Figure 4.

Figure S11

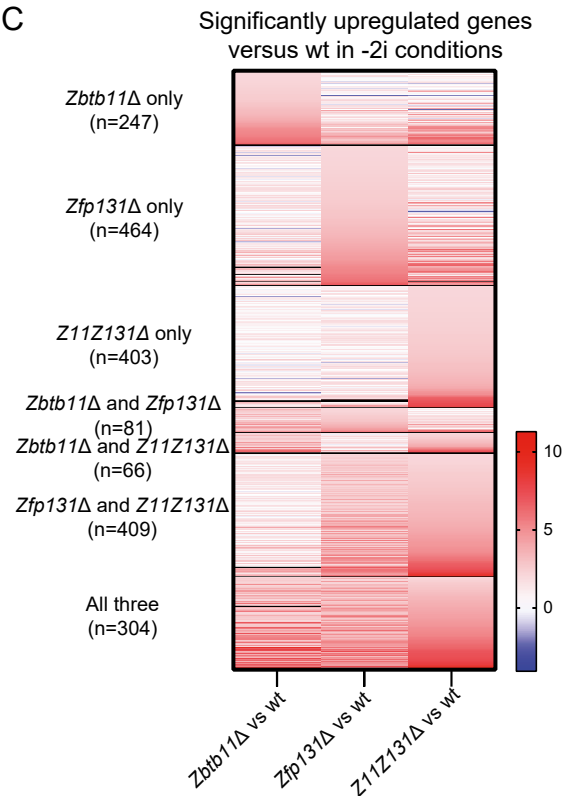
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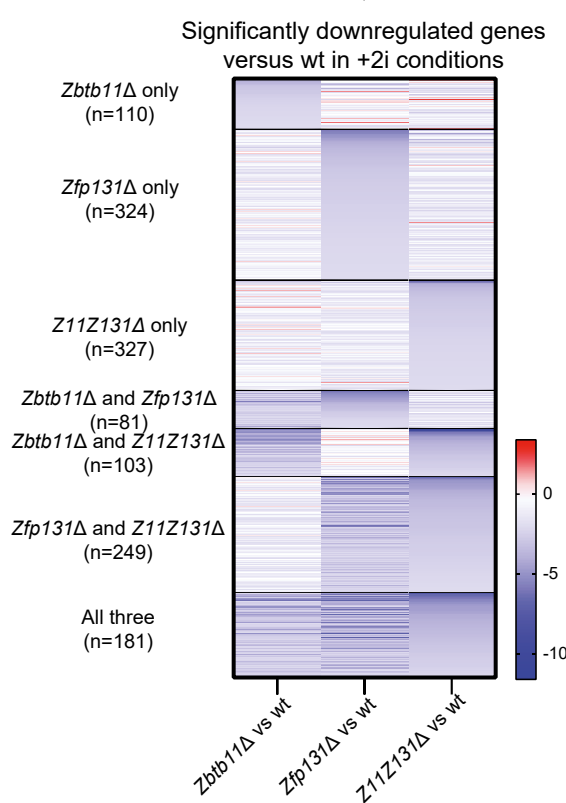
B



C



D



E

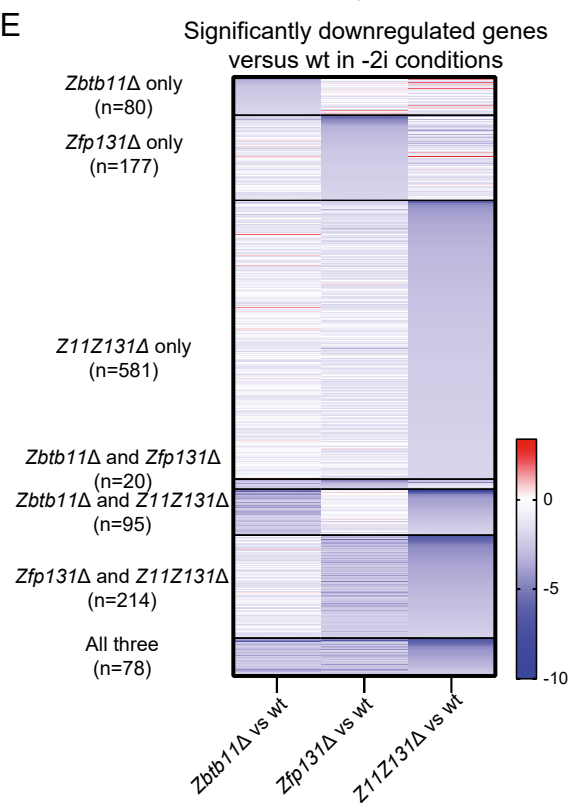


Figure S11. Double knock-out is not an additive phenotype of both knock-outs, and single knock-out is not epistatic to the other.

(A) Volcano plots of log₂ fold change of transcripts expressed in *Z11Z131Δ* cells versus wt, *Zbtb11*, and *Zbtb131Δ* cells grown in the absence of doxycycline for 3d in -2i+LIF media (n=3). Significant changes (* p<0.05) marked in orange.

(B) Significantly upregulated genes in *Zbtb11*, *Zbtb131Δ*, and *Z11Z131Δ* cells versus wt in +2i+LIF, (C) upregulated genes in -2i+LIF, (D) downregulated genes in +2i+LIF, and (E) downregulated genes in -2i+LIF (n=3 for all). Many genes are only upregulated in single or double knock-outs only, therefore knock-outs are not epistatic. Related to Figure 7.

Figure S12

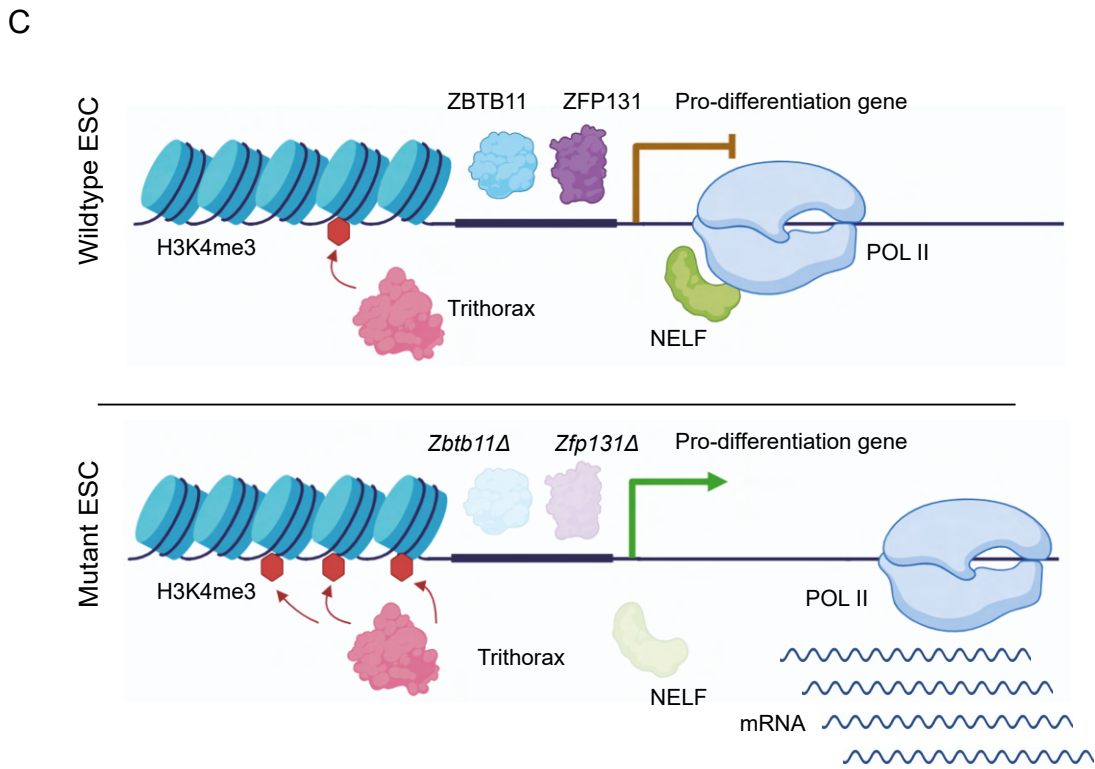
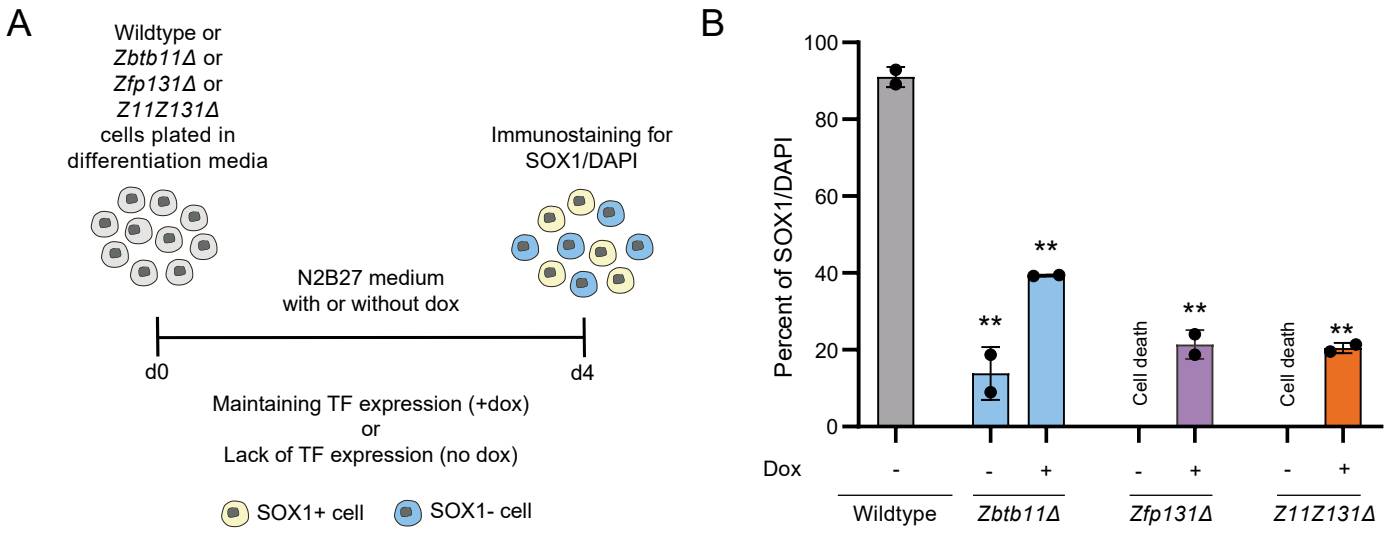


Figure S12. Maintaining ZBTB TF expression preserves pluripotency and blocks differentiation.

(A) Schematic overview of NPC differentiation in the absence of ZBTB TFs or while forced expression of ZBTB TFs during differentiation.

(B) Differentiation efficiency calculated by SOX1+/DAPI in single and double knock-outs versus wt. Forced expression of single or both ZBTB TFs block differentiation efficiency. Lack of *Zbtb11Δ* reduces differentiation efficiency compared to wt. *Zbtb131Δ* and *Z11Z131Δ* cells did not survive in differentiation conditions (n=2).

Statistical analysis was performed by student's t-test, n.s. Not significant, *p<0.05, **p<0.005.

(C) Schematic overview of the mode-of-action of ZBTB11 and ZFP131 in ESCs. ZBTB11 and ZFP131 bind proximal to pro-differentiation genes. These genes contain POL II and NELF, and active chromatin features. Upon ZBTB11 and ZFP131 removal, TrxG increases activity, and POL II transcribes pro-differentiation genes causing ESC to differentiate and exit their pluripotent state.

Related to Figure 7.

Supplemental Table Titles and Legends

Supplementary Table 1. Mouse CRISPR TF library design.

Supplementary Table 2. Mouse CRISPR TF library results.

Supplementary Table 3. sgRNAs used for dual-color pluripotency reporter screen, primers and plasmids used in this study.