

# Arabidopsis BORDER proteins put the breaks on RNA polymerase II elongation



Scott Michaels



Xuhong Yu

Pascal GP MARTIN



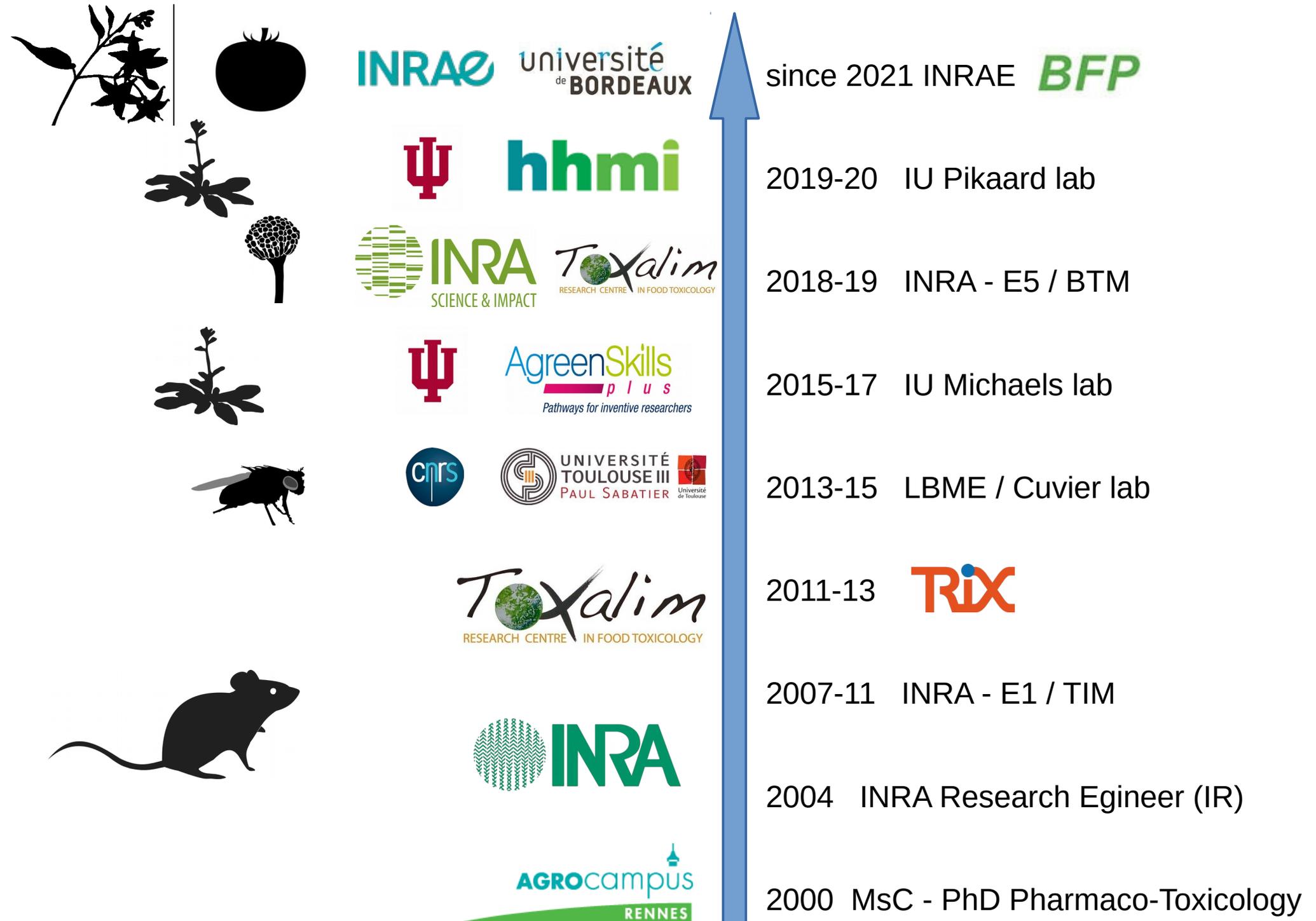
[pascal.martin@inrae.fr](mailto:pascal.martin@inrae.fr)

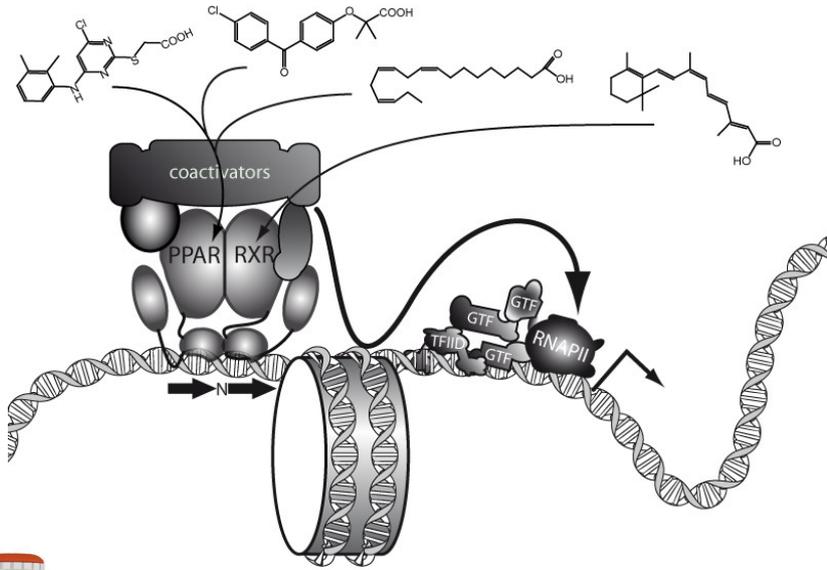


[@PgpMartin](https://twitter.com/PgpMartin)



# My career path... in logos...

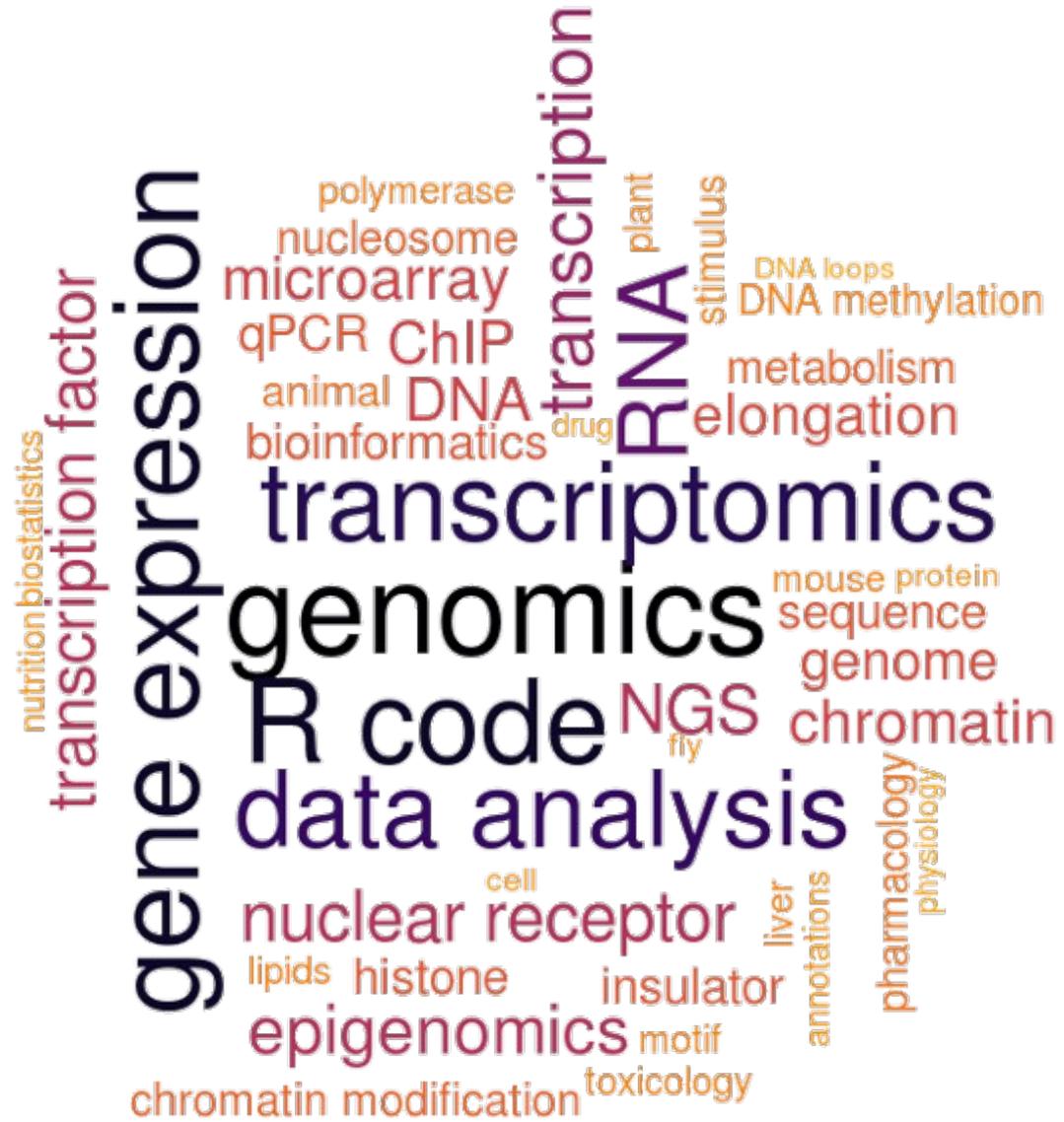




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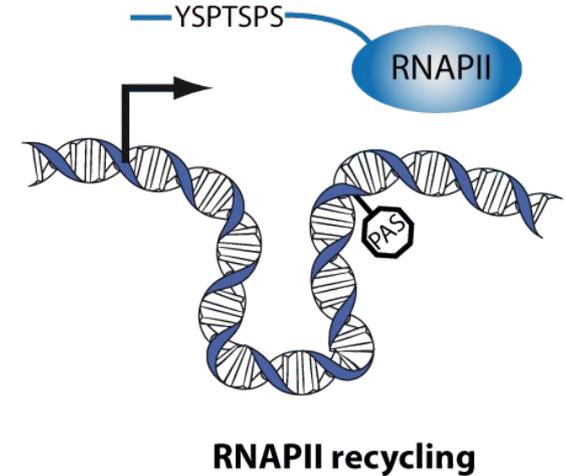
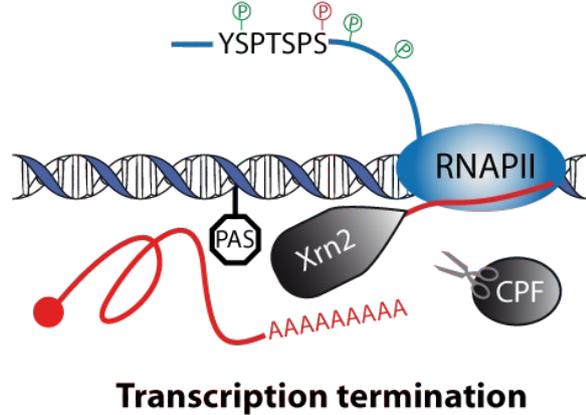
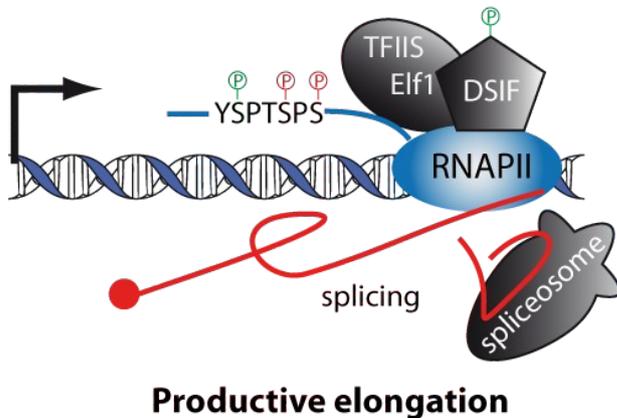
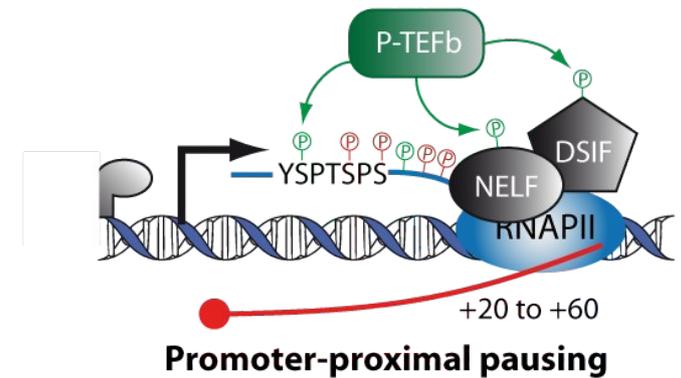
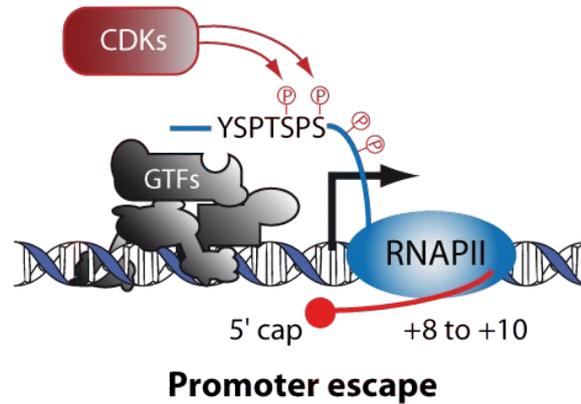
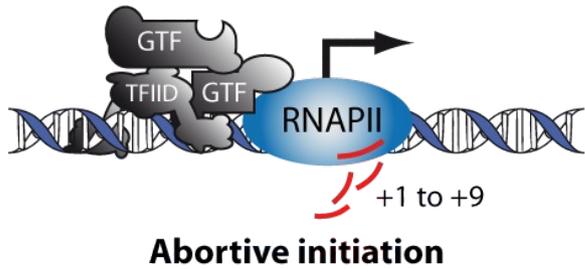
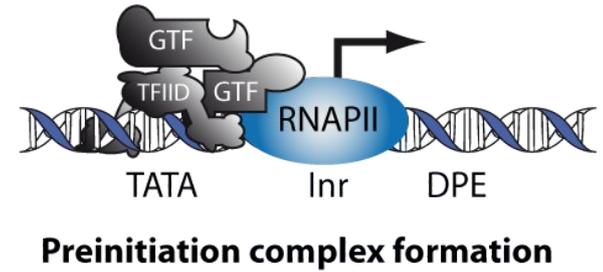
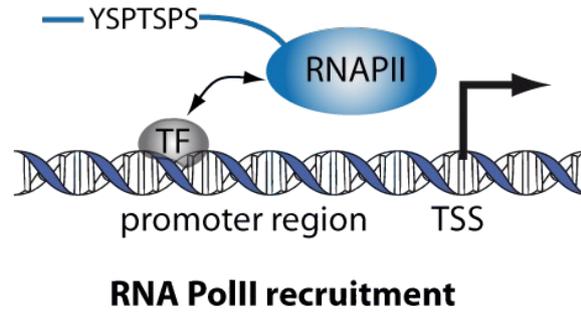
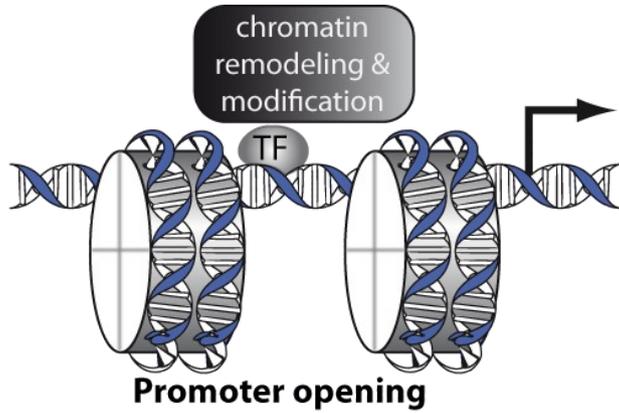
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document.getElementById(div).innerHTML += 'Valid email address: ' + inputs[i] + '\n';

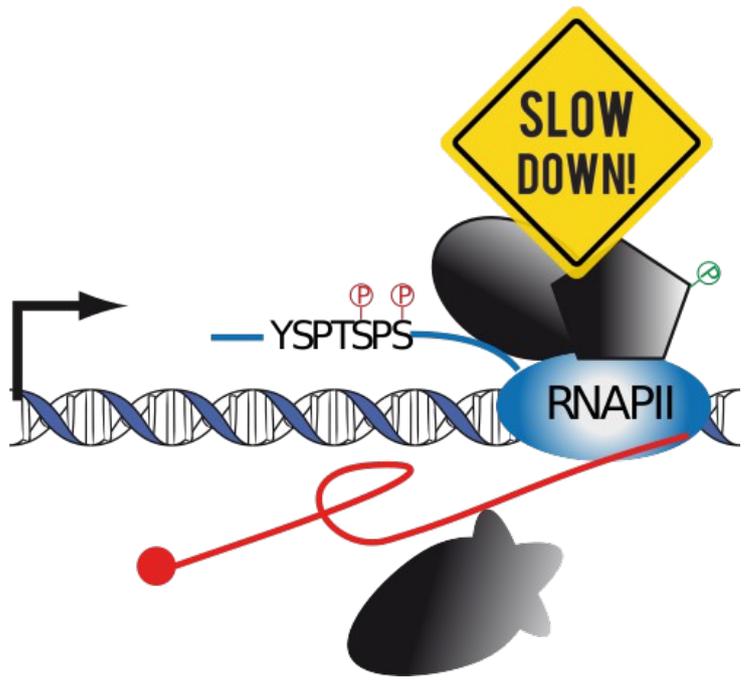
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# RNA polymerase II transcription

Roeder, TIBS 1996  
 Margaritis & Holstege, Cell 2008  
 Zaborowska et al., NSMB 2016  
 Ngoc et al., Genes Dev 2017



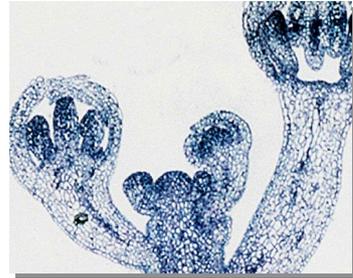
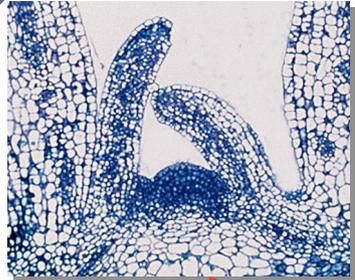


Transcriptional interferences

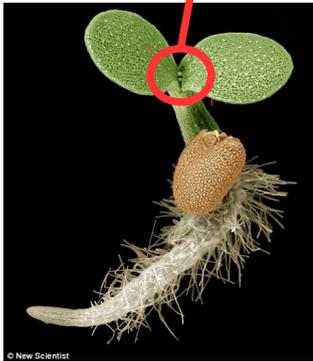
Occlusion / gene repression

Long term gene silencing

# New actors in the regulation of flowering time



Flowering



"Autonomous pathway" genes repress FLC



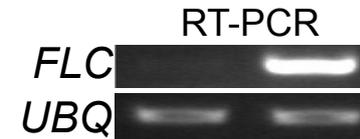
Wild-type



AP mutant



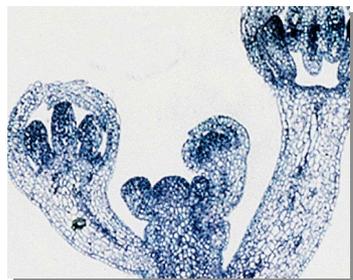
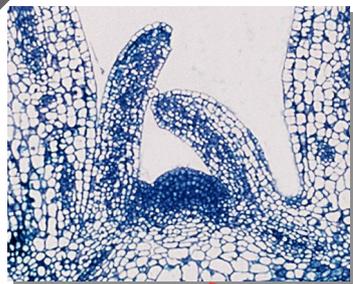
Flowering



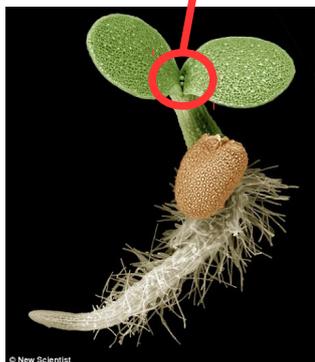
Flowering

Michaels & Amasino, Plant Cell 1999  
Amasino & Michaels, Plant Physiol 2010  
Wu et al., Plant Physiol 2020

# New actors in the regulation of flowering time



Flowering



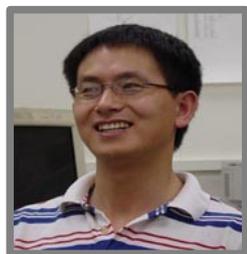
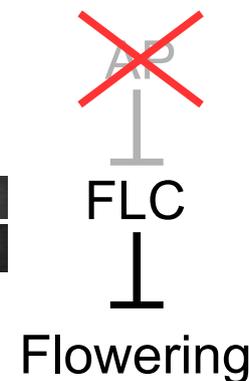
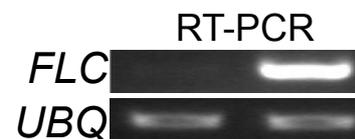
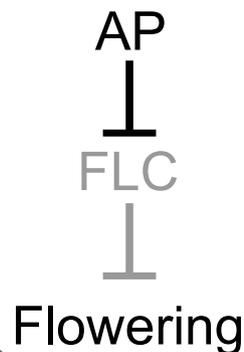
"Autonomous pathway" genes repress FLC



Wild-type

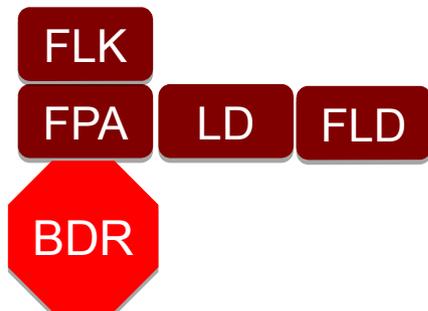


AP mutant



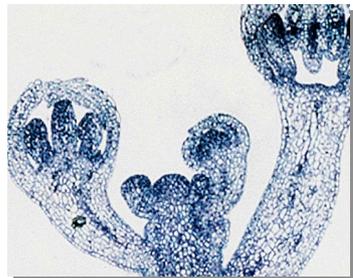
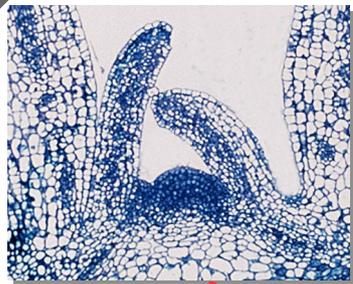
Xuhong Yu

Yeast 2 Hybrid

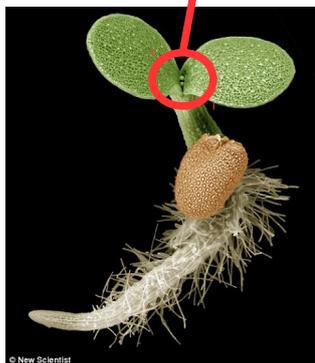


Michaels & Amasino, Plant Cell 1999  
Amasino & Michaels, Plant Physiol 2010  
Wu et al., Plant Physiol 2020

# New actors in the regulation of flowering time



Flowering



"Autonomous pathway" genes repress FLC



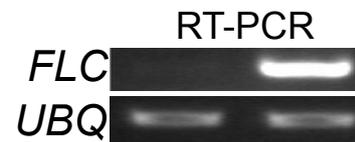
Wild-type



AP mutant

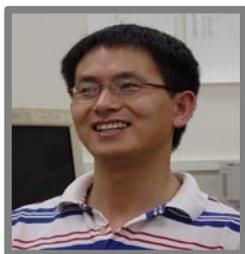


Flowering

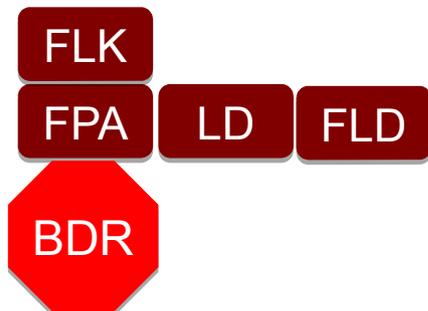


Flowering

Michaels & Amasino, Plant Cell 1999  
 Amasino & Michaels, Plant Physiol 2010  
 Wu et al., Plant Physiol 2020



Xuhong Yu

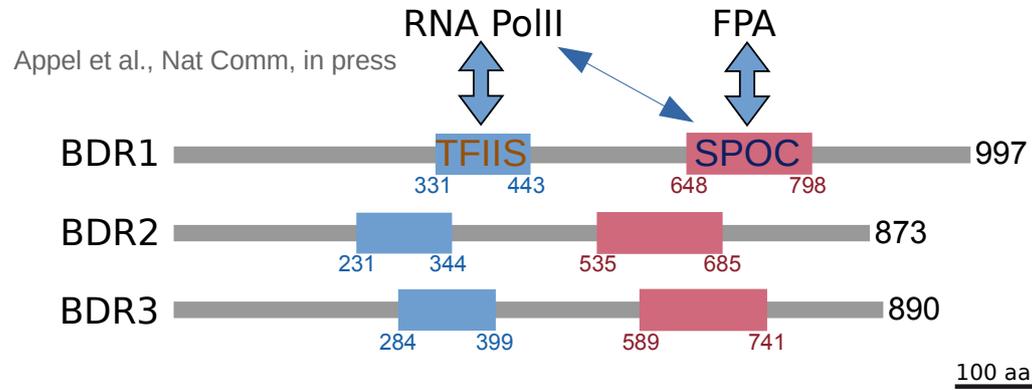


Yeast 2 Hybrid

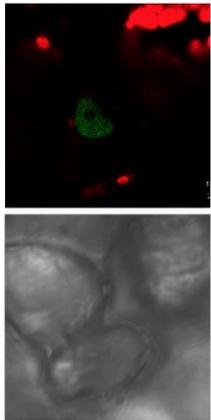


100 aa

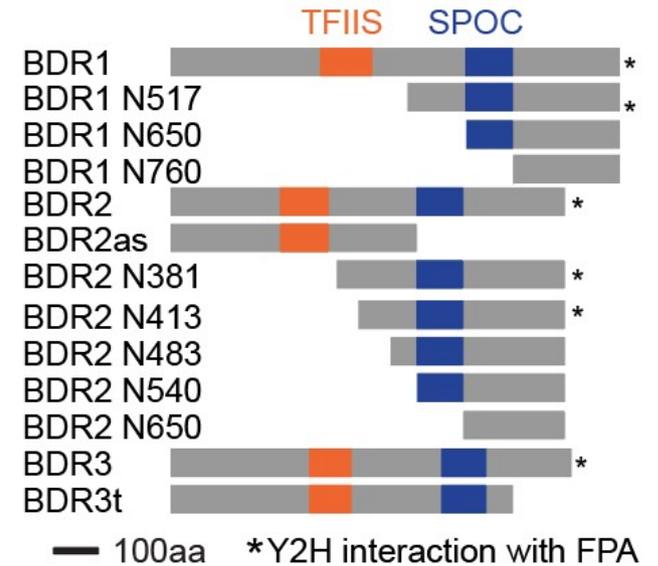
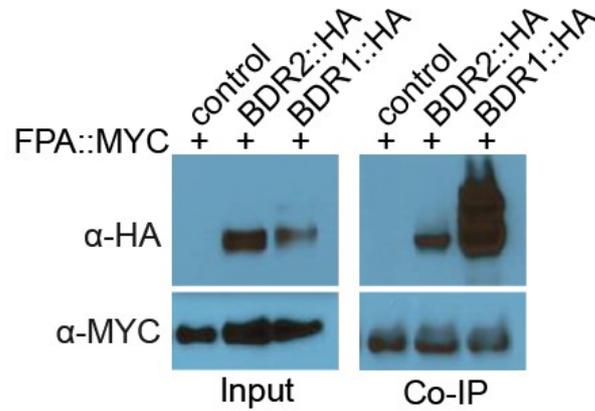
# BORDER proteins interact with FPA



## BiFC



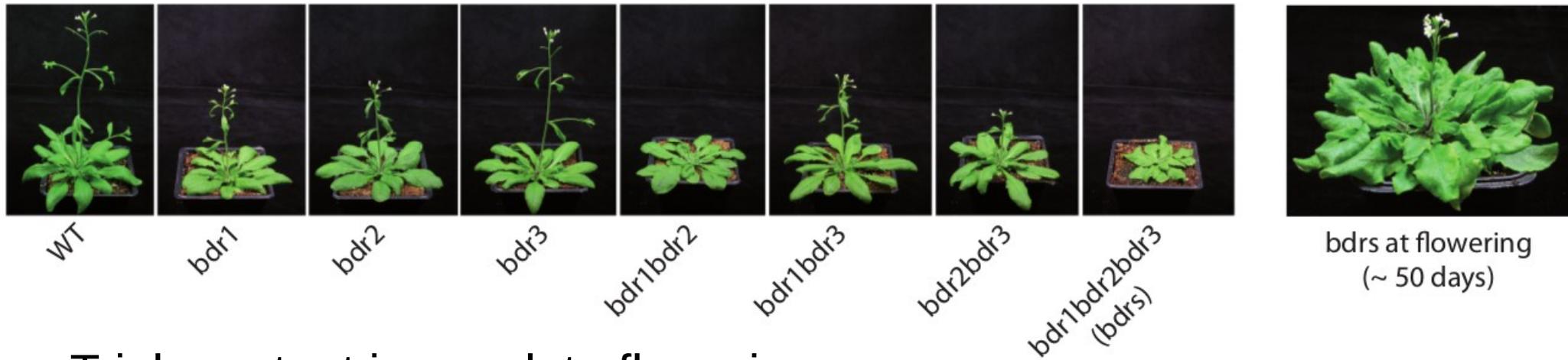
pNYFP::FPA+  
pCCFP::BDR1



+ IP-MS  
+ ChIP-seq

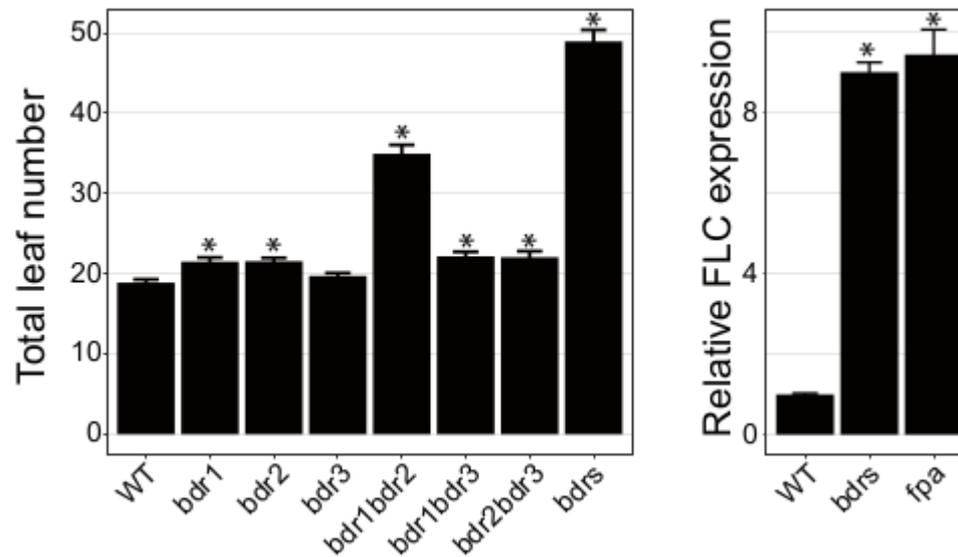
# BDRs redundantly regulate flowering in *Arabidopsis thaliana*

A.

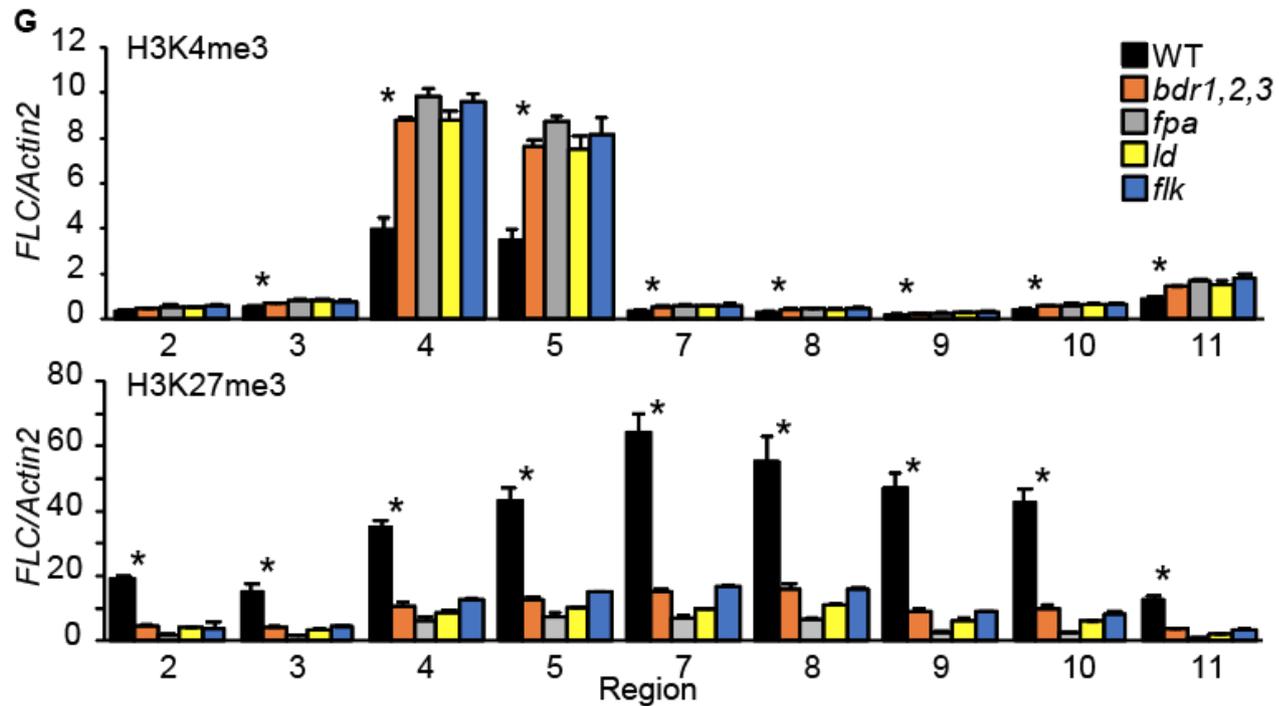
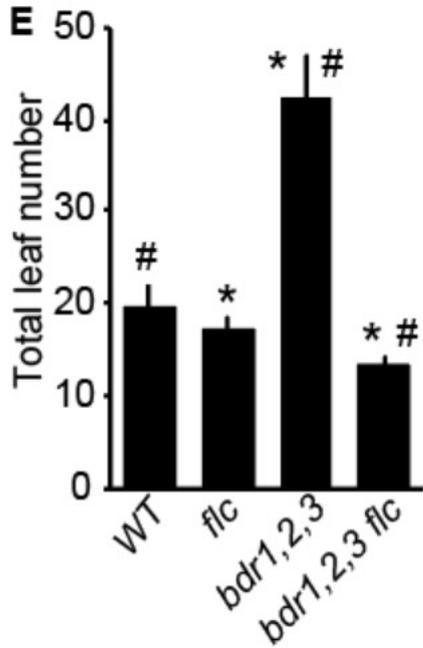
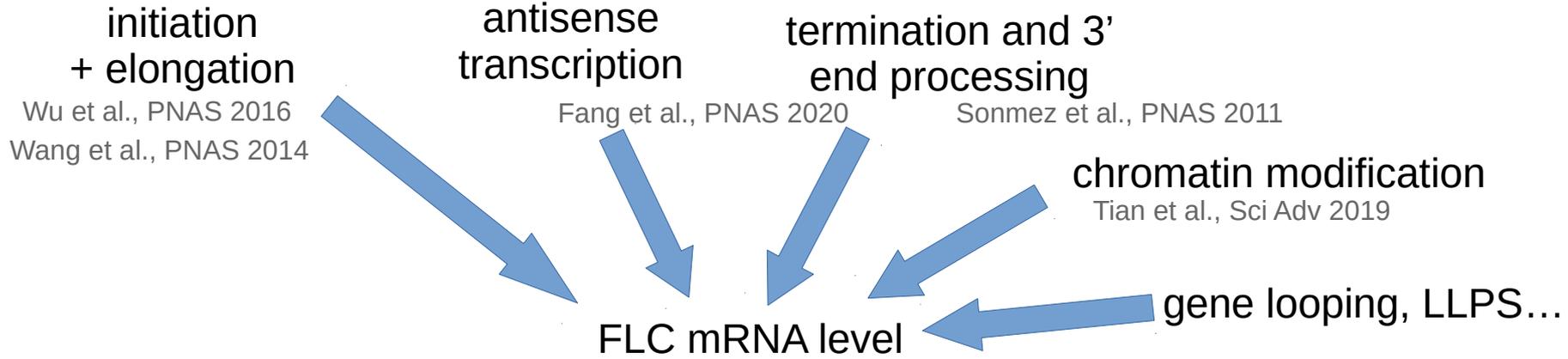


- Triple mutant is very late flowering
- High level of FLC expression

B.

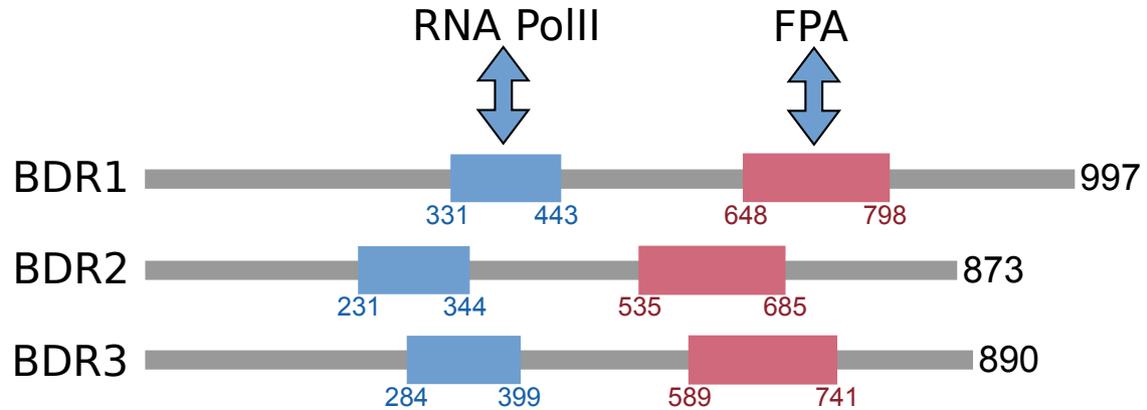


# BDRs redundantly regulate flowering in *Arabidopsis thaliana*



# A family of protein with common structural domains

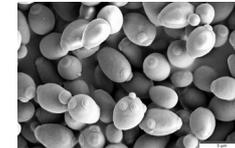
PFAM  
HMMER



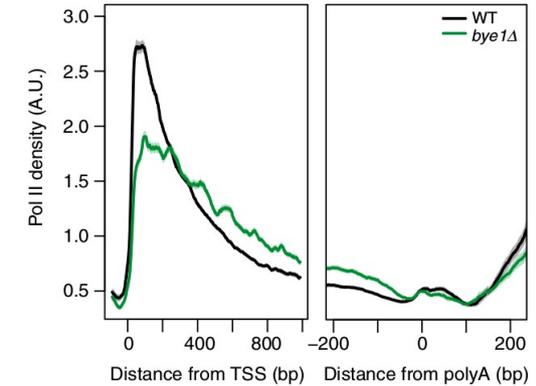
100 aa



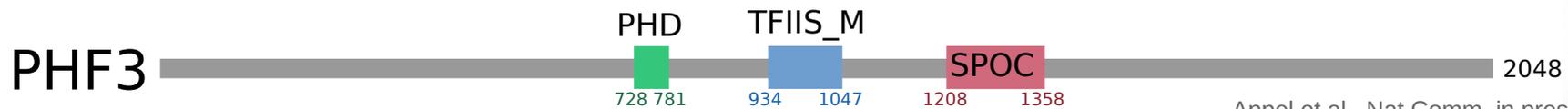
Wu et al., Genetics 2003  
Pinskaya et al., PloS One 2014  
Harlen & Churchman, Mol Syst Biol 2017



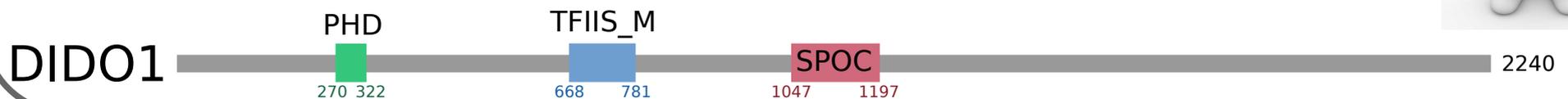
M Das Murtey & P Ramasamy



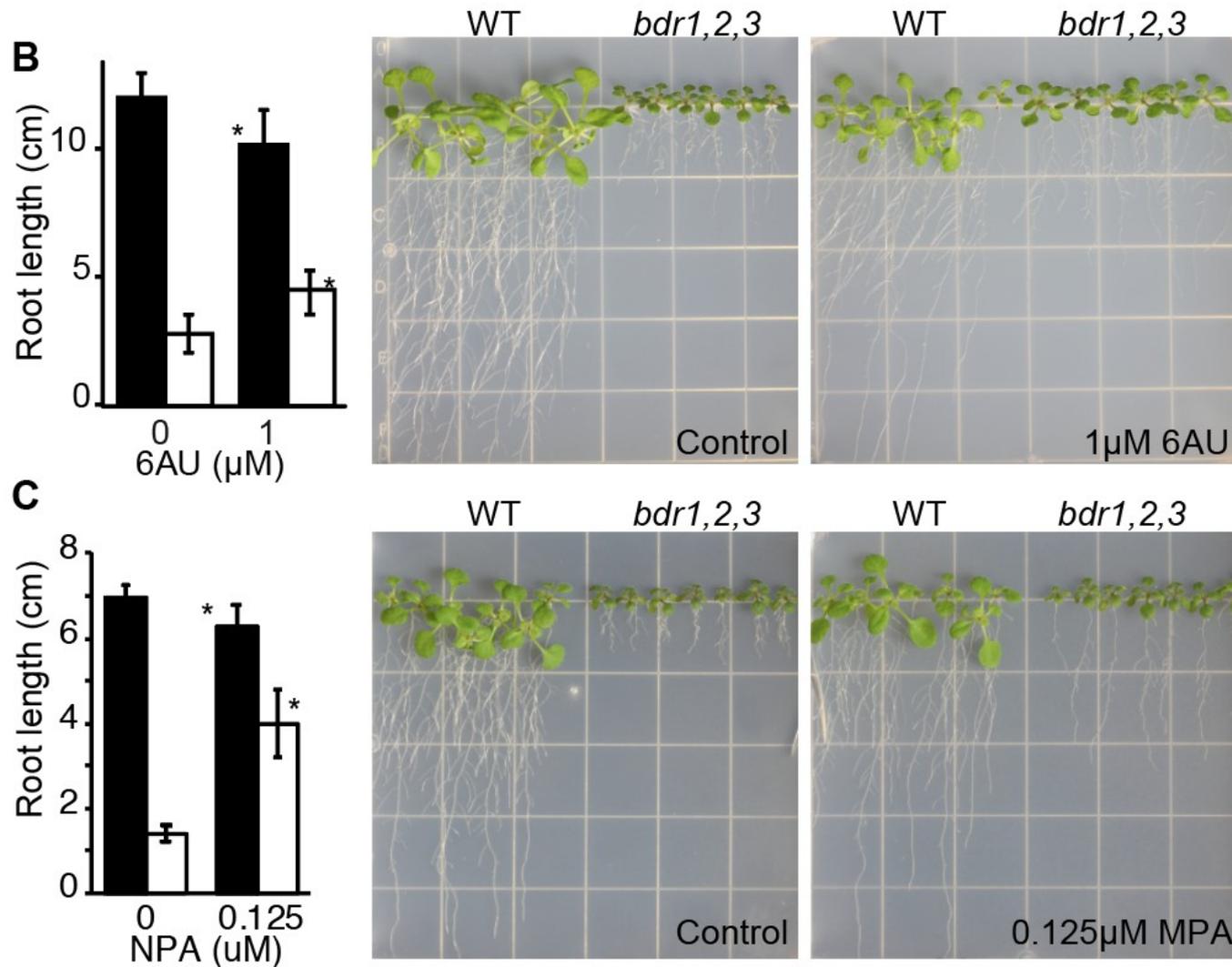
Zoch et al., Nature, 2020



Appel et al., Nat Comm, in press

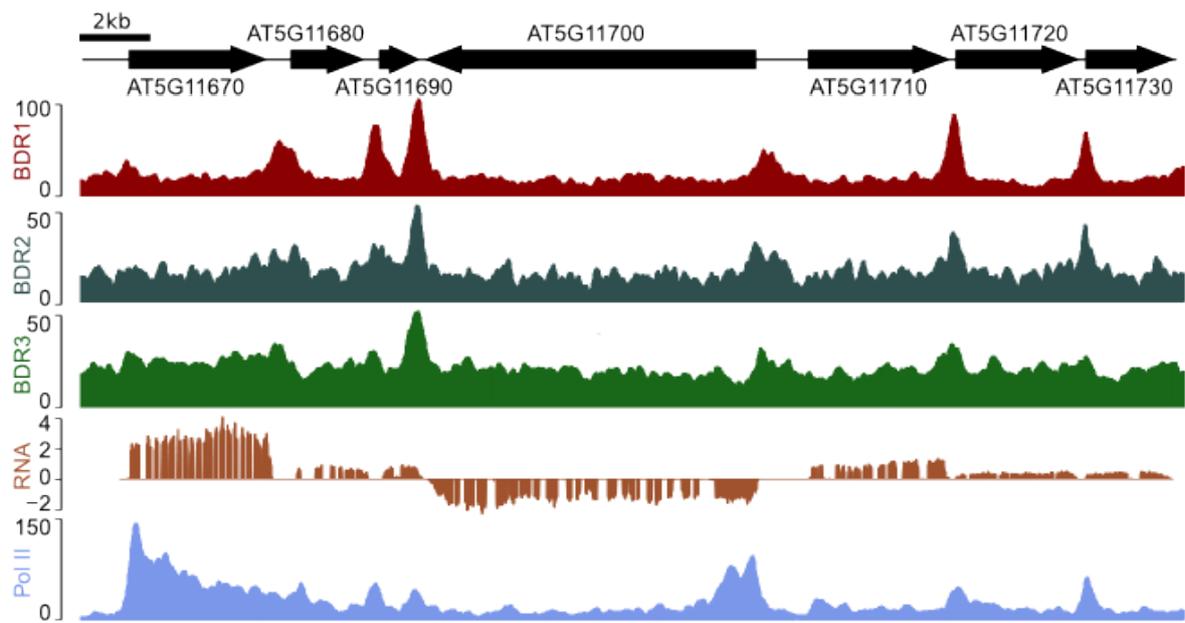
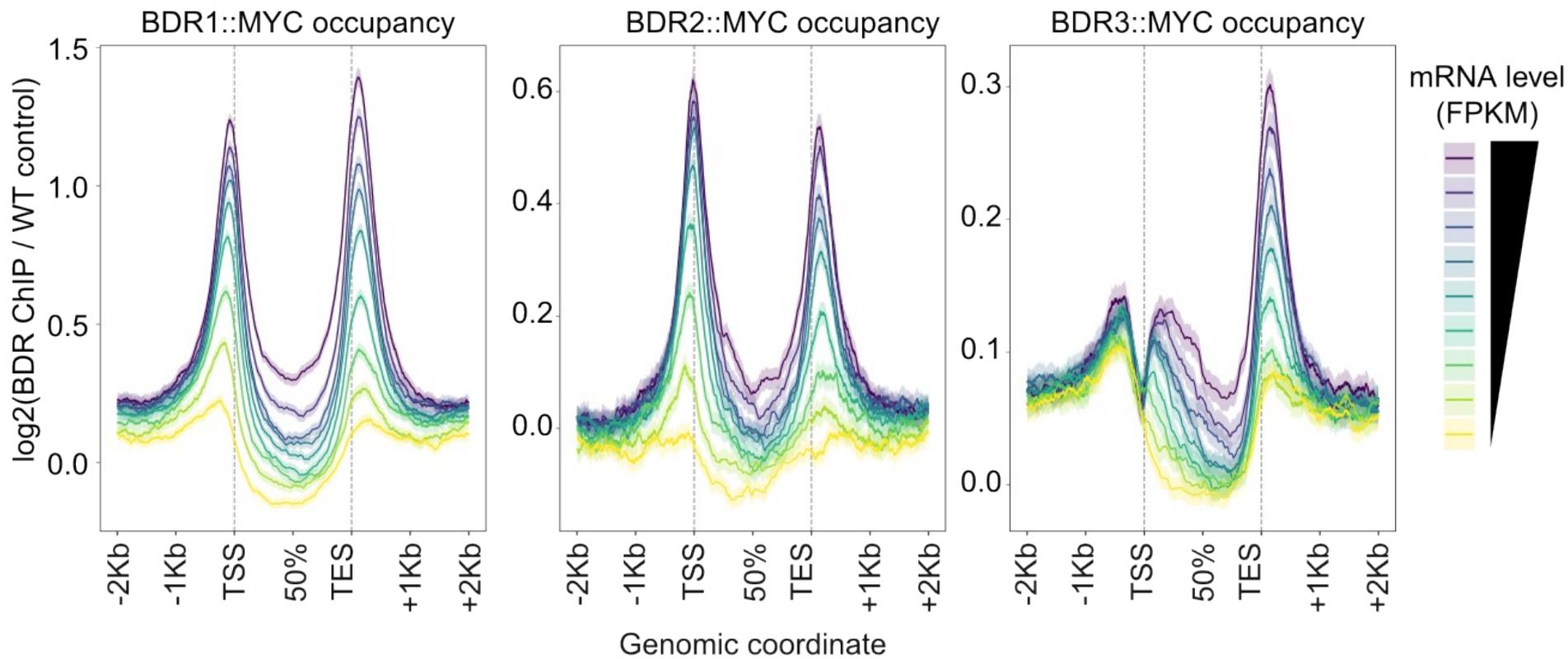


# BDRs are putative negative transcription elongation factors

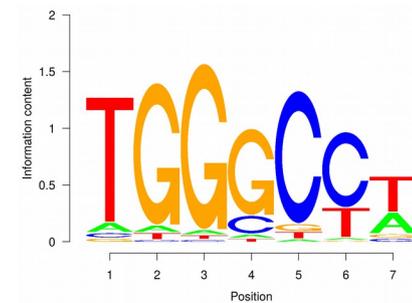
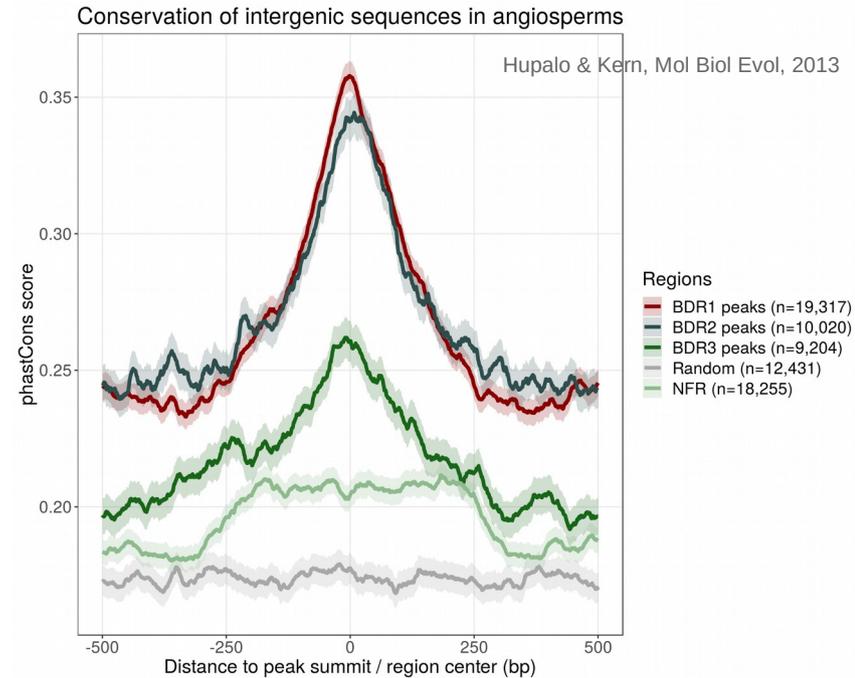
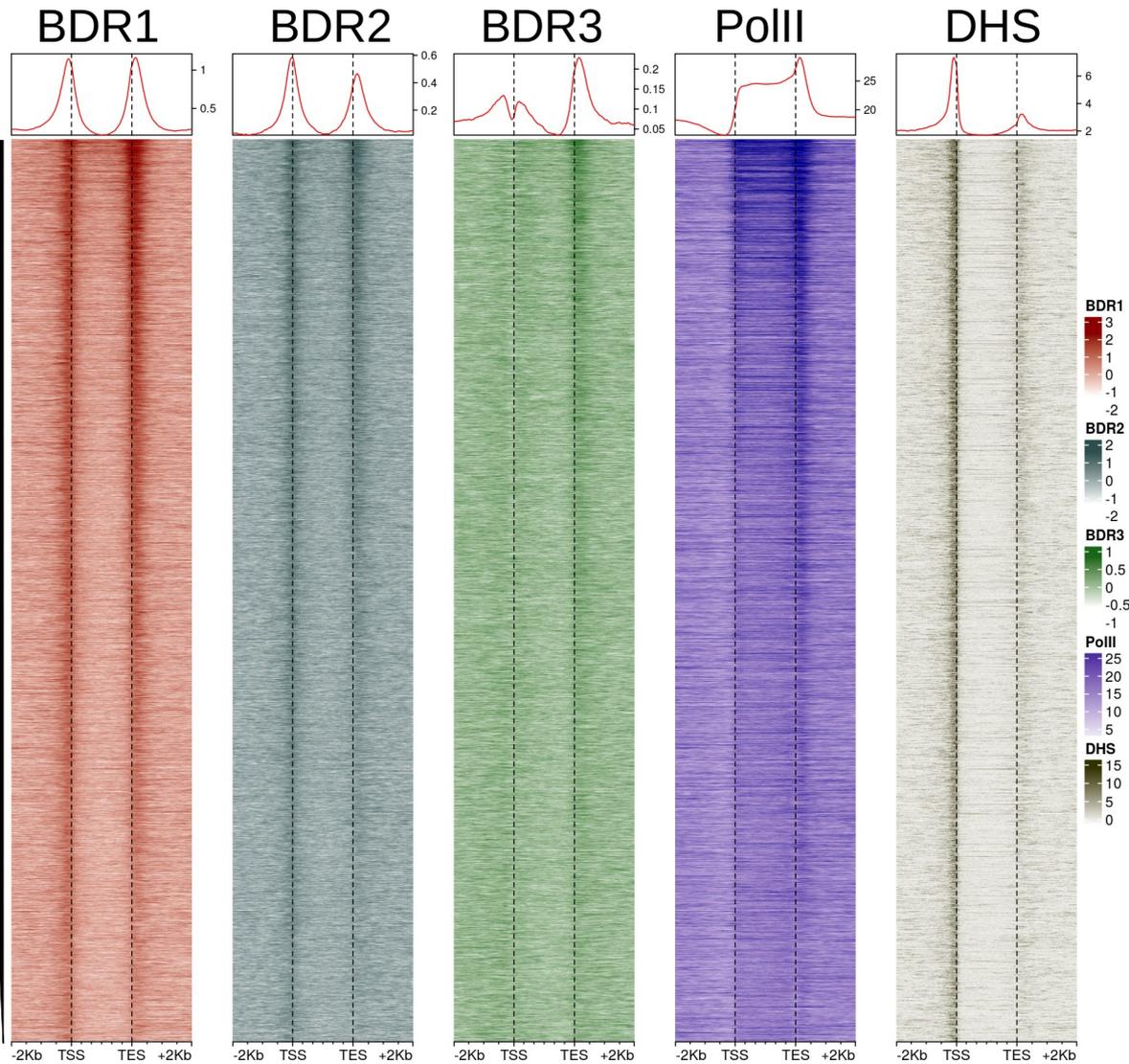


➔ Short root phenotype in *bdr1,2,3* is partially reversed by inhibitors of transcription elongation

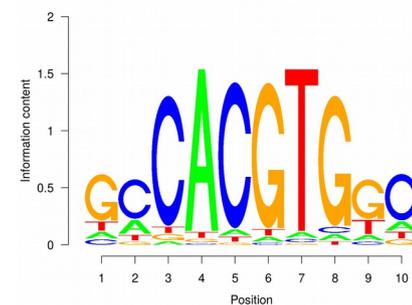
# BDRs are enriched at gene borders



# BDR peaks contain evolutionarily conserved sequences

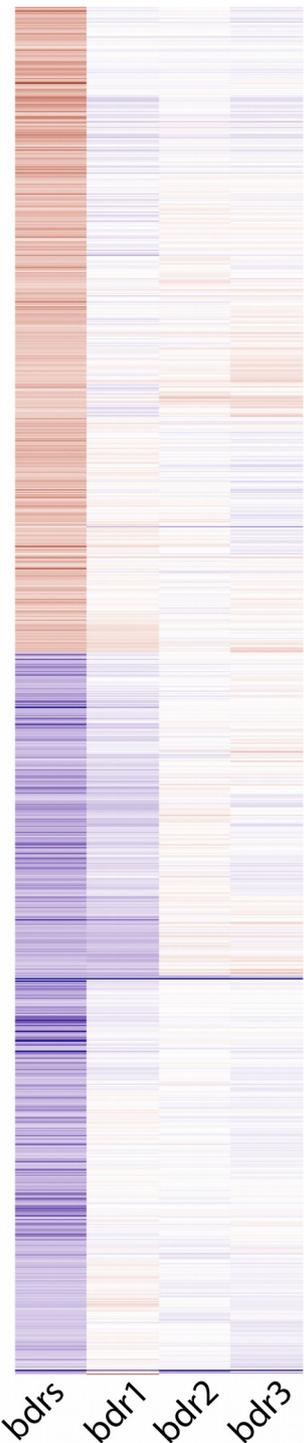


TCP-like  
(~45 % of peaks)



E-box  
(7 % of peaks)

# BDR proteins regulate the expression of hundreds of genes

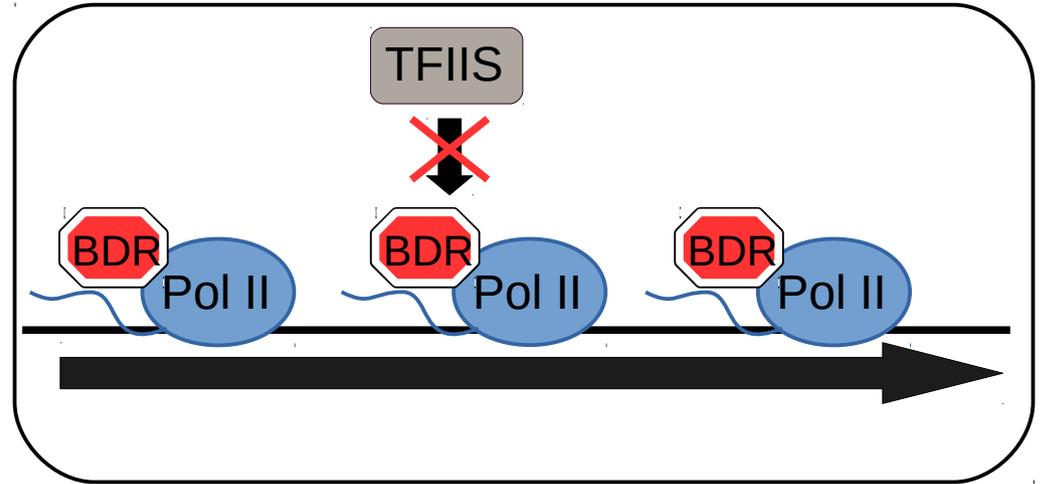


log2 FC  
4  
2  
0  
-2  
-4

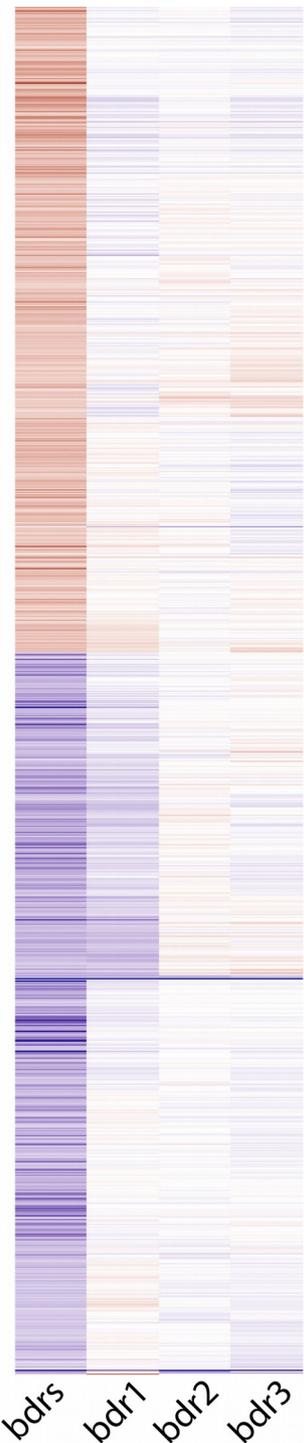
529 genes  
upregulated

592 genes  
downregulated

Negative transcription elongation factor



# BDR proteins regulate the expression of hundreds of genes

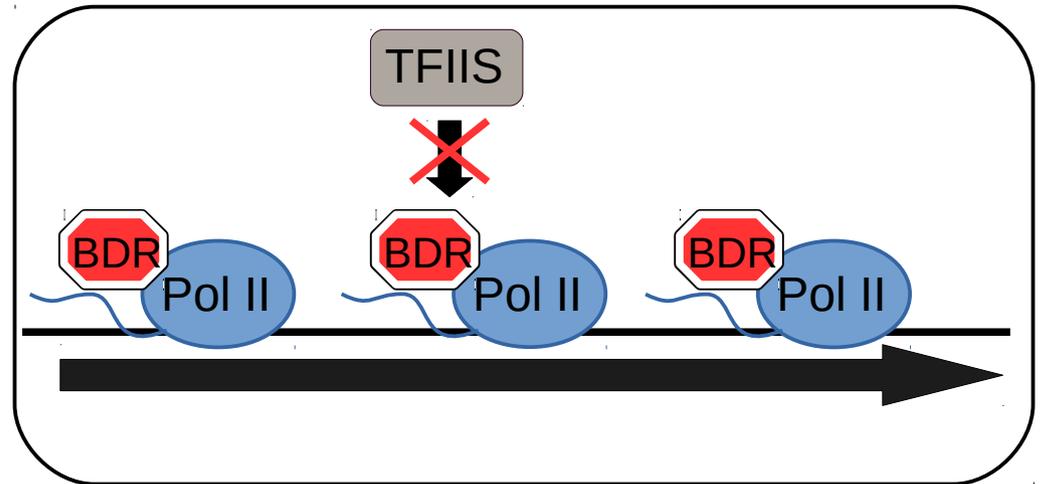


log2 FC  
4  
2  
0  
-2  
-4

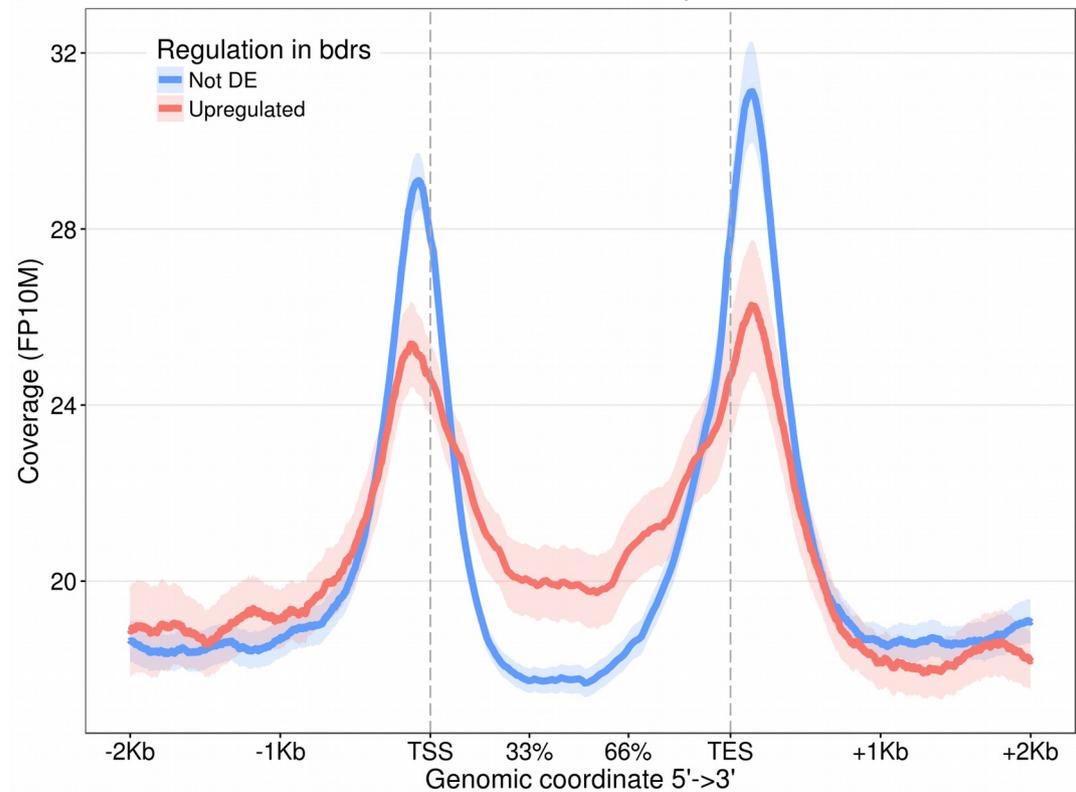
529 genes  
upregulated

592 genes  
downregulated

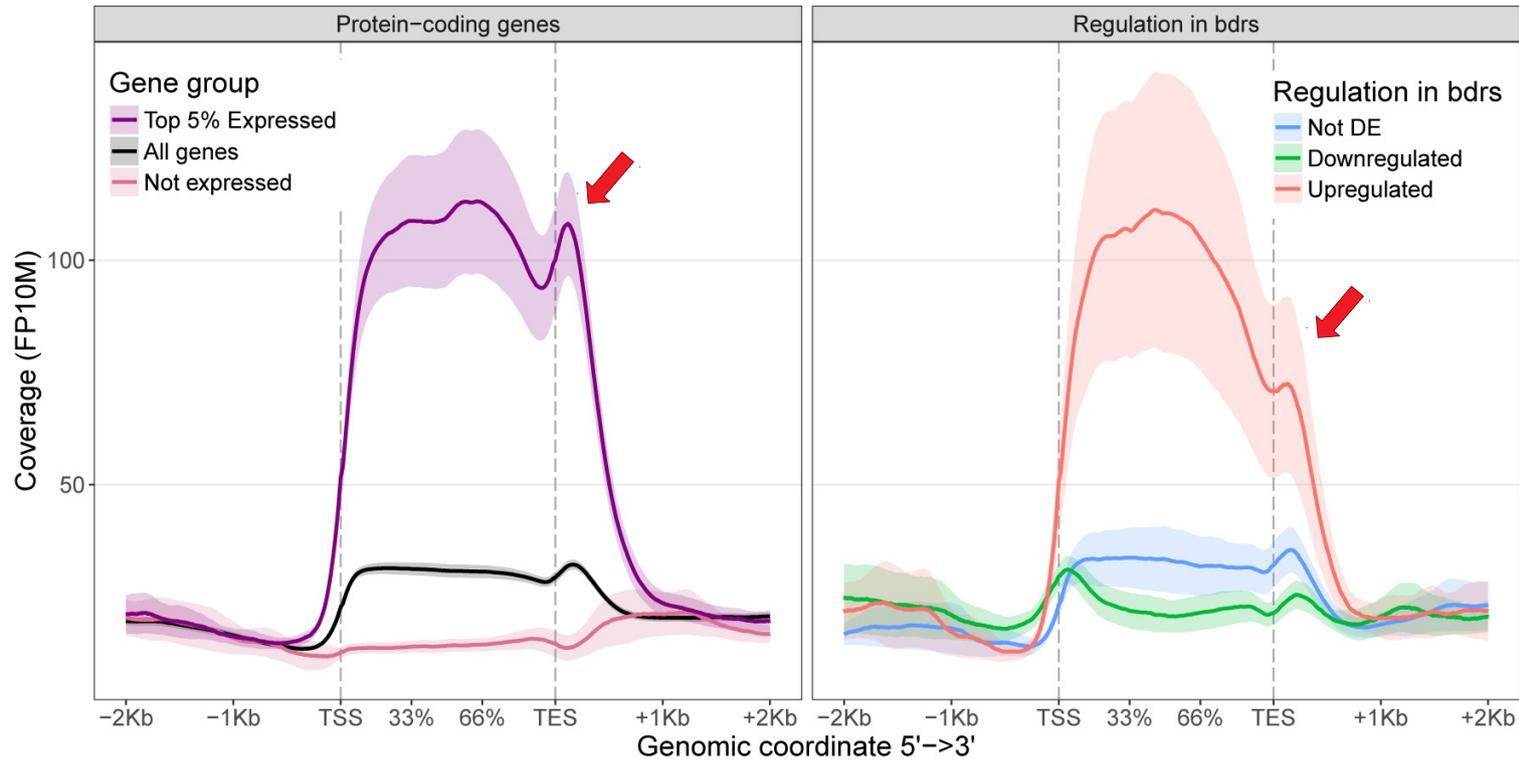
## Negative transcription elongation factor



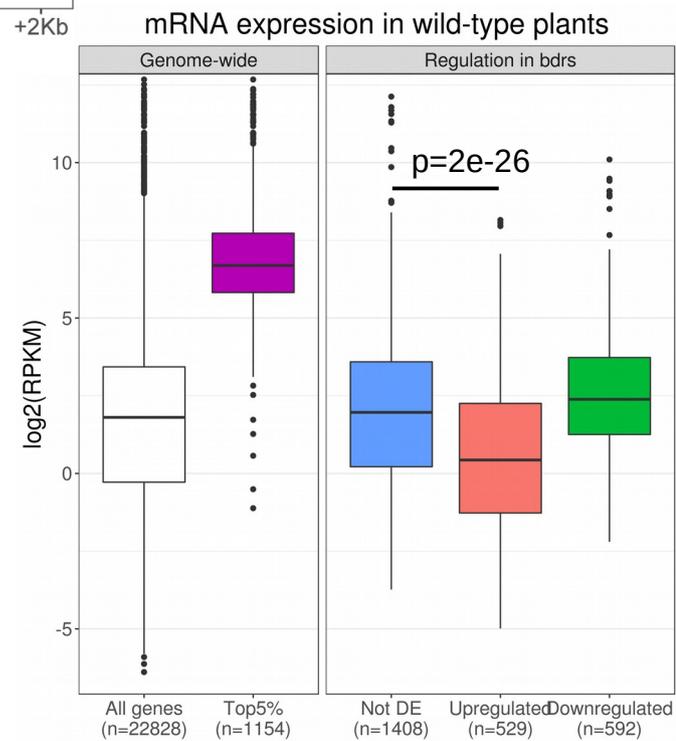
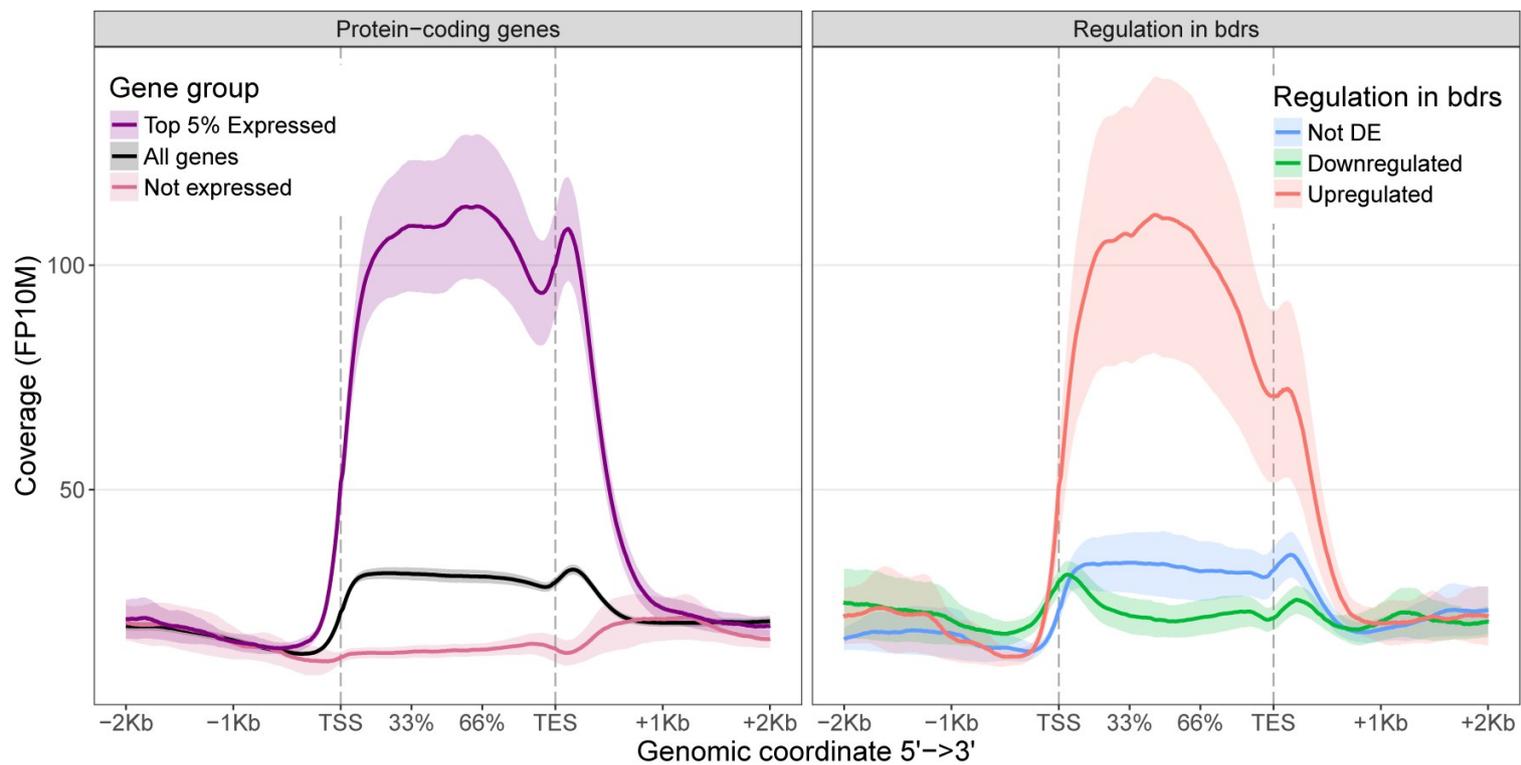
## BDR1 ChIPseq



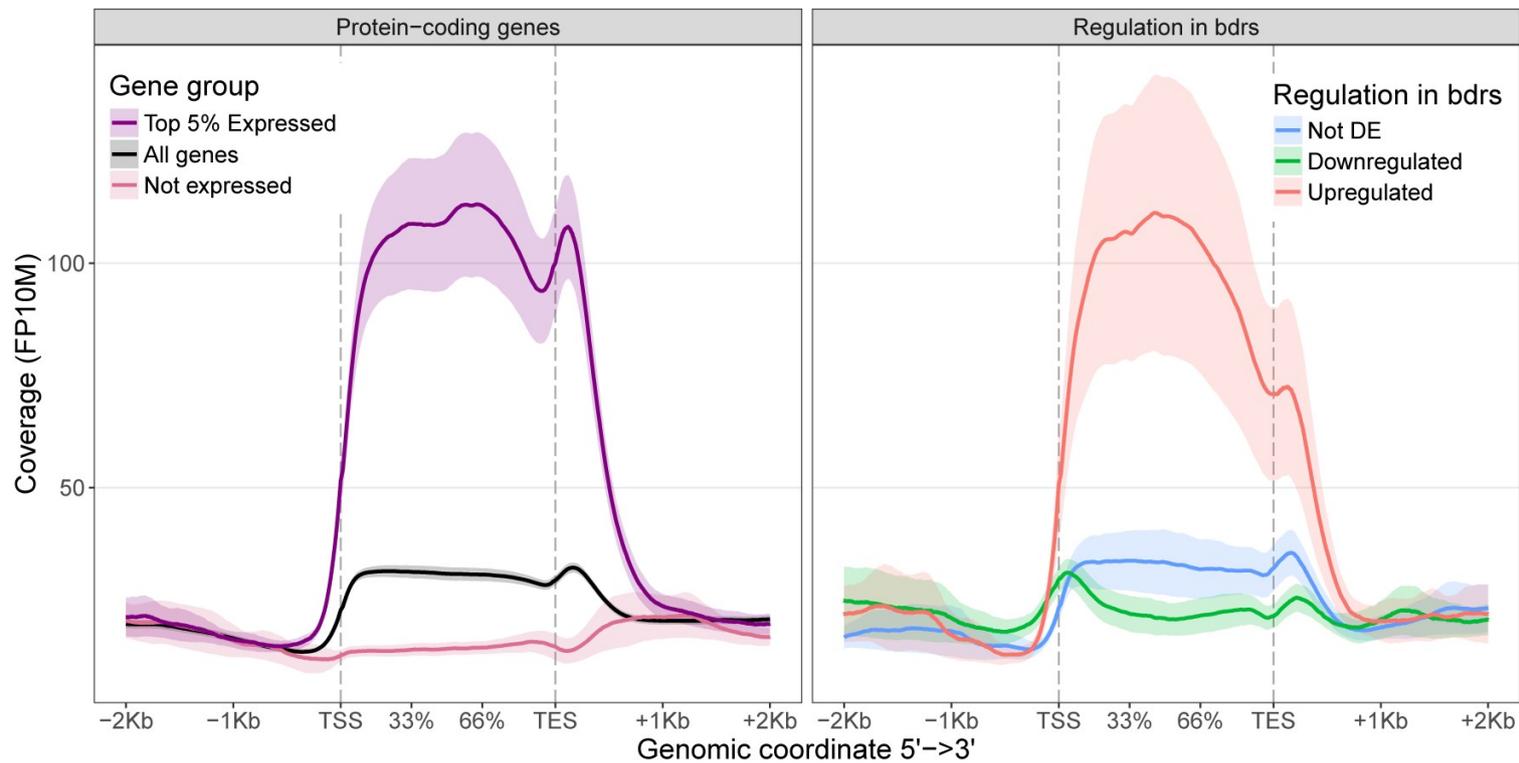
# Upregulated genes have high RNAPII but low RNA levels



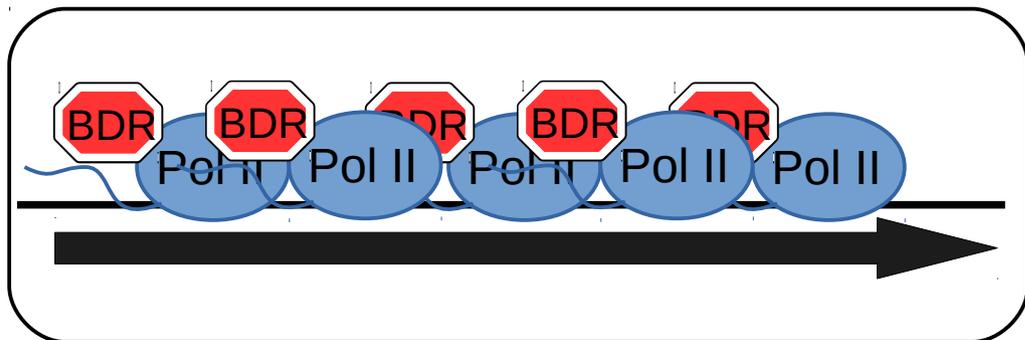
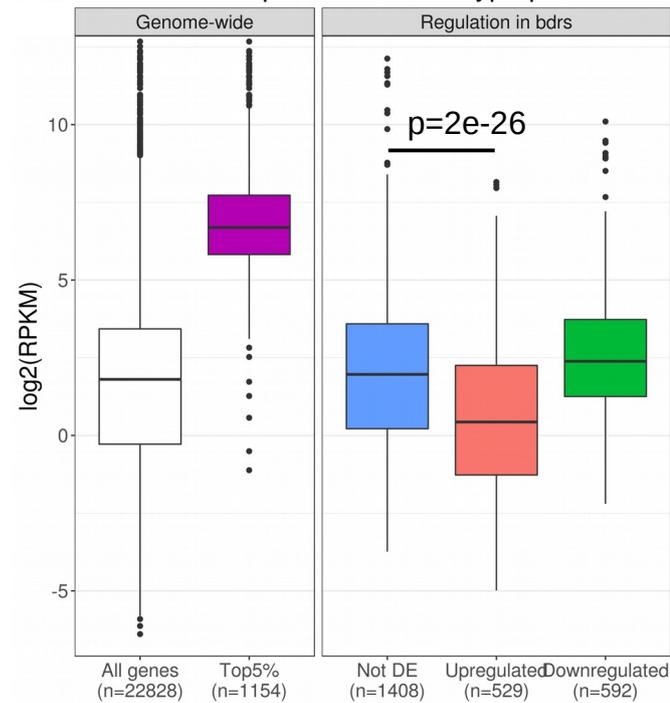
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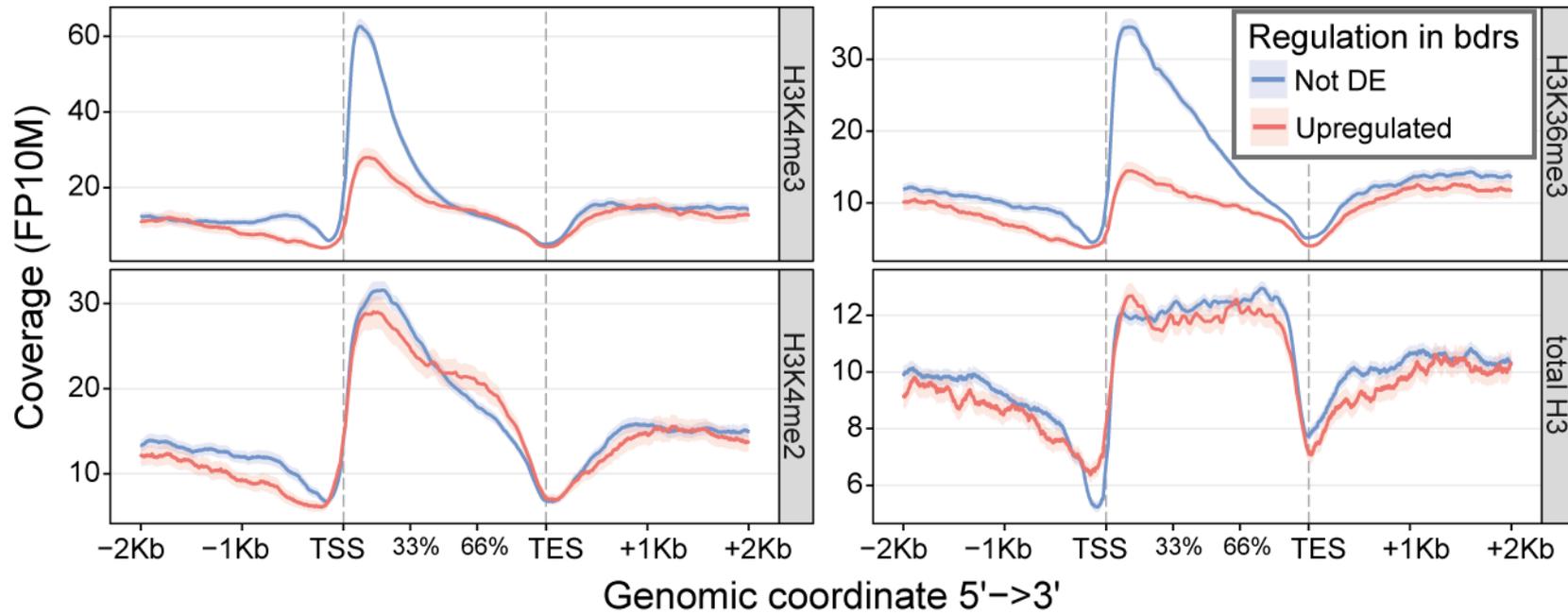
# Upregulated genes have high RNAPII but low RNA levels



mRNA expression in wild-type plants



# Evidences of increased elongation in bdr1,2,3 mutant



Genes

← AT3G44100  
protein\_coding\_gene

← AT3G44110  
protein\_coding\_gene

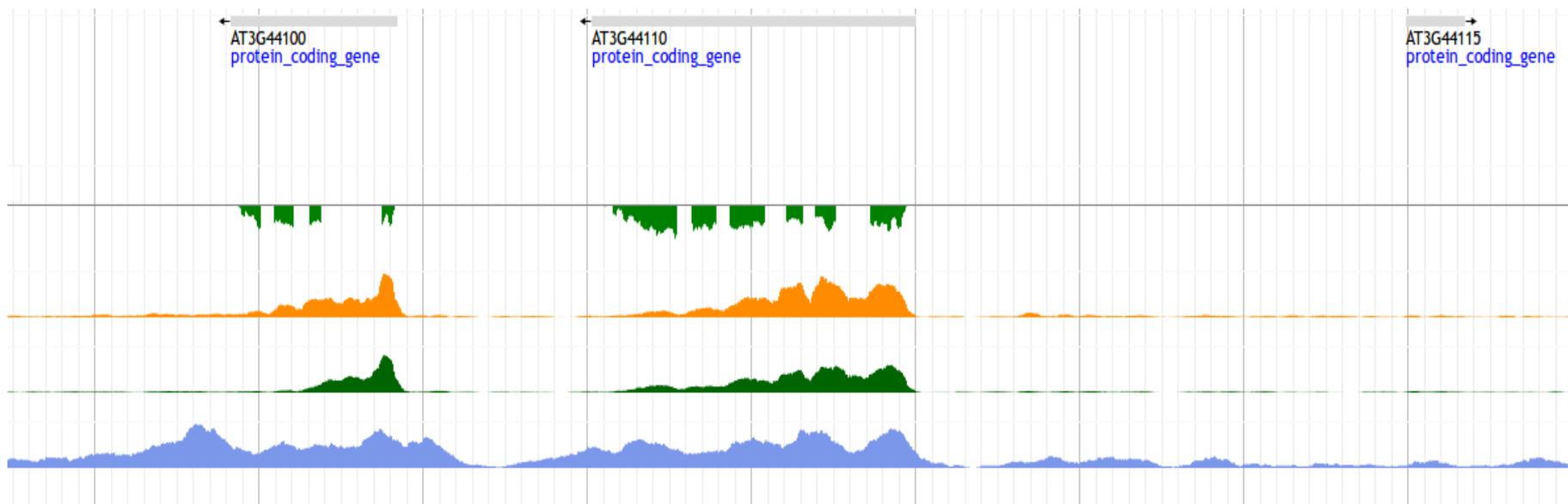
AT3G44115  
protein\_coding\_gene →

RNA

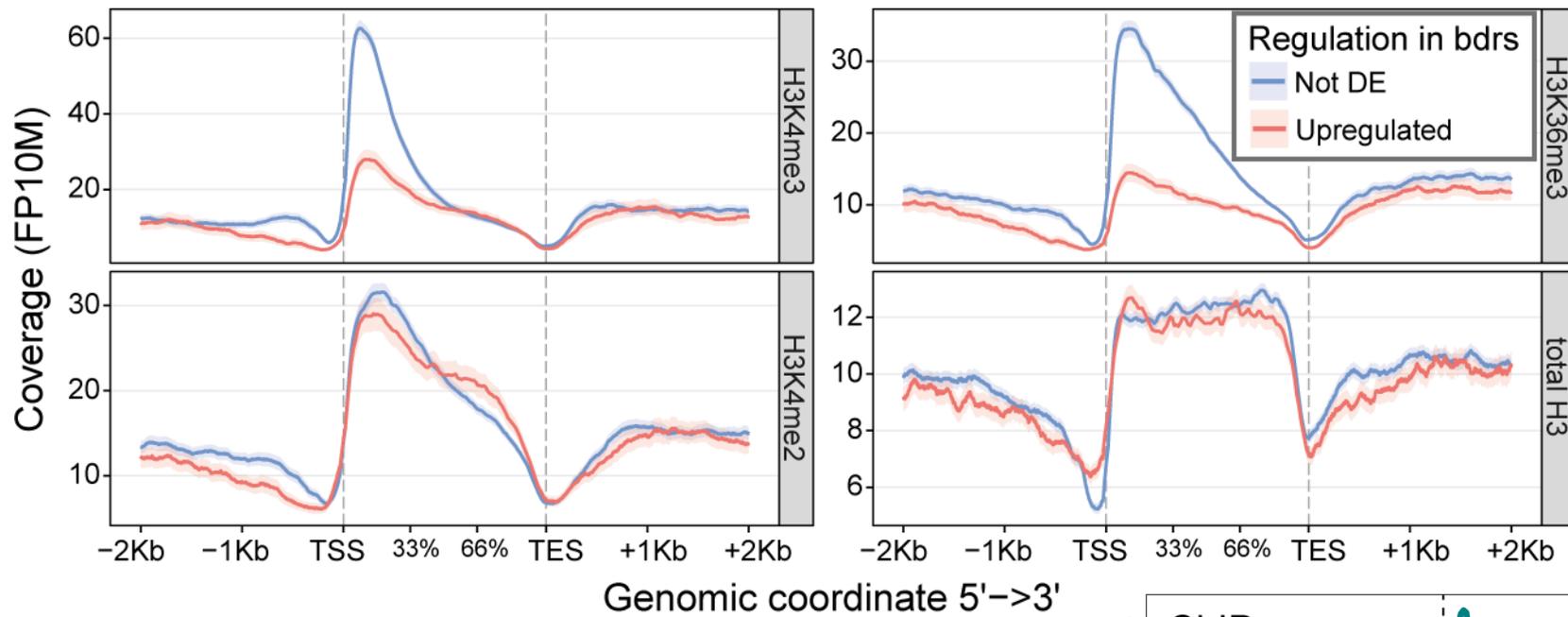
H3K36me3

H3K4me3

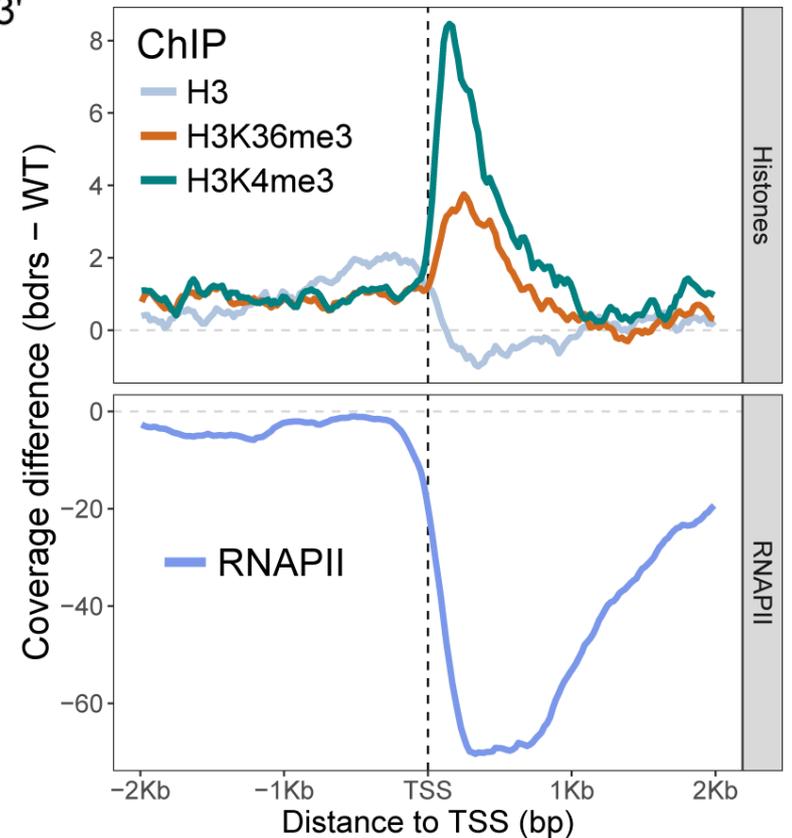
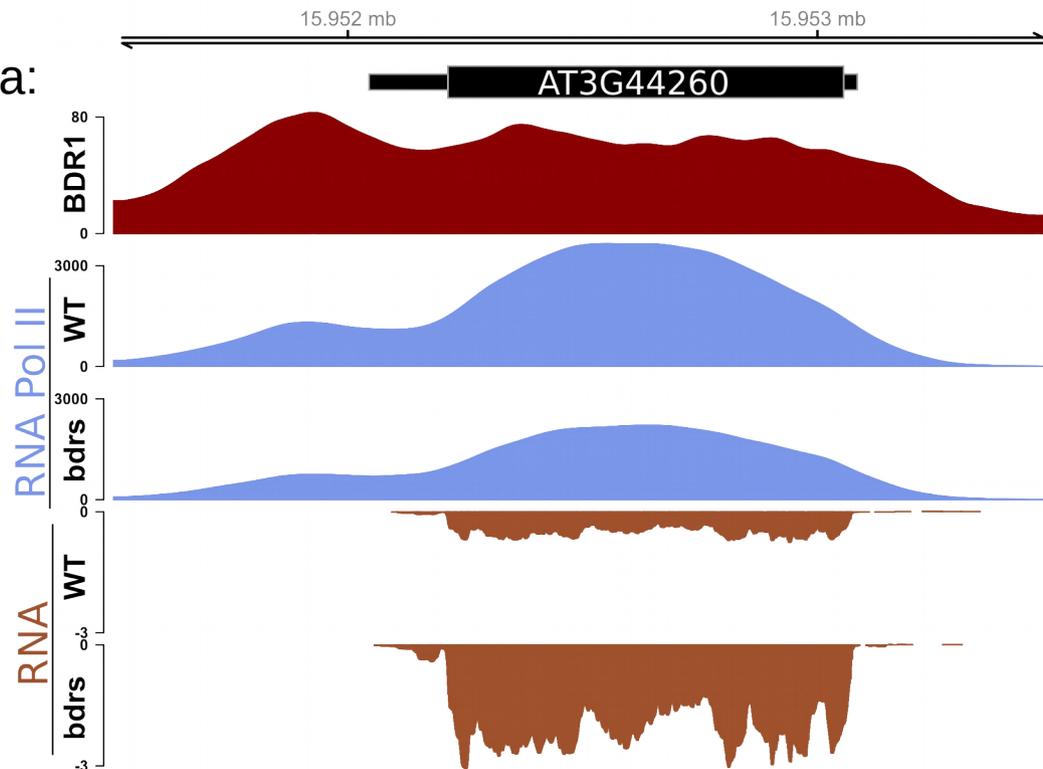
RNAPII



# Evidences of increased elongation in bdr1,2,3 mutant



CAF1a:



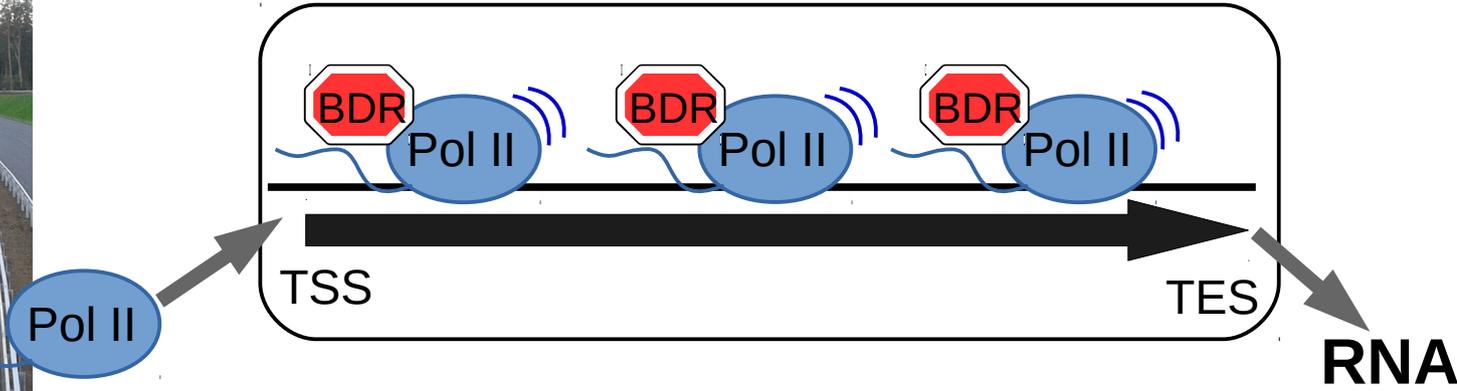
# The environment/TFs define the repertoires of upregulated genes



Initiation

Elongation

Termination

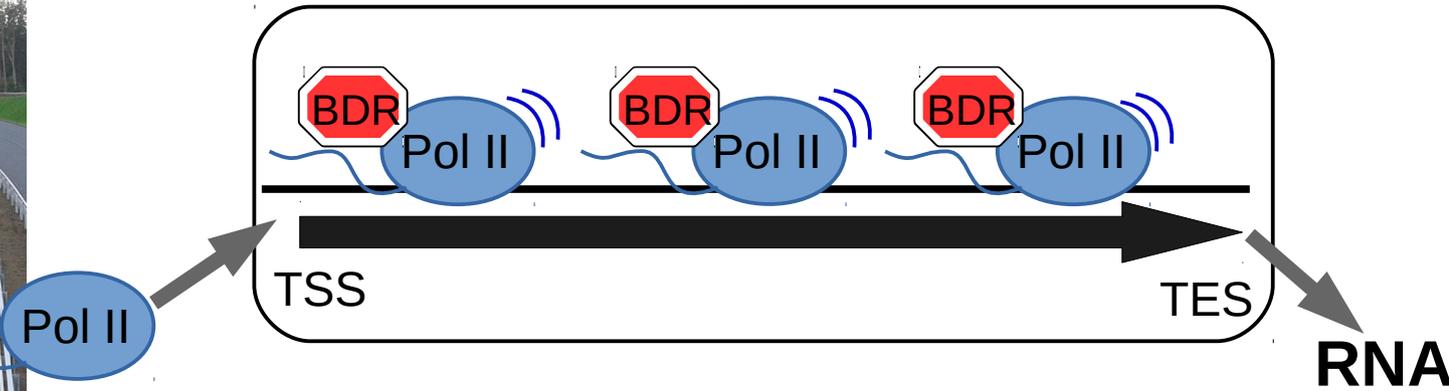


# The environment/TFs define the repertoires of upregulated genes

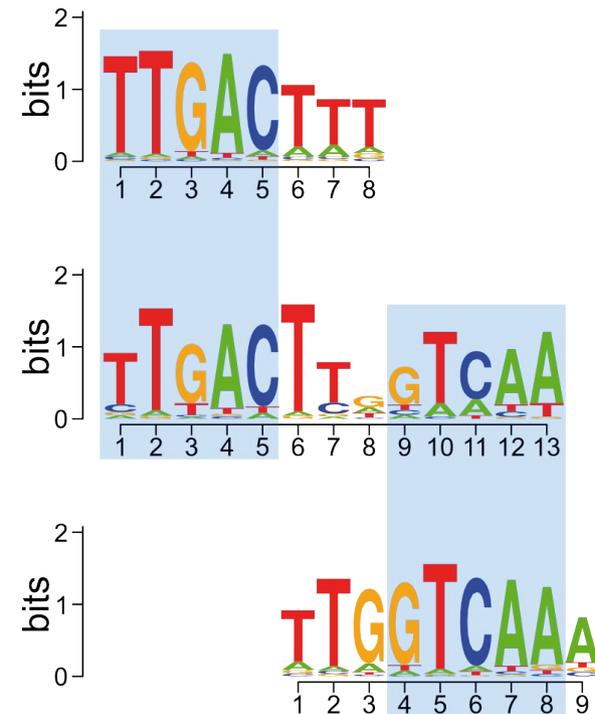
Initiation

Elongation

Termination



## W-box motifs



**WRKY  
TF**

## GO functions enriched in genes upregulated in bdrs mutant

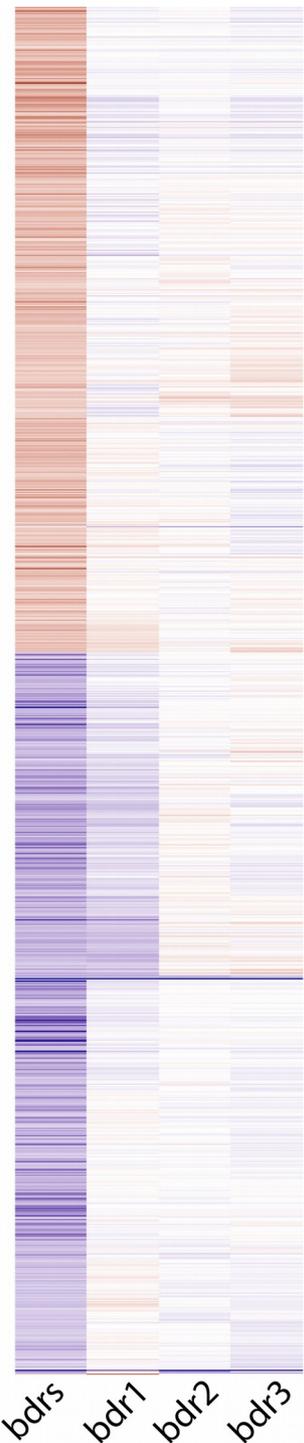
- salicylic acid mediated signaling pathway
- systemic acquired resistance
- salicylic acid biosynthetic process
- response to wounding
- jasmonic acid mediated signaling pathway
- protein targeting to membrane
- defense response to bacterium
- respiratory burst involved in defense response
- response to chitin
- defense response to fungus
- amino acid transport
- negative regulation of programmed cell death
- cellular response to hypoxia
- regulation of plant-type hypersensitive response
- oligopeptide transport
- MAPK cascade
- negative regulation of defense response
- regulation of defense response
- regulation of hydrogen peroxide metab...
- defense response to fungus, incompat...
- defense response
- hyperosmotic salinity response
- intracellular signal transduction
- regulation of multi-organism process
- regulation of immune response
- amino acid import
- response to bacterium
- ethylene-activated signaling pathway
- endoplasmic reticulum unfolded protei...
- response to fungus
- defense response by callose deposition
- detection of biotic stimulus
- detection of bacterium
- ethylene biosynthetic process
- response to jasmonic acid
- response to nitrate
- jasmonic acid biosynthetic process
- nitrate transport
- response to other organism
- absicisic acid-activated signaling pathway
- systemic acquired resistance, salicyl...
- pathogen-associated molecular pattern...
- indoleacetic acid biosynthetic process

p-value

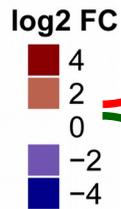




# BDR proteins regulate the expression of hundreds of genes

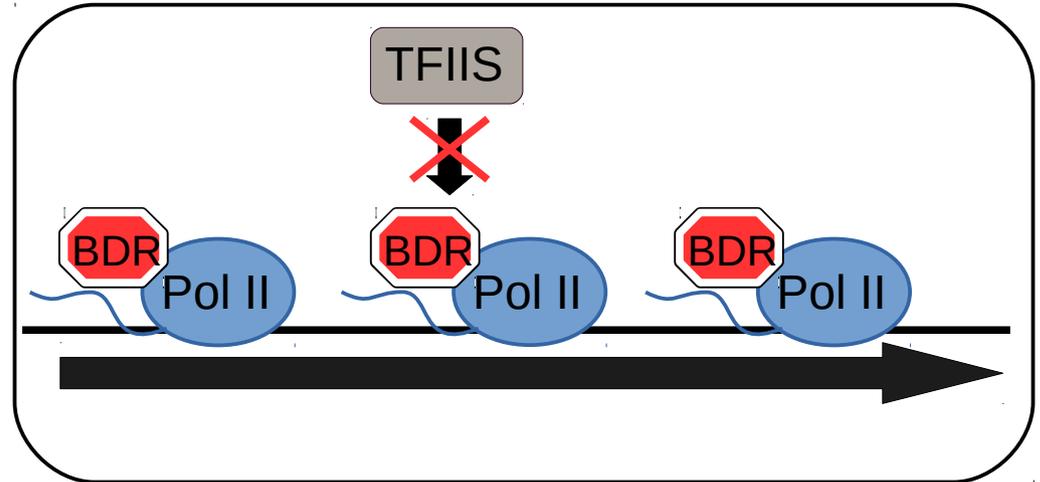


529 genes  
upregulated



592 genes  
downregulated

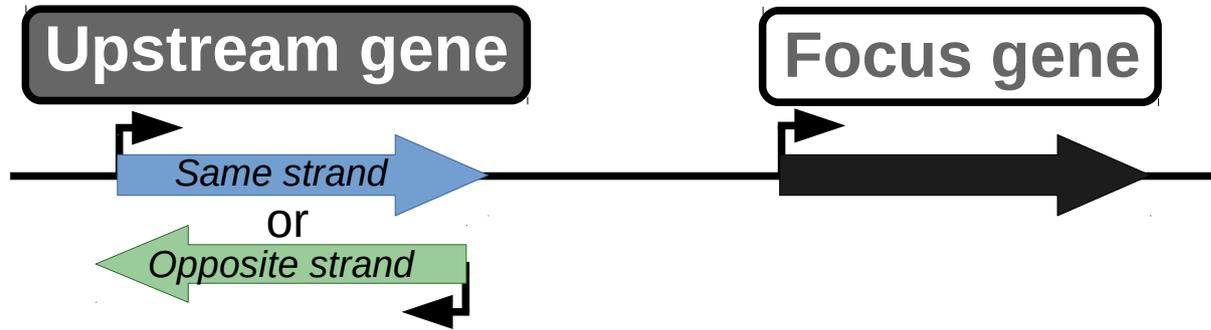
Negative transcription elongation factor



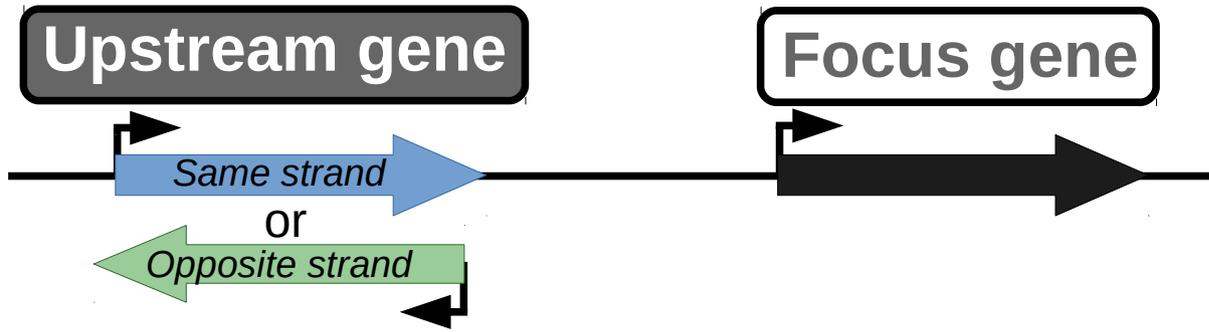
??

# Downregulated genes have a specific upstream gene neighborhood

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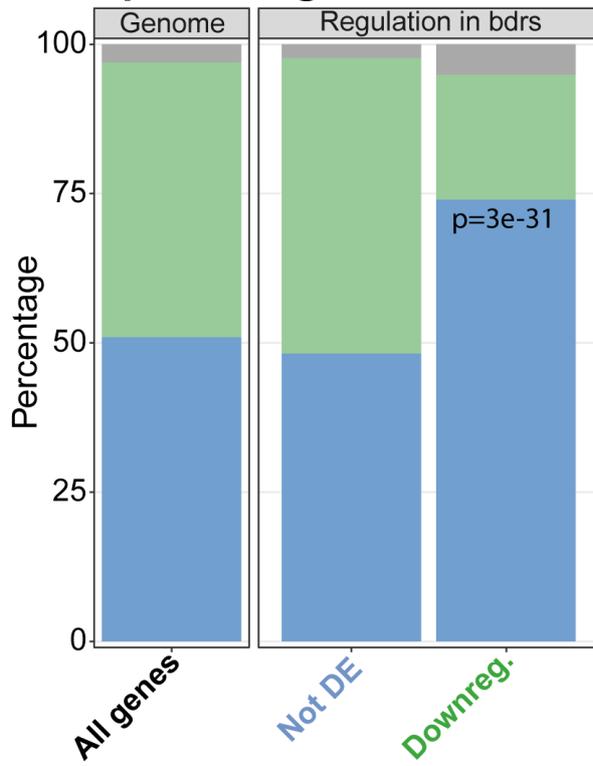


# Downregulated genes have a specific upstream gene neighborhood

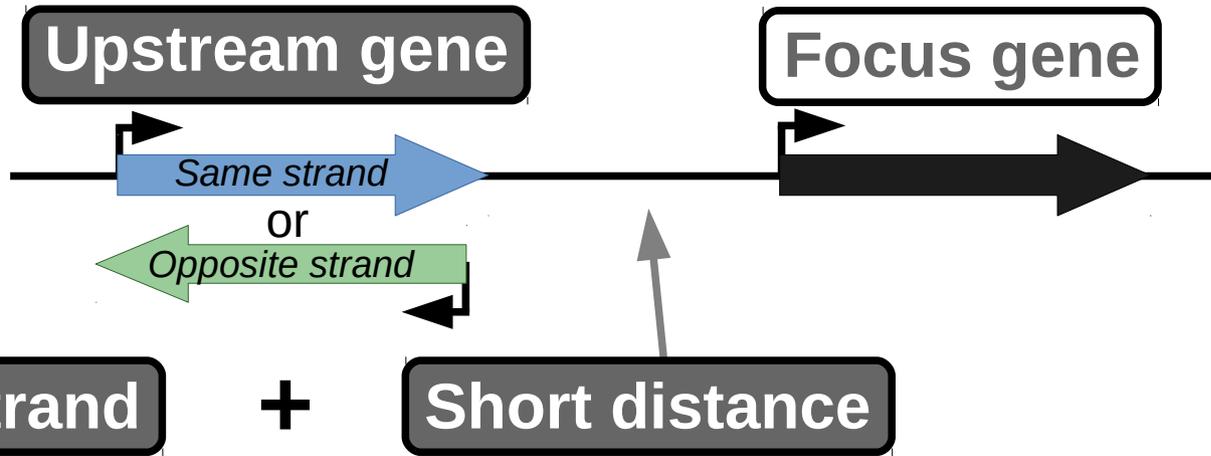


## Same Strand

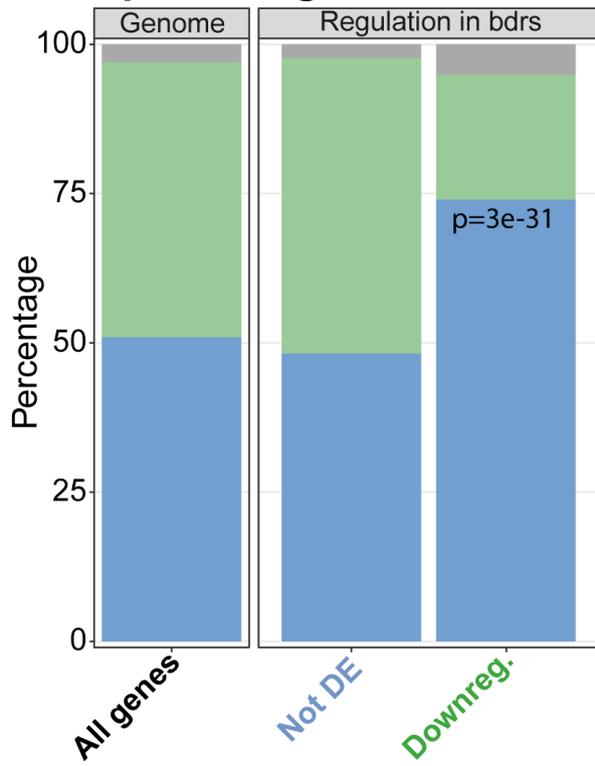
### Upstream gene orientation



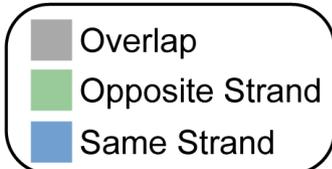
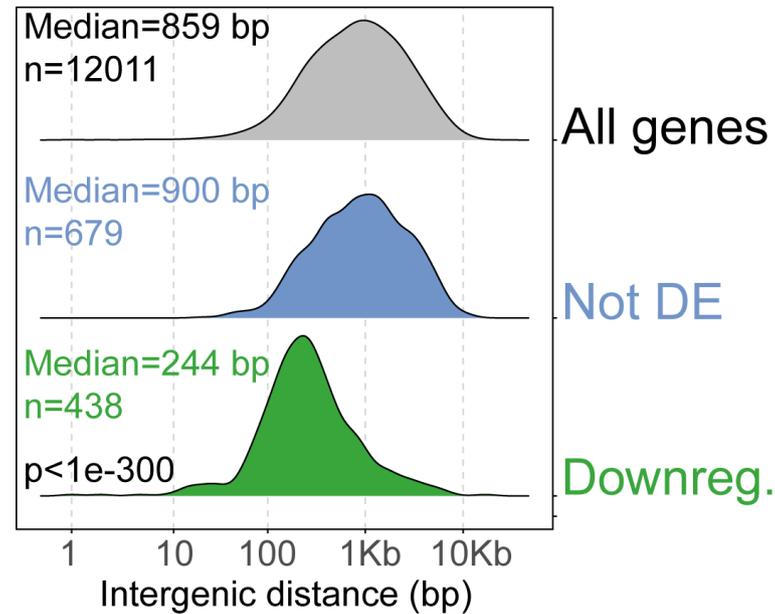
# Downregulated genes have a specific upstream gene neighborhood



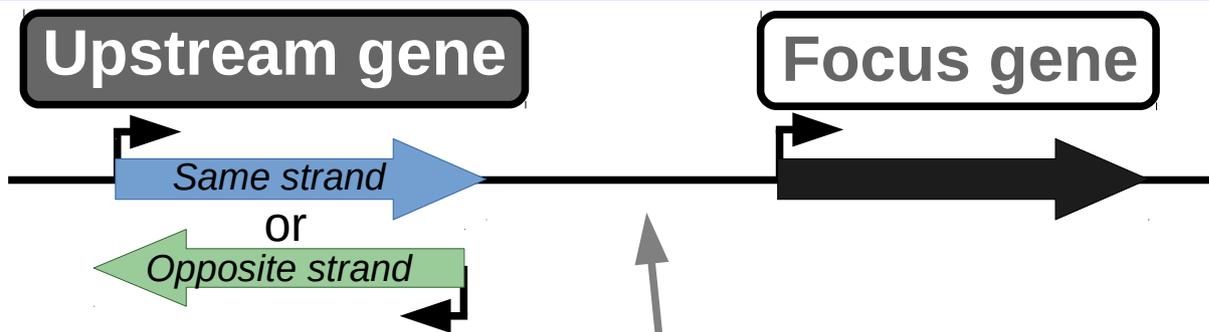
**Upstream gene orientation**



**Upstream intergenic distance**



# Downregulated genes have a specific upstream gene neighborhood

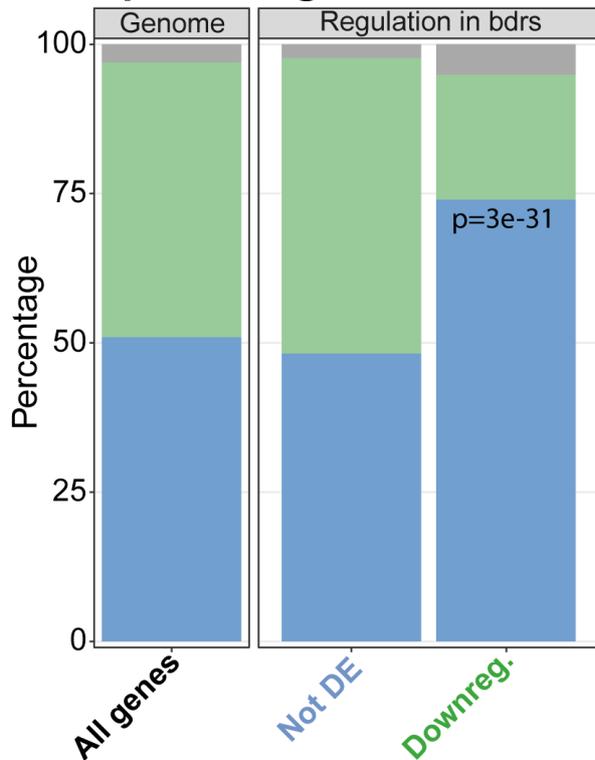


**Same Strand**

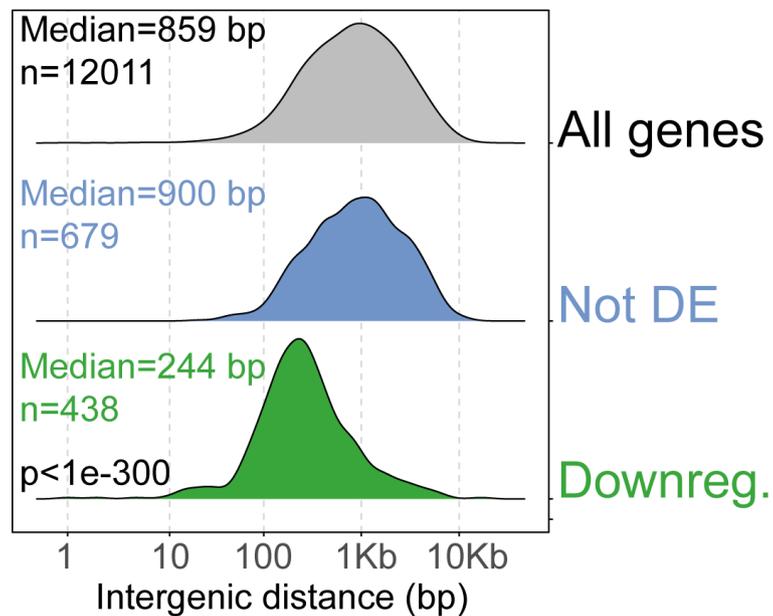
**Short distance**

**Highly expressed**

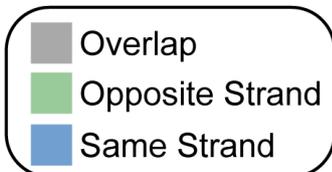
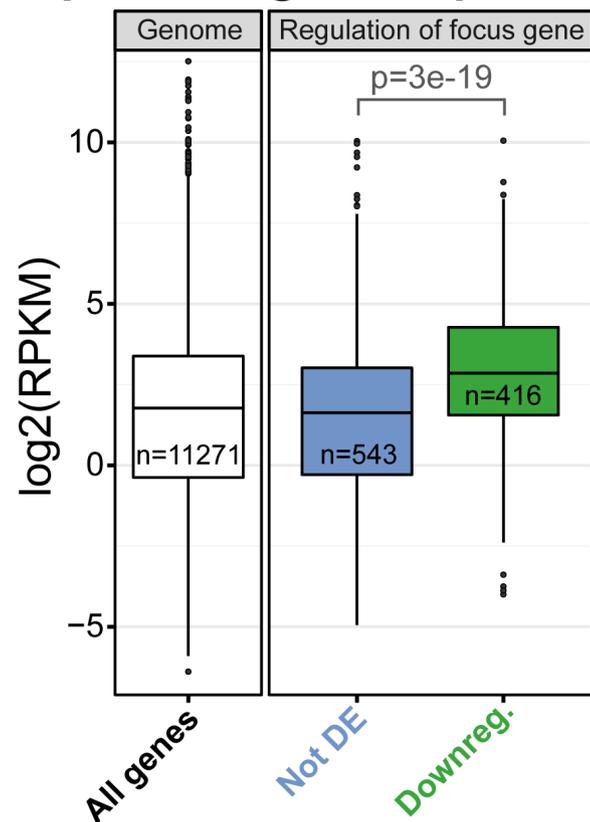
**Upstream gene orientation**



**Upstream intergenic distance**



**Upstream gene expression**

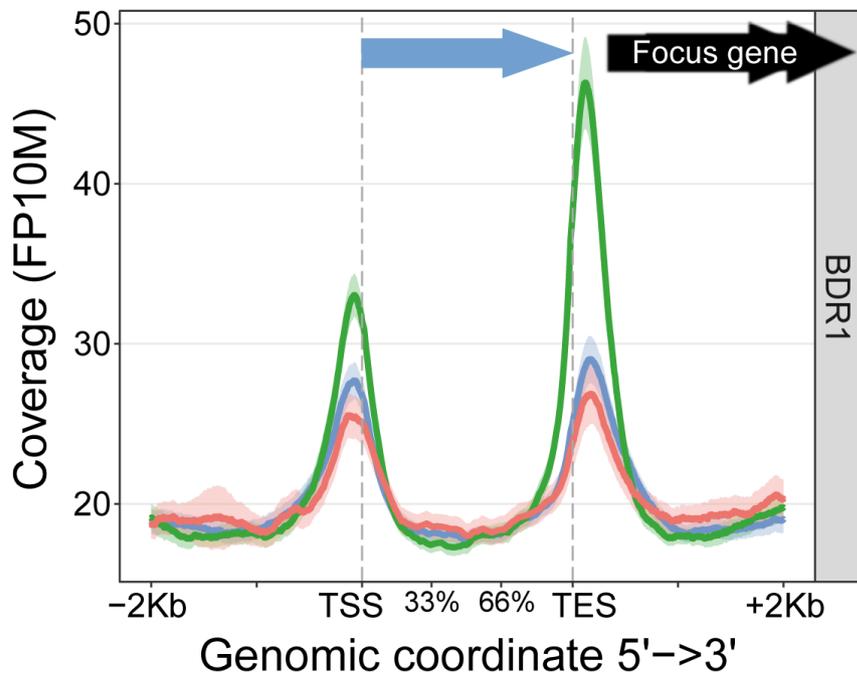


# Downregulated genes have a specific upstream gene neighborhood

+

**High BDR at 3' end**

**BDR occupancy at upstream tandem gene**



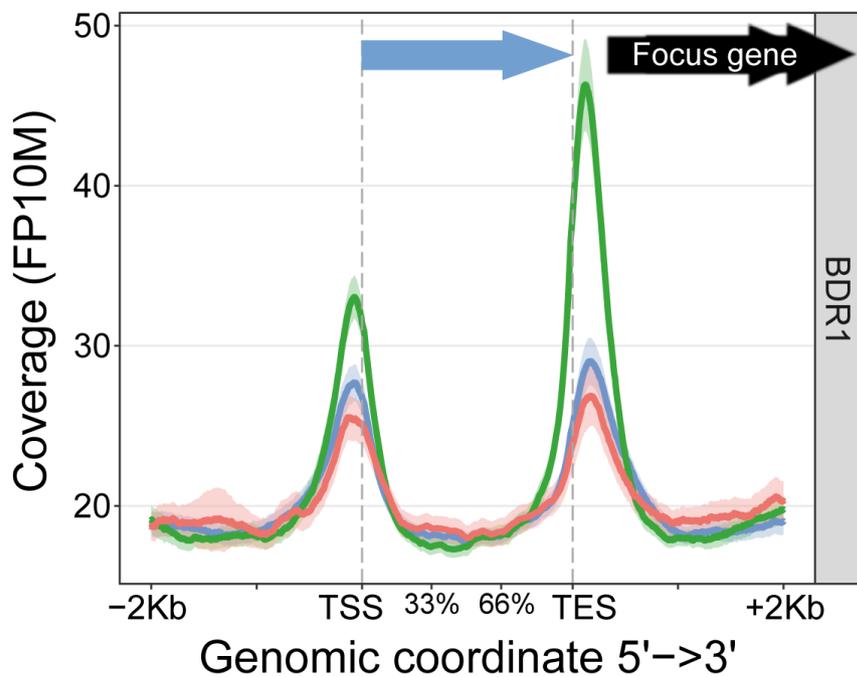
Focus gene in bdrs:

- Not DE
- Downregulated
- Upregulated

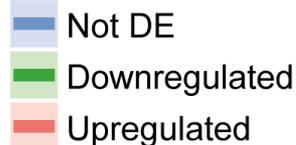
# Downregulated genes have a specific upstream gene neighborhood

+ High BDR at 3' end

BDR occupancy at upstream tandem gene

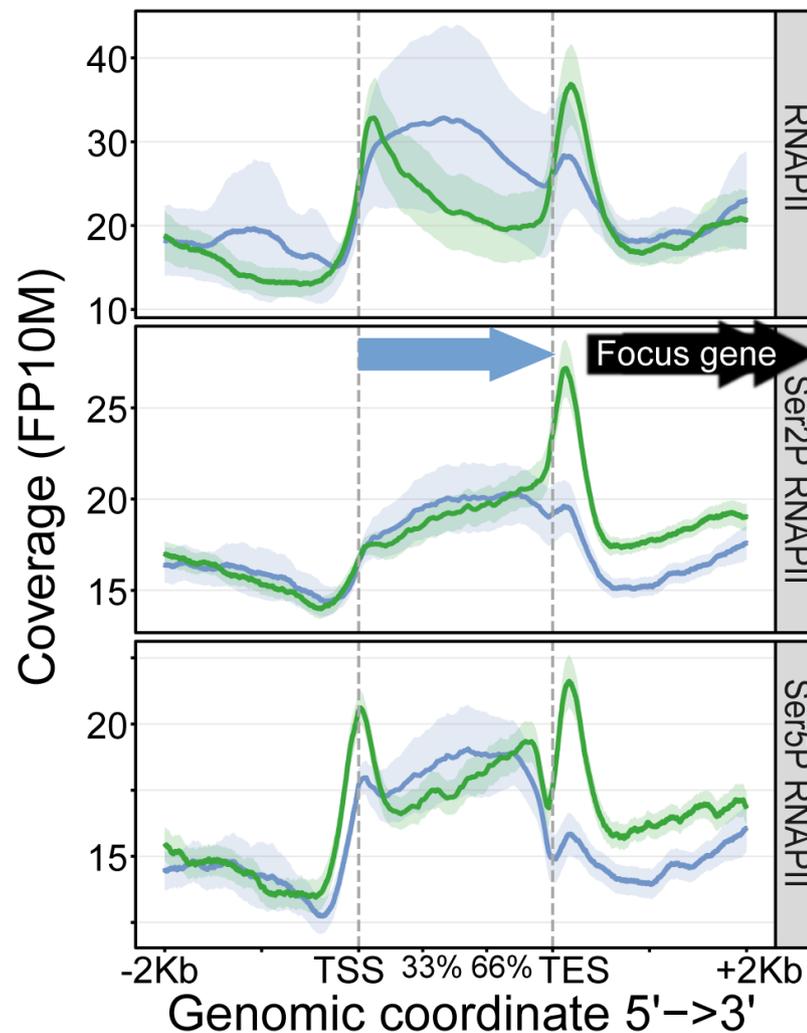


Focus gene in bdrs:



+ 3' RNAPII pausing

RNAPII at upstream tandem genes



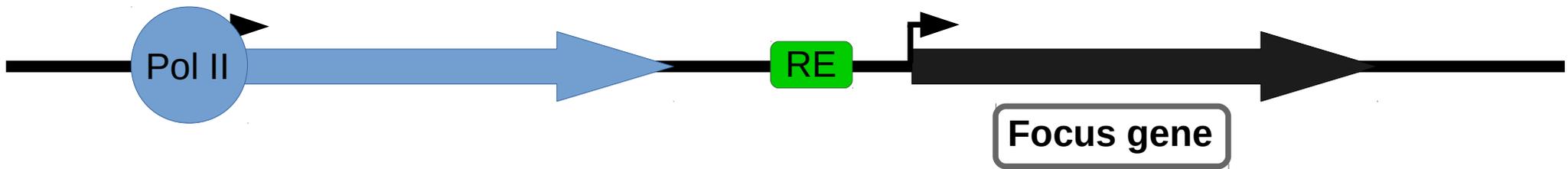
Focus gene in bdrs:



# Transcriptional interference ?

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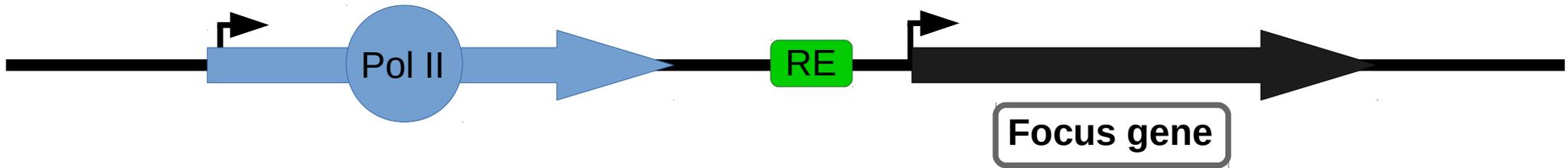
Shearwin et al., Trends Genet 2005



# Transcriptional interference ?

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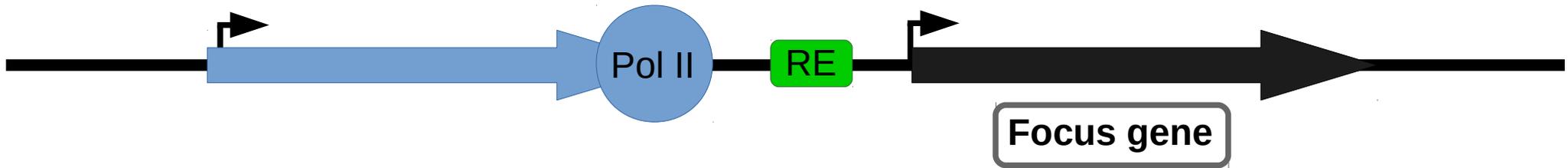
Shearwin et al., Trends Genet 2005



# Transcriptional interference ?

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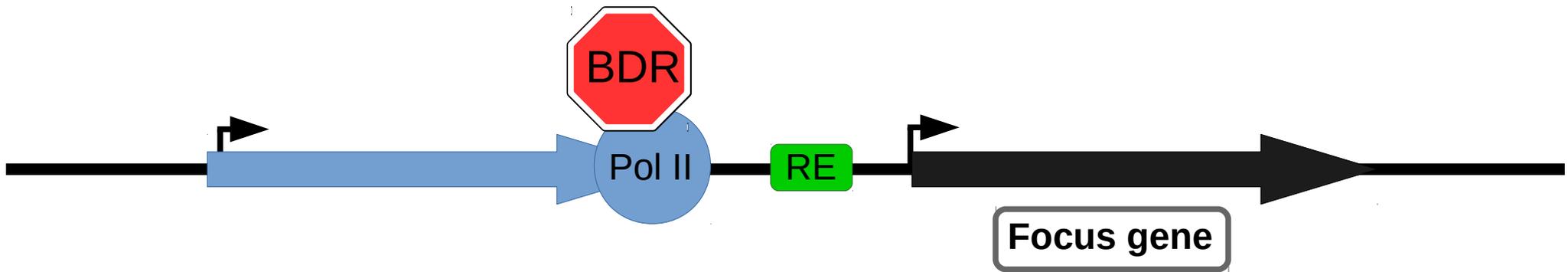
Shearwin et al., Trends Genet 2005



# Transcriptional interference ?

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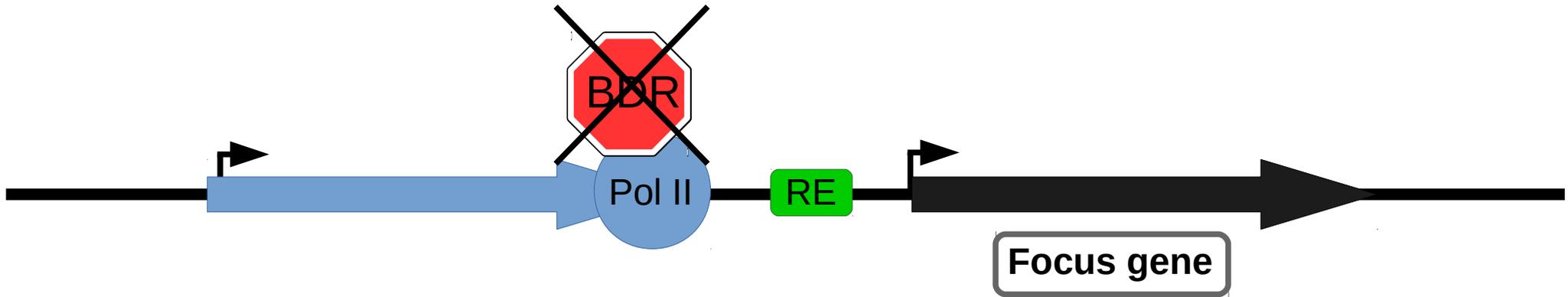
Shearwin et al., Trends Genet 2005



# Transcriptional interference ?

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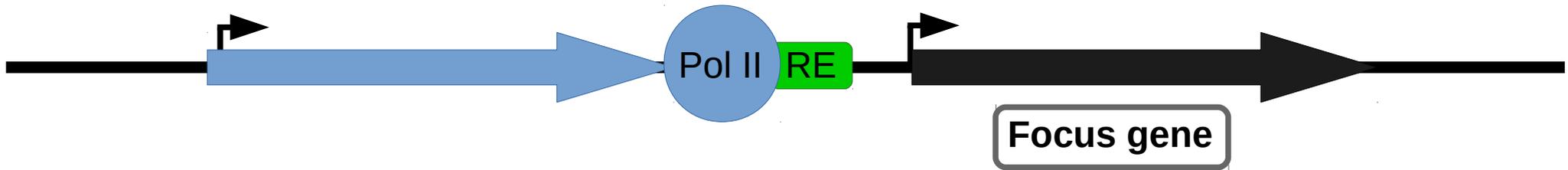
Shearwin et al., Trends Genet 2005



# Transcriptional interference ?

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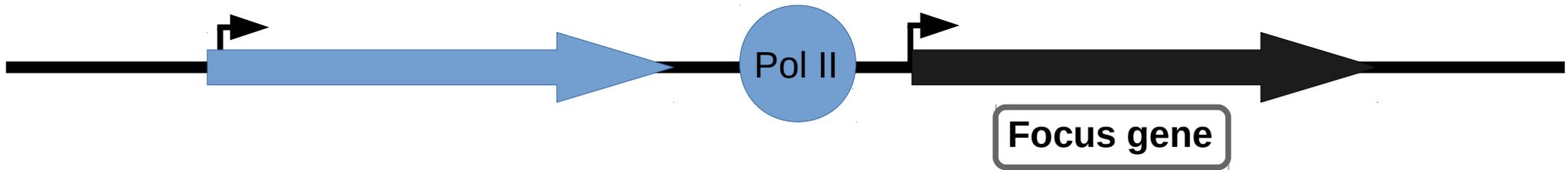
Shearwin et al., Trends Genet 2005



# Transcriptional interference ?

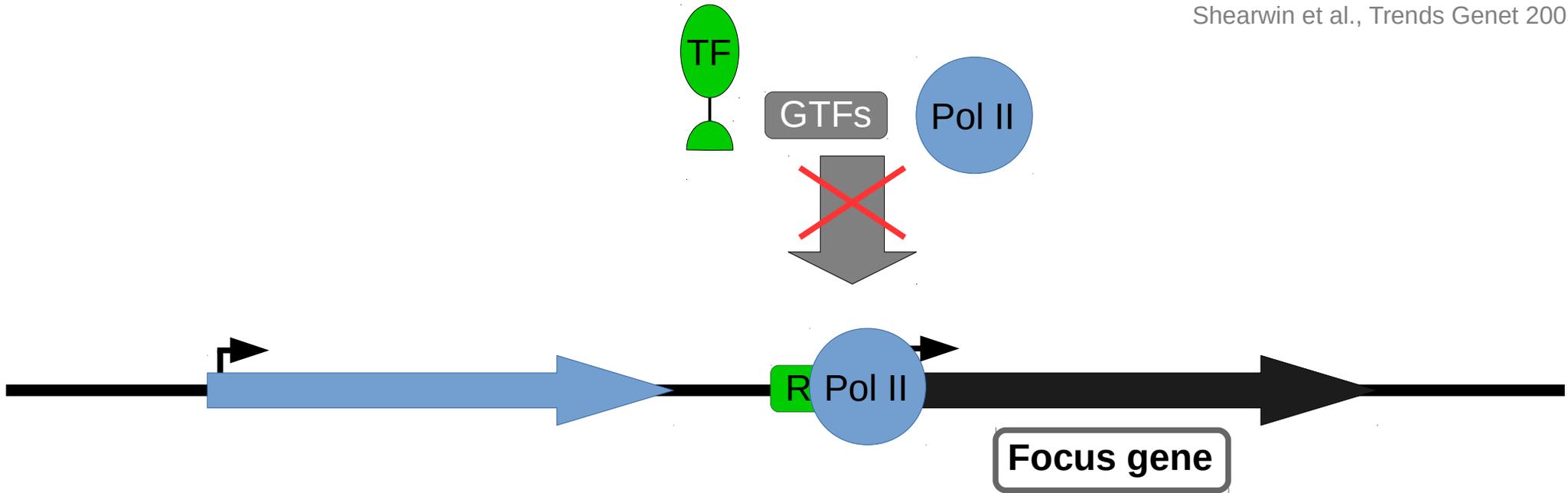
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Shearwin et al., Trends Genet 2005



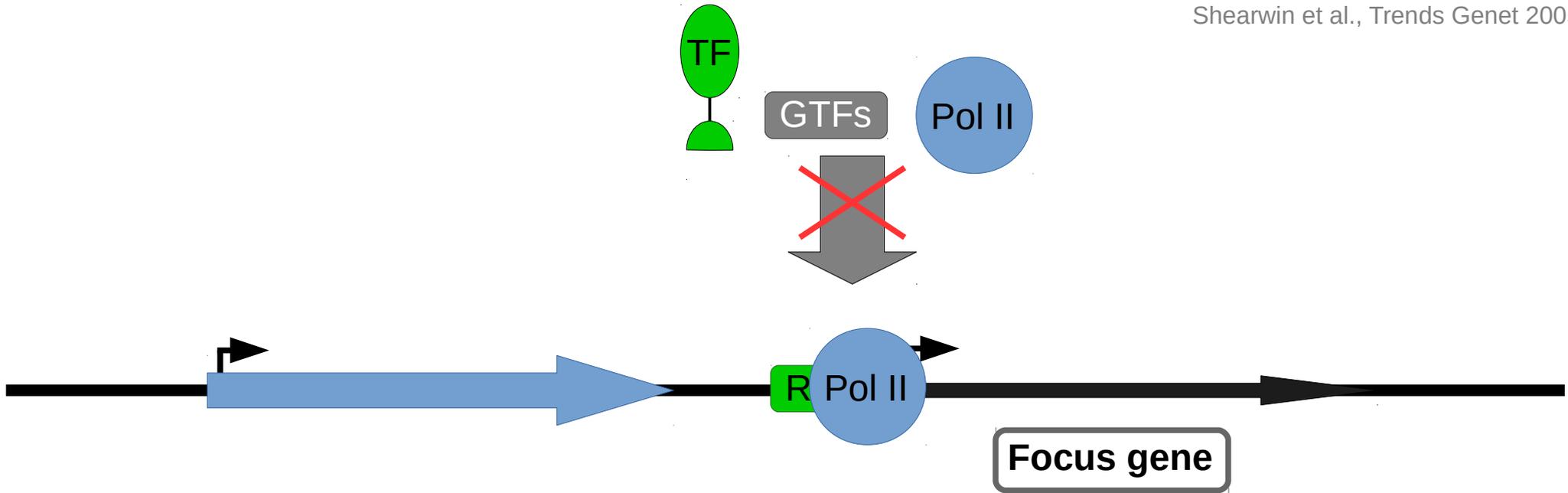
# Transcriptional interference ?

Shearwin et al., Trends Genet 2005



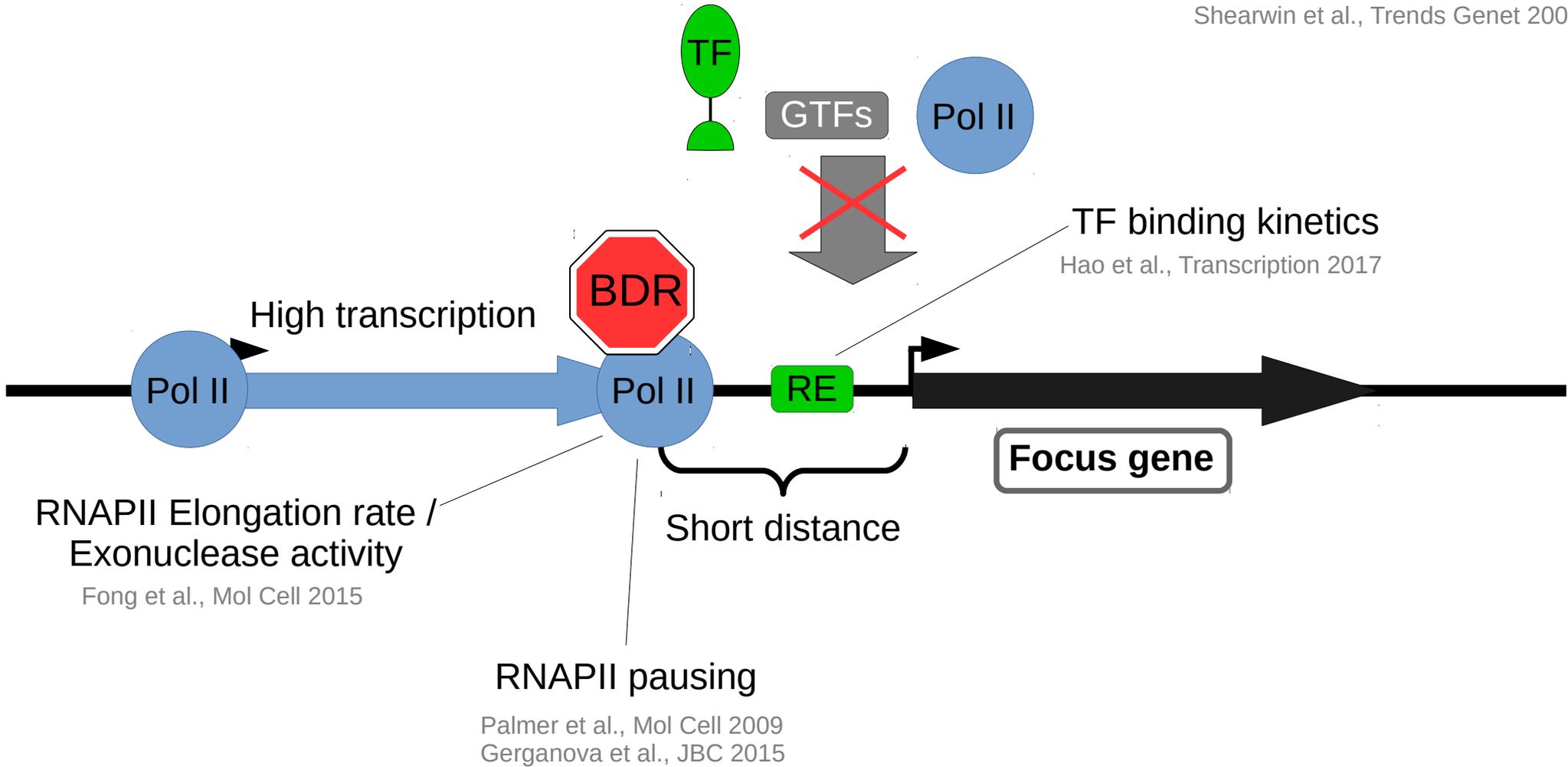
# Transcriptional interference ?

Shearwin et al., Trends Genet 2005

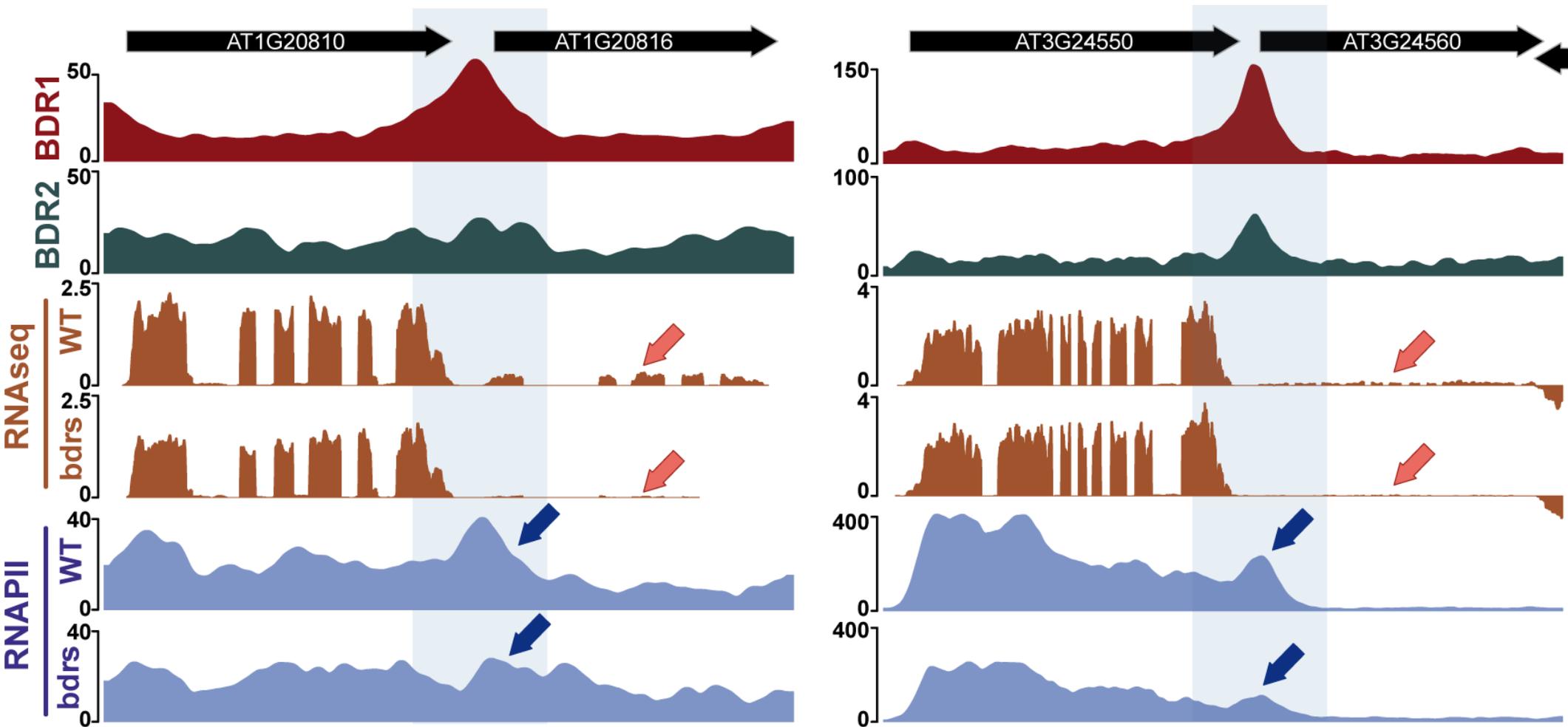


# Transcriptional interference ?

Shearwin et al., Trends Genet 2005

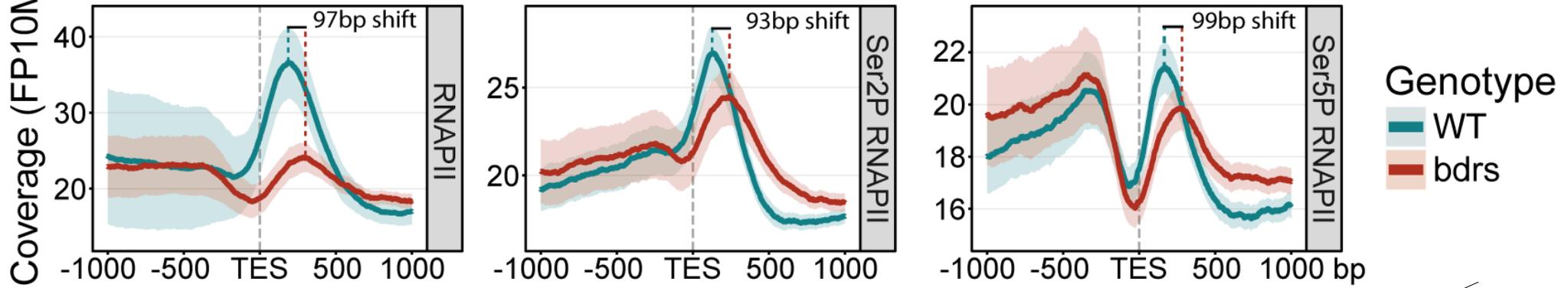


# Shift of RNAPII at the 3' end in bdr1,2,3 triple mutant



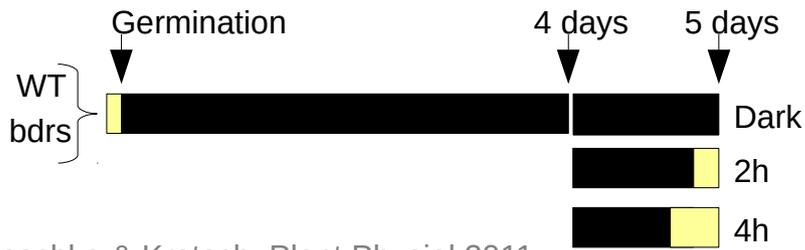
# Shift of RNAPII at the 3' end in bdr1,2,3 triple mutant

3' shift of RNAPII at the TES of genes upstream of **downregulated** genes

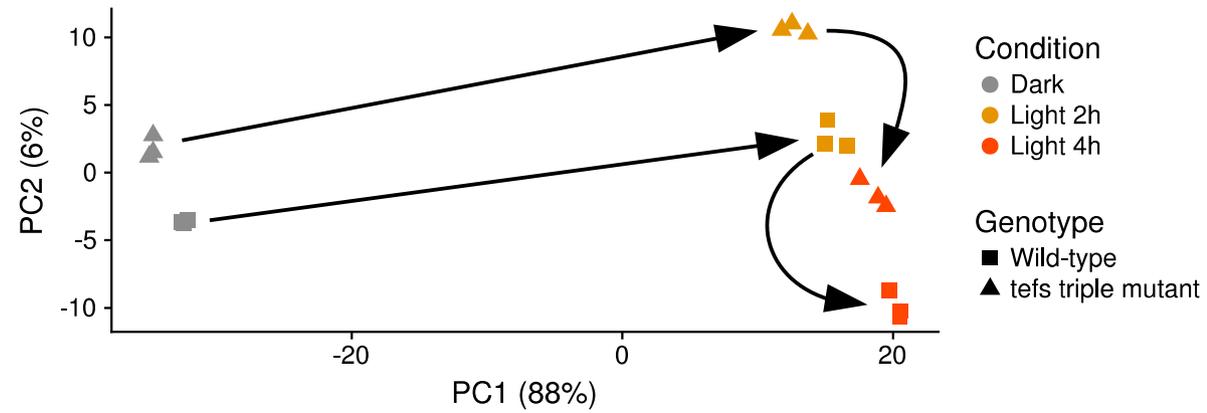


# Modulation of transcriptional interferences in bdr1,2,3 mutant

## PHOTOMORPHOGENESIS

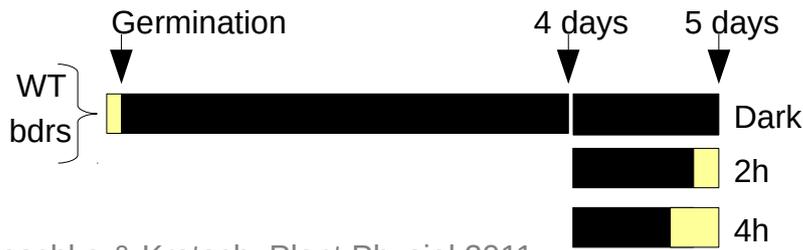


Peschke & Kretsch, Plant Physiol 2011  
Bourbousse et al., PloS Genet 2012  
Bourbousse et al., PNAS 2015

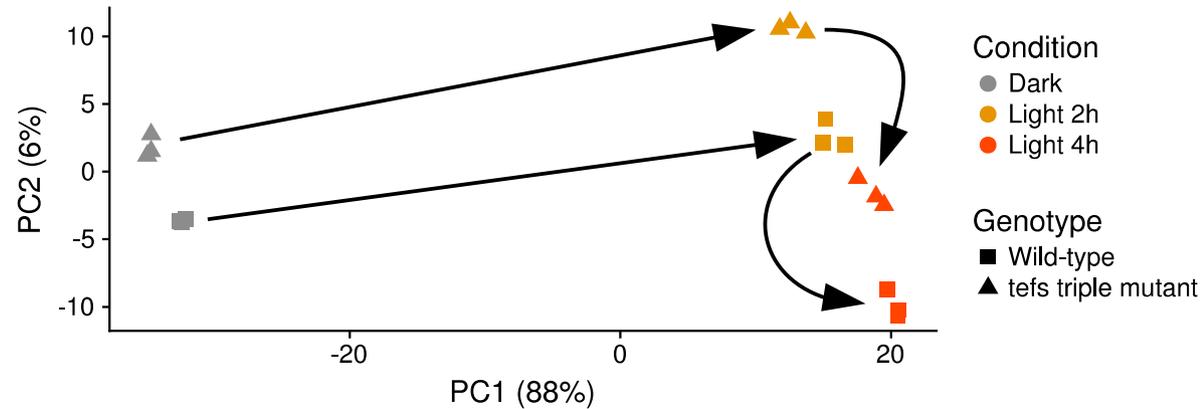


# Modulation of transcriptional interferences in bdrs mutant

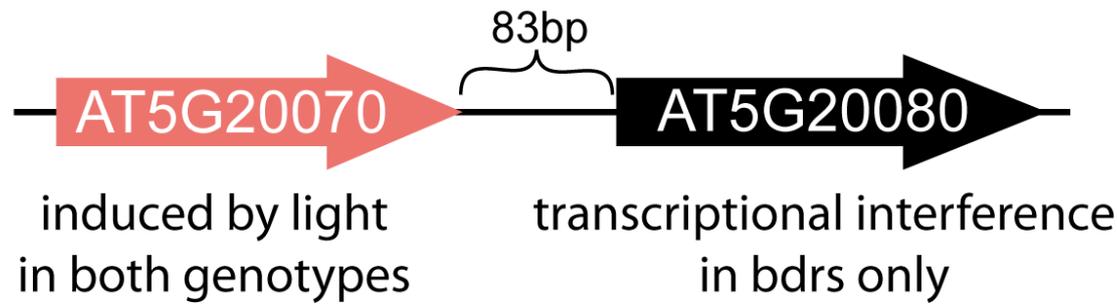
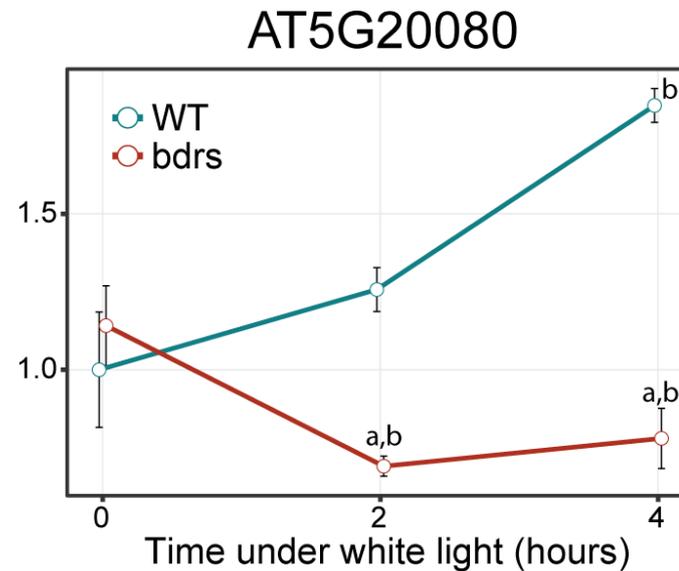
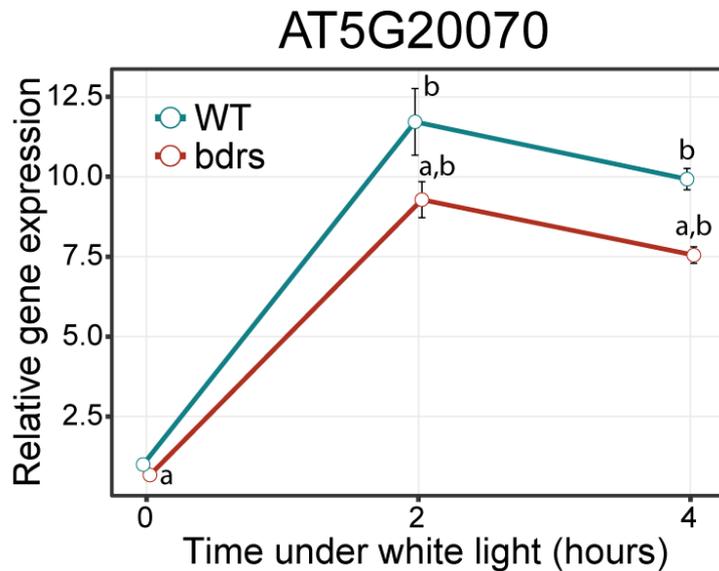
## PHOTOMORPHOGENESIS



Peschke & Kretsch, Plant Physiol 2011  
 Bourbousse et al., PloS Genet 2012  
 Bourbousse et al., PNAS 2015



## New transcriptional interferences in bdrs mutant

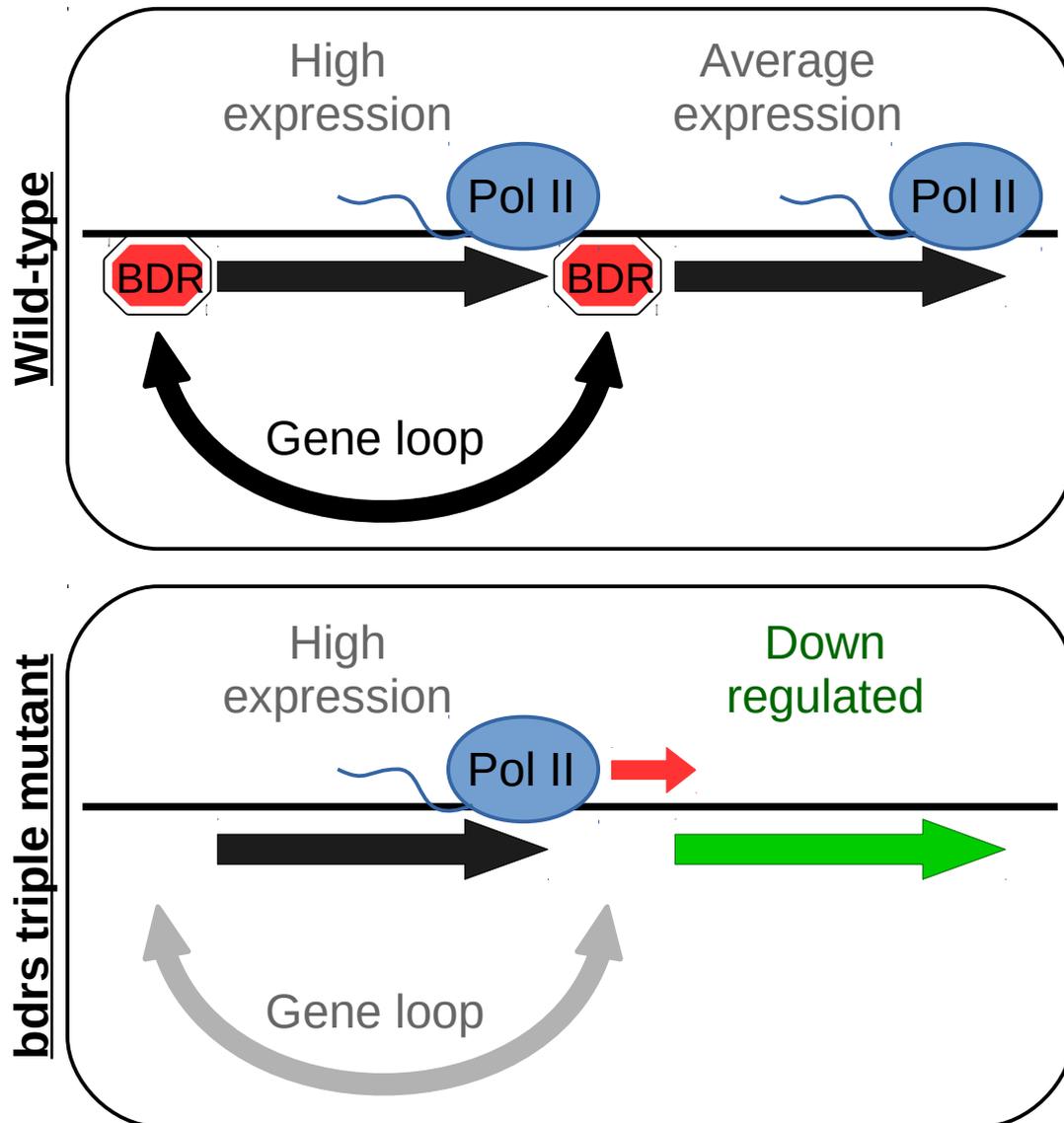


# Conclusions

BDRs apparent functions:

- slow down PolII (negative elongation factor / 3' pausing factor)
- contribute to gene looping

Downregulated in bdrs triple mutant



# Conclusions

BDRs apparent functions:

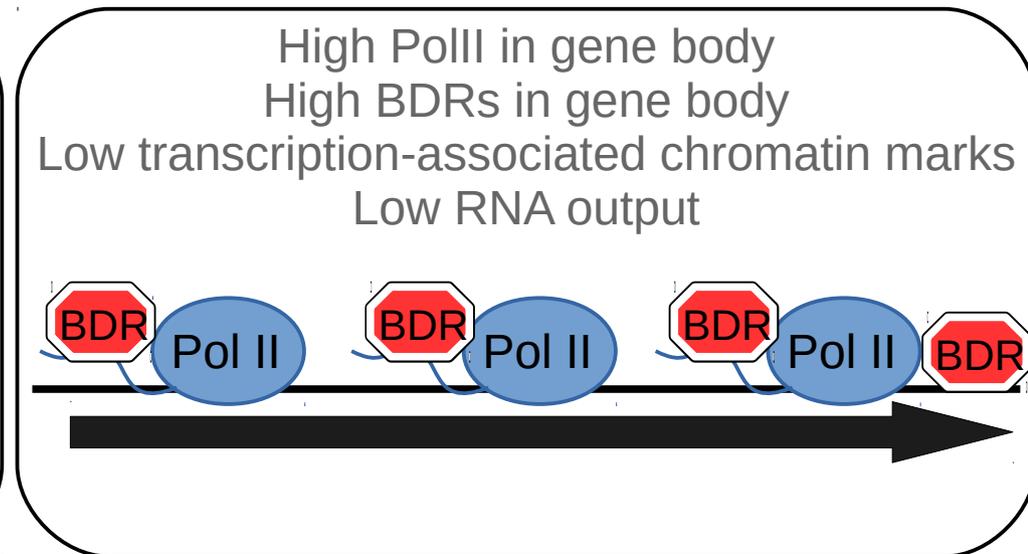
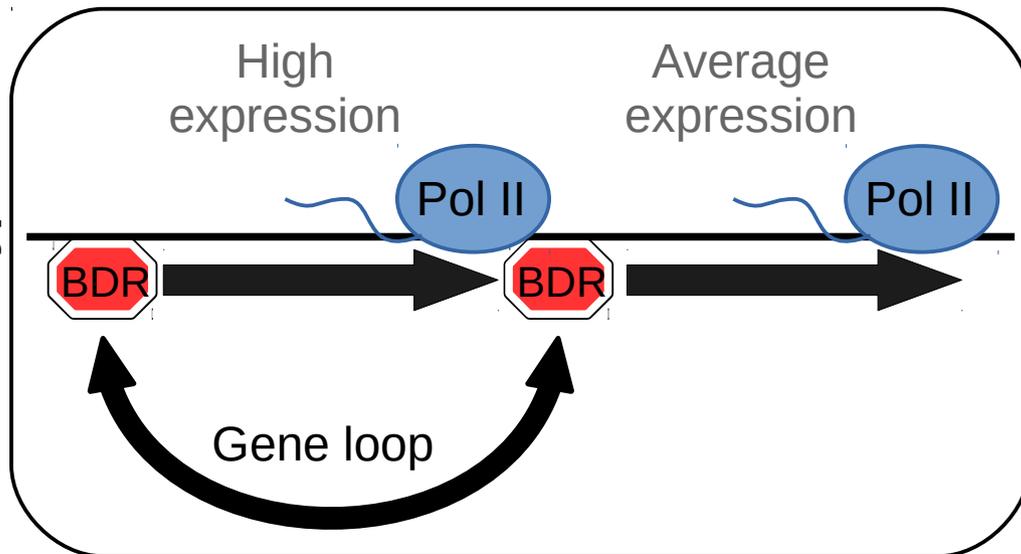
- slow down PolII (negative elongation factor / 3' pausing factor)
- contribute to gene looping

Yu\*, Martin\*, *et al.*, Michaels, *Curr Biol*, 2021

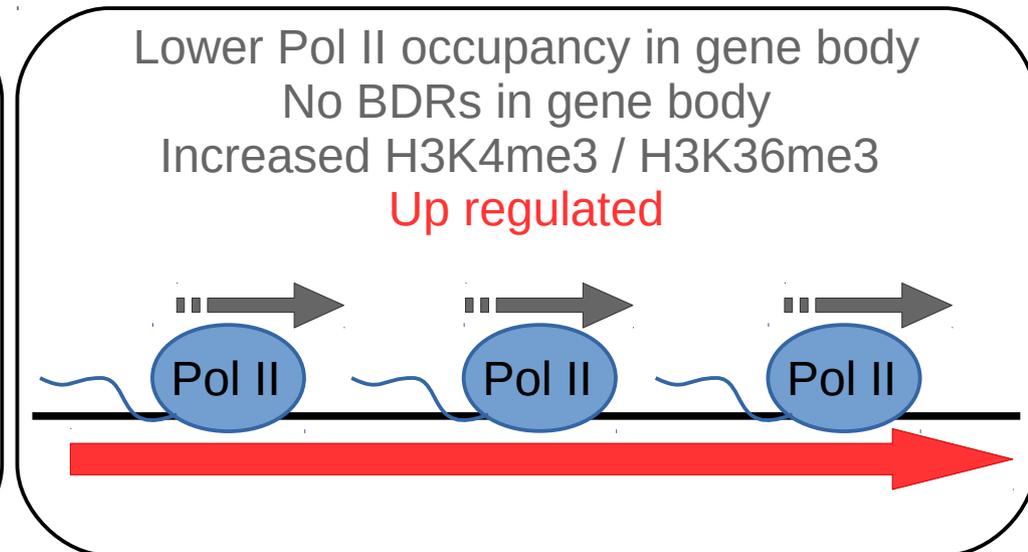
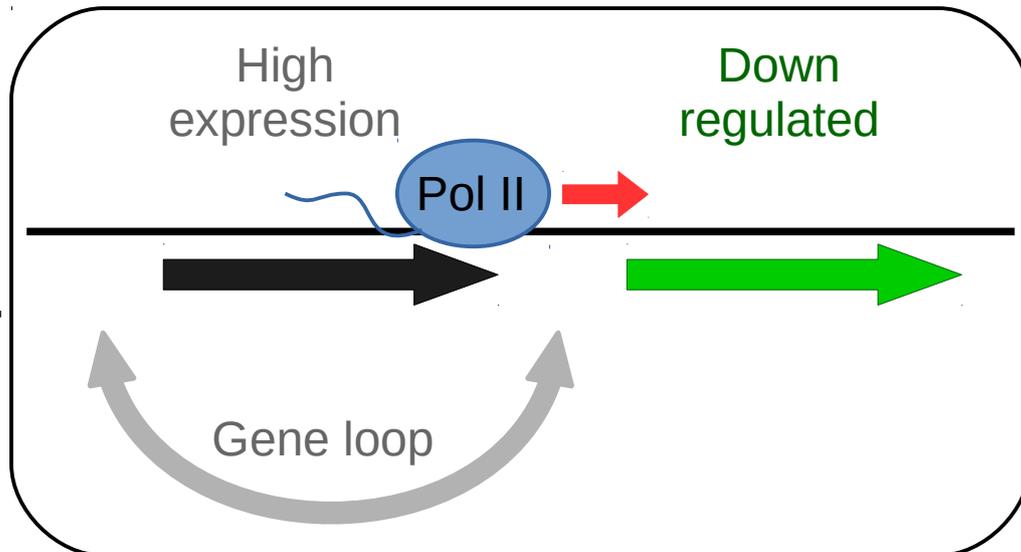
**Downregulated** in bdrs triple mutant

**Upregulated** in bdrs triple mutant

**Wild-type**



**bdrs triple mutant**



# Thank you for your attention !



<https://github.com/pgpmartin/GeneNeighborhood>

[https://github.com/pgpmartin/ChIPseq\\_functions](https://github.com/pgpmartin/ChIPseq_functions)



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<http://perso.pgpmartin.fr>

