

TELOMERI

Telomeres are the terminal nucleoprotein structures located at the ends of eukaryotic chromosomes.

These structures function as **guardians of genome stability** by **limiting unwanted DNA repair** activity at chromosome ends, and in human cells, by **controlling the total number of times a cell can divide**, thereby limiting the accumulation of genomic instability in actively cycling cells

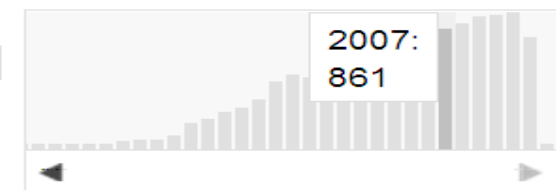
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- [Telomere length and LINE1 methylation is associated with chromosomal aberrations in peripheral blood.](#)
Li H, Hilmarsen HT, Hossain MB, Björk J, Hansteen IL, Albin M, Furu Skjelbred C, Broberg K.
Genes Chromosomes Cancer. 2012 Sep 21. doi: 10.1002/gcc.22000. [Epub ahead of print]
PMID: 22997064 [PubMed - as supplied by publisher]
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- [Understanding the molecular pathways associated with seed vigor.](#)
Ventura L, Donà M, Macovei A, Carbonera D, Buttafava A, Mondoni A, Rossi G, Balestrazzi A.
Plant Physiol Biochem. 2012 Sep 1;60C:196-206. doi: 10.1016/j.plaphy.2012.07.031. [Epub ahead of print]

Results by year



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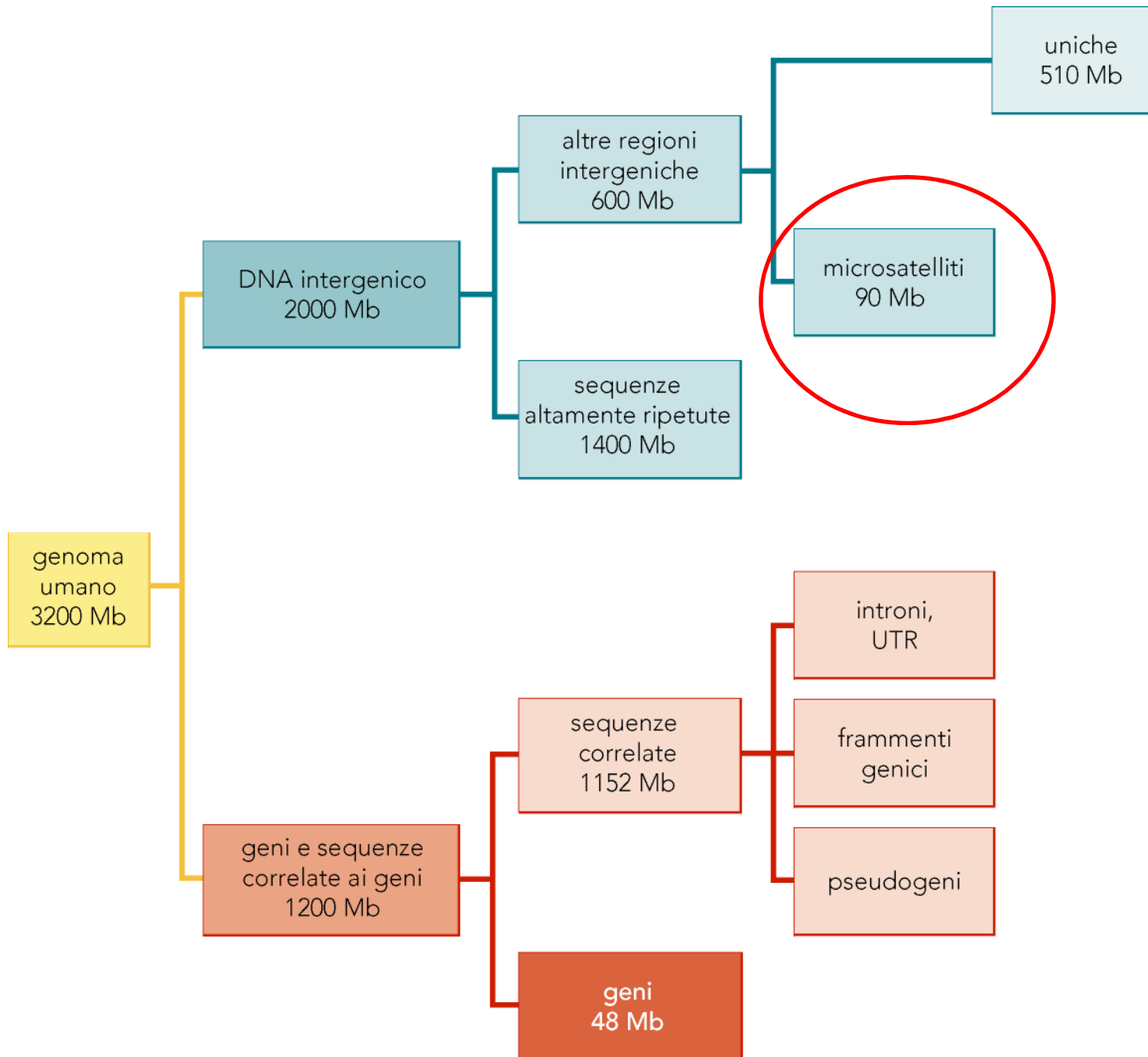
[telomere](#)

SEQUENZA TELOMERICA



5–15 kb in humans, ~48 kb in mice

Watson et al., BIOLOGIA
MOLECOLARE DEL GENE,
Zanichelli editore S.p.A.
Copyright © 2005



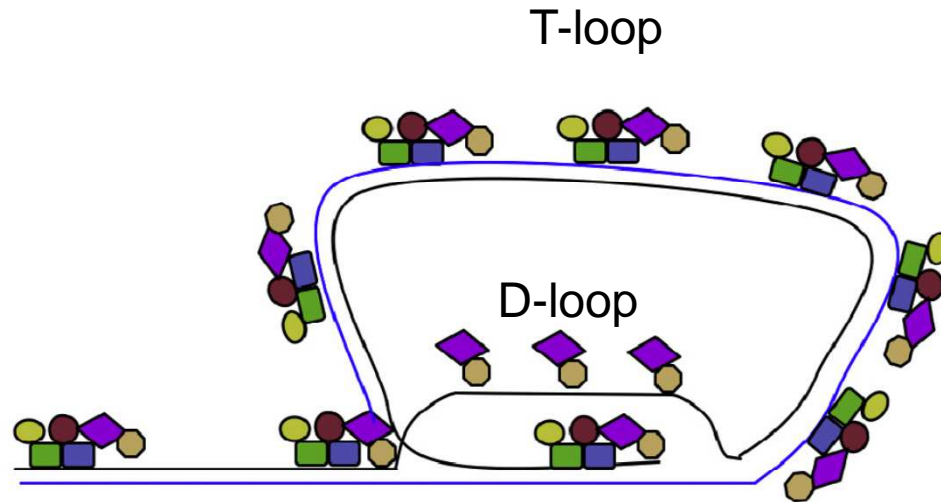
IL DNA Telomerico e le sue strutture alternative

The single-stranded 3' overhang folds back into the telomeric DNA, invades the double-helix, and anneals with the C-rich strand, forming a loop known as T-loop, thus hiding the very ends of chromosomal DNA.



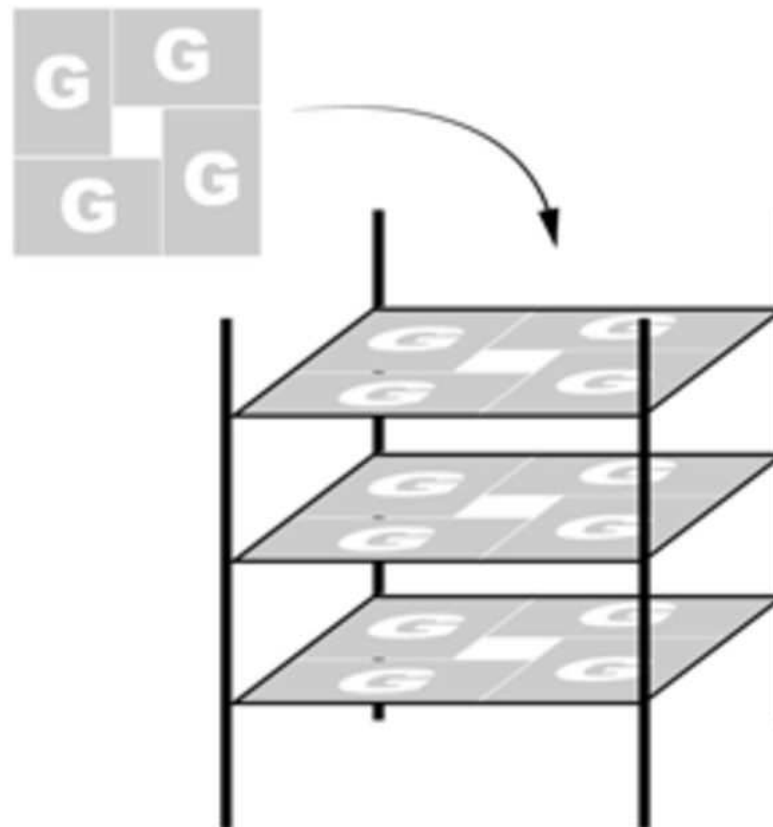
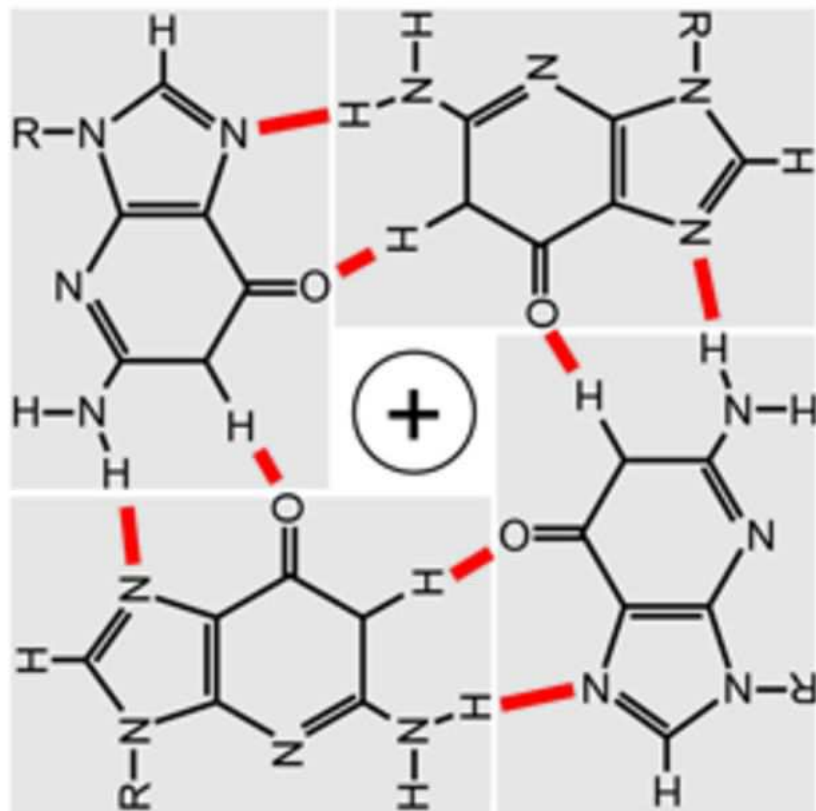
TTAGGGTTAGGGTTAGGGTTAGGGTTAGGGTTAGGGTTAGGGTTAGGGTTAGGGTTAGGG-3'

AATCCAATCCAATCCAATCCAATCCAATCCAATCCAATCCAATCCAATC-5'



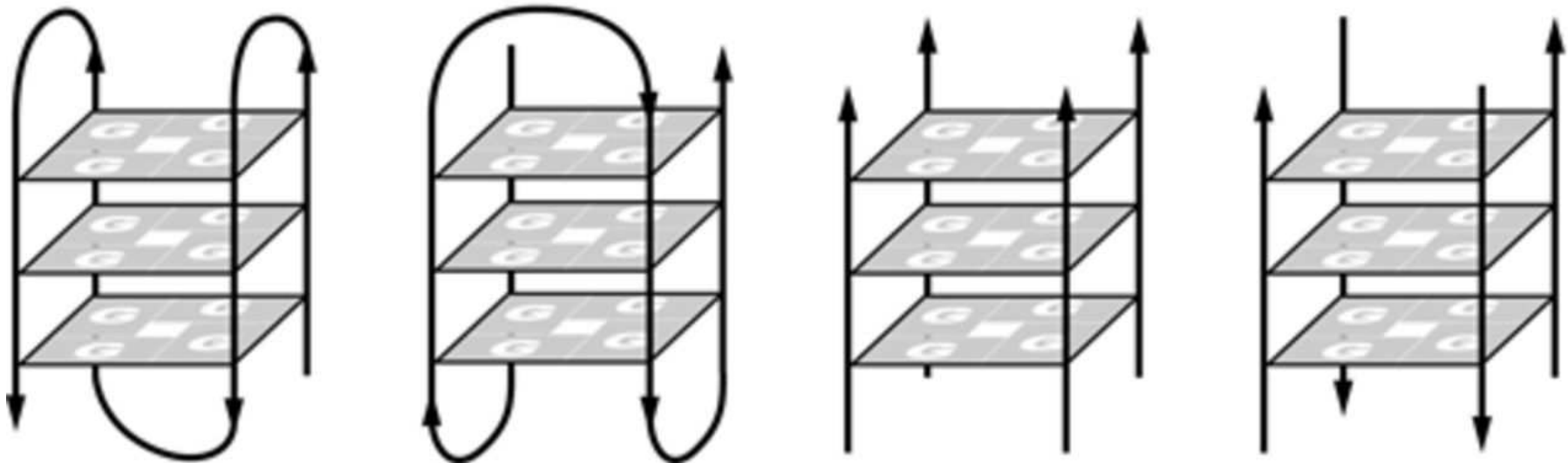
Structure of G-quadruplexes.

A



Structure of G-quadruplexes.

B

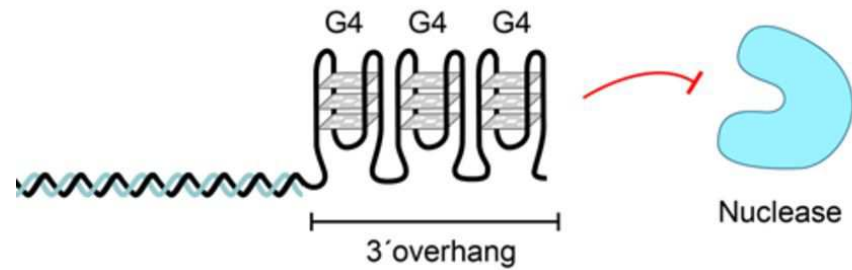


G-quadruplexes at telomeres.

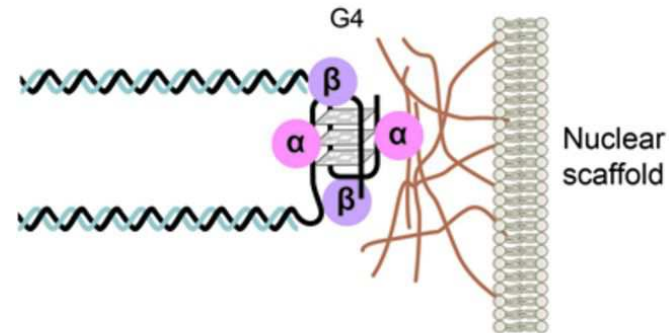
G-quadruplex structures involving two telomeres promoted by the telomere-end binding protein TEBP β

G-quadruplexes binding ligands (yellow stars) impairs telomere repeat synthesis by the telomerase enzyme and lead to telomere shortening

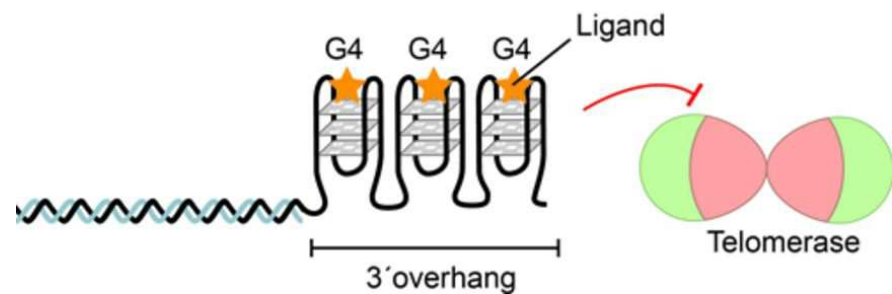
A Protection of telomeres



B Organization of ciliate telomeres



C Binding of ligands to telomeric G4



For human telomeres, the first indication that G-quadruplexes may be present came from the observation that G-quadruplex stabilizing ligands impaired telomere metabolism and lead to telomere shortening

A number of G-quadruplex stabilizing ligands are now available and it has become evident that many do not target the telomerase enzyme but the telomere itself

A structure-specific antibody against human G-quadruplexes detect signals at the ends of chromosomes, **albeit not all ends**.

The resolution of light microscopy is insufficiently high to decipher whether binding occurred **at the very end of the chromosome or at subtelomeric regions**

A number of helicases that are known to unwind G-quadruplex in vitro (such as WRN) localize at telomeres. WRN is required for telomere integrity and physically interacts with the critical telomere binding proteins TRF2 and POT1.

This suggests that G-quadruplexes form at telomeres and if not resolved result in DNA damage.

whether G-quadruplexes are present at human telomeres remains to be established.

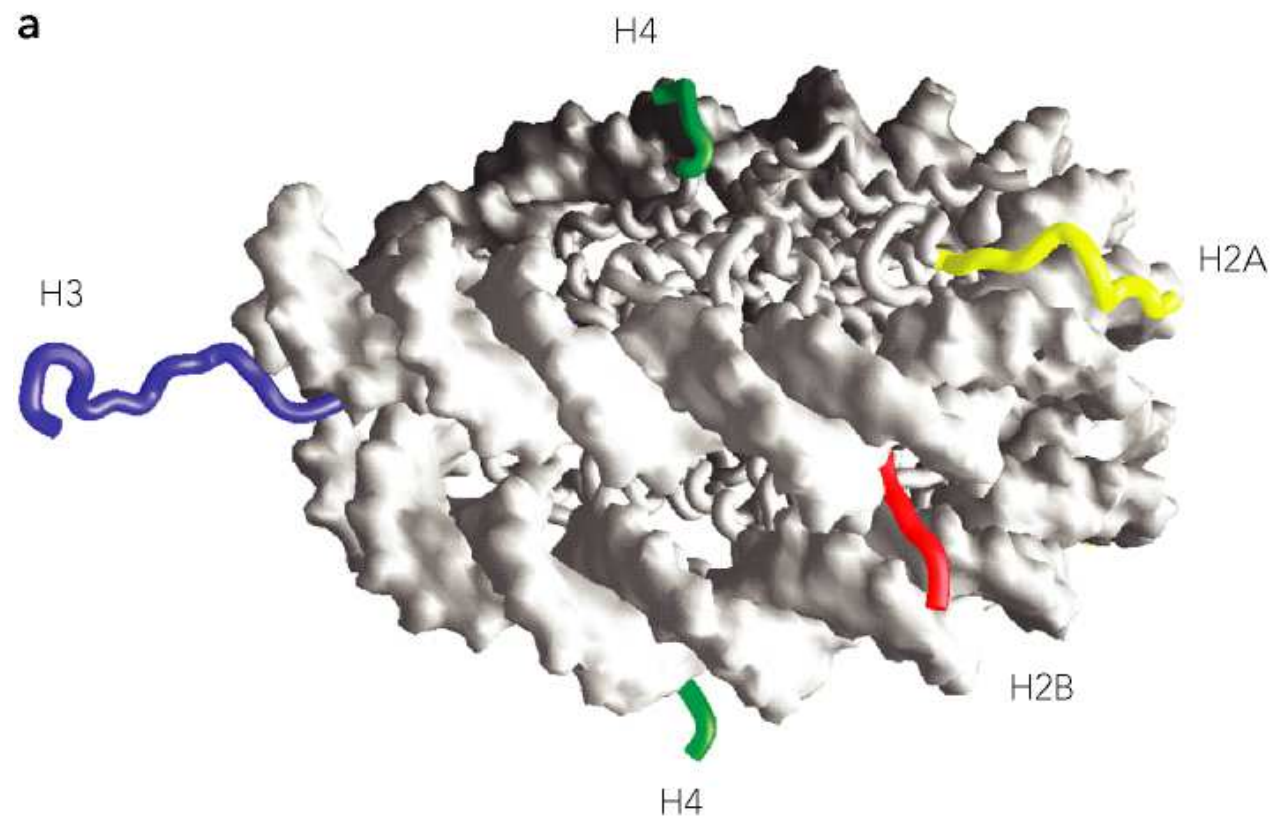
La cromatina telomerica e la sua modificazione

Telomeres also bind to nucleosomes, which are rich in modified histones.

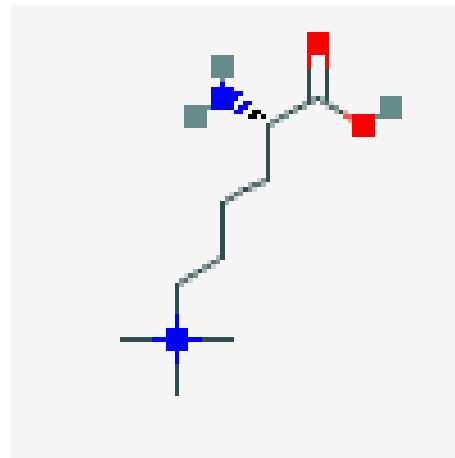
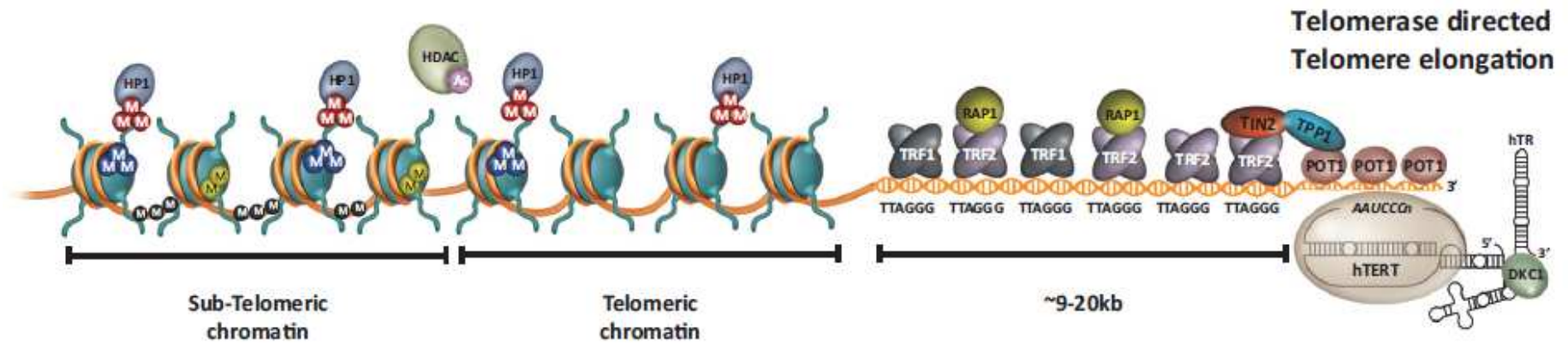
Major histone modifications *found in telomeres are*

-H3K9 and H4K20 trimethylation

-low abundance of acetylated H3 and H4



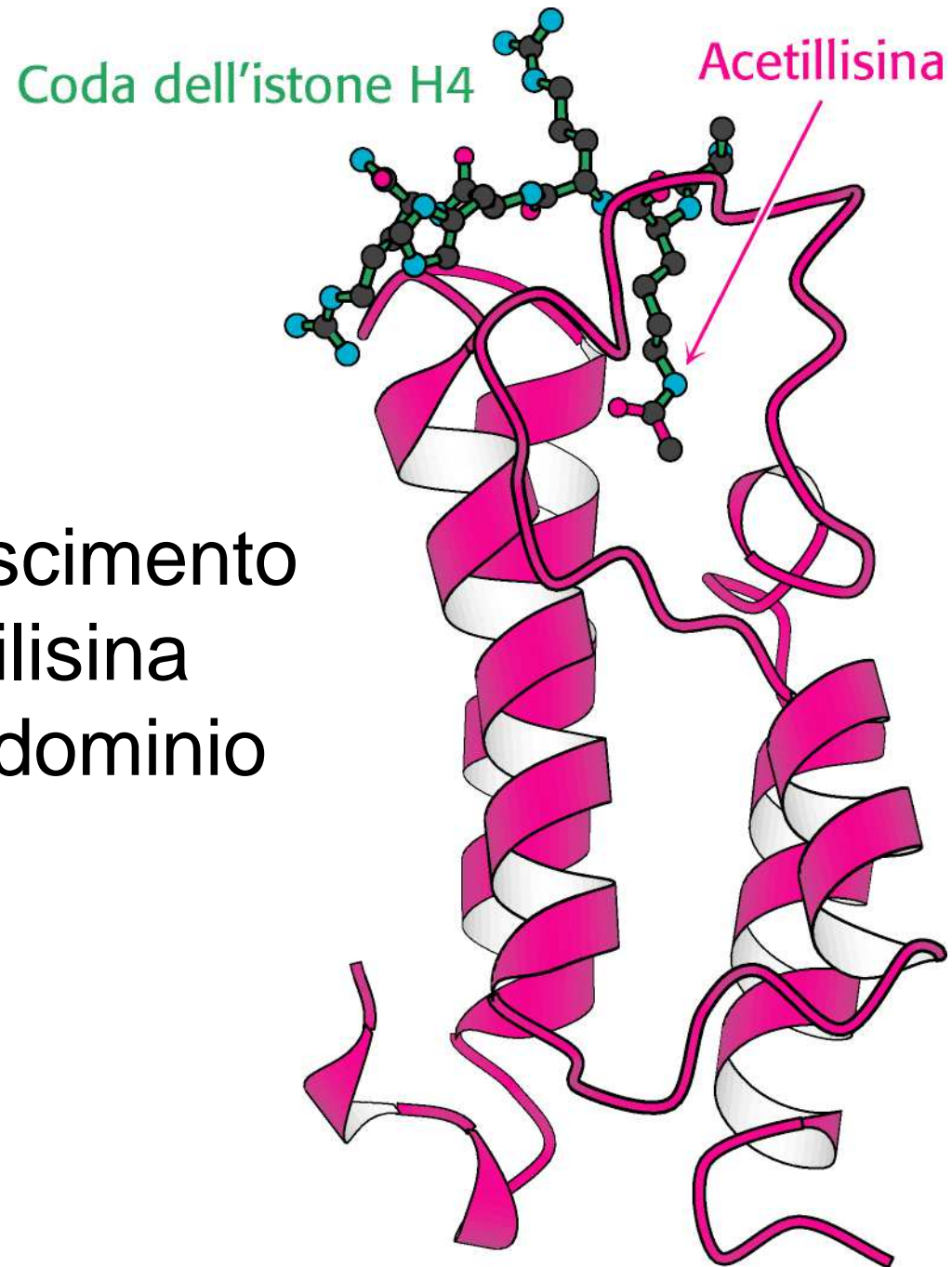
Telomeres in germ and stem cells



Kme3 = trimetillisina



Riconoscimento
acetilisina
bromodominio



Un enzima deacetilante specifico: SIRT6

SIRT6 is a histone H3 lysine 9 deacetylase that modulates telomeric chromatin

The Sir2 deacetylase regulates chromatin silencing and lifespan in *Saccharomyces cerevisiae*^{1,2}.

In mice, deficiency for the Sir2 family member SIRT6 leads to a shortened lifespan and a premature ageing-like phenotype.

SIRT6 is a chromatin-associated NAD⁺-dependent, histone H3 lysine 9 (H3K9) deacetylase that modulates telomeric chromatin.

SIRT6 associates specifically with telomeres, and SIRT6 depletion leads to telomere dysfunction with end-to-end chromosomal fusions and premature cellular senescence. Moreover, SIRT6-depleted cells exhibit abnormal telomere structures

We propose that SIRT6 contributes to the propagation of a specialized chromatin state at mammalian telomeres, which in turn is required for proper telomere metabolism and function. Our findings constitute the first identification of a physiological enzymatic activity of SIRT6, and link chromatin regulation by SIRT6 to telomere maintenance and a human premature ageing syndrome

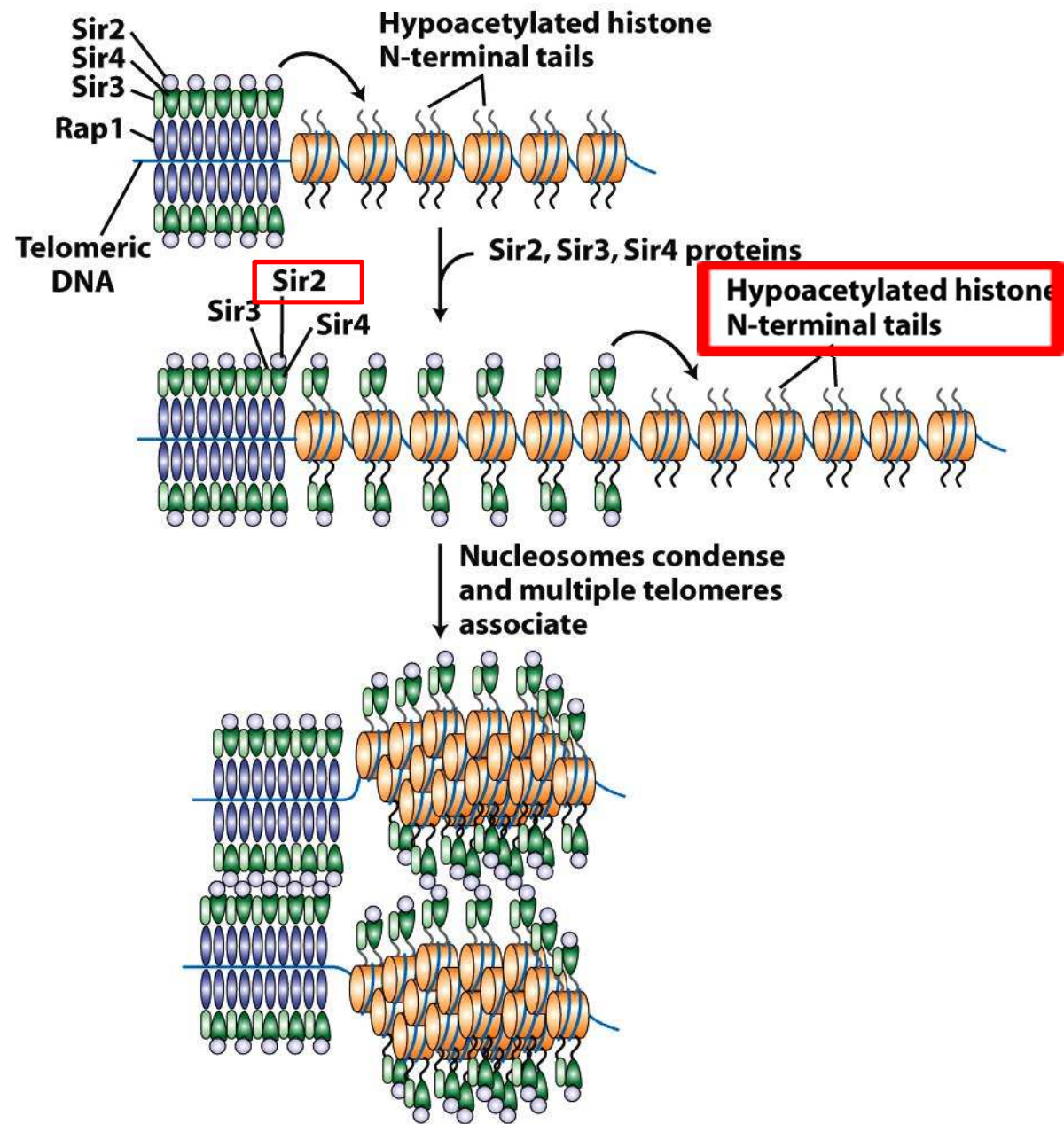


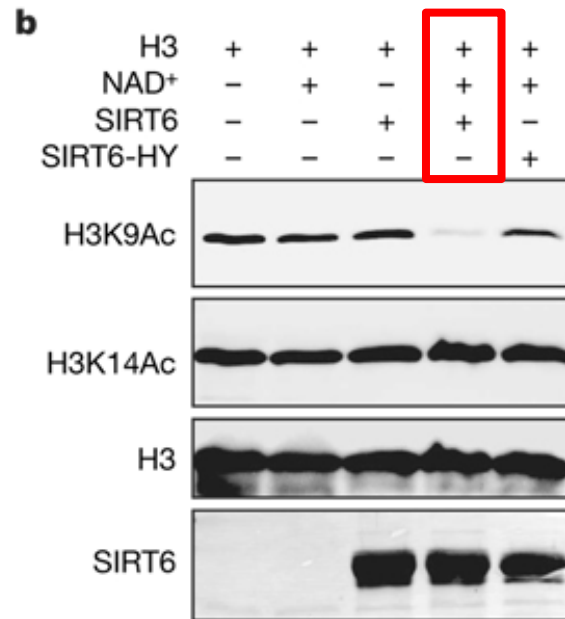
Figure 7-35
Molecular Cell Biology, Sixth Edition
 © 2008 W. H. Freeman and Company

SIRT6 (sir 2) deacetylates lysine 9 of histone H3 at telomeric chromatin

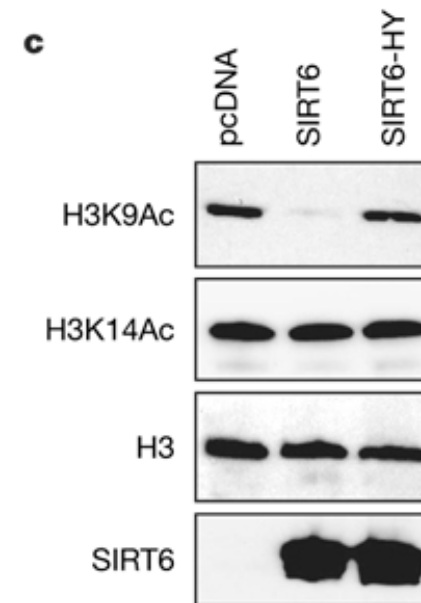
a

Peptide	Activity
H2AK5Ac	-
H2AK13Ac	-
H2BK5Ac	-
H2BK12Ac	-
H2BK15Ac	-
H2BK20Ac	-
H3K9Ac	+
H3K14Ac	-
H3K27	-
H4K5Ac	-
H4K8Ac	-
H4K12Ac	-
H4K16Ac	-

histone tail peptides



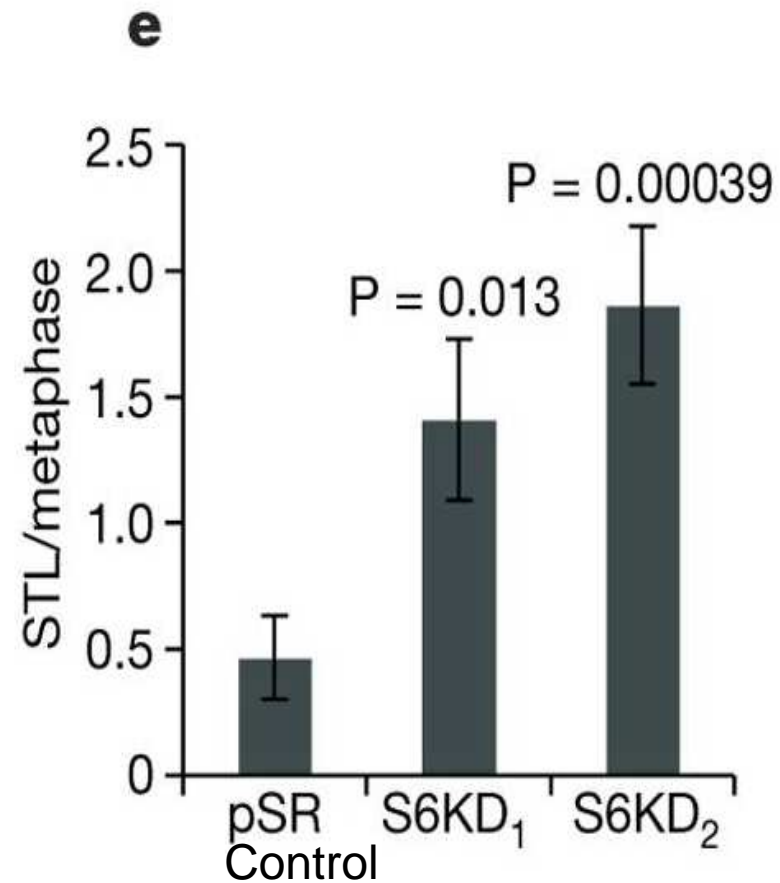
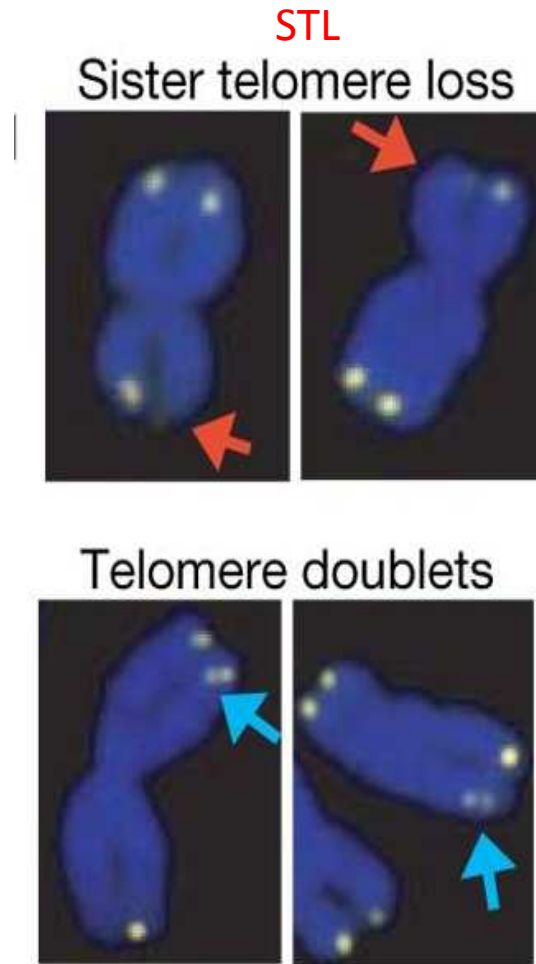
full-length histone H3



293T cells overexpressing SIRT6

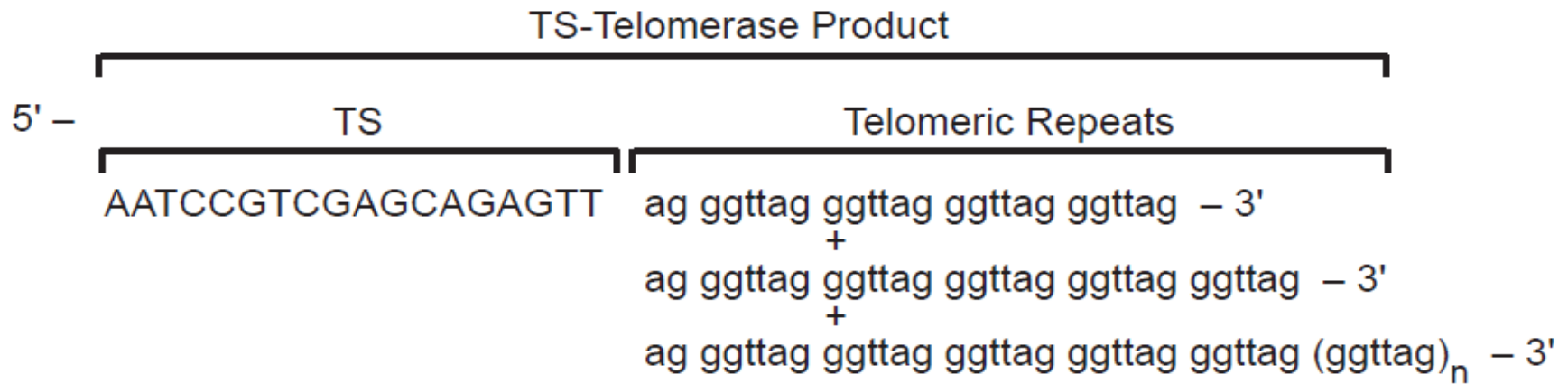
SIRT6-HY: catalytic H133Y SIRT6 mutant protein

SIRT6 knockdown (S6KD) cells

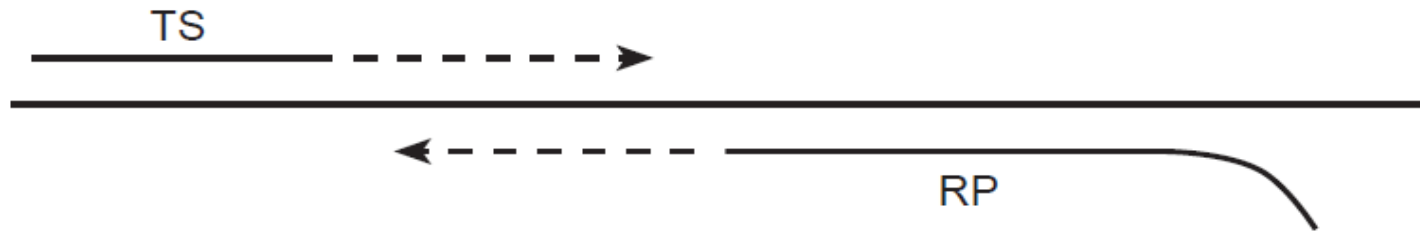


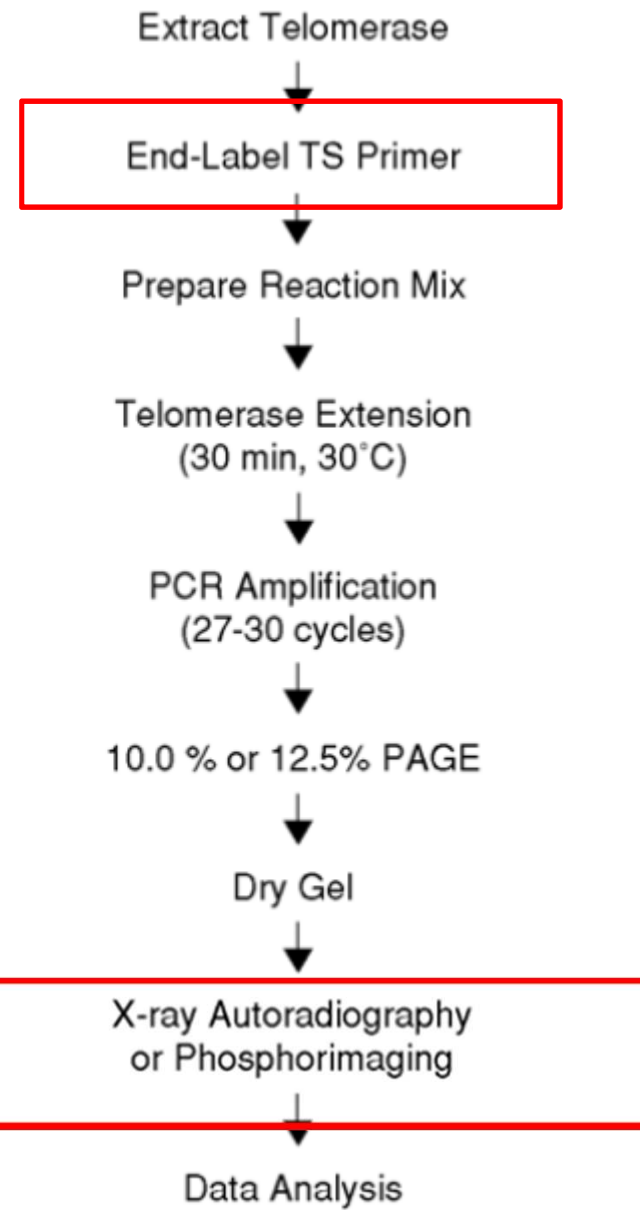
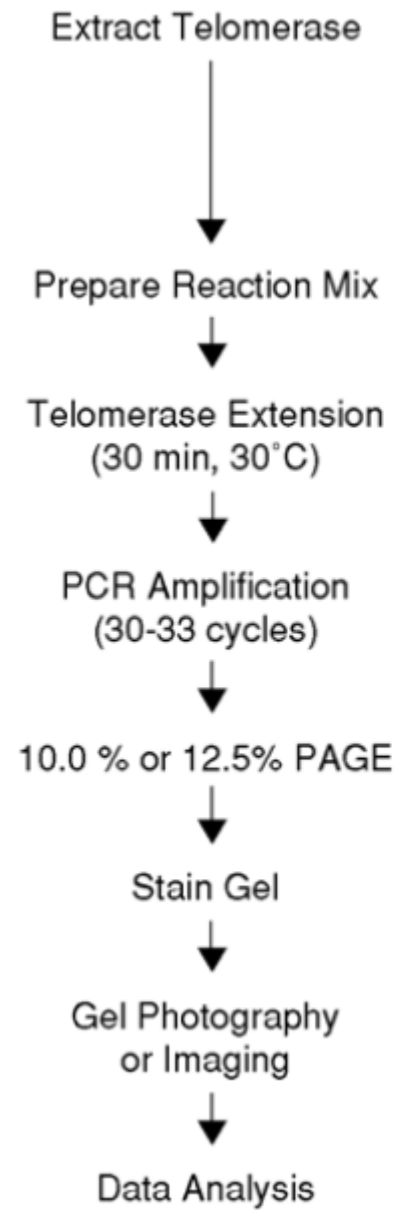
d, Representative S6KD metaphases showing aberrant telomere signals. Red arrows, sister telomere loss; blue arrows, telomere doublets. e, Quantification of sister telomere loss

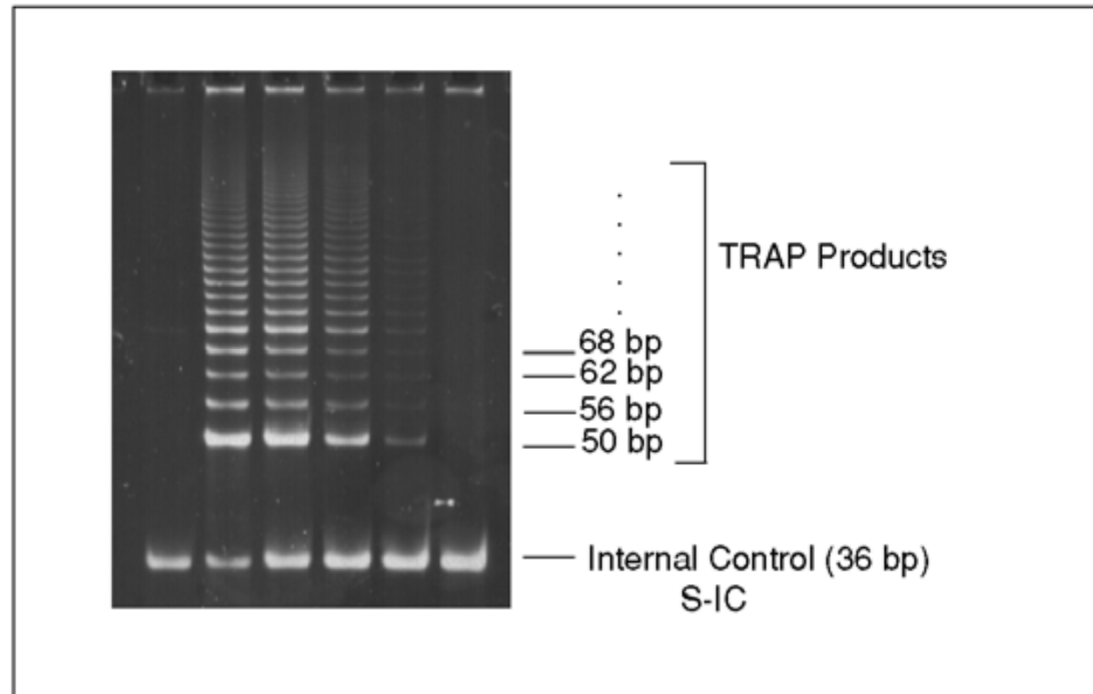
Metodi per lo studio dell'attività telomerasica



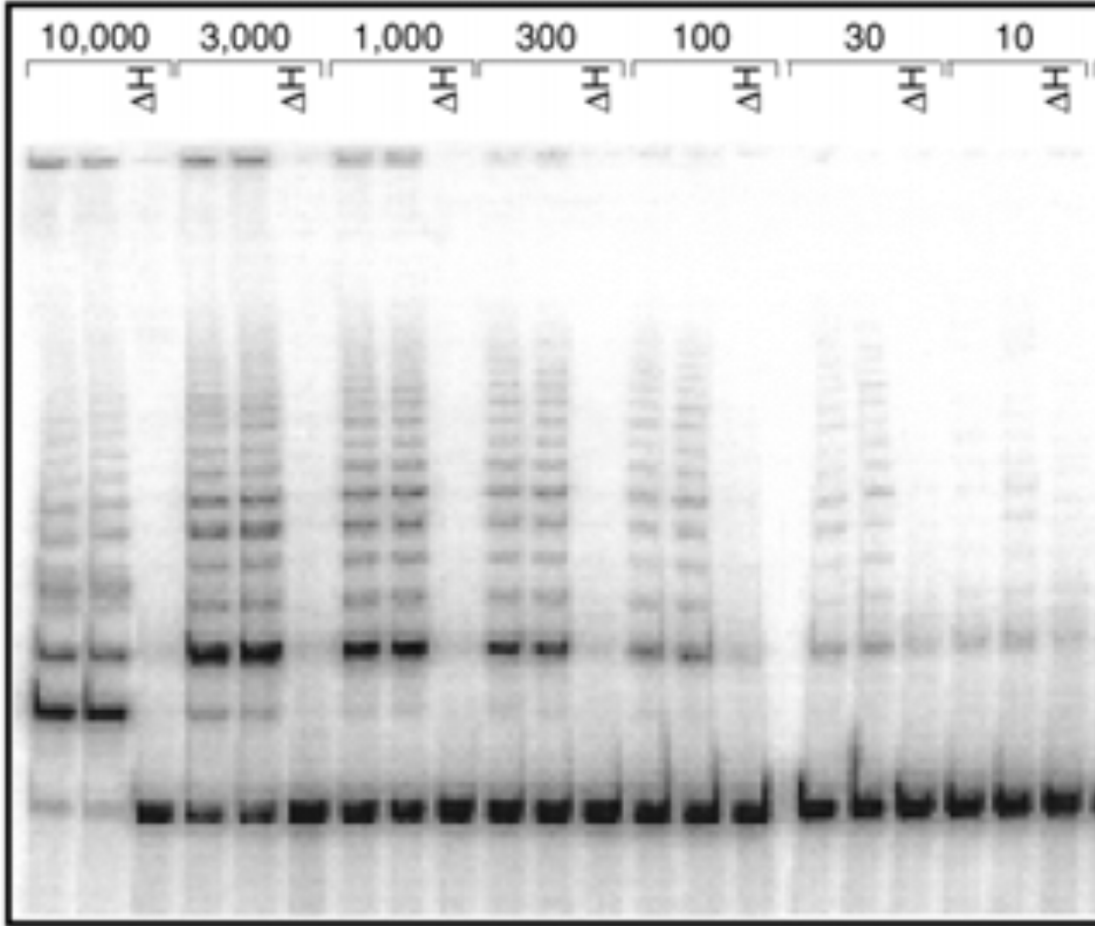
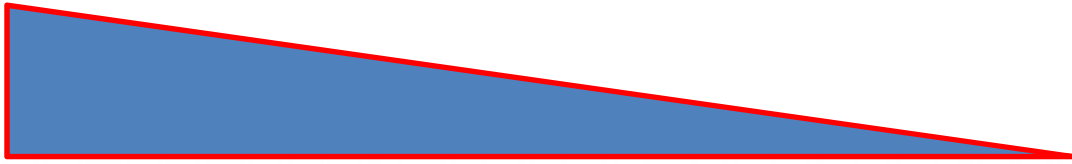
STEP 2. Amplification of TS-Telomerase Product By PCR





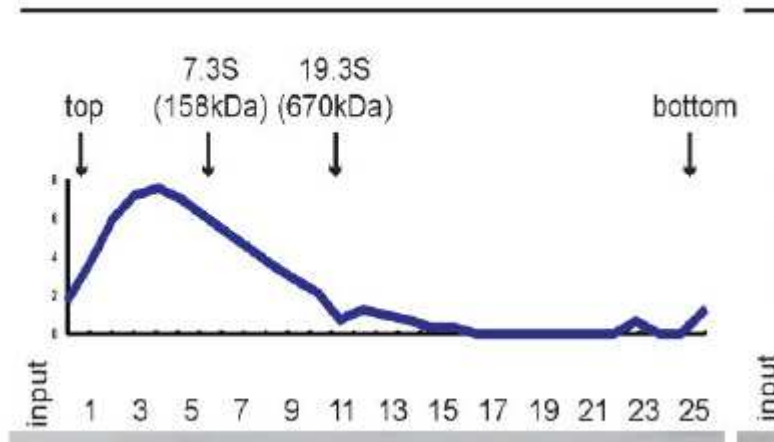


Telomeric Repeat Amplification Protocol



10-30% glycerol gradients

HeLa

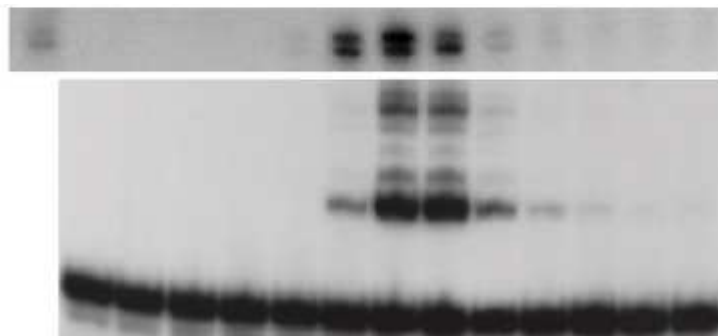


COMPLESSI TELOMERICI

Total protein

NB: TERC

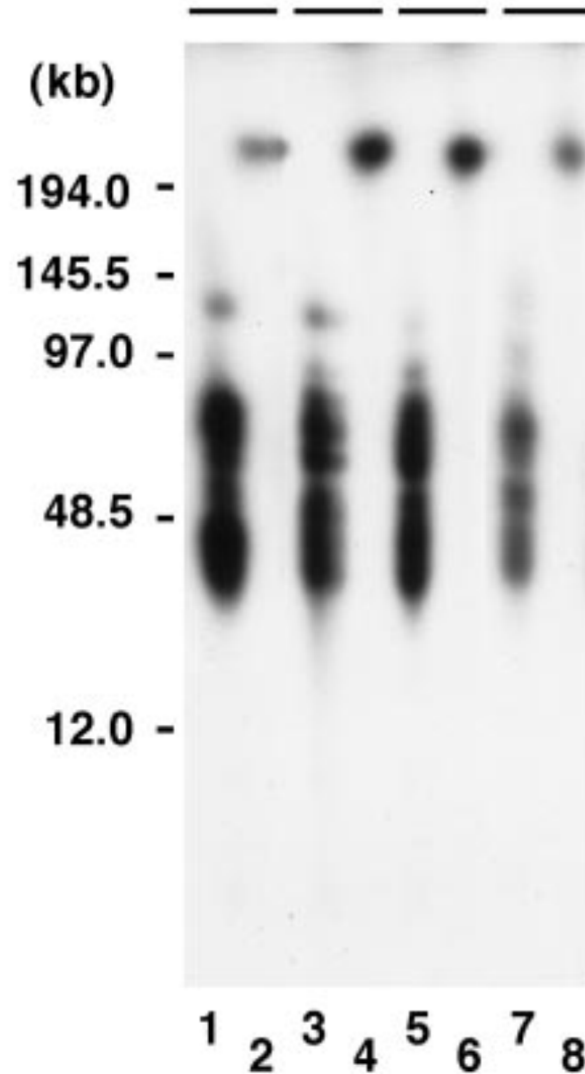
TRAP



Telomeric Repeat Amplification Protocol

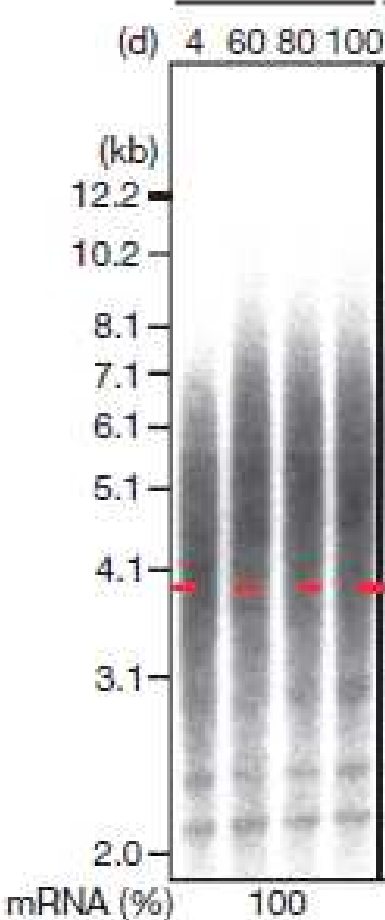
Metodi per lo studio dello stato dei telomeri

DNA TELOMERIC



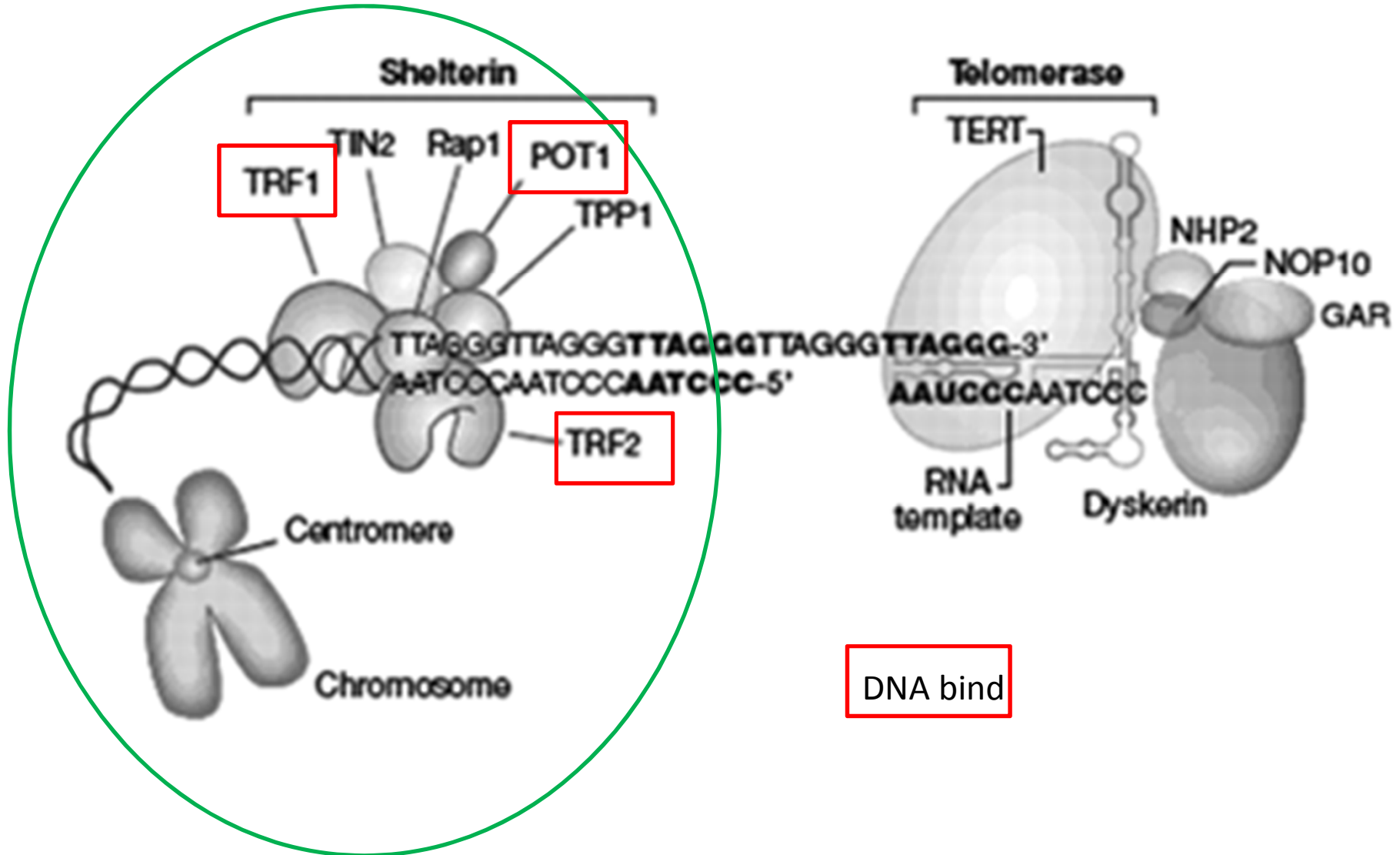
digested with RsaI and Hinf - Odd lanes
pulse-field gel electrophoresis
hybridized with the telomeric specific [TTAGGG]₃ probe

DNA TELOMERICO

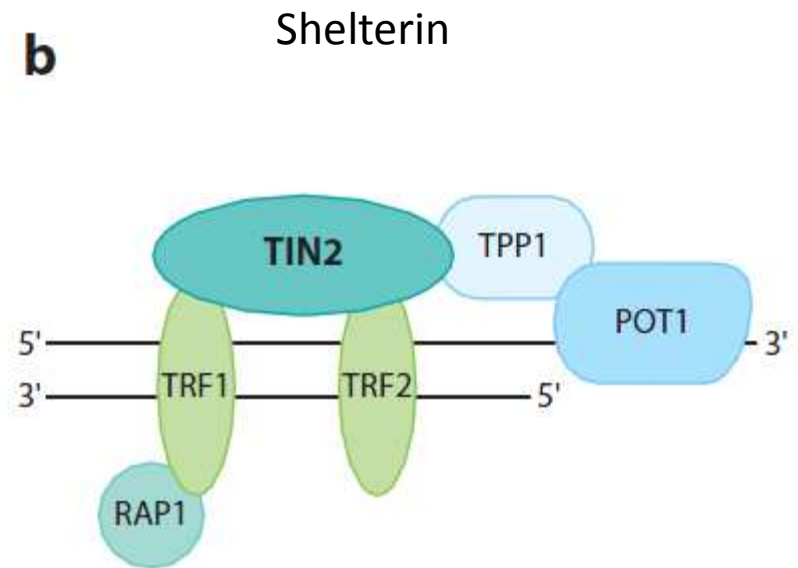


Complessi macromolecolari associati al Telomero: funzioni

Complessi macromolecolari associati al Telomero ed alla Telomerasi



Complessi macromolecolari associati al Telomero



Telomeres are coated by a group of at least six proteins, collectively called **shelterin**

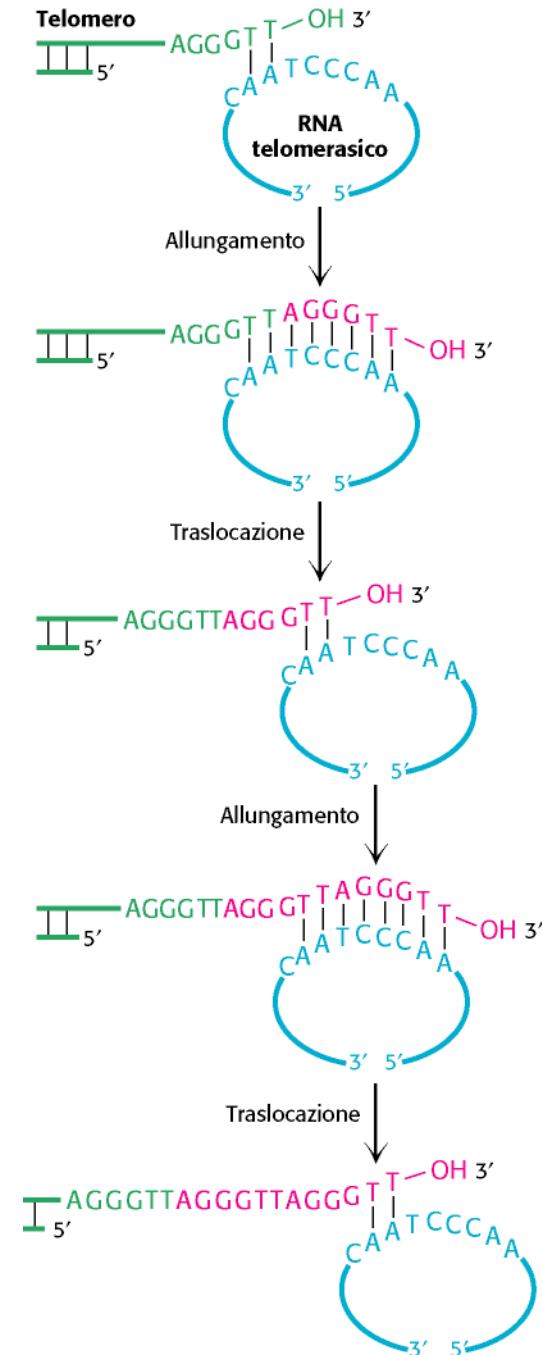
Three proteins, TRF1, TRF2, and POT1(single-stranded repeats) directly recognize and bind to TTAGGG repeats

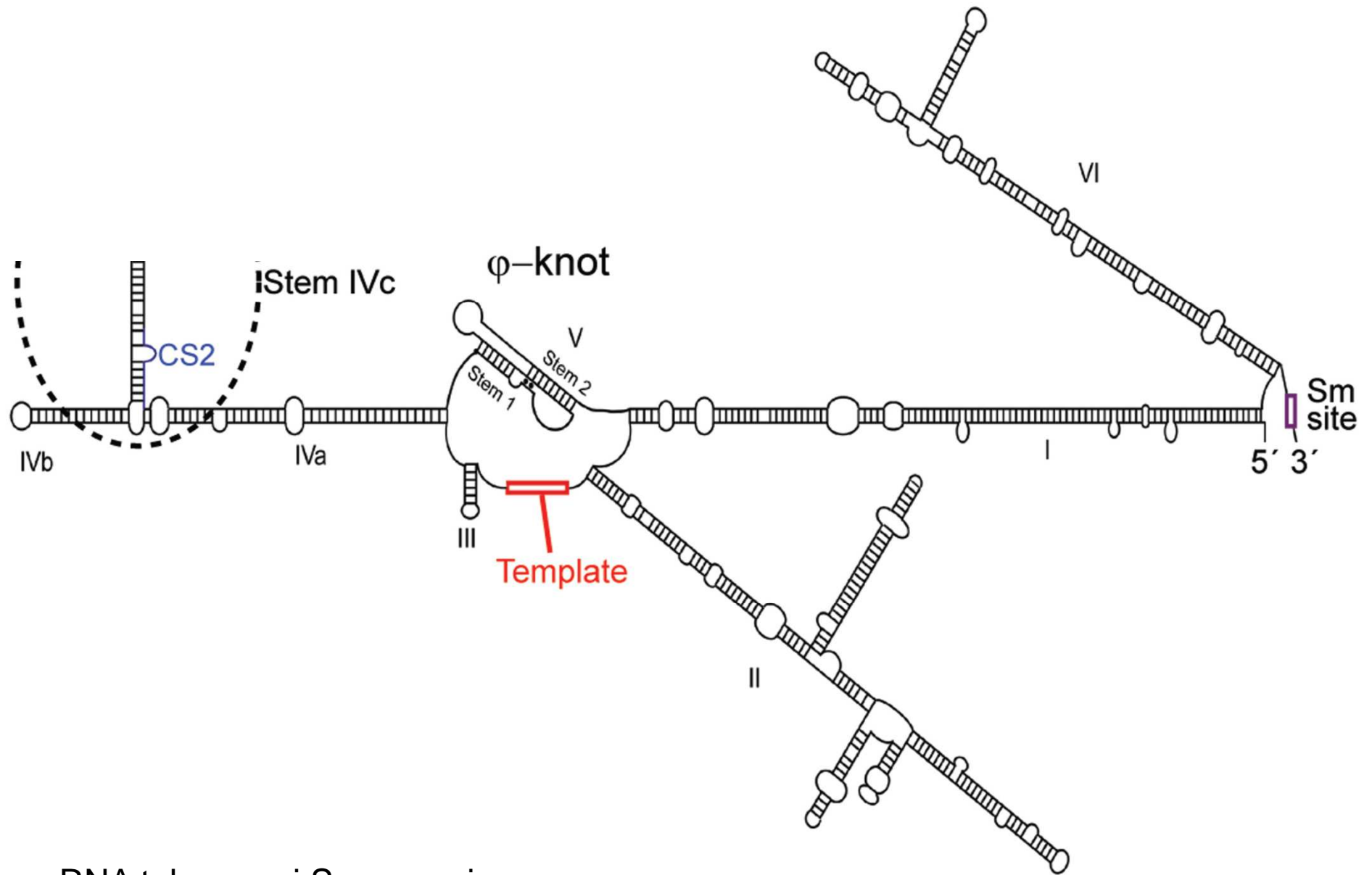
TIN2 TPP1, and Rap1, interconnect the telomere-binding proteins to form the entire complex

Shelterin serves as a signal that allows the cellular DNA repair machinery to distinguish telomeres from DNA double-stranded breaks

L'allungamento del telomero modello riassuntivo

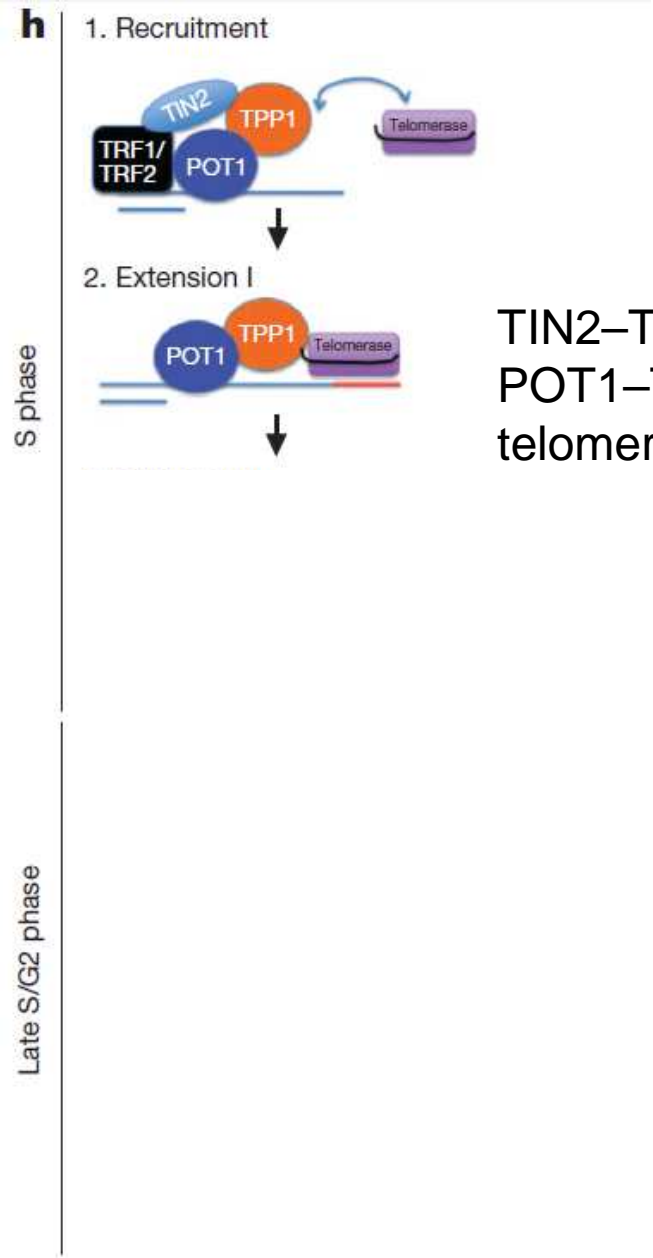
During every cell division, telomeres are potentially shortened by 50–200 bp due to the end replication problem





RNA telomerasi *Saccharomices*

hTR is a 451-nucleotide RNA which contains a box H/ACA motif at its 3' end. The box H/ACA motif is essential for hTR stability and for its assembly with hTERT. These functions are mediated by the presence of the box H/ACA-binding dyskerin complex, which is composed of four proteins: dyskerin, NOP10, NHP2 and GAR1.



TIN2–TPP1 recruits telomerase and POT1–TPP1 promotes processive telomere elongation

IL RECLUTAMENTO DELLA TELOMERASI

TPP1 recruits telomerase to telomeres

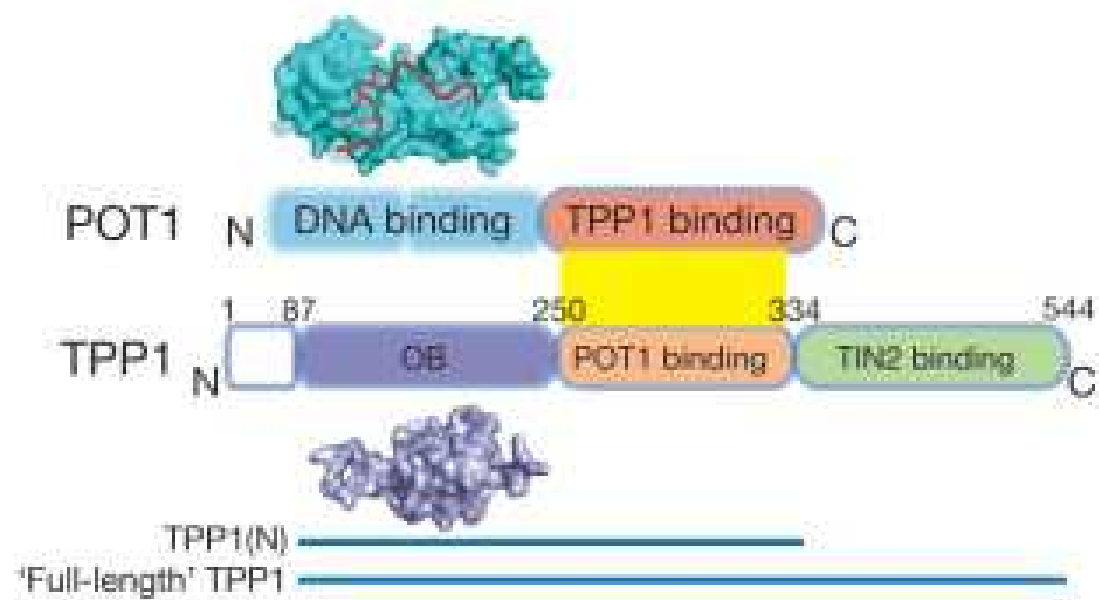
Telomere synthesis involves trafficking of telomerase and telomerase is thought to be recruited to telomeres through interactions with telomere-binding proteins.

The OB-fold domain of the telomere-binding protein TPP1 recruits telomerase to telomeres through an association with the telomerase reverse transcriptase, TERT.

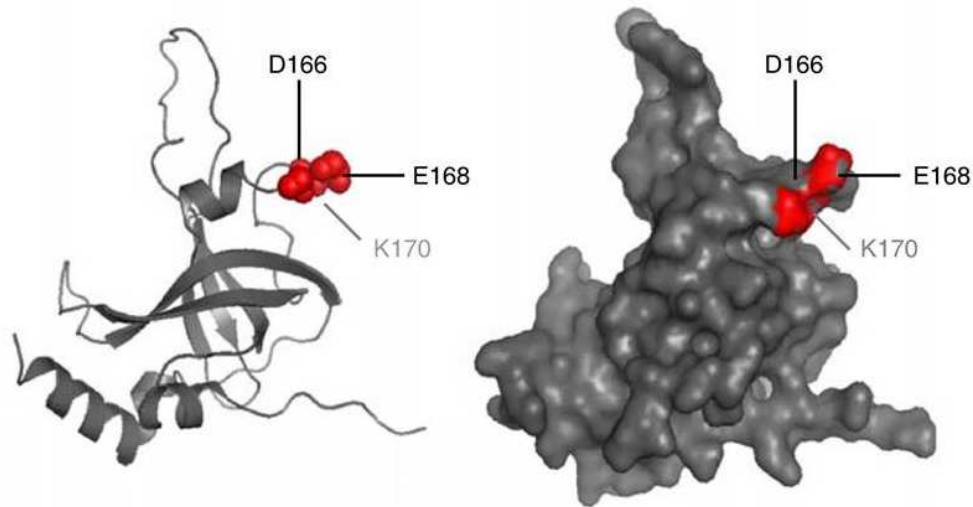
The TPP1 OB-fold domain is sufficient to recruit telomerase to a heterologous chromatin locus.

A minimal TPP1 OB-fold inhibits telomere maintenance by blocking access of telomerase to its binding site at telomeres.

A specific loop residues within the TPP1 OB-fold is necessary for association with critical residues in TERT Telomerase, including those mutated in pulmonary fibrosis patients, which defines the interface required for telomerase-TPP1 interaction.

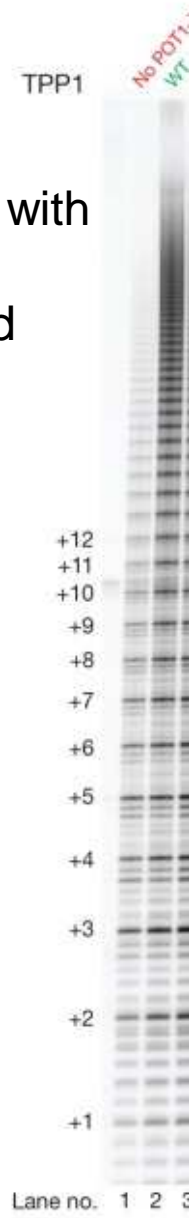
a**c****nature**

the OB-fold domain of the telomere-binding protein TPP1 recruits telomerase to telomeres through an association with the telomerase reverse transcriptase, TERT



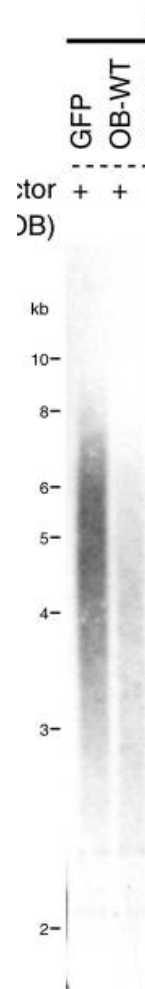
Structural representation of TPP1-OB domain (PDB 2i46).
Residues required for telomerase interaction shown in red

Direct telomerase activity assay with primer of lysates from cells co-transfected with a TR plasmid and POT1, TPP1 MUTANTS and TERT.

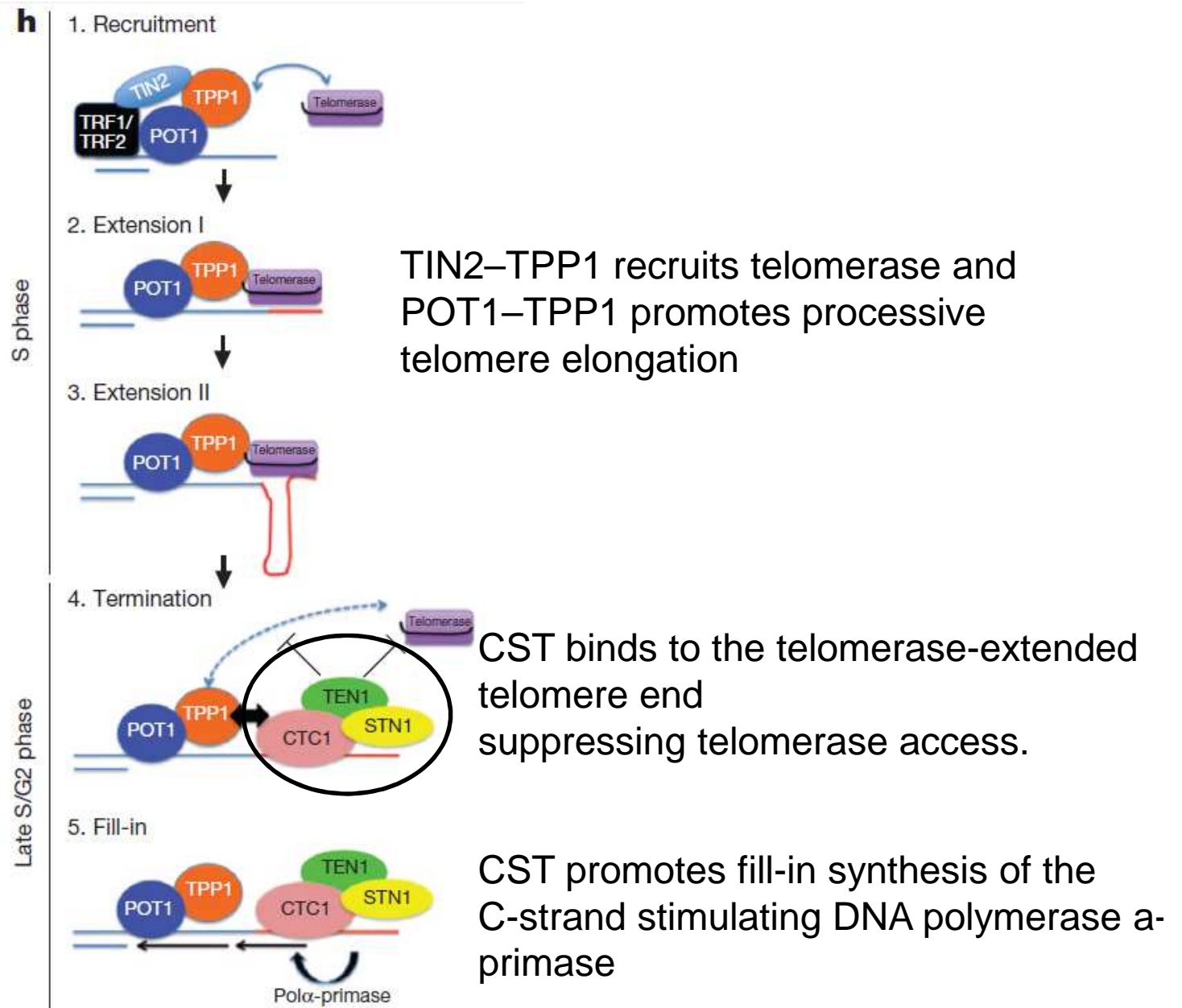


nature

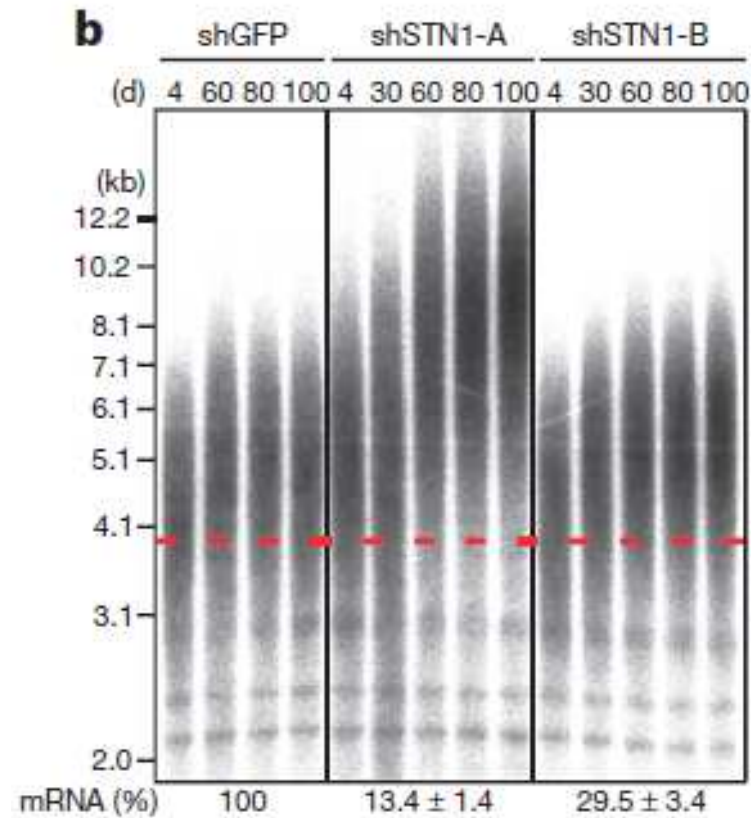
TPP1-OB inhibits telomere length maintenance by telomerase and blocks endogenous telomerase recruitment



The CST complex is a terminator of telomerase activity



The CST complex limits telomere elongation



GLI STATI DEL TELOMERO

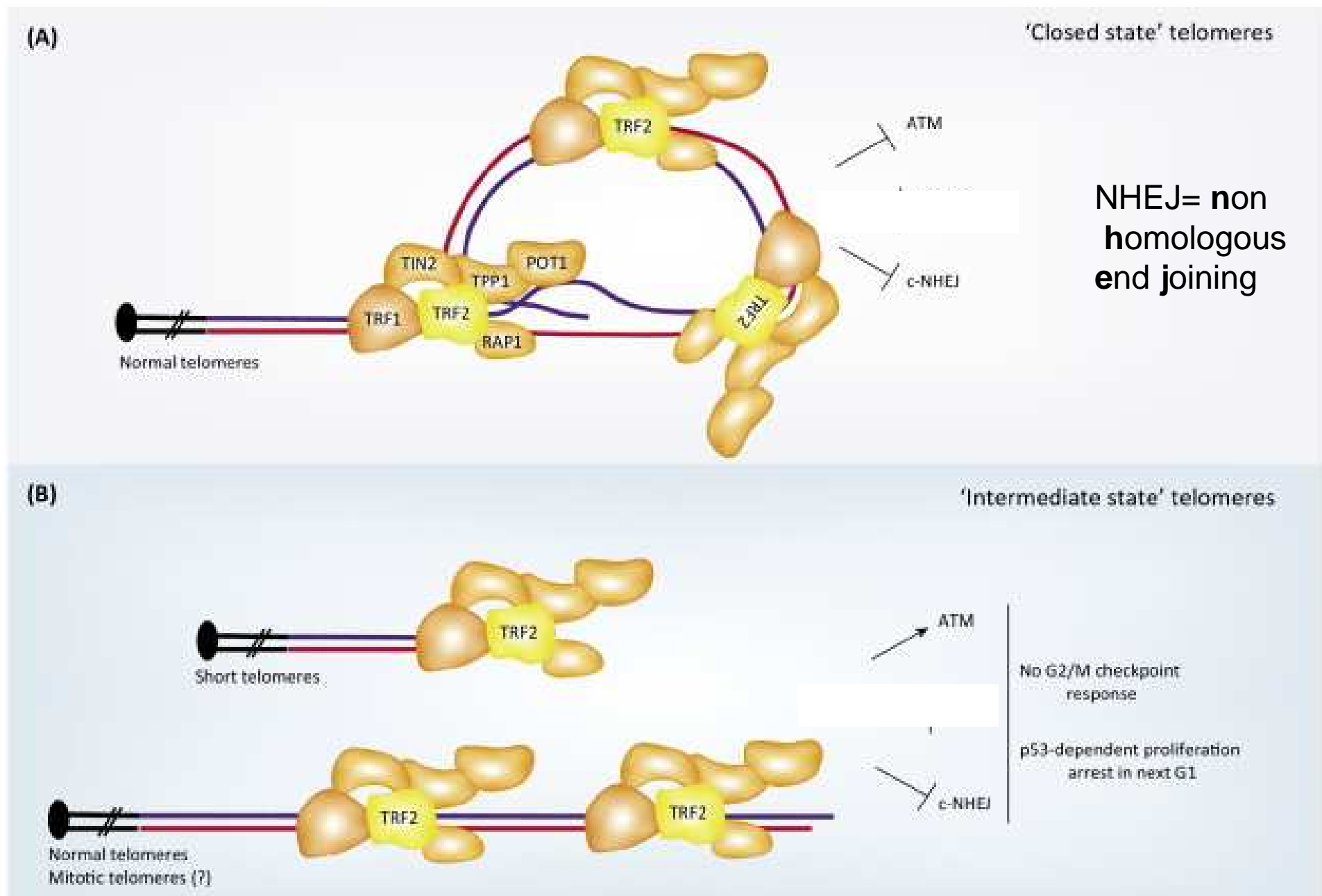
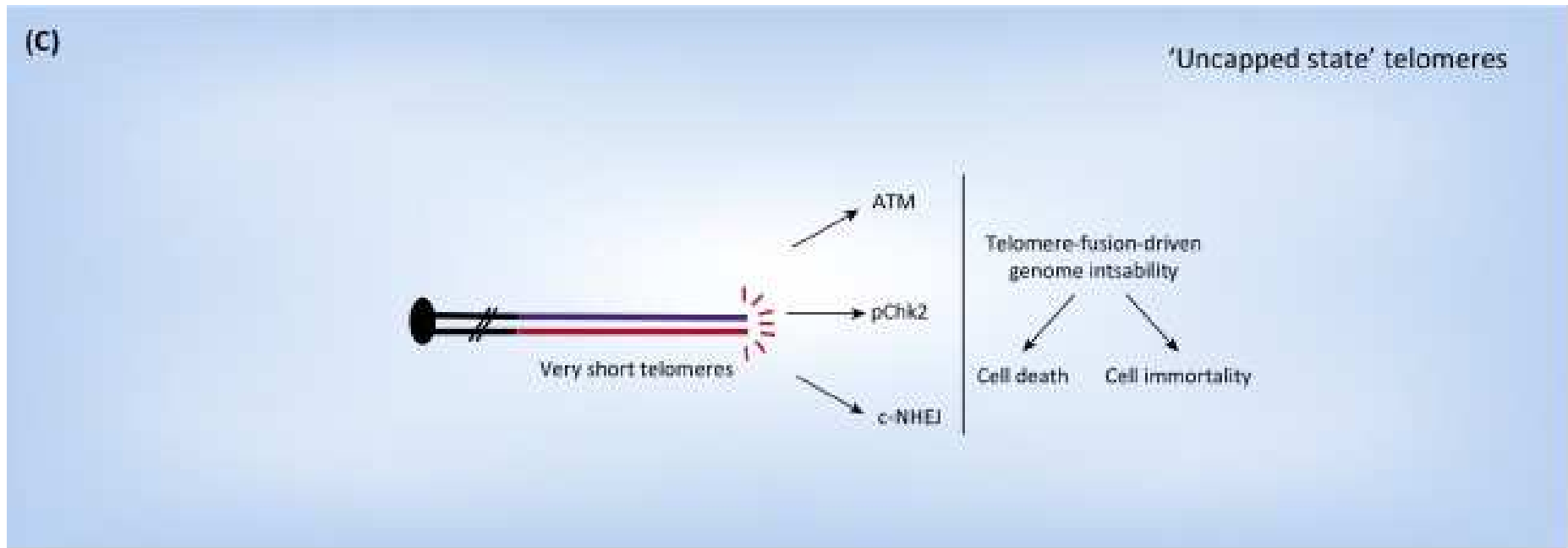


Figure 2. The different states of telomeres: from the physiological 'closed state' to the pathological 'uncapped state'

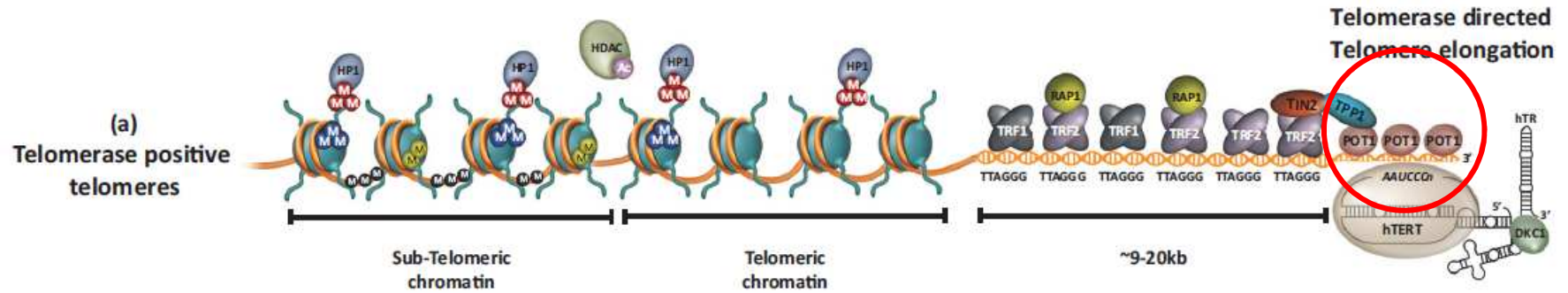


T/BS

Figure 2. The different states of telomeres: from the physiological 'closed state' to the pathological 'uncapped state'

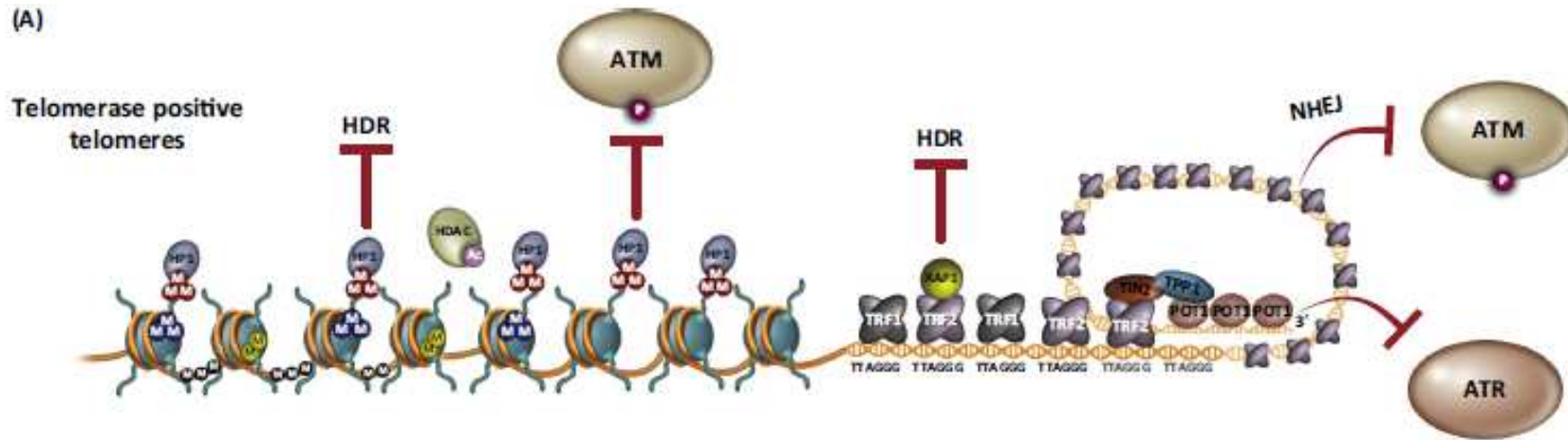
No DDRama at chromosome ends: TRF2 takes centre stage, Sascha Feuerhahn, Liuh-yow Chen, Brian Luke, Antonio Porro

Telomeres in germ and stem cells



Key: M DNA Methylation MM H3K9me3 MMM H4K20me3 MM H3K79me2 Ac Histone acetylation S Protein sumoylation

(A)



DNA damage suppression at mammalian telomeres in the T-loop structure blocks the association of ATM) and ATR kinases to prevent non-homologous end joining (NHEJ)-mediated fusion of telomeres

Key:	
T-Loop associated shelterin	Histone acetylation
T-Loop associated NR2F2	H2A K15 mono-ubiquitination
DNA methylation	Lysine poly-ubiquitination
H3K9me3	Protein phosphorylation
H4K20me3	Protein sumoylation
H4K20me2	γ H2AX (phosphorylation of serine 139 of histone H2AX)
H3K9me2	