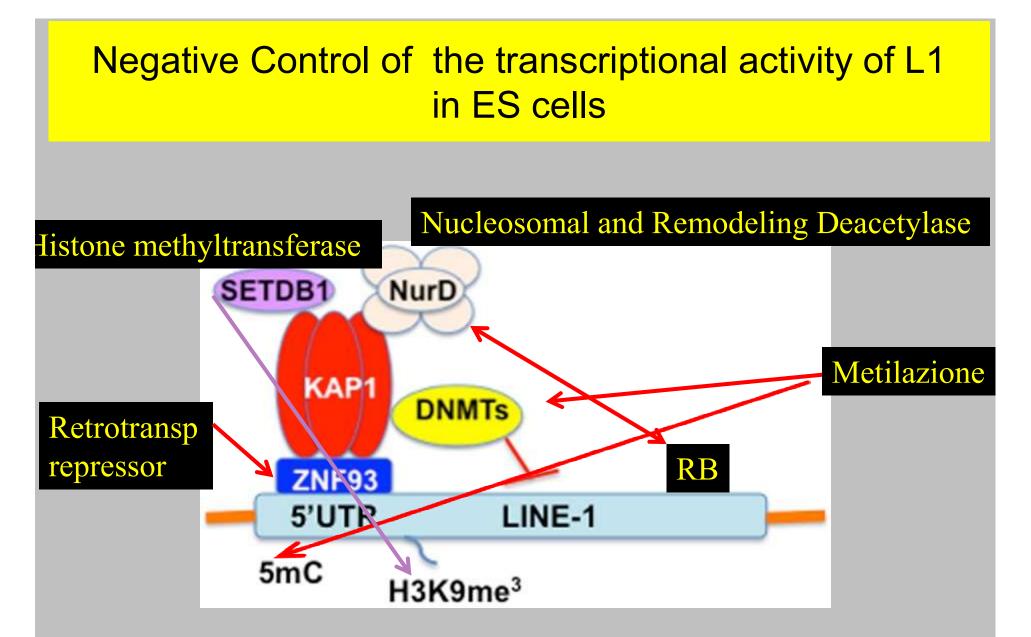
# Negative Control of the transcriptional activity of L1 in ES cells

Histone methyltransferase

Nucleosomal and Remodeling Deacetylase

Metilazione

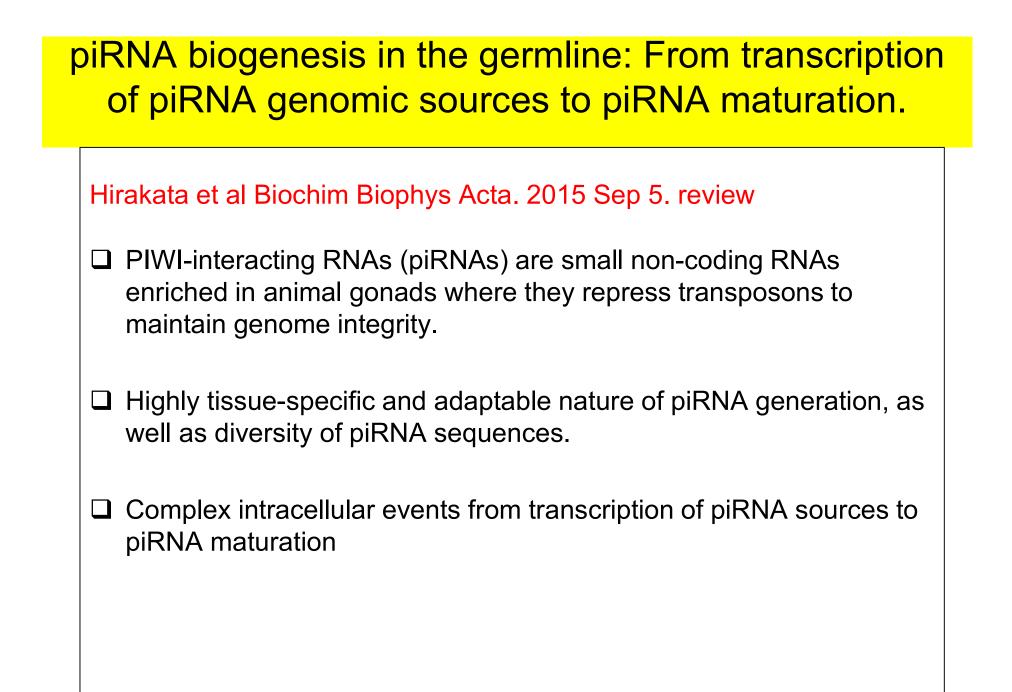
Retrotransp repressor



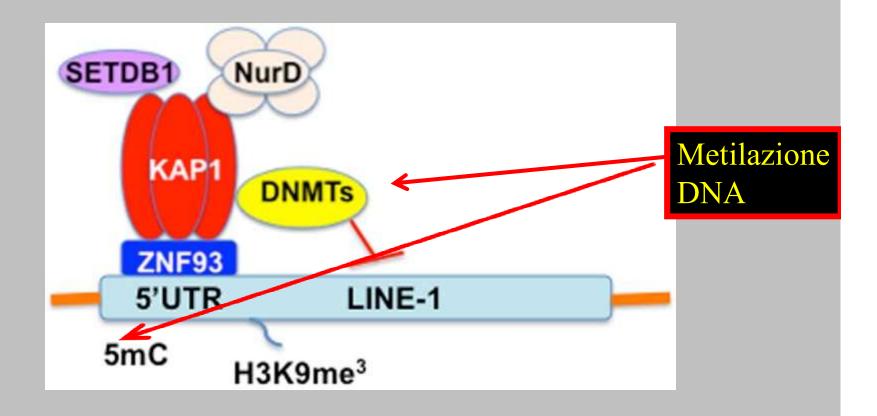
KAP1 serves as a scaffold for heterochromatin complexes

Riconoscimento delle sequenze L1

Le GUIDE - piRNA



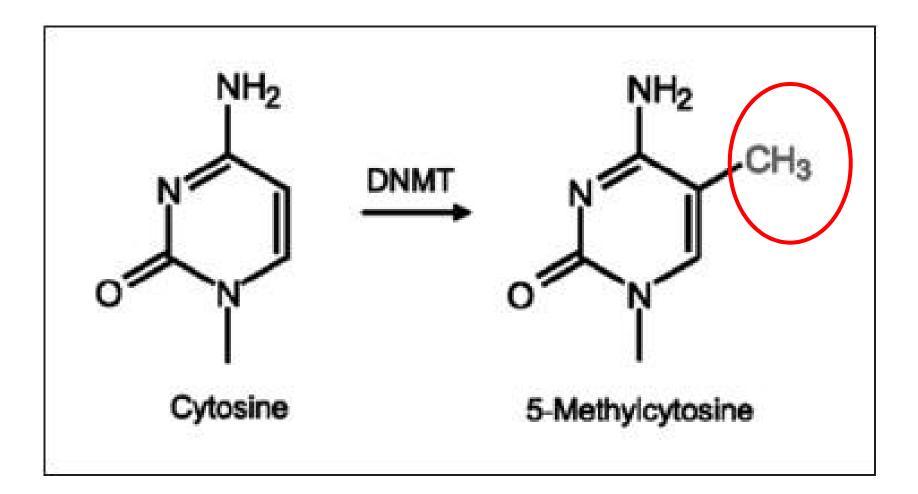
# Negative Control of the transcriptional activity of L1 in ES cells



Mammalian genomes use CpG DNA methylation to silence these genomic parasites.

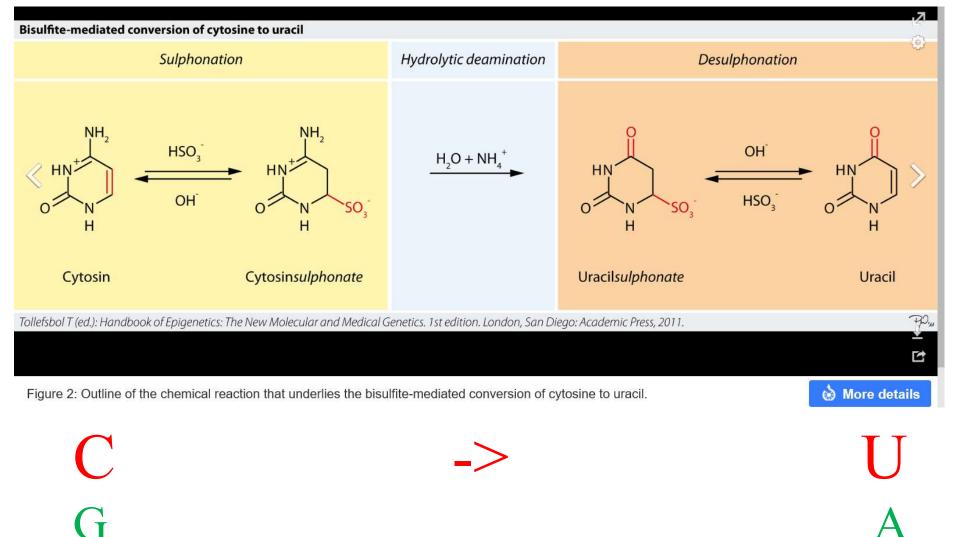
A class of small RNAs is used to specifically guide the DNA methylation machinery to the transposon DNA elements.

Animal germ lines have evolved a dedicated class of 24- to 30nucleotide (nt)-long small RNAs called Piwi-interacting RNAs (piRNAs)

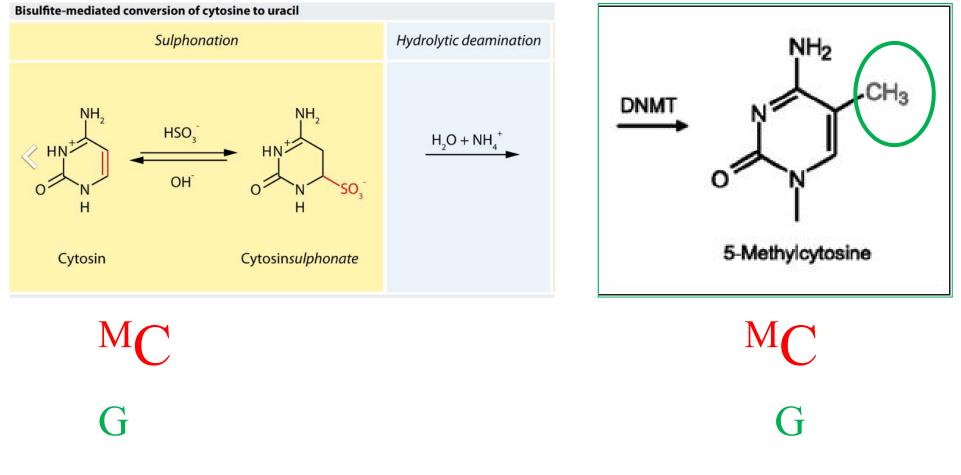


Rivelazione indiretta delle metil-citosine

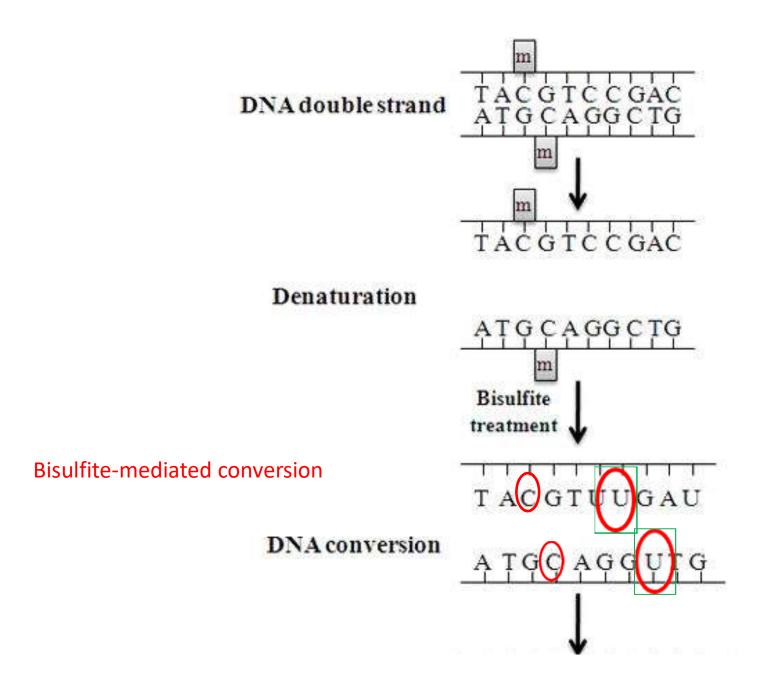
#### Bisulfite-mediated conversion of cytosine to Uracil

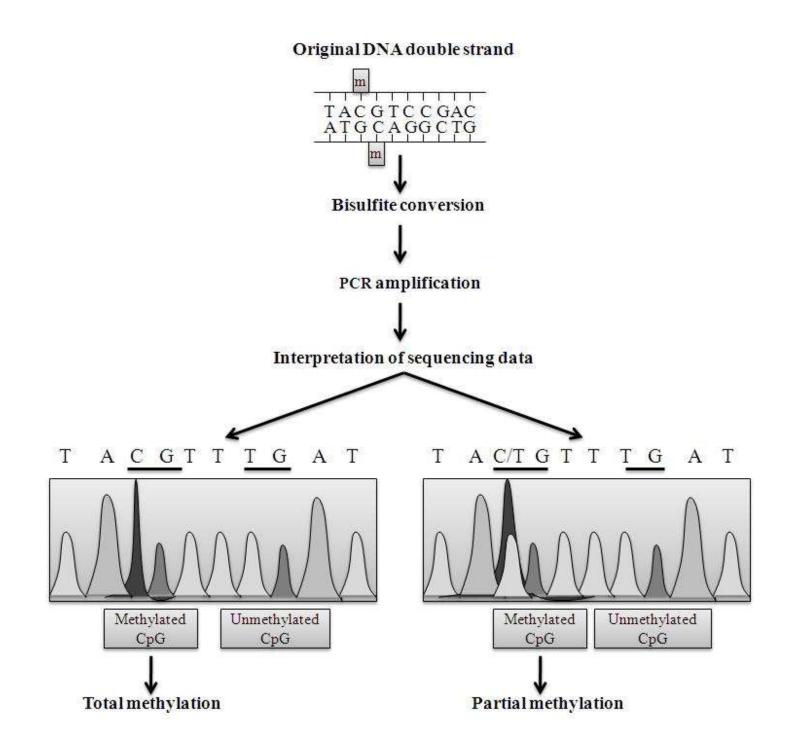


#### Bisulfite-mediated conversion of cytosine to Uracil



### Bisulfite does NOT convert 5MC-to Uracil





## CpG DNA methylation (filled circles) on transposon L1 Promoters



# CpG DNA methylation (filled circles) on transposon L1 Promoters

(-/-) Tdrd12

Tdrd12 mutant -

# Tdrd12 mutant male mice are infertile and display derepression of retrotransposons



Atrophied testes of homozygous (-/-) Tdrd12 mutants

Animal germ lines have evolved a dedicated class of 24- to 30nucleotide (nt)-long small RNAs called Piwi-interacting RNAs (piRNAs)

Tdrd family proteins (Tudor domain Tdrd) participate in piRNA biogenesis The Tdrd12 interacts with the piRNA pathway and regulates piRNA biogenesis TDRD12 (Tudor Domain) is detected in complexes containing

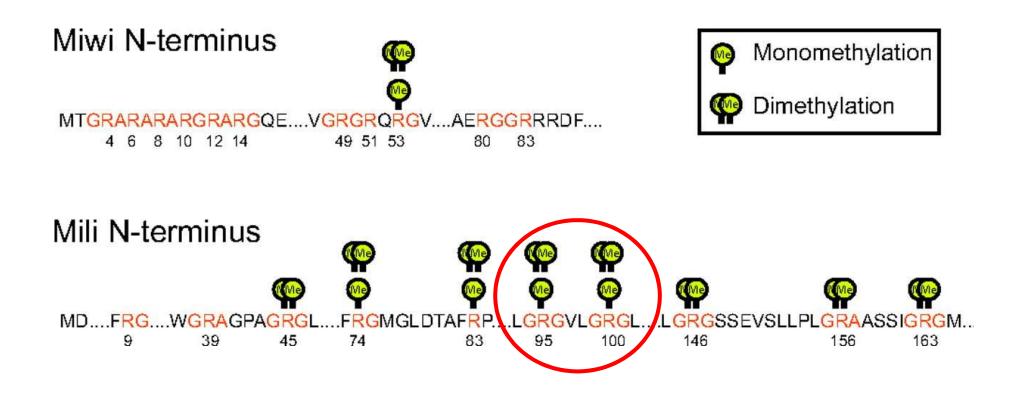
Piwi protein **MILI**, piRNAs, TDRD1 (piRNA biogenesis)

Male mice carrying either a nonsense point mutation or a targeted deletion in the Tdrd12 locus are **infertile** and **derepress retrotransposons.** 

TDRD12 is essential for production of piRNAs that enter Piwi protein MIWI2.

#### METILAZIONE DELLE PROTEINE

Arginine methylation sites detected on endogenous Miwi and Mili by mass spectrometry.

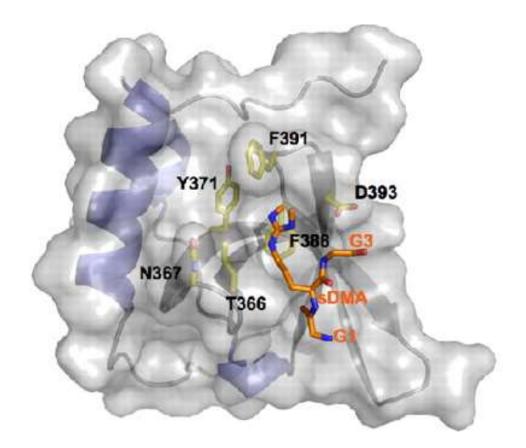


Chen Chen et al. PNAS 2009;106:48:20336-20341



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#### **Crystal structure of the Tudor domain**

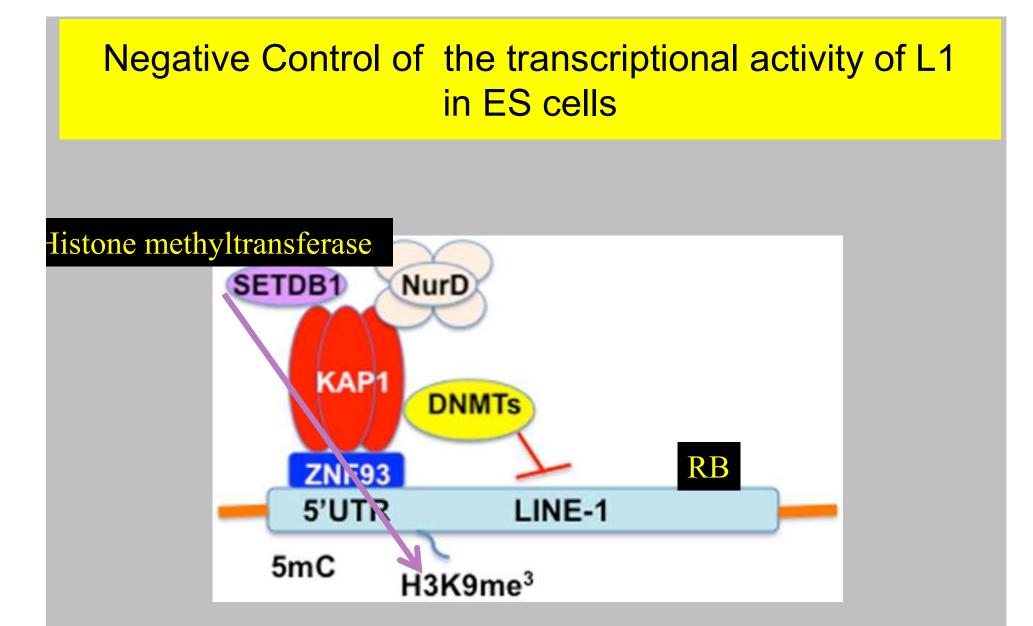


#### Molecular docking of a GRG peptide

Chen Chen et al. PNAS 2009;106:48:20336-20341

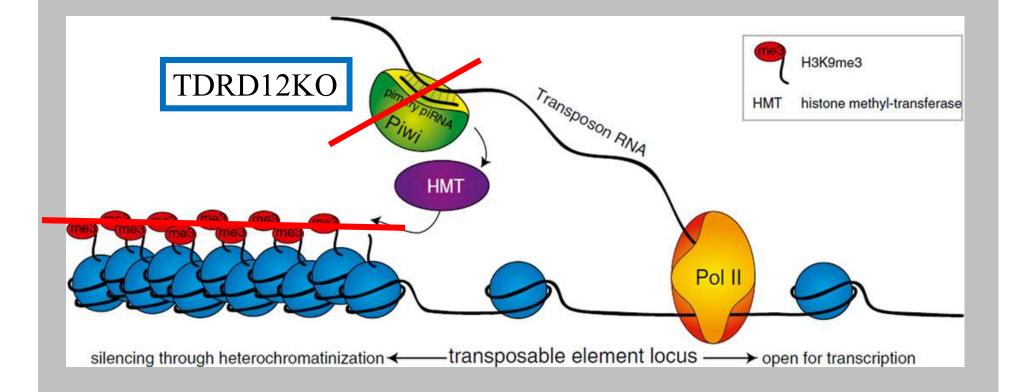


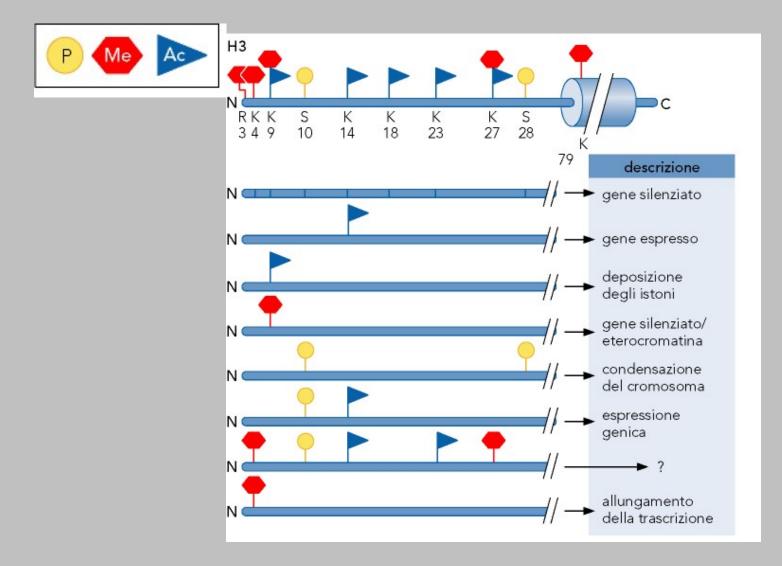
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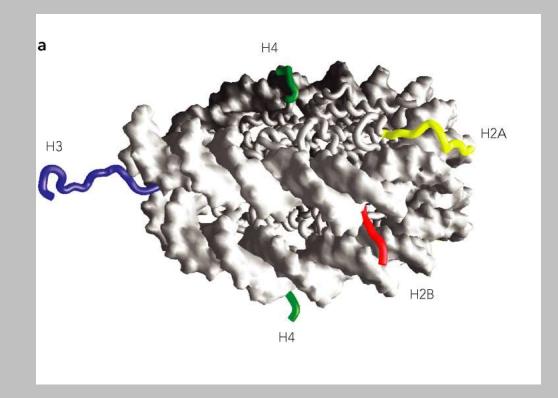
KAP1 serves as a scaffold for heterochromatin complexes

# nuclear function of the piRNA pathway

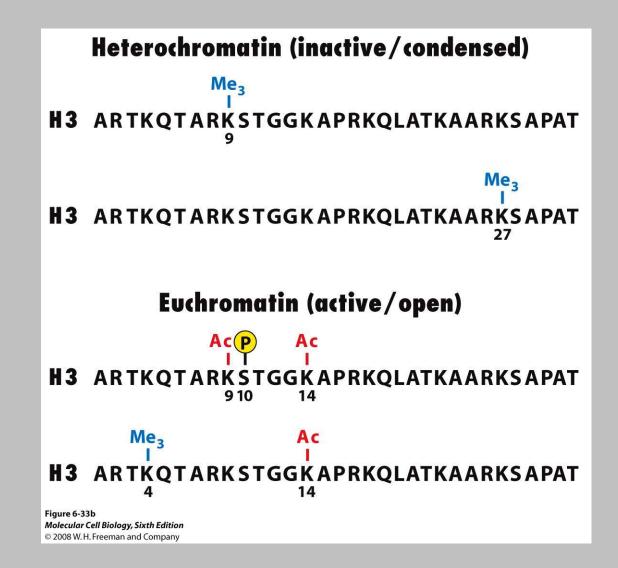


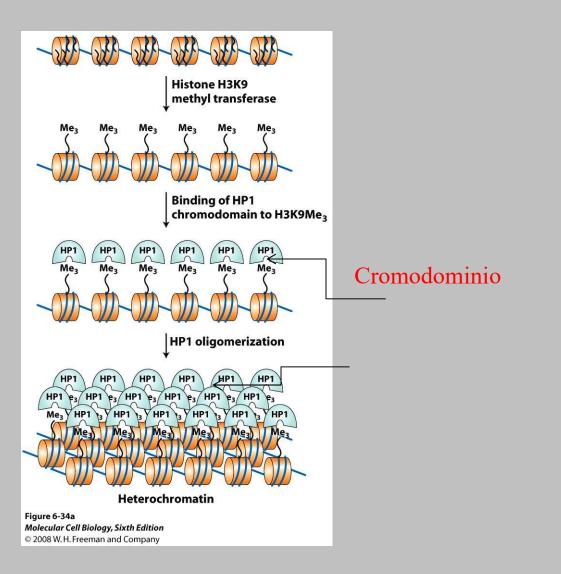


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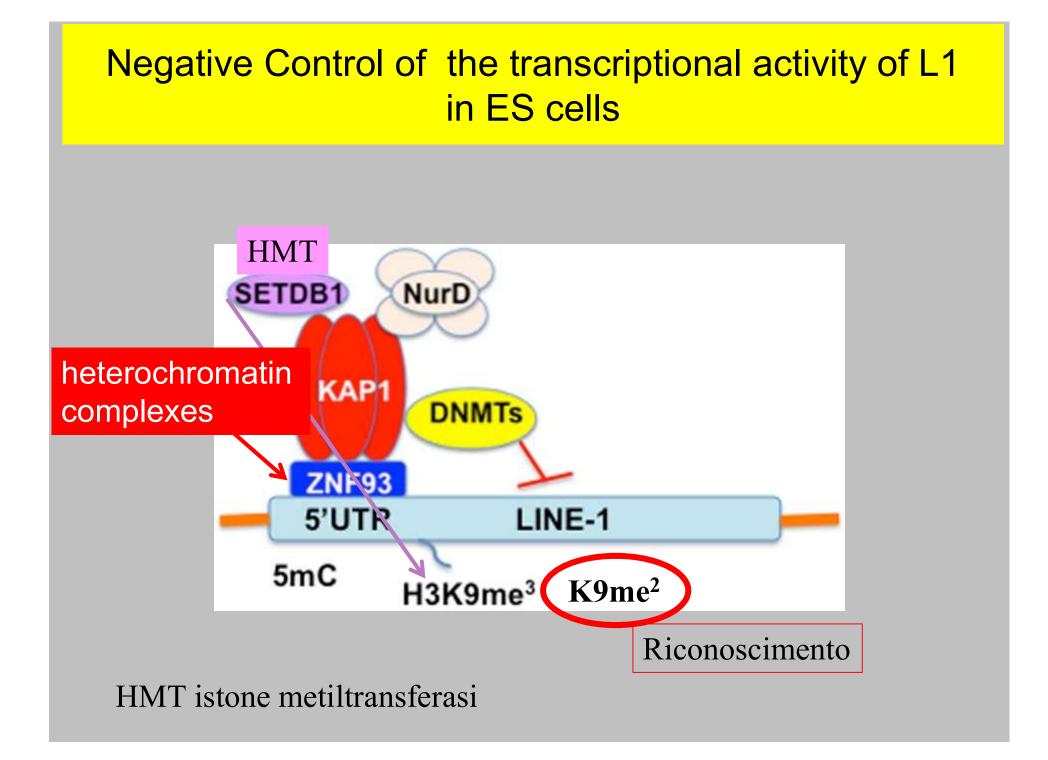




In mice, the piRNA pathway is mainly active in the male germ line

three Piwi proteins

MILI Chromatin MIWI MIWI2 Nuclear



In mice, the piRNA pathway is mainly active in the male germ line

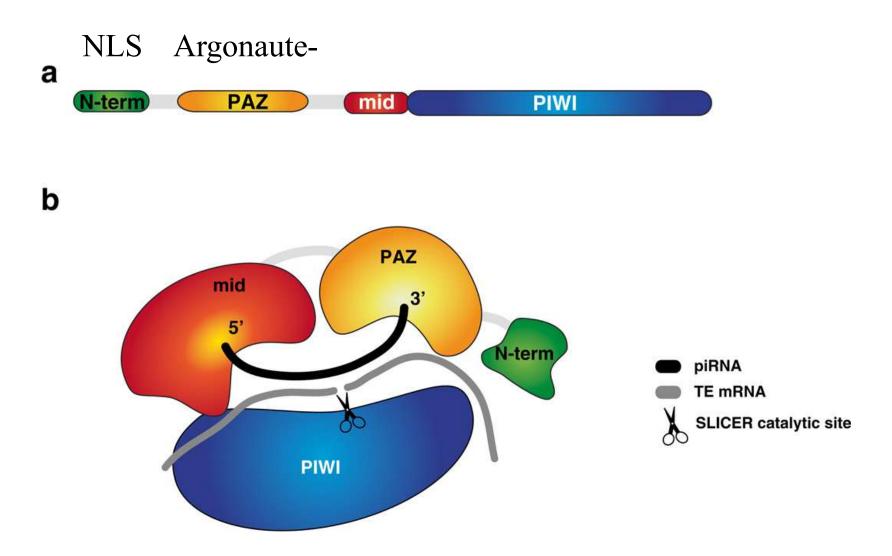
three Piwi proteins

MILI MIWI2

Cytoplasmic MIWI have a role in maintaining repression by direct cleavage of transposon transcripts using their endonucleolytic (Slicer) cleavage activity

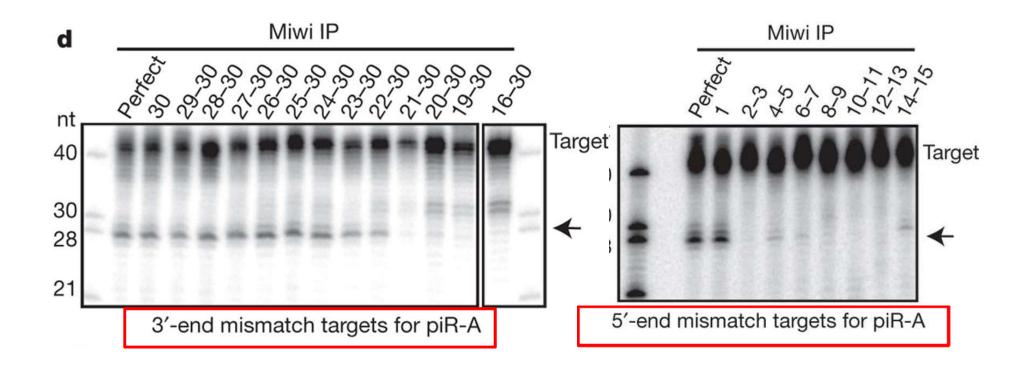
# **SLICER**

- Posttranscriptional transposon silencing bases on degradation of transposon transcripts
- to prevent either reverse transcription followed by genomic reintegration or
- To prevent translation into proteins that mediate the transposition process



# domain structure of PlWI - argonaute proteins

# Miwi is a small RNA-guided RNase (slicer) that requires extensive complementarity for target cleavage





M Reuter et al. Nature 000, 1-4 (2011) doi:10.1038/nature10672

#### 

Miwi is a slicer requiring extensive 5' complementarity for target cleavage.

5'-end mismatch targets for piR-A

The slicer activity depends on a catalytic motif (Asp-Asp-His; DDH motif)

28

21

Miwi mice heterozygous (Miwi1/ADH) for a point mutation in Miwi at the first aspartate (D633A, ADH) of the catalytic motif were sterile

nature

no function

M Reuter et al. Nature 000, 1-4 (2011) doi:10.1038/nature10672