

# TELOMERI E COMPLESSI DEL TELOMERO

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

These structures function as

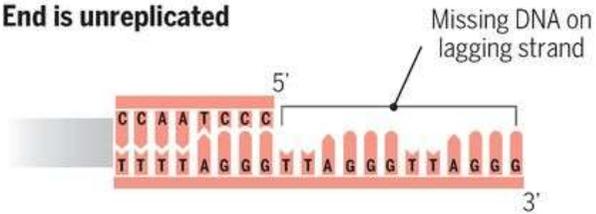
**A** **guardians of genome stability** by **limiting unwanted DNA repair** activity at chromosome ends, and in human cells,

**B** by **controlling the total number of times a cell can divide**, thereby limiting the accumulation of genomic instability in actively cycling cells

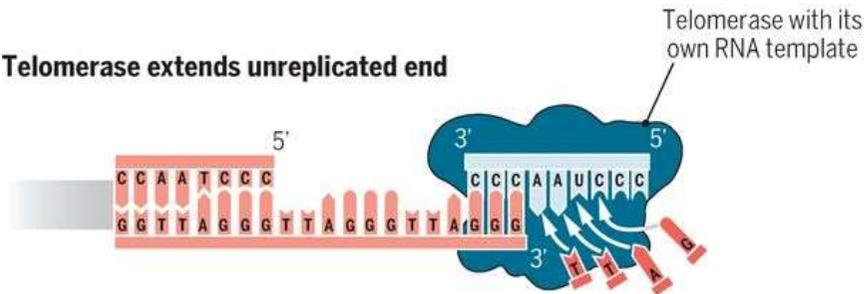
# Long-term maintenance of telomeric DNA length requires telomerase.

A

End is unreplicated



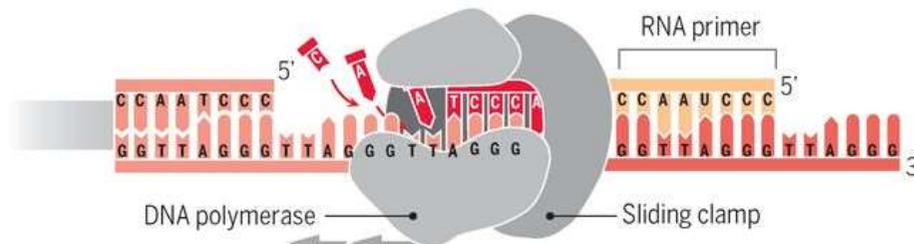
Telomerase extends unreplicated end



Again, telomerase extends unreplicated end



Lagging strand is completed

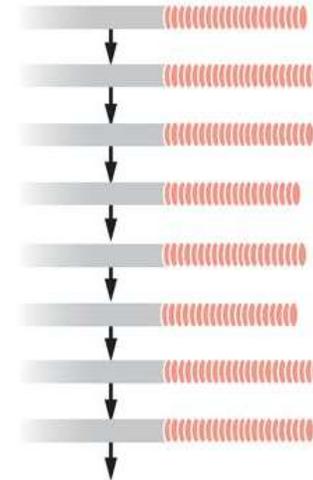
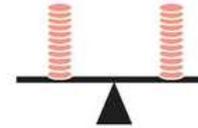


# Long-term maintenance of telomeric DNA length requires telomerase.

**B**

**Abundant telomerase** as cell divides

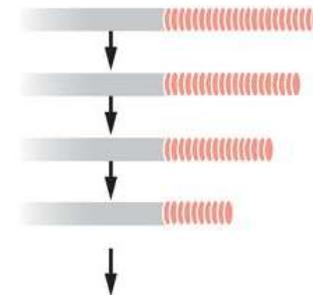
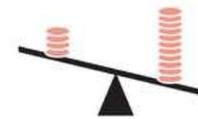
Addition and shortening stay balanced



**Cells keep dividing**  
Most human cancers

**C**

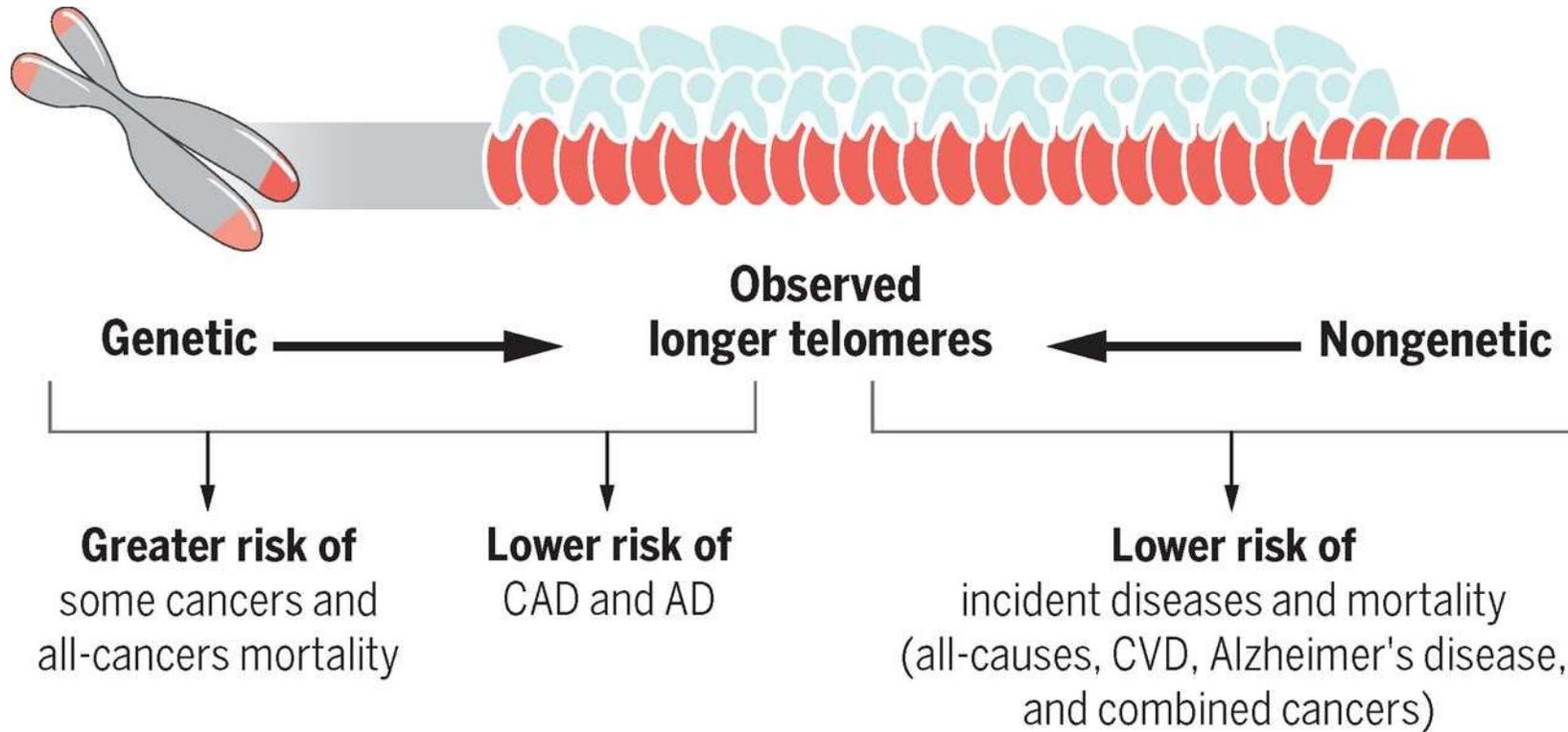
**Insufficient telomerase** as cell divides



**Cell division STOPS after a delay**  
Senescence; cell malfunctions; genomic instability  
Mitochondrial malfunction, pro-inflammatory,  
tumorigenic factors



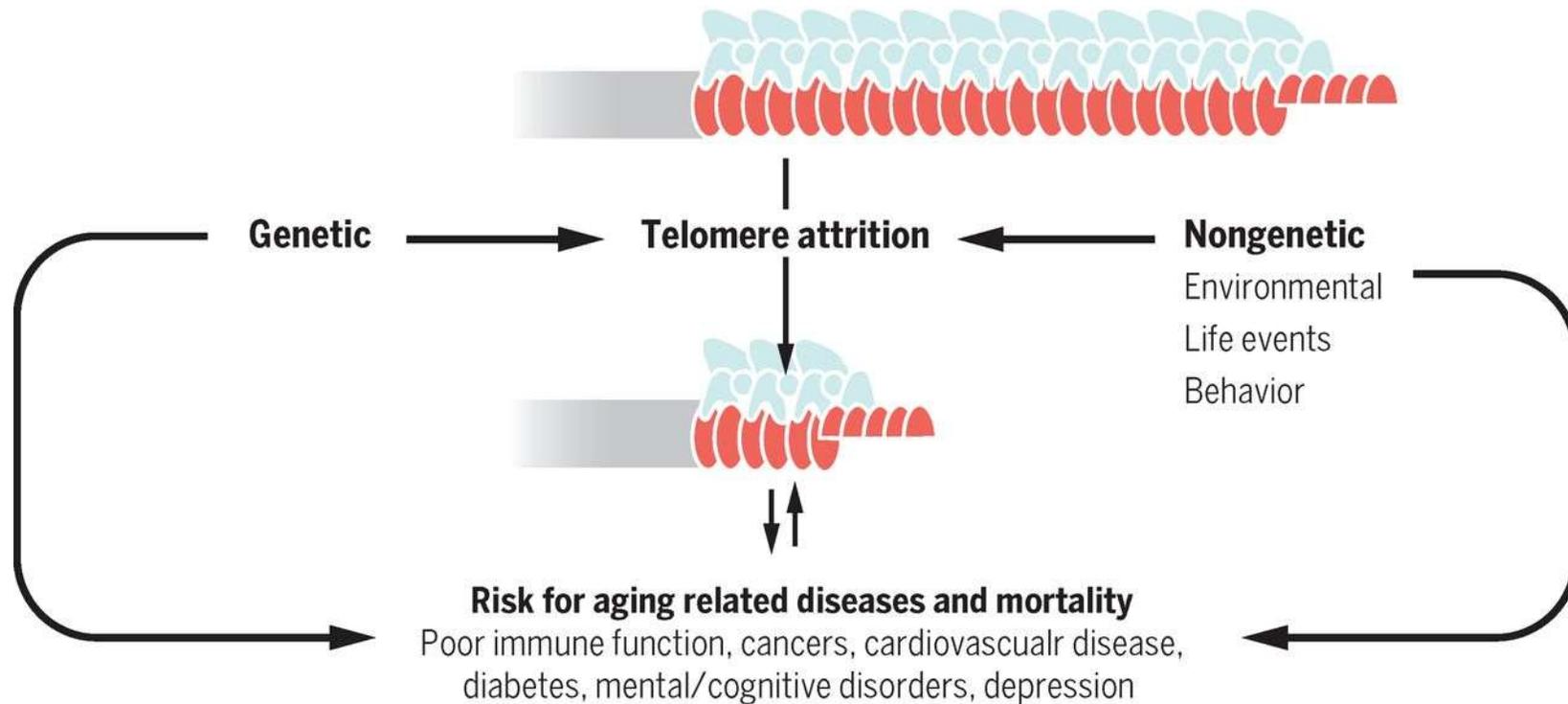
**Different inputs to telomere maintenance have disease-specific consequences.**



Elizabeth H. Blackburn et al. *Science* 2015;350:1193-1198



## Relationship of telomere attrition to human aging-related diseases.



Elizabeth H. Blackburn et al. *Science* 2015;350:1193-1198



# IL DNA Telomerico e le sue strutture alternative

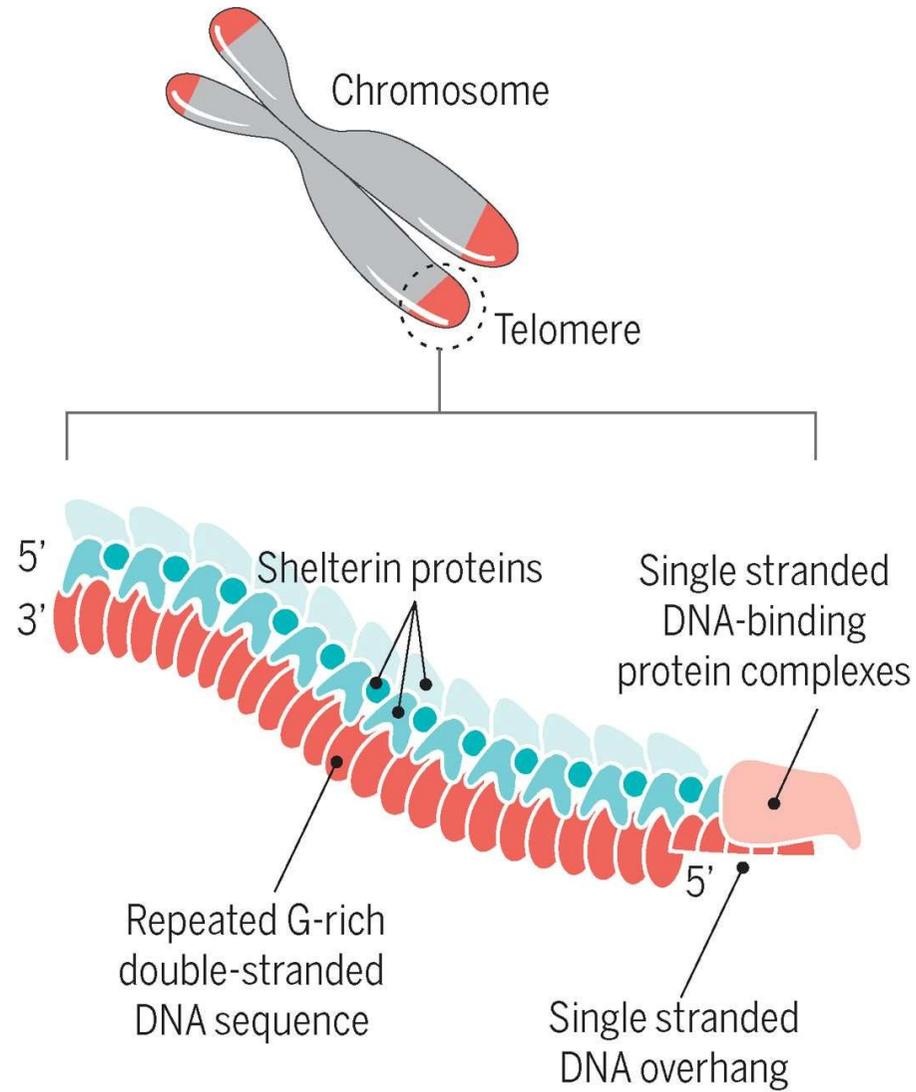
# SEQUENZA TELOMERICA



5–15 kb in humans, ~48 kb in mice

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

## Telomere general structure.



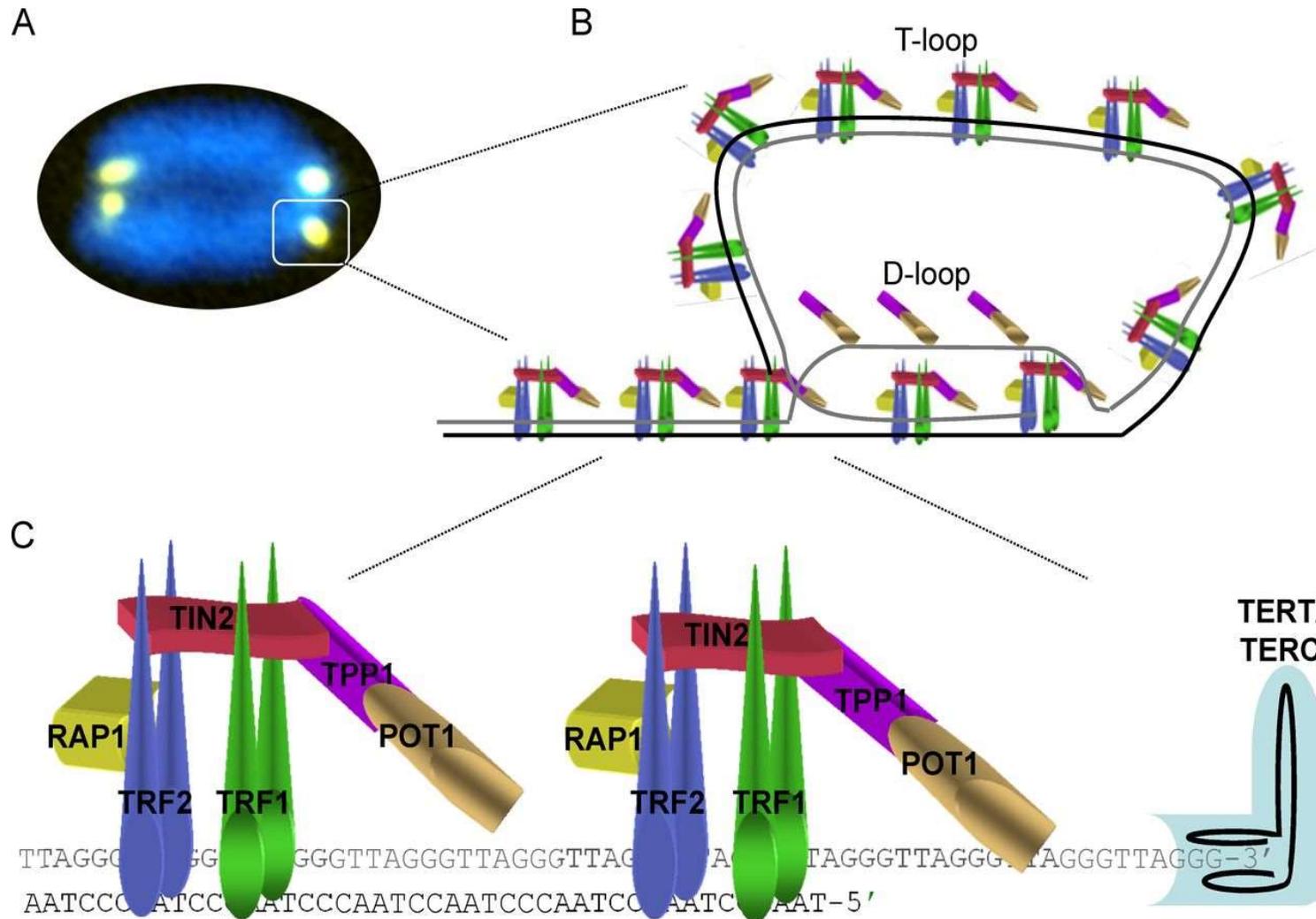
Elizabeth H. Blackburn et al. *Science* 2015;350:1193-1198



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.



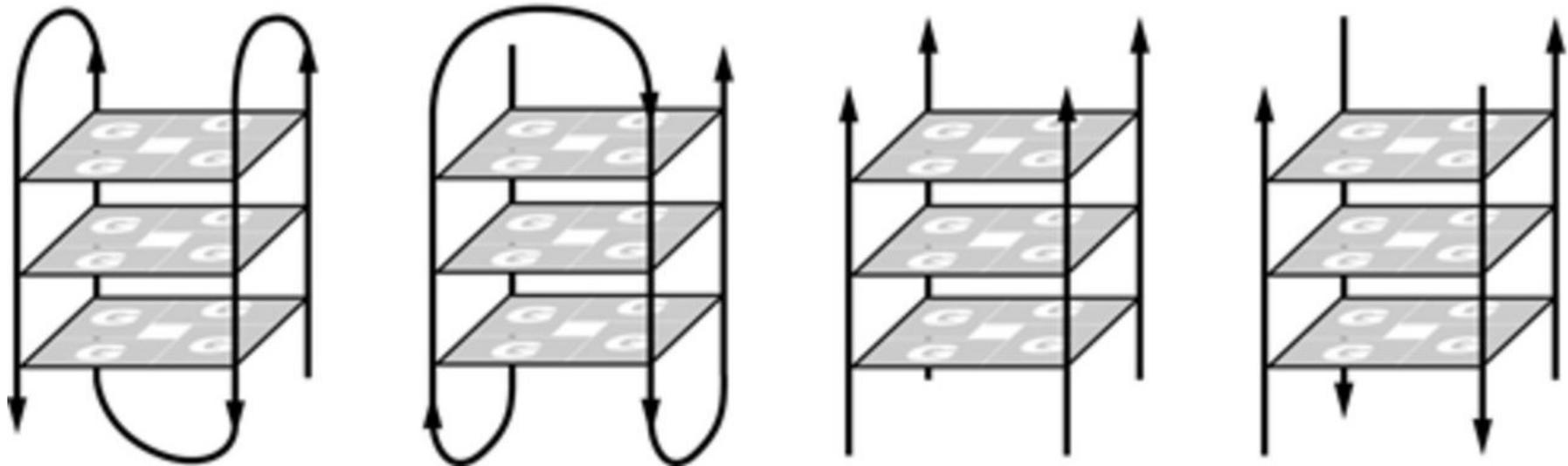
# The shelterin complex and the structure of telomeres.



Paula Martínez, and Maria A. Blasco *J Cell Biol*  
 doi:10.1083/jcb.201610111

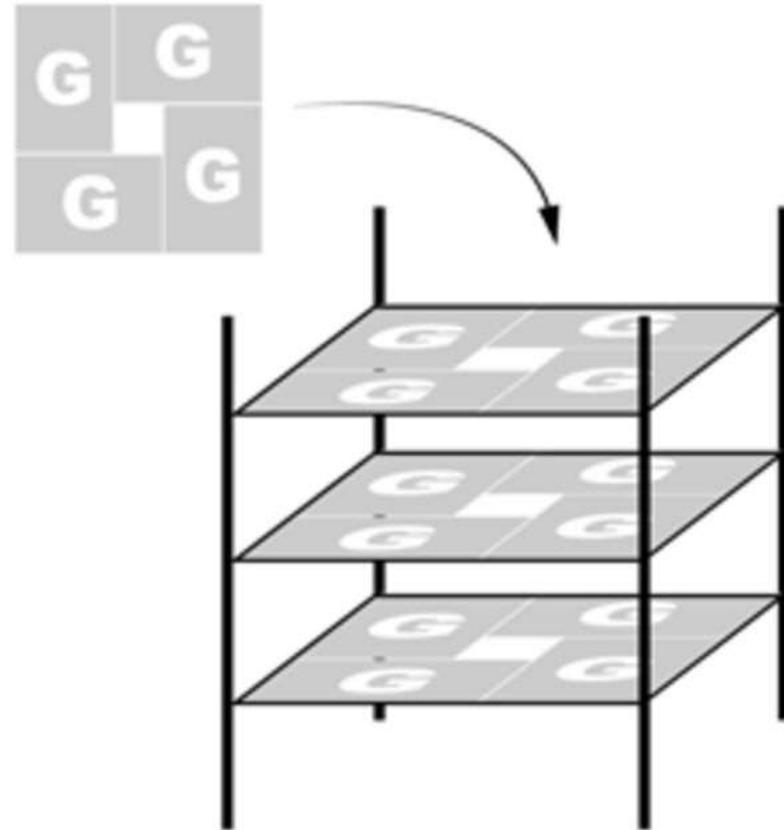
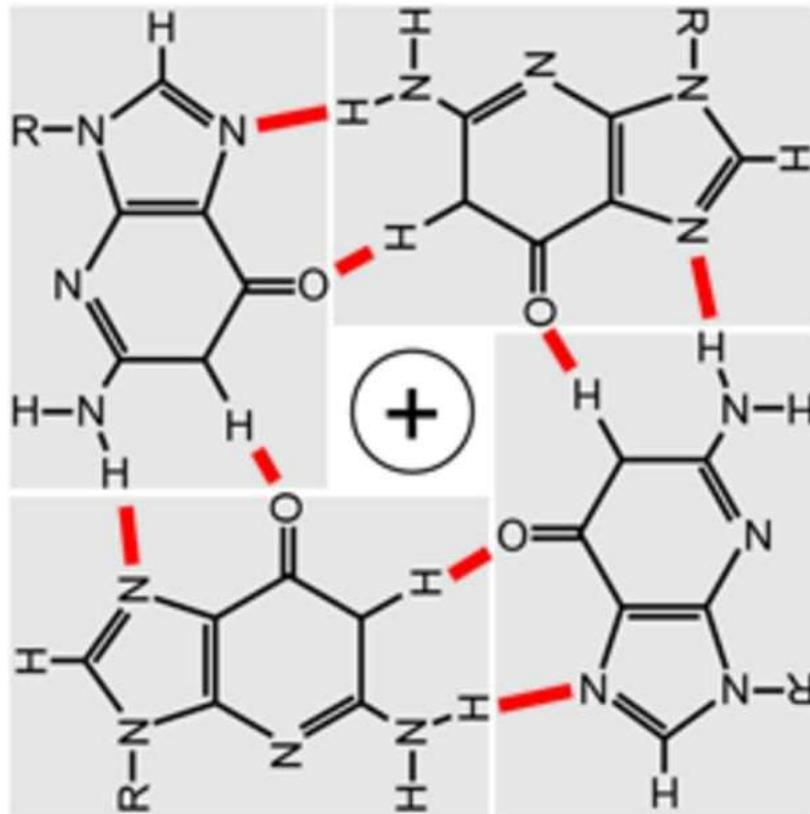
## Structure of G-quadruplexes.

**B**



## Structure of G-quadruplexes.

**A**



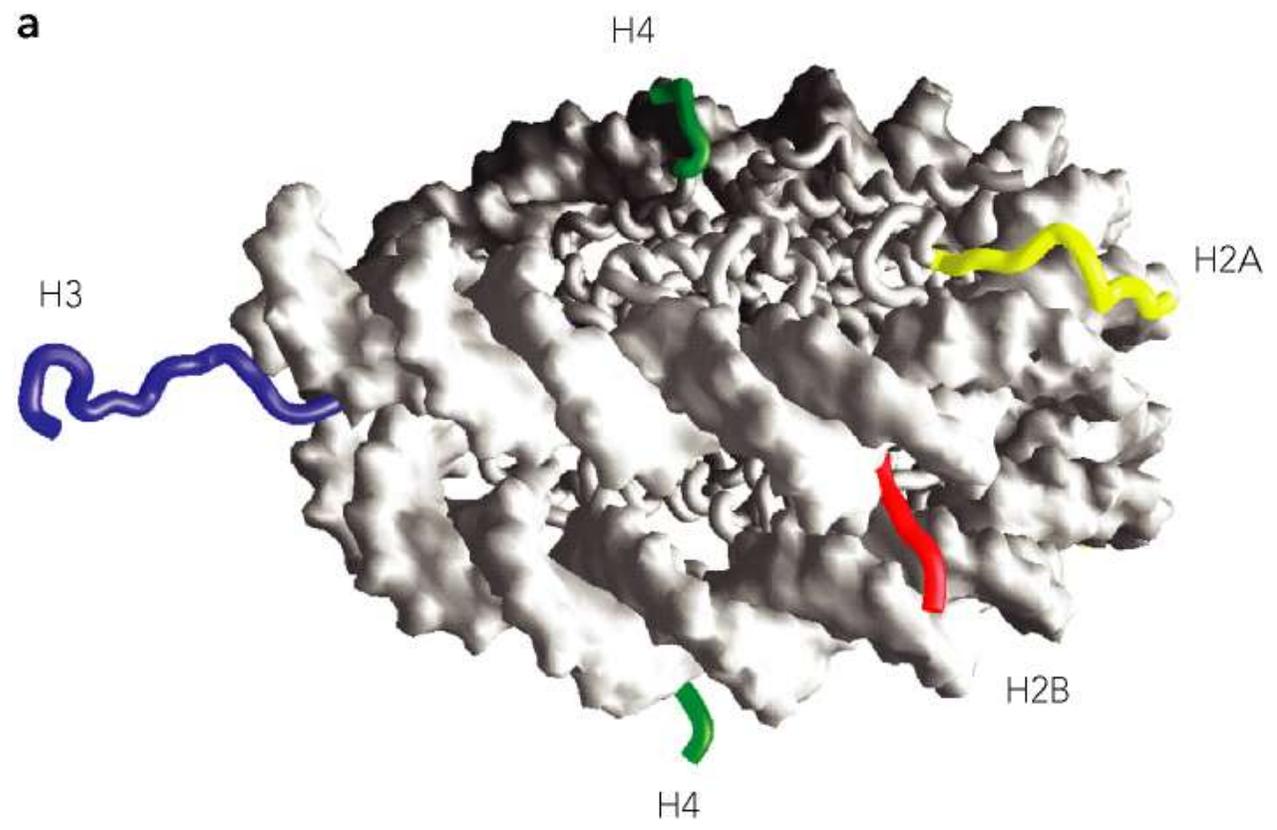
# La cromatina telomerica e la sua modificazione

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

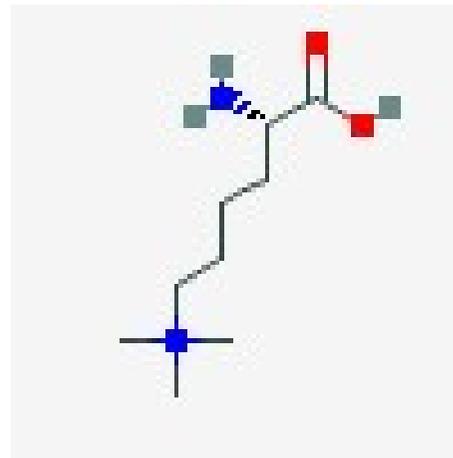
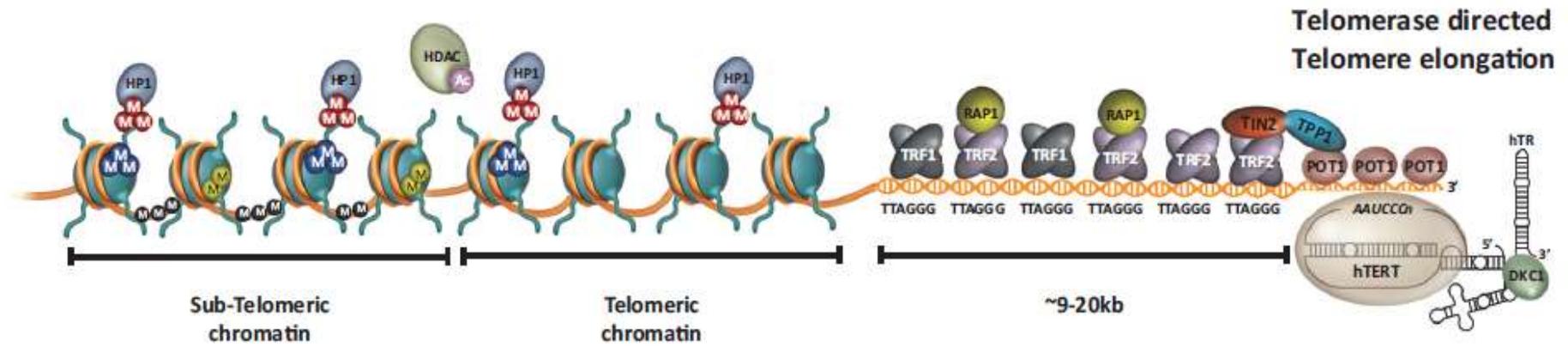
Major histone modifications *found in telomeres are*

-H3K9 and H4K20 trimethylation

-low abundance of acetylated H3 and H4



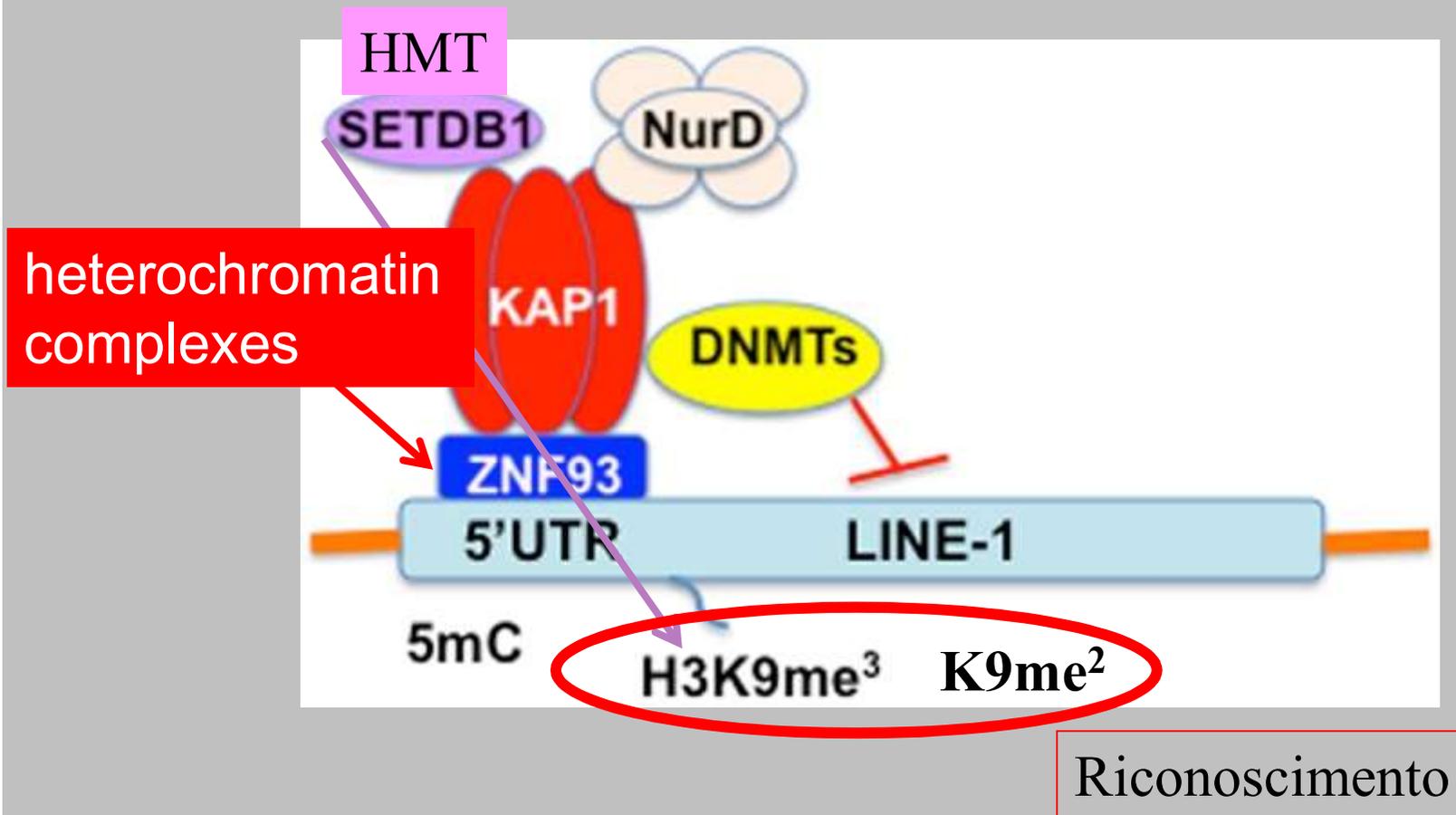
# Telomeres in germ and stem cells



Kme3 = trimetillisina



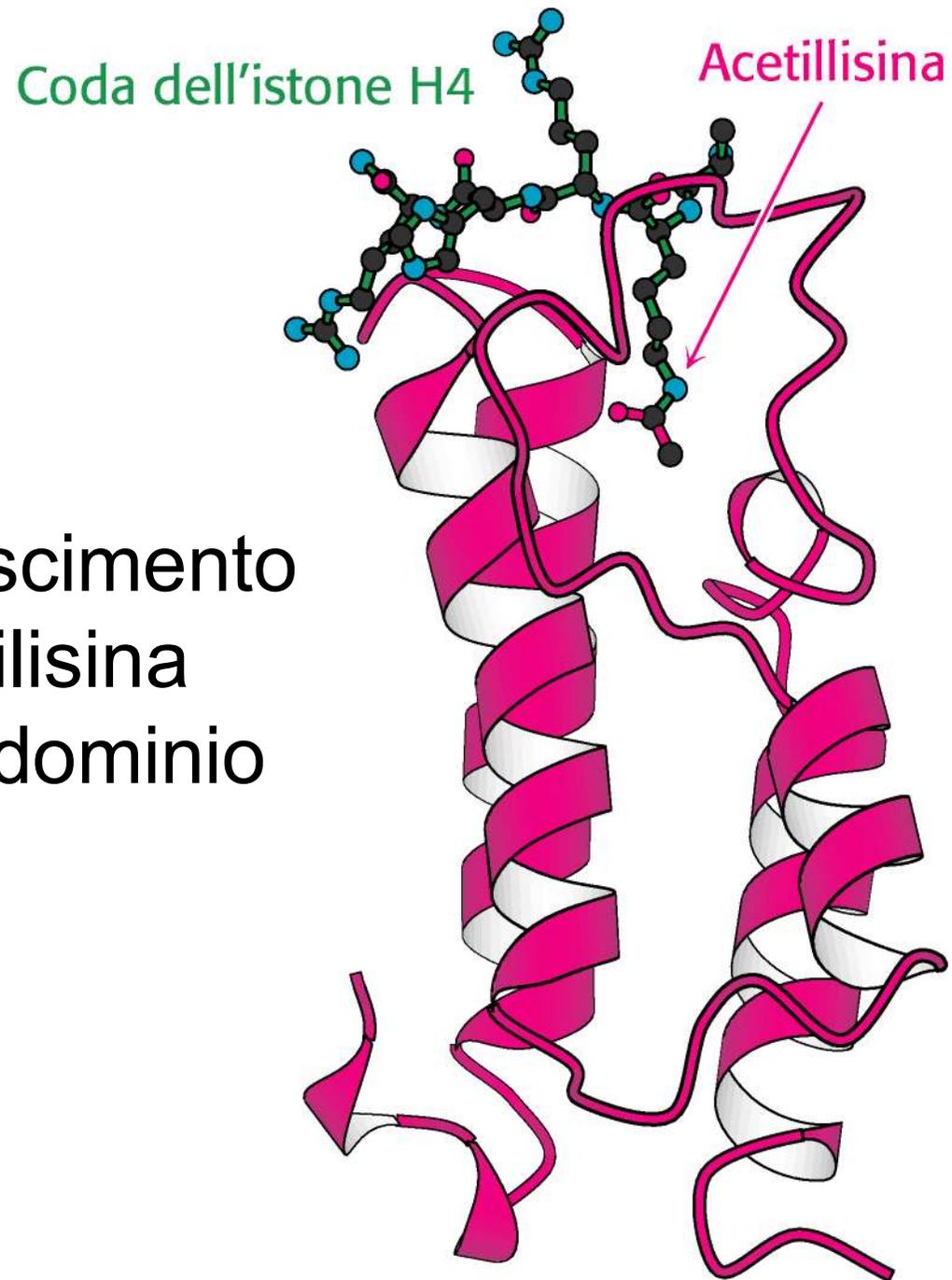
# Negative Control of the transcriptional activity of L1 in ES cells



HMT istone metiltransferasi

## Un enzima deacetilante specifico: SIRT6

Riconoscimento  
acetilisina  
bromodominio



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

The Sir2 deacetylase regulates chromatin silencing and lifespan in *Saccharomyces cerevisiae*.

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

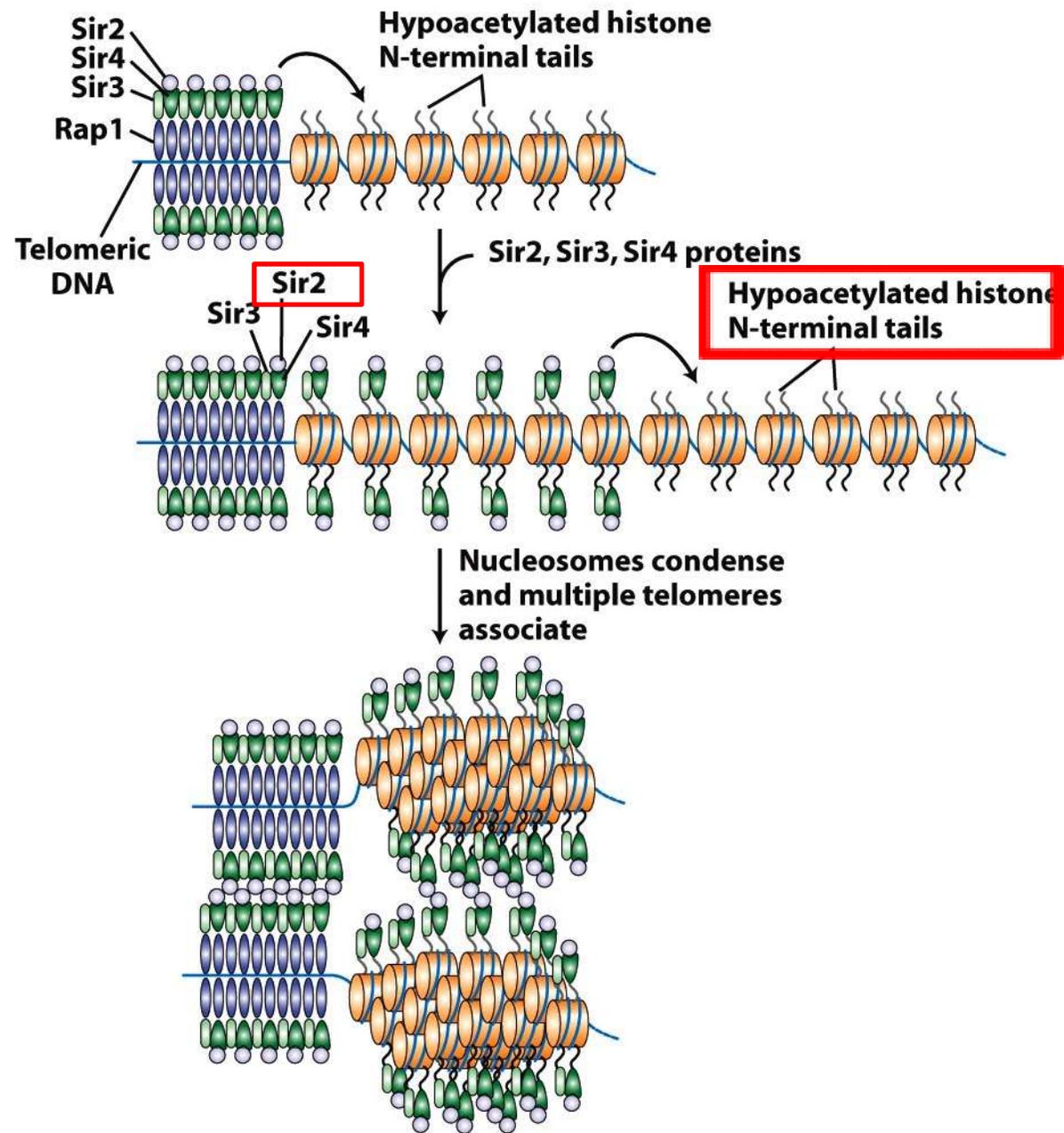
SIRT6 is a chromatin-associated NAD<sup>+</sup>-dependent, histone H3 lysine 9 (H3K9) deacetylase that modulates telomeric chromatin.

SIRT6 is a histone H3 lysine 9 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 link chromatin regulation by SIRT6 to telomere maintenance and a human premature ageing syndrome



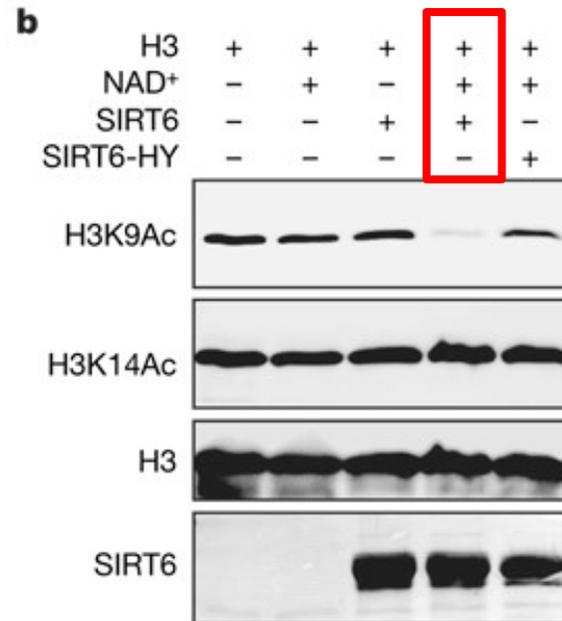
**Figure 7-35**  
*Molecular Cell Biology, Sixth Edition*  
 © 2008 W. H. Freeman and Company

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

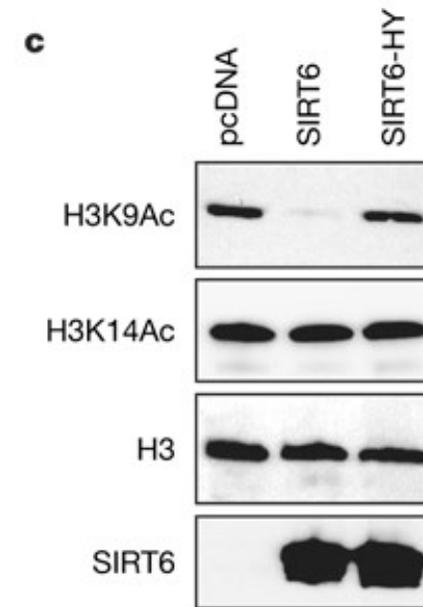
**a**

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

*histone tail peptides*



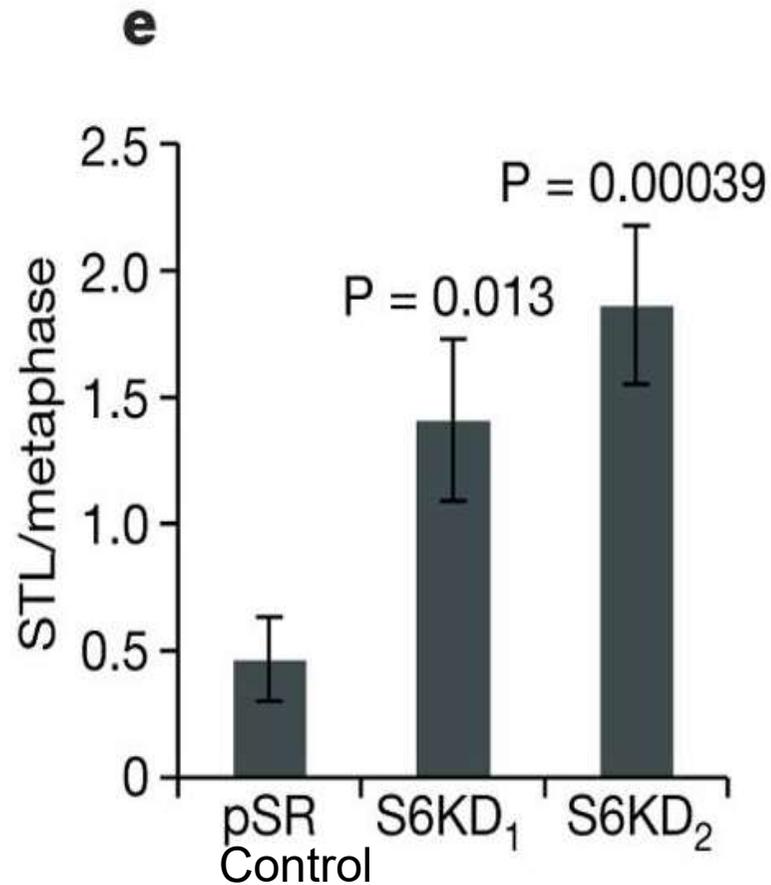
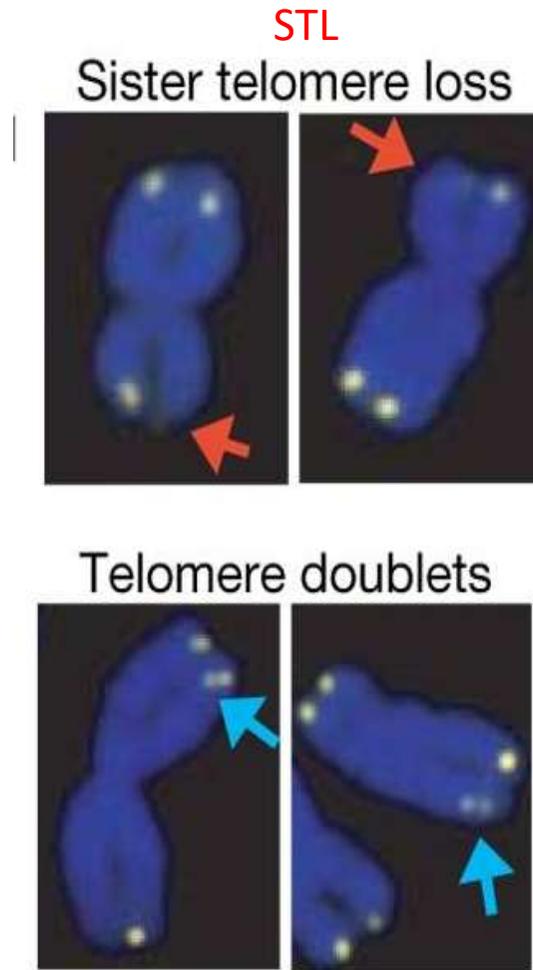
*full-length histone H3*



*293T cells overexpressing SIRT6*

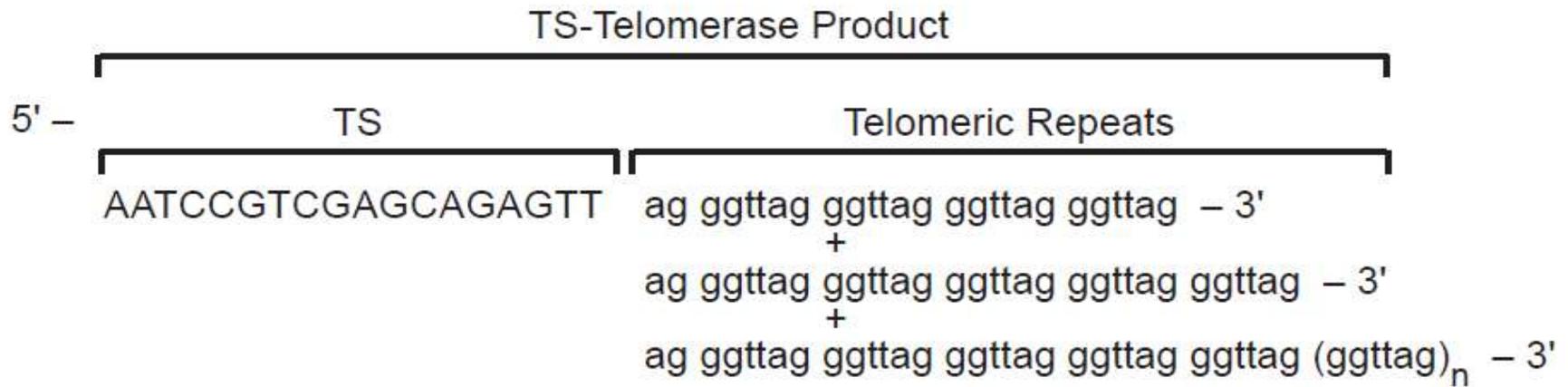
SIRT6-HY: *catalytic H133Y SIRT6 mutant protein*

SIRT6 knockdown (S6KD) cells

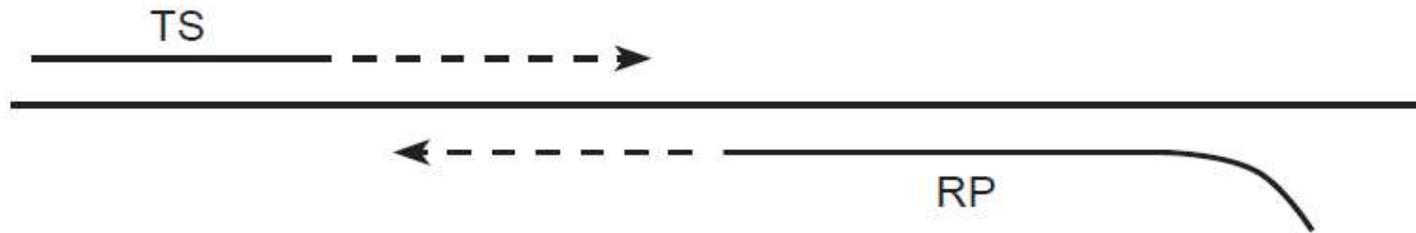


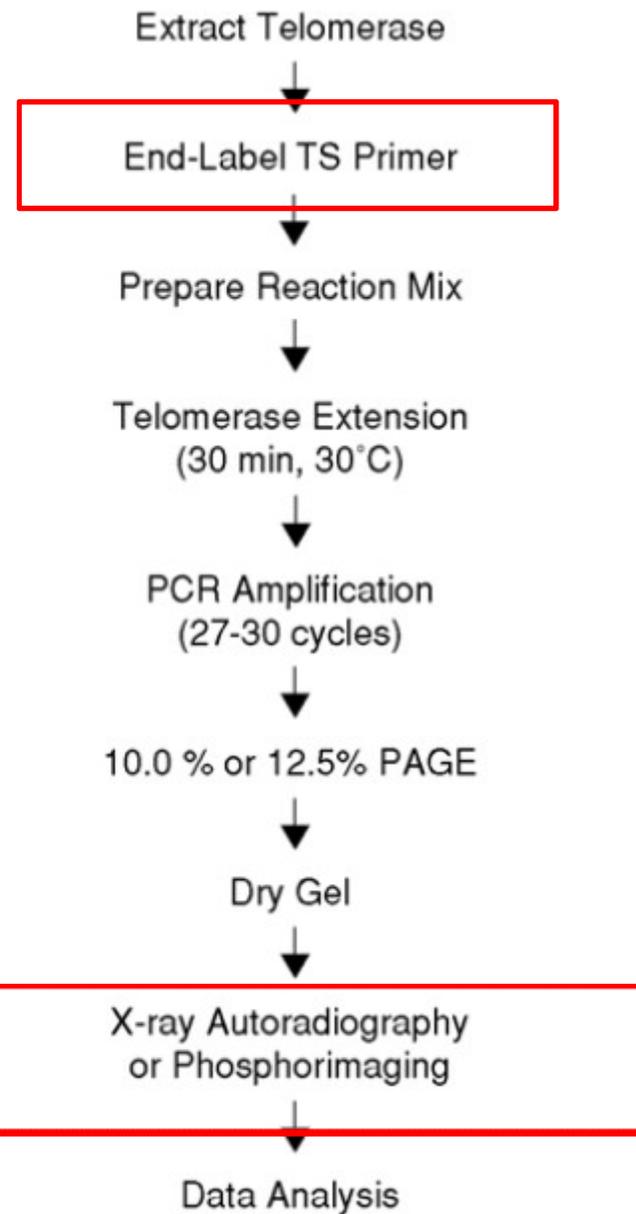
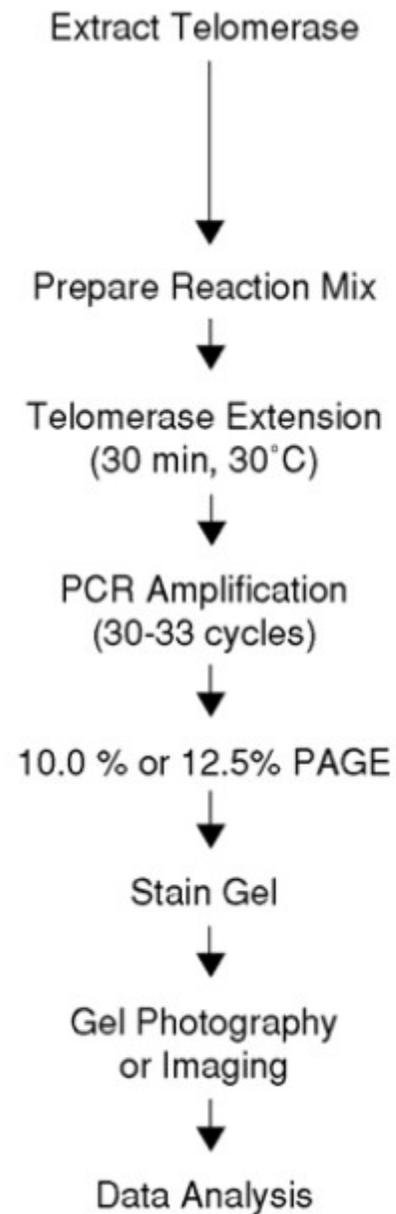
d, Representative S6KD metaphases showing aberrant telomere signals. Red arrows, sister telomere loss; blue arrows, telomere doublets. e, Quantification of sister telomere loss

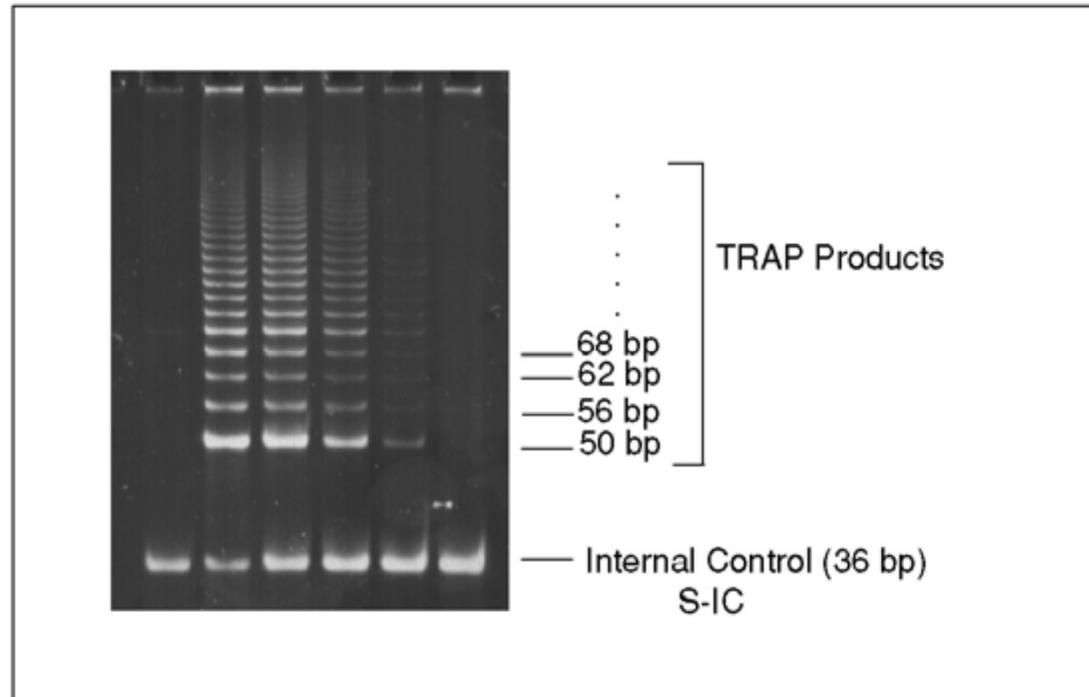
# Metodi per lo studio dell'attività telomerasica



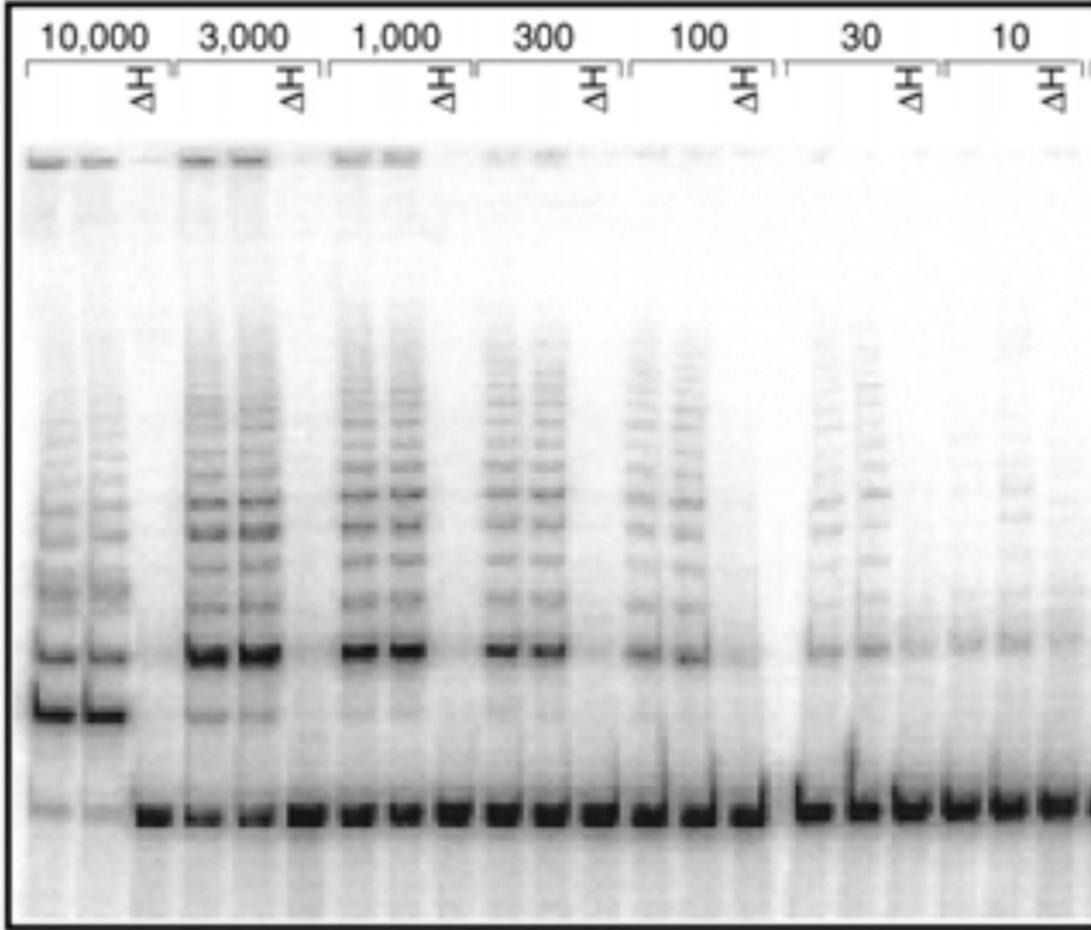
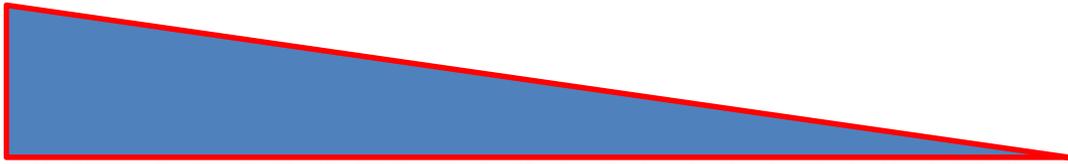
**STEP 2.** Amplification of TS-Telomerase Product By PCR





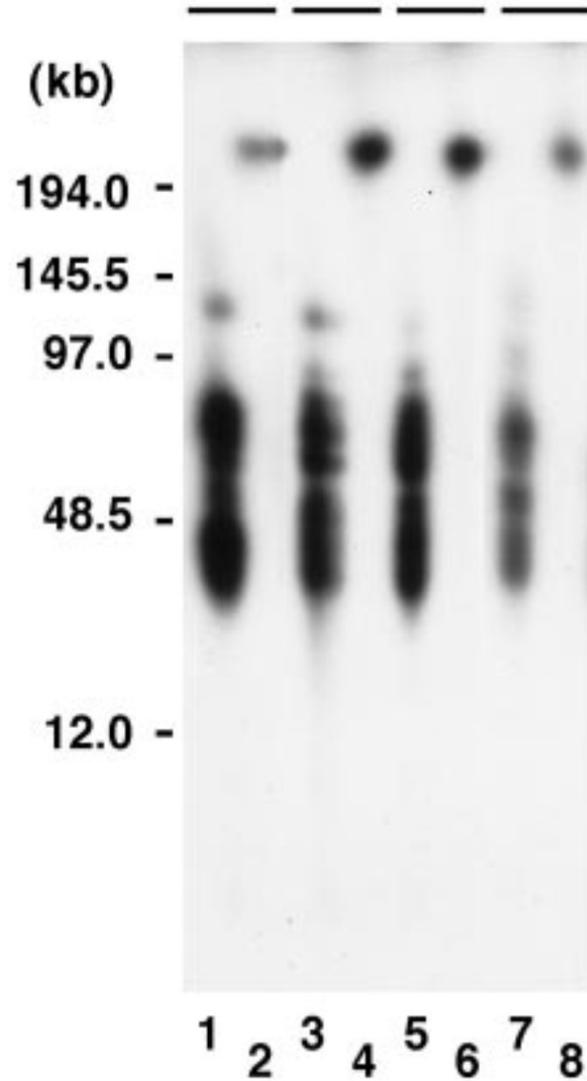


Telomeric Repeat Amplification Protocol



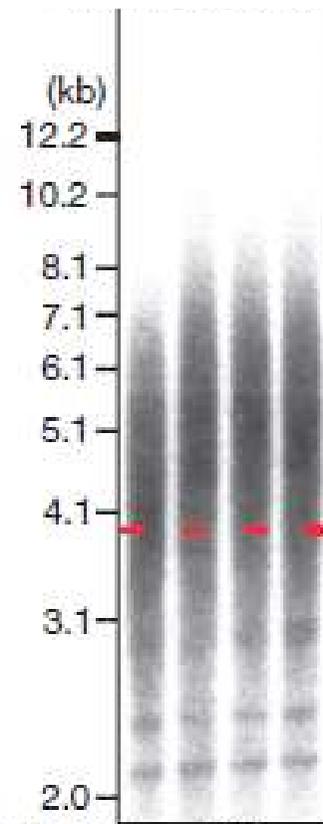
# Metodi per lo studio dello stato dei telomeri

# DNA TELOMERIC



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

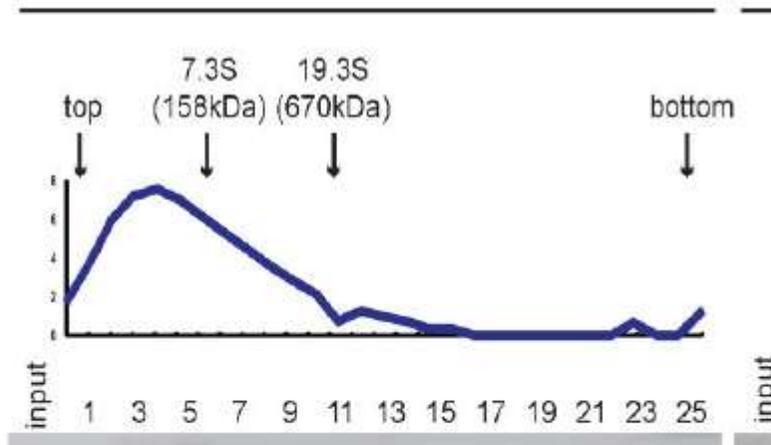
# DNA TELOMERICO



# Complessi macromolecolari associati al Telomero: funzioni

10-30% glycerol gradients

HeLa

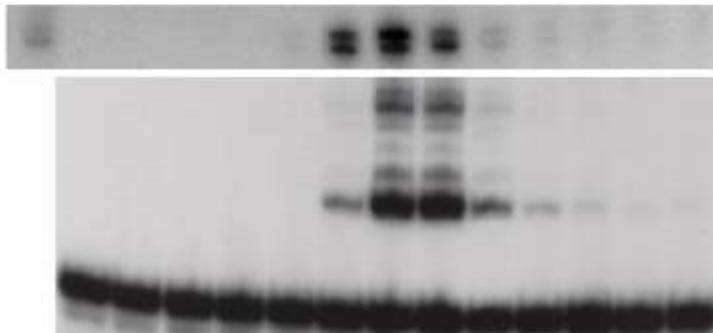


## COMPLESSI TELOMERICI

Total protein

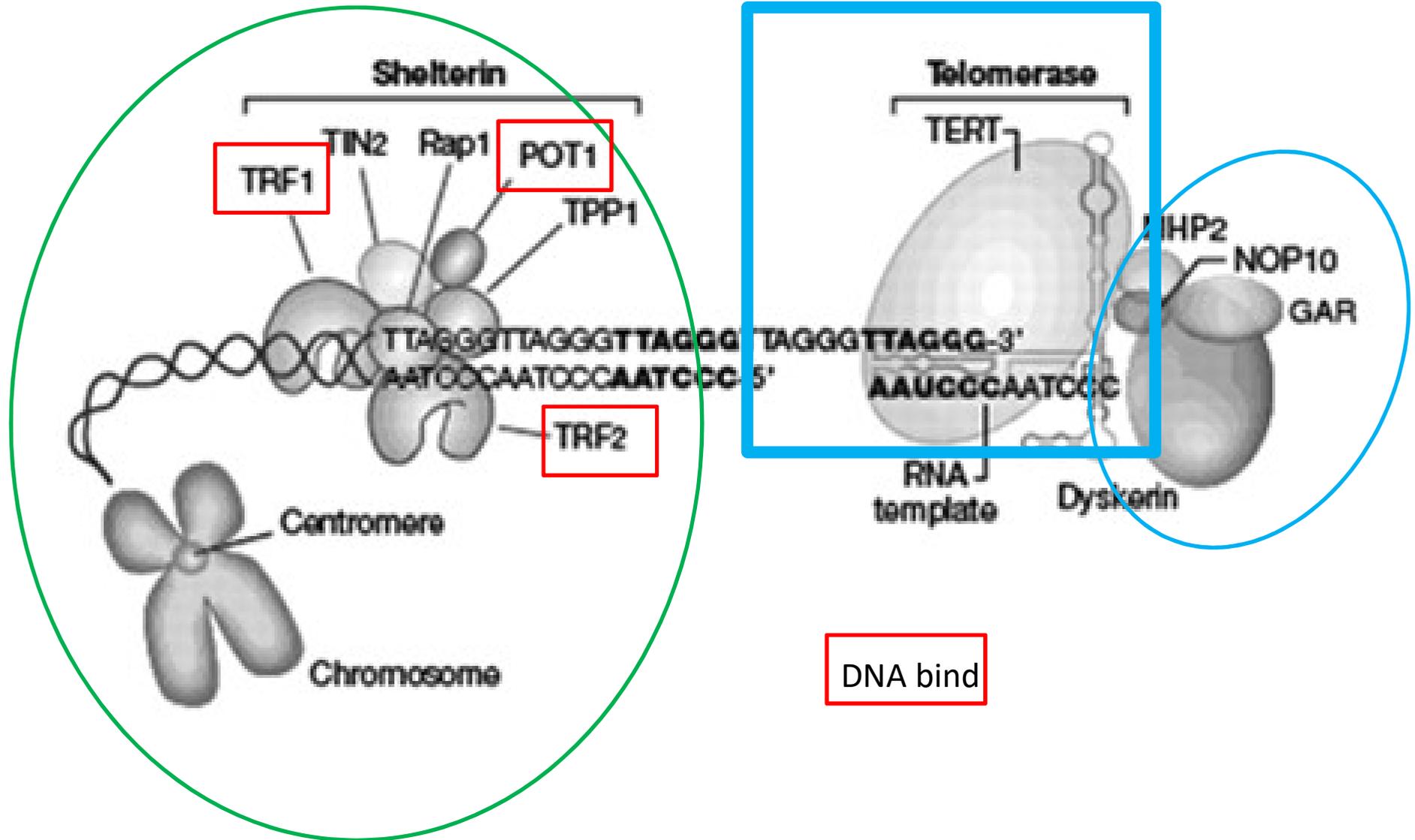
NB: TERC

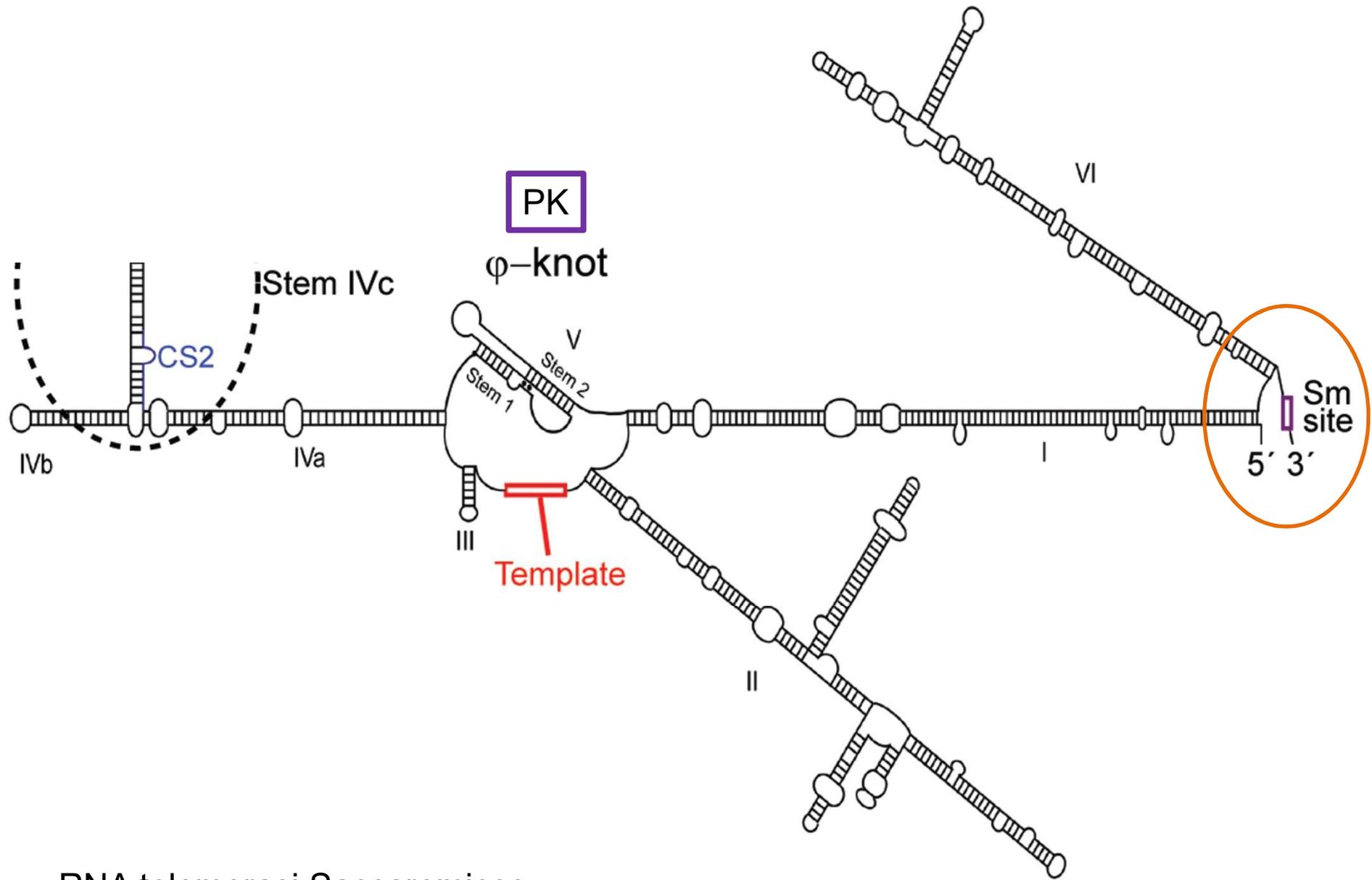
TRAP



Telomeric Repeat Amplification Protocol

# Complessi macromolecolari associati al Telomero ed alla Telomerasi





RNA telomerasi Saccharomices

hTR is a 451-nucleotide RNA.

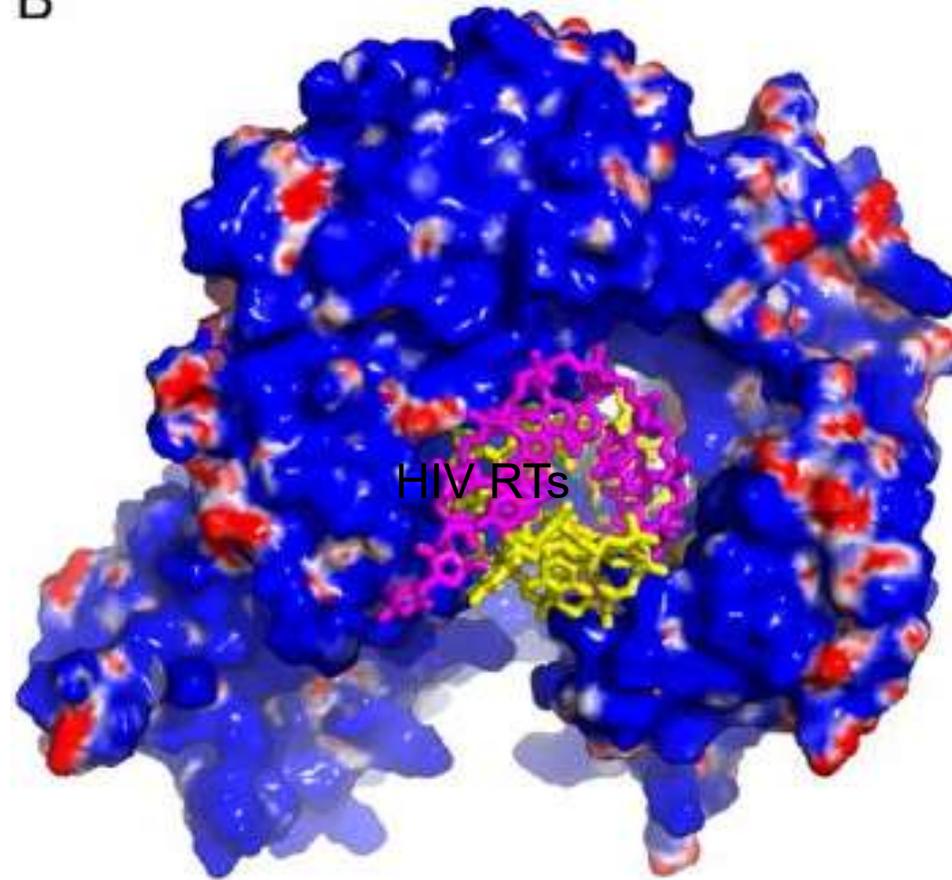
The 3' end is essential for **hTR stability and for its assembly with hTERT.**

These functions are mediated by the **dyskerin complex** composed of four proteins:

**dyskerin, NOP10, NHP2 and GAR1**

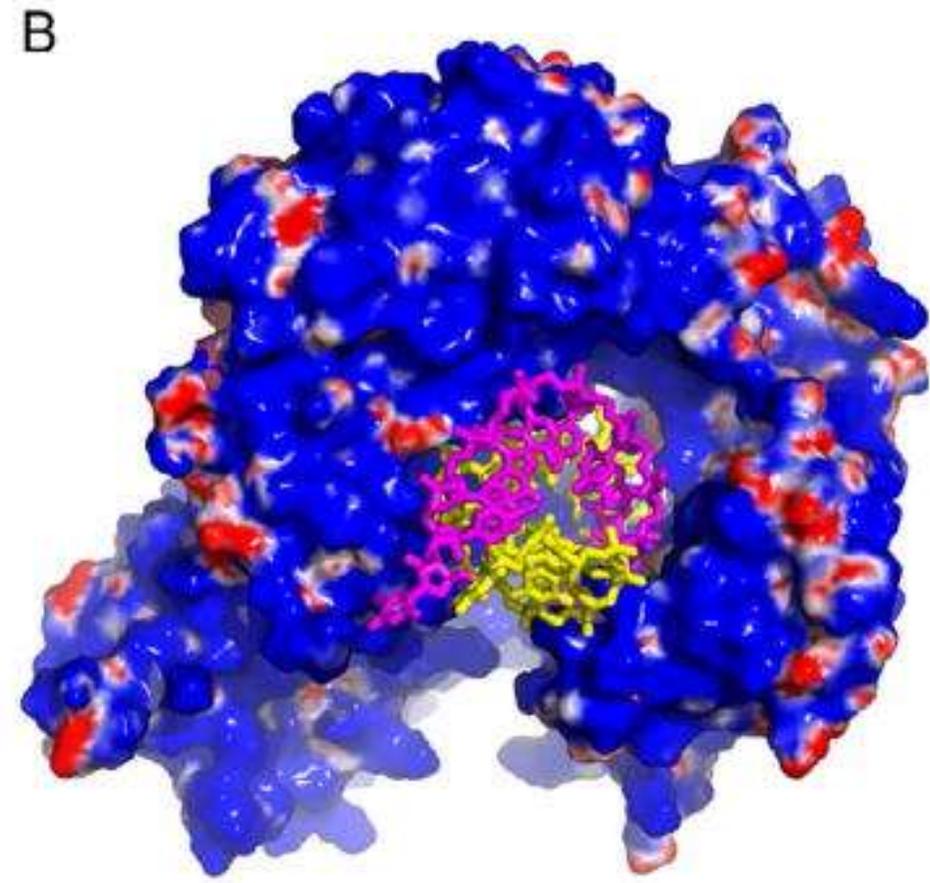
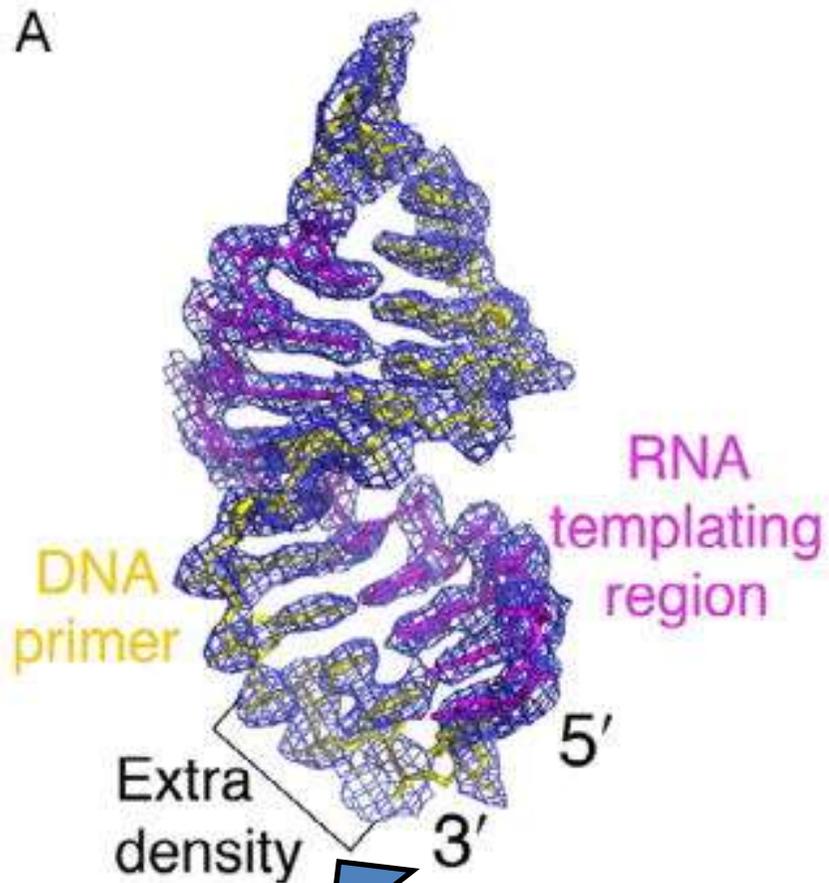
RNA (magenta stick)–DNA (yellow stick) hairpin co-crystallized with tcTERT

B



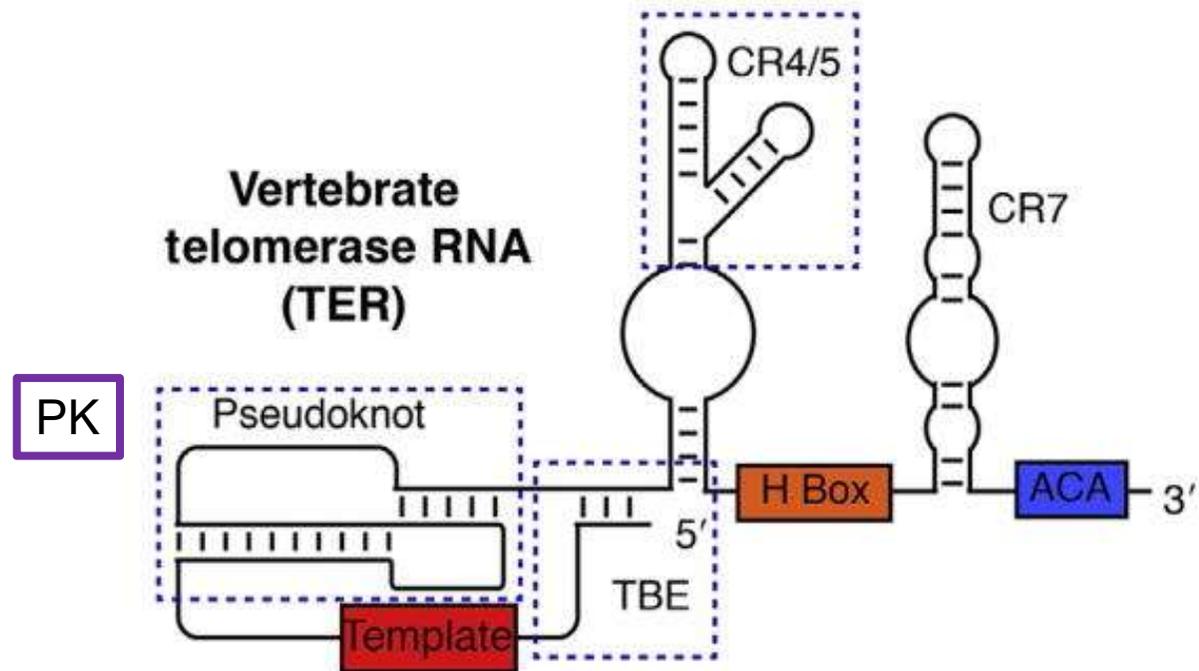
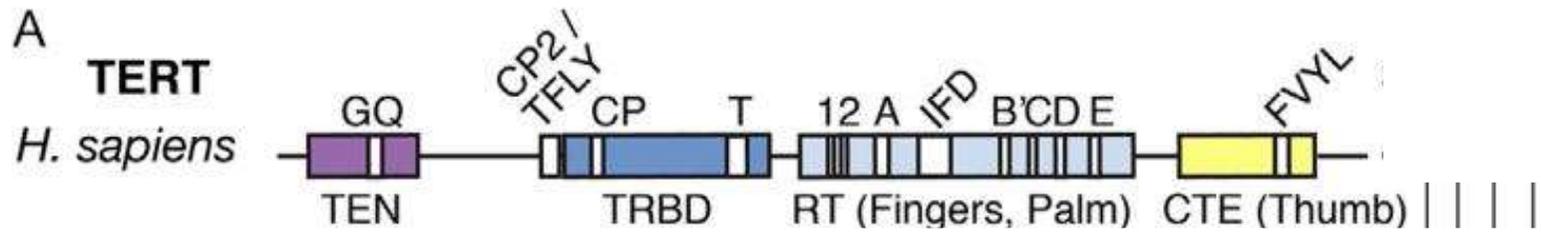
tcTERT surface charge representation (**Blue, basic**),  
the RNA–DNA hybrid (stick) docked in the interior cavity of the TERT ring

**RNA (magenta stick)–DNA (yellow stick) hairpin co-crystallized with tcTERT**



**Binding Similar to HIV RTs!**

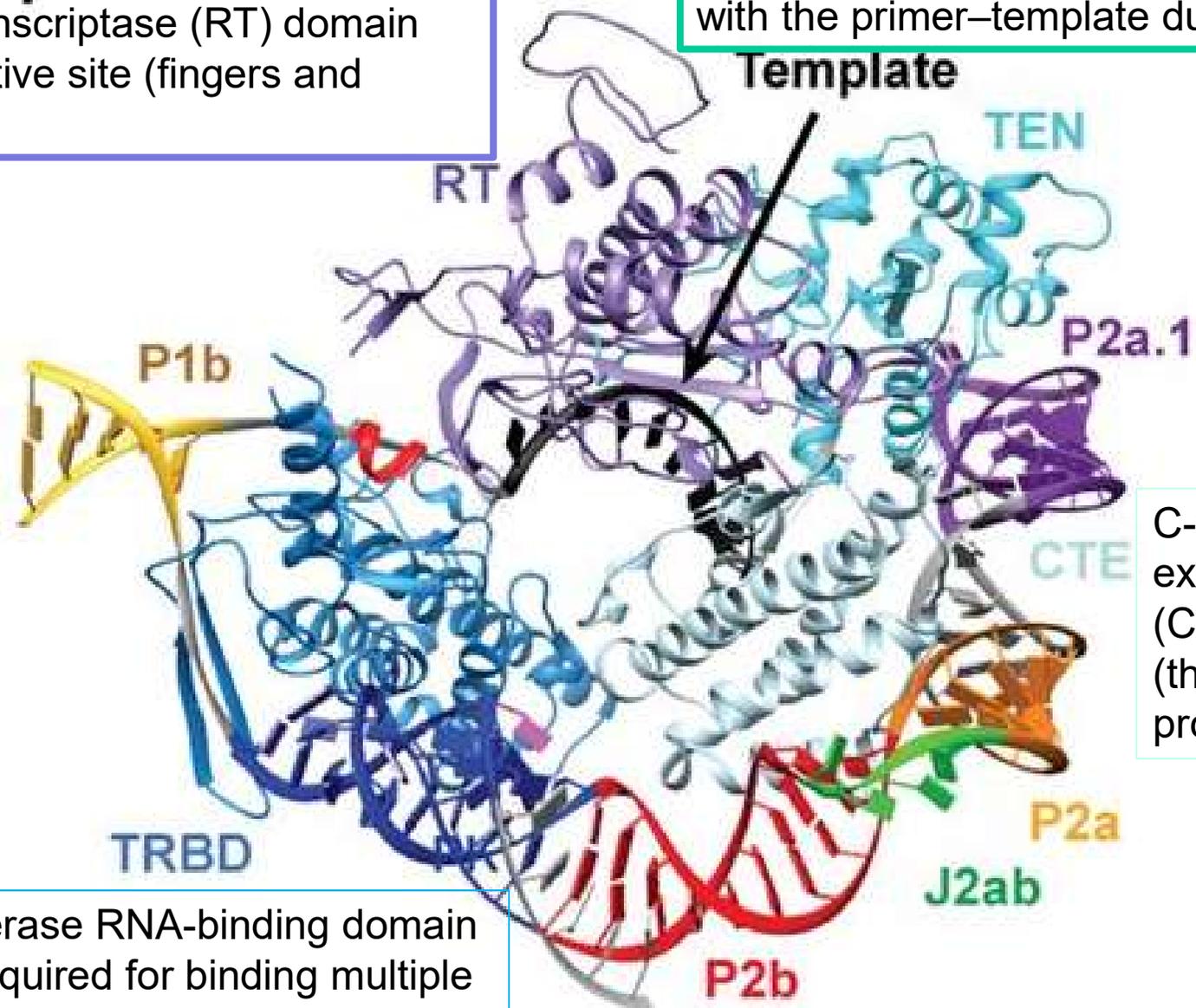
three additional nucleotides at the 3'-end of the telomeric DNA !!



## Models of human TERT-t/PK.

reverse transcriptase (RT) domain  
enzyme active site (fingers and  
palm)

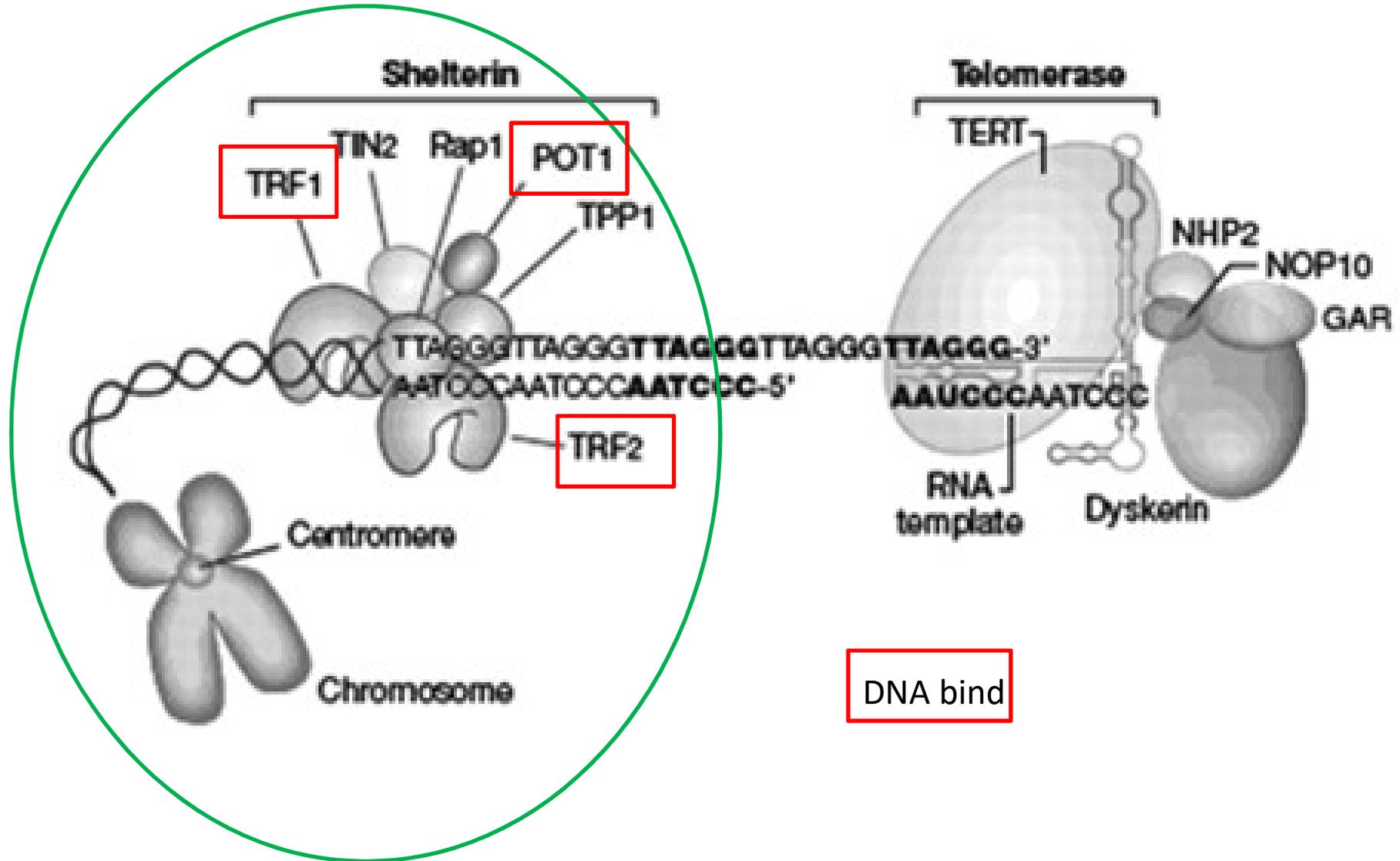
N-terminal (TEN) domain interacts  
with the primer-template duplex



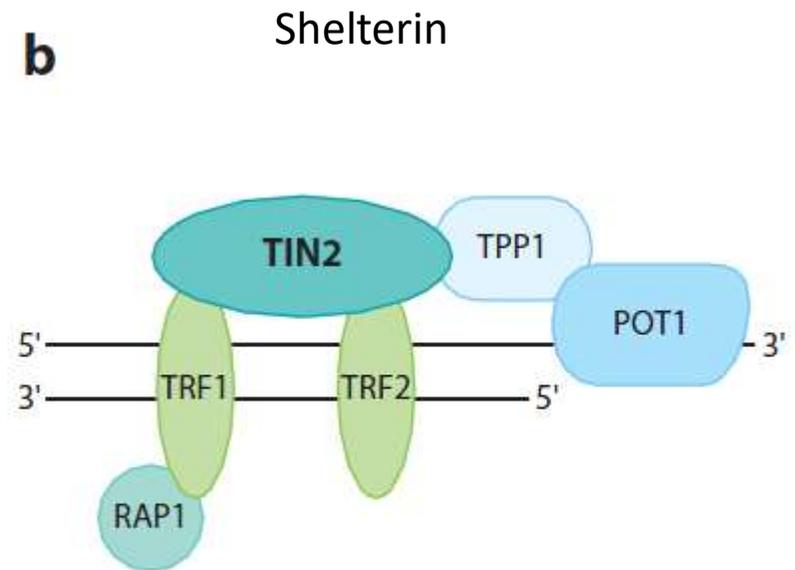
C-terminal  
extension  
(CTE)  
(thumb)  
processivity

the telomerase RNA-binding domain  
(TRBD) required for binding multiple  
sites of TR with high affinity

# 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**

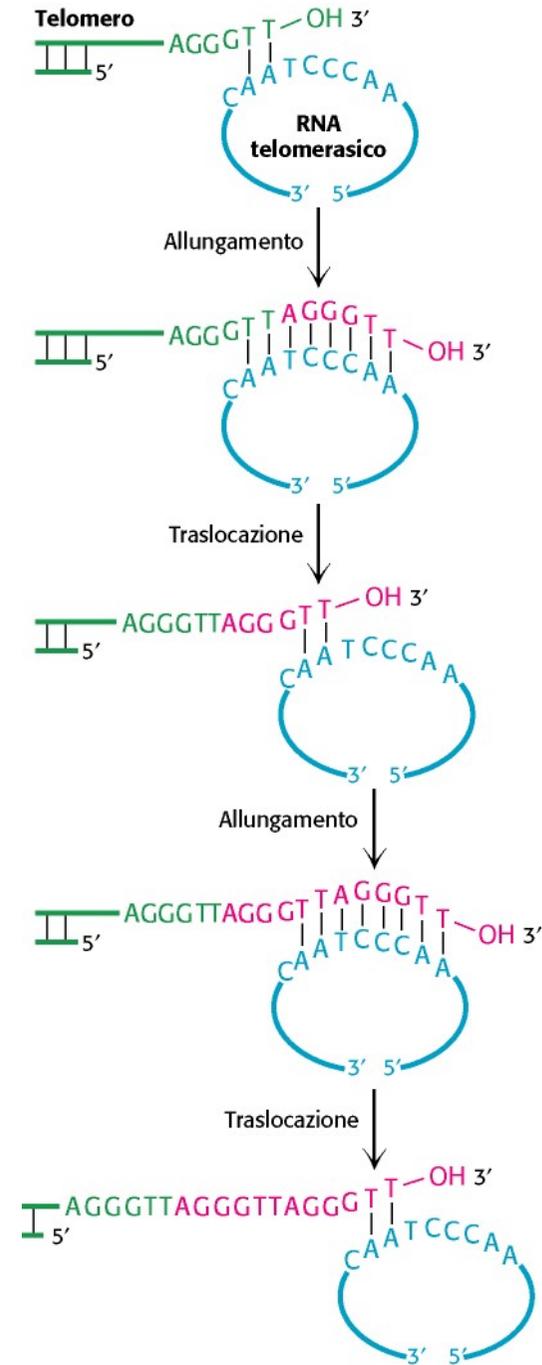
Three proteins, TRF1, TRF2, and POT1 (single-stranded repeats) directly recognize and bind to TTAGGG repeats

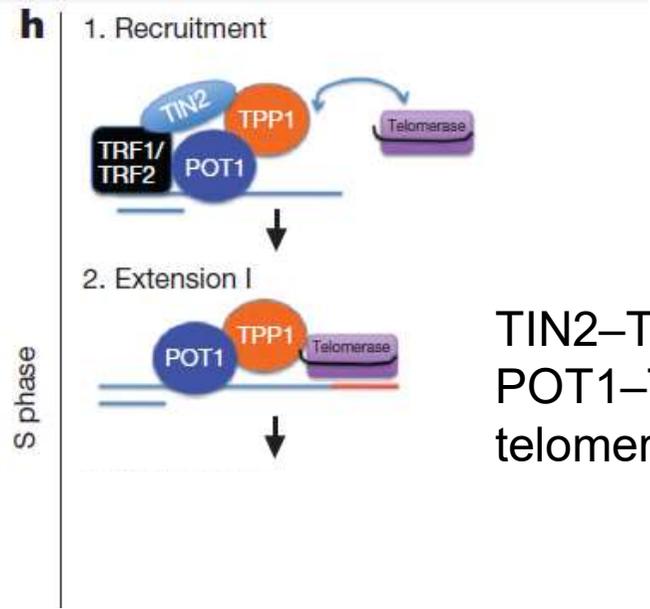
TIN2, TPP1, and Rap1, interconnect the telomere-binding proteins to form the entire complex

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

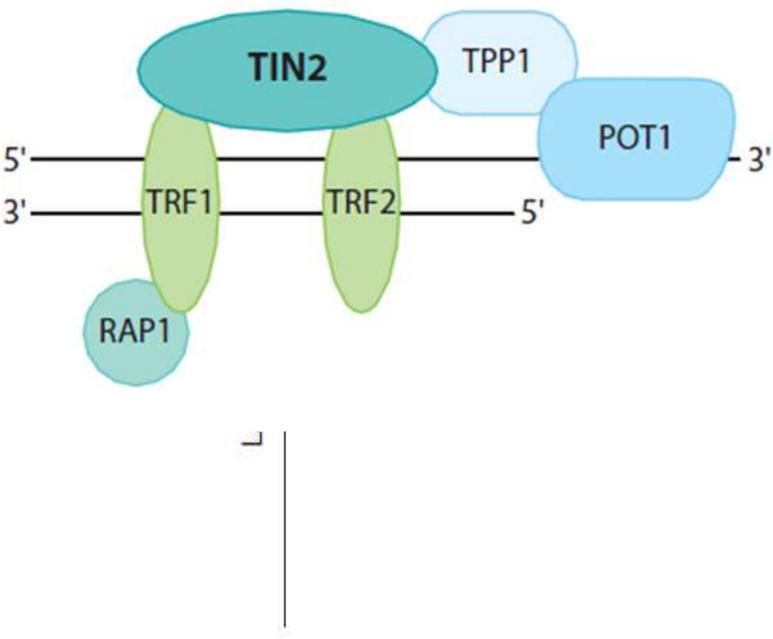
# L'allungamento del telomero modello riassuntivo

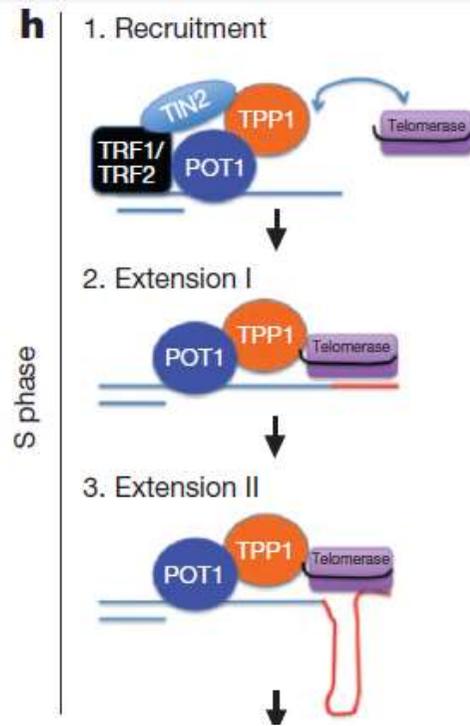
During every cell division, telomeres are potentially shortened by 50–200 bp due to the end replication problem





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





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.

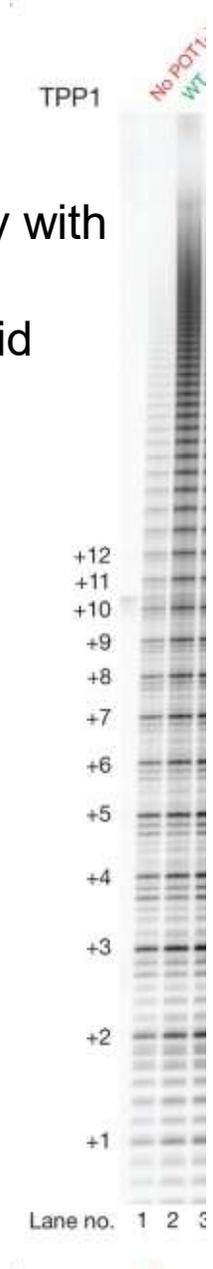
The OB-fold domain of the telomere-binding protein TPP1 recruits telomerase to telomeres through an association with the telomerase reverse transcriptase, TERT.

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

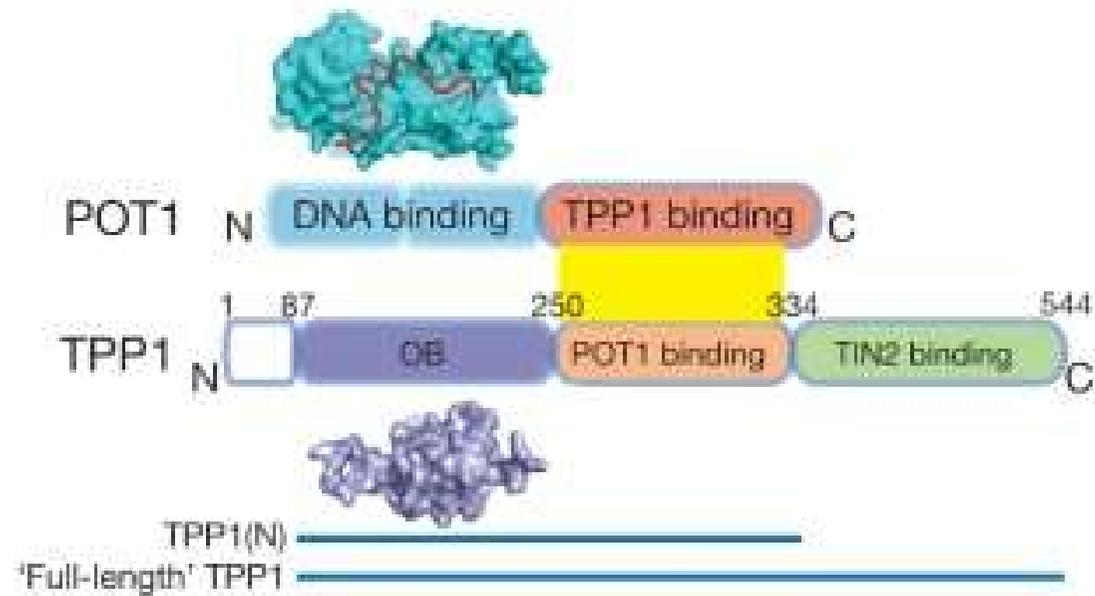
A minimal TPP1 OB-fold inhibits telomere maintenance by blocking access of telomerase to its binding site at telomeres.

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.

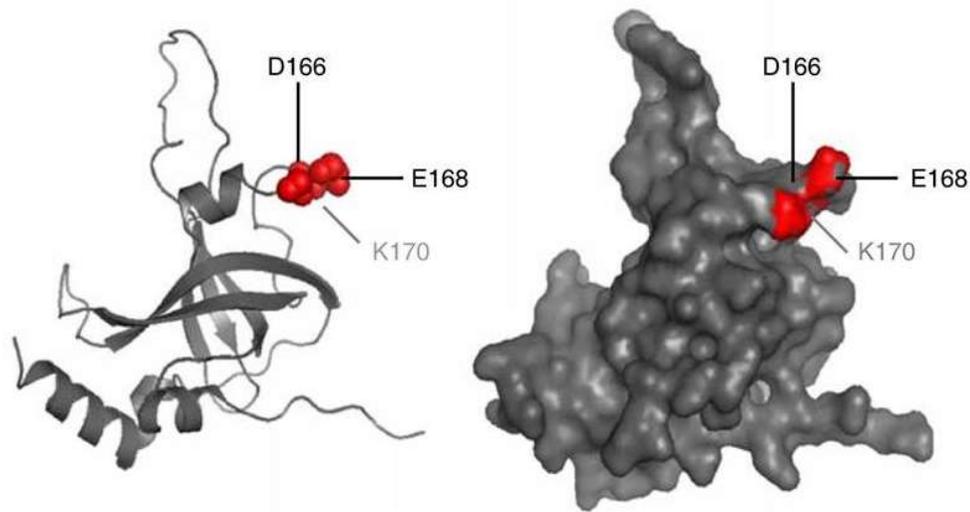
Direct telomerase activity assay with primer of lysates from cells co-transfected with a TR plasmid and POT1, TPP1 MUTANTS and TERT.



nature

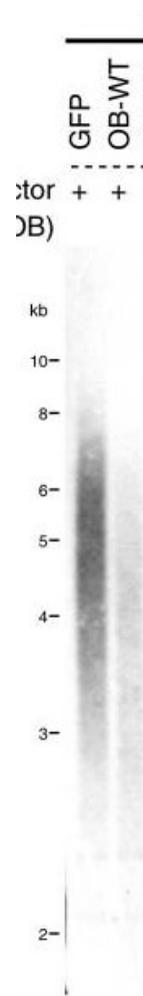
**a****c****nature**

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

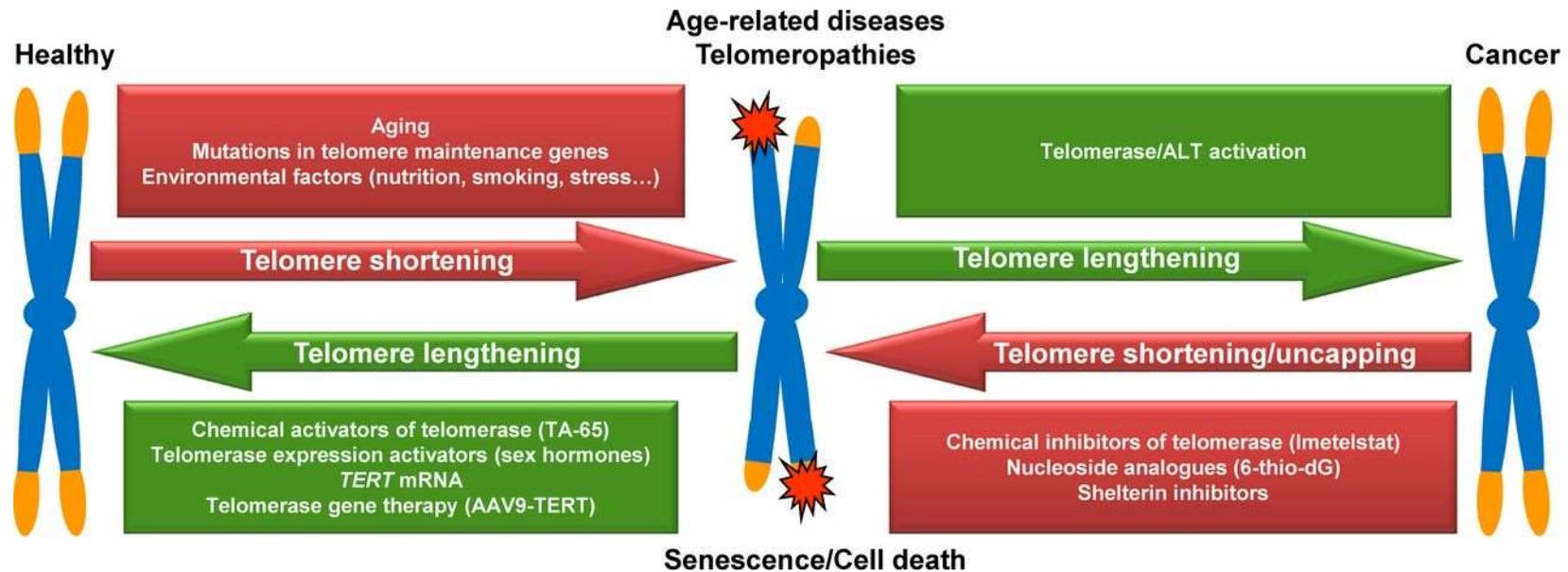


Structural representation of TPP1-OB domain (PDB 2i46).  
Residues required for telomerase interaction shown in red

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



# Natural factors and therapeutic interventions affecting telomere-mediated diseases.



Paula Martínez, and Maria A. Blasco *J Cell Biol*  
doi:10.1083/jcb.201610111