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Eguchi et al. (43) **Pub. Date: May 24, 2018**

(54) **ARTIFICIAL TRANSCRIPTION FACTORS AND USES THEREOF**

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(21) Appl. No.: **15/821,152**

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Publication Classification

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C12N 5/077	(2006.01)
C12N 5/0789	(2006.01)
C07K 1/04	(2006.01)

(52) **U.S. Cl.**

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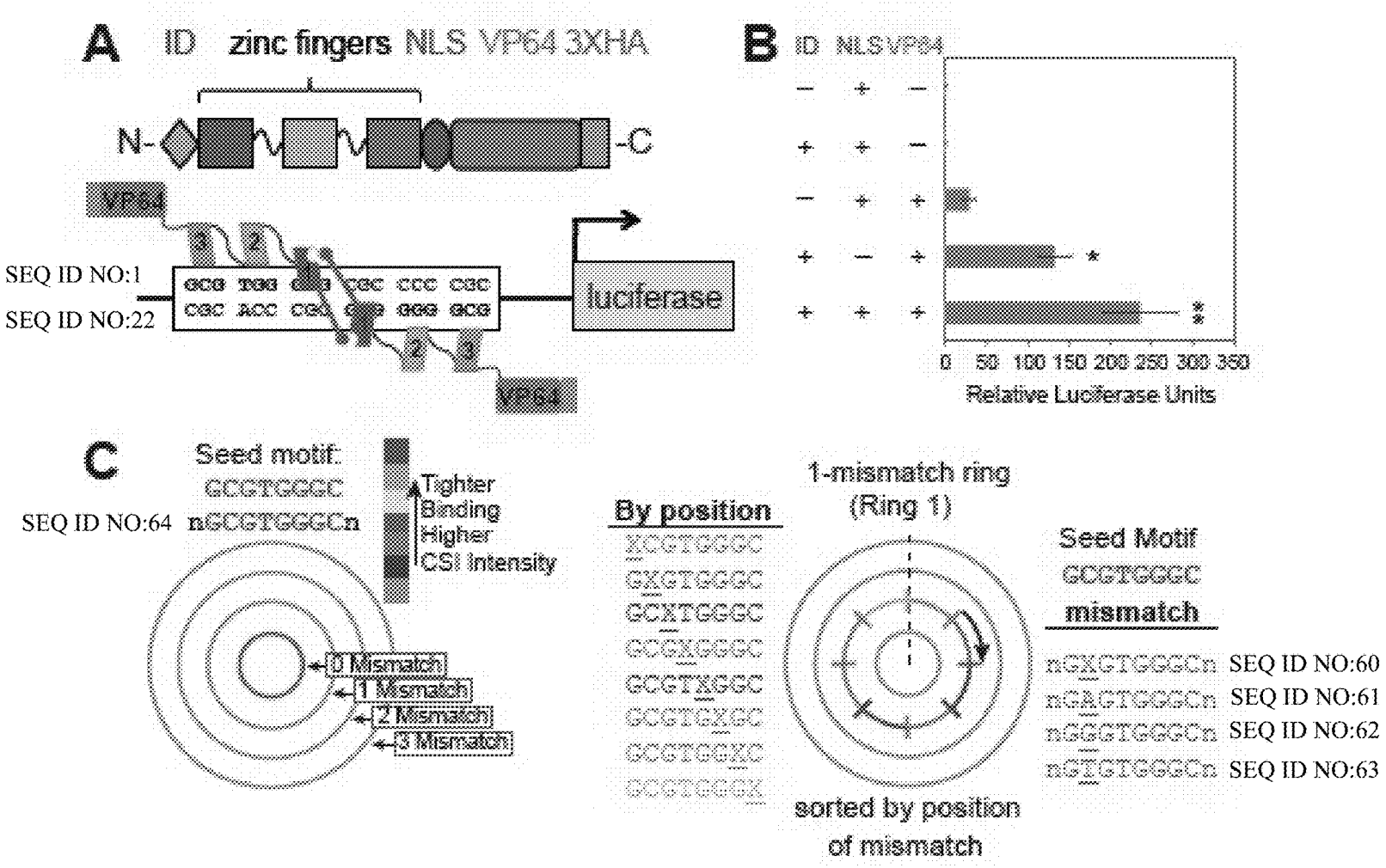
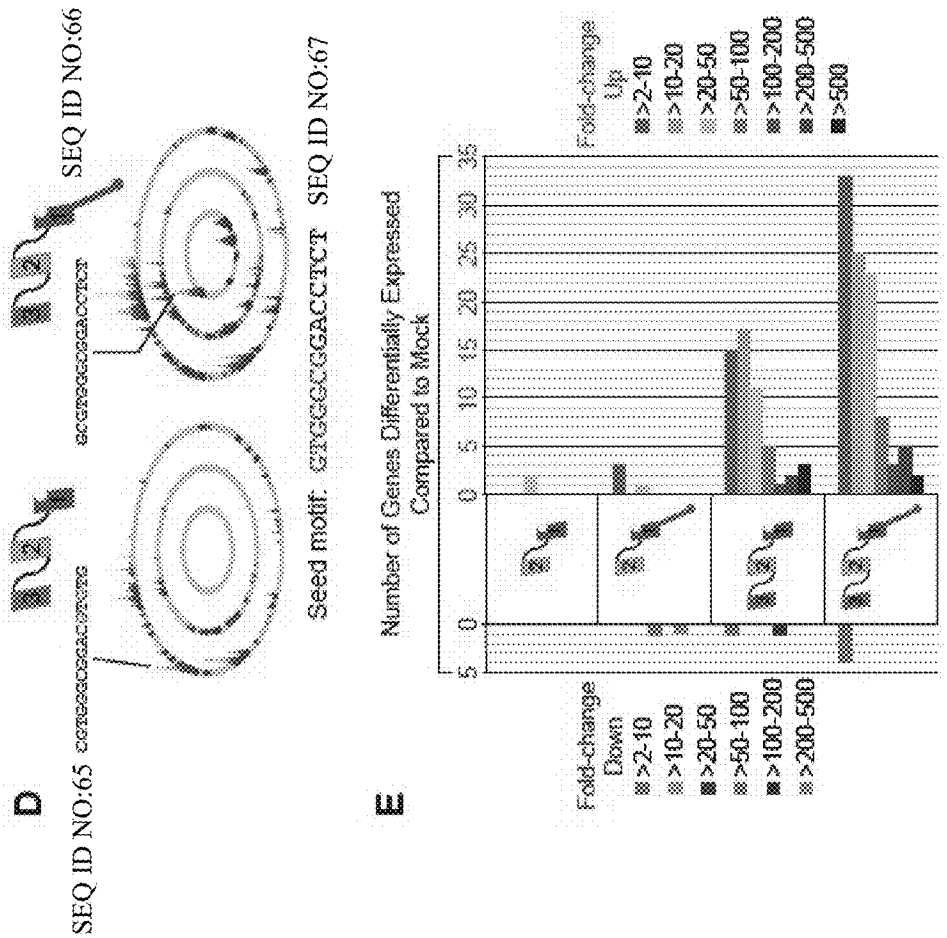
(57) **ABSTRACT**

The present invention relates to artificial transcription factors (ATFs) that alter gene expression, including inducing pluripotency in cells or promoting the conversion of cells to specific cell fates. In particular, provided herein is a zinc-finger based ATF library that can be screened in cells by looking for expression of a specific gene (e.g., reporter expression), monitoring for cell surface markers or morphology, or via functional assays.

FIGS. 1A-1F

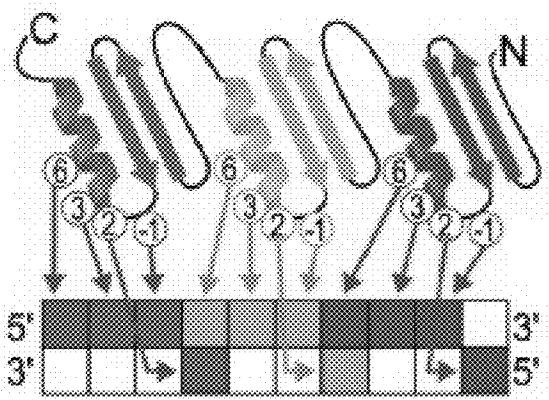

A
ID
zinc fingers
NLS
VP64
3XHA
N-
-C
VP64
SEQ ID NO:1
SEQ ID NO:22
luciferase
B
ID
NLS
VP64
0
50
100
150
200
250
300
350
Relative Luciferase Units
C
Seed motif:
GCGTGGGC
SEQ ID NO:64
nGCGTGGGCn
Tighter Binding
Higher CSI Intensity
0 Mismatch
1 Mismatch
2 Mismatch
3 Mismatch
By position
1-mismatch ring
(Ring 1)
sorted by position
of mismatch
Seed Motif
GCGTGGGC
mismatch
nGXGTGGGCn SEQ ID NO:60
nGAGTGGGCn SEQ ID NO:61
nGGGTGGGCn SEQ ID NO:62
nGTGTGGGCn SEQ ID NO:63

FIGS. 1A-1F, CONTINUED



FIGS. 1A-1F, CONTINUED

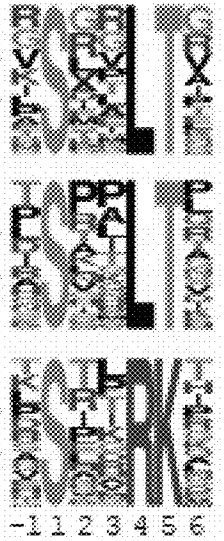
F



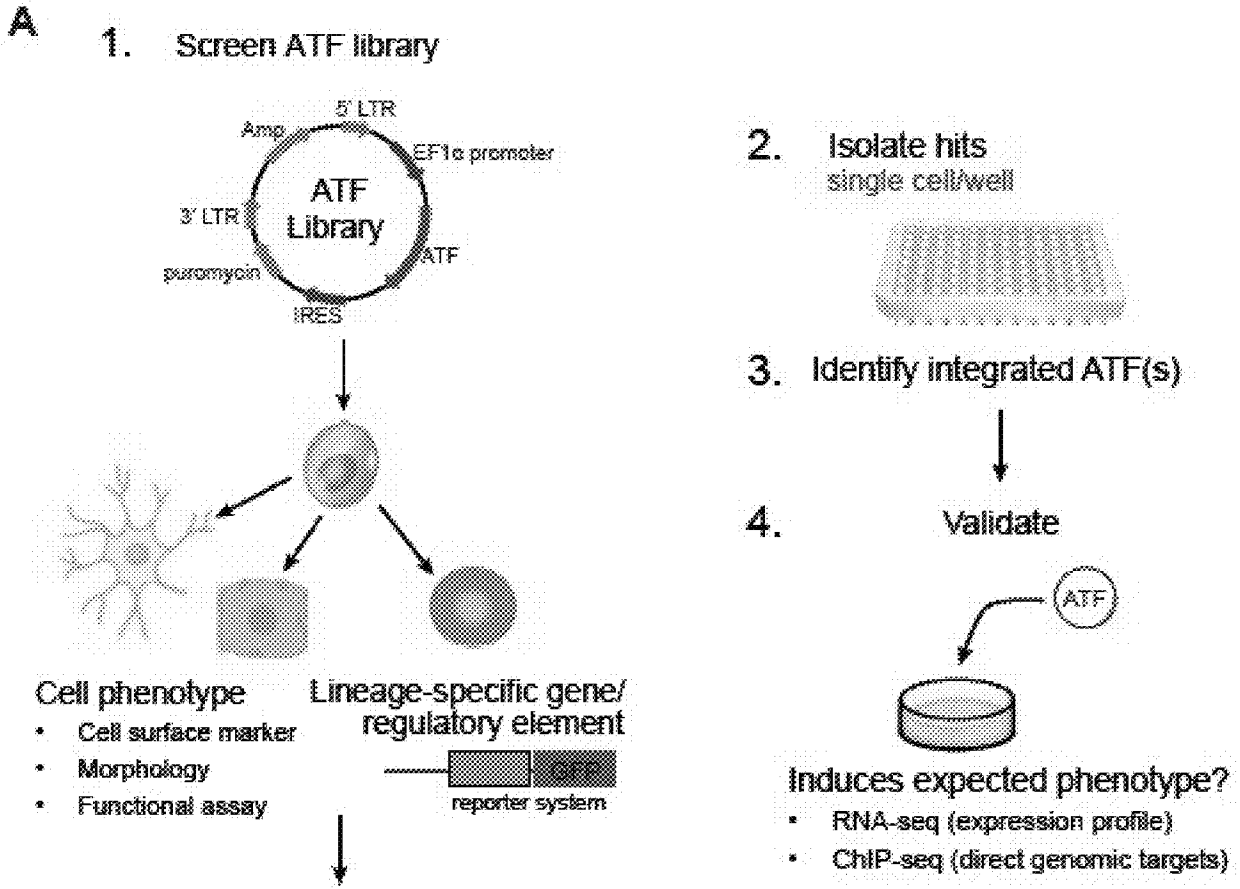
SEQ ID NO:4
SEQ ID NO:68
ZF1
...TTCTCCVNNTCCVNNVNNCTCACCVNNCAC...
...-F--S--X--S--X--X--L--T--X--H-...
-1 2 3 6

SEQ ID NO:5
SEQ ID NO:68
ZF2
...TTCAGCVNNAGCVNNVNNCTCACCVNNCAC...
...-F--S--X--S--X--X--L--T--X--H-...
-1 2 3 6

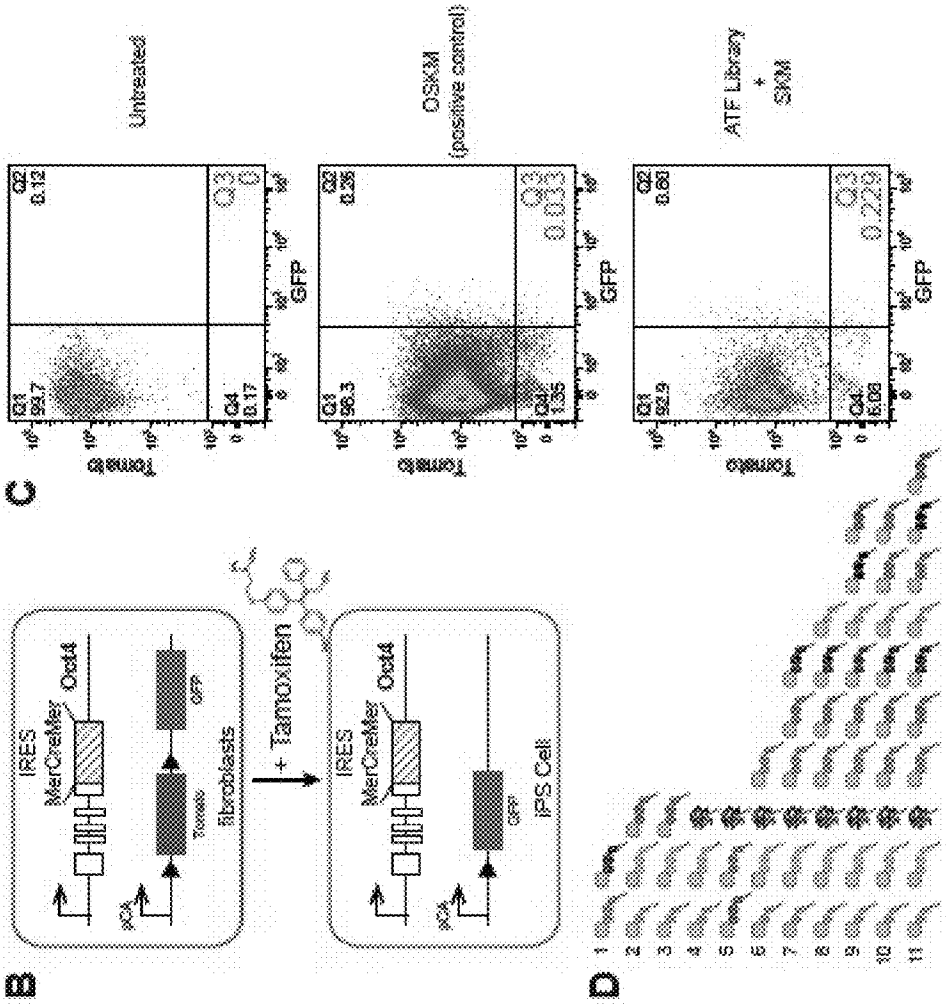
SEQ ID NO:6
SEQ ID NO:69
ZF3
...TTTGCCVNNAGCVNNVNNCGCAAGVNNCAT...
...-F--A--X--S--X--X--R--K--X--H-...
-1 2 3 6



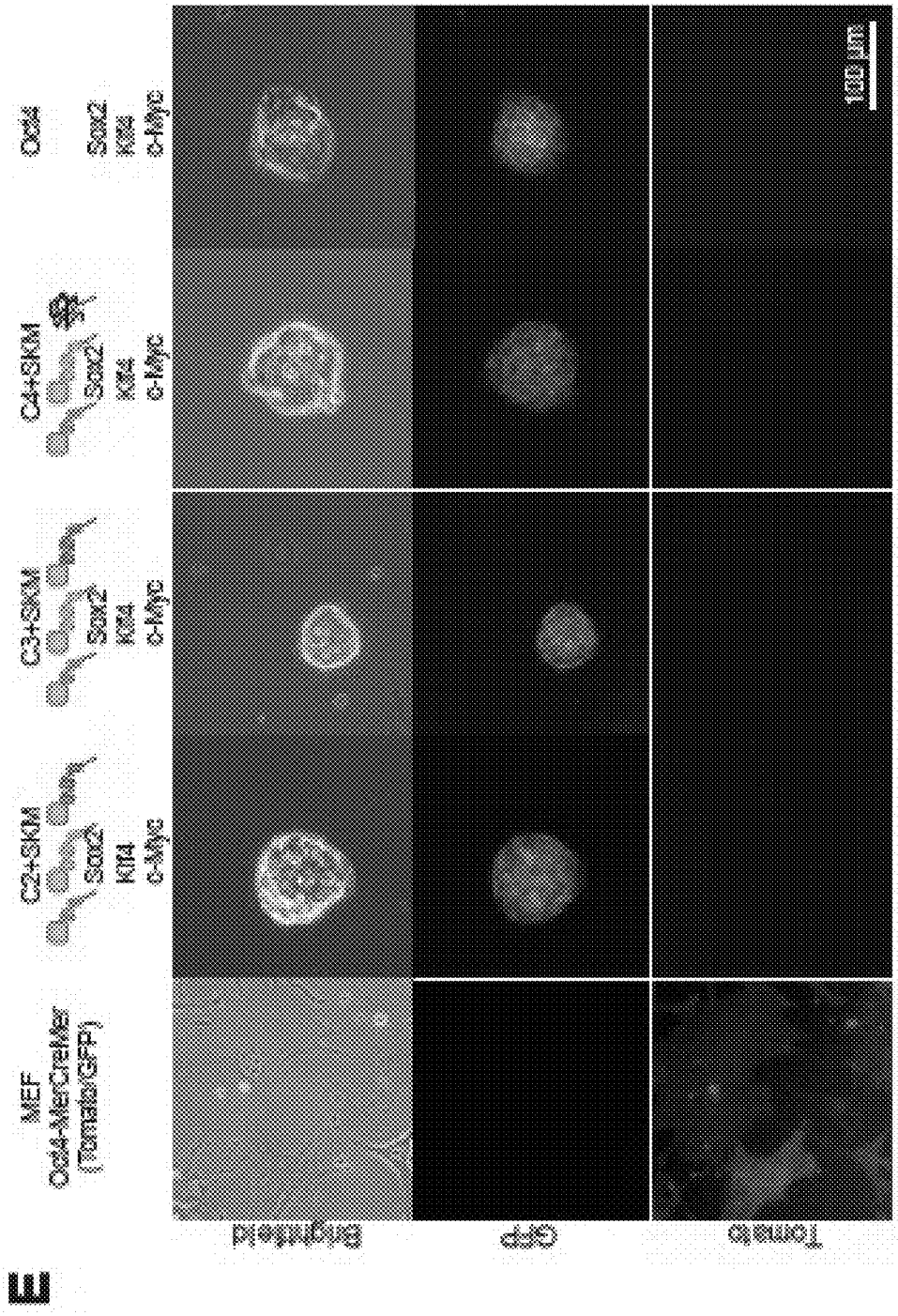
FIGS. 2A-2E


A
1. Screen ATF library
5' LTR
Amp
EF1α promoter
ATF Library
3' LTR
puromycin
IRES
ATF
2. Isolate hits
single cell/well
3. Identify integrated ATF(s)
4. Validate
ATF
Induces expected phenotype?
• RNA-seq (expression profile)
• ChIP-seq (direct genomic targets)
Cell phenotype
• Cell surface marker
• Morphology
• Functional assay
Lineage-specific gene/ regulatory element
GFP
reporter system

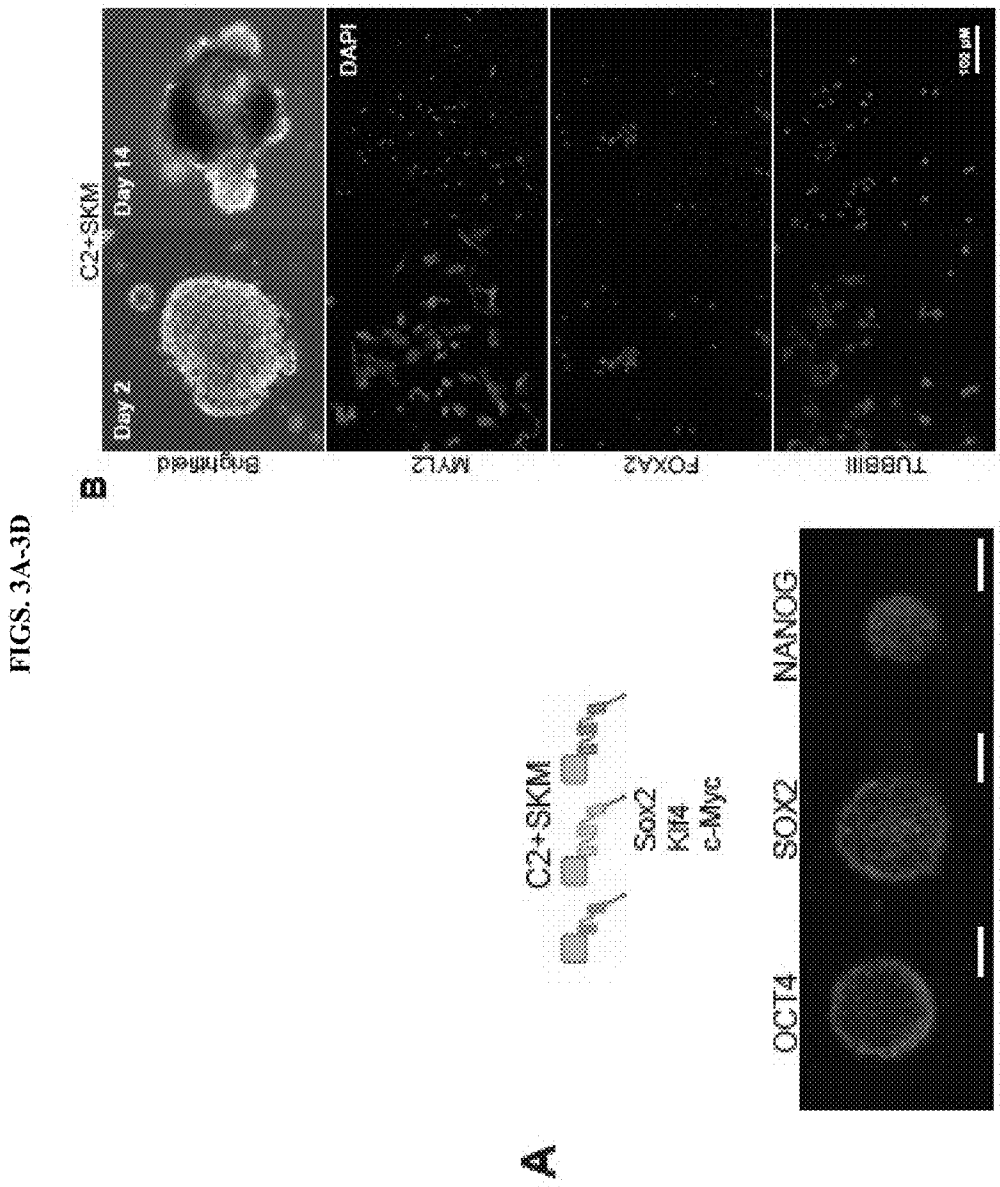
FIGS. 2A-2E, CONTINUED



FIGS. 2A-2E, CONTINUED



FIGS. 3A-3D

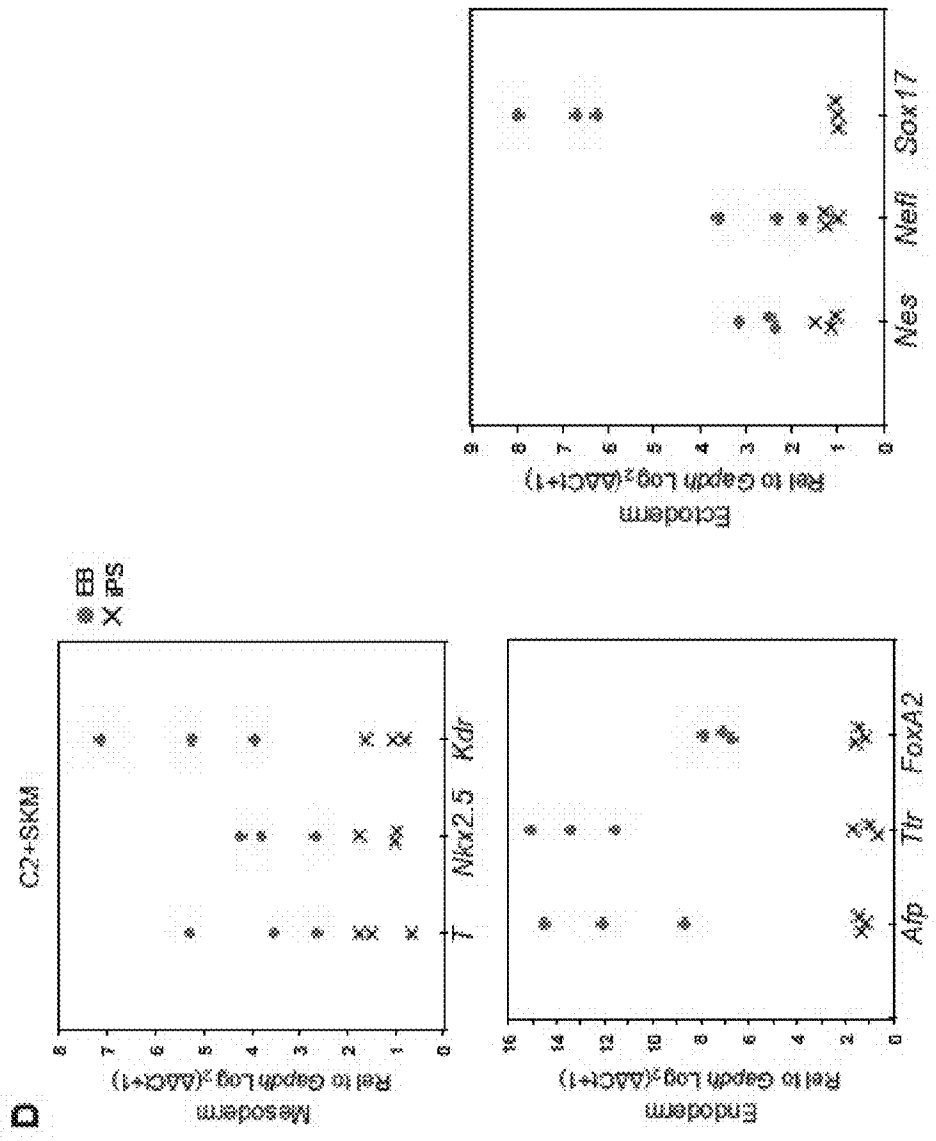

A
C2+SKM
Sox2
Klf4
c-Myc
OCT4
SOX2
NANOG
B
C2+SKM
Day 2
Day 14
Brightfield
DAPI
MYL2
FOXA2
TUBB3III

FIGS. 3A-3D, CONTINUED

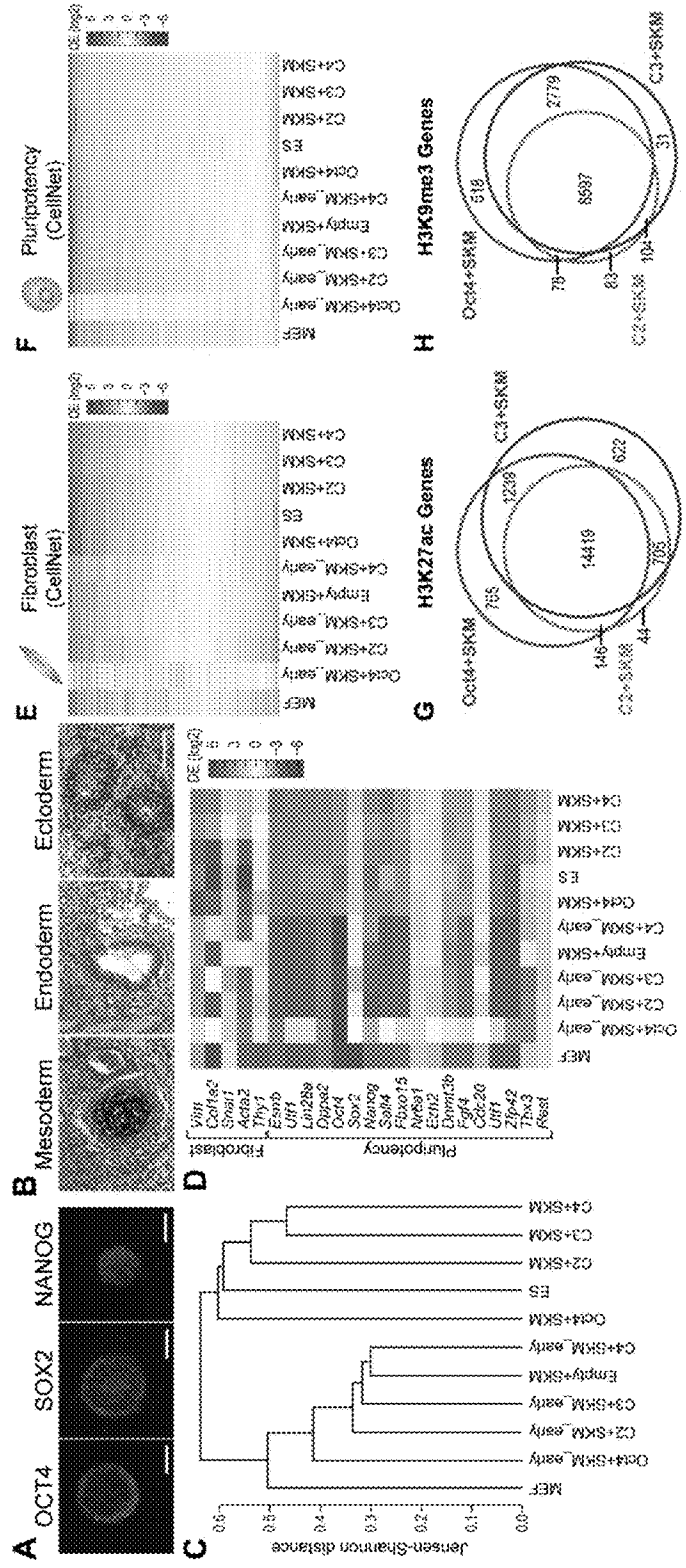
C

		C2+SKM		
		iPS	EB	*p*-value
Mesoderm	*T*	1.305 ± 0.334	3.818 ± 0.778	0.04121
	Nkx2.5	1.242 ± 0.252	3.567 ± 0.464	0.01168
	Kdr	1.144 ± 0.243	5.450 ± 0.931	0.01101
Endoderm	*Afp*	1.303 ± 0.100	11.767 ± 1.698	0.00354
	Ttr	1.102 ± 0.292	13.346 ± 1.014	0.00032
	FoxA2	1.403 ± 0.127	7.243 ± 0.347	0.00009
Ectoderm	*Nes*	1.215 ± 0.143	2.664 ± 0.238	0.00642
	Nefl	1.173 ± 0.094	2.571 ± 0.544	0.06447
	Sox17	1.017 ± 0.033	6.989 ± 0.507	0.00030

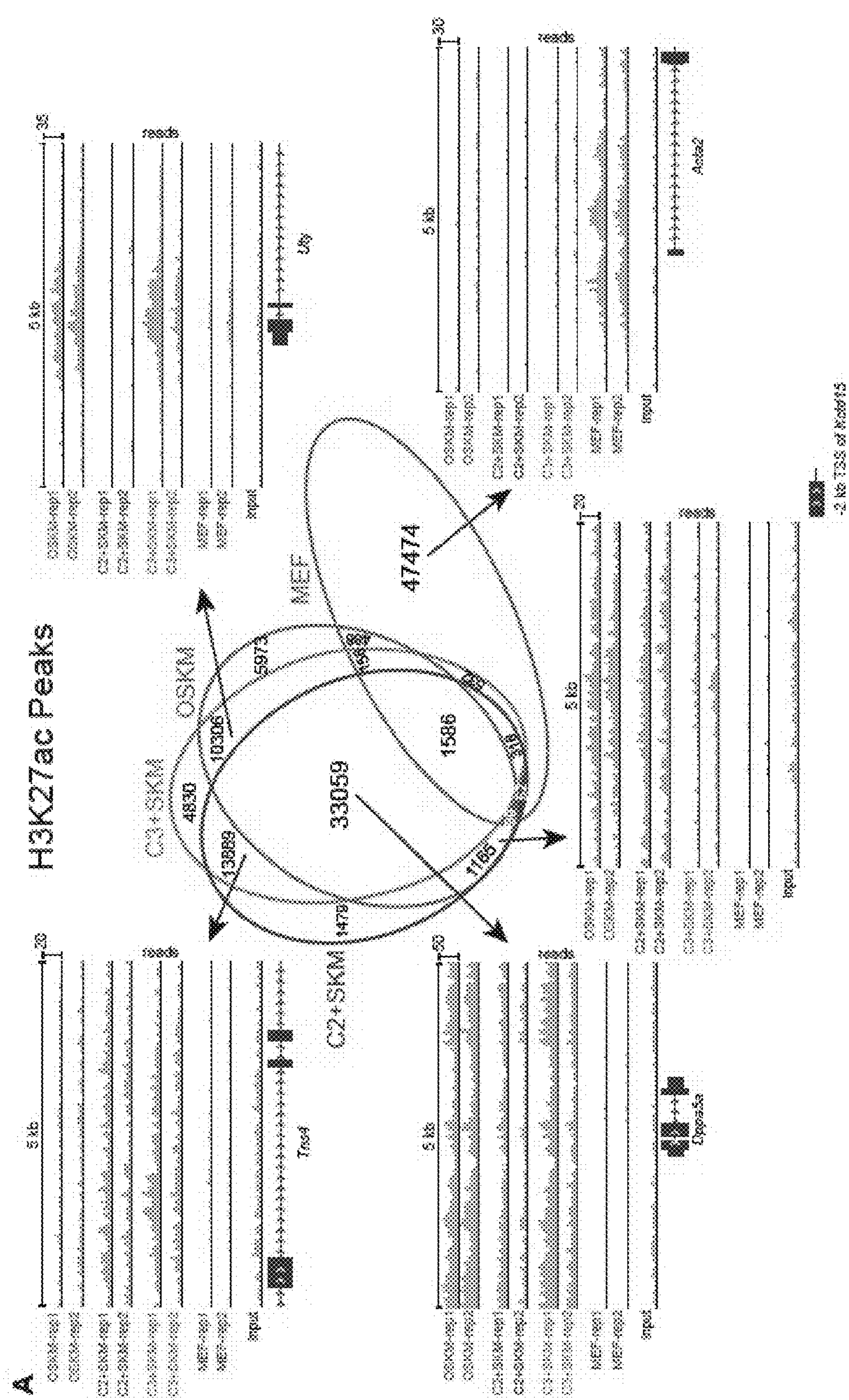
FIGS. 3A-3D, CONTINUED



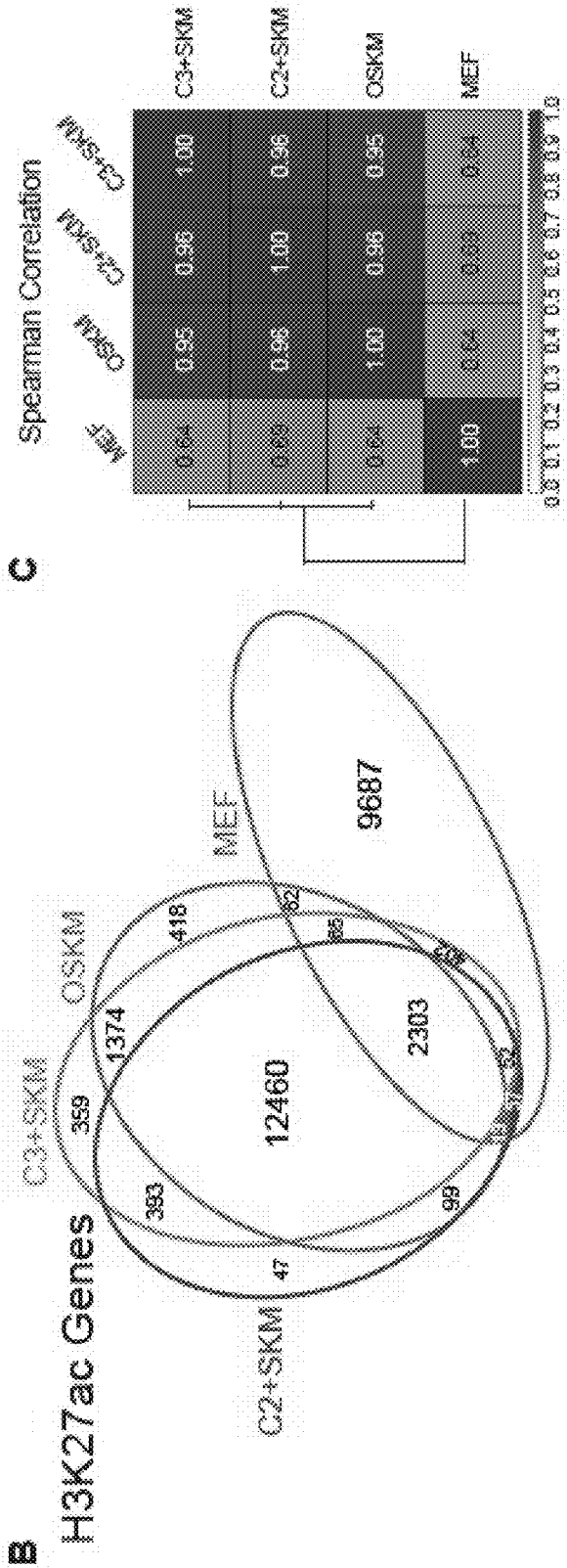
FIGS. 4A-4H


A
OCT4
SOX2
NANOG
B
Mesoderm
Endoderm
Ectoderm
C
Jensen-Shannon distance
0.6
0.5
0.4
0.3
0.2
0.1
0.0
MEF
Oct4+SKM_early
C2+SKM_early
C3+SKM_early
Empty+SKM
C4+SKM_early
Oct4+SKM
ES
C2+SKM
C3+SKM
C4+SKM
D
Fibroblast
Pluripotency
Vim
Col1a2
Snai1
Acta2
Thy1
Esrrb
Utf1
Lin28a
Dppa2
Oct4
Sox2
Nanog
Sall4
Fbxo15
Nr6s1
Ezh2
Dnmt3b
Fgf4
Cdc20
Utf1
Zfp42
Tfcp3
Rest
E
Fibroblast (CellNet)
F
Pluripotency (CellNet)
G
H3K27ac Genes
Oct4+SKM
C3+SKM
C2+SKM
765
1239
622
14419
146
705
44
H
H3K9me3 Genes
Oct4+SKM
C3+SKM
C2+SKM
518
2779
8597
78
31
83
104

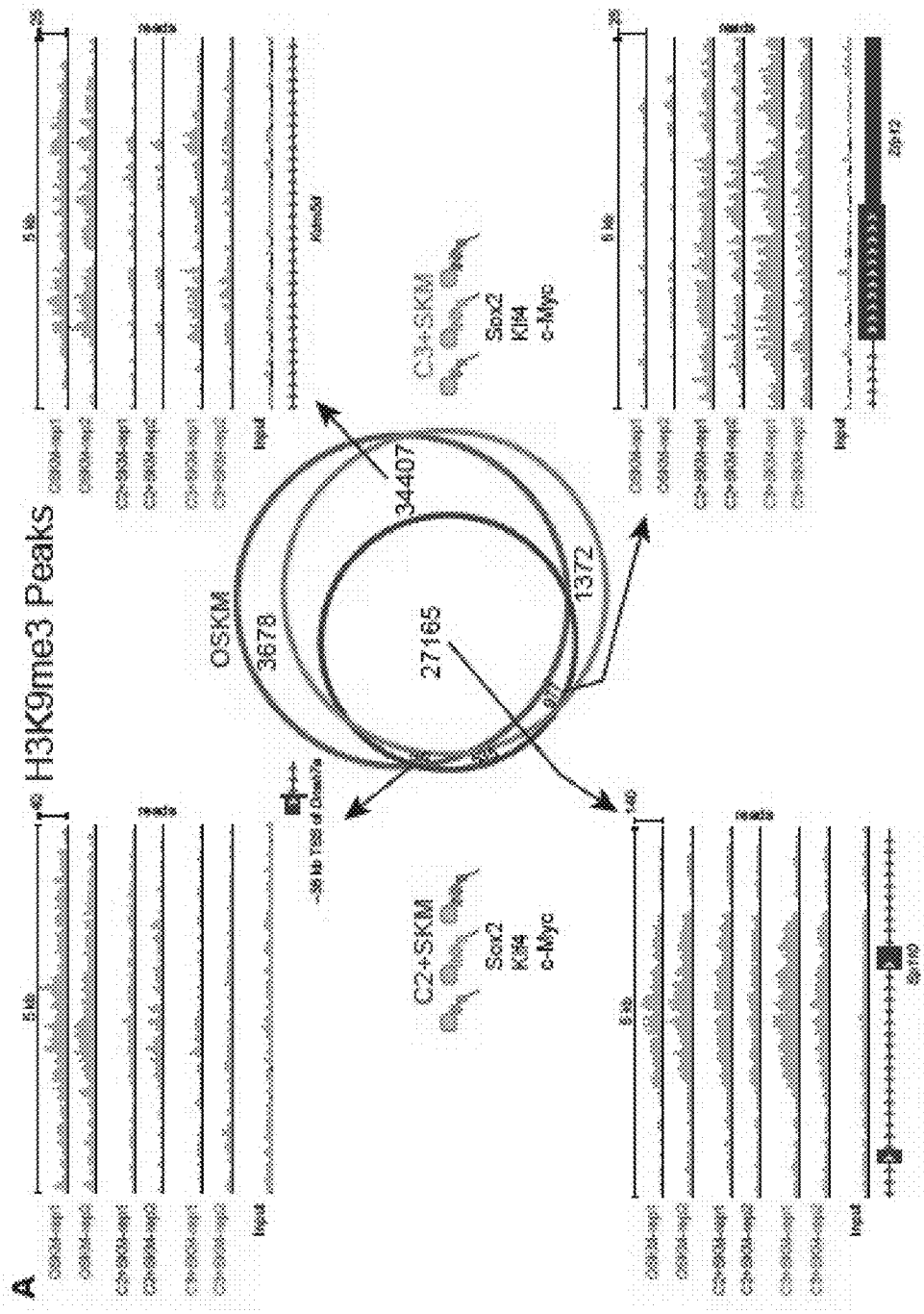
FIGS. 5A-5C


A
H3K27ac Peaks
C3+SKM
OSKM
MEF
C2+SKM
47474
33059
10306
5973
4830
13889
1586
1165
1479
5 kb
reads
Uty
Acta2

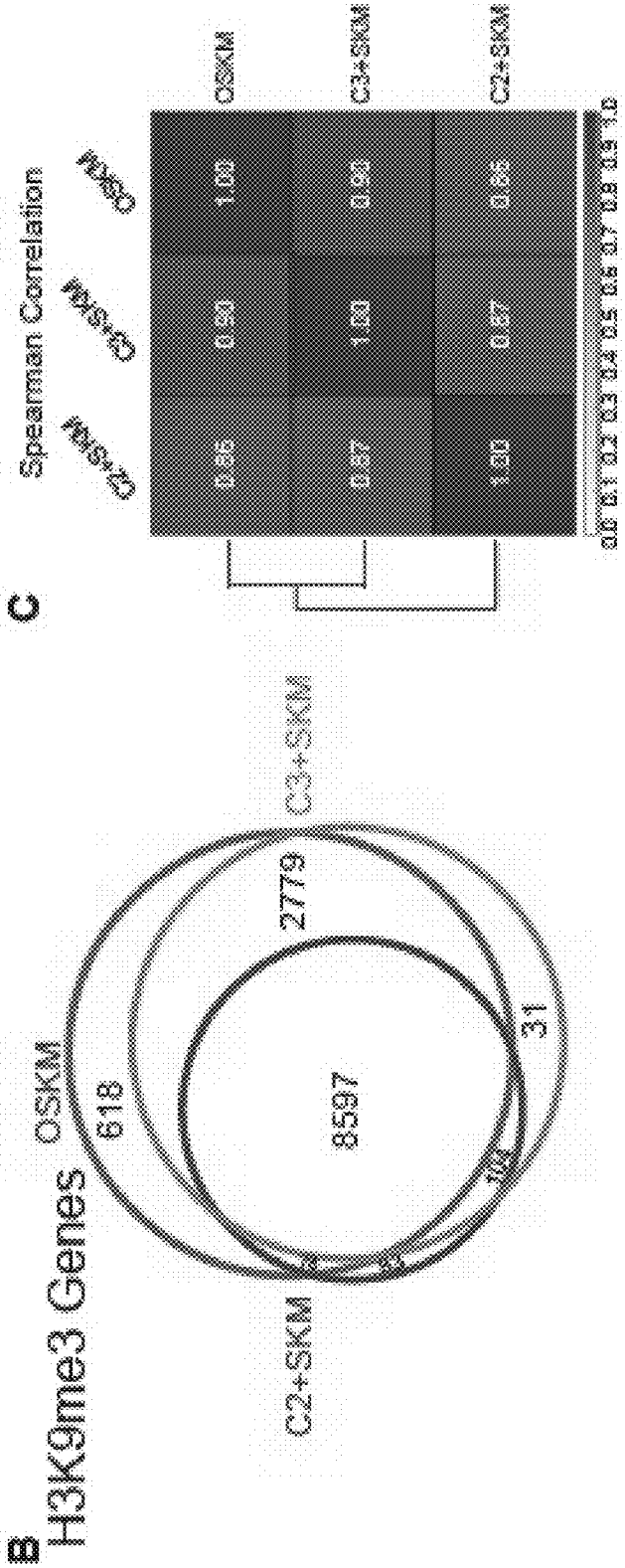
FIGS. 5A-5C, CONTINUED



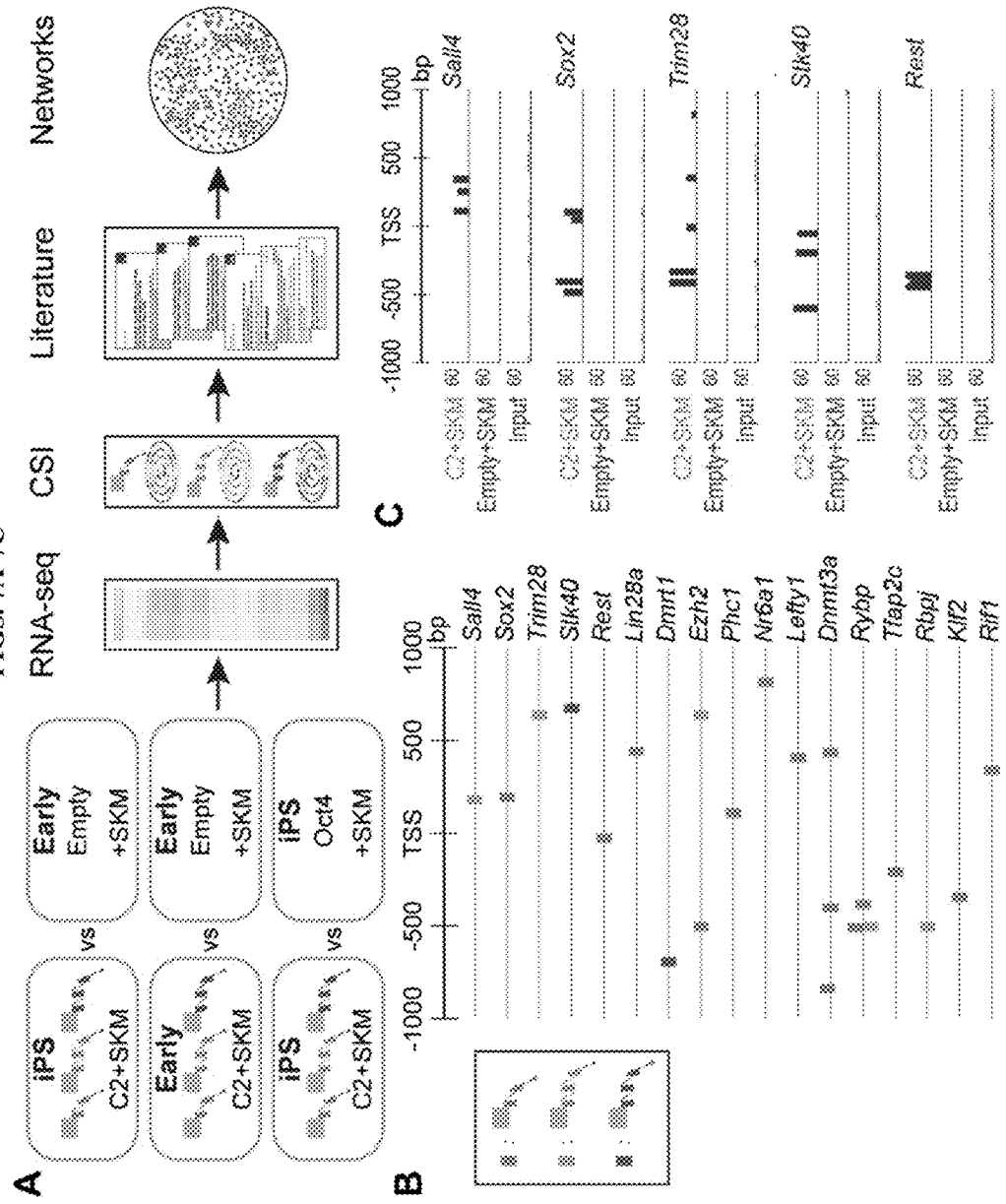
FIGS. 6A-6C


A
H3K9me3 Peaks
OSKM
3678
34407
27165
1372
C2+SKM
Sox2
Klf4
c-Myc
C2+SKM
Sox2
Klf4
c-Myc
Input

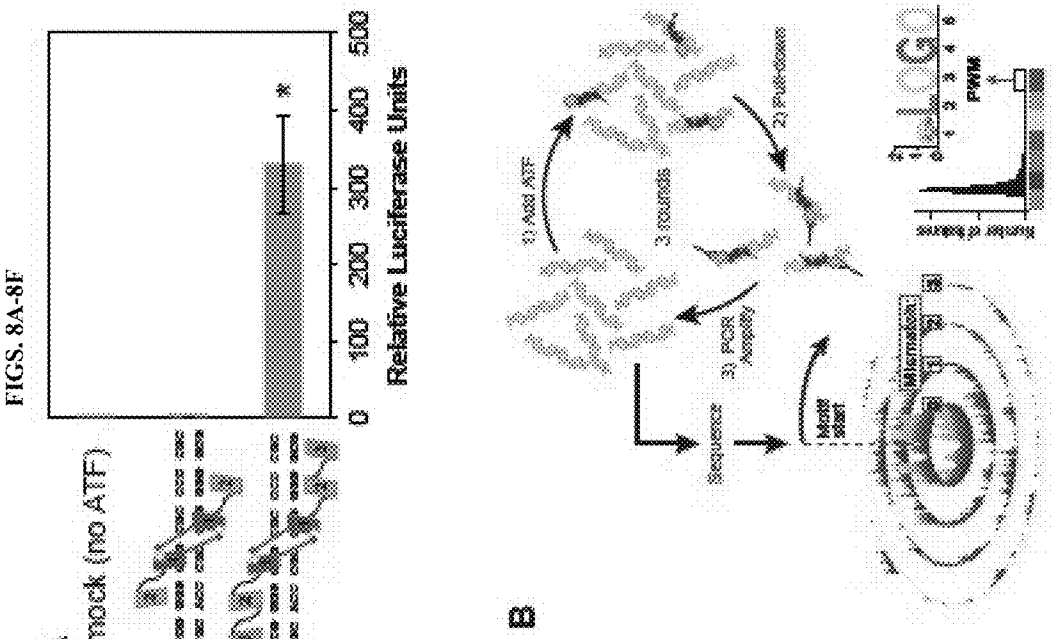
FIGS. 6A-6C, CONTINUED



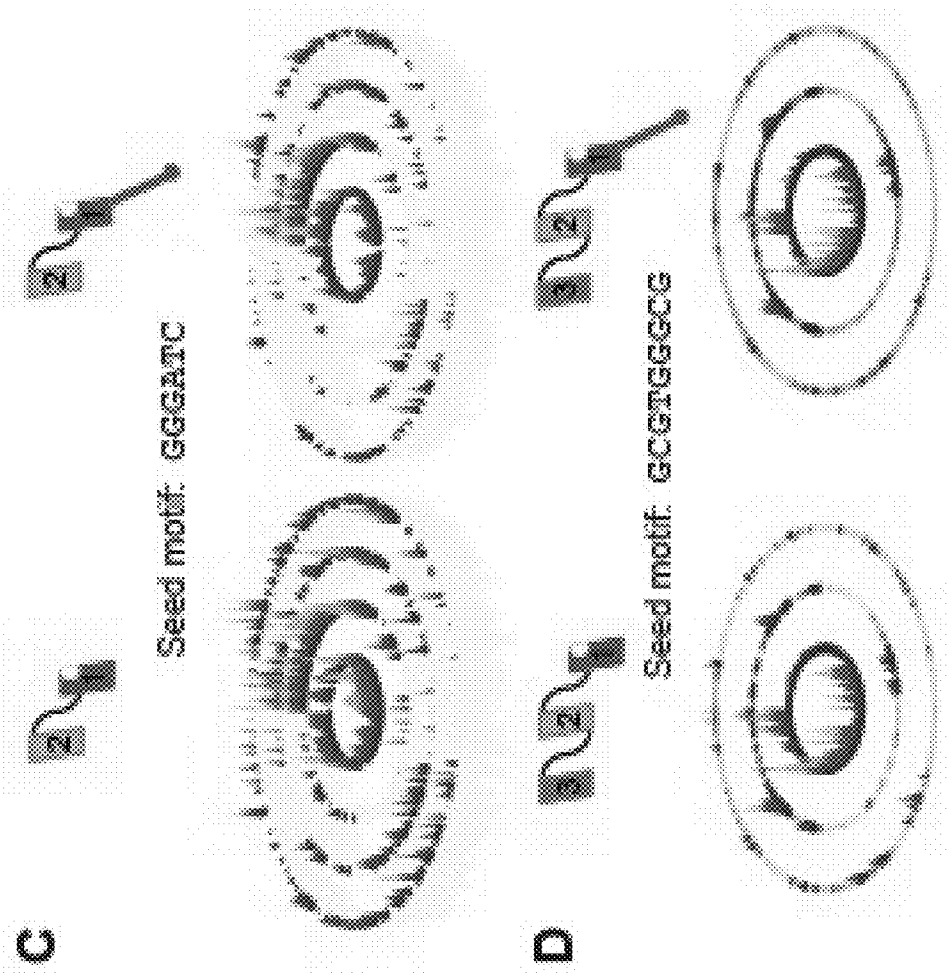
FIGS. 7A-7C


A
RNA-seq
CSI
Literature
Networks
iPS
C2+SKM
Early
Empty
+SKM
Oct4
vs
B
-1000
-500
TSS
500
1000
bp
Sall4
Sox2
Trim28
Stk40
Rest
Lin28a
Dmrt1
Ezh2
Phc1
Nr6a1
Lefty1
Dnmt3a
Rybp
Tfap2c
Rbpj
Klf2
Rif1
C
C2+SKM
Empty+SKM
Input
Sall4
Sox2
Trim28
Stk40
Rest

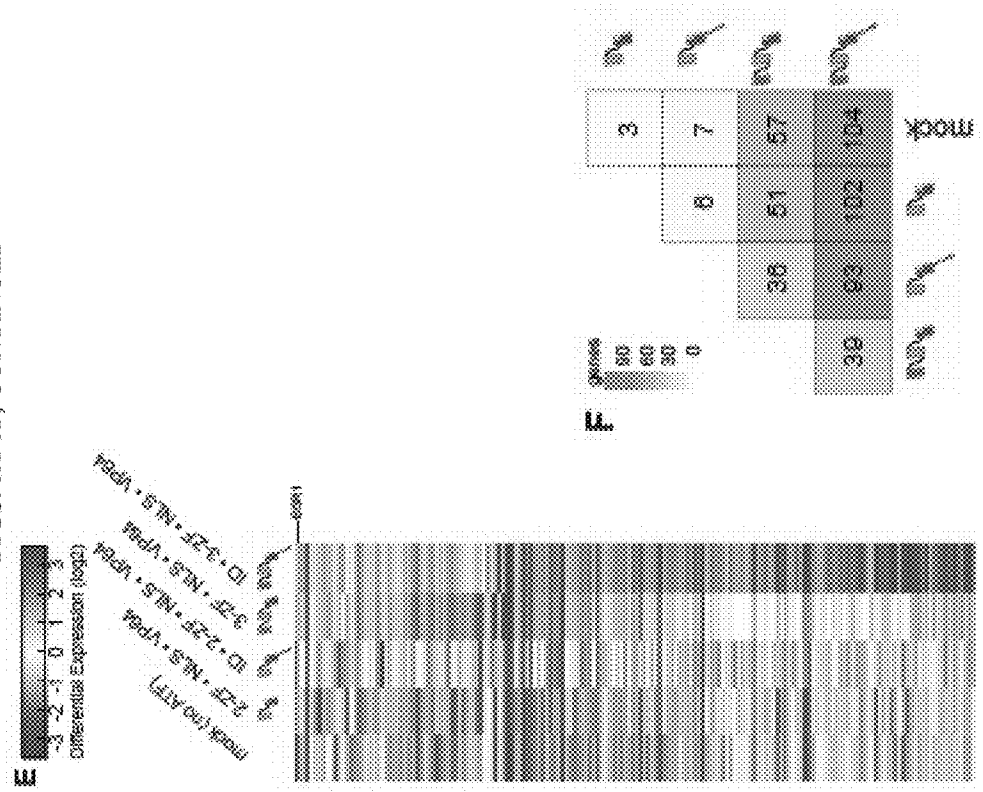
FIGS. 8A-8F


A
mock (no ATF)
SEQ ID NO:1
SEQ ID NO:22
SEQ ID NO:1
SEQ ID NO:22
0
100
200
300
400
500
Relative Luciferase Units
*
B
1) Add ATF
2) Purification
3 rounds
3) PCR Amplify
Sequence
Motif Plot
Mismatch
PWM

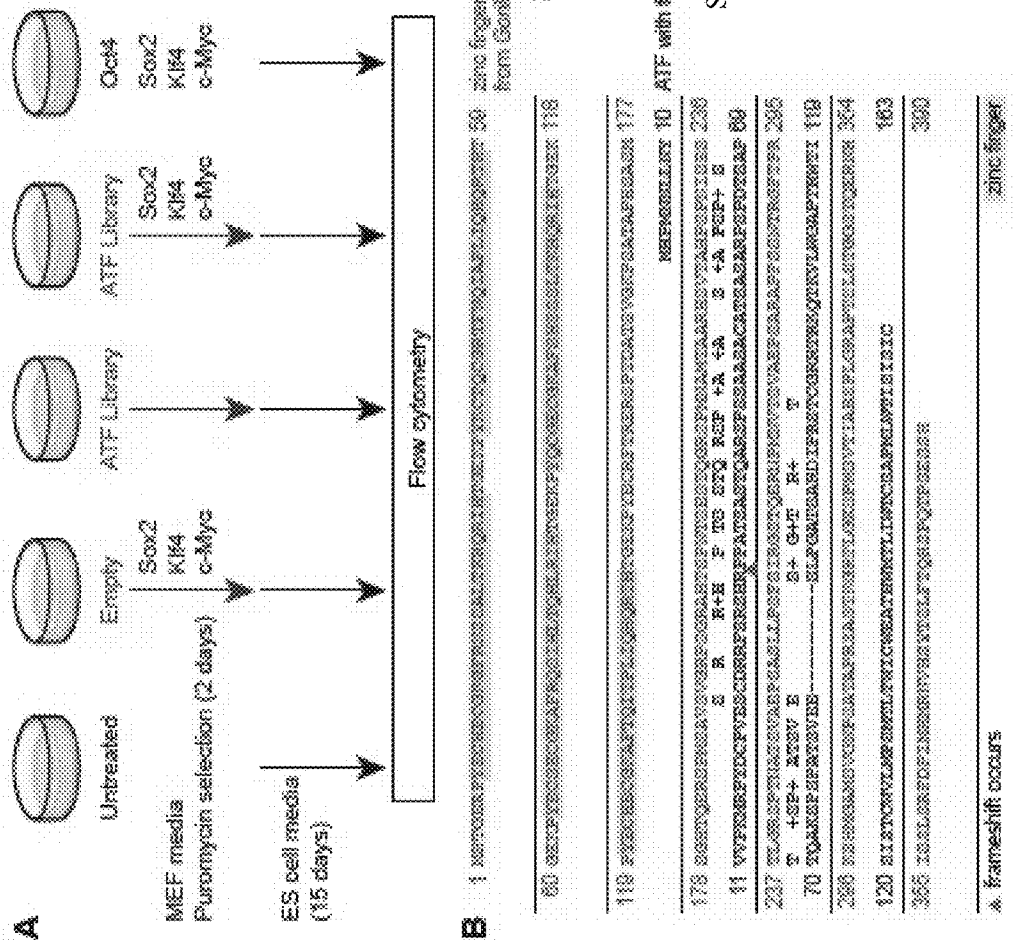
FIGS. 8A-8F, CONTINUED



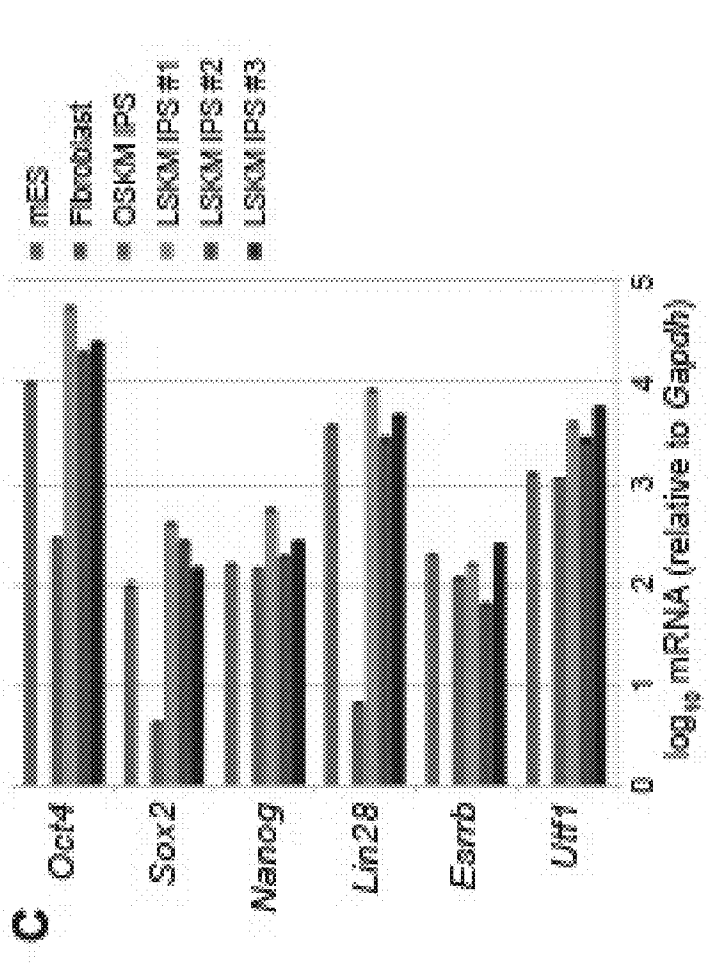
FIGS. 8A-8F, CONTINUED



FIGS. 9A-9D


A
Untreated
Empty
ATF Library
ATF Library
Oct4
Sox2
Klf4
c-Myc
MEF media
Puromycin selection (2 days)
Sox2
Klf4
c-Myc
Sox2
Klf4
c-Myc
ES cell media
(15 days)
Flow cytometry
B
zinc finger protein 3-like
from Gorilla gorilla gorilla
SEQ ID NO:70
ATF with frameshift
SEQ ID NO:71
a. frameshift occurs
Zinc finger

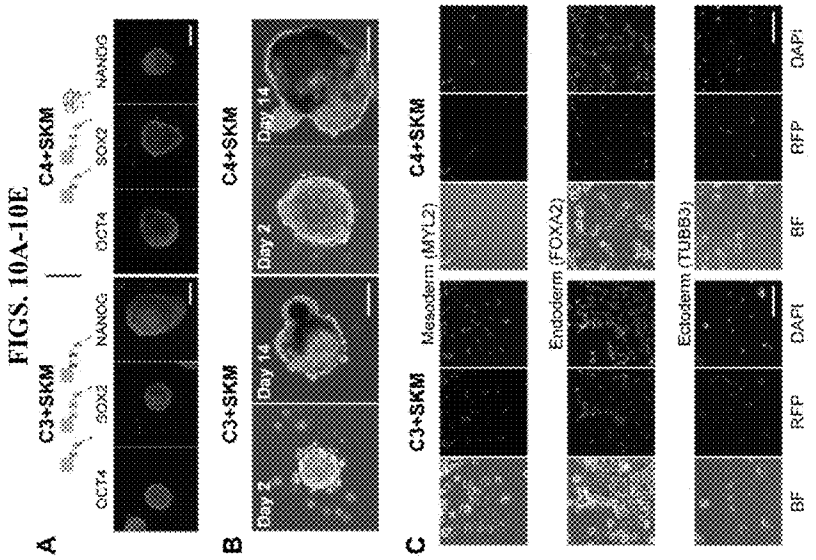
FIGS. 9A-9D, CONTINUED



D

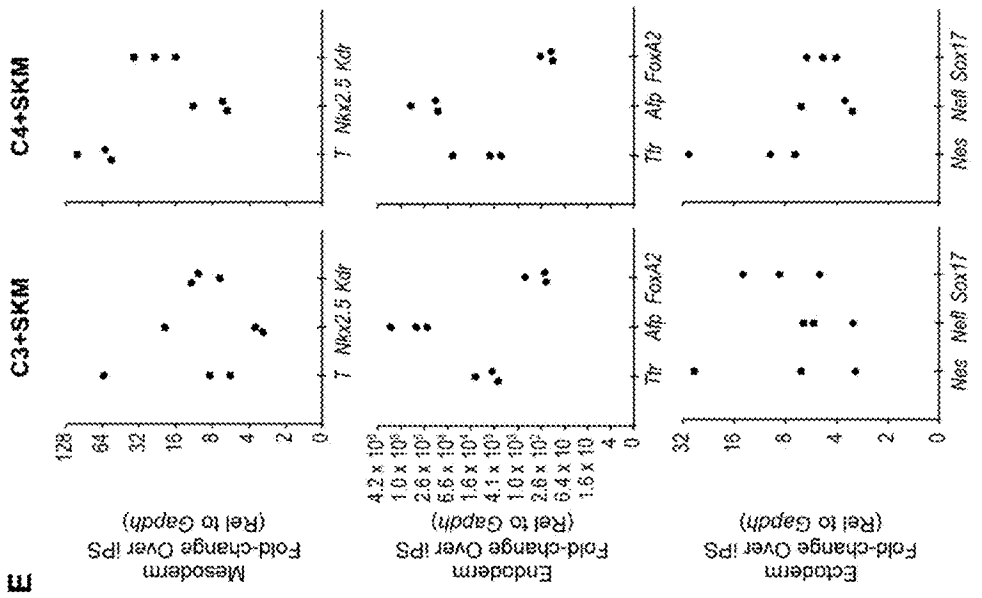
Condition	Doubling time (hours)
OSKM	14.1 ± 0.4
C2+SKM	16.4 ± 0.7
C3+SKM	15.8 ± 1.3
C4+SKM	17.9 ± 1.8

FIGS. 10A-10E

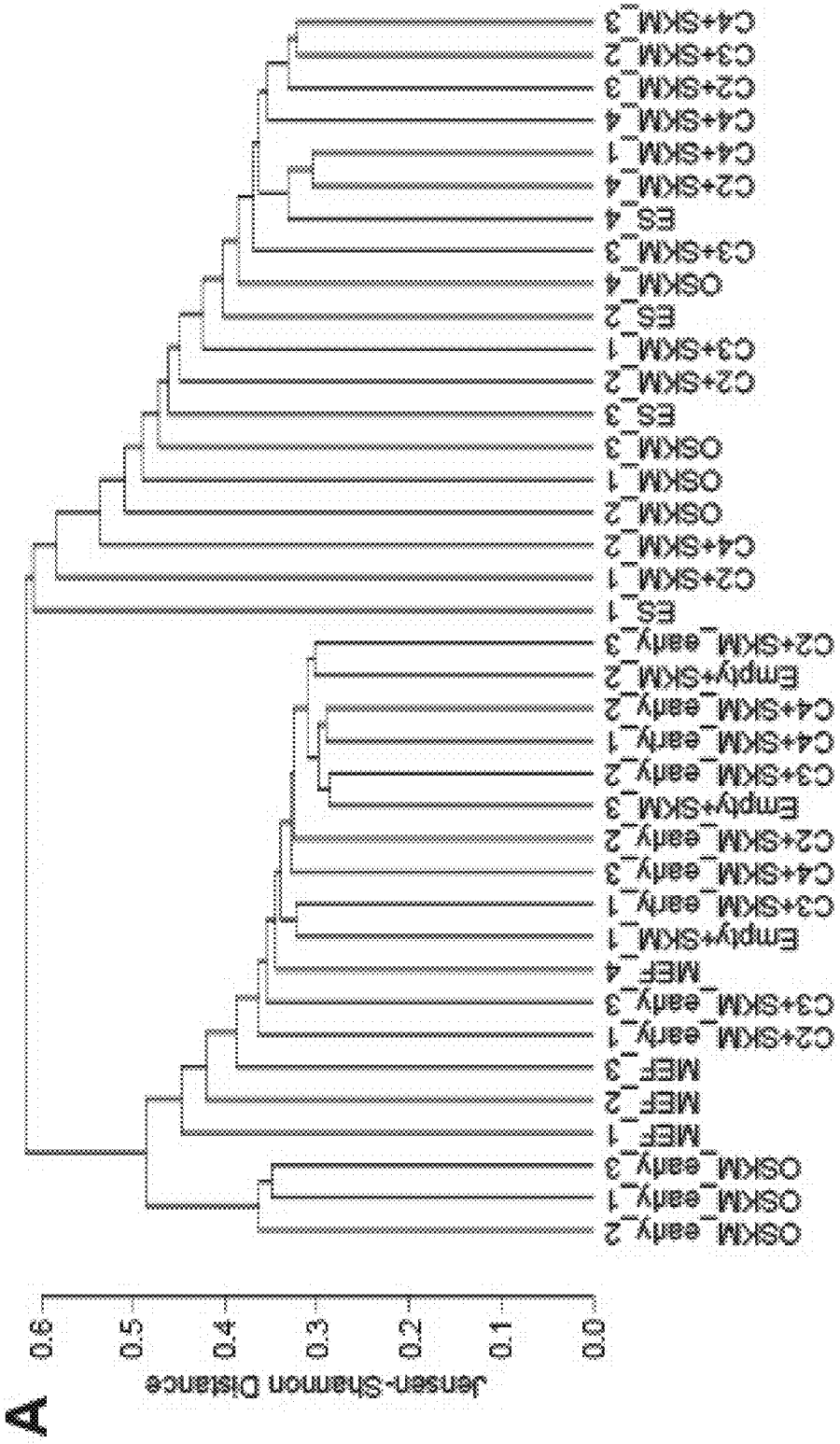


	C3+SKM	C4+SKM
MYL2	83.0%	77.8%
FOXA2	55.3%	53.7%
TUBB3	30.0%	14.3%

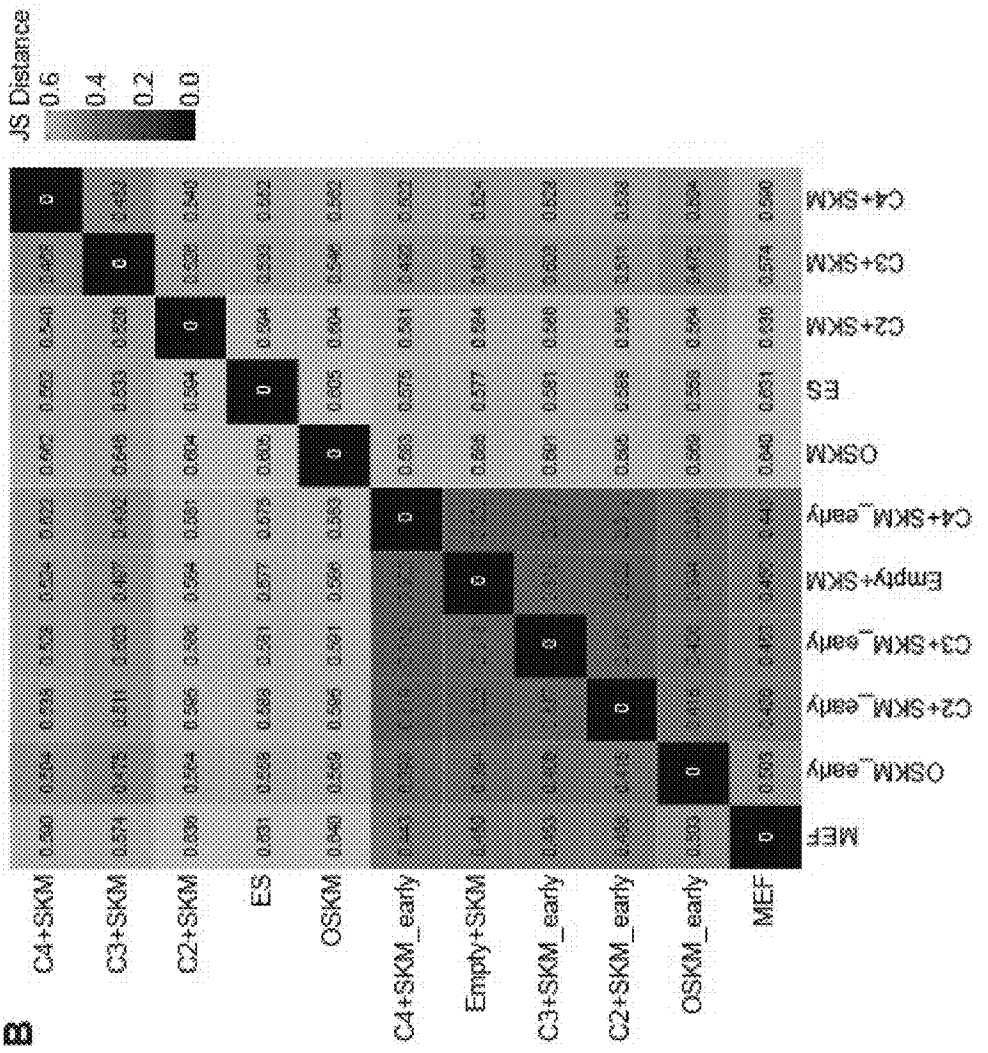
FIGS. 10A-10E, CONTINUED



FIGS. 11A-11C


A
Jensen-Shannon Distance
0.6
0.5
0.4
0.3
0.2
0.1
0.0
OSKM_early_2
OSKM_early_1
OSKM_early_3
MEF_1
MEF_2
MEF_3
C2+SKM_early_1
C3+SKM_early_3
MEF_4
Empty+SKM_1
C3+SKM_early_1
C4+SKM_early_3
C2+SKM_early_2
Empty+SKM_3
C3+SKM_early_2
C4+SKM_early_1
C4+SKM_early_2
Empty+SKM_2
C2+SKM_early_3
ES_1
C2+SKM_1
C4+SKM_2
OSKM_2
OSKM_1
OSKM_3
ES_3
C2+SKM_2
C3+SKM_1
ES_2
OSKM_4
C3+SKM_3
ES_4
C2+SKM_4
C4+SKM_1
C4+SKM_4
C2+SKM_3
C3+SKM_2
C4+SKM_3

FIGS. 11A-11C, CONTINUED



FIGS. 11A-11C, CONTINUED

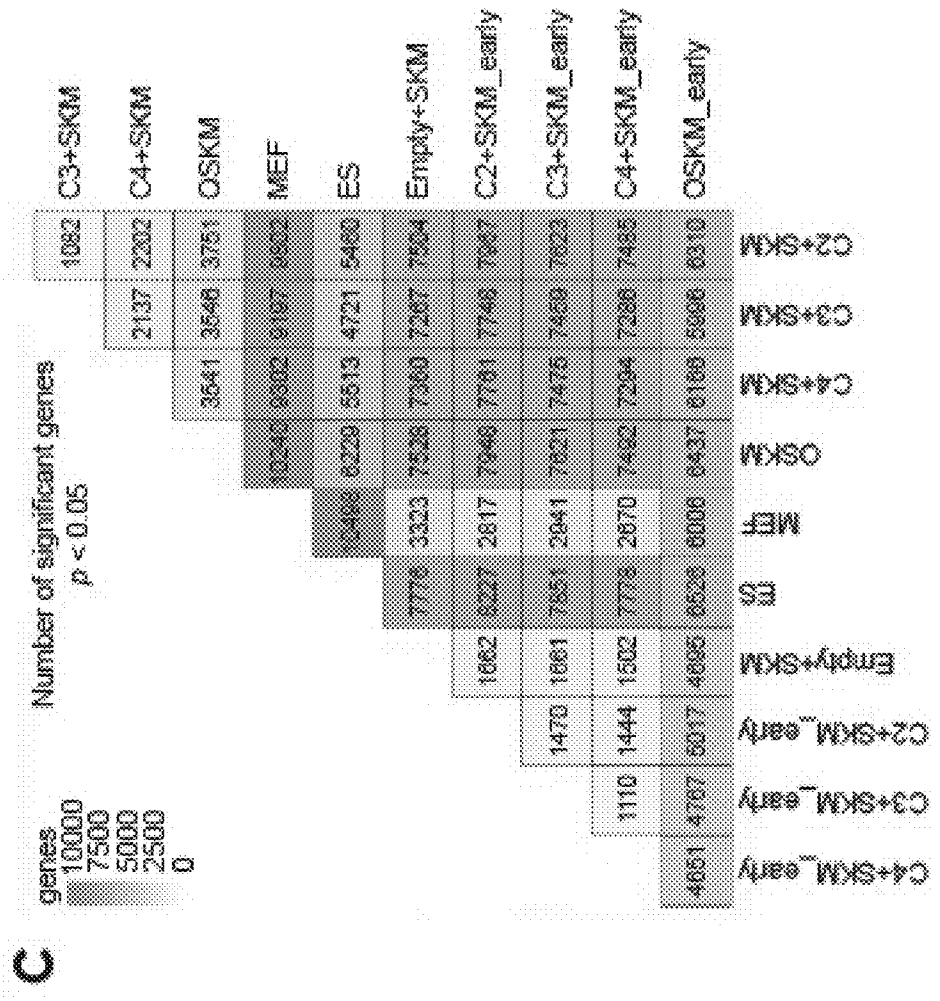
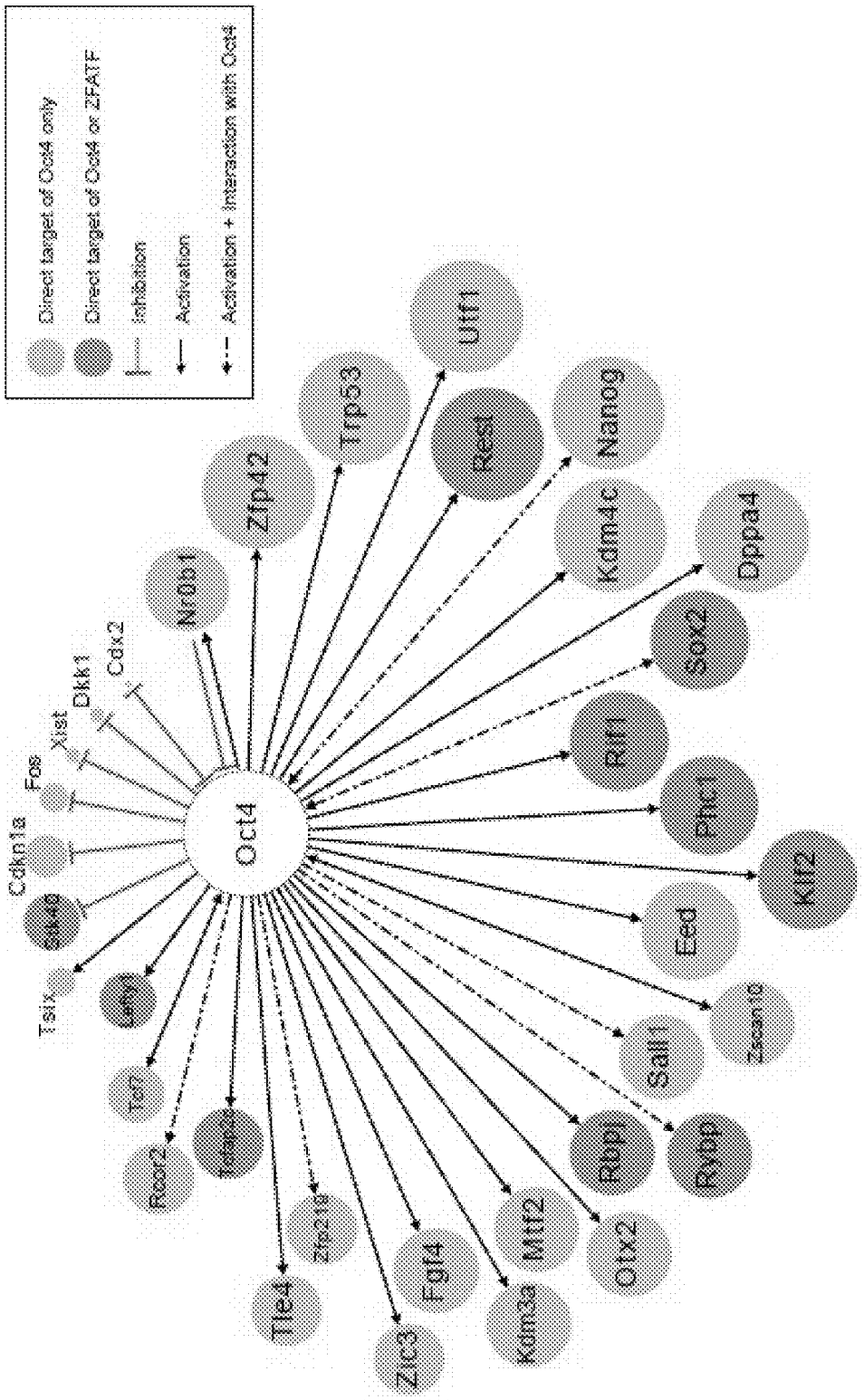


FIG. 12


Direct target of Oct4 only
Direct target of Oct4 or ZFATF
Inhibition
Activation
Activation + Interaction with Oct4
Oct4
Cdkn1a
Fos
Xist
Dkk1
Cdx2
Nr0b1
Zfp42
Trp53
Utf1
Rest
Nanog
Kdm4c
Dppa4
Sox2
Rif1
Phc1
Klf2
Eed
Zscan10
Sall1
Rybp
Rbpl
Otx2
Mtf2
Kdm3a
Zic3
Fgf4
Tle4
Zfp219
Rcor2
Tet2
Tsix

FIGS. 13A-13B

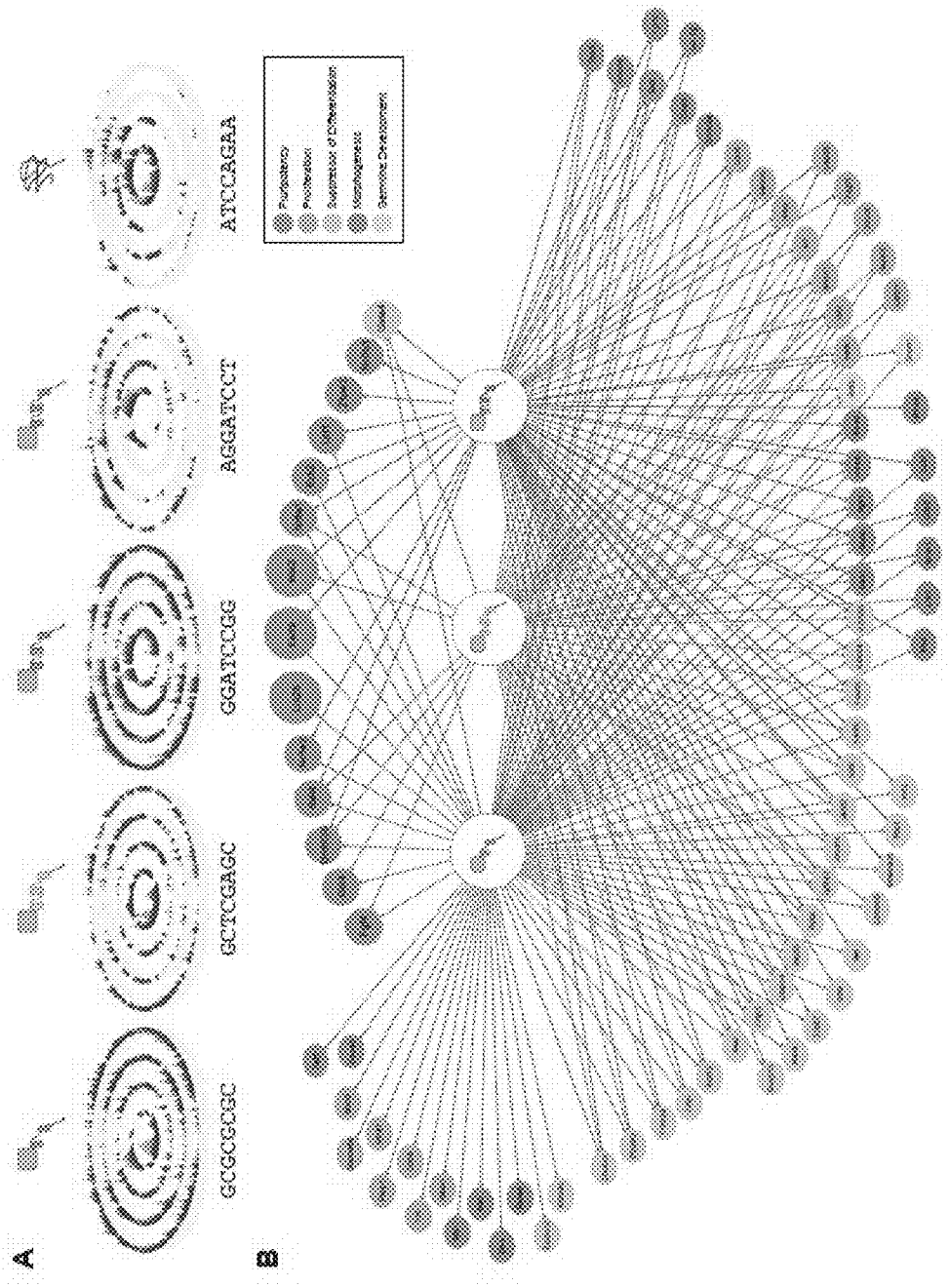


FIG. 14

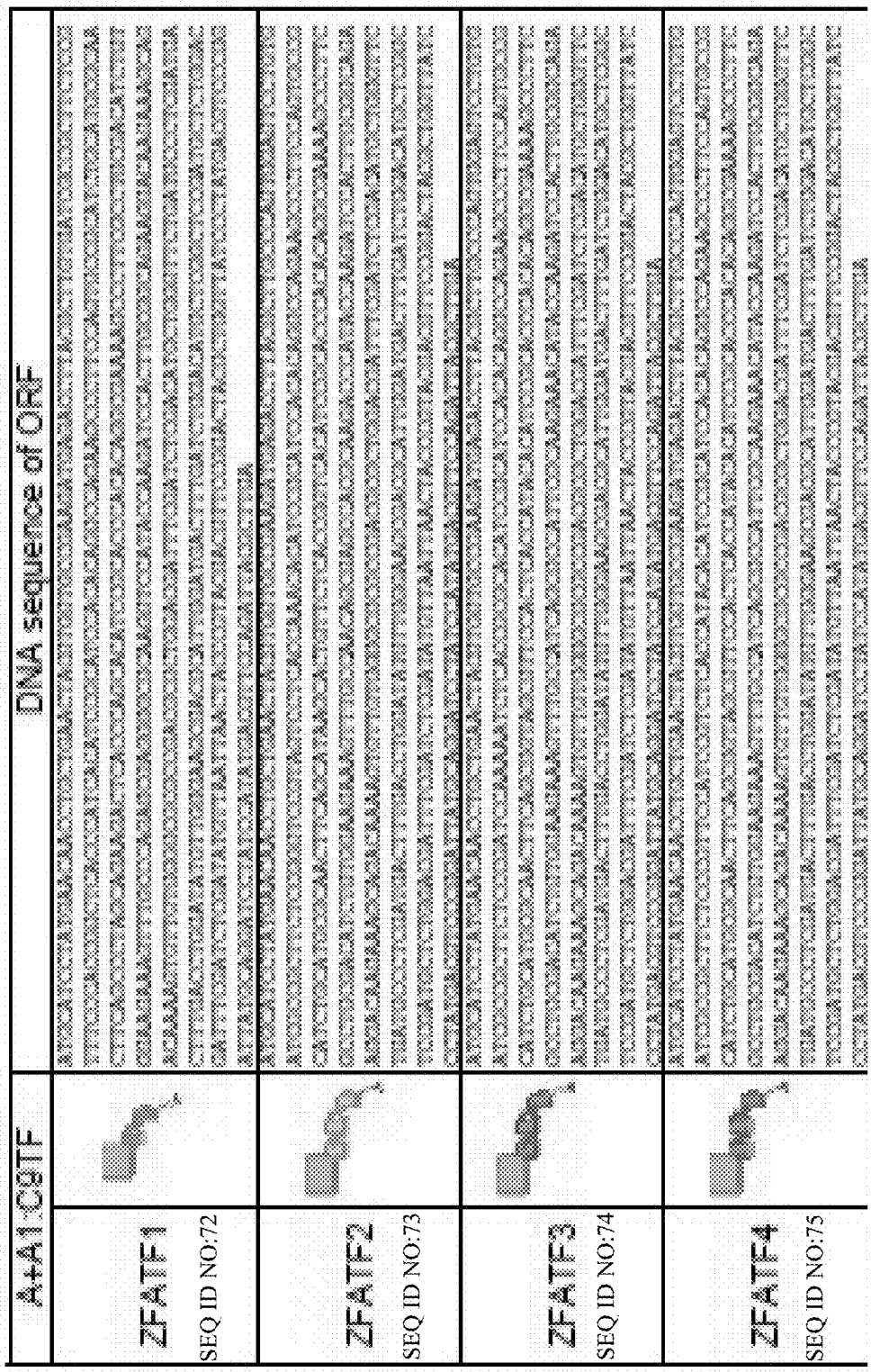

A+A1/C9TF
DNA sequence of ORF
ZFATF1
SEQ ID NO:72
ZFATF2
SEQ ID NO:73
ZFATF3
SEQ ID NO:74
ZFATF4
SEQ ID NO:75

FIG. 14, CONTINUED

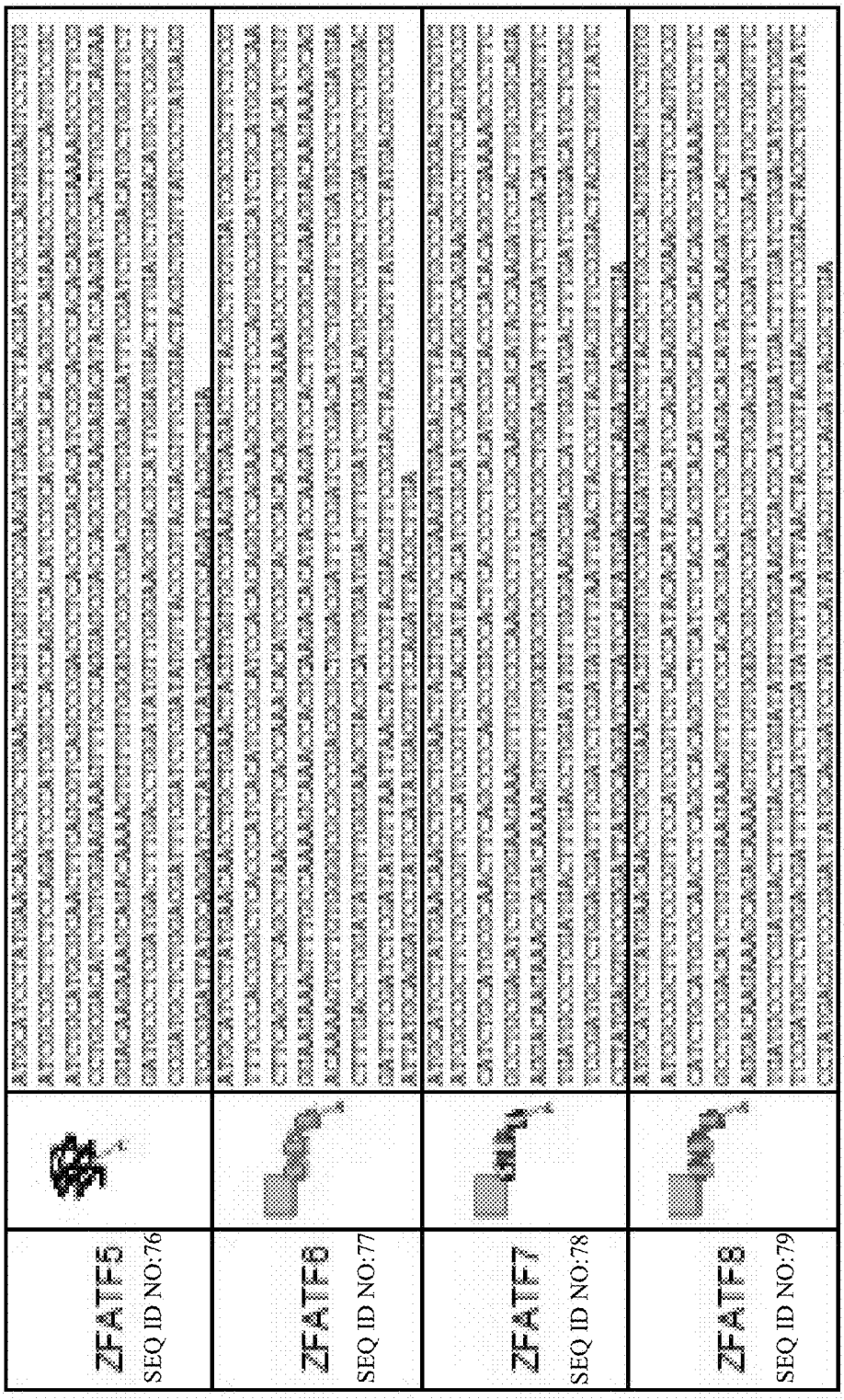
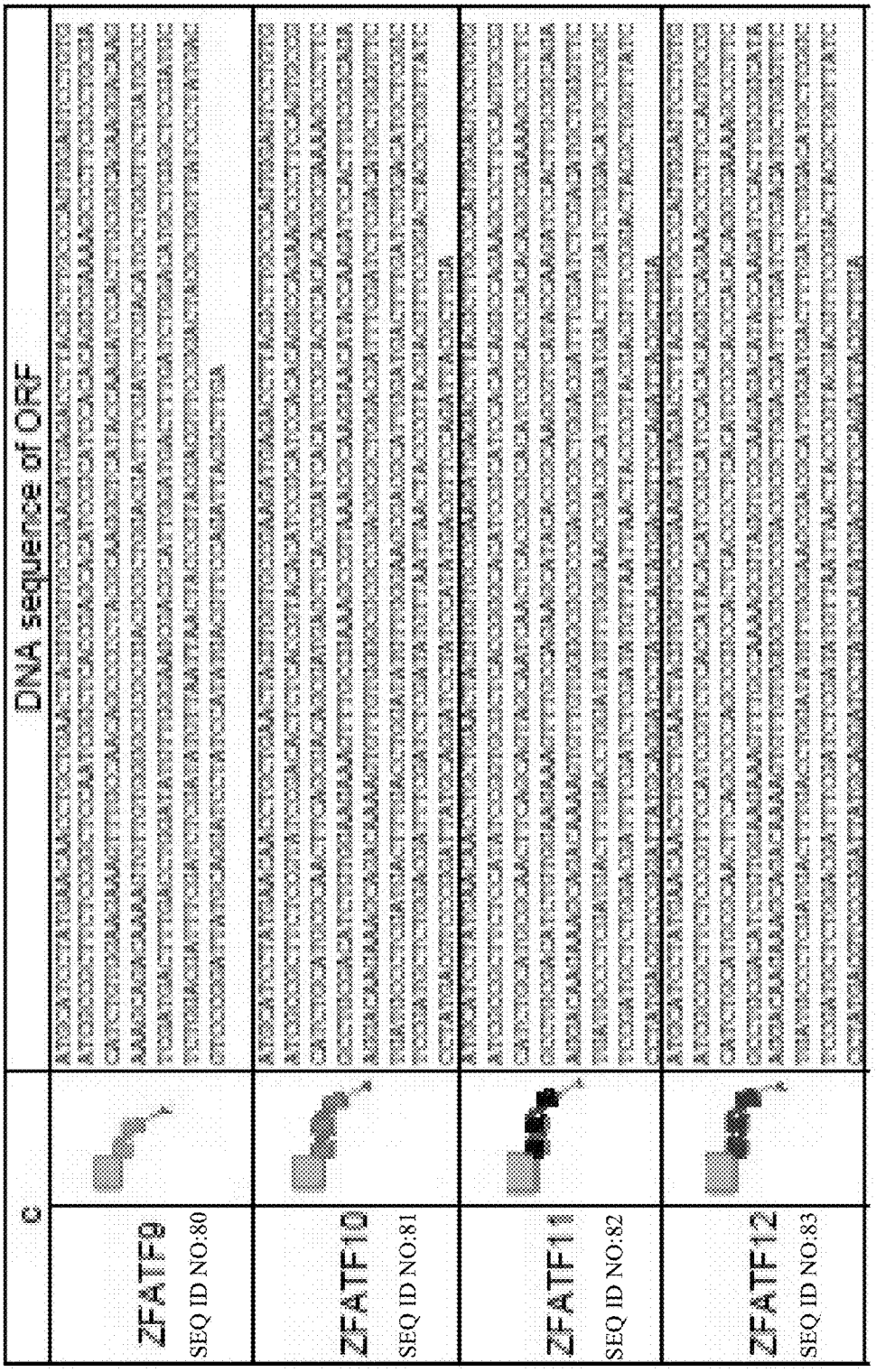
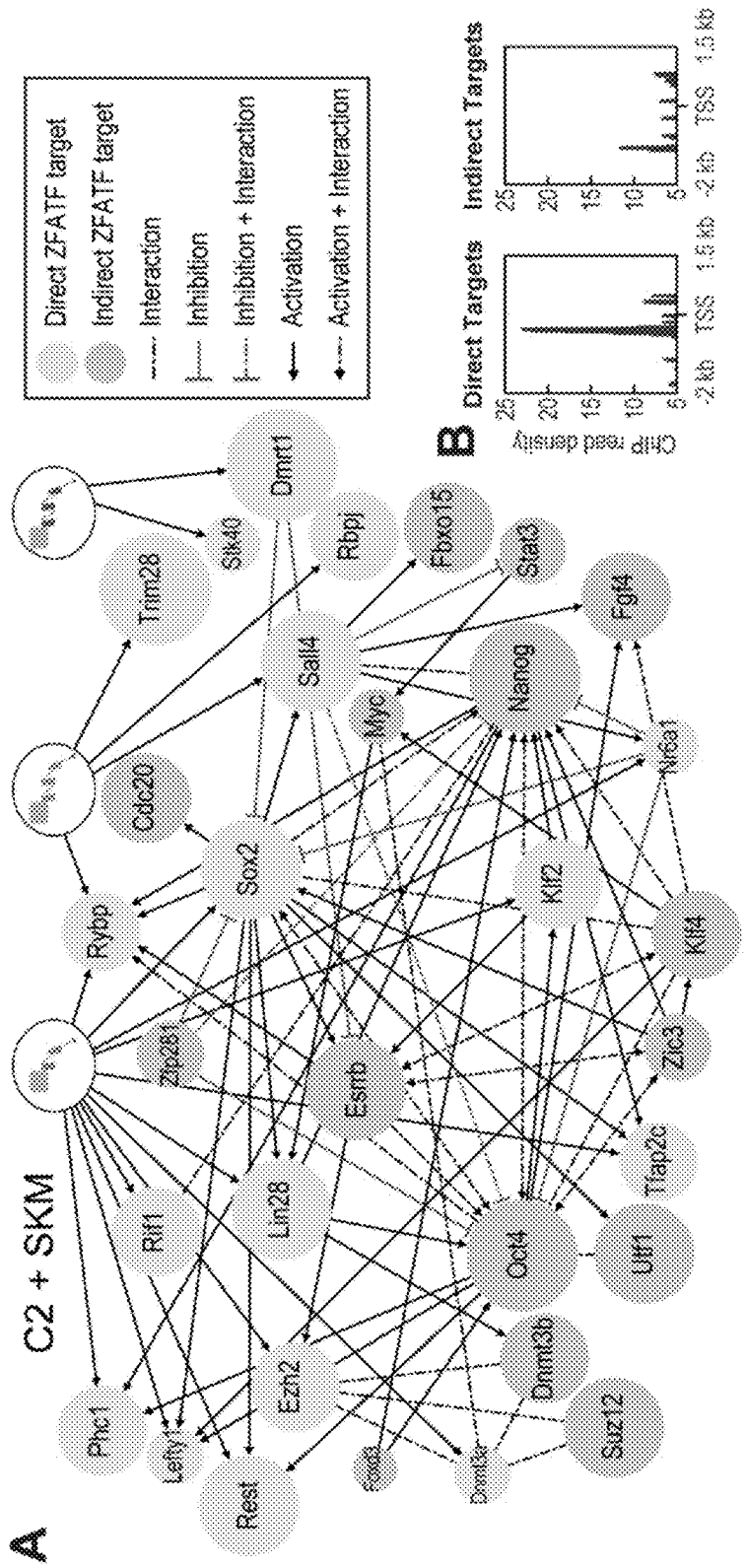


FIG. 14, CONTINUED



FIGS. 15A-15C


A
C2 + SKM
Direct ZFATF target
Indirect ZFATF target
Interaction
Inhibition
Inhibition + Interaction
Activation
Activation + Interaction
Phc1
Lehy1
Rest
Ezh2
Rif1
Lin28
Zfp281
Rybp
Sox2
Esrrb
Cdc20
Trim28
Sik40
Dmrt1
Rbpj
Sall4
Myc
Foxo15
Stat3
Nanog
Fgf4
Nr6a1
Klf2
Klf4
Zic3
Tfap2c
Utf1
Oct4
Dnmt3b
Suz12
B
Direct Targets
Indirect Targets
ChIP read density
25
20
15
10
5
-2 kb
TSS
1.5 kb
-2 kb
TSS
1.5 kb

FIGS. 15A-15C, CONTINUED

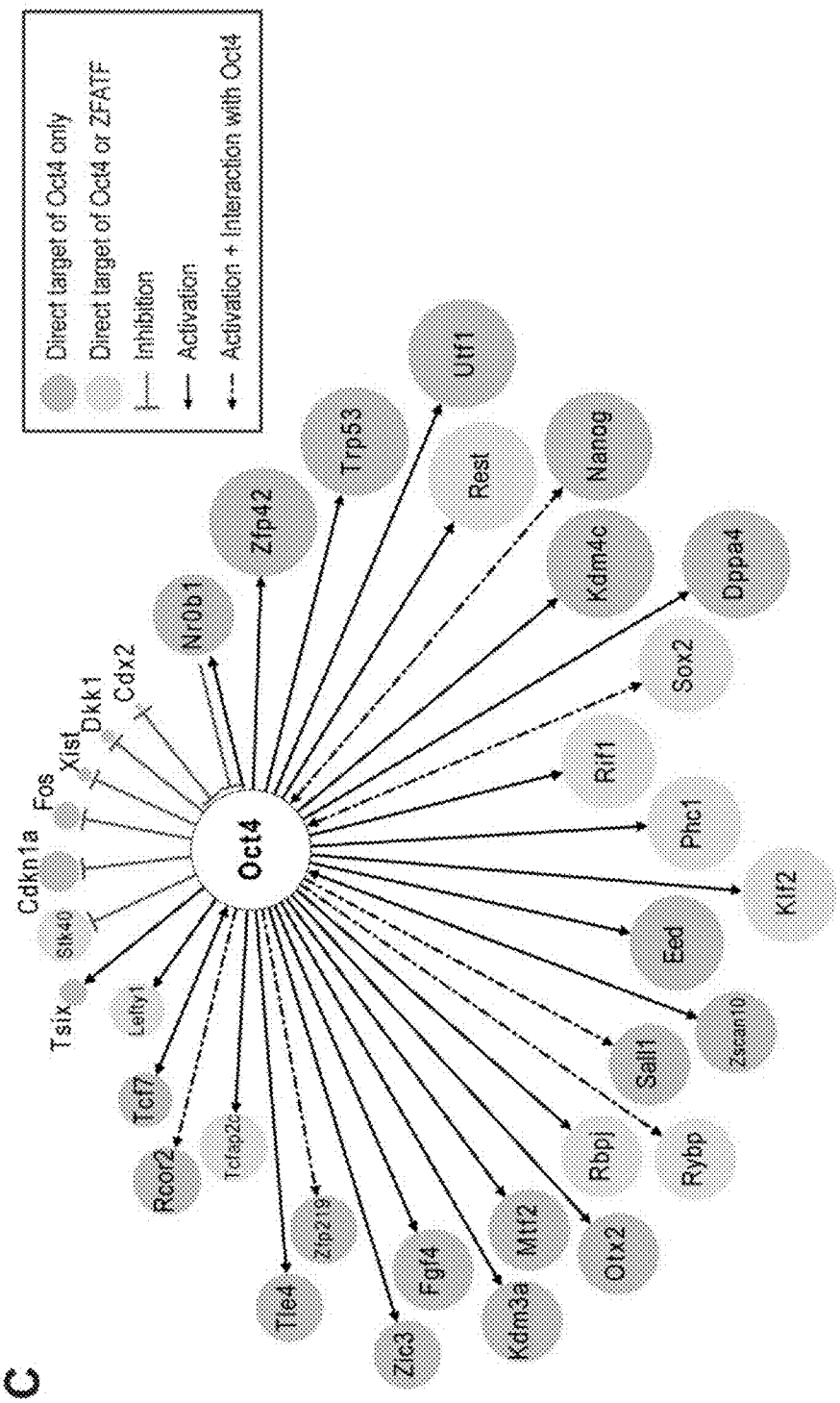


FIG. 16

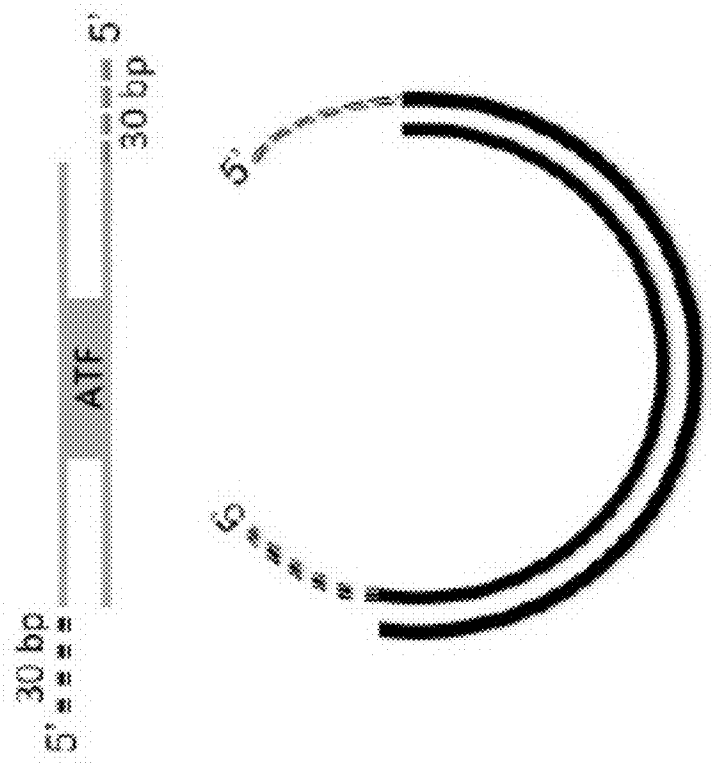


FIG. 17

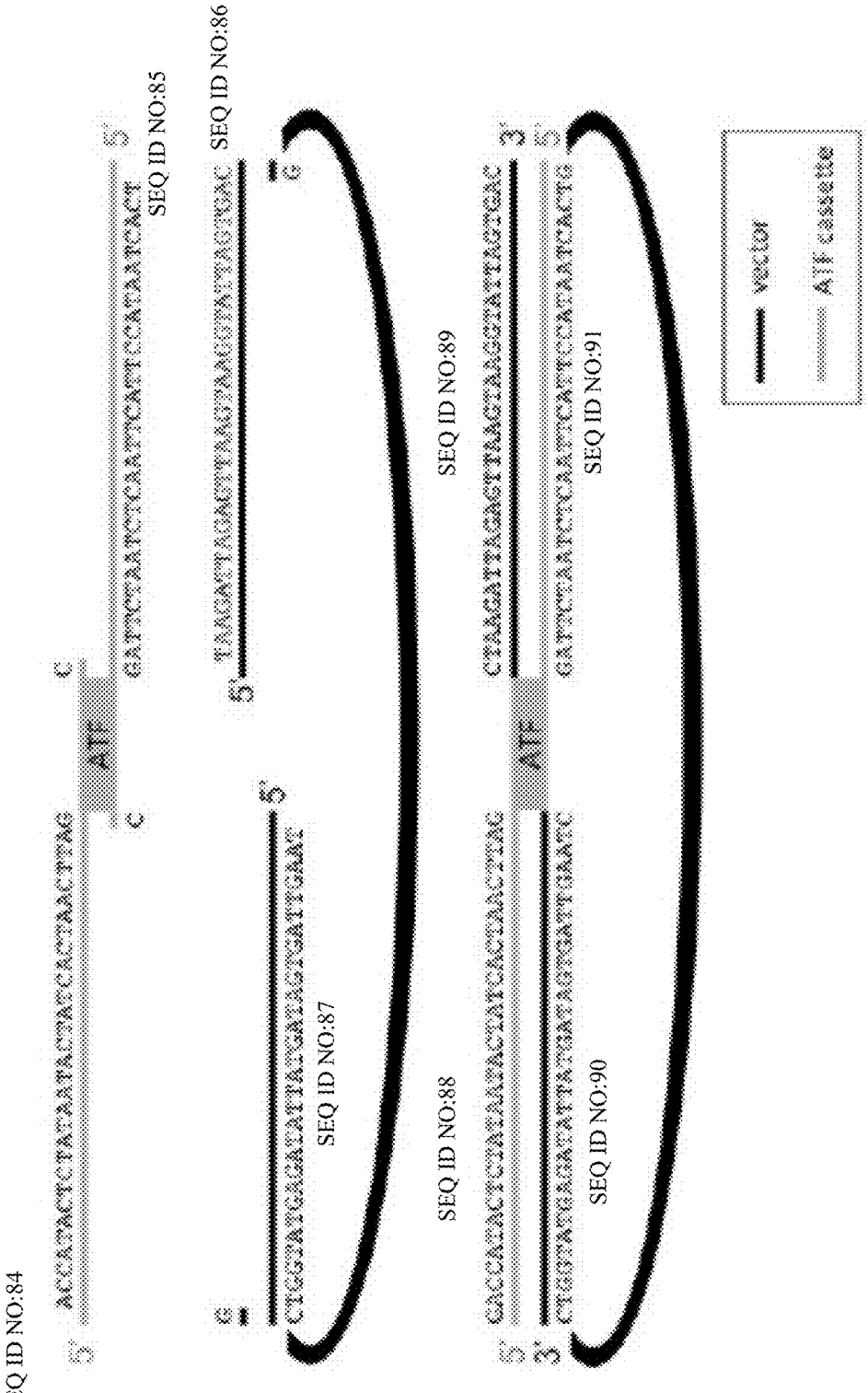
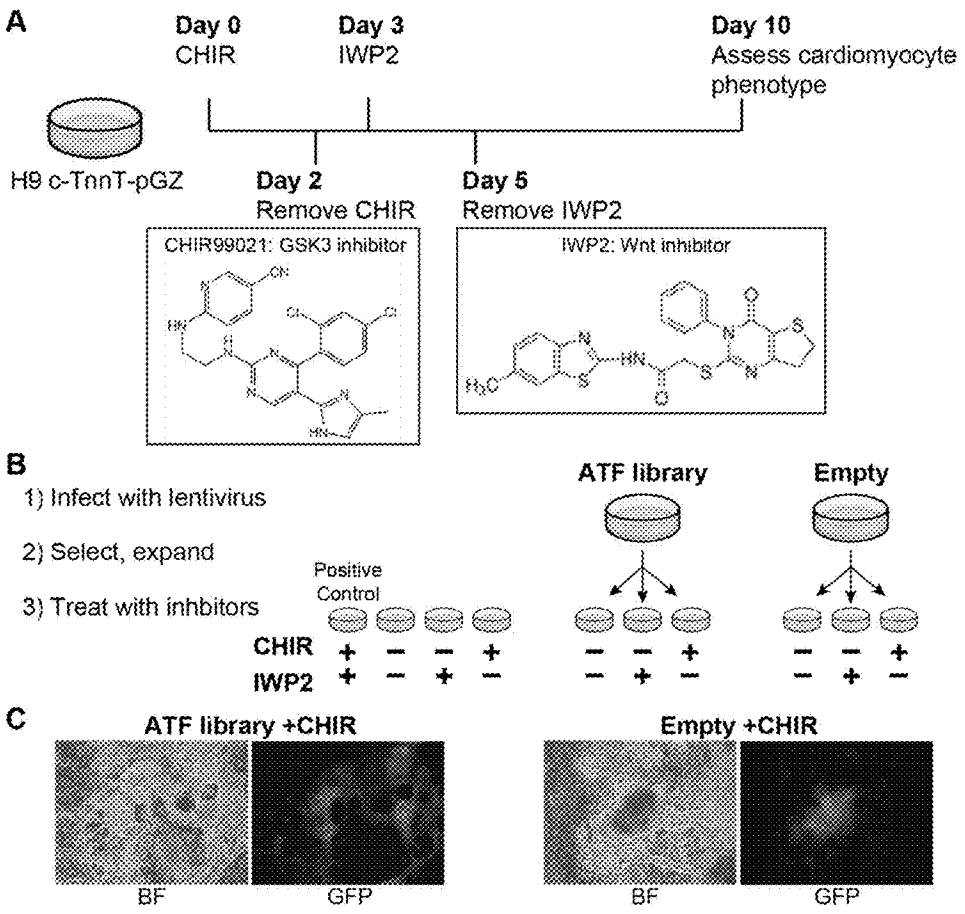
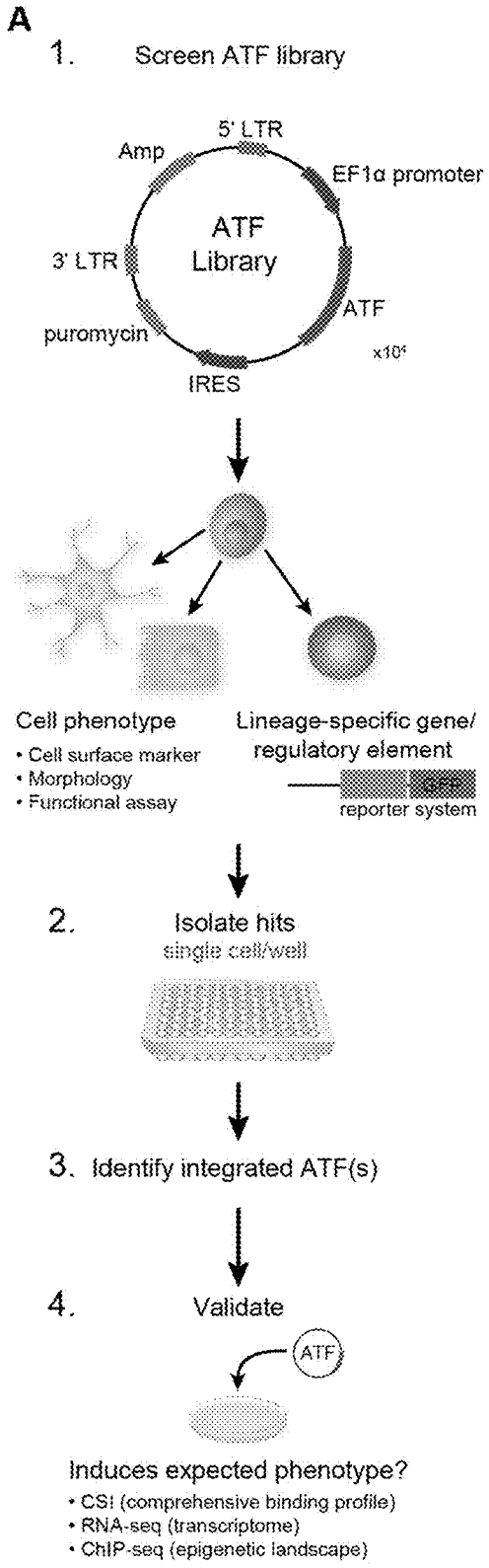

SEQ ID NO:84
5'
ACCATACTCTATAATACTATCACTAACTTAG
ATF
c
c
5'
GATTCTAATCTCAATTCATTCATAATCACT
SEQ ID NO:85
SEQ ID NO:86
5'
TAAGACTTAGACTTAAGTTAAGTATTAGTGAC
g
g
5'
CTGGTATGACATTATGATTAGTGATTGAAT
SEQ ID NO:87
SEQ ID NO:88
SEQ ID NO:89
CACCATACTCTATAATACTATCACTAACTTAG
ATF
CTAAGATTAGACTTAAGTTAAGTATTAGTGAC
3'
5'
3'
CTGGTATGACATTATGATTAGTGATTGAATC
GATTCTAATCTCAATTCATTCATAATCACTG
SEQ ID NO:90
SEQ ID NO:91
vector
ATF cassette

FIG. 18A-18C


A
Day 0
CHIR
Day 3
IWP2
Day 10
Assess cardiomyocyte phenotype
H9 c-TnnT-pGZ
Day 2
Remove CHIR
Day 5
Remove IWP2
CHIR99021: GSK3 inhibitor
IWP2: Wnt inhibitor
B
1) Infect with lentivirus
2) Select, expand
3) Treat with inhbitors
Positive Control
ATF library
Empty
CHIR + − − +
IWP2 + − + −
− − +
− + −
C
ATF library +CHIR
Empty +CHIR
BF
GFP
BF
GFP

FIGS. 19A-19D


A
1. Screen ATF library
5' LTR
Amp
EF1α promoter
ATF
Library
3' LTR
ATF
x10⁴
puromycin
IRES
Cell phenotype
• Cell surface marker
• Morphology
• Functional assay
Lineage-specific gene/
regulatory element
GFP
reporter system
2. Isolate hits
single cell/well
3. Identify integrated ATF(s)
4. Validate
ATF
Induces expected phenotype?
• CSI (comprehensive binding profile)
• RNA-seq (transcriptome)
• ChIP-seq (epigenetic landscape)

FIGS. 19A-19D, Continued

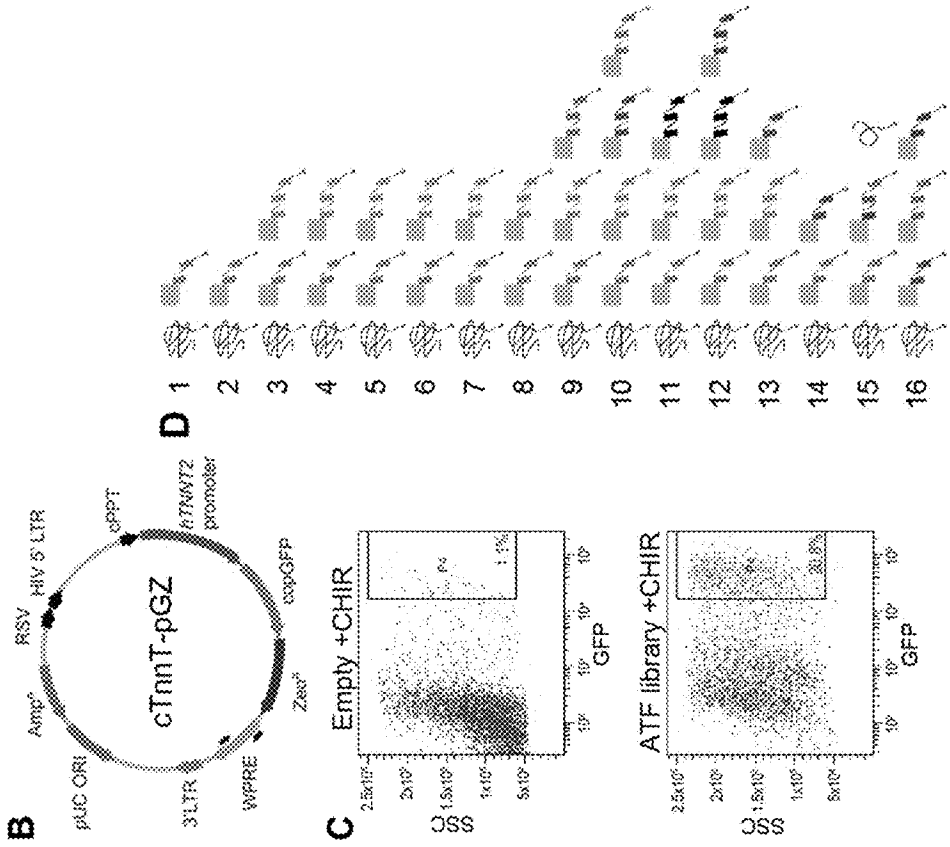


FIG. 20

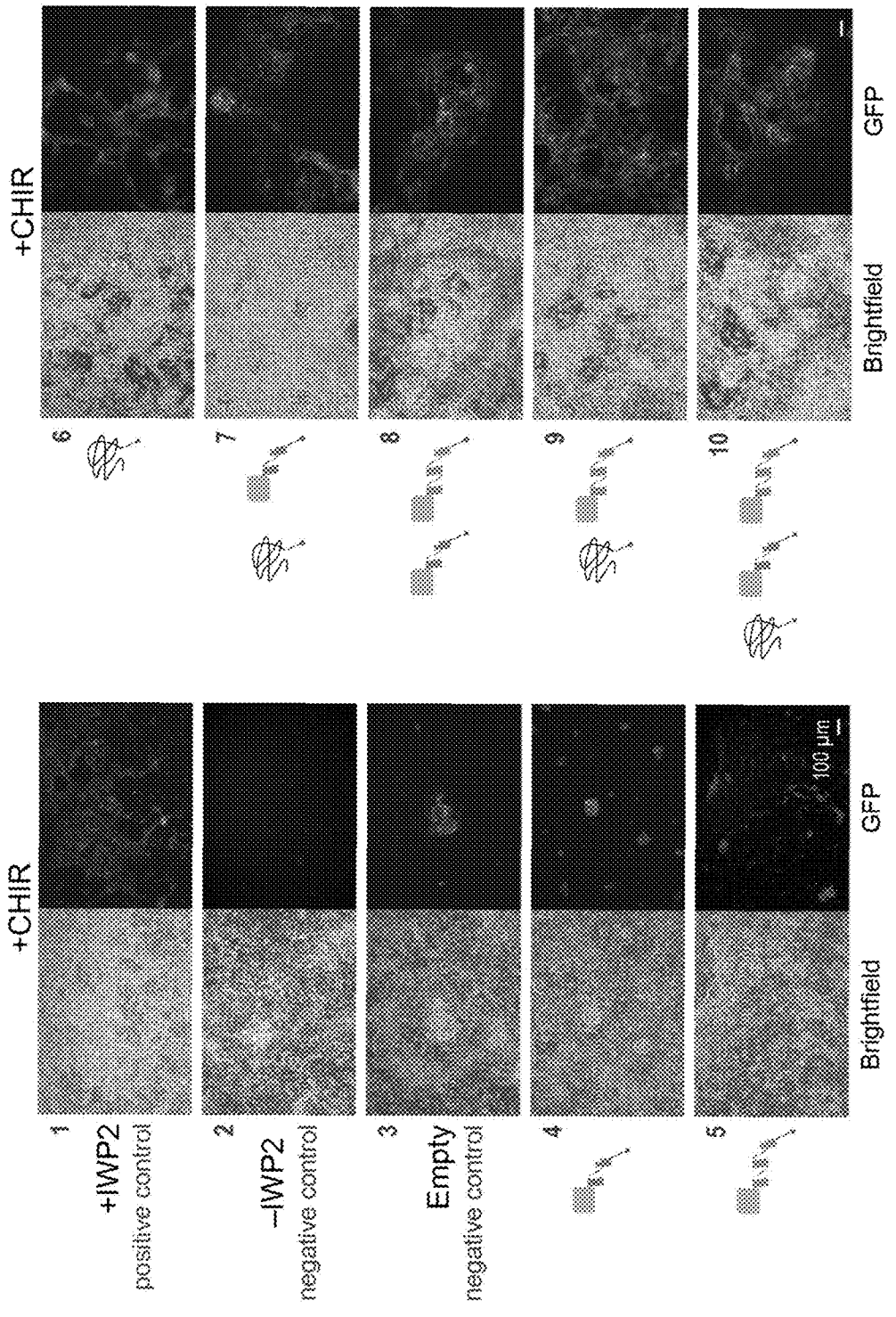
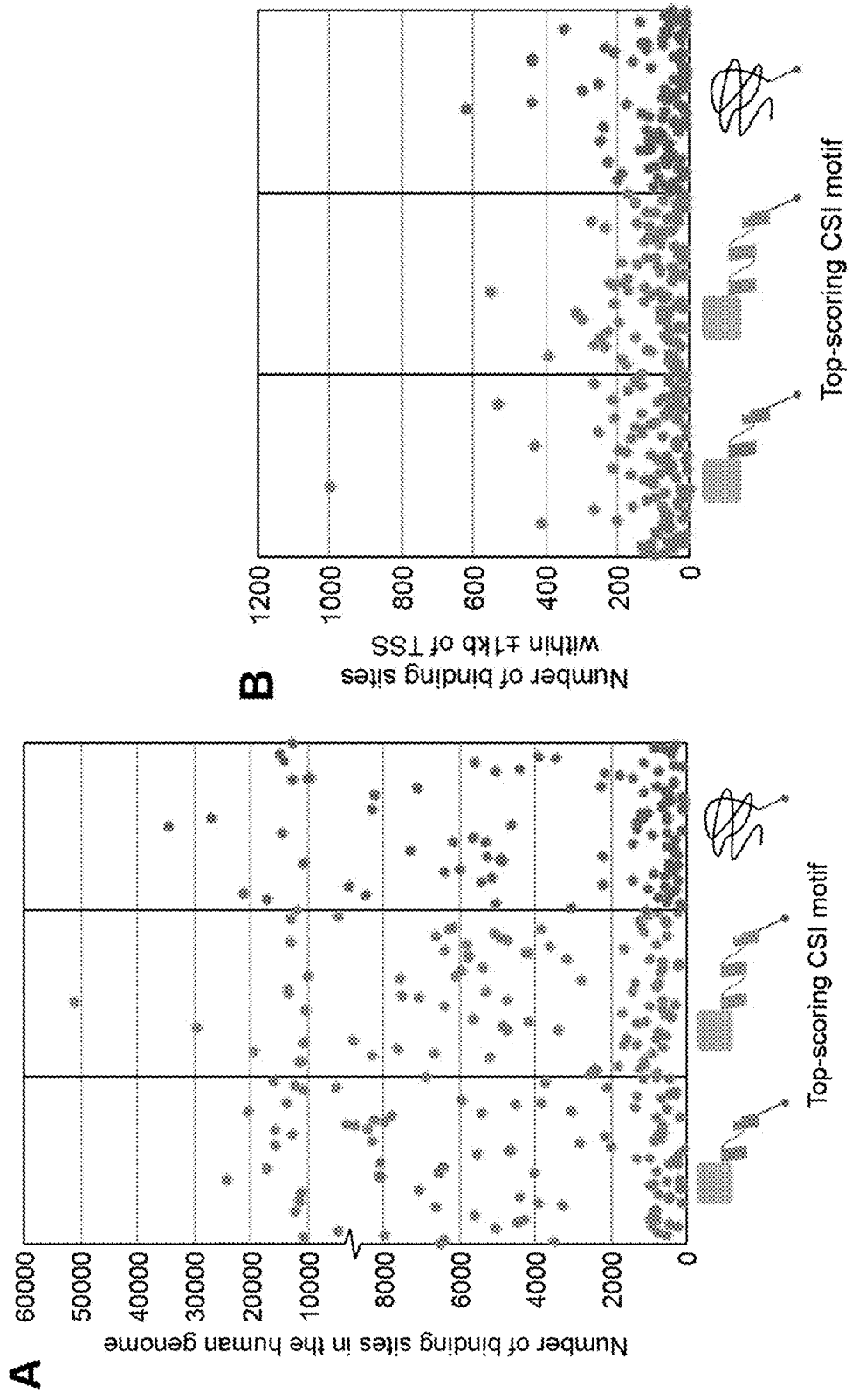

+CHIR
Brightfield
GFP
100 µm
1
+IWP2
positive control
2
–IWP2
negative control
3
Empty
negative control
4
5
6
7
8
9
10

FIG. 21A-21B


A
Number of binding sites in the human genome
60000
50000
40000
30000
20000
10000
8000
6000
4000
2000
0
Top-scoring CSI motif
B
Number of binding sites
within ±1kb of TSS
1200
1000
800
600
400
200
0
Top-scoring CSI motif

FIGS. 22A-22C

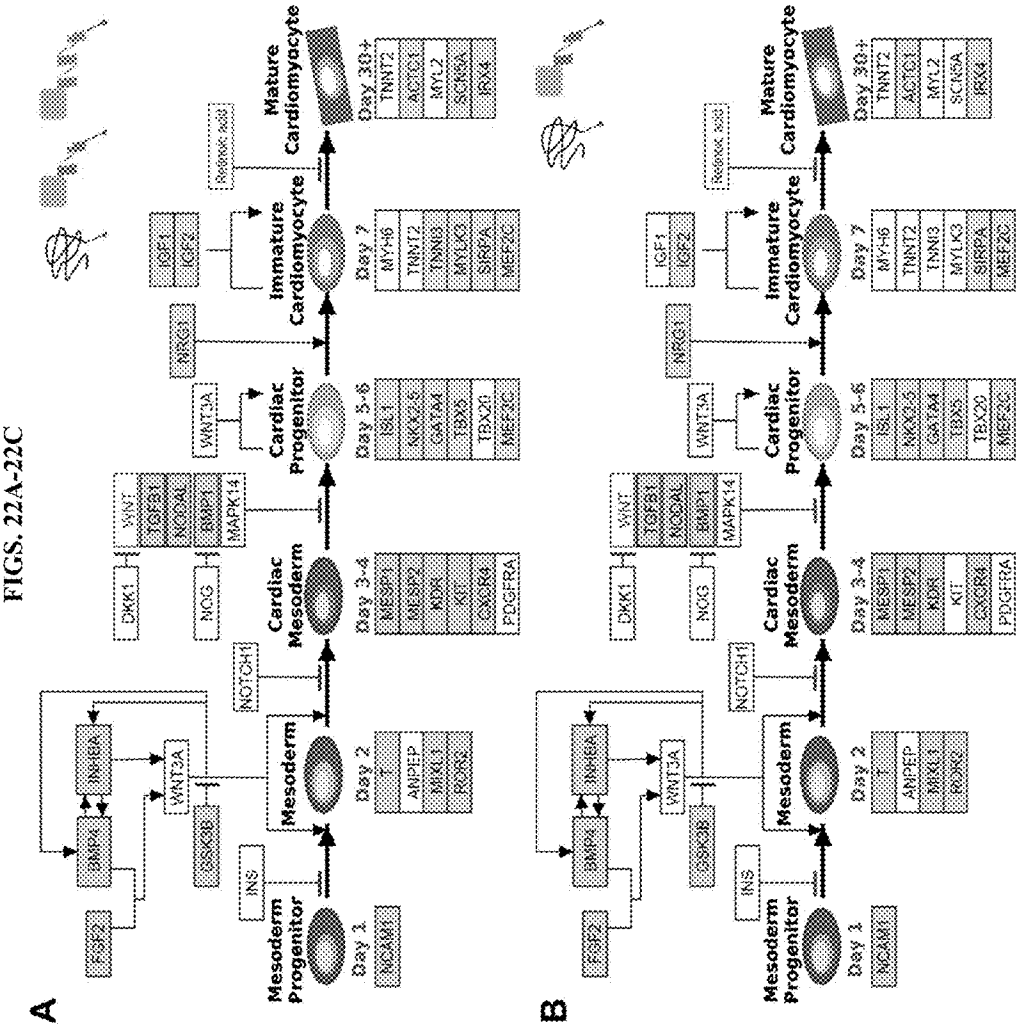
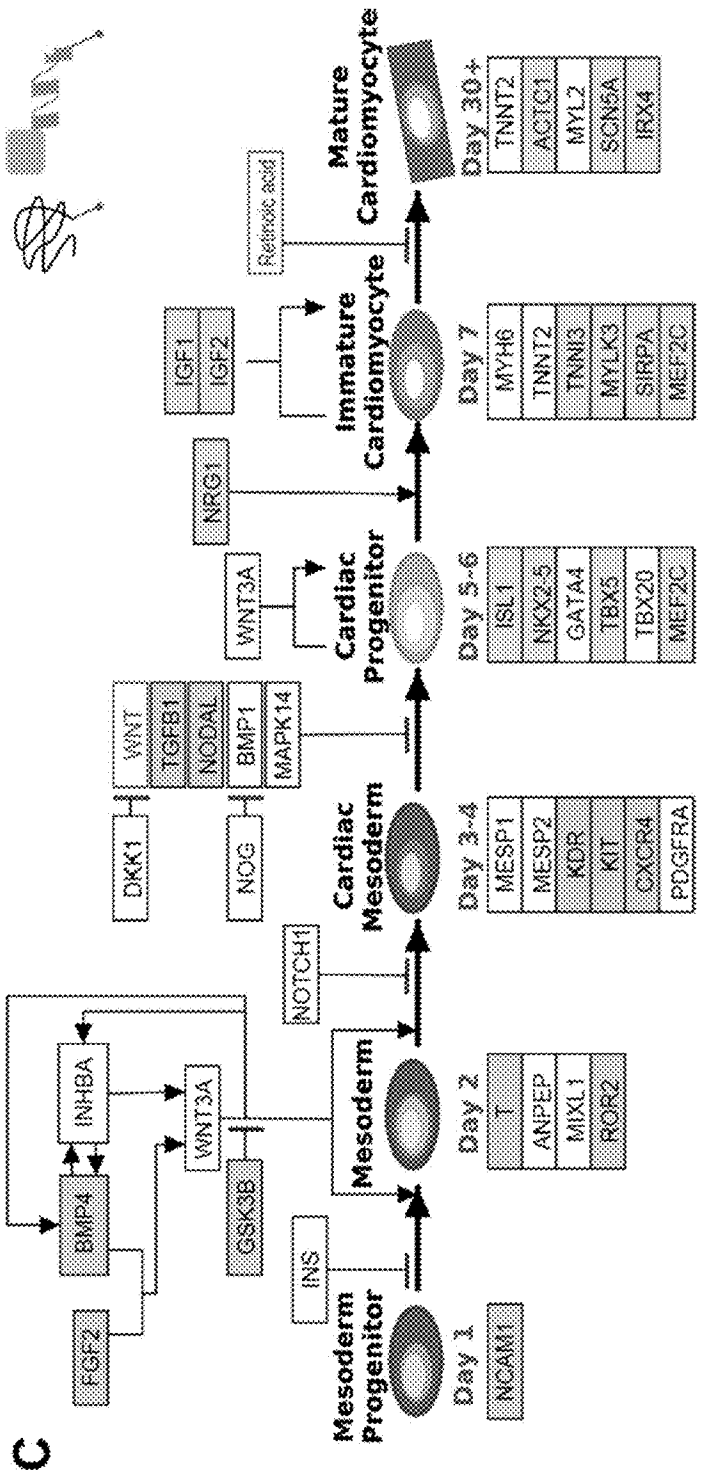

A
B
Mesoderm Progenitor
Mesoderm
Cardiac Mesoderm
Cardiac Progenitor
Immature Cardiomyocyte
Mature Cardiomyocyte
Day 1
Day 2
Day 3-4
Day 5-6
Day 7
Day 30+
FGF2
BMP4
INHBA
WNT3A
BSK3B
INS
NOTCH1
DKK1
NOG
VWT
TGFB1
NODAL
BMP1
MAPK14
IRG1
IGF1
IGF2
Retinoic acid
NCAM1
T
ANPEP
MIXL1
FOXF2
MESP1
MESP2
KDR
KIT
CXCR4
PDGFRA
ISL1
NKX2-5
GATA4
TBX5
TBX20
MEF2C
MYH6
TNNT2
TNNI3
MYLK3
SIRPA
KCNJ2
ACTC1
MYL2
SCN5A
RX4

FIG. 22A-22C, Continued



FIGS. 23A-23C

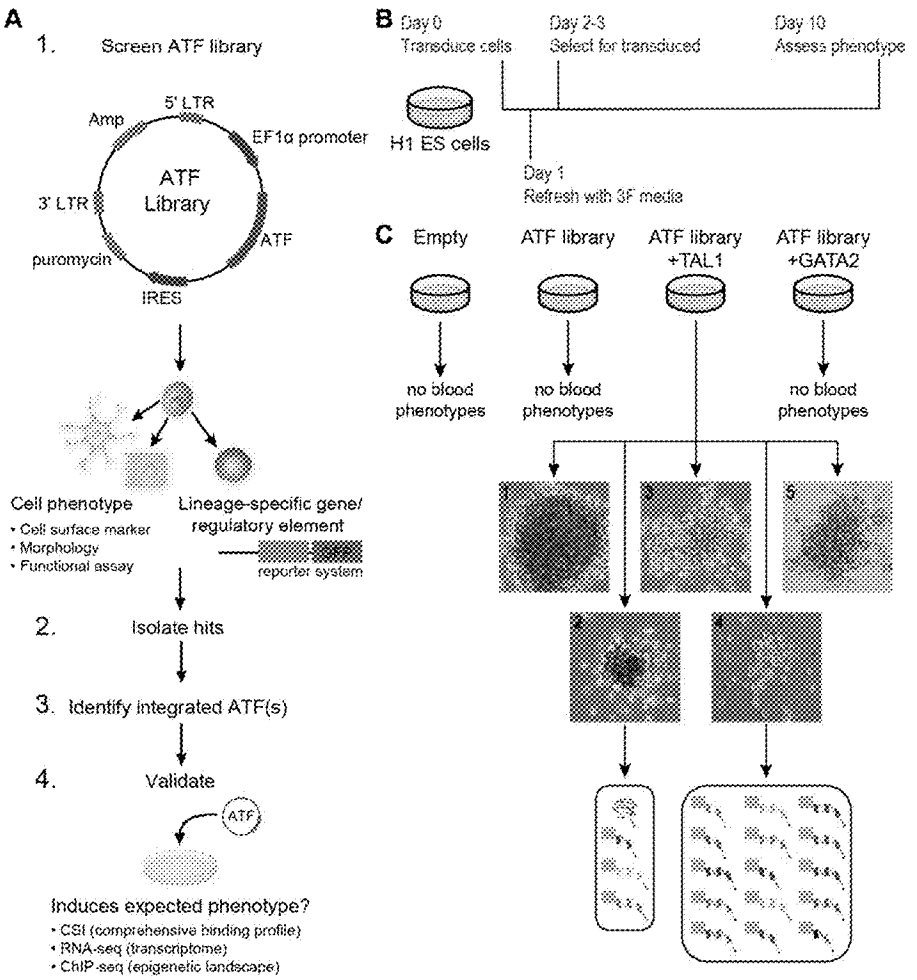
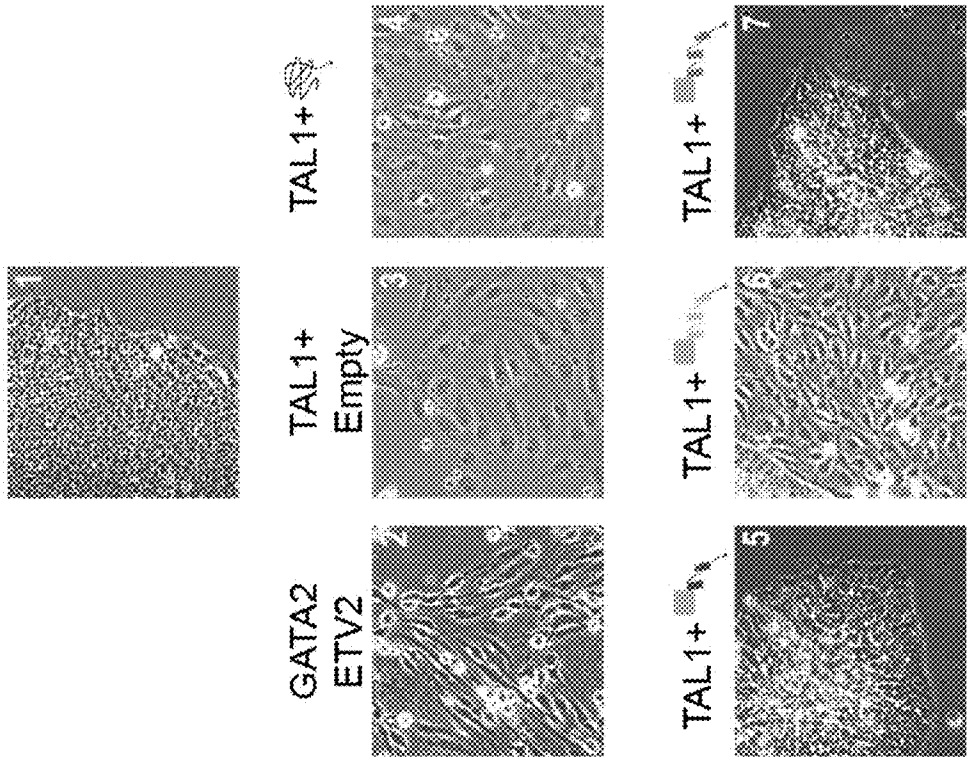

A
1. Screen ATF library
5' LTR
Amp
EF1α promoter
ATF Library
3' LTR
ATF
puromycin
IRES
Cell phenotype
• Cell surface marker
• Morphology
• Functional assay
Lineage-specific gene/ regulatory element
reporter system
2. Isolate hits
3. Identify integrated ATF(s)
4. Validate
ATF
Induces expected phenotype?
• CSI (comprehensive binding profile)
• RNA-seq (transcriptome)
• ChIP-seq (epigenetic landscape)
B
Day 0
Transduce cells
Day 2-3
Select for transduced
Day 10
Assess phenotype
H1 ES cells
Day 1
Refresh with 3F media
C
Empty
ATF library
ATF library +TAL1
ATF library +GATA2
no blood phenotypes
no blood phenotypes
no blood phenotypes

FIG. 24



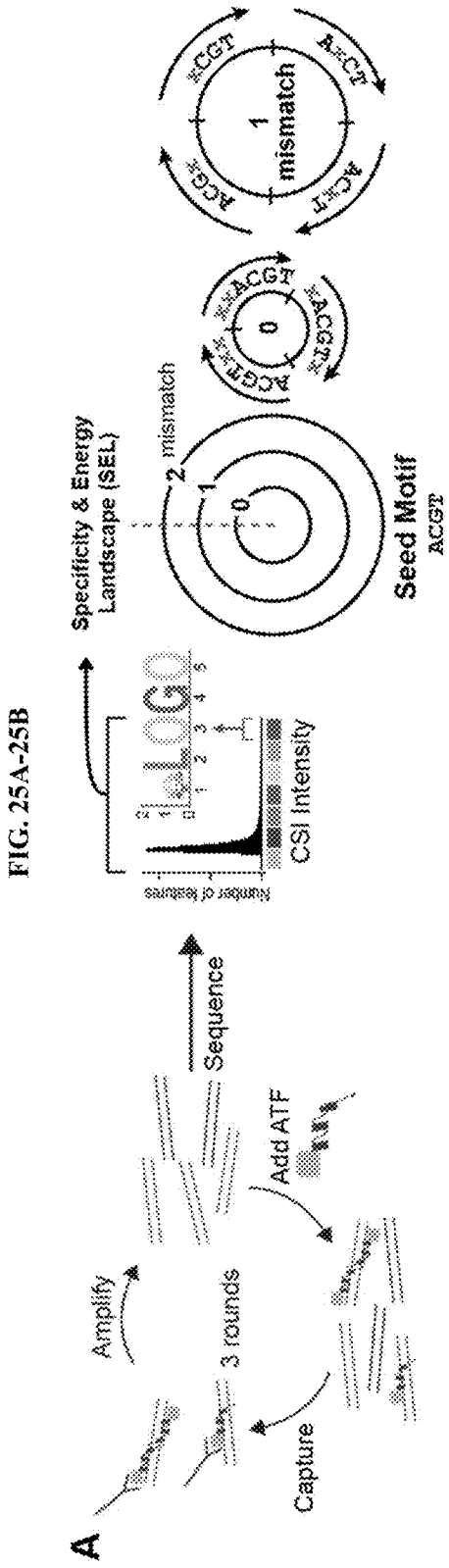
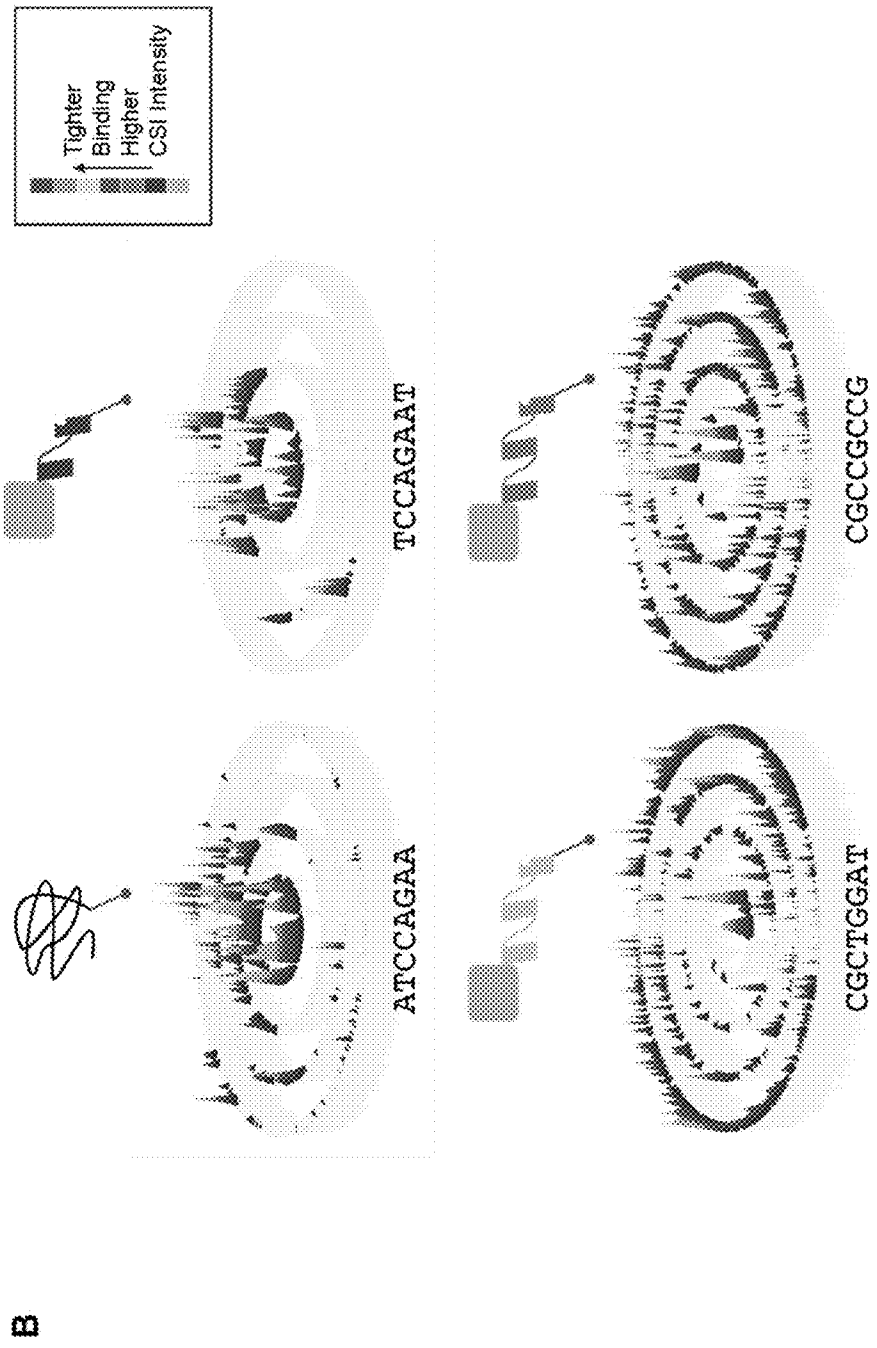

A
Amplify
3 rounds
Capture
Add ATF
Sequence
CSI Intensity
Specificity & Energy Landscape (SEL)
mismatch
Seed Motif
ACGT
1 mismatch

FIG. 25A-25B

FIG. 25A-25B, Continued



FIGS. 26A-26B

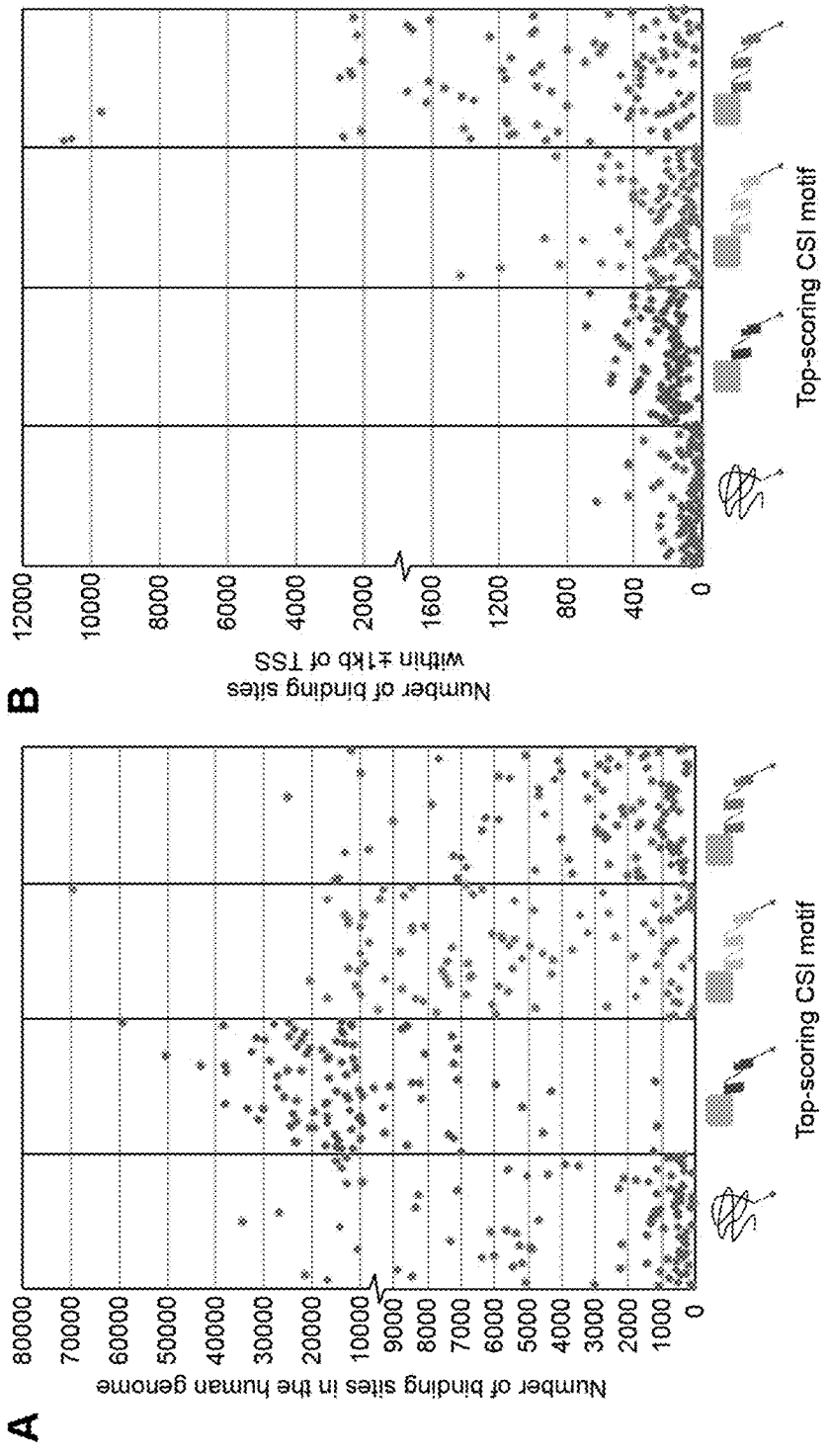
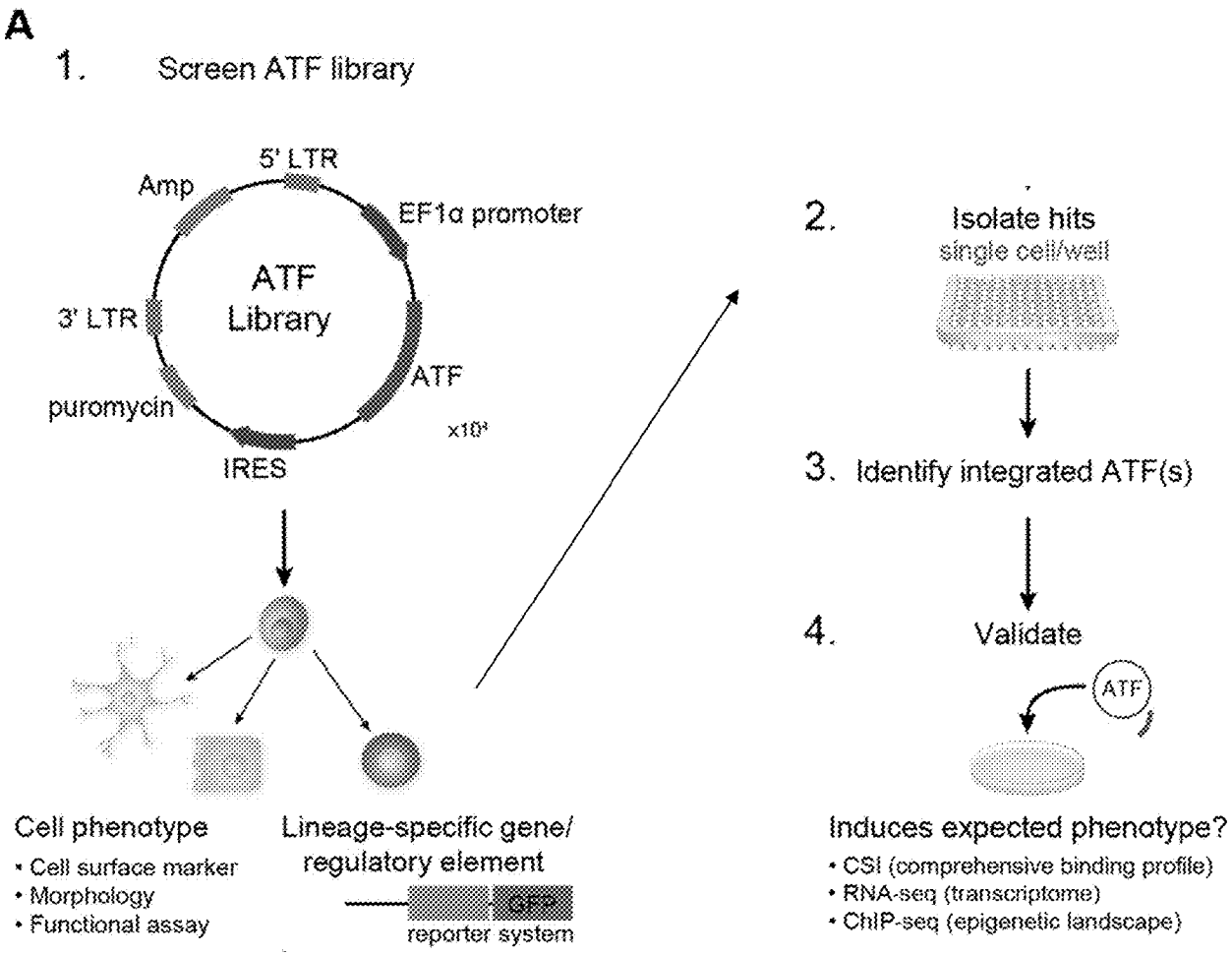
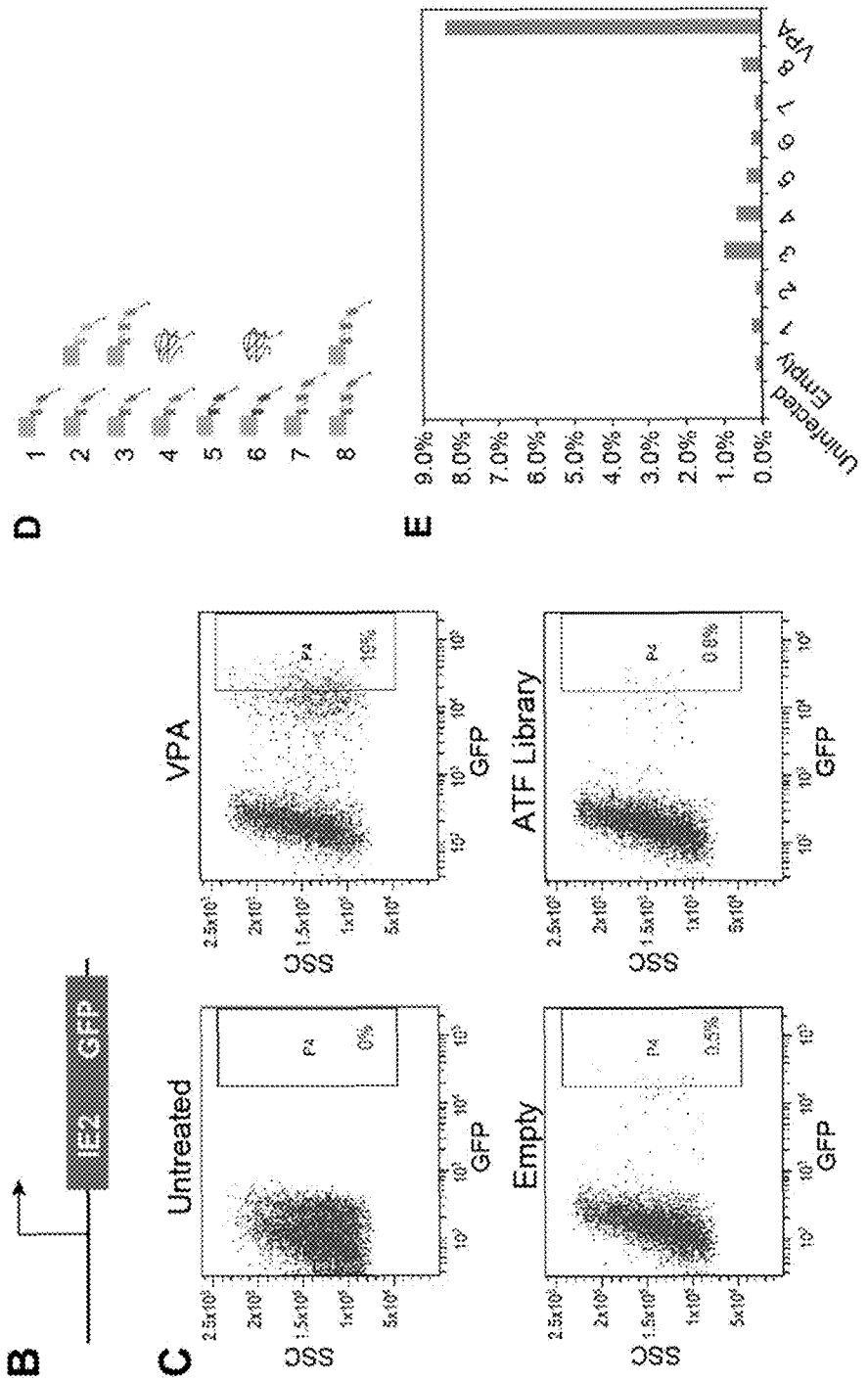

A
Number of binding sites in the human genome
80000
70000
60000
50000
40000
30000
20000
10000
9000
8000
7000
6000
5000
4000
3000
2000
1000
0
Top-scoring CSI motif
B
Number of binding sites within ±1kb of TSS
12000
10000
8000
6000
4000
2000
1600
1200
800
400
0
Top-scoring CSI motif

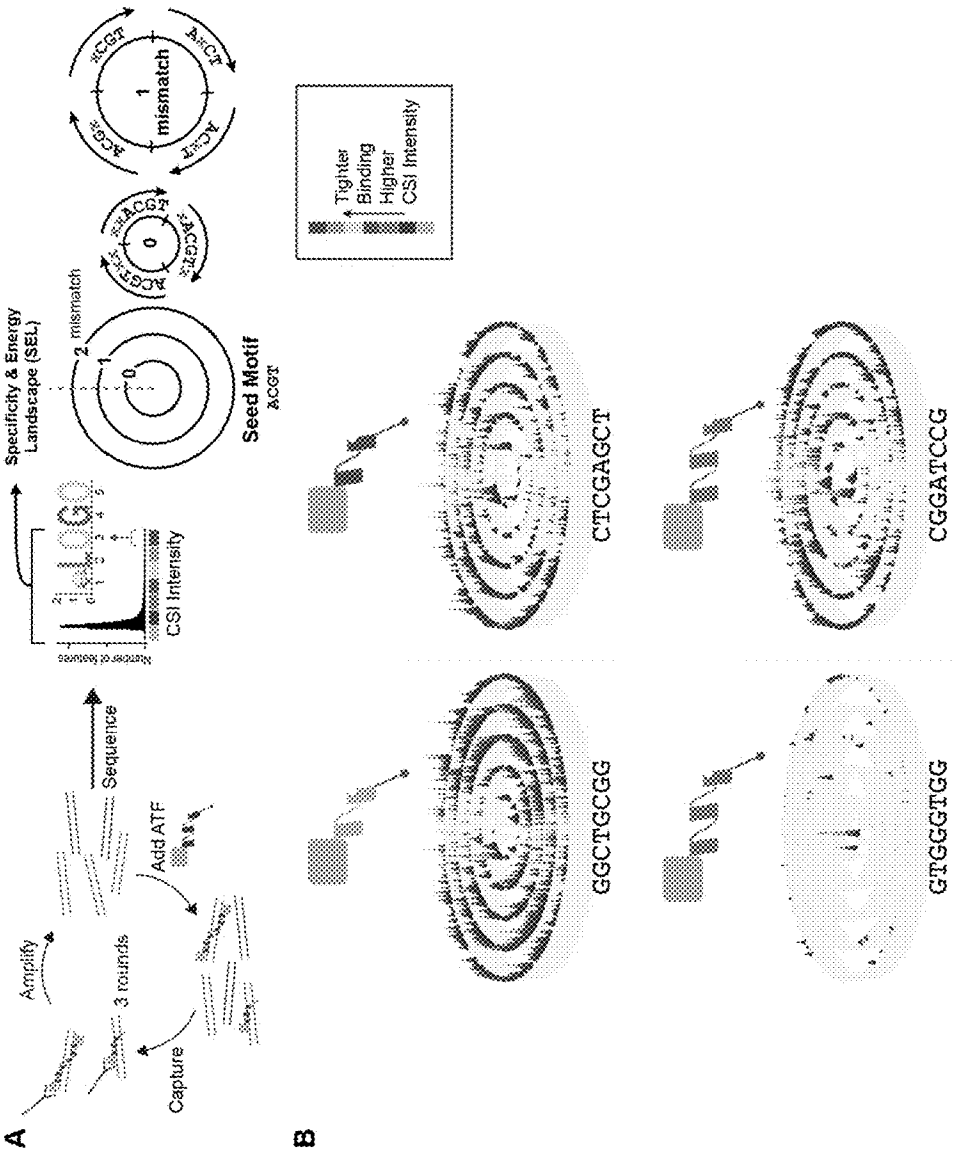
FIG. 27A-27E


A
1. Screen ATF library
5' LTR
Amp
EF1α promoter
ATF Library
3' LTR
ATF
puromycin
x10⁶
IRES
2. Isolate hits
single cell/well
3. Identify integrated ATF(s)
4. Validate
ATF
Cell phenotype
• Cell surface marker
• Morphology
• Functional assay
Lineage-specific gene/ regulatory element
GFP
reporter system
Induces expected phenotype?
• CSI (comprehensive binding profile)
• RNA-seq (transcriptome)
• ChIP-seq (epigenetic landscape)

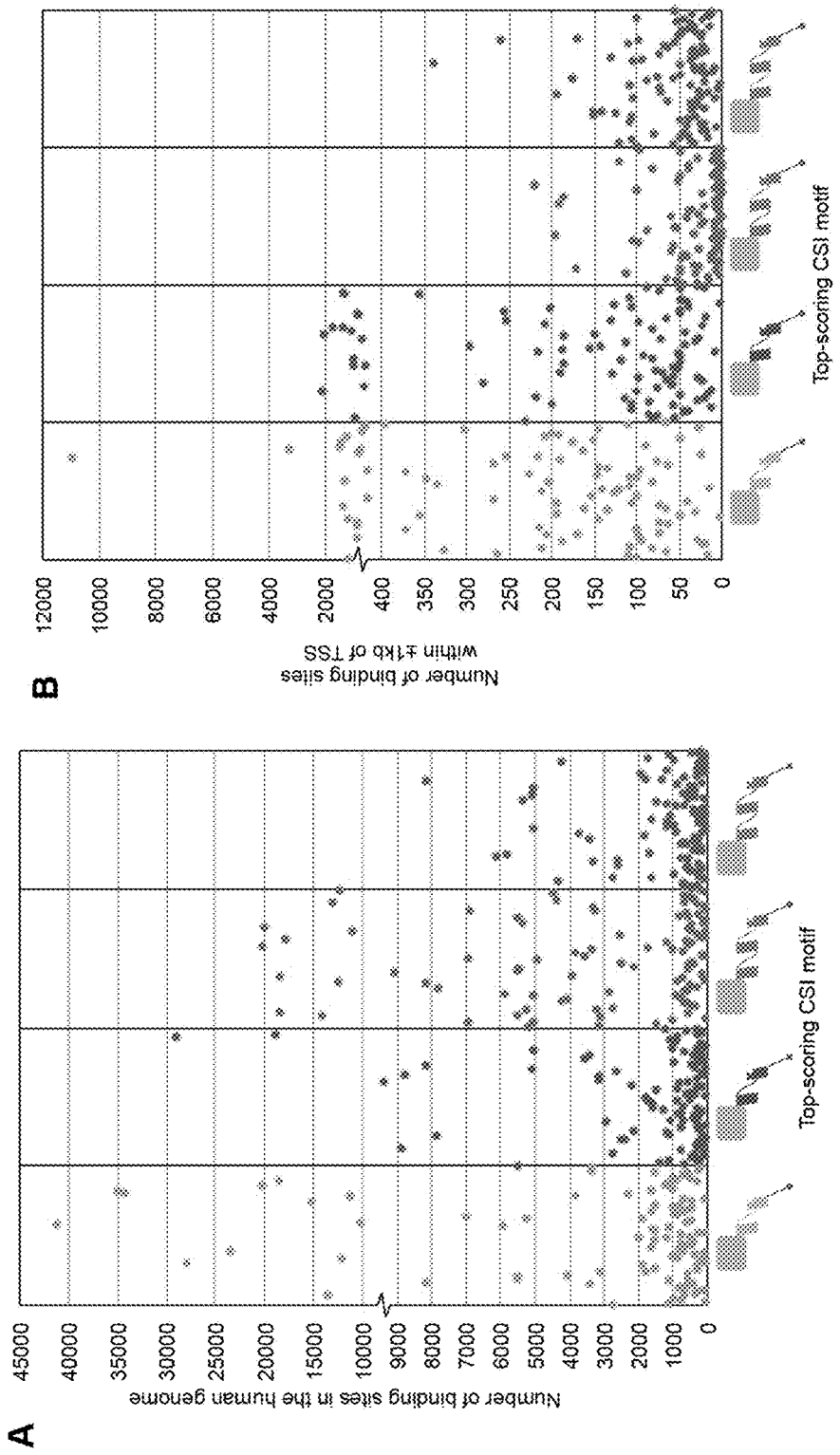
FIGS. 27A-27E, Continued



FIGS. 28A-28B


A
Amplify
3 rounds
Capture
Add ATF
Sequence
CSI Intensity
Specificity & Energy Landscape (SEL)
mismatch
Seed Motif
ACGT
mismatch
B
Tighter Binding Higher CSI Intensity
GGCTGCGG
CTCGAGCT
GTGGGTGG
CGGATCCG

FIGS. 29A-29B


A
Number of binding sites in the human genome
45000
40000
35000
30000
25000
20000
15000
10000
9000
8000
7000
6000
5000
4000
3000
2000
1000
0
Top-scoring CSI motif
B
Number of binding sites within ±1kb of TSS
12000
10000
8000
6000
4000
2000
400
350
300
250
200
150
100
50
0
Top-scoring CSI motif

ARTIFICIAL TRANSCRIPTION FACTORS AND USES THEREOF

CROSS-REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS

[0001] This application claims the benefit of U.S. Provisional Application No. 62/425,374, filed Nov. 22, 2016, which is incorporated herein by reference as if set forth in its entirety.

STATEMENT REGARDING FEDERALLY SPONSORED RESEARCH OR DEVELOPMENT

[0002] This invention was made with government support under HL099773 awarded by the National Institutes of Health. The government has certain rights in the invention.

BACKGROUND

[0003] Artificial transcription factors (ATFs) are DNA-binding molecules designed to control gene expression in a pre-determined manner. Rather than taking the conventional approach of testing candidate factors curated from studying embryonic development or differential expression analysis, screening a gene-activating ATF library can be a highly effective and orthogonal approach to sample thousands of sites in parallel and activate a cell fate-defining transcriptional network. An ATF library can sample concurrently the level of activation for thousands of sites because each ATF has different affinity and accessibility to DNA. Because ATFs do not rely on endogenously expressed co-factors and are not restrained to feedback circuits like natural factors, they can serve as powerful agents to perturb the homeostatic state of any cell type. The target genes of the ATFs can then be used to understand the mechanism of action driving the phenotypic change or cell fate conversion.

[0004] Transcription factors are modular by nature, and each domain can be tailored to create ATFs for programmed regulation of genes and networks (Eguchi et al., *Biochemical Journal* 462(3):397-413 (2014)). The DNA-binding domain (DBD) confers sequence specificity in targeting genomic loci. The effector domain provides the ATF with function, be it transcriptional activation, repression, or modification of chromatin. Additionally, an interaction domain can be incorporated in the design such that the ATF can interact with other factors in the cell (Id.).

[0005] Among the many DBDs available to design an ATF (e.g., CRISPR/Cas9, TAL-effectors, and polyamides), zinc fingers have high affinity to DNA and can be potent regulators of transcription when fused to the appropriate effector domain. Compared to zinc fingers and TAL-effectors that can upregulate genes to biologically-relevant levels (Bailus et al., 2016; Gao et al., 2013; Rebar et al., 2002), the magnitude of transcriptional change induced by nuclease-dead CRISPR/Cas9 systems with a single guide is not as robust (Esvelt et al., 2013). Recent modifications to the CRISPR/Cas9 system have improved their impact on the level of expression of target genes; however, these modifications come at the expense of increasing their size (Chavez et al., 2015) or introducing additional effector molecules that can be recruited by Cas9 (Gilbert et al., 2014; Tanenbaum et al., 2014) or the guide RNA (Konermann et al., 2015; Zalatan et al., 2015). Unlike zinc fingers and TAL-effectors, the CRISPR/Cas9 system also requires at least two components, Cas9 and the guide, to be delivered to the same cell. Polyamides, a class of small molecule DBDs, are not genetically encoded; rather, they are added to the media and rely on cell uptake. However, the rules governing polyamide permeability are still not well understood, making delivery to cells problematic (Edelson et al., 2004).

[0006] Accordingly, there remains a need in the art for improved artificial transcription factors and efficient protocols for generating pluripotent stem cells and differentiated cell types under controlled conditions.

BRIEF SUMMARY

[0007] In a first aspect, provided herein is an artificial transcription factor comprising a polydactyl zinc finger protein comprising two or three zinc finger domains, an interaction domain, an optional nuclear localization signal, and an activation domain, where each of the two or three zinc finger domains comprises a variable domain independently encoded by nucleic acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:2 (VNN-TCC-VNN-VNN-CTC-ACC-VNN), where each VNN of SEQ ID NO:2 is a codon corresponding to an amino acid selected from the group consisting of R, H, K, D, Q, S, T, N, E, G, P, A, I, L, M, and V. The polydactyl zinc finger protein can comprise three zinc finger domains encoded by SEQ ID NO:4, SEQ ID NO:5, and SEQ ID NO:6, where each VNN of SEQ ID NOS:4, 5, and 6 is a codon corresponding to an amino acid selected from the group consisting of R, H, K, D, Q, S, T, N, E, G, P, A, I, L, M, and V. The interaction domain can comprise a 15-amino acid peptide that enables interaction with the hydrophobic face of the most 5' zinc finger domain. The activation domain can comprise four tandem repeats of DALDDFDLDML (SEQ ID NO:7). The nuclear localization signal can be encoded by an amino acid sequence selected from the group consisting of KDKKADKSVV (SEQ ID NO: 11) and PKKKRKV (SEQ ID NO:12).

[0008] In another aspect, provided herein is a method of reprogramming a somatic cell to pluripotency, wherein the method comprises (a) exposing a somatic cell to a plurality of artificial transcription factors, wherein the artificial transcription factors are selected from the group consisting of ZFATF1, ZFATF2, ZFATF3, ZFATF4, and ZFATF5; (b) further exposing the somatic cell to a plurality of potency determining factors comprising Sox2, Klf4, and c-Myc; and (c) culturing the exposed cells to obtain reprogrammed cells having a higher potency level than the somatic cell. The plurality of ATFs can comprise ZFATF1, ZFATF2, and ZFATF5. The plurality of ATFs can comprise ZFATF1, ZFATF2, and ZFATF4. The plurality of ATFs can comprise ZFATF1, ZFATF2, and ZFATF3. The plurality of ATFs can comprise ZFATF1 and ZFATF4.

[0009] In another aspect, provided herein is a method of directing differentiation of a pluripotent stem cell to a cardiomyocyte. The method can comprise or consist essentially of (a) exposing a pluripotent stem cell to one or more artificial transcription factors (ATFs) selected from the group consisting of ZFATF1, ZFATF2, and ATF5; and (b) culturing the exposed cells of (a) in the presence of a Wnt activator for about 7-10 days, such that a population of cells comprising cardiomyocytes is obtained. The ATFs can comprise ZFATF1, ZFATF2, and ATF5. The Wnt activator can be a GSK3 inhibitor. The GSK3 inhibitor can be CHIR99021.

[0010] In a further aspect, provided herein is a method of directing differentiation of a pluripotent stem cell to a hematopoietic lineage. The method can comprise or consist

essentially of (a) exposing a pluripotent stem cell to two or more artificial transcription factors (ATFs) selected from the group consisting of ZFATF19, ZFATF20, ZFATF21, ATF5, ZFATF1, ZFATF6, ZFATF10, ZFATF13, ZFATF17, ZFATF22, ZFATF23, ZFATF24, ZFATF25, ZFATF26, ZFATF27, ZFATF28, ZFATF29, ZFATF30, and ZFATF31; and (b) culturing the exposed cells of (a) in a basal culture medium comprising FGF2, SCF, and thrombopoietin, and in the presence of TAL for about 7-10 days, such that a cell population comprising hematopoietic lineage cells is obtained. The ATFs can comprise ZFATF19, ZFATF20, ZFATF21, and ATF5, and wherein the cell population comprises erythroid-like cells. The ATFs can comprise ZFATF1, ZFATF6, ZFATF10, ZFATF13, ZFATF17, ZFATF22, ZFATF23, ZFATF24, ZFATF25, ZFATF26, ZFATF27, ZFATF28, ZFATF29, ZFATF30, and ZFATF31, and wherein the cell population comprises monocyte-like cells.

[0011] In a further aspect, provided herein is a method for preparing a zinc finger-based artificial transcription factor (ATF) library comprising a plurality of elements, whereby each element of said ATF library comprises a zinc finger backbone comprising two or three oligonucleotides, each encoding SEQ ID NO:3 (X_{-1}-S-X_2-X_3-L-T-X_6), an interaction domain, an optional nuclear localization signal, and an activation domain, wherein X_{-1} is an amino acid preferably selected from the group consisting of R, H, K, D, Q, S, T, N, E, G, P, A, I, L, M, and V; X_2 is preferably selected from the group consisting of R, H, K, D, Q, S, T, N, E, G, P, A, I, L, M, and V; X_3 is preferably selected from the group consisting of R, H, K, D, Q, S, T, N, E, G, P, A, I, L, M, and V; and X_6 is preferably selected from the group consisting of R, H, K, D, Q, S, T, N, E, G, P, A, I, L, M, and V. The ATF library can have a complexity of about 2.62×10^6. The interaction domain can comprise a 15-amino acid peptide that enables interaction with the hydrophobic face of the most 5' zinc finger domain. The activation domain can comprise four tandem repeats of DALDDFDLDML (SEQ ID NO:7). The nuclear localization signal can be encoded by an amino acid sequence selected from the group consisting of KDKKADKSVV (SEQ ID NO:11) and PKKKRKV (SEQ ID NO:12).

[0012] In a further aspect, provided herein is a zinc finger-based artificial transcription factor (ATF) library obtained according to methods provided herein.

[0013] These and other features, objects, and advantages of the present invention will become better understood from the description that follows. In the description, reference is made to the accompanying drawings, which form a part hereof and in which there is shown by way of illustration, not limitation, embodiments of the invention. The description of preferred embodiments is not intended to limit the invention to cover all modifications, equivalents and alternatives. Reference should therefore be made to the claims recited herein for interpreting the scope of the invention.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

[0014] The patent or application file contains at least one drawing executed in color. Copies of this patent or patent application publication with color drawing(s) will be provided by the Office upon request and payment of the necessary fee.

[0015] The present invention will be better understood and features, aspects, and advantages other than those set forth above will become apparent when consideration is given to the following detailed description which makes reference to the following drawings, wherein:

[0016] FIGS. **1**A-IF illustrate exemplary ATFs designed with three zinc fingers, activation domain, and interaction domain to maximize transcriptional effects. (A) Architecture of the ATF. From N to C terminus, the ATF consists of an interaction domain (ID), three zinc fingers, a nuclear localization signal (NLS), and a VP64 activation domain. The interaction domain is a 15-amino acid peptide that enables interaction with the hydrophobic face of the first finger. The palindromic EGR1 binding site 5'-GCG-TGG-GCG-CGC-CCC-CGC-3' (SEQ ID NO: 1) was cloned upstream of a luciferase reporter for the assay in (B). (B) ATF with three zinc fingers, an interaction domain, nuclear localization signal, and a VP64 activation domain has highest level of induction. The DNA binding domain of human EGR1 was tested with and without an ID, NLS, and VP64 in the expression of a luciferase reporter in HEK293 cells (n=4, $p<0.05$ by one-way ANOVA with post-hoc Tukey test). (C) Specificity and Energy Landscapes (SELs). SELs display the comprehensive binding preferences of a transcription factor based on a chosen seed motif. The height of the peak indicates higher relative affinity for a given sequence. Sequences, which are one or two base pairs longer than the seed motif, are arranged in concentric rings with respect to mismatches to the seed motif. Within the mismatch rings, the sequences are arranged by position of the mismatch, then alphabetically by the actual sequence. For example, the teal section labeled with the curved arrow displays all the sequences with a mismatch at the second position. (D) The interaction domain allows the ATF to bind a greater number of sequences. The DNA binding domain of EGR1 fused to an ID binds sites recognized by a dimer, which is not recognized by a monomer. The SEL displayed shows data after three rounds of enrichment. (E) RNA-seq results show that the 3-zinc finger ATF with an ID upregulates transcription of the largest number of genes compared to the mock transfected control. Among the upregulated genes, 18 genes are expressed 50-fold or more by the 3-zinc finger ATF with an ID. All ATFs in this assay have an NLS and VP64 (n=1, $p<0.0005$). (F) Design of the ATF library. The residues that confer specificity (−1, 2, 3, and 6 positions) were randomized to amino acids represented by VNN codons. A library with a complexity of 2.6×10^6 members was created. The zinc finger scaffold comes from human EGR1 and is fused to the ID described in (A), NLS, and VP64. Sequencing of 100 ATFs from the library shows all 16 amino acids represented by the recognition residues. This sample size is representative of the library at a 95% confidence interval and a margin of error of 9.8%.

[0017] FIGS. **2**A-**2**E demonstrate an application of the ATF library in induction of pluripotency. (A) Genetic screen with an ATF library. (1) The ATF library was cloned into pSIN, a second generation lentiviral vector. The ATF is driven by a constitutive promoter, EF1α. The puromycin resistance gene enables selection of cells with integration events. The screen can be performed on cells with a robust change in phenotype, such as the upregulation of a cell surface marker or a distinct change in morphology or function. Alternatively, a lineage-specific reporter system can be used to identify hits, or successful cell fate conversions. (2) Hits from the library are isolated as single cells, such that combinations of ATFs, if any, can be captured. (3) Integrated ATFs are identified from single cells by two-step

nested PCR. (4) Identified ATFs are retested to validate whether they recapitulate the phenotype seen in the original screen. Once validated, RNA-seq can be performed to determine how the ATFs change the expression profile of the cell. Additionally, ChIP-seq can be performed to determine the direct genomic targets. (B) Testing the ATF library in mouse embryonic fibroblasts (MEFs) bearing a reporter for Oct4. These MEFs have a Tomato red reporter gene at the ROSA locus. Upon induction of Oct4, a tamoxifen-inducible Cre recombinase (MerCreMer) is co-expressed. The addition of 4-hydroxy-tamoxifen to the system results in the excision of Tomato red, which allows for the expression of GFP, thereafter. (C) Flow cytometry results at Day 15 after introduction of transcription factors. $Tomato^{-}GFP^{+}$ MEFs transduced with the ATF library, Sox2, Klf4, and c-Myc were isolated as single cells for further analysis. MEFs treated with Oct4, Sox2, Klf4, and c-Myc (OSKM) were used as a positive control. Untreated MEFs served as a negative control. The percentage of $Tomato^{-}GFP^{+}$ (Q3) was higher in the ATF library treated cells when compared to the OSKM control. Cells, which were double positive ($Tomato^{+}GFP^{+}$; Q2), were also collected as those in which Oct4 was expressed later than the $Tomato^{-}GFP^{+}$ cells (Q3). Percentages in each quadrant are displayed under the quadrant number. (D) ATFs were identified from eleven single cells from (C) by two-step nested PCR of genomic DNA. Unique ATFs are depicted with a different color. One ATF had a frameshift mutation shortly after the ID, coding for a protein, which does not have a zinc finger structure. A few ATFs, notably the blue and orange ATFs, are expressed in most of the cells analyzed. The ATF with the frameshift mutation is also expressed in many of the hits. All cells except #4 were collected as $Tomato^{-}GFP^{+}$ cells. Cell #4 was $Tomato^{+}GFP^{+}$ at Day 15. (E) Three combinations of ATFs (#2, #3, and #4) successfully replaced Oct4 in inducing pluripotency with Sox2, Klf4, and c-Myc. Micrographs of MEFs before induction of exogenous factors are $Tomato^{+}GFP^{-}$. iPS cells generated with ATFs are similar to those generated with OSKM and are $Tomato^{-}GFP^{+}$. Two ATFs in each combination are the same (blue and orange). Bars=100 μm.

[0018] FIGS. **3**A-**3**D demonstrate that iPS (induced pluripotent stem) cells generated with ATFs are pluripotent. (A) Immunofluorescence staining of iPS colonies with OCT4, SOX2, and NANOG. These iPS cells were generated with Combination #2+SKM. Bars=100 μm. (B) Embryoid bodies were cultured with iPS cells generated with Combination #2+SKM. Micrographs were taken at Day 2 and Day 14 of differentiation. Immunofluorescence staining for MYL2 (mesoderm), FOXA2 (endoderm), and TUBB3 (ectoderm) of embryoid body outgrowths show potential to differentiate into all three germ layers. Each micrograph was also stained with DAPI to label nuclei. Bars=100 μm. (C) Embryoid bodies derived from Combination #2+SKM iPS cells differentiate into all three germ layers. RT-qPCR results from RNA harvested from ATF-generated iPS cells and embryoid bodies derived from them. Markers for mesoderm are brachyury (T), NK2 homeobox 5 (Nkr2-5), and kinase insert domain protein receptor (Kdr). Markers for endoderm are alpha fetoprotein (Afp), transthyretin (Ttr), and forkhead box A2 (Foxa2). Markers for ectoderm are nestin (Nes), neurofilament, light polypeptide (Nefl), and SRY-box 17 (Sox17). Values are $\log_2(\Delta\Delta Ct+1)\pm SEM$ relative to Gapdh (n=3). A Student's two-tailed t-test was used to determine p values. A p value of <0.1 was considered significant. (D) Data points for RT-qPCR results described in (C). Values are $\log_2(\Delta\Delta Ct+1)$ relative to Gapdh (n=3).

[0019] FIGS. **4**A-**4**H demonstrate that iPS cells generated with ATFs are pluripotent. (A) Immunofluorescence staining of C2+SKM iPS colonies with OCT4, SOX2, and NANOG. Bars=100 μm. (B) Teratoma assay results show differentiation into mesoderm, endoderm, and ectoderm. Bar=100 μm. (C) iPS cells generated with ATFs cluster with mouse ES cells and iPS cells generated with Oct4+SKM. Samples marked early are MEFs transduced with the indicated factors before conversion into iPS cells between Day 18-27 (n=3 or 4). (D) A heatmap of fibroblast and pluripotency markers of iPS cells generated with ATFs shows downregulation of fibroblast genes and upregulation of pluripotency genes. Scale displays differential expression $\log_2$(ratio relative to mean). (E) A heatmap of 853 genes from the CellNet fibroblast gene regulatory network (GRN) show iPS cells generated with ATFs obtain transcriptional profiles similar to that of other pluripotent cells (Oct4+SKM iPS cells and ES cells). Scale displays differential expression $\log_2$(ratio relative to mean). (F) A heatmap of 705 genes from the CellNet pluripotency GRN show iPS cells generated with ATFs have expression profiles similar to that of other pluripotent cells. Scale displays differential expression $\log_2$(ratio relative to mean). (G) H3K27ac marks, specifying active regions of chromatin, appear in a common set of genes for Oct4+SKM iPS cells, C2+SKM iPS cells, and C3+SKM iPS cells. H3K27ac peaks were annotated to genes with Homer to create Venn diagrams for genes. ChIP enrichment among treatments was determined to be significant at an FDR <0.1 by DiffBind (n=2). (H) H3K9me3 marks, specifying repressed regions of chromatin, appear in a common set of genes for Oct4+SKM iPS cells, C2+SKM iPS cells, and C3+SKM iPS cells. H3K9me3 peaks were annotated to genes with Homer to create Venn diagrams for genes. ChIP enrichment among treatments was determined to be significant at an FDR <0.1 by DiffBind (n=2).

[0020] FIGS. **5**A-**5**C demonstrate that iPS cells generated with ATFs have similar sets of active histone marks as iPS cells generated with Oct4, Sox2, Klf4, c-Myc ("OSKM"). The genome-wide chromatin modification landscapes in ATF-induced iPS cells were compared to iPS cells generated with Oct4+SKM. Specifically, ChIP-seq was performed on histone 3 lysine 27 acetylation (H3K27ac), the marker delineating active promoters and super-enhancers that define cell identity (Whyte et al., 2013; Hnisz et al., 2013), and histone 3 lysine 9 trimethylation (H3K9me3), the marker that is strongly correlated to repressed regions of the genome that are bound by heterochromatin protein 1 (Schultz et al., 2002). (A) A large fraction of H3K27ac marks, an active mark for super-enhancers, is shared among OSKM iPS cells, Combination #2+SKM iPS cells, and Combination #3+SKM iPS cells. MEFs exhibit a unique set of H3K27ac peaks compared to iPS cells in this study (MEF data from Mouse ENCODE). ChIP enrichment among treatments was determined to be significant at an FDR <0.1 by DiffBind (n=2). ChIP traces over a 5 kb window for representative examples are shown for the Venn diagram categories. (B) Peaks were annotated to genes with Homer to create Venn diagrams for genes. (C) Spearman correlation shows that iPS cells correlate better with each other than to MEFs.

[0021] FIGS. **6**A-**6**C demonstrate that iPS cells generated with ATFs have similar sets of repressive histone marks as

iPS cells generated with Oct4, Sox2, Klf4, c-Myc ("OSKM"). (A) A subset of H3K9me3 marks, a marker of repressed loci, is shared among OSKM iPS cells, Combination #2+SKM iPS cells, and Combination #3+SKM iPS cells. More peaks are shared between OSKM iPS cells and Combination #3+SKM iPS cells. ChIP enrichment among treatments was determined to be significant at an FDR <0.1 by DiffBind (n=2). ChIP traces over a 5 kb window for representative examples are shown for the overlapping Venn diagram categories. (B) Peaks were annotated to genes with Homer to create Venn diagrams for genes. (C) Spearman correlation shows that Combination #3+SKM iPS cells correlate slightly better to OSKM iPS cells than do Combination #2+SKM iPS.

[0022] FIGS. **7**A-**7**C demonstrate that ATFs activate key regulators of the pluripotency network. (A) Workflow for determining ATF target genes for C2+SKM. Three pairwise comparisons were made: 1) C2+SKM iPS cells vs Empty+SKM cells, 2) C2+SKM early cells vs Empty+SKM cells, 3) C2+SKM iPS cells vs Oct4+SKM iPS cells. Genes upregulated >2-fold ($p<0.05$) in the cells transduced with ATFs with ATF binding sites within a ±1 kb window of the TSS were determined to be potential targets. Binding sites were identified by using the top 5 scoring 10-bp motifs from CSI. These target genes were used to build the network in FIG. **6**A with information from the literature and the STRING database. (B) Differentially expressed pluripotency genes with ATF binding sites within ±1 kb of the transcriptional start site (TSS). ATF binding sites were derived from the top 5 scoring 10-bp motifs from CSI for C2+SKM. (C) ChIP-seq signal for HA tag on ATFs for five predicted targets in FIG. **5**B. Additional ChIP-seq traces are in Fig. S5A. Traces display total reads for C2+SKM and Empty+SKM cells at an intermediate stage before reprogramming to a pluripotent state.

[0023] FIGS. **8**A-**8**F demonstrate that the three zinc finger design has greatest impact on expression profile. (A) The three-zinc finger ATF induces expression 329-fold over the mock control, while the two-zinc finger ATF induces expression 2-fold in a luciferase assay performed in HEK293 cells. The DNA-binding domain comes from either the first two or all three zinc fingers of EGR1. Each ATF is also comprised of an ID, NLS, and VP64 (n=4, $p<0.01$ by one-way ANOVA with post-hoc Tukey test). (B) Cognate site identification (CSI). This in vitro method of determining the sequence specificity of DNA-binding factors involves incubating the transcription factor (TF) with a randomized library of 25-bp sequences. The TF-DNA complexes are captured with an antibody, and bound DNA is PCR-amplified for the next round of selection. Three rounds of selection are performed, and all three rounds are sequenced in a high-throughput manner to obtain Specificity and Energy Landscapes (SELs). Data obtained from sequencing can be used to generate position weight matrices. (C) The binding specificity of the first two zinc fingers of EGR1 changes without the third zinc finger. The first two zinc fingers of EGR1 bind 5'-TGG-GCG-3'; however, in the absence of the third zinc finger, the cognate site becomes 5'-GGG-ATC-3'. The interaction domain alters the binding preferences slightly, conferring greater specificity. The SEL displays data from three rounds of enrichment. (D) The binding specificity of the three zinc fingers of EGR1 is nearly identical when the seed motif is the 9-bp cognate site. The SEL displays data after three rounds of enrichment. (E) RNA-seq of HEK293 cells transfected with various ATFs show that the three-zinc finger ATF with an ID activates the greatest number of genes (n=1, $p<0.0005$). The heatmap displays 174 differentially regulated genes. The four different ATFs are: two-zinc fingers with and without an ID and three-zinc fingers with and without an ID. The DNA-binding domain is derived from EGR1, which is the first labeled row on the heatmap to highlight that the ATFs are overexpressed. All ATFs have an NLS and a VP64 activation domain. (F) Comparison of the number of differentially expressed genes when introduced with an ATF shows that the three-zinc finger ATF with the interaction domain affects the greatest number of genes (fold change >2, $p<0.0005$).

[0024] FIGS. **9**A-**9**D demonstrate that iPS lines expanded from the ATF screen express pluripotency markers. (A) Conditions for the ATF library screen. Oct4, Sox2, Klf4, and c-Myc were delivered by retrovirus, where indicated. Second generation lentiviruses (highlighted in blue) were used to deliver the ATF library and an empty ORF control to account for false positive events that may arise from integration of a strong constitutive promoter at relevant genomic sites. Puromycin selection was performed for two days in MEFs treated with lentiviruses to select for integration events. After 15 days of culture in ES cell media, the $Tomato^{-}GFP^{+}$ cells were isolated by flow cytometry. (B) Homologous region between the ATF with the frameshift mutation and zinc finger protein 3-like from *Gorilla gorilla* is C-terminal to the DNA-binding domain. The *G. gorilla* protein (blue) contains 34 amino acids that match the ATF with the frameshift mutation (red). Within the homologous region, there are 10 amino acids, which contain similar side chains (+). Highlighted in yellow are the five zinc fingers of the *G. gorilla* protein. The position at which the single nucleotide frameshift mutation occurs in the ATF is indicated with a red arrow (after 34th amino acid). (C) RT-qPCR results of pluripotency markers, Oct4, Sox2, Nanog, Lin28a, Esrrb, and Utf1, in colonies of iPS cells generated with the ATF library+SKM (LSKM) show comparable levels of endogenous gene expression when compared to levels in mouse ES cells and iPS cells generated with OSKM. These colonies are derived from iPS cells expressing mixed combinations of ATFs. For each gene, transcript levels for MEFs are set to 1. Transcript levels are normalized to Gapdh. (D) Doubling time in hours of iPS cells generated with OSKM and ATFs+SKM. Values are mean±SEM (n=3).

[0025] FIGS. **10**A-**10**E demonstrate functional pluripotency of C3+SKM and C4+SKM iPS cells. (A) Immunofluorescence staining of iPS colonies with OCT4, SOX2, and NANOG. Bars=100 μm. (B) Embryoid bodies were cultured with iPS cells generated with C3+SKM or C4+SKM. Micrographs were taken at Day 2 and Day 14 of differentiation. Bars=100 μm. (C) Immunofluorescence staining for MYL2 (mesoderm), FOXA2 (endoderm), and TUBB3 (ectoderm) of embryoid body outgrowths on Day 14 of differentiation. DAPI labels nuclei. Bar=100 μm. (D) Percentage of positive cells in (C). (E) Embryoid bodies derived from C3+SKM or C4+SKM iPS cells differentiate into all three germ layers. RT-qPCR results from RNA harvested from ATF-generated iPS cells and embryoid bodies derived from them. Markers for mesoderm (T, Nkx2-5, and Kdr) were measured at Day 7. Markers for endoderm (Ttr, Afp, and FoxA2) were measured on Day 11. Markers

for ectoderm (Nes, Nefl, and Sox17) were measured on Day 14. Data points represent fold-change over iPS cells of ΔΔCt relative to Gapdh (n=3).

[0026] FIGS. **11**A-**1**C present results of RNA-Seq analysis. (A) Clustergram of replicates generated from genome-wide RNA-seq data of the following conditions: mouse embryonic fibroblasts (MEF), mouse ES cells (ES), iPS cells generated by Oct4, Sox2, Klf4, c-Myc (OSKM), iPS cells generated with Combination #2+SKM (C2+SKM), iPS cells generated with Combination #3+SKM (C3+SKM), and iPS cells generated with Combination #4+SKM (C4+SKM), and MEFs transduced with lentivirus with an empty ORF+SKM (Empty+SKM). The samples marked early are MEFs transduced with the indicated factors before conversion into iPS cells (n=3 or 4). (B) Jensen-Shannon distance for conditions described in (A). (C) Number of differentially expressed genes for every pairwise comparison ($p<0.05$).

[0027] FIG. **12** demonstrates direct Oct4 targets. The direct targets of Oct4 from PluriNetWork (Som et al., 2010) were compared with ZFATF targets. Direct targets of Oct4 are colored light green. The direct targets of Oct4 or a ZFATF are colored purple. Protein-protein interactions are indicated by dashed lines. Activation of a gene is indicated by an arrow, while repression is indicated by a red segment ending with a perpendicular bar. The size of the node reflects level of expression in OSKM iPS cells.

[0028] FIGS. **13**A-**13**B demonstrate that ATFs target key regulators of pluripotency. (A) Specificity and Energy Landscapes (SELs) of the five ATFs found in this study to replace Oct4. The first two ATFs (blue and orange) appear in all three combinations. The SEL displayed shows data after three rounds of enrichment. (B) Target genes of the ATFs in Combination #2 when the top 100 scoring 10-bp motifs are used from CSI. These genes have an ATF target site ±1 kb of the TSS and are upregulated >2-fold in cells with ATFs expressed. Colors indicate gene ontology: pluripotency (purple), proliferation (red), suppressor of differentiation (gray), morphogenesis (teal), and germline development (pink). The size of the node highlights their importance as upstream regulators.

[0029] FIG. **14** presents twelve exemplary ATFs and their respective DNA sequences.

[0030] FIGS. **15**A-**15**C demonstrate transcriptional networks activated by ATFs and Oct4. (A) Nodes of the pluripotency network activated by the ATFs of C2. The size of the node reflects level of expression in C2+SKM iPS cells. (B) ChIP read density in C2+SKM early cells for HA-tagged ATFs for 17 direct target genes (left) and 15 indirect target genes (right) for nodes in FIG. **6**A. Traces represent coverage across a window of −2 kb to +1.5 kb relative to the TSS. (C) Direct targets of Oct4. The size of the node reflects level of expression in Oct4+SKM iPS cells.

[0031] FIG. **16** illustrates a ligation-independent cloning strategy which relies on long overhangs to improve the efficiency of insertion of the cassette to the vector.

[0032] FIG. **17** illustrates a T4 DNA polymerase exonuclease reaction. A 30-bp overhang consists of three nucleotides until the position at which exonuclease activity is designed to be terminated.

[0033] FIGS. **18**A-**18**C illustrates a particular embodiment of ATF-mediated cardiomyocyte differentiation by modulation of the Wnt pathway on H9 c-TnnT-pGZ cells. (A) ES cells were maintained in E8 until nearly confluent. On Day 0, the GSK3 inhibitor, CHIR99021 was added to the differentiation medium (RPMI 1640+B27 without insulin) to promote differentiation into mesoderm. On Day 3, the Wnt maturation inhibitor, IWP2 was added to promoted differentiation into cardiomyocytes. On Day 10, the expression of TNNT2 was evaluated by the expression of GFP. From Day 9 onwards, cardiomyocytes are maintained in RPMI 1640+B27 with insulin. (B) The ATF library was tested to replace the function of the Wnt pathway inhibitors. Human pluripotent stem cells bearing a reporter for TNNT2 were transduced with lentiviruses encoding either ATFs or no open reading frame (Empty). Cells were treated with puromycin to select for transduced cells. The differentiation protocol was performed in the presence or absence of one or more inhibitors. (C) ATFs were capable of replacing the Wnt maturation inhibitor, IWP2. Approximately 21% of the ATF library +CHIR-treated cells were GFP^+. Only 1.1% of the Empty+CHIR-treated cells were GFP^+, so the expected false positive rate is approximately 5.3%. Cells of the ATF library +CHIR formed larger sheaths of cardiomyocytes with regular beating compared to the Empty +CHIR treatment.

[0034] FIGS. **19**A-**19**D demonstrate use of an ATF library to promote cardiomyocyte differentiation. (A) Genetic screen with an ATF library. ATFs are comprised of an interaction domain, 3-zinc fingers, nuclear localization signal, VP64 activation domain, and 3×HA tag. The library has a complexity of 2.6×10^6 ATFs, each of which can target a 9-bp sequence. (B) A cardiomyocyte lineage-specific reporter cell line was created by lentiviral delivery of the human troponin T (TNNT2) promoter driving expression of copGFP and zeocin resistance (cTnnT-pGZ). (C) Flow cytometry results at Day 10 after treatment with CHIR99021. GFP^+ H9 cTnnT-pGZ cells transduced with the ATF library were isolated as single cells for further analysis. Cells treated with lentivirus with an Empty ORF (negative control) were used to determine the frequency of false positive events. Percentages in the gated box are displayed in green. (D) ATFs were identified from 16 single cells by two-step nested PCR of genomic DNA. Unique ATFs are depicted with a different color. Two ATFs had a frameshift mutation shortly after the ID, coding for a protein that does not have a zinc finger structure. The frameshifted ATF and light blue ATF are expressed in 15/16 cells analyzed. Three ATFs are made up of two fingers (light blue, red, and purple). The combination, C3+CHIR, comprised of the frameshifted ATF (ATF5), blue ATF (ZFATF1), and orange ATF (ZFATF2), were retested in the validation step.

[0035] FIG. **20** demonstrates validation of ATFs from the cardiomyocyte screen. H9 cTnnT-pGZ cells were transduced with lentiviruses encoding ATFs. After selection for transduced cells, cells were treated with the GSK3 inhibitor, CHIR99021. On Day 3 of differentiation, the positive control was also treated with the Wnt maturation inhibitor, IWP2. No other condition was treated with IWP2. On Day 10, cells were evaluated for expression of GFP, structure of cardiomyocyte sheaths, and capacity to beat.

[0036] FIGS. **21**A-**21**B present a representation of cardiomyocyte ATF sequences in the human genome. (A) The number of times the top 100 scoring CSI motifs appeared in the genome was quantified. Each data point represents a unique 10-bp sequence. (B) The number of times the top 100 scoring CSI motifs appeared within ±1kb of a TSS was quantified. Each data point represents a unique 10-bp

sequence. The observed frequencies near the TSS are different from the expected frequencies ($p<0.001$ for df-2 and chi-squared=172).

[0037] FIGS. **22**A-**22**C illustrate target genes of ATFs. The locations of the top 10 scoring 10-bp sequences from CSI were determined in the human genome. Genes highlighted in blue (early genes), green (middle genes), and yellow (late genes) have an ATF binding site within ±1kb of the TSS. (A) Target genes of ATF5, ZFATF1, and ZFATF2 (Treatment 10). (B) Target genes of ATF5 and ZFATF1 (Treatment 7). (C) Target genes of ATF5 and ZFATF2 (Treatment 9).

[0038] FIGS. **23**A-**23**C illustrate use of the ATF library for hematopoietic differentiation. (A) Genetic screen with an ATF library. ATFs are comprised of an interaction domain, 3-zinc fingers, nuclear localization signal, VP64 activation domain, and 3×HA tag. The library has a complexity of 2.6×10^6 ATFs, each of which can target a 9-bp sequence. (B) Inducing hematopoiesis. Human H1 ES cells are maintained in mTESR1™ medium (StemCell Technologies, Inc., Vancouver, CA) until the day of transduction. ATFs and natural factors are delivered by lentivirus on Day 0. From Day 1 onward, cells are maintained in 3F media, composed of mTeSR basal medium with FGF2, SCF, and thrombopoietin (3). Cells undergo 2 days of selection for transduction events with puromycin. On Day 10, cells are assessed for morphological changes to blood phenotypes. (C) ATF library+TAL1 generates cells of the hematopoietic lineage. Samples 1 and 2 are erythroid-like cells expanded on methylcellulose. Samples 3-5 are monocyte-like cells expanded on methylcellulose. Samples 2 and 4 were sequenced as cell clusters for ATF identification. Sample 2 was comprised of 4 ATFs; sample 4 was comprised of 15 ATFs.

[0039] FIG. **24** presents images validating ATFs from erythroid-like cluster. The parent cell type was human H1 ES cells. GATA2+ETV2 served as positive control for the myeloid lineage. TAL1+Empty control and TAL1+ATF5 (ATF with a frameshift mutation) induced differentiation but not to the same cell type as GATA2+ETV2. Differentiated cells after treatment with TAL1+ZFATF20 (middle image, last row) have a phenotype similar to myeloid cells. Cells treated with TAL1+ZFATF19 and TAL+ZFATF21 did not differentiate.

[0040] FIGS. **25**A-**25**B demonstrate identification of ATF binding sites for hematopoiesis. (A) Cognate site identification (CSI). This method of determining the sequence specificity of DNA-binding factors involves incubating the ATF with randomized permutations of 25-bp sequences. The ATF-DNA complexes are captured with an antibody, and bound DNA is PCR-amplified for the next round of selection. Three rounds of selection are performed, and all three rounds are multiplexed and sequenced to obtain Specificity and Energy Landscapes (SELs) and position weight matrices (PWMs). SELs display the comprehensive binding preferences based on a chosen seed motif. The height of the peak is associated with affinity. Sequences that are 1-2 bp longer than the seed are arranged in concentric rings with respect to mismatches. Each ring outward from the 0-mismatch ring displays sequences to the corresponding number of mismatches. Within the mismatch rings, sequences are arranged by position of the mismatch, then alphabetically. (B) SELs of the four ATFs from the combination that induced differentiation into erythroid-like cells. Each SEL displayed shows data after three rounds of enrichment.

[0041] FIGS. **26**A-**26**B represent erythroblast ATF sequences in the human genome. (A) The number of times the top 100 scoring CSI motifs appeared in the genome was quantified. Each data point represents a unique 10-bp sequence. (B) The number of times the top 100 scoring CSI motifs appeared within ±1 kb of a TSS was quantified. Each data point represents a unique 10-bp sequence. The observed frequencies near the TSS are different from the expected frequencies ($p<0.001$ for df-3 and chi-squared=14,195).

[0042] FIGS. **27**A-**27**E illustrate use of the ATF library in HCMV gene expression. (A) Genetic screen with an ATF library. ATFs are comprised of an interaction domain, 3-zinc fingers, nuclear localization signal, VP64 activation domain, and 3×HA tag. The library has a complexity of 2.6×10^6 ATFs, each of which can target a 9-bp sequence. (1) The ATF library was cloned into a second generation lentiviral vector. The screen is performed in cells with a robust change in phenotype or a lineage-specific reporter. (2) Positive outcomes are isolated as single cells, such that combinations of ATFs, if any, can be captured. (3) Integrated ATFs are identified from single cells. (4) Identified ATFs are retested for validation. Once validated, downstream experiments can be performed to identify ATF target genes. (B) Licensing the activation of HCMV genes. THP-1 monocytes were infected with HCMV (AD169) in which immediate-early gene 2 (IE2) fused to GFP is expressed when the virus enters lytic replication. (C) Flow cytometry results 20 hours post-infection with HCMV. THP-1 monocytes transduced with the ATF library or an Empty control were infected with HCMV encoding IE2-GFP fusion protein. Approximately 0.8% of cells treated with ATFs were GFP^+ and 0.5% of the Empty control. THP-1 cells treated with valproic acid for 3 hours prior to HCMV infection served as the positive control (19% GFP^+). Untreated THP-1 cells served as negative control (0% GFP^+). ATF-treated cells with the greatest level of GFP expression (gate P4), were cell sorted. (D) ATFs were identified from 8 single cells by two-step nested PCR of genomic DNA. Unique ATFs are depicted with a different color. One ATF had a frameshift mutation shortly after the ID, coding for a protein that does not have a zinc finger structure. Three ATFs are made up of two fingers (light blue, pink, and red). (E) Validation of ATF hits by flow cytometry. The percentage of cells expressing IE2-GFP is displayed. Compared to the positive control (VPA), the ATFs do not activate HCMV gene expression in as many cells. The treatment numbers refer to the ATF combinations in (D). All treatments were infected with HCMV except for the first bar, uninfected.

[0043] FIGS. **28**A-**28**B demonstrate identification of ATF binding sites for HCMV activation. (A) Cognate site identification (CSI). This method of determining the sequence specificity of DNA-binding factors involves incubating the ATF with randomized permutations of 25-bp sequences. The ATF-DNA complexes are captured with an antibody, and bound DNA is PCR-amplified for the next round of selection. Three rounds of selection are performed, and all three rounds are multiplexed and sequenced to obtain Specificity and Energy Landscapes (SELs) and position weight matrices (PWMs). SELs display the comprehensive binding preferences based on a chosen seed motif. The height of the peak is associated with affinity. Sequences that are 1-2 bp longer than the seed are arranged in concentric rings with respect to mismatches. Each ring outward from the 0-mismatch ring displays sequences to the corresponding number of mis-

matches. Within the mismatch rings, sequences are arranged by position of the mismatch, then alphabetically. (B) SELs of four ATFs that permit the expression of HCMV genes. Each SEL displayed shows data after three rounds of enrichment.

[0044] FIGS. **29**A-**29**B represent HCMV ATF sequences in the human genome. (A) The number of times the top 100 scoring CSI motifs appeared in the genome was quantified. Each data point represents a unique 10-bp sequence. (B) The number of times the top 100 scoring CSI motifs appeared within +1kb of a TSS was quantified. Each data point represents a unique 10-bp sequence. The observed frequencies near the TSS are different from the expected frequencies ($p<0.001$ for df-3 and chi-squared=3,797).

[0045] While the present invention is susceptible to various modifications and alternative forms, exemplary embodiments thereof are shown by way of example in the drawings and are herein described in detail. It should be understood, however, that the description of exemplary embodiments is not intended to limit the invention to the particular forms disclosed, but on the contrary, the intention is to cover all modifications, equivalents and alternatives falling within the spirit and scope of the invention as defined by the appended claims.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

[0046] All publications, including but not limited to patents and patent applications, cited in this specification are herein incorporated by reference as though set forth in their entirety in the present application.

[0047] The methods and compositions provided herein are based at least in part on the Inventors' discovery of zinc finger-based artificial transcription factors (ATFs) that have the ability to promote cell fate conversions. These ATFs bind DNA through cooperative assembly and function as transcriptional activators. A combination of three ATFs facilitates the conversion of fibroblasts to induced pluripotent stem cells and the differentiation of stem cells to cardiomyocytes. The capacity of these ATFs to bind regulatory elements in the genome can enable various types of mammalian cell fate conversions, aiding in the generation of relevant cell types for cell therapies, drug screening, and disease modeling. Furthermore, the compositions and methods provided herein enable the targeting of gene-regulatory elements of mammalian systems and the resetting of the transcriptional circuitry.

[0048] Advantages of the claimed compositions and materials provided herein are at least three-fold. First, the ATFs of the present invention facilitate cell type conversions without a priori knowledge of potential key regulators, and can thereby reveal new gene networks and mechanistic pathways. The capacity of these ATFs to bind regulatory elements in the genome can enable various types of mammalian cell fate conversions, aiding in the generation of relevant cell types for cell therapies, drug screening, and disease modeling. Second, the three-zinc finger ATFs provided herein are capable of activating many fold over background. Some of these three-zinc finger ATFs activate expression 329-fold over background levels. Third, the short sequence bound by zinc fingers means that such DNA-binding elements are fairly 'promiscuous' in the genome, so it was not clear that an ATF based on this, where expression profiling was intended, would be effective or satisfactory.

[0049] Accordingly, in a first aspect, provided herein are engineered zinc finger proteins ("artificial transcription factors" or ATFs) capable of precise regulation of gene expression at a given locus. As used herein, the term "artificial transcription factor" refers to an engineered or "non-naturally occurring" zinc finger protein or fusion protein that binds to a nucleic acid (e.g., DNA, RNA) and/or protein. Encompassed by the term ATF are engineered zinc fingers comprising at least one zinc finger domain, typically two zinc finger domains, three zinc finger domains, or more. A zinc finger domain is a DNA binding motif of DNA binding proteins that are most frequently discovered in eukaryotes, which is discovered in various species from yeast to higher plant life and human beings. In the present disclosure, the zinc finger domain may be a Cys2-His2 type, where two, three, or more zinc finger domains are arranged in parallel to constitute a zing finger protein.

[0050] As used herein, the term "non-naturally occurring" means, for example, one or more of the following: (a) a polypeptide comprised of a non-naturally occurring amino acid sequence; (b) a polypeptide having a non-naturally occurring secondary structure not associated with the polypeptide as it occurs in nature; (c) a polypeptide that includes one or more amino acids not normally associated with the species of organism in which that polypeptide occurs in nature; (d) a polypeptide that includes a stereoisomer of one or more of the amino acids comprising the polypeptide, which stereoisomer is not associated with the polypeptide as it occurs in nature; (e) a polypeptide that includes one or more chemical moieties other than one of the natural amino acids; or (f) an isolated portion of a naturally occurring amino acid sequence (e.g., a truncated sequence).

[0051] In preferred embodiments, ATFs are designed to have a particular ATF formula including two or three zinc finger domains, a nuclear localization signal (NLS), and a specific interaction domain (ID). Twelve exemplary ATFs and their respective DNA sequence open reading frames are presented in FIG. **14**.

[0052] In a preferred embodiment, provided herein are ATFs comprising a polydactyl zinc finger protein comprising two or three zinc finger domains, an interaction domain, a nuclear localization signal, and an activation domain. Each of the two or three zinc finger domains comprises a variable residue region, where the variable residue positions are encoded by nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO:2 (VNN-TCC-VNN-VNN-CTC-ACC-VNN), where each "VNN" is a codon encoding an amino acid selected from the group consisting of R, H, K, D, Q, S, T, N, E, G, P, A, I, L, M, and V. Presented another way, the variable residue positions of the two or three zinc finger domains is encoded by amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:3 (X_{-1}-S-X_2-X_3-L-T-X_6), where X_{-1} is an amino acid preferably selected from the group consisting of R, H, K, D, Q, S, T, N, E, G, P, A, I, L, M, and V; X_2 is preferably selected from the group consisting of R, H, K, D, Q, S, T, N, E, G, P, A, I, L, M, and V; X_3 is preferably selected from the group consisting of R, H, K, D, Q, S, T, N, E, G, P, A, I, L, M, and V; and X_6 is preferably selected from the group consisting of R, H, K, D, Q, S, T, N, E, G, P, A, I, L, M, and V. For a three zinc finger-containing ATF, the zinc fingers are encoded by the following sequences:

Finger1:

(SEQ ID NO: 4)

CCTTACGCTTGCCCAGTGGAGTCCTGTGATCGCCGCTTCTCCVNNTCCVN

NVNNCTCACCVNNCACATCCGCATCCACACAGGCCAGAAGCCC

Finger2:

(SEQ ID NO: 5)

TTCCAGTGCCGCATCTGCATGCGCAACTTCAGCVNNAGCVNNVNNCTCAC

CVNNCACATCCGCACCCACACAGGCGAA

Finger3:

(SEQ ID NO: 6)

AAGCCCTTCGCCTGCGACATCTGTGGAAGAAAGTTTGCCVNNAGCVNNVN

NCGCAAGVNNCATACCAAGATCCACTTGCGG

where each "VNN" (underlined) reflects a variable residue within each zinc finger. Each VNN is a codon encoding an amino acid selected from the group consisting of R, H, K, D, Q, S, T, N, E, G, P, A, I, L, M, and V.

[0053] ATF Architecture:

[0054] In general, ATFs of the invention comprise a zinc finger backbone, an interaction domain (ID), and an effect domain, and can include an optional nuclear localization signal (NLS). Since the ID interacts with the first finger of EGR1, it is located at the N-terminus to be functional for dimerization with a second ATF. The other elements may be present in any order.

[0055] In some cases, the interaction domain (ID) comprises a 15-amino acid peptide that enables interaction with the hydrophobic face of the most 5' zinc finger domain. In other cases, the ID comprises fewer than or greater than 15 amino acids. For example, the ID can comprise a peptide having 10-20 amino acids (e.g., 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, or 20 amino acids). In some cases, the effector domain is an activation domain. In other cases, the effector domain is a repression domain. Suitable effector domains include, without limitation, VP64 (an activation domain) and KRAB (a repression domain). Other examples are set forth in Eguchi et al., 2014.

[0056] In some cases, the activation domain is a sequence derived from VP64. VP64 is a transcriptional activator composed of four tandem copies of VP16 (Herpes Simplex Viral Protein 16, amino acids 437-447, DALDDFDLDML; SEQ ID NO:7), generally connected with glycine-serine linkers. When fused to another protein domain that can bind near the promoter of a gene, VP64 acts as a strong transcriptional activator. Other activation domains appropriate for use according to the ATF's provided herein include, without limitation, the RelA activation domain (PGLPNGLLSGDEDFSSIADMDFSALLSQISS; SEQ ID NO:8), Beta-catenin (FDTDL; SEQ ID NO:9), amphipathic helix (PEFPGIELQELQELQALLQQ; SEQ ID NO:10), RNA-based activation domains (see, for example, Saha, S., Ansari, A. Z., Jarrell, K. A., Ptashne, M. and Jarell, K. A. (2003) RNA sequences that work as transcriptional activating regions. *Nucleic Acids Res.* 31, 1565-1570), and other non-protein based activation domains. For example, synthetic molecules that mimic transcription factors include wrenchnolol or a wrenchnolol derivative, isoxazoladine, and peptoids as reviewed in Eguchi et al., 2014. See also Jung et al. (*J. Am. Chem. Soc.* 2009, 131(13):4774-4782).

[0057] The ability of a domain to activate transcription can be validated by fusing the domain to a known DNA binding domain and then determining if a reporter gene operably linked to sites recognized by the known DNA-binding domain is activated by the fusion protein.

[0058] Nuclear localization signals (NLS) are amino acid motifs conferring nuclear import through binding to proteins defined by gene ontology GO:0008139, for example clusters of basic amino acids containing a lysine residue (K) followed by a lysine (K) or arginine residue (R), followed by any amino acid (X), followed by a lysine or arginine residue (K-K/R-X-K/R consensus sequence, Chelsky D. et al., 1989 *Mol Cell Biol* 9, 2487-2492). In preferred embodiments, the NLS can be derived from human EGR1 (early growth response 1). EGR1, which is also known as Zif268 (zinc finger protein 225) or NGFI-A (nerve growth factor-induced protein A), is a mammalian transcription factor that in humans is encoded by the EGR1 gene. In some cases, the EGR1 NLS sequence is KDKKADKSVV (SEQ ID NO: 11). In other cases, a NLS sequence suitable for use according to the invention provided herein is PKKKRKV (SEQ ID NO:12), which is the simian virus 40 large T-antigen (Kalderon et al. (1984) A short amino acid sequence able to specify nuclear location. Cell 39, 499-509).

[0059] In some cases, ATFs of the invention further comprise a dimerization domain. An alternative method of linking DNA binding domains is the use of dimerization domains, especially heterodimerization domains (see, e.g., Pomerantz et al (1998) *Biochemistry* 37: 965-970). In this implementation, DNA binding domains are present in separate polypeptide chains. For example, a first polypeptide encodes DNA binding domain A, linker, and domain B, while a second polypeptide encodes domain C, linker, and domain D. An artisan can select a dimerization domain from the many well-characterized dimerization domains. Domains that favor heterodimerization can be used if homodimers are not desired. A particularly adaptable dimerization domain is the coiled-coil motif, e.g., a dimeric parallel or anti-parallel coiled-coil. Coiled-coil sequences that preferentially form heterodimers are also available (Lumb and Kim, (1995) *Biochemistry* 34: 8642-8648). Another species of dimerization domain is one in which dimerization is triggered by a small molecule or by a signaling event. Such dimerization domains can be utilized to provide additional levels of regulation.

[0060] ATFs for Inducing Pluripotency:

[0061] In another aspect, provided herein are methods of using ATFs and combinations of ATFs useful to induce pluripotency in mammalian somatic cells. As described in the Examples that follow, combinations of ATFs have been shown to induce somatic cell reprogramming when provided to a somatic cell in combination with potency determining factors such as Sox2, Klf4, and c-Myc. For example, provided herein is a method of reprogramming a somatic cell to pluripotency, where the method comprises (a) exposing a somatic cell to a plurality of artificial transcription factors, wherein the artificial transcription factors are selected from the group consisting of ZFATF1, ZFATF2, ZFATF3, ZFATF4, and ZFATF5; (b) further exposing the somatic cell to a plurality of potency determining factors comprising Sox2, Klf4, and c-Myc; and (c) culturing the exposed cells to obtain reprogrammed cells having a higher potency level than the somatic cell. Combinations of ATFs useful for such methods include, without limitation, (1) ZFATF1, ZFATF2, and ZFATF3; (2) ZFATF1, ZFATF2, and ZFATF4; and (3)

ZFATF1, ZFATF2, and ZFATF5. Other ATFs include ZFATF6, ZFATF7, ZFATF8, ZFATF9, ZFATF10, ZFATF11, and ZATF12.

[0062] Advantageously, the present invention allows the generation of pluripotent cells, such as iPS cells, from somatic cells without requiring an addition of cell surface receptors for introducing the potency-determining factors to the somatic cells. As used herein, the term "reprogramming" refers to a genetic process whereby differentiated somatic cells are converted into de-differentiated, pluripotent cells, and thus have a greater pluripotency potential than the cells from which they were derived. That is, the reprogrammed cells express at least one of the following pluripotent cell-specific markers: SSEA-1, SSEA-3, SSEA-4, TRA-1-60, or TRA 1-81. When the ATF library was tested for reprogramming of mouse fibroblasts, the resulting mouse pluripotent cells expressed SSEA-1. Other mouse markers include Oct4, Nanog, Esrrb, Utf1, Lin28a, and Dppa2 (Buganim Y, et al. (2012) Single-cell expression analyses during cellular reprogramming reveal an early stochastic and a late hierarchic phase. *Cell* 150(6):1209-1222).

[0063] As used herein, "pluripotent cells" refer to a population of cells that can differentiate into all three germ layers (e.g., endoderm, mesoderm and ectoderm). Pluripotent cells express a variety of pluripotent cell-specific markers, have a cell morphology characteristic of undifferentiated cells (i.e., compact colony, high nucleus to cytoplasm ratio and prominent nucleolus) and form teratomas when introduced into an immunocompromised animal, such as a SCID mouse. The teratomas typically contain cells or tissues characteristic of all three germ layers. One of ordinary skill in the art can assess these characteristics by using techniques commonly used in the art. See, e.g., Thomson et al., *Science* 282:1145-1147 (1998). Pluripotent cells are capable of both proliferation in cell culture and differentiation towards a variety of lineage-restricted cell populations that exhibit multipotent properties. Multipotent somatic cells are more differentiated relative to pluripotent cells, but are not terminally differentiated. Pluripotent cells therefore have a higher potency than multipotent cells. As used herein, "reprogrammed pluripotent primate stem cells" (and similar references) refer to the pluripotent products of somatic cell reprogramming methods. Such cells are suitable for use in research and therapeutic applications currently envisioned for human ES cells.

[0064] As used herein, a "potency-determining factor" refers to a factor, such as a gene or other nucleic acid, or a functional fragment thereof, as well as an encoded factor or functional fragment thereof, used to increase the potency of a somatic cell, so that it becomes pluripotent. The potency-determining factors optionally can be present only transiently in the reprogrammed cells or can be maintained in a transcriptionally active or inactive state in the genome of the reprogrammed cells. Likewise, the potency-determining factors can be present in more than one copy in the reprogrammed cells, where the potency-determining factor can be integrated in the cell's genome, can be extra-chromosomal or both.

[0065] Generally, methods for identifying potency-determining factors include the steps of introducing genetic material encoding one or a plurality of putative potency-determining factors into somatic cells receptive to uptake of the genetic material under conditions effective to express the factors encoded on the introduced genetic material at levels sufficient to reprogram the cells to a less differentiated, higher-potency state; and observing a population of pluripotent cells after introduction of the genetic material. The pluripotent cells can be characterized by cell morphology, pluripotent cell-specific markers or both. Advantageously, the pluripotent cells can be identified by expression in the treated cells of a marker provided in the cells so as to be expressed only upon reprogramming of the cells to a pluripotent state. Through this approach, potency-determining factors capable of reprogramming somatic cells into pluripotent cells can be identified, as is described in the examples below.

[0066] Suitable somatic cells can be any somatic cell, although higher reprogramming frequencies are observed when the starting somatic cells have a doubling time about twenty-four hours. Somatic cells useful in the invention are non-embryonic cells obtained from a fetal, newborn, juvenile or adult primate, including a human. Examples of somatic cells that can be used with the methods described herein include, but are not limited to, bone marrow cells, epithelial cells, fibroblast cells, hematopoietic cells, hepatic cells, intestinal cells, mesenchymal cells, myeloid precursor cells and spleen cells. Alternatively, the somatic cells can be cells that can themselves proliferate and differentiate into other types of cells, including blood stem cells, muscle/bone stem cells, brain stem cells and liver stem cells. Multipotent hematopoietic cells, suitably myeloid precursor or mesenchymal cells, are specifically contemplated as suited for use in the methods of the invention.

[0067] In some cases, the methods comprises exposing or introducing into a somatic cell a genetic construct that enables efficient and robust delivery of ATFs and potency-determining factors to most cell types, including non-dividing and hard-to-transfect cells (primary, blood, stem cells) in vitro or in vivo. Viral-based constructs integrated into genomic DNA result in high expression levels. In addition to a DNA segment that encodes a potency-determining factor of interest, the vectors include a transcription promoter and a polyadenylation signal operatively linked, upstream and downstream, respectively, to the DNA segment. The vector can include a single DNA segment encoding a single potency-determining factor or a plurality of potency-determining factor-encoding DNA segments. A plurality of vectors can be introduced into a single somatic cell. The vector can optionally encode a selectable marker to identify cells that have taken up and express the vector. As an example, when the vector confers antibiotic resistance on the cells, antibiotic can be added to the culture medium to identify successful introduction of the vector into the cells. Integrating vectors can be employed, as in the examples, to demonstrate proof of concept. Retroviral (e.g., lentiviral) vectors are integrating vectors; however, non-integrating, episomal vectors can also be used. Such vectors can be lost from cells by dilution after reprogramming, as desired. A suitable episomal non-integrating vector is an Epstein-Barr virus (EBV) vector.

[0068] Alternative delivery methods for artificial transcription factors of the invention include transfer of nucleic acids by transfection or via viral vectors such as, but not limited to, herpes virus-, adeno virus- and adeno-associated virus-based vectors.

[0069] ATF Libraries:

[0070] In another aspect, provided herein is a library of ATFs designed to bind to and modulate the expression of a gene product. In some cases, the gene product can be a

component of a cellular pathway (e.g., signaling pathway) associated with development of particular cell types. In other cases, the gene product can be a component of a cellular pathway associated with cell potency. As used herein, the term "library" is used according to its common usage in the art to denote a collection of polypeptides or, preferably, nucleic acids encoding polypeptides.

[0071] In some cases, ATFs provided herein contain regions of randomization, such that each library of ATFs will comprise or encode a repertoire of polypeptides, wherein individual polypeptides differ in sequence from each other. The same principle is present in virtually all libraries developed for selection, such as by phage display. As used herein, "randomization" refers to the variation of the sequence of the polypeptides which comprise the library, such that various amino acids may be present at any given position in different polypeptides. Randomization may be complete, such that any amino acid may be present at a given position, or partial, such that only certain amino acids are present. Preferably, the randomization is achieved by mutagenesis at the nucleic acid level, for example by synthesizing novel genes encoding mutant proteins and expressing these to obtain a variety of different proteins. Alternatively, existing genes can be themselves mutated, such by site-directed or random mutagenesis, in order to obtain the desired mutant genes.

[0072] In general, an ATF library can be obtained using any appropriate molecular biology techniques. As described in the Examples that follow, an exemplary method for obtaining a zinc finger ATF library comprises ligation-independent cloning. In particular, ligation-independent cloning into a second-generation lentiviral expression vector that contains the ccdB toxin was performed to eliminate background colonies. The first zinc finger was ordered as an oligomer with VNN codons in the variable residue positions (−1, 2, 3, and 6 of the alpha helix). The second and third zinc fingers were ordered as a separate oligo with VNN codons in the variable residue positions (−1, 2, 3, and 6 of the alpha helix). These two oligomers were amplified by PCR in a fusion reaction with a third oligomer containing the nuclear localization signal, VP64, and the HA tag. Amplified fragments were flanked by 30-bp regions with homology to the backbone vector. These homologous arms were treated with an exonuclease to create long overhangs, then cloned into the backbone vector. Plasmids comprising the oligomers cloned into the backbone vector can be transformed in highly competent bacteria.

[0073] In some cases, an ATF library can include additional variations that repress gene expression or modify chromatin.

[0074] In some cases, an ATF library as provided herein can be in cells such as engineered cells, or delivered to cells or tissues as RNA or full proteins to achieve the desired effects. This could be useful for research or therapeutic purposes.

[0075] Methods

[0076] In another aspect, provided herein are methods of using ATFs and ATF libraries as provided herein. In particular, ATFs can be used in methods for altering the potency of a cell and/or to promote differentiation of a cell into one or more particular cell types or cell lineages.

[0077] In some cases, the ATFs and ATF libraries provided herein can be used in combination with various genetic tools. For example, an ATF library can be screened for factors capable of inducing pluripotency in somatic cells (e.g., mouse embryonic fibroblasts) when expressed in the somatic cell in combination with three of the four recognized reprogramming factors (i.e., Sox2, Klf4, and c-Myc, but not Oct4). Genetic tools such as cognate site identification of the ATF binding sites, global transcriptional profiling, and characterization of the genome-wide epigenetic landscapes can be used to identify ATFs having a capacity to reprogram the somatic cell to a pluripotent state even in the absence of exogenous Oct4.

[0078] In some cases, an ATF library can be screened to identify ATFs capable of inducing differentiation of pluripotent cells such as human embryonic stem cells (ESCs) or human iPS cells into a differentiated cell type. For example, an ATF library can be screened using various combinations of Wnt pathway activators and inhibitors such as CHIR99021 ("CHIR"; a specific inhibitor of GSK3 for activation of canonical Wnt signaling) and IWP2 (which inhibits Wnt) to identify ATFs capable of standing in place of a Wnt inhibitor to induce cardiomyocyte differentiation in the presence of CHIR.

[0079] In certain embodiments, provided herein is a method of directing differentiation of a pluripotent stem cell to a cardiomyocyte. In some cases, the differentiation method comprises (a) exposing a pluripotent stem cell to one or more artificial transcription factors (ATFs) selected from the group consisting of ZFATF1, ZFATF2, and ATF5; and (b) culturing the exposed cells of (a) in the presence of an activator of Wnt/β-catenin signaling for about 7-10 days, such that a population of cells comprising cardiomyocytes is obtained. In some cases, the ATFs comprise ZFATF1, ZFATF2, and ATF5.

[0080] In some embodiments, activation of Wnt/β-catenin signaling is achieved by inhibiting Gsk3 phosphotransferase activity or Gsk3 binding interactions. Gsk3 inhibition can be achieved in a variety of ways including, but not limited to, providing small molecules that inhibit Gsk3 phosphotransferase activity, RNA interference knockdown of Gsk3, and overexpression of dominant negative form of Gsk3. Dominant negative forms of Gsk3 are known in the art as described, e.g., in Hagen et al. (2002), *J. Biol. Chem.*, 277(26):23330-23335, which describes a Gsk3 comprising a R96A mutation.

[0081] In some embodiments, Gsk3 is inhibited by contacting a cell with a small molecule that inhibits Gsk3 phosphotransferase activity or Gsk3 binding interactions. Suitable small molecule Gsk3 inhibitors include, but are not limited to, CHIR99021 ("CHIR"), CHIR98014, BIO-acetoxime, BIO, LiCl, SB 216763, SB 415286, AR A014418, 1-Azakenpaullone, Bis-7-indolylmaleimide, and any combinations thereof. In some embodiments, any of CHIR99021, CHIR98014, and BIO-acetoxime are used to inhibit Gsk3 in pluripotent stem cells in the differentiation methods described herein. In one embodiment, the small molecule Gsk3 inhibitor to be used is CHIR99021 at a concentration ranging from about 3 μM to about 12 μM, e.g., about 3 μM, 4 μM, 5 M, 6 μM, 7 μM, 8 μM, 9 μM, 10 μM, 11 μM, 12 μM or another concentration of CHIR99021 from about 3 μM to about 12 μM. In another embodiment, the small molecule Gsk3 inhibitor to be used is CHIR98014 at a concentration ranging from about 0.1 μM to about 1 μM, e.g., about 0.1 μM, 0.2 μM, 0.3 μM, 0.4 μM, 0.5 μM, 0.6 μM, 0.7 μM, 0.8 μM, 0.9 μM or another concentration of CHIR98014 from about 0.1 μM to about 1 μM. In another

embodiment, the small molecule Gsk3 inhibitor to be used is BIO-acetoxime at a concentration ranging from about 0.1 μM to about 1 μM, e.g., about 0.1 μM, 0.2 μM, 0.3 μM, 0.4 μM, 0.5 μM, 0.6 μM, 0.7 μM, 0.8 μM, 0.9 μM or another concentration of BIO-acetoxime from about 0.1 μM to about 1 μM.

[0082] In other embodiments, Gsk3 activity is inhibited by RNA interference knockdown of Gsk3. For example, Gsk3 expression levels can be knocked-down using commercially available siRNAs against Gsk3, e.g., SignalSilence® GSK-3α/β siRNA (catalog #6301 from Cell Signaling Technology®, Danvers, Mass.), or a retroviral vector with an inducible expression cassette for Gsk3, e.g., a commercially available Tet-inducible retroviral RNA interference (RNAi) system from Clontech (Mountain View, Calif., Catalog No. 630926), or a cumate-inducible system from Systems Biosciences, Inc. (Mountain View, Calif.), e.g., the SparQ® system, catalog no. QM200PA-2.

[0083] In another aspect, provided herein is a method for directing differentiation of a pluripotent stem cell to a hematopoietic lineage. In some cases, the method comprises (a) exposing a pluripotent stem cell to two or more artificial transcription factors (ATFs) selected from the group consisting of ZFATF19, ZFATF20, ZFATF21, ATF5, ZFATF1, ZFATF6, ZFATF10, ZFATF13, ZFATF17, ZFATF22, ZFATF23, ZFATF24, ZFATF25, ZFATF26, ZFATF27, ZFATF28, ZFATF29, ZFATF30, and ZFATF31; and (b) culturing the exposed cells of (a) in a basal culture medium comprising FGF2, SCF, and thrombopoietin, and in the presence of TAL1 for about 7-10 days, such that a cell population comprising hematopoietic lineage cells is obtained. In some cases, the ATFs comprise ZFATF19, ZFATF20, ZFATF21, and ATF5, and the cell population comprises erythroid-like cells. In other cases, the ATFs comprise ZFATF1, ZFATF6, ZFATF10, ZFATF13, ZFATF17, ZFATF22, ZFATF23, ZFATF24, ZFATF25, ZFATF26, ZFATF27, ZFATF28, ZFATF29, ZFATF30, and ZFATF31, and the cell population comprises monocyte-like cells.

[0084] In other cases, an ATF library can be screened to identify ATFs capable of inducing differentiation of pluripotent and/or multipotent cells to various blood lineages. For example, an ATF library can be screened for ATFs capable of differentiating human pluripotent stem cells (e.g., iPS cells, embryonic stem cells) into erythroblast-like cells and monoblast-like cells. As described in the Examples that follow, screening an ATF library identified factors that promoted the differentiation of ESCs into blood lineages, and found combinations of ATFs (with TAL1(SCL)) that produced a range of phenotypes from monoblast-like to erythroblast-like cells.

[0085] In some cases, the methods provided herein include screening an ATF library for factors that promote the reactivation of latent cytomegalovirus (CMV) virus infections, the inventors identified eight ATF combinations, which can help inform the field's understanding of how CMV and its reactivation from a latent state to lytic replication is regulated.

[0086] Articles of Manufacture

[0087] In another aspect, provided herein is an article of manufacture such as a kit comprising a plurality of artificial transcription factors or an ATF library as described herein. In certain embodiments, the kit comprises (i) a plurality of ATFs selected from the group consisting of ZFATF1, ZFATF2, ZFATF3, ZFATF4, and ZFATF5; (ii) a plurality of potency determining factors such as Sox2, Klf4, and c-Myc; and (iii) instructions describing a method for reprogramming a somatic cell to pluripotency, the method employing the ATFs and potency determining factors. In some cases, a kit provided herein further comprises or alternatively comprises instructions for designing artificial transcription factors.

[0088] It is understood that certain adaptations of the invention described in this disclosure are a matter of routine optimization for those skilled in the art, and can be implemented without departing from the spirit of the invention, or the scope of the appended claims. Various modifications and variations of the described method and system of the invention will be apparent to those skilled in the art without departing from the scope and spirit of the invention. It is understood, however, that examples and embodiments of the present invention set forth above are illustrative and not intended to confine the invention. The invention embraces all modified forms of the examples and embodiments as come within the scope of the following claims.

[0089] Unless defined otherwise, all technical and scientific terms used herein have the same meaning as commonly understood by one of ordinary skill in the art to which the invention pertains. Although any methods and materials similar to or equivalent to those described herein can be used in the practice or testing of the present invention, preferred methods and materials are described herein.

[0090] In the specification and in the claims, the terms "including" and "comprising" are open-ended terms and should be interpreted to mean "including, but not limited to . . . ." These terms encompass the more restrictive terms "consisting essentially of" and "consisting of." As used herein and in the appended claims, the singular forms "a", "an", and "the" include plural reference unless the context clearly dictates otherwise. As well, the terms "a" (or "an"), "one or more" and "at least one" can be used interchangeably herein. It is also to be noted that the terms "comprising," "including," "characterized by," and "having" can be used interchangeably.

[0091] As used herein, "about" means within 5% of a stated concentration, concentration range, or amount, or within 5% of a stated time frame.

[0092] As used herein, "effective amount" means an amount of an agent sufficient to evoke a specified cellular effect according to the present invention.

[0093] The invention will be more fully understood upon consideration of the following non-limiting Examples.

EXAMPLES

Example 1: Artificial Transcription Factor Library-Guided Cell Fate

[0094] In this Example, we demonstrate that Artificial Transcription Factors (ATFs), which are tailor-made molecules designed to bind DNA and regulate transcription in a desired manner, take cells through a different path to pluripotency compared to cells expressing exogenous Oct4.

[0095] Methods

[0096] Zinc Finger ATF Constructs for Testing Architecture:

[0097] The first two or all three zinc fingers of human EGR1 were used to test the ATF architecture. The peptide sequence (HPMNNLLNYVVPKMR (SEQ ID NO: 13)) preceding the DNA-binding domain served as the interac-

tion domain. The native nuclear localization signal for EGR1 was used to ensure entry into the nucleus. A tetrameric repeat of VP16 (VP64) served as the activation domain. Three repeats of hemagglutinin (HA) were used as a C-terminal epitope tag.

[0098] Zinc Finger ATF Library:

[0099] The scaffold of the ATF is comprised from N- to C-terminus: a 15-amino acid interaction domain, the DNA binding domain of human EGR1, NLS from EGR1, VP64, and 3×HA tag. The ATF library was created by amplifying oligos with VNN codons at the −1, 2, 3, and 6 positions relative to the recognition helix of each zinc finger. The ATF library was cloned into the second-generation pSIN vector by ligation-independent cloning. Estimation of the library complexity was measured by plating a fraction of the transformants on plates, and counting the number of colonies that grew from the fraction.

[0100] The zinc finger ATF library was created by ligation-independent cloning into a second-generation lentiviral expression vector that contains the ccdB toxin to eliminate background colonies (FIG. **16**). Ligation-independent cloning relies on long overhangs that improve the efficiency of insertion of the cassette to the vector. 30-bp overhangs were created by treating with T4 DNA polymerase with 3' to 5' exonuclease activity (FIG. **17**). The nucleotide content in the overhangs are such that a specific nucleotide is missing. The missing nucleotide was added to the reaction to terminate exonuclease activity in a predetermined manner. The chew-back of the ATF cassette was terminated with inclusion of cytosine and the pSIN vector with guanine. Homologous 30-bp overhangs were ligated together in a highly reliable manner without a DNA ligase. The long overhangs also increase the efficiency of ligation of the cassette to the vector.

[0101] A cassette containing the ccdB gene was cloned into pSIN with EcoRI and SpeI. The ccdB gene is encoded in the antisense direction

(SEQ ID NO: 14)

5'-GAATTCGGACCATACTCTATAATACTATCACTAACTTAATTAATTAT

ATTCCCCAGAACATCAGGTTAATGGCGTTTTTGATGTCATTTTCGCGGTG

GCTGAGATCAGCCACTTCTTCCCCGATAACGGAGACCGGCACACTGGCCA

TATCGGTGGTCATCATGCGCCAGCTTTCATCCCCGATATGCACCACCGGG

TAAAGTTCACGGGAGACTTTATCTGACAGCAGACGTGCACTGGCCAGGGG

GATCACCATCCGTCGCCCGGGCGTGTCAATAATATCACTCTGTACATCCA

CAAACAGACGATAACGGCTCTCTCTTTTATAGGTGTAAACCTTAAACTGC

ATTTCACCAGCCCCTGTTCTCGTCAGCAAAAGAGCCGTTCATTTCAATAA

ACCGGGCGACCTCAGCCATCCCTTCCTGATTTTCCGCTTTCCAGCGTTCG

GCACGCAGACGACGGGCTTCATTCTGCATGGTTGTGCTTACCAGACCGGA

GATATTGACATCATATATGCCTTGAGCAACTGATAGCTGTCGCTGTCAAC

TGTCACTGTAATACGCTGCTTCATAGCATACCTCTTTTTGACATACTTCG

GGTATACATATCAGTATATATTCTTATACCGCAAAAATCAGCGCGCAAAT

ACGCATACTGTTATCTGGCTTTTAGTAAGCCGGATCCACGCGGCGTTTAC

GCCCCCCCTGCCACTCATCGCAGTACTGTTGTAATTCATTAAGCATTCTG

-continued

CCGACATGGAAGCCATCACAAACGGCATGATGAACCTGAATCGCCAGCGG

CATCAGCACCTTGTCGCCTTGCGTATAATATTTGCCCATGGTGAAAACGG

GGGCGAAGAAGTTGTCCATATTGGCCACGTTTAAATCAAAACTGGTGAAA

CTCACCCAGGGATTGGCTGAGACGAAAAACATATTCTCAATAAACCCTTT

AGGGAAATAGGCCAGGTTTTCACCGTAACACGCCACATCTTGCGAATATA

TGTGTAGAAACTGCCGGAAATCGTCGTGGTATTCACTCCAGAGCGATGAA

AACGTTTCAGTTTGCTCATGGAAAACGGTGTAACAAGGGTGAACACTATC

CCATATCACCAGCTCACCGTCTTTCATTGCCATACGGAAGTTCGGATGAG

CATTCATCAGGCGGGCAAGAATGTGAATAAAGGCCGGATAAAACTTGTGC

TTATTTTTCTTTACGGTCTTTAAAAAGGCCGTAATATCCAGCTGAACGGT

CTGGTTATAGGTACATTGAGCAACTGACTGAAATGCCTCAAAATGTTCTT

TACGATGCCATTGGGATATATCAACGGTGGTATATCCAGTGATTTTTTTC

TCCATTTTAGCTTCCTTAGCTCCTGAAAATCTCGATAACTCAAAAAATAC

GCCCGGTAGTGATCTCGAGCCGGAAGCATAAAGTGTAAATTAATTAAGAT

TAGAGTTAAGTAAGGTATTAGTGACACTAGT -3'.

[0102] The zinc finger ATF library was created by ordering the following oligos from IDT and fusing them to the ATF scaffold that includes the interaction domain, nuclear localization signal, activation domain, and 3×HA tag:

Oligo 1:

(SEQ ID NO: 15)

5'-GGTACCATGCATCCTATGAACAACCTGCTGAACTACGTGGTGCCGAA

GATGAGACCTTACGCTTGCCCAGTGGAGTCCTGTGATCGCCGCTTCTCCV

NNTCCVNNVNNCTCACCVNNCACATCCGCATCCACACAGGCCAGAAGCCC

TTCCAGTGCCGCATCTGCATGCGCAACTTCAG -3'.

Oligo 2:

(SEQ ID NO: 16)

5'-CACAACACTTTTGTCTGCTTTCTTGTCCTTCTGCCGCAAGTGGATCT

TGGTATGNNBCTTGCGNNBNNBGCTNNBGGCAAACTTTCTTCCACAGATG

TCGCAGGCGAAGGGCTTTTCGCCTGTGTGGGTGCGGATGTGNNBGGTGAG

NNBNNBGCTNNBGCTGAAGTTGCGCATGCAGATGC -3'.

[0103] where V stands for A, C, or G and B stands for C, G, or T

Fragment 3 (in pcDNA vector):

(SEQ ID NO: 17)

5'-AAGGACAAGAAAGCAGACAAAAGTGTTGTGGGGCGCGCCGACGCGCT

GGACGATTTCGATCTCGACATGCTGGGTTCTGATGCCCTCGATGACTTTG

ACCTGGATATGTTGGGAAGCGACGCATTGGATGACTTTGATCTGGACATG

CTCGGCTCCGATGCTCTGGACGATTTCGATCTCGATATGTTAATTAACTA

CCCGTACGACGTTCCGGACTACGCTGGTTATCCCTATGACGTCCCGGATT

ATGCAGGATCCTATCCATATGACGTTCCAGATTACGCTTGA-3'.

[0104] In the first PCR Oligo 2 and Fragment 3 are amplified together with forward primer 1 and reverse primer 1.

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forward primer 1:
                                        (SEQ ID NO: 18)
5'- CCGCATCTGCATGCGCAACTTCAGC -3'.

reverse primer 1:
                                        (SEQ ID NO: 19)
5'- GCGGGCCCTCTAGACTCG -3'.
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[0105] In the second PCR the product from the first PCR and Oligo1 are amplified together with forward primer 2 and reverse primer 2.

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forward primer 2:
                                        (SEQ ID NO: 20)
5'-ACCATACTCTATAATACTATCACTAACTTAGCCGCCACCATGCATCC

TATGAACAACCTGCTGAACTACGTGG -3'.

reverse primer 2:
                                        (SEQ ID NO: 21)
5'-TCACTAATACCTTACTTAACTCTAATCTTAGTCAAGCGTAATCTGGA

ACGTCATATGGATAGGATCCTGC -3'.
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[0106] Both the ATF cassette and the pSIN-ccdB vector were digested with PacI and treated with T4 DNA polymerase, which has 3' to 5' exonuclease activity. The resulting vector was gel-extracted. The ligation was performed at a ratio of 1:6 (vector:cassette) without a DNA ligase. The ligation reaction was chemically transformed in ultracompetent XL-10 Gold cells. After 1 hour recovery in SOC media without antibiotic, the transformed culture was diluted in 150 mL SOC media with ampicillin (100 μg/mL). This culture was grown on a shaker at 37° C. for 12 hours. These cultures were maxiprepped for endotoxin-free purification of pSIN-plasmid. A small fraction ($1/10{,}000$) of the culture was plated on 4 plates before overnight incubation for counting purposes.

[0107] Estimation of the library complexity was measured by plating a fraction of the transformants on plates, and counting the number of colonies that grew from the fraction. A total of 210 transformations and 25 maxipreps were performed to cover the desired complexity.

[0108] The permutation of all 10-bp sequences is $4^{10}=1{,}048{,}576$. However, on duplex DNA, the complementary sequence will also be represented on the antisense strand. Palindromic sequences do not yield new sequences on the antisense strand. Therefore, $N=(n-1)+(4^n+4^{n/2})/2$, where N is the number of permutations on duplex DNA and n is the length in bp (if even) (2). For 10-bp sequences, there are 524,809 permutations that encompass the entire binding space on duplex DNA.

[0109] Sequencing of 100 clones revealed 60% of the ATFs contain functional ATFs (53% with 3 zinc fingers, 6% with 2 zinc fingers, and 1% with 4 zinc fingers). The remainder of sequences yielded poor reads (4%) or contained a frameshift mutation (36%). Accounting for the efficiency of creating functional ATFs, we predicted 4.37×10^6 clones would be sufficient would be sufficient to achieve the desired complexity. Cloning of the library was repeated until the maxiprep cultures yielded a clone count of 5.56×10^6 CFU.

[0110] To determine the diversity of the library, the sequences of 100 functional ATFs were determined by Sanger sequencing. All 16 possible amino acids encoded by VNN codons were represented in the recognition residues. This sample size is representative of the library at a 95% confidence interval and a margin of error of 9.8%.

[0111] Cell Culture:

[0112] Oct4:Cre$^{mER\text{-}Cre\text{-}mER}$; mTmG mouse embryonic fibroblasts (MEFs) were grown in DMEM supplemented with 10% fetal bovine serum on plates coated with 0.1% gelatin. Mouse E14T ES cells and iPS cells were grown in knock-out DMEM supplemented with 15% fetal bovine serum, 1% nonessential amino acids, 2 mM L-glutamine, 1×10^3 units/mL leukemia inhibitory factor, 1 mM sodium pyruvate, and 100 μM beta-mercaptoethanol. 4-hydroxytamoxifen was added at 100 nM concentration. Pluripotent cells were maintained on irradiated MEFs. Cells were maintained in a humidified 37° C. incubator with 5% CO_2.

[0113] Luciferase Assay:

[0114] The palindromic EGR1 binding site 5'-GCG-TGG-GCG-CGC-CCC-CGC-3' (SEQ ID NO: 1) was cloned upstream of the luciferase gene in the pGL3 basic vector (Promega). HEK293 cells were transiently co-transfected with ATF in pcDNA-CMV, the pGL3 basic luciferase reporter, and a RSV-β-galactosidase reporter. The transfection was performed with Lipofectamine® 2000 (Thermo Fisher Scientific #11668019). Cells were collected and lysed 24 hours post-transfection. Luciferase assay (Promega #E4030) was performed according to manufacture guidelines, and readings were normalized to β-galactosidase levels to account for transfection efficiency. Significance values were obtained by one-way ANOVA of the $\log_{10}$ transformed β-galactosidase-normalized luciferase values in SPSS Statistics 23.0.0.0 (IBM). A Tukey test was performed for post hoc analysis of treatments with statistically significant differences.

[0115] Retrovirus Production:

[0116] Oct4, Sox2, Klf4, and c-Myc were packaged into retrovirus with Plat-E cells as described in (Takahashi et al., 2007a).

[0117] Lentivirus Production:

[0118] ATFs and the empty control were packaged into lentivirus with HEK293FT cells using calcium phosphate transfection of pSIN expression, psPAX2 packaging, and pMD2.G envelope plasmids. Media containing virus was harvested 48-60 hours post-transfection. Lentivirus was centrifuged with a sucrose cushion at 25,000 rpm for 2 hours. Viral particles were suspended in PBS and concentrated virus was stored at −80° C. Viral titers were measured by counting cells that survived selection after 2 days in media containing puromycin (3 μg/mL). The ATF is driven by a constitutive promoter, EF1α.

[0119] Reprogramming to Pluripotent Cells:

[0120] Oct4: Cre$^{mER\text{-}Cre\text{-}mER}$; mTmG MEFs were maintained on 0.1% gelatin in DMEM supplemented with 10% FBS until the day of transduction. Lentiviruses and retroviruses were delivered to MEFs with polybrene (8 μg/mL). The ATF Library was delivered at MOI=3, and validation of ATFs were performed with MOI=3 for each ATF. The Empty lentiviral control was delivered at an MOI=9. Oct4 (500 μL), Sox2 (500 μL), Klf4 (500 μL), and c-Myc (300 μL) were delivered to the cells at the same time of ATF transduction as fresh retrovirus. Lentivirus and retrovirus was removed 18 hours after transduction. Selection of lentiviral integra-

tion events was performed 42 hours post-transduction by addition of puromycin (3 μg/mL) for 2 days in mouse ES cell media (knock-out DMEM supplemented with 15% fetal bovine serum, 1% nonessential amino acids, 2 mM L-glutamine, 1×10^3 units/mL leukemia inhibitory factor, 1 mM sodium pyruvate, and 100 μM beta-mercaptoethanol). Cells undergoing reprogramming were maintained in mouse ES cell media with 4-hydroxytamoxifen (100 nM) on irradiated MEFs. Fully reprogrammed colonies were picked and expanded. To obtain doubling times, iPS cells were grown on 0.1% gelatin.

[0121] Identification of ATFs from Single Cells:

[0122] Cells with a positive phenotype for Oct4 lineage tracing activation were isolated as single cells into a 96-well plate. Amplified regions were cloned into pcDNA with a CMV promoter. ATF sequences were deciphered by Sanger sequencing with a primer for the 3' end of the CMV promoter.

TABLE 1

Primers for 2-Step Nested PCR

Primer	Sequence (5' to 3')
ATF-forward-1	TACTATCACTAACTTAGCCGCCACCATG (SEQ ID NO: 23)
ATF-reverse-1	GAGGGCA TCAGAACCCAGCATG (SEQ ID NO: 24)
ATF-forward-2	CATCAGCTAGCGCTGAACTACGTGGTGCCGAAG (SEQ ID NO: 25)
ATF-reverse-2	CGCGTCGGCGCGCCCCACAACACTTTTGTCTGC (SEQ ID NO: 26)
CMV-forward	CGCAAATGGGCGGTAGGCGTG (SEQ ID NO: 27)

[0123] The number of sequences obtained to reach saturation was determined by calculating the probability that the chance of finding another unique ATF is less than 1%: $(1-1/(n+1))^x<0.01$, where n is the number of unique ATFs identified and x is the number of sequences needed.

TABLE 2

Number of Sequences Necessary for Saturation

# of Unique ATFs Identified (n)	# of Sequences Needed (x)
3	17
4	21
5	26
6	30
7	35
8	40
9	44
10	49

[0124] Embryoid Body Formation:

[0125] For embryoid body (EB) formation, pluripotent cells were seeded into ultra-low adhesion dishes at a concentration of 1×10^5 cells/mL in knock-out DMEM supplemented with 15% fetal bovine serum, 1% nonessential amino acids, 2 mM L-glutamine, 1 mM sodium pyruvate, 100 μM beta-mercaptoethanol. Media was changed the day after seeding and every two days thereafter. EBs were collected on Day 5, 7, and 14 for RT-qPCR and immunofluorescence. Cells were maintained in a humidified 37° C. incubator with 5% CO_2.

[0126] Immunofluorescence:

[0127] EBs were plated on adherent plates on Day 5, 7, and 14 to culture EB outgrowths. iPS cells, EBs, or EB outgrowths were plated on glass slides coated with 0.1% gelatin for immunofluorescence. Antibody sources and dilutions are described in the Supplemental Experimental Procedures.

[0128] RT-qPCR:

[0129] RNA was extracted from cells with RNeasy Mini Kit (Qiagen #74104). RNA was converted into cDNA with SuperScript III First-Strand Synthesis System (Thermo Fisher #18080051). qPCR was performed with Bullseye EvaGreen qPCR Mix with low ROX (Midwest Scientific #BEQPCR-LR). Primer sets are listed in Table 3.

TABLE 3

Primers for qPCR

Primer	Sequence (5' to 3')	SEQ ID NO:
Endogenous Oct4 forward	TCAGTGATGCTGTTGATCAGG	28
Endogenous Oct4 reverse	GCTATCTACTGTGTGTCCCAGTC	29
Endogenous Sox2 forward	CCGTTTTCGTGGTCTTGTTT	30
Endogenous Sox2 reverse	TCAACCTGCATGGACATTTT	31
Nanog forward	AAACCAGTGGTTGAAGACTAGCAA	32
Nanog reverse	GGTGCTGAGCCCTTCTGAATC	33
Lin28 forward	GAAGAACATGCAGAAGCGAAGA	34
Lin28 reverse	CCGCAGTTGTAGCACCTGTCT	35
Esrrb forward	CACCTGCTAAAAAGCCATTGACT	36
Esrrb reverse	CAACCCCTAGTAGATTCGAGACGAT	37
Utf1 forward	GTCCCTCTCCGCGTTAGC	38
Utf1 reverse	GGCAGGTTCGTCATTTTCC	39
T forward	CTGTGGCTGCGCTTCAAGG	40
T reverse	ATTGGGGTCCAGGCCTGAC	41
Nkx 2.5 forward	TGACCCTGACCCAGCCAAAG	42
Nkx 2.5 reverse	GAGAAGAGCACGCGTGGCTTC	43
Kdr forward	CATCCCCCCAAGCTCAGCAC	44
Kdr reverse	ACGCTGAGCATTGGGCCAAAG	45
Afp forward	CACTGTCCAAGCAAAGCTGCG	46
Afp reverse	GAGGTCAGCTGAGGGGCTTTC	47
Ttr forward	GGATCCTGGGAGCCCTTTGC	48
Ttr reverse	TCATCTGTGGTGAGCCCGTG	49

TABLE 3-continued

Primers for qPCR

Primer	Sequence (5' to 3')	SEQ ID NO:
FoxA2 forward	TGGGAGCCGTGAAGATGGAAG	50
FoxA2 reverse	CAGGCCGGCGTTCATGTTG	51
Nes forward	GCAGAGAGGCGCTGGAACAG	52
Nes reverse	CCCTGCTTCTCCTGCTCCAG	53
Nef1 forward	CTGGAGAAGCAGCTGCAGGAG	54
Nef1 reverse	CTGGCCATCTCGCTCTTCGTG	55
Sox17 forward	GCGGTTGGCACAGCAGAAC	56
Sox17 reverse	GCTCGGCCTCTTCCACGAAG	57
GAPDH forward	ACATCATCCCTGCATCCACT	58
GAPDH reverse	CCTGCTTCACCACCTTCTTG	59

[0130] Chromatin Immunoprecipitation:

[0131] For chromatin immunoprecipitation, 5×10^6 cells were fixed in 1.5% formaldehyde for 15 min. Harvested cells were flash frozen, then sonicated and lysed. Lysates were precleared and immunoprecipitated overnight with H3K27ac antibody (Abcam #ab4729), H3K9me3 antibody (Abcam #ab8898), or HA antibody (Abcam #ab9110) at 4° C. Immunoprecipitated histone marks were purified with protein G magnetic beads (Life Technologies #10004D) and a series of five washes. Cross-links of protein-DNA complexes were reversed by incubating at 65° C. for 6 hours. Eluted DNA was treated with RNase A and Proteinase K.

[0132] For histone marks, 6×10^6 cells were harvested, and for ATFs, 2.5×10^7 cells were harvested. Cells were fixed in 1.5% formaldehyde, then flash frozen. Cells were lysed with a series of 3 buffers: LB1, LB2, and LB3. LB1 consisted of 10 mM HEPES, 10 mM EDTA, 0.5 mM EGTA, and 0.25% Triton X-100. LB2 consisted of 200 mM NaCl, 10 mM HEPES, 1 mM EDTA, and 0.5 mM EGTA. LB3 consisted of 50 mM Tris-HCl, 10 mM EDTA, 0.5% Empigen BB, and 1% SDS. Samples were sonicated in a Misonix sonicator (S-4000) at 60% power, 10 sec on and 10 off, for a total of 32 min total pulse time. Samples were cleared by centrifugation 17,000×g for 10 min. For pre-clearing, samples were incubated with magnetic Protein G beads (Life Technologies #10003D) for 1 hour at 4° C. After pre-clearing, 1% of each sample was saved as input. Samples were incubated with the appropriate antibody, H3K27ac antibody (Abcam #ab4729), H3K9me3 antibody (Abcam #ab8898), or HA antibody (Abcam #ab9110), overnight at 4° C. with IP Buffer (2 mM EDTA, 150 mM NaCl, 20 mM Tris-HCl, and 1% Triton X-100). Protein-DNA complexes on magnetic beads were washed in WB1 once, WB2, once, WB3 once, and TE Buffer twice. WB1 consisted of 2 mM EDTA, 20 mM Tris-HCl, 0.1% SDS, 1% Triton X-100, 150 mM NaCl). WB2 consisted of 2 mM EDTA, 20 mM Tris-HCl, 0.1% SDS, 1% Triton X-100, and 500 mM NaCl. WB3 consisted of 1 mM EDTA, 10 mM Tris-HCl, 250 mM LiCl, 1% deoxycholate, and 1% NP-40 detergent. DNA was eluted in 0.1 M $NaHCO_3$, 0.2 M NaCl, and 1% SDS (sodium dodecyl sulfate).

[0133] Protein-DNA complexes were reverse crosslinked by incubation at 65° C. for 6 hours. DNA was treated with RNase A and Proteinase K. Captured DNA was column purified (Epoch Life Sciences #1920-250). Samples were prepared for sequencing with the TruSeq ChIP Sample Preparation Kit (Illumina #IP-202-1012) as per the manufacturer instructions and quantified with a Qubit fluorometer (Life Technologies #Q32866). Three, four or six TruSeq indexed ChIP samples were pooled per lane. All samples were loaded at a final concentration of 8 pM and sequenced as single reads on the Illumina HiSeq 2500.

[0134] RNA-Seq Analysis:

[0135] Reads were aligned with Bowtie2 version 2.2.5 to either the human genome hg19 (HEK293) or mouse genome mm10 (MEFs or cells derived from MEFs). Counts were quantified with Cufflinks software, and differential expression was determined using the Cuffdiff program.

[0136] ChIP-Seq Analysis:

[0137] Reads were annotated to the mouse genome mm10 with Bowtie2 version 2.2.5. Output Sequence Alignment/Map (SAM) files of sequence data were converted to BAM files, which store the same data in a compressed, indexed, binary form, and then were sorted and indexed with Samtools 1.3. H3K27ac peaks were called with SPP and IDR using default settings. H3K27ac and H3K9me3 peaks were called with MACS2. Differential peak signals were determined by DiffBind 1.16.2. Spearman correlations were calculated with deepTools 2.2.2. ChIP peaks were visualized with Integrative Genomics Viewer (IGV). Coverage tracks were used to generate heatmaps and ChIP-seq profiles for multiple genes in deepTools.

[0138] Cognate Site Identification:

[0139] Cognate Site Identification was performed by incubating cell lysates containing zinc finger ATFs with a randomized library of 25-bp sequences. HEK293 cells were transiently transfected with ATFs using lipofectamine 2000 (Thermo Fisher #11668019). Cells that underwent a mock transfection (without an expression plasmid for ATFs) served as a negative control. Cells were harvested 48 hours post-transfection. Lysates were prepared by lysing 10^7 cells in 300 μL of lysis buffer (50 mM Tris-HCl pH 7.5, 150 mM NaCl, 1% Triton X-100, and 0.1% Na deoxycholate). A 21.5 G syringe needle was used for mechanical lysis. Lysates were centrifuged at 10 k×g for 10 min to separate precipitated genomic DNA from protein constituents. The supernatant, containing ATF protein, was used for CSI. HA magnetic beads (MBL #M132-9) were added to the cell lysates for immunoprecipitation. The binding reaction between the ATFs and 100 nM synthetic DNA was performed in binding buffer (25 mM HEPES, 80 mM KCl, 0.2 mM EDTA, 1 mM $MgCl_2$, 0.1 mM $ZnSO_4$) at 25° C. After pull-down, three quick washes with 100 μL ice-cold binding buffer were performed to remove unbound DNA. Magnetic beads were resuspended in a PCR master mix (Lucigen #30035-1) and the DNA was amplified for 15 or 18 cycles. Amplified DNA was column purified (Qiagen #28106), and this enriched DNA pool was used for the subsequent round of enrichment, for a total of three rounds. After three rounds of selection, Illumina sequencing adapters and a unique 6 bp barcode for multiplexing were added by PCR amplification. The starting library (Round 0) was also barcoded. Up to 180 samples were combined and sequenced in a single HiSeq2000 lane.

[0140] Cognate Site Identification Data Analysis:

[0141] Illumina sequencing yielded ~180 million reads per lane. Reads were de-multiplexed by requiring an exact match to the 6 bp barcode and truncated to include only the 25 bp derived from the random portion of the library. On average, we obtained 709,300 reads per barcode. The occurrence of every k-mer (lengths 8 through 16 bp) was counted using a sliding window of size k. To correct for biases in our starting DNA library, we took the ratio of the counts of every k-mer to the expected number of counts in the mock-transfected control. The mock control was modeled using a 5^{th}-order Markov Model derived from the sequencing reads corresponding to the starting library (Round 0). We then calculated a

$$Z\text{-score}=(x-\mu)/\sigma$$

or (CSI score minus mean)/standard deviation for each k-mer, using the distribution of k-mer enrichment values (CSI score) for the ATF.

[0142] Bioinformatic Analysis of ATF Binding Sites:

[0143] The genomic locations of the top five or 100 high-scoring 10-bp motifs from CSI were identified in the mm10 genome by the findMotif utility from the UCSC Genome Browser. These genomic sites were annotated using Homer. Annotated sites were filtered to those within +1 kb of the TSS. For correlation to RNA-seq data, only the genes exhibiting a 2-fold upregulation or more and found significant at $p<0.05$ in three pairwise comparisons (C2+SKM iPS vs. Empty+SKM early; C2+SKM early vs. Empty+SKM early; C2+SKM iPS vs. Oct4+SKM iPS) were included. For the other ATF-derived iPS lines, the condition C2+SKM was replaced with C3+SKM or C4+SKM. The identified ATF target genes were included as nodes in the transcriptional network if they were previously implicated in pluripotency (Buganim et al., *Cell* 150(6):1209-1222, 2012; Heng et al., *Cell Stem Cell* 6(2):167-174, 2010; Kim et al., *Cell* 132(6): 1049-1061, 2008; Krentz et al., *Dev Biol* 377(1):67-78, 2013; Lujan et al., *Nature* 521(7552):352-356, 2015; Marson et al., *Cell* 134(3):521-533, 2008; Sharov et al., *BMC Genomics* 9(1):269, 2008; Shu et al., *Cell* 153(5):963-975, 2013; Som et al., *PLoS ONE* 5(12):e15165, 2010). The STRING database was used to identify protein-protein interactions.

[0144] Results

[0145] ATF Architecture and Library Design:

[0146] To determine the best architecture for a zinc finger ATF library, we tested the impact of each modular domain on the level of induction. The zinc finger backbone is derived from human Early Growth Response 1 (EGR1) (also known as Transcription Factor ZIF268), a well-studied scaffold for zinc finger ATFs. EGR1 comprises C2H2-type zinc fingers which bind to DNA motifs having the sequence 5'-GCG(T/G)GGGCG-3'. We fused VP64, a tetrameric repeat of the 11-amino acid activation region of VP16, a potent transactivation domain from the herpes simplex virus (FIG. **1**A) (Triezenberg et al., 1988). To the N-terminus of the zinc fingers, we attached a 15-amino acid peptide that serves as an interaction domain (ID), reported to allow dimerization of the ATF to another ATF with the hydrophobic surface of the first zinc finger of EGR1 (Wang et al., 2001). This ID adds a novel layer of control to the ATF library by allowing the ATFs to capitalize on cooperative binding (Moretti and Ansari, 2008). The nuclear localization signal (NLS) comes from the native NLS of EGR1. A palindromic cognate site for EGR1 was placed upstream of a luciferase reporter to test the contribution of each domain in activating the reporter. The luciferase assay demonstrated that the activation domain is essential and the ID enhances activation about 8-fold (FIG. **1**B). Nuclear localization did not dramatically enhance activation because the ATF is 23 kDa, small enough to diffuse through the nuclear pore passively (Wang and Brattain, 2007); however, we retained the NLS in the architecture to maximize the ATF's level of induction. When the ATF is too large to passively diffuse into the nucleus, an NLS is advantageously provided in the ATF. Because we wanted to create an ATF library of high complexity, which was as comprehensive as practically possible, it was necessary to determine the minimum number of zinc fingers required to have a transcriptional effect. Toward this end, we compared a two-zinc finger ATF with a three-zinc finger ATF in a luciferase assay (FIG. **8**A). The two-zinc finger ATF could only activate the luciferase reporter two-fold over background, while the three-zinc finger ATF was capable of activating 329-fold over background, so we used the three-zinc finger scaffold in the final design.

[0147] Next, we identified the in vitro binding preferences for two- and three-zinc finger ATFs with and without the ID. Cognate site identification (CSI) enables the discovery of sequence specificity out of a library of 25-bp sequences (FIG. **8**B) (Rodriguez-Martinez et al., 2016; Tietjen et al., 2011). This method involves multiple rounds of enrichment for sequences bound by the DNA-binding factor of interest. The enriched sequences of each round can be multiplexed and sequenced in a high-throughput manner. Rather than focusing on single consensus motifs, the comprehensive binding site specificity of the factor can be displayed in a Specificity and Energy Landscape (SEL) (FIG. **1**C). Although the SELs for the ATFs with and without an ID are nearly identical for the EGR1 cognate site (FIG. **8**D), there is a set of sequences only targeted by the ATF with the ID (FIG. **1**D). Interestingly, the two-zinc finger ATFs target a distinct motif, rather than the expected 5'-(T/G)GG-GCG-3' site that is bound by the first two fingers of EGR1, emphasizing the dependency of neighboring zinc fingers on binding preferences (Isalan et al., 1997).

[0148] To determine how the ATFs impact global transcription, we performed RNA-seq on four ATFs with different architectures. The ATFs either had the first two or all three zinc fingers of EGR1 as the DBD, with and without the ID. Compared to the mock control, the two-zinc finger ATFs had little impact on altering the transcriptional profile (FIGS. **1**E, **8**E, and **8**F). On the other hand, the three-zinc finger ATF with the ID altered the expression of 104 genes (100 upregulated, 4 downregulated) and the three-zinc finger ATF without the ID altered the expression of 57 genes (55 upregulated, 2 downregulated) (FIG. **1**E). Most of the genes were upregulated compared to the mock control, and the repressed genes could be attributed to indirect effects of the ATFs. As the three-zinc finger ATF with the ID was capable of binding as a monomer or dimer, most of the subset of genes upregulated by the three-zinc finger ATF without the ID could also be activated by the three-zinc finger ATF with the ID (FIG. **8**E). For 27 genes, the ID increased the level of induction triggered by the three-zinc finger ATF. Taking all these results into consideration, the ATF library was created on a scaffold which includes, from N to C terminus: an

interaction domain, three zinc fingers with the backbone of EGR1, NLS from EGR1, VP64 activation domain, and a 3× hemagglutinin (HA) tag.

[0149] The library was created by incorporating VNN codons, where V is A, C, or G, at the recognition residues (−1, 2, 3, and 6). Use of VNN codons prevents incorporation of premature stop codons within the ORF, and permits the incorporation of 16 different amino acids (FIG. **1**F). The library was cloned into a second-generation lentiviral system to ensure efficient delivery to mammalian cells. The ATF is driven by the constitutively active EF-1α promoter, which resists silencing in mammalian cells compared to other constitutive promoters (Teschendorf et al., 2001). The sequence space for all 9-bp sequences is 2.62×10^5 different sequence permutations. We created an ATF library with a complexity of 2.62×10^6, ten times the targeted sequence space. Sanger sequencing of 100 clones confirmed success of our design with incorporation of all 16 amino acids at each recognition residue, suggesting diverse representation in the library (FIG. **1**F and Table 4).

TABLE 4

Diversity of the ATF library

	Finger 1				Finger 2				Finger 3			
	−1	2	3	6	−1	2	3	6	−1	2	3	6
1	A	P	G	S	Q	L	K	V	V	H	T	R
2	R	T	R	G	L	Q	A	Q	N	D	P	L
3	K	R	G	T	T	L	P	T	E	M	H	H
4	G	G	L	R	D	M	A	P	N	H	L	L
5	L	R	L	Q	L	K	I	L	I	T	L	T
6	V	V	R	R	T	P	I	Q	T	P	V	I
7	G	T	V	V	E	E	Q	K	S	L	P	T
8	I	T	M	G	G	P	T	P	G	E	T	G
9	M	M	T	G	D	R	P	S	L	D	M	R
10	G	A	V	A	R	P	I	D	R	I	D	N
11	T	K	V	E	T	R	V	V	L	T	L	L
12	M	V	R	T	D	N	N	A	K	I	I	Q
13	N	H	R	A	G	A	G	D	L	R	Q	P
14	V	G	E	P	L	P	N	I	Q	E	G	K
15	V	E	K	K	R	H	R	R	T	H	T	K
16	G	G	R	P	T	V	Q	I	R	E	V	H
17	G	L	E	A	P	S	A	S	Q	L	I	Q
18	D	I	T	I	I	N	D	G	L	V	K	T
19	R	V	D	T	G	A	L	K	S	T	P	P
20	P	K	G	R	P	K	N	L	R	N	T	R
21	R	A	G	H	T	P	I	I	K	E	H	D
22	K	G	H	V	R	H	P	H	S	T	I	R
23	E	V	N	Q	T	N	T	L	A	Q	P	T
24	E	P	R	T	L	V	P	T	V	N	T	T
25	V	A	G	A	A	T	I	Q	A	A	R	K
26	A	S	V	I	T	P	G	P	V	R	G	E
27	T	A	V	E	S	S	M	G	V	P	V	T
28	V	D	T	V	D	D	E	D	E	R	K	E
29	T	S	V	G	Q	A	T	R	P	T	L	D
30	H	I	V	V	T	T	H	R	T	V	R	Q
31	K	R	P	V	T	E	E	P	D	V	H	K
32	G	N	P	I	P	T	G	E	Q	P	G	G
33	R	G	G	G	A	H	L	T	S	A	P	H
34	R	V	L	T	R	R	S	G	R	I	L	S
35	R	I	R	I	P	P	P	P	P	L	L	P
36	A	L	I	T	L	I	L	P	V	N	R	H
37	K	L	R	V	I	G	S	H	H	H	P	T
38	I	A	D	A	T	K	A	Q	N	K	K	T
39	K	E	I	A	P	N	S	R	H	T	R	H
40	G	G	P	N	H	P	M	A	P	T	N	L
41	S	R	G	V	A	R	T	K	L	P	P	A
42	L	R	P	R	K	Q	N	N	S	R	P	H
43	N	G	G	P	H	P	P	P	L	R	E	Q
44	P	R	R	K	D	H	G	R	P	R	T	M
45	K	E	H	G	R	D	A	L	D	T	S	S

TABLE 4-continued

Diversity of the ATF library

	Finger 1				Finger 2				Finger 3			
	−1	2	3	6	−1	2	3	6	−1	2	3	6
46	L	G	T	L	L	P	T	Q	I	T	I	N
47	P	K	T	G	A	G	H	E	Q	S	T	G
48	V	D	E	G	T	R	E	R	H	T	L	N
49	L	D	R	L	D	P	P	A	R	T	D	P
50	G	R	D	I	N	A	P	P	Q	I	I	V
51	V	G	V	P	L	T	Q	I	K	T	I	T
52	L	S	L	G	N	T	Q	S	S	T	I	A
53	I	L	A	G	M	K	P	T	D	R	R	G
54	R	R	A	G	D	L	K	R	E	K	E	P
55	R	R	L	R	T	T	L	V	H	H	K	P
56	A	L	P	G	H	G	P	L	S	T	A	I
57	P	R	E	I	I	K	K	P	D	N	I	M
58	G	M	S	Q	Q	P	D	L	K	Q	K	N
59	I	R	G	V	R	L	L	R	Q	T	P	I
60	R	R	G	G	I	T	P	E	P	L	R	K
61	I	G	A	G	S	N	Q	A	R	I	H	R
62	Q	R	E	V	N	K	T	T	D	T	Q	H
63	K	I	T	A	H	R	I	N	A	P	G	E
64	R	G	G	E	L	P	L	I	N	R	D	N
65	G	G	Q	R	L	H	P	M	K	R	N	T
66	R	I	Q	R	P	P	I	T	L	L	T	I
67	I	T	P	L	T	P	P	L	T	T	M	D
68	V	S	T	V	P	A	T	N	R	I	T	I
69	K	L	L	R	V	T	M	L	K	R	V	G
70	A	L	V	L	H	S	H	H	A	A	G	R
71	S	Q	E	A	D	R	I	S	L	P	A	H
72	K	D	G	G	T	I	A	G	V	G	L	V
73	R	R	K	P	P	T	K	R	E	P	T	Q
74	T	D	R	Q	P	V	A	K	K	T	K	T
75	D	L	V	E	T	P	T	Q	M	L	D	I
76	I	G	R	R	T	L	P	A	D	Q	K	I
77	K	M	T	L	A	N	L	S	K	R	P	S
78	V	E	P	P	I	V	G	Q	E	T	I	E
79	G	L	T	E	Q	V	A	E	K	R	L	P
80	V	P	E	G	A	K	N	Q	D	L	G	I
81	R	I	P	K	R	P	L	L	T	E	G	R
82	G	G	R	V	I	P	R	N	T	P	G	T
83	G	A	I	G	S	P	I	D	A	R	P	G
84	L	L	A	N	P	R	R	L	T	I	H	S
85	R	S	M	S	I	I	P	D	H	T	P	T
86	D	V	R	R	E	A	P	G	P	I	L	V
87	E	G	G	N	L	R	K	N	T	L	A	S
88	V	G	G	D	P	R	L	V	S	E	K	A
89	V	R	V	R	Q	P	R	G	A	R	S	G
90	P	K	R	R	K	G	G	V	K	D	L	A
91	V	M	M	G	I	L	H	Q	P	P	T	T
92	L	T	P	V	H	P	A	S	L	A	D	A
93	G	M	R	I	I	V	A	V	T	I	E	L
94	P	G	L	K	D	S	L	T	P	E	A	H
95	N	V	R	V	R	R	P	K	R	G	I	R
96	I	R	L	M	P	A	P	A	D	E	D	K
97	R	G	A	A	P	A	K	P	T	P	K	Q
98	V	E	I	G	Q	I	Q	P	P	I	L	T
99	E	R	A	P	N	P	A	P	L	R	L	D
100	P	D	A	R	T	G	T	N	T	I	K	P

[0150] ATF Library can Activate the Pluripotency Network:

[0151] We asked whether ATFs in the library could replace the key regulator of pluripotency, Oct4, in the cocktail of transcription factors that triggers the pluripotency network, Oct4, Sox2, Klf4, and c-Myc (OSKM). In order to test a library, capable of sampling thousands of sites in the genome, it was necessary to have a robust read-out of positive phenotypes (FIG. **2**A). Toward this end, we used mouse embryonic fibroblasts (MEFs) isolated from a transgenic mouse line that allows lineage tracing of endogenous Oct4 transcription (FIG. **2**B) (Greder et al., 2012). In these

cells, tamoxifen-inducible Cre recombinase (MerCreMer) is expressed when the endogenous pluripotency associated gene, Oct4, is transcribed. In the presence of 4-hydroxytamoxifen, the recombinase removes Tomato from the ROSA locus, and transmembrane-bound GFP is expressed. Consequently, $Tomato^{+}GFP^{-}$ MEFs become $Tomato^{-}GFP^{+}$ cells after endogenous Oct4 is activated, and GFP expression is maintained in all their cell progeny.

[0152] The ATF library was transduced in MEFs (MOI=3) with Sox2, Klf4, and c-Myc (SKM). As a positive control, we delivered OSKM to MEFs (FIG. **9**A). To account for reprogramming events induced by SKM, alone, we delivered lentivirus with an empty ORF in place of the ATF. The lentivirus with the empty ORF accounted for false positive events that could arise from lentiviral delivery or integration of a strong constitutive promoter at relevant genomic sites. We also included a condition with the ATF library alone, as well as untreated MEFs. The lentiviruses encode a puromycin resistance gene, used for selection of cells with integration events. After 15 days in culture with ES cell media, $Tomato^{-}GFP^{+}$ cells were sorted by flow cytometry. Compared to OSKM, MEFs treated with the ATF library underwent significant cell death. Among those that survived, 0.229% of the ATF library+SKM cells were $Tomato^{-}GFP^{+}$, compared to 0.033% for OSKM, and 0% for untreated MEFs (FIG. **2**C). No $Tomato^{-}GFP^{+}$ cells were observed in the cells treated with ATF library alone, or Empty+SKM control. $Tomato^{-}GFP^{+}$ cells from the condition of ATF library+SKM were isolated as single cells for further analysis. Of the ATF library+SKM cells, a small fraction (0.8%) of cells were $Tomato^{+}GFP^{+}$. Because the half-life of Tomato fluorescent protein is ~24 hours, there is a period of time after Oct4 is activated when the cells are double positive. We sorted these cells separately to determine whether the ATFs expressed in the double positive cells were different from those expressed in the $Tomato^{-}GFP^{+}$ cells.

[0153] Since multiple ATFs can potentially act in concert to activate the pluripotency network, we identified the ATFs from single cells to capture ATF combinations that had been sufficient, in concert with exogenous SKM, to activate endogenous Oct4 transcription and induce GFP expression. Preliminary evaluation of iPS colonies derived from the screen with mixed combinations of ATFs showed high levels of pluripotency markers (FIG. **9**C). Eleven isolated GFP^{+} cells were subjected to two-step nested PCR of genomic DNA, and sequencing results revealed 11 unique combinations of ATFs (FIG. **2**D and Table 5). The range of ATFs varied between two and ten ATFs within a single cell. ZFATF1 (blue) and ZFATF2 (orange) appeared in most of the combinations; however, an additional ATF was necessary for conversion to a bona fide iPS cell state. One ATF from cells #4-11 obtained a frameshift mutation near the N-terminus, resulting in a 163-aa protein product that does not code for a zinc finger protein (ZFATF5). Only the interaction domain, as well as the first 19 amino acids of the first zinc finger, remain intact. Protein homology at the primary structure revealed that the ATF with the frameshift mutation has low homology to zinc finger protein 3-like from *Gorilla gorilla* (*G. gorilla*); however, the homology occurs not in the DBD of the *G. gorilla* protein, but in the region C-terminal to the DBD (FIG. **9**B). Homology to this uncharacterized transcription factor suggests that the ATF with the frameshift mutation retains a functional role, although the mechanism of regulating gene expression is not obvious from the primary structure.

TABLE 5

Experimental conditions with trial numbers.

Condition	Alias	Trials	iPS cells generated	Lentivirus	Retrovirus
1	OSKM	5	yes (n = 5)	N/A	Oct4, Sox2, Klf4, c-Myc
2	Empty + SKM	5	no	Empty	Sox2, Klf4, c-Myc
3	C2 + SKM	5	yes (n = 5)	ZFATF1, ZFATF2, ZFATF3	Sox2, Klf4, c-Myc
4	C3 + SKM	5	yes (n = 5)	ZFATF1, ZFATF2, ZFATF4	Sox2, Klf4, c-Myc
5	C4 + SKM	5	yes (n = 5)	ZFATF1, ZFATF2, ZFATF5	Sox2, Klf4, c-Myc
6	ZFATF1 + ZFATF2 + SKM	3	no	ZFATF1, ZFATF2	Sox2, Klf4, c-Myc
7	ZFATF1 + ZFATF3 + SKM	3	no	ZFATF1, ZFATF3	Sox2, Klf4, c-Myc
8	ZFATF1 + ZFATF4 + SKM	3	yes (n = 1)	ZFATF1, ZFATF4	Sox2, Klf4, c-Myc
9	ZFATF1 + ZFATF5 + SKM	1	no	ZFATF1, ZFATF5	Sox2, Klf4, c-Myc
10	ZFATF2 + ZFATF3 + SKM	3	no	ZFATF2, ZFATF3	Sox2, Klf4, c-Myc
11	ZFATF2 + ZFATF4 + SKM	3	no	ZFATF2, ZFATF4	Sox2, Klf4, c-Myc
12	ZFATF2 + ZFATF5 + SKM	2	no	ZFATF2, ZFATF5	Sox2, Klf4, c-Myc
13	ZFATF1 + SKM	3	no	ZFATF1	Sox2, Klf4, c-Myc
14	ZFATF2 + SKM	3	no	ZFATF2	Sox2, Klf4, c-Myc
15	ZFATF3 + SKM	3	no	ZFATF3	Sox2, Klf4, c-Myc

TABLE 5-continued

Experimental conditions with trial numbers.

Condition	Alias	Trials	iPS cells generated	Lentivirus	Retrovirus
16	ZFATF4 + SKM	3	no	ZFATF4	Sox2, Klf4, c-Myc
17	ZFATF5 + SKM	1	no	ZFATF5	Sox2, Klf4, c-Myc
18	C2 + SK	1	no	ZFATF1, ZFATF2, ZFATF3	Sox2, Klf4
19	C2	1	no	ZFATF1, ZFATF2, ZFATF3	N/A
20	C3 + SK	3	no	ZFATF1, ZFATF2, ZFATF4	Sox2, Klf4
21	C3	1	no	ZFATF1, ZFATF2, ZFATF4	N/A
22	C4 + SK	3	no	ZFATF1, ZFATF2, ZFATF5	Sox2, Klf4
23	C4	3	no	ZFATF1, ZFATF2, ZFATF5	N/A
24	C1 + SKM	5	no	ZFATF6, ZFATF7	Sox2, Klf4, c-Myc
25	C5 + SKM	5	no	ZFATF4, ZFATF5, ZFATF8	Sox2, Klf4, c-Myc
26	C6 + SKM	3	no	ZFATF1, ZFATF2, ZFATF5, ZFATF6	Sox2, Klf4, c-Myc
27	C7 + SKM	3	no	ZFATF1, ZFATF2, ZFATF3, ZFATF5, ZFATF6, ZFATF7	Sox2, Klf4, c-Myc
28	C8 + SKM	2	no	ZFATF1, ZFATF2, ZFATF3, ZFATF5, ZFATF6, ZFATF7, ZFATF9	Sox2, Klf4, c-Myc
29	C9 + SKM	2	no	ZFATF1, ZFATF2, ZFATF3, ZFATF5, ZFATF6, ZFATF8, ZFATF9, ZFATF11, ZFATF12	Sox2, Klf4, c-Myc
30	C10 + SKM	2	no	ZFATF1, ZFATF2, ZFATF3, ZFATF4, ZFATF5, ZFATF6, ZFATF7, ZFATF9, ZFATF10	Sox2, Klf4, c-Myc
31	C11 + SKM	2	no	ZFATF1, ZFATF2, ZFATF3, ZFATF5, ZFATF6, ZFATF7, ZFATF8, ZFATF9, ZFATF10, ZFATF11	Sox2, Klf4, c-Myc
32	C1 + SK	3	no	ZFATF6, ZFATF7	Sox2, Klf4
33	C1	1	no	ZFATF6, ZFATF7	N/A
34	C5 + SKM	1	no	ZFATF4, ZFATF5, ZFATF8	Sox2, Klf4
35	C5	1	no	ZFATF4, ZFATF5, ZFATF8	N/A
36	ZFATF1	1	no	ZFATF1	N/A
37	ZFATF2	1	no	ZFATF2	N/A
38	ZFATF5	1	no	ZFATF5	N/A
39	ZFATF1-5 + SKM	2	no	ZFATF1, ZFATF2, ZFATF3, ZFATF4, ZFATF5	Oct4, Sox2, c-Myc
40	C2 + OSKM	1	yes (n = 1)	ZFATF1, ZFATF2, ZFATF3	Oct4, Sox2, Klf4, c-Myc
41	C3 + OSKM	1	no	ZFATF1, ZFATF2, ZFATF4	Oct4, Sox2, Klf4, c-Myc
42	GFP	5	no	N/A	GFP

[0154] All ATF combinations identified in the screen for endogenous Oct4 expression were re-validated to determine whether they were true positives. Among the eleven ATF combinations, #2, #3, and #4 could generate colonies of iPS cells when expressed with Sox2, Klf4, and c-Myc (FIG. **2**E and Exhibit A, Dataset 1). Interestingly, Combination #4 came from the Tomato^{+}GFP^{+} cells, in which Oct4 was activated before the Tomato signal dissipated. During the validation step, MEFs expressing ATF Combination #4+SKM became iPS cells ~28 days later than the iPS cells generated by the other ATF combinations or OSKM. The doubling times for the iPS cells generated with Combinations #2 and #3 were comparable to that of iPS cells generated with OSKM; however, the doubling time for iPS cells expressing Combination #4 was slightly longer (FIG. **9**D). iPS cells generated with ATFs demonstrated capacity for self-renewal and have been cultured beyond 65 passages.

[0155] iPS Cells Generated with ATFs are Pluripotent:

[0156] iPS cells generated with ATFs were further characterized for markers of pluripotency. Immunofluorescence was performed to confirm expression of pluripotency markers, OCT4, SOX2, and NANOG (FIGS. **3**A and **10**A). To determine whether the iPS cells generated with ATFs were functionally pluripotent, we generated embryoid bodies and measured markers of the germ layers by immunofluorescence and RT-qPCR. Immunocytochemistry was used to detect myosin light polypeptide 2 (mesoderm), forkhead box A2 (endoderm), and beta III tubulin (ectoderm) in outgrowths from the embryoid bodies (FIGS. **3**B and **10**B). Furthermore, RT-qPCR results for brachyury, NK2 homeobox 5, and kinase insert domain receptor (mesoderm); alpha fetoprotein, transthyretin, and forkhead box A2 (endoderm); nestin, neurofilament light polypeptide, and SRY-box 17 (ectoderm) confirmed differentiation into all three germ layers (FIGS. **3**C, **3**D, **10**C, and **10**D). Compellingly, beating cardiomyocytes were observed in embryoid outgrowths from EBs derived from iPS cells generated by ATFs. Taken together, the embryoid body data suggests that the iPS cells generated with ATFs are functionally pluripotent.

[0157] From morphological and select gene marker analysis, we focused on global transcriptome analysis of the

ATF-treated cells. Comparison of genome-wide transcriptional profiles showed that the iPS cells generated with ATFs cluster with mouse ES cells and iPS cells generated with OSKM (FIGS. **4**A and **11**A). Cells at early stages of reprogramming clustered with MEFs and Empty+SKM. iPS cells generated with ATFs show an upregulation of pluripotency markers and a downregulation of fibroblast markers (FIG. **4**B). Using the 853 genes that make up the fibroblast gene regulatory network (GRN) and the 705 genes that make up the pluripotency GRN from CellNet (Cahan et al., 2014), we compared the expression profiles of iPS cells generated with ATFs to those of other pluripotent cells and MEFs. Our genome-wide analysis indicates our ATF-induced iPS cells display a high degree of similarity with pluripotent cells generated using exogenous retrovirally-delivered Oct4. It is important to note that, at early stages of reprogramming, ATF-treated cells have a different profile compared to OSKM-treated cells (FIGS. **4**C and **4**D). These differences suggest other underlying regulators beyond what is characterized in the GRNs of CellNet guide cells to pluripotency (FIG. **4**D). Once fully reprogrammed to the pluripotent state, global transcriptional profiling shows iPS cells generated with ATFs share more similarity amongst themselves than to OSKM or ES cells (FIGS. **4**A and **11**C). ATF levels at early stages of reprogramming were detectable; however, once converted to iPS cells, the lentiviral elements controlling the expression of ATFs are silenced, a further confirmation that the cells were fully reprogrammed with the endogenous pluripotency circuitry activated.

[0158] Signature Epigenetic Landscapes at ATF-Activated Pluripotency Genes:

[0159] The chromatin structure of iPS cells generated with ATFs was compared to those generated with OSKM. Specifically, ChIP-seq was performed on histone 3 lysine 27 acetylation (H3K27ac), a marker for super-enhancers (Hnisz et al., 2013; Whyte et al., 2013), and histone 3 lysine 9 trimethylation (H3K9me3), a marker of heterochromatic repressed regions of chromatin. The pluripotent cells shared similar sets of peaks for H3K27ac regardless of whether they were generated with ATFs or with natural factors (FIGS. **5**A and **5**B). Likewise, H3K9me3 peaks were similar for ATF-generated iPS cells and OSKM-generated iPS cells, although there was greater overlap for OSKM and Combination #3+SKM (FIGS. **6**A and **6**B). There was more similarity between OSKM-generated iPS cells and iPS cells generated with Combination #3+SKM. Comparison of the super-enhancer peaks of the iPS cells in this study to those of MEFs in the mouse ENCODE data revealed the greatest number of differences between MEFs to iPS cells and the greatest number of overlaps occurred among the iPS cells generated with ATFs+SKM and OSKM (FIGS. **5**A and **5**B). Although mouse ENCODE data for H3K9me3 was not available, both repressive and active histone marks show very strong correlations among the iPS cells induced by ATFs+SKM and by OSKM (FIGS. **5**C and **6**C).

[0160] ATF-Triggered Networks:

[0161] The ATF targets were examined by integrating Cognate Site Identification (CSI) sequence energy landscapes of ATFs with global transcription obtained by RNA-seq (FIG. **7**A). The preferred binding sites of the ATFs were determined by CSI (FIG. **13**A). To pinpoint the genes in the pluripotency network activated by the ATFs, the top five binding motifs for each ATF were determined bioinformatically. Binding sites within ±1 kb of the transcriptional start site (TSS) were considered in the analysis. We chose this narrow window based on ATF design principles (Rebar et al., 2002), the tendency of sequence-specific TFs to exhibit a peak −300 bp relative to the TSS (Koudritsky and Domany, 2008), and evidence that the predictive power of TF binding on gene regulation drops significantly when the binding sites examined are beyond 2 kb from the TSS (Cheng and Gerstein, 2012; Whitfield et al., 2012). Genes, expressed >2-fold more in iPS cells generated from ATFs than Empty+SKM cells and were statistically significant, were filtered with the gene list with ATF binding sites within ±1 kb of the TSS. Two other pairwise comparisons (ATF Combination #2/3/4+SKM at the early stage versus iPS stage and ATF Combination #2/3/4+SKM iPS cells versus OSKM iPS cells) were included in the analysis. Finally, those genes, upregulated >2-fold and exhibited ATF binding sites, were further examined for being implicated in inducing pluripotency from previous studies (FIG. **7**B and Exhibit A, Dataset 2) (Buganim et al., *Cell* 150(6): 1209-1222, 2012; Heng et al., *Cell Stem Cell* 6(2):167-174, 2010; Kim et al., *Cell* 132(6):1049-1061, 2008; Krentz et al., *Dev Biol* 377(1):67-78, 2013; Lujan et al., *Nature* 521(7552):352-356, 2015; Marson et al., *Cell* 134(3):521-533, 2008; Sharov et al., *BMC Genomics* 9(1):269, 2008; Shu et al., *Cell* 153(5):963-975, 2013; Som et al., *PLoS ONE* 5(12):e15165, 2010). The super-enhancer profiles for the ATF target genes show H3K27ac peaks that confirm that they are actively expressed (FIG. **7**C). A gene regulatory network based on the CSI results and differential expression data was built using information from the literature and the STRING database (FIG. **7**D).

[0162] Next, we expanded our analysis to include high and medium affinity binding sites from CSI data of Combination #2. We used the top 100-scoring 10-bp motifs to identify genes, potentially targeted by the ATFs (FIG. **13**B). The target genes were not filtered with expression data in this comprehensive analysis of the CSI data. Gene set enrichment analysis with Enrichr (Chen et al., 2013) for 2897 genes with a sum CSI score of 20 or greater, in other words, six or more ATF target sites within ±1 kb of the TSS showed an overrepresentation of genes found in PluriNetWork for *M. musculus* (FIG. **7**E) (Som et al., PLoS ONE 5(12): e15165, 2010). This analysis was then performed for Combinations #3 and #4, and similar results were obtained, suggesting that the different ATF combinations activate similar nodes of the pluripotency network.

[0163] Surprisingly, our data demonstrates that Oct4 does not appear to be the primary target as it ranks 4788 for the sum CSI score for Combination #2, 3929 for Combination #3, and 5225 for Combination #4. Other genes with higher sum CSI scores would be targeted by ATFs directly, and those that are key regulators in the pluripotency circuitry, subsequently, trigger the activation of Oct4. A comparison of Oct4 targets with the ATF targets reveals striking differences (FIGS. **7**D and **12**). Thus, Oct4 is indirectly activated by the ATFs, and the path the MEFs take to reprogram to the iPS state is different than the path taken when treated with OSKM.

[0164] A gene regulatory network based on the CSI results and differential expression data was built using information from the literature and the STRING database (FIG. **15**A) (Szklarczyk D, et al. (2015) *Nucleic Acids Res* 43(Database issue):D447-52). Greater ATF occupancy near the TSS for the 17 predicted targets in the gene regulatory network

suggests they are direct targets (FIG. **15**B). A comparison of direct OCT4 targets with the ATF target genes reveals striking differences (FIG. **15**C) (Som A, et al. (2010) *PLoS ONE* 5(12):e15165).

[0165] These differences suggest that ATFs activate the pluripotency network through different nodes than the exogenously expressed Oct4. While the primary targets may differ at the outset, the eventual iPS cells show remarkable convergence in the transcriptome profiles and epigenetic landscapes.

[0166] Discussion

[0167] Zinc finger, TAL effector, and CRISPR/Cas9 libraries have been tested for loss-of-function phenotypes, acquisition of resistance to a drug, or upregulation of specific genes (Bae et al., 2003; Blancafort et al., 2003; Kim et al., 2013; Konermann et al., 2015; Li et al., 2014; Tschulena et al., 2009; Wang et al., 2014; Zhou et al., 2014); however, this is the first report of a gain-of-function screen to reprogram fibroblasts to iPS cells, a feat that requires drastic transcriptional and epigenetic changes. We screened a zinc finger library of high complexity, not previously tested in mammalian cells. Furthermore, the capacity for the ATFs to cooperatively bind target genes provides the ATF library with a unique feature to sample a larger set of binding sites and activate to greater extent due to synergy. Previous, conventional zinc finger libraries consisted of ATFs created by shuffling ~55 zinc finger units, previously characterized to bind specific triplets of nucleotides (Gonzalez et al., 2010). The library used in this study uses a much larger repertoire of residues, incorporating 16 of the 20 possible amino acids in the recognition residues, greatly expanding the target space of the ATFs. A survey of natural zinc fingers found in eukaryotes reports that all amino acids are represented in the recognition residues (Najafabadi et al., 2015).

[0168] Because we are using a large library of ATFs, capable of sampling thousands of genes in parallel, there is a potential for our ATFs to activate endogenous Oct4 directly; however, in our analysis, we find that the ATFs seem to activate Oct4 indirectly. ChIP-seq of the ATFs was not possible due to silencing of the lentiviral elements in iPS cells. Although ChIP-seq at an earlier stage before full conversion can provide insight on the genomic targets of the ATFs, the signal for functionally relevant ATF binding sites would be challenging to detect due to low frequency of conversion of parental fibroblasts to iPS cells.

[0169] Application of the ATF library in this gain-of-function screen demonstrates that zinc finger ATFs can perturb the transcriptional profile of a cell to levels that are sufficiently robust to induce a dramatic phenotypic change. Like natural TFs, the ATFs in this study target 9-10 bp sites and can bind cooperatively as homodimers and heterodimers to a much larger and perhaps less frequent 18 bp site. As each ATF in the library will have unique sequence preferences and varying degrees of affinity for DNA, a wide range of outcomes can be elicited upon introduction of these ATFs. Unlike natural TFs, ATFs do not necessarily rely on partner proteins, and thus, transcriptional networks can be stimulated from any homeostatic state.

[0170] In summary, this study provides a compelling support for our design principles and demonstrates unequivocally that an ATF library can be used in a gain-of-function screen for different cell fate conversions. Interestingly, during the early stages of conversion, cells expressing ATFs+SKM exhibited a different transcriptional profile from those expressing OSKM; however, in the final iPS cell state, the expression profiles of all the pluripotent cell types were similar both at the molecular and functional levels. The differences in molecular signatures at the early stage suggest that the MEFs take different dedifferentiation routes to the same pluripotent state.

[0171] In addition to providing a means to perform a forward genetic screen, this Example describes a strategy for identifying cell-fate defining transcriptional networks. By integrating expression data with in vitro binding site data, we were able to identify the nodes of the transcriptional network implicated in the induction of pluripotency. Furthermore, ATF libraries can be used to identify unanticipated regulatory networks in an unbiased manner. This technology enables the pursuit of elusive cell phenotypes or direct conversions, considered challenging to achieve by conventional methods.

Example 2—Cardiomyocyte Differentiation Using ATFs

[0172] Differentiation into cardiomyocytes is valuable for disease modeling, drug testing, and heart regeneration. Current methods to differentiate human pluripotent stem cells into cardiomyocytes involve temporal modulation the Wnt pathway with small molecule inhibitors. While current methods are efficient for the derivation of ventricular cardiomyocytes, these cardiomyocytes resemble a more fetal phenotype, and robust differentiation into other subtypes, such as atrial cells and nodal cardiomyocytes, remains difficult.

[0173] An unbiased, artificial transcription factor (ATF) library-based approach circumvents this challenge and allows for the selection of a particular cell fate. To demonstrate that an ATF library can be used as an unbiased screen for cardiomyocyte differentiation, we tested our gene-activating zinc finger ATF library in which each ATF targets a 9-bp sequence. This library is composed of 2.6×10^6 ATFs, a complexity that encompasses 10-times the sequence space of all 9-bp permutations. An important and distinguishing feature of our ATF design is the incorporation of an interaction domain that allows two ATFs to dimerize and activate target genes in a synergistic manner. We tested the ATF library in replacing the function of the Wnt pathway inhibitors used to derive cardiomyocytes. Our results suggest that the ATF library can be used to differentiate cells into more challenging subtypes, such as atrial cardiomyocytes.

[0174] ATF Library Screening in Cardiomyocyte Differentiation

[0175] Directed differentiation to cardiomyocytes involves modulation of the Wnt pathway to induce a stepwise transition to mesodermal progenitor cells, followed by specification into cardiomyocytes (FIG. **18**A). First, cells are treated with CHIR99021, a GSK3 inhibitor, resulting in the activation of the Wnt pathway. GSK3 is a kinase that phosphorylates β-catenin and mediates its ubiquitination and subsequent proteasomal degradation. By inhibiting GSK3, β-catenin target genes are activated, inducing specification into mesoderm. The progenitor cells at this point express T (Brachyury). Three days after treatment with the GSK3 inhibitor, the Wnt pathway is suppressed with IWP2 to promote specification into cardiomyocytes. IWP2 is a molecule that inhibits Porcupine, an enzyme that palmitoylates Wnt proteins for secretion. By Day 10 of differentia-

tion, cells express cardiomyocyte-specific genes, TNNT2 (cardiac troponin T2), GATA4, and NKX2.5 at high levels.

[0176] We asked if the temporal modulations of the Wnt pathway could be regulated with ATFs. Toward this end, we tested the ATF library in H9 human embryonic stem (ES) cells bearing a GFP reporter for TNNT2. In these H9-cTnnT-pGZ cells, the promoter of TNNT2 drives the expression of GFP and zeocin, permitting the isolation of cells that express the cardiomyocyte-specific marker (FIG. **19**B).

[0177] The ATF library was cloned into a second generation lentiviral vector. The screen is performed in cells with a robust change in phenotype or a lineage-specific reporter. H9-cTnnT-pGZ cells were transduced with ATFs or lentiviruses without an ORF (Empty control) (FIG. **18**B). After selection of integration events with puromycin (FIG. **19**A), cells were treated with the Wnt pathway inhibitors at the appropriate time points (FIG. **18**A). Positive outcomes were isolated as single cells, such that combinations of ATFs, if any, can be captured. Integrated ATFs were identified from such single cells and retested for validation. Once validated, downstream experiments were be performed to identify ATF target genes. For example, by omitting the GSK3 inhibitor (CHIR), the Wnt inhibitor (IWP2), or both, we asked whether ATFs could replace the function of these inhibitors. ATFs were able to replace the function of the Wnt inhibitor, IWP2 (FIG. **18**C).

[0178] After treatment with the GSK3 inhibitor, these cells could differentiate into cardiomyocytes and express the GFP reporter for TNNT2 (FIG. **19**C). Flow cytometry of ATF-treated cells resulted in 20.8% of cells expressing GFP compared to 1.1% for the Empty control. Differentiation into cardiomyocytes in the Empty control could be attributed to spontaneous differentiation, introduction of a strong promoter (EF1α) to a locus proximal to a positive regulator of cardiomyocyte differentiation, disruption of a negative regulator of cardiomyocyte differentiation from lentiviral integration, or activation of genes in response to delivery of lentivirus. The Empty control demonstrated the rate of expected false positive events to be 5.3%. By cell sorting, we isolated the GFP^+ cells as single cells (FIG. **19**A). From 16 single cells, we found 10 unique combinations of ATFs capable of replacing the function of the Wnt inhibitor, IWP2 (FIG. **19**D and Table 6). One combination occurred in two cells and another combination in six cells. ATF5 and ATF1 appeared in every cell except one. Due to the recurring nature of Combination #3-8 (C3+CHIR), we focused on retesting this combination of ATFs as well as subsets of this combination.

TABLE 6

Sequences of ATF Hits in Cardiomyocyte Differentiation

ATF	DNA sequence
ZFATF1	ATGCATCCTATGAACAACCTGCTGAACTACGTGGTGCCGA AGATGAGACCTTACGCTTGTGATCGCCGCTTCTCCGTTTCC CACCGGCTCACCCATCACATCCGCATCCACACAGGCCAGA AGCCCTTCCAGTGCCGCATCTGCATGCGCAACTTCAGCCCT AGCAGAAGACTCACCCAGCACATCCGCACCCACACAGGCG AAAAGCCCTTCGCCTGCGACATCTGTGGAAGAAAGTTTGC CCAGAGCGAGGGGCGCAAGGTCCATACCAAGATCCACTTG CGGCAGAAGGACAAGAAAGCAGACAAAAGTGTTGTGGGG CGCGCCGACGCGCTGGACGATTTCGATCTCGACATGCTGG GTTCTGATGCCCTCGATGACTTTGACCTGGATATGTTGGGA AGCGACGCATTGGATGACTTTGATCTGGACATGCTCGGCT
ZFATF2	ATGCATCCTATGAACAACCTGCTGAACTACGTGGTGCCGA AGATGAGACCTTACGCTTGCCCAGTGGAGTCCTGTGATCG CCGCTTCTCCGGGTCCGTAGTCCTCACCAAACACATCCGCA TCCACACAGGCCAGAAGCCCTTCCAGTGCCGCATCTGCAT GCGCAACTTCAGCATAAGCACTGTTCTCACCGGTCACATC CGCACCCACACAGGCGAAAAGCCCTTCGCCTGCGACATCT GTGGAAGAAAGTTTGCCAACAGCGAGCCACGCAAGACCC ATACCAAGATCCACTTGCGGCAGAAGGACAAGAAAGCAG ACAAAAGTGTTGTGGGGCGCGCCGACGCGCTGGACGATTT CGATCTCGACATGCTGGGTTCTGATGCCCTCGATGACTTTG ACCTGGATATGTTGGGAAGCGACGCATTGGATGACTTTGA TCTGGACATGCTCGGCTCCGATGCTCTGGACGATTTCGATC TCGATATGTTAATTAACTACCCGTACGACGTTCCGGACTAC GCTGGTTATCCCTATGACGTCCCGGATTATGCAGGATCCTA TCCATATGACGTTCCAGATTACGCTTGA (SEQ ID NO: 73)
ATF5	ATGCATCCTATGAACAACCTGCTGAACTACGTGGTGCCGA AGATGAGACCTTACGATTGCCCAGTGGAGTCCTGTGATCG CCGCTTCTCCAGATCCCATCGGCCACCAGCCACATCCGCAT CCACACAGGCCAGAAGCCCTTCCAGTGCCGCATCTGCATG CGCAACTTCAGCGTCAGCCCGACCCTCACCCGACACATCC GCACCCACACAGGCGAAAAGCCCTTCGCCTGCGACATCTG TGGAAGAAAGTTTGCCAGGAGCGACCAGCGCAAGAGACA TACCAAGATCCACTTGCGGCAGAAGGACAAGAAAGCAGA CAAAAGTGTTGTGGGGCGCGCCGACGCGCTGGACGATTTC GATCTCGACATGCTGGGTTCTGATGCCCTCGATGACTTTGA CCTGGATATGTTGGGAAGCGACGCATTGGATGACTTTGAT CTGGACATGCTCGGCTCCGATGCTCTGGACGATTTCGATCT CGATATGTTACCCGTACGACGTTCCGGACTACGCTGGTTAT CCCTATGACGTCCCGGATTATGCAGGATCCTATCCATATGA CGTTCCAGATTACGCTTGA (SEQ ID NO: 76)
ZFATF6	ATGCATCCTATGAACAACCTGCTGAACTACGTGGTGCCGA AGATGAGACCTTACGCTTGTGATCGCCGCTTCTCCGTTTCC CACCGGCTCACCCATCACATCCGCATCCACACAGGCCAGA AGCCCTTCCAGTGCCGCATCTGCATGCGCAACTTCAGCCTC AGCCTAACCCTCACCAAACACATCCGCACCCACACAGGCG AAAAGCCCTTCGCCTGCGACATCTGTGGAAGAAAGTTTGC CAAAAGCAAACCACGCAAGACACATACCAAGATCCACTTG CGGCAGAAGGACAAGAAAGCAGACAAAAGTGTTGTGGGG CGCGCCGACGCGCTGGACGATTTCGATCTCGACATGCTGG GTTCTGATGCCCTCGATGACTTTGACCTGGATATGTTGGGA AGCGACGCATTGGATGACTTTGATCTGGACATGCTCGGCT CCGATGCTCTGGACGATTTCGATCTCGATATGTTAATTAAC TACCCGTACGACGTTCCGGACTACGCTGGTTATCCCTATGA CGTCCCGGATTATGCAGGATCCTATCCATATGACGTTCCAG ATTACGCTTGA (SEQ ID NO: 77)
ZFATF11	ATGCATCCTATGAACAACCTGCTGAACTACGTGGTGCCGA AGATGAGACCTTACGCTTGCCCAGTGGAGTCCTGTGATCG CCGCTTCTCCATATCCGGTGCGCTCACCGGGCACATCCGCA TCCACACAGGCCAGAAGCCCTTCCAGTGCCGCATCTGCAT GCGCAACTTCAGCAGTAGCAATCAACTCACCGCGCACATC CGCACCCACACAGGCGAAAAGCCCTTCGCCTGCGACATCT GTGGAAGAAAGTTTGCCAGAAGCATACACCGCAAGCGTCA TACCAAGATCCACTTGCGGCAGAAGGACAAGAAAGCAGA CAAAAGTGTTGTGGGGCGCGCCGACGCGCTGGACGATTTC GATCTCGACATGCTGGGTTCTGATGCCCTCGATGACTTTGA CCTGGATATGTTGGGAAGCGACGCATTGGATGACTTTGAT CTGGACATGCTCGGCTCCGATGCTCTGGACGATTTCGATCT CGATATGTTAATTAACTACCCGTACGACGTTCCGGACTAC GCTGGTTATCCCTATGACGTCCCGGATTATGCAGGATCCTA TCCATATGACGTTCCAGATTACGCTTGA (SEQ ID NO: 82)

TABLE 6-continued

Sequences of ATF Hits in Cardiomyocyte Differentiation

ATF	DNA sequence
ZFATF13	ATGCATCCTATGAACAACCTGCTGAACTACGTGGTGCCGA AGATGAGACCTTACGCTTGTGATCGCCGCTTCTCCGTTTCC CACCGGCTCACCCATCACATCCGCATCCACACAGGCCAGA AGCCCTTCCAGTGCCGCATCTGCATGCGCAACTTCAGCCCT AGCAGAAGACTCACCCAGCACATCCGCACCCACACAGGCG AAAAGCCCTTCGCCTGCGACATCTGTGGAAGAAAGTTTGC CAGGAGCGACCAGCGCAAGAGACATACCAAGATCCACTT GCGGCAGAAGGACAAGAAAGCAGACAAAAGTGTTGTGGG GCGCGCCGACGCGCTGGACGATTTCGATCTCGACATGCTG GGTTCTGATGCCCTCGATGACTTTGACCTGGATATGTTGGG AAGCGACGCATTGGATGACTTTGATCTGGACATGCTCGGC TCCGATGCTCTGGACGATTTCGATCTCGATATGTTAATTAA CTACCCGTACGACGTTCCGGACTACGCTGGTTATCCCTATG ACGTCCCGGATTATGCAGGATCCTATCCATATGACGTTCCA GATTACGCTTGA (SEQ ID NO: 92)
ZFATF14	ATGCATCCTATGAACAACCTGCTGAACTACGTGGTGCCGA AGATGAGACCTTACGCTTGCCCAGTGGAGTCCTGTGATCG CCGCTTCTCCCGTTCCATCCGTCTCACCATACACATCCGCA TCCACACAGGCCAGAAGCCCTTCCAGTGCCGCATCTGCAT GCGCAACTTCAGCGGTAGCGTTCAACTCACCATACACATC CGCACCCACACAGGCGAAAAGCCCTTCGCCTGCGACATCT GTGGAAGAAAGTTTGCCCACAGCGAACCTCGCAAGACACA TACCAAGATCCACTTGCGGCAGAAGGACAAGAAAGCAGA CAAAAGTGTTGTGGGGCGCGCCGACGCGCTGGACGATTTC GATCTCGACATGCTGGGTTCTGATGCCCTCGATGACTTTGA CCTGGATATGTTGGGAAGCGACGCATTGGATGACTTTGAT CTGGACATGCTCGGCTCCGATGCTCTGGACGATTTCGATCT CGATATGTTAATTAACTACCCGTACGACGTTCCGGACTAC GCTGGTTATCCCTATGACGTCCCGGATTATGCAGGATCCTA TCCATATGACGTTCCAGATTACGCTTGA (SEQ ID NO: 93)
ZFATF15	ATGCATCCTATGAACAACCTGCTGAACTACGTGGTGCCGA AGATGAGACCTTACGCTTGCCCAGTGGAGTCCTGTGATCG CCGCTTCTCCGGGTCCAGCGGGCTCACCATGCACATCCGC ATCCACACAGGCCAGAAGCCCTTCCAGTGCCGCATCTGCA TGCGCAACTTCAGCCTAAGCACAACACTCACCAACCACAT CCGCACCCACACAGGCGAAAAGCCCTTCGCCTGCGACATC TGTGGAAGAAAGTTTGCCACAAGCCGTACACGCAAGCGGC ATACCAAGATCCACTTGCGGCAGAAGGACAAGAAAGCAG ACAAAAGTGTTGTGGGGCGCGCCGACGCGCTGGACGATTT CGATCTCGACATGCTGGGTTCTGATGCCCTCGATGACTTTG ACCTGGATATGTTGGGAAGCGACGCATTGGATGACTTTGA TCTGGACATGCTCGGCTCCGATGCTCTGGACGATTTCGATC TCGATATGTTAATTAACTACCCGTACGACGTTCCGGACTAC GCTGGTTATCCCTATGACGTCCCGGATTATGCAGGATCCTA TCCATATGACGTTCCAGATTACGCTTGA (SEQ ID NO: 94)
ZFATF16	ATGCATCCTATGAACAACCTGCTGAACTACGTGGTGCCGA AGATGAGACCTTACGCTTGCCCAGTGGAGTCCTGTGATCG CCGCTTCTCCCGTTCCATCCGTCTCACCATACACATCCGCA TCCACACAGGCCAGAAGCCCTTCCAGTGCCGCATCTGCAT GCGCAACTTCAGCCACAGCCCGCAACTCACCCCTCACATC CGCACCCACACAGGCGAAAAGCCCTTCGCCTGCGACATCT GTGGAAGAAAGTTTGCCGAAAGCCGTAAACGCAAGGAAC ATACCAAGATCCACTTGCGGCAGAAGGACAAGAAAGCAG ACAAAAGTGTTGTGGGGCGCGCCGACGCGCTGGACGATTT CGATCTCGACATGCTGGGTTCTGATGCCCTCGATGACTTTG ACCTGGATATGTTGGGAAGCGACGCATTGGATGACTTTGA TCTGGACATGCTCGGCTCCGATGCTCTGGACGATTTCGATC TCGATATGTTAATTAACTACCCGTACGACGTTCCGGACTAC GCTGGTTATCCCTATGACGTCCCGGATTATGCAGGATCCTA TCCATATGACGTTCCAGATTACGCTTGA (SEQ ID NO: 95)
ZFATF17	ATGCATCCTATGAACAACCTGCTGAACTACGTGGTGCCGA AGATGAGACCTTACGCTTGCCCAGTGGAGTCCTGTGATCG CCGCTTCTCCCGTTCCATCCGTCTCACCATACACATCCGCA TCCACACAGGCCAGAAGCCCTTCCAGTGCCGCATCTGCAT

TABLE 6-continued

Sequences of ATF Hits in Cardiomyocyte Differentiation

ATF	DNA sequence
	GCGCAACTTCAGCGGTAGCGTTCCACTCACCATACACATC CGCACCCACACAGGCGAAAAGCCCTTCGCCTGCGACATCT GTGGAAGAAAGTTTGCCAGGAGCGACCAGCGCAAGAGAC ATACCAAGATCCACTTGCGGCAGAAGGACAAGAAAGCAG ACAAAAGTGTTGTGGGGCGCGCCGACGCGCTGGACGATTT CGATCTCGACATGCTGGGTTCTGATGCCCTCGATGACTTTG ACCTGGATATGTTGGGAAGCGACGCATTGGATGACTTTGA TCTGGACATGCTCGGCTCCGATGCTCTGGACGATTTCGATC TCGATATGTTAATTAACTACCCGTACGACGTTCCGGACTAC GCTGGTTATCCCTATGACGTCCCGGATTATGCAGGATCCTA TCCATATGACGTTCCAGATTACGCTTGA (SEQ ID NO: 96)
ATF18	ATGCATCCTATGAACAACCTGCTGAACTACGTGGTGCCGA AGATGAGACCTTACGCTTGCCCAGTGGAGCCCTGTGATCG CCGCTTCTCCCGTTCCATCCGTCTCACCATACACATCCGCA TCCACACAGGCCAGAAGCCCTTCCAGTGCAGCATCTGCAT GCGCAACTTCAGCGGTAGCGATCAACTCACCATAAACAAC CGCACCAACACAGGCGAAAAGCCATACGCATGA (SEQ ID NO: 97)
ZFATF19	ATGCATCCTATGAACAACCTGCTGAACTACGTGGTGCCGA AGATGAGACCTTACGCTTGCCCAGTGGAGTCCTGTGATCG CCGCTTCTCCATATCCGGTGCGCTCACCGGGCACATCCGCA TCCACACAGGCCAGAAGCCCTTCGCCTGCGACATCTGTGG AAGAAAGTTTGCCAGGAGCGACCAGCGCAAGAGACATAC CAAGATCCACTTGCGGCAGAAGGACAAGAAAGCAGACAA AAGTGTTGTGGGGCGCGCCGACGCGCTGGACGATTTCGAT CTCGACATGCTGGGTTCTGATGCCCTCGATGACTTTGACCT GGATATGTTGGGAAGCGACGCATTGGATGACTTTGATCTG GACATGCTCGGCTCCGATGCTCTGGACGATTTCGATCTCGA TATGTTAATTAACTACCCGTACGACGTTCCGGACTACGCTG GTTATCCCTATGACGTCCCGGATTATGCAGGATCCTATCCA TATGACGTTCCAGATTACGCTTGA (SEQ ID NO: 98)

[0179] Compared to the positive control in which H9-cTnnT-pGZ cells are treated with both inhibitors (CHIR and IWP2), C3+CHIR could generate cardiomyocytes just as efficiently. We also qualitatively assessed the quality of the cardiomyocytes by evaluating their capacity to beat and form large cardiomyocyte sheaths. The cardiomyocytes derived from C3+CHIR formed large beating sheaths with a strong, regular beat, demonstrating functional changes in phenotype. Subsets of C3+CHIR that also generated healthy cardiomyocytes, include Treatment 7, Treatment 8, and Treatment 9 (FIG. **20**). Compared to the positive control, cells expressing two or more ATFs generated cardiomyocytes of equal quality. Treatment 9 produced cardiomyocytes at a high efficiency, equal to or greater than the positive control. Treatment 6 demonstrated that one ATF was sufficient to replace the function of IWP2; however, the cardiomyocyte sheets were narrower for this treatment. The Empty control accounts for spontaneous differentiation due to lentiviral delivery or random integration of a strong promoter at a relevant site in the genome. The differentiated cells in Treatments 3, 4, and 5 were morphologically different from the cardiomyocytes in the positive control despite being GFP and exhibited irregular beating. Of the subsets, Treatment 9 (ATF5+ZFATF2+CHIR) most efficiently generated cardiomyocytes. When ATF5 was expressed alone with CHIR treatment (Treatment 9), we were able to generate cardiomyocytes; however, narrower sheaths formed, suggesting lower efficiencies in conversion. Other subsets, including ATFs expressed one at a time, did not generate healthy cardiomyocytes with a regular beat.

[0180] ATF Targets and Mechanism of Action

[0181] In order to identify the ATF target genes, cognate site identification (CSI) described in Chapter 3, was used to find the top 100 scoring motifs for each ATF. The locations of these top-scoring motifs were identified in the human genome, then annotated to the nearest genes. The frequency of occurrence in the genome was plotted as well as the frequency within ±1 kb of a transcription start site (TSS) (FIGS. **21**A-**21**B). Table 6 presents the frequency of occurrence of ATF binding sites for the top 100 scoring CSI motifs. ATFs: The ATFs of C3+CHIR. Total: The number of ATF binding sites in the human genome for the top 100 scoring CSI motifs. Near TSS: The number of ATF binding sites within ±1 kb of a TSS. Genes: The number of genes with ATF binding sites within ±1 kb of a TSS. Cardiomyocyte: The number of cardiomyocyte genes with ATF binding sites within ±1 kb of a TSS. Early: The number of cardiomyocyte genes with ATF binding sites within ±1 kb of a TSS expressed at an early stage. Middle: The number of cardiomyocyte genes with ATF binding sites within ±1 kb of a TSS expressed at a middle stage. Late: The number of cardiomyocyte genes with ATF binding sites within ±1 kb of a TSS expressed at a late stage of differentiation. Cardiomyocyte markers: see Burridge et al., 2012 *Cell Stem Cell* 10(1): 16-28; Stillitano et al., 2012 *Drug Discov Today* 9(4):e229-e236.

[0182] Although there are more than 370,000 medium to high affinity binding sites in the genome, fewer than 10,000 are near a TSS (Table 7). Among those that are near a TSS, 30 genes are markers of cardiomyocytes for C3+CHIR. ATF5 targets the greatest number of cardiomyocyte genes, consistent with the result that ATF5+CHIR can generate cardiomyocytes, albeit at a lower efficiency than C3+CHIR. Also consistent with the bioinformatic analysis is that a larger fraction of ATF binding sites for Treatment 9 (ATF5+ZFATF2+CHIR) occur for late genes, rather than early ones, compared to C3+CHIR, increasing the efficiency of conversion to cardiomyocytes from mesodermal progenitor cells (FIGS. **22**A-**22**C).

TABLE 7

ATF binding site summary

ATFs	Total	Near TSS	Genes	Cardiomyocyte	Early	Middle	Late
ATF5	374,143	9,197	7,514	16	5	4	7
ZFATF1	468,693	9,889	7,925	15	5	6	4
ZFATF2	477,041	9,872	7,811	12	1	2	9
ATF5 + ZFATF1 + ZFATF2	1,319,877	28,958	16,654	30	8	8	14
ATF5 + ZFATF1	842,836	19,086	12,949	25	8	7	10
ATF5 + ZFATF2	851,184	19,069	12,861	24	6	5	13

[0183] Discussion

[0184] This study demonstrates that an ATF library can be used as an effective forward genetic screen to identify transcriptional regulators of cardiomyocyte differentiation. By testing the ATF library in the context of replacing the function of the Wnt pathway inhibitors, we were able to show that ATFs can promote differentiation into cardiomyocytes after conversion to mesodermal progenitor cells. By developing a high throughput strategy of sequencing ATFs, the ability to identify the ATFs responsible for cardiomyocyte differentiation from single cells is much more straightforward. Bioinformatic analysis of CSI motifs suggests that the ATFs target cardiomyocyte-specific genes. Additional analysis on upstream targets by chromatin immunoprecipitation as well as further characterization of the ATF-generated cardiomyocytes would aid in the understanding of how the ATFs induce differentiation. Comparisons of cardiomyocyte-specific transcripts would allow us to determine the contribution of the ATFs in inducing differences in quality of cardiomyocytes and efficiency of conversion.

[0185] Materials and Methods

[0186] Cell Culture:

[0187] H9 cTnnT-pGZ cells were maintained in E8 (DMEM/F12 with HEPES, 64 mg/L L-ascorbic acid, 14 μg/L sodium selenium, 100 μg/L FGF2, 19.4 mg/L insulin, 10.7 mg/L transferrin, and 2 μg/L TGFβ1) on Matrigel® substrate (BD Biosciences, NJ). Cells were passaged with 0.5 mM EDTA. For cardiomyocyte differentiation, cells were maintained in RPMI 1640+B27 without insulin for the first 9 days and in RPMI 1640+B27 with insulin after Day 9. Differentiation was performed by addition of CHIR99021 (6 μM) on Day 0 and IWP2 (5 μM) on Day 3. Cells were maintained in a humidified 37° C. incubator with 5% CO_2.

[0188] Lentivirus Production:

[0189] ATFs and the empty control were packaged into lentivirus using a second-generation lentiviral system. Lentivirus was produced in HEK293T cells by calcium phosphate transfection of pSIN expression, psPAX2 packaging, and pMD2.G envelope plasmids. Media containing virus was harvested 48-60 hours post-transfection. Lentivirus was centrifuged with a sucrose cushion at 25,000 rpm for 2 hours. Viral particles were suspended in PBS and concentrated virus was stored at −80° C. Viral titers were measured by counting HEK293T cells that survived selection after 2 days in media containing puromycin (3 μg/mL).

[0190] Lentivirus Transduction:

[0191] Lentiviruses were delivered to H9 cTnnT-pGZ cells with 8 μg/mL polybrene. Selection was performed in media containing puromycin (1 μg/mL first day, 1.5 μg/mL second day). The ATF was driven by a constitutive promoter, EF1α.

[0192] Flow Cytometry:

[0193] Flow Cytometry was conducted for GFP using a FACS Calibur flow cytometer (BD). Cells were sorted into a 96-well plate for single-cell isolation.

[0194] Identification of ATFs from Single Cells:

[0195] ATF sequences were identified by 3-step PCR followed by high-throughput sequencing. In the first round of PCR, ATFs were amplified with primer set 1 (Table 8).

During the third PCR step, amplicons were barcoded with Illumina indexes (Epicentre RSBC10948, SSIP1202, SSIP1203, and SSIP1204). 48 cells were multiplexed on a MiSeq chip with paired-end 250 bp reads.

TABLE 8

Primer Sequences for ATF Identification

Primer	5'-3'
Forward 1	TCAAGCCTCAGACAGTGGTTC (SEQ ID NO: 111)
Reverse 1	TCACTAATACCTTACTTAACTCTAATCTTAGTCAAGC GTAATCTGGAACGTCATATGGATAGGATCCTGC (SEQ ID NO: 112)
Forward 2	TACTATCACTAACTTAGCCGCCACCATG (SEQ ID NO: 113)
Reverse 2	GTGACTGGAGTTCAGACGTGTGCTCTTCCGATCTGTC CTTCTGCCGCAAGTGGAT (SEQ ID NO: 114)
Forward 3	AATGATACGGCGACCACCGAGATCTACACTCTTTCCC TACACGACGCTCTTCCGATCTGCTGAACTACGTGGTG CCGAAG (SEQ ID NO: 115)
Reverse 3	CAAGCAGAAGACGGCATACGAGAT**XXXXXX**GTGACTG GAGTTCAGACGTGTGCTCTTCCGATCT (SEQ ID NO: 116)

X indicates nucleotides from barcodes.

[0196] Sequencing data was analyzed by searching for sequences identifying fingers 1, 2, and 3 (Table 9).

TABLE 9

Identifying Sequences

Region	5'-3'
5' zinc finger 1	TGTGATCGCCGCTTCTCC (SEQ ID NO: 117)
3' zinc finger 1	CTGTGTGGATGCGGATGTG (SEQ ID NO: 118)
5' zinc finger 2	TGCATGCGCAACTTCAGC (SEQ ID NO: 119)
3' zinc finger 2	TTCGCCTGTGTGGGTGCGGATGTG (SEQ ID NO: 120)
5' zinc finger 3	TGTGGAAGAAAGTTTGCC (SEQ ID NO: 121)
3' zinc finger 3	CGCAAGTGGATCTTGGTATG (SEQ ID NO: 122)

[0197] Microscopy:

[0198] Micrographs were taken with a 10× objective on a Zeiss Observer A1 with an AxioCam ICm1.

[0199] Cognate Site Identification:

[0200] HEK293 cells were transiently transfected with ATFs using Lipofectamine 2000 (Thermo Fisher #11668019). Cells that underwent a mock transfection (without an expression plasmid for ATFs) served as a negative control. Cells were harvested 48 hours post-transfection. Lysates were prepared by lysing 10^7 cells in 300 μL of lysis buffer (50 mM Tris-HCl pH 7.5, 150 mM NaCl, 1% Triton X-100, and 0.1% Na deoxycholate). A 21.5 G syringe needle was used for mechanical lysis. Lysates were centrifuged at 10 k×g for 10 min to separate precipitated genomic DNA from protein constituents. The supernatant, containing ATF protein, was used for CSI. HA magnetic beads (MBL #M132-9) were added to the cell lysates for immunoprecipitation. The binding reaction between the ATFs and 100 nM synthetic DNA was performed in binding buffer (25 mM HEPES, 80 mM KCl, 0.2 mM EDTA, 1 mM $MgCl_2$, 0.1 mM $ZnSO_4$) at 25° C. After pull-down, three quick washes with 100 μL ice-cold binding buffer were performed to remove unbound DNA. Magnetic beads were resuspended in a PCR master mix (Lucigen #30035-1) and the DNA was amplified for 15 or 18 cycles. Amplified DNA was column purified (Qiagen #28106), and this enriched DNA pool was used for the subsequent round of enrichment, for a total of three rounds. After three rounds of selection, Illumina sequencing adapters and a unique 6 bp barcode for multiplexing were added by PCR amplification. The starting library (Round 0) was also barcoded. Up to 180 samples were combined and sequenced in a single HiSeq2000 lane.

[0201] Illumina sequencing yielded ~180 million reads per lane. Reads were de-multiplexed by requiring an exact match to the 6 bp barcode and truncated to include only the 25 bp derived from the random portion of the library. On average, we obtained 709,300 reads per barcode. The occurrence of every k-mer (lengths 8 through 16 bp) was counted using a sliding window of size k. To correct for biases in our starting DNA library, we took the ratio of the counts of every k-mer to the expected number of counts in the mock-transfected control. The mock control was modeled using a 5th-order Markov Model derived from the sequencing reads corresponding to the starting library (Round 0). We then calculated a Z-score=$(x-\mu)/\sigma$ or (CSI score minus mean)/standard deviation for each k-mer, using the distribution of k-mer enrichment values (CSI score) for the ATF.

[0202] Bioinformatic Analysis of ATF Binding Sites:

[0203] The genomic locations of the top five or 100 high-scoring 10-bp motifs from CSI were identified in the mm10 genome by the findMotif utility from the UCSC Genome Browser. These genomic sites were annotated using Homer. Annotated sites were filtered to those within +1 kb of the TSS.

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[0204] All publications, including but not limited to patents and patent applications, cited below are herein incorporated by reference as though set forth in their entirety in the present application.

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Example 3—Differentiation of Pluripotent Stem Cells into Blood Lineages Using ATFs

[0274] Hematopoietic stem and progenitor cells (HSPCs) continually replenish cells of the blood lineage throughout the lifetime of an individual (1). Although fundamental regulators that guide cells toward hematopoietic fates are known, the precise mechanisms by which the largely quiescent pool of HSPCs proliferate then differentiate are not known (2). HSPCs can give rise to all mature blood cells, and the first step of specification occurs as they differentiate to common myeloid progenitors (CMPs) and common lymphoid progenitors (CLPs). Hematopoietic stem and progenitor cell (HSPC) give rise to common myeloid progenitors (CMPs) and common lymphoid progenitors (CLPs). CMPs differentiate into megakaryocyte/erythroid progenitors and granulocyte/macrophage progenitors, which can differentiate further into specialized cell types of the blood (1).

[0275] To overcome these challenges, we created an artificial transcription factor (ATF) library composed of 2.6×10^6 ATFs, a complexity that encompasses 10-times the sequence space of all 9-bp permutations. An important and distinguishing feature of our ATF design is the incorporation of an interaction domain that allows two ATFs to dimerize and activate target genes in a synergistic manner. We tested the ATF library in inducing differentiation into blood lineages. As demonstrated in this Example, the ATF library can serve as a powerful forward genetic screen to identify regulators of hematopoiesis.

[0276] Library Screening in Blood Differentiation

[0277] The ATF library was tested for morphological changes under conditions that provide extrinsic signals to differentiate to blood lineages (FIG. **23**B) (3). A critical consideration to take when performing a forward genetic screen of this nature is to have a robust read-out of positive phenotypes (FIG. **23**A). I relied on the expertise of the Slukvin lab to select for distinct morphological changes to blood cell types. Human H1 ES cells were treated with the ATF library, ATF library+TAL1, and ATF library+GATA2. Pluripotent cells were also transduced with lentivirus without an ORF (Empty) to account for false positive events induced by integration of a strong constitutive promoter upstream of a gene that induces hematopoiesis, disruption of a gene that represses hematopoiesis, or the cell's stress response to lentiviral infection. Among the treatments, cells treated with the ATF library+TAL1 differentiated into erythroblast-like cells and monocyte-like cells (FIG. **23**C). Clusters of differentiated cells were expanded on methylcellulose, and expanded cells were pooled for collection.

[0278] Two pools of cells were sequenced for ATF identification: one of the erythroid-like phenotype and one of the monocyte-like phenotype. A combination of 4 ATFs were identified from the erythroid-like cells, and 15 ATFs were identified from the monocyte-like cells (FIG. **23**C and Table 10). Because sequencing was not performed at a single cell level, when multiple ATFs were identified in the screen, it was not possible to determine the exact combinations that occurred simultaneously in a cell. Since fewer ATFs were identified for the erythroblast-like cells, the 4 ATFs identified from this phenotype were retested in the validation step (FIG. **23**A). As a positive control, GATA2 and ETV2 (Condition 2) were overexpressed to induce differentiation to myeloid cells (FIG. **24**) (3). TAL1 was expressed with each ATF individually and with an Empty control as a negative control. TAL1+ZFATF20 (Condition 6) generated cells of similar phenotype as the positive control. While TAL1+Empty (Condition 3) did not induce differentiation in the initial screen, in the validation step, the negative control did induce differentiation to endothelial-like cells, although their change in morphology was not as pronounced as with GATA2+ETV2 or Condition 6. TAL1+ATF5 (Condition 4) exhibited cells of a similar phenotype to those of TAL1+Empty. Conditions 5 and 7 did not yield any differentiated cells.

TABLE 10

Sequences of ATF Hits in Hematopoietic Differentiation

ATF	DNA sequence
ZFATF1	ATGCATCCTATGAACAACCTGCTGAACTACGTGGTGCCGA AGATGAGACCTTACGCTTGTGATCGCCGCTTCTCCGTTTCC CACCGGCTCACCCATCACATCCGCATCCACACAGGCCAGA AGCCCTTCCAGTGCCGCATCTGCATGCGCAACTTCAGCCCT AGCAGAAGACTCACCCAGCACATCCGCACCCACACAGGCG AAAAGCCCTTCGCCTGCGACATCTGTGGAAGAAAGTTTGC CCAGAGCGAGGGGCGCAAGGTCCATACCAAGATCCACTTG CGGCAGAAGGACAAGAAAGCAGACAAAAGTGTTGTGGGG CGCGCCGACGCGCTGGACGATTTCGATCTCGACATGCTGG GTTCTGATGCCCTCGATGACTTTGACCTGGATATGTTGGGA AGCGACGCATTGGATGACTTTGATCTGGACATGCTCGGCT CCGATGCTCTGGACGATTTCGATCTCGATATGTTAATTAAC TACCCGTACGACGTTCCGGACTACGCTGGTTATCCCTATGA CGTCCCGGATTATGCAGGATCCTATCCATATGACGTTCCAG ATTACGCTTGA (SEQ ID NO: 72)
ATF5	ATGCATCCTATGAACAACCTGCTGAACTACGTGGTGCCGA AGATGAGACCTTACGATTGCCCAGTGGAGTCCTGTGATCG CCGCTTCTCCAGATCCCATCGGCCACCAGCCACATCCGCAT CCACACAGGCCAGAAGCCCTTCCAGTGCCGCATCTGCATG CGCAACTTCAGCGTCAGCCCGACCCTCACCCGACACATCC GCACCCACACAGGCGAAAAGCCCTTCGCCTGCGACATCTG TGGAAGAAAGTTTGCCAGGAGCGACCAGCGCAAGAGACA TACCAAGATCCACTTGCGGCAGAAGGACAAGAAAGCAGA CAAAAGTGTTGTGGGGCGCGCCGACGCGCTGGACGATTTC GATCTCGACATGCTGGGTTCTGATGCCCTCGATGACTTTGA CCTGGATATGTTGGGAAGCGACGCATTGGATGACTTTGAT CTGGACATGCTCGGCTCCGATGCTCTGGACGATTTCGATCT CGATATGTTACCCGTACGACGTTCCGGACTACGCTGGTTAT CCCTATGACGTCCCGGATTATGCAGGATCCTATCCATATGA CGTTCCAGATTACGCTTGA (SEQ ID NO: 76)
ZFATF6	ATGCATCCTATGAACAACCTGCTGAACTACGTGGTGCCGA AGATGAGACCTTACGCTTGTGATCGCCGCTTCTCCGTTTCC CACCGGCTCACCCATCACATCCGCATCCACACAGGCCAGA AGCCCTTCCAGTGCCGCATCTGCATGCGCAACTTCAGCCTC AGCCTAACCCTCACCAAACACATCCGCACCCACACAGGCG

TABLE 10-continued

Sequences of ATF Hits in Hematopoietic Differentiation

ATF	DNA sequence
	AAAAGCCCTTCGCCTGCGACATCTGTGGAAGAAAGTTTGC CAAAAGCAAACCACGCAAGACACATACCAAGATCCACTTG CGGCAGAAGGACAAGAAAGCAGACAAAAGTGTTGTGGGG CGCGCCGACGCGCTGGACGATTTCGATCTCGACATGCTGG GTTCTGATGCCCTCGATGACTTTGACCTGGATATGTTGGGA AGCGACGCATTGGATGACTTTGATCTGGACATGCTCGGCT CCGATGCTCTGGACGATTTCGATCTCGATATGTTAATTAAC TACCCGTACGACGTTCCGGACTACGCTGGTTATCCCTATGA CGTCCCGGATTATGCAGGATCCTATCCATATGACGTTCCAG ATTACGCTTGA (SEQ ID NO: 77)
ZFATF10	ATGCATCCTATGAACAACCTGCTGAACTACGTGGTGCCGA AGATGAGACCTTACGCTTGCCCAGTGGAGTCCTGTGATCG CCGCTTCTCCGTATCCGACACTCTCACCGTACACATCCGCA TCCACACAGGCCAGAAGCCCTTCCAGTGCCGCATCTGCAT GCGCAACTTCAGCGACAGCGATGAGCTCACCGATCACATC CGCACCCACACAGGCGAAAAGCCCTTCGCCTGCGACATCT GTGGAAGAAAGTTTGCCGAAAGCCGTAAACGCAAGGAAC ATACCAAGATCCACTTGCGGCAGAAGGACAAGAAAGCAG ACAAAAGTGTTGTGGGGCGCGCCGACGCGCTGGACGATTT CGATCTCGACATGCTGGGTTCTGATGCCCTCGATGACTTTG ACCTGGATATGTTGGGAAGCGACGCATTGGATGACTTTGA TCTGGACATGCTCGGCTCCGATGCTCTGGACGATTTCGATC TCGATATGTTAATTAACTACCCGTACGACGTTCCGGACTAC GCTGGTTATCCCTATGACGTCCCGGATTATGCAGGATCCTA TCCATATGACGTTCCAGATTACGCTTGA (SEQ ID NO: 81)
ZFATF13	ATGCATCCTATGAACAACCTGCTGAACTACGTGGTGCCGA AGATGAGACCTTACGCTTGTGATCGCCGCTTCTCCGTTTCC CACCGGCTCACCCATCACATCCGCATCCACACAGGCCAGA AGCCCTTCCAGTGCCGCATCTGCATGCGCAACTTCAGCCCT AGCAGAAGACTCACCCAGCACATCCGCACCCACACAGGCG AAAAGCCCTTCGCCTGCGACATCTGTGGAAGAAAGTTTGC CAGGAGCGACCAGCGCAAGAGACATACCAAGATCCACTT GCGGCAGAAGGACAAGAAAGCAGACAAAAGTGTTGTGGG GCGCGCCGACGCGCTGGACGATTTCGATCTCGACATGCTG GGTTCTGATGCCCTCGATGACTTTGACCTGGATATGTTGGG AAGCGACGCATTGGATGACTTTGATCTGGACATGCTCGGC TCCGATGCTCTGGACGATTTCGATCTCGATATGTTAATTAA CTACCCGTACGACGTTCCGGACTACGCTGGTTATCCCTATG ACGTCCCGGATTATGCAGGATCCTATCCATATGACGTTCCA GATTACGCTTGA (SEQ ID NO: 92)
ZFATF17	ATGCATCCTATGAACAACCTGCTGAACTACGTGGTGCCGA AGATGAGACCTTACGCTTGCCCAGTGGAGTCCTGTGATCG CCGCTTCTCCCGTTCCATCCGTCTCACCATACACATCCGCA TCCACACAGGCCAGAAGCCCTTCCAGTGCCGCATCTGCAT GCGCAACTTCAGCGGTAGCGTTCCACTCACCATACACATC CGCACCCACACAGGCGAAAAGCCCTTCGCCTGCGACATCT GTGGAAGAAAGTTTGCCAGGAGCGACCAGCGCAAGAGAC ATACCAAGATCCACTTGCGGCAGAAGGACAAGAAAGCAG ACAAAAGTGTTGTGGGGCGCGCCGACGCGCTGGACGATTT CGATCTCGACATGCTGGGTTCTGATGCCCTCGATGACTTTG ACCTGGATATGTTGGGAAGCGACGCATTGGATGACTTTGA TCTGGACATGCTCGGCTCCGATGCTCTGGACGATTTCGATC TCGATATGTTAATTAACTACCCGTACGACGTTCCGGACTAC GCTGGTTATCCCTATGACGTCCCGGATTATGCAGGATCCTA TCCATATGACGTTCCAGATTACGCTTGA (SEQ ID NO: 96)
ZFATF19	ATGCATCCTATGAACAACCTGCTGAACTACGTGGTGCCGA AGATGAGACCTTACGCTTGCCCAGTGGAGTCCTGTGATCG CCGCTTCTCCATATCCGGTGCGCTCACCGGGCACATCCGCA TCCACACAGGCCAGAAGCCCTTCGCCTGCGACATCTGTGG AAGAAAGTTTGCCAGGAGCGACCAGCGCAAGAGACATAC CAAGATCCACTTGCGGCAGAAGGACAAGAAAGCAGACAA AAGTGTTGTGGGGCGCGCCGACGCGCTGGACGATTTCGAT CTCGACATGCTGGGTTCTGATGCCCTCGATGACTTTGACCT GGATATGTTGGGAAGCGACGCATTGGATGACTTTGATCTG GACATGCTCGGCTCCGATGCTCTGGACGATTTCGATCTCGA TATGTTAATTAACTACCCGTACGACGTTCCGGACTACGCTG GTTATCCCTATGACGTCCCGGATTATGCAGGATCCTATCCA TATGACGTTCCAGATTACGCTTGA (SEQ ID NO: 98)
ZFATF20	ATGCATCCTATGAACAACCTGCTGAACTACGTGGTGCCGA AGATGAGACCTTACGATTGCCCAGTGGAGTCCTGTGATCG CCGCTTCTCCCAGTCCGTGAATCTCACCGTGCACATCCGCA TCCACACAGGCCAGAAGCCCTTCCAGTGCCGCATCTGCAT GCGCAACTTCAGCGCCAGCCCCCCGCTCACCATACACATC CGCACCCACACAGGCGAAAAGCCCTTCGCCTGCGACATCT GTGGAAGAAAGTTTGCCAGGAGCGACCAGCGCAAGAGAC ATACCAAGATCCACTTGCGGCAGAAGGACAAGAAAGCAG ACAAAAGTGTTGTGGGGCGCGCCGACGCGCTGGACGATTT CGATCTCGACATGCTGGGTTCTGATGCCCTCGATGACTTTG ACCTGGATATGTTGGGAAGCGACGCATTGGATGACTTTGA TCTGGACATGCTCGGCTCCGATGCTCTGGACGATTTCGATC TCGATATGTTAATTAACTACCCGTACGACGTTCCGGACTAC GCTGGTTATCCCTATGACGTCCCGGATTATGCAGGATCCTA TCCATATGACGTTCCAGATTACGCTTGA (SEQ ID NO: 99)
ZFATF21	ATGCATCCTATGAACAACCTGCTGAACTACGTGGTGCCGA AGATGAGACCTTACGATTGCCCAGTGGAGTCCTGTGATCG CCGCTTCTCCGTTTCCCACCGGCTCACCCATCACATCCGCA TCCACACAGGCCAGAAGCCCTTCCAGTGCCGCATCTGCAT GCGCAACTTCAGCGTCAGCCCGACCCTCACCCGACACATC CGCACCCACACAGGCGAAAAGCCCTTCGCCTGCGACATCT GTGGAAGAAAGTTTGCCAGGAGCGACCAGCGCAAGAGAC ATACCAAGATCCACTTGCGGCAGAAGGACAAGAAAGCAG ACAAAAGTGTTGTGGGGCGCGCCGACGCGCTGGACGATTT CGATCTCGACATGCTGGGTTCTGATGCCCTCGATGACTTTG ACCTGGATATGTTGGGAAGCGACGCATTGGATGACTTTGA TCTGGACATGCTCGGCTCCGATGCTCTGGACGATTTCGATC TCGATATGTTAATTAACTACCCGTACGACGTTCCGGACTAC GCTGGTTATCCCTATGACGTCCCGGATTATGCAGGATCCTA TCCATATGACGTTCCAGATTACGCTTGA (SEQ ID NO: 100)
ZFATF22	ATGCATCCTATGAACAACCTGCTGAACTACGTGGTGCCGA AGATGAGACCTTACGCTTGCCCAGTGGAGTCCTGTGATCG CCGCTTCTCCCGTTCCATCCGTCTCACCATACACATACGCA TCCACACAGGCCAGAAGCCCTTCCAGTGCCGCATCTGCAT GCGCAACCTCAGCCACAGCGCTCATCTCACCCGACACATC CGCACCCACACAGGCGAAAAGCCCTTCGCCTGCGACATCT GTGGAAGAAAGTTTGCCAGGAGCGACCAGCGCAAGAGAC ATACCAAGATCCACTTGCGGCAGAAGGACAAGAAAGCAG ACAAAAGTGTTGTGGGGCGCGCCGACGCGCTGGACGATTT CGATCTCGACATGCTGGGTTCTGATGCCCTCGATGACTTTG ACCTGGATATGTTGGGAAGCGACGCATTGGATGACTTTGA TCTGGACATGCTCGGCTCCGATGCTCTGGACGATTTCGATC TCGATATGTTAATTAACTACCCGTACGACGTTCCGGACTAC GCTGGTTATCCCTATGACGTCCCGGATTATGCAGGATCCTA TCCATATGACGTTCCAGATTACGCTTGA (SEQ ID NO: 101)
ZFATF23	ATGCATCCTATGAACAACCTGCTGAACTACGTGGTGCCGA AGATGAGACCTTACGCTTGCCCAGTGGAGTCCTGTGATCG CCGCTTCTCCGTTTCCCACCGGCTCACCCATCACATCCGCA TCCACACAGGCCAGAAGCCCTTCCAGTGCCGCATCTGCAT GCGCAACTTCAGCCCTAGCAGAAGACTCACCCAGCACATC CGCACCCACACAGGCGAAAAGCCCTTCGCCTGCGACATCT GTGGAAGAAAGTTTGCCCAGAGCGAGGGGCGCAAGGTCC ATACCAAGATCCACTTGCGGCAGAAGGACAAGAAAGCAG ACAAAAGTGTTGTGGGGCGCGCCGACGCGCTGGACGATTT CGATCTCGACATGCTGGGTTCTGATGCCCTCGATGACTTTG ACCTGGATATGTTGGGAAGCGACGCATTGGATGACTTTGA TCTGGACATGCTCGGCTCCGATGCTCTGGACGATTTCGATC TCGATATGTTAATTAACTACCCGTACGACGTTCCGGACTAC GCTGGTTATCCCTATGACGTCCCGGATTATGCAGGATCCTA TCCATATGACGTTCCAGATTACGCTTGA (SEQ ID NO: 102)

TABLE 10-continued

Sequences of ATF Hits in Hematopoietic Differentiation

ATF	DNA sequence
ZFATF24	ATGCATCCTATGAACAACCTGCTGAACTACGTGGTGCCGA AGATGAGACCTTACGCTTGTGATCGCCGCTTCTCCGTTTCC CACCGGCTCACCCATCACATCCGCATCCACACAGGCCAGA AGCCCTTCCAGTGCCGCATCTGCATGCGCAACTTCAGCGA CAGCGATGAGCTCACCGATCACATCCGCACCCACACAGGC GAAAAGCCCTTCGCCTGCGACATCTGTGGAAGAAAGTTTG CCAGGAGCGACCAGCGCAAGAGACATACCAAGATCCACTT GCGGCAGAAGGACAAGAAAGCAGACAAAAGTGTTGTGGG GCGCGCCGACGCGCTGGACGATTTCGATCTCGACATGCTG GGTTCTGATGCCCTCGATGACTTTGACCTGGATATGTTGGG AAGCGACGCATTGGATGACTTTGATCTGGACATGCTCGGC TCCGATGCTCTGGACGATTTCGATCTCGATATGTTAATTAA CTACCCGTACGACGTTCCGGACTACGCTGGTTATCCCTATG ACGTCCCGGATTATGCAGGATCCTATCCATATGACGTTCCA GATTACGCTTGA (SEQ ID NO: 103)
ZFATF25	ATGCATCCTATGAACAACCTGCTGAACTACGTGGTGCCGA AGATGAGACCTTACGCTTGCCCAGTGGAGTCCTGTGATCG CCGCTTCTCCGTTTCCCACCGGCTCACCCATCACATCCGCA TCCACACAGGCCAGAAGCCCTTCCAGTGCCGCATCTGCAT GCGCAACTTCAGCGACAGCGATGAGCTCACCGATCACATC CGCACCCACACAGGCGAAAAGCCCTTCGCCTGCGACATCT GTGGAAGAAAGTTTGCCCAGAGCGAGGGGCGCAAGGTCC ATACCAAGATCCACTTGCGGCAGAAGGACAAGAAAGCAG ACAAAAGTGTTGTGGGGCGCGCCGACGCGCTGGACGATTT CGATCTCGACATGCTGGGTTCTGATGCCCTCGATGACTTTG ACCTGGATATGTTGGGAAGCGACGCATTGGATGACTTTGA TCTGGACATGCTCGGCTCCGATGCTCTGGACGATTTCGATC TCGATATGTTAATTAACTACCCGTACGACGTTCCGGACTAC GCTGGTTATCCCTATGACGTCCCGGATTATGCAGGATCCTA TCCATATGACGTTCCAGATTACGCTTGA (SEQ ID NO: 104)
ZFATF26	ATGCATCCTATGAACAACCTGCTGAACTACGTGGTGCCGA AGATGAGACCTTACGCTTGTGATCGCCGCTTCTCCGTTTCC CACCGGCTCACCCATCACATCCGCATCCACACAGGCCAGA AGCCCTTCCAGTGCCGCATCTGCATGCGCAACTTCAGCGTC AGCCCGACCCTCACCCGACACATCCGCACCCACACAGGCG AAAAGCCCTTCGCCTGCGACATCTGTGGAAGAAAGTTTGC CAGGAGCGACCAGCGCAAGAGACATACCAAGATCCACTT GCGGCAGAAGGACAAGAAAGCAGACAAAAGTGTTGTGGG GCGCGCCGACGCGCTGGACGATTTCGATCTCGACATGCTG GGTTCTGATGCCCTCGATGACTTTGACCTGGATATGTTGGG AAGCGACGCATTGGATGACTTTGATCTGGACATGCTCGGC TCCGATGCTCTGGACGATTTCGATCTCGATATGTTAATTAA CTACCCGTACGACGTTCCGGACTACGCTGGTTATCCCTATG ACGTCCCGGATTATGCAGGATCCTATCCATATGACGTTCCA GATTACGCTTGA (SEQ ID NO: 105)
ZFATF27	ATGCATCCTATGAACAACCTGCTGAACTACGTGGTGCCGA AGATGAGACCTTACGCTTGCCCAGTGGAGTCCTGTGATCG CCGCTTCTCCGTATCCGACGCTCTCACCGTACACATCCGCA TCCACACAGGCCAGAAGCCCTTCCAGTGCCGCATCTGCAT GCGCAACTTCAGCGTCAGCCCGACCCTCACCCGACACATC CGCACCCACACAGGCGAAAAGCCCTTCGCCTGCGACATCT GTGGAAGAAAGTTTGCCAGGAGCGACCAGCGCAAGAGAC ATACCAAGATCCACTTGCGGCAGAAGGACAAGAAAGCAG ACAAAAGTGTTGTGGGGCGCGCCGACGCGCTGGACGATTT CGATCTCGACATGCTGGGTTCTGATGCCCTCGATGACTTTG ACCTGGATATGTTGGGAAGCGACGCATTGGATGACTTTGA TCTGGACATGCTCGGCTCCGATGCTCTGGACGATTTCGATC TCGATATGTTAATTAACTACCCGTACGACGTTCCGGACTAC GCTGGTTATCCCTATGACGTCCCGGATTATGCAGGATCCTA TCCATATGACGTTCCAGATTACGCTTGA (SEQ ID NO: 106)
ZFATF28	ATGCATCCTATGAACAACCTGCTGAACTACGTGGTGCCGA AGATGAGACCTTACGATTGCCCAGTGGAGTCCTGTGATCG CCGCTTCTCCGTTTCCCACCGGCTCACCCATCACATCCGCA TCCACACAGGCCAGAAGCCCTTCCAGTGCCGCATCTGCAT GCGCAACTTCAGCCTCAGCCTAACCCTCACCAAACACATC CGCACCCACACAGGCGAAAAGCCCTTCGCCTGCGACATCT GTGGAAGAAAGTTTGCCGAAAGCCGTAAACGCAAGGAAC ATACCAAGATCCACTTGCGGCAGAAGGACAAGAAAGCAG ACAAAAGTGTTGTGGGGCGCGCCGACGCGCTGGACGATTT CGATCTCGACATGCTGGGTTCTGATGCCCTCGATGACTTTG ACCTGGATATGTTGGGAAGCGACGCATTGGATGACTTTGA TCTGGACATGCTCGGCTCCGATGCTCTGGACGATTTCGATC TCGATATGTTAATTAACTACCCGTACGACGTTCCGGACTAC GCTGGTTATCCCTATGACGTCCCGGATTATGCAGGATCCTA TCCATATGACGTTCCAGATTACGCTTGA (SEQ ID NO: 107)
ZFATF29	ATGCATCCTATGAACAACCTGCTGAACTACGTGGTGCCGA AGATGAGACCTTACGCTTGCCCAGTGGAGTCCTGTGATCG CCGCTTCTCCGTATCCGACGCTCTCACCGTACACATCCGCA TCCACACAGGCCAGAAGCCCTTCCAGTGCCGCATCTGCAT GCGCAACTTCAGCGTCAGCCCGACCCTCACCCGACACATC CGCACCCACACAGGCGAAAAGCCCTTCGCCTGCGACATCT GTGGAAGAAAGTTTGCCGAAAGCCGTAAACGCAAGGAAC ATACCAAGATCCACTTGCGGCAGAAGGACAAGAAAGCAG ACAAAAGTGTTGTGGGGCGCGCCGACGCGCTGGACGATTT CGATCTCGACATGCTGGGTTCTGATGCCCTCGATGACTTTG ACCTGGATATGTTGGGAAGCGACGCATTGGATGACTTTGA TCTGGACATGCTCGGCTCCGATGCTCTGGACGATTTCGATC TCGATATGTTAATTAACTACCCGTACGACGTTCCGGACTAC GCTGGTTATCCCTATGACGTCCCGGATTATGCAGGATCCTA TCCATATGACGTTCCAGATTACGCTTGA (SEQ ID NO: 108)
ZFATF30	ATGCATCCTATGAACAACCTGCTGAACTACGTGGTGCCGA AGATGAGACCTTACGATTGCCCAGTGGAGTCCTGTGATCG CCGCTTCTCCGTATCCGACGCTCTCACCGTACACATCCGCA TCCACACAGGCCAGAAGCCCTTCCAGTGCCGCATCTGCAT GCGCAACTTCAGCGACAGCGATGAGCTCACCGATCACATC CGCACCCACACAGGCGAAAAGCCCTTCGCCTGCGACATCT GTGGAAGAAAGTTTGCCGAAAGCCGTAAACGCAAGGAAC ATACCAAGATCCACTTGCGGCAGAAGGACAAGAAAGCAG ACAAAAGTGTTGTGGGGCGCGCCGACGCGCTGGACGATTT CGATCTCGACATGCTGGGTTCTGATGCCCTCGATGACTTTG ACCTGGATATGTTGGGAAGCGACGCATTGGATGACTTTGA TCTGGACATGCTCGGCTCCGATGCTCTGGACGATTTCGATC TCGATATGTTAATTAACTACCCGTACGACGTTCCGGACTAC GCTGGTTATCCCTATGACGTCCCGGATTATGCAGGATCCTA TCCATATGACGTTCCAGATTACGCTTGA (SEQ ID NO: 109)
ZFATF31	ATGCATCCTATGAACAACCTGCTGAACTACGTGGTGCCGA AGATGAGACCTTACGATTGTGATCGCCGCTTCTCCGTTTCC CACCGGCTCACCCATCACATCCGCACCCACACAGGCGAAA AGCCCTTCGCCTGCGACATCTGTGGAAGAAAGTTTGCCAG AAGCATACACCGCAAGCGTCATACCAAGATCCACTTGCGG CAGAAGGACAAGAAAGCAGACAAAAGTGTTGTGGGGCGC GCCGACGCGCTGGACGATTTCGATCTCGACATGCTGGGTT CTGATGCCCTCGATGACTTTGACCTGGATATGTTGGGAAG CGACGCATTGGATGACTTTGATCTGGACATGCTCGGCTCC GATGCTCTGGACGATTTCGATCTCGATATGTTAATTAACTA CCCGTACGACGTTCCGGACTACGCTGGTTATCCCTATGACG TCCCGGATTATGCAGGATCCTATCCATATGACGTTCCAGAT TACGCTTGA (SEQ ID NO: 110)

[0279] ATF Targets

[0280] To identify the ATF target genes, cognate site identification (CSI) described in Chapter 3, was used to find the top 100 scoring motifs for each ATF (FIG. **25**A). The sequence and energy landscapes (SELs) for the ATFs depict the comprehensive sequence specificity for each ATF (FIG. **25**B). The locations of these top-scoring motifs were identified in the human genome, then annotated to the nearest genes. The frequency of occurrence in the genome was plotted as well as the frequency within ±1 kb of a transcrip-

tion start site (TSS) (FIGS. **26**A-**26**B). Although ZFATF19 (purple) had the most binding sites in the genome, ZFATF21 (brown) had the most binding sites near the TSS.

[0281] Discussion

[0282] This screen for morphological changes to blood lineages demonstrates that an ATF library can be used as a forward genetic screen to identify regulators of hematopoiesis. By testing the ATF library with TAL1, we were able to show that ATFs can promote differentiation into erythroid-like cells. Because ATF identification was not performed at the single cell level, we could not capture the combination of ATFs that induced the conversions to erythroid-like and monocyte-like cells. However, only four ATFs were expressed in the erythroid-like cells, so we were able to test them individually with TAL1 in the validation step. While TAL1 alone did not seem to induce differentiation in the initial screen, in the validation experiment, TAL1+Empty induced differentiation to endothelial-like cells. TAL1 has, indeed, been implicated in blood and endothelial development (4), although its capacity to differentiate pluripotent stem cells to blood lineages remains to be examined. Though morphologically distinct from TAL+ZFATF20, the propensity for TAL1+Empty to induce differentiation must also be further explored at the transcriptional level. In addition, chromatin-immunoprecipitation could be performed to elucidate the binding sites in cells. To better identify the combination of factors that induce differentiation into blood lineages, positive outcomes from future screens should be isolated as single cells for ATF identification. The results from this study suggests that the ATF library can be applied to other unanswered questions in the hematopoietic stem cell field.

[0283] Materials and Methods

[0284] Cell Culture:

[0285] Human H1 ES cells were grown in mTESR1™ medium (StemCell Technologies, Inc., Vancouver, CA) on Matrigel® substrate (BD Biosciences, NJ). For differentiation into blood lineages, cells were cultured in 3F media, composed of mTeSR basal media with FGF2 (20 ng/mL), SCF (100 ng/mL), and thrombopoietin (50 ng/mL). Expansion of cells with hematopoietic phenotypes was performed on methylcellulose. Cells were maintained in a humidified 37° C. incubator with 5% CO_2.

[0286] Lentivirus Production:

[0287] ATFs and the empty control were packaged into lentivirus using a second-generation lentiviral system. Lentivirus was produced in HEK293T cells by calcium phosphate transfection of pSIN expression, psPAX2 packaging, and pMD2.G envelope plasmids. Media containing virus was harvested 48-60 hours post-transfection. Lentivirus was centrifuged with a sucrose cushion at 25,000 rpm for 2 hours. Viral particles were suspended in PBS and concentrated virus was stored at −80° C. Viral titers were measured by counting HEK293T cells that survived selection after 2 days in media containing puromycin (3 μg/mL).

[0288] Lentiviral Transduction:

[0289] Lentiviruses were delivered to H1 cells with 8 μg/mL polybrene. Selection was performed in media containing puromycin (1 μg/mL first day, 1.5 μg/mL second day). The ATF was driven by a constitutive promoter, EF1α.

[0290] Identification of ATFs:

[0291] Cells exhibiting a phenotype of the hematopoietic lineage were picked an expanded on methylcellulose. Two-step nested PCR was performed from cell clusters after expansion. The first round of amplification was performed with ATF-forward-1 and ATF-reverse-1 primers (400 nM final concentration) in a 50 μL volume or 40 cycles. The second round of amplification was performed with 10 μL of the first PCR reaction, ATF-forward-2 and ATF-reverse-2 primers (400 nM final concentration) for 35 cycles. The second PCR reaction was purified and digested with AscI and NheI. The digested product was cloned into pcDNA 3.1 at the AscI and NheI restriction sites. Sanger sequencing was performed on the clones with the CMV-forward primer.

[0292] The number of sequences obtained to reach saturation was determined by calculating the probability that the chance of finding another unique ATF is less than 1%. $(1-1/(n+1))^x<0.01$, where n is the number of unique ATFs identified and x is the number of sequences needed.

[0293] Microscopy:

[0294] Micrographs were taken with a 10× objective on a Zeiss Observer. A1 with an AxioCam ICm1.

[0295] Cognate Site Identification:

[0296] HEK293 cells were transiently transfected with ATFs using Lipofectamine 2000 (Thermo Fisher #11668019). Cells that underwent a mock transfection (without an expression plasmid for ATFs) served as a negative control. Cells were harvested 48 hours post-transfection. Lysates were prepared by lysing 10^7 cells in 300 μL of lysis buffer (50 mM Tris-HCl pH 7.5, 150 mM NaCl, 1% Triton X-100, and 0.1% Na deoxycholate). A 21.5 G syringe needle was used for mechanical lysis. Lysates were centrifuged at 10 k×g for 10 min to separate precipitated genomic DNA from protein constituents. The supernatant, containing ATF protein, was used for CSI. HA magnetic beads (MBL #M132-9) were added to the cell lysates for immunoprecipitation. The binding reaction between the ATFs and 100 nM synthetic DNA was performed in binding buffer (25 mM HEPES, 80 mM KCl, 0.2 mM EDTA, 1 mM $MgCl_2$, 0.1 mM $ZnSO_4$) at 25° C. After pull-down, three quick washes with 100 μL ice-cold binding buffer were performed to remove unbound DNA. Magnetic beads were resuspended in a PCR master mix (Lucigen #30035-1) and the DNA was amplified for 15 or 18 cycles. Amplified DNA was column purified (Qiagen #28106), and this enriched DNA pool was used for the subsequent round of enrichment, for a total of three rounds. After three rounds of selection, Illumina sequencing adapters and a unique 6 bp barcode for multiplexing were added by PCR amplification. The starting library (Round 0) was also barcoded. Up to 180 samples were combined and sequenced in a single HiSeq2000 lane.

[0297] Cognate Site Identification Data Analysis:

[0298] Illumina sequencing yielded ~180 million reads per lane. Reads were de-multiplexed by requiring an exact match to the 6 bp barcode and truncated to include only the 25 bp derived from the random portion of the library. On average, we obtained 709,300 reads per barcode. The occurrence of every k-mer (lengths 8 through 16 bp) was counted using a sliding window of size k. To correct for biases in our starting DNA library, we took the ratio of the counts of every k-mer to the expected number of counts in the mock-transfected control. The mock control was modeled using a 5th-order Markov Model derived from the sequencing reads corresponding to the starting library (Round 0). We then calculated a Z-score=$(x-\mu)/\sigma$ or (CSI score minus mean)/standard deviation for each k-mer, using the distribution of k-mer enrichment values (CSI score) for the ATF.

[0299] Bioinformatic Analysis of ATF Binding Sites:

[0300] The genomic locations of the top five or 100 high-scoring 10-bp motifs from CSI were identified in the mm10 genome by the findMotif utility from the UCSC Genome Browser. These genomic sites were annotated using Homer. Annotated sites were filtered to those within +1 kb of the TSS.

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Example 4—Inducing Lytic Replication of Cytomegalovirus with ATFs

[0305] A majority of the population is infected with human cytomegalovirus (HCMV), a member of the β-herpesvirus family; however, the virus only exhibits pathogenic effects in immunocompromised individuals (1). Once cells are infected with HCMV, virions can either enter a latent state, in which a few viral genes are expressed, or enter a lytic state, in which the viral genes are robustly expressed, the viral genome is replicated, and new virions are produced to spread to other cells. The production of virions results in death of the host cell. It is remains unclear how long cells with HCMV in the latent state can survive. After latency is established, HCMV can reactivate, eliciting responses of the lytic state (1).

[0306] The exact mechanism controlling whether HCMV genes are expressed remains to be elucidated. Curiously, HCMV in pluripotent and hematopoietic stem cells establishes latency (2). The repressor protein Death Domain Associated Protein (DAXX) recruits histone deacetylases (HDACs) to the viral genome, and viral genes are silenced. In differentiated cells, the viral tegument protein, pp71, targets DAXX for degradation, and its degradation leads to expression of immediate early genes that facilitate viral replication in the lytic state. In undifferentiated cells, pp71 remains cytoplasmic. The cellular signals that regulate translation of pp71 to the nucleus are poorly understood.

[0307] We investigated the transcriptional mechanism that permits viral gene expression using an artificial transcription factor (ATF) library comprising 2.6×10^6 ATFs, a complexity that encompasses 10-times the sequence space of all 9-bp permutations. An important and distinguishing feature of our ATF design is the incorporation of an interaction domain that allows two ATFs to dimerize and activate target genes in a synergistic manner. We tested the ATF library in permitting the expression of HCMV genes in monocytes where HCMV remains latent. Our results suggest that the ATF library can serve as a powerful forward genetic screen to identify regulators of lytic replication. Pinpointing the key nodes of a transcriptional network sufficient to license lytic replication would be therapeutic targets to prevent HCMV pathogenesis.

[0308] ATF Library Screening for Lytic Replication

[0309] We tested the ATF library in THP-1 cells, a human monocytic leukemia cell line, that has the potential to differentiate into macrophages (3). When HCMV infects THP-1 cells, viral genes are not expressed. Pretreatment with valproic acid (VPA), an HDAC inhibitor, followed by HCMV infection, results in the expression of viral proteins in about a quarter of the cell population. To test the ability of the ATF library to permit expression of viral genes, an HCMV strain AD169 expressing a fusion protein IE2-GFP (immediate early gene 2 fused to green fluorescent protein) was used to screen for lytic replication (FIG. **27**B) (2).

[0310] For the ATF library screen, THP-1 cells were transduced with either the ATF library (multiplicity of infection=1) or lentiviruses lacking an open reading frame (Empty) but retaining the EF1a promoter and the puromycin selection gene. After selection of integration events with puromycin, cells were infected with HCMV and expression of the IE2-GFP reporter gene was assessed 20 hours later. Approximately, 0.8% of cells from the ATF-treated were GFP^+, while only 0.5% of cells from the Empty control were GFP^+ (FIG. **27**C). The frequency of positive outcomes from the Empty control allows us to determine the rate of false positive events to expect out of the screen. For the HCMV screen, we expect a false positive rate of about 63% (⅝), which is quite high compared to other ATF library screens described in this thesis. Approximately 19% of cells pre-treated with VPA followed by HCMV infection expressed IE2-GFP, and THP-1 cells uninfected with HCMV expressed no IE2-GFP. ATF-treated cells with the greatest GFP expression were isolated as single cells by cell sorting (FIGS. **27**A and **27**C). ATFs expressed in the sorted cells were identified by two-step nested PCR (FIG. **27**D and Table 11). Each cell expressed one or two ATFs, one of which was common in four cells.

TABLE 11

Sequences of ATF Hits in HCMV Lytic Replication

ATF	DNA sequence
ZFATF1	ATGCATCCTATGAACAACCTGCTGAACTACGTGGTGCCGA AGATGAGACCTTACGCTTGTGATCGCCGCTTCTCCGTTTCC CACCGGCTCACCCATCACATCCGCATCCACACAGGCCAGA AGCCCTTCCAGTGCCGCATCTGCATGCGCAACTTCAGCCCT AGCAGAAGACTCACCCAGCACATCCGCACCCACACAGGCG AAAAGCCCTTCGCCTGCGACATCTGTGGAAGAAAGTTTGC CCAGAGCGAGGGGCGCAAGGTCCATACCAAGATCCACTTG CGGCAGAAGGACAAGAAAGCAGACAAAAGTGTTGTGGGG CGCGCCGACGCGCTGGACGATTTCGATCTCGACATGCTGG GTTCTGATGCCCTCGATGACTTTGACCTGGATATGTTGGGA AGCGACGCATTGGATGACTTTGATCTGGACATGCTCGGCT CCGATGCTCTGGACGATTTCGATCTCGATATGTTAATTAAC TACCCGTACGACGTTCCGGACTACGCTGGTTATCCCTATGA CGTCCCGGATTATGCAGGATCCTATCCATATGACGTTCCAG ATTACGCTTGA (SEQ ID NO: 72)
ZFATF2	ATGCATCCTATGAACAACCTGCTGAACTACGTGGTGCCGA AGATGAGACCTTACGCTTGCCCAGTGGAGTCCTGTGATCG CCGCTTCTCCGGGTCCGTAGTCCTCACCAAACACATCCGCA TCCACACAGGCCAGAAGCCCTTCCAGTGCCGCATCTGCAT GCGCAACTTCAGCATAAGCACTGTTCTCACCGGTCACATC CGCACCCACACAGGCGAAAAGCCCTTCGCCTGCGACATCT GTGGAAGAAAGTTTGCCAACAGCGAGCCACGCAAGACCC ATACCAAGATCCACTTGCGGCAGAAGGACAAGAAAGCAG

TABLE 11-continued

Sequences of ATF Hits in HCMV Lytic Replication

ATF	DNA sequence
	ACAAAAGTGTTGTGGGGCGCGCCGACGCGCTGGACGATTT CGATCTCGACATGCTGGGTTCTGATGCCCTCGATGACTTTG ACCTGGATATGTTGGGAAGCGACGCATTGGATGACTTTGA TCTGGACATGCTCGGCTCCGATGCTCTGGACGATTTCGATC TCGATATGTTAATTAACTACCCGTACGACGTTCCGGACTAC GCTGGTTATCCCTATGACGTCCCGGATTATGCAGGATCCTA TCCATATGACGTTCCAGATTACGCTTGA (SEQ ID NO: 73)
ATF5	ATGCATCCTATGAACAACCTGCTGAACTACGTGGTGCCGA AGATGAGACCTTACGATTGCCCAGTGGAGTCCTGTGATCG CCGCTTCTCCAGATCCCATCGGCCACCAGCCACATCCGCAT CCACACAGGCCAGAAGCCCTTCCAGTGCCGCATCTGCATG CGCAACTTCAGCGTCAGCCCGACCCTCACCCGACACATCC GCACCCACACAGGCGAAAAGCCCTTCGCCTGCGACATCTG TGGAAGAAAGTTTGCCAGGAGCGACCAGCGCAAGAGACA TACCAAGATCCACTTGCGGCAGAAGGACAAGAAAGCAGA CAAAAGTGTTGTGGGGCGCGCCGACGCGCTGGACGATTTC GATCTCGACATGCTGGGTTCTGATGCCCTCGATGACTTTGA CCTGGATATGTTGGGAAGCGACGCATTGGATGACTTTGAT CTGGACATGCTCGGCTCCGATGCTCTGGACGATTTCGATCT CGATATGTTACCCGTACGACGTTCCGGACTACGCTGGTTAT CCCTATGACGTCCCGGATTATGCAGGATCCTATCCATATGA CGTTCCAGATTACGCTTGA (SEQ ID NO: 76)
ZFATF6	ATGCATCCTATGAACAACCTGCTGAACTACGTGGTGCCGA AGATGAGACCTTACGCTTGTGATCGCCGCTTCTCCGTTTCC CACCGGCTCACCCATCACATCCGCATCCACACAGGCCAGA AGCCCTTCCAGTGCCGCATCTGCATGCGCAACTTCAGCCTC AGCCTAACCCTCACCAAACACATCCGCACCCACACAGGCG AAAAGCCCTTCGCCTGCGACATCTGTGGAAGAAAGTTTGC CAAAAGCAAACCACGCAAGACACATACCAAGATCCACTTG CGGCAGAAGGACAAGAAAGCAGACAAAAGTGTTGTGGGG CGCGCCGACGCGCTGGACGATTTCGATCTCGACATGCTGG GTTCTGATGCCCTCGATGACTTTGACCTGGATATGTTGGGA AGCGACGCATTGGATGACTTTGATCTGGACATGCTCGGCT CCGATGCTCTGGACGATTTCGATCTCGATATGTTAATTAAC TACCCGTACGACGTTCCGGACTACGCTGGTTATCCCTATGA CGTCCCGGATTATGCAGGATCCTATCCATATGACGTTCCAG ATTACGCTTGA (SEQ ID NO: 77)
ZFATF7	ATGCATCCTATGAACAACCTGCTGAACTACGTGGTGCCGA AGATGAGACCTTACGCTTGCCCAGTGGAGTCCTGTGATCG CCGCTTCTCCCGTTCCATCCGTCTCACCATACACATCCGCA TCCACACAGGCCAGAAGCCCTTCCAGTGCCGCATCTGCAT GCGCAACTTCAGCCCCAGCCCGCCACTCACCCCTCACATC CGCACCCACACAGGCGAAAAGCCCTTCGCCTGCGACATCT GTGGAAGAAAGTTTGCCCCAAGCCTTCTCCGCAAGCCACA TACCAAGATCCACTTGCGGCAGAAGGACAAGAAAGCAGA CAAAAGTGTTGTGGGGCGCGCCGACGCGCTGGACGATTTC GATCTCGACATGCTGGGTTCTGATGCCCTCGATGACTTTGA CCTGGATATGTTGGGAAGCGACGCATTGGATGACTTTGAT CTGGACATGCTCGGCTCCGATGCTCTGGACGATTTCGATCT CGATATGTTAATTAACTACCCGTACGACGTTCCGGACTAC GCTGGTTATCCCTATGACGTCCCGGATTATGCAGGATCCTA TCCATATGACGTTCCAGATTACGCTTGA (SEQ ID NO: 78)
ZFATF9	ATGCATCCTATGAACAACCTGCTGAACTACGTGGTGCCGA AGATGAGACCTTACGCTTGCCCAGTGGAGTCCTGTGATCG CCGCTTCTCCGGCTCCAATCGGCTCACCGAGCACATCCGC ATCCACACAGGCGAAAAGCCCTTCGCCTGCGACATCTGTG GAAGAAAGTTTGCCAACAGCCCCCTACGCAAGGGTCATAC CAAGATCCACTTGCGGCAGAAGGACAAGAAAGCAGACAA AAGTGTTGTGGGGCGCGCCGACGCGCTGGACGATTTCGAT CTCGACATGCTGGGTTCTGATGCCCTCGATGACTTTGACCT GGATATGTTGGGAAGCGACGCATTGGATGACTTTGATCTG GACATGCTCGGCTCCGATGCTCTGGACGATTTCGATCTCGA TATGTTAATTAACTACCCGTACGACGTTCCGGACTACGCTG GTTATCCCTATGACGTCCCGGATTATGCAGGATCCTATCCA TATGACGTTCCAGATTACGCTTGA (SEQ ID NO: 80)

TABLE 11-continued

Sequences of ATF Hits in HCMV Lytic Replication

ATF	DNA sequence
ZFATF23	ATGCATCCTATGAACAACCTGCTGAACTACGTGGTGCCGA AGATGAGACCTTACGCTTGCCCAGTGGAGTCCTGTGATCG CCGCTTCTCCGTTTCCCACCGGCTCACCCATCACATCCGCA TCCACACAGGCCAGAAGCCCTTCCAGTGCCGCATCTGCAT GCGCAACTTCAGCCCTAGCAGAAGACTCACCCAGCACATC CGCACCCACACAGGCGAAAAGCCCTTCGCCTGCGACATCT GTGGAAGAAAGTTTGCCCAGAGCGAGGGGCGCAAGGTCC ATACCAAGATCCACTTGCGGCAGAAGGACAAGAAAGCAG ACAAAAGTGTTGTGGGGCGCGCCGACGCGCTGGACGATTT CGATCTCGACATGCTGGGTTCTGATGCCCTCGATGACTTTG ACCTGGATATGTTGGGAAGCGACGCATTGGATGACTTTGA TCTGGACATGCTCGGCTCCGATGCTCTGGACGATTTCGATC TCGATATGTTAATTAACTACCCGTACGACGCGCTGGACTAC GCTGGTTATCCCTATGACGTCCCGGATTATGCAGGATCCTA TCCATATGACGTTCCAGATTACGCTTGA (SEQ ID NO: 102)

[0311] Validation of the ATFs from the screen showed minimal effects of the ATFs on IE2-GFP expression compared to the Empty control (FIG. **27**E). It is important to note that the positive control (VPA) had fewer cells expressing IE2-GFP (8.4%) than in the original screen (19%/). Even the Empty control exhibited fewer cells expressing IE2-GFP (0.2% from 0.5%). This lower yield of IE2-GFP-expressing cells could be attributed to decreased levels of HCMV infection. HCMV must be sonicated to disaggregate the virions that tend to clump after freezing. A different sonicator was used for disaggregation in the validation step than in the original screen, resulting in different HCMV preparations. Experimental conditions could be optimized to increase HCMV infection for the purposes of revalidating the ATFs; however the high false positive rate suggests that the IE2-GFP system may not be a good system for ATF library testing.

[0312] ATF Targets and Mechanism of Action

[0313] To identify the ATF target genes, cognate site identification (CSI) described in Chapter 3, was used to find the top 100 scoring motifs for each ATF (FIG. **28**A). The sequence and energy landscapes (SELs) for the ATFs depict the comprehensive sequence specificity for each ATF (FIG. **28**B). The locations of these top-scoring motifs were identified in the human genome, then annotated to the nearest genes. The frequency of occurrence in the genome was plotted as well as the frequency within ±1 kb of a transcription start site (TSS) (FIGS. **29**A-**29**B). ZFATF7 (brown ATF) appears to be highly specific, but white its preferred sites are highly represented in the human genome, they are less represented near the TSS.

[0314] Discussion

[0315] The HCMV screen for regulators permitting the expression of the viral genome to initiate productive lytic replication demonstrates that a system with a low false positive rate is critical for successfully identifying ATF hits. By comparing the number of cells that express IE2-GFP in the Empty control to the ATF library, it was apparent that the cell's response to lentiviral infection or the leaky nature of IE2-GFP expression makes it difficult to achieve a low false positive rate that is conducive to validating the ATF hits. While the validation step needs to be further optimized and replicated, this forward genetic screen demonstrated the challenge in testing an ATF library in a system where there

may be false positives. The ATF library can either be tested in a different system to address the questions of licensing HCMV gene expression, or more cells must be sequenced for ATF validation, such that ATFs can be validated despite the high false positive rate.

[0316] Materials and Methods

[0317] Cell Culture:

[0318] THP-1 monocytes were grown in RPMI 1640 media supplemented with 10% FBS and 0.05 mM β-mercaptoethanol. Cells were maintained at a density of 2×10^4-1×10^6 cells/mL. Cells were maintained in a humidified 37° C. incubator with 5% CO_2.

[0319] Lentivirus Production:

[0320] ATFs and the empty control were packaged into lentivirus using a second-generation lentiviral system. Lentivirus was produced in HEK293T cells by calcium phosphate transfection of pSIN expression, psPAX2 packaging, and pMD2.G envelope plasmids. Media containing virus was harvested 48-60 hours post-transfection. Lentivirus was centrifuged with a sucrose cushion at 25,000 rpm for 2 hours. Viral particles were suspended in PBS and concentrated virus was stored at −80° C. Viral titers were measured by counting HEK293T cells that survived selection after 2 days in media containing puromycin (3 μg/mL).

[0321] Lentiviral Transduction:

[0322] Lentiviruses were delivered to THP-1 monocytes with 16 μg/mL polybrene by spinoculation. Cells were transduced with lentivirus at a density of 3×10^5 cells/mL while spinning at 1000×g for 1 hour at 25° C. (MOI=1). Selection was performed in media containing puromycin (1 μg/mL). The ATF was driven by a constitutive promoter, EF1α.

[0323] HCMV Infection:

[0324] HCMV (AD169 strain) with the IE2-GFP reporter gene was thawed on ice and sonicated at 50% power 0.5 seconds on and 0.5 seconds off for 2×10 pulses. HCMV was placed on ice between sets of pulses. At a density of 8×10^5 cells/mL, THP-1 cells were infected with HCMV for 1 hour at 37° C. with agitation every 15 min. For VPA pretreatment, cells were treated at a final concentration of 1 mM for 3 hours, then infected with HCMV.

[0325] Identification of ATFs:

[0326] Cells exhibiting a phenotype of the hematopoietic lineage were picked an expanded on methylcellulose. Two-step nested PCR was performed from cell clusters after expansion. The first round of amplification was performed with ATF-forward-1 and ATF-reverse-1 primers (400 nM final concentration) in a 50 μL volume or 40 cycles. The second round of amplification was performed with 10 μL of the first PCR reaction, ATF-forward-2 and ATF-reverse-2 primers (400 nM final concentration) for 35 cycles. The second PCR reaction was purified and digested with AscI and NheI. The digested product was cloned into pcDNA 3.1 at the AscI and NheI restriction sites. Sanger sequencing was performed on the clones with the CMV-forward primer.

[0327] The number of sequences obtained to reach saturation was determined by calculating the probability that the chance of finding another unique ATF is less than 1%. $(1-1/(n+1))^x<0.01$, where n is the number of unique ATFs identified and x is the number of sequences needed.

[0328] Cognate Site Identification:

[0329] HEK293 cells were transiently transfected with ATFs using Lipofectamine 2000 (Thermo Fisher #11668019). Cells that underwent a mock transfection (without an expression plasmid for ATFs) served as a negative control. Cells were harvested 48 hours post-transfection. Lysates were prepared by lysing 10^7 cells in 300 μL of lysis buffer (50 mM Tris-HCl pH 7.5, 150 mM NaCl, 1% Triton X-100, and 0.1% Na deoxycholate). A 21.5 G syringe needle was used for mechanical lysis. Lysates were centrifuged at 10 k×g for 10 min to separate precipitated genomic DNA from protein constituents. The supernatant, containing ATF protein, was used for CSI. HA magnetic beads (MBL #M132-9) were added to the cell lysates for immunoprecipitation. The binding reaction between the ATFs and 100 nM synthetic DNA was performed in binding buffer (25 mM HEPES, 80 mM KCl, 0.2 mM EDTA, 1 mM $MgCl_2$, 0.1 mM $ZnSO_4$) at 25° C. After pull-down, three quick washes with 100 μL ice-cold binding buffer were performed to remove unbound DNA. Magnetic beads were resuspended in a PCR master mix (Lucigen #30035-1) and the DNA was amplified for 15 or 18 cycles. Amplified DNA was column purified (Qiagen #28106), and this enriched DNA pool was used for the subsequent round of enrichment, for a total of three rounds. After three rounds of selection, Illumina sequencing adapters and a unique 6 bp barcode for multiplexing were added by PCR amplification. The starting library (Round 0) was also barcoded. Up to 180 samples were combined and sequenced in a single HiSeq2000 lane.

[0330] Cognate Site Identification Data Analysis:

[0331] Illumina sequencing yielded ~180 million reads per lane. Reads were de-multiplexed by requiring an exact match to the 6 bp barcode and truncated to include only the 25 bp derived from the random portion of the library. On average, we obtained 709,300 reads per barcode. The occurrence of every k-mer (lengths 8 through 16 bp) was counted using a sliding window of size k. To correct for biases in our starting DNA library, we took the ratio of the counts of every k-mer to the expected number of counts in the mock-transfected control. The mock control was modeled using a 5th-order Markov Model derived from the sequencing reads corresponding to the starting library (Round 0). We then calculated a Z-score=$(x-\mu)/\sigma$ or (CSI score minus mean)/standard deviation for each k-mer, using the distribution of k-mer enrichment values (CSI score) for the ATF.

[0332] Bioinformatic Analysis of ATF Binding Sites:

[0333] The genomic locations of the top five or 100 high-scoring 10-bp motifs from CSI were identified in the mm10 genome by the findMotif utility from the UCSC Genome Browser. These genomic sites were annotated using Homer. Annotated sites were filtered to those within +1 kb of the TSS.

REFERENCES

[0334] 1. Penkert R R, Kalejta R F (2012) Tale of a tegument transactivator: the past, present and future of human CMV pp71. *Future Virol* 7(9):855-869.

[0335] 2. Penkert R R, Kalejta R F (2013) Human embryonic stem cell lines model experimental human cytomegalovirus latency. *MBio* 4(3):e00298-13.

[0336] 3. Tsuchiya S, et al. (1980) Establishment and characterization of a human acute monocytic leukemia cell line (THP-1). *Int J Cancer* 26(2):171-176.

[0337] The present invention has been presented by way of illustration and is not intended to be limited to the disclosed embodiments. Accordingly, those skilled in the art will realize that the invention is intended to encompass all modifications and alternative arrangements within the spirit and scope of the invention as set forth in the appended claims.

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<212> TYPE: DNA
<213> ORGANISM: Artificial Sequence
<220> FEATURE:
<223> OTHER INFORMATION: synthetic
<220> FEATURE:
<221> NAME/KEY: misc_feature
<222> LOCATION: (98)..(99)
<223> OTHER INFORMATION: n is a, c, g, or t
<220> FEATURE:
<221> NAME/KEY: misc_feature
<222> LOCATION: (104)..(105)
<223> OTHER INFORMATION: n is a, c, g, or t
<220> FEATURE:
<221> NAME/KEY: misc_feature
<222> LOCATION: (107)..(108)
<223> OTHER INFORMATION: n is a, c, g, or t
<220> FEATURE:
<221> NAME/KEY: misc_feature
<222> LOCATION: (116)..(117)
<223> OTHER INFORMATION: n is a, c, g, or t

<400> SEQUENCE: 15

ggtaccatgc atcctatgaa caacctgctg aactacgtgg tgccgaagat gagaccttac     60

gcttgcccag tggagtcctg tgatcgccgc ttctccvnnt ccvnnvnnct caccvnncac    120

atccgcatcc acacaggcca gaagcccttc cagtgccgca tctgcatgcg caacttcag     179


<210> SEQ ID NO 16
<211> LENGTH: 182
<212> TYPE: DNA
<213> ORGANISM: Artificial Sequence
<220> FEATURE:
<223> OTHER INFORMATION: synthetic
<220> FEATURE:
<221> NAME/KEY: misc_feature
<222> LOCATION: (55)..(56)
<223> OTHER INFORMATION: n is a, c, g, or t
<220> FEATURE:
<221> NAME/KEY: misc_feature
<222> LOCATION: (64)..(65)
<223> OTHER INFORMATION: n is a, c, g, or t
<220> FEATURE:
<221> NAME/KEY: misc_feature
<222> LOCATION: (67)..(68)
<223> OTHER INFORMATION: n is a, c, g, or t
<220> FEATURE:
<221> NAME/KEY: misc_feature
<222> LOCATION: (73)..(74)
<223> OTHER INFORMATION: n is a, c, g, or t
<220> FEATURE:
<221> NAME/KEY: misc_feature
<222> LOCATION: (139)..(140)
<223> OTHER INFORMATION: n is a, c, g, or t
<220> FEATURE:
<221> NAME/KEY: misc_feature
<222> LOCATION: (148)..(149)
<223> OTHER INFORMATION: n is a, c, g, or t
<220> FEATURE:
<221> NAME/KEY: misc_feature
<222> LOCATION: (151)..(152)
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<223> OTHER INFORMATION: n is a, c, g, or t
<220> FEATURE:
<221> NAME/KEY: misc_feature
<222> LOCATION: (157)..(158)
<223> OTHER INFORMATION: n is a, c, g, or t

<400> SEQUENCE: 16

cacaacactt ttgtctgctt tcttgtcctt ctgccgcaag tggatcttgg tatgnnbctt 60

gcgnnbnnbg ctnnbggcaa actttcttcc acagatgtcg caggcgaagg gcttttcgcc 120

tgtgtgggtg cggatgtgnn bggtgagnnb nnbgctnnbg ctgaagttgc gcatgcagat 180

gc 182

<210> SEQ ID NO 17
<211> LENGTH: 288
<212> TYPE: DNA
<213> ORGANISM: Artificial Sequence
<220> FEATURE:
<223> OTHER INFORMATION: synthetic

<400> SEQUENCE: 17

aaggacaaga aagcagacaa aagtgttgtg gggcgcgccg acgcgctgga cgatttcgat 60

ctcgacatgc tgggttctga tgccctcgat gactttgacc tggatatgtt gggaagcgac 120

gcattggatg actttgatct ggacatgctc ggctccgatg ctctggacga tttcgatctc 180

gatatgttaa ttaactaccc gtacgacgtt ccggactacg ctggttatcc ctatgacgtc 240

ccggattatg caggatccta tccatatgac gttccagatt acgcttga 288

<210> SEQ ID NO 18
<211> LENGTH: 25
<212> TYPE: DNA
<213> ORGANISM: Artificial Sequence
<220> FEATURE:
<223> OTHER INFORMATION: synthetic

<400> SEQUENCE: 18

ccgcatctgc atgcgcaact tcagc 25

<210> SEQ ID NO 19
<211> LENGTH: 18
<212> TYPE: DNA
<213> ORGANISM: Artificial Sequence
<220> FEATURE:
<223> OTHER INFORMATION: synthetic

<400> SEQUENCE: 19

gcgggccctc tagactcg 18

<210> SEQ ID NO 20
<211> LENGTH: 73
<212> TYPE: DNA
<213> ORGANISM: Artificial Sequence
<220> FEATURE:
<223> OTHER INFORMATION: synthetic

<400> SEQUENCE: 20

accatactct ataatactat cactaactta gccgccacca tgcatcctat gaacaacctg 60

ctgaactacg tgg 73

<210> SEQ ID NO 21

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<211> LENGTH: 70
<212> TYPE: DNA
<213> ORGANISM: Artificial Sequence
<220> FEATURE:
<223> OTHER INFORMATION: synthetic

<400> SEQUENCE: 21

tcactaatac cttacttaac tctaatctta gtcaagcgta atctggaacg tcatatggat 60

aggatcctgc 70

<210> SEQ ID NO 22
<211> LENGTH: 18
<212> TYPE: DNA
<213> ORGANISM: Homo sapiens

<400> SEQUENCE: 22

cgcacccgcg cgggggcg 18

<210> SEQ ID NO 23
<211> LENGTH: 28
<212> TYPE: DNA
<213> ORGANISM: Artificial Sequence
<220> FEATURE:
<223> OTHER INFORMATION: synthetic

<400> SEQUENCE: 23

tactatcact aacttagccg ccaccatg 28

<210> SEQ ID NO 24
<211> LENGTH: 22
<212> TYPE: DNA
<213> ORGANISM: Artificial Sequence
<220> FEATURE:
<223> OTHER INFORMATION: synthetic

<400> SEQUENCE: 24

gagggcatca gaacccagca tg 22

<210> SEQ ID NO 25
<211> LENGTH: 33
<212> TYPE: DNA
<213> ORGANISM: Artificial Sequence
<220> FEATURE:
<223> OTHER INFORMATION: synthetic

<400> SEQUENCE: 25

catcagctag cgctgaacta cgtggtgccg aag 33

<210> SEQ ID NO 26
<211> LENGTH: 33
<212> TYPE: DNA
<213> ORGANISM: Artificial Sequence
<220> FEATURE:
<223> OTHER INFORMATION: synthetic

<400> SEQUENCE: 26

cgcgtcggcg cgccccacaa cacttttgtc tgc 33

<210> SEQ ID NO 27
<211> LENGTH: 21
<212> TYPE: DNA
<213> ORGANISM: Artificial Sequence
<220> FEATURE:

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<223> OTHER INFORMATION: synthetic

<400> SEQUENCE: 27

cgcaaatggg cggtaggcgt g 21

<210> SEQ ID NO 28
<211> LENGTH: 21
<212> TYPE: DNA
<213> ORGANISM: Artificial Sequence
<220> FEATURE:
<223> OTHER INFORMATION: synthetic

<400> SEQUENCE: 28

tcagtgatgc tgttgatcag g 21

<210> SEQ ID NO 29
<211> LENGTH: 23
<212> TYPE: DNA
<213> ORGANISM: Artificial Sequence
<220> FEATURE:
<223> OTHER INFORMATION: synthetic

<400> SEQUENCE: 29

gctatctact gtgtgtccca gtc 23

<210> SEQ ID NO 30
<211> LENGTH: 20
<212> TYPE: DNA
<213> ORGANISM: Artificial Sequence
<220> FEATURE:
<223> OTHER INFORMATION: synthetic

<400> SEQUENCE: 30

ccgttttcgt ggtcttgttt 20

<210> SEQ ID NO 31
<211> LENGTH: 20
<212> TYPE: DNA
<213> ORGANISM: Artificial Sequence
<220> FEATURE:
<223> OTHER INFORMATION: synthetic

<400> SEQUENCE: 31

tcaacctgca tggacatttt 20

<210> SEQ ID NO 32
<211> LENGTH: 24
<212> TYPE: DNA
<213> ORGANISM: Artificial Sequence
<220> FEATURE:
<223> OTHER INFORMATION: synthetic

<400> SEQUENCE: 32

aaaccagtgg ttgaagacta gcaa 24

<210> SEQ ID NO 33
<211> LENGTH: 21
<212> TYPE: DNA
<213> ORGANISM: Artificial Sequence
<220> FEATURE:
<223> OTHER INFORMATION: synthetic

<400> SEQUENCE: 33

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ggtgctgagc ccttctgaat c 21

<210> SEQ ID NO 34
<211> LENGTH: 22
<212> TYPE: DNA
<213> ORGANISM: Artificial Sequence
<220> FEATURE:
<223> OTHER INFORMATION: synthetic

<400> SEQUENCE: 34

gaagaacatg cagaagcgaa ga 22

<210> SEQ ID NO 35
<211> LENGTH: 21
<212> TYPE: DNA
<213> ORGANISM: Artificial Sequence
<220> FEATURE:
<223> OTHER INFORMATION: synthetic

<400> SEQUENCE: 35

ccgcagttgt agcacctgtc t 21

<210> SEQ ID NO 36
<211> LENGTH: 23
<212> TYPE: DNA
<213> ORGANISM: Artificial Sequence
<220> FEATURE:
<223> OTHER INFORMATION: synthetic

<400> SEQUENCE: 36

cacctgctaa aaagccattg act 23

<210> SEQ ID NO 37
<211> LENGTH: 25
<212> TYPE: DNA
<213> ORGANISM: Artificial Sequence
<220> FEATURE:
<223> OTHER INFORMATION: synthetic

<400> SEQUENCE: 37

caacccctag tagattcgag acgat 25

<210> SEQ ID NO 38
<211> LENGTH: 18
<212> TYPE: DNA
<213> ORGANISM: Artificial Sequence
<220> FEATURE:
<223> OTHER INFORMATION: synthetic

<400> SEQUENCE: 38

gtccctctcc gcgttagc 18

<210> SEQ ID NO 39
<211> LENGTH: 19
<212> TYPE: DNA
<213> ORGANISM: Artificial Sequence
<220> FEATURE:
<223> OTHER INFORMATION: synthetic

<400> SEQUENCE: 39

ggcaggttcg tcattttcc 19

<210> SEQ ID NO 40

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<211> LENGTH: 19
<212> TYPE: DNA
<213> ORGANISM: Artificial Sequence
<220> FEATURE:
<223> OTHER INFORMATION: synthetic

<400> SEQUENCE: 40

ctgtggctgc gcttcaagg 19

<210> SEQ ID NO 41
<211> LENGTH: 19
<212> TYPE: DNA
<213> ORGANISM: Artificial Sequence
<220> FEATURE:
<223> OTHER INFORMATION: synthetic

<400> SEQUENCE: 41

attggggtcc aggcctgac 19

<210> SEQ ID NO 42
<211> LENGTH: 20
<212> TYPE: DNA
<213> ORGANISM: Artificial Sequence
<220> FEATURE:
<223> OTHER INFORMATION: synthetic

<400> SEQUENCE: 42

tgaccctgac ccagccaaag 20

<210> SEQ ID NO 43
<211> LENGTH: 21
<212> TYPE: DNA
<213> ORGANISM: Artificial Sequence
<220> FEATURE:
<223> OTHER INFORMATION: synthetic

<400> SEQUENCE: 43

gagaagagca cgcgtggctt c 21

<210> SEQ ID NO 44
<211> LENGTH: 20
<212> TYPE: DNA
<213> ORGANISM: Artificial Sequence
<220> FEATURE:
<223> OTHER INFORMATION: synthetic

<400> SEQUENCE: 44

catcccccca agctcagcac 20

<210> SEQ ID NO 45
<211> LENGTH: 21
<212> TYPE: DNA
<213> ORGANISM: Artificial Sequence
<220> FEATURE:
<223> OTHER INFORMATION: synthetic

<400> SEQUENCE: 45

acgctgagca ttgggccaaa g 21

<210> SEQ ID NO 46
<211> LENGTH: 21
<212> TYPE: DNA
<213> ORGANISM: Artificial Sequence
<220> FEATURE:

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<223> OTHER INFORMATION: synthetic

<400> SEQUENCE: 46

cactgtccaa gcaaagctgc g 21

<210> SEQ ID NO 47
<211> LENGTH: 21
<212> TYPE: DNA
<213> ORGANISM: Artificial Sequence
<220> FEATURE:
<223> OTHER INFORMATION: synthetic

<400> SEQUENCE: 47

gaggtcagct gaggggcttt c 21

<210> SEQ ID NO 48
<211> LENGTH: 20
<212> TYPE: DNA
<213> ORGANISM: Artificial Sequence
<220> FEATURE:
<223> OTHER INFORMATION: synthtetic

<400> SEQUENCE: 48

ggatcctggg agcccttgc 20

<210> SEQ ID NO 49
<211> LENGTH: 20
<212> TYPE: DNA
<213> ORGANISM: Artificial Sequence
<220> FEATURE:
<223> OTHER INFORMATION: synthetic

<400> SEQUENCE: 49

tcatctgtgg tgagcccgtg 20

<210> SEQ ID NO 50
<211> LENGTH: 21
<212> TYPE: DNA
<213> ORGANISM: Artificial Sequence
<220> FEATURE:
<223> OTHER INFORMATION: synthetic

<400> SEQUENCE: 50

tgggagccgt gaagatggaa g 21

<210> SEQ ID NO 51
<211> LENGTH: 19
<212> TYPE: DNA
<213> ORGANISM: Artificial Sequence
<220> FEATURE:
<223> OTHER INFORMATION: synthetic

<400> SEQUENCE: 51

caggccggcg ttcatgttg 19

<210> SEQ ID NO 52
<211> LENGTH: 20
<212> TYPE: DNA
<213> ORGANISM: Artificial Sequence
<220> FEATURE:
<223> OTHER INFORMATION: synthetic

<400> SEQUENCE: 52

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gcagagaggc gctggaacag 20

<210> SEQ ID NO 53
<211> LENGTH: 20
<212> TYPE: DNA
<213> ORGANISM: Artificial Sequence
<220> FEATURE:
<223> OTHER INFORMATION: synthetic

<400> SEQUENCE: 53

ccctgcttct cctgctccag 20

<210> SEQ ID NO 54
<211> LENGTH: 21
<212> TYPE: DNA
<213> ORGANISM: Artificial Sequence
<220> FEATURE:
<223> OTHER INFORMATION: synthetic

<400> SEQUENCE: 54

ctggagaagc agctgcagga g 21

<210> SEQ ID NO 55
<211> LENGTH: 21
<212> TYPE: DNA
<213> ORGANISM: Artificial Sequence
<220> FEATURE:
<223> OTHER INFORMATION: synthetic

<400> SEQUENCE: 55

ctggccatct cgctcttcgt g 21

<210> SEQ ID NO 56
<211> LENGTH: 19
<212> TYPE: DNA
<213> ORGANISM: Artificial Sequence
<220> FEATURE:
<223> OTHER INFORMATION: synthetic

<400> SEQUENCE: 56

gcggttggca cagcagaac 19

<210> SEQ ID NO 57
<211> LENGTH: 20
<212> TYPE: DNA
<213> ORGANISM: Artificial Sequence
<220> FEATURE:
<223> OTHER INFORMATION: synthetic

<400> SEQUENCE: 57

gctcggcctc ttccacgaag 20

<210> SEQ ID NO 58
<211> LENGTH: 20
<212> TYPE: DNA
<213> ORGANISM: Artificial Sequence
<220> FEATURE:
<223> OTHER INFORMATION: synthetic

<400> SEQUENCE: 58

acatcatccc tgcatccact 20

<210> SEQ ID NO 59

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<211> LENGTH: 20
<212> TYPE: DNA
<213> ORGANISM: Artificial Sequence
<220> FEATURE:
<223> OTHER INFORMATION: synthetic

<400> SEQUENCE: 59

cctgcttcac caccttcttg 20

<210> SEQ ID NO 60
<211> LENGTH: 10
<212> TYPE: DNA
<213> ORGANISM: Artificial Sequence
<220> FEATURE:
<223> OTHER INFORMATION: synthetic
<220> FEATURE:
<221> NAME/KEY: misc_feature
<222> LOCATION: (1)..(1)
<223> OTHER INFORMATION: n is a, c, g, or t
<220> FEATURE:
<221> NAME/KEY: misc_feature
<222> LOCATION: (3)..(3)
<223> OTHER INFORMATION: n is a, c, g, or t
<220> FEATURE:
<221> NAME/KEY: misc_feature
<222> LOCATION: (10)..(10)
<223> OTHER INFORMATION: n is a, c, g, or t

<400> SEQUENCE: 60

ngngtgggcn 10

<210> SEQ ID NO 61
<211> LENGTH: 10
<212> TYPE: DNA
<213> ORGANISM: Artificial Sequence
<220> FEATURE:
<223> OTHER INFORMATION: synthetic
<220> FEATURE:
<221> NAME/KEY: misc_feature
<222> LOCATION: (1)..(1)
<223> OTHER INFORMATION: n is a, c, g, or t
<220> FEATURE:
<221> NAME/KEY: misc_feature
<222> LOCATION: (10)..(10)
<223> OTHER INFORMATION: n is a, c, g, or t

<400> SEQUENCE: 61

ngagtgggcn 10

<210> SEQ ID NO 62
<211> LENGTH: 10
<212> TYPE: DNA
<213> ORGANISM: Artificial Sequence
<220> FEATURE:
<223> OTHER INFORMATION: synthetic
<220> FEATURE:
<221> NAME/KEY: misc_feature
<222> LOCATION: (1)..(1)
<223> OTHER INFORMATION: n is a, c, g, or t
<220> FEATURE:
<221> NAME/KEY: misc_feature
<222> LOCATION: (10)..(10)
<223> OTHER INFORMATION: n is a, c, g, or t

<400> SEQUENCE: 62

ngggtgggcn 10

<210> SEQ ID NO 63

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<211> LENGTH: 10
<212> TYPE: DNA
<213> ORGANISM: Artificial Sequence
<220> FEATURE:
<223> OTHER INFORMATION: synthetic
<220> FEATURE:
<221> NAME/KEY: misc_feature
<222> LOCATION: (1)..(1)
<223> OTHER INFORMATION: n is a, c, g, or t
<220> FEATURE:
<221> NAME/KEY: misc_feature
<222> LOCATION: (10)..(10)
<223> OTHER INFORMATION: n is a, c, g, or t

<400> SEQUENCE: 63

ngtgtgggcn 10

<210> SEQ ID NO 64
<211> LENGTH: 10
<212> TYPE: DNA
<213> ORGANISM: Artificial Sequence
<220> FEATURE:
<223> OTHER INFORMATION: synthetic
<220> FEATURE:
<221> NAME/KEY: misc_feature
<222> LOCATION: (1)..(1)
<223> OTHER INFORMATION: n is a, c, g, or t
<220> FEATURE:
<221> NAME/KEY: misc_feature
<222> LOCATION: (10)..(10)
<223> OTHER INFORMATION: n is a, c, g, or t

<400> SEQUENCE: 64

ngcgtgggcn 10

<210> SEQ ID NO 65
<211> LENGTH: 16
<212> TYPE: DNA
<213> ORGANISM: Artificial Sequence
<220> FEATURE:
<223> OTHER INFORMATION: synthetic

<400> SEQUENCE: 65

cgtgggcgga cgtgtg 16

<210> SEQ ID NO 66
<211> LENGTH: 16
<212> TYPE: DNA
<213> ORGANISM: Artificial Sequence
<220> FEATURE:
<223> OTHER INFORMATION: synthetic

<400> SEQUENCE: 66

gcgtgggcgg acctct 16

<210> SEQ ID NO 67
<211> LENGTH: 14
<212> TYPE: DNA
<213> ORGANISM: Artificial Sequence
<220> FEATURE:
<223> OTHER INFORMATION: synthetic

<400> SEQUENCE: 67

gtgggcggac ctct 14

<210> SEQ ID NO 68

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<211> LENGTH: 10
<212> TYPE: PRT
<213> ORGANISM: Artificial Sequence
<220> FEATURE:
<223> OTHER INFORMATION: synthetic
<220> FEATURE:
<221> NAME/KEY: misc_feature
<222> LOCATION: (3)..(3)
<223> OTHER INFORMATION: Xaa can be any naturally occurring amino acid
<220> FEATURE:
<221> NAME/KEY: misc_feature
<222> LOCATION: (5)..(6)
<223> OTHER INFORMATION: Xaa can be any naturally occurring amino acid
<220> FEATURE:
<221> NAME/KEY: misc_feature
<222> LOCATION: (9)..(9)
<223> OTHER INFORMATION: Xaa can be any naturally occurring amino acid

<400> SEQUENCE: 68

Phe Ser Xaa Ser Xaa Xaa Leu Thr Xaa His
1 5 10

<210> SEQ ID NO 69
<211> LENGTH: 10
<212> TYPE: PRT
<213> ORGANISM: Artificial Sequence
<220> FEATURE:
<223> OTHER INFORMATION: synthetic
<220> FEATURE:
<221> NAME/KEY: misc_feature
<222> LOCATION: (3)..(3)
<223> OTHER INFORMATION: Xaa can be any naturally occurring amino acid
<220> FEATURE:
<221> NAME/KEY: misc_feature
<222> LOCATION: (5)..(6)
<223> OTHER INFORMATION: Xaa can be any naturally occurring amino acid
<220> FEATURE:
<221> NAME/KEY: misc_feature
<222> LOCATION: (9)..(9)
<223> OTHER INFORMATION: Xaa can be any naturally occurring amino acid

<400> SEQUENCE: 69

Phe Ala Xaa Ser Xaa Xaa Arg Lys Xaa His
1 5 10

<210> SEQ ID NO 70
<211> LENGTH: 390
<212> TYPE: PRT
<213> ORGANISM: Gorilla gorilla

<400> SEQUENCE: 70

Met His Thr Gly Glu Arg Pro Tyr Glu Cys His Glu Cys Gly Lys Gly
1 5 10 15

Phe Arg Asn Ser Ser Ala Leu Thr Lys His Gln Arg Ile His Thr Gly
20 25 30

Glu Lys Pro Tyr Lys Cys Thr Gln Cys Gly Arg Thr Phe Asn Gln Ile
35 40 45

Ala Pro Leu Ile Gln His Gln Arg Thr His Thr Gly Glu Lys Pro Tyr
50 55 60

Glu Cys Ser Glu Cys Gly Lys Ala Phe Arg Gln Ser Ile His Leu Thr
65 70 75 80

Gln His Leu Arg Ile His Thr Gly Glu Lys Pro Tyr Gln Cys Gly Glu
85 90 95

Cys Gly Lys Ala Phe Ser His Ser Ser Ser Leu Thr Lys His Gln Arg
100 105 110

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Ile His Thr Gly Glu Lys Pro Tyr Glu Cys His Glu Cys Gly Lys Ala
        115                 120                 125

Phe Thr Gln Ile Thr Pro Leu Ile Gln His Gln Arg Thr His Thr Gly
    130                 135                 140

Glu Lys Pro Tyr Glu Cys Arg Phe Thr Arg Glu Arg Ser Pro Thr Asp
145                 150                 155                 160

Ala Thr Ser Val Gly Lys Pro Ser Ala Thr Ala Pro His Ser Ala Ser
                165                 170                 175

Met Ser Gly His Thr Gln Glu Arg Ser Pro Met Ser Ala Val Ser Val
            180                 185                 190

Gly Arg Pro Ser Gly Arg Ala His Thr Ser Pro Asn Thr Ser Glu Ser
        195                 200                 205

Thr Gln Gly Arg Ser Pro Met Asn Ala Met Thr Ala Ala Arg His Ser
    210                 215                 220

Val Thr Ala His Pro Ser Pro Asn Ile Ser Glu Ser Thr Leu Gly Arg
225                 230                 235                 240

Ser Pro Thr Asn Ala Thr Ser Val Ala Glu Pro Ser Ala Ser Leu Leu
                245                 250                 255

Pro Ser Phe Ser Ile Arg Gly Ser Thr Gln Glu Arg Asn Pro Met Asn
            260                 265                 270

Val Thr Ser Val Ala Glu Pro Ser Ala Arg Ala Pro Phe Ser Ser Asn
        275                 280                 285

Thr Arg Gly Phe Thr Pro Arg Lys Ser His Met Gly Ala Met Ser Val
    290                 295                 300

Gly Asn Pro Ser Ala Thr Ala Pro Arg Ser Ala Ser Thr Lys Gly Arg
305                 310                 315                 320

Thr Leu Gly Lys Ser Pro Met Ser Val Thr Ile Ala Glu Ser Pro Leu
                325                 330                 335

Gly Arg Ala Pro Thr Ser Leu Ser Thr Gly Gly Ser Thr Gln Glu Arg
            340                 345                 350

Asn His Ile Ser Ser Leu Ser Arg Phe Asp Pro Ile Met His Met Arg
        355                 360                 365

Asn Val His Ser Tyr Thr Ser Leu Phe Thr Gln His Ser Pro Gln Thr
    370                 375                 380

Pro Ser Glu Ser Ser His
385                 390


<210> SEQ ID NO 71
<211> LENGTH: 163
<212> TYPE: PRT
<213> ORGANISM: Homo sapiens

<400> SEQUENCE: 71

Met His Pro Met Asn Asn Leu Leu Asn Tyr Val Val Pro Lys Met Arg
1               5                   10                  15

Pro Tyr Asp Cys Pro Val Glu Ser Cys Asp Arg Arg Phe Ser Arg Ser
            20                  25                  30

His Arg Pro Pro Ala Thr Ser Ala Ser Thr Gln Ala Arg Ser Pro Ser
        35                  40                  45

Ser Ala Ala Ser Ala Cys Ala Thr Ser Ala Ser Ala Arg Pro Ser Pro
    50                  55                  60

Asp Thr Ser Ala Pro Thr Gln Ala Lys Ser Pro Ser Pro Ala Thr Ser
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65 70 75 80

Val Glu Glu Ser Leu Pro Gly Ala Thr Ser Ala Arg Asp Ile Pro Arg
85 90 95

Ser Thr Cys Gly Arg Arg Thr Arg Lys Gln Thr Lys Val Leu Trp Gly
100 105 110

Ala Pro Thr Arg Trp Thr Ile Ser Ile Ser Thr Cys Trp Val Leu Met
115 120 125

Pro Ser Met Thr Leu Thr Trp Ile Cys Trp Glu Ala Thr His Trp Met
130 135 140

Thr Leu Ile Trp Thr Cys Ser Ala Pro Met Leu Trp Thr Ile Ser Ile
145 150 155 160

Ser Ile Cys

<210> SEQ ID NO 72
<211> LENGTH: 576
<212> TYPE: DNA
<213> ORGANISM: Artificial Sequence
<220> FEATURE:
<223> OTHER INFORMATION: synthetic

<400> SEQUENCE: 72

atgcatccta tgaacaacct gctgaactac gtggtgccga agatgagacc ttacgcttgt 60

gatcgccgct tctccgtttc ccaccggctc acccatcaca tccgcatcca cacaggccag 120

aagcccttcc agtgccgcat ctgcatgcgc aacttcagcc ctagcagaag actcacccag 180

cacatccgca cccacacagg cgaaaagccc ttcgcctgcg acatctgtgg aagaaagttt 240

gcccagagcg aggggcgcaa ggtccatacc aagatccact tgcggcagaa ggacaagaaa 300

gcagacaaaa gtgttgtggg gcgcgccgac gcgctggacg atttcgatct cgacatgctg 360

ggttctgatg ccctcgatga ctttgacctg gatatgttgg gaagcgacgc attggatgac 420

tttgatctgg acatgctcgg ctccgatgct ctggacgatt tcgatctcga tatgttaatt 480

aactacccgt acgacgttcc ggactacgct ggttatccct atgacgtccc ggattatgca 540

ggatcctatc catatgacgt tccagattac gcttga 576

<210> SEQ ID NO 73
<211> LENGTH: 591
<212> TYPE: DNA
<213> ORGANISM: Artificial Sequence
<220> FEATURE:
<223> OTHER INFORMATION: synthetic

<400> SEQUENCE: 73

atgcatccta tgaacaacct gctgaactac gtggtgccga agatgagacc ttacgcttgc 60

ccagtggagt cctgtgatcg ccgcttctcc gggtccgtag tcctcaccaa acacatccgc 120

atccacacag gccagaagcc cttccagtgc cgcatctgca tgcgcaactt cagcataagc 180

actgttctca ccggtcacat ccgcacccac acaggcgaaa agcccttcgc ctgcgacatc 240

tgtggaagaa agtttgccaa cagcgagcca cgcaagaccc ataccaagat ccacttgcgg 300

cagaaggaca agaaagcaga caaaagtgtt gtggggcgcg ccgacgcgct ggacgatttc 360

gatctcgaca tgctgggttc tgatgccctc gatgactttg acctggatat gttgggaagc 420

gacgcattgg atgactttga tctggacatg ctcggctccg atgctctgga cgatttcgat 480

ctcgatatgt taattaacta cccgtacgac gttccggact acgctggtta tccctatgac 540

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gtcccggatt atgcaggatc ctatccatat gacgttccag attacgcttg a 591

<210> SEQ ID NO 74
<211> LENGTH: 591
<212> TYPE: DNA
<213> ORGANISM: Artificial Sequence
<220> FEATURE:
<223> OTHER INFORMATION: synthetic

<400> SEQUENCE: 74

atgcatccta tgaacaacct gctgaactac gtggtgccga agatgagacc ttacgcttgc 60

ccagtggagt cctgtgatcg ccgcttctcc cgatccaaaa atctcaccgc gcacatccgc 120

atccacacag gccagaagcc cttccagtgc cgcatctgca tgcgcaactt cagcggtagc 180

gttccactca ccatacacat ccgcacccac acaggcgaaa agcccttcgc ctgcgacatc 240

tgtggaagaa agtttgccat cagcgccatt cgcaagaaac ataccaagat ccacttgcgg 300

cagaaggaca agaaagcaga caaaagtgtt gtggggcgcg ccgacgcgct ggacgatttc 360

gatctcgaca tgctgggttc tgatgccctc gatgactttg acctggatat gttgggaagc 420

gacgcattgg atgactttga tctggacatg ctcggctccg atgctctgga cgatttcgat 480

ctcgatatgt taattaacta cccgtacgac gttccggact acgctggtta tccctatgac 540

gtcccggatt atgcaggatc ctatccatat gacgttccag attacgcttg a 591

<210> SEQ ID NO 75
<211> LENGTH: 591
<212> TYPE: DNA
<213> ORGANISM: Artificial Sequence
<220> FEATURE:
<223> OTHER INFORMATION: synthetic

<400> SEQUENCE: 75

atgcatccta tgaacaacct gctgaactac gtggtgccga agatgagacc ttacgcttgc 60

ccagtggagt cctgtgatcg ccgcttctcc cgttccatcc gtctcaccat acacatccgc 120

atccacacag gccagaagcc cttccagtgc cgcatctgca tgcgcaactt cagcggtagc 180

gttccactca ccatacacat ccgcacccac acaggcgaaa agcccttcgc ctgcgacatc 240

tgtggaagaa agtttgccat cagcgccatt cgcaagaaac ataccaagat ccacttgcgg 300

cagaaggaca agaaagcaga caaaagtgtt gtggggcgcg ccgacgcgct ggacgatttc 360

gatctcgaca tgctgggttc tgatgccctc gatgactttg acctggatat gttgggaagc 420

gacgcattgg atgactttga tctggacatg ctcggctccg atgctctgga cgatttcgat 480

ctcgatatgt taattaacta cccgtacgac gttccggact acgctggtta tccctatgac 540

gtcccggatt atgcaggatc ctatccatat gacgttccag attacgcttg a 591

<210> SEQ ID NO 76
<211> LENGTH: 582
<212> TYPE: DNA
<213> ORGANISM: Artificial Sequence
<220> FEATURE:
<223> OTHER INFORMATION: synthetic

<400> SEQUENCE: 76

atgcatccta tgaacaacct gctgaactac gtggtgccga agatgagacc ttacgattgc 60

ccagtggagt cctgtgatcg ccgcttctcc agatcccatc ggccaccagc cacatccgca 120

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tccacacagg ccagaagccc ttccagtgcc gcatctgcat gcgcaacttc agcgtcagcc 180

cgaccctcac ccgacacatc cgcacccaca caggcgaaaa gcccttcgcc tgcgacatct 240

gtggaagaaa gtttgccagg agcgaccagc gcaagagaca taccaagatc cacttgcggc 300

agaaggacaa gaaagcagac aaaagtgttg tggggcgcgc cgacgcgctg gacgatttcg 360

atctcgacat gctgggttct gatgccctcg atgactttga cctggatatg ttgggaagcg 420

acgcattgga tgactttgat ctggacatgc tcggctccga tgctctggac gatttcgatc 480

tcgatatgtt acccgtacga cgttccggac tacgctggtt atccctatga cgtcccggat 540

tatgcaggat cctatccata tgacgttcca gattacgctt ga 582

<210> SEQ ID NO 77
<211> LENGTH: 576
<212> TYPE: DNA
<213> ORGANISM: Artificial Sequence
<220> FEATURE:
<223> OTHER INFORMATION: synthetic

<400> SEQUENCE: 77

atgcatccta tgaacaacct gctgaactac gtggtgccga agatgagacc ttacgcttgt 60

gatcgccgct tctccgtttc ccaccggctc acccatcaca tccgcatcca cacaggccag 120

aagcccttcc agtgccgcat ctgcatgcgc aacttcagcc tcagcctaac cctcaccaaa 180

cacatccgca cccacacagg cgaaaagccc ttcgcctgcg acatctgtgg aagaaagttt 240

gccaaaagca aaccacgcaa gacacatacc aagatccact tgcggcagaa ggacaagaaa 300

gcagacaaaa gtgttgtggg gcgcgccgac gcgctggacg atttcgatct cgacatgctg 360

ggttctgatg ccctcgatga ctttgacctg gatatgttgg gaagcgacgc attggatgac 420

tttgatctgg acatgctcgg ctccgatgct ctggacgatt tcgatctcga tatgttaatt 480

aactacccgt acgacgttcc ggactacgct ggttatccct atgacgtccc ggattatgca 540

ggatcctatc catatgacgt tccagattac gcttga 576

<210> SEQ ID NO 78
<211> LENGTH: 591
<212> TYPE: DNA
<213> ORGANISM: Artificial Sequence
<220> FEATURE:
<223> OTHER INFORMATION: synthetic

<400> SEQUENCE: 78

atgcatccta tgaacaacct gctgaactac gtggtgccga agatgagacc ttacgcttgc 60

ccagtggagt cctgtgatcg ccgcttctcc cgttccatcc gtctcaccat acacatccgc 120

atccacacag gccagaagcc cttccagtgc cgcatctgca tgcgcaactt cagccccagc 180

ccgccactca cccctcacat ccgcacccac acaggcgaaa agcccttcgc ctgcgacatc 240

tgtggaagaa agtttgcccc aagccttctc cgcaagccac ataccaagat ccacttgcgg 300

cagaaggaca agaaagcaga caaaagtgtt gtggggcgcg ccgacgcgct ggacgatttc 360

gatctcgaca tgctgggttc tgatgccctc gatgactttg acctggatat gttgggaagc 420

gacgcattgg atgactttga tctggacatg ctcggctccg atgctctgga cgatttcgat 480

ctcgatatgt taattaacta cccgtacgac gttccggact acgctggtta tccctatgac 540

gtcccggatt atgcaggatc ctatccatat gacgttccag attacgcttg a 591

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<210> SEQ ID NO 79
<211> LENGTH: 591
<212> TYPE: DNA
<213> ORGANISM: Artificial Sequence
<220> FEATURE:
<223> OTHER INFORMATION: synthetic

<400> SEQUENCE: 79

atgcatccta tgaacaacct gctgaactac gtggtgccga agatgagacc ttacgcttgc 60

ccagtggagt cctgtgatcg ccgcttctcc cgttccatcc gtctcaccat acacatacgc 120

atccacacag gccagaagcc cttccagtgc cgcatctgca tgcgcaacct cagccacagc 180

gctcatctca ccacgcacat ccgcacccac acaggcgaaa agtccttcgc ctgcgacatc 240

tgtggaagaa agtttgccca cagcgaacct cgcaagacac ataccaagat ccacttgcgg 300

cagaaggaca agaaagcaga caaaagtgtt gtggggcgcg ccgacgcgct ggacgatttc 360

gatctcgaca tgctgggttc tgatgccctc gatgactttg acctggatat gttgggaagc 420

gacgcattgg atgactttga tctggacatg ctcggctccg atgctctgga cgatttcgat 480

ctcgatatgt taattaacta cccgtacgac gttccggact acgctggtta tccctatgac 540

gtcccggatt atgcaggatc ctatccatat gacgttccag attacgcttg a 591

<210> SEQ ID NO 80
<211> LENGTH: 507
<212> TYPE: DNA
<213> ORGANISM: Artificial Sequence
<220> FEATURE:
<223> OTHER INFORMATION: synthetic

<400> SEQUENCE: 80

atgcatccta tgaacaacct gctgaactac gtggtgccga agatgagacc ttacgcttgc 60

ccagtggagt cctgtgatcg ccgcttctcc ggctccaatc ggctcaccga gcacatccgc 120

atccacacag gcgaaaagcc cttcgcctgc gacatctgtg gaagaaagtt tgccaacagc 180

cccctacgca agggtcatac caagatccac ttgcggcaga aggacaagaa agcagacaaa 240

agtgttgtgg ggcgcgccga cgcgctggac gatttcgatc tcgacatgct gggttctgat 300

gccctcgatg actttgacct ggatatgttg ggaagcgacg cattggatga ctttgatctg 360

gacatgctcg gctccgatgc tctggacgat ttcgatctcg atatgttaat taactacccg 420

tacgacgttc cggactacgc tggttatccc tatgacgtcc cggattatgc aggatcctat 480

ccatatgacg ttccagatta cgcttga 507

<210> SEQ ID NO 81
<211> LENGTH: 591
<212> TYPE: DNA
<213> ORGANISM: Artificial Sequence
<220> FEATURE:
<223> OTHER INFORMATION: synthetic

<400> SEQUENCE: 81

atgcatccta tgaacaacct gctgaactac gtggtgccga agatgagacc ttacgcttgc 60

ccagtggagt cctgtgatcg ccgcttctcc gtatccgaca ctctcaccgt acacatccgc 120

atccacacag gccagaagcc cttccagtgc cgcatctgca tgcgcaactt cagcgacagc 180

gatgagctca ccgatcacat ccgcacccac acaggcgaaa agcccttcgc ctgcgacatc 240

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tgtggaagaa agtttgccga aagccgtaaa cgcaaggaac ataccaagat ccacttgcgg 300

cagaaggaca agaaagcaga caaaagtgtt gtggggcgcg ccgacgcgct ggacgatttc 360

gatctcgaca tgctgggttc tgatgccctc gatgactttg acctggatat gttgggaagc 420

gacgcattgg atgactttga tctggacatg ctcggctccg atgctctgga cgatttcgat 480

ctcgatatgt taattaacta cccgtacgac gttccggact acgctggtta tccctatgac 540

gtcccggatt atgcaggatc ctatccatat gacgttccag attacgcttg a 591

<210> SEQ ID NO 82
<211> LENGTH: 591
<212> TYPE: DNA
<213> ORGANISM: Artificial Sequence
<220> FEATURE:
<223> OTHER INFORMATION: synthetic

<400> SEQUENCE: 82

atgcatccta tgaacaacct gctgaactac gtggtgccga agatgagacc ttacgcttgc 60

ccagtggagt cctgtgatcg ccgcttctcc atatccggtg cgctcaccgg gcacatccgc 120

atccacacag gccagaagcc cttccagtgc cgcatctgca tgcgcaactt cagcagtagc 180

aatcaactca ccgcgcacat ccgcacccac acaggcgaaa agcccttcgc ctgcgacatc 240

tgtggaagaa agtttgccag aagcatacac cgcaagcgtc ataccaagat ccacttgcgg 300

cagaaggaca agaaagcaga caaaagtgtt gtggggcgcg ccgacgcgct ggacgatttc 360

gatctcgaca tgctgggttc tgatgccctc gatgactttg acctggatat gttgggaagc 420

gacgcattgg atgactttga tctggacatg ctcggctccg atgctctgga cgatttcgat 480

ctcgatatgt taattaacta cccgtacgac gttccggact acgctggtta tccctatgac 540

gtcccggatt atgcaggatc ctatccatat gacgttccag attacgcttg a 591

<210> SEQ ID NO 83
<211> LENGTH: 591
<212> TYPE: DNA
<213> ORGANISM: Artificial Sequence
<220> FEATURE:
<223> OTHER INFORMATION: synthetic

<400> SEQUENCE: 83

atgcatccta tgaacaacct gctgaactac gtggtgccga agatgagacc ttacgcttgc 60

ccagtggagt cctgtgatcg ccgcttctcc cgttccatcc gtctcaccat acacatccgc 120

atccacacag gccagaagcc cttccagtgc cgcatctgca tgcgcaactt cagccccagc 180

ccgccactca cccctcacat ccgcacccac acaggcgaaa agcccttcgc ctgcgacatc 240

tgtggaagaa agtttgccaa aagcgtaggt cgcaagagac ataccaagat ccacttgcgg 300

cataaggaca agaaagcaga caaaagtgtt gtggggcgcg ccgacgcgct ggacgatttc 360

gatctcgaca tgctgggttc tgatgccctc gatgactttg acctggatat gttgggaagc 420

gacgcattgg atgactttga tctggacatg ctcggctccg atgctctgga cgatttcgat 480

ctcgatatgt taattaacta cccgtacgac gttccggact acgctggtta tccctatgac 540

gtcccggatt atgcaggatc ctatccatat gacgttccag attacgcttg a 591

<210> SEQ ID NO 84
<211> LENGTH: 31

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<212> TYPE: DNA
<213> ORGANISM: Artificial Sequence
<220> FEATURE:
<223> OTHER INFORMATION: synthetic

<400> SEQUENCE: 84

accatactct ataatactat cactaactta g 31

<210> SEQ ID NO 85
<211> LENGTH: 31
<212> TYPE: DNA
<213> ORGANISM: Artificial Sequence
<220> FEATURE:
<223> OTHER INFORMATION: synthetic

<400> SEQUENCE: 85

gattctaatc tcaattcatt ccataatcac t 31

<210> SEQ ID NO 86
<211> LENGTH: 31
<212> TYPE: DNA
<213> ORGANISM: Artificial Sequence
<220> FEATURE:
<223> OTHER INFORMATION: synthetic

<400> SEQUENCE: 86

taagattaga gttaagtaag gtattagtga c 31

<210> SEQ ID NO 87
<211> LENGTH: 31
<212> TYPE: DNA
<213> ORGANISM: Artificial Sequence
<220> FEATURE:
<223> OTHER INFORMATION: synthetic

<400> SEQUENCE: 87

ctggtatgag atattatgat agtgattgaa t 31

<210> SEQ ID NO 88
<211> LENGTH: 32
<212> TYPE: DNA
<213> ORGANISM: Artificial Sequence
<220> FEATURE:
<223> OTHER INFORMATION: synthetic

<400> SEQUENCE: 88

gaccatactc tataatacta tcactaactt ag 32

<210> SEQ ID NO 89
<211> LENGTH: 32
<212> TYPE: DNA
<213> ORGANISM: Artificial Sequence
<220> FEATURE:
<223> OTHER INFORMATION: synthetic

<400> SEQUENCE: 89

ctaagattag agttaagtaa ggtattagtg ac 32

<210> SEQ ID NO 90
<211> LENGTH: 32
<212> TYPE: DNA
<213> ORGANISM: Artificial Sequence
<220> FEATURE:
<223> OTHER INFORMATION: synthetic

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<400> SEQUENCE: 90

ctggtatgag atattatgat agtgattgaa tc 32

<210> SEQ ID NO 91
<211> LENGTH: 32
<212> TYPE: DNA
<213> ORGANISM: Artificial Sequence
<220> FEATURE:
<223> OTHER INFORMATION: synthetic

<400> SEQUENCE: 91

gattctaatc tcaattcatt ccataatcac tg 32

<210> SEQ ID NO 92
<211> LENGTH: 576
<212> TYPE: DNA
<213> ORGANISM: Artificial Sequence
<220> FEATURE:
<223> OTHER INFORMATION: synthetic

<400> SEQUENCE: 92

atgcatccta tgaacaacct gctgaactac gtggtgccga agatgagacc ttacgcttgt 60

gatcgccgct tctccgtttc ccaccggctc acccatcaca tccgcatcca cacaggccag 120

aagcccttcc agtgccgcat ctgcatgcgc aacttcagcc ctagcagaag actcacccag 180

cacatccgca cccacacagg cgaaaagccc ttcgcctgcg acatctgtgg aagaaagttt 240

gccaggagcg accagcgcaa gagacatacc aagatccact tgcggcagaa ggacaagaaa 300

gcagacaaaa gtgttgtggg gcgcgccgac gcgctggacg atttcgatct cgacatgctg 360

ggttctgatg ccctcgatga ctttgacctg gatatgttgg gaagcgacgc attggatgac 420

tttgatctgg acatgctcgg ctccgatgct ctggacgatt tcgatctcga tatgttaatt 480

aactacccgt acgacgttcc ggactacgct ggttatccct atgacgtccc ggattatgca 540

ggatcctatc catatgacgt tccagattac gcttga 576

<210> SEQ ID NO 93
<211> LENGTH: 591
<212> TYPE: DNA
<213> ORGANISM: Artificial Sequence
<220> FEATURE:
<223> OTHER INFORMATION: synthetic

<400> SEQUENCE: 93

atgcatccta tgaacaacct gctgaactac gtggtgccga agatgagacc ttacgcttgc 60

ccagtggagt cctgtgatcg ccgcttctcc cgttccatcc gtctcaccat acacatccgc 120

atccacacag gccagaagcc cttccagtgc cgcatctgca tgcgcaactt cagcggtagc 180

gttcaactca ccatacacat ccgcacccac acaggcgaaa agcccttcgc ctgcgacatc 240

tgtggaagaa agtttgccca cagcgaacct cgcaagacac ataccaagat ccacttgcgg 300

cagaaggaca agaaagcaga caaaagtgtt gtggggcgcg ccgacgcgct ggacgatttc 360

gatctcgaca tgctgggttc tgatgccctc gatgactttg acctggatat gttgggaagc 420

gacgcattgg atgactttga tctggacatg ctcggctccg atgctctgga cgatttcgat 480

ctcgatatgt taattaacta cccgtacgac gttccggact acgctggtta tccctatgac 540

gtcccggatt atgcaggatc ctatccatat gacgttccag attacgcttg a 591

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<210> SEQ ID NO 94
<211> LENGTH: 591
<212> TYPE: DNA
<213> ORGANISM: Artificial Sequence
<220> FEATURE:
<223> OTHER INFORMATION: synthetic

<400> SEQUENCE: 94

atgcatccta tgaacaacct gctgaactac gtggtgccga agatgagacc ttacgcttgc 60

ccagtggagt cctgtgatcg ccgcttctcc gggtccagcg ggctcaccat gcacatccgc 120

atccacacag gccagaagcc cttccagtgc cgcatctgca tgcgcaactt cagcctaagc 180

acaacactca ccaaccacat ccgcacccac acaggcgaaa agcccttcgc ctgcgacatc 240

tgtggaagaa agtttgccac aagccgtaca cgcaagcggc ataccaagat ccacttgcgg 300

cagaaggaca agaaagcaga caaaagtgtt gtggggcgcg ccgacgcgct ggacgatttc 360

gatctcgaca tgctgggttc tgatgccctc gatgactttg acctggatat gttgggaagc 420

gacgcattgg atgactttga tctggacatg ctcggctccg atgctctgga cgatttcgat 480

ctcgatatgt taattaacta cccgtacgac gttccggact acgctggtta tccctatgac 540

gtcccggatt atgcaggatc ctatccatat gacgttccag attacgcttg a 591

<210> SEQ ID NO 95
<211> LENGTH: 591
<212> TYPE: DNA
<213> ORGANISM: Artificial Sequence
<220> FEATURE:
<223> OTHER INFORMATION: synthetic

<400> SEQUENCE: 95

atgcatccta tgaacaacct gctgaactac gtggtgccga agatgagacc ttacgcttgc 60

ccagtggagt cctgtgatcg ccgcttctcc cgttccatcc gtctcaccat acacatccgc 120

atccacacag gccagaagcc cttccagtgc cgcatctgca tgcgcaactt cagccacagc 180

ccgcaactca cccctcacat ccgcacccac acaggcgaaa agcccttcgc ctgcgacatc 240

tgtggaagaa agtttgccga aagccgtaaa cgcaaggaac ataccaagat ccacttgcgg 300

cagaaggaca agaaagcaga caaaagtgtt gtggggcgcg ccgacgcgct ggacgatttc 360

gatctcgaca tgctgggttc tgatgccctc gatgactttg acctggatat gttgggaagc 420

gacgcattgg atgactttga tctggacatg ctcggctccg atgctctgga cgatttcgat 480

ctcgatatgt taattaacta cccgtacgac gttccggact acgctggtta tccctatgac 540

gtcccggatt atgcaggatc ctatccatat gacgttccag attacgcttg a 591

<210> SEQ ID NO 96
<211> LENGTH: 591
<212> TYPE: DNA
<213> ORGANISM: Artificial Sequence
<220> FEATURE:
<223> OTHER INFORMATION: synthetic

<400> SEQUENCE: 96

atgcatccta tgaacaacct gctgaactac gtggtgccga agatgagacc ttacgcttgc 60

ccagtggagt cctgtgatcg ccgcttctcc cgttccatcc gtctcaccat acacatccgc 120

atccacacag gccagaagcc cttccagtgc cgcatctgca tgcgcaactt cagcggtagc 180

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gttccactca ccatacacat ccgcacccac acaggcgaaa agcccttcgc ctgcgacatc 240

tgtggaagaa agtttgccag gagcgaccag cgcaagagac ataccaagat ccacttgcgg 300

cagaaggaca agaaagcaga caaaagtgtt gtggggcgcg ccgacgcgct ggacgatttc 360

gatctcgaca tgctgggttc tgatgccctc gatgactttg acctggatat gttgggaagc 420

gacgcattgg atgactttga tctggacatg ctcggctccg atgctctgga cgatttcgat 480

ctcgatatgt taattaacta cccgtacgac gttccggact acgctggtta tccctatgac 540

gtcccggatt atgcaggatc ctatccatat gacgttccag attacgcttg a 591

<210> SEQ ID NO 97
<211> LENGTH: 234
<212> TYPE: DNA
<213> ORGANISM: Artificial Sequence
<220> FEATURE:
<223> OTHER INFORMATION: synthetic

<400> SEQUENCE: 97

atgcatccta tgaacaacct gctgaactac gtggtgccga agatgagacc ttacgcttgc 60

ccagtggagc cctgtgatcg ccgcttctcc cgttccatcc gtctcaccat acacatccgc 120

atccacacag gccagaagcc cttccagtgc agcatctgca tgcgcaactt cagcggtagc 180

gatcaactca ccataaacaa ccgcaccaac acaggcgaaa agccatacgc atga 234

<210> SEQ ID NO 98
<211> LENGTH: 507
<212> TYPE: DNA
<213> ORGANISM: Artificial Sequence
<220> FEATURE:
<223> OTHER INFORMATION: synthetic

<400> SEQUENCE: 98

atgcatccta tgaacaacct gctgaactac gtggtgccga agatgagacc ttacgcttgc 60

ccagtggagt cctgtgatcg ccgcttctcc atatccggtg cgctcaccgg gcacatccgc 120

atccacacag gccagaagcc cttcgcctgc gacatctgtg gaagaaagtt tgccaggagc 180

gaccagcgca agagacatac caagatccac ttgcggcaga aggacaagaa agcagacaaa 240

agtgttgtgg ggcgcgccga cgcgctggac gatttcgatc tcgacatgct gggttctgat 300

gccctcgatg actttgacct ggatatgttg ggaagcgacg cattggatga ctttgatctg 360

gacatgctcg gctccgatgc tctggacgat ttcgatctcg atatgttaat taactacccg 420

tacgacgttc cggactacgc tggttatccc tatgacgtcc cggattatgc aggatcctat 480

ccatatgacg ttccagatta cgcttga 507

<210> SEQ ID NO 99
<211> LENGTH: 591
<212> TYPE: DNA
<213> ORGANISM: Artificial Sequence
<220> FEATURE:
<223> OTHER INFORMATION: synthetic

<400> SEQUENCE: 99

atgcatccta tgaacaacct gctgaactac gtggtgccga agatgagacc ttacgattgc 60

ccagtggagt cctgtgatcg ccgcttctcc cagtccgtga atctcaccgt gcacatccgc 120

atccacacag gccagaagcc cttccagtgc cgcatctgca tgcgcaactt cagcgccagc 180

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ccccgctca ccatacacat ccgcacccac acaggcgaaa agcccttcgc ctgcgacatc 240

tgtggaagaa agtttgccag gagcgaccag cgcaagagac ataccaagat ccacttgcgg 300

cagaaggaca agaaagcaga caaaagtgtt gtggggcgcg ccgacgcgct ggacgatttc 360

gatctcgaca tgctgggttc tgatgccctc gatgactttg acctggatat gttgggaagc 420

gacgcattgg atgactttga tctggacatg ctcggctccg atgctctgga cgatttcgat 480

ctcgatatgt taattaacta cccgtacgac gttccggact acgctggtta tccctatgac 540

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<210> SEQ ID NO 100
<211> LENGTH: 591
<212> TYPE: DNA
<213> ORGANISM: Artificial Sequence
<220> FEATURE:
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<400> SEQUENCE: 100

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ccagtggagt cctgtgatcg ccgcttctcc gtttcccacc ggctcaccca tcacatccgc 120

atccacacag gccagaagcc cttccagtgc cgcatctgca tgcgcaactt cagcgtcagc 180

ccgaccctca cccgacacat ccgcacccac acaggcgaaa agcccttcgc ctgcgacatc 240

tgtggaagaa agtttgccag gagcgaccag cgcaagagac ataccaagat ccacttgcgg 300

cagaaggaca agaaagcaga caaaagtgtt gtggggcgcg ccgacgcgct ggacgatttc 360

gatctcgaca tgctgggttc tgatgccctc gatgactttg acctggatat gttgggaagc 420

gacgcattgg atgactttga tctggacatg ctcggctccg atgctctgga cgatttcgat 480

ctcgatatgt taattaacta cccgtacgac gttccggact acgctggtta tccctatgac 540

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<210> SEQ ID NO 101
<211> LENGTH: 591
<212> TYPE: DNA
<213> ORGANISM: Artificial Sequence
<220> FEATURE:
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<400> SEQUENCE: 101

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ccagtggagt cctgtgatcg ccgcttctcc cgttccatcc gtctcaccat acacatacgc 120

atccacacag gccagaagcc cttccagtgc cgcatctgca tgcgcaacct cagccacagc 180

gctcatctca cccgacacat ccgcacccac acaggcgaaa agcccttcgc ctgcgacatc 240

tgtggaagaa agtttgccag gagcgaccag cgcaagagac ataccaagat ccacttgcgg 300

cagaaggaca agaaagcaga caaaagtgtt gtggggcgcg ccgacgcgct ggacgatttc 360

gatctcgaca tgctgggttc tgatgccctc gatgactttg acctggatat gttgggaagc 420

gacgcattgg atgactttga tctggacatg ctcggctccg atgctctgga cgatttcgat 480

ctcgatatgt taattaacta cccgtacgac gttccggact acgctggtta tccctatgac 540

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atccacacag gccagaagcc cttccagtgc cgcatctgca tgcgcaactt cagccctagc 180

agaagactca cccagcacat ccgcacccac acaggcgaaa agcccttcgc ctgcgacatc 240

tgtggaagaa agtttgccca gagcgagggg cgcaaggtcc ataccaagat ccacttgcgg 300

cagaaggaca agaaagcaga caaaagtgtt gtggggcgcg ccgacgcgct ggacgatttc 360

gatctcgaca tgctgggttc tgatgccctc gatgactttg acctggatat gttgggaagc 420

gacgcattgg atgactttga tctggacatg ctcggctccg atgctctgga cgatttcgat 480

ctcgatatgt taattaacta cccgtacgac gttccggact acgctggtta tccctatgac 540

gtcccggatt atgcaggatc ctatccatat gacgttccag attacgcttg a 591

<210> SEQ ID NO 103
<211> LENGTH: 576
<212> TYPE: DNA
<213> ORGANISM: Artificial Sequence
<220> FEATURE:
<223> OTHER INFORMATION: synthetic

<400> SEQUENCE: 103

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aagcccttcc agtgccgcat ctgcatgcgc aacttcagcg acagcgatga gctcaccgat 180

cacatccgca cccacacagg cgaaaagccc ttcgcctgcg acatctgtgg aagaaagttt 240

gccaggagcg accagcgcaa gagacatacc aagatccact tgcggcagaa ggacaagaaa 300

gcagacaaaa gtgttgtggg gcgcgccgac gcgctggacg atttcgatct cgacatgctg 360

ggttctgatg ccctcgatga ctttgacctg gatatgttgg gaagcgacgc attggatgac 420

tttgatctgg acatgctcgg ctccgatgct ctggacgatt tcgatctcga tatgttaatt 480

aactacccgt acgacgttcc ggactacgct ggttatccct atgacgtccc ggattatgca 540

ggatcctatc catatgacgt tccagattac gcttga 576

<210> SEQ ID NO 104
<211> LENGTH: 591
<212> TYPE: DNA
<213> ORGANISM: Artificial Sequence
<220> FEATURE:
<223> OTHER INFORMATION: synthetic

<400> SEQUENCE: 104

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atccacacag gccagaagcc cttccagtgc cgcatctgca tgcgcaactt cagcgacagc 180

gatgagctca ccgatcacat ccgcacccac acaggcgaaa agcccttcgc ctgcgacatc 240

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tgtggaagaa agtttgccca gagcgagggg cgcaaggtcc ataccaagat ccacttgcgg 300

cagaaggaca agaaagcaga caaaagtgtt gtggggcgcg ccgacgcgct ggacgatttc 360

gatctcgaca tgctgggttc tgatgccctc gatgactttg acctggatat gttgggaagc 420

gacgcattgg atgactttga tctggacatg ctcggctccg atgctctgga cgatttcgat 480

ctcgatatgt taattaacta cccgtacgac gttccggact acgctggtta tccctatgac 540

gtcccggatt atgcaggatc ctatccatat gacgttccag attacgcttg a 591

<210> SEQ ID NO 105
<211> LENGTH: 576
<212> TYPE: DNA
<213> ORGANISM: Artificial Sequence
<220> FEATURE:
<223> OTHER INFORMATION: synthetic

<400> SEQUENCE: 105

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gatcgccgct tctccgtttc ccaccggctc acccatcaca tccgcatcca cacaggccag 120

aagcccttcc agtgccgcat ctgcatgcgc aacttcagcg tcagcccgac cctcacccga 180

cacatccgca cccacacagg cgaaaagccc ttcgcctgcg acatctgtgg aagaaagttt 240

gccaggagcg accagcgcaa gagacatacc aagatccact tgcggcagaa ggacaagaaa 300

gcagacaaaa gtgttgtggg gcgcgccgac gcgctggacg atttcgatct cgacatgctg 360

ggttctgatg ccctcgatga ctttgacctg gatatgttgg gaagcgacgc attggatgac 420

tttgatctgg acatgctcgg ctccgatgct ctggacgatt tcgatctcga tatgttaatt 480

aactacccgt acgacgttcc ggactacgct ggttatccct atgacgtccc ggattatgca 540

ggatcctatc catatgacgt tccagattac gcttga 576

<210> SEQ ID NO 106
<211> LENGTH: 591
<212> TYPE: DNA
<213> ORGANISM: Artificial Sequence
<220> FEATURE:
<223> OTHER INFORMATION: synthetic

<400> SEQUENCE: 106

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atccacacag gccagaagcc cttccagtgc cgcatctgca tgcgcaactt cagcgtcagc 180

ccgaccctca cccgacacat ccgcacccac acaggcgaaa agcccttcgc ctgcgacatc 240

tgtggaagaa agtttgccag gagcgaccag cgcaagagac ataccaagat ccacttgcgg 300

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gatctcgaca tgctgggttc tgatgccctc gatgactttg acctggatat gttgggaagc 420

gacgcattgg atgactttga tctggacatg ctcggctccg atgctctgga cgatttcgat 480

ctcgatatgt taattaacta cccgtacgac gttccggact acgctggtta tccctatgac 540

gtcccggatt atgcaggatc ctatccatat gacgttccag attacgcttg a 591

<210> SEQ ID NO 107
<211> LENGTH: 591

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<212> TYPE: DNA
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atccacacag gccagaagcc cttccagtgc cgcatctgca tgcgcaactt cagcctcagc 180

ctaaccctca ccaaacacat ccgcacccac acaggcgaaa agcccttcgc ctgcgacatc 240

tgtggaagaa agtttgccaa aagcaaacca cgcaagacac ataccaagat ccacttgcgg 300

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gatctcgaca tgctgggttc tgatgccctc gatgactttg acctggatat gttgggaagc 420

gacgcattgg atgactttga tctggacatg ctcggctccg atgctctgga cgatttcgat 480

ctcgatatgt taattaacta cccgtacgac gttccggact acgctggtta tccctatgac 540

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<210> SEQ ID NO 108
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<212> TYPE: DNA
<213> ORGANISM: Artificial Sequence
<220> FEATURE:
<223> OTHER INFORMATION: synthetic

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ccgaccctca cccgacacat ccgcacccac acaggcgaaa agcccttcgc ctgcgacatc 240

tgtggaagaa agtttgccga aagccgtaaa cgcaaggaac ataccaagat ccacttgcgg 300

cagaaggaca agaaagcaga caaaagtgtt gtggggcgcg ccgacgcgct ggacgatttc 360

gatctcgaca tgctgggttc tgatgccctc gatgactttg acctggatat gttgggaagc 420

gacgcattgg atgactttga tctggacatg ctcggctccg atgctctgga cgatttcgat 480

ctcgatatgt taattaacta cccgtacgac gttccggact acgctggtta tccctatgac 540

gtcccggatt atgcaggatc ctatccatat gacgttccag attacgcttg a 591

<210> SEQ ID NO 109
<211> LENGTH: 591
<212> TYPE: DNA
<213> ORGANISM: Artificial Sequence
<220> FEATURE:
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<400> SEQUENCE: 109

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gatgagctca ccgatcacat ccgcacccac acaggcgaaa agcccttcgc ctgcgacatc 240

tgtggaagaa agtttgccga aagccgtaaa cgcaaggaac ataccaagat ccacttgcgg 300

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cagaaggaca agaaagcaga caaaagtgtt gtggggcgcg ccgacgcgct ggacgatttc 360

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gacgcattgg atgactttga tctggacatg ctcggctccg atgctctgga cgatttcgat 480

ctcgatatgt taattaacta cccgtacgac gttccggact acgctggtta tccctatgac 540

gtcccggatt atgcaggatc ctatccatat gacgttccag attacgcttg a 591

<210> SEQ ID NO 110
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<213> ORGANISM: Artificial Sequence
<220> FEATURE:
<223> OTHER INFORMATION: synthetic

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gatcgccgct tctccgtttc ccaccggctc acccatcaca tccgcaccca cacaggcgaa 120

aagcccttcg cctgcgacat ctgtggaaga aagtttgcca gaagcataca ccgcaagcgt 180

cataccaaga tccacttgcg gcagaaggac aagaaagcag acaaaagtgt tgtggggcgc 240

gccgacgcgc tggacgattt cgatctcgac atgctgggtt ctgatgccct cgatgacttt 300

gacctggata tgttgggaag cgacgcattg gatgactttg atctggacat gctcggctcc 360

gatgctctgg acgatttcga tctcgatatg ttaattaact acccgtacga cgttccggac 420

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gattacgctt ga 492

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<212> TYPE: DNA
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<223> OTHER INFORMATION: synthetic

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aggatcctgc 70

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<212> TYPE: DNA
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<212> TYPE: DNA
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<220> FEATURE:
<223> OTHER INFORMATION: synthetic

<400> SEQUENCE: 115

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tgaactacgt ggtgccgaag 80

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<222> LOCATION: (25)..(30)
<223> OTHER INFORMATION: n is a, c, g, or t

<400> SEQUENCE: 116

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atct 64

<210> SEQ ID NO 117
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<212> TYPE: DNA
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<210> SEQ ID NO 118
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<212> TYPE: DNA
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<400> SEQUENCE: 118

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<210> SEQ ID NO 119
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<212> TYPE: DNA
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<220> FEATURE:
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<400> SEQUENCE: 119

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<212> TYPE: DNA
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<210> SEQ ID NO 121
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<212> TYPE: DNA
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<220> FEATURE:
<223> OTHER INFORMATION: synthetic

<400> SEQUENCE: 121

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<210> SEQ ID NO 122
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<212> TYPE: DNA
<213> ORGANISM: Artificial Sequence
<220> FEATURE:
<223> OTHER INFORMATION: synthetic

<400> SEQUENCE: 122

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We claim:

1. An artificial transcription factor comprising a polydactyl zinc finger protein comprising two or three zinc finger domains, an interaction domain, and an activation domain, wherein each of the two or three zinc finger domains comprises a variable domain independently encoded by nucleic acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:2 (VNN-TCC-VNN-VNN-CTC-ACC-VNN), wherein each VNN of SEQ ID NO:2 is a codon corresponding to an amino acid selected from the group consisting of R, H, K, D, Q, S, T, N, E, G, P, A, I, L, M, and V.

2. The artificial transcription factor of claim **1**, wherein the polydactyl zinc finger protein comprises three zinc finger domains encoded by SEQ ID NO:4, SEQ ID NO:5, and SEQ ID NO:6, wherein each VNN of SEQ ID NOS:4, 5, and 6 is a codon corresponding to an amino acid selected from the group consisting of R, H, K, D, Q, S, T, N, E, G, P, A, I, L, M, and V.

3. The artificial transcription factor of claim **1**, wherein the interaction domain comprises a 15-amino acid peptide that enables interaction with the hydrophobic face of the most 5' zinc finger domain.

4. The artificial transcription factor of claim **1**, wherein the activation domain comprises four tandem repeats of DALDDFDLDML (SEQ ID NO:7).

5. The artificial transcription factor of claim **1**, further comprising a nuclear localization signal.

6. The artificial transcription factor of claim **5**, wherein the nuclear localization signal is encoded by an amino acid sequence selected from the group consisting of KDK-KADKSVV (SEQ ID NO:11) and PKKKRKV (SEQ ID NO:12).

7. A method of reprogramming a somatic cell to pluripotency, wherein the method comprises

(a) exposing a somatic cell to a plurality of artificial transcription factors, wherein the artificial transcription factors are selected from the group consisting of ZFATF1, ZFATF2, ZFATF3, ZFATF4, and ZFATF5;

(b) further exposing the somatic cell to a plurality of potency determining factors comprising Sox2, Klf4, and c-Myc;

(c) culturing the exposed cells to obtain reprogrammed cells having a higher potency level than the somatic cell.

8. The method of claim **7**, wherein the plurality of ATFs comprises ZFATF1, ZFATF2, and ZFATF5.

9. The method of claim **7**, wherein the plurality of ATFs comprises ZFATF1, ZFATF2, and ZFATF4.

10. The method of claim **7**, wherein the plurality of ATFs comprises ZFATF1, ZFATF2, and ZFATF3.

11. The method of claim **7**, wherein the plurality of ATFs comprises ZFATF1 and ZFATF4.

12. A method of directing differentiation of a pluripotent stem cell to a cardiomyocyte, wherein the method comprises

(a) exposing a pluripotent stem cell to one or more artificial transcription factors (ATFs) selected from the group consisting of ZFATF1, ZFATF2, and ATF5; and

(b) culturing the exposed cells of (a) in the presence of a Wnt activator for about 7-10 days, such that a population of cells comprising cardiomyocytes is obtained.

13. The method of claim **12**, wherein the ATFs comprise ZFATF1, ZFATF2, and ATF5.

14. The method of claim **12**, wherein the Wnt activator is a GSK3 inhibitor.

15. The method of claim **14**, wherein the GSK3 inhibitor is CHIR99021.

16. A method of directing differentiation of a pluripotent stem cell to a hematopoietic lineage, wherein the method comprises

(a) exposing a pluripotent stem cell to two or more artificial transcription factors (ATFs) selected from the group consisting of ZFATF19, ZFATF20, ZFATF21, ATF5, ZFATF1, ZFATF6, ZFATF10, ZFATF13, ZFATF17, ZFATF22, ZFATF23, ZFATF24, ZFATF25, ZFATF26, ZFATF27, ZFATF28, ZFATF29, ZFATF30, and ZFATF31; and

(b) culturing the exposed cells of (a) in a basal culture medium comprising FGF2, SCF, and thrombopoietin, and in the presence of TAL1 for about 7-10 days, such that a cell population comprising hematopoietic lineage cells is obtained.

17. The method of claim **16**, wherein the ATFs comprise ZFATF19, ZFATF20, ZFATF21, and ATF5, and wherein the cell population comprises erythroid-like cells.

18. The method of claim **16**, wherein the ATFs comprise ZFATF1, ZFATF6, ZFATF10, ZFATF13, ZFATF17, ZFATF22, ZFATF23, ZFATF24, ZFATF25, ZFATF26, ZFATF27, ZFATF28, ZFATF29, ZFATF30, and ZFATF31, and wherein the cell population comprises monocyte-like cells.

19. A method for preparing a zinc finger-based artificial transcription factor (ATF) library comprising a plurality of elements, whereby each element of said ATF library comprises a zinc finger backbone comprising two or three oligonucleotides, each encoding SEQ ID NO:3 (X_{-1}-S-X_2-X_3-L-T-X_6), an interaction domain, and an activation domain, wherein X_{-1} is an amino acid preferably selected from the group consisting of R, H, K, D, Q, S, T, N, E, G, P, A, I, L, M, and V; X_2 is preferably selected from the group consisting of R, H, K, D, Q, S, T, N, E, G, P, A, I, L, M, and V; X_3 is preferably selected from the group consisting of R, H, K, D, Q, S, T, N, E, G, P, A, I, L, M, and V; and X_6 is preferably selected from the group consisting of R, H, K, D, Q, S, T, N, E, G, P, A, I, L, M, and V.

20. The method of claim **19**, wherein the ATF library has a complexity of about 2.62×10^6.

21. The method of claim **19**, wherein the interaction domain comprises a 15-amino acid peptide that enables interaction with the hydrophobic face of the most 5' zinc finger domain.

22. The method of claim **19**, wherein the activation domain comprises four tandem repeats of DALDDFDLDML (SEQ ID NO:7).

23. The method of claim **19**, further comprising a nuclear localization signal.

24. The method of claim **23**, wherein the nuclear localization signal is encoded by an amino acid sequence selected from the group consisting of KDKKADKSVV (SEQ ID NO: 11) and PKKKRKV (SEQ ID NO:12).

25. A zinc finger-based artificial transcription factor (ATF) library obtained according to the method of claim **19**.

* * * * *