

TOOLS AND TECHNIQUES

DAZL and CPEB1 regulate mRNA translation synergistically during oocyte maturation

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ABSTRACT

Meiotic progression requires exquisitely coordinated translation of maternal messenger (m)RNA that has accumulated during oocyte growth. A major regulator of this program is the cytoplasmic polyadenylation element binding protein 1 (CPEB1). However, the temporal pattern of translation at different meiotic stages indicates the function of additional RNA binding proteins (RBPs). Here, we report that deleted in azoospermia-like (DAZL) cooperates with CPEB1 to regulate maternal mRNA translation. Using a strategy that monitors ribosome loading onto endogenous mRNAs and a prototypic translation target, we show that ribosome loading is induced in a DAZL- and CPEB1-dependent manner, as the oocyte reenters meiosis. Depletion of the two RBPs from oocytes and mutagenesis of the 3' untranslated regions (UTRs) demonstrate that both RBPs interact with the *Tex19.1* 3' UTR and cooperate in translation activation of this mRNA. We observed a synergism between DAZL and cytoplasmic polyadenylation elements (CPEs) in the translation pattern of maternal mRNAs when using a genome-wide analysis. Mechanistically, the number of DAZL proteins loaded onto the mRNA and the characteristics of the CPE might define the degree of cooperation between the two RBPs in activating translation and meiotic progression.

KEY WORDS: Oocyte maturation, RBPs, Translation control, DAZL, CPEB

INTRODUCTION

During oocyte growth, when the oocyte arrests in prophase of meiosis I (prophase I), it is highly active transcriptionally, accumulating large amounts of mRNA that are later required for the oocyte-to-zygote transition. A large proportion of transcripts – an estimated 30% in mouse and human – are stored in repressing complexes (Pique et al., 2008; Gosden and Lee, 2010), and are used later during oocyte maturation and early embryo development when transcription is silent. Indeed, transcripts coding for crucial meiotic and cell cycle regulators, including the components of the

maturation-promoting factor (MPF), accumulate during oocyte growth but are only translated during oocyte maturation (McGrew and Richter, 1990; Sheets et al., 1994). Consequently, meiotic resumption and progression to the metaphase stage of meiosis II (MII), pronucleus formation, syngamy and the first stages of embryo cleavage are almost completely dependent upon translation control of maternal messages synthesized during oocyte growth. Maternal mRNAs that have accumulated during oocyte growth are remarkably stable, with an estimated half life of 8–12 days (Brower et al., 1981; Clarke, 2012), but upon the first embryo division, over 90% of these mRNAs are degraded (Hamatani et al., 2004).

Two pivotal regulatory structures of eukaryotic translation are located at opposite ends of the mRNA – the 7-methylguanylate (m⁷G) cap at the 5' end and the poly(A) tail at the 3' end. Regulatory elements within the mRNA use these two structures to repress and activate translation in a concerted manner throughout oocyte maturation. One central mechanism for regulating maternal mRNAs relies on the dynamic modulation of the poly(A) tail, which is located at the 3' end of the mRNA, where polyadenylation of silent messages is associated with activation of translation (Radford et al., 2008; Brook et al., 2009). The cytoplasmic polyadenylation element (CPE) is a consensus U-rich sequence [UUUU(A)U] located within the 3' UTR of mRNAs. CPEs complex with CPE-binding proteins (CPEBs) and, through recruitment of different protein partners, promote translation repression or activation. In dormant transcripts, CPEB represses translation by preventing the assembly of the cap complex and by recruiting proteins that either compete for cap binding with eukaryotic initiation factor 4E (eIF4E) or that compete with eIF4G for an interaction with eIF4E (e.g. Maskin, 4EBP and CUP). Additionally, in immature frog oocytes, CPEB recruits the poly(A) ribonuclease (PARN) and the germline development factor 2 (GLD2) simultaneously, in order to maintain a short poly(A) tail (Cao and Richter, 2002; Kim and Richter, 2006; Fernandez-Miranda and Mendez, 2012). Upon reentry into meiosis, phosphorylation of CPEB releases PARN, resulting in an increase in poly(A) size that is mediated by GLD2 and concomitant translation of previously dormant messages (Kim and Richter, 2006, 2007). A combinatorial code that determines the extent and timing of translation based on the positions of CPEs and Pumilio-binding elements in respect to the polyadenylation signal on cyclin mRNAs (Cyclin-B1–Cyclin-B5; Cyclin B1 is encoded by *CcnB1*) has furthered understanding in the activation of translation during MI (Pique et al., 2008).

Recently, a genome-wide analysis of transcripts that are regulated during mouse oocyte maturation identified the RNA-binding protein (RBP) deleted in azoospermia-like (DAZL) as a regulator of translation (Chen et al., 2011). DAZL is fundamental for gametogenesis both in males and females because loss-of-function results in complete abrogation of gametes in both sexes (Ruggiu

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et al., 1997; Saunders et al., 2003). This RBP regulates translation by binding to a U-rich region within the 3' untranslated region (UTR) of specific transcripts and promotes translation activation by providing a scaffold for the canonical translation regulator PABP independently of the poly(A) tail (Collier et al., 2005; Jenkins et al., 2011). In mammals, *in vivo* targets of this protein have been identified both in males and females (Reynolds et al., 2005, 2007; Chen et al., 2011). A positive regulatory loop, where CPEB1 promotes the translation of DAZL, which in turn activates its own translation, has been described in mouse (Chen et al., 2011) and in zebrafish (Takeda et al., 2009).

Work in *Xenopus* has provided important clues on the mechanisms that are employed to regulate translation and concomitant oocyte maturation, but little is known about these processes in mammals. Previous strategies to study translation in mammalian meiosis have been hindered by the limited amounts of material available; therefore, meiotic stage specific characterization of translational dynamics in the maturing oocyte has not been reported. Using a mouse line expressing an epitope-tagged ribosomal protein (RiboTag), which is activated by the tissue-specific cre recombinase, we recovered transcripts that are associated with ribosomes by using immunoprecipitation. This provides a powerful tool to develop temporally specific profiles of rapid cell-stage transitions (Sanz et al., 2009, 2013). Through the use of RiboTag RNA immunoprecipitation (RIP), together with mutagenesis and bioinformatics analysis, we discovered a close synergy between the two RBPs CPEB1 and DAZL in their function as translation regulators of transcripts during mammalian oocyte maturation. Using a candidate approach, we show that both proteins are required for translation and oocyte meiotic progression.

RESULTS

Ribosome RIP as a strategy to monitor ribosome loading onto maternal mRNAs and translation in the oocyte

A genome-wide analysis of actively translating mRNA during mammalian oocyte maturation provided a first insight into the mechanisms controlling specific translation from transition from prophase I to MI and MII (Chen et al., 2011). However, the large number of oocytes needed for polysome fractionation on a sucrose density gradient limits the temporal resolution of measurements. To circumvent this obstacle, we devised a new strategy to monitor ribosome loading onto oocyte maternal transcripts. We used a mouse model carrying a cre-recombinase-activated hemagglutinin (HA)-labeled ribosomal protein L22 (Rpl22^{HA}; RiboTag) (Sanz et al., 2009, 2013). We surmised that RIP of ribosomes followed by detection of associated mRNA by using quantitative (q)PCR would more efficiently detect ribosome loading onto mRNAs than the use of polysome fractionation. To express RiboTag in oocytes, the Rpl22^{HA} transgenic mice were mated with mice expressing a cre-recombinase under the control of the zona pellucida 3 (Zp3-cre) promoter, which is exclusively expressed in the growing oocyte before the completion of the first meiotic division (de Vries et al., 2000). The selective expression of the tagged ribosomal subunit in the oocyte was confirmed with immunocytochemistry analysis (Fig. 1A,B) and by western blotting (Fig. S1A). HA-tagged ribosomes were expressed throughout the primordial-to-primary follicle transition and persisted throughout oocyte growth (Fig. S1B).

Using the polysome array strategy, we have previously defined three classes of maternal mRNA in the maturing oocyte: class I, representing transcripts constitutively associated with the polysomes; class II, which includes transcripts that dissociate from the polysomes during oocyte maturation; and class III,

including transcripts that progressively associate with polysomes as maturation proceeds (Chen et al., 2011). We tested whether representative members of each class [*Gdf9*=Class I, *Paip2*=Class II and *Tex19.1*=Class III (Chen et al., 2011)] behave in similar ways in the RiboTag RIP. As shown in Fig. 1C,D, comparable patterns of RNA–ribosome interaction were observed with polysome arrays and RiboTag RIP. Importantly, RiboTag RIP reduced the material needed by one order of magnitude, from 500–1000 oocytes required for separation on a sucrose gradient to 50–100 for analysis using RiboTag RIP.

Specific maternal mRNAs are differentially translated in a temporal fashion during *Xenopus* oocyte maturation, and these temporal patterns are crucial for progression through meiosis (Pique et al., 2008). However, little information is available on temporally distinct patterns of translation for the mouse. Given the sensitivity of RiboTag RIP, we used this strategy to determine whether high-resolution time courses of ribosome loading onto mRNA could be generated in mouse oocytes. Oocytes from Zp3-RiboTag mice were matured *in vitro*, collected throughout meiotic progression and used for RiboTag RIP followed by qPCR. In agreement with previously obtained polysome array data (Chen et al., 2011), we found a constitutive ribosome association with the mRNA coding for *Dppa3* throughout oocyte maturation (Fig. S1C), a maternal factor essential in the zygote (Fig. 1E). Conversely, after 2 h of maturation, the mRNA coding for *Tex19.1*, a suppressor of transposon activation (Ollinger et al., 2008; Reichmann et al., 2013; Tarabay et al., 2013), became progressively associated with ribosomes up to the MII stage (Fig. 1E). This progressive ribosome loading occurred in the absence of significant changes in the total *Tex19.1* levels in the oocyte (Fig. 1E).

To determine whether the ribosome loading onto *Tex19.1* reflects an increase in translation, we injected oocytes with a reporter construct containing the 3' UTR of *Tex19.1* fused to the *Renilla* luciferase open reading frame (ORF) (Fig. S2A). By measuring luciferase accumulation throughout maturation, we observed that the accumulation of the reporter (Fig. 1F) closely followed the ribosome loading onto the endogenous mRNA (Fig. 1E). More importantly, a tenfold increase in TEX19.1 endogenous protein accumulation was detected during maturation by western blotting oocyte extracts (Fig. 1F, inset). These findings are consistent with the prediction that ribosome loading promotes *Tex19.1* translation and confirm that ribosome association can be used as a proxy for translation of endogenous mRNAs. Luciferase activity and ribosome loading did not increase significantly when oocytes were maintained at the germinal vesicle stage (Fig. S2C), indicating that translation of the *Tex19.1* mRNA is cell cycle dependent.

These initial experiments establish RiboTag RIP as a powerful tool for the detailed analysis of the mechanisms underlying translational regulation during meiotic progression in mammalian oocytes.

RBPs control ribosome loading and translation of *Tex19.1*

Computational analysis of the 3' UTR of *Tex19.1* identified two potential classes of translational control elements – a non-consensus CPE (UUUUACU), which is present 51 nucleotides upstream of the polyadenylation hexanucleotide (AAUAAA), and three putative DAZL-binding sites (consensus UU[G/C]UU Fig. S2A and D). [It must be noted that the first DAZL putative binding site can actually be subdivided into two overlapping binding consensus sequences, as we have previously reported (Chen et al., 2011). Here, these two overlapping sites have been treated as a single site (Fig. S2A,D).] To determine whether CPEB1 and DAZL are required for the

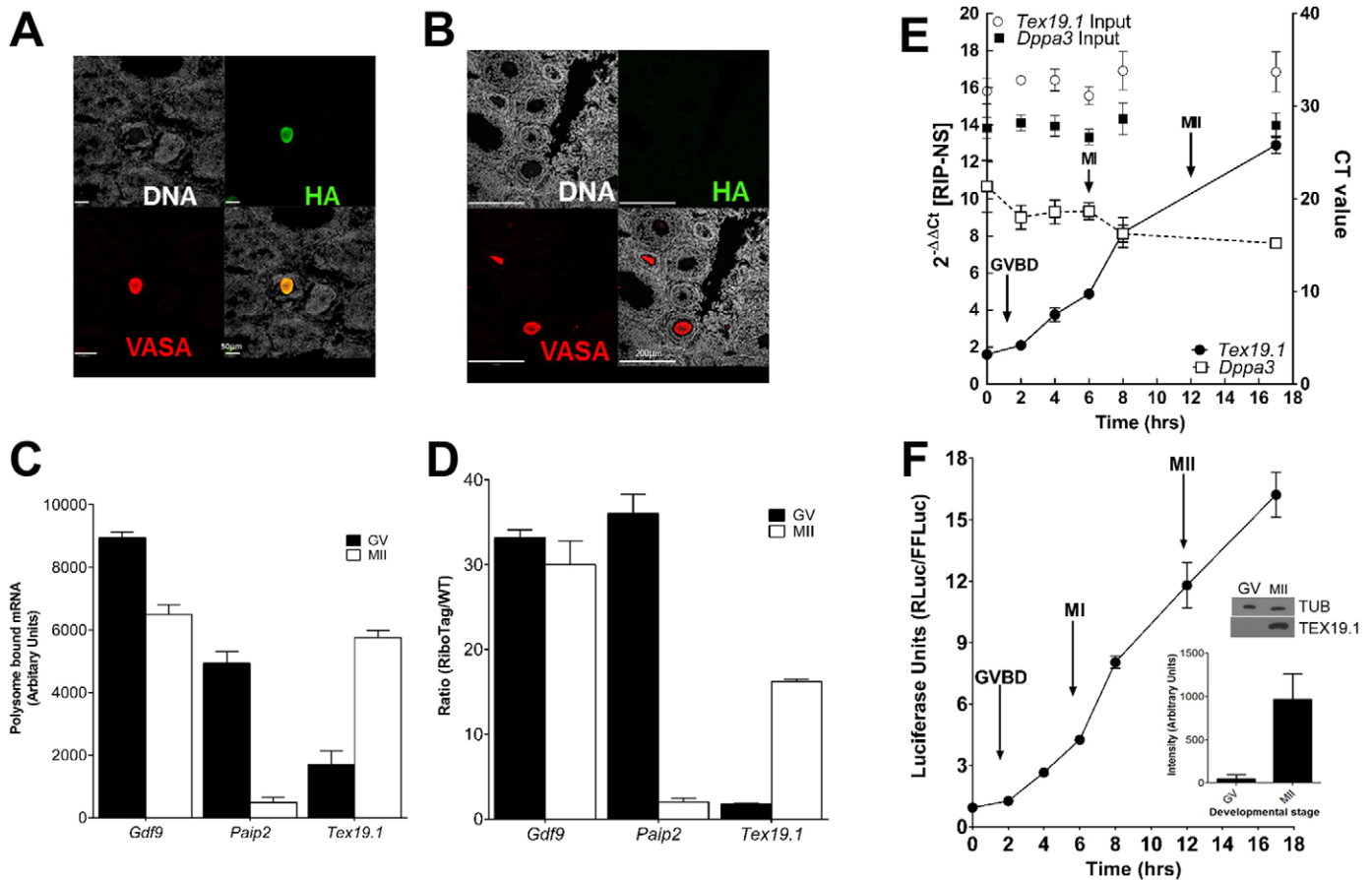


Fig. 1. Immunoprecipitation of ribosome-associated maternal mRNAs predicts translation. (A,B) Expression of the HA tag in oocytes. Ovaries expressing the RiboTag under the control of the Zp3 promoter (Zp3-RiboTag; A) or the control construct (B) were stained for HA and VASA (also known as DDX4). Scale bars: 50 μ m (A); 200 μ m (B). (C) Polysome array signals of transcripts representative of the three different classes of mRNAs during oocyte maturation. *Gdf9* (class I, constitutively expressed), *Paip2* (class II, repressed) and *Tex19.1* (class III, activated). Mean \pm s.e.m., $n=3$ independent biological replicates. (D) qPCR analysis of mRNAs recovered using RiboTag RIP for the three transcripts reported in C. Data are expressed as a ratio between the qPCR signal from immunoprecipitations from control (WT) and Zp3-RiboTag oocytes. Mean \pm range of two independent experiments. (E) Time course of RiboTag RIP of *Tex19.1* and *Dppa3* during oocyte maturation. Fold enrichment was calculated as $2^{-\Delta\Delta CT}$ over the nonspecific (NS) control IgG. Data were normalized against input values. Mean \pm s.e.m. ($n=5$ independent experiments and 3 for the controls). (F) Expression of a luciferase reporter under the control of the *Tex19.1* 3' UTR throughout oocyte maturation. The reporter luciferase signal (*Renilla* luciferase, RLuc) was normalized to that of the firefly luciferase (FFLuc) injection control. Mean \pm s.e.m., $n=15$ independent experiments. Inset shows immunodetection of TEX19.1 protein during oocyte maturation; the bar graph represents the average intensity \pm s.e.m. of three different biological replicates. GV, germinal vesicle; GVBD, germinal vesicle breakdown; MI, metaphase of meiosis I; MII, metaphase of meiosis II; TUB, tubulin.

translation of *Tex19.1* as well as oocyte maturation, we employed morpholino oligonucleotide (MO) knockdown. Injection of a morpholino against *Dazl* (DAZL-MO) was performed in DAZL heterozygous (DAZL^{+/-}) oocytes in order to maximize protein depletion. Western blot analysis (Fig. S3A,D) revealed that MO injection caused a 50 and 90% decrease in the endogenous CPEB1 and DAZL protein levels, respectively. The knockdown of CPEB1 was associated with a reduction in the number of oocytes that reached MII after 17 h of *in vitro* maturation, whereas depletion in DAZL resulted in an almost complete block of progression into MII (Fig. S3B,E). We then used the RiboTag RIP protocol to evaluate the consequence of depleting these RBPs on ribosome loading onto the endogenous mRNAs. We observed a significant decrease in ribosome recruitment to the *Tex19.1* and *Ccnb1* mRNAs after injection of the morpholino targeting CPEB1 (CPEB1-MO) (Fig. 2A). *Ccnb1* is a canonical CPEB1 target (Sheets et al., 1994; Pique et al., 2008); conversely, knockdown of CPEB1 had no effect on *Rpl19* loading (Fig. 2A). A DAZL concentration-dependent decrease in ribosome loading onto *Tex19.1* mRNA was proportional to the depletion of DAZL (Fig. 2B). We observed no

effect of the DAZL knockdown on *Ccnb1* or *Rpl19* (Fig. 2B). These data show that disruption of ribosome loading onto mRNA is RBP-specific because *Ccnb1* is only affected by knockdown of CPEB1, whereas *Tex19.1* requires both RBPs for ribosome recruitment. Depletion of either RBP had no effect on total transcript levels, ruling out a possible destabilizing effect (Fig. S3C,F).

Upon injection of the *Tex19.1* reporter into control and RBP-depleted oocytes, luciferase accumulation decreased in parallel to the decrease in ribosome loading onto the endogenous mRNA (Fig. 3A,B). However, although an increase in reporter translation rate clearly continued to be present at 4–6 h in CPEB1-depleted oocytes, the reporter accumulation after DAZL depletion was monotonic (single translation rate) (Fig. 3B; Fig. S4). An assessment of translation beyond 8 h would not be informative because oocytes depleted of these proteins failed to reach the MII stage (Fig. S3B,E). We also noted a small but significant increase in reporter accumulation when either CPEB1 or DAZL were depleted from the germinal vesicle oocytes (Fig. 3C,D). This finding suggests that these two RBPs could also contribute to the repression of *Tex19.1* translation in quiescent germinal vesicle oocytes.

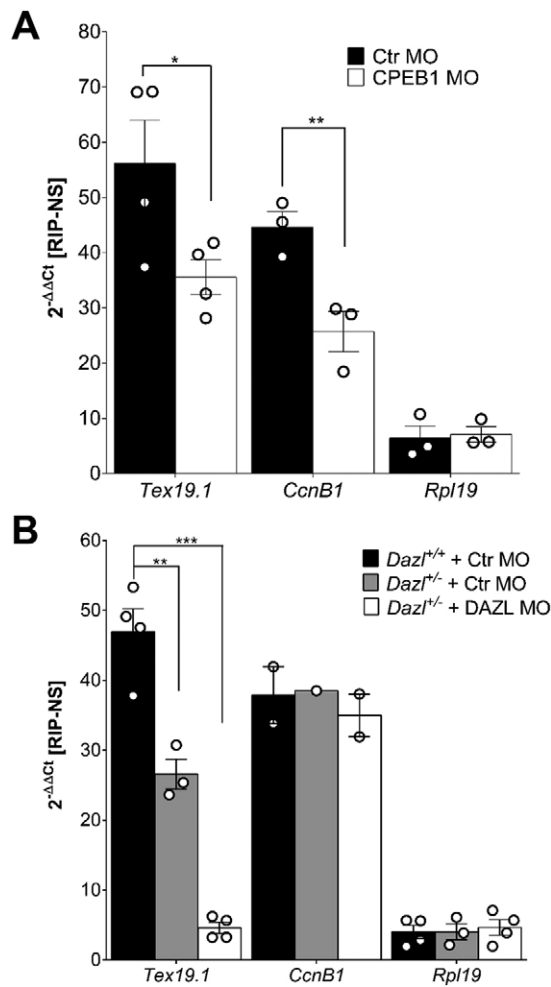


Fig. 2. Ribosome loading onto *Tex19.1* is under CPEB1 and DAZL control. (A) Knockdown of CPEB1 in mouse oocytes decreases ribosome recruitment onto *Tex19.1* and *CcnB1* mRNAs. Germinal vesicle Zp3-RiboTag oocytes were injected with a morpholino against *Cpeb1* (CPEB1-MO), or a control MO (Ctr MO), incubated overnight, matured for 5 h and then analyzed using RiboTag RIP. qPCR analysis was performed for *Tex19.1*, *CcnB1* and *Rpl19* as a control. (B) Knockdown of DAZL significantly reduced ribosome loading onto *Tex19.1* but showed no effect in *CcnB1* or *Rpl19* levels. DAZL^{+/-}-Zp3-RiboTag (heterozygous, Het) and DAZL^{+/-}-Zp3-RiboTag (wild type, WT) oocytes were injected with control or DAZL-MO. RiboTag RIP precipitates from oocytes collected at 5-h post meiotic re-entry were used for qPCR analysis for *Tex19.1*, *CcnB1* and *Rpl19*. Fold enrichment in A and B was calculated as 2^{-ΔΔCT} against the RNAs from RIP using the non-specific IgG control and normalized against input values. *P<0.05, **P<0.01, ***P<0.001 (two-tailed paired t-test). The data are reported as individual experiments (circles) or as mean±s.e.m. of three or four independent experiments (bars).

CPEB1 regulates *Tex19.1* translation through a non-consensus CPE

Cytoplasmic polyadenylation is key to translation during gametogenesis (Hake and Richter, 1994), and CPEs are associated with regulation of the poly(A) tail. A similar element is present in the 3' UTR of *Tex19.1* (Fig. S2A and D), suggesting polyadenylation as a regulatory mechanism for the translation of this mRNA. Of note, the results from the polysome recruitment and the luciferase reporter suggest that if polyadenylation regulates translation of *Tex19.1*, this should occur after the germinal vesicle stage but before the MI stage. Indeed, analysis of the endogenous *Tex19.1* mRNA with a poly(A) tail (PAT) assay

revealed elongation during the first meiotic division (Fig. 4). We detected an increase in polyadenylation from, on average, 150 to 200 adenosine residues, indicating a direct role for CPEB1 in the translation of the transcript (Fig. 4A). In agreement with previous observations (Sheets et al., 1994), the length of the poly(A) tail of *CcnB1* increased during oocyte maturation from the germinal-vesicle stage (~50 adenine residues) to the MII stage (~200 adenine residues) (Fig. 4B).

The above RBP depletion experiments indicate that both RBPs are involved in *Tex19.1* translation but also show a more profound effect of DAZL than that of CPEB1 on this translation. We have reported that CPEB1 is required for translation of *Dazl* mRNA and DAZL protein accumulation during oocyte maturation (Chen et al., 2011). Thus, the CPEB1 requirement for *Tex19.1* translation might be indirect and entirely dependent on DAZL induction. We then used three complementary approaches to define whether the CPEB1 effects on *Tex19.1* are direct. RNA immunoprecipitation was performed with CPEB1-specific antibodies at 0, 5 and 7 h after oocyte entry into prometaphase. The *Tex19.1* mRNA, as well as that of other known CPEB1 targets (*Dazl* and *CcnB1*), was recovered in the immunoprecipitation pellet of oocyte extracts at the germinal vesicle stage or 5 h after release from meiotic arrest. Conversely, little *Tex19.1* mRNA was immunoprecipitated from extracts after 7 h of maturation (Fig. 5A). This experiment provides a first indication of a physical interaction of CPEB1 with *Tex19.1* mRNA. The decreased recovery of *Tex19.1* mRNA at 7 h of maturation is consistent with the finding that CPEB1 is degraded during MI after extensive phosphorylation by Cdk1 (Hodgeman et al., 2001; Keady et al., 2007; Setoyama et al., 2007; Chen et al., 2011; Ota et al., 2011); it also confirms the specificity of the immunoprecipitation. Furthermore, we mutated the putative CPEB1-binding CPE in the 3' UTR of *Tex19.1*, which had been fused to the luciferase-coding region (Fig. S2A). After microinjection of this construct, we observed that mutation of the CPE significantly decreased translation of the reporter (Fig. 5B). Of note, this latter experimental paradigm excludes the possibility that the effects of CPEB1 are mediated exclusively through an increase in DAZL accumulation. Given the non-consensus nature of the CPE element in *Tex19.1*, we generated an additional luciferase reporter in which the non-consensus CPE had been mutated to a consensus CPE; this mutation resulted in a fourfold increase in luciferase activity compared to that in wild type (Fig. 5C). These findings confirm the weaker activity of the non-consensus CPE found in the 3' UTR of *Tex19.1*.

Activation of translation by DAZL requires multiple DAZL-binding sites

To investigate which DAZL element cooperates with the CPEB for translation, site-directed mutagenesis of the *Tex19.1* 3' UTR was used (Fig. S2A,D). On the basis of the consensus (UU[G/C]UU), we mutated the three putative DAZL-binding sites by replacing crucial nucleotides with adenosine. As predicted using the crystal structure of the DAZL RNA recognition motif (RRM) in complex with its target, these mutations should disrupt DAZL binding (Jenkins et al., 2011). This was indeed the case because RIP of FLAG-tagged DAZL showed a progressively reduced ability to bind to the mutant reporter (Fig. 6A). When we used these mutant reporters in a luciferase assay, single mutation of each of these sites caused a decrease in the rate of reporter synthesis (Fig. 6B). Of note, mutation of site 2 (Δ2) was slightly less effective than the other two mutations in decreasing translation at 8 and 16 h. Combined mutation of DAZL sites 1 and 3 (Δ1+3)

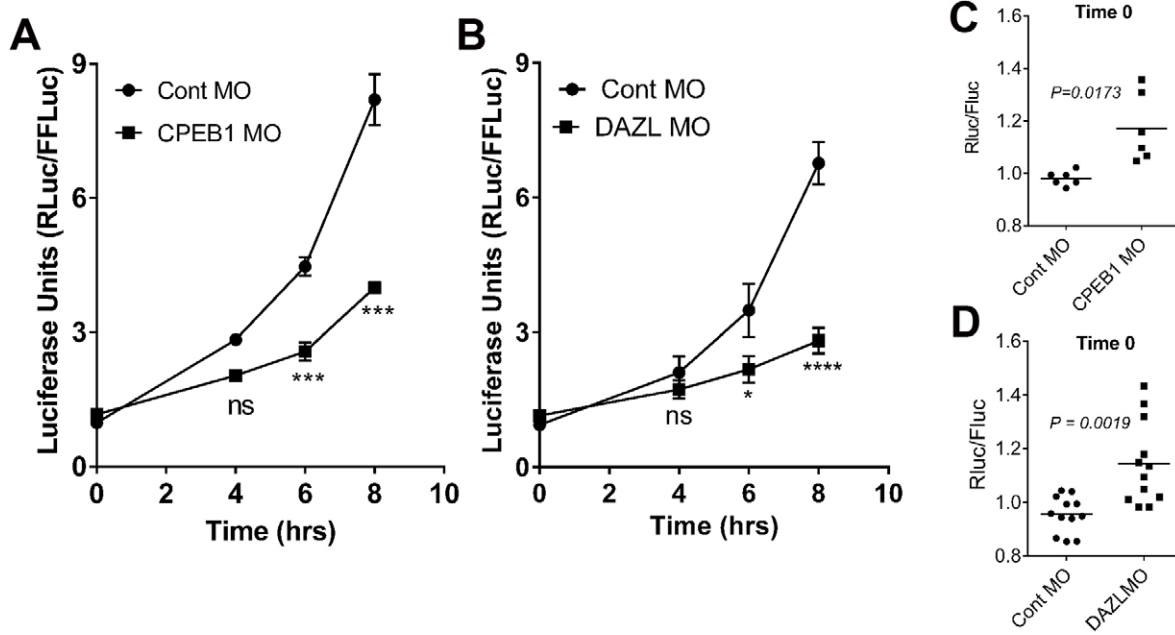


Fig. 3. Translation of the *Tex19.1* reporter requires both CPEB1 and DAZL. Germinal vesicle oocytes were co-injected with RBP-specific MOs (CPEB1, A; DAZL, B) or control MO (Cont MO), and a luciferase reporter with the 3' UTR of *Tex19.1*. After release from the germinal vesicle stage, injected oocytes were collected at different times of maturation, and luciferase activity was measured. Significance was assessed by using two-way ANOVA with Bonferroni correction comparing the reporter accumulation in MO-knockdown and control MO-injected oocytes. (C,D) Time 0 of oocyte maturation from the time courses shown in A and B of groups injected with control MO and MOs specific to each of the two RBPs. Significance was determined by a two-tailed paired *t*-test. *Renilla* Luciferase (RLuc) units were normalized to firefly luciferase (FFLuc) activity injected as a control. Each point is the mean ± s.e.m. of five or six independent pools of injected oocytes. **P*<0.05; ****P*<0.001; ns, not statistically significant.

further decreased the translation of the reporter to minimal levels. Consistent with the results of the luciferase reporter assay, the double mutant was significantly less effective in ribosome loading (Fig. 6C). Thus, the three identified DAZL elements are functional in that they are bound by DAZL and contribute to the overall rate of translation.

CPEB1 and DAZL cooperatively regulate translation of *Tex19.1*

The double mutant Δ1+3 causes an almost complete loss of translation of the *Tex19.1* reporter, suggesting that it also affects the CPEB function. To further investigate the interaction between the function of CPEB1 and DAZL, and given the limited amount of protein available with the oocyte model, we used testes extract, where a large amount of tissue is available, to test the direct interaction between the two RBPs. Immunoprecipitation of CPEB1 led to the recovery of DAZL protein; however, this was abolished upon treatment with ribonuclease A. These results indicate that CPEB1 and DAZL interact with the same RNA targets, but possibly not through a direct interaction between both proteins.

By using an alternative strategy, we assessed whether mutations of the DAZL elements in the 3' UTR of *Tex19.1* affect CPEB1 binding. With this aim, we injected the mutant constructs Δ3 and Δ1+3 into the oocyte. We then used an antibody against CPEB1 for RIP analysis, and the recovery of the luciferase reporter mRNA was measured by using qPCR. A decrease in CPEB1 binding could be detected for both mutants compared to the wild-type reporter (Fig. 7A), suggesting cooperativity at the *Tex19.1* 3' UTR.

Because the CPE element present in the 3' UTR of *Tex19.1* is not a consensus element, we used this property to further probe the interaction between DAZL and CPEB1. We reasoned that if a non-consensus CPE is required to generate cooperativity between the

two RBPs, mutations to a consensus CPE should affect this synergism. We expressed the 3' UTR reporter with the mutation generating a consensus CPE in oocytes depleted of DAZL and determined whether translation of the reporter became independent of DAZL. DAZL depletion caused a 72% decrease in luciferase accumulation of the reporter containing the non-consensus CPE, whereas the accumulation of the reporter with the consensus CPE was only marginally affected (29% decrease) (Fig. 7B). This experiment shows that only the non-consensus CPE allows CPEB1 and DAZL to act synergistically.

Multiple DAZL-binding sites are required for the function of DAZL as a translation activator

To investigate whether multiple DAZL and CPE elements are required for translation of other mRNAs present in the oocyte, we re-analyzed the available (Chen et al., 2011) and new polysome array data obtained during oocyte maturation (*n*=6). The 3' UTRs of regulated transcripts were scanned for putative CPE and DAZL elements using an algorithm that we had developed previously (Chen et al., 2011). We compared the behavior of transcripts with multiple DAZL elements to that of transcripts without recognizable DAZL elements or transcripts that also possess putative CPEs (Fig. 8). The combined presence of CPE and DAZL elements in transcripts causes a significant shift in the number of transcripts associated with polysomes during maturation (Fig. 8A). Moreover, the combination of non-consensus CPE and DAZL elements produced an even larger shift in the number of transcripts from the repressed to the recruited pool., whereas the presence of a consensus CPE and DAZL elements showed only an increase in the average recruitment of transcripts to the polysomes (Fig. 8B). Thus, cooperativity between non-consensus CPEs and multiple DAZL elements is also detected at a genome-wide level.

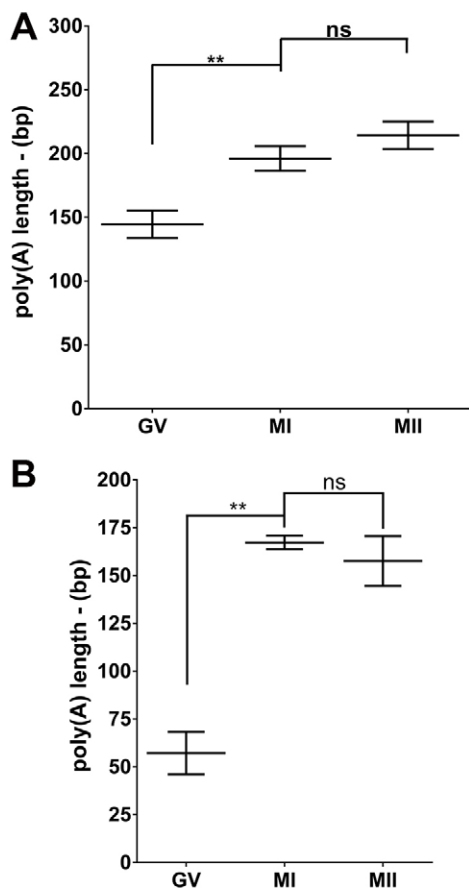


Fig. 4. Meiotic re-entry is dependent on cytoplasmic polyadenylation. (A) *Tex19.1* is polyadenylated upon meiotic re-entry. PAT assay of *Tex19.1* from mouse oocytes at different stages of maturation. $n=6$ independent experiments. (B) *CcnB1* is polyadenylated upon meiotic re-entry. PAT assay of *CcnB1* from mouse oocytes at different stages of maturation. The experiment was repeated three times, and the mean and range is reported. GV, germinal vesicle; MI, metaphase of meiosis I; MII, metaphase of meiosis II; bp, base pairs. Average±range of three independent experiments. ** $P<0.01$; ns, not statistically significant (one-way ANOVA).

DISCUSSION

Meiotic progression and oocyte maturation depends on the translational control of specific stored maternal mRNAs at different stages of the cell cycle. Here, we demonstrate that DAZL functions cooperatively with CPEB1 to regulate translation of maternal mRNAs during mouse oocyte maturation. This cooperative behavior is essential for oocyte meiotic progression because depletion of either RBP compromises the ability to reach MII. Using candidate and genome-wide approaches, we show that these RBPs cooperate to promote ribosome loading and translation initiation of endogenous mRNA. By using site-directed mutagenesis, we have defined the *Tex19.1* cis-regulatory elements that are involved in RBP binding and ribosome loading. Finally, we show that in order for DAZL and CPEB1 synergism to occur, the presence of more than one DAZL-binding element and a non-consensus CPE in the 3' UTR of mRNAs is required. Thus, translation of a subset of maternal mRNAs is dependent on DAZL acting cooperatively, and possibly sequentially, with CPEB1 during mouse oocyte maturation.

The RiboTag genetic strategy was originally developed to study transcription through the enrichment of cell-type-specific transcripts from a tissue of interest (Sanz et al., 2009, 2013). We have adapted

this technique to measure ribosome loading in the oocyte as a surrogate for translation initiation. This approach allows for the isolation of mRNAs that are engaged in translation, providing a temporal snapshot of the maturing oocyte translome *in vivo*. We confirmed the power and selectivity of this approach by following the pattern of ribosome loading of at least four distinct maternal mRNAs (*Dppa3*, *Tex19.1*, *Gdf9* and *Paip2*). Finally, the RiboTag RIP allows for measurement of candidate transcript in one-tenth the number of oocytes when compared to that required for polysome arrays (Fig. 1C,D), permitting construction of detailed time courses of mRNA translational activation. RiboTag also allowed us to probe the effects of genetic manipulations on maternal mRNA translation by using morpholino-mediated knock down. Of note, because the 60S subunit of the ribosome is tagged, we surmise that recovery of any given transcript in the immunoprecipitated pellet reflects the assembly of a translating ribosome on the mRNA. Even though ribosome stalling could be a confounding factor (Anderson and Kedersha, 2006), in most cases recruitment of the 60S subunit coincides with the actual initiation of protein synthesis, a step that follows the assembly of the pre-initiation complex (Chew et al., 2013; Dunn et al., 2013). The time course of reporter translation supports this conclusion. Importantly, in the present analysis, we compare the ribosome loading on the same transcript at different stages of maturation or on different genetic backgrounds. When different transcripts are compared, the length of the mRNA and the number of loaded ribosomes might affect recovery during the immunoprecipitation and will require additional corrections or controls.

Binding and functional data provide evidence that *Tex19.1* is a target for both DAZL and CPEB1, and that the two RBPs cooperate in the translation of this maternal mRNA during meiosis. DAZL is associated with *Tex19.1* in germinal vesicle oocyte extracts, and more so during MII (Chen et al., 2011). Conversely, binding of CPEB1 to the *Tex19.1* transcript is detectable in germinal vesicle and prometaphase oocytes but not later in MI or MII, when levels of the CPEB1 protein decrease substantially. This opens the possibility that both proteins are necessary for the initial phase of translation of *Tex19.1*, whereas DAZL continues to play an important role later in MII when levels of CPEB1 are greatly reduced. A loss-of-function approach could not tease apart these temporal differences, possibly because knock down of the two proteins affects progression to MII, and because of the fact that accumulation of the DAZL protein is CPEB1 dependent (see below). However, mutagenesis of the DAZL sites in the 3' UTR suggests that no further translation of the reporter occurs between 8 and 17 h of incubation, suggesting a role later during maturation. CPE mutagenesis does not prevent an increased translation at these late stages of meiotic progression, which is in line with a more prominent function earlier in the cell cycle.

Depletion of CPEB1 causes a 50% decrease in ribosome loading onto the *Tex19.1* transcript, whereas DAZL depletion causes a more profound effect (up to 90% reduction). Similar differences were obtained when a luciferase reporter was used in RBP-depleted oocytes or when mutagenesis of the RBPs binding sites was performed. These data strongly suggest that DAZL is required for the CPEB-dependent translation of *Tex19.1* mRNA. This requirement is not simply due to the fact that CPEB1 is required for DAZL accumulation in the oocyte (Chen et al., 2011) because DAZL accumulates at a normal level when the CPE mutant construct is used; yet we observe a decrease in translation of the reporter. We propose that CPEB1 binding to the *Tex19.1* mRNA and translational activation requires DAZL loading on at least two sites. The non-consensus CPE element is located between two

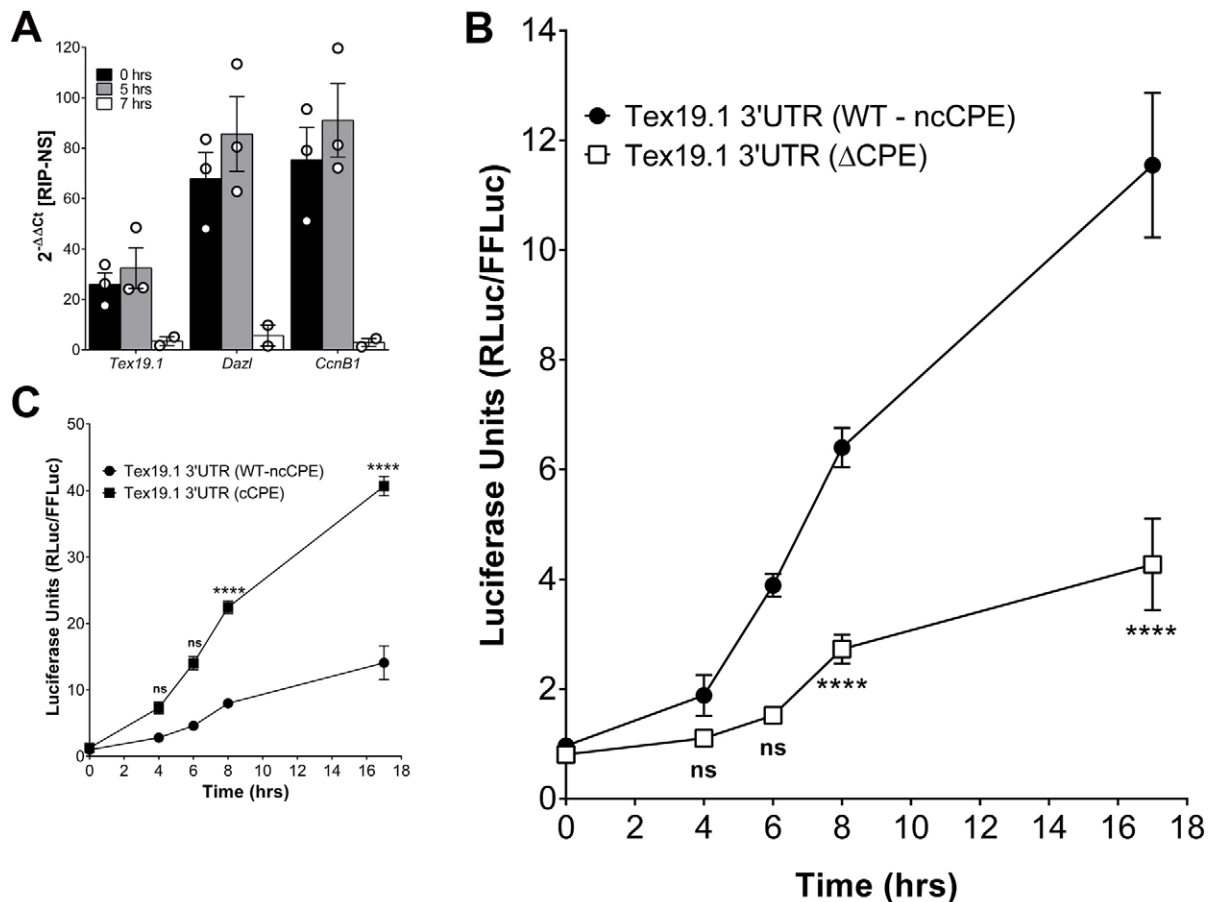


Fig. 5. CPEB1 has a direct effect on *Tex19.1* translation. (A) CPEB1 is bound to *Tex19.1*. Oocytes were matured *in vitro* and used for a RIP with CPEB1; qPCR analysis was performed on the immunoprecipitated pellets. Fold enrichment was calculated as $2^{-\Delta\Delta CT}$ against the RNAs from RIP with the non-specific IgG control. Data are represented as mean \pm s.e.m. of three independent experiments, or reporting biological replicates as individual points. (B,C) Germinal vesicle (GV) oocytes were injected with a luciferase reporter containing the wild-type 3' UTR of *Tex19.1* with a non-consensus CPE (WT-ncCPE) or a mutated CPE (Δ CPE; B), or with a mutant 3' UTR modified to a consensus CPE (cCPE; C) and matured *in vitro*. Luciferase activity was measured between times 0 and 17 h of oocyte maturation. **** $P < 0.0001$; ns, not statistically significant. Significance was assessed with a two-way ANOVA with Bonferroni correction comparing the progression of the WT-ncCPE with the mutated reporters (cCPE or Δ CPE) during oocyte maturation.

putative DAZL elements. Mutation of the DAZL 1 (Δ 1) site decreases binding in a reconstitution system, confirming that it interacts with the DAZL protein. The DAZL site 3 (Δ 3) is instead located 3' to the CPE site. The crystal structure of CPEB1 suggests that RBPs that bind 3' to the CPE could be in a favorable position to interact with CPEB1 through the Zn²⁺-binding domain (ZZ domain). Thus, it is possible that DAZL binding at site 3 might contribute to the stabilization of the CPEB1 binding to a non-consensus site, as suggested by the lower recovery of the Δ 3 mutant upon RNA immunoprecipitation with an antibody against CPEB1. Biochemical studies in a heterologous expression system will be required to assess these possibilities. Whether occupancy of DAZL site 1 is possible when the CPEB1 protein is bound to the CPE also remains to be determined experimentally.

An interaction between CPEB1 and DAZL has previously been described in orthologous systems. During *Drosophila* spermatogenesis, colocalization and a direct interaction has been shown between *bol* and *orb2* (DAZL and CPEB1 fly orthologs, respectively) (Xu et al., 2012). A similar interaction has been reported in immature *Xenopus* oocytes, where an RNA-independent complex of proteins comprising DAZL, CPEB and CPSF-100 was isolated by using immunoprecipitation (Ota et al., 2011). Because of the limited amount of material available in our study, we could not

assess a direct interaction of DAZL with CPEB1 in mouse oocytes. However, an interaction can be inferred by the observation that mutagenesis of the DAZL elements causes a small but significant decrease in CPEB1 binding to a reporter with reduced DAZL-binding ability.

Of note, the DAZL mutant Δ 1+3 still contains a DAZL site, yet translation was greatly reduced, suggesting that a single DAZL-binding site is insufficient to stimulate translation. Similarly, removal of a single DAZL site was sufficient to reduce translation significantly, confirming the non-redundant function of these sites. This conclusion is consistent with an earlier observation in a reconstitution system where forced recruitment of multiple DAZL proteins is necessary to activate translation (Collier et al., 2005).

We show that, like CPEB1, DAZL might also function as a translational repressor in germinal vesicle oocytes. Depletion of either RBP causes a small but significant increase in reporter expression in germinal vesicle oocytes. Such an effect of RBP depletion could not be detected when using other manipulations, such as mutagenesis. This, and the small signal-to-noise ratio, prevented us from further determining the properties of these possible repressive effects. DAZL has been proposed to act as a translational repressor in primordial germ cells (Chen et al., 2015).

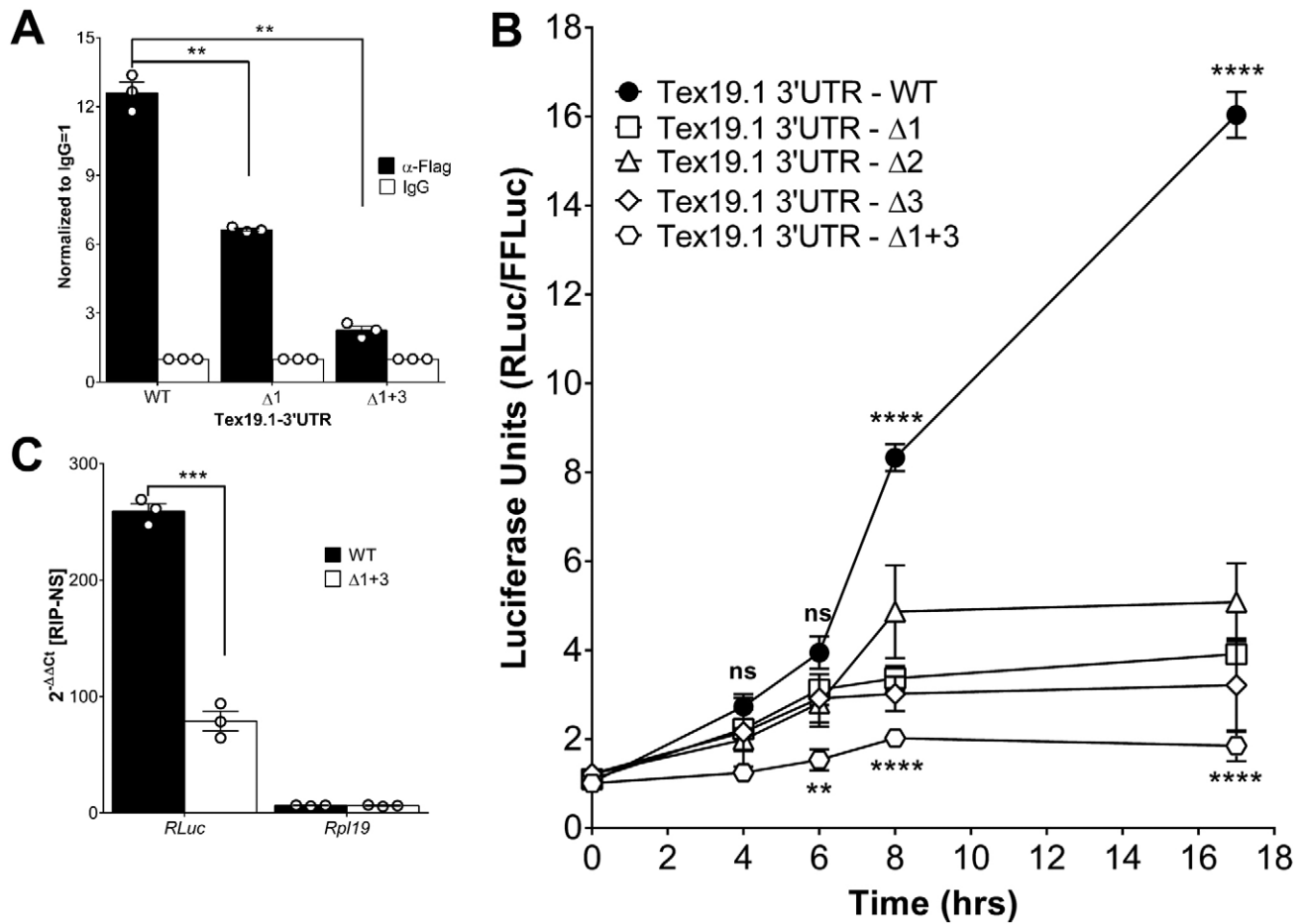


Fig. 6. DAZL regulates translation of *Tex19.1*. (A) Multiple DAZL proteins bind to the *Tex19.1* 3' UTR simultaneously. HEK293T cells were co-transfected with DAZL-Flag and one of three *Tex19.1* luciferase reporters [wild type (WT), mutant of site 1 ($\Delta 1$) and mutant of site 2 ($\Delta 2$)]. qPCR analysis for *Renilla* luciferase was performed on the FLAG RIP (α -FLAG) samples. FLAG RIP data were normalized to the negative control IgG RIP. (B) Germinal vesicle oocytes were injected with a luciferase reporter with the 3' UTR of *Tex19.1* containing three putative DAZL-binding sites, or reporters with mutations in the putative DAZL-binding sites. The reporter luciferase signal (*Renilla* Luciferase, RLuc) was normalized to the firefly luciferase (FFLuc) injection control. (C) Deletion of putative DAZL-binding sites caused a decrease in ribosome loading into a *Tex19.1* reporter. Zp3-RiboTag-expressing oocytes were injected with a luciferase reporter containing the endogenous 3' UTR of *Tex19.1* or a reporter with two putative DAZL-binding sites mutated ($\Delta 1+3$); oocytes were then matured for 5 h. A RiboTag RIP was performed followed by qPCR analysis for *Renilla* luciferase. Fold enrichment was calculated as $2^{-\Delta\Delta C_T}$ against those RNAs from RIP with the non-specific IgG control. Data are reported as mean \pm s.e.m., and independent biological replicates are also reported as single points. Statistical significances for A and C were calculated with a two-tailed paired *t*-test, and for B by a two-way ANOVA with Bonferroni correction comparing the progression of the wild type to the mutated reporters during oocyte maturation. * $P < 0.05$; ** $P < 0.01$; *** $P < 0.001$; **** $P < 0.0001$; ns, not statistically significant.

Genome-wide analysis has demonstrated a strong correlation between poly(A) tail length and translation in zebrafish and frogs embryos, but not in somatic cells (Subtelny et al., 2014). This conclusion is consistent with data from *Xenopus*, where it has been shown that cytoplasmic polyadenylation is associated with increased translation. More than a sixfold increase in translation efficiency has been estimated upon a doubling of the poly(A) tail length from 20 to 40 nucleotides (Subtelny et al., 2014). We find a more than threefold increase in the poly(A) tail length of *Ccnbl1*, a known target of CPEB; conversely, a small increase in poly(A) tail length from 150 to 200 residues was measured for *Tex19.1* endogenous mRNA. Although this is consistent with other data showing that *Tex19.1* is a bona fide CPEB1 target, it is unclear whether this lengthening of the tail is sufficient to signal an increase in translation. Technical hurdles inherent to the experimental system used prevented us from further defining the functional role of these changes in poly(A) tail length.

Our data demonstrate that *Tex19.1* is expressed in mouse oocytes, and that translation and protein levels are regulated

during oocyte maturation. Both ribosome loading and protein expression show that TEX19.1 progressively accumulates during meiotic progression, with a maximum reached in MII. *Tex19.1*-null mice have been generated, but the inactivation of this gene in females either produces no phenotype (Tarabay et al., 2013) or decreased fecundity (Ollinger et al., 2008), suggesting that oocyte maturation is not prevented or only marginally affected when *Tex19.1* is ablated. Conversely, TEX19.1 plays an essential role during male spermatogenesis as *Tex19.1*-null males are infertile owing to spermatogenic arrest at meiosis between pachytene and metaphase of MI. It has also been found that Line 1 and intracisternal A-particle (IAP) transposon levels are increased in the *Tex19.1*-null mice (Ollinger et al., 2008, Tarabay et al., 2013). Spermatogenesis is very sensitive to the activation of endogenous retroviruses, as documented by several knockout models, whereas transposon activation has less of an effect on mammalian oogenesis. Our findings suggest that *Tex19.1* accumulation might play a role later, during pre-implantation embryo development.

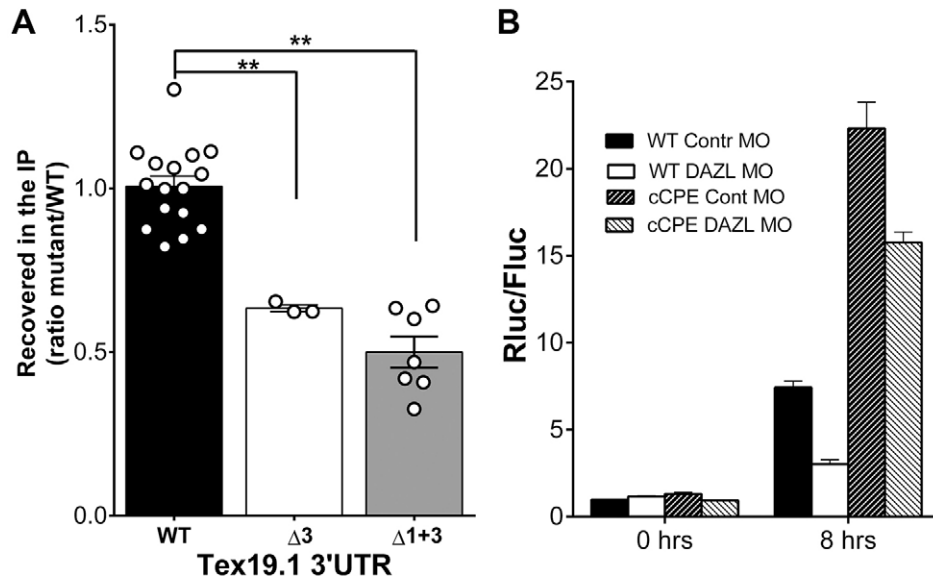


Fig. 7. Synergistic effect between CPEB1 and DAZL. (A) Deletion of one or two DAZL-binding sites ($\Delta 3$ or $\Delta 1+3$) results in a decrease in CPEB1 binding to a common mRNA target. RIP was performed in germinal vesicle oocytes, followed by a qPCR analysis for *Renilla* luciferase. Fold enrichment was calculated as $2^{-\Delta\Delta CT}$ against those RNAs from RIP with the non-specific IgG control; data are expressed as percentages of the results obtained using the wild-type *Tex19.1* 3' UTR (WT). Data are reported as mean \pm s.e.m. with individual points representing each biological replicate. (B) The properties of the CPE determines the effect of DAZL on translation. Oocytes were co-injected with a control MO or a Dazl MO, and a *Tex19.1* reporter construct with the endogenous CPE (WT) or a CPE mutated to consensus (cCPE). At the times indicated in the abscissa, oocytes were harvested and luciferase activity measured. Each bar represents the mean \pm s.e.m. of six to eight independent experiments. $**P < 0.01$ (two-tailed paired *t*-test). IP, immunoprecipitation.

In summary, we report an adaptation of the RiboTag strategy to investigate the role of RBPs in mammalian oocyte mRNA translation. The above findings demonstrate that DAZL cooperates with CPEB1 in the translational regulation of maternal mRNAs. This regulation is essential for oocyte progression through the meiotic cell cycle because depletion of either RBP prevents completion of meiosis.

DAZL function is required for CPEB1-mediated translational regulation, implying permissive or synergistic effects. This interaction is dependent on the presence of a non-consensus CPE and the presence of multiple DAZL-binding sites on the 3' UTR of the mRNA. Both CPEB1 and DAZL are expressed and required for germ cell development in the fetal gonad, and we propose that a

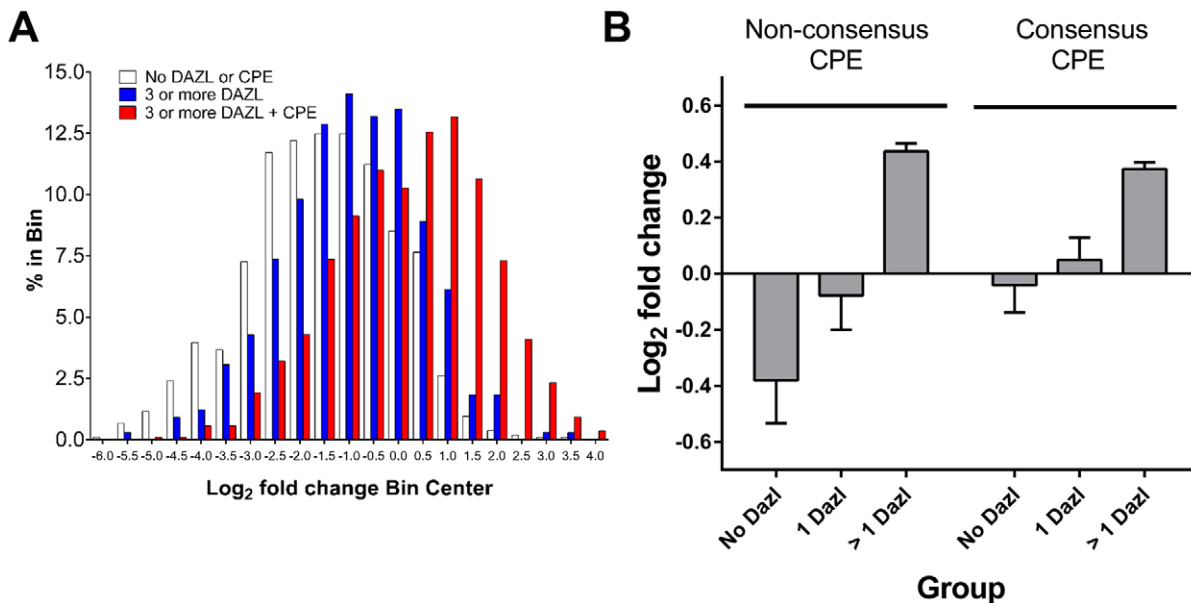


Fig. 8. Bioinformatic analysis of the relationship between the number of DAZL-binding and CPE elements and the recruitment of oocyte transcripts to the polysomes. (A) Computational analysis of the polysome array dataset for CPE and DAZL-binding site interactions. The 3' UTRs of all the present transcripts were scanned for CPE or DAZL-binding putative sites. Transcripts were then subdivided into groups according to the presence and number of putative elements. Samples were binned according to the Log₂ fold-change in polysome loading during maturation as derived from the array. Note the progressive shift to the right of transcripts containing DAZL-binding and CPE sites. (B) The cumulative fold-change for transcripts containing no DAZL-binding sites (No Dazl) or one (1 Dazl) or more (>1 Dazl) DAZL-binding elements was related to the presence of non-consensus or consensus CPEs.

synergistic interaction between these two proteins plays a key role at other crucial transitions in the life cycle of germ cells (Tay and Richter, 2001; Lin and Page, 2005; Lin et al., 2008).

MATERIALS AND METHODS

Animal husbandry and oocyte collection

Husbandry and experimental procedures involving animal models were approved by the University of California San Francisco Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee. Oocyte collection and *in vitro* maturation was performed as previously described (Chen et al., 2011). Pure C57BL6 mice carrying the DAZL^{TM1Hgu} allele (Δ DAZL) were generated as previously described (Chen et al., 2011). Rpl22^{tm1.1P_{sam}/J} (RiboTag) mice, with a targeted mutation that provides conditional expression of the ribosomal protein L22 tagged with three copies of the HA epitope, were developed by Paul S. Amieux (Sanz et al., 2009), and purchased from the Jackson Laboratories. Rpl22^{tm1.1P_{sam}/J} homozygous males were crossed with C57BL/6-TgN(Zp3-cre)82Kw (Jackson Laboratories) females to produce C57BL/6-Zp3cre-Rpl22tm1.1P_{sam} (Zp3cre-RiboTag) mice. C57BL/6-TgN(Zp3-cre)82Kw mice represent a transgenic line where the cre expression is controlled by the regulatory sequences from the mouse zona pellucida 3 (Zp3cre) gene, these were developed by Barbara Knowles (de Vries et al., 2000). C57BL/6-Zp3cre-RiboTag homozygous males were crossed with heterozygous Δ DAZL females to obtain C57BL/6- Δ DAZL-ZP3cre-RiboTag mice.

Immunofluorescence

Immunofluorescence was performed as described previously (Grieshammer et al., 2004). Briefly, ovaries from different genotypes were dissected, fixed in 4% PFA, equilibrated in 30% sucrose and embedded in optimal cutting temperature (OCT) compound. 8- μ m cryosections were prepared and subjected to heat-mediated antigen retrieval followed by staining with rabbit anti-VASA (1:400, Abcam, 13840) and mouse anti-HA (1:200, Covance, MMS-101P) antibodies. The following secondary antibodies were used at a dilution of 1:500: donkey anti-mouse IgG conjugated to Alexa-Fluor-594 and donkey anti-rabbit IgG conjugated to Alexa-Fluor-647 from Invitrogen. Confocal imaging was performed using a 20 \times objective on a Leica SP5 TCS microscope equipped with 405-, 488-, 543-, 594- and 633-nm lasers. Image stacks were analyzed using Volocity (Improvision).

Oocyte culture and microinjections

Oocyte isolation and microinjection was performed in HEPES modified (Sigma-Aldrich, M2645) minimum essential medium Eagle (hMEM; supplemented with 2 μ M milrinone). Oocytes were cultured at 37 °C under 5% CO₂ in supplemented minimum essential medium α (Gibco, 12561-056) (sMEM α ; minimum essential medium α supplemented with 0.2 mM pyruvate, 75 μ g/ml penicillin, 10 μ g/ml streptomycin sulphate and 3 mg/ml BSA and buffered with 26 mM sodium bicarbonate with or without 2 μ M milrinone). Denuded oocytes were injected with 5–10 pl (12.5 ng/ μ l) of mRNAs using a FemtoJet express programmable microinjector with foot-control-triggered injection (Eppendorf, 5248) and an Automated Upright Microscope System (Leica, DM4000B). Post injection, oocytes were incubated for 3 h in sMEM α containing 2 μ M milrinone at 37 °C under 5% CO₂.

Oocyte morpholino antisense oligonucleotide microinjections

Germinal vesicle oocytes were isolated in hMEM and incubated for 1 h at 37 °C under 5% CO₂ in sMEM α with 2 μ M milrinone. Then, 5–10 pl of 1 mM morpholino oligonucleotides (Gene Tools) against *Dazl* (5'-CCTC-AGAAGTTGTGGCAGACATGAT-3') or *Cpeb1* (5'-CTGCTTCTCCA-GAGAGAAAGCCAT-3'), or a standard control (5'-CCTCTTACCTCAG-TTACAATTTATA-3') were injected into oocytes using a FemtoJet express microinjector. Post injection, oocytes were incubated overnight in sMEM α containing 2 μ M milrinone at 37 °C under 5% CO₂ before *in vitro* maturation in sMEM α without milrinone.

Reporter mRNA preparation and luciferase assay

The injection control reporter pCDNA3-Firefly-Luc (FFL) and the *Renilla* luciferase reporter (RL), with the 3' UTR of mouse *Tex19.1* (pRL-TK-

Tex19.1+3' UTR) cloned into the pRL-TK vector (Promega, E2241), have been previously described (Chen et al., 2011). Point mutations in pRL-TK-Tex19.1+3' UTR to ablate the putative binding sites of DAZL and CPEB1 were cloned using the QuikChange II XL Site-Directed Mutagenesis kit (Agilent Technologies, 200521). Luciferase reporters were transcribed *in vitro* to synthesize mRNAs using the mMESSAGING MACHINES T7[®] kit (Ambion, AM1344). The injection control Firefly luciferase mRNA was polyadenylated with the Poly(A) tailing kit (Ambion, AM1350). Luciferase activity was assessed with the Dual Luciferase Reporter Assay kit (Promega, E1910) and detected with the SpectraMaxL Luminometer (Molecular Devices). Data are reported as the ratios of the luminescence of the *Renilla* luciferase reporter to that of Firefly luciferase.

HEK293T cell culture and transfection

HEK293T cells were maintained at 37 °C under 5% CO₂ in Dulbecco's modified Eagle medium (Gibco, 1960-044) supplemented with 4 mM L-glutamine (Gibco, 25030-081) and 10% fetal bovine serum (Gibco, 16000-044). Cells were grown to 70% confluence and incubated with transfection mix (for DNA, Lipofectamine LTX[®] Reagent (Invitrogen, 15338030) complexes in Opti-MEM I reduced-serum medium without serum (Gibco, 31985070) for 24 h. Cells were washed in ice-cold PBS and collected in PLB [15 mM Tris-HCl pH 7.5, 50 mM NaCl, 5 mM MgCl₂, 1% Triton, 0.15 mM Na₃VO₄, 10 mM β -glycerophosphate, 1 mM DTT (Sigma-Aldrich, 646563), protease inhibitors (Sigma-Aldrich, P8340), 40 U RNase OUT (Invitrogen, 10777-019), 100 μ g/ml cycloheximide (Sigma-Aldrich, C7698) and 2 mM vanadyl ribonucleoside (NEB, S1402S)].

Immunoprecipitation

RiboTag samples

Oocytes were collected, washed in RNase-free PBS with 1% polyvinylpyrrolidone and transferred to 300 μ l of supplemented homogenization buffer [S-HB; 50 mM Tris-HCl pH 7.4, 100 mM KCl, 12 mM MgCl₂, 1% NP-40, 1 mM dithiothreitol, protease inhibitors, 40 U RNaseOUT, 100 μ g/ml cycloheximide and 1 mg/ml heparin (Sigma-Aldrich, H3393)]. Then, 3 μ g of anti-HA antibody (Covance, MMS-101R) or mouse IgG (Abcam, ab37355) was added to the oocyte lysate and incubated for 4 h at 4 °C on a rotor. 25 μ l of pre-washed protein G magnetic Dynabeads (Invitrogen, 10007D) were added to each lysate and incubated for 5 h at 4 °C on a rotor. Beads were washed with high-salt buffer five times (50 mM Tris-HCl pH 7.4, 300 mM KCl, 12 mM MgCl₂, 1% NP-40, 1 mM dithiothreitol, 40 U RNaseOUT and 100 μ g/ml cycloheximide). RNA was eluted from beads with 200 μ l of supplemented RTL lysis buffer (Qiagen, 74034). RNA extraction was performed using the RNeasy Micro Plus kit according to manufacturer's instructions. Extracted RNA was used to prepare cDNA using the SuperScript III First-Strand Synthesis system (Invitrogen, 18080-051) using random hexamer oligonucleotide primers.

mRNA–protein complexes

RIP analysis was performed as described previously (Chen et al., 2011). Briefly, 200 oocytes were lysed using PLB. Lysate was pre-cleared with pre-washed protein-G–Sepharose beads (Invitrogen, P3296) for 1 h at 4 °C. Pre-cleared lysates were incubated with a specific antibody or the corresponding IgG control for 5 h at 4 °C on a rotor. Beads were washed with PLB for 5 min five times. RNA was extracted and purified with the RNeasy Plus Micro kit, and cDNA was prepared with the SuperScript III First-Strand Synthesis system using random hexamer oligonucleotide primers. The antibody against CPEB1 was from Abcam (catalog number ab73287, lot GR142423).

Western blot

Oocytes were extracted in Laemmli buffer (Bio-Rad) supplemented with mercaptoethanol, and a cocktail of phosphatase and protease inhibitors (Roche). The extracts were boiled and separated on 8% polyacrylamide gels and transferred to a PVDF membrane. TEX19.1 was immunolabeled by incubating the membrane with a solution of anti-TEX19.1 antibody (1:500) (Tarabay et al., 2013). An antibody against α -tubulin (T6074, Sigma-Aldrich; 1:10,000) was used as loading control.

Real-time qPCR

Real-time qPCR was performed using KAPA SYBR FAST ABI Prism 2× qPCR master mix (Kapa Biosystems, KK4603) in an ABI 7900 Real-Time PCR system (Applied Biosystems). Oligonucleotide primer pairs were designed against two exons flanking an intron. Primer specificity was verified by using dissociation curve analysis, performed at the end of the amplification. Fold-enrichment was calculated using the $2^{-\Delta\Delta C_t}$ method (Livak and Schmittgen, 2001).

Poly(A) tail length assay

Total RNA was extracted from 100 oocytes using the RNeasy Micro Plus kit. The total volume of RNA extracted was used in the Poly(A) tail length assay using the Poly(A) Tail Length Assay kit (Affymetrix, 76455). Poly(A) size was determined by subtracting the PCR amplicon size obtained with the 'Universal primer' from that of the transcript-specific primer.

Statistical analysis

Statistical analysis was performed using the Prism 5.01 GraphPad package. The statistical analysis performed depended on specific experiments and is described within the figure legend. Statistical significance is denoted as * $P < 0.05$, ** $P < 0.01$, *** $P < 0.001$, **** $P < 0.0001$ and 'ns' for not statistically significant.

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Competing interests

The authors declare no competing or financial interests.

Author contributions

J.P.S.M. and M.C. designed experiments, analyzed data and wrote the manuscript. J.P.S.M. performed all the experiments with the help of X.L. in animal handling and oocyte collection, F.F. for one of the mutant microinjection experiments, and R.A. and D.J.L. in imaging protein expression. Bioinformatic analysis was performed by A.O., J.C.F. and M.C. S.F. provided reagents and advice on Tex19.1 physiological function.

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Supplementary information

Supplementary information available online at <http://jcs.biologists.org/lookup/suppl/doi:10.1242/jcs.179218/-/DC1>

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