1 The mouse HP1 proteins are essential for preventing liver tumorigenesis

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25 Abstract

26 Chromatin organization is essential for appropriate interpretation of the genetic information. Here, we demonstrated that the chromatin associated proteins HP1 are 27 dispensable for hepatocytes survival but are essential within hepatocytes to prevent liver 28 tumor development in mice with HP1β being pivotal in these functions. Yet, we found that the 29 30 loss of HP1 per se is not sufficient to induce cell transformation but renders cells more 31 resistant to specific stress such as the expression of oncogenes and thus in fine, more prone to cell transformation. Molecular characterization of HP1-Triple KO pre-malignant livers and 32 BMEL cells revealed that HP1 are essential for the maintenance of heterochromatin 33 organization and for the regulation of specific genes with most of them having well 34 characterized functions in liver functions and homeostasis. We further showed that some 35 specific retrotransposons get reactivated upon loss of HP1, correlating with over-expression 36 of genes in their neighborhood. Interestingly, we found that, although HP1-dependent genes 37 38 are characterized by enrichment H3K9me3, this mark does not require HP1 for its maintenance and is not sufficient to maintain gene repression in absence of HP1. Finally, we 39 demonstrated that the loss of TRIM28 association with HP1 recapitulated several 40 phenotypes induced by the loss of HP1 including the reactivation of some retrotransposons 41 42 and the increased incidence of liver cancer development. Altogether, our findings indicate 43 that HP1 proteins act as guardians of liver homeostasis to prevent tumor development by modulating multiple chromatin-associated events within both the heterochromatic and 44 45 euchromatic compartments, partly through regulation of the corepressor TRIM28 activity.

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47 **Keywords**: chromatin; HP1; cancer; liver; transcriptional silencing; endogenous retrovirus

49 Introduction

50 Chromatin organization is essential for the interpretation of genetic information in a cell-51 type and tissue-specific manner ¹. Alteration of this organization can have devastating 52 consequences, as evidenced by the large number of diseases induced by mutations in 53 chromatin-associated proteins ^{2,3}, as well as by the dramatic changes in chromatin 54 organization observed in cancer cells ⁴. Although extensively studied in the past three 55 decades, it is still poorly understood how chromatin organization is regulated and involved in 56 tumorigenesis.

Chromatin can be divided according to its structural and functional features in 57 58 euchromatin and heterochromatin. Euchromatin displays low level of compaction, is highly enriched in genes, and is transcriptionally competent. Conversely heterochromatin is highly 59 compacted, enriched in repetitive DNA sequences, and mostly silent ⁵. Heterochromatin 60 Protein 1 (HP1) proteins, first isolated as major heterochromatin components in Drosophila, 61 are highly conserved from yeast to mammals which express three isoforms (HP1a, HP1ß 62 and HP1y) that are distributed in both eu- and heterochromatin ⁶. These proteins are 63 characterized by a chromodomain (CD) involved in recognition of H3 lysine-9 di- or 64 trimethylated (H3K9me2/3), and a chromoshadow domain (CSD), which, through 65 66 dimerization, constitutes a platform for interaction with many protein partners. These two domains are separated by the hinge domain involved in HP1 association with RNA and 67 recruitment to heterochromatin ^{7,8}. Accordingly, HP1 are important for heterochromatin 68 organization and silencing, chromosome segregation, gene expression, DNA repair, DNA 69 replication and for genome stability ^{9–11}, ^{12,13}. Several studies suggested a correlation between 70 the level of HP1 expression and cancer development and/or metastasis. However, how HP1 71 are involved in these processes remains largely to be clarified ^{14,15}. 72

Liver chromatin organization has been well characterized in several physiopathological conditions ¹⁶. In addition, several known HP1 partners, including the transcription cofactors TRIM24 and TRIM28, and the histone-lysine N-methyltransferase

SUV39H1 have been shown to play key roles in hepatocytes ^{17–21}. Together, this prompted us to further characterize HP1 functions in liver through inactivation of all HP1 encoding genes specifically in mouse hepatocytes. Here, we demonstrated that HP1 are dispensable for hepatocytes survival but essential to prevent tumor development. We further identified alterations of heterochromatin organization, of gene expression and of silencing of specific ERVs through deregulation of the corepressor TRIM28 activity, all these features being most likely key players in the process of tumorigenesis

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85 **RESULTS**

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HP1 proteins are dispensable for hepatocyte survival but essential to prevent liver tumor development

To investigate HP1 in vivo functions, the HP1β and HP1γ encoding-genes (cbx1 and cbx3, 89 respectively) were inactivated individually or together in the liver of either WT or HP1αKO 90 mice ²² using the Cre recombinase expressed under the control of the hepatocyte-specific 91 albumin promoter ^{23,24}. This led to different liver-specific combinations of HP1 knockout (KO) 92 models as indicated in Figure 1A. Liver-specific excision of the cbx1 and cbx3 alleles was 93 confirmed by PCR and the level of HP1 proteins was checked by western blotting and 94 95 immunofluorescence (IF) as illustrated for animals having all HP1-encoding genes inactivated in hepatocytes (thereafter called HP1-TKO) (Fig. 1B and Fig. S1A-B). Note that 96 because of the germ cell excision of cbx5, HP1a was not expressed in any cells of mice 97 models carrying the $cbx5^{-}$ alleles (Fig. 1B). 98

99 HP1-mutant mice were morphologically similar to their control counterparts throughout 100 their all life. However, autopsies of old animals revealed that all HP1-mutant animals 101 developed liver tumors with a higher incidence than control animals and with the loss of 102 HP1β having the strongest effect as compared to the loss of HP1α or HP1γ (Figure 1C-D). 103 Analysis of the floxed *cbx*1 and *cbx*3 gene excision confirmed that tumors originated from 104 HP1-mutant hepatocytes (Fig. S1E). Since the loss of the HP1 isoforms display additive 105 effect on tumor incidence, we focus most of the following analysis on HP1-TKO livers.

Histological analysis of liver sections from young and middle-aged HP1-TKO animals did not reveal any significant alteration of the structural organization of hepatocytes nor of the liver parenchyma (Fig. S1C), whereas most old HP1-TKO animals developed tumor nodules that could easily be distinguished from the rest of the liver parenchyma (Fig. 1E). These nodules were characterized by the presence of well-differentiated hepatocytes but without

their specific trabecular organization, and thus, were identified as typical hepatocellular 111 carcinoma (HCC). Analysis of proliferation (Ki67), apoptosis (Activated caspase 3) and the 112 presence of DNA breaks (yH2AX²⁵) by immuno-histochemistry (IHC) of Tissue Micro Arrays 113 (TMA) containing liver sections did not reveal any significant difference of proliferation 114 between young and middle-aged mutant and control animals (Fig. S1D) but a two-fold 115 increase in both the tumoral (TKOT) and non-tumoral (TKON) parts of HP1-TKO livers 116 117 compared with controls. No change was detected in the number of apoptotic- nor yH2AX-118 positive cells at any age.(Fig. S1D-E).

119 We then tested by RT-qPCR the expression of several genes frequently altered in human 120 HCC ²⁶. *Arid1A*, *Trp53*, *E2f1* and *E2f7* were significantly over-expressed in HP1-TKO (Fig. 121 1F). Moreover, α -fetoprotein (*Afp*), a marker of human HCC ²⁷, was strongly over-expressed 122 exclusively in the tumor tissue of three of the five tested tumors (Fig. 1F). Altogether, these 123 data demonstrated that HP1 proteins are dispensable within hepatocytes but they are 124 additionally involved to prevent tumor development, with HP1 β being pivotal in this function.

125 Loss of HP1 increases intrinsic transformation potential of BMEL cells

To unambiguously test the viability of hepatic cells in absence of any HP1 isoform, bipotential 126 hepatic BMEL (Bipotential Mouse Embryonic Liver) cell lines were established according to 127 the protocol described by Strick-Marchand & Weiss²⁸. All HP1 encoding genes were 128 inactivated in these cells as illustrated in Figure 2A. These cells, thereafter called HP1-TKO 129 cells, were morphologically similar but had a tendency to proliferate faster than control cells 130 (Fig. 2B). To determine whether the loss of HP1 intrinsically induced tumorigenic properties 131 in BMEL cells, we first tested the ability of single cells to form colonies in presence or 132 absence of HP1. As illustrated in Figure 2C, HP1-TKO cells formed more colonies than 133 control cells. However, none of these cells were able to grow on soft agar (data not shown). 134 Because oncogenic stress is a well-known factor of tumorigenesis and since that several 135 136 genes with putative oncogenic activities were over-expressed in HP1-TKO livers (BMyc, Ect2, Mas1, Mycl, Rab27a, Rabl2 and Src), we tested the response of control and HP1-TKO 137

cells to the expression of the oncogenes H-RasV12 and SV40 either alone or in combination. 138 H-RasV12 alone or with SV40 lead to massive cell death as well as to senescence as 139 140 measured by the expression of β-galactosidase, in control but not HP1-TKO cells (Fig. 2D and Fig. S2A-B). Conspicuously, both control and HP1-TKO BMEL cells expressing H-141 RasV12 and SV40 but not H-RasV12 alone were able to form colonies in soft agar however, 142 HP1-TKO cells formed more colonies than control cells (Fig. 2E and data not shown). 143 144 Altogether, these data indicated that the loss of HP1 per se did not lead to cell transformation 145 but increased the potential of BMEL cells to get transformed upon expression of oncogenes.

Since we identified HP1β as essential for preventing liver tumor development (Fig.1CD), we wondered whether its expression was sufficient to restore the phenotype induced by
HP1 inactivation. We thus established BMEL HP1-TKO lines expressing HP1β in fusion with
the fluorophore YFP and found that it was indeed sufficient to decrease the ability of HP1TKO cells to form colonies in soft agar in response H-RasV12 and SV40 expression (Fig. 3B,
lanes 6-7 and Fig. S2C).

152 Heterochromatin organization is altered in HP1-TKO hepatocytes

We next initiated molecular characterization of both HP1-TKO pre-malignant livers and 153 HP1-TKO BMEL cells. As shown in Figure 3A, H3K9me3 and H4K20me3, two marks of 154 155 constitutive heterochromatin, were strongly decreased in the liver of young and middle-aged 156 HP1-TKO mice compared with age-matched controls. Conversely, no change of H3K27me3 nor of H3K9me2, H4K20me2 and H4K20me1 was observed in these same samples (Fig. 157 3A). The specific decrease of H3K9me3 and H4K20me3 was also observed in HP1-TKO 158 BMEL cells (Fig. 3B lanes 1 to 5) and importantly, it was restored by expression of HP1β-159 160 YFP (Fig. 3B lanes 6-7). Further, IF analysis in BMEL cells, indicated that only H3K9me3 associated with chromocenters (i.e., DAPI-dense structures that contain structural 161 components of heterochromatin) was drastically reduced in HP1-TKO cells, whereas the 162 labeling within euchromatin was not significantly affected (Fig. 3C). The level and distribution 163 of 5-methyl cytosine (5mC) were not altered in HP1-TKO BMEL cells (Fig. 3C). Although 164

165 HP1-TKO chromocenters clustered, quantification of the intensity of DAPI staining indicated 166 that it was roughly homogeneously distributed throughout control nuclei, whereas it was 167 increased progressively from the inner to the external part in HP1-TKO nuclei (Fig. 3D). Yet, 168 this was not associated with any significant change in the level nor distribution of laminB1 169 (LamB1) (Fig. 3C).

Finally, we tested whether the decrease of pericentromeric H3K9me3 was associated 170 with a decrease of this mark on Major Satellite repeats, the main component of 171 pericentromeric heterochromatin. To this end, we performed H3K9me3 and H3K27me3 172 chromatin immunoprecipitation (ChIP) in BMEL cells and found that H3K9me3, but not 173 174 H3K27me3, was completely lost on Major Satellites (Fig. 3E). Yet, we did not observe any over-expression of these repeats which even had a tendency to be down-regulated in 175 176 absence of HP1 in both liver and BMEL cells (Fig. 3F). Similarly, there was no change in the number of these repeats within the liver genome (Fig. 3G). These data demonstrated that 177 178 HP1, notably HP1^β, are essential in hepatocytes for the maintenance of constitutive heterochromatin histone marks and for the sub-nuclear organization of chromocenters, but 179 not for the expression or the stability of major satellites. 180

181 HP1 proteins are involved in the regulation of specific gene expression programs

To investigate the role of HP1 in the regulation of gene expression in liver, we 182 183 performed an unbiased RNA-seq transcriptomic analysis of libraries prepared from 7 weekold control and HP1-TKO liver RNA. We found that 1215 genes were differentially expressed 184 (730 up-regulated and 485 down-regulated) between control and HP1-TKO livers (with a 1.5-185 186 fold threshold difference and an adjusted $P \leq 0.05$) (Fig. 4A and supplementary Table 1). 187 Analysis of differentially expressed genes (thereafter called HP1-dependent genes) using David Gene Ontology (https://david.ncifcrf.gov/) and Gene Set Enrichment Analysis (GSEA; 188 http://software.broadinstitute.org/gsea/index.jsp) softwares revealed that several biological 189 processes were significantly affected in HP1-TKO livers. First, there was a very high 190

enrichment of genes encoding for the Krüppel Associated Box (KRAB) domain within up-191 regulated genes (P = 5.8E-26) (Fig. 4B & Supplementary Tables 1; 2 & 3) which was-192 193 validated by RT-qPCR (Fig. 4C). Up-regulated genes were also enriched in genes belonging to the GO terms signal peptide, immunity, guanylate-binding protein and response to virus 194 (Fig. 4B), suggesting activation of an inflammatory response in HP1-TKO livers (Fig. 4B-C & 195 Supplementary Table 4). Genes encoding for members of the p450 cytochrome (CYP) family 196 197 were also strongly enriched in HP1-dependent genes with 7 up-regulated and 18 down-198 regulated amongst the 79 CYP genes detected in the present RNAseq analysis. In particular, 11 cyp2 family genes were involved in Endoplasmic Reticulum (ER) and redox functions that 199 are known to be essential for liver homeostasis ^{29,30,31} (Table 1). Moreover, Nox4 200 201 (nicotinamide adenine dinucleotide phosphate (NADPH) oxidase 4), a gene consistently associated with ER and ROS in liver ³², was significantly down-regulated in HP1-TKO as 202 compared with control livers (Fig. 4C & Supplementary Table 1). In line with these results, 203 oxidation-reduction, ER, steroid hormone biosynthesis, lipid metabolic process were amongst 204 205 the most affected functions in HP1-TKO livers (Fig. 4B & Supplementary Tables 2; 3; 5 and 6). The differential expression of Cyp2c29 and Cyp2b10 (ER and redox), Ifit2 (interferon y 206 signature) and Nox4 (ROS production) was validated by RT-qPCR in 7 week-old HP1-TKO 207 208 and control livers (Fig. 4C).

As mentioned above, the simultaneous loss of HP1 α and HP1 β also led to high 209 incidence of liver tumor development (Fig. 1C-D). To identify genes commonly deregulated in 210 HP1-TKO and HP1αβ-liverKO livers that might explain the tumor protective role of HP1, we 211 performed a RNAseq analysis in HP1αβ-liverKO (GSE84734). Only 18 genes (13- up and 5 212 down-regulated) were similarly deregulated in HP1aβ-liverKO and HP1-TKO livers 213 (supplementary table 7). Interestingly, on the 13 up-regulated genes, 5 belonged to the 214 215 family of transcriptional repressors KRAB-Zinc Finger Proteins (KRAB-ZFP). We thus analyzed the expression of several of these *krabzfp* genes by RT-qPCR in HP1αβ-liverKO, 216 HP1ay-liverKO and control livers. As illustrated in Figure 4D, zfp951 and zfp992 were up-217

regulated exclusively in HP1 $\alpha\beta$ -liverKO livers, *zfp345*, exclusively in HP1 $\alpha\gamma$ -liverKO livers whereas *zfp984* and *5730507C01Rik* were up-regulated in both HP1 $\alpha\beta$ -liverKO and HP1 $\alpha\gamma$ liverKO livers. These results demonstrated specific and redundant functions for the different HP1 isoforms and that HP1 β has specific functions for the regulation of *zfp951* and *zfp992* genes that could thus be determinant in the HP1-dependent tumorigenesis process.

HP1 loss lead to reactivation of specific retrotransposons and over-expression of neighboring genes

KRAB-ZFP are transcriptional repressors known to repress themselves and 225 retrotransposons of the endogenous retroviruses (ERV) family ^{33,34}. To determine whether 226 the HP1-dependent deregulation of KRAB-ZFP was associated with altered ERV expression 227 in liver, we investigated the expression of DNA repeats in our RNA-seq dataset. Coordinates 228 of all annotated DNA repeats of the RepeatMasker database (mm10 assembly) were aligned 229 230 against the RNA-seq reads and only those that could be assigned unambiguously to a specific genomic locus were analyzed. In total, 846 repeats were deregulated in HP1-TKO 231 compared with control livers with 71.3% being up-regulated and 28.7% down-regulated (Fig. 232 5A & Supplementary Table 8). Among up-regulated repeats, 59.4% were ERV, 19.2% long 233 234 interspersed nuclear elements (LINEs) and 9.3% short interspersed elements (SINEs) supporting the hypothesis that HP1 were preferentially involved in ERV silencing in liver (Fig. 235 5B & Supplementary Table 8). 236

To assess the putative link between ERV and gene expression, we first mapped HP1dependent repeats located within 100kb surrounding HP1-dependent genes. This analysis showed that a fraction of HP1-dependent genes (138 up-regulated and 94 down-regulated) was associated with HP1-dependent repeats. Interestingly, this physical association correlated with a functional association since 84% of repeats associated with up-regulated genes were also up-regulated and 75.5% of repeats associated with down-regulated genes were down-regulated (Fig. 5C & Supplementary Tables 9 & 10). Furthermore, up-regulated

repeats tended to be located closer to up-regulated genes than to down-regulated genes, and vice versa (Fig. 5D). Altogether, this analysis strongly suggested a link between loss of HP1, loss of KRAB-ZFP repressive activity, ERV reactivation and up-regulation of genes in their neighborhood. Accordingly, several deregulated genes associated with deregulated repeats such as *Mbd1*, *Bglap3*, *Obpa*, *Bmyc*, *Fbxw19* and *Zfp445* were already shown to be controlled by ERVs (Fig. 5E and ^{35,36}).

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HP1 loss has gene-specific impact on H3K9me3 deposition

KRAB-ZFPs regulate their targets through recruitment of the corepressor TRIM28 and 251 252 of the Histone Methyl Transferase (HMT) SETDB1 for the establishment of a heterochromatin-like environment characterized by H3K9me3 enrichment ³⁷. To first test 253 whether the KRAB-ZFP/ERV pathway was also deregulated in HP1-TKO BMEL, we 254 measured the expression of Zfp345; Zfp951, zfp992, Bglap3 and Cyp2b10 in control and 255 HP1-TKO BMEL cells. As in HP1-TKO livers, all these genes were over-expressed in HP1-256 TKO versus control BMEL cells (Fig. 5F). Control level of expression was rescued by HP1β-257 YFP for Zfp951, zfp992, Bglap3 and Cyp2b10 but not for Zfp345 in agreement with our 258 259 observation that this latter gene was deregulated in HP1qy-liverKO but not HP1qB-liverKO livers (Fig. 4D and Fig. 5G). Several krabzfp genes were characterized by an enrichment of 260 H3K9me3 preferentially at their 3'UTR 34 . We therefore tested the enrichment of this mark at 261 the 3'UTR of zfp345, zfp951 and zfp992 as well as at three previously described positions of 262 Bglap3 gene associated with a IAP ³⁵. In control BMEL cells, H3K9me3 was highly enriched 263 264 at the 3' UTR of all krabzfp genes, on the three positions associated with Bglap3 as well as in the promoter region of Cyp2b10 as compared to the housekeeping gene 36B4 (Fig. 5H). In 265 HP1-TKO BMEL cells, H3K9me3 was significantly decreased at *zfp345* and *zfp992* genes. 266 However, in striking contrast it was unchanged at *zfp951*, at the P2 and IAP positions of the 267 268 Bglap3 locus as well as at Cyp2b10 and was even increased at the Bglap3 p4 position (Fig. 5H). These results indicated that HP1-dependent loci are characterized by enrichment of 269

H3K9me3 which does not require HP1 for its maintenance and which is not sufficient torepress the expression of the associated genes in absence of HP1.

272 HP1 is necessary for TRIM28 activity within liver

273 To better characterize the relationship between HP1, KRAB-ZFPs, TRIM28 and ERVs, we first checked the expression of TRIM28 in HP1-TKO livers. This analysis showed that 274 TRIM28 expression was not significantly altered in HP1-TKO (Fig. 6A-B). We then used the 275 previously described mouse models in which either a mutated TRIM28 protein that cannot 276 277 interact with HP1 (T28HP1box) replaces TRIM28 or in which TRIM28 is depleted (T28KO) specifically within liver ^{17,38}. As expected, TRIM28 expression was strongly decreased in 278 279 T28KO livers, whereas it was only marginally decreased in T28HP1box livers (Fig. 6C). The level of all three HP1 was not affected in these mouse strains (Fig. 6C). RT-gPCR analysis 280 showed that several HP1-dependent genes including Nox4; Cypc29 and Rsl1 were not 281 affected in T28HP1box and T28KO livers (Fig. 6D). Conversely, Cyp2b10; Ifit2; Zfp345 and 282 Zfp445 that were all over-expressed in HP1-TKO liver were also up-regulated in T28HP1box 283 and T28KO livers (Fig. 6D). To test whether the HP1-dependent ERV-associated genes 284 required TRIM28, the expression of Mbd1 and Bglap3 was assessed in T28KO and 285 T28HP1box livers. Like in HP1-TKO livers, both genes were over-expressed in T28KO and 286 T28HP1box livers, although to a lesser extent as compared to HP1-TKO livers (Fig. 6E). 287 288 Finally, analysis in old animals (Fig. 6G-H) showed that both genes were over-expressed in the normal (TKON) and tumor (TKOT) liver parts from old HP1-TKO animals whereas Mbd1 289 was no longer over-expressed in old TRIM28 mutant mice livers. Bglap3, was slightly over-290 expressed in T28KO but not in T28HP1box old animals (Fig. 6G-H). 291

As for HP1-TKO mice, old T28KO and T28HP1box mice developed more liver tumors than controls, although with a lower incidence than HP1-TKO animals (32.4% and 33.5% for T28KO and T28HP1box respectively, Fig. 6F). Altogether, these data suggested that HP1 prevented liver tumor development at least partially by sustaining TRIM28 repressive activity.

297 **DISCUSSION**

In this study, we demonstrated that HP1 proteins and in particular HP1β are essential within hepatocytes to prevent development of hepatocellular carcinoma (HCC) in mice. We further showed that HP1 are pivotal within hepatocytes for appropriate expression of liver specific genetic programs and for organization of pericentromeric heterochromatin. Last we present several lines of evidence that HP1 are acting as barrier against liver tumor development at least partially by keeping specific sets of retrotransposons silent through regulation of TRIM28 corepressor activity.

305 The finding that HP1 proteins were not essential for neither cell viability nor liver function was in contrast with many studies showing the fundamental functions of each HP1 306 isoform in various pluripotent and differentiated cellular systems 39,40 as well as during 307 embryonic development in various species, such as *Drosophila*⁴¹, C. *elegans*⁴². However, it 308 is important to note that liver has very specific properties, being mostly quiescent throughout 309 life but able to regenerate upon stress essentially through the re-entry of quiescent and fully 310 differentiated hepatocytes into cell cycle rather than via stem cell proliferation, as it is the 311 case in other tissues ^{43,44}. These specific properties of hepatocytes could rely on a peculiar 312 313 loose chromatin organization that might be less sensitive to the loss of HP1 as compared to 314 other cell types for cell viability but more prone to cell transformation as we observed in BMEL cells. In support of this hypothesis, it is noteworthy that, among the 17 human cancers 315 tested in the database from Human Protein Atlas (https://www.proteinatlas.org and Fig. S3), 316 317 liver cancer is the one expressing the lowest levels of cbx1, 3 and 5. These data strongly suggest that in Human, as in mice, low level of HP1 expression is determinant for the 318 initiation of liver tumorigenesis. Strikingly however, high levels of cbx1, 3 and 5 expression 319 are all unfavorable prognostic markers in liver cancer (https://www.proteinatlas.org and Fig. 320 S3), suggesting that the levels of HP1 have to be tightly regulated in liver and that HP1 could 321 have different functions at different stages of cancer development as it has been proposed 322 by Lee & Ann ⁴⁵ for breast cancer. Interestingly, we showed here, that the increased cellular 323

sensitivity to transformation induced by the loss of HP1 is reversible and can be rescued by the sole re-expression of HP1 β suggesting that regulating the level of HP1 could be a therapeutic strategy for liver cancer.

We further demonstrated that HP1 are essential within hepatocytes for the 327 maintenance of H3K9me3 and H4K20me3 at pericentromeric heterochromatin and for 328 appropriate localization of DAPI-dense structures. These results are in line with the 329 330 demonstration that in worms, inactivation of the two H3K9 methyltransferases Met-2 (me1 331 and me2) and SET-25 (me3) is necessary to trigger heterochromatin release from the nuclear periphery whereas inactivation of either one or the other is insufficient ⁴⁶. However 332 these results are in contrast with studies suggesting that HP1 is required to trigger 333 attachment of heterochromatin to the nuclear periphery ⁴⁷. Furthermore, in contrast to the 334 335 results reported upon loss of H3K9me3 induced by inactivation of the histone methyltransferases SUV39H1 and SUV39H2, the loss of H3K9me3 on major satellite repeats 336 337 in HP1-TKO hepatocytes did not result in neither decrease of H3K9me2 nor in overexpression of these major satellite repeats ^{48,49}. This observation suggests that in liver, 338 H3K9me2 maintenance is independent of HP1 and is sufficient to keep major satellite 339 repeats at a low level of transcription even in absence of HP1. SUV39H1 over-expression 340 has been reported to be associated with HCC development ¹⁸ and HCC induced by a methyl-341 free diet is also characterized by elevated SUV39H1 expression and increased H3K9me3 but 342 with reduced H4K20me3 deposition ⁵⁰. This suggests that the global decreased level of 343 H4K20me3 rather than of H3K9me3 in HP1-TKO mice could be a key determinant of 344 tumorigenesis. In support of this hypothesis, H4K20me3 was reported to be essential for 345 genome integrity and for proper timing of heterochromatin replication whose deregulation has 346 recently been proposed to be involved in cancers ⁵¹⁻⁵³. Our results highlight complex 347 interplay between heterochromatin components for the organization of this compartment that 348 is likely essential to prevent tumor development. As reported by others, we found that HP1 349 are involved in both repression and activation of gene expression ^{7,54-56}. Interestingly, 350

although HP1-dependent genes are characterized by enrichment in H3K9me3, this mark
remains mostly unchanged upon HP1 inactivation but is not sufficient to maintain gene
repression. These results are reminiscent to those obtained in yeast showing that H3K9me3
can be maintained in absence of HP1 through association with a RNA-induced transcriptional
silencing complex⁵⁷.

356 Functionally, many HP1-dependent genes are involved in liver specific functions. In particular, several belong to the p450 cytochrome family (Cyp) which is involved in liver 357 358 detoxification, in oxidative stress and homeostasis of the endoplasmic reticulum that are three key factors in hepatocarcinogenesis ⁵⁸. How these genes are regulated by HP1 359 remains to be determined. However nuclear receptors of the Peroxisome Proliferation-360 Activated Receptors (PPAR) were shown to be important in this process and PPARy is 361 strongly down-regulated in HP1 mutant mice ⁵⁹. It is thus tempting to speculate that this low 362 expression of PPARy underlies the deregulation of several Cyp genes. Furthermore, HP1-363 364 TKO livers were also characterized by a transcriptional signature of an interferon y response strongly suggesting liver inflammation, a factor associated with 90% of hepatocarcinogenesis 365 ⁶⁰ ⁶¹ ⁶². Over-expression of retrotransposons *per se* was shown in some circumstances to 366 lead to inflammation through activation of the cGAS-STING pathway ⁶³. As we have 367 368 demonstrated that the loss of HP1 reactivates specific retrotransposons, we can hypothesize that they cause inflammation and thus a favorable environment for HCC development. 369

370 Finally, we demonstrated that the loss of HP1 lead to partial loss of TRIM28 activity 371 characterized by reactivation of a specific set of retrotransposons associated with overexpression of genes in their neighborhood. Moreover, we showed that the loss of interaction 372 between TRIM28 and HP1 within hepatocytes is sufficient to partially recapitulate the 373 phenotypes induced by HP1 or TRIM28 inactivation. Consistent with our results, SETDB1, 374 375 the main H3H9 methyltransferase associated with TRIM28 and KRAB-ZFP for ERV silencing 64,65 376 was identified as а human hepatic cancer driver gene (IntOgen, http://www.intogen.org/mutations/). Together, 377 these results strongly suggest that

deregulation of the KRAB-ZFP/TRIM28/SETDB1 pathway is determinant in HP1-dependent
 tumorigenesis^{33,66,67}.

In conclusion, we identified HP1 proteins as key players to prevent liver tumorigenesis.

- 381 We further present evidence that this function of HP1 as guardian of liver homeostasis relies
- 382 on regulation of heterochromatin organization, gene expression and ERV silencing.

384 MATERIALS AND METHODS

385

386 Mouse models.

The Cbx5KO, T28KO (TRIM28KO) and T28HP1box (TRIM28-L2/HP1box) mouse strains were described previously ^{22,38,68}. Exons 2 to 4 within the *Cbx1* gene (HP1 β), and exon 3 within the *Cbx3* gene (HP1 γ) were surrounded by LoxP sites. Excision of the floxed exons exclusively in hepatocytes by using mice that express the Cre recombinase under the control of the albumin promoter (Alb-Cre mice, ²³) led to a frameshift within the CSD-encoding sequence of *Cbx1* and the CD-encoding sequence of *Cbx3*.

Mice were housed in a pathogen-free barrier facility, and experiments were approved by the national ethics committee for animal warfare (n°CEEA-36).

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396 Antibodies/oligonucleotides

The anti-TRIM28 and HP1 were previously described ^{64, 65}. Anti-Casp3A (9661, Cell
Signaling); anti-γH2AX (Ab11174, Abcam), anti-Ki67 (M3064, Spring Bioscience). Anti-5mC
(NA81, Calbiochem), anti-H3K9me3 (Active Motif, 39161), anti-H3-K27me3 (Milipore, 07449), H4K20me3 (Upstate, 07-463). Oligonucleotides are described in Supplementary Table
11.

402

403 **Tissue processing for histology.**

For fresh frozen tissues, 3mm sections of the liver large lobe were embedded in the OCT compound (TissueTek) following standard protocols, and 18μ m-thick sections were cut using a Leica CM1850 cryostat and stored at -80 °C.

For paraffin-embedded tissues, 3mm sections of the liver large lobe were fixed in 4% neutralbuffered formalin (VWR Chemicals) at room temperature (RT) overnight, and stored in 70% ethanol at 4°C. Fixed tissues were processed using standard protocols and embedded in paraffin wax. Three-µm-thick sections were cut using a Thermo Scientific Microm HM325 microtome, dried at 37 °C overnight and stored at 4 °C.

412

413 Immunofluorescence analysis.

Cryo-sections and cultured cells were fixed in formaldehyde (2%) at RT for 15min air dried at
 RT for 20min and processed as described previously ³⁸.

416

417 Immunohistochemistry.

Paraffin-embedded liver sections were processed for routine hematoxylin, eosin and Safran or reticulin staining. For immunohistochemistry, sections were processed according to standard protocols. Images were acquired with a Zeiss Apotome2 microscope and processed using ImageJ.

422

423 RNA extraction and RT-qPCR assays

RNA was isolated from liver samples using TRIzol, according to the manufacturer's recommendations (Life technologies). Reverse transcription was performed with Superscript III according to the manufacturer protocol (Invitrogen). 1/100 of this reaction was used for real-time qPCR amplification using SYBR Green I (SYBR Green SuperMix, Quanta).

428

429 **RNA-seq**

The details are described in supplementary methods. Data are available at GEO (accessionnumbers: GSE84734 and GSE119244).

432

433 ChIP

434 ChIP were performed according to Abcam's protocol.

435

436 Statistics and reproducibility.

The Microsoft Excel or biostatgv (*https://biostatgv.sentiweb.fr*) softwares were used for statistical analyses; statistical tests, number of independent experiments, and P-values are listed in the individual figure legends. All experiments were repeated at least twice unless otherwise stated.

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442

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463

465 **AUTHORS' CONTRIBUTIONS:**

NS and SH performed the analysis of mice and interpreted the data. MP and CB made the libraries, generated and analyzed the RNA-seq data. AZ and EF performed the RT-qPCR experiments. CG participated to mice analysis, NP supervised the histological core facility and JYN performed the TMA. LK performed the pathological analysis of histological sections. DG was involved in the establishment of BMEL cells. YP and EJ were involved in cell transformation assays and chromatin analysis. FC designed, analyzed and interpreted the data and wrote the manuscript with input from all co-authors.

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474 **DECLARATION OF INTEREST:** No competing interests

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- 663

665 LEGENDS FIGURES

666 Figure 1: HP1 proteins are essential to prevent tumour development in liver. (A) Schematic representation of the strategy to inactivate the two HP1-encoding genes (Cbx1, 3) 667 668 specifically in hepatocytes using the recombinase Cre expressed under the control of the 669 albumin promoter in WT or HP1αKO mice. (B) Western blot analysis of whole-cell extracts 670 from liver samples confirmed the absence of HP1 α (the residual band is due to the very high 671 level of immunoglobulins in liver and thus the presence of light chains that are of the same 672 size as HP1 α) and the decreased expression of HP1 β and HP1 γ due to the hepatocytesspecific excision of the corresponding genes in HP1-TKO as compared to age-matched 673 674 control mice. Ponceau staining was used as loading control. (C) Graph showing the percentage of animals developing tumors (morphological and histological analysis). Controls 675 676 (Ctl; n=109; 6.4%), HP1αKO (HP1a KO; n= 73; 8.5%), HP1β-liverKO (HP1b KO; n=17; 52.9%), HP1γ-liverKO (HP1g KO; n=37; 13.5%), HP1α/HP1β-liverKO (HP1ab KO; n=8; 677 678 50%), HP1α/HP1γ-liverKO (HP1ag; KO n=12; 25%) and HP1α/HP1β/HP1γ-liverKO (HP1-TKO, n=19; 78.9%). The exact Fisher statistical test was used for each genotype versus 679 control, **p value ≤0.01; ***p value ≤0.001 (D) Examples of morphology of livers with tumors 680 (arrows) in animals for each HP1 knockout combination. The liver morphology of a female 681 682 and a male age-matched controls are also shown (F Ctl and M Ctl, respectively). (E) Histological analysis (hematoxylin-eosin-Safran staining) of one representative HP1-TKO 683 female (F-TKO) and one representative HP1-TKO male (M-TKO) livers. Upper panels: 684 tumor/liver parenchyma interface highlighted by arrowheads (low magnifications). Bottom 685 panels: magnification (x 100) of the boxes in the upper panels showing the tumor in the right 686 part of the images (thick plates of atypical hepatocytes). A venous tumor thrombus is also 687 present (asterisk).(F) RT-qPCR analysis of the expression of the indicated genes in control 688 (Ctl, n=5) and HP1-TKO (TKON: normal liver, n=6; TKOT: tumor, n=5) livers of animals older 689 690 that one year. RT-qPCR data were normalized to Hprt expression and are shown as the mean ± SEM. *p value <0.05; ***p value <0.001, ns: not significant (Student's t-test). 691

Figure 2 : HP1-TKO hepatic cells are viable and have increased potential to cellular 692 transformation upon oncogenic stress. (A) Schematic representation of the strategy used 693 694 to establish BMEL cells from Cbx5-/-; Cbx1L2/L2; Cbx3L2/L2 fetal livers and to inactivate the three HP1-encoding genes. Western blot analysis of whole-cell extracts from Het, Ctl and 695 HP1-TKO BMEL cells. "Het" were Cbx5+/-; Cbx1L2/L2 BMEL cells, "HP1-TKO" and "Ctl" 696 were established clones originating from one Cbx5-/-; Cbx1L2/L2; Cbx3L2/L2; Cre-ERT 697 698 clone treated (KO1 and KO3) or not (C3 and C5) with tamoxifen respectively. HP1-TKO cells were stably transfected with a plasmid (pCX, chicken *β*-actin promoter) allowing the 699 expression of YFP either alone (RCtl) or in fusion with HP1β (RHP1b) (B) Proliferation curves 700 of 2 Control clones (C3 and C5) and 2 HP1-TKO clones (KO1 and KO3). The graph 701 702 represent the average of three independent experiments done in triplicates. Student t-test 703 analysis showed no significant difference between control and HP1-TKO clones (C) HP1-TKO cells have a higher capacity of forming clones from isolated cells than control cells. 704 Representative pictures of clonogenic assays performed on the two control (C3 and C5) and 705 706 HP1-TKO (KO1 and KO3) clones with the graph representing the average of 5 independent experiments. (D) HP1-TKO cells are more resistant than control cells to the expression of the 707 oncogene Ras-V12. Representative images of control (C3 and C5) and HP1-TKO (KO1 and 708 709 KO3) BMEL cells transduced with either an empty (control) or a Ras-V12 (Ras-V12) 710 expressing lentivirus and grown for 8 days after the transduction. (E) HP1-TKO cells are more prone to transformation than control cells in response to Ras-V12 and SV40 711 oncogenes expression. Representative images of control (C3 and C5) and HP1-TKO (KO1 712 713 and KO3) BMEL cells transduced with either an empty (control) or two Ras-V12 (Ras-V12) 714 and SV40 expressing lentivirus respectively (Ras-V12+SV40) grown for 8 days after the 715 transduction on culture dishes and then grown for 20 days in soft agar. Graph represented 716 the average of three independent experiments. Results are shown as the mean number of colonies ± SEM. *p value <0.05; (Student's t-test). 717

718 Figure 3: HP1 are essential for the maintenance of heterochromatin marks but not to 719 regulate the expression of major satellites. (A) Western blot analysis of nuclear extracts 720 from livers of 7-week-old and middle-aged (3-6-month-old) controls (Ctl: 1; 2; 5; 6) and HP1-TKO (TKO: 3; 4; 7; 8) mice with antibodies against the indicated histone marks. Ponceau 721 staining was used as loading control. (B) Western blot analysis of whole cell extracts of one 722 Het (lane 1), two (lanes 2-3) controls, two (lanes 4-5) HP1-TKO and two (lanes 6-7) HP1-723 724 TKO clones expressing HP1β-YFP (RHP1b) fusion protein with the indicated antibodies. (C) 725 IF analysis of H3K9me3, H3K27me3, 5mC and LamB1 in BMEL cells. (D) Loss of HP1 leads 726 to a partial relocation of DAPI-dense regions towards the nuclear periphery. Representative images of paraffin-embedded liver tissue sections from 7-week-old control (Ctl) and HP1-727 TKO (TKO) mice stained with DAPI (63x magnification). To select mostly hepatocytes, only 728 the largest nuclei with a size comprised between 70 and 150 µm² and with a circular shape 729 were selected for this analysis. 2D sections of nuclei were divided in four concentric areas (1 730 to 4) and DAPI staining intensity was quantified using the cell profiler software. The mean 731 732 fractional intensity at a given radius was calculated as the fraction of the total intensity 733 normalized to the fraction of pixels at a given radius in n=584 control and n=762 HP1-TKO (TKO) nuclei. Data are the mean ± SEM. ***p value <0.001. (E) ChIP analysis of H3K9me3 734 and H3K27me3 enrichment on major satellite repeats within control (Ctl, C3 and C5) and 735 736 HP1-TKO (TKO, KO1 and KO3) BMEL cells. Graphs represent the average of 5 independent experiments and are shown as the mean ± SEM. ***p value <0.001, ns: not significant 737 (Student's t-test). (F) Loss of the three HP1 proteins did not affect the expression of major 738 satellites in neither liver nor BMEL cells. gPCR assays were performed using total RNA from 739 740 livers of 7-week-old control (n=4) and HP1-TKO mice (n=4) and on control (Ctl, C3 and C5) 741 and HP1-TKO (TKO, KO1 and KO3) BMEL cells. data were normalized to Hprt expression and are shown as the mean ± SEM. ns: not significant (Student's t-test). (G) Satellite repeats 742 were quantified by qPCR on genomic DNA from the same animals as those used for (F). 743

Figure 4: HP1 are essential regulators of gene expression in liver. (A) MA plot after 745 DSeq2 normalization of RNA-seq data from 7-week-old control (n=3) and HP1-TKO (n=4) 746 747 liver RNA samples. Red dots represent genes that are differentially expressed between control and HP1-TKO mice (adjusted p-value p <0.05). (B) Functional clustering of HP1-748 dependent genes using the DAVID Gene Ontology software. (C) RT-qPCR analysis of the 749 expression of the indicated genes. RNA was extracted from livers of 7-week old control (Ctl) 750 751 and HP1-TKO (TKO) mice. (D) RT-qPCR analysis of the expression of 4 krabzfp genes (zfp951, zfp992, zfp984 and 5730507C01Rik (573Rik)) whose expression was found to be 752 deregulated in both HP1αβ-liverKO and HP1-TKO livers by RNA-seq analysis and 1 *krabzfp* 753 gene (*zfp345*) deregulated in both HP1αy-liverKO and HP1-TKO livers by RNA-seg analysis. 754 755 cDNA were prepared from livers of 5-weeks old controls (Ctl), HP1αβ-liverKO (HP1αβKO) and HP1ay-liverKO (HP1ayKO). RT-qPCR data were normalized to Hprt expression and are 756 shown as the mean ± SEM. Statistical analysis were made between expression in controls 757 and expression in the different HP1-mutant samples. *p value <0.05; ***p value <0.001, ns: 758 759 not significant (Student's t-test).

760 Figure 5: HP1 are required for silencing specific endogenous retroviruses (ERVs) in hepatocytes. (A) MA-plot after DSeq2 normalization of RNA-seq reads including repeats 761 762 aligned against the Repbase database. Red dots represent genes and repeats that are differentially expressed between controls and HP1-TKO liver samples (p<0.05). (B) 763 Distribution of the different families of retrotransposons amongst repeats that are up-764 regulated upon loss of HP1 (Repeat_Up) compared to repeats that are down-regulated 765 (Repeat Down) and to the genome-wide distribution of repeats according to the 766 RepeatMasker database (All). (C) Repeats over-expressed in HP1-TKO liver samples 767 compared with controls (Repeat_Up) are over-represented in regions (± 100kb) around 768 genes over-expressed in HP1-TKO (genes_up). Conversely, repeats down-regulated in HP1-769 770 TKO liver samples compared with controls (Repeat_Down) are over-represented in regions 771 (± 100kb) around genes repressed in HP1-TKO (genes_down). (D) Repeats that are up-

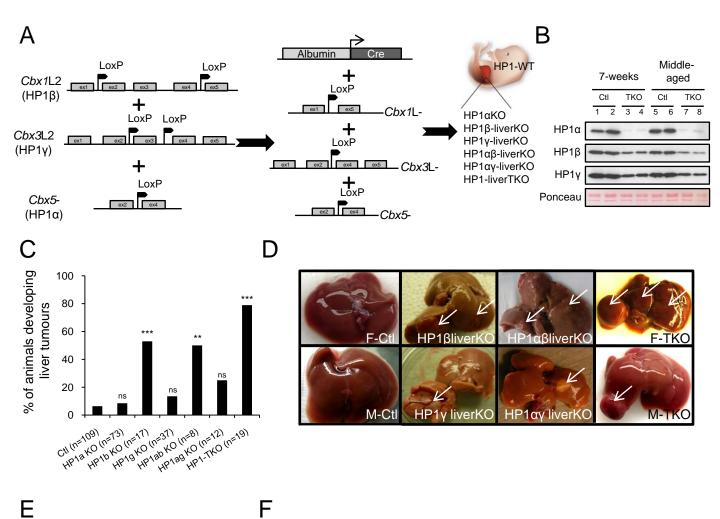
772 regulated or down-regulated upon HP1 loss tend to be closer to genes that are up- or downregulated in HP1-TKO, respectively. The absolute distance (in base pairs) was measured 773 774 between the gene transcriptional start site and the beginning of the repeat, according to the RepeatMasker annotation. (E) Representative Integrative Genomic Viewer snapshots of the 775 indicated up-regulated genes associated with up-regulated repeat sequences. (F) RT-qPCR 776 analysis of the expression of the indicated genes in Control (Ctl) and HP1-TKO (TKO) BMEL 777 778 cells. (G) RT-qPCR analysis of the expression of the indicated genes in Control rescue (RCtl) and HP1ß rescue (RHP1b) BMEL cell lines. RT-gPCR data were normalized to Hprt and 779 36B4 expression and are shown as the mean \pm SEM. *p value <0.05; ***p value <0.001, ns: 780 not significant (Student's t-test). (H) ChIP analysis of H3K9me3 enrichment in the 3'UTR 781 782 regions of zfp345, zfp951 and zfp992, in the P2, IAP and p4 regions of the Bglap3 gene locus ³⁵. *p value <0.05; **p value <0.01, ***p value <0.001, ns: not significant (Student's t-783 784 test).

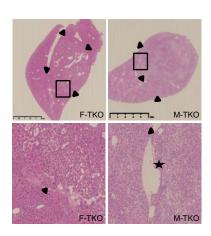
785 Figure 6: The loss of association between HP1 and TRIM28 partially recapitulates the phenotypes induced by the loss of HP1. (A) TRIM28 expression is independent of HP1 786 proteins. RT-qPCR quantification of TRIM28 expression in total RNA from livers of 7-week-787 old control (Ctl; n=4) and HP1-TKO (TKO; n=4) mice. Data were normalized to Hprt 788 789 expression and are shown as the mean ± SEM. (B) Western blot analysis of 50µg of whole cell extracts from 7-week-old control (1 and 2) and HP1-TKO (3 to 5) livers using an anti-790 TRIM28 polyclonal antibody. Tubulin was used as loading control. (C) The loss of interaction 791 between TRIM28 and HP1 does not significantly alter the level of expression of neither 792 TRIM28 or HP1. 50 µg of whole liver extracts from 7-week-old controls (1; 2), TRIM28KO 793 (T28KO; 3-5) and TRIM29HP1box (T28HP1box; 6-8) mice were analyzed by western blotting 794 using the anti-TRIM28 polyclonal and anti-HP1a, ß and y monoclonal antibodies. GAPDH 795 796 and Ponceau staining were used as loading controls. (D) TRIM28 is involved in the 797 regulation of the expression of some but not all HP1-dependent genes. RT-qPCR analysis 798 using liver RNA samples from 5 week-old control (n=5), T28KO (n=5) and T28HP1box (n=5)

799 mice. (E) TRIM28 is involved in the regulated expression of HP1- and ERV-dependent 800 genes. Analysis of *Mbd1* and *Bglap3* expression by RT-qPCR using liver RNA samples from 801 7-week-old control (Ctl) and HP1-TKO (TKO) mice, and 5-week-old control (n=5), T28KO (n=5) and T28HP1box (n=5) mice. (F) TRIM28 and its association with HP1 is essential to 802 prevent liver tumor development. Representative morphological aspect of TRIM28 mutant 803 livers. (G) Bglap3 and Mbd1 are over-expressed in HP1-TKO livers of old (>1year) mice. RT-804 805 qPCR was performed using RNA from old control (n=7), and HP1-TKO liver samples (TKON for normal part, TKOT for tumor part) (n=7). (H) The alteration of Mbd1 and Bglap3 806 expression upon loss of the association between TRIM28 and HP1 proteins was not 807 maintained in old animals. RT-gPCR analysis using RNA from control (n=5), T28KO 808 809 (T28KON for normal part, T28KOT for tumor part) (n=5) and T28HP1box (T28HP1boxN for normal part, T28HP1boxT for tumor part) livers (n=5). All expression data were normalized to 810 Hprt expression and are shown as the mean ± SEM. ns, no significant difference *p value 811 <0.05; ***p* value <0.01; ****p* value <0.001 (Student's t-test). 812

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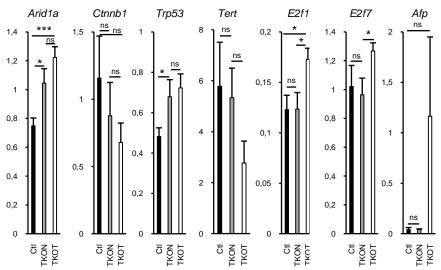
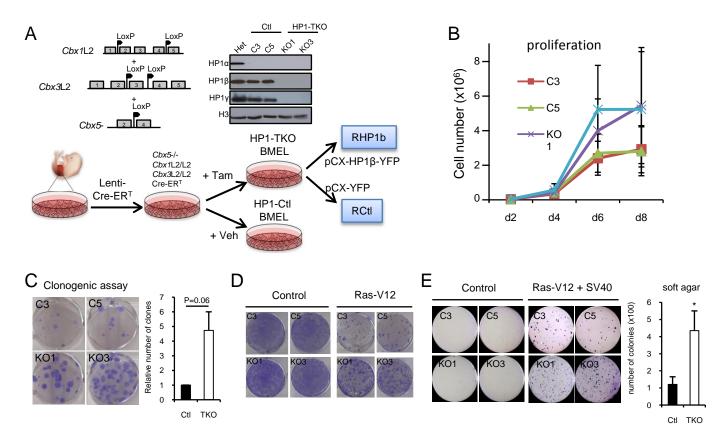
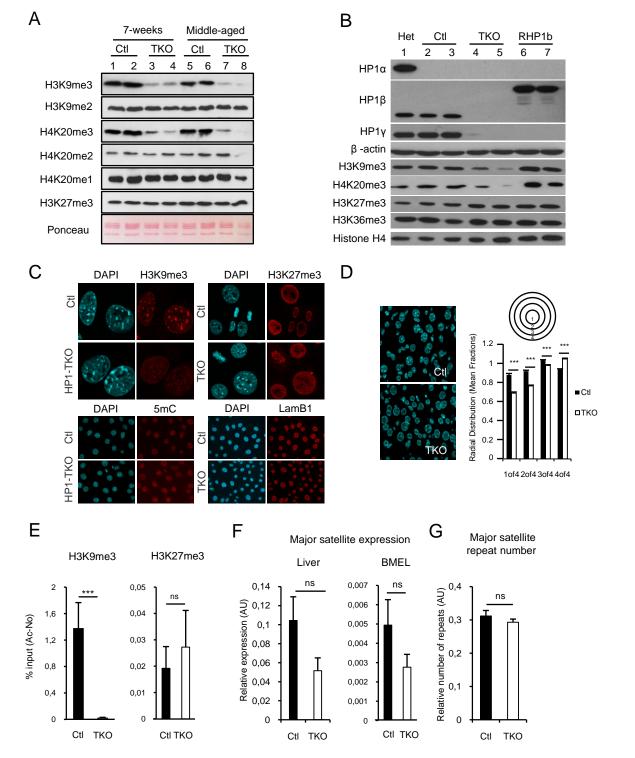
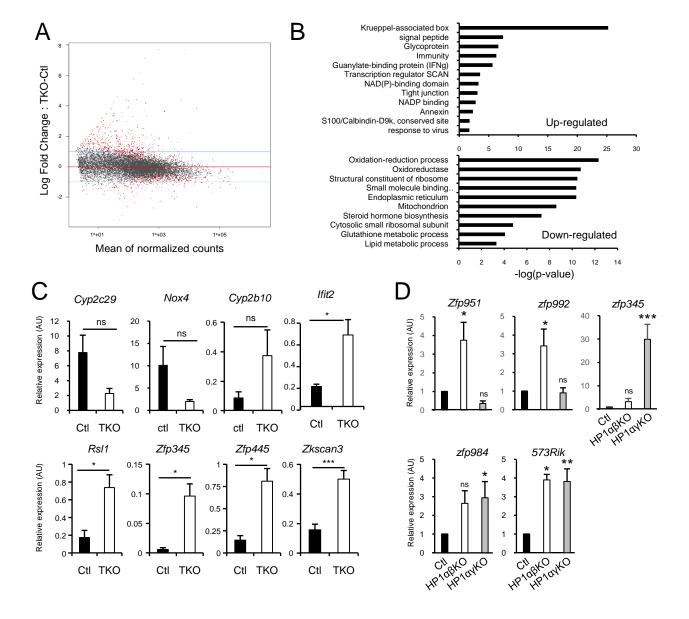
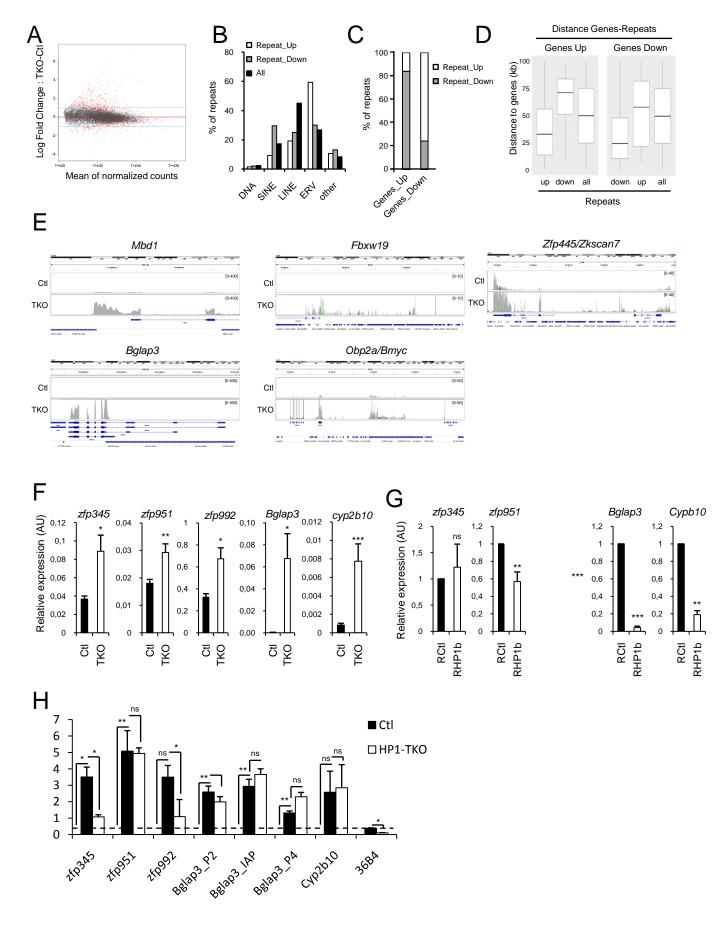


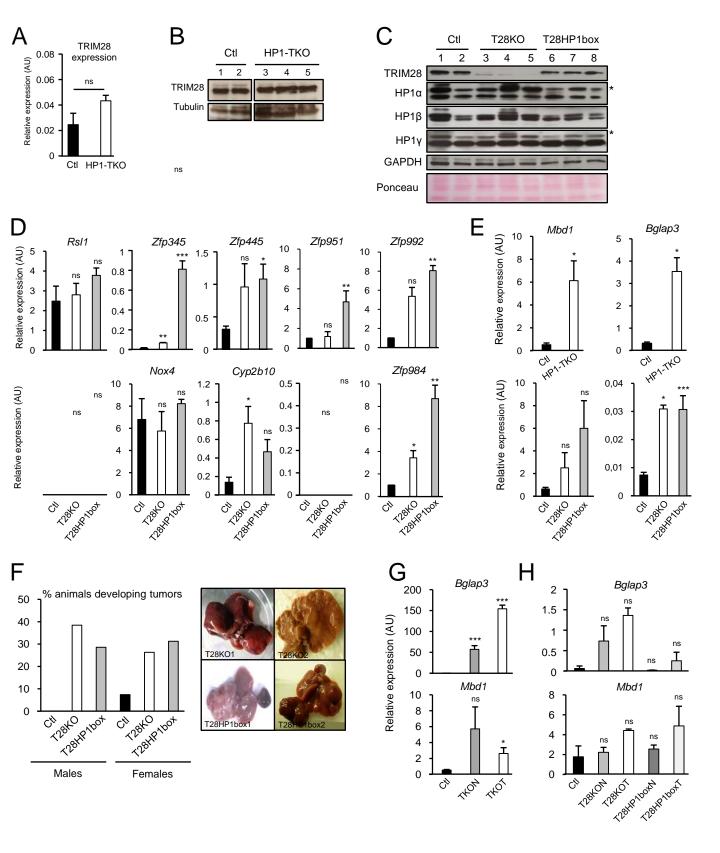
Figure 1, Saksouk & Hajdari et al,











Gene name	Log2 fold- change	padj	Redox	Endoplasmic reticulum	Drug metabolism	Lipid metabolism	Steroid synthesis
Cyp2b10	4.06	1.41E-38	1	1	0	0	1
Cyp2b9	2.68	4.51E-10	1	1	0	0	1
Cyp2b13	1.80	0.000120	0	0	0	0	1
Cyp4f16	1.63	1.36E-09	0	0	0	0	0
Cyp2d12	1.38	0.000468	0	0	0	0	1
Cyp2a4	1.09	0.0342	0	0	0	0	0
Cyp2a22	1.06	0.000559	0	0	0	0	0
Cyp2f2	-0.65	0.00318	1	1	0	0	0
Cyp4f13	-0.67	0.0151	0	0	0	0	0
Cyp2r1	-0.72	0.0173	1	1	0	0	0
Cyp27a1	-0.83	1.30E-05	1	0	0	0	0
Cyp2d37-ps	-0.83	0.0319	0	0	0	0	0
Cyp3a25	-0.85	0.00222	1	1	0	0	1
Cyp39a1	-0.88	0.00164	1	1	0	1	0
Cyp2e1	-0.94	7.81E-05	1	1	1	0	1
Cyp2d26	-0.95	2.57E-05	1	1	0	0	1
Cyp2a5	-0.97	0.00129	0	0	0	0	0
Cyp2d13	-1.00	0.00445	0	0	0	0	0
Cyp1a2	-1.25	3.65E-12	1	1	1	1	1
Cyp2c53-ps	-1.31	0.01178	0	0	0	0	0
Cyp2d40	-1.42	6.83E-06	0	0	0	0	1
Cyp46a1	-1.64	0.000629	1	1	0	1	0
Cyp3a59	-2.15	3.62E-17	1	0	0	0	0
Cyp2c44	-2.20	2.18E-20	0	0	0	0	1
Cyp2c29	-2.60	7.65E-25	1	1	0	0	1

Table 1: HP1-dependent p450 genes.

(1) found and (0) not found according to the David Gene Ontology software.