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## 3 Herpes Simplex viral nucleoprotein creates a competitive transcriptional 4 environment facilitating robust viral transcription and host shut off

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26 **Highlights** (85 characters per highlight)

27     • HSV-1 ICP4 coats the viral genome promoting robust recruitment of Pol II transcription  
28           machinery.

29     • ICP4 prefers the viral genome due to the absence of nucleosomes and density of  
30           binding motifs.

31     • At high concentrations ICP4 promiscuously binds DNA including euchromatic host  
32           promoters.

33     • ICP4 is required for host transcriptional shut off, independent of genome replication.

34

35 **Summary** (≤150 words)

36

37 Herpes simplex virus-1 (HSV-1) replicates within the nucleus coopting the host's RNA  
38 Polymerase II (Pol II) machinery for production of viral mRNAs culminating in host  
39 transcriptional shut off. The mechanism behind this rapid reprogramming of the host  
40 transcriptional environment is largely unknown. We identified ICP4 as responsible for  
41 preferential recruitment of the Pol II machinery to the viral genome. ICP4 is a viral  
42 nucleoprotein which binds double stranded DNA. We determined ICP4 discriminately binds  
43 the viral genome due to the absence of cellular nucleosomes and high density of cognate  
44 binding sites. We posit that ICP4's ability to recruit not just Pol II, but also more limiting  
45 essential components, such as TBP and Mediator create a competitive transcriptional  
46 environment. These distinguishing characteristics ultimately result in a rapid and efficient  
47 reprogramming of the host's transcriptional machinery, which does not occur in the absence  
48 of ICP4.

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## INTRODUCTION

51        Like most DNA viruses, the genome of Herpes simplex virus-1 (HSV-1) is transcribed  
52    by RNA Polymerase II (Pol II) (Alwine et al., 1974). It's approximately 85 genes (McGeoch et  
53    al., 1988; McGeoch et al., 1986; McGeoch et al., 1985) are transcribed in a temporally  
54    coordinated sequence, such that their protein products are expressed at the appropriate time  
55    in the life cycle of the virus (Honess and Roizman, 1974a; Honess and Roizman, 1974b;  
56    Honess and Roizman, 1975). Immediate early (IE) gene products enable the efficient  
57    expression of early (E) and late (L) genes. The protein products of E genes are mostly  
58    involved in DNA replication. DNA replication and IE proteins enable the efficient transcription  
59    of L genes, which encode the structural components of the virus. DNA replication licenses L  
60    promoters, enabling the binding of core Pol II transcription factors, thus activating the  
61    initiation of L transcription (Dremel and DeLuca, 2019). This entire transcriptional cascade is  
62    observed within 3 hours (h) post entry (Dembowski and DeLuca, 2018b; Dremel and DeLuca,  
63    2019), culminating in production of the first viral progeny between 4 and 6 h post-infection  
64    (hpi). To accomplish this robust and rapidly changing program of transcription, the viral  
65    genome must compete with the vastly larger cellular genome for numerous Pol II transcription  
66    factors, in addition to mediating the possible constraints of cellular histones.

67        A major component of this cascade is the IE protein Infected Cell Polypeptide 4 (ICP4)  
68    (Courtney and Benyesh-Melnick, 1974). ICP4 is essential for viral growth because it  
69    promotes efficient transcription of viral E and L genes (Dixon and Schaffer, 1980; Preston,  
70    1979; Watson and Clements, 1980). Thus, in the absence of ICP4, E and L proteins are  
71    poorly expressed, IE proteins are overproduced, DNA replication does not occur, and there is  
72    no detectable viral yield (DeLuca et al., 1985). ICP4 was first shown to bind to DNA cellulose  
73    made from salmon sperm DNA (Powell and Purifoy, 1976). Faber and Wilcox later showed  
74    ICP4 has sequence-specific DNA binding activity (Faber and Wilcox, 1986). ICP4 interacts

75 with a number of cellular general transcription factors (GTFs), predominantly components of  
76 TFIID and the Mediator complex (Carrozza and DeLuca, 1996; Lester and Deluca; Wagner  
77 and DeLuca, 2013), facilitating their recruitment to the viral genome through its DNA binding  
78 activity (Dembowski and DeLuca, 2018a; Lester and Deluca; Sampath and Deluca, 2008).  
79 ICP4 is synthesized early in infection, binds to the viral genome located at ND10 structures  
80 (Everett et al., 2003), and remains associated with the genome throughout all phases of  
81 infection (Dembowski and DeLuca, 2018a). Therefore, ICP4 has the potential to influence  
82 events occurring on the viral genome from a time when genome number is at a minimum,  
83 and ICP4 expression is peaked, through a time when genome numbers are greatly elevated  
84 by replication.

85 Studies have also shown that epigenetic modulation of histones associated with the  
86 viral genome early in infection can affect productive viral infection (Knipe and Cliffe, 2008;  
87 Liang et al., 2009). However, we have shown that the abundance of histones is relatively low  
88 or absent, and that ICP4 is one of the most abundant proteins on viral genomes during  
89 productive infection (Dembowski and DeLuca, 2015, 2018a; Dembowski et al., 2017). In this  
90 study, we set out to determine the relationship between ICP4 and histones binding to the viral  
91 and cellular genomes, and the consequences for viral and cellular transcription. We propose  
92 that ICP4 is a major component of viral nucleoprotein, which functions in place of traditional  
93 cellular chromatin, and allows for the robust recruitment of cellular transcription factors  
94 specifically to the viral genome.

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## RESULTS

97 **ICP4 binding is altered by viral genome replication.**

98        Given the central role of ICP4 in viral gene transcription at all stages of infection, we  
99        were interested in how ICP4 interacts with the virus genome as the number exponentially  
100       increases, as a consequence of replication. We infected human fibroblast (MRC5) cells with  
101       wild-type HSV-1 (KOS) for 2, 4, and 6 hpi and performed ChIP-Seq for ICP4. Each time point  
102       represents a different replication state: 2 hpi (prereplication), 4 hpi (3-4 genome duplications),  
103       6 hpi (5-6 genome duplications) (Fig. 1A). To quantitatively compare samples, we had to  
104       account for viral genome replication. Input samples provided the relative number of viral  
105       genomes present at each time point. We used this ratio to normalize immunoprecipitated (IP)  
106       sample for the amount of factor per genome. Early during infection (2h) ICP4 densely coated  
107       the viral genome (Fig. 1C). Viral genome replication decreased the amount of ICP4 bound  
108       per genome (Fig. 1A) resulting in a pattern containing sharper peaks. By 6 hpi ICP4 binding  
109       was retained exclusively on strong ICP4 binding motifs (Fig. 1C). Some of the retained  
110       binding sites were those previously established as having an inhibitory effect on the gene  
111       promoter bound, including ORF P, ICP4, and LAT (Fig. 1D). A closer analysis of ICP4 peaks  
112       demonstrated that the location and number of high confidence occupied sites did not alter  
113       significantly throughout infection (Fig. 1E). Instead the amount of ICP4 bound between  
114       distinct peaks decreased as genome number increased (Fig. 1C-D).

115       Although ICP4 exhibited a dense binding pattern at early times (2 hpi), with relatively  
116       broad, overlapping peaks we were able to determine high confidence binding sites. The final  
117       sites were consistent between biological replicates. We analyzed 100 bp extensions from the  
118       summits of the peaks seen at all 3 times (Fig. 1E) for motif discovery. DTSGKBDTBNHSG  
119       was the only motif discovered (Fig. 1B), where D is A, G, T; S is C or G; K is G or T; B is C,  
120       G, T; H is A, C, T. This binding motif was very close to that previously discovered using *in*

121 *vitro* techniques, RTCGTCNNYNYSG (DiDonato et al., 1991). These minor deviations may  
122 be due to protein partners or DNA binding proteins altering the binding ability of ICP4 *in vivo*.  
123 These results demonstrate that ICP4 binds to specific sites, but also coats the genome  
124 early in infection forming a type of nucleoprotein. Due to mass action, ICP4-nucleoprotein  
125 changes as infection proceeds, limiting binding to predominantly strong cognate binding sites  
126 as the number of genomes increase due to replication.

127

128 **ICP4 stabilizes GTF binding promoting cooperative preinitiation complex (PIC)  
129 assembly.**

130 We wanted to investigate how the formation of ICP4-nucleoprotein affects the  
131 transcription factor landscape across the viral genome. We compared the binding of ICP4,  
132 Pol II, TATA-binding protein (TBP), SP1, Med1, and Med23 in ICP4 null (n12) and wild-type  
133 (WT) HSV-1 infected human fibroblasts at 2.5 hpi by ChIP-Seq (Fig. S1). In the absence of  
134 ICP4, we observed a decrease in binding for all the factors to most viral promoters, with the  
135 exception of IE genes (Fig. 2A-B), where there was an increase in binding. There were  
136 detectable, although highly reduced, peaks of TBP and SP1 binding to the UL23 promoter in  
137 the absence of ICP4. It has been previously shown that these sites are functional in the n12  
138 background reflecting the basal binding activity of TBP and SP1 (Imbalzano et al., 1991) (Fig.  
139 2B). Similar to UL23 we observed TBP and SP1 bound to select E promoters in the absence  
140 of ICP4, namely UL23, UL29, UL39, and UL50 (Fig. S1).

141 Med1 and Med23 bound the viral genome with an almost identical pattern (Fig. S1,  
142 Fig. 2), indicating they are parts of the Mediator complex bound early during viral infection. In  
143 WT infected cells, the binding of Mediator concentrated near the starts sites of ICP4-induced  
144 viral genes. However, the Mediator complex also densely coated the viral genome,  
145 resembling the ICP4 binding pattern. This dense coating was completely absent in n12

146 infection, demonstrating this phenotype is not an artifact of the IP. We suspect this reflects  
147 the fact that ICP4 and Mediator interact.

148 In the absence of ICP4, the binding of Pol II was reduced the most compared to the  
149 other transcription factors (Fig. 2A). This magnified difference is likely a result of the  
150 cooperative nature of Pol II recruitment requiring multiple protein-protein interactions. In  
151 summary ICP4 was required for robust recruitment of all GTF's tested, cooperatively  
152 recruiting Pol II to E and L promoters. The difference between n12 and WT shows the extent  
153 by which ICP4 mediated recruitment and bolstered the frequency of PIC assembly. IE  
154 promoters retained robust GTF recruitment via an independent mechanism involving a  
155 complex consisting of Oct-1, HCF and VP16 binding to TAATGARAT promoter elements  
156 (Preston et al., 1988; Stern and Herr, 1991; Stern et al., 1989)

157 **Genome bound ICP4 does not affect accessibility.**

158 Part of the mechanism of ICP4 action in the recruitment of GTFs to the genome may  
159 involve a role in the exclusion of repressive chromatin. To address this hypothesis, we  
160 investigated the relationship between presence of ICP4, the abundance of histones, and the  
161 accessibility of the genome. We used ChIP-Seq to compare the binding of ICP4, Pol II, and  
162 histone H3 in n12 and WT HSV-1 infected human fibroblasts at 2 hpi (Fig. 3). We found in  
163 both WT and n12 infection that the number of H3 reads mapped to the viral genome was  
164 100-fold less than ICP4, and the pattern was nearly identical to input reads (Fig. 3A), with  
165  $R^2$  correlations of 0.0004 and 0.02 (Fig S2). These data demonstrated H3 binding to the viral  
166 genome was minimal and not reproducible. Furthermore, H3 binding was still minimal in the  
167 absence of ICP4 (n12). This was not due to technical issues as the number and quality of H3  
168 reads mapped to the cellular genome for the same samples was approximately 10 million

169 with  $R^2$  correlations of  $\geq 0.97$  (Fig. S3). We saw a similar trend with H3K4me3, H3K27ac,  
170 H3K9me3, and H3K27me3 reads mapped to the viral genome (Fig S2&4).

171        Although H3 binding to the viral genome was similar in WT and n12 infection, we could  
172        not rule out the role of an alternative protein occluding the genome. To investigate genomic  
173        accessibility, we performed ATAC-Seq. Human fibroblasts were infected with WT and n12  
174        HSV-1 at an MOI of 10 pfu/cell and collected prior to the onset of genome replication.  
175        Quantification of ChIP-Seq input reads allowed us to determine that the approximate number  
176        of genomes per cell in WT and n12 infection was 169 and 254, respectively (Fig 3C). This  
177        value is consistent with infecting at an MOI of 10 pfu/cell and an approximately particle to pfu  
178        ratio of 20-30. We normalized ATAC-Seq traces to adjust for sequencing depth and input  
179        genome number. We observed even fragmentation in both conditions absent the nucleosomal  
180        laddering visible on the cellular genome (Fig 3B). Quantification of ATAC-Seq reads  
181        determined that the viral genome in n12 and WT was 2.8 and 4-fold more accessible than the  
182        cellular genome (Fig 3C). As we harvested samples pre-replication, we expect that a  
183        significant portion of viral genomes are defective and will not undergo replication. Our ATAC-  
184        Seq data is thus an average of fragmentation for defective and active viral genomes. For this  
185        reason, we expect our accessibility calculation is an underestimate. We conclude that the  
186        viral genome was much more accessible than the cellular genome, and this increased  
187        accessibility was not ICP4-dependent. ICP4 binding and GTF recruitment, not viral genome  
188        accessibility, was responsible for robust GTF binding.

189

190        **ICP4 binds to cellular transcription start sites (TSS) early during infection.**

191        Immunofluorescence (IF) studies of HSV-1 infection depict colocalization of ICP4 with  
192        EdC-labeled viral genomes and exclusion from dense areas of cellular chromatin

193 (Dembowski and DeLuca, 2015). This phenomenon is so well established that ICP4 is largely  
194 used in IF studies as a proxy for HSV-1 genomes. To ascertain if ICP4 also binds to the  
195 cellular genome, we aligned our ICP4 ChIP-Seq data from 2, 4, and 6 hpi to the cellular  
196 genome. ICP4 bound to the cellular genome in a manner quite distinctive from the pattern  
197 observed on the viral genome. ICP4 only bound in distinct peaks around cellular transcription  
198 start sites (TSS) (Fig. 4E-F) of a subset of cellular genes (Fig. 4B). These genes grouped  
199 ontologically to common housekeeping functions including pathways related to chromatin,  
200 transcription, and metabolism (Fig 4C). This binding reduced from 2 to 4 hpi, and become  
201 negligible at 6 hpi (Fig. 4). At 2 hpi ICP4 bound to the cellular genome at 5,727 sites (Fig. 4D)  
202 or 0.002 peaks per kbp, whereas ICP4 bound to the viral genome at 122 sites (Fig. 1E) or 0.8  
203 peaks per kbp. Similar we found a much greater density of ICP4 binding motifs present in the  
204 viral genome (2 motifs/kbp) than the cellular genome (0.02 motifs/kbp). We observed ICP4  
205 binding peaks that did not localize at an ICP4 binding consensus (Fig. 4A) suggesting that  
206 ICP4 may associate with the cellular genome by an alternative mechanism. We conclude that  
207 ICP4 bound to the cellular genome early during infection, when the relative concentration of  
208 ICP4 to viral genomes is still quite high. The amount of ICP4 on the cellular genome quickly  
209 dropped off as viral genome number increased and ICP4 preferentially bound to the viral  
210 genome.

211

212 **ICP4 binding is restricted to accessible regions of the cellular genome.**

213 Since ICP4 bound to a subset of cellular genes near mRNA start sites (Fig. 4), We  
214 hypothesized that ICP4 only bound to accessible regions of the cellular genome. To test this  
215 hypothesis, we performed ChIP-Seq for ICP4, Pol II, Histone H3 (H3), euchromatic markers  
216 H3K4-trimethyl (H3K4me3) and H3K27-acetyl (H3K27ac), and heterochromatic marker

217 H3K9-trimethyl (H3K9me3) and H3K27-trimethyl (H3K27me3) on MRC5 cells that were  
218 infected with HSV for 2 h. Cellular TSS were stratified using k-means clustering as high and  
219 low ICP4 binding (Fig. 5A). TSS with high ICP4 binding were also bound by Pol II and  
220 adjacent to euchromatic markers. TSS with low ICP4 binding were associated with only  
221 heterochromatic markers. Furthermore, genes clustered as high ICP4 binding had higher  
222 fragmentation frequency when assessed using ATAC-Seq (Fig. 5 B). The data was mapped  
223 for representative cellular genes in Fig. S5. We quantified the relationship between ICP4 and  
224 cellular chromatin in Fig. 5C-D. We found that the binding pattern of ICP4 was directly related  
225 (Spearman coefficient  $\geq 0.5$ ) to Pol II and cellular euchromatin, clustering as most similar to  
226 H3K27ac and H3K4me3 (Fig. 5C). The heterochromatic markers, H3K9me3 and H3K27me3,  
227 clustered together, and were not correlated (Spearman coefficient  $\sim 0$ ) to ICP4 or cellular  
228 chromatin. These results were corroborated by analysis of distinct peaks called using MACS  
229 (Fig. 5D). Interestingly, ICP4 bound regions had little overlap with their cognate binding motifs  
230 (Fig. 5D). A closer analysis of the actual genomic region where each factor bound, revealed  
231 that 82% of ICP4 bound regions were within 1 kb of a promoter (Fig. S6). By comparison only  
232 10% of ICP4 predicted binding motifs were within 1 kb of a promoter. Furthermore, the  
233 euchromatic regions of the cellular genome that were occupied by ICP4 in infected cells were  
234 also euchromatic in uninfected cells, indicating that ICP4 does not globally promote open  
235 chromatin in these regions of the genome (Fig. 5A-B). These data support a model in which  
236 ICP4 is able to bind nonspecifically to accessible regions of the cellular genome, namely  
237 active promoters, early in infection when the relative concentration of ICP4 is high.

238 **ICP4 mediates depletion of Pol II on cellular promoters**

239 We observed depletion in Pol II binding to cellular promoters with infection (Fig. 5A).  
240 This observation is consistent with prior studies, which assessed HSV-1 infection post-

241 replication at 3, 4, or 6 hpi (Abrisch et al., 2016; Birkenheuer et al., 2018; McSwiggen et al.,  
242 2019). As we harvested samples prior to the onset of genome replication (2 hpi) we  
243 hypothesized that ICP4, which is produced immediately upon viral infection was responsible.  
244 First, we determined the effect of ICP4 on cellular promoters before the onset of genome  
245 replication. We mock-infected or infected fibroblasts at 10 pfu/cell with WT or ICP4-null (n12)  
246 HSV-1 for 2 h. We chose this early time point to ensure the effect we see is due to the  
247 absence of ICP4, rather than an E or L viral gene product which cannot be produced in the  
248 absence of ICP4. We observed depletion of Pol II occupancy on cellular mRNA promoters  
249 only in WT infection (Fig. 6A-B). Thus we concluded that ICP4 was required for depletion of  
250 Pol II from host mRNA promoters, and this effect was independent of viral genome copy  
251 number.

252 We then assessed whether ICP4 was continuously required for cellular Pol II  
253 depletion, namely if ICP4 was still essential even after the onset of genome replication. We  
254 used a temperature sensitive ICP4 mutant (tsKos), in which growth at nonpermissive  
255 temperature (39.6°C) results in loss of ICP4 in the nucleus (Dremel & DeLuca 2019). We  
256 infected fibroblasts with tsKos grown at permissive conditions (P), shifted up from permissive  
257 to nonpermissive conditions at 4 hpi (S), or nonpermissive conditions (N). In this system we  
258 can separate the role of ICP4 in Pol II depletion, from ICP4's requirement in E and L  
259 transcription and viral genome replication. Infected cells were harvested at 4 or 6 hpi and Pol  
260 II ChIP-Seq was performed. We used nonpermissive conditions as a surrogate to mock-  
261 infection, as we just established that Pol II depletion does not occur in n12 infection (Fig. 6A-  
262 B). We observed significant depletion of Pol II from cellular promoters in permissive and  
263 shifted samples (Fig. 6C-D). Pol II depletion was not directly related to viral genome copy  
264 number. tsKos shifted up had the highest number of viral genomes present, but did not reach

265 the same level of cellular Pol II depletion as cells grown at permissive temperature for the  
266 same length of time. These data suggest that the viral genome is not solely responsible for  
267 preferential recruitment of cellular Pol II. Instead ICP4 bound to the viral genome is required  
268 for depletion of Pol II from cellular promoters. These results suggest a model in which  
269 genome replication facilitates host Pol II depletion when the relative number of ICP4 to viral  
270 genomes is high (2h). As the number of ICP4 bound viral genomes increased, we observed a  
271 corresponding decrease in Pol II on host promoters.

272

## DISCUSSION

273 **ICP4 as a sink for general transcription factors**

274 ICP4 is synthesized shortly after the viral genome enters the nucleus and remains  
275 associated with the genome through all phases of infection. Our data demonstrated that ICP4  
276 bound promiscuously to the viral genome prior to DNA replication. At this time point, ICP4  
277 was present at a relatively high concentration which likely promoted multimerization on DNA  
278 through ICP4-ICP4 interactions (Kuddus and DeLuca, 2007). We observed a similar  
279 phenotype for ICP4's interaction partner, Mediator (Lester and Deluca; Wagner and DeLuca,  
280 2013). Components of Mediator bound generally to the viral genome, concentrating near viral  
281 TATA boxes. Additional protein-Mediator interactions likely contribute to this distribution. This  
282 is a unique recruitment phenotype for Mediator which binds exclusively at cellular TSS via  
283 multiple protein-protein interactions. In the absence of ICP4, these interactions were not  
284 sufficient to support Mediator binding to the viral genome. With the exception of Mediator  
285 recruitment to IE promoters which does not require ICP4 and reflects the activity of VP16  
286 (Batterson and Roizman, 1983; Campbell et al., 1984). Similarly, we observed a 2 to 10-fold  
287 decrease in recruitment of Pol II, TBP, and Sp1 to viral E and L promoters without ICP4. This  
288 minimal level of recruitment is insufficient to support transcription, which explains why only IE  
289 transcripts are efficiently transcribed in the absence of ICP4.

290 ICP4-dependent GTF recruitment was not due to a global accessibility change. In the  
291 absence of ICP4 the viral genome remained absent of histones and had little change in  
292 fragmentation frequency. This is most likely due to the action of ICP0, which is an IE protein  
293 expressed in the absence of ICP4 and has been shown to preclude histones from the  
294 genome (Cliffe and Knipe, 2008; Ferenczy and DeLuca, 2009). We posit that ICP4's ability to  
295 interact and recruit Mediator and TFIID generally to the viral genome creates a local  
296 concentration gradient. Ultimately this increases the incidence of Pol II transcription

297 machinery recruitment to the viral genome, which is stabilized by contact with additional  
298 protein-DNA, protein-protein interactions. These data demonstrated the critical role ICP4  
299 serves as a general viral transcription factor, essential for activation and continued  
300 transcription of E and L genes.

301

302 **ICP4 differentiates between the viral and cellular genome**

303 ICP4 possesses the ability to bind to double stranded DNA independent of sequence,  
304 an ability that is facilitated by ICP4 oligomerization on the genome. At early time points, when  
305 the relative concentration of ICP4 to the viral genome was high, we observed promiscuous  
306 ICP4 binding. This coating phenotype provides an explanation for why no specific binding  
307 sites on the genome affect the ability of ICP4 to activate transcription (Coen et al., 1986;  
308 Smiley et al., 1992). Instead the high density of ICP4 binding motifs on the viral genome  
309 aggregate to create a global affinity for ICP4.

310 Early during infection, we also observed binding of ICP4 to cellular promoters, a novel  
311 observation. ICP4 only bound highly transcribed cellular promoters—largely housekeeping  
312 genes—and specifically bound where there was an absence of histones, adjacent to  
313 euchromatic markers. The consequences, if any, of this binding for the transcription of  
314 specific cellular genes remains to be determine. The binding of ICP4 to the cellular genome  
315 was greatly diminished by 4 hpi, which corresponded to 3-4 viral genome duplications. At this  
316 time point we also observed a decrease in ICP4 coating the viral genome. However, ICP4 still  
317 bound abundantly, concentrating adjacent to strong cognate binding sites. This is most likely  
318 due to replication of the viral genome producing more ICP4 binding targets. Simple mass  
319 action results in binding to predominantly higher affinity sites. We propose that the binding  
320 preference of ICP4 for the viral genome is due to the 100-fold higher density of cognate  
321 binding sites and absence of cellular histones.

322

323 **ICP4 as both viral transcription factor and chromatin**

324 HSV-1 productive infection generates 1,000-10,000 viral progeny per infected cell  
325 within a 24 hour window. To facilitate this rampant transcriptional shift HSV-1 manipulates  
326 host Pol II machinery to prioritize viral mRNAs. By 6 hpi viral mRNA's comprise almost 50%  
327 of the total mRNA present in the host nucleus (Dremel and DeLuca, 2019). Furthermore,  
328 binding of Pol II to cellular promoters dramatically decreases upon HSV-1 infection (Abrisch  
329 et al., 2016; Birkenheuer et al., 2018). A recent study concluded that viral replication  
330 compartments efficiently enrich Pol II into membraneless domains (McSwiggen et al., 2019).  
331 Herein we identified the viral factor responsible for coopting the host Pol II machinery.

332 McSwiggen et al. proposed this phenomenon was dependent on the absence of  
333 nucleosomes which made the viral genome 100-fold more accessible than the cellular  
334 genome. While we agree that this accessibility is critical for viral infection, we believe it is  
335 essential for ICP4 binding. Similar to cellular chromatin, ICP4 coats the viral genome  
336 throughout productive infection (Fig. 7). However, ICP4 also functions to scaffold Pol II  
337 transcription machinery to the viral genome. We demonstrated that Pol II depletion from  
338 cellular promoters was dependent on the number of ICP4 bound viral genomes. We propose  
339 that one or more components of the PIC, such as the ICP4 binding partners TFIID and  
340 Mediator, are limiting and ICP4 recruits these factors to the viral genome. As the number of  
341 viral genomes bound by ICP4 increases, the limiting PIC components no longer contacts  
342 cellular promoters. Ultimately this results in decreased Pol II occupancy on host promoters,  
343 preventing cellular transcription. This mechanism is essential to facilitate the rapidly  
344 progressing infection while limiting the extent to which the host can respond to viral  
345 challenge. This mechanism may explain how HSV-1 and -2 complete the infectious life cycle  
346 faster than other herpesviruses.

347 **MATERIALS AND METHODS**

348 **Cells and Viruses**

349 Vero (African green monkey kidney) and MRC5 (human fetal lung) cells were obtained from  
350 and propagated as recommended by ATCC. Viruses used in this study include n12 (DeLuca  
351 and Schaffer, 1988), tsKos (Dremel and DeLuca, 2019) and KOS. n12 virus stocks were  
352 prepared and titered in a Vero-based ICP4 complementing cell line, E5. KOS virus stocks  
353 were prepared and titered in Vero cells. tsKos virus stocks were prepared and titered in Vero  
354 cells at permissive temperature (33.5°C).

355 **Antibodies**

356 The following antibodies were used: Pol II 4H8 (AbCam #ab5408), TBP (AbCam #ab51841),  
357 Sp1 (SantaCruz #sc-17824), Med1 (BD Pharmingen #550429), Med23 (Bethyl #A300-793A),  
358 H3K4me3 (Abcam #ab12209), H3K27me3 (AbCam #ab6002), H3K27acetyl (AbCam  
359 #ab4729), H3K9me3 (AbCam #ab176916), H3 (AbCam #1791), and ICP4 58S (derived from  
360 hybridomas-ATCC HB8183).

361 **Viral Infection**

362 MRC5 cells were infected with 10 PFU per cell. Virus was adsorbed in tricine-buffered saline  
363 (TBS) for 1 hour at room temperature. Viral inoculum was removed, and cells were washed  
364 quickly with TBS before adding 2% FBS media. Infected samples were incubated at 37°C  
365 unless otherwise specified.

366 **ChIP-Sequencing**

367 Infected cells were treated with 5 mL of 25% formaldehyde for 15 minutes at room  
368 temperature, followed by 5 mL of 2.5 M glycine. All following steps were performed at 4°C  
369 unless otherwise stated. Cultures were washed with TBS and scraped into 50 mL of FLB [5  
370 mM 1,4-Piperazinediethanesulfonic acid (PIPES) pH 8, 85 mM KCl, 0.5% Igepal CA-630, 1x  
371 Roche protease inhibitor cocktail]. Cells were pelleted by low-speed centrifugation,

372 resuspended in 1.1 mL RIPA buffer [1x phosphate-buffered saline (PBS), 0.5% sodium  
373 deoxycholate, 0.1% sodium dodecyl sulfate (SDS), 1x Roche protease inhibitor cocktail].  
374 Sample was sonicated for 6 intervals of 30 seconds with a Sonics Vibra-Cell VCX 130  
375 sonicator equipped with a 3-mm microprobe and pelleted at 2000 xg for 15 minutes. 50  $\mu$ L  
376 was stored as an input control, and the remainder was divided equally to use in  
377 immunoprecipitations (IP). 2-4x10<sup>7</sup> MRC5 cells were applied per IP. Samples were  
378 immunoprecipitated with 25  $\mu$ g (TBP, Sp1), or 10  $\mu$ g (Pol II, H3K4me3, H3K27me3,  
379 H3K27ac, H3K9me3, H3) antibody. Antibody was previously bound to 50  $\mu$ L of Dynabeads  
380 M280 sheep anti-mouse IgG beads, or Dynabeads M280 sheep anti-rabbit IgG beads in 5%  
381 bovine serum albumin (BSA) 1x PBS overnight. DNA samples were bound to the antibody-  
382 bead complex overnight rotating. The IP mixtures were washed seven times with LiCl wash  
383 buffer [100 mM Tris-HCl buffer pH 7.5, 500 mM LiCl, 1% Igepal CA-630, 1% sodium  
384 deoxycholate] and once with Tris-EDTA (TE) buffer. Beads were resuspended in IP elution  
385 buffer [1% SDS, 0.1M NaHCO<sub>3</sub>] and incubated at 65°C for 2 h 900 rpm. Input aliquot was  
386 suspended in IP elution buffer. Input and IP samples were incubated at 65°C 900 rpm  
387 overnight. The samples were extracted with phenol-chloroform-isoamyl alcohol (25:24:1) and  
388 with chloroform-isoamyl alcohol (24:1) and then purified using Qiagen PCR cleanup columns.  
389 Each sample was quantified using a Qubit 2.0 fluorometer (Invitrogen) and 2-20 ng was used  
390 to create sequencing libraries using the NEBNext Ultra II DNA Library preparation kit (NEB  
391 #E7103S). Libraries were quantified using the Agilent DNA 7500 Kit, and samples were  
392 mixed together at equimolar concentration. Illumina HiSeq 2500 single-end 50 bp sequencing  
393 was carried out at the Tufts University Core Facility.

394 **ATAC-Sequencing**

395 We adapted the protocol from Buenrostro et al.(Buenrostro et al., 2013). Briefly, 2 million  
396 MRC5 cells were plated into 60 mm dishes and allowed to grow overnight. Cells were

397 infected as described above. Uninfected and n12 infected cells were harvested at 4 hpi. WT  
398 HSV-1 infected cells were harvested pre-replication at 2 hpi. Infected samples were washed  
399 once with chilled TBS and lysis-1 buffer [10 mM Tris-HCl pH 7.4, 10 mM NaCl, 3 mM MgCl<sub>2</sub>].  
400 Samples were incubated with 2 mL lysis-2 buffer [10 mM Tris-HCl pH 7.4, 10 mM NaCl, 3  
401 mM MgCl<sub>2</sub>, 0.1% Igepal CA-630] for 3 minutes on ice. Cells were gently resuspended and  
402 dounced until nuclei were visible via trypan blue staining. Nuclei were spun at 500 g for 10  
403 min at 4°C and resuspended in lysis-1 buffer. 500 µL (10<sup>6</sup> cells) was transferred to an  
404 ependorf tube and spun at 500 g for 10 min at 4°C. Nuclei were resuspended in 22 µL buffer  
405 TD (Illumina Catalog No. 15027866) 2.5µL TDE1 (Illumina Catalog No. 15027865) and 22.5  
406 µL water and incubated at 37°C for 30 min gently shaking. DNA was purified using the  
407 MinElute PCR purification kit (Qiagen Cat No./ID: 28004). PCR amplification was performed  
408 for 8-14 total cycles. Libraries were quantified using the Agilent DNA 7500 Kit, and samples  
409 were mixed together at equimolar concentration. Illumina HiSeq 2500 single-end 50 bp  
410 sequencing was carried out at the Tufts University Core Facility.

411 **Data Analysis**

412 *ChIP-Seq*

413 Data was uploaded to the Galaxy web platform, and we used the public server at  
414 usegalaxy.org to analyze the data (Guerler et al., 2018). Data was first aligned using Bowtie2  
415 (Langmead and Salzberg, 2012) to the human genome (hg38), and then unaligned reads  
416 were mapped to the HSV-1 strain KOS genome (KT899744.1). Bam files were visualized  
417 using DeepTools bamcoverage (Ramírez et al., 2016) with a bin size of 1 to generate bigwig  
418 files. Data was viewed in IGV viewer and exported as EPS files. Bigwig files were normalized  
419 for sequencing depth and genome quantity. Mapped reads were multiplied by the “norm  
420 factor” which was calculated as the inverse of *(Input cellular reads)/(Input cellular +*

421 *viral mapped reads (TMR))*  $\times$  *Billion sample TMR or (Input viral reads )/TMR*  $\times$   
422 *Million sample TMR*. ChIP-Seq experiments were repeated for a total of 2 to 4 biological  
423 replicates. The normalized bigwig files were averaged between replicates. Heatmaps and  
424 gene profiles were generated using MultiBigwigSummary (Ramírez et al., 2016) on  
425 normalized cellular bigwig files to all UCSC annotated mRNAs. Gene profiles and heatmaps  
426 were plotted using plotProfile and plotHeatmap (Ramírez et al., 2016). Spearman correlation  
427 analysis was performed using deeptools plotCorrelation on multiBigwigSummary limited to  
428 cellular transcripts (Ramírez et al., 2016).

429 *Peak Calling*

430 Viral peaks were called using MACS2 call peak (Feng et al., 2012), pooling treatment and  
431 control files for each condition. Due to the small size of the viral genome (151974 bp) we  
432 could not use the shifting model option (--nomodel). To offset the dense binding of ICP4 we  
433 used a fixed background lambda as local lambda for every peak region and a more  
434 sophisticated signal processing approach to find subpeak summits in each enriched peak  
435 region (--call-summits).

436 Cellular peaks were called using MACS2 (Feng et al., 2012). We first removed non-uniquely  
437 mapped sequences with SAMtools, filter SAM or BAM for a minimum MAPQ quality score of  
438 20 (Subgroup et al., 2009). We determined the approximate extension size for each IP using  
439 MACS2 predictd, and averaging the size estimate between replicates. We ran MACS2 call  
440 peak for individual replicates and pooled samples with no shifting model (--nomodel). To  
441 determine high confidence peaks present in each MACS2 output we used Galaxy Operate on  
442 Genomic Intervals, Join. Peak intersection was analyzed for intersection size and jaccard  
443 statistic using JaccardBed (Ramírez et al., 2016). ChIPseeker was run on MACS2 outputs to  
444 assess the cellular regions bound in each condition (Yu et al., 2015).

445 *Motif Discovery*

446 Bedtools Multiple Intersect (Quinlan and Hall, 2010) was used to compare the MACS2 output  
447 for ICP4 IP at 2, 4, and 6 h. A BED file was generated for regions +/- 100 bp from the  
448 summits of each identified peak. Peaks in common between all three experimental conditions  
449 were used to generate a fasta file using GetFastaBed (Quinlan and Hall, 2010) Peaks  
450 present in all three time points were submitted to MEME v.4.11.1.0 for motif analysis (Bailey  
451 et al., 2009). The consensus sequence in Fig. 1 had the most significant E-value, and was  
452 the only motif found in more than 5 peaks.

453 *Correlation Analysis*

454 To assess quality and reproducibility of data we assessed normalized bigwig files for each IP  
455 replicate. For cellular and viral alignments we ran MultiBigwigSummary (Ramírez et al., 2016)  
456 with a bin size of 10,000 and 50 bp, respectively. Raw bin counts were plotted and a linear  
457 regression analysis was performed (Fig. S2-3).

458 *ATAC-Seq*

459 Data was first aligned using Bowtie2 (Langmead and Salzberg, 2012) to the human genome  
460 (hg38), and then unaligned reads were mapped to the HSV-1 strain KOS genome  
461 (KT899744.1). Bam files were visualized using DeepTools bamcoverage (Ramírez et al.,  
462 2016) with a bin size of 1 to generate bigwig files. Data was viewed in IGV viewer and  
463 exported as EPS files. Bigwig files were normalized for sequencing depth, or billion total  
464 reads. Heatmaps and gene profiles were generated using MultiBigwigSummary (Ramírez et  
465 al., 2016) on normalized cellular bigwig files to all UCSC annotated mRNAs. Gene profiles  
466 and heatmaps were plotted using plotProfile and plotHeatmap (Ramírez et al., 2016). To  
467 calculate the percentage of total DNA corresponding to the virus or host in n12 and WT HSV-  
468 1 infection, we utilized ChIP-Seq input reads. We calculated the average percentage of total  
469 reads which mapped to either the virus or host in four biological replication ChIP-Seq

470 samples. We used this value to calculate the number of viral genomes contained within each  
471 nucleus. This value was used to determine the tagmentation enrichment observed relative to  
472 the actual amount of genome content present.

473 **Data Availability**

474 All data are publicly accessible in the SRA database (PRJNA553543, PRJNA553555,  
475 PRJNA553559, PRJNA553563, PRJNA508791).

476

477

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610

611

## FIGURES LEGENDS

612 **Fig. 1. ICP4 binding at key points in the viral life cycle.** MRC5 cells were infected with  
613 HSV-1 for 2, 4, or 6 h, and ChIP-Seq for ICP4 was performed. A) Quantification of ICP4  
614 binding (IP), viral genomes (Input), or ICP4 binding per genome (IP/Input). B) ICP4  
615 consensus binding motif. C-D) ICP4 binding normalized per viral genome. Viral ORFs are  
616 indicated, color coded by gene class with IE as yellow, E as green, leaky late (L1) as blue,  
617 and true late (L2) as purple. FIMO identified genome sequences matching the consensus  
618 motif in B are indicated in red. E) Intersection of MACS2 identified ICP4 occupied regions.

619

620 **Fig. 2. ICP4 recruitment of host Pol II machinery to viral promoters.** MRC5 cells were  
621 infected with an ICP4 null mutant (n12) or HSV-1 (WT) for 2.5 h and ChIP-Seq for ICP4, Pol  
622 II, TBP, Sp1, Med1, and Med23 was performed. Data quantified as in Fig. 1. A) Fold change  
623 of n12 over WT aligned to the viral genome. Loci with greater binding in n12 or WT are  
624 colored in green or red, respectively. B) ChIP-Seq reads normalized per viral genome and  
625 aligned to canonical IE and E genes.

626

627 **Fig. 3. ICP4 dependence of viral genome accessibility and Histone H3 binding.** MRC5  
628 cells were infected with an ICP4 null mutant (n12) or HSV-1 (WT) and harvested prior to  
629 genome replication. A) ChIP-Seq for ICP4, Pol II, and H3 was performed. Data aligned to the  
630 viral genome and quantified as in Fig. 1. B-C) ATAC-Seq data normalized for total  
631 sequencing depth. C) Quantitative analysis of ATAC-Seq data, measuring the relative  
632 fragmentation enrichment for the virus or host as compared to expected.

633

634 **Fig. 4. ICP4 binds cellular promoters during early infection.** MRC5 cells were infected  
635 with HSV-1 for 2, 4, or 6 h, and ChIP-Seq for ICP4 was performed. Data was aligned to the

636 human genome (hg38) and normalized for cellular genome sampling. A) FIMO identified  
637 genome sequences matching the consensus motif in Fig. 1B are indicated in red. B, E-F)  
638 ICP4 binding to cellular mRNAs. Scaled from E) transcription start site (TSS) to transcription  
639 end site (TES), or B, F) +/-1 kilobase from the TSS. D) Intersection of MACS2 peaks. C) Top  
640 10 enriched Reactome groups for genes (n=2190) with ICP4 bound at the promoter at 2 h.

641

642 **Fig. 5. Association between cellular ICP4 binding and chromatin.** MRC5 cells were  
643 uninfected or infected with HSV-1 for 2 h. Data was aligned to the human genome (hg38) and  
644 normalized for sequencing depth. A, C-D) ChIP-Seq data for ICP4, Pol II, H3, H3K4me3,  
645 H3K27acetyl, H3K9me3, and H3K27me3. B) ATAC-Seq data normalized as in Fig. 3. A-B)  
646 Sequencing data centered +/-1 kilobase from the TSS of cellular mRNAs. Data was stratified  
647 for ICP4 binding using K-means clustering. C) Spearman correlation analysis, limited to  
648 cellular transcripts. D) Intersection of MACS2 peaks, analyzed as number of intersecting  
649 peaks or Jaccard statistic.

650

651 **Fig. 6. The role of ICP4 in Pol II loss on host promoters.** MRC5 cells were A-B) uninfected  
652 or infected with n12 or WT HSV-1 and harvested prior to genome replication or C-D) infected  
653 with tsKos and grown at permissive conditions (P), shifted up from permissive to  
654 nonpermissive conditions at 4 hpi (S), or nonpermissive conditions (N). A-D) ChIP-Seq for  
655 Pol II was performed and data was aligned to cellular promoters +/- 1 kilobase from TSS. The  
656 average signal for each condition plotted as a line graph.

657

658 **Fig. 7. Model for ICP4 function.** ICP4 preferentially binds to the more accessible viral  
659 genome recruiting cellular transcription factors preferentially to the viral genome, thus  
660 activating the virus and inhibiting cellular transcription.

661

662 **Fig. S1.** MRC5 cells were infected with an ICP4 null mutant (n12) or HSV-1 (WT) for 2.5 h  
663 and ChIP-Seq for ICP4, Pol II, TBP, Sp1, Med1, and Med23 was performed. ICP4 binding  
664 normalized per genome quantity. Viral ORFs are indicated, color coded by gene class with IE  
665 as yellow, E as green, L1 as blue, and L2 as purple.

666

667 **Fig. S2.** Analysis of ChIP-Seq data quality. Normalized viral aligned bigwig files were  
668 assessed using MultiBigwigSummary in 50 bp bins. The values within these bins were plotted  
669 for biological replicates and a linear regression analysis was performed.

670

671 **Fig. S3.** Analysis of ChIP-Seq data quality. Normalized cellular aligned bigwig files were  
672 assessed using MultiBigwigSummary in 10,000 bp bins. The values within these bins were  
673 plotted for biological replicates and a linear regression analysis was performed.

674

675 **Fig. S4.** MRC5 cells were infected with an ICP4 null mutant (n12) or HSV-1 (WT) for 2 h and  
676 ChIP-Seq for ICP4, Pol II, H3, H3K4me3, H3K27acetyl, H3K9me3, and H3K27me3 was  
677 performed. A-B) Factor binding normalized per genome quantity. Viral ORFs are indicated,  
678 color coded by gene class with IE as yellow, E as green, L1 as blue, and L2 as purple.

679

680 **Fig. S5.** MRC5 cells were uninfected or infected with HSV-1 for 2 h, and ChIP-Seq for ICP4,  
681 Pol II, H3, H3K4me3, H3K27acetyl, H3K9me3, and H3K27me3 was performed. Data was  
682 aligned to the human genome (hg38).

683

684 **Fig. S6.** MRC5 cells were infected with HSV-1 for 2 h, and ChIP-Seq for ICP4, Pol II, H3,  
685 H3K4me3, H3K27acetyl, H3K9me3, and H3K27me3 was performed. Data was aligned to the

686 human genome (hg38). IP peaks consistent between biological duplicate experiments were  
687 determined using MACS2. ChIPSeeker assessment of bound regions for each set of IP  
688 peaks.

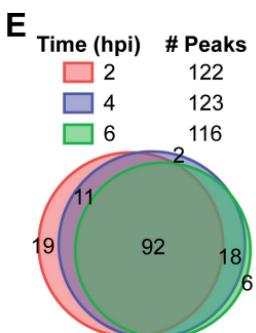
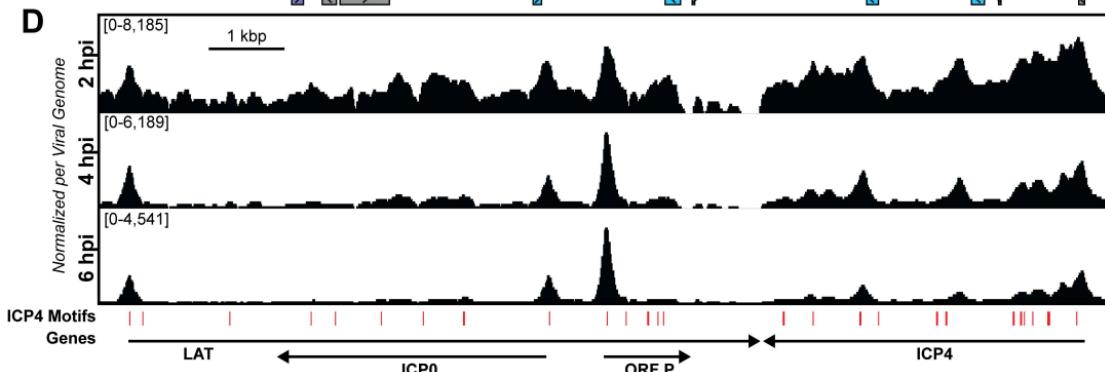
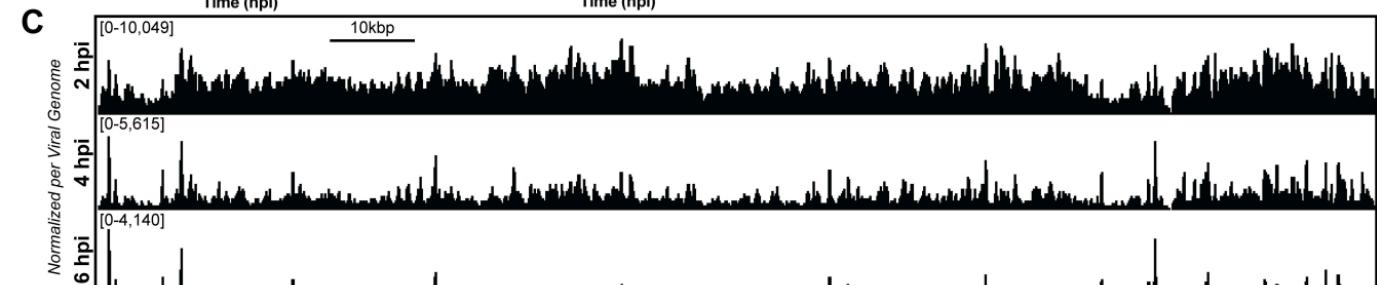
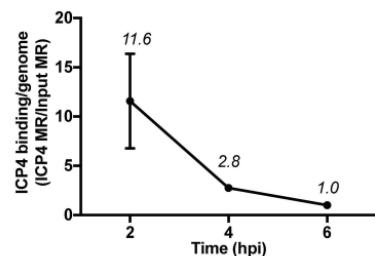
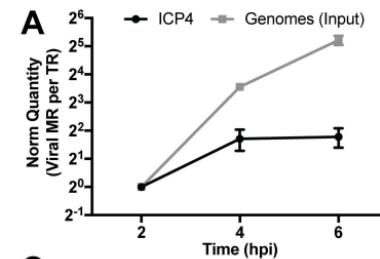
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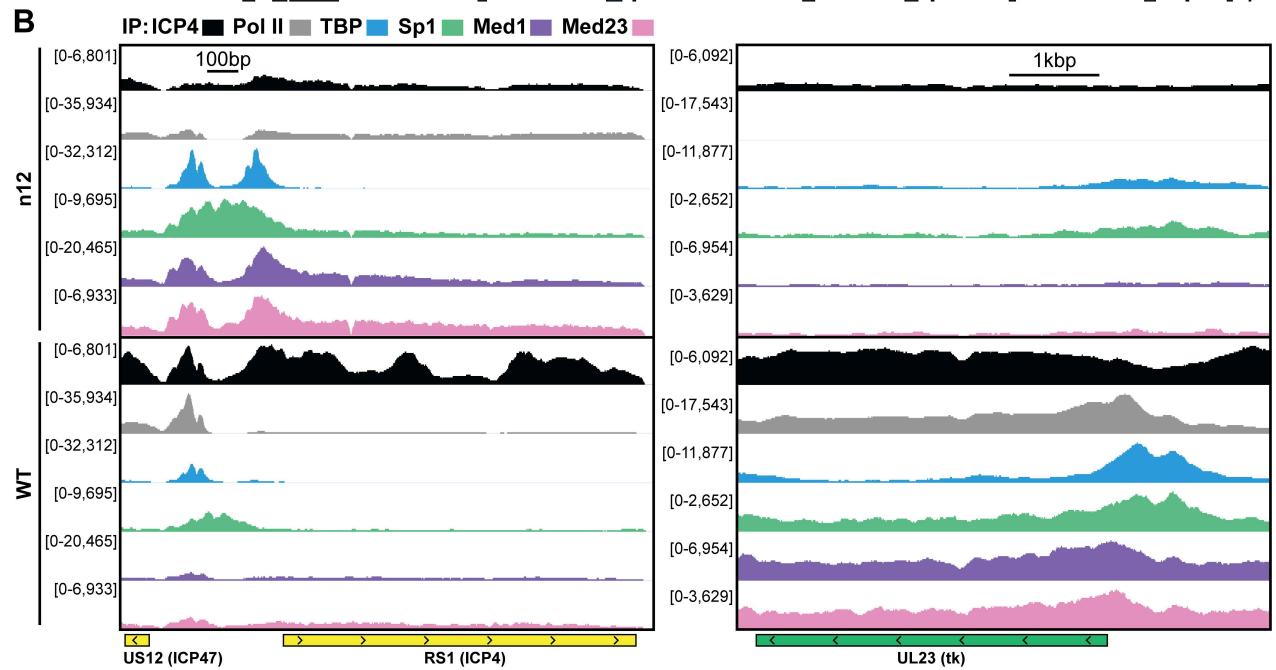
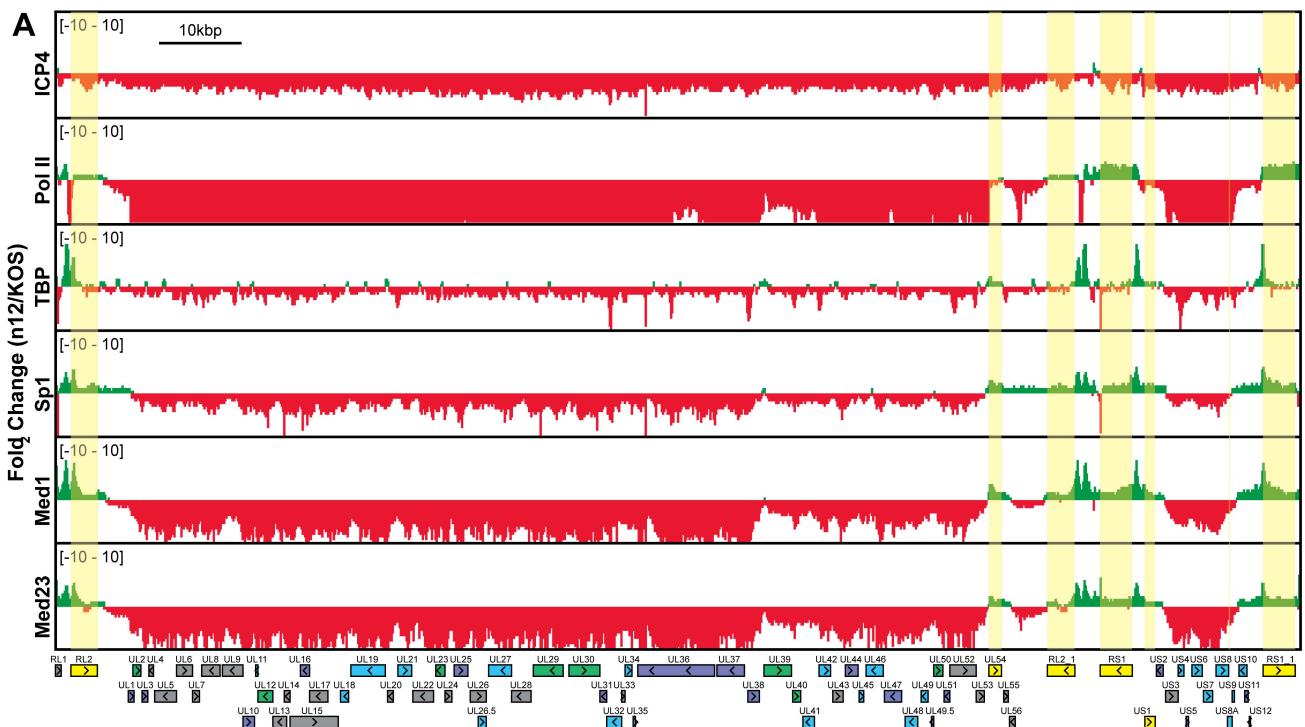
690

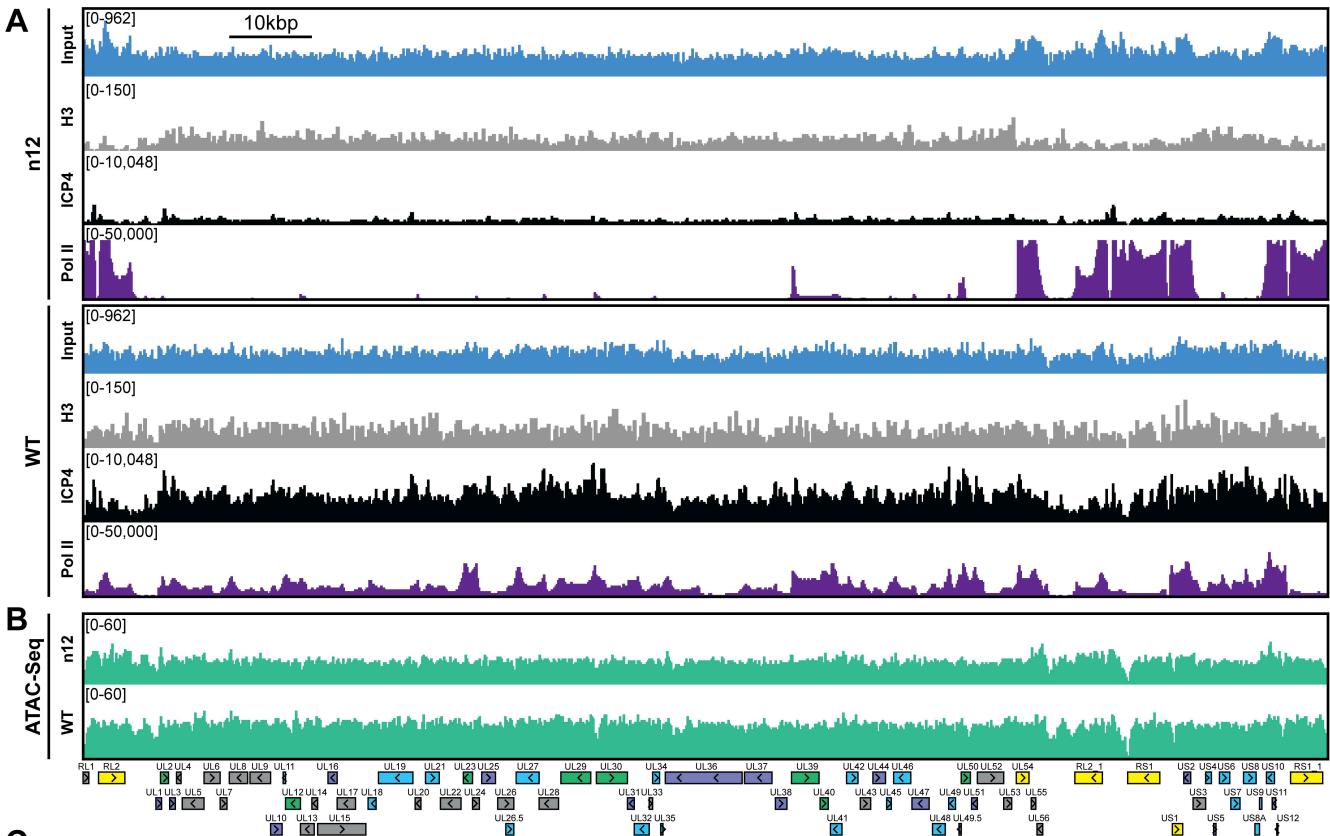
691

### **Acknowledgements:**

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695 assistance.





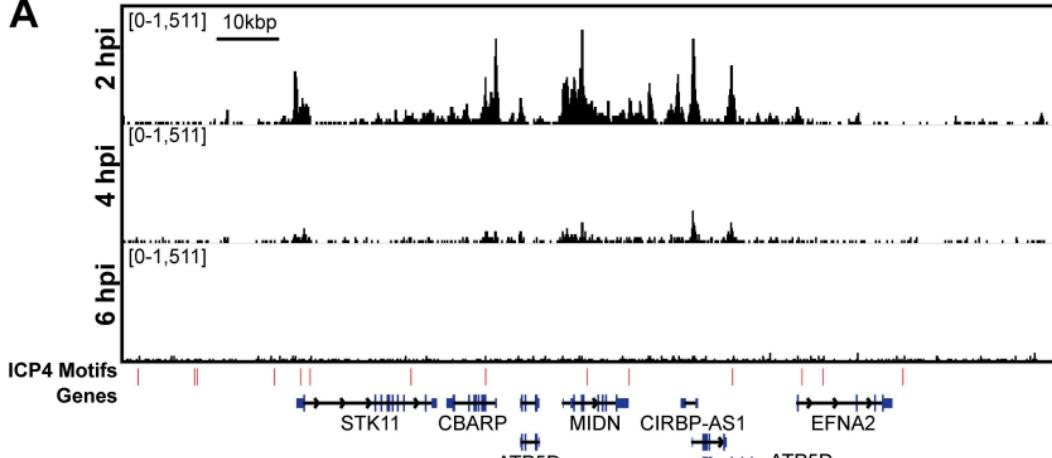
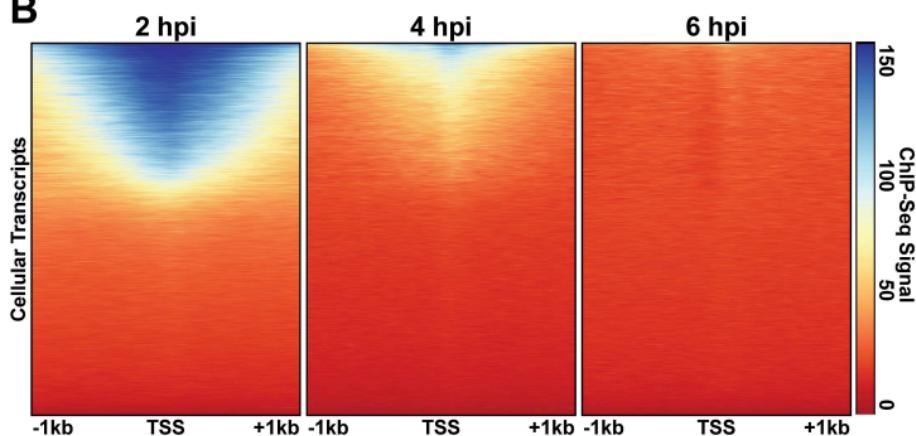
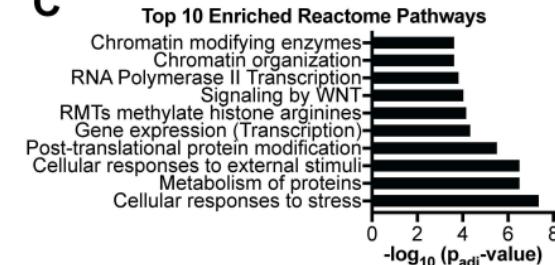


**C**

Sample	Genome	Genome Size (bp)	Genome Copy #	Total DNA (bp)	% of Total DNA*	ATAC-Seq Read %	Fold enrichment over expected**
n12	Host	3.2E+09	2	6.4E+09	99.4 (±0.4)	98.3	0.99 (±0.03)
	Viral	1.5E+05	254 (±169)	3.9 (±2.6) x10 <sup>7</sup>	0.6 (±0.4)	1.7	2.8 (±1.1)
	Rel Diff	2.1E+04		377			
WT 2h	Host	3.20E+09	2	6.40E+09	99.6 (±0.01)	98.4	0.99 (±0.0001)
	Viral	1.52E+05	169 (±4)	2.6 (±0.06) x10 <sup>7</sup>	0.4 (±0.01)	1.6	4.0 (±0.1)
	Rel Diff	2.13E+04		721			

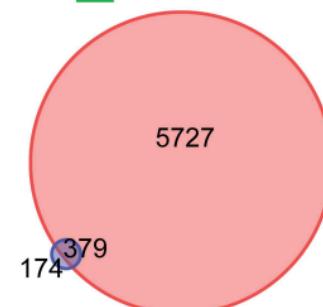
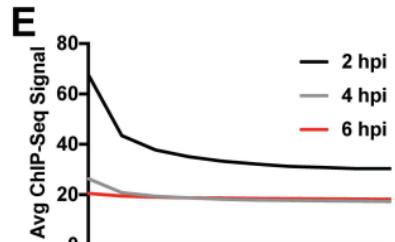
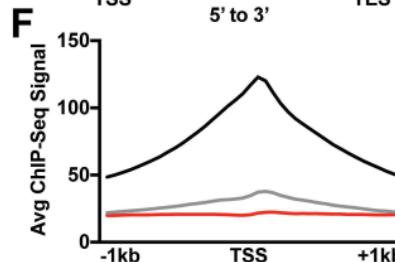
\*Based on percent of total reads from ChIP-Seq Input reads, values are the mean (± SD) of four biological replicates

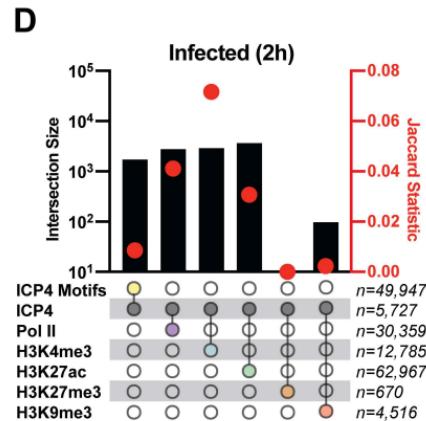
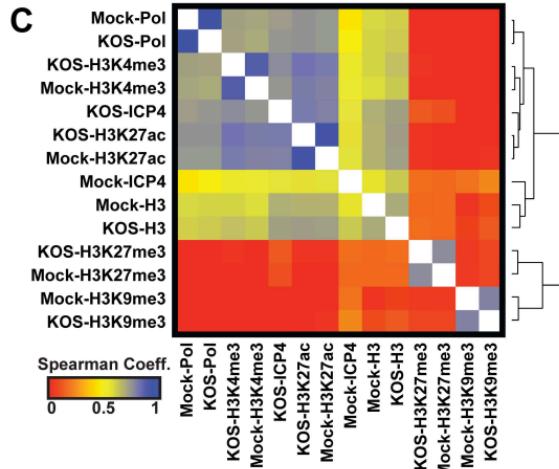
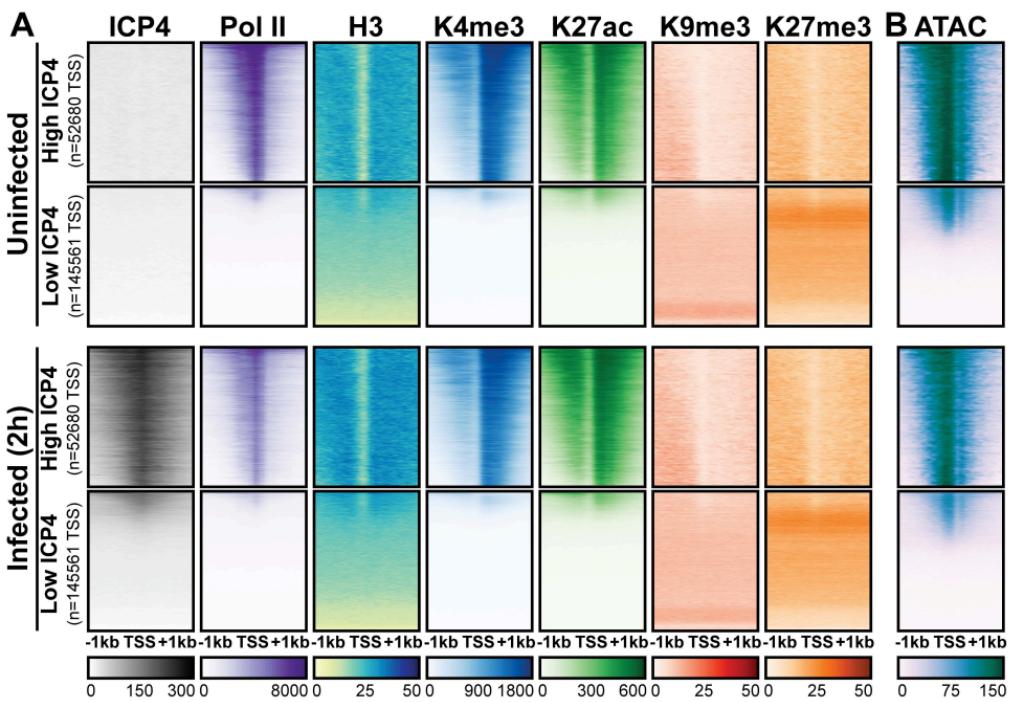
\*\*Fold enrichment=ATAC-Seq read percentage/percentage of Total DNA

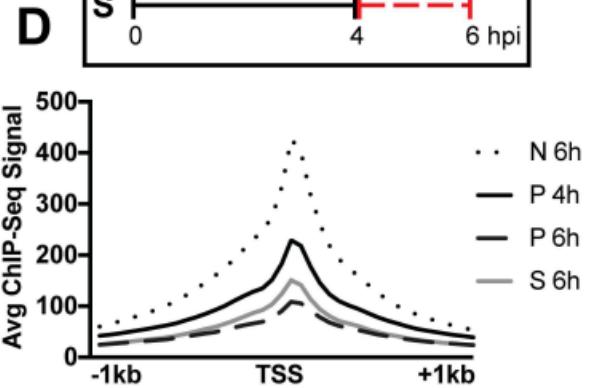
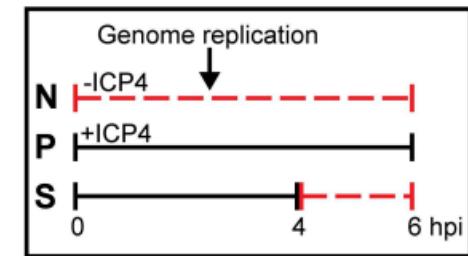
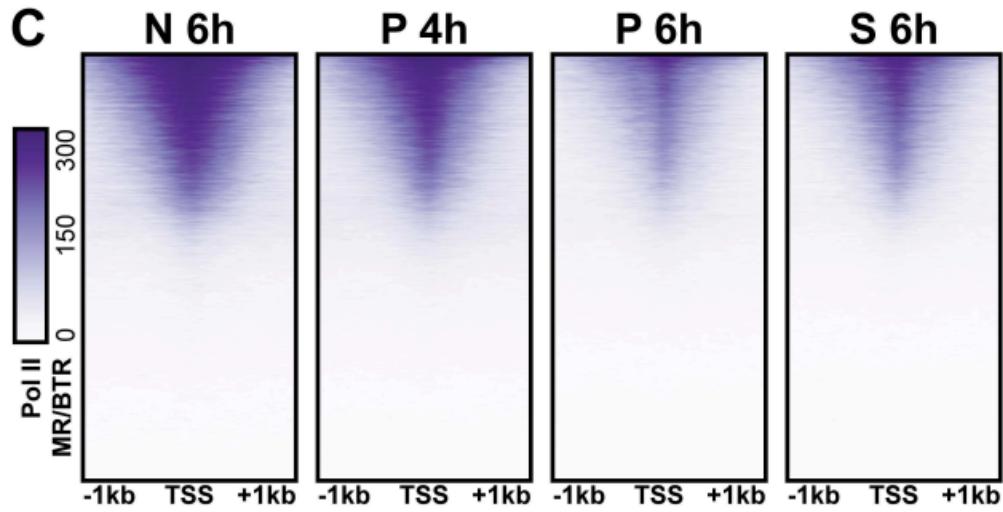
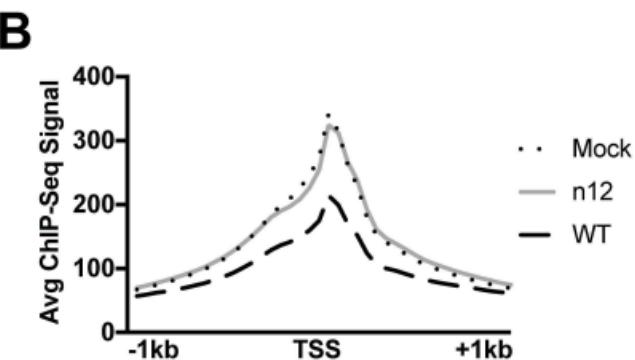
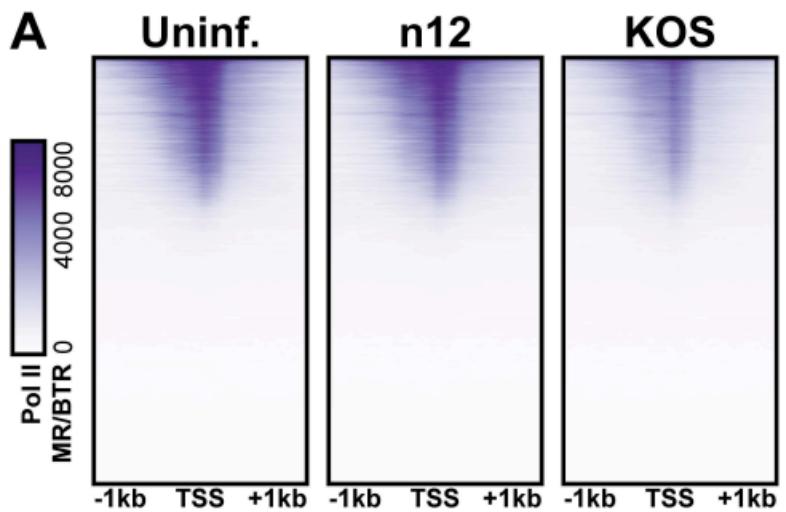
**A****B****C**

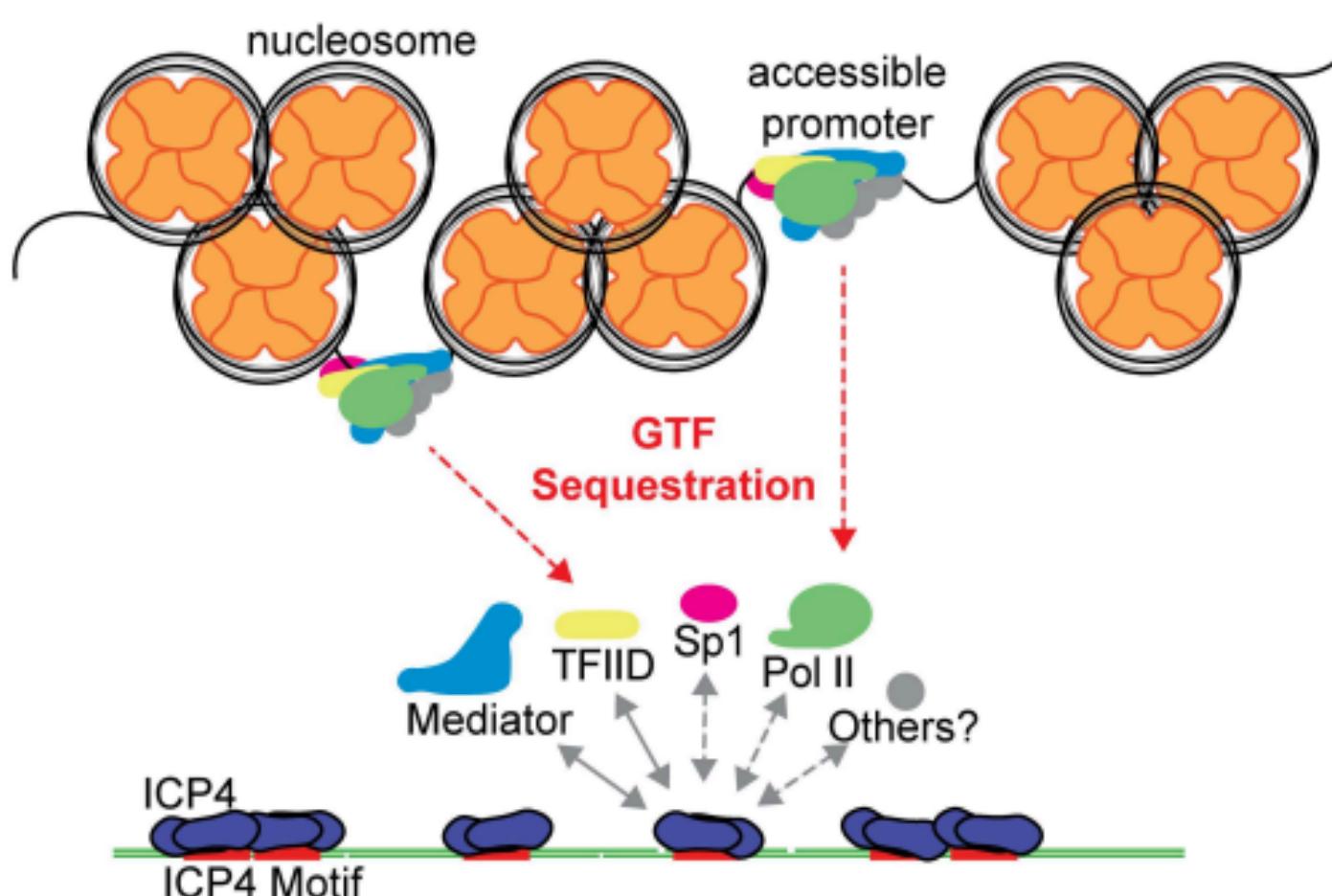
Time (hpi) # Peaks

2	5,727
4	553
6	0

**E****F**





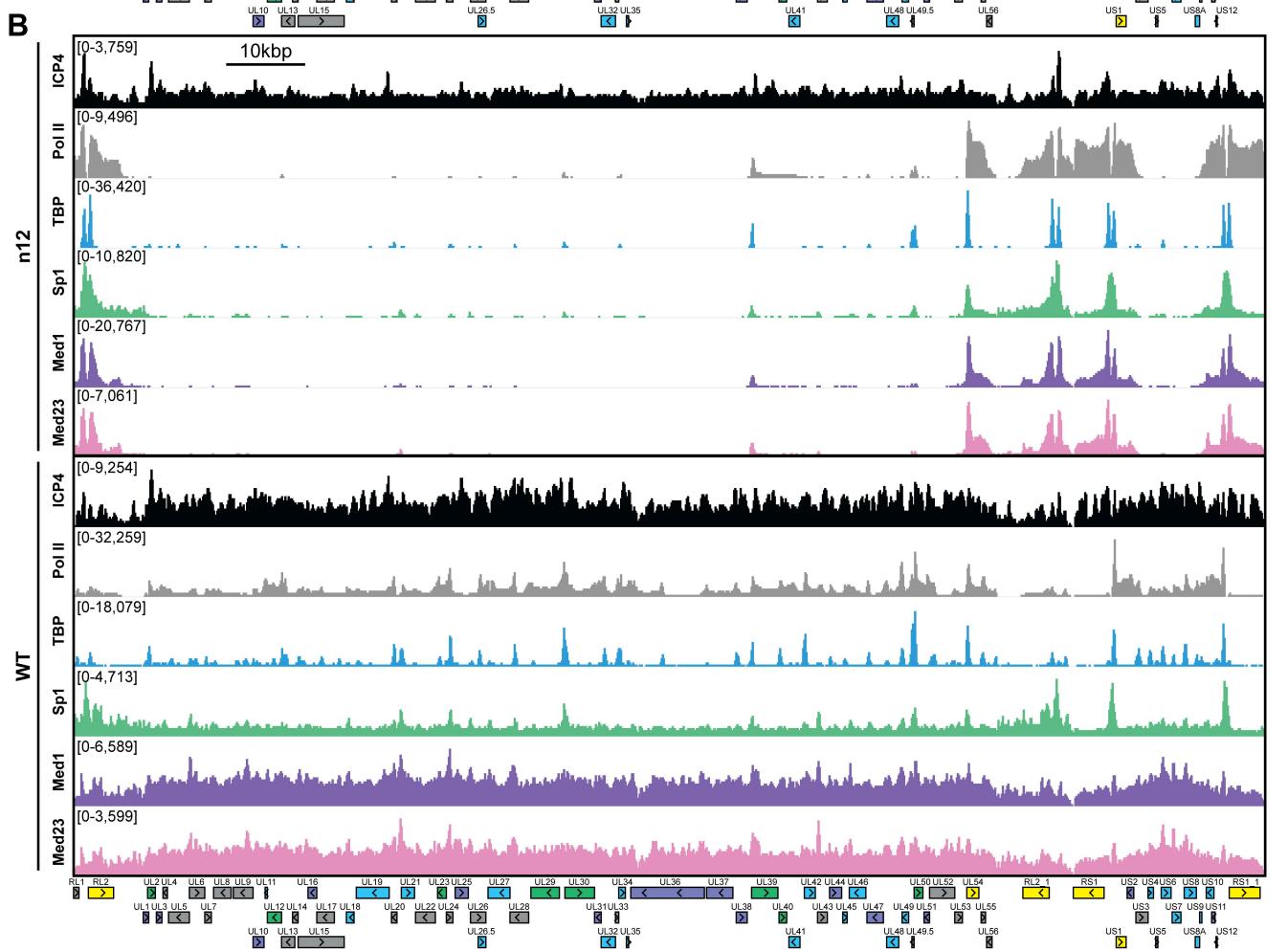
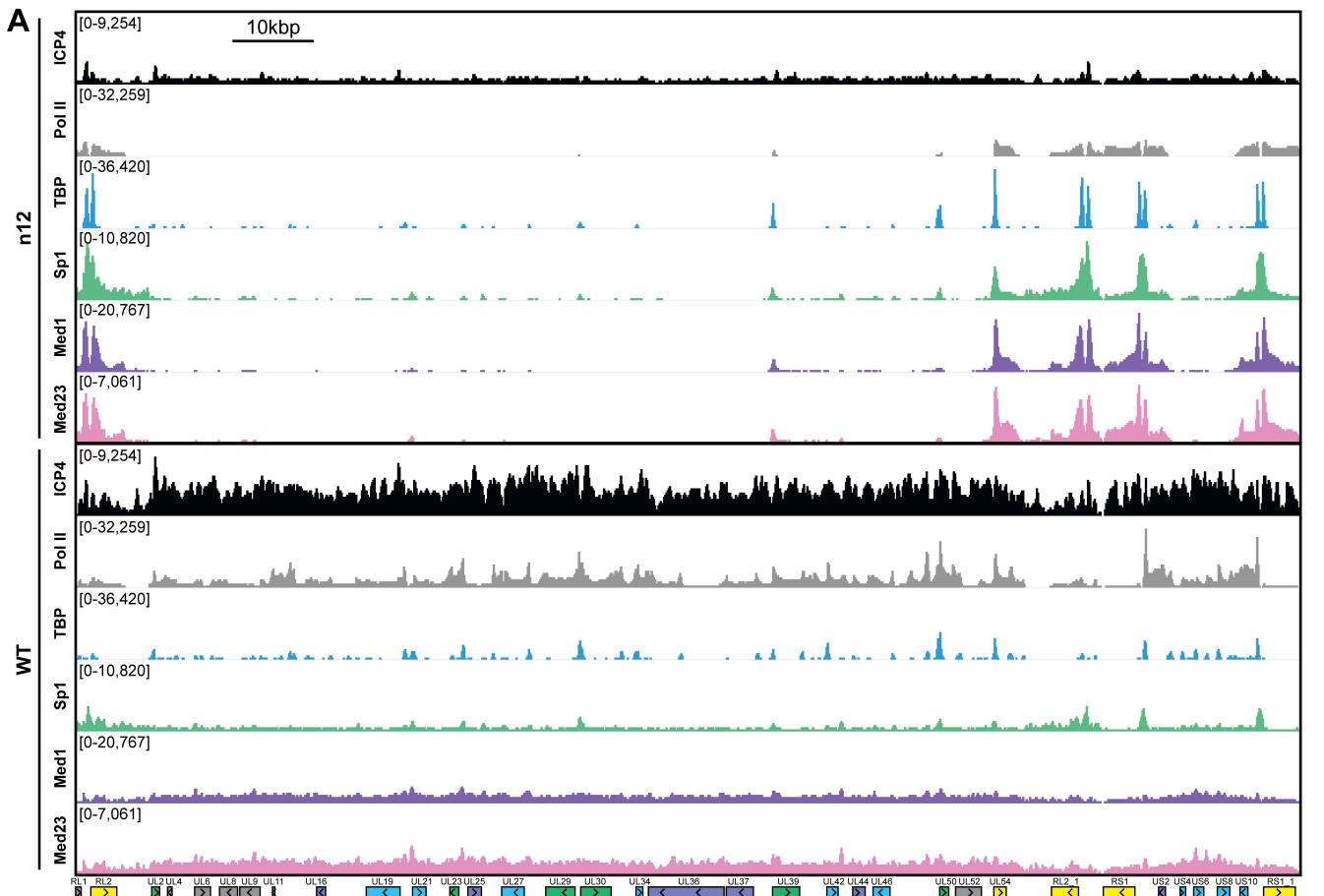


## Cellular Genome

*0.02 ICP4 motifs per kbp  
0.002 ICP4 peaks per kbp  
bound by nucleosomes  
minimal Pol II transcription*

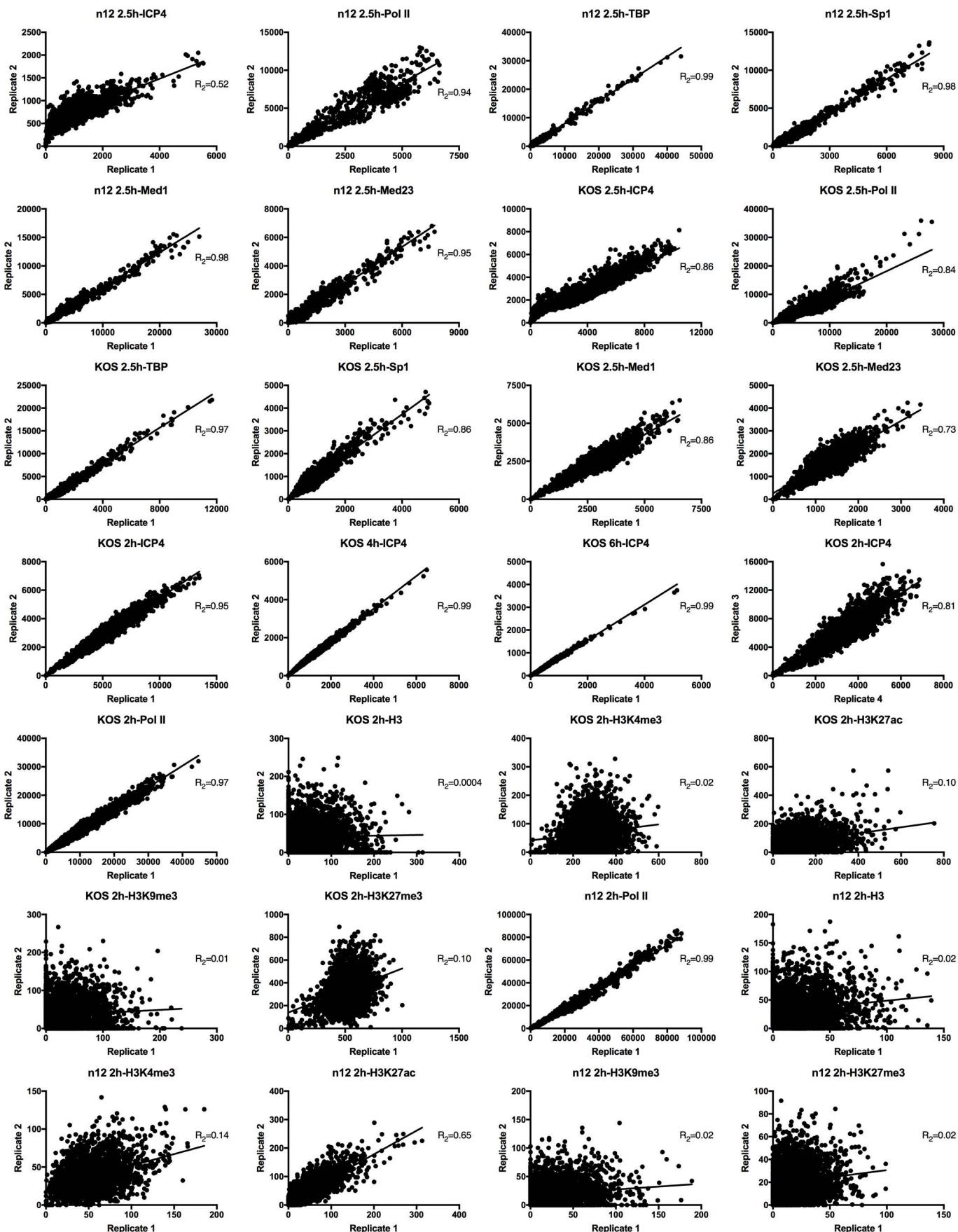
## Viral Genome

*2.0 ICP4 motifs per kbp  
0.8 ICP4 peaks per kbp  
not associated with nucleosomes  
robust Pol II transcription*



# Viral Alignments

## bin size=50 bp



# Cellular Alignments

bin size=10,000 bp

