

**The CONJUDOR pipeline for multiplexed knockdown of gene pairs identifies RBBP-5 as a germ cell reprogramming barrier in *C. elegans***

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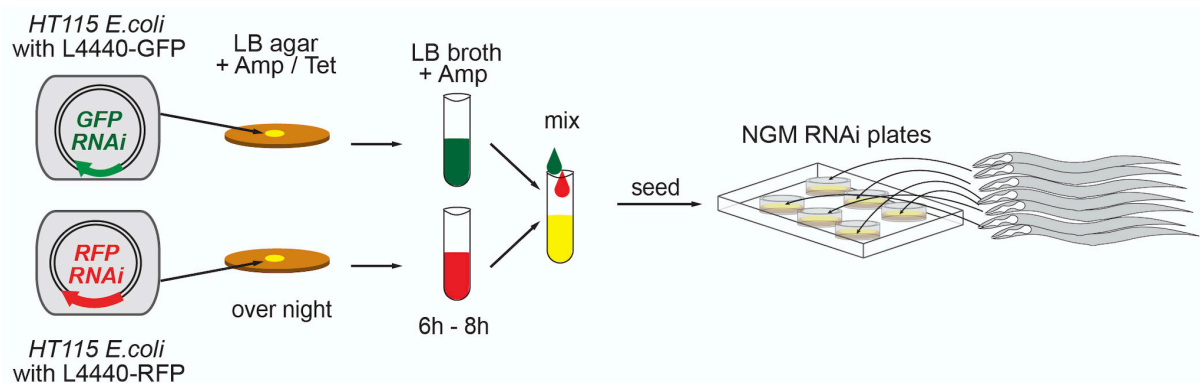
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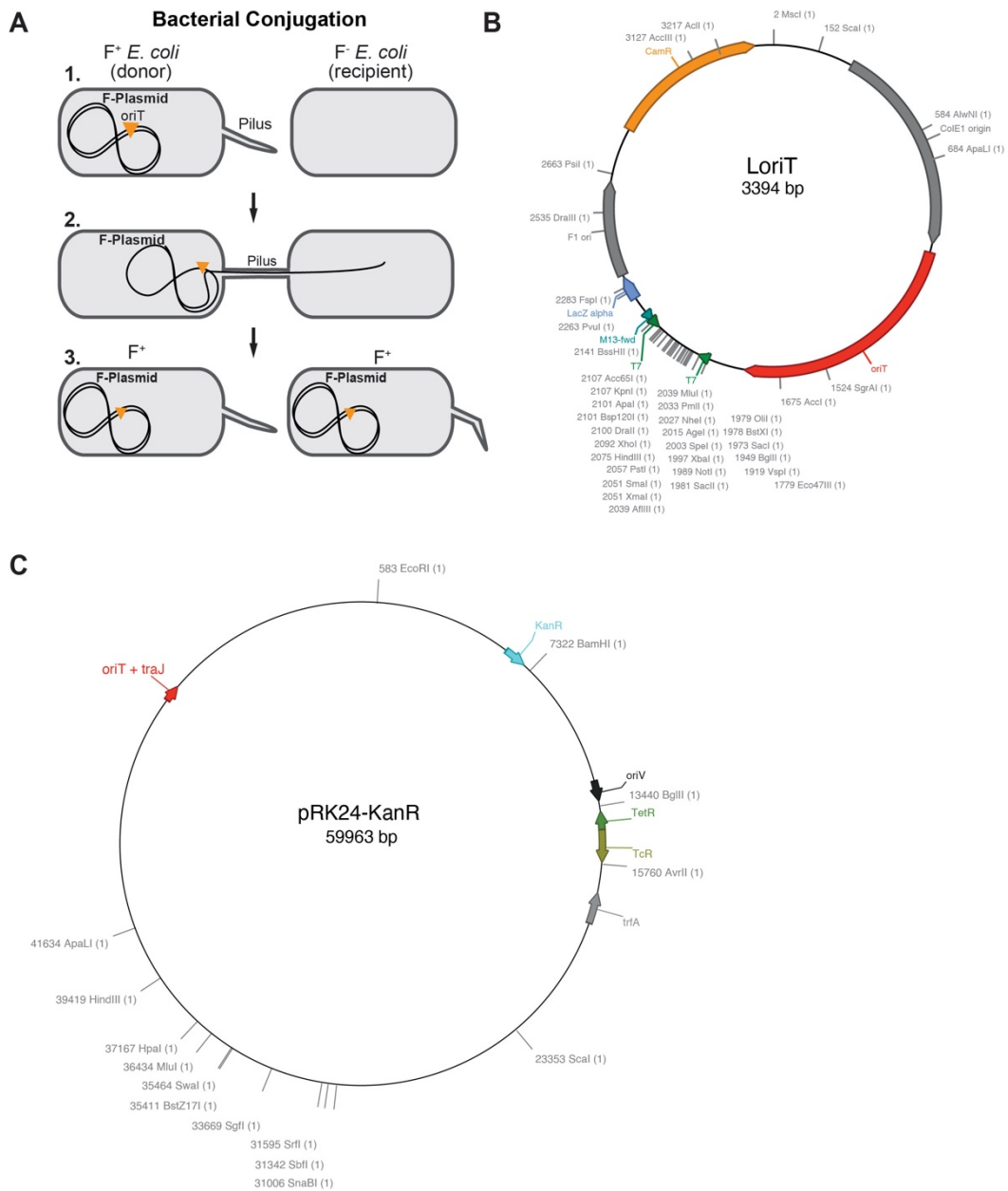
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**SUPPLEMENTAL FIGURES**

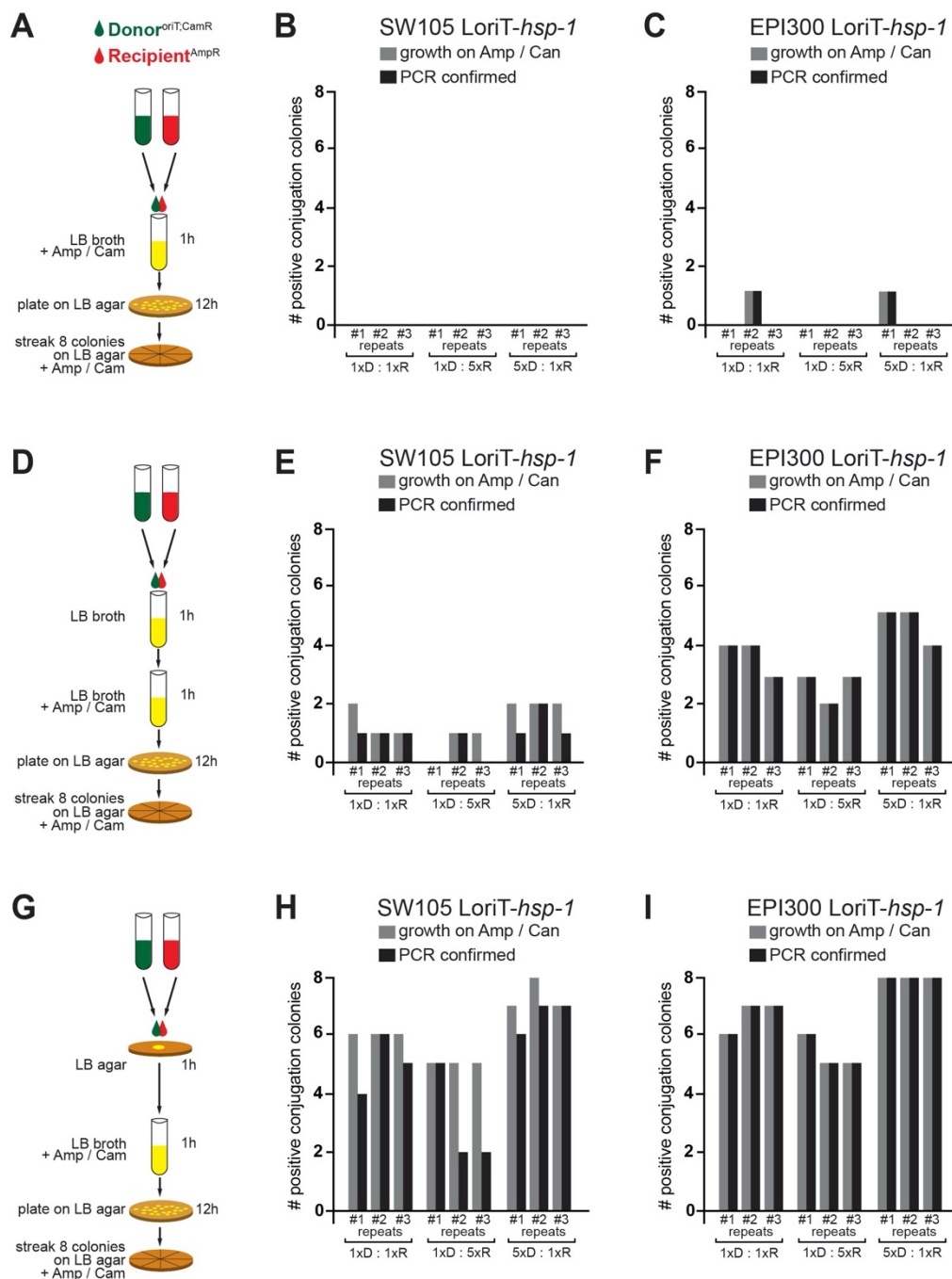


**Supplemental Figure 1: Double RNAi in *C. elegans* by mixing bacteria.** RNAi in *C. elegans* is straightforward and can be applied by feeding worms with bacteria that produce dsRNA against the target gene. The standard procedure to perform simultaneous knockdown of two genes is to mix two bacterial strains each producing specific dsRNAs. The illustration shows mixing of bacteria that produce dsRNA against *GFP* or *RFP*. The dsRNA is produced by *HT115 E. coli* bacteria that contain the RNAi plasmid L4440 plasmid. The gene of interest is cloned into L4440, which allows IPTG-induced dsRNA production.



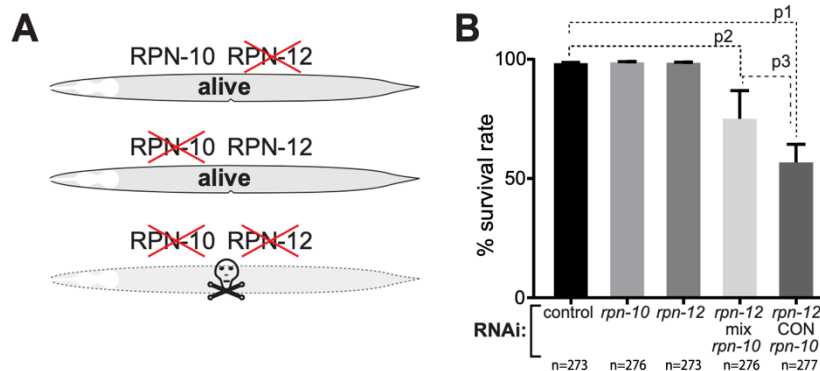
**Supplemental Figure 2: Generating a bacterial conjugation system to combine RNAi plasmids.**

(A) Competence for bacterial conjugation requires presence of the fertility factor, also termed F-plasmid, which contains several genes of the *tra* locus for the formation of a pilus appendage. Bacteria with the F-plasmid are denoted as F<sup>+</sup> (donor) connect via the pilus to F<sup>-</sup> bacteria (recipient) and transfer plasmids or other genetic material containing an *oriT* to the recipient. (B) Generating the selectable ‘donor’ RNAi plasmid based on *L4440*, which can be transferred by conjugation, needed the addition of the *oriT* and replacement of AmpR with Chloramphenicol (CamR) resistance. This allows selection for presence of the transferred RNAi plasmid together with the resident AmpR-containing *L4440* RNAi plasmid after conjugation. We termed the newly generated donor plasmid ‘*LoriT*’, which is basically *L4440* carrying *oriT* and CamR instead AmpR. (C) To adopt bacterial conjugation for combining RNAi plasmids, we made the F-plasmid *pRK24* (1) we replaced the Ampicillin resistance (AmpR) of *pRK24* with Kanamycin resistance (KanR) since *L4440* used in the standard ‘Ahringer’ *C. elegans* RNAi library (2, 3) already carries AmpR. To exchange AmpR with KanR we used recombineering, as previously described (4) due to the extensive size of *pRK24*.

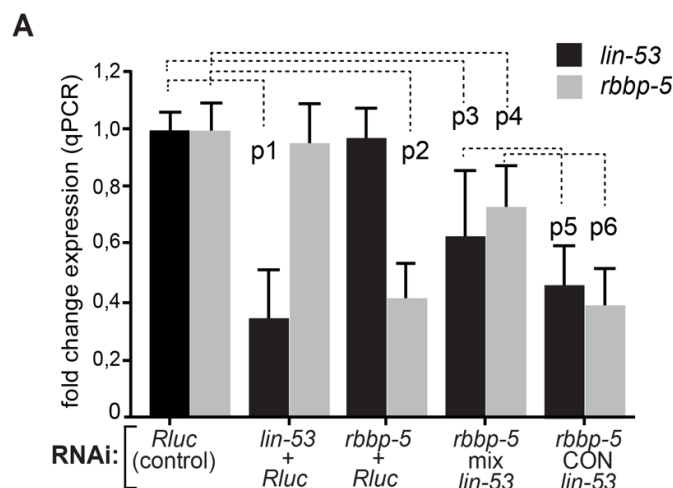


**Supplemental Figure 3: Assessment of conjugation procedures for efficient transfer.** (A) Conjugation in liquid culture by combining F<sup>+</sup> donor bacteria (*SW105* or *EPI300* containing *pRK24-Kan*) and recipient *HT115*. Incubation of donor and recipient bacteria in liquid LB media containing Amp/Can for 1h and subsequent plating on LB-Agar plates for 12h. The last step of streaking 8 colonies (if any grown) was to test for colony PCR to verify presence of donor (*LoriT-hsp-1*, CamR) and recipient (*L4440-ogt-1*, AmpR). (B and C) The two *E. coli* strains *SW105* or *EPI300* were used previously to handle large DNA constructs such as fosmids (4) and therefore chosen as the host strains for the *pRK24-KanR* episome (F-plasmid for conjugation competence). We aimed for testing 8 colonies from each procedure of conjugation either combining a ratio of 1:1, 1:5, or 5:1 of donor D and recipient R bacteria. In some cases no colonies were obtained. Obtained colonies were tested by PCR to confirm successful conjugation. The procedure as shown in (A) performed overall poorly. (D) Conjugation by combining donor and recipient bacteria in liquid LB media without antibiotics for 1h, and then with Amp/Can for 1h

with subsequent plating on LB-agar plates to select at least 8 colonies (if any grown) for examining by PCR. (E and F) As for (B and C) but with more obtained colonies. Still the yield is low and *SW105* F<sup>+</sup> donor bacteria appeared to perform very poorly. As before, we could not even obtain 8 colonies for this procedure as shown in (D) to test. (G) Conjugation on solid LB-agar without antibiotics by combining donor and recipient bacteria for 1h. Afterwards, incubation in liquid LB broth with Amp/Cam for 1h (either directly adding liquid LB, if performed in 96-well or transferring colony to culture tube) with subsequent plating on LB-Agar plates (Amp/Cam) to select at least 8 colonies for examining by PCR. (H and I) this procedure yielded the most efficient conjugations; however the use of *SW105*-based donor bacteria showed less robustness. The use of 5:1 (donor D : recipient R) yielded highly efficient conjugation with correct conjugation in all tested cases.



**Supplemental Figure 4: Synthetic lethality induced upon co-depletion of proteasomal subunits.** (A) We targeted the 26S-Proteasome subunit genes *rpn-10* and *rpn-12*, which cause synthetic lethality when co-depleted (5). (B) CONJUDOR-mediated simultaneous knockdown of *rpn-10* and *rpn-12* reduced survival by around 50%. In contrast, 25% of the animals fed with mixed *rpn-10* and *rpn-12* RNAi bacteria died indicating that CONJUDOR is more efficiently depleting *rpn-10* and *rpn-12* simultaneously. Control: Rluc RNAi. Statistics: t-test with two-tailed distribution. p1 = 0.0001; p2 = 0.007; p3 = 0.007; Total analyzed animals (triplicate) n = 1375; Error bars represent SEM. For detailed scoring numbers see Suppl. Table 4.



**Supplemental Figure 5: Quantification of mRNA levels by qPCR upon *lin-53* and *rbbp-5* knockdown.** RNAi was performed as described before with Rluc as control, which was also used to mix 1:1 for single RNAi experiments. Quantitative PCR (qPCR) was performed and quantified by comparative  $2^{-\Delta\Delta CT}$  method as described previously (6, 7) and in material and methods. As reference genes *cdc-42* and *pmp-3* were used. 4 biological repeats each with triplicate measurements were performed. Statistics: Student's t-Test with two-tailed distribution with homoscedastic variance. p1= < 0.0001; p2= < 0.0001; p3= 0,024; p4= 0,012; p5= 0.039; p6= 0.004 Error bars represent SEM. Primer sequences are provided in Suppl. Table 2.

## SUPPLEMENTAL TABLES

**Supplemental Table 1: RNAi clones used in the study**

Target Gene	Function	Source
<i>lin-53</i>	histone-chaperone LIN-53 ortholog of human RBBP4	Chromatin RNAi library; Hajduskjova et al., 2019
<i>rpn-10</i>	proteasome subunit	Chromatin RNAi library; Hajduskjova et al., 2019
<i>rpn-12</i>	proteasome subunit	Chromatin RNAi library; Hajduskjova et al., 2019
<i>rbbp-5</i>	Retino blastoma protein binding Protein; Set1/MLL methyltransferase complex member	Chromatin RNAi library; Hajduskjova et al., 2019
<i>oma-1</i>	Oocyte Maturation defective; Zn-Finger	Ahringer RNAi library; Kamath et al., 2003
<i>oma-2</i>	Oocyte Maturation defective; Zn-Finger	Ahringer RNAi library; Kamath et al., 2003
<i>gld-1</i>	Translational regular; ortholog of human QKI - KH domain containing RNA binding	Ahringer RNAi library; Kamath et al., 2003
<i>mex-3</i>	ortholog of human MEX3A RNA binding family member	Ahringer RNAi library; Kamath et al., 2003

RNAi clones used for CONJUDOR screen in combination with *LoriT-lin-53* (Figure 6) were derived from the Chromatin RNAi library described in Hajduskjova et al., 2019 (see Table S1 from Hajduskjova et al., 2019; Genetics; doi: 10.1534/genetics.118.301674) (8).

**Supplemental Table 2: Primers used in the study**

*cloning rpn-10*

oMK03 FWD tgg atc cac cgg ttc cat ggT GGA ATT CTG TCA ATG GCA AAG

oMK04 REV ggg atc cac gcg tca cgt ggG AGC TCC ATC CAC ATC CAT TTG

*cloning rpn-12*

oMK05 FWD tgg atc cac cgg ttc cat ggA AAT CTT CTG GCT GTG TG

oMK06 REV ggg atc cac gcg tca cgt ggT GCT AAA ACA ATG CAT CG

*cloning oma-1*

oMK33 FWD tgg atc cac cgg ttc cat ggC CGA ATG CAG AAA CCA GAA TC

oMK34 REV ggg atc cac gcg tca cgt ggG GCC AAG TTT CTA TGG GAC

*cloning oma-2*

oMK35 FWD tgg atc cac cgg ttc cat ggC CGA ATG CAG AAA CCA GAA TC

oMK36 REV ggg atc cac gcg tca cgt ggA AAC GGA CTG ATT GGA CG

*cloning Cam*

oBT1135 FWD taa act tgg tct gac agT TAC GCC CCG CCC TGC CA

oBT1137 REV ttg ttt att ttt cta aat aca ACG TAA GAG GTT CCA ACT TTC ACC ATA ATG AAA TAA GAT CAC

*cloning Kan*

oBT1263 FWD ttc gag ctc cac gcg CCT GTG ACG GAA GAT CAC TTC

oBT1264 REV gag ctc aaa atc ccg cAG CGC TTT TCC GCT GCA T

oBT1414 FWD GAA GTT TTA AAT CAA TCT AAA GTA TAT ATG AGT AA ACT TGG TCT GAC AGt tat tag aaa  
aat tca tcc agc aga cg

oBT1415 REV TGT ATT TAG AAA AAT AAA CAA ATA GG GGT TCC GCG CAC ATT TCC CCG AAA AGc gcg  
gaa ccc cta ttt gt tta ttt ttc

*cloning oriT*

oBT1285 FWD            cca ccg gtt cca tgg GGC GCT CGG TCT TGC CTT  
oBT1286 REV            cca cgc gtc acg tgg AGC GCT TTT CCG CTG CAT AAC

*cloning lin-53*

oBT2241 FWD            tgg atc cac cgg ttc cat ggC TCG TAA TGA CAC ATG CG  
oBT2242 REV            tga tat cga att cct gca gcG AGA AAT CGC TGA TCT TGG  
oBT2391 FWD            tgg atc cac cgg ttc cat ggC TCG TAA TGA CAC ATG CG  
oBT2392 REV            tga tat cga att cct gca gcG AGA AAT CGC TGA TCT TG

qPCR *lin-53*

oBT4235 FWD            ATGGAACCTCCGAAGATCGC  
oBT4236 REV            CGCTGTTATCCTTCGCAACG

qPCR *rbbp-5*

oBT4239 FWD            TGATGGCAGGGTGCTGATTT  
oBT4240 REV            TGTCGTTTGCAAGAAGTGTGGA

qPCR *cdc-42*            (reference gene for normalization)

oBT4231 FWD            CGACAATTACGCCGTCACAG  
oBT4232 REV            AAACACGTCGGTCTGTGGAT

qPCR *pmp-3*            (reference gene for normalization)

oBT873 FWD            GTT CCC GTG TTC ATC ACT CAT  
oBT874 REV            ACA CCG TCG AGA AGC TGT AGA

### Supplemental Table 3: Media recipes used in the study

LB (Luria Bertani), (liquid medium) (1L): 25 g LB broth (Carl Roth GmbH + Co. KG), ddH<sub>2</sub>O

LB/Amp medium (1 L): 25 g LB broth (Carl Roth GmbH + Co. KG), ddH<sub>2</sub>O, Ampicillin (100 µg/ml final concentration)

LB/Amp plates (1 L): 25 g LB broth (Carl Roth GmbH + Co. KG), 15 g Agar (Carl Roth GmbH + Co. KG), ddH<sub>2</sub>O, Ampicillin (100 µg/ml final concentration)

LB/Amp+Tet plates (1 L): 25 g LB broth (Carl Roth GmbH + Co. KG), 15 g Agar (Carl Roth GmbH + Co. KG), ddH<sub>2</sub>O, Ampicillin (100 µg/ml final concentration), Tetracycline (12.5 µg/ml final concentration)

LB/Amp+Tet+Cam plates: 25 g LB broth (Carl Roth GmbH + Co. KG), 15 g Agar (Carl Roth GmbH + Co. KG), ddH<sub>2</sub>O, Ampicillin (100 µg/ml final concentration)

LB/Amp+Tet plates (1 L): 25 g LB broth (Carl Roth GmbH + Co. KG), 15 g Agar (Carl Roth GmbH + Co. KG), ddH<sub>2</sub>O, Ampicillin (100 µg/ml final concentration), Tetracycline (12.5 µg/ml final concentration), Chloramphenicol (20 µg/mL final concentration)

LB/Cam plates: 25 g LB broth (Carl Roth GmbH + Co. KG), 15 g Agar (Carl Roth GmbH + Co. KG), ddH<sub>2</sub>O, Chloramphenicol (20 µg/mL final concentration)

NGM (1 L): 3 g NaCl, 20 g Agar (CarlRothGmbH+Co.KG), 2,5g Peptone (Becton, Dickinson and Company), ddH<sub>2</sub>O, after autoclaving add: 1 ml Cholesterol (5 mg/ml in 95% EtOH stock solution), 1 ml 1 M MgSO<sub>4</sub>, 1 ml 1 M CaCl<sub>2</sub>, 25 ml 1 M K<sub>2</sub>PO<sub>4</sub>, 1 ml fungizone (Amphotericin B 2.5 mg/ml stock)

NGM for RNAi (1 L): 3 g NaCl, 20 g Agar (CarlRothGmbH+Co.KG), 2,5g Peptone (Becton, Dickinson and Company), ddH<sub>2</sub>O after autoclaving add: 1 ml Cholesterol (5 mg/ml in 95% EtOH), 1 ml 1 M MgSO<sub>4</sub>, 1 ml 1 M CaCl<sub>2</sub>, 25 ml 1 M K<sub>2</sub>PO<sub>4</sub>, 1 ml fungizone (Amphotericin B 2.5 mg/ml stock), add 50 µg/ml ampicillin and 1 mM (final) IPTG



RNAi L4440-rpn-10; L4440-rpn-12; LoriT-rpn-10 conjugated with rpn-12													
RNAi	exp1			exp2			exp3			Average survival	STDEV survival	SEM survival	T.Test with two-tailed distribution using Excel function
	survival	dead	survival %	survival	dead	dead %	survival	dead	dead %				
control ( <i>Rluc</i> )	98,000	0,000	100,000	91,000	0,000	100,000	83,000	1,000	98,810	99,603	0,687	0,397	
<i>rpn-10</i>	87,000	2,000	97,753	87,000	0,000	100,000	100,000	0,000	100,000	99,251	1,297	0,749	
<i>rpn-12</i>	93,000	0,000	100,000	87,000	2,000	97,753	91,000	0,000	100,000	99,251	1,297	0,749	
<i>rpn-12 mix rpn-10</i>	54,000	26,000	67,500	80,000	18,000	81,633	79,000	19,000	80,612	76,582	7,881	4,550	0,007 vs control
<i>rpn-12 CON rpn-10</i>	56,000	37,000	60,215	47,000	48,000	49,474	49,000	40,000	55,056	54,915	5,372	3,102	0,000 vs control
number of animals	388,000	65,000		392,000	68,000		402,000	60,000					total n: 1375,000

BAT28: *otIs305[hsp-16.2::p::che-1::3x4A], nts1[gy-5p::gfp]*

RNAi	exp1			exp2			exp3			Average GFP	STDEV GFP	SEM GFP	
	no GFP	germline GFP	GFP %	no GFP	germline GFP	GFP %	no GFP	germline GFP	GFP %				
control ( <i>Rluc</i> )	45	2	4.26	47	0	0	45	0	0,000	1,418	2,457	1,418	
<i>lin-53</i>	28	22	44	19	23	54,762	29	27	48,214	48,992	5,423	3,131	
number of animals	73	24		66	23		74	27					total n: 287

BAT684: *juls8 [unc-25::GFP]; barEx147 [hsp-16.2/4::unc-30]*

RNAi	exp1			exp2			exp3			Average GFP	STDEV GFP	SEM GFP	
	no GFP	germline GFP	GFP %	no GFP	germline GFP	GFP %	no GFP	germline GFP	GFP %				
control ( <i>Rluc</i> )	41	9	18	44	6	12	46	3	6,122	12,041	5,939	3,429	
<i>lin-53</i>	39	11	22	37	13	26	41	9	18	22	4	2,309	
number of animals	80	20		81	19		87	12					total n: 299

LoriT-*lin-53* conjugated with:  
Chromatin 2.0 library from Hajdukova et al., 2019  
<https://doi.org/10.1534/genetics.118.301674>

clone #	plate #	position	target	well #1			well #2			Average GFP+
				no GFP	germline GFP	% GFP+	no GFP	germline GFP	% GFP+	
27	MH1	C3	<i>hmg-4</i>	69	21	23,333	74	9	10,843	17,088
133	MH2	C12	<i>rbbp-5</i>	42	29	40,845	58	30	34,091	37,468
166	MH2	F8	<i>dpl-1</i>	88	9	9,278	48	7	12,727	11,003
181	MH2	G12	<i>hda-1</i>	41	9	18,000	60	11	15,493	16,746
265	MH3	F8	<i>plk-2</i>	72	23	24,211	66	4	5,714	14,962
267	MH3	G12	<i>nhl-1</i>	48	5	9,434	60	4	6,250	7,842
277	MH3	G11	<i>hpl-2</i>	34	2	5,556	41	1	2,381	3,968
397	MH5	A9	<i>lex-1</i>	39	13	25,000	47	11	18,966	21,983
435	MH5	D8	<i>mys-1</i>	71	16	18,391	70	8	10,256	14,324
582	MH5	H10	<i>set-30</i>	36	3	7,692	55	1	1,786	4,739
483	MH5	H11	<i>set-30</i>	54	3	5,263	74	5	6,329	5,796
603	MH7	B9	<i>csp-1</i>	39	4	9,302	31	1	3,125	6,214
605	MH7	B11	<i>csp-1</i>	40	5	11,111	27	2	6,897	9,004
621	MH7	D3	<i>cbp-1</i>	64	7	9,859	53	2	3,636	6,748
674	MH8	H8	<i>prmt-3</i>	29	7	19,444	44	5	10,204	14,824
675	MH8	H9	<i>set-31</i>	66	9	12,000	71	18	20,225	16,112
716	MH8	C10	<i>ZK337.2</i>	38	3	7,317	45	5	10,000	8,659

BAT684: *juls8 [unc-25::GFP]; barEx147 [hsp-16.2/4::unc-30]*

RNAi L4440- <i>lin-53</i> ; L4440- <i>rbbp-5</i> ; LoriT- <i>lin-53</i> conjugated with <i>rbbp-5</i>													
RNAi	exp1			exp2			exp3			Average GFP	STDEV GFP	SEM GFP	T.Test with two-tailed distribution using Excel function
	no GFP	germline GFP	GFP %	no GFP	germline GFP	GFP %	no GFP	germline GFP	GFP %				
control ( <i>Rluc</i> )	57	6	9,524	33	3	8,333	61	7	10,294	9,384	0,988	0,570	
<i>lin-53</i>	31	9	22,500	40	11	21,569	57	12	17,391	20,487	2,721	1,571	0,612 vs mix
<i>rbbp-5</i>	60	11	15,493	44	20	31,250	50	11	18,033	21,592	4,864	4,884	0,864 vs mix
<i>lin-53 mix rbbp-5</i>	33	9	21,429	65	15	18,750	47	17	26,563	22,247	3,970	2,292	
<i>lin-53 CON rbbp-5</i>	52	39	42,857	29	20	40,816	59	41	41,000	41,558	1,129	0,652	0,001 vs rbbp-5
<i>lin-53 stitch rbbp-5</i>	41	30	42,254	40	39	49,367	45	30	40,000	43,874	4,889	2,823	0,202 vs CON
number of animals	233	74		211	69		274	88					total n: 949,000

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