

**Supplemental information**

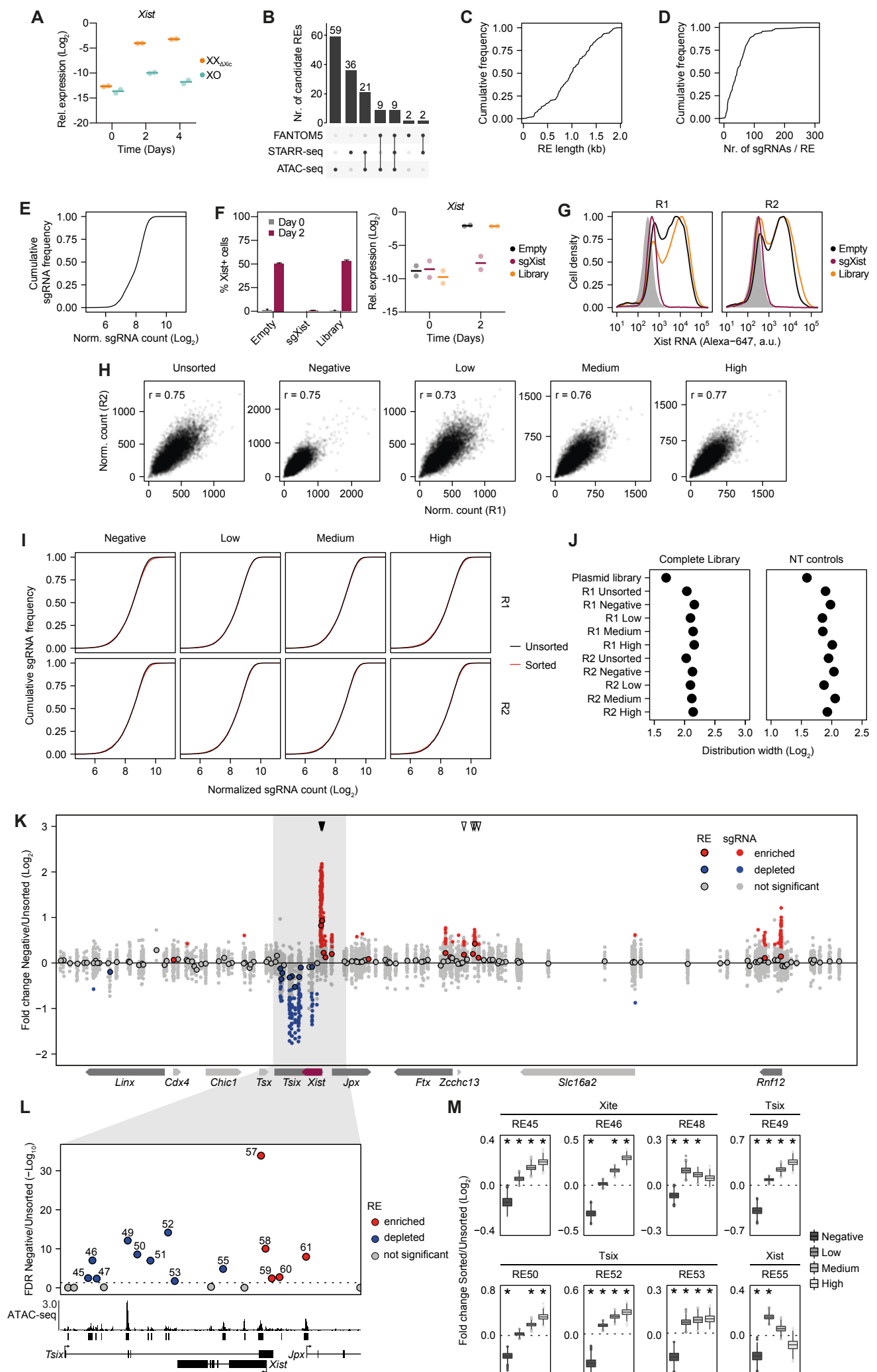
**Distal and proximal *cis*-regulatory elements**

**sense X chromosome dosage**

**and developmental state at the *Xist* locus**

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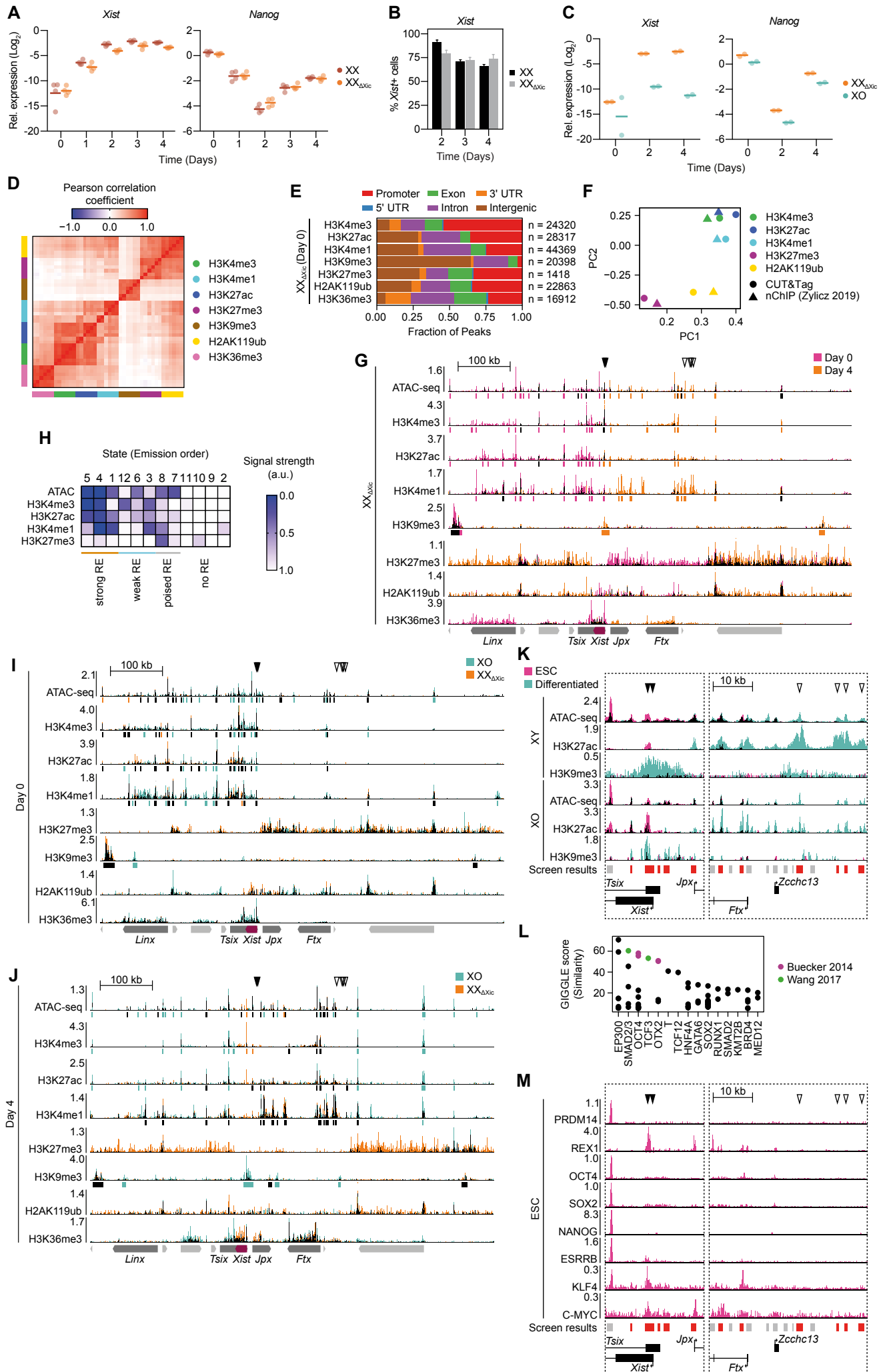
Figure S1



**Figure S1. Identification of *Xist*-regulating genomic elements through a pooled CRISPR screen (Related to Figure 1).**

(A) *Xist* expression assessed by qRT-PCR as quality control, when generating ATAC-seq data showing XX-specific upregulation of *Xist* during differentiation. Dots indicate individual biological replicates (n=2) and horizontal bars the mean. (B) UpsetR plot showing the number of candidate REs identified from the different data sources. (C-D) Cumulative frequency plots showing the distribution of length (C) and the number of sgRNAs (D) across all candidate REs. (E) Cumulative frequency plot showing the distribution of sgRNA counts in the cloned sgRNA library. (F-G) Quality controls for the CRISPR screen in Fig. 1 confirming *Xist* upregulation upon transduction with the sgRNA library (Library) or the empty vector (Empty) and *Xist* repression by a control sgRNA targeting the *Xist* promoter (sgXist). *Xist* was quantified in two biological replicates by RNA-FISH (F, left), qRT-PCR (F, right) and by Flow-FISH (G). For RNA-FISH, 100 cells were counted per replicate and mean and SD are shown. For Flow-FISH both replicates (R1, R2) are shown and undifferentiated cells transduced with the sgRNA library are shaded in grey. (H) Scatterplots showing the correlation between the replicates in the screen for each fraction as indicated. Pearson correlation coefficients are depicted in the panels. (I) Cumulative frequency plots showing the distribution of the sgRNA library in the sorted fractions compared to the unsorted population. (J) Log<sub>2</sub> distribution width (fold change between the 10<sup>th</sup> and 90<sup>th</sup> percentiles) for all sgRNAs (left) and non-targeting (NT) sgRNAs only (right). The NT distribution width was similar across samples, suggesting that sufficient library coverage was maintained during all steps of the screen. (K-L) Comparison of sgRNA abundance in the *Xist*-negative fraction compared to the unsorted population. Small dots in (K) show individual sgRNAs and rimmed circles in (K-L) denote results from a joint analysis of all sgRNAs targeting one RE. Significantly enriched and depleted sgRNAs (*MAGeCK test*, two sided p-value <0.05) and REs (*MAGeCK mle*, Wald.FDR <0.05) are colored red and blue, respectively. Arrowheads in (K) indicate the promoter-proximal elements RE57-58 (filled) and the distal enhancers RE93, 95-97 (open). The entire region targeted in the screen is shown in (K) and a zoom-in around *Xist* in (L). In (L) ATAC-seq data is shown from differentiated XX<sub>ΔXic</sub> cells at day 2. (M) Log<sub>2</sub> fold-change of sorted and unsorted populations for 1000 bootstrap samples of 50 randomly selected sgRNAs. REs in TAD-D with an empirical FDR <0.01 (asterisks) in at least two populations are shown.

Figure S2



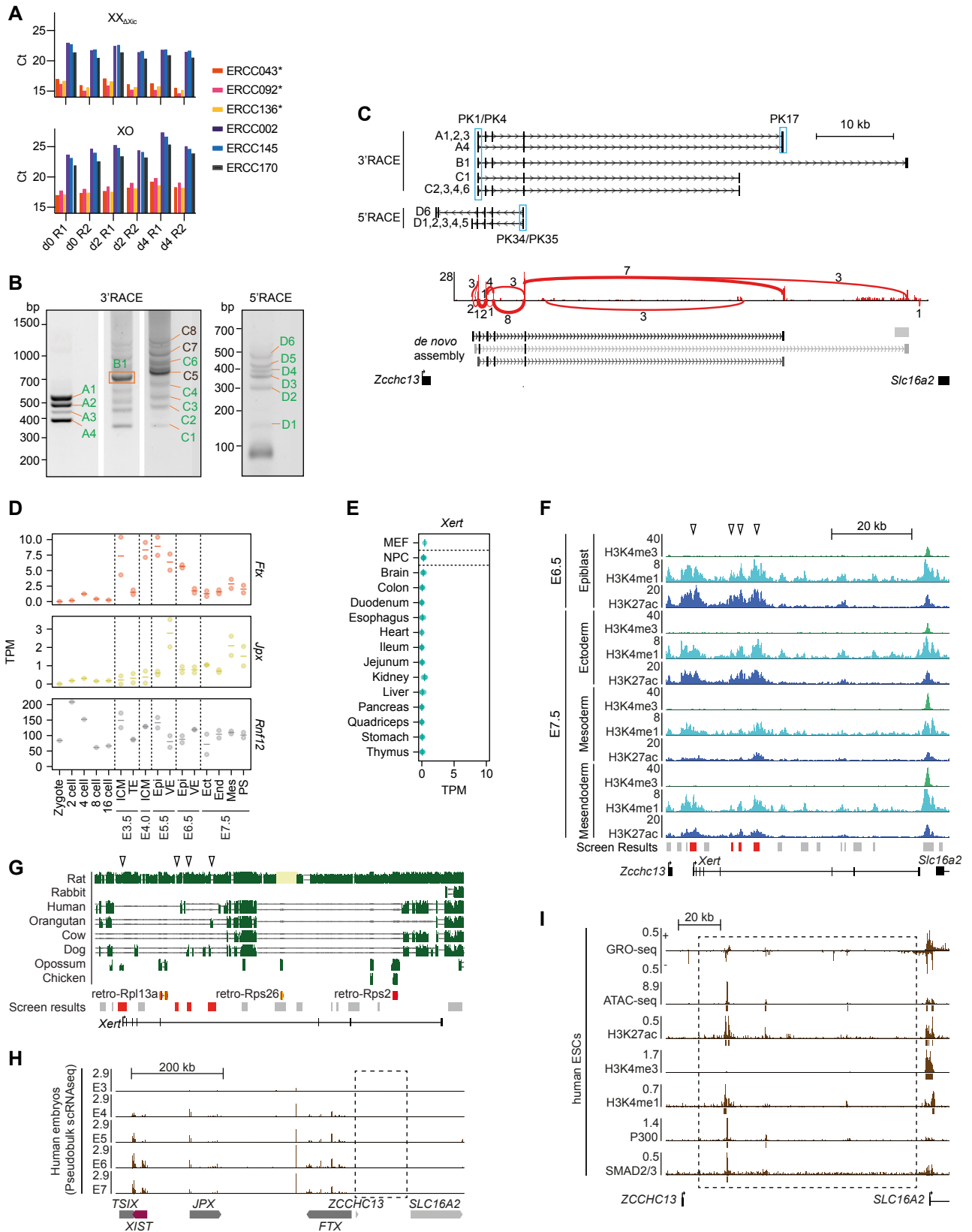


**Figure S2. Differentiation cues and X-dosage control distal, and proximal REs, respectively (Related to Figure 2).**

**(A-B)** qRT-PCR and RNA-FISH comparing the  $XX_{\Delta Xic}$  line with the parental TX1072 cell line. In (A) dots represent 4 independent biological replicates, horizontal bars the mean. In (B) mean and SD of 3 biological replicates are shown. **(C)** qRT-PCR showing expression of *Xist* and *Nanog*, during the differentiation experiment where chromatin was profiled by CUT&Tag. Dots represent 2 independent biological replicates, horizontal bars the mean. **(D)** Heatmap showing the Pearson correlation coefficients between all CUT&Tag samples. Replicates were merged and samples ordered via hierarchical clustering. The expected correlation pattern was observed among modifications associated with active genes (H4K4me1/3, H3K27ac, H3K36me3) and among those associated with polycomb-repression (H3K27me3, H2AK119ub). **(E)** Distribution of CUT&Tag peaks in undifferentiated  $XX_{\Delta Xic}$  mESCs across genomic regions as indicated. Peaks were identified with MACS2 (FDR<0.05). As expected, H3K4me3 is primarily found at promoters, H3K9me3 at intergenic regions (likely repeats) and H3K36me3 at gene bodies. The total number of peaks for each mark is indicated on the right. **(F)** PCA analysis of CUT&Tag read distribution in undifferentiated  $XX_{\Delta Xic}$  cells (circles) together with native ChIP-seq data (Żylicz et al., 2019) (triangles), previously generated in the parental TX1072 cell line in the same culture conditions (2iL). **(G)** DNA accessibility and histone modifications in female  $XX_{\Delta Xic}$  mESCs prior to (Day 0) and at day 4 of differentiation profiled by ATAC-seq and CUT&Tag. The tracks are overlaid in a way that an increased signal at day 0 and day 4 is colored in pink and orange as indicated, while the remaining signal is colored in black. **(H)** Heatmap showing enrichment of CUT&Tag and ATAC-seq signals in chromatin states identified using *ChromHMM*. States were ordered according to the assigned identity shown on the bottom. **(I-J)** DNA accessibility and histone modifications in  $XX_{\Delta Xic}$  and XO mESCs prior to (I) and after 4 days (J) of differentiation profiled by ATAC-seq and CUT&Tag. Overall loss of activity and increased H3K27me3 specifically in  $XX_{\Delta Xic}$  mESCs reflects initiation of gene silencing at the onset of XCI. **(K)** DNA accessibility, H3K27ac and H3K9me3 in XY and XO cells prior to (day 0) and during differentiation (day 2) at the *Xist* promoter area and the most prominent distal enhancer elements. XY data are profiled by ChIP-seq and differentiated towards EpiLC-fate (Bleckwehl et al., 2021). **(L)** Enrichment of ChIP-seq signals in RE93, 95-97 computed through the *Cistrome DB Toolkit*. The colored datasets are shown in Fig. 2I-J. **(M)** ChIP-seq data of pluripotency factors at the *Xist* promoter area and the most prominent distal enhancer elements. The data was collected in XX (REX1) or XY ESCs (all other factors) (Chronis et al., 2017; Gontan et al., 2012; Tu et al., 2016).

In (G,I,J) vertical bars below the tracks mark peaks identified in at least one time point and are colored corresponding to the increased condition if the signal is significantly different (FDR<0.05) between the conditions across both biological replicates. Arrowheads in (G, I-K, M) indicate the promoter-proximal elements RE57-58 (filled) and the distal enhancers RE93, 95-97 (open). The screen results (Fig. 1) are shown below the tracks in (K, M).

Figure S3

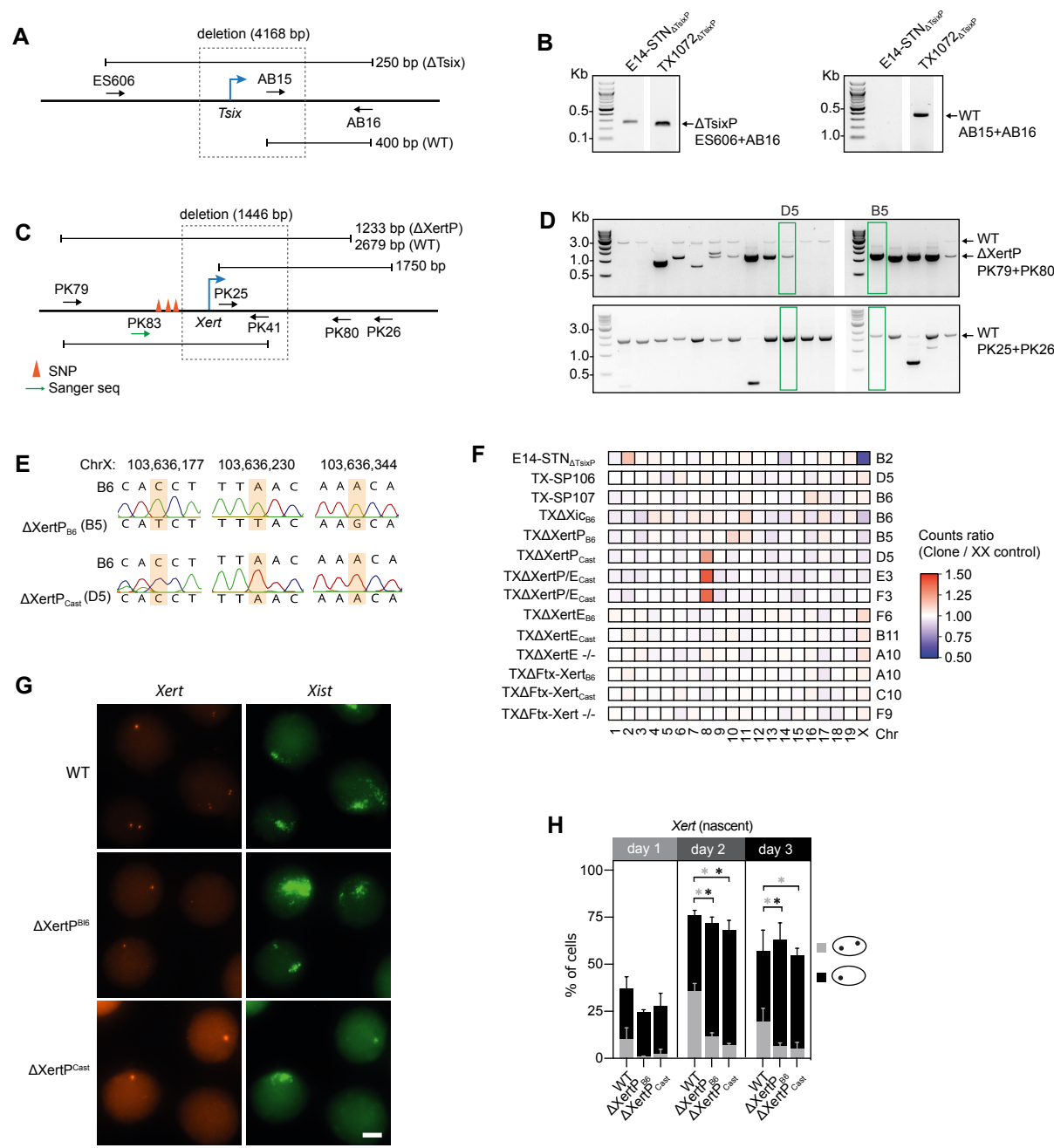


**Figure S3. An unannotated enhancer-associated transcript is upregulated concomitantly with *Xist* at the onset of XCI (Related to Figure 3).**

(A) Quality controls for TT-seq data showing enrichment of S4U-labelled spike-in RNAs (asterisks) compared to unlabelled controls after biotin-pulldown, assessed by qRT-PCR. (B-C) Isoform detection of *Xert*. (B) Agarose gel image of 3'- and 5'-RACE. Bands that were purified and Sanger-sequenced are labelled. Bands labelled in green gave successful Sanger sequencing results, which are summarized in (C, top). Sashimi plot and *de novo* transcript assembly (C, bottom) from polyA-RNA-seq data derived from differentiated (day 2) TX1072 cells. Numerical labels of the red lines indicate the number of split reads supporting the indicated splice junction. (D) *Jpx*, *Ftx* and *Rnf12* RNA expression during early mouse embryonic development (Zygote-E7.5) from sex-mixed embryos (Deng et al., 2014; Zhang et al., 2018). Inner cell mass (ICM), trophectoderm (TE), epiblast (Epi), visceral endoderm (VE), ectoderm (Ect), endoderm (End), mesoderm (Mes), primitive streak (PS). (E) *Xert* RNA expression in sex-mixed adult mouse tissues (Söllner et al., 2017), female mouse embryonic fibroblasts (MEF) (Wang et al., 2019) and female neural progenitor cells (NPC) (Bauer et al., 2021). (F) ChIP-seq coverage tracks for H3K4me3, H3K4me1 and H3K27ac from E6.5 and E7.5 combined sex-mixed mouse embryos at the *Xert* locus (Yang et al., 2019). (G) UCSC browser tracks showing sequence conservation in selected vertebrate species around the *Xert* locus (green). (H) Browser tracks showing pseudobulk scRNA-seq data in sex-mixed human embryos between the *TSIX* and *SLC16A2* genes (Petropoulos et al., 2016). (I) Browser tracks showing nascent transcription (GRO-seq) (Wang et al., 2015), DNA accessibility (Guo et al., 2017), SMAD2/3-binding (Li et al., 2019), H3K27ac, H3K4me1, H3K4me3 and P300 binding (Rada-Iglesias et al., 2011) in human embryonic stem cells (XY or XX).

Bars in (E-F) and lines in (D) denote the mean of 2 (E-F) or 3 (D) biological replicates, dots represent individual measurements. Open arrowheads in (G) indicate the distal enhancers RE93, 95-97. The screen results (Fig. 1) are shown below the tracks in (G), where candidate REs that inhibit (blue) or activate (red) *Xist* expression in the negative or high fractions of the CRISPR screen are colored. Dashed boxes in (I-J) demarcate the approximate genomic region where *Xert* would be located in the human genome.

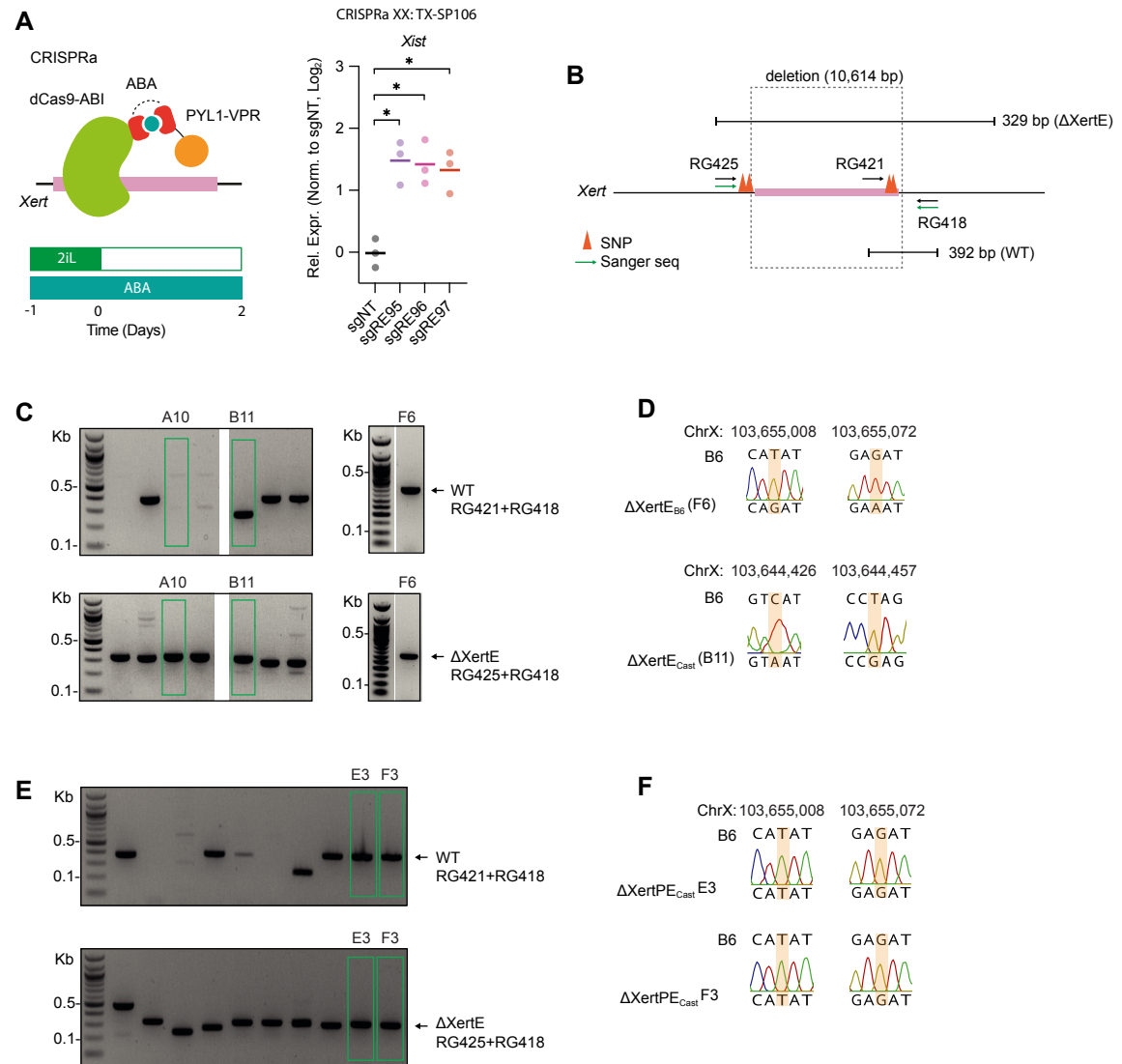
Figure S4



**Figure S4. *Xert* transcription enhances *Xist* expression in *cis* (Related to Figure 4).**

(A-B) Genotyping for E14-STN<sub>ΔTsixP</sub> clones. (A) Arrows indicate primer positions. Lines denote PCR amplicons. (B) Agarose gel images of two genotyping PCRs (from E14-STN<sub>ΔTsixP</sub> clones), that show the deleted (left panel) or the wt band only (right panel). (C-E) Genotyping of TXΔXertP clones. (C) Arrows indicate primer positions. Orange pyramids indicate the SNPs used in Sanger sequencing validation of the deleted allele. Lines indicate PCR amplicons. (D) Agarose gel images of two genotyping PCRs, that show the deletion and wt band (top) or the wt band only (bottom). Green boxes mark the clones that were selected for all further analyses. (E) Assessment of three SNPs (orange boxes) by Sanger sequencing of amplicon PK79/PK41 and PK83 as sequencing primer (see C). Chromatogram and the genomic coordinates (mm10) of the SNPs are shown for both heterozygous ΔXertP lines. (F) Heatmap of NGS karyotyping data for all cell lines used in the study. Counts mapping to each chromosome were normalized to an XX control cell line. (G) Example images of *Xert* and *Xist* RNA expression detected by RNA-FISH in two heterozygous ΔXertP lines and parental TX1072 control line (WT) differentiated for 2 days as quantified in main Fig. 4F-G. Scale bar marks 5 μm. (H) Quantification of *Xert* RNA using RNA-FISH following a differentiation time course of two heterozygous XertP deletion lines and the parental wildtype line (WT). 100 cells were quantified per replicate. In (H) mean and SD of 3 biological replicates are shown. Asterisks indicate significance of  $p < 0.05$  using an unpaired two-tailed T-test.

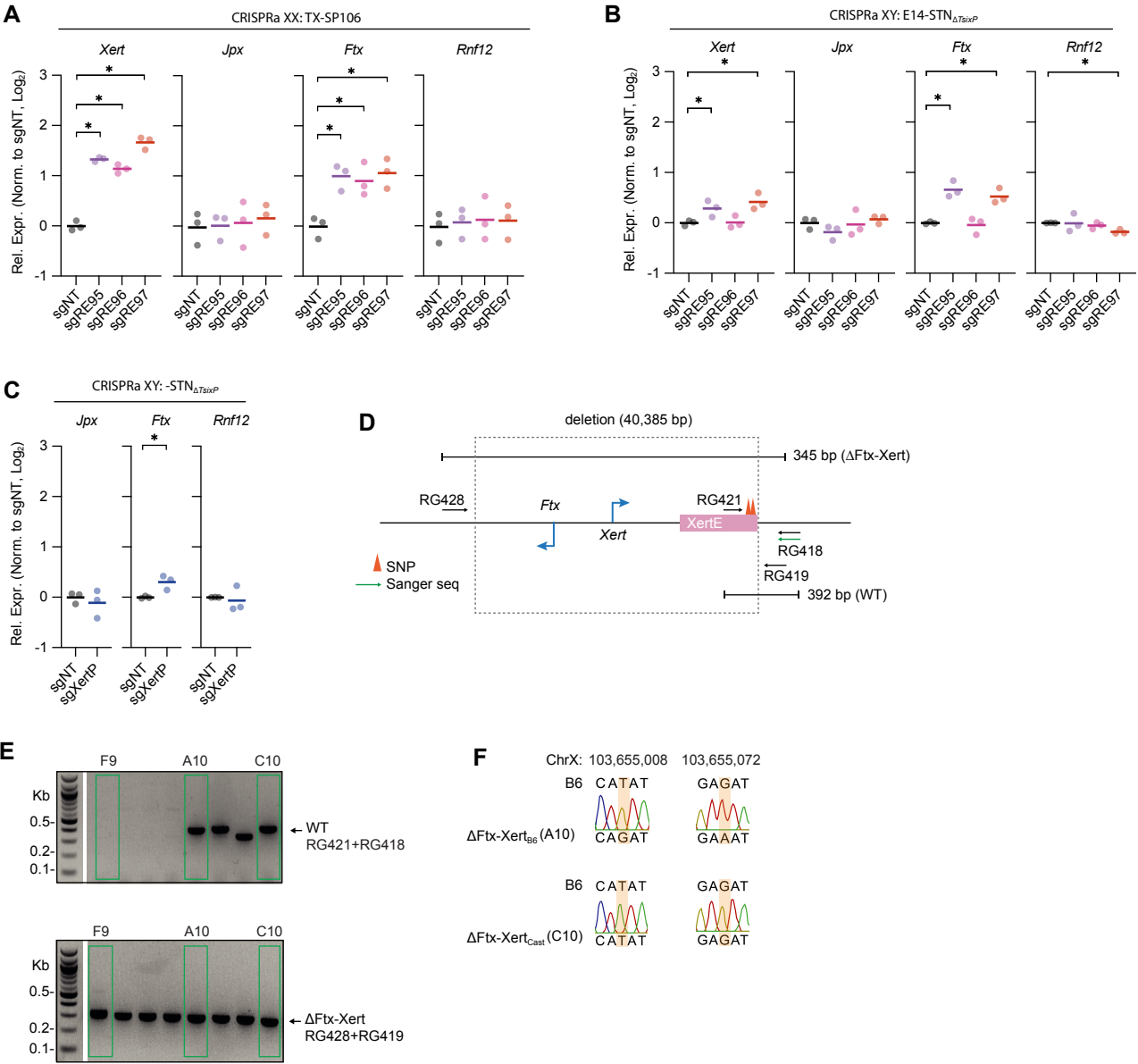
Figure S5



**Figure S5. An intronic enhancer cluster within *Xert* activates *Xist* expression in *cis* (Related to Figure 5).**

(A) Ectopic XertE activation in TX-SP106 cells stably expressing an inducible CRISPRa system and three sgRNAs from a multiguide expression vector that target one RE or non-targeting controls (NT). Relative *Xist* RNA expression after two days of differentiation was assessed by qRT-PCR (n=3) and normalized to sgNT. Horizontal bars denote the mean of 3 biological replicates; dots represent individual measurements. (B-F) Genotyping of the XertE deletion in  $\Delta$ XertE lines (C-D) and  $\Delta$ XertP/E lines (E-F), carrying a heterozygous or homozygous deletion of the *Xert* enhancer cluster. (B) Arrows indicate primer positions. The orange pyramid indicates the SNP used to identify the wt allele by Sanger sequencing in (D,F). Lines indicate PCR amplicons. (C,E) Agarose gel images of two genotyping PCRs of the  $\Delta$ XertE clones with green boxes marking the clones that were selected for all further analyses. (D,F) Sanger sequencing of amplicon RG421/RG418 and RG418 as sequencing primer to identify the deleted allele in  $\Delta$ XertE mESCs, except for clone B11, where amplicon RG425/RG418 was sequenced with RG425. Chromatograms of the assessed SNP (orange box) are shown with its genomic coordinate (mm10).

Figure S6



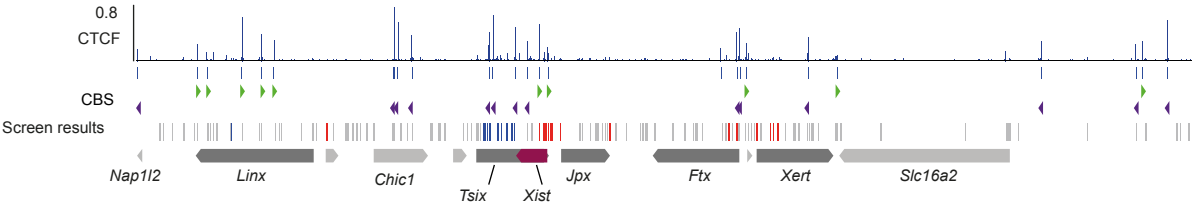


**Figure S6. *Xert* and *Ftx* form a regulatory hub during initiation of XCI (Related to Figure 6).**

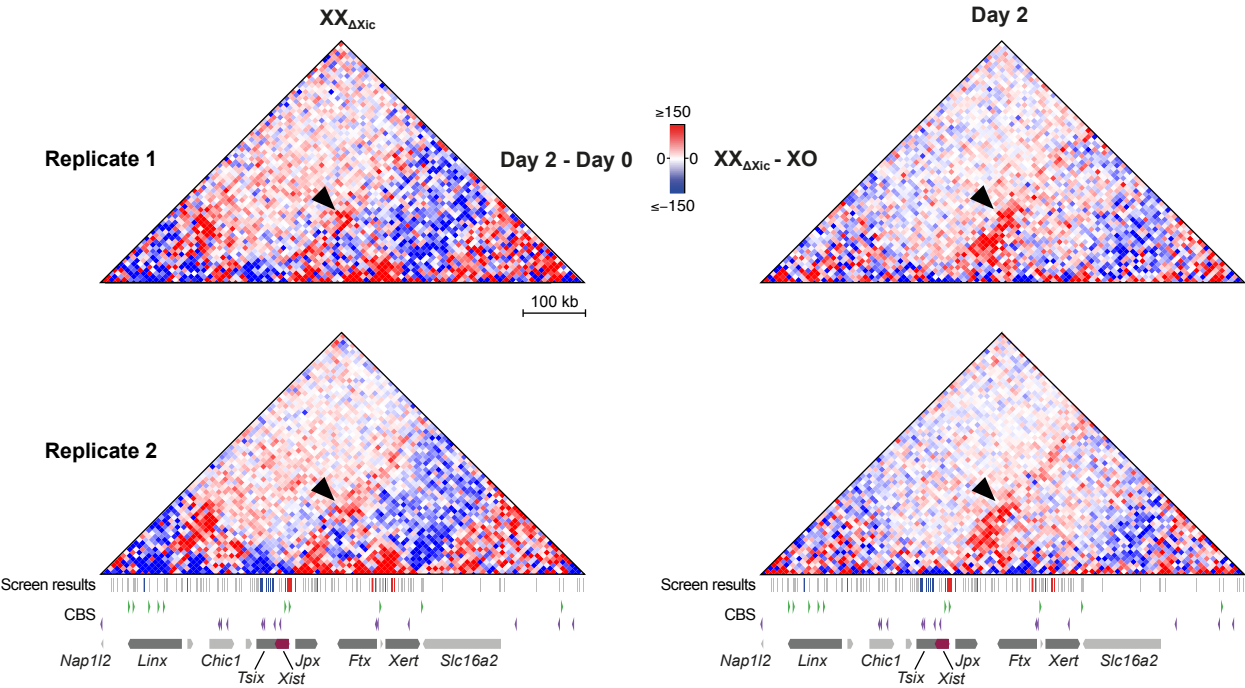
**(A-C)** Ectopic activation of *XertE* (A-B) and *XertP* (C) through inducible CRISPR activation, using an ABA-inducible dCas9-VPR system (TX-SP106) in female (B) or a dox-inducible SunTag system in male (C) mESCs (E14-STN<sub>ΔTsixP</sub>). RNA expression was assessed in cells stably expressing three sgRNAs from a multiguide expression plasmid or non-targeting controls (NT) after 2 days of differentiation by qRT-PCR (n=3) and normalized to sgNT. Horizontal bars denote the mean of 3 biological replicates, dots represent individual measurements. Asterisks indicate significance of  $p < 0.05$  using an unpaired two-tailed *t*-test. **(D-F)** Genotyping of  $\Delta Ftx$ -*Xert* mESC lines, carrying a heterozygous or homozygous deletion of a region spanning RE84-RE97. (D) Arrows indicate primer positions. The orange pyramid indicates the SNP used to identify the wt allele by Sanger sequencing in (F). Lines indicate PCR amplicons. (E) Agarose gel images of two genotyping PCRs of  $\Delta Ftx$ -*Xert* clones with green boxes marking the clones that were selected for all further analyses. (F) Sanger sequencing of amplicon RG421/RG418 and RG418 as sequencing primer (see D) to identify the deleted allele in  $\Delta Ftx$ -*Xert* mESCs. Chromatograms of the assessed SNP (orange box) are shown with its genomic coordinate (mm10).

Figure S7

**A**



**B**



**Figure S7. *Xert* and *Ftx* exhibit increased contacts with the *Xist* promoter during initiation of XCI (Related to Figure 7).**

(A) CTCF coverage track in male mESCs, derived from a published dataset (Stadler et al., 2011). Significant CTCF binding sites (CBS) are shown below the track and motif orientation is shown as triangles. The screen results are shown below the tracks, where candidate REs that inhibit (blue) or activate (red) *Xist* expression in the negative or high fractions of the CRISPR screen are colored. (B) Subtraction heatmaps as in Fig. 7B for two individual biological replicates comparing day 0 and 2 in  $XX_{\Delta Xic}$  cells (left) and  $XX_{\Delta Xic}$  and XO cells at day 2 (right).

**Table S3. Comparison of CRISPR screen results with published mutant phenotypes (related to Figure 1).**

While the *cis*-regulatory landscape of *Xist* has been dissected with genetic tools for more than 30 years (Galupa and Heard, 2018), we have now applied, for the first time, a high-throughput approach to allow comprehensive RE identification and quantification throughout the entire *Xic*. The CRISPRi screen we have performed relies on inactivation of promoter or enhancer elements through ectopic deposition of H3K9me3. Genomic resolution could be limited by the fact that H3K9me3 can spread over several kilobases around the targeted site (Thakore et al., 2015), which might have occurred for RE50 and RE59. Nevertheless our screen results are largely in agreement with previously reported mutant phenotypes.

ID	Annotations	Screen result	Previous finding
RE12	LinxE	repressive	repressive (Galupa et al., 2020)
RE20	Linx promoter	no effect	repressive (Galupa et al., 2020)
RE45-47	Xite (Tsix enhancer)	repressive	repressive (Ogawa and Lee, 2003)
RE49	Tsix major promoter	repressive (H3K9me3 spreading to nearby DxPas34)	no effect (Cohen et al., 2007)
RE50	adjacent to Dxpas34 (Tsix proximal enhancer)	repressive	repressive (Lee and Lu, 1999; Vigneau et al., 2006)
RE51-53	Tsix intronic elements	repressive	weakly repressive (Vigneau et al., 2006)
RE55	Xist intron 1 pluripotency factor binding site	weakly activating and repressive	weakly activating and repressive (Barakat et al., 2011; Minkovsky et al., 2013)
RE57	XistP2, CpG island, Repeat A, YY1 and CTCF binding sites	strongly activating	activating (Hoki et al., 2009; Makhoul et al., 2014; Penny et al., 1996; Royce-Tolland et al., 2010)
RE58	Xist TSS	strongly activating	activating (Penny et al., 1996)
RE59	upstream of Xist TSS	activating (H3K9me3 spreading to nearby RE58?)	no effect (Newall et al., 2001)
RE61	Jpx promoter	activating	activating (Tian et al., 2010)
RE85-RE88	Ftx promoter (RE88 major TSS, RE85 minor TSS)	RE 85 activating; weaker effect for RE87; RE88 non-significant	activating (Furlan et al., 2018; Soma et al., 2014)
RE 127	Rnf12 promoter	activating	activating (Barakat et al., 2011; Jonkers et al., 2009)