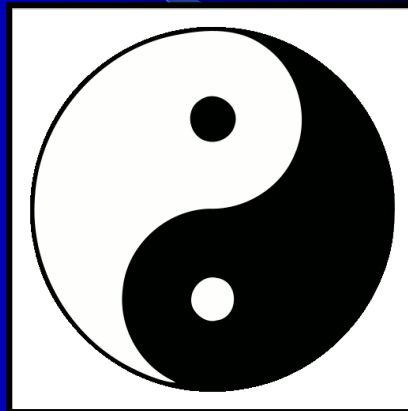


# *Maternal mRNAs: Theme and Variations*

Fejlődés- és Molekuláris Genetika  
2018

陰 陽



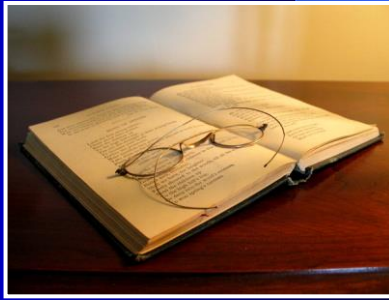
## *Program for maternal mRNAs*

- mRNA synthesis ✓
- mRNA transport and localization
- Translational repression
- Translation ✓
- Elimination (Maternal-to-zygotic transition)

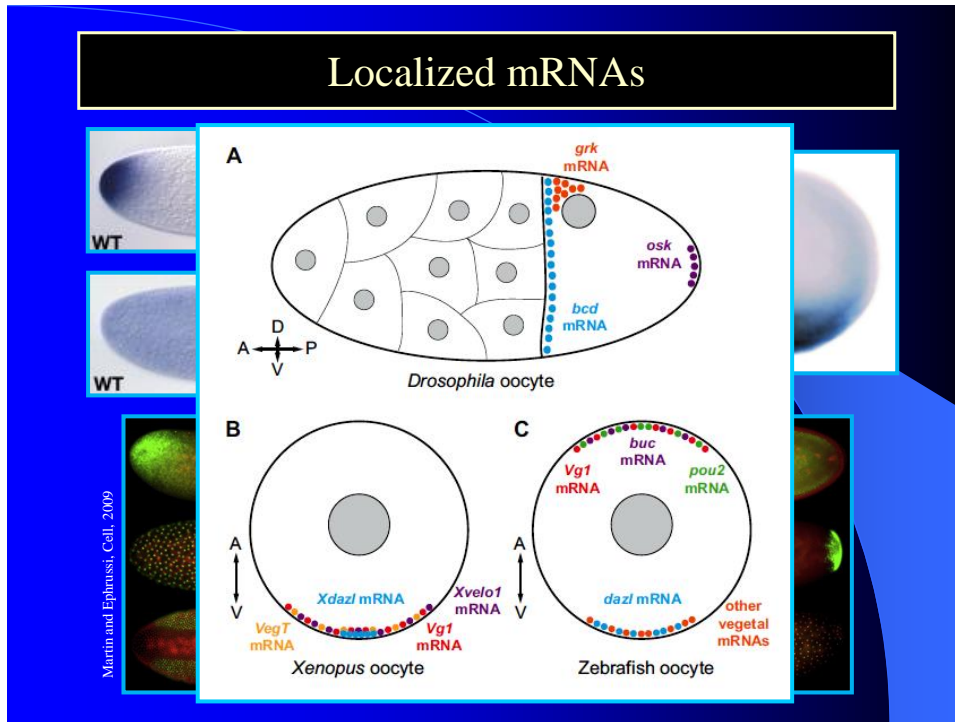
Maternal mRNAs: messenger RNAs found in oocytes and early embryos that is derived from the maternal genome during oogenesis.



Ethel Browne Harvey



### *I. mRNA transport and localization*



## Why localize mRNAs rather than proteins?

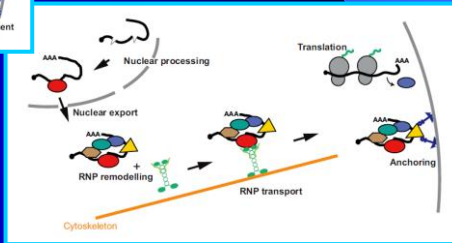
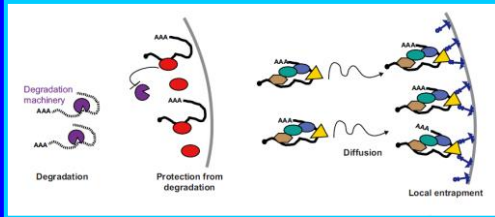
- Transport costs are reduced, as several protein molecules can be translated from a single RNA molecule.
- Transporting mRNAs can prevent proteins from acting ectopically before they reach the appropriate site.
- Localized translation can facilitate incorporation of proteins into macromolecular complexes by generating high local protein concentrations and allowing co-translation of different subunits.
- Nascent proteins may have properties distinct from pre-existing copies, by virtue of post-translational modifications or through chaperone-aided folding pathways.
- A major advantage of mRNA targeting is that it allows fine-tuning of gene expression in both space and time.

Medioni et al., Development, 2012

# Mechanisms for asymmetric mRNA localization

Three distinct mechanisms have been proposed to account for the asymmetric distribution of mRNAs within cells:

- Localized protection from degradation,
- Diffusion-coupled local entrapment, and
- Directed transport along a polarized cytoskeleton.

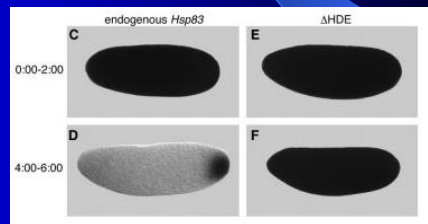


# Mechanisms for asymmetric mRNA localization I.

mRNA localization:

- cis-acting elements on mRNA
- trans-acting RNA-binding proteins

Localized protection from degradation: Hsp83 in *Drosophila* fertilized egg



```

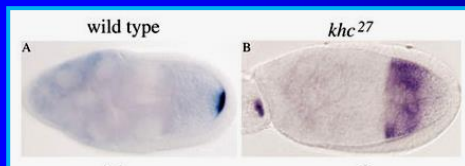
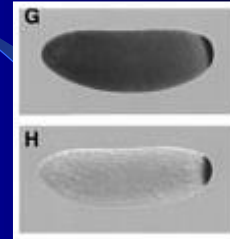
GCACCACTGCGAARCAACCAACCAAAATTCATCTATCACTCCGATTCACATACAAATTTACTTGCCTTTCGACTT 80
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CTCATAAAAAGCGGGAATACTCGTTAAATGGTTAGGTTCTCACAGAACATTCAGAGGAGTGTCTGTTTAAGACTT 240
ATAATTTAGAA  CCAAGTAAATTTATGAAAAACAAAGAAVAAATACCCGCCCTAGTTGTTAGGCTATAAAGAATC 320
GGTATATATATATATATAGGTTTCATCA  CCGATCGAGGATTAACATTAAGCAATTAACAAACAAACAAATGTTTTA 400
>>>>>>> 497
    
```

Bashirullah et al., EMBO, 1999

## Mechanisms for asymmetric mRNA localization II.

Localization through diffusion/entrapment:  
nos mRNA in *Drosophila*

(Maternal RNA-binding protein that is required for germ cells proliferation and self-renewal.)



Directed transport along a polarized cytoskeleton:  
osk mRNA in *Drosophila*  
(Organizes the germ plasm and directs localization of the posterior determinant nanos.)

## First observations

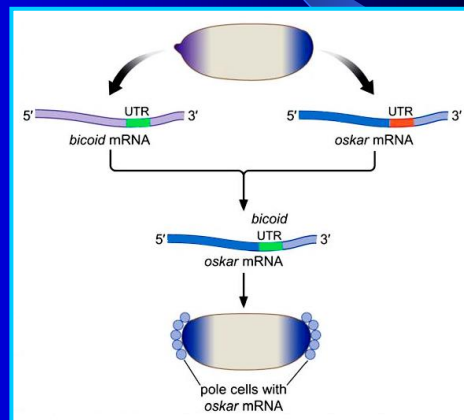
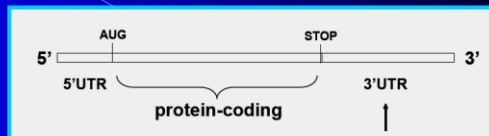


Deletion of 3'UTR of *bcd* RNA

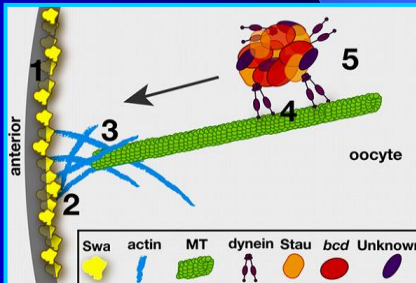
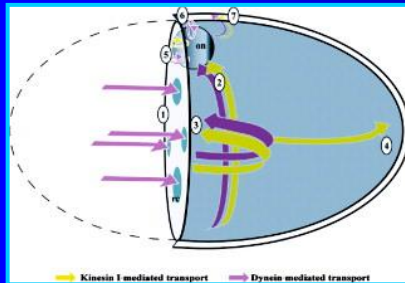
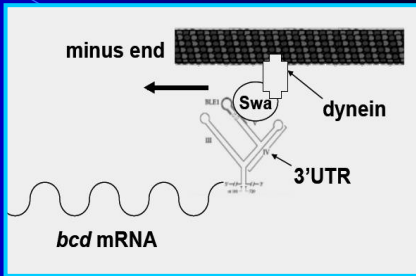
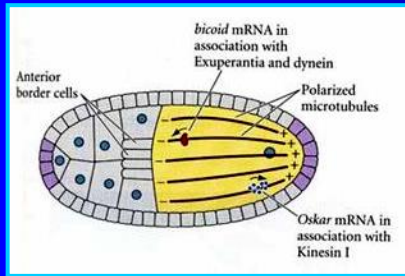
↓  
no proper localization

Adding of 3'UTR of *bcd* to other RNA

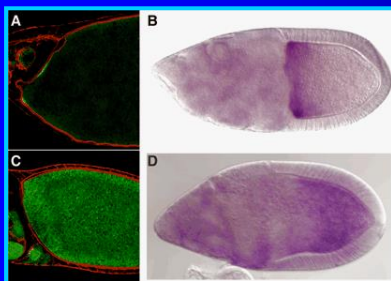
↓  
anterior localization



## Transport and accumulation of *bcd* RNA

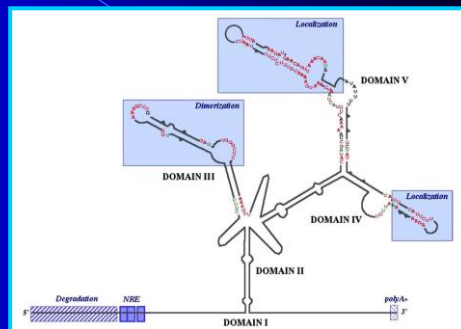


## Proteins that are needed to the proper localization of *bcd*



Stau::GFP and in situ *bcd*

A and B: wild type  
C and D: *stau* mutant

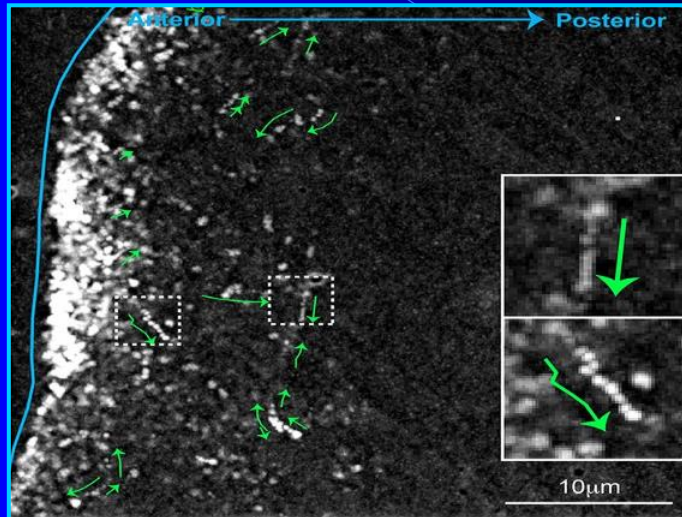


Brunel and Ehresmann, Biochimie, 2004

Core domains (II-V) are mostly built specific determinants for trans-acting factors.

*Staufen* + *Exuperantia* + *Swallow* + microtubules + or - ????

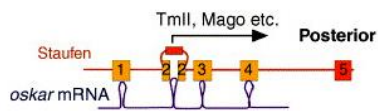
## *bicoid* mRNA localises by random Dynein-mediated transport



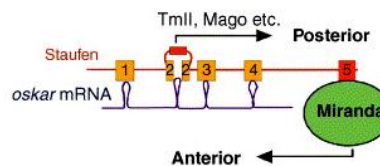
Trovisco et al., eLIFE, Cell Biol., 2016

## Staufen the double agent

### A) Wildtype Staufen



### B) Wildtype Staufen + Miranda



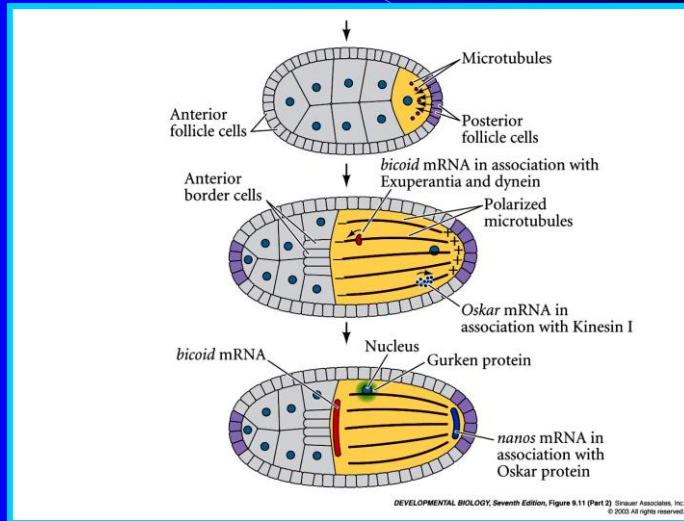
**1-5:** double stranded RNA binding domains (dsRBD)

**TmII:** tropomyosin II

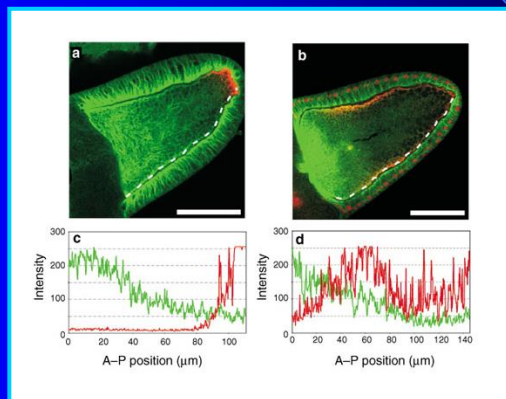
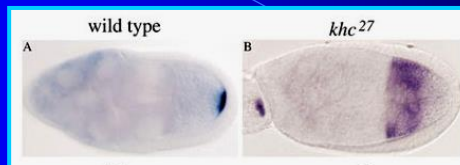
**Mago:** mago nashi, core component of the splicing-dependent multiprotein exon junction complex (EJC) deposited at splice junctions on mRNAs

**Miranda:** adaptor protein to couple Staufen/*prospero* mRNA complexes to the actin-based localization pathway

## It was easy to extrapolate...

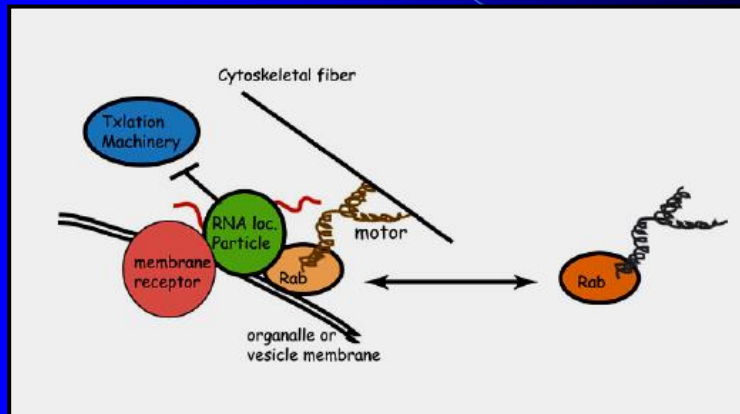


## Let see again: *osc* localization



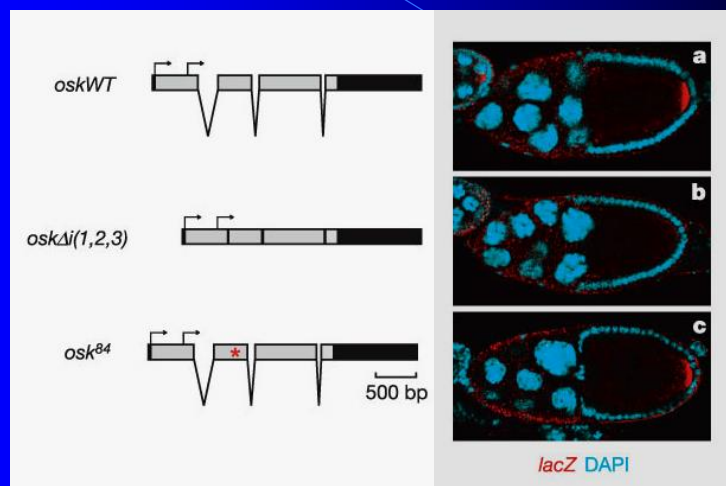


## Rabs are involved in the mRNA transport and localization

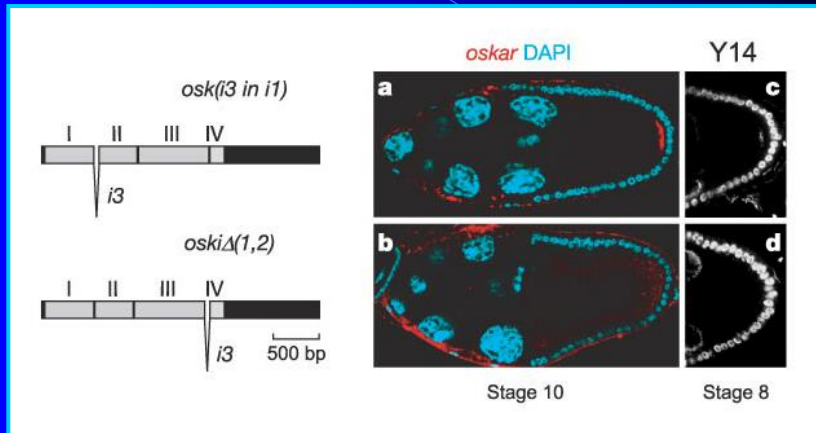


The **Rab** proteins are the members of the Ras superfamily of monomeric G proteins.

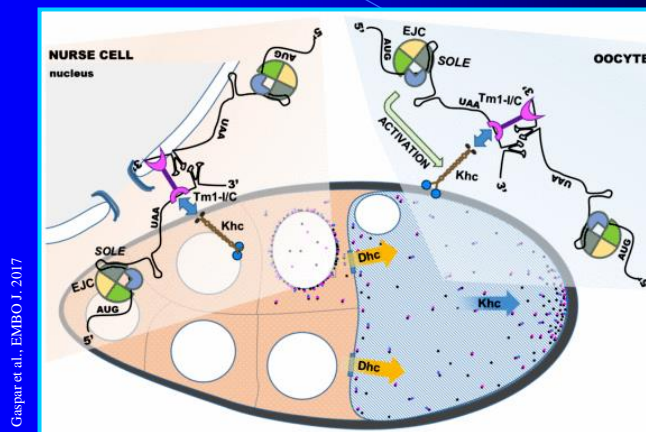
## The trace of an intron



## EJC can take part in the localization of *osc*

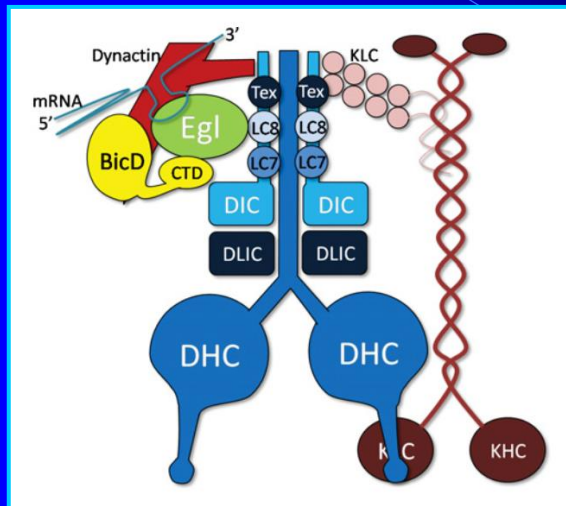


## Polarized localization of *osk* mRNPs



**Tm1-I/C:** Tropomyosin1-I/C is an RNA-binding atypical tropomyosin. Tm1-I/C inefficiently but dynamically recruits inactive kinesin heavy chain (Khc) to *oskar* mRNPs upon their nuclear export. The exon junction complex/spliced *oskar* localization element (SOLE) complex activates kinesin-1 during mid-oogenesis.

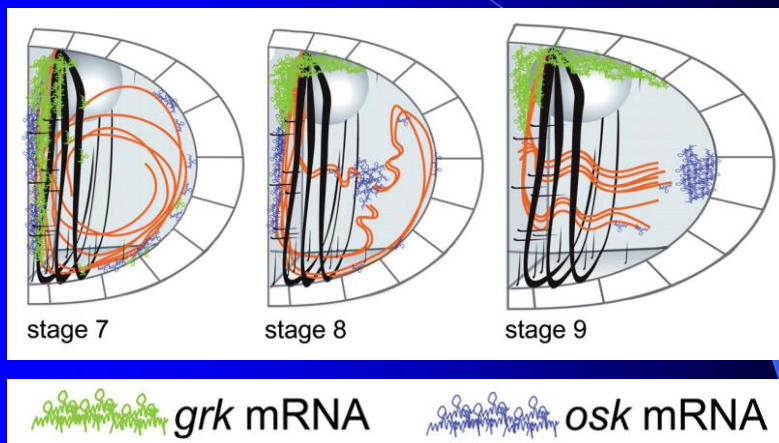
## Transport machinery for *osk* mRNPs



**Egl:** Egalitarian, RNA binding, dynein binding.  
**BicD:** Bicaudal D, cofactor for dynein.  
**KLC:** Kinesin light chain

Gaspar, Bioch. Soc. Trans., 2011

## Stage-dependent MT organization

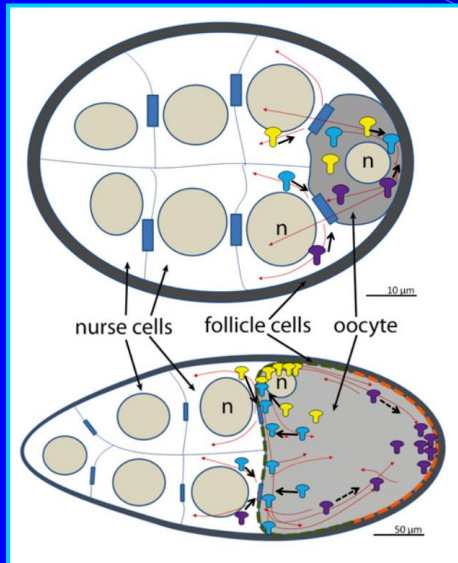


 *grk* mRNA

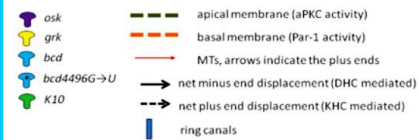
 *osk* mRNA

Januschke et al., Development, 2006

## Summary of maternal mRNAs' localization



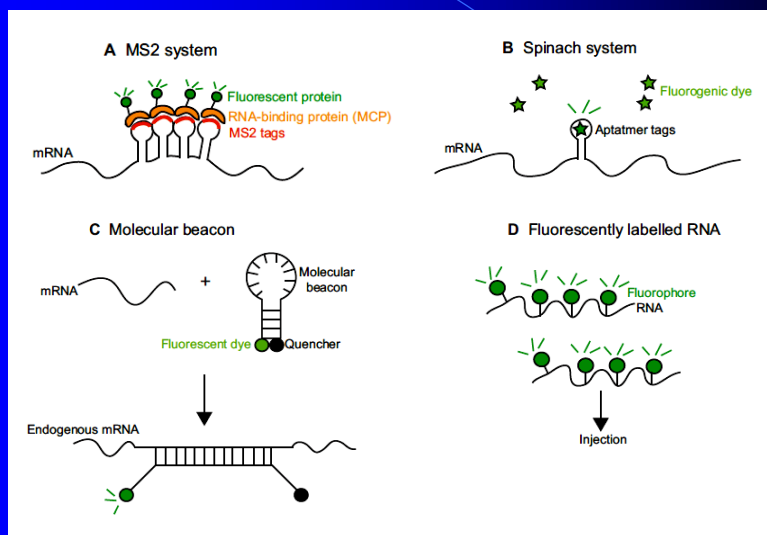
The localizing transcripts enter to the oocyte through the ring canals in a Dhc-mediated way (solid arrows) where they get homogeneously distributed during the early stages of oogenesis.



Later, during mid-oogenesis while the nurse cell-to-oocyte transport is still active, the oocyte microtubule network undergoes massive reorganization. Simultaneously, *grk*, *bcd* and *osk* mRNAs localize to their respective destination in an microtubule- and mechanoenzyme-dependent manner.

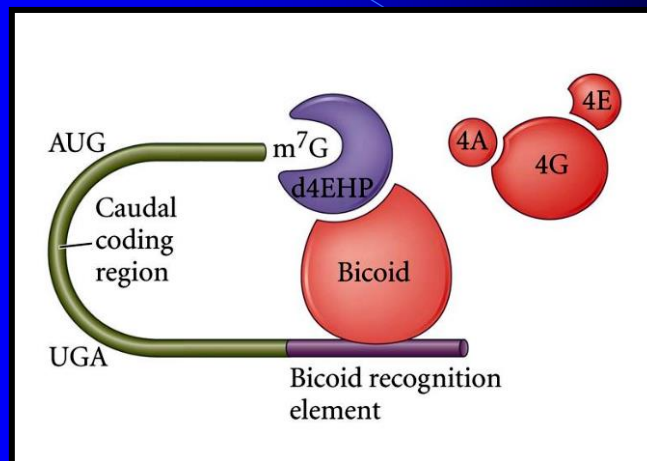
Gaspar, Bioch. Soc. Trans., 2011

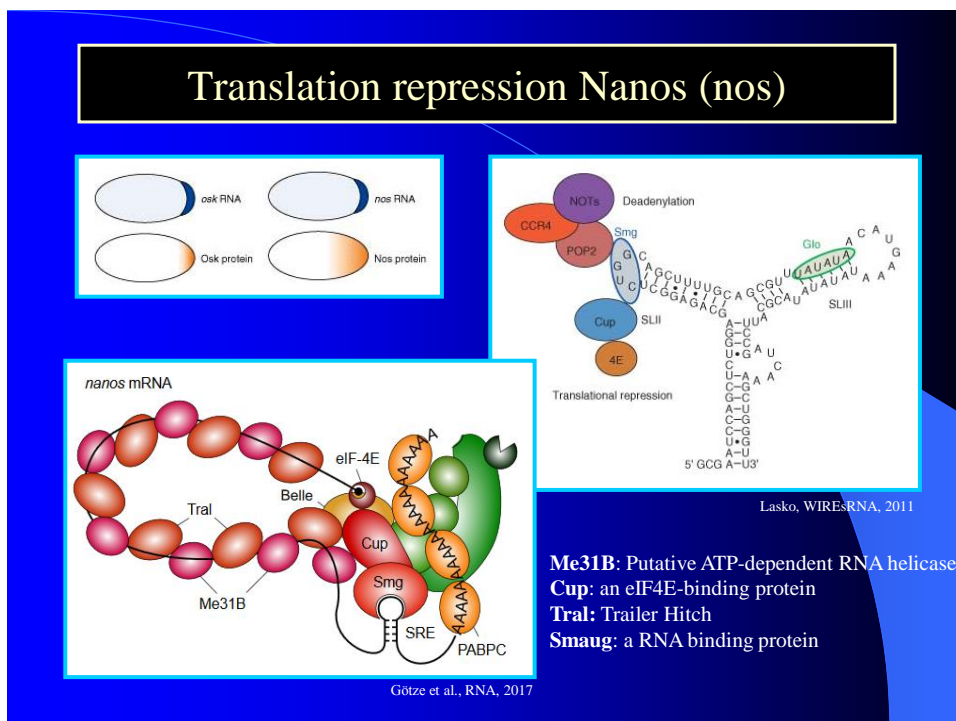
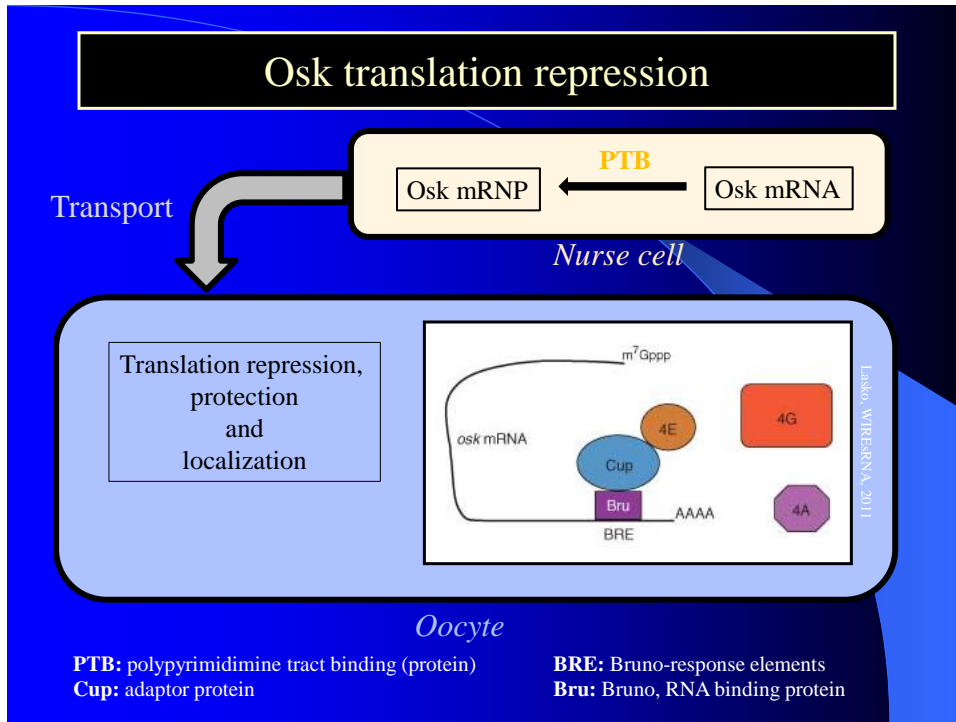
## Live-imaging methods for visualizing mRNA localization



## II. Translational repression

Bcd itself represses the *caudal* mRNA

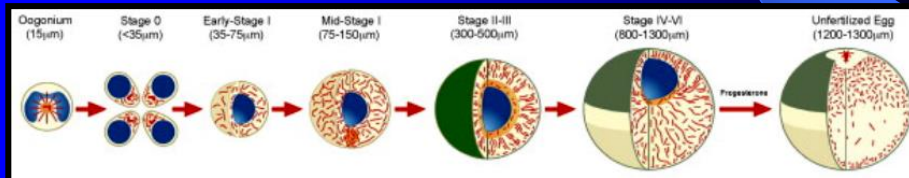
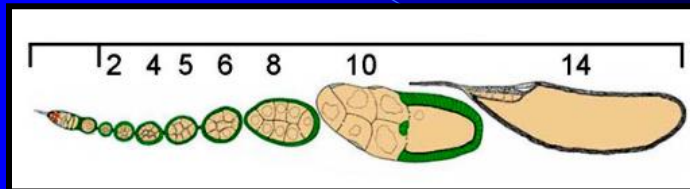




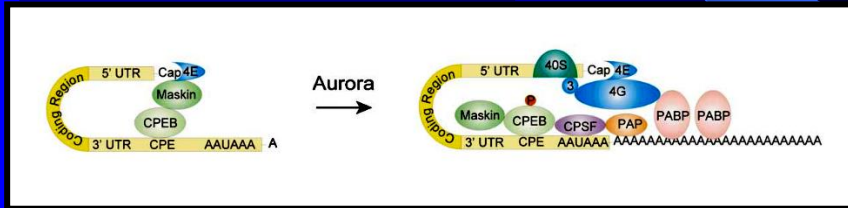
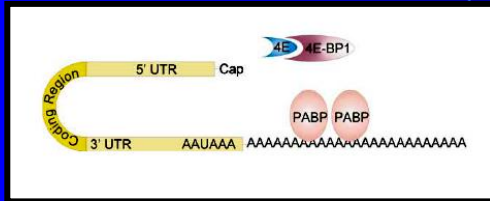
**Me31B:** Putative ATP-dependent RNA helicase  
**Cup:** an eIF4E-binding protein  
**Tral:** Trailer Hitch  
**Smaug:** a RNA binding protein

### *III. Maternal mRNA translation*

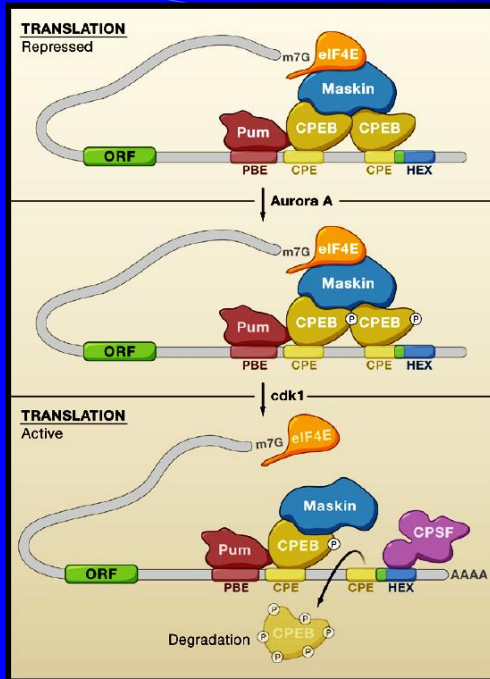
#### Maternal effects – lagged translation



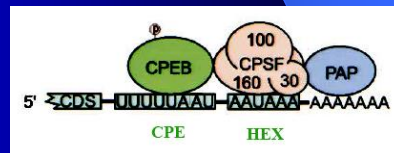
## Tail wagging the dog



CPE: cytoplasmic polyadenylation element, CPEB: CPE Binding Protein, CPSF: cleavage and polyadenylation specificity factor, PAP: polyadenylate polymerase  
 AAUAAA: hexanucleotide polyadenylation signal



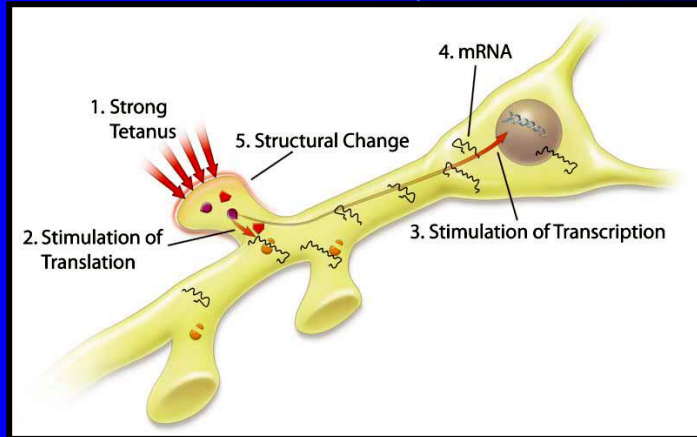
## Cytoplasmic polyadenylation (CP)



Richter, *Cell*, 2008.

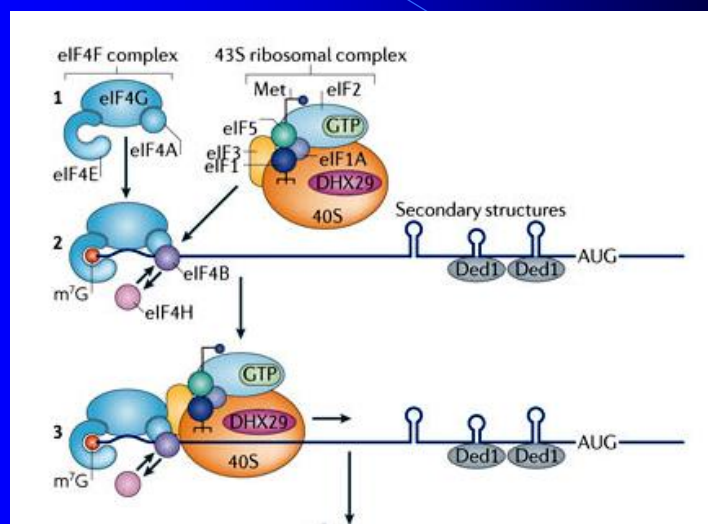


## CP and the synaptic plasticity



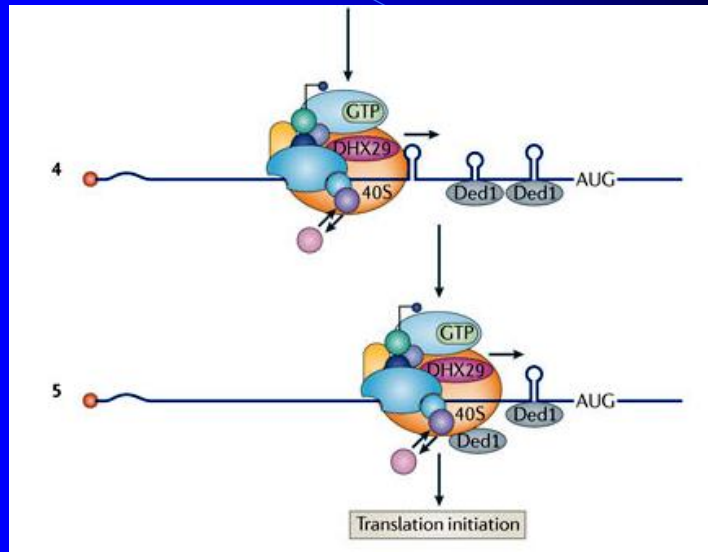
Kelleher, *Neuron*, 2004

## Buffer stops on leader sequence



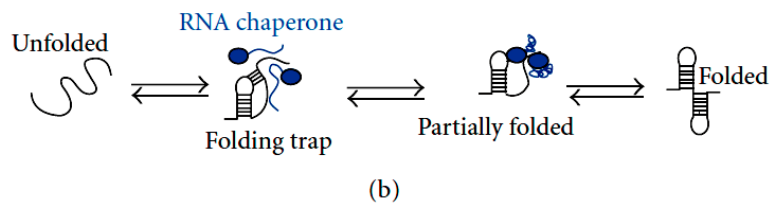
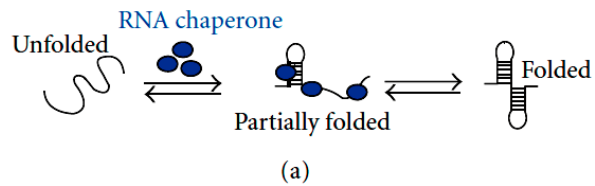
Parsian et al., *Nat. Rev. Mol. Cell. Biol.*, 2011

## Buffer stops on leader sequence (*cont.*)



Parsian et al., Nat. Rev. Mol. Cell. Biol., 2011)

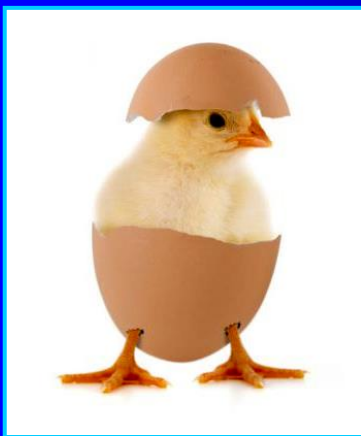
## mRNA chaperones



Semrad, Biochem. Rev. Int, 2011

## *IV. Maternal mRNA elimination (Maternal-to-zygotic transition)*

### Introduction



The newly created zygote inherits parental genomes that are in a transcriptionally quiescent state. However, the loading of maternal RNA and protein from the mature oocyte into the embryo compensates for the absence of RNA supply.

The transition to the zygotic developmental program requires regulated degradation of the old maternal transcriptome (*maternal mRNA clearance*) and its replacement by factors produced de novo through transcriptional activation of the zygotic genome (*zygotic genome activation, ZGA*)

The extent of maternal mRNA clearance varies across species: 30% and 60% of maternally provided mRNAs are degraded during the course of MZT in the nematode *C. elegans* and the fruit fly, respectively.

## Models for maternal mRNA clearance

The 'permissive model'

posits that the elimination of ubiquitously expressed maternal transcripts enables spatially and temporally restricted expression of their zygotic counterparts. This is supported by observations that zygotically expressed mRNAs in *Drosophila* have more highly patterned expression in comparison to more ubiquitously expressed maternal counterparts that are subjected to decay during MZT.

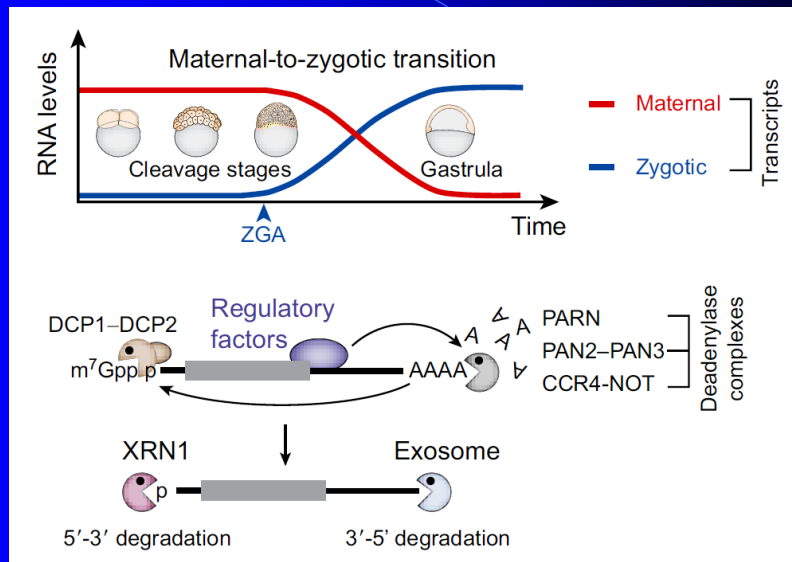
The 'instructive model'

holds that the selective elimination of maternal mRNAs restricts their functions; for example, prolonged stabilities of maternal mRNAs throughout embryogenesis could impair cell cycle regulation during MZT or potentially be deleterious for later phases of development.

These models are not mutually exclusive.

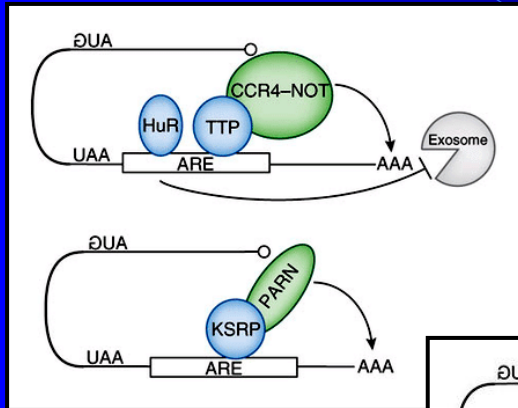
Despic and Neugebauer, JCS, 2018

## Cytoplasmic mRNA degradation



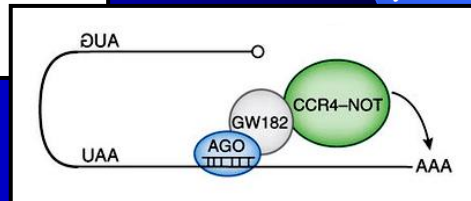
## Deadenylation I.

AREs drive mRNA deadenylation



**ARE:** AU rich element  
**HuR** and **TTP:** ARE-binding proteins  
**CCR4-NOT:** deadenylase  
**KSRP:** ARE-binding protein  
**PARN:** Poly(A)-specific ribonuclease

miRNA mediated deadenylation

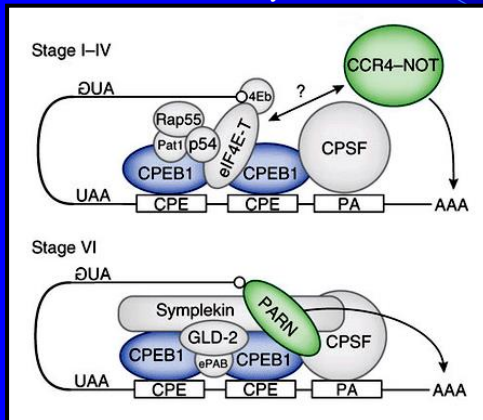


RISC complex (which comprises AGO and GW182)

Weill et al., Nat. Struct. Mol. Biol. 2012.

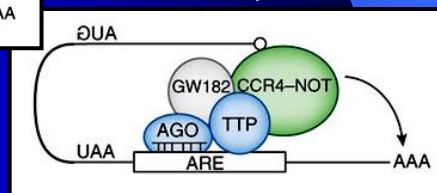
## Deadenylation II.

CPEB-mediated deadenylation



**CPEB:** cytoplasmic polyadenylation element binding protein  
**CPSF:** Cleavage and polyadenylation specificity factor  
**GLD-2:** Germ Line Development 2 polyA polymerase  
**Symplekin:** scaffold protein

miRNA- and ARE- mediated deadenylation



Weill et al., Nat. Struct. Mol. Biol. 2012.

# maternal mRNA clearance

**Nucleus**

Pre-mRNA splicing  
Pri-miRNA processing  
3' end processing?  
Nuclear mRNA export

**Cytoplasm**

mRNA stability  
mRNA translation

Meyer et al., Cell, 2015

Despic and Neugebauer, JCS, 2018

Modes of maternal mRNA decay

Maternal RNA [ ZGA-dependent decay (orange), ZGA-independent decay (red) ] ZGA OFF

Zygotic RNA [ ZGA-independent decay (blue) ]

miRNAs

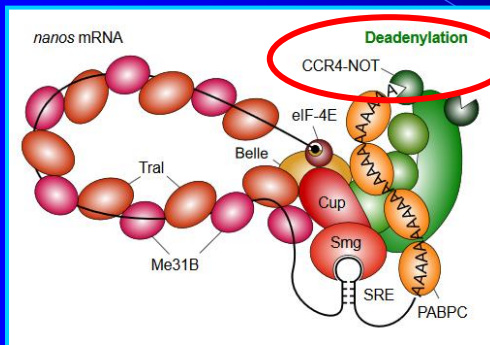
ZGA

Time

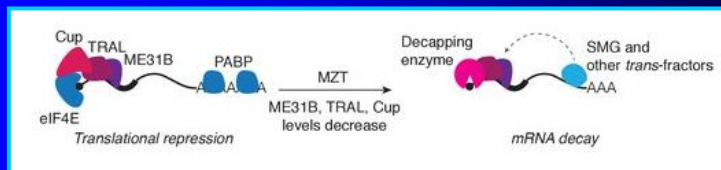
YTHDF2  
miR-430  
AAAA  
CCR4-NOT  
YTHDF1 YTHDF3  
m<sup>6</sup>A

**YTHDF: RBP with YTH domain**

# Me31B globally represses maternal mRNAs



In a process dependent on the PNG kinase, levels of ME31B and its partners, Cup and Trailer Hitch (TRAL), decrease by over 10-fold during the MZT, leading to a change in the composition of mRNA-protein complexes.

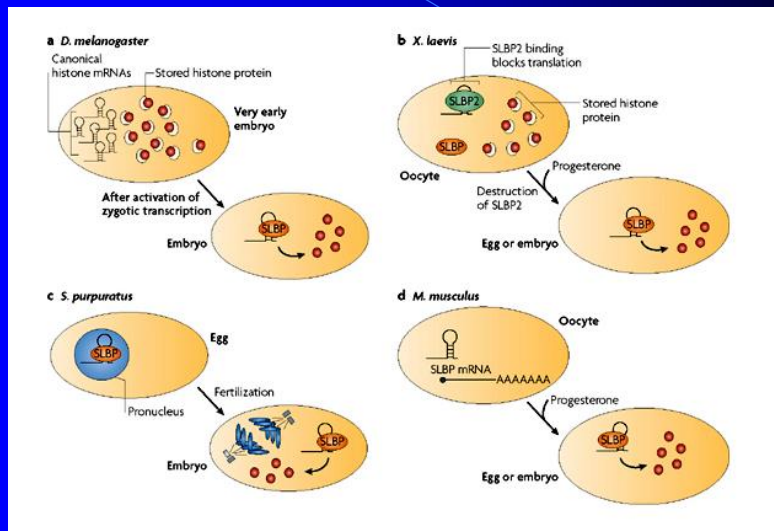


## Stem loop on histone mRNA

### Histone mRNA:

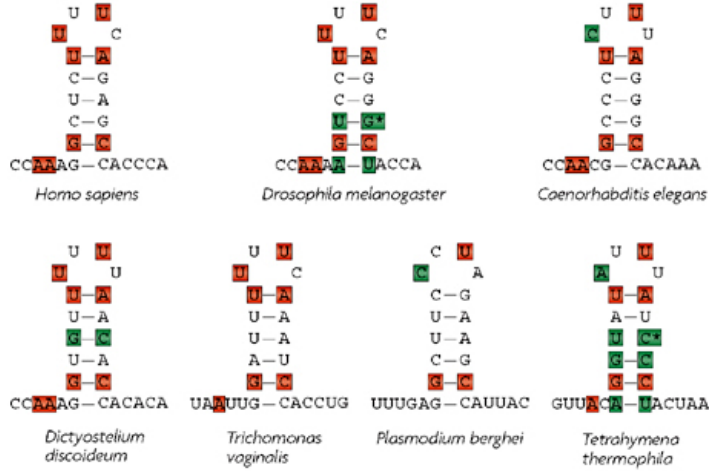
- No introns
- No polyA tail
- Replication-dependent activation (in S phase)
- 3'UTR stem loop
- SLBP-dependent translation

## Stem-loops in development

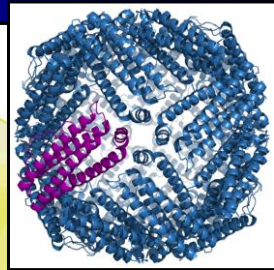
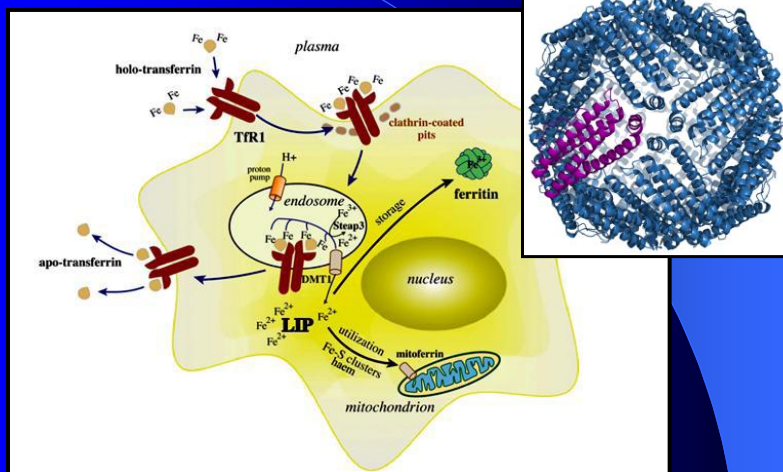


Marzluff, *Nature Rev. Gen.*, 2008.

## Loops are not conserved



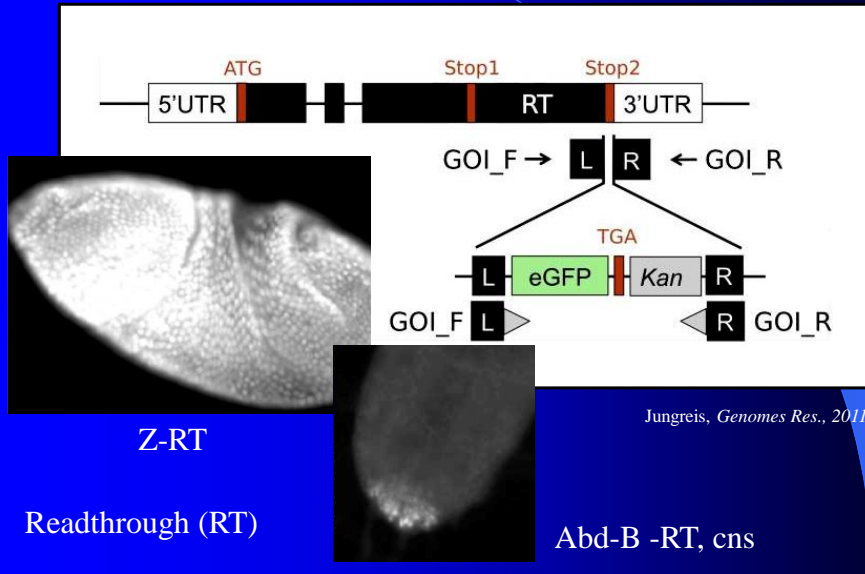
## Iron traffic



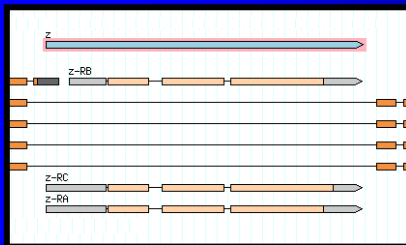




## 3'UTR and the STOP codons



## Z (zeste) gene



The gene *zeste* is referred to in FlyBase by the symbol *Dmel|z* (CG7803, FBgn0004050). It is a protein coding gene from *Drosophila melanogaster*. There is experimental evidence that it has the molecular function: protein binding; sequence-specific DNA binding. There is experimental evidence that it is involved in the biological process: positive regulation of chromatin silencing; positive regulation of transcription, DNA-dependent; ommochrome biosynthetic process.

