

# Impact of Anaerobiosis on Expression of the Iron-Responsive Fur and RyhB Regulons

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**ABSTRACT** Iron, a major protein cofactor, is essential for most organisms. Despite the well-known effects of  $O_2$  on the oxidation state and solubility of iron, the impact of  $O_2$  on cellular iron homeostasis is not well understood. Here we report that in *Escherichia coli* K-12, the lack of  $O_2$  dramatically changes expression of genes controlled by the global regulators of iron homeostasis, the transcription factor Fur and the small RNA RyhB. Using chromatin immunoprecipitation sequencing (ChIP-seq), we found anaerobic conditions promote Fur binding to more locations across the genome. However, by expression profiling, we discovered that the major effect of anaerobiosis was to increase the magnitude of Fur regulation, leading to increased expression of iron storage proteins and decreased expression of most iron uptake pathways and several Mn-binding proteins. This change in the pattern of gene expression also correlated with an unanticipated decrease in Mn in anaerobic cells. Changes in the genes posttranscriptionally regulated by RyhB under aerobic and anaerobic conditions could be attributed to  $O_2$ -dependent changes in transcription of the target genes: aerobic RyhB targets were enriched in iron-containing proteins associated with aerobic energy metabolism, whereas anaerobic RyhB targets were enriched in iron-containing anaerobic respiratory functions. Overall, these studies showed that anaerobiosis has a larger impact on iron homeostasis than previously anticipated, both by expanding the number of direct Fur target genes and the magnitude of their regulation and by altering the expression of genes predicted to be posttranscriptionally regulated by the small RNA RyhB under iron-limiting conditions.

**IMPORTANCE** Microbes and host cells engage in an "arms race" for iron, an essential nutrient that is often scarce in the environment. Studies of iron homeostasis have been key to understanding the control of iron acquisition and the downstream pathways that enable microbes to compete for this valuable resource. Here we report that  $O_2$  availability affects the gene expression programs of two *Escherichia coli* master regulators that function in iron homeostasis: the transcription factor Fur and the small RNA regulator RyhB. Fur appeared to be more active under anaerobic conditions, suggesting a change in the set point for iron homeostasis. RyhB preferentially targeted iron-containing proteins of respiration-linked pathways, which are differentially expressed under aerobic and anaerobic conditions. Such findings may be relevant to the success of bacteria within their hosts since zones of reduced  $O_2$  may actually reduce bacterial iron demands, making it easier to win the arms race for iron.

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n nearly all organisms, iron is an essential nutrient that serves as a protein cofactor in pathways ranging from central metabolism to genome maintenance. In single-cell organisms, such as bacteria, maintaining a pool of intracellular iron sufficient to cofactor proteins requires coordination of synthesis of iron-containing proteins and cofactors with iron uptake and iron storage (1, 2). Although this process of iron homeostasis has been well studied in *Escherichia coli* K-12, most of our understanding comes from analyzing cells grown in the presence of O<sub>2</sub> (2–4), conditions known to result in oxidation of Fe<sup>2+</sup> to Fe<sup>3+</sup>, decreased iron solubility, and the formation of reactive oxygen species (5). In contrast, less is known about iron homeostasis during anaerobiosis, conditions in which the soluble form of iron (Fe<sup>2+</sup>) is more stable and many important iron-requiring activities (e.g., cyclic photosynthesis, N<sub>2</sub> fixation, and anaerobic respiration) of bacteria occur (6). We are interested in determining how O<sub>2</sub> availability alters the expression of genes needed to maintain cellular pools of iron.

In *E. coli* K-12, the transcription factor Fur (ferric uptake regulator) (7, 8) and the small RNA RyhB (9, 10) are the major regulators of iron homeostasis. Studies from cells grown under aerobic conditions have led to the prevailing view that  $Fe^{2+}$ -Fur binds DNA when iron is sufficient (8, 11, 12), resulting in repression of most of its target genes. Functions repressed by Fur include RyhB (9), the Fe<sup>3+</sup>-siderophore uptake pathways (e.g., *fepA*, *fhuA*, and

*cirA* [7, 13]), one of two Fe-S cluster biogenesis pathways (*sufAB-CDSE* [14–16]), the manganese uptake system (*mntH* [17]), the manganese-containing superoxide dismutase (*sodA* [18]), and the manganese-containing ribonucleotide reductase complex (*nrdHIEF* [19]). In contrast, Fur increases the expression of *ftnA*, encoding an iron storage complex (20). Siderophores are regarded as a major route of iron uptake under aerobic conditions, because their high affinity for Fe<sup>3+</sup> compensates for the poor solubility of oxidized iron in the presence of O<sub>2</sub> (21, 22). Although repression of iron uptake systems by Fur under iron-sufficient conditions may seem counterintuitive, the low levels of these gene products are apparently adequate to supply iron for protein cofactors and storage.

Upon iron limitation,  $Fe^{2+}$  is not available to bind Fur, and Fur binding to its DNA sites decreases, resulting in decreased expression of Fur-induced genes (i.e., *ftnA*) and increased expression of most of the Fur regulon, including RyhB (13, 23). The reported changes in Fur-dependent gene transcription under iron-limiting conditions portray a coordinated strategy of reducing iron storage, scavenging limiting iron, and switching to manganesedependent proteins to replace those requiring iron for function. Although Fur function has not been systematically studied under anaerobic conditions in *E. coli*, some O<sub>2</sub>-dependent differences in Fur-regulated genes have been reported. Whereas expression of siderophore-mediated iron transport systems (*fepA*, *fhuA*, *cirA*, *tonB*, and *exbB* [7, 24, 25]) is more repressed under anaerobic conditions, expression of Fe<sup>2+</sup> transport (*feoABC*) is increased anaerobically (26, 27).

Expression of the small RNA RyhB under iron-limiting conditions mediates an iron-sparing response to supply iron for critical iron-containing proteins by decreasing translation of certain ironcontaining proteins or increasing translation of iron uptake functions (10, 28). Base pairing of RyhB with specific mRNA transcripts results in either enhanced translation through disruption of an inhibitory complex (29) or decreased translation through Hfq recruitment, which is often accompanied by decreased transcript stability (30, 31). Transcription of a few known RyhB targets is repressed under anaerobic conditions (*sdhCDAB*, *acnA*, *acnB*, and fumA) (27, 32, 33), suggesting that these RNAs would not be posttranscriptionally regulated under anaerobic conditions. The fact that transcription of genes encoding other iron-containing respiratory proteins is selectively upregulated under anaerobic conditions (32, 34-37) raises the question of whether these transcripts might be targets of RyhB under anaerobic conditions. Since it is challenging to predict direct targets of small RNAs like RyhB bioinformatically (38, 39), experimental studies are needed to identify RyhB candidates under anaerobic conditions.

Here we address how anaerobiosis affects the Fur and RyhB regulons of *E. coli* K-12. Chromatin immunoprecipitation followed by high-throughput sequencing (ChIP-seq) identified *in vivo* Fur DNA binding sites in the presence and absence of O<sub>2</sub>. Global gene expression studies of wild-type and Fur<sup>-</sup> ( $\Delta fur$ ) strains cultured under aerobic or anaerobic conditions revealed genes regulated by Fur in an O<sub>2</sub>-dependent manner. Promoter fusions to *lacZ* confirmed new Fur targets. Global gene expression studies of strains lacking RyhB ( $\Delta ryhB$ ) or RyhB and Fur ( $\Delta fur \Delta ryhB$ ) were used to identify the scope of possible RyhB targets during anaerobicsis. The metallome of cells grown under aerobic and anaerobic conditions was probed to ask if the intracellular availability of iron or other metals changes under anaerobic con-

ditions. Our findings reveal major changes in the Fur and RyhB regulons under anaerobic conditions that tailor these gene expression programs to an  $O_2$ -free lifestyle.

## RESULTS

Fur binds to more genomic regions under anaerobic growth conditions. To address how anaerobiosis impacts the Fur regulon, we mapped Fur DNA binding regions genome-wide in E. coli K-12 from cells grown in defined, iron-sufficient medium under aerobic or anaerobic conditions using ChIP-seq (see Table S2 in the supplemental material). Under aerobic conditions, Fur bound to 96 locations, and two-thirds of these binding peaks were found in intergenic regions (Fig. 1A). Under anaerobic conditions, Fur bound all sites identified under aerobic conditions and 157 additional locations (Fig. 1B); only half of these newly identified sites were in intergenic regions. Fur binding under anaerobic conditions was iron dependent because the vast majority of binding locations (247 out of 255) were either eliminated or greatly reduced when assayed under iron-limiting conditions (Fig. 1C). Together, these data show that Fur is bound to more genomic regions under anaerobic conditions, and the iron dependence of its DNA binding suggests that Fur is interacting with its DNA sites in a regulated manner (23).

Fur binds to less-conserved sequences under anaerobic conditions. To understand why Fur is bound to more genomic regions under anaerobic conditions, we asked if there were DNA sequence differences between the sites bound only under anaerobic conditions versus those bound under both aerobic and anaerobic growth conditions. The DNA sequences within 100 bp of the summit of the iron-dependent Fur binding peaks were analyzed for overrepresented sequences using the motif-finding algorithm MEME-ChIP (40). The motif derived from the iron-dependent DNA regions bound by Fur under both aerobic and anaerobic growth conditions (Fig. 2, top panel) was similar to the signature inverted repeat 5'-GATAAT-N1-ATTATC-3' previously described as the Fur dimer binding site (41-44). However, the motif derived from the regions bound by Fur only under anaerobic conditions (Fig. 2, bottom panel) revealed less sequence conservation to this canonical motif. Taken together, this analysis suggests that under anaerobic conditions, Fe<sup>2+</sup>-Fur is bound to potentially stronger affinity sites represented by the signature Fur motif, as well as potentially weaker affinity DNA sites represented by the less-conserved motif.

Despite Fur binding to more locations under anaerobic conditions, the genes regulated by Fur are quite similar between aerobic and anaerobic conditions. Transcription profiling of Fur<sup>+</sup> and Fur<sup>-</sup> strains was used first to determine whether Fur binding to the sites identified as specific to anaerobic conditions led to transcriptional regulation. Of the 178 operons whose expression we found to be Fur regulated under anaerobic conditions (see Tables S3 to S5 in the supplemental material), only four operons were associated with a Fur ChIP-seq peak that was specific to anaerobic conditions and were not RyhB regulated (see below) (Fig. 3; see Table S3). Expression of three of these operons was increased by Fur under anaerobic conditions, and these encode PreTA, an Fe-S dihydropyrimidine dehydrogenase, Dps, a dualfunction nucleoid and iron sequestration protein, and AppY, a transcription activator of anaerobic metabolism. The fourth operon was repressed by Fur under anaerobic conditions and encodes GltA, a citrate synthase, which was reported previously to be



FIG 1 Genome-wide Fur DNA binding. Fur binding across the genome was compared under either aerobic (track A, red) or anaerobic (track B, blue) iron-sufficient ( $10 \mu$ M FeSO<sub>4</sub>) growth conditions in the wild-type strain, MG1655, or under anaerobic iron-limiting ( $1.0 \mu$ M FeSO<sub>4</sub>) growth conditions (track C, black) in an iron-uptake-deficient strain ( $\Delta tonB \Delta feo \Delta zupT$ ) by ChIP-seq. The *x* axis indicates the genomic position of the ChIP-seq peaks using the MG1655 genome coordinates (version U00096.2), and the *y* axis indicates the read count after each data set was normalized to 20 million reads; enrichment of Fur DNA binding is indicated by the height of the lines in each track. An asterisk following the gene name indicates the read count extends beyond 250,000. A subset of peaks has been labelled with the corresponding downstream gene for comparison.

regulated by Fur under aerobic conditions (13). Thus, despite the fact that ChIP-seq identified 157 Fur binding sites specific to anaerobic conditions, only four led to detectable transcription regulation under anaerobic conditions.

In contrast, for the DNA regions bound by Fur under both aerobic and anaerobic conditions, more than one-third were associated with operons whose expression was regulated by Fur under anaerobic conditions (see Table S3 in the supplemental material). Indeed, the majority of these 36 operons were already known from studies carried out under aerobic growth conditions to be members of the Fur regulon (7, 13, 23) and include well-known iron homeostasis functions, such as iron acquisition (e.g., *fepA*-*entD* and *tonB*), iron storage (*ftnA* and *bfd*), and Fe-S cluster biogenesis (*sufABCDSE*), as well as the small RNA RyhB (*ryhB*). Two of the 36 operons, *amiA*, encoding a peptidoglycan amidohydrolase, and *yrbL*, a gene of unknown function, were not reported previously to be Fur regulated. In summary, although this genomic approach correctly identifies most of the known Fur regulon and associated binding sites, the majority of Fur binding

sites (~200) identified by ChIP-seq from either aerobic or anaerobic conditions do not lead to Fur-dependent changes in transcription under the growth conditions tested here.

Anaerobiosis enhances the magnitude of Fur regulation for most of the Fur regulon. To further investigate the impact of O<sub>2</sub> availability on expression of the four promoter regions bound by Fur only under anaerobic conditions, we compared RNA levels from gene expression profiling of Fur<sup>+</sup> and Fur<sup>-</sup> strains grown under aerobic or anaerobic conditions. For these four operons (preTA, gltA, dps, and appY) (Fig. 3, middle panel; see Table S3 in the supplemental material), we found that Fur-dependent changes in RNA levels were indeed greatest under anaerobic conditions. A similar trend was observed when individual promoter regions of *preT* and *dps* were fused to a *lacZ* reporter gene (Fig. 3, bottom panel) and assayed for Fur-dependent changes in  $\beta$ -galactosidase activity in Fur<sup>+</sup> and Fur<sup>-</sup> strains grown under aerobic or anaerobic conditions. In contrast, we did not observe a comparable effect of Fur on expression of the Pappy-lacZ fusion as found with *appY* transcript levels. Since the activity of the *appY* 



FIG 2 Fur binds less-conserved sequences under anaerobic growth conditions. DNA sequences from iron-dependent Fur ChIP-seq peaks were analyzed by the motif-finding algorithm MEME-ChIP. The height of the letters (in bits on the *y* axis) represents the degree of conservation at a given position within the aligned sequence set, with perfect conservation being 2 bits. The motif in the top panel was constructed from 90 sequences bound by Fur under both aerobic and anaerobic growth conditions. The motif in the bottom panel was constructed from 157 sequences bound by Fur only under anaerobic growth conditions. Arrows indicate the presence of an inverted repeat.

promoter is known to be regulated by the nucleoid-associated protein H-NS (45), transplanting this promoter out of its normal genomic context may eliminate the ability of Fur to increase expression, if Fur acts to prevent H-NS repression similar to the mechanism of *ftnA* induction (20).

The effect of O<sub>2</sub> on Fur-dependent regulation of the entire regulon was also examined. By comparing RNA levels from gene expression profiling of Fur+ and Fur- strains, we found that Furdependent repression was greater under anaerobic compared to aerobic growth conditions for most of the Fur regulon (Fig. 4, top panel; see Table S3 in the supplemental material). The genomic regions upstream of representative operons were further analyzed by assaying expression from promoter-lacZ fusions in the presence and absence of Fur under both aerobic and anaerobic growth conditions. Expression from promoter-lacZ fusions of three operons (fhuA, bfd, and nrdHIEF) recapitulated the increased anaerobic repression by Fur observed by expression profiling (Fig. 5). In addition, expression from promoter-lacZ fusions also revealed small increases in Fur repression of *fepA* and *fhuE* during anaerobiosis that we were unable to detect in genome-wide experiments due to their low expression levels in Fur<sup>+</sup> strains (Fig. 5; see Table S3). Although not tested further here, it seems likely that other strongly repressed genes with low expression levels (e.g., fes, fepDGC, entS, and entCEBAH) will also show some degree of Furdependent O<sub>2</sub> regulation if examined by more sensitive assays. Furthermore, expression of *ftnA*, which is positively affected by Fur, was also increased under anaerobic conditions (see Table S3). Thus, Fur appears to be more active anaerobically, resulting in O<sub>2</sub> regulation of many promoters within its regulon.

However, for some Fur-repressed operons, O<sub>2</sub> regulation was not solely mediated by Fur. For example, transcript levels from several operons known to be Fur targets (*fiu-ybiX*, *feoABC*, *yddAB-pqqL*, *sufABCDSE*, *yoeA*, *cirA*, *mntH*, *nrdHIEF*, *yrbL*, fecABCDE, and sodA) showed O<sub>2</sub>-dependent differences in Furstrains (see Table S3). The genomic regions upstream of three such Fur-regulated operons (feoA, fiu, and mntH) were further analyzed by assaying expression from promoter-lacZ fusions in the presence and absence of Fur under both aerobic and anaerobic conditions (Fig. 5). In the case of feoABC, Fur repression was limited to anaerobic conditions, likely due to the known activation of this operon by the anaerobic transcription factors ArcA and FNR (26, 27). In contrast, Fur repression of fiu and mntH was greater under aerobic than anaerobic conditions. Although the mechanism is not known, MntR also represses mntH (46), and ArcA binds to the *fiu* promoter region (27). Finally, although not tested here, expression of the sufABCDSE, nrdHIEF, and sodA operons is known to also be controlled by the transcription factor IscR, whose activity is regulated by  $O_2$  availability (19, 47, 48). Therefore, it is probable that, in addition to Fur, transcription factors such as IscR, ArcA, or FNR further modulate the expression of operons within this group under anaerobic conditions. Thus, anaerobiosis appears to have a major effect on expression of the Fur regulon.

Many genes indirectly regulated by Fur appear to be novel RyhB targets. The small regulatory RNA RyhB is known to posttranscriptionally decrease expression of select iron-containing proteins and increase expression of certain iron uptake functions in an effort to spare iron for critical functions during ironlimiting, aerobic growth conditions (10, 28). Because RyhB is elevated in strains lacking Fur, we reasoned that some of the operons indirectly regulated by Fur (i.e., those that lacked a ChIP-seq peak) might represent novel RyhB targets. Using the criteria that transcripts regulated by RyhB should return to wild-type levels when strains lacking Fur are also deleted for ryhB, we found that nearly one-third of the operons indirectly controlled by Fur under anaerobic growth conditions are candidates for direct RyhB regulation (see Table S4 in the supplemental material). The effect of RyhB on RNA levels was generally small (~2-fold), in agreement with previous reports (49), although a few showed >5-fold changes. Control experiments comparing expression of wild-type (Fur<sup>+</sup> RyhB<sup>+</sup>) to Fur<sup>+</sup> RyhB<sup>-</sup> strains revealed very little differential gene expression as expected (see Table S7 in the supplemental material). The remaining genes, whose expression was not RyhB regulated but which were indirectly influenced by Fur, are reported in Table S5 in the supplemental material.

Of the 46 operons regulated by RyhB under anaerobic conditions, most are new candidates for RyhB regulation (Fig. 4, bottom panel; see Table S4 in the supplemental material). For example, 13 of the 15 operons whose RNA levels were increased by RyhB expression are new potential targets. In addition to the known RyhB-dependent increase of shiA transcripts (29), we observed increases in RNA levels for proteins involved in cellular motility (flgBCDEFG, fliAZY, fliC, and fimICDFGH), metabolism (e.g., *ybiV*, *ppsR*, and *bioA*), and transport (e.g., *ydeA*, *ynfM*, and *yohJ*) (Fig. 4, bottom panel; see Table S4). If these increases are due to direct effects of RyhB, then these data suggest that the positive effect of RyhB on transcript stability may be broader than just iron homeostasis. In contrast, the RNA levels of the 31 operons decreased by RyhB expression (Fig. 4, bottom panel; see Table S4) under anaerobic conditions encode mostly iron-containing proteins, consistent with the paradigm of iron sparing (28). Some of these operons were previously known or predicted to be regulated by RyhB (e.g., sodB, frdABCD, pflA, nuoABCEFGHIJKLMN,



FIG 3 Only a few newly identified Fur binding regions lead to transcription regulation. Representative ChIP-seq plots of Fur binding to *preT*, *dps*, or *appY* promoter regions are shown for aerobic (red) or anaerobic (blue) growth conditions (top panel). Plots of *preT*, *dps*, or *appY* RNA levels from transcriptomic data are shown for wild-type (red, blue) and  $\Delta fur$  (yellow, green) strains grown under aerobic (red or yellow) or anaerobic (blue or green) growth conditions (middle panel). Strains bearing promoter-*lacZ* fusions to the *preT*, *dps*, or *appY* promoters were assayed for  $\beta$ -galactosidase activity in the presence or absence of Fur under aerobic or anaerobic growth conditions and normalized by cell density as a measure of promoter activity (bottom panel). The error bars represent the standard errors from at least three biological replicates.

*dmsABC*, *hypABCDE*, and *nirBDC*) (39, 49). However, most operons are new candidates for RyhB regulation and encode protein complexes involved in anaerobic respiration and metabolism (*hyaABCDEF*, *hycABCDEFGHI*, *hydN-hypF*, *fdhF*, *narGHJI*, *nrfABCDEF*, *appCB-yccB-appA*, *ynfEFGH*, *narK*, and *dppBCDF*).

The suite of RyhB downregulated genes differs between aerobic and anaerobic conditions. Many of the newly identified downregulated RyhB candidates are expressed preferentially under anaerobic conditions (27, 32, 33, 36), providing a plausible explanation for why they were not previously detected when cells grown under aerobic conditions were analyzed. Conversely, some known RyhB targets were not found to be regulated by RyhB under anaerobic conditions—presumably because they were not sufficiently expressed. To test how extensively O<sub>2</sub> influences the transcription of RyhB targets, we compared RNA levels from Fur<sup>-</sup> versus Fur<sup>-</sup> RyhB<sup>-</sup> strains grown under both aerobic and anaerobic growth conditions. Indeed, of the 44 transcripts negatively regulated by RyhB, 13 are expressed at higher levels in the presence of  $O_2$ , 14 are similarly expressed whether  $O_2$  is present, and 17 are expressed at higher levels under anaerobic conditions (Fig. 4, bottom panel; see Table S4 in the supplemental material).

We also found that  $Fur^-$  strains grew slower than  $Fur^+$  strains under aerobic but not anaerobic conditions (Fig. 6). However, wild-type growth rates were reestablished in aerobic  $Fur^-$  strains upon deletion of RyhB. The fact that this growth rate phenotype is only observed under aerobic growth conditions suggests the genes whose transcription is limited to aerobic conditions and are targeted by RyhB may be responsible for the observed growth defect. Together, these analyses highlight a major role of O<sub>2</sub>-dependent transcriptional changes in determining which mRNAs are targeted by RyhB to promote an iron-sparing response.

**Iron-containing proteins that are not regulated by RyhB.** By analyzing the expression levels of all annotated iron-binding proteins (according to the EcoCyc database [50]) in our data set, we



FIG 4 Anaerobiosis impacts the expression of the Fur and RyhB regulons. The expression pattern of operons regulated directly by Fur (top panel [data from Table S3 in the supplemental material]) and operons that are candidates for RyhB regulation (bottom panel [data from Table S4 in the supplemental material]) were compared and grouped by cellular iron functions. In the top panel, green squares indicate operons repressed by Fur, whereas purple squares indicate operons induced by Fur. Diamonds indicate operons exhibiting more Fur regulation under anaerobic conditions, and underlined operons are bound by Fur only under anaerobic conditions. In the bottom panel, green squares indicate operons whose transcript levels are decreased by RyhB, whereas purple squares indicate operons that are increased by RyhB. Operons exhibiting  $\geq$ 2-fold-increased wild-type expression under aerobic conditions are marked with a circle or triangle, respectively, and operons where upstream Fur DNA binding was mapped are underlined. Newly identified Fur- or RyhB-regulated genes are in red text. Proteins known to contain an Fe cofactor are indicated.



FIG 5 Effect of  $O_2$  on expression of select Fur regulon members. Strains bearing promoter-reporter gene (*lacZ*) fusions to several Fur-regulated promoters (*fhuA*, *bfd*, *nrdH*, *fepA*, *fhuE*, *feoA*, *fiu*, and *mntH*) were assayed for  $\beta$ -galactosidase activity in the presence or absence of Fur under aerobic or anaerobic growth conditions. Promoter activity was normalized to cell density. ND indicates that the promoter activity was below our detection limit. The error bars represent the standard errors from at least three biological replicates.

could separate out the iron-binding proteins that appear to evade RyhB regulation. This group was enriched in heme biosynthetic enzymes, cytochrome maturation functions, and heme proteins (see Table S6 in the supplemental material). In addition, genes coding for iron-containing proteins that function in cofactor biosynthesis (e.g., *bioB*, *lipA*, *nadA*, *ispG*, and *ispH*), DNA repair (*nth* and *mutY*), RNA modification (*rlmC*, *rlmD*, *rlmN*, *queG*, *ttcA*, *tsaD*, and *miaB*), and transcriptional regulation (*soxR*, *nsrR*, and *fnr*) also do not appear to be subject to RyhB regulation (see Table S6). Perhaps some of these processes escape RyhB regulation because they are more critical to cellular function (e.g., RNA modification) or too costly to abandon (e.g., synthesis of cofactors such as heme, thiamine, biotin, ubiquinone, or NAD<sup>+</sup>) upon iron deprivation.

Possible dual regulation of genes by Fur and RyhB. Our data suggest that several operons are potentially coregulated by Fur and RyhB because we found an upstream Fur DNA binding site and differential gene expression in Fur- compared to Fur- RyhBstrains. For example, cirA, fecABCDE, yddAB-pqqL, yncE, ybiV, ydeA, and ppsR are bound upstream by Fur, and their RNA levels are increased by RyhB (see Tables S3 and S4 in the supplemental material). In fact, cirA is known to be regulated by Fur (7) and RyhB (51). Maximizing expression of known (cirA and fecAB-*CDE*) and predicted (*yddAB-pqqL* and *yncE*) iron uptake systems during iron-limiting conditions could be advantageous. Yet for a second group of genes (including acnA, sdhCDAB, hybOAB, oppBCDF, tsx, sseB, and pepB), the potential opposing effects of Fur and RyhB and additional regulation by transcription factors such as ArcA and IscR preclude any conclusions without additional data (see Table S4).

**O**<sub>2</sub>-dependent regulation of the metallome. Since we found that anaerobic conditions led to increased Fur-dependent repression of ferric uptake pathways and genes encoding other divalent cation-binding proteins (Mn-binding SodA and NrdHIEF), we assayed whether cellular metal levels changed between aerobic and anaerobic conditions. The cellular levels of 11 elements (Mn, Co, Ni, Zn, Mg, P, S, Fe, K, Cu, and Ca) were measured by inductively coupled plasma mass spectrometry (ICP-MS) (Table 1). Fe was present at 19.1 ng/mg cell pellet during aerobic growth, corresponding to ~0.0063% of the cellular dry weight—~3-fold less than previous reports (2)—and showed a small 1.2-fold increase during anaerobic growth. In contrast, Mn, Co, and Ca levels



FIG 6 Growth of strains lacking Fur and RyhB. Cell density was measured over time for the wild-type (black diamonds),  $\Delta fur$  (red circles),  $\Delta ryhB$  (open squares), and  $\Delta fur \Delta ryhB$  (orange triangles) strains under aerobic or anaerobic growth conditions in MOPS glucose minimal medium with 10  $\mu$ M FeSO<sub>4</sub>. Trend lines were added for ease of visualization. This representative growth curve was replicated several times.

TABLE 1 Results from whole-cell elemental analy	/sis
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Element	Elemental analysis result, ng/mg cell pellet (SE) <sup>a</sup>		Aerobic/anaerobic
	Aerobic growth	Anaerobic growth	ratio
Mn	3.23 (0.253)	0.0882 (0.00427)	37
Со	0.213 (0.0229)	0.0389 (0.0000995)	5.5
Ni	0.0369 (0.00354)	0.0223 (0.00567)	1.7
Zn	6.49 (0.150)	4.06 (0.0727)	1.6
Mg	422 (5.30)	321 (3.16)	1.3
Р	3,190 (31.7)	2,670 (9.54)	1.2
S	1,680 (27.8)	1,550 (16.8)	1.1
Fe	19.1 (1.12)	22.8 (0.265)	0.84
Κ	1,000 (38.9)	1,560 (9.14)	0.64
Cu	0.494 (0.0302)	0.818 (0.139)	0.60
Ca	24.7 (0.594)	70.5 (4.23)	0.35

 $^a$  Nanograms of element per milligram of packed cell pellet as determined by ICP-MS. Assuming 70% of cell pellet is  $\rm H_2O$ , dividing by 0.3 and multiplying by 100 should approximate the percentage of dry weight. SE, standard error from three biological replicates of cells grown in MOPS glucose minimal medium.

showed large  $O_2$ -dependent differences in abundance: anaerobic cellular Mn and Co levels decreased 37-fold and 5.5-fold, respectively, whereas anaerobic Ca levels increased 2.9-fold compared to those in aerobic cells (Table 1). These data show that  $O_2$  availability has a broad effect on cellular metal homeostasis.

#### DISCUSSION

The findings reported here show that the lack of O<sub>2</sub> produces large and previously unreported effects on metal ion homeostasis in the enteric bacterium E. coli. Specifically we found that O2 availability impacts the expression of genes regulated by the two iron global regulators, Fur and RyhB, but for different reasons. Under anaerobic conditions, the positive or negative effects of the transcription factor Fur on expression of many genes were enhanced. In contrast, the O2-dependent changes in the genes posttranscriptionally regulated by RyhB could be attributed to differential transcription of these target mRNAs. This regulatory hierarchy suggests that the iron proteome may be differentially remodeled under iron starvation conditions, depending on O<sub>2</sub> availability. Finally, enhanced Fur-dependent repression of manganesecofactored enzymes was accompanied by a dramatic decrease in cellular manganese levels, suggesting previously unknown rewiring of the metallome under anaerobic growth conditions.

Adaptation of the Fur regulon to anaerobic conditions. While our analysis of anaerobic cells allowed us to identify some new genes regulated by Fur, our major finding was the enhancement in Fur regulation in response to anaerobiosis. Thus, our results provide new insight into the sensitivity of the control of iron homeostasis in E. coli to O2 availability (summarized in Fig. 7). For example, expression of genes encoding several Fe<sup>3+</sup>siderophore uptake systems was decreased under anaerobic conditions, consistent with decreased demand for ferric uptake. Fur also increased expression of the genes encoding two iron storage proteins, ferritin A and Dps, and decreased expression of bfd, encoding a protein that would facilitate iron release from bacterioferritin (52), suggesting that iron storage may be increased anaerobically. However, the process by which iron is stored under anaerobic conditions in E. coli is unclear because the best-studied mechanisms for iron storage require  $O_2$ , mineralizing ~1,000 to 3,000 iron atoms/ferritin (1, 3) and ~20 to 500 irons/Dps (2, 53). Thus, in the absence of an  $O_2$ -dependent mineralization mechanism, less iron may actually be stored anaerobically, despite the increase in *dps* and *ftnA* expression. Nevertheless, we observed a small increase in total cellular iron levels under anaerobic conditions, raising the possibility that iron storage could be increased. Although the bulk of cellular iron is assumed to be in a bound state, allocated between iron-bound proteins and storage forms (2, 54), the overall distribution of iron in anaerobically grown cells is not known. Determining whether this increased iron is present in iron stores and protein cofactors or is unbound will be critical in addressing if Fur activity is enhanced under anaerobic conditions because of an increase in the "labile" iron pool.

Our results also reinforce previous studies that Fe-S cofactor biosynthesis is regulated by  $O_2$  and iron availability (Fig. 7). First, expression of both the housekeeping Isc pathway and the stress-induced Suf Fe-S cluster biogenesis pathways is decreased under



FIG 7 Iron homeostasis pathways are reprogrammed in response to O<sub>2</sub> availability: a model. Under both aerobic and anaerobic conditions, we propose that iron is distributed to iron storage complexes, Fur, iron-binding proteins, or Fe-S biogenesis and heme synthesis pathways. However, under anaerobic growth conditions, iron uptake is shifted to ferrous transport systems, expression of iron storage proteins is increased, and Fe-S biogenesis occurs primarily by the housekeeping Isc pathway. When expressed under anaerobic iron-limiting conditions, we propose that RyhB targets anaerobically induced Fe-S-binding and iron-binding proteins of anaerobic respiratory pathways in addition to other constitutively expressed RyhB targets. Whereas under aerobic growth conditions, iron uptake is shifted to ferric transport systems, iron storage gene expression is decreased, and Fe-S biogenesis is still mainly by the housekeeping Isc pathway, but expression of the stress-induced Suf pathway is increased. When expressed under aerobic iron-limiting conditions, RyhB switches from targeting Fe-S-binding and iron-binding proteins of anaerobic respiratory pathways to those of aerobic respiratory pathways and the TCA cycle. The abundance of Mn, Mn proteins, and Mn efflux systems also increases under aerobic growth conditions.

anaerobic conditions, due to the regulators IscR (47, 55) and Fur (14), respectively. Since some Fe-S clusters are known to be labile to  $O_2$  or reactive oxygen species (4), the decrease in expression of Fe-S biogenesis pathways under anaerobic conditions might reflect a decreased demand for Fe-S clusters under conditions where clusters are more stable. However, when iron is limiting, this coordinate control of Fe-S biogenesis pathways should be disrupted under anaerobic conditions because RyhB downregulates expression of the Isc pathway (56), whereas the loss of Fur repression promotes an increase in expression of the Suf pathway (14–16). Surprisingly, the enzymes required for heme biosynthesis or many heme-containing proteins were not found to be part of the Fur or RyhB regulon. How the flux of iron into this pathway is controlled remains to be determined.

RyhB connects iron status to O<sub>2</sub>-dependent transcriptional networks. This study also reveals extensive integration of the RyhB network with those that respond to O<sub>2</sub> limitation, ensuring that cells produce the most appropriate suite of iron-containing proteins, depending on environmental conditions. For example, transcription of several genes encoding iron-containing proteins is regulated by O<sub>2</sub> to tailor protein production to the appropriate mode of energy conservation (e.g., tricarboxylic acid [TCA] cycle and aerobic and anaerobic respiratory pathways) (6, 32, 37). When external iron is sufficient, intracellular iron is available to synthesize the appropriate complement of iron-containing proteins, and transcriptional regulation by O2 is the primary point of control. However, when external iron is not sufficient, RyhB is expressed and a second level of control is added (Fig. 7), which decreases mRNA levels of a subset of iron-containing proteins, making iron available for more "essential" iron proteins in the so-called "iron-sparing response" (28, 57).

The observed downregulation of components of the TCA cycle and respiratory pathways by RyhB under both aerobic and anaerobic growth conditions suggests that this small RNA selectively targets respiration-linked energy conservation pathways to maintain the function of other iron-binding proteins under ironlimiting conditions. Surprisingly, targeting these mRNAs only affected the growth rate under aerobic conditions. Although the downregulation of pathways that generate NADH (i.e., TCA cycle) and its oxidation (i.e., NADH dehydrogenase I) by RyhB in E. coli may be sufficient to explain this decreased growth rate, we cannot exclude contributions from the downregulation of other RyhB targets, such as superoxide dismutase B (SodB), which functions in reducing oxidative stress (58). It is noteworthy that Bacil*lus subtilis* appears to exert a similar strategy in that Fur<sup>-</sup> strains cannot grow on the respiratory substrate succinate unless these strains also lack the small RNA FsrA, the B. subtilis equivalent of RyhB (59).

Anaerobiosis may impact the metallation state of other divalent cation-containing proteins. Comparison of the metallomes of *E. coli* K-12 between aerobic and anaerobic conditions revealed a large decrease in cellular manganese levels during anaerobiosis. This decrease in manganese was accompanied by enhanced anaerobic repression by Fur of two major Mn-containing enzymes, the Mn-superoxide dismutase encoded by *sodA* (18, 60) and the Mnribonucleotide reductase encoded by *nrdHIEF* (19). Both of these enzymes have iron-containing isozymes, encoded by *sodB* and *nrdAB* or *nrdDG*, which substitute for their Mn counterparts under anaerobic conditions (61–64). Thus, decreasing synthesis of the Mn isozymes when they are not needed under anaerobic conditions serves both to avoid wasting energy in synthesizing unnecessary polypeptides and also to possibly avoid their mismetallation when Mn is decreased; the importance of maintaining the cellular Fe/Mn ratio for protein metal ion selectivity and cellular physiology has recently been reviewed (54).

The mechanism by which Mn levels decrease under anaerobic conditions is not known. Perhaps decreased Mn transport via the MntH Mn<sup>2+</sup>/Fe<sup>2+</sup>:H<sup>+</sup> symporter, which is driven by the proton motive force (65), could be limiting under the fermentative conditions of growth used in these experiments. We found that expression of the Mn exporter MntP (66) is reduced anaerobically (see Table S3 in the supplemental material), so it would seem unlikely to play a role in this response. Interestingly, expression of the Mn-dependent isozyme of phosphoglycerate mutase, GpmM, is induced during anaerobiosis (67). If this is the major form of the enzyme under anaerobic conditions, it is possible that cells have a system to prioritize manganese loading of GpmM under conditions of decreased cellular Mn. The MntS/RybA protein has been suggested to be an Mn chaperone (46), which could perhaps carry out this activity.

Fur binds the canonical Fur motif under either aerobic or anaerobic conditions. Prior to this study, the in vivo DNA binding sites of Fur had been mapped only under aerobic growth conditions (23). We found good agreement between the locations of 59 high-signal-to-noise, iron-dependent Fur binding regions in our study and the binding regions mapped with the higherresolution "ChIP-exo" approach (23), which combines ChIP with  $\lambda$  exonuclease digestion and high-throughput sequencing (see Table S2 in the supplemental material). Less overlap between our studies and ChIP-exo experiments was observed for peaks with low signal-to-noise ratio (ChIP signal of <3,000), which may be attributed to the complexity in resolving the background of ChIP experiments. Nevertheless, a large number of Fur binding regions mapped under either aerobic or anaerobic conditions did not result in transcriptional regulation. Some of these sites could function under different physiological conditions, as was proposed for similar "transcriptionally inactive" binding regions found with the transcription factor FNR (36), or some may contribute to the overall nucleoid structure of the genome (68). Perhaps the necessity of global regulators to bind more degenerate DNA sites to achieve regulation within many promoter regions might lead to binding at other regions of the genome as an unintended consequence. We also did not observe Fur binding in vivo to some sites predicted by an information theory model (44), indicating that not all high-quality DNA sites are accessible to transcription factor binding. This property was also previously observed for the transcription factor FNR (36), providing additional support to the notion that global regulators compete for occupancy in vivo with other DNA binding proteins.

Why is Fur binding increased anaerobically? Bioinformatic analysis of the regions bound by Fur under both aerobic and anaerobic conditions revealed DNA sites similar to the Fur motif defined from previous studies (44). In contrast, the Fur binding sites specific to anaerobic conditions were not predicted by this weight matrix model, consistent with the notion that these represent weaker affinity sites. Because Fur occupancy of these lessconserved sequences increased under anaerobic conditions, we propose that there must be more active Fur under anaerobic conditions to bind to these putative weaker affinity sites. Increased Fur DNA occupancy of previously known Fur sites could also explain increased repression and induction of many Fur-regulated genes during anaerobiosis. While increased Fur DNA binding could result from greater Fur protein abundance in the cell during anaerobiosis, we did not observe an increase in *fur* expression under anaerobic conditions. Thus, the mechanism to explain increased Fur activity and whether it is connected to the small increases in cellular iron observed under anaerobic conditions requires further study.

In summary, our *in vivo* DNA binding and expression data suggest that Fur activity increases during anaerobiosis. Our findings reveal that in the absence of  $O_2$ , the Fur regulon is modified such that transcription of iron uptake genes is geared toward Fe<sup>2+</sup> and expression of iron storage proteins is increased. Furthermore, Mn levels and expression of Mn-cofactored enzymes that have iron counterparts are decreased under anaerobic conditions. We also found that many potential targets of RyhB are also transcriptionally regulated by  $O_2$ , implying that the iron proteome is likely to be differentially remodeled in response to iron deprivation under anaerobic conditions.

#### MATERIALS AND METHODS

Strain construction for global analyses and promoter activity assays. Relevant strains are listed in Table S1 in the supplemental material. Sequences of primers are available upon request. *E. coli* K-12 MG1655 (F<sup>-</sup> $\lambda^-$  rph-1) served as the wild-type strain. To construct the Fur<sup>-</sup> strain, PK9427,  $\Delta fur::kan$  from the Keio collection (69) was moved into MG1655 by transduction with P1 *vir*, selecting for kanamycin resistance (Km<sup>r</sup>). The *kan* cassette was removed by transforming strains with pCP20, encoding the FLP recombinase (70). To construct the RyhB<sup>-</sup> (PK10474) and Fur<sup>-</sup> RyhB<sup>-</sup> (PK10475) strains,  $\Delta ryhB::cat$  from PK7875 was moved into MG1655 and PK9427, respectively, by transduction with P1 *vir*, selecting for chloramphenicol resistance (Cm<sup>r</sup>). PK7875 was made by Pl *vir* transduction of  $\Delta ryhB::cat$  from EM1238 (9) into MG1655 and selection for Cm<sup>r</sup>.

Strains bearing chromosomal promoter-*lacZ* fusions were constructed as previously described (47). Briefly, promoter regions of interest were amplified from MG1655 and cloned into pPK7035. A *lacI-kan*promoter-*lacZ* fragment, amplified from pPK7035 derivatives, was then electroporated into either BW25993 containing pKD46 (70) or PK9012 (MG1655  $\lambda$ c1857  $\Delta$ *mutS*::Tn10  $\Delta$ *cro-bioA*). PK9012 was constructed in a manner previously described (55). Chromosomal promoter-*lacZ* fusions were moved into MG1655, PK9427, and JEM609 by transduction with P1 *vir*, selecting for Km<sup>r</sup>. All constructs were confirmed by colony PCR and/or DNA sequencing.

**Growth of strains for global analyses.** Strains were grown in gassparged Roux bottles at 37°C in MOPS (morpholinepropanesulfonic acid) minimal medium with 0.2% glucose and the indicated amount of FeSO<sub>4</sub> (36). For ChIP-seq or ChIP-chip (ChIP with microarray technology) analysis of MG1655 or PK9427 and for transcriptomic analysis of MG1655, PK9427, PK10474, and PK10475 the medium contained 10  $\mu$ M FeSO<sub>4</sub>. For ChIP-seq analysis of JEM609 (MG1655  $\Delta$ *lacZ*,  $\Delta$ *tonB*,  $\Delta$ *feoABC*,  $\Delta$ *zupT* [19]) the medium contained 1.0  $\mu$ M FeSO<sub>4</sub> to promote iron deficiency. A gas mixture of 70% N<sub>2</sub>, 5% CO<sub>2</sub>, and 25% O<sub>2</sub> was used for aerobic experiments, and a gas mixture of 95% N<sub>2</sub> and 5% CO<sub>2</sub> was used for anaerobic experiments (36). Cells were harvested at an optical density at 600 nm (OD<sub>600</sub>) of 0.3 to 0.35, measured using a Perkin Elmer Lambda 25 UV/visible spectrophotometer.

**Chromatin immunoprecipitation followed by high-throughput sequencing or hybridization to a microarray chip.** ChIP assays were performed as previously described (36) using antibodies specific to Fur that were purified over a His<sub>6</sub>-Fur-bound HiTrap *N*-hydroxysuccinimide (NHS)-activated high-performance (HP) column (GE Healthcare) (71). Western blot analysis, performed as previously described (72), showed that the purified antibody was specific for Fur (see Fig. S1 in the supplemental material).

For ChIP-seq experiments, DNA enriched from three replicates of aerobic Fur<sup>+</sup> cultures (MG1655 or MG1655 P<sub>fepA</sub>-lacZ), three replicates of anaerobic Fur<sup>+</sup> cultures (MG1655 or MG1655 P<sub>fepA</sub>-lacZ), two replicates of anaerobic iron-deficient cultures (JEM609 or JEM609 P<sub>fepA</sub>-lacZ), or one combined-input sample was submitted to the University of Wisconsin-Madison DNA Sequencing Facility for library construction and Illumina sequencing (Illumina Genome Analyzer IIx or Illumina HiSeq2000 [all single-end,  $1 \times 50$  bp]) per the manufacturer's recommendations. Strains bearing  $P_{fepA}$ -lacZ allowed for readout of cellular iron status (see Fig. S2 in the supplemental material). Illumina sequencing FASTQ files were reformatted to the Sanger format using the FASTQ Groomer script (73) and reads (aerobic Fur<sup>+</sup> read counts of 21,140,380, 25,480,433, and 25,181,847; anaerobic Fur+ read counts of 17,617,567, 16,084,736, and 18,255,201; anaerobic iron-deficient read counts of 18,361,478 and 20,432,024; and an input read count of 23,481,977) were mapped to the E. coli K-12 MG1655 genome (version U00096.2) using the Bowtie 2 algorithm (default settings) (74). Greater than 90% of reads mapped to the genome for all samples. Enriched regions were identified using the peak-calling algorithm MOSAiCS (75, 76) using a false discovery rate (FDR) of 0.1. The dPeak algorithm (77) was used to deconvolute close-proximity peaks. A total of 517 unique peaks, having been found in at least two replicates, were identified across all strains and growth conditions. Data sets were normalized to 20 million reads, and 262 peaks of low read count (<2,500 reads at the peak summit) were removed because they were present in both Fur<sup>+</sup> and iron-deficient cultures (DBChIP [78]; P <0.05) or did not visually conform to a peak above the local background. Normalized ChIP-seq data files were visualized with MochiView (79). The final peak list is given in Table S2 in the supplemental material. Fur binding site motifs were constructed by analyzing the 100 bp upstream and downstream of the dPeak-identified peak summits, submitting the sequences to MEME-ChIP (40), and using the overrepresented sequences to construct the position weight matrix (PWM).

For ChIP-chip experiments, DNA enriched from one replicate of an anaerobic Fur<sup>-</sup> culture (PK9472) and input DNA was amplified, labeled, and hybridized to a custom-made *E. coli* K-12 MG1655 tiled-genome microarray (Roche NimbleGen, Inc., Madison, WI [80]); hybridized microarrays were scanned using a GenePix 4000B (Axon Instruments) microarray scanner as previously described (36). ChIP and input data were quantile normalized using "normalize.Quantiles" from the preprocess-Core package (81) in R (82), and enriched binding regions were identified using the CMARRT peak-calling algorithm (P < 0.1) (83). Enriched regions were removed from the final Chip-seq peak list if they were also present in the Fur<sup>-</sup> strain data.

**RNA isolation and whole-genome transcriptomic microarray analysis.** RNA was isolated from two biological replicates of MG1655, PK9472, PK10474, and PK10475 under aerobic or anaerobic growth conditions as previously described (36). Ten micrograms of RNA was reverse transcribed and labeled with Amersham Cy3 monoreactive dye (GE Healthcare) as previously described (80). The purified, labeled cDNAs were fragmented with DNase I (0.1 U per  $\mu$ g of cDNA) for 10 min at 37°C. DNase I was then inactivated at 95°C for 10 min; samples from RyhB<sup>-</sup> and Fur<sup>-</sup> RyhB<sup>-</sup> strains also included 0.85 mM EDTA in this reaction. Approximately 0.6 to 1.5  $\mu$ g of precipitated Cy3-labeled cDNA was hybridized to a custom-made *E. coli* K-12 MG1655 tiled-genome microarray (Roche NimbleGen, Inc., Madison, WI [80]) as previously described (36). Hybridized microarrays were scanned using a GenePix 4000B (Axon Instruments) microarray scanner, and the photomultiplier tube (PMT) was adjusted so that the median fluorescence was just below 100.

Raw probe intensities were normalized across all samples using the Robust Multichip Average (RMA) algorithm in the NimbleScan software package (version 2.5 [84]). After probes were matched to gene coordinates ("IRanges" package [85] in R [82]), differential expression of genes between experiments was determined using an analysis of variance (ANOVA) test ("anova.test" in R [82]), and *P* values were adjusted using the Benjamini-Hochberg false discovery rate control procedure (86) ("p.adjust" with method = "BH" in R [82]; FDR, <0.01) to address the multiple testing issue. For differentially expressed genes, the experiments in which gene expression was significantly different from those of other experiments were identified by a *post hoc* test using the Tukey's honestly significant difference method (87) ("TukeyHSD" in R [82]; *P* < 0.01). Genes were further required to show at least a 1.5-fold change in expression between experiments. A cutoff of 1.5-fold change in expression between experiments was chosen based on known regulation of the Isc pathway by RyhB (56). Regulation of an operon was reported to be RyhB dependent only if expression changed under the condition in which the transcript was most expressed. The expression value of a given gene is the sum of the intensity of the probes that overlap that gene, from both biological replicates, divided by the length of that gene, log<sub>2</sub> transformed.

**Promoter activity measurements by** *β*-galactosidase assay. Strains bearing promoter-*lacZ* fusions were grown at 37°C in MOPS minimal medium containing 10 μM FeSO<sub>4</sub> and 0.2% glucose to an OD<sub>600</sub> of ~0.2 to 0.4 under either aerobic or anaerobic conditions, and promoter activity was measured as previously described (88). Differences in aerobic and anaerobic cell counts for cells grown in minimal medium were corrected by multiplying aerobic activity by 1.5 (72). Assays were repeated at least three times, and error bars represent the standard error from these biological replicates.

Cellular element analysis. Triplicate cultures of MG1655 were grown in MOPS minimal medium containing 10  $\mu$ M FeSO<sub>4</sub> and 0.2% glucose under either aerobic or anaerobic growth conditions in gas-sparged Roux bottles as in global analyses. At an  $OD_{600}$  of ~0.4, equal numbers of cells were centrifuged, resuspended in MOPS minimal medium containing 10 µM FeSO<sub>4</sub>, 0.2% glucose, and 10 mM diethylenetriaminepentaacetic acid (DTPA [Sigma Aldrich]), and incubated for 15 min at 37°C to remove contaminating surface metals (89). Cells were centrifuged and resuspended twice in 20 mM Tris-HCl (pH 7.4) and then transferred to preweighed 10% HCl-treated tubes. Cells were centrifuged, aspirated of the remaining liquid, and resuspended in  $H_2O$  to 0.33 mg cell pellet/ $\mu$ l. Cells were lysed on ice by sonication with a cup horn-equipped Misonix S-4000 sonicator at 10-s on-off intervals of 60% output for 60 min. At the Wisconsin State Laboratory of Hygiene, 200 µl of this cell lysate was digested with 100  $\mu l$  of tetramethylammonium hydroxide (TMAH) for 1 h at 70°C prior to dilution with 4% HNO3 (90) and element analysis by magnetic sector inductively coupled plasma mass spectrometry using a Thermo-Finnigan Element 2 plasma mass spectrometer (91).

**Microarray data accession number.** ChIP-seq, ChIP-chip, and tiling array data sets have been deposited in the Gene Expression Omnibus (GEO) under accession no. GSE74933.

#### SUPPLEMENTAL MATERIAL

Supplemental material for this article may be found at http://mbio.asm.org/ lookup/suppl/doi:10.1128/mBio.01947-15/-/DCSupplemental.

Figure S1, TIF file, 0.2 MB. Figure S2, TIF file, 0.04 MB. Table S1, DOCX file, 0.1 MB. Table S2, DOCX file, 0.1 MB. Table S3, DOCX file, 0.1 MB. Table S4, DOCX file, 0.2 MB. Table S5, DOCX file, 0.1 MB. Table S6, DOCX file, 0.1 MB. Table S7, PDF file, 3.3 MB.

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