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## Topoisomerases facilitate transcription of long genes linked to autism

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### Abstract

Topoisomerases are expressed throughout the developing and adult brain and are mutated in some individuals with autism spectrum disorder (ASD). However, how topoisomerases are mechanistically connected to ASD is unknown. Here we found that topotecan, a Topoisomerase 1 (TOP1) inhibitor, dose-dependently reduced the expression of extremely long genes in mouse and human neurons, including nearly all genes >200 kb. Expression of long genes was also reduced following knockdown of *Top1* or *Top2b* in neurons, highlighting that each enzyme was required for full expression of long genes. By mapping RNA polymerase II density genome-wide in

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neurons, we found that this length-dependent effect on gene expression was due to impaired transcription elongation. Interestingly, many high confidence ASD candidate genes are exceptionally long and were reduced in expression following TOP1 inhibition. Our findings suggest that chemicals and genetic mutations that impair topoisomerases could commonly contribute to ASD and other neurodevelopmental disorders.

## Introduction

Autism is a neurodevelopmental disorder with symptoms that include repetitive behaviors and deficits in social interactions. Hundreds of genes are now associated with ASD<sup>1,2</sup>, suggesting there are diverse genetic risk factors for autism. Environmental factors, including chemicals that are ingested during critical periods of brain development<sup>3</sup>, can also increase autism risk. Many ASD candidate genes regulate synapse function<sup>4-6</sup>; however, whether there are additional mechanisms that unite ASD patients or expression of ASD genes is unclear.

Recently, we found that topoisomerase inhibitors can transcriptionally unsilence the paternal allele of *Ube3a* in neurons<sup>7</sup>. *Ube3a* is located adjacent to a cluster of imprinted genes, is normally expressed only from the maternal allele in neurons and regulates synaptic function<sup>8</sup>. In addition, *Ube3a* is associated with two distinct neurodevelopmental disorders. Specifically, deletion or mutation of maternal *Ube3a* causes Angelman syndrome while duplication of the chromosomal region containing maternal *Ube3a* is frequently detected in individuals with autism<sup>9,10</sup>.

Intriguingly, mutations in topoisomerases were recently identified in some individuals with ASD<sup>11,12</sup>. However, precisely how topoisomerases regulate expression of *Ube3a* and possibly other genes associated with autism is unknown. Topoisomerases, including *Top1* and *Top2b*, are expressed throughout the developing and adult brain<sup>13,14</sup>. Topoisomerases are integral to gene expression, as they resolve DNA supercoiling that is generated during transcription<sup>15-18</sup>. Here, we sought to determine if topoisomerases preferentially regulate expression of additional imprinted genes in neurons, or if topoisomerases have broader effects on gene expression. Using genome-wide approaches, we unexpectedly found that topoisomerases facilitate expression of long genes, including numerous long genes associated with synaptic function and ASD. In addition, our study uncovers a transcriptional mechanism that is particularly important for maintaining expression of numerous ASD genes at normal levels.

## Gene length effects

To determine if topotecan, a TOP1 inhibitor, altered expression of imprinted genes, we treated cultured cortical neurons from C57BL/6J (B6) × CASTe/J (CAST) F<sub>1</sub> hybrid mice with vehicle or 300 nM topotecan, then used high-throughput transcriptome sequencing (RNA-seq) to survey changes in gene expression genome-wide. Single nucleotide polymorphisms (SNPs) were used to determine the parent-of-origin of sequence reads for autosomal genes<sup>19</sup>. We defined imprinted genes as those displaying statistically significant parent-of-origin expression bias in reciprocal C57/CAST crosses (Fisher's exact test,  $P < 0.05$

after adjustment for multiple comparisons). We found that cortical neurons expressed 49 known autosomal imprinted genes (Extended Data Table 1), yet *Ube3a* was the only imprinted gene that showed a significant change in parental allele bias in reciprocal crosses upon topotecan treatment (Fisher's exact test,  $P < 0.05$  after correction; Extended Data Table 1). Indeed, topotecan increased expression of the paternal allele of *Ube3a*, driving *Ube3a* levels significantly above wild-type levels (Extended Data Fig. 1a,b).

As we previously found<sup>7</sup>, topotecan reduced expression of *Ube3a-ATS* (Extended Data Fig. 1a,b). *Ube3a-ATS* is an extremely long (>1 Mb), paternally-expressed antisense-transcript that overlaps *Ube3a* and is required for paternal *Ube3a* silencing<sup>20,21</sup>. Other imprinted genes in the same genomic region as *Ube3a* did not show changes in allelic expression following topotecan treatment (Extended Data Fig. 1b, Extended Data Table 1). Importantly, topotecan also reduced expression of *UBE3A-ATS* and increased expression of *UBE3A* in induced pluripotent stem cell (iPSC)-derived neurons from an Angelman syndrome patient (Extended Data Fig. 1c). Topotecan thus had similar transcriptional effects at the *Ube3a* locus in mouse and human neurons.

Since *Ube3a-ATS* is extremely long and was strongly downregulated, we hypothesized that topotecan might reduce expression of other long genes. Remarkably, using RNA-seq and Affymetrix microarrays to quantify gene expression, we found that topotecan reduced expression of nearly all extremely long genes in mouse cortical neurons (Fig. 1a-c), with a strong correlation between gene length and reduced expression (for genes longer than 67 kb; Pearson's  $R = -0.69$ ). Topotecan also reduced expression of long genes in iPSC-derived human neurons (Fig. 1d). Topotecan did not exclusively reduce expression of extremely long genes, but instead acted over a continuum of gene lengths (Fig. 1c). Specifically, the percentage of genes that were inhibited (to any extent) by 300 nM topotecan increased from 50% for genes 67 kb in length to nearly 100% for genes ~200 kb and longer. And, inhibition of long genes by topotecan was highly dose-dependent (Extended Data Fig. 2).

In contrast, topotecan increased expression of a majority of genes that were <67 kb in length (Fig. 1c), although the magnitude of this increase was very small for most genes (Fig. 1a,b). For some genes, this increase may reflect regulation by longer overlapping transcripts, like for *Ube3a*, or it might reflect other stimulatory effects of topoisomerase inhibitors<sup>22,23</sup>.

The length-dependent effects on gene expression were not due to cell death or persistent DNA damage, as topotecan (300 nM for 3 days) did not kill neurons or damage DNA (Extended Data Fig. 3a,b). Moreover, agents that damage DNA in neurons (paraquat and  $H_2O_2$ ) did not reduce expression of long genes (Extended Data Fig. 3b-d). Notably, all length-dependent effects were fully reversible upon drug washout (Extended Data Fig. 3e), ruling out the possibility that gene expression changes were due to permanent effects (such as irreversible DNA damage and/or killing neurons).

A different TOP1 inhibitor, irinotecan, had a highly correlated length-dependent effect on gene expression in cortical neurons (Extended Data Fig. 4). Additionally, we re-analyzed published data from other labs and found that irinotecan and camptothecin (a TOP1 inhibitor) strongly reduced expression of long genes and moderately increased expression of

shorter genes in several human cell lines (Extended Data Fig. 5a-e). Thus, the length-dependent effects we observed were not unique to postmitotic neurons and could be reproducibly detected in expression data acquired by other labs.

We also found that lentiviral shRNA knockdown of TOP1 reduced expression of long genes in neurons (Fig. 2a,c), providing independent genetic support that TOP1 facilitates expression of long genes. These gene knockdown results also rule out the possibility that TOP1-DNA covalent complexes, which form only in the presence of TOP1 inhibitors<sup>18</sup>, block expression of long genes. Unlike TOP1 inhibitors (Fig. 1a-c, Extended Data Fig. 4a, Extended Data Fig. 5a-e), TOP1 knockdown did not globally increase expression of shorter genes (Fig. 2c). Thus TOP1 inhibitors likely increase expression of shorter genes via a drug-specific effect that is unrelated to TOP1 depletion.

TOP2 enzymes (particularly TOP2B) also participate in gene transcription<sup>15,16,24</sup>. We next tested whether genetic or pharmacological inhibition of TOP2 enzymes could reduce the expression of long genes. Indeed, with new experiments and by re-analyzing data from others<sup>14,25</sup>, we found that the TOP2A/TOP2B inhibitor ICRF-193 reduced gene expression in a length-dependent manner in cultured mouse cortical neurons, embryonic stem (ES) cells, and ES cell-derived neurons (Extended Data Fig. 6a, Extended Data Fig. 7a,b). There was extensive overlap between genes affected by ICRF-193 and topotecan in cortical neurons, particularly for long genes, and the magnitudes of these effects were highly correlated (Extended Data Fig. 6b-e). Thus, TOP1 and TOP2 enzymes regulate expression of many of the same genes.

Since *Top2b* is the predominant TOP2 expressed in neurons<sup>25</sup>, we next knocked down *Top2b* with shRNA (Fig. 2b,d). We found that *Top2b* knockdown reduced expression of long genes (Fig. 2d). Moreover, re-analysis of published datasets showed that expression of long genes was reduced in embryonic brain and ES cell-derived neurons from *Top2b*<sup>-/-</sup> mice<sup>14</sup> (Extended Data Fig. 7c,f,g). In contrast, long genes were expressed normally in *Top2b*<sup>-/-</sup> ES cells and neuronal progenitors<sup>25</sup> (Extended Data Fig. 7d,e), presumably because these cell types express *Top2a* in addition to *Top2b*<sup>25</sup>. Lastly, two additional TOP2 inhibitors (doxorubicin and etoposide) reduced expression of long genes in a human cancer cell line<sup>26</sup> (Extended Data Fig. 5f,g). Together, our data show that TOP1 and TOP2 enzymes are both required for proper expression of long genes in mammalian cells. This stands in contrast to yeast, in which length-dependent transcriptional effects specific to TOP2 were observed<sup>27</sup>.

## Length-dependent effect on elongation

Topoisomerases interact directly with RNA polymerase II (Pol II) and are required for transcription elongation<sup>17,28,29</sup>. To study genome-wide effects of topotecan on transcription in neurons, we measured Pol II distribution by chromatin immunoprecipitation followed by high-throughput DNA sequencing (ChIP-seq). We calculated the Traveling Ratio (TR) for all genes bound by Pol II, defined as the ratio of Pol II density (read counts per million mapped reads; RPM) near transcription start sites to Pol II density in the body of the gene, a parameter that is increased when transcription elongation is inhibited<sup>30-32</sup>. We found that

topotecan produced a distinct length-dependent increase in TR for very long genes, consistent with an impairment of transcription elongation (Fig. 3a, Extended Data Fig. 8).

The change in TR observed with topotecan treatment could reflect either a progressive inhibition of Pol II as it transcribes long genes, or it could reflect a block in the transition to productive elongation. To distinguish between these possibilities, we examined the change in Pol II density across the entire length of genes at high resolution (Fig. 3b). We found that Pol II density was slightly increased throughout the gene bodies of smaller genes, consistent with the modest increase in expression seen for smaller genes and with studies showing that TOP1 inhibitors can stimulate the transition to elongation of two genes (both shorter than 67 kb)<sup>5,6</sup>. However, for longer genes, topotecan strongly reduced Pol II density across the entire length of the gene body (Fig. 3b). These results are consistent with topotecan affecting the transition to productive elongation at long genes. On average, all genes showed a slight increase in Pol II density in the promoter proximal region (Fig. 3c) and stronger increase in Pol II density near the transcription termination site (TTS; Fig. 3b). However, these changes were independent of length, making it unlikely that they contributed to differential expression of short versus long genes.

TOP1 inhibitors can stimulate the release of the positive elongation factor pTEF-B<sup>17</sup>. Thus, we next tested whether pTEF-B inhibition would affect expression of longer genes differently from shorter genes by treating neurons with 5,6-dichloro-1- $\beta$ -D-ribofuranosylbenzimidazole (DRB; a pTEF-B inhibitor that can block the transition to elongation<sup>17,30</sup>). We found that DRB (100  $\mu$ M) reduced gene expression equally across all gene lengths (Fig. 3d), suggesting that the requirement for pTEF-B is not influenced by length. Note that 1  $\mu$ M and 10  $\mu$ M DRB had no length-dependent effects on expression (data not shown), ruling out the possibility that lower DRB concentrations preferentially impair expression of longer genes.

## Numerous long ASD genes affected

To further investigate the biological consequences of TOP1 inhibition in neurons, we defined a list of genes that were differentially expressed with high confidence. From our RNA-seq expression data, we found that topotecan significantly downregulated 155 genes and significantly upregulated 28 genes (Benjamini-Hochberg method, 5% false discovery rate) (Supplementary Data 1). The topotecan-downregulated genes were significantly longer (mean 591 kb, median 548 kb) than all expressed genes in cortical neurons (mean 59.3 kb, median 23.5 kb) and were significantly longer than topotecan upregulated genes (mean 29.3 kb, median 16.4 kb) (One-way ANOVA vs. all expressed genes,  $P=2.2\times 10^{-16}$ , vs. upregulated genes  $P=3.7\times 10^{-14}$ ), further indicating that topotecan has pronounced effects on long genes.

Based on Gene Ontology and functional annotation terms, we found that many topotecan-downregulated genes were involved in neuronal development and synaptic function (Supplementary Data 2). Since ASD is thought to be a neurodevelopmental disorder that affects synapses, we cross-referenced our list of downregulated genes with known ASD candidate genes, combining genes in the SFARI Gene database with candidates identified in

recent exome sequencing studies<sup>11,12,33-35</sup> (Supplementary Data 3). Remarkably, 27% ( $n=49$ ) of the 183 differentially expressed genes are known ASD candidate genes (Table 1, Supplementary Data 3), a proportion that is highly significant compared to chance ( $P=4.4\times 10^{-8}$ , Fisher's Exact Test). Independent microarray experiments showed that these ASD genes were dose-dependently downregulated by topotecan (Extended Data Fig. 9). Notably, ASD candidate genes are exceptionally long as a group; genes in the SFARI Gene database (as of June 20, 2013) are 3.7-fold longer on average than all genes expressed in cortical neurons (means of 217.3 kb versus 59.3 kb). Thus, mutations that alter topoisomerase activity might reduce expression of numerous long ASD genes and might contribute significantly to ASD. Consistent with this hypothesis, recent sequencing studies of autism patient cohorts uncovered rare *de novo* missense mutations in *TOP1*, *TOP3B*, *TOPORS* (a TOP1-SUMO ligase<sup>36</sup>) and several other genes that directly connect to TOP1<sup>11,12</sup>.

## Discussion

Our study shows that topoisomerases facilitate expression of a large number of ASD candidate genes, including many that are long and that are thought to have large effects on ASD pathology in isolation<sup>1,2,37</sup>. Pharmacological inhibition of topoisomerases also reduced expression of long genes in other cell types, suggesting this length-dependent transcriptional effect is fundamental to all mammalian cells. Our data rule out numerous possibilities for why topoisomerase inhibitors reduce expression of long genes (e.g., cell death, DNA damage, formation of covalent complexes), and instead implicate a gene length-dependent block in transcription elongation. Pol II and topoisomerases dynamically form and remodel large supercoiling domains<sup>38</sup>, and the effects of topoisomerases on gene expression are strongly influenced by genomic structure and context<sup>23,39</sup>. Thus, we speculate that higher order structure differentially constrains shorter and longer genes, and that this creates distinct length-dependent requirements for topoisomerases in transcription elongation.

Some long genes were not strongly reduced in expression following topotecan treatment (Fig. 1a). In many cases this reflected ambiguity in gene annotation (data not shown). For example, a number of long genes also express shorter transcripts, making it difficult to distinguish expression of short isoforms from long isoforms. Alternatively, some long genes might be located within genomic regions that are more permissive for expression when TOP1 is inhibited.

Intriguingly, numerous genes associated with transcription are mutated in autism patients<sup>11,40,41</sup>, although how these diverse transcriptional regulators contribute to autism is unclear. Our study highlights a mechanistic link between a critical step in transcription elongation and expression of numerous long ASD candidate genes. Our data suggest that chemicals or genetic mutations that impair topoisomerases, and possibly other components of the transcription elongation machinery that interface with topoisomerases, have the potential to profoundly affect expression of long ASD candidate genes. Length-dependent impairment of gene transcription, particularly in neurons and during critical periods of brain development, may thus represent a unifying cause of pathology in many individuals with ASD and other neurodevelopmental disorders.

## Methods

### Mouse cell culture

Cortical neurons were cultured from E13.5-E15.5 mouse embryos as described<sup>7</sup>. For RNA-seq and ChIP-seq, neurons were seeded on 10 cm diameter poly-D-lysine treated culture plates at a density of 5-10×10<sup>6</sup>/plate. Microarray experiments used 6-well plates seeded at 1×10<sup>6</sup> cells per well. After 7 days in culture, drugs or an equivalent amount of vehicle were added and left in the culture medium for 24 or 72 hours. For topotecan, irinotecan, DRB and paraquat; vehicle was 0.1% DMSO. For ICRF-193, vehicle was 0.02% DMSO.

Lentiviral shRNA experiments used viruses from The RNAi Consortium (acquired from Sigma-Aldrich and from the UNC Lenti-shRNA core): *Top1* knockdown used clone TRCN0000011884

(CCGGCCAGCGAAGATTCTATCTTATCTCGAGATAAGATAGAATCTTCGCTGGTTTTT) and *Top2b* knockdown used clone TRCN0000070988

(CCGGCCTTGTGTTGTCCCTTGTCTTCTCGAGAAGACAAAGGACAACACAAGGTTTTTG). Virus expressing non-targeting hairpin RNA (SHC002, Sigma;

CCGGCGTGATCTTCACCGACAAGATCTCGAGATCTTGTTCGGTGAAGATCACGTTTTT) was used as a control. Neurons were seeded on 24-well plates at 2×10<sup>5</sup> per well.

After 3 days in culture, cells were treated with lentivirus at a multiplicity of infection of at least 1. Virus was removed after 24 hours, and RNA harvested after a further 6 days in culture. Western blotting to assess knockdown was performed with anti-TOP1 (Santa Cruz Biotechnology, H5) or anti-TOP2B (Santa Cruz, H286) antibodies, with signal normalized to β-actin (Millipore, C4).

Cell death was assayed using Sytox Green (Invitrogen Molecular Probes). γH2AX foci were measured by immunohistochemistry. Primary antibodies were anti-γH2AX (Millipore, 1:500 dilution) and anti-NeuN (Millipore, 1:500), used to mark neurons.

### iPSC culture and neuronal differentiation

Human iPSC work was approved by the University of Connecticut Stem Cell Research Oversight Committee. iPSCs that carry a large deletion of maternal 15q11-q13 (AGdel1-0; see also (ref. 43), this cell line deemed exempt from IRB approval at the University of Connecticut due to its establishment in 1995 and lack of identifying information), were cultured on irradiated mouse embryonic fibroblasts and manually passaged as described<sup>43</sup>. iPSCs were differentiated into forebrain cortical neurons as described<sup>43</sup> with the following modifications: neural progenitors were generated by culturing iPSCs on feeders in N2B27 medium supplemented with Noggin (500 ng/mL) for 8 days and then manually picking neural rosettes for two additional passages using trypsin and standard cell culture protocols. Topotecan was applied to mature neurons and RNA was collected by standard protocols 6 days following the addition of drug or vehicle.

## qPCR

qRT-PCR was carried out as described<sup>43</sup> using Taqman (Life Technologies) gene expression assays for *UBE3A* (Hs00166580\_m1) and *UBE3A-ATS* (Hs03454279\_m1) according to the manufacturer's instructions. The Taqman assay for GAPDH was used as a control.

## RNA-seq

Total RNA was collected using Trizol reagent (Invitrogen). Mouse polyA-selected mRNA libraries were then prepared using the Illumina True-Seq kit for RNA. For RNA-seq on human iPSC-derived neuronal samples, stranded multiplexed mRNA libraries were prepared using Illumina kits. Cluster generation and sequencing were performed using the Illumina HiSeq 2000 platform. For allele-specific expression analysis, equal amounts of total RNA from 3-6 biological replicates were pooled before polyA mRNA purification and library preparation.

For non-allelic expression analysis, data from an additional three biological replicates were included. mRNA was isolated and libraries prepared independently for each replicate sample. Library preparation incorporated barcoded adapters and all samples were sequenced in one lane, using 50 bp paired-end reads.

## RNA-seq expression analysis

For allelic expression analysis, informative CAST/B6 SNPs were downloaded from (<http://www.sanger.ac.uk/resources/mouse/genomes/>). CAST alleles were then substituted into their corresponding mm9 positions and sequence reads were aligned to mm9 and the CAST version of mm9 using Bowtie, selecting for unique matches. Filtered read counts for autosomal genes were tested for allelic bias using Fisher's Exact Test against a background model derived from autosomes, and P-values adjusted for multiple comparisons using the Benjamini-Hochberg procedure. Statistical analysis was performed using R. Genomic intervals were derived from UCSC known genes or created manually where annotation was absent, namely for *Ube3a-ATS*.

For non-allelic analysis, reads were aligned to the reference genome (mm9) using Bowtie. Read counts were obtained using DESeq, and normalization and analysis of differential gene expression was performed using the R package, edgeR, employing a negative binomial model.

## ChIP-seq

ChIP-seq against RNA Pol II was performed as described previously<sup>30</sup>. Cultures ( $n=4$ /condition) totaling approximately  $2 \times 10^7$  neurons were treated with vehicle or 300 nM topotecan as described above. Nuclear lysates were sheared to an average fragment size of approximately 200 bp. 2  $\mu$ g anti-RNA Pol II N20 (Santa Cruz Biotechnology) was added, and the sample incubated at 4°C for 16 hours. Chromatin immunoprecipitation was performed as described previously<sup>30,42</sup>

ChIP-seq libraries were prepared from immunoprecipitated samples and their corresponding inputs using the Illumina Tru-Seq kit for ChIP-seq. Ligation products were size-selected by



purification on 2% PippinPrep gels (Sage Science). Samples from vehicle and drug treated cells and their inputs were sequenced using the HiSeq 2000 platform with single-end reads of 50 bp.

### ChIP-seq analysis

Short read sequences were aligned to the mouse reference genome (mm9) with Bowtie. Duplicate reads were removed. The quality of the experiment and false discovery rate for enriched peaks was assessed using MACS 1.4.2. CoverageBED was used to obtain read counts covering the promoter region (from -30 to +300 bp, relative to TSS and gene bodies (from +300 after TSS to 3000 bp after the annotated TTS, and to count reads in intervals across genes. Read counts were normalized to the number of mapped unique reads per sample (RPM) per base.

### Affymetrix microarrays

For single-dose microarray experiments, cultured cortical neurons were treated with 300 nM or 1  $\mu$ M topotecan, 10  $\mu$ M irinotecan (Sigma) or 3  $\mu$ M ICRF-193 (Santa Cruz Biotechnology), 100  $\mu$ M DRB (Sigma), 100  $\mu$ M H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub> (Fisher Scientific), or 10  $\mu$ M paraquat (Sigma) for 24 or 72 hours. For topotecan dose response, cells were treated with 3 nM, 30 nM, 150 nM, 300 nM, 500 nM and 1000 nM topotecan or vehicle for 72 hours. Total RNA was used for all Affymetrix microarray experiments. Comparative expression with topotecan and ICRF-193 was measured with Affymetrix mouse genome 430 2.0 arrays. All other microarray experiments used Affymetrix Mouse Gene 1.0 ST 24-array plates. Linear RMA background correction and normalization was used for all microarray data.

### Supplementary Material

Refer to Web version on PubMed Central for supplementary material.

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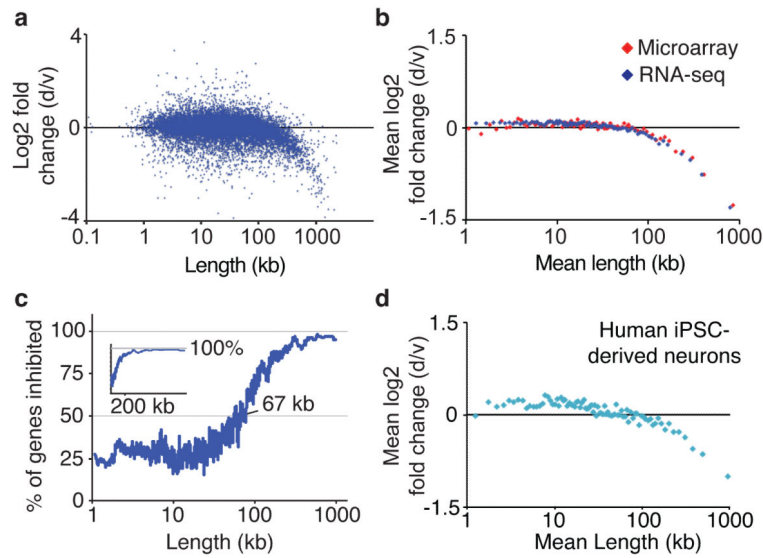
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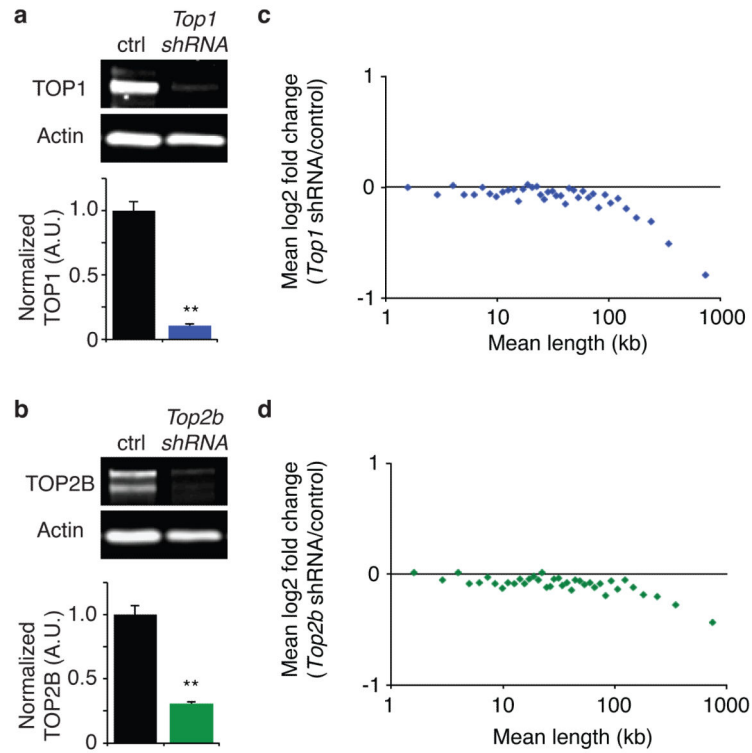
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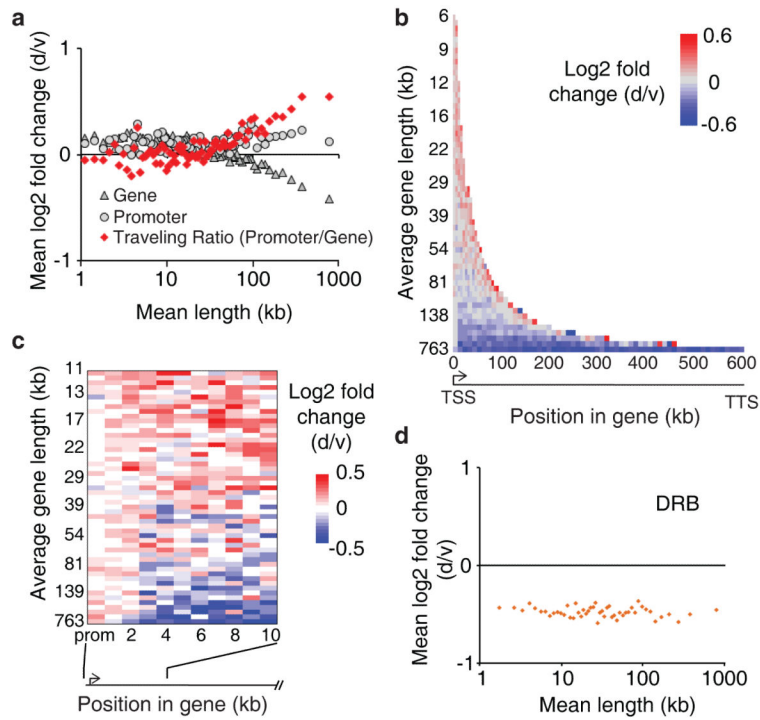
**Figure 1. TOP1 inhibition reduces expression of long genes in neurons**

**a**, Mouse cortical neurons treated with vehicle (v) or 300 nM topotecan (drug; d) for 3 days ( $n=5$  biological replicates). RNA-seq gene expression versus gene length. **b**, Mean expression change in bins of 200 genes by length. **c**, Percentage of genes that were reduced in expression by topotecan; plotted as a sliding window of 100 genes by length, RNA-seq data (log scale). Inset, same data on linear scale. **d**, iPSC-derived human neurons treated with 1  $\mu$ M topotecan for 6 days relative to vehicle, RNA-seq data in bins of 200 genes by length ( $n=2$  biological replicates).



**Figure 2. Lentiviral shRNA knockdown of *Top1* or *Top2b* in mouse cortical neurons reduces expression of long genes**

**a, b,** Representative western blots and quantification of TOP1 and TOP2B seven days post infection. Normalized to  $\beta$ -actin in arbitrary units (A.U.). \*\* $P < 0.01$  relative to scrambled (Scr) control, Student's t-test. Error bars, s.e.m.  $n = 3$  biological replicates. **c, d,** Gene expression from Affymetrix microarrays, relative to scrambled control shRNA. Plotted as mean expression change in bins of 200 genes by length.



**Figure 3. Topotecan impairs transcription elongation of long genes**

**a**, Mouse cortical neurons treated with vehicle or topotecan (300 nM for 3 days). Pol II density in gene bodies and promoter regions, averaged for bins of 200 genes by length. **b, c**, Change in Pol II density across genes and (**c**) across the first 10 kb, averaged for groups of 200 genes by length. Gene bins aligned relative to the transcription start site (TSS). **d**, Mouse cortical neurons treated with 100  $\mu$ M DRB for 3 days. Affymetrix microarray expression compared to controls in bins of 200 genes by length.

**Table 1**  
**Topotecan reduces expression of numerous ASD candidate genes in neurons**

Gene	Length in Mouse (kb)	Length in Human (kb)	Log2 fold change (mouse)	p (adjusted)	SFARI Gene	Mutation
<i>Cntnap2</i> *	2241.3	2304.6	-4.5718	0.0055	Yes	H 275 R <sup>34</sup>
<i>Csmdl</i>	1642.8	2059.4	-3.4896	<0.0001	No	Q 2254 R <sup>33</sup>
<i>Nrxn3</i>	1612.1	1460.7	-2.9494	<0.0001	Yes	
<i>Fhit</i>	1611.9	1502.1	-2.1229	0.0490	Yes	
<i>Rbfox1</i>	1527.7	1694.2	-1.3178	0.0441	Yes	
<i>Grid2</i>	1409.4	1468.1	-2.4100	0.0204	Yes	
<i>Illrap11</i>	1368.4	1368.3	-3.0444	0.0213	Yes	
<i>Illrap12</i>	1275.4	1200.8	-2.6076	0.0034	Yes	
<i>Park2</i>	1223.0	1380.2	-2.8055	0.0003	Yes	
<i>Cntn5</i>	1243.9	1337.9	-2.3360	0.0009	Yes	
<i>Ptpst</i>	1133.5	1117.2	-2.0706	<0.0001	Yes	
<i>Frmpd4</i>	1105.9	586.1	-1.5332	0.0028	Yes	
<i>Erbp4</i>	1068.1	1162.9	-3.3890	<0.0001	Yes	
<i>Nrxn1</i>	1059.2	1114.0	-2.1914	<0.0001	Yes	Y 587 STOP <sup>12</sup>
<i>Gpc6</i>	1054.2	1181.2	-2.3530	<0.0001	Yes	
<i>Astn2</i>	1023.7	989.8	-2.7763	0.0001	Yes	
<i>Cntn4</i>	1021.6	959.1	-2.0717	0.0092	Yes	
<i>Pard3b</i>	1003.5	1074.4	-2.9457	<0.0001	Yes	
<i>Epha6</i>	952.0	934.3	-1.8366	0.0301	Yes	
<i>Grm7</i>	921.6	880.4	-2.2647	<0.0001	No	R 622 Q <sup>33</sup>
<i>Nckap5</i>	917.0	896.7	-1.3453	0.0089	Yes	
<i>Nlgn1</i>	900.1	884.9	-1.8339	<0.0001	Yes	H 795 Y <sup>34</sup>
<i>Pcdh9</i>	875.2	927.5	-1.8314	0.0002	Yes	
<i>Pcdh15</i>	827.9	998.5	-3.2033	<0.0001	Yes	
<i>Grid1</i>	761.0	766.9	-1.4922	0.0448	Yes	
<i>Mdga2</i>	756.5	835.3	-1.6942	0.0012	Yes	
<i>Dpp10</i>	713.4	1402.4	-1.7914	0.0007	Yes	
<i>Kcnmal</i>	705.4	768.2	-1.9021	0.0004	Yes	F 372 V <sup>11</sup>
<i>Grik2</i>	689.3	669.2	-1.5500	0.0028	Yes	
<i>Plcb1</i>	689.1	752.3	-1.4067	0.0075	Yes	
<i>Ptpst</i>	687.6	839.5	-1.7610	0.0057	No	A 535 T <sup>12</sup>
<i>Rbms3</i>	679.7	729.1	-1.6432	0.0191	Yes	
<i>Vps13b</i>	559.7	864.3	-1.0465	0.0317	Yes	
<i>Nbea</i>	558.5	730.5	-1.3664	0.0147	Yes	
<i>Grm5</i>	550.9	559.1	-1.3240	0.0343	Yes	Aaa679 <sup>12</sup>
<i>Kalrn</i>	545.0	626.5	-1.3646	0.0186	Yes	
<i>Ptpst</i>	522.6	551.9	-1.6458	0.0005	No	R 784 H <sup>34</sup>
<i>Atrnl1</i>	522.3	855.3	-1.2194	0.0211	Yes	

Gene	Length in Mouse (kb)	Length in Human (kb)	Log2 fold change (mouse)	<i>p</i> (adjusted)	SFARI Gene	Mutation
<i>Robo2</i>	518.6	1712.5	-1.4921	0.0017	Yes	
<i>Cacna1c</i>	515.9	644.7	-1.1665	0.0236	Yes	
<i>Lrrc7</i>	477.8	363.3	-1.6330	0.0340	Yes	
<i>Reln</i>	460.3	517.7	-2.0687	<0.0001	Yes	Q 417 STOP <sup>11</sup> R 2290 C <sup>12</sup>
<i>Exoc6b</i>	451.0	646.7	-0.9691	0.0285	Yes	
<i>Gabrb1</i>	437.2	395.2	-1.4909	0.0041	Yes	
<i>Nfia</i>	341.3	385.5	-1.8218	0.0186	Yes	R 30 STOP <sup>12</sup>
<i>Nxph1</i>	298.6	319.0	-1.8182	0.0181	Yes	R 45 Q <sup>33</sup>
<i>Myb</i>	36.1	37.9	-3.8779	0.0011	No	
<i>C3</i>	24.1	42.8	-2.2892	<0.0001	No	I 1569 M <sup>11</sup>
<i>C4b</i>	15.5	1.7	-1.5240	0.0121	Yes	

\* isoform a (*uc009bst.2*)