

1                                   **Structural basis of INTAC-regulated transcription**

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18 **Abstract**

19 For the majority of expressed eukaryotic genes, RNA polymerase II (Pol II) forms a paused  
20 elongation complex (PEC) and undergoes promoter-proximal pausing downstream of the  
21 transcription start site <sup>1-3</sup>. The polymerase either proceeds into productive elongation or  
22 undergoes promoter-proximal premature transcription termination <sup>4-6</sup>. It remains incompletely  
23 understood how transcription is regulated at this stage. Here, we determined the structure of  
24 PEC bound to INTAC, an Integrator-containing PP2A complex <sup>7</sup>, at near-atomic resolution. The  
25 structure shows that INTAC partially wraps around PEC through multiple contacts, permitting  
26 the memetic nascent RNA to run into substrate-entry tunnel of the endonuclease subunit  
27 INTS11 of INTAC for cleavage. Pol II C-terminal domain (CTD) winds over INTAC backbone  
28 module through multiple anchors and is suspended above the phosphatase of INTAC for  
29 dephosphorylation. Biochemical analysis shows that INTAC-PEC association requires  
30 unphosphorylated CTD and could tolerate CTD phosphorylation, suggesting an INTAC-  
31 mediated persistent CTD dephosphorylation followed by reinforcement of the INTAC-PEC  
32 complex. Our study reveals how INTAC binds PEC and orchestrates RNA cleavage and CTD  
33 dephosphorylation, two critical events in generating premature transcription termination.

## 34 Introduction

35 Eukaryotic transcription by RNA polymerase II (Pol II) is a strictly regulated process that  
36 involves the interplay of numerous factors <sup>4,5</sup>. Promoter-proximal pausing is a regulatory  
37 mechanism that connects transcription initiation and productive elongation in metazoan <sup>3,6</sup>. It  
38 typically occurs at 20–200 base pairs downstream of the transcription start site (TSS) and can  
39 be observed at the majority of expressed genes <sup>1,2</sup>. Pol II forms a paused elongation complex  
40 (PEC) through binding of two factors: the 5,6-dichloro-1-β-d-ribofuranosylbenzimidazole  
41 (DRB) sensitivity-inducing factor (DSIF), consisting of subunits SPT4 and SPT5, and the  
42 negative elongation factor (NELF), consisting of the four subunits NELF-A, -B, -C/D and -E <sup>8-</sup>  
43 <sup>11</sup>. Following the duration of pausing, the polymerase either proceeds into productive elongation  
44 or undergoes promoter-proximal premature transcription termination (PTT) <sup>12</sup>, which plays a  
45 decisive role in determining transcriptional outputs. Nonetheless, it remains unclear how the  
46 fate of PEC is governed mechanistically.

47 In contrast to the well-characterized pause release and productive elongation <sup>4,5</sup>, the  
48 mechanism of PTT remains largely unknown. Emerging evidence implies that metazoan-  
49 specific Integrator complex involves this process. Integrator complex <sup>13,14</sup> functions as an RNA  
50 endonuclease to cleave different classes of RNAs <sup>15-19</sup>. More recent studies discovered that  
51 Integrator is enriched in the proximity of RNA promoters <sup>20</sup> and can associate with paused Pol  
52 II bound by DSIF and NELF <sup>21,22</sup> to trigger PTT and repress gene activity <sup>18,23-28</sup>. We have  
53 recently found that Integrator associates with protein phosphatase 2A core enzyme (PP2A-AC)  
54 and dephosphorylates the C-terminal domain (CTD) of Pol II and determined the structure of  
55 Integrator-containing PP2A-AC (termed INTAC), showing how the RNA nuclease and protein  
56 phosphatase are organized in the INTAC complex <sup>7</sup>. In addition, Integrator-bound PP2A  
57 dephosphorylates Pol II CTD and Spt5 to prevent the transition to productive elongation <sup>7,24,29</sup>.  
58 Despite these studies, it remains elusive how INTAC, especially its two catalytic modules, is  
59 structurally organized and functionally coordinated in the context of PEC and how INTAC  
60 works with PEC in PTT.

61

## 62 Structure determination of INTAC-PEC complex

63 To investigate the mechanistic implications of INTAC in promoter-proximal pausing, we  
64 purified the human INTAC <sup>7</sup>, NELF, DSIF, and pig (*S. scrofa*) Pol II, which has 99.9% sequence  
65 identity to human Pol II except for four amino acids (Extended Data Fig. 1, a, b). The INTAC-  
66 PEC complex was assembled by adding INTAC, NELF, and DSIF to an elongation complex  
67 that was pre-assembled by mixing Pol II and a DNA-RNA hybrid <sup>30,31</sup> (Methods). The  
68 assembled INTAC-PEC complex was subjected to gradient fixation (GraFix), followed by cryo-  
69 electron microscopy (cryo-EM) single particle reconstruction (Extended Data Fig. 2). The cryo-

70 EM map was refined to 4.5 Å resolution and the maps of subcomplexes were improved to near-  
71 atomic (3.8 Å to 4.1 Å) resolution by focused refinement. Structural model was built by fitting  
72 previously determined structures of INTAC<sup>7</sup> and PEC<sup>30</sup> into the cryo-EM maps followed by  
73 manual adjustment (Extended Data Fig. 3, Extended Data Table 1).

74

## 75 **Overall structure of INTAC-PEC complex**

76 The INTAC-PEC complex structure reveals a compact fold with approximate dimensions  
77 of ~280×270×260 Å<sup>3</sup> (Fig. 1, Extended Data Fig. 4, Supplementary Video 1). As observed in  
78 the apo PEC structure<sup>30</sup>, NELF and DSIF wrap around the central Pol II, generating a compact  
79 globular fold. The PEC complex sits above the main body of INTAC through interface-I/-II/-V  
80 and is further stabilized by two INTAC protrusions on opposite sides at interface-III/-IV,  
81 resembling a ball (PEC) in a bucket (INTAC). Consistent with the modular organization of the  
82 apo INTAC complex<sup>7</sup>, the shoulder and backbone modules of INTAC within INTAC-PEC  
83 generate a central cruciform scaffold with the phosphatase and endonuclease modules flanking  
84 the opposite sides. A previously undetected tail module extends out of the bottom of the  
85 backbone module and folds back to bind Pol II. Three putative Pol II CTD fragments wind on  
86 the surface of INTAC backbone module and an additional fragments is suspended above the  
87 catalytic pocket of the phosphatase subunit PP2A-C, indicative of a path favorable for INTAC-  
88 mediated CTD association and dephosphorylation (Supplementary Video 2).

89 The DNA duplex is opened in the catalytic cavity with the template strand forming a one-  
90 turn DNA-RNA hybrid, and reanneals into a duplex that protrudes out of Pol II through the exit  
91 tunnel (Fig. 1b, Extended Data Fig. 4). Both exit and entry DNAs point away from INTAC,  
92 suggesting that INTAC generates no clash with DNA and that INTAC does not directly affect  
93 transcription elongation. The memetic nascent RNA runs out through the RNA exit tunnel of  
94 Pol II, is brought into proximity of INTAC by Pol II-SPT5-INTS11 interactions at interface-V,  
95 and runs into the RNA entry tunnel of the endonuclease subunit INTS11. The last visible RNA  
96 nucleotide is suspended above the active site of INTS11. The structure reveals INTAC-PEC  
97 organization that favors RNA cleavage and Pol II CTD dephosphorylation.

98

## 99 **The interfaces between INTAC and Pol II-NELF**

100 INTAC makes three direct contacts with Pol II (Fig. 2, a to d, Extended Data Fig. 5). At  
101 the interface-I, the C-terminal α-helix of RPB11 contacts the helical repeat 1 of INTS2  
102 (INTS2<sup>HR1</sup>). At the interface-II, the C-terminal helix of INTS7 binds the domain2 of RPB3 and  
103 the C-terminal end of INTS4 bridges the contact between INTS9 and the zinc loop of RPB3.  
104 The N-terminal HEAT (huntingtin, elongation factor 3, protein phosphatase 2A and TOR1)

105 domain of INTS1 adopts an arch-shaped fold and forms the tail module, which caps the exposed  
106 end of the scaffold module and flanks away from the core INTAC. The two RPB2 external  
107 domains of Pol II contact the tail on the convex ridge at the interface-III. This tail module was  
108 not observed in the apo INTAC structure (Extended Data Fig. 4a), suggesting a PEC-mediated  
109 tail stabilization and a potential function of tail in recruitment of PEC.

110 INTS6 bridges the phosphatase of INTAC and the NELF-B-NELF-E lobe<sup>30</sup> of PEC (Fig.  
111 2, a, e, Extended Data Fig. 5). At the interface-IV, the exposed end of the INTS6  $\beta$ -barrel domain  
112 contacts the HEAT domain of NELF-B, consistent with known interaction between Integrator  
113 and NELF<sup>21,22</sup>. In addition, INTS6<sup>7</sup> and NELF-B<sup>30</sup> are highly conserved in primary sequence  
114 among vertebrates, suggesting a conserved contact across species. At the interface-V, the SPT5  
115 KOWx-4 domain packs on Pol II, stabilizes the exit RNA, and contacts the INTS11 (Fig. 2, a,  
116 f). As discussed below, the interaction brings RNA to INTS11 for cleavage.

117

### 118 **The Pol II CTD-INTAC interface**

119 The human Pol II CTD consists of 52 consensus heptapeptide repeats (Tyr1-Ser2-Pro3-  
120 Thr4-Ser5-Pro6-Ser7) and the phosphorylation levels at Ser2, Ser5, and Ser7 change  
121 dynamically throughout the transcription cycle, exhibiting distinct patterns for initiation,  
122 elongation, and termination<sup>32</sup>. Cryo-EM map reveals four putative Pol II CTD segments,  
123 indicative of a potential CTD-binding path toward the active center of PP2A-C for  
124 dephosphorylation (Fig. 3a, Extended Data Fig. 6, Supplementary Video 2). Pol II and INTAC  
125 generate a center-hollowed cradle with the CTD-binding path of INTAC being  $\sim 50$  Å away  
126 from the last modeled RPB1 residue (P1487). This cradle may accommodate Pol II CTD repeats  
127 above the three CTD anchoring sites.

128 The CTD-1 to CTD-3 segments span  $\sim 50$  Å and are sequentially arrayed on the surface of  
129 INTAC backbone (Fig. 3a, Extended Data Fig. 6, Supplementary Video 2). The CTD-1 ( $\sim 5$   
130 residues) packs against a relatively hydrophobic pocket of the HEAT repeat of INTS4. The  
131 CTD-2 ( $\sim 13$  residues) forms a U-turn coil and packs against the molecular junction of INTS2,  
132 INTS4, and INTS7 and is stabilized by a network on interactions. Particularly, two tyrosine (Y<sup>1</sup>)  
133 residues anchor on the surface of INTS7 HEAT repeat and sandwich residue R73 of INTS7,  
134 generating stacking interaction. The CTD-3 ( $\sim 8$  residues) anchors into a hydrophobic pocket  
135 formed by INTS2 and an extending loop of INTS6.

136 Relatively weak cryo-EM map was observed above the catalytic pocket of PP2A-C (Fig.  
137 3a, Extended Data Fig. 6, c, g). The density is likely derived from Pol II CTD or the N-terminal  
138 tail of INTS6 and was termed CTD-4 for simplicity. This U-shaped fragment ( $\sim 7$  residues) is  
139 positioned within the substrate-binding groove of PP2A-C. Three central residues are  
140 suspended above the catalytic center, in a manner similar to microcystin LR (MCLR, PP2A

141 inhibitor) in the PP2A holoenzyme structure<sup>33</sup>. The C $\alpha$  atom of the central residue is  $\sim 7$  Å away  
142 from the near catalytic manganese cation, suggesting a position of phosphorylated Ser5 residue  
143 of CTD for dephosphorylation. CTD-4 is  $\sim 50$  Å away from CTD-3, indicative of a putative  
144 CTD path of  $\sim 100$  Å in length from Pol II body (P1487) to CTD-3 and then to PP2A-C active  
145 site.

146

### 147 **Pol II CTD is required for INTAC-PEC interaction**

148 To further investigate how INTAC-PEC complex is assembled, we performed in vitro  
149 pulldown assay using immobilized INTAC and individually purified NELF, DSIF (Fig. 3b,  
150 Extended Data Fig. 1, c, d). We also overexpressed and purified human Pol II (hPol II) and a  
151 CTD-truncated hPol II (hPol II<sup>ACTD</sup>) in Expi293F cells (Extended Data Fig. 1a). Consistent with  
152 previous studies<sup>7,19</sup>, INTAC could pull out hPol II with nearly 1:1 stoichiometry (Fig. 3b, lanes  
153 13-14). In contrast, the deletion of CTD impaired INTAC-hPol II interaction (lane 15) and  
154 isolated CTD could pull out INTAC (Extended Data Fig. 1c). The immobilized DSIF or NELF  
155 exhibited a weak but detectable binding with INTAC (Extended Data Fig. 1d), consistent with  
156 previous studies showing their binding to Integrator independent of DNA/RNA<sup>21,22</sup>. In  
157 agreement with this weak interaction and their limited contact with INTAC (Fig. 2), the addition  
158 of DSIF and NELF showed nearly undetectable effect on Pol II-INTAC interaction (Fig. 3b,  
159 lanes 15, 17). Interestingly, the addition of a DNA-RNA bubble to hPol II<sup>ACTD</sup>, along with DSIF  
160 and NELF, caused a slight increase in binding to INTAC (lanes 17, 19), suggesting that the  
161 exiting RNA may facilitate the binding of PEC to INTAC. The above result underscores the  
162 critical role of CTD in the recruitment of INTAC to Pol II and the assembly of INTAC-PEC.  
163 NELF, DSIF, and nascent RNA may together facilitate organizing the complex and allow  
164 efficient CTD dephosphorylation and RNA cleavage.

165 The in vitro pulldown assay further showed that INTAC binds and dephosphorylates  
166 phosphorylated Pol II (Fig. 3c, lanes 9-10). The addition of PP2A inhibitor hampered the  
167 dephosphorylation and binding of Pol II to INTAC (lane 11), as compared to the  
168 unphosphorylated Pol II (lanes, 10, 12, 13). The result suggests that CTD phosphorylation  
169 partially inhibits INTAC-Pol II interaction and INTAC may tolerate CTD phosphorylation to  
170 some extent.

171 In the presence of NELF and DSIF, INTAC showed a comparable binding to  
172 phosphorylated and unphosphorylated Pol II (Fig. 3c, lanes 18-22). NELF and DSIF enhanced  
173 INTAC-Pol II interaction and the dephosphorylated CTD may reinforce INTAC-CTD  
174 interaction. Structural and biochemical analyses together lead to a model of CTD  
175 dephosphorylation. Upon formation of INTAC-PEC complex, un/dephosphorylated CTD  
176 occupies the CTD-binding sites of INTAC and evicts, if any, the bound phosphorylated CTD,

177 which is further brought to PP2A-C for dephosphorylation. Thus, INTAC ensures a persistent  
178 and complete CTD dephosphorylation for early termination.

179

### 180 **INTS11 is activated upon INTAC-PEC assembly**

181 Consistent with previous studies<sup>30,31</sup>, the INTAC-PEC structure shows that SPT5 and  
182 SPT4, the two DSIF subunits, bind Pol II around stalk, clamp, and wall, with multiple domains  
183 surrounding the entry DNA and exit RNA (Figs. 1, 4a, Extended Data Fig. 7, Supplementary  
184 Video 3). The SPT5 KOWx-4 and KOW5 domains function as an “RNA clamp” and contact  
185 INTAC on INTS9-INTS11 heterodimer. At the interface-V, the INTS11 metallo- $\beta$ -lactamase  
186 domain binds the SPT5 KOWx-4 domain, which bridges the RNA exit tunnel of Pol II and  
187 RNA entry tunnel of INTS11. Although DSIF, NELF, and Pol II body are not essentially  
188 required for binding to INTAC, INTAC-PEC interactions at interface-I to -V may maintain the  
189 overall modular organization and guide RNA to the active center of INTS11 for cleavage.

190 INTS11 exhibits a closed, inactive conformation in the structures of RNA-free INTAC<sup>7</sup>  
191 and the isolated endonuclease module (INTS4-INTS9-INTS11)<sup>34</sup> (Fig. 4a, Extended Data Fig.  
192 7, Supplementary Video 4). Superposition of INTS11 metallo- $\beta$ -lactamase domain shows that  
193 the association of RNA-bound PEC induces a rotation of INTS11  $\beta$ -CASP domain by  $\sim 15$   
194 degrees and an opening of the substrate-binding tunnel by  $\sim 5$  Å, permitting the entry of the  
195 RNA for cleavage. Structural comparison suggests an activation of INTS11 upon assembly of  
196 INTAC-PEC.

197

### 198 **RNA is brought to INTS11 for cleavage**

199 Among the 23 RNA nucleotides used in structure determination, nucleotides -1 to -10  
200 (relative to the NTP addition site) form DNA-RNA hybrid within Pol II and the following strand  
201 (-10 to -16) winds out of RNA exit tunnel (Fig. 4, b, c, Extended Data Fig. 7). A weak but  
202 noticeable cryo-EM map showed a linker RNA (-16 to -18), consistent with its lack of protein  
203 contact. The four preceding nucleotides (-18 to -21) insert into the RNA entry tunnel of INTS11  
204 with the phosphate and ribose groups well-ordered. The phosphate groups face downward the  
205 RNA entry tunnel while the bases face outward and are sandwiched by hydrophobic cleft,  
206 consistent with non-RNA sequence specificity of INTS11 (Fig. 4d, Supplementary Video 3).

207 Nucleotide U<sup>-21</sup> is suspended near the active site of INTS11 and its phosphate group and  
208 the two preceding nucleotides (-22 and -23) were nearly invisible, indicative of a position of  
209 RNA cleavage,  $\sim 20$  nucleotides upstream of the NTP addition site (Fig. 4, c to e, Extended Data  
210 Fig. 7b). If the RNA were not cleaved, the phosphate group of U<sup>-21</sup> would be stabilized by  
211 residue H392 of INTS11 with the two phosphate oxygen atoms being  $\sim 3$  Å away from the two

212 catalytic zinc cations. The preceding nucleotide would be stabilized by residue Y353 of INTS11.  
213 The organization of catalytic pocket and the placement of RNA substrate are generally similar  
214 to that of cleavage and polyadenylation specificity factor (CPSF) CPSF73 in the histone pre-  
215 mRNA cleavage complex (HCC) complex (Extended Data Fig. 7c), which adopts an active  
216 state, poised for the cleavage reaction <sup>35</sup>.

217 It has been reported that the nucleic acid binding module INTS10-INTS13-INTS14 of  
218 INTAC preferentially binds RNA stem loop regions and brings the endonuclease module to  
219 target transcripts for cleavage <sup>36</sup>. This subcomplex was not observed in our structure, possibly  
220 due to the lack of stabilization by exposed/uncleaved RNA.

221

### 222 **INTAC generates steric clash with PAF1C and SPT6 of the EC\* complex**

223 INTAC has been demonstrated to be involved in NELF- and DSIF-dependent promoter-  
224 proximal pausing <sup>21,22,28</sup>. Recent studies have shown that PAF1 complex (PAF1C) regulates the  
225 stabilization of pausing in addition to its role in promoting elongation <sup>37</sup>. An activated  
226 transcription elongation complex EC\* is formed by Pol II, PAF1C, DSIF, and SPT6 <sup>31</sup>.  
227 Comparison of the INTAC-PEC structure and the EC\* structure shows that the PAF1C subunits  
228 PAF1 and LEO1 generate steric hindrance with the tail module of INTAC and CTR9 has clash  
229 with INTS2<sup>HR1</sup> of INTAC <sup>7</sup> (Extended Data Fig. 4c). In addition, the SPT6 core around the exit  
230 RNA clashes with INTS11 and the SPT6 tSH2 domain has clashes with the INTS6 vWA domain.  
231 The above structural comparison shows that PAF1C and INTAC may form independent  
232 complexes with paused Pol II, or conformational changes of PAF1C or INTAC are required for  
233 their co-existence with a Pol II.

234

### 235 **INTAC works with PEC to orchestrate CTD dephosphorylation and RNA cleavage for** 236 **premature transcription termination**

237 Mounting evidence has shown that Integrator's function in snRNA cleavage is rather an  
238 exception and that INTAC confers more profound role in transcription regulation. Our study  
239 reveals the molecular mechanism by which INTAC shapes the organization of paused Pol II  
240 and induces premature transcription termination via the cleavage of nascent RNA by its  
241 endonuclease module and the dephosphorylation of Pol II CTD by its phosphatase module.  
242 Recruitment of the endonuclease module to nascent RNA requires binding of Pol II CTD to  
243 INTAC, which prefers un/dephosphorylated CTD and could tolerate CTD phosphorylation,  
244 especially in the presence of NELF and DSIF. The paused Pol II and the cleavage of nascent  
245 RNA are thought to destabilize Pol II and lead to exonuclease Xrn2-mediated termination of  
246 transcription <sup>38</sup>. The structure also provides a framework for further study of Integrator's



247 functions in transcription termination of coding genes and processing of non-coding RNAs <sup>16-</sup>  
248 <sup>19,26,27</sup>.

249       During manuscript preparation, Fianu et. al. reported cryo-EM structure of Intergrator-  
250 PP2A bound to PEC <sup>39</sup>. The structure is generally similar to our structure except that RNA was  
251 not observed in the RNA entry tunnel of INTS11. Moreover, only one CTD fragment (CTD-2  
252 in our study) was observed, possibly because the Intergrator-PP2A was assembled by mixing  
253 three subcomplexes. Nevertheless, our independent study confirms the molecular mechanism  
254 of INTAC-PEC assembly and provides additional insights into RNA cleavage by INTS11 and  
255 INTAC-mediated Pol II CTD recognition and dephosphorylation.

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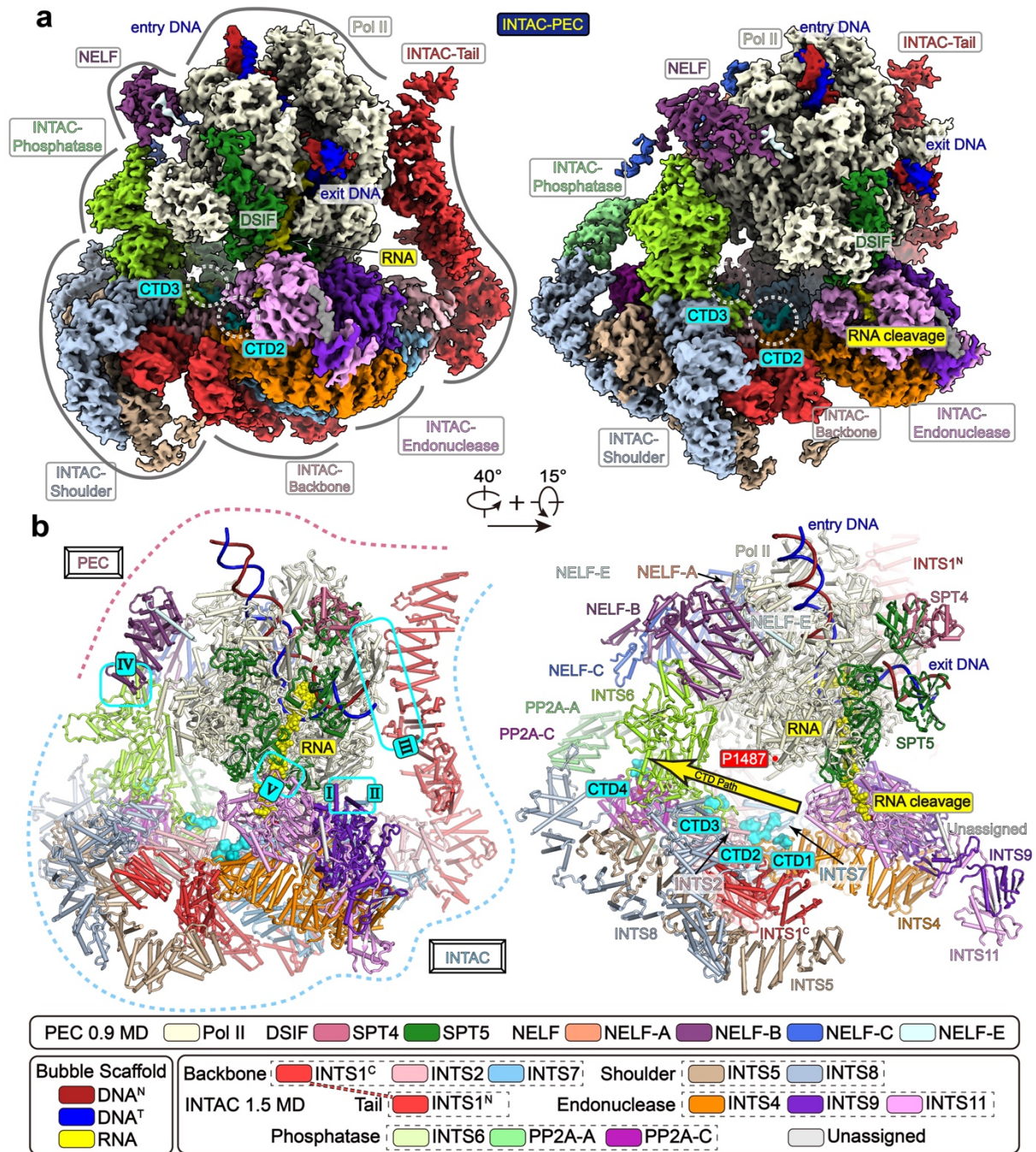
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402 building with help from Y. Q., W. L., Y. R. and J. C.; Y. X. and H. Z. wrote the manuscript; Y.  
403 X. supervised the project.

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405 **Data and materials availability:** Cryo-EM maps and atomic coordinates will be deposited in  
406 the EMDB and PDB upon the acceptance of this manuscript.



407

408

**Fig. 1 | Structure of INTAC-PEC complex.**

409

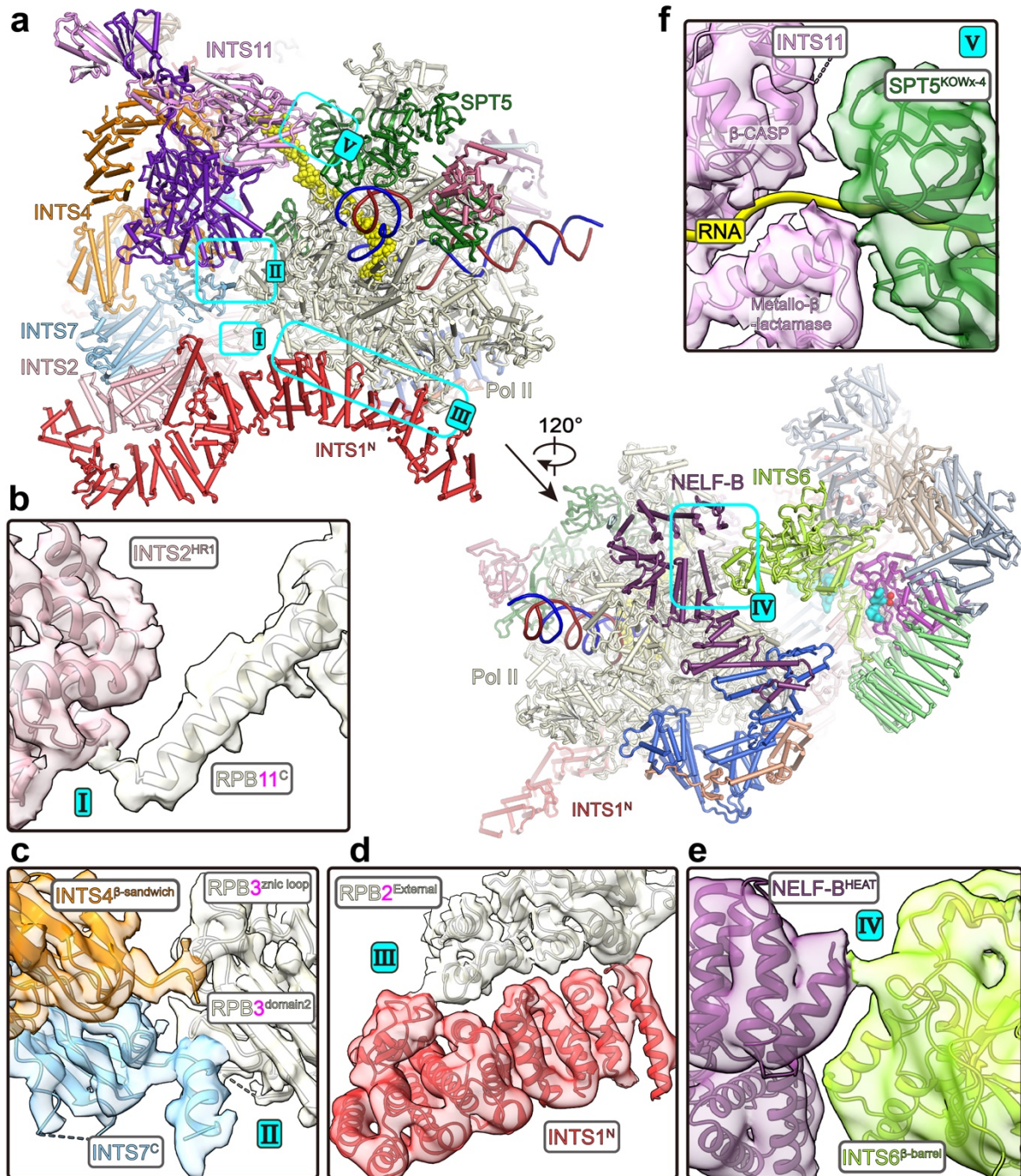
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**a, b**, Composite cryo-EM map (**a**) and structural model (**b**) of INTAC-PEC shown in two different views. Five INTAC-PEC interfaces are indicated and four putative Pol II CTD fragments are shown in surface representation. The same color scheme was used in all of the figures if not otherwise specified. Putative CTD-binding path on INTAC and RNA cleavage site in INTS11 are highlighted.



414

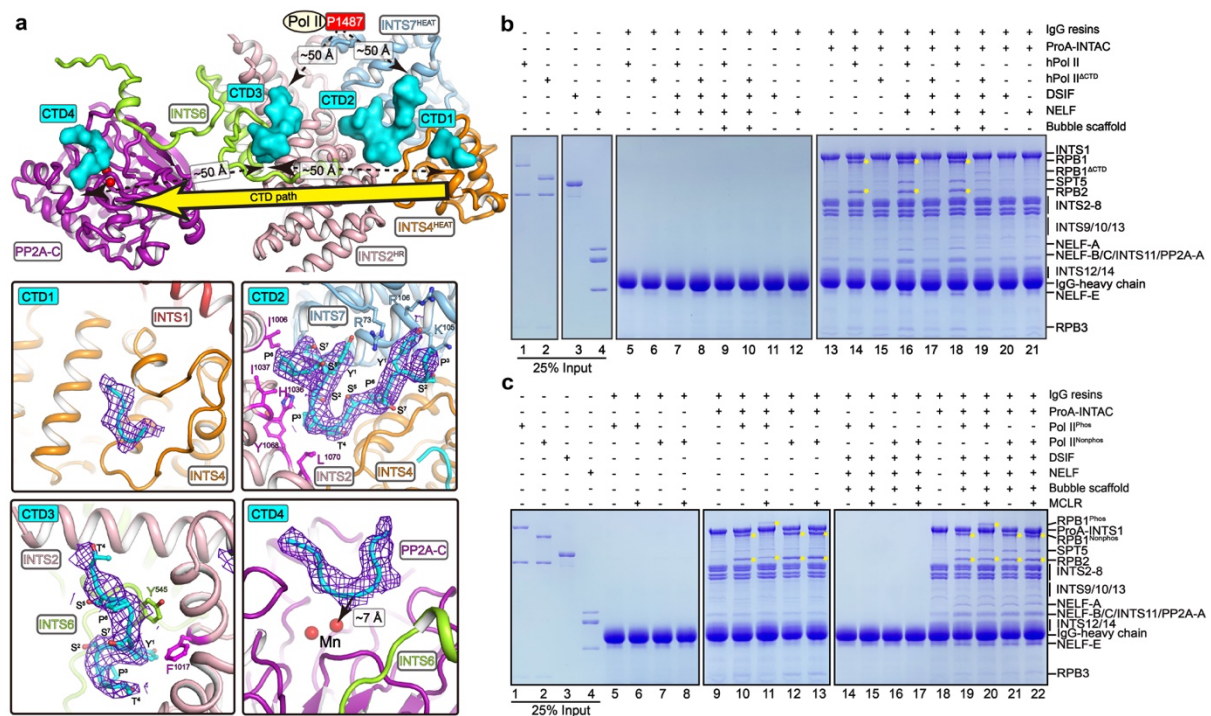
415 **Fig. 2 | Interactions between INTAC and PEC.**

416 **a**, Overall structure of INTAC-PEC with the five inter-complex contacts highlighted. **b-f**,

417 Close-up views of the interactions with cryo-EM maps shown in transparent surface and

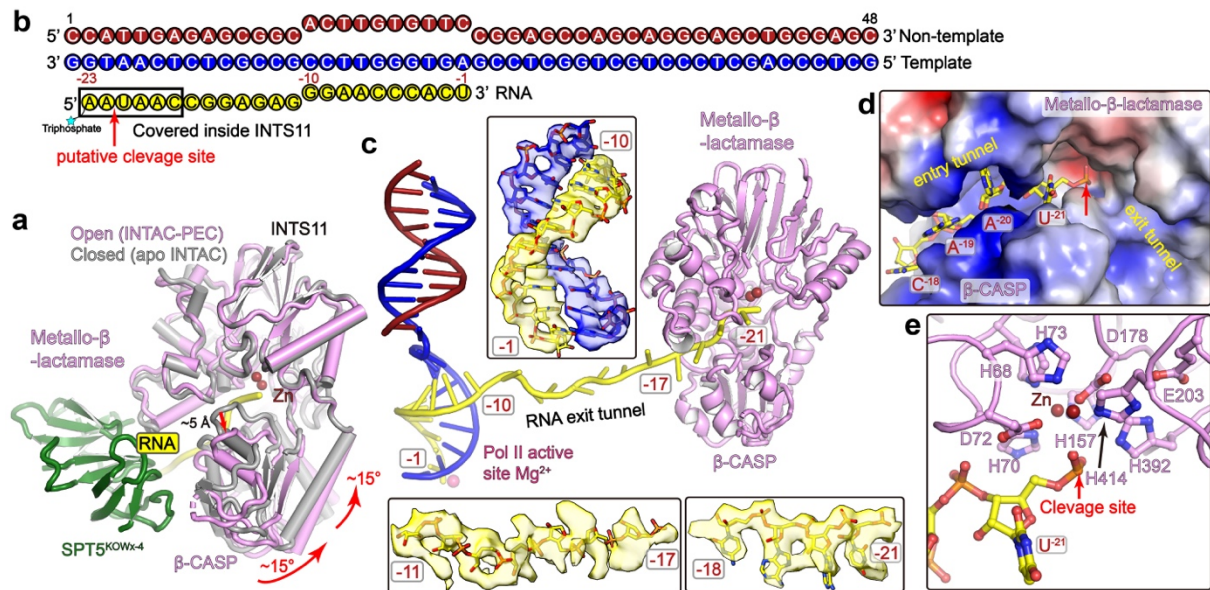
418 structural models shown in cartoon.





419  
 420 **Fig. 3 | Pol II CTD makes multiple contacts with INTAC and is required for INTAC-Pol**  
 421 **II interaction.**

422 **a**, Close-up view of Pol II CTD-binding path on INTAC. Four putative CTD fragments are  
 423 shown in surface and non-relevant subunits/domains were omitted for simplicity. The position  
 424 of residue P1487 (the last modeled residue) of RPB1 is shown to indicate its distance to CTD  
 425 fragments. The bottom panels show close-up views of the interactions between CTDs and  
 426 INTAC with CTDs shown in cryo-EM maps (blue meshes) and structural models. Residues  
 427 involved in interactions of CTD-2 and CTD-3 are shown in sticks. **b, c**, In vitro pulldown assays  
 428 using purified INTAC and PEC subcomplexes. Protein A (ProA)-tagged INTAC was incubated  
 429 with indicated subcomplexes and immobilized onto IgG resins. The unbound proteins were  
 430 washed and immobilized samples were subjected to SDS-PAGE and Coomassie blue staining.  
 431 Pol II<sup>phos</sup> represents pig Pol II that underwent in vitro phosphorylation by TFIIH and hPol II  
 432 and hPol II<sup>ΔCTD</sup> represent human Pol II and CTD-truncated human Pol II, respectively. Yellow  
 433 stars indicate the positions of RPB1 and RPB2, reflecting the binding of Pol II in the reactions.



434

435 **Fig. 4 | RNA is recognized and cleaved by INTS11 in an active conformation.**

436 **a**, Assembly of INTAC-PEC leads to activation of INTS11. The structures of INTS11 in the apo  
 437 INTAC (grey) <sup>7</sup> and INTAC-PEC (pink, this study) are superimposed. Rotation of the  $\beta$ -CASP  
 438 domain and opening of the RNA entry tunnel are indicated with arrows. The movement of  
 439 INTS11 likely results from binding of PEC and/or RNA. **b-c**, Schematic diagram (b) and  
 440 structural model (c) of DNA-RNA bubble. Cryo-EM maps of three parts are shown. Assignment  
 441 of RNA between -11 to -17 was not accurate and the number of nucleotides was proposed based  
 442 on the length of extended RNA strand. **d, e**, Recognition of RNA by INTS11 within the RNA  
 443 entry tunnel (d) and above the active site (e). (d) Electrostatic potential surface of INTS11 is  
 444 shown and RNA is shown in sticks. (e) Organization of the catalytic center and positioning of  
 445 RNA for cleavage.

## 446 **Methods**

### 447 **Protein expression and purification**

448 INTAC was overexpressed and purified as previously described<sup>7</sup>. Pol II was isolated from  
449 *S. scrofa thymus* and purified following the reported protocol<sup>30,31,40,41</sup>. Four residue  
450 substitutions (G882S of RBP2, T75I of RPB3, S140N of RPB3, and S126T of RPB6) exist  
451 between *S. scrofa* and *H. sapiens* Pol II.

452 All the purification steps were performed at 4 °C unless otherwise stated. The two full-  
453 length open reading frames (ORFs) of human DSIF subunits (SPT4 and SPT5) were separately  
454 subcloned into a modified pCAG vector and SPT4 was tagged with an N-terminal 2 × Protein  
455 A. Both plasmids were co-transfected to Expi293 cells using PEI (Polysciences) when the cells  
456 reached a density of  $2.5 \times 10^6$ /ml. After being cultured at 37 °C for 60 hours, cells were  
457 harvested and lysed in lysis buffer containing 50 mM Na-HEPES pH 7.4, 300 mM NaCl, 0.25%  
458 CHAPS, 5 mM MgCl<sub>2</sub>, 5 mM adenosine triphosphate (ATP), 10% glycerol (v/v), 2 mM  
459 dithiothreitol (DTT), 1 mM phenylmethylsulfonyl fluoride (PMSF), 1 µg/ml aprotinin, 1 µg/ml  
460 pepstatin, 1 µg/ml leupeptin for 30 min. The lysate was clarified by centrifugation at 16,000  
461 rotations per minute (rpm) for 30 min with JLA-16.250 rotor (Beckman Coulter), and the  
462 supernatant was incubated with immunoglobulin G (IgG) resins (Smart-Lifesciences) overnight.  
463 The resins were washed with buffer containing 30 mM Na-HEPES pH 7.4, 300 mM NaCl, 0.1%  
464 CHAPS, 2 mM MgCl<sub>2</sub>, 10% glycerol, 2 mM DTT. After on-column cleavage by 3C protease  
465 for 4 hours, the immobilized proteins were eluted and further purified by ion exchange  
466 chromatography (Mono Q 5/5, GE Healthcare). Peak fractions were assessed by SDS-PAGE  
467 followed by Coomassie blue staining. Protein concentration was determined by measuring  
468 absorption at 280 nm and using the predicted extinction coefficient for DSIF. Pure fractions  
469 were pooled, aliquoted, snap frozen and stored at -80 °C.

470 NELF was prepared essentially in a similar way as described in DSIF. The four full-length  
471 ORFs of human NELF subunits (NELF-A, -B, -D, -E) were separately subcloned into a  
472 modified pCAG vector and NELF-E was tagged with an N-terminal 2 × Protein A. The  
473 plasmids were co-transfected into Expi293F cells for overexpression. The cells were collected  
474 by centrifugation and resuspended in lysis buffer containing 50 mM Na-HEPES pH 7.4, 300  
475 mM NaCl, 0.25% CHAPS, 5 mM MgCl<sub>2</sub>, 5 mM ATP, 10% glycerol (v/v), 2 mM DTT, 1 mM  
476 PMSF, 1 µg/ml aprotinin, 1 µg/ml pepstatin, 1 µg/ml leupeptin. After cell lysis, the lysate was  
477 cleared by centrifugation and the supernatant was incubated with IgG resins (Smart-  
478 Lifesciences) for 4 hours followed by on-column digestion by 3C protease for 4 hours. The  
479 eluate was further purified by ion exchange chromatography (Mono Q 5/5, GE Healthcare).  
480 Peak fractions were pooled and protein purity was assessed by SDS-PAGE and Coomassie  
481 staining. Pure NELF was concentrated and subjected to in vitro dephosphorylation overnight  
482 by Lambda Protein Phosphatase (Lambda PP, Beyotime Biotechnology). The dephosphorylated

483 NELF was applied onto a Superdex200 10/300 GL column (GE Healthcare) in a buffer  
484 containing 30 mM K-HEPES pH 7.4, 150 mM KCl, 5% glycerol (v/v), 2 mM DTT. Peak  
485 fractions containing NELF were pooled, aliquoted, snap frozen, and stored at  $-80^{\circ}\text{C}$ .

486

### 487 **Cryo-EM sample preparation**

488 DNA oligos were purchased from Generay Biotechnology and RNA oligos were  
489 purchased from Bioneer. All oligos were resuspended in RNase-free water (200  $\mu\text{M}$ ) and stored  
490 at  $-30^{\circ}\text{C}$ . The Pol II elongation complex (EC) was assembled on a bubble scaffold with the  
491 following nucleic acid sequences as previously reported with minor modifications<sup>30,31</sup>:  
492 template DNA 5'-GCT CCC AGC TCC CTG CTG GCT CCG AGT GGG TTC CGC CGC TCT  
493 CAA TGG-3', non-template DNA 5'-CCA TTG AGA GCG GCA CTT GTG TTC CGG AGC  
494 CAG CAG GGA GCT GGG AGC-3', and RNA 5'-triphosphate-AAU AAC CGG AGA GGG  
495 AAC CCA CU-3'. The scaffold contains 10 bp DNA-RNA hybrid, 10-nucleotide bubble, 13  
496 nucleotides of exit RNA, 24 nucleotides of entry DNA and 14 nucleotides of exit DNA. To  
497 obtain the DNA-RNA hybrid, template DNA and RNA were mixed with a molar ratio of 1:1.3  
498 and were annealed by incubating the nucleic acids at  $95^{\circ}\text{C}$  for 10 min and then decreasing the  
499 temperature by  $1^{\circ}\text{C min}^{-1}$  steps to a final temperature of  $4^{\circ}\text{C}$  in a thermocycler in a buffer  
500 containing 20 mM K-HEPES pH 7.4, 60 mM KCl, 3 mM  $\text{MgCl}_2$ , and 5% (v/v) glycerol. All  
501 concentrations refer to the final concentrations used in complex assembly. To assemble EC, the  
502 purified *S. scrofa* Pol II (275 pmol) was incubated with twofold molar excess of the DNA-RNA  
503 hybrid for 15 min at  $30^{\circ}\text{C}$ , shaking at 300 rpm, followed by the addition of twofold molar  
504 excess of non-template DNA and further incubation for 15 min at  $30^{\circ}\text{C}$ . The purified DSIF and  
505 NELF were added in a twofold molar excess relative to Pol II for the PEC reconstitution. The  
506 sample was incubated for 1 hour at  $4^{\circ}\text{C}$ , followed by the addition of the purified INTAC (250  
507 pmol) and incubation for another 2 hours at  $4^{\circ}\text{C}$ . The resulting sample was subjected to gradient  
508 fixation (GraFix)<sup>42</sup>. The glycerol gradient was prepared using light buffer containing 8% (v/v)  
509 glycerol, 20 mM K-HEPES pH 7.4, 60 mM KCl, 0.03% CHAPS, 2 3mM  $\text{MgCl}_2$ , mM DTT,  
510 and heavy buffer containing 40% (v/v) glycerol, 0.0018% glutaraldehyde (Sigma), 20 mM  
511 HEPES pH 7.4, 60 mM KCl, 0.03% CHAPS, 3mM  $\text{MgCl}_2$ , 2 mM DTT. The centrifugation was  
512 performed using an SW60 Ti rotor (Beckman Coulter) at 32,000 rpm at  $4^{\circ}\text{C}$  for 14 hours.  
513 Subsequently, peak fractions were pooled and the cross-linking reactions were quenched with  
514 100 mM Tris-HCl pH7.0. The homogeneity of peak fractions was assessed by negative-stain  
515 electron microscopy. Fractions of interest were concentrated to about 1.7 mg/ml and dialyzed  
516 overnight against a buffer containing 20 mM K-HEPES pH 7.4, 60 mM KCl, 0.8% glycerol, 1  
517 mM tris (2-carboxyethyl) phosphine (TCEP), followed by cryo-EM grid preparation.

518 For negative-stain EM, 5  $\mu\text{l}$  of freshly purified protein sample was applied onto a glow-  
519 discharged copper grid supported by a thin layer of carbon film for 1 min before negative  
520 staining by 2% (w/v) uranyl formate at room temperature. The negatively stained grid was

521 loaded onto a FEI Talos L120C microscope operated at 120 kV, equipped with a Ceta CCD  
522 camera.

523 For cryo-EM grid preparation, 4  $\mu$ l of protein sample (about 0.73 mg/ml) was applied onto  
524 a glow-discharged holey carbon grid (Quantifoil Au, R2/2, 300 mesh). After blotting for 3 s,  
525 the grid was vitrified by plunging it into liquid ethane using a Vitrobot Mark IV (FEI) operated  
526 at 4°C and 100% humidity.

527

### 528 **IgG pulldown assay**

529 Expi293F cells containing overexpressed INTAC complex were pelleted and lysed as  
530 previously described<sup>7</sup>. The supernatant of the cell lysate was incubated with IgG resins for 2  
531 hours at 4°C. The INTAC complex was immobilized on the resins by N-terminal 4 $\times$ Protein A–  
532 tagged INTS1. The resins were extensively washed and resuspended in 450  $\mu$ l of the binding  
533 buffer containing 30 mM K-HEPES pH7.4, 100 mM KCl, 0.1% CHAPS, 3 mM MgCl<sub>2</sub>, 8%  
534 glycerol, 2 mM DTT. The purified Pol II or Pol II with deletion of RPB1 CTD (Pol II<sup>CTD</sup>)  
535 expressed in Expi293 cells was subjected to removing endogenous RPAP2 by incubating with  
536 RPAP2 antibody (Abclonal) on Protein G resins. The resulting Pol II, Pol II <sup>$\Delta$ CTD</sup>, or their the  
537 mixture with DSIF and NELF, in the presence or absence of a bubble scaffold was individually  
538 incubated with INTAC-immobilized IgG resins for 2 hours at 4°C. The resins were extensively  
539 washed with the binding buffer, and the bound proteins were subjected to SDS-PAGE followed  
540 by Coomassie blue staining. Other IgG pulldown assays were performed in a similar approach  
541 as described above.

542

### 543 **Cryo-EM data collection and image processing**

544 Cryo-EM data were collected on a Titan Krios electron microscope (FEI) operated at 300 kV  
545 at the Cryo-EM platform of Fudan University, equipped with a K2 summit direct detector  
546 (Gatan) and a GIF quantum energy filter (Gatan) set to a slit width of 20 eV. Automated data  
547 acquisition was carried out with Serial EM software in the superresolution mode<sup>43</sup> at a nominal  
548 magnification 130,000 $\times$ , corresponding to a calibrated pixel size of 1.054 Å, and a defocus  
549 range from  $-1.5$  to  $-2.5$   $\mu$ m. Each image stack was dose fractionated to 32 frames with a total  
550 exposure dose of about 50 e<sup>-</sup>/Å<sup>2</sup> and exposure time of 6.72 s. The image stacks were motion-  
551 corrected and dose-weighted using MotionCorr2<sup>44</sup>. The contrast transfer function (CTF)  
552 parameters were estimated by CTFFIND-4.1 from non-dose weighted micrographs. About  
553 51,000 particles autopicked from 2000 micrographs were subjected into two-dimensional (2D)  
554 classification in RELION v3.0<sup>45</sup> and ab initio reconstruction by cryoSPARC v2<sup>46</sup>. The 3D  
555 initial model was low-passed and used as references for subsequent particle-picking and 3D  
556 classification. The following procedures of image processing were performed using RELION  
557 for dose-weighted micrographs, 1,237,927 particles were autopicked from 13,956 micrographs  
558 for further data processing. After several rounds of 3D classification, 47,736 good particles

559 were selected for further no-alignment 3D classification. Because of the relatively flexible  
560 organization between INTAC and PEC, the mask of INTS1-INTS6-INTS9-INTS11-PEC was  
561 applied to no-alignment 3D classification to separate the weakly associated INTAC-PEC.  
562 Finally, 21,304 particles (stably associated INTAC-PEC) were subjected to 3D-autorefinement,  
563 postprocessing, CTF refinement and Bayesian polishing, yielding a reconstruction of INTAC-  
564 PEC at 4.47 Å resolution. In order to improve the map quality for model building, focused  
565 classification and refinement were used. Afterwards, selected particles were postprocessed,  
566 CTF-refined, Bayesian polished and generated reconstructions of the INTAC at 3.92 Å (78,201  
567 particles), INTS2-INTS7-CTD at 3.78 Å (78,201 particles), PP2A-AC at 4.10 Å (70,374  
568 particles), INTS9-INTS11-Pol II-DSIF at 3.99 Å (42,152 particles), INTS9-INTS11-RNA at  
569 4.10 Å (38,826 particles) and INTS11-RNA at 3.99 Å (38,826 particles). The reported  
570 resolutions above are based on the gold-standard Fourier shell correlation (FSC) 0.143 criterion.  
571 All the visualization and evaluation of 3D density maps were performed with UCSF Chimera  
572 <sup>47</sup> or UCSF ChimeraX <sup>48</sup>, and the local resolution variations were calculated using ResMap.  
573 The above procedures of data processing are summarized in Extended Data Fig. 2.

574

### 575 **Model building and structure refinement**

576 The structural model of INTAC-PEC was built according to the 4.47 Å INTAC-PEC cryo-EM  
577 map and corresponding focused refined maps. The structures of human INTAC (PDB: 7CUN)  
578 and PEC (PDB: 6GML) were used to guide modelling of INTAC-PEC, which were docked into  
579 the INTAC-PEC cryo-EM map by rigid body fitting using UCSF Chimera <sup>47</sup> and were manually  
580 adjusted using COOT <sup>49</sup>. The models of INTS1, INTS2, INTS4, INTS8, INTS9 and INTS11  
581 were further optimized in the guidance of the protein structures predicted by AlphaFold <sup>50</sup>. To  
582 build the model of INTS11 (active conformation) and RNA (-18 to -21), the homologous  
583 structure of CPSF with nascent RNA (PDB: 6V4X) was used as a reference according to the  
584 INTS9-INTS11-RNA map and the model of RNA (-1 to -17) was built using map INTS11-RNA.  
585 The structural model of the INTAC-PEC complex was refined against the 4.47 Å overall map  
586 in real space with PHENIX <sup>51</sup> and validated through examination of Ramachandran plot  
587 statistics, a MolProbity score <sup>52</sup>, and a EMRinger score <sup>53</sup>. The statistics of the map  
588 reconstruction and model refinement are summarized in Extended Data Table 1. Each focused  
589 refined maps were used to create the composite map using UCSF ChimeraX <sup>48</sup>. The composite  
590 map was used in Fig. 1a and Supplementary Video 1. Map and model representations in the  
591 figures and videos were prepared by PyMOL and UCSF ChimeraX <sup>48</sup>.

592