

1

2 **Monoallelically-expressed Noncoding RNAs form nucleolar territories**
3 **on NOR-containing chromosomes and regulate rRNA expression**

4 Qinyu Hao^{1*}, Minxue Liu^{1*}, Swapna Vidhur Daulatabad², Saba Gaffari³, Rajneesh
5 Srivastava², You Jin Song¹, Shivang Bhaskar¹, Anurupa Moitra¹, Hazel Mangan⁴,
6 Elizabeth Tseng⁵, Rachel B. Gilmore⁶, Susan M. Freier⁷, Xin Chen⁸, Chengliang Wang⁹,
7 Sui Huang¹⁰, Stormy Chamberlain⁶, Hong Jin^{8,9,11}, Jonas Korlach⁵, Brian McStay⁴,
8 Saurabh Sinha^{3&12}, Sarath Chandra Janga², Supriya G. Prasanth^{1&12}, and Kannanganattu
9 V. Prasanth^{1&12#}

10 ¹Department of Cell and Developmental Biology, University of Illinois at Urbana-
11 Champaign, Urbana, IL, USA; ²Department of BioHealth Informatics, School of
12 Informatics and Computing, IUPUI, Indianapolis, IN, USA; ³Department of Computer
13 Science, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, Urbana, IL, USA; ⁴Centre for
14 Chromosome Biology, School of Natural Sciences, National University of Ireland
15 Galway, Galway H91 W2TY, Ireland; ⁵Pacific Biosciences, Menlo Park, CA 94025,
16 U.S.A.; ⁶Department of Genetics and Genome Sciences, University of Connecticut
17 School of Medicine, Farmington, CT 06030, USA.; ⁷Ionis Pharmaceuticals Inc.,
18 Carlsbad, California 92008, USA.; ⁸Department of Biophysics and Quantitative Biology
19 and ⁹Department of Biochemistry, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, Urbana,
20 IL, USA; ¹⁰Department of Cell and Molecular Biology, Northwestern University,
21 Chicago, IL-60611, USA; ¹¹Carl R. Woese Institute for Genomic Biology, University of
22 Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, Urbana, IL 61801, USA; ¹²Cancer Center at Illinois,
23 University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, Urbana, IL, USA
24
25

26

27 *Co-first authors

28 #Address correspondence to:

29 Kannanganattu V. Prasanth (kumarp@illinois.edu)

30

31 **Keywords:** noncoding RNA, nuclear domains, Nucleolar dominance,
32 genome imprinting, epigenetic inheritance

33 **Running title:** Monoallelic association of noncoding RNA on NOR-containing
34 chromosome.

35

36 **ABSTRACT**

37 Out of the several hundred copies of *rRNA* genes that are arranged in the nucleolar
38 organizing regions (NOR) of the five human acrocentric chromosomes, ~50% remain
39 transcriptionally inactive. NOR-associated sequences and epigenetic modifications
40 contribute to differential expression of rRNAs. However, the mechanism(s), controlling
41 the dosage of active versus inactive *rRNA* genes in mammals is yet to be determined. We
42 have discovered a family of ncRNAs, SNULs (Single Nucleolus Localized RNA), which
43 form constrained sub-nucleolar territories on individual NORs and influences rRNA
44 expression. Individual members of the SNULs monoallelically associate with specific
45 NOR-containing chromosome. SNULs share sequence similarity to pre-rRNA and
46 localize in the sub-nucleolar compartment with pre-rRNA. Finally, SNULs control rRNA
47 expression by influencing pre-rRNA sorting to the DFC compartment and pre-rRNA
48 processing. Our study discovered a novel class of ncRNAs that by forming constrained
49 nucleolar territories on individual NORs contribute to rRNA expression.

50

51 INTRODUCTION

52 The nucleolus is the most well-characterized non-membranous nuclear domain, where
53 ribosome biogenesis and maturation takes place and is formed around the nucleolus
54 organizer regions (NORs) ¹. NORs are comprised of rRNA gene tandem arrays, and in
55 human cells, they are located on the short arms (p-arm) of the five acrocentric
56 chromosomes (Chrs. 13,14,15, 21 & 22) ². Human cells contain >400 copies of rRNA
57 (18S/28S/5.8S) genes, yet only ~50% of the copies are transcriptionally active ³. The
58 expression of rRNA genes is tightly controlled during physiological processes, such as
59 cellular development by epigenetic mechanisms ^{2, 4-6}. However, the mechanism that
60 precisely maintains the dosage of active versus inactive rRNA genes within a cell is yet
61 to be determined.

62 The nucleolus harbors a diverse set of small and long noncoding RNAs (ncRNAs),
63 which play crucial roles in organizing the nucleolar genome as well as regulating rRNA
64 expression ^{7, 8}. For example, the intergenic spacer (IGS) between rRNA genes encodes
65 several ncRNAs, such as pRNA, PAPAS, and PNCTR, which modulate rRNA expression
66 and nucleolus organization ⁷⁻¹⁰. Recent studies have reported that ncRNAs, including
67 SLERT, LoNa, AluRNAs and the LETN lncRNAs modulate nucleolus structure and
68 rRNA expression via independent mechanisms ¹¹⁻¹⁴. Collectively, these studies
69 underscore the importance of ncRNAs in controlling key nucleolus functions thus
70 contributing to cellular homeostasis.

71 Besides the rDNA array, the remaining DNA sequences within the short arms of all
72 five NOR-containing acrocentric chromosomes are highly repetitive in nature and share
73 higher levels of sequence similarities ^{2, 4, 5, 15-17}. As a result, insights into novel genes

74 and/or regulatory elements located within the p-arms are limited. Analyses of small
75 regions located adjacent to NORs revealed that they code for lncRNAs^{15, 18}, indicating
76 that the p-arms of the NOR-containing chromosomes harbor ncRNA genes, those could
77 modulate key nucleolar functions.

78 In the present study, we have identified a novel family of ncRNAs: SNULs, which
79 likely originate from the p-arms of acrocentric chromosomes and form allele-specific
80 constrained sub-nucleolar territories on the NOR-containing chromosomes. SNUL-1
81 RNA displays high sequence similarity to pre-rRNA. Significantly, our studies revealed
82 that the SNUL family of ncRNAs contribute to rRNA expression. Thus, our study
83 unraveled the existence of a novel family of ncRNAs that display monoallelic
84 coating/association on the autosomal segments of NOR-containing p-arms for modulating
85 rRNA expression.

86

87 **RESULTS**

88 **SNUL-1 RNA forms a distinct territory within the nucleolus**

89 In a screen to identify RNAs with distinct cellular distribution¹⁹, we identified a
90 unique probe with ~600 nucleotides (Table S1), which preferentially hybridized to an
91 RNA species that formed a cloud/territory within the nucleolus in a broad spectrum of
92 human cell lines (Figures 1a-b & S1a-b). Unlike other nucleolus-resident RNAs, which is
93 homogenously distributed in all the nucleoli within a cell, this RNA cloud decorated one
94 nucleolus of several nucleoli per nucleus in most of the diploid or near-diploid cells
95 (Figure 1a-c & S1a; embryonic stem cell [WA09], fibroblasts [WI-38, IMR-90, and
96 MCH065], epithelial cell [hTERT-RPE-1], and lymphocyte [GM12878]). We therefore

97 named the RNA as Single Nucleolus Localized RNA-1 (SNUL-1). Strikingly, cancer cell
98 lines displayed varied numbers of the SNUL-1 territories per nucleus (ranging from 1 to 4
99 SNUL-1 clouds/cell), though the number of SNUL-1 cloud/cell remained fixed for a
100 particular cell line (Figure 1c). The SNUL-1 cloud was well-preserved even in
101 biochemically isolated nucleoli (Figure 1d), indicating that SNUL-1 associates with
102 integral components of the nucleolus.

103

104 **SNUL-1 constitutes a group of RNAs with sequence features resembling 21S pre-**
105 **rRNA**

106 The original double-stranded DNA probe (Probe 1; Figure S1c) that detected the SNUL-1
107 RNA cloud(s) was mapped to hg38-Chr17: 39549507-39550130 genomic region,
108 encoding a lncRNA. However, other unique probes (non-overlapping with the probe-1
109 region) generated from the Chr17-encoded lncRNA failed to detect SNUL-1 RNA cloud
110 (data not shown). Furthermore, BLAST-based analyses failed to align the Probe 1
111 sequence to any other genomic loci. Since a large proportion of the p-arms of nucleolus-
112 associated NOR-containing acrocentric chromosomes is not yet annotated, we speculated
113 that SNUL-1 could be transcribed from an unannotated genomic region from the
114 acrocentric p-arms. RNA-FISH-based analyses revealed that a [CT]₂₀ repeat and a 60-
115 nucleotide overhang sequence within the original probe-1 was crucial for detecting the
116 SNUL-1 cloud (Figures S1c-d; probe 4), implying that the [AG] repeats along with
117 unique sequence beyond the repeat contributes to the hybridization specificity and
118 localization of SNUL-1.

119 During the screen, we identified another single-stranded oligonucleotide probe that
120 shared ~73% sequence similarity to the SNUL-1 probe 4 detected an additional RNA
121 cloud in the nucleolus, but was distinct from the SNUL-1 cloud (Figure S1e-f). We
122 named this RNA as SNUL-2. The probe that hybridized to SNUL-2 also contained an
123 imperfect [CT]-rich region (Figure S1f), suggesting that both SNUL-1 and SNUL-2
124 RNAs contain [AG] repeats. Based on this, we propose that SNUL-1 and SNUL-2 are
125 members of a novel RNA family, which form non-overlapping constrained territories
126 within the nucleolus.

127 In order to identify the full-length SNUL-1 sequence, we isolated rRNA-depleted total
128 RNA from biochemically purified nucleoli (Figure 1d) and performed targeted long-read
129 Iso-Sequencing (Iso-Seq; Single Molecule Real-Time Sequencing by PACBIO) using the
130 SNUL-1 Probe 4 as a bait for the initial RNA pull down (Figure S1g; please see methods
131 for details). Top ranked full-length isoforms with high binding affinity with SNUL-1
132 Probe 4 were picked as potential SNUL-1 candidate sequences (CSs). We identified
133 potential SNUL-1 candidates that were supported by both Iso-Seq and an independent
134 unbiased Nanopore long-read sequencing of nucleolus-enriched RNAs (Figure S1g).
135 Comparison between the Iso-Seq SNUL-1 CSs and the independently built consensus
136 sequences by Nanopore reads revealed a ~100% identity, thus confirming the presence of
137 SNUL-1 full-length candidates in the nucleolus. Furthermore, individual members of the
138 SNUL-1 CS RNAs were localized within the SNUL-1 RNA territory (Figures 1e & S1h).
139 Members of the SNUL-1 CS RNAs, though enriched with the same SNUL-1 cloud, did
140 not display complete co-localization (Figures S1i-j). The full-length SNUL-1 CS RNAs
141 identified by both iso-seq and nanopore seq. analyzes contained defined 5' and 3'ends,

142 ranges in length from 1.9kb to 3.1kb and displayed high levels of sequence similarity
143 between each other (>90%) (Figures 1f & S1k). Furthermore, comprehensive statistical
144 analyses support the inference that SNUL-1 CSs constituted a group of independent
145 RNAs, sharing high levels of sequence similarity (Figure S1l & Tables S2 & S3, see
146 Materials and Methods for details of the analyses). Interestingly, the individual members
147 of the SNUL-1 CSs showed ~80% sequence similarity to 21S pre-ribosomal RNA (pre-
148 rRNA), which is an intermediate pre-rRNA, consisting of 18S rRNA and partial internal
149 transcribed spacer 1 (ITS1) (Figures 1f, S1k & S1m).

150 In the nucleolus, both SNUL-1 and pre-rRNA (detected by the probe hybridizing to
151 the internal transcribed region [ITS1] of pre-rRNA) distributed mostly non-overlapping
152 regions, as observed by super resolution-structured illumination microscopy (SR-SIM)
153 imaging (Figure S1n). In addition, depletion of SNULs using modified DNA antisense
154 oligonucleotides did not reduce the levels of pre-rRNA (Figure S1o). Based on these
155 results, we conclude that SNUL-1 represents a group of RNA species showing sequence
156 similarities to 21S pre-rRNA and form a constrained single territory within the nucleolus.

157

158 **RNA polymerase I-transcribed SNUL-1 is enriched at the DFC sub-nucleolar region**

159 In the nucleolus, RNA Pol I transcription machinery is clustered in the fibrillar center
160 (FC; marked by UBF or RNA polymerase 1 [RPA194]), allowing the transcription to
161 happen at the outer boundary of FC²⁰. Nascent pre-rRNAs are co-transcriptionally sorted
162 into the dense fibrillar center (DFC; marked by fibrillarin [FBL]) located around FC for
163 the early stages of pre-rRNA processing. The final steps of pre-rRNA processing and
164 ribosome assembly take place in the granular component (GC; marked by B23) (Figure

165 S2a). SR-SIM imaging revealed that SNUL-1 distributed across all the three sub-
166 nucleolar compartments (Figures 2a & S2b) but preferentially enriched in the DFC region
167 (higher Pearson's correlation coefficient [PCC] between SNUL-1 and FBL [DFC marker]
168 over RPA194 [FC marker]) (Figure 2a-b).

169 The SNUL-1 cloud associated with the transcriptionally active DFC/FC units as
170 observed by the presence of 5-FU (fluro-uridine)-incorporated nascent RNA in SNUL-1-
171 associated domains (Figure 2c). SNUL-1 positive regions within the nucleolus never
172 completely overlapped with, but instead were located adjacent to pre-rRNA as well as
173 rDNA signals, as observed by SR-SIM imaging (Figures 2d & S2c). However, both
174 SNUL-1 and pre-rRNA co-existed but were not colocalized within an individual FC/DFC
175 unit (Figures 2e-f & S2d). An individual nucleolus contains several dozens of FC/DFC
176 units, with each unit containing 2-3 transcriptionally active rRNA genes²¹. SNUL-1 co-
177 occupied in ~4 adjacent FC/DFC units within a single nucleolus along with pre-rRNA
178 (Figure 2g) (n =22). The localization of SNUL-1 in multiple FC/DFC units along with the
179 observed sequence variations between SNUL-1 CSs imply that SNUL-1 RNAs are
180 transcribed by a family of genes located in 3-4 adjacent FC/DFC units and form a
181 constrained sub-nucleolar territory.

182 SNUL-1 is transcribed by RNA Pol I, as cells treated with RNA Pol I inhibitors
183 (BMH21 or low dose of Actinomycin D [ActD, 10 ng/ml]) showed reduced SNUL-1
184 levels (Figures 2h and S2e). In RNA Pol II-inhibited cells (flavopiridol and 5,6-Dichloro-
185 1- β -d-ribofuranosylbenzimidazole [DRB]), SNUL-1 re-localized to the nucleolar
186 periphery along with rRNA (Figures 2i & S2f), and this alteration in the RNA
187 distribution was reversible upon transcription reactivation (Figure 2i)²². Together, these

188 results indicated that SNUL-1 RNAs are transcribed by RNA Pol I in the FC/DFC region
189 along with pre-rRNAs (Figure 2j).

190

191 **SNUL-1 RNA cloud associates with an NOR-containing chromosome**

192 During mitosis, the SNUL-1 cloud was not observed from pro-metaphase to anaphase
193 (Figure S3a). During late telophase/early G1, the nucleolus is formed around the active
194 NORs²³. In the telophase/early G1 nuclei of multiple cell types, we observed a prominent
195 single SNUL-1 cloud that co-localized with one of the several rRNA containing active
196 NORs (see arrow in Figure S3a-b;). Late telophase or early G1 cells also showed a weak
197 but distinct second SNUL-1 signal associating with another active NOR (please see
198 arrowhead in Figure S3a-b). This result implies that SNUL-1 could be biallelically
199 expressed, though at different levels during telophase/early G1 nuclei.

200 In the interphase nuclei, only one SNUL-1 cloud was observed that specifically
201 associated with a single NOR-containing chromosome allele (Figure 3a). In this assay,
202 the NOR-containing acrocentric chromosome arms were labeled by a probe hybridizing
203 to the distal junction (DJ) regions, which are uniquely present on the p-arm of all the
204 NOR-containing chromosomes^{15, 18}. Further experiments revealed that in WI-38
205 interphase nuclei, including that of G1 cells, the SNUL-1 cloud specifically associated
206 with one allele of Chr. 15. This was demonstrated by co-RNA and DNA-FISH, which
207 detected SNUL-1 cloud and Chr. 15 markers, including Chr. 15 q-arm paint (Figures 3b-c
208 & S3i), Chr. 15-specific centromere (15CEN; α -Satellite or 15p11.1-q11.1), and peri-
209 centromeric Satellite III repeats (15Sat III repeats or 15p11.2) (Figure 4a). Monoallelic
210 association of SNUL-1 to Chr. 15 was also confirmed in other cell lines, including in

211 human primary fibroblasts (IMR-90 [lung], MCH065 [dermal]) and hTERT-
212 immortalized near-diploid retinal pigment epithelial cells (hTERT-RPE1) (Figures S3c-d
213 & 4c). In addition, we also observed that the SNUL-2 RNA cloud associated with one
214 allele of NOR-containing Chr.13 (Figure S3e-f). Based on these results, we conclude that
215 a unique subset of SNUL-like genes are present in each of the NOR-containing
216 acrocentric chromosome arms, where each members of the SNUL RNA form a spatially
217 constrained RNA territory on the p-arm of the particular chromosome allele.

218 By utilizing the mouse A9 cells integrated with one allele of human Chr. 15 (mono-
219 chromosomal somatic cell hybrid A9+H15)¹⁸, we further confirmed that SNUL-1 is
220 indeed transcribed from Chr. 15 by RNA pol I and formed a confined RNA territory in
221 the nucleolus. In the somatic-hybrid cells, the NOR on the transferred human
222 chromosome remain silenced and showed no human rRNA expression, due to the
223 inability of mouse-encoded RNA Pol I-specific transcription factors to bind to the human
224 RNA pol I-transcribed gene promoters (Figure 3d; Ctr). Exogenous expression of human
225 TBP-associated factors (TAF1A-D) in the A9+H15 cells reactivated RNA Pol I
226 transcription from human Chr. 15, reflected by the presence of both human rRNA and
227 SNUL-1 in the nucleolus (Figure 3d)^{18,24}.

228 The rDNA content between the two alleles could vary profoundly in cell lines, as
229 recently reported in the case of hTERT-RPE1²⁵ (see also Figure S3g-h). Quantification
230 of the integrated density of the rDNA spots on the mitotic chromosome spreads of WI-38
231 confirmed equal rDNA content between the two Chr.15 alleles (Figures 3e-f; green). This
232 indicates that the monoallelic association of SNUL-1 to Chr. 15 is not dictated by the
233 rDNA content in these cells. We further observed that the SNUL-1-associated Chr. 15

234 allele contained active NOR, as shown by positive 5-FU incorporation as well as the
235 presence of RNA pol I transcription factor, UBF in the SNUL-1-decorated NORs
236 (Figures S3i-j).

237

238 **SNUL-1 RNA displays mitotically inherited random monoallelic association (rMA)**
239 **to the NOR of Chr. 15**

240 We consistently observed a significant difference in the size of the Chr. 15-specific peri-
241 centromeric Sat III repeat (15Sat III) signal between the two Chr. 15 alleles in multiple
242 diploid cell lines ([WI-38; Figures 3e & 4a-b], [hTERT-RPE-1; Figures S3g & S4a-b],
243 [MCH065; Figure 4c]), implying that these cells showed allele-specific differences in the
244 amount or compaction of peri-centromeric 15Sat III DNA. Interestingly, in 100% of WI-
245 38 and hTERT-RPE1 cells, the SNUL-1 cloud was associated only with the larger 15Sat
246 III signal containing Chr.15 allele (Figure 4a-b & S4a-b) (n =50 from biological
247 triplicates). On the other hand, SNUL-1 cloud in the MCH065 cells was associated with
248 the Chr. 15 allele containing the smaller 15Sat III signal (Figures 4c-d). These results
249 imply that SNUL-1 non-randomly associate with a particular Chr. 15 allele in a cell type-
250 specific manner. Loss-of-function studies revealed that SNULs did not influence allele-
251 specific 15Sat III levels or compaction (Figure S4c-d).

252 We next determined whether SNUL-1 non-randomly associates with the paternal or
253 maternal allele of the Chr. 15. Genes encoded within the imprinted Prader-Willi
254 Syndrome (PWS)/Angelman Syndrome (AS) genomic loci ²⁶, such as *SNRPN* and the
255 lncRNA *SPA2*, are expressed only from the paternal allele of Chr. 15 ^{27,28}. In WI-38 cells
256 (n=75), the SNUL-1 cloud was preferentially located away from the paternal Chr.15

257 allele, co-expressing *SNRPN* and *SPA2* (Figure 4e-f), indicating that in WI-38 cells
258 SNUL-1 associated with the maternal allele of Chr. 15. On the other hand, in the
259 MCH065 Fibroblasts and MCH065-derived iPSCs (MCH2-10), the SNUL-1 cloud was
260 associated with the paternal Chr. 15 allele, as demonstrated by the localization of SNUL-
261 1 cloud next to the smaller 15SatIII or *SNRPN* RNA signals (Figures 4c-d & S4e-j). In all
262 the tested cell lines (WI-38, hTERT-RPE1, and MCH2-10), the smaller 15SatIII signal
263 was always associated with the paternal Chr. 15 (Figures S4i-j). Based on these results,
264 we conclude that SNUL-1 is not an imprinted gene, but rather displays mitotically
265 inherited random monoallelic association (rMA) to paternal or maternal Chr. 15 in a cell
266 line-specific manner^{29, 30}.

267 Repressive epigenetic modifiers control imprinted or monoallelic expression of
268 lncRNAs³¹⁻³³. WI-38 cells incubated with DNA methyl transferase (DNMT; 5-Aza-2'-
269 deoxycytidine [5-Aza-dC]) and histone deacetylase (HDAC; Trichostatin A [TSA])
270 inhibitors showed two separate SNUL-1 and SNUL-2 foci (Figure 4g-h). Both the
271 SNUL-1 clouds in 5-Aza-dC+TSA-treated cells remained localized in the nucleolus
272 (Figure 4i) and were associated with both Chr. 15 alleles in a population of cells (Figure
273 4j-k). These results indicate the potential involvement of repressive epigenetic regulators
274 in maintaining the monoallelic association of SNULs.

275

276 **SNUL RNAs influence rRNA biogenesis**

277 We next evaluated the potential involvement of SNUL territory in nucleolar
278 functions. Iso-Seq and imaging data revealed that *SNUL-1* constituted a family of
279 genes/transcripts sharing high sequence similarity. Modified antisense oligonucleotides

280 (ASOs) targeting individual SNUL-1 CS candidate did not reduce total SNUL-1 levels
281 (data not shown). The repeat sequence within SNULs was highly conserved among all
282 the SNUL-1 CSs and was also shared by the SNUL-2 transcript. By using an ASO
283 targeting this region (ASO-SNUL) we efficiently depleted both SNUL-1 and SNUL-2
284 (Figure 5a). Interestingly, SNUL-depleted cells showed enhanced 5-FU incorporation in
285 the nucleolus (Figure 5b-c), and also showed increased levels of nascent 47S pre-rRNA,
286 quantified by single molecule RNA-Fluorescent hybridization (smRNA-FISH) using a
287 probe set (5'ETS-2) that preferentially detects nascent 47S pre-rRNA (Figures S5a-b).
288 These results imply that SNUL depletion either enhanced the expression of nucleolus-
289 enriched *rRNA* genes and/or reduced the co-transcriptional pre-rRNA processing. SNUL
290 depletion did not alter the overall distribution of the nucleolus-localized proteins (Figures
291 5d & S5c-e)^{12, 34}. However, we observed that SNUL-depleted cells showed increased
292 number of FC/DFC compartments/nucleolus, which could be a consequence of enhanced
293 pre-rRNA levels in these cells (Figures 5d, 5f & S5c-d).

294 The nascent 47S pre-rRNA is co-transcriptionally sorted from its transcription site at
295 the DFC/FC boundary to DFC²¹. The DFC-localized FBL binds to the 5' end upstream of
296 the first cleavage site (01 site) (Figure S1m & 5g) of the 47S pre-rRNA co-
297 transcriptionally and facilitates pre-rRNA sorting for efficient RNA processing and DFC
298 assembly²¹. Due to this, the 5' end of 47S pre-rRNA is localized in the DFC region, as
299 shown by SR-SIM of smRNA-FISH using the 5' external transcribed spacer (5'ETS)-1
300 probe set targeting the first 414 nts of 47S pre-rRNA (Figure 5d)²¹. On the other hand,
301 the region within the 47S pre-rRNA 5'ETS located downstream of the 01 cleavage site
302 (detected using 5'ETS-2 & 3 probes [Figures S1m & 5g; probes: 5'ETS-2 & 3])

303 associated with the rRNA transcription sites (FC or FC/DFC junction) (Figure S5c-d)²¹.
304 Interestingly, in the SNUL-depleted cells, FBL-interacting 5'ETS-1 region within the 47S
305 pre-rRNA failed to sort to DFC, and instead preferentially accumulated in the FC (Figure
306 5d-e). Depletion of pre-rRNA processing factors, including FBL, compromised 47S pre-
307 rRNA sorting at DFC, resulting in the accumulation of pre-rRNA in the FC region²¹. Our
308 results suggest the possibility that SNULs could influence pre-rRNA biogenesis by
309 modulating FBL-mediated pre-rRNA sorting. In support of this, our SR-SIM imaging
310 data revealed enriched association of SNUL-1 in the FBL-localized DFC. We therefore
311 evaluated whether SNULs influence the interaction between FBL and pre-rRNA.
312 Towards this, we performed FBL RNA-immunoprecipitation followed by quantitative
313 RT-PCR to quantify the interaction between FIB and nascent pre-rRNA in control and
314 SNUL-depleted cells. Strikingly, SNUL-depleted cells showed reduced association
315 between FBL and pre-rRNA (Figure 5h), indicating that DFC-enriched SNULs could
316 enhance the FBL interaction with pre-rRNA.

317 The sequence upstream of the 01-cleavage site within the 47S pre-rRNA (detected by
318 5'ETS-1 probe), is co-transcriptionally cleaved after it is sorted to DFC by FBL. Defects
319 in the pre-rRNA sorting to DFC were shown to affect pre-rRNA processing²¹. SNUL-1-
320 depleted cells showed defects in the initial cleavage at the 5' end of the 47S pre-rRNA, as
321 observed by the reduced levels of 30S+1 intermediate and +1-01 cleaved product (Figure
322 5i & S5f) by Northern blot analyses. The +1-01 is the unstable product processed from
323 the 5' end of 47S pre-rRNA due to the cleavage at the 01 site. All these results indicate
324 potential involvement of SNULs in pre-rRNA, sorting and/or co-transcriptional
325 processing.

326

327 **DISCUSSION**

328 We have discovered SNUL, a novel family of ncRNAs, which display non-random
329 association to specific NOR-containing chromosomes within the nucleolus. Our data
330 suggest that SNUL-1 is a member of a family of RNAs sharing similar sequence features.
331 The most striking feature of the SNUL-1 sequence is its resemblance to the 21S pre-
332 rRNA intermediate. Recent genomic mapping of acrocentric chromosome arms revealed
333 that most of the sequences in the NOR-containing p-arms are shared among all the 5
334 chromosomes^{15, 18, 35}. However, these studies have also identified inter-chromosomal
335 sequence variations¹⁸. Our observations showing the association of individual members
336 of SNULs to specific alleles of one of the acrocentric chromosomes support the idea that
337 the acrocentric arms encode chromosome- and allele-specific transcripts.

338 The underlying mechanism(s) controlling differential expression rRNA gene copies
339 in mammals is yet to be determined. Nucleolar dominance (NuD) is a developmentally
340 regulated process that is speculated to act as a dosage-control system to adjust the number
341 of actively transcribed rRNA genes according to the cellular need^{5, 36}. However, NuD is
342 primarily observed in the ‘interspecies hybrids’ of plants, invertebrates, amphibians and
343 mammals³⁷⁻⁴¹. NuD is reported in certain nonhybrid or ‘pure species’ of plants and fruit
344 flies, but has not yet been observed in mammals, primarily due to lack of information
345 about the allele-specific rRNA sequence variations⁴²⁻⁴⁴. During NuD, chromosome
346 allele-specific rRNA expression is observed, in which rRNA gene array within the NOR
347 that is inherited from one parent (dominant) is maintained in a transcriptionally active
348 status, while the rRNA loci from the other parent (under dominant) are preferentially

349 silenced^{38, 45-47}. Several features associated with the monoallelic regulation of SNULs
350 share similarities with NuD^{37, 38}. SNUL-1, and also rRNA expression in NuD is dictated
351 by non-imprinted random monoallelic expression. Repressive epigenetic modifiers play
352 vital roles in the allele-specific expression of SNULs, and also rRNAs during NuD^{46, 48,}
353 ⁴⁹. Interestingly, specific sequence elements located near the NORs are implicated to
354 control NuD⁵⁰⁻⁵². For example, in the germ cells of male *Drosophila*, Y chromosome
355 sequence elements promote developmentally-regulated NuD of the Y chromosome-
356 encoded rRNA over the X-chromosome rRNA⁵². It is possible that SNULs, by
357 associating with an NOR allele could dictate allele-specific expression of rRNA arrays in
358 human cells.

359 We observe that SNUL-1 forms a spatially constrained RNA territory that associates
360 next to the NOR of Chr. 15, but is devoid of pre-rRNA. Furthermore, SNUL-depleted
361 cells show elevated levels of pre-rRNA, along with defects in pre-rRNA sorting and
362 processing. One-way SNUL-1 could modulate rRNA expression is via modulating the
363 levels of bioprocessing machinery that control rRNA biogenesis and processing. For
364 example, high sequence similarity between SNUL-1 and pre-rRNAs helps SNUL-1 to
365 compete for and/or recruit factors that regulate rRNA biogenesis in a spatially
366 constrained area within the nucleolus. A recent study, by visualizing the distribution of
367 tagged pre-rRNAs from an NOR-containing chromosome, reported that similar to
368 SNULs, pre-rRNAs transcribed from individual NORs form constrained territories that
369 are tethered to the NOR-containing chromosomal regions⁵³. It is possible that SNUL-1,
370 by forming a distinct RNA territory on the NOR of the Chr. 15 allele, influences the
371 expression of rRNA genes from that NOR in an allele-specific manner. Such organization

372 of SNULs and rRNA territories in a constrained area within the nucleolus would help to
373 control the expression of a subset of rRNA genes without affecting the rRNA territories
374 on other acrocentric chromosomes.

375 Our observation of compartmentalized distribution of individual members of SNUL
376 RNA within specific sub-nucleolar regions challenges the current view that all the
377 nucleoli within a single nucleus are composed of identical domains. Future work will
378 entail determining the mechanism(s) underlying the constrained formation of ncRNA
379 territories and allele-specific spreading and regulation on autosomal regions.

380

381 **Limitations of the present study**

382 Presently, very little is known about the sequences in the short-arms of NOR-containing
383 chromosomes, the region that harbors novel ncRNA genes such as SNULs. A recent
384 study, by utilizing long-read sequencing in a haploid cell line revealed that p-arms of
385 NOR-containing chromosomes are enriched with repeat sequences³⁵. Higher levels of
386 sequence similarity observed between *SNUL-1* candidates and pre-rRNA made it
387 impossible for us to precisely map the genomic coordinates of *SNUL-1* genes from the
388 available long-read sequencing data set. Complete genome assembly of p-arms from
389 *SNUL-1*-expressing diploid cells would be essential to map *SNUL-1* genes in the genome
390 and also to identify the regulatory elements controlling monoallelic expression of *SNULs*.
391 Genomic annotation of the full-length *SNUL-1* genes is also crucial for designing
392 strategies to specifically alter the expression of individual *SNUL* genes, without targeting
393 other SNUL-like genes, furthering mechanistic understanding of SNUL functions. Even
394 with these technical limitations, the current study is highly impactful because our

395 observations of the association of autosome arms by SNULs supports a paradigm-shifting
396 model that ncRNA-coating of chromosomes and their roles in gene repression are not
397 restricted only to sex chromosomes. In addition, our study will serve as a starting point
398 towards the understanding of how differential rDNA expression is achieved during
399 physiological processes. Altogether, this study will form the basis for an entirely new
400 avenue of investigations, which would help to understand the role of ncRNAs on
401 monoallelic changes in autosomal chromatin structure and gene expression in the
402 nucleolus.

403

404 **ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

405 We thank members of Prasanth's laboratory and Dr. Ashish Lal (NCI, NIH) for their
406 valuable comments. We thank Drs. Eric Bolton (UIUC) for sharing prostate cancer cell
407 lines (PC3 and LNCap), Dr. Alok Sharma and Dr. Drinda Swanson from Abbott Inc. for
408 CEN15 and 15Sat III DNA probes, Prof. Ling-ling Chen (SIBCB) for lentiviral
409 constructs expressing fluorescently-labeled nucleolar proteins and Prof. Kyosuke Nagata
410 (University of Tsukuba) for SL1 plasmids. We thank Dr. Jason Underwood
411 (PacBiosciences) for the help to perform Iso-Seq. This work was supported by National
412 Institute of Health R21-AG065748 & R01-GM132458 to KVP, GM099669, GM125196
413 to SGP, R35GM131819 to SS, R21AG065748 and R01GM123314 to SCJ, Cancer center
414 at Illinois seed grants and Prairie Dragon Paddlers to KVP, National Science Foundation
415 (NSF) to KVP [EAGER, 1723008], SGP [career award, 1243372 & 1818286] and SCJ
416 [1940422 & 1908992]. H.J. acknowledges support from the NIH (R01-GM120552). SMF

417 is an employee of Ionis Inc., and ET and JK work for PACBIO and receive salary from
418 the respective companies.

419
420

421 **MATERIALS AND METHODS**

422 **Cell Culture**

423 WI-38 and IMR-90 cells were grown in MEM medium supplemented with 10% fetal
424 bovine serum (FBS), non-essential amino acid, sodium-pyruvate. HeLa and U2OS cells
425 were grown in DMEM medium supplemented with 5% FBS. hTERT-RPE1, mouse
426 A9+H15 and SH-SY5Y cells were grown in DMEM/F12 medium supplemented with
427 10% FBS. GM12878 cells were grown in RPMI1640 medium supplemented with 15%
428 FBS. PC-3 cells were grown in RPMI-1640 medium supplemented with 10% FBS.
429 MDA-MB-231 and LNCaP cells were grown in RPMI 1640 media supplemented with
430 10% FBS. SaOS-2 cells were grown in McCoy's 5A medium supplemented with 15%
431 FBS. MCF10A cells were grown in DMEM/F12 medium supplemented with 5% house
432 serum, hydrocortisone, cholera toxin, insulin, and EGF. HS578 cells were grown in
433 DMEM medium supplemented with 10% FBS and insulin. MCH065 cells were grown in
434 DMEM medium supplemented with 10% FBS. All media were supplemented with
435 Penicillin/Streptomycin. H9 hESCs and MCH2-10 iPSCs were grown on acid-treated
436 coverslips coated with Matrigel® hESC-Qualified Matrix (Corning®, Product Number
437 354277) in mTeSR™ Plus (STEMCELL Technologies™, Catalog #100-0276). Cells
438 were maintained in a 5% CO₂ incubator at 37 °C. Cell lines are obtained from commercial
439 vendors such as ATCC and Coriell. Cell lines used in our study has been authenticated by
440 STR profiling (UIUC Cancer Center). All cell lines were checked for mycoplasma.

441

442 **Transfection and virus infection**

443 For ASO treatments, Ctr-ASO or ASO-SNUL were transfected to cells at a final
444 concentration of 100 nM using Lipofectamine RNAiMax Reagent (Invitrogen). Cells
445 were cultured for another 3 days before harvest.

446 pHAGE-mNG-C1-FBL and pHAGE-mTagBFP2-C1-B23 plasmids were gifts from Dr.
447 Ling-ling Chen's lab ²¹. HeLa cells in 3.5 cm dish were transfected with 500ng of
448 pHAGE-mNG-C1-FBL and/or pHAGE-mTagBFP2-C1-B23 using Lipofectamine 3000
449 Reagent (Invitrogen).

450 pCHA-hTAF1A-D plasmid were gifts from Dr. Kyosuke Nagata's lab ²⁴. A9+H15
451 cells in 3.5 cm dish were transfected with pCHA-hTAF1A-D plasmid, 400 ng per each
452 plasmid, using Lipofectamine 3000 Reagent (Invitrogen).

453 For stably expressing mNG-FBL in WI-38 cells, lentiviral particles were packaged by
454 transfecting pHAGE-mNG-C1-FBL, pMD2.G, psPAX2 to 293T cells in WI-38 growing
455 medium. Virus were collected twice at 48 h and 72 h after transfection, removed of cell
456 debris by centrifuge, and snap frozen. WI-38 cells were infected by the virus for 2 days
457 and changed back to medium without virus.

458 **Transcription Inhibition and Epigenetic Marker Inhibition**

459 For RNA Pol I inhibition, cells were treated with 1 μ M BMH21 (Selleckchem), 10 ng/ml
460 ActD (Sigma-Aldrich), or 1 μ M CX5461 (Sigma-Aldrich) for 45 min or 2 h. For RNA Pol
461 II inhibition, cells were treated with 1) 5 μ g/ml ActD for 2 h, 2) 2.5 μ M Flavopiridol
462 (Selleckchem) for 3 h, or 3) 32 μ g/ml DRB for 3 h. After 3 h of DRB treatment, cells
463 were washed with PBS for 3 times and were recovered in fresh growth medium for 30
464 min or 60 min. For epigenetic mark inhibition, cells were treated with 80nM TSA and
465 500nM 5-Aza-dC for 6 days.

466 **RNA-Fluorescence *in situ* hybridization (FISH)**

467 For all of the FISH and Immunofluorescence staining done with adherent cells, cells were
468 seeded on #1.5 coverslips at least two days before experiments. For GM12878 and
469 isolated HeLa nucleoli, suspension was smeared onto the Poly-L-lysine-coated (Sigma-
470 Aldrich) coverslips prior to fixation.

471 For RNA-FISH using probes prepared by nick translation, cells were fixed by 4% PFA
472 for 15 min at room temperature (rt) and permeabilized with 0.5% Triton X-100 for 5 min
473 on ice. Alternatively, cells were pre-extracted by 0.5% Triton X-100 in CSK buffer for 5
474 min on ice and then fixed by 4% PFA for 10 min. Probes were made using Nick
475 Translation Kit (Abbott Molecular) as per manufacturer's instructions, added to the
476 hybridization buffer (50% formamide, 10% dextran sulfate in 2XSSC supplemented with
477 yeast tRNA), and before hybridization. Hybridization was carried out in a humidified
478 chamber in the dark overnight at 37 °C. The coverslips were then washed in 2X SSC and
479 1X SSC and 4X SSC. DNA is counterstained with DAPI. Coverslips were mounted in
480 VectaShield Antifade Mounting Medium (Vector Laboratories) or ProLong Diamond

481 Antifade Mountant (Invitrogen). Please see Table S4 for primer and probe sequence
482 details.

483 5'ETS smFISH probe sets were described in ²¹. SNRPN and SPA2 smFISH probe sets
484 were designed using Stellaris[®] Probe Designer. Oligonucleotides with 3' amino group
485 (LGC Biosearch Technologies) were pooled and coupled with either Cy[®]3 Mono NHS
486 Ester (GE healthcare) or Alexa Fluor[™] (AF) 647 NHS Ester (Invitrogen) by incubation
487 overnight at 37 °C in 0.1M NaHCO₃. Probes were then purified by G-50 column (GE
488 Healthcare) and ethanol precipitation. Concentration was measured by the OD at 550nm
489 (Cy[®]3) or 650nm (AF647). For RNA-FISH involving smFISH probes, smFISH probes
490 were added to Stellaris[®] RNA FISH Hybridization Buffer (LGC Biosearch Technologies)
491 with 10% formamide at a final concentration of 125nM. Hybridization was carried out in
492 a humidified chamber in the dark for 6 h at 37 °C. The coverslips were then washed with
493 Stellaris[®] RNA FISH Wash Buffer A and mounted as described above.

494 Digoxin-labeled RNA probes were in vitro transcribed as per manufacturers'
495 instructions (DIG RNA labeling Mix, Roche; T7 polymerase, Promega; SP6 Polymerase,
496 Promega) and purified by G-50 column (GE Healthcare). For RNA-FISH using ribo-
497 probes, cells on coverslips were fixed by 4% PFA for 10 min at rt, and then treated with
498 0.25% acetic anhydride in 0.1 M triethanolamide (pH 8.0) for 10 min. Coverslips were
499 washed in 1XSSC for 5min, treated with 0.2N HCl for 10 min, and pre-hybridized in
500 50% formamide, 5XSSC for at least 6 h at rt. Dig-labeled RNA probes were added to the
501 hybridization buffer (50% formamide, 5XSSC, 1X Denhardt's solution, 0.1% Tween20,
502 0.1% [w/v] CHAPS, 100 µg/ml Heparin, 5 mM EDTA, and 50 µg/ml Yeast tRNA) at a
503 final concentration of 2 µg/ml. Hybridization was carried out in a humidified chamber in
504 the dark overnight at 50 °C. The coverslips were then washed with 0.2XSSC for 1 h at 55
505 °C, blocked in 4% BSA, PBS for 30 min at 37 °C, and incubated with anti-Dig-FITC or -
506 Rhodamine (1:200) (Roche) in 1% BSA, PBS for 1 h at 37 °C. The coverslips were
507 washed twice with washing buffer (0.1% Tween20, 2XSSC) and refixed with 4% PFA
508 for 15 min at rt.

509 For RNase A treatment, pre-extracted cells were incubated with 1 mg/ml RNase A in
510 CSK buffer for 30 min at 37 °C. Cells were then fixed by 4% PFA for 15 min at rt and
511 processed to RNA-FISH. For DNase I treatment, fixed and permeabilized cells were

512 incubated with 200 U/ml DNase I (Sigma) in DNase I buffer prepared with PBS for 2 h at
513 37 °C, followed by incubation in Stop solution for 10 min at room temperature. RNA-
514 FISH was then performed as described above.

515 **RNA-DNA FISH**

516 For DNA-FISH using chromosome paint probes (Chrs. 13, 15, 22) (MetaSystems), after
517 fixation and permeabilization, coverslips were incubated in 20% glycerol overnight and
518 then went through freeze-thaw by liquid nitrogen for at least 6 cycles. Coverslips were
519 then treated with 0.1N HCl for 5 min and prehybridized in 50% formamide, 2XSSC for
520 30 min at rt. Probe mix was made by adding the RNA-FISH probe into the chromosome
521 paint probe. Probes were applied to the coverslips and denatured with the coverslips at
522 75-80 °C on a heating block. Hybridization was carried out in a humidified chamber in
523 the dark for 48 h at 37 °C.

524 For FISH using DNA-FISH probes made by nick translation, cells were pre-extracted
525 and fixed. Salmon sperm DNA and Human Cot-I DNA were added to the hybridization
526 buffer. Denaturation and hybridization were performed as described above.

527 **DNA-FISH on Metaphase Spread**

528 Cells were grown to ~70% confluence and treated with KaryoMax Colcemid solution
529 (Gibco) at a final concentration of 0.1 µg/ml in growth medium for 3 h. Mitotic cells
530 were then shaken off and pelleted by centrifuge. Cells were then gently resuspended in 75
531 mM KCl and incubated at 37 °C for 30-40 min. Cells were then fixed by freshly prepared
532 fixative (methanol: acetic acid 3:1 [v/v]) and dropped onto pre-cleaned microscope slides
533 from height. After air-drying, slides were stored at -20 °C for a least overnight before the
534 DNA-FISH. For the DNA-FISH on metaphase chromosomes, slides were rehydrated with
535 PBS and then treated with 50 µg/ml Pepsin in 0.01N HCl at 37 °C for 9 min. Slide were
536 then rinsed by PBS and 0.85% NaCl sequentially and dehydrated by a series of Ethanol at
537 different concentration (70%, 90%, and 100%). Air-dried slides were then subjected to
538 hybridization as described above.

539 **Immunofluorescence staining (IF)**

540 Cells on coverslips were fixed and permeabilized before blocking in 1% BSA for 30 min
541 at rt. Coverslips were then incubated with primary antibodies (anti-FBL, 1:500, Novus
542 Biologicals, NB300-269; anti-RPA194, 1:50, Santa Cruz, sc-48385; anti-UBF, 1:50,

543 Santa Cruz, sc-13125; anti-DDX21, 1:20000, proteintech,10528-1-AP). and secondary
544 antibody (anti-mouse IgG2a AF647, 1:2000, Invitrogen, A-21241; anti-mouse IgG
545 AF568, 1:2000, Invitrogen, A-11031; anti-mouse Cy5, 1:1000), sequentially. Coverslips
546 were then washed with PBS and refixed with 4% PFA. RNA-FISH was then carried out if
547 needed.

548 **5-FU metabolic labeling**

549 Cells were grown to ~70% confluence on the day of experiments. Cells were treated with
550 2 mM 5-FU (Sigma-Aldrich, F5130) for specified time periods before harvest. To detect
551 incorporated 5-FU, IF was performed with anti-BrdU antibody (1:800, Sigma-Aldrich,
552 B9434) as described above.

553 **Nucleoli isolation**

554 HeLa nucleoli were isolated as described in ⁵⁴ with adjustments. Briefly, HeLa cells were
555 collected by trypsinization and lysed in nuclear extraction buffer (50 mM Tris-HCL,
556 pH7.4, 0.14 M NaCl, 1.5 mM MgCl₂, 0.5% NP-40, 1mM DTT, and RNase Inhibitor).
557 Nuclei was precipitated and resuspended in S1 solution (0.25 M sucrose and 10mM
558 MgCl₂). Nuclear suspension was gently layered on S2 solution (0.35 M sucrose and 0.5
559 mM MgCl₂) and spun at 2,000g for 5 min at 4 °C. Purified nuclei were then sonicated by
560 Bioruptor UCD-200 at high mode until nucleoli were released. Another sucrose cushion
561 was then carried out with S3 solution (0.88 M sucrose and 0.5 mM MgCl₂). Isolated
562 nucleoli were then resuspended in S2 and subjected to RNA extraction by Trizol Reagent
563 (Invitrogen) or RNA-FISH.

564 **Northern Blot**

565 For the pre-rRNA Northern, 2 µg of total RNA extracted from WI-38 cells treated with
566 Ctr-ASO or ASO-SNUL was separated on 1% denature agarose gel prepared with
567 NorthernMax Denaturing Gel Buffer (Ambion) and run in NorthernMax Running Buffer
568 (Ambion). RNA was then transferred to Amersham Hybond-N+ blot (GE Healthcare) by
569 capillary transfer in 10 x SSC and crosslinked to the blot by UV (254 nm, 120mJ/cm²).
570 The DNA probes were labeled with [α -³²P] dCTP by Prime-It II Random Primer
571 Labeling Kit (Stratagene) as per manufacturer's instructions. Hybridization was carried
572 out using ULTRAhyb Hybridization Buffer (Ambion) containing 1 X 10⁶ cpm/ml of

573 denatured radiolabeled probes overnight at 42 °C. Blots were then washed and developed
574 using phosphor-imager.

575 **Native RNA Immunoprecipitation**

576 WI38 cells were washed twice with cold PBS and collected by centrifuge (1,000g, 10
577 mins at 4 °C). Cells were then lysed in 2ml RIP buffer (50 mM Tris pH 7.4, 150 mM
578 NaCl, 0.05% Igepal, 1 mM phenylmethyl sulfonyl fluoride (PMSF), 1µM Leupeptin,
579 1µM Pepstatin, 0.2 µM Aprotinin, and 2mM VRC(NEB)), and sonicated by Bioruptor
580 UCD-200 at high mode on ice. Cells were centrifuged at 1,000g at 4 °C for 10 mins and
581 supernatants were then pre-cleared with 15 µl Dynabeads Protein G (Invitrogen) for 30
582 mins. FBL antibody (Abcam) or rabbit IgG2b was incubated with 25µl Dynabeads
583 Protein G for 30 mins. The cell supernatants were then incubated with Dynabeads Protein
584 G at 4 °C for 2hrs. The Dynabeads Protein G were then washed with high salt buffer (50
585 mM Tris pH 7.4, 650 mM NaCl, 0.15% Igepal, 0.5% sodium deoxycholate, 1 mM
586 phenylmethyl sulfonyl fluoride (PMSF), 1µM Leupeptin, 1µM Pepstatin, 0.2 µM
587 Aprotinin, and 2mM VRC(NEB)) for three times and RIP buffer twice, followed by RNA
588 isolation and RT-qPCR.

589

590

591 **Imaging Acquisition**

592 For widefield microscopy, z-stack images were taken using either 1) DeltaVision
593 microscope (GE Healthcare) equipped with 60X/1.42 NA oil immersion objective
594 (Olympus) and CoolSNAP-HQ2 camera, or 2) Axioimager.Z1 microscope (Zeiss)
595 equipped with 63X/1.4 NA oil immersion objective and Zeiss AxioCam 506 mono
596 camera. Images were then processed through deconvolution and maximum intensity
597 projection.

598 SIM images were taken using either DeltaVision OMX V3 system (GE Healthcare)
599 equipped with a 100X/1.4 NA oil immersion objective, 3 laser beams (405nm, 488nm,
600 and 568nm) and EMCCD camera (Cascade II 512), or SR-SIM Elyra system (Zeiss)
601 equipped with 63X/1.4 NA oil immersion objective, 4 laser beams (405nm, 488nm,
602 561nm, and 642nm). For DeltaVision OMX V3 system, Channels were aligned for each
603 of the experiments using the registration slide and TetraSpeck microspheres (Invitrogen).

604 SIM image stacks were acquired with a z-interval of 0.125 μm , 5 phases and 3 angles.
605 SIM reconstruction and registration of channels were performed by softWoRX software
606 (GE Healthcare). For SR-SIM Elyra system, channels were aligned for each of the
607 experiments using the TetraSpeck microspheres (Invitrogen). SIM image stacks were
608 acquired with a z-interval of 0.125 μm , 5 phases and 3 rotations. SIM reconstruction and
609 channel alignment were performed by ZEN 2011 software (Zeiss).

610 **Imaging Analyses**

611 For colocalization analyses, 3D SIM stacks were imported into Fiji/ImageJ. The
612 nucleolar area containing SNUL-1 signal was selected and Pearson's correlation
613 coefficients (no threshold) were calculated by the Coloc2 Plugin.

614 For the measurement of integrated density, z-stacks were imported into Fiji/ImageJ and
615 maximum intensity projection was performed. Signal of interest was then segmented by
616 Maximum Entropy Multi- Threshold function in the ij-Plugins Toolkit with number of
617 thresholds = 3. A Binary mask was generated based on the second level of the threshold
618 from the last step. The integrated density of the signal of interest from the original image
619 within the mask was then measured. For rDNA contents on the two Chr. 15 alleles in
620 WI38 cells, relative integrated density was calculated by dividing the measurement of the
621 rDNA signal on the Chr. 15 with the larger 15Sat III by the measurement on the other
622 Chr. 15. For rDNA contents on the two Chr. 15 alleles in hTERT-RPE1 cells, relative
623 integrated density was calculated by dividing the measurement of the larger rDNA signal
624 by the measurement of the smaller rDNA signal. For 15Sat III and 15CEN, relative
625 integrated density was calculated by dividing the measurement of the larger signal spot
626 by that of the other spot signal within the same cell.

627 For the measurement of 5-FU incorporation and 5'ETS-2 signal in control and SNUL-
628 depleted cells, z-stacks were imported into Fiji/ImageJ and maximum intensity projection
629 was performed. Nuclei were segmented by optimized threshold and inverted into binary
630 mask. The integrated density of 5-FU signal or 5'ETS-2 signal in each of the nuclei was
631 measured.

632 For the measurement of 5'ETS-1 signal intensity in FC of nucleolus in control and
633 SNUL-depleted cells, the middle z session was selected for each image and imported into
634 Fiji/ImageJ then split into single channels. FCs were segmented by auto threshold of

635 RPA194 channel and inverted into binary mask. The binary masks were applied to the
636 5'ETS-1 channel and the integrated intensity of 5'ETS-1 signals within FCs were counted
637 for each nucleolus. The relative 5'ETS-1 signal intensity in FCs was calculated by
638 dividing the integrated intensity of 5'ETS-1 signals within FCs by the integrated intensity
639 of the entire image.

640 **PacBio Iso-Seq**

641 Total RNA from isolated HeLa nucleoli was poly-adenylated by Poly(A) Polymerase
642 Tailing Kit (Epicentre) and depleted of rRNA by the RiboMinus™ Human/Mouse
643 Transcriptome Isolation Kit (Invitrogen). RNA was then reverse transcribed by the
644 SMARTer PCR cDNA Synthesis Kit (Clontech) and amplified for 15 cycles using KAPA
645 HiFi PCR Kit (KAPA biosystems). cDNA was then separated into two fractions by size
646 using 0.5X and 1X AMPure PB Beads (Pacific Scientific), respectively. SNUL-1 was
647 then enriched from the two fractions by xGen capture procedure with SNUL-1 Probe 4
648 using the xGen hybridization and Wash Kit (IDT). Another round of PCR amplification
649 was carried out after the capture. The two fractions were then combined. Library was
650 prepared by Amplicon SMRTbell Prep (Pacific Scientific) and sequenced on LR SMRT
651 cell with 20 h movie.

652 **Nanopore sequencing**

653 Total RNA from isolated HeLa nucleoli was depleted of rRNA by the RiboMinus™
654 Human/Mouse Transcriptome Isolation Kit (Invitrogen). RNA was converted to double
655 stranded cDNA using random hexamer with the NEBNext Ultra RNA First Strand and
656 NEBNext Ultra RNA 2nd Strand Synthesis Kits (NEB). 1D library was prepared with the
657 SQK-LSK108 kit (Oxford Nanopore) and sequenced on a SpotON Flowcell MK I (R9.4)
658 flowcell for 14 h using a MinION MK 1B sequencer. The flowcell was washed and
659 another identical library was loaded in the same flowcell and sequenced for another 14 h.
660 Basecalling was performed with Albacore 2.0.2.

661 The PacBio Iso-seq and nanopore RNA-seq data sets are deposited to the NCBI SR data
662 base. The Bioproject accession number is SRA data: PRJNA814414.

663 **Sequencing Analyses**

664 To find transcripts that are similar to SNUL in the high-quality PacBio database, RIBlast
665 ⁵⁵, a tool for predicting RNA-RNA interactions, is used in its default setting for SNUL-1

666 probe 1 as the query RNA. The top 2000 candidates with the lowest interaction energy
667 were intersected to generate the final set of 507 transcripts similar to SNUL-1. Pairwise
668 BLASTs of each of the top ranked PacBio Iso-Seq clones and genome assembly hg38
669 were performed to pick the candidates showing the least similarity with any of the
670 annotated genes.

671

672 A reference fasta file was generated with the 5 picked candidates from PacBio
673 sequencing dataset. The fast5 file from nanopore long read sequencing was basecalled
674 using Guppy. The obtained fastq file containing 1267135 reads (across two runs) was
675 aligned to the hg38 reference fasta file using minimap2⁵⁶. Alignment statistics were
676 computed using samtools – flagstat option⁵⁷, a total of 123582 (9.7%) were mapped to
677 the reference fasta file. Mapped reads were extracted into a sam file and indexed using
678 samtools, for visualizing the alignments through IGV (Integrative Genomics Viewer)⁵⁸.
679 To generate an accurate version of SNUL-1 transcripts, we generated a consensus
680 sequence from the long-read alignments, using samtools and bcftools⁵⁹. To evaluate the
681 specificity of the assembled transcripts, we performed a similarity comparison between
682 the generated consensus sequence against rRNA and PacBio Iso-Seq CS clones. We
683 observed that the sequences identified/generated from our analysis were more analogous
684 to the Iso-Seq clones over rRNA.

685 In order to verify the error rate of PacBio sequencing technology, for each isoform in
686 the high-quality PacBio database, we ran BLAST against the human transcript database
687 (GRCh38.p13 assembly). The maximum number of target sequences and the maximum
688 number of high-scoring segment pairs were set to 20 and 1 respectively, and the rest of
689 the arguments were set to default in the BLAST runs. LAGAN-v2.0⁶⁰ was then used to
690 perform pairwise global alignment between each isoform and its corresponding top 20
691 best matches, found by BLAST. A dissimilarity score was assigned to each matched
692 candidate by taking the ratio of mismatching sites to all the sites where both isoform and
693 the matched candidate did not contain gaps. The matched candidate with the least
694 dissimilarity score was taken as the best match to the isoform. The mean of the
695 dissimilarity scores, associated with isoforms having GC content greater than 60%
696 (matching the GC content of ITS1), being ~0.5% verifies the PacBio error rate (<1%).

697 To determine whether the 5 isoforms capable of detecting SNUL-1 are different
698 transcripts, and their difference is not due to sequencing error, we propose the following
699 three hypotheses to be tested:

700 H_0 : There is one known gene whose transcripts are I_1, \dots, I_5 .

701 H_1 : There is one unannotated gene, i.e., with no transcripts present in human transcript
702 database, whose transcripts are I_1, \dots, I_5 .

703 H_2 : There are multiple unannotated/annotated genes whose transcripts are I_1, \dots, I_5 .

704 If H_0 is true, then there exists a known transcript such that the dissimilarity score
705 between isoform i (I_i) and the transcript's dissimilarity score should follow the empirical
706 distribution of the dissimilarity scores in Figure S11. For each isoform, the empirical
707 probability of observing a dissimilarity score greater than or equal to its associated
708 dissimilarity score was computed (Table S2). The product of the empirical p-values being
709 in the order of 10^{-10} suggests that H_0 does not hold.

710 If H_1 is true, there should be one unannotated transcript whose dissimilarity score with
711 each read is about 0.5% (the empirical mean of the dissimilarity scores). Therefore, the
712 pairwise dissimilarity scores for the isoforms should be about 1%. We computed the real
713 pairwise dissimilarity by doing global pairwise alignment for each pair of isoforms using
714 LAGAN (Table S3). The pairwise dissimilarities being 4% or above suggest that H_1 is
715 not true. Approximating the empirical distribution of the dissimilarity scores with an
716 exponential probability density function with mean 0.5%, if H_1 holds then the pairwise
717 dissimilarity should follow erlang distribution with shape and scale parameters being 2
718 and 200 respectively, as the sum of two independent exponential random variables with
719 the same rate parameter has erlang distribution. The probability of observing a pairwise
720 dissimilarity score greater than or equal to each real pairwise dissimilarity score under
721 erlang distribution was computed. The product of these probabilities being in the order of
722 10^{-39} rejects the H_1 hypothesis which leaves us with accepting H_2 hypothesis.

723 For the analyses of alignment between SNUL-1 candidates and pre-rRNA, the candidate
724 sequences were aligned to the canonical 21S sequence and to each other using the LAST
725 algorithm as described previously⁶¹.

726 **Data analyses and statistics**

727 The data used in this study are performed at least biological triplicates. Statistical
728 analyses (two-tailed Student's t-test and Mann-Whitney test) were done by GraphPad
729 Prism. Please see figure legends for details about the sample sizes and statistical
730 significance.

731

732

733 **SUPPLEMENTARY TABLES**

734 **Table S1. Sequence of the SNUL-1 probe**

735 TATGGCTCCT TCCTCCCTCT CTCCATTCTT CTCTCAGCTT TCCTGTGGGC 50

736 AGGGGTAGGC ACAGCCAGGC TTGGGAGCAT CGCCATGCCC TGCCACCTGG

737 100

738 GTCCAGCCT GCTCCTCGTT ATAGTCTTCC CAGTTTGGGG AAGAGCAGTG

739 150

740 ATATGCCAAG AATGGAGGCC TCAGACTCTC CCAATCCCTG ATTTTTACAT

741 200

742 GTCCCCCTAT AAGGCCCTC TGCCATCTAC ACTTTTGCCC TTCATCCACA

743 250

744 AAGCCCAAAA GGAAGGCATT ATAGCTAGCC ATGCCCTCTG ACTGCCCTCT

745 300

746 GCCCCTTTAA GGGAAATGGA AATGGGTACC CAGCTGACTG AACCTACTCA

747 350

748 ACACCTCCAG AAATTAGACA CTAGGGCATG GTGCCACCCT CCCAGGCTGG

749 400

750 CACATGCTAC CCTGGCAGAG GATCAAATAA CCCCCCATC ATACCCTGCC

751 450

752 CCATGTCTTC CTCTACTCTC TCCCTCATGC TTTCTCTCTC TCTCTCTCTC 500

753 TCTGTCTCTC TCTCTCTCTC TCTCTCAGCT CAAAGCACAG CTGAGCCTTA

754 550

755 AAAGGGGGGT TGAGGGGGTG GAGAGACCAA GCTGGGGCAG

756 GGGGGTATAG 600

757 AGCTCCAATA GCACGTTTTTC ACCT

758

759

760

761

762

763 **Table S2. The CS candidate sequences.**

764

765 Please see the Excel file

766 **Table S3. The dissimilarity score between each isoform and its best match from**
767 **human transcript database.**

isoform name	dissimilarity score (%)	empirical p-value
nucDNA1_PK_combo__HQ_transcript/1269	5.5	0.02
nucDNA1_PK_combo__HQ_transcript/2305	4.2	0.02
nucDNA1_PK_combo__HQ_transcript/2615	1.2	0.05
nucDNA1_PK_combo__HQ_transcript/9572	3.3	0.03
nucDNA1_PK_combo__HQ_transcript/8644	4.3	0.02

768
769 For each isoform the empirical p-value is the empirical probability of observing a
770 dissimilarity score greater than or equal to its dissimilarity score. The product of the 5 p-
771 values being in the order of 10^{-10} rejects the hypothesis of all isoforms being the
772 transcripts of the same known gene.

773

774

775

776

777

778

779

780

781

782

783

784

785

786

787

788

789 **Table S4. The pairwise dissimilarity for the isoforms.**

790

Isoform 1	Isoform 2	pairwise dissimilarity (%)	p-value
transcript/2615	transcript/1269	4.8	0.0005
transcript/2615	transcript/2305	4.8	0.0004
transcript/2615	transcript/9572	6.4	2E-05
transcript/2615	transcript/8644	6.6	2E-05
transcript/1269	transcript/2305	4.0	0.002
transcript/1269	transcript/9572	5.2	0.0002
transcript/1269	transcript/8644	4.2	0.001
transcript/2305	transcript/9572	5.0	0.0004
transcript/2305	transcript/8644	5.1	0.0003
transcript/9572	transcript/8644	4.3	0.001

791

792 Global pairwise alignment was used to compute the dissimilarity score for each pair of
793 isoforms. The dissimilarity score was computed by taking the ratio of mismatching to
794 matching sites where both isoforms do not contain gaps. For each pair of isoforms, the p-
795 value shows the probability of observing a dissimilarity score greater than or equal to
796 their dissimilarity by approximating the empirical distribution of pairwise dissimilarity
797 with erlang distribution.

798

799

800

801

802

803

804

805

806

807

808

809

810 **Table S5. Probes used in this study.**

811 Please see the Excel file.

812

813

814

815 **REFERENCE**

- 816 1. Németh, A. & Grummt, I. Dynamic regulation of nucleolar architecture. *Current*
817 *opinion in cell biology* **52**, 105-111 (2018).
- 818 2. McStay, B. Nucleolar organizer regions: genomic 'dark matter' requiring
819 illumination. *Genes & development* **30**, 1598-1610 (2016).
- 820 3. Grummt, I. Different epigenetic layers engage in complex crosstalk to define the
821 epigenetic state of mammalian rRNA genes. *Hum Mol Genet* **16 Spec No 1**, R21-27
822 (2007).
- 823 4. Guetg, C. & Santoro, R. Formation of nuclear heterochromatin: the nucleolar point of
824 view. *Epigenetics* **7**, 811-814 (2012).
- 825 5. McStay, B. & Grummt, I. The epigenetics of rRNA genes: from molecular to
826 chromosome biology. *Annual review of cell and developmental biology* **24**, 131-157
827 (2008).
- 828 6. Haaf, T., Hayman, D.L. & Schmid, M. Quantitative determination of rDNA
829 transcription units in vertebrate cells. *Exp Cell Res* **193**, 78-86 (1991).
- 830 7. Mamontova, V., Trifault, B., Boten, L. & Burger, K. Commuting to Work: Nucleolar
831 Long Non-Coding RNA Control Ribosome Biogenesis from Near and Far. *Non-coding*
832 *RNA* **7** (2021).
- 833 8. Hao, Q. & Prasanth, K.V. Regulatory roles of nucleolus organizer region-derived long
834 non-coding RNAs. *Mammalian genome : official journal of the International*
835 *Mammalian Genome Society* (2021).
- 836 9. Bierhoff, H., Schmitz, K., Maass, F., Ye, J. & Grummt, I. Noncoding transcripts in sense
837 and antisense orientation regulate the epigenetic state of ribosomal RNA genes. *Cold*
838 *Spring Harb Symp Quant Biol* **75**, 357-364 (2010).
- 839 10. Yap, K. *et al.* A Short Tandem Repeat-Enriched RNA Assembles a Nuclear
840 Compartment to Control Alternative Splicing and Promote Cell Survival. *Mol Cell* **72**,
841 525-540 e513 (2018).
- 842 11. Caudron-Herger, M. *et al.* Alu element-containing RNAs maintain nucleolar structure
843 and function. *The EMBO journal* **34**, 2758-2774 (2015).
- 844 12. Wu, M. *et al.* lncRNA SLERT controls phase separation of FC/DFCs to facilitate Pol I
845 transcription. *Science* **373**, 547-555 (2021).
- 846 13. Li, D. *et al.* Activity dependent LoNA regulates translation by coordinating rRNA
847 transcription and methylation. *Nat Commun* **9**, 1726 (2018).
- 848 14. Wang, X. *et al.* Mutual dependency between lncRNA LETN and protein NPM1 in
849 controlling the nucleolar structure and functions sustaining cell proliferation. *Cell*
850 *Res* (2021).
- 851 15. Floutsakou, I. *et al.* The shared genomic architecture of human nucleolar organizer
852 regions. *Genome research* **23**, 2003-2012 (2013).
- 853 16. Németh, A. *et al.* Initial genomics of the human nucleolus. *PLoS Genet* **6**, e1000889
854 (2010).
- 855 17. Németh, A. & Langst, G. Genome organization in and around the nucleolus. *Trends in*
856 *genetics : TIG* **27**, 149-156 (2011).
- 857 18. van Sluis, M. *et al.* Human NORs, comprising rDNA arrays and functionally conserved
858 distal elements, are located within dynamic chromosomal regions. *Genes Dev* **33**,
859 1688-1701 (2019).
- 860 19. Hao, Q. *et al.* The S-phase-induced lncRNA SUNO1 promotes cell proliferation by
861 controlling YAP1/Hippo signaling pathway. *eLife* **9** (2020).

- 862 20. Hozak, P., Cook, P.R., Schofer, C., Mosgoller, W. & Wachtler, F. Site of transcription of
863 ribosomal RNA and intranucleolar structure in HeLa cells. *J Cell Sci* **107 (Pt 2)**, 639-
864 648 (1994).
- 865 21. Yao, R.W. *et al.* Nascent Pre-rRNA Sorting via Phase Separation Drives the Assembly
866 of Dense FBLrillar Components in the Human Nucleolus. *Molecular cell* **76**, 767-783
867 e711 (2019).
- 868 22. Haaf, T. & Ward, D.C. Inhibition of RNA polymerase II transcription causes
869 chromatin decondensation, loss of nucleolar structure, and dispersion of
870 chromosomal domains. *Exp Cell Res* **224**, 163-173 (1996).
- 871 23. Savino, T.M., Gebrane-Younes, J., De Mey, J., Sibarita, J.B. & Hernandez-Verdun, D.
872 Nucleolar assembly of the rRNA processing machinery in living cells. *J Cell Biol* **153**,
873 1097-1110 (2001).
- 874 24. Murano, K. *et al.* Reconstitution of human rRNA gene transcription in mouse cells by
875 a complete SL1 complex. *J Cell Sci* **127**, 3309-3319 (2014).
- 876 25. van Sluis, M., van Vuuren, C., Mangan, H. & McStay, B. NORs on human acrocentric
877 chromosome p-arms are active by default and can associate with nucleoli
878 independently of rDNA. *Proc Natl Acad Sci U S A* **117**, 10368-10377 (2020).
- 879 26. Nicholls, R.D. & Knepper, J.L. Genome organization, function, and imprinting in
880 Prader-Willi and Angelman syndromes. *Annu Rev Genomics Hum Genet* **2**, 153-175
881 (2001).
- 882 27. Wu, H. *et al.* Unusual Processing Generates SPA LncRNAs that Sequester Multiple
883 RNA Binding Proteins. *Molecular cell* **64**, 534-548 (2016).
- 884 28. Morcos, L. *et al.* Genome-wide assessment of imprinted expression in human cells.
885 *Genome Biol* **12**, R25 (2011).
- 886 29. Reinius, B. & Sandberg, R. Random monoallelic expression of autosomal genes:
887 stochastic transcription and allele-level regulation. *Nature reviews. Genetics* **16**, 653-
888 664 (2015).
- 889 30. Chess, A. Monoallelic Gene Expression in Mammals. *Annu Rev Genet* **50**, 317-327
890 (2016).
- 891 31. Yang, Y. *et al.* The histone code regulating expression of the imprinted mouse Igf2r
892 gene. *Endocrinology* **144**, 5658-5670 (2003).
- 893 32. Loda, A., Collombet, S. & Heard, E. Gene regulation in time and space during X-
894 chromosome inactivation. *Nature reviews. Molecular cell biology* (2022).
- 895 33. Lessing, D., Anguera, M.C. & Lee, J.T. X chromosome inactivation and epigenetic
896 responses to cellular reprogramming. *Annual review of genomics and human genetics*
897 **14**, 85-110 (2013).
- 898 34. Xing, Y.H. *et al.* SLERT Regulates DDX21 Rings Associated with Pol I Transcription.
899 *Cell* **169**, 664-678 e616 (2017).
- 900 35. Nurk, S. *et al.* The complete sequence of a human genome. *Science* **376**, 44-53
901 (2022).
- 902 36. Grummt, I. & Pikaard, C.S. Epigenetic silencing of RNA polymerase I transcription.
903 *Nature reviews. Molecular cell biology* **4**, 641-649 (2003).
- 904 37. Tucker, S., Vitins, A. & Pikaard, C.S. Nucleolar dominance and ribosomal RNA gene
905 silencing. *Current opinion in cell biology* **22**, 351-356 (2010).
- 906 38. McStay, B. Nucleolar dominance: a model for rRNA gene silencing. *Genes &*
907 *development* **20**, 1207-1214 (2006).
- 908 39. Cassidy, D.M. & Blackler, A.W. Repression of nucleolar organizer activity in an
909 interspecific hybrid of the genus *Xenopus*. *Dev Biol* **41**, 84-96 (1974).
- 910 40. Goodrich-Young, C. & Krider, H.M. Nucleolar dominance and replicative dominance
911 in *Drosophila* interspecific hybrids. *Genetics* **123**, 349-358 (1989).

- 912 41. Croce, C.M., Talavera, A., Basilico, C. & Miller, O.J. Suppression of production of
913 mouse 28S ribosomal RNA in mouse-human hybrids segregating mouse
914 chromosomes. *Proc Natl Acad Sci U S A* **74**, 694-697 (1977).
- 915 42. Lewis, M.S., Cheverud, J.M. & Pikaard, C.S. Evidence for nucleolus organizer regions
916 as the units of regulation in nucleolar dominance in *Arabidopsis thaliana*
917 interecotype hybrids. *Genetics* **167**, 931-939 (2004).
- 918 43. Greil, F. & Ahmad, K. Nucleolar dominance of the Y chromosome in *Drosophila*
919 *melanogaster*. *Genetics* **191**, 1119-1128 (2012).
- 920 44. Xie, W. *et al.* The chromatin remodeling complex NuRD establishes the poised state
921 of rRNA genes characterized by bivalent histone modifications and altered
922 nucleosome positions. *Proc Natl Acad Sci U S A* **109**, 8161-8166 (2012).
- 923 45. Pontes, O. *et al.* Postembryonic establishment of megabase-scale gene silencing in
924 nucleolar dominance. *PLoS One* **2**, e1157 (2007).
- 925 46. Earley, K.W. *et al.* Mechanisms of HDA6-mediated rRNA gene silencing: suppression
926 of intergenic Pol II transcription and differential effects on maintenance versus
927 siRNA-directed cytosine methylation. *Genes & development* **24**, 1119-1132 (2010).
- 928 47. Chen, Z.J., Comai, L. & Pikaard, C.S. Gene dosage and stochastic effects determine the
929 severity and direction of uniparental ribosomal RNA gene silencing (nucleolar
930 dominance) in *Arabidopsis* allopolyploids. *Proc Natl Acad Sci U S A* **95**, 14891-14896
931 (1998).
- 932 48. Chen, Z.J. & Pikaard, C.S. Epigenetic silencing of RNA polymerase I transcription: a
933 role for DNA methylation and histone modification in nucleolar dominance. *Genes &*
934 *development* **11**, 2124-2136 (1997).
- 935 49. Neves, N., Heslop-Harrison, J.S. & Viegas, W. rRNA gene activity and control of
936 expression mediated by methylation and imprinting during embryo development in
937 wheat x rye hybrids. *Theor Appl Genet* **91**, 529-533 (1995).
- 938 50. Labhart, P. & Reeder, R.H. Enhancer-like properties of the 60/81 bp elements in the
939 ribosomal gene spacer of *Xenopus laevis*. *Cell* **37**, 285-289 (1984).
- 940 51. Rabanal, F.A. *et al.* Epistatic and allelic interactions control expression of ribosomal
941 RNA gene clusters in *Arabidopsis thaliana*. *Genome Biol* **18**, 75 (2017).
- 942 52. Warsinger-Pepe, N., Li, D. & Yamashita, Y.M. Regulation of Nucleolar Dominance in
943 *Drosophila melanogaster*. *Genetics* **214**, 991-1004 (2020).
- 944 53. Mangan, H. & McStay, B. Human nucleoli comprise multiple constrained territories,
945 tethered to individual chromosomes. *Genes & development* **35**, 483-488 (2021).
- 946 54. Bai, B. & Laiho, M. Sequential recovery of macromolecular components of the
947 nucleolus. *Methods Mol Biol* **1228**, 43-51 (2015).
- 948 55. Fukunaga, T. & Hamada, M. RIBlast: an ultrafast RNA-RNA interaction prediction
949 system based on a seed-and-extension approach. *Bioinformatics (Oxford, England)*
950 **33**, 2666-2674 (2017).
- 951 56. Li, H. Minimap2: pairwise alignment for nucleotide sequences. *Bioinformatics*
952 *(Oxford, England)* **34**, 3094-3100 (2018).
- 953 57. Li, H. *et al.* The Sequence Alignment/Map format and SAMtools. *Bioinformatics*
954 *(Oxford, England)* **25**, 2078-2079 (2009).
- 955 58. Zentner, G.E., Saiakhova, A., Manaenkova, P., Adams, M.D. & Scacheri, P.C. Integrative
956 genomic analysis of human ribosomal DNA. *Nucleic Acids Res* **39**, 4949-4960 (2011).
- 957 59. Danecek, P. & McCarthy, S.A. BCFtools/csq: haplotype-aware variant consequences.
958 *Bioinformatics (Oxford, England)* **33**, 2037-2039 (2017).
- 959 60. Brudno, M. *et al.* LAGAN and Multi-LAGAN: efficient tools for large-scale multiple
960 alignment of genomic DNA. *Genome research* **13**, 721-731 (2003).

961 61. Kielbasa, S.M., Wan, R., Sato, K., Horton, P. & Frith, M.C. Adaptive seeds tame genomic
962 sequence comparison. *Genome research* **21**, 487-493 (2011).

963

964

965

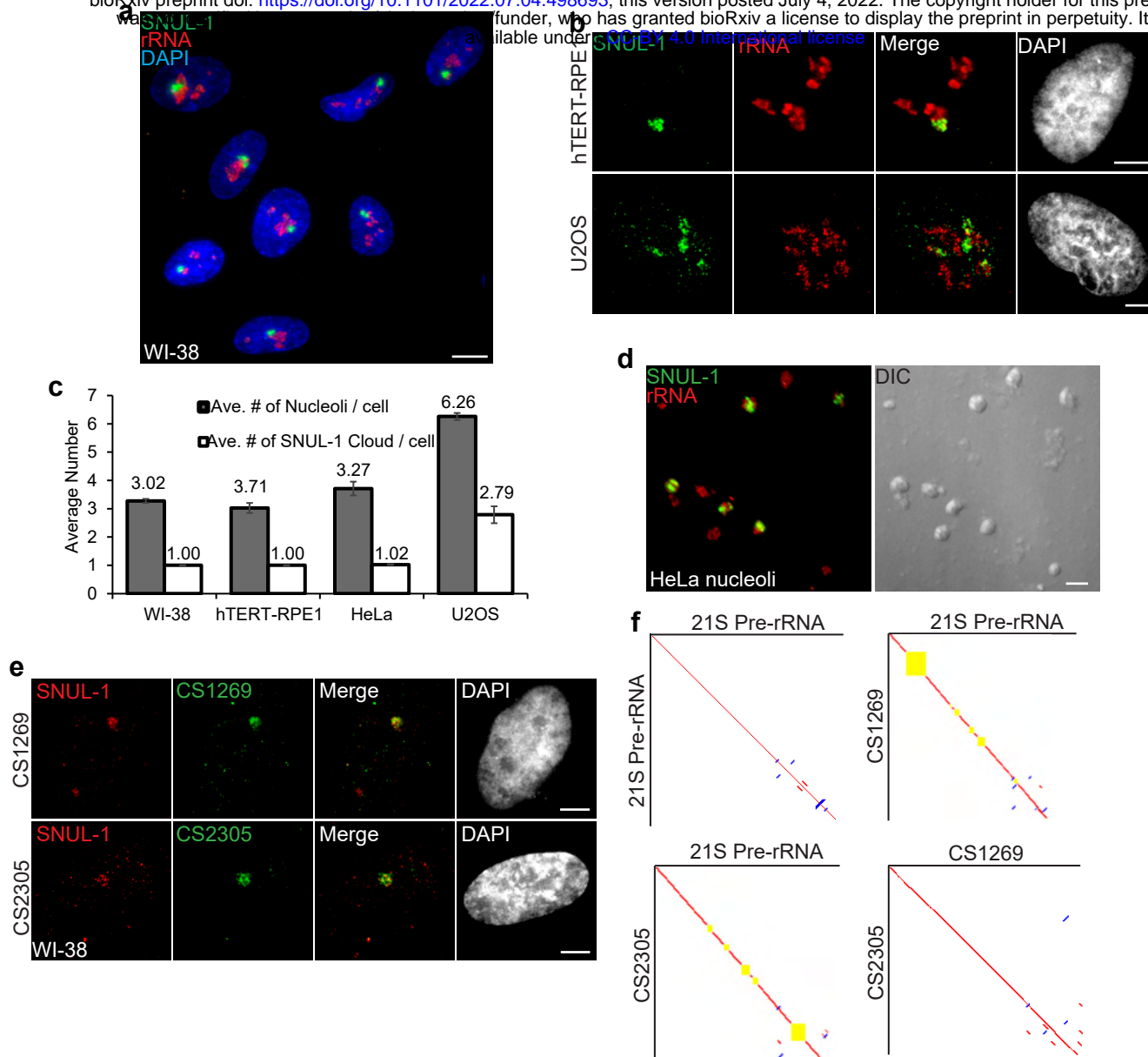
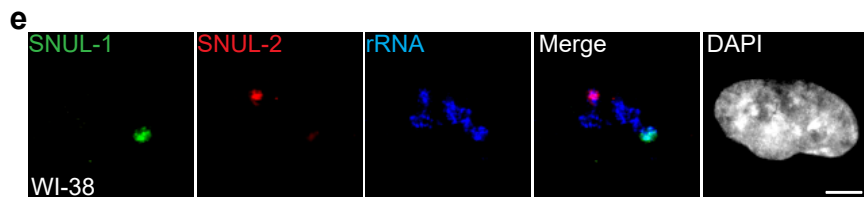
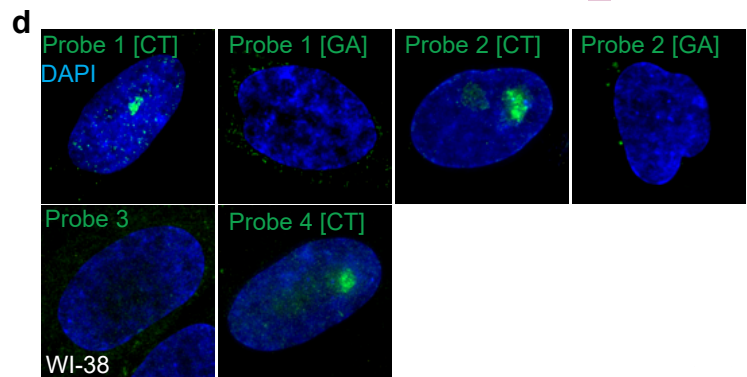
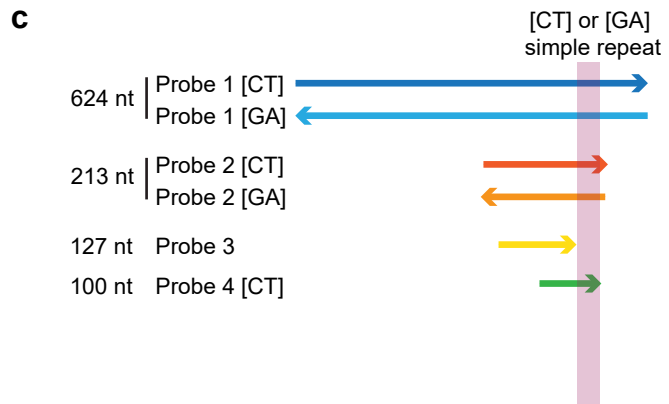
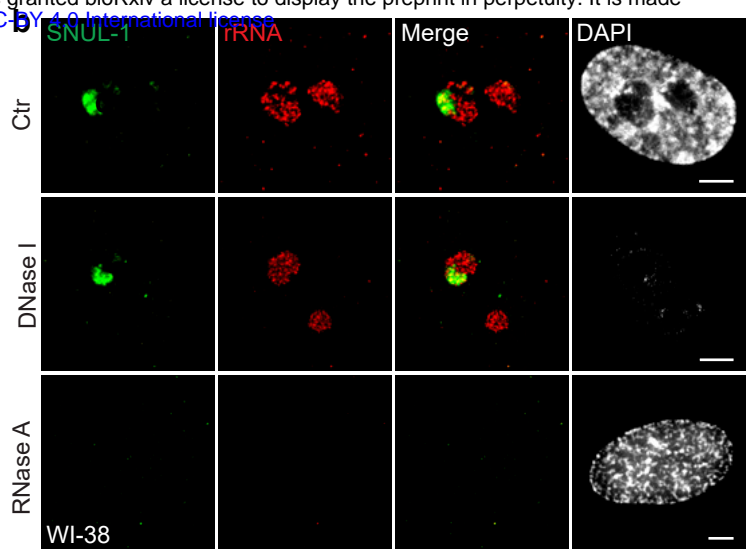
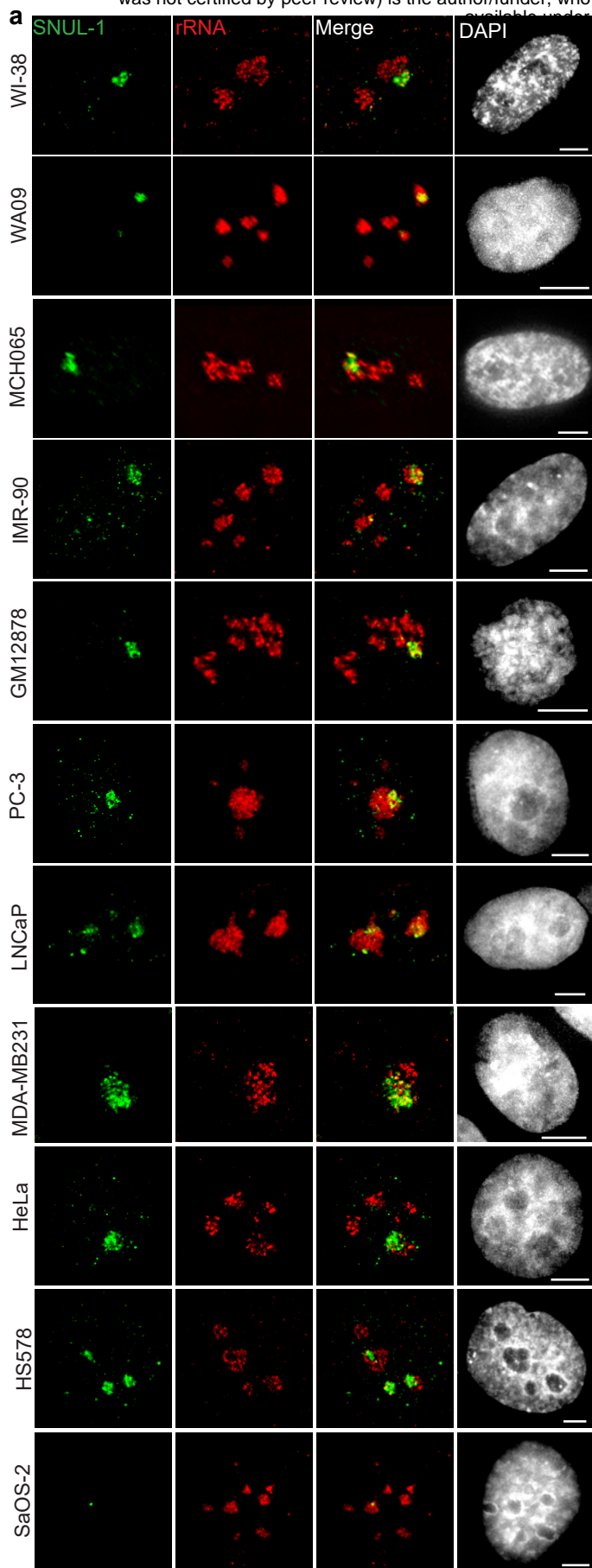
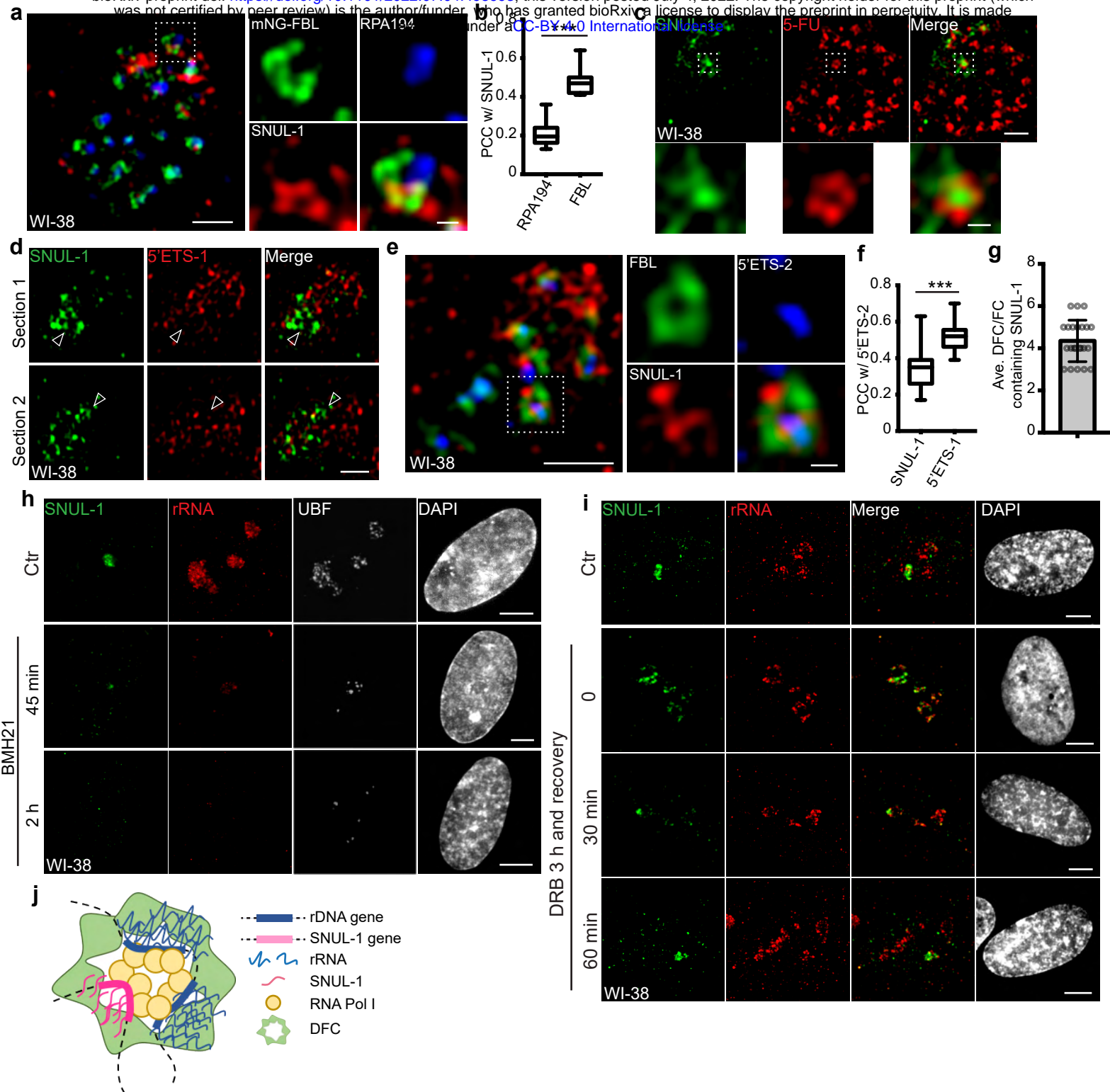


Fig. 1 | SNUL-1 forms RNA clouds in human cell lines. a, RNA-FISH of SNUL-1 (green) in WI-38 cells. Nucleoli are visualized by rRNA (red). **b**, RNA-FISH of SNUL-1 (green) in hTERT-RPE1 and U2OS cell lines. Nucleoli are visualized by rRNA (red). **c**, Graph depicting the average number of nucleoli/cell and the SNUL-1 clouds/cell in various cell lines. **d**, RNA-FISH of SNUL-1 (green) in biochemically isolated HeLa nucleoli marked by rRNA (red). Note that the distribution of SNUL-1 is preserved in the isolated nucleoli. **e**, RNA-FISH performed using probes designed from the SNUL-1 CSs (green) and SNUL-1 (red) Probe 1 in WI-38 cells. **f**, Pairwise sequence comparisons between 21S (pre-rRNA) and 21S, 21S and CS1269 (SNUL-1 CS), 21S and CS2305, and CS1269 and CS2305. Red lines indicate forward aligned regions, blue lines indicate reverse aligned regions, and yellow boxes indicate unaligned regions. All scale bars, 5 μ m.

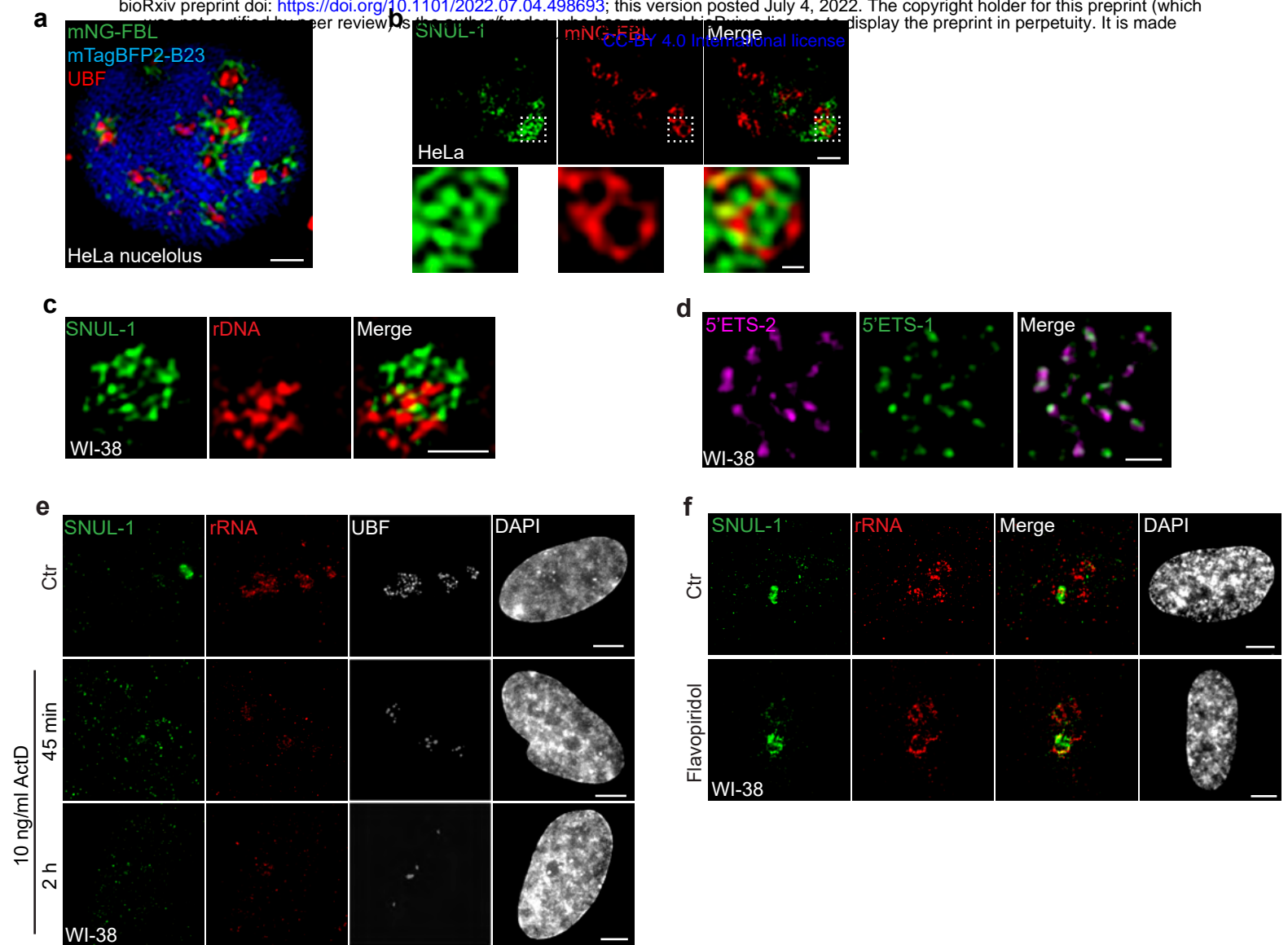


Extended Data Fig. 1 | SNUL-1 forms RNA clouds in human cell lines. **a**, RNA-FISH of SNUL-1 (green) in different human cell lines. For all images, nucleoli are visualized by rRNA (red). Scale bars, 5 μ m. **b**, RNA-FISH of SNUL-1 after nuclease treatments in WI-38 cells. Scale bars, 5 μ m. **c**, Schematic showing the truncated probes designed to determine the minimum region required for SNUL-1 hybridization. **d**, RNA-FISH performed with the strand-specific ribo-probes listed in c. Scale bars, 5 μ m. **e**, RNA-FISH to detect SNUL-1 (green) and SNUL-2 (red) clouds in WI-38 cells. Nucleoli are visualized by rRNA (blue). Scale bars, 5 μ m. **f**, Local alignment between SNUL-1 Probe 4 and SNUL-2 probe. Note the imperfect [CT] repeat in SNUL-2 probe and the poor alignment between the two probes beyond the [CT]-rich region. **g**, Schematic showing the workflow of the unbiased strategies to determine the full-length SNUL-1 sequence. **h**, RNA-FISH using probes designed from the CSs (green) and SNUL-1 (red) Probes 1 in WI-38 cells. Scale bars, 5 μ m. **i**, RNA-FISH with CS probes and SNUL-1 Probe 1 in WI-38 cells. Scale bars, 5 μ m. **j**, Signal profiles of the lines marked in i. Note that the signals shown by different probes are not completely colocalized. **k**, Pairwise sequence comparisons between 21S and CS8644, 21S and CS2615, and 21S and CS9572. Red lines indicate forward aligned regions, blue lines indicate reverse aligned regions, and yellow boxes indicate unaligned regions. **l**, Histogram of the dissimilarity score between each isoform in the high-quality PacBio database and its best match in the human transcript database. **m**, Schematic showing the positions of the rRNA and ITS1 probes. **n**, Representative SIM image showing the relative distribution of SNUL-1 (green) and pre-rRNA hybridized by ITS1 probe (red) within a single nucleolus. Scale bars, 1 μ m. **o**, RNA-FISH of SNUL-1 (green) and pre-rRNA hybridized by ITS1 probe (red) in WI-38 cells transfected by Ctr-ASO or ASO-SNUL. Scale bars, 5 μ m. DNA is counterstained with DAPI.



bioRxiv preprint doi: <https://doi.org/10.1101/2021.04.14.438001>; this version posted May 11, 2022. The copyright holder for this preprint (which was not certified by peer review) is the author/funder, who has granted bioRxiv a license to display the preprint in perpetuity. It is made available under aCC-BY 4.0 International license.

Fig. 2 | SNUL-1 is an RNA Pol I transcript and forms constrained molecular territory. a, Representative SIM image of the SNUL-1 (red) distribution relative to DFC/FC units in WI-38 cells. FC is marked by RPA194 (blue) and DFC is marked by mNeonGreen (NG)-FBL (green). Scale bars, 1 μ m (main images) and 200nm (insets). **b**, Box plots showing Pearson's correlation coefficients (PCCs) between SNUL-1 and either RPA194 (FC) or FBL (DFC). n = 16 and 11, respectively. Statistical analysis was performed using Mann-Whitney test. *p < 0.05, **p < 0.01, ***p < 0.001. Center line, median; box limits, upper and lower quartiles; whiskers, maximum or minimum of the data. **c**, Representative SIM image of the SNUL-1 (green) distribution relative to the 5-FU signal (red) in WI-38 cells. Nascent RNAs are metabolically labeled by 5 min of 5-FU pulse. Scale bars, 1 μ m (main images) and 200nm (insets). **d**, two sections of SIM images from a single nucleolus showing relative distribution of SNUL-1 (green) and nascent pre-rRNA (marked by 5'ETS-1 probe) signals (red) in WI-38 cells. **e**, Representative SIM image of the SNUL-1 (red) distribution relative to DFC/FC unit and pre-rRNAs in WI-38 cells. DFC is marked by FBL (green) and pre-rRNAs (blue) are detected by 5'ETS-2 probe. Scale bars, 1 μ m (main images) and 200nm (insets). **f**, Box plots showing the Pearson's correlation coefficients (PCCs) between 5'ETS-2 signal and either SNUL-1 or 5'ETS-1 signal. n = 23 and 16, respectively. Statistical analysis was performed using Mann-Whitney test. *p < 0.05, **p < 0.01, ***p < 0.001. **g**, Graph depicting the average number of SNUL-1 positive DFC/FC units/nucleolus in WI-38 cells. Center line, median; box limits, upper and lower quartiles; whiskers, maximum or minimum of the data. **h**, Co-RNA-FISH and IF to detect SNUL-1 (green), rRNA (red) and UBF (white) in control and BMH21-treated WI-38 cells. Scale bars, 5 μ m. **i**, RNA-FISH to detect SNUL-1 (green), rRNA (red) in control and DRB-treated WI-38 cells. For recovery after DRB treatment, the drug is washed off after 3 h of treatment and RNA-FISH is performed at 0, 30min and 60min timepoints during recovery. Scale bars, 5 μ m. **j**, Model showing the association of both SNUL-1 and rRNA in the same DFC/FC unit. DNA is counterstained with DAPI.



Extended Data Fig. 2 | SNUL-1 is an RNA Pol I transcript and forms constrained nucleolar territory. a, Visualization of the tripartite structure within a single HeLa nucleolus by SIM. FC is marked by UBF (red), DFC is marked by mNeonGreen (mNG)-FBL (green), and GC is marked by mTagBFP2-B23 (blue). Scale bar, 1 μ m. **b,** Representative SIM image of a single nucleolus showing the SNUL-1 distribution relative to DFC/FC units in HeLa cells. DFC is marked by mNG-FBL. Scale bars, 1 μ m (main images) and 200nm (insets). **c,** Representative SIM image showing the relative distribution of SNUL-1 (green) and rDNA (red) within a single nucleolus. Scale bars, 1 μ m. Note: The prominent signal of rDNA represents clusters of inactive rDNA repeats. **d,** Representative SIM image of a single nucleolus showing the distribution of nascent pre-rRNA detected by 5'ETS-1 and 5'ETS-2 probes. Scale bars, 1 μ m. **e,** Co-RNA-FISH and IF to detect SNUL-1 (green), rRNA (red) and UBF (white) in control and RNA pol I-inhibited (low con. Of ActD) WI-38 cells. Scale bars, 5 μ m. **f,** RNA-FISH to detect SNUL-1 (green), rRNA (red) in control and RNA pol II-inhibited WI-38 cells. Scale bars, 5 μ m. DNA is counterstained with DAPI.

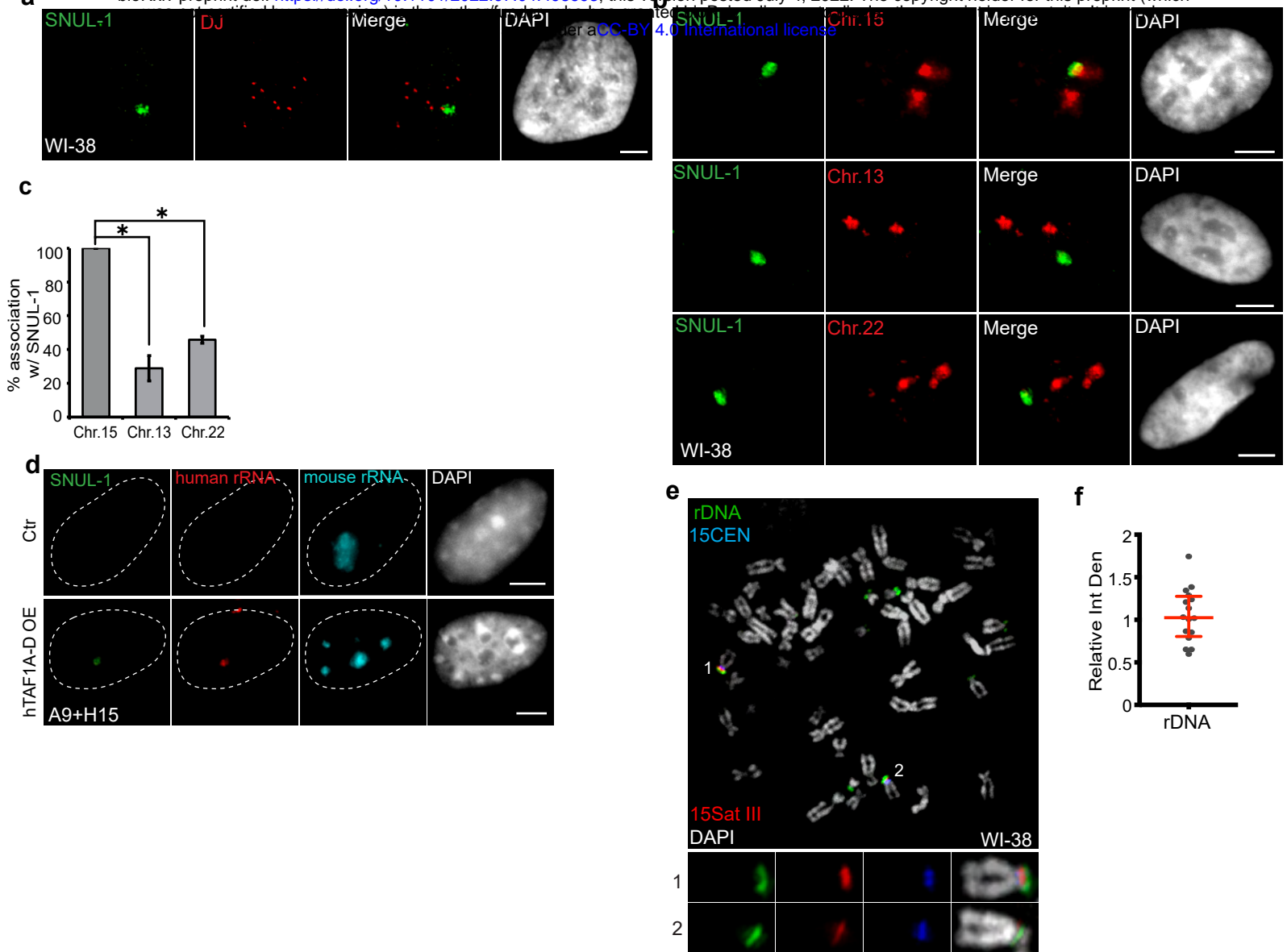
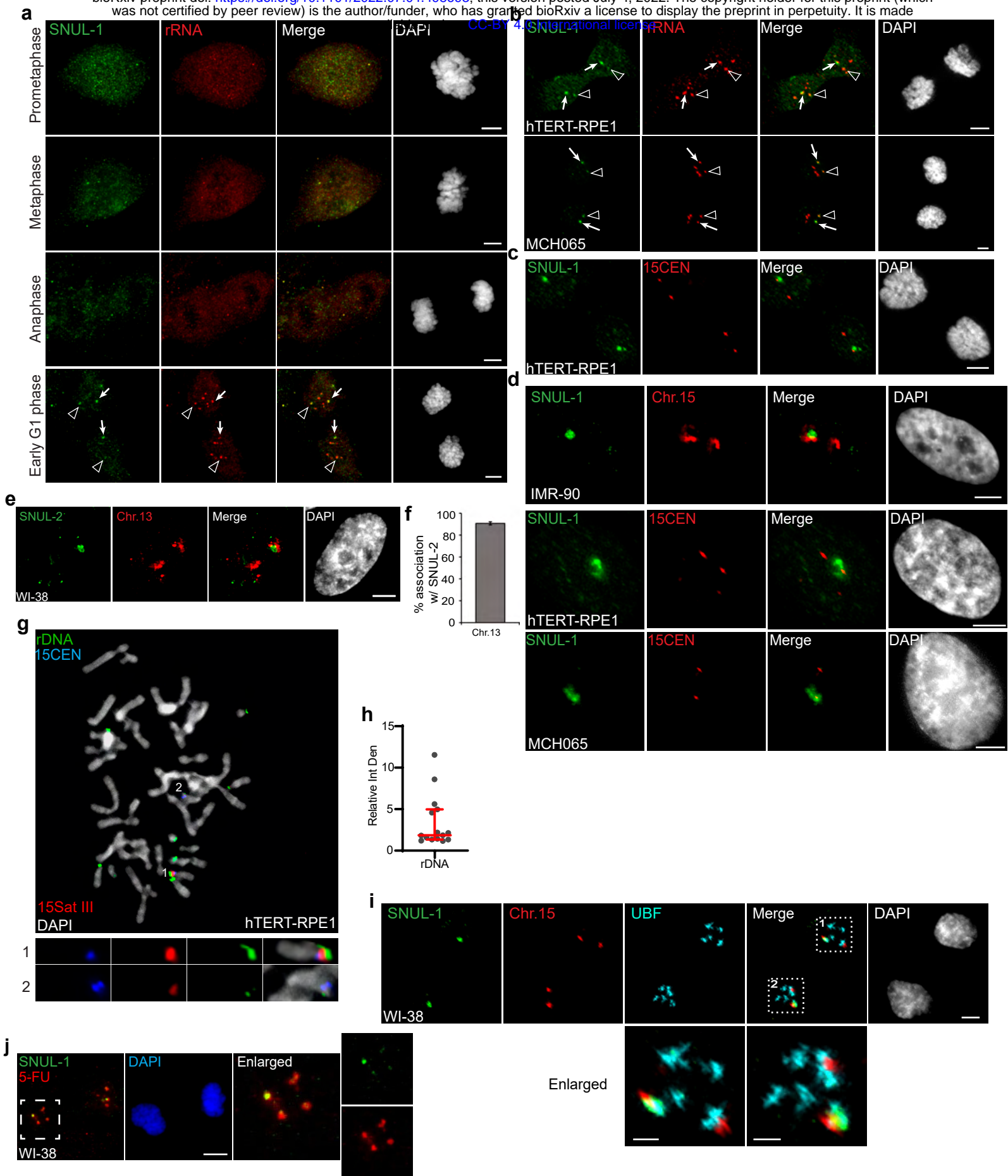


Fig. 3 | SNUL-1 is associated with the NOR of one Chr. 15 allele. **a**, DNA-RNA-FISH of SNUL-1 RNA (green) and distal junction (DJ) DNA (red) in WI-38 cells. **b**, DNA-RNA-FISH of SNUL-1 RNA and Chr. 15, Chr. 13, and Chr. 22 marked by probes painting the q-arms of the chromosomes in WI-38 cells. **c**, Quantification of the association rates between SNUL-1 and NOR containing chromosomes. Data are presented as Mean \pm SD from biological triplicates. > 50 cells were counted for each of the biological repeats. Student's unpaired two-tailed t-tests were performed. * $p < 0.05$. **d**, RNA-FISH to detect SNUL-1 (green), human rRNA (red) and mouse rRNA (blue) in control and hTAF1A-D overexpressed A9+H15 cells. Dotted lines mark the boundary of the nuclei. **e**, DNA-FISH showing rDNA and CEN15 and 15 Sat III contents on Chr. 15 in WI-38 metaphase chromosomes. The two alleles of Chr.15 are marked by 15Sat III and 15CEN, rDNA arrays are detected by a probe within the IGS region (See Fig. S1m). **f**, Relative integrated density of the two Chr. 15 rDNA arrays is calculated by dividing the measurement of the rDNA signal on the Chr. 15 with larger 15Sat III by that of the one on the Chr.15 with smaller 15Sat III. All scale bars, 5 μ m. DNA is counterstained with DAPI.



Extended Data Fig. 3 | SNUL-1 is associated with the NOR of one Chr.15 allele. a, RNA-FISH showing the distribution of SNUL-1 in WI-38 cells during mitosis. Arrow heads point at the prominent SNUL-1 cloud in early G1 daughter nuclei. Arrow heads point at the relatively weak SNUL-1 cloud in early G1 phase of daughter nuclei. Scale bars, 5 μm . **b**, RNA-FISH of SNUL-1 and rRNA in early G1 daughter nuclei. Arrows point at the prominent SNUL-1 clouds. Arrow heads point at the relatively weak SNUL-1 clouds. Scale bars, 5 μm . **c**, DNA-RNA-FISH to detect SNUL-1 RNA and 15CEN in early G1 hTRET-RPE1 daughter nuclei. Scale bars, 5 μm . **d**, DNA-RNA-FISH to detect SNUL-1 RNA and Chr.15 in the nucleus. The two alleles of Chr.15 are marked by either probe painting the q-arms of the chromosome (IMR-90 cells), or 15CEN (hTRET-RPE1 and MCH065 cells). **e**, DNA-RNA-FISH to detect SNUL-2 RNA and Chr. 13 marked by the probe painting the q-arm of the chromosome in WI-38 nucleus. Scale bars, 5 μm . **f**, Quantification of the association rates between SNUL-2 and Chr13. Data are presented as Mean \pm SD from biological triplicates. > 100 cells were counted for each of the biological repeats. **g**, DNA-FISH showing the rDNA contents on Chr.15 in hTRET-RPE1 metaphase chromosomes. The two alleles of Chr.15 are marked by 15Sat III and 15CEN. rDNA arrays are detected by a probe within the IGS region. **h**, Relative integrated density of the rDNA contents on the two Chr.15 rDNA arrays is calculated by dividing the measurement of the larger rDNA signal by the smaller rDNA cloud. Data are presented as Median and interquartile range. n = 15. **i**, Immuno-RNA & DNA-FISH showing SNUL-1 (green), Chr. 15 alleles (red) and UBF (blue) in early G1 phase WI-38 daughter nuclei. Scale bars, 5 μm (main images) and 2 μm (insets). **j**, SNUL-1 localization and 5-FU incorporation in WI-38 telophase/early G1 daughter nuclei. Scale bars, 5 μm . DNA is counterstained with DAPI.

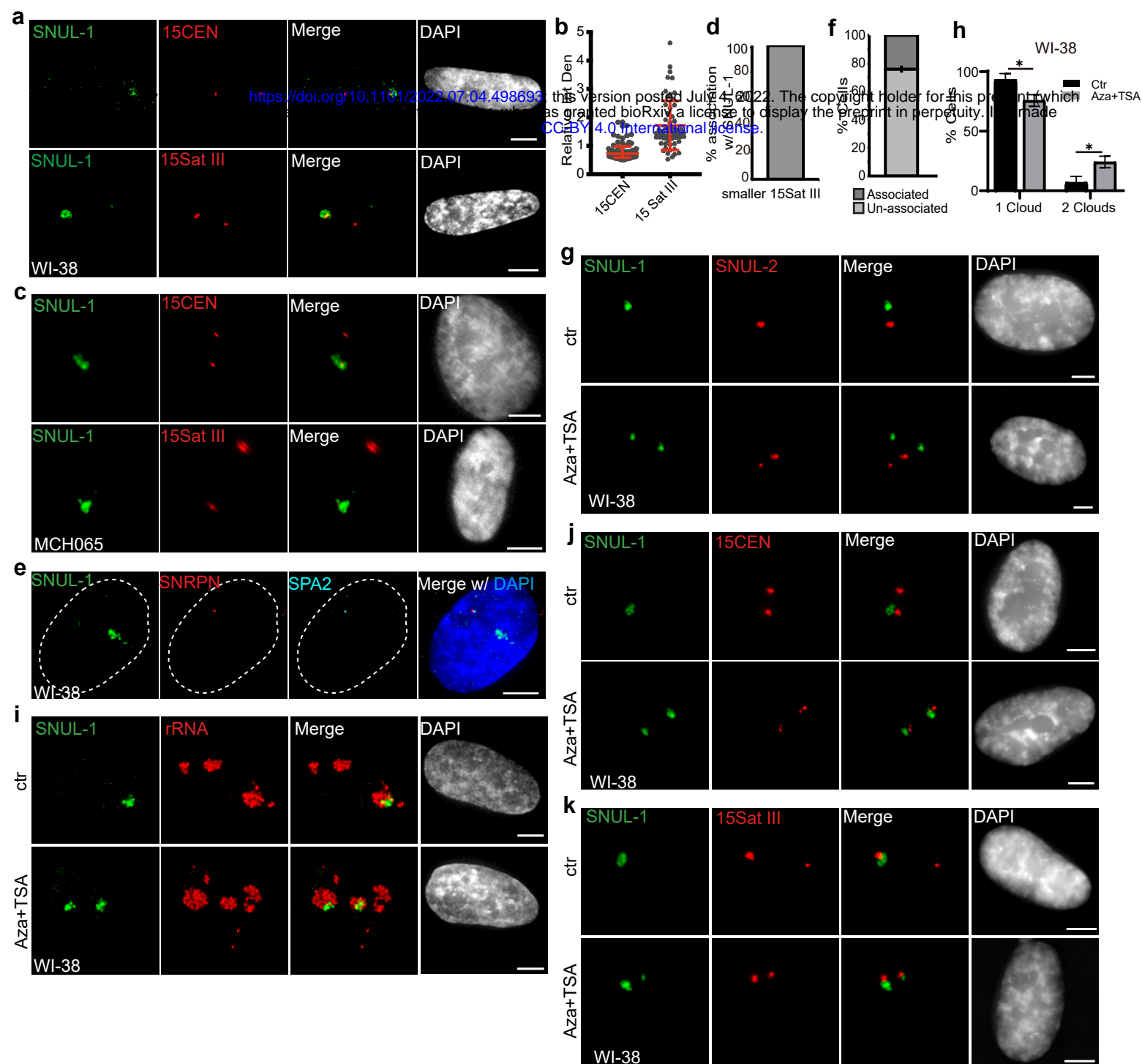
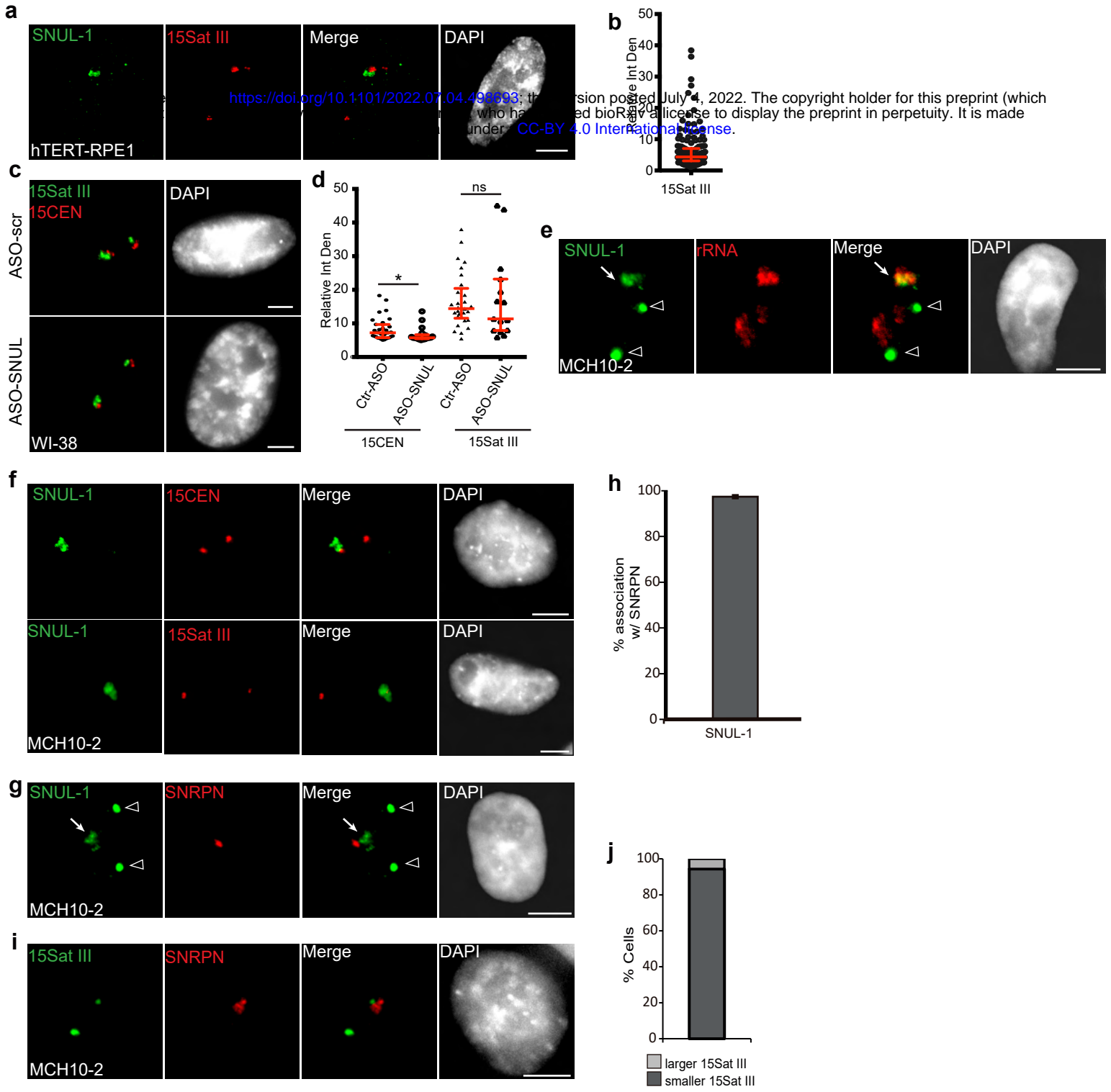


Fig. 4 | The SNUL-1 cloud displays mitotically-inherited random monoallelic association. **a**, Representative RNA-FISH images showing the association of SNUL-1 with the 15Sat III or 15CEN in WI-38 nuclei. **b**, Plot showing the relative integrated density of the 15Sat III signal in WI-38 nuclei. The relative integrated density is calculated by dividing the measurement of the larger DNA-FISH signal by that of the smaller DNA-FISH signal. Data are presented as Median and interquartile range. $n = 60$. **c**, Representative RNA-FISH images showing the association of SNUL-1 cloud with 15Sat III or 15CEN in MCH065 nuclei. **d**, Quantification of the association rates between SNUL-1 and the smaller 15Sat III in MCH065 nuclei. Data are presented as Mean \pm SD from biological triplicates. > 50 cells were counted for each of the biological repeats. **e**, Representative RNA-FISH images showing the localization SNUL-1 along with the SNRPN and SPA2 transcription site on the paternal allele of Chr. 15 in WI-38 nucleus. Dotted lines mark the boundary of the nucleus. **f**, Quantification of the association rate between SNUL-1 and the transcription sites of SNRPN and SPA2 in WI-38 cells. Data are presented as Mean \pm SD from biological triplicates. > 35 cells were counted for each of the biological repeats. Student's unpaired two-tailed t-tests were performed. $*p < 0.05$. **i**, RNA-FISH to detect SNUL-1 clouds in control and Aza+TSA-treated WI-38 nuclei. Nucleoli are visualized by rRNA (red). **j**, DNA-RNA-FISH of SNUL-1 RNA and 15CEN in control and Aza+TSA-treated WI-38 nuclei. **k**, DNA-RNA-FISH to detect SNUL-1 RNA and 15Sat III in control and Aza+TSA-treated in WI-38 nuclei. All scale bars, $5\mu\text{m}$. DNA is counterstained by DAPI.



Extended Data Fig. 4 | The SNUL-1 cloud displays mitotically-inherited random monoallelic association. **a**, DNA-RNA-FISH showing the localization SNUL-1 RNA cloud and 15Sat III in hTERT-RPE1 cell nucleus. **b**, Plot showing the relative integrated density of the 15Sat III signals. Relative integrated density is calculated by dividing the score of the larger 15Sat III signal by that of the smaller 15Sat III signal. Data are presented as Median and interquartile range. $n = 149$. **c**, DNA-FISH to detect 15Sat III and 15CEN in Ctr and SNUL-depleted WI-38 nuclei. **d**, Plot showing the relative integrated density of the 15Sat III or 5CEN signals in control and SNUL-depleted WI-38 cells. Relative integrated density is calculated by dividing the measurement of the larger DNA-FISH signal by that of the smaller DNA-FISH signal. Data are presented as Median and interquartile range. $n = 30$. Mann-Whitney tests are performed. $*p < 0.05$; ns, not significant. **e**, RNA-FISH showing the distribution of SNUL-1 and rRNA in MCH2-10 nuclei. Arrows point at the SNUL-1 cloud. Arrowheads mark two non-nucleolar foci of unknown origin hybridized by the SNUL-1 probe only in MCH2-10 nuclei. **f**, DNA-RNA-FISH of SNUL-1 RNA and 15CEN or 15Sat III in MCH2-10 IPSC nuclei. Please note that the SNUL-1 probe-hybridized non-nucleolar foci is observed only after RNA-FISH and not after RNA-DNA-FISH treatments. **g**, Representative RNA-FISH image showing the localization of SNUL-1 cloud and SNRPN transcription site in MCH2-10 IPSC nucleus. Arrows point at the SNUL-1 cloud. Arrowheads mark two non-nucleolar foci of unknown origin hybridized by the SNUL-1 probe only in MCH2-10 nuclei. **h**, Quantification of the association rates between SNUL-1 and SNRPN in MCH2-10 IPSCs. Data are presented as Mean \pm SEM from biological triplicates. > 50 cells were counted for each of the biological repeats. **i**, Representative DNA-RNA-FISH image to detect SNRPN RNA and 15Sat III in MCH2-10 nucleus. **j**, Quantification of the association rates between SNRPN RNA signal and the smaller and larger 15Sat III in MCH2-10 cells. > 100 cells were counted. All scale bars, $5\mu\text{m}$. DNA is counterstained with DAPI.

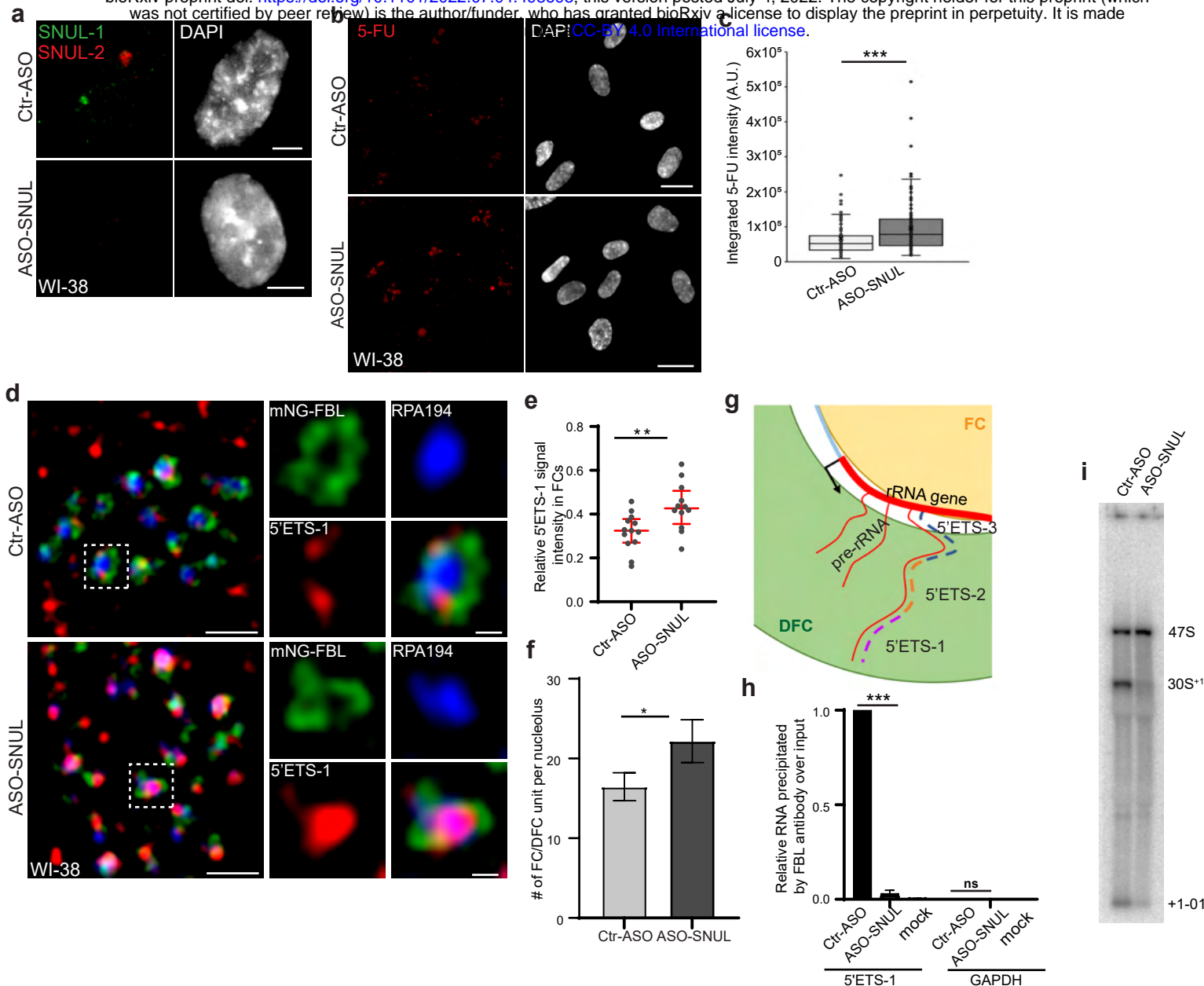
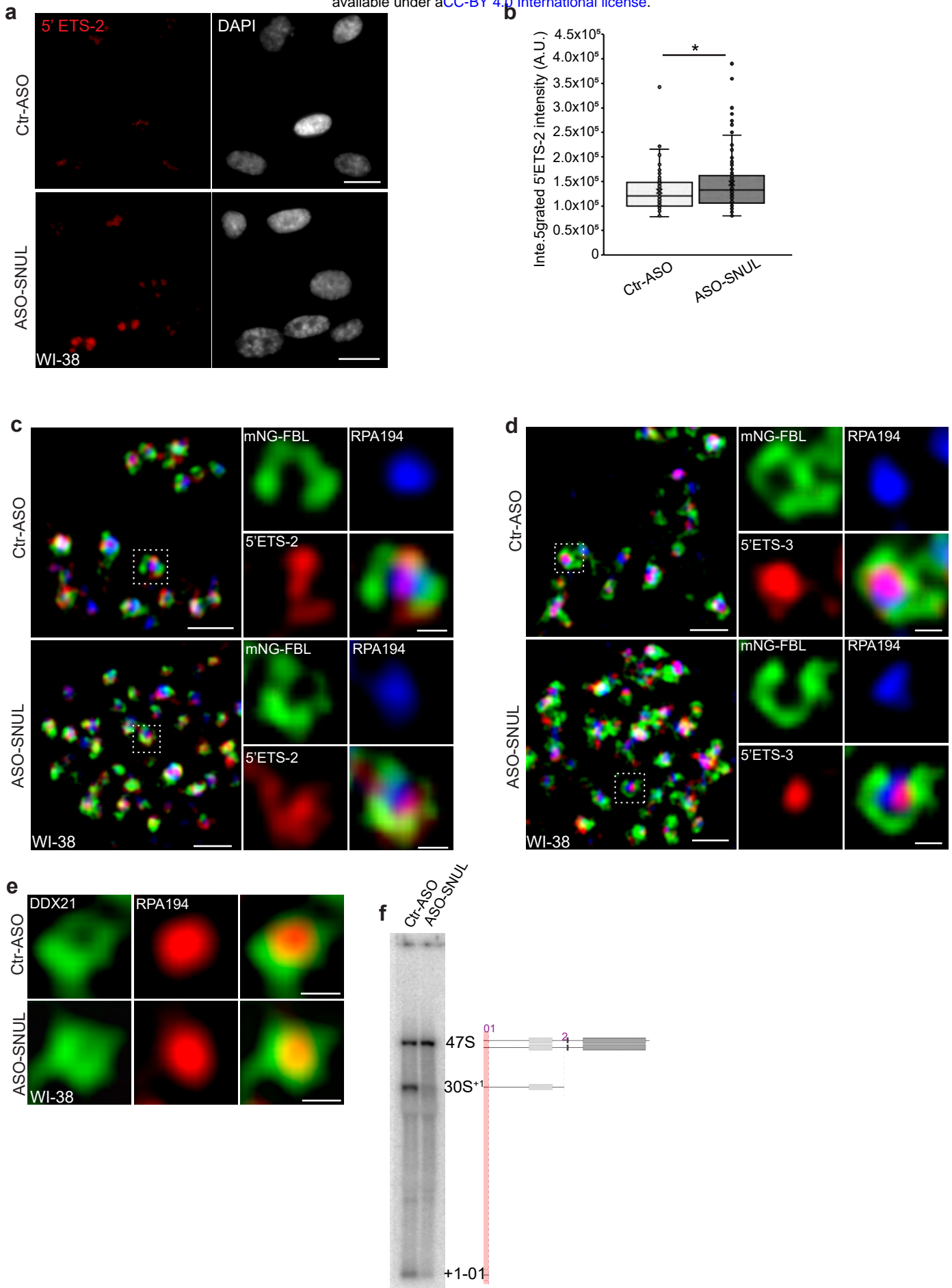


Fig. 5 | SNUL-1 influences rRNA biogenesis. **a**, RNA-FISH of SNUL-1 (green) and SNUL-2 (red) in WI-38 cells transfected with ctr-ASO or ASO-SNUL oligonucleotides. **b**, 5-FU immunostaining in control and SNUL-depleted WI-38 cells. Scale bars, 5 μm . Ctr-ASO and ASO-SNUL-treated cells were pulse labeled by 5-FU for 20 min. Scale bars, 20 μm . **c**, Boxplots of integrated 5-FU intensity per nucleus in control and SNUL-depleted WI-38 cells. Center line, median; box limits, upper and lower quartiles; whiskers, maximum or minimum of the data. Mann-Whitney test is performed. $n = 100$. $*p < 0.05$, $**p < 0.01$, $***p < 0.001$. **d**, SIM image of a single nucleolus showing the nascent pre-rRNA detected by 5'ETS-1 probe (red) in Ctr and SNUL-depleted cells. DFC is marked by mNG-FBL (green) and FC is marked by RPA194 (blue). Scale bars, 1 μm (main images) and 200nm (insets). **e**, Quantification of relative 5'ETS-1 intensity in FC of nucleolus in Ctr-ASO and ASO-SNUL cells. Center line, median. Mann-Whitney test is performed. $**p < 0.01$. > 50 DFC/FC units from 10-15 nucleoli were counted for each sample. **f**, Quantification of the average number of FC/DFC unit per nucleolus in control and SNUL-depleted WI-38 cells. Data are presented as Mean \pm SEM from nine biological repeats. > 15 nucleoli were counted from each experiment. $*p < 0.05$. **g**, Schematic showing the sorting of pre-rRNA in DFC/FC unit. The position of the 5'ETS regions are marked. **h**, Relative 5'ETS-1 precipitated by FBL antibody in control and SNUL-depleted WI-38 cells, $***p < 0.001$. **i**, Northern blot using 5-ETS-1 probe from total RNA isolated from control and SNUL-depleted WI-38 cells.



Extended Data Fig. 5 | SNUL-1 influences rRNA biogenesis. **a**, Representative RNA-FISH images showing the nascent pre-rRNA levels (detected by 5'ETS-2 probe) in control and SNUL-depleted cells. Scale bars, 20 μm . **b**, Boxplots of integrated 5'ETS-2 intensity per nucleolus in Ctr and ASO-SNUL treated cells. Center line, median; box limits, upper and lower quartiles; whiskers, maximum or minimum of the data. Mann-Whitney test is performed. $n = 100$ * $p < 0.05$. **c**, SIM image of a single nucleolus showing the nascent pre-rRNA detected by 5'ETS-2 probe (red) in Ctr and SNUL-depleted cells. DFC is marked by mNG-FBL (green) and FC is marked by RPA194 (blue). Scale bars, 1 μm (main images) and 200nm (insets). **d**, SIM image of a single nucleolus showing the nascent pre-rRNA detected by 5'ETS-3 probe (red) in Ctr and SNUL-depleted cells. DFC is marked by mNG-FBL (green) and FC is marked by RPA194 (blue). Scale bars, 1 μm (main images) and 200nm (insets). **e**, SIM images of a single FC/DFC unit showing the localization RPA194 and DDX21 in Ctr and SNUL-depleted cells. Scale bars, 200 nm. **f**, Northern blot (presented in figure 5i showing the schematics of the pre-rRNA species that are detected by 5'ETS-1 probe in control and SNUL-depleted cells.