

1 **Full title:**

2 **Glucose controls co-translation of structurally related mRNAs *via***
3 **the mTOR and eIF2 pathways in human pancreatic beta cells**

4

5 **Short title:**

6 **Glucose controls co-translation of mRNAs in human pancreatic beta cell**

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20

21 **ABSTRACT**

22 Pancreatic beta cell response to glucose is critical for the maintenance of normoglycemia. A strong
23 transcriptional response was classically described in rodent models but, interestingly, not in human
24 cells. In this study, we exposed human pancreatic beta cells to an increased concentration of glucose
25 and analysed at a global level the mRNAs steady state levels and their translationalability. Polysome
26 profiling analysis showed an early acute increase in protein synthesis and a specific translation
27 regulation of more than 400 mRNAs, independently of their transcriptional regulation. We clustered
28 the co-regulated mRNAs according to their behaviour in translation in response to glucose and
29 discovered common structural and sequence mRNA features. Among them mTOR- and eIF2-
30 sensitive elements have a predominant role to increase mostly the translation of mRNAs encoding for
31 proteins of the translational machinery. Furthermore, we show that mTOR and eIF2 α pathways are
32 independently regulated in response to glucose, participating to a translational reshaping to adapt
33 beta cell metabolism. The early acute increase in the translation machinery components prepare the
34 beta cell for further protein demand due to glucose-mediated metabolism changes.

35

36 **AUTHOR SUMMARY**

37 Adaptation and response to glucose of pancreatic beta cells is critical for the maintenance of
38 normoglycemia. Its deregulation is associated to Diabetic Mellitus (DM), a significant public health
39 concern worldwide with an increased incidence of morbidity and mortality. Despite extensive research
40 in rodent models, gene expression regulation in response to glucose remains largely unexplored in
41 human cells. In our work, we have tackled this question by exposing human EndoC-BH1 cells to high
42 glucose concentration. Using polysome profiling, the gold standard technique to analyse cellular
43 translation activity, we observed a global protein synthesis increase, independent from transcription
44 activity. Among the specific differentially translated mRNAs, we found transcripts coding for ribosomal
45 proteins, allowing the cell machinery to be engaged in a metabolic response to glucose. Therefore,
46 the regulation in response to glucose occurs mainly at the translational level in human cells, and not
47 at the transcriptional level as described in the classically used rodent models.

48 Furthermore, by comparing the features of the differentially translated mRNAs, and classifying them
49 according to their translational response, we show that the early response to glucose occurs through

50 the coupling of mRNA structure and sequence features impacting translation and regulation of
51 specific signalling pathways. Collectively, our results support a new paradigm of gene expression
52 regulation on the translation level in human beta cells.

53

54 INTRODUCTION

55 Pancreatic islet β -cells play a pivotal role in the maintenance of normoglycemia by synthesizing,
56 storing and secreting insulin. Glucose uptake and metabolism are essential for regulation of glycemia
57 by stimulating insulin secretion and triggering specific gene expression. These processes have been
58 widely studied in rodent since 1970s (1). Due to the long-standing difficulties to generate a human
59 cellular model (2), or to access to primary human islet preparations derived from deceased donors (3),
60 there is a scarcity of results obtained from human cells. In addition, despite many similarities, there
61 are major differences between human and rodent models such as the copy number of *insulin* genes,
62 the expression of different transcription factors in glucose-stimulated insulin secretion, the architecture
63 of the Islet of Langerhans with functional implication and, finally, the susceptibility to β -cell injury (2).
64 Moreover, concerning glucose-dependent gene expression regulation, recent transcriptome studies
65 have demonstrated important differences in expression levels between human and rodent cell lines.
66 In the rat β -cell line INS-1, more than 3700 genes were significantly affected in response to glucose
67 (4). In contrast, a recent transcriptome study of the first human β -cell line (EndoC-BH1), able to
68 secrete insulin in response to glucose stimulation (5), showed that only a scarce number of genes
69 were modified at the mRNA level for cells exposed for eight hours either to high or low glucose
70 concentrations (6). Accordingly, a previous report on donor human islet treated similarly during
71 twenty-four hours (7) reported that the expression of only 20 genes was affected. Taken together,
72 these findings highlight a considerable difference in gene expression regulation at transcriptional level
73 between human and mouse pancreatic β -cell.

74 Glucose regulation has also been addressed at post-transcriptional level in rodent models since the
75 70s. In particular, attention was focused on the regulation of glucose-induced pro-insulin synthesis (8–
76 10) reporting that the first cellular response to replenish insulin was entirely mediated at translational
77 level without affecting mRNA abundance (8). Beside *pro-insulin*, synthesis of other proteins was also
78 stimulated, but these proteins were not identified. A translome study addressed this issue in mouse

79 insulinoma 6 (MIN6) cell line by polysome profiling (11) and identified 313 mRNAs, for which the
80 association with polysomes was changed by at least 1.5 times. Interestingly, in low glucose the
81 Integrated Stress Response (ISR) mediates eIF2 phosphorylation, promoting translation of a group of
82 mRNAs including b-zip transcription factors such as ATF4, CHOP (DDIT3), and c-Jun. The translation
83 of these mRNAs was reduced upon glucose increase and eIF2 dephosphorylation, linking regulatory
84 pathway activity and protein expression regulation (11).

85 To date, no translome studies have been made on human β -cells to address glucose induced post-
86 transcriptional regulation. In this work, we exposed human pancreatic β -cells exhibiting glucose-
87 inducible insulin secretion (12) to high glucose concentrations for 30 min to observe the early cellular
88 response. We observed a global protein synthesis increase, independent from transcription regulation.
89 We identified 402 mRNAs that are differentially translated in response to glucose and identified
90 different groups of co-regulated transcripts. We found mTOR and eIF2-sensitive elements in a
91 majority of them and, accordingly, we found that both pathways activate translation of specific mRNAs
92 in response to glucose. Upregulated genes are mainly coding for ribosomal proteins, increasing the
93 translation machinery potential, allowing the cell machinery to be engaged in a metabolic response to
94 glucose.

95

96 **RESULTS**

97 **Glucose induces an acute increase in protein synthesis in human β -cells.**

98 To monitor and quantify the translation activity in response to glucose, we performed a polysome
99 profiling analysis on a functional human β -cell line able to produce insulin in response to glucose
100 (EndoC- β H2 cells, see Material and Methods). Polysome profiling is a gold standard technique to
101 analyze cellular translation activity. Ribosome complexes of different densities are separated on a
102 sucrose gradient consistent with the number of ribosomes. Briefly, EndoC- β H2 cells were cultured for
103 24 hours in 0.5 mM glucose and then treated for 30 min with either 0.5 mM or 20 mM glucose.
104 Polysome profiling showed that increasing glucose to 20 mM triggered an important increase in the
105 content of polysomes in parallel to a decrease of the monosomes peak (80S) (Fig. 1A).
106 Polysome/monosome ratio was raised 2 times, which is classically observed with a global increase in

107 protein translation. This translation upregulation was confirmed by ³⁵S-Met incorporation (Supp. Fig
108 1A).

109 We next quantified whether the global increase in translation was associated to a modification in
110 mRNA steady state levels by genome-wide transcriptome analysis. As illustrated by the MA plot in Fig.
111 1B, global mRNA levels were not significantly affected by a 30 min glucose treatment. Only 16
112 transcripts (Supp. Fig 1B) were found to be significantly affected, 7 of them coding for histone proteins.
113 However, these variations are low, with a fold change of less than 2-fold. We validated this result by
114 RT-qPCR showing that *Histone1H3C* and *Histone1H3D* mRNAs increased from 30 min after glucose
115 shift (Supp. Fig.1C), in an extent similar to that observed by RNAseq (log FC = 0.7 at 30 min, Supp.
116 Fig 1B, corresponding to FC = 1.6). Conversely, the abundance of mRNAs such as, *PTPRN*, *CHGA*
117 or *CCNG1* was not significantly affected even after 1h or 2h after the glucose shift. This finding is in
118 agreement with the results described in Richards et al., showing that even 8 hours after glucose
119 increase, only a scarce number of genes were modified at the mRNA level (6). Hence, the global
120 increase in protein synthesis is virtually independent from transcription regulation.

121 In conclusion, we show here for the first time that human beta cells respond to glucose by a rapid and
122 important increase in mRNA translation, which is virtually independent of changes in the
123 transcriptome.

124

125 **Glucose regulates translation rates of mRNAs involved in the insulin secretion pathway and in** 126 **the translation machinery**

127 We next studied genes whose translation rates are regulated in response to glucose by sequencing
128 the mRNAs associated with monosomes and polysomes (Fig. 1A, see Materials and Methods). The
129 commonly adopted strategy to identify translated genes is usually to consider mRNAs associated with
130 more than 3 ribosomes (13), but each fraction from monosomes to heavy polysomes could also be
131 sequenced (14). To obtain a good compromise between resolution and sensitivity, we analyzed
132 separately the monosomes (80S), light polysomes (2-4 ribosomes per mRNA), and heavy polysomes
133 (> 4 ribosomes per mRNA). Accordingly, fractions were pooled (see Fig. 1A) to collect monosomes

134 (fractions 5-6), light polysomes (fractions 7-9) and heavy polysomes (fractions 10-13) before RNA
135 sequencing.

136 Differential analysis using the limma package (15) highlighted that the abundance of 235 mRNAs in
137 heavy polysomes and 218 in light polysomes was significantly changed upon glucose shift (adjusted
138 p-value < 0.05 and logFC > 0.5, Fig 1C and 1D), but not in monosomes (Fig. 1E). These changes do
139 not correlate with a significant difference in mRNA total level (Fig. 1B). As expected from the global
140 increase in translation we observed in high glucose (Fig. 1A), most of the identified transcripts were
141 enriched in polysomes (Fig. 1F): 164 in the heavy polysomes, 131 in the light polysomes, 49 common
142 to both. Thus, only a minority of transcripts, 58 in total, were downregulated. Interestingly, from the 16
143 transcripts increased in RNA abundance (Fig 1B) only four have been found increased in polysomal
144 fractions (Fig. 1F and Supp. Fig. 1A). Except for these four genes, the variation for each transcript
145 observed in polysomal fractions corresponds to a specific translational regulation independently of
146 any variation in mRNA abundance and, consequently, of any transcriptional regulation.

147 Continuing the investigation of differentially translated genes, we proceed by assessing if glucose
148 stimulation modified the biosynthesis of insulin and of known major factors involved in insulin
149 maturation and secretion pathway. We focused on gene products whose biosynthesis was reported to
150 be enhanced in response to glucose in rodent cells, such as Protein Tyrosine Phosphatase Receptor
151 Type N (PTPRN) (16), chromogranin A (CHGA) (17), and pro-hormone convertases 1/3 (PC1/3) (18).
152 In heavy polysomes, *PTPRN* mRNA was enriched while *CHGA* mRNA was reduced (Fig. 1G and
153 Supp. Fig. 2C and 2D). Interestingly, the relatively short *Insulin* transcript associates mainly with light
154 polysomes (Fig. 1G), as observed previously in a mouse cellular model (11).

155 Our data show that the human EndoC- β H2 beta cell line incubated with high glucose for 30 min
156 quickly modify the translation rates of at least two mRNAs that code for proteins involved in the insulin
157 secretion pathway. In contrast, We did not find any particular expression difference in the dot plot for
158 *Insulin* and *PC1/3* mRNAs (Fig. 1G), and accordingly we did not find these genes as differentially
159 translated in our conditions.

160 Gene Ontology (GO), gene set and REACTOME pathway enrichment analyses were performed for all
161 the Differentially Translated Genes (DTGs). Figure 2 illustrate the gene-concept plots (cnetplots) of
162 each ontology term and all its associated genes of the top 10 enriched categories for molecular

163 functions (MF, Fig. 2A) and biological processes (BP, Fig. 2B). Cnetplots are an informative way to
164 represent the relationships between different ontology terms in a graph of all the associated genes
165 together with the logFC for each gene. It is evident that the majority of the translationally upregulated
166 genes (red nodes) are enriched in GO terms related to the biosynthesis and metabolism of proteins,
167 rRNAs and to the translation machinery (Fig. 2). Supp. Fig. 2E illustrates the top 20 REACTOME
168 pathways that are enriched in DTGs which further corroborate the finding of the GO analysis (Fig. 2).

169 In conclusion, our results show that glucose concentration changes modulate translation rate of
170 specific mRNAs of the insulin secretion pathway and promotes the synthesis of the translation
171 machinery components.

172

173 **Differentially translated mRNAs in response to glucose share unique structural and sequence** 174 **features**

175 It might be tempting to explain the translation modulation of specific mRNAs in response to glucose
176 by a simple global translation increase. To test this, we calculated the translation ratio, defined as the
177 abundance ratio of the translating mRNA in mono/polysome fractions to total mRNA regarding a
178 certain gene (see Material and Methods for detail), for the most translated transcripts for each gene
179 (Supp. Table 1), and then asked if the 200 most translated mRNAs are the same in low and high
180 glucose (Fig. 3A), by ranking them according to the translation ratio. We found that around 40% (76)
181 of the best translated transcripts in high glucose (Fig. 3A, grey circle) were not among the best
182 translated in low glucose (Fig. 3A, blue circle). Furthermore, 80% of the mRNAs that display the major
183 differences in ranking (Fig. 3A, white circle) are not found in the 200 top translated mRNAs in high or
184 low glucose. The cellular response to glucose is therefore not just a simple increase in overall
185 translation.

186 Translational adaptation to glucose seems therefore to be a complex process. Thus, we further
187 investigated potential association between the differential translation regulation and specific sequence
188 and structural features of the DTGs. To this end, we have classified differences in translation ratios
189 between high and low glucose to 3 mRNA groups: 147 mRNAs with higher translation ratio in high
190 glucose, 137 with a lower translation ratio in high glucose and a control category of 320 mRNAs with

191 no significant change between high and low glucose. The most translated transcript of each of these
192 604 genes was analysed by our in-house developed software (detailed in Materials and Methods) to
193 retrieve sequence information from ENSEMBL database and identify structural features. Several
194 characteristics appear in the statistical analysis of the features (Fig. 3B-F and Supp. Fig. 3). Among
195 them, the minimum folding energy normalized over the length of the sequence (MFE per BP) is an
196 interesting measure to estimate the complexity of an mRNA untranslated region (UTR) structure.

197 Transcripts with higher translation ratio difference between high and low glucose appear to have
198 statistically significant shorter open reading frames (ORFs), and shorter and less complex UTRs.
199 Conversely, transcripts that are down regulated have longer ORFs and more structured 3'UTR since
200 their MFE per BP distribution slightly decreases (Fig. 3 B-F).

201 These results indicate that the sequence and structural features we have used allow the classification
202 and characterization of the highly translated mRNAs; so they provide a good tool to dissect the
203 different classes of translational behaviour of transcripts in mono-, light- and heavy- polysomes.
204 Motivated by that, we proceeded with the dissection of this behaviour and the sequence-structure
205 characterization of the different transcript classes.

206

207 **Differentially translated mRNA clusters display specific mRNA features**

208 To group the translationally co-regulated transcripts, we clustered the 402 differentially translated
209 mRNAs we identified previously (Fig. 1F) based on their behaviour between monosomes, light, and
210 heavy polysomes. To this end, we calculated for each mRNA the log₂ ratio of the average abundance
211 in high over low glucose condition for each of the three ribosomal fractions. The log ratios matrix was
212 then subjected to a modelling clustering method able to determine in an unsupervised way the best
213 model that characterizes the data (19). The model generated six clusters, which highlighted six
214 different types of behaviours (Fig. 4A, coloured bars with the cluster number). Genes of the top cluster
215 (n°1, seagreen bar) showed a clear pattern for 73 mRNAs shifting from the monosomes to polysomes
216 (both light and heavy), which is the expected behaviour for a mRNA with increased translation.
217 Cluster n°6 (102 mRNAs) presented a behaviour similar to cluster 1 with an increase of mRNAs in
218 heavy polysomes but without any rise in the light polysomes. These transcripts move from the

219 monosomes to the heavy polysomes fraction and correspond to transcripts whose translation is
220 greatly increased. Instead, the mRNAs of clusters 2 and 3 (90 and 79 mRNAs, respectively) showed
221 increased mRNA levels for light/heavy and monosome/light polysomes, respectively. We reasoned
222 that at low glucose concentration these mRNAs are associated with small complexes that have a
223 density smaller than one ribosome and correspond to mRNAs newly recruited to the translation
224 machinery. Finally, clusters 4 and 5 (37 and 21 mRNAs, respectively) collected all the mRNAs whose
225 levels in the polysome fractions decreased upon glucose stimulation, which might reflect a decrease
226 in their translation. The difference between these two clusters comes from the fact that the decrease
227 is observed in light polysomes for cluster 4 and in heavy polysomes for cluster 5.

228 Based on the link between features and behaviours that we observed (Fig. 3), we hypothesized that
229 the different patterns observed for the clusters could be a consequence of *cis*-regulatory elements
230 present on the mRNAs which could serve as binding sites for *trans*-acting factors such as RNABPs
231 and miRNAs. To investigate this possibility, we calculated a series of mRNA features for the most
232 abundant transcript for each gene. We developed an RNA feature extraction tool (see Material and
233 Methods) that is able to download, from the ENSEMBL database bioMart (20), the transcript
234 sequences with additional annotations and calculate sequence and structural properties (see Supp.
235 Table 2 for the full table of results). We proceeded by grouping these mRNA features between the 6
236 clusters of different translation behaviour identified by the model clustering approach (Fig. 4 B-I, the
237 full ensemble of the statistical analysis of differences between groups, including the results of all the
238 Kruskal-Wallis H-test and its associated p values are available in supplementary Supp. Fig. 4).
239 Strikingly, the length of the coding sequence (CDS) of cluster 1 mRNAs was significantly shorter,
240 while in cluster 2 the CDS were longer (Fig. 4B). Next, we analysed the length of the UTRs (Fig. 4C-
241 D). Notably, there was a tendency for mRNAs of cluster 1 to have shorter 5' and 3' UTRs than the
242 other clusters. Cluster 4 and 6 showed similar tendencies towards shorter 5' UTRs (Fig. 4C). Cluster 4,
243 that corresponds to mRNAs whose translation decreases in response to glucose, contained longer 3'
244 UTRs (Fig. 4D).

245 We next analysed the GC-richness of the 5' and 3'UTRs, as a proxy to determine the complexity of
246 secondary structures formed by the mRNA UTRs. Cluster 2 and 3 contained mRNAs with higher GC
247 content on both 5' and 3' UTRs than the others (Fig. 4E-F). In accordance, clusters 2 and 3 contained

248 mRNAs with more structured 5' and 3' UTRs than the other clusters (Fig 4G-H). In addition, cluster 5,
249 the cluster with the underrepresented mRNAs in the heavy polysome fraction, also appears to have
250 the next higher GC content and lowest MFE per BP on its 3'UTR (Fig. 4F,H), indicating that the 5'UTR
251 structural and sequence complexity affects the translation regulation.

252 In addition to the UTR structure, we found a tendency towards a lower Codon Adaptation Index (CAI)
253 for cluster 4 and cluster 6 (Fig. 4I). Since CAI is associated with slowest translation rates this finding
254 could explain at least in part the accumulation of transcripts in monosomes (cluster 6) or light
255 polysomes (cluster 4) rather than in heavy polysomes in low glucose (Fig. 4A).

256 We then searched for functional motifs in the UTRs by interrogating the UTRdb
257 (<http://utrdb.ba.itb.cnr.it/>), (21), and we found already characterized RNA binding motifs in the UTRs of
258 the mRNAs which are differentially translated (Supp. Fig. 5). Interestingly, we found TOP motifs (5'-
259 terminal oligopyrimidine (TOP) (22)) mostly represented in cluster 1 and 6 (Fig. 5A), and also uORFs,
260 and IRES features (Fig. 5B). It is interesting to note that uORF and TOP features are mutually
261 exclusive (Fig.5B), meaning that these features are used independently to differentially regulate
262 mRNA translation. This finding indicates two different potential modes of translation regulation from
263 two independent mechanisms.

264 Taken together, the results suggest that the translational regulation of differentially translated mRNAs
265 upon glucose concentration shift is strongly associated with, and can be characterized by, specific
266 sequences as well as structural features on the UTRs and coding regions of these mRNAs.

267

268 **Clustering reveals that specific pathway regulators are co-regulated in response to glucose,**
269 **and that TOP motifs are preponderant to upregulate the translation machinery components.**

270 Next, we performed gene ontology enrichment analyses, using the R package ClusterProfiler (23), in
271 order to assess if the mRNAs belonging to the different clusters were implicated in specific biological
272 processes. Cluster 1 and 6 were enriched for categories related to translation but especially for ER-
273 related translation (Fig. 6A-B). Cluster 4 (Fig. 6C), which contained the translationally repressed
274 mRNAs in high glucose, was enriched in mRNAs coding for proteins involved in regulation of
275 metabolic processes and cell death. In particular, genes involved in tricarboxylic acid, acyl-CoA, and

276 thioester metabolisms were found to be enriched in cluster 4. Cluster 5 with also repressed transcripts
277 in high glucose was enriched for categories related to response to starvation and growth factors (Fig.
278 6D), including mRNAs coding for b-zip transcription factors such as ATF4, DDIT3(CHOP), and c-Jun
279 (Supp. Table 2) that had a similar behaviour in mouse beta cell (see introduction,(11)).

280 We thus investigated if ribosomal proteins or translation factors were found in clusters 1 and 6. We
281 found that cluster 1 contained 56 mRNAs coding for ribosomal proteins (Supp. Table 3, RPL and
282 RPS), corresponding to 70% of the total number of RP transcripts, while cluster 6 contained 13
283 mRNAs coding for eukaryotic translation factors of which 4 were elongation factors (eEF1A1, eEF1A2,
284 eEF1B2, eEF2) and the remaining were initiation factors (eIF2A, eIF2S3, eIF3E, eIF3F, eIF3G, eIF3H,
285 eIF3L, eIF4A2, eIF4B) (Supp. Table 3, eIFs and eEFs). These mRNAs are known to contain the TOP
286 motif (TOP-RNAs, (22,24,25)), that we found enriched in the differentially regulated mRNAs (Fig. 5A),
287 mostly in cluster 1 and at a lesser extent in cluster 6. Therefore, we compared the mRNAs found in
288 cluster 1 and 6 with the list of mRNAs that were previously reported or proposed to be TOP-RNAs in
289 three already published studies (22,24,25) (Supp. Table 4). Overlap between the three set of genes
290 showed that cluster 1 contained 59 (58%) of the known TOP-RNAs while cluster 6 contained 20 (20%,
291 Fig. 6D). 80% of the mRNAs of cluster 1 are known to be TOP-RNAs, one hypothesis is that the
292 similar behaviour of the cluster1 mRNAs is due to their TOP motif. We calculated the TOP local score
293 for the 14 remaining mRNAs and found a similar distribution to cluster 1.

294 In conclusion, we found that translation increased for more than 70% of the mRNAs coding for
295 ribosomal proteins, and also for genes involved in specific metabolic processes, response to growth
296 factors or that regulate cell death.

297

298 **mTOR and eIF2alpha pathways are regulated upon glucose induction**

299 We next sought to identify the molecular pathways driving such translation regulation in response to
300 glucose in human beta cells. Our data unraveled a group of uORF-containing mRNAs that are
301 translationally regulated upon glucose induction. uORF-mediated translation mechanisms involve the
302 phosphorylation of eIF2 complex alpha subunit (eIF2 α) on Ser51, which inhibits the assembly and
303 recycling of the translational ternary complex (eIF2-GTP-Met-tRNA_i), and results in a reduction in

304 translation initiation. We therefore examined the phosphorylation status of eIF2 α . Western blot
305 analyses highlighted a dephosphorylation of eIF2 α in response to glucose (Fig. 7A, P-eIF2 α , and
306 Supp. Fig. 6A for western blot quantification), indicating an increased availability of the ternary
307 complex. Furthermore, adding the translation inhibitor cycloheximide does not prevent the activation
308 of eIF2 through dephosphorylation, which is therefore independent of protein neosynthesis. Note that
309 the amount of poly-A binding protein (PABP), a key post-transcriptional regulator, remains constant.

310 It has been described that glucose deprivation is sensed by aldolases, which cause the formation of a
311 membrane-associated lysosomal complex, which in turn activates AMP-activated protein kinase
312 (AMPK) (26). AMPK induces inhibition of mammalian TOR complex 1 (mTORC1) activity by
313 phosphorylation of the tuberous sclerosis protein 2 (TSC2) tumor suppressor and the mTOR binding
314 partner Raptor (27,28). Since mTORC1 is a well-known regulator of protein synthesis, we postulated
315 that upon glucose increase, mTORC1 activation participates in translation upregulation. It is well
316 established that mTORC1 regulates translation through the modulation of the phosphorylation status
317 of 4EBP1 (29). Thus, to further validate that mTORC1 signaling is a key player in glucose stimulation,
318 we checked the phosphorylation status of 4EBP (Fig. 7B and C). At 0.5 mM glucose, 4E-BP displayed
319 a single band (α , see Fig. 7C) in western blot that is also visible using an anti phospho-4EBP antibody
320 showing that 4EBP is at least partly phosphorylated. The P-4EBP/4EBP ratio increased upon glucose
321 shift, and new 4EBP isoforms are visible (bands β and γ , see profiles in Fig. 7C), corresponding to
322 hyperphosphorylated 4EBP. We concluded that increase of glucose concentration induced strong
323 phosphorylation of 4EBP that is known to decrease its affinity for eIF4E, and increases Cap-
324 dependent translation. We also observed during a proteomic study dedicated to the analysis of the
325 late response to glucose (4h after glucose increase), that RPS6 was phosphorylated rapidly after
326 glucose addition, confirming the activation of the mTOR pathway (30). Interestingly, TOP-containing
327 mRNAs are known to be extremely sensitive to mTOR regulation, that provides an attractive
328 regulation mechanism to understand the translation upregulation of mRNAs of cluster 1 and 6 (see
329 Discussion). Furthermore, using rapamycin, a potent inhibitor of mTOR, we observed that eIF2
330 dephosphorylation was independent of mTOR activation (Fig. 7D). Since we found the kinase eEF2K
331 in cluster 4, we asked whether eEF2 phosphorylation was affected upon glucose shift. Indeed, we
332 found a strong reduction of eEF2 phosphorylation (Fig. 7E, and quantification in Supp. Fig. 6D), that is
333 known to promote its activity for translation elongation. In conclusion, from the structural features of

334 the clusters, we focused on mTOR and eIF2 α pathways that are independently regulated to modulate
335 translation after a short glucose stimulation, and found also an activation of the elongation factor
336 eEF2.

337

338 **DISCUSSION**

339 We show here that a human pancreatic β -cell line responds to glucose by a specific regulation in
340 protein synthesis, as revealed by polysome profiling. Interestingly, this increase in translation is
341 unrelated to the abundance of mRNAs and consequently independent from a transcriptional
342 regulation. Indeed, from our transcriptome analysis, a 30 min glucose shift had no effect on mRNA
343 abundance, apart for 16 transcripts that are weakly affected. This result agrees with a microarray
344 study performed in EndoC- β H1 in which only few genes had their mRNA levels affected after 8-hour
345 of glucose stimulation (6).

346 This context where translational regulation is the major determinant of gene expression prompted us
347 to perform the first translome study of a human pancreatic β -cell line in response to glucose.

348 Following a 30 min incubation in high-glucose media, we found changes in distribution of 402 mRNAs
349 in different ribosomal fractions. We report that two important genes involved in the regulation of
350 secretory granules, *CHGA* and *PTPRN* are translationally co-regulated in human pancreatic β -cells.
351 The *PTPRN* translation increase was also reported in mouse models (16). *PTPRN* belongs to the
352 receptor protein tyrosine phosphatase (RPTP) family and regulate basal and glucose-induced insulin
353 secretion in the mouse MIN6 cell line by increasing, presumably through stabilization, the number of
354 insulin-containing dense core vesicles (31). Conversely, we found that the association of *CHGA* with
355 heavy polysomes decreases and consequently its translation is reduced. *CHGA* is a member of the
356 granin glycoprotein family, and its main intracellular function is to sort proteins into the secretory
357 granules. *CHGA* is also secreted and generate several cleaved products among which pancreastatin
358 that have been shown to act in an autocrine and paracrine fashion by inhibiting glucose stimulated
359 insulin secretion (32).

360

361 We observed, by clustering analysis, that the identified differentially translated mRNAs could be
362 divided into six groups based on the different changes of their mRNA levels in the three ribosomal

363 sequenced fractions. We thus performed mRNA features analysis to identify possible mRNA features
364 that could explain the observed different behaviours.

365

366 It is interesting to note that transcripts from cluster 4, that are translationally repressed upon glucose
367 shift, possess a longer 3'UTR that could contain more regulatory elements, such as miRNA binding
368 sites. Upregulation of miRNAs have been described in the presence of high glucose (33), thus, it
369 would be interesting to analyze the modifications in miRNA activity induced by glucose in our human
370 cellular model.

371

372 We found mRNAs from clusters 4 and 5 better translated in low glucose where eIF2 is
373 hyperphosphorylated and, less translated in high glucose after dephosphorylation of this initiation
374 factor. A similar situation has been observed in mice MIN6 beta cells (see introduction, (11)) : in low
375 glucose eIF2 phosphorylation is mediated by the Integrated Stress Response (ISR) that is
376 suppressed upon glucose increase. Indeed, we found a similar translational behaviour for ATF4,
377 DDIT3 and c-Jun transcripts encoding proteins associated with the ISR (34): they all belongs to
378 cluster 5. Importantly, abundance of these mRNAs decreases upon glucose increase in mouse cells
379 but their abundance does not vary in our human beta cells.

380 As hyperphosphorylation of eIF2 α is known to favour translation of mRNAs containing uORFs, we
381 could expect to find uORF-containing mRNAs in cluster 4 and 5, and indeed we found mRNAs
382 reported to contain uORFs that regulate their translation: the cyclic AMP-dependent transcription
383 factor (ATF4), the activating transcription factor 5 (ATF5) (35), the transcriptional regulator CHOP (36)
384 and eEF2K (37).

385 ATF4 was the most translationally downregulated gene identified (log₂ FC -1.5 in heavy polysomes).
386 Importantly ATF4 is known to be the master regulator of cellular metabolism in response to energetic
387 stresses and depending on the intensity and length of the stress can either favour cell survival
388 through upregulation of autophagy related genes and amino acid transporters or enhance expression
389 of genes involved in apoptotic processes (38). ATF5 has been recently shown to play an important
390 role in regulating pancreatic β -cells survival (39,40). Despite this decrease in ATF4 and ATF5, a
391 significant transcriptomic response was not observed for 30 min (this study), or for eight hours (6) of
392 glucose stimulation. The ATF4 protein increase is classically described to activate transcription of

393 target genes, but this response decreases with time owing to different mechanisms that counteract
394 ATF4 function (reviewed in (41)). The reduction in ATF4 translation would then allow the cells to
395 return to basal levels of ATF4 without triggering a transcriptional response.

396 It is interesting to note that after glucose shift, translation inhibition of eEF2K may participate in
397 translation regulation. eEF2K phosphorylates eEF2, reducing its affinity for ribosomes, resulting in
398 inhibition of protein synthesis (42). Indeed, we observed a strong dephosphorylation of eEF2, that
399 would promote the elongation rate of translating ribosomes, participating to the global protein
400 synthesis increase revealed by the measure of amino-acid incorporation.

401 IRESs are also RNA structures conferring a translational advantage in condition where general
402 translation is silenced. We searched in the literature if any of the translationally repressed mRNAs
403 were reported to contain an IRES. We found that the *RRBP1* (Ribosome-binding protein 1, cluster 5)
404 mRNA has been shown to contain an IRES in its 5' UTR (43). *RRBP1* is a membrane-bound protein
405 found in the endoplasmic reticulum where it enhances the association of certain mRNAs (44) and play
406 a role in ER morphology (45). Consequently, *RRBP1* may participate to the reshaping of the
407 translome upon glucose induction.

408 eIF2 α has been implicated in many physiological translation regulations, being a “funnel factor” where
409 several signals converge to regulate its phosphorylation at serine 51, which results in cap-dependent
410 protein translation repression (46), as observed for the ISR. The ISR aimed to protect cells against
411 various cellular stresses, including viral infection, oxidative stress and ER stress. Interestingly,
412 phosphorylated eIF2 α is essential to preserve ER integrity in beta cells, and if this mechanism of
413 protection is compromised, it would contribute to the onset of Diabetic Mellitus (47), a public health
414 concern worldwide with an increased incidence of morbidity and mortality.

415

416 The metabolism of the beta cell is also reshaped during this early response to glucose (30 mn after
417 glucose shift) as we found in cluster 4 transcripts coding for proteins involved in regulation of
418 metabolic processes, cell death and response to growth factors. This translational regulation is
419 particularly important for genes implicated in tricarboxylic acid (TCA, Krebs Cycle), acyl-CoA, and
420 thioester metabolisms. Activation of these metabolisms, that are linked by their role in glucose
421 consumption for energy production, is expected upon translation increase, since protein synthesis is
422 one of the most energy costly cellular processes (48). In another study done by mass spectrometry to

423 monitor the late response to glucose (4 hours after glucose shift), we have also observed a regulation
424 in the amount of proteins involved in TCA metabolism and glycolysis (30).

425

426 The mRNAs that showed the strongest increase in the light polysome fraction were grouped in
427 clusters 2 and 3. Notably these clusters showed a high GC content for both the UTR regions. The GC
428 content in the 5' UTR could imply a strong dependency toward helicases, and a reduced initiation
429 activity, which could explain why these mRNAs cannot load enough ribosomes to efficiently access to
430 heavy polysomes.

431 We have shown that transcripts of the two most highly translated clusters have shorter coding
432 sequences and shorter and less complex 5'UTRs compared to the rest of the clusters. These features
433 are characteristic of a special class of mRNAs, the TOP-mRNAs (24), which are all downstream
434 targets of the mTOR pathway (see below). This class is defined by a 5' terminal oligopyrimidine
435 (TOP) motif that is indeed enriched in these two highly translated clusters. Also most mRNAs from
436 cluster 1 are known as TOP-mRNAs. The remaining 14 mRNAs of cluster 1 are most probably new
437 TOP-RNAs, as suggested by their TOP-local score distribution. Most of the known TOP-RNAs encode
438 proteins of the translation machinery. Accordingly, gene ontology analysis revealed that cluster 1 was
439 enriched for categories related to structural components of the ribosomes involved in ER-related
440 translation. Amongst the 14 new putative TOP-mRNAs that we found up-regulated in these pancreatic
441 beta cells, we found transcripts coding for proteins acting in ubiquitin binding, cell signalling and
442 mRNA translation. 20 mRNAs from cluster 6 were also previously reported to be TOP-RNAs (Fig. 6E).
443 By comparing the mRNA features of the cluster 1 and 6, we noticed similar characteristics that
444 promote translation activation, such as short and unstructured 5'UTR, but transcripts from cluster 6
445 have longer CDS. This feature may explain why more ribosomes are loaded on cluster 6 mRNAs (at
446 least 4 ribosomes) for a constant initiation rate, leading to their depletion from light polysomes and an
447 enrichment in heavy polysomes.

448 The TOP-RNAs have been described to be regulated by the mTOR pathway in various situations,
449 such as changes in nutrients and other growth signals (49). Gomez and co-workers (50), studying
450 glucose stimulation in murine MIN6 cells, concluded that translation regulation by glucose is largely
451 independent of mTOR but mainly dependent on the availability of the ternary complex regulated by
452 eIF2 α phosphorylation status.

453

454 In our human cellular model of beta cells, both mTOR activation and eIF2 dephosphorylation
455 participate to the increase of mRNA translational increase. It is interesting to note that the eIF2 α
456 activation is independent of the mTOR pathway since using rapamycin, a potent inhibitor of the
457 mTOR pathway, we have still observed the dephosphorylation of eIF2. These pathways regulate
458 mRNA translation in particular through uORF and TOP features, that are also mutually exclusive on
459 mRNAs, meaning that these regulations occur independently.

460 We concluded from our results that the glucose-dependent mTOR activation have a crucial
461 importance for the nature of the transcripts that are regulated by glucose in human cells. As a quick
462 response to glucose increase, TOP-RNAs allow accumulation of the translation machinery to prepare
463 the beta cells for further protein demand due to the glucose-mediated metabolism changes.

464

465 Adaptation and response to glucose of pancreatic beta cells is critical for the maintenance of
466 normoglycemia. Its deregulation is associated with Diabetic Mellitus. Mice models, animal or cell
467 derived models, have tremendously contributed to our understanding of human biology. All too often,
468 however, gene expression differ markedly from human cellular models (51). Despite extensive
469 research in rodent models of beta cells, gene expression regulation in response to glucose remained
470 largely unexplored in human cells beta cells. Using the only human cell line available of pancreatic β -
471 cells exhibiting glucose-inducible insulin secretion (12), our results emphasize a remarkable
472 difference in gene expression regulation in response to glucose that occurs mainly at the
473 transcriptional level in mouse and at a translational level in human pancreatic β -cell.

474 We have described the first genome-wide translome study of a human pancreatic β -cell stimulated
475 by glucose, highlighting that the response is translational and virtually independent from changes in
476 mRNA abundance. Through the recognition of specific mRNA features, the swift translation activation
477 is particularly efficient to increase translation machinery components. Finally, the combined mTOR
478 and eIF2 α activation that leads to the translome reshaping governed by specific mRNA features
479 allows a quick and direct cellular response targeting the translational regulation. These results
480 constitute a call for a new paradigm of gene expression regulation to better understand β -cell glucose-
481 mediated metabolism, encouraging biologists and clinicians, whenever possible, to complement their
482 transcriptomic studies with analysis at the translational or proteomic level.

483

484 **MATERIALS AND METHODS**

485 **Cell culture and treatment**

486 EndoC- β H2 cells (12) were cultured in low-glucose (5.6 mmol/L) DMEM (Sigma-Aldrich) with 2%
487 BSA fraction V (Roche-Diagnostics), 50 mmol/L 2-mercaptoethanol, 10 mmol/L nicotinamide
488 (Calbiochem), 5.5 mg/mL transferrin (Sigma Aldrich), 6.7 ng/mL selenite (Sigma-Aldrich), 100
489 units/mL penicillin, and 100 mg/mL streptomycin. Cells were seeded at a 40% confluence on plates
490 coated with Matrigel (1%; Sigma-Aldrich), fibronectin (2 mg/mL; Sigma-Aldrich). Cells were cultured at
491 37°C and 5% CO₂ in an incubator and passaged once a week when they were 90–95% confluent. For
492 the polysome profile experiments cells were plated 4 days before treatment to reach 80-90%
493 confluence the day of experiment. Cells were cultivated for 24 h at 0.5 mM glucose and were then
494 treated with different concentrations of glucose to obtain media at 5.6 mM, high-glucose media at 20
495 mM or with low-glucose media at 0.5 mM for 30 min.

496

497 **Western blot & antibodies**

498 Protein concentrations were quantified using a Pierce BCA Protein Assay Kit (Thermo Fisher
499 Scientific). Proteins (20 μ g) were resolved by SDS-PAGE and transferred to a membrane using an
500 iBlot2 Gel Transfer Device (Thermo Fisher Scientific). Membranes were incubated with specific
501 primary antibodies against: phospho-Ser52-eIF2 α (SAB4300221 Sigma), eIF2 α (SAB4500729 Sigma),
502 tubulin (T9026 Sigma), phospho-4EBP1 (2855 CST), 4EBP1 (9644 CST), Phospho-eEF2 (2331 CST),
503 eEF2 (2332, CST) and PABP1 (52). Membranes were incubated with species-specific horseradish
504 peroxidase, or fluorescent-linked secondary antibodies (1:10,000) and visualized on a Odyssey Fc
505 Dual-mode Imaging System Instrument (LI-COR). Quantification was done (Supp. Fig. 6), and
506 profiles of the Fig. 7C were obtained, using Image Studio Lite 5.2.5. These data were processed to
507 generate graphical representation with statistics with Rstudio 1.2.1335.

508

509 **Polysome profiling**

510 Polysome profiling was performed on three independent cell cultures both in high (20 mM glucose) or
511 low (0.5 mM glucose) and each replicate corresponded to approximately 30 million cells. After the
512 glucose treatment, cells were washed once in ice cold PBS containing 100 μ g/ml Cycloheximide. The

513 PBS was then removed, the lysis buffer (80 mM KCl, 10 mM Tris pH7.4, 5 mM MgCl₂, 0.5% Triton X
514 100, 0.5% Na-Deoxycholate, 40U/ μ L RNAsin, 1 mM DTT) was added directly to the plate and cells
515 were scraped and collected. After 10 minutes incubation on ice, the lysates were centrifuge at 10,000
516 x g for 5 min at 4°C. 10 A254 units of lysates were layered onto a 11 ml 20–50% (wt/vol) sucrose
517 gradient prepared in the lysis buffer without Triton X-100. The samples were ultra-centrifuged at
518 39,000 \times g for 2.5 h at 4 °C in a SW41 rotor. The gradients were fractionated in 14 fractions of 0.9 ml
519 using an ISCO fractionation system with concomitant measurement of A254. Polysome/monosome
520 ratios were obtained by dividing the area of the polysomal peaks by the area of the peak for the 80S
521 monosomes. Total lysates and fractions were supplemented with 50 μ l of 3 M NH₄Ac, 10 ng of
522 Luciferase RNA (Promega), 1 μ l of Glycoblu (Ambion) and 1.2 ml of ethanol. Samples were vortexed
523 and precipitated overnight at –20 °C. The pellets were collected by centrifugation at 10,000 \times g for
524 10 min at 4 °C, washed once in 75% ethanol and resuspended in 100 μ l DEPC-treated H₂O. Samples
525 were then treated for 1 hour at 37°C with RQ1 DNase (Promega) to remove possible contamination
526 by DNA. RNAs were isolated by acid phenol: chloroform and precipitated in 1 ml Ethanol
527 supplemented with (supplemented with 50 μ L 3M NaOAc pH 5.2, 1 μ l of glycoblu). Pellets were
528 resuspended in 20 μ l DEPC-treated H₂O. For sequencing equal volumes of fractions were pooled:
529 fractions 5-6 (Monosomes), fractions 7-9 (Light polysomes) and fractions 10-13 (Heavy polysomes).
530 Quality and quantity of pooled fraction was tested by the bioanalyzer RNA 6000 Pico kit (Agilent).
531 Sequencing was performed by the Genom'ic platform (Institut Cochin, Paris). Libraries were prepared
532 using TruSeq RNA Library Preparation Kit (Illumina) with rRNA depletion using Ribo-zero rRNA
533 removal kit (Illumina) following manufacturer's instruction. High-throughput sequencing was
534 performed using Hiseq 2000 (Illumina) system for 75nt single-end reads.
535 RNAs were extracted using RNeasy mini kit (Qiagen, ref : 74104), DNase treatment was performed
536 with RNase-free DNase Set (Qiagen, ref: 79254). Equal volumes of all samples were reverse
537 transcribed with Superscript IV reverse transcriptase (Life Technologies) for polysomes samples
538 (Suppl. Fig 2 C and D). Reverse transcripts were obtained using RNA at 1 μ g/50 μ l with the kit High
539 Capacity CDNA RT (Life Technologie ref: 4368814) for total RNA samples (Suppl. Fig. 1C). qPCR
540 was done with GoTaq® qPCR Master Mix (Promega ref : A602) on ViiA 7 Real-Time PCR System
541 (Thermo Fisher Scientific). DNA contamination was assessed omitting the RT, no significant signal
542 was obtained. Custom primers were designed with the tool developed by Integrated DNA

543 technologies (IDT, <https://eu.idtdna.com/scitools/Applications/RealTimePCR/>), and their efficiency
544 was determined following serial dilutions of cDNA samples. Primer sequences: PTPRN, Fw (5'-3'):
545 GTCTCCGGCTGCTCCTCT, Rv (5'-3'): GCCTGCGGTCAAATAGACA; CHGA, Fw (5'-3');
546 CAAACCGCAGACCAGAGG, Rv (5'-3'); TCCAGCTCTGCTTCAATGG; Cyclophilin-A primer
547 sequences used for normalization, Fw (5'-3'): ATGGCAAATGCTGGACCCAACA, Rv (5'-3'):
548 ACATGCTTGCCATCCAACCACT; CCNG1, Fw (5'-3'):GATATCGTGGGGTGAGGTGA, Rv (5'-
549 3'):TCAGTTGTTGTCAGTACCTCTATCATC; Hist1H3C, Fw (5'-3'): GCTTGCTACTAAAGCAGCCC
550 Rv (5'-3'): AGCGCACAGATTGGTGTCTTC; Hist1H3D, Fw (5'-3'): CCATTCCAGCGTCTAGTCCG, Rv
551 (5'-3'): TCTGAAAACGCAGATCAGTCTTGTPRN.

552

553 **Bioinformatic analysis of Transcriptome and Polysome sequencing**

554 Sequencing libraries were prepared from three biological replicates for both conditions (0.5 mM and
555 20 mM glucose). We prepared triplicates for high and low glucose conditions to produce RNA-seq
556 libraries containing between 16-18 million reads for transcriptome and 8-14 million reads for
557 polysomes pools. Almost 60% of reads on average were uniquely mapped to the human genome
558 (Supp. Fig. 1D and 2A). Reads mapped to genes annotated as “protein coding genes” were kept for
559 further analysis. Lowly expressed genes, frequently associated with high variability between replicates,
560 were discarded. Samples from different conditions were grouped together by hierarchical clustering
561 and PCA (Supp. Fig. 1E and 2B), ensuring reproducibility of our replicates. As described below, we
562 thereafter proceeded with differential gene expression analysis using the limma R package (15).

563 Pre-processing

564 Raw fastq file obtained from the sequencer were firstly checked for their quality using FastQC and
565 reporting with MultiQC v1.6 (53). No reads were discarded nor trimmed.

566 Mapping, read counts and TPM calculation

567 Quality controlled reads were then mapped to the human genome (GRCh38 from Ensembl 92) using
568 STAR 2.6 (54) by using the parameter --quantMode GeneCounts to generate gene counts tables.
569 STAR aligner was further instructed to generate an output (--quantMode TranscriptomeSAM) suitable
570 as an input for RSEM (55). RSEM reports tables with transcript per million (TPM) for genes and
571 mRNA isoforms (56). For all the rest of downstream analyses, the tables were filtered to retain only
572 the genes which are annotated as protein coding in the Ensembl 93 annotation tables.

573 Filtering of lowly expressed genes

574 Gene counts table were transformed in log CPM (Counts per Million base). Genes whose CPM values
575 were smaller than 1 at least in one sample were discarded. Then a customized R function further
576 filtered genes whose coefficient of variation (defined as the ratio of the standard deviation over the
577 mean) within replicates was lower than 0.75 and the mean CPM expression was higher than 4. As a
578 first step for quality control of our datasets we performed a hierarchical clustering analysis by using
579 the TPM tables for each sample. Clustering was performed on the Euclidean distance matrix and the
580 Ward's minimum variance method was used for forming clusters (option Ward.D2 in the hclust
581 function of R).

582 Differential expression analysis and clustering

583 Analyses were performed using the limma (15) Bioconductor package. Differentially expressed genes
584 (DEGs) or translated genes (DTGs) were identified by fitting linear models between all the pairs of the
585 three polysome profile fractions applying the eBayes method to calculate p-values. Only genes with
586 adjusted p-values for multiple testing ≤ 0.05 were selected. A separate list containing the TPM
587 (transcripts per million reads) values was kept for downstream analysis. The average expression of
588 each gene was calculated in each fraction (monosomes, light polysome and heavy polysomes) and
589 condition (low or high glucose). Then for each fraction and gene the logarithmic ratio of means of high
590 glucose over low glucose was calculated (log ratio of mean TPM expression). The generated log ratio
591 matrix was then used in our integrative clustering approach which comprised the application of 3
592 clustering algorithms. Hierarchical clustering (hclust), k-means clustering (kmeans) and a model
593 based bayesian approach clustering (mclust) were applied to the log ratio matrix of translation. Based
594 on the silhouette measure for each clustering we evaluated that the mclust method represents better
595 the structure of the translation data set.

596 mRNA features collection

597 We developed an in-house software for the retrieval and calculation of an array of sequence features
598 for a given set of genes, The RNA features extraction tool is freely accessible in the GitHub repository
599 (https://github.com/parisepigenetics/rna_feat_ext). The tool searches for either the most well
600 annotated transcript for each gene in the gene list or it can also choose the most expressed transcript
601 if a transcript abundance file is provided (e.g. the output of tools like RSEM or StringTie). We used the
602 latter possibility using the average of all the polysomal samples. For each transcript, the tool extracts

603 different mRNA features using the bioMart API. The mRNA features that we extracted were: length of
604 the 5'UTR, CDS and 3'UTR and the GC content of both 5' and 3' UTR. The software also calculates
605 the folding free energy for the 5' and 3' UTR (by using the RNAfold algorithm of the Vienna package
606 (57), normalized by the length (MFE per bp) that is a measure of the stability and the complexity of
607 the RNA secondary structure, an “in-house” devised TOP-mRNA local score and the Codon
608 Adaptation Index (CAI, (58)), based on the codon usage of human genes. All statistical analyses of
609 the features distributions along different translation behaviours were conducted by the groups based
610 statistics R package *ggstatsplot* (<https://cran.r-project.org/web/packages/ggstatsplot/index.html>) using
611 the Kruskal-Wallis H-test for comparing independent samples.

612 Enrichment analyses

613 We perform an array of different enrichment analyses as they are included in the clusterProfiler and
614 DOSE R packages (23,59) including Gene Ontology annotation analysis (for all “biological processes”,
615 “molecular functions” and “cellular component” categories), gene set enrichment analysis GSEA,
616 KEGG pathway analysis (60) and Reactome pathway analysis (61). We visualise the results of the
617 most significant enrichment on categories, gene sets and pathways by using typical bar/dot-plots of
618 enrichment and a powerful graphical output of the above R package, the Gene-concept network plot
619 (cneplot from clusterProfiler).

620 Translation ratio, translation efficiency

621 We define and calculate for translation ratio by using the measure of stable state mRNA from RNA-
622 seq and a measure for mono/polysome fraction occupancy from polysome profile. We first computed
623 the average of all the 6 polysome profile conditions (mono-, light- heavy- in high and low glucose) and
624 the average of the two RNA-seq conditions (high and low glucose) and then we simply divide each
625 polysome profile condition average with the respective RNA-seq average. This calculation resulted in
626 6 measurements of translation ratio for all genes in the three polysome fractions (monosomes, light
627 and heavy polysomes) and the two glucose treatments (high and low). Then we computed what we
628 call the translation efficiency of each gene in both glucose treatments (high and low) by subtracting
629 the average of translation ratio in light plus heavy polysomes in high glucose from the same average
630 in low glucose. These calculations allowed us to distinguish the most translated genes and those
631 ones with the biggest shift in translation between high and low glucose. We have classified
632 differences in translation ratios between high and low glucose to 3 groups according to the log fold-

633 change (FC). First at +0.5 LogFC as highly translated in glucose, second with -0.25 logFC as lowly
634 translated and a control group with +/-0.01 LogFC as control. We choose these thresholds in such a
635 way as to generate 3 groups almost equal (UP, DOWN and control) sizes so that the comparative
636 statistics will be more robust.

637

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640 sequencing, and Julia Morales (Station Biologique de Roscoff) for helpful discussions and for
641 providing antibody samples.

642

643 **DATA AVAILABILITY**

644 Raw sequencing data files and processes count tables for all transcripts/genes are available on
645 Zenodo : DOI 10.5281/zenodo.4279599. The RNA features extraction tool, our inhouse software for
646 the retrieval and calculation of an array of sequence features for a given set of genes is freely
647 accessible in the GitHub repository: https://github.com/parisepigenetics/rna_feat_ext. The R-code for
648 all the analyses in this work is available here:
649 https://github.com/parisepigenetics/Translatome_Bcells_glucose.

650

651 **SUPPORTING INFORMATION FILES**

652 Supplementary Data are available at Plos Genetics online.

653 Supplementary_tables_Bulfony.xls

654

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659

660 **CONFLICT OF INTEREST**

661 Not declared

662

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825

826 TABLE AND FIGURES LEGENDS

827

828 **Figure 1. Glucose induces increase in protein synthesis without affecting mRNA abundance** 829 **and regulates translation rates of a subset of mRNAs.**

830 **A.** Polysome profiles of EndoC- β H2 with Low glucose (blue) and High glucose (red). The absorbance
831 at 254 nm (A254) recorded during the collection of the fractions of the gradient is displayed. The
832 positions of 40S, 60S, 80S and polysomes are indicated. The tree-colored bars represent the
833 fractions that were pooled for sequencing: monosomes (green), light polysomes (yellow), heavy
834 polysomes (light orange). EndoC- β H2 cells in high glucose had a significantly higher
835 polysome/monosome ratio than did EndoC- β H2 cells in low glucose. Cells were treated in parallel
836 using paired culture plates, and centrifugated together in the same rotor. Figure shows a
837 representative replicate. The statistical significance of the polysome/monosome ratio was assessed
838 using a paired t-test from three independent experiments (*, $p < 0.001$, $n = 3$). **B.** MA-plot of total
839 mRNA abundance, dots in green specify up-regulation. **C-E.** MA-plots for each pool of fractions:
840 heavy polysomes (C), light polysomes (D) and monosomes (E); dots in green corresponds to
841 transcripts that are upregulated upon glucose stimulation, dots in red to transcripts that are
842 downregulated. **F.** Venn diagram showing the overlap between glucose UP- or DOWN- regulated
843 transcripts in Light and Heavy polysomes. Total_UP are transcripts varying in abundance. **G.** TPM
844 values for each condition and each replicate are plotted. In red High glucose replicates, while in cyan
845 Low glucose replicates. Names of the plotted gene is indicated above.

846 **Figure 2. Gene Ontology enrichment analysis, gene-concept plots (cneplots).**

847 Each cneplot illustrates the most significantly enriched Molecular Functions (MF, **A**) and Biological
848 Processes (BP, **B**) categories. Lines of the same colour connect genes of the same GO category and
849 the colour gradient of each gene corresponds to its log-FC.

850 **Figure 3. mRNA feature analysis of the 3 groups of differentially translated mRNAs. A.** Venn 851 diagram showing the overlap between the 200 mostly translated genes: best translated in high

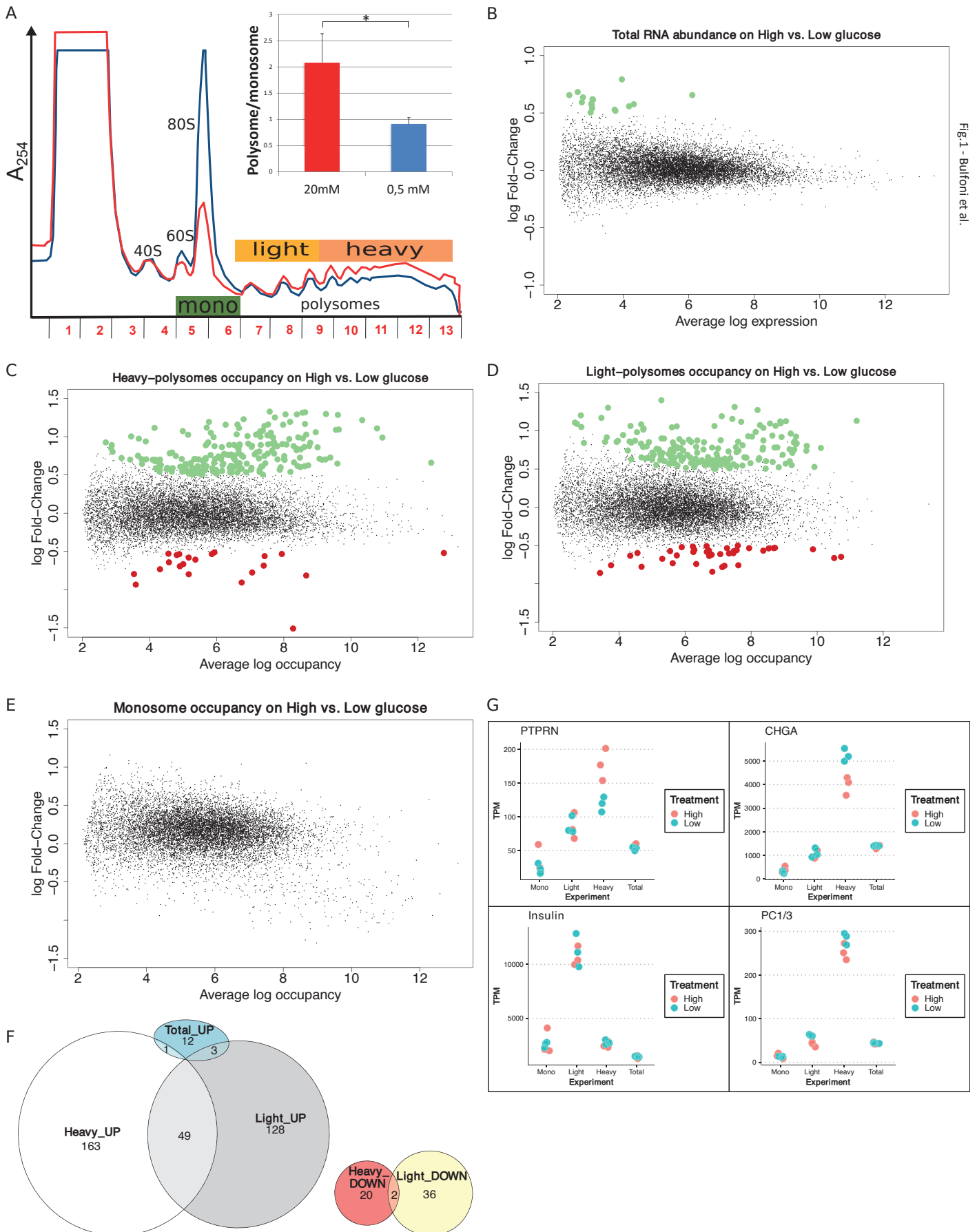
852 glucose (grey circle), best translated in low glucose (blue circle), mRNAs with the most difference
853 ones in ranking between low and high glucose (white circle). **B-F.** mRNA features analyses of 3
854 groups of mRNAs based on the difference in translation ratio between high and low glucose. Higher
855 (UP) or the lower (DOWN) translation ratio in high glucose, and a control group with no significant
856 changes between high and low glucose. MFE/Bp is the folding free energy normalized by the length
857 (see Material and Methods). **B**, coding length; **C**, 5'UTR length, **D**, 5'UTR MFE/Bp, **E**, 3'UTR length, **F**,
858 3' UTR MFE/Bp.

859 **Figure 4. Clustering and mRNA features analysis.** **A.** Heatmap of the log₂ ratios between the
860 average TPM of each differentially translated gene in high- over low- glucose. An unsupervised model
861 clustering algorithm was used to cluster the differentially translated genes into six groups represented
862 here with the coloured vertical bar at the left side of the figure. Colours range from dark red when
863 genes are less represented in a polysome fraction to dark green when overrepresented in a polysome
864 fraction in high glucose condition. The table summarizes the variations observed for the different
865 features presented in **B-I** : Box plots of the different mRNA features of the six-identified cluster.

866 **Figure 5. Functional motifs analysis of the UTRs by interrogating the UTRdb for TOP motifs (A),**
867 **and TOP, uORF and IRES in the 5'UTRs (B)**, common gene names of the encoding gene of each
868 transcript are indicated on the right side. The darker the blue, the higher the number of features per
869 RNA (from 1 to 3 per RNA).

870 **Figure 6. Cluster Gene Ontology enrichment.** **A-D.** barplot of gene ontology terms enriched for
871 biological processes for clusters 1, 4, 5 and 6 using the R package clusterProfiler. **E.** Venn diagram
872 of genes belong to cluster 1 (grey circle) and 6 (blue circle) with previously reported TOP-RNAs (white
873 circle).

874 **Figure 7. Activation of mTOR and eIF2 α upon glucose induction.** Western blot analysis of cells
875 incubated with 0.5- or 20-mM glucose for the indicated time. Where indicated, cells were pre-treated
876 for one hour with cycloheximide (CHX) to block translation, or with rapamycin to inhibit mTOR
877 activation (see text). For 4EBP1, upper bands (β and γ) correspond to hyperphosphorylated forms.
878 The ratio phosphorylated/total proteins was reported from quantification presented in Supp. Fig .6.



A

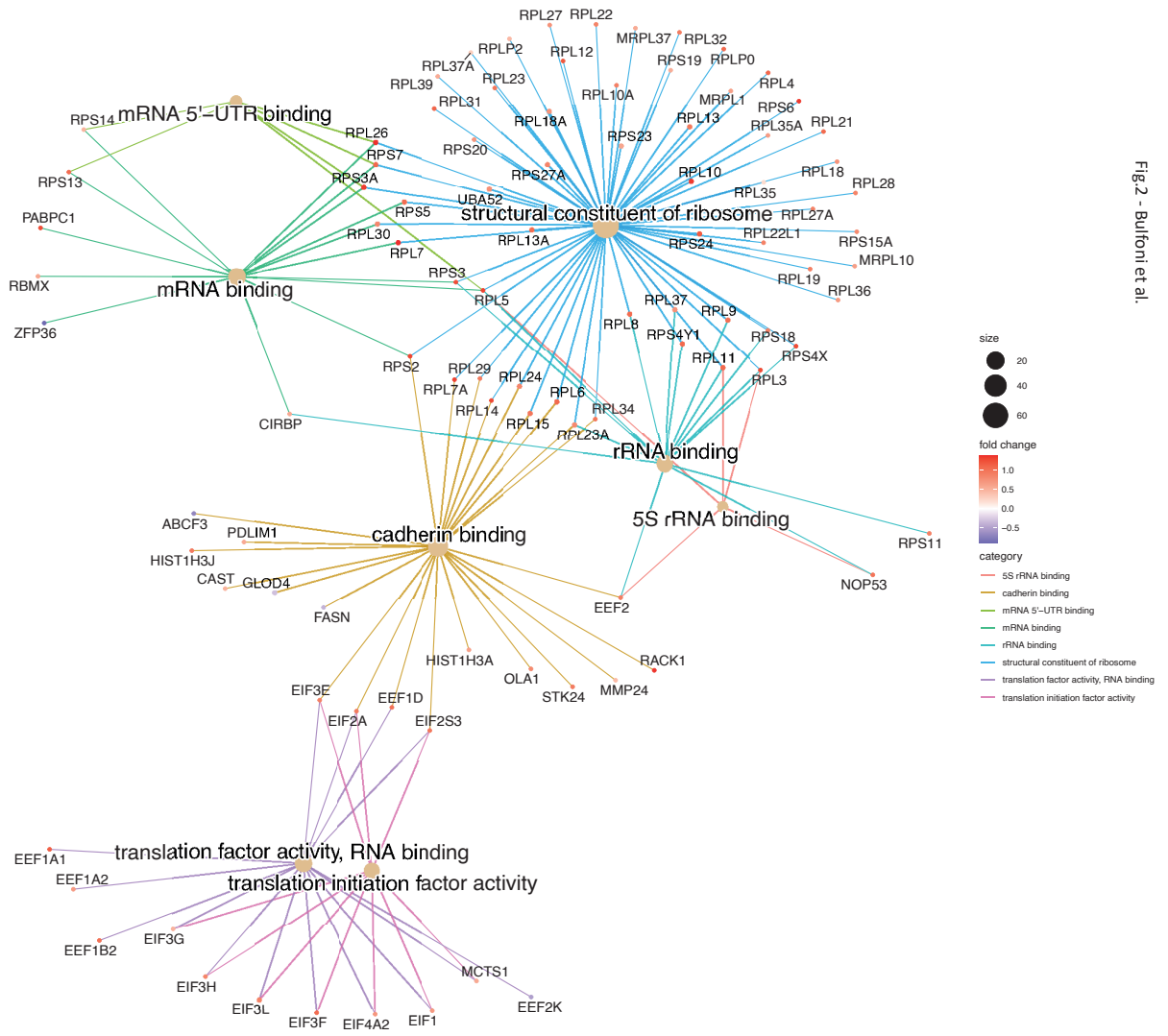


Fig. 2 - Bulfonetti et al.

B

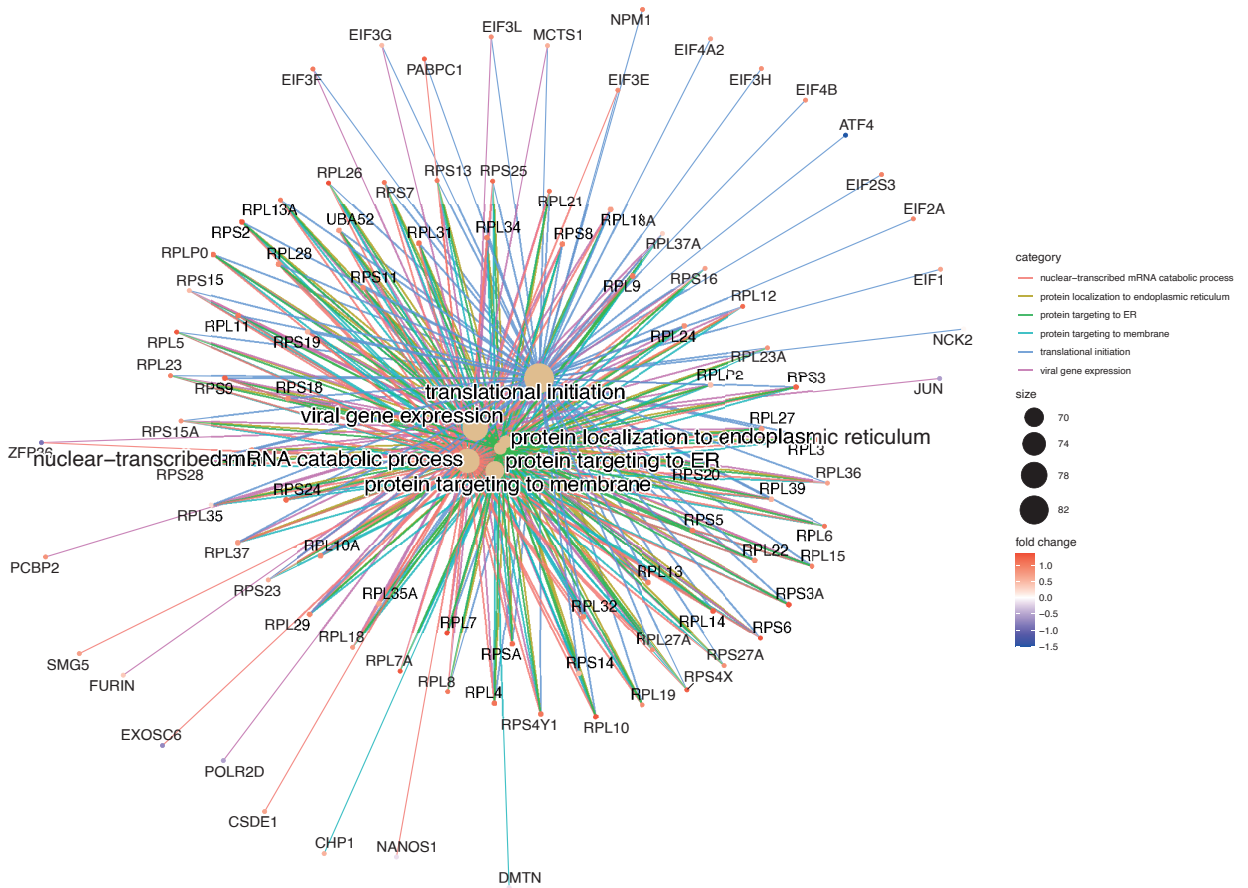
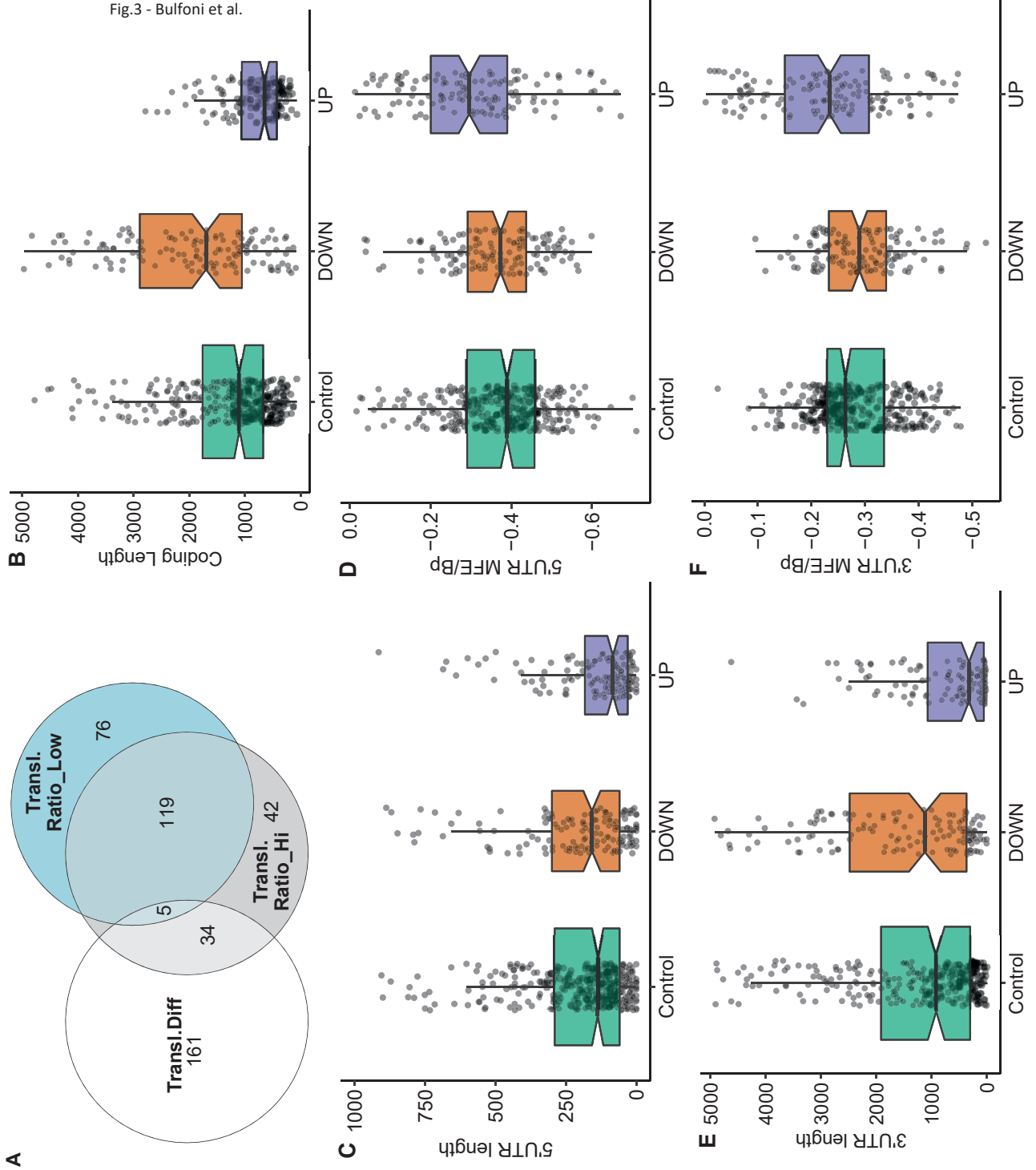
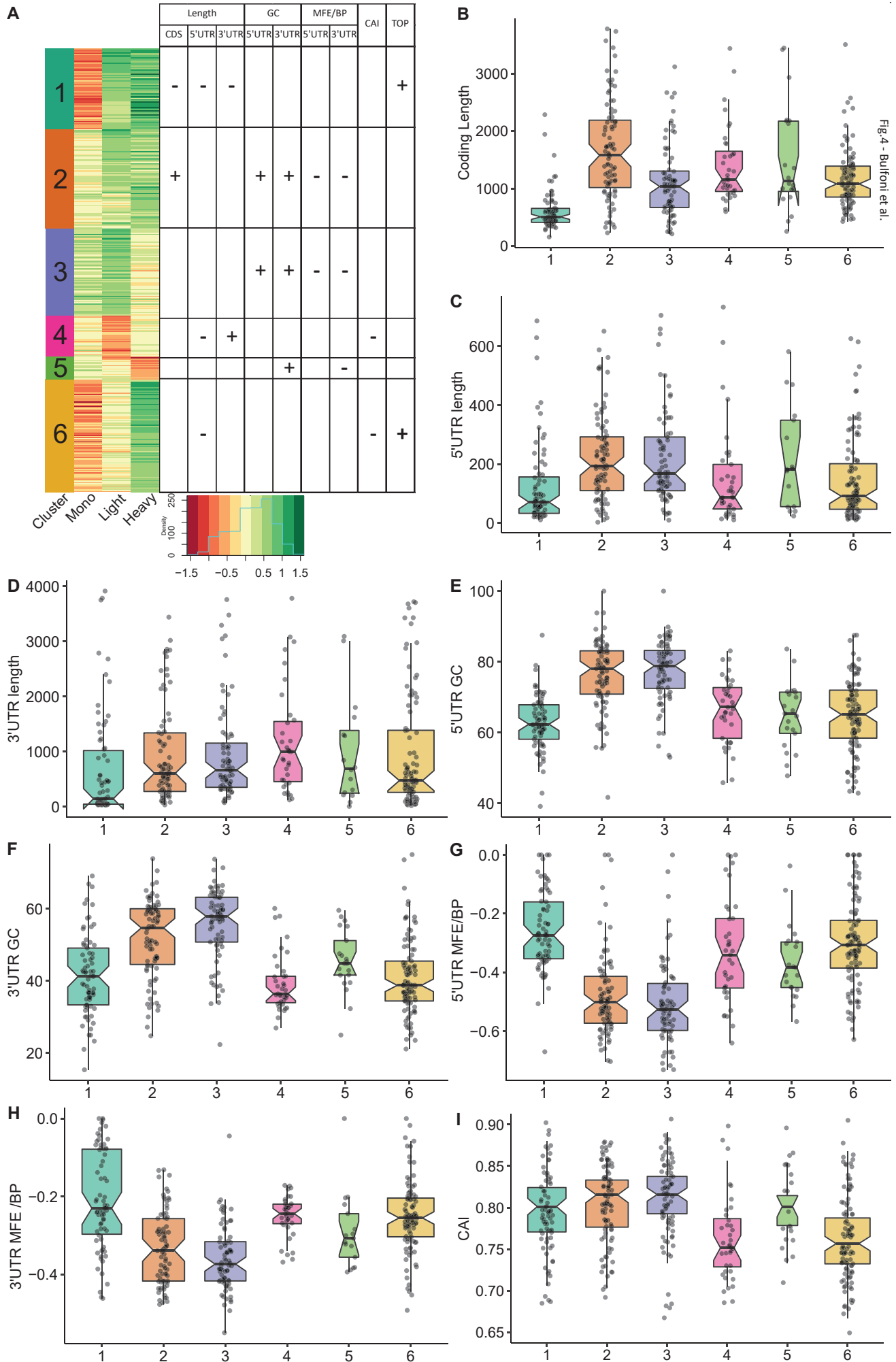


Fig.3 - Bulfoni et al.





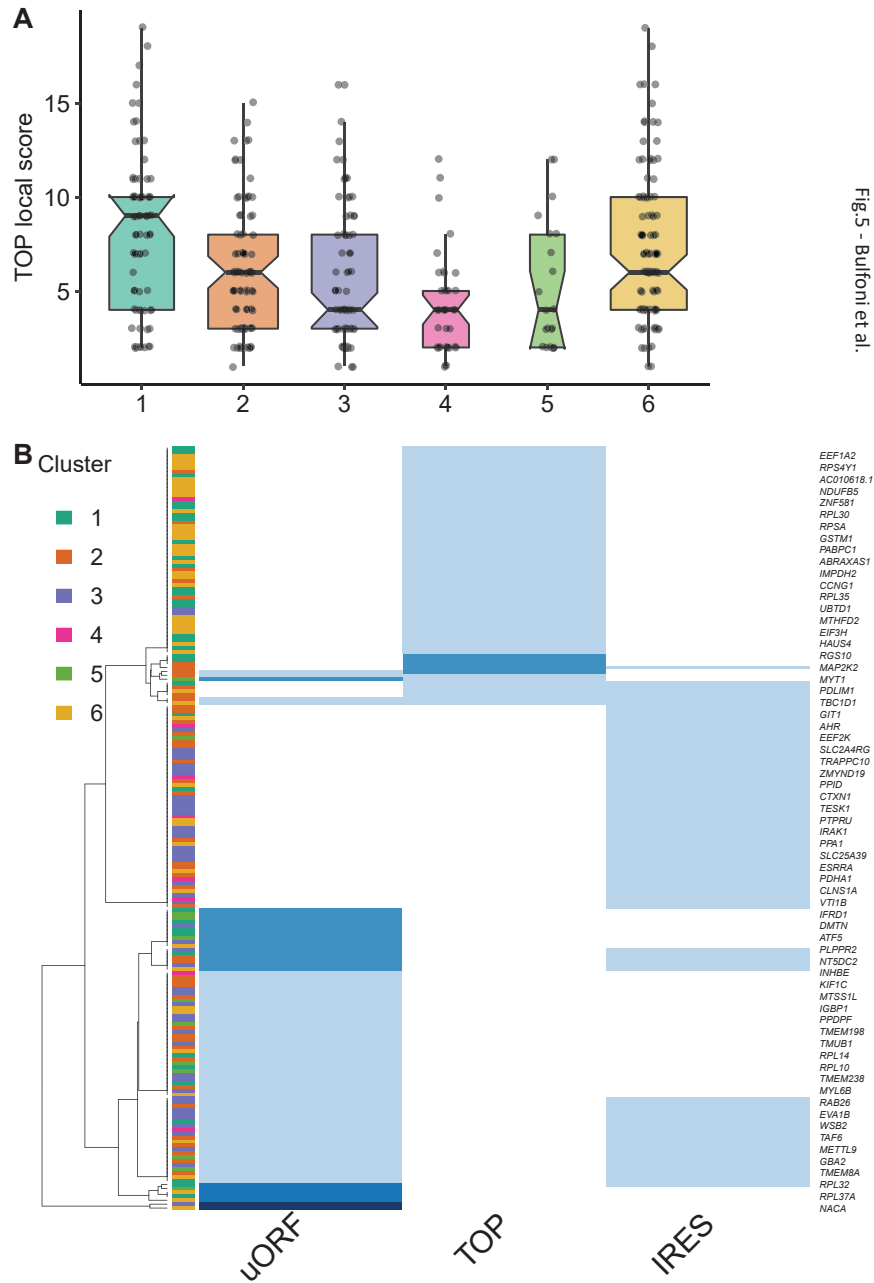


Fig. 5 - Bulfonti et al.

A BP GO enrichment cluster 1



B BP GO enrichment cluster 6

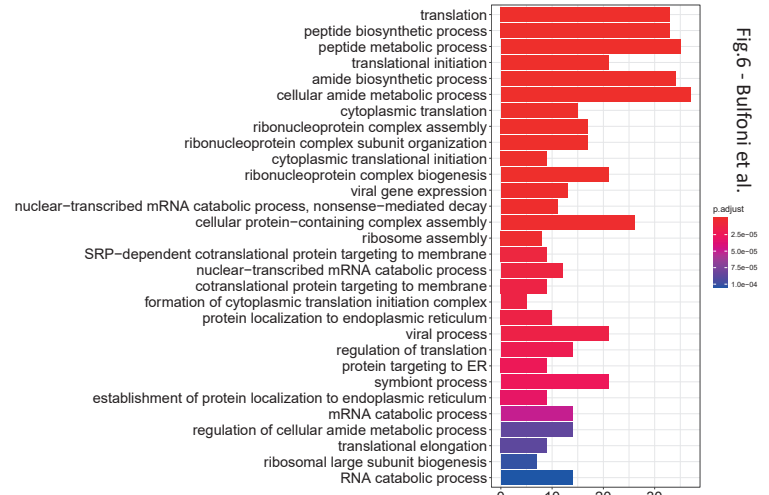
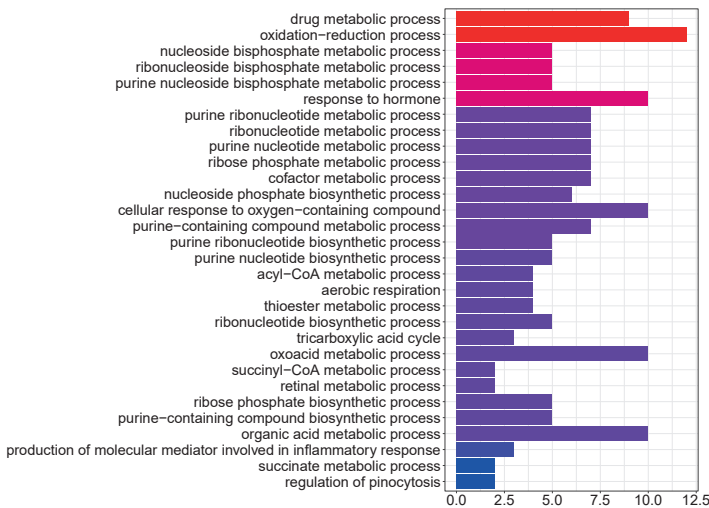
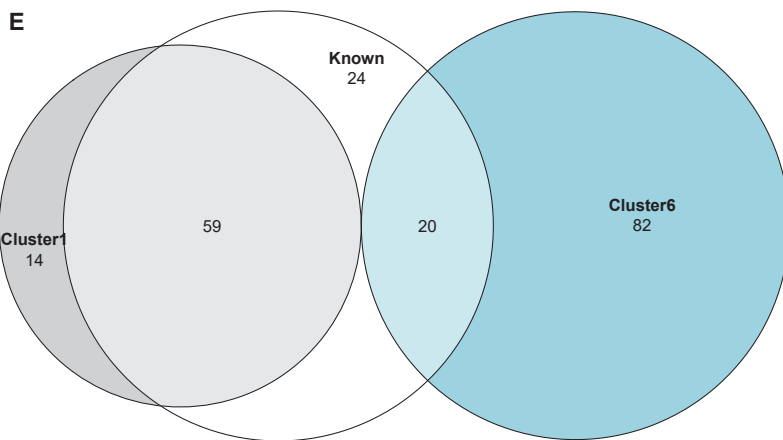
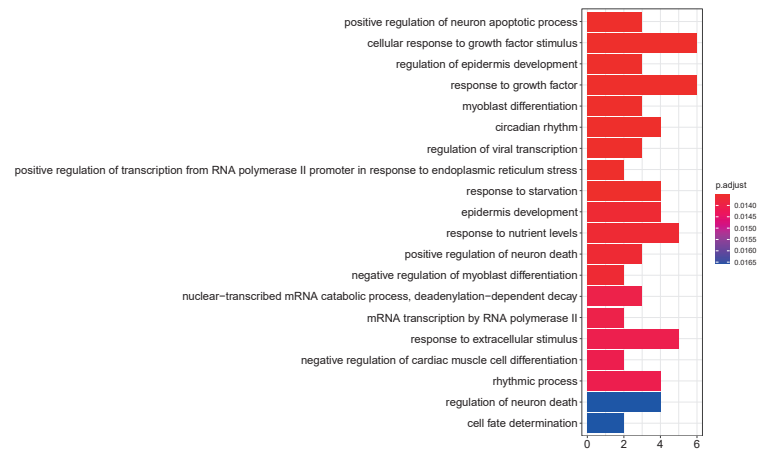


Fig.6 - Bufoni et al.

C BP GO enrichment cluster 4



D BP GO enrichment cluster 5



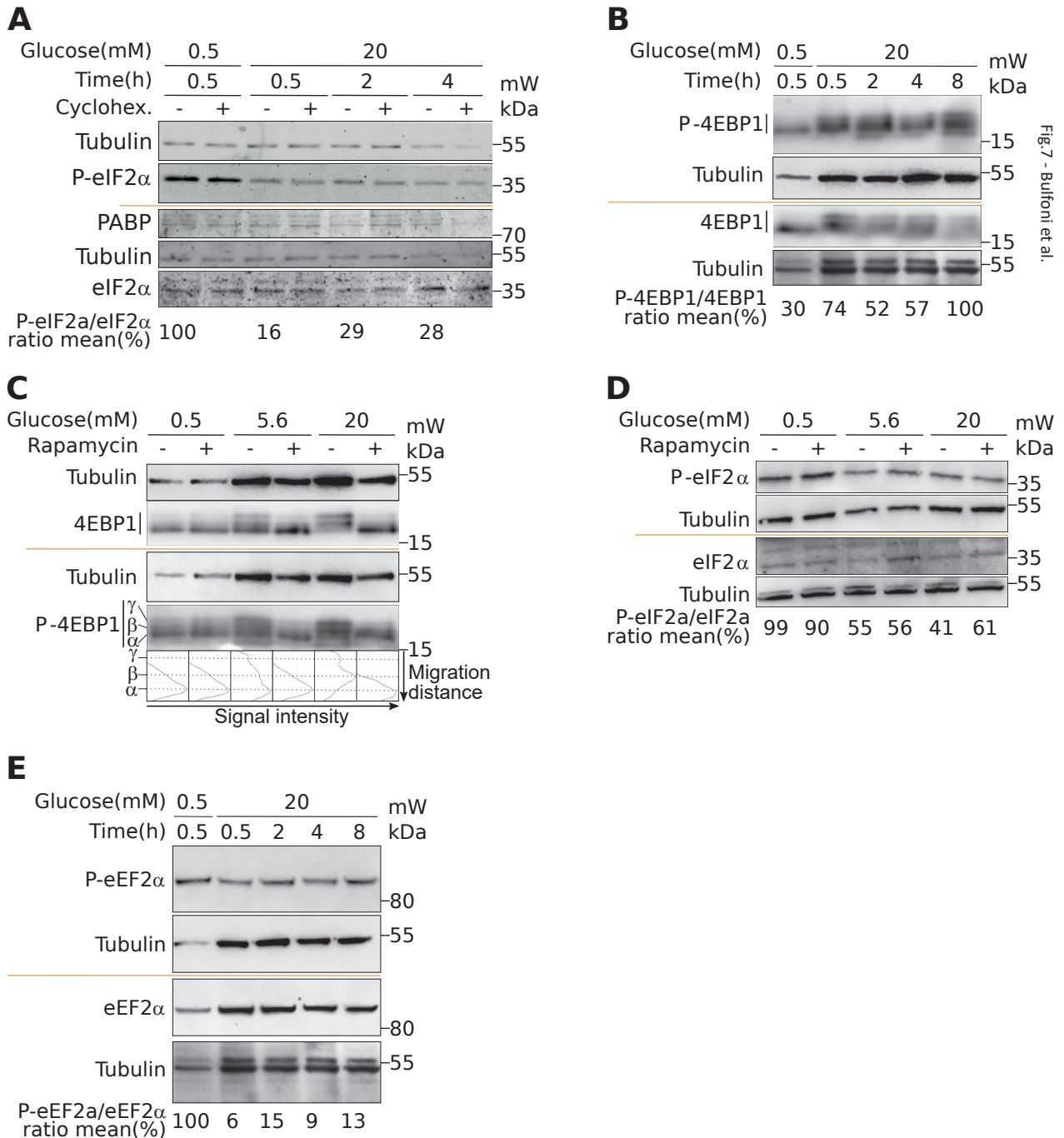
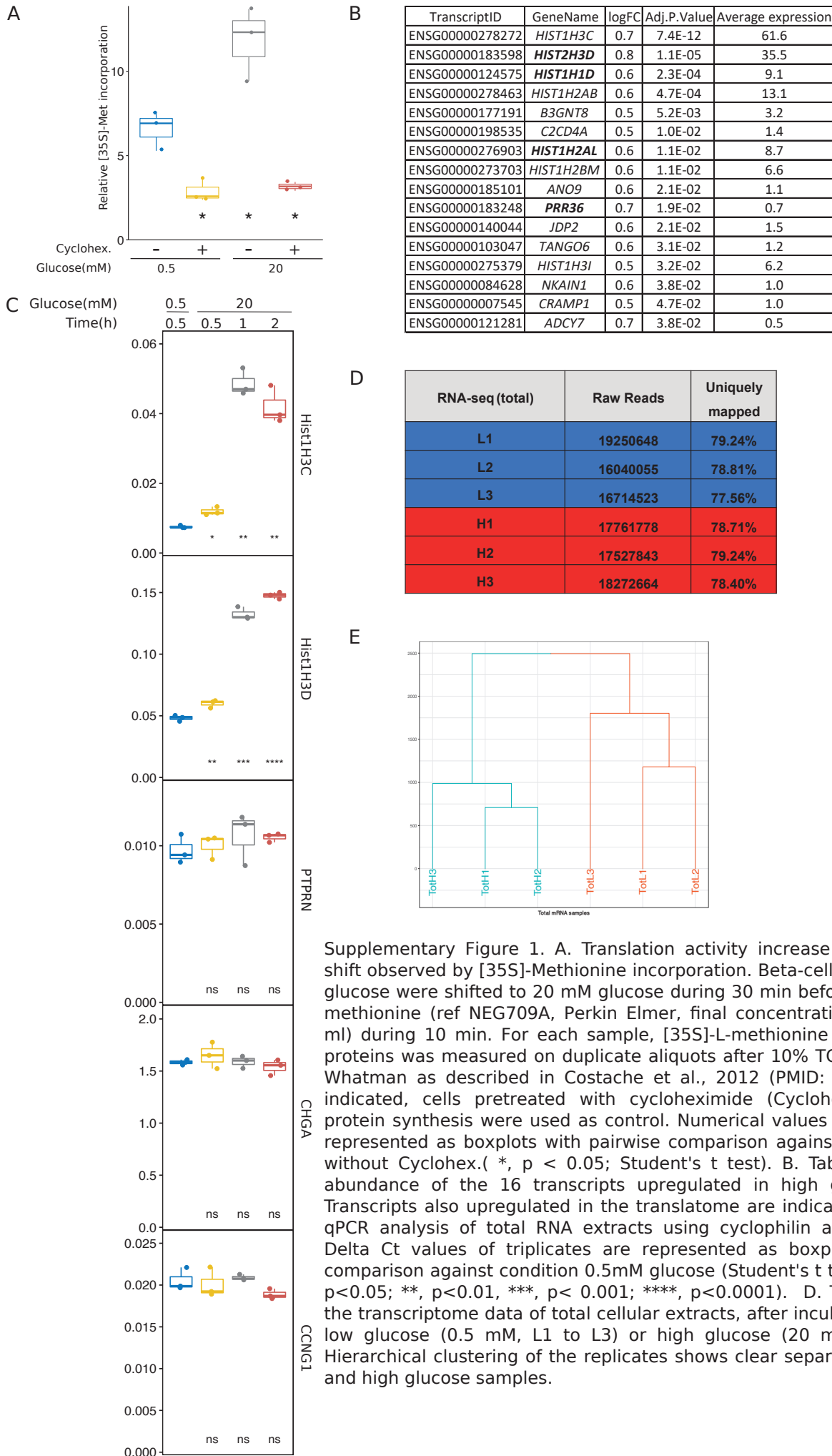


Fig. 7 - Bulfoni et al.

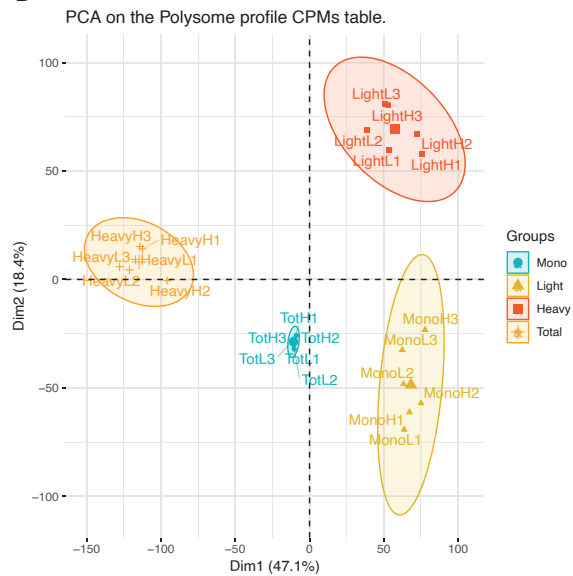


Supplementary Figure 1. A. Translation activity increase following glucose shift observed by [35S]-Methionine incorporation. Beta-cells grown in 0.5 mM glucose were shifted to 20 mM glucose during 30 min before adding [35S]-L-methionine (ref NEG709A, Perkin Elmer, final concentration 40 microCurie/ml) during 10 min. For each sample, [35S]-L-methionine incorporation into proteins was measured on duplicate aliquots after 10% TCA precipitation on Whatman as described in Costache et al., 2012 (PMID: 22425618). When indicated, cells pretreated with cycloheximide (Cyclohex.) that prevent protein synthesis were used as control. Numerical values of triplicates were represented as boxplots with pairwise comparison against condition 0.5mM without Cyclohex. (*, $p < 0.05$; Student's t test). B. Table presenting the abundance of the 16 transcripts upregulated in high glucose condition. Transcripts also upregulated in the translatoome are indicated in bold. C. RT-qPCR analysis of total RNA extracts using cyclophilin as reference gene. Delta Ct values of triplicates are represented as boxplots with pairwise comparison against condition 0.5mM glucose (Student's t test; ns, $p > 0.05$; *, $p < 0.05$; **, $p < 0.01$, ***, $p < 0.001$; ****, $p < 0.0001$). D. Table summarizing the transcriptome data of total cellular extracts, after incubation of cells with low glucose (0.5 mM, L1 to L3) or high glucose (20 mM, H1 to H3). E. Hierarchical clustering of the replicates shows clear separation between low and high glucose samples.

A

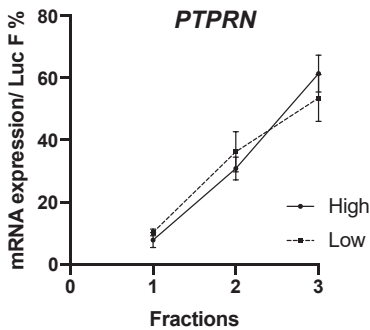
Monosomes	Raw_reads	Uniquely mapped
Low_glucose rep1	10814918	61.24%
Low_glucose rep2	10578664	56.84%
Low_glucose rep3	13326344	50.12%
High_glucose rep1	12416163	60.37%
High_glucose rep2	10948574	58.57%
High_glucose rep3	10855263	64.97%
Light Poly		
Low_glucose rep1	9745454	75.83%
Low_glucose rep2	13997704	76.06%
Low_glucose rep3	11453671	68.52%
High_glucose rep1	10723806	73.56%
High_glucose rep2	11572776	69.51%
High_glucose rep3	8762845	68.10%
Heavy Poly		
Low_glucose rep1	12051978	74.58%
Low_glucose rep2	9749807	74.69%
Low_glucose rep3	7871513	73.96%
High_glucose rep1	8476376	73.78%
High_glucose rep2	8985906	80.24%
High_glucose rep3	13196915	77.64%

B

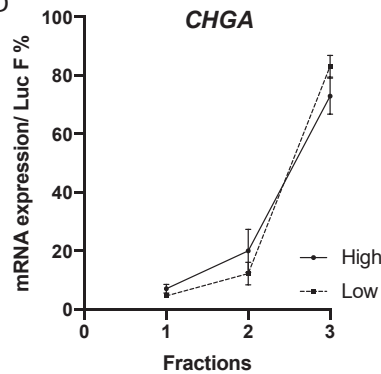


Supp. Fig. 2 - Bulfoni et al.

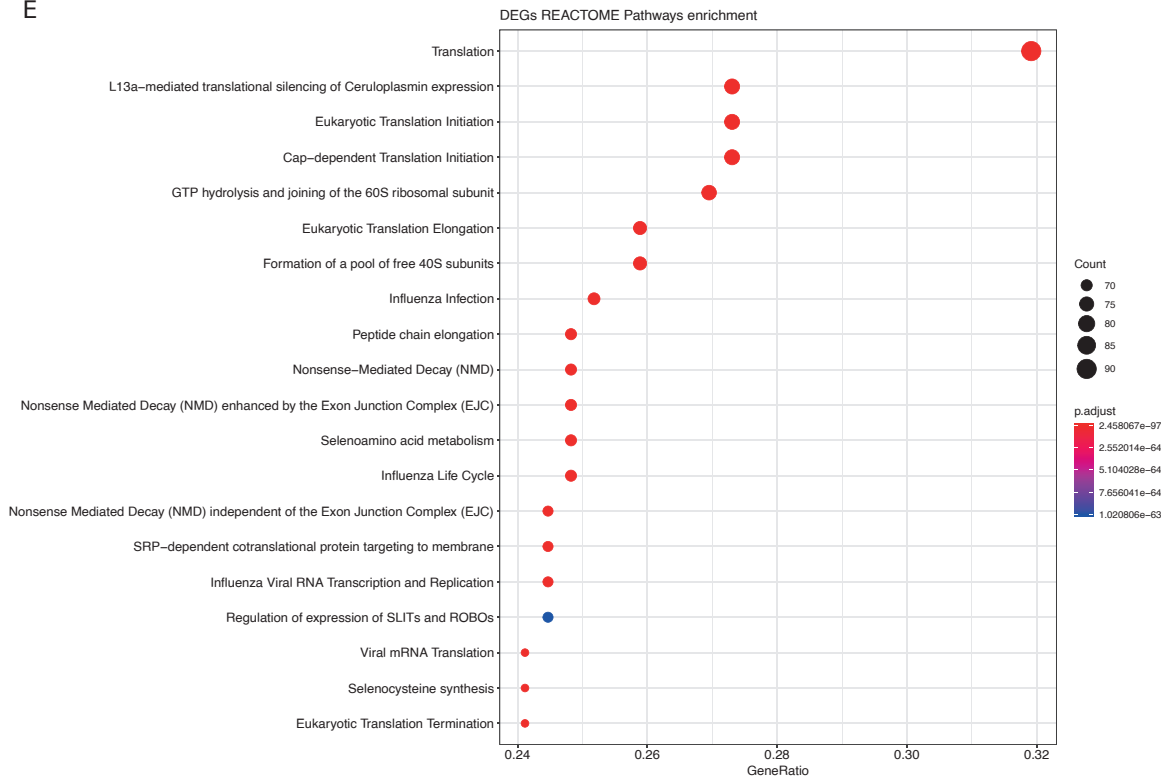
C



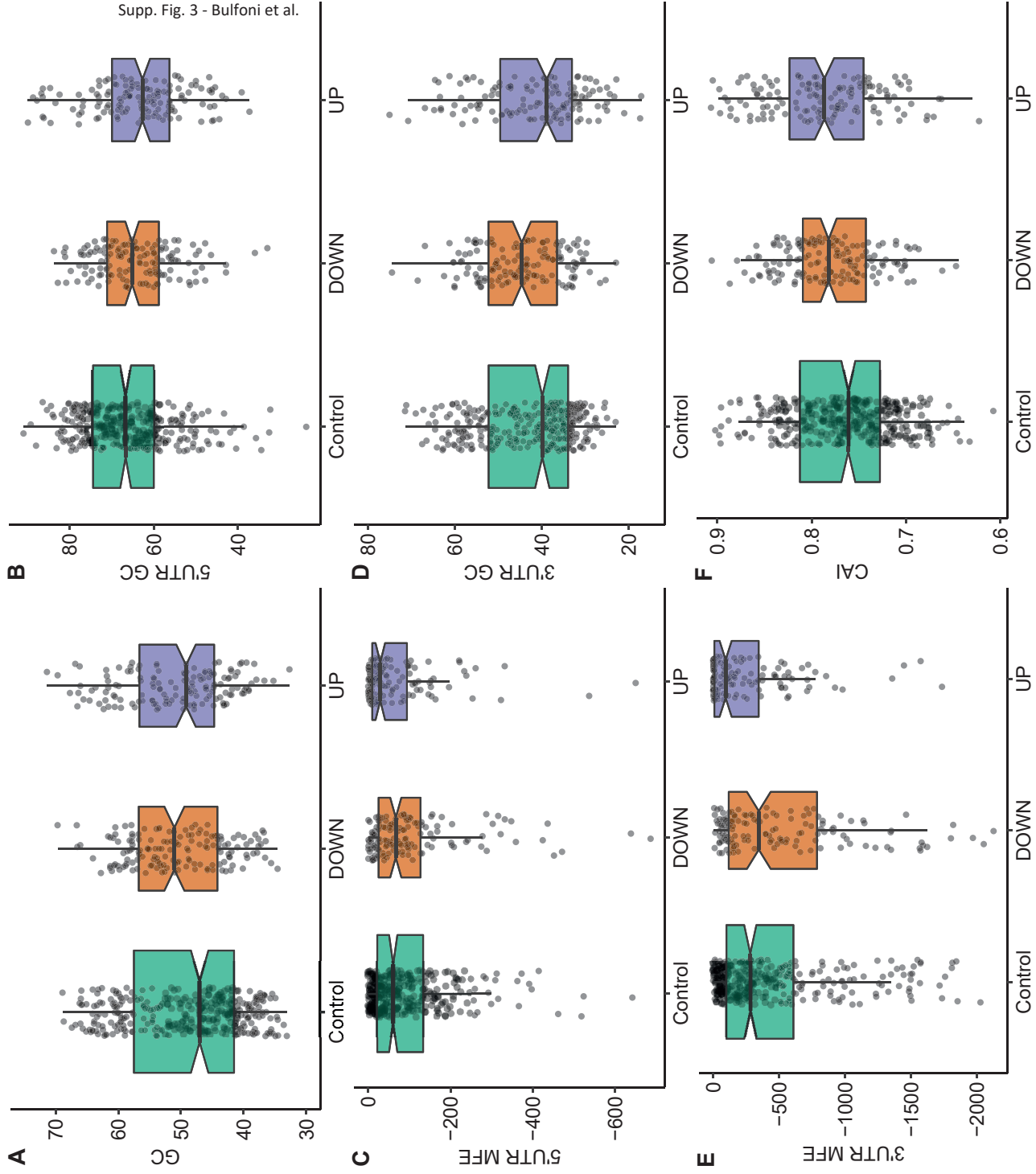
D



E

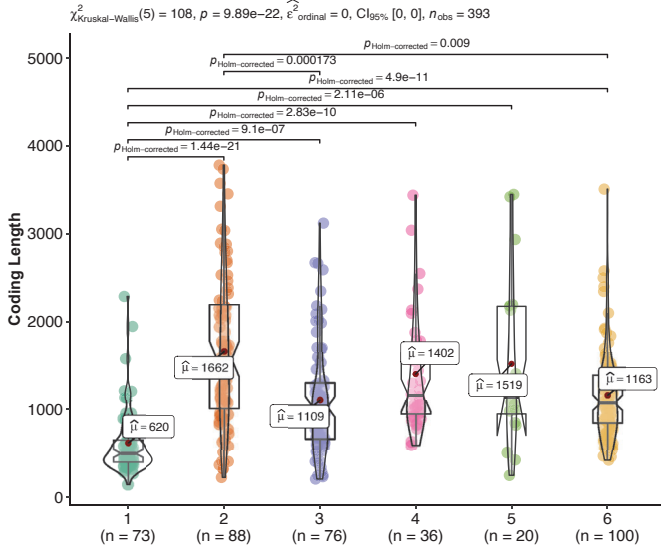


Supplementary Figure 2. A. Table summarizing the number of raw reads and the percentage of uniquely mapped reads for each replicate in each condition. B. PCA analysis of aligned reads from each pool of fractions of the polysome profiling. C-D. RT-qPCR analysis on each of the pool of fractions. E. Dot-plot of the top 20 most significant REACTOME pathways enriched in the differentially translated genes.

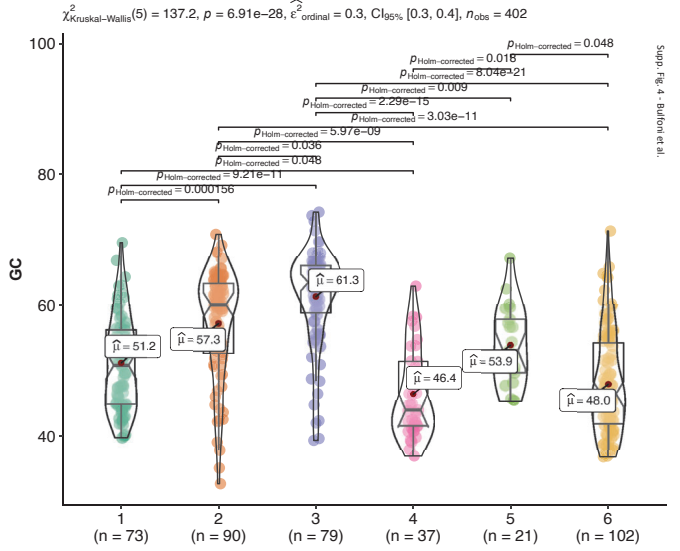


Supplementary Figure 3. mRNA features analyses for 3 groups of mRNAs based on the translation ratio between high and low glucose (see Figure 3)).

A Coding length distributions of the 6 MClust clusters

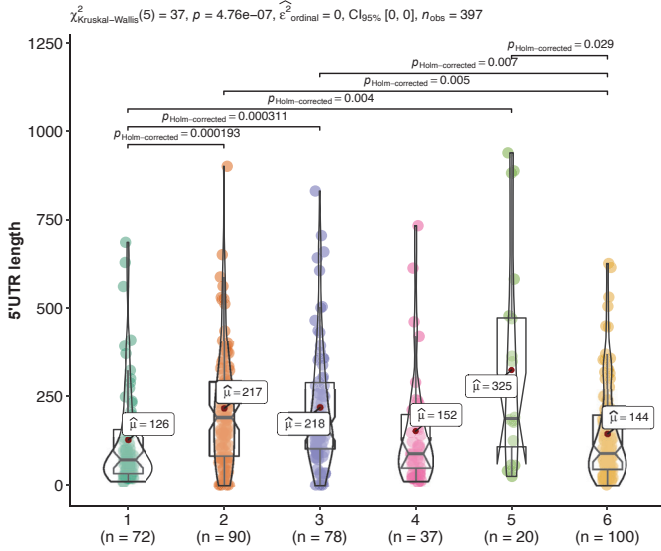


B GC content distributions of the 6 MClust clusters

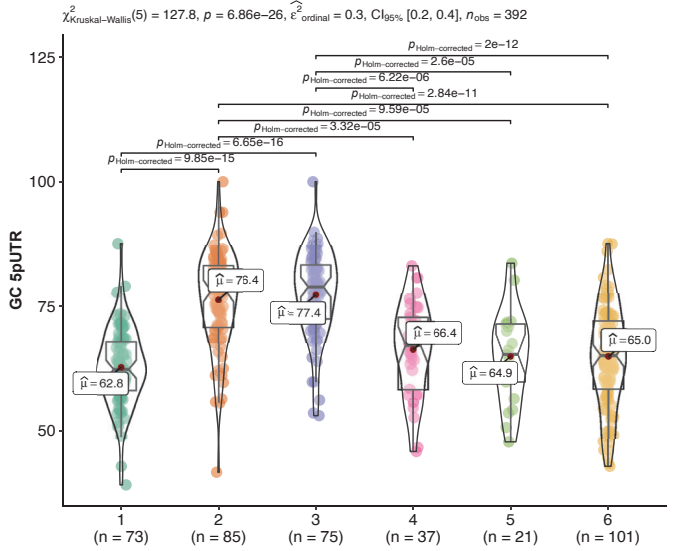


Supp. Fig. 4 - Bullock et al.

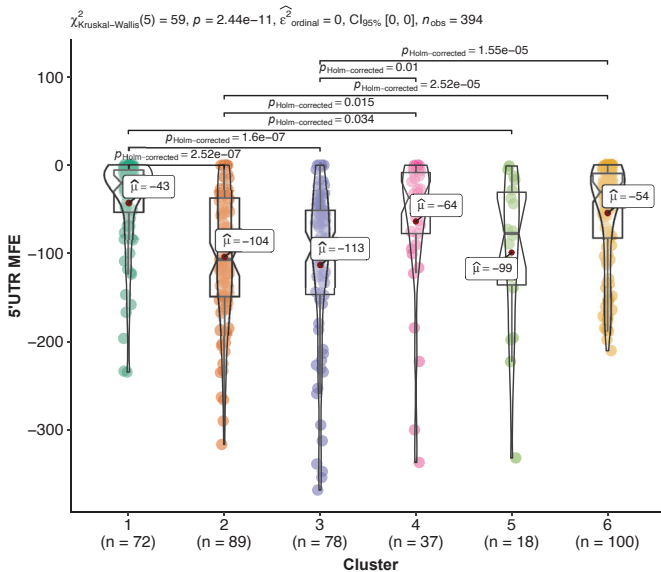
C 5'UTR length distributions of the 6 MClust clusters



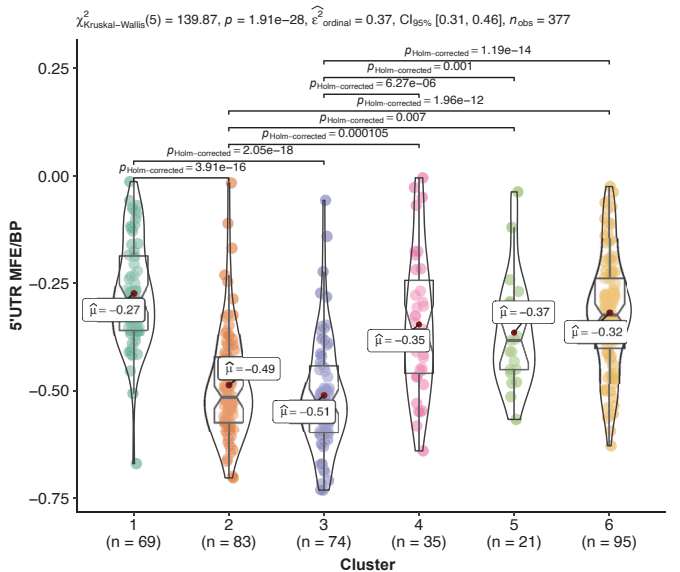
D 5'UTR GC distributions of the 6 MClust clusters



E 5'UTR MFE distributions of the 6 MClust clusters

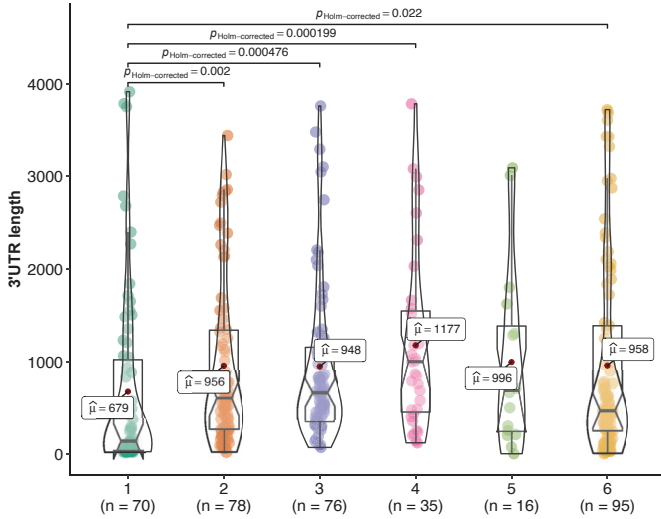


F MFE per BP 5'UTR distributions of the 6 MClust clusters



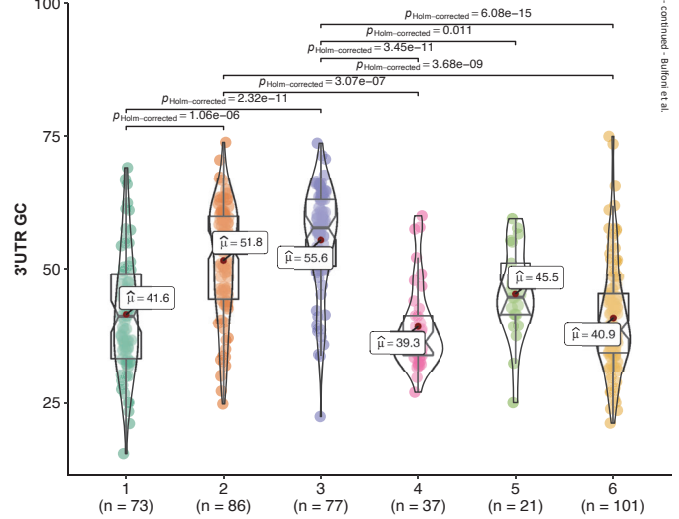
G 3'UTR length distributions of the 6 MClust clusters

$\chi^2_{\text{Kruskal-Wallis}}(5) = 27, p = 5.75e-05, \hat{\epsilon}^2_{\text{ordinal}} = 0, \text{CI}_{95\%} [0, 0], n_{\text{obs}} = 370$



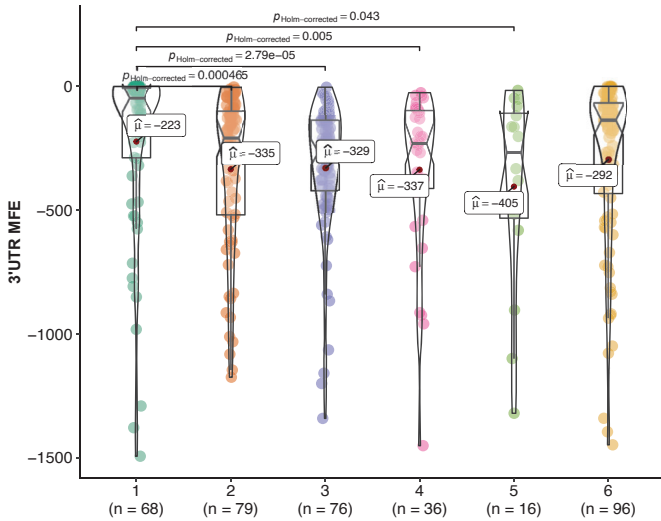
H GC 3'UTR distributions of the 6 MClust clusters

$\chi^2_{\text{Kruskal-Wallis}}(5) = 110.9, p = 2.61e-22, \hat{\epsilon}^2_{\text{ordinal}} = 0.3, \text{CI}_{95\%} [0.2, 0.4], n_{\text{obs}} = 395$



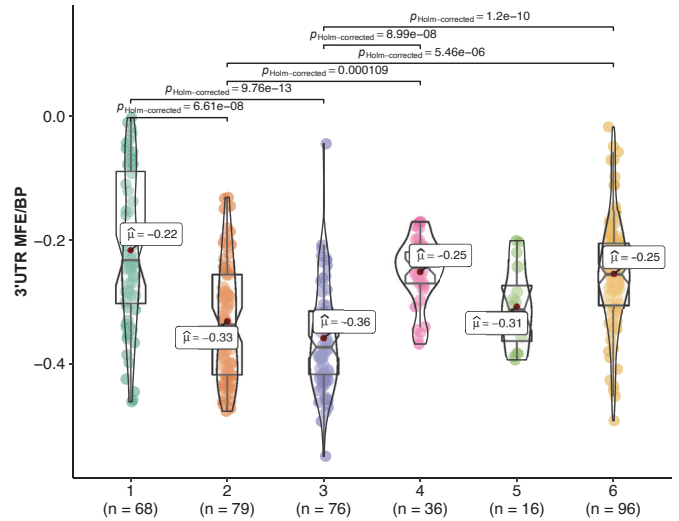
I MFE 3'UTR distributions of the 6 MClust clusters

$\chi^2_{\text{Kruskal-Wallis}}(5) = 30, p = 1.49e-05, \hat{\epsilon}^2_{\text{ordinal}} = 0, \text{CI}_{95\%} [0, 0], n_{\text{obs}} = 371$



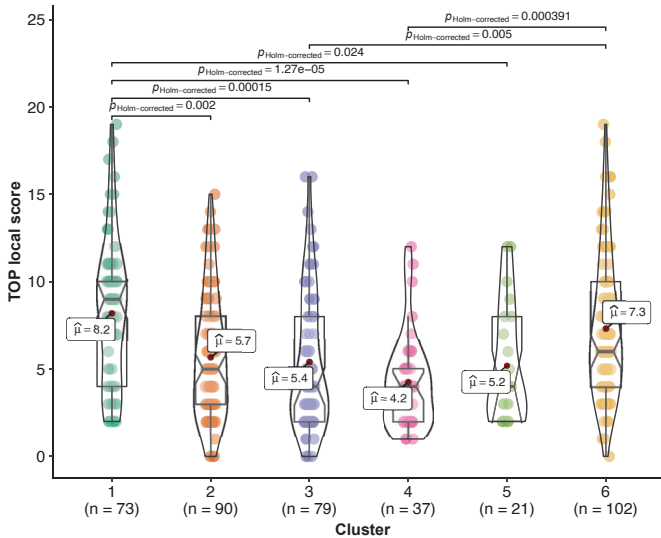
J MFE per BP 3'UTR distributions of the 6 MClust clusters

$\chi^2_{\text{Kruskal-Wallis}}(5) = 91.69, p = 2.96e-18, \hat{\epsilon}^2_{\text{ordinal}} = 0.25, \text{CI}_{95\%} [0.17, 0.34], n_{\text{obs}} = 371$



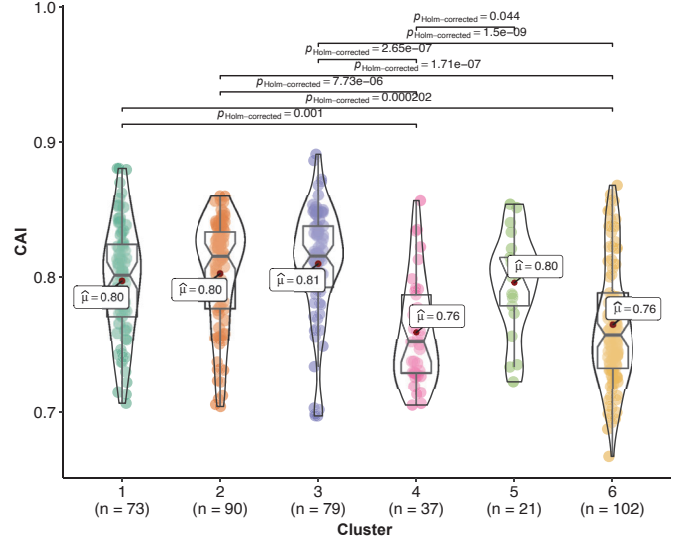
K TOP local score distributions of the 6 MClust clusters

$\chi^2_{\text{Kruskal-Wallis}}(5) = 41.7, p = 6.68e-08, \hat{\epsilon}^2_{\text{ordinal}} = 0.1, \text{CI}_{95\%} [0.1, 0.2], n_{\text{obs}} = 402$

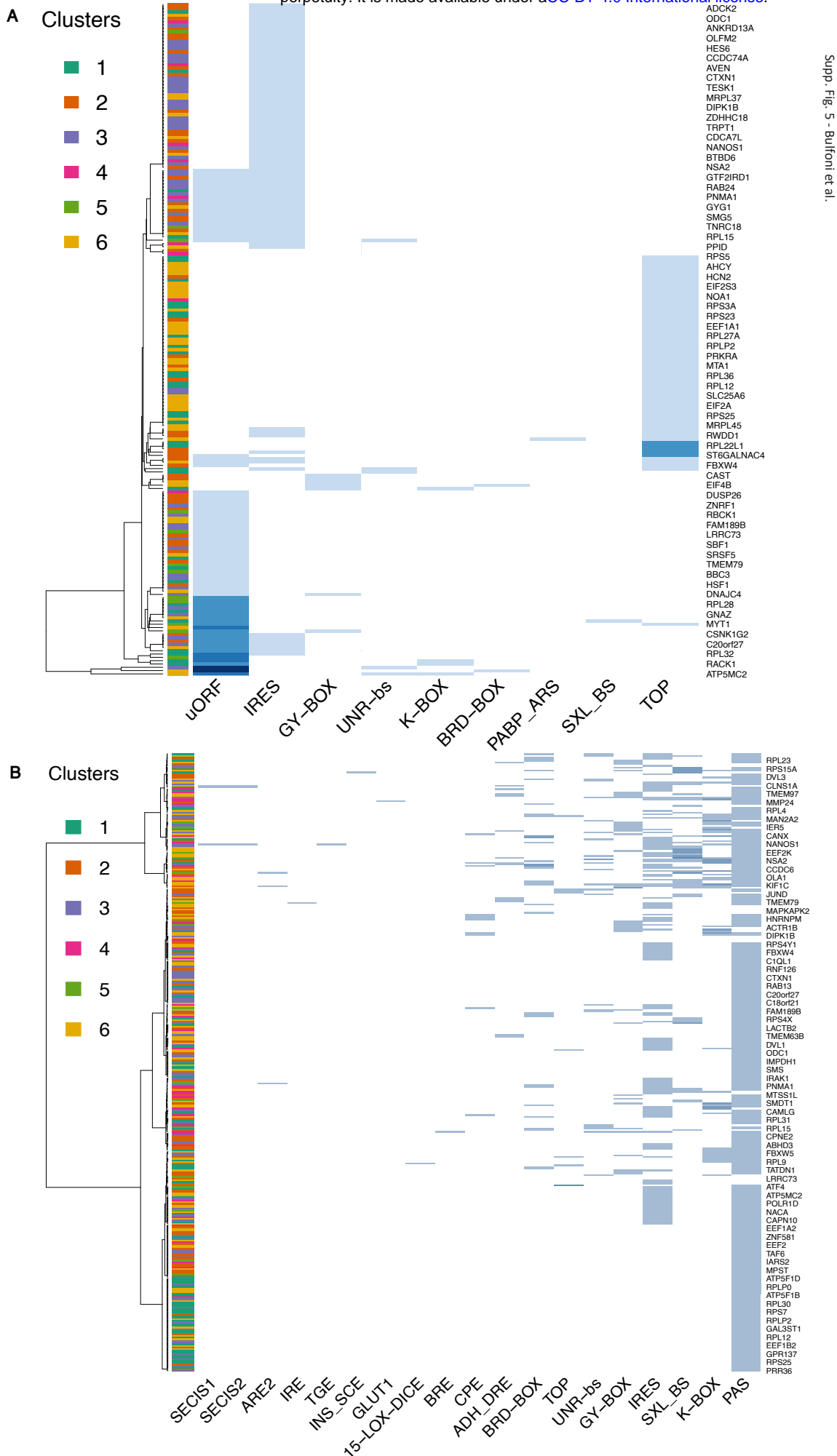


L CAI distributions of the 6 MClust clusters

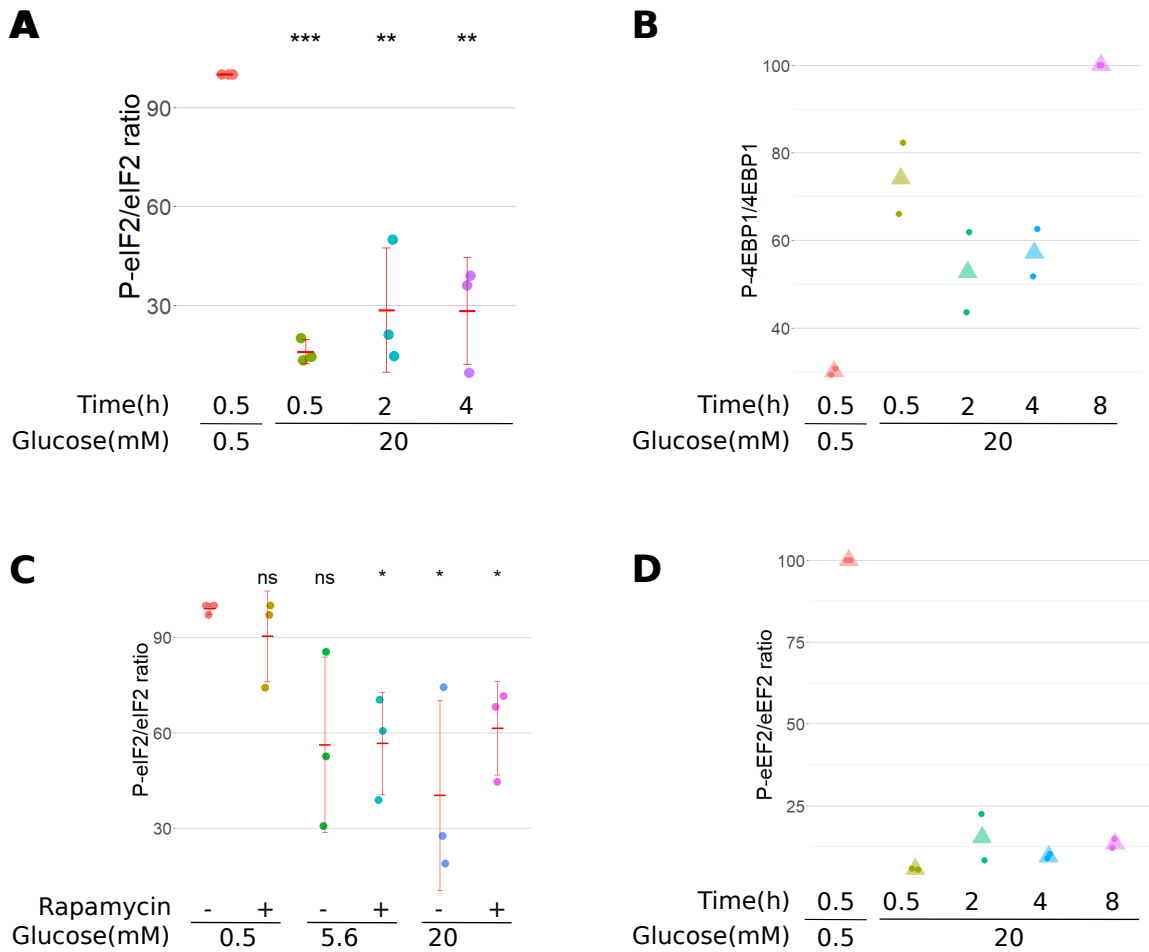
$\chi^2_{\text{Kruskal-Wallis}}(5) = 69.92, p = 1.07e-13, \hat{\epsilon}^2_{\text{ordinal}} = 0.17, \text{CI}_{95\%} [0.11, 0.27], n_{\text{obs}} = 402$



Supplementary Figure 4 : Full set of boxplots and statistical analyses for all 12 mRNA features. Each plot corresponds to an analysis of a particular feature for all the 6 clusters of translation behaviour. The Kruskal-Wallis H-test is used for all the group comparisons to test for median differences with the Dunn test for each pairwise comparison. The test statistics are shown in the subtitle and each significant pairwise comparison (corrected for multiple testing) is plotted only for significant pairwise differences



Supplementary Figure 5. Functional motifs analysis of the 5'UTRs (A) and 3'UTRs (B) by interrogating the UTRdb. Ensembl IDs of transcripts are indicated on the right side, ordering of the transcripts was done by clustering of features.



Supp. Fig. 6 - Bulfoni et al.

Supplementary Fig. 6 : Quantification of the Western Blots of Fig. 7 : A (data from Fig. 7A), C (from Fig. 7D): Numerical values of triplicates are shown along with the mean (horizontal red dash) +/- SD (vertical red line) with pairwise comparison against condition 0.5 mM (Student's t test; *, p<0.05, **, p< 0.001, ***, p<0.0001). B (from Fig. 7B), D (from Fig. 7E) : Numerical values of duplicates are shown along with the mean (triangles).