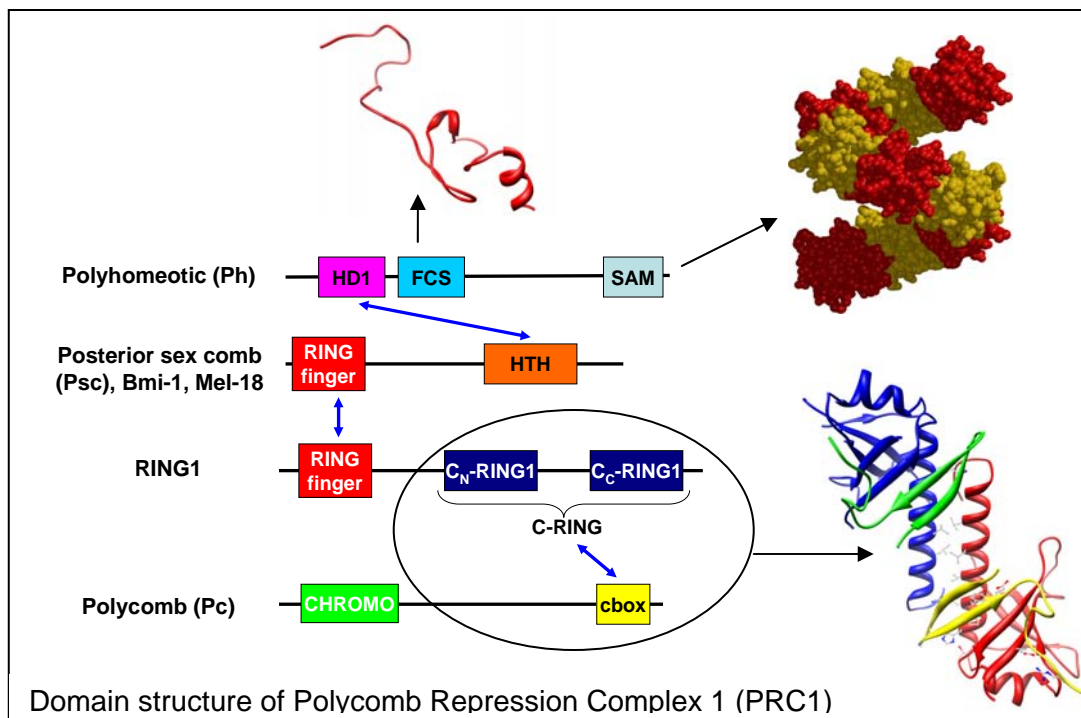


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Long known for their role in development, the Polycomb Group (PcG) of gene silencing proteins has emerged as critical regulators of cell identity, including PcG-mediated repression of genes in stem cells that would otherwise promote their differentiation. The importance of the PcG is reflected in the vast array of malignancies associated with their aberrant function including leukemic, prostate, liver, breast, bladder, gastro-intestinal, and lymphatic cancers. The long-range goal of my lab is to understand the molecular details of PcG mediated gene silencing. Our current focus is on the members of a multi-protein PcG complex called Polycomb Repression Complex 1. Our aim is to characterize the role each member of this complex in PRC1 assembly and function using a variety of biochemical, biophysical and structural techniques. Our work will provide valuable insights into the molecular events responsible for maintaining cell identity thus providing a better understanding of the important cellular processes underlying many diseases.



Wang R, Taylor AB, Leal BZ, Chadwell LV, Ilangoan U, Robinson AK, Schirf V, Hart PJ, Lafer EM, Demeler B, Hinck AP, McEwen DG, Kim CA. (2010). Polycomb Group Targeting through Different Binding Partners of RING1B C-Terminal Domain. *Structure*. 18:966-975.