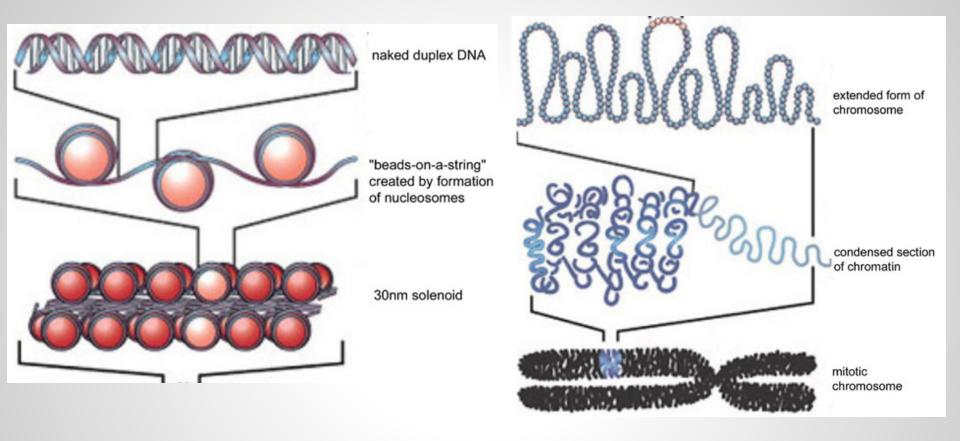
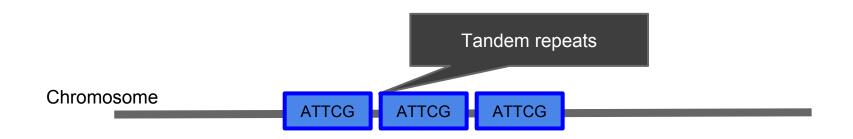
## Molecular biology structures

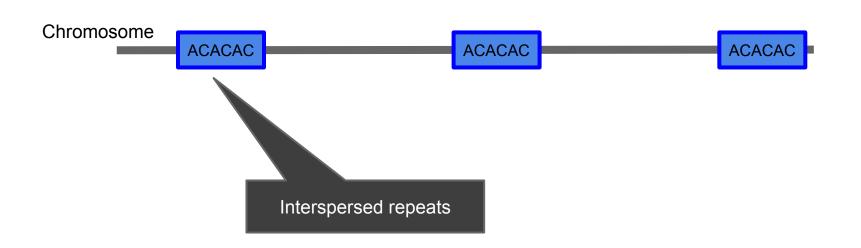
Steven Salzberg



# **DNA** structures

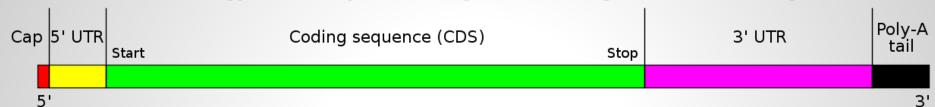


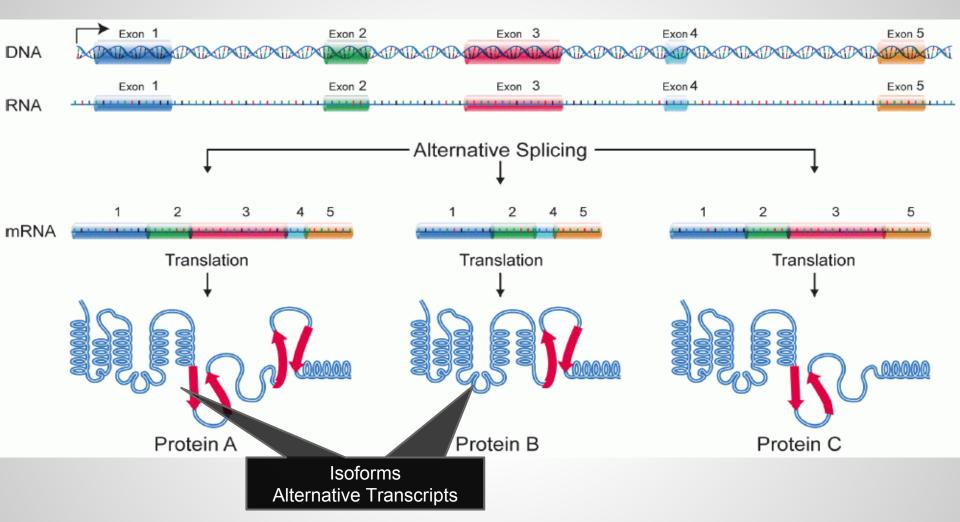




# RNA structures

#### The structure of a typical human protein coding mRNA including the untranslated regions (UTRs)





### **Protein structures**

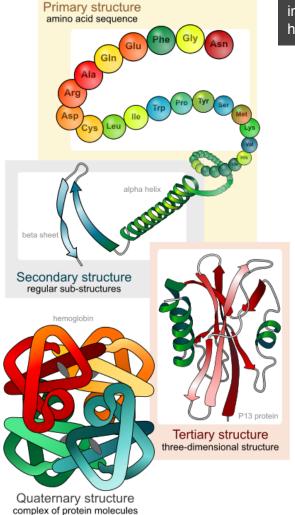
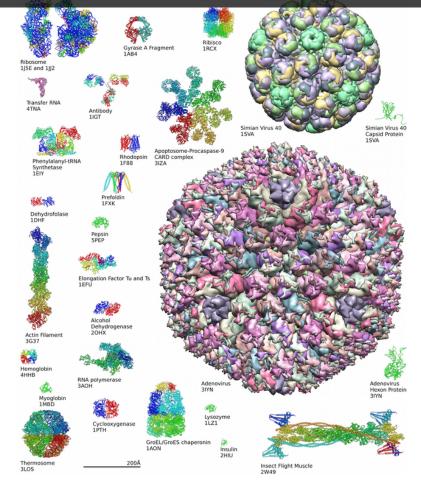


image credits: http://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Main\_protein\_structure\_levels\_en.svg http://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Protein\_structure\_examples.png



# transcription factors of eukaryotic cells

1 Activator proteins bind to pieces of DNA called enhancers. Their binding causes the DNA to bend, bringing them near a gene promoter, even though they may be thousands of base pairs away.

**Enhancers** 

Activator proteins

Other transcription factor proteins

Gene

Promoter

3 This protein complex makes it easier for RNA polymerase to attach to the promoter and start transcribing a gene.

RNA polymerase

 Other transcription factor proteins join the activator proteins, forming a protein complex which binds to

the gene promoter.

note

This diagram simplifies the DNA greatly—promoters, enhancers, and insulators can be dozens or even hundreds of base pairs long.

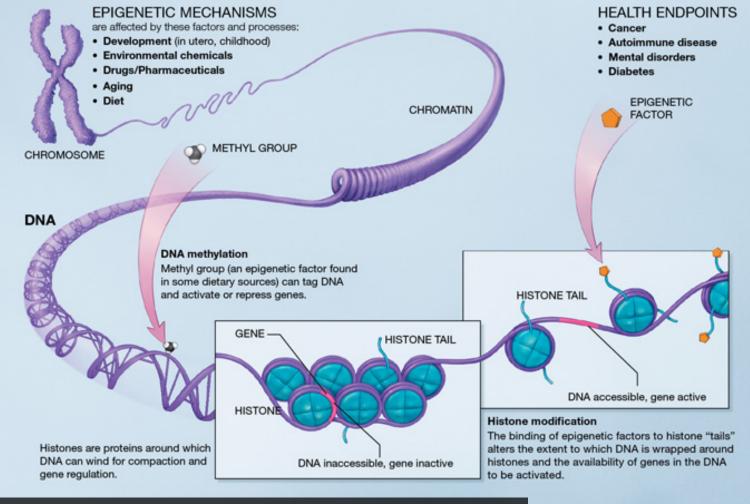
4 An insulator can stop the enhancers from binding to the promoter, if a protein called CTCF (named for the sequence CCCTC, which occurs in all insulators) binds to it.

Methyl groups

Insulator

CTCF (CCCTC-binding factor) 5 Methylation, the addition of a methyl group to the C nucleotides, prevents CTCF from attaching to the insulator, turning it off, allowing the enhancers to bind to the promoter.

# **Epigenetic structures**



#### image credit: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Histone\_methylation