

Elongating RNA polymerase II (pol II), which has a unique pattern of phosphorylation on its carboxy-terminal domain (CTD), encounters a damaged DNA segment. The stalled polymerase ( $\mathbf{b}$ ) then recruits the ubiquitin (Ub)-ligase Rsp5 ( $\mathbf{c}$ ), which in turn ubiquitylates the largest subunit of pol II in a CTD-phosphorylation-dependent manner.  $\mathbf{d}$  | Ubiquitylation is followed by the proteasomal destruction of at least one subunit of polymerase, recruitment of the repair machinery and

restoration of DNA integrity.

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Source: Figure 5 in Muratani M, Tansey WP. "How the ubiquitin-proteasome system controls transcription." Nat Rev Mol Cell Biol. 2003 Mar;4(3):192-201.

The ubiquitin (Ub)-proteasome system regulates transcription at numerous levels. a | Interactions of an activator with the general transcriptional machinery (green) functions to **b** | recruit ubiquitin ligase(s) to the site of transcription and ubiquitylates many factors, including the activator, RNA polymerase II (pol II) and histones. **c** | These ubiquitylation events in turn recruit the 26S proteasome, which **d** | simultaneously destroys the activator and promotes elongation of transcription by pol II. Importantly, this proposed mechanism limits uncontrolled transcription in two ways — by destroying the activator at each cycle of promoter 'firing' and by ensuring that interactions between pol II and the proteasome are made in an activator- and promoter-dependent manner.