Reading the maps: Organization and function of chromatin types in Drosophila

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Acknowledgements

I'm still fascinated by the way a task may seem daunting at first, but once it lies behind you, it doesn't feel like it has been so hard after all. This is surely due in part to selective memory, but also due to all the help you have gotten along the way. It has been so with this thesis, and what remains for me to do is to say my thanks to everyone who contributed in any way.

Joining Bas's lab for my PhD was a precision landing. Not so much in what concerns timing (I had been working 1.5 years as a technician before), but in terms of topics, environment and what I wanted to learn. Bas, with your optimism, critical approach, openness towards even what I thought of as the competition and constant supply of ideas, I learned a lot about how to do science in a way that is both successful and fun. You always gave me a lot of freedom which taught me to be increasingly self-sufficient, yet I could always count on your support when necessary. I enjoyed it a great deal.

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I've watched Bas's lab grow in time, but have always found it an enjoyable environment to work in. I've been surrounded by friendly, good-natured, bright people, but most importantly, there have always been colleagues willing and enjoying to discuss and re-discuss.

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outside the lab, frequently involving gorgeous food and a few cool drinks. Jop, it’s always interesting what you’re going to come up with next, like the rat memory project that unfortunately didn’t get off the ground. Sorry I spread the word that you’re the ChIP expert. Alex, thanks for coming round with useful information time and time again without even being asked. Your project is demanding, but I’m really looking forward to seeing the outcome. Guillaume, you have raised the level of discussion in some respects with your intelligence and radical criticism, not stopping from re-evaluating even ideas in the lab that have been so long accepted they achieved holy cow status. I really enjoyed working with you and Joke on the colors story. Thanks for always taking the time to discuss, and for agreeing to be ‘paranimf’. Dominika, you’ll see that after some disappointments it’s only sweeter once things work. Those rose oil cookies have helped me through some dreadful mornings. Arantxa, glad you joined the lab and contribute to a friendly and open atmosphere. And finally Mario: I’ll enjoy watching as you drink your lunch milk and eat your bread with gingerbread a year from now. Thanks for some critical discussions right from the start.

I tasked several members of the van Steensel lab with critical reading of various parts of this thesis. Extra thanks for that to Joke, Guillaume, Ludo, Alex, Jop and Wendy.

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