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Genome-Scale Long-Read Single Molecule Sequencing for Nucleosome Position Mapping and Transcription Factor Footprinting in Opioid Exposed and Control Prefrontal Cortex

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We apply a single-molecule chromatin fiber sequencing (Fiber-seq) protocol designed for amplification-free cell type-specific mapping of the regulatory architecture at nucleosome resolution along extended ~10kb chromatin fibers, to neuronal and non-neuronal nuclei sorted from human brain tissue. Specifically, application of this method enables the resolution of cell-selective promoter and enhancer architectures on single fibers, including transcription factor footprinting and position mapping with sequence-specific fixation of nucleosome arrays flanking transcription start sites and regulatory motifs. We uncover haplotype-specific chromatin patterns, multiple regulatory elements cis-aligned on individual fibers, and accessible chromatin at 20,000 unique sites encompassing retrotransposons and other repeat sequences hitherto 'unmappable' by short-read epigenomic sequencing. Overall, we show that Fiber-seq is applicable to human brain tissue, offering sharp demarcation of nucleosome-depleted regions at sites of open chromatin in conjunction with multi-kilobase nucleosomal positioning at single fiber resolution on a genome-wide scale. Our initial, disease-relevant studies are focused on the dorsolateral prefrontal cortex of controls and subjects diagnosed with chronic opioid use disorder.