



Front cover image: MED complex involvement in cell transcriptional regulation mechanism. Biochemical and structural studies reveal that MED tightly binds Pol II enzyme thus starting pre-initiation complex formation. Transcriptional machinery is composed by several components: activator proteins, general transcription factors (TBP, TFIIB, TFIID, TFIIE, TFIIH, and TFIIF), Pol II and cohesin protein. Altogether these factors are assembled in a DNA loop where the start and the end are represented by enhancer region/core promoter. Generally, when the kinase module binds to the Mediator core, Pol II is released and the transcription mechanism is impeded. The Mediator modules head, middle, tail, and kinase are coloured red, yellow, blue, and green, respectively. In the lower panel a scheme depicting the structure of mammalian chromatin is illustrated.

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