

Contents

Chapter		Page
	Scope and outline of the thesis	8
1	Introduction	9
1.1	Summary	10
1.2	Transcription	10
1.2.1	<i>Cis</i> -regulatory DNA elements	12
1.2.2	Trans-acting factors	15
1.3	The Nucleus	21
1.3.1	The nuclear envelope	21
1.3.2	Nuclear bodies	24
1.3.3	Chromatin compartments	27
1.4	Globins	32
1.4.1	The human and mouse β -globin loci	32
1.4.2	Hemoglobin gene switching	37
1.4.3	Communication between <i>cis</i> -regulatory DNA elements in the β -globin loci	39
2	Visualization of the transcriptional dynamics of the human β-globin locus in living cells.	43
3	Looping and interaction between hypersensitive sites in the active β-globin locus	57
4	β-globin genes interact in a developmentally specific manner with a nuclear compartment of <i>cis</i>-regulatory DNA elements	73
5	General discussion: the active chromatin hub	85
	Formation and maintenance	86
	Chromatin opening and the ACH	88
	Enhancer-promoter specificity	89
	References	93
	Summary	104
	Samenvatting	106
	Abbreviations	109
	Curriculum Vitae	110
	Dankwoord	111