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## Polycomb repression complex 2 is required for the maintenance of retinal progenitor cells and balanced retinal differentiation

Naoko Fujimura<sup>a</sup>, Andrea Kuzelova<sup>a,b</sup>, Anja Ebert<sup>c</sup>, Hynek Strnad<sup>d</sup>, Jitka Lachova<sup>a,b</sup>, Ondrej Machon<sup>b</sup>, Meinrad Busslinger<sup>c</sup>, Zbynek Kozmik<sup>a,b\*</sup>

<sup>a</sup>Laboratory of Eye Biology, Division BIOCEV, Institute of Molecular Genetics of the Czech Academy of Sciences, Prumyslova 595, Vestec, Czech Republic

<sup>b</sup>Laboratory of Transcriptional Regulation, Institute of Molecular Genetics of the Czech Academy of Sciences, Videnska 1083, Prague 4, Czech Republic

<sup>c</sup>Research Institute of Molecular Pathology (IMP), Vienna Biocenter (VBC), Campus-Vienna-Biocenter 1, A-1030, Vienna, Austria

<sup>d</sup>Laboratory of Genomics and Bioinformatics, Institute of Molecular Genetics of the Czech Academy of Sciences, Videnska 1083, Prague 4, Czech Republic

\*Corresponding author.: Institute of Molecular Genetics of the Czech Academy of Sciences, Videnska 1083, Prague 4, Czech Republic, kozmik@img.cas.cz, Tel.: +420 241 062 100, fax: +420 224 310 955

### Abstract:

Polycomb repressive complexes maintain transcriptional repression of genes encoding crucial developmental regulators through chromatin modification. Here we investigated the role of Polycomb repressive complex 2 (PRC2) in retinal development by inactivating its key components *Eed* and *Ezh2*. Conditional deletion of *Ezh2* resulted in a partial loss of PRC2 function and accelerated differentiation of Müller glial cells. In contrast, inactivation of *Eed* led to the ablation of PRC2 function at early postnatal stage. Cell proliferation was reduced and retinal progenitor cells were significantly decreased in this mutant, which subsequently caused depletion of Müller glia, bipolar, and rod photoreceptor cells, primarily generated from postnatal retinal progenitor cells. Interestingly, the proportion of amacrine cells was dramatically increased at postnatal stages in the *Eed*-deficient retina. In accordance, multiple transcription factors controlling amacrine cell differentiation were upregulated. Furthermore,

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