Supplementary Information for

Using in-cell SHAPE-Seq and simulations to probe structure-function principles of RNA transcriptional regulators
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Supplementary Methods

Simulation details
All-atom, replica exchange molecular dynamics (REMD) were performed for Fusion 3 and Fusion 3 L2(GU-CA) sense strand, hairpins (nucleotides 14-61) using the GROMACS software package version 5.0.4 (Pronk et al. 2013). The Amber-99 force field (Wang et al. 2000) ported to GROMACS by Sorin and Pande (Sorin and Pande 2005) was used with modifications for nucleic acids introduced by Chen and Garcia (Chen and García 2013). Further improvements to the nucleic acid torsion and base-pairing potentials calibrated against ultrasonic absorption (Nishikawa et al. 2000) and NMR relaxation dispersion (Rinnenthal et al. 2010) were incorporated. A total of 13209 and 13186 explicit water molecules were added to the Fusion 3 and Fusion 3 L2(GU-CA) systems respectively with the TIP3P model (Jorgensen et al. 1983). Additionally 86 Na⁺ and 39 Cl⁻ ions were added to each system to neutralize the net charge and bring the salt concentration to 0.15 M. Ions were modeled using parameters by Åqvist (Åqvist 1990) following the approach by Chen and Pappu (Chen and Pappu 2007) to eliminate spurious ion-pairing artifacts.

Each RNA was centered in a 6.0 x 6.0 x 12.0 Å box and aligned to the principle axis. The box size was chosen based on maintaining a minimum distance of 10 Å between periodic images in the conformational space explored during preliminary, long, high-temperature simulations. A rough alignment with the principle axis was maintained by the application of 3 Å, flat-bottomed, cylindrical restraints with weak, 100 kJ/mol force constant, harmonic edges to the C5’ residues at the base of the stem and a 5 Å, flat-bottomed, spherical restraint with weak, 50 kJ/mol force constant, harmonic edges to the C3’ residue at the center of the loop. Long-range electrostatic interactions were treated using the particle mesh Ewald approach (Cheatham et al. 1995).

Initial, all-atom RNA structures were generated by the MC-Sym package (Parisien and Major 2008) using secondary structures generated by RNAstructure (Reuter and Mathews 2010) as input. A steepest decent energy minimization was performed until the maximum force was less than 100.0 kJ/mol/nm. A 100 ps, constant volume simulation was used to equilibrate the temperature to 300 K and was followed by a 100 ps, constant pressure equilibration at 1 bar. Production simulations were performed for 130 ns with conformational sampling by replica exchange. Constant temperature was maintained for each replica using a modified Berendsen thermostat with a tau-t of 0.1 ps. A 2 fs time step was used and snapshots were saved every 2 ps. The first 30 ns were considered equilibration based on analysis of cumulative average base pair occupancy (Supplementary Figure S9).
A preliminary REMD temperature schedule was generated using the temperature predictor algorithm by Patriksson and van der Spoel (Patriksson and van der Spoel 2008). A 1 ns REMD run was used to optimize the temperature schedule by calculation of the rate of acceptance using Gaussian energy distributions as implemented by Garcia and Paschek (García et al. 2006). The resulting schedule comprised 66 replicates ranging from 290.00 K to 435.10 K. The upper temperature limit was selected to permit significant melting of loop and fusion region while leave the stem relatively intact. Exchange rates of 25% were obtained with swaps attempted every 2 ps.
**Supplementary Table S1**: Plasmids used in this study. Abbreviations are as follows. TrnB = rrnB terminator, CmR = chloramphenicol resistance, AmpR = ampicillin resistance, SFGFP = superfolder green fluorescent protein, t500 = T500 terminator, ECK120051404 = ECK120051404 terminator (Chen et al. 2013).

| Plasmid number | Plasmid architecture | Name | Figures |
|----------------|----------------------|------|---------|
| JBL001         | TrnB – backbone (p15A origin/CmR) | No attenuator control | N/A |
| JBL002         | J23119 – TrnB – backbone (ColE1 origin/AmpR) | No antisense control | N/A |
| JBL006         | J23119 – pT181 attenuator – SFGFP – TrnB – backbone (p15A origin/CmR) | pT181 | 2 |
| JBL1521        | J23119 – pT181 antisense – g – ECK120051404 – t500 – backbone (ColE1 origin/AmpR) | pT181 antisense | 2 |
| JBL1815        | J23119 – Fusion 1 attenuator – TrnB – backbone (p15A origin/CmR) | Fusion 1 | 2 |
| JBL1954        | J23119 – Fusion 1 antisense – g – ECK120051404 – t500 – backbone (ColE1 origin/AmpR) | Fusion 1 antisense | 2, S2 |
| JBL1017        | J23119 – Fusion 2 attenuator – SFGFP – TrnB – backbone (p15A origin/CmR) | Fusion 2 | 2 |
| JBL1920        | J23119 – Fusion 2 antisense – g – ECK120051404 – t500 – backbone (ColE1 origin/AmpR) | Fusion 2 antisense | 2, S2 |
| JBL1039        | J23119 – Fusion 3 attenuator – SFGFP – TrnB – backbone (p15A origin/CmR) | Fusion 3 | 2, 3 |
| JBL1921        | J23119 – Fusion 3 antisense – g – ECK120051404 – t500 – backbone (ColE1 origin/AmpR) | Fusion 3 antisense | 2, 3, S2 |
| JBL1037        | J23119 – Fusion 10 attenuator – SFGFP – TrnB – backbone (p15A origin/CmR) | Fusion 10 | 2 |
| JBL1918        | J23119 – Fusion 10 antisense – g – ECK120051404 – t500 – backbone (ColE1 origin/AmpR) | Fusion 10 antisense | 2 |
| JBL1126        | J23119 – Fusion 4 attenuator – SFGFP – TrnB – backbone (p15A origin/CmR) | Fusion 4 | 2, 3 |
| JBL1919        | J23119 – Fusion 4 antisense – g – ECK120051404 – t500 – backbone (ColE1 origin/AmpR) | Fusion 4 antisense | 2, 3 |
| JBL1932        | J23119 – Fusion 3 L1(UU-AA) attenuator – SFGFP – TrnB – backbone (p15A origin/CmR) | Fusion 3 L1(UU-AA) | 3 |
| JBL1977        | J23119 – Fusion 3 L1(UU-AA) antisense – g – ECK120051404 – t500 – backbone (ColE1 origin/AmpR) | Fusion 3 L1(UU-AA) antisense | 3 |
| JBL1927        | J23119 – Fusion 3 L1(AA-UU) attenuator – SFGFP – TrnB – backbone (p15A origin/CmR) | Fusion 3 L1(AA-UU) | S6 |
| JBL1978        | J23119 – Fusion 3 L1(AA-UU) antisense – g – ECK120051404 – t500 – backbone (ColE1 origin/AmpR) | Fusion 3 L1(AA-UU) antisense | S6 |
| JBL1933        | J23119 – Fusion 3 L2(UC-AG) attenuator – SFGFP – TrnB – backbone (p15A origin/CmR) | Fusion 3 L2(UC-AG) | S6 |
| JBL1979        | J23119 – Fusion 3 L2(UC-AG) antisense – g – ECK120051404 – t500 – backbone (ColE1 origin/AmpR) | Fusion 3 L2(UC-AG) antisense | S6 |
| JBL1928        | J23119 – Fusion 3 L2(GU-CA) attenuator – SFGFP – TrnB – backbone (p15A origin/CmR) | Fusion 3 L2(GU-CA) | 3 |
| JBL1980 | J23119 – Fusion 3 L2(GU-CA) antisense – g – ECK120051404 – t500 – backbone (ColE1 origin/AmpR) | Fusion 3 L2(GU-CA) antisense | 3 |
| JBL1948 | J23119 – Fusion 4 L(UG-AC) attenuator – SFGFP – TrrnB – backbone (p15A origin/CmR) | Fusion 4 L(UG-AC) | 3 |
| JBL1982 | J23119 – Fusion 4 L(UG-AC) antisense – g – ECK120051404 – t500 – backbone (ColE1 origin/AmpR) | Fusion 4 L(UG-AC) antisense | 3 |
| JBL1949 | J23119 – Fusion 4 L(AC-UG) attenuator – SFGFP – TrrnB – backbone (p15A origin/CmR) | Fusion 4 L(UG-AC) | S7 |
| JBL1962 | J23119 – Fusion 4 L(AC-UG) antisense – g – ECK120051404 – t500 – backbone (ColE1 origin/AmpR) | Fusion 4 L(UG-AC) antisense | S7 |
| JBL5232 | J23119 – NUPACK Fusion 1 attenuator – SFGFP – TrrnB – backbone (ColE1 origin/CmR) | NUP Fusion 1 | 6 |
| JBL5233 | J23119 – NUPACK Fusion 1 antisense – TrrnB – backbone (ColE1 origin/AmpR) | NUP Fusion 1 antisense | 6 |
| JBL5234 | J23119 – NUPACK Fusion 2 attenuator – SFGFP – TrrnB – backbone (p15A origin/CmR) | NUP Fusion 2 | 6 |
| JBL5235 | J23119 – NUPACK Fusion 2 antisense – TrrnB – backbone (ColE1 origin/AmpR) | NUP Fusion 2 antisense | 6 |
| JBL5236 | J23119 – NUPACK Fusion 1 attenuator (112) – g – ECK120051404 – t500 – backbone (p15A origin/CmR) | NUP Fusion 1 (SHAPE) | 6, S13 |
| JBL5237 | J23119 – NUPACK Fusion 2 attenuator (112) – g – ECK120051404 – t500 – backbone (p15A origin/CmR) | NUP Fusion 2 (SHAPE) | 6, S13 |
| JBL1941 | J23119 – Fusion 1 attenuator (112) – g – ECK120051404 – t500 – backbone (p15A origin/CmR) | Fusion 1 (SHAPE) | 2, S2 |
| JBL1916 | J23119 – Fusion 2 attenuator (112) – g – ECK120051404 – t500 – backbone (p15A origin/CmR) | Fusion 2 (SHAPE) | 2, S2, S5 |
| JBL1917 | J23119 – Fusion 3 attenuator (112) – g – ECK120051404 – t500 – backbone (p15A origin/CmR) | Fusion 3 (SHAPE) | 2, 3, 4, 5, S2, S6, S8 |
| JBL1914 | J23119 – Fusion 10 attenuator (112) – g – ECK120051404 – t500 – backbone (p15A origin/CmR) | Fusion 10 (SHAPE) | 2, S4, S5 |
| JBL1915 | J23119 – Fusion 4 attenuator (112) – g – ECK120051404 – t500 – backbone (p15A origin/CmR) | Fusion 4 (SHAPE) | 2, 3, 5, S4 |
| JBL1522 | J23119 – pT181 attenuator (112) – g – ECK120051404 – t500 – backbone (p15A origin/CmR) | pT181 (SHAPE) | 1 |
| JBL1974 | J23119 – Fusion 3 L1(UU-AA) attenuator (112) – g – ECK120051404 – t500 – backbone (p15A origin/CmR) | Fusion 3 L1(UU-AA) (SHAPE) | 3 |
| JBL1975 | J23119 – Fusion 3 L1(AA-UU) attenuator (112) – g – ECK120051404 – t500 – backbone (p15A origin/CmR) | Fusion 3 L1(AA-UU) (SHAPE) | S6 |
| JBL1984 | J23119 – Fusion 3 L2(GU-CA) attenuator (112) – g – ECK120051404 – t500 – backbone (p15A origin/CmR) | Fusion 3 L2(GU-CA) (SHAPE) | 3, 4, S5, S8 |
| JBL1976 | J23119 – Fusion 3 L2(UC-AG) attenuator (112) – g – ECK120051404 – t500 – backbone (p15A origin/CmR) | Fusion 3 L2(UC-AG) (SHAPE) | S6 |
| JBL1996 | J23119 – Fusion 4 L(UG-AC) attenuator (112) – g – ECK120051404 – t500 – backbone (p15A origin/CmR) | Fusion 4 L(UG-AC) (SHAPE) | 3, S5 |
| JBL1997 | J23119 – Fusion 4 L(AC-UG) attenuator (112) – g – ECK120051404 – t500 – backbone (p15A origin/CmR) | Fusion 4 L(AC-UG) (SHAPE) | S7 |
| JBL3273 | J23119 – R1 hairpin1 – g – ECK120051404 – t500 – backbone (p15A origin/CmR) | R1 (SHAPE) | 5, S11 |
| JBL3317 | J23119 – pMU720 hairpin1 – g – ECK120051404 – t500 – backbone (p15A origin/CmR) | pMU720 (SHAPE) | 5, S11 |
| JBL3286 | J23119 – NUPACK Fusion 3 attenuator – SFGFP – TrmB – backbone (p15A origin/CmR) | NP Fusion 3 | S12 |
| JBL3288 | J23119 – NUPACK Fusion 4 attenuator – SFGFP – TrmB – backbone (p15A origin/CmR) | NP Fusion 4 | S12 |
| JBL3287 | J23119 – NUPACK Fusion 3 antisense – TrmB – backbone (ColE1 origin/AmpR) | NP Fusion 3 antisense | S12 |
| JBL3289 | J23119 – NUPACK Fusion 4 antisense – TrmB – backbone (ColE1 origin/AmpR) | NP Fusion 3 antisense | S12 |
| JBL3309 | J23119 – NUPACK Fusion 3 attenuator (112) – g – ECK120051404 – t500 – backbone (p15A origin/CmR) | NP Fusion 3 (SHAPE) | S12 |
| JBL3313 | J23119 – NUPACK Fusion 4 attenuator (112) – g – ECK120051404 – t500 – backbone (p15A origin/CmR) | NP Fusion 4 (SHAPE) | S12 |
**Supplementary Table S2:** Important DNA sequences. Abbreviations are as follows. TrrnB = rrnB terminator, CmR = chloramphenicol resistance, AmpR = ampicillin resistance, SFGFP = superfolder green fluorescent protein, t500 = T500 terminator, ECK120051404 = ECK120051404 terminator (Chen et al. 2013).

| Name | Sequence |
|------|----------|
| **Backbone (p15A origin/CmR)** | GGATCCTTACTCGAGTCTGAACTGCTGATCGTGGCGCTGCAAGAGGCTGATCCAGGGTGCAGGGATATGGTCCAGAGGTGTCTGCGGAGTGTTATACTGCTCGTGCTTCGGCTGCGGCGAGCGGTATCAGCTCACTCAAAGGCGGTAACTACGGTTATCCACAGAATCAGGGGATAACGCAGGAAAGAACATGTGAGCAAAAGGCCAGCAAAAGGCCAGGAACCGTAAAAA GGCCGCGTTGCTGGCGTTTTTC |}

| Name | Sequence |
|------|----------|
| **CmR – p15A origin** | |}

| Name | Sequence |
|------|----------|
| **Backbone (ColE1 origin/AmpR)** | GGATCCTTACTCGAGTCTGAACTGCTGATCGTGGCGCTGCAAGAGGCTGATCCAGGGTGCAGGGATATGGTCCAGAGGTGTCTGCGGAGTGTTATACTGCTCGTGCTTCGGCTGCGGCGAGCGGTATCAGCTCACTCAAAGGCGGTAACTACGGTTATCCACAGAATCAGGGGATAACGCAGGAAAGAACATGTGAGCAAAAGGCCAGCAAAAGGCCAGGAACCGTAAAAA GGCCGCGTTGCTGGCGTTTTTC |}

| Name | Sequence |
|------|----------|
| **ColE1 origin – AmpR** | |}
Example attenuator-SFGFP construct

(EcoRI - J23119 – pT181 attenuator – RBS – SFGFP – TrrnB)

GAATTCTAAAGATCTTTGACAGCTATGCTACTGCTAGTCTACTCGTATATGGTAAACAAGTATGAGCAGAGGCTGCTGATGCTGGAGACATGCTTTGAGAGGCTGCTGATGCTGGAGACATGCTTTGAGAGGCTGCTGATGCTGGAGACATGCTTTGAGAGGCTGCTGATGCTGGAGACATGCTTTGAGAGGCTGCTGATGCTGGAGACATGCTTTGAGAGGCTGCTGATGCTGGAGACATGCTTTGAGAGGCTGCTGATGCTGGAGACATGCTTTGAGAGGCTGCTGATGCTGGAGACATGCTTTGAGAGGCTGCTGATGCTGGAGACATGCTTTGAGAGGCTGCTGATGCTGGAGACATGCTTTGAGAGGCTGCTGATGCTGGAGACATGCTTTGAGAGGCTGCTGATGCTGGAGACATGCTTTGAGAGGCTGCTGATGCTGGAGACATGCTTTGAGAGGCTGCTGATGCTGGAGACATGCTTTGAGAGGCTGCTGATGCTGGAGACATGCTTTGAGAGGCTGCTGATGCTGGAGACATGCTTTGAGAGGCTGCTGATGCTGGAGACATGCTTTGAGAGGCTGCTGATGCTGGAGACATGCTTTGAGAGGCTGCTGATGCTGGAGACATGCTTTGAGAGGCTGCTGATGCTGGAGACATGCTTTGAGAGGCTGCTGATGCTGGAGACATGCTTTGAGAGGCTGCTGATGCTGGAGACATGCTTTGAGAGGCTGCTGATGCTGGAGACATGCTTTGAGAGGCTGCTGATGCTGGAGACATGCTTTGAGAGGCTGCTGATGCTGGAGACATGCTTTGAGAGGCTGCTGATGCTGGAGACATGCTTTGAGAGGCTGCTGATGCTGGAGACATGCTTTGAGAGGCTGCTGATGCTGGAGACATGCTTTGAGAGGCTGCTGATGCTGGAGACATGCTTTGAGAGGCTGCTGATGCTGGAGACATGCTTTGAGAGGCTGCTGATGCTGGAGACATGCTTTGAGAGGCTGCTGATGCTGGAGACATGCTTTGAGAGGCTGCTGATGCTGGAGACATGCTTTGAGAGGCTGCTGATGCTGGAGACATGCTTTGAGAGGCTGCTGATGCTGGAGACATGCTTTGAGAGGCTGCTGATGCTGGAGACATGCTTTGAGAGGCTGCTGATGCTGGAGACATGCTTTGAGAGGCTGCTGATGCTGGAGACATGCTTTGAGAGGCTGCTGATGCTGGAGACATGCTTTGAGAGGCTGCTGATGCTGGAGACATGCTTTGAGAGGCTGCTGATGCTGGAGACATGCTTTGAGAGGCTGCTGATGCTGGAGACATGCTTTGAGAGGCTGCTGATGCTGGAGACATGCTTTGAGAGGCTGCTGATGCTGGAGACATGCTTTGAGAGGCTGCTGATGCTGGAGACATGCTTTGAGAGGCTGCTGATGCTGGAGACATGCTTTGAGAGGCTGCTGATGCTGGAGACATGCTTTGAGAGGCTGCTGATGCTGGAGACATGCTTTGAGAGGCTGCTGATGCTGGAGACATGCTTTGAGAGGCTGCTGATGCTGGAGACATGCTTTGAGAGGCTGCTGATGCTGGAGACATGCTTTGAGAGGCTGCTGATGCTGGAGACATGCTTTGAGAGGCTGCTGATGCTGGAGACATGCTTTGAGAGGCTGCTGATGCTGGAGACATGCTTTGAGAGGCTGCTGATGCTGGAGACATGCTTTGAGAGGCTGCTGATGCTGGAGACATGCTTTGAGAGGCTGCTGATGCTGGAGACATGCTTTGAGAGGCTGCTGATGCTGGAGACATGCTTTGAGAGGCTGCTGATGCTGGAGACATGCTTTGAGAGGCTGCTGATGCTGGAGACATGCTTTGAGAGGCTGCTGATGCTGGAGACATGCTTTGAGAGGCTGCTGATGCTGGAGACATGCTTTGAGAGGCTGCTGATGCTGGAGACATGCTTTGAGAGGCTGCTGATGCTGGAGACATGCTTTGAGAGGCTGCTGATGCTGGAGACATGCTTTGAGAGGCTGCTGATGCTGGAGACATGCTTTGAGAGGCTGCTGATGCTGGAGACATGCTTTGAGAGGCTGCTGATGCTGGAGACATGCTTTGAGAGGCTGCTGATGCTGGAGACATGCTTTGAGAGGCTGCTGATGCTGGAGACATGCTTTGAGAGGCTGCTGATGCTGGAGACATGCTTTGAGAGGCTGCTGATGCTGGAGACATGCTTTGAGAGGCTGCTGATGCTGGAGACATGCTTTGAGAGGCTGCTGATGCTGGAGACATGCTTTGAGAGGCTGCTGATGCTGGAGACATGCTTTGAGAGGCTGCTGATGCTGGAGACATGCTTTGAGAGGCTGCTGATGCTGGAGACATGCTTTGAGAGGCTGCTGATGCTGGAGACATGCTTTGAGAGGCTGCTGATGCTGGAGACATGCTTTGAGAGGCTGCTGATGCTGGAGACATGCTTTGAGAGGCTGCTGATGCTGGAGACATGCTTTGAGAGGCTGCTGATGCTGGAGACATGCTTTGAGAGGCTGCTGATGCTGGAGACATGCTTTGAGAGGCTGCTGATGCTGGAGACATGCTTTGAGAGGCTGCTGATGCTGGAGACATGCTTTGAGAGGCTGCTGATGCTGGAGACATGCTTTGAGAGGCTGCTGATGCTGGAGACATGCTTTGAGAGGCTGCTGATGCTGGAGACATGCTTTGAGAGGCTGCTGATGCTGGAGACATGCTTTGAGAGGCTGCTGATGCTGGAGACATGCTTTGAGAGGCTGCTGATGCTGGAGACATGCTTTGAGAGGCTGCTGATGCTGGAGACATGCTTTGAGAGGCTGCTGATGCTGGAGACATGCTTTGAGAGGCTGCTGATGCTGGAGACATGCTTTGAGAGGCTGCTGATGCTGGAGACATGCTTTGAGAGGCTGCTGATGCTGGAGACATGCTTTGAGAGGCTGCTGATGCTGGAGACATGCTTTGAGAGGCTGCTGATGCTGGAGACATGCTTTGAGAGGCTGCTGATGCTGGAGACATGCTTTGAGAGGCTGCTGATGCTGGAGACATGCTTTGAGAGGCTGCTGATGCTGGAGACATGCTTTGAGAGGCTGCTGATGCTGGAGACATGCTTTGAGAGGCTGCTGATGCTGGAGACATGCTTTGAGAGGCTGCTGATGCTGGAGACATGCTTTGAGAGGCTGCTGATGCTGGAGACATGCTTTGAGAGGCTGCTGATGCTGGAGACATGCTTTGAGAGGCTGCTGATGCTGGAGACATGCTTTGAGAGGCTGCTGATGCTGGAGACATGCTTTGAGAGGCTGCTGATGCTGGAGACATGCTTTGAGAGGCTGCTGATGCTGGAGACATGCTTTGAGAGGCTGCTGATGCTGGAGACATGCTTTGAGAGGCTGCTGATGCTGGAGACATGCTTTGAGAGGCTGCTGATGCTGGAGACATGCTTTGAGAGGCTGCTGATGCTGGAGACATGCTTTGAGAGGCTGCTGATGCTGGAGACATGCTTTGAGAGGCTGCTGATGCTGGAGACATGCTTTGAGAGGCTGCTGATGCTGGAGACATGCTTTGAGAGGCTGCTGATGCTGGAGACATGCTTTGAGAGGCTGCTGATGCTGGAGACATGCTTTGAGAGGCTGCTGATGCTGGAGACATGCTTTGAGAGGCTGCTGATGCTGGAGACATGCTTTGAGAGGCTGCTGATGCTGGAGACATGCTTTGAGAGGCTGCTGATGCTGGAGACATGCTTTGAGAGGCTGCTGATGCTGGAGACATGCTTTGAGAGGCTGCTGATGCTGGAGACATGCTFIG
| Example antisense construct | TCAAATAAACGAAAGGCTCAGTGAAAGACTGGGCCCTTCGTTTTATCTGTTTGTGGTCGGTGAACT |
|----------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| (EcoRI – J23119 – pT181 antisense – g– ECK12005 1404 – t500) | GAATTC TAAAGATCTTTGACAGCTAGCTCAGTCTAGGTATAATAGTAAGATTATAAAAAACAACCTAGTTTTTTCTTTGAATGATGTCGTTCAAACTTTGGTCAGGGCGTGAGCGACTCCTTTTTATTTGCCCTCTACCTGCTTCGGCCGA | **AAAGCCGACGATAATACTCCAAAGCCCGCCGGAAAGGGGCGGTGTTTTT** |

| Example attenuator SHAPE construct | GAATTC TAAAGATCTTTGACAGCTAGCTCAGTCTAGGTATAATAGTAAGATTATAAAAAACAACCTAGTTTTTTCTTTGAATGATGTCGTTCAAACTTTGGTCAGGGCGTGAGCGACTCCTTTTTATTTGCCCTCTACCTGCTTCGGCCGA |
|-----------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| (EcoRI – J23119 – pT181 attenuator (112) – g – ECK12005 1404 – t500) | **AAATTTAAAAAGGAGTCCGCTACAACGCTTGGACACHAAAGTTTTGTGAACGACATTTCCAAAGAAAAACACTGAGTTTTTTTTATGTTATTTAGATATTAAACGAGCCTCTACCTGCTTCGGCCGATAAAGCCGACGATAATACTCCAAAGCCCGGC** | CAAAGGGCGGGCTTTTTP |
## Supplementary Table S3: Attenuator sequences.

| Name          | Sequence                                                                 |
|---------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| pT181         | AACAAAAATAAAAAAGGAGTCGTCACGCACCCTGACACAAAGTTGTGAAACGCAGATC              |
|               | ATTCCAAAAAAAAAAAAAAACACTGAGTTGTGTTTTTATACTCTGTGATATTTGATATTTA          |
|               | ACGATAATTTTTATATACATATATAGATATATATTGGTGAGCGACATCCTTTAACCAGGGCTACT      |
|               | CTATATAGCGGTTGTA                                                      |
| Fusion 1      | AACAAAAATAAAAAAGGAGTCGTCACGCCTGGCGGTGAACGCAGATCATCATTTCAAACTGAGTTG    |
|               | TTTTTTATACTCTGTGATATTTGAGATTACAAACTGAGTTGTTTTTATAATCTTGTGATATTTAAG     |
|               | AAGCTTTAAAAATATACATATATAGATATATATTGGTGAGCGACATCCTTTAACCAGGGCTACT      |
|               | GCTATATAGCGGTTGTA                                                      |
| Fusion 2      | AACAAAAATAAAAAAGGAGTCGTCACGCCTGGCGGTGAACGCAGATCATCATTTCAAACTGAGTTG    |
|               | TTTTTTATACTCTGTGATATTTGAGATTACAAACTGAGTTGTTTTTATAATCTTGTGATATTTAAG     |
|               | AAGCTTTAAAAATATACATATATAGATATATATTGGTGAGCGACATCCTTTAACCAGGGCTACT      |
|               | GCTATATAGCGGTTGTA                                                      |
| Fusion 3      | AACAAAAATAAAAAAGGAGTCGTCACGCCTGGCGGTGAACGCAGATCATCATTTCAAACTGAGTTG    |
|               | TTTTTTATACTCTGTGATATTTGAGATTACAAACTGAGTTGTTTTTATAATCTTGTGATATTTAAG     |
|               | AAGCTTTAAAAATATACATATATAGATATATATTGGTGAGCGACATCCTTTAACCAGGGCTACT      |
|               | GCTATATAGCGGTTGTA                                                      |
| Fusion 10     | AACAAAAATAAAAAAGGAGTCGTCACGCCTGGCGGTGAACGCAGATCATCATTTCAAACTGAGTTG    |
|               | TTTTTTATACTCTGTGATATTTGAGATTACAAACTGAGTTGTTTTTATAATCTTGTGATATTTAAG     |
|               | AAGCTTTAAAAATATACATATATAGATATATATTGGTGAGCGACATCCTTTAACCAGGGCTACT      |
|               | GCTATATAGCGGTTGTA                                                      |
| Fusion 4      | AACAAAAATAAAAAAGGAGTCGTCACGCCTGGCGGTGAACGCAGATCATCATTTCAAACTGAGTTG    |
|               | TTTTTTATACTCTGTGATATTTGAGATTACAAACTGAGTTGTTTTTATAATCTTGTGATATTTAAG     |
|               | AAGCTTTAAAAATATACATATATAGATATATATTGGTGAGCGACATCCTTTAACCAGGGCTACT      |
|               | GCTATATAGCGGTTGTA                                                      |
| Fusion 3 L1(UU-AA) | AACAAAAATAAAAAAGGAGTCGTCACGCCTGGCGGTGAACGCAGATCATCATTTCAAACTGAGTTG    |
|               | TTTTTTATACTCTGTGATATTTGAGATTACAAACTGAGTTGTTTTTATAATCTTGTGATATTTAAG     |
|               | AAGCTTTAAAAATATACATATATAGATATATATTGGTGAGCGACATCCTTTAACCAGGGCTACT      |
|               | GCTATATAGCGGTTGTA                                                      |
| Fusion 3 L1(AA-UU) | AACAAAAATAAAAAAGGAGTCGTCACGCCTGGCGGTGAACGCAGATCATCATTTCAAACTGAGTTG    |
|               | TTTTTTATACTCTGTGATATTTGAGATTACAAACTGAGTTGTTTTTATAATCTTGTGATATTTAAG     |
|               | AAGCTTTAAAAATATACATATATAGATATATATTGGTGAGCGACATCCTTTAACCAGGGCTACT      |
|               | GCTATATAGCGGTTGTA                                                      |
| Fusion 3 L2(UC-AG) | AACAAAAATAAAAAAGGAGTCGTCACGCCTGGCGGTGAACGCAGATCATCATTTCAAACTGAGTTG    |
|               | TTTTTTATACTCTGTGATATTTGAGATTACAAACTGAGTTGTTTTTATAATCTTGTGATATTTAAG     |
|               | AAGCTTTAAAAATATACATATATAGATATATATTGGTGAGCGACATCCTTTAACCAGGGCTACT      |
|               | GCTATATAGCGGTTGTA                                                      |
| Fusion 3 | L2(GU-CA) |
|---------|------------|
| ATGCAAATCATTCAATCATTGGAATACAGGATTTGAGACAATTTTCTAAAACCGGCTACTATAAGCGCGTGTGAA |

| Fusion 4 | L(UG-AC) |
|---------|----------|
| ATGCAAATCATTCAATCATTGGAATACAGGATTTGAGAACGACATCATTCAAAGAAAAACACTGAGTTTATTATAATCTTGTATATTTAGATATTAAACGATATTTAATATACATAAAGATATATATTTGGGTGAGCGATTCCTTAACACGAAATTGAGATTAAGGAGTCGCTCTTTTTTATGTATAAAAAAACATATGCA |

| Fusion 4 | L(AC-UG) |
|---------|----------|
| ATGCAAATCATTCAATCATTGGAATACAGGATTTGAGACGACATCATTCAAAGAAAAACACTGAGTTTATTATAATCTTGTATATTTAGATATTAAACGATATTTAATATACATAAAGATATATATTTGGGTGAGCGATTCCTTAACACGAAATTGAGATTAAGGAGTCGCTCTTTTTTATGTATAAAAAAACATATGCA |

| NP Fusion 1 |
|------------|
| ATGCAAATCATTCAATCATTGGAATACAGGATTTGAGAACGACATCATTCAAAGAAAAACACTGAGTTTATTATAATCTTGTATATTTAGATATTAAACGATATTTAATATACATAAAGATATATATTTGGGTGAGCGATTCCTTAACACGAAATTGAGATTAAGGAGTCGCTCTTTTTTATGTATAAAAAAACATATGCA |

| NP Fusion 2 |
|------------|
| ATGCAAATCATTCAATCATTGGAATACAGGATTTGAGAACGACATCATTCAAAGAAAAACACTGAGTTTATTATAATCTTGTATATTTAGATATTAAACGATATTTAATATACATAAAGATATATATTTGGGTGAGCGATTCCTTAACACGAAATTGAGATTAAGGAGTCGCTCTTTTTTATGTATAAAAAAACATATGCA |

| NP Fusion 3 |
|------------|
| ATGCAAATCATTCAATCATTGGAATACAGGATTTGAGAACGACATCATTCAAAGAAAAACACTGAGTTTATTATAATCTTGTATATTTAGATATTAAACGATATTTAATATACATAAAGATATATATTTGGGTGAGCGATTCCTTAACACGAAATTGAGATTAAGGAGTCGCTCTTTTTTATGTATAAAAAAACATATGCA |

| pT181 (SHAPE) |
|---------------|
| ATGCAAATCATTCAATCATTGGAATACAGGATTTGAGAACGACATCATTCAAAGAAAAACACTGAGTTTATTATAATCTTGTATATTTAGATATTAAACGATATTTAATATACATAAAGATATATATTTGGGTGAGCGATTCCTTAACACGAAATTGAGATTAAGGAGTCGCTCTTTTTTATGTATAAAAAAACATATGCA |

| Fusion 1 (SHAPE) |
|------------------|
| ATGCAAATCATTCAATCATTGGAATACAGGATTTGAGAACGACATCATTCAAAGAAAAACACTGAGTTTATTATAATCTTGTATATTTAGATATTAAACGATATTTAATATACATAAAGATATATATTTGGGTGAGCGATTCCTTAACACGAAATTGAGATTAAGGAGTCGCTCTTTTTTATGTATAAAAAAACATATGCA |

| Fusion 2 (SHAPE) |
|------------------|
| ATGCAAATCATTCAATCATTGGAATACAGGATTTGAGAACGACATCATTCAAAGAAAAACACTGAGTTTATTATAATCTTGTATATTTAGATATTAAACGATATTTAATATACATAAAGATATATATTTGGGTGAGCGATTCCTTAACACGAAATTGAGATTAAGGAGTCGCTCTTTTTTATGTATAAAAAAACATATGCA |

| Fusion 3 (SHAPE) |
|------------------|
| ATGCAAATCATTCAATCATTGGAATACAGGATTTGAGAACGACATCATTCAAAGAAAAACACTGAGTTTATTATAATCTTGTATATTTAGATATTAAACGATATTTAATATACATAAAGATATATATTTGGGTGAGCGATTCCTTAACACGAAATTGAGATTAAGGAGTCGCTCTTTTTTATGTATAAAAAAACATATGCA |
| Fusion | (SHAPE) | Sequence |
|--------|---------|----------|
| Fusion 10 | | AACAAAATAAAAAAGGAGTCGCTACGCTTTTGCGAGTGTGAACGACATCATTCAAAAGAAAAAACACTGAGTTGTATTTATATTAGATATAAACGA |
| Fusion 4 | (SHAPE) | AACAAAAATAAAAAGGAGTCGCTACGCTTTTGCGAGTGTGAACGACATCATTCAAAAGAAAAAACACTGAGTTGTATTTATATTAGATATAAACGA |
| Fusion 3 | L1(UU-AA) | AAAAGCAAAAACCCCGATAATCTTCTTCAACTTTGGCGAGTACGAAAAGATTAATTAAACGA |
| Fusion 3 | L1(AA-UU) | AAAAGCAAAAACCCCGATAATCTTCTTCAACTTTGGCGAGTACGAAAAGATTAATTAAACGA |
| Fusion 3 | L2(UC-AG) | AAAAGCAAAAACCCCGATAATCTTCTTCAACTTTGGCGAGTACGAAAAGATTAATTAAACGA |
| Fusion 3 | L2(GU-CA) | AAAAGCAAAAACCCCGATAATCTTCTTCAACTTTGGCGAGTACGAAAAGATTAATTAAACGA |
| Fusion 4 | L(UG-AC) | AAAAGCAAAAACCCCGATAATCTTCTTCAACTTTGGCGAGTACGAAAAGATTAATTAAACGA |
| Fusion 4 | L(AC-UG) | AAAAGCAAAAACCCCGATAATCTTCTTCAACTTTGGCGAGTACGAAAAGATTAATTAAACGA |
| R1 hairpin | | AAAAGCAAAAACCCCGATAATCTTCTTCAACTTTGGCGAGTACGAAAAGATTAATTAAACGA |
| NP Fusion 1 | (SHAPE) | AACAAAATAAAAAAGGAGTCGCTACGCTTTTGCGAGTGTGAACGACATCATTCAAAAGAAAAAACACTGAGTTGTATTTATATTAGATATAAACGA |
| NP Fusion 2 | (SHAPE) | AACAAAATAAAAAAGGAGTCGCTACGCTTTTGCGAGTGTGAACGACATCATTCAAAAGAAAAAACACTGAGTTGTATTTATATTAGATATAAACGA |
| NP Fusion 3 | (SHAPE) | AACAAAATAAAAAAGGAGTCGCTACGCTTTTGCGAGTGTGAACGACATCATTCAAAAGAAAAAACACTGAGTTGTATTTATATTAGATATAAACGA |
| NP Fusion 4 | (SHAPE) | AACAAAATAAAAAAGGAGTCGCTACGCTTTTGCGAGTGTGAACGACATCATTCAAAAGAAAAAACACTGAGTTGTATTTATATTAGATATAAACGA |
| pMU720 hairpin | | AAGGAAAAACCCCCCCTATTTTTTCCTCGAACTTTGGCGGAACGCCAGAAATGATTTGAGCAGAACGACATACGACTGAGTTGTATTTATATTAGATATAAACGA |
### Supplementary Table S4: Antisense sequences

| Name   | Sequence                                                                 |
|--------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| pT181  | ATACAAGATTATAAAAAACACTCAGTGTGTTTTTTTCTTTGAATGATGTCGTTCAAACTTTCCAGGGGCTGAGCGACTCTTTTTTTATTT |
| Fusion 1 | ATACAAGATTATAAAAAACACTCAGTGTGTTTTTTTCTTTGAATGATGTCGTTCAACAAGCGCCAGGCTGAGCGACTCTTTTTTTATTT |
| Fusion 2 | ATACAAGATTATAAAAAACACTCAGTGTGTTTTTTTCTTTGAATGATGTCGTTCAAGTTCCGCCAAGTTCGAGGCGTGAGCGACTCTTTTTTTATTT |
| Fusion 3 | ATACAAGATTATAAAAAACACTCAGTGTGTTTTTTTCTTTGAATGATGTCGTTCAACGTCTGCGCCAAGAACGAGGCGTGAGCGACTCTTTTTTTATTT |
| Fusion 4 | ATACAAGATTATAAAAAACACTCAGTGTGTTTTTTTCTTTGAATGATGTCGTTCAACGTACTCGCCAAAGTTGAACGTGAGCGACTCTTTTTTTATTT |
| Fusion 3 L1(UU-AA) | ATACAAGATTATAAAAAACACTCAGTGTGTTTTTTTCTTTGAATGATGTCGTTCAACGTCTGCGCCAAGAACGAGGCGTGAGCGACTCTTTTTTTATTT |
| Fusion 3 L1(AA-UU) | ATACAAGATTATAAAAAACACTCAGTGTGTTTTTTTCTTTGAATGATGTCGTTCAACGTCTGCGCCAAGAACGAGGCGTGAGCGACTCTTTTTTTATTT |
| Fusion 3 L2(UC-AG) | ATACAAGATTATAAAAAACACTCAGTGTGTTTTTTTCTTTGAATGATGTCGTTCAACGTCTGCGCCAAGAACGAGGCGTGAGCGACTCTTTTTTTATTT |
| Fusion 3 L2(GU-CA) | ATACAAGATTATAAAAAACACTCAGTGTGTTTTTTTCTTTGAATGATGTCGTTCAACGTCTGCGCCAAGAACGAGGCGTGAGCGACTCTTTTTTTATTT |
| Fusion 4 L(UG-AC) | ATACAAGATTATAAAAAACACTCAGTGTGTTTTTTTCTTTGAATGATGTCGTTCAACGTCTGCGCCAAGAACGAGGCGTGAGCGACTCTTTTTTTATTT |
| Fusion 4 L(AC-UG) | ATACAAGATTATAAAAAACACTCAGTGTGTTTTTTTCTTTGAATGATGTCGTTCAACGTCTGCGCCAAGAACGAGGCGTGAGCGACTCTTTTTTTATTT |
| NP Fusion 1 | ATACAAGATTATAAAAAACACTCAGTGTGTTTTTTTCTTTGAATGATGTCGTTCAACGTCTGCGCCAAGAACGAGGCGTGAGCGACTCTTTTTTTATTT |
| NP Fusion 2 | ATACAAGATTATAAAAAACACTCAGTGTGTTTTTTTCTTTGAATGATGTCGTTCAACGTCTGCGCCAAGAACGAGGCGTGAGCGACTCTTTTTTTATTT |
| NP Fusion 3 | ATACAAGATTATAAAAAACACTCAGTGTGTTTTTTTCTTTGAATGATGTCGTTCAACGTCTGCGCCAAGAACGAGGCGTGAGCGACTCTTTTTTTATTT |
| NP Fusion 4 | ATACAAGATTATAAAAAACACTCAGTGTGTTTTTTTCTTTGAATGATGTCGTTCAACGTCTGCGCCAAGAACGAGGCGTGAGCGACTCTTTTTTTATTT |
**Supplementary Table S5**: Oligonucleotides used for in-cell SHAPE-Seq. Abbreviations within primer sequences are as follows: '/5Biosg/' is a 5' biotin moiety, '/5Phos/' is a 5' monophosphate group, '/3SpC3/' is a 3' 3-carbon spacer group, VIC and NED are fluorophores (ABI), and asterisks indicate a phosphorothioate backbone modification.

### Reverse Transcription

| Terminator (ECK404) | /5Biosg/TTTATCGGCCGAAGCAGGTAG |

### Adapter Ligation

| A_adapter_b (A_b) (ssDNA adapter) | /5Phos/AGATCGGAAGAGCACACGTCTGAAACTCCAGTCAC/3SpC3/ |

### Fluorescent Quality Analysis

| Reverse QA primer (+) | VIC–GTGACTGGAGTTTCAGACGTGTGCTC |
| Reverse QA primer (-) | NED–GTGACTGGAGTTTCAGACGTGTGCTC |

### Primers for Building dsDNA Libraries

| ECK404 (+) selection primer (forward) | CTTTCCCTACACGACGCTCTTCCGATCTRRRYtTTATCGGCCGAAGCAGGTAgA*G*G*C |
| ECK404 (-) selection primer (forward) | CTTTCCCTACACGACGCTCTTCCGATCTYYYRtTTATCGGCCGAAGCAGGTAgA*G*G*C |
| PE_forward† | AATGATACGGCGACCACAGATCTACTCTTTCCCTACACGACGCTCTTCCGATCT |

### Illumina Multiplexing Primers (Oligonucleotide sequences © 2007-2013 Illumina, Inc. All rights reserved.)

| Illumina Index #1† | CAACAGAAGACGCATACGAGATCGTGAATGTGACTGAGTTTCAGACGTGTGCTC |
| Illumina Index #2† | CAACAGAAGACGCATACGAGATACATCGTGAATGTGACTGAGTTTCAGACGTGTGCTC |
| Illumina Index #3† | CAACAGAAGACGCATACGAGATCCCTAAATGTGACTGAGTTTCAGACGTGTGCTC |
| Illumina Index #4† | CAACAGAAGACGCATACGAGATTGCTAtGTGACTGAGTTTCAGACGTGTGCTC |
| Illumina Index #5† | CAACAGAAGACGCATACGAGATACGTGACTGAGTTTCAGACGTGTGCTC |
| Illumina Index #6† | CAACAGAAGACGCATACGAGATTGCTAtGTGACTGAGTTTCAGACGTGTGCTC |
| Illumina Index #7† | CAACAGAAGACGCATACGAGATTGCTAtGTGACTGAGTTTCAGACGTGTGCTC |
| Illumina Index #8† | CAACAGAAGACGCATACGAGATTGCTAtGTGACTGAGTTTCAGACGTGTGCTC |
| Illumina Index #9† | CAACAGAAGACGCATACGAGATTGCTAtGTGACTGAGTTTCAGACGTGTGCTC |
| Illumina Index #10† | CAACAGAAGACGCATACGAGATTGCTAtGTGACTGAGTTTCAGACGTGTGCTC |
| Illumina Index #11† | CAACAGAAGACGCATACGAGATTGCTAtGTGACTGAGTTTCAGACGTGTGCTC |
| Illumina Index #12† | CAACAGAAGACGCATACGAGATTGCTAtGTGACTGAGTTTCAGACGTGTGCTC |
| Illumina Index #13† | CAACAGAAGACGCATACGAGATTGCTAtGTGACTGAGTTTCAGACGTGTGCTC |
| Illumina Index #14† | CAACAGAAGACGCATACGAGATTGCTAtGTGACTGAGTTTCAGACGTGTGCTC |
| Illumina Index #15† | CAACAGAAGACGCATACGAGATTGCTAtGTGACTGAGTTTCAGACGTGTGCTC |
| Illumina Index #16† | CAACAGAAGACGCATACGAGATTGCTAtGTGACTGAGTTTCAGACGTGTGCTC |
| Illumina Index #18† | CAACAGAAGACGCATACGAGATTGCTAtGTGACTGAGTTTCAGACGTGTGCTC |

†Oligonucleotide sequences © 2007-2013 Illumina, Inc. All rights reserved.
Supplementary Table S6. RMDB data deposition table. SHAPE-Seq reactivity spectra generated in this work is freely available from the RNA Mapping Database (RMDB) ([http://rmdb.stanford.edu/repository/](http://rmdb.stanford.edu/repository/)), accessible using the RMDB ID numbers listed in the table below.

| Name                  | RMDB ID        | Contents                                              | Figure(s) used in |
|-----------------------|----------------|-------------------------------------------------------|-------------------|
| Fusion 1              | FUS01_1M7_0001 | Triplicate data of Fusion 1 sensing hairpin           | 2, S2             |
| Fusion 2              | FUS02_1M7_0001 | Triplicate data of Fusion 2 sensing hairpin           | 2, S2, S5         |
| Fusion 3              | FUS03_1M7_0001 | Triplicate data of Fusion 3 sensing hairpin           | 2, 3, 4, 5, S2, S6, S8 |
| Fusion 4              | FUS04_1M7_0001 | Triplicate data of Fusion 4 sensing hairpin           | 2, 3, 5, S4       |
| Fusion 10             | FUS10_1M7_0001 | Triplicate data of Fusion 10 sensing hairpin          | 2, S4, S5         |
| Fusion 3 L1(UU-AA)    | FUS3L1A_1M7_0001 | Triplicate data of Fusion 3 L1(UU-AA) sensing hairpin | 3                 |
| Fusion 3 L1(AA-UU)    | FUS3L1B_1M7_0001 | Single data of Fusion 3 L1(AA-UU) sensing hairpin    | S6                |
| Fusion 3 L2(UC-AG)    | FUS3L2B_1M7_0001 | Single data of Fusion 3 L2(UC-AG)                     | S6                |
| Fusion 3 L2(GU-CA)    | FUS3L2A_1M7_0001 | Triplicate data of Fusion 3 L2(GU-CA) sensing hairpin | 3, 4, S5, S8     |
| Fusion 4 L(UG-AC)     | FUS4LA_1M7_0001 | Triplicate data of Fusion 4 L(UG-AC) sensing hairpin | 3, S5             |
| Fusion 4 L(AC-UG)     | FUS4LB_1M7_0001 | Single data of Fusion 4 L(AC-UG) sensing hairpin     | S7                |
| NP Fusion 1           | NPFUS1_1M7_0001 | Triplicate data of NP Fusion 1 sensing hairpin       | 6, S13            |
| NP Fusion 2           | NPFUS2_1M7_0001 | Triplicate data of NP Fusion 2 sensing hairpin       | 6, S13            |
| NP Fusion 3           | NPFUS3_1M7_0001 | Triplicate data of NP Fusion 3 sensing hairpin       | S12               |
| NP Fusion 4           | NPFUS4_1M7_0001 | Triplicate data of NP Fusion 4 sensing hairpin       | S12               |
| pMU720 hairpin        | PMU720_1M7_0001 | Triplicate data of pMU720 regulator sensing hairpin  | 5, S11            |
| R1 hairpin            | R1HP1_1M7_0001  | Quadruple data of R1 regulator sensing hairpin       | 5, S11            |
**Supplementary Table S7.** A thermodynamic folding analysis of the ON and OFF states predicts that all fusions should be functional. Free energies of the ON, OFF (no antisense), and OFF (with antisense) were calculated using RNAstructure (Reuter and Mathews 2010) and are reported in kcal/mol. The ON structure was obtained by forced pairing of the antiterminator with the 5’ half of the terminator stem using the RNAstructure $fold$ utility with default parameters. Similarly, the OFF (no antisense) structure is the lowest free energy structure where the complete terminator and poly U are formed. The OFF-with-antisense free energy was calculated using the $duplex$ utility by also including the complete antisense sequence (without terminator). All of these analysis predict that OFF (with antisense) is much more stable than OFF (no antisense), indicating that from a thermodynamic perspective all fusions should be functional.

| Attenuator         | ON   | OFF (no antisense) | OFF (with antisense) |
|--------------------|------|--------------------|----------------------|
| Fusion 1           | -50.1| -54.6              | -173.6               |
| Fusion 2           | -48.2| -52.7              | -184.4               |
| Fusion 3           | -54.6| -55.5              | -204.8               |
| Fusion 3 L1(UU-AA) | -58  | -61.4              | -204.8               |
| Fusion 3 L2(GU-CA) | -56  | -63.1              | -204.8               |
Supplementary Figure S1. Plasmid architecture for (A) Attenuator-SFGFP constructs for functional testing. (B) Antisense constructs for functional testing. (C) Truncated attenuator constructs for in-cell SHAPE-Seq. (D) Antisense constructs for functional testing or in-cell SHAPE-Seq. Specific sequences can be found in Supplementary Tables S2-S4. The no-antisense control plasmid lacked an antisense coding sequence.
Nucleotide Position 5' to 3'

Fusion 1

Fusion 2

Fusion 3

5'-AACAAAGUAAAGGGACAUCAUCAAGAAAGACACUGAGU-3'

5'-AACAAAGUAAAGGGACAUCAUCAAGAAAGACACUGAGU-3'

18
**Supplementary Figure S2.** Full comparison of in-cell SHAPE-Seq reactivity spectra for Fusions 1-3. The common sequence from the pT181 attenuator is nucleotides 1-26 and 49-120. Shaded region indicates the fusion region shown in Figure 2. The Fusion 3 sequence is used for the comparison. Nucleotide positions that are not included in Fusions 1 or 2 are left without data. Reactivity spectra represent an average of three independent in-cell SHAPE-Seq experiments with error bars representing standard deviations at each nucleotide. Secondary structures are in-cell SHAPE-constrained predictions (see Materials and Methods).
Supplementary Figure S3. In-cell SHAPE-Seq reactivity comparison for Fusions 1-3 antisense RNAs (AS). The common sequence from the pT181 antisense is nucleotides 1-55 and 78-99. The shaded region indicates the pMU720 sequence included for each Fusion. The Fusion 3 antisense sequence is used for the comparison. Nucleotide positions that are not included in Fusions 1 or 2 are left without data. Reactivity spectra represent an average of two independent in-cell SHAPE-Seq experiments with error bars representing the high and low value for each nucleotide. Secondary structures are in-cell SHAPE-constrained predictions (see Materials and Methods).
Supplementary Figure S4. Full comparison of in-cell SHAPE-Seq reactivity spectra for Fusions 10 and 4. The common sequence from the pT181 attenuator is nucleotides 1-26 and 47-118. Shaded region indicates the fusion region shown in Figure 2. The Fusion 4 sequence is used for the comparison. Nucleotide positions that are not included in Fusion 10 are left without data. Reactivity spectra represent an average of three independent in-cell SHAPE-Seq experiments with error bars representing standard deviations at each nucleotide.
Supplementary Figure S5. Comparison of interior loop closures to non-functional fusions. (A) In-cell SHAPE-constrained secondary structure prediction of the Fusion 3 hairpin indicating mutations to close the lower interior loop L2(GU-CA). Boxed region indicates nucleotides shown in the reactivity spectra in (B). The nucleotides included in Fusion 2 are in the colored box. (B) In-cell SHAPE-Seq reactivity spectra comparing Fusion 2 and Fusion 3 L2(GU-CA). The data is the same as represented in Figures 2C and 3F respectively. (C) In-cell SHAPE-constrained secondary structure prediction of the Fusion 4 hairpin indicating mutations to close the interior loop L(UG-AC). Boxed region indicates nucleotides shown in the reactivity spectra in D. The nucleotides included in Fusion 10 are in the colored box. (D) In-cell reactivity spectra comparing Fusion 10 and Fusion 4 L(UG-AC). The data is the same as represented in Figures 2F and 3I respectively.
Supplementary Figure S6. Mutations to the 3’ side of Fusion 3 interior loops. Data complementary to Figure 3. The Fusion 3 data is the same as represented in Figure 3. (A) Functional characterization of Fusion 3 and the Fusion 3 L1 mutant that closes the top interior loop. Average fluorescence (FL/OD) of E. coli TG1 cells with (+ AS) or without (- AS) antisense RNA. Error bars represent standard deviations of nine biological replicates. (B) In-cell SHAPE--constrained secondary structure prediction of the Fusion 3 hairpin indicating mutations to close the upper interior loop (L1, AA-UU). Boxed region indicates nucleotides shown in the reactivity spectra in (C). (C) In-cell SHAPE-Seq reactivity comparison for Fusion 3 and Fusion 3 L1(AA-UU). A single in-cell SHAPE-Seq experiment was performed for Fusion 3 L1(AA-UU). Shaded regions and colored brackets indicate nucleotides of the mutated interior loop. (D, E, F) As in (A, B, C) but for the Fusion 3 L2 mutant that closes the bottom interior loop.
**Supplementary Figure S7.** Mutations to the 3’ side of the Fusion 4 interior loop. Data complementary to Figure 3. The Fusion 4 data is the same as represented in Figure 3. (A) Functional characterization of Fusion 4 and the Fusion 4 mutant that closes the interior loop. Average fluorescence (FL/OD) of *E. coli* TG1 cells with (+ AS) or without (- AS) antisense RNA. Error bars represent standard deviations of nine biological replicates. (B) In-cell SHAPE-constrained secondary structure prediction of the Fusion 4 hairpin indicating mutations to close the interior loop L(AC-UG). Boxed region indicates nucleotides shown in the reactivity spectra in (C). (C) In-cell SHAPE-Seq reactivity comparison for Fusion 4 and Fusion 4 L(AC-UG). A single in-cell SHAPE-Seq experiment was performed for Fusion 4 L(AC-UG). Shaded regions and colored brackets indicate nucleotides of the mutated interior loop.
Supplementary Figure S8. Percent base pair occupancies from molecular dynamics simulations performed at (A) 311 K and (B) 400 K show the increased stability in the fusion region of the interior loop mutant Fusion 3 L2(GU-CA) compared to Fusion 3. Simulation data converted to percent frames with bases unpaired, or open, for (C) 311K and (D) 400K to allow for comparison to SHAPE-Seq reactivities. (E) Comparison of percent change in base pair occupancy at 311 K and 400 K. Percent base pair occupancies were first converted into percentages of frames in which each base pair was not occupied (C and D). This was then used to calculate a percent change in this value from Fusion 3 to Fusion 3 L2(GU-CA) at each base pair. Shaded regions indicate the L1 and L2 interior loops.
Supplementary Figure S9. The simulation cumulative average base pair occupancy is shown for A) fusion 3 and B) fusion 3L2 at 311K. The first 30 ns (the grayed region) was discarded as equilibration while the following 100 ns was considered converged and used in the calculation of the reported base pair occupancies.
Supplementary Figure S10. Representative simulation structures are shown at (A) 311 K and (B) 400 K for Fusion 3 and Fusion 3 L2(GU-CA). Ribbon representations of nucleic acid backbone and bases are colored according to in-cell SHAPE-Seq reactivities from Figure 3F. Solvent accessible surface representations, shown in transparent gray, depict the points contacted by a spherical probe of 1.4Å radius rolled across the van der Waals radii of the RNA atoms. Images generated using VMD software (Humphrey et al. 1996).
Supplementary Figure S11. Full in-cell SHAPE-Seq reactivity profiles for natural translational regulator hairpins. (A) In-cell SHAPE-constrained secondary structure prediction of the pMU720 hairpin with in-cell SHAPE-Seq reactivity profile in (B). (C) In-cell SHAPE-constrained secondary structure prediction of the R1 hairpin with in-cell SHAPE-Seq reactivity profile in (D). Reactivity spectra represent an average of three independent in-cell SHAPE-Seq experiments with error bars representing standard deviations at each nucleotide. Shaded regions indicate the data presented in Figure 5.
**Supplementary Figure S12.** Using NUPACK to design additional chimeric attenuators with defined interior loops. (A) NUPACK (Zadeh et al. 2011) design constraints. The nucleotides specified in the base of the hairpin are the same as those in the fusions from this study. Filled circles represent nucleotides that NUPACK was allowed to design. (B) Functional characterization of two NUPACK (NP) designed fusions. Average fluorescence (FL/OD) of *E. coli* TG1 cells with (+ AS) or without (- AS) antisense RNA. Error bars represent standard deviations of nine biological replicates. (C) In-cell SHAPE-Seq reactivity spectra for the upper portion of NP Fusion 3 and 4 hairpin stems. Shaded regions indicate nucleotides in the interior loop. Reactivity spectra represent an average of three independent in-cell SHAPE-Seq experiments with error bars representing standard deviations at each nucleotide.
Supplementary Figure S13. (A) Secondary structure prediction of the Fusion 4, NUPACK Fusion 1 and 2 hairpins. (B) Full in-cell SHAPE-Seq reactivity profiles for NUPACK fusions compared to Fusion 4. The common sequence from the pT181 attenuator is nucleotides 1-26 and 47-118. Shaded region indicates the fusion region shown in Figure 2 and 6. The Fusion 4 sequence is used for the comparison. Nucleotide positions that are not included in NP Fusion 1 and 2 are left without data. Reactivity spectra represent an average of three independent in-cell SHAPE-Seq experiments with error bars representing standard deviations at each nucleotide.
**Supplementary Note.** Code used to design *in silico* attenuators using the NUPACK webservers (Zadeh et al. 2011).

```plaintext
# NUPACK web server design algorithm
material = rna
temperature[C] = 37
trials = 2
sodium[M] = 1.0
dangles = some
allowmismatch = true

# target structure
structure stickfigure = ............((((((((((((........)))))))))))))).........

# sequence domains
domain a = AACAAAATAAAAAGGAGTCGCTCACG
domain b = N6
domain c = TTGGCG
domain d = N6
domain e = TGTGAACGACATCATTCAAA

stickfigure.seq = a b c d e
stickfigure.stop = 10.0
```

**Supplementary Movie 1.** Movie of a 2 ns segment from REMD simulations of Fusion 3. These trajectories were generated by following the dynamics of an initial conformation, including exchanges across neighboring temperature replicas. This process results in a physically contiguous trajectory in which the simulation temperature is free to gradually vary in the REMD range (290.00 K to 435.10 K). Ribbon representations of nucleic backbone and bases are colored according to in-cell SHAPE-Seq reactivities from Figure 3F. The surface, shown in transparent gray, follows the contour of a constant global atomic density generated using the VMD software (Chen and García 2013; Humphrey et al. 1996) qsurf representation.

**Supplementary Movie 2.** Movie of a 2 ns segment from REMD simulations of Fusion 3 L2(GU-CA). As in Supplementary Movie 1.
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