Gene expression, chromatin remodeling, histone modifications, transcription, micrococcal nuclease.
was estimated [23]. Based on this estimation, the sensitivity of the active promoters to MNase is not likely to be the sole reason for the loss of the farthest peak [23]. The ratio can be useful for detection of MNase effect.

In the present study, mononucleosomal and dinucleosomal DNA fragments of the TSA-treated cells of \textit{A. fumigatus} were mapped to its genome, and they were compared to those of the untreated cells.

**Results**

**Distribution of mononucleosomal and dinucleosomal DNA fragment lengths**

From the mapped data, we excluded the mononucleosomal and dinucleosomal DNA fragments that were longer than 236 nt and 436 nt, respectively. Accordingly, we identified 9,407,134 and 11,086,845 mononucleosomal DNA fragments and 9,197,430 and 14,382,898 dinucleosomal DNA fragments, after 15-min and 30-min treatment with MNase, respectively. After excluding the completely overlapping DNA fragments, we identified 7,178,492 and 8,932,331 mononucleosome positions and 7,199,013 and 11,674,690 dinucleosome positions, after 15-min and 30-min treatment with MNase, respectively. The distribution of mononucleosomal DNA fragment lengths had a single peak at 168 nt and 160 nt, after 15-min and 30-min treatment with MNase, respectively (Fig. 1). The distribution of dinucleosomal DNA fragment lengths had a single peak at 321 nt and 306 nt, after 15-min and 30-min treatment with MNase, respectively (Fig. 2).

**Identification of transcription start sites**

The 7,496,630 DNA sequences (5’-end 34 bases) of the untreated cells were uniquely mapped to the \textit{A. fumigatus} genome. Among the 7,496,630 sequence tags, we identified 6,968,134 that were identical to the genome sequences (34 bases matched perfectly). In this study, the 6,968,134 sequence tags were used to identify the transcription start sites (TSSs). We identified 372,259 different TSSs in the whole genome. Of these, 5,386 TSSs had >100 and 557 had >1000 sequence tags.

To compare the conservation levels of the mononucleosome positions around the TSSs, we calculated the squares of Pearson’s correlation coefficients between the profiles of the mononucleosome mapping numbers of the TSA-treated cells (15-min treatment with MNase) and the untreated cells at 300 nt downstream and upstream of the 557 TSSs (with more than 1000 sequence tags). The results are shown in Fig. S1.

![Figure 1. Histograms of the mononucleosomal DNA fragment lengths from trichostatin A (TSA)-treated cells of Aspergillus fumigatus.](image)

Top, mononucleosomal DNA fragments from untreated cells from our previous study [16]; middle, mononucleosomal DNA fragments from TSA-treated cells (15-min treatment with MNase); bottom, mononucleosomal DNA fragments from TSA-treated cells (30-min treatment with MNase). The distribution of the DNA fragment lengths from the normal cells showed 2 peaks (135 nt and 150 nt). The distribution of the DNA fragment lengths from 15-min and the 30-min treatment with MNase had single peaks at 168 nt and 160 nt, respectively.

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Estimation of sensitivity to MNase

We identified 50 highly expressed (active) genes (Table S1) and 50 lowly expressed or silent (inactive) genes (Table S2) on the basis of the microarray data of the RNAs of the TSA-treated cells of *A. fumigatus*. The mononucleosome and dinucleosome mapping numbers and their ratios were calculated for each nucleotide position in the region from 1 kb upstream of the TSS to the translational end site for each of the 50 transcriptionally active and 50 inactive genes. The ratio of the mononucleosome mapping site number to the dinucleosome mapping site number was used as a marker for the sensitivity of nucleosomes to MNase [23]. The region 1 kb upstream from the TSS was designated as the gene promoter and the region downstream from the translational start to the end was designated as the gene body.

The genomic nucleotide positions that exhibited a ratio of the mononucleosome mapping number to the dinucleosome mapping number, with both numbers being ≥1 for each nucleotide position in the active gene bodies, active gene promoters, inactive gene bodies, and inactive gene promoters were −0.86, −0.41, −0.59, and −0.66, respectively (15-min treatment with MNase) and −1.16, −1.17, −0.79, and −0.98, respectively (30-min treatment with MNase) (Fig. 3).

MNase sensitivity of the active gene promoters was the highest in the TSA-treated cells subjected to a 15-min treatment with MNase (Fig. 3). However, in the TSA-treated cells subjected to a 30-min treatment with MNase, the MNase sensitivity of the active promoters was similar to that of the active gene bodies and was lower than those of the inactive gene bodies and promoters (Fig. 3). Generally, the promoter region is more sensitive to nucleases than the gene body regions. In fact, the MNase sensitivity of the active gene promoters of untreated *A. fumigatus* cells was higher than that of the active gene bodies [16]. Thus, in this analysis, we compared the nucleosome map of the TSA-treated cells to that of the untreated cells, after subjecting them to a 15-min treatment with MNase.

Comparison of conservation levels of mononucleosome positions

After comparison of gene expression levels between the TSA-treated and untreated cells of *A. fumigatus*, we selected 50 genes.
with constant expression, 49 with down-regulated expression (≥2-fold change), and 28 genes with up-regulated expression (≥2-fold change) (Tables S3 and S4). The mapping mononucleosome numbers and the TSSs of the 50 constantly expressed genes, the 49 down-regulated genes, and the 28 up-regulated genes are shown in Figs. S2, S3, and S4, respectively. As for each gene, the gene promoter (region of 1 kb upstream from the TSS) and the gene body (region from the translational start to the end) were considered.

The medians of the squares of Pearson’s correlation coefficients between the profiles of the mononucleosome mapping numbers of the TSA-treated cells (15-min treatment with MNase) and the untreated cells were 0.54, 0.63, 0.49, 0.63, 0.50, and 0.68 for the constantly expressed gene bodies, constantly expressed gene promoters, down-regulated gene bodies, down-regulated gene promoters, up-regulated gene bodies, and up-regulated gene promoters, respectively (Fig. 4). We performed Wilcoxon signed-rank test between the gene bodies and promoters. As the results, the p-values were 0.89, 0.034, and 0.21 in the constantly expressed genes, the down-regulated genes, and the up-regulated genes, respectively.

Comparison of the expression levels of histones-related genes

Aspergillus fumigatus has 31 histone-related genes (including 10 histone deacetylase-related genes) (Table S5). Among the 31 genes, the fold-change level of rpdA (Afu2g03390), a histone deacetylase gene, was the highest based on our microarray data (Table S5, Fig. 5). We compared the mapping numbers of the mononucleosomes and the TSSs of Afu2g03390 between in the TSA-treated and untreated cells of A. fumigatus. In the untreated cells, the gene promoters had mononucleosomes whose locations were strictly fixed (Fig. 6). Around the fixed mononucleosomes, there was 1 major TSS and other minor sites (Fig. 6). On the other hand, in the TSA-treated cells, the fixed mononucleosome mapping numbers at the promoters decreased significantly and the locations were slightly variable (Fig. 6).

Discussion

Graesle et al. [24] showed that the treatment of cells with TSA stimulates expression of the histone deacetylase coding gene rpdA (homolog of RPD3 from Saccharomyces cerevisiae) of Aspergillus nidulans; however, TSA had no effect on the expression of hosA (homolog of HOS2 from Saccharomyces cerevisiae), a gene that codes for histone deacetylase. The evolutionary conservation levels of rpdA and hosA are the second and third highest among the 110 proteins related to fungal histone-modifying protein complexes, respectively [25]. On the basis of our microarray data, we compared the expression levels of the homologous genes (Afu2g03390 and Afu2g03810) of rpdA and hosA between the TSA-treated and untreated cells of A. fumigatus (Fig. 5). The fold-change level of rpdA (Afu2g03390) was the highest among the 31 histone-related genes (Table S5). The results of our microarray analysis (Fig. 5) were consistent with the results of the expression analysis of A. nidulans performed by Graesle et al. [24], indicating that TSA-treatment was also...
effective for the A. fumigatus cells used in our experiments. The rpdA is an essential gene for growth and development of A. nidulans [26]. It suggests that the function of RpdA is not completely inhibited in the TSA-treated cells of Aspergillus.

We checked the mapping numbers of the mononucleosomes and the TSSs of Afu2g03390. In the untreated cells of A. fumigatus, the gene promoters had mononucleosomes whose locations were strictly fixed (Fig. 6). In addition, there was 1 major TSS and other
minor sites, which were located around the fixed mononucleosomes (Fig. 6). However, in the TSA-treated cells, the fixed mononucleosome mapping numbers at the promoters decreased significantly and the locations were slightly variable. The histone deacetylase inhibitor TSA induces hyperacetylation of histone proteins, which may result in the hyperacetylated histones being released from the gene promoters. These results strongly suggest that the histone acetylation level of nucleosomes in the gene promoter of *Afu2g03390* is directly related to gene regulation.

Our previous study indicated that the distribution of mononucleosomal DNA fragment lengths from untreated cells of *A. fumigatus* had 2 peaks at 135 nt and 150 nt [16]. The 2 peaks in the distribution of mononucleosomal DNA fragment lengths disappeared after TSA treatment (Fig. 1). In the untreated cells, although the gene bodies of the active and inactive genes and the inactive gene promoters had 2 peaks, the active gene promoters lost the longer peak, suggesting that the nucleosome-wrapped longer DNA in the promoters inhibits high gene expression [16]. However, in the TSA-treated cells, we did not find any difference in the distribution of the mononucleosomal DNA fragment lengths between the active gene bodies and promoters and the inactive gene bodies and promoters (Fig. S5). This finding suggests that the nucleosome-wrapped longer DNA does not inhibit high gene expression in the TSA-treated cells of *A. fumigatus*.

The acetylation level of histones may be much higher in the TSA-treated cells than in the untreated cells. The hyperacetylated histones would be larger than canonical histones in the molecular size. The distributions of the mononucleosomal and dinucleosomal DNA fragment lengths of the TSA-treated cells were significantly different from those of the normal cells (Figs. 1 and 2). Both the mononucleosomal and dinucleosomal DNA fragment lengths of the TSA-treated cells were longer than those of the untreated cells. In addition, the lengths of the mononucleosomal and dinucleosomal DNA fragments that were subjected to a 30-min treatment with MNase were shorter than those subjected to a 15-min treatment with MNase (Figs. 1 and 2). This decrease in fragment lengths indicates digestion of the terminal regions of the nucleosome-bound DNA by MNase during the 15-min treatment.

Between the TSA-treated and untreated cells of *A. fumigatus*, the nucleosome positions were more conserved in the gene promoters than in the gene bodies (Fig. 4). In particular, the nucleosome positions were significantly (*p*-value < 0.05) conserved in the gene bodies of the down-regulated genes. Generally, the density of nucleosomes in the gene promoters is lower than that in the gene bodies [12,15,18]. Thus, the extension of the nucleosomal DNA lengths in the TSA-treated cells influences the nucleosome positions more strongly in the gene bodies than in the gene promoters.

We did not find significant differences between the distributions (Fig. S1) of the squares of Pearson’s correlation coefficients for the profiles of the mononucleosome mapping numbers between the TSA-treated and untreated cells at 300 nt downstream and upstream of the 557 TSSs (with >1000 sequence tags). This suggests that some genes have conserved nucleosomes just downstream of the TSS, and some genes have conserved regions upstream of the TSS.
According to the regulated nucleosome mobility model, chromatin is regulated by factors that control the equilibrium between nucleosomes with low and high mobility [27]. In this model, histone acetyltransferase and ATP-dependent nucleosome-remodeling factors (ADNR) induce high mobility of nucleosomes and transcriptional activation. In contrast, histone deacetylase and ADNR induce low mobility of nucleosomes and transcriptional repression. Based on this model, TSA-treated cells have high mobility of nucleosomes and transcriptional activation. However, the number of the up-regulated genes was smaller than that of the down-regulated genes (Table S4). One of the reasons is that although the TSA-treated cells were alive and expressed many genes, the histone-acetylation level of the TSA-treated cells was far different from the normal acetylation level.

Our findings indicate that the histone deacetylase inhibitor TSA influences nucleosome positions by elongation of the nucleosome DNA length. However, most of the nucleosome positions are conserved in the gene promoters between the TSA-treated and untreated cells of the filamentous fungus Aspergillus fumigatus, owing to the low density of the nucleosomes of the gene promoters.

Materials and Methods

Preparation and sequencing of the paired ends of nucleosomal DNA fragments

In total, 2×10^8 conidia of A. fumigatus AF293 strain were inoculated in 20 ml of 2.4% potato dextrose (PD) medium (Difco Co., Detroit, MI, USA). Cells were grown in the presence of TSA (1 μM) for 24 h at 28°C on a rotary shaker at 160 rpm and then harvested by filtration. MNase digestions were performed as described previously [28]. MNase (TAKARA BIO, Kyoto, Japan) was used at a concentration of 5 U/mg of mycelium for 15 or 30 min at 37°C. We sequenced and mapped the paired ends of the nucleosomal DNA fragments using a massively parallel sequencing platform (Illumina, San Diego, CA, USA). After the chromatin sample had been treated with MNase, the cleavage products were analyzed by agarose gel electrophoresis. We then cut off the mononucleosomal and dinucleosomal DNA fragments separately. Finally, we sequenced both ends (36 bases for the 15-min MNase-treated sample and 76 bases for the 30-min MNase-treated sample) of the DNA fragments using the Illumina Genome Analyzer. Using ELAND (Anthony J. Cox at Illumina), all reads were mapped to the A. fumigatus AF293 genome (GenBank accession numbers NC_007194 to NC_007201 corresponding to chromosomes 1 to 8), and all uniquely matching read-pairs were retained.

Identification of transcription start sites of A. fumigatus

We inoculated 2×10^8 conidia of A. fumigatus AF293 strain in 20 ml of 2.4% PD medium. Cells were grown for 24 h at 28°C on a rotary shaker at 160 rpm and then harvested by filtration. Total RNAs were isolated from the untreated A. fumigatus cells. Then, the 5′-end sequences were determined by using the oligo-capping method [29]. We sequenced 34 bases of the DNA fragments using the Illumina Genome Analyzer. Using ELAND (Anthony J. Cox at Illumina) all reads were mapped to the A. fumigatus AF293 genome (GenBank accession numbers NC_007194 to NC_007201 corresponding to chromosomes 1 to 8), and all uniquely matching sequences were retained.

Microarray analysis

The genome sequence and open reading frame predictions for A. fumigatus AF293 were obtained from GenBank accession numbers NC_007194 to NC_007201 (chromosomes 1 to 8). A customized high-density oligonucleotide array (Roche NimbleGen, Inc., Madison, WI, USA) was used for the detection of the transcripts in the TSA-treated A. fumigatus cells prepared as described above. The cDNA synthesis, hybridization, and scanning were performed by Roche NimbleGen Systems. We compared the results of TSA-treated cells with those of untreated cells (from our previous study) and selected genes that had a more than 2-fold change in expression. We confirmed that all our data is MIAME compliant and that the raw data has been deposited in a MIAME compliant database under accession no. GSE19682.

Supporting Information

Table S1 Expression levels of the transcriptionally active genes of the TSA-treated cells of Aspergillus fumigatus.

Table S2 Expression levels of the transcriptionally inactive genes of the TSA-treated cells of Aspergillus fumigatus.

Table S3 Expression levels of the histone-related genes between the TSA-treated and untreated cells.

Table S4 Expression levels of the constant expressed genes between the TSA-treated and untreated cells.

Table S5 Expression levels of the genes with more than 2 fold changes between the TSA-treated and untreated cells.

Figure S1 Boxplots of the squares of Pearson’s correlation coefficient between the profiles of the TSA-treated (15-min treatment with MNase) and untreated mononucleosome mapping numbers in the 300 nt downstream and upstream of each of the 557 transcription start sites (>1000 sequence tags).

Figure S2 Mapping numbers of mononucleosomes and transcription start sites of the 50 constant expressed genes between the TSA-treated and untreated cells. Title indicates gene name with the last character “p” or “m”. The “p” indicates that the region between the positions 1 and 1,000 is the promoter and the other region is gene body. The “m” indicates that the region between the position 1,000 downstream from the last position and the last position is the promoter and the other region is gene body.

Figure S3 Mapping numbers of mononucleosomes and transcription start sites of the 49 down-regulated genes between the TSA-treated and untreated cells. Title indicates gene name with the last character “p” or “m”. The “p” indicates that the region between the positions 1 and 1,000 is the promoter and the other region is gene body. The “m” indicates that the region between the position 1,000 downstream from the last position and the last position is the promoter and the other region is gene body.
and blue indicate the mononucleosome mapping number of the untreated cells and that of the TSA-treated cells respectively. The arrow indicates the region from the translational start to the end. The bars indicate the transcription start sites and the mapping numbers.

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**Figure S4** Mapping numbers of mononucleosomes and transcription start sites of the 28 up-regulated genes between the TSA-treated and untreated cells. Title indicates gene name with the last character “p” or “m”. The “p” indicates that the region between the positions 1 and 1,000 is the promoter and the other region is gene body. The “m” indicates that the region between the position 1,000 downstream from the last position and the last position is the promoter and the other region is gene body. Red and blue indicate the mononucleosome mapping number of the untreated cells and that of the TSA-treated cells respectively. The arrow indicates the region from the translational start to the end. The bars indicate the transcription start sites and the mapping numbers.

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**Author Contributions**

Conceived and designed the experiments: HN TM. Performed the experiments: TM YS SY. Analyzed the data: HN YS SY. Contributed

**Author Contributions**

Conceived and designed the experiments: HN TM. Performed the experiments: TM YS SY. Analyzed the data: HN YS SY. Contributed reagents/materials/analysis tools: HN HA HO. Wrote the paper: HN TM.