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**Khd1p, a protein with multiple roles in mRNA localization and
Telomeric Silencing**

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Part I

Khd1p involved in *ASH1* mRNA biology?

1. INTRODUCTION

A cell is the most basic unit of life. When a cell divides, it gives rise to two exactly like it, or so we were told during our basic biological studies. Later, we began to understand that this is not always the case, specially during development. A central issue in developmental biology is to explain the ability of a mother cell to divide into two daughter cells with different cell fates. These different cell fates are determined by different activated genetic programs. Differences in gene expression can be determined by the environment (external stimuli), or even by differential segregation of cell fate determinants. mRNA localization and asymmetric cell division are two mechanisms that to achieve this goal. Certain cell fate determinants are sorted onto different sister cells (reviewed Du *et al.*, 2007). One of the most important events in this process deals with the timing of expression. The onset of protein synthesis needs to occur at the right time and this will also mean at the right place. Proposedly, intracellular trafficking of a cell fate determinant is coupled to its translation repression and upon arrival at the destination, this repression is removed and the cell fate determinant expressed, thus creating a cell with a different cell fate (Farina and Singer, 2002; St. Johnston, 2005).

The process of mRNA localization plays an instrumental role in development of the fruit-fly, *Drosophila melanogaster*. For example the determination of the embryonic axes occurs by the cytoplasmic localization and local translation of specific maternally derived mRNAs within the oocyte. Segmentation is also a process that involves mRNA localization and spatially defined protein expression (reviewed in Johnstone and Lasko, 2001; Riechmann and Ephrussi, 2001; St Johnston, 2005). Although it is a conserved process throughout evolution *per se*, the mechanisms and the implications of this localization and spatial organization can be quite different.

mRNA localization is also a very important mechanism in determining cell polarity and polarized growth (Farina and Singer, 2002; Farina *et al.*, 2003; Zarnack and Feldbruegge, 2007).

1.1 Mechanisms of mRNA localization

Intracellular mRNA localization is a widespread mechanism in the eukarya domain (St. Johnston, 2005). Although the list of known localized messages is ever increasing, the mechanisms are somewhat conserved. They range from directional mRNA export from the nucleus, general degradation and selective spatial and localized protection, diffusion coupled to specific retention and motor-protein driven directed cargo transport along the cytoskeleton. Examples of these mechanisms include: i, the localization of the *nanos* mRNA in *Drosophila melanogaster*, stabilized

by the localized binding of Smaug and destabilized and degraded everywhere else in the embryo (St Johnston *et al.*, 1992; Rongo *et al.*, 1995; Jeske *et al.*, 2006) or the localization of *prospero* and *numb* to the basal pole of the neuroblasts by ubiquitylation and destruction of Miranda (Slack *et al.*, 2007), ii, targeting of *Vg1* mRNA to the vegetal pole of *Xenopus laevis* oocytes dependent on both actin and microtubules (Yisraeli *et al.*, 1990; Alarcon and Elinson, 2001), iii, microtubule dependent directed transport of *bicoid* mRNA (Pokrywka and Stephenson, 1991; Schnoerrer *et al.*, 2000; reviewed in Saxton, 2001). Recently, *bicoid* mRNA localization was linked to endosomal and vesicle trafficking (Irion and St. Johnston, 2007). The role of the cytoskeleton in mRNA localization process is still poorly characterized, but in recent years several well defined examples have been studied and it is not unlikely that the cytoskeleton is the driver of the mRNA localization process.

1.2 Conceptual Mechanism of cytoplasmic mRNA localization by active transport

During transcription the nascent transcript is processed to mRNA and packed to an export-competent ribonucleoprotein complex, an mRNP. This complex, once reaching the cytoplasm is recognized by the transport machinery that mediates the delivery to a defined destination. Having reached the final cellular address, the mRNA becomes effectively retained and concentrated at this location.

1.3 From the birth of a transcript to nuclear export of a mature mRNA

As the RNA polymerase II transcribes the genes into RNA, several factors, from splicing factors to export factors, are loaded onto the RNA making it export competent. For a localized mRNA, one supposes that a signal, supposedly a protein, is also loaded onto this mRNP so that it can be differentiated from the bulk mRNP particles that are not localized. This sorting is believed to take place early in the maturation process. This maturation process is characterized by the sequential deposition and removal of several heterogeneous nuclear ribo-nucleoproteins (hnRNP). Some hnRNPs are restricted to the nucleus, whereas others escort the RNA during nuclear export and remain associated until correctly localized in the cytoplasm (Hoek *et al.*, 1998; reviewed in Aguilera *et al.*, 2005; Hieronymus and Silver, 2004). One function for hnRNPs is to provide the nascent RNAs a signal for a specific location. It is conceivable that this latter hnRNP is responsible for the translation repression of the moving particle, mechanism that ensures the proper localization of the protein, only after the mRNA has been localized (Farina and Singer, 2002). For example,

hnRNP A2 binds to myelin basic protein (MBP) mRNA. This mRNA localizes to the distal ends of dendrites of oligodendrocytes (Hoek *et al.*, 1998). Another example is the Fragile X syndrome, caused by loss of function of FMR1, a protein with 2 KH-domains that binds to polyribosomes and to a few hundreds mRNAs, thus shaping synaptical activity by on-off translation regulation of synaptic localized mRNAs such as *MAP1*, *CaMKII* and others (Zalfa *et al.*, 2003; Brown *et al.*, 2001; Reviewed in Kaytor and Orr, 2001). In addition, dFMR, the Drosophila homolog of FMRP, may act as a translational repressor of *futsch*, the homolog of MAP1B (Zhang *et al.*, 2001).

Maturation of a nascent transcript into mRNA includes several co-transcriptional processes, such as 5'-capping, splicing and 3'end processing. The cap-binding complex binds to the 5' monomethylated cap structure, the exon junction complex marks the religated splice-sites and poly(A) binding protein binds the already processed 3' poly(A) tail. As any properly processed and matured mRNA will eventually lead to a protein and will then exert a function, this process of maturation has safeguards, to ensure that the mRNA produced is correctly capped, spliced and rejoined, and polyadenylated. Transcripts that lack this correct processing are retained at the nuclear periphery (Jensen *et al.*, 2003; Galy *et al.*, 2004) and are not exported, becoming then targets for the nuclear exosome (Saguez *et al.*, 2005).

The sequential maturation process indicates that the machinery involved is not only functionally but also physically linked. Increasing evidence point to the existence of mRNA factories (Iborra *et al.*, 1996; Szentirmay and Sawadogo, 2000) or large protein assemblies that are connected by a set of adaptor proteins such as Npl3p, Sub2p or Yra1p (Lei *et al.*, 2001; Erkmann and Kutay, 2004; Stutz and Izaurralde, 2003; Stewart, 2007) that ensure the swift maturation of mRNAs.

1.4 Reaching the cytoplasm

The mature mRNA upon reaching the cytoplasm changes its protein inventory, as several factors are released and re-enter the nucleus whereas others, cytoplasmic RNA-binding factors and the translation machinery, bind to the mature mRNA. This mRNA undergoes the first round of translation, circularizes and could then be sorted and loaded onto specialized ribosomes, as has been proposed for *ASH1* mRNA in budding yeast (Komili *et al.*, 2007). It can be translated immediately into protein, be targeted to the proper organelle (Corral-Debrinsky *et al.*, 2000; Marc *et al.*, 2002; Margeot *et al.*, 2003) or even be localized via the cytoskeleton to a specific intracellular destination and only then become translated, as has been shown for several mRNAs in different organisms, being *ASH1* mRNA in budding yeast (Paquin *et al.*, 2007; Deng *et al.*, 2008) and *nanos* mRNA in fruitfly (Gavis and Lehmann 1994) just two examples. Another example involves localized

destruction of a protein complex and its cargo. One such example is Miranda assymetrical basal localization in neuroblast. Miranda is ubiquitylated via its C-terminal domain; removal of this domain disrupts Miranda localisation and replacement of this domain with a ubiquitin moiety restores normal asymmetric Miranda localisation. These results demonstrate that APC/C activity and ubiquitylation of Miranda, in a proteasomal-independent process, are required for the asymmetric localisation of Miranda and its cargo proteins to the NB cortex (Slack *et al.*, 2007). These movements in the cytoplasm can occur either just by diffusion or by active cytoskeletal-dependent transport. Whenever the cytoskeleton is involved a reorganization of the microtubules or actin cables has to occur and polarization must take place. The existence of mutants that fail to polarize or displace cargo and thus fail also to localize mRNAs to their destinations has proven the essential nature of the cytoskeleton on mRNA localization.

1.5 mRNPs travelling along the cytoskeleton

Directed mRNA transport within the cytoplasm is generally mediated through the interaction of trans-acting factors, the localization machinery, with some or several localization element(s), or “zipcodes” (Kislauskis and Singer, 1992), present within the mRNA sequence (Chartrand *et al.*, 2002; Jambhekar and DeRisi, 2007). In most cases the localization elements are located within the 3'-untranslated region, 3'UTR, of the mRNA (for review see Bashirullah *et al.*, 1998; reviewed in Jambhekar and DeRisi, 2007). Most zipcodes are characterized by extended secondary structure elements like stems, bulges, loops and hairpins (Jambhekar *et al.*, 2005; Olivier *et al.*, 2005). This suggests that it is the secondary structure rather than the primary sequence that confers the RNA-protein specificity. (reviewed in Jambhekar and DeRisi, 2007).

The minimal localization complex is thought to include the mRNA bound by its zipcode to a RNA binding protein, an adaptor and a motor protein.

In *Drosophila* it has been hinted that *bicoid* mRNA is linked to cytoplasmic dynein via the zipcode-binding protein Swallow, being the adaptor protein the dynein light chain (Schnoerrer *et al.*, 2000; Arn *et al.*, 2003). In addition, *bicoid* mRNA has also been shown to be bound by Staufén, which is necessary but not sufficient for proper targetting of *bicoid* mRNA to the anterior pole of the embryo (Ferrandon *et al.*, 1997; Snee *et al.*, 2005). Recently, *oskar* mRNA/Staufén complexes were shown to be linked to *bicoid* mRNA localization via Miranda protein (Irion *et al.*, 2006). Miranda has been shown to bind Staufén in neuroblasts and ganglion mother cells, ensuring assymetrical distribution of *numb* and *prospero* mRNAs in neuroblast-ganglion mother cells cellular division, thus assisting in proper brain development (Schuldt *et al.*, 1998). The observation that Miranda is ubiquitylated

(Slack *et al.*, 2007) indicates that coupled to the positive and directed transport a localized protection could also contribute to *oskar* and *bicoid* Staufen based mRNA localization.

In *Xenopus laevis*, a set of mRNAs are localized to the vegetal pole. These include the *Vg1*, *Xvelo* (Claussen and Pieler, 2004), *Xlsirt* (Allen *et al.*, 2003), *XNIF* (Claussen *et al.*, 2004), *Xcat2* (Zhou and King, 1996) and *fatvg* (Chan *et al.*, 1999). Targeting of *Vg1* mRNA to the vegetal pole of *Xenopus laevis* oocytes is dependent on both actin and microtubules (Yisraeli *et al.*, 1990; Alarcon and Elinson, 2001).

1.5.1 Role of the cytoskeleton

Cytoplasmic mRNA transport has been described in a range of organisms, although the distance of transport can vary greatly, from extremely long in oocytes and neurons to relatively short in fibroblasts and yeast. Since cytoskeletal requirements can be determined with the help of drugs that either specifically depolymerize microfilaments or microtubules, long range transport has been associated to microtubules whereas short range transport to actin microfilaments (Nasmyth and Jansen, 1997). As an example, the localization of MBP mRNA in oligodendrocytes requires an intact microtubule cytoskeleton (Carson *et al.*, 1997), whereas targeting of β -actin mRNA to the leading edge in chicken fibroblasts requires microfilaments (Sundell and Singer, 1991).

Coupled to the selection of the type of cytoskeleton is the selection of the type of motor. In case of microtubule directed movement, two types of motors are associated, dynein, for minus-end directed movement as in *bicoid*, *gurken* and *wingless* mRNA localization (Januschke *et al.*, 2002b; MacDougall *et al.*, 2003; Delnaoue and Davis, 2005; Clark *et al.*, 2007) and kinesin, for plus-end directed movement as in *oskar* mRNA localization (Brendza *et al.*, 2000; Januschke *et al.*, 2002a; Arn *et al.*, 2003). In the case of actin filaments, myosin is the associated molecular motor (e.g. *ASH1* mRNA localization). So, coupled to the sort of cytoskeletal structure involved in mRNP transport, a specific type of motor can be found.

1.5.2 Role of the molecular motor binding adaptor proteins in determining cargo specificity

RNA is not the only cargo that is actively transported. It is generally assumed that different loads encompass different adaptor proteins, bound to the motor proteins (reviewed by Bretscher, 2003). In budding yeast, Myo2p has been implicated in numerous bud directed targetting processes, such as organelle inheritance, vesicle transport (Govindan *et al.*, 1995) or even mitotic spindle

orientation (Yin *et al.*, 2000). Cargo differentiation is a crucial event to the sorting of the localization of the load. The Myo2p motor, for example, has a wide variety of adaptor proteins, one for each cargo, which become tethered to separable cargo-binding regions within the Myo2p globular tail. Vacuole sorting involves adaptor proteins Vac17p/Vac8p (Catlett *et al.*, 2000; Tang *et al.*, 2003; Ishikawa *et al.*, 2003), transport of secretory vesicles involves Sec4p (Pruyne *et al.*, 1998; Schott *et al.*, 1999), and segregation of mitochondria requires Ypt11p (Itoh *et al.*, 2002). Sec4p and Ypt11p are organelle-binding specific Rab proteins with intrinsic GTPase activity that are located on the transported organelle membrane.

In yeast Sec4p has been shown to be targeted to the incipient bud site and this has been shown to be dependent on ER inheritance factors, such as Sec3p (Aronov *et al.*, 2007). Endoplasmic reticulum inheritance in yeast has been shown to require She3p and Myo4p (Estrada *et al.*, 2003). Both are required for cortical ER retention at the bud and contribute with Sec3 and other proteins to achieve proper ER inheritance (Aronov *et al.*, 2007). Interestingly, She3p and Myo4p have also been shown to be involved in She2p-mRNP cargo transport (Boehl *et al.*, 2000; Schmid *et al.*, 2006), indicating that mRNA localization and ER inheritance are intimately linked. Evidence for this linkage is also the observation that *Xenopus laevis* *Vg1* mRNA is localized to the vegetal pole by VgRBP/VERA, an ER associated protein (Dresher *et al.*, 1997).

1.6 Reaching the destination

In order to allow the concentration of a specific transcript against the diffusion gradient, it is generally assumed that an anchorage mechanism exists at the target site, thus preventing the mRNA to diffuse away from the delivery site. The mechanisms underlying this process are still poorly understood. One can imagine that the cargo, upon reaching the destination has to be handed over from the transport machinery to the molecular anchor and there be retained. After delivery, recycling back to the nuclear envelope of some components must occur whereas other components will remain associated to the mRNP.

At the anchoring site, perhaps with the help of RNA helicases, the mRNA is unraveled into a more accessible form that facilitates ribosome recruitment and the onset of protein synthesis. This event is normally described as local translation, coupling mRNA localization with protein synthesis. It is conceivable that the translation process itself can trigger the anchorage of a localized mRNA. In yeast, *ASH1* mRNA localization has been shown to require translation (Gonzalez *et al.*, 1999; Paquin *et al.*, 2007; Deng *et al.*, 2008). Furthermore, recently it has been reported that the *ASH1* mRNA particle travels with Endoplasmic Reticulum (ER) tubules to the bud tip (Schmid *et al.*,

2006). The fact that the ribosomes are intrinsically a part of the localizing mRNP seems to strengthen the concept that it is translation itself that triggers the anchorage. The onset of *ASH1* mRNA translation has been proposed to occur upon removal of the translation repressor, Khd1p, due to phosphorylation by Yck1p (Paquin *et al.*, 2007). Similarly, another translation repressor, Puf6p has also been shown to act on *ASH1* mRNA localization and after phosphorylation by Yck2p, releasing the translation block (Deng *et al.*, 2008).

Similarly, in fruit flies *oskar* mRNA localization depends on local synthesis of Oskar protein (Rongo *et al.*, 1995).

In addition to polyribosome mediated retention, mRNAs can be anchored by other mRNAs, due to complementary base pairing or by other RNA-binding proteins. Such is the case for *Xlsirts* RNA, a short non protein coding RNA from *Xenopus laevis* oocytes that is required for *Vg1* mRNA anchorage at the vegetal pole (Kloc and Etkin, 1994). In *Drosophila* oocytes, the double stranded RNA binding protein Staufen anchors both *oskar* mRNA to the posterior pole (Ephrussi *et al.*, 1991; Rongo *et al.*, 1995) and *bicoid* mRNA to the anterior pole (St Johnston *et al.*, 1992; Ferrandon *et al.*, 1997; Snee *et al.*, 2005). Anterior Miranda localization requires microtubules, rather than actin, and depends on the function of Exuperantia and Swallow, indicating that Miranda links Staufen/*oskar* mRNA complexes to the *bicoid* mRNA localization pathway (Irion *et al.*, 2006).

For some transcripts the cytoskeleton has been proposed to play a role not only in their transport but also in their anchorage. The most clear example is the localization of *Vg1* mRNA. While the cytoplasmic transport process requires microtubules, the cortical anchorage seems to depend on a network of actin filaments and cytokeratin (Yisraeli *et al.*, 1990; Alarcon and Elinson, 2001). This mRNA is bound by VgRBP/VERA (Deshler *et al.*, 1997) and this protein has been shown to be bound to the ER, indicating that in this organism mRNA transport can be linked to organelle trafficking as has been proposed for *ASH1* mRNA in budding yeast (Schmid *et al.*, 2006).

1.7 mRNA Localization in *S. cerevisiae*

In budding yeast mRNA localization is an important regulatory process as well. In this organism, a set of mRNAs is actively transported into the tip of growing buds, by a set of proteins, the SHE machinery (Jansen *et al.*, 1996; Boehl *et al.*, 2000; Long *et al.*, 2000). These SHE-proteins were identified in a screen designed to detect mutants that failed to generate asymmetric HO expression, an indicator of efficient *ASH1* mRNA localization. The set of mRNAs, that are actively transported to the bud-tip in a SHE-dependent manner, encode proteins that are restricted to daughter cells (e.g.

Ash1p), bud-enriched (e.g. Ist2p) or equally distributed (e.g. Tpo1p) (Shepard *et al.*, 2003). After bud localization and once translated, these proteins cannot freely diffuse back between mother and daughter cell, equilibrating the protein concentration between the two compartments, since this diffusion is prevented by the formation of the septin ring (Kozubowski *et al.*, 2005). The fact that only in the case of *ASH1* a clear correlation between RNA and protein localization occurs, shows that the underlying biological significance of this SHE-dependent localization process is still unclear. In addition, it has been suggested that SHE-dependent mRNA localization is not anaphase restricted (as in *ASH1*) and can take place independently of the cell cycle (Long *et al.*, 1997).

Recently, SHE dependent mRNA localization of polarized growth determinants was uncovered (Aronov *et al.*, 2007). *SEC4*, *CDC42* mRNAs that encode membrane associated cell polarization factors are localized to the incipient bud site prior to nuclear division in an mRNA transport independent manner but *SRO7* mRNA, encoding a non-anchored cell polarization factor is targeted in an mRNA transport dependent manner to the incipient bud site, prior to nuclear division, leading to local protein synthesis and enrichment. This work showed that this process, that relies on functional cortical ER inheritance, is Sec3p and She2p dependent, indicating that cortical ER inheritance and mRNA localization via She2p are both required for cell polarity establishment.

mRNA localization in yeast can also be SHE-independent, as observed for the targeting of mRNAs encoding a subset of mitochondrial proteins to polysomes located directly at the organelle surface (Corral-Debrinsky *et al.*, 2000; Marc *et al.*, 2002; Margeot *et al.*, 2003; Aronov *et al.*, 2007; Saint-Georges *et al.*, 2008). At this moment it is still unclear if a conserved mitochondria targeting sequence exists at the nucleotide level or if on the other hand, a mitochondria peptide signal really exists.

1.8 *ASH1* mRNA localization

Budding yeast alternates between a diploid cell division cycle and, under conditions of nutrient deprivation, an haploid cell division cycle. The mating of two haploid cells with opposing mating type (a and alpha) leads to a diploid cell. Upon budding a mother cell and a daughter cell are generated. Mother cells are capable of switching their mating type, while daughter cells are not. Mating type switching is regulated by HO endonuclease (Nasmyth *et al.*, 1993), a protein that is expressed only in mother cells. HO initiates a genomic rearrangement of the MAT locus, converting it from a to alpha or vice versa. In daughter cells the expression of HO is repressed by Ash1p (asymmetric synthesis of HO), which is asymmetrically distributed to daughter cell nuclei (Bobola *et al.*, 1996; Sil and Herskowitz, 1996; Cosma *et al.*, 1999; Maxon and Herskowitz, 2001). This

asymmetric sorting of Ash1p to the daughter cell nuclei correlates with the localization of *ASH1* mRNA to the distal tip of daughter cells during the anaphase stage of cell cycle (Long *et al.*, 1997; Takizawa *et al.*, 1997). Ash1p serves a model for studying asymmetric segregation of cell fate determinants due to mRNA localization (reviewed in Darzacq *et al.*, 2003).

ASH1 is only transcribed in anaphase (Bobola *et al.*, 1996; Spellman *et al.*, 1998). Ash1p is not only recruited to the HO promoter but also interacts with *SGA1* and *PCL1* promoters, two loci implicated in sporulation and cell cycle control (Lee *et al.*, 2002). Pcl1p is one of the cyclins of the Pho85p kinase complex (McBride *et al.*, 2001). Deletion of *pho85* leads to a stabilization of Ash1p, so that its activity persists in the daughter cell during the cell cycle and thus represses mating type switching in the following cell division.

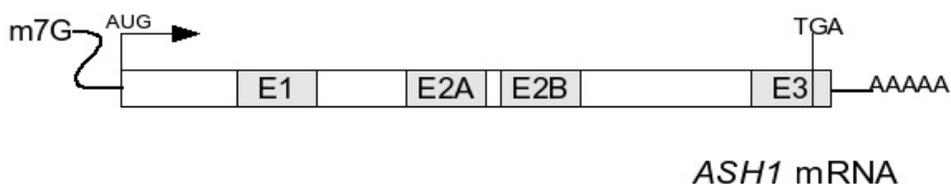


Fig. 1 – Schematic view of *ASH1* mRNA, showing the localization elements E1 (598-750), E2A(1044-1196), E2B(1175-1447) and E3(1752-1870).

1.9 *ASH1* mRNA

Four zipcode elements (Fig. 1) have been described as essential for transport and for tight anchorage at the bud tip cortex, namely E1, E2A, E2B and E3 (Chartrand *et al.*, 1999; Chartrand *et al.*, 2002). Of these elements, three are located in the coding region and one, the E3, spans from the end of the open reading frame into the 3'UTR. Secondary structure prediction of these elements suggest that all *ASH1* zipcodes form extensive stem-loops and bulges (Chartrand *et al.*, 1999; Gonzalez *et al.*, 1999; Chartrand *et al.*, 2002; Olivier *et al.*, 2005; Jambhekar *et al.*, 2005). The disruption of these structures destroys the ability to direct mRNA localization and the ability to be bound by She2p (Olivier *et al.*, 2005). In addition, the integrity of the E3 element is essential for the binding of She2p (Boehl *et al.*, 2000; Long *et al.*, 2000). Although one element alone was shown to be sufficient for localization into the bud (Long *et al.*, 1997; Takizawa *et al.*, 1997; Bertrand *et al.*, 1998), all four have been proven to be essential for tight anchoring at the bud tip (Chartrand *et al.*, 2002). These secondary structured localization elements, not only serve as binding sites for trans-acting localization factors, such as She2p and Khd1p, but also seem to act as molecular obstacles, slowing down protein synthesis (Chartrand *et al.*, 2002). It has been suggested that this molecular

translation delay contributes to achieve a proper Ash1p asymmetry. Another contributing observation to strengthen the idea that translation plays a role in *ASH1* mRNA localization, was the fact that the presence of premature termination codons (PTC) prior to each of the zipcodes showed no decreased mRNA stability although showing a severe impairment in mRNA localization (Jaedicke A., PhD Thesis, 2004).

1.10 Translation Regulation

The local enrichment of an mRNA can lead to a higher concentration of the encoded protein at a specific location. Therefore, the cell has to have developed mechanisms by which the localizing mRNA is not translated before reaching its final destination. This forces a closer look at how translation of a localizing mRNP can be regulated. Not only can translation be regulated at the maturation of the ribosome, at the translation initiation step and at ribosomal subunit joining, but also, and most likely, translation can also be regulated by the removal of a translation repressor from the localizing mRNP.

The observation that the presence of premature stop codons prior to any of the zipcodes does not elicit NMD but severely impairs localization and anchoring (Jaedicke, PhD Thesis 2004) seems to point to a role for the initial round of translation in the mRNA localization event. Furthermore, cycloheximide treatment of yeast cells, that blocks translation elongation leads to a loss of mRNA localization (Jaedicke, PhD Thesis 2004) and it has been shown that its own translation is required for proper anchoring of the localizing *ASH1* mRNA (Gonzalez *et al.*, 1999).

A recent example suggested that *ASH1* mRNA travels to the bud tip in a SHE-machinery dependent manner, in an mRNP and that upon reaching its destination Khd1p, a protein that binds the E1 element of *ASH1* mRNA, is phosphorylated by Yck1p, a kinase at the plasma membrane, and releases the *ASH1* mRNA translation block (Paquin *et al.*, 2007). Furthermore, Puf6p has also been shown to be an *ASH1* mRNA translational repressor (Gu *et al.*, 2004). Puf6p was shown to bind the E3 element of *ASH1* mRNA (Gu *et al.*, 2004) and repress its translation by interacting with Fun12p/eIF5B (Deng *et al.*, 2008). This interaction was abolished and *ASH1* mRNA was translated upon Puf6p phosphorylation by Yck2p (Deng *et al.*, 2008). This model of translational repression of the localizing mRNA and translation block release upon reaching the final destination is consistent with other observations for other mRNPs in higher eukaryotes, as already discussed.

1.11 The core localization machinery

The motor protein that mediates the active transport of the SHE mRNA is Myo4p (Jansen *et al.*, 1996, Muenchow *et al.*, 1999). Myo4p is a non-muscle myosin, that belongs to the class V myosins, where the only other member is a protein 57% identical to Myo4p, Myo2p (Haarer *et al.*, 1994). Although Myo2p is essential for growth (Johnston *et al.*, 1991), Myo4p is not (Haarer *et al.*, 1994). Both myosins localize to the bud tip during bud formation (Lillie and Brown, 1994; Schott *et al.*, 1999). Although it was previously assumed that Myo2p was only associated with organelle inheritance and Myo4p only with mRNA localization, recent publications show that Myo4p is also implicated in cortical ER inheritance (Estrada *et al.*, 2003; Schmid *et al.*, 2006).

An interaction partner of Myo4p is She3p, acting as an adaptor protein between the mRNA binding protein She2p and the motor (Takizawa and Vale, 2000). More detailed analysis (Boehl *et al.*, 2000; Long *et al.*, 2000) have shown that Myo4p interacts with NH₂-terminus of She3p. This interaction is a direct physical link and is a tight and permanent association (Boehl *et al.*, 2000).

In addition, gel-shift assays have demonstrated that She2p binding to an *ASH1* zipcode element is specific and enhanced by She3p (Boehl *et al.*, 2000), providing evidence for a stabilization or even a cooperative binding to the mRNA.

She2p acts as a specific mRNA binding protein, that bridges *ASH1* mRNA to the She3p carboxy-terminus (Boehl *et al.*, 2000; Long *et al.*, 2000; Kwon and Schnapp, 2001). Although all four localization elements within *ASH1* mRNA are contacted and needed for efficient localization and transport (Boehl *et al.*, 2000; Chartrand *et al.*, 2002; Olivier *et al.*, 2005; Jambhekar *et al.*, 2005; Reviewed in Jambhekar and Derisi, 2007), the affinity of She2p to these elements has been proposed to be different (Long *et al.*, 2000; Niessing *et al.*, 2004). Nevertheless, a combination of zipcode-swapping and site directed mutagenesis have demonstrated that the zipcodes are redundant in function in regard to mRNA localization (Chartrand *et al.*, 2002).

Despite the fact that the She2p primary sequence does not contain a canonical mRNA binding site, information taken from the crystallographic structure of She2p has revealed a region that can be responsible for its mRNA binding ability (Niessing *et al.*, 2004). These regions include the COOH-terminus, the NH₂-terminus and a positively-charged surface region, that could bind negatively charged nucleic acids (Niessing *et al.*, 2004). Although She2p is distributed uniformly throughout the cytoplasm (Jansen *et al.*, 1996), upon *ASH1* overexpression, She2p co-localizes together with *ASH1* mRNA at the tip of growing buds (Boehl *et al.*, 2000). Interestingly, upon mRNA export block, using a temperature sensitive *MEX67* allele, She2p can be trapped in the nucleus and is

excluded from the cytoplasmic fraction (Kruse *et al.*, 2002), indicating that it is a shuttling protein.

Since Myo4p, She3p and She2p all co-localize with trafficking *ASH1* mRNA containing particles (Takizawa and Vale, 2000; Irie *et al.*, 2002) and co-immunoprecipitate with *ASH1* mRNA (Muenchow *et al.*, 1999; Takizawa and Vale, 2000), the three proteins are thought to be the core locosome, the minimal SHE RNP (Darzacq *et al.*, 2003). Furthermore, She3p and Myo4p have been shown to co-localize with *ASH1* mRNA in the cytoplasm on string-like filamentous structures (Muenchow *et al.*, 1999), resembling transport intermediates. Other factors can be associated with this core locosome (reviewed in Paquin and Chartrand, 2007) either transiently, or associated but not required for transport.

1.12 Accessory factors

■LOC1

The strictly nuclear protein Loc1p was isolated by 3-hybrid screening due to its ability to bind to *ASH1* 3' UTR (Long *et al.*, 2001). In a *loc1* disruption, the asymmetric distribution of both *ASH1* mRNA and Ash1p is affected. However, Loc1p has been identified as part of the 66S-pre-rRNA complex and been shown to be involved in 25S rRNA processing (Harnpicharnchai *et al.*, 2001). Its function in assembly and export of 60S ribosomal subunit has been shown more recently (Urbinati *et al.*, 2006). Loc1p, due to its extremely high isoelectric point, binds unspecifically to double stranded RNA (Long *et al.*, 2001). In addition, a *loc1* disruption shows a severe slow growth phenotype at 30 degrees and an abnormal cell morphology (Long *et al.*, 2001), typical for genes involved in ribosome synthesis pathways. Therefore, the connection of Loc1p to mRNA localization seems to be rather indirect and a reflex of a defect in ribosome biogenesis and protein synthesis.

Recently however, it has been shown that Loc1p is instrumental in loading the *ASH1* mRNA onto to a specific non-canonical ribosome that includes a special combination of ribosomal protein phenocopies (Komili *et al.*, 2007). These non-canonical ribosomes are then localized to the bud tip, in a repressed state, taking with them *ASH1* mRNA and are translationally activated once reaching the target site.

■ *PUF6*

Another protein that has been shown to bind to the *ASH1* 3' UTR is Puf6p. This protein is a non canonical pumilio-related RNA binding protein and a $\Delta puf6$ has been shown to make *ASH1* mRNA translation faster and therefore Puf6p was proposed to be a translation repressor (Gu *et al.*, 2004).

The fact Puf6p could co-purify She2p seems to argue for a transient interaction with at least part of the locosome, namely She2p (Gu *et al.*, 2004). The question still remains whether this interaction with She2p takes place in the nucleus or whether it takes place in the cytoplasm.

Interestingly, Puf6p has also been implicated in rRNA processing and ribosome biogenesis (de Marchis *et al.*, 2005; Wade *et al.*, 2006; Fromont-Racine *et al.*, 2003) and so the translation repressor function could be indirect, due to incorrectly assembled ribosomes. Interestingly, Puf6p also co-purifies with pre-60S particles (Nissan *et al.*, 2002).

Recently, Puf6p was shown to repress *ASH1* mRNA translation by interacting with Fun12p/eIF5B. This interaction was abolished and *ASH1* mRNA was translated upon Puf6p phosphorylation by Yck2p (Deng *et al.*, 2008). In addition, Puf6p was also shown to lead to a 50% loss of localization to the incipient bud site of mRNAs encoding membrane associated polarization factors *CDC42* and *SEC4*, while not affecting localization of *SRO7*, a non membrane associated polarization factor and was proposed to play a role in the localization of mRNAs encoding the membrane-anchored small GTPases (Aronov *et al.*, 2007).

■ *SCP160*

Another accessory factor proposed to have a role in *ASH1* mRNA localization is *SCP160* (Irie *et al.*, 2002), a member of the vigilin-like protein family (Lang and Fridovich-Keil, 2000; Baum *et al.*, 2004). This protein contains 14-KH domains, domains that are known to bind double stranded nucleic acids (Wintersberger *et al.*, 1995). It has also been shown to interact with membrane-bound polysomes (Frey *et al.*, 2001) and to be a component of RNPs (Lang and Fridovich-Keil, 2000). Scp160p could play a more general role, as it has been shown to interact with 69 mRNAs with diverse functions, among which *ASH1* mRNA was not found (Li *et al.*, 2003). A more general role for Scp160p functions seems to be supported by the observation that a *SCP160* disrupted cell has been shown to be sensitive to translation impairing drugs (Baum *et al.*, 2004).

A distinct function for Scp160p in mRNP formation, stability or maturation has not yet been found and has revealed difficult to analyse as a *SCP160* disruption leads to chromosomal instability and loss of ploidy control (Wintersberger *et al.*, 1995).

■KHD1

The KH-domain protein 1, Khd1p, has been reported to bind the *ASH1* N-element (Irie *et al.*, 2002), the region spanning the first 800 nucleotides of the coding sequence. This region, that comprises also the E1 element (Chartrand *et al.*, 1999) had been previously shown to be sufficient for targeting a reporter RNA to the bud tip (Gonzalez *et al.*, 1999). Interestingly, a deletion of *khd1* had only little effect on HO expression and no significant change on the frequency in mating type switching was observed in *khd1* disrupted cells. Although a genetic interaction between *MYO4* and *KHD1* has been shown no physical interaction has been shown.

It has been shown that a *KHD1* overexpression resulted in a decrease of *ASH1* mRNA localization efficiency and in a reduction of Ash1 protein levels (Irie *et al.*, 2002). It has been proposed that the anchorage deficiency observed for *khd1* disrupted cells is caused by the inhibition of translation of *ASH1* mRNA. Translation dependent *ASH1* mRNA anchorage to the bud tip has been observed earlier (Gonzalez *et al.*, 1999), which would fit nicely to the model proposed (Irie *et al.*, 2002).

Recently, this model has been confirmed. Not only has it been shown by immunoprecipitation that Khd1p binds to a part of eIF4E (Paquin *et al.*, 2007) and to eIF4G (Gavin *et al.*, 2006), indicating that it might be connected to a eIF4E translation regulation event, but also the loss of Khd1p leads to an accumulation of *ASH1* mRNA in the heavier polysome fractions, indicating that it is Khd1p that somehow prevents the transition from the lighter polysome fractions to the heavier ones, thus blocking translation (Paquin *et al.*, 2007). Furthermore, the fact that Khd1p can be phosphorylated and thus release *ASH1* mRNA to be translated strengthens the translation repressor model (Paquin *et al.*, 2007).

Khd1p, similarly to She2p, is steady state localized in the cytoplasm but is a shuttling protein, and can be trapped in the nucleus in an mRNA dependent manner, when using a *MEX67* temperature sensitive allele (Du *et al.*, 2008). This fact, and localization data for Puf6p and Loc1p, points out that some localization factors have a transient nuclear localization, although being involved in a cytoplasmic process.

1.13 Aim of this work

The aim of this work is to elucidate the role of Khd1p in *ASH1* mRNP architecture and to elucidate its function in the *ASH1* mRNA localization process. In order to achieve it, a biochemical approach was designed that includes protein purification and interacting partner identification.

2. MATERIAL

2.1 PLASMIDS LIST:

Number	Construct
	PRS416- <i>XRS2</i>
1617	PRS416- <i>RAD52</i>
1620	PRS425-pADH1-YKU70
1621	PRS423-pADH1-YKU80
1063	pGAL- <i>ASH1</i> -MS2 on a <i>HIS3</i> marker
1213	PFA6a-natNT2
1214	PYM13 ProtA-TEV-CaBP, kanMX4
1407	YCplac133- <i>KHD1</i>
1417	p415-GAL1- <i>ASH1</i> -E1Stop (LEU2)
1438	PRS424- <i>TLC1</i>
1461	p413-GAL-HA6- <i>SHE3</i> -Cterm
1515	pJET- <i>KHD1</i>
1518	pGAL- <i>KHD1</i> -HA6
1525	pJET- <i>KHD1</i> -pointmutant1A-I59R
1526	pJET- <i>KHD1</i> -pointmutant1B-I68R
1527	pJET- <i>KHD1</i> -pointmutant2B-I183R
1528	pJET- <i>KHD1</i> -pointmutant3C-L284R
1529	pRS315- <i>KHD1</i>
1530	pRS315- <i>KHD1</i> -point mutant1A-I59R
1531	pRS315- <i>KHD1</i> -point mutant1B-I68R
1532	pRS315- <i>KHD1</i> -point mutant2B-I183R
1533	pRS315- <i>KHD1</i> -point mutant3C-L284R
1570	pJET- <i>SIR2</i>
1591	pRS424- <i>SIR2</i>
1599	pRS314- <i>SIR2</i>
1601	pRS314- <i>KHD1</i>
1602	pRS314- <i>KHD1</i> -pointmutant3C-L284R
1615	pRS424- <i>KHD1</i>
1616	pRS424- <i>KHD1</i> -pointmutant3C-L284R

Number	Construct
254	p415- <i>GAL1-ASH1</i> (LEU2)
276	pYM2 3xHA, S.p.HIS
277	pYM3 6xHA, K.I. TRP1
279	pYM5 3xMYC, S.p. HIS
280	pYM6 9xMyc, K.I. TRP1
285	pYM11 TEV-GST-7HIS, kanMX4
413	pRS315 (LEU2)
46	YEplac- <i>ASH1-Myc9</i>
700	pRS424
701	pRS314
741	pGPD-NLS-HA-MS2-RFP on a leu2 marker
88	YEplac- <i>ASH1</i>
909	SL plasmid- <i>KHDI</i>
287	YEplac181- <i>ASH1-STOP-E1</i>
113	p415-pGAL
135	pFA6-S.p.HIS3MX6
1618	pRS426-CLB1
1619	pRS426-CLB6

2.2 YEAST STRAINS:

Number	Genotype	Origin
JBL white...		Katja Straesser
RPY126	<i>Mat alpha, trp1-1, leu2-3, his3-11, ura3, ade2-1, HO-ADE2, HO-CAN1, SHE2::URA3</i>	Jansen <i>et al.</i> , 1996
RPY2000	<i>RPY585 scp160::TRP1 + 254</i>	Jaedicke, PhD Thesis
RPY2017	<i>RPY2049 puf6::kanMX4</i>	Euroscarf
RPY2049	<i>BY4741 Mat a, his3 delta 1, leu2 delta 0, met15 delta 0, ura3 delta 0</i>	Euroscarf
RPY2172	<i>Mat alpha, trp1-1, leu2-3, his3-11, ura3, ade2-1, HO-ADE2, HO-CAN1, SHE2-myc3 Eap1-HA6::K.l. TRP1 (Knop)</i>	Jaedicke, PhD Thesis
RPY2209	<i>RPY668 + 254</i>	This study
RPY2210	<i>RPY668 + 1417</i>	This study
RPY2211	<i>RPY671 + 254</i>	This study
RPY2212	<i>RPY671 + 1417</i>	This study
RPY2213	<i>RPY676 + 254</i>	This study
RPY2214	<i>RPY676 + 1417</i>	This study
RPY2215	<i>RPY585 + 1417</i>	This study
RPY2220	<i>RPY585 + 254</i>	This study
RPY2368	<i>MATa, ade2-1, trp1-1, can1-100, leu2-3,112, his3-11,15, ura3, GAL, psi+ KHD1::HIS3MX6</i>	This study
RPY2448	<i>RPY2017 + 254</i>	This study
RPY2449	<i>RPY2017+ 1417</i>	This study
RPY2450	<i>RPY585 UPF1::TRP1</i>	This study
RPY2451	<i>RPY2450 + 254</i>	This study
RPY2452	<i>RPY2450 + 1417</i>	This study
RPY2460	<i>RPY2368 + 254</i>	This study
RPY2461	<i>RPY2368 + 1417</i>	This study
RPY2466	<i>RPY676 upf1::TRP1</i>	This study
RPY2467	<i>RPY2466 + 254</i>	This study
RPY2468	<i>RPY2466 + 1417</i>	This study
RPY2471	<i>RPY676 vts1::TRP1</i>	This study
RPY2482	<i>RPY2471 + 254</i>	This study

Number	Genotype	Origin
RPY2483	<i>RPY2471 + 1417</i>	This study
RPY2492	<i>RPY585 vts1::TRP1</i>	This study
RPY2493	<i>RPY2492 + 254</i>	This study
RPY2494	<i>RPY2492 + 1417</i>	This study
RPY2501	<i>RPY676 PUF3::TRP1</i>	This study
RPY2502	<i>RPY585 PUF3::TRP1</i>	This study
RPY2503	<i>RPY2502 + 254</i>	This study
RPY2506	<i>RPY2501 + 254</i>	This study
RPY2507	<i>RPY2501 + 1417</i>	This study
RPY2521	<i>RPY585 ccr4::TRP1</i>	This study
RPY2522	<i>RPY2521 + 254</i>	This study
RPY2523	<i>RPY2521 + 1417</i>	This study
RPY2525	<i>RPY676 ccr4::TRP1</i>	This study
RPY2526	<i>RPY2525 + 254</i>	This study
RPY2527	<i>RPY2525 + 1417</i>	This study
RPY2537	<i>Mat a, his3 delta 1, leu2 delta 0, met15 delta 0, ura3 delta 0, XRNI::KANMX4</i>	Roy Parker (euroscarf)
RPY2538	<i>Mat a, his3 delta 1, leu2 delta 0, met15 delta 0, ura3 delta 0, upf3::kanMX4</i>	Roy Parker (euroscarf)
RPY2539	<i>Mat a, his3 delta 1, leu2 delta 0, met15 delta 0, ura3 delta 0, upf1::kanMX4</i>	Roy Parker
RPY2541	<i>Mat a, his3 delta 1, leu2 delta 0, met15 delta 0, ura3 delta 0, upf2::kanMX4</i>	Roy Parker (Euroscarf)
RPY2544	<i>Mat alpha,, ura3-52, leu2-2 112, trp1-delta1, cup1::LEU2/PM, dcp1::URA3, lys2</i>	Roy Parker
RPY2544	<i>Mat alpha,, ura3-52, leu2-2 112, trp1-delta1, cup1::LEU2/PM, dcp1::URA3, lys2</i>	Roy Parker
RPY2591	<i>RPY2541 ash1::HIS3MX6</i>	This study
RPY2592	<i>RPY2591 + 254</i>	This study
RPY2593	<i>RPY2591 + 1417</i>	This study
RPY2595	<i>RPY2538 ash1::HIS3MX6</i>	This study
RPY2596	<i>RPY2595 + 254</i>	This study
RPY2597	<i>RPY2595 + 1417</i>	This study
RPY2599	<i>RPY2537 ash1::his3MX6</i>	This study
RPY2600	<i>RPY2599 + 254</i>	This study
RPY2601	<i>RPY2599 + 1417</i>	This study

Number	Genotype	Origin
RPY2603	<i>Mat alpha</i> ,, <i>ura3-52</i> , <i>leu2-2 112</i> , <i>trp1-delta1</i> , <i>cup1::LEU2/PM</i> , <i>dcp1::URA3</i> , <i>lys2 she2::KANMX6</i>	This study
RPY2603	<i>Mat alpha</i> ,, <i>ura3-52</i> , <i>leu2-2 112</i> , <i>trp1-delta1</i> , <i>cup1::LEU2/PM</i> , <i>dcp1::URA3</i> , <i>lys2 she2::KANMX6</i>	This study
RPY2608	<i>mat a</i> , <i>leu2-3,112</i> , <i>trp1</i> , <i>ura3-52</i> , <i>his4</i> , <i>cup1::LEU2/PGK1pG/MFA2pG</i> <i>DHH1-GFP-Neo</i> <i>she2::URA3</i>	This study
RPY2655	<i>mat a</i> , <i>leu2-3,112</i> , <i>trp1</i> , <i>ura3-52</i> , <i>his4</i> , <i>ade-SHE2-URA3</i> <i>DCP1-GFP-Neo</i>	This study
RPY2665	<i>MAT???</i> , <i>ade???</i> , <i>trp1-1</i> , <i>can1-100</i> , <i>leu2-3,112</i> , <i>his3-11,15</i> , <i>ura3</i> , <i>GAL</i> , <i>psi+</i> <i>SHE2::URA3</i> <i>KHD1::HIS3MX6</i>	This study
RPY2666	<i>MAT???</i> , <i>ade???</i> , <i>trp1-1</i> , <i>can1-100</i> , <i>leu2-3,112</i> , <i>his3-11,15</i> , <i>ura3</i> , <i>GAL</i> , <i>psi+</i> <i>ASH1::URA3</i> <i>KHD1::HIS3MX6</i>	This study
RPY2667	<i>RPY2665</i> + 254	This study
RPY2668	<i>RPY2665</i> + 1417	This study
RPY2670	<i>RPY2666</i> + 254	This study
RPY2671	<i>RPY2666</i> + 1417	This study
RPY2687	<i>mat ?</i> , <i>leu2-3,112</i> , <i>trp1</i> , <i>ura3-52</i> , <i>his4</i> , <i>ade+</i> <i>DHH1-GFP-Neo</i>	This study
RPY2688	<i>mat ?</i> , <i>leu2-3,112</i> , <i>trp1</i> , <i>ura3-52</i> , <i>his4</i> , <i>ade+</i> <i>DCP1-GFP-Neo</i>	This study
RPY2689	<i>RPY2688</i> + 741	This study
RPY2690	<i>RPY2689</i> + 1063	This study
RPY2691	<i>RPY2687</i> + 741	This study
RPY2692	<i>RPY2691</i> + 1063	This study
RPY2693	<i>RPY2655</i> + 741	This study
RPY2694	<i>RPY2693</i> + 1063	This study
RPY2695	<i>RPY2608</i> + 741	This study
RPY2696	<i>RPY2608</i> + 741 + 1063	This study
RPY2698	<i>Mat a</i> , <i>his3 delta 1</i> , <i>leu2 delta 0</i> , <i>met15 delta 0</i> , <i>ura3 delta 0</i> <i>PUF6::KANMX4</i> <i>SHE2::URA3</i>	This study

Number	Genotype	Origin
RPY2911	<i>MATa, ade2-1, trp1-1, can1-100, leu2-3,112, his3-11,15, ura3, GAL, psi+ KHD1-TAP::KANMX6</i>	This study
RPY2913	<i>Mat a, his3 delta 1, leu2 delta 0, met15 delta 0, ura3 delta 0, puf6::kanMX4 khd1::his3</i>	This study
RPY2915	<i>UCC506 mat a ade2-101 his3-delta200 leu2-delta1 lys2-801 trp1-delta1 ura3-52 URA3::TEL VR</i>	Xavier Marsellach <i>et al.</i> , 2006
RPY2915	<i>UCC506 mat a ade2-101 his3-delta200 leu2-delta1 lys2-801 trp1-delta1 ura3-52 URA3::TEL VR</i>	Gottschling <i>et al.</i> , 1990
RPY2920	<i>RPY2915 khd1::S.p.HIS3</i>	This study
RPY2922	<i>RPY2915 rpd3::LEU2</i>	Marsellach <i>et al.</i> , 2006
RPY2923	<i>RPY2915 rif1::TRP1</i>	Marsellach <i>et al.</i> , 2006
RPY2924	<i>RPY2915 RIF2::LEU2</i>	Marsellach <i>et al.</i> , 2006
RPY2925	<i>RPY2915 RIF1::TRP1 RIF2::LEU2</i>	Marsellach <i>et al.</i> , 2006
RPY2926	<i>RPY2923 khd1::S.p.HIS3</i>	This study
RPY2927	<i>RPY2924 KHD1::S.p.HIS3MX6</i>	This study
RPY2929	<i>RPY2925 RIF1::TRP1 RIF2::LEU2 KHD1::HIS3</i>	This study
RPY2933	<i>MATa, ade2-1, trp1-1, can1-100, leu2-3,112, his3-11,15, ura3, GAL, psi+ KHD1-GST::KANMX6</i>	This study
RPY2961	<i>ucc506 RIF1::TRP1 KHD1::HIS3MX6 PBP2::ClonNATNT2</i>	This study
RPY2962	<i>RPY2927 PBP2::ClonNATNT2</i>	This study
RPY2963	<i>RPY2923 PBP2::ClonNATNT2</i>	This study
RPY2972	<i>RPY2920 PBP2::ClonNATNT2</i>	This study
RPY2988	<i>RPY2923 SIR3::ClonNATNT2</i>	This study
RPY2989	<i>RPY2926 SIR3::ClonNATNT2</i>	This study
RPY2990	<i>RPY2927 SIR3::ClonNATNT2</i>	This study
RPY2991	<i>RPY2920 SIR3::NAT2</i>	This study
RPY2993	<i>RPY2915 SIR4::S.pombe HIS3</i>	This study
RPY2994	<i>RPY2923 SIR4::ClonNATNT2</i>	This study
RPY3033	<i>SIR4::S.pombe HIS3 diploid</i>	Heidi Feldmann
RPY3036	<i>RAD52::KANMX4</i>	Euroscarf
RPY3037	<i>XRS2::KANMX4</i>	Euroscarf

Number	Genotype	Origin
RPY3038	<i>RAD52::KANMX4 KHD1::S.pombeHIS3</i>	This study
RPY3039	<i>XRS2::KANMX4 KHD1::S. pombe HIS3</i>	This study
RPY3040	<i>EAP1-HA6::TRP1 SHE2-MYC3 KHD1-TAP::KANMX6</i>	This study
RPY3041	<i>SIR4::S.pombe HIS3 KHD1::ClonNATNT2</i>	This study
RPY3046	<i>XRS2::KANMX4 KHD1::S.p.HIS3</i>	This study
RPY3047	<i>rad52::KANMX4 KHD1::S.p.HIS3</i>	This study
RPY3091	<i>rad52::KANMX4</i>	Euroscarf
RPY3120	<i>xrs2::KANMX4</i>	Euroscarf
RPY3135	RPY358 <i>Sir2p-Myc9::K.l.TRP1</i>	This study
RPY3154	RPY2922 <i>khdl::S.p.HIS3</i>	This study
RPY3154	RPY2922 <i>khdl::S.p.HIS3</i>	This study
RPY3155	RPY2922 <i>pbp2::S.p.HIS3</i>	This study
RPY3159	RPY2915 <i>yku70::S.p.HIS3</i>	This study
RPY3160	RPY2923 <i>rad27::S.p.HIS3</i>	This study
RPY3167	RPY3160 <i>khdl::ClonNATNT2</i>	This study
RPY3172	RPY2922 <i>sir2::ClonNATNT2</i>	This study
RPY3174	RPY2922 <i>rad27::ClonNATNT2</i>	This study
RPY3176	RPY2915 <i>rad27::S.p.HIS3</i>	This study
RPY3177	RPY2920 <i>rad27::ClonNATNT2</i>	This study
RPY3182	RPY2915 <i>sir2::ClonNATNT2</i>	This study
RPY3186	RPY3135 <i>khdl::S.p.HIS3</i>	This study
RPY3187	RPY3159 <i>khdl::ClonNATNT2</i>	This study
RPY3219	RPY2915 <i>pbp2::ClonNATNT2</i>	This study
RPY3245	RPY3135 <i>pbp2::ClonNATNT2</i>	This study
RPY3286	RPY3177 + 1529	This study
RPY3288	RPY2920 + 1529	This study
RPY3290	RPY3187 + 1529	This study
RPY3299	RPY3177 + 1532	This study
RPY3300	RPY3177 + 1533	This study
RPY3301	RPY3187 + 1532	This study
RPY3302	RPY3187 + 1533	This study
RPY3303	RPY2920 + 1532	This study
RPY3304	RPY2920 + 1533	This study
RPY3313	RPY3159 + 297	This study

Number	Genotype	Origin
RPY3314	<i>RPY3187 + 297</i>	This study
RPY3317	<i>RPY3177 + 413</i>	This study
RPY3317	<i>RPY2920 + 297</i>	This study
RPY3318	<i>RPY3176 + 413</i>	This study
RPY3323	<i>RPY2915 + 1438</i>	This study
RPY3324	<i>RPY2920 + 1438</i>	This study
RPY3325	<i>RPY3159 + 1438</i>	This study
RPY3326	<i>RPY3187 + 1438</i>	This study
RPY3327	<i>RPY3176 + 1438</i>	This study
RPY3328	<i>RPY3177 + 1438</i>	This study
RPY3333	<i>RPY359 SIR3-Myc9::K.I.TRP1</i>	This study
RPY3341	<i>RPY3159 sir2-myc9::TRP1</i>	This study
RPY3342	<i>RPY3159 sir3-myc9::TRP1</i>	This study
RPY3343	<i>RPY2922 + 1438</i>	This study
RPY3344	<i>RPY3154 + 1438</i>	This study
RPY3348	<i>RPY2915 sas2::S.p.HIS3</i>	This study
RPY3353	<i>RPY2915 vts1::ClonNATNT2</i>	This study
RPY3359	<i>RPY2922 sas2::S.p.HIS3</i>	This study
RPY3394	<i>RPY612 Vts1-Myc9::K.I.TRP1</i>	This study
RPY3396	<i>YKU70::URA3 yku70::leu2</i>	Heidi Feldmann
RPY3404	<i>YKU70::URA3 KHD1::S.p.HIS3</i>	This study
RPY3407	<i>RPY2922 vts1::ClonNATNT2</i>	This study
RPY3411	<i>RPY2915 + 1570</i>	This study
RPY3413	<i>RPY2920 + 1570</i>	This study
RPY3415	<i>RPY3154 + 1570</i>	This study
RPY3416	<i>RPY2922 + 1570</i>	This study
RPY3422	<i>RPY2915 + 700</i>	This study
RPY3425	<i>RPY2920 + 700</i>	This study
RPY3428	<i>RPY2922 + 700</i>	This study
RPY3431	<i>RPY3154 + 700</i>	This study
RPY3443	<i>RPY3154 + 1599</i>	This study
RPY3444	<i>RPY2922 + 1599</i>	This study
RPY3445	<i>RPY2920 + 1599</i>	This study
RPY3446	<i>RPY2915 + 1599</i>	This study
RPY3447	<i>RPY3407 + 1438</i>	This study

Number	Genotype	Origin
RPY3448	RPY3353 + 1438	This study
RPY358	MATa, ade2-1, trp1-1, can1-100, leu2-3,112, his3-11,15, ura3, GAL, psi+	
RPY359	<i>MATalpha, ade2-1, trp1-1, can1-100, leu2-3,112, his3-11,15, ura3, GAL, psi+</i>	
RPY585	<i>Mat a, trp1-1, leu2-3, his3-11, ura3, ade2-1, HO-ADE2, HO-CAN1. ASH1::S.pombe HIS3</i>	Jaedicke, PhD Thesis
RPY612	<i>Mat a, ade2, his3, leu2, trp1, ura3, mex67:HIS3 (pUN100-LEU2-mex67-5)</i>	Segref <i>et al.</i> , 1999
RPY668	<i>RPY585 she3::URA3</i>	Jaedicke, PhD Thesis
RPY671	<i>RPY585 myo4::URA3</i>	Jaedicke, PhD Thesis
RPY673	<i>RPY585 she4::URA3</i>	Jaedicke, PhD Thesis
RPY676	<i>RPY585 SHE2::URA3</i>	Jaedicke, PhD Thesis

2.3 OLIGONUCLEOTIDES LIST

Name	Oligo Sequence	Number
PUF3_KO_F	CGCATTTAAATTTCTTCTGAATAACGCAATATTGC GGGTATAACTGTGCGGTATTTACACCG	2167
PUF3_KO_R	AAATAGTAAAAAGTGAAAGGAGAACGATGATAAC ACTAAAGATTGTACTGAGAGTGCAC	2168
natNT2 fw	AATCGGACGACGAATCGGACG	2330
KHD1kor	ATAGTCTCGATGATATTGCTATTG	1884
VTS1_KO_F	GAAAACTGTTTCATATAAAGTAATTGTCAGCAA GAAATCCTGTGCGGTATTTACACCG	2046
VTS1_KO_R	CTTTATGCAACGTCAAGACAATCAACTTTATTATG CCAGATAGATTGTACTGAGAGTGCAC	2047
Vts1_KOFO RKnop	GAAAACTGTTTCATATAAAGTAATTGTCAGCAA GAAATCCGTACGCTGCAGGTCGAC	2700
VTS1_KORE VKNOP	CTTTATGCAACGTCAAGACAATCAACTTTATTATG CCAGATATCGATGAATTCGAGCTC	2701
pbp2-ko-his- ss	GCCACATCCACTCTAACAATTTAATCGTCCAGCG CGGCAGCTGAAGCTTCGTACGC	1260
pbp2-ko-his- ass	GAGGGGCGACCTTCTTTTACGTTTCAGCATTGATC GCATAGGCCACTAGTGGATCTG	1261

Name	Oligo Sequence	Number
aKHD1-KO-HIS	GTTTTGTCTGTGTGGGACGTGCGCACGCACACGTA TATAGCATAGGCCACTAGTGGATCTG	1293
sKHD1-KO-HIS	CGGGTAACTTAGAGACAGCATTAGTATATATACC AGCCCAGCTGAAGCTTCGTACGC	1292
pbp2-ko-select-ass	GTCTTCTCTCCGAAGAGCC	1265
SIR2_KNOP KOF	GGGCGTGTATGTCGTTACATCAGATGAACATCCCA AAACCCTCCGTACGCTGCAGGTCGAC	2741
SIR2_KNOP KOR	GTAAATTGATATTAATTTGGCACTTTTAAATTATT AAATTGCCTTCTACAATCGATGAATTCGAGCTC	2742
SIR2_cloning F	CCGATCGGAAGCTCTAATTG	3048
Sir2_cloning R	CAACGCTGGACCACGACATG	3059
KHD1_KNO P_F	AAGAAGAACCTCAAGAGAATCATGATAACAAAGA GGAGCAGTCGCGTACGCTGCAGGTCGAC	2115
KHD1_KNO P_R	TTTGTTTTGTCTGTGTGGGACGTGCGCACGCACAC GTATATAATCGATGAATTCGAGCTC	2116
She2_seqfor_ P_300	CTTATAGAATGGTTCTTCGTGCATGCC	1813
She2_seqrev_ UTR_250	CGGAGGAGACTACACCCTCCC	1815
Khd1_for	CAGTTTGCCAATATAAGCGC	1751
Khd1_rev	AATCTAGAGGAAACGCCAATAGTCTCGA	1752
KH1.1F	CATTGAAAGAGGCTGCCAAGAGGATTGGCACTAA GGGCTCCAC	2803
KH1.1R	GTGGAGCCCTTAGTGCCAATCCTCTTGGCAGCCTC TTTCAATG	2804
KH1.2F	GAGCTGCAAACGCCGTCAAGAGAGGTATTTCTGA AAAGGTGCC	2805
KH1.2R	GGCACCTTTTCAGAAATACCTCTCTTGACGGCGTT TGCAGCTC	2806
KH2.1F	CCAATTCCCATATCTCATCGCGTATCGGGAAAGCA GGCGCCAC	2807
KH2.1R	GTGGCGCCTGCTTTCCCGATACGCGATGAGATATG GGAATTGG	2808
KH2.2F	CAATAAGCACGGCGTTAAGAGGGTGGCTTCCAAG GACTTCTTAC	2809
KH2.2R	GTAAGAAGTCCTTGGAAGCCACCCTCTTAACGCCG TGCTTATTG	2810

Name	Oligo Sequence	Number
KHL-RF	GTGGCTTCCAAGGACTTCCGACCTGCTAGCGACGA GAGAATTATC	2811
KHL-RR	GATAATTCTCTCGTCGCTAGCAGGTCGGAAGTCCT TGGAAGCCAC	2812
KH3.1F	CCAGAACTGTATGTAGGCGCCAGGATTGGCCGTG GAATGAACAG	2813
KH3.1R	CTGTTCAATCCACGGCCAATCCTGGCGCCTACATA CAGTTCTGG	2814
KH3.2F	GAAAACCTTTCACAAAAACCAATAGGGTCGTGGAA AGGAAGGATGACGATG	2815
KH3.2R	CATCGTCATCCTTCCCTTCCACGACCCTATTGGTTT TTGTGAAAGTTTTTC	2816
VTS1_KNOP TAGF	CAAAGAACGTGATTTAATTGATAGATCTGCTACGC TGCAGGTCGAC	
VTS1_KNOP TAGR	GCAACGTCAAGACAATCAACTTTATTATCGGAGAT AATCGATGAATTCGAGCTC	
RIF1_KNOP F	TATTACTCAAACAGGGATAATGATATGAATTGAC GTACGCTGCAGGTCGAC	3052
RIF1_KNOP R	TTTATTGCCATTTTGATCTATTCTACATACTAAATC GATGAATTCGAGCTCG	3053
RIF2_KNOP F	CTTCCACTTAAGTTAACTCGAAAAGTACATGATAG ACGTACGCTGCAGGTCGAC	3054
RIF2_KNOP R	GTATTGTTCGAACTCTTTCAAAGACCTTGGTAAT ATCGATGAATTCGAGCTCG	3055
SIR3_KNOP F	GAATTCAAAAATATGGACTGCATTCGTACGCTGCA GGTCGAC	2934
SIR3_KNOP R	GGAAGTGAAAATGAATGTTGGTGGATCGATGAAT TCGAGCTCG	2935
PDA1_F	CTGCCAATGCTTGCTGCTT	321
PDA1_R	TCCCTAGAGGCAAAACCTTG	322
CCR4_KO_F	AGGGAACCTCCGACTGACGTTATCCCTGCAAACCTAC CGCTACTGTGCGGTATTTACACCCG	2171
CCR4_KO_F R	TACAGAGAGGAGGGAGGGAGTGGGATGAAAGTG TGCGGTAGATTGTAAGTACTGAGAGTGCAC	2172
CCR4_KO_ XEKF	CGACCCTTCTTTACTAGGC	2173
CCR4_KO_ XEKR	CCGTGCCTGAGGGAGTG	2174
PUF3_KO_X EKF	GAACCTCGCATCCATAGTTTC	2169

Name	Oligo Sequence	Number
PUF3_KO_X EKR	CATCTTGTTGGTTAGGAAGC	2170
vts1rsallclon	AAAAGTCGACCTTGTACCATTTCATTGTATAAAC	2121
UPF1_KO_x ekf	TTCCGGTTCTCACACTCC	2050
UPF1_KO_R	AATATACTTTTTATATTACATCAATCATTGTCATTA TCAAAGATTGTACTGAGAGTGCAC	2053
UPF1_KO_F	GCCAAGTTTAAACATTTTATTTTAAACAGGGTTCACC GAACTGTGCGGTATTCACACCG	2052
UPF1_KO_x ekr	TTGCCATTGATCAGTATCCC	2051
ASH1- Xho(+2300)	CTACTCGAGTACTAGACATAG	141
ASH1-BH1(- 1)	AAGCGGATCCATGTCAAGCTTATAC	142
SAS2_KOF	TATTTTCTAGTTGCTTTTTGTTTTCACTCGCAAAAA AACGTACGCTGCAGGTCGAC	2801
SAS2_KOR	GAAATACATATGCCATTAAGTTACATCCTGAATAG ATTCATCGATGAATTCGAGCTCG	2802
rad27_KOF	AAAGAAATAGGAAACGGACACCGGAAGAAAAAA TCGTACGCTGCAGGTCGAC	2743
rad27_KOR	GGACCAAAAGAAGAAAGTGGAAAAAGAACCCCA TCGATGAATTCGAGCTCG	2744
RAD27_rev	GAGAAACCCACTTTCTTGGAG	3060
TLC1_probF	GATGCTTGTGTGTGCGCAA	2564
TLC1_probR	GTCACCTTAAACAGTGTCAG	2565
RAP1_probF	CACTGGTGCTACTGCTGC	2560
RAP1_probR	CACCGTTTGCTCTAATCAGACGC	2561
SIR3_probF	GATGCATAAGATGGGAGTTGA	2562
SIR3_probR	TCGGCCGTCAACGAGTTC	2563
SIR2_probF	GATGAACCTTCACATAAGAAG	2948
SIR2_probR	ATGGAGGCCTTCCGACA	2949
1800_ecoRI	CAGCCGAATTCATGTCACAGTTCTTCGAAGC	

2.4 General Laboratory Material

2.4.1 Laboratory equipment and disposables

Standard Laboratory equipment and disposables have been used. All solutions have been autoclaved or sterilized by filtration.

Standards

Chemicals	Merck, Fluka, Serva, Sigma, ICN
Enzymes	NEB, Roche, Biomol, Axon, MBI Fermentas
Oligos	Thermo Scientific, MWG.

Kits

Plasmid Miniprep	Metabion, Macherey-Nagel
Plasmid Midiprep	Qiagen
Gel Extraction/PCR Purification	Qiagen, Metabion
Colloidal Blue Stain	Invitrogen
QuickChange Site Directed Mutagenesis Kit	Stratagene
Prime-It II Random Primer Labelling	Stratagene
ECL Detection	Applied Biochem
RNase Away	Molecular Bioproducts
Quick Ligation Kit	NEB
pJET Cloning Kit	Fermentas
TOPO-TA Cloning Kit	Stratagene

Special equipment

1. Hardware

Criterion eletrophoresis system	Bio-RAD
Ika vibrax VXR	NeoLab
Beadmill	

2. Disposables

glass beads, 0.45-0.5mm	NeoLab
Positive TM membrane	Qbiogene
Hybond-P	Pharmacia

Hyperfilm ECL	Pharmacia
NytranN	Schleicher&Schuell
GB 003/GB 004 Gel-Blotting Paper	Schleicher&Schuell
Micro Bio-spin 30 Chromatography Columns	BIO-RAD
Mobicol, 35 μm pore filters	MOBITEC

3. Reagents

Poly-L-Lysine	Sigma
Triton X-100	Gerbu
Tween 20	Sigma
IGEPAL CA-630, equals to NP40	ICN
Trichloroacetic acid, TCA	Sigma
Salmon Sperm DNA	Roche
RQ1 DNase	Promega
Oxalyticase	Enzogenetics
IgG Sepharose	Pharmacia
Calmodulin Affinity Resin	Stratagene
Complete EDTA-Free Protease Inhibitor Cocktail	Roche
Diethylpyrocarbonate, DEPC	Roth
diamidino-2-phenylindol dihydrochloride	Roth
zymolase 20T/100T	ICN
Cycloheximide	Sigma
Paromomycin	Sigma
Hygromycin B	Sigma
Geneticin	Sigma
Hydroxyurea	Applichem
MethylMethanoSulphonate	Sigma
5' Fluorotic Acid	Apollo Scientific
RNaseA	Roche
DNase I	Sigma
Taq Polymerase	Axon
VENT Polymerase	NEB

4. Antibodies

Primaries

rabbit anti protein A	Sigma
Peroxidase anti-peroxidase	Sigma
3F10, rat anti HA	Roche
9E10, mouse anti Myc	Roche
rabbit anti Sec61	M. Seedorf, ZMBH, Heidelberg
Mab414, mouse anti actin	Chemicon
rabbit anti Histone H4	BioLegend
rabbit anti Histone H4 Lys16	Upstate
rabbit anti Histone H4 Lys12	Upstate
rabbit anti Histone H4 Lys8	Upstate
rabbit anti Histone H3	Upstate
rabbit anti Histone H3K79Me3	Upstate
rabbit anti Histone H3K4Me3	Upstate
rabbit anti Histone H3K36Me3	Upstate
mouse anti Rpl13	M. Seedorf, ZMBH, Heidelberg
mouse anti Rps3	M. Seedorf, ZMBH, Heidelberg

Secondaries

rabbit anti rat, peroxidase conjugated	DIANOVA
sheep anti mouse, peroxidase conjugated	DIANOVA
donkey anti rabbit, peroxidase conjugated	DIANOVA
rabbit anti mouse, Alexa 488	Molecular Probes

3. METHODS

3.1 Bacteria

3.1.1 Preparation of *E. coli* competent cells.

E. coli strain: TOP10

hint: it is better to scale up the volume to get more aliquots (4fold)

1. inoculate 3ml LB-media with one colony from a fresh plate, incubate ON at 37°C on a wheel
2. the next evening take 500µl of this culture and inoculate 20 ml LB-Media in an Erlenmeyer flask, incubate ON at 37°C (shaking)
3. with this ON-culture inoculate 50 ml LB-Media the next morning with a dilution of 1:100; let cells grow at 37°C to an OD 600 0,7-0,8 (shaking)
4. cool down culture on ice for 15 min, centrifuge for 15 min at 5000 rpm in a GSA rotor
5. cool pellet on ice, resuspend with the half of the culture volume with cold 0,1M CaCl₂-solution, transfer to SS34 tubes
6. incubate 30min on ice
7. pellet cells at 5000 rpm for 15 min at 4°C
8. resuspend the cellpellet with 1/20 volume of your culture volume in 0,1 M CaCl₂/10% Glycerol solution, make 100µl aliquots
9. store aliquots at -80°C

3.1.2 *E. coli* transformation

quick method (high efficiency 5min transformation of *E. coli*)

(Nucleic Acids Research, 1996, Vol.24, No.3)

1. thaw an aliquot of competent cells slowly on ice
2. 1-10ng of DNA or 5-10µl ligationmix (which have to be transformed) have to be cooled on ice in an Eppi
3. add 50-100µl of the competent cells and incubate at least 5 min on ice
4. plate on a warm LB-Amp-plate

3.1.3 Preparation of Electro-Competent cells.

Preparation of electrocompetent cells (DH5alpha)

1. inoculate 1 Liter LB-Media with 10 ml of a fresh ON-culture
2. incubate the culture on a shaker up to a cell density of O.D.600= 0,5-1,0. Measure during your incubation time (takes about 2-3 hours)
3. if the cells are dense enough, incubate the culture for 15-30 min on ice, then centrifuge at 4°C with a COLD rotor for 15 min at 4000 x gmax.

4. discard SUP, resuspend pellet with 1l cold water, centrifuge like in step 3
5. discard SUP, resuspend pellet in 0,5l cold water, centrifuge like in step 3
6. discard SUP carefully (pellet is not very stable), resuspend pellet in 20 ml cold 10% Glycerol, centrifuge like in step 3
7. discard SUP, resuspend pellet in 10% glycerol up to a final volume of 2-3 ml
8. make aliquots of 100 μ l, store at -80°C , durable for 6 months

3.1.4 Transformation of Electro-Competent cells.

1. prepare the cuvettes(they can be used more than one time, for re-using wash them with 0.1% SDS, then with water (3 times), after that with EtOH (2 times), then dry for 20 min, crosslink in the UV-Stratalinker
2. thaw the competent cells slowly at RT (2min), after that put them on ice
3. pipet 1-2 μ l ligation mix (or 1ng Plasmid-DNA) in an Eppi-tube and cool on ice, the clean and dry cuvettes also cool on ice. Add 50 μ l competent cells to the DNA, mix and transfer directly into the cuvette, the mix should be at the bottom of the cuvette, incubate for 1 min on ice
4. because you use the BIORAD cuvettes (0,2cm) chose the program EC2 (2,5 kV) , put the cuvette in the electroporator and pulse; if this was successful, no noise will be heard
5. add 1ml warm LB-Media (or SOC medium) to the transformationmix and transfer it with a pasteur-pipet into a fresh Eppi. incubate 30-45 min at 37°C (shaking), plate 100 μ l and 900 μ l on LB-Amp-plates

SOC-Medium:

1g Bactotryptone, 0,25g Yeast-extract, 166 μ l 3M NaCl, 125 μ l 1M Kcl, 44,21ml H₂O, autoclave.
add:
500 μ l 1M MgSO₄, 500 μ l 1M MgCl₂, 4,5ml 4% Glucose

3.2 Eukarya

3.2.1 Transformation protocols

- **High efficiency Yeast transformation**

(adapted from Gietz and Schiestl, 1991)

- inoculate 50 ml YEPD medium with an over night culture so that the start-OD is 0.25 (check)
- let cells grow for 2 generations, if OD₆₀₀ is 1 - START
- harvest the cells in a Falcon tube at 2500 rpm, 5 min
- discard SUP, resuspend the cells in 25 ml sterile water, centrifuge again
- discard the water, resuspend the cells in 1 ml 100mM LiAc (freshly diluted from stock) and transfer the suspension to an Eppi
- pellet the cells at top speed for 15 sec and remove the LiAc with a micropipette
- resuspend the cells to a final volume of 500 μ l - about 400 μ l of 100 mM LiAc+pellet
- boil a 1 ml sample of SS-DNA for 5 min, then quickly chill on ice
- vortex the cell suspension and pipette 50 μ l samples into labeled Eppis - do not forget one for the

negative control! Pellet the cells and remove the LiAc with a micropipette

-add the transformation mix in the following order:

-240µl PEG (50%w/v)

-36 µl 1M LiAc

-25 µl SS-DNA (2mg/ml)

-50 µl water and plasmid DNA (0,1-10 µg)

-vortex each tube vigorously until the cell pellet has been completely mixed. Usually it takes about 1 min

-incubate 30 min at 30°C

-heat shock 20-25 min at 42°C (NOTE: for transformation of pseudohyphal strains it is better to make just a 20 min heat shock, for TS mutants just a 15 min heat shock)

-centrifuge at 6000-8000 rpm for 15 sec and remove the transformation mix with a micropipette

-Pipette 1 ml of water into each tube and resuspend the pellet by pipetting it up and down (gently!!)

-plate 100 and 300 µl of the transformation mix onto selective plates (2 plates)

- **Yeast One-Step Transformation**

(modified from Chen *et al.*, *Curr Genet* 21:83-84, 1992)

1. Cells.

You should have a culture of at least 10^8 cells/ml. You need 1ml per transformation. They can be e. g. stationary phase cells from an YEPD culture (harvested by centrifugation in Eppendorf tubes). It works well with cells scraped off a fresh (1-2 days) plate and is reported to work (less well) even with cells from an old plate kept at 4 °C.

2. Procedure.

a.) Thaw ssDNA ("helper DNA"), heat 5-10' at 95 C, then chill on ice.

b.) Pellet 1ml of culture by centrifugation in Eppendorf centrifuge, discard supernatant. Resuspend cells in 100 µl of ONE-STEP buffer, vortex heavily.

c.) Add 20µg ssDNA (10 µl of 2mg/ml) + 100ng - 500ng plasmid DNA to be transformed, vortex, incubate at 45 °C for 30 min.

d.) Add 1 ml YEPD (or YEPGal), mix and spin 10 sec full speed. Discard supernatant.

e.) Resuspend cell pellet in 1000 µl YEPD (or YEPGal) and plate 100 µl directly on appropriate selective plates. Colonies appear after 2 days.

3. ONE-STEP buffer.

0.2 M LiAc, 40% PEG 3350 (is the same as old PEG 4000), 100 mM DTT. Dissolve LiAc and PEG, then add DTT, filter sterilize. Keep in 1 ml aliquots at -20 °C.

3.2.2 Determining mRNA half-life:

Total mRNA extraction

(modified from Cross and Tinkelenberg, 1991)

- Start with cca 15 ml of YEPD cultures O.D. cca 0.7 - 0.8. (they can be obtained by diluting an overnight inoculum 0.25 ml into 20 and 4-5 h cultivation - as for spheroplasts).

- Spin cells down at 4 degrees 2000 rpm 2 min (Heraeus centrifuge), discard supernatant.
- Resuspend pellets into cca 1 ml of ice-cold TE, transfer into 2 ml safelock Eppendorf tubes. Spin for 10s in the cold and discard supernatant. You can freeze the pellet here (-20 °C is O.K.).

To the pellet add:

1. cca 200 µl of glass beads
2. 400 µl of 50:49:1 mixture of phenol: chloroform: isoamylalcohol, equilibrated with TE
3. 500 µl of Cross RNA buffer 1

- Close the tubes. Shake vigorously on the Ika-Vibrax-VXR mixer in the coldroom for 10 min.
- Spin for 5 min in an angle microfuge and transfer the upper phase (carefully, w/o interphase!) into 1ml of precooled -20 degrees ethanol in 1.5 ml Eppendorf tubes. Mix and leave at -20 for 10 min.
- Spin in the angle microfuge in the coldroom for 5 min full speed. Dissolve sediment in 30-100µl Cross RNA buffer 2, by 10 min incubation at 65 degrees. Measure RNA concentration. Store in -20 freezer.

Cross RNA buffer1: 0.3 M NaCl, 10 mM Tris pH 7.5, 1 mM EDTA, 0.2 % SDS

Sterility and DEPC-treatment NOT essential since this is to be added to phenol. Keep at 4 degrees. Shake the buffer well before use and try to get as homogeneous suspension as possible.

Cross RNA buffer 2: 1x TE + 0.2 % SDS

Sterility ESSENTIAL. DEPC-treated water recommendable. Keep at room temp.

DOT BLOT

For dot blotting follow the instructions from the manufacturer - "Schleicher and Schuell Blotting Manual"

Sample preparation

- dissolve reasonable amount of RNA (10µg) in 10 µl H₂O
- add 7ul 37% formaldehyde
 - 20 µl 100% formamide
 - 2 µl 20xSSC
- heat 15 minutes 68°C, cool on ice
- add 2 volumes (=78µl) of 20xSSC

Membrane preparation

- wet precut S+S Nytran for 10 minutes in H₂O, then transfer for 10 minutes to 6xSSC

Blot assembly

- clean each component of the blotter that is going to be in direct contact with the sample with

'RNase away'

- make sure that the plastic rings under each well of the top plate fit correctly
- place 1 sheet of GB003 blotting paper prewet in 6xSSC on filter support plate and roll out possible air blobs with a pipet
- cover with equilibrated membrane, roll out possible air blobs with a pipet and carefully assemble the clamps in antiparallel direction

Sample application

- connect blotter with water pump and apply vacuum to a flow rate of approximately 1ml per minute per well
- wash wells 2x500 µl 6xSSC
- apply sample
- wash 1x500 µl 6xSSC
- carefully open clamps in antiparallel direction and remove the membrane
- crosslink RNA to the membrane using twice the 'autocrosslink program' from the STRATALINKER.
- stain blot with methylene blue solution

Hybridization and washing

HYBRIDISATION

use 8.7ml of hybridization solution per 100cm² of filter

Prehybridization:

1.4ml H₂O (0.46 vols.)
14µl SpermDNA (10mg/ml) (0.0046vols.)
heat at 95°C for 7min
rapidly chill on ice
add 1.6ml Scp/Sarc/DS Mix (0.54vols.)

add the solution to filter in hybridisation-tube, wet the filter thoroughly by rolling the tube.
Incubate at 65°C for 1-2h

meanwhile prepare the hybridization-solution:

1.4ml H₂O (0.46 vols.)
14µl SpermDNA (10mg/ml) (0.0046vols.)
heat at 95°C for 7min
rapidly chill on ice
add 1.6ml Scp/Sarc/DS Mix (0.54vols.)

Before adding your probe to the hybridisation-solution, heat your probe at 95°C for 5min.
Add the hybridisation-solution to your filter in the tube and incubate it overnight.

WASHING AND AUTORADIOGRAPHY

After removing the probe wash the filter 2x briefly with 2xSSC, 0.1% SDS at RT and then 2x 20 min in 0.5x SSC, 0.1% SDS at 43 degrees. Rinse in 3mM Tris-HCl pH 8 at RT, place your filter between 2 overhead-foils and autoradiograph with intensifying screen

Solutions:

10xMOPS: to 800 ml of DEPC-treated water add 48.1 g MOPS, adjust pH to 7 with NaOH (the "pH-strip" accuracy is sufficient) (that is app. 25.005 mL of 5 M stock), add 16.6 ml of DEPC-treated 3M Na acetate and 20.0 ml of DEPC-treated 0.5 M EDTA pH 8, adjust volume to 1l w. DEPC-treated water and filter. Keep at RT in a bottle wrapped in aluminium foil. The solution can turn yellow, but it does not matter.

1x MOPS: by dilution of 10x MOPS.

Loading buffer: 1mM EDTA pH8, 0.25% bromophenol blue, 0.25% xylene cyanol, 50% glycerol.

20x Scp:

2M NaCl, 0.6M Na₂HPO₄, 0.02M EDTA, pH 6.2 (with HCl), autoclave

Scp/Sarc/DS:

Dissolve 20g of Dextran sulfate (500,000) in 60ml of 20x Scp, making up to 101ml with H₂O (this will need gentle heating and stirring). Then make up to a final vol of 108ml with 7ml of 30% SLS.

Probe preparation

ASH1 probe

Template – plasmid RPP88

Expected product size - 1Kb

SIR2 probe

Oligo 1 - 2948

Oligo 2 - 2949

Template – Genomic DNA

Expected product size - 0,8kb

TLC1 probe

Oligo 1 - 2564

Oligo 2 - 2565

Template – Genomic DNA

Expected product size - 300pb

RAP1 probe

Oligo 1 - 2560

Oligo 2 - 2561

Template – Genomic DNA

Expected product size - 500pb

SIR3 probe

Oligo 1 - 2562

Oligo 2 - 2563

Template – Genomic DNA

Expected product size - 500pb

PDA1 probe

Oligo 1 - 321

Oligo 2 - 322

Template – Genomic DNA

Expected product size - 1,2kb

Detection

- Scan intensifying screen on Typhoon scanner.

3.2.3 Determining protein content

Very quick western extracts

- have ready 10 OD-units of your culture
- spin down cells 5 min at 4000 rpm
- heat 1x SDS-sample buffer at 80°C
- wash the cell pellet once with 1 ml cold water and transfer to an Eppi (WORK ON ICE!!!)
- spin down 1min at full speed
- discard Supernatant, resuspend pellet in 200 µl 1xSDS sample buffer
- vortex 30 sec
- add 100µl glassbeads
- vibrax 1 min full speed
- 2 min at 95°C
- vibrax 1 min full speed
- 2 min at 95°C
- spin down 5 min @ full speed
- take SUP and load 15µl (= 0,75 OD-units) on a SDSgel

Whole cell extracts

- Start with 15-20 OD600 units of exponentially growing cells.
- Spin down cells (2minutes at 3000rpm in Heraeus). Resuspend cell pellet in 1ml H2O and transfer to Eppendorf tube. Spin down cells 10-15sec at full speed, discard supernatant. You may snap-freeze the pellet at this point in liquid N2 or on dry ice and store at -80 °C.
- Work on ice.
- Resuspend the sediment in 2x its volume (i.e. 300-400 µl for 20 OD units) of the breaking buffer: 50 mM Tris pH 7.5, 1 mM EDTA, 20 mM DTT, 100X protease inhibitor cocktail (store the buffer

without inhibitors in aliquots at -20 °C).

- Add a bit less than an equal volume of acid-washed glass beads (there should be some liquid above the beads) and mix on the IKA vibrax at 4 °C for 2x 3-5 min with a 2 min break on ice.
- Take 10 µl of the extract for protein determination. Spin this aliquot (5 min max. speed), take 0.2 µl (i.e. 1 µl of 1:5 dilution) and 1 µl for the BioRad protein assay (protocol 15).
- Transfer 120µl of cell extract to new tube and add 40µl of 4xSDS loading buffer, boil for 5 min (or 95 °C).
- Spin down, then take the supernatant. Load 70 µg (minigel) to 150 µg (large pocket gel) /lane. Or load 15 or 20µl, respectively, if you have not determined protein conc.
- Store the rest at -20 °C.

3.2.4 Tandem Affinity Purification (TAP)

1. Yeast Culture

- inoculate 3 ml YPD with single clone from plate
- grow overnight at 30°C (wheel)
- dilute culture to OD600 = 0.2
- grow during the day at 30°C
- inoculate 2 l YPD (in 5 l flask) with 1 ml of culture
- ON @ 30°C, 130 rpm to OD600 = 3.5 – 4.0
- harvest cells by centrifuging 5 min at 5000 rpm at 4°C
- resuspend P in 20 ml water, transfer to 50 ml Falcon
- spin 5 min at 4000 rpm at 4°C

2. Cell Lysis

- add to harvested cell pellet (about 20 ml)
- add 20 ml Lysis Buffer (LB) (prepare 500 ml)
 - 50 mM Tris Hcl pH7.5
 - 100 mM NaCl
 - 1.5 mM MgCl₂
 - 0.15% NP-40
- add 40 ml acid-washed glass beads
- bead mill (default program, approx. 15 min)
- remove glass beads by filtering (50 ml syringe)
- spin 1 h at 20,000 g (13000 RPM, SS-34) at 4°C;
- remove fatty top layer with waterpump (important! fat clumps IgG beads)
- transfer lysate to 15 ml Falcon tube
- + glycerol (cf = 5%)
- freeze lysate in liquid N₂, store at -80°C

3. Purification

3.1. IgG beads

- wash 0.2 ml packed IgG beads (0.4 ml 50% slurry) with cold LB
- thaw cell lysate at 37°C (waterbath)
- put on ice
- remove aliquot T(otal)
- add beads to lysate
- incubate 1 h at 4°C (wheel)

- spin 3 min at 1800 rpm, at 4°C
- remove aliquot "FT"
- remove supernatant to Vf = 0.8 ml (waterpump)
- transfer beads to Mobicol with luerlock cap (closed at bottom)
- fix 20 ml syringe to Mobicol
- wash Mobicol with 10 ml LB + 0.5 mM DTT (gravity flow)
- close Mobicol

3.2. TEV cleavage

- add 150 µl LB + 0.5 mM DTT
- add 4 µl TEV (1 mg/ml)
- mix by inverting
- incubate 1 h at 16°C (wheel)

3.3. Calmodulin (CaM) beads

buffer preparation:

- 1 ml LB + 4 mM CaCl₂ + 1 mM DTT
- 25 ml LB + 2 mM CaCl₂ + 1 mM DTT

bead preparation: wash 250 µl packed beads 3 × with LB + 2 mM CaCl₂ + 1 mM DTT (centrifuge always 2 min at 1800 rpm)

transfer beads to new Mobicol

- let excess buffer drop out
- close new mobicol
- prepare 150µl LB + 4 mM CaCl₂ + 1 mM DTT

TEV Elution:

- Spin Mobicol 1 min at 2000 rpm, at 4°C (in 1,5 ml tube)
- add 150 µl of TEV eluate to second Mobicol, keep rest of TEV eluate at -20°C
- mix by inverting
- incubate for 1 h at 4°C (wheel)
- connect Mobicol to 10 ml syringe
- wash with 5 ml LB + 2 mM CaCl₂

4. Elution

- close Mobicol
- add 600 µl Elution Buffer
 - 10 mM Tris/HCl pH 8.0
 - 5 mM EGTA
 - (adjust pH to 8.0 !)
- and mix by inverting
- shake for 10 min at 37°C (600 rpm Eppendorf Thermomixer)
- To elute, spin 1 min at 2000 rpm in 1.5 ml tube
- add cold TCA (cf=10%)
- leave 15 min on ice
- spin 15 min at 13000 rpm, at 4°C
- remove Supernatant
- resuspend pellet in 25-50 µl 1× SDS-LD
- neutralize with 1 M Tris Base

3.2.5 Determining Telomeric Silencing

- 10-fold serial dilutions from an overnight culture were plated out on YEPD plates, 5'FOA containing plates and SDC-URA and incubated at 30 and 37 degrees for 2-5 days.

λTelomeric Length analysis:

Genomic Extraction

- Harvest 10ml of an overnight culture.
- Centrifuge for 5 minutes, 4000 RPM, at room temperature.
- Resuspend pellet in 0,5ml H₂O.
- Centrifuge at maximum speed for 5 seconds and remove supernatant.
- Vortex pellet.
- To the pellet add 200 µl Breaking Buffer, 200 µl Glass Beads, 200 µl Phenol-Chloroform-Isoamyllic acid.
- Vortex hard for 3-4minutes.
- Add 400 µl TE, vortex carefully.
- Remove aqueous phase into a new tube.
- Add 1ml 96% Ethanol.
- Centrifuge maximal speed for 3 minutes, at room temperature.
- Remove supernatant and dry pellet.
- Resuspend in 50 µl H₂O.

Restriction Digestion of the genomic DNA

- Digest extracted DNA overnight with *Xho* I and add RNaseA (µg/µl).

Southern Blot

- Load digested samples onto 0.8% agarose gel containing EtBr in the gel and in the running buffer (1XTAE). Run at no more than 100V. Takes between 2 and 5h. It is best to have 32P-endlabelled Lambda markers. If your DNA is a bit dilute, then you might consider digesting 10 µl. Take a picture of the gel.

BLOTTING:

- De-purinate by shaking in 0.5 liter 0.25 M HCl (1 to 50 dilution of conc HCl) for 20 min. The bromophenolblue dye should turn yellow.
- Rinse in H₂O.
- Denature by shaking the gel(for 2 X 20 min) in 0.5 liter denaturing solution: 0.5M NaOH 1.5 M NaCl (20g NaOH and 87g of NaCl in 1 litre).
- Set up blotting with 5 sheets of Whatman 3MM folded around a glass plate sitting in a shallow

plastic container with a shallow reservoir of denaturing solution in the bottom.

- Place the gel upside down on the filter paper (avoiding air bubbles), surround the gel with parafilm so that there are no short circuits. Put a pre-wetted Hybond N+ filter on the gel (pre-wet in H₂O followed by soaking in denaturant and blot excess liquid off) and then put a couple of sheets of semi-dry/prewetted and blotted dry whatman 3MM paper on the membrane filter. Remove all air bubbles by rolling a 25ml pipet over the sheets. Then put several stacks of hand towels on top and leave to blot for 2-3 hours. When unmounting the blot, note that the membrane should be marked with a pencil so that you know which side the DNA is on.
- Rinse the membrane in 2x SSC for 1 min, blot dry on filter paper (3MM). Cross link immediately after drying by exposing the DNA side of the filter in a Stratalinker (AUTO program).

Preparation of Probe

-Telomeric DNA probe

Amplified by PCR.

Template – TG-repeat-containing plasmid (Heidi Feldmann)

Hybridization and washing

- See Northern Blot.

Detection

- See Northern Blot.

3.2.6 FACS

-Harvest 2 OD₆₀₀ units of logarithmically growing cells.

-Wash twice with 50mM Tris-HCl pH8.0

-Resuspend in 1ml 50mM Tris-HCl pH8.0, 70% EtOH.

-Incubate for at least 1 hour at room temperature or for up to several days at 4degrees.

-Spin down 100 µl of the suspension in a safelock tube, wash twice with 1ml 50mM Tris-HCl pH8.0 (spin at least 1 minute).

-Resuspend in 0,5ml 50mM Tris-HCl pH8.0 containing 2mg/ml RNase A (pre activated for 15minutes at 100 degrees).

-Incubate at 50degrees for 2 hours in roll oven.

-Add 20 µl of 20 mg/ml Proteinase K stock solution (in H₂O) and incubate for 1 hour at 50 degrees.

-Spin down, wash with 1ml FACS buffer. Samples can be stored ON at 4degrees at this time.

-Resuspend cells in 500 µl FACS-PI and incubate for 1-2 hours in the dark at room temperature on a wheel.

-Prior to analysis, incubate for 10seconds in an ultrasonic bath.

-Prepare 1:4 dilution in 50mM Tris-HCl pH8.0 buffer.

FACS Buffer (100mL)

200mM TrisHCl pH7.5, 211mM NaCl, 78mM MgCl₂

FACS-PI

180mM Tris-HCl pH7.5, 190mM NaCl, 70mM MgCl₂, 50 µg/ml propidium iodide.

3.2.7 Immunofluorescence

Cell preparation

- Grow overnight culture.
- Dilute to OD₆₀₀=0.3 and let grow until OD₆₀₀=1
- Split culture into two.
 - To one culture add 10% final volume of Formaldehyde and incubate 1h at 30 degrees. Thereafter on ice.
 - The other culture place to 37 degrees for 2hours, in a shaking waterbath.
- After the 2 hours at 37 degrees, add 10% final volume of formaldehyde. Keep for 15 minutes more at 37 degrees and change to 30 degrees for 45 minutes.
- Spin both cultures for 3minutes at 3000RPM.
- Remove supernatant and resuspend pellet in spheroblasting buffer.
- Wash 3 times.
- Add spheroblasting buffer + beta-mercaptoetanol + zymolase 100T and incubate for 45 minutes at 30 degrees.
- Wash once with spheroblasting buffer
- Resuspend in 250 µl, aliquot and freeze.

Slide preparation and protocol

- coat slide wells with 10ul Poly-L-Lysine (1:5) during 5 minutes, soak off.
- Add 10 µl H₂O for 5 minutes and let dry.
- Wash wells with PBS+0,1% BSA for 5 minutes.
- Add 10 µl first antibody containing solution, anti-myc 9E10, 1:300 diluted in PBS+0,1% BSA. Incubate for two hours in a wet chamber.
- Wash three times with PBS/BSA/TritonX 0,1%, each 1 minute.
- Add 10ul of secondary antibody solution, Alexa488-coupled goat anti-mouse, for 1 hour in a wet chamber and kept in the dark.
- Wash three times with PBS/BSA/TritonX 0,1%, each 1 minute.
- Add 10 µl Hoechst for 15minutes and suck off.
- Wash once with 1xPBS.
- Mount with 80% Glycerol in DEPC.

3.2.8 UltraViolet CrossLinked Immuno-Precipitation (CLIP)

Day 0

- grow overnight the cultures

Day 1

- harvest, crosslink, lyse, IP, label, SDS-PAGE

- blot overnight

Day 2

- expose

Controls and the expected result when compared to protein of interest:

- no tagged protein: no labelling
- tagged protein + no crosslinking: absence or reduce labelling
- treatment with different RNase concentrations: change in the mobility of the RNA-protein complex expected, shifted up when lower amount or no RNase is used
- the band obtained by autoradiography should NOT fit EXACTLY with the band seen in Western Blot from the very same membrane. The reason is that not all protein gets crosslinked and only the crosslinked ones would give a shift. This shifted band would not be visible in Western blot.

Protocol:

Sample preparation (volumes for 200 ml culture)

- grow o/n. Dilute to OD 600/ml = 0.15 with fresh media. Grow until OD 600/ml = 0.5. Use 200 ml culture/testing condition.
- Pellet cells at 4°C and wash once with cold 1x PBS
- Resuspend in 10 ml (final volume) of cold 1x PBS and plate them into a precooled 10 cm Petri dish. place the Petri dish in an ice-water bath
- Crosslink in UV-crosslinker (Spectrolinker XL-1500 from Spectronics Corporation) 2x at 4500x100 microJ per square cm at 15 cm distance from the lamps on an ice-water bath. Shake vigorously the petri dish between crosslinking cycles.
- Recover all cells from the Petri dish with the help of cold 1x PBS. Pellet the cells at 4°C.
- Resuspend the cells in 400 microliter of 1x PXL buffer (cells can be stored at -80°C at this point)
- Add protease inhibitors while thawing the extract
- Add 250 microliter glass-beads. Lyse cells in vibrax for 3 cycles of 3 min on and 3 min off at 4°C.
- Spin cells at 3600 rpm in microfuge (1200 xg aprox.) for 3 min at 4°C. Take sup.
- Optional: Add 400 microliter of 1xPXL buffer + Protease inhibitors. Vibrax 1 x 3 min on. Spin in microfuge as before. Pool both sups.
- Add 8 microliter RNAsIn (Promega) and 8 microliter RQ1 DNase (Promega). Incubate at 37°C for 15 min in a Thermomixer at 1000 rpm
- Dilute T1 RNase (Roche, 100 U per microliter) 1:40 in 1x PXL buffer. Add 12 microliter and incubate at 37°C for 10 min in a Thermomixer at 1000 rpm.
- Spin at 90000 rpm (360000xg aprox.) for 25 min and 4°C in RP120AT rotor in Polycarbonate tubes. Take sup (see note 6)
- Perform IP

IP (for Khd1-TAP)

- Add 30 microliter of equilibrated IgG-Sepharose and resuspend to 1:1 in 1x PXL buffer. Incubate for another 1 h at 4°C in a rotating wheel.
- Wash 2x with 1x PXL buffer and 3x with 1x PNK+ buffer
- Label RNA fragments

Labelling

- Resuspend beads in 100 microliter of 1x PNK+ buffer (remove 10 microliter for checking IP) and add 5 microliter of gamma-32P-ATP (Amersham) and 5 microliter of PNK enzyme RNase free.
- Incubate in Thermomixer at 37°C and 1000 rpm for 20 min
- Finish reaction by adding 10 microliter of 1 mM ATP. Let the reaction go another 5 min. Take 2 microliter and count them with Cherenkov program in scintillation counter (TOTAL)
- Wash 4x with 1xPNK+ buffer
- Prepare for SDS-PAGE

SDS-PAGE (Bis/Tris gel)

- Resuspend beads in 30 microliter of 1x PNK+ buffer and 30 microliter of Novex loading buffer.
- Incubate at 70°C for 10 min at 1000 rpm. Take 2 microliter and count them in scintillation counter with cherenkov program (IP)
- Isolate beads and take sup for loading. count beads in scintillation counter with cherenkov program (Beads)
- load 2 wells per tube
- run gel following manufacturer conditions in 1xMOPS/SDS buffer (200V for about 1h)

Gel transfer

- Transfer to S&S BA-85 nitrocellulose using a wet transfer apparatus following manufacturer instructions in 1x Novex transfer buffer + 20% methanol (p.a.)
- Blot overnight at 30V and 90 mA in a Bio-Rad Mini Trans-Blot wet transfer unit without cooling unit and stirring the buffer
- After transfer, rinse the membrane in 1x PBS, and gently blot on Kimwipes. Wrap membrane in plastic wrap
- Expose to film with 2 intensifying screens at -80°C. Signal varies from experiment to experiment. I use to expose 3 films simultaneously and develop them at different exposition times

Buffer composition for the CLIP assay

20x PBS (treat with DEPC)
+ 2.74 M NaCl, (160 g/l)
+ 53.6 mM KCl, (4 g/l)
+ 202.9 mM Na₂HPO₄, (36 g of Na₂HPO₄·xH₂O per liter)
+ 29.4 mM KH₂PO₄ (4.8 g/l)

1x PXL (prepare with DEPC treated water), for 50 ml
+ 1x PBS (without Mg⁺⁺ or Ca⁺⁺) , 2.5 ml 20xPBS
+ 0.1% SDS, 250 microliter 20%SDS
+ 0.5% deoxycholate, 2.5 ml 10%DOC
+ 0.5% NP-40 2.5 ml 10%NP40
+ DEPC water, 42.25 ml

1x PNK+ or PNK (prepare with DEPC treated water), for 50 ml
+ 50 mM Tris-HCl pH 7.4, 2.5 ml 1M Tris
+ 10 mM MgCl₂, 500 microliter 1M MgCl₂
+ 0.5% NP-40, 2.5 ml 10% NP40
+ DEPC water, 44.5 ml

1x PNK + EGTA (prepare with DEPC treated water)
+ 50 mM Tris-HCl pH 7.4
+ 20 mM EGTA
+ 0.5% NP-40

20x MOPS/SDS running buffer (from Hahn's lab methods <http://fhcrc.org/science/labs/hahn/>)
+ 1 M MOPS (195.2 g/l)
+ 1 M Tris base (121.1 g/l)
+ 69.3 mM SDS (20 g/l)
+ 20.5 mM EDTA free acid (6 g/l)
make it with ultrapure water. 1x buffer should be pH 7.7 (do not adjust with acid or base)

20x NuPAGE transfer buffer (from Hahn's lab methods <http://fhcrc.org/science/labs/hahn/>), for 250 ml
+ 500 mM Bicine (81.6 g/l), 20.4 g
+ 500 mM Bis-Tris (104.64 g/l), 26.2 g
+ 20.5 mM EDTA free acid (6 g/l), 1.5 g
make it with ultrapure water. 1x buffer should be pH 7.2 (do not adjust with acid or base)

1x PK buffer (prepare with DEPC treated water)
+ 100 mM Tris-HCl pH 7.5
+ 50 mM NaCl
+ 10 mM EDTA

1x PK/7M urea buffer (this buffer must be fresh), for 10 ml
+ 100 mM Tris-HCl pH 7.5, 1 ml of 1 M
+ 50 mM NaCl, 250 microliter of 2 M
+ 10 mM EDTA, 200 microliter of 0.5 M
+ 7 M Urea, 4.2 g
+ DEPC-water up to 10 ml

10XTBE
+ 890 mM Tris, (108 g/l)
+ Boric acid, (54.1 g/l)
+ 20 mM EDTA, 40 ml 0.5 M

20% PAGE/UREA (it has to pre-run for at least 15 min)
+ 12.6 g urea
+15 ml acrylamide (40%, 19:1)
+3 ml 10XTBE
+2.5 ml DEPC-water
+300 microliter 10% APS (in DEPC-water)
+11 microliter TEMED

10% PAGE/UREA (it has to pre-run for at least 15 min)

- + 12.6 g urea
- + 7.5 ml acrylamide (40%, 19:1)
- + 3ml 10xTBE
- + 10 ml DEPC-water
- + 300 microliter 10% APS in DEPC-water
- + 11 microliter TEMED

Nucleic acid elution buffer, for 9 ml

- + 1 M NaOAc pH 5.2, 3 ml 3 M
- + 1 mM EDTA, 18 microliter 0.5 M
- + DEPC-water, 6 ml

3.2.9 Flotation Assay

Spheroblast preparation

- Chill cultures on ice
- Harvest 400 OD units of an early logarithmic culture (0,5-1,0), spin 10minutes at 6000xG
- Wash cells once, spin 5 minutes at 2000xG
- Resuspend cells in 5ml SB-buffer under gentle shaking
- Spheroblast cells for 1h at 37 degrees in SB-buffer under gentle shaking
- Pellet Spheroblasts through a 8ml sorbitol cushion at 600g for 12 minutes

SB buffer

1,4M sorbitol, 50mM KP pH7,5

add freshly before use:

10mM NaN₃, 0,4% beta-MeEtOH, 2mg/ml Zymolyase 20T

Sorbitol cushion

1,7M Sorbitol, 50mM KP pH7,5

-lyse spheroblasts in 4ml Lysis buffer

20mM Hepes

140mM KAc

1mM MgAc

1mM EDTA

+Protease inhibitors

-stroke 22 times, up and down, in a douncer.

-Spin 5x at 450xG to remove cell debris.

-Layer Sucrose gradient: 4 layers, 3ml each.

Upper layer - 0%

second layer - 40%

sample loading layer - 50%

lowest - 70%

- Spin 8,75 hours in a SW40 rotor, at 4degrees
- Take aliquots from each layer, interfaces and resuspended pellet
- precipitate with 15% TCA.

3.2.10 Yeast Colony PCR

- suspend small amount of cells in 100 µl 0,02M NaOH.
- Add glass beads
- 5minutes at 100 degrees, 1400RPM
- spin at full speed, 15 seconds
- use 5 µl as template for PCR

3.2.11 Immunoprecipitation

Day1

- Innoculate yeast strains and grow them overnight.
- Block coupled beads:
25 µl beads per 15OD culture.
- Wash 3 x 10minutes with RNA buffer.

Day2

- dilute culture to 100 ml OD600=0,3, grow at 30 degrees to OD600=0,8-1,0.
- Harvest 15 OD600: 3 minutes at 3600RPM at 4 degrees and discard supernatant.
- Resuspend pellet in 1 ml cold H2O, transfer to 1,5ml tube.
- Spin at maximum speed for 15 seconds and discard supernatant.
- Add to pellet 200 µl breaking buffer and resuspend.
- Add 200 µl glass beads
- break cells 4x 3 minutes with vibrax with a 1 minute break in between.
- Add 100 µl breaking buffer.
- Centrifuge 2 minutes at 3000RPM at 4 degrees.
- Transfer 250 µl into a new tube, keep a 30 µl aliquot (Total).
- Remove blocking solution from blocked beads (MPC)
- resuspend beads in 500 µl breaking buffer.
- Transfer aliquots in needed number of tubes.
- Add cell extract
- incubate 2hours at 4degrees (wheel)
- place tubes into MPC
- discard supernatant, but take an aliquot for western blot
- wash twice with 1ml wash buffer
- suspend in 350 µl wash buffer
- place tubes in MPC, discard supernatant
- resuspend pellet in 30 µl 1xSDS-loading buffer
- place 5minutes at 95 degrees
- place in MPC and transfer sup into a new tube.

Covalent Coupling of mouse anti-myc 9E11 to Dynabeads Protein G

- use 1ml antibody per 100 μ l packed beads
- wash 500 μ l beads twice with 1ml 0,1 M sodium phosphate pH7.0, use MPC for washing
- thaw 15ml aliquot hybridoma supernatant anti-myc 9E11
- add 12 μ l 1M Tris-HCl pH7.5
- distribute beads to 4 1,5ml tubes (125 μ l each).
- Add 1,25 ml hybridoma supernatant
- 40 minutes at room temperature with gentle rotation (wheel)
- wash twice in 1ml 0,1 M Na-Phosphate buffer pH7.0
- wash twice in 1ml 0,2 M Triethanolamine pH7,2
- pipet all beads into one 2ml tube
- add 1ml 20mM DMP in 0,2 M triethanolamin (5,4mg in 1ml, prepare freshly).
- Incubate for 30minutes at room temperature with gentle rotation.
- Add 1ml 50mM Tris-HCl pH7,5
- incubate 15 minutes at room temperature with gentle rotation.
- Wash 3 times in 1ml 1xPBS/0,1% Tween
- wash beads in MPC, twice with 1ml 1xTBS
- wash beads once with 1ml 0,1M glycine/HCl pH2,5
- wash beads once with 1ml 0,1 M Tris/HCl pH8,8
- wash twice with 1ml 1xTBS
- take up beads in 1xTBS pH7,4 (50% slurry, 500 μ l)
- store beads at 4 degrees.

Breaking buffer

50mM Hepes/KOH pH7,3, 20mM KOAc, 2mM EDTA pH8,0, 0,1% (w/V) Triton X-100, 5% (w/V) Glycerol +1x Protease inhibitor Mix

wash buffer

50mM Hepes/KOH pH7,3, 50mM KOAc, 2mM Mg(OAc)₂, 0,1% (w/V) Triton X-100, 5% (w/V) Glycerol

RNA buffer

50mM Hepes/KOH pH7,3, 20mM KOAc, 0,1% (w/V) Triton X-100, 5% (w/V) Glycerol, 0,1mg/ml tRNA

3.2.12 Point mutant generation

Site directed mutagenesis kit

2 μ l plasmid DNA (1:10)
0,625 μ l Oligo 1 (10pmol)
0,625 μ l Oligo 2 (10pmol)
2,5 μ l buffer
0,5 μ l Super Taq
18,125 μ l H₂O

- Add 1 μ l DpnI and digest for 1 hour at 37 degrees.
- Add Top10 cells, heat shock at 42 degrees, for 30 seconds and incubate in preheated LB for 1 hour shaking at 37 degrees.

3.2.13 Polysome profiling analysis

Prepare buffers:

- 10xPolysome Buffer
 - 200mM Hepes/KOH pH7.5
 - 750mM KCl
 - 25 mM MgCl₂
 - 10 mM EGTA
- 60% Sucrose in DEPC (pH7,5) filtrated
- 10mg/ml Cycloheximide in water (freshly prepared)

- Grow overnight culture.
- Dilute to OD₆₀₀=0,1 and let grow until OD₆₀₀=0,5
- Add 0,1mg/ml cycloheximide to 50ml of cells (500 μ l of 10mg/ml stock)
- Incubate 10 min at 30 degrees
- Harvest cells by centrifugation: 3minutes, 3000RPM at 4 degrees
- Prepare 1 eppendorf tube per strain with 50% glass beads
- Remove all traces of supernatant
- Add 20 μ l 1xPolysome buffer (plus 0,1mg/ml Cycloheximide, plus 1mM DTT) per OD 600 cells (500 μ l for OD0,5)
- Lyse cells by vortexing in the cold room (250 μ l beads, 500 μ l 1x Polysome buffer) for 5minutes.
- Spin 5minutes 13000RPM at 4 degrees.
- Take 10 μ l of supernatant, dilute in 990 μ l H₂O and measure A₂₆₀.
- Load 250 μ g RNA onto the gradient (1 OD 260=40 μ g/ml RNA)
- Spin 2 hours, 38000 RPM, SW40 rotor.
- Collect 500 μ l fractions.

TCA precipitation

- Provide 1 ml TCA premix (10-15% TCA: 37,5ml H₂O + 10 ml TCA) in tube on ice.
- Vortex sample.
- Take out 250 μ l (enough for 2 blots) and add to TCA premix
- Vortex
- Incubate ON on ice in the cold room
- Spin 30 minutes maximum speed, at 4 degrees.
- Take off supernatant
- Add 500 μ l ice cold acetone
- Spin 10 minutes, maximum speed at 4 degrees (small white pellet)
- Take off supernatant
- take off remaining supernatant with yellow tip.
- Add 20 μ l 1x sample buffer Premix (1 ml 1 x Sample Buffer + 50 μ l Tris base)
- Vortex

- Let stand for 1 hour
- Vortex sample
- Boil for 1 minute
- Vortex sample
- Boil for 1 minute
- centrifuge 1 minute, 13000RPM
- Load gel.

Preparation of gels:

- prepare 12 ml (enough for 2 gradients) a 10% and a 50% sucrose solution both with 1mM DTT and cycloheximide 0,1mg/ml.
- prepare 12 ml (enough for two gradients) a 10% and a 50% sucrose solution both with 1mM DTT and cycloheximide 0,1mg/ml and 0,01M EDTA.
- Pour 6ml of the 50% solution and then 6ml of the 10% solution, onto the same SW40 rotor tube. Cover with parafilm and lay gently down, allowing the fractions to mix. Let lie for 2hours. After that put them upright in the coldroom for 2 hours or until the cells are ready.

4. RESULTS

4.1 Relationship of *ASH1* mRNA localization and nonsense mediated decay (NMD)?

As the *ASH1* mRNA localization process is a temporally well defined event and it has been shown that a premature stop codon (PTC) causes a loss of anchoring at the bud tip, while still bud localized (Jaedicke, PhD Thesis) we wanted to investigate whether there was a link between NMD and mRNA localization factors (RLFs).

To first address this issue we decided to use a galactose driven *ASH1* system (Fig. 2) to measure the half-life of this mRNA.

Fig. 2 - Schematic view of the *ASH1* construct used to determine *ASH1* mRNA half-life.

Another construct containing a PTC before the E1 element was also used in the same setup. The *GAL* promoter was induced and *ASH1* mRNA was transcribed from both constructs, the wildtype containing one and the PTC containing one. Half-life was determined by analysing the rate of decay after promoter repression.

Figure



	WT (n=3)	E1-Stop (n=3)
<i>wt</i>	9,9	8,66
$\Delta ccr4$	7,8	10,47
$\Delta ccr4 \Delta she2$	7,6	7,62
$\Delta dcp1$	10,1	11,55
$\Delta upf1$	7,69	9,43
$\Delta upf1 \Delta she2$	7,96	10,12
$\Delta vts1$	9,57	9,72

<i>Δshe2 Δvts1</i>	7,7	12,1
<i>Δshe2</i>	8,66	9,32
<i>Δkhd1</i>	9,9	10,7
<i>Δkhd1 Δshe2</i>	11,55	17,33
<i>Δpuf6</i>	11,55	11,55
<i>Δpuf6 Δshe2</i>	16,08	14,84
<i>Δscp160</i>	20,10	20,04

Table 1 – Comparison of influences of different mutants on the half-life of *ASH1* mRNA, both wildtype and *ASH1-Stop-E1*.

These results, presented in Table 1, led us to the surprising finding that the disruption of the major *ASH1* mRNA binding protein, *SHE2*, has no influence on its own in *ASH1* mRNA half-life. Furthermore, factors involved in the NMD pathway, such as *CCR4*, *UPF1* and *DCP1*, also do not show any change in *ASH1* mRNA half-life, not even in combination with *Δshe2*. Interestingly, no measurable effect was observed for mRNA nonsense mediated decay mutants, indicating that there is no nonsense mediated decay for *ASH1* mRNA. *VTS1*, the yeast Smaug homolog and a partner to *CCR4-NOT* complex, when in combination with a *Δshe2* showed a 30% increase in *ASH1-E1-Stop* mRNA as compared to the wildtype, or even to *Δshe2*.

On the other hand, two other *ASH1* mRNA binding proteins, shown to be translation repressors, encoded by *PUF6* and *KHD1* do cause a change in *ASH1* mRNA half-life when in combination with *ΔSHE2*. *Δpuf6 Δshe2* shows a 40% half-life increase for the wildtype and 30% increase for *ASH1-Stop-E1* when compared to *Δpuf6* alone and *Δkhd1 Δshe2* shows a 15% half-life increase for the wildtype *ASH1* and 60% increase for *ASH1-Stop-E1* when compared to *Δkhd1*. In addition, another gene involved in translation regulation, *SCPI60*, showed a 2x fold increase in *ASH1* mRNA half-life, for both constructs tested.

We found that *Δshe2 Δkhd1* and *Δshe2 Δpuf6* did show a cumulative effect on *ASH1* mRNA half-life. These findings were not so surprising, since these proteins are mRNA binding proteins and are active in localization of *ASH1* mRNA to the daughter cell. Although mRNA localization *per se* is not an essential process we wanted to test for cell viability and temperature sensitivity, in order to try to identify other processes that might be impaired.

4.2 Relationship between RNA localization factors and cell viability?

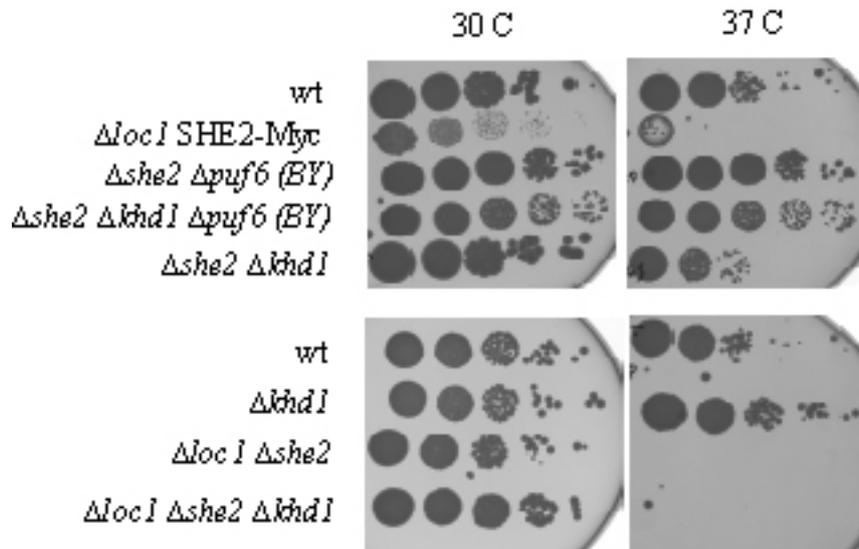


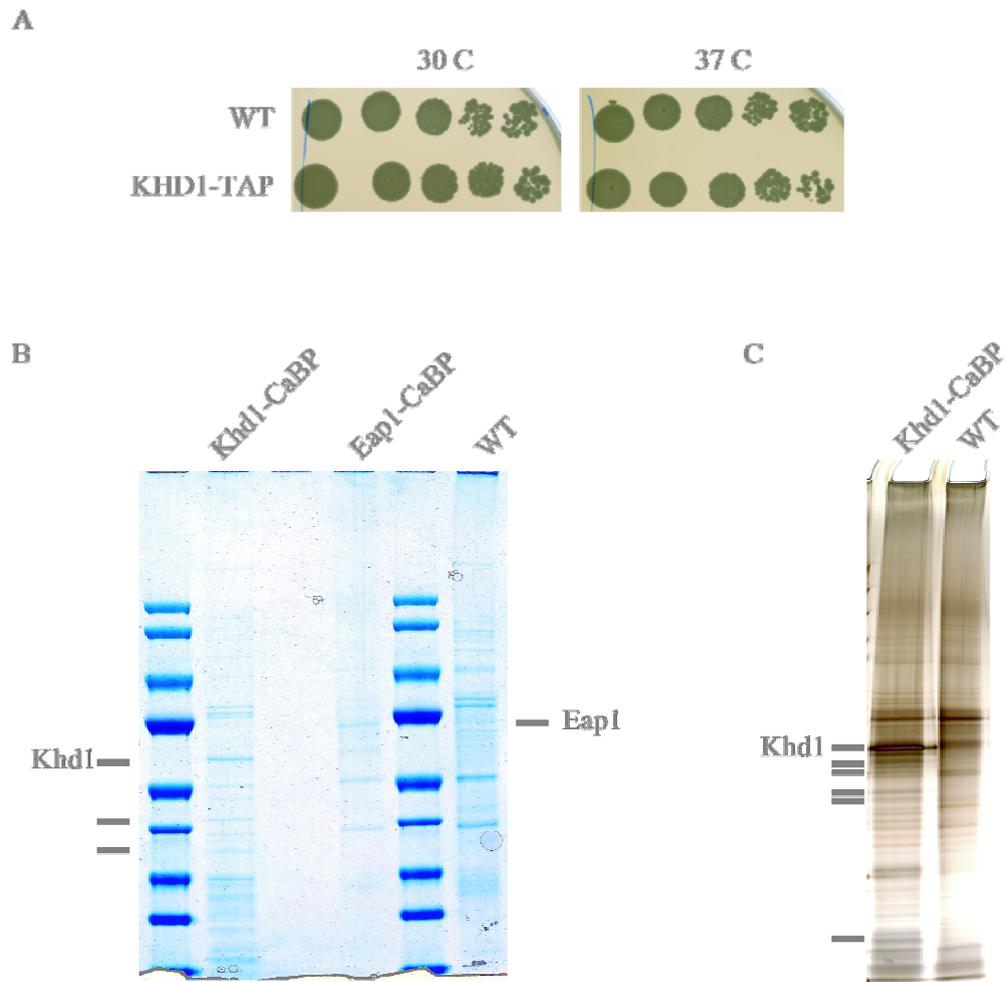
Fig. 3 - Temperature sensitivity of mRNA localization factors. 10-fold serial dilutions from an overnight culture were plated in YEPD media and then incubated at 30 and at 37 degrees.

The results (Fig. 3) show that there is a temperature sensitive growth defect for $\Delta loc1 \Delta she2$, that does not grow at 37°C. Surprisingly, this double disruption grows better at 30°C than a $\Delta loc1$ She2-myc3. In addition, a $\Delta she2 \Delta khd1$ shows a synthetic growth defect at 37°C.

4.3 What is Khd1p connection to ASH1 mRNA localization process?

Khd1p, has been shown to be localized with the *ASH1* mRNA to the bud tip (Irie *et al.* 2002). These results made us interested in addressing the questions: i) is Khd1p a part of the locosome? ii) Does it travel with the *ASH1* mRNP together? Is Khd1p involved in *ASH1* mRNP formation?

In order to achieve this, we set out to identify interacting protein partners of Khd1p and therefore a Khd1p-Tandem Affinity purification was established.



It has been observed, in our lab and others, that the addition of an epitope to the COOH-end of a determined gene can lead to a non functional or growth defect/growth impaired phenotype. To answer this question, drop tests were performed (Fig. 4A). No detrimental effect was found for a Khd1p-TAP tag.

Fig. 4 – Can Khd1p be purified with a tandem affinity purification approach?

A – Drop test for growth viability of a Khd1-TAP.

B – Coomassie stained gel of TEV cleaved eluates.

C – Silver stained gel of Calmodulin binding eluates.

4.4 Which co-purifying proteins can be found with this approach?

When the Khd1p purification was performed using a 100.000G 1hour centrifugation step only the bait was found on a coomassie stained gel, after the calmodulin binding step (data not shown). As Khd1p may play a role in the nucleus (Denisenko *et al.*, 2002; Du *et al.*, 2008), the centrifugation speed was reduced to 10.000g. Again, this approach did not yield after the calmodulin binding step, apart from the bait, coomassie detectable bands that were different from a mock purification. On the other hand, when a silver staining was performed a few co-purifying bands could be found on the

same calmodulin eluates (Fig, 4C). Furthermore, the TEV cleaved eluates after this slower centrifugation step showed additional coomassie co-purifiers, as expected. (Fig. 4B)

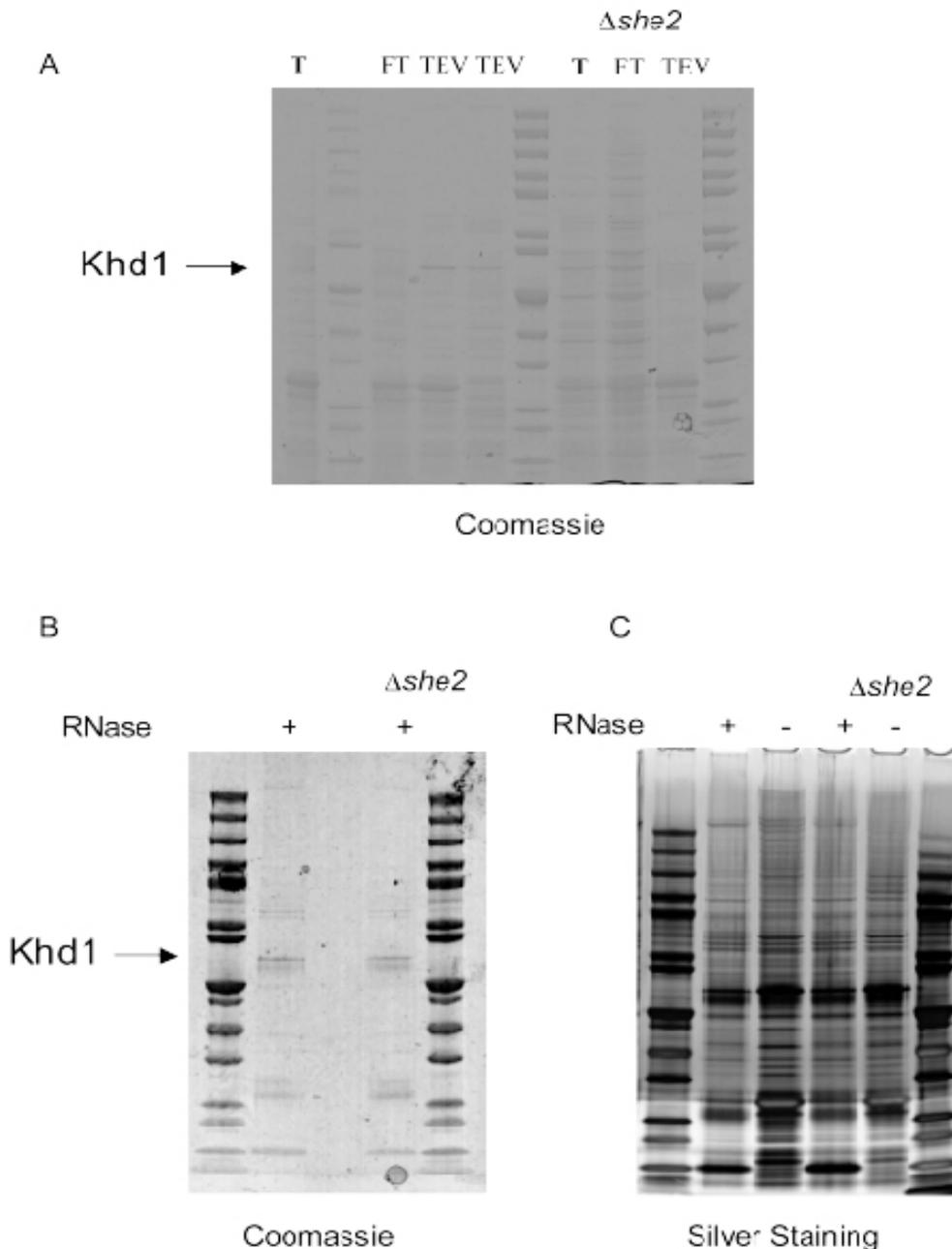
4.5 Is Khd1p a part of a RNA dependent protein complex?

How could Gavin and co-workers (Gavin *et al.*, 2002; Gavin *et al.*, 2006) find so many other co-purifying proteins? Could we be facing mRNA mediated interactions? Is She2p tethering any Khd1p binding partners?

Fig. 5 - Khd1p tandem affinity purification.

A – Coomassie Stained Khd1p-Tandem affinity purification.

B – Coomassie Stained TEV cleaved eluates after RNase treatment.



C – Silver Stained TEV cleaved eluates, with and without RNase treatment.

We observed that the RNase treatment showed no change on the coomassie stained protein pattern (Fig. 5B). The RNase treatment led to changes in the co-purifying protein pattern in the silver stained TEV-cleaved eluates (Fig. 5C).

4.6 Is Khd1p a part of the locasome? Can it co-purify other members of the ASH1 mRNP?

As can be seen above, a Khd1p tandem affinity purification did not yield coomassie stainable co-purifying bands and did not allow us to conclude whether Khd1p was a part of the locasome. We decided to tackle this question directly, by looking for the other members of the locasome in the eluates and trying to see whether some of the proteins that were missing in the silver stain after RNase treatment corresponded to any of the locasome members.

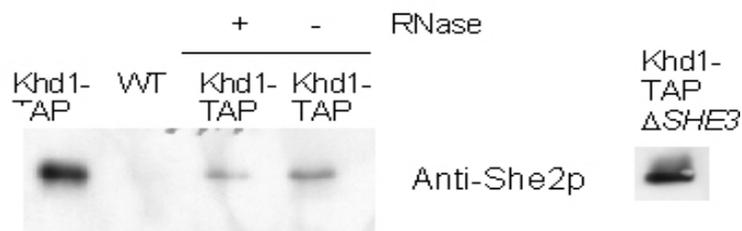


Fig. 6 - Can Khd1p co-purify She2p?

Western blot analysis of TEV cleaved eluates, probed with a Anti-She2p antibody.

Lane 1 – Khd1p-TAP TEV cleaved eluate; Lane 2 – Untagged strain TEV cleaved eluate; Lane 3 – Khd1p-TAP TEV Cleaved Eluate, after 20minutes RNaseA, at 16°C; Lane 4 - Khd1p-TAP TEV Cleaved Eluate, after 20minutes at 16°C. Lane 5 – Khd1p-TAP $\Delta she3$ TEV cleaved eluate.

She2p can be co-purified when using Khd1p as bait (Fig. 6). Surprisingly, this purification is independent of RNA, as a 20min 1mg/ml RNase A treatment does not abolish this co-purification.

4.6.1 Does it also co-purify other members of the locasome?

She3p is the adaptor protein between She2p and Myo4p, the motor that transports the cargo. So we wanted to know whether She3p and Khd1p can also be co-purified.

She3p-myc6 can also be co-purified with Khd1p (Fig. 7). Interestingly this purification is also independent of She2p and of RNA. These findings indicate a direct interaction of Khd1p with She3p, thus suggesting that Khd1p is itself, and not only She2p, a cargo of the SHE machinery.

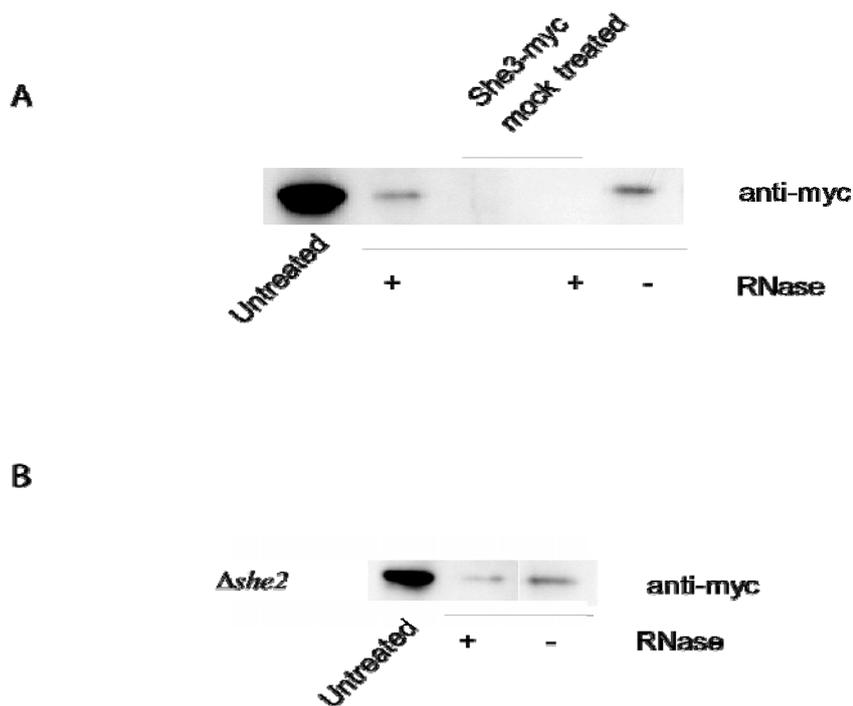


Fig. 7 - Khd1p co-purifies She3p-Myc6?

A - Western blot against She3p-Myc6. Lane 1 – Khd1p-TAP She3-Myc6 TEV cleaved eluate; Lane 2 – Khd1p-TAP She3-Myc6 TEV cleaved eluate, after 20minutes RNase A treatment at 16°C; Lane 3 – untagged Khd1p She3p-Myc6 TEV cleaved eluate; Lane 4 – untagged Khd1p She3p-Myc6 TEV cleaved eluate, after 20 minutes RNase A treatment at 16°C; Lane 5 – Khd1p-TAP She3-Myc6 TEV cleaved eluate after 20minutes at 16°C.

B - Western blot against She3p-Myc6. Lane 1 – Khd1p-TAP $\Delta she2$ She3-Myc6 TEV cleaved eluate; Lane 2 – Khd1p-TAP $\Delta she2$ She3-Myc6 TEV cleaved eluate, after 20minutes RNase A treatment at 16°C; Lane 3 – Khd1p-TAP $\Delta she2$ She3p-Myc6 TEV cleaved eluate, after 20minutes at 16°C.

4.6.2 Is there a direct interaction between She3p and Khd1p?

The next question was to map the interaction between Khd1p and She3p. For this we performed a Khd1p tandem affinity purification again, but this time looking for co-purified HA-tagged She3-COOH.

Fig. 8 - Can Khd1p bind to the C-terminal end of She3p? Does it bind to the N-terminal end of She3p? Western Blot against HA-tagged She3p-COOH.

Lane 1 – Total, Khd1p-TAP induced pGAL-HA3-She3-COOH.

Lane 2 – TEV cleaved eluate, Khd1p-TAP induced pGAL-HA3-She3-COOH.



HA-She3p-COOH was not co-purified with Khd1p in this approach (Fig. 8). Does it not bind to the COOH-end of She3p? Is this end not stable enough?

What about the NH₂-end of She3p?

A Khd1p tandem affinity purification with a genomically Myc-tagged-She3p-NH₂end was performed and analysed by western blot for Myc signal. A myc signal was observed even on the Khd1p-untagged strain, making this approach inconclusive (data not shown).

4.7 Khd1p, another mRNA binding protein associated to the Endoplasmic Reticulum (ER)?

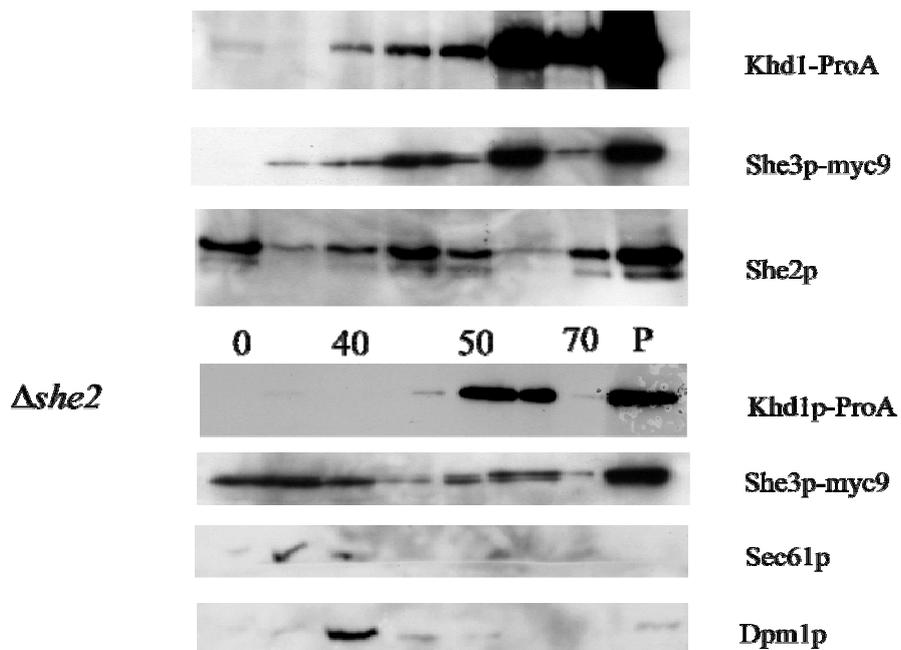
Schmid and coworkers (2006) have shown that She2p binds to the ER and that it floats on a sucrose sedimentation gradient. As Khd1p can co-purify She2p the question arose whether Khd1p could also interact with the ER-associated pool of She2p. ER flotation assays were performed (Fig. 9A) and analysed for flotation of Khd1p.

Fig. 9 - Khd1p association to ER?

A – 4-step gradient sedimentation profiling. Lane 1 - 0%, Lane 3 - 40%, Lane 5 - 50% and Lane 7 - 70% sucrose layers.

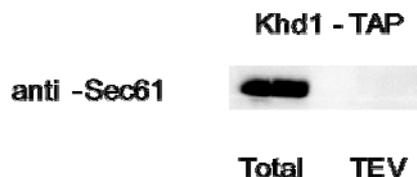
B – Western Blot against Sec61p, on Khd1p-TAP Total and TEV cleaved eluate.

A



B

Direct binding to ER?



Khd1p partly mimicks the distribution observed for She3p-Myc6 in the lower fractions 40% to Pellet fractions. On the other hand, Khd1p floats to the top of a 4-step gradient profile as described

for She2p (Schmid *et al.*, 2006) and surprisingly this happens also in the absence of She2p – fraction 0-40% (Fig. 9A), indicating that She2p is not required for Khd1p-ER association.

4.7.1 Does Khd1p-affinity purification also yield ER-bound proteins?

After having shown that Khd1p floats with the ER membranes, the question arose whether Khd1p binds directly to the ER and whether Khd1p could co-purify ER proteins, such as Sec61p. After a Khd1p tandem affinity purification we observed that it is not the case (Fig. 9B).

4.8 Khd1p proposed to be a translation repressor. Does it show translation inhibitor sensitivity?

Khd1p has been putatively identified as a translation repressor and shown to be accumulating with a U1A-mRNP at the budtip. (Irie *et al.*, 2002). Recently it has been shown that indeed it has a translation repressor function (Paquin *et al.*, 2007).

Khd1p contains 3-KH domains. Scp160p is also a 14-KH domain containing protein and *Δscp160* has been shown to be sensitive to translation inhibitors (Baum *et al.*, 2004). To map any other possible roles for Khd1p in translation regulation, *Δkhd1* cells were tested with different translation inhibitor drugs for differential sensitivity.

Paramomycin is a drug that inhibits protein synthesis by binding to 16S ribosomal RNA (Vicens and Westhof, 2001).

Cycloheximide is an inhibitor of protein biosynthesis in eukaryotic organisms, produced by the bacterium *Streptomyces griseus*. Cycloheximide exerts its effect by interfering with the translocation step in protein synthesis (movement of two tRNA molecules and mRNA in relation to the ribosome) thus blocking translational elongation.

Geneticin (G418) is an aminoglycoside antibiotic similar in structure to gentamicin B1. It is produced by *Micromonospora rhodorangea*. G418 blocks polypeptide synthesis by inhibiting the elongation step in both prokaryotic and eukaryotic cells.

Hygromycin B is an aminocyclitol antibiotic with broad spectrum activity against prokaryotes and eukaryotes. Hygromycin B strongly inhibits protein synthesis through a dual effect on mRNA translation (Cabanas *et al.*, 1978; Lacal and Carrasco, 1983). Like other aminoglycoside antibiotics, hygromycin B induces misreading of aminoacyl-tRNA by distorting the ribosomal A site (decoding center) (Cabanas *et al.*, 1978; Davies and Davis, 1968; Moazed and Noller, 1987; Spahn and Prescott, 1986). Hygromycin B also affects the ribosomal translocation process (Cabanas *et al.*,

1978; Gonzalez *et al.*, 1978; Hausner *et al.*, 1988). In the presence of the antibiotic, mRNA is often mistranslocated, being moved more or less than the three necessary bases.

Anisomycin is an antibiotic produced by *Streptomyces griseolus* which inhibits protein synthesis. Partial inhibition of DNA synthesis occurs at anisomycin concentrations that effect 95% inhibition of protein synthesis (Grollman, 1967). Anisomycin interferes with protein and DNA synthesis by inhibiting peptidyl transferase or the 80S ribosome system.

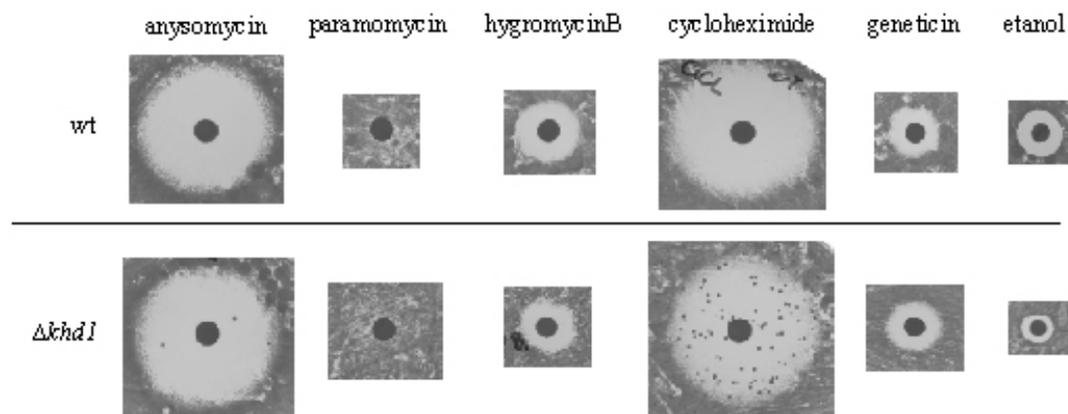


Fig. 10 – Drug sensitivity assay.

An exponentially growing culture was plated on to YEPD plates, where filters containing anisomycin, paramomycin, hygromycin B, cycloheximide, geneticin and 100% ethanol were placed. Plates were incubated for 18 hours and the halos of inhibition were measured.

We observed that $\Delta khd1$ does not show any difference in regard to translation inhibitor sensitivity, indicating that it is not directly involved in translation regulation.

4.9 Is Khd1p associated with polysomes?

Polysomes, or multiple ribosomes, form around actively translated mRNAs. In order to confirm the hypothesis that Khd1p is a translation repressor, one should be able to see that Khd1p affects ribosome loading onto an mRNA and one should not find Khd1p associated to heavy polysomes as they should dislodge the repressor from an actively translated mRNA.

Therefore, in a polysome profile one should encounter *ASH1* mRNA in the heavy polysome fractions but no Khd1p.

To test this idea polysome profiles were analysed.

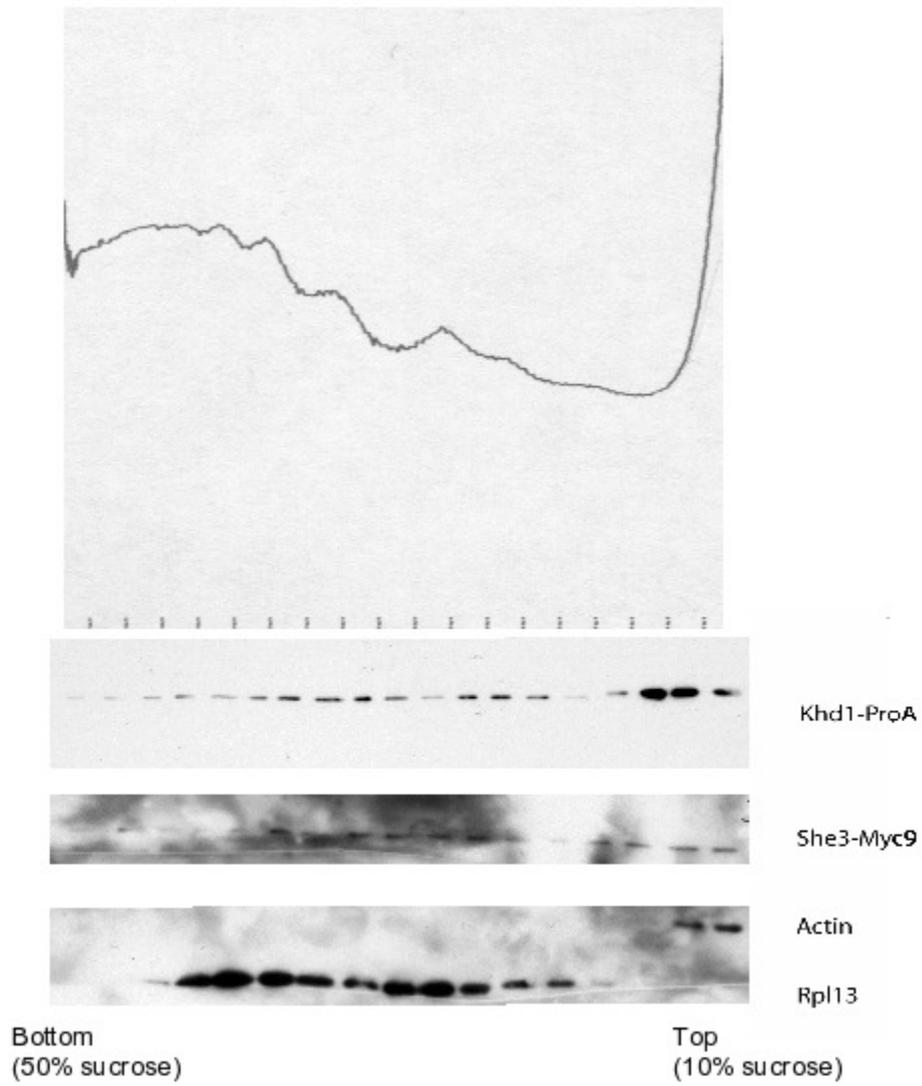


Fig. 11 – Is Khd1p associated to polysomes?

Polysome profile showing Khd1p-ProA, She3p-myc9, Rpl13p fractionation along the gradient.

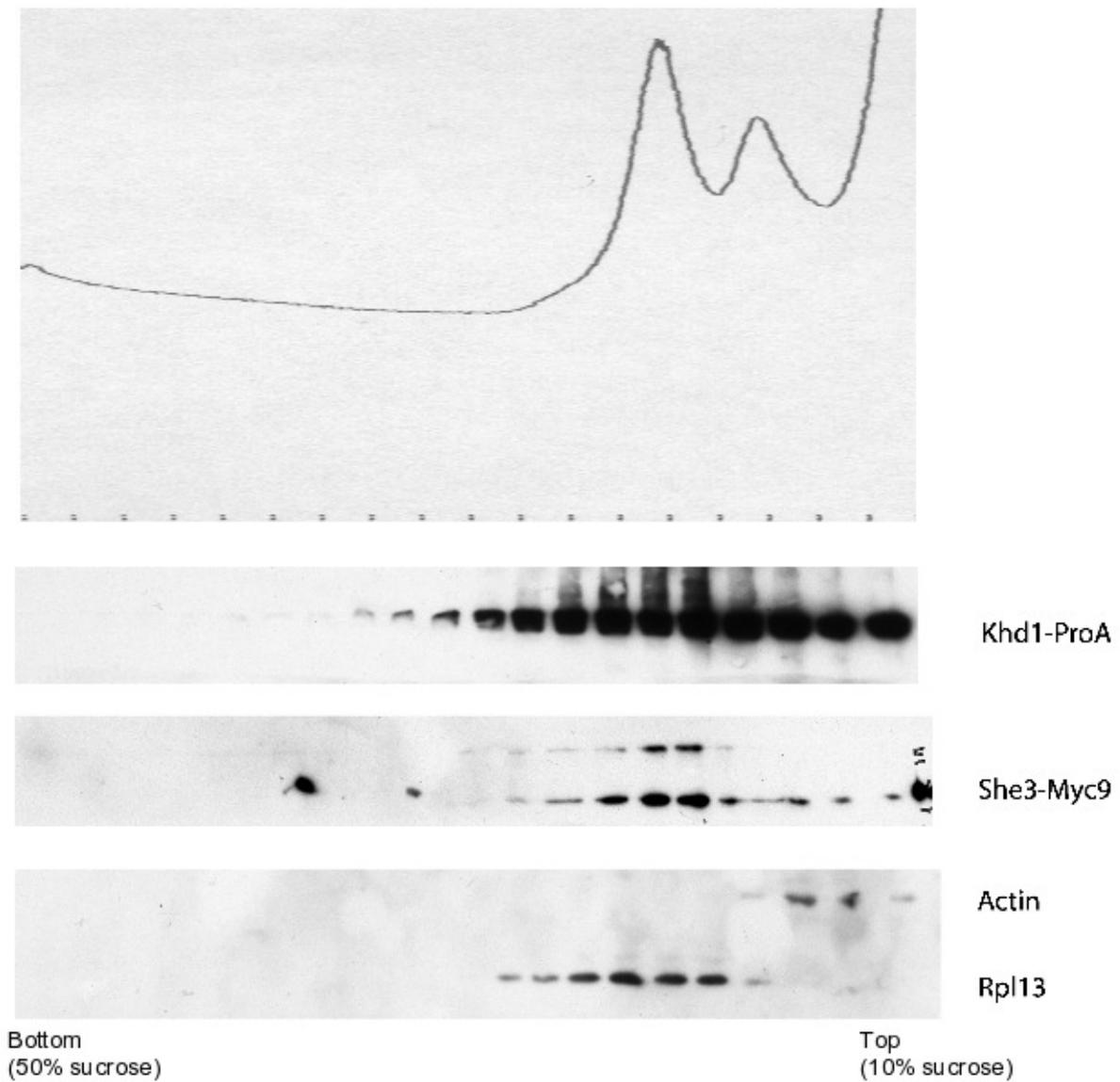


Fig. 12 – Does Khd1p co-migrate with the ribosomes upon EDTA treatment?
Khd1-ProA She3p-myc9 after EDTA treatment.

As can be seen above (Figure 11) Khd1p-myc9 associates with the polysomes, with 80S ribosomes and with 40S ribosomes. Upon EDTA treatment (Figure 12), that disrupts ribosome subunit association, Khd1p-ProA partially mimicks the distribution of the ribosomal protein Rpl3p. She3p-Myc9 mimicks Rpl3p distribution perfectly.

4.10 Khd1p, an mRNA binding protein?

Can we validate the purification from the TAP procedure for a stable mRNA-protein association?

If so, to which other mRNAs, apart from *EI-ASH1* mRNA element, does Khd1p bind? Could it be that messages that encode for the telomeric remodelling complex are bound by Khd1p and therefore show this striking effect on telomeric length?

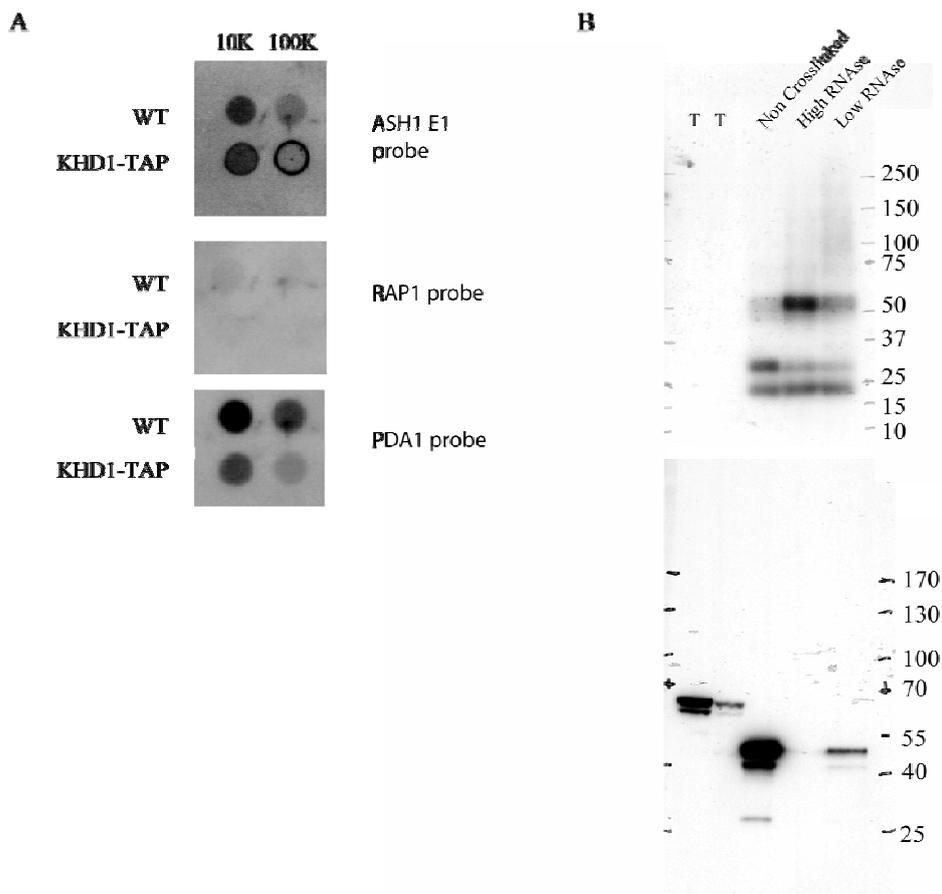
An approach to determine if any of the mRNAs involved in this process is also bound by Khd1p was followed.

Fig. 13 - RNA binding?

A – Northern Dot blot.

B – CLIP assay. Khd1p-CaBP-TEV-ProA

Top – Autoradiograph; Lane 1 – Total, Lane 2 – Total, Lane 3 – Non crosslinked, Lane 4 – High RNase, Lane 5 – Low RNase. Bottom – Western blot, anti-CaBP.



We observed that after a 10.000G centrifugation step 3x more *ASH1* E1-element mRNA could be detected than after a 100.000G centrifugation step (Fig. 13A). *ASH1* mRNA can be effectively purified bound to Khd1p, using the standard TAP protocol. However, other mRNAs were not enriched when analysed using this approach. We observed that *RAP1*, *SIR2*, *SIR3* and *TLC1* were not enriched, indicating that either these mRNAs are not bound by Khd1-CaBP-TEV-ProA (Fig. 13A) or the regions that the probes were directed against are not bound by this protein.

4.11 Ultraviolet CrossLinked ImmunoPrecipitation (CLIP)

Still, the question remained. To which other mRNAs does Khd1p bind to?

In order to follow this idea, a CLIP (Ule *et al.*, 2003; 2005) assay, based on the tandem affinity purification approach, was used.

We observed that even after RNase treatment radioactively labeled protein still remained, indicating that Khd1p binds to DNA. In addition, upon treatment with less amounts of RNase, the radioactively labeled protein is more intense and also larger in size, indicating that indeed the labeled material is in part RNA (Fig. 13B).

5. DISCUSSION

5.1 Is there a relationship between *ASH1* mRNA localization and nonsense mediated decay (NMD)?

The *ASH1* mRNA localization process happens quite fast in the cell, since *ASH1* mRNA is transcribed in early anaphase and localized in late anaphase, thus making a very short time window for the localization event to take place.

The previous observation that a premature stop codon introduced before any of the zipcode elements of *ASH1* mRNA did not elicit nonsense mediated decay but led to a severe localization defect (5% tightly anchored, 95% mislocalized for *ASH1-E1-Stop* compared to 85% tightly anchored to 15% mislocalized for the wildtype *ASH1* – Jaedicke A., PhD Thesis, 2004), originated two hypothesis (Jaedicke A., PhD Thesis, 2004). *i*, The premature stop codons were not available to the surveillance machinery due to the mRNP architecture, where She2p, which binds to these localization elements, could mask these stop codons; *ii*, the premature stop containing transcripts, *i.e.* shorter transcripts, did not associate with sufficient ribosomes to be effectively anchored. The ribosome involvement in anchoring hypothesis is supported by the fact that cycloheximide treatment, that blocks ribosomal elongation, decreases *ASH1* mRNA tight anchoring (Jaedicke A., PhD Thesis, 2004) and also by the observation that Ash1p-COOH is required for active *ASH1* mRNA retention at the bud tip (Gonzalez *et al.*, 1999). Further experiments from A. Jaedicke on this issue, showed that disruption of *SHE2* did not change *ASH1* mRNA stability, indicating that it is not the footprint of She2p that prevents premature stop recognition.

In order to establish whether nonsense mediated decay really occurs for these PTC containing *ASH1* transcripts the half-lives of two different transcripts were analysed (Fig. 2). The results presented in Table 1 show that there is no difference between the two transcripts analysed in most of the mutants tested. Surprisingly, mutations in genes involved in NMD such as *UPF1*, *DCP1*, *CCR4* (reviewed in Collier and Parker, 2004 and in Macquat, 2004) showed no effect on the half-lives measured for the two mRNA constructs, indicating that, indeed, classical NMD pathways do not affect *ASH1* mRNA stability. As most mRNAs in yeast, *ASH1* is intronless. In humans it has been described that intronless mRNAs do not undergo NMD (Brocke *et al.*, 2002). This observation is not likely to apply to yeast, since most of the mRNAs in this organism are intronless and a PTC containing mRNA could prove severely detrimental for the organisms viability. Furthermore, if this would be true, one would not expect any differences in the measured half-lives. The only observed differences were for mutations on *SCP160*, *PUF6* and *KHD1* (*PUF6* and *KHD1* in combination

with $\Delta she2$). $\Delta SCP160$ causes a 100% increase in mRNA half-life as compared to wildtype but no difference between PTC-containing *ASH1* and wildtype *ASH1* was observed, indicating that it is a more general mRNA decay defect. The fact that *SCP160* has been implicated in ribosomal architecture in combination with Asc1p (Baum *et al.*, 2004) and bound to the polysomes in an mRNA dependent manner (Frey *et al.*, 2001) seems to point to a general defect instead of a *ASH1* specific defect. *LOCI*, another protein involved in RNA biogenesis and mRNA localization (Long *et al.*, 2001; Horsey *et al.*, 2004; Komili *et al.*, 2007) was not tested, although in light of the presented results it should be looked into.

SHE2 plays apparently no role alone. However, when in combination with *PUF6* and with *KHD1* contributes to a significant increase in *ASH1* mRNA half-life. In combination with $\Delta PUF6$, $\Delta SHE2$ increases the half-life of both transcripts analysed, 40% and 30%, an indication that this double mutant combination still allows PTC-containing-*ASH1* mRNA to evade NMD or that the rate by which the PTC-containing-*ASH1* mRNA is destroyed is undistinguishable from the rate with which the wildtype is translated into protein. As $\Delta SHE2$ causes a loss of *ASH1* mRNA localization and $\Delta PUF6$ contributes to the same process (Gu *et al.*, 2004; Deng *et al.*, 2008) it is possible that this loss of efficient mRNA localization leads to an increase of mRNA half-life simply by the loss of spatial regulation or due to the misincorporation of these mRNAs into the mRNP or loss of another unknown factor targeted to the mRNP by Puf6p. In addition, the same could be true for $\Delta KHD1$ $\Delta SHE2$. The half-life increase for PTC-containing *ASH1* mRNA observed for this double mutant was 60%, whereas for the wildtype *ASH1* almost no change was observed. This observation seems to point towards a role for *KHD1* in the recognition of this PTC-containing *ASH1* mRNA, although this seems unlikely as no connection between *KHD1* and NMD pathways has been until now elucidated.

These results support the hypothesis that the loss of anchoring at the bud tip and the unchanged *ASH1* mRNA stability between PTC containing transcripts and wildtype transcripts, observed by A. Jaedicke is directly linked to ribosomal function and that ribosomes are an important part of the localizing mRNP. They do not, however, allow us to conclude if it is a matter of transcript ribosomal loading. It is conceivable that a slower progressing ribosome, either due to a ribosome biogenesis problem (*PUF6* (Fromont-Racine *et al.*, 2003)) or due to the loss of regulation exerted by a translation repressor [*PUF6* (Gu *et al.*, 2004; Deng *et al.*, 2008), *KHD1* (Irie *et al.*, 2002; Paquin *et al.*, 2007)] can cause an extended mRNA half-life for the ribosome-bound transcripts. Loss of a translation repressor should speed up translation and thus making the mRNA half-life shorter, which is not the case (Table 1). It is conceivable that these translation repressors are also involved in the targeting of other factors such as RNA helicases to the mRNP. When the translation

repressors are absent the localizing mRNA might require more time to unwind and be translated, masking the effect caused by the loss of a translation repressor.

Although a shorter transcript should be translated faster than a full length one, this was not the case, even for the wildtype cells analysed (Table 1), indicating that there is a missing link in the regulation of these mRNAs. Another possibility is that the processes involved, localizing mRNA, translation and NMD are temporally coupled and their independent analysis therefore very difficult. Although being a very attractive hypothesis, the data presented do not allow a conclusion to whether this nonNMD effect is a localized mRNA specific effect or not, as no other PTC containing transcripts were analysed.

Another aspect that cannot be ruled out is the possibility that *PUF6*, *KHD1* and *SCP160* contribute to the processivity and efficiency of the normal NMD process and so therefore the effect observed would be a reflex of this loss of processivity of the NMD machinery.

Recently, an NMD-related pathway was uncovered, the No-Go pathway (Doma *et al.*, 2007). This pathway is based on the ribosome being a central part and a key player to the onset of NMD. It includes two proteins, Dom34p and Hbs1p, similar to release factors eRF1 and eRF3. Dom34p and Hbs1p recognize a stalled ribosome due to a PTC and perform an endonucleolytic cleavage, thus eliminating the defective mRNA. This process can have a slower dynamics than the translation events and so lead to a higher half-life of a PTC-containing mRNA. It would be interesting to see if the disruption of *PUF6*, *KHD1*, *SCP160* or even *LOC1* affect this No-Go pathway. Furthermore, a study of epistasis between members of this No-Go pathway and *ASH1* mRNA localization factors could lead to a better understanding of the missing effects on PTC-containing *ASH1* mRNA. If this is the case, the fact that a localized mRNA does not suffer classical NMD can have biological implications and a more general model can be devised, one that includes the ribosome and the stalled-ribosome recognizing proteins, Dom34p and Hbs1p.

5.2 Relationship between RNA localization factors and cell viability?

As *ASH1* mRNA localization is not an essential process *per se* in yeast, mRNA localization factors disruption are unlikely to be lethal. However, the mRNA localization process is not for *ASH1* mRNA alone as other mRNAs are localized with the help of the same machinery (Shepard *et al.*, 2003; Irie, personal communication). The fact that some RLFs overlap in their binding abilities (e.g. She2p, Khd1p and Puf6p) could prevent the detection of a lethal phenotype, related to the mRNA localization process. Although it is true that both $\Delta she3$ and $\Delta myo4$ are not lethal, alone or even together, it is possible that the mRNA localization events can still take place, although at a

later stage, based on microtubule-directed movements or even on ER inheritance mechanisms (Schmid *et al.*, 2006).

The analysis of several RLF disruptions (Fig. 3) showed that $\Delta loc1 \Delta she2$ is extremely temperature sensitive, since it does not survive to 37°C growth conditions, increasing even the phenotype observed for $\Delta loc1 she2-myc3$. An additional $\Delta khdl1$ produced no change in the behaviour of the $\Delta loc1 \Delta she2$ double mutant. On the other hand, a $\Delta khdl1 \Delta she2$ showed a temperature sensitive phenotype, as it grows slower at 37°C than the single deletions. It would be interesting to see what effect an additional $\Delta puf6$ would cause to this double mutant in a W303 background. It would provide a better understanding as to whether this temperature sensitivity is background specific, since a $\Delta khdl1 \Delta she2 \Delta puf6$ (BY background) is not temperature sensitive. In addition it would give insights as to whether a $\Delta puf6$ reverts or even increases the temperature sensitivity of $\Delta khdl1 \Delta she2$, arguing for an effect over an essential process, affected by these mRNA localization factors.

5.3 What is Khd1p connection to ASH1 mRNA localization process?

Khd1p binds to and co-localizes with *ASH1* mRNA at the bud tip (Irie *et al.*, 2002). Khd1p has been proposed to be a translation repressor (Irie *et al.*, 2002; Paquin *et al.*, 2007) and these observations arose our interest in trying to determine whether Khd1p travels together with the mRNP and trying to fit Khd1p into the mRNP architecture.

As the results from a Khd1p-tandem affinity purification yielded no coomassie stainable bands (Fig. 4-5), other than Khd1p itself, an alternative approach to detect specific mRNP components was taken. This approach led to the confirmation that Khd1p can co-purify She2p (Fig. 6), indicating that at some point in time and space they are in the same *ASH1* mRNP particle. The fact that this interaction is RNA independent points to either a direct binding or binding via a common partner. The most likely partner would be She3p. Khd1p can also co-purify She3p (Fig. 7). This interaction also occurs in the absence of mRNA. In addition, the fact that Khd1p can co-purify She3p without She2p (Fig. 7), hints to a direct binding of Khd1p to She3p. These results suggest that Khd1p is a novel cargo of She3p.

Although Khd1p can pull down She3p from yeast lysates, the opposite could not be verified (Fig. 8), as Khd1p binds to every kind of protein immobilization matrix used. Further in-vitro experiments are required to prove that Khd1p and She3p interact directly. Unfortunately, the fact that a full length-She3p or a COOH-terminal-She3p cannot be stably expressed in *E. coli* causes a technical setback to the development of this strategy. Nevertheless, the results presented in figures 6-7 show that there are Khd1p-She2-She3p protein complexes and that also Khd1p-She3p protein

complexes exist. The localization destination of these complexes is an interesting question. The Khd1p-She2p-She3p complex should be localized to the bud tip (Irie *et al.*, 2002). The fact that Khd1p has been proposed to bind over 300 mRNAs (K. Irie, personal communication), can potentially increase the number of localized mRNAs to the bud tip. It is not yet clear how many of these mRNAs are localized to the bud tip, or even whether they are targeted there by Khd1p. It is also unclear whether these over 300 bound mRNAs are just bound by Khd1p as part of its translation repressor function and would therefore have no spatial correlation or even be localized in a SHE-dependent manner.

The localization of the Khd1p-She3p complex is however a very interesting question that needs to be addressed. It can be hypothesized that the Khd1p-She3p mRNPs are a part of an entirely autonomous system from She2p-She3p-Khd1p mRNPs and do not localize specifically to the bud tip, but to other parts of the cell, acting in a totally different process, e.g. ER inheritance, delivering membrane proteins encoding mRNAs to the daughter cell. To test this hypothesis, She3p and Khd1p double live imaging, in a *she2* disrupted strain, could provide insights as to whether these two partners are in the same particle, whether they still localize to the bud tip and could provide insights about its function according to its localization.

The fact that Khd1p is a conserved protein, homologous to hnRNP K, both in sequence and in function (Denisenko *et al.*, 2002), could improve our understanding how hnRNP K works and validate yeast as a model organism for studies on this protein.

It would be interesting to see whether Puf6p, that has the same translation repressor assigned function as Khd1p, is also associated to other components of the locosome, like She3p, and not only to She2p (Gu *et al.*, 2004). Furthermore, recently it has been shown that Puf6p is also a shuttling protein (Gu *et al.*, 2004; Du *et al.*, 2008) and that it is also phosphorylated by Yck2p at the bud tip, thus releasing *ASH1* mRNA and eliciting *ASH1* mRNA translation (Deng *et al.*, 2008). It would be extremely interesting to see if both translation repressors are present at the same time, in the same mRNP particles, associated to *ASH1* mRNA, thus exerting a double translational control. In addition, the possibility that Puf6p can bind other mRNAs other than *ASH1* mRNA should be addressed and detect if Puf6p binds to the same set of mRNAs as She2p or even Khd1p. Furthermore, the possible non overlap of binding targets between these three proteins could indeed bring mRNA localization in yeast a step forward, by increasing the known number of mRNAs that are bound and localized in yeast to closer to the recently published data on *Drosophila* (Lecuyer *et al.*, 2007).

In addition, a cryptic Scp160p binding site in *ASH1* mRNA 3'UTR (APyrUGA tandem repeat in position 80 after the stop codon), determined by homology from the binding affinity of Vigilin from

X. laevis (Cunningham *et al.*, 2000) should be confirmed. It could help explain the data obtained for *ASH1* mRNA half-life in *SCP160* disrupted cells.

5.4 *Khd1p*, another mRNA binding protein associated to the Endoplasmic Reticulum (ER)?

It has been found that locosome components She3p and Myo4p are required for proper ER inheritance to the daughter cell (Estrada *et al.*, 2003). Furthermore, Jaedicke and Schmid have shown that She2p, the major RNA binding protein, also associates with ER (Schmid *et al.*, 2006). In fact, they also elegantly showed that the *ASH1* mRNP was located at the tip of an ER tubule and were also able to confirm biochemically the interaction between the locosome and the ER, most strikingly the association between She2p and ER. In the absence of *she2*, ER is still inherited as expected, but the *ASH1* mRNP is no longer located at the tip of the migrating ER tubule, but at the nuclear periphery.

Therefore, the question arose whether Khd1p, as a potential member of the locosome, is also associated to the ER.

Results presented in section 4.5 have shown that Khd1p is a binding partner for She3p, independently of She2p. In addition, Khd1p has been shown also to float with ER membranes (Fig. 9A), even in the absence of She2p. Therefore, one can also imagine that at the tip of the migrating ER tubule She3p-Khd1p protein complexes can exist, since the association between She3p and Khd1p does not require She2p. This hypothesis is strengthened by the fact that one can float Khd1p with ER membranes in the absence of She2p. This observation points to either a direct binding of Khd1p to ER or to an ER associated factor, such as She3p, as shown in figures 6 and 7, since She3p has been shown to be involved in ER inheritance (Estrada *et al.*, 2003). The fact that Khd1p distribution partially mimicks She3p distribution in this 4 step gradient (Fig. 9A), strengthens this hypothesis. It is conceivable that the *ASH1* mRNP detected by Jaedicke and Schmid, associated to the tip of the migrating ER tubule, also contains Khd1p, since She2p-She3p-Khd1p-Myo4p should be a part of this *ASH1* mRNP. As Khd1p binds over 300 mRNAs (Irie K, personal communication) it is possible that part of these mRNAs are localized. In this case, a fraction of these could be localized along with the *ASH1* mRNP and others could be localized using the ER inheritance machinery.

The finding that She3p-Khd1p interaction is independent of She2p is quite striking and can have implications in mRNA localization models. It would be extremely interesting to see whether She3p is indeed at the tip of the migrating ER tubule and whether one can also find Khd1p there. This

would indicate that Khd1p is indeed a She3p cargo and thus mimicking She2p, although binding a different set of mRNAs, but also with some common ones (e.g. *ASH1*). The possibility that Khd1p might not be at the tip of a migrating tubule would indicate that these Khd1p containing particles would be the She3p-Khd1p particles referred previously, observation that would also confirm Khd1p association to the ER.

Although Khd1p does not co-purify Sec61p, a bona-fide ER marker (Fig. 9B), one cannot rule out that Khd1p binds directly to the ER. In addition, the translation repressor function of Khd1p could also be aiding in this ER floatation assay, ribosomes bound to both ER and translationally repressed mRNA would float. Additional experiments addressing the issue of direct binding of Khd1p to the ER, independently of ribosomes would help in answering these questions and in determining whether She3p is the sole bridge between Khd1p and the ER. Instrumental in answering this question should be the Khd1-L284R-point mutant that corresponds to Ile304Asn from FMR-1 (Siomi *et al.*, 1994). This Ile304Asn mutant, a point mutant in a KH domain in FMR-1, leads to loss of FMR-1 polysome association (Laggerbauer *et al.*, 2001).

5.5 A new model for *ASH1* mRNP architecture

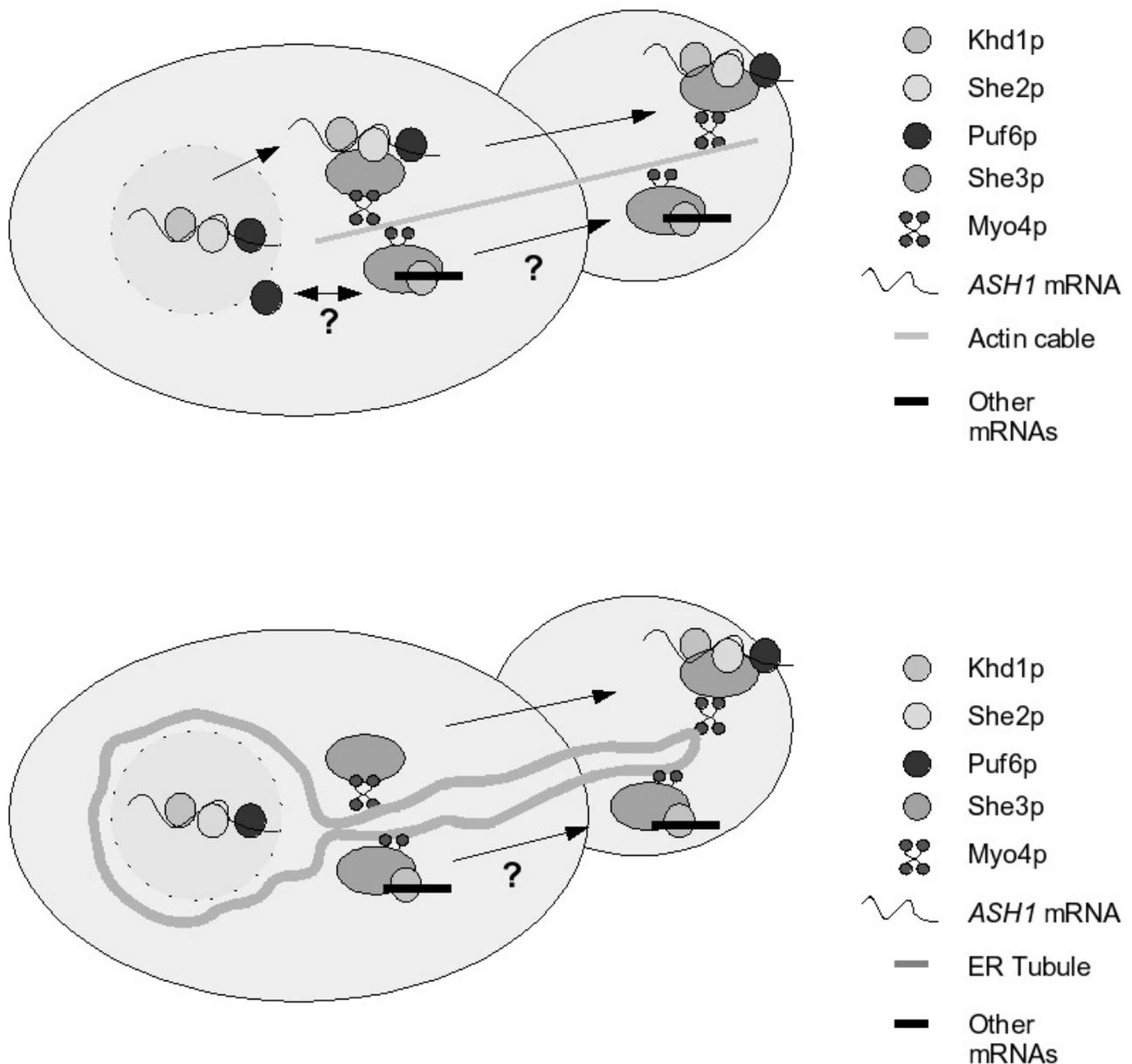


Fig. 14 - Putative Models for Khd1p function in mRNA localization.

Results presented in sections 4.6-4.9 indicate that a revision of the *ASH1* mRNP architecture model is needed. The results presented also indicate the existence of She3p-Khd1p protein complexes, where no She2p exists and that might also be localized in a She-dependent manner. This could increase the number of bud tip localizing mRNAs significantly. A new model that includes Khd1p directly bound to She3p and to the mRNA is proposed in Figure 14. It also includes a derivation of the Schmid *et al.*, (2006) model to include Khd1p associated to ER and associated to She3p, independently of She2p.

5.6 *Khd1p* has been proposed to be a translation repressor.

5.6.1 Does it show translation inhibitor sensitivity?

Previous contributions on *Khd1p* function had assigned a translation repressor function to *Khd1p* (Irie *et al.*, 2002; Paquin *et al.*, 2007). The fact that this function was assigned only in regard to an effect on a single transcript left space to try and generalize the translation repressor function. Genes that tamper with ribosome biogenesis can also be falsely interpreted as translational repressors, due to changes in processivity, as discussed above.

Drugs that can hamper the translation process *per se* are conventionally used to address roles of genes that are thought to be related to the ribosome biogenesis and ribosomal function (e.g. *SCP160* in Baum *et al.*, 2004; *CTK1* in Roether *et al.*, 2007). In this way, when a general translation defect exists then one can easily observe at which stage this defect takes place, whether it is at rRNA processing or other ribosome maturation steps, whether it is at subunit joining or at elongation. For *Khd1p*, no inhibitor of translation gave significantly different results from those observed for wildtype (Fig. 10). This would mean that *Khd1p* has no effect on the ribosome *per se*, does not affect rRNA processing or any other ribosome maturation process, but can be a translation repressor as proposed.

5.6.2 Is *Khd1p* associated with polysomes?

As a translation repressor generally prevents the translation of an mRNA, it also prevents the assembly or the advance of the ribosome. In fact, when a ribosome cannot advance, no more ribosomes can be loaded, due to the stalling of this large multiprotein complex and so in order to measure the effectiveness of a translation repressor one looks at the presence of the translation repressed mRNA at the polysomes. Polysomes are chains of actively translating ribosomes. During the course of this work it was shown that in the presence of *Khd1p*, *ASH1* mRNA is not co-fractionating with heavy and thus highly active polysomes (Paquin *et al.*, 2007). Results presented in figures 11 and 12, show that *Khd1p* is present in the light polysomes and is absent from the heavier polysomes, supporting the proposed translation repressor model. Upon disruption of the ribosomes, *Khd1p* migrates to the even lighter fractions, although one should expect more *Khd1p* associated to the 40S subunit if it is indeed an mRNA translation repressor effect. On the other hand, if it is a eIF4E-eIF4G related event, so a cap-binding complex event, such as in the case of Cup in *Drosophila* (Wilhelm *et al.*, 2000; Wilhelm *et al.*, 2003), or Maskin (Cao and Richter, 2002), one should expect that *Khd1p* only binds to one of them, either to eIF4E (specially to eIF4E) or to eIF4G and not to both. In this respect, Gavin and Paquin are in contradiction, since Gavin

(Gavin *et al.*, 2002; Gavin *et al.*, 2006) finds Khd1p with both and Paquin (Paquin *et al.*, 2007) only with eIF4E.

Although no experiments were performed in regard to eIF4Ep and eIF4Gp association to Khd1p, the observation that Khd1p is not mostly associated to the 40S subunit after EDTA treatment, but is still present in the heavier fractions, creates a difficult problem to solve.

The observation that Khd1p is only present in the lighter polysomes might be an indication that these are membrane-bound polysomes and therefore, would point to an ER structure organization, specially if one considers that membrane bound polysomes cannot conceptually be loaded indefinitely onto an mRNA. Although it might be true that Khd1p is a translation repressor, there is still much confusion in regard to the mechanism by which it really functions, since the proposed mechanism involving eIF4Ep and Yck1p cannot entirely be fitted on to the data.

5.7 Khd1p, an mRNA binding protein?

Khd1p has been shown to bind *ASH1* E1 element (Irie *et al.*, 2002) and to localize at the bud tip. The fact that this was the only available target for Khd1p led us to try to investigate whether other mRNAs are also targeted. We were specially interested in analysing whether Khd1p would bind to mRNAs that encode for proteins members of the telomere maintenance pathway, since this finding could connect the Denisenko and Bomstzky (2002) findings and Khd1p translation repressor function (Irie *et al.*, 2002; Paquin *et al.*, 2007). After validation of the experimental approach (Fig. 13A), involving RNA purification and northern analysis we observed that the *SIR2*, *SIR3*, *RAP1*, *TLC1* probes used yielded no significant enriched signal, as compared to a mock purification, indicating that either they are not bound by Khd1p-CaBP-TEV-ProA or that the probes designed do not span over the bound region. The use of other probes could provide additional information that could allow us to find out if indeed Khd1p binds any of these messages.

5.8 Ultraviolet CrossLinked ImmunoPrecipitation (CLIP)

Although the direct and defined binding approach did not yield any relevant results, we still wanted to know which other mRNAs, other than *ASH1*, are bound by Khd1p. For that purpose we used the CLIP assay. This assay, developed by the Darnell laboratory, to study protein-RNA interactions is a powerful tool to analyse bulk RNA binding to a purified protein complex. In fact, this approach has been used successfully to elucidate mRNA binding partners for Nova-1 (Ule *et al.*, 2003; Ule *et al.*, 2005). With Khd1p, we were able to show that indeed it binds RNA (Fig. 13B), in the sense that when a low amount of RNase was used to treat the purified complex, the gel retardation assay

showed a band shift, indicating a heavier complex and that when more RNase was used this band shift was reduced.

In addition, the results observed for the non-crosslinked lane where there is also a faint signal would argue that this signal is due to bound DNA, as it is more stable than RNA. In fact, the observation that Khd1p binds to the subtelomeric DNA region (Denisenko *et al.*, 2002) is a strong point in favour of this hypothesis. Even so, we still faced two problems: i) the fact that the purified protein is not so abundant, as seen by the coomassie gel in Figures 4 and 5, ii) the fact that Khd1p contains 3-KH domains that can also bind DNA (Denisenko *et al.*, 2002) as DNA contamination of the sample can be a problem for the subsequent steps of identifying the mRNA targets bound by Khd1p.

In conclusion,

- Khd1p seems to be a novel cargo for She3p.
- Khd1p floats with ER membranes and does so independently of She2p.
- *KHDI* disruption is insensitive to translation impairing drugs.
- Khd1p is associated with lighter polysomes.
- Khd1p can bind both DNA and RNA, although until now no other mRNA other than *ASH1* has been validated as a binding target.

PART II

Role of *KHD1* in telomeric gene transcriptional silencing and DNA repair

6. INTRODUCTION

6.1 Organization of genetic information - Chromosomes

The nuclear genome of eukaryotic organisms consists of linear chromosomes. These chromosomes, unlike the circular ones of most prokaryotic organisms, face a problem during replication. As conventional polymerases need RNA primers placed 5' of the DNA sequence to be replicated, the chromosome ends might not be fully replicated or are shortened at the end of each round of replication (Watson, 1972). Over the years, studies in a wide range of organisms have shown different approaches from cells to circumvent this problem. These mechanisms involve inverted-terminal repeats and a covalently bound protein, a cap, at the 5' end as seen for adenoviral replication (Challberg *et al.*, 1980; Lichy *et al.*, 1981) and for *Streptomyces* (Bao and Cohen, 2001), hairpin structure at the chromosomal end, as observed for *Vaccinia* virus replication and for *Borrelia burgdorferi* (Baroudy *et al.*, 1983; Winters *et al.*, 1985).

Therefore, higher eukaryotes have to deal with a variety of problems that come with the linear nature of their genome. Namely, 1, how to replicate ends of linear DNA molecules without loss of genetic information and 2, how to prevent chromosome ends to be recognized as DNA double strand breaks that have to be repaired. A special enzyme has evolved and been kept throughout evolution to ensure proper replication of chromosome ends and a large protein network is required to protect the chromosomal ends from degradation and from being mistaken as DNA damage.

6.2 Replication of DNA ends

During DNA replication the two DNA strands of a chromosome are separated and serve as single stranded templates for newly synthesized DNA. A large protein complex, containing a DNA polymerase assembles at the replication fork and polymerizes complementary nucleotides in an unidirectional 5'-3' manner to synthesize the new DNA strands.

While one daughter strand, the leading strand, is continuously generated as the replication fork proceeds, the lagging strand is made discontinuously as short DNA fragments, the Okazaki fragments. This process requires RNA primers to initiate the DNA synthesis. These primers are later removed and the gaps filled in and the fragments are then joined by a DNA ligase. However, at the very 5' end of the newly synthesized DNA strand a gap remains caused by the removal of the original RNA primer. This shorter DNA strand would then be used as a template in the following

rounds of replication leading to an increasing shortening of the chromosomal end with every replication cycle. In most eukaryotes a telomere specific reverse transcriptase, telomerase, has been identified that maintains chromosome ends in a constant length range.

Telomerase recognizes the G-rich parental strand via its RNA subunit. Telomerase RNA forms base pairs with the G-rich single stranded overhang and a translocation step allows several rounds of extension of the single stranded DNA. Replication of the chromosome is then completed by DNA polymerase using the extended strand as template for lagging strand elongation. This replication mechanism leads to a simple, repetitive DNA sequence at the ends of eukaryotic linear chromosomes. The sequence and the length of these repeats varies greatly between different organisms, indicating that the telomeric RNA template is not identical among species and that different repeat lengths might be required to ensure end protection. A 3' single stranded overhang comprised of a few to several repeats of the telomerase synthesized strand has been shown to be present at telomeric DNA in ciliates, yeast and humans (Hemann and Greider, 1999).

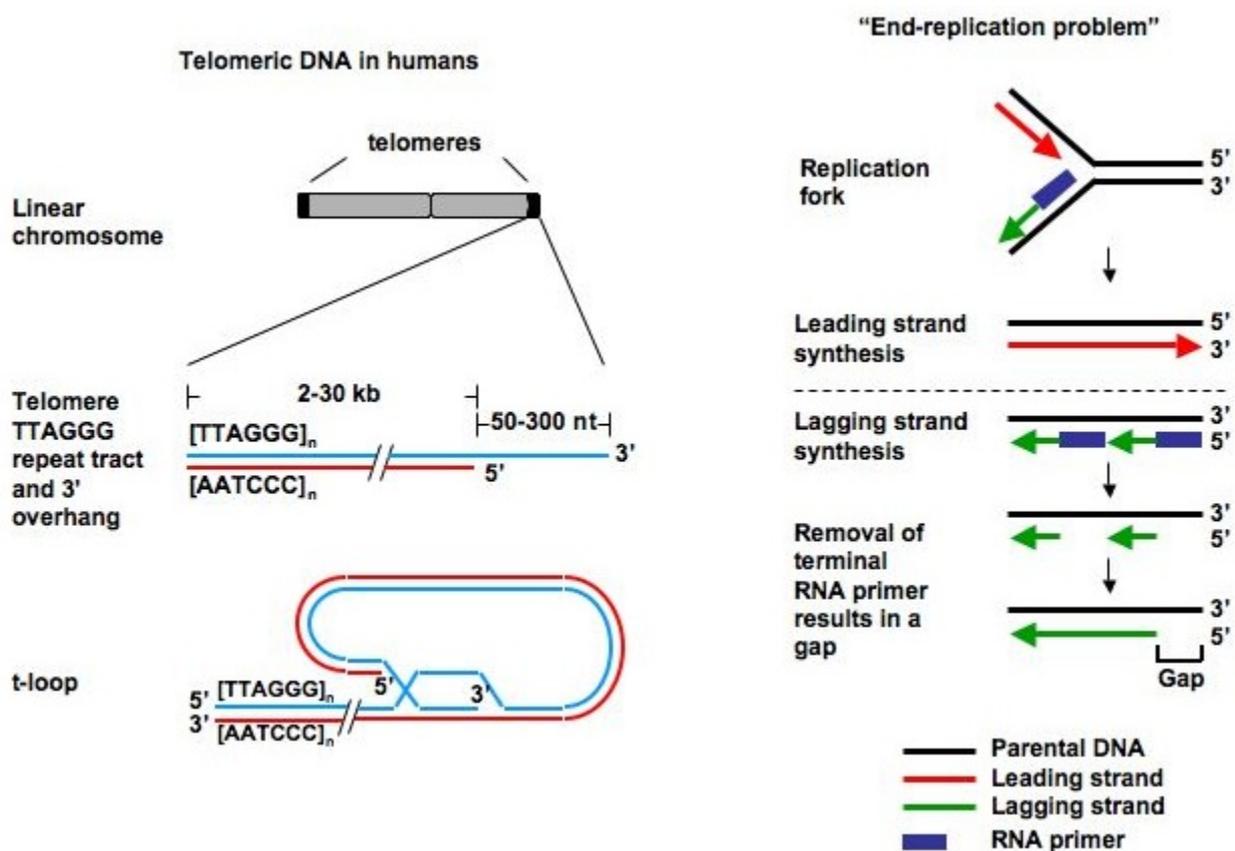


Fig. 15 – End Replication Problem (Source: Telomeres, CSHL 2005)

6.3 Telomeres, Senescence, aging and cancer

Early experiments have revealed that normal human fibroblasts show a limited dividing capacity and enter a non-dividing state after a defined number of passages (Hayflick and Moorehead, 1961). Only a very small portion of cells can escape this cell cycle arrest, termed crisis and become immortal, dividing indefinitely. This effect was restricted to somatic cells, whereas germline and tumor cells are immortal. Telomerase is active in germline cells and in 90% of all tumors. In contrast, most human somatic cells lack significant telomerase activity (Broccoli *et al.*, 1995; Counter *et al.*, 1994; Kim *et al.*, 1995; Shay *et al.*, 1993; Vaziri *et al.*, 1993) and telomeres shorten with every round of DNA replication (Allsopp *et al.*, 1992). Somatic cells that escape crisis stabilize telomere length and activate telomerase (Counter *et al.*, 1994), similar to germline cells. Therefore, telomerase is required for indefinite growth of immortal cells in culture. Ectopic expression of hTERT in human fibroblasts restores telomerase activity, stabilizes telomere length and induces indefinite growth (Bodnar *et al.*, 1998; Vaziri and Benchimol, 1998), providing strong evidence that the activation of telomerase is sufficient to induce immortalization.

In addition to the limited dividing potential of somatic cells, Hayflick perceived that fibroblast cultures derived from embryos divided more often than those derived from adults (Hayflick, 1965). The observation that the replicative capacity of a cell correlated with donor age, led to the proposal that the cellular dividing capacity correlates with the aging process. Hayflick's predictions have not been able to be thoroughly confirmed experimentally. First, *in vivo* a variety of somatic cells are quiescent and proliferate seldom if at all. Second, human fibroblasts taken from elderly individuals undergo an additional 20-50 doublings in culture (Dice *et al.*, 1993), representing 40-70% of their dividing capacity as defined by Hayflick. One possible explanation for this contradicting observation would be that most telomere-negative cells may never reach their Hayflick limit *in vivo*. Third, a mouse strain deleted for the RNA component of the telomerase showed no phenotype during the first 2-6 generations and age associated phenotypes, such as graying hair or hair loss and wrinkled skin did not occur earlier than in the control mice (Lee *et al.*, 1998). Only in later generations did the loss of telomerase lead to early-onset of gray hair and hair loss (Rudolph *et al.*, 1999) and germline mortality, thereby inducing sterility (Lee *et al.*, 1998). These observations argue against a model where organismal life span is a function of telomerase activity.

The possibility that enhanced telomere shortening might play a role in human ageing is supported by the analysis of telomeres from patients with premature ageing syndromes. Telomere length of fibroblasts taken from patients with Hutchinson-Gilford progeria, a premature ageing syndrome, was reduced as compared to age-matched control cells (Allsopp *et al.*, 1992). Werner's and ataxia telangiectasia patients, who experience premature ageing exhibit accelerated telomere shortening

(Kruk *et al.*, 1995; Smilenov *et al.*, 1997). In addition, the overexpression of telomerase could restore wildtype telomere length in Werner's syndrome cells and compensated for the early onset of replicative senescence (Wyllie *et al.*, 2000).

Tumors are highly proliferative cells that have escaped growth control or death control and keep dividing indefinitely. Maintaining telomere stability is required for long term proliferation of tumors (Shay and Wright, 1996; Wright and Shay, 2001) and telomerase activity has been detected in approximately 90% of all tumors. However, another mechanism to stabilize telomere length, alternative lengthening of telomeres (ALT), initially described in telomerase negative cells, has also been detected in tumor cells. ALT is independent of telomerase and relies on homologous recombination (Bryan *et al.*, 1995; Dunham *et al.*, 2000). Seemingly, cancer cells have circumvented the progressive telomere loss, present in normal somatic tissues, that is the limiting factor for the cellular replicative potential. Although reconstitution of telomerase has been shown to antagonize cellular senescence, it is not sufficient to induce tumor formation (Hooijberg *et al.*, 2000).

Tumor formation has been shown to be a multistep process in which telomere integrity plays an important role. Since telomerase is required for proliferation of most tumors, it is an attractive target for anti-cancer drug therapy. Interestingly, the inhibition of telomerase in tumor cancer cell lines by a hammerhead ribozyme can induce an immediate apoptotic signal without prior telomere shortening (Ludwig *et al.*, 2001), suggesting that telomerase is not only required for telomere length regulation but is also involved in the capping of telomeres (Blackburn, 2000).

6.4 Telomere structure and telomere associated proteins

Telomeres, the ends of linear chromosomes are physically indistinguishable from DNA double strand breaks. The genetic information of the budding yeast is packaged into 16 chromosomes bearing 32 telomeres in the haploid cell. Simple physical ends of DNA, such as those generated by DNA double stranded breaks (DSBs) or naked telomeres, are genetically unstable, mutagenic and sometimes oncogenic (de Lange, 2005). A single DSB leads to death in cells incapable of repairing these breaks (Resnick and Martin, 1976). Thus, sensing the natural end as a break would be deleterious for the cell and therefore telomeres must have properties that distinguish them from DSBs.

In mammalian cells, double stranded telomeric DNA is bound by two proteins, TRF1 and TRF2 (Chong *et al.*, 1995; Broccoli *et al.*, 1997). Overexpression of TRF1 or TRF2 has been shown to trigger telomeric shortening (Smogorzweska *et al.*, 2000; van Steensel and de Lange, 1997)

indicating that these proteins negatively regulate telomere length and might inhibit telomerase function when bound to telomeres. In mammals, a 75-300 nucleotide long single stranded (ss) overhang exists (Makarov *et al.*, 1997; Wright *et al.*, 1999). Upon overexpression of TRF2 lacking a basic domain this ss overhang at the telomere is lost (van Steensel *et al.*, 1998) and results in chromosome fusions and cell cycle arrest or apoptosis (van Steensel *et al.*, 1998; Karlseder *et al.*, 1999) without a detectable reduction of the telomere length (van Steensel *et al.*, 1998). These results indicate that TRF2 is not only involved in negative telomere length regulation but is also essential in telomeric capping.

Electron microscopy of telomeric DNA purified from human and mouse cells led to the discovery of large loops at chromosome ends in vivo, the t-loops. TRF2 is capable of promoting and stabilizing the formation of a t-loop structure, where the single stranded G-rich extension is buried into more proximal double stranded regions (Griffith *et al.*, 1999; Stansel *et al.*, 2001). Mutations, like the TRF2 basic domain truncation, that might prevent the stable formation of the t-loop could facilitate the opening up of the chromosome ends and also fusion events.

In *S. cerevisiae*, that has a very short telomere repeat tract, the presence of this t-loop seems to be unlikely. However, a number of observations suggest that this back-folding indeed occurs (Fig. 15). Budding yeast telomeres repress transcription of adjacent genes, a phenomenon called telomeric positioning effect (TPE) (Gottschling *et al.*, 1990). The placement of an enhancer 1-2Kb away from the gene at the telomere can be activated (de Bruin *et al.*, 2001). This result strongly supports the notion that the *S. cerevisiae* telomere folds back on itself into subtelomeric regions. The fact that Rap1p, repressor/activator protein-1, a protein that binds sequence-specific to telomeres, can co-immunoprecipitated with sub-telomeric chromatin regions (Strahl-Bolsinger *et al.*, 1990) allows the prediction of a 3kb telomeric end in budding yeast.

6.5 Telomerase – completing the end

The telomerase specific DNA polymerase, telomerase, was identified in *Tetrahymena* using biochemical assays designed to test for an activity that incorporates radioactively labeled dGTP in chromosomal ends (Greider and Blackburn, 1985). This incorporation could be abolished by treatment of *Tetrahymena* extracts with RNase, suggesting that the enzymatic activity was dependent on an RNA subunit as proposed for reverse transcriptases (Greider and Blackburn, 1987). The enzymatic activity was purified, yielding also a 160bp RNA fragment (Greider and Blackburn, 1989). The purified 160bp RNA fragment, the telomerase RNA, has diverged significantly through evolution. It varies from 159 nucleotides in *Tetrahymena*, to 450 nucleotides

in mammals (Blasco *et al.*, 1995; Feng *et al.*, 1995) to up to 1,3kb in *Saccharomyces cerevisiae* (Singer and Gottschling, 1994). Strikingly, the secondary structure of this RNA seems to have been conserved through evolution (Chen *et al.*, 2000; Lingner *et al.*, 1994; Romero and Blackburn, 1991). A pseudoknot structure has been proposed for ciliate and vertebrate telomerase RNA containing a single stranded template region (Chen *et al.*, 2000). Several other conserved domains, helices and stem loops, are present that might play in function or stability of the telomerase RNA or might be required for the interaction with the protein subunit of the telomerase (Sperger and Cech, 2001).

The catalytic protein component, telomerase reverse transcriptase (TERT) was first identified in *Euplotes aediculatus* (Lingner *et al.*, 1997b). The protein that was purified with telomerase activity contains a signature motif for reverse transcriptases. This protein showed homology to yeast protein Est2p. Mutations in *EST2* had been previously identified as leading to replicative senescence (Lingner *et al.*, 1997a) and homology searches have shown that this enzyme is phylogenetically conserved.

In budding yeast, the *TLC1* gene, encoding the telomerase RNA, was initially identified in a screen for genes that, when expressed in high amounts, would suppress telomeric silencing (Singer and Gottschling, 1994). A genetic screen designed to identify mutations that lead to a defect in telomerase activity, rendered five genes, as well as *TLC1* (Lendvay *et al.*, 1996). These mutations, *EST1-4* lead to ever shorter telomeres until senescence (Lendvay *et al.*, 1996). Although Est1p, Est3p and Est4p are required for *in vivo* telomerase activity, *in vitro*, as in higher eukaryotes, it can be limited to Est2p and *TLC1* (Lingner *et al.*, 1997). Est1p and Est4p have the properties of single strand telomere binding proteins (Virta-Pearlman *et al.*, 1996; Wang *et al.*, 2000), but genetic data argues for different roles for these two proteins *in vivo*. Est1p has been proposed to function in directing telomerase to the chromosomal terminus (Zhou *et al.*, 2000). In contrast, Est4p has been proposed to play a dual role while bound to the telomere: it protects the end of the chromosome (Garvik *et al.*, 1995), and regulates telomerase by mediating access of this enzyme to the terminus (Evans and Lundblad, 1999; Grandin *et al.*, 2000). *EST3* encodes a novel 20-kDa protein that has been shown to dimerize, bind RNA and DNA and contribute to the unwinding of the RNA-DNA heteroduplexes (Yang *et al.*, 2006; Sharanov *et al.*, 2006).

The purification of the telomerase reverse transcriptase from *Euplotes aediculatus* yielded also an uncharacterized protein (Lingner and Cech, 1996), indicating that additional proteins might contribute to telomerase function.

Little is known about the regulation of telomerase activity, especially how chromosome replication and telomere elongation are coupled. Recent studies from yeast and humans suggest that telomerase

does not act as a monomer but is present as a multimer *in vivo* (Prescott and Blackburn, 1997; Wenz *et al.*, 2001; Beattie *et al.*, 2001). It is feasible that telomerase is a holoenzyme and a number of other factors mediate its regulation and temporal cell cycle activity. Recently, and in accordance with this prediction, a study has shown that telomerase cell cycle regulation is dependent on Ku heterodimer (Fisher *et al.*, 2004).

6.6 Telomere Length regulation

Within a cell population, telomere length is maintained within a narrow size due to a balance between elongation and shortening, preserving telomere structure. In mammals, additional factors as tankyrase (Smith *et al.*, 1998), Ku (Hsu *et al.*, 1999), the Mre11-Rad50-Nbs1 complex (Zhu *et al.*, 2000), Tin2 (Kim *et al.*, 1999) and hRap1p (Li *et al.*, 2000) associate indirectly with telomeric DNA via TRF1 and TRF2. One single stranded binding protein, Pot1p, has been shown to bind to the terminal telomeric end (Baumann and Cech, 2001).

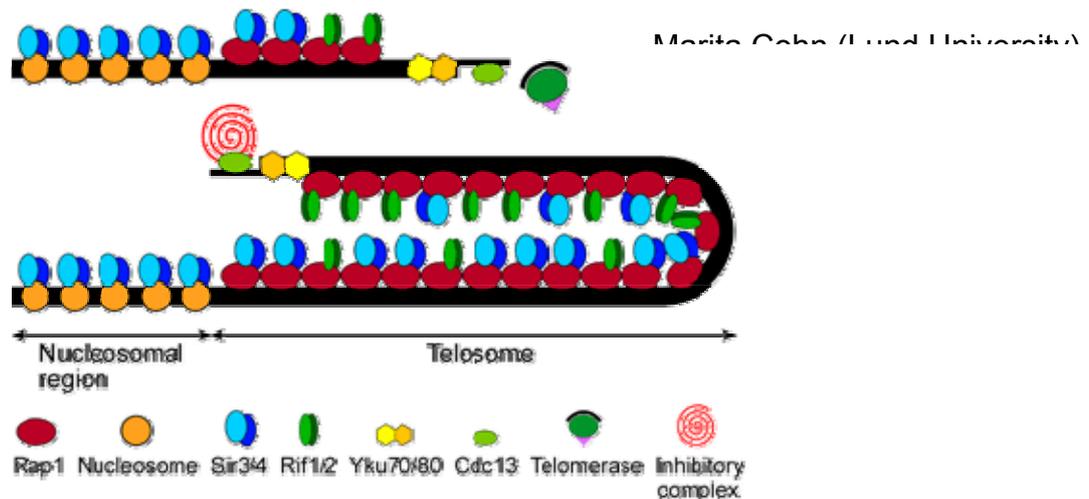


Fig. 16 - Schematic view on Telomere structure, showing the main proteins involved in telomere regulation.

An extremely complex and increasingly longer list of genes that influence telomere length regulation as been drawn from budding yeast (Fig. 16). Several proteins have been shown to be responsible for the regulation of telomerase function at yeast telomeres. A conditional loss of function mutation in Cdc13p/Est4p, a protein that binds ss telomeric DNA (Lin and Zakian, 1996) and is essential for *in vivo* telomerase activity (Lendvay *et al.*, 1996), causes an increase in telomere length (Grandin *et al.*, 1997).

When shifted to restrictive temperature, this Cdc13-1p mutant accumulates unusually long telomeric single-stranded extensions of the 3' G-rich strand (Garvik *et al.*, 1995; Polotnianka *et al.*,

1998). A suppressor of this single-stranded phenotype, Stn1p, interacts with Cdc13p by two hybrid criteria (Grandin *et al.*, 1997). A third protein, Ten1p, has been shown to be a part of this complex (Grandin *et al.*, 2001). Conditional loss of function mutants in Stn1p or Ten1p lead to telomere elongation and the accumulation of ss telomeric DNA (Grandin *et al.*, 1997; Grandin *et al.*, 2001) as described for the *cdc13-1* mutation. Mutations in the catalytic subunit of polymerase α , *POL1*, that disrupt its interaction with Cdc13p, cause elongation of the telomere (Qi and Zakian, 2000). Interestingly, mutations in Cdc13p have been described that lead to telomere elongation and others that lead to telomere shortening (Grandin *et al.*, 2000; Meier *et al.*, 2001). These observations provide strong evidence that the telomere regulation cannot be pinpointed to a single factor but has to be looked with all its interacting partners.

Yeast telomeric DNA is assembled into a nonnucleosomal chromatin structure, the telosome (Wright *et al.*, 1992). The major protein at the telomere, Rap1p, binds sequence-specifically to telomere repeats (Berman *et al.*, 1986; Conrad *et al.*, 1990; Wright *et al.*, 1992). Rap1p was originally identified as a transcriptional regulator that can play a role in either repression or activation (Kurtz and Shore, 1991; Shore and Nasmyth, 1987). The consensus sequence for Rap1p binding (Buchman *et al.*, 1988) is found approximately at every 35 bp in telomeric DNA (Wang and Zakian, 1990) and therefore multiple Rap1p proteins bind at telomeres (Gilson *et al.*, 1993). Yeast strains carrying a C-terminally truncated Rap1p have elongated telomere repeat tracts (Hardy *et al.*, 1992). This C-terminal mutation has been described to prevent the interaction between Rap1p and one of the four Silent Information Regulation (SIR) proteins, Sir3p (Roy and Runge, 1999). SIR proteins interact with Rap1p at different sites in the genome such as the mating type loci, rDNA loci and at the telomeres (Gotta *et al.*, 1996). The SIR complex is essential for silencing in yeast and *sir2*, *sir3* or *sir4* mutants are no longer able to repress mating type loci *HML* and *HMR* (Ivy *et al.*, 1986) or telomere adjacent genes (Aparicio *et al.*, 1991). In addition, *sir4* mutants have a slight but stable reduction in telomere length (Palladino *et al.*, 1999).

Interestingly, certain components of the DNA damage response pathways, originally identified by their involvement in the repair of DNA double strand breaks (DSBs) are found at telomeres and are required for wildtype telomere length and function. The Ku heterodimer, essential for the repair of DNA damage by non-homologous end joining, localizes to telomeres in budding yeast (Martin *et al.*, 1999). Yeast Ku is required for the normal localization of telomeres at the nuclear periphery and has been shown to interact with proteins of the nuclear matrix (Galy *et al.*, 2000). A disruption on either *YKU70* or *YKU80* gene leads to a growth defect at elevated temperatures (Feldmann *et al.*, 1996; Feldmann and Winnacker, 1993) and to enhanced sensitivity to the DNA damaging agents bleomycin and methyl methanesulfonate (MMS) (Feldmann *et al.*, 1996; Mages *et al.*, 1996). Ku is

in addition required for the maintenance of wildtype telomere structure and length. Yeast strains deficient for *YKU* exhibit stable but shortened telomeres (Boulton and Jackson, 1998; Porter *et al.*, 1996), loss of subtelomeric silencing (Galy *et al.*, 2000; Gravel *et al.*, 1998; Mishra and Shore, 1999; Nugent *et al.*, 1998; Pryde and Louis, 1999) and a G-rich single stranded overhang is detectable in *yku* mutants over the entire cell cycle, not only just during S-phase. In *S. pombe* and mammals, loss of Ku results in telomere-telomere fusions (Baumann and Cech, 2000; Hsu *et al.*, 2000; Samper *et al.*, 2000).

Another complex that is required for the repair of DNA damage and also is needed for telomeric length regulation in yeast is Mre11p/Rad50p/Xrs2p (Nbs1p in mammals) complex (MRX complex). The localization of this complex to telomeres has been investigated in mammalian cells (Lombard and Guarente, 2000; Zhu *et al.*, 2000) and a deletion of the corresponding yeast genes leads to telomere shortening (Boulton and Jackson, 1998; Nugent *et al.*, 1998). Mutations on *TEL1* and *TEL2*, the first genes described that had a role in telomeric length regulation, lead to temperature-sensitivity and to short telomeres (Lustig and Petes, 1986). This progressive shortening event occurs with every generation until reaching a stable level, after approximately 150 generations. Double mutations with any component of the MRX complex and a *tell* mutation causes no additional change in telomere shortening, suggesting that *tell* and the MRX complex both act in the same pathway to regulate telomere length (Ritchie and Petes, 2000).

Rap1p is a key player at the telomere in that it binds the double stranded telomeric repeats and helps to recruit additional proteins. Rif1p and Rif2p, Rap1p interacting factor 1 and 2, are recruited to the telomeres by their interaction with Rap1p C-terminus. Once at the chromosomal ends, they negatively regulate telomere length (Wotton and Shore, 1997). Telomere length homeostasis is thought to be achieved by a negative feedback circuit: the activity of the telomerase on a specific telomere creates more binding sites for Rap1p. This would lead to more Rap1p bound to the telomere, recruiting more Rif1p/Rif2p in the process. This accumulation of proteins would prevent this telomere from further being used as a substrate for telomerase (Smogorzewska and de Lange, 2004), achieving then a stable steady state.

Genes, other than those already mentioned, have also been shown to play some role in telomeric length regulation.

RAD27 encodes a multi-functional nuclease involved in processing Okazaki fragments during DNA replication, base excision repair (BER), and maintaining genome stability (Liu *et al.*, 2004). Its 5'-flap endonuclease activity is required to cleave the 5' flap from Okazaki fragments that is generated

during lagging strand synthesis and to remove the 5'-deoxyribosephosphate end that is formed at apurinic/apyrimidinic sites during BER (Kao Hi *et al.*, 2002; Rossi *et al.*, 2006; Wu *et al.*, 1999). *RAD27* has also been implicated in double-strand break repair via non-homologous end-joining. Rad27p is highly conserved in bacteria, other fungi, and mammals (Carr *et al.*, 1993; Reagan *et al.*, 1995; Bibikova *et al.*, 1998; Hansen *et al.*, 2000). It contains three highly conserved domains, two of which are conserved in prokaryotes (Lieber *et al.*, 1997). Because deletion of *RAD27* in *S. cerevisiae* leads to expansion of repetitive DNA and trinucleotide repeat instability, *RAD27* (known as *FEN1* in mammals and humans) has been implicated in the triplet repeat expansions that lead to Huntington disease and fragile X (Jonhson *et al.*, 1995; White *et al.*, 1999; Otto *et al.*, 2001).

A mutation in both *KHDI* and *PBP2*, genes that encode proteins with 3-KH (hnRNP K homology) domains, lead to an elongated telomere (Denisenko *et al.*, 2002). Although this elongated telomere has been proposed to be due to the loss of the Telomeric Rapid Deletion pathway function, dependent on the MRX complex, it still remains to be proven (Denisenko *et al.*, 2002). In addition, *KHDI* has been shown to cause a slower growth phenotype in conjunction with a *RAD27* disruption (Pan *et al.*, 2006), evidencing a putative link between *KHDI* and *RAD27*.

Telomere length regulation has been a proficuous field in findings. Recently, a checkpoint network of genes has been uncovered. Mutations in *DDC1* and *RAD53* of budding yeast (Longhese *et al.*, 2000), *rad1* and *rad3* of *S. pombe* (Dahlen *et al.*, 1998) as well as mutations in human ATM (Vaziri *et al.*, 1999) have been shown to induce telomere shortening and instability. The observation that a *tell mec1* double mutant, the budding yeast ATM homologs, shows replicative senescence (Ritchie *et al.*, 1999) supports these findings. A model for how a checkpoint gene might regulate telomere length was provided by the finding that the telomere shortening observed for *rad53* mutants could be restored by increased dNTP pools, indicating that limiting dNTPs may cause a defect in DNA replication at the telomere (Longhese *et al.*, 2000). On the other hand, *ddc1* mutants exhibit short telomeres independent from the intracellular dNTP level, suggesting that the *DDC1* checkpoint affects telomere ends by a different mechanism (Longhese *et al.*, 2000). The regulation of checkpoint genes and their cell-cycle coordination, are therefore, very important mechanisms in maintaining telomere length.

6.7 Telomere disfunction and the DNA damage checkpoint

The *RAD9* checkpoint in *S. cerevisiae* (Fig. 17) serves to arrest the cell cycle in G2 phase when a

DNA damage is present or when DNA replication is incomplete (Weinert and Hartwell, 1988; Weinert and Hartwell, 1993). The ends of linear chromosomes are capped and folded into a special structure and a large network of proteins is required to maintain telomere integrity. Analysis of the *cdc13-1* mutation, that affects telomere capping, provided evidence that a defect at telomeres can trigger a *RAD9* dependent cell cycle arrest. When *cdc13-1* cells were grown at a semipermissive temperature an increase in recombination events could be detected at telomeric regions but not at the centromere (Garvik *et al.*, 1995). In addition, an accumulation of ss DNA was detectable at elevated temperatures at the telomeres in *cdc13-1* mutant cells (Garvik *et al.*, 1995), suggesting that the viable phenotype observed might be due to a loss of essential genetic information. The loss of Stn1p, an interactor of Cdc13p, also induces ss DNA formation at the telomeres and mutants show an activated *RAD9* checkpoint (Grandin *et al.*, 1997).

Fig. 17 - RAD9 checkpoint (Adapted from Mitchelson and Weinert, 1999).

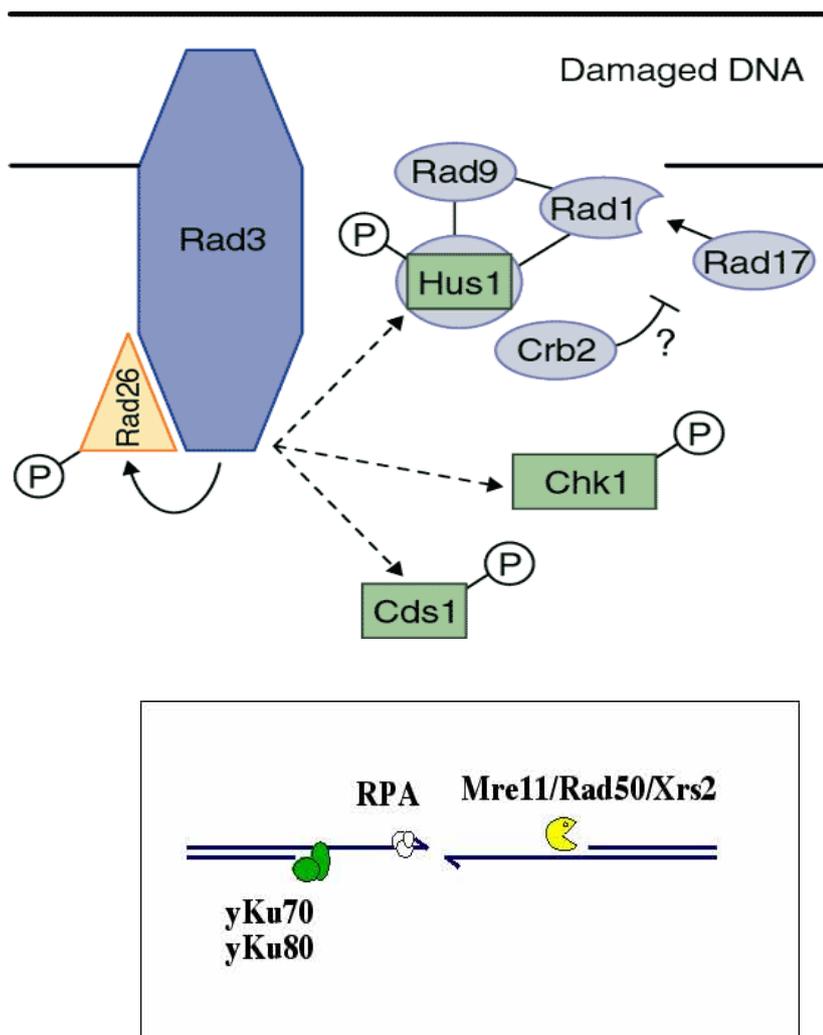


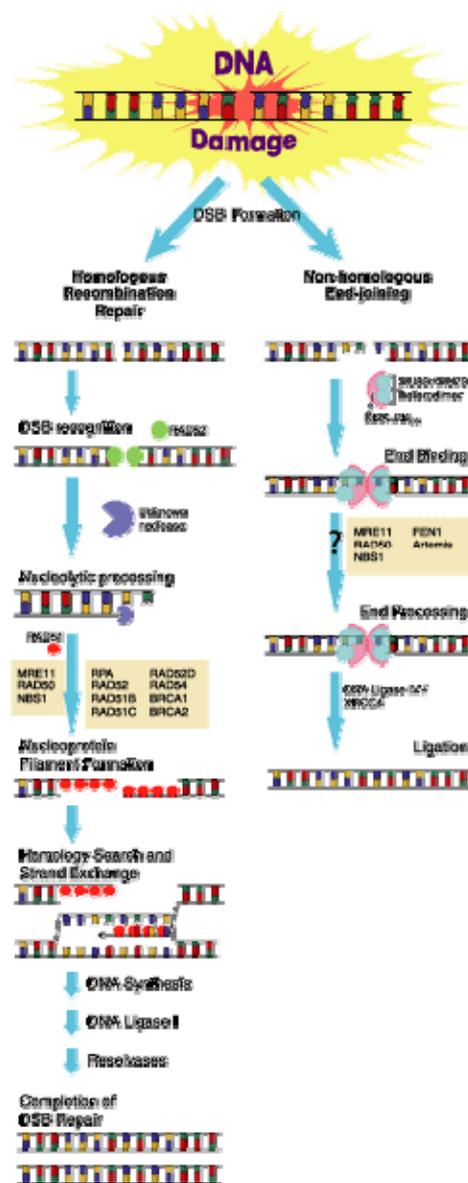
Fig. 18 - Recognition of the ssDNA stretch.

Single stranded DNA (Fig. 18) might be one lesion that activates the DNA damage checkpoint (Garvik *et al.*, 1995; Lydall and Weinert, 1995). This control mechanism also becomes active in *yku* mutants when they are shifted to elevated temperatures (Teo and Jackson, 2001). Overexpression of telomerase has been shown to suppress the temperature sensitivity (Nugent *et al.*, 1998). Although it can suppress the checkpoint activation, ssDNA is still present at the telomeres (Teo and Jackson, 2001). This suggests that the telomerase might cap the telomere in *yku* mutants and thus prevent it from being recognized as a DNA break.

In mammalian cells there is evidence that one critically short telomere is may be recognized as a DNA damage and as a consequence induce p53 cell cycle arrest to cause senescence (Burkhart *et al.*, 1999; Chin *et al.*, 1999). In addition, mutations on TRF2 cause the degradation of the ss DNA overhang and lead to the formation of dicentric chromosomes and eventually to senescence (van Steensel *et al.*, 1998) or to p53-mediated apoptosis (Karlseder *et al.*, 1999). Increasing evidence arises that telomere regulation machinery overlaps with the cellular DNA repair machinery and with the apoptotic pathway and that this interconnection is an essential process for proper cellular function.

As a safeguard against the occurrence of DNA damage prokaryotic and eukaryotic cells have developed at least three different DNA repair mechanisms. In *S. cerevisiae* DNA double strand breaks are repaired by the activities of the *RAD52* epistasis group (Friedberg *et al.*, 1995) (Fig. 19) and this pathway seems to be evolutionarily conserved (Bezzubova *et al.*, 1993). Another mechanism of DNA DSB repair and recombinational events was uncovered (Gottlieb and Jackson *et al.*, 1993; Harley *et al.*, 1995) that involves a DNA-activated protein kinase and its regulatory subunit, the Ku heterodimer (Fig. 19), also known as non-homologous end joining (NHEJ). It has been shown that the Ku heterodimer can be coeluted with Rpb1p and Rad51p (Maldonado *et al.*, 1995) and that it also interacts with DNA polymerase Σ , a specific polymerase involved in DNA repair synthesis (Hwang *et al.*, 1995; Aboussekhra *et al.*, 1995).

Fig. 19 - DNA Double Strand Break Repair Pathways (adapted from R&D Systems DNA Damage Response Minireview, catalog 2003)



6.8 Telomeres and Nonsense mediated decay

TLC1, the RNA subunit of the telomerase had until recently two possible models for its biogenesis. (Ferrezuelo *et al.*, 2002). i) the shuttling model, that the maturation of *TLC1* occurs in the cytoplasm and is imported back into the nucleus, in a Mtr10p dependent manner and ii) the processing enzyme model, where the enzyme responsible for the maturation of the *TLC1* RNA would be imported in an Mtr10p dependent manner. Recently, it has been shown that *TLC1* shuttles into the cytoplasm (Gallardo *et al.*, 2008) and that this shuttling, dependent on Mtr10p, is essential for biogenesis and for telomerase function (Ferrezuelo *et al.*, 2002; Teixeira *et al.*, 2002). The fact that telomerase includes an RNA intuitively hints that RNA turnover and surveillance mechanisms would be somehow related to telomerase function and maturation. The observation that *TLC1* is a polyadenylated RNA (Lowell and Pillus, 1998) supports the idea that it would follow a regular mRNA processing pathway. It was only very recently that a link between the surveillance NMD mechanism, namely *UPF1*, and *TLC1* and telomerase function was shown (Azzalin *et al.*, 2006; Azzalin *et al.*, 2007). *UPF1* seems to be essential for the cell to cope with basal transcription events that occur at the telomere. This basal transcription produces telomeric transcripts, partially complementary to *TLC1*. These incomplete transcripts, that could compete with *TLC1* for Est1-4p binding, would not elicit a functional telomerase after maturation and the cellular surveillance mechanism targets them for destruction at the nuclear exosome.

6.9 Aim of this work

The aim of this work is to elucidate the role of *KHDI* in telomeric gene transcriptional silencing and the mechanisms underlying its function. For this, a strategy designed to address the role of *KHDI* in this process and in connected processes such as DNA repair, was implemented.

7. RESULTS

Khd1p, also known as Hek2p, has already been shown to have a dual role in the cellular context. Firstly, Irie and coworkers showed that Khd1p accumulates at the bud tip, by using a reporter assay called the green mRNA technology. This assay is based on a fusion of a GFP to a U1A binding protein, that recognizes and attaches to specific U1 RNA loops fused to your mRNA of choice. They also showed that Khd1p binds the E1-element of *ASH1* mRNA and they propose a translation repressor activity for this protein (Irie *et al.*, 2002). Recently this translation repressor activity has been proven (Paquin *et al.*, 2007). Secondly, Khd1p has already been shown to bind to subtelomeric DNA and to play a role in telomeric positioning effect (Denisenko *et al.*, 2002). The work of this group also showed that a *HEK2* deletion leads to a longer telomere (in combination with a *PBP2* deletion, a gene similar to *KHD1* in the sense that it also encodes a 3 KH domain-protein) and probably due to a defect in the telomeric rapid deletion pathway.

7.1 Is *KHD1* involved in Telomeric silencing?

How could Khd1p be involved in such different cellular processes? Telomeric positioning and length control occur in the nucleus and mRNA localization and translation regulation occurs in the cytoplasm. Can Khd1p shuttle between cellular compartments?

In the course of this work, Du and coworkers showed that indeed Khd1p shuttles between cytoplasm and nucleus (Du *et al.*, 2008)

With these results in mind we set out to determine if *KHD1* had indeed a role in telomeric silencing and telomeric length control. By using the telomeric silencing system (Fig. 20) developed in the Zakian laboratory (Gottschling *et al.*, 1990), the role of Khd1p was analysed in this pathway.

Fig. 20 - Schematic view of the gene transcriptional silencing assay

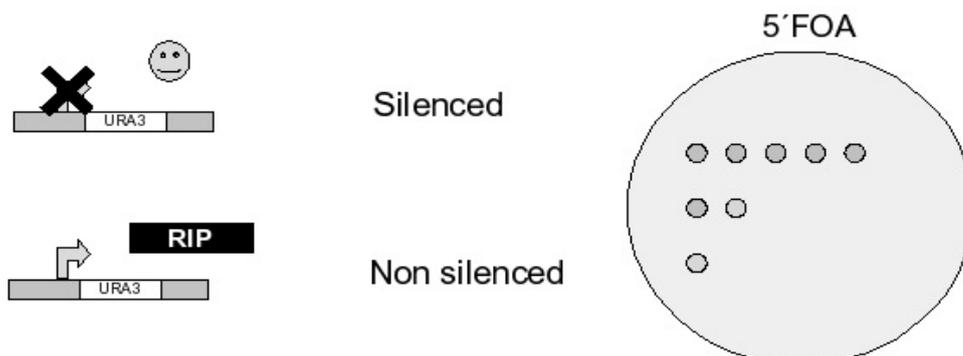
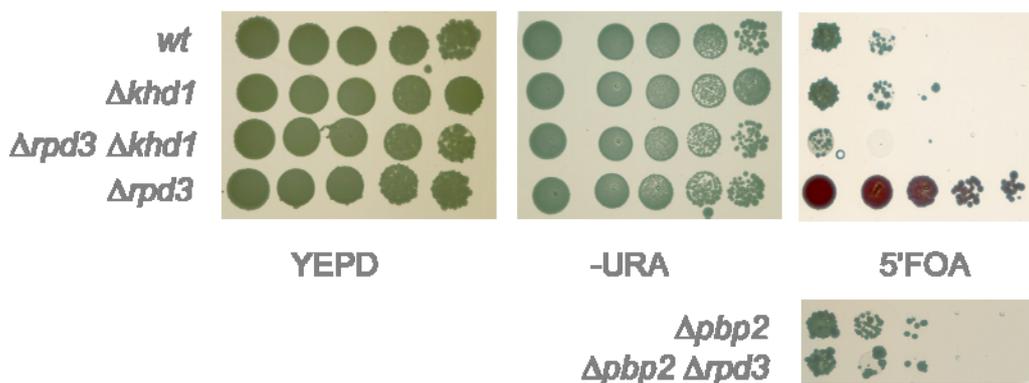


Fig. 21 - *KHD1* in telomeric silencing?

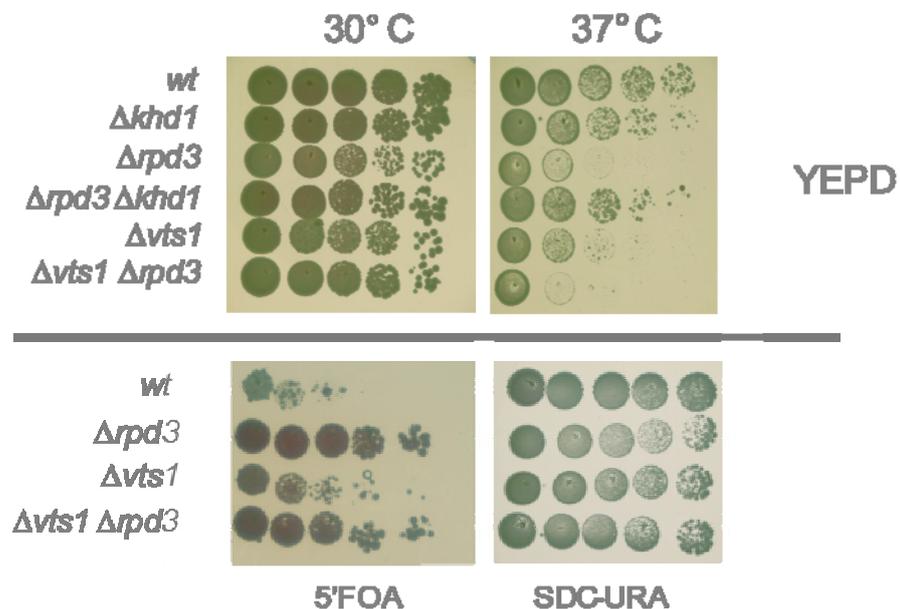
A - Serial dilutions growth tests in different media

B - Serial dilutions growth tests in different media and at different temperature

A



B



KHD1 has no significant effect on its own on telomeric silencing. In fact, the surprising result is observed in a combination with $\Delta rpd3$. *RPD3*, a deacetylase (Rundlett *et al.*, 1996), shows a silenced phenotype, as expected and when *KHD1* is disrupted it leads to a desilencing effect (Fig. 21A).

PBP2 is very similar to *KHD1*, it also has 3 KH domains and it has been shown also to contribute to telomeric silencing and to control telomeric length (Denisenko *et al.*, 2002). Again, in our observations *Δpdp2* had no significant effect on silencing by itself. Interestingly it also reverted the silencing phenotype of *Δrpd3*, although to a lesser extent. To rule out a translation related effect, another translation repressor was analysed, *VTS1*, and we observed that it does not cause desilencing with *Δrpd3* (Fig. 21B). On the other hand, *Δrpd3* is slightly temperature sensitive and an additional *Δkhd1* rescues this phenotype, whereas an additional *Δvts1* increases this temperature sensitivity.

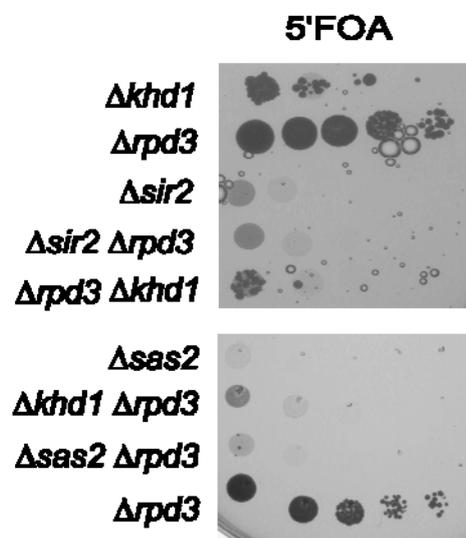


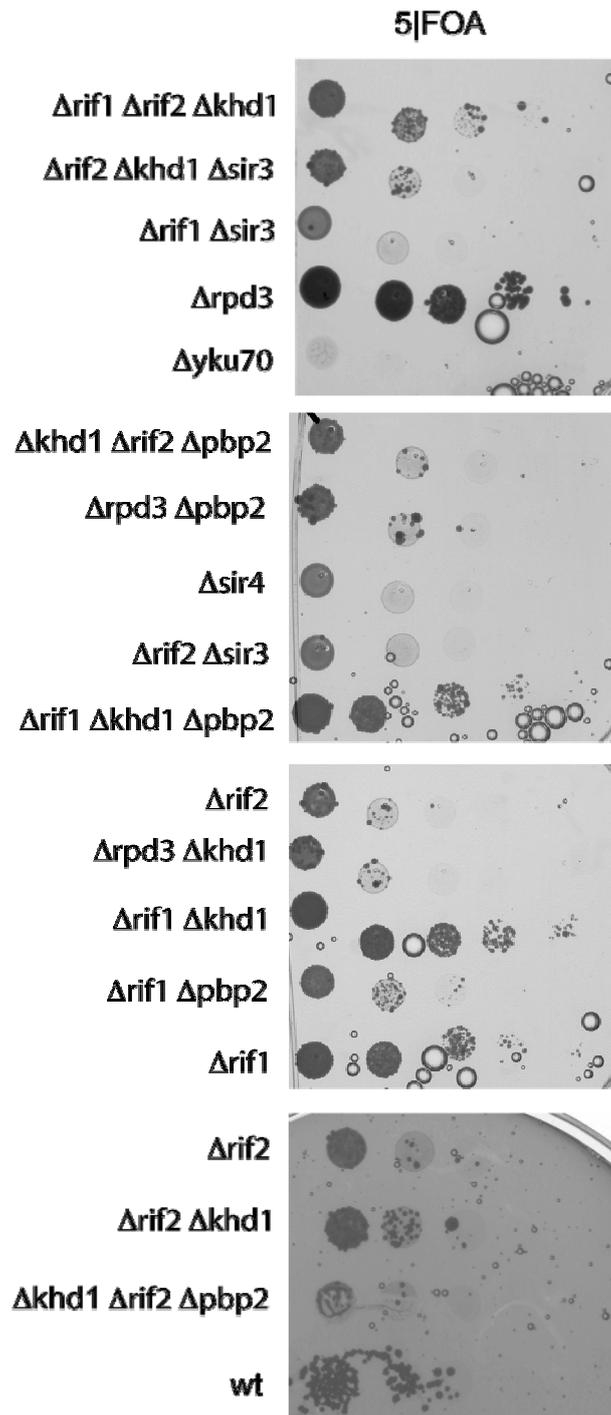
Fig. 22 - Influence of other chromatin remodellers in telomeric silencing?

In addition, we observed that other chromatin remodellers, as *SIR2*, a deacetylase (Aparicio *et al.*, 1991) or *SAS2* (Osada *et al.*, 2001), an acetyl-transferase, lead to a similar phenotype as a *Δrpd3 Δkhd1*. A *Δsir2 Δrpd3* and *Δsas2 Δrpd3* also show desilencing (Fig. 22), as observed for *Δkhd1 Δrpd3*.

7.2 KHD1 and other mutant combinations

We also analysed the effects *khd1* disruption has in combination with other mutants that have been shown to be involved in telomere gene transcriptional silencing.

Fig. 23 - *KHD1* and other genes involved in telomeric silencing.



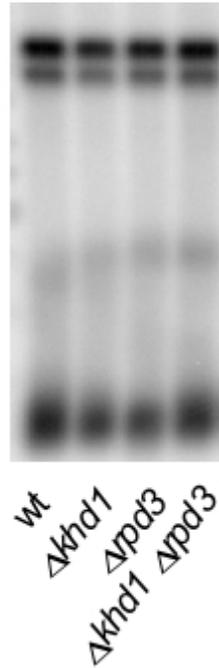
We observed (Fig. 23) that a $\Delta pbp2 \Delta rif1$ combination leads to a loss of silencing, whereas the single *rif1* disruption is clearly silenced. Furthermore, we observed that a $\Delta rif2 \Delta khd1 \Delta pbp2$ is surprisingly desilenced as compared to a *rif2* disruption or even to $\Delta rif2 \Delta khd1$, that is slightly better silenced than a *rif2* disruption.

We also observed that an additional *khd1* disruption to both *rif1* or *rif2* disruptions leads to better silencing.

As expected cells that do not possess an active *SIR* complex (meaning $\Delta sir2$, $\Delta sir3$ or $\Delta sir4$) are desilenced and do not grow.

7.3 Does $\Delta khd1$ influence telomeric length? Does $\Delta pbp2$ act the same way?

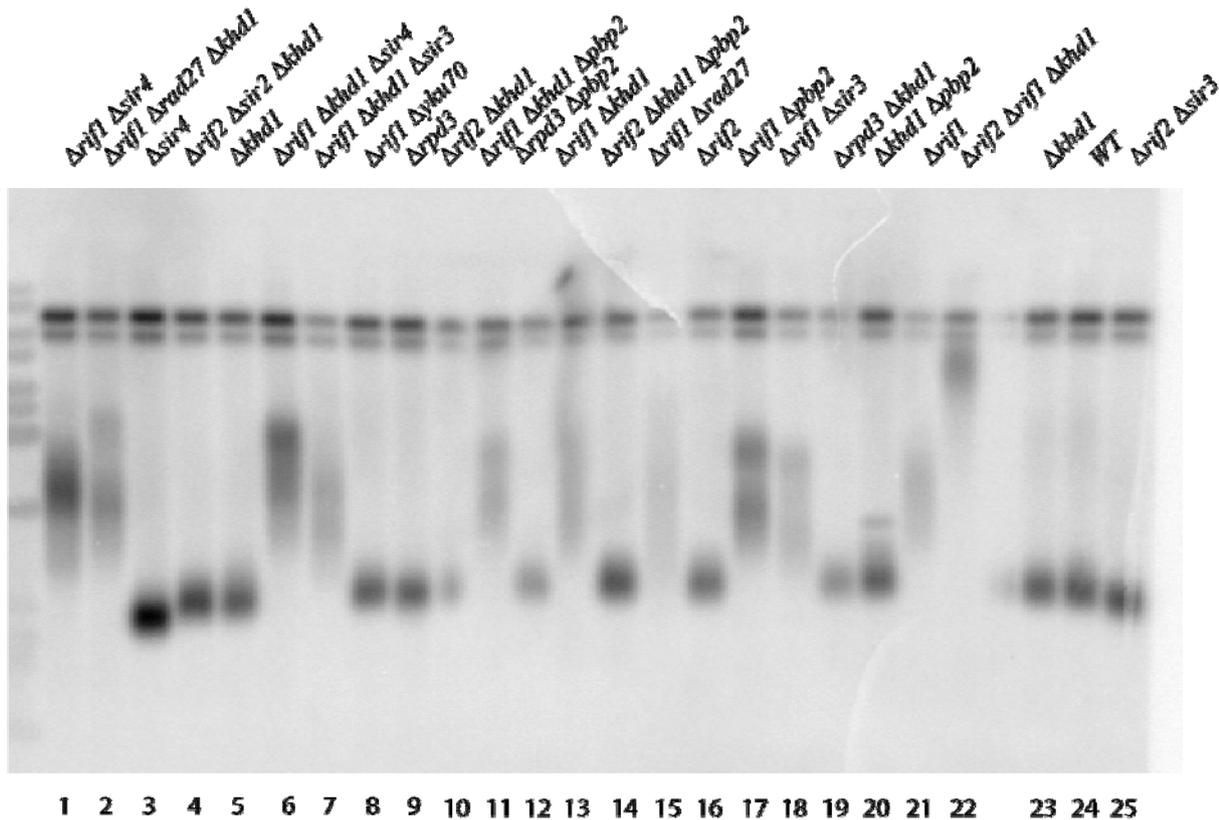
Fig. 24 - Telomeric length – Southern Blot probed with TG1-3 repeat probe.



KHD1 disruption does not change the length of the telomeric region on its own (Fig. 24). Not surprisingly it does not change telomeric length on $\Delta rpd3$ (Fig. 24), suggesting that the observed loss of silencing is not related to a change in telomeric length.

7.4 Can the other phenotypes observed be explained by changes in telomeric length?

Fig. 25 - Telomeric Silencing – Southern Blot, probed with TG1-3 repeat probe.



We observed that an additional *Akhd1* increases the telomeric length of a *Δrif1* (Lanes 13 and 21 – Fig. 25) fitting with a minor increase in the gene transcriptional silencing of *Δrif1*. Furthermore, we observed that an *Akhd1 Δrif2* (Lanes 10 and 16) shows no change in telomeric length, although this cannot explain the change in telomeric gene transcriptional silencing observed (seen in Fig. 25). In addition, *Δpbp2 Δrif1* and *Δrif1* (Lanes 17 and 21) show differences in telomeric length, but this cannot also explain the variation on gene transcriptional silencing observed (Fig. 25).

Δpbp2 Δrpd3 and *Δrpd3* (Lanes 9 and 12) show no telomeric difference indicating the changes observed for gene transcriptional silencing cannot be due to a change in telomeric length.

Although both *Δkhd1* and *Δpbp2* contribute to *Δrif1* telomeric elongation, that is not the case for *Δrif2* (Lanes 10, 14, 16).

Another surprising finding is that an additional *khd1* disruption to a *Δrif1 Δrad27* leads to an even

more elongated telomere (Lanes 2 and 15 – Fig. 25).

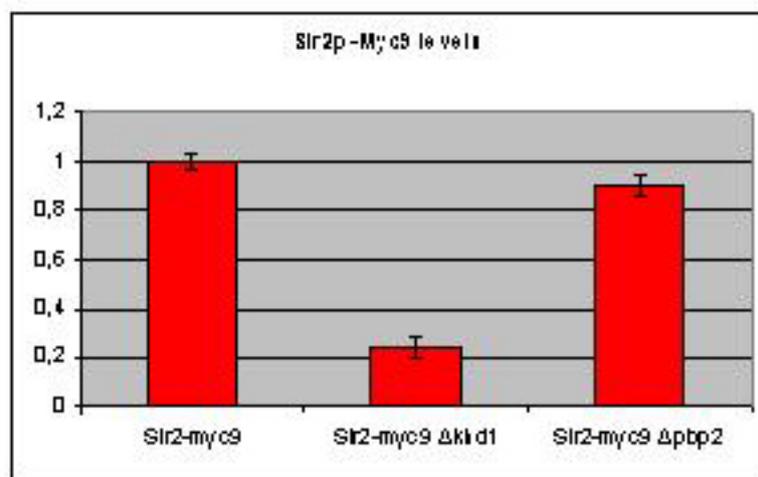
7.5 Loss of Silencing due to loss of SIR complex?

As shown on figure 22, mutations that affect Sir2p localization (e.g. *SAS2*) or even a complete disruption mimic the observed phenotype for $\Delta rpd3 \Delta khd1$.

Could the desilencing effect observed for $\Delta rpd3 \Delta khd1$ be related to a loss of Sir2p or to its mislocalization?

Fig. 26 - Sir2p-Myc9 levels downregulated due to $\Delta khd1$?

Myc9 signal quantification (n=5) by Western Blot, using ImageQuant 5.0.



A disruption of *khd1* leads to a severe downregulation of Sir2p-Myc9, by approximately 3/4, whereas this is not observed when *PBP2* is disrupted (Fig. 26), thus indicating that this is a specific effect of *KHD1*. This downregulation of Sir2p is at the post-transcriptional level, since mRNA levels did not differ (Fig. 27).

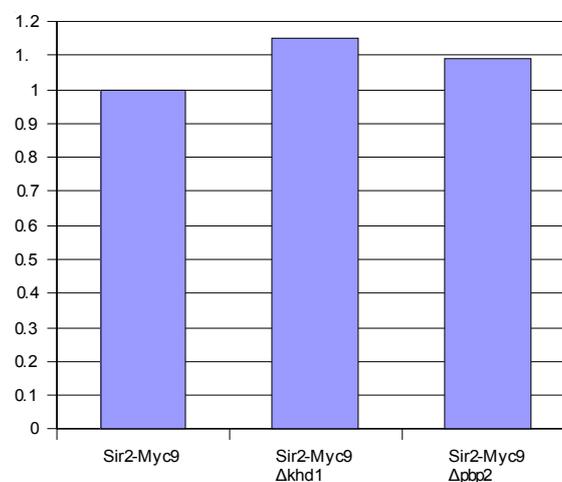
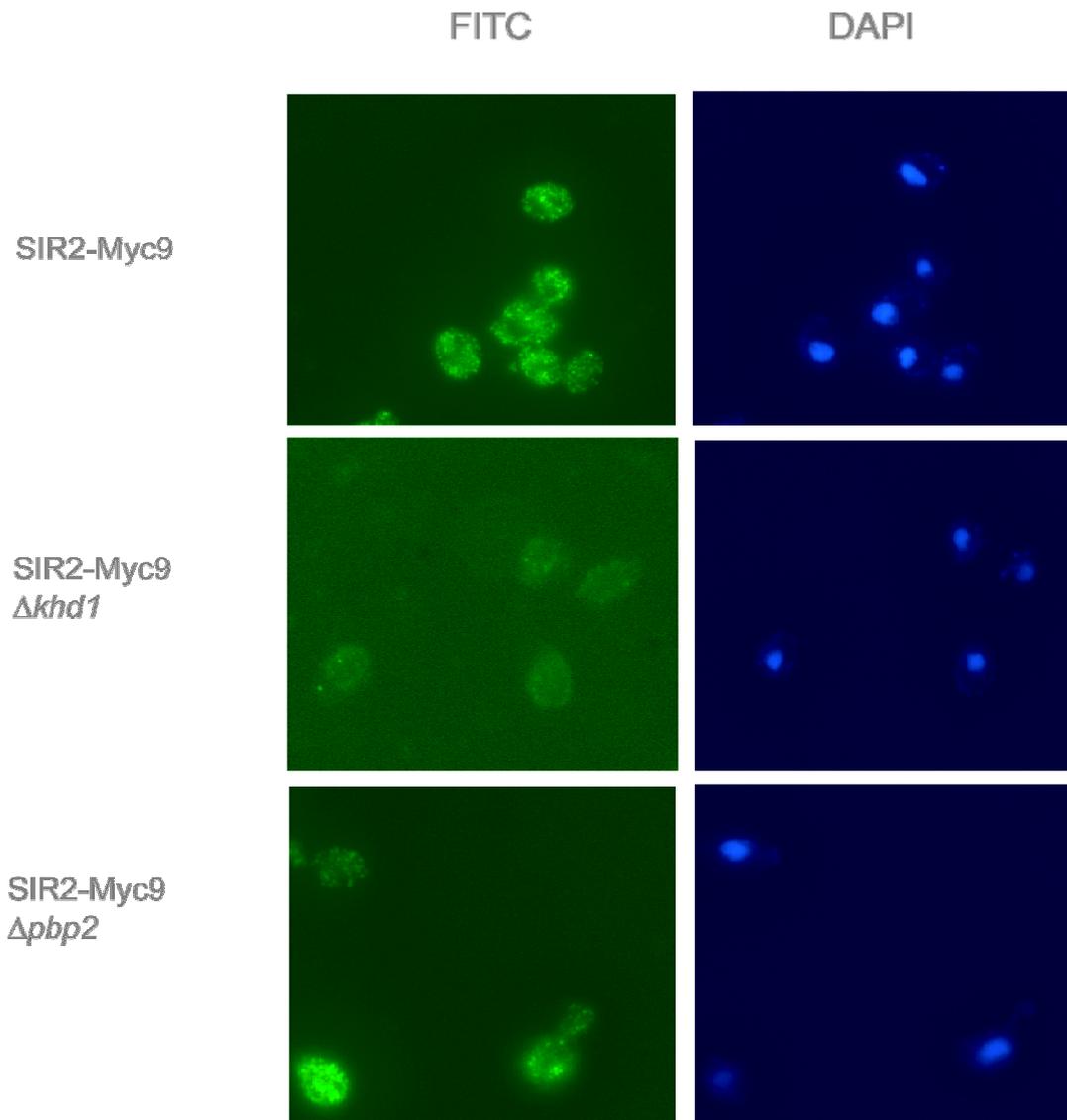


Fig. 27 - *SIR2* mRNA levels, measured by Northern Blot (n=2)

7.6 Does this decrease of Sir2p amount also lead to a displacement of Sir2p from subtelomeric regions, thus further explaining why a desilencing is observed?

Fig. 28 - Indirect Immunofluorescence.

Imaging of Sir2-myc9 on wt, $\Delta khd1$ and $\Delta pbp2$. Primary – 9E10, anti myc 1:200, Secondary - rabbit anti mouse Alexa 488.



As can be seen in figure 28, almost no signal was observed for Sir2p-myc in a $\Delta khd1$. This result, consistent with the very low abundance on the western blot level (Fig. 26), does not allow any conclusion on the localization of Sir2p in a $\Delta khd1$.

7.7 Can the desilencing effect observed for $\Delta rpd3 \Delta khd1$ be rescued by providing an excess of *SIR2*?

It has been shown that overexpression of *SIR2* leads to cell death (Holmes *et al.*, 1997) and that this effect can be rescued by an upregulation of Histone H4 (Matecic *et al.*, 2002).

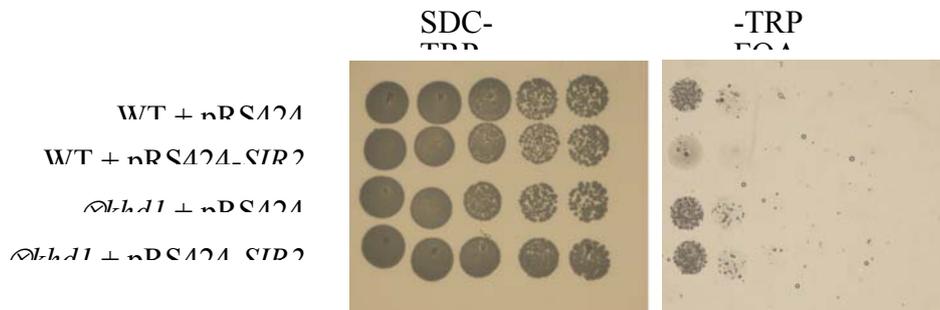


Fig. 29 - Serial dilutions and growth analysis.

We observed that *SIR2* driven from a multicopy plasmid causes indeed death on FOA for the wildtype but does not do so for $\Delta khd1$. This result indicates that our Sir2p downregulation model for $\Delta khd1$ is true (Fig. 29).

7.8 Can a $\Delta rpd3 \Delta khd1$ desilencing effect be rescued with a lower copy number *SIR2*?

As can be seen in figure 30, a CEN-plasmid bourne-*SIR2* increases cell viability of $\Delta rpd3 \Delta khd1$ on 5'FOA containing media, but does not restore complete silencing, indicating that in this double mutant combination, other factors are also affected, apart from Sir2p.

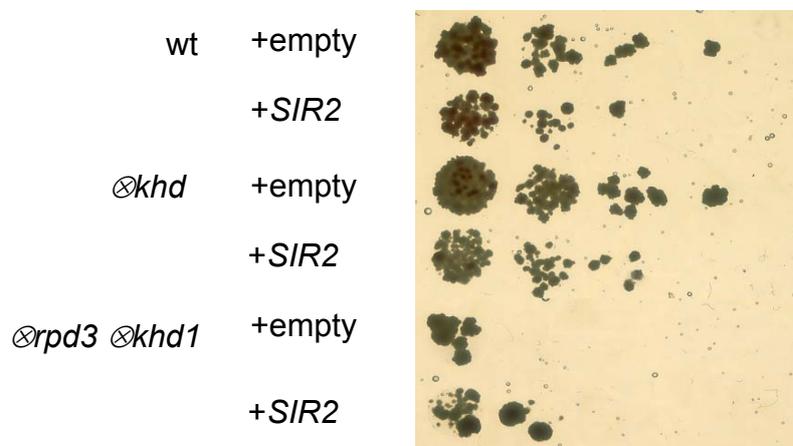


Fig. 30 - Serial dilutions of CEN-plasmid bourne copies of *sir2* (or empty) containing cells.

7.9 Does a *Sir2p* downregulation, a deacetylase lead to a change in acetylation levels of Histone H4K16?

Sir2p has been shown to actively deacetylate Histone H4K16, and determine the establishment of the euchromatin/heterochromatin boundary (Suka *et al.*, 2002). Could $\Delta KHD1$ influence changes in heterochromatin/euchromatin formation, namely an increase in Histone H4K16, consistent with the downregulation of *Sir2p*?

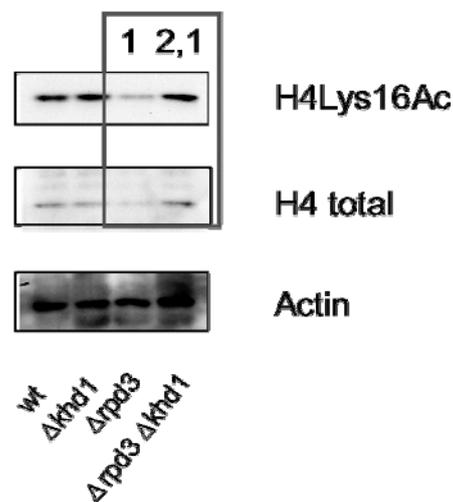


Fig. 31 - Changes in histone modifications?

Western blot of whole cell extracts. Quantification performed using Imagequant 5.0 (N=3).

Table 2 - Histone H4 acetylation levels.

	HH4K8/H4	HH4K12/H4	HH4k16/H4
Wt	0,24	0,75	2,205
$\Delta khd1$	0,215	0,55	2,41
$\Delta rpd3$	0,395	1,30	1,65
$\Delta khd1 \Delta rpd3$	0,09	0,93	3,4
$\Delta sir2$	0,28	1,49	2,085
$\Delta yku70$	0,14	0,265	2,515
$\Delta yku70 \Delta khd1$	0,13	0,3	1,015
$\Delta rad27$	1,415	2,27	3,08
$\Delta rad27 \Delta khd1$	0,36	1,27	1,97

Table 3 - Histone H4 acetylation levels

	HH4k8/Actin	HH4k12/Actin	HH4k16/Actin
Wt	1,02	1	1,72
$\Delta khd1$	1,03	1	0,64
$\Delta rpd3$	1,03	0,97	0,06
$\Delta khd1 \Delta rpd3$	1,18	0,92	3,97
$\Delta rif1$	22,89	1,04	4,1
$\Delta rif1 \Delta khd1$	2,18	0,96	1,03
$\Delta pbp2$	1,02	1	0,97
$\Delta pbp2 \Delta rpd3$	0,73	0,9	0,26
$\Delta sir2$	1,02	0,99	2,8
$\Delta rad27$	1,05	0,96	1
$\Delta rif2$	9,67	0,44	0,93
$\Delta rif2 \Delta khd1$	37,78	0,93	1,11
$\Delta rif1 \Delta pbp2$	1,04	0,98	1,12
$\Delta rif1 \Delta pbp2 \Delta khd1$	0,97	0,99	0,43

RPD3 disruption shows consistently less Histone H4 and the disruption of *KHD1* reverts this effect. The acetylation levels of Histone H4 on Lys 8 and 12 are not significantly different as to explain the changes observed in silencing, when actin is used as a loading control. We looked at the acetylation levels on Lys16, as it is known to be the boundary of telomeric heterochromatin (Suka *et al.*, 2002). This residue shows a significant increase of acetylation in $\Delta rpd3 \Delta khd1$ as compared to $\Delta rpd3$, or even to $\Delta khd1$ indicating that transcription is therefore more active in this region.

When Histone H4 total levels are taken as a loading control the picture looks somewhat different. Still, there is 2-fold increase for HH4K16Ac between $\Delta rpd3 \Delta khd1$ and $\Delta rpd3$. In addition, the levels of Histone H4 K8Ac are also decreased in $\Delta rpd3 \Delta khd1$.

We observed that $\Delta sir2$ shows almost no changes in HistoneH4 acetylation when HistoneH4 is taken as a loading control, but on the other hand when actin is taken as a reference one can see a 1,7x increase on HH4K16Ac. When $\Delta khd1$ is analysed in combination with other mutants we observed that it changes the acetylation levels of HH4K8 and of HH4K16, when in combination with $\Delta rif1$ and of HH4K8 when in combination with $\Delta rif2$.

Table 4 - Histone H3 Trimethylation levels.

	H3K4Me3/H3	H3K36Me3/H3	H3K79Me3/H3
Wt	0,93	1,2	1,63
$\Delta khd1$	0,97	1,38	1,78
$\Delta rpd3$	1,01	1,5	5,51
$\Delta khd1 \Delta rpd3$	1,67	1,59	2,5
$\Delta sir2$	0,91	0,78	1,5
$\Delta yku70$	1,56	0,85	2,41
$\Delta yku70 \Delta khd1$	11,95	12,62	15,24
$\Delta rad27$	1,05	1,12	1,47
$\Delta rad27 \Delta khd1$	0,92	1,7	3,21

Another histone modification that regulates transcription is Histone H3 trimethylation (Schneider *et al.*, 2004). We observed that an additional $\Delta khd1$ to $\Delta rpd3$ leads to an increase of H3K4Me3 and a decrease in H3K79Me3 as compared to $\Delta rpd3$. In addition, we observed that $\Delta khd1 \Delta yku70$ leads to dramatic increases in the trimethylation levels for all three lysines analysed, when compared to the wildtype or even the single mutants. Furthermore, the $\Delta rad27 \Delta khd1$ also shows an increased H3K79Me3 level as compared to both single mutations.

7.10 Is there a relationship to the telomerase RNA subunit?

As *KHD1* encodes an mRNA binding protein with a translation repressor function, and the telomerase is an enzyme with an RNA subunit, we wanted to see if there was any connection between the two. For this we analysed gene transcriptional silencing when additional copies of the telomerase RNA subunit, *TLC1*, were supplied.

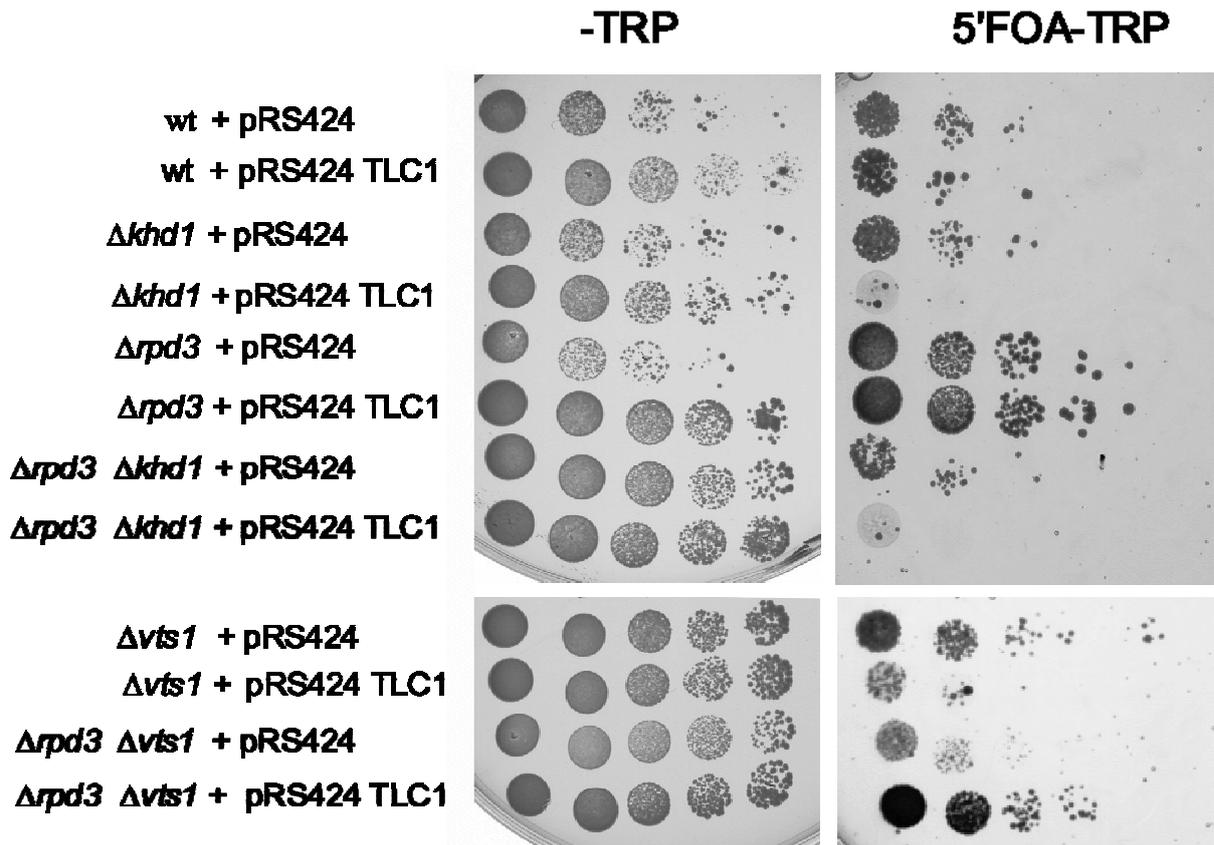


Fig. 32 - Telomerase RNA subunit affects telomere gene transcriptional silencing of mRNA binding proteins mutants?

Serial dilutions and growth for 72hours at 30 degrees.

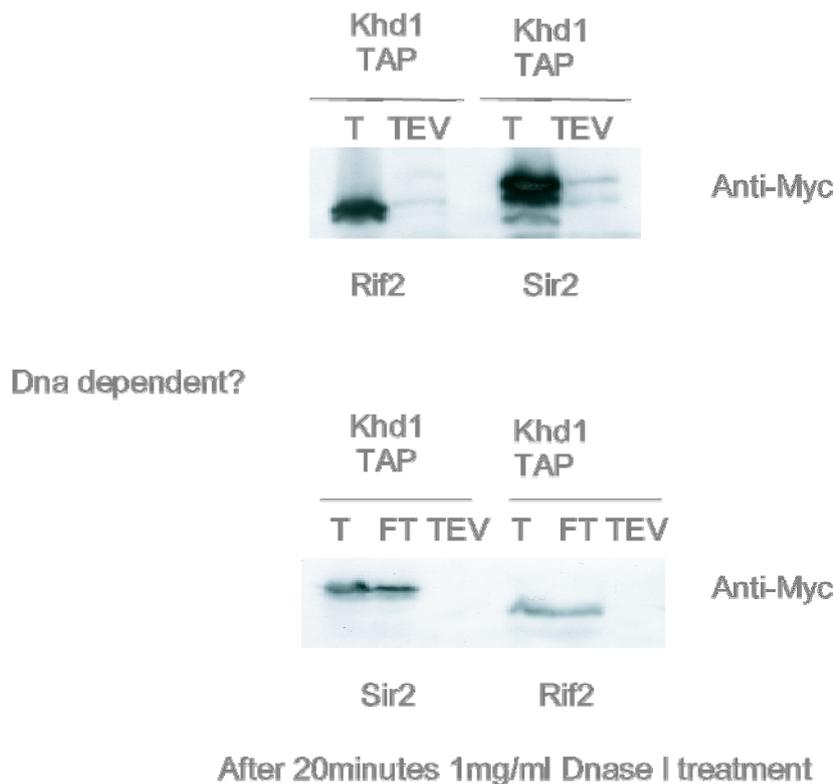
We observed that an overexpression of *TLC1* leads to death of *Δkhd1* in 5'FOA containing media. We were also able to determine that this effect is not a general translation repressor or even a general mRNA binding protein defect, since *Δvts1* fails to show a similar phenotype, although exhibiting less fitness.

7.11 Is Khd1p a part of a heterochromatin remodelling complex?

As we have shown that $\Delta khd1$ causes a loss of telomeric silencing, downregulates Sir2p and plays a role in stabilizing the telomere when an excess of *TLC1* is provided, we were wondering if Khd1p is a part of any telomeric protein complex. To address this question, a tandem affinity purification was performed and the co-purification of specific proteins, Sir2p and Rif2p, was investigated. Both can indeed be purified when using Khd1p as bait, but this interaction seems to be DNA dependent (Fig. 33).

Fig. 33 – Is Khd1p a part of a chromatin remodelling complex?

Khd1-TAP TEV-cleaved eluates were probed on western blot for Rif2-myc9p and for Sir2-myc9p. The same experiment was performed after a 20minutes DNase I treatment.



7.12 Is *KHD1* involved in DNA repair?

Denisenko and co-workers proposed that Khd1p is involved in the Telomeric Rapid Deletion Pathway (Denisenko *et al.*, 2002). A major complex involved in this process is the Mre11p/Rad50p/Xrs2p complex. This complex is responsible for homologous recombination events in the telomeric regions leading to Telomeric Rapid Deletion events, i.e. telomere length reduction and is also responsible for non-homologous End-joining and DNA recombinational repair.

We decided to analyse the relationship between this complex and Khd1p and to see if *KHD1* played also a role in DNA repair.

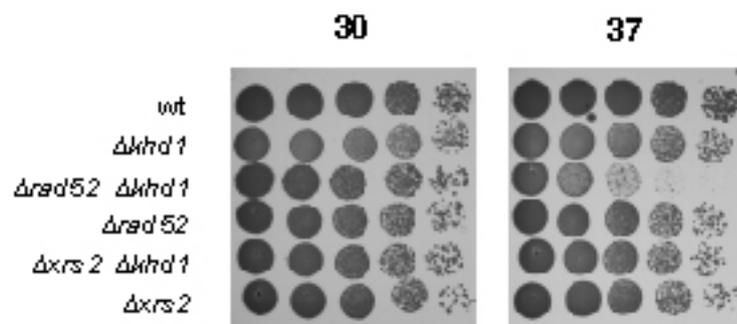


Fig. 34 - Temperature sensitivity of $\Delta khd1 \Delta rad52$.

10-fold serial dilutions of overnight cultures were plated onto YEPD plates and incubated at different temperatures.

As shown previously *khd1* plays a role in telomere maintenance. Telomere maintenance and DSB repair are intimately linked. Telomeres are double stranded breaks (DSB's) *per se*, that surprisingly escape the recognition mechanism. Recognition of the double stranded break is mediated by *RAD52*, that distinguishes between DSB's and telomeres (Fig. 19). Another gene that is involved in both telomere maintenance and DSB repair is *YKU70*. This gene binds the telomerase RNA and acts in double stranded break repair by non-homologous end joining. We tested *KHD1* for synthetic lethality with *RAD52* and *YKU70* and both turned out to be negative. We were able to determine that $\Delta rad52 \Delta khd1$ cells are Synthetic Growth defective at 37°C while at 30°C no impaired growth was observed. Furthermore, this observed growth defect was specific for $\Delta rad52 \Delta khd1$ as $\Delta xrs2 \Delta khd1$ cells do not exhibit it. This result indicates that *KHD1* can contribute to a pathway parallel to *RAD52*.

7.13 Involved in which pathway of DNA repair?

Proteins involved in telomeric silencing are also related to DNA damage and repair pathways. Defects in DNA repair pathways are usually detected with the help of DNA damaging agents such as MethylMethanoSulphate (MMS), Hydroxyurea, ionizing radiation, UV radiation and others.

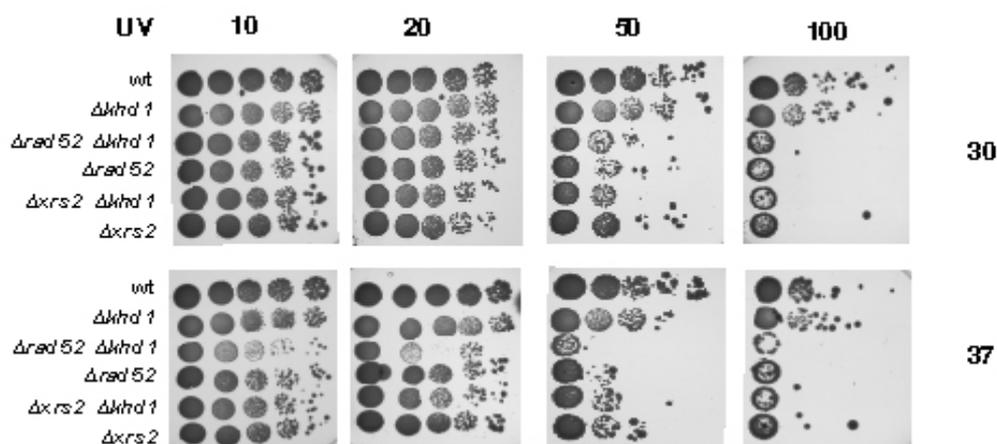
MethylMethanoSulphonate, although initially thought to cause alkylation of the DNA and thus induce DSBs, causes stalling of the replication fork and mutants in the homologous recombination pathway cannot overcome this fork stalling and thus exhibit extreme sensitivity to this agent (Lundin *et al.*, 2005).

Ultraviolet radiation causes thymidine-dimer formation, that cannot pair with the opposing strand, thus leading to a bulge of the DNA molecules. As the DNA replication machinery progresses it can cause stalling, mispairing and mutations (Matsumura and Ananthaswamy, 2004; Davies *et al.*, 2002; Schreier *et al.*, 2007).

Hydroxyurea is a DNA replication inhibitor that causes ribonucleotide depletion by inhibiting the ribonucleotide reductase and can ultimately result in DNA double strand breaks due to the extended replication forks (Platt *et al.*, 2008).

Cells were subjected to increasing amounts of UV radiation exposure and their viability was measured. *khd1* disrupted cells showed no increased sensitivity to UV radiation as compared to the wildtype, in normal growth conditions (Fig. 35). However a $\Delta rad52 \Delta khd1$ survived poorly when subjected to elevated temperature and to UV radiation (Fig. 35), indicating an intolerance to this combination of effects, not observable in the single mutants. This intolerance is however not significantly higher than the growth defect observed for growth at 37 degrees.

In addition, a $\Delta khd1 \Delta xrs2$ showed an increased sensitivity to 50 μ J and to 100 μ J as compared to the



single mutants, indicating that indeed *khd1* plays a role in UV damage induced repair.

Fig. 35 - UV radiation sensitivity assay.

10-fold serial dilutions of an overnight culture were plated on YEPD and then subjected to increasing doses of UV radiation. Plates were then incubated at 30 and at 37 degrees.

In order to test if *AKHDI* is also sensitive to damage-inducing chemical agents, cells were subjected to increasing concentrations of hydroxyurea. We observed that $\Delta khd1$ caused no change in sensitivity to hydroxyurea (Fig. 36), indicating that $\Delta khd1$ does not play a role in replication.

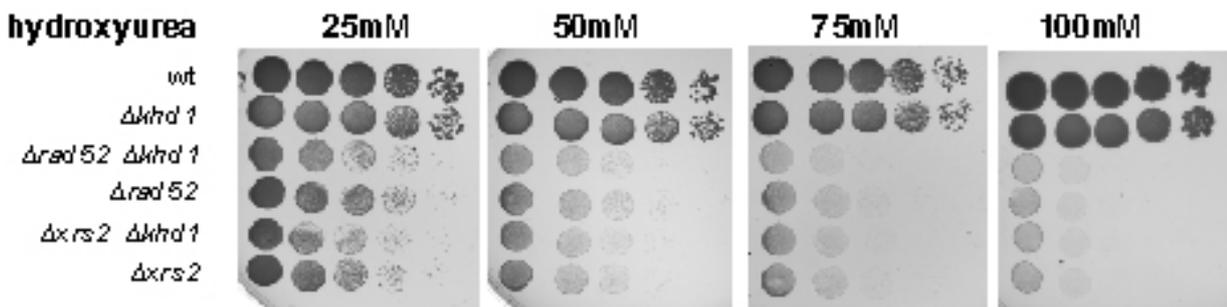


Fig. 36 - Hydroxyurea sensitivity essay.

10-fold serial dilutions of an overnight culture were plated on media containing increasing concentration of Hydroxyurea.

The same experiments were performed with increasing concentrations of MMS. As $\Delta khd1$ showed an increased sensitivity phenotype to 0,05% MMS than wildtype cells (data not shown), we decided to repeat the same experiments with different combinations of mutants from the contributing double strand break repair pathways, to try to elucidate with which Khd1p, could be involved.

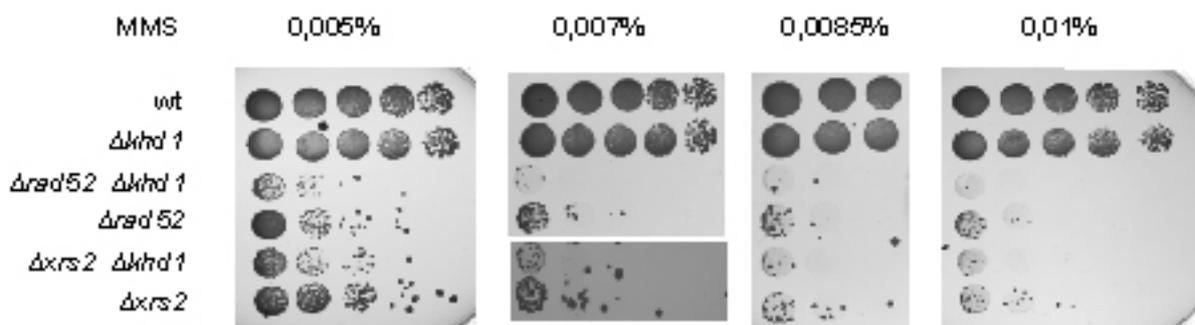


Fig. 37 - MethylMethanoSulphonate sensitivity essay.

10-fold serial dilutions of an overnight culture were plated on media containing increasing concentration of Hydroxyurea.

We observed that a $\Delta rad52 \Delta khd1$ shows an increased sensitivity to MMS than the single $\Delta rad52$

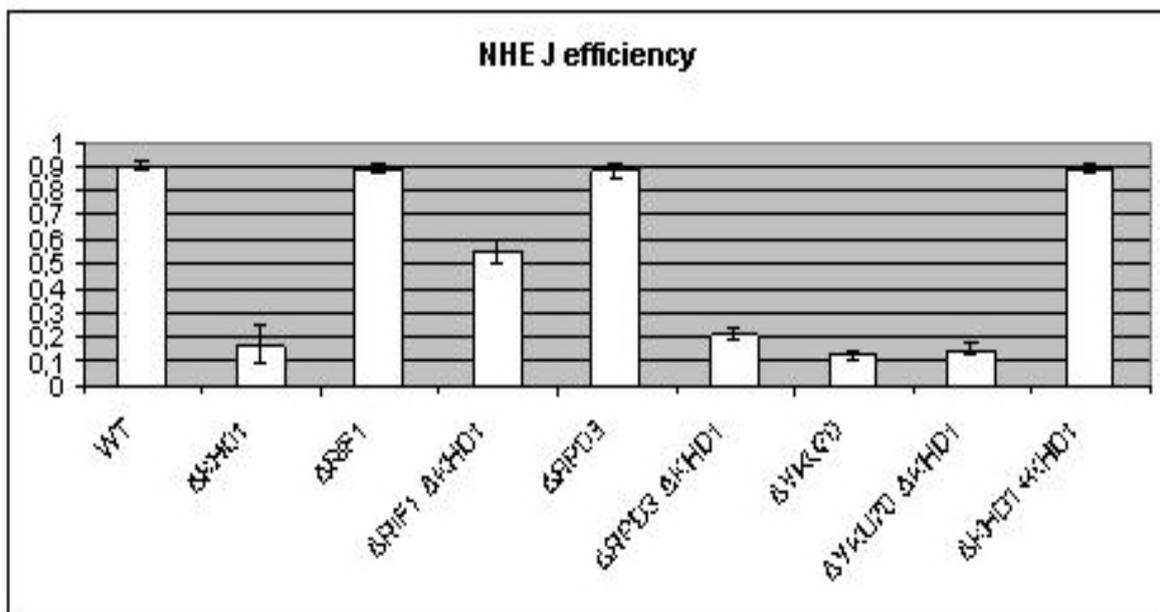
mutant, for all MMS concentrations tested (Fig. 37). In addition, the same is true for $\Delta xrs2 \Delta khdl$.

7.14 Involved in Non Homologous End Joining?

Non homologous end joining is a process where loose ends of DNA are ligated to other DNA ends, and therefore, repaired. This process normally does not require sequence homology between fragments to take place. We decided to investigate if *KHDI* played a role in this process.

Fig. 38 - Non Homologous End Joining Efficiency.

An overnight culture was diluted to 0.2 and let grow exponentially. When OD600=1 was reached cells were transformed with 0,5 μ g DNA of a linear plasmid and of a circular plasmid in parallel and plated out in selective media. Plates were incubated 3 days and cfus were counted. Bars represent the ratio between number of cfus with linear plasmid/ number of cfus with circular plasmid.



We observed that *KHDI* alone leads to a dramatic decrease in NHEJ, which can be rescued when supplying an additional *KHDI* copy on a plasmid. As *khdl* has been shown to be involved in telomeric maintenance we also wanted to see if it was a general telomeric maintenance defect. Therefore we analysed *Arpd3* and *Arif1* deletions, both alone and in combination with *Δkhdl*. We observed that these genes when disrupted alone do not affect NHEJ but when in combination with a *KHDI* disruption, a NHEJ defect is also observed (Fig. 38). This finding was extremely surprising, as *Khd1p* has been proposed to be a translation repressor and an mRNA-binding protein (Irie *et al.*, 2002; Paquin *et al.*, 2007). In addition, and even more surprising, was the observation that *KHDI* is epistatic to *YKU70* (Fig. 38). This finding would point to a direct role of *Khd1p* on NHEJ or a

regulation of a factor that is essential for NHEJ.

7.15 NHEJ coupled to a specific KH-domain?

Khd1p contains 3-KH domains, that are known to bind nucleic acids. We wanted to investigate if we could couple this NHEJ defect to any of the KH domains. We observed that a point mutant in KHdomain3-L284R, still rescues the NHEJ defect but a point mutant in KHdomain2-I183R no longer does so (Fig. 39).

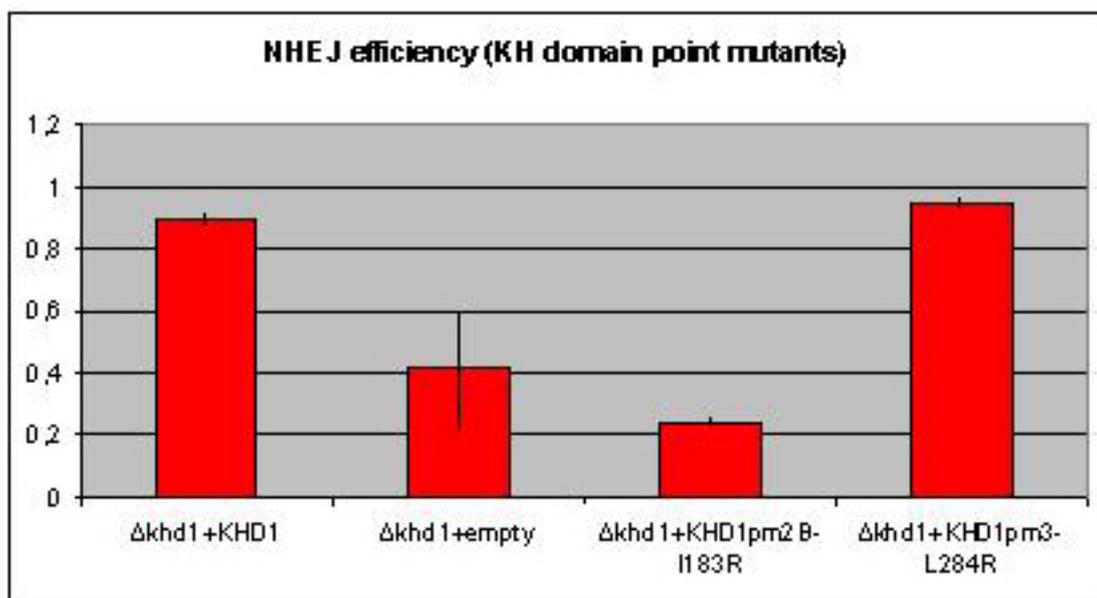


Fig. 39 - Non-Homologous End Joining rescue with plasmid borne-*KHD1* and *KHD1*-point mutants.

7.16 VTS1, another translation repressor involved in Telomeric Silencing?

VTS1 is a gene that has been shown to be functional homologue to *Drosophila* Smaug protein (SMG1) (Aviv *et al.*, 2003; Aviv *et al.*, 2006). Smaug binds poly-C regions and acts as a translation repressor of *oskar* mRNA, during development of the *Drosophila* embryo (Dahanukar *et al.*, 1999; Zaessinger *et al.*, 2006). Smaug has been proposed also to be involved in mRNA deadenylation via the *CCR4/NOT* complex and thus control stability of the target mRNA (Zaessinger *et al.*, 2006).

7.17 Could another protein that has been shown to be involved in mRNA localization and translation repression be also involved in telomeric silencing and stability? Is it a process specific to Khd1p?

As can be seen in figure 40 $\Delta vts1$ alone shows no effect on telomeric silencing, the same as observed for $\Delta khd1$ alone. But in combination with other mutants, $\Delta vts1$ behaves differently than $\Delta khd1$ (Figs. 21, 23 and 40). Whereas *khd1* disruption showed a severe silencing defect in addition to a $\Delta rpd3$, a $\Delta rpd3 \Delta vts1$ shows no effect (Fig. 21), indicating that it is not translation *per se* that is affecting the genomic stability but rather a *khd1* specific effect. On the other hand, $\Delta khd1 \Delta rif1$ showed a slighter increased silencing effect whereas $\Delta vts1 \Delta rif1$ shows a dramatic loss of telomeric silencing (Figs. 23 and 40). In addition, this $\Delta vts1 \Delta rif1$ double mutant is temperature sensitive whereas the single mutants are not (Fig. 40).

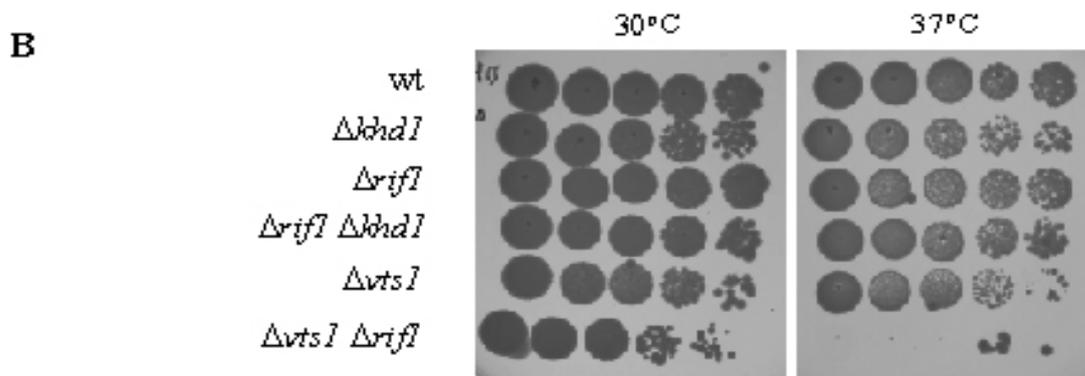
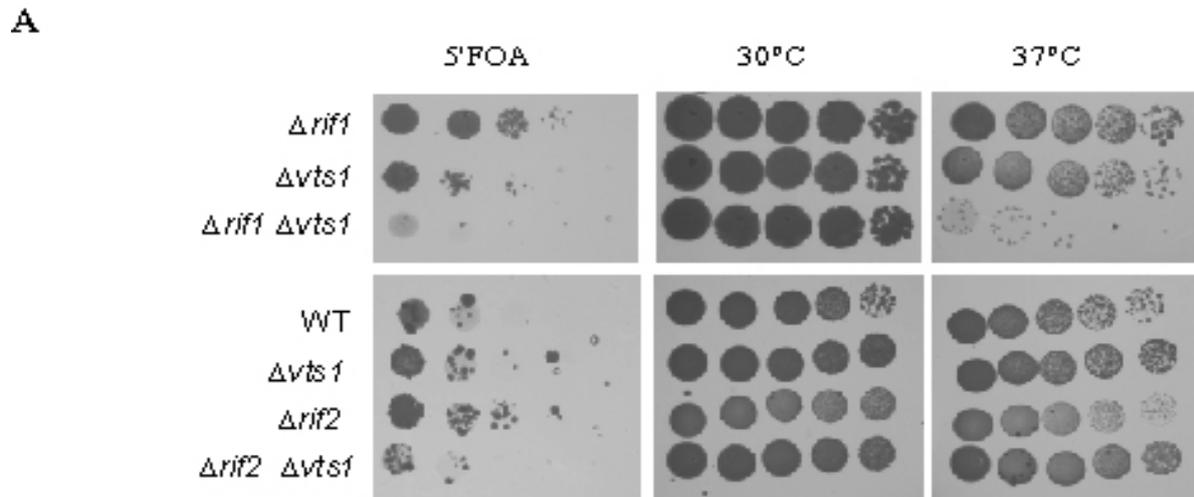
7.18 Are these effects specific to $\Delta rif1$ alone or are they also true for $\Delta rif2$?

Rif2p is a protein partner of Rif1p, and they both act in binding to Rap1p at the telomere and regulate telomere length together (Wotton and Shore, 1997).

Fig. 40 - Role for *VTS1* in telomeric silencing?

A – Serial dilutions and growth in differential conditions, to address silencing.

B – Serial dilutions and temperature sensitivity determination.



We have observed that *Δrif2 Δvts1* does not behave as *Δrif1 Δvts1* (Fig. 40), as it is not dead on 5'FOA and also not sensitive to 37°C, suggesting that the effects observed are specific to *Δrif1 Δvts1*, being the first described events where Rif1p and Rif2p act independently.

7.19 Does *Δvts1 Δrif1* show a replication defect?

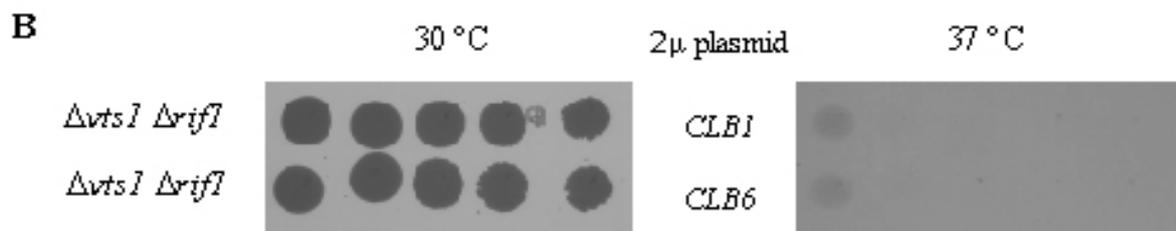
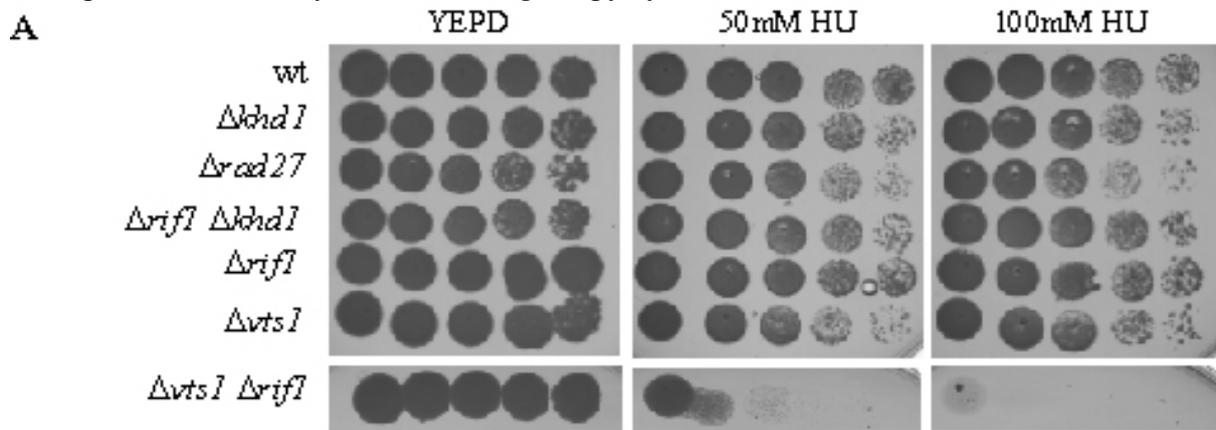
A temperature sensitivity phenotype in combination to *rif1* disruption can be found associated to loss of silencing, to loss of telomere capping and to very short telomeres (e.g. *Yku70*) and we analysed whether this was also the case for *Δrif1 Δvts1*.

To address this question we analysed these mutants in media containing increasing concentrations of hydroxyurea.

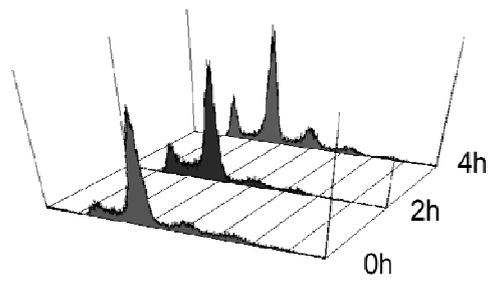
Fig. 41 - DNA replication defect?

A – Hydroxyurea sensitivity assay.

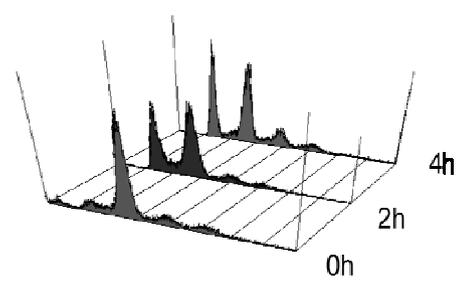
B – Temperature sensitivity rescue with high-copy cyclins.



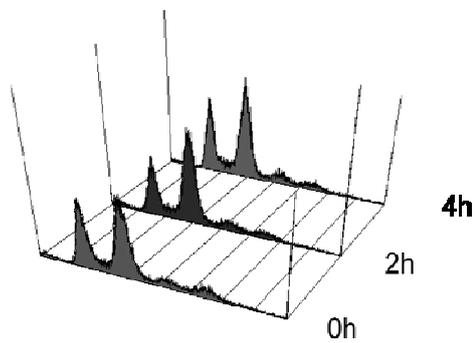
We observed that $\Delta vts1 \Delta rif1$ is extremely sensitive to hydroxyurea (Fig. 41A), a drug that inhibits DNA replication and S-phase progression, indicating a DNA replication problem. This hydroxyurea sensitivity was not overcome with a high-copy plasmid containing *CLB1* or *CLB6* (Fig. 41B). As *CLB1* is a G2-M cyclin (Surana *et al.*, 1991) and *CLB6* is a DNA-synthesis activator cyclin (Schwob and Nasmyth, 1993; both reviewed in Lew *et al.*, 1997), we ruled out that the arrest would be at these two stages. These results led us to try to map the point of the replication problem. We wanted to check if the cells were arrested at G1-S or at G2-M or not at all, by using FACS analysis.



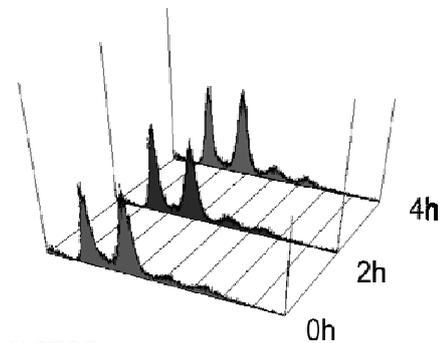
WT 30 °C



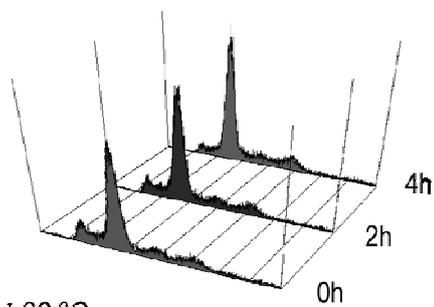
WT 37 °C



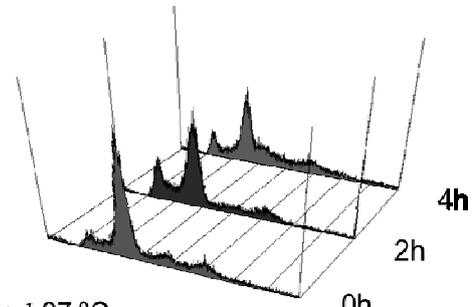
$\Delta rif1$ 30 °C



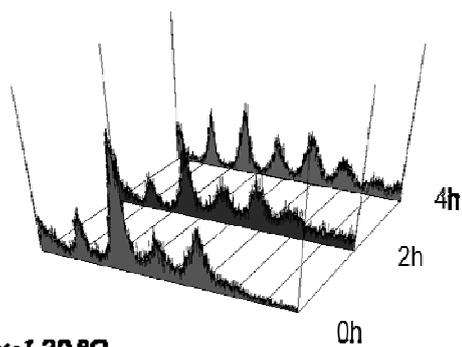
$\Delta rif1$ 37 °C



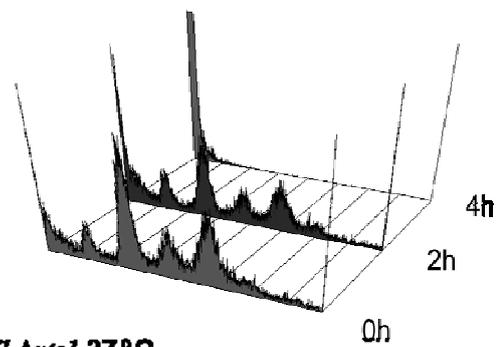
$\Delta vts1$ 30 °C



$\Delta vts1$ 37 °C



$\Delta rif1 \Delta vts1$ 30 °C

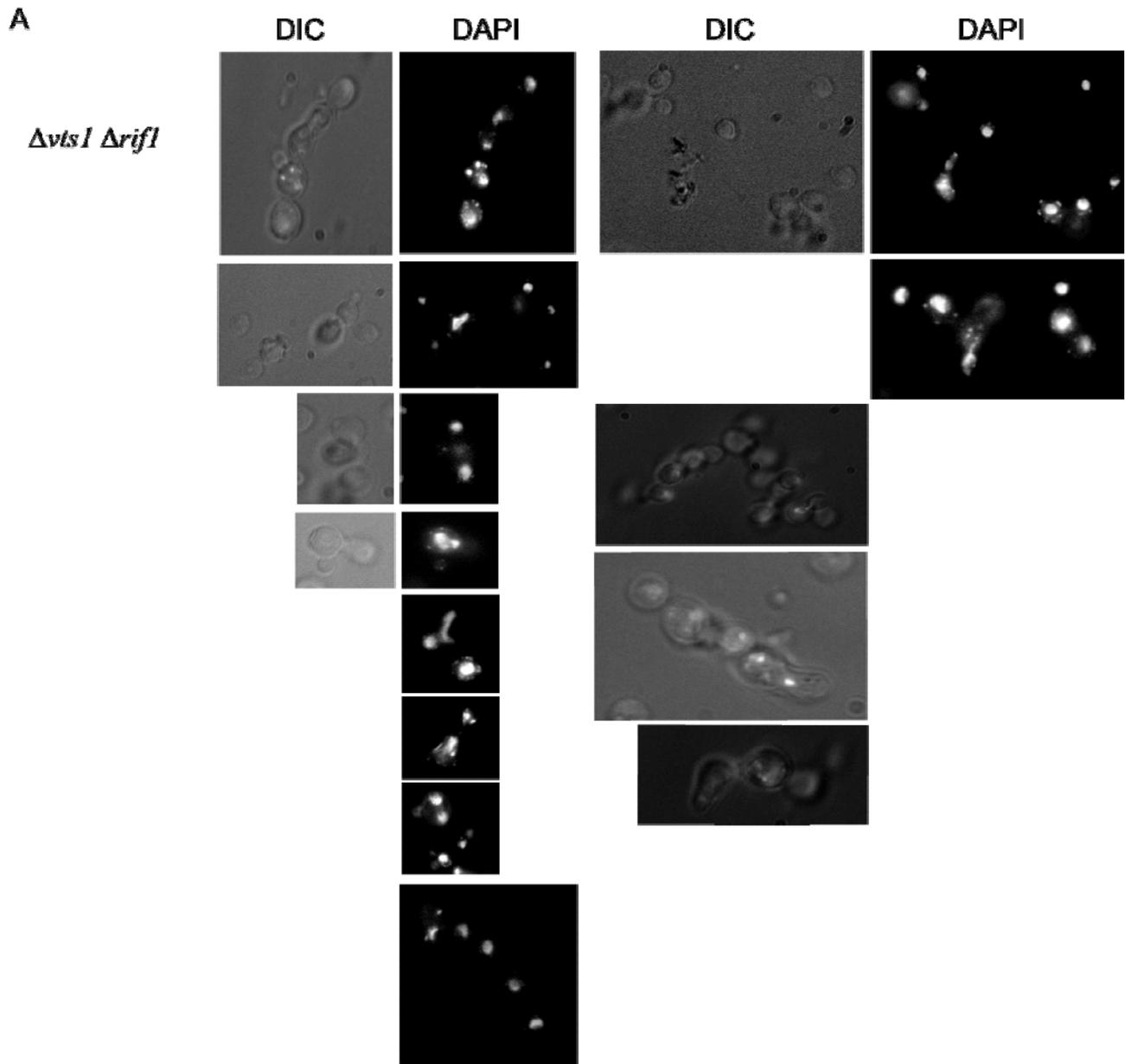


$\Delta rif1 \Delta vts1$ 37 °C

Fig. 42 - Cell Cycle Arrest?
FACS analysis.

The FACS analysis revealed that the $\Delta vts1 \Delta rif1$ mutant (Fig. 42), already at 30°C shows a severe difference to the wildtype or even to the single mutants. We observed (Fig. 42) that this mutant increases DNA content, indicating that DNA replication occurs but that cytokinesis does not occur properly, as has been observed for Guanydine depleted cells (Sagot *et al.*, 2005). In order to confirm these results we have also looked at the cells in the microscope. (Fig. 43). In fact, $\Delta rif1 \Delta vts1$ cells accumulate chains of multiple buds, showing indeed a defect in cytokinesis. In addition these mutants also show a number of tripartite spindles (Fig. 43), lagging and bridging chromosomes (Fig. 43), indicating a defect in chromosome segregation aswell, most likely linked to anaphase checkpoint recognition defect.

Fig. 43 - Defects in cell division?
 DAPI staining of $\Delta rif1 \Delta vts1$ cells.



How can a cytoplasmic protein that is involved in translation regulation be involved in telomeric silencing and cause such dramatic effects in combination with $\Delta rif1$? Is there a direct nuclear function associated to *VTS1*?

7.20 Is Vts1p a shuttling protein?

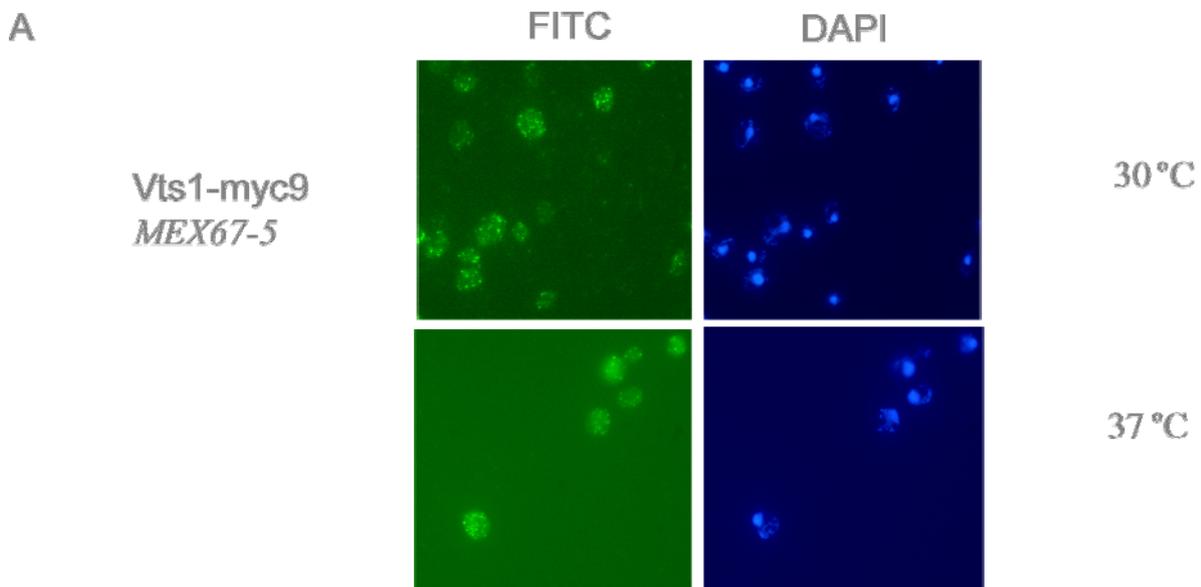


Fig. 44 - Vts1p in nucleus?

A – Immunofluorescence using a *mex67* temperature sensitive allele, that blocks nuclear mRNA export.

As can be seen in the figure 44, Vts1-myc9 is steady state cytoplasmic and cannot be trapped in the nucleus in an mRNA dependent manner. Khd1-myc9 and She2p, two mRNA binding proteins have been shown to accumulate in the nucleus, using the same assay (Du *et al.*, 2008; Kruse *et al.*, 2002).

7.21 Could it be due to telomeric length regulation control? Could $\Delta vts1$ reduce so dramatically the telomere that renders the cell incapable of dividing?

Could Vts1p be a part of the Rap1-Rif1/2 counting model?

We observed that *vts1* disruption does not by itself give a shorter telomere than wildtype. The combination of $\Delta rif1$ with $\Delta vts1$ gives an extremely surprising result as the whole subtelomeric region is lost in these mutants, as seen in figure 45.

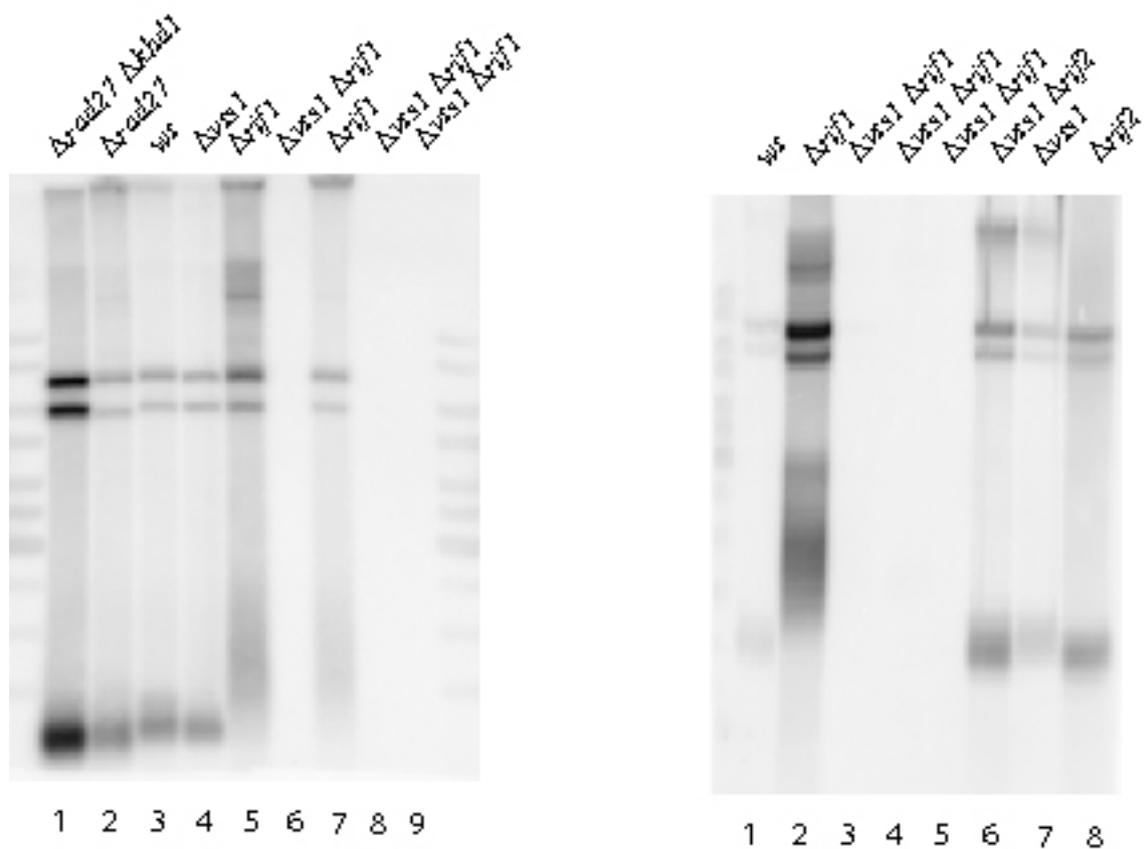


Fig. 45 - Telomeric Length analysis
 Southern Blot probed with TG1-3 repeat probe.

We also analysed telomeric length in the $\Delta rif2 \Delta vts1$ mutants to see if they also showed a total loss of the subtelomeric region. We observed that indeed these mutant cells do not, showing that this phenotype is specific for $\Delta vts1 \Delta rif1$ (Fig. 45).

8. DISCUSSION

Telomeres are the ends of chromosomes. These DNA regions are places of intense chromatin remodelling and one of the three loci, together with the mating type and rDNA loci, where gene transcriptional silencing occurs.

KHD1 has already been shown to play a role in telomere positioning effect (TPE) and to bind to subtelomeric DNA (Denisenko *et al.*, 2002). *PBP2*, or polyA-binding protein-2, encodes for another 3-KH domain containing protein, with a 30% similarity to *KHD1*, has been shown to also play a role in telomeric gene transcriptional silencing and in combination with $\Delta khd1$ contribute to an elongated telomeric region (Denisenko *et al.*, 2002). This elongation was suggested to be related to a defect in the telomeric rapid deletion pathway (Denisenko *et al.*, 2002).

In order to study TPE a plate based assay, that measures activation of a normally silenced *URA3* marker positioned at the telomere, was used (Fig. 19).

8.1 *KHD1* involved in telomeric silencing?

Results presented in this work show that *khd1* disrupted cells have no dramatic phenotype in telomeric gene transcriptional silencing, when compared to the wildtype (Fig. 20). Surprisingly, a double *rpd3 khd1* deletion loses telomeric gene transcriptional silencing characteristic to $\Delta rpd3$. *RPD3* encodes for a Histone H3 deacetylase and influences general acetylation levels and at the telomeric region induces gene transcriptional silencing (Rundlett *et al.*, 1996; Sun and Hampsey, 1999). The fact this additional *khd1* disruption causes such a dramatic loss of silencing shows that *khd1* really plays a role in the telomeric gene transcriptional silencing process. In order to prove that this $\Delta rpd3 \Delta khd1$ loss of silencing phenotype is a *khd1* specific event we also chose to test whether *pbp2* also caused the same phenotype. $\Delta pbp2 \Delta rpd3$ mutant cells do not behave significantly different from $\Delta pbp2$ mutant cells, although showing a partially weaker silencing than *rpd3* disrupted cells. This could mean that *pbp2* is epistatic to *rpd3*. The fact that $\Delta pbp2 \Delta rpd3$ show a less pronounced desilencing phenotype than $\Delta khd1 \Delta rpd3$ argues for a *khd1* specific effect. As changes in strength of telomeric positioning effect can be due to several different pathways and events, it is conceivable that in the same read-out, growth or no growth on 5'FOA, several effects are contained. Telomeric gene transcriptional silencing can change as a result of changes in telomeric length (Wotton and Shore, 1997), of changes in heterochromatin formation (Rundlett *et al.*, 1996) or even as a result of changes in the formation of the silencing complex *SIR2-3-4*

(Aparicio *et al.*, 1991; Moazed *et al.*, 1997). The Sir2, Sir3, and Sir4 proteins are limiting within the cell, leading to an internal competition between the telomeres and the HM loci (Buck and Shore, 1995) as well as between the telomeres and the rDNA (Smith *et al.*, 1998) for these proteins. The observation that $\Delta khd1 \Delta rpd3$ does not differ significantly in phenotype from both $\Delta sir2 \Delta rpd3$, mutant that does not form a functional SIR complex (Aparicio *et al.*, 1991; Moazed *et al.*, 1997), and $\Delta sas2 \Delta rpd3$, mutant that reduces SIR complex deposition at the telomeres (Suka *et al.*, 2002), does not allow us to conclude whether it could be a SIR complex formation event or a SIR complex localization and targeting. Considering the fact that Khd1p has been proposed to be a translation repressor we also tested whether another translation repressor, like Vts1p (Aviv *et al.*, 2002), also plays a role in TPE. Analysis of *vts1* deletion mutants in the telomeric gene transcriptional silencing assay elicited some very interesting results (discussed later). In fact, as observed for *khd1* disruption, $\Delta vts1$ shows no effect on TPE alone. On the other hand, $\Delta vts1$ does not influence transcriptional silencing in $\Delta rpd3$ mutant cells. This is in contrast to what was observed for $\Delta khd1 \Delta rpd3$ mutant cells. Khd1p could play a direct role in the TPE process or it could be an indirect event, linked to the mRNA translation repressor function and associated to the specific mRNAs it binds to. Unfortunately, until now only *ASH1* mRNA has been shown to be bound by Khd1p (Irie *et al.*, 2002).

An answer to these questions and a clearer picture on these $\Delta khd1$ and $\Delta pbp2$ effects in TPE is still needed.

8.2 Other roles in TPE for KHD1 in combination with other mutants?

In order to get a clearer picture about the role of *KHD1* in TPE, we combined a *khd1* disruption with deletions from other genes already established to be involved in TPE. We observed that $\Delta khd1$ increases silencing of $\Delta rif1$ and of $\Delta rif2$ mutant. In contrast a *pbp2* deletion in a $\Delta rif1$ causes the exact opposite, reversing the silencing effect observed for $\Delta rif1$. This indicates that i) *PBP2* might counteract *RIF* complex function in telomeric length regulation, ii) can cause a change in heterochromatin establishment, leading to a lower transcriptional activation at the telomeric site, or iii) might contribute to SIR complex deposition at the telomere.

8.3 Is KHD1 involved in telomeric length regulation?

Although it has been described for both $\Delta khd1$ and $\Delta pbp2$ to cause telomere elongation (Denisenko *et al.*, 2002), results presented in this work have not shown the same. In fact, there was no

difference observed for *khd1* or *pbp2* disruptions as compared to the wildtype. Furthermore, both show no change in telomeric length in combination with $\otimes rpd3$, indicating that it is not telomeric length regulation to cause the phenotype changes observed on the TPE assay.

Nevertheless, in support of the idea that *khd1* plays a role in telomeric length regulation, we observed that in $\Delta rif1$ cells, which already have an extended telomeric region, an additional *khd1* deletion causes a further elongation. As $\Delta rif1$ is already transcriptionally silenced (Marsellach *et al.*, 2006), this additional *khd1* disruption shows no detectable increase in the silencing phenotype observed for the TPE assay. $\Delta pbp2$, however, showed no such effect in combination with $\Delta rif1$. In fact, a double *pbp2 rif1* disruption showed an elongated telomeric region but showed a loss of silencing as compared to a single $\Delta rif1$. These results point to a rescue of the silencing defect caused by *RIF1* deletion due to the deletion of *PBP2*, which is independent from telomeric length. In addition these findings also confirmed that in combination with $\Delta rif1$ both $\Delta khd1$ and $\Delta pbp2$ contribute to telomeric elongation.

Another interesting result is that a combination of $\Delta rad27 \Delta rif1 \Delta khd1$ showed an elongated telomeric region, indicating that all three mutations regulate telomeric length in different ways. It is conceivable that this is so, taking into account that *rif1* is responsible for shortening the telomere with each cell division (Wotton and Shore, 1997), *rad27* is responsible for okazaki fragment maturation and *rad27* disruption causes an elongated lagging strand (reviewed in Liu *et al.*, 2004), *khd1*, which has been implicated in the telomeric rapid deletion pathway (Denisenko *et al.*, 2002), thus cumulatively contributing to the elongation of the telomeric region.

The longest telomeric region was observed for $\Delta rif1 \Delta rif2 \Delta khd1$, which adds evidence to the fact that indeed *khd1* plays a role in telomeric elongation, since this triple mutant shows an even more elongated telomere than $\Delta rif1 \Delta rif2$.

8.4 Can KHD1 be involved in Sir2p downregulation?

The observation that a double *khd1 rpd3* deletion mimicks a $\Delta sir2 \Delta rpd3$ or even a $\Delta sas2 \Delta rpd3$ led us to address the question whether $\Delta khd1$ was responsible for Sir2p downregulation or for delocalization of the *SIR* complex from the telomere, thus causing the loss of silencing observed (discussed above).

When Sir2p-myc9 levels were analysed in $\Delta khd1$ and in $\Delta pbp2$, we observed that they remained unchanged in $\Delta pbp2$ but were significantly reduced in $\Delta khd1$, independent of their respective *SIR2* mRNA levels, arguing for a post transcriptional regulation event in regard to *khd1*. These results

clearly show that *pbp2* and *khd1* are acting in different pathways to regulate silencing and TPE. This downregulation of Sir2p-Myc9 could be an explanation for the weaker silencing observed for the *rpd3 khd1* disrupted cells.

To address the question whether Sir2p-myc9 is correctly localized, indirect immunofluorescence was performed. There was no observable difference in localization of Sir2p-Myc9 between wildtype and $\Delta pbp2$. The very low abundance of Sir2p-myc9 in $\Delta khd1$ cells did not allow any conclusion regarding subcellular localization using the same technique (Fig. 28).

Gene transcriptional silencing occurs at three loci, rDNA, telomeres and mating type loci. Sir2, Sir3, and Sir4 proteins are limiting within the cell, leading to an internal competition between the telomeres and the HM loci (Buck and Shore, 1995) as well as between the telomeres and the rDNA (Smith *et al.*, 1998) for these proteins. The decrease of Sir2p in $\Delta khd1$ cells could explain why non-conventional mating occurs more frequently in *khd1* disrupted cells than it does for the wildtype cells (data not shown), since the mating type loci might be less effectively silenced and the available Sir2p would be somehow tethered to the rDNA loci and to the telomeres. Sir2p deposition at rDNA loci prevents homologous recombination events that create rDNA circles that cause cellular ageing (Park *et al.*, 1999; Kaeberlin *et al.*, 1999; Gottlieb and Esposito, 1989; Guarante, 2001). The fact that there is less Sir2p in a *khd1* disrupted cell could mean that it ages faster than a wildtype. It would be interesting to investigate if this is true and if so, determine how faster does it age. Taking into account that *khd1* has sequence homology to hnRNP K and hnRNP K has been shown to be involved in telomere regulation (Marsich *et al.*, 2001; Bandiera *et al.*, 2003) it would be interesting to test whether hnRNP K also affects levels of Sirtuins and thus aging regulation. It would also be interesting to determine whether there is a correlation between Khd1p function in yeast and hnRNP K functions in a more complex and regulated system, such as the human cell.

8.5 Can the observed $\Delta rpd3 \Delta khd1$ desilencing phenotype be rescued?

The results presented and discussed above show that disruption of *khd1* causes a decrease of Sir2p. Previous observations from other groups have shown that a *sir2* disruption causes loss of gene transcriptional silencing (Shore *et al.*, 1984) and *sir2* overexpression causes chromosome instability, leading even to chromosomal loss (Holmes *et al.*, 1997). Although the loss of silencing is an expected outcome for a *sir2* disruption, as the SIR complex cannot be properly formed, assembled and deposited at the silenced loci, it is not so intuitive that a *SIR2* overexpression is detrimental for cell viability. A putative explanation could be that too much deacetylation of histone tails occurs (Braunstein *et al.*, 1993) and so the overall level of transcription is severely reduced,

thus causing cell death in 5'FOA, an additional stressing factor. In fact, *SIR2* expressed from a multicopy plasmid is indeed lethal for a wildtype cell. Interestingly this is not the case for $\Delta khd1$ disrupted cells (Fig. 30).

When a *SIR2* expressed from a low-copy plasmid, a partial rescue of gene transcriptional silencing could be observed for *rpd3 khd1* double deletion, indicating that *SIR2* is indeed one of the factors affected. The fact that the rescue observed is not complete might be due to the fact that *SIR2* levels are very tightly balanced, as both an excess and a loss of *SIR2* lead to desilencing. Another possible reason would be that another factor involved in telomeric gene transcriptional silencing is also affected by $\Delta khd1$ and its loss is not completely rescued by additional copies of *SIR2*.

8.6 Does $\Delta khd1$ lead to a change in histone modifications?

Sir2p is an essential enzyme in the formation of the euchromatin/heterochromatin boundary. This is an important step in regulating transcriptional silencing or desilencing. In this regard, the levels of acetylation of the histone tails are an important determinant for the establishment of this boundary. Acetylation of Lysine 16 of Histone H4 (HH4K16Ac) is the hallmark for heterochromatin boundary formation at the telomere and it is regulated by the competition between Sir2p, a histone deacetylase and Sas2p, an histone acetyl-transferase (Suka *et al.*, 2002; Kimura *et al.*, 2002).

In order to explain the differences in silencing observed for $\Delta khd1 \Delta rpd3$ and for $\Delta pbp2 \Delta rpd3$, the acetylation levels of Histone H4 Lysines 8 (K8), 12 (K12) and 16 (K16) were analysed. Although the levels for K8 and K12 were not significantly different in order to explain the changes in silencing observed, the changes in K16 acetylation were very striking. The fact that in $\Delta khd1$ cells no changes in Histone H4 acetylation levels were observed, could mean that both Sir2p and Sas2p are downregulated or that another deacetylase, at least partially takes over Sir2p function. To better answer this question the amount of Sas2p should also be determined in order to rule out Sas2p downregulation.

Whereas $\Delta pbp2 \Delta rpd3$ showed no significant difference, in $\Delta khd1 \Delta rpd3$ cells Histone H4K16 was 3-fold more acetylated than on *rpd3* disrupted cells, consistent with the previously observed downregulation of Sir2p function and with a more transcriptionally active region.

The effects caused by *pbp2* disruption and *khd1* disruption, in spite of the domain similarity between these two genes, are not functional related. This is shown by the observation that *pbp2* disruption causes no significant change on Histone H4 acetylation and that *khd1* deletion has, probably via Sir2p. It is conceivable that the phenotype observed for $\Delta pbp2$ in desilencing of *rpd3* disruption is related to histone H3 modifications, since *rpd3* is a deacetylase of histone H3 tails and

so therefore its influence on telomeric silencing would be indirect. Furthermore, one can also hypothesize that *pbp2* could contribute to trimethylation of histone H3 tails, an important regulator of transcription (Tamaru *et al.*, 2003), and thus activate transcription at the telomeric region, resulting in the loss of silencing observed for $\Delta pbp2 \Delta rpd3$.

In summary,

- *KHD1* plays a role in telomeric gene silencing. *PBP2*, a gene quite similar to *KHD1*, in that it also encodes for a 3-KH domain containing protein, also plays an almost similar role. These roles were proven to be independent of telomeric length and again, in this read-out, both $\Delta pbp2$ and $\Delta khd1$ show similar results, leading to elongated telomeres (as proposed by Denisenko *et al.*, 2002) only in combination with $\Delta rif1$.
- However, when levels of Sir2p-Myc9 are analysed in both $\Delta khd1$ and $\Delta pbp2$ deletion mutants, $\Delta khd1$ shows a clear difference whereas $\Delta pbp2$ shows no difference. These results clearly indicate that the mechanism uncovered involving an increase of Histone H4K16Ac and a decrease of Sir2p-Myc9 in regard to a $\Delta khd1$ disruption, is specific for $\Delta khd1$.
- The fact that $\Delta pbp2$ causes a similar silencing rescue of $\Delta rpd3$, but does so independently of telomeric length control, Sir2p amount and of Histone H4K16Ac regulation suggests that *pbp2* is involved in an entirely different pathway that does not involve Sir2p or changes in Histone H4K16Ac.

8.7 Is Khd1p a part of an heterochromatin regulator complex?

The observation that $\Delta khd1$ causes a Sir2p downregulation led us to analyse whether Khd1p is a part of the *SIR* complex or a Sir2p interacting partner.

The observation that $\Delta khd1$ causes a further telomeric elongation for $\Delta rif1$ and for $\Delta rif2$ led us to investigate whether Khd1p was a part of the *RIF* protein complex.

Results in figure 33 show that Khd1p can co-purify both Sir2p and Rif2p, but does so only in the presence of DNA. These results suggest that these interactions are likely to be indirect and require DNA. The previous observation that Khd1p binds to subtelomeric DNA (Denisenko *et al.*, 2002) seems to support this DNA mediated indirect Khd1p-Sir2p and Khd1p-Rif2p interaction hypothesis.

8.8 Is *KHD1* gene transcriptional silencing influenced by telomerase RNA subunit overexpression?

Telomerase is an holoenzyme, composed of three proteins, Est1-3p and an RNA subunit, the *TLC1* RNA. Proteins involved in telomeric silencing regulation, such as Est1-4p and Yku70p, have been shown to bind *TLC1* (Peterson *et al.*, 2001; Stellwagen *et al.*, 2003; Lustig AJ, 2004) and be able to target it to the telomere, to tether it to its proper location.

Results presented in figure 32 indicate that a multicopy plasmid containing *TLC1* proves detrimental for growth of any *khd1* disrupted cell tested. This means that an overexpressed *TLC1* causes a loss of telomeric gene transcriptional silencing in a *khd1* disrupted cell. This observation is specific for $\Delta khd1$, as a deletion of another mRNA binding protein, $\Delta vts1$, which is also a translation repressor, does not show a similar phenotype. In fact, these observations suggest that Khd1p also binds to *TLC1* and contributes to the efficient tethering of *TLC1* to the telomere. This hypothesis is supported by the model that an overexpressed *TLC1* would tether Yku70p/Yku80p away from the telomere and would therefore lead to desilencing, as no *SIR* complex could be targeted and anchored at the telomeric region, via Sir4p-Yku70p binding.

Furthermore, there is another complex of proteins apart from the telomerase and Yku70p that bind *TLC1*, which is the Sm complex – small nuclear ribonucleoprotein particle (Seto *et al.*, 1999). This complex is proposed to be involved in the intracellular trafficking and maturation of the *TLC1* RNA and it would be interesting to see if *KHD1*, being a shuttling protein, is somehow functionally related to this Sm complex. As *TLC1* is a poly-adenylated RNA that is not translated and as Khd1p is a translation repressor, it is conceivable that the Khd1p-*TLC1* interaction is an important part of telomerase biogenesis.

Recently, increasing evidence has implicated mRNA surveillance mechanisms in telomerase function and biogenesis (Azzalin *et al.*, 2006; Azzalin *et al.*, 2007; Gallardo *et al.*, 2008). As *KHD1* was shown to play a role in mRNA surveillance and NMD (Section 4.1) it is possible that *KHD1* plays a role also in regulating telomeric basal transcription events, by aiding the *UPF* pathway in dealing with excess transcripts originated in this manner (Azzalin *et al.*, 2006). In addition, *VTS1* is involved in *CCR4-POP2-NOT* function in deadenylation as a part of mRNA surveillance mechanisms and mRNA turnover. The observation that $\Delta vts1$ does not show a similar phenotype to *khd1* disruption, seems to contradict this mRNA surveillance function hypothesis for *KHD1*, but it is possible that as *TLC1* is not really a mature mRNA it eludes the *CCR4-POP2-NOT* machinery.

In order to understand whether a link between Khd1p-*TLC1* exists, a direct binding of Khd1p to *TLC1* RNA should be investigated further. If there is a direct connection between Khd1p and *TLC1*, experiments should be designed to determine whether Khd1p and *TLC1* RNA shuttle together (Fig.

46) and whether this binding is relevant for the translationally repressed trafficking.

In addition, if the high-copy-*TLC1* induced loss of silencing observed for *khd1* disrupted cells (Fig. 32) is related to Yku70p/80p delocalization from the telomere, a rescue of this silencing defect should be observed, when a high copy-Yku70/80 heterodimer is supplied to the cells.

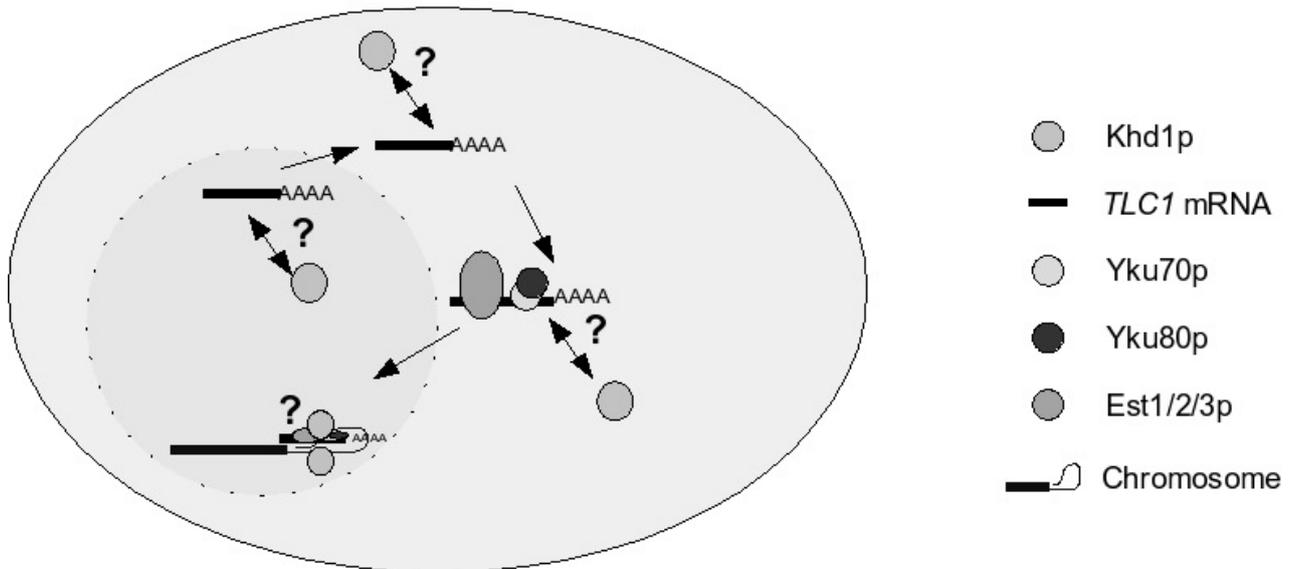


Fig. 46 - Putative Model for the connection between Khd1p and *TLC1*. As the binding between Khd1p and *TLC1* RNA is still unconfirmed, it is unclear whether this model will hold. After confirmation of the Khd1p – *TLC1* interaction it would be important to know where in the cell do they interact, whether they shuttle together from the nucleus to the cytoplasm, whether Khd1p is a translation repressor to *TLC1* providing insights into what is the relevance of this interaction.

8.9 Is *KHD1* involved in DNA repair?

Genes that are involved in telomeric gene transcriptional silencing are generally also involved in the DNA damage repair pathways. DNA repair is an extremely conserved process throughout evolution (Cromie *et al.*, 2001). The major players that are involved in this process are conserved, with a few exceptions (Reviewed in Li and Heyer, 2008; Weterings and Chen, 2008; Shrivastav *et al.*, 2008; Phillips and McKinnon, 2007). A telomere, is, in its essence a double stranded DNA break, that is not recognized as such and is not repaired and ligated to other loose DNA ends. If this occurred it would be detrimental for the cell, in terms of chromosome segregation and cell cycle progression (reviewed in Viscardi *et al.*, 2005). A telomere could therefore be envisioned as a DNA damage that escapes repair. This escape is mediated by *RAD52*, that distinguishes double strand breaks (DSB's) from telomeres. Another gene that is involved in both pathways is the yeast Ku homolog, *YKU70*, which binds to *TLC1* RNA and acts in DSB repair and non-homologous end joining (NHEJ)

(Boulton and Jackson, 1996). A protein complex that is involved in both telomere maintenance and DSB repair is the *MRE11/RAD50/XRS2* complex (Wilson *et al.*, 1999). It is responsible for homologous recombination events, both in the telomeric rapid deletion pathway, that relies on homologous recombination events to reduce long telomeric DNA regions to wildtype in a single cell division (Li and Lustig, 1996), and in the DSB repair pathway. Denisenko and Bomsztky proposed in 2002 that *KHD1* is involved in the Telomeric Rapid Deletion Pathway. To assess the validity of this hypothesis, and determine whether *KHD1* is, as the MRX complex (Ivanov *et al.*, 1992), also a *RAD52*-epistasis group member, an analysis of the genetic relationship between *KHD1* and this complex was performed, as well with other members of the DNA DSB repair pathway. Not surprisingly, no genetic relationship was found between *khd1* and *yku70*, *khd1* and *rad52* or *khd1* and *xrs2*, under normal growing conditions. At an elevated growth temperature *rad52 khd1* double disruption showed a slower growth phenotype. This observation cannot be attributed to any specific function of *RAD52* or *KHD1* but suggests that there is a relationship between DSB repair and *KHD1*. Supporting this hypothesis is the observation that mutations in genes involved in DNA related events, such as mitosis progression are temperature sensitive with *RAD52*, e.g. *BUB2* and *BUB3* (Myung *et al.*, 2004). It is conceivable that one such relationship, if existing, would be more prominent under DNA damage stress, which will be discussed further in the following sections.

8.10 Is *KHD1* involved in Double Strand Break Repair?

DNA damage repair can be normally assessed with studies on sensitivity to damage inducing drugs or radiation. Methyl-methanosulphonate, although initially thought to cause alkylation of the DNA and thus induce DSBs, causes stalling of the replication fork and mutants in the homologous recombination pathway cannot overcome this fork stalling and thus exhibit extreme sensitivity to this agent (Lundin *et al.*, 2005). UV radiation, one example of radiation commonly used, induces thymidine dimer formation and can also cause stalling of the replication fork, and in addition nucleotide misincorporation and thus lead to deleterious mutations (Matsumu and Ananthaswamy, 2004). *Δkhd1* cells showed no increased sensitivity to UV radiation. Nor did they show any increased sensitivity in combination with *Δrad52* when grown at 30 degrees. *Δkhd1* did however show a decreased viability with *Δxrs2* at high UV dosage (50μJ). The DNA repair defect caused by *Δkhd1* is even more pronounced when *Δrad52 Δkhd1* irradiated cells were grown at 37 degrees (Fig. 35). In this combination of conditions, *Δrad52 Δkhd1* mutant cells exhibit an extremely reduced fitness, indicating indeed a defect in DNA repair, although the fact that this double mutant

combination leads to synthetic growth defect at elevated temperatures makes the results harder to interpret.

The fact that both $\Delta xrs2 \Delta khdl$ and $\Delta rad52 \Delta khdl$ show no elevated sensitivity to increasing concentrations of hydroxyurea (Fig. 36), a DNA replication inhibitor, points to a direct role of *KHD1* in DNA repair, independent of DNA replication.

This defect in DNA repair is even more evident when the results for sensitivity to MMS are analysed. Again, although *Akhd1* alone shows no defect in regard to MMS sensitivity alone it does so with *Rad52* and also with *Xrs2*, as seen for all MMS concentrations tested. These findings support the idea that *KHD1* plays indeed a role in DNA DSB repair. The above results would indicate that *RAD52* and *KHD1* contribute to different pathways in DSB repair. As *XRS2* is involved in both already characterized DSB repair pathways (Fig. 19), it is not surprising that *khdl* deletion also shows a DNA repair defect with *xrs2* deletion. The results mentioned above suggest that *KHD1* can play a role not in recombinational repair (*rad52* dependent) but in non homologous end joining, a DSB repair pathway that does not require *RAD52* but does *YKU70/YKU80*. The possibility that *KHD1*, a translation repressor involved in mRNA localization could also be involved in NHEJ and DNA related events is an extremely interesting possibility. One could fit a model to *KHD1* that includes first, a cytoplasmic function, in translation repression and mRNA localization and second, a nuclear function, related to telomeres and NHEJ, that could also involve *TLC1* RNA. This model could also be fitted with the observation that Khd1p can be trapped in the nucleus in an mRNA dependent manner, clearly showing that it is a shuttling protein and that it could have a nuclear function (Du *et al.*, 2008).

8.11 Is *KHD1* involved in Non-Homologous End Joining?

Non homologous end joining is a process where loose ends of DNA are ligated, and hence, repaired (Hefferin *et al.*, 2005; Daley *et al.*, 2005). This process, that does not need sequence homology between ends, requires a functional Yku70/80 heterodimer, to recognize the double stranded break and initiate the repair process (Boulton and Jackson, 1996; Boulton and Jackson, 1996; Boulton and Jackson, 1998) (Figs. 18 and 19). The presented results in figure 38 show a decrease in NHEJ efficiency assigned to *KHD1* disruption in all mutant combinations analysed, except for *YKU70 KHD1* double disruption. This latter result, indicates epistasis between *KHD1* and *YKU70* in regard to NHEJ, supporting the proposed hypothesis that *KHD1* plays a role in NHEJ. Although the result in itself is clear, it is not clear whether it really is due to *Akhd1* directly or to any of the mRNAs whose translation it regulates. This hypothesis cannot be disproven nor can the model for the two

independent and separate functions, a cytoplasmic function and a nuclear function for *KHD1*. Adding to this unclear situation is the fact that there are genes that are involved in NHEJ that show almost no change in strength of telomeric gene transcriptional silencing. Some of these genes show an increased non-conventional mating frequency and show different MMS sensitivities - e.g. *POL4* (Wilson and Lieber, 1999; Sterling *et al.*, 2006) or show an effect for only a part of the observed *Δkhd1* phenotypes, e.g. *SIR2* (loss of *SIR2* leads to telomeric gene transcriptional desilencing, NHEJ defect and MMS sensitivity - Cohen *et al.*, 2004). One cannot rule out a pleiotropic effect related to mRNAs that are misregulated by *KHD1* disruption that cause the observed phenotypes. Further experiments on this issue are required in order to assert which of the models is true.

8.12 *KHD1* disruption NHEJ defect can be assigned to KH domain-2

KH-domains, or hnRNP K homology domains, are capable of binding nucleic acids. In FMR1 a point mutation in KH domain-3, Ile304Asn, was described to cause loss of FMR1 association to mRNA in polysomes (Laggerbauer *et al.*, 2001). After alignment and structure modelling of each of the KH domains of Khd1p, we generated point mutants I59R, I68R, I183R in Khd1p that should disrupt the KH domain folds for KH domains 1 and 2 and a L284R on the third KH domain, corresponding to Ile304Asn of FMR-1, that should disrupt polysome association (Siomi *et al.*, 1994; Laggerbauer *et al.*, 2001). The observation that point mutant L284R is still able to rescue the NHEJ defect of *Δkhd1* (Fig. 39) indicates that this point mutant does not disrupt Khd1p function in the NHEJ context. On the other hand, the point mutant I183R no longer rescues this NHEJ defect and therefore one can assume that the KH domain 2 is the one that is responsible for Khd1p role in NHEJ. This result suggests that KH domain 2 either binds directly to DNA or binds an mRNA required for proper NHEJ. In order to elucidate this point, gel shift assays with subtelomeric DNA and *ASH1*-mRNA should be performed to determine whether this point mutant still binds nucleic acids and if not, which one does it no longer bind. This information could direct further research into the relevance of *KHD1* in this process.

In addition, it would be interesting to see if a point mutant in KH domain-1 also still rescues the NHEJ in order to confirm that KH-domain 2 alone is responsible for this NHEJ effect.

8.13 Possible functional significance of *KHD1*/hnRNP K involvement in NHEJ:

Inherited mutations that affect DNA repair genes are strongly associated with high cancer risks in

humans. Hereditary nonpolyposis colorectal cancer (HNPCC) is strongly associated with specific mutations in the DNA mismatch repair pathway. *BRCA1* and *BRCA2*, two genes that when mutated confer a hugely increased risk of breast cancer on carriers, are both associated with a large number of DNA repair pathways, especially NHEJ and homologous recombination. If hnRNP K can be tracked down to show the same defect as $\Delta khdl$ in NHEJ, then a direct connection between other types of cancer, not due to *BRCA1* or *BRCA2* mutations, can be looked for and studied.

In summary

- *KHDI* is involved in DNA repair, showing increased sensitivity to UV and to MMS but not to hydroxyurea.
- *KHDI* contributes to NHEJ function.
- A KH-domain2 point mutant, Khd1p-I183R mutant cannot rescue the NHEJ defect observed for *KHDI* disruption.

8.14 VTS1, another translation factor involved in telomeric silencing?

The fact that *KHDI* is a translation repressor involved in mRNA localization and also plays a role in telomere gene transcriptional silencing, DSB repair and NHEJ originated interesting new ideas on the role of translation repressors in the tight control of telomere maintenance and DNA related events. *VTS1* is a translation repressor, homologous to Smaug (Aviv *et al.* 2003; Aviv *et al.*, 2006) and was initially found to be involved in vesicle trafficking (Dilcher *et al.*, 2001). *VTS1* disruption causes a slightly stronger telomeric gene transcriptional silencing. Interestingly, *VTS1 RIF1* double disrupted cells exhibit a temperature sensitivity and a complete gene transcriptional desilencing, indicating a telomere and DNA associated phenotype. This is a quite striking event as a *RIF1* disruption normally causes a transcriptional silence at the telomere site due to an overextended telomeric region (Marsellach *et al.*, 2006; Levy *et al.*, 2004; Mishra *et al.*, 1999; Wotton *et al.*, 1997). In addition, *KHDI RIF1* double disruption showed a slightly better than $\Delta RIF1$ gene transcriptional silencing, pointing that it is not general translation repressor related but a $\Delta vts1$ specific event. Surprisingly, the fact that *RIF2 VTS1* double disruption shows no temperature sensitive phenotype nor does it show such extreme gene transcriptional desilencing, suggests that it is a $\Delta rif1 \Delta vts1$ combination specific event. This is even more surprising, when taking into account that *RIF1* and *RIF2* have always been considered to act together, as a part of the same protein complex (Wotton and Shore, 1997) and this is the first indication of an event where they act separately.

8.15 Does $\Delta VTS1 \Delta RIF1$ cause a cell cycle progression defect?

Is it sensitive to hydroxyurea?

Hydroxyurea is a drug that inhibits S-phase progression and is commonly used to assess defects in cell cycle progression. As a DNA replication inhibitor, causes ribonucleotide depletion and results in DNA double strand breaks near replication forks. In these growth conditions, $\Delta rif1 \Delta vts1$ definitely shows sensitivity to increasing concentrations of hydroxyurea whereas neither the single mutants nor $\Delta rif2 \Delta vts1$ do. These findings seem to indicate that $\Delta rif1 \Delta vts1$ have a cell cycle progression defect, although it cannot be ruled out that a differential cell wall permeability could explain the differences in hydroxyurea sensitivity. Furthermore, one other hypothesis that cannot also be ruled out is that both temperature stress, 5'FOA stress and hydroxyurea stress can easily tip the scale in a weak survival balance. In other words, it can be that $\Delta rif1 \Delta vts1$ is already so sick that an additional stress causes its death. This hypothesis was then disproven by FACS analysis of $vts1 rif1$ double deletion, that show an increase in DNA content, possibly due to a cytokinesis defect, as shown by the increased 2n, 3n, 4n peaks in the FACS analysis. This has also been shown to occur with guanydine depleted cells (Sagot *et al.*, 2005) that also fail to complete proper cytokinesis. This cytokinesis defect hypothesis was then confirmed by a microscope analysis of these mutant cells (Fig. 43). $Rif1 vts1$ double mutant cells accumulate multiple buds, thus explaining the single increment in DNA content. Furthermore, they also show a number of tripartite spindles, lagging and bridging chromosomes, which is an indicator of a defect in chromosome segregation, most likely related to anaphase checkpoint defects and spindle assembly, such as those related to *MAD* and *BUB* genes, to *NDC80* complex and to *CBF3* complex (Martinez-Exposito *et al.*, 1999; Gillet *et al.*, 2004; Gardner *et al.*, 2001; McClelland *et al.*, 2003).

Most importantly, $\Delta rif2 \Delta vts1$ showed no similar phenotype, supporting the initial observation that it is a $\Delta rif1 \Delta vts1$ combination specific effect.

As *VTS1* encodes a translation repressor, it cannot be ruled out that the observed phenotype is a result of a misregulation of specific mRNAs. In a recent publication, a set of 79 mRNAs were shown to be bound and regulated by Vts1p (Aviv *et al.*, 2006). Of these, several were cell cycle related, such as *CLN1*, a cyclin, *PHO85*, a cyclin dependent kinase and 6 other cell cycle, spindle orientation and polarization related genes. The most relevant could be *NNF1* (Shan *et al.*, 1997), which has been shown to be involved in chromosomal segregation and kinetochore attachment, nuclear envelope integrity and other cell cycle regulated processes. It is therefore conceivable that this defect observed for $\Delta rif1 \Delta vts1$ is an underlying effect due solely to *VTS1* disruption that the

additional *RIF1* disruption brings into the spotlight.

8.16 Can VTS1 encode also a shuttling protein, with a translation repressor function in the cytoplasm and another function in the nucleus?

Some proteins can move in and out of the nucleus and are thus called shuttling proteins. She2p and Khd1p are two examples (Kruse *et al.*, 2002; Du *et al.*, 2008) that have already been discussed in previous sections. They can be trapped in the nucleus in an mRNA dependent manner, by use of a temperature sensitive allele of an mRNA nuclear export factor, *MEX67* (Segref *et al.*, 1999). Using the same tool and the same set up, Vts1p was shown not to accumulate in the nucleus in an mRNA dependent manner. The fact that it does not accumulate in the nucleus in an mRNA dependent manner does not mean altogether that it does not shuttle. In fact, other protein factors such as karyopherins (reviewed in Koehler and Hurt, 2007) are involved in the import and export of proteins and further experiments with these mutants would eventually show whether Vts1p is a shuttling protein.

8.17 Is the phenotype observed related to telomeric length regulation?

Rif1p is a part of the *RIF* complex that interacts with Rap1p (Wotton *et al.*, 1997). *Δrif1* causes an elongated telomere, due to loss of negative length regulation. The fact that *Δrif1 Δvts1* shows a total loss of the subtelomeric region whereas a *Δrif2 Δvts1* does not, further strengthens the model that it is *Δrif1 Δvts1* specific observation. The recent observation that SMG1 deletion causes telomeric instability and can lead to telomere loss (Azzalin *et al.*, 2006) strengthens the hypothesis that the same is true for the *Δrif1 Δvts1* double mutant analysed. The observations presented above, hydroxyurea sensitivity, mitotic spindle misorientation and tribudded cells, point also to a ribonucleotide reductase defect and it would be interesting to determine whether the telomeric instability observed for *Δrif1 Δvts1* can be linked to this enzymatic defect.

In summary

- *Δrif1 Δvts1* cells show telomeric gene transcriptional desilencing and temperature sensitivity.
- *Δrif1 Δvts1* cells are sensitive to hydroxyurea and exhibit abnormal cell cycle progression, both evidenced by the FACS analysis results – increase of DNA content – and by the microscopic data – abnormal spindles and cytokinesis defect.

- The *Δrif1 Δvts1* cells analysed suffered telomeric catastrophe, as seen by the southern blot results.
- All these observations were made only for *Δrif1 Δvts1* and not for *Δrif2 Δvts1*, indicating a specific defect associated to *Δrif1 Δvts1* cells, independently of *RIF2* function.
- This is the first indication of a process where Rif1p and Rif2p do not act together.

Although on the one hand the connection between *Δrif1 Δvts1* and cell cycle progression is extremely interesting, on the other hand the possibility that it all might be due to a misregulation of mRNAs due to *VTS1* disruption, makes it difficult to analyse. It would be interesting to see if any of the identified mRNAs bound by Vts1p (Aviv *et al.*, 2006) rescues, either by over-expression or by deletion, the cytokinesis defect and/or the spindle orientation defect. Telomere checkpoint defects can also be associated to lagging and bridging chromosomes, as seen for spindle orientation mutants, which adds in complexity (Musaro *et al.*, 2008; Lazzaro *et al.*, 2008; Review in Viscardi *et al.*, 2005).

As Smaug is an extremely conserved translational repressor, the fact that a whole new field of study on Smaug function can now be available can be of a crucial importance and might bring several important hints in cell cycle control related to translation repression.

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10. Summary

ASH1 mRNA translation has been shown to be required for efficient anchoring of *ASH1* mRNA to the bud-tip during the process of mRNA localization.

Khd1p, a 3-KH domain containing protein, has been shown to be involved in *ASH1* mRNA localization and has been proposed to be a translation repressor (Irie *et al.*, 2002). This thesis focuses on the role of Khd1p in *ASH1* mRNP architecture, specially in its relationship to other members of the locosome. Results presented show that Khd1p is a part of an RNA-independent protein complex that includes She3p and She2p, indicating Khd1p is a part of the locosome via protein-protein interactions. Furthermore, the observation that Khd1p and She3p interact independently of She2p indicates that another protein complex exists and that this complex could be another cargo for the SHE mRNA localization machinery. On the other hand, results presented in this work show that Khd1p floats with ER membranes, as observed for She2p (Schmid *et al.*, 2006) indicating that Khd1p is also implicated in ER-associated. The fact that Khd1p floats independently of She2p indicates that it might be involved in ER inheritance, via a direct binding to She3p. During the course of this work, it was shown that Khd1p is phosphorylated by Yck1p at the cellular periphery and upon phosphorylation, Khd1p releases the *ASH1* mRNA translation block (Paquin *et al.*, 2007) thus proving the model for Khd1p function in translation repression during *ASH1* mRNA transport and localization.

Khd1p, an hnRNP K homolog, has also been shown to play a role in telomeric silencing and be bound to subtelomeric chromatin (Denisenko *et al.*, 2002). This thesis addresses how Khd1p, an mRNA binding protein, can also play a role in this process. Results presented show that Khd1p contributes to telomeric gene transcriptional silencing. Associated to loss of *KHDI* I found that Sir2p levels are downregulated, leading to loss of silencing in mutants known to be silenced (e.g. *RPD3* – Rundlett *et al.*, 1996). This loss of silencing could be partially rescued with wildtype copies of *SIR2*.

Results presented in this work suggest that *KHDI* is also involved in binding to the telomerase RNA subunit, *TLCI* or even in its biogenesis.

In addition, a loss of *KHDI* also led to increased sensitivity to DNA damaging agents (UV and MMS) of *rad52* and *xrs2* null mutants. Results presented show that *KHDI* contributes to NHEJ DNA repair efficiency and that this loss of NHEJ efficiency can be rescued with a wildtype copy of *KHDI*. In addition, a point mutant I183R, cannot rescue this NHEJ defect, thus implying that this

residue or the folding of this KH domain is essential for NHEJ function.

Results presented in this thesis establish Khd1p as a putative new cargo for the SHE machinery and also as an ER associated protein. Furthermore, results presented here also establish Khd1p as a regulator of gene transcriptional telomeric silencing, associated to a downregulation of Sir2p. In addition, we show that Khd1p contributes to NHEJ DNA repair, indicating a much wider action than just in mRNA localization.

11. Curriculum Vitae

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Education

λGymnasium completed with a score of **18** (out of 20) in Catholic School, Lisbon

λDegree in *Microbial Biology and Genetics*, from the University of Lisbon, Science Faculty, in July 2001, with a score of **16** (out of 20).

λI *Workshop on Plant Biotechnology*, ITQB, Oeiras, September 1998.

λIV *Practical Course on Microbial Molecular Taxonomy* – February 2001, Centre of Genetics and Molecular Biology (CGBM – Lisbon).

λI *International Workshop on Microbial Risk Assessment and Mitigation* – Veterinary Medicine Faculty, Lisbon; École Veterinaire de Alford (France), Cornell Veterinary Medicine, April 2002.

λI *International Workshop on Biological Sequence Analysis* – coordinators: Cheetham J., Cruz e Silva E., Carleton University / Aveiro University, Aveiro, June 2003.

Graduate School

•III *International Forensic Y-User Workshop – Y Chromosome Haplotype Databases, state of the art and future developments* – Oporto, November 2002.

•XII *Congresso Nacional de Bioquímica (XII National Biochemistry Congress)* – Lisbon, December 2002.

•*Genetic Epidemiology* – coordinator: Sousa A., UniGENe/IBMC, Oporto, December 2002.

- *The Life of an mRNA* - Speakers: Proudfoot N., Smith C., Izarraulde E., Carmo-Fonseca M., Tollervey D., Moreira A., Oporto, January 2003.
- *Advanced Course in Functional Proteomics* – coordinator: Santos M., Boucherie E., Aveiro University/Bordeaux University, Aveiro, February 2003.
- *Molecular Biology Cell Cycle* – coordinator: Sunkel C., IBMC, Oporto, February 2003.
- *RNOMICS* – coordinator: Carmo-Fonseca M., Medical Faculty, Lisbon University, Lisbon, February 2003.
- *Lymphocyte Population Dynamics* – coordinator: Rocha B., Vieira P., Freitas A., Necker Institut/Pasteur Institut, Oporto, February 2003.
- *Infection & Immunity* – coordinator: Appelberg R., IBMC, Oporto, March 2003.
- *Malaria and Tropical Diseases* – coordinator: Rosario V. & Cartwright IHMT (Tropical Medicine and Hygiene Institute) / Glasgow University, Lisbon, March 2003.
- *XII Porto Cancer Meeting* – coordinator: Sobrinho-Simões M., IPATIMUP, Oporto, March 2003.
- *T-Lymphocyte Biology* – coordinator: Arosa F. & Damjanovich S., IBMC / Hungarian Academy of Sciences, Oporto, April 2003.
- *Double Helix – 50th anniversary* - coordinator: Wigzell H & Sousa M. Karolynska Institut / IBMC, Oporto, April 2003.
- *Molecular Parasitology* – coordinator: Tomás A., IBMC, Oporto, April 2003.
- *Integrative Neuroscience: From Molecules to Mind* – coordinator: Costa R., Nicolelis M., Galhardo V., Duke University / IBMC / Medical Faculty - Oporto University, May 2003.
- *Peroxisomal biology* – coordinator: Jorge , IBMC, Oporto, May 2003.
- *Developmental Biology* – coordinator: Casares F., IBMC, Oporto, May 2003.
- *Biostatistics* – coordinator: Vieira J., IBMC, Oporto, June 2003.
- *Lymphocyte Activation* – speakers: Carmo A., Davies S. , IBMC, Oporto, Oxford University, UK, June 2003.
- *Biostatistics* – coordinator: Vieira J., IBMC/Minho University, Oporto, June 2003.

Language Education

- Cambridge University First Certificate in English – Grade A.
- Cambridge University Certificate of Advanced English – Grade A.
- IELTS exam – June 2003 – band 8,5 (out of 9).
- IELTS exam – May 2008 – band 8 (out of 9).

- Currently attending German Lessons at InLingua, Muenchen.

Working Experience

- Diploma Thesis - “Molecular Epidemiology of *Mycobacterium tuberculosis* infection – Development of Fast Detection Procedures”.

In this work a RFLP and Spolypotyping analysis of isolates of *Mycobacterium tuberculosis* were performed in an attempt to elucidate relationships between isolates, strains and establish molecular connections.

Also, a PCR-based detection method was developed, using *GyrB* gene sequences that are species-specific. Using the same approach and based on the same sequences, a FISH – Fluorescent *In Situ* Hybridisation assay, was developed.

In order to associate MultiDrugResistant-TB with genetic determinants, antibiograms were performed in parallel with sequencing of genes known to confer resistance.

- Two-month Training Course in Food Protection and Analysis at the Sanitation Inspection Laboratory, Veterinary Medicine Faculty, Lisbon, under the supervision of Prof. Dr. Fernando Bernardo.
- Development of a FISH protocol for rapid detection of *Listeria monocytogenes* in foods in the same Laboratory.
- Three-month Training Course in Yeast Genetics and Molecular Biology, at Eukaryotic Genetics Laboratory, Aveiro University, under the supervision of Prof. Dr. Manuel Santos, EMBO Young Investigator.
- Teaching Laboratory Classes (Practicals) in the Health Science Institute – Lisbon. Subjects taught:

Genetics

Genetic Engineering

- PhD Thesis – “**Khd1p, a protein with multiple roles in mRNA localization and Telomeric Silencing**”

In this work the role of a putative translation repressor, *KHD1*, was analysed in the context of mRNA localization, using the budding yeast *S. cerevisiae* as a model.

This gene was also proposed to be involved in telomeric silencing and in nonsense mediated decay. With this work, we show that Khd1p contributes to Sir2p regulation and is involved in NHEJ regulation, a DNA repair pathway.

Posters

Portugal I., Andrade G. and Brum L. (2001). Caracterização Molecular de Isolados Clínicos de *Mycobacterium tuberculosis*. *Congresso Nacional de Microbiologia – MICRO'2001* (December 2001) Póvoa do Varzim, Portugal.

Oliveira, M.; Andrade, G.; Guerra, M. e Bernardo, F. (2002). Development of a Fluorescence *In Situ* Hybridization test for *Listeria monocytogenes* detection. *Actas Xth International Congress of Bacteriology and Applied Microbiology* (27 July-01 August). Paris, France.

Oliveira, M.; Andrade, G.; Guerra, M. e Bernardo, F. (2002). Development of a Fluorescent *In Situ* Hybridization protocol for the rapid detection of *Listeria monocytogenes*. *Actas Food Protection 2002* (22 February). Monte da Caparica, Portugal, 66.

Andrade, G. and Jansen, R.-P. (2002). How does Localization influence mRNA turnover?. *GABBA PhD Program Annual Meeting* (17th-21st December). Oporto, Portugal.

Guerra, M.M.; Andrade, G.R.; Saraiva Lima, M.; Bernardo, F. *Listeria monocytogenes* em ensilagens: prevalência e ecologia [*Listeria monocytogenes* in ensilages: prevalence and ecology]. Congresso da Sociedade Portuguesa de Ciências Veterinárias (10-12 October). Taguspark-Oeiras, Portugal.

Andrade, G. and Jansen, R.-P. (2005). Translational Regulation of a Localized mRNA, an *ASH1* mRNA tale. *ELSO Meeting* (3rd-6th September). Dresden, Germany.

Publications

Oliveira, M.; Andrade, G.; Guerra, M. e Bernardo, F. (2003). Development of a Fluorescent *In Situ* Hybridization protocol for the rapid detection and enumeration of *Listeria monocytogenes* in milk. *RPCV* (2003) 98 (547) 119-124.

Andrade, G. and Jansen, R.-P. (2005). Moving with Muscleblind. *Nature Cell Biology* 7 (12) 1055-6.

News and Views.