

Ribosome biogenesis factors—from names to functions

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Abstract

The assembly of ribosomal subunits is a highly orchestrated process that involves a huge cohort of accessory factors. Most eukaryotic ribosome biogenesis factors were first identified by genetic screens and proteomic approaches of pre-ribosomal particles in *Saccharomyces cerevisiae*. Later, research on human ribosome synthesis not only demonstrated that the requirement for many of these factors is conserved in evolution, but also revealed the involvement of additional players, reflecting a more complex assembly pathway in mammalian cells. Yet, it remained a challenge for the field to assign a function to many of the identified factors and to reveal their molecular mode of action. Over the past decade, structural, biochemical, and cellular studies have largely filled this gap in knowledge and led to a detailed understanding of the molecular role that many of the players have during the stepwise process of ribosome maturation. Such detailed knowledge of the function of ribosome biogenesis factors will be key to further understand and better treat diseases linked to disturbed ribosome assembly, including ribosomopathies, as well as different types of cancer.

Keywords pre-ribosomal particle; pre-rRNA processing; ribosomal subunit; ribosome biogenesis factor; ribosome synthesis

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Introduction

Ribosomes are at the heart of messenger (mRNA) translation, a key process of gene expression in all organisms. In eukaryotes, ribosomes consist of a small 40S and a large 60S subunit that together form the translation-competent 80S ribosome. The 40S subunit comprises the 18S ribosomal RNA (rRNA) as well as 33 ribosomal proteins (RPs), whereas the 60S subunit contains three rRNAs, the 25S/28S, 5.8S, and 5S rRNAs, as well as 46 RPs in yeast and 47 RPs in humans (Table 1). During protein synthesis, mRNA is bound by

the 40S subunit, which harbors the decoding center designed for pairing of an mRNA codon with a cognate tRNA. The peptidyl transferase center (PTC) in the 60S subunit catalyzes peptide bond formation in the emerging polypeptide chain, which leaves the ribosome through the peptide exit tunnel (PET) of the 60S subunit. As the catalytic PTC is formed by rRNA, the ribosome is classified as a ribozyme (Cech, 2000; Nissen *et al*, 2000).

Due to their importance in mRNA translation, decoding center, PTC, PET, and translation factor binding sites are the evolutionarily most conserved regions of ribosomes (Klinge *et al*, 2012; Melnikov *et al*, 2012). In contrast to the conserved core structure, overall ribosomal composition, size, and complexity vary between the different kingdoms of life (Table 1). The number of rRNAs and their length increased significantly from bacteria and archaea to eukaryotes. Eukaryotic rRNAs display several large rRNA expansion segments with largely unexplored function. The accretion of these expansion segments bears the major contribution to the increase in rRNA length and ribosome size from yeast to vertebrates (Table 1) (Hariharan *et al*, 2022). Furthermore, eukaryotic ribosomes contain additional RPs, and most RPs of the conserved core harbor extensions and insertions (Spahn *et al*, 2001; Armache *et al*, 2010; Ben-Shem *et al*, 2011; Klinge *et al*, 2011; Rabl *et al*, 2011; Melnikov *et al*, 2012; Khatter *et al*, 2015).

Assembly of both ribosomal subunits requires deposition of the numerous RPs on the pre-rRNAs concomitant with rRNA transcription, modification, folding, and processing, which all occur in a hierarchical, highly orchestrated, and energetically expensive cellular process (Warner, 1999). Although bacterial ribosomal subunits can be reconstituted at elevated temperature *in vitro* by mixing mature rRNAs and ribosomal proteins, their assembly *in vivo* is supported by about 50 non-ribosomal factors (Held *et al*, 1973; Nierhaus & Dohme, 1974; Kaczanowska & Rydén-Aulin, 2007; Shajani *et al*, 2011; Gibbs & Fredrick, 2018). In contrast to prokaryotes, where the assembly process occurs in a single compartment, the cytoplasm, eukaryotic cells are highly compartmentalized and ribosomal subunit maturation starts in the nucleolus, continues in the nucleoplasm and is only finalized in the cytoplasm. The eukaryotic subunit assembly process involves several hundred non-ribosomal factors, termed ribosome biogenesis factors (RBFs), which function as chaperones and as modification, processing, assembly, and

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Table 1. Composition of ribosomes from different kingdoms.

| | Bacteria | Archaea | Eukaryotes | |
|------------------------------|----------------|--------------------|----------------------|-------------------|
| | <i>E. coli</i> | <i>P. furiosus</i> | <i>S. cerevisiae</i> | <i>H. sapiens</i> |
| Molecular weight | | | | |
| Ribosome | 2.3 MDa | 2.6 MDa | 3.3 MDa | 4.3 MDa |
| LSU | 1.45 MDa | 1.7 MDa | 2.1 MDa | 3.1 MDa |
| SSU | 0.8 MDa | 0.9 MDa | 1.2 MDa | 1.2 MDa |
| Sedimentation coefficients | | | | |
| Ribosome | 70S | 70S | 80S | 80S |
| LSU | 50S | 50S | 60S | 60S |
| SSU | 30S | 30S | 40S | 40S |
| rRNAs | | | | |
| LSU | 23S | 23S | 25S | 28S |
| | 5S | 5S | 5S | 5S |
| | | | 5.8S | 5.8S |
| SSU | 16S | 16S | 18S | 18S |
| rRNA length (nucleotides) | | | | |
| Total | 4,567 | 4,712 | 5,475 | 7,181 |
| LSU (23/25/28S +5S (+5.8S)) | 2,904 + 121 | 3,096 + 121 | 3,396 + 158 + 121 | 5,034 + 156 + 121 |
| SSU (18S) | 1,542 | 1,495 | 1,800 | 1,870 |
| Number of ribosomal proteins | | | | |
| Ribosome | 54 | 69 | 79 | 80 |
| LSU | 33 | 42 | 46 | 47 |
| SSU | 21 | 27 | 33 | 33 |

Properties of ribosomes in bacteria (*E. coli*), archaea (*P. furiosus*), and lower (*S. cerevisiae*) and higher (*H. sapiens*) eukaryotes.

remodeling factors. These RBFs transiently associate with pre-ribosomal particles, but are not part of mature ribosomes. Along with the growing complexity of ribosome composition throughout evolution, the intricacy of the eukaryotic ribosome biogenesis pathway and the regulatory interplays with other processes also increased.

Eukaryotic ribosome assembly starts with the transcription of a polycistronic pre-rRNA precursor by RNA polymerase I (RNAPI) in the nucleolus (Fig 1) (Turowski & Tollervy, 2015). Emerging rRNA stretches are quickly bound by some early assembling RPs as well as RBFs, giving rise to a large, 90S-sized precursor particle in the nucleolus (Klinge & Woolford, 2019; vanden Broeck & Klinge, 2022). A critical endonucleolytic pre-rRNA cleavage event then leads to the separation of the pre-40S and pre-60S particles (Baßler & Hurt, 2019; Bohnsack & Bohnsack, 2019). Both subunits subsequently undergo a number of nucle(ol)ar maturation steps, including the incorporation of the 5S rRNA, transcribed by RNA polymerase III (RNAPIII), into the pre-60S subunit (Woolford & Baserga, 2013; de la Cruz et al, 2015; Kressler et al, 2017; Chaker-Margot & Klinge, 2019; Frazier et al, 2021). After nuclear export, final assembly events take place in the cytoplasm, including the release of remaining RBFs and incorporation of missing RPs, giving rise to mature, translationally competent subunits (Kressler et al, 2017; Peña et al, 2017).

Early work in the 1970s already indicated that yeast and human cells employ broadly similar principles for ribosome maturation, which differ substantially from prokaryotic ribosome synthesis

(Darnell, 1968; Udem et al, 1971; Warner, 1971; Trapman et al, 1975). Many eukaryotic RBFs were first identified in genetic screens and proteomic approaches using budding yeast as a model organism, yet their function was often unraveled only later by biochemical studies (Hurt et al, 1999; Stage-Zimmermann et al, 2000; Dragon et al, 2002; Nissan et al, 2002; Saveanu et al, 2003; Schäfer et al, 2003; Woolford & Baserga, 2013). Over time, an increasing number of structural snapshots of ribosomal pre-particles from various stages of the assembly process has tremendously increased the understanding of RBF functionalities (Barrio-Garcia et al, 2016; Kornprobst et al, 2016; Wu et al, 2016; Zhang et al, 2016b; Barandun et al, 2017; Cheng et al, 2017; Kater et al, 2017, 2020; Ma et al, 2017; Sun et al, 2017; Sanghai et al, 2018; Scaiola et al, 2018; Chaker-Margot & Klinge, 2019; Kargas et al, 2019; Klinge & Woolford, 2019; Zhou et al, 2019a, 2019b). In the past 15 years, biochemical, cellular, and structural studies including large-scale screening and proteomic approaches have revealed commonalities and differences in ribosome synthesis between lower and higher eukaryotes (Couté et al, 2008; Wild et al, 2010; Finkbeiner et al, 2011; Simabuco et al, 2012; Widmann et al, 2012; Tafforeau et al, 2013; Wyler et al, 2014; Zemp et al, 2014, 2009; Badertscher et al, 2015; Wandrey et al, 2015; Larburu et al, 2016; Raman et al, 2016; Fromm et al, 2017; Memet et al, 2017; Montellese et al, 2017, 2020; Ameismeier et al, 2018, 2020; Farley-Barnes et al, 2018; Boneberg et al, 2019; Braun et al, 2020; Choudhury et al, 2020, 2019; Liang et al, 2020; Gerhardy

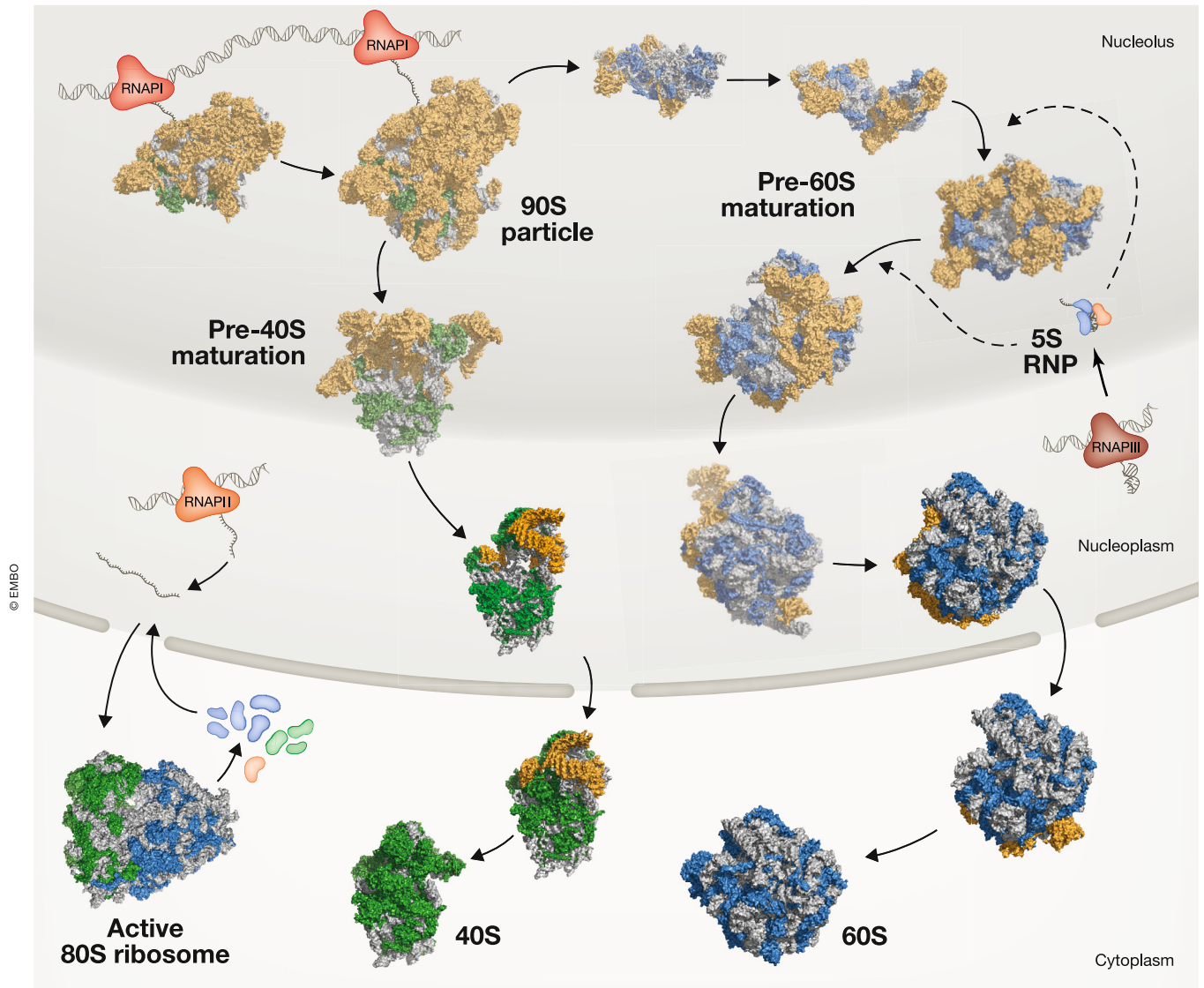


Figure 1. Overview of eukaryotic ribosome biogenesis.

In the nucleolus, a rRNA precursor is transcribed by RNAPI and co-transcriptionally joined by RPs and RBFs, giving rise to a 90S pre-ribosomal particle. After pre-rRNA cleavage (site 2 in human, A₂ in yeast), the pre-40S and pre-60S particles further mature independently in the nucleolus and the nucleoplasm. After export through the nuclear pore complex, final maturation steps occur in the cytoplasm, yielding 40S and 60S subunits competent for mRNA translation. RNAPIII transcribes the 5S rRNA (nucleolar in human cells, nucleoplasmic in yeast), which joins pre-60S particles in the nucleolus as part of the 5S RNP complex. RNAPII transcribes mRNAs of RP and RBF genes, which are translated by the 80S ribosome in the cytoplasm and then imported into the nucleus. Structural snapshots of maturing 90S (PDB ID: 6ZQA, 6ZQC), pre-40S (PDB ID: 6G4W, 6G4S, 6ZQF), and pre-60S particles (PDB ID: 6EM3, 6CDF, 6ELZ, 3JCT, 5JCS, 6LU8, 6LSR) as well as mature subunits (PDB ID: 6G5H, 3J7P) are shown. RBFs are displayed in orange, Rps in green, Rpl in blue, rRNA in gray. Structures solved in yeast are shown with reduced opacity, currently no structures of the corresponding human maturation stages are available.

et al, 2021; Ogawa *et al*, 2021; Pöll *et al*, 2021; Singh *et al*, 2021; Dörner *et al*, 2022; Sailer *et al*, 2022).

Underscoring the importance of ribosome maturation for cellular and organismal homeostasis, defects in ribosome biogenesis are associated with a variety of human diseases. Most RPs and RBFs are encoded by essential genes (Panić *et al*, 2006; Woolford & Baserga, 2013; Perucho *et al*, 2014). Genetic alterations in RPs and RBFs are frequently associated with haploinsufficiency and

causative for a class of severe congenital diseases termed ribosomopathies (Bohnsack & Bohnsack, 2019; Farley-Barnes *et al*, 2019; Kampen *et al*, 2020). A number of ribosomopathies are linked to increased cancer susceptibility and a growing body of evidence suggests that defects in ribosome biogenesis can drive tumorigenesis (Pelletier *et al*, 2018; Catez *et al*, 2019).

In this review, we present a current inventory of yeast and human ribosome biogenesis factors and their functions in

eukaryotic ribosome maturation from rDNA organization and transcription, pre-rRNA modification and processing, to subunit assembly and nuclear export.

rDNA organization in the nucleolus and pre-rRNA transcription

Nucleoli are primarily dedicated to pre-rRNA transcription and early steps of ribosomal subunit assembly. They are the most prominent nuclear, membrane-less organelles. Nucleoli are built around rDNA loci which are organized in the form of nucleolar organizing regions (NORs) constituted by rDNA gene clusters (Ritossa & Spiegelman, 1965). While *S. cerevisiae* contains a single NOR on chromosome 12 with roughly 150 rDNA repeats, human cells possess NORs on the acrocentric human chromosomes 13, 14, 15, 21, and 22, harboring altogether roughly 400 rDNA repeats (Henderson et al, 1972; Stults et al, 2008; Lofgren et al, 2019). Not all NORs are active in a cell, and cell type-specific differences in NOR activity exist (Roussel et al, 1996; Farley et al, 2015).

The organization of nucleoli differs between yeast and human. While yeast nucleoli consist of two subdomains, the fibrillar strands and granules, at least three subcompartments are found in human nucleoli, termed fibrillar center (FC), dense fibrillar center (DFC), and granular component (GC) (Fig 2A). rDNA loci are densely packed in the FC, whereas pre-rRNA is transcribed at the boundary between FC and DFC (Koberna et al, 2002). Early processing steps including rRNA modification and cleavage also occur in the DFC, while pre-ribosomal particles mature further in the surrounding GC. Nucleoli are considered to be multiphase liquid condensates (Lafontaine et al, 2021). However, their biogenesis and domain organization reflect the hierarchy in pre-rRNA synthesis and ribosomal subunit assembly, highlighting the contribution of interaction specificity in shaping their molecular makeup and structure (Musacchio, 2022).

Promoters of eukaryotic rDNA contain two regulatory elements: the core element (CE) and the upstream activating sequence or control element (UAS/UCE) (Fig 2C) (Knutson & Hahn, 2013). Although the general promoter architecture is conserved between yeast and mammals, regulation of RNAPI transcription likely differs between species, as there is little sequence similarity in the main promoter elements (Goodfellow & Zomerdijk, 2013). Several factors involved in yeast and human rDNA organization and transcription, including pre-initiation complex (PIC) formation, elongation, and termination, have been identified (Table 2). In yeast, each rDNA repeat encodes two transcripts: the 5S rRNA, transcribed by RNAPIII, and the polycistronic 35S pre-rRNA, produced by RNAPI. The 35S pre-rRNA contains the 18S, 5.8S, and 25S rRNAs surrounded and separated by external

and internal transcribed spacers (5' ETS, ITS1, ITS2, 3' ETS) (Fig 2B) (Woolford & Baserga, 2013). Recruitment of RNAPI to the rDNA promoter depends on the RNA polymerase I-specific transcription factor Rrn3 and the heterotrimeric core factor (CF) complex, which recognizes the core promoter element upstream of the transcription start site (Fig 2C and D). The efficient initiation of pre-rRNA transcription is further supported by the TATA-binding protein (TBP) and the upstream activating factor (UAF) complex that binds an upstream activation sequence (UAS) (Russell & Zomerdijk, 2006; Girbig et al, 2022).

Human rDNA repeats have by-and-large a similar architecture, although the 5S rRNA is transcribed from a distinct repeat region comprising roughly 100 loci on chromosome 1, located in the nucleoplasm in nucleolar proximity (Little & Braaten, 1989; Haeusler & Engelke, 2006; Stults et al, 2008). Also in human cells, several transcription factors and transcription factor complexes mediate RNAPI pre-initiation complex assembly (Russell & Zomerdijk, 2006; Grummt, 2010). Initial binding of upstream binding factor (UBF) to the rDNA promoter allows for recruitment of the SL1 complex (containing TBP, factors analogous to CF in yeast (Fig 2C)), as well as metazoan-specific factors (Table 2), before RNAPI is recruited via RRN3. Since pre-rRNA transcription presents an initial rate-limiting step of ribosome assembly, it is not surprising that many cellular signaling pathways target UBF, the SL1 complex, and RRN3 to regulate the production of ribosomes in human cells (Grummt, 2010; Bywater et al, 2013).

Pre-rRNA modification

rRNA is heavily modified, in particular at functionally important regions such as the decoding center, the PTC, and the subunit interface (Decatur & Fournier, 2002; Polikanov et al, 2015; Sloan et al, 2017; Bailey et al, 2022). Many modifications are carried out co-transcriptionally, and aid folding and compaction of the pre-rRNA during assembly, but also support translation efficiency and accuracy (Liang et al, 2009; Sloan et al, 2017; Ojha et al, 2020; Khoshnevis et al, 2022). 2'-O-methylation of the ribose group in the rRNA backbone and pseudouridylation by isomerization of uridines are by far the most frequent modifications, introduced in a site-specific manner by so-called box C/D and box H/ACA small nucleolar ribonucleoproteins (snoRNPs) (see Table 3), respectively. Both types of RNPs contain four structural proteins and a dedicated modification enzyme, that is the methyltransferase fibrillarin (Nop1 in yeast) or the pseudouridine synthase dyskerin (Cbf5 in yeast). Each snoRNP also contains a 60–170 nt long snoRNA (with a few longer exceptions) (Marz et al, 2011; Jorjani et al, 2016), which

Figure 2. Organization of nucleoli, the rDNA locus and promoter architecture in yeast and human cells.

(A) Schematic representation of a yeast nucleolus composed of fibrillar strands (FS) and granules (G) and human nucleoli consisting of three subcompartments: fibrillar center (FC), dense fibrillar component (DFC), and granular component (GC). (B) Schematic representation of rDNA architecture in *S. cerevisiae* and human cells. (C) Comparison of 35S/47S rDNA promoter region with associated pre-initiation complexes in yeast and human cells. Yeast promoters contain the upstream activation sequence (UAS) bound by the upstream activating factor (UAF) complex and the central element (CE) bound by the core factor (CF) complex. Human promoters also contain two elements; the upstream core element (UCE) bound by a UBF dimer and the central element (CE) bound by selectivity factor 1 (SL1) complex (Knutson & Hahn, 2013; Engel et al, 2018; Sadian et al, 2019; Pilsl & Engel, 2020; Baudin et al, 2022; Girbig et al, 2022). (D) Structural model of yeast RNAPI in complex with Rrn3, the CF (PDB ID: 7OBA), and UAF complexes, bound to Tbp and promoter DNA (PDB ID: 7Z00). RNAPI subunits are in shadows of gray, factors are color-coded, and DNA is shown in light blue.

Table 2. Factors involved in rDNA transcription.

| Yeast | 35S | Human | 47S | Function in rRNA transcription | Citation |
|-------------------------------|-----|---------|-----|---|---|
| RNA Polymerase I subunits | | | | | |
| Rpb5 | x | POLR2E | x | RNAPI subunits, shared with RNAPII and RNAPIII between polymerases | Russell and Zomerdijk (2006) |
| Rpb6 | x | POLR2F | x | | |
| Rpb8 | x | POLR2H | x | | |
| Rpb10 | x | POLR2L | x | | |
| Rpb12 | x | POLR2K | x | | |
| Rpa40 | x | POLR1C | x | RNAPI subunits, shared with RNAPIII | |
| Rpa19 | x | POLR1D | x | | |
| Rpa190 | x | POLR1A | x | RNAPI-specific subunits | |
| Rpa135 | x | POLR1B | x | | |
| Rpa43 | x | POLR1F | x | | |
| Rpa14 | x | | | | |
| Rpa12 | x | POLR1H | x | | |
| Rpa49 | x | POLR1E | x | | |
| Rpa34 | x | POLR1G | x | | |
| | | | | | |
| PIC formation/promoter escape | | | | | |
| Tbp | x | TBP | x | TATA box binding protein | Comai et al (1994) |
| | | UBF | x | Binds rDNA promoter as a dimer, has a role in promoter escape and regulation of elongation | Bell et al (1988) |
| Rrn3 | x | RRN3 | x | RNAPI-specific initiation factor, stimulates RNAPI recruitment | Milkereit and Tschochner (1998) |
| Rrn6 | x | TAF1C | x | Involved in PIC formation. In yeast: part of CF Complex; in humans: part of selectivity factor SL1 | Comai et al (1994) |
| Rrn7 | x | TAF1B | x | | |
| Rrn11 | x | TAF1A | x | Involved in PIC formation: part of human Selectivity factor SL1 | Denissov et al (2007) and Gorski et al (2007) |
| | | TAF1D | x | | |
| | | TAF12 | x | | |
| Rrn5 | x | | | Involved in PIC formation: part of yeast UAF complex | Keys et al (1996), Keener et al (1997) and Siddiqi et al (2001) |
| Rrn9 | x | | | | |
| Rrn10 | x | | | | |
| Uaf30 | x | | | | |
| Hht1/H3 | x | H3C1/H3 | | | |
| Hhf1/H4 | x | H4C1/H4 | | | |
| Top1 | x | TOP1 | x | Facilitate PIC formation by removing super coils at rDNA promoters and promote elongation | Brill et al (1987) and Ray et al (2013) |
| Top2 | x | TOP2A | x | | |
| Cka1 | | CK2A1 | x | Involved in PIC formation; part of tetrameric CK2 complex, regulate interaction between UBF and SL1 | Panova et al (2006) |
| Cka2 | | CK2A2 | x | | |
| Ckb1 | | CK2N | x | | |
| Elongation | | | | | |
| Spt4 | x | SPT4H | x | DSIF complex, influences RNAPI activity; Regulates binding of UBF to rDNA | Schneider et al (2006) |
| Spt5 | x | SPT5H | x | | |
| Paf1 | x | PAF1 | x | Paf1C complex, influences RNAPI activity | Zhang et al (2009) |
| Ctr9 | x | CTR9 | x | | |
| Cdc73 | x | WDR61 | x | | |
| Rtf1 | x | RTF1 | x | | |
| Leo1 | x | LEO1 | x | | |

Table 2 (continued)

| Yeast | 35S | Human | 47S | Function in rRNA transcription | Citation |
|--|-----|------------------|-----|--|--|
| Spt16 | x | SUPT16H | x | FACT complex, supports RNAPII transcription through nucleosomes | Birch <i>et al</i> (2009) |
| Pob3 | x | SSRP1 | x | | |
| Fcp1 | x | | | Dephosphorylates RNAPII for efficient RNA synthesis | Fath <i>et al</i> (2004) |
| Termination | | | | | |
| Rnt1 | x | | | Endonucleolytic cleavage at end of 25S transcript | el Hage <i>et al</i> (2008) |
| Rat1 | x | | | Release of RNAPII transcribing 3' part of the transcript | el Hage <i>et al</i> (2008) |
| Reb1 | x | TTF1 | x | RNAPII transcription termination factors, bind to termination sequence T1, lead to RNAPII pausing | Reiter <i>et al</i> (2012) |
| Nsi1 | x | | | | Reiter <i>et al</i> (2012) |
| Fob1 | x | | | Binds to replication fork barrier sequence, inhibits clashes with DNA replication machinery | el Hage <i>et al</i> (2008) |
| rDNA organization | | | | | |
| Hmo1 | x | | | Associates with active rDNA repeats, related to UBF | Gadal <i>et al</i> (2002) |
| | | CTCF | x | Regional organization of rDNA | van de Nobelen <i>et al</i> (2010) |
| | | MYC | x | Attachment of rDNA to nucleolar matrix; local histone acetylation | Grandori <i>et al</i> (2005) |
| | | MAX | x | Interacts with MYC | Nair and Burley (2003) |
| | | TCOF1 | x | Facilitates rDNA transcription, interacts with UBF and RNAPII, and is involved in rRNA methylation | Werner <i>et al</i> (2015) |
| Srp40 | | NOLC1 | x | Interacts with TCOF1 | Valdez <i>et al</i> (2004) |
| Bdf2 | | BRD2 | x | Regulation of RNAPII activity by histone acetylation, recruited by LYAR | Izumikawa <i>et al</i> (2019) |
| Bdf1 | | BRD4 | x | | |
| | | KAT7 | x | | |
| Nto1 | | JADE3 | x | | |
| YCR087C | | LYAR | x | Binds to UBF, recruits BRD2/4-KAT7 | Izumikawa <i>et al</i> (2019) |
| Factors acting both in rRNA transcription and early processing steps | | | | | |
| | | SIRT7 | x | Required for the activation of Pol I transcription at the exit from mitosis | Ford <i>et al</i> (2006) and Iyer-Bierhoff <i>et al</i> (2018) |
| Nop1 | | FBL | x | Methylates rRNA and histone H2AQ104 | Tessarz <i>et al</i> (2014) |
| Utp4 | | UTP4 | x | t-UTPs, function in both rRNA transcription and the SSU processome | Gallagher <i>et al</i> (2004) and Prieto and McStay (2007) |
| Utp5 | | WDR43/ UTP5 | x | | |
| Utp10 | | HEATR1/ UTP10 | x | | |
| Utp15 | | UTP15 | x | | |
| Utp17 | | UTP17/ WDR75 | x | | |

guides the respective complex to its target site on the pre-rRNA. Importantly, ribosome and snoRNA biogenesis are tightly interwoven in metazoans, since many snoRNAs are encoded within the introns of RP or RBF genes (Hirose & Steitz, 2001).

Both the binding of snoRNAs to the pre-rRNA and the resulting nucleotide modifications play important roles in pre-rRNA folding (see recent reviews Mitterer & Pertschy, 2022; Oborská-Oplová *et al*, 2022). Many snoRNA binding sites are found in pre-rRNA regions that fold late during nucleolar assembly steps. By base-pairing with these still unfolded pre-rRNA elements, snoRNAs prevent premature or non-productive formation of RNA helices. Furthermore, multivalent snoRNAs, exemplified by the U3 snoRNA that is involved in early pre-rRNA folding and processing steps (see below), can force distant pre-rRNA regions into a defined configuration while simultaneously

inhibiting untimely RNA annealing events. Nucleotide modifications, in turn, affect base-pairing preferences and can enhance the conformational rigidity of the RNA backbone (Sumita *et al*, 2005; Helm, 2006; Abou Assi *et al*, 2020).

In yeast, ~75 snoRNAs have been described, catalyzing the modification of 112 sites, while in humans 228 sites are targeted by more than 200 snoRNAs (Natchiar *et al*, 2017; Taoka *et al*, 2018, 2016). The lack of individual modifications is generally well tolerated in yeast cells, whereas their cumulative loss can cause defects in subunit assembly, translation, and cell growth (Liang *et al*, 2007, 2009). Notably, both in yeast and mammalian cells, there is some heterogeneity in the use of modification sites (Jaafar *et al*, 2021b), but evidence for a functional relevance of this variability remains scarce (Metge *et al*, 2021). More than 130 rRNA modifications have

Table 3. Factors involved in rRNA modification.

| Yeast | 40S | 60S | Human | 40S | 60S | Function in rRNA modification | Citation |
|---------------------|-----|-----|----------|-----|-----|---|---|
| snoRNP components | | | | | | | |
| Nop1 | x | x | FBL | x | x | Box C/D snoRNP components, 2'O-methylation of the ribose group in the RNA backbone | Grandi <i>et al</i> (2002) |
| Nop56 | x | x | NOP56 | x | x | | |
| Nop58 | x | x | NOP58 | x | x | | |
| Snu13 | x | x | SNU13 | x | x | | |
| Rrp9 | x | x | U3-55K | x | x | Box H/ACA snoRNP components, pseudouridylation of rRNA | Kiss-László <i>et al</i> (1996) |
| Cbf5 | x | x | DKC | x | x | | |
| Nhp2 | x | x | NHP2 | x | x | | |
| Nop10 | x | x | NOP10 | x | x | | |
| Gar1 | x | x | GAR1 | x | x | | |
| Stand-alone enzymes | | | | | | | |
| Tsr3 | x | | TSR3 | x | | Tsr3: aminocarboxypropyl transferase; Emg1: methyltransferase, 18S-m ¹ acp ³ Ψ1240 (y:1191) | Wurm <i>et al</i> (2010) and Meyer <i>et al</i> (2016) |
| Emg1 | x | | EMG1 | x | | | |
| Kre33 | x | | NAT10 | x | | Acetyltransferase 18S-ac ⁴ C1337,1842 (y:1280,1773) | Ito <i>et al</i> (2014) and Sharma <i>et al</i> (2017) |
| Bud23 | x | | WBSCR22 | x | | Methyltransferase 18S-m ⁷ G1639 (y:1575) | White <i>et al</i> (2008) |
| Dim1 | x | | DIMT1 | x | | Methyltransferase 18S-m ₂ ⁶ A1850/1 (y:1781/2) | Lafontaine <i>et al</i> (1998) |
| Rrp8 | | x | NML/RRP8 | x | x | Methyltransferase 28S-m ¹ A1332 (y:645) | Peifer <i>et al</i> (2013) |
| Bmt2 | | x | | | | Methyltransferase 25S-m ¹ A2142 | Sharma <i>et al</i> (2013) |
| Rcm1 | | x | NSUN5 | | x | Methyltransferase 28S-m ⁵ C3761 (y:2278) | Schossere <i>et al</i> (2015) |
| Bmt5 | | x | | | | Methyltransferase 25S-m ³ U2634 | Sharma <i>et al</i> (2014) |
| Bmt6 | | x | | | | Methyltransferase 25S-m ³ U2843 | Sharma <i>et al</i> (2014) |
| Nop2 | | x | NOP2 | | x | Methyltransferase 28S-m ⁵ C4414 (y:2870) | Sharma <i>et al</i> (2014) |
| Spb1 | | x | | | x | Methyltransferase 28S-Gm4469 (y:2922) | Lapeyre and Purushothaman (2004) |
| | | | ZCCHC4 | | x | Methyltransferase 28S-m ⁶ A4220 | Ma <i>et al</i> (2019) and Pinto <i>et al</i> (2020) |
| | | | METTL5 | x | | Methyltransferase 18S-m ⁶ A1832 | van Tran <i>et al</i> (2019) |
| Trm112 | | | TRMT112 | x | | Activator of methyltransferases (Bud23/WBSCR22, METTL5) | Zorbas <i>et al</i> (2015) and van Tran <i>et al</i> (2019) |

been visualized by single particle cryo-EM in the human ribosome, of which 11 were found at universally conserved sites (Natchiar *et al*, 2017). As expected, the vast majority of modifications reside in the interior of the ribosome close to the functional centers. Interestingly, also a large number of novel sites were discovered, many of which contain base-modified nucleotides.

Some rRNA modifications do not depend on snoRNPs, but are introduced by stand-alone enzymes, many of which function in base methylation, but also support other modifications such as acetylation (listed in Table 3). For the majority of these enzymes only a single target nucleotide has been described, but the functions of these modifications remain largely enigmatic. The most complex ribosomal modification, a 1-methyl-3-(3-amino-3-carboxypropyl)-pseudouridine (m¹acp³Ψ) in helix 31 of the 18S rRNA (1248U), is established in a stepwise manner, starting with the formation of a pseudouridine catalyzed by the snR35 H/ACA snoRNP complex (Samarsky *et al*, 1995). After subsequent methylation by Emg1

(Wurm *et al*, 2010), the final modification is formed by the amino-carboxypropyl transferase Tsr3 during final cytoplasmic maturation (Meyer *et al*, 2016; Huang *et al*, 2022). Importantly, m¹acp³Ψ, which is solvent exposed at the ribosomal P site, is frequently lost or hypomodified in cancer and has been suggested to lead to increased translation of RP mRNAs (Babaian *et al*, 2020). Recently, it was discovered that human rRNA also contains m⁶A modifications in the 18S and 28S rRNAs, mediated by the methyltransferases METTL5 and ZCCHC4 respectively, yet the molecular function of the two identified modification sites remains to be further explored (Ma *et al*, 2019; van Tran *et al*, 2019; Pinto *et al*, 2020).

Pre-rRNA processing

A series of concerted pre-rRNA cleavage and trimming reactions in the nucleus and cytoplasm leads to the excision of the mature 18S,

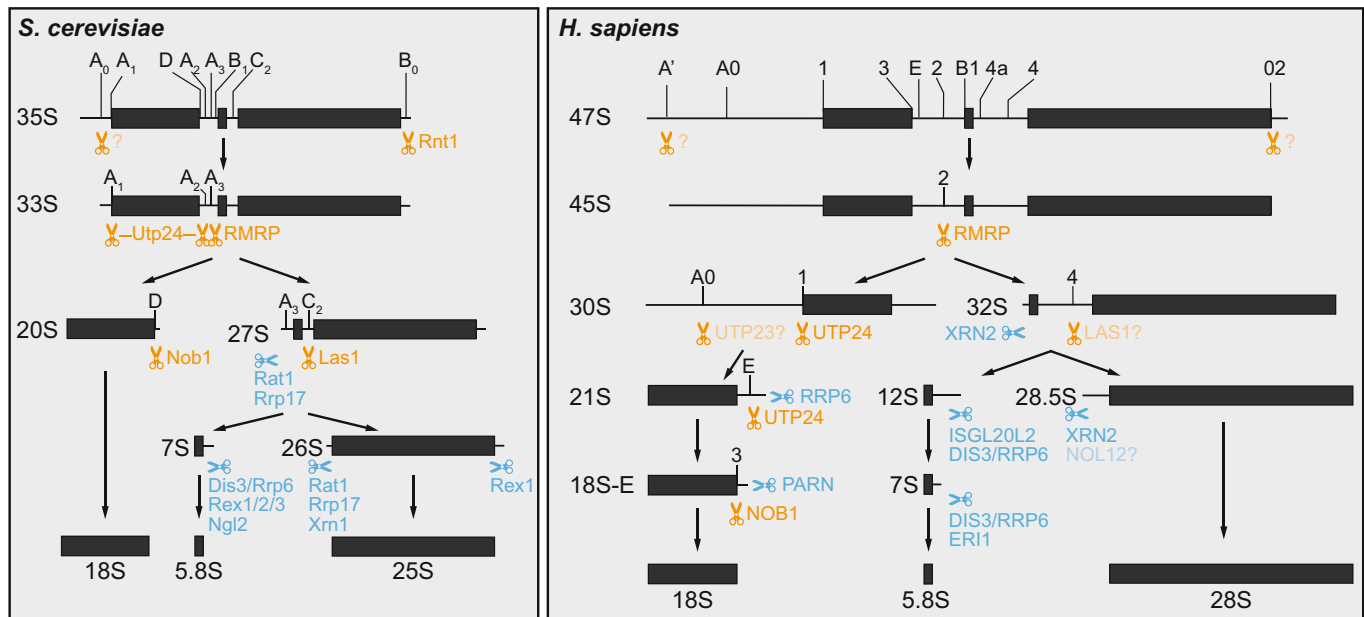


Figure 3. Pre-rRNA maturation in yeast and human cells.

Simplified processing pathway of the 35S pre-rRNA in yeast and 47S pre-rRNA in human cells, indicating processing sites of endo- and exonucleases in orange and blue, respectively. Several alternative processing pathways exist, which are reviewed elsewhere (Tomecki *et al*, 2017; Aubert *et al*, 2018).

5.8S, and 25/28S rRNAs from the polycistronic rRNA precursor (Fig 3). The general hierarchical principle of sequential elimination of transcribed spacers and the function of several endo- and exonucleases (Table 4) in this process is largely conserved from yeast to human (for more details see Tomecki *et al*, 2017; Aubert *et al*, 2018; Bohnsack & Bohnsack, 2019). In both organisms, pre-rRNA processing is tightly interconnected with other steps of ribosome biogenesis, such as rRNA modification, folding, and binding of RPs or RBFs. A critical step in the maturation pathway is the first cleavage event within the ITS1 (at site A₂ in yeast, site 2 in humans), which separates the emerging pre-40S and pre-60S particles. In yeast, ~70% of nascent transcripts are cleaved co-transcriptionally within ITS1 (Koř & Tollervey, 2010). Human pre-rRNA processing also starts co-transcriptionally, at least in the 5' ETS region (Delannoy & Sollner-Webb, 1997; Osheim *et al*, 2004). However, it remains to be defined whether the endonucleolytic cleavage within the ITS1 occurs only post-transcriptionally or also co-transcriptionally in mammalian cells, and how this critical event is coordinated with subunit assembly. The prominent presence of the long 47S/45S precursors in pulse-labeling experiments and Northern blots indicates that at least a substantial fraction of ITS1 cleavage events may only occur after synthesis of the precursor has been completed (Bowman *et al*, 1981; Strezoska *et al*, 2000). Notably, in both yeast and mammals, alternative pre-rRNA processing pathways exist, and their relative contribution to rRNA production is suggested to be governed by the respective kinetics of the processing reactions (Axt *et al*, 2014; Henras *et al*, 2015).

The fourth rRNA, the 5S rRNA, is transcribed by RNAPIII. The immature 5S rRNA is initially bound by the La protein and TFIIIA in higher eukaryotes, protecting it from degradation (Ciganda & Williams, 2011; Layat *et al*, 2013). It needs to be trimmed at its 3'

end before getting incorporated into the maturing pre-60S particle. This trimming is performed by the exonucleases Rex1, Rex2, and Rex3 in yeast, which act redundantly (Table 4) (van Hoof *et al*, 2000). Factors involved in human 5S rRNA maturation remain elusive. The Rex1 homolog REXO5 was shown to be functionally conserved in flies (Gerstberger *et al*, 2017), although mouse REXO5 is not essential for survival (Silva *et al*, 2017), pointing to potential redundancy. The processed 5S RNA associates with two newly synthesized RPs, RPL5/uL18, and RPL11/uL5, forming the 5S RNP which is then incorporated into nascent 60S subunits (see below).

Chaperones of ribosomal proteins

Ribosomal proteins are synthesized in the cytoplasm, but most are incorporated into pre-ribosomal particles in the nucleolus, posing a logistic challenge to the cell. As RPs are enriched in basic amino acids and contain flexible tails as well as intrinsically disordered regions (Klinge *et al*, 2011; Rabl *et al*, 2011), they are prone to aggregation. Therefore, newly synthesized RPs need to be kept away from undesired interactions until they are incorporated into pre-ribosomal particles. Several mechanisms contribute to avoiding adverse effects of unincorporated ribosomal proteins: dedicated chaperones for specific RPs (see below), the general chaperone network (Gong *et al*, 2009; Albanese *et al*, 2010; Koplin *et al*, 2010; Leidig *et al*, 2013; Pillet *et al*, 2017) and association with nuclear transport receptors *en route* into the nucleus (Jäkel *et al*, 2002). In addition, excess, unincorporated RPs are degraded (Warner, 1977; Lam *et al*, 2007; Sung *et al*, 2016).

About a dozen dedicated chaperones for RPs have been described (Table 5). Some of them capture nascent RPs co-

Table 4. Factors involved in pre-rRNA processing.

| Yeast | 40S | 60S | Human | 40S | 60S | Function in pre-rRNA processing | Citation | | |
|----------------|-----|-----|---------|-----|-----|--|---|-----------------------------|--|
| Utp23 | | | UTP23 | x | | Endoribonuclease, cleavage at site A0 (likely inactive) | Wells et al (2017) | | |
| Utp24/ Fcf1 | x | | UTP24 | x | | Endoribonuclease, cleavage at site 1 (A1) | Bleichert et al (2006) | | |
| Nob1 | x | | NOB1 | x | | Endoribonuclease, cleavage at site 3 (D) | Fatica et al (2004) | | |
| RMRP | | x | RMRP | | x | Part of MRP complex, endoribonuclease with non-canonical snoRNA, cleavage at site 2 (A3) | Perederina et al (2020), van Hoof et al (2000) and Goldfarb and Cech (2017) | | |
| Pop1 | | x | POP1 | | x | | | | |
| Pop3 | | x | RPP38 | | x | | | | |
| Pop4 | | x | RPP29 | | x | | | | |
| Pop5 | | x | POP5 | | x | | | | |
| Pop6 | | x | RPP25 | | x | | | | |
| Pop7 | | x | RPP20 | | x | | | | |
| Pop8 | | x | RPP14 | | x | | | | |
| Rpp1 | | x | RPP30 | | x | | | | |
| Rpr2 | | x | RPP21 | | x | | | | |
| Snm1 | | x | | | | | | | |
| Rmp1 | | x | | | | | | | |
| | | | RPP40 | | x | | | | |
| Las1 | | x | LAS1L | | | Endoribonuclease, maybe cleavage at site 4 (C2) | Schillewaert et al (2012) | | |
| Rnt1 | | x | | | | Endoribonuclease (B0) | Kufel et al (1999) | | |
| Rat1 | | x | XRN2 | x | x | Exoribonuclease, pre-rRNA trimming | el Hage et al (2008) | | |
| Rrp17 | | x | NOL12 | | | Exoribonuclease, pre-rRNA trimming | Oeffinger et al (2009) | | |
| Rrp44 | | x | DIS3 | | x | Nuclear exosome, exoribonuclease, pre-rRNA Trimming 5.8S rRNA maturation | Briggs et al (1998) and Sloan et al (2012) | | |
| Rrp6 | | x | EXOSC10 | | x | | | | |
| Csl4 | | x | EXOSC1 | | x | | | | |
| Rrp4 | | x | EXOSC2 | | x | | | | |
| Rrp40 | | x | EXOSC3 | | x | | | | |
| Rrp41 | | x | EXOSC4 | | x | | | | |
| Rrp46 | | x | EXOSC5 | | x | | | | |
| Mtr3 | | x | EXOSC6 | | x | | | | |
| Rrp42 | | x | EXOSC7 | | x | | | | |
| Rrp43 | | x | EXOSC8 | | x | | | | |
| Rrp45 | | x | EXOSC9 | | x | | | | |
| Mtr4 | | x | MTR4 | | x | | | Cofactor of nuclear exosome | Briggs et al (1998) and Sloan et al (2012) |
| Trf4 | | x | PAPD5 | | x | | | | |
| Trf5 | | x | PAPD7 | | x | | | | |
| Air1 | | x | ZCCHC7 | | x | | | | |
| Air2 | | x | ZCCHC8 | | x | | | | |
| Mpp6 | | x | MPP6 | | x | | | | |
| Lrp1/ Rrp47 | | x | C1D | | x | | | | |
| | | x | RBM7 | | x | | | | |
| Rex1 | | x | REXO5 | | | Exoribonuclease, pre-rRNA trimming | van Hoof et al (2000) | | |
| Rex2 | | x | REXO2 | | | Exoribonuclease, pre-rRNA trimming | van Hoof et al (2000) | | |
| Rex3 | | x | REXO1 | | | Exoribonuclease, pre-rRNA trimming | van Hoof et al (2000) | | |

Table 4 (continued)

| Yeast | 40S | 60S | Human | 40S | 60S | Function in pre-rRNA processing | Citation |
|-------|-----|-----|---------|-----|-----|---|-------------------------|
| Ngl2 | | x | Ccr4 | | | Exoribonuclease, pre-rRNA trimming, 5.8S rRNA maturation | Faber et al (2002) |
| | | | PARN | x | | Exoribonuclease, pre-rRNA trimming, 18S rRNA maturation | Montellese et al (2017) |
| | | | TUT4 | x | | Uridyltransferase, pre-rRNA trimming, 18S rRNA maturation | Montellese et al (2017) |
| | | | TUT7 | x | | Uridyltransferase, pre-rRNA trimming, 18S rRNA maturation | Montellese et al (2017) |
| | | | ISG20L2 | | x | Exoribonuclease, pre-rRNA trimming 5.8S rRNA maturation | Couté et al (2008) |
| | | | ERI1 | | x | Exoribonuclease, pre-rRNA trimming, 5.8S rRNA | Ansel et al (2008) |

Table 5. Chaperones of ribosomal proteins.

| Yeast | 40S | 60S | Human | 40S | 60S | Chaperoned RP | Citation |
|-------|-----|-----|--------------|-----|-----|---|---|
| Rrb1 | | x | GRWD1 | | | Rpl3/uL3 | Iouk et al (2001) |
| Acl4 | | x | | | | Rpl4/uL4 | Stelter et al (2015) |
| Syo1 | | x | HEATR3 | | x | Rpl5/uL18 and Rpl11/uL5 | Kressler et al (2012), Hannan et al (2022) and O'Donohue et al (2022) |
| Sqt1 | | x | AAMP | | x | Rpl10/uL16 | Eisinger et al (1997) |
| Bcp1 | | x | BCCIP | | x | Rpl23/uL14 | Ting et al (2017) |
| Loc1 | | x | | | | Rpl43/eL43 | Liang et al (2019) |
| Puf6 | | x | | | | Rpl43/eL43 | Liang et al (2019) |
| Tsr4 | x | | PDCD2 | | | Rps2/uS5 | Black et al (2019) and Rössler et al (2019) |
| Yar1 | x | | | | | Rps3/uS3 | Lindström and Zhang (2008) |
| Nap1 | x | | | | | Rps6/eS6 | Rössler et al (2019) |
| | | | NPM | x | | Rps9/uS4 | Lindström and Zhang (2008) |
| Fap7 | x | | AK/ CINAP | x | | Rps14/uS11, maybe also in complex with Rps26/eS26 | Hellmich et al (2013) and Peña et al (2016) |
| | | | AROS | x | | Rps19/eS19 | Singh et al (2021) |
| Tsr2 | x | | TSR2 | x | | Rps26/eS26 | Schütz et al (2014) |

translationally (e.g., Yar1 for Rps3/uS3, Rrb1 for Rpl3/uL3, Syo1 for Rpl5/uL18, Sqt1 for Rpl10/uL16, and Acl4 for Rpl4/uL4), whereas others bind their clients later (Pausch et al, 2015; Pillet et al, 2017). Interestingly, it has recently been revealed that the absence of the RP chaperones Acl4 or Rrb1 leads to a destabilization of the mRNAs encoding for their respective clients Rpl4 and Rpl3, revealing a novel regulatory mechanism of RP homeostasis (Pillet et al, 2022). RP chaperones not only shield their clients but can also aid their delivery into the nucleus. For those RPs that get incorporated into nascent subunits in the nuclear compartment, the nuclear localization signal can either be provided by the RP itself (e.g., Rps3/uS3, Rpl3/uL3, Rpl4/uL4), or by the dedicated chaperone (e.g., Syo1; Kressler et al, 2012; Bange et al, 2013; Calviño et al, 2015).

One peculiar case is yeast Tsr2, which serves as dedicated chaperone for Rps26/eS26. Tsr2 has been proposed to pick up newly synthesized Rps26/eS26 only after nuclear import by stimulating Rps26/eS26 release from importins in the nucleus, to then allow its nuclear association with pre-40S subunits (Schütz et al, 2018). In the mammalian system, RPS26/eS26 is incorporated

into the pre-40S particle during its final cytoplasmic maturation (Ameismeier et al, 2018, 2020; Plassart et al, 2021). Here, TSR2 could help in preventing association of RPS26/eS26 with nuclear import receptors in the cytosol, but more work is needed to unravel the place of action of mammalian TSR2. Notably, also in yeast Tsr2 may harbor a cytosolic function, as it has recently been suggested to facilitate Rps26/eS26 release from and reincorporation into mature ribosomes in response to salt or pH stress (Yang & Karbstein, 2022).

The function of RP chaperones does not seem to be limited to factors acting *in trans*. In most eukaryotes, Rps31/RPS27A/eS31 and Rpl40/eL40 are initially synthesized as linear fusions with an N-terminal ubiquitin, which facilitates their folding and enhances solubility of the respective RPs (Finley et al, 1989; Lacombe et al, 2009; Martín-Villanueva et al, 2019, 2020, 2021). After synthesis, the ubiquitin moiety is rapidly released from these fusion proteins (Grou et al, 2015) and enters the cellular ubiquitin pool. Interestingly, in humans and other holozoan organisms, a second RP of the small subunit, RPS30/eS30, is synthesized as a fusion with a ubiquitin-like protein called FUBI. Release of FUBI from the FUBI-eS30 fusion

protein is required for 40S subunit maturation, likely linked to its nuclear incorporation into pre-40S subunits, and promoted by the deubiquitinase USP36 (van den Heuvel *et al*, 2021).

Formation and maturation of the SSU processome

When the pre-rRNA emerges from the transcribing polymerase, it is soon bound by a subset of RPs of the small subunit, 40S RBFs as well as by small nucleolar ribonucleoproteins (snoRNPs), eventually giving rise to a large ribosomal pre-particle that is referred to as the small subunit (SSU) processome or 90S pre-ribosome (Fig 4) (Dragon *et al*, 2002; Grandi *et al*, 2002). Early pre-rRNA processing events are executed during maturation of this complex, leading to the removal of the external transcribed spacer (5' ETS) and cleavage within ITS1. Initially, high-resolution structures of different fungal SSU processome particles were obtained, giving invaluable mechanistic insights into the function of a multitude of RBFs during early assembly, pre-rRNA folding, and processing events (Kornprobst *et al*, 2016; Barandun *et al*, 2017; Chaker-Margot *et al*, 2017; Cheng *et al*, 2017; Sun *et al*, 2017; Du *et al*, 2020; Lau *et al*, 2021). Then, in 2021, the first structures of the human SSU processome were published, providing visual evidence for the existence of SSU processome particles in higher eukaryotic cells and illustrating the vast conservation of its global architecture (Singh *et al*, 2021) (Fig 4, Table 6).

Small subunit processome assembly is initiated when the 5' ETS region of the nascent pre-rRNA transcript is bound by the so-called UTP-A complex, a seven-membered protein complex that provides binding interfaces for later joining SSU subcomplexes (Pérez-Fernández *et al*, 2007; Zhang *et al*, 2016b; Barandun *et al*, 2017; Cheng *et al*, 2017; Hunziker *et al*, 2019). The UTP-A complex is also needed for pre-rRNA synthesis, thereby linking pre-rRNA transcription and ribosome assembly (Gallagher *et al*, 2004). Following the UTP-A complex, the six-membered UTP-B complex and the U3 snoRNP are co-transcriptionally recruited to the 5' ETS (Chaker-Margot *et al*, 2015; Hunziker *et al*, 2016; Kornprobst *et al*, 2016). The UTP-B complex acts as a chaperone for both the 5' ETS and the U3 snoRNA, and upon incorporation of additional factors, including the Mpp10 complex (Granneman *et al*, 2003), a large 5' ETS-associated particle comprising more than 25 RBFs is formed (Chaker-Margot *et al*, 2015; Zhang *et al*, 2016b; Barandun *et al*, 2017). Within the 5' ETS-associated particle, the U3 snoRNP serves as a key organizer orchestrating SSU processome formation. In both human and yeast cells, the U3 RNA base pairs with two regions each of the 5' ETS and the 18S rRNA (Granneman *et al*, 2009; Dutca *et al*, 2011; Barandun *et al*, 2017; Singh *et al*, 2021), thereby functioning as a critical structural constraint for pre-rRNA folding during SSU processome assembly (Fig 4). Importantly, this prevents the premature formation of the central pseudoknot, a universally conserved element of rRNA tertiary structure that is part of the small ribosomal subunit decoding center (Sardana *et al*, 2015). Notably, many RBFs within the SSU processome bind to more than one site of the pre-rRNA, thereby reducing the conformational freedom of the rRNA during folding. In particular, SSU RBFs such as Faf1, Utp11, Mpp10, Sas10, and Nop14 exhibit long extensions that bridge distant rRNA regions within these precursors, thereby contributing to correct pre-rRNA organization (Chaker-Margot *et al*, 2017; Cheng *et al*, 2017).

A striking difference between yeast and mammalian cells is the length of the 5' ETS that comprises roughly 700 nucleotides in yeast, but is extended to 3,600 nucleotides in humans. Only relatively short, structured parts of the 5' ETS could be visualized in the structural models of the human SSU processome (Singh *et al*, 2021). Surprisingly, a minimal human 5' ETS comprising these RNA segments (in total only ~25% of the entire 5' ETS region) is sufficient for correct 40S and 60S assembly (Singh *et al*, 2021). In light of this data, the function of the other 5' ETS regions is enigmatic. It has been proposed that they might contribute to nucleolar organization by supporting the formation of biomolecular condensates and thereby nucleolar phase separation (Yao *et al*, 2019). Along the same line of thought, it is conceivable that the increase in 5' ETS length contributes to the observed differences in subnucleolar organization between mammals and yeast.

The 5' ETS particle has originally been suggested to serve as a binding platform for the hierarchical recruitment of further protein complexes to sequentially promote the folding of spatially distant rRNA domains (Kornprobst *et al*, 2016; Cheng *et al*, 2017; Sun *et al*, 2017). However, since individual 18S rRNA domains can in principle recruit their respective biogenesis factors independently, it has also been proposed that the 5' ETS and downstream 18S rRNA domains may function as independent units in the recruitment of their respective assembly factor complexes which may then support SSU processome assembly based on their mutual dependence (Hunziker *et al*, 2019). In either case, further assembly factors are recruited to the nascent rRNA concomitant with ongoing transcription in an rRNA-subdomain dependent fashion (Pérez-Fernández *et al*, 2007), among them the Bms1-Rcl1 complex, the Nat10/Kre33 module (Kre33–Brf2–Lcp5–Enp2 in yeast/NAT10-(AATF-NGDN-NOL10) (ANN) complex in humans) and the UTP-C complex (Bammert *et al*, 2016; Barandun *et al*, 2018). Notably, also other snoRNAs including U14, snR30/U17, and snR10 transiently associate with the 5' and central domains of the 18S rRNA (Zhang *et al*, 2016b) and aid 18S rRNA processing and folding. In the course of SSU processome assembly, cleavage at site A0 in the 5' ETS occurs, eventually giving rise to a large, stable intermediate referred to as the “pre-A1” particle in which site A1 is still uncut (Fig 4) (vanden Broeck & Klinge, 2022). The human pre-A1 particle is 3.3 MDa in size and contains about 21 RPs and 50 RBFs (Singh *et al*, 2021).

To initiate cleavage at site A1, which generates the mature 5' end of the 18S rRNA, the PIN domain endonuclease Utp24/UTP24 must gain access to the processing site (Tomecki *et al*, 2017; Barandun *et al*, 2018, 2017; Singh *et al*, 2021; vanden Broeck & Klinge, 2022). This involves a series of events, commencing with the release of Lcp5/NGDN (state pre-A1*; Fig 4), followed by structural remodeling of the SSU particle that affects the positioning of the U3 snoRNA. Particle remodeling is associated with the release of the Utp24/UTP24 inhibitory factor Faf1/C1ORF131 and the residuals of the Kre33/NAT10 module (state post A1; Fig 4) (Cheng *et al*, 2020; Du *et al*, 2020; Singh *et al*, 2021). What drives these events and how the enzymatic activity of Kre33/NAT10 is coordinated with SSU processome maturation, potentially aided by the juxtaposed ANN complex or other factors, remains to be unraveled. Importantly, also the nuclear exosome may play a crucial role in the remodeling of the SSU processome (Du *et al*, 2020) by driving the 3'-5' unwinding of the 5' ETS after cleavage at site A0 (Du *et al*, 2020; Lau *et al*, 2021), contributing to structural remodeling of the SSU-bound

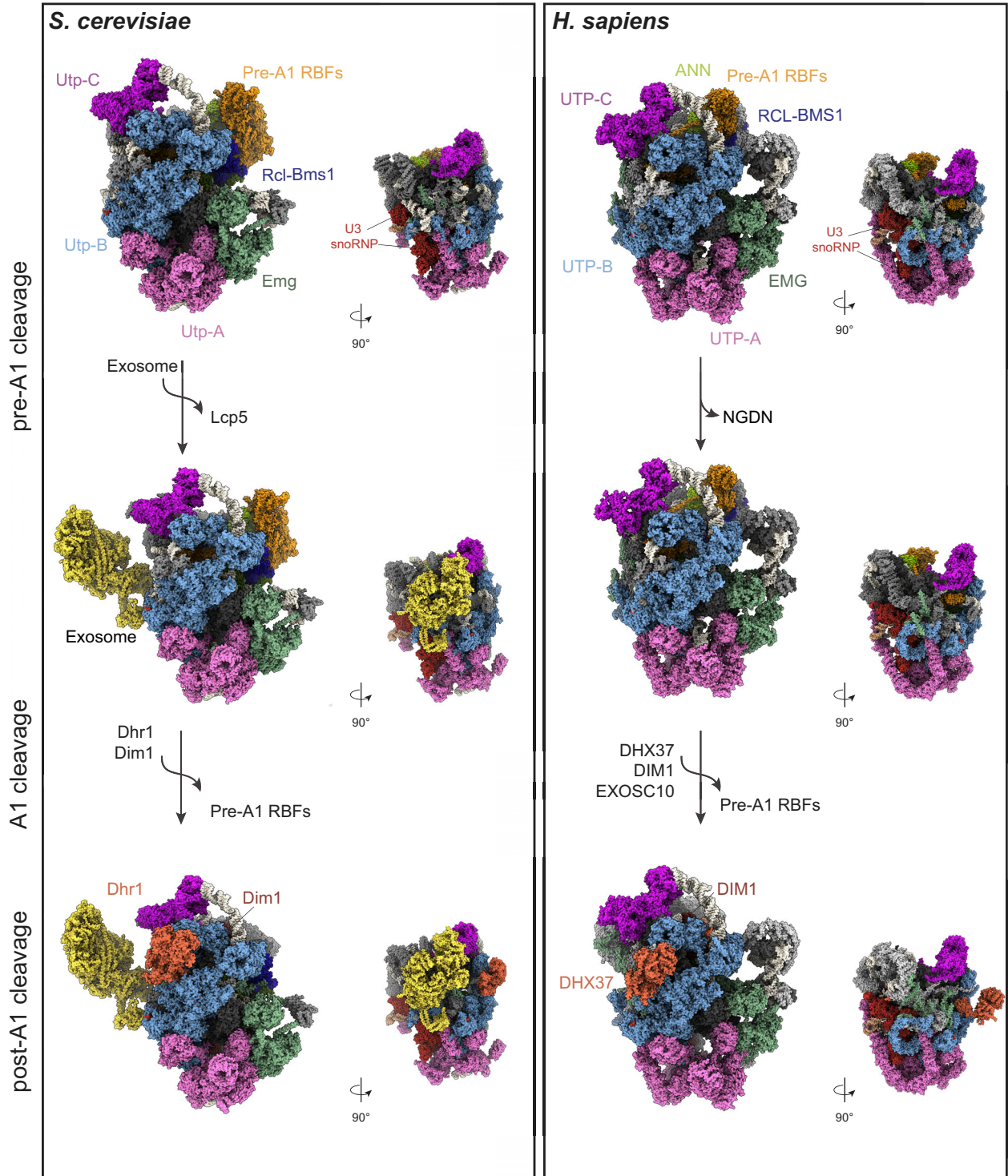


Figure 4. Structures of the yeast and human SSU processome.

Cryo-EM structures of the yeast (PDB ID: 6ZQB, 7AJT, and 7AJU) and human (PDB ID: 7MQ8, 7MQ9, 7MQA) SSU processome particles in the pre-A1, pre-A1* and post-A1 cleavage states, showing a comparison of their overall architecture. The conserved RNA components and subcomplexes are color-coded. The pre-rRNA (white) and individual sub-complexes such as UTP-A (pink), UTP-B (light blue), UTP-C (violet), Emg1 (green), ANN (light green) complex, and additional RBFs, are shown as surfaces. KRR1/Krr1, C1orf131/Faf1, and the NAT10/Kre33 module are indicated as pre-A1-specific RBFs (sand). They are released after A1 cleavage. The exosome complex (yellow) is bound to the pre-A1* yeast particle and it is associated only with the human post-A1 structure. In the post-A1 structures, DHX37/Dhr1 and DIM1/Dim1 are displayed in orange.

Table 6. Small subunit processome subcomplexes and early assembly factors.

| Yeast | 40S | 60S | Human | 40S | 60S | Function in early nucleolar ribosome biogenesis | Citation | | |
|----------------|-----|-----|------------------|-----|-----|---|--|--|---|
| Utp4 | x | | UTP4/ CIRH1A | x | | UTP-A complex, interacts with the start of 5' ETS, required for recruitment of UTP-B and U3 snoRNP, essential for formation of 5' ETS particle | Krogan <i>et al</i> (2004), Prieto and McStay (2007), Freed <i>et al</i> (2012), Chaker-Margot <i>et al</i> (2017) and Singh <i>et al</i> (2021) | | |
| Utp5 | x | | UTP5/WDR43 | x | | | | | |
| Utp8 | x | | NOL11 | x | | | | | |
| Utp9 | x | | | | | | | | |
| Utp10 | x | | UTP10/ HEATR1 | x | | | | | |
| Utp15 | x | | UTP15 | x | | | | | |
| Utp17 | x | | UTP17/ WDR75 | x | | | | | |
| Pol5 | x | x | MYBBP1A | x | | | | | |
| Utp1/ Pwp2 | x | | PWP2 | x | | | | UTP-B complex, binds 5' ETS and U3 snoRNA, supports structural pre-rRNA remodeling, essential for formation of 5' ETS particle, Utp18 contains exosome interaction motif | Krogan <i>et al</i> (2004), Sloan <i>et al</i> (2015), Barandun <i>et al</i> (2017), Barandun <i>et al</i> (2018) and Singh <i>et al</i> (2021) |
| Utp6 | x | | UTP6 | x | | | | | |
| Utp12/ Dip2 | x | | UTP12/WDR3 | x | | | | | |
| Utp13 | x | | TBL3 | x | | | | | |
| Utp18 | x | | UTP18 | x | | | | | |
| Utp21 | x | | WDR36 | x | | | | | |
| | | | DDX21 | x | | | | | |
| | | | NOP2 | x | | | | | |
| Nop1 | x | | FBL | x | | U3 snoRNP, U3 snoRNA base pairs with 5' ETS, chaperones pre-rRNA folding steps, essential for formation of 5' ETS particle | Kiss-László <i>et al</i> (1996), Grandi <i>et al</i> (2002), Barandun <i>et al</i> (2017) and Singh <i>et al</i> (2021) | | |
| Nop56 | x | | NOP56 | x | | | | | |
| Nop58 | x | | NOP58 | x | | | | | |
| Snu13 | x | | SNU13/15.5 K | x | | | | | |
| Rrp9 | x | | U3-55K/ U3IP2 | x | | | | | |
| Mpp10 | x | | MPHOSPH10 | x | | Mpp10-Imp3-Imp4 complex, interacts with U3 snoRNA, supports formation of 5' ETS particle | Lee and Baserga (1999) and Granneman <i>et al</i> (2003) | | |
| Imp3 | x | | IMP3 | x | | | | | |
| Imp4 | x | | IMP4 | x | | | | | |
| Rrp7 | x | | RRP7A | x | | UTP-C complex, chaperones 5' domain of 18S rRNA | Baudin-Baillieu <i>et al</i> (1997), Krogan <i>et al</i> (2004), Rudra <i>et al</i> (2007), Barandun <i>et al</i> (2017) and Singh <i>et al</i> (2021) | | |
| Utp22 | x | | NOL6 | x | | | | | |
| Cka1 | x | | CK2A1 | x | | | | | |
| Cka2 | x | | CK2A2 | x | | | | | |
| Ckb1 | x | | CK2N | x | | | | | |
| Ckb2 | x | | CK2N | x | | | | | |
| Rrp36 | x | | RRP36 | x | | | | | |
| Utp7 | x | | WDR46 | x | | | | Sof1-Utp7 complex, aids organization of A1 cleavage site | Barandun <i>et al</i> (2017) |
| Utp14 | x | | UTP14A | x | | | | | |
| Sof1 | x | | WDSOF1 | x | | | | | |
| Rcl1 | x | | RCL1 | x | | Rcl1-Bms1-complex, GTPase activity (Bms1), mediates cleavage at A2 site, also required for A0 and A1 cleavage, interacts with U3 snoRNP | Karbstein and Doudna (2006) and Horn <i>et al</i> (2011) | | |
| Bms1 | x | | BMS1 | x | | | | | |
| Enp1 | x | | ENP1/BYSL | x | | In yeast: Nop14-Noc4-Enp1 complex, in humans: NOP14-NOC4L-UTP14A-EMG1, structural role: binds to 3' domain of 18S pre-rRNA, Emg1: methyltransferase | Liu and Thiele (2001), Kühn <i>et al</i> (2009), Warda <i>et al</i> (2016) and Barandun <i>et al</i> (2017) | | |
| Utp2/ Nop14 | x | | NOP14 | x | | | | | |
| Noc4 | x | | NOC4L | x | | | | | |
| Emg1 | x | | EMG1 | x | | | | | |

Table 6 (continued)

| Yeast | 40S | 60S | Human | 40S | 60S | Function in early nucleolar ribosome biogenesis | Citation |
|-----------------|-----|-----|------------------|-----|-----|---|---|
| Bfr2 | x | | AATF | x | | in humans: ANN complex, required for cleavage at A0, 1 and in the ITS1, in yeast: Bfr2-Enp2 recruit Dpb4 | Soltanieh <i>et al</i> (2014) and Bammert <i>et al</i> (2016) |
| Lcp5 | x | | NGDN | x | | | |
| Enp2 | x | | NOL10 | x | | | |
| | | | XRN2 | x | | XND complex, required for A' cleavage, recruits XRN2 for degradation of excised spacer fragment | Dragon <i>et al</i> (2002) and Memet <i>et al</i> (2017) |
| | | | NKRF | | x | | |
| Prp43 | | | DHX15 | | x | | |
| Utp30 | x | | RSL1D1 | x | | Utp30-Rrt14 complex, binds 5' ETS and pre-18S rRNA, Rrt14 is non-essential | Barandun <i>et al</i> (2017) |
| Rrt14 | x | | | | | | |
| Utp11 | x | | UTP11 | x | | | |
| Bud21/ Utp16 | x | | NOL7 | x | | Required for 18S pre-rRNA processing | Dragon <i>et al</i> (2002) and Singh <i>et al</i> (2021) |
| Fcf2 | x | | TDIF2 | x | | Binds U3 snoRNP, TDIF2 contains AIM putative motif | Rempola <i>et al</i> (2006), Barandun <i>et al</i> (2017) and Singh <i>et al</i> (2021) |
| Sas10 | x | | UTP3 | x | | Stabilizes and chaperones Mpp10 complex to nucleolus, blocks Emg1 active site | Zhao <i>et al</i> (2019) |
| Utp24 | x | | UTP24 | x | | Endoribonuclease, couples pre-rRNA cleavages in yeast at sites A1 and A2, in humans: site 1 and E | Bleichert <i>et al</i> (2006) and Wells <i>et al</i> (2016) |
| Esf1 | x | | ESF1 | | | Involved in early pre-rRNA processing | Peng <i>et al</i> (2004) |
| Esf2 | x | | ABT1 | | | Stimulates Dbp8 | Granneman <i>et al</i> (2006b) |
| Dbp8 | x | | DDX49 | x | | DEAD box RNA helicase | Granneman <i>et al</i> (2006b) and Awasthi <i>et al</i> (2018) |
| Dbp4 | x | | DDX10 | x | | DEAD box RNA helicase | Granneman <i>et al</i> (2006a) and Turner <i>et al</i> (2009) |
| Rrp3 | x | | DDX47 | x | | DEAD box RNA helicase | Granneman <i>et al</i> (2006a) |
| Bud22 | x | | SRFBP1 | | | | Dakshinamurthy <i>et al</i> (2010) |
| Efg1 | x | | | | | Required for 18S pre-rRNA processing (A1, A2), initiates degradation of aberrant 23S pre-rRNA | Choque <i>et al</i> (2018) |
| Rrp5 | x | x | PDCD11 | x | x | Structural SSU component supporting pre-rRNA, compaction, important for 18S maturation (site A0-A2) and 5.8S processing (site A3) | Venema and Tollervy (1996) and Lebaron <i>et al</i> (2013) |
| Krr1 | x | | KRR1 | x | | Interacts with Faf1, important for 40S platform, assembly as it is replaced by Dim2 | Zheng <i>et al</i> (2014) and Sturm <i>et al</i> (2017) |
| Rok1 | x | | DDX52 | x | | DEAD box RNA helicase, releases Rrp5, releases snR30 | Khoshnevis <i>et al</i> (2016) |
| Utp25 | x | | DEF/ C1orf107 | x | | | Charette and Baserga (2010) and Tao <i>et al</i> (2017) |
| Kri1 | x | | KRI1 | | | Interacts with Krr1 | Sasaki <i>et al</i> (2000) |
| Utp23 | x | | UTP23 | x | | Endoribonuclease, in yeast: likely inactive, in humans: cleavage at site A0 | Wells <i>et al</i> (2017) |
| Fyv7 | x | | | | | | Peng <i>et al</i> (2003) |
| Mrd1 | x | | RBM19 | x | | Aids formation of central pseudoknot, required for dynamic U3 snoRNA-rRNA interaction (release) | Segerstolpe <i>et al</i> (2013) and Lackmann <i>et al</i> (2018) |
| Fal1 | x | | DDX48/ EIF4A3 | x | | DEAD box RNA helicase | Kressler <i>et al</i> (1997) and Davila Gallesio <i>et al</i> (2020) |
| Sgd1 | x | | NOM1 | x | | Fal1 cofactor | Davila Gallesio <i>et al</i> (2020) |
| Cms1 | x | | CMS1 | x | | | Grandi <i>et al</i> (2002) |
| Nop9 | x | | NOP9 | | | Impedes Nob1 cleavage | García-Gómez <i>et al</i> (2011) and Zhang <i>et al</i> (2016a) |
| Nop6 | x | | | | | Not essential for ribosome biogenesis | García-Gómez <i>et al</i> (2011) |

Table 6 (continued)

| Yeast | 40S | 60S | Human | 40S | 60S | Function in early nucleolar ribosome biogenesis | Citation |
|-----------|-----|-----|------------------|-----|-----|---|--|
| Utp20 | x | | UTP20 | x | | Associates with faulty intermediates, might play a role in rRNA quality control | Dez et al (2007) |
| Kre33 | x | | NAT10 | x | | ATP-dependent RNA acetyltransferase | Ito et al (2014) and Sharma et al (2017, 2015) |
| Faf1 | x | | C1orf131 | | | Interacts with Krr1/KRR1 | Zheng et al (2014) and Singh et al (2021) |
| Dim2/Pno1 | x | | PNO1/DIM2 | x | | Interacts with Nob1 | Chaker-Margot et al (2017) |
| Rrp12 | x | | RRP12 | x | | Part of the 3' minor domain | Ameismeier et al (2018) |
| Nob1 | x | | NOB1 | x | | Endoribonuclease, associates with ITS1, catalyzes removal of final part of ITS1 (site D/3), might only associate in nucleoplasm | Fatica et al (2004) |
| Dhr1 | x | | DHX37 | x | | DEAH box RNA helicase, releases U3 snoRNA | Boneberg et al (2019) |
| Dhr2 | x | | | | | DEAH box RNA helicase, interacts with Utp25 and Nop19 | Granneman et al (2006a) |
| Nop19 | x | | | | | Important for Utp25 incorporation | Choque et al (2011) |
| Rrp8 | x | | NML/RRP8 | x | | Methyltransferase | Peifer et al (2013) |
| Slx9 | x | | FAM207A/C21orf70 | | | Non-essential, supports efficient ITS1 processing | Bax et al (2006) |
| Pol5 | x | x | MYBBP1A | x | | Turnover of 5' ETS fragment, required for recycling of SSU RBFs | Braun et al (2020) |
| Bud23 | x | | WBRSC22 | x | | Methyltransferase, supports disassembly of SSU particle | Black et al (2020) |
| Nip7 | | x | NIP7 | x | | In contrast to yeast, human NIP7 and FTSJ3 were shown to function in 40S biogenesis | Morello et al (2011a) |
| Sbp1 | | x | FTSJ3 | x | | | |

5' ETS particle and the SSU "head domain". Recent structural and biochemical data obtained from yeast indeed revealed that the nuclear exosome already binds 90S particles prior to cleavage at site A1 as visualized in pre-A1* particles (Fig 4) (Du et al, 2020; Lau et al, 2021). Yet, in humans, the exosome was only found to be associated with the post-A1 structure and its binding sites are blocked in the described human pre-A1 particles (Singh et al, 2021).

The disassembly of the SSU processome involves the activity of the conserved RNA helicase Dhr1/DHX37 (Sardana et al, 2015; Boneberg et al, 2019; Choudhury et al, 2019), which drives the release of the U3 snoRNP to allow the formation of the conserved pseudoknot in the 18S rRNA. Dhr1/DHX37 is recruited to the SSU processome already upon release of the ANN complex, and initially kept in an inhibited state. Activation is tightly linked to the choreography of SSU processome disassembly, when the RNA helicase gains spatial proximity to its activator UTP14 (Boneberg et al, 2019; Choudhury et al, 2019; Singh et al, 2021). Recent *in vitro* work reconstituted the Dhr1-dependent release of the U3 snoRNA, allowing the visualization of these ATP-dependent remodeling steps and details of central pseudoknot maturation (Cheng et al, 2022).

Cleavage in the ITS1 leads to the separation of pre-40S and pre-60S particles, which further mature independently in nucleoli and nucleoplasm. In both yeast and human, the ITS1 is cleaved at two sites (site A2 and A3, E and 2, respectively) by the conserved enzymes UTP24 (site A2, E) and RMRP (site A3, 2) (Udem et al, 1971; Lygerou et al, 1996; Rouquette et al, 2005; Tomecki

et al, 2017; Aubert et al, 2018). The order of cleavages however differs: in yeast cleavage at site A2 by Utp24 is responsible for splitting the pre-ribosomal particles, while in human cells the majority of pre-rRNAs is first processed at site 2 by RMRP resulting in pre-40S and pre-60S separation (Allmang et al, 2000; Preti et al, 2013; Sloan et al, 2013b).

Nuclear maturation and export of the pre-40S subunit

Recent structural analyses provided insights into the molecular organization of a series of nucleoplasmic 40S precursors from yeast and human cells (Cheng et al, 2022). Early nucleoplasmic 40S assembly intermediates already possess many features of mature 40S subunits, except that the head region remains largely delocalized and helix 18 of the 18S rRNA is kept in an immature conformation (Cheng et al, 2022). This is achieved by Bud23/WBRSC22, the binding of which has been implicated in the remodeling of the SSU processome into immature 40S particles (Black et al, 2020; Cheng et al, 2022). Bud23/WBRSC22 together with its adaptor Trm112/TRMT112 also acts as an RNA methyltransferase factor and is required for the methylation of a conserved guanosine in the P-site of the 40S subunit (White et al, 2008; Figaro et al, 2012; Létouart et al, 2014; Zorbas et al, 2015). Besides Bud23/WBRSC22, Tsr1/TSR1 and Slx9/C21orf70/FAM207A are also already bound to these early nucleoplasmic precursors (Table 7).

The addition of further factors, including Hrr25/CKI δ / ϵ and Ltv1/LTV1, into the pre-40S subunits then results in partial stabilization of the 40S head and neck region (Cheng *et al.*, 2022). The large RBF RRP12, which embraces the immature head region, is central in further steps of head maturation. These entail the sequential joining of a set of ribosomal proteins, RPSA/uS2, RPS2/uS5, and RPS21/eS21, recruitment of Nob1/NOB1, and conformational changes in several rRNA helices (Ameismeier *et al.*, 2018; Cheng *et al.*, 2022). Incorporation of these RPs is followed by the release of Bud23, which occurs in coordination with the recruitment of Rio2 that associates with the decoding center between the platform and the head region, prior to nuclear export (Heuer *et al.*, 2017; Ameismeier *et al.*, 2018; Black & Johnson, 2022; Cheng *et al.*, 2022). Stabilization of the head region thus precedes nuclear export of pre-40S subunits, while beak formation is completed later in the cytoplasm.

Of the RBFs present in these 40S precursors, several are early-associating RBFs that remain bound throughout maturation in the nucleoplasm and even accompany 40S precursors to the cytoplasm, namely Enp1/BYSL, Dim2/PNO1, and RRP12 (Table 6). One notable early-binding RBF is the methyltransferase Dim1/DIM1, which remains particle-bound until it methylates two adenosines in the 3' region of the 18S rRNA (Lafontaine *et al.*, 1994). While this occurs during cytoplasmic maturation steps in yeast, human DIM1 performs the corresponding modification earlier, in the nucleus, where it dissociates from maturing particles before they are eventually exported to the cytoplasm (Wyler *et al.*, 2011; Zorbas *et al.*, 2015).

Compared to yeast, the processing of the ITS1 is more complex in higher eukaryotes and involves an additional endonucleolytic cleavage step, generating the 21S pre-rRNA (Fig 3). Moreover, 21S pre-rRNA maturation also includes exonucleases, namely the exosome with its catalytic subunits DIS3 and EXOSC10, and the poly(A)-specific ribonuclease PARN (Preti *et al.*, 2013; Tafforeau *et al.*, 2013; Sloan *et al.*, 2013b; Montellese *et al.*, 2017).

The association of several conserved RBFs, including Nob1/NOB1, Rio2/RIOK2, Ltv1/LTV1, Slx9/C21orf70/FAM207A, and Tsr1/TSR1

(Table 7) with 40S precursors during nuclear 40S maturation paves the way for nuclear export (Ferreira-Cerca *et al.*, 2005, 2007; Schäfer *et al.*, 2006; Carron *et al.*, 2011; Wyler *et al.*, 2011; Zemp *et al.*, 2014; Heuer *et al.*, 2017; Ameismeier *et al.*, 2018; Cheng *et al.*, 2022). Pre-ribosomal particles are among the largest transport cargos that pass through nuclear pore complexes (NPCs) and they need to be bound by multiple nuclear export receptors for NPC passage (Table 8). Binding of export factors to ribosomal pre-particles is thought to function as a quality control step of subunit maturation (Johnson *et al.*, 2002; Woolford & Baserga, 2013). In both yeast and mammalian cells, export of pre-40S subunits depends on the RanGTP-binding exportin Crm1/XPO1 (Hurt *et al.*, 1999; Moy & Silver, 1999; Thomas & Kutay, 2003; Wild *et al.*, 2010). The yeast 40S RBFs Dim2, Rio2, and Ltv1 contain nuclear export sequences (NES) and have been suggested to serve as redundant adaptors for Crm1 binding to the small subunit (Schäfer *et al.*, 2003; Vanrobays *et al.*, 2003, 2008; Seiser *et al.*, 2006; Merwin *et al.*, 2014). Further factors linked to pre-40S export in yeast are the mRNA export factor Mex67/Mtr2 (Faza *et al.*, 2012), Rrp12 (Oeffinger *et al.*, 2004), and Slx9, the latter with a proposed role in mediating Crm1 binding to Rio2 (Fischer *et al.*, 2015). Its human homolog SLX9/C21orf70/FAM207A is also associated with nucleoplasmic pre-40S particles (Wyler *et al.*, 2011), but is not known to accompany pre-40S subunits into the cytoplasm. Like in yeast, pre-40S export in human cells also exploits the atypical protein kinase RIOK2 as an adaptor for XPO1 (Zemp *et al.*, 2009). Other NES-containing RBFs are expected to contribute to the recruitment of XPO1 (Zemp *et al.*, 2009), among them PDCD2L, which was suggested to support pre-40S export in mammals (Landry-Voyer *et al.*, 2016).

Cytoplasmic steps of 40S subunit biogenesis

In the cytoplasm, several final maturation steps occur on both ribosomal pre-particles, including incorporation of late-assembling RPs, structural rearrangements, final pre-rRNA processing steps, and the

Table 7. Factors involved in nucleoplasmic steps of pre-40S maturation.

| Yeast | 40S | 60S | Human | 40S | 60S | Function in nucleoplasmic steps of pre-40S maturation | Citation |
|-------|-----|-----|-----------------------------|-----|-----|---|--|
| Tsr1 | x | | TSR1 | x | | Associates | Gelperin <i>et al.</i> (2001) |
| Nob1 | x | | NOB1 | x | | Endoribonuclease, associates with ITS1, catalyzes removal of final part of ITS1 (site D/3), might associate earlier | Fatica <i>et al.</i> (2004), Zemp <i>et al.</i> (2009) and Ameismeier <i>et al.</i> (2018) |
| Hrr25 | x | | CKI- δ / CSNK1D | x | | Associates | Schäfer <i>et al.</i> (2006) and Zemp <i>et al.</i> (2014) |
| Hrr25 | x | | CKI- ϵ / CSNK1E | x | | Associates | Schäfer <i>et al.</i> (2006) and Zemp <i>et al.</i> (2014) |
| Rio1 | x | | RIOK1/ RIO1 | x | | Associates | Rouquette <i>et al.</i> (2005) and Widmann <i>et al.</i> (2012) |
| Rio2 | x | | RIOK2/ RIO2 | x | | Associates | Vanrobays <i>et al.</i> (2003) and Zemp <i>et al.</i> (2009) |
| Ltv1 | x | | LTV1 | x | | Associates | Seiser <i>et al.</i> (2006) and Zemp <i>et al.</i> (2014) |
| | | | PARN | x | | Processes 3' end of the 18S pre-rRNA | Montellese <i>et al.</i> (2017) |
| Slx9 | | | FAM207A/ C21orf70 | x | | | Wyler <i>et al.</i> (2011) |

release of late-acting RBFs (Zemp & Kutay, 2007; Nerurkar et al, 2015). Several RBFs accompany these particles from the nucleus to the cytoplasm and are thought to prevent premature 40S-60S joining and translation initiation by keeping the particle in an inactive conformation and shielding functional sites on the subunit interface (Greber, 2016).

In yeast, exported pre-40S particles are bound by the RBFs Dim1, Dim2, Enp1, Nob1, Hrr25, Rio2, Rrp12, and Tsr1 (Schäfer et al, 2006). The function of these factors is widely conserved in mammalian cells, although DIM1 acts earlier and is not part of human late 40S precursors (Table 9). Recently published cryo-EM structures of cytoplasmic 40S pre-particles from yeast and human cells have highlighted that cytoplasmic 40S maturation mostly involves structural changes in the head and beak region, formation of the decoding center by rearrangement of helix 44 (h44) and final processing of the 18S pre-rRNA (Fatica et al, 2003; Lamanna & Karbstein, 2011; Larburu et al, 2016; Heuer et al, 2017; Scaiola et al, 2018; Ameismeier et al, 2020, 2018). These steps are coordinated by the conserved kinases Hrr25/CKI δ/ϵ , Rio2/RIOK2, and Rio1/RIOK1 (Vanrobays et al, 2003, 2001; Rouquette et al, 2005; Widmann et al, 2012; Ferreira-Cerca et al, 2014, 2012; Zemp et al, 2014, 2009; Mitterer et al, 2019; Plassart et al, 2021), with an additional kinase, RIOK3, supporting 18S pre-rRNA processing in mammalian cells (Baumas et al, 2012; Widmann et al, 2012). While Hrr25/CKI δ/ϵ is thought to phosphorylate and thereby trigger the release of Enp1/BYSL and Ltv1/LTV1 (Schäfer et al, 2006; Zemp

et al, 2014), no substrates are known for the RIO kinases. Both Rio1 and Rio2 have been suggested to act as ATPases rather than kinases (Ferreira-Cerca et al, 2012, 2014), with respective conformational changes regulating their association with 40S precursors. It is still unclear whether the kinase activity of Rio kinases is indeed exploited for structural remodeling of pre-40S particles as originally suggested (Ferreira-Cerca et al, 2012).

Intriguingly, the endonuclease Nob1/NOB1, which mediates the final cleavage of 20S pre-rRNA (18S-E in humans) to mature 18S rRNA, is already associated with nuclear pre-40S particles. However, its access to the cleavage site at the 3' end of 18S rRNA is restricted by Dim2/PNO1, thereby preventing premature removal of the remaining ITS1 fragment (Fig 5) (Turowski et al, 2014; Scaiola et al, 2018; Ameismeier et al, 2020). It has been suggested that in yeast, the formation of mature 18S rRNA is supported by the interaction of pre-40S particles with mature 60S particles forming an 80S-like complex, stimulated by the translation initiation factor Fun12/eIF5B (Lebaron et al, 2012; Strunk et al, 2012). The formation of an 80S-like particle has not been described for human cells. However, two additional, human-specific cytoplasmic RBFs were observed on late particles, namely EIF1AD and LRRC47 (Ameismeier et al, 2020; Montellese et al, 2020; Plassart et al, 2021). While LRRC47 associates with the subunit interface and might prevent premature 60S joining, binding of EIF1AD leads to a series of events, including repositioning of RIOK1 and the central helix h44, triggering PNO1 release and final pre-rRNA processing by NOB1. These

Table 8. Factors involved in nuclear export of ribosomal pre-particles.

| Yeast | 40S | 60S | Human | 40S | 60S | Function in nuclear export | Citation |
|---------------|-----|-----|----------------------|-----|-----|---|--|
| Crm1/ Xpo1 | x | x | XPO1/CRM1 | x | x | Facilitates export in RanGTP-dependent manner | Hurt et al (1999) and Thomas and Kutay (2003) |
| Dim2/ Pno1 | x | | PNO1/DIM2 | x | | Possible adaptor for XPO1-mediated export | Vanrobays et al (2008) |
| Rio2 | x | | RIOK2 | x | | Possible adaptor for XPO1-mediated export | Vanrobays et al (2003) and Zemp et al (2014) |
| Ltv1 | x | | LTV1 | x | | Possible adaptor for XPO1-mediated export | Seiser et al (2006) |
| | | | PDCD2L | x | | Possible adaptor for XPO1-mediated export | Landry-Voyer et al (2016) |
| Yrb2 | x | | RANBP3 | x | | | Stage-Zimmermann et al (2000) and Badertscher et al (2015) |
| Slx9 | x | | FAM207A/ C21orf70 | | | | Fischer et al (2015) |
| Rrp12 | x | x | RRP12 | | | Potential function in export, interaction with FG repeat nucleoporins <i>in vitro</i> | Oeffinger et al (2004) |
| Mex67 | x | x | NXF1 | | | Mex67-Mtr2 complex | Yao et al (2008, 2007) |
| Mtr2 | x | x | NXT1 | | | Export receptor | |
| Nmd3 | | x | NMD3 | | x | Adaptor for XPO1-mediated export | Ho et al (2000) and Thomas and Kutay (2003) |
| Arx1 | | x | PA2G4/EBP1 | | | Induces structural changes allowing export | Bradatsch et al (2007) |
| Bud20 | | x | ZNF593 | | | Binds FG repeats | Altwater et al (2012) |
| Ecm1 | | x | | | | Binds FG repeats | Yao et al (2010) |
| Npl3/ Nop3 | | x | SRSF1 | | | Binds FG repeats | Hackmann et al (2011) |
| Gle2/ Rae1 | | x | RAE1 | x | x | Binds to Nup116 and recruits pre-60S via second binding site | Wild et al (2010) and Occhipinti et al (2013) |
| Msn5 | | | XPO5 | | x | Facilitates export in RanGTP-dependent manner | Wild et al (2010) |

Table 9. Factors involved in cytoplasmic pre-40S maturation.

| Yeast | 40S | 60S | Human | 40S | 60S | Function in cytoplasmic pre-40S maturation | Citation | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---------------|-----|-----|-----------------------------|-----|-----|--|--|------|---|--|------|---|--|--|---|------|---|--|-------|---|--|---|---|-------|---|--|-------|---|--|--|---|---------------|---|--|---------------|---|--|--|--|------|---|--|------|---|--|--|---|-------|---|--|---------------------------|---|--|---|--|--|--|--|-----------------------------|---|--|------|---|--|----------------|---|--|--|---|------|---|--|----------------|---|--|---|--|--|--|--|-------|---|--|---------------------------|-------------------------------|-------|---|--|-------|--|--|--|------------------------------|---------------|---|--|-----|---|--|--------------------|----------------------------|---------------|---|--|-------|---|--|--------------------|--|------|---|--|------|--|--|--|--|-------|---|--|------|--|--|------|---|--|-------|--|--|-------|---|--|-------|--|--|--|--|--|-------|---|--|---|--------------------------------|--|--|--|--------|---|--|--|--------------------------------|--|--|--|--------|---|--|
| Enp1 | x | | ENP1/ BYSL | x | | Released by Hrr25/CKI phosphorylation, Release allows stable incorporation of Rps3/uS3, Rps10/eS10 and Rps20/uS10, Formation of the beak structure | Schäfer <i>et al</i> (2006), Zemp <i>et al</i> (2014) and Ameismeier <i>et al</i> (2018) | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Ltv1 | x | | LTV1 | x | | | | Tsr1 | x | | TSR1 | x | | Released, occludes binding sites for mRNA and translation initiation factors | Larburu <i>et al</i> (2016) and Scaiola <i>et al</i> (2018) | Dim1 | x | | DIMT1 | x | | Methyltransferase, yeast: modifies subsequent adenines near 3' end of 18S rRNA; human: function occurs already in the nucleus | Strunk <i>et al</i> (2011) and Zorbas <i>et al</i> (2015) | Rrp12 | x | | RRP12 | x | | Released, which allows incorporation of Asc1 (RACK1 in humans) | Wyler <i>et al</i> (2011) and Larburu <i>et al</i> (2016) | Dim2/ Pno1 | x | | PNO1/ DIM2 | x | | Inhibits binding of eIF3; release contributes to Major structural rearrangements, allowing Nob1 activity | Ameismeier <i>et al</i> (2018) and Scaiola <i>et al</i> (2018) | Nob1 | x | | NOB1 | x | | Endonucleolytic cleavage of 20S pre-rRNA (18S-E pre-rRNA in humans) to yield mature 18S rRNA | Fatica <i>et al</i> (2003) and Lamanna and Karbstein (2011) | Hrr25 | x | | CKI- δ / CSNK1D | x | | Phosphorylation of Enp1-Ltv1-Rps3/uS3 complex, which triggers release of Ltv1 | Schäfer <i>et al</i> (2006) and Zemp <i>et al</i> (2014) | | | | CKI- ϵ / CSNK1E | x | | Rio1 | x | | RIOK1/ RIO1 | x | | Orchestrates structural changes, pre-rRNA maturation and trans-acting factor release | Vanrobays <i>et al</i> (2003) and Widmann <i>et al</i> (2012) | Rio2 | x | | RIOK2/ RIO2 | x | | Kinase contributes to pre-rRNA maturation and trans-acting factor release | Geerlings <i>et al</i> (2003) and Zemp <i>et al</i> (2009) | | | | RIOK3 | x | | Promotes 18S-E processing | Geerlings <i>et al</i> (2003) | Prp43 | x | | DHX15 | | | Conformational pre-rRNA switch, which allows Nob1 activity | Pertschy <i>et al</i> (2009) | Pfa1/ Sqs1 | x | | SON | x | | Cofactor for Prp43 | Sloan <i>et al</i> (2013b) | Pxr1/ Gno1 | x | | PINX1 | x | | Cofactor for Prp43 | Guglielmi and Werner (2002) and Chen <i>et al</i> (2014) | Hbs1 | x | | HBS1 | | | In yeast: facilitates formation of 80S like particle | Lebaron <i>et al</i> (2012), Strunk <i>et al</i> (2012) and Hector <i>et al</i> (2014) | Dom34 | x | | PELO | | | Rli1 | x | | ABCE1 | | | Fun12 | x | | EIF5B | | | | | | USP16 | x | | Deubiquitylates lysine 113 in RPS27A/eS31 | Montellese <i>et al</i> (2020) | | | | LRRC47 | x | | Bound to late cytoplasmic pre-40S particle | Ameismeier <i>et al</i> (2020) | | | | EIF1AD | x | |
| Tsr1 | x | | TSR1 | x | | Released, occludes binding sites for mRNA and translation initiation factors | Larburu <i>et al</i> (2016) and Scaiola <i>et al</i> (2018) | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Dim1 | x | | DIMT1 | x | | Methyltransferase, yeast: modifies subsequent adenines near 3' end of 18S rRNA; human: function occurs already in the nucleus | Strunk <i>et al</i> (2011) and Zorbas <i>et al</i> (2015) | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Rrp12 | x | | RRP12 | x | | Released, which allows incorporation of Asc1 (RACK1 in humans) | Wyler <i>et al</i> (2011) and Larburu <i>et al</i> (2016) | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Dim2/ Pno1 | x | | PNO1/ DIM2 | x | | Inhibits binding of eIF3; release contributes to Major structural rearrangements, allowing Nob1 activity | Ameismeier <i>et al</i> (2018) and Scaiola <i>et al</i> (2018) | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Nob1 | x | | NOB1 | x | | Endonucleolytic cleavage of 20S pre-rRNA (18S-E pre-rRNA in humans) to yield mature 18S rRNA | Fatica <i>et al</i> (2003) and Lamanna and Karbstein (2011) | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Hrr25 | x | | CKI- δ / CSNK1D | x | | Phosphorylation of Enp1-Ltv1-Rps3/uS3 complex, which triggers release of Ltv1 | Schäfer <i>et al</i> (2006) and Zemp <i>et al</i> (2014) | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | | | CKI- ϵ / CSNK1E | x | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Rio1 | x | | RIOK1/ RIO1 | x | | Orchestrates structural changes, pre-rRNA maturation and trans-acting factor release | Vanrobays <i>et al</i> (2003) and Widmann <i>et al</i> (2012) | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Rio2 | x | | RIOK2/ RIO2 | x | | Kinase contributes to pre-rRNA maturation and trans-acting factor release | Geerlings <i>et al</i> (2003) and Zemp <i>et al</i> (2009) | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | | | RIOK3 | x | | Promotes 18S-E processing | Geerlings <i>et al</i> (2003) | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Prp43 | x | | DHX15 | | | Conformational pre-rRNA switch, which allows Nob1 activity | Pertschy <i>et al</i> (2009) | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Pfa1/ Sqs1 | x | | SON | x | | Cofactor for Prp43 | Sloan <i>et al</i> (2013b) | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Pxr1/ Gno1 | x | | PINX1 | x | | Cofactor for Prp43 | Guglielmi and Werner (2002) and Chen <i>et al</i> (2014) | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Hbs1 | x | | HBS1 | | | In yeast: facilitates formation of 80S like particle | Lebaron <i>et al</i> (2012), Strunk <i>et al</i> (2012) and Hector <i>et al</i> (2014) | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Dom34 | x | | PELO | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Rli1 | x | | ABCE1 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Fun12 | x | | EIF5B | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | | | USP16 | x | | Deubiquitylates lysine 113 in RPS27A/eS31 | Montellese <i>et al</i> (2020) | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | | | LRRC47 | x | | Bound to late cytoplasmic pre-40S particle | Ameismeier <i>et al</i> (2020) | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | | | EIF1AD | x | | Supports trans-acting factor release and pre-rRNA maturation | Ameismeier <i>et al</i> (2020) | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |

final maturation steps, entailing incorporation of RPS26/eS26, ATP hydrolysis on RIOK1, and dissociation of the few remaining RBFs, renders 40S subunit competent for 60S joining and mRNA translation (Plassart *et al*, 2021). The deubiquitinase USP16, which deubiquitylates RPS27A/eS31 in a translation-dependent manner, supports these last maturation events in a not yet fully understood fashion, potentially linking surveillance of subunit maturation to translation initiation (Montellese *et al*, 2020).

Nucleolar pre-60S biogenesis

After the subunit separating cleavage in the ITS1, the 60S precursor matures independently of the 40S subunit. At this point, the pre-60S subunit contains the 27S (yeast) or 32S pre-rRNA (human) that

comprises both the 5.8S and 25S/28S rRNA portions (Fig 3) (Kater *et al*, 2017). Based on conserved secondary and tertiary structures, the 25/28S rRNA is subdivided into six domains, named I to VI from 5' to 3', which fold in a hierarchical process (Gamalinda *et al*, 2014; Klinge & Woolford, 2019). While the two most 5' domains of the 25S rRNA were observed to fold first (Zhou *et al*, 2019a), later steps of 60S domain formation are more complex and intertwined as they do not follow the order of domain transcription, as illustrated by structural snapshots of several pre-60S particles (Wu *et al*, 2016; Kater *et al*, 2017, 2020; Sanghai *et al*, 2018; Kargas *et al*, 2019; Zhou *et al*, 2019a, 2019b). Cryo-EM structures of the first nucleolar pre-60S particles could not be obtained so far, presumably due to the high flexibility and heterogeneity of these complexes, in which RNA-RNA and RNA-protein interactions are gradually established (Burlacu *et al*, 2017; Pöll *et al*, 2017). In a recent study, an early

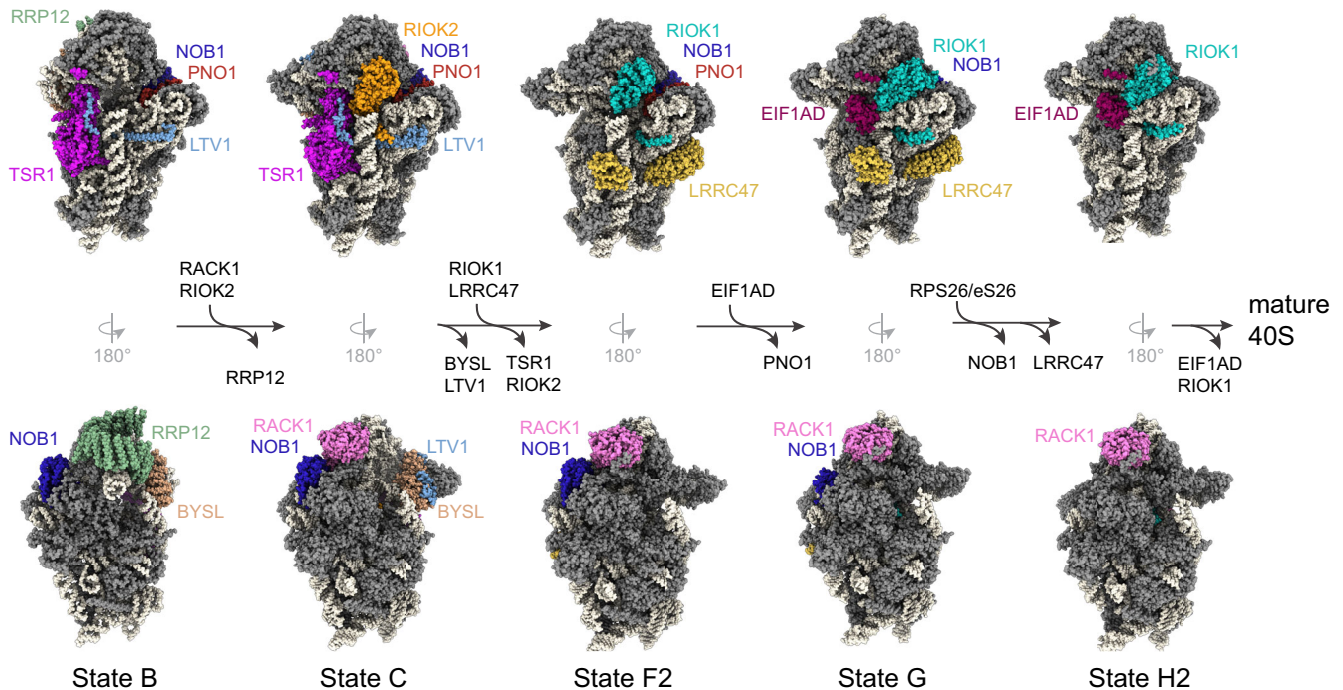


Figure 5. Overview of late maturation steps of the small ribosomal subunit.

Front and back views of human pre-40S particles at different stages of cytoplasmic maturation as derived from cryo-EM analyses (PDB ID: 6G4S, 6G18, 6ZXE, 6ZXF, 6ZXH). Factors involved in these steps are color-coded and pre-rRNA is shown in white. After RRP12 release from the state B particle, RACK1 occupies its place and the pre-rRNA is rearranged for head formation. PNO1 directly interacts with NOB1 and keeps it in an inactive state (from state B to F2). Association of EIF1AD, concomitant with rearrangements of RIOK1, triggers PNO1 dissociation, RPS26/eS26 incorporation, and final pre-rRNA processing. LRR47 association prevents 60S joining until the mature decoding region is formed.

pre-60S was visualized in a bipartite structure with a 90S particle, but the existence of this intermediate needs to be confirmed in wild-type cells (Ismail *et al.*, 2022). The earliest visualized yeast particles reveal that 60S biogenesis first yields the solvent exposed subunit surface, initiated by folding of the 25S domains I and II (Zhou *et al.*, 2019a). This pre-particle is stabilized by several RBFs, including the Nsa1 module at the solvent-exposed side. In intermediate pre-60S particles, folding and positioning of domain VI toward the forming core can be observed, as well as folding of the pre-5.8S rRNA, while domains III-V remain too flexible to be resolved (Kater *et al.*, 2017; Sanghai *et al.*, 2018; Zhou *et al.*, 2019a). In later stages of nuclear pre-60S maturation (Fig 6), domains III, IV, and V, progressively fold and are positioned in the context of the maturing particle, leading to the gradual formation of PET, PTC, and the 60S/40S subunit interface (Barrio-Garcia *et al.*, 2016; Wu *et al.*, 2016; Kater *et al.*, 2017; Ma *et al.*, 2017; Malyutin *et al.*, 2017; Zhou *et al.*, 2019b).

Pre-rRNA folding, compaction, and cleavage steps, as well as incorporation of RPs, are supported by a number of 60S-specific RBFs (Table 10). Many of these RBFs join the particle already early in nucleoli and the number of associated factors steadily decreases as 60S subunits mature on their way to the cytoplasm (Nerurkar *et al.*, 2015). Importantly, directionality of the 60S assembly process is ensured by the activity of energy-dependent RBFs, for example, ATP-dependent RNA helicases (e.g., Has1/DDX18 and Dpb10/DDX54), AAA-ATPases (e.g., Rix7/NVL2 and Rea1/MDN1) and

GTPases (including Nug1/GNL3 and Nog1/GTPBP4) (Table 10) (Nissan *et al.*, 2002; Bernstein *et al.*, 2006; Ulbrich *et al.*, 2009; Baßler *et al.*, 2010; Kressler *et al.*, 2010, 2008; Wild *et al.*, 2010; Kappel *et al.*, 2012; Dembowski *et al.*, 2013; Matsuo *et al.*, 2014; Manikas *et al.*, 2016; Zhang *et al.*, 2016b; Hiraishi *et al.*, 2018; Klinge & Woolford, 2019). Several other RBFs involved in 60S biogenesis contain multiple RNA binding motifs, which likely provide structural support and reduce the conformational freedom of rRNA during folding and compaction. Importantly, correct binding and positioning of RPs also critically contribute to correct pre-rRNA folding in the maturing 60S particle (de la Cruz *et al.*, 2015; Pöll *et al.*, 2021, 2009). This is exemplified by the largest Rpl, Rpl3/uL3, which binds very early during pre-60S biogenesis and spans several rRNA domains (Ben-Shem *et al.*, 2011; de la Cruz *et al.*, 2015). Rpl3 stabilizes the interaction between the 5' and 3' end of the 25S rRNA and its binding is prerequisite for the incorporation of most other Rpls (Pöll *et al.*, 2009; Ohmayer *et al.*, 2013; Gamalinda *et al.*, 2014; de la Cruz *et al.*, 2015).

In general, DEXD/H-box ATPases facilitate ribosome biogenesis by unwinding snoRNA-pre-rRNA base pairs and remodeling of RNA-RNA and protein-RNA interactions, thereby supporting major structural rearrangements in the forming subunits as well as pre-rRNA folding (Dembowski *et al.*, 2013; Rodríguez-Galán *et al.*, 2013; Martin *et al.*, 2014; Khoshnevis *et al.*, 2016; Brüning *et al.*, 2018). Seven DEXD/H-box ATPases have been implicated in the first steps of 60S maturation (Table 10) (reviewed in Mitterer &

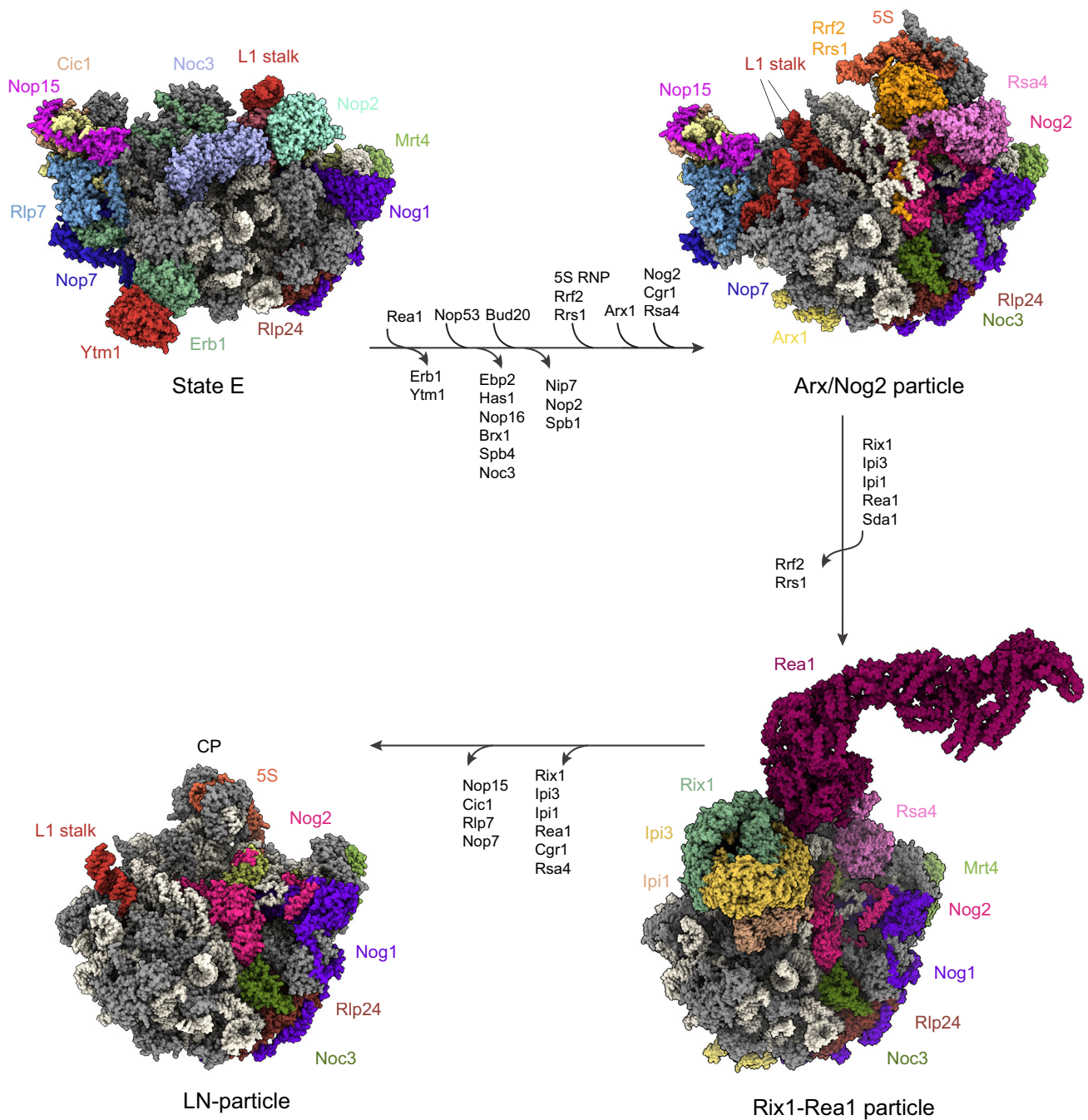


Figure 6. Overview of key nuclear maturation events of the large ribosomal subunit in yeast.

Cryo-EM structures of yeast pre-60S particles at different stages of maturation (PDB ID: 6ELZ, 3JCT, 6YLG, 6N8J). RBFs involved in these steps are color-coded, as well as the pre-rRNA (white), L1 stalk (red), and 5S rRNA (orange). The nucleolar pre-60S in state E shows a displacement of the L1 stalk from its position in the mature subunit. The successive nucleoplasmic Arx/Nog2 particle is a result of a stepwise release and binding of the indicated RBFs and the 5S RNP. The Rix-*Rea1* remodeling machinery initiates the formation of the central protuberance (CP) and rotation of the 5S RNP to its mature conformation, visible in the successive late nuclear (LN) particle.

Pertschy, 2022). Recently, it was shown that absence of yeast Dbp3 and Prp43 results in a drastic reduction of rRNA modifications (Aquino *et al*, 2021; Bailey *et al*, 2022), and several snoRNPs accumulate on early 60S pre-particles (Leeds *et al*, 2006; Bohnsack *et al*, 2009; Aquino *et al*, 2021). Similarly, DDX51 facilitates release

of U8 snoRNA (Srivastava *et al*, 2010), whereas Dbp7 was proposed to regulate the association of snR190, a snoRNA that structurally inhibits aberrant folding of 25S rRNA (Jaafar *et al*, 2021a).

Pre-rRNA processing during 60S maturation commences with removal of the remaining ITS1 spacer at the 5' end of 27S/32S pre-

rRNAs, before cleavage in the ITS2 (at site C2/4) separates the pre-5.8S and pre-25/28S rRNAs (Lygerou *et al*, 1996; Rouquette *et al*, 2005; Schillewaert *et al*, 2012; Gasse *et al*, 2015; Pillon *et al*, 2017). Removal of the ITS1 spacer is initiated by endonucleolytic cleavage at site A₃ in yeast, while it is removed solely exonucleolytically in human cells (Tomecki *et al*, 2017). Depletion experiments revealed that a set of 12 yeast RBFs (Ytm1, Erb1, Nop7, Rlp7, Cic1, Nop15, Has1, Drs1, Rpf1, Pwp1, Nop12, and Rrp1) is required for A₃ site processing, and they were consequently termed A₃-factors (Table 10) (Merl *et al*, 2010; Granneman *et al*, 2011; Sahasranaman *et al*, 2011; Shimoji *et al*, 2012; Dembowski *et al*, 2013; Woolford & Baserga, 2013; Talkish *et al*, 2014). Structural data showed that the binding sites of most of these factors are not located in proximity of the ITS1 fragment, indicating that they are rather needed as structural components for correct folding and configuration of a pre-60S assembly intermediate to render it amenable to A₃ cleavage (Sahasranaman *et al*, 2011; Woolford & Baserga, 2013; Kater *et al*, 2017; Konikkat & Woolford, 2017; Sanghai *et al*, 2018; Zhou *et al*, 2019a). Interestingly, A₃ cleavage was found to be coupled with termination of RNAPII transcription and 3' ETS processing, suggesting a link between 60S assembly and transcription, yet the underlying molecular mechanism remains to be deciphered (Allmang & Tollervey, 1998; Lebaron *et al*, 2012; Gamalinda *et al*, 2014; Chen *et al*, 2017).

After ITS1 removal, pre-rRNA processing is focused on the separation of the 27SB/32S precursor into the 7/12S and 26/28.5S pre-rRNAs by cleavage in the ITS2. More than a dozen RBFs, originally termed “B-factors,” are required to prepare the particle for this processing step and many of them are bound to the subunit interface (Talkish *et al*, 2012; Woolford & Baserga, 2013). Interestingly, some B-factors, including Nip7 and Nop2, are already part of the 90S particle, before endonucleolytic separation of the two subunits occurs (Kater *et al*, 2017). B-factors contribute to the construction of the PET (e.g., Nog1; Fuentes *et al*, 2007; Wu *et al*, 2016) and the assembly of the PTC (e.g., Nsa2, Dpb10, Nug1, and Rsa4; Baßler *et al*, 2014; Matsuo *et al*, 2014; Barrio-Garcia *et al*, 2016; Wu *et al*, 2016).

Before ITS2 cleavage can take place, pre-60S subunits undergo major structural rearrangements driven by the AAA-ATPases Rix7/NVL2 and Rea1/MDN1. First, Rix7 releases Nsa1, which leaves the particle together with Rpf1, Rrp1, and Mak16 (Saveanu *et al*, 2003; Kressler *et al*, 2008; Lo *et al*, 2017, 2019). This allows the formation of the outer part of the PET (Kater *et al*, 2017; Sanghai *et al*, 2018; Zhou *et al*, 2019a). Rix7 activity is then followed by ATP hydrolysis by Rea1. This giant 550 kDa protein removes the Erb1-Ytm1 subcomplex (Fig 6), which interacts with many RBFs covering the yet to form intersubunit surface (Baßler *et al*, 2010, 2014; Thoms *et al*, 2016; Kater *et al*, 2017; Chen *et al*, 2018; Ahmed *et al*, 2019). The MIDAS domain of Rea1 was biochemically shown to bind the UBL domain of Ytm1, yet a structure illustrating the binding of Rea1 to Ytm1 is still missing. Erb1 likely stabilizes the premature architecture at this stage with its N-terminus deeply embedded in the particle (Kater *et al*, 2017; Prattes *et al*, 2019). Its active removal by Rea1 presumably contributes to the major structural rearrangements and compositional changes observed during particle transition from the nucleolus to the nucleoplasm. Release of Erb1 also allows the recruitment of the GTPases Nog2 just before ITS2 cleavage and transition to the nucleoplasm (Talkish

et al, 2012; Fromm *et al*, 2017; Biedka *et al*, 2018). Finally, cleavage at site C₂/4 within ITS2 is mediated by the conserved endonuclease Las1/LAS1, which functions in a complex with the polynucleotide kinase Grc3, together called RNase PNK (Schillewaert *et al*, 2012; Castle *et al*, 2013; Gasse *et al*, 2015; Pillon *et al*, 2017; Frazier *et al*, 2021).

The release of pre-particles from nucleoli could be governed by the state of pre-rRNA compaction and processing. According to this model, pre-ribosomal particles that still expose binding sites for general nucleolar RNA chaperones such as nucleophosmin (NPM) (Szebeni & Olson, 1999; Box *et al*, 2016) or nucleolin (NCL) (Mongelard & Bouvet, 2007) (Table 14) would remain partitioned in the nucleolar “phase” by low-affinity interactions of exposed RNA segments with these multivalent RNA chaperones. Once the pre-rRNAs in the emerging subunits have been sufficiently compacted, processed, and covered by RPs and RBFs, they would no longer be retained and released into the nucleoplasm. Along these lines, *in vitro* experiments showed a preferential partitioning of protein-free bacterial rRNA but not mature ribosomal subunits into droplets formed by human NPM (Riback *et al*, 2020). Furthermore, a similar model has recently been proposed based on bioinformatic analyses of cryo-EM structures, which revealed that earlier nucleolar ribosomal precursors contain more unstructured rRNA regions as well as RBFs with predicted intrinsically disordered regions compared to nucleoplasmic subunit assembly intermediates, and both these elements could contribute to nucleolar retention of subunits (LaPeruta *et al*, 2022).

Formation of the 5S RNP and its incorporation into pre-60S subunits

During its maturation, the pre-60S subunit must incorporate the mature 5S rRNA. The 5S rRNA first associates with its partner RPs Rpl5/uL18 and Rpl11/uL5, which are co-imported into the nucleus with help of the RP chaperone Syo1/HEATR3 which also serves as a platform for 5S RNP assembly (Kressler *et al*, 2012; Calviño *et al*, 2015). The 5S RNP is then bound by pre-60S particles in the nucleolus aided by the associated Rpf2-Rrs1 complex (Table 11) (Wu *et al*, 2016). In mature 60S subunits, the 5S RNP forms the central protuberance, yet the 5S RNP is not immediately placed in its final position in the pre-60S, but rotated by about 180°, as revealed by structures of Arx1/Nog2 pre-60S particles from yeast (Leidig *et al*, 2014; Wu *et al*, 2016).

In mammalian cells, the incorporation of the 5S RNP into the nascent 60S subunit serves as an important checkpoint to relay defects in nucleolar ribosome synthesis into the p53 pathway, referred to as the “nucleolar stress response” (reviewed in Chakraborty *et al*, 2011; Bohnsack & Bohnsack, 2019). If nucleolar 60S maturation is perturbed, the unincorporated 5S RNP accumulates, to then bind and inhibit the p53 E3 ubiquitin ligase MDM2, leading to p53 stabilization and cell cycle arrest (Donati *et al*, 2013; Sloan *et al*, 2013a). This 5S RNP-dependent mechanism has emerged as a key nuclear stress response pathway that reacts to a broad range of insults ranging from diverse DNA damaging insults, proteasome inactivation to nuclear export inhibition (Hannan *et al*, 2022), putting the 5S RNP and ribosome biogenesis defects into the center of nuclear stress sensing.

Table 10. Factors involved in nucleolar steps of 60S maturation.

| Yeast | 40S | 60S | Human | 40S | 60S | Function in nucleolar steps of pre-60S maturation | Citation |
|---|-----|-----|---------------|-----|-----|--|--|
| Rrp5 | x | x | PDCD11 | x | | Part of Rrp5-Noc1-Noc2 complex, supports early steps of pre-rRNA Compaction, Rrp5 contains multiple RNA binding motifs | Hiermeier et al (2013) |
| Noc1 | | x | CEBPZ | | x | | |
| Noc2/ Rix3 | | x | NOC2L/ NIR | | x | | |
| Npa1/ Urb1 | | x | URB1 | | | Npa1-Npa2-Nop8-Rsa3-Dbp6 complex, organization of early pre-rRNA compaction steps, Dbp6/DDX51 is a DEAD box RNA helicase DDX51: 28S 3' end maturation, release of U8 snoRNA (only in metazoans) | Rosado et al (2007) and Srivastava et al (2010) |
| Npa2/ Urb2 | | x | URB2 | | | | |
| Nop8 | | x | | | | | |
| Rsa3 | | x | | | | | |
| Dbp6 | | x | DDX51 | | x | | |
| Dbp2 | | x | DDX5 | | x | DEAD box RNA helicases, involved in early pre-rRNA remodeling steps, including release of snoRNPs (Dbp3) | Bond et al (2001) and Saporita et al (2011) |
| Dbp3 | | x | | | | | |
| Dbp7 | | x | DDX31 | | x | | |
| Dbp9 | | x | | | | | Bernstein et al (2006) |
| Mak5 | | x | DDX24 | | x | | Bernstein et al (2006) |
| Nsa1 | | x | WDR74 | | x | Nsa1 module, stabilizes solvent exposed side, bridges 25S domains I and II, Rpf1 protrudes into PET | Kater et al (2017) and Lo et al (2017) |
| Rpf1 | | x | RPF1 | | | | |
| Mak16 | | x | MAK16 | | x | | |
| Rrp1 | | x | RRP1 | | x | | |
| Nop4 | | x | RBM28 | | | Binds 5' end of 5.8S rRNA | Granneman et al (2011) |
| Puf6 | | x | PUM3 | | | Chaperone for Rpl43/eL43, aids 7S processing, interacts with H63 (25S rRNA), required for export of 60S at low temperature | Liang et al (2019) |
| Loc1 | | x | | | | Chaperone for Rpl43/eL43 | Liang et al (2019) |
| Rrp15 | | x | RRP15 | x | x | Rrp15-Ssf1 complex, Ssf1 and Ssf2 are 94% identical | Fatica et al (2002) and de Marchis et al (2005) |
| Ssf1 | | x | PPAN | | | | |
| Ssf2 | | x | PPAN | | | | |
| Rrp14 | | x | SURF6 | | | | Oeffinger et al (2007) |
| | | | METTL18 | | x | Methylation of RPL3/uL3 His245 | Małeckı et al (2021) |
| "A3"-factors, involved in A3 site processing and ITS1 trimming, incorporation of Rpl17/uL22, Rpl26/uL24, Rpl35/uL29, Rpl37/eL37, recruitment of Rrp17 | | | | | | | |
| Nop7 | | x | PES1 | | x | Erb1-Ytm1-Nop7/PeBoW complex, Stabilizes early fold of 5.8S and domain I of 25S rRNA; important for structuring of PTC and PET, DDX27 also functions independently in 47S 3' end formation, Drs1 is not associated with Erb1-Ytm1-Nop7 complex | Rohrmoser et al (2007), Kellner et al (2015) and Konikkat et al (2017) |
| Erb1 | | x | BOP1 | | x | | |
| Ytm1 | | x | WDR12 | | x | | |
| Drs1 | | x | DDX27 | | x | | |
| Nop15 | | x | MKI67IP | | x | Nop15-Rlp7-Cic complex, Supports folding of ITS2, part of the foot structure of pre-60S particles | Sahasranaman et al (2011) and Kater et al (2017) |
| Rlp7 | | x | RLP7 | | | | |
| Cic1 | | x | | | | | |
| Pwp1 | | x | PWP1 | | | Important for 5.8S folding, ubiquitylated by CRL4 ^{VPRBP} | Talkish et al (2014) and Han et al (2020) |
| Nop12 | | x | RBM34 | | | Important for 5.8S folding | Talkish et al (2014) |
| Has1 | | x | DDX18 | | | DEAD-box RNA helicase, binding triggers trimming of 5' end of 5.8S pre-rRNA, important for 25S domain I folding, facilitates incorporation of Rpl17/uL22 and other PET forming proteins, also: linked to release of U14 snoRNA | Dembowski et al (2013) |
| Brx1 | | x | BRX1 | | x | Brx1-Ebp2 complex, prevents premature RNA-RNA interactions of domains I and V, important for PET formation | Sanghai et al (2018) |
| Ebp2 | | x | EBNA1BP2 | | x | | |

Table 10 (continued)

| Yeast | 40S | 60S | Human | 40S | 60S | Function in nucleolar steps of pre-60S maturation | Citation |
|---|-----|-----|-------------------|-----|-----|--|---|
| "B" factors, required for endonucleolytic cleavage at site C2 by Las1 | | | | | | | |
| Nip7 | | x | NIP7 | x | | Nip7-Nop2 complex, aids formation of PTC, recruits Rpf2-Rrs1, Nop2 is a methyltransferase | Morello <i>et al</i> (2011b) and Kater <i>et al</i> (2017) |
| Nop2 | | x | NOP2 | | | | |
| Rrs1 | | x | RRS1 | | x | Rpf2-Rrs1 complex, facilitates incorporation of 5S RNP | Wu <i>et al</i> (2016) |
| Rpf2 | | x | BXDC1 | | x | | |
| Spb4 | | x | DDX55 | | x | Binds domain IV of 28S rRNA | Wu <i>et al</i> (2016) |
| Mak11 | | x | PAK1IP1 | | x | | Manikas <i>et al</i> (2016) |
| Dbp10 | | x | DDX54 | | | Binds h89, role in PTC formation | Bernstein <i>et al</i> (2006) and Manikas <i>et al</i> (2016) |
| Nug1 | | x | GNL3 | | x | GTPase, required for Dbp10 binding | Manikas <i>et al</i> (2016) |
| Rlp24 | | x | RLP24/ RSL24D1 | | | Placeholder for Rpl24/eL24, recruits and activates Drg1 | Kappel <i>et al</i> (2012) |
| Tif6 | | x | EIF6 | | x | | Basu <i>et al</i> (2001) |
| Nog1 | | x | GTPBP4 | | x | GTPase, proofreading/maturation of PET | Wu <i>et al</i> (2016) and Liang <i>et al</i> (2020) |
| Nsa2 | | x | NSA2 | | x | | Talkish <i>et al</i> (2012) |
| Rsa4 | | x | NLE1 | | | | de la Cruz <i>et al</i> (2005) |
| Pol5 | x | x | MYBBP1A | x | | Binds to domain III of 25S rRNA, important for PET formation | Braun <i>et al</i> (2020) |
| Noc3 | | x | NOC3L | | | | Milkereit <i>et al</i> (2001) |
| Other factors | | | | | | | |
| Nog2 | | x | GNL2 | | x | | Dembowski <i>et al</i> (2013) |
| Nop16 | | x | NOP16 | | x | | Pratte <i>et al</i> (2013) |
| Nop53 | | x | GLTSCR2/ NOP53 | | x | Binds to similar position as Erb1, after Erb1 is released, recruits nuclear exosome by Mtr4 possibly structural role of Nop53 rearranging and stabilizing the foot interface | Falk <i>et al</i> (2017), Sanghai <i>et al</i> (2018) and Bagatelli <i>et al</i> (2021) |
| Spb1 | | x | FTSJ3 | x | | Methyltransferase, involved in PTC formation | Kater <i>et al</i> (2017) |
| Mrt4 | | x | MRT4/ MRTO4 | | x | Structural placeholder for P stalk | Rodríguez-Mateos <i>et al</i> (2009) |
| Mtq2 | | x | N6AMT1 | | | Acts together with its cofactor Trm112 | Lacoux <i>et al</i> (2020) |
| YBL028C | | x | LLPH | | x | | Kater <i>et al</i> (2017) and Liang <i>et al</i> (2020) |
| Bud20 | | x | ZNF593 | | | Nuclear export factor | Altwater <i>et al</i> (2012) |
| Arx1 | | x | PA2G4/ EBP1 | | x | Binds at PET exit, suggested to proofread PET exit region, supports structural changes allowing nuclear export | Greber <i>et al</i> (2012) |
| Rix7 | | x | NVL2 | | x | AAA-ATPase, removes Nsa1 (+associated factors), which together with release of Erb1-Ytm1 allows Las1 cleavage and transition of the particle to the nucleoplasm, NVL2 was shown to be associated with Mtr4 (exosome) and WDR74 | Kressler <i>et al</i> (2008) and Hiraishi <i>et al</i> (2018) |
| Rea1/ Mdn1 | | x | MDN1 | | x | AAA-ATPase, releases Erb1-Ytm1 complex, binds again at a later stage of pre-60S maturation | Baßler <i>et al</i> (2010) and Wild <i>et al</i> (2010) |
| Las1 | | x | LAS1L | | x | Endoribonuclease C2 cleavage | Schillewaert <i>et al</i> (2012) |
| Grc3 | | x | NOL9 | | | Polynucleotide kinase, phosphorylation of ITS2 cleavage product, forms constitutive complex with Las1 in yeast | Pillon <i>et al</i> (2017) |

Nucleoplasmic assembly steps and export of pre-60S subunits

The transition of pre-60S particles from the nucleolus to the nucleoplasm is accompanied by the release and binding of a significant number of RBFs, resulting in substantial compositional and

structural changes in the emerging subunits (Fig 6) (Kater *et al*, 2017, 2020; Sanghai *et al*, 2018). These include the repositioning of the L1 stalk, which is first delocalized and then accommodated into its mature position following the release of Spb1 (Kater *et al*, 2020). Furthermore, 2'O-methylation of G2922 in the PTC A-site loop by Spb1 was suggested to be prerequisite for stable binding

Table 11. Factors involved in 5S RNP formation and incorporation.

| Yeast | 40S | 60S | Human | 40S | 60S | Function in 5S RNP maturation | Citation |
|--------|-----|-----|--------|-----|-----|---|--|
| Rex1 | | x | REXO5 | | | Exoribonuclease, 5S pre-rRNA trimming | van Hoof <i>et al</i> (2000) |
| Rex2 | | x | REXO2 | | | Exoribonuclease, 5S pre-rRNA trimming | van Hoof <i>et al</i> (2000) |
| Rex3 | | x | REXO1 | | | Exoribonuclease, 5S pre-rRNA trimming | van Hoof <i>et al</i> (2000) |
| La | | x | | | | Binds immature 5S pre-rRNA | Madru <i>et al</i> (2015) |
| TFIIIA | | x | TFIIIA | | x | Transcription factor for 5S DNA locus, but also binds 5S rRNA | Layat <i>et al</i> (2013) and Sloan <i>et al</i> (2013b) |
| Syo1 | | x | HEATR3 | | x | Chaperone for Rpl5/uL18 and Rpl11/uL5 | Kressler <i>et al</i> (2012), Hannan <i>et al</i> (2022) and O'Donohue <i>et al</i> (2022) |
| Rrs1 | | x | RRS1 | | x | Rpf2-Rrs1 complex, aids incorporation of 5S RNP into mature ribosomes, in yeast also important for nucleolar localization of 5S RNP | Wu <i>et al</i> (2016) |
| Rpf2 | | x | BXDC1 | | x | | |

of Nog2 to H92 (Kressler *et al*, 1999; Lapeyre & Purushothaman, 2004; preprint: Yelland *et al*, 2022). Finally, the association of Arx1, Cgr1, and Rsa4 to the forming subunit interface complete the well-characterized Arx1/Nog2 particle (Fig 6) (Bradatsch *et al*, 2012; Leidig *et al*, 2014; Wu *et al*, 2016).

The L1 stalk together with the RBF Sda1 provides a binding platform for the Rix1 complex (Table 12) (Barrio-Garcia *et al*, 2016; Wu *et al*, 2016; Kater *et al*, 2020). Association of Rix1-Ipi3-Ipi1 initiates the formation of the central protuberance as it recruits the ATPase Rea1 for a second round of action (Fig 6). Rea1 then catalyzes the release of the Rpf2-Rrs1 complex powered by ATP hydrolysis (Baßler *et al*, 2010; Matsuo *et al*, 2014; Barrio-Garcia *et al*, 2016). This leads to a 180° rotation of the 5S RNP and accommodation in its final position, coupled to maturation of PET and PTC (Micic *et al*, 2020). Moreover, the RBF Nop53 joins the pre-60S subunits (Falk *et al*, 2017; Kater *et al*, 2020) and binds the RNA helicase

Mtr4, thereby recruiting the nuclear exosome to trim the ITS2 part of the 7S pre-rRNA (Michael *et al*, 2018). Elimination of this ITS2 fragment results in the removal of the so-called foot region visible in cryo-EM structures of Nog2 particles (Fromm *et al*, 2017; Zhou *et al*, 2019a). Coupled to its role in 5S RNP accommodation, Rea1 ATPase activity also triggers the release of Rsa4 (Baßler *et al*, 2014, 2010), and is prerequisite for GTP hydrolysis-dependent release of the GTPase Nog2 (Matsuo *et al*, 2014). The precise molecular mechanism by which the mechano-chemical force of ATP hydrolysis by Rea1 leads to these structural rearrangements needs to be further investigated, but the liberation of the Nog2 binding site on pre-60S particles sets the stage for the recruitment of the export adaptor Nmd3. Nmd3 binding serves as a quality control checkpoint probing the correct assembly of the E- and P-sites as well as of the L1 stalk (Sengupta *et al*, 2010; Matsuo *et al*, 2014; Malyutin *et al*, 2017).

Table 12. Factors involved in nucleoplasmic steps of pre-60S maturation.

| Yeast | 40S | 60S | Human | 40S | 60S | Function in nucleoplasmic steps of pre-60S maturation | Citation |
|---------------|-----|-----|---------------|-----|-----|--|--|
| Alb1 | | x | | | | Arx1 binding partner | Greber <i>et al</i> (2012) |
| Cgr1 | | x | CCDC86 | | | | Thoms <i>et al</i> (2018) |
| Sda1 | | x | SDAD1 | | | Sda1 suggested to initiate Rpf2-Rrs1 release as it partially overlaps with Rpf2 binding site | Klinge and Woolford (2019) |
| Rix1 | | x | PELP1 | | | Rix1/PELP1 complex, important for Rea1/MDN1 positioning | Finkbeiner <i>et al</i> (2011), Barrio-Garcia <i>et al</i> (2016) and Gordon <i>et al</i> (2022) |
| Ipi3 | | x | TEX10 | | | PELP1 is SUMOylated, which is required for its interaction with MDN1 | |
| Ipi1 | | x | WDR18 | | | | |
| Rea1/ Mdn1 | | x | MDN1 | | x | AAA-ATPase, rebinds to 60S particles in nucleoplasm, releases Rsa4, triggers GTPase activity and release of Nog2 | Baßler <i>et al</i> (2010) |
| | | | SEN3 | | x | SUMO specific protease, activity results in disengagement of MDN1 and PELP1 deSUMOylates NPM | Finkbeiner <i>et al</i> (2011) and Raman <i>et al</i> (2016) |
| | | | NF45/ ILF2 | | x | NF45-NF90 complex | Wandrey <i>et al</i> (2015) |
| | | | NF90/ ILF3 | | x | | |
| Nmd3 | | x | NMD3 | | x | Nuclear export adaptor | Ho <i>et al</i> (2000) and Thomas and Kutay (2003) |

Notably, the various RNA expansion segments, located at the solvent-exposed surface of mature ribosomes (Yusupova & Yusupov, 2014), also play an important role in pre-rRNA processing and subunit assembly. Studies in yeast have demonstrated that individual deletion of the majority of expansion segments in 25S rRNA leads to 60S biogenesis defects (Jeeninga *et al.*, 1997; Ramesh & Woolford, 2016). Interestingly, certain eukaryotic RPs and their extensions (Ramesh & Woolford, 2016) as well as some RBFs such as Arx1 (Bradatsch *et al.*, 2012), Nop7 (Granneman *et al.*, 2011), Rlp7 (Dembowski *et al.*, 2013), and Rrp5 (Lebaron *et al.*, 2013) make contact to RNA expansion segments (Granneman *et al.*, 2011; Bradatsch *et al.*, 2012; Babiano *et al.*, 2013; Dembowski *et al.*, 2013; Lebaron *et al.*, 2013), guiding models of coevolution of expansion segments with RPs and RBFs (Ramesh & Woolford, 2016).

While nucle(ol)ar pre-60S maturation in yeast is relatively well understood, only a limited number of studies have addressed this process in human cells (Wild *et al.*, 2010; Finkbeiner *et al.*, 2011; Tafforeau *et al.*, 2013; Wandrey *et al.*, 2015; Dörner *et al.*, 2022). Although the human homologs of many yeast RBFs have been identified (Wild *et al.*, 2010; Tafforeau *et al.*, 2013; Badertscher *et al.*, 2015; Dörner *et al.*, 2022), the functional conservation of most factors remains to be investigated (Table 12). Interestingly, SUMOylation of PELP1, a component of the PELP1-TEX10-WDR18 complex (Rix1 complex in yeast), was shown to be essential for recruitment of MDN1 (the human ortholog of yeast Rea1) to the pre-60S particle (Finkbeiner *et al.*, 2011; Raman *et al.*, 2016). Recently, the structures of two late nuclear human pre-60S particles already associated with the export factor NMD3 have been described (Liang *et al.*, 2020). Overall, the structures showed similar architecture and composition as yeast particles at similar stages, indicating conservation of the function of bound RBFs. Yet, they also revealed mammalian-specific features of 60S subunit maturation, for example, interaction of the N-terminal domain of ZNF622 (Rei1 in yeast) with expansion segment ES27, which is much longer in human cells. Cryo-EM structures of earlier nucle(ol)ar human pre-60S particles remain to be solved and will provide additional insights into similarities and differences of the process between yeast and mammals.

Binding of the NES-containing export adaptor Nmd3/NMD3 licenses pre-60S subunits for Crm1/XPO1-dependent nuclear export both in fungi and metazoan cells (Table 8) (Ho *et al.*, 2000; Gadal *et al.*, 2001; Thomas & Kutay, 2003; Trotta *et al.*, 2003). In vertebrate cells, a second RanGTP-binding exportin, XPO5, was shown to support pre-60S export in addition (Moy & Silver, 1999; Wild *et al.*, 2010). In yeast, a number of further auxiliary factors facilitate pre-60S translocation through the NPC by directly interacting with FG-repeats of nucleoporins, including Rrp12, Bud20, Ecm1, and Npl3 (Oeffinger *et al.*, 2004; Yao *et al.*, 2010; Hackmann *et al.*, 2011; Altvater *et al.*, 2012; Nerurkar *et al.*, 2015) (Table 8).

In addition, the mRNA export receptor Mex67/Mtr2 aids export of both 40S and 60S pre-particles in yeast, a function that is not conserved in human cells (Yao *et al.*, 2008, 2007). Interestingly, recruitment of Mex67/Mtr2 has been linked to the assembly of the P stalk. Pre-60S particles initially contain Mrt4, a structural homolog of the P-stalk protein uL10/P0. As long as Mrt4 is bound, the recruitment of the nuclear export receptor Mex67/Mtr2 is inhibited (Sarkar *et al.*, 2016). Yvh1/DUSP12 then dissociates Mrt4, thereby allowing P-stalk formation by incorporation of the uL10/P0 (Kemmler

et al., 2009; Rodríguez-Mateos *et al.*, 2009; Lo *et al.*, 2010, 2009; Sarkar *et al.*, 2016; Zhou *et al.*, 2019b; Klingauf-Nerurkar *et al.*, 2020). It must be noted, however, that the exact timing of P-stalk assembly is not fully resolved, since Mrt4 can be found on cytoplasmic particles upon expression of dominant-negative Drg1, a cytoplasmic 60S-RBF, indicating that exchange may occur later, in the cytoplasm (Klingauf-Nerurkar *et al.*, 2020).

Cytoplasmic 60S maturation steps

While cytoplasmic pre-40S subunit maturation is primarily driven by kinases, cytoplasmic maturation of pre-60S particles relies on the function of GTPases and AAA-ATPases (Table 13) (Lo *et al.*, 2010). These ensure the timely release of some remaining assembly factors (Fig 7), including the ribosomal-like protein Rlp24/RSL24D1, the GTPase Nog1/GTPBP4, the export adaptor Nmd3/NMD3, Arx1/PA2G4, and Tif6/EIF6. At the same time, RBFs acting in the cytoplasm drive the incorporation of the last RPs and proofread the assembly state of the functional centers.

In a first step, the AAA-ATPase Drg1 releases Rlp24 (Fig 7), which acts as a placeholder for Rpl24/eL24 (Table 13) (Pertschy *et al.*, 2007; Lo *et al.*, 2010; Kappel *et al.*, 2012). While Drg1 is the sole factor known to be responsible for Rlp24 dissociation in yeast, release of the human homolog of Rlp24, RLP24/RSL24D1, was recently reported to involve two Drg1-related AAA-ATPases, SPATA5, and SPATA5L1 (Ni *et al.*, 2022). Interestingly, SPATA5 is localized in the cytosol, similar to yeast Drg1 (Puusepp *et al.*, 2018), whereas SPATA5L1 is predominantly nuclear (Richard *et al.*, 2021), suggesting that either RLP24 release can in principle occur in both compartments or that only one of these factors functions directly in RLP24 exchange. In addition to SPATA5 and SPATA5L1, RLP24 release was suggested to depend on CINP and Clorf109 (Ni *et al.*, 2022), two structurally related proteins. However, how these factors function together with SPATA5 and SPATA5L1 in RLP24/eL24 exchange remains to be mechanistically defined.

Drg1 not only acts on Rlp24, but also contributes to the dissociation of the GTPase Nog1 and additional factors that bind in close proximity to Rlp24. The GTPase Nog1 is deposited on the pre-60S subunit already during nucleolar maturation steps and projects its long C-terminal tail into the PET, almost reaching back to the PTC (Wu *et al.*, 2016). Nog1 is liberated in a two-step process. The first step exploits its own GTPase activity, driving the dissociation of both its N-terminal and GTPase domains. In the second step, the C-terminal part of Nog1 is dissociated by Drg1 (Pertschy *et al.*, 2007; Kappel *et al.*, 2012). After release of Nog1, the PET is further functionally probed and potentially matured by insertion of the C-terminal domain of Rei1/ZNF622, which is recruited via Rpl24 (Greber *et al.*, 2016, 2012; Kargas *et al.*, 2019; Zhou *et al.*, 2019b). Arx1 is bound close to the PET exit where it sterically impedes the premature loading of nascent chain binding factors. It is set free by Rei1, Jjj1 and the ATPase activity of Ssa1/Ssa2 (Hsp70) (Hung & Johnson, 2006; Lebreton *et al.*, 2006; Meyer *et al.*, 2010; Bradatsch *et al.*, 2012; Greber *et al.*, 2012). Then, the PET is again occluded by the C-terminal α -helix of Reh1, which binds inside the PET (Ma *et al.*, 2017).

Cytoplasmic 60S maturation ends with the dissociation of Reh1, Nmd3, and Tif6, which are bound on the subunit interface.

Table 13. Factors involved in cytoplasmic pre-60S maturation.

| Yeast | 40S | 60S | Human | 40S | 60S | Function in cytoplasmic pre-60S maturation | Citation |
|----------------|-----|-----|-------------------|-----|-----|--|---|
| Drg1/ Afg2 | | x | SPATA5 | | x | ATPase activity releases Rlp24 and Nog1 | Pertschy <i>et al</i> (2007), Kappel <i>et al</i> (2012) and Ni <i>et al</i> (2022) |
| | | | SPATA5L | | x | | |
| | | | CINP | | x | | |
| | | | C1orf109 | | x | | |
| Rlp24 | | x | RLP24/ RSL24D1 | | x | Released by Drg1, which allows incorporation of Rpl24/eL24 (placeholder) | Kappel <i>et al</i> (2012) |
| Bud20 | | x | ZNF593 | | x | Released | Srivastava <i>et al</i> (2010) |
| Nug1 | | x | GNL3 | | x | Released, timing of release not clear in humans | Altvater <i>et al</i> (2012) and Ma <i>et al</i> (2017) |
| YBLO28C | | x | LLPH | | x | Released | Klingauf-Nerurkar <i>et al</i> (2020) and Liang <i>et al</i> (2020) |
| TMA16 | | x | TMA16 | | x | Might be released before export | Liang <i>et al</i> (2020) |
| Nsa2 | | x | NSA2 | | | Released | Altvater <i>et al</i> (2012) and Ma <i>et al</i> (2017) |
| Nog1 | | x | GTPBP4/ NOG1 | | x | Inserts flexible helix into PET, which could function as proof reading or maturation step, released after/with Rlp24, coordinates bifurcation of pre-60S maturation pathway | Pertschy <i>et al</i> (2007) and Kappel <i>et al</i> (2012) |
| Arx1 | | x | PA2G4/ EBP1 | | x | Prevents binding of proteins and complexes typically engaging with the nascent peptide chain binding near the tunnel exit, released by Rei1 (with Ssa and Jjj), which frees peptide exit tunnel, function in human cells is less clear | Bradatsch <i>et al</i> (2012) and Greber <i>et al</i> (2012) |
| Alb1 | | x | | | | Binding partner of Arx1, released | Greber <i>et al</i> (2012) |
| Rei1 | | x | ZNF622 | | x | Inserts flexible helix into PET, which could function as proof reading or maturation step; functions together with the ATPase Ssa and Jjj to release Arx1 | Meyer <i>et al</i> (2010), Bradatsch <i>et al</i> (2012) and Greber <i>et al</i> (2012) |
| Jjj1 | | x | DNAJC21 | | x | Cofactor for release of Arx1 by Rei1/Ssa | Demoinet <i>et al</i> (2007) and Greber <i>et al</i> (2012) |
| Ssa1 | | x | HSPA1A | | | Binds together with Rei1 and Jjj1, ATPase Activity releases Arx1 | Pertschy <i>et al</i> (2007) and Ma <i>et al</i> (2017) |
| Ssa2 | | x | HSPA1B | | | | |
| Reh1 | | x | | | | Inserts C-terminal helix into PET | Parnell and Bass (2009) |
| Mrt4 | | x | MRT4/ MRTO4 | | x | Placeholder for P stalk, released, which allows incorporation of ribosome stalk, initiated by binding of RplPO/uL10 | Kemmler <i>et al</i> (2009) and Lo <i>et al</i> (2009) |
| Yvh1 | | x | DUSP12 | | x | Phosphatase, releases Mrt4 | Kemmler <i>et al</i> (2009) and Lo <i>et al</i> (2009) |
| Efl1/ Ria1 | | x | EFL1/ EFTUD1 | | x | GTPase activity releases Tif6/EIF6, works together with Sdo1/SBDS | Basu <i>et al</i> (2001) and Finch <i>et al</i> (2011) |
| Sdo1 | | x | SBDS | | x | Works together with Efl1/EFL1 | Basu <i>et al</i> (2001) and Finch <i>et al</i> (2011) |
| Tif6 | | x | EIF6 | | x | Anti-association factor, preventing premature association with 40S subunits, released by Efl1/EFL1 (with Sdo1/SDAD) | Gartmann <i>et al</i> (2010) |
| Lsg1/ Kre35 | | x | LSG1 | | x | GTPase activity releases Nmd3/NMD3 | Kallstrom <i>et al</i> (2003) and Hedges <i>et al</i> (2005) |
| Sqt1 | | x | AAMP | | x | Chaperone of Rpl10/uL16 | Kallstrom <i>et al</i> (2003) and Hedges <i>et al</i> (2005) |
| Nmd3 | | x | NMD3 | | x | Released by Lsg1/LSG1, allows incorporation of Rpl10/uL16, before release: prevents joining of premature subunits | Kallstrom <i>et al</i> (2003) and Hedges <i>et al</i> (2005) |

These factors are suggested to function as anti-association factors, inhibiting premature interaction of cytoplasmic pre-60S particles with mature 40S subunits (Gartmann *et al*, 2010; Weis

et al, 2015; Ma *et al*, 2017). After incorporation of RPL40/eL40 and RPL10/uL16, Nmd3 is dissociated by the GTPase Lsg1/LSG1 (Fig 7) (Malyutin *et al*, 2017; Kargas *et al*, 2019; Zhou

et al, 2019b). Finally, Tif6 removal is mediated by the GTPase Efl1/EFTUD1 and its guanine nucleotide exchange factor Sdo1/SBDS (Bécam et al, 2001; Senger et al, 2001; Menne

et al, 2007), which have also been suggested to probe functionality of the P stalk, P-site, and PTC (Ma et al, 2017; Zhou et al, 2019b).

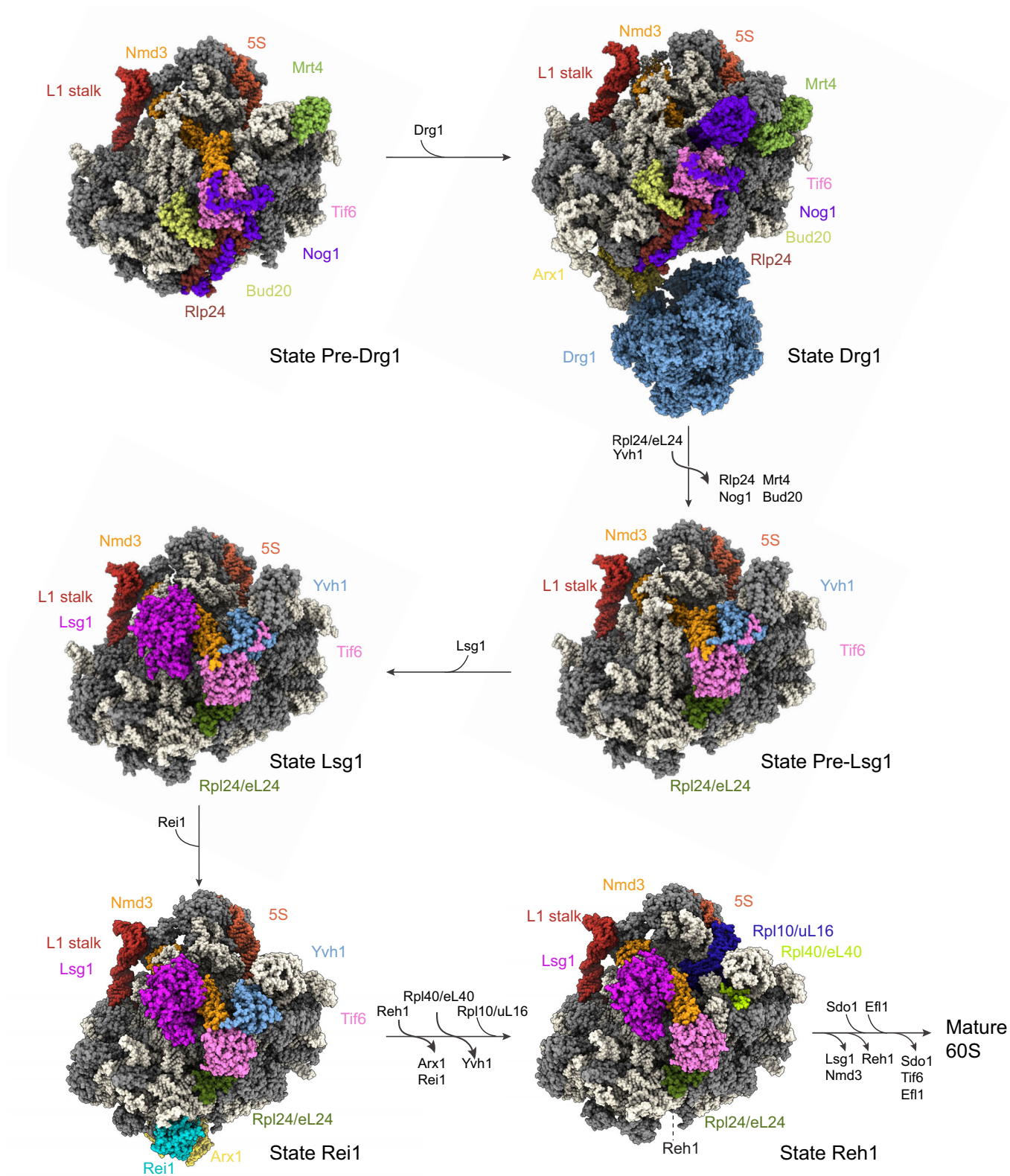


Figure 7.

Figure 7. Cytoplasmic maturation of 60S subunit in yeast.

Cryo-EM structures of pre-60S particles illustrating snapshots of cytoplasmic maturation events (PDB ID: 6N8L, 7Z34, 6N8M, 6N8N, 6RZZ, 6QTZ). RBFs are color-coded, as well as the pre-rRNA (white), L1 stalk (red), and 5S rRNA (orange). After nuclear export, the ATPase Drg1 dissociates Rpl24 from early cytoplasmic pre-60S particles. The release of multiple factors allows the association of the GTPase Lsg1, which in turn dissociates Nmd3 upon the incorporation of Rpl10/uL16. Following Reh1 dissociation, the GTPase Efl1 together with Sdo1 triggers the release of Tif6, resulting in mature 60S subunits.

Table 14. Other factors involved in ribosome biogenesis.

| Yeast | 40S | 60S | Human | 40S | 60S | Function in rRNA transcription | Citation |
|-------|-----|-----|--------|-----|-----|--|--|
| | | | NPM | x | x | Nuclear RNA-binding protein and chaperone | Szebeni and Olson (1999) |
| Nsr1 | x | x | NCL | x | x | Nuclear RNA-binding protein and chaperone | Mongelard and Bouvet (2007) |
| | | | DDX1 | | | | Suzuki et al (2021) |
| | | | HECTD1 | | | Ubiquitylates ZNF622 | Lv et al (2021) |
| | | | USP36 | | | Promotes FAU processing and snoRNP maturation | Ryu et al (2021) and van den Heuvel et al (2021) |
| | | | UBR5 | x | | Supports rRNA maturation by regulation of H/ACA RNPs | Saez et al (2020) |
| | | | VPRBP | x | | Ubiquitylates PWP1 | Han et al (2020) |

Most factors involved in cytosolic pre-60S maturation in yeast have human homologs, and recently solved structures of late human pre-60S subunits revealed that the observed human homologs of yeast RBFs bind to similar positions and are likely functional homologs (Liang et al, 2020). One notable exception is PA2G4/EBP1, which is significantly smaller than its yeast homolog Arx1. PA2G4 has been implicated both in ribosome biogenesis and translation, as it was shown to bind to pre-60S as well as mature 80S ribosomes *in vivo* (Liang et al, 2020; Bhaskar et al, 2021; Kraushar et al, 2021). Several structural features of yeast Arx1 that might play a role in 60S biogenesis are missing in PA2G4. Thus, further analysis is needed to address its functional conservation as an RBF.

Altogether, eukaryotic cells exploit several hundred RBFs along the intricate ribosome assembly line from the nucleolus to the cytoplasm (Tables 2–14). These RBFs not only promote RP deposition, pre-rRNA folding, processing, and maturation as well as remodeling of the emerging ribosomal particles, but also probe the correct configuration of the functional centers. Once all RBFs are released, both subunits are ready to fulfill their function in mRNA translation.

Concluding remarks

Over the past years, the field has made impressive progress in deciphering the molecular mechanisms of ribosomal subunit assembly and maturation. Today, we know for the vast majority of RBFs at which step of the complex pathway they function, how they associate with precursor particles, and which task they perform. What initially seemed an overwhelming list of accessory factors, first merely named as players in either 40S or 60S synthesis, has coalesced into an almost coherent molecular picture of the subunit assembly lines. Of course, some pieces of the puzzle are still missing. For instance, while we appreciate the impressive molecular snapshots of the SSU processome, we still do not fully understand how this gigantic RNP, similar in size to a mammalian ribosome, is assembled in the first place. How are structural and compositional

remodeling steps of the SSU processome that are associated with pre-rRNA folding and maturation driven? We also know little about whether and how early nucleolar steps of 40S and 60S biogenesis are coupled before RNA cleavage separates the precursors to both subunits. Likewise, we still miss a structural depiction of some key 60S subunit assembly intermediates.

But not only the assembly process itself still contains some uncharted territory, also other areas related to ribosome synthesis are expected to hide a number of exciting secrets. For instance, it is becoming increasingly clear that early errors in the assembly line affect nucleolar morphology and structure. But how is nucleolar organization governed in first place? And how are maturing particles expelled from nucleoli for further maturation into the nucleoplasm? Some first hints suggest, as discussed above, that pre-rRNA length and compaction may govern this decisive step. Another almost unexplored area concerns quality control of ribosome synthesis. How are aberrant premature subunits recognized and eliminated? This question especially pertains to the fate of the proteinaceous parts of the precursor particles. Hence, which mechanisms counteract the potential proteotoxicity of unassembled RPs or aberrant precursors, especially in mammalian cells? Clearly, these and many other questions remain to be resolved. Thus, despite the impressive progress made, research on ribosome biogenesis will remain an active and rewarding field of biology in the future.

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Disclosure and competing interests statement

The authors declare that they have no conflict of interest.

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