

The Greatwall-Endosulfine-PP2A/B55 pathway controls entry into quiescence by promoting translation of Elongator-tuneable transcripts

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1 **The Greatwall-Endosulfine-PP2A/B55 pathway controls entry**
2 **into quiescence by promoting translation of Elongator-tuneable**
3 **transcripts**

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35 **Running title:** PP2A/B55 activity controls translation during quiescence

41 **Summary**

42 Quiescent cells require a continuous supply of proteins to maintain protein
43 homeostasis. In fission yeast, entry into quiescence is triggered by nitrogen
44 stress, leading to the inactivation of TORC1 and the activation of TORC2. Here,
45 we report that the Greatwall-Endosulfine-PPA/B55 pathway connects the
46 downregulation of TORC1 with the upregulation of TORC2, resulting in the
47 activation of Elongator-dependent tRNA modifications essential for sustaining the
48 translation programme during entry into quiescence. This process promotes
49 U₃₄ and A₃₇ tRNA modifications at the anticodon stem loop, enhancing translation
50 efficiency and fidelity of mRNAs enriched for AAA versus AAG lysine codons.
51 Notably, some of these mRNAs encode inhibitors of TORC1, activators of
52 TORC2, tRNA modifiers, and proteins necessary for telomeric and subtelomeric
53 functions. Therefore, we propose a novel mechanism by which cells respond to
54 nitrogen stress at the level of translation, involving a coordinated interplay
55 between the tRNA epitranscriptome and biased codon usage.

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59 Introduction

60 Most cells in living organisms rest in a non-dividing state called the G₀ phase,
61 also known as quiescence. Quiescent cells can re-enter the cell cycle with full
62 viability when provided with the appropriate signals. Examples of quiescent cells
63 include stem cells, neuronal progenitor cells, memory T cells, eggs, and spores.
64 Despite their importance, the molecular mechanisms governing quiescence
65 entry, its maintenance, and exit are not yet fully understood.

66 In nature, unicellular organisms continuously enter and exit quiescence
67 depending on nutrient availability. In fission yeast, entry into quiescence is
68 induced by nitrogen starvation, resulting in the inactivation of TOR complex 1
69 (TORC1) and the activation of TOR complex 2 (TORC2). TORC1 promotes cell
70 growth in response to nutrients, growth factors, or cellular energy^{1,2}, while
71 TORC2 is required for the nutrient stress response, cell survival during
72 quiescence, and cell differentiation³⁻⁵. The activation of the Greatwall-
73 Endosulfine switch upon TORC1 inactivation leads to inhibition of the PP2A/B55
74 protein phosphatase, which is necessary for switching on TORC2 activity by
75 increasing Gad8 phosphorylation⁴⁻⁷.

76 TORC2 activation also regulates protein translation by controlling tRNA
77 modifications through the Elongator complex⁸. Elongator is a multiprotein
78 complex that modifies the anticodon stem loop of tRNA^{Lys}_{UUU}, tRNA^{Glu}_{UUC} and
79 tRNA^{Gln}_{UUG} by introducing an acetyl group at position 5 of U₃₄ (cm⁵U₃₄), which is
80 further modified by Trm112-Trm9, a methyltransferase complex involved in the
81 formation of mcm⁵U₃₄, and by Ctu1-Ctu2 complex, which catalyses the thiolation
82 at carbon 2 of U₃₄ (mcm⁵s²U₃₄). These U₃₄ modifications counteract codon
83 misreading resulting from low effective stacking interactions between A-U bases
84⁹⁻¹¹. They also play a crucial role in maintaining translational fidelity under stress
85 conditions¹²⁻¹⁵. Thus, Elongator is necessary for the efficient translation of
86 mRNAs with a high AAA codon usage.

87 Previous studies have reported a feedback loop between the TORC1-TORC2
88 signalling cascade and the Elongator complex. In this loop, Elongator plays an
89 essential role in the translation of key components of TORC2 and repressors of
90 TORC1. Additionally, the TORC2 pathway functions as an activator of Elongator

91 by down-regulating Gsk3, a glycogen synthase kinase that inhibits Elongator by
92 phosphorylating the EIp4 subunit at Serine114^{8,16,17}.

93 In this study, we report that elevated PP2A/B55 phosphatase activity, resulting
94 from the deletion of Endosulfine (*igo1*Δ), impairs the translation efficiency of
95 mRNAs enriched in AAA codons during entry into quiescence. Additionally, we
96 demonstrate a physical and functional interaction between PP2A/B55 and Gad8,
97 Trm112, Ctu1, and the Elongator complex. Furthermore, hyperactivation of
98 PP2A/B55 protein phosphatase reduces the function of the Elongator complex
99 and the amount of Trm112, Ctu1 and Cgi121 proteins, which are essential for U₃₄
100 and A₃₇ tRNA modifications at the anticodon stem loop. This reduction in
101 translational efficiency leads to decreased protein levels from transcripts
102 containing high AAA codon usage, such as *rap1*, *sgo2*, *clr2*, or *clr3*, all of which
103 are crucial for telomeric and subtelomeric organisation. This induces telomeric
104 detachment, upregulation of subtelomeric gene expression, and eventually, cell
105 death. Our work suggests that the Greatwall-Endosulfine-PP2A/B55 pathway
106 governs the translational programme during entry into quiescence through the
107 control of U₃₄ and A₃₇ tRNA modifications. We propose that the implementation
108 of an alternative gene expression programme in response to nitrogen starvation
109 is based on translation of mRNAs enriched in sub-optimal AAA codons by
110 activation of tRNA-modifying complexes.

111

112

113

114 **Results**

115 **The Greatwall-Endosulfine switch regulates telomere silencing and** 116 **telomere attachment to the nuclear envelope**

117 To understand the function of the Greatwall-Endosulfine-PP2A/B55 pathway
118 during entry into quiescence we compared the transcriptome of the wild-type
119 (WT) and the Endosulfine mutant (*igo1* Δ) by RNAseq after shifting cells from
120 nitrogen-rich (EMM2) to nitrogen-free (EMM2-N) media at times 0 and 4 hours.
121 In nitrogen-rich medium (EMM2, time 0) the transcriptome was almost identical
122 between the two strains. However, after 4 hours of nitrogen starvation, we found
123 significant changes in subtelomeric gene expression, as *igo1* Δ cells showed a
124 high expression level (more than 10-fold) of a group of subtelomeric genes in
125 chromosomes I and II compared to WT cells (Fig. 1a; Supplementary Table 1).
126 Similar results were obtained when we analysed the transcriptome of the
127 Greatwall (*ppk18* Δ *cek1* Δ) mutant (Supplementary Fig. 1a; Supplementary Table
128 2), consistent with the fact that the Greatwall-Endosulfine-PP2A/B55 is a linear
129 pathway⁴. These results suggest that downregulation of PP2A/B55 plays a key
130 role in transcriptional silencing of subtelomeric genes during quiescence entry.

131 The ends of chromosomes I and II are composed of telomeric repeats and the
132 subtelomeric regions. While the telomeric repeats extend approximately 300 bp,
133 the subtelomeric regions consist of about 100 kilobases between the telomeric
134 repeats and the euchromatin (Fig. 1b). The heterochromatin present in the
135 subtelomeric regions can be divided into SH chromatin, characterised by highly
136 methylated histone H3K9, and ST chromatin, in which histone modifications are
137 kept at low levels, but exhibit highly condensed chromosome structures called
138 *knobs*¹⁸⁻²². Several protein complexes essential for maintaining the telomeric and
139 subtelomeric structure have been identified. For example, Rap1 (a component of
140 the shelterin complex) and Bqt4 (a component of the bouquet complex) create a
141 molecular link between telomeres and the nuclear envelope²³⁻²⁶. Proteins such
142 as Swi6, the SHREC complex or the CLRC complex play a role in H3K9
143 methylation, control nucleosome maintenance and genome stability^{27,28}. Finally,
144 shugoshin 2, Sgo2, is an essential protein for condensation of ST chromatin and
145 *knob* stability^{21,22} (Fig. 1b).

146 To study the role of the Greatwall-Endosulfine-PP2A/B55 pathway in telomeric
147 organisation during quiescence, we analysed nuclear-telomeric attachment in the
148 wild-type (WT) and in the Endosulfine (*igo1Δ*) mutant in nitrogen-rich media
149 (EMM2) and after 8 hours of nitrogen starvation (EMM2-N) using Super-
150 Resolution Radial Fluctuations (SRRF) microscopy. Wild-type and *igo1Δ* cells
151 tagged with Cut11-mCherry (a nuclear envelope -NE- marker), Sad1-CFP (a
152 spindle pole body -SPB- marker) and Taz1-YFP (a telomeric marker), showed no
153 significant differences in nitrogen-rich media. In contrast, after 8 hours of nitrogen
154 starvation, the *igo1Δ* mutant showed telomeric detachment from the NE (Fig. 1c).
155 To analyse the defect of the *igo1Δ* mutant in more detail, we combined SRRF
156 microscopy with Radial Profile Analysis (see details in Supplementary Fig. 1b and
157 Methods). The wild-type and *igo1Δ* mutant showed a perfect overlap between the
158 NE signal (red line) and the SPB signal (blue line). However, we detected
159 differences in the telomeric signals (yellow line) between strains. While in the
160 wild-type strain the three signals overlapped more with time (4 and 8 hours of
161 nitrogen starvation), in the *igo1Δ* mutant, the telomeric signal separated from the
162 NE and the SPB signals (Fig. 1d). A similar result was obtained when we
163 analysed the overlap between the mean NE signal and the mean SPB signal or
164 the mean NE signal and the mean telomeric signal at different time points (Fig.
165 1e). Pearson's correlation coefficients allowed us to identify significant
166 differences between Cut11/Sad1 and Cut11/Taz1 signals in the wild-type and the
167 *igo1Δ* mutant (Fig. 1f). These results indicate that the interaction between the NE
168 and telomeres is lost in the *igo1Δ* mutant.

169

170 **Telomeric detachment is mediated by reduced levels of the Rap1 protein, a** 171 **component of the shelterin complex**

172 A high level of PP2A/B55 activity, caused by deleting *igo1*, delays entry into
173 mitosis during vegetative growth when fission yeast cells are shifted from a
174 nitrogen-rich to a nitrogen-poor medium, or during entry into quiescence ⁴.
175 Therefore, it seemed possible that elevated PP2A/B55 activity caused telomeric
176 detachment during entry into quiescence. In *S. pombe*, two different complexes
177 have been described as essential for maintaining telomeric-NE attachment, the
178 bouquet complex and the shelterin complex. Interestingly, two subunits of the

179 shelterin complex, Rap1 and Ccq1, have been described as heavily
180 phosphorylated proteins^{25,26,29,30}. Thus, we considered that the phosphorylation
181 state of these proteins might be affected by the high PP2A/B55 phosphatase
182 activity in the *igo1Δ* mutant, triggering telomeric detachment. However, we did
183 not detect changes in the phosphorylation state of either Rap1 or Ccq1.
184 Surprisingly, we detected a dramatic reduction in the amount of Rap1 protein
185 levels in the *igo1Δ* mutant, while the Ccq1 levels remained constant during the
186 experiment (Fig. 2a). To confirm this data and improve our temporal resolution,
187 we repeated the experiment taking samples every 30 minutes during the first 2
188 hours and then after 4 hours of nitrogen starvation. Once more, we detected a
189 very significant decrease in Rap1 protein levels after 2-4 hours of nitrogen
190 deprivation in the *igo1Δ* mutant (Fig. 2b; Fig. 2c, left panel).

191 Previous results from our lab have shown that *igo1Δ* phenotypes could be
192 restored by decreasing PP2A/B55 activity³¹, including the reduction in viability
193 during quiescence (Supplementary Fig. 2a). This prompted us to investigate
194 whether a reduction of PP2A/B55 activity could restore Rap1 protein levels. To
195 modulate PP2A/B55 activity, we placed the *pab1* open reading frame, encoding
196 the PP2A B55 regulatory subunit, under the control of the thiamine-repressible
197 *nmt41* promoter at its chromosomal locus. We found that repressing Pab1
198 production and therefore PP2A/B55 activity reinstated Rap1 protein levels (Fig.
199 2c). Data quantification further confirmed the restoration of Rap1 protein levels
200 when PP2A/B55 activity was reduced (Fig. 2d).

201 To investigate whether reducing PP2A/B55 activity could also prevent telomeric
202 detachment *in vivo*, we examined the localization of Taz1-YFP in strains
203 exhibiting low PP2A/B55 activity (wild-type and *igo1Δ nmt41:GST:pab1* +
204 Thiamine) in comparison to strains with elevated PP2A/B55 activity (*igo1Δ* and
205 *igo1Δ nmt41:GST:pab1* - Thiamine) during nitrogen starvation. Our analysis
206 showed that low PP2A/B55 activity restored the telomeric detachment
207 phenotype, whereas high PP2A/B55 activity maintained the telomeric attachment
208 defect (Fig. 2e; Supplementary Fig. 2b). Statistical analysis of the data confirmed
209 that reduced PP2A/B55 activity during nitrogen starvation was necessary for
210 preserving telomeric organisation during quiescence (Fig. 2f). In summary, these
211 findings suggest that the downregulation of PP2A/B55 activity during entry into

212 quiescence is crucial for maintaining Rap1 protein levels and for anchoring
213 telomeres to the NE.

214

215 **Sgo2, Clr2 and Clr3 protein levels are reduced in quiescent *igo1Δ* mutant**
216 **cells**

217 Different protein complexes coordinately maintain chromatin silencing in
218 subtelomeric regions during quiescence in fission yeast. One of the critical factors
219 for this regulation is shugoshin 2, Sgo2. Sgo2 is essential for the formation of
220 *knobs*, highly condensed chromatin structures organised close to the ends of
221 chromosomes I and II ²¹. Lack of Sgo2 (*sgo2Δ*) induces transcription of genes
222 located at subtelomeric regions on chromosomes I and II ²², similar to what we
223 observed in cells lacking Endosulfine (*igo1Δ*) or Greatwall (*ppk18Δ cek1Δ*) after
224 nitrogen starvation (Fig. 1a; Supplementary Fig. 1a; Supplementary Tables 1, 2).
225 This correlation prompted us to investigate whether Sgo2 levels might be altered
226 in the *igo1Δ* mutant. Western-blot analysis revealed that *igo1*-deleted cells show
227 a severe reduction of Sgo2 levels during entry into quiescence (Fig. 3a). As in
228 the case of Rap1, reducing Pab1 levels in the *igo1Δ* mutant restored Sgo2 levels
229 (Fig. 3b). To confirm the role of Igo1 in maintenance of Sgo2 levels and *knob*
230 formation, we studied the localisation of Sgo2 during quiescence entry. Sgo2
231 protein was tagged with GFP and its localisation during nitrogen starvation was
232 examined. As previously described, in the wild-type strain, Sgo2-GFP localised
233 as nuclear dots in most cells, ranging from 1 to 3 dots per cell (Fig. 3c). In the
234 *igo1Δ* mutant, we detected no significant differences with the wild-type in
235 nitrogen-rich media (t=0 hours), only a slight decrease in dot size and brightness.
236 However, when we shifted the cells to nitrogen-free media we observed a clear
237 decrease in the number of dots per cell in the *igo1Δ* mutant (Fig. 3c). These data
238 indicate that Igo1 is required for maintaining Sgo2 protein levels and for the
239 formation of *knobs*, a structure essential for maintaining the transcriptional
240 repression of subtelomeric genes.

241 Another key protein complex required for silencing subtelomeric regions is the
242 heterochromatic repressor complex SHREC (Snf2-like/HDAC-containing
243 repressor complex) ^{32,33}, composed of Mit1, Clr1, Clr2, and Clr3. The SHREC
244 complex plays regulatory roles in histone acetylation, as a chromatin remodeller

245 and in the stability of subtelomeric nucleosomes^{27,32,33}. To determine if SHREC
246 was also affected by PP2A activity, we examined Clr2 and Clr3 levels. In both
247 cases, we detected a modest but reproducible decrease in protein levels during
248 nitrogen starvation in the *igo1Δ* mutant (Fig. 3d,e). ChIP analysis showed that
249 lack of Igo1 caused an increase in histone H3-K14 acetylation in the
250 overexpressed subtelomeric genes SPCC977.15 and SPAC186.06 after 4 hours
251 of nitrogen starvation consistent with loss of SHREC function (Fig. 3f). These
252 results suggest that the Greatwall-Endosulfine-PP2A/B55 pathway modulates SH
253 chromatin organisation and subtelomeric gene silencing.

254

255 **PP2A/B55 regulates translation through its physical and functional** 256 **interaction with protein complexes involved in tRNA modification**

257 Our data indicate that the *igo1Δ* mutant exhibits reduced levels of proteins
258 essential for maintaining telomeric and subtelomeric organisation. However, what
259 is the molecular mechanism underlying these phenotypes? We explored three
260 possibilities: reduced protein stability, reduced transcription, or reduced
261 translation.

262 To examine protein stability, we treated cells with cycloheximide and monitored
263 Rap1 protein levels over time. After treatment with cycloheximide, Rap1 was
264 degraded with similar kinetics in wild-type and *igo1Δ* cells (Supplementary Fig.
265 3a). Similarly, *rap1* mRNA levels were not reduced in *igo1Δ* cells; on the contrary,
266 the *rap1* gene exhibited higher transcript levels in the *igo1Δ* mutant compared to
267 wild-type cells (Supplementary Fig. 3b).

268 Evidence of a translation defect in the *igo1Δ* mutant was obtained by mass-
269 spectrometry analysis of proteins co-purifying with the PP2A/Pab1 protein
270 phosphatase. Paa1, the structural subunit of the PP2A complex, was tagged with
271 YFP and expressed from its endogenous promoter at its chromosomal locus.
272 After one hour of nitrogen starvation, Paa1-YFP was pulled down and co-purifying
273 proteins were analysed by mass-spectrometry. Our results revealed the presence
274 of all components of PP2A protein complexes including Paa1, the catalytic
275 subunits Ppa1, Ppa2, and Ppa3, and the regulatory subunits Pab1, Par1 and
276 Par2 (Supplementary Table 3). Additionally, several PP2A regulators (Igo1, Zds1,

277 Dis2, Ppe1 and Ekc1) and components of the PP2A SIP/STRIPAK complex³⁴
278 were also detected, confirming that the pull-down approach was successful.

279 The mass-spectrometry analysis also showed an over-representation of proteins
280 related to ribosome structure, translation initiation, aminoacylation, and tRNA
281 modification in the Paa1 interactome (Fig. 4a). We focused on Trm112, a widely
282 conserved protein with a crucial role in translation. Specifically, Trm112 regulates
283 methyltransferase enzymes (Trm9, Trm11, Mtq2 and Bud23) during ribosome
284 biogenesis, tRNA modification and stop codon recognition^{35,36}. We confirmed an
285 interaction between Trm112 and the PP2A-Pab1 complex by repeating the mass-
286 spectrometry analysis using Pab1, the B55 regulatory subunit of the PP2A
287 complex, as bait. Trm112 was pulled down as an interacting partner of
288 PP2A/Pab1 (Supplementary Fig. 4a,b; Supplementary Table 4). The Trm112-
289 Paa1 interaction was further validated by co-immunoprecipitation, showing a
290 stronger association in nitrogen-depleted than in nitrogen-rich media (Fig. 4b).
291 Interestingly, several subunits of the Elongator complex (Elp1, Elp2 and Elp3)
292 were also pulled down as interacting partners of PP2A/Pab1 when Pab1 was
293 slightly overexpressed from the *nmt41* promoter (Supplementary Fig. 4b,c;
294 Supplementary Table 5).

295 The Elongator complex, along with Trm112/Trm9 and the Ctu1/Ctu2 complexes,
296 plays a critical role in the formation of the 5-methoxycarbonylmethyl (mcm⁵) and
297 5-methoxycarbonylmethyl-2-thiouridine (mcm⁵s²) side chains on uridine 34 (U₃₄)
298 at the tRNA wobble position during vegetative growth and under stress conditions
299^{8,12,13,37-40}. We conducted an analysis of Trm112 protein levels during nitrogen
300 starvation in both wild-type and *igo1* deleted cells. In the wild-type, Trm112 levels
301 remained constant during the first two hours and then exhibited a slight decrease
302 after four hours. In contrast, in the *igo1Δ* mutant, we observed a more
303 pronounced reduction in Trm112 proteins levels during entry into quiescence
304 (Fig. 4c, left panel). Interestingly, as shown previously for other proteins, the
305 reduction of PP2A/B55 activity restored Trm112 protein levels (Fig. 4c, right
306 panel). We also found that the levels of Ctu1 protein, which cooperates with Ctu2
307 in tRNA U₃₄ thiolation^{41,42}, were also diminished in the *igo1Δ* background (Fig.
308 4d).

309 Collectively, these data suggest potential impairment of tRNA modifications in the
310 *igo1Δ* mutant. To assess this possibility, we tested the sensitivity of the *igo1Δ*
311 mutant to drugs that affect translation, such as paromomycin, puromycin or
312 cycloheximide, in nitrogen-rich (EMM2) and nitrogen-poor (MMPhe) media.
313 Among all the drugs tested, only paromomycin, which induces codon misreading
314 ⁴³, exhibited an effect on the *igo1Δ* mutant (Fig. 4e), particularly in MMPhe.

315 In summary, our data indicate a potential role for the Greatwall-Endosulfine-
316 PP2A/B55 pathway in translation during the onset of quiescence. This role likely
317 involves tRNA modifications that enhance codon-anticodon recognition.

318

319 **The *igo1Δ* mutant is defective in U₃₄ and A₃₇ tRNA modifications**

320 In all organisms, modifications of uridine 34 at the wobble position (U₃₄) of certain
321 tRNAs are necessary to enhance codon-anticodon recognition ³⁷. These
322 modifications are mediated by the Elongator complex, which introduces an acetyl
323 group at position 5 of U₃₄ (cm⁵U₃₄), the Trm112/Trm9 methyltransferase complex
324 involved in the formation of mcm⁵U₃₄, and the Ctu1-Ctu2 complex, which
325 catalyses the thiolation at carbon 2 of U₃₄ (mcm⁵s²U₃₄) (Supplementary Fig. 5a).

326 Previous studies in *S. pombe* have reported that differences in codon usage and
327 tRNA modifications play a crucial role in regulating translation efficiency during
328 the cell cycle and under oxidative stress. The mRNAs of the cell cycle regulator
329 Cdr2 ³⁹ and of the stress-responsive transcription factors Atf1 and Pcr1 ^{12,13}
330 exhibit a high usage of lysine AAA codons compared to AAG codons, and their
331 translational rate is particularly sensitive to deficiencies in tRNA modifications
332 mediated by the Elongator, Trm112/Trm9 and Ctu1/Ctu2 complexes ^{8,12,13,39}.

333 Therefore, we hypothesised that differences in AAA_{lys} codon usage might be
334 responsible for the translation phenotype observed in the *igo1Δ* mutant. To test
335 this hypothesis, we examined the use of AAA_{lys} versus AAG_{lys} codons for some
336 of the proteins analysed in our study and found that all the proteins defective in
337 the *igo1Δ* mutant (Rap1, Sgo2, Clr3, Clr2, and Ctu1) primarily utilise the AAA_{lys}
338 codon (Supplementary Fig. 5b). Proteins with reduced AAA_{lys} codon usage, such
339 as Ccq1, Pkg1, Krs1, or Swi6, did not exhibit translation deficiencies during
340 nitrogen starvation in the *igo1Δ* mutant (Fig. 2a; Supplementary Fig. 5b,c).

341 To confirm the potential defect in U₃₄ tRNA modification in the *igo1Δ* mutant, we
342 employed quantitative liquid chromatography coupled to mass spectrometry (LC-
343 MS)⁸ to analyse tRNAs extracted from wild-type and *igo1Δ* cells. Samples were
344 collected during exponential growth and at 2 and 4 hours of nitrogen starvation.
345 This analysis revealed an increase in mcm⁵s²U₃₄ levels in wild-type cells upon
346 entry into quiescence. However, in the *igo1Δ* mutant, the levels of mcm⁵s²U₃₄
347 diminished after 4 hours of nitrogen starvation (Fig. 5a,b). Furthermore, this
348 analysis also indicated a reduction in A₃₇ N⁶-threonylcarbamoyladenosine (t⁶)
349 modification in the *igo1Δ* mutant (Fig. 5a; Supplementary Fig. 6a). The t⁶A₃₇ tRNA
350 modification, present in Archaea and Eukarya, mediated by the protein Sua5 and
351 the KEOPS/EKC complex, is essential for cell growth and accurate translation⁴⁴⁻
352⁴⁶. Once again, we hypothesised that differences in AAA_{lys} codon usage might be
353 responsible for the reduction in t⁶A₃₇ modification in the *igo1Δ* mutant. When we
354 examined the use of AAA_{lys} versus AAG_{lys} codons for Sua5 and the KEOPS/EKC
355 subunits, we found that Pcc1 and Cgi121 (two components of KEOPS/EKC
356 complex) primarily use the AAA_{lys} codons (Supplementary Fig. 6b). Taking
357 Cgi121 as an example, we detected a significant reduction in Cgi121 level in the
358 *igo1* mutant during nitrogen starvation (Supplementary Fig. 6c). These data
359 suggest that a defect in the translation of Cgi121 protein could be responsible of
360 the reduction in t⁶A₃₇ tRNA modification in the *igo1Δ* mutant. Both mcm⁵s²U₃₄ and
361 t⁶A₃₇ modifications are involved in decoding codons that start with adenosine,
362 promoting codon-anticodon pairing and enhancing translation fidelity^{47,48}. These
363 findings provide a molecular explanation for the paromomycin hypersensitivity
364 and translation defect observed in the *igo1Δ* mutant under nitrogen-stress
365 conditions (Fig. 4e).

366 As cells enter quiescence, a notable reduction in tRNA^{Lys}_{UUU} levels was observed
367 in both wild-type and *igo1Δ* cells (Supplementary Fig. 5d), suggesting that this
368 tRNA becomes limiting in quiescent cells. Previous studies in yeast and worms
369 have shown that over-expression of tRNAs can effectively restore translation
370 rates and protein homeostasis in mutants defective in tRNA modification
371^{8,12,13,39,47}. Using Rap1 as an example, we assessed whether over-expression of
372 tRNA^{Lys}_{UUU} would lead to recovery of Rap1 protein levels in the *igo1Δ* mutant,
373 with tRNA^{Lys}_{CUU} over-expression serving as a control. As anticipated, tRNA^{Lys}_{CUU}

374 overexpression had no impact on Rap1 levels, while overexpression of
375 tRNA^{Lys}_{UUU} partially restored Rap1 protein levels (Fig. 5c, d). To confirm that the
376 reduced levels of Rap1 protein in *igo1*Δ cells resulted from defective translation
377 of its mRNA, we engineered a mutant version of the *rap1* gene in which the 40
378 AAA codons were substituted with AAG, making all lysine codons independent of
379 tRNA modification. Consistent with previous findings for other proteins, the
380 translation deficiency of Rap1 in the *igo1*Δ mutant was completely rescued by
381 expressing the *rap1-allAAG* allele (Fig. 5e).

382 In summary, considering all the data, we conclude that during the transition into
383 quiescence, the Endosulfine Igo1 is necessary for facilitating U₃₄ and A₃₇ tRNA
384 modifications, which are critical for enhancing the translation efficiency and
385 fidelity of proteins encoded by mRNAs with high AAA_{Lys} codon usage.

386

387 **Gad8 phosphorylation is required to enhance translation during** 388 **quiescence entry**

389 We then investigated the underlying molecular mechanism that triggers the
390 translational defect due to a failure in tRNA modification. We identified Gad8 as
391 an interactor of PP2A/Pab1 (Supplementary Fig. 4c). Previous studies
392 demonstrated that PP2A/Pab1 counteracts the phosphorylation of Gad8 by
393 TORC2 at serine 546, suggesting that Gad8 is a direct target of PP2A/Pab1^{6,7}.
394 Additionally, active Gad8 phosphorylated at S546 activates Elongator by
395 inhibiting Gsk3, a glycogen synthase kinase that inhibits Elongator by
396 phosphorylating the Elp4 subunit at serine 114⁸.

397 These findings prompted us to investigate the potential role of Igo1 in Gad8
398 phosphorylation during quiescence entry. Notably, it has previously been
399 reported that deletion of *elp3*, which encodes the tRNA acetyltransferase
400 subunit of the Elongator complex, leads to a reduction in Gad8 protein levels⁸.
401 A sequence analysis of the *gad8* mRNA revealed a high usage of AAA_{Lys} codons,
402 like *rap1* (Supplementary Fig. 5b, *gad8* z-score_{AAA/AAG} = 0.73/-0.73 vs. *rap1* z-
403 score_{AAA/AAG} = 0.72/-0.71). This observation led us to investigate whether high
404 PP2A/B55 activity, in the absence of Igo1, could be relevant for maintaining Gad8
405 protein levels during nitrogen starvation. Western blot analysis clearly showed a

406 decrease in Gad8 protein levels in the *igo1* Δ mutant (Fig. 6a). Furthermore, the
407 phosphorylation status of Gad8 at S546 was also reduced in the absence of Igo1,
408 compared to wild-type cells (Fig. 6b). These results suggest that during nitrogen
409 starvation, inhibition of PP2A/Pab1 leads to the accumulation of phosphorylated
410 Gad8 at S546 by TORC2 and consequent activation of the Elongator complex.
411 This mechanism generates a positive feedback loop that enhances translation of
412 Gad8 and promotes more U₃₄ tRNA modifications (see Fig. 7).

413 If our model is correct, and PP2A/B55 indeed regulates Elongator activity through
414 Gad8 protein homeostasis, the deletion of the *gad8* gene should lead to a
415 substantial decrease in proteins with high AAA_{lys} codon usage. To test this
416 hypothesis, we examined the levels of Sgo2, a protein with a very high AAA_{lys}
417 codon usage (z-score_{AAA/AAG} = 1.28/-1.28), in a *gad8* Δ mutant background.
418 Western blot analysis showed a reduction in Sgo2 protein levels in the *gad8* Δ
419 mutant (Fig. 6c). As a positive control, we used the *elp3* Δ mutant, where the
420 reduction in Sgo2 levels was even greater (Fig. 6d). Moreover, both *gad8* Δ and
421 *elp3* Δ mutants displayed sensitivity to paromomycin in both nitrogen-rich and
422 nitrogen-poor media (Supplementary Fig. 6d), although the sensitivity to
423 paromomycin in nitrogen-poor medium was more pronounced in the *igo1* Δ
424 mutant (Figs. 6e; Supplementary Fig. 6d). Thus, our data strongly suggests that
425 defects in the Elongator activation pathway led to decreased translation efficiency
426 of mRNAs with high AAA_{lys} codon usage.

427 Finally, to confirm the connection between Igo1 and the Elongator activation
428 pathway, we generated a double mutant, *igo1* Δ *gsk3* Δ . Gsk3 is an Elongator
429 inhibitor in *S. pombe*⁸. As mentioned earlier, the *igo1* Δ mutant exhibited
430 sensitivity to paromomycin, particularly in nitrogen-poor media containing
431 phenylalanine (Fig. 4e). If this phenotype is indeed related to reduced Elongator
432 activity, the *igo1* Δ *gsk3* Δ double deletion should rescue this defect. Wild-type,
433 *igo1* Δ and *gsk3* Δ single mutants, along with the *igo1* Δ *gsk3* Δ double mutant, were
434 cultivated in nitrogen-poor (MMPhe) medium with or without paromomycin, and
435 their growth phenotype was assessed. The *igo1* Δ mutant displayed
436 hypersensitivity to paromomycin, while the *gsk3* Δ mutant exhibited mild
437 resistance compared to the wild-type strain. A partial improvement in cell growth
438 in the presence of paromomycin was detected in the *igo1* Δ *gsk3* Δ double mutant

439 clones compared to the *igo1* Δ mutant (Fig. 6e). These findings strongly suggest
440 that proper Igo1-mediated activation of Elongator is crucial for maintaining the
441 rate of translation during quiescence entry.

442

443 Discussion

444 Entry into quiescence in yeasts is regulated by diverse signalling cascades that
445 converge at the Greatwall-Endosulfine-PP2A/B55 pathway ^{3,5,49-51}. In *S. pombe*,
446 the primary signal regulating entry into quiescence is nitrogen starvation, which
447 reduces the activity of TORC1 and increases the activity of TORC2 ^{4,6,7,52-58}.
448 Inactivation of TORC1 results in reduced protein synthesis and the activation of
449 protein degradation through autophagy. However, quiescent cells must maintain
450 a continuous supply of specific proteins to remain viable.

451 In this study, we demonstrate that the Greatwall-Endosulfine-PP2A/B55 pathway
452 links the inactivation of TORC1 with the activation of TORC2 signalling to promote
453 the activation of the Elongator complex and other tRNA modification complexes
454 essential for sustaining the translation programme during quiescence. This is
455 achieved by facilitating U₃₄ and A₃₇ tRNA modifications, which increase
456 translation efficiency and fidelity of critical proteins, including those necessary for
457 telomeric and subtelomeric functions.

458 The reduction of PP2A/B55 activity, achieved through the activation of Greatwall
459 and Endosulfine, is required to accumulate phosphorylated Gad8 at S546 ⁷. This
460 phosphorylation event increases the activity of the Elongator complex by
461 inhibiting glycogen synthase kinase, Gsk3 ⁸. The increased Elongator activity
462 promotes the efficient translation of mRNAs containing high AAA_{lys} codon usage,
463 such as *tsc2* (an inhibitor of TORC1) ⁸, *gad8* (a positive effector of TORC2),
464 *trm112*, *ctu1* and *cgi121* (involved in U₃₄ and A₃₇ tRNA modifications). All of these
465 facilitate the switch from high TORC1 to high TORC2 activity as cells enter
466 quiescence. Furthermore, the synthesis of key proteins with roles in telomeric
467 and subtelomeric organisation, such as Rap1, Sgo2, Clr2 or Clr3, which also
468 exhibit a high AAA_{lys} codon usage, is dependent on the correct activation of
469 Elongator (Fig. 7).

470 Previous studies have demonstrated that the deletion of *rap1* (encoding a
471 component of the shelterin complex) or *bqt4* (encoding a component of the
472 bouquet complex) causes telomeric detachment from the NE ^{23,25,26}. Our findings
473 suggest that the telomeric detachment defect in the *igo1Δ* mutant is probably
474 caused by a reduction in Rap1 protein levels (Fig. 2a-d). Interestingly, Bqt4, the
475 other protein that creates a molecular link between telomeres and the NE, has a

476 low AAA_{lys} codon usage ($z\text{-score}_{\text{AAA/AAG}} = -0.94/0.95$), making it unlikely to be
477 responsible for the telomeric detachment phenotype in the *igo1Δ* mutant.
478 However, we cannot rule out the possibility that other proteins may be involved
479 in the telomeric attachment to the NE, such as Lem2, a member of the
480 Lap2/Emerin/Man1 (LEM) family of lamin-associated proteins, which is known to
481 be involved in telomere anchoring and heterochromatic gene silencing⁵⁹⁻⁶¹. Lem2
482 mRNA has a high AAA_{lys} codon usage ($z\text{-score}_{\text{AAA/AAG}} = 0.88/-0.88$), suggesting
483 that it may also be subject to translation defects in the *igo1Δ* mutant, which could
484 potentially affect telomere attachment to the NE.

485 In addition to the telomeric anchoring defect, the *igo1Δ* mutant exhibited
486 upregulation of genes located in the subtelomeric regions of chromosomes I and
487 II (Fig. 1a; Supplementary Fig. 1a). Several proteins related to subtelomeric
488 organisation were defective in the *igo1Δ* background, particularly Sgo2, whose
489 protein levels were significantly reduced (Fig. 3a). Sgo2 plays a role in *knobs*
490 assembly, and its deletion leads to derepression of genes located in subtelomeric
491 regions^{21,22}. Our data demonstrate that Igo1 is involved in *knobs* assembly, and
492 its deletion results in defects in the regulation of subtelomeric genes. The
493 overlapping roles and phenotypes between Sgo2 and Igo1 suggest that the
494 reduction in Sgo2 protein levels is responsible for the derepression of
495 subtelomeric genes in the *igo1Δ* mutant. However, other proteins, such as Clr2
496 or Clr3, which are involved in silencing could also contribute to this phenotype.

497 All the proteins tested in our study had their levels restored after reducing
498 PP2A/B55 activity, indicating that low PP2A/B55 activity was necessary to
499 maintain protein homeostasis during quiescence entry. But what is the link
500 between PP2A/B55 activity, translation and the telomeric/subtelomeric
501 organisation?

502 Previous research has shown that deleting specific components of TORC2
503 signalling, such as *tor1* or *gad8*, leads to a significant derepression of genes
504 located in subtelomeric regions⁶². However, the molecular mechanism linking
505 these processes remained unclear. Our data reveal that not only components of
506 the TORC2 complex but also elements acting downstream of the TORC1
507 complex, such as Greatwall (Ppk18 and Cek1) or Endosulfine (Igo1), play a
508 crucial role in regulating subtelomeric gene expression. These findings establish

509 a connection between the Greatwall-Endosulfine-PP2A/B55 pathway and
510 telomeric/subtelomeric organisation.

511 A link between the TORC2 signalling pathway, the Elongator complex, and tRNA
512 modifications has been demonstrated ⁸. Our data further demonstrate that this
513 connection is particularly relevant during entry into quiescence by elucidating the
514 molecular details linking nitrogen starvation, TORC1 inactivation, activation of
515 Greatwall-Endosulfine, inactivation of PP2A/Pab1, activation of Gad8, and
516 upregulation of tRNA-modifying complexes (Fig. 7). Indeed, these molecular
517 events affect not only the Elongator complex but also other tRNA modifiers like
518 Trm112 or Ctu1. These interactions create positive feedback loops that are
519 responsible for the transition from high TORC1 to high TORC2 activity,
520 subsequently leading to further tRNA modifications. Mutations in Greatwall
521 (Ppk18 and Cek1) or Endosulfine (*igo1*) result in a defect in this transition,
522 causing a failure in tRNA modifications that affect the translation of mRNAs with
523 a high AAA_{Lys} codon usage encoding for proteins such as Rap1, Sgo2, Clr2 and
524 Clr3. This, in turn, triggers telomeric detachment and the derepression of
525 subtelomeric genes.

526 In addition to the mcm⁵s²U₃₄ defect, we also observed a reduction in t⁶A₃₇ in the
527 Endosulfine (*igo1*Δ) mutant (Fig. 5a). These two closely located tRNA
528 modifications play a crucial role in ensuring accurate codon-anticodon
529 interactions by stabilising codon-anticodon pairings ⁶³⁻⁶⁶. Interestingly,
530 tRNA^{Lys}_{UUU} carries both the mcm⁵s²U₃₄ and t⁶A₃₇ modifications, both of which are
531 defective in the Endosulfine (*igo1*Δ) mutant. This finding provides an explanation
532 for the strong sensitivity of *igo1*Δ cells to paromomycin compared to mutants in
533 Elongator (*elp3*Δ) or Gad8 (*gad8*Δ). The defect in the t⁶A₃₇ modification could be
534 explained by a reduction in Cgi121 protein levels (Supplementary Fig. 6c), one
535 of the subunits of the KEOPS complex responsible for this modification ^{48,64},
536 which is encoded by an mRNA with a high AAA_{Lys} codon usage.

537 Finally, an interesting concept has emerged over the last few years on tRNA
538 modifications and stress, known as tRNA modification tuneable transcripts
539 (MoTTs). These transcripts are characterised by a specific use of degenerate
540 codons and codon biases to encode essential stress response proteins.
541 Translation of these transcripts is affected by modifications at the wobble position

542 of the tRNAs ^{14,15}. Our work supports the idea that mRNAs encoding proteins
543 involved in nutrient starvation, stress response or even the translation of viral
544 RNA genomes present MoTTs, which allow for an increase in translation
545 efficiency under stress conditions ^{8,12,13,67-70}. One of these transcripts, the Hif1 α
546 mRNA, is translated in drug-resistant melanomas through a mechanism involving
547 the activation of Efp1 by the PI3 kinase signalling pathway. The activation of Hif1 α
548 promotes drug resistance by inducing anaerobic glycolysis ⁷¹. Therefore, the
549 mcm⁵s²U₃₄ modification in the tRNA anticodon promotes the translation of
550 mRNAs enriched in AAA codons, including Hif1 α mRNA. This discovery opens
551 new avenues for identifying inhibitors of Elongator and other tRNA modifiers to
552 treat drug-resistant tumours and combat viral infections.

553

554

555 **Methods**

556 **Strains and Growth Conditions**

557 Yeast strains are listed in Supplementary Table 6. Fission yeast cells were
558 cultured and genetically manipulated according to standard protocols⁷². Genetic
559 crosses were performed on malt extract agar plates. Cells were typically cultured
560 overnight at the appropriate temperatures in yeast extract supplemented with
561 adenine, leucine, histidine, lysine, and uracil (YES), or in Edinburgh minimal
562 medium containing 93.5 mM ammonium chloride (EMM2) as a nitrogen source.
563 For nitrogen starvation experiments, exponentially growing cells were shifted
564 from Edinburgh minimal medium (EMM2) at 28°C to minimal medium without
565 nitrogen (EMM2-N) at 25°C.

566 In overexpression experiments using the *nmt1*⁺ promoter, cells were grown to the
567 logarithmic phase in EMM2 containing 15 μM thiamine. Then, the cells were
568 harvested and inoculated in fresh EMM2 medium without thiamine.

569

570 **DNA Techniques and Plasmid Construction**

571 DNA manipulations were performed as described in Sambrook, J., Fritsch, E.F.,
572 and Maniatis, T. (1989). Enzymes for molecular biology were obtained from
573 Fermentas and Thermo Fisher. PCRs were performed with using Velocity DNA
574 polymerase (Bioline). Oligonucleotides employed for strain and plasmid
575 construction are listed in Supplementary Table 7. Information regarding
576 construction strategies is available upon request. Plasmids used in this study
577 carry the ampicillin resistance gene for selection in *E. coli* and are listed in
578 Supplementary Table 7.

579

580 **RNA Isolation, RNAseq and RT-qPCR**

581 Wild type (2666), *igo1*Δ (2727) and *ppk18*Δ *cek1*Δ (2883) cells were grown to
582 mid-exponential phase in EMM2, centrifuged and washed three times in EMM2-
583 N, and cultured in EMM2-N at 25°C. For RNAseq, 2x10⁸ cells were harvested at
584 times 0 and 4 hours, washed with cold DEPC-H₂O, and snap frozen. RNA
585 extraction was carried out by disrupting the cells with glass beads using RNAeasy
586 Mini kit (Qiagen) and following the manufacturer's instructions. RNA quality was
587 evaluated using the Bioanalyzer 2100 (Agilent). Library preparation, using the

588 Illumina Ribo Zero and TruSeq Stranded kits, and subsequent NGS sequencing
589 were performed by Macrogen. Sequencing quality was assessed with FastQC (v
590 0.11.8, Babraham Bioinformatics). If necessary, adaptors were trimmed using
591 Trimmomatic (v 0.38) ⁷³. Alignment was performed with HISAT2 v 2.1.0 (CCB in
592 John Hopkins University) ⁷⁴ using *S. pombe* reference genome from Pombase
593 (downloaded on 30/11/2018). Samtools (v 1.9) and deepTools (v 3.3.0) were
594 used to obtain bigWig files to visualize in IGV (v 2.4.16) and JBrowse (v 1.15.4)
595 browsers. Read counts were obtained with featureCounts (Subread package v
596 1.6.3, Walter+Eliza Hall Bioinformatics) ⁷⁵. DESeq2 (v1.22.2) ⁷⁶ was used for the
597 differential expression analysis. Plots representing upregulated genes in
598 Endosulfine (*igo1Δ*) and Greatwall (*cek1Δ ppk18Δ*) mutants shown in Fig. 1a and
599 Supplementary Fig. 1a were generated with karyoploteR (v 1.12.4) ⁷⁷.

600 For RT-qPCR, total RNA was isolated from 2×10^8 *S. pombe* cells in exponential
601 phase by disrupting the cells with glass beads in TRIzol® Reagent (Invitrogen)
602 and following the manufacturer's instructions. The integrity of the RNA was
603 verified through 1% agarose gel electrophoresis, and its quality and quantity were
604 determined using a microspectrophotometer. RNA was treated with RNase-free
605 DNase I (Invitrogen) at 25°C for 30 minutes, following the manufacturer's
606 instructions. Each RNA sample (1.2-1.5 μg) was then reverse transcribed with
607 the SuperScript™ First-Strand Synthesis System (Invitrogen) using the oligo(dT)
608 primer supplied with the kit or the tRNA^{Lys}_{UUU} specific reverse primer in
609 combination with the *act1* gene reverse primer (Supplementary Table 7) at 50°C
610 for 30 minutes in a 20-μl total volume. Quantitative PCR amplification of cDNA (1
611 μl) was carried out using TB Green Premix Ex Taq™ (TaKaRa) and the primer
612 pairs indicated in the Supplementary Table 7, in a 20-μl total volume with the
613 following cycling parameters: 95°C for 45 seconds, 40 cycles of 95°C for 5
614 seconds and 60°C for 31 seconds, followed by a dissociation step at 95°C for 15
615 seconds, 60°C for 1 minute and 95°C for 15 seconds. The reactions were run in
616 duplicate or triplicate in an Applied Biosystems 7300 Real-Time PCR System.
617 Negative controls without reverse transcriptase, without RT-primer and without
618 cDNA were included to control for DNA contaminations. Fold changes in the
619 expression levels relative to the wild-type strain grown in EMM2 were calculated
620 according to the mathematic model described by ⁷⁸, with normalization to *act1*

621 expression levels. The experiments were performed at least twice with cDNA
622 from different biological repeats.

623

624 **SRRF microscopy**

625 Samples were observed using a Confocal Andor Dragonfly 200 microscope,
626 equipped with a 100x/1.45 Oil Plan Apo objective, an Andor sCMOS Sona 4.2B-
627 11 camera and controlled by Fusion (SRRF-STREAM) software. Image J
628 software was used for general image and movie manipulation. Radial Profile
629 Analysis and the calculations of Pearson's Correlation Coefficients were
630 performed using ImageJ. More than 100 nuclei were measured for each strain.

631

632 ***S. pombe* protein extracts and western blot**

633 TCA extraction was performed as previously described ⁷⁹. For immunoblotting,
634 PVDF membranes were probed with anti-HA (12CA5, Roche), anti-GFP (3H9,
635 Chromotek), anti-GST (RPN1236V, Cytiva) or anti-P-Gad8 (kindly provided by
636 José Cansado, University of Murcia, Spain). Standard procedures were
637 employed for protein transfer, blotting and chemiluminescence detection. Protein
638 detection was performed using the ECL kit (BioRad).

639

640 **Chromatin immunoprecipitation (ChIP)**

641 Chromatin isolation and immunoprecipitation was performed as previously
642 described ⁸⁰. *S. pombe* cell cultures were grown in EMM2 or after 4 hours of
643 nitrogen starvation in EMM2-N to OD₆₀₀ of 0.5-0.6 and crosslinked with 1%
644 formaldehyde for 10 min at room temperature. To terminate crosslinking, 2.5M
645 glycine was added to a final concentration of 125 mM for 5 min. Cells were
646 pelleted by centrifugation, washed twice with 10 ml of cold PBS, frozen on dry ice
647 and stored at -80°C. Cell pellets from 50 ml cultures were resuspended in 0.25
648 ml of Breaking buffer (0.1M Tris-HCl pH 8.0, 20% glycerol, 1 mM PMSF) and
649 lysed in a Fast-prep (2 cycles of 45 s) in the presence of glass beads (50 micron;
650 Sigma) at 4°C. Lysates were centrifuged at 14,000 g for 1 min at 4°C. Pellets
651 were washed with 1 ml of Lysis buffer (50 mM HEPES pH 7.6, 140 mM NaCl, 1
652 mM EDTA, 1% Triton X-100, 0.1% sodium deoxycholate, 0.1% SDS, 1 mM
653 PMSF). Pellets containing chromatin were resuspended in 0.25 ml of Lysis buffer.
654 Lysates were sonicated for 6 min at 4°C (30 seconds on, 30 seconds off), using

655 a water bath sonicator (Diagenode Bioruptor Plus), transferred to new 1.5-ml
656 Eppendorf tubes, added 0.75 ml of Lysis Buffer and centrifuged at 14,000 g for
657 30 min at 4°C. 50 µl of supernatant was kept as 'input' and the remainder (~950
658 µl) was subjected to immunoprecipitation with antibodies against K14-acetylated
659 histone H3 (07-353, Upstate Biotechnology) and 20 µl of protein G agarose beads
660 (100.04D, Dynabeads Protein G, Thermo Fisher). After an overnight incubation
661 at 4°C with mixing, beads were washed sequentially with 1 ml of Lysis buffer
662 once, Lysis + 500 mM NaCl twice, Wash buffer (10 mM Tris pH 8.0, 1 mM EDTA,
663 250 mM LiCl, 0.5% sodium deoxycholate, 0.5% NP-40, 1 mM PMSF) twice, and
664 TE buffer (10 mM Tris pH 7.5, 1 mM EDTA) once. Each wash was for 5 min with
665 mixing at room temperature. Immune complexes were eluted in 100 µl elution
666 buffer (50 mM Tris pH 8.0, 10 mM EDTA, 1% SDS) at 65°C for 20 min. Beads
667 were washed with 150 µl TE + 0.67% SDS, which was combined with the eluate.
668 150 µl TE + 0.67% SDS was also added to the input samples, and both IP and
669 input samples were incubated at 65°C overnight to reverse protein–DNA
670 crosslinks. DNA was purified by phenol/chloroform extraction. Analysis by qPCR
671 was carried out using a Bio-Rad CFX96 instrument, Takara TB Green premix Ex-
672 Taq, and primers listed in the Key resources table. ChIP signals were calculated
673 as IP/input and normalized to WT 0h with an assigned value of 1.

674

675 **Immunoprecipitations and mass-spectrometry analysis**

676 Immunoprecipitation was performed following previously established protocols⁸¹.
677 For the immunoprecipitation of Paa1-L-YFP (strain JED62) and Pab1-L-YFP
678 (strain JED56), 1 l of cells was grown to mid-log phase in EMM2, then shifted to
679 EMM2-N for 1 hour and crosslinked with 1% formaldehyde for 10 min at 25 °C.
680 The reaction was quenched by adding glycine to 250 mM and incubating for 5
681 min on ice. Cells were collected by centrifugation, washed with PBS 1x, frozen in
682 liquid nitrogen and broken with a Freezer/Mill in lysis buffer (25 mM Tris HCl pH
683 7.5, 150 mM NaCl, 0.5% SDS, 1% NP40, 1 mM PMSF, 1 µg/ml aprotinin, 1 µg/ml
684 leupeptin, 1 µg/ml pepstatin). Cell lysates were then slowly diluted to 0.1% SDS
685 final concentration for immunoprecipitation in lysis buffer without SDS at 4°C for
686 30 min. Clarified extracts were immunoprecipitated by adding 40 µl of GFP-Trap
687 beads (gta-20, Chromotek) for 1 hour at 4 °C. The beads were washed six times

688 with lysis buffer containing 500 mM NaCl. Finally, the beads were sent to the
689 Proteomics Facility of the Salamanca Cancer Research Center for Mass-
690 spectrometry analysis. Analysis and interpretation of the results were carried out
691 using the String Database.

692 For the immunoprecipitation of GFP-Pab1 (strain 2895), 16 l of cells were grown
693 to mid-log phase in EMM2 at 25°C. After one day, half of the culture was shifted
694 to EMM2-N for 1 hour. Subsequently, cells were harvested by centrifugation and
695 frozen at -80°C. Cells were lysed using glass beads and a bead beater in 100 ml
696 of NP-40 buffer (6 mM Na₂HPO₄, 4 mM NaH₂PO₄, 1% NP-40, 150 mM NaCl, 2
697 mM EDTA, 50 mM NaF and 0.1 mM Na₃VO₄) supplemented with complete EDTA-
698 free protease inhibitor cocktail (Roche), 1.3 mM benzamidine (Sigma) and 1 mM
699 PMSF (Sigma). Lysates were cleared by centrifugation, and supernatants were
700 mixed with 60 µl of 50 % slurry GFP-TRAP magnetic agarose beads (GFP- Trap®
701 magnetic agarose, ChromoTek) equilibrated with NP-40 buffer. After 90 minutes
702 of incubation at 4°C, beads were magnetically separated from lysates and
703 washed twice with 5 ml of NP-40 buffer. Samples were washed with 5 ml of low-
704 NP-40 buffer (0.02% NP-40) to reduce total detergent in purified proteins and
705 subsequently resuspended in 1 ml of low-NP-40 buffer. Proteins were eluted
706 twice with 150 µl of elution buffer (200 mM glycine-HCl pH 2.5) and precipitated
707 for 30 minutes on ice using 100 µl of 100% TCA. Samples were then spun down
708 for 30 minutes at 13000 rpm and 4°C, washed with 1 ml of cold acetone
709 containing 0.05 N HCl and 1 ml of cold acetone. Finally, pellets were dried at
710 room temperature and stored at 4°C for mass spectrometry analysis. A small
711 amount of each sample was used to confirmed proper purification of GFP-tagged
712 proteins. For that purpose, the Plus One Silver Staining protein kit (GE
713 Healthcare) was employed following manufacturer instructions. TCA-precipitated
714 proteins were digested with trypsin and analyzed by two-dimensional liquid
715 chromatography tandem MS (2D-LC-MS/MS) as previously described ⁸². MS2
716 and MS3 spectra were extracted separately from RAW files, and converted to
717 DTA files using Scansifter software ⁸³ (v2.1.25). Spectra with less than 20 peaks
718 were excluded and the remaining spectra were searched using the SEQUEST
719 algorithm (Thermo Fisher Scientific, San Jose, CA, USA; version 27, rev. 12).
720 Sequest was set up to search the *S. pombe* protein database

721 (pombe_contams_20151012_rev database, created in October 2015 from
722 pombase.org). Common contaminants were added, and all sequences were
723 reversed to estimate the false discovery rate (FDR), yielding 10390 total entries.
724 Variable modifications (C+57, M+16, [STY]+80 for all spectra and [STY]-18 for
725 MS3), strict trypsin cleavage, <10 missed cleavages, fragment mass tolerance:
726 0.00 Da (because of rounding in SEQUEST, this results in 0.5 Da tolerance), and
727 parent mass tolerance: 2.5 Da were allowed. Peptide identifications were
728 assembled and filtered in Scaffold (v4.8.4, Proteome Software, Portland, OR)
729 using the following criteria: minimum of 99.0% protein identification probability;
730 minimum of two unique peptides; minimum of 95% peptide identification
731 probability. FDRs were estimated in Scaffold based on the percentage of decoy
732 sequences identified after using the above filtering criteria; the protein level FDR
733 was 0.7% and the peptide level FDR was 0.3%. Proteins containing the same or
734 similar peptides that could not be differentiated based on MS/MS alone were
735 grouped to satisfy the principles of parsimony. Mass spectrometry identified
736 proteins were exported from Scaffold to Excel for further analysis. Further
737 analysis and interpretation of the results was carried out using the String
738 Database (<https://string-db.org/>).

739

740 **tRNA purification**

741 tRNA purification assay was performed following established procedures ⁸.

742

743 **Quantification of tRNA modifications**

744 The purified tRNAs (500 ng per sample) were subjected to hydrolysis in a 40 µL
745 digestion cocktail containing 10 U benzonase, 4 U calf intestinal alkaline
746 phosphatase, 0.12 U phosphodiesterase I, 0.1 mM deferoxamine, 0.1 mM
747 butylated hydroxytoluene, 4 ng pentosatin, 2.5 mM MgCl₂ and 5 mM tris buffer
748 (pH 8.0). The digestion mixture was incubated at 37 °C for 6 h. For the verification
749 of HPLC retention times of RNA modifications, synthetic standards were
750 employed. Analytical separation was facilitated by a Thermo Hypersil Gold aQ
751 C18 column (100 × 2.1 mm, 1.9 µm), which was interfaced with an Agilent 1290
752 HPLC system and an Agilent 6495 triple quadrupole mass spectrometer. The
753 employed LC system operated at 35 °C, maintaining a flow rate of 0.35 mL/min.
754 The gradient starts with 100% solution A (0.1% formic acid in water) for 4 min,

755 followed by a 4-15 min phase involving a transition from 0% to 20% solution B
756 (0.1% formic acid in acetonitrile). The HPLC column was coupled with an Agilent
757 6495 triple quadrupole mass spectrometer, utilizing an electrospray ionization
758 source in positive ion mode. Operational parameters were set as follows: gas
759 temperature at 120 °C; gas flow rate at 11 L/min; nebulizer pressure at 20 psi;
760 sheath gas temperature at 400 °C; sheath gas flow rate at 12 L/min; capillary
761 voltage at 1500 V; and nozzle voltage maintained at 0 V. The dynamic multiple
762 reaction monitoring mode was used for detection of product ions derived from
763 their respective precursor ions for all the RNA modifications. The collision energy
764 was optimized to ensure maximal detection sensitivity for each modification. To
765 ensure the same sample input, the MS signal intensity for each ribonucleoside
766 was normalized with the UV signal intensity of canonical ribonucleosides. The
767 fold change of the modified ribonucleosides in experiment group was calculated
768 relative to the control group.

769

770 **Drug sensitivity assays**

771 For survival on agar plates, *S. pombe* strains were cultured in YES, diluted and
772 the cells were spotted onto plates with minimal medium containing 93.5 mM
773 NH₄Cl (EMM2) or 20 mM phenylalanine (MMPhe) without or with paromomycin
774 (0.5 mg/ml), puromycin (0.5 mg/ml) or cycloheximide (2.5 µg/ml). The plates were
775 then incubated at the indicated temperatures for 4-8 days.

776

777 **Statistical methods**

778 Average, standard deviation, and P values for the two-sided Student's t test of
779 statistically significant differences were calculated with Microsoft Excel. Data
780 distribution was assumed to be normal, but this was not formally tested.

781

782 **Data availability**

783 Further information and requests for reagents may be directed to Sergio Moreno
784 (smo@usal.es) or Javier Encinar del Dedo (jedel_dedo@usal.es).

785

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787

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1060

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1081

1082 **Authors contributions**

1083 J.E.-D. led the project and conducted the experiments, excluding the RNAseq
1084 analysis performed by A.V.-B., the proteomic analyses conducted by R.L.-S.S.
1085 and J.-S.C. under the supervision of J.E.-D. and S.M., and K.L.G., respectively.
1086 The protein purifications used for MS analysis and cell viability assay performed
1087 by N.G.-B. RNA quantification was carried out by B.S., ChIP assay was
1088 performed by P.G., tRNA purification was carried out by P.T. under the
1089 supervision of D.H. and tRNA modification analysis was conducted by J.J. under
1090 P.C.D.'s supervision. J.E.D., E.H., D.M. and S.M. discussed and interpreted the
1091 results. J.E.-D. and S.M. wrote the original draft. All authors contributed to editing
1092 the manuscript. S.M. supervised the work.

1093

1094 **Competing interests**

1095 The authors declare no competing interests.

1096

1097 **Data Availability Statement:** The RNAseq data in this study has been deposited
1098 in GEO database with the following accession number GSE217398.

1099

1100 **Additional information**

1101 **Supplementary information** can be found online at:

1102 Supplementary Figs. 1-6.

1103 Supplementary Table 1: List of the top 50 genes overexpressed in *igo1*Δ at 4
1104 hours in EMM2-N.

1105 Supplementary Table 2: List of the top 50 genes overexpressed in *ppk18*Δ *cek1*Δ
1106 at 4 hours in EMM2-N.

1107 Supplementary Table 3: List of the proteins interacting with Paa1:L:GFP.

1108 Supplementary Table 4: List of the proteins interacting with Pab1:L:GFP.

1109 Supplementary Table 5: List of the proteins interacting with GFP:Pab1

1110 Supplementary Table 6: List of fission yeast strains used in this work.

1111 Supplementary Table 7: List of oligonucleotides and plasmids used in this work.

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1118 **Figure legends**

1119

1120 **Fig. 1. The Greatwall-Endosulfine switch regulates subtelomeric gene**
1121 **silencing and telomeric anchoring to the nuclear envelope.** **a** Schematic
1122 representation of transcriptionally upregulated genes in the Endosulfine (*igo1* Δ)
1123 mutant. Genes overexpressed more than 10-fold in *igo1* Δ cells compared to the
1124 wild-type after 4 hours in nitrogen-free EMM2 medium. Subtelomeric genes are
1125 highlighted in red. **b** Schematic illustration of *S. pombe* subtelomeric chromatin
1126 structure (modified from ⁸⁴). **c** Representative Super-Resolution Radial
1127 Fluctuations (SRRF) micrographs of wild-type (WT) and *igo1* Δ cells expressing
1128 Cut11:mCherry, Sad1:CFP and Taz1:YFP in nitrogen-rich EMM2 media (0 hours)
1129 and after 8 hours of nitrogen starvation in EMM2-N. The merged image and a
1130 detail view are shown. Bar: 2 μ m. **d** Radial Profile Analysis for WT and *igo1* Δ cells
1131 after 0, 4 or 8 hours of nitrogen deprivation (see details in Supplementary Fig.
1132 1b). The average projection signals for the NE (in red), the SPB (in cyan) and the
1133 telomeres (in yellow) are shown. The graphs represent the normalized integrated
1134 intensity as a function of distance in microns. The red lines correspond to the NE
1135 signal, the cyan lines correspond to the SPB signal and the yellow lines
1136 correspond to the telomeric signal. Over 100 nuclei were analysed at each time
1137 point. **e** Overlay between the average projection signals for Cut11/Sad1 or
1138 Cut11/Taz1 in WT and *igo1* Δ cells during entry into quiescence. The images were
1139 generated by projecting at least 100 nuclei. **f** Co-localization between
1140 Cut11/Sad1 and Cut11/Taz1 signals was quantified as Pearson correlation
1141 coefficients using ImageJ software. Student's t-test p-values are indicated,
1142 significant differences are in orange or red.

1143

1144 **Fig. 2. Telomeric detachment from the nuclear envelope in *igo1* Δ cells is**
1145 **mediated by reduced Rap1 protein levels.** **a** Extracts from *rap1:L:HA* and
1146 *ccq1:L:HA* cells in a WT and *igo1* Δ background were collected at 0, 1, 2, 4 and 8
1147 hours of nitrogen starvation. These extracts were analysed by SDS-PAGE and
1148 western blotting using anti-HA antibodies. Ponceau staining was used as the
1149 loading control. **b** Extracts from *rap1:L:HA* cells in a WT and *igo1* Δ background,
1150 collected every 30 minutes during the first 2 hours and then at 4 hours of nitrogen
1151 starvation. These extracts were analysed by SDS-PAGE and western blotting

1152 using anti-HA antibodies. Ponceau staining was used as the loading control. **c**
1153 Extracts from *rap1:L:HA* and *rap1:L:HA P_{nmt41x}:GST:pab1* cells in a WT and
1154 *igo1Δ* background were collected during nitrogen starvation and analysed by
1155 SDS-PAGE and western blot using anti-HA and anti-GST antibodies. Strains
1156 were grown with or without thiamine (+T or -T) to repress or induce the *pab1*
1157 gene, encoding the B55 regulatory subunit of PP2A. Ponceau staining was used
1158 as the loading control. **d** Immunoblot quantification of **c** was performed with
1159 Image Studio Lite software from at least two independent experiments. **e** Radial
1160 Profile Analysis of WT, *igo1Δ* and *igo1Δ P_{nmt41x}:GST:pab1* cells bearing Cut11
1161 (in red), Sad1 (in cyan) or Taz1 (in yellow) in EMM2 (0 hours) and after 8 hours
1162 of nitrogen starvation. The *igo1Δ P_{nmt41x}:GST:pab1* cells were grown with or
1163 without thiamine (+T or -T) to repress or induce the expression of *pab1*. Over 100
1164 nuclei were projected to generate the images and graphics. **f** Co-localization
1165 between Cut11/Sad1 and Cut11/Taz1 signals of **e** was quantified as Pearson
1166 correlation coefficients using ImageJ software. Student's t-test p-values are
1167 indicated, significant differences are in red.

1168

1169 **Fig. 3. Crucial proteins required for silencing subtelomeric gene expression**
1170 **are downregulated in *igo1Δ* cells.** **a** Extracts from *sgo2:L:HA* cells in a WT and
1171 *igo1Δ* backgrounds were collected every 30 minutes during the first 2 hours and
1172 then at 4 hours of nitrogen starvation. These extracts were analysed by SDS-
1173 PAGE and western blotting using anti-HA antibodies. Ponceau staining was used
1174 as the loading control. Immunoblot quantification was performed using Image
1175 Studio Lite software from at least two independent experiments. **b** Extracts from
1176 strains bearing *sgo2:L:HA* or *sgo2:L:HA P_{nmt41x}:GST:pab1*, were analysed by
1177 SDS-PAGE and western blotting with anti-HA and anti-GST antibodies. The
1178 *igo1Δ P_{nmt41x}:GST:pab1* cells were grown with or without thiamine (+T or -T) to
1179 repress or induce the expression of *pab1*. Ponceau staining was used as the
1180 loading control. Immunoblot quantification was performed with Image Studio Lite
1181 software from at least two independent experiments. **c** Representative
1182 micrographs of WT or *igo1Δ* cells expressing *sgo2:L:GFP* during entry into
1183 quiescence. The overlay of fluorescence and DIC images is shown.
1184 Quantification was carried out using ImageJ software from two independent
1185 experiments involving more than 150 cells. Bar: 5 μm. **d** Similar to (**a**), *clr2:L:HA*

1186 protein was analysed in both WT and *igo1* Δ backgrounds. **e** Similar to **(a)**,
1187 *clr3:L:HA* protein was analysed in both WT and *igo1* Δ backgrounds. **f** ChIP-qPCR
1188 was performed with anti-H3K14-acetyl antibodies and quantified with primer pairs
1189 at the indicated ORFs. WT and *igo1* Δ cells grown in nitrogen-rich media (EMM2)
1190 or after 4 hours of nitrogen starvation were analysed. The graphs represent
1191 normalized values, and error bars (SD) for all ChIP-qPCR experiments were
1192 calculated from biological triplicates.

1193

1194 **Fig. 4. PP2A interacts with proteins involved in tRNA modification. a**

1195 Interacting network resulting from mass-spectrometry analysis for *paa1:L:YFP* in
1196 EMM-N. Cellular processes or protein complexes with a significant enrichment
1197 are colour-coded. **b** Interaction between *paa1:L:YFP* and *trm112:L:HA*. Protein
1198 extracts from cells expressing *paa1:L:YFP*, *trm112:L:HA* or *paa1:L:YFP*
1199 *trm112:L:HA* were immunoprecipitated in nitrogen-rich or nitrogen-depleted
1200 media with anti-GFP beads and probed with anti-GFP and anti-HA antibodies.
1201 Extracts (WCE) were assayed for levels of *paa1:L:YFP* and *trm112:L:HA* by
1202 western blot. **c** Extracts from cells expressing *trm112:L:HA* or *trm112:L:HA*
1203 *P_{nmt41x}:GST:pab1*, were analysed by SDS-PAGE followed by immunoblotting
1204 with anti-HA and anti-GST antibodies. The *igo1* Δ *P_{nmt41x}:GST:pab1* cells were
1205 grown in EMM2 with or without thiamine (+T or -T) to repress or induce the
1206 expression of *pab1*. Ponceau staining was used as the loading control.
1207 Immunoblot quantification was performed with Image Studio Lite software from
1208 at least two independent experiments. **d** Extracts from *Ctu1:L:HA* cells in a WT
1209 and *igo1* Δ backgrounds were collected every 30 minutes during the first 2 hours
1210 and then at 4 hours of nitrogen starvation. These extracts were analysed by SDS-
1211 PAGE and immunoblotting using anti-HA antibodies. Ponceau staining was used
1212 as the loading control. Immunoblot quantification was performed using Image
1213 Studio Lite software from at least two independent experiments. **e** Serial dilutions
1214 from WT and *igo1* Δ cultures were spotted onto EMM2 (Minimal Media containing
1215 NH₄Cl) or MMPhe (Minimal Media containing Phenylalanine) plates without or
1216 with paromomycin (0.5 mg/ml), puromycin (0.5 mg/ml) or cycloheximide (CHX,
1217 2.5 μ g/ml).

1218

1219 **Fig. 5. Igo1 regulates some tRNA modifications.** **a** Heatmap analysis of
1220 changes in the relative levels of tRNA ribonucleoside modifications in the WT and
1221 the *igo1* Δ mutant. The side colour bar displays the range of z-score change
1222 values. The z-score was calculated as the value for each time point minus the
1223 average value for the modification, and the resulting value was divided by the
1224 standard deviation. **b** Fold-change of mcm⁵S²U₃₄ modification in WT and *igo1* Δ
1225 mutant cells. Student's t-test p-values were calculated from biological triplicates.
1226 **c** Extracts from strains bearing *rap1:L:HA* protein transformed with episomal
1227 plasmids ptRNA_{CUULys}, ptRNA_{UUULys} or the empty vector pREP42x were analysed
1228 by SDS-PAGE and western blotting with anti-HA antibodies during nitrogen
1229 starvation. Ponceau stain was used as a loading control. **d** Immunoblot
1230 quantification performed with Image Studio Lite software from at least three
1231 independent experiments. **e** Extracts from *igo1* Δ mutant transformed with
1232 episomal plasmids *P_{nmt41x:HA:rap1}* (AAA/AAG) or mutated version
1233 *P_{nmt41x:HA:rap1}* (all AAG) were analysed by SDS-PAGE followed by
1234 immunoblotting with anti-HA antibodies during nitrogen starvation. Ponceau
1235 staining was used as a loading control. Immunoblot quantification were
1236 performed with Image Studio Lite software from at least two independent
1237 experiments.

1238

1239 **Fig. 6. Endosulfine, Gad8 and Elongator are required for efficient translation**
1240 **of certain mRNAs during quiescence entry.** **a** Extracts from WT and *igo1* Δ
1241 cells expressing *gad8:L:HA*, were analysed by SDS-PAGE and immunoblotting
1242 with anti-HA antibodies during nitrogen starvation. Ponceau stain was used as a
1243 loading control. Immunoblot quantification were performed with Image Studio Lite
1244 software from at least two independent experiments. **b** Same as in (a), Gad8
1245 phosphorylation state was analysed in WT and *igo1* Δ cell extracts. **c** Same as in
1246 (a), *sgo2:L:HA* protein was analysed in a WT and *gad8* Δ cell extracts. **d** Same
1247 as in (a), *sgo2:L:HA* protein was analysed in a WT and *elp3* Δ cell extracts. **e**
1248 Serial dilutions from cultures of WT, *igo1* Δ , *gsk3* Δ and *igo1* Δ *gsk3* Δ were spotted
1249 onto MMPhe (Minimal Media with Phenylalanine) plates without or with
1250 paromomycin (0.5 mg/ml).

1251

1252 **Fig. 7. Activation of TORC2-Gad8 signalling in quiescent cells promotes**
1253 **the translation of mRNAs with a high AAA_{Lys} codon usage.** This model is
1254 based on previous work in fission yeast, demonstrating that nitrogen starvation
1255 induces the inactivation of TORC1 and the activation of TORC2 signalling through
1256 the Greatwall-Endosulfine-PP2A/B55 pathway ⁴⁻⁷. Phosphorylation of Gad8 at
1257 S546 leads to the inhibition of Gsk3 and the activation of Elongator, which
1258 promotes U₃₄ tRNA modification and translation of Tsc1, an inhibitor of TORC1,
1259 as well as activators of TORC2, such as Tor1 and Rictor (depicted by blue arrows)
1260 ⁸. In this study, we present additional feedback loops (indicated by orange arrows)
1261 that enhance the translation of Gad8, Trm112, Ctu1 and Cgi121, further
1262 increasing the U₃₄ and A₃₇ tRNA modifications necessary for the efficient
1263 translation of mRNAs enriched in AAA codons. Such mRNAs include *rap1*, *clr2*,
1264 *clr3* and *sgo2*, which encode proteins required for the correct attachment of
1265 telomeres to the NE.
1266
1267

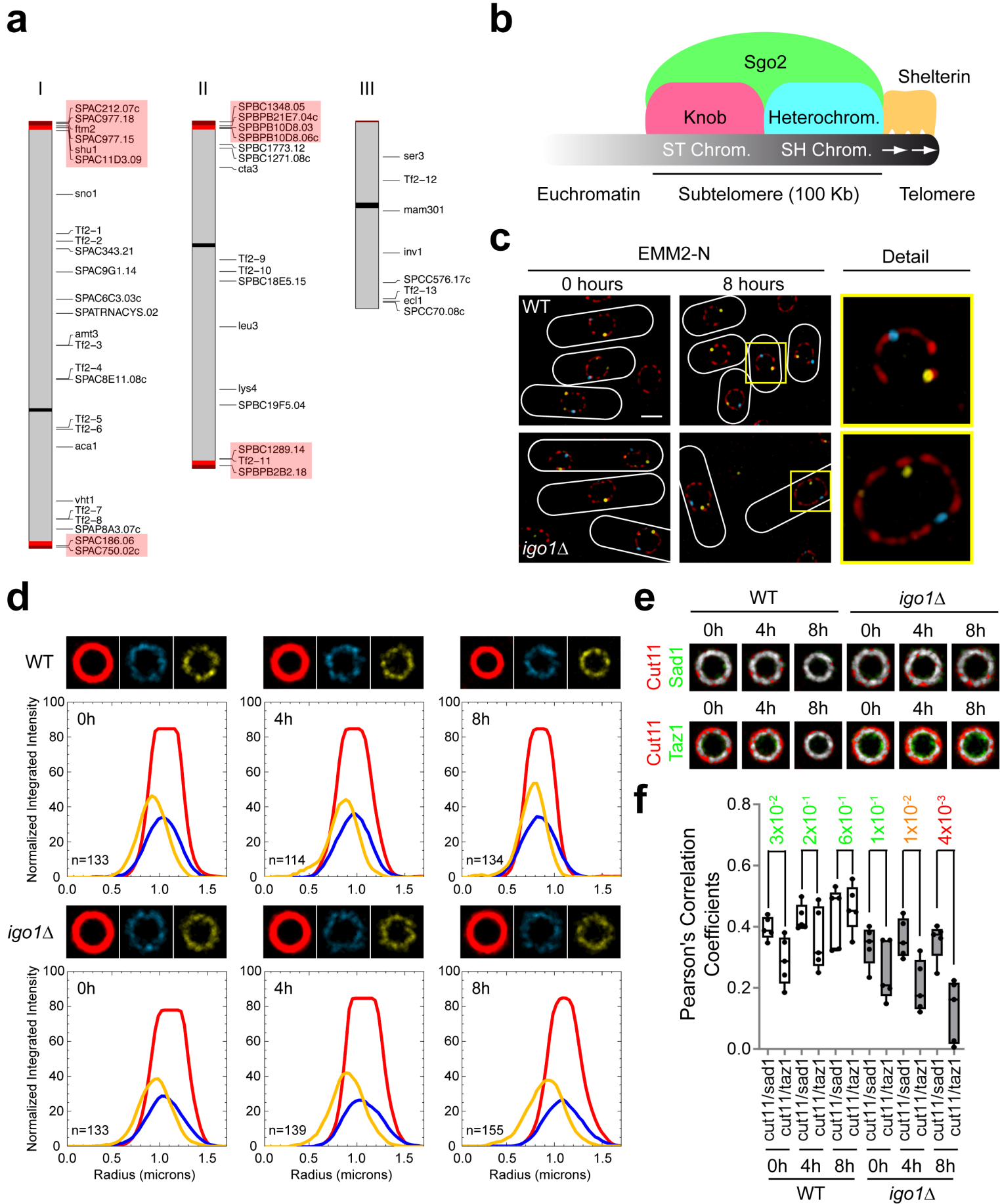


Fig. 1

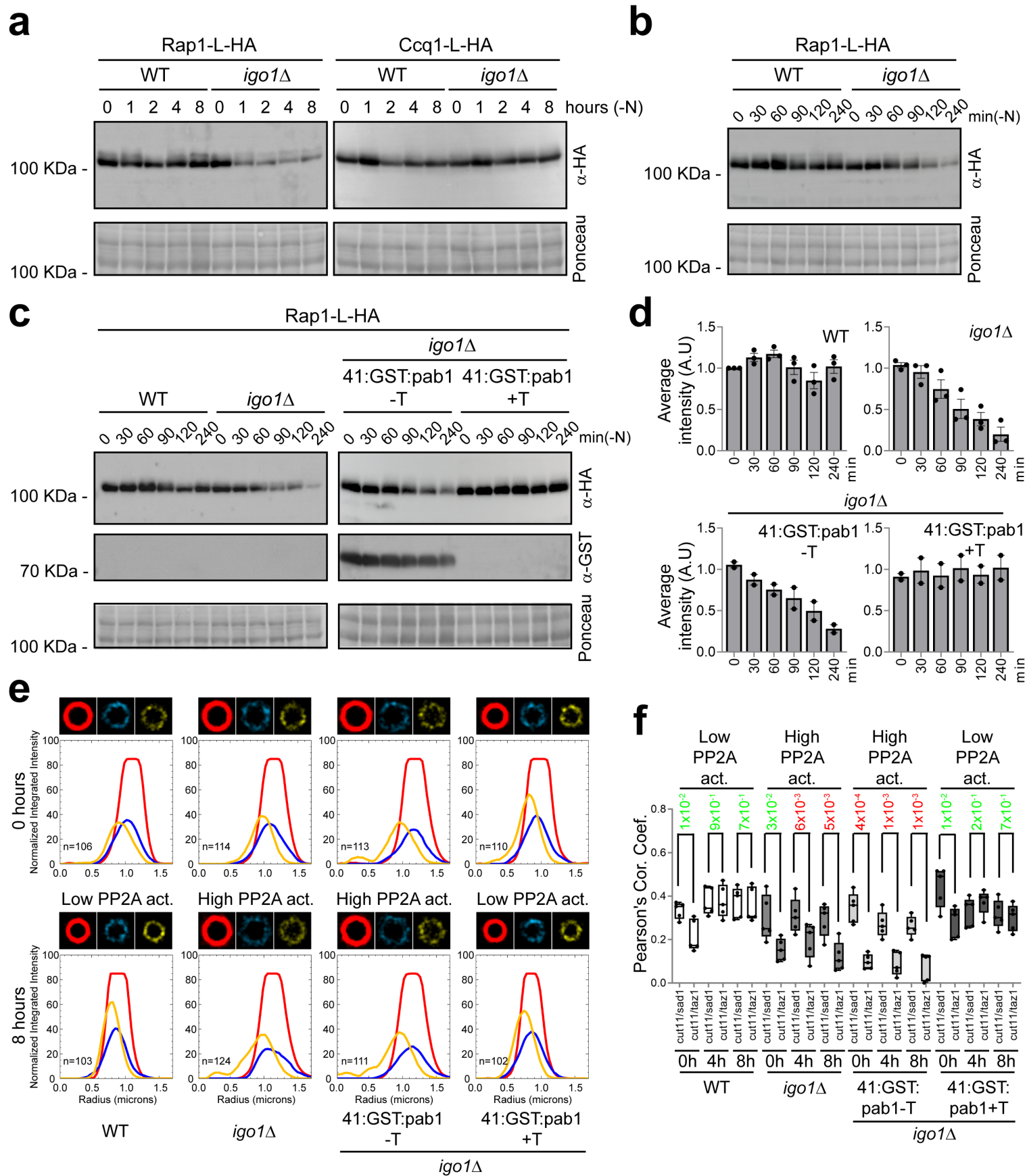


Fig. 2

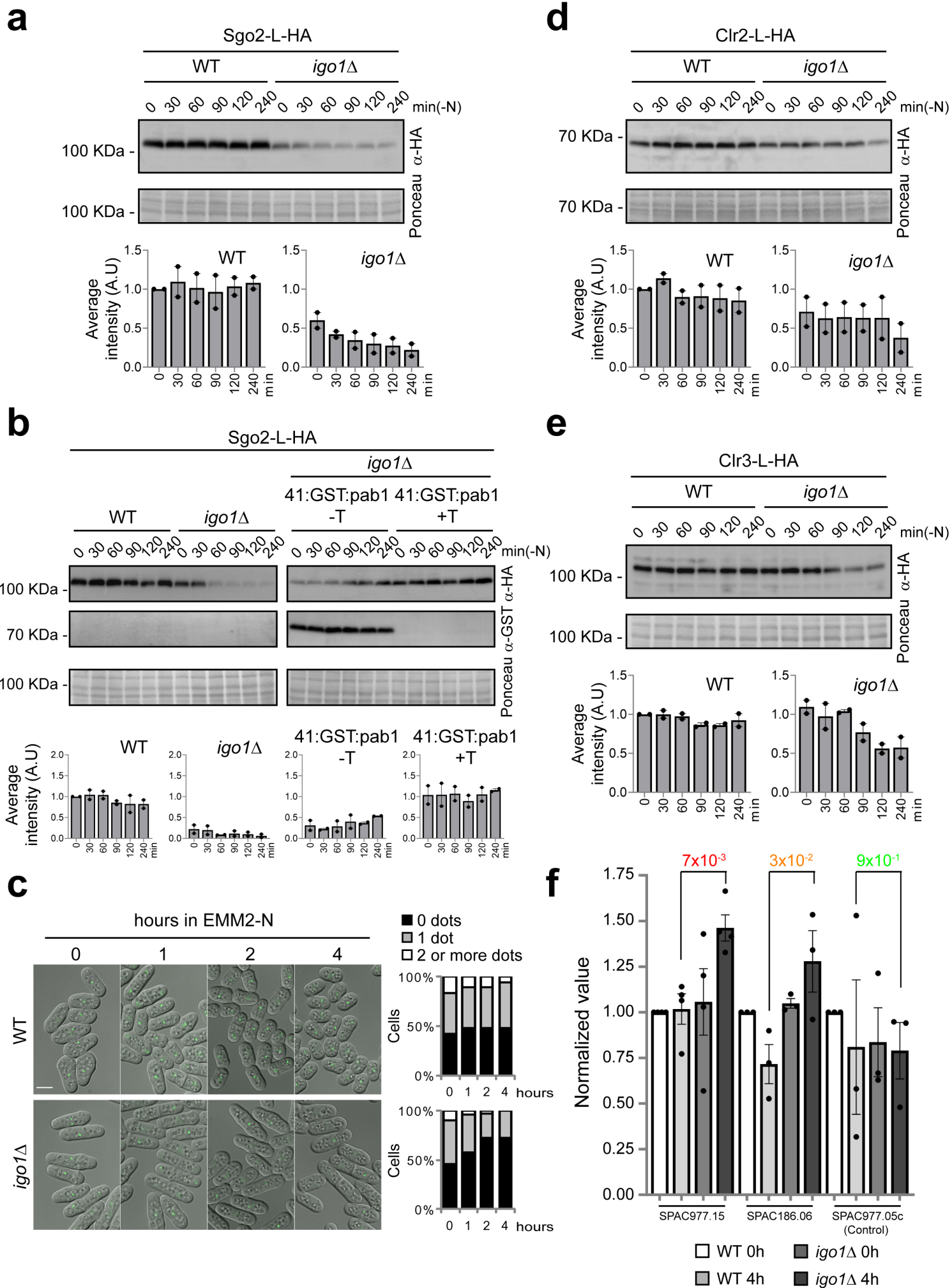
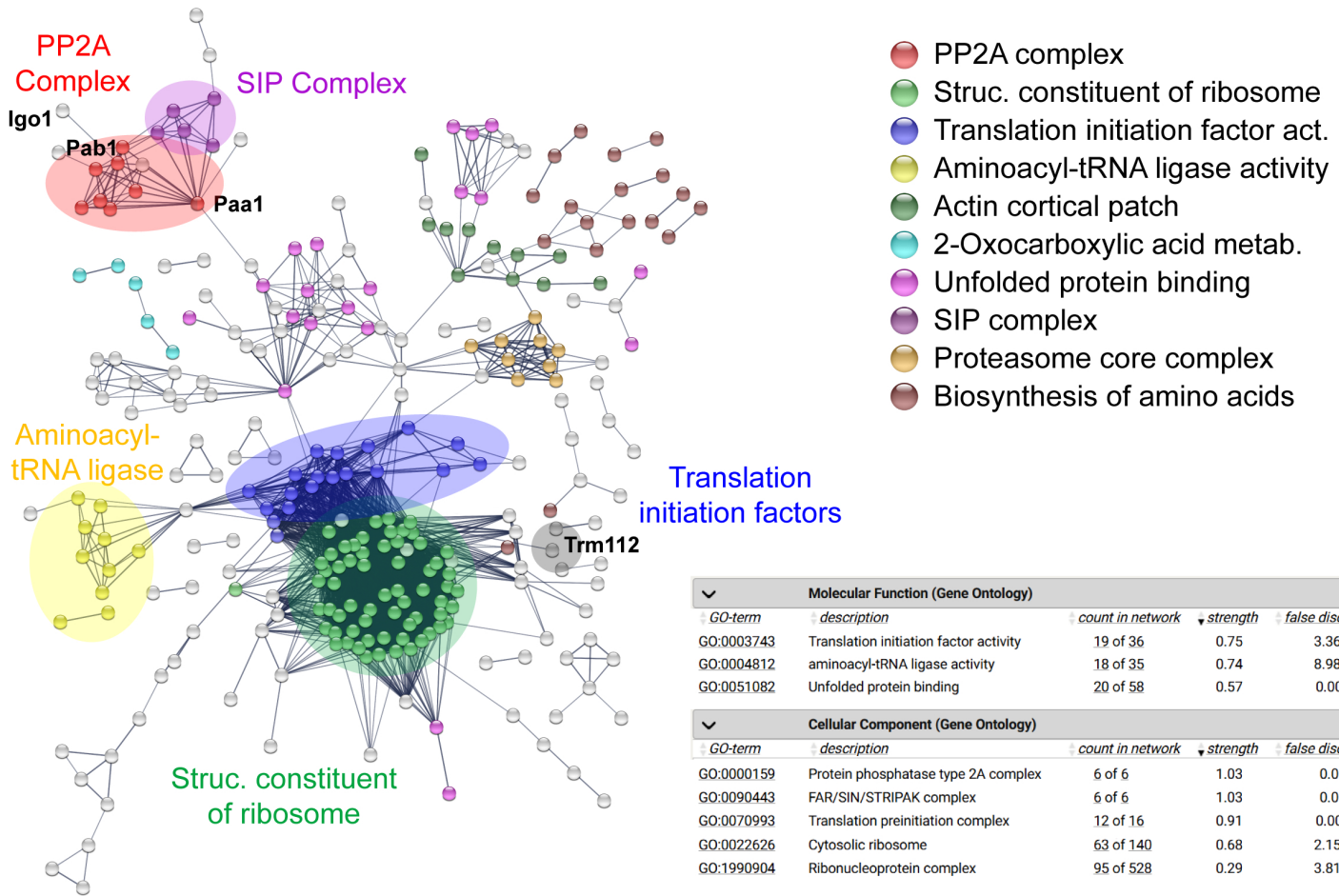
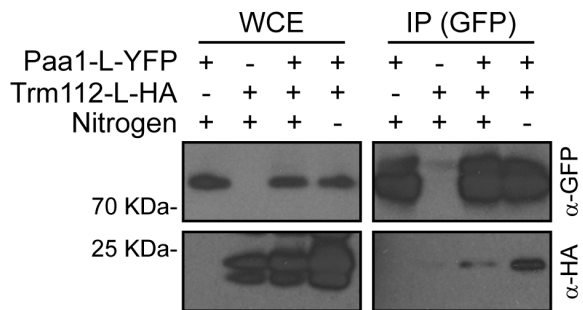
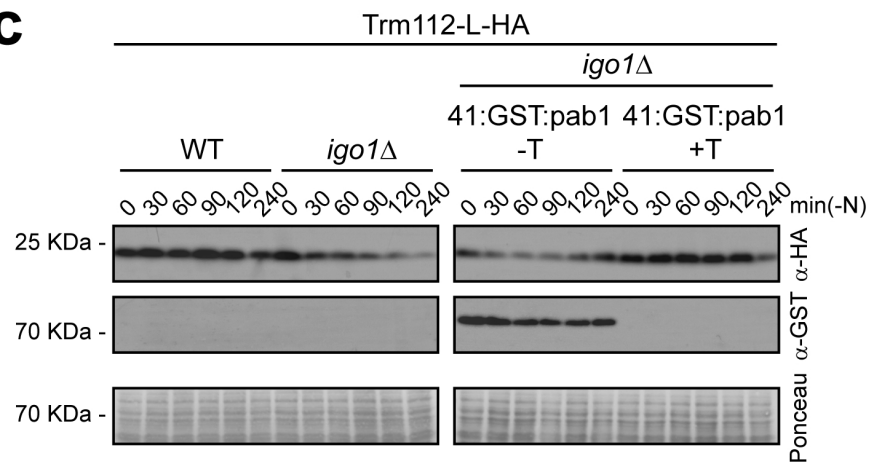
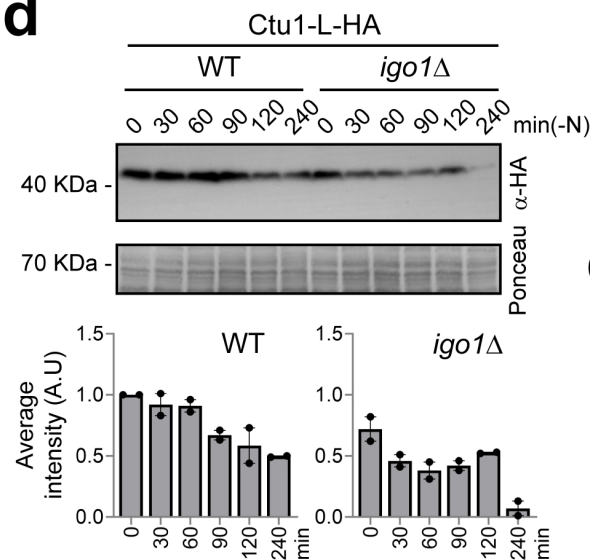
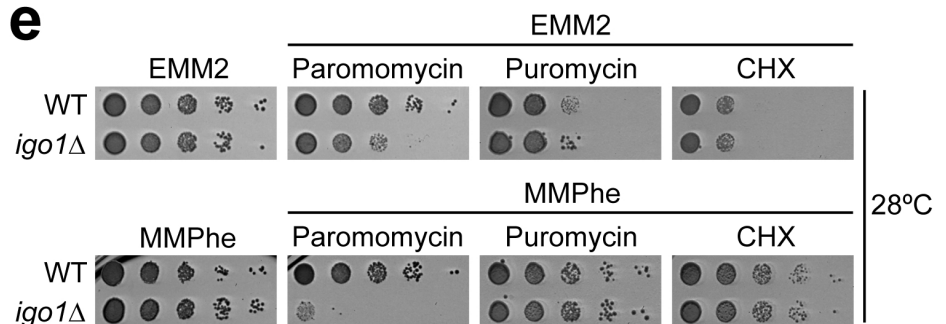


Fig. 3

a**b****c****d****e****Fig. 4**

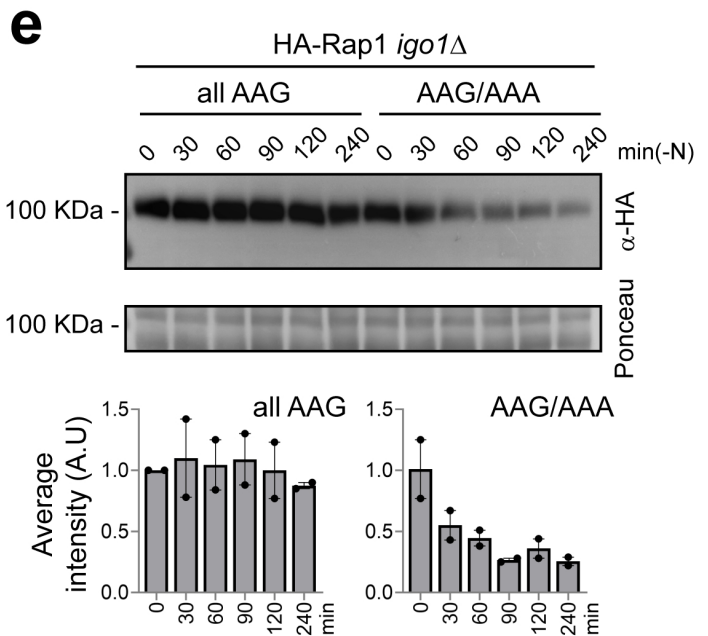
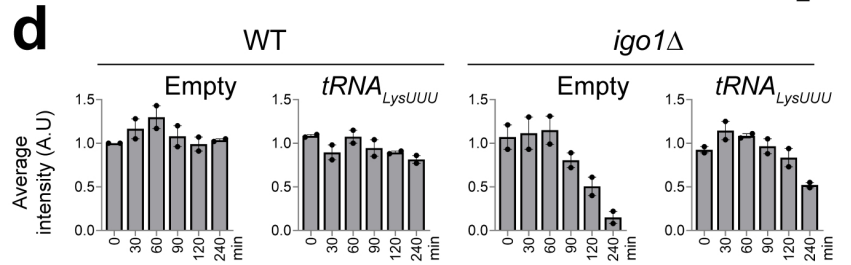
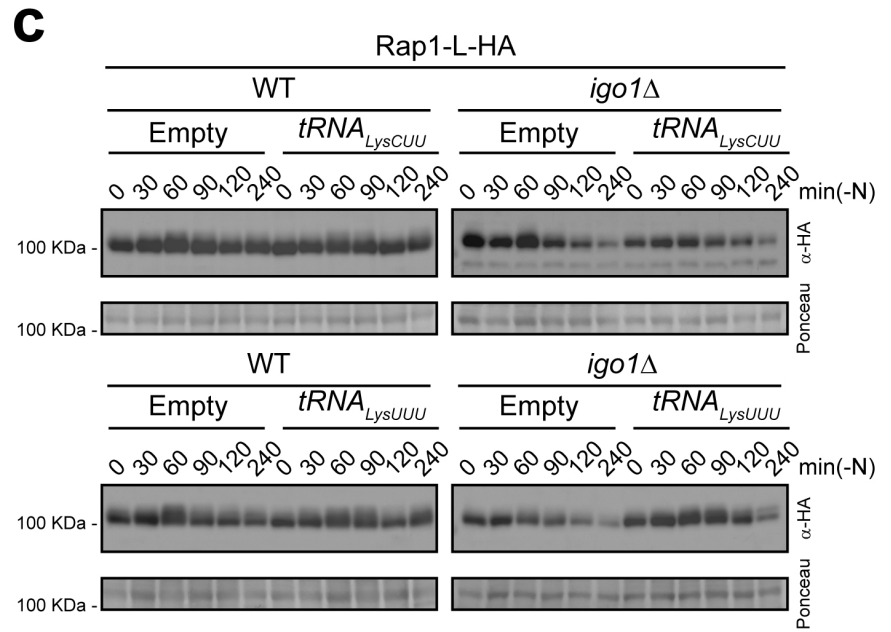
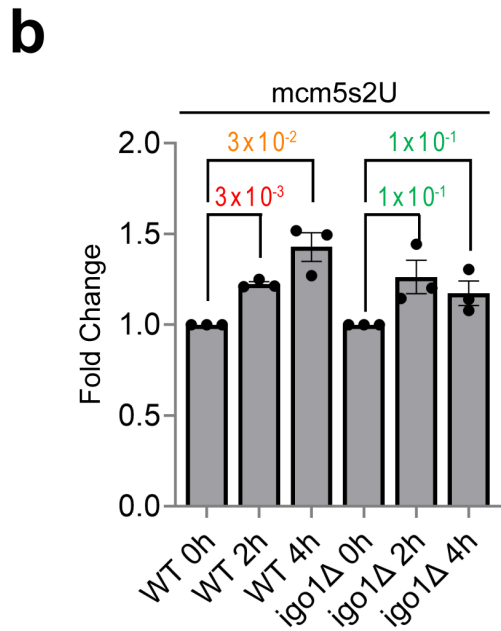
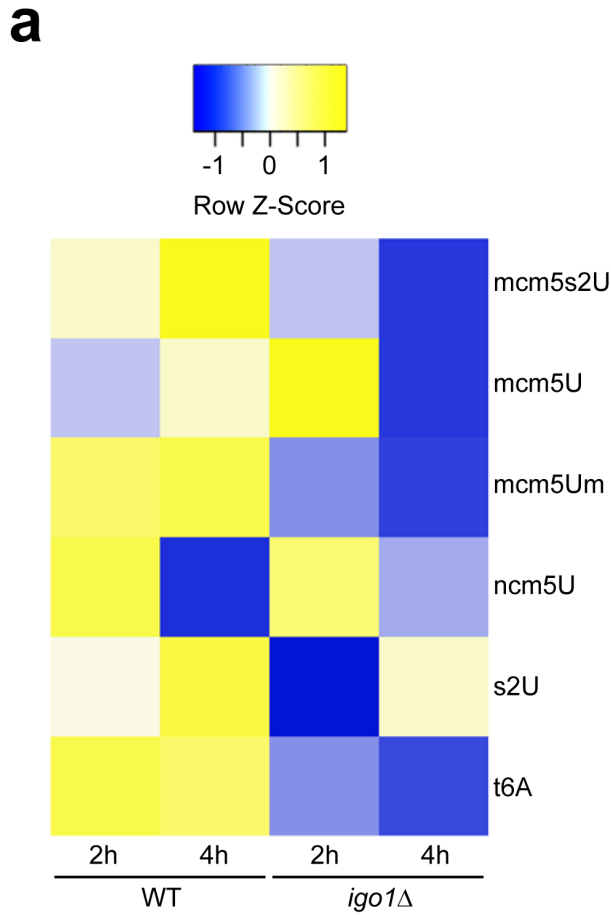


Fig. 5

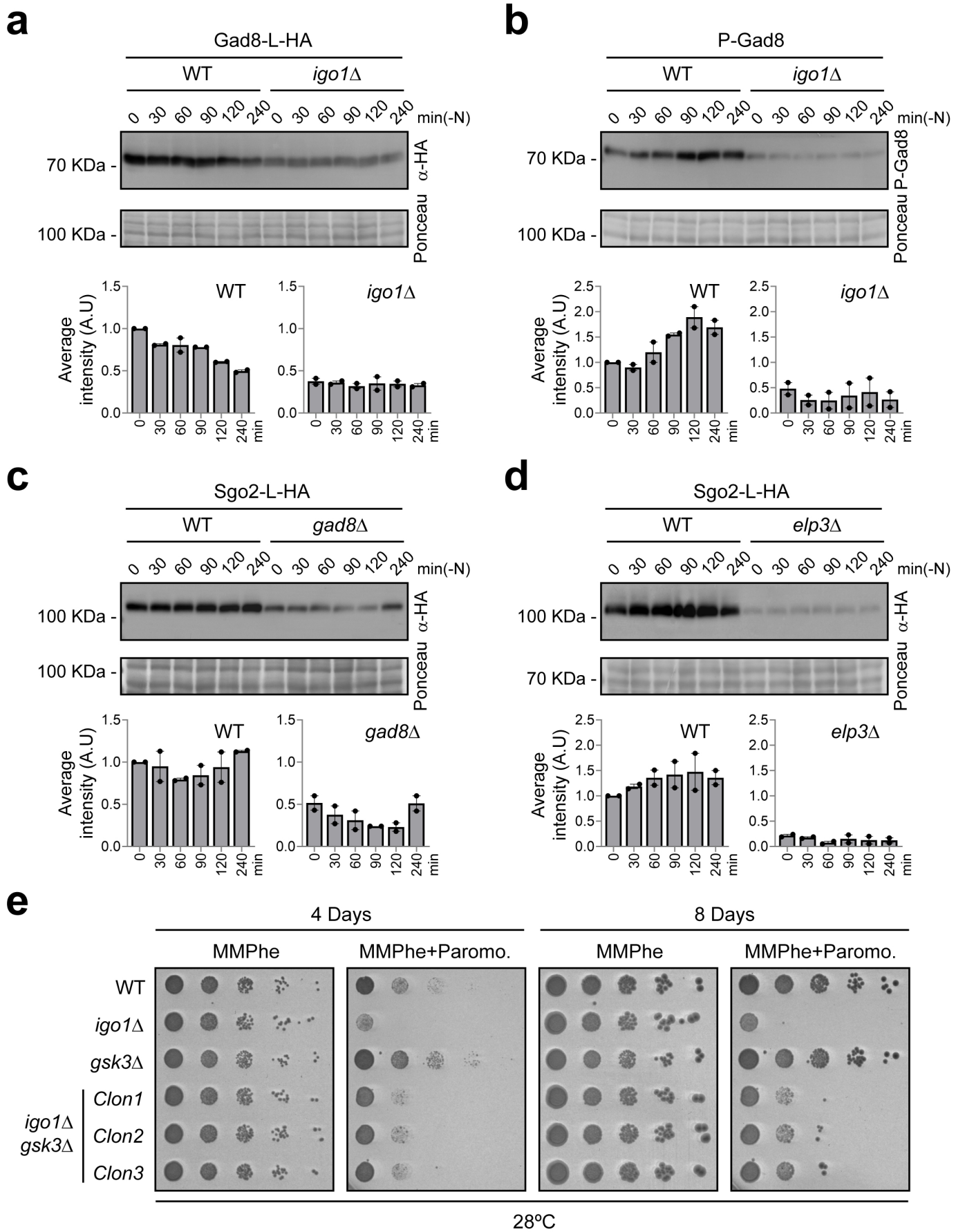


Fig. 6

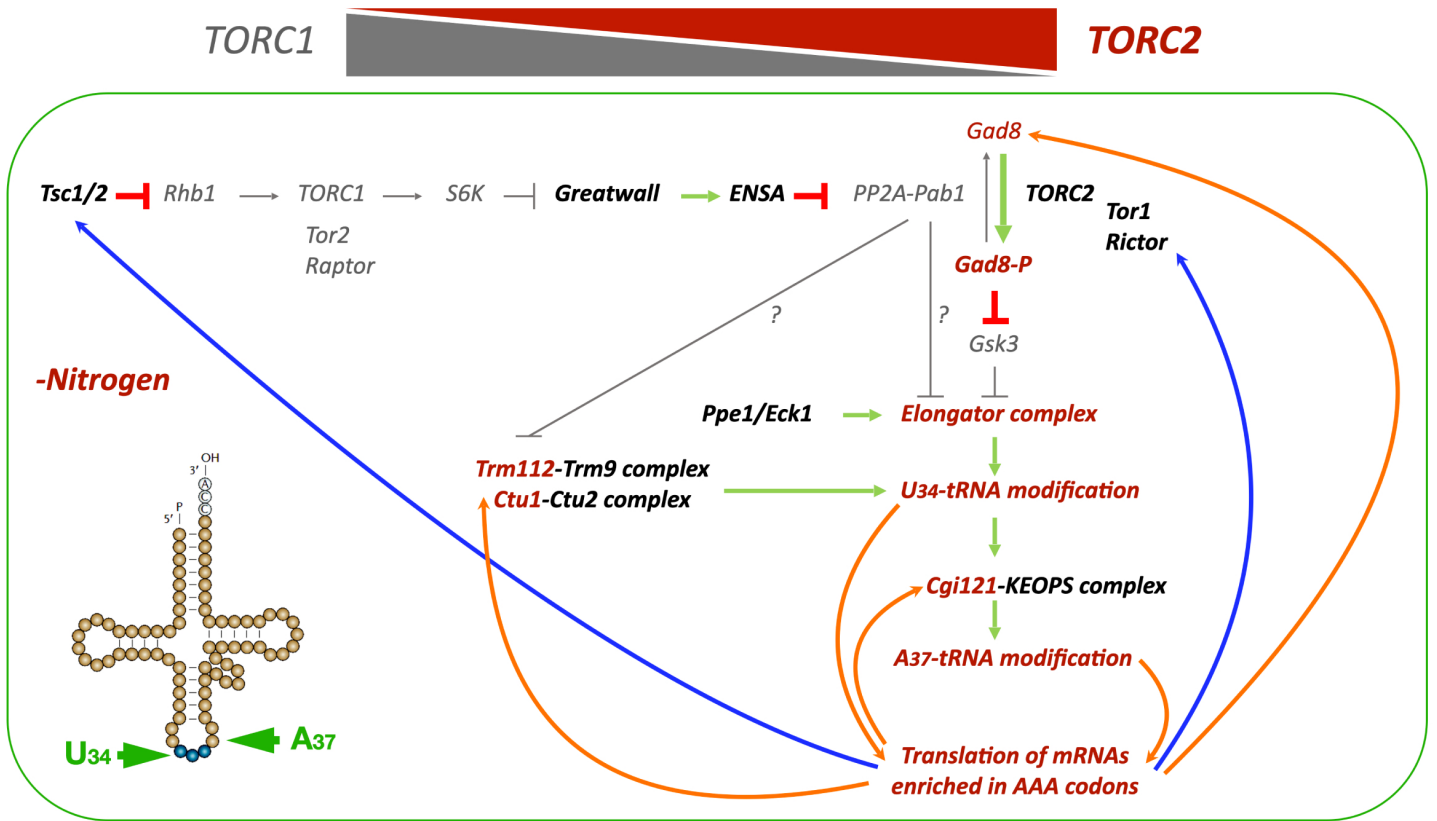


Fig. 7

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