
Sus1, Sac3, and Thp1 mediate post-transcriptional tethering of active genes to the nuclear rim as well as to non-nascent mRNP

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ABSTRACT

Errors in the mRNP biogenesis pathway can lead to retention of mRNA in discrete, transcription-site-proximal foci. This RNA remains tethered adjacent to the transcription site long after transcriptional shutoff. Here we identify *Sus1*, *Thp1*, and *Sac3* as factors required for the persistent tethering of such foci (dots) to their cognate genes. We also show that the prolonged association of previously activated *GAL* genes with the nuclear periphery after transcriptional shutoff is similarly dependent on the *Sac3-Thp1-Sus1-Cdc31* complex. We suggest that the complex associates with nuclear mRNP and that mRNP properties influence the association of dot-confined mRNA with its gene of origin as well as the post-transcriptional retention of the cognate gene at the nuclear periphery. These findings indicate a coupling between the mRNA-to-gene and gene-to-nuclear periphery tethering. Taken together with other recent findings, these observations also highlight the importance of nuclear mRNP to the mobilization of active genes to the nuclear rim.

Keywords: mRNA export; mRNP; *Saccharomyces cerevisiae*

INTRODUCTION

The export of eukaryotic mRNA to the cytoplasm is preceded by nuclear RNA processing. This includes covalent events (capping, splicing, and polyadenylation) as well as the noncovalent addition of hnRNP proteins, which facilitate binding and translocation of mRNA through nuclear pores. There are also elaborate quality-control mechanisms, which monitor the biogenesis of nuclear mRNP (Jensen et al. 2003; Fasken and Corbett 2005). Indeed, *Saccharomyces cerevisiae* strains bearing temperature-sensitive mutations in genes encoding nuclear processing factors manifest a pronounced nuclear mRNA retention. These genes include poly(A) polymerase *PAP1* (Hilleren et al. 2001), the mRNA export receptor *MEX67* (Jensen et al. 2001b), and 3'-end processing factors *RNA14* and *RNA15* (Libri et al. 2002), as well as the components of the nuclear THO/TREX complex *SUB2*, *HPR1*, and *MFT1* (Jensen et al. 2001a; Libri et al. 2002). Upon a shift to nonpermissive

conditions, these strains accumulate mRNA in discrete, transcription-site-proximal foci (hereafter referred to as “dots”) that can be visualized by fluorescent in situ hybridization (FISH) with gene-specific probes.

Nuclear mRNA dots can also be observed in wild-type cells under physiological conditions. For example, robust, intense dots arise from a *GAL*-driven GFP-encoding reporter construct, which bypasses normal 3'-end processing because it terminates in a hammerhead ribozyme (*GAL-GFP-RZ*). Dots also arise from a reporter with a wild-type *GAL* 3'-UTR (containing *GAL1* 3'-end formation signals; *GAL-GFP-pA*) and even from the endogenous *GAL1* gene (Dower et al. 2004; Abruzzi et al. 2006). Therefore, dot formation likely reflects a regular feature of gene expression, which is quantitatively increased when nuclear mRNA processing is suboptimal or perturbed. Importantly, both *GAL-GFP-RZ* and *GAL-GFP-pA* reporters give rise to dots containing RNA that is largely post-transcriptional (i.e., non-nascent). This is because the dots are spatially distinct from their transcription sites and because they persist long after the transcriptional shutoff (Abruzzi et al. 2006). Moreover, dots remain adjacent to their transcription sites during the shutoff.

Intriguingly, dot formation correlates with the tendency of active genes to associate with the nuclear periphery

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(Abruzzi et al. 2006), which suggests mechanistic links between these two processes. Several mechanisms have been proposed to contribute to the recruitment, capture, and/or subperipheral retention of genes at the nuclear envelope. These include direct interactions between transcriptional activators and nucleoporins (Menon et al. 2005; Schmid et al. 2006), the act of transcription itself (Cabal et al. 2006; Taddei et al. 2006), transcription-associated chromatin remodeling (Brickner et al. 2007), as well as unspecified mRNA- and/or 3'-UTR-dependent interactions (Casolari et al. 2005; Taddei et al. 2006). Our own experiments have also highlighted the importance of 3'-end formation signals on gene-periphery associations. Moreover, these have a strong and parallel influence on dot formation (Abruzzi et al. 2006).

In this study, we conducted a FISH-based screen for dot tethering factors. Our strategy was based on the assumption that perturbation of the tether(s) between the dot and its gene would probably impact dot morphology. Indeed, we identified *Sus1*, *Thp1*, and *Sac3* as factors affecting dot morphology as well as the persistent tethering of dots to their cognate genes after transcriptional shutoff. This strongly implicates the *Sac3-Thp1-Sus1-Cdc31* complex in post-transcriptional dot-gene tethering. Remarkably, the association of the endogenous *GAL1* locus to the nuclear periphery previously has been shown to be inhibited by the absence of this same complex (Cabal et al. 2006; Drubin et al. 2006). However, its dual association with the transcription coactivator SAGA as well as with NPCs has precluded discriminating between a transcriptional and a post-transcriptional role of the complex. The findings reported here favor the latter, because the retention of previously activated (but transcriptionally silent) *GAL*-promoter-driven reporter genes at the nuclear periphery similarly requires the activity of these three proteins. The parallel findings on these two tethering phenomena underscore the mechanistic coupling between the mRNA-to-gene and gene-nuclear periphery interactions and emphasize the contribution of post-transcriptional events to both processes.

RESULTS

Components of the *Sac3-Thp1-Sus1-Cdc31* complex affect the morphology of nuclear mRNP dots arising because of the bypass of the 3'-end processing

To conduct a FISH-based screen for the dot tethering factors, we used a strain containing a single-copy, integrated reporter gene construct. It contains a *TDH3*-promoter-driven GFP ORF followed by a ribozyme (RZ) 3'-end formation sequence (TDH-GFP-RZ). The construct gives rise to a robust, constitutive nuclear dot in almost 100% of cells, which is visualized by FISH (note that this construct generates negligible amounts of GFP protein). We then examined dot morphology in a focused sublibrary of viable deletions (Tong et al. 2001), which was compiled

via an extensive manual survey of genes implicated in mRNA biogenesis, processing, and export (Table 1).

Deletion of *SUS1* resulted in a striking enlargement and/or fragmentation of the dot (Fig. 1A,B), reproducibly observed in $\geq 80\%$ of cells. Importantly, these effects were not dependent on the specific construct or on its integration site, because substituting the conditional *GAL1* promoter for the *TDH3* promoter as well as placing the reporter at a different genomic location led to an identical dot enlargement and fragmentation in an *sus1Δ* background (Fig. 1C). Moreover, simultaneous visualization of the GAL-GFP-RZ locus using TetR-GFP bound to a tandem array of 448 Tet operators integrated <5 kb from the reporter construct (TetR-GFP/TetO₄₄₈ system) showed that one major dot was always adjacent to the reporter gene (Fig. 1C). (In these and subsequent experiments, the nuclear periphery was simultaneously visualized using Nup49-GFP, which by itself has no effect on the dot morphology.) This suggests a precursor-product relationship between the primary, locus-proximal mRNA dot and secondary dots that break off and diffuse away. Introducing a wild-type (WT) copy of the *SUS1* gene into the *sus1Δ* strain fully rescued this phenotype (Fig. 1D) as well as the other associated phenotypes described below.

Sus1 is a component of the *Sac3-Thp1-Sus1-Cdc31* complex, which is anchored to the nuclear pore via an *Sac3-Nup1* interaction (Fischer et al. 2002). *Sus1* also copurifies with the transcriptional coactivator SAGA and is believed to mediate transcription-coupled mRNA export (Rodriguez-Navarro et al. 2004). Indeed, loss of *Sus1* compromises transcription of a subset of SAGA-regulated genes and also leads to increased accumulation of poly(A)⁺ RNA in the nucleus (Fischer et al. 2002, 2004; Rodriguez-Navarro et al. 2004). Because the *TDH3* promoter used to drive the GFP-RZ reporter is SAGA-regulated (Basehoar et al. 2004), we determined whether the *sus1Δ* effect on dot morphology is principally due to the impaired function of SAGA or of the *Sac3-Thp1-Sus1-Cdc31* complex. To this end, we tested by FISH four additional deletion strains missing components of these complexes.

We found that deletions of the SAGA genes *GCN5* or *SPT20* had no effect on TDH-GFP-RZ dot morphology (Fig. 1E,F; data not shown). The *spt20Δ* mutation causes severe disruption of SAGA complex integrity and function (Grant et al. 1997; Sterner et al. 1999) and prevents *Sus1* from associating with the promoter of *GAL1* (Kohler et al. 2006). Moreover, the effect of *gcn5Δ* on transcription is quantitatively identical to that of *sus1Δ* (Fig. 3C,D below; Dudley et al. 1999). We therefore conclude that the SAGA complex does not contribute substantially to mRNP dot morphology.

In contrast, deletions of either *THP1* or *SAC3* genes resulted in effects indistinguishable from those observed in *sus1Δ* cells (Fig. 1G,H), that is, an exaggerated and/or fragmented dot. We conclude that compromising the function of the *Sac3-Thp1-Sus1-Cdc31* complex perturbs

TABLE 1. A sublibrary of viable mRNA export-relevant deletion mutants used in the FISH-based screen

Gene ID	Name	Biological process (GO terms)	Description
YMR044W	<i>IOC4</i>	Chromatin remodeling	Component of a complex (Isw1b) with Isw1p and loc2p that exhibits nucleosome-stimulated ATPase activity
YGL133W	<i>ITC1</i>	Chromatin remodeling	Component of the ATP-dependent Isw2-Itc1 chromatin-remodeling complex
YIL079C	<i>AIR1</i>	RNA export from nucleus	TRAMP complex, also interacts with the arginine methyltransferase Hmt1 to regulate Npl3, which modulates Npl3 function in mRNA processing and export
YDL175C	<i>AIR2</i>	RNA export from nucleus	TRAMP complex, also interacts with the arginine methyltransferase Hmt1 to regulate Npl3, which modulates Npl3 function in mRNA processing and export
YFL007W	<i>BLM10</i>	Proteasome assembly	Found in association with proteasome core particles, with and without the 19S regulatory particle
YPR057W	<i>BRR1</i>	Spliceosome assembly	In null mutant, newly synthesized snRNAs are destabilized, and 3'-end processing is slowed
YLR226W	<i>BUR2</i>	Transcription	Cyclin for Bur1 kinase; transcriptional regulation through its phosphorylation of RNAPII CTD
YAL021C	<i>CCR4</i>	mRNA catabolism, regulation of transcription from RNA polymerase II promoter	CCR4-NOT transcriptional complex, also component of the major cytoplasmic deadenylase
YLR418C	<i>CDC73</i>	RNA elongation from RNA polymerase II promoter	Constituent of Paf1 complex with RNA polymerase II, Paf1, Hpr1, Ctr9, Leo1, Rtf1, and Ccr4
YER64W	<i>CHD1</i>	RNA elongation from RNA polymerase II promoter	Transcription elongation, nucleosome remodeling, part of SAGA
YOR061w	<i>CKA2</i>	Regulation of transcription from RNA polymerase II promoter	Catalytic subunit of casein kinase 2; phosphorylates Pta1 and RNAPII
YKL139W	<i>CTK1</i>	Regulation of transcription from RNA polymerase II promoter	Phosphorylates Ser2 of CTD, affects transcription and pre-mRNA 3'-end processing
YDR069C	<i>DOA4</i>	Protein deubiquitination	Required for recycling ubiquitin from proteasome-bound ubiquitinated intermediates
YGL043W	<i>DST1</i>	RNA elongation from RNA polymerase II promoter	Elongation factor TFIIS, stimulates cleavage of nascent transcripts stalled at transcription arrest sites
YHL030W	<i>ECM29</i>	Protein catabolism	Tethers proteasome core particle to the regulatory particle
YGR200C	<i>ELP2</i>	Regulation of transcription from RNA polymerase II promoter	Part of RNAPII Elongator histone acetyltransferase
YPL086C	<i>ELP3</i>	Regulation of transcription from RNA polymerase II promoter	Part of RNAPII Elongator histone acetyltransferase
YER032W	<i>FIR1</i>	mRNA polyadenylation	Involved in 3'-mRNA processing, interacts with Ref2
YCL011C	<i>GBP2</i>	RNA export from nucleus	Poly(A) ⁺ RNA-binding protein
YGR252W	<i>GCN5</i>	Chromatin modification	Catalytic subunit of SAGA histone acetyltransferase complex
YNL199C	<i>GCR2</i>	Positive regulation of transcription from RNA polymerase II promoter	Transcriptional activator, interacts with DNA-binding protein Gcr1
YMR255W	<i>GFD1</i>	RNA export from nucleus	High-copy suppressor of <i>dbp5</i> mutation
YBR034C	<i>HMT1</i>	RNA export from nucleus	Arginine methylation of hnRNPs, including Npl3 and Hrp1
YNL004W	<i>HRB1</i>	RNA export from nucleus	Poly(A) ⁺ RNA-binding protein; similar to Gbp2 and Npl3
YLR384C	<i>IKI3</i>	Regulation of transcription from RNA polymerase II promoter	Part of RNAPII Elongator histone acetyltransferase
YGL016W	<i>KAP122</i>	Nucleocytoplasmic transport	Karyopherin β , binds to nucleoporins Nup1 and Nup2, synthetic lethal with <i>gcr1</i> mutation
YER110C	<i>KAP123</i>	Nucleocytoplasmic transport	Karyopherin β ; conditional loss of Pse1 in <i>kap123</i> mutant cells blocks mRNA export

(continued)

TABLE 1. Continued

Gene ID	Name	Biological process (GO terms)	Description
YOR123C	<i>LEO1</i>	RNA elongation from RNA polymerase II promoter	Component of the Paf1 complex, histone methylation; loss affects CTD phosphorylation at Ser2
YDL051W	<i>LHP1</i>	tRNA processing	La homolog
YHR081W	<i>LRP1</i>	mRNA catabolism	Nuclear exosome
YHR121W	<i>LSM12</i>	RNA metabolism	Interacts with Pbp1 and Pbp4 with likely role in RNA processing
YML062C	<i>MFT1</i>	RNA export from nucleus	THO complex subunit
YHR015W	<i>MIP6</i>	RNA export from nucleus	Putative RNA-binding protein, interacts with Mex67
YKP095W	<i>MLP1</i>	mRNA export from nucleus	Involved with Pml1 and Pml39 in nuclear retention of unspliced mRNAs
YIL149C	<i>MLP2</i>	RNA export from nucleus	Nuclear retention of unspliced mRNA
YKL074C	<i>MUD2</i>	U2-type nuclear mRNA branch site recognition	Similar to metazoan splicing factor U2AF65, synthetic rescue of sub2 mutant
YGR232W	<i>NAS6</i>	Proteolysis	Non-ATPase subunit of the 26S proteasome
YKL068W	<i>NUP100</i>	RNA export from nucleus	GLFG motif-type nucleoporin, interacts with Mex67
YBL079W	<i>NUP170</i>	RNA export from nucleus	Nucleoporin, synthetic lethal with <i>gcr1/2</i>
YML103C	<i>NUP188</i>	RNA export from nucleus	Nucleoporin, synthetic lethal with <i>gcr1/2</i>
YMR153W	<i>NUP53</i>	RNA export from nucleus	Nucleoporin, synthetic lethal with <i>gcr1/2</i>
YGL094C	<i>PAN2</i>	mRNA 3'-end processing	Poly(A) nuclease subunit
YKL025C	<i>PAN3</i>	mRNA 3'-end processing	Poly(A) nuclease subunit
YGR178C	<i>PBP1</i>	mRNA polyadenylation	Poly(A)-binding protein binding protein
YMR129W	<i>POM152</i>	RNA export from nucleus	Nuclear pore membrane glycoprotein, synthetic lethal with <i>gcr1/2</i>
YLR018C	<i>POM34</i>	Nucleocytoplasmic transport	Integral membrane protein of the nuclear pore, synthetic lethal with <i>gcr1/2</i>
YGR135W	<i>PRE9</i>	Ubiquitin-dependent protein catabolism	The only nonessential 20S proteasome subunit
YEL037C	<i>RAD23</i>	Negative regulation of protein catabolism	Protein with ubiquitin-like N terminus, binds damaged DNA
YDR195W	<i>REF2</i>	mRNA processing	Subunit of the APT subcomplex, involved in the pre-mRNA 3'-end cleavage
YGL244W	<i>RFT1</i>	Oligosaccharide transport	Loss affects CTD phosphorylation at Ser2
YHR200W	<i>RPN10</i>	Ubiquitin-dependent protein catabolism	Non-ATPase base subunit of the 19S regulatory particle (RP) of the 26S proteasome
YLR421C	<i>RPN13</i>	Ubiquitin-dependent protein catabolism	Subunit of the 19S regulatory particle of 26S proteasome lid
YOR001W	<i>RRP6</i>	mRNA catabolism	Nuclear exosome
YDR159W	<i>SAC3</i>	RNA export from nucleus	NPC-associated protein, part of Sac3-Thp1-Sus1-Cdc31 complex
YML013W	<i>SEL1</i>	Proteasomal ubiquitin-dependent protein catabolism	UBX domain-containing protein, interacts with Cdc48
YBL058W	<i>SHP1</i>	Proteasomal ubiquitin-dependent protein catabolism	UBX domain-containing protein that regulates Glc7 phosphatase activity and interacts with Cdc48
YMR216C	<i>SKY1</i>	Nucleocytoplasmic transport	NPL3 kinase
YBR172C	<i>SMY2</i>	Cytoskeleton organization and biogenesis	Homolog of <i>pombe</i> Mpd2 (multicopy suppressor of Ptr1/Tom1)
YOL148C	<i>SPT20</i>	Chromatin modification	SAGA subunit, required for its integrity
YIL030C	<i>SSM4</i>	ER-associated protein catabolism	Ub ligase; <i>ssm4</i> mutation suppresses mRNA instability caused by an <i>rna14</i> mutation
YBR11W-A	<i>SUS1</i>	mRNA export from nucleus	Part of Sac3-Thp1-Sus1-Cdc31 complex; component of the SAGA histone acetylase complex
YOR179C	<i>SYC1</i>	Transcription termination from Pol II promoter	Subunit of APT subcomplex of cleavage and polyadenylation factor; role in 3'-end formation of polyadenylated and non-polyadenylated RNAs
YNL253W	<i>TEX1</i>	RNA export from nucleus	Component of THO/TREX complex
YNL139C	<i>THO2/RLR1</i>	mRNA export from nucleus	Component of THO/TREX complex

(continued)

TABLE 1. Continued

Gene ID	Name	Biological process (GO terms)	Description
YOL072W	<i>THP1</i>	RNA export from nucleus	NPC-associated protein, part of Sac3-Thp1-Sus1-Cdc31 complex
YBR082C	<i>UBC4</i>	Protein monoubiquitination, protein polyubiquitination	Ubiquitin-conjugating enzyme, interacts with many SCF ubiquitin protein ligases
YDR059C	<i>UBC5</i>	Protein polyubiquitination	Ubiquitin-conjugating enzyme
YFR010W	<i>UBP6</i>	Protein deubiquitination	Ubiquitin-specific protease in the base subcomplex of 26S proteasome
YGR184C	<i>UBR1</i>	Protein monoubiquitination, protein polyubiquitination	Ubiquitin-protein ligase (E3)
YBR173C	<i>UMP1</i>	Proteasome assembly	Chaperone required for correct maturation of the 20S proteasome
YGL227W	<i>VID30</i>	Proteasomal ubiquitin-dependent protein catabolism	Involved in proteasome-dependent catabolite degradation of FBPase
YKL214C	<i>YRA2</i>	RNA export from nucleus	mRNA export adaptor, redundant with Yra1
YMR273C	<i>ZDS1</i>	RNA export from nucleus	ceg1-ts suppressor, implicated in mRNA nuclear export, Y2H interaction with Dbp5
YNL016W	<i>PUB1</i>	mRNA catabolism	Poly(A) ⁺ RNA-binding protein, required for stability of many mRNAs
YOR304W	<i>ISW2</i>	Chromatin remodeling	Member of the imitation-switch (ISWI) class of ATP-dependent chromatin remodeling complexes
YLR095C	<i>IOC2</i>	Chromatin remodeling	Member of an Isw1b complex with nucleosome-stimulated ATPase activity
YFR013W	<i>IOC3</i>	Chromatin remodeling	Member of an Isw1a complex with nucleosome-stimulated ATPase activity

the transcription-site-proximal GFP-RZ mRNP pool, which is visualized by FISH as an exaggerated and/or fragmented dot. Importantly, this effect is specific, since other mutants that affect poly(A)⁺ mRNA export to a comparable or greater extent (e.g., *lrp1Δ*) (Hieronymus et al. 2004; data not shown) had no effect on dot morphology.

The Sac3-Thp1-Sus1-Cdc31 complex impacts the dot-gene tether

To further explore the role of the Sac3-Thp1-Sus1-Cdc31 complex in the tethering of the mRNA dot to its cognate gene during transcription as well as after the transcriptional shutoff, we simultaneously monitored the locations of the dots with FISH and the reporter locus with the TetR-GFP/TetO₄₄₈ system as described above. As previously reported, the dot as well as its tether to the reporter gene persist for at least 60 min after transcriptional shutoff in WT cells (Abruzzi et al. 2006). In the *sus1Δ*, *sac3Δ*, and *thp1Δ* mutant strains, however, we observed that the GAL-GFP-RZ dots progressively detach from their loci of origin after transcriptional shutoff (Fig. 2). To extend this observation, we also tested the GAL-GFP-pA reporter construct integrated at the same genomic location. GAL-GFP-pA construct possesses a normal *GAL1* 3'-UTR and polyadenylation signal (while its GFP chromophore has been inactivated to enable visualization of TetR-GFP/TetO₄₄₈), and the GAL-GFP-pA dot appears normal during active transcription (Fig. 1I). How-

ever, it similarly detaches from its gene in the three deletion strains after transcriptional shutoff (Fig. 2). These data indicate that the Sac3-Thp1-Sus1-Cdc31 complex contributes to retention of a post-transcriptional dot near its gene of origin. Moreover, the lack of an effect before transcriptional shutoff suggests that there are additional, Sac3-, Thp1-, and Sus1-independent mechanisms contributing to the dot-gene tether during active transcription.

The Sac3-Thp1-Sus1-Cdc31 complex also impacts the gene-nuclear periphery tether

The difference in dot phenotype between GAL-GFP-pA and GAL-GFP-RZ in the mutant strains (Fig. 1) parallels a difference in dot-gene dissociation kinetics, as the GAL-GFP-RZ mRNA dot separates more quickly from the gene after transcriptional shutoff (Fig. 2C). Moreover, differences in dot phenotypes were previously observed in wild-type cells: the GAL-GFP-pA dots disappear more quickly than the GAL-GFP-RZ dots after transcriptional shutoff, which further correlates with differences in the dissociation of the two genes from the nuclear rim after transcriptional shutoff in WT cells: GAL-GFP-pA dot dissociates more quickly than the GAL-GFP-RZ dot (Abruzzi et al. 2006). These differences presumably reflect the different RNP compositions of the two transcripts (see Discussion).

Motivated by these observations, we examined the relationship of the reporter loci to the nuclear periphery

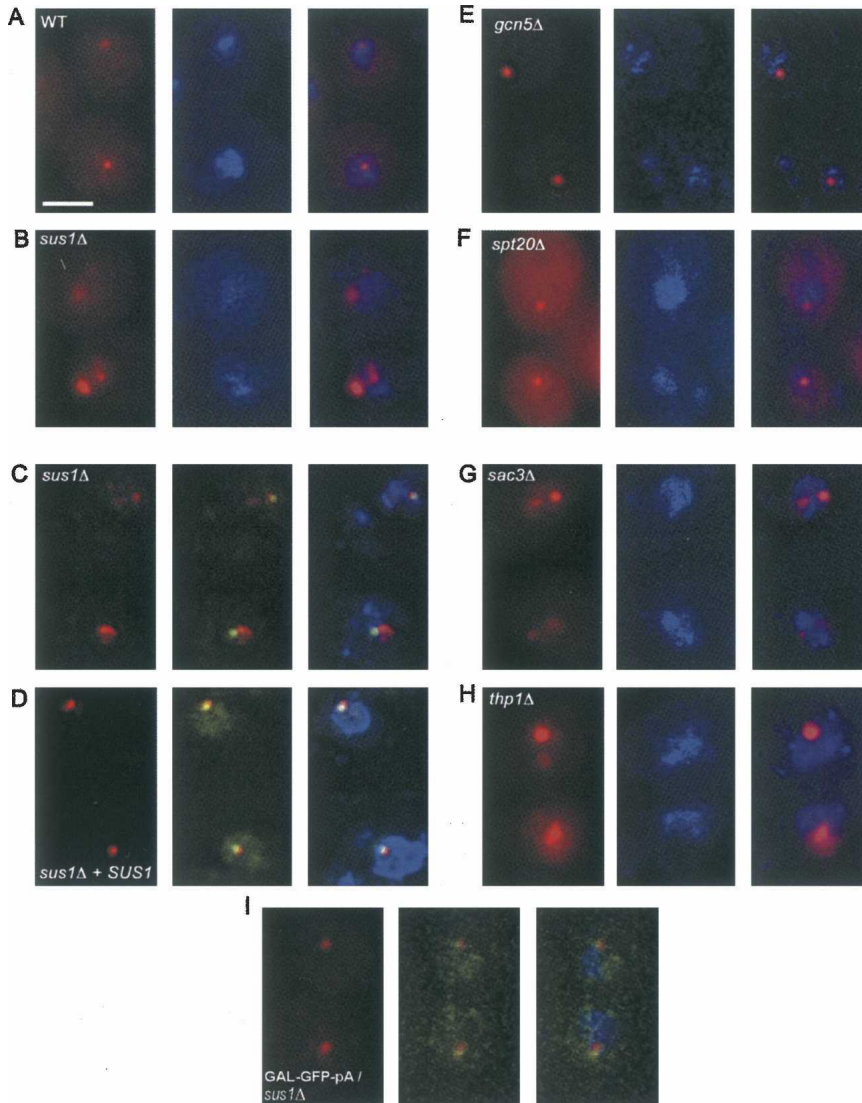


FIGURE 1. Altered nuclear-retained (A,B,E,F) TDH-GFP-RZ and (C,D) GAL-GFP-RZ mRNA dot morphology in *sus1Δ*, *sac3Δ*, and *thp1Δ* cells. (A,B,E-H), fluorescent in situ hybridization (FISH) for the TDH-GFP-RZ mRNA in (A) wild-type (WT), (B) *sus1Δ*, (E) *gcn5Δ*, (F) *spt20Δ*, (G) *sac3Δ*, and (H) *thp1Δ* cells. (Left panels) FISH signal (red); (middle panels) DAPI staining for total DNA (blue); (right panels) overlay. Scale bar, 2 μ m. (C,D) FISH for the GAL-GFP-RZ mRNA with simultaneous visualization of the TetO₄₄₈ array integrated at the *BMH1* locus on Chromosome V, <5kb away, using TetR-GFP in (C) *sus1Δ* cells and (D) *sus1Δ* cells expressing an ectopically integrated WT copy of *SUS1* as well as a Nup49-GFP (the presence of Nup49-GFP has no effect on the dot morphology phenotype). (Left panels) FISH signal (red); (middle panels) FISH signal (red) overlaid on TetR-GFP signal (green); (right panels) triple overlay of FISH signal, TetR-GFP signal, and DAPI staining for the total DNA (blue). (I) In contrast to the GAL-GFP-RZ mRNA dot (C,D), no enlargement of the GAL-GFP-pA mRNA dot is observed in *sus1Δ* cells.

during active transcription in the *sus1Δ*, *sac3Δ*, and *thp1Δ* strains as well as peripheral retention after transcriptional shutoff. In contrast to WT cells (Abruzzi et al. 2006), the GAL-GFP-pA gene locus completely failed to localize to the nuclear rim under activating conditions in the deletion strains (galactose) (Fig. 3A). This recapitulates perfectly the behavior of the endogenous *GAL1* locus in these strains

(Cabal et al. 2006; Drubin et al. 2006). In contrast, the *GAL-GFP-RZ* gene still localized to the nuclear periphery in the deletion strains. However, its association was rapidly lost upon transcriptional shutoff, with kinetics that paralleled that of RNAP II runoff (Fig. 3B). This contrasts with WT cells, in which the *GAL-GFP-RZ* locus dissociates from the nuclear rim only very slowly after glucose addition (>60 min) (Abruzzi et al. 2006). The results suggest the existence of additional transcription-dependent tether(s) that maintain an actively transcribing *GAL-GFP-RZ* locus at the nuclear periphery. They also suggest that the post-transcriptional retention of the *GAL-GFP-RZ* locus at the nuclear periphery requires the Sac3-Thp1-Sus1-Cdc31 complex.

Because Sus1 directly participates in transcription from the *GAL1* promoter (Rodriguez-Navarro et al. 2004; Kohler et al. 2006), we addressed the possibility that the differences in intranuclear positioning between the active *GAL-GFP-pA* and *GAL-GFP-RZ* genes in the *sus1Δ* mutant is a consequence of differential transcriptional effects on these two genes. To this end, we compared the RNAP II occupancy on these two reporter constructs, using chromatin immunoprecipitation (ChIP). The magnitude of reduction in RNAP II occupancy of *GAL-GFP-RZ* and *GAL-GFP-pA* in *sus1Δ* relative to WT cells was identical (Fig. 3C), and it was also identical to that of the endogenous *GAL1* gene in *sus1Δ* cells (data not shown). Moreover, the decrease was quantitatively mirrored by the steady-state mRNA level differences of both reporter genes between the two strains (Fig. 3D).

We also found that a loss of Gcn5, which associates with the *GAL1* promoter (Dhasarathy and Kladden 2005) and impacts its transcriptional activity comparably to *sus1Δ* (approximately three-fold) (Fig. 3C,D; Dudley et al. 1999), had no effect on peripheral retention of the *GAL-GFP-pA* gene (Fig. 3A). Moreover, it had no more than a modest effect on the dissociation kinetics of the *GAL-GFP-RZ* locus from the nuclear rim (Fig. 3B). We conclude that the differential impact of an Sus1 deletion on the morphology of *GAL-GFP-RZ* and *GAL-GFP-pA* mRNA dots as well as on the nuclear

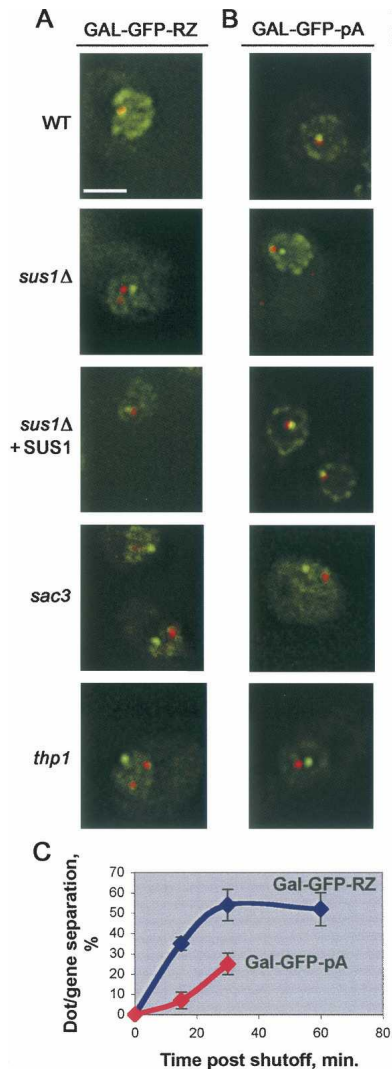


FIGURE 2. Deletions of *SUS1*, *SAC3*, and *THP1* lead to a loss of association of GAL-GFP-RZ and GAL-GFP-pA mRNA dots with their respective genes. (A) GAL-GFP-RZ mRNA or (B) GAL-GFP-pA mRNA is visualized by FISH (red); respective reporter loci are visualized using the TetR-GFP/TetO₄₄₈ system (green); and nuclear periphery is visualized using Nup49-GFP (green). Images are taken at the 30-min time point after the transcriptional shutoff. Scale bar, 2 μ m. (C) relative kinetics of the GAL-GFP-RZ and GAL-GFP-pA mRNA dots' separation from respective genes after transcriptional shutoff in *sus1Δ* cells. (Very few GAL-GFP-pA mRNA dots remain at 60 min in *sus1Δ* cells; dot/locus separation in WT never exceeded 5%.) Error bars represent standard deviation.

rim association of these genes is not due to its SAGA-related functions but to the Sac3-Thp1-Sus1-Cdc31 complex. We also speculate that post-transcriptional mRNP may more generally facilitate gene repositioning to the nuclear periphery.

DISCUSSION

Using a FISH-based genetic screen, we identified Sus1, Thp1, and Sac3 as factors that have an impact on mRNA

dot morphology. They also affect the persistent tethering of dots to their cognate genes as well as to the nuclear rim after transcriptional shutoff. These findings reveal a novel, post-transcriptional function of the Sac3-Thp1-Sus1-Cdc31 complex in addition to its previously described roles in transcription itself, mRNA export, and the tethering of genes to the nuclear periphery during active transcription. Indeed, it is striking that the disruption of this complex affects the tethering of post-transcriptional mRNPs to their respective genes as well as the capture and retention of transcriptionally activated loci at the nuclear rim. Although we cannot rule out indirect effects, a parsimonious interpretation of this unexpected dual role is that the dot-to-gene and gene-to-nuclear periphery interactions are both mediated by post-transcriptional mRNP decorated with the Sac3-Thp1-Sus1-Cdc31 complex. Although the steady-state distribution of these proteins is predominantly at the nuclear rim, this does not preclude an association with mRNP. Indeed, Sus1 and its partners interact with mRNA and chromatin, in addition to their interactions with the nuclear pores (Fischer et al. 2002; Gallardo et al. 2003; Lei et al. 2003; Rodriguez-Navarro et al. 2004; Kohler et al. 2006).

Characterization of the *sus1Δ*, *thp1Δ*, and *sac3Δ* strains indicates that fragmentation of the GAL-GFP-RZ mRNP dot is intimately related to weakening of the gene-dot tethering. This might indicate that dot integrity is dependent on contacts between dot mRNP, Sac3-Thp1-Sus1-Cdc31 complex, and chromatin. When these are diminished (e.g., in *sus1Δ*), dot fragmentation as well as separation of the dot and the gene occur (Figs. 1, 4). Notably, despite their fragmentation in the mutant backgrounds, the GAL-GFP-RZ dots do not completely disperse and disappear, indicating that there must be Sus1-, Sac3-, and Thp1-independent associations between the individual mRNP particles within the dot that contribute to its integrity.

We find that deletions of Sus1, Sac3, and Thp1 affect the dot-gene interactions not only in the case of the 3'-end-impaired GFP-RZ construct, but also in the case of the GAL-GFP-pA mRNP, suggesting that Sus1, Sac3, and Thp1 are also components of the GAL-GFP-pA-containing dots. Moreover, *sus1Δ*, *sac3Δ*, and *thp1Δ* mutations strongly impact the association of the GAL-GFP-pA gene with the nuclear rim. Yet their effects on this reporter differ in two respects from their effects on GAL-GFP-RZ: the GAL-GFP-pA dots are neither enlarged nor fragmented in the mutants, and the association of the GAL-GFP-pA gene with the nuclear periphery is abolished completely, i.e., even during active transcription. As only the GAL-GFP-RZ gene remains associated with the nuclear rim during active transcription in the mutant strains, there must be additional transcription-dependent contacts that are stronger or more numerous between the GAL-GFP-RZ gene and the nuclear periphery.

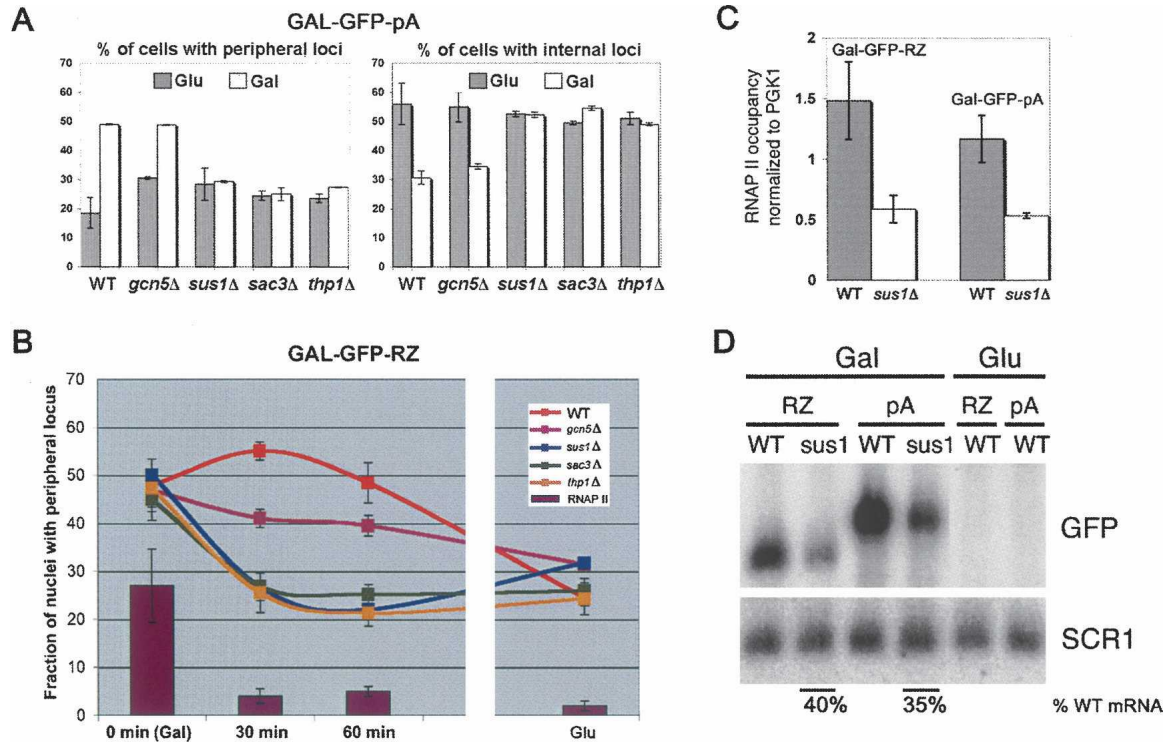


FIGURE 3. Deleting *SUS1*, *SAC3*, and *THP1* has distinct transcription-independent effects on retention of the activated GAL-GFP-pA and GAL-GFP-RZ genes at the nuclear periphery. (A) Intranuclear positioning of the GAL-GFP-pA gene is indistinguishable in *sus1Δ*, *sac3Δ*, and *thp1Δ* cells under activating and repressing conditions. The proportion of cells with (left panel) peripherally and (right panel) internally positioned loci is plotted for galactose-grown (Gal) and glucose-grown (Glu) cells. The intranuclear position of the locus was revealed using the TetR-GFP/TetO₄₄₈ system. The nuclear periphery was visualized using Nup49-GFP fusion coexpressed in the same strain. Subperipheral fraction remains unchanged at ~20% (data not shown). Error bars represent standard deviation. (B) Dissociation of the GAL-GFP-RZ gene locus from the nuclear periphery in *sus1Δ*, *sac3Δ*, and *thp1Δ* cells is dramatically accelerated and parallels the kinetics of the RNAP II runoff from the gene. The proportion of cells with a peripherally positioned GAL-GFP-RZ gene locus after 0, 30, or 60 min of transcriptional shutoff or in steady-state glucose conditions is plotted. For comparison, RNAP II occupancy after transcriptional shutoff as well as in steady-state glucose conditions, measured by ChIP, is shown as vertical bars. Error bars represent standard deviation. (C) RNAP II occupancy of the GAL-GFP-pA and GAL-GFP-RZ reporter constructs in *sus1Δ* cells is affected to the same extent. The RNAP II levels are normalized to the RNAP II occupancy on the endogenous *PGK1* gene, which is unaffected by the loss of *SUS1*. Error bars represent standard deviation. (D) Northern blot quantification of the steady-state GAL-GFP-pA and GAL-GFP-RZ mRNA levels using a GFP-specific probe in WT and *sus1Δ* cells grown on galactose and glucose. (SCR1) Loading control used for normalization.

Although we cannot rule out that such differential contacts may be mediated by chromatin per se, there are no known chromatin effects associated with replacing the *GAL1* 3'-UTR with the ribozyme. An alternative (or additional) possibility would be due to a difference between GAL-GFP-pA and GAL-GFP-RZ mRNP structure or composition, which can be qualitative, quantitative, or both. Indeed, we reported previously that the GAL-GFP-RZ gene shows an altered cotranscriptional recruitment profile of Yra1 (Abruzzi et al. 2006). Moreover, a quantitative difference is indicated by the consistently larger GAL-GFP-RZ dots than the GAL-GFP-pA dots (data not shown; D. Zenklusen and R. Singer, pers. comm.). Larger dots would provide more contact area between RZ mRNP and the nuclear periphery than between pA RNP and the periphery, which might contribute to RZ gene retention at the nuclear rim during active transcription even in a *Sus1*-deleted strain (Fig. 4).

This view implies that there are multiple contacts between a tethered gene and the NPC. Indeed, it has been shown that transcriptional activator binding (Schmid et al. 2006), transcription-associated chromatin remodeling (Brickner et al. 2007), and perhaps the act of transcription itself (Casolari et al. 2005; Cabal et al. 2006; Drubin et al. 2006) all contribute to the recruitment of the activated *GAL* genes to the nuclear periphery. Moreover, diminished perinuclear positioning during active transcription was observed for endogenous *GAL* genes in *sus1Δ* and *sac3Δ* cells (e.g., Cabal et al. 2006; Drubin et al. 2006). Our findings extend these conclusions by suggesting that this effect is mediated by the post-transcriptional mRNP and becomes relevant only after initial contact of the activated gene with the nuclear rim (modeled in Fig. 4). Whereas the initial encounter of the locus with the nuclear periphery is transcriptional activator-dependent, independent of *Sus1* (Schmid et al. 2006), and precedes the onset of transcription

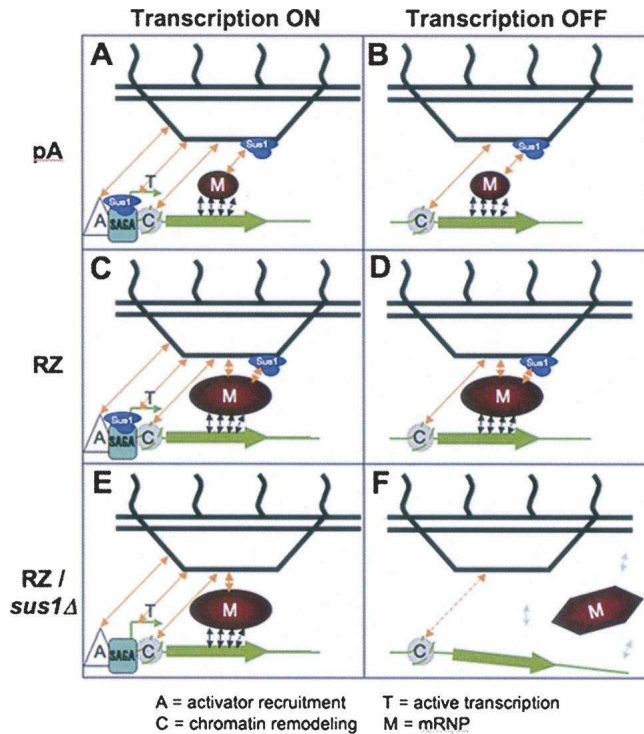


FIGURE 4. A model that integrates the multiple interactions between the activated *GAL* genes (green), non-nascent mRNP pools (red), and nuclear pores (black), emphasizing the dual role of the Sac3-Thp1-Sus1-Cdc31 complex (blue) at the site of transcription as well as at the nuclear periphery. (A) In WT cells, perinuclear repositioning of the *GAL-GFP-pA* locus occurs via a combined action of multiple mechanisms including transcriptional activator (A)-dependent recruitment as well as transcription (T)-, chromatin (C)-, and mRNP (M)-mediated capture and retention. (B) Upon shutoff of transcription, persistent chromatin- and mRNP-mediated retention prevents the immediate departure of the *GAL-GFP-pA* locus from the nuclear rim. (C) The abnormal and large *GAL-GFP-RZ* mRNP pool produced when mRNA 3'-end processing is bypassed by RZ makes additional contacts at the nuclear pore, which are not Sac3-Thp1-Sus1-Cdc31 complex-dependent, and hence is strongly retained at the nuclear rim. (D) Upon transcriptional shutoff, the synergy of these additional contacts with the NPC, acting together with the Sac3-Thp1-Sus1-Cdc31 complex-dependent and chromatin-dependent contacts, allows the *GAL-GFP-RZ* mRNP to persist at the nuclear periphery longer than *GAL-GFP-pA*. (E) Even in the absence of the Sac3-Thp1-Sus1-Cdc31 complex at the NPC, the synergy of the activator-mediated contacts, ongoing transcription, chromatin-mediated and the Sac3-Thp1-Sus1-Cdc31 complex-independent interactions of the exaggerated *GAL-GFP-RZ* mRNP with the NPC support a modest degree of peripheral tethering. (F) Upon transcriptional shutoff, this modest tethering fails immediately, while the aberrant mRNP remodeling (illustrated by the change in shape of the mRNP pool) and/or compromised export of the *GAL-GFP-RZ* mRNP in the absence of Sac3-Thp1-Sus1-Cdc31 complex causes its separation from the gene.

(Brickner et al. 2007), stable retention becomes independent of active transcription and is facilitated by the Sac3-Thp1-Sus1-Cdc31 complex; it is more generally aided by intrinsic properties of post-transcriptional mRNP. We suggest that multiple tethering mechanisms serve to strengthen the association between the active gene and NPC and hence facili-

tate rapid mRNA export, as originally proposed by Blobel in the gene gating hypothesis (Blobel 1985).

MATERIALS AND METHODS

Strain design and growth conditions

Construction of strains bearing the TDH-GFP-RZ reporter loci marked with nourseothricin resistance and KanMX-marked deletions of selected nonessential genes was done using the approach originally developed for genome-wide scoring of synthetic lethal interactions (Tong et al. 2001). Reporter strains designed for mating with deletion array strains were in a Y7092 background (*MAT α can1 Δ ::STE2pr-Sp Δ his5 his3 Δ 1 leu2 Δ 0 ura3 Δ 0 met15 Δ 0 lyp1 Δ trp1 Δ ::GAL1-IpgB1-URA3*) (Alto et al. 2006; gift from Charlie Boone).

Yeast strains other than the ones used in the FISH-based screen for altered dot morphology as well as their derivation are described in detail in Table 2. To delete the *SUS1*, *SAC3*, and *THP1*, the kanamycin (KanMX) cassette plus respective flanking regions were PCR-amplified from the respective KanMX-marked deletion strains in the BY4741 background (*MAT α his3 Δ 1 leu2 Δ 0 met15 Δ 0 ura3 Δ 0*), obtained from Open Biosystems. The fragment encompassing *NUP49-GFP* fusion and *HIS3* (Huh et al. 2003) was amplified from the Invitrogen strain collection. Integrations were verified by PCR and/or Southern blotting.

Yeast cell growth conditions for FISH, visualization of GFP fusion proteins, as well as for galactose-to-glucose shifts were as described (Abruzzi et al. 2006).

Plasmid constructs and oligonucleotide primers

The primers used in this study are listed in Table 3. Plasmid pDB700 was designed for integrating the TDH3-GFP-RZ reporter marked by nourseothricin resistance marker gene *NatMX* (Goldstein and McCusker 1999) into the genomic *trp1* locus. To this end, *NatMX* was amplified with oDB1082/1083 and cloned into the *AatII* site of the pRS304/2 μ bearing TDH3-GFP-RZ (Dower et al. 2004), thus replacing its 2 μ origin of replication. Integration was conducted after linearization at the *Bsu36I* site within the *TRP1* gene sequence.

pDB716 and pDB719 (described in Abruzzi et al. 2006) were designed for inserting the *GAL-GFP-RZ* and *GAL-GFP-pA*, respectively, by the gamma-integration method (Sikorski and Hieter 1989) into the intergenic region between *ECM32* and *BMH1*, after linearization with *NotI* and selecting for *Trp*⁺ transformants.

To generate pDB729, WT genomic *SUS1* fragment was amplified by PCR with oDB1152 and oDB1153, cloned into the *NotI* site of pDB700, followed by releasing the TDH-GFP-RZ reporter from the polylinker after digesting with *SpeI* + *ApaI*, repairing the ends with T4 DNA polymerase, and religating. Integration was conducted into *TRP1* locus after linearization with *Bsu36I*, with selection for nourseothricin resistance.

Microscopy

GFP fusion proteins were observed in cells grown to OD \sim 0.5 and fixed for 15 min in 4% paraformaldehyde (without acetic

TABLE 2. Yeast strains other than the deletion sublibrary used in FISH-based screen

Y7092	<i>MATα can1Δ::STE2pr-SpΔhis5 his3Δ1 leu2Δ0 ura3Δ0 met15Δ0 lyp1Δ trp1Δ::GAL1-lpgB1-URA3</i>	Tong and Boone (2007)
YDB526	<i>TDH-GFP-RZ</i> reporter (pDB700) integrated into Y7092	This study
YDB527	<i>TDH-GFP-RZ</i> (pDB700):: <i>NatMX, sus1Δ::KanMX</i> segregant of a cross with YDB526	This study
YDB528	<i>TDH-GFP-RZ</i> (pDB700):: <i>NatMX, sac3Δ::KanMX</i> segregant of a cross with YDB526	This study
YDB529	<i>TDH-GFP-RZ</i> (pDB700):: <i>NatMX, thp1Δ::KanMX</i> segregant of a cross with YDB526	This study
YDB530	<i>TDH-GFP-RZ</i> (pDB700):: <i>NatMX, gcn5Δ::KanMX</i> segregant of a cross with YDB526	This study
YDB531	<i>TDH-GFP-RZ</i> (pDB700):: <i>NatMX, spt20Δ::KanMX</i> segregant of a cross with YDB526	This study
YDB532	<i>MATα, ura3, trp1, his3, leu2::LEU2</i> tetR-GFP, 2x224tet0 <i>URA3</i> integrated between <i>BMH1</i> and <i>PDA1</i>	AE3 in Abruzzi et al. (2006)
YDB533	<i>GAL-GFP-RZ</i> (pDB716) + <i>NUP49-GFP, HIS3</i> in YDB532	This study
YDB534	<i>GAL-GFP-pA</i> (pDB719) + <i>NUP49-GFP, HIS3</i> in YDB532	This study
YDB535	<i>sus1Δ::KanMX</i> in YDB533	This study
YDB536	<i>sus1Δ::KanMX</i> in YDB534	This study
YDB537	<i>sac3Δ::KanMX</i> in YDB533	This study
YDB538	<i>sac3Δ::KanMX</i> in YDB534	This study
YDB539	<i>thp1Δ::KanMX</i> in YDB533	This study
YDB540	<i>thp1Δ::KanMX</i> in YDB534	This study
YDB541	WT <i>SUS1</i> gene (pDB729) integrated into <i>trp1</i> in YDB535	This study
YDB542	WT <i>SUS1</i> gene (pDB729) integrated into <i>trp1</i> in YDB536	This study

acid) using an Olympus IX70-based DeltaVision workstation (Applied Precision). Z-stacks were taken at 0.2 μ m step size and subjected to constrained iterative deconvolution. Positions of the TetR-GFP marked locus were scored in the z-section that cuts through the middle of the nucleus as described (Brickner and

Walter 2004) into intranuclear, peripheral, and subperipheral (i.e., locus touching the nuclear envelope but not coplanar with it). The subperipheral fraction varied little in all conditions and therefore is not reported in Figure 3. Each experiment was done in replicate, and between 100 and 150 cells were scored per sample per time

TABLE 3. Oligonucleotide primers

Name	Sequence (5' to 3')	Purpose/notes
oDB1082	ACATGGAGGCCAGAAATACCC	Amplifying <i>NatMX</i> gene
oDB1083	CAGTATAGCGACCAGCATTCAC	Amplifying <i>NatMX</i> gene
oDB1128	CGTACTTGCCATCCCTTACG	Upstream of <i>SUS1</i> for disruption
oDB1129	AAGGTGGGTAACGTGAATTAGG	Downstream from <i>SUS1</i> for disruption
oDB1130	TGAAGGCTGTCTGACGTTGT	Upstream of oDB1128 for checking disruption junction
oDB1146	GGAGAGAGGAAAGCAGCAGA	Upstream of <i>SAC3</i> for disruption
oDB1147	GTATTTGCAACCCTGGGTTTC	Downstream from <i>SAC3</i> for disruption
oDB1148	ATTCTCTCGCTGACCCAAGA	Upstream of oDB1146 for checking disruption junction
oDB1149	TGATCATGGCTAGCTTGGTG	Upstream of <i>THP1</i> for disruption
oDB1150	TTGTAGCCTTGCAACGACAG	Upstream of <i>THP1</i> for disruption
oDB1151	GGCAACTAAGGGAACCACAA	Upstream of oDB1149 for checking disruption junction
oDB1152	TTGAATTCAAGGAAAATGCCGAAAGAAT	Amplifying WT <i>SUS1</i> for complementation
oDB1153	TTGAGCTCCAATTCATTATTATGTTGTGGA	Amplifying WT <i>SUS1</i> for complementation
KA56	GCCTTATTTCTGGGGTAATTAATCAGCGAAGCGATG	ChIP, 5'-UTR of <i>GAL1</i> (forward)
KA100	AACTCCAGTGAAGAGTTCTTCTCCTTT	ChIP, within ORF of <i>GFP</i> (reverse)
KD209	GT*GCCCATTAACAT*CACCATCTAAT T*CAACA AGAAT*TGGGACAACT*CCAGT	FISH probe for GFP
KD210	GTACAT*AACTTCGGGCAT*GGCACTCTT*GAAAAAGTCAT*GCCGTTTCAT*AT	FISH probe for GFP
KD211	GATTCCAT*CTTTTGT*TGCTGCCAT*GATGTATACAT*TGTTGTGAGTT*ATA	FISH probe for GFP
KD212	CCCAGCAGCT*GTTACAACT*CAAGAAGGACCAT*GTGGTCT*CTCTTTTCGT*T	FISH probe for GFP
KA480	ACGGAAGAGCTGCTGAAAAA	Amplification of <i>NUP49-GFP, HIS3</i> fragment
KA481	TTGAATTGGGGTAGGCTCAG	Amplification of <i>NUP49-GFP, HIS3</i> fragment

(T*) Amino-modified dT.

point in each replicate in all experiments shown. FISH with Cy3-labeled oligonucleotide probes was carried out according to Dower et al. (2004). Red/green channel signal offset due to chromatic aberration alone, as estimated by imaging TetraSpec beads (100 nm diameter, Invitrogen/Molecular Probes) under identical conditions, was negligible compared to the separation of FISH (Cy3) and GFP signals.

Chromatin immunoprecipitation and RNA analyses

RNAP II ChIP was performed using monoclonal antibody 8WG16 (Covance). Target DNA levels in input and IP samples were determined by real-time PCR using RotorGene (Corbett Research), and results were normalized as described (Abruzzi et al. 2004). The Northern hybridization signals in Figure 3 obtained with a GFP-specific probe were normalized to respective signals for *SCR1*, a RNAP III transcript, using ImageQuant software. Signal ratios were identical to the ChIP signal ratios in the respective strains.

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