

14-3-3 (Bmh) Proteins Regulate Combinatorial Transcription following RNA Polymerase II Recruitment by Binding at Adr1-Dependent Promoters in *Saccharomyces cerevisiae*

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Adr1 and Cat8 are nutrient-regulated transcription factors in *Saccharomyces cerevisiae* that coactivate genes necessary for growth in the absence of a fermentable carbon source. Transcriptional activation by Adr1 is dependent on the AMP-activated protein kinase Snf1 and is inhibited by binding of Bmh, yeast 14-3-3 proteins, to the phosphorylated Adr1 regulatory domain. We show here that Bmh inhibits transcription by binding to Adr1 at promoters that contain a preinitiation complex, demonstrating that Bmh-mediated inhibition is not due to nuclear exclusion, inhibition of DNA binding, or RNA polymerase II (Pol II) recruitment. Adr1-dependent mRNA levels under repressing growth conditions are synergistically enhanced in a mutant lacking Bmh and the two major histone deacetylases (HDACs), suggesting that Bmh and HDACs inhibit gene expression independently. The synergism requires Snf1 and Adr1 but not Cat8. Inactivating Bmh or preventing it from binding to Adr1 suppresses the normal requirement for Cat8 at codependent promoters, suggesting that Bmh modulates combinatorial control of gene expression in addition to having an inhibitory role in transcription. Activating Snf1 by deleting Reg1, a Glc7 protein phosphatase regulatory subunit, is lethal in combination with defective Bmh in strain W303, suggesting that Bmh and Snf1 have opposing roles in an essential cellular process.

The 14-3-3 proteins are important and ubiquitous components of diverse signal transduction pathways in which they bind to a phosphorylated peptide motif in substrate proteins (reviewed in reference 1). Phosphorylation-dependent cytoplasmic retention is a common theme in 14-3-3-mediated regulation but is only one of many mechanisms used to control the activity of its binding partners. 14-3-3 proteins also regulate function by altering the enzyme activity of a protein and by promoting or preventing its degradation.

Saccharomyces cerevisiae has two redundant 14-3-3 isoforms, Bmh1 and Bmh2, which are required for viability in most common laboratory strains (2). Bmh proteins function in numerous signal transduction pathways, including glucose repression, pseudohyphal differentiation, cell cycle regulation, DNA damage response, vesicular transport, TOR-mediated growth control, and trehalose synthesis (3–5).

A recent genome-wide analysis identified 271 putative Bmh-binding partners (4, 6), including 18 transcription factors. A few of these proteins have been confirmed, or were already known Bmh targets, such as Msn2, Msn4, and Mks1 (7–9). Adr1, a transcription factor regulated by protein kinase A and AMP-activated protein kinase (Snf1) (reviewed in reference 10), was identified in an earlier systematic search for Bmh-interacting proteins (11). We recently showed that Adr1 is directly regulated by Bmh binding to its regulatory domain (12).

How 14-3-3 proteins affect the activity of transcription factors has been investigated in only a few cases. 14-3-3 proteins inhibit the activity of the FoxO family of transcriptional regulators (reviewed in references 13 and 14) and may also regulate, and may be regulated by, the p53 oncoprotein (15–17). In yeast, there are only a few confirmed Bmh interactions with transcription factors. Bmh inhibits the retrograde signaling (RS) pathway (18) by binding and cytoplasmic sequestering of Mks1 and Rtg3 (8). The stress-responsive transcription factors Msn2 and Msn4 bind Bmh (7)

and were also identified in the global analysis as possible Bmh interactors. However, the importance of their interaction with Bmh is unclear (19).

In the examples just cited, transcription factor activity is inhibited in different ways, including cytosolic retention, DNA binding, and protein stability. The possibility that 14-3-3 have a role in modulating transcription at the promoter is suggested by their interactions with chromatin-associated histone acetyltransferases (HATs), histone deacetylases (HDACs), and acetylated histone H3 (20–22). Bmh1 has been shown to interact with the *GAL1* promoter when the gene is induced, and this interaction is decreased when histone H3 cannot be acetylated on Lys14 or phosphorylated on Ser10 (22). The interaction may be important because deletion of *BMH1* and *BMH2* decreases *GAL1* transcription.

We recently showed that Bmh proteins directly bind to a phosphorylated regulatory domain (RD) in the carbon source-regulated transcription factors Adr1 and Mxr1 (12, 23). Loss of Bmh activity is associated with constitutive activation of target genes that are bound by Adr1. Importantly, activating mutations in the Adr1 RD, such as a change from Ser230 to Ala, are immune to Bmh-mediated inhibition, demonstrating the importance of direct binding to Adr1. In *Pichia pastoris*, the analogous mutation in Mxr1 (Ser215 to Ala) blocks binding to the *P. pastoris* 14-3-3 pro-

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TABLE 1 Strains used in this study

Strain ^a	Relevant genotype	Reference or source
W303-CH1a (also called W303-1a)	<i>MATa ade2-1 can1-100 his3-11,15 leu2-3,112 ssd1-d2 trp1-1 ura3-1 rho⁺</i>	24
CHY35a	<i>MATa reg1Δ::natMX</i>	This study
CKY13	<i>MATa adr1Δ::kanMX</i>	This study
CKY23	<i>MATa adr1Δ::natMX cat8Δ::kanMX</i>	25
CTY-TY44	<i>MATα hda1Δ::natMX rpd3Δ::LEU2</i>	26
KBY3	<i>MATa bmh1Δ::HIS3::bmh1-170(ts)::LEU2 bmh2Δ::kanMX hda1Δ::natMX rpd3Δ::LEU2</i>	This study
KBY4	<i>MATα bmh1Δ::HIS3::bmh1-170(ts)::LEU2 bmh2Δ::kanMX rpd3Δ::LEU2</i>	This study
KBY5	<i>MATα bmh1Δ::HIS3::bmh1-170(ts)::LEU2 bmh2Δ::kanMX hda1Δ::natMX</i>	This study
KBY7	<i>MATα bmh2Δ::kanMX hda1Δ::natMX rpd3Δ::LEU2</i>	This study
KBY15	<i>MATα cat8Δ::hphMX4</i>	This study
KBY18	<i>MATa cat8Δ::hphMX4 hda1Δ::natMX rpd3Δ::LEU2</i>	This study
KBY20	<i>MATa cat8Δ::hphMX4 bmh1Δ::HIS3::bmh1-170(ts)::LEU2 bmh2Δ::kanMX</i>	This study
KBY22	<i>MATa cat8Δ::hphMX4 bmh1Δ::HIS3::bmh1-170(ts)::LEU2 bmh2Δ::kanMX hda1Δ::natMX rpd3Δ::LEU2</i>	This study
KBY26	<i>MATα adr1Δ::natMX</i>	This study
KBY30	<i>MATα adr1Δ::natMX bmh1Δ::HIS3::bmh1-170(ts)::LEU2 bmh2Δ::kanMX</i>	This study
KBY31	<i>MATa adr1Δ::natMX hda1Δ::natMX rpd3Δ::LEU2</i>	This study
KBY34	<i>MATα adr1Δ::natMX bmh1Δ::HIS3::bmh1-170(ts)::LEU2 bmh2Δ::kanMX hda1Δ::natMX rpd3Δ::LEU2</i>	This study
KBY35	<i>MATa snf1Δ::kanMX</i>	This study
KBY39	<i>MATa snf1Δ::kanMX bmh1Δ::HIS3::bmh1-170(ts)::LEU2 bmh2Δ::kanMX</i>	This study
KBY41	<i>MATa snf1Δ::kanMX hda1Δ::natMX rpd3Δ::LEU2</i>	This study
KBY44	<i>MATα snf1Δ::kanMX bmh1Δ::HIS3::bmh1-170(ts)::LEU2 bmh2Δ::kanMX hda1Δ::natMX rpd3Δ::LEU2</i>	This study
KBY48	<i>MATα bmh1Δ::HIS3::bmh1-170(ts)::LEU2 bmh2Δ::kanMX</i>	This study
KBY57	<i>MATa BMH1-9MYC::kITRP1 bmh2Δ::kanMX hda1Δ::natMX rpd3Δ::LEU2</i>	This study
KBY67	<i>MATa gcn5Δ::URA3</i>	This study
KBY76	<i>MATα gcn5Δ::URA3 hda1Δ::TRP1 rpd3Δ::LEU2 bmh1Δ::HIS3::bmh1-170(ts)::LEU2 bmh2Δ::kanMX</i>	This study
KBY83	<i>MATα ura3::SNF1^{as}::URA3 snf1Δ::kanMX bmh1Δ::HIS3::bmh1-170(ts)::LEU2 bmh2Δ::kanMX hda1Δ::natMX rpd3Δ::LEU2</i>	This study
KBY88	<i>MATa BMH1-9MYC::kITRP1 ADR1-3FLAG::hphMX bmh2Δ::kanMX hda1Δ::natMX rpd3Δ::LEU2</i>	This study
PPY6	<i>MATa ADR1-13MYC::natMX bmh2Δ::kanMX</i>	This study
PPY13	<i>MATa ADR1-13MYC::natMX bmh1Δ::HIS3::bmh1-170(ts)::LEU2 bmh2Δ::kanMX</i>	This study
YLL908	<i>MATa bmh2Δ::kanMX</i>	27
YLL1087	<i>MATa bmh1Δ::HIS3::bmh1-170(ts)::LEU2 bmh2Δ::kanMX</i>	27

^a All strains are based on W303.

tein and leads to constitutive activation of methanol-inducible, ethanol- and glucose-repressed Mxr1-dependent genes (23). Thus, both yeast 14-3-3 proteins act as inhibitors of transcription by directly binding to a regulatory domain in a transcriptional activator of the affected genes.

Bmh-mediated inhibition of Adr1 activity could occur at any one of several steps: nuclear entry, DNA binding, or a post-promoter binding step. In this work, we show that Bmh binding at the promoter can inhibit activation of gene expression after Adr1 has bound the promoter and formed a preinitiation complex (PIC), suggesting that Bmh neither excludes Adr1 from the nucleus nor inhibits DNA binding or RNA polymerase II (Pol II) recruitment. We further show that Bmh does not act exclusively through histone deacetylases. Surprisingly, loss of Bmh function and loss of Bmh binding to Adr1 suppress the requirement for a coregulatory transcription factor at promoters regulated by Adr1 and a second transcription factor, either Cat8 or Oaf1/Pip2. Thus, one function of Bmh at active Adr1-dependent promoters may be to modulate combinatorial control of gene expression.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

Yeast strains and culture conditions. The *S. cerevisiae* strains used in this study were derived from W303 and are listed in Table 1. Deletions and epitope tags were introduced using standard procedures. Yeasts were grown at 30°C with shaking in yeast extract-peptone (YP) or synthetic

medium containing 5% glucose for repressing (R) conditions or 0.05% glucose for derepressing (DR) conditions. YP containing 2% glucose (YPD) containing 2% glucose was used for experiments performed with the GBD-Adr1 fusion proteins. To maintain selection of plasmids with *TRP1* or *URA3* markers, synthetic medium lacking tryptophan or uracil and containing 0.1% Casamino Acids was used.

β-Galactosidase assays. The activity of the *lacZ* reporters was determined using β-galactosidase assays as previously described (28). The results from at least three transformants were averaged, and the values in Miller units were plotted.

mRNA isolation and reverse transcription-quantitative PCR (RT-qPCR). RNA was purified from cells using the hot-phenol method (29). Contaminating DNA was removed using DNase I treatment (Ambion). cDNA was synthesized from mRNA using Superscript III and oligo(dT) primers (Invitrogen). cDNA was diluted 1:300 and assayed by quantitative PCR using SsoFast EvaGreen Supermix (Bio-Rad) and a PTC-200 thermocycler coupled to a Chromo 4 continuous-fluorescence detector (MJ-Research). Opticon 3 software (MJ-Research) was used for the data analysis. A standard curve was generated for each primer pair to determine the efficiency, and the fold increase of cDNA relative to *ACT1* was calculated using the Pfaffl method (30). Primer sequences used for qPCR are listed in Table S1 in the supplemental material.

mRNA expression profiling using microarrays. Total RNA was purified from triplicate cultures of W303-1a (wild type [WT]), YLL1087 (*bmh1-ts bmh2Δ*), CTY-TY44 (*hda1Δ rpd3Δ*), and KBY3 (*bmh1-ts bmh2Δ hda1Δ rpd3Δ*) cells exponentially growing in YP broth containing

5% glucose. mRNA profiling was carried out using oligonucleotide arrays and equipment from Affymetrix (Santa Clara, CA). Labeled cRNAs were prepared from 250 ng of each total RNA, fragmented and hybridized to Yeast 2.0 arrays using a 3' IVT Express kit, and stained and washed using a Fluidics Station 450 according to the manufacturer's instructions. The stained arrays were scanned using a GeneChip scanner to generate the CEL files containing the raw fluorescence intensities for the probes on the arrays. Gene expression values were generated and analyzed using the Bioconductor suite of programs (<http://www.bioconductor.org/>) for the R statistical programming environment (<http://cran.r-project.org/>; <http://www.bioconductor.org/packages/release/bioc/html/affy.html>) and EBarrays (<http://www.bioconductor.org/packages/release/bioc/html/EBarrays.html>). First, each probe whose sequence falls on a single nucleotide polymorphism in the W303 genome sequence compared to the S288C reference sequence was removed from the data. Then, the intensities for the remaining probes were summarized by RMA as implemented in the affy package. Next, genes in the mutant strains with expression values less than 2-fold different from the wild-type value were filtered from the data. Finally, pairwise differential analysis of gene expression was performed on the filtered data using the EBarrays package. Genes that were significantly changed in at least one of the mutants were clustered using a decision tree based on the 2-fold change combinations listed in Fig. 2C. The gplots R package was used to plot a heat map of the scaled data.

ChIPs. Chromatin immunoprecipitations (ChIPs) were performed as previously described (31). Briefly, cells were cross-linked with ethylene glycol-bis(succinimidylsuccinate) (EGS; catalog no. 21565; Thermo Scientific) and formaldehyde. Whole-cell extracts were generated by bead beating, and the chromatin was sheared by sonication. Immunoprecipitations (IP) were performed with 1 mg of protein extract and anti-Gal4 DNA-binding domain (GBD) polyclonal antibody (sc-577 X; Santa Cruz) for GBD and GBD-Adr1 fusion proteins, anti-c-Myc monoclonal antibody (9E10, sc-40 X; Santa Cruz) for Bmh1-Myc or Adr1-Myc, and anti-RNA Pol II CTD monoclonal antibody (8WG16; Abcam ChIP grade ab817) in combination with protein A magnetic beads (protein A Dynabeads [catalog no. 100.02D; Invitrogen] or Protein A Mag Sepharose Xtra [catalog no. 28-9670-62; GE Healthcare]) or anti-Flag M2 magnetic beads (catalog no. M8823; Sigma-Aldrich) for Adr1-Flag. The cross-linking was reversed and the DNA purified using the QIAquick PCR purification kit (catalog no. 28106; Qiagen). The amount of precipitated DNA was quantitated using qPCR as described above. The results are expressed as a ratio of the ChIP threshold cycle (C_T) – input C_T value for the region of interest relative to the telomere (TEL-VI-R), with the values corrected for the efficiency of each primer set. Sequential ChIPs were performed as described by Geisberg and Struhl (32). In the first IP, either Adr1-Flag or RNA Pol II was precipitated from 4 mg of protein extract with either anti-Flag M2 magnetic beads or anti-RNA Pol II CTD and protein A magnetic beads, respectively. The DNA purified from the first IP was combined with bovine serum albumin (BSA), lambda phage DNA, and *Escherichia coli* tRNA, and Bmh1-Myc was precipitated with anti-c-Myc and protein A magnetic beads. The cross-linking was reversed, and the DNA from the second IP was purified and analyzed by qPCR as described above.

Microarray data accession number. The Affymetrix CEL files and the RMA-summarized probe intensities have been deposited with Gene Expression Omnibus under the accession number [GSE40116](https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/geo/query/acc.cgi?acc=GSE40116).

RESULTS

Bmh inhibits promoter-bound Gal4-Adr1 fusion proteins.

GAL4 DNA-binding domain (GBD)-Adr1 fusion proteins are inactive in a strain with wild-type (WT) Bmh function (*BMH1 bmh2Δ*) but are active in a *bmh* mutant (*bmh1-ts bmh2Δ*) strain because Bmh binds to the Adr1 regulatory domain (RD; amino acids [aa] 215 to 260) and inhibits a nearby cryptic activation domain (cAD; aa 255 to 360) (12). The mechanism of inhibition of fusion protein activity by Bmh is unknown. Bmh could inhibit

a step before or after promoter binding. The use of GBD-Adr1 fusions provides a simpler system in which to determine whether Bmh regulates promoter occupancy than using WT Adr1 because Adr1 is regulated at multiple steps, including promoter binding (10). By using fusion proteins with the strong *ADH1* promoter driving expression of GBD-Adr1 fusion proteins, we expected overexpressed GBD to overcome Mig1-mediated inhibition of DNA binding of Gal4 fusion proteins.

To determine whether Bmh regulates the occupancy of *GAL* promoters by Gal4-Adr1 fusion proteins, ChIP was performed using extracts prepared from WT and *bmh* mutant strains carrying GBD alone or GBD-Adr1 (RD-cAD; aa 154 to 424) fusion proteins. The GBD-Adr1 fusion protein occupied two different *GAL* promoters in both the WT and the *bmh* mutant strains (Fig. 1A), as shown by the high level of promoter DNA compared to the control telomeric region in the ChIP samples. There was a 2-fold-higher level of occupancy in the *bmh* mutant strain, but this difference was also observed for GBD alone, so the increase is not related to binding of Bmh to the Adr1 RD. The levels of GBD and GBD-Adr1 protein were similar in both strains, with slightly more in the WT strain than in the *bmh* mutant strain (data not shown). In related studies, we found that GBD-Adr1 binding was unaffected by the presence of either the cAD or the RD (see Table S2A in the supplemental material).

We confirmed that the cAD was inhibited in the WT strain by analyzing *GAL* mRNA by RT-qPCR. The fusion protein was highly active in the *bmh* mutant strain but was inactive in the WT strain, as shown by the high *GAL* mRNA levels in the *bmh* mutant and very low mRNA levels in the WT strain (Fig. 1B). Thus, despite showing a high level of promoter occupancy in the presence or absence of Bmh, the GBD-Adr1 fusion protein was inactive in the WT strain. Therefore, Bmh can inhibit the cAD at a step subsequent to binding of GBD-Adr1 to the *GAL* promoters, indicating that inactivity of the GBD-Adr1 fusion protein is not due to nuclear exclusion or failure to bind DNA.

Bmh inhibits a step after recruitment of a preinitiation complex. To investigate the step at which inhibition of gene expression occurs ChIP was performed for RNA polymerase II (RNA Pol II) at the inactive *GAL* promoters in the WT strain carrying GBD-Adr1 fusion proteins or GBD alone. As shown in Fig. 1C, RNA Pol II was present at both promoters, and its occupancy was dependent on the Adr1 portion of the fusion protein. The level of RNA Pol II at these promoters was not significantly increased in the *bmh-ts* strain (data not shown). Thus, RNA Pol II is present but apparently inactive at promoters where Bmh inhibits GBD-Adr1.

Bmh and HDACs independently inhibit transcription of *ADH2* under repressing growth conditions. To investigate the possibility that Bmh also inhibits the activity of WT Adr1 at a step subsequent to promoter binding, we utilized strains containing a poised preinitiation complex (PIC). In a strain lacking the two major histone deacetylases, Hda1 and Rpd3 (*hdacΔ*), Adr1 is bound to its target promoters but fails to activate transcription (26, 33). An inactive PIC containing Adr1, RNA Pol II, and some general transcription factors is present in the *hdacΔ* mutant, and mRNA levels are derepressed 100-fold when the cells are starved for glucose. Importantly, a Ser230-to-Ala constitutive *ADR1* mutation (*ADR1^c*) in the Adr1 RD partially activated the PIC in the *hdacΔ* mutant (26), suggesting that Bmh might play an important role in inhibiting PIC activation. The PIC was referred to as poised

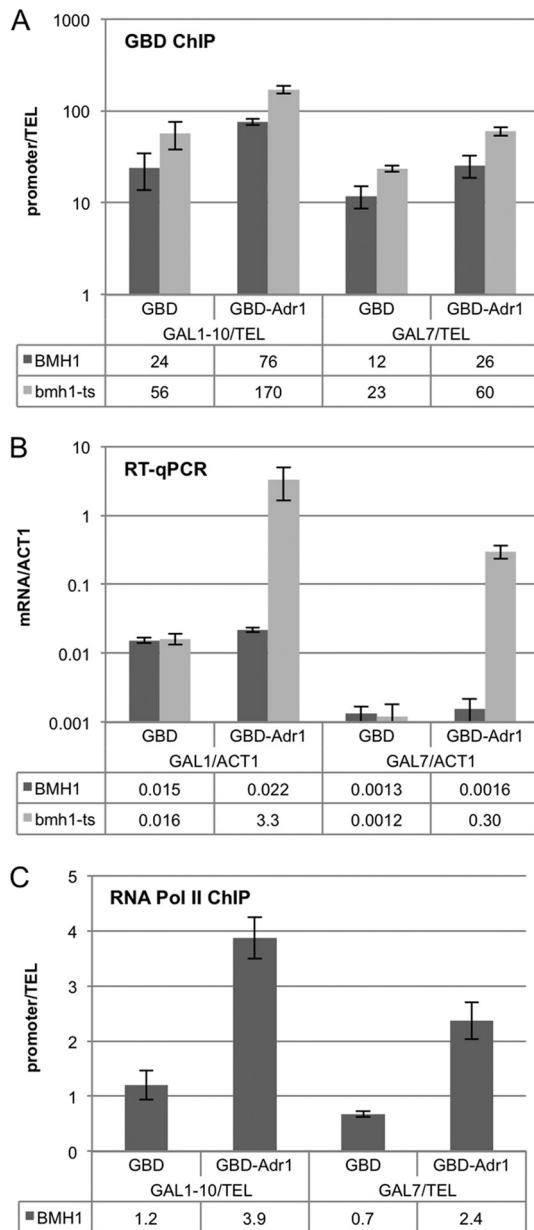


FIG 1 GBD-Adr1 binds to *GAL* genes and recruits RNA Pol II in the presence of Bmh1 activity. (A) GBD ChIP. YLL908 (*BMH1 bmh2Δ*) and YLL1087 (*bmh1-ts bmh2Δ*) were transformed with a plasmid expressing either GBD (pOBD2) or GBD-Adr1 (154–424) (pGBDA4) under the control of the *ADH1* promoter. Triplicate cultures were grown in selective medium plus 2% glucose to maintain the *TRP1* GBD plasmids. Samples were processed for a GBD ChIP, and GBD binding to the *GAL1-10* and *GAL7* promoters relative to the telomere (TEL) was determined by qPCR. (B) RT-qPCR. Triplicate samples for RT-qPCR were collected from the cultures in panel A. *GAL1* and *GAL7* mRNA levels relative to *ACT1* mRNA were determined. (C) RNA Pol II ChIP. Duplicate cultures of the strains listed in panel A were grown in selective medium plus 2% glucose. Samples were collected for RNA Pol II ChIP, and the levels of RNA Pol II binding to the *GAL1-10* and *GAL7* promoters relative to the telomere were determined by qPCR. The values represent the means and SDs of three biological replicates.

as opposed to paused or stalled because we could not detect a promoter-proximal transcript.

To determine whether Bmh activity inhibits the inactive PIC in the *hdacΔ* mutant, strains were constructed that contained all the

different combinations of WT and mutant alleles of *RPD3*, *HDA1*, *BMH1*, and *BMH2*. Gene expression in these strains grown in high-glucose medium was analyzed by measuring mRNA levels using both 3' *in vitro* transcription (IVT) expression microarrays and RT-qPCR. If Bmh inhibits the inactive PIC, then the combination of the *hdacΔ* and *bmh1-ts bmh2Δ* alleles should synergistically activate gene expression in repressed cells; i.e., the increase in expression due to the combination of the *hdacΔ* and *bmh1-ts bmh2Δ* sets of mutations should be larger than the sum of the increase in expression from each individual set of mutations: $(bmh\ hdac\Delta/BMH\ HDAC)/[(bmh/BMH) + (hdac\Delta/HDAC)]$. This was observed for many Adr1-dependent genes (Fig. 2A and B). Nine gene clusters exhibiting at least a 2-fold increase or decrease in expression in at least one of the mutant strains compared to the WT strain were identified in the microarray data. Cluster 8 contained the genes whose expression was synergistically higher in the *bmh1-ts bmh2Δ hdacΔ* strain than in either the *bmh1-ts bmh2Δ* or *hdacΔ* strain. This cluster of 74 genes was significantly enriched (P value = 1.6×10^{-15}) in genes directly regulated by Adr1 (Fig. 2C) and had Adr1-dependent genes as 56% of the top 52 genes in this cluster when ranked by the magnitude of the synergistic increase in expression (Fig. 2B). Consistent with the enrichment for Adr1-dependent genes was a coenrichment for Cat8-dependent, Snf1-dependent, and glucose-repressible genes having Fisher's exact test P values of 7.8×10^{-4} , 5.0×10^{-14} , and 3.0×10^{-22} , respectively (Fig. 2C). RT-qPCR measurements of selected Adr1-dependent mRNAs confirmed these observations. The level of *ADH2* mRNA was 26-fold higher in the *bmh1-ts bmh2Δ hdacΔ* strain than in the *hdacΔ* strain and 6-fold higher than in the *bmh1-ts bmh2Δ* strain (Fig. 2D). Other *ADR1*-dependent genes, such as *ACS1* and *ADY2*, showed similar synergistic increases in expression, although at a lower level (see Table S2B in the supplemental material). The synergism in mRNA levels suggests that 14-3-3 proteins and histone deacetylases inhibit Adr1-dependent gene expression through different pathways.

Not all Adr1-dependent genes were corepressed by 14-3-3 proteins and histone deacetylases. Repression by the HDAC appears to be the more important regulatory theme for the group of Cat8 target, Snf1-dependent, and glucose-repressible genes in cluster 6 (Fig. 2C), while corepression by Bmh and the HDAC appears to be more important for the group of Adr1 target genes that includes the prototypical Adr1-dependent gene *ADH2* in cluster 8.

Bmh may play a role in limiting the maximal level of expression in derepressed cells. Under derepressing growth conditions, the *hdacΔ*, *bmh1-ts bmh2Δ*, and *bmh1-ts bmh2Δ hdacΔ* strains all had 2-fold-higher levels of *ADH2* mRNA than the *BMH1 bmh2Δ* strains (Fig. 2D). When derepressed expression of other Adr1-dependent genes was assayed, an even more dramatic increase was observed. In particular, expression of *ADY2*, *ATO3*, *FDH*, and *POX1* was dramatically enhanced when Bmh was nonfunctional (see Table S2E in the supplemental material). Thus, Bmh also inhibits derepressed gene expression.

To determine the roles of Rpd3 and Hda1 in repressing gene expression, we tested the activity of Adr1 under repressing conditions in *bmh1-ts bmh2Δ* strains lacking either *RPD3* or *HDA1* individually. The *rpd3Δ* mutant caused a greater increase in *ADH2* expression than the *hda1Δ* mutant (see Table S2B in the supplemental material), suggesting that the major effect in the double *hda1Δ rpd3Δ* mutant is due to loss of *RPD3*. Rpd3 targets histones H2A, H2B, H3, and H4, whereas Hda1 targets only histones H2B

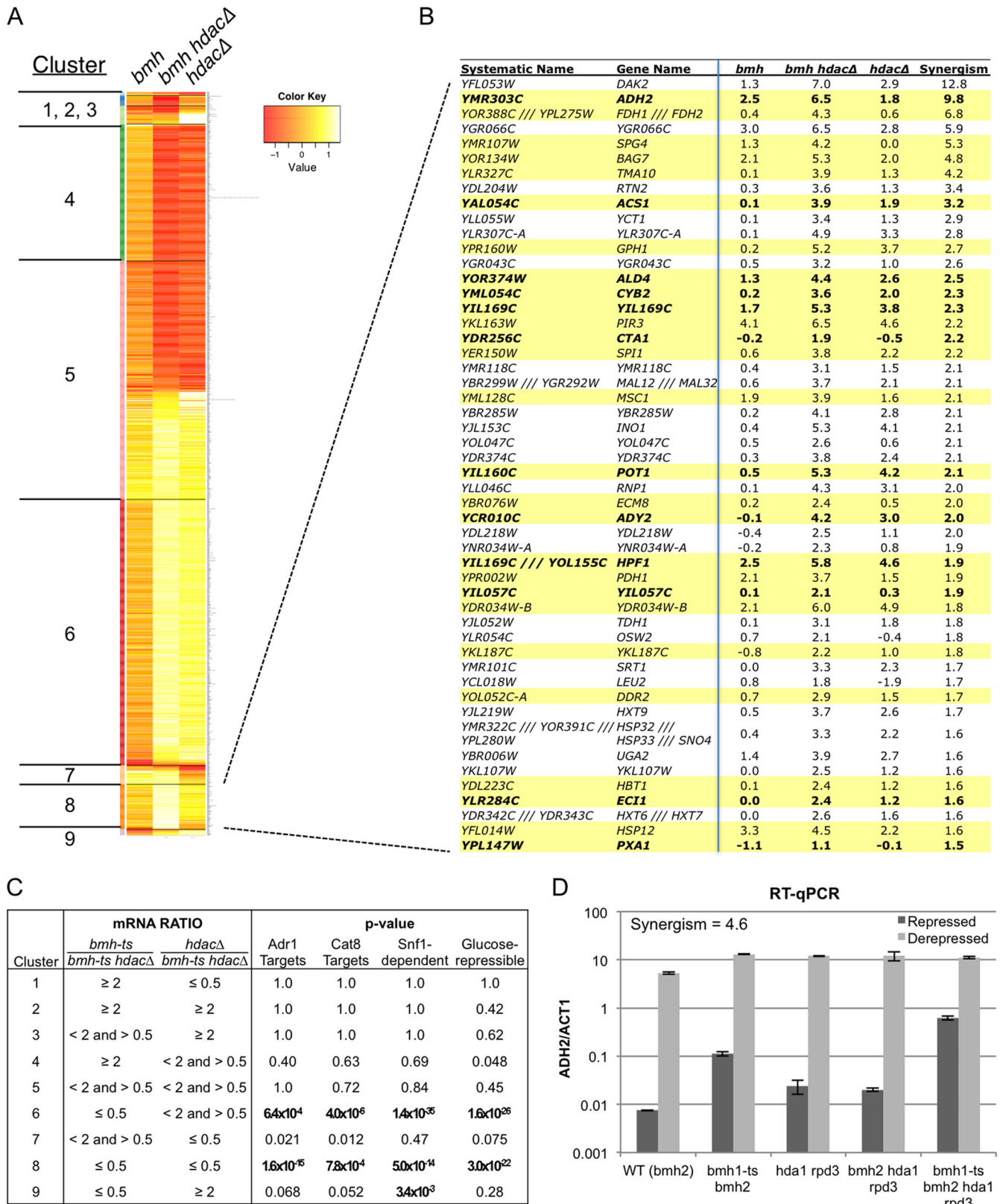


FIG 2 Bmh proteins and HDACs repress transcription of Adr1-dependent genes in glucose. (A) Heat map of clustered *bmh1-ts bmh2Δ* (*bmh* [YLL1087]), *hda1Δ rpd3Δ* (*hdacΔ* [CTY-TY44]), and *bmh1-ts bmh2Δ hda1Δ rpd3Δ* (*bmh hdacΔ* [KBY3]) microarray data. Genes were clustered using a decision tree based on the direction of 2-fold differences in expression for each mutant compared to the *BMH1 BMH2 HDA1 RPD3* wild-type strain (W303-1a). (B) Genes exhibiting the strongest *bmh-hdacΔ* synergism from cluster 8. The top 52 of 72 cluster 8 genes are listed in order of the magnitude of *bmh-hdacΔ* synergism. Expression values listed for each mutant are the log₂ ratio to the wild-type strain. The synergism value was calculated as (*bmh hdacΔ*/BMH HDAC)/[(*bmh*/BMH) + (*hdacΔ*/

and H3 (reviewed in reference 34), suggesting that acetylation of histone H2A and/or H4 may play a more important role in inhibiting Adr1 binding than acetylation of other histones.

We attempted to examine whether a decrease in histone acetylation would prevent activation of transcription in the absence of Bmh activity. However, we found that the combination of a deletion of the HAT, *GCN5*, and *bmh1-ts bmh2Δ* was synthetic lethal and that deletion of *RPD3* and *HDA1* rescued that lethality (K. Braun, unpublished data). It has previously been shown that a temperature-sensitive allele of the other major HAT, *ESAI*, is also synthetically lethal with *bmh1-ts bmh2Δ* and that the synthetic lethality was rescued by a deletion of *RPD3* (20). These results suggest that Bmh may regulate transcription by helping to maintain the proper balance of histone acetylation. However, the strong synergism in gene expression when both Bmh and histone deacetylase activities are reduced suggests that Bmh-mediated inhibition can also function independently of histone acetylation.

Bmh inactivation enhances transcription without significantly increasing Adr1 promoter binding. Glucose repression of *ADH2* expression is partially relieved in *bmh1-ts bmh2Δ* mutant strains (12) (Fig. 2), as well as in a *bmh1Δ bmh2Δ* strain in the Σ 1278 background (35). Whether this partial relief from glucose repression is due to a low level of promoter occupancy by Adr1 and thus a low level of transcription activation or to full promoter occupancy and incomplete transcription activation has not been determined.

To determine the level of promoter occupancy of Adr1 in the absence of Bmh-mediated inhibition, we performed ChIP for Adr1-Myc under repressing and derepressing conditions in both a *bmh2Δ ADR1-MYC* and a *bmh1-ts bmh2Δ ADR1-MYC* strain. The results indicate that partial release from glucose repression due to inactivating Bmh is associated with a low level of promoter binding (Fig. 3A). In fact, we do not consider Adr1 occupancy at the *ADH2*, *ACS1*, and *POX1* promoters under repressing conditions to be significantly higher in the *bmh1-ts bmh2Δ* strain than in the WT strain (*P* values equal 0.01, 0.09, and 0.03, respectively). However, *ADH2* mRNA levels were elevated about 24-fold in the *bmh1-ts bmh2Δ* strain, suggesting that Adr1 was present and active at the promoter (Fig. 3B). Adr1 occupancy was significantly increased at the *ADH2* promoter upon derepression, and this was accompanied by 630- and 35-fold increases in *ADH2* mRNA levels in the WT and *bmh1-ts bmh2Δ* strains, respectively. These results suggest that the small amount of Adr1 that is presumably bound at the *ADH2* promoter under repressing conditions in the absence of Bmh activity may be fully active. Weak Adr1 binding and enhanced gene expression were also observed for *ACS1* and *POX1* (Fig. 3). Thus, Bmh inhibition may act primarily after Adr1 has occupied the promoter, as was observed in the *bmh1-ts bmh2Δ hdacΔ* mutant.

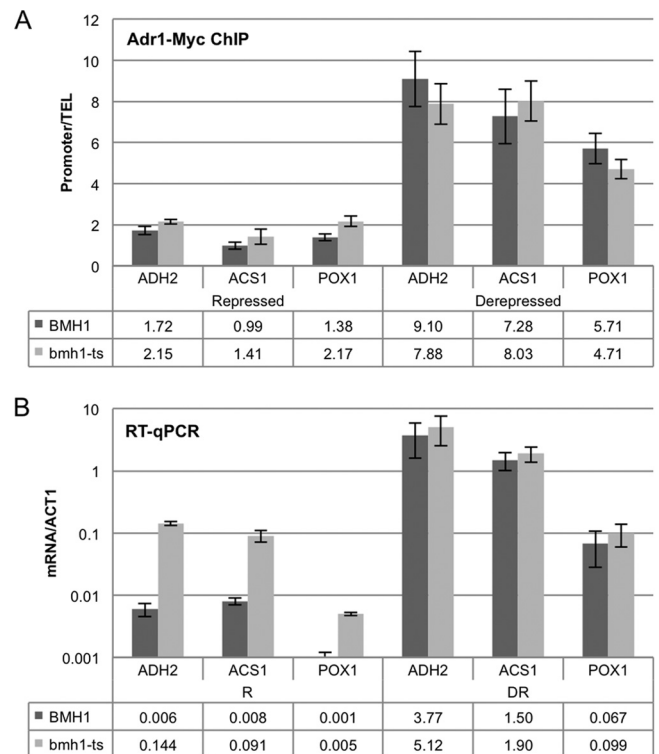


FIG 3 Bmh inactivation enhances transcription without significantly increasing Adr1 promoter binding. (A) Adr1-Myc ChIP. Triplicate cultures of PPY6 (*BMH1 bmh2Δ ADR1-MYC*) and PPY13 (*bmh1-ts bmh2Δ ADR1-MYC*) were grown in YP plus 5% glucose (repressed) or YP plus 0.05% glucose (derepressed). Samples were processed for Adr1-Myc ChIP, and Adr1 binding to the *ADH2*, *ACS1*, and *POX1* promoters relative to the telomere was determined by qPCR. The data are expressed as binding (ChIP/input) at *ADH2*, *ACS1*, and *POX1* relative to binding (ChIP/input) at the telomere. (B) RT-qPCR. mRNA was extracted from the strains used for panel A after growth under repressed (5% glucose) and derepressed (0.05% glucose) conditions. RT-qPCR was performed to measure the levels of mRNA, and the levels of *ADH2*, *ACS1*, and *POX1* mRNA were normalized to *ACT1* mRNA. For panels A and B, the error bars represent the means of three biological replicates assayed in triplicate.

Adr1 is necessary and sufficient for transcription activation in the absence of Bmh activity. The data presented in the previous section suggest that a low level of promoter-bound Adr1 suffices for significant levels of constitutive gene expression in the absence of Bmh activity. Although transcriptional activators are generally a prerequisite for transcription *in vivo*, there are situations where they are apparently dispensable (36). Therefore, it was important to determine whether Adr1 has a role in glucose-resistant gene expression in the *bmh1-ts bmh2Δ hdacΔ* strain. We did this in two ways. First, we asked whether *UAS1*, the Adr1 binding site, was

HDAC)]. Values greater than 1 indicate a higher-than-additive increase in expression of the *bmh hdacΔ* mutant compared to the sum of the individual *bmh* and *hdacΔ* mutants. Genes highlighted in yellow are Adr1 dependent (45), and the genes in bold have promoters bound by Adr1 (38). (C) Enrichment of Adr1, Cat8, Snf1, and glucose-regulated genes in gene clusters. The *P* value represents the enrichment of the indicated gene sets in each cluster over the yeast transcriptome which was considered to be the genes represented on the Affymetrix Yeast 2.0 arrays. Bold values indicate significant enrichment based on the Fisher's exact test *P* value. The source of Adr1 targets was YEASTRACT (46). The source of Cat8 targets was described in reference 38. Snf1-dependent and glucose-repressible genes were those identified by Young et al. (45). (D) RT-qPCR. Duplicate cultures of YLL908 (WT *bmh2Δ*), YLL1087 (*bmh1-ts bmh2Δ*), CTY-TY44 (*hda1Δ rpd3Δ*), KBY8 (*bmh2Δ hda1Δ rpd3Δ*), and KBY3 (*bmh1-ts bmh2Δ hda1Δ rpd3Δ*) were grown in YP plus 5% glucose, and repressed samples were collected for RT-qPCR. Cells from the derepressed cultures were pelleted and resuspended in YP plus 0.05% glucose and grown for 6 h, and derepressed samples were collected for RT-qPCR. The levels of *ADH2* mRNA relative to *ACT1* mRNA were measured for repressed and derepressed samples. The values represent the means and SDs of three biological replicates.

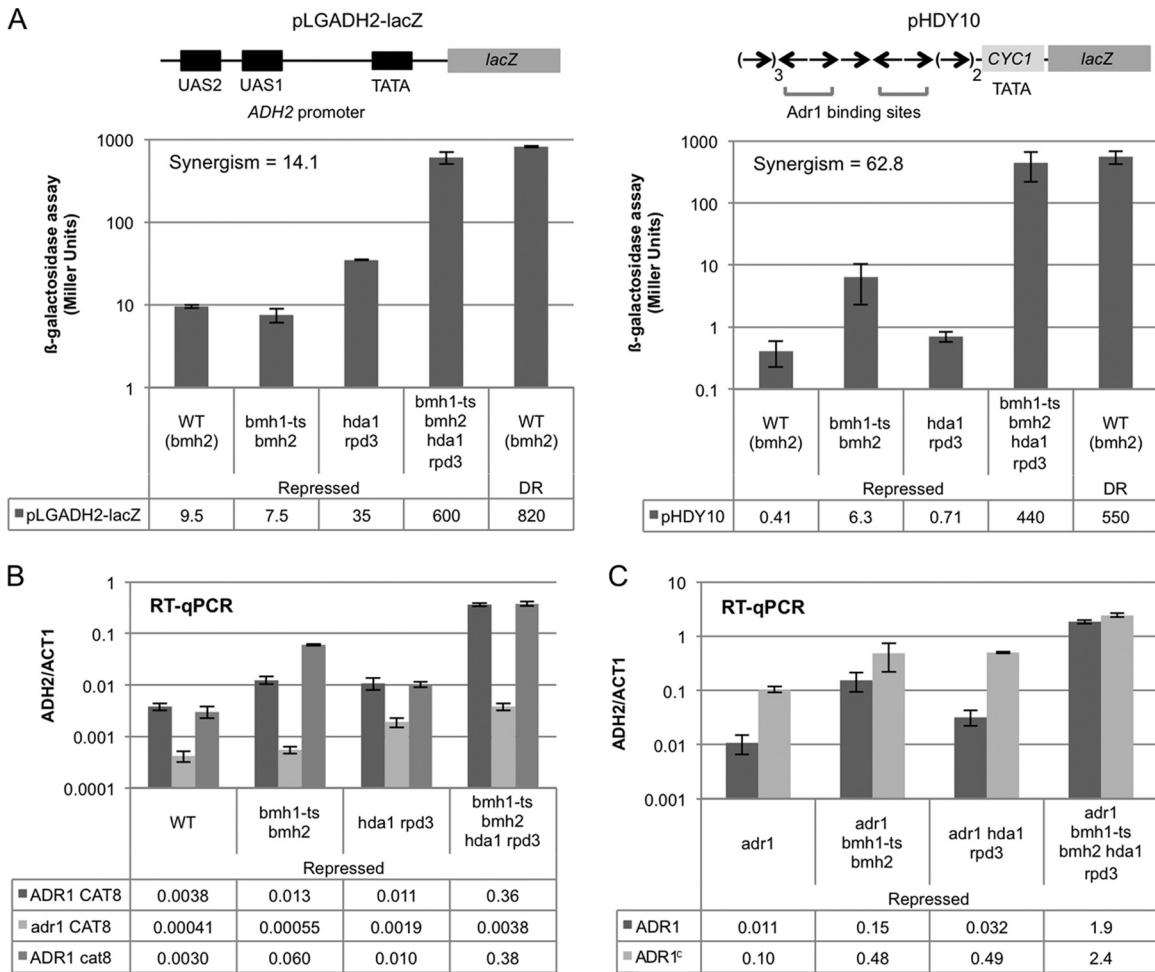


FIG 4 Adr1 is required for transcriptional activation of *ADH2* in the *bmh2 hdaC* strain in glucose. (A) β -Galactosidase assay. YLL908 (WT *bmh2* Δ), YLL1087 (*bmh1-ts bmh2* Δ), CTY-TY44 (*hda1* Δ *rdp3* Δ), and KBY3 (*bmh1-ts bmh2* Δ *hda1* Δ *rdp3* Δ) were transformed with one of the *ADH2-lacZ* reporters (pLGADH2-lacZ or pHDY10). Three or more transformants of each strain were grown in selective medium plus 5% glucose to maintain the *URA3* reporter plasmids, and repressed samples were collected for β -galactosidase assays. Cells from the repressed YLL908 culture were pelleted and resuspended in selective medium plus 0.05% glucose and grown overnight for derepression. Derepressed (DR) samples were collected for β -galactosidase assays. The level of reporter activity is reported in Miller units and represents the mean of at least three transformants. (B) RT-qPCR. Triplicate cultures of the *adr1* Δ strains KBY26 (*adr1* Δ), KBY30 (*adr1* Δ *bmh1-ts bmh2* Δ), KBY31 (*adr1* Δ *hda1* Δ *rdp3* Δ), and KBY34 (*adr1* Δ *bmh1-ts bmh2* Δ *hda1* Δ *rdp3* Δ) and the *cat8* Δ strains KBY15 (*cat8* Δ), KBY20 (*cat8* Δ *bmh1-ts bmh2* Δ), KBY18 (*cat8* Δ *hda1* Δ *rdp3* Δ), and KBY22 (*cat8* Δ *bmh1-ts bmh2* Δ *hda1* Δ *rdp3* Δ) were grown in YP plus 5% glucose. Repressed samples were collected, and *ADH2* mRNA levels were assayed by RT-qPCR and plotted relative to *ACT1* mRNA. The values represent the means and SDs of three biological replicates. (C) RT-qPCR. The *adr1* Δ strains KBY26 (*adr1* Δ), KBY30 (*adr1* Δ *bmh1-ts bmh2* Δ), KBY31 (*adr1* Δ *hda1* Δ *rdp3* Δ), and KBY34 (*adr1* Δ *bmh1-ts bmh2* Δ *hda1* Δ *rdp3* Δ) were transformed with a plasmid expressing either WT Adr1 (pKD16) or Adr1^c (S230A) (pKD14) from the *ADR1* promoter. Triplicate cultures were grown in selective medium plus 5% glucose to maintain the *TRP1* plasmid. Repressed samples were collected for RT-qPCR, and the levels of *ADH2* mRNA relative to *ACT1* mRNA were determined. The values represent the means and SDs of three biological replicates.

sufficient to cause activation of transcription of two different reporters under repressing conditions in the *bmh1-ts bmh2* Δ *hdaC* mutant (Fig. 4A). Reporter activity in the *bmh1-ts bmh2* Δ *hdaC* mutant was enhanced 13- to 1,400-fold under repressing conditions compared to the WT strain (*bmh2* Δ). In either of the single *bmh1-ts bmh2* Δ and *hdaC* mutants, there was a low level of activity associated with the reporters under repressing conditions, whereas in the *bmh1-ts bmh2* Δ *hdaC* double mutant, their activity approached the value measured under derepressing conditions. Therefore, UAS1 is sufficient to synergistically activate reporter gene expression in the *bmh1-ts bmh2* Δ *hdaC* strain, and other elements of this Adr1-dependent promoter are not essential.

To confirm the importance of Adr1 for activation of gene expres-

sion in the absence of Bmh and/or Hda activity, we combined a deletion of *ADR1*, *adr1* $\Delta::kanMX$ with *bmh1-ts bmh2* Δ , *hdaC* Δ , and both mutations and measured Adr1-dependent gene expression. The absence of Adr1 reduced *ADH2* expression 10-, 30-, 5-, and 100-fold in the WT and the *bmh1-ts bmh2* Δ , *hdaC* Δ , and *bmh1-ts bmh2* Δ *hdaC* Δ mutants, respectively, under repressing conditions (Fig. 4B). Other Adr1-dependent genes were affected similarly by the absence of Adr1 (see Table S2C in the supplemental material). These results together with the UAS1-reporter analysis demonstrate that Adr1 is necessary and sufficient to activate transcription in the absence of Bmh activity in the *hdaC* Δ strain.

Adr1 and Cat8 bind cooperatively to the *ADH2* promoter to recruit coactivators, remodel chromatin, and activate transcrip-

tion (31, 37, 38). Therefore, it was important to determine whether Cat8 also has a role in activating the inactive PIC in the *bmh1-ts bmh2Δ hdacΔ* strain. To accomplish this objective, a *cat8* deletion was introduced into the WT, *bmh1-ts bmh2Δ, hdacΔ*, and *bmh1-ts bmh2Δ hdacΔ* strains and gene expression was measured. The results indicate that Cat8 does not play an important role in activating transcription under repressing conditions in any of the mutant strains (Fig. 4B; see also Table S2C in the supplemental material). Genes whose expression is strictly dependent on Cat8, such as *FBP1*, were not activated by the *bmh1-ts bmh2Δ* allele in the *hdacΔ* strain (see Table S2C).

Loss of Bmh activity is not equivalent to loss of Bmh binding to the regulatory domain of Adr1. GBD-Adr1 fusion proteins with *ADR1^c* mutations, such as S230A, are not inhibited by Bmh (12). To determine whether a nonfusion Adr1^c also activates gene expression independently of Bmh, we transformed congenic *adr1Δ* strains with and without the *bmh1-ts bmh2Δ* and *hdacΔ* alleles with low-copy-number plasmids expressing *ADR1-S230A* or WT *ADR1* from the *ADR1* promoter. mRNA levels of Adr1-dependent genes were determined by RT-qPCR.

The results indicate that inactivating Bmh is not equivalent to the *ADR1-S230A* mutation (Fig. 4C; see also Table S2D in the supplemental material). Loss of Bmh activity had a more pronounced effect on Adr1-dependent gene expression than did the *ADR1-S230A* mutation, an effect that is particularly evident in the *hdacΔ* strain. For example, Adr1-S230A-activated *ADH2* expression in the *hdacΔ* strain was about 4-fold lower than expression activated by WT Adr1 in the *bmh1-ts bmh2Δ hdacΔ* mutant (compare columns 3 and 4 in Fig. 4C). If loss of Bmh activity had been equivalent to activation by Adr1-S230A, these activities would have been identical. The enhanced effect of the *bmh1-ts bmh2Δ* mutation compared to the effect of the non-Bmh-binding Adr1-S230A allele is presumably because loss of Bmh activity both directly and indirectly affects WT Adr1 activity but only indirectly affects Adr1^c activity by releasing Snf1 inhibition (12, 35). In the presence of histone deacetylase activity, however, WT Adr1 in the *bmh1-ts bmh2Δ* strain had activity equivalent to that of Adr1-S230A in the *BMH* WT strain (compare columns 1 and 2 in Fig. 4C). This may be due to some residual Bmh activity in the *bmh1-ts bmh2Δ* strain, an explanation that is consistent with the 3-fold-increased activity of Adr1-S230A compared to WT Adr1 in that strain (Fig. 4C, column 2). Importantly, the levels of *ADH2* expression in the *bmh1-ts bmh2Δ hdacΔ* strain were equivalent with both activators, indicating that WT Adr1 and Adr1-S230A activators have equivalent activities when Bmh is nonfunctional.

Bmh is bound to Adr1-dependent promoters under both repressed and derepressed conditions. If Bmh plays a role in regulating promoter-bound Adr1 activity, it might act directly at the promoter. To test this possibility, we tagged Bmh1 with a Myc epitope and did ChIP for Bmh1-Myc using extracts prepared from repressed and derepressed *bmh2Δ hdacΔ* cultures (KBY57). There was a weak signal at several Adr1-dependent promoters, suggesting that Bmh1 might be bound to DNA indirectly. For example, it might be bound to Adr1 but cross-linked to DNA only indirectly via protein-protein interactions. To enhance the signal of Bmh1-Myc at promoter DNA, we performed sequential ChIP. The first IP was performed with either anti-Flag or anti-RNA Pol II antibodies to recover chromatin and other proteins bound to Adr1-Flag and RNA Pol II, respectively. A second IP was performed

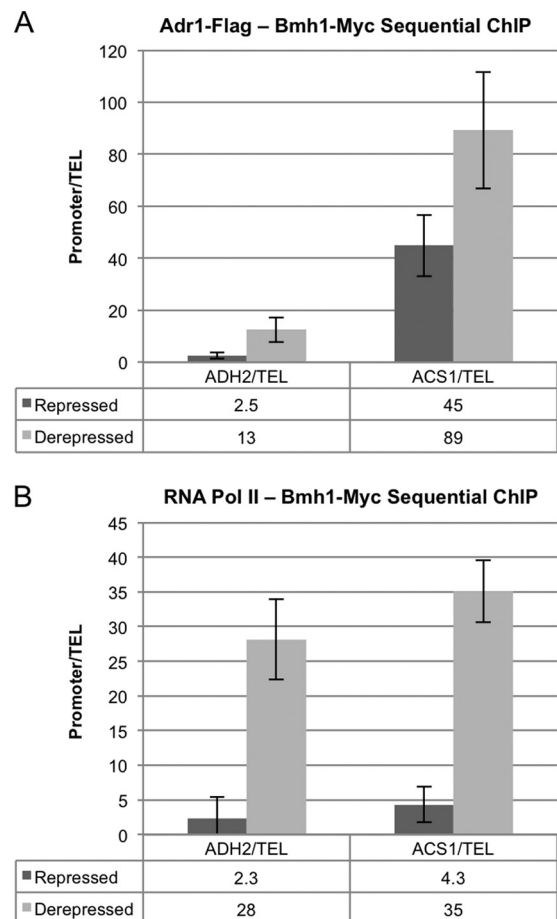


FIG 5 Bmh is bound to Adr1-dependent promoters in *hdac* strains under both repressed and derepressed conditions. Triplicate cultures of KBY88 (*ADR1-FLAG BMH1-MYC bmh2Δ hda1Δ rpd3Δ*) were grown in YP plus 5% glucose (repressed), and then the cells were pelleted and resuspended in YP plus 0.05% glucose and derepressed for 4.5 h. Repressed and derepressed samples were collected for sequential ChIP. The values represent the means of three biological replicates. (A) Adr1-Flag–Bmh1-Myc sequential ChIP. Adr1-Flag was immunoprecipitated from the ChIP extracts, followed by Bmh1-Myc. Bmh1 binding to the *ADH2* and *ACS1* promoters relative to the telomere was determined by qPCR. (B) RNA Pol II–Bmh1-Myc sequential ChIP. RNA Pol II was immunoprecipitated from the ChIP extracts, followed by Bmh1-Myc. Bmh1 binding to the *ADH2* and *ACS1* promoters relative to the telomere was determined by qPCR.

using anti-Myc antibodies to recover Bmh1-Myc that was associated with the chromatin that was present after the first IP.

Sequential ChIP significantly enhanced the recovery of DNA containing Adr1-dependent promoters (Fig. 5). *ACS1* promoter DNA was the most enriched, but *ADH2*, *ADY2*, *POT1*, and *POX1* promoter DNAs were also evident in the Bmh1-Myc ChIP (Fig. 5 and data not shown). We found Bmh1-Myc most enriched at these promoters under derepressing conditions. A possible explanation for the apparent increased level of Bmh at the promoter under derepressing conditions is that there was more Adr1 and RNA Pol II in this sample. However, previous studies indicated that the level of Adr1 and RNA Pol II at the promoter in the *hdacΔ* strain did not increase significantly upon derepression (26). We confirmed this result by measuring the level of promoter DNA in the ChIP for RNA Pol II and Adr1 and found a slight increase upon derepression (data not shown), but this change was lower

than the increase in Bmh binding upon derepression (Fig. 5). This result appears to rule out increased chromatin levels in the derepressed sample from the first IP as being responsible for increased promoter DNA in the second Bmh ChIP. The apparent increase in Bmh occupancy under derepressing conditions could have multiple causes. Bmh might be more efficiently recruited to the promoter or more efficiently immunoprecipitated when transcription is activated. In conclusion, Bmh is associated with promoter-bound Adr1 and RNA Pol II under both repressing and derepressing conditions.

Constitutive activation of Snf1 is deleterious in the absence of normal Bmh activity. Glucose-resistant, constitutive *ADH2* expression is dramatically elevated in the *hdacΔ* strain when Bmh-mediated inhibition is relieved, either by mutating Ser230 to Ala in the Adr1 RD or by inactivating Bmh (Fig. 2 and 4). However, glucose repression is still present, as shown by increased *ADH2* expression when a *bmh1-ts bmh2Δ hdacΔ* strain is starved of glucose (Fig. 2). In previous studies, complete relief from glucose repression was achieved by activating Snf1 in an *hdacΔ* strain expressing the constitutive *ADR1-S230A* allele (26). Activation of Snf1 was accomplished by deleting *REG1*, the regulatory subunit of the Glc7 protein phosphatase that dephosphorylates and inactivates Snf1. Thus, it seemed likely that the absence of fully active Snf1 might explain glucose repression in the *bmh1-ts bmh2Δ hdacΔ* strain. To test this possibility, we attempted to delete *REG1* in the *bmh1-ts bmh2Δ hdacΔ* strain. However, we were unable to isolate viable transformants containing *reg1Δ*, suggesting that the triple mutant might be inviable. The synthetic lethality of the combination of *bmh1-ts bmh2Δ* and *reg1Δ* was confirmed by dissecting asci derived from a *bmh1-ts bmh2Δ REG1/BMH1 BMH2 reg1Δ* diploid strain. Tetra- and ditype tetrads had one and two spore colonies, respectively, that were inviable, and they were usually the putative *bmh1-ts bmh2Δ reg1Δ* spores (Fig. 6A). Similarly, we were unable to cure a *bmh1-ts bmh2Δ reg1Δ* strain of a plasmid-borne copy of *BMH1*. Thus, it appears that activating Snf1 under repressing growth conditions is lethal in the presence of low or temperature-sensitive Bmh activity.

Snf1 has a role in gene activation subsequent to PIC formation. Because we were unable to activate Snf1 by deleting *REG1* in the *bmh1-ts bmh2Δ* strain, we tested the possibility that Snf1 has a role in activating the poised PIC in the *hdacΔ* mutant using an analog-sensitive allele of *SNF1*, *SNF1^{as}*, and the ATP analog 2NM-PP1. 2NM-PP1 specifically shuts off Snf1^{as}-dependent gene expression by inhibiting its kinase activity (39). *SNF1^{as} bmh1-ts bmh2Δ hdacΔ* (KBY83) cells were initially grown in glucose and then derepressed in low glucose in the presence of the Snf1^{as} inhibitor or the inhibitor solvent (dimethyl sulfoxide [DMSO]) for the no-inhibitor control. As shown in Fig. 6B, addition of 2NM-PP1 to an *SNF1^{as} bmh1-ts bmh2Δ hdacΔ* strain reduced the derepression of *ADH2* expression 30-fold compared to the DMSO control. Repressed *ADH2* expression in the same strain was also reduced by inhibiting Snf1^{as} (data not shown). Expression of other Adr1-dependent genes was affected similarly (data not shown). Recent results in a *BMH HDAC* WT strain indicated that Snf1 has a role in gene expression subsequent to activation of gene expression (40). Therefore, Snf1 has a role in activating Adr1-dependent gene expression subsequent to PIC recruitment in the presence and the absence of Bmh activity.

Bmh mediates combinatorial control of Adr1-, Cat8-dependent genes. The presence of promoter-bound Bmh1 under derepressing growth conditions suggests that Bmh might have a role in

Adr1-dependent gene expression unrelated to glucose repression. To explore the possibility of a role for Bmh in combinatorial control of gene expression by Adr1 and Cat8, we assayed derepression of several genes coregulated by Adr1 and Cat8 in WT *CAT8* and *cat8Δ* mutants with and without Bmh activity (WT, *bmh1-ts bmh2Δ*, *cat8Δ*, and *bmh1-ts bmh2Δ cat8Δ* strains). Remarkably, derepression of *ADH2* and *ACS1*, two genes whose transcriptional dependence on both factors has been extensively characterized (38, 41), was unaffected by deleting *CAT8* in the *bmh1-ts bmh2Δ* strain. In contrast, derepression of the same genes was reduced to 1.1% and 16% of WT levels by deleting *CAT8* in a WT strain (Fig. 6C). Expression of genes activated only by Cat8, such as *FBP1*, was reduced to a low level in the absence of Cat8, independent of the *BMH* genotype (Fig. 6C). *JEN1*, another gene that is coregulated by Adr1 and Cat8, showed a similar response in the *bmh1-ts bmh2Δ* strain (see Table S2E in the supplemental material). Thus, loss of Bmh activity specifically and efficiently suppresses the requirement for Cat8 at genes normally codependent on both Adr1 and Cat8.

Loss of Bmh activity could suppress the deficiency of Cat8 by enhancing Snf1 activity, by not inhibiting Adr1, or by both mechanisms. To distinguish between these possibilities, the expression of Adr1-, Cat8-codependent genes was assayed when Adr1^c was the activator and compared to their activation by WT Adr1. Because Adr1^c is not bound and inhibited by Bmh (12), we expected it to mimic the phenotype of the *bmh1-ts bmh2Δ* mutant strain if the suppression of the Cat8 deficiency is due to the loss of Bmh-mediated inhibition of Adr1. Strains with a deletion of *ADR1* with or without *CAT8* were transformed with *CEN-TRP1* plasmids carrying WT *ADR1* or *ADR1^c* expressed from the *ADR1* promoter.

Adr1^c efficiently suppressed the absence of Cat8 for *ADH2* and *ACS1* expression (Fig. 6D). For example, derepression of *ADH2* in the *cat8Δ* strain with the Adr1^c activator was 100% of the level in a *CAT8* strain. In contrast, when WT Adr1 was the activator, *ADH2* derepression in a *cat8Δ* strain was only 1% of the WT level. Adr1^c enhanced the expression of 16 other genes showing different levels of Adr1 and Cat8 codependency when Cat8 was absent (see Table S3 in the supplemental material). Figure 6D also compares the relative levels of derepressed gene expression for *ADH2*, *ACS1*, and *FBP1* in *cat8Δ BMH1 BMH2* and *cat8Δ bmh1-ts bmh2Δ* strains with gene expression in *CAT8* and *cat8Δ* strains carrying WT Adr1 and Adr1^c activators. The expression of the codependent genes *ACS1* and *ADH2* was more efficiently suppressed by inactivating Bmh than by inhibiting its binding to Adr1. This was also true for genes only modestly dependent on Cat8 (*ATO3*, *ADY2*, *POX1*, and *FDH*), but the interpretation is complicated by the dramatic increase in derepression of these genes in the *bmh1-ts bmh2Δ* strain (see Tables S2E and S3 in the supplemental material). *JEN1* expression is nearly identical in the same comparison, and three genes whose expression is *CAT8* dependent but *ADR1* independent, *FBP1*, *MLS1* and *ICL1*, were not significantly affected by either *bmh1-ts bmh2Δ* or *ADR1^c* (Fig. 6D; see also Tables S2E and S3). Thus, for genes whose expression is highly dependent on both Adr1 and Cat8 (*ACS1* and *ADH2*), loss of Bmh suppresses Cat8 deficiency more effectively than the Adr1^c activator. We interpret this result to indicate that loss of Bmh suppresses Cat8 deficiency both indirectly, by activating Snf1, and directly, by loss of binding and inhibition of Adr1. In conclusion, when Bmh is unable to bind and inhibit the activity of Adr1, genes normally coregulated by both Adr1 and Cat8 are derepressed efficiently in the absence of Cat8.

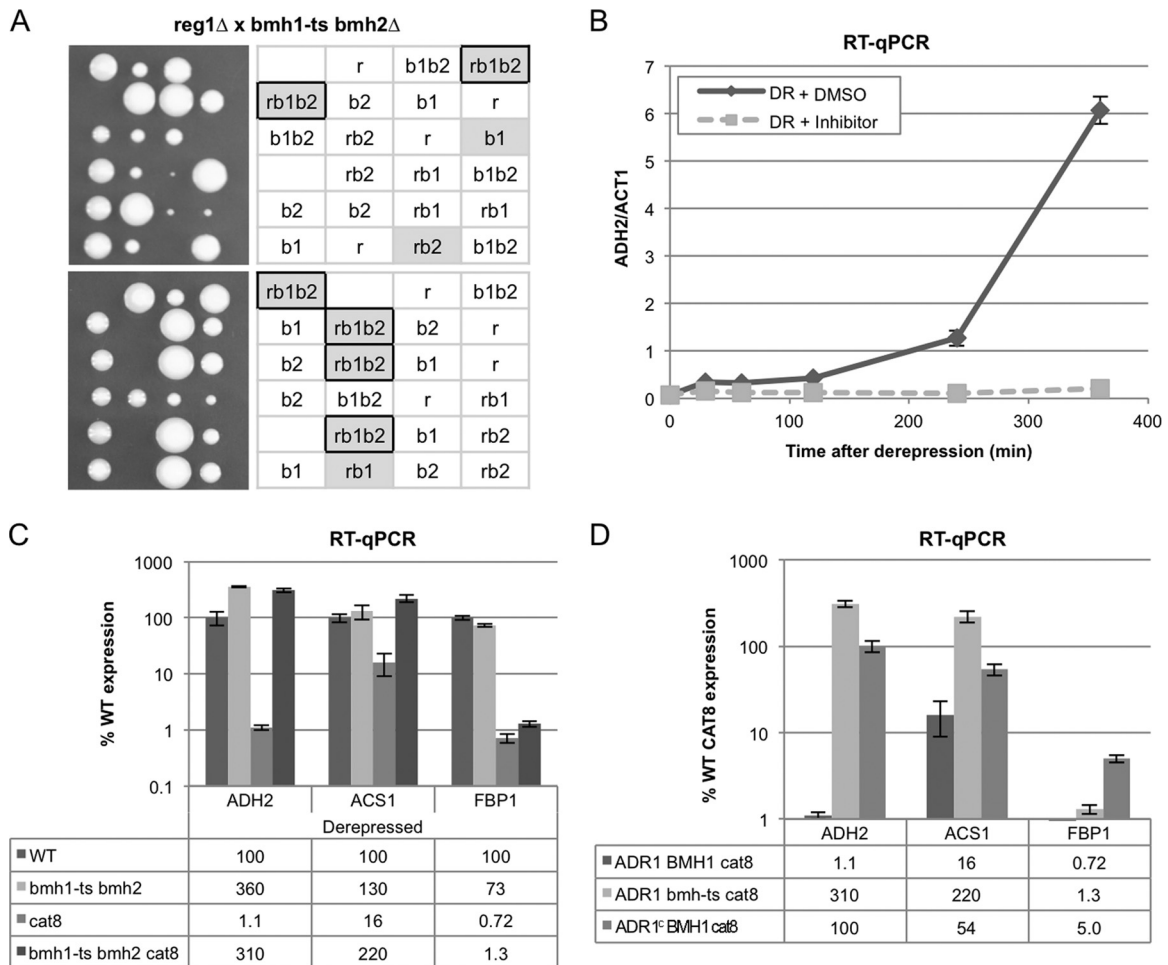


FIG 6 Snf1, but not Cat8, is required for derepression in the absence of Bmh activity. (A) Tetrad analysis. CHY35a (*MAT α reg1 Δ*) and KBY48 (*MAT α bmh1-ts bmh2 Δ*) were mated; diploids were selected, purified, and sporulated; and tetrads were dissected on YPD. Growth is shown after 5 days at 30°C. Twelve tetrads are shown vertically, with each set separated horizontally. The genotype for each spore is shown to the right of the tetrads and was determined based on the markers present in each tetrad. (B) RT-qPCR. Triplicate KBY83 (*SNF1^{as} bmh1-ts bmh2 Δ hda1 Δ rpd3 Δ*) cultures were grown in YP plus 5% glucose (repressed), and then the cells were pelleted and resuspended in YP plus 0.05% glucose for derepression. At the start of derepression, Snf1^{as} activity was inhibited using 5 μ M 2NM-PP1, and an equal volume of DMSO was used for a control. Samples were collected from the repressed culture (time zero) and 30, 60, 120, 240, and 360 min following derepression (DR) and Snf1^{as} inhibition for RT-qPCR. The level of *ADH2* mRNA relative to *ACT1* mRNA was determined for each time point. The values represent the means of three biological replicates. (C) RT-qPCR. Triplicate cultures of WT, YLL1087 (*bmh1-ts bmh2 Δ*), KBY15 (*cat8 Δ*), and KBY20 (*cat8 Δ bmh1-ts bmh2 Δ*) were grown in YP plus 5% glucose, and then the cells were pelleted and resuspended in YP plus 0.05% glucose and derepressed for 4 h. Derepressed samples were collected for RT-qPCR, and the levels of *ADH2*, *ACS1*, and *FBP1* mRNA relative to *ACT1* mRNA were determined. Values were plotted as a percentage of the expression in the WT strain for each of the genes. The values represent the means of three biological replicates. (D) RT-qPCR. CKY13 (*adr1 Δ CAT8*) and CKY23 (*adr1 Δ cat8 Δ*) were transformed with a plasmid expressing either WT Adr1 (pKD16) or Adr1^c (S230A) (pKD14) from the *ADR1* promoter. Triplicate cultures were grown in YP plus 5% glucose, and then the cells were pelleted and resuspended in YP plus 0.05% glucose and derepressed for 4 h. Derepressed samples were collected for RT-qPCR, and the levels of *ADH2*, *ACS1*, and *POX1* mRNA relative to *ACT1* mRNA were determined. Values were plotted as a percentage of the expression in the corresponding WT *CAT8* strain for each of the genes and represent the means of three biological replicates assayed in duplicate.

DISCUSSION

Bmh proteins have both a direct and an indirect role in regulating Adr1-dependent gene expression (Fig. 7). The direct role occurs via Bmh binding to the Adr1 regulatory domain and inhibits activation domain function (12). We show in this work that this occurs at a step in transcription after a PIC has been formed. Moreover, Bmh is likely to influence a step in PIC activation directly at the promoter, because Bmh can be detected at promoters together with both Adr1 and RNA Pol II.

The indirect role of Bmh proteins prevents the inappropriate activation of Snf1. When Snf1 is partially activated in the *bmh1-ts*

bmh2 Δ strain (unpublished data), there is a low level of Adr1 binding and a low level of activation of gene expression relative to the expression in derepressing growth conditions (Fig. 3). By helping to keep Snf1 in an inactive state, Bmh could prevent the Snf1-dependent histone hyperacetylation (42) that promotes nucleosome mobility and Adr1 binding (33, 43, 44). Bmh has been shown to interact with both HATs and HDACs (20), and thus, it could also have an Snf1-dependent role in maintaining promoter nucleosomes in a hypoacetylated state.

We observed strong Adr1-dependent synergistic activation of gene expression in a *bmh1-ts bmh2 Δ hda Δ* mutant in the pres-

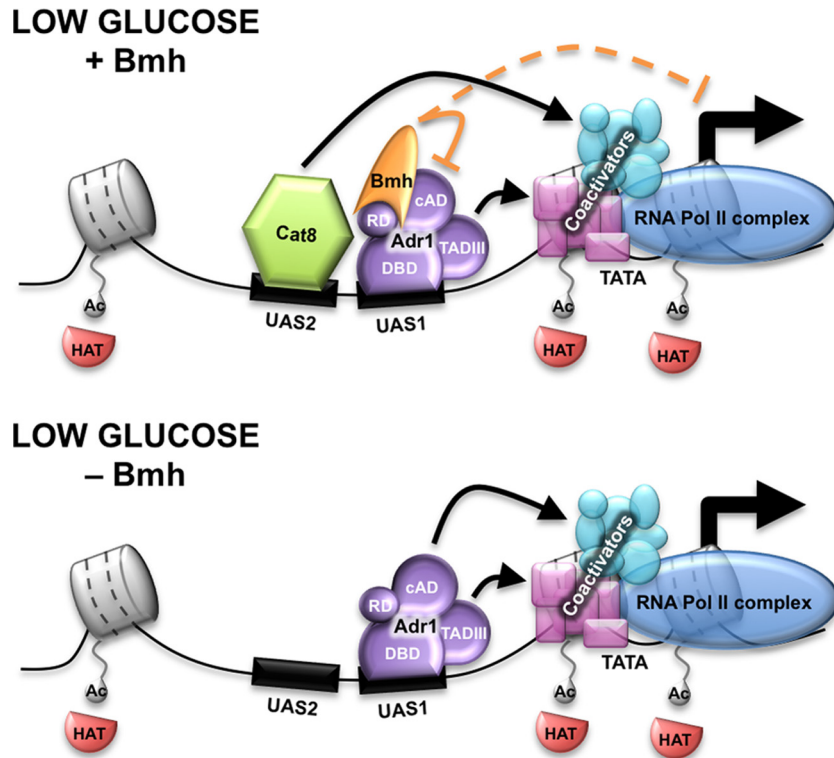


FIG 7 Model illustrating the activation of a glucose-repressed gene in the presence and the absence of Bmh. In low glucose, transcriptional activators, Adr1 (purple) and Cat8 (green), activate transcription. They bind the upstream activating sequences, UAS1 and UAS2, when the histones (gray) are hyperacetylated by the HATs (red). Subsequently, Adr1 and Cat8 each recruit a subset of coactivators and RNA Pol II (blue). Bmh (orange) binds to the regulatory domain of Adr1, which leaves only the major activation domain (TADIII) available for recruiting coactivators and RNA Pol II. Therefore, Cat8 must provide the second activation domain to recruit the additional coactivators for optimal transcription. In the absence of Bmh, both the cAD and TADIII are available to activate transcription and are sufficient to recruit all the coactivators and RNA Pol II in the absence of Cat8.

ence of glucose. This suggests that histone hypoacetylation and Bmh inhibit Adr1 by different pathways. In previous work, deletion of *BMH1* and *BMH2* in a $\Sigma 1278$ strain in combination with a *REG1* deletion synergistically activated *ADH2* expression under repressing growth conditions, suggesting that Bmh and Reg1 regulate Adr1 activity by different pathways (35). The two cases of synergism are likely to arise for the same two reasons. First, *HDAC* mutations and activation of Snf1 (by deleting *REG1* or inactivating Bmh) each create a promoter that is permissive for Adr1 binding. Second, there is an Adr1-dependent function that normally occurs post-DNA binding and post-PIC recruitment that is inhibited by Bmh and requires Snf1 (Fig. 6) (40). The combination of these effects leads to strong synergism of Adr1-dependent gene expression (Fig. 2).

An important and novel finding is that Bmh inhibits a step in transcription activation that occurs after PIC recruitment. Bmh may inhibit a step in transcription initiation, elongation, nucleosome remodeling, promoter escape, or a posttranscriptional process (40). Even though the mechanism of Bmh-mediated inhibition of Adr1 is unknown, nuclear exclusion or inhibition of DNA binding appears to be ruled out.

Bmh is found in association with Adr1 under both repressing and derepressing growth conditions (12), and our current work shows that Bmh associates with Adr1 at the promoter in an *hdacΔ* mutant under both conditions (Fig. 5). Thus, Bmh could exert an

inhibitory effect on Adr1 activity under both conditions. However, under repressing growth conditions, hypoacetylated nucleosomes prevent Adr1 from binding at the promoter. Thus, Bmh may not play an important direct role in inhibiting Adr1-dependent gene expression in the presence of abundant glucose. Consistent with this prediction, *ADR1^c* mutations cause only a low level of Adr1 activity under repressing conditions, and this effect is restricted to a few promoters (see Table S3 in the supplemental material). From these observations, we conclude that Bmh has a minor direct role in preventing Adr1-dependent gene expression in the presence of glucose. In our model, HDACs provide the primary mode of repression of DNA binding and Bmh inhibits a post-DNA binding step in gene activation. Chromatin-mediated repression and Bmh-mediated inhibition acting independently provide tight regulation of transcriptional activation.

Most genes have multiple activators that integrate diverse signals at the promoter. Adr1-dependent target genes encode a multitude of enzymes catalyzing steps in interdependent metabolic pathways (38, 45). Most of the genes encoding these activities have numerous transcription factor binding sites in their promoter in addition to UAS1. Particularly interesting in the present context are the genes that are bound and regulated by both Adr1 and Cat8, and the genes of β -oxidation and peroxisome biogenesis that are bound and regulated by both Adr1 and Oaf1/Pip2. An *ADR1^c* allele relieves the Oaf1/Pip2 requirement for derepression of the β -ox-

idation genes (25), just as it relieves the Cat8 requirement for the genes of ethanol metabolism (Fig. 6D; see also Table S3 in the supplemental material). One interesting possibility is that Bmh has a direct modulatory role at promoters, serving to integrate diverse signals that allow a greater or lesser dependence on a co-regulating transcription factor. The evidence presented in Fig. 6C and D and in Tables S2E and S3 in the supplemental material strongly implicates Bmh in such a role at promoters codependent on Adr1 and Cat8.

What could be the mechanism whereby Bmh modulates the activity of Adr1 and Cat8 to influence combinatorial control of gene expression? Our observations suggest that Bmh inhibits a function that is normally performed by Cat8 (or Oaf1/Pip2) but that can be performed by Adr1 in the absence of Bmh. In the WT situation chromatin remodeling, coactivator recruitment and gene expression were codependent on both Adr1 and Cat8 for several promoters (37, 38). Although a unique function for Adr1 and Cat8 at codependent promoters was not identified, gene expression activated by Adr1^c was less dependent on several coactivators than expression activated by WT Adr1. The requirement for the HAT activity of SAGA was dramatically reduced when Adr1^c was the activator (25). This observation suggests that Bmh may have a role opposing the HAT activity of SAGA, for example, by recruiting an HDAC.

Our hypothesis to explain a modulatory role at codependent promoters invokes Bmh-mediated inhibition of the cryptic AD, as illustrated in the model depicted in Fig. 7. Our hypothesis assumes that the cryptic AD has the potential to perform a unique role, either quantitatively or qualitatively, that is normally performed by a second transcription factor, such as Cat8 or Oaf1/Pip2, at promoters codependent on Adr1 and another activator. If Bmh is inactive or is unable to bind Adr1, recruitment or some other function in gene expression that is normally dependent on the coregulatory transcription factor is dispensable because Adr1 can perform the role itself.

We describe a new role for 14-3-3 proteins in which their binding at a promoter regulates the activity of a DNA-bound transcription factor. These results expand the molecular mechanisms that 14-3-3 proteins use to modulate the activity of signal transduction pathways. In addition, they suggest that 14-3-3 proteins can have an important and dynamic role while complexed with a promoter-bound transcription factor. One important and apparently novel role for 14-3-3 proteins in yeast is to modulate the requirement for multiple activators at promoters showing codependent gene regulation.

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