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Fin1-PP1 helps clear spindle assembly checkpoint protein Bub1 from kinetochores in anaphase

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Abstract

The spindle assembly checkpoint (SAC) monitors chromosome attachment defects and the assembly of SAC proteins at kinetochores is essential for its activation, but the SAC disassembly process remains unknown. We found that deletion of a 14-3-3 protein, Bmh1, or hyper-activation of FEAR (Cdc14 Early Anaphase Release) allows premature SAC silencing in budding yeast, which depends on a kinetochore protein Fin1 that forms a complex with protein phosphatase PP1. Previous works suggest that FEAR-dependent Fin1 dephosphorylation promotes Bmh1-Fin1 dissociation, which enables kinetochore recruitment of Fin1-PP1. We found persistent kinetochore association of SAC protein Bub1 in *fin1* mutants after anaphase entry. Therefore, we revealed a mechanism that clears SAC proteins from kinetochores. After anaphase entry, FEAR activation promotes kinetochore enrichment of Fin1-PP1, resulting in SAC disassembly at kinetochores. This mechanism is required for efficient SAC silencing after SAC being challenged, and untimely Fin1-kinetochore association causes premature SAC silencing and chromosome missegregation.

Keywords

The spindle assembly checkpoint; Bmh1; Fin1; PP1; FEAR pathway

INTRODUCTION

The kinetochore is the docking site for the spindle assembly checkpoint (SAC) that monitors the defects in chromosome attachment and blocks anaphase onset. Once all chromosomes

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Author Contributions

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have achieved bipolar attachment, this checkpoint is silenced to allow anaphase onset, but the SAC silencing process and its disassembly after silencing are not fully understood. Recent evidence indicates that modulation of the phosphorylation status of various proteins at the kinetochore is critical for SAC silencing. Kinetochore-associated protein phosphatase PP1 has been shown to be essential for SAC silencing in yeast cells (Pinsky et al., 2009; Vanoosthuysse and Hardwick, 2009). Moreover, down-regulation of SAC kinase Mps1 also promotes this silencing process (Aravamudhan et al., 2015; Hiruma et al., 2015; Ji et al., 2015). Bipolar attachment generates tension on chromosomes, while lack of tension delays anaphase onset through a conserved protein kinase Ipl1/Aurora B and a centromere binding protein Sgo1 (Biggins and Murray, 2001; Indjeian et al., 2005; Jin et al., 2012). Our recent work indicates that Ipl1-dependent phosphorylation of kinetochore protein Dam1 is sufficient to block SAC silencing (Jin and Wang, 2013). Because Dam1 phosphorylation is reversed by PP1 only after tension generation (Keating et al., 2009; Pinsky et al., 2006a), tension may trigger SAC silencing by inducing Dam1 dephosphorylation.

In budding yeast, PP1 interacts with two kinetochore proteins, Spc105 and Fin1, and mutation of the PP1 binding motif in Spc105 blocks anaphase onset, indicating the critical role of PP1-Spc105 interaction in SAC silencing (Rosenberg et al., 2011). Fin1 was shown to associate with the spindle and spindle poles during anaphase (Woodbury and Morgan, 2007a), but later work indicates that it is also a kinetochore associated protein (Akiyoshi et al., 2009). In addition, Fin1 is a substrate of S-phase cyclin-dependent kinase (CDK) and this phosphorylation is reversed during early anaphase by the phosphatase Cdc14, the chief component of the FEAR pathway (Cdc14 Early Anaphase Release) (Jin et al., 2008; Loog and Morgan, 2005). However, the physiological significance of Fin1 dephosphorylation remains ambiguous.

Prior to anaphase entry, Cdc14 is sequestered within the nucleolus through its association with a nucleolar protein Net1/Cfi1 (Shou et al., 1999; Visintin et al., 1999), which prevents Cdc14 from accessing its nuclear substrates, including Fin1. The release of Cdc14 from the nucleolus is regulated by the phosphorylation of Net1, a substrate of both Clb2/Cdk1 kinase and protein phosphatase PP2A^{Cdc55} (Azzam et al., 2004; Queralt et al., 2006; Wang and Ng, 2006). Before anaphase onset, PP2A^{Cdc55}-mediated Net1 dephosphorylation enables Cdc14 sequestration within the nucleolus. Upon anaphase entry, FEAR activation triggers Net1 phosphorylation and Cdc14 release into the nucleus (Queralt et al., 2006). Deletion of PP2A regulatory gene *CDC55* leads to premature Cdc14 release (Liang et al., 2009; Wang and Ng, 2006). FEAR-dependent Cdc14 release specifically reverses the phosphorylation imposed by S-phase CDK to facilitate anaphase progression (Jin et al., 2008; Liang et al., 2013). Fin1 is a verified S-phase CDK substrate (Loog and Morgan, 2005), and its phosphorylation promotes its interaction with 14-3-3 proteins, Bmh1 and Bmh2, which prevents the kinetochore association of Fin1 (Akiyoshi et al., 2009; Mayordomo and Sanz, 2002). Since Fin1 binds to PP1, Fin1 dephosphorylation during anaphase could promote the kinetochore recruitment of Fin1-PP1.

Chromosomes lack tension when sister-chromatid cohesion is eliminated or sister kinetochores are attached by microtubules from the same spindle pole (syntelic attachments). We found that inactivation of the Cik1/Kar3 motor complex increases the

frequency of syntelic attachments. Additionally, overexpression of the coiled-coil domain of Cik1 (Cik1-CC) disrupts Cik1-Kar3 interaction, and cells overexpressing Cik1-CC require Ipl1 and Sgo1 to prevent anaphase entry for survival (Jin et al., 2012; Jin and Wang, 2013). We performed a screen for yeast mutants that are sensitive to *CIK1-CC* overexpression in order to identify more SAC regulators. We found that *bmh1* mutants and cells with hyperactive FEAR (*cdc55 swe1*) show obvious viability loss after *CIK-CC* overexpression. These mutant cells exhibit chromosome missegregation and early dephosphorylation of SAC proteins in the presence of tension defects, indicating premature anaphase entry. Interestingly, *bmh1* and *cdc55 swe1* mutants show untimely Fin1 kinetochore localization, and the premature anaphase entry in these mutants partially depends on Fin1. Moreover, cells with phospho-deficient Fin1-5A protein also show early Fin1 kinetochore localization and sensitivity to syntelic attachments. Importantly, we found that Fin1 is required for the removal of a SAC protein Bub1 from kinetochores. Therefore, our data suggest that the recruitment of the Fin1-PP1 complex onto kinetochores promotes SAC disassembly during anaphase.

RESULTS

Bmh1 is required for the survival of yeast cells with induced syntelic attachments

We showed that overexpression of the coiled-coil domain of *CIK1* (*CIK1-CC*) disrupts Cik1-Kar3 interaction and induces syntelic attachments (Jin et al 2012). Bmh1 and Bmh2 are the two 14-3-3 homologues in budding yeast and the *kar3* mutant is synthetically lethal with *bmh1*, but not with *bmh2* mutants (Tong et al., 2004). To investigate the role of Bmh1 and Bmh2 in response to syntelic attachment, we introduced a plasmid with *CIK1-CC* under the control of a galactose-inducible promoter ($P_{GAL}CIK1-CC$) into *bmh1* and *bmh2* deletion mutants. Their growth was examined on plates containing galactose, which induces *CIK1-CC* overexpression. Compared to wild-type (WT) cells, *bmh1* mutants with $P_{GAL}CIK1-CC$ plasmid showed more severe sick growth on a galactose plate, although the phenotype was not as dramatic as *sgo1* mutant. *bmh2* cells overexpressing *CIK1-CC* did not show more severe growth defect than WT cells (Fig. 1A), indicating different roles for Bmh1 and Bmh2 in response to syntelic attachments.

The dramatic slow growth phenotype of *bmh1* cells overexpressing *CIK1-CC* could be a consequence of a synthetic defect in kinetochore attachment, or due to a checkpoint defect that leads to premature anaphase entry, resulting in chromosome missegregation and viability loss. We examined the viability of *bmh1* and *bmh2* cells overexpressing *CIK1-CC*. After Cik1-CC induction, both *bmh1* and *sgo1* mutants showed obvious viability loss. Only 31% of *sgo1* cells and 46% of *bmh1* cells remained viable after Cik1-CC induction for 4 hrs. In contrast, most of the WT and *bmh2* cells were viable (Fig. 1B), suggesting Bmh1, but not Bmh2, is required for the response to syntelic attachment. Furthermore, we used synchronous cells to analyze cell cycle progression during *CIK1-CC* overexpression. The budding index and the spindle elongation kinetics indicated similar cell cycle progression in WT and *bmh1* cells. As shown previously, *CIK1-CC* overexpression induced a moderate but obvious cell cycle delay in WT cells (Jin et al., 2012). This delay was abolished in *sgo1* and *bmh1* mutants, but not in *bmh2* (Fig. 1C). We also examined

Pds1 protein levels to follow the anaphase entry process. WT cells (*PDS1-18myc*) overexpressing *CIK1-CC* exhibited a clear delay in Pds1 degradation, but this delay was abolished in *sgo1* cells (Fig. S1). *bmh1 PDS1-18myc* cells exhibited slow growth, as evidenced by delayed Pds1 turnover, nevertheless *CIK1-CC* overexpression did not further delay anaphase entry as it did in the WT cells (Fig. S1), indicating the potential role of Bmh1 in the anaphase entry delay induced by syntelic attachments.

In *sgo1* and *ipl1-321* mutants overexpressing *CIK1-CC*, premature anaphase entry causes a high frequency of chromosome missegregation (Jin et al., 2012). We examined sister chromatid segregation in *bmh1* cells overexpressing *CIK1-CC*. G₁-arrested WT, *sgo1*, and *bmh1* cells with GFP-marked centromere of chromosome IV (*CEN4-GFP*), Tub1-mCherry, and *P_{GAL}CIK1-CC* plasmids were released into galactose medium. After release for 2 hrs, we examined the GFP signal in cells with an elongated spindle (Tub1-mCherry). For vector control, most of the cells with an elongated spindle showed two separated GFP dots with the spindle poles. When *CIK1-CC* is overexpressed, almost no *CEN4-GFP* dots co-segregation was observed in WT cells, whereas *sgo1* cells showed a co-segregation frequency of 25%. *bmh1* cells with an elongated spindle also displayed *CEN4-GFP* co-segregation with a frequency of 14% (Fig. 1D). Our data indicate that some *bmh1* cells enter anaphase in the presence of syntelic attachment, resulting in chromosome missegregation. The different *CEN4-GFP* co-segregation rates in *bmh1* and *sgo1* mutants indicates that Sgo1 and Bmh1 may play distinct roles in response to syntelic attachments.

***bmh1* cells show premature SAC silencing in the presence of tension defects**

Since premature SAC silencing leads to anaphase entry in *sgo1* cells with tensionless attachments (Jin and Wang, 2013), we assessed the SAC silencing process in *bmh1* cells using cohesin mutant *mcd1-1*. Incubation of *mcd1-1* cells at 37°C inactivates cohesin Mcd1 and results in tensionless attachments. The phosphorylation of SAC protein Mad1 indicates checkpoint activation (Hardwick and Murray, 1995; Mirchenko and Uhlmann, 2010), thus we examined Mad1 modification kinetics in synchronized WT, *bmh1*, *mcd1-1*, and *mcd1-1 bmh1* cells growing at 37°C. Both WT and *bmh1* alone showed weak phosphorylated Mad1 at 60 and 75 min after G₁ release, whereas *mcd1-1* cells exhibited more persistent Mad1 phosphorylation. In clear contrast, the phospho-variant of Mad1 began to dissipate after 90 min and disappeared at 150 min in *mcd1-1 bmh1* cells. In line with this result, *mcd1-1 bmh1* mutants showed less large-budded cells than the *mcd1-1* mutants at later time points, indicating the bypass of metaphase arrest (Fig. 2A).

In addition to Mad1, we also examined the phosphorylation kinetics of another SAC protein Bub1 using a similar protocol. WT and *bmh1* cells showed dramatic Bub1 phosphorylation at the 45 and 60 min, but the top band disappeared by 75 min. *mcd1-1* cells maintained Bub1 hyperphosphorylation throughout the time course. The top Bub1 phospho-variant appeared normally in *mcd1-1 bmh1* cells, but disappeared after 90 min, much earlier than *mcd1-1* cells (Fig. 2B). These results support the conclusion that Bmh1 is required for sustained phosphorylation of SAC checkpoint proteins Mad1 and Bub1 in cells with tension defects. Because both Mad1 and Bub1 can be phosphorylated efficiently in *bmh1* mutants, we speculate that Bmh1 is dispensable for SAC activation. Indeed, *bmh1* cells exhibited

persistent Pds1 stabilization in the presence of microtubule poison nocodazole, indicating competent metaphase arrest (Fig. S2A). Moreover, the viability loss of *bmh1* mutant in the presence of nocodazole is moderate (Fig. S2B).

The function of Bmh1 in checkpoint regulation depends on Fin1

The kinetochore protein Fin1 binds to both Bmh1 and protein phosphatase PP1, but only CDK-phosphorylated Fin1 binds to Bmh1, which prevents kinetochore association of Fin1-PP1 (Akiyoshi et al., 2009). Thus, the premature SAC silencing observed in *bmh1* could be attributed to precocious kinetochore association of Fin1-PP1. To test this idea, we first compared the growth of *bmh1* single and *bmh1 fin1* double mutant cells overexpressing *CIK1-CC*. The double mutant cells harboring a *P_{GAL}CIK1-CC* plasmid showed better growth than *bmh1* single mutants on galactose plates, but not as well as WT cells, indicating a partial rescue (Fig. 3A). We further assessed their viability after *CIK1-CC* overexpression. In agreement with the growth on galactose plates, *fin1* partially suppressed the viability loss of *bmh1* (Fig. 3B). After incubation in galactose medium for 4 hrs, 54% of *bmh1* cells were viable, but this number was 69% for *bmh1 fin1* cells. Deleting *FIN1* also partially rescued the chromosome segregation defect in *bmh1* cells when syntelic attachment is induced by *CIK1-CC* overexpression (Fig. 3C). *bmh1 fin1* mutants overexpressing *CIK1-CC* showed less chromosome missegregation after release from G₁ arrest for 120 min, at 9%, compared with *bmh1* cells at 14%.

Because *mcd1-1 bmh1* mutant cells exhibit earlier Bub1 dephosphorylation than *mcd1-1* cells (Fig. 2B), we also assessed whether this phenotype depends on the presence of Fin1. We analyzed the kinetics of Bub1 phosphorylation in synchronous *mcd1-1 bmh1* and *mcd1-1 bmh1 fin1* mutant cells incubated at 37°C. As shown previously, *mcd1-1* displayed postponed Bub1 dephosphorylation, and complete disappearance of the top band occurred 30 min earlier in *mcd1-1 bmh1* mutant cells. However, *mcd1-1 bmh1 fin1* mutants exhibited delayed Bub1 dephosphorylation compared to *mcd1-1 bmh1* mutants (Fig. 3D). Together, these results support the conclusion that the premature anaphase entry in *bmh1* mutant cells at least partially depends on Fin1.

Hyperactive FEAR results in sensitivity to induced syntelic attachment

Bmh1 interacts with Fin1 and the phosphorylation of Fin1 by S-phase CDK promotes this interaction (Akiyoshi et al., 2009; Mayordomo and Sanz, 2002). FEAR-induced Cdc14 release during early anaphase reverses the phosphorylation imposed by S-phase CDK (Jin et al., 2008). Thus hyperactive FEAR will compromise Fin1-Bmh1 interaction and promote SAC silencing. PP2A^{Cdc55} dephosphorylates Net1 to facilitate Net1-Cdc14 interaction and the nucleolar localization of Cdc14, whereas the phosphorylation of Net1 by Clb2/Cdk1 promotes Cdc14 release (Queralt et al., 2006; Wang and Ng, 2006). *cdc55 swe1* mutants, which lacks both of the PP2A regulatory subunit Cdc55 and the negative regulator of Clb2/Cdk1 Swe1, show hyperactive FEAR (Liang et al., 2009; Liu and Wang, 2006). To determine the role of FEAR in SAC regulation, we first examined the sensitivity of *cdc55 swe1* mutants to syntelic attachment induced by *CIK1-CC* overexpression. WT cells showed slow growth after *CIK1-CC* overexpression as described, but *cdc55 swe1* mutants with *P_{GAL}CIK1-CC* failed to grow on galactose plates (Fig. S3A). *cdc55* single

mutant cells also exhibited sensitivity to *CIK1-CC* overexpression, but were not as dramatic as *cdc55 swe1* mutants, presumably due to the more active FEAR in the double mutants.

Previous work showed that Net1 phosphorylation by Clb2/Cdk1 triggers Cdc14 release, and mutation of the six phosphorylation sites (*net1-6Cdk*) blocks FEAR activation and the premature Cdc14 release in *cdc55* mutants (Azzam et al., 2004; Liang et al., 2013). To further assess if the sensitivity of *cdc55 swe1* cells to syntelic attachment is due to hyperactive FEAR, we compared the growth of *cdc55 swe1* and *cdc55 swe1 net1-6Cdk* cells overexpressing *CIK1-CC*. Obviously, *net1-6Cdk* was able to rescue the growth of *cdc55 swe1* on galactose plates (Fig. S3A). In addition, the viability loss of *cdc55 swe1* induced by *CIK1-CC* overexpression was also partially restored by *net1-6Cdk* (Fig. S3B). *cdc55* mutants are sensitive to microtubule-depolymerizing agents benomyl and nocodazole (Wang and Burke, 1995). *net1-6Cdk* mutant also suppressed the growth defect of *cdc55 swe1* cells on benomyl plates and their viability loss after nocodazole treatment (Fig. S3C and D). We further examined if *CIK1-CC* overexpression delays FEAR activation in *cdc15-2* cells, in which the Cdc14 release is dependent exclusively on the FEAR (Stegmeier et al., 2002), and we observed a clear delay of Cdc14 release from the nucleolus (Fig. S4). Taken together, these results suggest that syntelic attachment delays FEAR activation, but cells with hyperactive FEAR are sensitive to the syntelic attachments.

Cells with hyperactive FEAR show premature SAC silencing

Next, we asked if *CIK1-CC*-induced viability loss in *cdc55 swe1* mutants is due to chromosome missegregation. After G₁ release for 120 minutes, the localization of *CEN4-GFP* in cells with an elongated spindle was examined. In the absence of *CIK1-CC* overexpression, almost no missegregation was observed. When *CIK1-CC* is overexpressed, however, *cdc55 swe1* cells showed a missegregation frequency of 16%, nevertheless most of WT cells showed normal *CEN4-GFP* segregation (Fig. 4A). Consistent with premature SAC silencing, *cdc55 swe1* cells overexpressing *CIK1-CC* exhibited less large-budded cells at later time points compared to WT cells. Therefore, in the presence of syntelic attachment, hyperactive FEAR causes chromosome missegregation, phenotypically similar to *bmh1*. To examine SAC silencing process in cells with hyperactive FEAR, we also compared Bub1 phosphorylation kinetics in synchronized *mcd1-1* and *mcd1-1 cdc55 swe1* cells incubated at 37°C. *mcd1-1* cells exhibited delayed Bub1 dephosphorylation, but the phospho-variant of Bub1 was reduced significantly after 90 min in *mcd1-1 cdc55 swe1* cells following G₁ release. Consistently, *mcd1-1 cdc55 swe1* mutants showed less large-budded cells than *mcd1-1* mutants at later time points (Fig. 4B). Therefore, cells with hyperactive FEAR are unable to maintain Bub1 hyperphosphorylation in the presence of tensionless attachments.

If the FEAR regulates Fin1 sequestration through Bmh1, then deletion of *FIN1* is expected to rescue the sensitivity of *cdc55 swe1* as well. We found that *fin1* suppressed the viability loss in *cdc55 swe1* cells overexpressing *CIK1-CC* (Fig. 4C). After 6 hr induction of *CIK1-CC* in galactose, only 22% of *cdc55 swe1* cells were viable, but the viability rate increased to 65% for *cdc55 swe1 fin1* cells. Deletion of *FIN1* also partially suppressed

the growth defect of *cdc55 swe1* cells with $P_{GAL}CIK1-CC$ on galactose plates (Fig. S5). Thus, we conclude that the FEAR promotes SAC silencing partially through Fin1.

The FEAR and Bmh1 regulate the kinetochore localization of Fin1

Because phosphorylation-dependent Fin1-Bmh1 interaction prevents the kinetochore association of Fin1-PP1 (Akiyoshi et al., 2009), hyperactive FEAR or the absence of Bmh1 may lead to premature Fin1 kinetochore localization. To test this idea, we first confirmed the colocalization of Fin1-GFP with a kinetochore protein Nuf2-mCherry in asynchronous cells. We further used live-cell imaging to follow Fin1 localization during cell cycle. Before anaphase entry, yeast cells exhibited nuclear Fin1 localization. Fin1-GFP co-localized with Nuf2-mCherry as anaphase initiated, and increased kinetochore intensity of Fin1-GFP was observed as the two kinetochore clusters separate (Fig. 5A). Therefore, Fin1 protein is enriched at kinetochores after anaphase onset.

To test if Bmh1 regulates Fin1 kinetochore localization, we compared the co-localization kinetics of Fin1-GFP and Nuf2-mCherry in WT and *bmh1* cells. To facilitate the comparison, we set up the time 0 as the point when the two Nuf2-mCherry dots have initiated separation ($> 3\mu\text{m}$). We measured the difference between the first time point when Fin1-GFP dots co-localized with Nuf2-mCherry and time 0 in WT and *bmh1* cells. The average time for WT cells is 1.65 min, indicating the coordinated anaphase onset and Fin1 kinetochore localization. The average time for *bmh1* mutant cells is, however, 3.75 min, obviously longer than that of WT cells (Fig. 5A). Because WT and *bmh1* cells show similar cell cycle progression (Fig. 1C), this result indicates premature Fin1 kinetochore localization in the mutant cells. To our surprise, we did not observe obvious premature Fin1-GFP foci formation in *cdc55 swe1* cells, suggesting that hyperactive FEAR is not sufficient to induce premature kinetochore localization of Fin1 in an undisturbed cell cycle.

We also examined Fin1 kinetochore localization in *cdc13-1* mutant cells, which arrest prior to anaphase when grown at the restrictive temperature because uncapped telomeres activate the DNA damage checkpoint. When arrested, the SAC is silenced but the FEAR pathway is inactive (Liang and Wang, 2007; Wang et al., 2001). After incubation at 34°C for 2 hrs, almost all *cdc13-1* cells exhibited nuclear Fin1 localization and no Fin1-GFP foci were observed (Fig. 5B). Strikingly, two clear Fin1-GFP foci were observed in 77% of *cdc13-1 bmh1* cells and in 45% of *cdc13-1 cdc55 swe1* cells, indicating kinetochore enrichment of Fin1. In *cdc13-1 cdc55* cells, 23% of them showed Fin1-GFP foci. These results indicate that deletion of *BMH1* or FEAR hyperactivity leads to precocious Fin1 kinetochore localization in *cdc13-1* arrested cells.

Next, we asked if Fin1 dephosphorylation is sufficient for its kinetochore localization. For this purpose, we examined the localization of nonphosphorylatable Fin1-5A-GFP, in which the CDK phosphorylation sites are mutated to alanine (Woodbury and Morgan, 2007a). In *cdc13-1* arrested cells, no kinetochore localization of Fin1-GFP was observed, but 91% of *cdc13-1 fin1-5A-GFP* cells showed two clear GFP foci, indicating kinetochore localization of Fin1-5A (Fig. 6A). Interestingly, *fin1-5A* mutants are also sensitive to syntelic attachment induced by *CIK1-CC*, as seen by the slow growth and the viability loss in galactose medium (Fig. 6B and C). After 6 hr incubation in galactose, 45% of *fin1-5A* cells maintained

viability, compared to 83% for cells with WT Fin1. To test if the sensitivity of *fin1-5A* to syntelic attachments requires Fin1-PP1 interaction, we mutated the PP1 binding motifs in Fin1-5A (*fin1-5A-AA*) (Akiyoshi et al., 2009). Interestingly, *fin1-5A-AA* did not show any sensitivity to *CIK1-CC* overexpression (Fig. 6B and C), suggesting that the premature Fin1 kinetochore localization likely silences the SAC through Fin1-associated PP1.

The hypersensitivity of *fin1-5A* to syntelic attachment indicates the critical role of Fin1 in accurate chromosome segregation. We measured the rate of chromosome loss in the mutants using the color sectoring assay (Spencer et al., 1990). *ade2* cells that have lost the chromosome III fragment carrying the *SUP11* gene turn red on plates lacking adenine. We counted half-sectored colonies, which suggests fragment loss during the first cell division. WT cells showed low frequency of chromosome loss, as 0.6% of cells displayed half sectoring colonies. In contrast, the rate of chromosome loss in *fin1-5A* mutants was as high as 9% (Fig.6D). Additionally, 76% of colonies of *fin1-5A* showed a mixture of red and white color, indicating high rate missegregation during following cell divisions. However, the chromosome loss phenotype of *fin1-5A* was partially rescued by mutating the PP1 binding motifs, as *fin1-5A-AA* mutant showed 3% half-sectoring colonies and 37% mixed colonies, indicating that PP1 activity is required for chromosome loss (Fig. 6D). Consistently, *fin1-5A* mutant cells are very sensitive to nocodazole exposure, as evidenced by dramatic viability loss, which is also dependent on PP1 binding (Fig. 6E). Therefore, premature association of Fin1-PP1 with the kinetochore causes dramatic chromosome missegregation.

Fin1 promotes the removal of SAC protein Bub1 from the kinetochore in anaphase

Although precocious Fin1-PP1 kinetochore localization induces premature SAC silencing, Fin1-PP1 is unlikely essential for SAC silencing because their kinetochore localization occurs in anaphase when the SAC has been already satisfied. Since some anaphase cells show Bub1 kinetochore localization (Gillett et al., 2004; Shimogawa, 2010), Bub1 delocalization from kinetochores may occur after SAC silencing. To test if Fin1 promotes Bub1 delocalization, we analyzed Bub1-GFP localization in synchronous WT and *fin1* cells with Nuf2-mCherry. Most of the WT and *fin1* cells in metaphase exhibited co-localization of Bub1 with kinetochore protein Nuf2 (75 min, Fig. 7A). Very few WT cells in anaphase, however, showed kinetochore-localized Bub1 (90 and 105 min). In clear contrast, much more *fin1* cells in anaphase exhibited kinetochore localization of Bub1 (Fig. 7A). We further examined the role of Fin1 in Bub1 localization using synchronous *cdc15-2* cells, which arrest in telophase at high temperature. After G₁ release into 36°C medium for 60 min, most of *cdc15-2* and *cdc15-2 fin1* cells were in metaphase and these metaphase cells showed kinetochore-localized Bub1. After anaphase entry, about 20% *cdc15-2* cells still showed Bub1 kinetochore localization (75, 90, and 105 min in Fig. 7B). However, more than 70% *cdc15-2 fin1* cells showed Bub1 kinetochore localization after anaphase entry (Fig. 7B). As *ase1* is synthetically lethal with *fin1* (Tong et al., 2004; Woodbury and Morgan, 2007b), we also examined Fin1 localization in *cdc15-2 ase1* mutant, which was the same as *cdc15-2* single mutants cells (Fig. 7B). Thus, the kinetochore localization of Fin1-PP1 during anaphase clears the SAC protein Bub1 from kinetochores.

Our data support a working model that the kinetochore association of Fin1-PP1 promotes the removal of SAC components from kinetochores. What is the physiological significance of this regulation following SAC silencing? We compared the cell cycle progression of WT and *fin1* cells, but no obvious cell cycle delay was noticed for *fin1* cells (Fig. S6A). However, *fin1* cells exhibited a moderate but reproducible cell cycle delay in the presence of low concentration of nocodazole (3 μ g/ml). We further compared cell cycle progression of WT and *fin1* mutants after exposure with 20 μ g/ml of nocodazole that arrests cell in metaphase. *fin1* cells showed delayed transition from large budded to single cells after nocodazole exposure (Fig. S6B). We also found that *fin1* cells grew better than WT cells on benomyl plates. In contrast, *ipl1-321* cells were sick on benomyl plates, presumably due to its role in the correction of erroneous kinetochore attachments and the prevention of SAC silencing (Jin and Wang, 2013; Pinsky et al., 2006b; Tanaka et al., 2002). *fin1* clearly suppressed the benomyl sensitivity of *ipl1-321* (Fig. S6C). Therefore, Fin1-mediated enrichment of PP1 at the kinetochore might be required for efficient SAC silencing only when the SAC is challenged with microtubule poisons.

DISCUSSION

Several mechanisms have been proposed for SAC silencing. Recent studies suggest that end-on microtubule attachment to the kinetochore may physically separate the Mps1 kinase from its substrates or remove Mps1 from the kinetochore for SAC silencing (Aravamudhan et al., 2015; Hiruma et al., 2015). PP1 has been shown to be essential for SAC silencing (London et al., 2012; Rosenberg et al., 2011; Vanoosthuysse and Hardwick, 2009). We previously found that tension-dependent dephosphorylation of kinetochore protein Dam1 in budding yeast is necessary for SAC silencing most likely through PP1 (Jin and Wang, 2013). Here, we identified an additional layer of SAC regulation that occurs after its silencing. Prior to anaphase onset, Fin1 phosphorylation prevents its kinetochore localization. After anaphase onset, however, Fin1 dephosphorylation triggers the kinetochore association of Fin1-PP1, which helps remove SAC protein Bub1 from kinetochores for SAC disassembly.

We found that syntelic attachments delay anaphase onset by preventing SAC silencing through tension sensing proteins Ipl1 and Sgo1 (Jin and Wang, 2013). Here we show that *bmh1* and cells with hyperactive FEAR also allow premature anaphase entry in the presence of syntelic attachments. Interestingly, *FIN1* deletion suppresses the premature anaphase entry in these cells. FEAR activation in early anaphase promotes Fin1 dephosphorylation, which triggers Bmh1-Fin1 dissociation (Akiyoshi et al., 2009; Jin et al., 2008). Thus, FEAR and Bmh1 regulate the SAC through Fin1. Indeed, we found that *bmh1* and cells with hyperactive FEAR exhibit premature Fin1 kinetochore localization. Cells expressing a phospho-deficient Fin1 also show premature kinetochore localization and display sensitivity to *CIK1-CC* overexpression. Since we observed that the sensitivity depends on Fin1-PP1 interaction, the recruitment of PP1 to the kinetochore by Fin1 likely promotes premature anaphase entry. Importantly, we show that *fin1* mutant cells retain Bub1 kinetochore localization even after anaphase entry. Therefore, we identified a mechanism that regulates SAC assembly at the kinetochore. Our results support a model that S-phase CDK-dependent Fin1 phosphorylation promotes Bmh1-Fin1 interaction, which prevents kinetochore association of Fin1-PP1 and allows SAC assembly. After anaphase

entry, however, FEAR-dependent Fin1 dephosphorylation triggers the recruitment of Fin1-PP1 onto kinetochores, which triggers the removal of SAC proteins from kinetochores (Fig. S7).

This Fin1-dependent SAC regulation is unlikely required for SAC silencing during normal cell cycle. We found that *fin1* mutant cells exhibited delayed cell cycle in the presence of low concentration of nocodazole or after nocodazole exposure, indicating that this mechanism might be required for efficient SAC silencing only when SAC is challenged by spindle poison. One untested possibility is that the removal of Bub1 from kinetochore after anaphase entry prevents SAC reactivation, creating a point of no return for anaphase entry. Because CDK-dependent Fin1 phosphorylation prevents the kinetochore association of Fin1-PP1, this mechanism limits SAC activation within a window during the cell cycle.

Although *bmh1* and *cdc55 swe1* cells are sensitive to Cik1-CC induced syntelic attachment, the viability loss and the frequency of chromosome missegregation are less pronounced than the tension sensing mutant *sgo1*. Thus, premature Fin1 kinetochore localization cannot induce an efficient anaphase onset. Currently, only two kinetochore proteins, Spc105 and Fin1, have been shown to interact with PP1 (Akiyoshi et al., 2009; Rosenberg et al., 2011). Kinetochore-associated PP1 through Spc105 or Fin1 may exhibit different substrate specificity due to their distinct spacial and temporal kinetochore location. Spc105-associated PP1 is essential for SAC silencing (Rosenberg et al., 2011), but Fin1-PP1 helps clear SAC proteins from kinetochores after its silencing. It is our future interest to define the substrate specificity of Spc105 and Fin1-associated PP1 as well as their unique roles in SAC regulation.

We noticed that the suppression of viability loss in *bmh1* by *fin1* in response to *CIK1-CC* overexpression is incomplete. Bmh1 may play Fin1-independent roles, as Bmh1 binds to many proteins (Kakiuchi et al., 2007; van Heusden, 2009). For instance, Bmh1 regulates mitotic exit through its interaction with Bfa1, a negative regulator of mitotic exit network (Caydasi et al., 2014). The FEAR pathway regulates anaphase onset through multiple mechanisms in addition to Fin1. As PP2A^{Cdc55} delays anaphase onset by dephosphorylating and inhibiting the anaphase promoting complex (APC) (Liang et al., 2013; Rossio et al., 2013; Vernieri et al., 2013), hyperactive APC in *cdc55* may also contribute to premature anaphase onset in response to syntelic attachment. Moreover, FEAR-dependent Cdc14 release might dephosphorylate additional substrates to promote mitotic progression. For example, Cdc14-dependent dephosphorylation of Sli15, a subunit of Ipl1 kinase complex, promotes Ipl1 spindle localization (Mirchenko and Uhlmann, 2010; Pereira and Schiebel, 2003). Therefore, the hyperactive FEAR is expected to promote mitotic progression by dephosphorylating multiple proteins.

Our data demonstrate the premature anaphase entry in *bmh1* and *cdc55 swe1* mutant cells in the presence of syntelic attachments. Both *bmh1* and *cdc55* mutant are also sensitive to microtubule-depolymerizing agents (Grandin and Charbonneau, 2008; Minshull et al., 1996; Wang and Burke, 1997). It is unclear whether the premature anaphase entry contributes to the sensitivity of these mutants to spindle poisons. We examined the cell cycle progression in *bmh1* cells treated with nocodazole, but the persistent Pds1 level indicates

no premature anaphase onset. In nocodazole-treated *bmh1* cells, the premature kinetochore recruitment of Fin1-PP1 may not be sufficient to drive anaphase onset due to the hyperactive checkpoint kinase. However, cells with premature kinetochore association of Fin1-PP1 may fail to maintain a prolonged metaphase arrest. In summary, our results demonstrate an extra layer of SAC regulation that removes SAC proteins from kinetochores, which resets the SAC at kinetochores in anaphase. Untimely activation of this pathway leads to premature SAC silencing and chromosome missegregation.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

Yeast strains, growth and media

The relevant genotypes and sources of the yeast strains used in this study are listed in Table S1. All the strains listed are isogenic to Y300, a W303 derivative, and they were constructed by tetrad dissection. The *bmh1* and *bmh2* strains were originally from the ATCC yeast deletion collection, and were crossed with Y300 three times. We deleted the *FIN1* and *BMH1* genes with a *Sphis5⁺* marker as described previously (Longtine et al., 1998), and the resulting deletion mutants were confirmed using PCR. Yeast cell growth, synchronization, and *CIK1-CC* overexpression were performed as described (Jin et al., 2012).

Cytological Techniques

For fluorescence microscopy, collected yeast cells were fixed with 3.7% formaldehyde for 20 min and then washed once with 1×PBS (pH7.2). The cells were resuspended in 1×PBS for the examination of fluorescence signals using a microscope with a 60× objective lens (EVOS from Lifetechnologies). Live-cell microscopy was carried out with the Andor Revolution SD imaging system. Cells were spotted onto an agarose pad filled with synthetic complete medium. All live-cell images were acquired at 25°C with a 100× objective lens. A z-stack with 13 planes separated by 0.4µm was acquired every 1 min and converted to maximum projection using Andor IQ2 software.

Western blotting

Yeast cells (1.5 ml) were collected by centrifugation and the cell pellets were resuspended in 200µl 0.1 M NaOH. After incubation at room temperature for 5 min, the samples were centrifuged and the pellets were resuspended in 100µl 1×SDS protein loading buffer. The protein samples were boiled for 5 min and resolved by 8% SDS-PAGE. After probing with antimyc or anti-HA primary antibodies (Covance Research Products, Inc.) followed by HRP-conjugated secondary antibody (Jackson ImmunoResearch, Inc.), the proteins were detected with ECL (Perkin Elmer LAS, Inc.). We used anti-Pgk1 antibody (Molecular Probes) to detect Pgk1 protein levels, which are used as a loading control.

Supplementary Material

Refer to Web version on PubMed Central for supplementary material.

Acknowledgments

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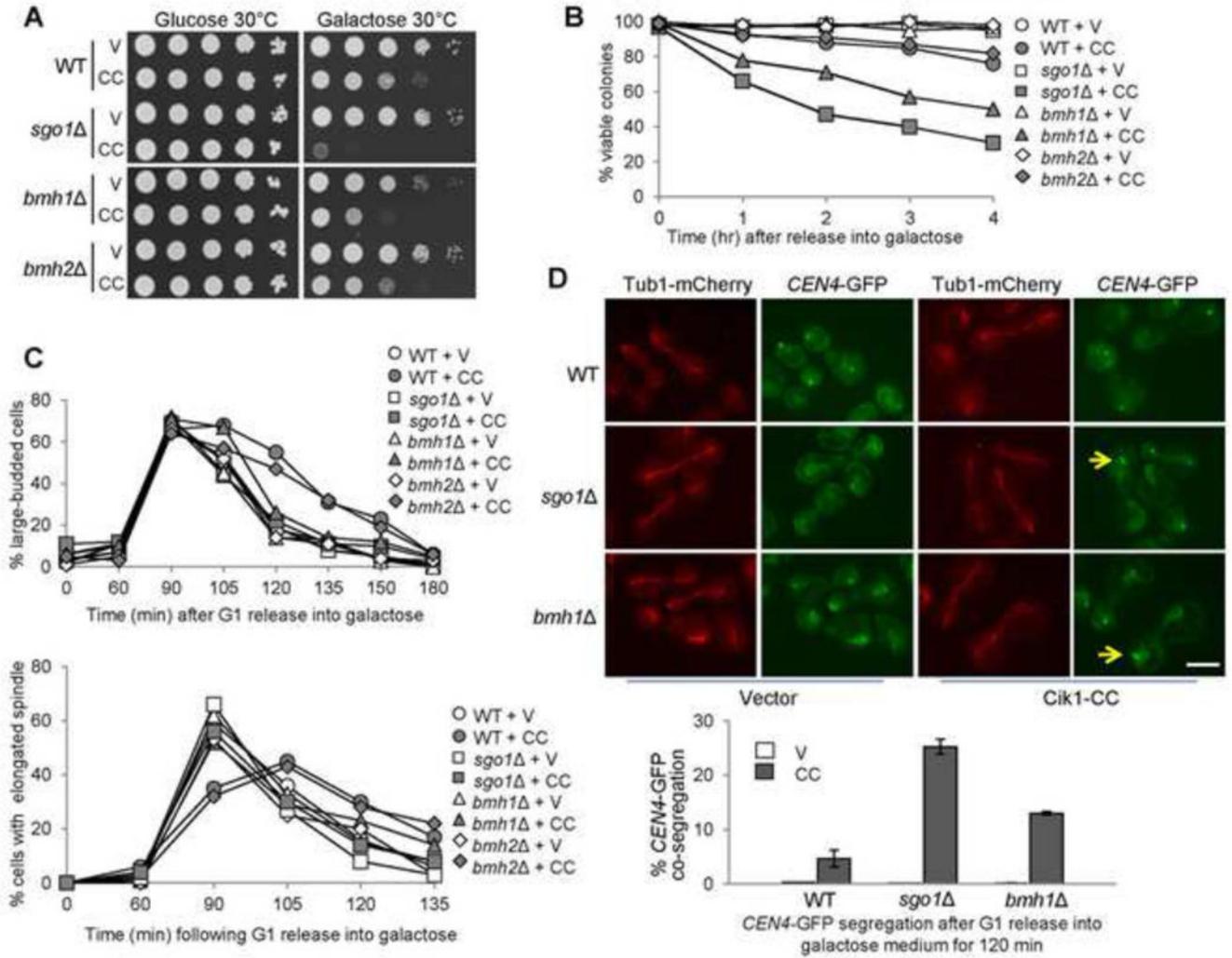


Figure 1. *bmh1* cells are sensitive to *CIK1-CC* overexpression. (A) *bmh1* cells overexpressing *CIK1-CC* show slow growth. Saturated cells with the indicated genotypes were 10-fold serially diluted, spotted onto glucose and galactose plates, and then incubated at 30°C for 2 days before scanning. V (vector), CC (*P_{GAL}CIK1-CC*). (B) *bmh1* and *sgo1* mutants, but not *bmh2*, exhibit viability loss after *CIK1-CC* overexpression. Log-phase cells in raffinose were released into 2% galactose medium. Samples were taken and spread onto YPD plates to examine micro-colony formation after overnight incubation at 25°C (n > 300). (C) *bmh1* and *sgo1* but not *bmh2* exhibit premature anaphase entry in the presence of tensionless attachments. *P_{GAL}CIK1-CC* plasmids were introduced to WT, *bmh1*, *sgo1*, and *bmh2* cells with Tub1-mCherry. The transformants were synchronized in G₁ phase in raffinose medium and using α factor and then released into galactose medium. Cells were collected and fixed to count the budding index and percentage of cells with elongated spindles (n > 100). (D) *bmh1* and *sgo1* cells overexpressing *CIK1-CC* show chromosome missegregation. *P_{GAL}CIK1-CC* plasmids were introduced to WT, *bmh1*, and *sgo1* cells with Tub1-mCherry and GFP-marked centromere of chromosome IV (*CEN4-GFP*). The

transformants were synchronized in G₁ in raffinose medium and then released into galactose-containing medium. After release for 120 min, the cells were fixed to examine the spindle morphology and *CEN4*-GFP segregation. Some representative cells are shown. Arrows indicate the cells with co-segregated *CEN4*-GFP. Scale bar = 5 μm. The percentage of cells with *CEN4*-GFP co-segregation was counted (n > 100). The result is the average of three repeats (bottom).

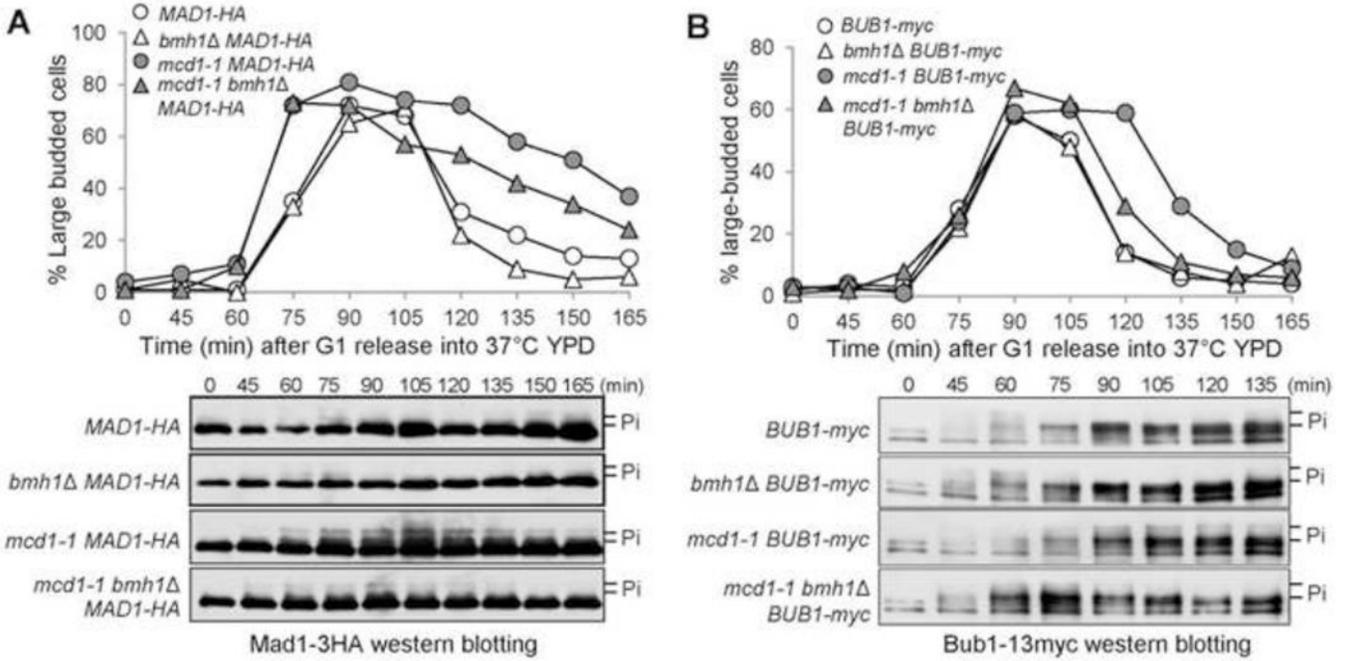
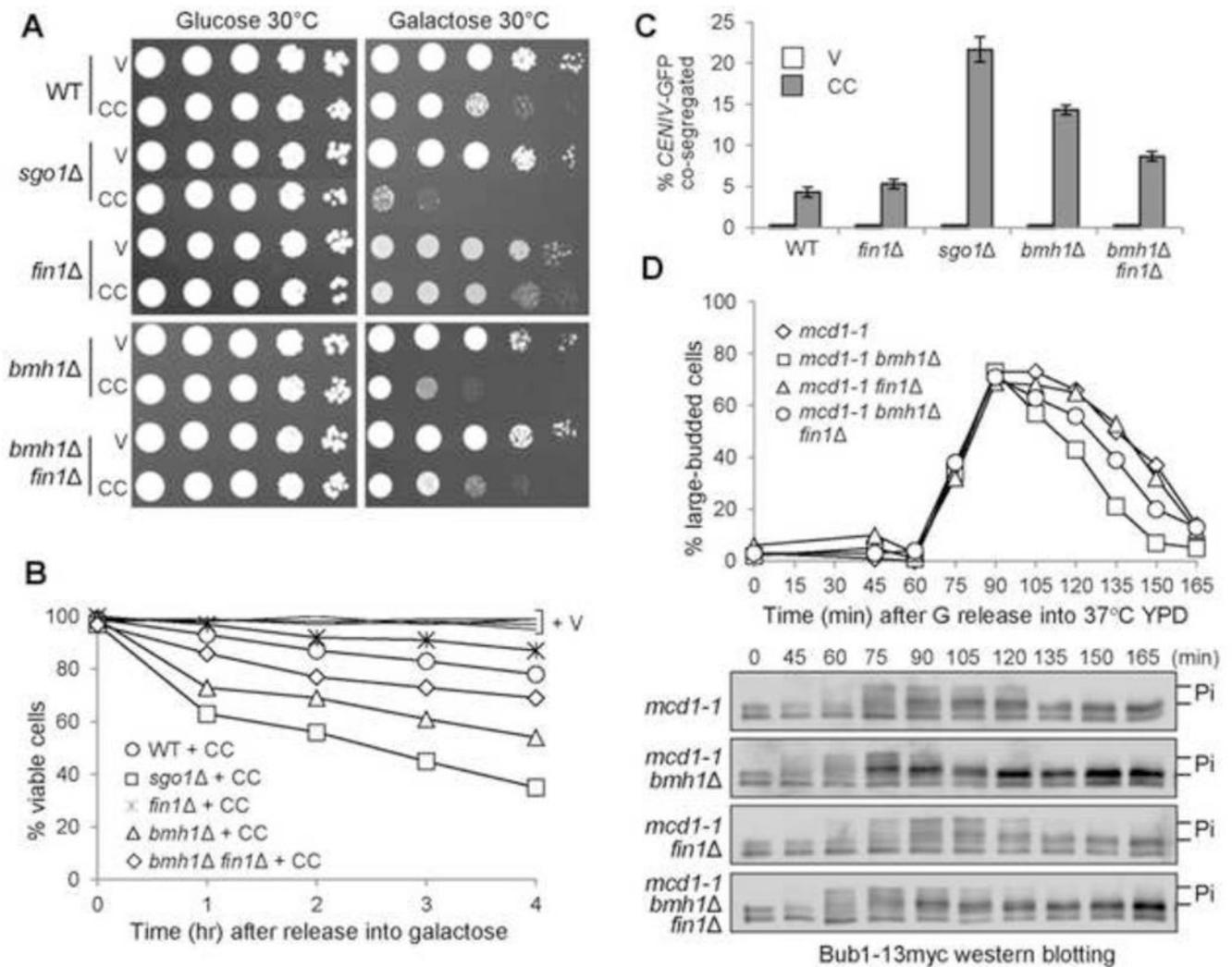


Figure 2.

bmh1 cells show premature SAC silencing in response to tension defects. **(A)** Mad1 phosphorylation kinetics in *bmh1* cells in the absence of cohesion. *MAD1-3HA* cells with the indicated genotypes were synchronized in G₁ and then released into 37°C YPD medium. The cells were collected over time to examine Mad1 phosphorylation based on the band-shift after western blotting. The budding index and the Mad1 protein levels are shown. **(B)** The phosphorylation kinetics of Bub1 in *bmh1* mutant cells in the absence of cohesion. G₁-arrested cells with Bub1-13myc were released into YPD at 37°C. Samples were collected periodically and subjected to western blotting with an anti-myc antibody. The budding index and the phosphorylation of Bub1 are shown.

**Figure 3.**

The premature SAC silencing in *bmh1* mutants is partially Fin1-dependent. **(A)** Cells were 10-fold diluted and spotted onto glucose and galactose plates. The plates were incubated at 30°C for 2 days before scanning. **(B)** *fin1* deletion partially suppresses the viability loss of *bmh1* cells overexpressing *CIK1-CC*. Asynchronous cells with either a vector or a *PGALCIK1-CC* plasmid were grown to log-phase in raffinose medium and then galactose was added to a final concentration of 2%. The cells were collected over time and spread onto YPD plates to determine the plating efficiency after overnight incubation. **(C)** *fin1* deletion partially suppresses chromosome mis-segregation in *bmh1* mutant cells. G₁-arrested *CEN4-GFP TUB1-mCherry* cells with indicated genotypes in raffinose medium were released into galactose medium for 120 min at 30°C. The cells were collected to visualize the spindle morphology and *CEN4-GFP* distribution. The percentage of cells with co-segregated *CEN4-GFP* was counted (n > 100). The percentage is the average from three independent experiments. **(D)** *fin1* deletion partially suppresses the premature Bub1 dephosphorylation in *bmh1* cells lacking tension. *BUB1-13myc* cells with the indicated genotypes were synchronized in G₁ phase and then released into YPD at 37°C to inactivate

cohesin Mcd1. The cells were collected every 15 min for the budding index and the examination of Bub1 phosphorylation.

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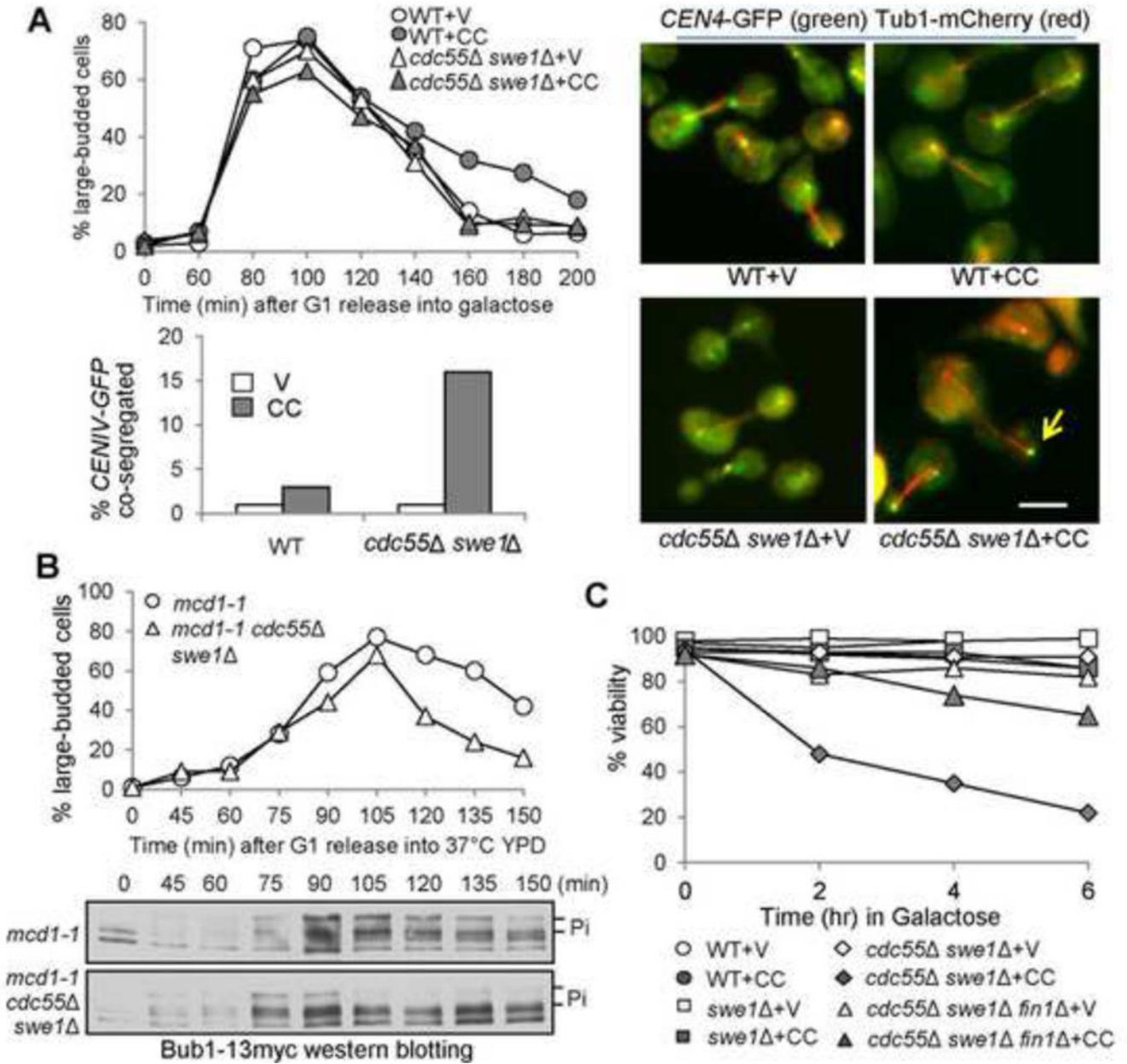


Figure 4. Cells with hyperactive FEAR are sensitive to syntelic attachment and show chromosome mis-segregation. (A) *CIK1-CC* overexpression causes chromosome mis-segregation in *cdc55 swe1* cells. *P_{GAL}CIK1-CC* plasmids were introduced to WT and *cdc55 swe1* cells with Tub1-mCherry and *CEN4-GFP*. The transformants were synchronized in G₁ in raffinose medium and then released into galactose medium. After release for 120 min, the cells were fixed to examine the spindle morphology and *CEN4-GFP* segregation. The percentage of cells with *CEN4-GFP* co-segregation was counted (n > 100). Some representative cells are shown in the right panel. The arrow indicates a cell with co-segregated *CEN4-GFP*. Scale bar = 5 μm. (B) *cdc55 swe1* cells exhibit premature Bub1 dephosphorylation in the presence of tensionless attachments. G₁-arrested *mcd1-1* and

mcd1-1 cdc55 swe1 cells with Bub1-13myc were released into YPD at 37°C. Samples were collected periodically and subjected to western blotting. Here shows the budding index as well as the phosphorylation of Bub1. (C) The viability loss of *cdc55 swe1* mutants induced by *CIK1-CC* overexpression is partially Fin1-dependent. Log-phase cells in raffinose were released into 2% galactose medium. Samples were taken every 2 hr and spread onto YPD plates. After incubation at 25°C overnight, the percentage of viable cells was counted (n > 300).

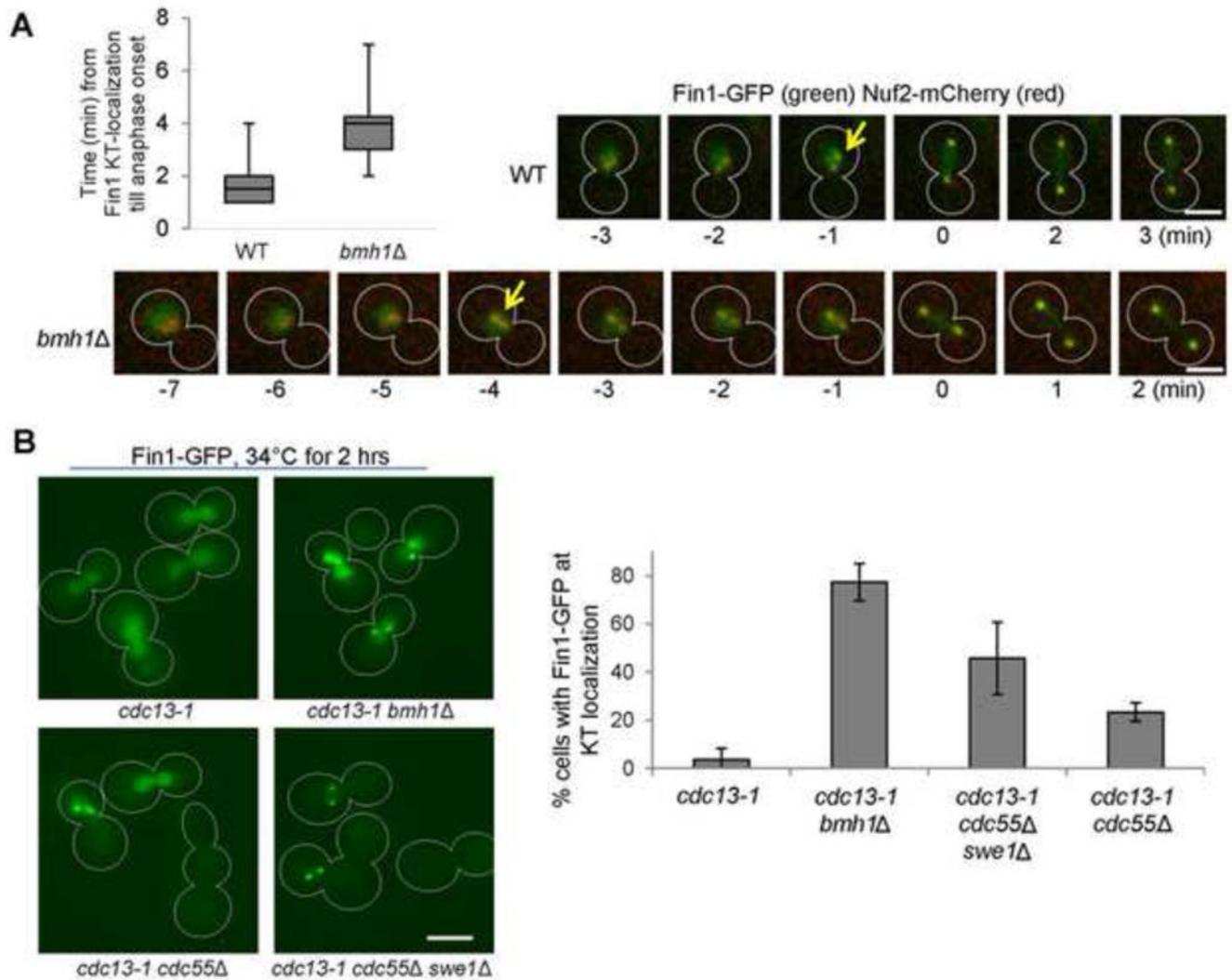


Figure 5. *bmh1* mutant cells show earlier Fin1 kinetochore localization. **(A)** Live-cell imaging of Fin1 localization in a WT and *bmh1* cell. Log-phase WT and *bmh1* cells with Nuf2-mCherry and Fin1-GFP were spotted onto the surface of a slide covered with agarose medium and subjected to live-cell microscopy. At each time point, a Z-stack with 13 planes, separated by 0.4 μm , was acquired and subsequently projected. We set time 0 as the point when the distance between two Nuf2-mCherry foci is more than 3 μm . Time from the clear co-localization of GFP dots with Nuf2-mCherry to time 0 was measured and the average is shown at top-left ($n = 20$). Arrows indicate the starting point for Fin1 and Nuf2 co-localization. Scale bar = 5 μm . **(B)** Premature Fin1 kinetochore localization in *bmh1*, *cdc55*, and *cdc55 swe1* mutants arrested with DNA damage (*cdc13-1*). Asynchronous cells were grown at 25°C to log-phase, and then shifted to 34°C for 2 hrs. Cells were collected, and Fin1-GFP localization was counted without fixation ($n > 100$). The Fin1-GFP kinetochore localization in representative cells is shown in the left panel. Scale bar = 5 μm . The average percentage of cells with kinetochore-localized Fin1-GFP from three experiments is shown in the right panel.

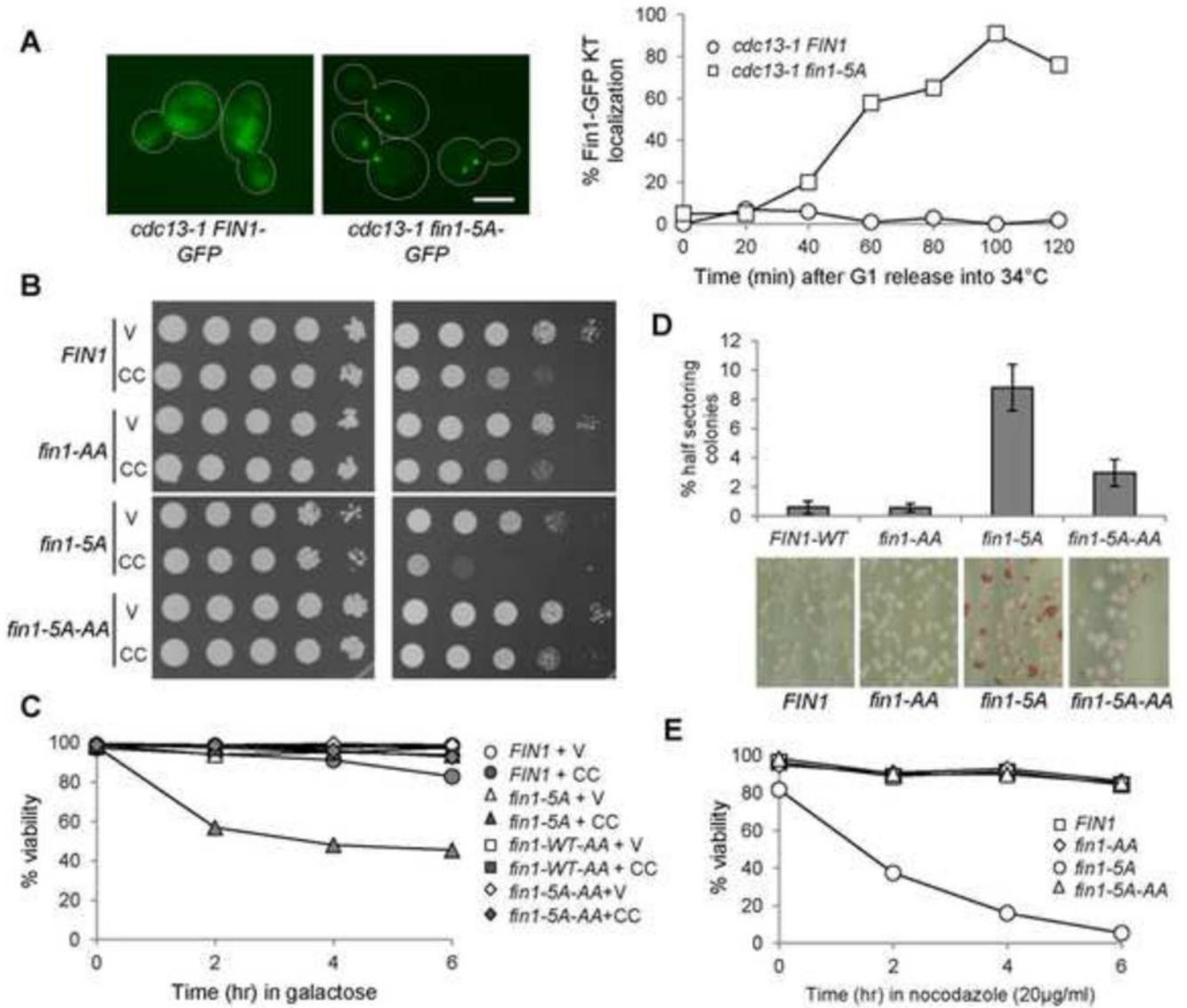


Figure 6.

Nonphosphorylatable Fin1-5A show premature kinetochore localization and *fin1-5A* mutants are sensitivity to *CIK1-CC* overexpression. (A) Fin1-5A-GFP prematurely localizes at the kinetochore in *cdc13-1* arrested cells. *cdc13-1 fin1* cells with Fin1-GFP or Fin1-5A-GFP were synchronized in G₁ at 25°C and then released into 34° YPD medium. Cells were collected over time and fixed. The percentage of cells with two clear GFP dots was counted (n >100). The localization of Fin1-GFP and Fin1-5A-GFP in some *cdc13-1*-arrested cells is shown in the left. Scale bar, 5 μm. (B) *fin1-5A* mutants show PP1-dependent sensitivity to *CIK1-CC* overexpression. Saturated cells with indicated genotypes were 10-fold serial diluted, spotted onto glucose and galactose plates, and then incubated at 30°C for 2 days before scanning. *fin1-5A*: 5 CDK phosphorylation sites are mutated. *fin1-5A-AA*: both CDK phosphorylation sites and PP1 binding motif are mutated. V (vector), CC (*P_{GAL}CIK1-CC*). (C) *fin1-5A* cells overexpressing *CIK1-CC* show viability loss, which depends on Fin1's

PP1 binding. Log-phase cells in raffinose were released into 2% galactose medium. Samples were taken every 2 hr and spread onto YPD plates to determine plating efficiency ($n > 300$). **(D)** *fin1-5A* mutant cells show elevated chromosome loss, which depends on its PP1 binding. Cells harboring chromosome fragment III (CFIII) with indicated genotypes were incubated in URA dropout medium and then spread onto URA+ plates lacking adenine. The percentage of half-red colonies was counted after incubation for 3 days at 25°C. Here shows the average of three independent experiments ($n > 400$). **(E)** *fin1-5A* mutant cells show PP1-binding dependent sensitivity to nocodazole exposure. Cells with the indicated genotypes were released into YPD containing 20µg/ml of nocodazole. Cells were collected every 2 hr and spread onto YPD plates to determine the viability.

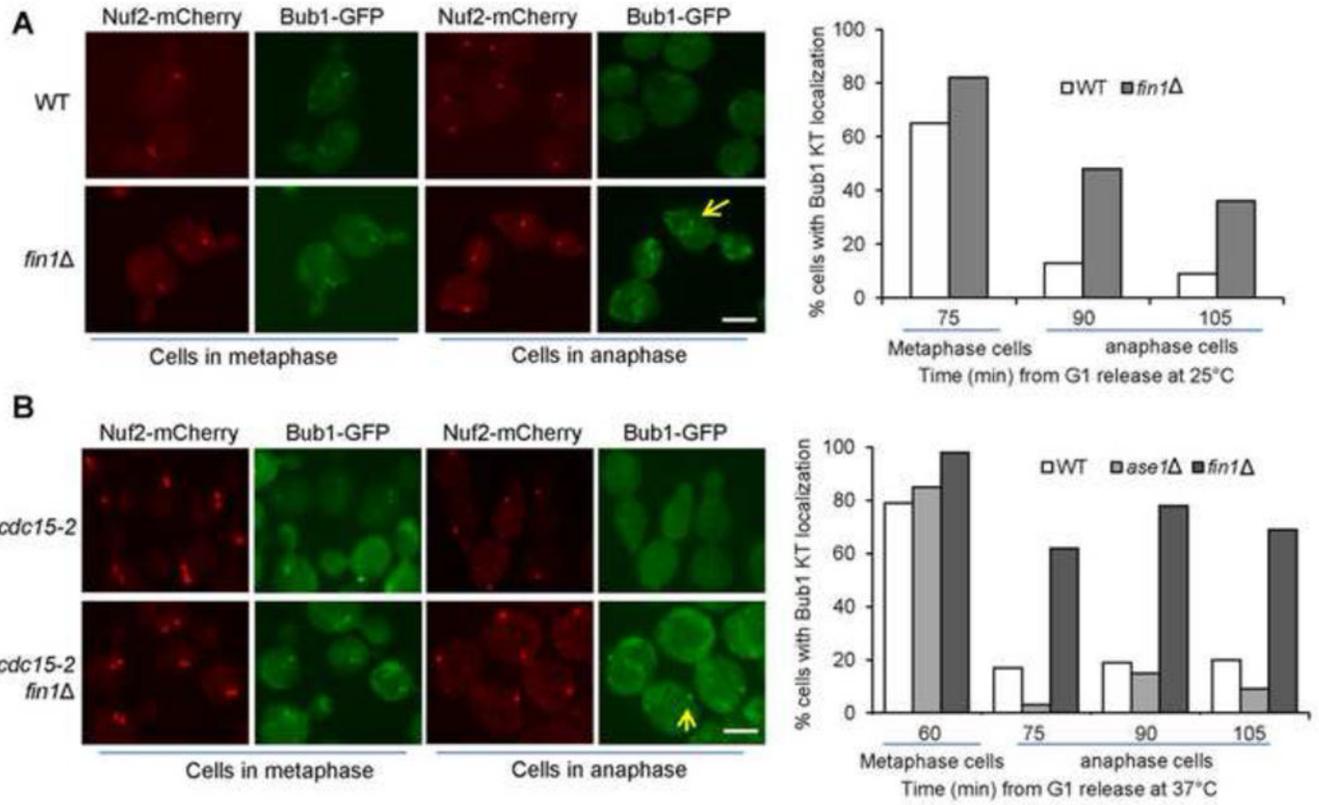


Figure 7. Fin1 promotes the dissociation of Bub1 from kinetochores in anaphase. **(A)** The kinetochore localization of Bub1 in WT and *fin1* mutant cells. Cells were synchronized in G₁ and then released into cell cycle at 25°C. The localization of Bub1-GFP and a kinetochore protein Nuf2-mCherry was examined over time. At 75 min after release, the majority of cells are in metaphase, and the percentage of metaphase cells with kinetochore-localized Bub1 is shown. The percentage of anaphase cells that show kinetochore-localized Bub1 was counted for the 90 and 105 min samples. Some representative cells are shown in the left panel. Scale bar, 5µm. **(B)** The kinetochore localization of Bub1 in *cdc15-2* mutants. G₁-arrested *cdc15-2*, *cdc15-2 fin1* and *cdc15-2 ase1* cells with Nuf2-mCherry Bub1-GFP were released into 37°C YPD. The percentage of metaphase cells with kinetochore-localized Bub1 was counted at 60 min as majority of the cells are in metaphase. The percentage of anaphase cells with kinetochore-localized Bub1 was assessed at 75, 90 and 105 min. Some representative cells are shown in the left panel. Scale bar, 5µm.