

EXTRA VIEW



## APC/C-Cdc20 mediates deprotection of centromeric cohesin at meiosis II in yeast

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### ABSTRACT

Cells undergoing meiosis produce haploid gametes through one round of DNA replication followed by 2 rounds of chromosome segregation. This requires that cohesin complexes, which establish sister chromatid cohesion during S phase, are removed in a stepwise manner. At meiosis I, the separase protease triggers the segregation of homologous chromosomes by cleaving cohesin's Rec8 subunit on chromosome arms. Cohesin persists at centromeres because the PP2A phosphatase, recruited by the shugoshin protein, dephosphorylates Rec8 and thereby protects it from cleavage. While chromatids disjoin upon cleavage of centromeric Rec8 at meiosis II, it was unclear how and when centromeric Rec8 is liberated from its protector PP2A. One proposal is that bipolar spindle forces separate PP2A from Rec8 as cells enter metaphase II. We show here that sister centromere biorientation is not sufficient to “deprotect” Rec8 at meiosis II in yeast. Instead, our data suggest that the ubiquitin-ligase APC/C<sup>Cdc20</sup> removes PP2A from centromeres by targeting for degradation the shugoshin Sgo1 and the kinase Mps1. This implies that Rec8 remains protected until entry into anaphase II when it is phosphorylated concurrently with the activation of separase. Here, we provide further support for this model and speculate on its relevance to mammalian oocytes.

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### Introduction

Accurate chromosome segregation depends on cohesin complexes, which entrap sister chromatids within a proteinaceous ring from the time of DNA replication until anaphase when cohesin's kleisin subunit is cleaved by the separase protease.<sup>1–3</sup> Due to cohesion, the kinetochores of chromosomes attached to microtubules from opposite spindle poles experience tension.<sup>4</sup> This tension quenches an inhibitory signaling cascade, called the spindle assembly checkpoint (SAC), whereby unattached kinetochores prevent entry into anaphase.<sup>5</sup> The target of the SAC is the ubiquitin-ligase APC/C<sup>Cdc20</sup>, which induces anaphase by marking for degradation B-type cyclins and the separase inhibitor Pds1/securin.

Proliferating cells strictly alternate between establishing sister chromatid cohesion during S phase and removing cohesin along the entire length of chromosomes before nuclear division. While yeast uses separase to cleave all of cohesin at anaphase,<sup>6</sup> vertebrates use a non-proteolytic mechanism to remove most of cohesin from chromosome arms during prophase, which is followed by separase-dependent cleavage of centromeric cohesin at entry into anaphase.<sup>7</sup> In contrast to mitosis, sister chromatid cohesion established during S phase of meiosis mediates 2 rounds of chromosome segregation: disjunction of homologous chromosomes in meiosis I and segregation of chromatids in meiosis II.<sup>8</sup> After DNA replication, homologous chromosomes pair and undergo reciprocal recombination between maternal and paternal chromatids. This creates bivalent chromosomes in which cohesin and crossovers hold together all 4 homologous

chromatids. Attachment of maternal and paternal centromeres to microtubules from opposite spindle poles can now create the tension required for silencing the SAC.<sup>9</sup> Meanwhile, biorientation of sister centromeres, which generates tension in mitosis and meiosis II, is suppressed by meiosis I-specific proteins, known as monopolins.<sup>10</sup> Resolving bivalent chromosomes into their constituent chromatids requires 2 rounds of cohesin cleavage. The first wave of separase activity at the onset of anaphase I cleaves cohesin on chromosome arms, which gives rise to dyad chromosomes whose segregation to opposite poles of the meiosis I spindle halves the number of chromosomes.<sup>11–13</sup> Dyads consist of 2 chromatids joined at their centromeres by cohesin, which enables sister centromeres to biorient on the meiosis II spindle. At the onset of anaphase II, centromeric cohesin is cleaved by a second wave of separase activity, leading to the disjunction of chromatids and the formation of the single-copy genome.<sup>14–16</sup>

The stepwise removal of meiotic cohesin depends on the exchange of cohesin's Scc1/Rad21 kleisin for a meiosis-specific paralogue, called Rec8.<sup>17–20</sup> To be cleaved by separase, Rec8 has to be phosphorylated. In yeast, 2 kinases phosphorylate Rec8 to promote the cleavage of cohesin on chromosome arms at anaphase I: Hrr25, a conserved casein kinase 1 $\delta$ , and the Dbf4-dependent Cdc7 kinase.<sup>21–23</sup> Accordingly, inhibition of both kinases or mutations of Rec8 phospho-sites blocks Rec8 cleavage and homolog disjunction.<sup>22</sup> Protection of centromeric Rec8 from cleavage by separase at anaphase I depends on orthologues of the *Drosophila* Mei-S332 protein, known as shugoshins (Sgo).<sup>24–28</sup> These proteins accumulate around centromeres at least in part

because they bind to histone H2A phosphorylated by the kinetochore-associated Bub1 kinase.<sup>29</sup> Shugoshins recruit the phosphatase PP2A containing the regulatory B' subunit (Rts1 in budding yeast), which dephosphorylates Rec8 and thereby protects it from cleavage by separase.<sup>30-32</sup> In addition, shugoshins are involved in the stabilization of tension-generating microtubule-kinetochore attachments and, in vertebrate mitosis, protection of centromeric cohesin from removal by the prophase-pathway.<sup>33,34</sup> Shugoshin functions are provided by a single protein in budding yeast and *Drosophila*, but by 2 paralogues in other organisms. While the protection of centromeric cohesin in meiosis I has been investigated extensively,<sup>35</sup> less is known about the mechanism that leads to its "deprotection," so that chromatids can segregate in meiosis II.

### Models for the deprotection of centromeric cohesin in mammalian oocytes

At least in yeast, manipulating meiosis II without perturbing meiosis I is challenging because meiosis II occurs shortly (~40 min) after meiosis I and the synchrony of meiotic cultures is poor. Furthermore, meiosis II shares key regulators with the first division. Thus, the first models for the deprotection of centromeric cohesin emerged from observations in mouse oocytes, which arrest at metaphase II until fertilization triggers entry into anaphase II. In these oocytes, the shugoshin SGOL2 co-localizes with, and protects centromeric Rec8 at anaphase I.<sup>36,37</sup> At metaphase II, however, SGOL2 shifts toward the kinetochores and away from Rec8, which resides at the inner centromere. This observation led to the proposal of a deprotection-by-tension model in which bipolar spindle forces spatially separate SGOL2-PP2A from cohesin and thereby expose Rec8 to phosphorylation and subsequent cleavage by separase.<sup>37</sup> However, this model remains to be tested in oocytes at meiosis II. The deprotection-by-tension model is not applicable to yeast, in which Sgo1-PP2A protects centromeric Rec8 even in mutants that biorient sister centromeres at meiosis I.<sup>38,39</sup> Furthermore, fission yeast Sgo1 is capable of protecting cohesin at bioriented sister centromeres in mitotic cells provided that they express Rec8.<sup>26</sup> A more recent oocyte study proposed that the conserved histone chaperone SET/TAF-1 $\beta$  inhibits PP2A activity specifically at centromeres in meiosis II.<sup>40,41</sup> However, it remains unclear whether knockdown or overexpression of SET perturbs chromatid disjunction by an effect on PP2A's catalytic activity or the properties of centromeric nucleosomes.<sup>42</sup> While both models are based on the assumption that PP2A protects centromeric cohesin by dephosphorylating Rec8, the relevant mammalian Rec8-kinases remain to be identified.

### A model for APC/C<sup>Cdc20</sup>-dependent deprotection of centromeric cohesin in yeast

To analyze chromatid segregation at meiosis II in budding yeast, we developed a synchronisation system, called *CDC20*-meiotic-arrest/release or *CDC20-mAR*, which is capable of resolving meiosis I and -II.<sup>43</sup> With the help of a mitosis-specific promoter, cells induced to enter meiosis are depleted of the APC/C activator Cdc20, which leads to a uniform arrest at metaphase I. Expression of a second copy of *CDC20* under the control of a copper-inducible promoter results in synchronous progression

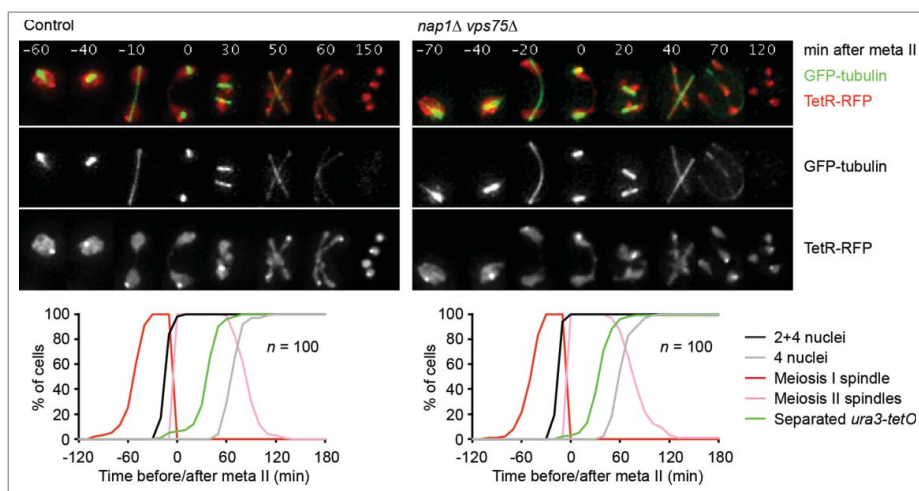
through both meiotic divisions and the formation of viable spores. This system enables us to study meiosis II following inactivation or expression of proteins of interest at mid-anaphase I.

To identify the kinase that phosphorylates centromeric Rec8 during meiosis II, we started with the finding that of the 2 kinases promoting cleavage of arm cohesin at meiosis I only one, namely Hrr25, is present in meiosis II.<sup>44</sup> Thus, we introduced into *CDC20-mAR* cells the *hrr25-as* mutation, which renders Hrr25s activity sensitive to the cell-permeable inhibitor 1NM-PP1.<sup>38</sup> Inhibition of Hrr25 activity at anaphase I showed that it is, indeed, required for the cleavage of centromeric Rec8, but not the activity of separase at anaphase II.<sup>43</sup> Hrr25 phosphorylates Rec8 and simultaneously enables APC/C<sup>Cdc20</sup> to remove PP2A<sup>Rts1</sup> from centromeres through the degradation of Sgo1 and the Mps1 kinase at the onset of anaphase II. Whereas Mps1 is known as an upstream regulator of the SAC,<sup>5,45</sup> we found that it is also required for Sgo1s binding to centromeres in meiosis II. Thus, APC/C<sup>Cdc20</sup> uses a dual and therefore robust mechanism to remove PP2A<sup>Rts1</sup> from centromeres.

The notion that Hrr25 rather than another kinase directly phosphorylates Rec8 is based on the finding that Hrr25 activity is essential for the cleavage of Rec8 even after Sgo1-PP2A has been experimentally removed from centromeres. Hrr25's second function, the removal of PP2A<sup>Rts1</sup> from centromeres, is similarly essential: the meiosis II division is blocked when PP2A<sup>Rts1</sup> is recruited directly (independently of Sgo1) to centromeric Rec8 with the help of an inducible protein interaction system. More importantly still, expression of non-degradable versions of Sgo1 and Mps1 in meiosis II retains PP2A<sup>Rts1</sup> at centromeres beyond anaphase II and blocks chromatid segregation in >50% of cells.<sup>43</sup> This result seems incompatible with inhibition of PP2A's catalytic activity at centromeres in meiosis II, as suggested in mouse oocytes.<sup>40</sup> Furthermore, this finding implies that deprotection results not from tension per se, but from the Hrr25- and APC/C<sup>Cdc20</sup>-dependent removal of PP2A<sup>Rts1</sup> from centromeres. Since APC/C<sup>Cdc20</sup> also causes the degradation of Pds1, phosphorylation of Rec8 occurs concomitantly with the activation of separase. Consequently, the protection of centromeric Rec8 extends until the onset of anaphase II. Thus, our model for the deprotection of centromeric cohesin in budding yeast differs in fundamental aspects from the PP2A-inhibition and the deprotection-by-tension model. Herein, we provide further support for our model and speculate on the consequences of applying it to oocytes.

### SET orthologues are dispensable for meiotic chromosome segregation in yeast

Our model suggests that in budding yeast, centromeric Rec8 is protected for as long as PP2A<sup>Rts1</sup> resides at centromeres. In other words, these cells seem to lack mechanisms that inhibit PP2A activity at centromeres in meiosis II. We asked, therefore, whether the 2 SET orthologues of budding yeast, called Nap1 and Vps75,<sup>46,47</sup> play a role in chromatid segregation at meiosis II. To this end, we deleted both genes and followed progression through meiosis by live-cell imaging (Fig 1). Spindle formation, nuclear divisions, and the segregation of chromosome V sister sequences occur with similar kinetics in wild-type and *nap1* $\Delta$  *vps75* $\Delta$  double mutant cells. Furthermore, the double mutant



**Figure 1.** SET-related histone chaperones are dispensable for meiotic chromosome segregation in budding yeast. Spindles (GFP-tubulin), nuclei, and chromosome V sister sequences labeled with *tet* repressor (TetR) fused to the RFP tdTomato were imaged every 10 min in control (z21937) and *nap1Δ vps75Δ* (z21931) cells induced to enter meiosis. TetR-RFP bound to *tet* operators at the *ura3* locus (*ura3-tetO*) on one copy of chromosome V produces one dot in meiosis I and 2 dots in meiosis II; free TetR-RFP illuminates the nucleoplasm.<sup>44</sup> Top, representative time-lapse series. The width of one frame is 5  $\mu$ m. Bottom, scoring of meiosis I and II spindles, first (2 or 4 nuclei) and second (4 nuclei) division, and separated *ura3-tetO* sister sequences. Meiotic events were synchronised in silico by setting the time of meiosis II spindle formation (onset of metaphase II) to  $t = 0$  in each cell.<sup>53</sup>

produces tetrad spores with similar viability (96.5%) as the wild-type (97.2%,  $n = 144$  spores per strain). We conclude that in budding yeast, histone chaperones related to SET are dispensable for accurate chromosome segregation in meiosis and play no detectable role in the deprotection of centromeric Rec8.

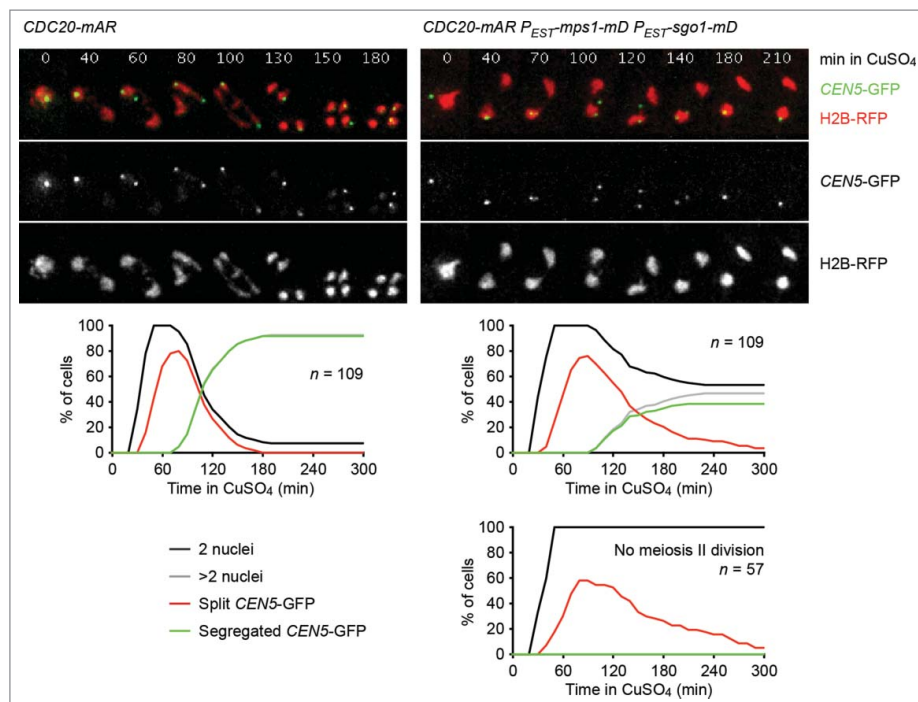
### Sister centromere biorientation in meiosis II is not sufficient for the deprotection of centromeric cohesin

We found that sister centromere disjunction is blocked upon co-expression in meiosis II of Sgo1-mD and Mps1-mD, which resist APC/C-dependent proteolysis due to mutations in their destruction boxes.<sup>43</sup> We ascribed this to prolonged protection of centromeric Rec8 by the persistence of PP2A<sup>Rts1</sup> at centromeres. However, an alternative explanation for the meiosis II division block might arise from the finding that Sgo1 and Mps1 are involved in the establishment of tension-generating microtubule-kinetochore attachments in both mitosis and meiosis.<sup>25,48-50</sup> Therefore, we used live-cell imaging to investigate whether cells expressing Sgo1-mD and Mps1-mD put sister kinetochores under tension at meiosis II. *CDC20-mAR* strains containing RFP-tagged histone H2B and one copy of chromosome V marked with GFP at the centromere were released from the metaphase I arrest. In one of the strains, Sgo1-mD and Mps1-mD were expressed from an estradiol-inducible promoter (called *P<sub>EST</sub>*) at metaphase II (Fig 2). At anaphase I, cells show a single GFP dot as expected from the co-segregation of sister centromeres to the same spindle pole. In control cells, the GFP dot then splits into 2 closely spaced dots as sister centromeres biorient and come under tension at metaphase II. Consistent with the duration of metaphase II, split GFP dots can be observed in an undivided nucleus for a median time of 40 min, after which they abruptly segregate into 2 of the 4 nuclei at the onset of anaphase II. In control cells, the incidence of chromatid miss-segregation is very low: in less than 2% of tetranucleate cells, the GFP signals were found in the same nucleus. Co-expression of Sgo1-mD and Mps1-mD completely blocked the

meiosis II division in 53% of cells. In these binucleate cells, the GFP-dots are split for a median time of 60 min before they coalesce into a single dot again. This is consistent with the notion that dot splitting in these cells is limited by the  $\sim 60$  min lifetime of meiosis II spindles.<sup>43</sup> Cells that manage to undergo a meiosis II division in the presence of Sgo1-mD and Mps1-mD frequently produce nuclei of uneven size and show a high frequency of chromatid miss-segregation: in 20% of these tetranucleate cells, the GFP signals are found in only one of the 4 nuclei. We conclude that cells expressing Sgo1-mD and Mps1-mD at meiosis II fail to disjoin sister centromeres although sister kinetochores experience tension. Thus, in budding yeast, tension due to bipolar spindle forces is not sufficient to subject centromeric Rec8 to cleavage by separase, which differs from the deprotection-by-tension model proposed for oocytes.<sup>37</sup>

### Persistence of Sgo1 and Mps1 in meiosis II does not interfere with SAC silencing

Sgo1 and Mps1 are also involved in the regulation of the SAC. Sgo1 is part of the tension-sensing arm,<sup>48</sup> and Mps1 is a key upstream regulator whose overexpression activates the SAC even in the absence of spindle damage.<sup>51</sup> Furthermore, APC/C<sup>Cdc20</sup>-dependent degradation of these proteins has been proposed to facilitate silencing of the SAC at entry into anaphase.<sup>52</sup> We asked, therefore, whether the presence of non-degradable Sgo1 and Mps1 at meiosis II interferes with silencing of the SAC, which would hinder chromatid segregation by delaying the activation of APC/C<sup>Cdc20</sup>. To this end, we used the *CDC20-mAR* system to synchronize control cells and cells expressing Sgo1-mD and Mps1-mD at metaphase II. Immunoblot detection of proteins revealed that degradation of the APC/C<sup>Cdc20</sup> substrates Pds1, Kip1, and Clb1 is not affected by the persistence of Mps1-mD and Sgo1-mD (Fig 3A). Since the Cdk1-Clb1 kinase inhibits the meiosis-specific APC/C-activator Ama1, Clb1 degradation via APC/C<sup>Cdc20</sup> also induces proteolysis mediated by APC/C<sup>Ama1</sup>.<sup>53</sup> Accordingly, the APC/C<sup>Ama1</sup> substrates Cdc5 and



**Figure 2.** Sister centromeres come under tension but fail to disjoin upon co-expression of non-degradable versions of Sgo1 and Mps1 in meiosis II. Control (z26823) and *P<sub>EST</sub>-sgo1-mD P<sub>EST</sub>-mps1-mD* (z26825) cells containing the *CDC20-mAR* synchronisation system were released from the metaphase I arrest with CuSO<sub>4</sub> (10  $\mu$ M, t = 0). Estradiol (10  $\mu$ M) was added at t = 15 min to induce *P<sub>EST</sub>-sgo1-mD* and *P<sub>EST</sub>-mps1-mD*.<sup>43</sup> Nuclei containing histone H2B tagged with the RFP mCherry and the sister centromeres of one chromosome V copy labeled with the *CEN5-tetO/TetR-GFP* system (*CEN5-GFP*)<sup>19</sup> were imaged every 10 min. Top, representative time-lapse series. The width of one frame is 5  $\mu$ m. Middle, percentages of cells with one division (2 nuclei), 2 divisions (more than 2 nuclei), split GFP signals (2 GFP-dots in the same nucleus), and segregated GFP signals (GFP signals in separate nuclei). Bottom right, *P<sub>EST</sub>-sgo1-mD P<sub>EST</sub>-mps1-mD* cells that fail to undergo the meiosis II division are plotted separately.

Cin8 are degraded on time and meiosis II spindles disassemble normally in cells expressing Sgo1-mD and Mps1-mD. Furthermore, these cells initiate spore formation without delay (Fig 3A and B), but produce asci containing 2 diploid spores with high frequency (52%).<sup>43</sup> We conclude that the persistence of Sgo1-mD and Mps1-mD at meiosis II hinders sister centromere disjunction but not SAC silencing, at least when the proteins are expressed from the estradiol-inducible promoter. These data strengthen our model that deprotection of centromeric Rec8 requires PP2A's removal from centromeres by Hrr25- and APC/*C<sup>Cdc20</sup>*-dependent degradation of Sgo1 and Mps1.

### ***Pds1* levels are lower at metaphase II than at metaphase I**

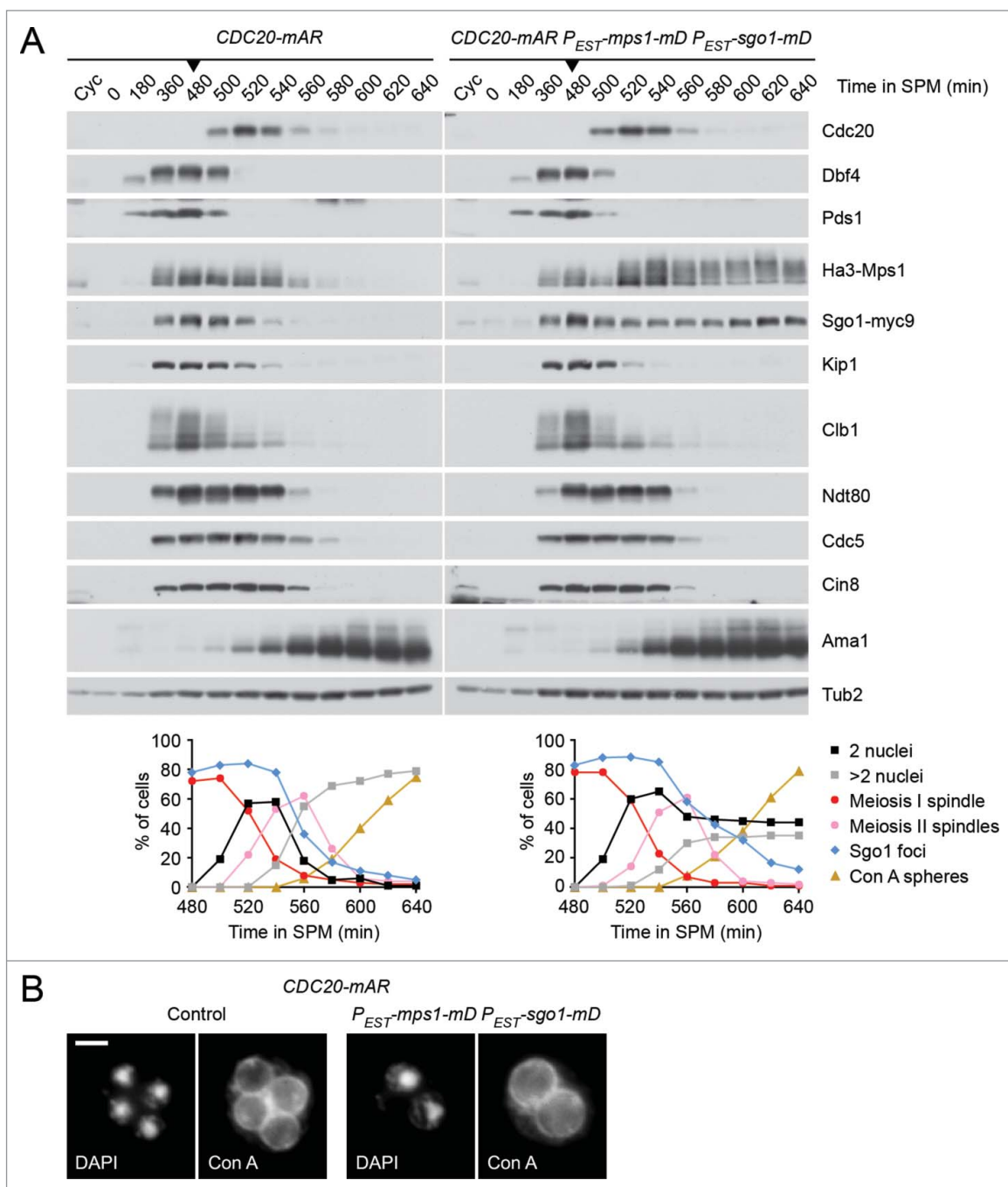
Our results suggest that centromeric Rec8 remains protected until entry into anaphase II. What might be the advantage of protecting centromeric cohesin during metaphase II when separase is thought to be inhibited by the re-accumulation of Pds1? First, the amount of cohesin left to withstand bipolar spindle forces is relatively small. Cohesin persists at a few distinct sites within a 50 kb region around the “point” centromeres of budding yeast.<sup>54</sup> Second, whereas metaphase I is preceded by a long prophase (~3.5 hr) during which Pds1 can accumulate and “saturate” separase, there is much less time for the re-accumulation of Pds1 in meiosis II (~40 min). Indeed, quantification of the nuclear Pds1-myc18 signal by immunofluorescence microscopy of cells from a conventional meiotic culture revealed that the levels of Pds1 at metaphase II are 3-fold lower compared with metaphase I (Fig 4A). By contrast, the levels at metaphase II of the M phase-cyclin Clb1-myc9 are comparable to those at

metaphase I (Fig 4B), probably because Clb1 does not start to accumulate until the prophase-to-metaphase I transition. On the other hand, the cellular levels of the separase Esp1-myc18 remain constant during nuclear divisions. Indeed, separase/Esp1 is a very stable protein. Inhibition of protein synthesis with cycloheximide revealed a half-life of more than 2 hours irrespective of whether Esp1 is inactive (metaphase I, Fig. 5A) or active (anaphase I, Fig. 5B). It is possible, therefore, that inhibition of separase is less robust at metaphase II compared with metaphase I. Protection of centromeric Rec8 at metaphase II might help to safeguard the integrity of dyad chromosomes in organisms, such as budding yeast, in which centromeres are small and the time between meiosis I and –II is short.

### ***Is APC/C<sup>Cdc20</sup>-dependent deprotection of centromeric Rec8 relevant to mammalian oocytes?***

Mammalian oocytes arrest at metaphase II until fertilization initiates entry into anaphase II. This puts a higher demand on the function of centromeric cohesion than in spermatocytes, which usually progress through metaphase II without delay. While the density of cohesin appears higher around centromeres than on chromosome arms,<sup>13,55</sup> studies in aged mouse oocytes revealed that sister centromere cohesion is particularly sensitive to reduced cohesin levels. As oocytes age, cohesin is gradually lost from chromosomes during the prolonged arrest in prophase of meiosis I.<sup>55,56</sup> Although cohesin is lost globally, the incidence of single chromatids at metaphase II is much higher than that of unpaired dyads at meiosis I. The majority of observed aneuploidies is therefore best explained by premature loss of centromeric rather than

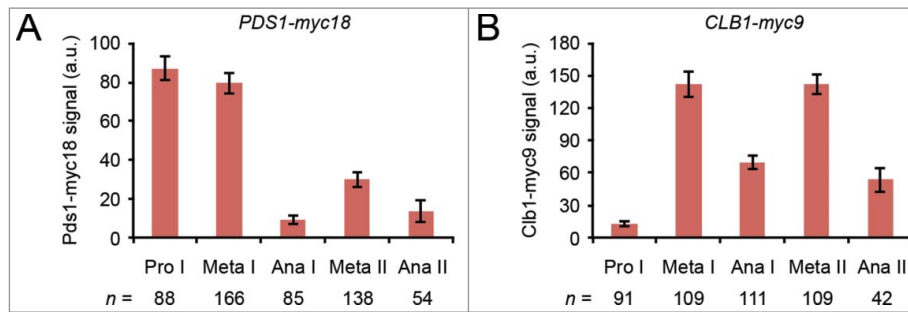




**Figure 3.** Co-expression of non-degradable Sgo1 and Mps1 in meiosis II does not interfere with silencing of the SAC. (A and B) Control (z26045) and *P<sub>EST</sub>-sgo1-mD P<sub>EST</sub>-mps1-mD* (z26015) cells containing the *CDC20-mAR* system were transferred to sporulation medium (SPM,  $t = 0$ ) and released from the metaphase I arrest with  $\text{CuSO}_4$  at  $t = 480$  min (arrow heads). Estradiol was added at  $t = 495$  min. Note that endogenous and non-degradable Sgo1 carry Myc9 tags while both versions of Mps1 are tagged with Ha3.<sup>43</sup> (A) Top, immunoblot detection of proteins in whole-cell extracts.<sup>44</sup> Cyc, samples from proliferating cells. Bottom, percentages of cells with one (2 nuclei) or 2 divisions (more than 2 nuclei), meiosis I or meiosis II spindles, and spheres stained by FITC-concanavalin A (Con A spheres) were determined by immunofluorescence microscopy of fixed cells.<sup>14</sup> Sgo1 foci were detected on chromatin spreads.<sup>44</sup> 100 cells were counted per time point. (B) Cells stained with FITC-concanavalin A and DAPI at  $t = 640$  min. Spheres around the nuclei represent mannoproteins in the prospore membrane and the first (inner) spore wall layer.<sup>61</sup> Scale bar =  $2 \mu\text{m}$ .

arm cohesion. Interestingly, cohesin loss is accompanied by reduced levels of SGOL2,<sup>55,57</sup> which might expose centromeric Rec8 to cleavage by separase at anaphase I or during metaphase II. Even in young oocytes, centromeric cohesin might be threatened by leaky inhibition of separase: Pds1/securin levels are much lower at metaphase II than at metaphase I.<sup>58</sup> This potentially precarious situation could be ameliorated by additional mechanisms to inhibit separase during the metaphase II arrest. However, notwithstanding the finding that Cdk1-cyclin B can inhibit separase

in vertebrates,<sup>59</sup> separase inhibition at meiosis II in mouse oocytes seems to rely solely on Pds1/securin.<sup>58</sup> An alternative solution to this problem might be to extend protection of centromeric Rec8 to metaphase II, as proposed in our yeast model. In this scenario, Rec8 would be deprotected not when sister centromeres come under tension and the SAC is silenced, but when APC/ $C^{Cdc20}$  is activated at fertilisation. Whether SGOL2 is subject to APC/ $C^{Cdc20}$ -dependent degradation at anaphase II is not yet known. However, according to our model, even a stable SGOL2



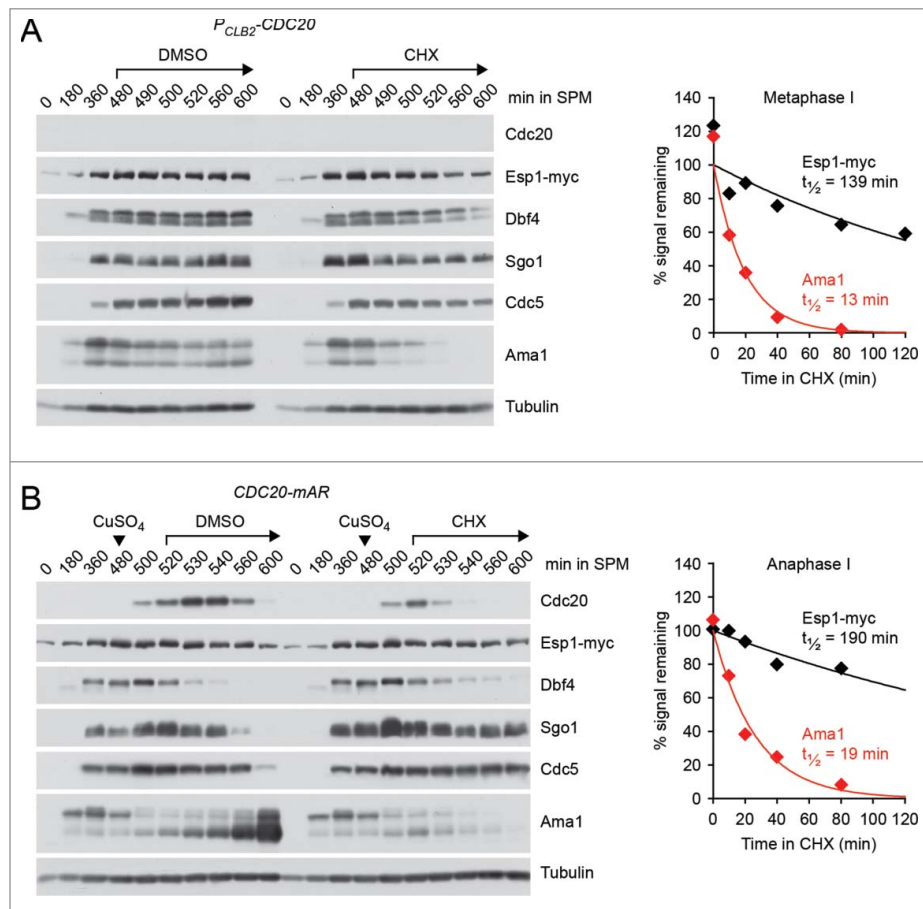
**Figure 4.** Levels of nuclear Pds1 and Clb1 at different stages of meiosis. (A and B) Formaldehyde-fixed cells from conventional meiotic cultures of untagged (z29971), *PDS1-myc18* (z19647), and *CLB1-myc9* (z29974) strains were stained with DAPI and antibodies to tubulin and Myc.<sup>14</sup> The nuclear background signal generated by the  $\alpha$ -Myc antibody was measured in 50–100 untagged cells at the indicated stage of meiosis, averaged, and the mean subtracted from the nuclear Myc signals of individual *PDS1-myc18* (A) and *CLB1-myc9* (B) cells at the corresponding meiotic stage. Columns indicate mean signal intensity in arbitrary units. Error bars show 95% confidence interval.

would be removed from centromeres by APC/C<sup>Cdc20</sup>-dependent degradation of Mps1, which is an APC/C<sup>Cdc20</sup> substrate also in mammalian cells.<sup>60</sup>

### What protects the protector of centromeric cohesin at meiosis I?

While our model provides a mechanism for the deprotection of centromeric Rec8 in yeast, it cannot yet explain how

this process is restricted to meiosis II. Two of its key components, APC/C<sup>Cdc20</sup> and Hrr25, are present not only in meiosis II but also in meiosis I. While degradation of Pds1 at meiosis I and -II requires Cdc20 but not Hrr25, the meiosis II-specific proteolysis of Sgo1 and Mps1 requires both Cdc20 and Hrr25. We speculate therefore that Hrr25 promotes ubiquitination of Sgo1 and Mps1 by APC/C<sup>Cdc20</sup> and that this activity is inhibited at meiosis I. Furthermore, we favor the idea that Hrr25 regulates the substrates Sgo1 and



**Figure 5.** Levels and stability of separase/Esp1 in meiosis. (A and B) *ESP1-myc18* strains were transferred to sporulation medium (SPM,  $t = 0$ ) and treated with solvent (DMSO, 0.5%) or cycloheximide (CHX, 0.5 mg/ml) at the indicated times. Proteins were detected in whole-cell extracts by immunoblotting.<sup>44</sup> Graphs show half-lives of Esp1-myc18 and Ama1 measured by scanning ECL signals on X-ray films. Data points are mean values from 2 gels. (A) Cells arresting at metaphase I due to *CDC20* expression from the mitosis-specific *CLB2* promoter (z30976) were treated with DMSO or CHX at  $t = 480$  min. (B) *CDC20-mAR* cells (z29418) were released from the metaphase I arrest with  $\text{CuSO}_4$  at  $t = 480$  min (arrowheads) and treated with DMSO or CHX at anaphase I ( $t = 520$  min). Note that Dbf4 is degraded at anaphase I, Sgo1 at anaphase II, and Cdc5 at exit from meiosis II, whereas Ama1 is a constitutively unstable protein.

Mps1 rather than APC/C<sup>Cdc20</sup>. Prime candidates for such regulators of Hrr25 activity are meiosis I-specific factors, such as monopolin or Spo13,<sup>10</sup> which could coordinate the protection of centromeric Rec8 with the mono-orientation of sister kinetochores. Solving this problem would provide the first working model for the control of chromosome segregation during both meiotic divisions.

## Disclosure of potential conflicts of interest

No potential conflicts of interest were disclosed.

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