## **Expanded View Figures**

Figure EV1. Ndc10 residence lifetimes are longer than those of Cse4<sup>CENP-A</sup>, which are not severely limited by photobleaching, while both are extremely stable on CEN DNA once removed from lysate.

- A Example plot of Ndc10 and Cse4<sup>CENP-A</sup> residence pulses on CEN DNA identified via residence lifetime assays during an entire imaging sequence acquisition. Each row represents one identified CEN DNA with all identified residences shown over entire imaging sequence (2,700 s) for Ndc10 (left) and Cse4<sup>CENP-A</sup> (center) with merge of Ndc10 (magenta) and Cse4<sup>CENP-A</sup> (green) indicating ternary residences (white).
- B Example images of TIRFM endpoint colocalization assays. Visualized Ndc10-mCherry on CEN DNA after 90 min incubation and removal of lysate (0 h -top panel) or after 24 h incubation at RT in imaging buffer (bottom panel) with colocalization shown in relation to identified CEN DNA in blue circles. Scale bars 3  $\mu$ m. Graph shows quantification of Ndc10 endpoint colocalization on CEN DNA at 0 h and 24 h (50  $\pm$  2.2%, 35  $\pm$  1.7% respectively, avg  $\pm$  s.d. n = 4 experiments, each examining ~ 1,000 DNA molecules from different extracts).
- C Example images of TIRFM endpoint colocalization assays. Visualized Cse4<sup>CENP-A</sup> GFP on CEN DNA after 90 min incubation and removal of lysate (0 h—top panel) or after 24 h incubation at RT in imaging buffer (bottom panel) with colocalization shown in relation to identified CEN DNA in blue circles. Scale bars 3  $\mu$ m. Graph shows quantification of Cse4<sup>CENP-A</sup> endpoint colocalization on CEN DNA at 0 and 24 h (45  $\pm$  4.4%, 36  $\pm$  1.4% respectively, avg  $\pm$  s.d. n = 4 experiments, each examining ~ 1,000 DNA molecules from different extracts).
- D Kaplan-Meier analysis of mCherry photobleaching events (red—median photobleaching lifetimes of 449 s (*n* = 97)) and Ndc10 residences on CEN DNA (magenta median lifetime of 102 s (*n* = 3,231)). There was a significant difference between mCherry photobleaching lifetimes and Ndc10 residence lifetime survival plots (\*\*\*) on CEN (two-tailed *P*-value of 0 as determined by log-rank test). 95% confidence intervals indicated (dashed lines), right-censored lifetimes (plus icons) were included and unweighted in survival function estimates.
- E Kaplan-Meier analysis of GFP photobleaching events (yellow—median photobleaching lifetime of 447 s (*n* = 86)) and Cse4<sup>CENP-A</sup> residences on CEN DNA (red—median colocalization lifetime of 88 s (*n* = 1,054)). There was a significant difference between GFP photobleaching lifetimes and Cse4<sup>CENP-A</sup> residence lifetime survival plots (\*\*\*) on CEN DNA (two-tailed *P*-value of 0 as determined by log-rank test). 95% confidence intervals indicated (dashed lines), right-censored lifetimes (plus icons) were included and unweighted in survival function estimates.
- F Quantification of the proportion of short residences (< 120 s) and long residences (> 300 s) of Non-Ternary<sup>Ndc10</sup> Cse4<sup>CENP-A</sup> residences (0.77 and 0.06 respectively, n = 612 over three experiments of ~ 1,000 DNA molecules using different extracts) or Ternary<sup>Ndc10</sup> Cse4<sup>CENP-A</sup> (0.60 and 0.14 respectively, n = 539 over three experiments of ~ 1,000 DNA molecules using different extracts).
- G Example plot of residences of Cse4<sup>CENP-A</sup> on CDEIII<sup>mut</sup> CEN DNA per imaging sequence. Each row represents one identified CEN DNA with all identified residences shown over entire imaging sequence (2,700 s) for Cse4<sup>CENP-A</sup>.
- H Cse4<sup>CENP-A</sup> residence lifetimes on CDEIII<sup>mut</sup> CEN DNA are reduced. Estimated survival function plots of Kaplan–Meier analysis of residence lifetimes of Cse4<sup>CENP-A</sup> on CEN DNA (blue—median lifetime of 82 s, n = 1,419 over three experiments of ~ 1,000 DNA molecules using different extracts) and residences on CDEIII<sup>mut</sup> CEN DNA of Cse4<sup>CENP-A</sup> (red—of 52 s, n = 471 over three experiments of ~ 1,000 DNA molecules using different extracts). There was a significant difference (\*\*\*) between CEN DNA and CDEIII<sup>mut</sup> CEN DNA lifetime survival plots (two-tailed *P*-value of 0 as determined by log-rank test). 95% confidence intervals indicated (dashed lines), right-censored lifetimes (plus icons) were included and unweighted in survival function estimates.



Figure EV1.

## Figure EV2. Scm3<sup>HJURP</sup> has shorter residence lifetimes than Cse4<sup>CENP-A</sup> on CEN DNA.

- A Example plot of Cse4<sup>CENP-A</sup> and Scm3<sup>HJURP</sup> residences on CEN DNA per imaging sequence. Each row represents one identified CEN DNA with all identified residences shown over entire imaging sequence (2,700 s) Cse4<sup>CENP-A</sup> (left) and Scm3<sup>HJURP</sup> (center) with merge indicating Cse4<sup>CENP-A</sup> (green), Scm3<sup>HJURP</sup> (magenta) and ternary residences (white).
- B Estimated survival function plots of Kaplan–Meier analysis of  $Cse4^{CENP-A}$  residence lifetimes on CEN DNA (green—median lifetime of 82 s, n = 1,419 over three experiments of ~ 1,000 DNA molecules using different extracts), and residence lifetimes of  $Scm3^{HjURP}$  on CEN DNA (magenta—median lifetime of 61 s, n = 1,115 over three experiments of ~ 1,000 DNA molecules using different extracts). 95% confidence intervals indicated (dashed lines). Significant difference (\*\*\*) between  $Cse4^{CENP-A}$  and  $Scm3^{HjURP}$  residence survival plots (two-tailed *P*-value of 9.1e-14 as determined by log-rank test), right-censored lifetimes (plus icons) were included and unweighted in survival function estimates.
- C Quantification of the estimated off-rates of Scm3<sup>HJURP</sup> that never formed a ternary residence (Non-Ternary<sup>Cse4</sup>) and of Scm3<sup>HJURP</sup> after ternary residence with Cse4<sup>CENP-A</sup> (Ternary<sup>Cse4</sup>) on CEN DNA (114 s  $\pm$  13 s and 111 s  $\pm$  19 s respectively, avg  $\pm$  s.d. n = 2,050 over three experiments of ~ 1,000 DNA molecules using different extracts). No significant difference between off-rates (n.s.) with a *P*-value of 0.87 as determined by two-tailed unpaired *t*-test.
- D Estimated survival function plots of Kaplan–Meier analysis of the lifetimes of Ternary<sup>Cse4</sup> Scm3<sup>HJURP</sup> residences on CEN DNA (purple—median lifetime of 69 s, n = 311 over three experiments of ~ 1,000 DNA molecules using different extracts) and Non-Ternary<sup>Cse4</sup> Scm3<sup>HJURP</sup> residences on CEN DNA (green—of 63 s, n = 1,279 over three experiments of ~ 1,000 DNA molecules using different extracts). No significant difference (n.s.) between Ternary<sup>Cse4</sup> and Non-Ternary<sup>Cse4</sup> survival plots (two-tailed *P*-value of 0.75 as determined by log-rank test). 95% confidence intervals indicated (dashed lines), right-censored lifetimes (plus icons) were included and unweighted in survival function estimates.
- E Timing of all observed Cse4<sup>CENP-A</sup> and Scm3<sup>HJURP</sup> ternary residence events. The proportion when Scm3<sup>HJURP</sup> precedes Cse4<sup>CENP-A</sup> (Scm3<sup>HJURP</sup> First) is 0.46, followed by 0.34 when Cse4<sup>CENP-A</sup> precedes Scm3<sup>HJURP</sup> (Scm3<sup>HJURP</sup> Last), with a proportion of 0.20 co-arrival events (Co-arrival—defined as residence initiation within 5 s of each, n = 305 over three experiments of ~ 1,000 DNA molecules using different extracts).
- F Estimated survival function plots of Kaplan–Meier analysis of the lifetimes of Scm3<sup>HJURP</sup>-First-Ternary<sup>Scm3</sup> Cse4<sup>CENP-A</sup> residences on CEN DNA (purple–median lifetime of 108 s, n = 142 over three experiments of ~ 1,000 DNA molecules using different extracts) and Scm3<sup>HJURP</sup>-Last-Ternary<sup>Scm3</sup> Cse4<sup>CENP-A</sup> residences on CEN DNA (green–of 133 s, n = 102 over three experiments of ~ 1,000 DNA molecules using different extracts). No significant difference (n.s.) between Scm3<sup>HJURP</sup>-First and Scm3<sup>HJURP</sup>-Last survival plots (two-tailed *P*-value of 0.59 as determined by log-rank test). 95% confidence intervals indicated (dashed lines), right-censored lifetimes (plus icons) were included and unweighted in survival function estimates.



Figure EV2.

## Figure EV3. Cse4<sup>CENP-A</sup> interacts transiently with CDEIII<sup>mut</sup> CEN DNA with or without its chaperone Scm3<sup>HJURP</sup>.

- A Example plot of residences of Cse4<sup>CENP-A</sup> and Scm3<sup>HJURP</sup> on CDEIII<sup>mut</sup> CEN DNA per imaging sequence. Each row represents one identified CEN DNA with all identified residences shown over entire imaging sequence (2,700 s) for Cse4<sup>CENP-A</sup> (left) and Scm3<sup>HJURP</sup> (center) with merge indicating Cse4<sup>CENP-A</sup> (green), Scm3<sup>HJURP</sup> (magenta) and ternary residences (white).
- B Scm<sup>3HJURP</sup> residences are longer on CDEIII<sup>mut</sup> CEN DNA. Estimated survival function plots of Kaplan–Meier analysis of Scm<sup>3HJURP</sup> residence lifetimes on CEN DNA (blue —median lifetime of 61 s, n = 1,115 over three experiments of ~ 1,000 DNA molecules using different extracts), and residence lifetimes of Scm<sup>3HJURP</sup> on CDEIII<sup>mut</sup> CEN DNA (red—median lifetime of 75 s, n = 2,269 over three experiments of ~ 1,000 DNA molecules using different extracts). There was a significant difference (\*\*\*) between CEN DNA and CDEIII<sup>mut</sup> CEN DNA lifetime survival plots (two-tailed *P*-value of 5.13e-13 as determined by log-rank test). 95% confidence intervals indicated (dashed lines), right-censored lifetimes (plus icons) were included and unweighted in survival function estimates.
- C Cse4<sup>CENP-A</sup> residence lifetimes are similar without Scm3<sup>HJURP</sup> a on CDEIII<sup>mut</sup> CEN DNA. Estimated survival function plots of Kaplan–Meier analysis of ternary residence lifetimes of Ternary<sup>Scm3</sup> Cse4<sup>CENP-A</sup> residences on CDEIII<sup>mut</sup> CEN DNA (blue—median lifetime of 45 s, n = 66 over three experiments of ~ 1,000 DNA molecules using different extracts) and Non-Ternary<sup>Scm3</sup> Cse4<sup>CENP-A</sup> residences on CDEIII<sup>mut</sup> CEN DNA (red—of 52 s, n = 433 over three experiments of ~ 1,000 DNA molecules using different extracts). There was no significant difference (n.s.) between Non-Ternary<sup>Scm3</sup> and Ternary<sup>Scm3</sup> survival plots (two-tailed *P*-value of 0.27 as determined by log-rank test). 95% confidence intervals indicated (dashed lines), right-censored lifetimes (plus icons) were included and unweighted in survival function estimates.



Figure EV3.



## Figure EV4. Scm3<sup>HJURP</sup>-Cse4<sup>CENP-A</sup> complex is limiting for stable centromeric association of Cse4<sup>CENP-A</sup>.

- A Immunoblot analysis of whole cell extracts from WT, pGAL-SCM3 and pGAL-PSH1 cells using indicated antibodies (all panels cropped from the same blot).
- B Example images of TIRFM endpoint colocalization assays. Top panels show visualized Cse4<sup>CENP-A</sup> GFP on CEN DNA in extracts from a WT genetic background (top-left panel) or extracts containing overexpressed Scm3<sup>HJURP</sup> (*pGAL-SCM3*, top-middle panel) or overexpressed Psh1 (*pGAL-PSH1*, top-right panel) with colocalization shown in relation to identified CEN DNAs in blue circles. Bottom panels show overlay of DNA channel (magenta) with Cse4<sup>CENP-A</sup> GFP (green). Scale bars 3 µm.
- C Quantification of endpoint colocalization of Cse4<sup>CENP-A</sup> on CEN DNA in extracts from a WT genetic background, extracts that contain overexpressed Scm3<sup>HJURP</sup> or extracts that contain overexpressed Psh1 (19  $\pm$  1.1%, 56  $\pm$  1.6% and 2.1  $\pm$  0.4% respectively, avg  $\pm$  s.d. n = 4 experiments, each examining ~ 1,000 DNA molecules from different extracts).
- D Estimated survival function plots of Kaplan–Meier analysis of residence lifetimes of  $Cse4^{CENP-A}$  on CEN DNA in extracts from WT genetic background (blue—median lifetime of 82 s, n = 1,419 over three experiments of ~ 1,000 DNA molecules using different extracts), or from extracts that contain overexpressed  $Scm3^{HJURP}$  (red—median lifetime of 101 s, n = 3,960 over three experiments of ~ 1,000 DNA molecules using different extracts) or extracts that contain overexpressed Psh1 (purple—median lifetime of 52 s, n = 224 over three experiments of ~ 1,000 DNA molecules using different extracts). Significant difference (\*\*\*) between survival plots in WT extracts compared to those overexpressing Psh1 (two-tailed *P*-value of 8.9e-11 as determined by log-rank test) or  $Scm3^{HJURP}$  (two-tailed *P*-value of 0 as determined by log-rank test). 95% confidence intervals indicated (dashed lines), right-censored lifetimes (plus icons) were included and unweighted in survival function estimates.
- E Proportion of ternary residences of Cse4<sup>CENP-A</sup> with Scm3<sup>HJURP</sup> on CEN DNA for WT extracts (0.22  $\pm$  0.05, avg  $\pm$  s.d. n = 1,419 over three experiments of ~ 1,000 DNA molecules using different extracts), extracts containing overexpressed Scm3<sup>HJURP</sup> (0.25  $\pm$  0.07, avg  $\pm$  s.d. n = 3,960 over three experiments of ~ 1,000 DNA molecules using different extracts) and extracts containing overexpressed Psh1 (0.08  $\pm$  0.02, avg  $\pm$  s.d. n = 224 over three experiments of ~ 1,000 DNA molecules using different extracts).
- F Serial five-fold dilutions of the following yeast strains were plated and grown 2 days on YPD and 3 days on galactose (GAL) at 23° C: WT (SBY21441), pGAL-SCM3 (SBY21443), and pGAL-PSH1 (SBY20836).



Figure EV5. Cse4<sup>CENP-A</sup> residence lifetimes are significantly reduced on CDEIII-80 bp mutant CEN DNA.

- A Schematic of overview of CDEIII-80 bp mutant CEN DNA, the canonical CEN DNA is shortened to 80 bp to prevent nucleosome formation and then similarly functionalized to the coverslip via a single biotin at the 5' end and functionalized with an organic dye at the free 3' end.
- B CEN assembly templates including WT 750 bp CEN DNA, 250 bp single-tether CEN DNA, 250 bp double-tethered CEN DNA and CDEIII-80 bp CEN DNA as visualized via EtBr (top panel) or 647 nm excitation (bottom panel) on a 1% agarose gel.
- C Representative colocalization traces of Cse4<sup>CENP-A</sup> and Scm3<sup>HJURP</sup> on a single CDEIII-80 bp CEN DNA. Top panel includes kymograph of Cse4<sup>CENP-A</sup> (top-488 nm) in relation to single identified CEN DNA (arrow), with normalized intensity trace (gray-bottom) as well as identified colocalization pulses (blue). Bottom panel includes kymograph of Scm3<sup>HJURP</sup> (bottom-568 nm) in relation to the same identified CEN DNA (arrow), with normalized intensity trace (gray-bottom) as well as identified colocalization pulses (blue). Bottom panel includes colocalization pulse (blue). Cases where identified pulses in Scm3<sup>HJURP</sup> and Cse4<sup>CENP-A</sup> coincide represent observed colocalization of both proteins on single CDEIII-80 bp CEN DNA. Images acquired every 5 s with normalized fluorescence intensity shown in arbitrary units.
- D Estimated survival function plots of Kaplan–Meier analysis of all identified CEN DNA colocalization events of Cse4<sup>CENP-A</sup> (blue—median lifetime of 82 s, n = 1,619 over three experiments of ~ 1,000 DNA molecules using different extracts) and identified colocalization events on CDEIII-80 bp CEN DNA of Cse4<sup>CENP-A</sup> (red—median lifetime of 71 s, n = 901 over three experiments of ~ 1,000 DNA molecules using different extracts). Significant difference (\*\*\*) between CEN DNA and CDEIII-80 bp CEN DNA and CDEIII-80 bp CEN DNA lifetime survival plots (two-tailed *P*-value of 1.0e-6 as determined by log-rank test). 95% confidence intervals indicated (dashed lines), right-censored lifetimes (plus icons) were included and unweighted in survival function estimates.