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# Supplemental information

# How Pol  $\alpha$ -primase is targeted to replisomes

# to prime eukaryotic DNA replication

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## **Figure S1. Cryo-EM analysis of a budding yeast replisome containing Pol α-primase assembled on forked DNA with a 60 nt 5ʹ-flap, related to Figure 1.**

**(A)** Schematic outlining the *in vitro* reconstitution method used to generate complexes for cryo-EM. Cartoon of the forked DNA is shown with the leading-strand template in orange and the lagging-strand template in pink.

**(B)** Silver-stained SDS-PAGE gels analysing 100 μl fractions taken across 10-30% glycerol gradients, either in the absence (top) or presence (bottom) of crosslinking agents. Fractions 8-9 that were used for cryo-EM sample preparation are indicated with red brackets.

**(C)** Representative cryo-EM micrograph, 30 nm scale bar inset, obtained using a K3 direct electron detector (Gatan) at a nominal pixel size of 0.86 Å/pixel.

**(D)** Representative 2D class averages with corresponding particle numbers, mask diameter 360 Å, obtained using cryoSPARC-3 2D classification.

**(E-K)** Cryo-EM density maps for reconstructions relevant to model building in the absence of Ctf4, coloured by local resolution according to inset key in **(E)**. Local resolution was calculated using RELION for the reconstruction in panel **(E)**, and ResMap<sup>[S1]</sup> for panels **(F-K)**.

**(L)** Representative cryo-EM density (mesh) for an α-helix (top) at a local resolution of 3.1 Å and a β-strand at a local resolution of 2.9 Å (bottom) in Mcm5 (blue ribbon model).

**(M)** Cryo-EM reconstruction, obtained via consensus refinement, for particles containing Ctf4, coloured by local resolution, calculated using RELION, according to inset key in panel **(E)**.

**(N)** Cryo-EM reconstruction obtained via consensus refinement in which only the Pri2<sub>NTD</sub>:Mcm5 (site a) and Pri2Nterm:Psf2 (site d) interfaces are simultaneously occupied, coloured by local resolution, calculated using RELION, according to inset key in **(E).**

**(O)** Fourier shell correlation (FSC) graph describing the maps used in model building. Resolution was calculated using the FSC=0.143 cut-off with values reported in Figure S2.



### **Figure S2. Cryo-EM data processing pipeline for the budding yeast replisome assembled on forked DNA with a 60 nt 5ʹ-flap, related to Figure 1.**

Abbreviations: NU, non-uniform; w/o, without; Pol α-p, Pol α-primase. Shaded text denotes cryo-EM maps deposited in the EMDB.



#### **Figure S3. Structure of a budding yeast replisome containing Pol α-primase, related to Figure 1.**

**(A)** Model highlighting the regions of Mrc1 (coloured red with surface rendering) for which an atomic model could be built. Modelled regions are numbered 1-3 (indicated by red circles) and their associated sequence coverage denoted by the sequence diagram.

**(B-D)** Atomic models displayed with cryo-EM density for Pri1 (B), Pol12-Pol1<sub>CTD</sub>-Pol12<sub>NTD</sub> (C) and Pri2<sub>NTD</sub> (D). Cryo-EM density corresponds to local refinements shown in Figures S1I-S1K.

**(E)** Atomic model of the budding yeast Pol α-primase associated replisome containing Ctf4. Regions of CMG that physically interact with Pol α-primase are coloured.

**(F)** Comparison between the structures of Pol α-primase in replisomes lacking (grey) or containing (red) Ctf4, aligned on Pri2NTD.

**(G)** Cryo-EM reconstructions, obtained using a binned pixel size of 2.3 Å, containing additional density of the appropriate shape and volume to accommodate  $Pri2<sub>CTD</sub>$  and  $Poli<sub>exo-cat</sub>$ . (Left) Reconstruction containing density for Pri2<sub>CTD</sub> (circled red). (Right) Reconstruction containing density for both Pri2<sub>CTD</sub> (circled red) and Pol1<sub>exo-cat</sub> (circled blue).

**(H)** Model for the budding yeast replisome containing Pol α-primase and including Pri2<sub>CTD</sub> and Pol1<sub>exo-cat</sub>, fit into the cryo-EM reconstruction in panel (G) (right). To fit Pri2<sub>CTD</sub>, the primer DNA strand was removed from the crystal structure of human PRIM2<sub>CTD</sub> containing a primer/template junction (PDB: 5F0Q)<sup>[S2]</sup> before being rigid body fit into the Pri2<sub>CTD</sub> density. The model was initially placed in such an orientation as to maintain the correct lagging-strand template DNA polarity assuming the shortest path after emergence from the Pri1 active site. The AlphaFold<sup>[S3]</sup> model for yeast Pri2<sub>CTD</sub> was then aligned to 5F0Q. A crystal structure of the Pol1<sub>exo-cat</sub> domain bound to a DNA/RNA duplex and dGTP (PDB: 4FYD)<sup>[S4]</sup> was placed into the Pol1<sub>exo-cat</sub> density such that lagging-strand template DNA was oriented as to be continuous with the previously docked 5F0Q model. The fit-to-density was then optimised via rigid body docking in ChimeraX. DNA was removed from the model for visualisation.

**(I)** Comparison between the conformations of yeast Pol α-primase from this study (left), human Pol α-primase bound to CST and telomeric DNA (PDB: 8D0K)<sup>[S5]</sup> (middle) and human apo Pol  $\alpha$ -primase (PDB: 5EXR)<sup>[S2]</sup> (right). Models were aligned on their Pri2/PRIM2<sub>NTD</sub>. The Pri2/PRIM2<sub>CTD</sub> and Pol1/POLA1<sub>exo-cat</sub> domains are visualised using transparent surface rendering to highlight their relative positioning between the three models.

**(J)** Cryo-EM reconstruction of a budding yeast replisome containing Pol α-primase but lacking DNA. Regions of the map corresponding to Pol  $\alpha$ -primase are coloured according to subunit occupancy.

**(K)** (Left) Atomic model for replisome associated Pol α-primase in the absence of DNA with the corresponding cryo-EM density from panel **(J)** overlaid. (Middle) Atomic model for the human apo Pol α-primase complex (PDB: 5EXR)[S2]. (Right) Atomic model for replisome associated yeast Pol α-primase complex engaged on DNA from this study. Models were aligned on Pri2/PRIM2<sub>NTD</sub>.

**(L)** Model highlighting the arrangement of the primase and DNA polymerase catalytic centres, derived from the cryo-EM reconstruction containing density for both Pri2<sub>CTD</sub> and Pol1<sub>exo-cat</sub>. The approximate location of the Pri1 and Pol1 active sites are indicated by red circles. The continuous purple line extending from the last modelled residue of the lagging-strand template is illustrative of the path of DNA described in Figure 1F. The dashed purple line indicates the proposed path of the lagging-strand template extending from the Pri1 active site towards the Pol1 active site.





**(A)** (Left) Focused view of the atomic model for the interface between Pri2<sub>NTD</sub> (green) and the Mcm5 ZnF domain (blue) (site a). Residues positioned to form inter-protein contacts are labelled. Residue sidechains are displayed as truncated stubs as the corresponding cryo-EM density is of insufficient resolution to determine their conformation. (Right) Multiple sequence alignments for the regions of Pri2/PRIM2 and Mcm5 involved in this interface, grouped by Fungal and Metazoan species and coloured according to conservation.

**(B)** Focused view of the atomic model for the electrostatic interface between Pri2<sub>NTD</sub> (green) and Mcm3 helix α1 of the N-terminal helical domain (cyan) (site b). Residue sidechains are only displayed when the corresponding cryo-EM density is of sufficiently high-resolution to determine their conformation, otherwise sidechains are displayed as truncated stubs. (Right) Multiple sequence alignment for the region of Pri2involved in this interface coloured according to conservation. The corresponding sequence alignment for the Mcm3 residues involved in this interface are shown in Figure 2C.

**(C)** Atomic model highlighting the flexible nature of the interface between the Mcm3 N-terminal helical domain and Pri2<sub>NTD</sub> (site b). 3D variability analysis was carried out in cryoSPARC to understand the extent of the positional variance at this interface. Two reconstructions displaying the greatest divergence in Pri2<sub>NTD</sub> positioning with

respect to the Mcm3 were obtained. Models for both Mcm3 and Pri2 were rigid-body fit into each reconstruction, then each model aligned to the Mcm3 N-terminal helical domain. Visualised here is the overlay of the two resulting models (grey and white) alongside the dominant conformation deposited in the PDB (green). Included are the percentages of particles occupying each discrete class and their relative RMSD values.

**(D)** (Left) Focused view of the atomic model of the interface between Pol12<sub>NTD</sub> (green) and the Mcm3 AAA+ domain (cyan) (site c). Selected sidechains positioned to form inter-protein contacts are displayed, with predicted hydrogen bonds indicated by dashed orange lines. (Right) Multiple sequence alignments for the regions of Pol12<sub>NTD</sub> (top) and Mcm3 (bottom) involved in this interface, coloured according to conservation.

**(E)** Model illustrating the position of Pol12<sub>NTD</sub> bound to Mcm3 in the C-tier in conformations I and II<sup>[S6]</sup>. To generate the model for this interface in MCM C-tier conformation I, an existing model for Mcm3 and GINS in conformation I (PDB: 6SKL)<sup>[S6]</sup> was aligned to the N-tier of Mcm3 from this study (conformation II). The structure of the Pol12<sub>NTD</sub> in complex with the Mcm3 AAA+ domain from this study was then aligned to the Mcm3 AAA+ domain in conformation I from 6SKL. The interface can be maintained in both C-tier conformations without clashes.

**(F)** Model for the Pol α-primase associated replisome docked into a cryo-EM map (transparent grey surface) visualised using a low threshold. Continuous density is visible extending from the most C-terminal residue of Pri2<sub>Nterm</sub> visualised (S5) to the next visualised residue (S44). This connecting density was manually coloured green using ChimeraX.

**(G)** Atomic model for Cdc45, GINS and Ctf4 in complex with the Sld5 CIP-box and two copies of the Pol1 CIP-box docked into a locally refined cryo-EM density map (transparent grey surface).

**(H)** Focused view of the cryo-EM density at the CIP-box interaction sites on the helical bundle of each Ctf4 monomer. The crystal structures of the Pol1 CIP-box in complex with Ctf4 (PDB:4C93)<sup>[S7]</sup> and the Sld5 CIP box (PDB:4C95)[S8] were rigid-body docked into the cryo-EM density. Models were overlaid with cryo-EM density both from this study, and a yeast replisome reconstruction in the absence of Pol α-primase (EMD-10509)<sup>[S6]</sup>.

**(I)** Alternative views of a cryo-EM reconstruction of a Pol α-primase associated replisome engaged only via the Pri2<sub>NTD</sub>:Mcm5<sub>ZnF</sub> (site a) and Pri2<sub>Nterm</sub>:Psf2 (site d) interfaces. The density is coloured according to chain occupancy as indicated.

**(J)** Model for the Pri2Nterm:Psf2 interface (site d) built into the cryo-EM map described in **(I).** Cryo-EM density (transparent grey) displayed with the Pri $2_{Nterm}$  density highlighted using green mesh.

 $(K)$  Model focused on the regions of Pri2<sub>NTD</sub> and Mcm3 N-terminal helical domain (site b) involved in complex formation built into cryo-EM density for the map described in **I**. Residues seen to be interacting in site b are now too far away to make contacts. Distances between sidechains are indicated using dashed yellow lines.



**Figure S5. Analysis of budding yeast Pol α-primase interaction site mutants** *in vitro* **and** *in vivo***, related to Figure 3.** 

**(A)** Coomassie-stained 4-12% SDS-PAGE analysis of purified Pol α-primase and Cdt1-Mcm2-7 mutant/truncated complexes. Pri2-5A, Pri2<sup>N210A, E211A, E212A, H213A, Q214A; Pri2-AAA, Pri2<sup>F2A, R3A, Q4A</sup>; Pol1-4A, Pol1<sup>D141A, D142A, L144A, F147A</sup>;</sup> Pol12-∆N, Pol12<sup>∆2-81</sup>, Mcm3-CR, Mcm3<sup>D23R, R26E, E30R, D33R</sup>.

**(B)** Top, Schematic of the primase-polymerase assay on M13mp18 ssDNA in the presence of sub-saturating RPA. Bottom, alkaline agarose gel analysis of an assay performed as illustrated (top) with the indicated proteins for 20 min. **(C-E)** Denaturing agarose gel analysis of origin-dependent DNA replication reactions performed as illustrated in Figure 3B with the indicated proteins for 20 min.

**(F and G)** Diploid budding yeast cells of the indicated genotype were sporulated and the resulting tetrads were dissected and grown on YPD medium for 3 days at 25°C. Dissections that displayed abnormal segregation patterns were cropped from plate images.



### **Figure S6. Cryo-EM analysis of a human replisome containing Pol α-primase assembled on fork DNA with 60 nt 5ʹ-flap, related to Figure 4.**

**(A)** Silver-stained SDS-PAGE gels of 100 μl fractions taken across 10-30% glycerol gradients, either in the absence (top) or presence (bottom) of crosslinking agents. Fractions 9-10 were used for cryo-EM sample preparation (red brackets). **(B)** Representative cryo-EM micrograph obtained using a K3 direct electron detector (Gatan) at a nominal pixel size of 1.23 Å/pixel. 30 nm scale bar inset.

**(C)** Cryo-EM data processing pipeline for the human replisome assembled on forked DNA with a 60 nt 5ʹ-flap. "open" Pol  $\alpha$ -primase conformation refers to the DNA engaged state of the complex that differs from the Pol $\alpha$ primase apo structure (PDB:5EXR). Abbreviations: NU, non-uniform; w/o, without; Pol α-p, Pol α-primase. Shaded text denotes cryo-EM maps deposited in the EMDB.

**(D)** Representative 2D class averages using a mask boundary of 360 Å with corresponding particle numbers labelled, obtained using cryoSPARC-3.

**(E-I)** Cryo-EM reconstructions used in model building coloured by local resolution according to inset key in **(E)**. Local resolution was calculated using RELION for the reconstruction in panel **(E)**, and ResMap[S1] for panels **(F-I)**. **(J)** Fourier shell correlation (FSC) graph describing the resolution of cryo-EM reconstructions used in model building. Resolution was calculated using the FSC=0.143 cut-off with values reported in **(C)**.



#### **Figure S7. Structural analysis of Pol α-primase in the human replisome, related to Figure 4.**

**(A-C)** Atomic models displayed with cryo-EM density for PRIM1 (**A**), POLA2 (**B**) and PRIM2NTD (**C**). Cryo-EM density corresponds to the local refinement shown in Figure S6I.

**(D)** Comparison between the atomic models of yeast (grey) and human (red) replisome associated Pol α-primase aligned on the Mcm3 N-terminal helical domain (blue).

**(E)** Comparison between the atomic models of yeast (grey) and human (red) replisome associated Pol α-primase aligned on the Pri2NTD.

**(F)** Comparison between the structures of human Pol α-primase associated with DNA-engaged replisomes from this study (left) and the crystal structure of human apo Pol α-primase (right) (PDB: 5EXR)<sup>[S2]</sup>. Models were aligned on the Pri2NTD.

**(G)** Alternative views of a cryo-EM reconstruction (top) and the corresponding model (bottom) for the human Pol α-primase associated replisome not bound to fork DNA. Maps were coloured according to domain occupancy.



## **Figure S8. Cryo-EM structure and analysis of a human Pol α-primase associated replisome assembled on fork DNA with a 15 nt 5ʹ-flap, related to Figure 5.**

**(A)** Structural model indicating the shortest path and distance between the last modelled nucleotide of the lagging-strand template and the active site of PRIM1 (circled red), indicated using a dashed yellow line.

**(B)** Silver-stained SDS-PAGE gels of 100 μl fractions taken across 10-30% glycerol gradients in the absence (top) or presence (bottom) of crosslinking agents. Fractions 9-10 were used for cryo-EM sample preparation (red brackets).

**(C)** Representative cryo-EM micrograph obtained using a Falcon III direct electron detector (Thermo) at a nominal pixel size of 1.07 Å/pixel. 30 nm scale bar inset.

**(D)** Cryo-EM data processing pipeline for the human replisome assembled on forked DNA with a 15 nt 5ʹ-flap. Abbreviations: w/o, without; Pol α-p, Pol α-primase. Shaded text denotes cryo-EM maps deposited in the EMDB. **(E)** Representative 2D class averages using a mask boundary of 360 Å with corresponding particle numbers indicated obtained using cryoSPARC-3.

**(F and G)** Cryo-EM reconstructions obtained via consensus refinement for complexes engaged with forked DNA containing a 15 nt 5ʹ-flap (left) and lacking DNA engagement (right). Maps coloured by local resolution, calculated using RELION, according to inset key in **(G)**.

**(H)** Fourier shell correlation (FSC) graph indicating the resolution for the cryo-EM reconstructions described in panels **(G)** and **(F)**. Resolution was calculated using the FSC=0.143 cut-off with values reported in (**D**).

**(I and J)** Alternate views of a cryo-EM reconstruction (**I**) and corresponding atomic model (**J**) for the Pol αprimase associated human replisome lacking DNA engagement obtained from the cryo-EM data collection of a human replisome assembled on a DNA fork with a 15 nt 5'-flap. Maps coloured according to subunit occupancy.



#### **Figure S9. Analysis of Pol α-primase binding sites in the human replisome, Related to Figure 6.**

(A) Focused view of the interface between PRIM2<sub>NTD</sub> and the MCM3 N-terminal helical domain (site b). Models overlaid were derived from reconstructions on fork DNA with either a 15 nt or 60 nt 5ʹ-flap, in addition to models derived from these respective datasets where DNA engagement was not observed. Models were aligned to the MCM3 N-terminal helical domain**.**

**(B)** Focused view of the interface between PRIM2<sub>Nterm</sub> and PSF2. Models overlaid were derived from reconstructions on fork DNA with either a 15 nt or 60 nt 5ʹ-flap, in addition to models derived from these respective datasets where DNA engagement was not observed. Models were aligned on PSF2.

**(C)** Focused view of the interface between POLA296-114 and GINS subunits PSF1 and SLD5. Models overlaid were derived from reconstructions on fork DNA with either a 15 nt or 60 nt 5ʹ-flap, in addition to models derived from these respective datasets where DNA engagement was not observed. Models were aligned on PSF1.

**(D)** Detailed view of the atomic model for the interface between the PRIM2<sub>NTD</sub> (green) and the MCM3 N-terminal helical domain (cyan) (site b). Selected residue sidechains positioned to form inter-protein contacts are labelled. Residue sidechains are displayed as truncated stubs as the corresponding cryo-EM density is of insufficient resolution to determine their conformation.

**(E)** Pol α-primase associated replisome model docked into a cryo-EM map in which continuous low-resolution density is visualised between the most C-terminal modelled residue of the PRIM2<sub>Nterm</sub> (G5) and the next modelled residue (Q17). The connecting density was manually coloured green using ChimeraX.

**(F)** Alternative views of the atomic model for the interface between the POLA2 N-terminal helix (residues 96- 114) (green) and GINS subunits PSF1, PSF3 and SLD5 (brown). Residue sidechains positioned to form interprotein contacts are labelled. Residue sidechains are only displayed when the corresponding cryo-EM density is of sufficiently high-resolution to determine their conformation, otherwise sidechains are displayed as truncated stubs.

**(G)** Overlay of cryo-EM density for reconstructions of budding yeast replisomes containing (transparent grey, this study) and lacking (black mesh, EMD-10227) Pol α-primase<sup>[S6]</sup>. The associated atomic model is docked into the density (yellow). The approximate position of the human POLA2 helix (residues 96-114) bound to PSF1 and SLD5 is overlaid in green and unmodelled density in the vicinity in yeast reconstructions is circled in red.

**(H)** Model for AND-1 in complex with three copies of the POLA1 AND-1 interaction motif (residues 151-171), docked into a locally refined reconstruction.

**(I)** Focused views of the cryo-EM density for the helical bundle of each AND-1 monomer bound by POLA1 (transparent grey) overlaid with cryo-EM density for a reconstruction of the human replisome in the absence of Pol α-primase (EMDB-13376)<sup>[59]</sup> (black mesh). An AlphaFold-Multimer model for the interface between POLA1<sub>151-171</sub> and the helical bundle of AND-1 was aligned to each AND-1 monomer and the fit optimised using rigid-body docking into the cryo-EM map.

**(J)** Coomassie-stained SDS-PAGE gel of purified wild-type human Pol α-primase (lane 1) and mutant Pol αprimase (lane 2) containing a truncation of residues 2-7 in PRIM2 designed to disrupt the interface with PSF2.

**(K)** Coomassie-stained SDS-PAGE gel of purified human CMG (lane 1) and a mutant CMG complex (lane 2) in which four conserved residues on helix α1 of MCM3 were mutated to alanine (MCM3-4A: E14A, R17A, D21A and D24A) to disrupt the interface with PRIM2.

**(L)** Denaturing agarose gel analysis of a primase-polymerase assay performed as illustrated in Figure S5B for 20 min with the indicated proteins.

**(M)** *In vitro* DNA replication reaction with purified human proteins performed as in Figure 6F and 6G.

## **SUPPLEMENTARY TABLES (Tables S1-S3)**



**Table S1. Plasmids constructed for this study, related to METHODS.** 





**Table S2.** *S. cerevisiae* **protein expression strains constructed for this study, related to METHODS.**





**Table S3. Details of protein purification strategy, related to METHODS.**





**Table S4.** *S. cerevisiae* **strains constructed in this study for genetics experiments. All strains are based on the W303 background, related to METHODS.**

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