Supporting Information

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SI Methods.

Cloning, Expression, and Purification of Saccharomyces cerevisiae (Sc) Scm3, Cse4, and H4. Clones of Sc Cse4, H4, and Scm3 were obtained by PCR amplification from a S. cerevisiae genomic library and subcloned into pET vectors modified for ligationindependent cloning (LIC). Scm3 was cloned into an LIC vector encoding an N-terminal His₆ tag and a tobacco etch virus (TEV) cleavage site. Cse4 and H4 were expressed without affinity tags. Constructs were transformed into Rosetta (DE3) pLysS Escherichia coli competent cells (Novagen) and used for protein expression. For Sc Cse4 and H4 purification, cells were grown at 37 °C in LB medium and induced at OD = 0.6 with 0.2 mM isopropyl β-D-1-thiogalactopyranoside. Harvested cells were resuspended in 30 mM Tris-HCl, pH 8.0, 500 mM NaCl, and 3 mM β-merchaptoethanol with protease inhibitor cocktail tablets. Cells were sonicated and insoluble pellets were harvested from centrifugation at $20,000 \times g$ for 1 h. Pellets were then resuspended in inclusion-body washing buffer (30 mM Tris-HCl, pH 8.0, 500 mM NaCl, 1% triton X-100, and 3 mM β -merchaptoethanol), incubated at 4 °C for 1 h shaking, and centrifuged at $20,000 \times g$ for 30 min. This washing procedure was repeated three times. Isolated inclusion bodies of Sc Cse4 and H4 were solubilized in 30 mM Tris-HCl, pH 8.0, 7 M guanidinium hydrochloride (GuHCl), 10 mM DTT, and insoluble debris was removed by centrifugation at $20,000 \times g$ for 30 min. Refolding of 7 M GuHCl solubilized Sc Cse4 and H4 proceeded by two-step dialysis in the presence or absence of Sc Scm3. Step 1 was dialysis against 30 mM Tris-HCl, pH 8.0, 2 M NaCl, 10 mM DTT; step 2 was dialysis against 30 mM Tris-HCl, pH 8.0, 0.5 M NaCl, 1 mM DTT. Sc Scm3 was expressed and purified as described for Kluyveromyces lactis Scm3 (see Methods). Misfolded proteins were removed by centrifugation at $20,000 \times g$ for 30 min. Soluble fractions were then concentrated and applied to a Superdex 200 size exclusion column (Prep grade 16/60: GE healthcare) preequilibrated with 30 mM Tris-HCl, pH 8.0, 500 mM NaCl, 1 mM TCEP [tris(2-carboxyethyl)phosphine].



Fig. S1. Properties of *K. lactis* (*KI*) Scm3:Cse4:H4 and its minimum stable complex. (*A*) Sedimentation equilibrium analytical ultracentrifugation of *KI* Scm3: Cse4:H4 complex; the measured molecular mass corresponds to a heterotrimer. (*B*) Minimum required fragments of *KI* Scm3, Cse4, and H4 for stable complex formation. Purified Scm3:Cse4:H4 complex was treated with either trypsin or subtilisin; protease-resistant fragments (gray box) were determined by mass spectrometry. CCR, central conserved region of Scm3; HFD, histone-fold domain. (*C*) Expression of the minimum stable complex of *KI* Scm3(41–115):Cse4 (103–184):H4(22–103). Scm3 (41–115) is sufficient for proper folding of Cse4 HFD and H4 HFD. S, soluble fraction; I, insoluble fraction; Ni, Ni-NTA eluate. (*D*) Purification of *KI* Scm3(41–115):Cse4(103–184):H4(22–103) by size exclusion chromatography. SDS-PAGE gel shows that the three proteins coelute as a stable complex.



Fig. S2. *S.cerevisiae* (*Sc*) Scm3 as a chaperone for *Sc* Cse4 and H4. (*A*) Refolding of *Sc* Cse4 and H4 in the absence of *Sc* Scm3 was carried out as described in *SI Methods*. The dialyzed sample was centrifuged to remove misfolded proteins after dialysis (lane labeled "Soluble"). As shown here, *Sc* Cse4 and H4 failed to refold in the absence of *Sc* Scm3. (*B*) Refolding of *Sc* Cse4 and H4 in the presence of *Sc* Scm3. Refolding *Sc* Cse4 and H4 together with *Sc* Scm3 yields a stable complex as shown in the column profile from Superdex 200 size exclusion chromatography. SDS-PAGE gel of column fractions shows that the three proteins coelute as a complex. (C) Sedimentation equilibrium analytical ultracentrifugation of the *Sc* Scm3:Cse4:H4 complex. As with the *K*. *lactis* Scm3:Cse4:H4 complex, the molecular mass of the *Sc* Scm3; Cse4:H4 was treated with subtilisin; protease-resistant fragments (gray box) were determined by mass spectrometry. CCR, central conserved region of Scm3; HFD, histone-fold domain.

A KLa SCe CGl

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KLa_Scm3p/41-115	RDGVVYIM <mark>SKE</mark> NRL <mark>I</mark> PKLSDEE <mark>V</mark> MER <mark>H</mark> KK <mark>A</mark> DENMKRV <mark>H</mark> SQ <mark>IM</mark> SQI <mark>M</mark> GDVIDLQTGEVIEDNGHLRNLSNE
SCe_Scm3p/64-144	SRPIAERNGHVYIM <mark>SKE</mark> NHI <mark>I</mark> PKLTDDE <mark>V</mark> MER <mark>H</mark> KL <mark>A</mark> DENM <mark>R</mark> KV <mark>N</mark> SN <mark>II</mark> SK <mark>Y</mark> ESIEE <mark>O</mark> GDLVDLKTGEIVEDNGHIKTLTAN
CG1_Scm3p/62-142	YKEVKKKNGRAYIY <mark>SKE</mark> NQL <mark>I</mark> PKLTDEE <mark>VMEKH</mark> KL <mark>A</mark> DQRM <mark>K</mark> TV <mark>N</mark> SN <mark>II</mark> DK <mark>Y</mark> SNVVD <mark>B</mark> GDVIDLQSGEIITDNGHIRNLNTG
AGo_Scm3p/34-108	PAGVVYVM <mark>SRE</mark> NEP <mark>T</mark> PRLSDAE <mark>VMERHRRA</mark> DENMKOANTRIIEKYEALDD <mark>O</mark> GDVVDLRTGEIVEDNGHIRGLADG
SKu_Scm3p/65-145	VRPVAERNGHVYIM <mark>SKE</mark> NQV <mark>I</mark> PKLTDDE <mark>V</mark> MER H KR <mark>A</mark> DEN <mark>MK</mark> EV <mark>W</mark> SN <mark>I</mark> SK <mark>Y</mark> ESIED <mark>O</mark> GDLVDLKTGEIIEDNGHIKKLTVN
SK1_Scm3p/66-146	NDPVTQHDGVTFIM <mark>SKE</mark> NQL <mark>I</mark> PKLTEEE <mark>V</mark> IER <mark>H</mark> RK <mark>A</mark> DEN <mark>MK</mark> QV <mark>N</mark> SK <mark>II</mark> QK <mark>Y</mark> ENVED <mark>O</mark> GDLIDLRTGEIVEDNGHLRGLSAT
KWa_Scm3p/67-147	EQGTQEHDNVVYIM <mark>SKE</mark> SQL <mark>I</mark> PKLTEEQ <mark>V</mark> MDR <mark>H</mark> KR <mark>A</mark> DEN <mark>MK</mark> RAULQLIQKYEALED <mark>O</mark> GDVLDLNTGEIVEDNGHVRSLSER

KLa_Cse4p/103-184 SCe_Cse4p/148-229 SKu_Cse4p/148-229 KWa_Cse4p/102-183 SKL_Cse4p/59-140 AGo_Cse4p/123-204	STDLLISRMPFARLVKEVTDQFTTESEPLRWQS STDLLISKIPFARLVKEVTDEFTTKDQDLRWQS STDLLISKIPFARLVKEVTDEPTTKDQDLRWQS STDLLISKMPFARLVKEVTDQYTTEEQQLRWQS STELLISRMPFARLVKEVTDQFTTUQQMRWQS	IAIMALQEA IAIMALQEA IAIMALQEA IAIMALQEA IAILALQEA IAILALQEA	SEAYLVO SEAYLVO SEAYLVO SEAYLVO SEAYLVO SEAYLVO	LLEHTNI LLEHTNI LLEHTNI LLEHTNI LLEHTNI	LALHAKRI LALHAKRI LALHAKRI LALHAKRI LALHAKRI LALHAKRI	TIMRKDMQLARRIRGQF TIMKKDMQLARRIRGQF TIMKKDMQLARRIRGQF TIMRKDMQLARRIRGQF TIMKKDMQLARRIRGQF TVMRKDMQLARRIRGQF
AGo_Cse4p/123-204	STELLISRMPFARLVKEVTDQFTTVDQQMRWQS	AILALQEA	SEAYIV	LLEHTN	LALHAKRV	TVMRKDMQLARRIRGQF:
CGl_Cse4p/159-240	STALLIQKIPFAKLVKEVTEEFAGESQDLRWQS	AILALQEA	SEAYLV	LLEHTN	LALHAKRI	TIMKKDMQLARRIRGQF:

KLa_H4/22-103	ILRDNIQGITKPAIRRLARRGGVKRISGLIYEEVRNVLKTFLESVIRDAVTYTEHAKRKTVT <mark>S</mark> LDV <mark>V</mark> YA LK RQGRTLYGFGG
SCe_H4/22-103	ILRDNIQGITKPAIRRLARRGGVKRISGLIYEEVRAVLKSFLESVIRDSVTYTEHAKRKTVT <mark>S</mark> LDV <mark>V</mark> YA <mark>LK</mark> RQGRTLYGFGG
CG1_H4/22-103	ILRDNIQGITKPAIRRLARRGGVKRISGLIYEEVRAVLKSFLESVIRDAVTYTEHAKRKTVT <mark>S</mark> LDV <mark>V</mark> YALKRQGRTLYGFGG
AGo_H4/22-103	ILRDNIQGITKPAIRRLARRGGVKRISGLIYEDVRAVLKSFLESVIRDAVTYTEHAKRKTVT <mark>S</mark> LDV <mark>V</mark> YA <mark>LK</mark> RQGRTLYGFGG
SKu_H4/22-103	ILRDNIQGITKPAIRRLARRGGVKRISGLIYEEVRAVLKSFLESVIRDSVTYTEHAKRKTVT <mark>S</mark> LDV <mark>V</mark> YA <mark>LK</mark> RQGRTLYGFGG
SK1_H4/22-103	ILRDNIQGITKPAIRRLARRGGVKRISGLIYEEVRTVLKTFLESVIRDAVTYTEHAKRKTVT <mark>S</mark> LDV <mark>V</mark> YA <mark>LK</mark> RQGRTLYGFGG
KWa_H4/22-103	ILRDNIQGITKPAIRRLARRGGVKRISGLIYEEVRAVLKSFLESVIRDAVTYTEHAKRKTVT <mark>S</mark> LDV <mark>V</mark> YA <mark>LK</mark> RQGRTLYGFGG



Fig. S3. Interface of Scm3:Cse4 and Scm3:H4 in the heterotrimer. (A) Multiple sequence alignments of Scm3 (central conserved region), Cse4 and H4 (HFDs) from point-centromere yeasts. Blue boxes represent residues at the interface of Scm3 and Cse4; red boxes, residues at the interface of Scm3 and H4. KLa, K. lactis; SCe, S. cerevisiae; CGI, Candida glabrata; AGo, Ashbya gossypii; SKu, Saccharomyces kudriavzevii; SKI, Saccharomyces kluyveri; KWa, Kluyveromyces waltii. (B) Interface of Scm3 and Cse4. Interacting residues are shown as stick models. (C) Interface of Scm3 and H4, in a similar representation.

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K.lactis_Cse4/103-184	ST D L L I S R M P F A R L V K E V T D Q F T T E S E P L R WQ S M A I M A L Q E A S E A Y L V G L L E H T N L L A L H A K R I T I M R K D M Q L A R R I R G Q F I
S.cerevisiae_Cse4/148-229	ST D L L I S K I P F A R L V K E V T D E F T T K D Q D L R WQ S M A I M A L Q E A S E A Y L V G L L E H T N L L A L H A K R I T I M K K D M Q L A R R I R G Q F I
Human_CENPA/57-140	STHLLIRKLPFSRLAREICVKFTRGVDFNWQAQALLALQEAAEAFLVHLFEDAYLLTLHAGRVTLFPKDVQLARRIRGLEEGL
Mouse_CENPA/51-134	ST DLL FRKKP F SMVVR EICEK F SR GVD FWWQ AQ ALLALQ EAA EA FLIHLFEDAYLL SLHAGRVT L FPK DIQLT RR I R GF EGGLI
Bovine_CENPA/55-138	TTHLLLRK SPFCRLAREICVQFTRGVDFNWQAQALLALQEAAEAFLVHLFEDAYLLSLHAGRVTLFPKDVQLARRIRGIQEGL
S.pombe_Cnp1/38-120	ST D L L I Q R L P F S R I V R E I S S E F V A N F ST D V G L R WQ ST A L Q C L Q E A A E A F L V H L F E D T N L C A I H A K R V T I M Q R D M Q L A R R I R G A
B Klactis, Scm3/41-115 S.cerevisiae, Scm3/69-144 Human_HJURP/1-69 Mouse_HJURP/1-62 Bovine_HJURP/1-62 S.pombe_Scm3/16-91	- RDGVVYIMSKENRLIPKLSDEEVMERHKKADENMKRVWSQIIQKY-ESIDNQGDVIDLQTGEVIEDNGHLRNLSNE ERNGHVYIMSKENHIIPKLTDDEVMERHKLADENMRKVWSNIISKY-ESIEEQGDLVDLKTGEIVEDNGHIKTLTAN - MLGTLRAMEGEDVEDDQLLQKLRASRRRFQRRMQRLIEKY-NQPFEDTPVVQMATLTYETPQG-LRIWGGR MEGEVRQDRRLHQLKESSSRFQTLMKRLIAKY-NQPFEDGPVIQMRTLTYETPQG-LRVWGGK MEGEV

Fig. S4. Multiple sequence alignments of centromeric histone H3s and its chaperone proteins. (A) Multiple sequence alignment of the HFDs of Cse4 and its orthologs from other eukaryotes, including human CENP-A. (B) Multiple sequence alignment of the central conserved region of Scm3 and the N-terminal regions of CenH3 chaperones from other eukaryotes, including human HJURP. The Lys-Tyr pair, conserved among CenH3 chaperones from yeast to man, is marked in the red box.



* parenthesis : corresponding residue number for S. cerevisiae protein

Fig. S5. Comparison of the Scm3/Cse4/H4 structures and its human orthologs. (A) The ribbon diagram of the *K. lactis* Scm3/Cse4/H4 structure reported here, that of the *S. cerevisiae* single chain construct [Zhou et al., Protein Data Bank (PDB) ID code 2L5A] (1), and its human orthologs (HJURP/CENP-A/H4, PDB ID code 3R45) (2). The overall structures of the Scm3/Cse4/H4 complex and its human orthologs are similar with rmsd of 0.7 Å for 176 overlapping residues. (*B*) Primary sequence comparison of fragments used in the Zhou et al. (NMR) experiment and in ours (X-ray). In the Zhou et al. structure, a conserved N-terminal segment of Scm3 (70–92) was removed, and an essential part of H4 HFD (helix I, 20–41) was truncated.

Zhou Z, et al. (2011) Structural basis for recognition of centromere histone variant CenH3 by the chaperone Scm3. Nature 472:234–237.
Hu H, et al. (2011) Structure of a CENP-A-histone H4 heterodimer in complex with chaperone HJURP. Genes Dev 25:901–906.



Fig. S6. Two $(Cse4 : H4)_2$ tetramers in the asymmetric unit of space group R3. Ribbon diagram of two tetramers of $(Cse4 : H4)_2$ in the asymmetric unit. Superposition of two tetramers shows the same Cse4:Cse4 tetramer interface. The contacts between tetramers, while relatively intimate, do not mimic any known nucleosomal interactions and probably represent interactions generated during crystallization.



Fig. 57. Comparison of $(Cse4 : H4)_2$ tetramer with $(H3/H4)_2$ tetramer. (A) Comparison of $(Cse4 : H4)_2$ and $(H3 : H4)_2$ (PDB ID code 1ID3). Two sets of distances (D1 and D2) were measured to compare the compactness of each tetramer. (B) Measured distances, D1 and D2, from $(H3 : H4)_2$, $(Cse4 : H4)_2$, and $(CENP-A/H4)_2$ tetramer. (C) Comparison of surface charge distribution in the CENP-A targeting domain (CATD) of $(Cse4 : H4)_2$ and $(H3 : H4)_2$. In contrast with $(CENP-A/H4)_2$, the surface charge distributions in $(Cse4 : H4)_2$ and $(H3 : H4)_2$ at CATD are similarly negative. (D) Sequence alignment of loop1 from CENP-A vs. H3 and from Cse4 vs. H3. Residues proposed to increase hydrophobicity in loop1 of CENP-A are marked by orange boxes. Cse4 counterparts of those hydrophobic residues are not more hydrophobic than their counterparts in H3.

Table S1. Data collection and refinement statistics for the Scm3:Cse4:H4 and (Cse4 :	$H4)_{2}$	complexes
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Data collection	Scm3:Cse4:H4 complex	(Cse4 : H4) ₂ complex	
Resolution (last shell), Å	50-2.3 (2.38-2.30)	50-2.6 (2.69-2.60)	
Wavelength, Å	0.9795	0.9795	
Space group	P22 ₁ 2 ₁	R3	
Unit cell dimensions (a, b, c), Å	32.72, 65.53, 121.10	169.48, 169.48, 81.22	
Unit cell Angles (α, β, γ), °	90, 90, 90	90, 90, 120	
I/σ (last shell)	17.0 (1.5)	15.0 (1.3)	
R _{sym} (last shell), %*	0.085 (0.637)	0.115 (0.814)	
Completeness (last shell), %	94.7 (55.3)	99.9 (98.8)	
Number of reflections	47,110	100,769	
unique	11,636	26,486	
Redundancy	4.1	3.8	
Refinement			
Resolution, Å	50–2.3	50-2.6	
No. of reflections	11,073	25,302	
working	10,518	23,960	
free	555	1,342	
$R_{\text{work}}, \%^{\dagger}$	22.0	21.8	
R _{free} , % [†]	25.7	27.6	
Ramachandran plot, % (favored/additional/disallowed)	99.5/0.5/0	98.3/1.7/0	
Structure/stereochemistry			
No. of atoms			
protein	1,636	4,808	
iodide	2		
H ₂ O	58	14	
rmsd bond lengths, Å	0.014	0.011	
rmsd bond angles, °	1.423	1.403	

* $R_{sym} = \sum \sum_{j} |I_j - \langle I \rangle| / \sum I_j$, where I_j is the measured intensity of reflection j, and $\langle I \rangle$ is the mean intensity for multiply recorded reflections.

[†] $R_{\text{work, free}} = \sum ||F_{\text{obs}}| - |F_{\text{calc}}|| / |F_{\text{obs}}|$, where the working and free *R* factors are calculated using the working and free reflection sets, respectively.

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