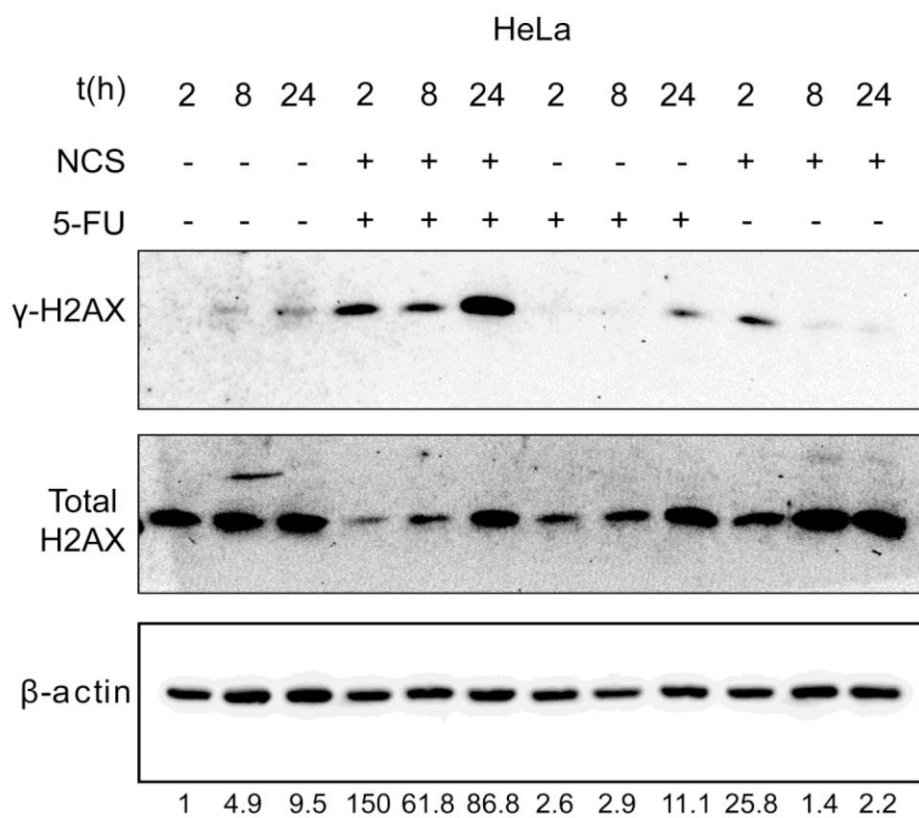


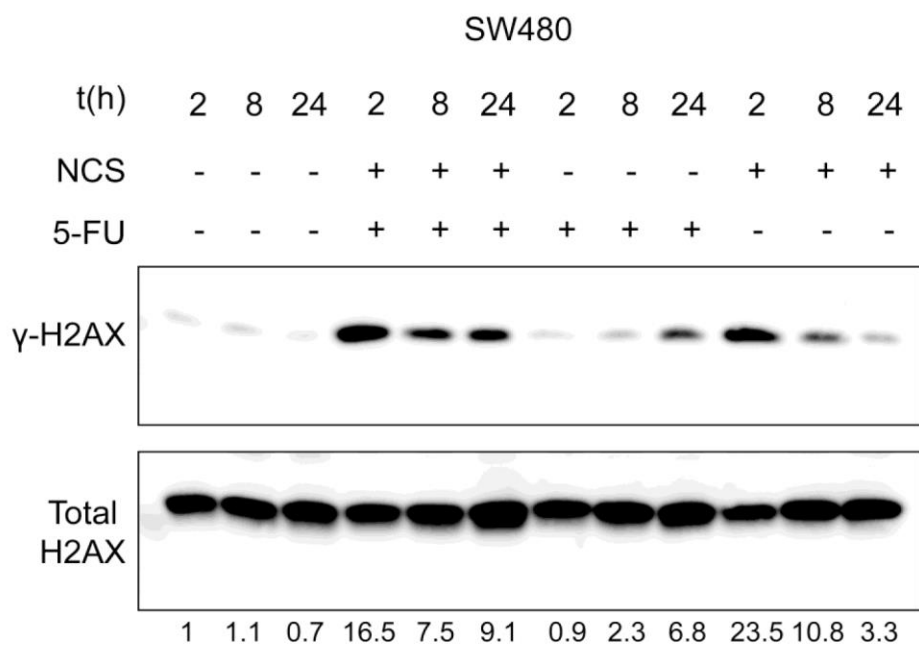
**5-Fluorouracil sensitizes colorectal tumor cells towards double stranded DNA breaks by interfering with homologous recombination repair**

**Supplementary Material**

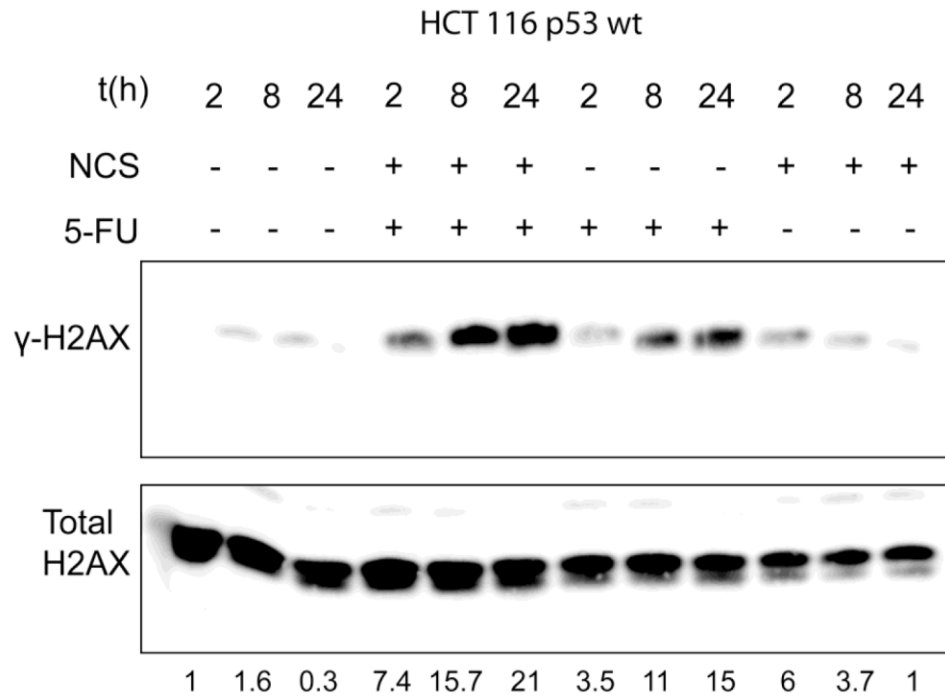
**(A)**



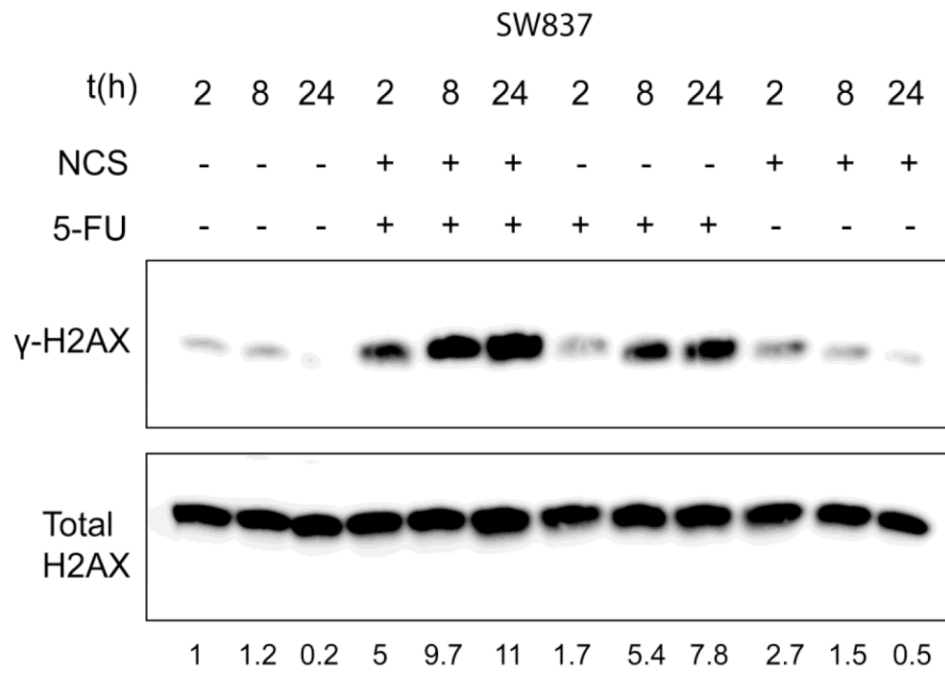
**(B)**



(C)

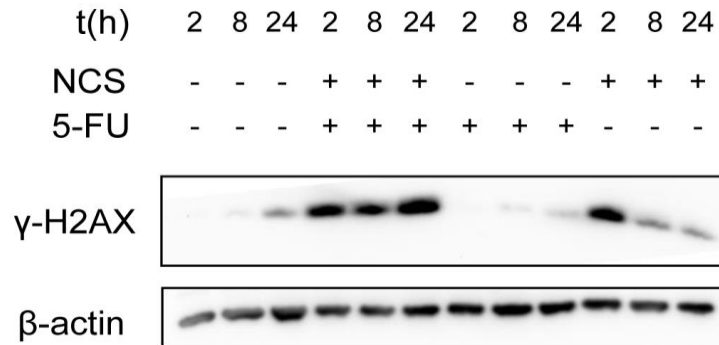


(D)

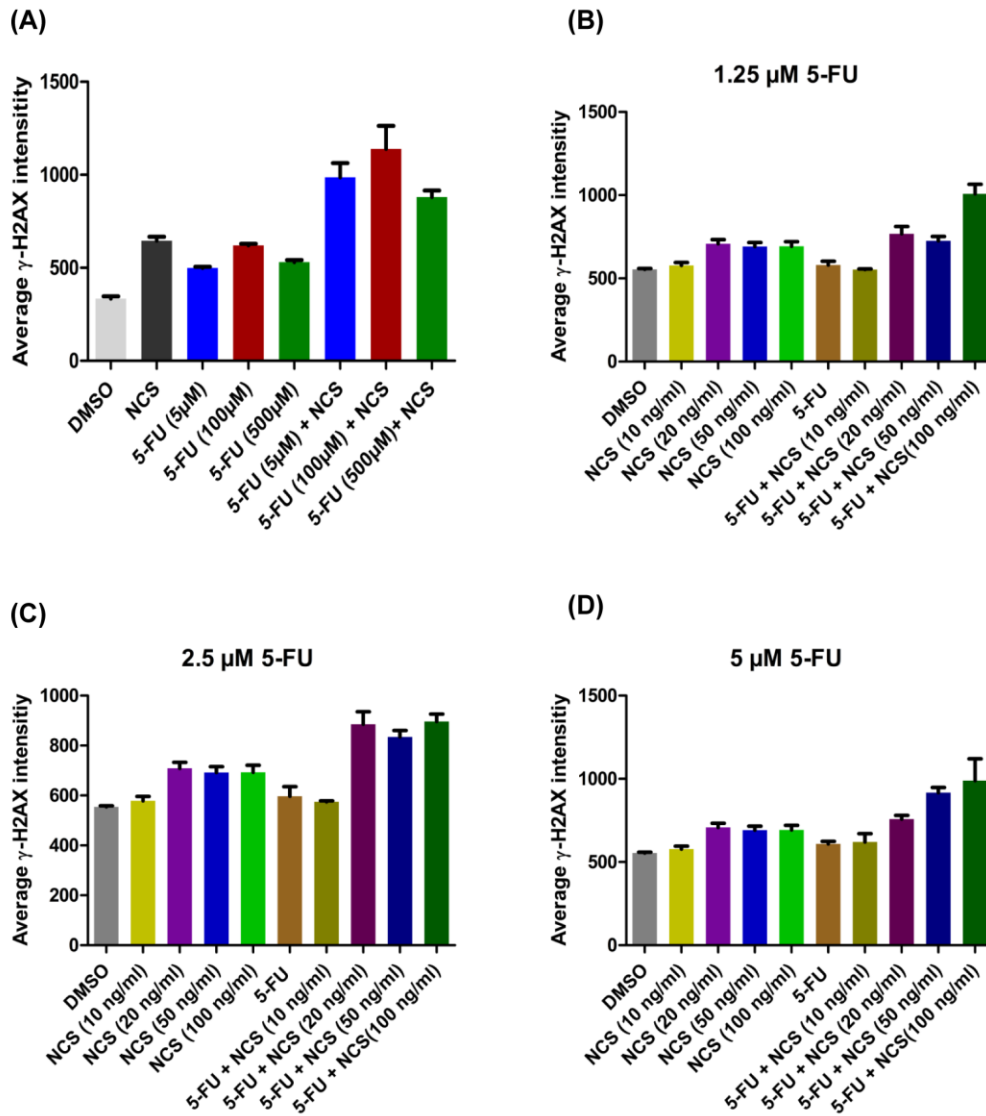


(E)

SW620

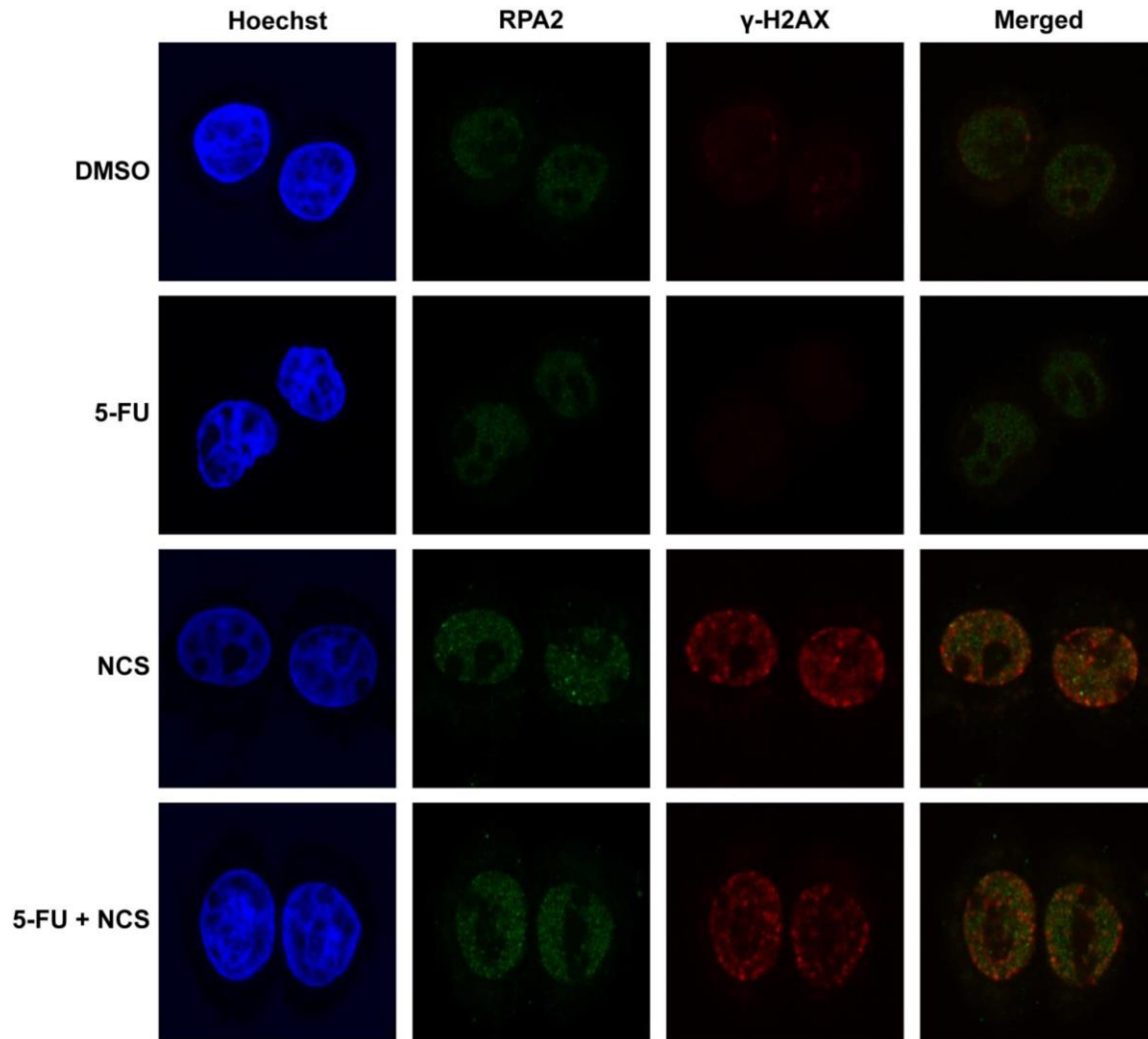


**Supplemental Figure S1. 5-FU in combination with NCS leads to persistent  $\gamma$ -H2AX accumulation.** Cells were first incubated with 5  $\mu$ M 5-FU for 24 h followed by treatment with 100ng/ml NCS, and then harvested at the indicated time points. (A) HeLa, (B) SW480, (C) HCT116 p53 wt, (D) SW837 and (E) SW620, cells were treated as described with 5-FU and NCS. Whole cell extracts were immunoblotted, followed by detection of phosphorylated H2AX ( $\gamma$ -H2AX), total H2AX (for normalization of  $\gamma$ -H2AX) and  $\beta$ -actin (loading control).

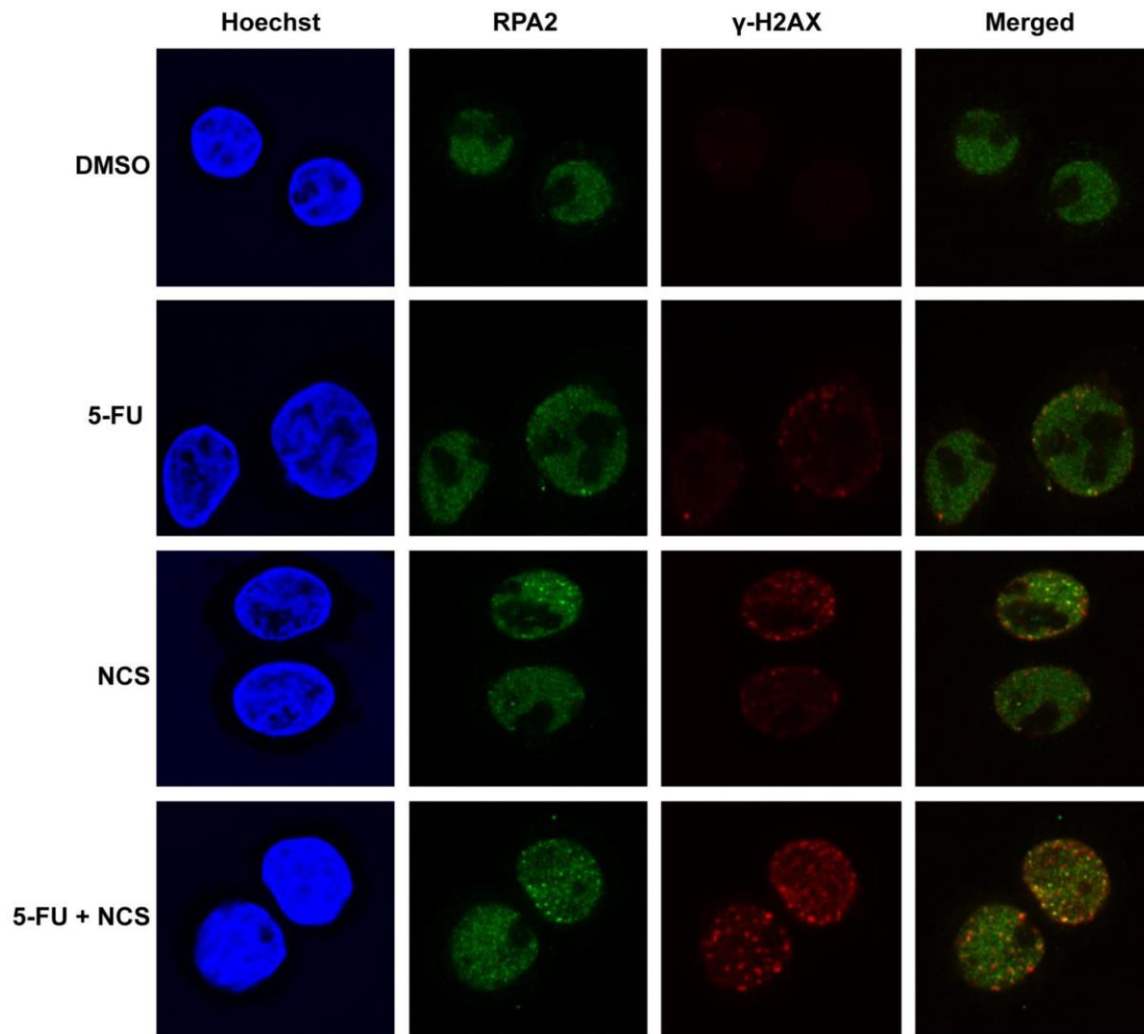


**Supplemental Figure S2. Dose-dependence of DNA damage upon treatment with 5-FU and NCS.** SW480 cells were treated with (A) 100 ng/ml NCS and 5, 100 or 500  $\mu$ M 5-FU, (B) 1.25  $\mu$ M 5-FU and 100, 50, 20 or 10 ng/ml NCS, (C) 2.5  $\mu$ M 5-FU and 100, 50, 20 or 10 ng/ml NCS, (D) 5  $\mu$ M 5-FU 100, 50, 20 or 10 ng/ml NCS. The cells were treated with the indicated 5-FU concentrations for 24 h, followed by NCS plus 5-FU for 24 h. Cells treated with DMSO were used as negative controls. The  $\gamma$ -H2AX intensities were determined in single cells by immunofluorescence and automated microscopy. The fluorescence intensities of at least 1000 cells per sample were determined by digital image analysis and plotted as the mean and standard error mean of three experiments.

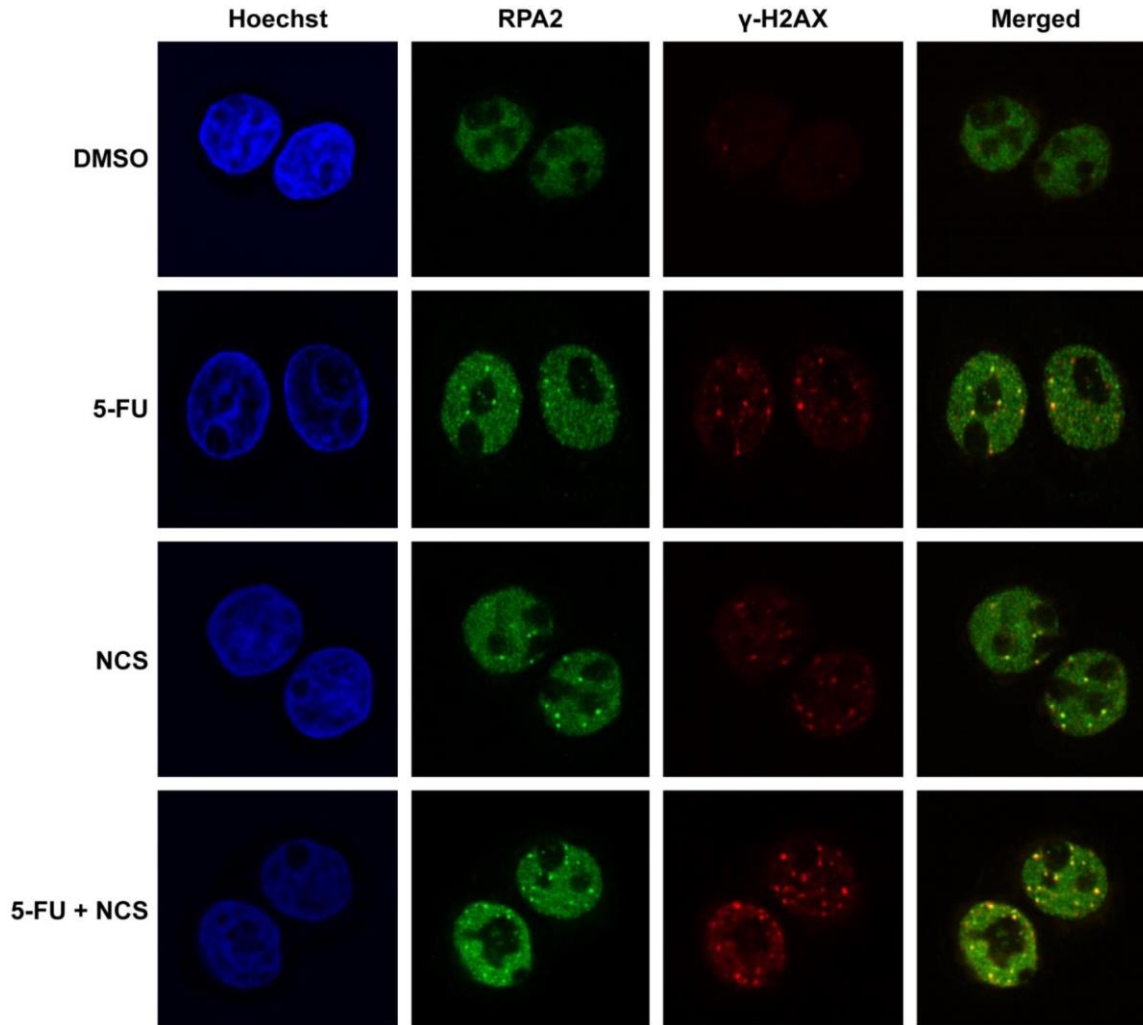
(A)



(B)



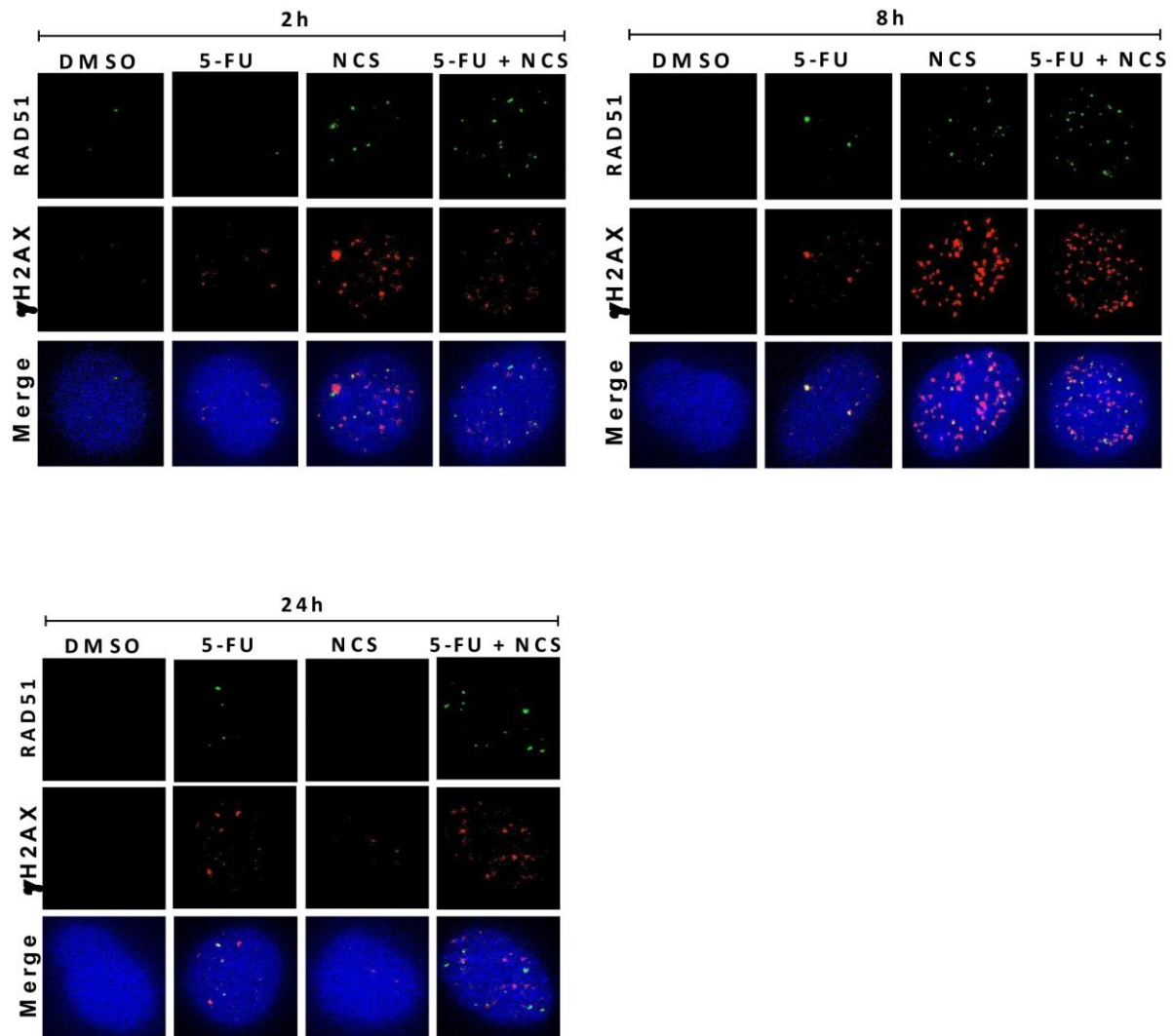
(C)



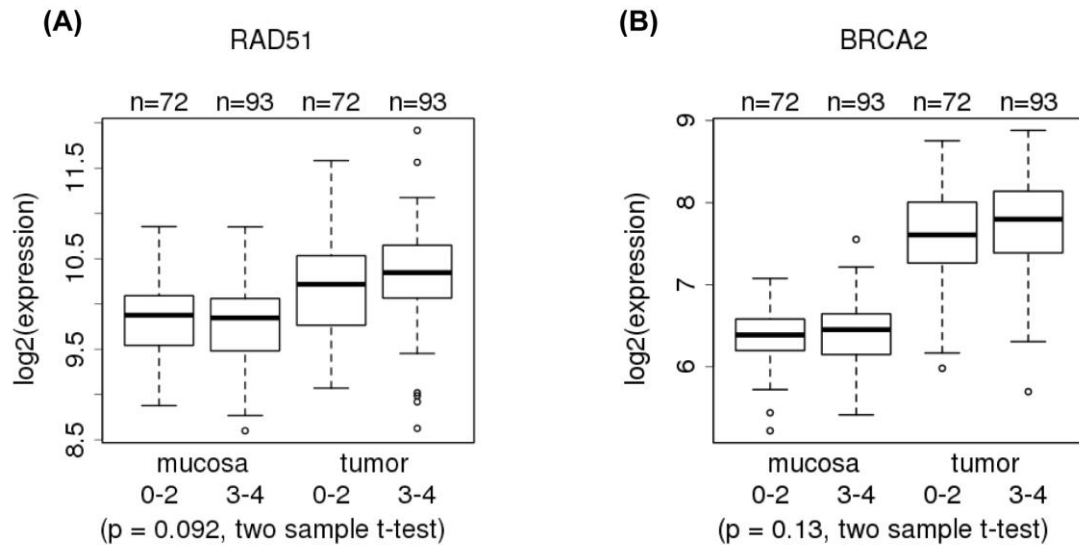
**Supplemental Figure S3. 5-FU and/or NCS do not decrease the recruitment of RPA2.**

Confocal microscopy images of SW480 cells treated with DMSO, 5  $\mu$ M 5-FU + 100ng /ml NCS, 5  $\mu$ M 5-FU, or 100 ng/ml NCS for (A) 2 h, (B) 8 h and (C) 24 h post NCS treatment, followed by IF staining of RPA2 and phospho-H2AX.

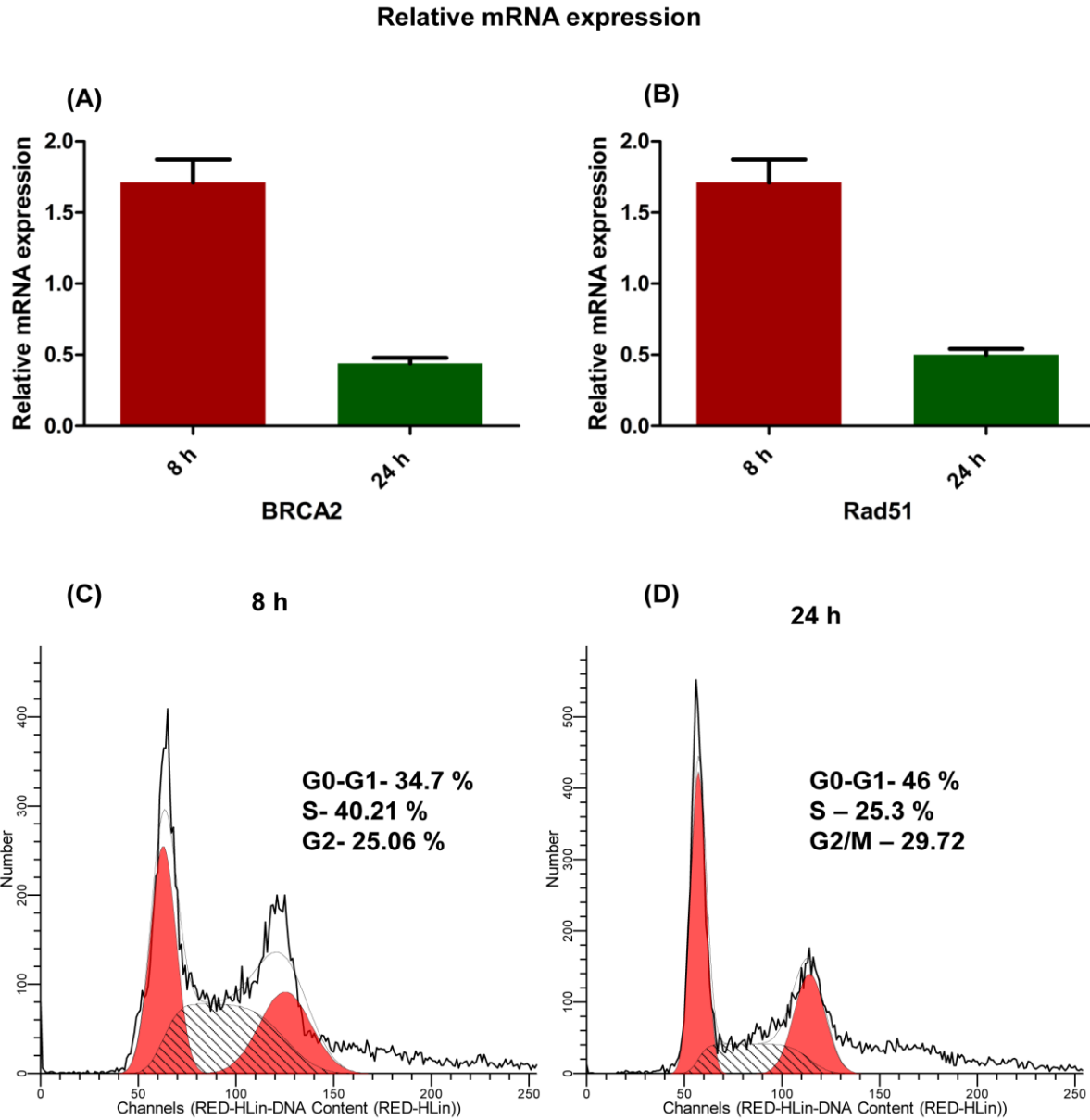




**Supplemental Figure S4. Accumulation of Rad51 and phospho-H2AX foci upon treatment with 5-FU and/or NCS.** SW480 cells were treated and subjected to immunofluorescence analysis as described in Fig. 3, panel C. Separate image files are shown to document the localization of Rad51 and  $\gamma$ -H2AX, and merged images show the partial colocalization of the two.



**Supplemental Figure S5. Expression of Rad51 and BRCA2 in human biopsies.** mRNA expression of HRR components in colorectal cancers and normal mucosa, evaluated in biopsy material from patients using microarray hybridization, and classified according to tumor grade; (A) Rad51 and (B) BRCA2.



**Supplemental Figure S6. Increased mRNA expression of RAD51 and BRCA2 in S phase**  
 SW480 cells were synchronized using a double thymidine block and then released by removing excessive thymidine. The cells were harvested 8h and 24 h post release, and (A) Rad51 as well as (B)BRCA 2 mRNA levels were analyzed by quantitative RT-PCR and normalized to the reference gene GAPDH. Parallel propidium iodide staining of the cells and analysis by flow cytometry document an enrichment for S phase at 8 h (C) post release and a normal distribution of the DNA content at 24 h post release (D).



