

### Supplementary Figure 1: Difference spectra and melting profiles of G-quadruplexes

(a) Normalized UV isothermal difference spectrum (IDS) of  $[7GGT]_4$  in 150 mM K<sup>+</sup> hTel buffer at 20  $\mu$ M DNA concentration. A thermal difference spectrum (TDS) requires obtaining one UV spectrum at an elevated temperature so that the G-quadruplex is unfolded, and one at a lower (generally 25°C) temperature<sup>1</sup>. However, because of the slow rate of formation of tetrameric G-quadruplexes such as  $[7GGT]_4^2$ , we were able to obtain the folded and unfolded spectra at room temperature. In these instances the resulting difference spectrum is called IDS.

(**b**) and (**c**) Normalized UV thermal difference spectrum (TDS) of the gel purified upper band of folded 22GGG (**b**), or lower band of folded 22GGG (**c**) in 2.5 mM Sr<sup>2+</sup> hTel buffer at 20  $\mu$ M DNA concentration.

(d) Melting profile of  $[7GGT]_4$  in 150 mM K<sup>+</sup> hTel buffer at 20  $\mu$ M DNA concentration recorded by CD at 260 nm and heated at 1°C min<sup>-1</sup>.

(e) Melting profile of gel-purified upper band of folded 22GGG in 2.5 mm  $\mathrm{Sr}^{2+}$  hTel buffer at 20  $\mu$ M DNA concentration, recorded by CD at 260 nm and heated at 1°C min<sup>-1</sup>.

(f) Melting profile of gel-purified lower band of folded 22GGG in 2.5 mM  $\mathrm{Sr}^{2+}$  hTel buffer at 20  $\mu$ M DNA concentration, recorded by CD at 260 nm and heated at 1°C min<sup>-1</sup>.



### **Supplementary Figure 2: C-strand binding controls**

(a) G4 unfolding is rate limiting for DNA-9C duplex formation.  $[7GGT]_4$  complementary strand trap assay: 5' end-labeled  $[7GGT]_4$  (11 µM) in 150 mM K+, incubated with 5 to 100-fold excess complementary strand 9C at 30°C for 4 h and electrophoresed on a 12% nondenaturing polyacrylamide gel. Markers include the unstructured MW markers  $T_{15}$  and  $T_{25}$ , denatured 7GGT, pre-annealed WC duplex and  $[7GGT]_4$  G-quadruplex.

(b) SYBR® Gold stained native gel demonstrating hybridization of the C-strand oligonucleotide 9C to 22GGG. Lane 1: unstructured  $T_{25}$  MW marker. Lane 2: 9C; note that this oligonucleotide either does not take up SYBR® Gold or runs off the gel. Lane 3: denatured 22GGG. Lanes 4-6: 250 ng 22GGG pre-annealed with 2-, 5- and 10-fold excess 9C.



### Supplementary Figure 3: Specific activity of telomerase at various stages of purification

(a) Upper panel: Telomerase activity assay using an 18 nt DNA substrate (TTAGGG)<sub>3</sub>, in duplicate. Samples are equal volumes of 293T lysate after immunopurification with an hTERT antibody (IP), after activity-dependent elution from immobilized substrate (dNTP) and after a glycerol gradient (GG). The same volumes of each fraction were loaded in duplicate on a dot blot which was probed for hTR (bottom panel).

(b) Quantitation of data in (a). Activity and hTR levels were normalized to the levels in the IP sample. Note that activity relative to hTR levels, i.e. specific activity, remains constant over the purification.



# Supplementary Figure 4: *N*-methyl Mesoporphyrin IX treatment of 293T cells does not affect progression into mid-S phase of the cell cycle

(a) Chemical structure of the parallel G-quadruplex specific ligand *N*-methyl mesoporphyrin IX (NMM).

(b) Flow cytometry analysis demonstrates that vehicle only (DMSO) and NMM treatment of HEK293T cells did not effect the cells' ability to enter S phase. Cells were sorted on the basis of DNA content as determined by staining with propidium iodide (PI). Cell populations were asynchronous, or synchronized at the G1/S border with thymidine/aphidicolin treatment (TA), then released and allowed to progress into S phase for 3 h.



# Supplementary Figure 5: Deconvolution microscopy of hTR-telomere-G-quadruplex trilocalizations

Representative HEK-293T nuclei z-stacks showing that G-quadruplex (purple), telomere (red) and telomerase (hTR, green) trilocalization (yellow) is not due to random overlap. Six of the ten captured planes through the nucleus (z4 - z9) show that all three colors localize to the same plane of the cell.



### Supplementary Figure 6: Reduction of hTR FISH foci by siRNA knockdown of dyskerin

- (a) Western blot showing dyskerin knockdown using siDKC#1 (directed against the 3' UTR) and siDKC#2 (directed against the coding region), in mid-S phase HEK-293T cells. Vinculin: loading and recovery control. No siRNA: transfection reagent only control (Lipofectamine® RNAiMAX). siScrambled: Qiagen All Stars negative control siRNA.
- (b) Representative mid-S phase HEK293T nuclei demonstrating reduction in hTR foci (green) following siRNA-mediated dyskerin knockdown (n=2). No siRNA: transfection reagent only control (Lipofectamine<sup>®</sup> RNAiMAX), siScrambled: Qiagen All Stars negative control siRNA. Scale bar =  $10 \mu M$ .
- (c) Quantitation of hTR (telomerase, green) localization at telomeres (red) following the treatments in (a) and (b). Colocalization events were normalized to untreated samples. Error bars represent SD for n=2 experiments. Statistical significance was determined using an unpaired student t-test, relative to siScrambled. \*P<0.05



## Supplementary Figure 7: Uncropped gels and blots from manuscript

- (a) Uncropped native gel electrophoresis image presented in Figure 5c.
- (b) Uncropped [22GGG]<sub>2</sub> complementary C-strand experiment presented in Figure 2d.

**Supplementary Table 1:** Assignment of ESI-MS ions to species of oligonucleotide 22GGG (MW = 6966.5 Da) based on calculated m/z values.

Expected ions*	MW of ion (Da)	Calculated <i>m/z</i>	Observed <i>m/z</i>
[M-5H] <sup>5-</sup>	6961.5	1392.3	1392.6
[M-4H] <sup>4-</sup>	6962.5	1740.6	1741.0
$[M+Sr^{2+}-7H]^{5-}$	7047.1	1409.4	1409.8
$[M+Sr^{2+}-6H]^{4-}$	7048.1	1762.0	1762.5
$[2M+3Sr^{2+}-13H]^{7-}$	14182.8	2026.1	2026.6
$[2M+3Sr^{2+}-14H]^{8-}$	14181.8	1772.7	1773.2

\*M is the mass of neutral, unimolecular 22GGG.

## Supplementary References

- 1. Mergny, J.L., Li, J., Lacroix, L., Amrane, S., & Chaires, J.B. Thermal difference spectra: a specific signature for nucleic acid structures. *Nucleic Acids Res.* **33**, e138 (2005).
- 2. Mergny, J.L., De Cian, A., Ghelab, A., Sacca, B., & Lacroix, L. Kinetics of tetramolecular quadruplexes. *Nucleic Acids Res.* **33**, 81-94 (2005).