

1 **Title: Initiation of DNA replication requires actin dynamics and formin**  
2 **activity**

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24 **Running title: actin dynamics and DNA replication**

25 **Abstract**

26 Nuclear actin influences transcription in a manner dependent on its dynamics of  
27 polymerisation and nucleocytoplasmic translocation. Using human somatic cells and  
28 transcriptionally-silent *Xenopus* egg extracts, we show that actin dynamics is also  
29 required for DNA replication. We identify many actin regulators in replicating nuclei  
30 from *Xenopus* egg extracts, and show that in human cells, nuclear actin filaments  
31 form in early G1 and disassemble prior to S-phase. In either system, treatments that  
32 stabilise nuclear actin filaments abrogate nuclear transport and initiation of DNA  
33 replication. Mechanistically, actin directly binds RanGTP-importin complexes and  
34 disruption of its dynamics hinders cargo release. This prevents both nuclear pore  
35 complex (NPC) formation and active nuclear transport, which we show is required  
36 throughout DNA replication. Nuclear formin activity is required for two further steps:  
37 loading of cyclin-dependent kinase (CDK) and proliferating cell nuclear antigen  
38 (PCNA) onto chromatin and initiation of DNA replication. Thus, actin dynamics and  
39 formins are involved in several nuclear processes essential for cell proliferation.

40

41 **Keywords: DNA replication / nuclear transport / actin / formin / CDK**

42

## 43 **Introduction**

44 In mammalian cells, various functions have been attributed to nuclear actin (Huet *et*  
45 *al*, 2012). Monomeric actin binds chromatin remodeling and RNA polymerase  
46 complexes (Rando *et al*, 2002; Kapoor *et al*, 2013) and promotes transcription by all  
47 three RNA polymerases (Hofmann *et al*, 2004; Hu *et al*, 2004; Philimonenko *et al*,  
48 2004). Its nuclear levels are regulated by active transport between the nucleus and  
49 cytoplasm (Stüven *et al*, 2003; Dopie *et al*, 2012) and polymerisation (Baarlink *et al*,  
50 2013; Lundquist *et al*, 2014; Vartiainen *et al*, 2007). This dynamics is complex:  
51 monomeric actin promotes export of the serum response factor (SRF) cofactor  
52 MAL/MRTF, extinguishing SRF, yet both nuclear actin polymerisation (Baarlink *et al*,  
53 2013) and depolymerisation (Lundquist *et al*, 2014) can induce SRF-dependent  
54 transcription. In epithelial cells, loss of nuclear actin triggers quiescence by disrupting  
55 binding of RNA polymerases to their transcription sites (Spencer *et al*, 2011). Nuclear  
56 actin also affects co-repressor eviction from promoters (Huang *et al*, 2011) and it can  
57 bind to gene regulatory regions (Miyamoto *et al*, 2011; Miyamoto *et al*, 2013a).

58 *In vitro*, purified actin and profilin self-assemble into long filaments, but cells  
59 additionally require actin nucleation factors. Sub-populations of nuclear actin have  
60 distinct mobilities, suggesting existence of polymeric forms (Dopie *et al*, 2012;  
61 McDonald *et al*, 2006), and several regulators of actin polymerisation have been  
62 found in nuclei (Khoudoli *et al*, 2008; Miyamoto *et al*, 2013b; Obrdlik & Percipalle,  
63 2011; Wu *et al*, 2006; Yoo *et al*, 2007; Dopie *et al*, 2015). Physiological nuclear actin  
64 polymerisation remains poorly characterised due to difficulties in staining nuclear  
65 actin with phalloidin (Grosse & Vartiainen, 2013). In specific settings, like the giant  
66 non-replicating nuclei of amphibian oocytes, a filamentous actin network has  
67 scaffolding functions (Clark & Rosenbaum, 1979; Gounon & Karsenti, 1981; Feric &

68 Brangwynne, 2013). Stabilised nuclear actin filaments are observed in several  
69 pathologies (Lanerolle, 2012) and can be induced by various manipulations, including  
70 heat shock and DMSO treatment (Iida *et al*, 1986; Sanger *et al*, 1980); increasing  
71 nuclear actin concentrations (Stüven *et al*, 2003; Kalendová *et al*, 2014); activation of  
72 nuclear mDia formin (Baarlink *et al*, 2013); overexpression of NLS-tagged IQGAP1  
73 (Johnson *et al*, 2013) or supervillin (Serebryanny *et al*, 2016); or knockdown of  
74 MICAL-2, which promotes nuclear actin depolymerisation through methionine  
75 oxidation (Lundquist *et al*, 2014). Stabilisation of nuclear actin filaments inhibits  
76 transcription by RNA polymerase II (Serebryanny *et al*, 2016), whereas serum  
77 stimulation of mouse fibroblasts triggers transient nuclear actin filament formation,  
78 promoting SRF-dependent transcription (Baarlink *et al*, 2013).

79 We investigated whether nuclear actin has transcription-independent roles in  
80 cell proliferation by using transcriptionally silent *Xenopus* egg extracts (XEE). This  
81 system recapitulates early embryonic cell cycles *in vitro*, allowing identification of  
82 nuclear assembly pathways (Hetzer *et al*, 2005) and DNA replication mechanisms  
83 (Arias & Walter, 2004). Using XEE as well as human somatic cells, we show that  
84 actin dynamics is required for initiation of DNA replication, through at least two  
85 mechanisms: first, actin dynamics is required for nuclear transport, as polymeric  
86 nuclear actin locks cargo-importin-Ran complexes, preventing cargo release from  
87 importins. Second, nuclear formin activity promotes chromatin loading of DNA  
88 replication factors allowing initiation of DNA synthesis.

89

## 90 **Results**

### 91 **Nuclear actin dynamics during the cell cycle**

92 We first analysed the combined nucleoskeleton and chromatin proteome of nuclei  
93 assembled in XEE by label-free high-resolution mass spectrometry. To assess  
94 possible cell cycle regulation of nuclear assembly, we compared replicating nuclei  
95 with nuclei assembled in the presence of purvalanol A (PA) to inhibit CDKs (Echalier  
96 *et al*, 2012) (Fig 1A). We identified 2610 non-redundant proteins (Fig 1B, C;  
97 Supplementary Figure 1, S1). Enriched biological processes included DNA  
98 metabolism, chromatin organisation, and, interestingly, regulation of actin  
99 polymerisation (Fig 1D; Table S2). We identified 55 actin regulators (Tables S3 &  
100 S4), including actin filament nucleating factors such as formins and the Arp2/3  
101 complex. These were unaffected by CDK activity, unlike chromatin recruitment of  
102 proteins involved in DNA replication, DNA repair and the S-phase checkpoint (Fig  
103 1B-E; and Tables S1&2). Immunofluorescence analysis confirmed that many actin  
104 polymerisation regulators localised to replicating nuclei (Fig 2A), where actin was  
105 mostly insoluble (Fig 2B). To visualise nuclear actin directly, we added trace  
106 concentrations of fluorescently-labeled actin protein to XEE. This revealed filaments  
107 in the egg cytosol, as expected, and both diffuse and patterned intra-nuclear staining  
108 (Fig 2C-E). The latter might be actin polymers or monomeric actin associated with  
109 other structures, for example chromatin. Labelled DNase1, a high affinity G-actin  
110 probe, mainly stained chromatin (Fig 2F).

111 Next, we investigated possible cell cycle regulation of endogenous nuclear actin  
112 dynamics in living cells with an actin chromobody (Chromotek®) modified by the  
113 addition of a nuclear localisation signal (NLS – see materials and methods). An  
114 identical tool was independently developed recently (Plessner *et al*, 2015). We  
115 concurrently followed the DNA replication programme using a second chromobody to  
116 visualise endogenous PCNA (Burgess *et al*, 2012). Interestingly, we found that a

117 dynamic network of actin filaments formed in most early G1-nuclei (Fig 2G).  
118 Filaments disassembled after an average of 200 minutes, in mid-late G1 (Fig 2H;  
119 Movie 1). These G1 actin filaments could be stained with phalloidin (Fig 2G), which,  
120 importantly, also labelled a G1 nuclear actin network in cells not expressing the  
121 chromobody (Fig 2I). Expressing Lifeact-GFP-NLS also revealed nuclear actin  
122 filaments (Supplementary Figure 2A). However, this probe disrupted nuclear actin  
123 dynamics as although the filaments appeared in G1, they became longer and stable  
124 and cells did not divide (Movie 2).

125 In mouse fibroblasts, formins promote formation of nuclear actin filaments in  
126 the serum response (Baarlink *et al*, 2013). Specific formin inhibition with SMIFH2  
127 (Rizvi *et al*, 2009) induced stabilisation of long nuclear actin filaments or patches in  
128 the majority of cells (Supplementary Figure 2B, C; Movie 3,4). The former is similar to  
129 the effect of formin inhibition on actin dynamics in a reconstituted *in vitro* system  
130 (Rizvi *et al*, 2009), and suggests that SMIFH2 stabilised long nuclear actin filaments  
131 by preventing formin-mediated nucleation of new filaments, coupled with formin-  
132 independent elongation of existing ones.

133 We subsequently employed XEE to investigate effects of modifying actin  
134 dynamics on nuclear actin independently of cytoskeleton-environment interactions  
135 and of transcription. First, we used recombinant actin regulatory proteins, as well as  
136 different drugs that modify actin dynamics, in preassembled nuclei in XEE (Fig 3A,  
137 B). Cytochalasin D (CytD), jasplakinolide, or purified Arp2/3 and GST-WASP-VCA  
138 proteins all strongly increased total nuclear actin, which was mostly insoluble. The  
139 effects of CytD, which binds the barbed (plus)-end of F-actin, arresting both  
140 polymerisation and depolymerisation at the plus end (Schliwa, 1982), were reversed  
141 by latrunculin A that potently binds actin monomers, impeding filament assembly.

142 Interestingly, Cyt D caused formation of stable nuclear actin filaments that were  
143 visualised with phalloidin (Fig 3C). These data suggest that nuclear actin  
144 polymerisation and depolymerisation exist in a dynamic equilibrium in XEE.

145

#### 146 **Actin dynamics is required for DNA replication**

147 We next assessed the effect of these manipulations of actin dynamics on DNA  
148 replication. S-phase entry in G1-synchronised cells was dose-dependently inhibited  
149 by SMIFH2 (Fig 4A; Supplementary Figure 3A, B), and PCNA binding to chromatin  
150 was reduced (Supplementary Figure 3C). SMIFH2 also abolished general  
151 transcription, as determined by 5-ethynyl-uridine (EU) incorporation into newly  
152 synthesized RNA (Fig 4B; Supplementary Figure 3D). We then altered endogenous  
153 formin activity by expressing GFP-tagged mDia2 diaphanous autoregulatory domain  
154 (DAD), either specifically in the nucleus (GFP-DAD.LG.NLS) or cytoplasm (GFP-  
155 DAD). Interestingly, neither mDia2-DAD construct interfered with global transcription  
156 (Fig 4C). Nuclear, but not cytoplasmic, mDia2-DAD increased the fraction of cells in  
157 S-phase (Fig 4D, left), implying that over-activating nuclear formins impedes S-phase  
158 progression in a transcription-independent manner. To test whether this might be due  
159 to aberrant nuclear actin dynamics, we expressed the nuclear-localised actin mutants  
160 S14C and G15S, that favour polymerisation, or the polymerisation-defective R62D)  
161 (Supplementary Figure 3E). WT and R62D mutants had no effects on S-phase, but,  
162 like formin activation, S14C and G15S mutants increased the fraction of cells in S-  
163 phase (Fig 4D, right) and decreased EdU signal intensity (Fig 4E). Thus, promoting  
164 nuclear polymeric actin or derepressing formins both impede S-phase progression.  
165 Treatment with SMIFH2 of cells expressing PCNA chromobody increased by ten-fold  
166 the duration of individual PCNA foci (Fig 4F; Movie 5). Likewise, overexpression of

167 GFP-DAD.LG.NLS immobilised PCNA foci (Movie 6). Impaired PCNA mobility might  
168 indicate replication fork stalling, which can generate DNA damage. Indeed,  
169 expression of nuclear DAD constructs or SMIFH2 treatment led to formation of DNA  
170 double-strand breaks, as shown by the increase in the number of  $\gamma$ -H2AX-positive  
171 cells (Supplementary Figure 3F, G). Thus, actin and formin constructs that  
172 specifically disrupt nuclear actin dynamics hinder DNA replication.

173 To assess possible effects of altered nuclear actin dynamics on DNA replication  
174 independently of transcription, we used XEE. Arresting actin dynamics with CytD  
175 inhibited DNA replication (Fig 4G). Combining CytD with jasplakinolide or gelsolin  
176 protein was synergistic (Supplementary Figure 4A), whereas latrunculin A, or  
177 recombinant cofilin, which severs actin filaments and dissociates monomers, rescued  
178 replication (Fig 4H; Supplementary Figure 4B). Inhibiting formins using SMIFH2 or  
179 compound 2.4 (Gauvin *et al*, 2009), or inhibiting Arp2/3 with CK-666 (Nolen *et al*,  
180 2009) but not its inactive analogue, CK-689, also blocked DNA replication, as did  
181 recombinant MICAL2 protein (Fig 4I; Supplementary Figure 4C-E). Taken together,  
182 these results indicate that actin dynamics is required for DNA replication in XEE,  
183 independently of transcription. Disrupting actin dynamics inhibited conversion of pre-  
184 replication complexes containing ORC and MCMs to pre-initiation complexes (pre-IC)  
185 containing Cdc45 and PCNA (Fig 4J; Supplementary Figure 4F). We thus tested  
186 possible interactions of endogenous actin with replication factors PCNA, MCMs and  
187 RPA by Proximity Ligation Assay (PLA). We could readily detect sites of DNA  
188 replication by PLA. Actin interacted with PCNA, but not with RPA or MCMs, indicating  
189 that it is not present at replication sites (Supplementary Figure 4G, H). Actin  
190 physically associated with PCNA, as confirmed by pulldowns from nuclei using  
191 immobilised actin-binding peptide Lifeact (Supplementary Figure 4I).



192

193 **Actin dynamics is required for NPC formation and nuclear transport**

194 In XEE, inhibiting actin dynamics prevented DNA decondensation and growth of  
195 nuclei (Fig 5A), while nuclei in SMIFH2-treated U2OS cells were smaller and  
196 misshapen (Fig 5B). These observations suggested that actin dynamics might be  
197 required for nuclear assembly or transport, both of which are essential for DNA  
198 replication. We therefore examined nuclear pores in XEE by 3D structured  
199 illumination microscopy and whole-mount field-emission scanning electron  
200 microscopy (FEISEM). Upon SMIFH2 treatment, nucleoporin (NUP) staining was  
201 disorganised, with dense NUP clusters between NUP-free regions (Fig 5C). While  
202 most NUPs were present, NUP160 was undetectable, and the levels of NUP107,  
203 Gp210, NUP358, NUP214 and NUP183 were decreased (Supplementary Figure 5A).  
204 Furthermore, in nuclei formed in the presence of SMIFH2 or CytD, we could not  
205 detect nuclear pores with electron microscopy (Fig 5D).

206 We next tested nuclear transport using NLS-tagged GST-GFP. In nuclei  
207 formed in CytD- or SMIFH2-treated extracts, the nuclear membrane was intact, but  
208 the probe did not accumulate inside nuclei (Fig 6A; Supplementary Figure 5B). Early  
209 steps in NPC assembly were unaffected as Elys, importin  $\beta$ , FG-NUPs and RCC1 all  
210 bound DNA with similar kinetics to controls (Supplementary Figure 5C). The  
211 subsequent step involves RanGTP-mediated release of nucleoporins from importin-  
212  $\beta$  (Bai *et al*, 2014). Since the same mechanism also governs active nuclear  
213 transport through mature NPCs, we assessed effects of modifying actin dynamics on  
214 nuclear transport in preassembled nuclei with NLS-tagged GST-GFP (Fig 6B,  
215 scheme). We used wheat germ agglutinin (WGA) that blocks NPC function and  
216 importazole that disrupts Ran-importin- $\beta$  interaction (Soderholm *et al*, 2011), and

217 inhibited CDK with PA, which blocks DNA replication without affecting NPC function.  
218 As expected, importazole blocked DNA replication (Supplementary Figure 5D).  
219 Neither CytD nor SMIFH2 affected integrity of pre-formed NPCs, as assessed  
220 probing passive transport with fluorescently labeled dextrans (Mohr *et al*, 2009)  
221 (Supplementary Figure 5E). Nevertheless, disrupting actin dynamics abolished  
222 nuclear transport, as did WGA and importazole, whereas PA had no effect (Fig 6B).

223 We next investigated whether actin dynamics is required for importin-  
224 dependent nuclear transport in human cells. We analysed nuclear translocation of  
225 endogenous NF- $\kappa$ B (Transcription factor p65) in primary human fibroblasts upon  
226 stimulation with IL-1 $\beta$  (Interleukin-1 beta) or TNF $\alpha$  (Tumour necrosis factor alpha).  
227 Treatment with the cytokines releases NF- $\kappa$ B from its inhibitor I $\kappa$ B (I-kappa-B) and  
228 triggers its nuclear translocation, thus bypassing possible effects of cytoplasmic actin  
229 disruption on cell shape and NF- $\kappa$ B regulation (Németh *et al*, 2004; Sero *et al*, 2015).  
230 This allowed us to study effects of CytD or formin inhibition on NF- $\kappa$ B nuclear  
231 translocation itself. Importazole, as expected, strongly reduced NF- $\kappa$ B nuclear  
232 translocation. CytD had only a moderate effect, probably because it strongly affected  
233 cell shape, which has been reported to alter cytoplasmic NF- $\kappa$ B regulation (Németh  
234 *et al*, 2004; Sero *et al*, 2015). In contrast, SMIFH2 did not significantly change cell  
235 shape, but almost completely abolished NF- $\kappa$ B nuclear translocation (Fig 6C, D).

236

### 237 **Arresting actin dynamics hinders cargo release from importin**

238 Next, using XEE, we investigated the mechanism whereby inhibiting actin  
239 dynamics disrupts nuclear transport. Since FG-NUPs are cargo of importin- $\beta$  during  
240 NPC formation in extracts, we compared FG-NUP-importin interactions in control and  
241 CytD- or importazole-treated extracts. Both treatments increased binding of importins

242 to FG-NUPs (Fig 7A). We then analysed effects of CytD and SMIFH2 on binding of  
243 importin- $\beta$  to cargo in nuclei. We immunoprecipitated FG-NUPs from nuclear  
244 extracts and immunoblotted for PCNA, as well as an unrelated cargo, TPX2  
245 (Targeting protein for Xklp2-A). Importantly, SMIFH2 treatment severely decreased  
246 the abundance of all tested proteins in the nuclei. Both treatments resulted in loss of  
247 PCNA from nuclei, suggesting that nuclear import of PCNA no longer  
248 counterbalances its export. CytD but not SMIFH2 strongly increased the NUP-actin  
249 interaction (Fig 7B). PCNA and TPX2 bound similarly to NUPs, indicating that cargo  
250 binding is not altered by actin. We then tested whether cargo release in the  
251 nucleoplasm was affected. This depends on productive Ran-importin interactions  
252 (Lowe *et al*, 2010). Ran binding to importin- $\beta$  and RCC1, its GTP exchange factor,  
253 was not altered by CytD or SMIFH2. However, CytD strongly promoted actin-Ran  
254 interaction and TPX2 remained bound to importin- $\beta$ , suggesting that increased actin  
255 binding might hinder cargo release (Fig 7C). TPX2 could not be detected in pull  
256 downs from nuclei with SMIFH2, probably as a result of its elimination from the  
257 nucleus. Actin binding to Ran could be reconstituted with purified proteins (Fig 7D),  
258 and it was independent of whether Ran was in its GDP- or GTP-loaded form (Fig 7E).  
259 CytD had no effect on RanGTP levels but promoted nuclear RanGTP-actin binding,  
260 and latrunculin A reversed this phenotype (Fig 7F). SMIFH2 marginally increased  
261 actin binding to RanGTP, an effect similarly cancelled by latrunculin A. These results  
262 suggest that treatments that increase actin binding to RanGTP prevent cargo release  
263 from importins, but that this is independent of alterations of nuclear actin levels.

264

265 **Formins act in parallel with CDK to promote pre-IC formation**

266 While nuclear transport is required for nuclear assembly and S-phase onset, our  
267 results in human cells indicated that inhibiting formins impairs DNA replication even  
268 after nuclear assembly. It was thus important to discriminate whether the roles of  
269 formins in DNA replication were exclusively due to their requirement for NPC  
270 formation and function. If so, it would suggest that there is a continued requirement  
271 for nuclear transport throughout DNA replication. To address this question, we  
272 determined execution points for biochemical activities at successive phases of DNA  
273 synthesis. We thus used XEE and performed nuclear transfer experiments in which  
274 nuclei were isolated from one extract and transferred to another with different  
275 conditions. We first used WGA to block existing NPC function, or prevented new  
276 NPC formation by depleting nucleoporins with WGA (WGA-bp $\Delta$ ). As expected, both  
277 treatments blocked DNA replication (Supplementary Figure 6A, B). We then  
278 combined these treatments with nuclear transfers. Nuclei were formed in an extract  
279 where replication licensing was prevented by adding recombinant geminin (Fig 8A,  
280 scheme; Supplementary Figure 6C). These nuclei were then transferred into a  
281 second extract with added recombinant Cdt1, to release the licensing block, and  
282 containing SMIFH2, WGA or vehicle, or depleted of NUPs. In nuclei transferred into  
283 NUP-depleted extract, DNA replication occurred, albeit less efficiently (Fig 8A, WGA-  
284 bp $\Delta$ ). However, replication was totally blocked by the further addition of SMIFH2 (Fig  
285 8A, WGA-bp $\Delta$  +SMIFH2). Blocking existing NPCs with WGA also prevented  
286 replication (Fig 8A, +WGA). Therefore, once nuclei have been correctly formed, DNA  
287 replication can initiate in the absence of further NPC formation, but not if formins or  
288 existing NPCs are inhibited.

289 This suggests that formins might have a role in the continued function of NPCs  
290 in DNA replication. To further investigate such a possibility, we used a double

291 reciprocal nuclear transfer. First extracts contained geminin and second extracts  
292 contained either SMIFH2 or WGA. Nuclei were further transferred into a third extract  
293 with the alternative condition or to a control extract (scheme, Fig 8B). Neither transfer  
294 from WGA-into-SMIFH2, nor from SMIFH2-into-WGA allowed DNA replication in the  
295 third extract (Fig 8B). Therefore, ongoing nuclear transport and formin activity are  
296 required to promote DNA replication in fully formed nuclei.

297         Given that CDK activity is essential for pre-IC formation, but not for nuclear  
298 assembly or transport, we next performed reciprocal nuclear transfer between CDK-  
299 inhibited (PA) and WGA-treated extracts. Replication was abolished when nuclei  
300 were transferred from PA to WGA (Supplementary Figure 6D), confirming that active  
301 nuclear transport is required in parallel with CDK to promote pre-IC formation.  
302 Assuming formin function is to allow nuclear transport, formin activity should  
303 therefore be essential for pre-IC formation. We tested this by transferring nuclei from  
304 geminin-containing extract to a second extract, treated with either PA, SMIFH2 or  
305 vehicle, and quantifying DNA replication. As expected, both PA and SMIFH2  
306 prevented replication in preassembled nuclei (Fig 8C). Chromatin-bound PCNA was  
307 essentially undetectable in SMIFH2-treated nuclei (Fig 8D), showing that formin  
308 activity is required after nuclear assembly in XEE to allow pre-IC formation and DNA  
309 replication, as in somatic cells. We therefore next determined whether formins and  
310 CDK act sequentially or in parallel. We performed reciprocal nuclear transfer  
311 experiments between a formin-inhibited and a CDK-inhibited (PA) extracts (Fig 8E).  
312 First extracts additionally contained aphidicolin to prevent replication fork  
313 progression, so that replication in the second extract reflected pre-IC assembly. DNA  
314 replicated when transferred from a control first extract to a second containing  
315 SMIFH2 or PA, but not when transferred from PA to SMIFH2, nor, as expected, when

316 transferred from SMIFH2 to PA (Fig 8E). Therefore, formins are required in parallel  
317 with CDK to promote pre-IC formation.

318

### 319 **Nuclear formin activity controls chromatin loading of PCNA and CDKs**

320 Finally, we tested whether nuclear formins might have roles in DNA replication that  
321 are independent of nuclear transport. To do this, we performed a nuclear transfer  
322 experiment where first extracts contained leptomycin B to inhibit the exportin Crm1,  
323 allowing nuclear accumulation of replication factors, and PA to inhibit initiation of  
324 replication. Second extracts contained SMIFH2 or vehicle, with or without leptomycin  
325 B (Fig 9A). DNA replicated efficiently in control second extracts. Without leptomycin  
326 B in the second extract, SMIFH2 treatment decreased nuclear levels of both CDKs  
327 and PCNA, explaining why continuous nuclear transport is required for efficient DNA  
328 replication. Leptomycin rescued CDK and PCNA levels, but DNA still could not  
329 replicate (Fig 9B), and neither CDK nor PCNA were present on the chromatin (Fig  
330 9C). Therefore, nuclear formin activity is further required for loading of pre-IC  
331 components onto chromatin. Decreased loading of PCNA would lead to reduced  
332 origin firing and fork stalling, which would explain impaired S-phase progression  
333 observed in somatic cells and induction of DSBs (Fig 4D-F; Supplementary Figure  
334 2A-C, F,G).

335 We surmised that chromatin loading of PCNA and CDK, as well as DNA  
336 replication, might not require formins in nucleoplasmic extracts (NPE). They are  
337 highly concentrated and DNA can replicate in the absence of a nuclear envelope  
338 (Walter *et al*, 1998). DNA in control NPE replicated efficiently, but replication was  
339 totally abolished when formin activity was inhibited with SMIFH2 (Fig 9D). A similar  
340 effect was observed with the 2.4 formin inhibitor (Supplementary Figure 6E).

341 Importantly, the initial loading of PCNA and other pre-IC components onto chromatin  
342 occurred, but did not increase following initiation of DNA replication as in the control  
343 extract (Fig 9E). Thus, formin inhibition specifically prevents chromatin loading of  
344 replication components in nuclei, and reveals an additional downstream formin-  
345 dependent step in the initiation of DNA replication.

346

## 347 **Discussion**

348 Our study identifies new roles for actin dynamics and formins in controlling cell  
349 proliferation. There are several reasons why this might not previously have been  
350 observed. First, cell anchorage and the cytoskeleton are involved in growth factor-  
351 dependent transcription, *e.g.* of cyclin D1 in mammalian cells (Assoian & Zhu, 1997),  
352 as well as degradation of the CDK inhibitor CDKN1A (Densham *et al*, 2009). This is  
353 at least partly due to cytoplasmic MST kinase activation and signaling to JNK  
354 (Densham *et al*, 2009), obscuring possible effects of altered nuclear actin dynamics.  
355 We and others (Serebryanny *et al*, 2016) find that treatments that induce nuclear  
356 actin filaments eliminate global transcription. We show here that manipulating nuclear  
357 actin also arrests DNA replication in a transcription-independent manner in somatic  
358 mammalian cells. Additionally, we found that specifically interfering with activity of  
359 nuclear formins in S-phase and actin dynamics disrupts DNA replication in  
360 transcriptionally silent XEE. Second, actin is required in other cell cycle phases, for  
361 cortical reorganisation and contractile ring formation (Schroeder, 1973), centrosome  
362 separation and mitotic spindle formation (Uzbekov *et al*, 2002; Rosenblatt *et al*,  
363 2004). Thus, genetic mutation or knockdown of actin regulators, which cannot be  
364 induced specifically in S-phase, disrupt cell division. Identification of roles for actin  
365 dynamics in S-phase can only be achieved using chemical modulation in

366 synchronised cells, or using a system such as XEE where S-phase can be studied  
367 independently of other cell cycle phases, transcription and the cytoskeleton, is  
368 synchronous and can be broken down into individual steps.

369       Because XEE are highly concentrated compared to cell culture medium, and  
370 there is no active drug transport, far higher concentrations of pharmacological  
371 inhibitors are required than in cultured cells. XEE contain around 50 mg/ml protein, of  
372 which 5-10% is actin. Thus, there is at least 100  $\mu$ M actin in extracts. Since effective  
373 drug concentrations depend on adsorption, distribution and metabolism, it is  
374 expected that several hundred-micromolar concentration of actin drugs is required to  
375 elicit phenotypic effects in this system. In contrast, in cells, due to active import,  
376 drugs can routinely attain 1000-fold higher concentrations than in the medium  
377 (Martinez Molina *et al*, 2013).

378       Nucleocytoplasmic shuttling of actin (Dopie *et al*, 2012) means that drug  
379 effects on cytoplasmic actin have knock-on effects on nuclear actin levels. Indeed,  
380 CytD and jasplakinolide both greatly increased nuclear actin levels, and CytD  
381 promoted nuclear actin filament stabilisation in XEE. However, adding recombinant  
382 GST-WASP-VCA and Arp2/3 also increased nuclear actin but did not promote similar  
383 filament formation nor affect nuclear transport and DNA replication. Conversely,  
384 formin inhibition did not raise nuclear actin levels nor trigger nuclear actin filament  
385 stabilisation, yet inhibited both nuclear transport and DNA replication. Furthermore,  
386 addition of purified proteins MICAL2 or gelsolin was inhibitory for replication, while  
387 addition of recombinant cofilin could rescue the effects of CytD. Finally,  
388 hyperactivation of nuclear formins inhibited S-phase progression. These results imply  
389 that deregulated nuclear actin dynamics, rather than an increase in nuclear actin  
390 levels or filament formation *per se*, prevents DNA replication.



391 Our experiments in XEE demonstrate that actin dynamics is essential both for  
392 NPC assembly and for nuclear transport, and we reveal one underlying mechanism.  
393 Both of these processes involve importin- $\alpha/\beta$ -mediated cargo binding and  
394 subsequent release, which is dependent on the interaction with Ran. Arresting actin  
395 dynamics results in increased actin binding to RanGTP, preventing cargo release  
396 from importin- $\beta$ . A similar phenotype has been observed with importazole, which  
397 alters Ran-importin interactions without preventing their binding (Soderholm *et al*,  
398 2011). Similarly, the K37D/K152A Ran mutation affects importin- $\beta$ -Ran interactions,  
399 impeding cargo release (Lee *et al*, 2005). Future studies will be required to map the  
400 exact interaction sites and determine conformational changes induced by actin  
401 binding to Ran, and how this modifies Ran-importin interactions.

402 Further work will also be required to define whether the observed effects of  
403 altering formin activity can be entirely attributed to changes in actin dynamics. We  
404 find that activating endogenous nuclear formins in somatic cells, or favouring nuclear  
405 actin polymerisation by expressing NLS-tagged actin mutants, arrests ongoing DNA  
406 replication. We also find that formin activity is required for DNA replication  
407 downstream of nuclear assembly and independently of nuclear transport. In XEE it is  
408 required for loading CDKs and PCNA onto chromatin, while in NPE it directly  
409 promotes DNA replication. These results suggest that nuclear organisation is not  
410 simply required to concentrate replication factors, as assumed from DNA replication  
411 in nuclear envelope-free *Xenopus* nucleoplasmic extracts (Walter *et al*, 1998). It will  
412 be important to define the precise mechanism of these formin-dependent steps in  
413 DNA replication.

414 In conclusion, together with accumulating evidence for important roles in chromatin  
415 regulation and transcription, our study strongly reinforces the notion that actin  
416 dynamics and formins have critical effects on essential nuclear processes.

417

## 418 **Materials and Methods**

### 419 **Antibodies**

420 Antibodies used are as follows: XCdc45, XCdc6, XRPA, XMCM3, XCut5 (gifts from  
421 M. Méchali); XORC2, XMCM6 (gifts from J. Maller); XCut5 (gift from D. Maiorano);  
422 PCNA (Abcam; ab18197, or Oncogene Science NA03); PSTAIR (Sigma-Aldrich;  
423 P7962); human Cdc6 (H-304, Santa Cruz Biotechnology; SC-8341); actin (Sigma-  
424 Aldrich, clones A2066 or AC-15; Hypermol, clone 2G2); Ran (Santa Cruz  
425 Biotechnology, C29; SC-1156); active Ran (NewEast Biosciences; 26915); cofilin  
426 (Abcam; ab42824); Arp2 (Abcam; ab47654); mDia2 (One World Lab; 11016); NFκB  
427 p65 (A) (Santa Cruz Biotechnology; SC-109); XNUP107, XNUP62, XNUP153 (gifts  
428 from B. Heulsmann); Elys (gift from J. Blow); γH2A.X pSer129 (Millipore, clone  
429 JBW301); TPX2, XRCC1, HS importin β . In house rabbit polyclonal antibodies  
430 against His-tagged *Xenopus* importin α were raised and affinity purified. The original  
431 construct for His-tagged human importin-α was a gift of D. Goerlich; XLaminB3 (gift  
432 from B. Goldman); WASP (Abcam; ab74904); mAb414 (Abcam; ab50008); ROCK1  
433 (Abcam; ab58305); Arp3 (Abcam; ab49671); Cortactin (Millipore; clone 4F11); tubulin  
434 (Santa Cruz Biotechnology; SC-9104); GST (Pierce; MA4-004); biotin (Cell Signaling;  
435 D5A7); digoxigenin (Roche, clone 1.71.256).

436

### 437 **Plasmids**

438 The PCNA-TagRFP and actin-TagGFP chromobodies were purchased from  
439 Chromotek ®. To allow endogenous nuclear actin detection, the SV40 nuclear  
440 localisation sequence (NLS, ccgcctaagaaaaagcggaaggtg) was added at the C-term  
441 of the actin chromobody, or in between the actin Vhh sequence and the TagGFP.  
442 The former is essentially identical to the nAC recently published (Plessner *et al*,  
443 2015) but with a different stop codon. Both of our nuclear actin chromobodies gave  
444 identical results but only the former was used in this study. The actin-NLS R62D  
445 mutant (Baarlink *et al*, 2013) was used as template to generate the actin-NLS WT  
446 form and that was subsequently mutated to S14C or G15S. Formin mutants, mDia2-  
447 DAD constructs, actin-NLS R62D, and Lifeact-GFP-NLS were gifts from R. Grosse.

448

#### 449 ***Xenopus* egg extracts and replication reactions**

450 Interphase egg extracts, chromatin isolation and replication assays were prepared  
451 and performed essentially as described (Blow & Laskey, 1986), with minor  
452 modifications. In brief, eggs laid overnight in 150mM NaCl were dejellied in  
453 degellying buffer (29mM Tris pH 8.5, 110mM NaCl, 5mM DTT); rinsed several times  
454 in High Salt Barths solution (15mM Tris pH 7.6, 110mM NaCl, 2mM KCl, 1mM  
455 MgSO<sub>4</sub>, 0.5mM Na<sub>2</sub>HPO<sub>4</sub>, 2mM NaHCO<sub>3</sub>), twice in MMR (5mM HEPES-KOH pH  
456 7.6, 100mM NaCl, 2mM KCl, 0.1mM EDTA, 1mM MgCl<sub>2</sub>, 2mM CaCl<sub>2</sub>), before  
457 activation with 0.3µg/ml calcimycin ionophore in MMR. Subsequently, two rinses in  
458 MMR and two more in SB (50mM HEPES-KOH pH 7.6, 50mM KCl, 2.5mM MgCl<sub>2</sub>,  
459 5% Sucrose, 0.014% β-mercaptoethanol) followed, while during the last rinse the  
460 eggs were transferred on ice and SB was supplemented with protease inhibitors  
461 (10µg/ml leupeptin, pepstatin and aprotinin). Eggs were spun down at 200g for 1min  
462 and excess of buffer removed before being centrifuged at 16,000g, 4°C for 10

463 minutes. Protease inhibitors and 10µg/ml cytochalasin B were added to the  
464 cytoplasmic fraction. This concentration of cytochalasin B, a much weaker actin drug  
465 than cytochalasin D, is required to reduce the viscosity sufficiently that extracts can  
466 be obtained by centrifugation but has no effect on DNA replication and does not  
467 provoke nuclear actin stabilisation. Extracts were further centrifuged in SW55Ti rotor  
468 for 20min at 20k rpm (48,000g) at 4°C. The cytoplasmic layer was extracted with a  
469 large-bore needle and syringe, and supplemented with glycerol 3% and ATP  
470 regenerating system (10mM creatine phosphate, 10µg/ml creatine kinase, 1mM ATP,  
471 1mM MgCl<sub>2</sub>) added from a 20x stock. Aliquots were frozen in liquid nitrogen. Where  
472 indicated, a 1:100 dilution of cytochalasin D (at final concentration of 400 µM, unless  
473 otherwise indicated; Enzo); SMIFH2 (500 µM, unless otherwise stated; Calbiochem);  
474 Purvalanol A (200 µM; Sigma-Aldrich); latrunculin A (100 µM, unless otherwise  
475 indicated; Enzo); jasplakinolide (100 µM; Enzo); importazole (500 µM, unless  
476 otherwise indicated; Sigma-Aldrich); 2.4 formin inhibitor (at indicated concentrations;  
477 K216-0385, ChemDiv); CK-666 or CK-689 (Calbiochem), or DMSO solvent only was  
478 added to the *Xenopus* egg extracts. Where indicated, extract was supplemented  
479 with: recombinant geminin and Cdt1 (40nM; gift from M. Lutzmann); recombinant  
480 MICAL2 (48ng/µl of extract; gift from V.N. Gladyshev); WGA (0.2 mg/ml;  
481 Calbiochem); aphidicolin (25 µg/ml; Sigma-Aldrich); recombinant cofilin (5 µM;  
482 Hypermol; 8419-01); recombinant Arp2/3 complex and GST-VCA (200nM; Hypermol;  
483 84101 and 8416-01, respectively); recombinant His-Ran WT and Q96L (used at 5µM;  
484 purified as described previously: (Bompard et al., 2005); gelsolin (80ng/µl; Sigma-  
485 Aldrich, G8032); dextran-Alexa Fluor 488 10,000MW, and dextran-Rhodamine B  
486 70,000MW (used at 2.5µl/µl; Life Technologies, D-22910 and D-1841). For mass  
487 spectrometry analysis, sperm heads were added at concentration of 2800/µl and the

488 insoluble fraction of nucleoskeleton and chromatin was isolated at 50 min from 1ml of  
489 extract per condition. Nucleoplasmic extracts (NPE) preparation, analysis of DNA  
490 replication efficiency and chromatin loading of replication factors were performed as  
491 described . *Chromosomal DNA replication in a soluble cell-free system derived from*  
492 *Xenopus eggs*, AV Tutter and JC Walter, in *Xenopus Protocols. Cell Biology and*  
493 *Signal Transduction*. Humana Press, Totowa, New Jersey 2006). The NPE was  
494 supplemented with DMSO, SMIFH2 or 2.4 compound at 1.6% (SMIFH2 final  
495 concentration 800µM, unless otherwise stated).

496

#### 497 **Cell culture**

498 Cells (U2OS or HeLa) were cultured in DMEM Glutamax (Invitrogen) supplemented  
499 with 10% heat inactivated Fetal Bovine Serum (FBS; Invitrogen) and 1x antibiotic  
500 mixture (complete medium). Cell lines were tested for mycoplasma contamination  
501 regularly. For cell cycle synchronisation, cells were incubated in complete medium  
502 containing 2 mM thymidine for 14-16 h. After an 8-10 h release in complete medium,  
503 2 mM thymidine was added again for 20 h. Cells were released and 6-7 h later  
504 nocodazole (50-100 ng/mL) was added for additional 5 h. Cells were washed with  
505 PBS and complete medium was added for 4.5 h, at which time DMSO or SMIFH2 (50  
506 µM) was added. At indicated time-points, cells were detached by trypsinisation,  
507 washed with ice-cold PBS and pellets were collected for FACS and/or  
508 immunoblotting analysis. For transient transfections of plasmid DNA, jetPEI or  
509 Lipofectamine 2000 or 3000 was used, according to the manufacturer's instructions  
510 (Polyplus Transfection or Invitrogen, respectively).

511 U2OS cells stably expressing the nuclear actin or PCNA chromobody were obtained  
512 upon Lipofectamine-2000 transfection and selection with 2 µg/ml pyromycin. Clones  
513 were obtained by serial dilution.

514 To analyse NFκB translocation, RA-FLS (rheumatoid arthritis, fibroblast-like  
515 synovocytes) were prepared as described (J. Morel et al. JBC 2005; 280: 15709-18)  
516 (Morel *et al*, 2005). Cells were seeded at 10 000 per well on coverslips in 12-well  
517 plates in RPMI medium/5% FBS, allowed to adhere for 24hrs, then starved overnight  
518 in RPMI/1% FBS. The following day, fresh medium/1% FBS was supplemented with  
519 0.1% DMSO, importazole (50µM) or SMIFH2 (50µM) for one hour, followed by  
520 stimulation with IL-1β (10ng/ml final; Miltenyi Biotec) or TNF-α (10ng/ml final; Miltenyi  
521 Biotec) for 30 min. Cells were then washed in PBS, fixed in 3.7% formaldehyde/PBS  
522 and proceeded for NFκB immunostaining.

523

#### 524 **Immunoprecipitations, pull-downs and nuclear transfers**

525 Glutathione-immobilised GST-Ran wild-type and Q69L mutant were produced as  
526 previously described (Bompard *et al*, 2010). For IPs, 10µl of beads (glutathione-  
527 Sepharose (GE Healthcare) beads were used as Mock) were washed in PBS and  
528 incubated with lysed nuclei (corresponding to 25µl of extract, lysed at 55min; drugs  
529 were added at 40min) for 2h at 4°C, washed in 150mM NaCl/PBS, resuspended in  
530 Laemmli buffer and analysed by Western-blotting.

531 For mAb414 and importin-β IPs from egg extract, 10µl of DynaBeads (for mAb414) or  
532 10µl packed protein G-agarose (Roche) beads (for importin-β) were washed with  
533 PBS and incubated with antibody for 2h at 4°C, subsequently washed in PBS and  
534 incubated with 25µl extract diluted with SB buffer for 2h at 4°C. Beads were then  
535 processed as above.

536 For anti-active Ran IP, 10 $\mu$ l packed protein G-agarose (Roche) beads were  
537 incubated with 1 $\mu$ g of antibody for 2h at 4°C, blocked in 10mg/ml BSA/PBS, washed  
538 in PBS and incubated with lysed nuclei (corresponding to 25 $\mu$ l of extract) for 2h at  
539 4°C, washed in 0.1% Triton-X 100 / 150mM NaCl / PBS, resuspended in Laemmli  
540 buffer and analysed by Western blotting. For actin-Ran *in vitro* pull-down,  
541 glutathione-Sepharose (GE Healthcare) beads were pre-incubated with recombinant  
542 GST protein (Bompard et al. 2010); 10 $\mu$ l of glutathione-GST and glutathione-GST-  
543 Ran beads were washed and blocked in 10mg/ml BSA/PBS, washed in PBS and  
544 incubated with 1 $\mu$ g of actin-biotin (Cytoskeleton) for 2h at 4°C, then proceeded as  
545 above. For Lifeact-NLS-actin pull-down, 10 $\mu$ l packed Streptavidin-Agarose  
546 (Novagen) beads were incubated with 5 nmol Lifeact-NLS-biotin peptide (MG-  
547 VADLIKKFESISKEEGDPP-VATPPKKKRK-V-biotin; synthesised by Cambridge  
548 Research Biochemicals) for 2h at 4°C, washed in PBS and incubated with lysed  
549 sonicated nuclei (corresponding to 40 $\mu$ l of extract) for 2h at 4°C, washed in 150mM  
550 NaCl/PBS, resuspended in Laemmli buffer and analysed by Western blotting.

551 GTP/GDP nucleotide exchange assay with glutathione-immobilised recombinant  
552 GST-Ran was performed as previously described (Bompard et al., 2010). Beads  
553 were subsequently washed in wash buffer (20mM Tris pH 7.5, 50mM NaCl, 5mM  
554 MgCl<sub>2</sub>) and incubated with 1 $\mu$ g of actin-biotin (Cytoskeleton) / 10 $\mu$ l of beads for 2h at  
555 4°C; washed in wash buffer, resuspended in Laemmli buffer and analysed by  
556 Western blotting.

557 For nuclear transfer experiments, sperm heads were added to egg extract  
558 supplemented as indicated, and at time points indicated, nuclei were diluted 10x in  
559 CPB buffer (50mM KCl; 20mM HEPES pH 7.6; 2% Sucrose; 5mM MgCl<sub>2</sub>) with  
560 protease inhibitors, layered onto 1ml sucrose cushion (0.7M Sucrose in CPB) and

561 centrifuged for 5 min. at 6,000g at 4°C, and resuspended in the recipient extract. For  
562 nuclear fractionation, the pellet was further resuspended in CPB containing 0.3%  
563 Triton-X 100, then recentrifuged, supernatant recovered as nucleoplasmic fraction  
564 and pellet resuspended directly in Laemmli buffer as insoluble nuclear fraction. For  
565 immunoblot analysis, fractions corresponding to the same number of nuclei were  
566 loaded on gel.

567

### 568 **Immunofluorescence microscopy**

569 Immunofluorescence microscopy using *Xenopus* egg extract nuclei and preparation  
570 of samples for visualizing actin was performed as described (Krauss *et al*, 2003).  
571 Where indicated, 20 µM biotin-dUTP or digoxigenin-dUTP (Roche), and inhibitors or  
572 DMSO, were used. Actin-Alexa Fluor and actin-biotin conjugates were obtained from  
573 Life Technologies and Cytoskeleton, respectively, and used at 25 µg/ml. DHCC was  
574 used at 2 µM. pGEX 4T1 GST-GFP-NLS plasmid was a gift from Dale Shumaker  
575 (Northwestern University, Chicago) (Moore M. S., 2000). DNA was stained with 1  
576 µg/ml Hoechst 33258. TRITC- or rhodamine-conjugated phalloidin (Invitrogen) was  
577 used at 1/500. Secondary antibodies and Streptavidin were Alexa Fluor conjugates  
578 and were used at 1/500. Images were taken with upright Zeiss AxioimagerZ1 (100x;  
579 1.4NA) microscope operated with Metamorph 6.2.6. software (Molecular Devices),  
580 using constant exposure time for each filter setting. Superresolution images were  
581 taken using 3D-SIM with a Deltavision OMX microscope, with Olympus UPLAPO oil  
582 objective (100x; 1.4NA), and analyzed using OMERO.insight application. Confocal  
583 images were taken using Leica SP5-SMD microscope. The Duolink in situ PLA was  
584 performed according to the manufacturer's instructions (Olink Bioscience, Uppsala,  
585 Sweden).



586 Cultured cells were seeded on gelatin-coated coverslips, synchronised and treated  
587 as described for each experiment. EdU (5-ethynyl-2'-deoxyuridine; 10  $\mu$ M) or EU (5-  
588 ethynyl-uridine; 1mM for 1hr) were detected with click reaction using the Alexa  
589 Fluor® 647 Imaging Kit, according to the manufacturer's instructions (Invitrogen), and  
590 images were acquired as described above using constant exposure time between the  
591 tested conditions. For nuclear actin imaging, cells were transfected and fixed 24-48  
592 hrs later either with 3.7% formaldehyde in cytoskeleton buffer (10 mM MES, 150 mM  
593 NaCl, 5 mM EGTA, 5 mM glucose and 5 mM MgCl<sub>2</sub>) at pH 6.2 (Small *et al*, 1999), or  
594 with glutaraldehyde essentially as described (Baarlink *et al*, 2013). TRITC-conjugated  
595 phalloidin was used at 1/1,000 for 1.5 hr. For "phalloidin alone" staining, cells were  
596 fixed with glutaraldehyde as above, and phalloidin was used at 1/200 for 20 min (for  
597 after 3 quenching steps with sodium borohydride (1 mg/ml) (Small *et al*, 1999).  
598 Coverslips were mounted with DAPI-containing Prolong Gold or Diamond (Thermo  
599 Fisher). Image analysis,  $\gamma$ H2A.X foci counting and signal intensity measurement was  
600 performed in Fiji-ImageJ (Schindelin *et al*, 2012) using identical parameters for all  
601 conditions. The NucleusJ plug-in (Poulet *et al*, 2015) was used to measure  
602 parameters of nuclear morphology.

603 For the analysis of NF $\kappa$ B translocation, images were acquired using a Carl Zeiss  
604 AxioimagerZ2 microscope, a plan-apochromat 40x 1.4 NA oil immersion lens and  
605 FS49 (Hoechst) and FS45 HQ (Texas Red) fluorescence filter sets, and a grid  
606 projection illumination system (aka. Apotome). The high signal to noise ratio and out  
607 of focus removal proved to be important for the analysis.

608 To increase the sample size, a large-field Hamamatsu Orca Flash4.0 LT sCMOS  
609 camera was used and 5x5 mosaic acquisitions were performed.

610 Individual tiles were analysed using a custom-designed Cell Profiler analysis routine.

611 Briefly, nuclei masks were identified using an intensity-based automatic Otsu  
612 threshold on the Hoechst images. Cut objects at the edges of the image, as well as  
613 non-nuclear small objects were discarded. Rare, fused nuclei were segmented using  
614 an intensity algorithm. Subsequently, the nuclear masks were expanded by 10 pixels.  
615 NFkB staining integrated intensity and masked areas were then measured in both  
616 nucleus and expanded nucleus masks. Cytoplasm integrated intensities and areas  
617 were derived using expanded nucleus mask minus nucleus mask values. Mean  
618 intensity values (integrated intensity/area) and nucleus/cytoplasm mean intensity  
619 ratios were calculated.

620

## 621 **Statistics**

622 Graphs were created and statistical analyses (two-tailed unpaired *t*-test) were  
623 performed in Microsoft Excel 2011 or GraphPad Prism 6. The number of cells  
624 counted in each condition and *P*-values (\*,  $p \leq 0.05$ ; \*\*,  $p \leq 0.001$ ; \*\*\*,  $p \leq 0.0001$ ) are  
625 indicated in the figures. Duration of nuclear actin network and replication foci were  
626 measured manually and outliers were removed with the ROUT method ( $Q = 1\%$ ) in  
627 Prism 6.

628

## 629 **Timelapse microscopy**

630 For live videomicroscopy, cells were seeded in glass bottom 35 mm dishes with 1 or  
631 4 compartments, transfected as above, and image analysis was initiated 10-15 min  
632 after addition of drugs. Z-stacks (10  $\mu\text{m}$  in 5 planes) were acquired every 10 minutes  
633 using an inverted microscope (Nikon) equipped with confocal spinning disk CSU-X1  
634 Andor, 60x/1.4 oil objective using the software Andor iQ3. Stacks were processed

635 and movies generated in Fiji. To measure the duration of nuclear actin network and  
636 PCNA foci, timelapse videos with images taken at 10-min intervals were used.

637

### 638 **Electron microscopy**

639 Ten or twenty microliters of interphase *Xenopus* egg extract was supplemented with  
640 sperm DNA as described above; nuclei were allowed to assemble in the presence or  
641 absence of actin inhibitors (SMIFH2 or cytochalasin D). Sample preparation for  
642 scanning electron microscopy (SEM) was performed as described (Allen *et al*, 2007),  
643 with minor modifications. Briefly, reactions were stopped by diluting 25-fold with cold  
644 CPB buffer supplemented with protease inhibitor cocktail (Sigma-Aldrich) and  
645 centrifuged at 1,000 x g for 2 min at 4°C. Nuclei were resuspended in 0.5 ml CPB,  
646 layered onto 0.5-1 ml sucrose cushion (0.7 M in CPB) and centrifuged at 3,000 x g  
647 for 15 min at 4°C onto acetone-washed silicon chips (Agar Scientific). Nuclei were  
648 fixed in fixation buffer (80 mM PIPES, pH6.8, 30mM KCl, 1mM MgCl<sub>2</sub>, 0.25%  
649 glutaraldehyde, 2% formaldehyde, 5% w/v Sucrose) for 30 min at room temperature,  
650 washed in 0.2 M sodium cacodylate, and post-fixed with 1% osmium tetroxide  
651 solution in 0.2 M sodium cacodylate. After a wash in H<sub>2</sub>O, samples were dehydrated  
652 with increasing concentrations of ethanol (30%, 50%, 70%, 90%, and three times in  
653 absolute ethanol) followed by 10-min incubation in graded ethanol –  
654 hexamethyldisilazane. After one wash with hexamethyldisilazane, the samples were  
655 sputter-coated with approximately 3-10nm thick gold film and examined under a  
656 scanning electron microscope (Hitachi S4000 or S4800). Images were obtained  
657 using a lens detector with an acceleration voltage of 20kV at calibrated  
658 magnifications, with Axone software (version 2013; Newtec) and processed in  
659 ImageJ or Photoshop.

660

### 661 **Fluorescence-activated cell sorting (FACS) analysis**

662 Cells ( $0.5-1 \times 10^6$ ) were suspended in cold PBS, then pure ethanol was added to  
663 reach 70% (v/v) and fixed cells were stored in  $-20^\circ\text{C}$  until FACS analysis. DNA was  
664 stained in PBS solution containing  $2.5 \mu\text{g/ml}$  propidium iodide (PI) and  $500 \mu\text{g/mL}$   
665 RNase (Sigma-Aldrich). FACS data were obtained using FACS Calibur BD flow  
666 cytometer and visualized using Flowing software (<http://www.flowingsoftware.com/> -  
667 versions 2.4.1 and above).

668

### 669 **Subcellular fractionation and immunoblotting**

670 Chromatin and nucleoplasmic fractions were prepared from cell pellets essentially as  
671 described and protein concentrations were determined with the BCA method  
672 (Pierce). For immunoblotting,  $10 \mu\text{g}$  of chromatin and  $15 \mu\text{g}$  of soluble nuclear  
673 material were loaded on 10% or 12% polyacrylamide gels and transferred onto PVDF  
674 membranes. After blocking with 2% BSA, the corresponding antibodies were  
675 incubated for 14-16 h at  $4^\circ\text{C}$ .

676

### 677 **Mass spectrometry**

678 Protein samples containing the nucleoskeleton and chromatin were resuspended in  
679 2x Laemmli buffer and sonicated. Proteins (corresponding to 0.5 ml of extract) were  
680 reduced, alkylated and separated by SDS-PAGE in 4-20% gradient gels (Bio-Rad),  
681 each lane was sliced in 15 pieces and in-gel trypsin (Gold, Promega) digestion, and  
682 peptide extraction were performed essentially as described (Shevchenko *et al*, 2006).  
683 Obtained peptides were analyzed online by nano-flow HPLC-nanoelectrospray  
684 ionization using a LTQ Orbitrap XL mass spectrometer (Thermo Fisher Scientific)

685 coupled to an Ultimate 3000 HPLC (Dionex, Thermo Fisher Scientific). Desalting and  
686 pre-concentration of samples were performed online on a Pepmap® pre-column (0.3  
687 mm x 10 mm, Dionex). A gradient consisting of 0-40% B in A for 60 min, followed by  
688 80% B/20% A for 15 min (A = 0.1% formic acid, 2% acetonitrile in water; B = 0.1 %  
689 formic acid in acetonitrile) at 300 nL/min was used to elute peptides from the capillary  
690 reverse- phase column (0.075 mm x 150 mm, Pepmap®, Dionex). Eluted peptides  
691 were electrosprayed online at a voltage of 2.2 kV. A cycle of one full-scan mass  
692 spectrum (400 – 2,000 m/z) at a resolution of 60,000 (at 400 m/z), followed by 5  
693 data-dependent MS/MS spectra was repeated continuously throughout the nanoLC  
694 separation. All MS/MS spectra were recorded using normalised collision energy (35  
695 %, activation Q 0.25 and activation time 30 ms) with an isolation window of 3 m/z.  
696 Raw data analysis was performed using the MaxQuant software (v. 1.3.0.5). Peak  
697 lists were searched against the NCBI *Xenopus laevis* (release 130117;  
698 <http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov>), 255 frequently observed contaminants as well as  
699 reversed sequences of all entries. The *X. laevis* genome is not fully sequenced and  
700 this results in several ‘uncharacterized proteins’. Therefore, we also searched against  
701 the *X. tropicalis* database, which is fully sequenced. The following settings were  
702 applied: spectra were searched with a mass tolerance of 7 ppm (MS) and 0.5 m/z  
703 (MS/MS). Enzyme specificity was set to Trypsin/P. Up to two missed cleavages were  
704 allowed and only peptides with at least six amino acids in length were considered.  
705 Carbamidomethylation of Cys was selected as fixed modification. Oxidation on  
706 methionine, phosphorylation on serine, threonine or tyrosine and acetylation on  
707 Protein N-term was set as a variable modification. Peptide identifications were  
708 accepted based on their false discovery rate (< 1%). Accepted peptide sequences  
709 were subsequently assembled by MaxQuant into proteins to achieve a false

710 discovery rate of 1% at the protein level. Only proteins identified by at least 1 unique  
711 peptide or 2 peptides of at least 6 amino acids and in at least 2 of the 3 replicates  
712 were selected for further analyses.

713 For quantitation, the log<sub>10</sub> of median intensity-based absolute quantification (iBAQ)  
714 was used. To compensate for the incomplete *X. laevis* database, MaxQuant .txt files  
715 were modified as follows: matchgroups were created with protein groups identified by  
716 similar peptides; GO categories for identified *X. laevis* proteins were downloaded  
717 from Uniprot after converting the GI IDs into UniprotKB accession numbers and  
718 added manually in the MaxQuant files before being loaded onto Perseus; information  
719 on “uncharacterized proteins” was extracted by assigning the UniRef90 or Uniref50  
720 cluster. In Perseus, two groups were defined: “IBAQ D” for DMSO (control), “IBAQ P”  
721 for purvalanol A-treated (CDK-inhibited) sample. “NaN values” were converted to “0”,  
722 so that proteins identified in only one of the 2 conditions would be included in the  
723 plots. Statistical analysis was performed in Perseus selecting the 2-sample t-test with  
724 Benjamini-Hochberg and FDR 1% as parameters.

725 For Gene Ontology analysis in DAVID (Huang da *et al*, 2009), gene names were  
726 loaded using *Xenopus laevis* as background. All terms are presented in EV Tables  
727 but only GO BP with p-value <0.01 were further analyzed in REVIGO to remove  
728 redundant GO terms (for Figure 1B) with the following settings: SimRel method,  
729 whole Uniprot database (default settings) and Small Similarity (0.5).

730

## 731 **Acknowledgements**

732 This work was supported by ANR grant ANR-09-BLAN-0252 and Ligue Nationale  
733 Contre le Cancer, “Equipe labellisée,” grants EL2010. LNCC/DF and EL2013.  
734 LNCC/DF and the Région Languedoc Roussillon. Thanks to the labs of J. Blow, M.

735 Méchali, D. Görlich, B. Huelsmann, D. Maiorano and M. Hahne for providing  
736 antibodies, R. Grosse for the Lifeact-GFP-NLS, the actin-NLS R62D and all formin  
737 vectors. Thanks to B.C. Lee and V. Gladyshev for MICAL reagents. H. Hochegger, I.  
738 Hagan, P. Jay, V. Dulic, J. Hutchins and A. Crevenna for comments on the  
739 manuscript. Thanks to M. Goldberg for advice on sample preparation for electron  
740 microscopy, C. Cazevieille of the CRIC-IURS, D. Cot of the IEM, V. Georget, J. M.  
741 Langerak and J. Cau of MRI imaging facilities, Montpellier, for assistance with  
742 electron and light microscopy and analysis. Thanks to R. Audo for help with NF- $\kappa$ B  
743 experiments.

#### 744 **Author Contributions**

745 NP and LK conceived, performed and analysed most experiments and wrote the  
746 manuscript. BH performed other experiments. SU and NP performed proteomics. MR  
747 co-supervised NP for proteomics. AC provided an important intellectual contribution.  
748 JD supervised NPE experiments. NM co-supervised nuclear transport experiments.  
749 DF conceived and directed the study and wrote the manuscript.

#### 750 **Conflict of Interest Statement**

751 The authors declare no competing interests.

752

#### 753 **Supplementary information.**

754 Supplementary information includes 6 videos and 4 tables.

755

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941

## 942 **Figure Legends**

### 943 **Figure 1 - The proteome of replicating nuclei.**

944 **A** Replication time-course of sperm chromatin in control and Purvalanol A (PA)-  
945 treated egg extracts, with nuclei isolated for MS analysis at 50 min.

946 **B** Graphical representation of the identified proteome with relative quantitation data  
947 (mean values from 3 replicates). Full dataset, Table S1.

948 **C** Volcano plot combining the fold-change between control and CDK-inhibited  
949 conditions with their log<sub>10</sub> *P*-values (Student's *t*-test). The most significantly  
950 differentially abundant proteins are highlighted.

951 **D** GO analysis using DAVID, showing the most highly enriched GO biological  
952 processes in each condition (full GO analysis, Table S2). NE: not enriched.

953 **E** Western blots of chromatin fractions from control and PA-treated nuclei used for  
954 MS analysis.

955

956 **Figure 2 - Nuclear actin dynamics during the cell cycle.**

957 **A** Immunofluorescence images of the actin regulators indicated, analysed 60 min after  
958 sperm head addition. Bar, 10 $\mu$ m.

959 **B** Western blot analysis of cytoplasm (CP), whole nuclear (NC), nucleoplasmic (NP)  
960 and insoluble (P) fraction at 60min-time point during DNA replication, probed with  
961 antibodies against proteins indicated.

962 **C** Actin filaments formed by actin-Alexa Fluor 488 in XEE, counterstained with  
963 phalloidin. Bar, 10 $\mu$ m.

964 **D** Immunofluorescence image of nucleus incubated in control extract for 60min in the  
965 presence of actin-Alexa Fluor488. Bar, 10  $\mu$ m.

966 **E** Deconvolved images of 3D optical sections of a nucleus. Left panel, surface; right  
967 panel, mid-section. Actin (actin-biotin; red), DNA (blue), NUPs (mAb414, green). Bar,  
968 5 $\mu$ m.

969 **F** Immunofluorescence images of nucleus formed in control extract, stained at 60 min  
970 with DNaseI-Alexa Fluor 594. Bar, 10 $\mu$ m.

971 **G** Early G1 U2OS cells expressing actin-NLS chromobody co-stained with phalloidin  
972 and DAPI (DNA). Bar, 5 $\mu$ m.

973 **H** Duration of early G1 nuclear actin network (mean  $\pm$  SD, n=135 cells from 3  
974 independent experiments).



975 **I** Serial confocal planes of an early G1 U2OS cell fixed with glutaraldehyde and  
976 stained with phalloidin and DAPI. Bar, 5 $\mu$ m.

977

978 **Figure 3 - Effect of actin drugs, regulators and probes on nuclear actin**  
979 **dynamics and abundance in *Xenopus* egg extracts.**

980 **A** Nuclei were allowed to form for 30 min before drugs (Cyt D, CD; SMIFH2, SF;  
981 latrunculin A, LA; jasplakinolide, Jpk; Cyt D and latrunculin A, CD+LA; SMIFH2 and  
982 latrunculin A, SF+LA) or Arp2/3 recombinant protein (in combination with VCA  
983 domain of WASP) were added, then purified at 45 min. Soluble and insoluble nuclear  
984 fractions were blotted for actin.

985 **B** Extract was supplemented with sperm nuclei and actin-Alexa Fluor 488; at 40 min  
986 indicated drugs or Arp2/3 and VCA domain of WASP were added, and nuclei were  
987 analysed for fluorescent actin at 55 min. Long exposure time (2000ms) was needed  
988 to visualise nuclear actin in all conditions with the exception of Cyt D and  
989 jasplakinolide (exposure time 200ms, highlighted in red). Bar, 10 $\mu$ m.

990 **C** Extract was supplemented with sperm nuclei; at 45 min Cyt D (CD) was added and  
991 nuclei were analysed at 60 min and stained with phalloidin. Bar, 10 $\mu$ m.

992

993 **Figure 4 - DNA replication requires actin dynamics.**

994 **A** FACS analysis of U2OS cells synchronised in G1 and treated with DMSO (Ctl) or  
995 SMIFH2 (50 $\mu$ M).

996 **B** Immunofluorescent images of control or SMIFH2-treated (1hr pre-treatment, 1hr  
997 co-incubation) U2OS cells pulsed for 1hr with EU. Bar, 5 $\mu$ m.

998 **C** Quantification of EU incorporation (1hr) in U2OS cells, control or transfected with  
999 mDia2 DAD.NLS or DAD constructs (n>100, 61 and 47, respectively).

1000 **D** Quantification of EdU incorporation from 2 independent experiments after a 60  
1001 min-pulse in U2OS cells expressing formin constructs (left) or actin-NLS mutants  
1002 (right) (\*\*,  $p$ -value<0.001, \*\*\*,  $p$ -value<0.0001; Student's  $t$ -test).

1003 **E** Quantification (mean  $\pm$  SEM) of EdU intensity from **D** normalised to the non-  
1004 transfected cells.

1005 **F** Duration of PCNA foci in U2OS cells expressing PCNA chromobody (each dot  
1006 represents the mean of 5-7 foci per cell, mean  $\pm$  SD of 29 and 11 cells, respectively,  
1007 per condition from 2 independent experiments).

1008 **G** Chromosomal DNA replication determined by  $^{33}\text{P}$ -dCTP incorporation assay in  
1009 control conditions or with Cyt D (CD); mean  $\pm$  SEM of 8 independent experiments.

1010 **H** DNA replication assessed in control extract, or extracts supplemented with CytD D  
1011 (CD), with or without latrunculin A (LA). A representative experiment of 5  
1012 independent experiments is shown.

1013 **I** DNA replication assays in control (Ctl) or formin-inhibited (SMIFH2; 500 $\mu\text{M}$ ) extract;  
1014 mean  $\pm$  SEM of 8 independent experiments.

1015 **J** Chromatin loading of pre-RC and pre-IC factors in control conditions (Ctl) or with  
1016 Cyt D (CD).

1017

1018 **Figure 5 - NPC formation requires actin dynamics.**

1019 **A** Immunofluorescence images of nuclei formed either in control extracts or in the  
1020 presence of indicated drugs or MICAL2, analysed at 60 min. Bar, 10 $\mu\text{m}$ .

1021 **B** Left, confocal planes of nuclei of cells treated with DMSO (Ctl) or SMIFH2 (50 $\mu\text{M}$ )  
1022 for 4 h, stained with mAb414 and DAPI (DNA). Bar, 5 $\mu\text{m}$ . Right, characterisation of  
1023 nuclear morphology (mean  $\pm$  SD of 20 cells from 2 independent experiments; \*\*\*,  $p$ -  
1024 value <0.0001, Student's  $t$ -test).

1025 **C** 3D-SIM images of the nuclear lamina (red), NUPs (mAb414, green), in control or  
1026 formin-inhibited (SMIFH2) conditions. A reconstructed 3D image (top) and a section  
1027 (bottom) of the same nucleus are shown. In sections, DNA is shown (blue). Bar, 5 $\mu$ m.

1028 **D** Scanning electron microscopy (FEISEM) images of nuclei formed in the presence  
1029 of DMSO (Ctl), Cyt D or SMIFH2 at 50min. Representative NPCs (yellow  
1030 arrowheads) or incompletely formed NPCs (white arrowheads). Magnification  
1031 x40,000. Bar, 100nm.

1032

1033 **Figure 6 - Nuclear transport requires actin dynamics.**

1034 **A** Immunofluorescence images of nuclei formed in control or Cyt D (CD)- or SMIFH2-  
1035 treated extracts. Nuclear membranes were visualised with the lipid dye DHCC;  
1036 nuclear transport was assayed with NLS-tagged GST-GFP protein added at the  
1037 onset of experiment. Nuclei were analysed at 60 min. Bar, 10 $\mu$ m.

1038 **B** Top, scheme: nuclei were supplemented with Cyt D (CD), SMIFH2, PA, WGA or  
1039 importazole (Imp) at 50 min; NLS-GST-GFP was added at 60 min and nuclei were  
1040 imaged at 75 min. Bar, 10 $\mu$ m.

1041 **C** Immunofluorescence images of RA-FLS fibroblasts, treated for one hour with  
1042 DMSO (Ctl), Importazole (50 $\mu$ M), Cyt D (40 $\mu$ M), or SMIFH2 (50 $\mu$ M), subsequently  
1043 stimulated or not with IL-1 $\beta$  or TNF- $\alpha$ , stained for NF $\kappa$ B. Bar, 20 $\mu$ m.

1044 **D** Quantification of the data presented in **C**. Mean nuclear/cytoplasmic NF $\kappa$ B intensity  
1045 ratio ( $\pm$ SD) of two independent experiments using two different fibroblast sources;  
1046 n $\geq$ 400 for each condition; CytD sample was lost in exp 2.

1047

1048 **Figure 7 - Disruption of actin dynamics hinders cargo release from importin.**

1049 **A** Scheme: control extract (Ctl) or extract treated with Cyt D (CD) or importazole  
1050 (Imp) was incubated for 30 min and immunoprecipitated with mAb414 (Mock IP, no  
1051 antibody added). Beads were blotted for the proteins indicated.

1052 **B** Scheme: nuclei, formed in control extract, or with Cyt D (CD) added at 45 min,  
1053 were purified at 60 min and mAb414 used for immunoprecipitation; 10% of lysed  
1054 nuclei was used as input. Beads were blotted with the proteins indicated.

1055 **C** Scheme: nuclei were incubated in extract supplemented at 45 min with Cyt D (CD)  
1056 or SMIFH2, lysed and pulled-down with GST-Ran WT immobilised on glutathione  
1057 beads, or control beads (Mock). Beads were blotted with the proteins indicated.

1058 **D** *In vitro* pull-down using GST or GST-RanWT immobilised on glutathione beads  
1059 and actin-biotin; beads were blotted for actin and Ran.

1060 **E** *In vitro* pull-down between actin-biotin and glutathione-immobilized GST or GST-  
1061 Ran WT, pre-loaded with either GTP or GDP; beads were blotted for actin or GST.

1062 **F** Scheme: nuclei, formed in control extract, supplemented at 45 min with RanQ69L,  
1063 Cyt D (CD) or SMIFH2 (FH), without or with latrunculin A (LA), were lysed and  
1064 immunoprecipitated with anti-active Ran antibodies (Mock IP, no antibody added).  
1065 Beads were blotted for actin and Ran.

1066

1067 **Figure 8 - Formins promote pre-IC formation in parallel with CDK.**

1068 **A** Scheme: nuclei were formed in the first extract containing geminin, then  
1069 transferred to a second extract, with Cdt1, which was either Mock- (Mock $\Delta$ ) or WGA-  
1070 binding protein- (WGA-bp $\Delta$ ) depleted, with or without addition of SMIFH2; or where  
1071 WGA was added (+WGA). Replication efficiency was measured in the second  
1072 extract.

1073 **B** Scheme: double reciprocal nuclear transfer, from geminin-treated extract into  
1074 either SMIFH2- or WGA-treated Cdt1-containing extract, with aphidicolin; and then  
1075 into a third extract with the alternative condition. DNA replication was assessed in the  
1076 third extract.

1077 **C** Scheme: nuclear transfer experiment, in which first extracts contained geminin;  
1078 second extracts contained Cdt1 and were controls (Ctl), or CDKs (PA) or formins  
1079 (SMIFH2) were inhibited. DNA replication was assessed in the second extract.

1080 **D** Chromatin was purified from second extracts of experiment in **c** and blotted for the  
1081 proteins indicated. LC, loading control.

1082 **E** Scheme: reciprocal nuclear transfer experiment, in which first extracts contained  
1083 aphidicolin (Aphi) and either PA or SMIFH2 or were controls; nuclei were isolated  
1084 from each extract after 45 min and transferred to the same combination of conditions.  
1085 DNA replication was assessed in the second extract.

1086

1087 **Figure 9 - Nuclear formin activity controls chromatin loading of PCNA and**  
1088 **CDKs.**

1089 **A-C** Scheme: nuclear transfer from the first extract, where active nuclear export  
1090 (Leptomycin B, LB) and CDK (PA) were inhibited, into the second extract, either  
1091 control or treated with SMIFH2, containing leptomycin B or not.

1092 **B** DNA replication was assessed in the second extract.

1093 **C** Total nuclear and chromatin-associated replication factors in nuclei isolated at 60  
1094 min were analysed by Western blotting.

1095 **D** Chromosomal DNA replication in NPE determined by <sup>33</sup>P-dCTP incorporation  
1096 assay in control conditions (Ctl) or in the presence of SMIFH2; mean ± SEM of 4  
1097 independent experiments.

1098 **E** Chromatin loading at 30 min of indicated replication factors in NPE, in control (Ctl)  
1099 or SMIFH2-treated extracts.

1100

1101 **Supplementary Figure legends**

1102

1103 **Supplementary Figure 1 - Scatter plots showing the high reproducibility of**  
1104 **MS/MS runs between replicates.**

1105

1106 **Supplementary Figure 2 - Effect of actin drugs and probes on nuclear actin**  
1107 **dynamics and form in human cells.**

1108 **A** U2OS cells transiently expressing Lifeact-NLS-GFP, fixed and stained with  
1109 phalloidin and DAPI (DNA). Bar, 5  $\mu$ m.

1110 **B** Interphase U2OS cells expressing actin-NLS chromobody co-stained with mAb414  
1111 antibody and DAPI treated with DMSO (Ctl) or SMIFH2 (50  $\mu$ M) for 2 hours. Bar,  
1112 5 $\mu$ m.

1113 **C** Snapshots of live U2OS cells expressing actin-NLS chromobody or Lifeact-GFP-  
1114 NLS in the presence of DMSO (Ctl) or SMIFH2 (50 $\mu$ M). Numbers represent the  
1115 percent of cells showing the presented phenotype; n>100 cells in each condition from  
1116  $\geq$ 3 independent experiments. Bar, 5 $\mu$ m.

1117

1118 **Supplementary Figure 3 - Disrupting actin dynamics hinders DNA replication**  
1119 **and causes replication stress in human cells.**

1120 **A** FACS analysis of G1-synchronised U2OS cells in the presence of increasing  
1121 concentrations of SMIFH2. Cells were collected when control cells were in S-phase  
1122 (+14h).

1123 **B** FACS analysis of HeLa cells, synchronised in G1 as in Fig 4A, and treated with  
1124 DMSO (Ctl) or SMIFH2, collected at the time points indicated.

1125 **C** Immunoblotting of chromatin and nucleoplasmic fractions from cells in Fig 4A.  
1126 FACS profiles for each time-point are shown. Ctl, U2OS cell lysate; LC, loading  
1127 control.

1128 **D** Quantification of EU signal intensity from experiment presented in Fig. 2b (n>400).

1129 **E** Immunofluorescence images of U2OS cells transfected with the indicated FLAG-  
1130 tagged actin-NLS constructs. DNA was stained with DAPI, actin-NLS constructs with  
1131 anti-Flag antibody. Bar, 5µm.

1132 **F** Asynchronous (AS) or double-thymidine block (DTB) S-phase-synchronised U2OS  
1133 cells were treated for 2hrs with DMSO, bleomycin (Bleo), or SMIFH2, and stained for  
1134 γH2A.X. Corresponding FACS profiles are shown.

1135 **G** Quantification of γH2A.X-positive cell number from experiment presented in F, and  
1136 in cells transiently transfected with mDia2 DAD.NLS or DAD constructs. Cells with  
1137 >10 foci were considered positive.

1138

1139 **Supplementary Figure 4 - Effect of actin drugs and actin regulators on DNA**  
1140 **replication in *Xenopus* egg extracts.**

1141 **A** Replication time-course of sperm chromatin in extract treated with Cyt D (CD),  
1142 gelsolin, Cyt D and gelsolin (CD+Gel), jasplakinolide (Jspk), or Cyt D and  
1143 jasplakinolide (CD+Jspk).

1144 **B-E** Replication assays in control extract or in extracts supplemented with Cyt D (CD)  
1145 with or without cofilin (**B**); recombinant MICAL2 protein (**C**), formin inhibitor 2.4 (**D**), or  
1146 Arp2/3 inhibitor CK666 or its inactive analogue CK689 (**E**).

1147 **F** Chromatin loading of pre-RC and pre-IC factors in control conditions or in the  
1148 presence of SMIFH2 (500 $\mu$ M). LC, loading control.

1149 **G, H** Interaction of endogenous proteins indicated and biotin-dUTP was probed by  
1150 PLA in nuclei formed in control XEE for 60 min. Primary anti-actin rabbit antibodies  
1151 were combined with secondary rabbit PLA probes. Bar, 10 $\mu$ m.

1152 **I** Nuclei formed in control extract, were lysed at 60 min and actin was precipitated  
1153 using biotinylated Lifeact peptide immobilised on streptavidin beads (Mock IP, no  
1154 peptide); beads were blotted for actin and PCNA.

1155

1156 **Supplementary Figure 5 - Active nuclear transport requires actin dynamics.**

1157 **A** Western blots of total nuclear fractions in control and formin-inhibited (SMIFH2)  
1158 extracts, probed with antibodies to the NUPs indicated; the same number of nuclei  
1159 was analysed for each condition.

1160 **B** Scheme: Nuclei were formed in control extract or in the presence of Cyt D (CD),  
1161 SMIFH2, WGA or Triton; at 35 min. Dextran10-Alexa488 (Dex10-A488) or  
1162 Dextran70-rhodamine (Dex70-rhod) were added; nuclei were imaged directly at 50  
1163 min. Bar, 10 $\mu$ m.

1164 **C** Immunofluorescence images of nuclei formed for 5 and 15 min in control or  
1165 cytochalasin D-treated extracts, stained for DNA, Elys, RCC1, importin- $\beta$  and FG-  
1166 NUPs (mAb414). Bar, 10 $\mu$ m.

1167 **D** Replication time course of sperm chromatin in extract treated with importazole  
1168 (Imp) at the concentrations indicated.

1169 **E** Scheme: Nuclei were formed in control extract; at 45 min Cyt D (CD), SMIFH2,  
1170 WGA or Triton were added, followed by addition of Dextran10-Alexa488 (Dex10-



1171 A488) or Dextran70-rhodamine (Dex70-rhod); nuclei were imaged directly at 75 min.

1172 Bar, 10 $\mu$ m.

1173

1174 **Supplementary Figure 6 - Ongoing nuclear transport is required to promote**  
1175 **DNA replication.**

1176 **A** Replication assay in control extract and in extract supplemented with WGA at the  
1177 concentrations indicated (mg/ml).

1178 **B** Replication assay of Mock- and WGA-binding protein-depleted (WGA-bp $\Delta$ ) extract.

1179 **C** Left, immunofluorescence images of nuclei formed for 60 min in control and  
1180 geminin(40nM)-containing extracts, stained for DNA, NUPs (mAb414) and Lamin B3.  
1181 Bar, 10 $\mu$ m. Right, replication time-course of control and geminin-treated extract.

1182 **D** Scheme: reciprocal nuclear transfer experiment, in which first extracts contained  
1183 aphidicolin (Aphi) and either PA or WGA, or were control; nuclei were isolated after  
1184 45 min and transferred to the alternative condition; DNA replication was assayed in  
1185 the second extract.

1186 **E** Replication time course of sperm chromatin in NPE extract treated with SMIFH2 or  
1187 2.4 formin inhibitor (mean values of two replicates), both used at 200 $\mu$ M.

1188 **F** Western blot for indicated proteins of chromatin fractions with or without addition of  
1189 NPE.

1190

1191 **Table S1: Entire MS/MS Dataset. Proteins identified in the nuclear structural**  
1192 **proteome of control and CDK-inhibited extracts.**

1193

1194 **Table S2: GO Annotations of the nuclear structural proteome using DAVID.**

1195

1196 **Table S3: Actin regulators identified in the structure proteome of nuclei**

1197

Protein or gene name	Log <sub>10</sub> Mean iBAQ values	
	Ctl	PA (CDK-inhib)
actin-related protein 2-A	8.72	8.84
Actin-related protein 2/3 complex subunit 4	8.56	8.73
ARP3 actin-related protein 3	8.51	8.70
capping protein muscle Z-line. beta – capzb	8.33	8.54
capping protein muscle Z-line. alpha 2	8.12	8.33
Actin-related protein 2/3 complex subunit 2	8.11	8.37
ISWI protein	7.97	8.01
Actin-related protein 2/3 complex subunit 3	7.8	8.04
Actin-related protein 2/3 complex subunit 1A	7.63	7.76
LIM domain and actin binding 1	7.60	7.70
Coronin 1C	7.53	7.64
actinin alpha 4	7.52	7.70
F-actin-capping protein subunit alpha-1	7.51	7.75
actin-like 6A	7.51	7.44
ARP1 actin-related protein 1 homolog A	7.49	7.44
Smarcc1 protein	7.49	7.38
Cortactin – Cctn	7.43	7.53
Actin-related protein 2/3 complex subunit 5	7.42	7.70
SWI/SNF-related matrix-associated actin-dependent regulator of chromatin subfamily B member 1	7.41	7.38
Cofilin 1A	7.15	7.44

Smarce1	7.14	7.16
Smarcd2	7.01	7.02
SWI/SNF related matrix associated actin dependent regulator of chromatin subfamily c member 2	7.01	7.02
MICAL-like 2	7.00	7.00
MGC131041	6.88	7.14
Rho GTPase activating protein 1	6.81	6.97
Vasp	6.81	6.90
Cofilin 1B	6.8	7.30
Smarcd1	6.76	6.64
Actin-related protein 2/3 complex subunit 1b	6.75	6.91
actin related protein 2/3 complex. subunit 1B	6.75	6.91
SWI/SNF-related matrix-associated actin-dependent regulator of chromatin subfamily A-like protein 1	6.67	6.45
WASP	6.55	6.69
Actin-binding LIM protein 2	6.37	6.65
WD repeat-containing protein 1-A	5.92	6.55
actin related protein 2/3 complex. subunit 3	5.85	5.60
Rho GTPase activating protein 21	5.81	5.64
Profilin	5.50	5.72
TRIO and F-actin binding protein	5.35	5.51
Rho GTPase activating protein 5	5.16	5.15
WD repeat-containing protein 1-B	5.01	5.56
Rho-associated kinase alpha	4.91	5.39
Rho GDP-dissociation inhibitor 2	4.88	6.03
ARP8 actin-related protein 8 homolog	4.85	5.14
Afadin- and alpha-actinin-binding protein	4.83	5.24
SWI/SNF-related matrix-associated actin-dependent regulator of chromatin subfamily E member 1-related	4.81	4.94
Actin-related protein 10 homolog	4.72	4.97
Coronin 2B	4.70	5.19
Rho GTPase activating protein 35	4.68	4.75
Anillin	4.40	5.16
Rho GTPase activating proteins 18	0	4.73

CNN3	0	5.25

1198

1199

1200

1201

**Table S4: List of formins in the structure proteome of nuclei in our dataset (*X. tropicalis* database)**

Gene names	Fasta headers	No of peptides	
		Ctl	CDK-inh
diaph1	F6UXX7_XENTR Uncharacterized protein OS=Xenopus tropicalis	4	4
diaph3	F6VAH9_XENTR Uncharacterized protein (Fragment) OS=Xenopus tropicalis	3	3
fmn2	F6UL32_XENTR Uncharacterized protein OS=Xenopus tropicalis	2	3

1202

1203

1204

1205 **Movie 1 Visualization of early G1 nuclear actin filaments in live human cancer**  
1206 **cells.**

1207 Timelapse confocal microscopy of U2OS cells stably expressing actin-NLS  
1208 chromobody (green) and transiently transfected with PCNA chromobody (red).

1209 Numbers denote time in hr:min; bar, 5 $\mu$ m.

1210

1211 **Movie 2 Prolonged expression of Lifeact-GFP-NLS stabilises nuclear actin**  
1212 **filaments and impairs cell cycle progression.**

1213 Timelapse confocal microscopy of U2OS cells transiently expressing Lifeact-GFP-  
1214 NLS. Numbers denote time in hr:min; bar, 5 $\mu$ m.

1215

1216 **Movie 3 Expression of mDiaDAD.LG in the nucleus impairs replication foci**  
1217 **formation.**

1218 Timelapse confocal microscopy of S-phase U2OS cells stably expressing the PCNA  
1219 chromobody (red) and transiently transfected with the mDiaDAD.LG.NLS construct  
1220 (green). Numbers denote time in hr:min; bar, 5 $\mu$ m.

1221

1222 **Movie 4 SMIFH2 impairs nuclear actin dynamics.**

1223 Timelapse confocal microscopy of U2OS cells stably expressing actin-NLS  
1224 chromobody (green), in the presence of SMIFH2 (50  $\mu$ M). Numbers denote time in  
1225 hr:min; bar, 5 $\mu$ m.

1226

1227 **Movie 5 SMIFH2 stabilises early G1 nuclear actin filaments.**

1228 Timelapse confocal microscopy of early G1 U2OS cells stably expressing actin-NLS  
1229 chromobody (green), in the presence of SMIFH2 (50  $\mu$ M). Numbers denote time in  
1230 hr:min; bar, 5 $\mu$ m.

1231

1232 **Movie 6 Perturbing nuclear actin dynamics abolishes replication foci**  
1233 **formation.**

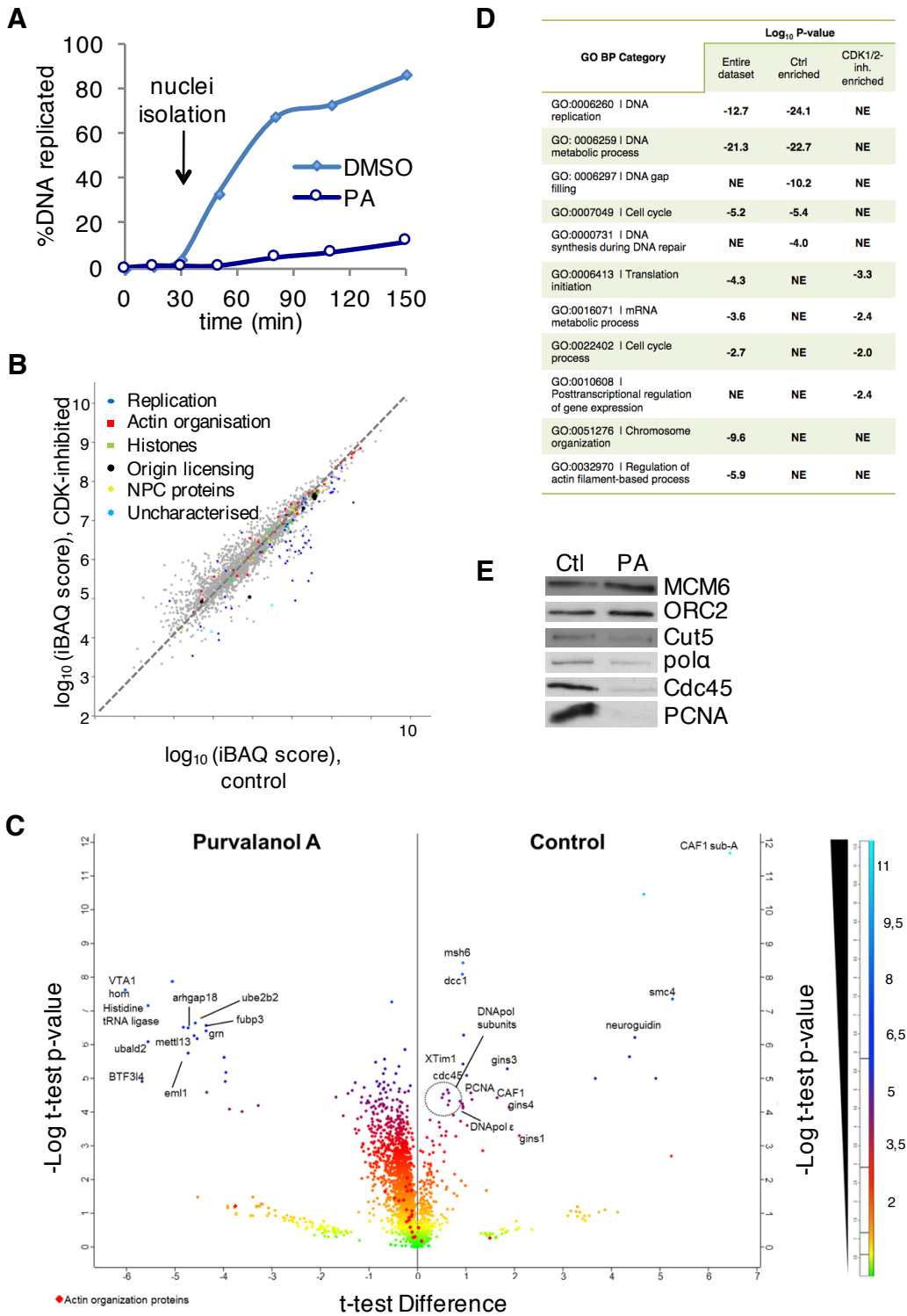
1234 Timelapse confocal microscopy of S-phase U2OS cells stably expressing actin-NLS  
1235 chromobody (green) transiently transfected with the PCNA chromobody (red), in the  
1236 presence of SMIFH2 (50  $\mu$ M). Numbers denote time in hr:min; bar, 5 $\mu$ m

1237

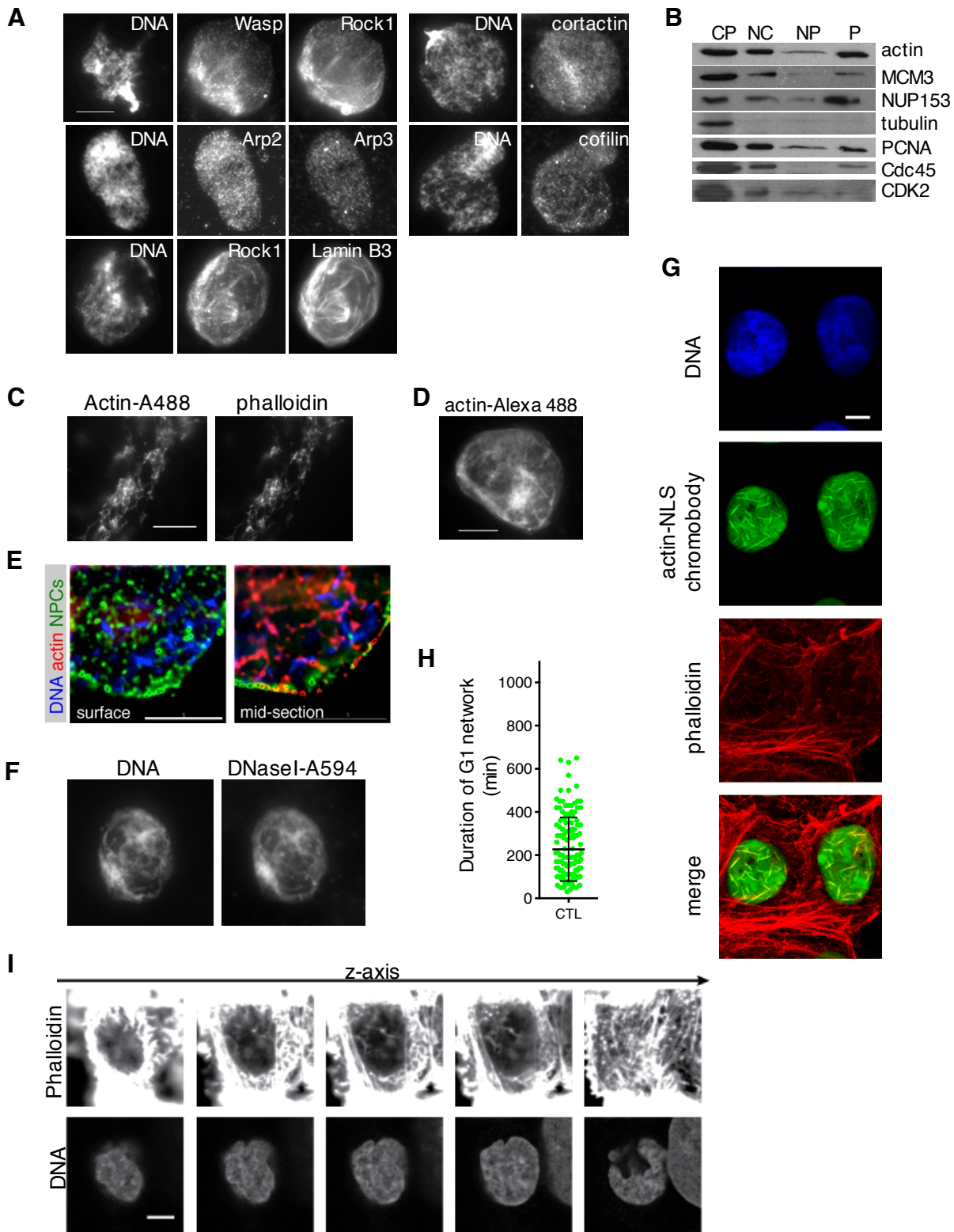
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1239

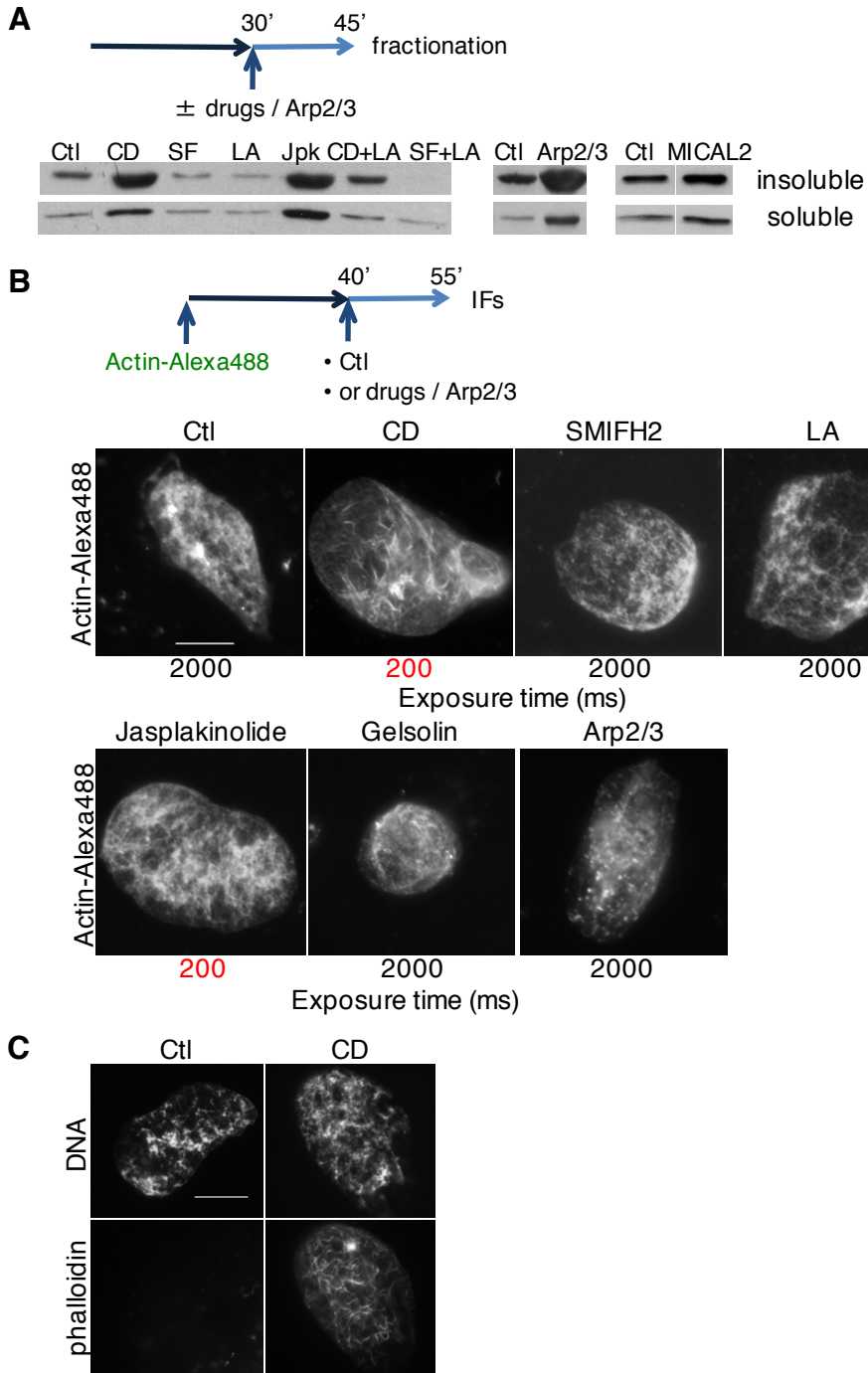
**Figure 1**



**Figure 2**

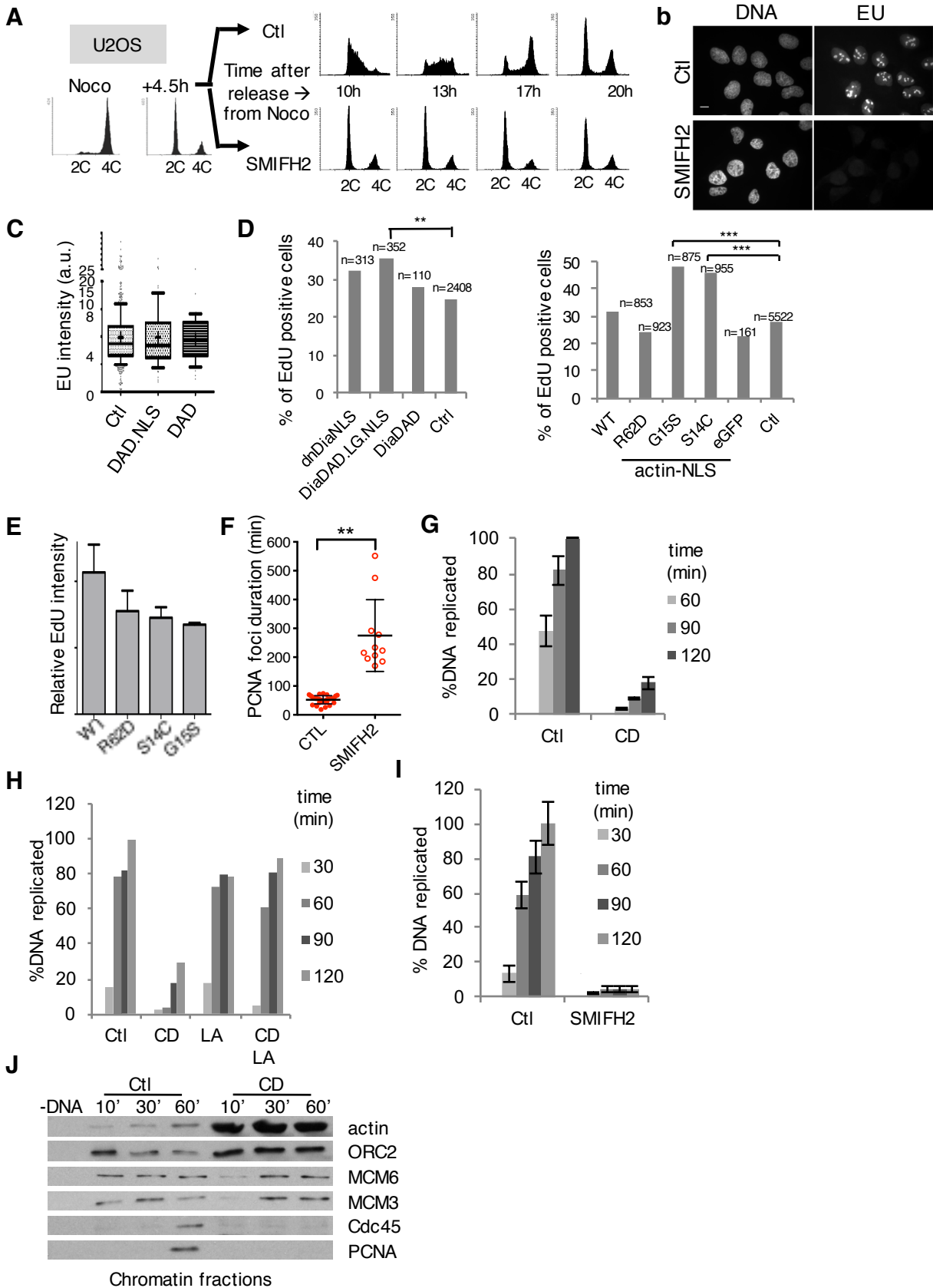


**Figure 3**

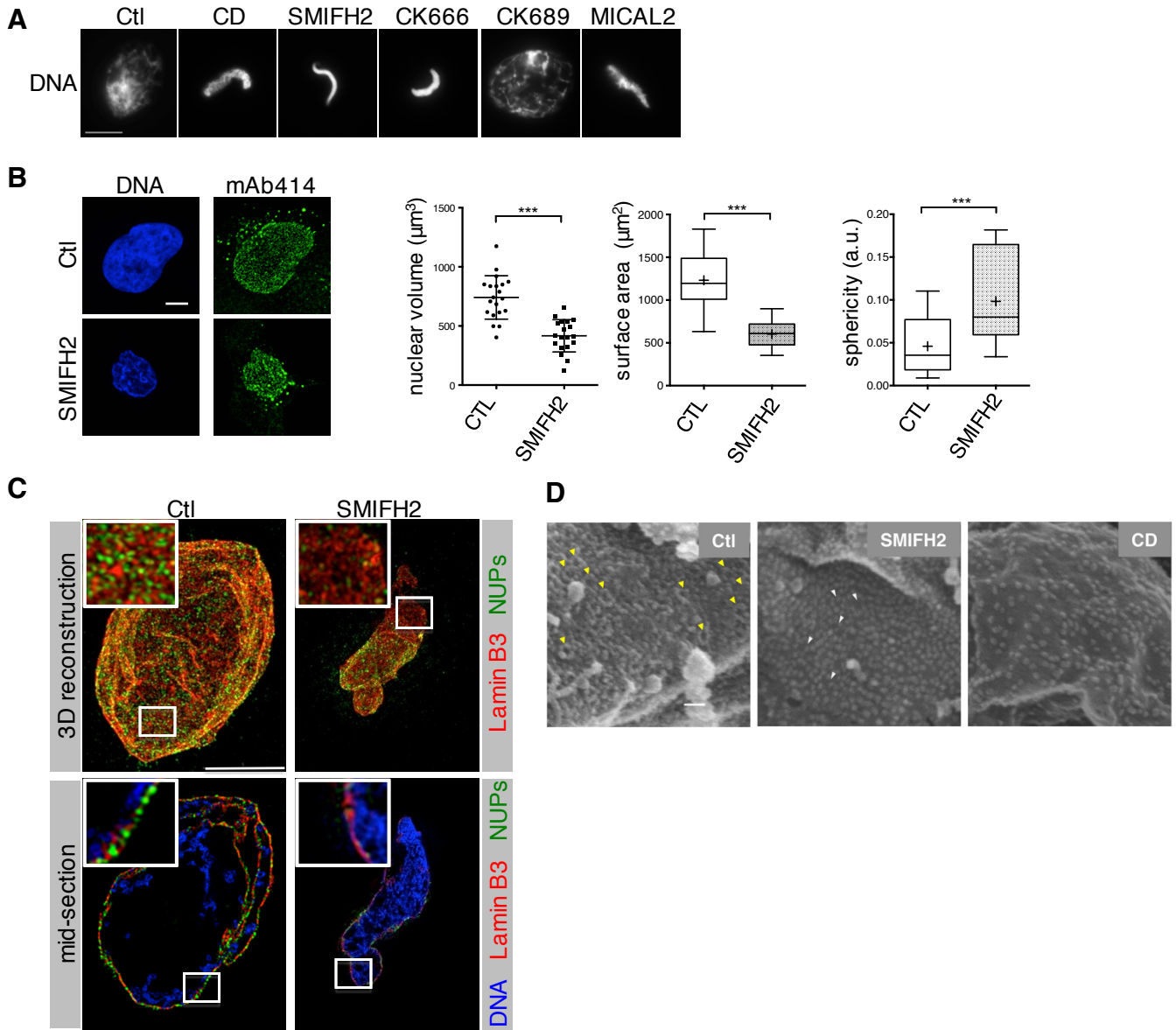




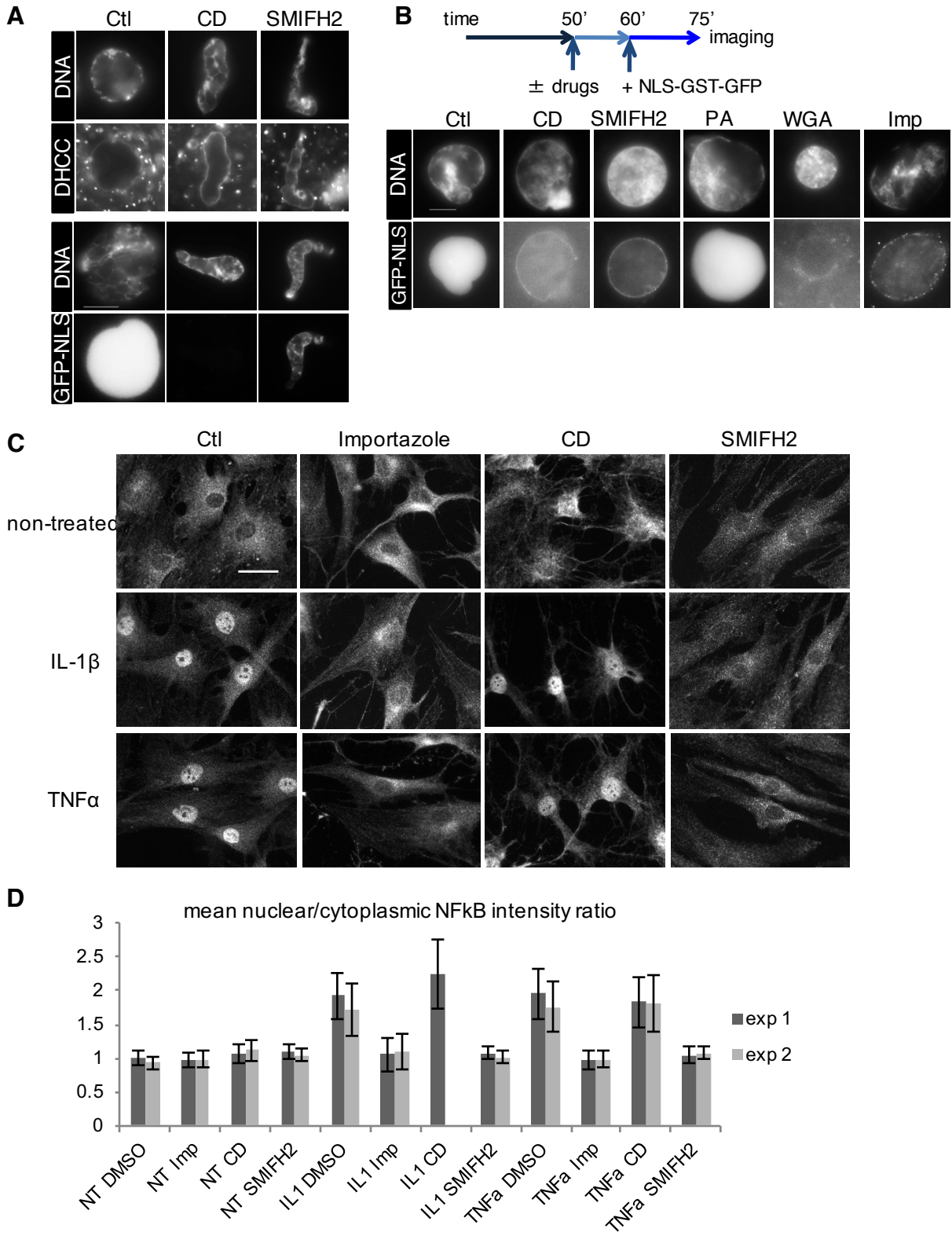
**Figure 4**



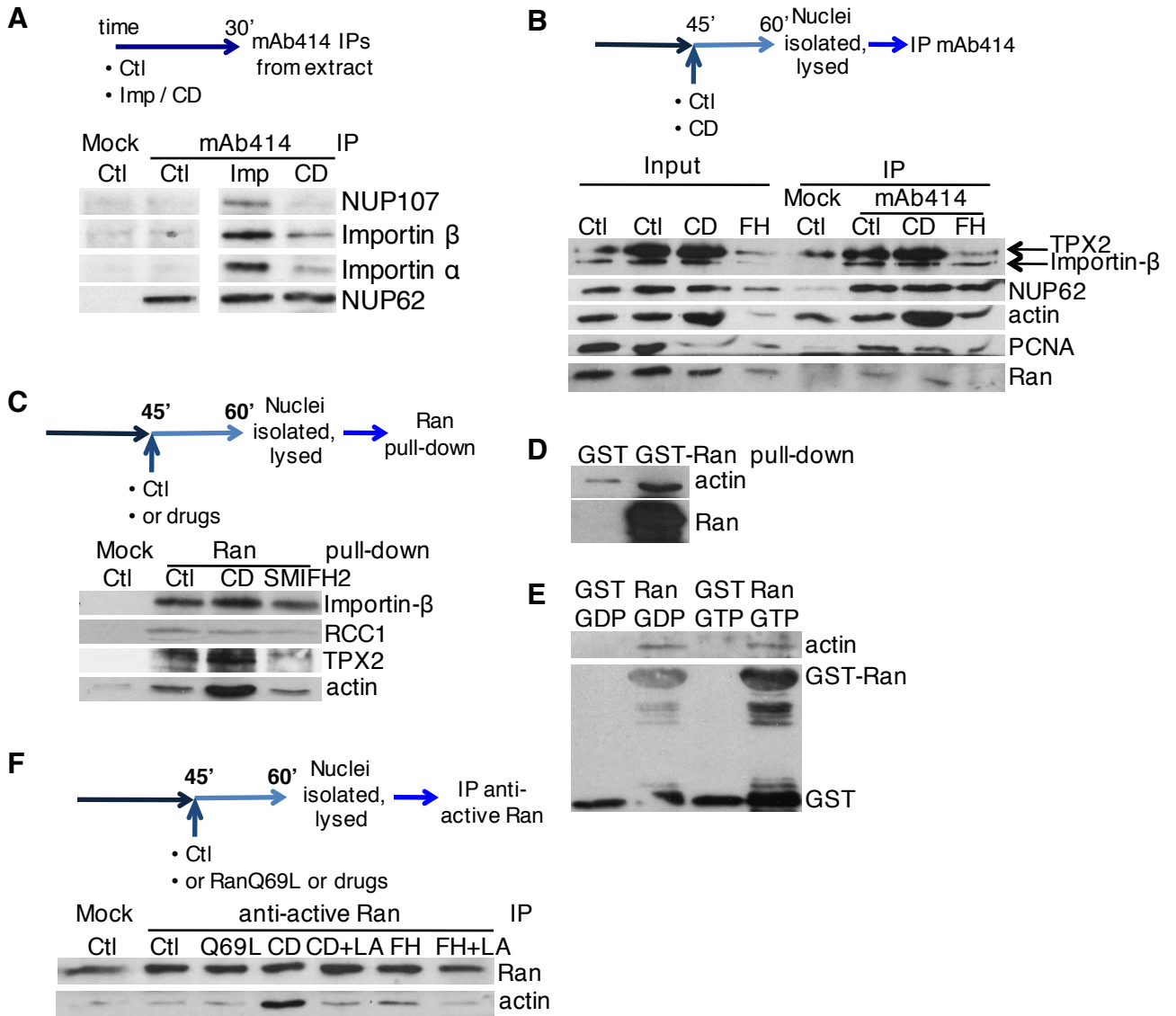
**Figure 5**



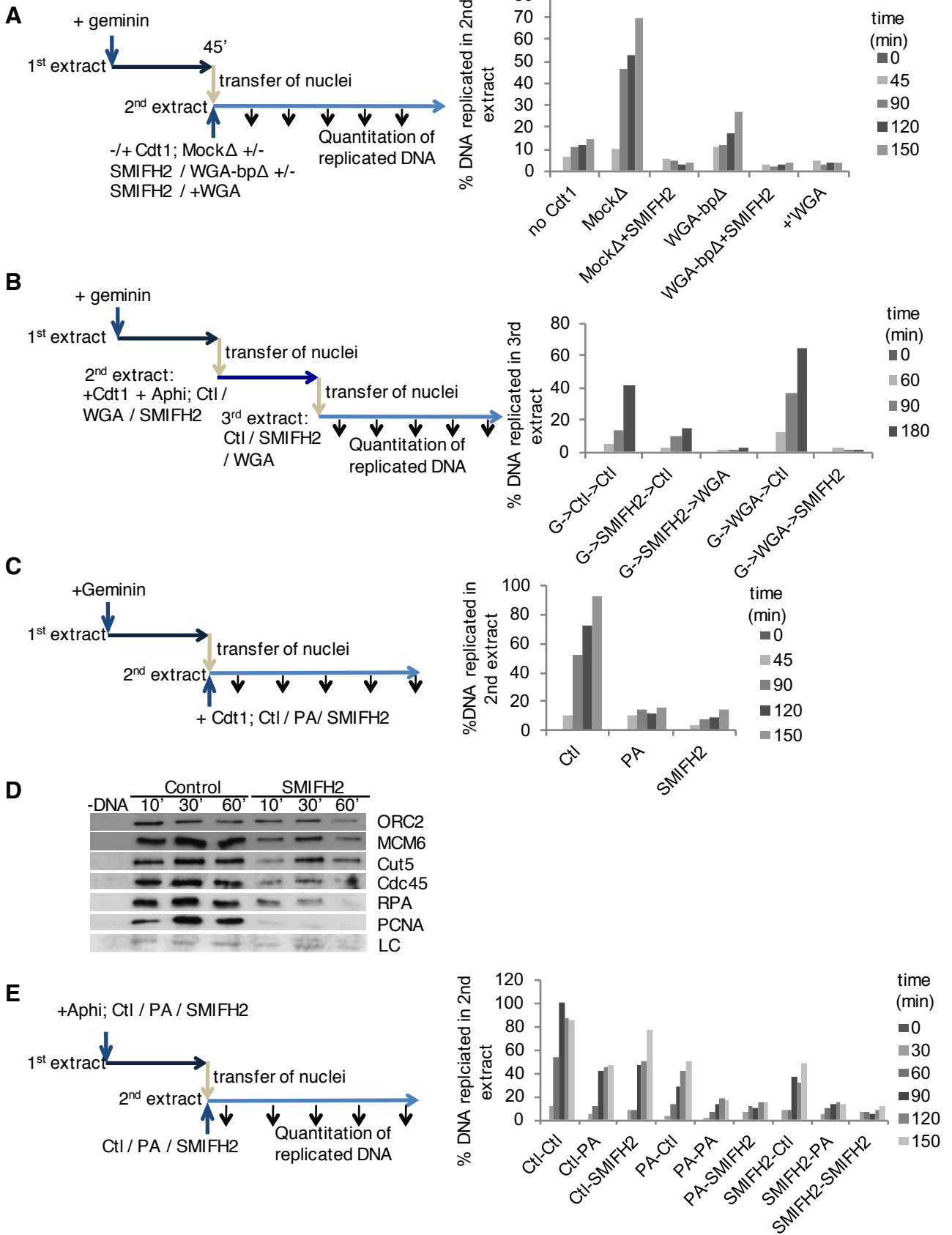
**Figure 6**



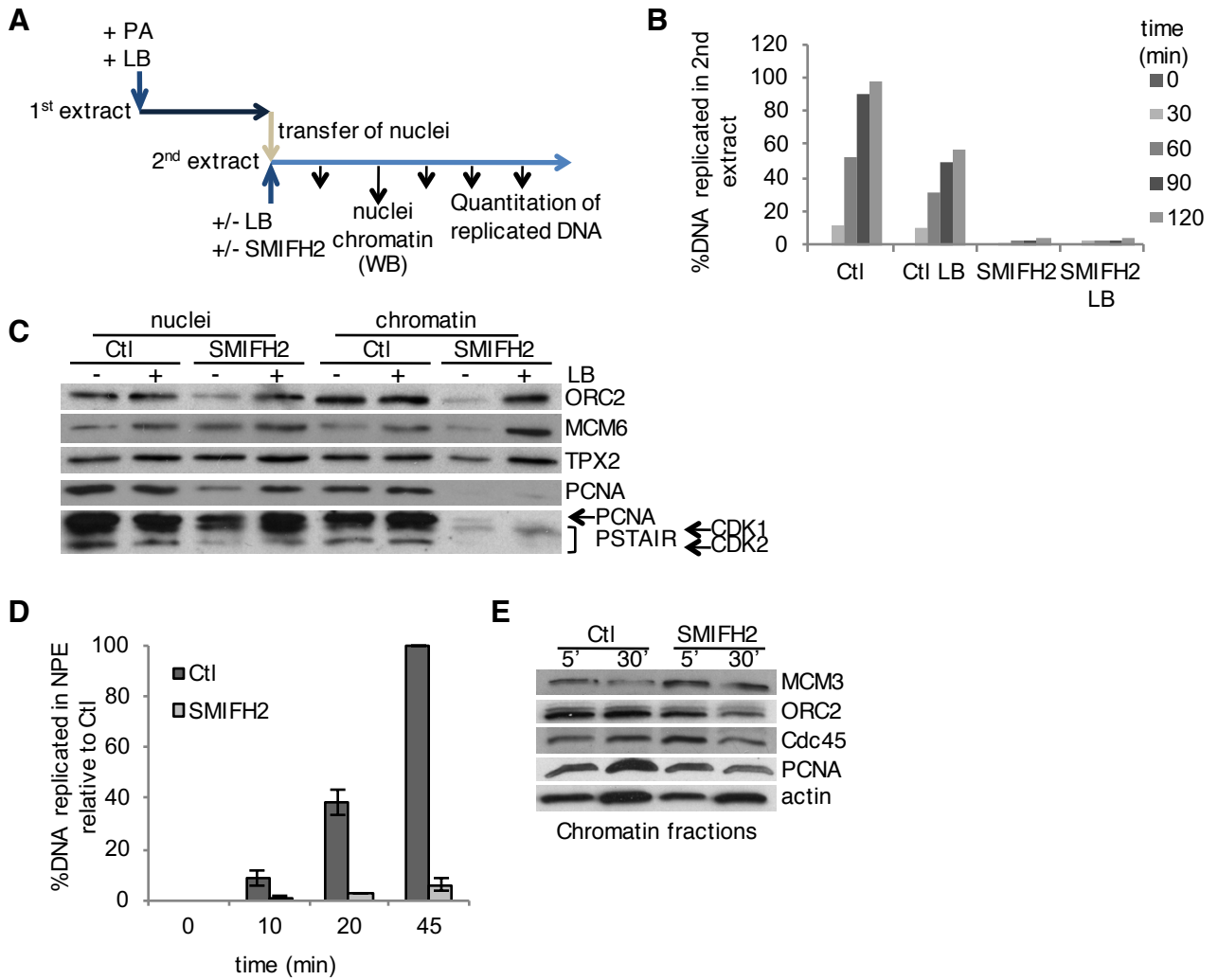
**Figure 7**



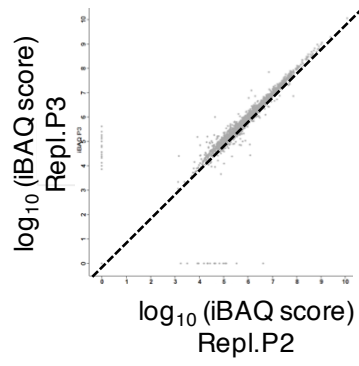
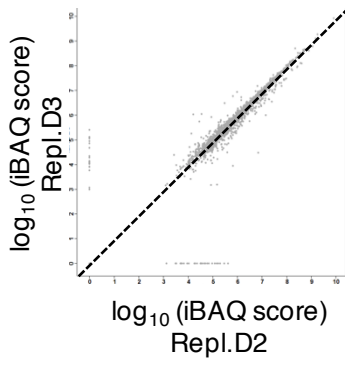
**Figure 8**



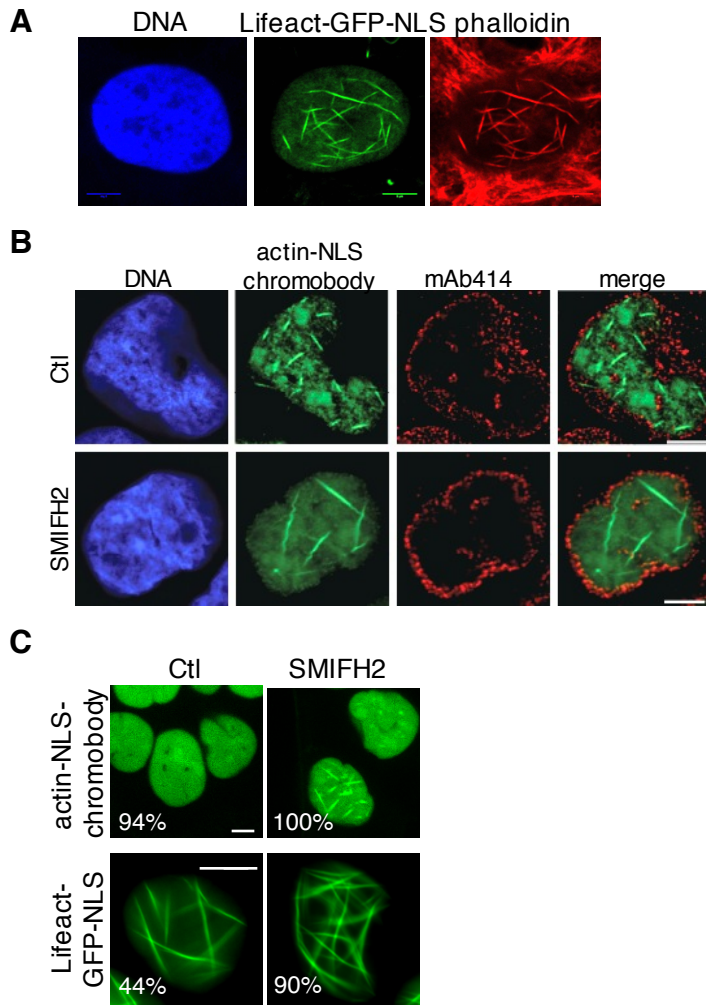
**Figure 9**



# Supplementary Figure 1

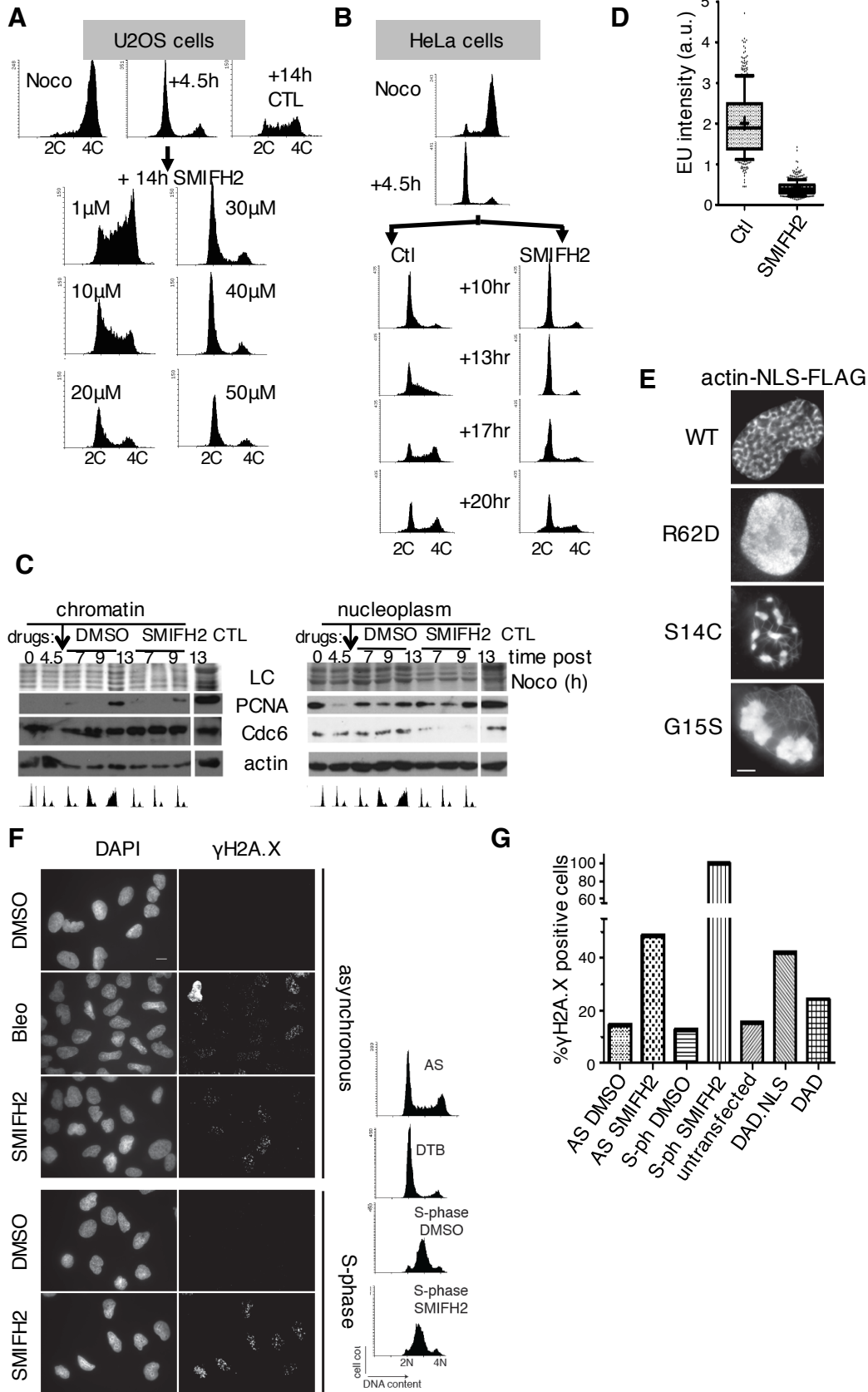


## Supplementary Figure 2

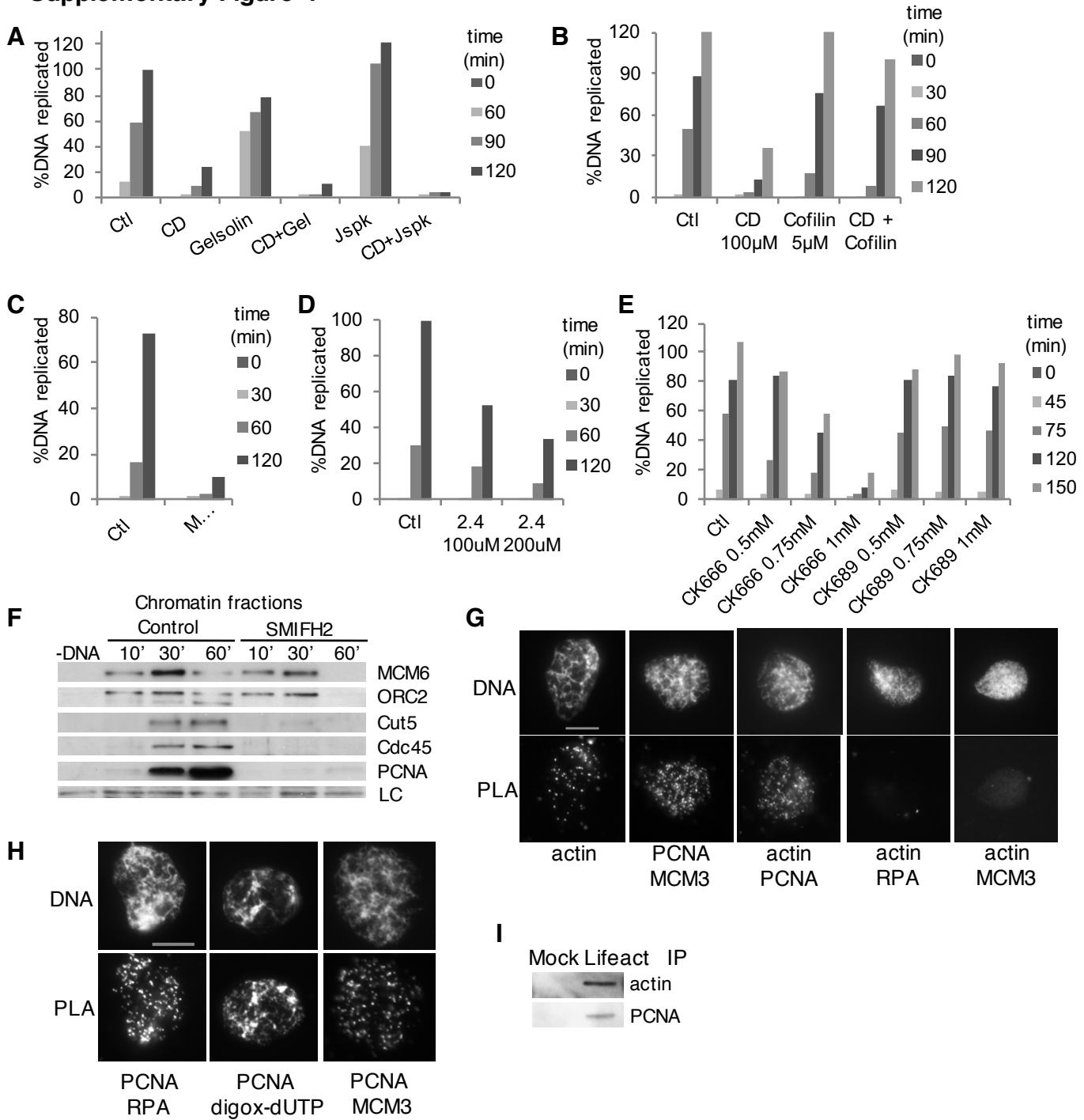




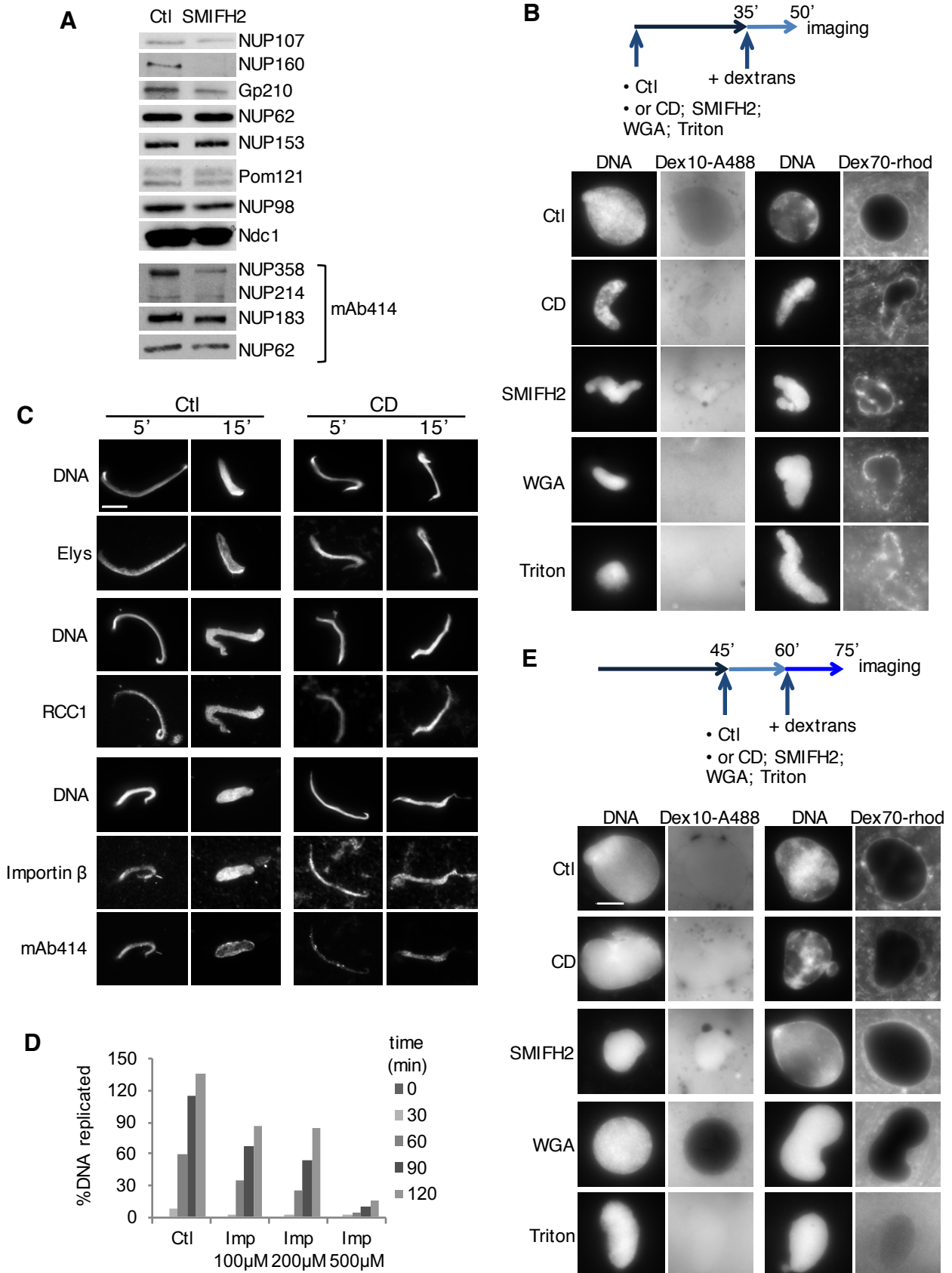
### Supplementary Figure 3



## Supplementary Figure 4



## Supplementary Figure 5



## Supplementary Figure 6

