A compartmentalized signaling network mediates crossover control in meiosis

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Abstract

During meiosis, each pair of homologous chromosomes typically undergoes at least one crossover (crossover assurance), but these exchanges are strictly limited in number and widely spaced along chromosomes (crossover interference). The molecular basis for this chromosome-wide regulation remains mysterious. A family of meiotic RING finger proteins has been implicated in crossover regulation across eukaryotes. *Caenorhabditis elegans* expresses four such proteins, of which one (ZHP-3) is known to be required for crossovers. Here we investigate the functions of ZHP-1, ZHP-2, and ZHP-4. We find that all four ZHP proteins, like their homologs in other species, localize to the synaptonemal complex, an unusual, liquid crystalline compartment that assembles between paired homologs. Together they promote accumulation of pro-crossover factors, including ZHP-3 and ZHP-4, at a single recombination intermediate, thereby patterning exchanges along each chromosome. These proteins also act at the top of a hierarchical, symmetry-breaking process that enables crossovers to direct accurate chromosome segregation.

KEYWORDS: meiosis, E3 ligase, recombination, crossover, cohesion, chromosome segregation, phase separation, auxin-inducible degradation

Introduction

Meiosis gives rise to haploid gametes through two sequential rounds of nuclear division. To ensure faithful meiotic chromosome segregation in most organisms, every pair of homologous chromosomes must attain at least one crossover (CO) recombination product, which creates a stable interhomolog connection known as a chiasma (Page and Hawley, 2003). However, the total number of COs per cell is typically far too low to assure CO formation on each chromosome by a Poisson process; indeed, in many species each homolog pair undergoes only a single CO (Mercier et al., 2015). In cases where multiple COs occur per chromosome pair, they are nonrandomly far apart, a phenomenon known as "crossover interference" (Muller, 1916; Sturtevant, 1915). Despite our longstanding awareness of crossover patterning, the mechanisms that ensure this highly nonrandom process remain poorly understood and controversial.

Meiotic recombination is initiated by programmed DNA double-strand breaks (DSBs) catalyzed by the conserved topoisomerase-like enzyme Spo11 (SPO-11 in *C. elegans*) (Dernburg et al., 1998; Keeney, 2008; Keeney et al., 1997). A subset of DSBs are processed to become COs, while the rest are repaired through alternate pathways. In several model organisms, two CO pathways have been elucidated: The "class I" pathway, which is subject to CO assurance and interference, requires two meiosis-specific homologs of the MutS bacterial mismatch repair protein, Msh4 and Msh5, which form a complex known as MutSɣ. Components of the synaptonemal complex (SC), an ordered, periodic proteinaceous structure that assembles between homologous chromosomes during meiotic prophase, are also required for class I COs. An alternate

enzymatic pathway can give rise to both noncrossovers and "class II" COs, which do not

show interference.

In the nematode *C. elegans*, only class I COs normally occur, and only a single

CO occurs per chromosome pair (Martinez-Perez and Colaiacovo, 2009). No COs occur

in the absence of SC assembly (MacQueen et al., 2002). Additional factors required for

meiotic COs, but not for homolog pairing, synapsis, or other homologous recombination,

include MSH-4 and MSH-5 (Kelly et al., 2000; Zalevsky et al., 1999), the cyclin-related

protein COSA-1 (Yokoo et al., 2012), and ZHP-3, a RING finger protein (Jantsch et al.,

2004).

COs act together with sister chromatid cohesion to orchestrate two successive

rounds of chromosome segregation. In mammals and most other model organisms,

cohesion between sister chromatids is maintained near centromeres during the first

division (MI), but arm cohesion must be released to allow homologs to separate (Duro

and Marston, 2015). In *C. elegans*, which lacks defined centromeres, cohesion is

spatially regulated downstream of CO designation. Late in meiotic prophase, the

chromosome region on one side of the designated CO site becomes enriched for

several proteins, including HTP-1/2, LAB-1, and REC-8, which act together to maintain

cohesion through the first division. Conversely, the reciprocal chromosome region

becomes depleted of these proteins but retains a stretch of SC. This "short arm"

eventually recruits the Aurora B kinase AIR-2, which is required to release cohesion and

allow MI segregation (de Carvalho et al., 2008; Ferrandiz et al., 2018; Kaitna et al., 2002;

Martinez-Perez et al., 2008; Nabeshima et al., 2005; Rogers et al., 2002; Severson and

Meyer, 2014). It has been unclear whether the SC that remains along this arm

contributes to regulating cohesion. The hierarchy of steps leading to this remodeling,

and particularly the initial trigger for this asymmetry, are also poorly understood.

Several recent studies have indicated that structural proteins within assembled

SCs are highly mobile (Nadarajan et al., 2017; Pattabiraman et al., 2017; Rog et al.,

2017; Voelkel-Meiman et al., 2012). We have also presented evidence that this material

likely assembles through regulated phase separation (Rog et al., 2017). When SCs

cannot assemble between chromosomes, as in *C. elegans* mutants lacking the

essential chromosome axis protein HTP-3, or in budding yeast lacking DSBs, SC

proteins self-assemble to form irregularly shaped, but internally structured, nuclear

bodies known as polycomplexes (Roth, 1966), which do not appear to be associated

with chromosomes. Observations of *C. elegans* polycomplexes *in vivo* revealed that

they behave as liquid-like droplets, in that they rapidly change shape and fuse to form

larger bodies (Rog et al., 2017). Taken together, these observations indicate that SC

proteins self-assemble through regulated coacervation to form a liquid crystalline

material – defined as an ordered assembly of molecules that diffuse freely relative to

each other. Normally this material preferentially assembles as a bilaterally symmetrical

lamina between paired axes, but in the absence of the proper chromosomal substrate, it

forms polycomplexes.

Growing evidence has implicated the SC in CO regulation, particularly in *C.*

elegans (Hayashi et al., 2010; Libuda et al., 2013; MacQueen et al., 2002; Rog et al.,

2017; Sym and Roeder, 1994). The mobility of proteins within assembled SCs suggests

that biochemical signals such as enzymes or posttranslational modifications could move

through this material to regulate CO formation along paired chromosomes. In support of

this idea, a number of crossover factors and DNA damage repair components have

been found to associate with both SCs and polycomplexes. In budding yeast, these

include Msh4, Msh5, Spo16, Spo22 (Zip4), Zip2, and Zip3, and the 9-1-1 complex

component Mec3 (Shinohara et al., 2015; Tsubouchi et al., 2006). Zip3 is unique among

these proteins in that it localizes throughout the body of polycomplexes, suggesting that

it has an intrinsic affinity for SC proteins, while all other proteins reported to date appear

to localize to a "cap" or focus at the surface of polycomplexes. We observed that ZHP-3,

a *C. elegans* homolog of yeast Zip3 (Agarwal and Roeder, 2000), similarly localizes

throughout polycomplexes (Rog et al., 2017). Interestingly, ZHP-3 and Zip3 share

homology with Hei10 and RNF212, which have been implicated in crossover control

across diverse eukaryotes (Chelysheva et al., 2012; De Muyt et al., 2014; Gray and

Cohen, 2016; Qiao et al., 2014; Reynolds et al., 2013; Wang et al., 2012; Ward et al.,

2007). All of these proteins contain an N-terminal RING finger domain, a central coiled-

coil domain, and a C-terminal domain that is predicted to be largely unstructured.

Three paralogs of ZHP-3 are expressed in the *C. elegans* germline, but their

functions have not previously been described. Here we define essential meiotic roles for

these proteins. We report that this family of four paralogs, which we designate as ZHP-

1–4, likely act as two heterodimeric complexes to regulate CO formation. Like ZHP-3,

the other 3 proteins localize throughout SCs in early prophase, and are also recruited to

polycomplexes. Together with other known and unknown factors, these ZHP proteins

appear to form a signaling network that acts within the SC to ensure CO formation while

limiting the number of CO-designated sites, and may thus mediate both CO assurance

and CO interference. In addition, the ZHP proteins in *C. elegans* act upstream of other

regulators to direct chromosome remodeling in response to crossover formation, which

enables the stepwise removal of cohesion that enables two successive rounds of

chromosome segregation during meiosis. Homology between the ZHP proteins and

meiotic regulators from other phyla indicate that similar mechanisms likely underlie

meiotic CO control in most eukaryotes, and may also play previously-unrecognized

roles in regulating sister chromatid cohesion during meiosis.

Results

A family of meiotic RING finger proteins in *C. elegans*

As described in the Introduction, the RING finger protein ZHP-3 was initially identified

as a candidate meiotic factor in *C. elegans* based on its homology to Zip3, a component of

the "synapsis initiation complex" in yeast (Agarwal and Roeder, 2000). Targeted disruption

of *zhp-3* revealed that it is required for CO formation, but dispensable for homolog pairing

and synapsis (Jantsch et al., 2004). The *C. elegans* genome includes three additional

predicted genes with the same domain structure and significant homology to ZHP-3 (Figure

1—figure supplement 1A-B). Several independent analyses indicate that all four genes are

expressed in the germline, consistent with a role in meiosis (Lake et al., 2015; S.K. and

A.F.D. unpublished).

All four predicted proteins have similar N-terminal C3HC4-type RING-finger domains

(Figure 1—figure supplement 1A-B), which are usually associated with ubiquitin E3 ligase

activity (Deshaies and Joazeiro, 2009). The C-terminal regions of these proteins are

divergent and lack obvious structural domains, but contain a number of potential post-

translational modification sites (Figure 1—figure supplement 1A). Based on their similarity to

each other, and on evidence presented here that they function together to form a regulatory

circuit, we have named these genes *zhp-1* (F55A12.10), *zhp-2* (D1081.9) and *zhp-4*

(Y39B6A.16) (*zip3* homologous protein). This numbering reflects their physical order in the

C. elegans genome: *zhp-1, -2,* and *-3* are clustered on Chromosome I, while *zhp-4* is on

Chromosome V.

To gain insight into the evolution of these proteins, we searched for homologs in

other sequenced nematode genomes (Figure 1—figure supplement 1C). Orthologs of each

protein can be identified in *C. briggsae* and *C. remanei*, as well as in other nematode

genera, indicating that these proteins diversified at least tens to hundreds of millions of

years ago (Figure 1—figure supplement 1C-D and data not shown). Their N-terminal regions

show homology to the mammalian CO regulator RNF212, and ZHP-1 and ZHP-2 are also

recognized by BLAST as homologs of HEI10, which is involved in CO regulation in

mammals, plants, and fungi (Chelysheva et al., 2012; De Muyt et al., 2014; Qiao et al., 2014;

Rao et al., 2017; Reynolds et al., 2013, and data not shown; Wang et al., 2012; Ward et al.,

2007) (data not shown).

ZHP proteins exhibit two distinct patterns of dynamic localization during meiosis

To investigate the ZHP proteins, we inserted epitope tags at the C-terminus of each

coding sequence; these tagged proteins supported normal meiosis (Supplementary File 1,

Table S1) and were readily localized by immunofluorescence with epitope-specific

antibodies (Figure 1—figure supplement 2 and Figure 2—figure supplement 2A-B). At

meiotic entry the ZHP proteins localized to small polycomplexes, which contain the four

known SC structural proteins, SYP-1, -2, -3, and -4 (Goldstein, 2013; Rog et al., 2017; Roth,

1966), and once SC assembly initiated, they localized to SCs (Figure 1).

As meiosis progressed, the four proteins showed two distinct patterns of localization

(Figure 1): From early prophase to mid-pachynema, ZHP-1 and -2 became brighter and

more contiguous along the length of SCs, although the intensity of staining was not

homogeneous. Upon the appearance of GFP-COSA-1 foci, which mark designated CO sites

from mid-pachynema through diplonema (Yokoo et al., 2012), ZHP-1 and -2 became

confined to the SC on one side of each CO. Intriguingly, this restriction was observed in

pachytene nuclei that retained SC (Figure 1A-B) and the HORMA domain proteins HTP-1/2

(data not shown) on both sides of the CO, and represents the earliest known molecular

differentiation of the two chromosome domains that will become the long and short arms of

the bivalent. ZHP-1 and -2 remained associated with SC proteins along the short arm of

each bivalent as the SC disappeared from the long arm, and persisted as long as SC

proteins were present along the short arms, through late diakinesis.

ZHP-3 and -4 exhibited a similar distribution to ZHP-1 and -2 during early prophase,

but showed a distinct pattern starting at mid-pachytene, when crossover designation (the

selection of one recombination intermediate as the eventual crossover site for each pair of

chromosomes) is thought to occur in *C. elegans* (Figure 1C-D) (Yokoo et al., 2012). Upon

the detection of GFP-COSA-1 foci, which mark the subset of recombination intermediates

that will become COs, ZHP-3 and -4 both accumulated at these sites and gradually

disappeared from the SC along both arms of the chromosomes. These observations are

largely consistent with previous characterization of ZHP-3 and a partially functional GFP-

ZHP-3 fusion protein (Bhalla et al., 2008; Jantsch et al., 2004).

Localization of ZHPs along meiotic chromosomes depends on synaptonemal complexes

The SC in *C. elegans* comprises at least 4 proteins, known as SYP-1-4, which are

mutually dependent for assembly between chromosomes or as polycomplexes. We found

that none of the four ZHP proteins associated along chromosomes in *syp-1* or other *syp*

mutants (Figure 1—figure supplement 3A-C, and data not shown). Intriguingly, in the region

of the germline that normally corresponds to late pachynema, the 4 ZHP proteins

colocalized within nuclear puncta devoid of SC proteins, indicating that the ZHPs can

interact with each other in the absence of SCs or polycomplexes (Figure 1—figure

supplement 3C, lower panel). These puncta do not coincide with known DSB repair proteins

(Figure 1—figure supplement 3D). The ZHP proteins were also less abundant in *syp-1*

mutants (Figure 1—figure supplement 3E-K), suggesting that their stability is enhanced by

association with SCs, particularly that of ZHP-1 and -2 (Figure 1—figure supplement 3F and

J).

Because the ZHP proteins relocalized upon CO designation (Figure 1), we examined

their distribution under conditions where COs fail to occur. In mutants lacking SPO-11,

MSH-5, or COSA-1, ZHPs were detected along the length of SCs through diplonema (data

not shown). Thus, relocalization of the ZHPs in late prophase depends on DSBs and CO

designation factors.

ZHPs likely act as two heterodimeric complexes

To investigate the meiotic functions of the ZHP proteins, we first exploited the auxin-

inducible degradation system. Each of the ZHP genes was tagged with a 3xFLAG epitope

and a 44-aa degron sequence (hereafter "AID") in a strain that expresses the F-box protein

AtTIR1 throughout the germline (Zhang et al., 2015). When adult animals were transferred

to plates containing 1 mM auxin, all AID-tagged proteins were robustly depleted within 1-2

hours (Figure 2—figure supplement 1A-B). To assess the efficacy of the knockdown, we

compared meiotic chromosome segregation in hermaphrodites carrying the previously

characterized *zhp-3(jf61)* null allele (Jantsch et al., 2004) to auxin-treated worms expressing

ZHP-3-AID-GFP (Figure 2—figure supplement 1C). AID-mediated depletion of ZHP-3

quantitatively phenocopied the null allele with respect to both embryonic viability *(Δzhp-3*:

2.06 ± 0.62%; *zhp-3::AID*: 1.83 ± 0.82%) and the incidence of males among the self-

progeny of hermaphrodites, which reflects X-chromosome nondisjunction (Hodgkin et al.,

1979) (*Δzhp-3*: 43.75 ± 27.59 %; *zhp-3::AID*: 37.02 ± 38.12%) (Figure 2—figure supplement

1C), indicating that auxin-induced degradation effectively eliminates the function of ZHP-3.

To determine the dependence of the ZHP proteins on each other for their localization

and stability, we exposed worms to auxin for 24 hours, so that a pool of nuclei had entered

and progressed through meiotic prophase in the absence of AID-tagged protein. We found

that ZHP-1 and -2 depend on each other for both their chromosome association and stability

(Figure 2A-D). ZHP-3 and -4 were also interdependent for their localization to chromosomes

(Figure 2E, 2G and Figure 2—figure supplement 2C). ZHP-3 was unstable in the absence of

ZHP-4 (Figure 2F) and ZHP-4 levels were somewhat lower when ZHP-3 was depleted

(Figure 2H and Figure 2—figure supplement 2D).

Other RING finger proteins such as BRCA1/BARD1 are known to act as

heterodimers (Brzovic et al., 2001; Metzger et al., 2014; Wu et al., 1996). The similarity and

interdependence of localization of ZHP-1 and -2, and of ZHP-3 and -4, suggested that these

four proteins might function as two pairs. Using yeast two-hybrid analysis, we found that

ZHP-1 and -2 indeed interact with each other, and that ZHP-3 and ZHP-4 also physically

interact (Figure 2I and Figure 2—figure supplement 2E). This evidence for specific pairwise

physical interactions, together with their physical distributions (above) and functional

analysis (below), indicate that ZHP-1 and -2 form a complex, and that ZHP-3 and -4

similarly act as a pair. Hereafter we refer to these two dimeric activities as ZHP-1/2 and

ZHP-3/4 for simplicity.

ZHPs play essential roles in chiasma formation and chromosome segregation

Using a number of established assays, we investigated the meiotic functions of these

RING finger proteins. At late diakinesis, association between homologs is normally

maintained by chiasmata, and six condensed bivalents can be detected in each wild-type

oocyte nucleus. We exposed *zhp-AID* strains to auxin for 24 hours and then analyzed

chiasma formation. Depletion of ZHP-1 or ZHP-2 yielded 8-12 DAPI-staining bodies at

diakinesis, representing 4-12 univalents and 0-4 bivalents (Figure 3A-B). In contrast,

depletion of ZHP-3 or ZHP-4 resulted in a complete failure of chiasma formation, indicated

by the appearance of 12 achiasmate chromosomes in each nucleus (Figure 3C-D),

consistent with previous characterization of ZHP-3 (Bhalla et al., 2008; Jantsch et al., 2004).

Because a few chiasmata were observed when ZHP-1-AID or ZHP-2-AID were

depleted, we were concerned that these proteins might not be efficiently degraded. We

therefore introduced null mutations in *zhp-1* and *zhp-2* (see Materials and Methods).

Homozygous mutants produced few viable progeny and a high incidence of males among

the self-progeny of hermaphrodites (Figure 3E), both of which are indicative of meiotic

chromosome missegregation. They also showed identical distributions of DAPI-staining

bodies at diakinesis to that observed in AID-depleted animals (Figure 3—figure supplement

1A-C and data not shown). Additionally, both *zhp-1* and *-2* null mutants produced more

viable progeny than *zhp-3* null mutants (***$p<0.001$, two-sided Student's *t*-test) (Figure 3E),

consistent with a less absolute dependence of chiasma formation on ZHP-1/2 than on ZHP-

3/4.

We wondered whether the few chiasmata in hermaphrodites lacking ZHP-1/2 might

preferentially occur on the X chromosome, which shows some differences from autosomes

in its genetic requirements for DSB induction and CO formation (Yu et al., 2016). To

investigate this, we used fluorescence in situ hybridization (FISH) to mark Chromosome V

and the X chromosome in *zhp-1* mutants. By examining nuclei at diakinesis, we found that

chiasma formation was impaired to a similar degree on both chromosomes. Our

observations are quantitatively consistent with a low number of chiasmata distributed evenly

among all six chromosome pairs (Figure 3F-G).

ZHP-3 was previously found to be dispensable for homologous chromosome pairing,

synapsis, and DSB induction (Jantsch et al., 2004). Pairing and synapsis also occurred

normally in the absence of ZHP-1, -2, or -4 (Figure 3—figure supplement 2). RAD-51 foci,

which mark recombination intermediates and require DSB induction (Colaiacovo et al.,

2003), were also abundant in all *zhp* mutants (Figure 3—figure supplement 3A-F). Thus, the

high frequency of achiasmate chromosomes in the absence of ZHPs reflects defects in CO

recombination downstream of pairing, synapsis, and DSBs.

Prior work has established the existence of a "crossover assurance checkpoint" in *C.*

elegans that delays meiotic progression when recombination intermediates or pro-CO

factors are absent on one or more chromosomes due to defects in homolog pairing,

synapsis, DSB induction, or recombination (Carlton et al., 2006; Kim et al., 2015; Yu et al.,

2016). Activation of this checkpoint prolongs the activity of the CHK-2 kinase, resulting in an

extended region and elevated number of RAD-51 foci, and a shift in the pattern of meiotic

recombination, but does not perturb CO interference. We observed that phosphorylation of

HIM-8 and its paralogs, a marker for CHK-2 activity, was extended when any of the ZHPs

was depleted (Figure 3—figure supplement 3G-I), and RAD-51 foci were more abundant

(Figure 3—figure supplement 3A-F). Thus, the crossover assurance checkpoint does not

require ZHP activity.

We noted differences in the dynamics of DNA repair when ZHP-1/2 were depleted as

compared to ZHP-3/4 (Figure 3—figure supplement 3A-F). In the absence of ZHP-3/4, RAD-

51 foci reached higher peak numbers than in wild-type animals or in the absence of ZHP-1/2,

but depletion of ZHP-1/2 caused a greater delay in the both the accumulation and

disappearance of RAD-51 foci than depletion of ZHP-3/4. Thus, the two ZHP complexes

likely play distinct roles in the processing of recombination intermediates, similar to

observations of HEI10 and RNF212 in mouse spermatocytes (Qiao et al., 2014).

ZHP-3/4 are essential to stabilize CO intermediates, while ZHP-1/2 restrict pro-CO activities and promote CO maturation

To probe the role of ZHPs in recombination, we examined the cytological distributions

of MSH-5, which can be detected at sites of early recombination intermediates, and COSA-1,

which forms bright foci at sites designated for CO formation (Yokoo et al., 2012). In wild-

type and control (non-auxin-treated) worms, ~10-20 MSH-5 foci per nucleus could be

detected by mid-pachytene (Figure 4—figure supplement 1A), after which six GFP-COSA-1

foci – one per pair of chromosomes – were observed (Figure 4A), and MSH-5 became

restricted to these sites (Figure 4 – figure supplement 1), as previously described (Yokoo et

al., 2012). In worms depleted of ZHP-3/4, neither MSH-5 nor COSA-1 foci were detected

during meiotic prophase (Figure 4B, Figure 4—figure supplement 1B and data not shown).

This indicates that ZHP-3/4 are likely required for stable association of MutSɣ with early

recombination intermediates. In striking contrast, depletion of ZHP-1/2 resulted in

appearance of up to ~50 MSH-5 foci and up to ~30 dim but detectable GFP-COSA-1 foci

per oocyte nucleus (Figure 4C-D, and Figure 4—figure supplement 1C-D). Notably, the

number of detectable foci increased in number as nuclei advanced from mid- to late

pachytene, and then rapidly declined (Figure 4D and Figure 4—figure supplement 1D).

The dim GFP-COSA-1 foci in ZHP-1/2-depleted worms showed extensive

colocalization with MSH-5 foci (Figure 4—figure supplement 1E). Together with prior

evidence, this suggested that MSH-5 and COSA-1 colocalize at many recombination

intermediates in the absence of ZHP-1/2. Indeed, it is likely that these pro-CO factors

initially colocalize at all strand exchange intermediates, and that the difference in the

number of detected foci of MSH-5 and COSA-1 is due to the relative sensitivity of the

available detection reagents.

To validate the idea that these foci correspond to recombination intermediates, we

eliminated recombination by disrupting DSB formation. We AID-tagged SPO-11 and either

ZHP-1 or ZHP-2 in the same strain, and found that both proteins could be effectively co-

depleted by auxin treatment (Figure 4—figure supplement 2A and data not shown). This

abolished all MSH-5 and GFP-COSA-1 foci (Figure 4E and data not shown), supporting the

idea that the dim foci observed in the absence of ZHP-1/2 are indeed recombination

intermediates. Co-depletion of ZHP-1 and ZHP-4 also eliminated GFP-COSA-1 foci (Figure

4F and Figure 4—figure supplement 2B) and bivalent formation (Figure 4G), supporting the

conclusion that ZHP-3/4 are required to stabilize MutSɣ at all recombination intermediates.

Depletion of ZHP-1/2 also resulted in persistence of ZHP-3 and -4 throughout SCs in late

pachytene nuclei (Figure 4—figure supplement 2C and data not shown). These

observations indicate that ZHP-1/2 are required to restrict pro-CO proteins to a single

recombination intermediate along each pair of homologs during late prophase.

We next sought to understand why oocytes lacking ZHP-1/2 have abundant, dim

COSA-1 foci but few bivalent chromosomes. This discrepancy could indicate that the dim

foci do not mature as COs, or that they do become COs but fail to give rise to stable

chiasmata. To address this, we mapped COs in *zhp-1* null mutants by whole genome

sequencing (see Materials and Methods). Using this genetic recombination assay, an

average of 2.8 ± 1.8 (SD) COs per oocyte were detected in *zhp-1* mutants, compared to 7.3

± 3.0 (SD) per oocyte (slightly more than the expected number of 6) in wild-type animals

(Figure 4H). These data are consistent with the observed number of bivalents (Figure 3 and

Figure 3—figure supplement 1), and indicate that only a small fraction of COSA-1-positive

foci in *zhp-1/2* mutants mature to become COs and chiasmata.

The excess number but weak immunofluorescence of GFP-COSA-1 foci in the

absence of ZHP-1/2 suggested that one or more limiting components might be distributed to

an excess of recombination intermediates. We therefore wondered whether accumulation of

pro-CO factors at specific recombination intermediates could be rescued by restricting the

number of these intermediates. Mutations in *dsb-2* cause an age-dependent reduction in

meiotic DSBs: very few RAD-51 foci and chiasmata are seen in older (48 h post-L4) *dsb-2*

hermaphrodites, while somewhat more RAD-51 foci and chiasmata are seen in younger

adults (Rosu et al., 2013). We co-depleted DSB-2 and ZHP-2 using the AID system (Figure

5—figure supplement 1A), fixed worms at 24 and 48 hours post-L4, and stained for RAD-51

and GFP-COSA-1. Fewer COSA-1 foci and bivalents were observed in animals depleted for

both DSB-2 and ZHP-2 than DSB-2 alone, although the number of RAD-51 foci was similar

(Figure 5A-C, Figure 5—figure supplement 1B and data not shown). Intriguingly, while

younger *dsb-2* mutant animals have more meiotic DSBs (Rosu et al., 2013 and data not

shown), we observed fewer bright GFP-COSA-1 foci in young ZHP-2 depleted animals: only

11% of nuclei contained a bright GFP-COSA-1 focus, compared to 49% in older animals

(Figure 5B-C). The number of bivalents in these animals corresponded well with bright GFP-

COSA-1 foci, and only chromosomes with bright COSA-1 foci displayed the normal

hallmarks of chromosome remodeling (see below), indicating that only bright COSA-1 foci

reliably mature as COs.

As another approach to examine how the number of intermediates impacts CO

maturation in the absence of ZHP-1/2, we co-depleted ZHP-2 and SPO-11 to abolish

programmed meiotic DSBs, and exposed these animals to varying doses of ionizing

radiation. When SPO-11 alone was depleted by the AID system, GFP-COSA-1 foci and

bivalents were eliminated. Following 10 Gy of radiation, a dose sufficient to ensure CO

formation on most chromosomes in the absence of SPO-11, 6 bright GFP-COSA-1 foci were

observed in each nucleus, as previously described (Libuda et al., 2013; Yokoo et al., 2012)

(Figure 5—figure supplement 1C). When SPO-11 and ZHP-2 were co-depleted, bright GFP-

COSA-1 foci were observed following low doses of radiation, but these never exceeded 2

per nucleus (Figure 5D). At 10 Gy, only extremely dim GFP-COSA-1 foci were detected

(Figure 5D).

Taken together, these observations indicate that ZHP-1/2 are dispensable for a

single break to become a functional interhomolog CO, but act to limit or focus the activity of

ZHP-3/4 and/or other pro-CO factors to select a single recombination intermediate on each

chromosome and to ensure CO maturation in the context of excess DSBs. A higher fraction

of recombination intermediates become crossovers when breaks are severely reduced, but

even when very few DSBs are present, ZHP-1/2 contribute to the accumulation of pro-CO

factors, which in turn promotes CO maturation.

These results indicate that ZHP-1/2 play dual roles: they restrict the accumulation of

pro-CO factors to a subset of recombination intermediates and promote their accumulation

at a subset of sites. We tested whether these two functions could be separated by reducing

the amount of either protein. When strains carrying AID-tagged ZHP-1 or -2 were exposed

to low concentrations of auxin, these proteins could be partially depleted (Figure 5—figure

supplement 2A-B and data not shown). At very low protein levels, we saw a reduction in the

number of GFP-COSA-1 foci, and never observed more than 6 bright COSA-1 foci per

nucleus. Thus, concentrations of ZHP-1/2 required to promote accumulation of pro-CO

factors are also sufficient to limit their association with recombination sites (Figure 5—figure

supplement 2C and data not shown), indicating that these functions are tightly coupled.

ZHP-1/2 mediate chromosome remodeling in response to CO designation

As described in the Introduction, stepwise chromosome segregation in *C. elegans*

meiosis requires functional differentiation of the chromosome regions on either side of the

crossover. Here we report that even prior to any apparent reorganization of HTP-1/2 or SC

proteins, ZHP-1/2 became restricted to the SC on one side of the CO, the presumptive short

arm (Figure 1 and data not shown). In addition, depletion of ZHP-1 or -2 resulted in aberrant

chromosome remodeling: HTP-1/2 and SYP-1 persisted along most chromosomes, both

recombinant and achiasmate (Figure 6—figure supplement 1A-C). These observations

suggested that ZHP-1/2 might regulate chromosome remodeling, in addition to their roles in

CO control.

To further probe the contribution of ZHP-1/2 to remodeling, we examined *dsb-2*

mutants, in which some recombination intermediates accumulate pro-CO factors and

undergo CO maturation even in the absence of ZHP-1/2. The low number of COs in *dsb-2*

mutants also allows direct comparison between recombinant and nonexchange

chromosomes in the same nucleus, and thus at the same cell cycle stage. As described

above, at 48 h-post L4, most late pachytene nuclei in *dsb-2* mutants had either 0 or 1

COSA-1 focus. These foci also accumulated ZHP-3 and ZHP-4, which disappeared from the

corresponding SCs on both sides of these sites (Figure 6A and data not shown). SC

proteins and the Polo kinase PLK-2 also became enriched along these chromosomes

relative to nonexchange chromosomes (Figure 6A and D), as previously described

(Machovina et al., 2016; Pattabiraman et al., 2017). We also observed that PLK-2, which

plays a poorly characterized role in remodeling (Harper et al., 2011), became co-enriched

with ZHP-1/2 on one side of each CO (Figure 6E, upper panel). Similar enrichment of PLK-2

along the short arm was observed in wild-type animals (Figure 6—figure supplement 2A-B).

This had not been apparent using PLK-2 antibodies, but was readily detected with epitope-

tagged PLK-2, as recently reported (Harper et al., 2011; Pattabiraman et al., 2017).

When we co-depleted DSB-2 and ZHP-1/2, ZHP-3 still accumulated at the few bright

COSA-1 foci and was depleted from the corresponding SCs on both sides of these sites

(Figure 6B). This indicates that accumulation of pro-CO factors, rather than ZHP-1/2 activity

per se, leads to depletion of ZHP-3/4 from the SC. However, none of the other hallmarks of

CO-induced remodeling were observed in these animals, including accumulation of SC

proteins and PLK-2, and asymmetrical localization of PLK-2, HTP-1/2, and LAB-1 (Figure

6B-E and data not shown). Instead, a small focus of PLK-2 was detected at CO sites (Figure

6E, lower panel). During diplotene-diakinesis, SC proteins also became restricted to this

focus, while HTP-1/2 persisted along all chromosome arms (Figure 6C, lower panel).

We also depleted PLK-2 with the AID system (Figure 6F). Under these conditions,

both the accumulation of pro-CO factors at a subset of recombination intermediates and the

asymmetric localization of ZHP-1/2 were delayed, but still occurred (Figure 6F, lower panel).

Thus, ZHP-1/2 are required for the asymmetric localization of PLK-2, but not vice versa,

placing ZHP-1/2 upstream of PLK-2 in the remodeling pathway.

Because ZHP-3/4 are strictly required for CO formation, we could not analyze their

roles in chromosome remodeling. However, prior work has found that a GFP-tagged ZHP-3

transgene acts as a separation-of-function allele that is proficient for CO formation but

defective for remodeling (Bhalla et al., 2008).

This remodeling process ultimately leads to the spatial partitioning of cohesin

complexes containing distinct kleisin subunits to reciprocal chromosome domains (Severson

et al., 2009; Severson and Meyer, 2014). The most mature oocyte in each gonad arm,

referred to as the "-1 oocyte," normally shows enrichment of REC-8 along the long arms of

each bivalent, while COH-3/4 are retained along the short arms. In ZHP-1/2 depleted worms,

REC-8 persisted along all arms, while COH-3/4 virtually disappeared by the -1 oocyte

(Figure 6—figure supplement 2C), consistent with the absence of other "short arm"

hallmarks.

Taken together, our analysis indicates that the ZHP circuit acts at or near the top of

the hierarchy that mediates chromosome remodeling in response to CO designation, and

directly couples these two key mechanisms to promote proper chromosome segregation.

Our observations also imply that the persistence of SC along the short arm following CO

designation plays an important role in remodeling by maintaining ZHP-1/2 and PLK-2

activity along this region. Together with previous observations, our findings indicate that a

biochemical signaling cascade acts in *cis* within individual SC compartments to mediate and

respond to CO designation (Libuda et al., 2013; Machovina et al., 2016).

Compartmentalization of CO regulation by the synaptonemal complex

In *C. elegans* lacking the chromosome axis protein HTP-3, large polycomplexes

appear shortly after meiotic entry and persist throughout meiotic prophase (Goodyer et al.,

2008; Rog et al., 2017; Severson and Meyer, 2014). These polycomplexes recapitulate both

the internal order and the liquid-like behavior of SCs, and ZHP-3 concentrates within these

bodies (Rog et al., 2017). At mid-prophase, a focus of COSA-1 appears at the surface of

each polycomplex. ZHP-3 also accumulates at these foci and gradually disappears from the

interior of polycomplexes. Thus, ZHP-3 and COSA-1 recapitulate the dynamic relocalization

and interdependence that they show at CO sites on the surface of polycomplexes, even in

the absence of DSBs or recombination intermediates (Rog et al., 2017).

To investigate this circuitry further, we disrupted *htp-3* in various tagged strains. All 4

ZHP proteins localized throughout polycomplexes during early prophase (Figure 7A-B, and

data not shown), consistent with the idea that they associate with SC proteins. In contrast to

ZHP-3 (Rog et al., 2017), ZHP-1/2 did not accumulate at COSA-1 foci, but instead remained

diffusely localized throughout polycomplexes during late prophase (Figure 7A-B and data

not shown). COSA-1 foci appeared during late prophase even when ZHP-1/2 were depleted,

but under these conditions, ZHP-3 remained distributed throughout polycomplexes in

addition to concentrating with COSA-1 (Figure 7C), further indicating that ZHP-1/2 promote

the accumulation of ZHP-3/4. We also found that MSH-5 colocalized with ZHP-3/4 and

COSA-1 foci on polycomplexes (Figure 7D). PLK-2 localized throughout polycomplexes

even prior to the detection of COSA-1 foci, but became noticeably brighter afterwards, in the

presence or absence of ZHP-1/2 (Figure 7E-F).

Together with the observations of *dsb-2* mutants described above, these findings

demonstrate that key aspects of the regulatory circuit that designates a subset of

recombination intermediates for CO formation act autonomously within each contiguous SC

or polycomplex. Remarkably, our study indicates that this circuit is triggered within

polycomplexes in response to progression of nuclei into late prophase, despite the absence

of any DSBs or CO intermediates in *htp-3* mutants. These observations indicate that the

"designation" of one and only one site per compartment, which mirrors the logic of crossover

assurance and interference, is an intrinsic property of this compartmentalized circuitry.

Discussion

Spatial compartmentalization of CO control

Evidence that the SC behaves as a phase-separated, liquid crystalline compartment

suggested how this interface might act as a conduit for diffusion of biochemical signals

along the interface between paired chromosomes (Rog et al., 2017). Here we provide

evidence that CO assurance, CO interference, and CO maturation are coordinately

regulated by the ZHP RING finger proteins (Figure 8), all of which are concentrated within the SC. Spatial confinement of the ZHPs within this interface between homologs can explain how each pair of chromosomes in the same nucleus is regulated independently, although CO designation is normally coupled to global cell cycle signals. These results add further support to the idea that CO regulation is mediated through this liquid crystalline medium.

CO interference in *C. elegans* normally limits COs to one per homolog pair. This "winner takes all" logic is reminiscent of other well-studied biological symmetry-breaking circuits, such as the selection of a single bud site by growing *S. cerevisiae* cells (Goryachev and Pokhilko, 2008; Howell et al., 2012; Ozbudak et al., 2005). Our evidence indicates that ZHP-1/2 are crucial for both positive feedback that promotes accumulation of pro-CO factors, including ZHP-3/4, at a single recombination intermediate, and negative feedback that depletes these factors from other candidate sites (Figure 8). Similar feedback loops have been proposed in previous work on crossover regulation (Qiao et al., 2014; Rao et al., 2017; Reynolds et al., 2013; Yokoo et al., 2012). Indeed, coupled positive and negative feedback mechanisms are likely essential for any robust, switch-like decision executed by biological circuits (Pfeuty and Kaneko, 2009). A full understanding of CO control will clearly require identification of the substrates of the ZHP ligase family and the effects of their modification.

A single crossover site could be selected, and other sites deselected, via a "trigger wave" that moves rapidly through the SC from an initial site of stochastic CO designation and inhibits selection of nearby recombination intermediates (Figure 8A). However, such a mechanism cannot easily be reconciled with observations that pro-crossover factors, including Zip3, accumulate at recombination intermediates even prior to completion of

synapsis in budding yeast, and likely in other organisms. Alternatively, coupled positive and

negative regulation may give rise to a periodic standing wave, or Turing pattern (Turing,

1952), of CO designation potential along each chromosome. This type of patterning requires

interaction between two diffusible activities: an activating activity – or "morphogen," to use

Turing's term – that acts locally and shows autocatalytic or cooperative behavior, and an

inhibitory activity that acts over a greater distance. This type of pattern has intrinsic

periodicity that depends on the activities and diffusion rates of the activator and inhibitor.

Such a pattern could thus be established prior to full SC assembly, in which case

designation of the first CO site would spatially fix one node of the pattern (Figure 8A). A

Turing patterning mechanism is also consistent with evidence presented here and in

previous studies that stabilization of recombination intermediates and CO patterning are

tightly coupled. Evidence that mammalian RNF212 and Arabidopsis HEI10 act as dosage-

sensitive modulators of recombination rates (Qiao et al., 2014; Reynolds et al., 2013;

Ziolkowski et al., 2017) is compatible with either a temporally-dependent or standing wave

model, since an increase or decrease in these activities could alter either the rate of signal

propagation or the frequency of a waveform along paired chromosomes.

While the SC is an unusual, liquid crystalline material, liquid-liquid phase separation

(LLPS) has been implicated in subcellular compartmentalization of diverse signaling

mechanisms (Banani et al., 2017). By diffusing and interacting within a spatially confined

liquid compartment, biochemical signals could potentially establish a variety of periodic,

Turing-type patterns within cells. Analogously, diffusion of signaling molecules within cell

membranes can create two-dimensional patterns, which have been proposed to orchestrate

polarity decisions (Goryachev and Pokhilko, 2008), as well as more elaborate patterning

such as hexagonal arrays of stereocilia (Jacobo and Hudspeth, 2014).

Intriguingly, the ZHP proteins and their homologs are very similar to TRIM E3 ligases

(tripartite motif: RING, B-box, coiled-coil domain), a very large family of enzymes with

diverse cellular roles. The functions of most TRIM ligases are unknown, but like the ZHP

proteins, they often form homo-or heterodimers, and many of these proteins appear to

localize to cellular compartments, including globular nuclear and cytoplasmic bodies, or to

filamentous structures such as microtubules (Rajsbaum et al., 2014; Reymond et al., 2001).

Thus, we speculate that compartmentalized regulatory mechanisms with similarities to the

circuitry illuminated here may control other spatially-patterned activities within cells.

Conservation and divergence of the Zip3/ZHP protein family

RING finger proteins homologous to the ZHP family play important roles in CO

formation in diverse eukaryotes. Interestingly, the number of these proteins varies among

organisms (Agarwal and Roeder, 2000; Ahuja et al., 2017; Chelysheva et al., 2012; Gray

and Cohen, 2016; Lake et al., 2015; Qiao et al., 2014; Rao et al., 2017; Reynolds et al.,

2013; Wang et al., 2012; Ward et al., 2007; Zhang et al., 2014a). The cytological

distributions and apparent functions of ZHP-3/4 and ZHP-1/2 are very similar to those

reported for the mammalian recombination regulators RNF212 and HEI10, respectively. Like

ZHP-3/4, mouse RNF212 is required to stabilize recombination intermediates (Reynolds et

al., 2013), while HEI10, like ZHP-1/2, is required to limit the number of RNF212/MutSɣ-

positive foci along chromosomes and for robust CO maturation (Qiao et al., 2014). Most

ZHP homologs also contain predicted coiled-coil domains and localize to the central region

of the SC, including Zip3 in budding yeast, which forms foci along chromosomes but

localizes throughout polycomplexes. A notable exception is a recently identified homolog

required for crossovers in the ciliate *Tetrahymena thermophila*. This protein lacks a coiled-

coil domain, likely related to the fact that this organism lacks SCs (Shodhan et al., 2017).

HEI10 in *Sordaria* and *Arabidopsis*, and Zip3 in budding yeast, may be bifunctional

proteins with roles similar to both ZHP-1/2 and ZHP-3/4, as suggested by their localization

to CO sites and the apparent absence of RNF212 in these clades (Agarwal and Roeder,

2000; Chelysheva et al., 2012; De Muyt et al., 2014). We speculate that they could play dual

roles by partnering with multiple E2 conjugating enzymes, or perhaps with distinct substrate-

recognition factors.

In mammals, RNF212 and HEI10 are thought to mediate opposing pro- and anti-

crossover activities through SUMOylation and SUMO-dependent ubiquitylation, respectively

(Qiao et al., 2014; Rao et al., 2017; Reynolds et al., 2013); a similar "SUMO-ubiquitin switch"

has been proposed based on findings in Sordaria (De Muyt et al., 2014). In budding yeast,

Sordaria, and mice, SUMOylation is essential for SC assembly, and thus for CO regulation

(De Muyt et al., 2014; Hooker and Roeder, 2006; Klug et al., 2013; Leung et al., 2015; Lin et

al., 2010; Rao et al., 2017; Voelkel-Meiman et al., 2013). In *C. elegans* we do not detect

SUMO cytologically either along the SC or at CO sites, even with highly sensitive tools such

as epitope-tagged SUMO transgenes (Pelisch and Hay, 2016; data not shown). Further,

genetic analysis has indicated that SMO-1 (SUMO) and its E2 conjugating enzyme UBC-9

are dispensable for synapsis and CO control in *C. elegans*, although they play key roles

downstream of COs to mediate meiotic chromosome segregation in oocytes (Bhalla et al.,

2008; Pelisch et al., 2017). Taken together, we favor the idea that each pair of ZHP proteins

acts as a ubiquitin ligase, like the "lion's share" of RING finger proteins (Deshaies and

Joazeiro, 2009).

590   Our analysis also reveals that the *C. elegans* ZHP proteins likely function as

591   heterodimers, or perhaps as higher order oligomers. It will be interesting to determine

592   whether ZHP homologs in other organisms also have obligate partners, or perhaps

593   homooligomerize, since this knowledge may help to illuminate their *in vivo* activities and

594   substrates.

596   **Regulation of sister chromatid cohesion by the ZHP family**

597   In addition to their roles in CO control, the ZHP family also link COs to chromosome

598   remodeling, which enables the stepwise release of cohesion during the MI and MII divisions

599   (Figure 8). Specifically, we find that CO designation results in enrichment of ZHP-1/2 along

600   one chromosome arm, which in turn promotes concentration of PLK-2 within this domain,

601   asymmetric disassembly of the SC, and spatial regulation of cohesin function.

602   It is not clear whether sister chromatid cohesion during meiosis is regulated in the

same fashion in other organisms. In budding and fission yeasts, Drosophila, diverse plants,

and mammals, cohesion near centromeres is specifically retained during the first division

(Duro and Marston, 2015). Cohesin complexes containing the meiosis-specific kleisin Rec8

are enriched in pericentromeric heterochromatin and sometimes at centromere cores, and

Shugoshin/MEI-S332, a Rec8-specific protective factor, is also recruited to these regions. In

principle, programmed release of cohesion along arms and its retention near centromeres

could suffice to allow homologs to segregate in MI while maintaining a link between sisters

until MII. However, experimental evidence from several organisms indicates that CO

formation leads to a local disruption of cohesion, which can predispose chromosomes to

missegregate when COs occur close to centromeres (Brar and Amon, 2008). In light of

other similarities between ZHP-1/2 and HEI10, this raises the possibility that HEI10 may

also influence sister chromatid cohesion, perhaps via spatial control of Polo-like kinases,

which promote release of cohesion in mitosis and meiosis (Archambault and Glover, 2009).

If so, HEI10 activity may directly impact chromosome missegregation in human oocytes,

which has been attributed to compromised cohesion, and also – very recently – to inefficient

CO maturation (Wang et al., 2017), another process that involves HEI10.

Materials and methods

Key Resources Table

Reagent type (species) or resource	Designation	Source or reference	Identifiers	Additional information
gene (*Caenorhabditis elegans*)	*zhp-1*	Wormbase/This paper	Wormbase ID: F55A12.10; WBGene00018867	
gene (*Caenorhabditis elegans*)	*zhp-2*	Wormbase/This paper	Wormbase ID: D1081.9; WBGene00008387	
gene (*Caenorhabditis elegans*)	*zhp-3*	Wormbase/(Jantsch et al., 2004) PMID: 15340062	Wormbase ID: K02B12.8b; WBGene00006976	
gene (*Caenorhabditis elegans*)	*zhp-4*	Wormbase/This paper	Wormbase ID: Y39B6A.16; WBGene00012678	
gene (*Caenorhabditis elegans*)	*S. cerevisiae*: MaV203	Invitrogen	Cat#11445012	
gene (*Caenorhabditis elegans*)	For *C. elegans* allele and strain information, see Supplementary File 1, Tables S2 and S4.	This paper	N/A	
gene (*Caenorhabditis elegans*)	For CRISPR/Cas9 reagents, see sequence-based reagent and peptide, recombinant protein.	This paper	N/A	
gene (*Caenorhabditis elegans*)	Rabbit polyclonal anti-SYP-1	(MacQueen et al., 2002) PMID: 12231631	N/A	(1:500 IF)
gene (*Caenorhabditis elegans*)	Rabbit polyclonal anti-SYP-2	(Colaiácovo et al., 2003) PMID: 12967565	N/A	(1:500 IF)
gene (*Caenorhabditis elegans*)	Rabbit polyclonal anti-HTP-1	(Martinez-Perez et al., 2008) PMID: 18923085	N/A	(1:500 IF)

gene (*Caenorhabditis elegans*)	Rabbit polyclonal anti-RAD-51	Novus Biologicals	Cat#29480002	(1:5,000 IF)
gene (*Caenorhabditis elegans*)	Rabbit polyclonal anti-pHIM-8/ZIMs	(Kim et al., 2015) PMID: 26506311	N/A	(1:500 IF)
gene (*Caenorhabditis elegans*)	Rabbit polyclonal anti-ZHP-3	ModENCODE/SD IX; (Rog et al., 2017) PMID: 28045371	Cat#SDQ3956	(1:5,000 IF)
gene (*Caenorhabditis elegans*)	Rabbit polyclonal anti-MSH-5	ModENCODE/SD IX	Cat#SDQ2376	(1:5,000 IF)
gene (*Caenorhabditis elegans*)	Rabbit polyclonal anti-REC-8	ModENCODE/SD IX	Cat#SDQ0802	(1:5,000 IF)
gene (*Caenorhabditis elegans*)	Rabbit polyclonal anti-COH-3	ModENCODE/SD IX	Cat#SDQ3972	(1:5,000 IF)
gene (*Caenorhabditis elegans*)	Rat polyclonal anti-HIM-8	(Phillips et al., 2005) PMID: 16360035	N/A	(1:500 IF)
gene (*Caenorhabditis elegans*)	Goat polyclonal anti-SYP-1	(Harper et al., 2011) PMID: 22018922	N/A	(1:300 IF)
gene (*Caenorhabditis elegans*)	Chicken polyclonal anti-HTP-3	(MacQueen et al., 2005) PMID: 16360034	N/A	(1:500 IF)
gene (*Caenorhabditis elegans*)	Guinea pig polyclonal anti-HTP-3	(MacQueen et al., 2005) PMID: 16360034	N/A	(1:500 IF) (1:1,500 WB)
gene (*Caenorhabditis elegans*)	Guinea pig polyclonal anti-PLK-2	(Harper et al., 2011) PMID: 22018922	N/A	(1:100 IF)
gene (*Caenorhabditis elegans*)	Rabbit polyclonal anti-V5	Sigma-Aldrich	Cat#V8137; RRID:AB_261889	(1:250 IF)
gene (*Caenorhabditis elegans*)	Mouse monoclonal anti-V5	Thermo Fisher Scientific	Cat#R960-25; RRID:AB_2556564	(1:500 IF) (1:1,000 WB)

gene (*Caenorhabditis elegans*)	Mouse monoclonal anti-FLAG M2	Sigma-Aldrich	Cat#F1804; RRID:AB_262044	(1:500 IF) (1:1,000 WB)
gene (*Caenorhabditis elegans*)	Mouse monoclonal anti-HA, clone 2-2.2.14	Thermo Fisher Scientific	Cat#26183; RRID:AB_10978021	(1:400 IF) (1:1,000 WB)
gene (*Caenorhabditis elegans*)	Mouse monoclonal anti-GFP	Roche	Cat#11814460001; RRID:AB_390913	(1:500 IF) (1:1,000 WB)
gene (*Caenorhabditis elegans*)	Mouse monoclonal anti-α-tubulin, clone DM1A	Millipore	Cat#05-829; RRID:AB_310035	(1:5,000 WB)
gene (*Caenorhabditis elegans*)	eft-3p::AID::GFP::unc-54 3'UTR	(Zhang et al., 2015) PMID: 26552885; Addgene	pLZ29; Addgene plasmid #71719	
gene (*Caenorhabditis elegans*)	cDNA zhp-1	Wormbase	Wormbase ID: F55A12.10; WBGene00018867	
gene (*Caenorhabditis elegans*)	cDNA zhp-2	Wormbase	Wormbase ID: D1081.9; WBGene00008387	
gene (*Caenorhabditis elegans*)	cDNA zhp-3	Wormbase	Wormbase ID: K02B12.8b; WBGene00006976	
gene (*Caenorhabditis elegans*)	cDNA zhp-4	Wormbase (codon-optimized by Integrated DNA Technologies to facilitate gBlock synthesis)	Wormbase ID: Y39B6A.16; WBGene00012678	
gene (*Caenorhabditis elegans*)	Plasmid: pDEST32-zhp-1-V5	This paper	N/A	
gene (*Caenorhabditis elegans*)	Plasmid: pDEST32-zhp-2-3xFLAG	This paper	N/A	
gene (*Caenorhabditis elegans*)	Plasmid: pDEST32-zhp-3-3xFLAG	This paper	N/A	

gene (*Caenorhabditis elegans*)	Plasmid: pDEST32-zhp-4-HA	This paper	N/A	
gene (*Caenorhabditis elegans*)	Plasmid: pDEST22-zhp-1-V5	This paper	N/A	
gene (*Caenorhabditis elegans*)	Plasmid: pDEST22-zhp-2-3xFLAG	This paper	N/A	
gene (*Caenorhabditis elegans*)	Plasmid: pDEST22-zhp-3-3xFLAG	This paper	N/A	
gene (*Caenorhabditis elegans*)	Plasmid: pDEST22-zhp-4-HA	This paper	N/A	
gene (*Caenorhabditis elegans*)	FISH probe to the right arm of chromosome V (5S rDNA)	(Dernburg et al., 1998) PMID: 9708740	N/A	
gene (*Caenorhabditis elegans*)	FISH Probe to the right arm of X chromosome	(Philips et al., 2005) PMID: 16360035	N/A	
gene (*Caenorhabditis elegans*)	CRISPR tracrRNA	Integrated DNA Technologies	Cat#1072534	
gene (*Caenorhabditis elegans*)	For crRNAs, repair templates and genotyping primers, see Supplementary File 1, Table S3	This paper	N/A	
gene (*Caenorhabditis elegans*)	S. pyogenes Cas9-NLS purified protein	QB3 MacroLab at UC Berkeley	N/A	
gene (*Caenorhabditis elegans*)	Auxin: 1H-Indole-3-acetic acid	ACROS ORGANICS	Cat#122160250; CAS:87-51-4	
gene (*Caenorhabditis elegans*)	NuSieve 3:1 agarose	Lonza	Cat#50090	
gene (*Caenorhabditis*	Nuclease-Free Duplex Buffer	Integrated DNA Technologies	Cat#11-01-03-01	

gene (*Caenorhabditis elegans*)	SuperSignal West Femto Maximum Sensitivity Substrate kit	Thermo Fisher Scientific	Cat #34095	
gene (*Caenorhabditis elegans*)	SoftWorx package	Applied Precision; GE Healthcare Life Sciences	http://www.gelifesciences.com/webapp/wcs/stores/servlet/productById/en/GELifeSciences-us/29065728	
gene (*Caenorhabditis elegans*)	ImageJ	NIH	https://imagej.nih.gov/ij/	
gene (*Caenorhabditis elegans*)	Adobe Photoshop CC 2014	Adobe	http://www.adobe.com/products/photoshop.html	
gene (*Caenorhabditis elegans*)	T-COFFEE	Swiss Institute of Bioinformatics; (Notredame et al., 2000) PMID: 10964570	http://tcoffee.vital-it.ch/apps/tcoffee/index.html	
gene (*Caenorhabditis elegans*)	IBS_1.0.1	(Liu et al., 2015) PMID: 26069263	http://ibs.biocuckoo.org/download.php	
gene (*Caenorhabditis elegans*)	Clustal Omega	EMBL-EBI	http://www.clustal.org/omega/	
gene (*Caenorhabditis elegans*)	Graphpad Prism	Graphpad Software, Inc	http://www.graphpad.com/	
gene (*Caenorhabditis elegans*)	MSG software package	(Andolfatto et al., 2011) PMID: 21233398	https://github.com/JaneliaSciComp/msg	

Generation of transgenic worm strains

All *C. elegans* strains were maintained on nematode growth medium (NGM) plates

seeded with OP50 bacteria at 20°C. All epitope-tagged genes used in this study were fully

functional, as indicated by their ability to support normal meiosis (Supplementary File 1,

Table S1). New alleles and their detailed information are listed in Supplementary File 1,

Tables S2 and S3. Unless otherwise indicated, new alleles in this study were generated by

genome editing, by injection of Cas9-gRNA RNP complexes, using *dpy-10* Co-CRISPR to

enrich for edited progeny (Arribere et al., 2014; Paix et al., 2015). Cas9-NLS protein was

produced by the MacroLab at UC Berkeley. The protein was complexed *in vitro* with

equimolar quantities of duplexed tracrRNA and target-specific crRNAs, purchased from

Integrated DNA Technologies (IDT). Repair templates were single- or double-stranded

amplicons generated by asymmetric or standard PCR, respectively, or Ultramer

oligonucleotides purchased from IDT. Each 10 μl of injection mixture contained: 16 μM

[Cas9 protein + gRNA] (target gene + *dpy-10*), plus 0.16-2μM long and/or 6μM

oligonucleotide repair templates. In cases where Unc worms were injected (*e.g.,* to tag *zhp*

genes in a *syp-1(me17)/nT1* strain), plasmids encoding green fluorescent reporter proteins

were co-injected to enrich for edited progeny.

Injected animals were transferred to individual plates and incubated at 20°C. After 4

days, F1 Rol or Dpy progeny (*dpy-10* heterozygotes or homozygotes, respectively) from

"jackpot" broods containing multiple Rol/Dpy animals were picked to individual plates,

allowed to produce self-progeny, then lysed and screened by PCR.

Disruption of the *zhp-1* gene was accomplished by inserting the sequence

TAAGCTCGAG after the 6th codon, introducing a stop codon, a frameshift, and an Xho I

restriction site. Three independent alleles of the same sequence were generated: *ie43* and

ie44 in the N2 strain background, and *ie46* in the CB4856 strain. The *zhp-2* gene was

similarly disrupted by insertion of TAATAATTAATTAG after the 7th codon, resulting in

multiple stop codons and a frameshift.

See Supplementary File 1, Table S4 for a full list of strains used. Unless otherwise

indicated, young adults were used for both immunofluorescence and Western blotting

assays. Synchronized young adults were obtained by picking L4 larvae and culturing them

for 20-24 h at 20°C.

Auxin-mediated protein depletion

To deplete AID-tagged proteins in a strain expressing the *AtTIR1* transgene, animals

were treated with auxin (indole acetic acid, IAA) as previously described (Zhang et al., 2015).

Briefly, NGM agar was supplemented with 1mM IAA just before pouring plates. *E. coli* OP50

bacteria cultures were concentrated and spread on plates, which were allowed to dry before

transferring *C. elegans* onto the plates.

We note that two major advantages of the AID system have facilitated our study of

these proteins in meiosis: i) this approach enables temporal control and germline-specific

degradation of proteins; ii) complex strains that combine various mutations and epitope-

tagged alleles can be constructed far more easily, since balancer chromosomes are not

required to maintain conditional alleles of genes essential for reproduction. Additionally,

control experiments can be performed using the same strains without auxin treatment.

Viability and fertility

To quantify brood size and males among self-progeny, L4 hermaphrodites were

picked onto individual plates and transferred to new plates daily over 4 days. Eggs were

counted every day. Viable progeny and males were counted when the F1 reached the L4 or

adult stages. To analyze viability and fertility in the presence of auxin, L1s were transferred

onto auxin plates and grown to the L4 stage. Hermaphrodites were then transferred onto

fresh auxin plates, transferred daily over 4 days, and progeny were scored as described

above.

Recombination mapping by whole-genome sequencing

The *zhp-1* gene was disrupted by CRISPR/Cas9-based genome editing in both the

N2 Bristol and CB4856 Hawaiian strain backgrounds, as described above (allele

designations: *ie43* and *ie46*, respectively). By crossing animals carrying these mutations, we

generated N2/CB4856 hybrids lacking *zhp-1.* To map meiotic COs that occurred during

oogenesis in these animals, hybrid hermaphrodites were backcrossed to (*zhp-1*$^+$) CB4856

males. Hermaphrodite progeny from this cross were picked to individual 60mm plates and

allowed to produce self-progeny until the plates were starved. Genomic DNA was extracted

from these pools of progeny using Gentra Puregene Tissue Kit (Qiagen), and quantified by

Qubit (Invitrogen). Sequencing libraries were constructed in the Functional Genomics Lab

(FGL), a QB3-Berkeley Core Research Facility at UC Berkeley. DNA was Fragmented with

an S220 Focused-Ultrasonicator (Covaris), then cleaned & concentrated with the MinElute®

PCR Purification kit (QIAGEN). Library preparation was done on an Apollo 324™ with

PrepX™ ILM 32i DNA Library Kits (WaferGen Biosystems, Fremont, CA). 9 cycles of PCR

amplification were used. The average insert size of libraries was 380bp. 150PE sequencing

at approximately 9x coverage was carried out on an Illumina Hiseq 2500 by the Vincent J.

Coates Genomics Sequencing Laboratory at UC Berkeley. Two libraries for each of the

parental strains (N2 and CB4856) were prepared in parallel, sequenced at 30x coverage,

and aligned to the reference genome sequences available through Wormbase (Thompson

et al., 2015). To map COs, the data were analyzed using the MSG software package

(https://github.com/JaneliaSciComp/msg) (Andolfatto et al., 2011).

Yeast two-hybrid analysis

To test for interactions among the ZHP proteins using the yeast two-hybrid system,

coding sequences for ZHP-1-V5, ZHP-2-3xFLAG, ZHP-3-3xFLAG and ZHP-4-HA were

synthesized as gBlocks by Integrated DNA Technologies (IDT). Epitope tags were

appended to the protein sequences so that expression in yeast could be monitored. The

coding sequence for ZHP-4 was codon-optimized by IDT to facilitate gBlock synthesis and

expression in yeast. Each of these sequences was fused to both the GAL4 DNA binding

domain and the GAL4 activation domain by insertion into pDEST32 and pDEST22,

respectively, using the Gateway cloning system, following the manufacturer's instructions

(Invitrogen).

All possible pairwise combinations of the four ZHP proteins, including potential

homodimers, were tested using the ProQuest™ Two-Hybrid System (Invitrogen). Briefly,

each pair of bait and prey plasmids was co-transformed into yeast strain MaV203 using

standard LiAc-mediated transformation. To test for specific interactions, 2-4 independent

clones of each strain were assayed for *HIS3*, *URA3* and *LacZ* induction. Negative and

positive controls provided with the ProQuest™ kit (Cat. Series 10835) were run in parallel.

Microscopy

Immunofluorescence experiments were performed as previously described (Zhang et al.,

2015), except that samples were mounted in Prolong Diamond mounting medium with DAPI

(Life Technologies). Primary antibodies were obtained from commercial sources or have

been previously described, and were diluted as follows: Rabbit anti-SYP-1 [1:500,

(MacQueen et al., 2002)], Rabbit anti-SYP-2 [1:500, (Colaiacovo et al., 2003)], Rabbit anti-

HTP-1 [1:500, (Martinez-Perez et al., 2008)], Rabbit anti-RAD-51 (1:5,000, Novus

Biologicals, #29480002), Rabbit anti-pHIM-8/ZIMs [1:500, (Kim et al., 2015)], Rabbit MSH-5

[1:5,000, modENCODE/SDIX, #SDQ2376, (Yokoo et al., 2012)], Rabbit anti-REC-8 (1:5,000,

modENCODE/SDIX, #SDQ0802), Rabbit anti-COH-3 (1:5,000, modENCODE/SDIX,

#SDQ3972), Guinea pig anti-PLK-2 [1:100, (Harper et al., 2011)], Goat anti-SYP-1 [1:300,

(Harper et al., 2011)], Chicken anti-HTP-3 [1:500, (MacQueen et al., 2005)], Rabbit anti-

ZHP-3 [1:5,000, modENCODE/SDIX, #SDQ3956, (Rog et al., 2017)], Rat anti-HIM-8 [1:500,

(Phillips et al., 2005)], Mouse anti-FLAG (1:500, Sigma, #F1804), Mouse anti-HA (1:400,

Thermo Fisher, #26183), Mouse anti-V5 (1:500, Thermo Fisher, #R960-25), Rabbit anti-V5

(1:250, Sigma, #V8137), Mouse anti-GFP (1:500, Roche, #11814460001). Secondary

antibodies labeled with Alexa 488, Cy3 or Cy5 were purchased from Jackson

ImmunoResearch and used at 1:500.

Chromosomal *in situ* hybridization was performed as previously described (Dernburg

et al., 1998) with modifications. Briefly, worms were dissected and fixed essentially

according to the immunofluorescence protocol described above. Fixed worm gonads were

then washed with 2xSSCT and incubated in 50% formamide/2xSSCT overnight at 37°C.

Tissue and probes were denatured at 91°C for 2 min, then hybridized overnight at 37°C.

Hybridized gonads were then washed and stained with DAPI. Two chromosome-specific

probes were used: an oligonucleotide targeting a short repetitive sequence on the X

chromosome (Lieb et al., 2000; Phillips et al., 2005) and the 5S rDNA repeat on the right

arm of chromosome V (Dernburg et al., 1998). FISH probes were labeled with aminoallyl-

dUTP (Sigma) by terminal transferase-mediated 3' end-labeling, followed by conjugation to

Alexa 488-NHS-ester (Molecular Probes) or Cy3-NHS-ester (Amersham), as previously

described (Dernburg, 2011)

All images were acquired as z-stacks through 8-μm depth at intervals of 0.2 μm using

a DeltaVision Elite microscope (GE) with a 100x, 1.4 N.A. oil-immersion objective. Iterative

3D deconvolution, image projection and colorization were carried out using the SoftWoRx

package and Adobe Photoshop CC 2014.

Western blotting

Adult worms were picked into SDS sample buffer and lysed by boiling for 30 min, a

single freeze/thaw cycle in liquid nitrogen, and occasionally vortexing. Whole worm lysates

were separated on 4-12% polyacrylamide gradient gels and blotted with indicated antibodies:

Mouse anti-GFP (1:1,000, Roche, #11814460001), Mouse anti-FLAG (1:1,000, Sigma,

#F1804), Mouse anti-HA (1:1,000, Thermo Fisher, #26183), Mouse anti-V5 (1:1,000,

Thermo Fisher, #R960-25), Mouse anti-α-tubulin (1:5,000, EMD MILLIPORE, #05-829),

Guinea pig anti-HTP-3 [1:1,500, (MacQueen et al., 2005)]. HRP-conjugated secondary

antibodies (Jackson Laboratory, #115-035-068) and SuperSignal West Femto Maximum

Sensitivity Substrate (Thermo Fisher, #34095) were used for detection.

To quantify Western blots, TIF images were collected for each blot using a Chemidoc

system (Bio-Rad). Integrated intensities for relevant bands were then calculated using

ImageJ. To normalize for sample loading, the indicated band intensity was divided by the

corresponding α-tubulin or HTP-3 band intensity. Each normalized band intensity is

expressed as the percentage of the intensity at t=0 or in a control sample.

Quantification and statistical analysis

Quantification methods and statistical parameters are indicated in the legend of each figure,

including error calculations (SD or SEM), *n* values, statistical tests, and p-values. $p < 0.05$

was considered to be significant.

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785 Competing interests

786 The authors declare that no competing interests exist.

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Figure legends

Figure 1. ZHP proteins exhibit two distinct patterns of dynamic localization.

(A-D) Projection images showing immunofluorescent localization of 3xFLAG tagged

ZHP-1 (A), ZHP-2 (B), ZHP-3 (C) and ZHP-4 (D) relative to SCs (marked by SYP-1) and

CO sites (marked by GFP-COSA-1) from mitosis to early diakinesis in the germ line.

Insets in each panel show representative images of ZHP localization in (left to right)

early pachytene (EP), mid-pachytene (MP), late pachytene (LP) and diplotene (Di)

nuclei. Inserts with higher magnification images highlight of the localization patterns of

ZHPs (red) from MP to Di. Gray lines, blue line and green focus represent the

chromosome axis, central region of the synaptonemal complex (SC) and CO site,

respectively. ZHP-1 and ZHP-2 show identical dynamics: they localize to assembling

SCs, and upon the appearance of COSA-1 foci they become restricted to the short arm

of each bivalent. ZHP-3 and ZHP-4 also mirror each other, localizing initially throughout

the SC, and then accumulating at one site along each chromosome pair, concomitant

with the appearance of COSA-1 at these sites. By late pachynema, 100% of GFP-

COSA-1 foci colocalize with ZHP-4 puncta (n= 2,700 COSA-1 foci in 450 nuclei from 8

gonads [11 rows of cells per gonad] were scored). 3F indicates 3xFLAG. Scale bars,

5*μ*m.

Figure 1—figure supplement 1. Sequence alignment of *C. elegans* ZHPs, and the

evolution of ZHPs in nematodes.

(A) Sequence alignment of *C. elegans* F55A12.10 (ZHP-1), D1081.9 (ZHP-2), K02B12.8

(ZHP-3) and Y39B6A.16 (ZHP-4) generated with T-Coffee (Notredame et al., 2000).

Dark and gray shading indicate identical and similar residues, respectively. Asterisks

indicate residues involved in zinc coordination. (B) Schematic showing the domain

organization of the four ZHP proteins. RING: RING finger domain; CC: coiled coil.

Numbers indicate amino acid positions. (C) Phylogenetic relationship of ZHPs from

different Caenorhabditids: *Ce, C. elegans, Cb, C. briggsae; Cr, C. remanei.* (D)

Sequence alignment of the C-terminal domain of the four ZHPs from Caenorhabditids.

The C-termini of the same ZHP protein from different nematodes are much more

conserved than the C-termini of the different ZHPs from the same nematode. CT: C-

terminus. Dark and gray shading indicate identical and similar residues, respectively.

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Figure 1—figure supplement 2. Absence of nonspecific staining with anti-FLAG

antibodies in the *C. elegans* germline.

Projection images showing *C. elegans* germline immunostained with anti-3xFLAG

epitope antibody (red) and anti-SYP-1 antibody (indicating synaptonemal complex (SC),

blue). Insets in each panel show representative nuclei (left to right) in early pachytene

(EP), mid-pachytene (MP), late pachytene (LP) and diplotene (Di). Anti-FLAG antibody

staining shows no obvious unspecific signal in the germline. Mitotic and TZ indicate

Mitotic zone and Transition Zone, respectively. WT: wild-type. Scale bars, 5μm.

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1077　**Figure 1—figure supplement 3. Localization of the ZHPs along meiotic**

 chromosomes depends on SCs.

(A,B) Projection images of mid- and late pachytene nuclei, showing the localization of

ZHP-2-HA (A) and ZHP-4-HA (B) in *syp-1* mutant hermaphrodites and heterozygous

controls. Chromosome axes are marked by HTP-3 (red). (C) Projection images of mid-

and late pachytene nuclei showing the localization of ZHP-1-V5 (green) and ZHP-3-

3xFLAG (cyan) in *syp-1* mutants and control animals. Chromosome axes are marked by

HTP-3 (red). Association of ZHPs along chromosomes was abolished in the absence of

synapsis. (D) Projection images of mid- and late pachytene nuclei showing the

localization of ZHP-3-3xFLAG (cyan) and RAD-51 (green) in *syp-1* mutants.

Chromosome axes are marked by HTP-3 (red). The nuclear puncta of ZHP-3 do not

colocalize with DSB repair sites. Scale bars, 5μm. (E,G,I) Western blots showing the

abundance of ZHP proteins in *syp-1* mutants and control worms. Protein from an equal

number of animals was loaded in each lane, and HTP-3 was blotted as a loading control.

(F,H,J,K) Quantification of Western blots. The ZHP band intensity was normalized

against HTP-3 and expressed as percentage of the intensity in a control sample. Data

are presented as mean±SD protein levels from three independent experiments.

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Figure 2. ZHPs likely act as two heterodimeric protein complexes.

(A-H) Projection images of mid-pachytene and diplotene nuclei, showing the localization

of ZHPs (green), with corresponding Western blots to assess protein levels in the

presence and absence of their partners. SCs are marked by SYP-1 (red). Tubulin was

blotted as a loading control. Localization of each ZHP to SCs was abolished when its

partner was depleted by auxin treatment for 24 h. In the absence of their partners, the

ZHPs were also destabilized. Scale bars, 5μm. (I) Yeast 2-hybrid interactions monitored

by β-galactosidase expression reveal specific interactions between ZHP-1 and ZHP-2,

and ZHP-3 and ZHP-4, respectively. No interactions were detected for other

combinations. "Empty" indicates the same vector with no insert. None control: pPC97

and pPC86 with no insert; weak control: pPC97-human RB amino acids 302-928 and

pPC86-human E2F1 amino acids 342-437; moderate control: pPC97-*Drosophila* DP

amino acids 1-377 and pPC86-*Drosophila* E2F amino acids 225-433; and strong control:

pPC97-rat cFos amino acids 132-211 and pPC86-mouse cJun amino acids 250-325.

1109

Figure 2—figure supplement 1. Depletion of ZHP proteins using the AID system.

(A) Western blots showing robust, rapid degradation of AID-tagged ZHP proteins in

animals exposed to 1 mM auxin. Blots were done with anti-FLAG and anti-tubulin

antibodies, respectively. Tubulin was blotted as a loading control. 3F: 3xFLAG. (B)

Degradation kinetics of AID-tagged ZHPs. Proteins were quantified by Western blotting,

normalized against tubulin controls. The graph shows the mean±SD protein levels from

three independent experiments. (C) Frequencies of males and viable embryos observed

among whole broods for the indicated genotypes and conditions. No meiotic defects

were observed in animals expressing ZHP-3-AID under standard culture conditions, but

in the presence of 1mM auxin this strain quantitatively phenocopies a *zhp-3(jf61)* null

mutant. Reported viability of >100% is a consequence of failing to count some embryos.

1121

Figure 2—figure supplement 2. Additional antibody validation, ZHP-4 in *zhp-3*

mutants, and yeast 2-hybrid analysis of ZHP protein interactions.

(A,B) Projection images showing dissected *C. elegans* gonads stained with anti-HA

antibodies (green) (A) or anti-V5 antibodies (green) (B), and anti-SYP-1 antibodies (red).

Anti-epitope antibodies do not appear to detect endogenous proteins in wild-type *C.*

elegans. WT: wild-type. Scale bars, 5*μ*m. (C) Projection images of pachytene and

diplotene nuclei in *zhp-3* null mutants, revealing that the localization of ZHP-4 (green) to

SCs depends on ZHP-3. Chromosome axes are marked by HTP-3 (red). Scale bars,

5*μ*m. (D) Western blot showing protein levels of ZHP-4 in *zhp-3* null mutants and

controls. (E) The yeast two-hybrid assay reveals specific interactions between ZHP-1

and -2, and ZHP-3 and -4. No interactions were detected among other combinations of

ZHP proteins. Summary of the interactions derived from β-galactosidase, HIS+3AT, and

URA expression assays are shown in this table. ++ indicates a moderately strong

interaction.

Figure 3. ZHP proteins play a central role in chiasma formation and meiotic

chromosome segregation.

(A-D) Upper: DAPI-stained oocyte nuclei at late diakinesis. Each panel shows a

representative nucleus. Lower: Graphs indicating the distribution of DAPI-staining

bodies observed at diakinesis. ZHPs tagged with AID in a $P_{sun-1}::TIR1$ background were

treated with or without auxin for 24 h. In the absence of auxin, each nucleus contains six

bivalents (homolog pairs held together by chiasmata). Depletion of ZHP-1 or -2 leads to

a marked decrease in bivalents per nucleus (8-12 DAPI-staining bodies, or 0-4

bivalents), while depletion of ZHP-3 or -4 results in a complete loss of bivalents (12

DAPI-staining bodies). n is the number of nuclei scored for each condition or genotype.

Depletion of ZHP-1, -2, -3 or -4 significantly increase the number of DAPI-staining

bodies (***$p < 0.0001$ by Chi-square test for trend). The difference between ZHP-1

depletion and ZHP-2 depletion or ZHP-3 depletion and ZHP-4 depletion is not significant

($p = 0.7537$ and 0.9760, respectively, by Chi-square test for trend). The difference

between depletion of ZHP-1 or ZHP-2 and depletion of ZHP-3 or ZHP-4 is significant

(***$p < 0.0001$ by Chi-square test for trend). (E) Frequencies of males and viable

embryos observed among the whole broods in wild-type, *zhp-1*, *zhp-2* and *zhp-3* null

mutant hermaphrodites. (F-G) Sex chromosomes and autosomes show a similar

reduction in chiasma formation in the absence of ZHP-1. (F) High magnification images

of nuclei at late diakinesis from *zhp-1* heterozygous controls and null mutant

hermaphrodites, hybridized with FISH probes recognizing either the right end of X-

chromosome or 5s rDNA on chromosome V, and stained with DAPI. (G) Graph showing

the frequency of bivalents observed for Chromosome V and the X chromosome.

"Expected value" is the frequency for any single chromosome, given the average

number of bivalents we observed, and assuming that they were distributed equally

among 6 chromosome pairs. Data were derived from the number of DAPI-staining

bodies in *zhp-1* heterozygotes and null mutants. Data are represented as mean ±SEM

from three independent experiments ($n = 103$ and 145 nuclei, respectively). Significance

was tested using the two-sided Student's *t*-test. Scale bars, 5*µ*m.

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Figure 3—figure supplement 1. Chiasma formation in *zhp-1* or *zhp-3* null mutants.

(A-C) Null mutations in *zhp-1* and *zhp-3* quantitatively recapitulate the effects of AID-mediated depletion. Upper: Representative examples of DAPI-stained oocyte nuclei at diakinesis. Lower: Graphs indicating the distribution of nuclei containing various numbers of DAPI-staining bodies. Note: the observed number of DAPI-staining bodies, on average, is slightly lower than the true mean, since occasionally univalent or bivalent chromosomes in the same nucleus cannot be clearly resolved. (A) Auxin treatment does not impair chiasma formation in wild-type hermaphrodites ($p = 0.8670$ by Chi-square test for trend). (B) A few bivalents are detected in *zhp-1* null mutants, as in *zhp-1::AID* animals treated with 1 mM auxin. (C) No bivalents are observed in *zhp-3* null mutants, as in *zhp-3::AID* hermaphrodites exposed to auxin. The difference in bivalents observed in *zhp-1* and zhp-3 null mutants is significant ($p < 0.0001$ by Chi-square test for trend). *n* is the number of nuclei scored for each condition or genotype. Scale bars, 5μm.

1180

Figure 3—figure supplement 2. ZHP are dispensable for homolog pairing and synapsis.

(A) Projection images of representative pachytene nuclei stained for SYP-1 (green) and HTP-3 (red), revealing normal synapsis in ZHP-depleted worms. Animals expressing the indicated transgene, along with germline-expressed TIR1 protein (Zhang et al., 2015) were incubated on plates with or without 1mM auxin for 24 h before dissection. Scale bars, 5μm. (B) Images of representative early prophase nuclei stained for HIM-8

(yellow), which specifically marks the pairing center region of the X chromosome

(Phillips et al., 2005), and DNA (blue). Robust pairing of HIM-8 foci in early meiotic

prophase is observed. Homologous pairing at other chromosomal loci was confirmed by

FISH (data not shown). Scale bars, 5μm. (C) Diagram of a hermaphrodite gonad,

indicating the four zones in which homolog pairing was scored. (D-G) Quantification of

the pairing of X chromosomes. Gonads were divided into four zones of equal length,

spanning the meiotic entry through late pachytene region. Pairing was evaluated as

previously described (Harper et al., 2011). The average percentage of nuclei with paired

X chromosomes is plotted for each zone. Data are presented as mean±SD ($n = 3$

gonads for each genotype or condition). No pairing defects were detected following

depletion of ZHP-1, -2, -3, or -4 (p = 0.7059, 0.3631, 0.6188, 0.3064, 0.0554, 0.5515,

0.2639, 0.4158, 0.1893, 0.9247, 0.8599, 0.3740, 0.7631, 0.1672, 0.7879 and 0.2935,

respectively, from zone 1 to zone 4, and *zhp-1::AID* to *zhp-4::AID*, two-sided Student *t*-

test).

Figure 3—figure supplement 3. ZHP are dispensable for DSB induction and the

crossover assurance checkpoint.

(A) Projection images of mid-pachytene nuclei stained for RAD-51 (yellow) and DNA

(blue), showing accumulation of DSB repair intermediates in the absence of ZHP-1 or

ZHP-4. Scale bars, 5μm. (B) Diagram of a hermaphrodite gonad, indicating the six

zones in which RAD-51 foci were scored. (C-F) Quantification of RAD-51 foci. Gonads

were divided into six zones of equal length, spanning the premeiotic through late

pachytene region. The number of RAD-51 foci in each nucleus is presented for each

zone. n = 167, 229, 160, 200, 133, 209, 100, 131, 87, 87, 44, 62, 222, 258, 227, 274,

190, 173, 158, 151, 109, 100, 68, 68, 352, 251, 283, 296, 197, 172, 167, 138, 124, 119,

76, 103, 338, 317, 281, 290, 227, 171, 194, 111, 134, 102, 74 and 102 nuclei,

respectively, from zone 1 to zone 6, and *zhp-1::AID* to *zhp-4::AID.* 4 gonads were

scored for each genotype or condition. **p = 0.0084 and 0.0028, respectively, ***p <

0.0001, Mann-Whitney test. (G-I) CHK-2 activity is extended in the absence of ZHP

proteins. Low magnification images of gonads stained for pHIM-8/pZIMs (yellow) and

DNA (blue). The upper gonad in each panel is a non-auxin treated control, while lower

panels show gonads from animals depleted of ZHP-1 (G) or ZHP-4 (H) for ~24 h. Scale

bars, 5μm. (I) Quantification of the 'CHK-2 active zone,' defined as the length of the

region of pHIM-8/ZIM staining as a fraction of the region from meiotic onset to the end of

pachytene before nuclei form a single file. n = number of gonads scored for each

genotype or condition. *p = 0.0199, **p = 0.0018 and 0.0021, respectively, ***p < 0.0001,

two-sided Student *t*-test.

1225

Figure 4. ZHP-3/4 are required to stabilize recombination intermediates, while

ZHP-1/2 promote accumulation of pro-CO factors at a subset of intermediates

during late prophase.

(A-F) Low-magnification images of mid- and late pachytene nuclei stained for GFP-

COSA-1 (green) and SYP-1 (red). Insets on the right showing corresponding nuclei at

late pachynema. (A) Representative *zhp-4::AID; P$_{sun-1}$::TIR1* germline showing 6 sites

per nucleus marked by bright GFP-COSA-1 foci in the absence of auxin treatment. (B)

Depletion of ZHP-4 by auxin treatment for 24 h resulted in an absence of COSA-1 foci.

(C) Control *zhp-1::AID; $_{Psun-1}$::TIR1* worm showing 6 bright GFP-COSA-1 foci per

nucleus. (D) Depletion of ZHP-1 by auxin treatment for 24 h results in a large number of

recombination intermediates marked by dim GFP-COSA-1 foci. Image acquisition and

display were adjusted to allow the dim foci to be visualized. (E, F) Co-depletion of ZHP-

1 and SPO-11 (E) or of ZHP-1 and ZHP-4 (F) results in an absence of COSA-1 foci. (G)

Left: Oocyte nuclei at late diakinesis, fixed and stained with DAPI. Each panel indicates

a single representative nucleus. Right: Graphs of the distribution of DAPI-staining

bodies at diakinesis. Co-depletion of ZHP-1 and ZHP-4 eliminates bivalents (12 DAPI-

staining bodies). The number of nuclei scored for each condition was: $n = 84$ and 104,

respectively. (H) Quantification of COs in wild type and *zhp-1* null mutant oocytes by

whole genome sequencing. $n = 8$ oocytes for each genotype. **p = 0.0072, Mann-

Whitney test. Scale bars, 5μm.

Figure 4—figure supplement 1. ZHP-3/4 are required for the appearance of MSH-5

foci, while ZHP-1/2 limit the number of foci during late prophase.

(A-D) Recombination intermediates visualized by immunolocalization of MSH-5. Low-

magnification images of pachytene nuclei stained for MSH-5 (green) and SYP-1 (red).

Larger magnification insets on the right show indicated nuclei at mid-or late pachynema.

(A, C) MSH-5 foci normally peak at mid-pachytene, when 10-20 can be detected per

nucleus (B) No MSH-5 foci were detected when ZHP-4 was depleted for 24h. (D)

1254 Depletion of ZHP-1 caused a large increase in the number of MSH-5-positive

1255 recombination intermediates. ~40-50 foci were detected in most nuclei at late

1256 pachynema. (E) The same gonad as in (D) showing the colocalization of dim GFP-

1257 COSA-1 foci with MSH-5 foci in the absence of ZHP-1. Scale bars, 5 μm.

1258

Figure 4—figure supplement 2. Robust protein co-depletion by the AID system

and persistence of ZHP-3 throughout SCs following ZHP-1/2 depletion.

(A) Images of representative pachytene nuclei stained for ZHP-1-AID-3xFLAG (green),

RAD-51 (cyan) and SYP-1 (red). ZHP-1 and recombination intermediates were

undetectable following treatment with auxin for 24 h. Scale bars, 5 μm. (B) Western

blotting showing efficient co-depletion of ZHP-1 and ZHP-4. Blots were probed with anti-

FLAG and anti-tubulin antibodies, respectively. Tubulin was blotted as a loading control.

3F: 3xFLAG. (C) Depletion of ZHP-2 by auxin treatment for 24 h resulted in persistence

of ZHP-3 throughout SCs in late pachytene nuclei. Scale bars, 5 μm.

1268

Figure 5. CO designation in the absence of ZHP-1/2.

(A) Projection images of representative late pachytene nuclei stained for GFP-COSA-1

(green) and SYP-1 (red). In the absence of DSB-2 at 24 h post-L4, an average of 3

bright GFP-COSA-1 foci are detected in each nucleus. However, very few bright GFP-

COSA-1 foci are observed when ZHP-2 is co-depleted. By 48 h post-L4, only ~2 bright

GFP-COSA-1 foci are observed per nucleus in the absence of DSB-2, and most nuclei

display 0-1 bright GFP-COSA-1 focus when ZHP-2 is also depleted. (B) Quantification

of bright GFP-COSA-1 foci at late pachynema, 24 h post-L4. Worms of the indicated

genotypes were maintained in the presence or in the absence of 1 auxin for 24 h and

then dissected for analysis. Data were derived from 4-8 gonads for each genotype or

condition. n = 165, 348, 172 and 377 nuclei, respectively. The number of GFP-COSA-1

foci differed significantly between *dsb-2::AID* and *zhp-2::AID; dsb-2::AID* following auxin

treatment (***p < 0.0001 by Chi-square test for trend). (C) Quantification of bright GFP-

COSA-1 foci in late pachytene nuclei 48 h post-L4. Data were derived from 4-8 gonads

for each genotype or condition. n = 252, 558, 263 and 416 nuclei, respectively.

Depletion of ZHP-2 significantly reduces the number of GFP-COSA-1 foci in the

absence of DSB-2 (***p<0.0001 by Chi-square test for trend). The distribution of GFP-

COSA-1 foci is also significantly different between 24 h and 48 h post-L4 for auxin

treated *zhp-2::AID; dsb-2::AID* hermaphrodites (***p<0.0001 by Chi-square test for

trend). (D) Representative images of late pachytene nuclei stained for RAD-51 (yellow),

GFP-COSA-1 (green), SYP-1 (red), and DNA (blue). GFP-COSA-1 foci in the absence

of ZHP-1/2 was visualized following exposure of SPO-11-depleted worms to varying

doses of ionizing radiation. L4 worms were maintained in the presence or in the

absence of 1 mM auxin for 24 h, followed by irradiation at the indicated dosage, and

then incubated for additional 8 h to allow irradiated nuclei to progress to late pachynema.

Scale bars, 5 μm.

1295

Figure 5—figure supplement 1. Validation of protein depletion, and further

characterization of ZHP-1/2.

(A) Western blot showing efficient auxin-mediated depletion of DSB-2 alone, or co-

depletion of ZHP-2 and DSB-2. Blots were probed with anti-FLAG and anti-tubulin

antibodies, respectively. Tubulin was blotted as a loading control. 3F: 3xFLAG. (B) Low

magnification images of gonads from worms at 48 h post-L4 stained for RAD-51 (yellow),

GFP-COSA-1 (green), SYP-1 (red) and DNA (blue). RAD-51 staining in the upper panel

indicates that few DSBs are induced in the absence of DSB-2. The lower panel shows

GFP-COSA-1 and SYP-1 staining in the same gonad. A few bright GFP-COSA-1 foci

are detected in the absence of ZHP-2 when the number of DSBs is limited by DSB-2

depletion. Insets show enlargements of corresponding regions of the gonad. (C) SPO-

11 activity is effectively abrogated by AID-mediated depletion. Projection images of

pachytene nuclei stained for RAD-51 (yellow), GFP-COSA-1 (green), SYP-1 (red), and

DNA (blue). DSBs were induced by ionizing radiation following depletion of SPO-11. No

COSA-1 foci were observed in unirradiated animals, but CO designation was rescued

following 10 Gy of irradiation. Scale bars, 5 μm.

1312

Figure 5—figure supplement 2. Partial depletion fails to separate the roles of

ZHP-1/2 in limiting late recombination intermediates and promoting crossover

maturation.

(A) Western blots showing partial depletion of AID-tagged ZHP-2 in animals exposed to

low concentrations of auxin. Blots were probed with anti-FLAG and anti-tubulin

antibodies, respectively. Tubulin was blotted as a loading control. 3F: 3xFLAG. (B)

Quantification of ZHP-2 depletion. The intensity of ZHP-2 bands were normalized

against the corresponding tubulin band, and expressed as percentage of the intensity in

a control sample. The graph shows the mean±SD protein levels from three independent

experiments. (C) Low-magnification images of late pachytene nuclei stained for GFP-

COSA-1 (green) and SYP-1 (red). Insets on the right show representative oocyte nuclei

at late diakinesis under the same conditions. In the presence of 3 μM auxin for 24 h,

zhp-2:AID; P$_{sun-1}$:TIR1 germline still show 6 designated CO sites per nucleus marked by

bright GFP-COSA-1 foci. At 10 μM auxin, a reduced number of bright GFP-COSA-1

were detected. Nuclei with more than 6 bright foci were not observed under any

depletion conditions. Similar results were obtained when ZHP-1-AID was depleted (data

not shown) Scale bars, 5 μm.

1330

Figure 6. ZHP-1/2 act at the top of a hierarchy of chromosome remodeling factors.

(A) Late pachytene nuclei in a *dsb-2* mutant at 48 h post-L4, stained for ZHP-3-V5

(green) and SYP-2 (red). ZHP-3 is depleted and SYP-2 is enriched specifically along

SCs with bright ZHP-3 foci. Boxed areas indicate nuclei shown at higher magnification

to the right. Arrowheads in inset images indicate designated CO sites. (B) Late

pachytene nuclei stained for ZHP-3-V5 (green), SYP-2 (red) and GFP-COSA-1 (blue). In

the absence of ZHP-2 and DSB-2, ZHP-3 was still depleted from CO-designated SCs.

However, enrichment of SYP proteins was not observed, (C) Higher-magnification

images of diplotene nuclei from hermaphrodites depleted of DSB-2 alone or in

combination with ZHP-2. The tissue was stained with antibodies against SYP-1 (green),

HTP-1 (red) and GFP-COSA-1 (blue). In the absence of DSB-2 alone, SYP-1 and HTP-

1 localized to reciprocal chromosome domains of bivalent chromosomes, as previously

described (Machovina et al., 2016; Martinez-Perez et al., 2008). In worms depleted of

both ZHP-2 and DSB-2, SYP-1 was restricted to CO sites at diplotene-diakinesis, while

HTP-1/2 were retained on both short and long arms of bivalents. Asterisk indicates

nuclear envelope staining due to cross-reactivity of our SYP-1 antibody, which becomes

more prominent in late prophase. (D and E) Representative nuclei from the same

genotypes as in (C), stained for PLK-2-HA (green), anti-SYP-2 (red) and GFP-COSA-1

(blue). In the absence of DSB-2, PLK-2 became enriched on CO-designated

chromosomes, after which it relocalized to the short arm of CO-designated SCs at late

pachynema, as recently described (Pattabiraman et al., 2017). However, when ZHP-2

and DSB-2 were co-depleted, PLK-2 was not enriched along CO-designated

chromosomes, although foci were observed at CO sites. (F) Representative late

pachytene and diplotene nuclei from hermaphrodites depleted of PLK-2, stained for

ZHP-2-HA (green), SYP-1 (red) and GFP-COSA-1 (blue). In the absence of PLK-2, CO

designation and asymmetric localization of ZHP-2 were delayed, and asymmetric

disassembly of the SC was severely impaired, as previously described (Harper et al.,

2011), but ZHP-2 still relocalized to the presumptive short arm during late prophase.

Arrowheads indicate designated CO sites. Scale bars, 5 μm.

1360

Figure 6—figure supplement 1. ZHP-1/2 are required for chromosome remodeling.

(A-C) Images of late pachytene nuclei stained for SYP-1 (green) and HTP-1 (red). (A) In

zhp-1 heterozygotes, SYP-1 and HTP-1 show normal, reciprocal localization in late

prophase. (B) In *dsb-2* null mutants 48 h post-L4, most late prophase nuclei display 2-4

bright COSA-1 foci. Although disassembly of SYP-1 and HTP-1 are delayed due to

activation of the CO assurance checkpoint, these proteins eventually show reciprocal

localization on these CO-designated chromosomes, while univalent chromosomes

retain HTP-1 but not SYP-1. (C) In *zhp-1* null mutants, SYP-1 and HTP-1 remain

colocalized with each other on most chromosomes, despite the appearance of ~2-3

bright COSA-1 foci at late pachytene and a similar number of bivalents at diakinesis.

Univalent chromosomes also show persistent staining with both HTP-1 and SYP-1.

Insets showing enlarged views of the indicated nuclei. Scale bars, 5 μm.

1373

Figure 6—figure supplement 2. ZHP-1/2 are required for chromosome remodeling.

(A,B) ZHP-2 are required for asymmetric localization of PLK-2 following crossover

designation. (A) In wild-type nuclei, and in animals expressing ZHP-AID in the absence

of auxin, PLK-2 (red) concentrates along the presumptive short arms during late meiotic

prophase. (B) When ZHP-2 is depleted, PLK-2 localizes to a subset of recombination

intermediates, but does not show asymmetric localization along the SCs. (C) High-

magnification images of maturing oocytes stained for the kleisin proteins REC-8 or

COH-3 and the HORMA domain protein HTP-3, which persists along all arms of

bivalents. Worms were treated with or without auxin for 48 h. In the most mature, or "–1"

(relative to the spermatheca) oocyte in each arm of the gonad, REC-8 normally

becomes enriched on the long arms, while COH-3 is retained on short arms. In the

absence of ZHP-2, removal of REC-8 from short arms was defective and retention of

COH-3 was rarely observed. Scale bars, 5 μm. Scale bar for insets, 1 μm

1387

Figure 7. Compartmentalization of CO signaling within polycomplexes.

Polycomplexes assemble from SC proteins in meiotic nuclei of *htp-3* mutants. During

late meiotic prophase, a single focus containing COSA-1 and ZHP-3 appears on each

polycomplex (Rog et al., 2017 and data not shown). (A) ZHP-1 (not shown) and ZHP-2

(green) localize throughout polycomplexes (red) both before and after the appearance

of COSA-1 foci (blue). Insets show higher magnification images of the indicated

polycomplexes without (left) and with (right) COSA-1 foci. (B,C) Late prophase nuclei

showing polycomplexes in the presence and absence of ZHP-2 (minus and plus auxin

treatment, respectively). Insets show higher magnification views of the indicated

polycomplexes. (B) In the presence of ZHP-2, ZHP-3 (green) colocalize with COSA-1

foci (cyan) in late meiotic prophase and become depleted from the body of

polycomplexes (red). (C) In the absence of ZHP-2, ZHP-3 (green) colocalize with GFP-

COSA-1, but also remain diffusely localized throughout polycomplexes. (D) Late

prophase nuclei from *htp-3* mutants showing colocalization of MSH-5 (red) with GFP-

COSA-1 foci (green) on the surface of polycomplexes (blue). (E,F) Late prophase nuclei

from the same genotypes depicted in (B,C). (E) PLK-2 (green) localizes throughout

polycomplexes (red) prior to the appearance of GFP-COSA-1 foci (blue), but staining

becomes more intense in late prophase. (F) Depletion of ZHP-2 does not affect the

localization of PLK-2 to polycomplexes. Scale bars in lower magnification images, 5 μm;

in insets, 1 μm.

Figure 8. Schemata for crossover control and chromosome remodeling.

(A) Spatial regulation of CO designation by ZHP proteins. In early prophase, all 4 ZHPs concentrate within SCs at the interface between homologous chromosomes. DSBs are induced and homologous recombination is initiated through strand invasion. Recruitment or stabilization of MutSɣ and COSA-1 at these early intermediates depends on the presence of ZHP-3/4 within the SC. As nuclei progress through mid-prophase, one such intermediate along each chromosome stochastically crosses a threshold activity level. [We note that this is analogous to a "cracking" event posited in a beam-film model for crossover interference (Kleckner et al., 2004; Zhang et al., 2014b)]. This event triggers positive and negative feedback to promote accumulation of COSA-1, MutSɣ, and ZHP-3/4 at this site and are depletion from other sites along the same SC compartment. Pro-CO activities may accumulate at a single site per chromosome pair through a winner-takes-all mechanism, or are distributed in a periodic pattern along paired chromosomes. In either scenario, diffusion of proteins within the SC permits coordinated behavior of potential CO sites along each pair of chromosomes. (B) A circuit diagram for CO control and chromosome remodeling, incorporating the findings of this work. Coupled positive and negative feedback mechanisms mediated by ZHPs and other factors lead to accumulation of pro-CO factors at a single designated crossover site. ZHP-1/2 also act at the top of a hierarchy that leads to PLK-2 enrichment on one side of the crossover and retention of the SC within this domain, creating another positive feedback loop, although how ZHP-1/2 become enriched on one side of the crossover is currently unknown. Activities within the SC antagonize the retention of

HTP-1/2 and associated factors along the axis, and vice versa, resulting in the

differentiation of two distinct chromosome domains. This leads to eventual removal of

REC-8 from the short arm and its retention on the long arm, promoting accurate,

stepwise meiotic chromosome separation.

Supplemental File 1

This file includes four tables (**Table S1-S4**). Table S1 reports analysis of the progeny

produced by animals expressing epitope-tagged proteins described in this work. In all

cases, animals homozygous for these epitope-tagged alleles show no reduction in

embryonic viability or increase in male production, indicating that the epitope tags used

to detect various proteins do not impair their meiotic functions. **Table S2** provides a list

of all new alleles generated in this work, with details about the genome editing methods

used to introduce epitope tags or mutations. **Table S3** includes the sequences of RNA

and DNA sequences used for genome editing, including synthetic CRISPR RNAs

(crRNAs), repair templates, and DNA primers used for detecting or genotyping these

mutations. In cases where restriction digests were used for genotyping, fragment sizes

for wild-type and mutant alleles are also provided. **Table S4** lists new worm strains

constructed in the course of this work, as well as previously referenced strains.

Figure 1

Figure 2

Figure 3

A *zhp-1::AID; P$_{sun-1}$::TIR1*

-auxin (*n=72*)
+auxin (*n=104*)

% of nuclei
Number of DAPI-staining bodies

B *zhp-2::AID; P$_{sun-1}$::TIR1*

-auxin (*n=96*)
+auxin (*n=104*)

% of nuclei
Number of DAPI-staining bodies

C *zhp-3::AID; P$_{sun-1}$::TIR1*

-auxin (*n=88*)
+auxin (*n=104*)

% of nuclei
Number of DAPI-staining bodies

D *zhp-4::AID; P$_{sun-1}$::TIR1*

-auxin (*n=85*)
+auxin (*n=100*)

% of nuclei
Number of DAPI-staining bodies

F *zhp-1(ie43)/+*
ChrVR ChrXR
zhp-1$^{-/-}$

G
p=0.3344 p=0.3952
% bivalents
zhp-1(ie43)/+
zhp-1$^{-/-}$
Chr V   Chr X   Expected

E

Strains	Eggs laid (±SD) (5-11 Hermaphrodites)	Egg viability (±SD) (%)	Male progeny (±SD) (%)
WT[a]	281.6 (±35.96)	109.24 (±3.47)	0.07 (±0.16)
zhp-1(ie43)	219.73 (±32.78)	3.79 (±1.24)	37.06 (±13.57)
zhp-2(ie45)	205.1 (±47.21)	5.11 (±1.61)	38.41 (±15.24)
zhp-3(jf61)[a]	221 (±49.64)	2.06 (±0.62)	43.75 (±27.59)

a. These data are also included in the table in Figure S3C.

Figure 4

Figure 5

Figure 6

Figure 7

Figure 8

A

Double-strand breaks are processed to become early recombination intermediates,
which requires ZHP-3/4, MutSɣ, and COSA-1

or

Inhibitory signal moves outward from initial CO designation site, depleting pro-CO activities from other sites and allowing accumulation at that site

Standing wave of pro-CO activity is established, allowing CO designation at regular intervals

Restriction of ZHP-1/2 to one side of CO, followed by disassembly of SC on the other side

Chromatin loops	ZHP-1/2	Early recombination intermediate
Chromosome axis	ZHP-3/4	Designated crossover intermediate
Synaptonemal complex	COSA-1 + MutSɣ	

B

PLK-2

chromosome remodeling

HTP-1/2
LAB-1
REC-8

SC enrichment/ stabilization

"long arm"   "short arm"

Figure 1—figure supplement 1

Figure 1—figure supplement 2

Figure 1—figure supplement 3

Figure 2—figure supplement 1

C

Strains	Auxin	Eggs laid (±SD) (3-10 Hermaphrodites)	Egg viability (±SD) (%)	Male progeny (±SD) (%)
WT[a]	-	281.6 (±35.96)	109.24 (±3.47)	0.07 (±0.16)
WT[a]	+	230.2 (±10.47)	115.47 (±6.06)	0.07 (±0.16)
zhp-3(jf61)/+	-	235.17 (±26.35)	31.57 (±3.07)	0.00 (±0.00)
zhp-3(jf61)[a]	-	221 (±49.64)	2.06 (±0.62)	43.75 (±27.59)
zhp-3::AID::GFP; P_{sun-1}::TIR1	-	302.67 (±26.27)	102.00 (±5.17)	0.62 (±0.57)
zhp-3::AID::GFP; P_{sun-1}::TIR1	+	202 (±21.29)	1.83 (±0.82)	37.02 (±38.12)

a. These data are also included in the table in Figure 3E.

Figure 2—figure supplement 2

Figure 3—figure supplement 1

Figure 3—figure supplement 2

Figure 3—figure supplement 3

Figure 4—figure supplement 1

Figure 4—figure supplement 2

A

ZHP-1-AID-3F   RAD-51   ZHP-1-AID-3F   RAD-51
                                    SYP-1   SYP-1

zhp-1::AID::3F; spo-11::AID
-auxin

zhp-1::AID::3F
+auxin

B

zhp-1::AID::3F; zhp-4::AID::3F

-auxin 24 h   +auxin 24 h   -auxin 48 h   +auxin 48 h

ZHP-4-AID-3F
ZHP-1-AID-3F

Tubulin

C

Pachynema → Diplonema

zhp-2::AID
+ auxin

ZHP-3-V5   SYP-1

Figure 5—figure supplement 1

Figure 5—figure supplement 2

A

+ auxin 24hr

Con 1 µM 3 µM 10 µM 30 µM 100 µM 300 µM 1 mM

ZHP-2-AID-3F

Tubulin

B

ZHP-2 band intensity, normalized (%)

Auxin concentration (µM)

C

Pachytene → Diplotene   -1 oocyte

3 µM   GFP-COSA-1   SYP-1   DNA

10 µM

zhp-2::AID + auxin

Figure 6—figure supplement 1

Figure 6—figure supplement 2

Supplementary File 1

Table S1

Viability and fertility of representative transgenic worm strains

Strains	Eggs laid (±SD) (6 Hermaphrodites)	Egg viability (±SD) (%)	Male progeny (±SD) (%)
WT	279.83 (±35.61)	107.62 (±5.47)	0.16 (±0.17)
zhp-1::AID::3xFLAG; GFP::cosa-1; P$_{sun-1}$::TIR1	250.5 (±30.43)	113.80 (±3.58)	0.12 (±0.30)
zhp-2::AID::3xFLAG; GFP::cosa-1; P$_{sun-1}$::TIR1	270.00 (±18.25)	110.58 (±3.27)	0.11 (±0.17)
zhp-3::AID::3xFLAG; GFP::cosa-1; P$_{sun-1}$::TIR1	263.83 (±20.62)	108.52 (±2.92)	0.06 (±0.14)
GFP::cosa-1; P$_{sun-1}$::TIR1; zhp-4::AID::3xFLAG	260.33 (±16.84)	109.12 (±2.69)	0.34 (±0.35)
zhp-2::AID::3xFLAG; GFP::cosa-1; P$_{sun-1}$::TIR1, spo-11::AID::3xFLAG	277.67 (±21.90)	110.47 (±3.21)	0.11 (±0.17)
plk-2::HA, zhp-2::AID::3xFLAG, zhp-3::V5; dsb-2::AID::3xFLAG, GFP::cosa-1; P$_{sun-1}$::TIR1	270.17 (±21.10)	108.33 (±5.31)	0.29 (±0.35)
plk-2::AID::3xFLAG, zhp-2::HA; GFP::cosa-1; P$_{sun-1}$::TIR1	255.00 (±12.13)	111.28 (±2.10)	0.30 (±0.36)

Note: viability of >100% is a consequence of failing to count some embryos.

Table S2

Alleles generated in this study

Allele	Genotype	Information about mutagenesis
ie43	*zhp-1(ie43)/hT2*; stop codon + frameshift + Xho1 after aa6; sequence inserted is 5'-TAAGCTCGAG-3'	generated using *dpy-10* Co-CRISPR, balanced with *hT2 [bli-4(e937) let-?(q782) qIs48] (I; III)*, #2
ie44	*zhp-1(ie44)/hT2*; stop codon + frameshift + Xho1 after aa6; sequence inserted is 5'-TAAGCTCGAG-3'	generated using *dpy-10* Co-CRISPR, balanced with *hT2 [bli-4(e937) let-?(q782) qIs48] (I; III)*, #4
ie45	*zhp-2(ie45)/hT2*; stop codon + frameshift after aa7; nucleotide c22 was replaced by 5'-TAATAATTAATTAG-3'	generated using *dpy-10* Co-CRISPR, balanced with *hT2 [bli-4(e937) let-?(q782) qIs48] (I; III)*, #18
ie46	*zhp-1(ie46)*; stop codon + frameshift + Xho1 after aa6; sequence inserted is 5'-TAAGCTCGAG-3'; in Hawaii CB4586 background	generated using *dpy-10* Co-CRISPR in Hawaii CB4586. #1
ie51	*htp-3(ie51)* mutant	generated using *dpy-10* Co-CRISPR in *zhp-1(ie62[zhp-1::AID::3xFLAG]) I; meIs8[pie-1p::GFP::cosa-1, unc-119(+)] II; ieSi38[sun-1p::TIR1::mRuby::sun-1 3'UTR, Cbr-unc-119(+)] IV*
ie52	*htp-3(ie52)* mutant	generated using *dpy-10* Co-CRISPR in *zhp-2(ie67[zhp-2::AID::3xFLAG]) I; meIs8[pie-1p::GFP::cosa-1, unc-119(+)] II; ieSi38[sun-1p::TIR1::mRuby::sun-1 3'UTR, Cbr-unc-119(+)] IV*
ie58	*dsb-2(ie58[dsb-2::AID::3xFLAG])*	generated using *dpy-10* Co-CRISPR in *zhp-2(ie67[zhp-2::AID::3xFLAG]) I; meIs8[pie-1p::GFP::cosa-1, unc-119(+)] II; ieSi38[sun-1p::TIR1::mRuby::sun-1 3'UTR, Cbr-unc-119(+)] IV*
ie59	*spo-11(ie59[spo-11::AID::3xFLAG])*	generated using *dpy-10* Co-CRISPR in *zhp-1(ie62[zhp-1::AID::3xFLAG]) I; meIs8[pie-1p::GFP::cosa-1, unc-119(+)] II; ieSi38[sun-1p::TIR1::mRuby::sun-1 3'UTR, Cbr-unc-119(+)] IV*
ie60	*spo-11(ie60[spo-11::AID::3xFLAG])*	generated using *dpy-10* Co-CRISPR in *zhp-2(ie67[zhp-2::AID::3xFLAG]) I; meIs8[pie-1p::GFP::cosa-1, unc-119(+)] II; ieSi38[sun-1p::TIR1::mRuby::sun-1 3'UTR, Cbr-unc-119(+)] IV*
ie61	*zhp-1(ie61[zhp-1::AID::3xFLAG])*	generated using *dpy-10* Co-CRISPR in *ieSi38[sun-1p::TIR1::mRuby::sun-1 3'UTR, Cbr-unc-119(+)] IV*
ie62	*zhp-1(ie62[zhp-1::AID::3xFLAG])*	generated using *dpy-10* Co-CRISPR in *meIs8[pie-1p::GFP::cosa-1, unc-119(+)] II; ieSi38[sun-1p::TIR1::mRuby::sun-1 3'UTR, Cbr-unc-119(+)] IV*
ie63	*zhp-2(ie63[zhp-2::HA])*	generated using *dpy-10* Co-CRISPR in *zhp-1(ie61[zhp-1::AID::3xFLAG]) I; ieSi38[sun-1p::TIR1::mRuby::sun-1 3'UTR, Cbr-unc-119(+)] IV*
ie64	*zhp-3(ie64[zhp-3::V5])*	generated using *dpy-10* Co-CRISPR in *zhp-1(ie61[zhp-1::AID::3xFLAG]) I; ieSi38[sun-1p::TIR1::mRuby::sun-1 3'UTR, Cbr-unc-119(+)] IV*
ie65	*zhp-4(ie65[zhp-4::HA])*	generated using *dpy-10* Co-CRISPR in *zhp-1(ie61[zhp-1::AID::3xFLAG]) I; ieSi38[sun-1p::TIR1::mRuby::sun-1 3'UTR, Cbr-unc-119(+)] IV*
ie66	*zhp-2(ie66[zhp-2::AID::3xFLAG])*	generated using *dpy-10* Co-CRISPR in *ieSi38[sun-1p::TIR1::mRuby::sun-1 3'UTR, Cbr-unc-119(+)] IV*
ie67	*zhp-2(ie67[zhp-2::AID::3xFLAG])*	generated using *dpy-10* Co-CRISPR in *meIs8[pie-1p::GFP::cosa-1, unc-119(+)] II; ieSi38[sun-1p::TIR1::mRuby::sun-1 3'UTR, Cbr-unc-119(+)] IV*
ie68	*zhp-1(ie68[zhp-1::V5])*	generated using *dpy-10* Co-CRISPR in *zhp-2(ie66[zhp-2::AID::3xFLAG]) I; ieSi38[sun-1p::TIR1::mRuby::sun-1 3'UTR, Cbr-unc-119(+)] IV*
ie69	*zhp-3(ie69[zhp-3::V5])*	generated using *dpy-10* Co-CRISPR in *zhp-2(ie66[zhp-2::AID::3xFLAG]) I; ieSi38[sun-1p::TIR1::mRuby::sun-1 3'UTR, Cbr-unc-119(+)] IV*
ie70	*zhp-4(ie70[zhp-4::HA])*	generated using *dpy-10* Co-CRISPR in *zhp-2(ie66[zhp-2::AID::3xFLAG]) I; ieSi38[sun-1p::TIR1::mRuby::sun-1 3'UTR, Cbr-unc-119(+)] IV*
ie72	*zhp-2(ie72[zhp-2::HA])*	generated using Cas9 in *syp-1(me17) V/nT1[unc-?(n754) let-? qIs50] (IV;V)*
ie73	*zhp-2(ie73[zhp-2::HA])*	generated using *dpy-10* Co-CRISPR in *spo-11(me44)/ieT1*
ie74	*zhp-2(ie74[zhp-2::HA])*	generated using CRISPR/Cas9 in *msh-5(me23) IV/nT1[unc-?(n754) let-?] (IV;V)*

ie75	zhp-2(ie75[zhp-2::HA])	generated using CRISPR/Cas9 in cosa-1(we12) III/qC1 III
ie76	zhp-3(ie76[zhp-3::AID::3xFLAG])	generated using dpy-10 Co-CRISPR in ieSi38[sun-1p::TIR1::mRuby::sun-1 3'UTR, Cbr-unc-119(+)] IV
ie77	zhp-3(ie77[zhp-3::AID::3xFLAG])	generated using dpy-10 Co-CRISPR in meIs8[pie-1p::GFP::cosa-1, unc-119(+)] II; ieSi38[sun-1p::TIR1::mRuby::sun-1 3'UTR, Cbr-unc-119(+)] IV
ie78	zhp-1(ie78[zhp-1::V5])	generated using dpy-10 Co-CRISPR in zhp-3(ie76[zhp-3::AID::3xFLAG]) I; ieSi38[sun-1p::TIR1::mRuby::sun-1 3'UTR, Cbr-unc-119(+)] IV
ie79	zhp-2(ie79[zhp-2::HA])	generated using dpy-10 Co-CRISPR in zhp-3(ie76[zhp-3::AID::3xFLAG]) I; ieSi38[sun-1p::TIR1::mRuby::sun-1 3'UTR, Cbr-unc-119(+)] IV
ie80	zhp-3(ie80[zhp-3::AID::GFP])	generated using dpy-10 Co-CRISPR in ieSi38[sun-1p::TIR1::mRuby::sun-1 3'UTR, Cbr-unc-119(+)] IV
ie81	zhp-4(ie81[zhp-4::HA])	generated using dpy-10 Co-CRISPR in zhp-3(ie80[zhp-3::AID::GFP]) I; ieSi38[sun-1p::TIR1::mRuby::sun-1 3'UTR, Cbr-unc-119(+)] IV
ie82	zhp-4(ie82[zhp-4::AID::3xFLAG])	generated using dpy-10 Co-CRISPR in ieSi38[sun-1p::TIR1::mRuby::sun-1 3'UTR, Cbr-unc-119(+)] IV
ie83	zhp-1(ie83[zhp-1::V5])	generated using dpy-10 Co-CRISPR in ieSi38[sun-1p::TIR1::mRuby::sun-1 3'UTR, Cbr-unc-119(+)] IV; zhp-4(ie82[zhp-4::AID::3xFLAG]) V
ie84	zhp-2(ie84[zhp-2::HA])	generated using dpy-10 Co-CRISPR in ieSi38[sun-1p::TIR1::mRuby::sun-1 3'UTR, Cbr-unc-119(+)] IV; zhp-4(ie82[zhp-4::AID::3xFLAG]) V
ie85	zhp-3(ie85[zhp-3::V5])	generated using dpy-10 Co-CRISPR in ieSi38[sun-1p::TIR1::mRuby::sun-1 3'UTR, Cbr-unc-119(+)] IV; zhp-4(ie82[zhp-4::AID::3xFLAG]) V
ie86	zhp-4(ie86[zhp-4::HA])	generated using dpy-10 Co-CRISPR in zhp-3(jf61)/hT2 [bli-4(e937) let-?(q782) qIs48] (I; III)
ie87	zhp-4(ie87[zhp-4::HA])	generated using CRISPR/Cas9 in syp-1(me17) V/nT1[unc-?(n754) let-? qIs50] (IV;V)
ie88	zhp-4(ie88[zhp-4::HA])	generated using dpy-10 Co-CRISPR in spo-11(me44)/ieT1
ie89	zhp-4(ie89[zhp-4::HA])	generated using CRISPR/Cas9 in msh-5(me23) IV/nT1[unc-?(n754) let-?] (IV;V)
ie90	zhp-4(ie90[zhp-4::HA])	generated using CRISPR/Cas9 in cosa-1(we12) III/qC1 III
ie92	zhp-3(ie92[zhp-3::V5])	generated using dpy-10 Co-CRISPR
ie103	zhp-3(ie103[zhp-3::V5])	generated using dpy-10 Co-CRISPR in dsb-2(ie58[dsb-2::AID::3xFLAG]), meIs8[pie-1p::GFP::cosa-1, unc-119(+)] II; ieSi38[sun-1p::TIR1::mRuby::sun-1 3'UTR, Cbr-unc-119(+)] IV
ie104	zhp-3(ie104[zhp-3::V5])	generated using dpy-10 Co-CRISPR in zhp-2(ie67[zhp-2::AID::3xFLAG]) I; dsb-2(ie58[dsb-2::AID::3xFLAG]), meIs8[pie-1p::GFP::cosa-1, unc-119(+)] II; ieSi38[sun-1p::TIR1::mRuby::sun-1 3'UTR, Cbr-unc-119(+)] IV
ie105	plk-2(ie105[plk-2::HA])	generated using dpy-10 Co-CRISPR in zhp-3(ie103[zhp-3::V5]) I; dsb-2(ie58[dsb-2::AID::3xFLAG]), meIs8[pie-1p::GFP::cosa-1, unc-119(+)] II; ieSi38[sun-1p::TIR1::mRuby::sun-1 3'UTR, Cbr-unc-119(+)] IV
ie106	plk-2(ie106[plk-2::HA])	generated using dpy-10 Co-CRISPR in zhp-2(ie67[zhp-2::AID::3xFLAG]), zhp-3(ie104[zhp-3::V5]) I; dsb-2(ie58[dsb-2::AID::3xFLAG]), meIs8[pie-1p::GFP::cosa-1, unc-119(+)] II; ieSi38[sun-1p::TIR1::mRuby::sun-1 3'UTR, Cbr-unc-119(+)] IV
ie107	zhp-2(ie107[zhp-2::HA])	generated using dpy-10 Co-CRISPR in meIs8[pie-1p::GFP::cosa-1, unc-119(+)] II; ieSi38[sun-1p::TIR1::mRuby::sun-1 3'UTR, Cbr-unc-119(+)] IV. (ie107 and ie108 were made from a single injection)
ie108	plk-2(ie108[plk-2::AID::3xFLAG])	generated using dpy-10 Co-CRISPR in meIs8[pie-1p::GFP::cosa-1, unc-119(+)] II; ieSi38[sun-1p::TIR1::mRuby::sun-1 3'UTR, Cbr-unc-119(+)] IV. (ie107 and ie108 were made from a single injection)
ie109	plk-2(ie109[plk-2::HA])	generated using dpy-10 Co-CRISPR in zhp-1(ie62[zhp-1::AID::3xFLAG]) I; meIs8[pie-1p::GFP::cosa-1, unc-119(+)] II; ieSi38[sun-1p::TIR1::mRuby::sun-1 3'UTR, Cbr-unc-119(+)] IV
ie110	plk-2(ie110[plk-2::HA])	generated using dpy-10 Co-CRISPR in zhp-2(ie67[zhp-2::AID::3xFLAG]) I; meIs8[pie-1p::GFP::cosa-1, unc-119(+)] II; ieSi38[sun-1p::TIR1::mRuby::sun-1 3'UTR, Cbr-unc-119(+)] IV

Table S3

crRNAs, repair templates and genotyping primers for transgenes generated in this study

Transgenes	crRNAs and repair templates	Genotyping primers and fragment sizes
zhp-1 null mutant in *ie43* or *ie44*	5'- ttcatcgtttgcaatggatg -3'; 5'- gttgttcggcatgtttcacagaagacgtgggagcaggcggtgataaaaaattgtcttttac ttggcgagcatccacatccattctcgagcttagcaaacgatgaactccatagtgcctac agttctgaaataaatgcaaattgttattttttgaaccatgtttggaacg -3'	F: 5'- gaaaattatcgaaaaactgtcacaaac -3'; R: 5'- gttttccattttcaattgaattgacttc -3'; WT, 563bp; Mutant, 573bp=297bp+276bp (XhoI digestion)
zhp-2 null mutant in *ie45*	5'- tggatccaatgcaatcattg -3'; 5'- ctttcgtacagttttgacagaaaacgtgaccgcatgctgttaggtacagtttcgtttgatttg gtttaatgccacaatgattgcctcgagttagcattggatccaatccatacgtgtttcgagtc ttaaaatacgattaaataaagctcaaagacttctgctagataacaag -3'	Nucleotide c22 was replaced by taataattaattag. F: 5' gactcgaaacacgtatggattg-3'; R: 5'-ggtacagtttcgtttgatttg-3'; WT, 72bp; Mutant, 85bp
zhp-1 null mutant in *ie46*	5'- ttcatcgtttgcaatggatg -3'; 5'- gttgttcggcatgtttcacagaagacgtgggagcaggcggtgataaaaaattgtcttttac ttggcgagcatccacatccattctcgagcttagcaaacgatgaactccatagtgcctac agttctgaaataaatgcaaattgttattttttgaaccatgtttggaacg -3'	F: 5'- gaaaattatcgaaaaactgtcacaaac -3'; R: 5'- gttttccattttcaattgaattgacttc -3'; WT, 563bp; Mutant, 573bp=297bp+276bp (XhoI digestion)
htp-3 null mutant in *ie51* or *ie52*	5'- agtgccgaaatcggatacgg -3' and 5'- tgttcatcgacttcaactgg -3'; 5'- gtcactaaacacgaatcccgtgtgaaacgtttgtctggacctttgtctatgactcaaccac atctgcaagtgccgaaatctgatgaagtcgatgaacagccagaagaacaaaatgatga tgatgctcagaattctcttcaaattgactctgatgctcagaattctcttcaaattgactctg -3'	N/A
dsb-2::AID::3xFLAG in *ie58*	5'- gaatcgtgttgctcaagctg -3'; 5'- gaagatgtgagaatatatttgtctaaaaacaatggaaagaatgtaattttccaggtcaccg aaccaccaataaacgatatattctttgatcgttttcatcaaccacaactcgaacagcacg attctgttccagaagatggagctggatcacctaaagatccagccaaacctccggccaa ggcacaagttgtgggatggccaccggtgagatcataccggaagaacgtgatggtttcc tgccaaaaatcaagcggtggcccggaacggcggcgttcgtgaagggagccggatc tgattataaagaccatgatggagactataaggatcacgatattgattacaaagacgatga tgataaatgattatttggaaaaaattctaaaaatttaaacttgtatcatttgaatctgtaaatttttt ttcaagtatatttaag -3'	F: 5'- ctaagcgttgaagtagccgacaaatg -3'; R: 5'- cgagctaaactggtccgcgaagag -3'; WT, 480bp; inserted, 702bp
spo-11::AID::3xFLAG in *ie59* or *ie60*	5'- tactcgtttataatcgtctc -3'; 5'- gacaggagtatatggctcgattcttgattgctccgagagtcatgtcgatagaaaaagaa attccgattcaaccagaaaccatcatcaacgaatacggatcacctaaagatccagcca aacctccggccaaggcacaagttgtgggatggccaccggtgagatcataccggaag aacgtgatggtttcctgccaaaaatcaagcggtggcccggaggcggcggcgttcgtg aagggagccggttctgattataaagaccatgatggagactataaggatcacgatattga ttacaaagacgatgatgataaaggtagtcgacagatgatgatcgggaagcaaaagac gatgactatatagattcggatgctgaagaaaagttccagaatatgatagataatgatagt g -3'	F: 5'- gtgacacgagaattagactggatg -3'; R: 5'- attgaggaggagcactctg -3'; WT, 532bp; inserted, 730bp
zhp-1::AID::3xFLAG in *ie61* or *ie62*	5'- tcgtctcaatcgaatcgtgg -3'; 5'- cgttgctggttcagatgtagataatgacgaattgctcgattatgtatgctgatatcattgattt ttctgttcctaaagttgcttttttcaggatcttctaggattgaggaatcgatctgattcatcatc atccaactgctcgtctcaatctaacagaggaggatctctgtttggagctggatcacctaa agatccagccaaacctccggccaaggcacaagttgtgggatggccaccggtgagatc ataccggaagaacgtgatggtttcctgccaaaaatcaagcggtggcccggaggcggc ggcgttcgtgaagggagccggatctgattataaagaccatgatggagactataaggat cacgatattgattacaaagacgatgatgataaataacataatctgtaatatagatgaccat agtttattttttcagctaaacataaaaatgcttgatttatcttcttcccacatatccagagc aaaacgtgacac -3'	F: 5'- cttcggaatttgtatgtattccctgatcg -3'; R: 5'- cgtgtcgcttgatttatctagtcctag -3'; WT, 562bp; inserted, 784bp
zhp-2::HA in *ie63, ie72, ie73, ie74, ie75, ie79, ie84* or *ie107*	5'- gagttttattgacgaagaat -3'; 5'- gatcataggaatagattgtttggcgcgcaggacttgagcatccgtcgccaattcttcgtcaa ggagccggatcttacccctacgatgtcccagattatgcttaaaactccctgtatgtcacct ccgtatttttatcctttttccacaattttttatttc -3'	F: 5'- gcaattgctgtgattgattaagtg -3'; R: 5'- ggagatattacgggggcaataaac -3'; WT, 211bp; inserted, 250bp
zhp-3::V5 in *ie64,*	5'- gagattaaaacattaatcgg -3'; 5'-	F: 5'- cgaccctctcatcaactaacac -3';

ie69, ie85, ie92, ie103 or *ie104*	gttttcaggatacctcgcacaaaggaaaccgatcaatggtcggagcttcattggacccg ccgatggagccggatctggaaagccaattccaaacccacttcttggactcgactccac ctaatgttttaatctcgtttttttctgaattcgttctttatttgttgatatatacatc -3'	R: 5'- tttcagcactcttcgggtc -3'; WT, 434bp; inserted, 488bp
zhp-4::HA in *ie65, ie70, ie81, ie86, ie87, ie88, ie89* or *ie90*	5'- gagaaaagcacaaggagcat -3'; 5'- ctctgcaatattttacatgataaaatgcgacacatatattaaaaaaaatcgattcaagcat aatctgggacatcgtaggggtatgatccagctccttgactattacgatgctccttgtgcttt tctctttgagcttcatgtttttttcaagtacgggaac -3'	F: 5'- ggaaatttatcgatttttttcggaaattgattg -3'; R: 5'- catgataaaatgcgacacatatattaaa -3'; WT, 236bp; inserted, 275bp
zhp-2::AID::3xFLAG in *ie66* or *ie67*	5'- gagttttattgacgaagaat -3'; 5'- gcaattgctgtgattgattaagtgtaattttttccagatcgattatagtcgccgtgatcatag gaatagattgtttggcgcgaggacttgagcatccgtcgccaattcttcgtcaaggagctgg atcacctaaagatccagccaaacctccggccaaggcacaagttgtgggatggccacc ggtgagatcataccggaagaacgtgatggtttcctgccaaaaatcaagcggtggcccg gaggcggcggcgttcgtgaagggagccggatctgattataaagaccatgatggagac tataaggatcacgatattgattacaaagacgatgatgataaataaaactccctgtatgtca cctccgtattttatcctttttccacaattttttatttctattcaaaatcaaaggtttattgcccccc gtaatatctcc -3'	F: 5'- ctccaatgttagttttatctcctgtttttc -3'; R: 5'- cgtcgcgtttttgtaccataaaacaatc -3'; WT, 476bp; inserted, 698bp
zhp-1::V5 in *ie68, ie78* or *ie83*	5'- tcgtctcaatcgaatcgtgg -3'; 5'- cattttatgtttatagctgaaaaataaaactatggtcatctatattacagattatgttaggtg gagtcgagtccaagaagtgggtttggaattggctttcctgatccagctccaaacagaga tcctcctctgttagattgagacgagcagttggatgatgatgaatcagatcgattcctcaat cctagaagatcc -3'	F: 5'- cgttgctggttcagatgtagataatg -3'; R: 5'- gtgtcacgtttttgctctggatatgtg -3'; WT, 275bp; inserted, 329bp
zhp-3::AID::3xFLAG in *ie76* or *ie77*	5'- gagattaaaacattaatcgg -3'; 5'- gtgtactctgacgtttttcaggatacctcgcacaaaggaaaccgatcaatggtcggagctt cattggacccgccgatggagctggatcacctaaagatccagccaaacctccggccaa ggcacaagttgtgggatggccaccggtgagatcataccggaagaacgtgatggtttcc tgccaaaaatcaagcggtggcccggaggcggcggcgttcgtgaagggagccggatc tgattataaagaccatgatggagactataaggatcacgatattgattacaaagacgatga tgataaataatgtttaatctcgtttttttctgaattcgttctttatttgttgatatatacatcatgta caattcaactttaatg -3'	F: 5'- cgaccctctcatcaactaacac -3'; R: 5'- tttcagcactcttcgggtc -3'; WT, 434bp; inserted, 656bp
zhp-3::AID::GFP in *ie80*	5'- gagattaaaacattaatcgg-3'; 5'- aactaacacacttacacactttttcgtctctcactctctcattccgggcgctttttgcgcctt tccgctccctctatattccaattctttcgattttttgccacgtgtactctgacgtttttcaggatac ctcgcacaaaggaaaccgatcaatggtcggagcttcattggacccgccgatggagga tctggaggcggttctggcggaggttctggtcctaaagatccagccaaacctccggcca aggcacaagttgtgggatggccaccggtgagatcataccggaagaacgtgatggtttc ctgccaaaaatcaagcggtggcccggaggcggcggcgttcgtgaagggtttctaaagg agaagaacttttcacaggagttgttccaatacttgttgaacttgatggagatgtaaatgga cataagttctctgtttctggcgaaggagaaggagatgctacttatggaaaacttactctca agttcatttgcactactggaaaacttcccgttccatggccaactcttgttactactttgactt atggagttcaatgtttcgctcgttatccagaccatatgaaacaacacgatttcttcaaatct gctatgccagaaggatatgttcaagaaagaactattttcttcaaagatgatggaaactac aaaactcgtgcggaagtaaagtttgagggagatactcttgtaaatagaatagaactcaa aggaatagatttcaaagaagatggaaatatacttggacataaacttgaatataactacaa tagtcataaagtttatattactgctgataaacaaaaaaaatggaataaaagtaaacttcaaa actcgtcataatatagaagatggaagtgttcaacttgctgaccattaccaacaaaatact ccaataggagatggccccagttcttctccccagataatcattatctttctactcaatctgctctt tctaaagacccaaatgaaaaaagagaccatatggttctttttagagttcgttactgcggcg ggaataactcttggaatggatgaactttacaaataatgttttaatctcgttttttttctgaattcg ttctttatttgttgatatacatcatgtacaattcaactttaatgtttatttcataaaaaattgggtt aaaaattccaaatttctttttctctacctagttcacatctgatttaaatttttatttgaatatttcg -3'	F: 5'- cgaccctctcatcaactaacac -3'; R: 5'- cacgttcttccggtatgatctc -3'; WT, no product; inserted, 307bp. or F: 5'- cgaccctctcatcaactaacac -3'; R2: 5'- tttcagcactcttcgggtc -3' WT, 434bp; inserted, 1316bp
zhp-4::AID::3xFLAG in *ie82*	5'- gagaaaagcacaaggagcat -3'; 5'- gttcccgtacttgaaaaaacatgaagctcaaagagaaaagcacaaggagcatcgtaat agtcaaggagctggatcacctaaagatccagccaaacctccggccaaggcacaagtt gtgggatggccaccggtgagatcataccggaagaacgtgatggtttcctgccaaaaat caagcggtggcccggaggcggcggcgttcgtgaagggagccggatctgattataaa gaccatgatggagactataaggatcacgatattgattacaaagacgatgatgataaatg aatcgatttttttttaatatatgtgtcgcatttttatcatg -3'	F: 5'- ggaaatttatcgatttttttcggaaattgattg -3'; R: 5'- ctaaaactgtactttcaggtcataaatgtatc -3'; WT, 382bp; inserted, 604bp
plk-2::HA in *ie105, ie106, ie109* or *ie110*	5'- tcgatttttcttagcgacgcg -3'; 5'- caacgtccgtttggaatctgcagcagatatccagccggcttatccatcatcctcgcgtcg cggagccggatcttacccctacgatgtcccagattatgcttaagaaaatcgatctgcaa caaattgagctcatttcccccttaccggttttg -3'	F: 5'- ggagaagttcctccatcgaattc -3'; R: 5'- ggataaaattgattacaaacacggac -3'; WT, 294bp; inserted, 333bp
plk-2::AID::3xFLAG in *ie108*	5'- tcgatttttcttagcgacgcg -3'; 5'- gaaagaggagacgaaacacaatgcaccggcggccaatgcagtacgccttccatcga cttccagcaacgtccgtttggaatctgcagcagatatccagccggcttatccatcatcct cgcgtcgcgcgagctggatcacctaaagatccagccaaacctccggccaaggcacaa gttgtgggatggccaccggtgagatcataccggaagaacgtgatggtttcctgccaaa aatcaagcggtggcccggaggcggcggcgttcgtgaagggagccggatctgattata	F: 5'- ggagaagttcctccatcgaattc -3'; R: 5'- gagcatgatgacacccgaatgtttg -3'; WT, 451bp; inserted, 673bp

	aagaccatgatggagactataaggatcacgatattgattacaaagacgatgatgataaa taagaaaatcgatctgcaacaaattgagctcatttccccttaccggttttgatatttctctga tcaatacactttttatgtccgtgtttgtaatcaattttatcc -3'	

Table S4

Strains used in this study

Strains	Source	Identifier
C. elegans: Hawaiian wild-type isolate	Caenorhabditis Genetics Center	CB4856
C. elegans: syp-1 (me17) V/nT1[unc-?(n754) let-? qIs50] (IV;V)	MacQueen et al., 2002; Caenorhabditis Genetics Center	AV307/CA30
C. elegans: spo-11(me44) IV/ieT1	Chan et al., 2004; Hayashi et al., 2007; this paper	AV157
C. elegans: dsb-2(tm6047) II	This paper; 421 bp deletion null allele mutant; Japanese KO consortium	CA1153
C. elegans: zhp-3(jf61) I/hT2 [bli-4(e937) let-?(q782) qIs48] (I; III)	Jantsch et al., 2004; Bhalla et al., 2008	UV1/CA685
C. elegans: msh-5(me23) IV/nT1 [unc-?(n754) let-?] (IV;V)	Kelly et al., 2000; Caenorhabditis Genetics Center	AV115
C. elegans: meIs8[pie-1p::GFP::cosa-1, unc-119(+)] II	Yokoo et al., 2012; Caenorhabditis Genetics Center	AV630
C. elegans: ieSi38[sun-1p::TIR1::mRuby::sun-1 3' UTR, Cbr-unc-119 (+)] IV	Zhang et al., 2015; Caenorhabditis Genetics Center	CA1199
C. elegans: zhp-1(ie43) I/ hT2 [bli-4(e937) let-?(q782) qIs48] (I; III)	This paper	CA1356
C. elegans: zhp-1(ie44) I/ hT2 [bli-4(e937) let-?(q782) qIs48] (I; III)	This paper	CA1357
C. elegans: zhp-2(ie45) I/ hT2 [bli-4(e937) let-?(q782) qIs48] (I; III)	This paper	CA1358
C. elegans: zhp-1(ie46) I in Hawaii background	This paper	CA1359
C. elegans: meIs8[pie-1p::GFP::cosa-1, unc-119(+)] II; ieSi38[sun-1p::TIR1::mRuby::sun-1 3'UTR, Cbr-unc-119(+)] IV	This paper	CA1364
C. elegans: zhp-1(ie61[zhp-1::AID::3xFLAG]) I; unc-119(ed3) III; ieSi38[sun-1p::TIR1::mRuby::sun-1 3'UTR, Cbr-unc-119(+)] IV	This paper	CA1366
C. elegans: zhp-1(ie62[zhp-1::AID::3xFLAG]) I; meIs8[pie-1p::GFP::cosa-1, unc-119(+)] II; ieSi38[sun-1p::TIR1::mRuby::sun-1 3'UTR, Cbr-unc-119(+)] IV	This paper	CA1367
C. elegans: htp-3(ie51), zhp-1(ie62[zhp-1::AID::3xFLAG]) I; meIs8[pie-1p::GFP::cosa-1, unc-119(+)] II; ieSi38[sun-1p::TIR1::mRuby::sun-1 3'UTR, Cbr-unc-119(+)] IV	This paper	CA1368
C. elegans: zhp-1(ie62[zhp-1::AID::3xFLAG]) I; meIs8[pie-1p::GFP::cosa-1, unc-119(+)] II; ieSi38[sun-1p::TIR1::mRuby::sun-1 3'UTR, Cbr-unc-119(+)], spo-11(ie59[spo-11::AID::3xFLAG]) IV	This paper	CA1369
C. elegans: zhp-1(ie61[zhp-1::AID::3xFLAG]), zhp-2(ie63[zhp-2::HA]) I; unc-119(ed3) III; ieSi38[sun-1p::TIR1::mRuby::sun-1 3'UTR, Cbr-unc-119(+)] IV;	This paper	CA1370
C. elegans: zhp-1(ie61[zhp-1::AID::3xFLAG]), zhp-3(ie64[zhp-3::V5]) I; unc-119(ed3) III; ieSi38[sun-1p::TIR1::mRuby::sun-1 3'UTR, Cbr-unc-119(+)] IV;	This paper	CA1371
C. elegans: zhp-1(ie61[zhp-1::AID::3xFLAG]) I; unc-119(ed3) III; ieSi38[sun-1p::TIR1::mRuby::sun-1 3'UTR, Cbr-unc-119(+)] IV; zhp-4(ie65[zhp-4::HA]) V	This paper	CA1372
C. elegans: zhp-2(ie66[zhp-2::AID::3xFLAG]) I; unc-119(ed3) III; ieSi38[sun-1p::TIR1::mRuby::sun-1 3'UTR, Cbr-unc-119(+)] IV	This paper	CA1374
C. elegans: zhp-2(ie67[zhp-2::AID::3xFLAG]) I; meIs8[pie-1p::GFP::cosa-1, unc-119(+)] II; ieSi38[sun-1p::TIR1::mRuby::sun-1 3'UTR, Cbr-unc-119(+)] IV	This paper	CA1375
C. elegans: htp-3(ie52), zhp-2(ie66[zhp-2::AID::3xFLAG]) I; meIs8[pie-1p::GFP::cosa-1, unc-119(+)] II; ieSi38[sun-1p::TIR1::mRuby::sun-1 3'UTR, Cbr-unc-119(+)] IV	This paper	CA1376
C. elegans: zhp-2(ie66[zhp-2::AID::3xFLAG]) I; meIs8[pie-1p::GFP::cosa-1, unc-119(+)] II; ieSi38[sun-1p::TIR1::mRuby::sun-1 3'UTR, Cbr-unc-119(+)], spo-11(ie60[spo-11::AID::3xFLAG]) IV	This paper	CA1377
C. elegans: zhp-1(ie68[zhp-1::V5]), zhp-2(ie66[zhp-2::AID::3xFLAG]) I; unc-119(ed3) III; ieSi38[sun-1p::TIR1::mRuby::sun-1 3'UTR, Cbr-unc-119(+)] IV	This paper	CA1378
C. elegans: zhp-2(ie66[zhp-2::AID::3xFLAG]), zhp-3(ie69[zhp-3::V5]) I; unc-119(ed3) III; ieSi38[sun-1p::TIR1::mRuby::sun-1 3'UTR, Cbr-unc-119(+)] IV	This paper	CA1379
C. elegans: zhp-2(ie66[zhp-2::AID::3xFLAG]) I; unc-119(ed3) III; ieSi38[sun-1p::TIR1::mRuby::sun-1 3'UTR, Cbr-unc-119(+)] IV; zhp-4(ie70[zhp-4::HA]) V	This paper	CA1380

C. elegans: zhp-2(ie72[zhp-2::HA]) I; syp-1(me17) V/nT1[unc-?(n754) let-? qIs50] (IV;V)	This paper	CA1383
C. elegans: zhp-2(ie73[zhp-2::HA]) I; spo-11(me44) IV/ ieT1	This paper	CA1384
C. elegans: zhp-2(ie74[zhp-2::HA]) I; msh-5(me23) IV/nT1[unc-?(n754) let-?] (IV;V)	This paper	CA1385
C. elegans: zhp-2(ie75[zhp-2::HA]) I; cosa-1(we12) III/qC1	This paper	CA1386
C. elegans: zhp-3(ie76[zhp-3::AID::3xFLAG]) I; unc-119(ed3) III; ieSi38[sun-1p::TIR1::mRuby::sun-1 3'UTR, Cbr-unc-119(+)] IV	This paper	CA1387
C. elegans: zhp-3(ie77[zhp-3::AID::3xFLAG]) I; meIs8[pie-1p::GFP::cosa-1, unc-119(+)] II; ieSi38[sun-1p::TIR1::mRuby::sun-1 3'UTR, Cbr-unc-119(+)] IV	This paper	CA1388
C. elegans: zhp-1(ie78[zhp-1::V5]), zhp-3(ie76[zhp-3::AID::3xFLAG]) I; unc-119(ed3) III; ieSi38[sun-1p::TIR1::mRuby::sun-1 3'UTR, Cbr-unc-119(+)] IV	This paper	CA1389
C. elegans: zhp-2(ie79[zhp-2::HA]), zhp-3(ie76[zhp-3::AID::3xFLAG]) I; unc-119(ed3) III; ieSi38[sun-1p::TIR1::mRuby::sun-1 3'UTR, Cbr-unc-119(+)] IV	This paper	CA1390
C. elegans: zhp-3(ie80[zhp-3::AID::GFP]) I; unc-119(ed3) III; ieSi38[sun-1p::TIR1::mRuby::sun-1 3'UTR, Cbr-unc-119(+)] IV	This paper	CA1391
C. elegans: zhp-3(ie80[zhp-3::AID::GFP]) I; unc-119(ed3) III; ieSi38[sun-1p::TIR1::mRuby::sun-1 3'UTR, Cbr-unc-119(+)] IV; zhp-4(ie81[zhp-4::HA]) V	This paper	CA1392
C. elegans: unc-119(ed3) III; ieSi38[sun-1p::TIR1::mRuby::sun-1 3'UTR, Cbr-unc-119(+)] IV; zhp-4(ie82[zhp-4::AID::3xFLAG]) V	This paper	CA1393
C. elegans: meIs8[pie-1p::GFP::cosa-1, unc-119(+)] II; ieSi38[sun-1p::TIR1::mRuby::sun-1 3'UTR, Cbr-unc-119(+)] IV; zhp-4(ie82[zhp-4::AID::3xFLAG]) V	This paper	CA1394
C. elegans: zhp-1(ie83[zhp-1::V5]) I; unc-119(ed3) III; ieSi38[sun-1p::TIR1::mRuby::sun-1 3'UTR, Cbr-unc-119(+)] IV; zhp-4(ie82[zhp-4::AID::3xFLAG]) V	This paper	CA1395
C. elegans: zhp-2(ie84[zhp-2::HA]) I; unc-119(ed3) III; ieSi38[sun-1p::TIR1::mRuby::sun-1 3'UTR, Cbr-unc-119(+)] IV; zhp-4(ie82[zhp-4::AID::3xFLAG]) V	This paper	CA1396
C. elegans: zhp-3(ie85[zhp-3::V5]) I; unc-119(ed3) III; ieSi38[sun-1p::TIR1::mRuby::sun-1 3'UTR, Cbr-unc-119(+)] IV; zhp-4(ie82[zhp-4::AID::3xFLAG]) V	This paper	CA1397
C. elegans: zhp-3(jf61) I/ hT2 [bli-4(e937) let-?(q782) qIs48] (I; III); zhp-4(ie86[zhp-4::HA]) V	This paper	CA1398
C. elegans: syp-1(me17) V/nT1[unc-?(n754) let-? qIs50] (IV;V); zhp-4(ie87[zhp-4::HA]) V	This paper	CA1399
C. elegans: spo-11(me44) IV/ieT1; zhp-4(ie88[zhp-4::HA]) V	This paper	CA1400
C. elegans: msh-5(me23) IV/nT1[unc-?(n754) let-?] (IV;V); zhp-4(ie89[zhp-4::HA]) V	This paper	CA1401
C. elegans: cosa-1(we12) III/qC1; zhp-4(ie90[zhp-4::HA]) V	This paper	CA1402
C. elegans: zhp-3(ie92[zhp-3::V5]) I	This paper	CA1404
C. elegans: zhp-3(ie92[zhp-3::V5]) I; dsb-2(tm6047) II	This paper	CA1405
C. elegans: zhp-1(ie78[zhp-1::V5]), zhp-3(ie76[zhp-3::AID::3xFLAG]) I; syp-1 (me17) V/nT1[unc-?(n754) let-? qIs50] (IV;V)	This paper	CA1410
C. elegans: dsb-2(ie58[dsb-2::AID::3xFLAG]), meIs8[pie-1p::GFP::cosa-1, unc-119(+)] II; ieSi38[sun-1p::TIR1::mRuby::sun-1 3'UTR, Cbr-unc-119(+)] IV	This paper	CA1421
C. elegans: zhp-2(ie67[zhp-2::AID::3xFLAG]) I; dsb-2(ie58[dsb-2::AID::3xFLAG]), meIs8[pie-1p::GFP::cosa-1, unc-119(+)] II; ieSi38[sun-1p::TIR1::mRuby::sun-1 3'UTR, Cbr-unc-119(+)] IV	This paper	CA1422
C. elegans: meIs8[pie-1p::GFP::cosa-1, unc-119(+)] II; ieSi38[sun-1p::TIR1::mRuby::sun-1 3'UTR, Cbr-unc-119(+)], spo-11(ie59[spo-11::AID::3xFLAG]), IV	This paper	CA1423
C. elegans: zhp-1(ie62[zhp-1::AID::3xFLAG]) I; meIs8[pie-1p::GFP::cosa-1, unc-119(+)] II; ieSi38[sun-1p::TIR1::mRuby::sun-1 3'UTR, Cbr-unc-119(+)] IV; zhp-4(ie82[zhp-4::AID::3xFALG]) V	This paper	CA1424
C. elegans: zhp-3(ie103[zhp-3::V5]) I; dsb-2(ie58[dsb-2::AID::3xFLAG]), meIs8[pie-1p::GFP::cosa-1, unc-119(+)] II; ieSi38[sun-1p::TIR1::mRuby::sun-1 3'UTR, Cbr-unc-119(+)] IV	This paper	CA1425
C. elegans: zhp-2(ie67[zhp-2::AID::3xFLAG]), zhp-3(ie104[zhp-3::V5]) I; dsb-2(ie58[dsb-2::AID::3xFLAG]), meIs8[pie-1p::GFP::cosa-1, unc-119(+)] II; ieSi38[sun-1p::TIR1::mRuby::sun-1 3'UTR, Cbr-unc-119(+)] IV	This paper	CA1426
C. elegans: plk-2(ie105[plk-2::HA]), zhp-3(ie103[zhp-3::V5]) I; dsb-2(ie58[dsb-2::AID::3xFLAG]), meIs8[pie-1p::GFP::cosa-1, unc-119(+)] II; ieSi38[sun-1p::TIR1::mRuby::sun-1 3'UTR, Cbr-unc-119(+)] IV	This paper	CA1427
C. elegans: plk-2(ie106[plk-2::HA]), zhp-2(ie67[zhp-2::AID::3xFLAG]), zhp-3(ie104[zhp-3::V5]) I; dsb-2(ie58[dsb-2::AID::3xFLAG]), meIs8[pie-1p::GFP::cosa-1, unc-119(+)] II; ieSi38[sun-1p::TIR1::mRuby::sun-1 3'UTR, Cbr-unc-119(+)] IV	This paper	CA1428

C. elegans: plk-2(ie108[plk-2::AID::3xFLAG]), zhp-2(ie107[zhp-2::HA]) I; meIs8[pie-1p::GFP::cosa-1, unc-119(+)] II; ieSi38[sun-1p::TIR1::mRuby::sun-1 3'UTR, Cbr-unc-119(+)] IV	This paper	CA1429
C. elegans: plk-2(ie109[plk-2::HA]), zhp-1(ie62[zhp-1::AID::3xFLAG]) I; meIs8[pie-1p::GFP::cosa-1, unc-119(+)] II; ieSi38[sun-1p::TIR1::mRuby::sun-1 3'UTR, Cbr-unc-119(+)] IV	This paper	CA1430
C. elegans: plk-2(ie110[plk-2::HA]), zhp-2(ie67[zhp-1::AID::3xFLAG]) I; meIs8[pie-1p::GFP::cosa-1, unc-119(+)] II; ieSi38[sun-1p::TIR1::mRuby::sun-1 3'UTR, Cbr-unc-119(+)] IV	This paper	CA1431