The LINC complex ensures accurate centrosome positioning during prophase

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Summary blurb: Centrosome positioning in prophase is essential for efficient spindle assembly. Here, we show that centrosome positioning requires LINC complex-mediated loading of dynein on the nuclear envelope.

Keywords: Centrosome, prophase, nuclear envelope, LINC complex, dynein

Abstract

Accurate centrosome separation and positioning during early mitosis relies on force-generating mechanisms regulated by a combination of extracellular, cytoplasmic, and nuclear cues. The identity of the nuclear cues involved in this process remains largely unknown. Here, we investigate how the prophase nucleus contributes to centrosome positioning during the initial stages of mitosis, by using a combination of cell micropatterning, high-resolution live-cell imaging and quantitative 3D cellular reconstruction. We show that in untransformed RPE-1 cells, centrosome positioning is regulated by a nuclear signal, independently of external cues. This nuclear mechanism relies on the linker of nucleoskeleton and cytoskeleton (LINC) complex that controls the timely loading of dynein on the nuclear envelope (NE), providing spatial cues for robust centrosome positioning on the shortest nuclear axis, prior to nuclear envelope permeabilization (NEP). Our results demonstrate how nuclear-cytoskeletal coupling maintains a robust centrosome positioning mechanism to ensure efficient mitotic spindle assembly.

Introduction:

Mitosis is the process by which a cell divides its genetic content into two identical daughter cells. The start of this process is typically defined as the moment when cells start to condense their chromosomes inside the nucleus (Maddox et al. 2006; Antonin and Neumann 2016). This occurs with a near simultaneous remodelling of their cytoskeleton and a decrease in cell-matrix adhesions (Dao et al. 2009), a process

regulated via integrin and cadherin signalling (Mui et al. 2016). Cytoskeletal

restructuring is a consequence of the dynamic changes that occur in the microtubule

(Zhai et al. 1996; Mchedlishvili et al. 2018) and actomyosin networks (Maddox and

Burridge 2003; Chugh and Paluch 2018), required to build a mitotic spindle and a stiff

mitotic cortex. Subsequently, nuclear pore complexes (NPCs) (Linder et al. 2017)

disassemble and the nuclear lamina depolymerizes (Heald and McKeon 1990), resulting

in nuclear envelope permeabilization (NEP). These global changes are controlled by

mitotic kinases such as PLK1 and CDK1 (Gavet and Pines 2010; Gheghiani et al.

2017; Jones et al. 2018), the latter ensuring coordination of cytoplasmic and nuclear

events (Gavet and Pines 2010).

The goal of mitosis is to ensure the accurate segregation of chromosomes. This

requires the assembly of a microtubule-based mitotic spindle that interacts with

chromosomes via the kinetochores (Toso et al. 2009; Thompson and Compton 2011). In

human cells, the establishment of a bipolar spindle relies primarily on

centrosomes (Tanenbaum and Medema 2010; Agircan et al. 2014), that separate along

the nuclear envelope (NE) during prophase, through forces generated by motor

proteins, such as kinesin-5 and dynein (Raaijmakers et al. 2012; van Heesbeen et al.

2013). Importantly, the extent of centrosome separation and their positioning at the

moment of NEP has been shown to influence mitotic fidelity (Whitehead et al. 1996;

Kaseda et al. 2012; Silkworth et al. 2012; Nunes et al. 2020), and mitotic timing (Nunes

et al. 2020), respectively.

Once a bipolar spindle is assembled, it must then orient inside the cell, to define a

division axis. The involvement of cortical cues in mitotic spindle orientation during

metaphase is well-established (Théry et al. 2005; Théry et al. 2007; Petridou and

Skourides 2014). This mechanism requires the localization of the LGN-Gα1-NuMA

complex to the cell cortex, which then recruits dynein to generate pulling forces on

astral microtubules. However, during the early stages of mitosis this process appears to

be fundamentally different. Accordingly, we have shown that during prophase, NE-

associated dynein, together with Arp2/3 activity, are required to position centrosomes in

the shortest nuclear axis, independently of cortical dynein (Nunes et al. 2020). These

observations suggest that a nuclear cue is required for accurate centrosome positioning

prior to NEP. However, the molecular nature of this nuclear cue is still unclear.

The nucleus and some of its components have already been proposed to impact

centrosome function. Accordingly, perturbations in the nuclear lamina due to loss of

lamin A, leads to impaired centrosome separation and asymmetric NPC distribution in

prophase (Guo and Zheng 2015; Boudreau et al. 2019). In addition, different

components of the linker of nucleoskeleton and cytoskeleton (LINC) complex, required

for nucleo-cytoplasmic coupling (Lombardi et al. 2011), have been implicated in

centrosome-nucleus tethering during cell migration, by directly associating with NE-

bound dynein (Malone et al. 2003; Zhang et al. 2009; Splinter et al. 2010; Boudreau et

al. 2019). Moreover, the LINC complex also facilitates centrosome separation during

prophase (Stiff et al. 2020) and decreases chromosome scattering during

prometaphase, aiding their capture after NEP (Booth et al. 2019). Nevertheless, how

these cytoplasmic and nuclear players interact during the G2/M transition to ensure

accurate centrosome positioning and efficient spindle assembly remains unknown.

Here, we identify the LINC complex as essential for defining the centrosome-nuclear

axis during prophase in normal, near-diploid cells, by orienting centrosomes towards the

shortest nuclear axis.

Results

Chromosomally stable RPE-1 cells systematically position their centrosomes at
the shortest nuclear axis

It has been previously shown that centrosome separation and positioning at the moment

of NEP impacts mitotic progression and fidelity (Kaseda et al. 2012; Silkworth et al.

2012; Nunes et al. 2020). However, the degree of conservation of this mechanism

between normal, untransformed cells and cancer cell lines is still unknown. To address

this, we performed live-cell imaging of chromosomally stable RPE-1 cell line and two

chromosomally unstable cancer cell lines of different origins (U2-OS derived from

osteosarcoma and MDA-MB-468 derived from a breast adenocarcinoma), with high

spatial and temporal resolution. All cell lines were seeded on micropatterned lines with a

10μm width, coated with fibronectin (FBN; Fig. 1A). This allowed us to accurately

standardise cell shape and intracellular organization(Théry et al. 2005; Nunes et al.

2020). Then, we reconstructed the dynamics of centrosomes, nucleus, and cell

membrane during the G2-M transition, using our previously developed tool, Trackosome

(Castro et al. 2020) (Fig. S1A-E). With this approach, we can obtain quantitative data

and correlate several parameters. Namely, we determined the alignment of the longest

cell axis with the longest nuclear axis (Fig. S1F), correlated the alignment of a vector

connecting the two centrosomes with the longest nuclear axis (angle centrosome –

nucleus, Fig. S1G) and measured the separation of the two centrosomes to opposite

sides of the nucleus, by determining the angle formed by a vector connecting the two

centrosomes that intercepts the nuclear centroid (angle centrosome – centrosome, Fig.

S1H). This allowed us to construct polar plots that display the alignment of the

centrosomes with the longest nuclear axis (Fig. 1SI; note that an orientation towards 90^0

corresponds to alignment with the shortest nuclear axis) and graphs that correlate

centrosome positioning and separation to opposite sides of the nucleus (Fig. S1J).

Detailed analysis of RPE-1 cells during the G2-M transition revealed that the long axis

of the nucleus is initially aligned with the long cell axis (Fig. 1A, left panel and 1B; movie

S1), likely due to a geometrical constraint imposed by the line micropattern, as was

previously shown for interphase cells (Versaevel et al. 2012). Once cells start to round

up in preparation for mitosis, as measured by the decrease in cell membrane

eccentricity, the long nuclear axis progressively diverges from the long cell axis (Fig.

1B), suggesting that mitotic cell rounding uncouples the two parameters. This

reorientation occurs simultaneously with the movement of centrosomes to opposite

sides of the nucleus (Fig 1C). Consequently, at NEP, centrosomes are positioned on

the shortest nuclear axis (Fig. 1C, 1D). Importantly, this behaviour is not observed in the

two cancer cell lines analysed. In U2-OS cells, mitotic cell rounding is altered in

comparison with RPE-1 cells (Fig. 1A, middle panel; 1B, 1E; ****$p<0.001$) and the

nucleus maintains alignment with the main cell axis almost until the moment of NEP

(Fig. 1E; movie S2; ****$p<0.001$). As a result of this physical constraint, centrosomes

separate, but fail to position on the shortest nuclear axis at NEP (Fig. 1F, 1G; *$p=0.022$).

On the other hand, MDA-MB-468 cells are morphologically distinct from RPE-1 or U2-

OS. They are rounder and have a smaller area of adhesion to the micropatterned

substrate (Fig. 1A, right panel; movie S3). As a result, they do not exhibit the decrease

in cell membrane eccentricity normally observed during mitotic cell rounding (Fig. 1B,

1H; ****p<0.001). Consequently, the long nuclear axis is randomly oriented inside the

cell (Fig. 1H; p<0.05). In addition, centrosomes in MDA-MB-468 often show incomplete

separation and are unable to reach opposite sides of the nucleus at NEP (Fig. 1I). This

defect in centrosome separation could be due to the decrease in cell adhesion, which

affects the activity of kinesin-5 (Nunes et al. 2020; Kamranvar et al. 2022), essential for

the initial stages of centrosome separation. Consequently, centrosomes are randomly

positioned relative to the nucleus at the moment of NEP (Fig. 1J; **p=0.0028). Overall,

our data show that RPE-1 cells have a robust centrosome positioning mechanism

during the G2-M transition, and this mechanism is compromised both in U2-OS and

MDA-MB-468 cells.

Mitotic cell rounding is not the major determinant for centrosome positioning

Given that the U2-OS and MDA-MB-468 cell lines that we tested failed to correctly

position centrosomes on the shortest nuclear axis and displayed altered mitotic cell

rounding, we wondered if the two events were interconnected. This is particularly

relevant since it was previously shown that mitotic rounding is essential for providing the

necessary space to assemble a mitotic spindle (Lancaster et al. 2013; Sorce et al. 2015;

Dix et al. 2018; Nunes et al. 2020). To test this hypothesis, we proceeded to interfere

with mitotic cell rounding in RPE-1 cells, by either impairing it or accelerating it. Mitotic

rounding requires both cortical retraction and adhesion disassembly. Therefore, we

started by acutely treating cells with a Rho-associated protein kinase (ROCK) inhibitor

(Y-27632; Fig. 2A, B), known to decrease actomyosin contractility and delay cortical

retraction (Maddox and Burridge 2003). Upon treatment with Y27632, centrosomes

were still able to separate and position correctly on the shortest nuclear axis (Fig. 2C-F),

although the rate of cell rounding was delayed due to an impairment of cortical

retraction (Fig. 2G, ***p<0.001). This is in agreement with our previous observations in

HeLa cells (Nunes et al. 2020). Next, we proceeded to interfere with adhesion

disassembly by expressing a mutant form of Rap1 (Rap1Q63E; Rap1*), that effectively

blocks mitotic rounding (Dao et al. 2009) (Fig. 2H-J, ***p<0.001). Delaying adhesion

disassembly in RPE-1 cells did not affect centrosome separation or positioning on the

shortest nuclear axis (Figure 2K-N; p=0.583), indicating that cell rounding impairment in

RPE-1 cells does not significantly impact centrosome positioning at the moment of NEP.

Next, we tested the effect of inducing premature rounding by treating cells with

Calyculin-A (CalA), a protein phosphatase inhibitor that increases the phosphorylation

of Ezrin/Radixin/Moesin (ERM) proteins and triggers cell rounding in adherent cells

(Tachibana et al. 2015). Acute treatment with CalA led to a faster rounding of the cells

(Fig. 2O, P; ***p<0.001), as anticipated. Nevertheless, this did not significantly affect

centrosome separation or positioning at NEP (Fig. 2Q, R; p=0.162). Overall, we

conclude that centrosome positioning in RPE-1 cells during early mitosis is a robust

process, that is largely independent of mitotic cell rounding.

To further investigate the relevance of cell rounding for centrosome positioning, we then

decided to interfere with mitotic cell rounding in the U2-OS and MDA-MB-468 cancer

cell lines. We either forced adhesion in the highly rounded MDA-MB-468 or promoted

rounding in the flatter U2-OS cells. We started by transfecting MDA-MB-468 cells with

Rap1*. As expected, Rap1* expression delayed cell rounding (Fig. S2A, B;

****p<0.001), but this did not restore correct centrosome separation or positioning (Fig.

S2C, D). Next, we tried to interfere with rounding in U2-OS cells by using Y-27632 or

CalA (Fig. S2E-I). Neither treatment was sufficient to restore centrosome positioning on

the shortest nuclear axis (Fig. S2J-M). Because these results were obtained from cells

seeded on micropatterned lines with 10□m width, we also wanted to rule out the

possibility that the failure to position centrosomes could be due to geometrical

constraints imposed by the micropattern. Therefore, we seeded U2-OS cells on

micropatterned lines with 20μm width or on non-patterned FBN-coated coverslips. In all

these conditions, U2-OS cells were still unable to correctly position their centrosomes at

the shortest nuclear axis (Fig. S2N-S), even though they showed a significantly

decrease in cell membrane eccentricity when placed in non-patterned substrates,

reflecting a more rounded state (Fig. S2T; ****p<0.0001). Taken together, our results

indicate that centrosome positioning on the shortest nuclear axis in normal,

untransformed RPE-1 cells is independent of the rounding state of the cell and that the

defects in positioning observed in the U2-OS and MDA-MB-468 cancer cells cannot be

rescued by manipulating cell rounding.

The nuclear lamina is not required for centrosome positioning on the shortest

nuclear axis

Given these results and our previous observations (Nunes et al. 2020), it seems unlikely

that an external cue could be driving centrosome positioning during early mitosis.

Therefore, we hypothesized that a nuclear cue could be responsible for ensuring

accurate centrosome positioning on the shortest nuclear axis. One possible candidate is

the nuclear lamina, since it was previously shown that lamins can position NPCs and

centrosomes (Guo and Zheng 2015) and are required for centrosome separation

(Boudreau et al. 2019). We started by analysing the levels of nuclear lamina

components in each of the cell lines in our panel, by measuring the fluorescence

intensity of lamin A/C and lamin B1 at the NE (Fig. S3A, B). We observed that the levels

of both Lamin A/C and Lamin B1 were altered in U2-OS and MDA-MB-468, when

compared to RPE-1 cells (Fig. S3C, D; ****$p<0.001$). Consequently, the ratios of lamin

A/C relative to lamin B1 in the two cancer cell lines were substantially lower than in

RPE-1 cells (Fig. S3E). Our results are in agreement with lamin expression data

available from the online repository Cancer Dependency Map Project (DepMap) (Fig.

S3F). Moreover, the decrease in lamin A levels observed in cancer cells was

accompanied by a decrease in nuclear solidity (Fig. S3G, **** $p<0.0001$), which

suggests that nuclear structure in both U2-OS and MDA-MB-468 cells is altered when

compared to RPE-1 cells. Thus, we decided to manipulate lamin levels in RPE-1 cells

and ask whether this was sufficient to impair centrosome positioning on the shortest

nuclear axis. We started by depleting Lamin A in RPE-1 cells, using RNA interference

(siLMNA; Fig. 3A-C). However, this depletion was not sufficient to alter centrosome

behaviour, as cells still efficiently separated and positioned them at the shortest nuclear

axis (Fig. 3D-G). To confirm our observations, we next sought to imbalance the lamin

A:B ratio by overexpressing a HaloTag9-Lamin B1 construct in RPE-1 cells (Fig. 3H, I

and Fig. S3H; ****$p<0.0001$). Similarly to Lamin A depletion, Lamin B1 overexpression

also did not disrupt correct centrosome positioning at NEP (Figure 3J-M). Taken

together, these results indicate that even though the ratio of lamin A:B is perturbed in

the two cancer cells used for this study, this is likely not the cause for the observed

errors in centrosome positioning at NEP, as experimental manipulation of the levels of

either lamin A or B in RPE-1 cells did not affect this process. Next, we sought to

interfere with additional nuclear components, independently of lamin levels. To do so,

we overexpressed an mCherry-tagged version of lamin B receptor (LBR), an integral

protein of the inner nuclear membrane (INM) that associates with the nuclear lamina

(Fig. S3I; ****$p<0.0001$) (Appelbaum et al. 1990). It has been previously shown that

LBR overexpression causes perinuclear ER expansion and the overproduction of

nuclear membranes (Ma et al. 2007), leading to NE folding and altered nuclear structure

(Dantas et al. 2022), similar to what we observed in U2-OS and MDA-MB-468 cells.

However, interfering with nuclear structure by overexpressing LBR in RPE-1 cells (Fig.

3 N, O), did not affect the separation and positioning of centrosomes on the shortest

nuclear axis (Fig. 3P-S). Overall, our data indicates that neither the nuclear lamina nor

LBR are required for correct centrosome positioning during early mitosis. They further

suggest that the altered lamin levels in U2-OS and MDA-MB-468 are likely not the

cause for the mispositioned centrosomes observed in these cell lines.

The LINC complex is required for centrosome positioning on the shortest nuclear

axis

Next, we focused our attention on the LINC complex, since it was previously shown to

play a role in early mitosis (Booth et al. 2019; Stiff et al. 2020). Immunolocalization of

SUN1 and SUN2 in prophase cells revealed that both proteins localized to the NE, as

expected (Fig. 4A, B). Interestingly, in a significant proportion of cells, SUN1 and SUN2

also concentrated in the area between and around the two separating centrosomes and

their corresponding microtubule arrays (Fig. 4A, B, insets). This localization was

dependent on microtubules, since treatment with low doses of nocodazole (Noc)

disrupted inter-centrosomal SUN localization (Fig. 4C, D).   We then proceeded by

depleting individual SUN proteins (SUN1 and SUN2), in RPE-1 cells using a lentiviral-

mediated short hairpin RNA (shRNA), giving rise to a heterogeneous population of cells

with different levels of depletion (Fig. 4A, B and Fig. S4A-D). This was sufficient to

decrease NE localization and inter-centrosomal accumulation of SUN1 and SUN2 (Fig.

4A, B). We then assessed the impact of SUN1 and SUN2 depletion for centrosome

behaviour throughout mitotic entry. Upon depletion, these cells were still capable of

efficiently separating centrosomes (Figure 4E-J; Sup. movies S4 and S5). However,

they had an impaired positioning of centrosomes at the shortest nuclear axis (Figure

4K-M; *p=0.0165 and p=0.0175 for SUN1 and SUN2, respectively).

Given the results obtained with SUN1 and SUN2, we then tested whether nesprins,

which are part of the LINC complex and interact with SUN proteins in the perinuclear

space, could also impact centrosome function. For that purpose, we expressed a

dominant-negative form of KASH tagged with mCherry (DN-KASH; Fig. S4E; Sup.

Movie S6 and S7) that prevents binding of endogenous nesprins to SUN proteins and

blocks force propagation across the NE (Lombardi and Lammerding 2011; Zhang et al.

2019). As a corresponding control, we generated a cell line expressing a mCherry-

tagged mutant version of the same DN-KASH construct where the last 4 aminoacids

(PPPL) of the KASH domain were removed (ΔPPPL-KASH). This prevents ΔPPPL-

KASH from interacting with SUN1 or SUN2, thus making it a "defective" dominant

negative (Zhang et al. 2019). Firstly, we confirmed by immunofluorescence the ability of

the DN-KASH construct displace endogenous nesprins from the NE, as assessed by

nesprin 2 localization (Fig. 5A; SYNE-2). Contrarily, and as expected, expression of the

ΔPPPL-KASH construct did not interfere with nesprins localization on the NE, similarly

to unmanipulated RPE-1 cells (Fig. 5A and S4F). We then analysed centrosome

behaviour in these cells. Upon expression of ΔPPPL-KASH, cells behaved similarly to

unmanipulated RPE-1 cells, with an efficient separation and positioning of centrosomes

on the shortest nuclear axis (Fig. 1C, 5D, F; p=0.708 for ΔPPPL-KASH compared with

unmanipulated   RPE-1   cells).   However,   DN-KASH-expressing   cells   showed

compromised separation and positioning of centrosome (Fig. 5E, G; *p=0.0155 and

*p=0.0237, respectively).

Finally, we decided to test whether the cancer cell lines used in this study have an

altered LINC complex, considering that they show centrosome positioning defects (Fig.

S5). To, we achieve this, quantified the levels of different LINC complex components on

the NE by performing immunofluorescence to detect SUN1, SUN2, SYNE1 (nesprin 1)

and SYNE2 (nesprin 2). Our results indicate that U2-OS cells have a significant

decrease in the levels of nesprin 1 and SUN2 (Fig. S5A, B, E; ****p<0.0001), whereas

MDA-MB-468 show a decrease of nesprin1, SUN1 and SUN2 (Fig. S5A, B, D, E:

****p<0.001; **p<0.01). Intriguingly, both cancer cell lines show increased levels of

nesprin 2, when compared to RPE-1 (Fig. S5C; ****p<0.001). Nevertheless, these data

clearly indicate that the LINC complex is altered in cancer cells, which correlates with

their inability to correctly position centrosomes. Overall, our data strongly suggest that

the LINC complex provides the cues for positioning centrosomes on the shortest

nuclear axis during prophase.

Dynein recruitment to the NE during early mitosis requires a functional LINC
complex

Next, we sought to determine how LINC complex disruption affected centrosome

positioning during prophase. While imaging DN-KASH-expressing cells, we frequently

observed centrosome detachment from the NE during earlier stages of prophase (Fig.

5H, 5I), which was never observed in cells expressing the ΔPPPL-KASH construct (Fig.

5I) or unmanipulated RPE-1 cells. Curiously, this centrosome displacement from the NE

decreased as cells entered mitosis (Fig. 5I). These observations suggest that disruption

of the LINC complex leads to a transient defect in centrosome-NE tethering during the

G2-M transition, which is rescued as cells approach NEP. Previous studies have shown

that a specific pool of NE-bound dynein, is sufficient to tether centrosomes to the NE

during prophase, by generating pulling forces on microtubules (Gönczy et al. 1999;

Robinson et al. 1999), in a BicD2 (Splinter et al. 2010) or Nup133-dependent manner

(Bolhy et al. 2011). Moreover, the LINC complex was previously shown to help maintain

the centrosome-nucleus connection during neuronal migration in mice (Zhang et al.

2009). Thus, we decided to analyse whether the centrosome displacement we observed

in DN-KASH cells could be due to a defective loading of dynein on the NE, triggered by

a disruption of the LINC complex. For this purpose, we assessed the localization of

dynactin 1, a dynein adaptor that also localizes to the NE (Splinter et al. 2012), upon

expression of ΔPPPL-KASH or DN-KASH. Importantly, expression of DN-KASH

significantly decreased the levels of dynactin 1 on the NE, when compared to cells

expressing ΔPPPL-KASH (Fig. 5J, K; ****p<0.0001), while having no effect on the

overall levels of cytoplasmic dynactin 1 (Fig. 5L; n.s. p=0.079) nor significantly changing

the levels of another NE protein such as Lamin B (Fig. S4G, H; p=0.0823). To further

confirm the LINC complex requirement for dynactin loading on the NE, we proceeded to

analyse its levels following SUN depletion (Fig. 5M). We synchronized RPE-1 cells in

late G2 using a CDK1 inhibitor (CDK1i; Ro-3306). Then, following inhibitor washout, we

quantified the levels of dynactin on the NE at 3, 6 and 10 minutes, using

immunofluorescence analysis (Fig. 5N). As anticipated, cells depleted of SUN1 had

decreased levels of dynactin 3 min after release (**p=0.0086). On the other hand, SUN2

depleted cells had significantly lower levels of dynactin at 10 min after release

(****p<0.0001). It should be noted that the effect of depleting individual SUN proteins on

NE dynactin levels is not as severe as DN-KASH expression. This likely happens

because expression of the DN- KASH completely disrupts the interaction with both SUN

proteins at the same time. On the other hand, with individual SUN depletion, the

remaining SUN protein might still associate with nesprins to maintain a partial function.

Interestingly, decreased levels of NE-associated dynactin 1 were also seen in both U2-

OS and MDA-MB-468 cell lines when compared to RPE-1 cells (Fig. S5F, G;

****p<0.0001), which fits nicely with the decreased levels of LINC complex components

(Fig. S5A-E) and the defect in centrosome positioning (Fig. 1) exhibited by these cancer

cell lines. Taken together, our results indicate that an intact LINC complex is required

for dynein localization at the NE during the G2-M transition, which then allows accurate

centrosome positioning at NEP.

DISCUSSION

The manner in which centrosomes separate and position during prophase has direct implications for the efficiency of mitosis (Kaseda et al. 2012; Silkworth et al. 2012; Stiff et al. 2020). We previously reported that, during the G2-M transition, separating centrosomes exhibit a coordinated motion along the NE, so that they are positioned on the shortest nuclear axis at the moment of NEP (Nunes et al. 2020). This centrosome-nucleus configuration occurs independently of the cortical cues that dictate spindle orientation in later stages of mitosis, since these cortical complexes are only assembled after NEP (Kiyomitsu and Cheeseman 2012; Kotak et al. 2012). Importantly, this prophase configuration suggested that a nuclear signal could be providing the cues to regulate centrosome positioning during the early stages of mitosis. However, the molecular mechanism remained unclear. Here, we show that this centrosome-nuclear axis orientation is a robust, LINC complex-dependent process in near-diploid, untransformed RPE-1 cells and that this mechanism is disrupted in U2-OS and MDA-MB-468 cell lines (Fig. 6).

In preparation for mitosis, most cells round up and adopt a spherical shape (Taubenberger et al. 2020). This event, driven by a combination of adhesion disassembly (Dao et al. 2009) and membrane retraction (Maddox and Burridge 2003), is required to release the geometric constraints imposed by cell shape (Versaevel et al. 2012; Lancaster et al. 2013). In addition, this allows nuclear rotation during prophase (Nunes et al. 2020) and provides sufficient space for mitotic spindle assembly to occur without errors (Tse et al. 2012; Lancaster et al. 2013). Interestingly, we observed significant changes in the coordination between cell rounding and NEP in the cancer

cell lines (Fig. 1A-I), which resulted in an impairment of centrosome-nucleus axis

repositioning. We hypothesized that abnormal cell rounding could be responsible for the

defects in centrosome positioning that we observed in U2-OS and MDA-MB-468 cell

lines. However, interfering with cell rounding in RPE-1 cells, either by delaying it or

accelerating it, did not disrupt accurate centrosome positioning. These observations rule

out mitotic cell rounding as the main driver of centrosome positioning in early mitosis

and reinforce the efficiency of centrosome-nuclear axis orientation in RPE-1 cells. In

addition, they also suggest that the cues instructing centrosome positioning emanate

from the nucleus. Using the nucleus as a positional cue during early mitosis has

significant advantages. This would allow centrosomes to orient correctly under

conditions where external cues are mostly absent, due to the disassembly of adhesion

complexes in late G2 (Dao et al. 2009; Matthews et al. 2012) and before the cortical

loading of the LGN-G□1-NuMa complex, which occurs only in prometaphase (Kiyomitsu

and Cheeseman 2012; Kotak et al. 2012). In addition, this configuration would also

enable the efficient assembly of a spindle scaffold (Nunes et al. 2020), ensuring a faster

capture of kinetochores and mitotic progression (Kaseda et al. 2012; Silkworth et al.

2012; Nunes et al. 2020).

Many nuclear components could serve as potential candidates to influence centrosome

behaviour. The LINC complex, due to its localization bridging the nucleus and

cytoplasm, is ideally placed to perform this function. Accordingly, it is involved in

centrosome-nucleus tethering and nuclear migration in *C. elegans* (Fridolfsson and

Starr 2010) and myotubes (Cadot et al. 2012; Wilson and Holzbaur 2012), and was also

shown to affect multiple aspects of mitotic progression (Magidson et al. 2011; Booth et

al. 2019; Stiff et al. 2020; Belaadi et al. 2022). However, the molecular mechanism

behind LINC complex-mediated centrosome positioning during the early stages of

mitosis remained unclear. One likely possibility is that, during late G2, the LINC complex

could be directly involved in the recruitment of dynein to the NE. It is well established

that during this stage, two parallel and independent nucleoporin-mediated pathways

regulate dynein NE loading (Hu et al. 2013). Upon phosphorylation by CDK1 (Baffet et

al. 2015), the nucleoporin RanBP2 binds to BicD2, leading to dynein recruitment

(Splinter et al. 2010; Gallisà-Suñé et al. 2023). Additionally, Nup133 recruits CENP-F,

which then binds NudE/NudEL to load dynein on the NE (Bolhy et al. 2011). Once at the

NE, dynein generates pulling forces on microtubules which results in centrosomes

tethering to the nucleus, aiding centrosome separation (Raaijmakers et al. 2012) and

facilitating NEP (Beaudouin et al. 2002; Salina et al. 2002). Here, we show that in

untransformed RPE-1 cells, the LINC complex acts during late G2 to assist in NE-

dynein loading (Fig. 5) and provide spatial cues for centrosome positioning (Figs. 4 and

5), in parallel with the NPC-mediated pathways. These observations fit nicely with a

previous report showing a role for the LINC complex in centrosome movement during

early mitosis (Stiff et al. 2020). In addition, LINC complex components SUN1 and

SUN2, which are located on the inner nuclear membrane, were also shown to interfere

with spindle assembly by delaying the removal of membranes from chromatin (Turgay

et al. 2014; Belaadi et al. 2022). Together with our results, these observations indicate

that the LINC complex acts on multiple levels during early spindle assembly. By

assisting in the recruitment of NE-dynein, it ensures the accurate positioning of

centrosomes on the shortest nuclear axis, to allow efficient assembly of the mitotic

spindle. In line with this hypothesis, we and others have shown that disruption of the

LINC complex, while unable to block mitotic entry, induces a severe delay in this

process by decreasing the rate of cyclin B1 nuclear accumulation (Dantas et al. 2022)

and interfering with spindle assembly efficiency (Turgay et al. 2014; Booth et al. 2019;

Stiff et al. 2020). In parallel, by facilitating the removal of membranes from chromatin

(Turgay et al. 2014), it also accelerates the capture of kinetochores by microtubules.

Overall, this would result in a more efficient "search and capture" of chromosomes

during early prometaphase which, together with the "ring-like" distribution of

chromosomes (Magidson et al. 2011), ensures a maximum exposure of kinetochores to

microtubules and decreases the probability of generating of erroneous kinetochore-

microtubule attachments (Cimini et al. 2003; Silkworth and Cimini 2012). Notably,

mutations and abnormal expression of LINC complex proteins have been implicated in a

plethora of cancers (Sjöblom et al. 2006; Doherty et al. 2010; Matsumoto et al. 2015),

suggesting a potential role in the maintenance of chromosomal stability. However,

additional work is required to determine the exact molecular nature of the spatial cues

that drive centrosome movement to the shortest nuclear axis. One hypothesis is that

asymmetric localization of force-generating complexes on the NE could bias

centrosome movement to a specific nuclear orientation. Accordingly, we observed an

accumulation of SUN proteins in nuclear areas between the separating centrosomes, in

a microtubule-dependent manner (Fig. 4). One alternative hypothesis is that

centrosomes generate pushing forces on the nucleus, sufficient to deform it and create

a shortest axis. If so, then the LINC complex would be necessary to ensure the timely

loading of dynein on the NE, so that centrosomes could tether to the nucleus and drive

its deformation. Indeed, centrosome-mediated NE invaginations were previously

reported to occur during the G2-M transition (Georgatos et al. 1997; Beaudouin et al.

2002; Salina et al. 2002; Turgay et al. 2014) and help in NEP. Overall, we propose a

model (Fig. 6) in which LINC complex-mediated loading of dynein at the NE dictates

centrosome positioning at the shortest nuclear axis upon NEP and this is required to

ensure an efficient spindle assembly in human cells.

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Author contributions:

J.T.L. performed experimental work, analysed data, prepared figures and wrote the

manuscript. A.J.P. developed the computational tool to measure fluorescence intensity

at the NE and wrote the manuscript. J.G.F. provided the conceptual framework,

prepared figures, wrote the manuscript and provided funding.

Declaration of interests:

The authors declare no competing interests.

Figure Legends:

Figure 1 – Chromosomally stable, near-diploid cells efficiently separate and

position their centrosomes at the shortest nuclear axis

(A) Representative frames from a movie of a near-diploid, untransformed RPE-1 cell

(left panel) and chromosomally unstable U2-OS (middle panel) and MDA-MB-486 (right

panel) cancer cells, stably expressing H2B-GFP and RFP-tubulin, seeded on a 10µm

wide-micropatterned line, showing centrosome movement and the overall cellular

reorganisation in preparation for mitotic entry. Time is in sec and time zero corresponds

to NEP. Scale bar = 10µm. **(B)** Quantification of cell membrane eccentricity (orange)

and the angle between the longest cell axis and longest nuclear axis (angle cell-

nucleus; gray), of RPE-1 cells during mitotic entry, obtained with our custom-made

MATLAB script. Line represents mean value and shaded area corresponds to SD

(n=33). Dashed line represents the moment of NEP. **(C)** Correlation between

centrosome separation to opposite sides of the nucleus (angle centrosome-centrosome;

x axis) and centrosome positioning relative to the longest nuclear axis (angle

centrosome-nucleus; y axis), at the moment of NEP for RPE-1 cells. Cells that efficiently

separate their centrosomes will present high values of centrosome-centrosome angle,

and therefore locate at the right half of the graph. Cells that correctly position their

centrosomes at the shortest nuclear axis will cluster at the upper half of the graph. **(D)**

Polar plot quantifying centrosome positioning relative to the longest nuclear axis at NEP

for RPE-1 cells. **(E)** Quantification of cell membrane eccentricity (green; ****p<0.001)

and angle cell-nucleus (gray; ****p<0.0001) for U2-OS cells (n=31). **(F)** Correlation

between the angle centrosome-centrosome (*p=0.036) and the angle centrosome-

nucleus for U2-OS cells. **(G)** Polar plot quantifying centrosome positioning relative to the

longest nuclear axis at NEP for U2-OS cells (*p= 0.022). **(H)** Quantifications of cell

membrane eccentricity (pink; ****p<0.0001) and angle cell-nucleus (gray; * p=0.011) for

MDA-MB-468 cells (n=32). **(I)** Correlation between the angle centrosome-centrosome

(****p<0.001) and the angle centrosome-nucleus, for MDA-MB-468 cells. **(J)** Polar plot

quantifying centrosome positioning relative to the longest nuclear axis at NEP for these

MDA-MB-468 cells (**p=0.028).

Figure 2 - Cell rounding status does not influence centrosome positioning in RPE-1 cells

Representative frames from a movie of an RPE-1 cell stably expressing H2B-GFP and RFP-tubulin, seeded on a 10µm wide-micropatterned line, treated with **(A)** DMSO and **(B)** Y-27632, showing centrosome movement. Yellow arrowheads indicate centrosome position. Correlation between centrosome separation (angle centrosome-centrosome; x axis) and centrosome positioning (angle centrosome-nucleus; y axis;), at the moment of NEP, for DMSO-treated (**C**; n=28) or Y-27632-treated RPE-1 cells (**D**; n=18). Polar plot quantifying centrosome positioning relative to the longest nuclear axis at NEP for these RPE-1 cells treated with DMSO (**E**) or Y-27632 (**F**; p=0.291). Quantification of cell membrane eccentricity of DMSO-treated cells (**G**; gray) and Y-27632-treated cells (orange; ****p<0.001) or mock transfected (**H**; Mock; gray; n=25) and Rap1* transfected cells (orange; n=31; ****p<0.001). Representative frames from movies of mock (**I**) and Rap1* (**J**) transfected RPE-1 cells, stably expressing H2B-GFP and RFP-tubulin, seeded on a 10µm wide-micropatterned line. Correlation between the angle centrosome-centrosome (x axis) and the angle centrosome-nucleus (y axis), at the moment of NEP for Mock (**K**; n=26) and Rap1* (**L**; n=31) transfected cells. Polar plot quantifying centrosome positioning relative to the longest nuclear axis at NEP for Mock (**M**) or Rap1* (**N**; p=0.583) transfected RPE-1 cells. (**O**) Frames from a representative movie of a CalyculinA (CalA) treated RPE-1 cell, stably expressing H2B-GFP and RFP-tubulin, seeded on a 10µm wide-micropatterned line. (**P**) Cell membrane eccentricity of CalA-treated cells (orange; n=22; ****p<0.001). (**Q**) Correlation between the angle centrosome-centrosome (x axis) and the angle centrosome-nucleus (y axis) for cells

treated with CalA. (**R**) Polar plot quantifying centrosome positioning relative to the

longest nuclear axis at NEP for cells treated with CalA (p=0.162). For all movies, time is

in sec. and time zero corresponds to NEP. Scale bars, 10μm.

Figure 3 – Nuclear lamina components do not affect centrosome positioning

Representative frames from movies of Mock (**A**) or Lamin A depleted (**B**; siLMNA) RPE-

1 cells at the moment of NEP, stably expressing H2B-GFP and RFP-tubulin. (**C**)

Western blot showing depletion efficiency for these cells. Correlation between the angle

centrosome-centrosome (x axis) and the angle centrosome-nucleus (y axis) at the

moment of NEP, for Mock (**D**; n=28) and Lamin A depleted (**E**; n= 32) cells. Polar plots

quantifying centrosome positioning relative to the longest nuclear axis at NEP for Mock

(**F**) and LMNA depleted RPE-1 cells (**G**; p=0.303). Representative frame of the moment

of NEP from movies of RPE-1 cells stably expressing H2B-GFP and RFP-tubulin (**H**;

control treated with JF647; n=28) or overexpressing HaloTag9-LMNB1 (**I**; LMNB1 OE;

n=19). Correlation between the angle centrosome-centrosome (x axis) and the angle

centrosome-nucleus (y axis; p=0.216) at the moment of NEP, for Control cells (**J**) and

cells overexpressing LMNB1 (**K**). Polar plots quantifying centrosome positioning relative

to the longest nuclear axis at NEP for Control (**L**) and LMNB1 overexpressing RPE-1

cells (**M**; p=0.136). Representative frames of the moment of NEP from movies of

Control (**N**; n=37) or LBR-mCherry overexpressing (**O**; n=41) RPE-1 cells, stably

expressing GFP-tubulin and treated with SiR-DNA, plated on fibronectin. Correlation

between the angle centrosome-centrosome and the angle centrosome-nucleus at the

moment of NEP, for Control (**P**) and LBR overexpressing (**Q**) cells. Polar plots

quantifying centrosome positioning relative to the longest nuclear axis at NEP for

Control (**R**) and LBR overexpressing RPE-1 cells (**S**; p=0.406). For all images, scale

bars = 10µm.

Figure 4 – SUN proteins are required for correct centrosome positioning

(**A**) Representative immunofluorescence images of Control and shSUN1 treated cells,

immunostained for SUN1. (**B**) Representative immunofluorescence images of Control

and shSUN2 treated cells cells, immunostained for SUN2. Note the co-localisation

between tubulin and the SUN proteins in the merged image inset. Representative

immunofluorescence images of Control and shSUN1-treated RPE-1 cells (**C**) or Control

and shSUN2-treated cells (**D**). Nocodozole (Noc) was added to the cells for 10 minutes,

to induce microtubule depolymerisation. Note the decrease in SUN1 and SUN2 staining

between the centrosomes. Representative frames from movies of Control (**E**), shSUN1-

treated (**F**) or shSUN2-treated (**G**) cells, stably expressing H2B-GFP and RFP-tubulin,

seeded on fibronectin, during mitotic entry. Time is in sec. Time zero corresponds to

NEP. Yellow arrows indicate centrosomes position. Correlation between the angle

centrosome-centrosome (x axis) and the angle centrosome-nucleus (y axis) at the

moment of NEP, for Control cells (**H**; n= 33), shSUN1-treated (**I**; n= 33), and shSUN2-

treated (**J**; n= 31) cells. Polar plots quantifying centrosome positioning relative to the

longest nuclear axis at NEP for Control (**K**), shSUN1-treated (**L**; *p=0.0165), and

shSUN2-treated (**M**; * p=0.0175) cells. Yellow arrowheads indicate centrosome

positions. All scale bars, 10µm.

Figure 5 – The LINC complex is required for centrosome positioning on the shortest nuclear axis

(**A**) Representative immunofluorescence images of a ΔPPPL-KASH (top panel) and a DN-KASH (bottom panel) cell, immunostained for nesprin-2 (SYNE-2). Note how expression of DN-KASH displaces nesprin-2 from the NE (yellow arrows), as opposed to expression of ΔPPPL-KASH. Representative frames from movies of Control (**B**; ΔPPPL-KASH) and DN-KASH (**C**) treated cells, stably expressing tubulin-GFP and treated with SiR-DNA, seeded on fibronectin, during mitotic entry. Yellow arrowheads indicate centrosomes position. Polar plots quantifying centrosome positioning relative to the longest nuclear axis at NEP for RPE-1 expressing ΔPPPL-KASH (**D**; n= 30) or DN-KASH cells (**E**; n= 29; *p=0.0237). Correlation between the angle centrosome-centrosome (x axis) and the angle centrosome-nucleus (y axis) at the moment of NEP for Control (**F**; ΔPPPL-KASH) or DN-KASH expressing (**G**) cells. (**H**) Representative frame from a movie of a DN-KASH expressing cell, stably expressing Tubulin-GFP and treated with SiR-DNA, highlighting centrosome detachment from the NE (white arrowheads). (**I**) Quantification of centrosome displacement from the NE during mitotic entry for ΔPPPL-KASH or DN-KASH expressing cells before (-300 sec) and at NEP. (**J**) Representative immunofluorescence images of control (top panel), ΔPPPL-KASH (middle panel) or DN-KASH (bottom panel) cells, labelled for the dynein adaptor, dynactin1. Please note the decreased dynactin1 signal at the NE of DN-KASH expressing cells, when compared to controls or ΔPPPL-KASH cells (yellow arrowheads). Red arrowheads indicate centrosomes positioned above and beneath the

nucleus (lateral projections). Quantification of the normalized fluorescence intensity

signal of dynactin 1 signal on the NE (**K**; ***p<0.001) and cytoplasm (**L**; p=0.079) of

ΔPPPL-KASH (n= 36) or DN-KASH (n= 35) cells. Time is in sec and time zero

corresponds to NEP. Scale bars, 10µm.

Figure 6 - Proposed model for LINC complex-dependent centrosome positioning

(A) In normal conditions, the LINC complex allows timely loading of dynein on the NE,

leading to correct centrosome positioning. This allows efficient mitotic spindle assembly

and chromosome segregation. (B) Upon LINC complex disruption, loading of dynein on

the NE is delayed, leading to incorrect centrosome positioning. Consequently, mitotic

spindle assembly is perturbed, which could result in chromosomal instability (CIN),

under the appropriate genetic background.

Materials and Methods

<u>Cell lines</u>

RPE-1, U2-OS and MDA-MB-468 cell lines were cultured in DMEM (Life Technologies)

supplemented with 10% FBS (Fetal Bovine Serum; Life Technologies) and kept in

culture in a 37ºC humidified incubator with 5% CO_2. For MDA-MB-468 cells, media was

also supplemented with GlutaMAX^{TM} (Life Technologies). RPE parental, RPE H2B-

GFP/mRFP-α-tubulin, U2OS parental, U2OS H2B-GFP/mRFP- α-tubulin and MDA-MB-

468 parental were already available in our lab. RPE-1 GFP-α-tubulin, RPE-1 GFP-α-

tubulin/LBR-mCherry and MDA-MB-468 H2B-GFP/mRFP-α-tubulin cell lines were

generated by transduction with lentiviral vectors containing the respective plasmids

available in our lab – Table 1. For this purpose, we used HEK293T cells at a 50-70%

confluence that were co-transfected with lentiviral packaging vectors (16.6μg of Pax2,

5.6μg of pMD2 and 22.3μg of the plasmid of interest), using 30μL of Lipofectamin 2000

(Life Technologies). Approximately 48 hours after transfection, the virus-containing

supernatant was collected, filtered, and stored at -80ºC. Cells were infected with the

collected virus together with polybrene (1:1000) in standard culture media for 24h.

Some days after the infection, the cells expressing the fluorescent tags were isolated by

fluorescence activated cell sorting (FACS; FACS Aria II).

RPE-1   H2B-GFP/mRFP-α-tubulin/shSUN1   and   RPE-1   H2B-GFP/mRFP-α-

tubulin/shSUN2 were also generated by infecting cells, using commercially available

lentiviral vectors encoding the desired shRNAs (MISSION® shRNA, Sigma-Aldrich;

shSUN1 - TRCN0000133901 - Target Sequence: CAGATACACTGCATCATCTTT;

shSUN2 - TRCN0000141958 - Target Sequence: GCAAGACTCAGAAGACCTCT).

Cells were then selected with puromycin (20μg/mL; Merck Millipore) for 7 days. RPE-1

cells expressing the KASH constructs were generated via lentiviral infection. RPE-1

GFP-α-tubulin cells were infected with viruses containing the mCherry-DN-KASH or

mCherry-DN-KASHΔPPPL plasmids, as described above. Doxycycline (5µg/ml; Fischer

Scientific) was added for 24h to the culture media to stimulate the expression of the

different KASH fusion proteins. After this period, the cells expressing the fluorescent

tags were isolated by FACS and placed back in normal media for expansion. Addition of

doxycycline was performed again 24 hours before imaging. RPE-1 H2B-GFP/mRFP-α-

tubulin/Halo-Tag9-LaminB1 cell line was generated by transiently transfecting a

HaloTag9-LaminB1 plasmid (gift from Tom Misteli) using Lipofectamin 2000 (Life

Technologies). Specifically, 5µL of Lipofectamin 2000 and 0.6µg of HaloTag9-LaminB1

plasmid were diluted separated and incubated in OPTIMEM (Alfagene) for 30 min. The

mixture was then added to confluent cells cultured and incubated for 6h in reduced

serum medium (DMEM with 5% FBS). Cells were selected using 400µg/mL of G418

(Gibco, Life Technologies) for 14 days.

<u>Drug treatments</u>

To visualise DNA, cells were incubated for at least 1 hour with SiR-DNA (Spirochrome),

at a final concentration of 10nM, for a maximum of 4 hours of imaging. To visualise

HaloTag9 fluorescence, Janelia Fluor (JF) Ligand-647 (Promega) was added to the

imaging media at a final concentration of 75nM. To affect cell rounding, a ROCK

inhibitor (Y-27632) was used at 20µM (Sigma-Aldrich) and cells were incubated with the

drug 30-60 minutes prior to imaging. Calyculin-A (CalA, Abcam) was added to the cells

during the imaging, at 20µM for RPE-1 cells and 50µM for U2-OS. To perturb

microtubules, nocodazole (Noc, Sigma-Aldrich) was used at 3.3μM. Control cells were

treated with the corresponding volume of DMSO (Sigma-Aldrich).

Transfections

Cells were transfected with the plasmid pRK5-Rap1[Q63E] plasmid (Rap1*; a gift from

Jean de Gunzburg) for 48 hours as described before for plasmid transfections. Control

cells were transfected with Lipofectamin 2000 (Invitrogen) only, in the same conditions.

To deplete LaminA from RPE-1 cells were transfected with small interfering RNAs

(siRNAs) using Lipofectamin RNAi Max (Life Technologies). Specifically, 5μL of

Lipofectamin RNAi Max and 20nM of each siRNA were diluted separately, and then

incubated in OPTIMEM (Alfagene) for 30 min. The mixture was then added to confluent

cells cultured and incubated for 6h in reduced serum medium (DMEM with 5% FBS).

Commercial ON-TARGETplus SMARTpool siRNAis (Dharmacon) were used.

Commercial ON-TARGETplus SMARTpool nontargeting siRNAs and mock

transfections were used as controls. Cells were analysed 72h after transfection and

protein depletion efficiency verified by immunoblotting.

Western Blotting

Cell extracts were collected after trypsinisation and centrifuged at 1200rpm for 5min,

washed in Phosphate Buffered Saline (PBS) twice and resuspended in 30-50μL of lysis

buffer (50mM Tris-HCl pH7.4, 150mM NaCl, 1mM EGTA, 0.5% NP-40, 0.1% Triton X-

100), 1:50 protease inhibitor (Complete Tablets EASYpack; 04693116001; Roche),

1:100 Phenylmethylsulfonyl fluoride (PMSF). Cells were kept on ice for 30 minutes, then

flash frozen in liquid nitrogen twice. DNA was pelleted after centrifugation at 14,000 rpm

for 8min at 4°C, the supernatant was collected, and protein concentration determined

using the Bradford protein assay (Bio-Rad). Proteins were run on a 10% SDS-PAGE gel

(30μg/lane) and transferred using a semi-dry blotting system (Trans-Blot Turbo system,

Bio-Rad) for 10 minutes at 25V, with constant amperage. Next, the membranes were

blocked with 5% milk in PBS with 0.05% Tween-20 (PBS-T) for 1h, at room temperature

(RT). The primary antibodies used were anti-LaminA (C-terminal; 1:1000; L1293;

Sigma-Aldrich), anti-SUN1 (1:500; MABT892; Merck Millipore), anti-SUN2 (1:500;

MABT880; Merck Millipore), anti-GAPDH (1:20000; 60004-1-Ig; Proteintech), anti-β-

tubulin (1:5000; Ab6046; Abcam). All primary antibodies were incubated overnight at

4°C with shaking. After three washes in PBS-T, the membranes were incubated with the

secondary antibody for 1h, at RT. The secondary antibodies used were anti-mouse-

HRP and anti-rabbit-HRP, at 1:5000. After three washes with PBS-T, the detection was

performed with Clarity Western ECL Substrate (Bio-Rad). Acquisition of blots was

performed with a Bio-Rad ChemiDoc XRS system using the IMAGE LAB software.

<u>Immunofluorescence</u>

Cells were seeded the day before the experiment in coverslips coated with fibronectin

(25 μg/ml; F1141; Sigma-Aldrich; FBN). When necessary, cells were treated with the

appropriate compounds, and fixed with 4% paraformaldehyde (PFA) in cytoskeleton

buffer (1.25M NaCl, 1M KCl, 125mM Na2HPO4, 250mM KH2PO4, 250mM EGTA,

250mM MgCl2, 250mM PIPES, 500mM Glucose, pH 6.1) for 10 minutes at RT, and

then extracted in PBS with 0.5% Triton-X100 (Sigma-Aldrich) for 5 minutes (or 30

minutes when using the antibody against Dynactin 1). Coverslips were then blocked

using 10% FBS in 0.1% Triton-X100 for 30 minutes, at RT. These coverslips were

afterwards incubated with the following primary antibodies: rabbit anti-SUN1 (1:200;

HPA008346; Sigma-Aldrich), rabbit anti-SUN2 (1:200; HPA001209; Sigma-Aldrich);

mouse anti-Nesprin-2 (1:200; sc-398616; Santa Cruz Biotechnology), mouse α-tubulin

(α-Tubulin B-5-1-2;1:1000; 32-2500; Sigma-Aldrich), rabbit β-tubulin (1:1000; Ab6046;

Abcam); mouse anti-Lamin A+C (1:500; Ab8984; Abcam), rabbit anti-Lamin B1 (1:1000;

ab16048; Abcam), rabbit α-Dynactin 1 (1:200;PA5-21289; Invitrogen), rabbit anti-

Nesprin1 (1:200; PA5-82666; Invitrogen), anti-LBR (1:500; HPA062236, Atlas

antibodies) in blocking solution. Primary antibody incubation was usually performed for

1 hour at RT, except when probing cells with the anti-Nesprin-1, anti-Nesprin2, and anti-

Dynactin 1 antibodies, in which case incubation was completed overnight at 4ºC.

Coverslips were washed with PBS-0.1%Tríton-X three times (5 minutes each) and

incubated with the secondary antibodies (1:2000; Alexa-Fluor conjugated; Invitrogen), at

RT for 1h. When appropriate, DAPI (1μg/mL; Invitrogen) was added to the secondary

antibody mixture to stain DNA. Finally, coverslips were washed three times in PBS with

0.1% Triton-X100 and once in PBS, and sealed on a glass slide using mounting

medium (20nM Tris pH 8, 0.5 N-propyl gallate, 90% glycerol). Images were acquired

using an AxioImager Z1 (63x, Plan oil differential interface contract objective lens,

1.4NA; all from carl Zeiss) which is coupled to a CCD camera (ORCA-R2; Hamamatsu

Photonics) using the Zen software (Carl Zeiss).

<u>Plasmids</u>

Plasmid	Type	Origin
pLKO.1 H2B-GFP	Lentiviral	Addgene
pRRL-mRFP-α-Tubulin	Lentiviral	In house
Rap1*	Transient Expression	Gift from Jean de Gunzburg
α-Tubulin-GFP	Lentiviral	In house
LBR-mCherry	Lentiviral	Gift from Stephen Royle
HaloTag9-LaminB1	Transient Expression	Gift from Tom Misteli
pLKO.1 shSUN1 - puro	Lentiviral	Sigma-Aldrich
pLKO.1 shSUN2 - puro	Lentiviral	Sigma-Aldrich
pinducer 20 DN-KASH	Lentiviral	Addgene #125554
pinducer 20 DN-KASHΔPPPL	Lentiviral	Addgene # 129280

<u>Micropatterning</u>

Micropatterning was performed using a deep UV-light technique to normalise cell shape

and adhesion area, as previously described(Azioune et al. 2009). Glass coverslips

(square 22x22mm, 1.5, VWR; or round 25mm, 1.5, ThermoFisher) were activated with

plasma (Zepto Plasma System, Diener Electronic) for 2 minutes. Following plasma

treatment, coverslips were incubated with 0.2mg/mL PLL(20)-g[3,5]-PEG(2) (SuSoS) in

10 mM HEPES at pH 7.4, for 1 h, at RT. Coverslips were washed three times with

water, and left to dry before being placed on a synthetic quartz photomask (Delta

Mask), previously activated with deep-UV light (PSD-UV, Novascan Technologies) for 5

min, using a 3uL of MilliQ water to seal it to the mask. The coverslips were then

irradiated through the photomask with the UV lamp for 5 min and left to dry before being

incubated with FBN (25 µg/ml; F1141; Sigma-Aldrich), in 100 mM NaHCO3 at pH 8.6,

for 30 minutes, at RT. Whenever possible, 5 µg/ml Alexa 647–conjugated fibrinogen

(ThermoFisher Scientific) was added to the fibronectin mix in order to visualise the

pattern surfaces. Cells were added to the freshly incubated coverslips and allowed to

spread for 15 minutes, before removing excess cells and new culture medium added,

and cells left to fully adhere for another 12-16 hours.

<u>Time lapse microscopy</u>

Cells seeded in patterned or non-patterned surfaces are placed in Leibovitz´s-L15

medium (Life Technologies), supplemented with 10% FBS and Antibiotic-Antimycotic

Solution 100X (AAS; Life Technologies) right before imaging, alongside the

corresponding drugs, where indicated. Live cell imaging experiments were performed

using temperature-controlled Nikon TE2000 microscopes equipped with a modified

Yokogawa CSU-X1 spinning-disk head (Yokogawa Electric), an electro multiplying

iXon+ DU-897 EM-CCD camera (Andor) and a filter wheel. Three laser lines were used

to excite 488nm, 561nm and 647nm and all the experiments were done with immersion

oil using a 60x 1.4NA Plan-Apo DIC (Nikon). Image acquisition was controlled by NIS

Elements Ar software. Images were obtained with 17 z-stacks (0.5μm step) with a 20

second interval when assessing centrosome positioning during mitotic entry.

MATLAB custom algorithm for centrosome tracking

Analysis of centrosome positioning and behaviour during mitotic entry was performed

using a custom-designed MATLAB (The MathWorks Inc, USA; v2018b) script(Castro et

al. 2020) that contains a specialised workflow previously optimised for centrosome

tracking, together with the reconstruction of both cellular and nuclear membranes in a

3D space. A pixel size of $0.176\mu m$ and a z-step of $0.5\mu m$, were taken into consideration.

Error correction methods were employed in cases where the standard automatic

method was unable to correctly detect the two centrosomes and membranes. These

correction methods involved, amongst others, manual centrosome position adjustment

in all 3 coordinates (x, y and z) for each frame, and threshold correction for membrane

reconstruction. From these membrane reconstructions, the algorithm was able to extract

cell and nuclear major axis, as well as cell and nuclear membranes eccentricity and

irregularity levels. From the coordinates obtained for centrosomes and with the nuclear

and cell axis computed, the tool was able to calculate the angle between the two

centrosomes that passed through the centroid of the nucleus (angle centrosome-

centrosome), the angle of the centrosomes axis relative to the long nuclear axis (angle

centrosome-nucleus), as well as the angle formed between the longest cell axis and the

longest nuclear axis, for each frame/timepoint.

Quantification of nuclear solidity

Nuclear solidity was quantified using the shape descriptor plugin from ImageJ. Briefly,

nuclei are outlined using the polygon tool and nuclear area is measured. To calculate

nuclear solidity, the nuclear area is then divided by the corresponding convex hull area.

Irregular nuclei will typically show a lower nuclear solidity value.

<u>Quantitative image analysis of dynactin 1 and LINC complex proteins levels</u>

For the quantification of dynactin 1, nesprin and SUN protein levels at the NE, images

were analysed using ImageJ. A sum projection of three z-slices encompassing the

central region of the nucleus was employed in all measurements. On the sum-projected

image, a segmented line (smoothened by a spline fit) of a defined width (w1) was drawn

along the NE, and the transverse-averaged fluorescence signal (S1), which contains

signal as well as background, was measured. The S1 (transverse average) is directly

retrieved using Ctrl-M or Ctrl-K in ImageJ. A second equivalent measurement (S2) was

done using the same line after increasing its width to w2. While the signal of interest

remains the same in the dilated line, background increases by the factor w2/w1, the

knowledge of which allows retrieval of I(r), the background-corrected profile, via

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$$I(r) = \frac{w_1 w_2}{w_2 - w_1}\left(S_2(r) - S_1(r)\right)$$

Line width w1 should be large enough to fully encompass the signal of interest, while w2

should be at least 20% larger than w1 but small enough to avoid inclusion of extraneous

signal from non-NE sources. In the particular quantification done in this study, the

intensity profile (i.e. the r-dependence) was irrelevant, so I(r) was integrated along the

full length of the curve and divided by the line length (or, equivalently, the line 'area').

<u>Statistical analysis</u>

At least three independent experiments were used for statistical analysis. Sample sizes

and number or replicates are indicated in each figure legend. Normality of the samples

was assessed using the Kolmogorov–Smirnov test. Statistical analysis for multiple

group comparison was performed using a parametric one-way analysis of variance

(ANOVA) when the samples had a normal distribution. Otherwise, multiple group

comparison was done using a nonparametric ANOVA (Kruskal-Wallis). Multiple

comparisons were analyzed using either post-hoc Student-Newman-Keuls (parametric)

or Dunn's (nonparametric) tests. When comparing two experimental groups only, a

parametric t test was used when the sample had a normal distribution, or a

nonparametric Mann–Whitney test was used for samples without normal distribution.

Comparison for multiple time-course datasets was done using an ANOVA Repeated

Measures, when the samples had a normal distribution. Otherwise, group comparison

was done using Repeated Measures ANOVA on Ranks. No power calculations were

used. All statistical analyses were performed using the GraphPad Prism (Dotmatics).

When comparing proportions between 2 populations, a z-score was calculated.

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Supplementary Figure S1 –Workflow and output derived from the custom-designed MATLAB script (Trackosome)

(A) Layout of the interface utilised to automatically track centrosomes, and its various manual correction options - "Correct Centrosome Coordinates". Each rectangle of the progress bar, shown on the lower section of the image, represents a time point in the movie analysed (blue – automatically tracked, grey – manually corrected, yellow – one or both centrosomes slightly out of focus), for this RPE-1 cell (same shown in Figure 1A). Centrosome 1 represented in blue, and centrosome 2 represented in red. **(B)** Representative graph showing the location of each centrosome in time and 3D space (x, y and z). **(C)** Reconstruction of cell membrane (green) and nuclear membrane (yellow) in 3D, as well as centrosome location relative to these two structures (blue and red dots) obtained for one of the time frames of the movie. **(D)** Representative graph displaying the variation in the "angle centrosome-centrosome" over time. This angle is calculated by a vector that links the two centrosomes and intercepts the centroid of the nucleus. **(E)** Representative graph displaying the variation in the "angle cell-nucleus" (alignment of the long cell axis and long nuclear axis; red), "angle centrosome-cell" (alignment of the centrosomes vector with the long cell axis; green) and "angle centrosome-nucleus" (alignment of the centrosomes vector with the long nuclear axis; blue), over time. **(F)** Scheme depicting how the alignment between longest cell axis and longest nuclear axis is calculated. **(G)** Scheme depicting how the alignment between the centrosome pair and the longest nuclear axis is calculated. **(H)** Scheme depicting how centrosome separation is calculated. All calculations are performed using datasets previously processed with Trackosome. **(I)** Representative polar plot that displays the

distribution of centrosomes positioning relative to the longest nuclear axis at the

moment of NEP. Note that an orientation towards 90º corresponds to alignment with the

shortest nuclear axis. **(J)** Representative plot displaying the correlation between

centrosome separation (angle centrosome-centrosome) and positioning on the shortest

nuclear axis (angle centrosome-nucleus) at the moment of NEP. Note that when

centrosomes are on opposite sides of the nucleus and on the shortest nuclear axis, data

points will cluster on the top right corner of the graph (green box). When centrosomes

do not separate, data points will cluster on the bottom left corner (red box).

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Supplementary Figure S2 – External cues do not impact centrosome positioning

on the shortest nuclear axis at NEP

(A) Representative frames of the moment of NEP from movies of Mock or Rap1*

transfected MDA-MB-468 cells, stably expressing H2B-GFP and RFP-tubulin, seeded

on a 10µm wide-micropatterned line. **(B)** Quantification of cell membrane eccentricity of

Mock transfected cells (gray; n= 25) and Rap1* expressing cells (pink; n= 9;

****$p<0.001$). Dashed line represents moment of NEP. Correlation between the angle

centrosome-centrosome (x axis) and the angle centrosome-nucleus (y axis) at the

moment of NEP for Mock **(C)** and Rap1* **(D)** transfected cells. Representative frame of

the moment of NEP from U2-OS cells, stably expressing H2B-GFP and RFP-tubulin,

seeded on a 10µm wide-micropatterned line, treated with DMSO **(E)**, Y-27632 **(F)**,

CalyculinA **(G**; CalA**)**. Quantification of cell membrane eccentricity for DMSO (**H**; gray;

n=32) and Y-27632 treated cells (green; n=32; ****$p<0.001$) or DMSO (**I**; gray) and CalA

treated U2-OS cells (green; n=22; ****$p<0.0001$). Polar plots quantifying centrosome

positioning relative to the longest nuclear axis at NEP for U2-OS cells treated with

DMSO **(J)**, Y-27632 (**K**; p=0.683) and CalA (**L**; p=0.282). **(M)** Correlation between the

angle centrosome-centrosome (x axis) and the angle centrosome-nucleus (y axis) at the

moment of NEP, for cells treated with DMSO (top graph), Y-27632 (middle graph) and

CalA-treated (bottom graph). Representative frame of the moment of NEP from U2-OS

cells, stably expressing H2B-GFP and RFP-tubulin seeded on a 20µm wide-

micropatterned line **(N)** or a non-patterned, fibronectin (FBN)-coated surface **(O)**.

Correlation between the angle centrosome-centrosome and the angle centrosome-

nucleus for cells seeded on 20µm wide-lines (**P**; n=32) or non-patterned FBN-coated

surface (**Q**; n=34). Polar plots quantifying centrosome positioning relative to the longest

nuclear axis at NEP for the cells seeded on 20µm wide-lines (**R**) or non-patterned, FBN-

coated surface (**S**). **(T)** Quantification of cell membrane eccentricity of DMSO treated

cells (gray), cells seeded on 20µm wide-lines (black; ****p<0.001) and non-patterned,

FBN-coated surface (green; ****p<0.001). Scale bars for all images, 10µm.

1156

Supplementary Figure S3 – Nuclear lamina levels are altered in CIN cells

Representative images of RPE-1 (top panel), U2-OS (middle panel) and MDA-MB-468

(bottom panel) cells, immunostained for Lamin A/C **(A)** and LaminB1 **(B)**. **(C)**

Quantification of NE fluorescence intensity of LaminA/C of RPE-1 (n= 60), U2-OS (n=

67; ****p<0.001) and MDA-MB-468 cells (n= 50; n.s. – not significant). **(D)** Quantification

of the NE fluorescence intensity of Lamin B1 of RPE-1 (n= 50), U2-OS (n= 50;

****p<0.001) and MDA-MB-468 cells (n= 51; ****p<0.001). **(E)** Quantification of the ratio

of NE intensity of Lamin A/C:Lamin B1 for each of the cell lines, calculated from the

values obtained in (C) and (D). **(F)** Quantification of the Lamin A/C:Lamin B1 ratio

calculated from expression levels obtained from the online repository DepMap.com. **(G)**

Quantification of nuclear solidity levels for RPE-1, U2-OS (****p<0.001) and MDA-MB-

468 (****p<0.001) cells used in (C). Nuclear solidity was measured in Fiji and is defined

as nucleus area/nucleus convex area. **(H)** Quantification of Lamin B1 (LMNB1) levels in

control and LMNB1 overexpressing cells, using immunofluorescence (****p<0.001). **(I)**

Quantification of LBR expression levels in control and LBR-overexpressing cells, using

immunofluorescence (****p<0.001).

1173

Supplementary Figure S4 - Depletion of SUN1 and SUN2 using shRNA generates

a heterogenous population of cells

(A) Representative images of Control and shSUN1-treated cells, stably expressing

H2B-GFP and RFP-tubulin seeded on FBN and immunostained for SUN1. **(B)** Western

blot to confirm the efficiency of SUN1 depletion in the overall population. **(C)**

Representative images of Control and shSUN2-treated cells, stably expressing H2B-

GFP and RFP-tubulin seeded on FBN, immunostained for SUN2. **(D)** Western blot to

confirm the efficiency of SUN2 depletion in the overall population. Yellow arrows

indicate cells with higher depletion levels. **(E)** Expression of the DPPPL-KASH (top

panel) and DN-KASH (bottom panel) constructs in RPE-1 prophase cells. Yellow arrows

indicate the NE. **(F)** Representative image of a control RPE-1 cell in prophase,

immunostained for Nesprin 1 and Nesprin 2, highlighting their NE localization. For all

images, scale bars represent 10mm. **(G)** Representative immunofluorescence images

from DPPPL-KASH (top panel) and DN-KASH (bottom panel), to highlight LMNB1

localization. **(H)** Quantification of LMNB1 levels between DPPPL-KASH and DN-KASH

(n.s. – not significant).

1190

Supplementary Figure S5 – Analysis of LINC complex components in U2-OS and

MDA-MB-468 cell lines

(A) Representative immunofluorescence images showing the NE localization of nesprin

1 (SYNE1) and nesprin 2 (SYNE2) for RPE-1 (top panel), U2-OS (middle panel) and

MDA-MB-468 (bottom panel) cell lines. Quantification of the levels of SYNE1 **(B)**,

SYNE2 **(C)**, SUN1 **(D)** and SUN2 **(E)** obtained from immunofluorescence images for all

cell lines (****$p < 0.001$; **$p < 0.01$; n.s. – not significant). **(F)** Representative

immunofluorescence images showing the NE localization of dynactin 1 in RPE-1 (top

panel), U2-OS (middle panel) and MDA-MB-468 (bottom panel). **(G)** Quantification of

the levels of dynactin 1 on the NE obtained from immunofluorescence images for all cell

lines (****$p < 0.0001$). Scale bars for all images, 10 mm.

1202

Supplementary Movie S1 – Mitotic entry of an RPE-1 seeded on a line
micropattern

RPE-1 cell expressing histone H2B-GFP (magenta) and tubulin-RFP (gray) seeded on a
10mm wide line fibronectin (FBN) micropattern, showing top and lateral projections.
Time lapse is 20sec.Time is in min:sec and time zero corresponds to NEP. Scale
bar=10mm.

1209

1210 **Supplementary Movie S2 – Mitotic entry of an U2-OS cell seeded on a line**
1211 **micropattern**

U2-OS cell expressing histone H2B-GFP (magenta) and tubulin-RFP (gray) seeded on a 10mm wide line fibronectin (FBN) micropattern, showing top and lateral projections. Time lapse is 20sec. Time is in min:sec and time zero corresponds to NEP. Scale bar=10mm.

Supplementary Movie S3 – Mitotic entry of a MDA-MB-468 cell seeded on a line micropattern

MDA-MB-468 cell expressing histone H2B-GFP (magenta) and tubulin-RFP (gray) seeded on a 10mm wide line fibronectin (FBN) micropattern, showing top and lateral projections. Time lapse is 20sec. Time is in min:sec and time zero corresponds to NEP. Scale bar=10mm.

Supplementary Movie S4 – Mitotic entry of an RPE-1 seeded on a FBN-coated coverslip

RPE-1 cell expressing histone H2B-GFP (magenta) and tubulin-RFP (gray) seeded on non-patterned (FBN) micropattern, showing top and lateral projections. Time lapse is 20sec. Time is in min:sec and time zero corresponds to NEP. Scale bar=10mm.

Supplementary Movie S5 – Mitotic entry of an RPE-1 depleted of SUN1 seeded on a FBN-coated coverslip

RPE-1 cell expressing histone H2B-GFP (magenta) and tubulin-RFP (gray) and treated with shSUN1, seeded on non-patterned (FBN) micropattern, showing top and lateral projections. Time lapse is 20sec. Time is in min:sec and time zero corresponds to NEP. Scale bar=10mm.

Supplementary Movie S6 – Mitotic entry of an RPE-1 expressing DPPPL-KASH seeded on an FBN-coated coverslip

RPE-1 cell expressing histone tubulin-GFP (gray), DPPPL-KASH-mCherry (cyan) and SiR-DNA (magenta) seeded on non-patterned (FBN) micropattern, showing top and lateral projections. Time lapse is 20sec. Time is in min:sec and time zero corresponds to NEP. Scale bar=10mm.

Supplementary Movie S7 – Mitotic entry of an RPE-1 expressing DN-KASH seeded on an FBN-coated coverslip

1246   RPE-1 cell expressing histone tubulin-GFP (gray), DN-KASH-mCherry (cyan) and SiR-
1247   DNA (magenta) seeded on non-patterned (FBN) micropattern, showing top and lateral
1248   projections. Time lapse is 20sec. Time is in min:sec and time zero corresponds to NEP.
1249   Scale bar=10mm.

1250

Figure 1

Figure 2

Figure 3

Figure 4

Figure 5

Figure 6