

REV7/FANCV Binds to CHAMP1 and Promotes Homologous Recombination Repair

Feng Li, Prabha Sarangi, Hanrong Feng, Lisa Moreau, Huy Nguyen, Connor Clairmont, Alan D. D'Andrea

1. Department of Radiation Oncology, Dana-Farber Cancer Institute, Boston, MA, 02215, USA
2. Center for DNA Damage and Repair, Dana-Farber Cancer Institute, Boston, MA, 02215, USA

Corresponding Author:

Alan D. D'Andrea, M.D.
Director: Center for DNA Damage and Repair
The Fuller-American Cancer Society Professor
Harvard Medical School
Chief, Division of Genomic Stability and DNA Repair
Department of Radiation Oncology
Dana-Farber Cancer Institute, HIM 243
450 Brookline Ave.
Boston, MA 02215
617-632-2080
FAX: 617-632-6069
Alan_Dandrea@dfci.harvard.edu

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45 **A critical determinant of DNA repair pathway choice is the HORMA protein REV7, a**
46 **small abundant adaptor which binds to various DNA repair proteins through its C-**
47 **terminal seatbelt domain. The REV7 seatbelt binds to the REV3 polymerase to form the**
48 **Polymerase ζ complex, a positive regulator of translesion synthesis (TLS) repair.**
49 **Alternatively, the REV7 seatbelt binds to SHLD3 in the Shieldin complex, a positive**
50 **regulator of NHEJ repair. Recent studies have identified another novel REV7 seatbelt-**
51 **binding protein, CHAMP1 (Chromosome Alignment-Maintaining Phosphoprotein, though**
52 **its role in DNA repair is unknown. Here, we show that the REV7-CHAMP1 complex**
53 **promotes homologous recombination (HR) repair by sequestering REV7 from the Shieldin**
54 **complex. CHAMP1 competes directly with the SHLD3 subunit of the Shieldin complex for**
55 **a limited pool of C-REV7, thereby inhibiting the REV7-mediated recruitment of the**
56 **SHLD2 and SHLD1 effector subunits to DNA double strand breaks. CHAMP1 thereby**
57 **channels DNA repair away from error-prone NHEJ and towards the competing error-free**
58 **HR pathway. Similarly, CHAMP1 competes with the REV3 component of the POL ζ**
59 **complex, thereby reducing the level of mutagenic TLS repair. CHAMP1 interacts with**
60 **POGZ in a heterochromatin complex further promoting HR repair. Importantly, in**
61 **human tumors, CHAMP1 overexpression promotes HR, confers PARP inhibitor resistance,**
62 **and correlates with poor prognosis. Thus, by binding to either REV3, SHLD3, or**
63 **CHAMP1 through its seatbelt, the REV7 protein can promote either TLS repair, NHEJ**
64 **repair, or HR repair respectively.**

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67 INTRODUCTION

68 REV7 (also known as MAD2L2, MAD2B, or FANCV), is a highly-conserved member of
69 the HORMA family of proteins, named for its three founding members: HOp1, a meiotic
70 chromosome axis factor, REV7, and MAD2, a spindle assembly checkpoint protein (Clairmont
71 and D'Andrea, 2021; de Krijger et al., 2021a). REV7 is an abundant cellular protein and is
72 unique among HORMA proteins, both in its large number of binding partners and in its
73 involvement in multiple distinct pathways. Germline biallelic mutations in the REV7 gene can
74 cause the inherited chromosome instability syndrome, Fanconi Anemia (Bluteau et al., 2016).
75 REV7 adopts the two classic closed and open seatbelt conformations of HORMA proteins, and
76 SHLD3 and REV3 are among its seatbelt dependent binding partners (Clairmont et al., 2020).

77 REV7 is an important determinant of DNA repair pathway choice (Clairmont and
78 D'Andrea, 2021). When closed REV7 (c-REV7) binds to SHLD3, this interaction promotes the
79 assembly of the Shieldin complex (Findlay et al., 2018; Ghezraoui et al., 2018; Gupta et al.,
80 2018; Tomida et al., 2018). The Shieldin complex in turns blocks DSB end resection, promotes
81 reblunting of the resected DSBs, and promotes NHEJ (Dev et al., 2018; Gao et al., 2018; Mirman
82 et al., 2018; Noordermeer et al., 2018). When c-REV7 binds to REV3 in the POL ζ complex, the
83 interaction promotes error-prone Translesion Synthesis (TLS) Repair.

84 The AAA+ ATPase, TRIP13, along with its substrate adaptor p31^{comet}, can open REV7
85 and release SHLD3 or REV3 (Clairmont et al., 2020; Sarangi et al., 2020). Similarly, TRIP13
86 and p31^{comet} are known to open other HORMA proteins, such as MAD2 (Brulotte et al., 2017;
87 Miniowitz-Shemtov et al., 2015; Ye et al., 2015). The mechanism by which REV7 is converted
88 from the inactive open conformation back to the active closed form is less well understood, and

89 it may involve either the binding of another, unknown SBM-containing protein or a new post-
90 translational modification.

91 REV7 has at least one additional demonstrated seatbelt-binding partner, CHAMP1 (also
92 known as C13orf80, CAMP, or ZNF828). CHAMP1 is a little-known but highly conserved zinc
93 finger protein first identified as a REV7 interactor (Itoh et al., 2011). CHAMP1 localizes to
94 chromosomes, recruits REV7 to spindles, and plays a role in kinetochore-microtubule
95 interactions. Disruption of CHAMP1 leads to characteristic defects in chromosome alignment in
96 mitosis. Germline heterozygous mutations in CHAMP1 are associated with a rare syndromic
97 form of intellectual disability in humans (Isidor et al., 2016). Crystallographic analysis of the
98 REV7/CHAMP1 complex (Hara et al., 2017) revealed a strong similarity to the REV7/REV3 and
99 REV7/SHLD3 interaction surface (Hara et al., 2010). Despite the clear role of REV7 in DNA
100 repair pathway choice, little is known about the role of its interactor CHAMP1 in DNA repair.

101 Here, we demonstrate that the interaction of REV7 and CHAMP1 is required for DSB
102 end resection and error-free HR repair. CHAMP1 binds directly to the seatbelt domain of REV7
103 and thereby competes with the binding of SHLD3 and REV3. DNA damage and the ATM
104 kinase promote the closing of the REV7 seatbelt, resulting in the increased interaction of REV7
105 with all three binding partners. High cellular levels of CHAMP1 protein favor HR repair over
106 NHEJ and TLS and are often observed in human tumors with acquired HR proficiency.
107 Moreover, CHAMP1 is the active component of a large, multisubunit heterochromatin complex
108 containing HP1 α , LEDGF, HDGFRP2, and POGZ previously shown to promote HR activity
109 (Baude et al., 2016; Clairmont et al., 2020; Daugaard et al., 2012; Nozawa et al., 2010;
110 Vermeulen et al., 2010). One function of this complex is to sequester REV7 away from other

111 error-prone repair pathways, under specific cellular conditions and at specific regions of the
112 genome.

113

114

115 **RESULTS**

116 **REV7/CHAMP1 Complex promotes Homologous Recombination Repair**

117 In order to determine the possible involvement of CHAMP1 in DNA repair, we knocked
118 down CHAMP1 expression with siRNA in U2OS cells (**Figure 1**). Interestingly, CHAMP1
119 knockdown resulted in a reduction in HR activity, based on the decrease in GFP fluorescence
120 generated by the DR-GFP template versus the EJ5-GFP template (Pierce et al., 1999; Stark et al.,
121 2004) (**Figure 1A, B** and **Figure S1A**). Since an early step in HR repair is double strand break
122 (DSB) end resection (Symington, 2014), we used the SMART assay (Huertas and Cruz-Garcia,
123 2018) to quantify resection. Indeed, two siRNAs to CHAMP1 decreased DSB end-resection
124 (**Figure 1C**). Cells with an HR deficiency have a defect in RAD51 foci assembly and exhibit
125 sensitivity to PARP inhibitors (Bryant et al., 2005; Farmer et al., 2005). Accordingly, RPE-1
126 cells or U2OS cells with a CRISPR-Cas9-mediated knockout of CHAMP1 exhibited reduced
127 RAD51 foci (**Figure 1D**) and were sensitive to the PARP inhibitor, olaparib (**Figure 1E, F** and
128 **Figure S1B-D**). Previous studies have demonstrated that CHAMP1 interacts directly with
129 REV7 (Hara et al., 2017), a known regulator of DNA HR repair (Boersma et al., 2015; Xu et al.,
130 2015). To confirm and extend these findings, we showed that DNA damage with high dose UV
131 radiation activates the binding of CHAMP1 and REV7 and stimulates the colocalization of
132 REV7 and CHAMP1 in nuclear foci (**Figure S1E-G**). Moreover, CHAMP1 promotes the

133 chromatin localization of REV7 (**Figure S1H, I**). Taken together, we reasoned that the DNA
134 damage inducible interaction of CHAMP1 and REV7 might be required for HR repair.

135

136 **DNA damage activates REV7 seatbelt closure and partner protein binding**

137 We next determined the mechanism by which DNA damage activates the closing of the
138 REV7 seatbelt (**Figure 2**). REV7 has a single, highly-conserved TQ site (T103) which is a
139 possible site of DNA damage-inducible, ATM-dependent phosphorylation (**Figure S2A**)
140 (Matsuoka et al., 2007). Interestingly, this TQ site aligns with a negatively-charged amino acid
141 (E105) in the primary sequence of another HORMA protein, MAD2. Moreover, in the closed
142 conformation of MAD2, an electrostatic interaction between E105 and the positively-charged
143 K192, likely contributes to the closing of the MAD2 seatbelt (**Figure S2B**). Similarly, REV7
144 has a K198 residue at the corresponding site. We therefore reasoned that a DNA-damage
145 inducible, ATM-dependent, phosphorylation of T103 of REV7 could account, at least in part, for
146 the DNA-damage inducible closing of REV7 and the binding of proteins with a SBM, such as
147 SHLD3, REV3, and CHAMP1. To test this hypothesis, we initially determined whether DNA
148 damage activates the phosphorylation of REV7 at T103, using an anti-p(S/T)Q antibody (**Figure**
149 **S2C**). Indeed, DNA damage activated the phosphorylation of REV7, and a point mutation of
150 REV7 (T103A) reduced this UV-activated phosphorylation of REV7 *in vitro* (**Figure 2A**) and its
151 chromatin recruitment (**Figure 2B**). Consistent with this, an ATM inhibitor reduced the DNA
152 damage-dependent phosphorylation of REV7, reduced the chromatin recruitment of REV7, and
153 decreased the assembly of REV7 foci (**Figure 2C, D** and **Figure S2D, E**). Similarly, UV
154 damage failed to activate the assembly of nuclear foci of the REV7-T103A mutant protein,
155 confirming that REV7 closing correlates with nuclear foci formation (**Figure S2F**). Unlike wild-

156 type REV7, the REV7-T103A mutant protein failed to reduce RAD51 foci (**Figure S2G, H**) and
157 failed to restore PARP inhibitor sensitivity in REV7(-/-) cells (**Figure S2I, J**). Moreover,
158 knockdown of TRIP13 or p31 resulted in increased binding of CHAMP1 to REV7, while
159 overexpression of TRIP13 reduced this interaction, similarly to our previous findings with the
160 other seatbelt interactors SHLD3 and REV3 (**Figure 2E, F**). The REV7-T103A mutant
161 exhibited reduced binding to either SHLD3, CHAMP1, or REV3 (**Figure 2G-I**). Taken together,
162 DNA damage activates the ATM-dependent phosphorylation of T103 on REV7, thereby
163 promoting the closing of the REV7 seatbelt and the binding of SBM proteins, such as SHLD3
164 and CHAMP1. The TRIP13/p31 complex opens REV7 and releases these binding partners.

165

166 **CHAMP1 increases HR activity by competing with SHLD3 for binding to REV7**

167 REV7 is an abundant cellular protein, and it has several known binding partners (Noordermeer et
168 al., 2018). Some of these binding partners bind to the C-terminal seatbelt domain of REV7,
169 including SHLD3, REV3, and CHAMP1 (Clairmont and D'Andrea, 2021; de Krijger et al.,
170 2021a). We reasoned that these partners might compete for seatbelt binding under different
171 cellular conditions or cell cycle stages. The REV7 seatbelt binding protein, SHLD3, promotes
172 the assembly of the Shieldin Complex (Dev et al., 2018; Ghezraoui et al., 2018; Gupta et al.,
173 2018; Noordermeer et al., 2018), thereby blocking the resection of DSBs, recruiting the
174 CST/Pol α complex (Barazas et al., 2018; Mirman et al., 2018), and promoting blunt end ligation
175 via the NHEJ pathway. The TRIP13 ATPase, along with its binding partner p31^{comet}, opens the
176 seatbelt of REV7 and releases SHLD3 (Clairmont et al., 2020; Sarangi et al., 2020).

177 As CHAMP1 is much more abundant in cells than SHLD3 (**Figure S3A**), we determined
178 whether CHAMP1 regulates REV7 binding to SHLD3. In HEK293T cells, GFP-SHLD3 binds

179 to REV7, and siRNA knockdown of CHAMP1 resulted in increased co-immunoprecipitation of
180 these proteins, demonstrating that CHAMP1 functions as a negative regulator of the Shieldin
181 complex (**Figure 3A, B**). The REV7 seatbelt also binds to REV3, and the REV7/REV3 (POL ζ)
182 complex promotes error-prone Translesion DNA Synthesis (TLS) and enhanced point
183 mutagenesis. We reasoned that CHAMP1 might also sequester REV7 from the REV7/REV3
184 complex and reduce error-prone TLS activity. To test this hypothesis, we generated and
185 expressed a GFP fusion protein containing the seatbelt binding domain of REV3. As predicted,
186 knocking out CHAMP1 resulted in an increased binding of the TLS polymerase subunit REV3 to
187 REV7 in U2OS cells (**Figure 3C, D**). Consistent with this result, CRISPR-Cas9-mediated
188 knockout of CHAMP1 in U2OS cells or RPE-1 cells resulted in increased REV7/REV3 activity,
189 as measured by MMC resistance and reduced MMC-induced chromosome radials (**Figure 3E, F**)
190 and **Figure S3B-D**). The TRIP13/p31 complex promotes the ATP-dependent opening of the
191 REV7/SHLD3 complex and releases SHLD3 (Clairmont et al., 2020). Taken together, these
192 results support a mechanism in which CHAMP1 promotes DSB end resection by sequestering
193 REV7 from SHLD3 and preventing the assembly of the Shieldin complex.

194

195 **The REV7 binding activity of CHAMP1 is required for HR repair but not for proper** 196 **chromosome alignment**

197 In its primary sequence, CHAMP1 has non-overlapping N-ZNF (C2H2-Zn finger
198 domains), SPE (PxxSPExxK motifs), WK (SPxxWKxxP motifs), FPE (FPExxK motifs), and C-
199 ZNF regions (Itoh et al., 2011) (**Figure 4A**). While the CHAMP1-WK region is required for
200 REV7 binding and recruitment of REV7 to spindles, the CHAMP1-FPE region appears to play
201 an independent role in chromosome alignment (Itoh et al., 2011). To confirm and extend these

202 results, we generated two mutant forms of CHAMP1. According to the molecular structure of
203 the REV7/CHAMP1 complex (Hara et al., 2017), the WKPAKPAPS - motif of CHAMP1,
204 corresponding to the known consensus of a REV7 Seatbelt Binding Motif (SBM), interacts
205 directly with the seatbelt domain of REV7 (**Figure 4B**), albeit with distinct amino acid residue
206 interactions compared to the REV7/REV3 or the REV7/SHLD3 interactions. We therefore
207 generated a mutant form of CHAMP1 which is predicted to disrupt this REV7 binding
208 interaction (ie, the W334A/K335A double mutation, referred to as the CHAMP1-2A mutation).
209 We also generated an in-frame deletion in CHAMP1 (del-FPE CHAMP1), previously shown to
210 be defective in the rescue of chromosome abnormalities in CHAMP1^{-/-} cells (Itoh et al., 2011).

211 As predicted, when expressed in RPE1 CHAMP1^{-/-} cells, the CHAMP1-2A mutant
212 failed to bind to REV7, while the del-FPE CHAMP1 mutant was competent for REV7 binding
213 (**Figure 4C**). Indeed, the CHAMP1-2A mutant failed to correct the PARPi sensitivity of in
214 CHAMP1^{-/-} cells, further confirming that REV7 binding and sequestration by CHAMP1 is
215 required for enhancement of HR activity (**Figure 4D**). The failure of CHAMP1-2A to restore
216 PARP inhibitor resistance and to increase MMC sensitivity was confirmed in the U2OS wild-
217 type or CHAMP1^{-/-} cells (**Figure S4A-E**). Interestingly, complementation with the CHAMP1
218 del-FPE mutant yielded PARPi resistance, indicating that the FPE domain is not required for
219 enhancement of HR activity.

220 We next evaluated these two mutant proteins for their ability to correct chromosome
221 misalignment in CHAMP1^{-/-} cells. Consistent with a previous report (Itoh et al., 2011),
222 CRISPR-knockout of CHAMP1 in RPE1 cells results in a severe defect in chromosome
223 alignment (**Figure S4F, G**). The CHAMP1 del-FPE mutant protein failed to complement the
224 chromosome misalignment and the G2/M accumulation of the CHAMP1^{-/-} cells, but the WT

225 CHAMP1 protein or the CHAMP1-2A mutant were functional in these assays (**Figure 4E, F**).
226 Taken together, the WK and FPE domains of CHAMP1 have independent, non-overlapping
227 functions. Moreover, REV7 binding to CHAMP1 is required for HR activity; however, the
228 CHAMP1-mediated recruitment of REV7 to the spindle is not required for the correction of
229 chromosome alignment.

230

231 **CHAMP1 regulates homologous recombination through REV7**

232 CHAMP1 therefore regulates HR activity through its ability to sequester REV7 from the
233 Shieldin complex. Thus, we expect that eliminating CHAMP1 in cells already lacking REV7
234 should not affect HR (**Figure 5**). HR activity can be scored by measuring the level of RAD51
235 foci or pRPA foci, both known to be increased in the setting of HR. As predicted siRNA
236 knockdown of CHAMP1 in wild-type RPE1 cells reduced the HR activity but failed to reduce
237 the HR activity in cells in which REV7 was already knocked out (**Figure 5A-D**). The REV7^{-/-}
238 cells exhibited increased HR activity, as measured by PARP inhibitor resistance (**Figure 5E**),
239 regardless of their CHAMP1 expression level. Consistent with these results, knockdown of
240 CHAMP1 in a SHLD2-deficient cell line, HCC1937, also failed to cause Olaparib sensitivity
241 (**Figure S5A**).

242 To further validate this model, we next sought clinical evidence that CHAMP1
243 expression might affect cancer patient survival (**Figure S5B, C**). We reasoned that human
244 tumors with an underlying defect in an HR pathway might upregulate CHAMP1 as a
245 compensatory mechanism to tolerate their low HR and their replication stress. To test this
246 hypothesis, we correlated the level of CHAMP1 expression in ovarian tumors with patient
247 survival. For patients with tumors with low REV7 expression, the level of expression of

248 CHAMP1 did not affect survival (**Figure S5B**). Thus, consistent with the cellular data, the
249 elevated HR activity in cells with low or absent REV7 expression was unaffected by CHAMP1
250 expression levels. Interestingly, for patients with tumors with high REV7 expression, the level
251 of CHAMP1 expression significantly affected patient survival (**Figure S5C**). The high
252 CHAMP1 expression correlated with a more aggressive tumor and poor patient prognosis,
253 perhaps resulting from the improved HR activity of these tumors. Taken together, the ability of
254 CHAMP1 to enhance HR is directly dependent on the presence of the REV7 protein.

255

256 **CHAMP1 overexpression is common in tumors with underlying HR deficiency and**
257 **correlates with poor cancer patient prognosis**

258 We next sought additional evidence that CHAMP1 upregulation correlates with PARP
259 inhibitor resistance. We used a panel of BRCA1-deficient cell lines with acquired PARPi-
260 resistance, collected through serial selection in increasing concentrations of PARPi (**Figure 6A**)
261 (Farkkila et al., 2021). These cells exhibited multiple independent mechanisms of PARPi
262 resistance, including downregulation of the Shieldin Complex or upregulation of ATR/CHK1
263 pathway activity (Farkkila et al., 2021). Interestingly, one of these PARPi-resistant clones
264 (NA5) exhibited high CHAMP1 protein expression compared to the parental PARPi-sensitive
265 cell line (**Figure S6A**). Knockdown of CHAMP1 in these cells restored PARPi sensitivity
266 (**Figure 6B**). In contrast, knockdown of CHAMP1 in another line (NA1), which has a lower
267 level of CHAMP1, did not restore PARPi sensitivity. Taken together, *BRCA1*-deficient cells can
268 acquire PARPi resistance, at least in part, by upregulating CHAMP1 expression.

269 Additional analysis of clinical databases revealed that, for patients with HR deficient
270 tumors containing a BRCA1 or BRCA2 mutation, a high level of CHAMP1 expression correlates

271 with a worse prognosis (**Figure 6C, D**). This result further suggests that high CHAMP1
272 expression can partially correct the HR deficiency of these tumors, leading to a more aggressive
273 tumor phenotype. Tumors with BRCA2 mutations and presumably HR deficiency exhibited
274 higher baseline levels of CHAMP1 mRNA expression (**Figure S6B**). Consistent with these
275 observations, the level of CHAMP1 mRNA expression in cancer cell lines strongly correlates
276 with the level of CCNE1 mRNA expression (**Figure 6E**). Cells with a high degree of replication
277 stress resulting from CCNE1 amplification may therefore rely on CHAMP1-mediated HR for
278 their survival. Indeed, breast cancer cell lines with high expression of CCNE1 mRNA are more
279 dependent on CHAMP1 for their proliferation and survival (**Figure 6F**).

280

281 **POGZ binds to CHAMP1 and cooperates in HR Repair**

282 Recent studies have shown that CHAMP1 is a subunit of a large multisubunit complex of
283 HP1 α heterochromatin binding proteins. This complex includes HP1 α , POGZ, LEDGF, and
284 HDGFRP2 (Baude et al., 2016; Clairmont et al., 2020; Daugaard et al., 2012; Nozawa et al.,
285 2010; Vermeulen et al., 2010). REV7 coimmunoprecipitates with multiple components of this
286 complex (Noordermeer et al., 2018), further suggesting a functional link with DNA repair
287 regulation. Interestingly, knockdown or knockout of many of the subunits of this complex, such
288 as HP1 α (Soria and Almouzni, 2013), LEDGF (Daugaard et al., 2012) or HDGFRP2 (Baude et
289 al., 2016), similar to the knockdown of CHAMP1, reduces DSB end resection and HR and
290 increases PARP inhibitor sensitivity (Olivieri et al., 2020). To confirm and extend these studies,
291 we next evaluated the POGZ subunit of this complex. Knockout of POGZ in RPE cells, like
292 knockout of CHAMP1, resulted in decreased HR repair, decreased DSB end resection, decreased
293 RAD51 foci, and increased PARP inhibitor sensitivity (**Figure 7A-C and Figure S7A,B**).

294 Moreover, IR-induced DNA damage activated the co-immunoprecipitation of POGZ and
295 CHAMP1 (**Figure 7D**). Knockdown of POGZ reduced the interaction of REV7 and CHAMP1
296 (**Figure 7E**), and POGZ binding to CHAMP1 was independent of REV7 seatbelt binding
297 (**Figure S7C**). Importantly, knockdown of POGZ in CHAMP1(-/-) cells or knockdown CHAMP1
298 in POGZ(-/-) cells resulted in no additional impairment of HR repair or PARP inhibitor
299 sensitivity (**Figure 7F, G**), demonstrating that POGZ and CHAMP1 are epistatic in HR repair.
300 Finally, POGZ expression, like CHAMP1 expression, is increased in many human cancers,
301 consistent with its compensatory role in promoting HR repair (**Figure S7D**). Taken together,
302 these results demonstrate that a CHAMP1-containing multisubunit complex has a functional role
303 in sequestering REV7, preventing its association with SHLD3 in the Shieldin complex, and
304 promoting HR repair locally in heterochromatin.

305

306

307 **DISCUSSION**

308 Our results demonstrate that REV7, through its C-terminal seatbelt, can bind to three
309 different factors, SHLD3, REV3, and CHAMP1, to elicit distinct DNA repair outcomes. The
310 REV7-SHLD3 interaction mediates the assembly and accrual of the Shieldin complex at DSBs to
311 block DSB end resection and channel repair through NHEJ. The REV7-REV3 interaction
312 promotes the Pol ζ Translesion Synthesis (TLS) complex through its interaction with REV1, and
313 this complex bypasses bulky adducts of DNA during replication, thereby promoting mutagenesis.
314 Finally, the REV7-CHAMP1 complex, by sequestering REV7 from REV7-SHLD3 and REV7-
315 REV3 complexes, can promote error-free HR repair and function as a negative regulator of the
316 error-prone NHEJ and TLS repair pathways, respectively. Of the three binding proteins,

317 CHAMP1 is the most abundant, resulting in a trend toward error-free DNA repair. The
318 mechanisms by which cells switch from one REV7 binding complex to another is largely
319 unknown.

320 Although CHAMP1 may have additional, independent roles in HR repair, its
321 sequestration of REV7 appears to be its primary mechanism in HR activity. Indeed, cells with a
322 knockout of REV7, versus cells with a double knockout of REV7 and CHAMP1, have equally
323 high levels of DSB end resection, RAD51 foci, and PARP inhibitor resistance. These results
324 argue for an epistatic relationship of REV7 and CHAMP1 in HR repair.

325 Previous studies indicate that TRIP13/p31^{comet} complex opens REV7 and, like CHAMP1,
326 also reduces the Shieldin complex and promotes DSB end resection and HR repair (Clairmont et
327 al., 2020; de Krijger et al., 2021b). TRIP13 and CHAMP1 appear to be non-epistatic in HR
328 repair, however, since knockdown of TRIP13 in CHAMP1 (-/-) cells results in a further decline
329 in HR repair. Accordingly, a reduction in REV7/SHLD3 levels, by either TRIP13/p31^{comet} or
330 CHAMP expression, appears to result from independent mechanisms for upregulating HR repair.

331 We have shown that DNA damage following ionizing radiation activates the ATM-
332 dependent closing of REV7 and the interaction of REV7 with either SHLD3, REV3, or
333 CHAMP1. How and when REV7 selectively chooses one binding partner versus another is
334 mostly unknown. It will be important to determine whether specific kinds of DNA damage will
335 preferentially activate a specific complex. For instance, IR may preferentially activate the
336 REV7/SHLD3 complex while replication fork perturbants, like hydroxyurea, may activate the
337 REV7/CHAMP1 complex. Also, the choice of a specific REV7 complex may be strongly
338 influenced by either the local organization of the genome, cell cycle cues, or cell type specificity.
339 The specific interaction of REV7 with SHLD3, REV3, or CHAMP1 may also be determined by

340 the TRIP13/p31^{comet} enzyme. While all three complexes are released by TRIP13/p31^{comet}, cells
341 may choose to selectively release one complex or another, depending on specific cellular
342 demands for NHEJ, TLS, or HR, respectively.

343 In addition to its role in the Shieldin complex and upregulation of NHEJ repair, REV7 is
344 also a critical determinant of Translesion DNA Synthesis (TLS repair). Indeed, one of the best
345 known roles of REV7 is its role as the small non-catalytic subunit of the Pol ζ complex. Pol ζ is
346 one of several human polymerases, specialized for synthesizing DNA across lesions in the
347 template strand, a process known as translesion synthesis (TLS). TLS is far more mutagenic than
348 normal replication (Goodman and Woodgate, 2013; Sale, 2013). In particular, DNA POL ζ , in
349 conjunction with its partner, REV1, are responsible for the majority of spontaneous and damage
350 induced mutations during DNA replication (Gibbs et al., 2000; Jansen et al., 2005).

351 Although the mutagenic TLS and NHEJ pathways have historically been viewed as
352 independent processes, their coordinate regulation by REV7 calls for a reevaluation of this
353 relationship. Indeed, there are several important relationships between these processes aside from
354 REV7, and some of these relationships are functional or spatiotemporal. First, in both contexts,
355 the active REV7/REV3 or REV7/SHLD3 complexes promote the activity of rapid mutagenic
356 pathways, in contrast with the slower process of HR repair. Second, both TLS and NHEJ can
357 still play an important role during S-phase when the bulk of DNA repair is carried out HR. Lastly,
358 resection and the HR pathway are well-known to be utilized at stalled replication forks as well as
359 DSBs, raising the possibility that REV7/REV3 and REV7/SHLD3 could act on the same
360 substrate.

361 Finally, additional factors may influence the relative levels of REV7/SHLD3,
362 REV7/REV3, and REV7/CHAMP1 in the cell. First, REV7 may preferentially bind to

363 CHAMP1 in heterochromatic regions of the genome, such as centromeres and telomeres,
364 resulting in higher local levels of HR repair. Second, CHAMP1 may also have a distinct
365 binding affinity for the REV7 seatbelt. Indeed, based on the corresponding crystal structures, the
366 molecular interactions of the REV7 seatbelt with either CHAMP1 or REV3 are distinct (Hara et
367 al., 2010; Hara et al., 2017) and likely to result in distinct binding affinities and off rates. Third,
368 some tumor cells with an underlying genetic deficiency in HR repair, such as a BRCA1 or
369 BRCA2 mutation, have higher level of expression of CHAMP1. Interestingly, this increase in
370 CHAMP1 may provide these cells with a compensatory increase in HR and a higher capacity for
371 tolerating replication stress. Finally, the specific interaction of REV7 with these various binding
372 partners may be highly regulated by post-translational modifications and under distinct cellular
373 conditions. Future studies are needed to further assess the spatial and temporal control of the
374 REV7 interaction with CHAMP1, SHLD3, and REV3.

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376

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384

385

386 **AUTHOR CONTRIBUTIONS**

387 F.L., C.C., P.S., and A.D.D. conceived the study, analyzed the data, and wrote the manuscript.

388 H.F., L.M, and H.N. performed experiments and analyzed the data.

389

390 **DISCLOSURES**

391 A.D. D'Andrea is a consultant/advisory board member for Lilly Oncology, Merck-EMD Serono,

392 Cyteir Therapeutics, Third Rock Ventures, AstraZeneca, Ideaya Inc., and Cedilla Therapeutics

393 Inc. He is also a stockholder in Ideaya Inc., Cedilla Therapeutics Inc., and Cyteir Therapeutics,

394 and reports receiving commercial research grants from Lilly Oncology and Merck-EMD Serono.

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396

397 **FIGURE LEGENDS**

398 **Figure 1. CHAMP1 promotes homologous recombination**

399 **A**, Graph showing the percentage of GFP-positive cells after DR-GFP analysis. U2OS cells were
400 infected with I-SceI adenovirus and knocked down for BRCA1 or CHAMP1 using siRNA. N=3
401 biologically independent experiments. Error bars indicate standard errors, and p values were
402 calculated using two-tailed Student t-test, ***P<0.0001. **B**, Graph showing the percentage of
403 GFP-positive cells after EJ5-GFP analysis. U2OS cells were infected with I-SceI adenovirus and
404 knocked down for 53BP1 or CHAMP1 using siRNA. N=3 biologically independent experiments.
405 Error bars indicate standard errors, and p values were calculated using two-tailed Student t-test,
406 ***P<0.0001, **P<0.001, *P<0.05. **C**, Quantification of resected ssDNA measured by SMART
407 assay in U2OS cells treated by siControl or siRNAs targeting CHAMP1 for 48hrs.
408 Approximately 50 fibers were counted per experiment. Error bars indicate standard errors, and p
409 values were calculated using Student t-test, ***P<0.0001. **D**, (left) Representative images of
410 RAD51 foci formation in wild-type and two CHAMP1 knockout U2OS cell lines 6 hours after
411 5Gy IR treatment. (right) Quantification of >10 RAD51 foci. n=3 biologically independent
412 experiments. ***P < 0.001. Statistical analysis was performed using two-tailed student's t-tests.
413 **E**, 5-day cytotoxicity analysis of wild type and two CHAMP1 knockout RPE1(p53^{-/-}) cell lines
414 treated with various doses of Olaparib; n=3 independent experiments. Wild type versus
415 CHAMP1-KO#1, ***P<0.0001; Wild type versus CHAMP1-KO#2, ***P<0.0001; statistical
416 analysis was performed using two-way ANOVA. **F**, 3-day cytotoxicity analysis of wild type and
417 two CHAMP1 knockout U2OS cell lines treated with various doses of Olaparib. Cell viability
418 were detected by CellTiter-Glo (Promega)n=3 independent experiments. Wild type versus

419 CHAMP1-KO#1, ***P<0.0001; Wild type versus CHAMP1-KO#2, ***P<0.0001; statistical
420 analysis was performed using two-way ANOVA.

421

422 **Figure 2. DNA Damage Activates REV7 seatbelt closure and partner protein binding**

423 **A**, 293T cells were transfected with FLAG-REV7-WT or FLAG-REV7-T103A, and following
424 treatment with/without UV (20J/m²) for 1 hour. The FLAG-immunoprecipitations were detected
425 by western blot using anti-Flag and anti-p-[S/T]Q antibodies. **B**, 293T cells were transfected with
426 FLAG-REV7-WT or FLAG-REV7-T103A, and following treatment with/without UV (20J/m²)
427 as indicated. Western blot showing chromatin fraction of FLAG-REV7-WT and FLAG-REV7-
428 T103A. Histone H3 is used as control for chromatin isolation. **C**, Western blot showing
429 chromatin fraction of REV7 in U2OS treated with DMSO or ATM inhibitor, following IR
430 treatment as indicated. **D**, Schematic of our proposed model showing that the conformational
431 state is regulated by TRIP1-p31 complex and ATM. ATM phosphorylates REV7 at T103 site
432 and promotes the closed form of REV7. The closed REV7 interacts with CHAMP1, SHLD3 and
433 REV3. **E**, Western blot showing GFP-immunoprecipitation of GFP-CHAMP1 in wild-type (WT),
434 *TRIP13*^{-/-} and p31^{-/-} U2OS cells, and the co-immunoprecipitation of endogenous REV7. **F**,
435 Western blot showing GFP-immunoprecipitation of GFP-CHAMP1 in U2OS-vector control (VC)
436 and TRIP13 overexpressed U2OS cells, and the co-immunoprecipitation of endogenous TRIP13
437 and REV7. **G**, 293T cells were co-transfected with GFP-SHLD3 and Flag-REV7 or Flag-REV7-
438 T103A. Western blot showing GFP-immunoprecipitation of GFP-SHLD3, and the co-
439 immunoprecipitation of Flag-REV7 and Flag-REV7-T103A. **H**, Western blot showing Flag-
440 immunoprecipitation of Flag-REV7 wild type and Flag-REV7-T103A mutant, and the co-
441 immunoprecipitation of endogenous CHAMP1. **I**, 293T cells were co-transfected with GFP-

442 tagged fragment of REV3 containing the REV7-binding domain (R3BD) and Flag-REV7 or
443 Flag-REV7-T103A. Western blot showing Flag-immunoprecipitation of Flag-REV7 and Flag-
444 REV7-T103A, and the co-immunoprecipitation of GFP-R3BD. All of the immunoblots are
445 representative of at least two independent experiments.

446

447 **Figure 3. CHAMP1 competes with SHLD3 and REV3 for binding to REV7**

448 **A**, Western blot showing GFP-immunoprecipitation of GFP-SHLD3 in 293T cells, treated with
449 or without siCHAMP1, and the co-immunoprecipitation of endogenous CHAMP1 and REV7. **B**,
450 Quantification of the relative SHLD3-REV7 binding activity from three independent
451 immunoprecipitation western blot shown in A. **C**. Western blot showing GFP-
452 immunoprecipitation of GFP-tagged fragment of REV3 containing the REV7 binding domain
453 (R3BD) in U2OS wild type and U2OS^{CHAMP1^{-/-}} cells, and the co-immunoprecipitation of
454 endogenous CHAMP1 and REV7. **D**, Quantification of the relative REV3-REV7 binding activity
455 from three independent immunoprecipitation western blot shown in C. **E**, A 14 days clonogenic
456 assay of U2OS wild type and two CHAMP1-KO U2OS cell lines, treated with various doses of
457 MMC; n=3 independent experiments. *P<0.05. Statistical analysis was performed using two-way
458 ANOVA. **F**, A 14 days clonogenic assay of RPE1^{p53^{-/-}} and two RPE1^{p53^{-/-}CHAMP1^{-/-}} cell lines,
459 treated with various doses of MMC; n=3 independent experiments. *P<0.05. Statistical analysis
460 was performed using two-way ANOVA.

461

462 **Figure 4. The REV7 binding region of CHAMP1 is required for the HR function but not**
463 **for correction of chromosome misalignment**

464 **A**, (Top) Schematic of CHAMP1 protein showing its various domains and REV7 binding region.
465 (Bottom) Schematic of CHAMP1-Full Length (FL) and two mutants (2A and Δ FPPE). SBM,
466 REV7 seatbelt binding motif. **B**, Structure of the REV7-CHAMP1 complex. REV7 is shown in
467 cyan and blue (seatbelt domain), and the CHAMP1 fragment (residues 331-343) is shown in red.
468 **C**, Western blot showing GFP-immunoprecipitation of GFP-Empty Vector, GFP-CHAMP1
469 wild-type, GFP-CHAMP1-2A mutant or GFP-CHAMP1- Δ FPPE, and the co-immunoprecipitation
470 of endogenous REV7 in 293T cells. **D**, The RPE1^{p53^{-/-}-CHAMP1^{-/-}} cells were transfected with vectors
471 containing GFP-tagged CHAMP1-Full Length (FL) or mutants cDNA for 48 hours. GFP positive
472 cells were sorted by Flow Cytometry. A 14 days clonogenic assay of indicated cell lines treated
473 with various doses of Olaparib; n=3 independent experiments, **P<0.001. Statistical analysis
474 was performed using two-way ANOVA. **E**, Summary of chromosome misalignment in indicated
475 cell lines from D. **F**, Same cell lines from D were fixed with 70% ethanol and stained with
476 propidium iodide. Quantitative analysis of indicated cells in G2/M were shown.

477

478 **Figure 5. CHAMP1 regulates HR through REV7**

479 **A**, Representative images of RAD51 foci formation in wild-type and *REV7*^{-/-} U2OS cells treated
480 with siRNA negative control (siNC) and siCHAMP1, and 6 hours after 5Gy IR treatment. **B**,
481 Quantification of RAD51 in A. More than 10 RAD51 foci were counted. n=3 biologically
482 independent experiments, ***P < 0.0001. Statistical analysis was performed using two-tailed
483 student's t-tests. **C**, Representative images of p-RPA32(S33) foci formation in wild-type and
484 *REV7*^{-/-} U2OS cells treated with siRNA negative control (siNC) and siCHAMP1, and 6 hours
485 after 5 Gy IR treatment. **D**, Quantification of p-RPA32(S33) foci in C. More than 10 RAD51 foci
486 were counted. n=3 biologically independent experiments, ***P < 0.0001. Statistical analysis was

487 performed using two-tailed student's t-tests. **E**, (left) A 14-days clonogenic survival of wild-type
488 and REV7^{-/-} U2OS cells treated with various doses of Olaparib after siControl or siCHAMP1
489 treatment. n=3 independent experiments, **P < 0.001, ***P < 0.0001. Statistical analysis was
490 performed using two-way ANOVA. (right) A cartoon shows that CHAMP1 inhibits REV7 to
491 promote HR.

492

493 **Fig 6. CAMP overexpression is common in tumors with underlying HR deficiency and**
494 **correlates with poor cancer patient prognosis**

495 **A**, Schematic of PARPi-resistant RPE1^{p53^{-/-}BRCA1^{-/-}} cells generation. RPE1^{p53^{-/-}BRCA1^{-/-}} cells (B40)
496 were treated with increasing concentrations of the PARPis niraparib/Olaparib over 3 months, and
497 then isolated by single-cell clones from the niraparib- and Olaparib-resistant pools. **B**, A 14-days
498 clonogenic survival of RPE1^{p53^{-/-}}, RPE1^{p53^{-/-}BRCA1^{-/-}} and niraparib/Olaparib-resistant RPE1^{p53^{-/-}}
499 BRCA1^{-/-} cell clones treated with various doses of Olaparib after siControl or siCHAMP1 treatment.
500 n=3 independent experiments. ***P < 0.0001. Statistical analysis was performed using two-way
501 ANOVA. **C-D**, Kaplan–Meier curves depicting overall survival of patients from TCGA with
502 CHAMP1 expression and wildtype BRCA1 and BRCA2 (**C**), and mutated BRCA1 or BRCA2
503 (**D**). This analysis combines tumors from these TCGA studies: BLCA (blader), BRCA (breast),
504 LUAD (lung), LUSC (lung squamous), and SKCM (skin).
505 **E**, CHAMP1 expression positively correlates with Cyclin E expression. **F**, Breast cancer cells
506 with high expression of CCNE1 are more dependent on CHAMP1 for survival.

507

508 **Figure 7. POGZ is epistatic with CHAMP1 in the Regulation of Homologous**
509 **Recombination**

510 **A**, Graph showing the percentage of GFP-positive cells after DR-GFP analysis. U2OS cells were
511 infected with I-SceI adenovirus and knocked down for BRCA1 or POGZ using siRNA. N=3
512 biologically independent experiments. Error bars indicate standard errors, and p values were
513 calculated using two-tailed Student t-test, ***P<0.0001. **B**, Quantification of resected ssDNA
514 measured by SMART assay in U2OS cells treated by siControl or siRNAs targeting CHAMP1
515 for 48hrs. Approximately 50 fibers were counted per experiment. Error bars indicate standard
516 errors, and p values were calculated using Student t-test, ***P<0.0001. **C**, Quantification of >10
517 RAD51 foci in wild-type and two CHAMP1 knockout U2OS cell lines 6 hours after 5Gy IR
518 treatment. n=3 biologically independent experiments. ***P < 0.001. Statistical analysis was
519 performed using two-tailed student's t-tests. **D**, Western blot showing GFP-immunoprecipitation
520 of GFP-REV7 in HEK293T cells treated with or without irradiation (5Gy), and the co-
521 immunoprecipitation of endogenous CHAMP1 and POGZ. **E**, Western blot showing GFP-
522 immunoprecipitation of GFP-CHAMP1 in HEK293T cells treated with or without siPOGZ, and
523 the co-immunoprecipitation of endogenous CHAMP1 and POGZ. **F**, 3-day cytotoxicity analysis
524 of RPE1^{p53-/-} and RPE1^{p53-/-CHAMP1-/-} cells treated with various doses of Olaparib after 48 hours
525 siControl or siPOGZ treatment. Cell viability were detected by CellTiter-Glo (Promega), n=3
526 independent experiments. Statistical analysis was performed using two-way ANOVA. **G**, 3-day
527 cytotoxicity analysis of RPE1^{p53-/-} and RPE1^{p53-/-POGZ-/-} cells treated with various doses of
528 Olaparib after 48 hours siControl or siCHAMP1 treatment. Cell viability were detected by
529 CellTiter-Glo (Promega), n=3 independent experiments. Statistical analysis was performed using
530 two-way ANOVA. All of the immunoblots are representative of at least two independent
531 experiments.

532

533

534 **Materials and Methods**

535 **Cell culture and transfections**

536 Human U2OS, RPE1-hTERT, HCC1937 and HEK293T cells were cultured in DMEM/F12 +
537 Glutamax (Invitrogen) supplemented with 10% FBS (Sigma) and 1% penicillin-streptomycin
538 (Invitrogen). DNA transfections and siRNA knockdowns were carried out using Lipofectamine
539 LTX (Invitrogen) and RNAiMax (Invitrogen) respectively according to the manufacturer's
540 protocols. The individual siRNAs used are: AllStar negative siControl (1027281); siCHAMP1 #4
541 (SI00973084); siCHAMP1 #8 (SI04282159); siBRCA1 (SI00930510); si53BP1 (SI01456539)
542 were purchased from Qiagen. ON-target Human siPOGZ (L-006953-01-0005) were purchased
543 from Horizon Discovery.

544 **Antibodies and chemicals**

545 Antibodies used in this study were: Abnova H00283489-B01P (C13orf8/CHAMP1, IB, IF),
546 Abcam ab180579 (Mad2L2/REV7, IB, IF), Bethyl Laboratories A302-509A (POGZ, IB, IF),
547 Abcam ab128171 (TRIP13, IB), Cell Signaling 3873 (alpha-Tubulin, IF), Cell Signaling 2187
548 (Phospho-CENP-A, IF), Cell Signaling 3638 (H3, IB), Cell Signaling 2956 (GFP, IB), Cell
549 Signaling 3700 (Actin, IB), Abcam ab70369 (phospho-Kap1-S824, IB), Cell Signaling 6966
550 (Phospho-[S/T]Q, IB), Fisher Scientific NB100544 (RPA2-P-Ser33, IF), Santa Cruz sc-8349
551 (RAD51, IF), Millipore-Sigma F3165 (GAPDH, IB) and Millipore-Sigma F3165 (Flag, IB, IF).
552 Mitomycin C (MMC) was purchased from Sigma and Olaparib was purchased from Selleckchem.

553 **Generation of knockout cell lines with CRISPR-Cas9**

554 CHAMP1 and POGZ guide RNA sequences were cloned into the pSpCas9 BB-2A-GFP (PX458)
555 vector (GenScript). U2OS and RPE1^{p53^{-/-}} cells were transfected with Cas9-gRNA plasmids.
556 After 48 hours GFP positive cells were selected using a BD FACSAria II cell sorter. Single cells

557 from GFP positive pool were cultured for three to four weeks and colonies were screened for
558 knockouts by western blotting using the anti-p31^{comet} antibody (Millipore-Sigma). The guide
559 RNA sequences targeting CHAMP1 in this study were: #1 TCGTAAACCATCAGCACGTT and
560 #2 CCAGAGATCCGTAGTCCAGC. The guide RNA sequences targeting POGZ in this study
561 were: #1 CAGTTTGTTAAGCCGACAGT and #2 TCTGCTGATCGAGTTCTACG.

562 **GFP-based DNA Repair Assays**

563 For DR- and EJ5-GFP reporter assays, U2OS cells carrying the respective GFP expression
564 cassette were transfected with the indicated siRNAs. 24 hours after transfection, cells were
565 infected with or without I-SceI lentivirus. After 48 hours, cells were harvested and detected by
566 flow cytometry. The data was analyzed using the FlowJo software.

567 **Cellular fractionation and immunoblot analysis**

568 Cells were lysed with NP40 buffer (1% NP40, 300 mM NaCl, 0.1 mM EDTA, 50 mM Tris (pH
569 7.5)) supplemented with phosphatase and protease inhibitor cocktail (Roche). Cell lysates were
570 resolved by NuPAGE 4-12% Bis-Tris gels (Invitrogen), and transferred onto nitrocellulose
571 membranes. Membranes were blocked with 5% BSA in TBST and were sequentially incubated
572 with primary and secondary antibodies and detected using chemiluminescence or fluorescence
573 (LI-COR Biosciences). For chromatin extraction, chromatin-bound extracts were got using
574 subcellular protein fractionation kit (Thermo). The band intensities were measured by ImageJ.

575 **Immunoprecipitation**

576 After transfection for 48h, 293T or U2OS cells were then harvested and lysed in NETN lysis
577 buffer with proteinase & phosphatase inhibitor cocktail (Thermo, 1:100) for 30 minutes on ice.
578 They were then incubated with antibody-bead conjugate (Anti-FLAG® M2 Magnetic Beads,
579 Millipore & Sigma or GFP-Trap_A, Chromotek) overnight at 4 °C. Beads were washed four

580 times with NETN buffer and immunoprecipitates were eluted by boiling. Western blots were
581 performed to detect the immunoprecipitates. The band intensities were measured by ImageJ.

582 **Drug sensitivity assays**

583 Cells were transfected with plasmid or siRNA 24h before being plated for colony formation or
584 CellTiter-Glo assays. To assay clonogenic survival, cells were seeded at 500-1000 cells/well in
585 6-well plates in triplicates. Drugs at the shown doses were added after 12 hours and cells were
586 permitted to grow for 14 days. Colony formation was scored by fixing and staining with 0.5%
587 (w/v) crystal violet in 20% methanol. For short term CellTiter-Glo survival assays, cells were
588 plated in 96-well plates at 800-1000 cells/well, and treated with drugs at the indicated
589 concentrations after 12 hours. Three days later, cellular viability was measured using CellTiter-
590 Glo (Promega). Survival at each drug concentration was calculated as a percentage normalized to
591 the corresponding untreated control, for both assays.

592 **Immunofluorescence assays**

593 Cells were plated on glass coverslips in 12-well plates. They were then either left untreated or
594 treated at 20J/m² UV or 5Gy IR. After 1 or 6 hours, they were harvested by pre-extraction with
595 0.5% Triton X-100 for 5 min, followed 4% paraformaldehyde fixation for 10 min at 4 °C. After
596 three PBS washes, blocking was performed with 3% BSA in PBS for 1 hour at room temperature,
597 followed by sequential primary and secondary antibody incubations overnight at 4 °C and 1 hour
598 at room temperature respectively. The coverslips were mounted with DAPI (Vector
599 Laboratories) and captured using a Zeiss AX10 fluorescence microscope and Zen software, and
600 foci were scored. At least 100 cells were counted for each sample.

601 **SMART assay**

602 The SMART DNA fiber assay procedure was performed largely as described previously
603 (Clairmont et al., 2020). In brief, cells were treated with BrdU (sigma) for 24h, and then exposed
604 to X-ray irradiation to induce DSB formation. Cells were collected 6h after irradiation, and
605 embedded in low melting point agarose plugs before lysis with proteinase K overnight at 50°C.
606 The plugs were then washed with TE buffer and digested with agarase (NEB). The sample
607 solution was spread onto silanized coverslips using the FiberComb machine (Genomic Vision).
608 Combed coverslips were blocking with 3% BSA for 30min, and then incubated with anti-BrdU
609 antibody (rat, abcam) overnight at 4°C. After incubation with secondary Alexa-555-labelled goat
610 anti-rat antibodies, the coverslips were washed and mounted with Vectashield mounting medium
611 (Vector laboratories). Images were captured by Zeiss AX10 fluorescence microscope. At least
612 100 fibers were counted per condition. The fiber lengths were measured using imageJ and
613 graphed.

614 **Chromosomal aberration analysis**

615 RPE1^{p53^{-/-}} and RPE1^{p53^{-/-}CHAMP1^{-/-}} cells were incubated with or without 20 ng/ml MMC for 48
616 hours. Cells were treated with 100 ng/ml of colcemid for 2 hours, followed by a hypotonic
617 solution (0.075 M KCl) for 20 min and fixed with 3:1 methanol/acetic acid. After staining with
618 Wright's stain, 50 metaphase spreads were counted for aberrations. The relative number of
619 chromosomal dicentrics and radials was calculated relative to control cells as indicated.

620 **TCGA data acquisition and analysis**

621 The survival analyses of the Cancer Genome Atlas (TCGA) patients were performed using the
622 clinical and RNASeq expression and genomic alteration data of TCGA Pan-Cancer study for 32
623 cancer types downloaded from the cBioPortal for Cancer Genomics (<https://www.cbioportal.org>;
624 retrieved March 2020). For the survival analysis with mRNA expression of CHAMP1

625 (CHAMP1) and REV7 (MAD2L2), for each cancer type, samples were grouped into the low-
626 and high-mRNA expressing groups for CHAMP1 and REV7 based on the expression z-scores of
627 either zero, or less than -0.5 and greater than 0.5. These expression z-scores were computed
628 relative to the diploid samples. Survival analysis was then performed in R for each cancer type
629 to determine whether there was a difference in the overall survival between the two groups,
630 separately for CHAMP1 and REV7, and for REV7 in each of the two CHAMP1 groups. Kaplan-
631 Meier curves were created, and the log-rank test was used to test for a difference in overall
632 survival using the survival package in R. The p values were calculated from the chi-square
633 distribution. The survminer R package was used to estimate median survivals, and to plot the
634 Kaplan-Meier curves. Additionally, Cox proportional hazards regression was performed to
635 estimate the hazard ratio between the low- and the high-mRNA groups for each cancer type.

636 The survival analyses of TCGA patients with CHAMP1 mRNA expression and mutation
637 status of BRCA1 and BRCA2 were performed as follows. A tumor was considered mutated for a
638 gene if it had variants with classifications that were damaging or other non-conserving. The
639 analyses were first performed for each cancer type and independently with mutation status of
640 BRCA1 and BRCA2. Then the cancer types that showed a trend from the results with either gene
641 were selected for the combined analysis. The combined survival analysis with CHAMP1
642 expression and mutation status of BRCA1 and BRCA2 was performed with tumors being
643 considered mutated if they had a mutated status for either BRCA1 or BRCA2. Also, the Cox
644 proportional hazards regression was performed with accounting for the differences between
645 cancer types and between tumor stages.

646 **Cancer cell lines' data acquisition and analysis**

647 The association analyses between cyclin E (CCNE1) expression and CHAMP1 dependency
648 and CHAMP1 expression in cancer cell lines were performed using the expression data from the
649 Cancer Cell Line Encyclopedia (CCLE) project (Ghandi et al., 2019) and the dependency data
650 from the Broad Institute Cancer Dependency Map (DepMap; CRISPR DepMap Public 19Q4
651 dataset) (Meyers et al., 2017). Both datasets were downloaded from the DepMap Portal
652 (<https://depmap.org/portal/>). The RNASeq expression counts were normalized by the TMM
653 (weighted trimmed mean of M-values) method using the edgeR package (Robinson et al., 2010)
654 and transformed into log₂-counts per million (log₂-CPM) values. For each cancer lineage, the
655 low- and high-cyclin E mRNA expressing groups were determined using the median log₂-CPM.
656 The significance of the difference in the CHAMP1 dependency between the low- and high-cyclin
657 E mRNA groups were assessed by the Wilcoxon rank sum test using the ggpubr R package. The
658 correlation between CHAMP1 mRNA expression and cyclin E mRNA expression were
659 performed by the simple linear regression on the log₂-CPM values using the ggpmisc R package.
660 The plots were generated using the ggplot2 package in R.

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Fig 1. REV7/CHAMP1 Complex promotes Homologous Recombination Repair

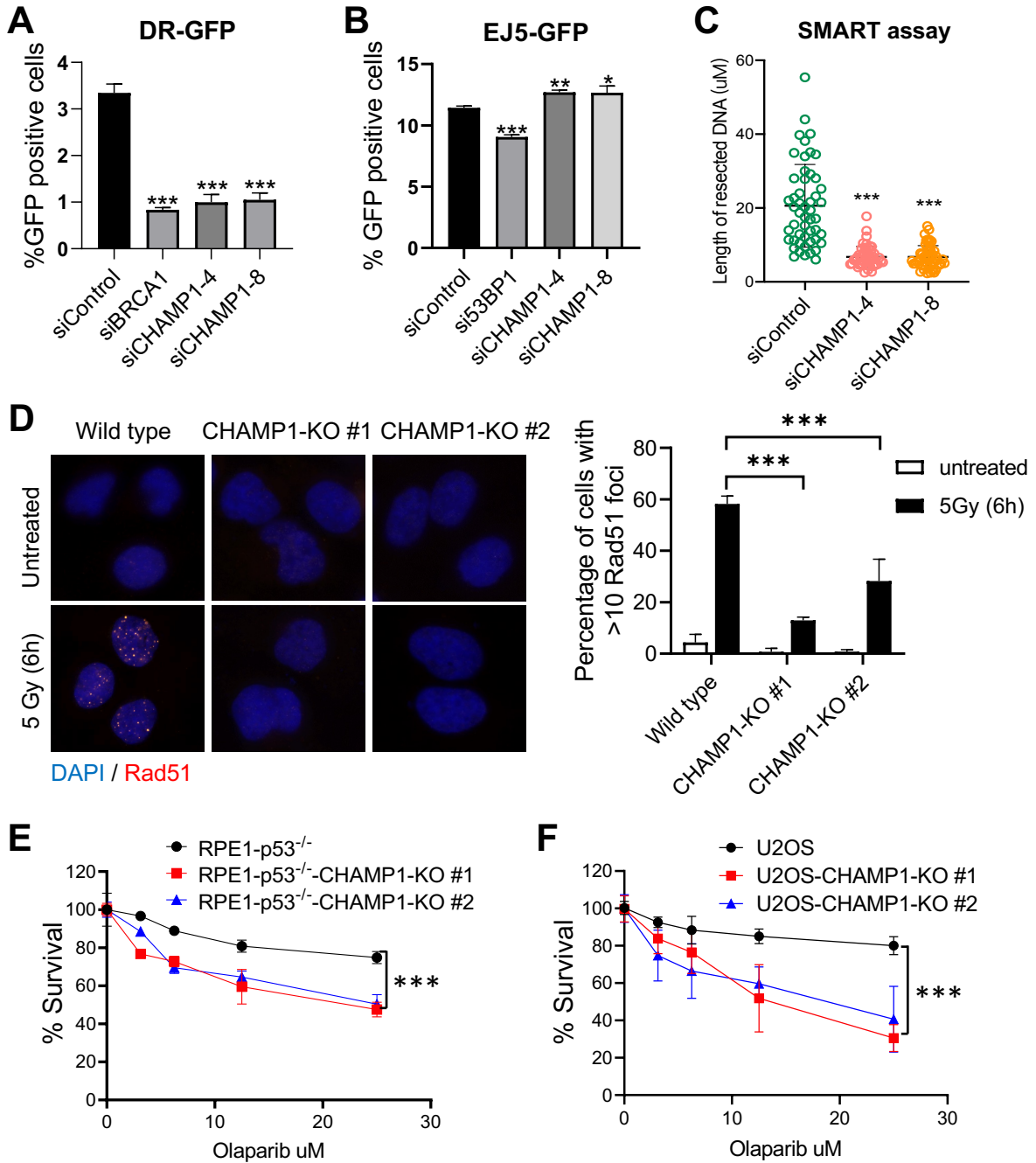


Fig 3. CHAMP1 competes with SHLD3 and REV3 for binding to REV7

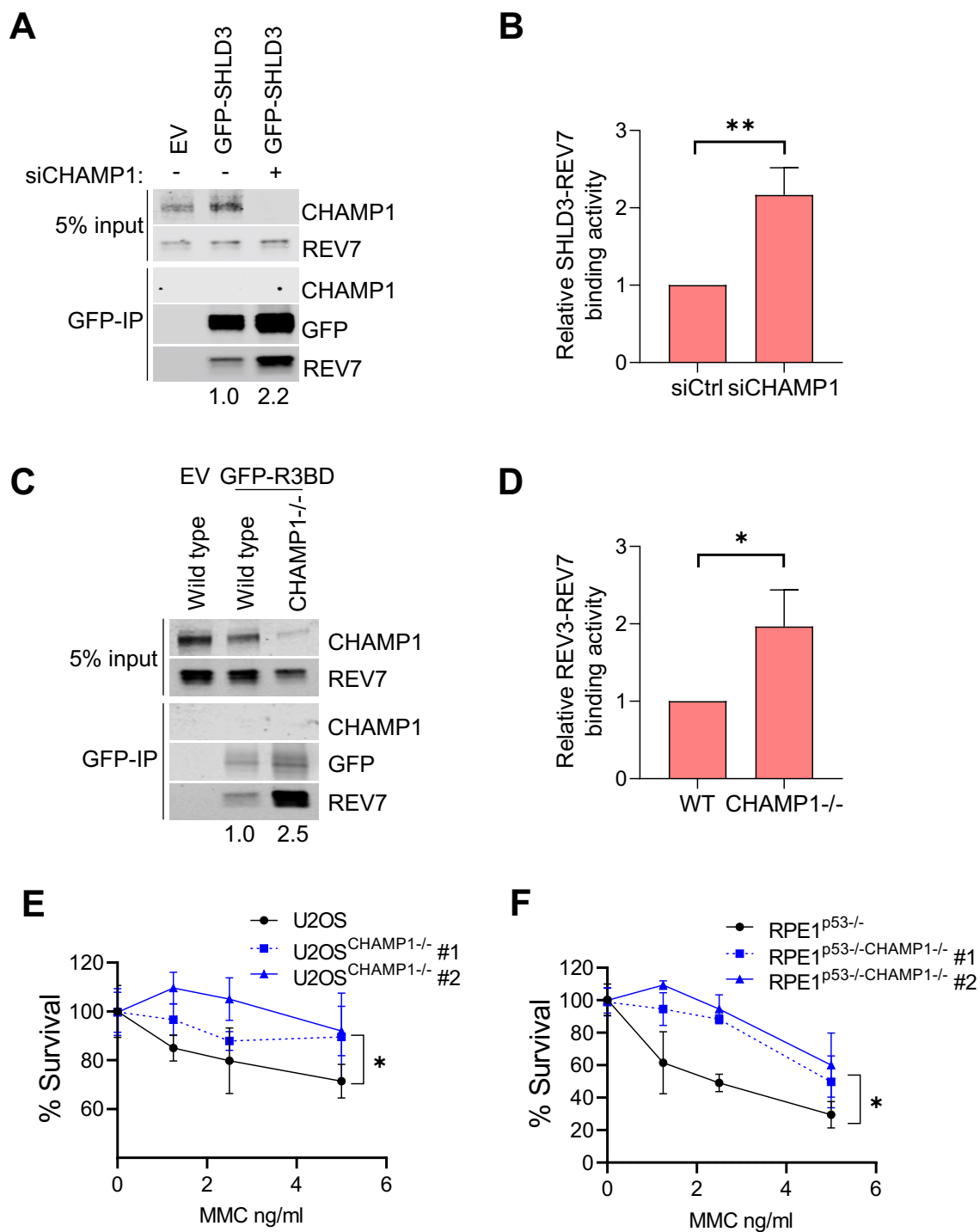


Fig 4. The REV7 binding activity of CHAMP1 is not required for the CHAMP1 chromosome alignment function

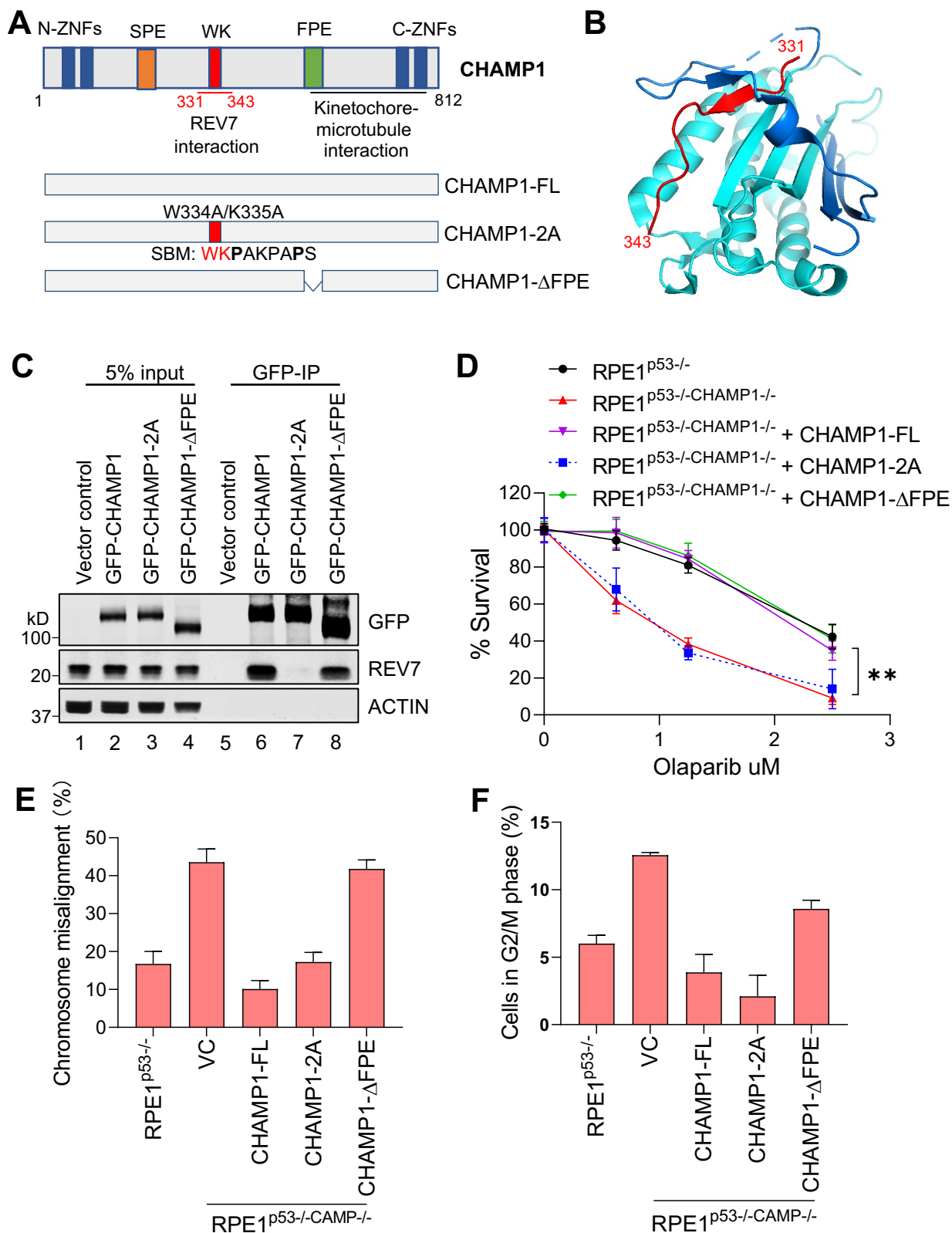


Fig 5. CHAMP1 regulates HR through REV7

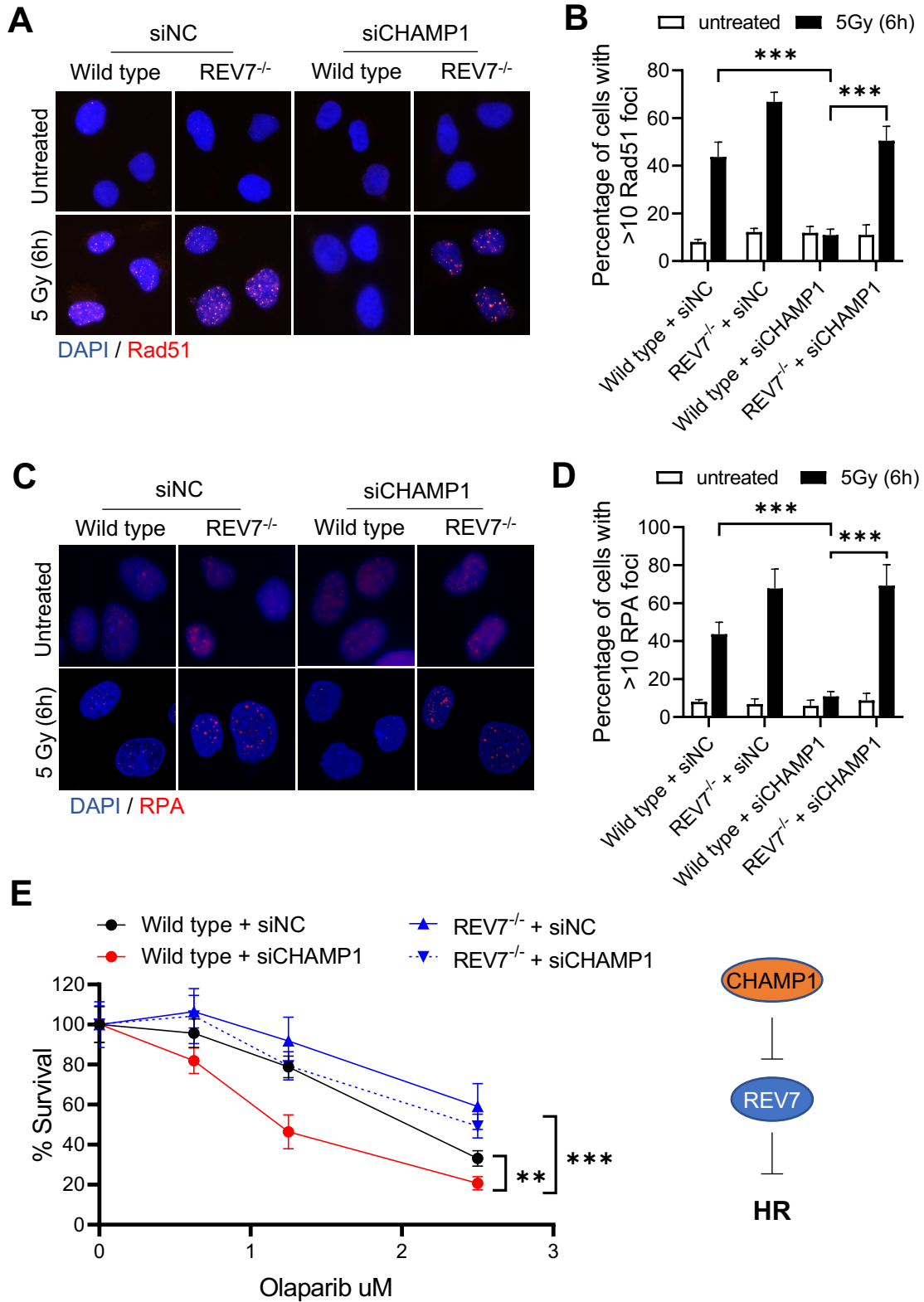


Fig 6. CHAMP1 overexpression is common in tumors with underlying HR deficiency and correlates with poor cancer patient prognosis

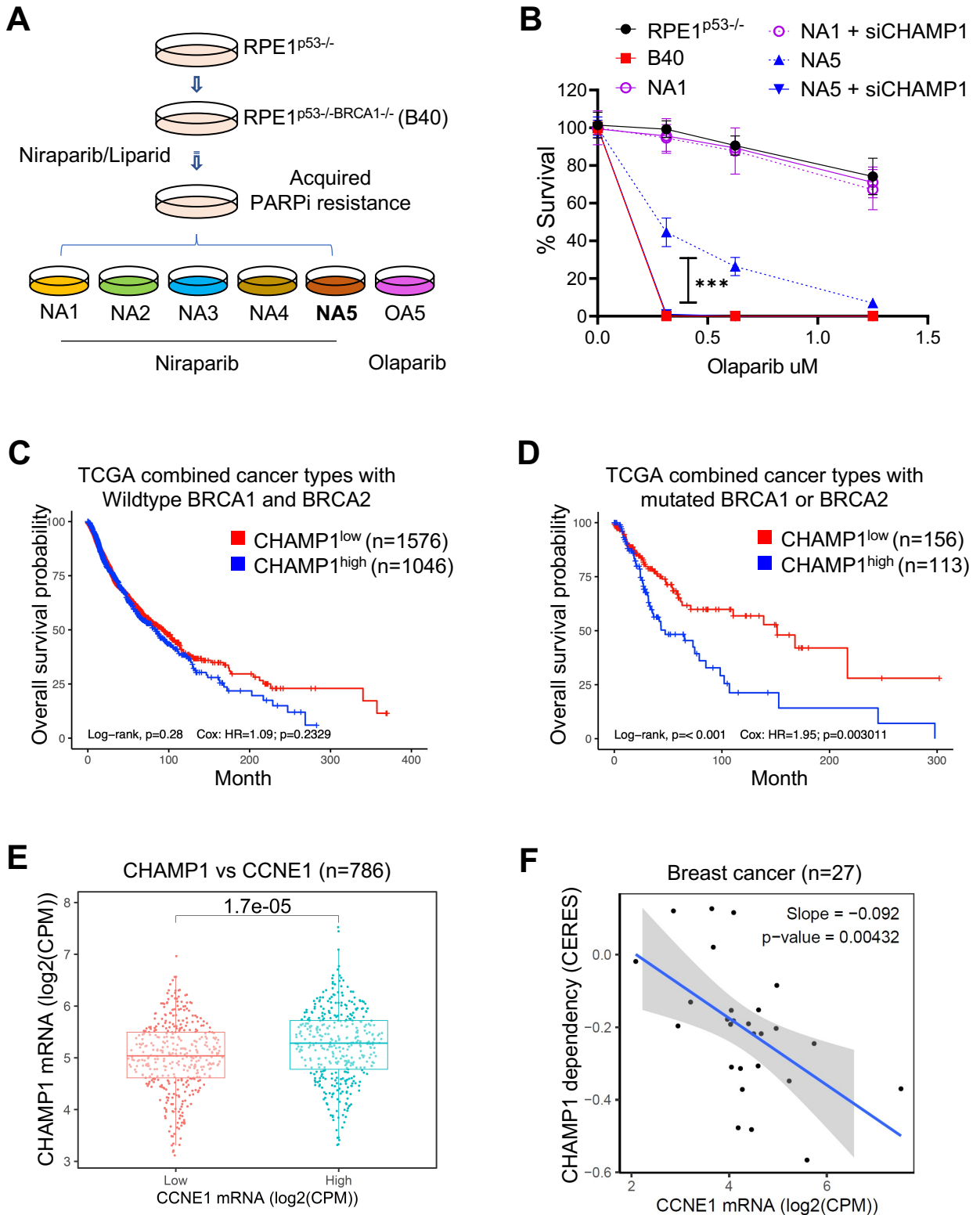


Fig 7. POGZ is epistatic with CHAMP1 in Homologous Recombination

