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1 **Integrity of the short arm of nuclear pore Y-complex**
2 **is required for mouse embryonic stem cell growth**
3 **and differentiation**

4
5
6 **Running title:** Roles of Y-complex Nups in mESCs
7

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23 **Keywords:**

24 Nucleoporin, Seh1, Nup43, Nup85, Mios, mouse embryonic stem cells.

25 **Summary statement**

26 Seh1 and Nup43, although dispensable in pluripotent mouse embryonic stem cells ,
27 are required for normal cell growth, viability upon differentiation, and maintenance
28 of proper NPC density.

29

30 **Abstract**

31 Many cellular processes, ranging from cell division to differentiation, are controlled
32 by nuclear pore complexes (NPCs). However studying contributions of individual NPC
33 subunits to these processes in vertebrates has long been impeded by their
34 complexity and the lack of efficient genetic tools. Here we use genome editing in
35 mouse embryonic stem cells (mESCs) to characterize the role of NPC structural
36 components, focusing on the short arm of the Y-complex that comprises Nup85,
37 Seh1 and Nup43. We show that Seh1 and Nup43, although dispensable in
38 pluripotent mESCs, are required for their normal cell growth rates, their viability
39 upon differentiation, and for the maintenance of proper NPC density. mESCs with an
40 N-terminally truncated Nup85 mutation (in which interaction with Seh1 is greatly
41 impaired) feature a similar reduction of NPC density. However, their proliferation
42 and differentiation are unaltered, indicating that it is the integrity of the Y-complex,
43 rather than the number of NPCs, that is critical to ensure these processes.

44

45 **List of Symbols and Abbreviations used.**

46 mAID: mini Auxin Inducible Degron; mESC: mouse embryonic stem cell ; NE: nuclear
47 envelope; NPC: Nuclear pore complex; Nups: nucleoporins ; n.s.: not significant; SD:
48 standard deviation; *Tigre* locus: *Tightly regulated* locus ; WT: Wild type.

49

49 **INTRODUCTION**

50 Nuclear pore complexes (NPCs) are huge structures embedded in the nuclear
51 envelope (NE). They provide the sole gateways for bidirectional nucleocytoplasmic
52 transport, but also participate in a wide variety of other cellular processes including
53 cell division and gene regulation (reviewed in Buchwalter et al., 2019; Hezwani and
54 Fahrenkrog, 2017). NPCs are composed of ~ 30 distinct proteins (called nucleoporins
55 or Nups), each present in multiple copies and forming a ring with an eightfold
56 rotational symmetry. Among them, structural Nups assemble to form a scaffold that
57 anchors Nups with unfolded domains, cytoplasmic filaments and the nuclear basket
58 (reviewed in Hampoelz et al., 2019; Lin and Hoelz, 2019).

59 The three-dimensional organization of the NPC scaffold has been determined at
60 atomic resolution (reviewed in (Hampoelz et al., 2019; Lin and Hoelz, 2019). It is
61 formed by an inner rim sandwiched by two outer (cytoplasmic and nuclear) rims,
62 whose main component is the evolutionarily-conserved Y-complex. In metazoans,
63 this complex (also named Nup107-160 complex) comprises Nup133, Nup107, Nup96
64 and Sec13 (forming the stem of the Y); Nup160, Nup37 and Elys (building the long
65 arm); and Nup85, Seh1 (also named Seh1l) and Nup43 (forming the short arm)(**Fig.**
66 **1A**) (Loiodice et al., 2004; Rasala et al., 2006; von Appen et al., 2015).

67 Functional studies in vertebrates have shown that the Y-complex is critical for NPC
68 assembly, both after mitosis and during interphase (Doucet et al., 2010; Harel et al.,
69 2003; Walther et al., 2003). Studies in mammalian cells also showed that in mitosis a
70 fraction of the Y-complex localizes at kinetochores (Loiodice et al., 2004; Rasala et
71 al., 2006) where it is required for proper chromosome congression and segregation
72 (Platani et al., 2009; Zuccolo et al., 2007). Because the members of the Y-complex (Y-
73 Nups) are tightly associated throughout the cell cycle (Loiodice et al., 2004; Rabut et
74 al., 2004), they were long anticipated to work as an entity. However, one of its
75 components, Sec13, is also part of the COPII coat complex involved in vesicle
76 budding (Salama et al., 1993). In addition, Sec13 and Seh1 also belong to the
77 unrelated GATOR2 complex, an indirect regulator of the mTORC1 pathway that
78 controls cell growth and proliferation (Bar-Peled et al., 2013), further complicating
79 the study of their function in the context of the Y-complex.

80 In mice, inactivation of most Y-Nups genes (namely *Elys*, *Nup96*, *Nup133*, *Nup85*,
81 *Sec13* and *Seh1*, but not *Nup37*) lead to embryonic lethality (Faria et al., 2006; Liu et
82 al., 2019; Lupu et al., 2008; Moreira et al., 2015; Okita et al., 2004; Terashima et al.,
83 2020; <https://www.mousephenotype.org/data/genes/MGI:1919964>). In particular,
84 *Nup133* was found to be essential for mouse development beyond gastrulation
85 (Lupu et al., 2008). Studies performed in mouse embryonic stem cell (mESCs)
86 showed that *Nup133* is dispensable for cell growth at the pluripotent stage, but is
87 required for mESC differentiation (Lupu et al., 2008). In mESCs, *Nup133* is
88 dispensable for NPC scaffold assembly but required for the proper assembly of the
89 nuclear pore basket (Souquet et al., 2018). However, it is not clear if the role of
90 *Nup133* in NPC basket assembly underlies its functions in cell differentiation.

91 More recently, *Seh1*, which is critical for proper mitotic progression in cancer cell
92 lines (Platani et al., 2018; Platani et al., 2009; Zuccolo et al., 2007), was found to be
93 required for differentiation of oligodendrocyte progenitors (Liu et al., 2019).
94 However, the potential contribution of *Seh1* to cell cycle progression in non-
95 transformed cells and at other stages of cell differentiation needed to be addressed.

96 Here we assessed the requirements for *Seh1* in pluripotent mESCs and upon their
97 differentiation towards neuroectodermal lineage, determined whether these
98 requirements reflect its role in the GATOR2-complex or in the short arm of the Y-
99 complex, and further addressed the specific function of these proteins in NPC
100 integrity. This systematic analysis enabled us to disentangle the processes underlying
101 the contribution of these of these Y-Nups in NPC assembly, nuclear size, cell growth
102 and differentiation.

103

103 **Results**

104 **Seh1 is required for mESC growth and survival upon differentiation**

105 Using CRISPR/Cas9 gene-editing technology we obtained several independent *Seh1*^{-/-}
106 mESC clones (of which three were further examined in this study; see Materials and
107 Methods and Table S2) (**Fig. 1B**). This indicates that Seh1 is dispensable for mESC
108 viability at the pluripotent stage. We noticed however that *Seh1*^{-/-} mESCs formed
109 smaller colonies than did *WT* mESCs (**Fig. 1C**). Consistently, automated cell growth
110 analyses of *Seh1*^{-/-} mESCs showed a clear reduction of cell confluence compared to
111 *WT* (**Fig. 1D**). More strikingly, *Seh1*^{-/-} cells showed a strong impairment in viability
112 from the very early stages of monolayer differentiation towards neuroectodermal
113 lineage and almost no cells were recovered after 5 days (**Fig. 1E and Movies S1-S2**).

114 To verify the specificity of these phenotypes, we next integrated at the permissive
115 *Tigre* locus (Tightly regulated; Zeng et al., 2008) of *Seh1*^{-/-} mESCs a GFP-tagged *Seh1*
116 cDNA expressed under the control of the pCAG promoter. The resulting cell lines
117 (subsequently named “*Rescue*” #1 and #2) expressed GFP-Seh1 at a level comparable
118 to that of the endogenous untagged protein (**Fig. 1B**). We observed a specific
119 enrichment of GFP-Seh1 at nuclear pores in interphase and at kinetochores
120 throughout mitosis (**Fig. 1F**). Most importantly, the growth rate of the *Rescue* cell
121 lines was comparable to that of *WT* cells both at the pluripotent stage (**Fig. 1D**) and
122 upon neuroectodermal differentiation (**Fig. 1E and Movie S3**).

123 To exclude the possibility that phenotypes observed in *Seh1*^{-/-} mESCs at the
124 pluripotent stage could be due to cell adaptation, we also generated cell lines in
125 which endogenous *Seh1* was N-terminally tagged with the 7 kDa mini Auxin Inducible
126 Degron (mAID) sequence, to induce its acute degradation upon auxin addition
127 (Natsume et al., 2016). A GFP tag was also introduced to allow visualization of both
128 the localization and degradation of the resulting GFP-mAID-Seh1 fusion. Upon
129 addition of auxin to *GFP-mAID-Seh1* mESCs, the GFP signal rapidly declined in mitotic
130 cells whereas, as also previously observed in HCT116 cells (Platani et al., 2018), the
131 decay was more progressive in interphasic cells (**Fig. S1 A-D**). While the *GFP-mAID-*
132 *Seh1* clones showed normal cell growth and differentiation properties in control

133 conditions, addition of auxin recapitulated both the cell growth and differentiation
134 defects observed in *Seh1*^{-/-} mESCs (**Fig. S1 E, F**).

135

136 Together these data reveal that the lack of Seh1 specifically causes an impaired cell
137 growth of mESCs at the pluripotent stage and drastically reduced viability upon
138 induction of neuroectodermal differentiation.

139

140 **The altered growth rate of pluripotent *Seh1*^{-/-} mESCs is mainly caused by extended**
141 **interphases.**

142 Seh1 is known to play a role in mitosis in cancer cell lines, in which its depletion
143 causes a delay in mitotic progression associated with chromosome congression and
144 segregation defects (Platani et al., 2018; Platani et al., 2009; Zuccolo et al., 2007).
145 Whether these defects are caused by the mislocalization of the entire Y-complex
146 from kinetochores, as observed in HeLa cells (Platani et al., 2009; Zuccolo et al.,
147 2007) or by the removal of Seh1 alone has recently been questioned (Platani et al.,
148 2018). To study the mitotic role of Seh1 in mESCs, *WT* and *Seh1*^{-/-} cells were
149 transfected with GFP-H2B and imaged for 4-6 hours. Quantification of progression
150 time from prometaphase to anaphase onset showed a ~10 min delay in *Seh1*^{-/-} as
151 compared to *WT* mESCs (from 23.7 ± 10.1 min in *WT* to 32.8 ± 14.5 min in *Seh1*^{-/-}
152 cells; mean±SD) (Fig. S2 A). This delay is clearly milder than the one initially reported
153 upon RNAi-induced depletion of Seh1 in HeLa cells (~45 to 60 min; Platani et al.,
154 2009; Zuccolo et al., 2007) but comparable to the delay recently measured upon
155 conditionally-induced degradation of Seh1 in a HCT116-derived cell line (~12 min;
156 Platani et al., 2018). In *Seh1*^{-/-} or auxin-treated *GFP-mAID-Seh1* mitotic mESCs, the Y-
157 complex (visualized by Nup133 and Nup85) was still properly localized at
158 kinetochores despite the complete lack of Seh1 (**Figs. S1C and S2 B,C**). This indicates
159 that the mitotic delay observed in Seh1-deficient mESCs is not merely caused by the
160 mislocalization of the Y-complex from kinetochores.

161 The 10-minute prolongation of mitosis was however unlikely to explain the cell
162 growth defect of *Seh1*^{-/-} mESCs (**Fig. 1C,D**). We therefore also measured the length of
163 interphase by imaging mCherry-H2B-expressing mESCs during 24-30 hours.

164 Quantification of progression time from the end of one mitosis (set at anaphase
165 onset) to the beginning of the next (set at prometaphase) showed that interphase
166 length is significantly longer in *Seh1*^{-/-} as compared to *WT* mESCs (9.4 ± 2.2 hours in
167 *WT* versus 14.0 ± 4.5 and 14.1 ± 2.1 hours in *Seh1*^{-/-} #1 and #2, respectively; means ±
168 SD) (**Fig. 2A**).

169 To determine if the lengthening of interphase in *Seh1*^{-/-} mESCs was caused by
170 retention in a specific phase of the cell cycle, we analyzed EdU-labelled and DAPI-
171 stained *WT* and *Seh1*^{-/-} mESCs by imaging flow cytometry (**Figs. 2B** and **S2D**). Except
172 for a mild increase in the percentage of the mitotic fraction, this analysis revealed a
173 comparable distribution of the G1, S and G2 phases of the cell cycle between *Seh1*^{-/-}
174 and *WT* mESCs (**Fig. 2B**). Therefore, the altered growth rate of *Seh1*^{-/-} mESCs reflects
175 a lengthening distributed over all phases of the cell cycle.

176

177 **Lack of *Seh1* leads to a decrease of both NPC density and nuclear size**

178 The viability of *Seh1*^{-/-} mESCs at the pluripotent stage and their impaired survival
179 upon differentiation was reminiscent of the phenotype observed upon inactivation
180 of Nup133, another member of the Y-complex (Lupu et al., 2008). Because Nup133
181 loss was recently demonstrated to affect NPC basket assembly (as revealed by lack of
182 TPR staining in about 50% of the NPCs) (Souquet et al., 2018), we decided to
183 examine the impact of *Seh1* inactivation on NPC assembly. We therefore quantified
184 the average fluorescence intensity at the nuclear envelope (NE) of TPR, Nup98 and
185 Nup133 in *WT* and *Seh1*^{-/-} mESCs, using a GFP-tagged cell line for internal reference,
186 as previously reported (Souquet et al., 2018; see Materials and Methods). This
187 analysis revealed a mild but significant reduction (in the range of 20-35%) of the
188 signal of these three nucleoporins in *Seh1*^{-/-} relative to *WT* mESCs (**Fig. 3 A-C**). The
189 fact that the reduced intensity at the NE is not restricted to TPR indicates that, unlike
190 what was previously observed in *Nup133*^{-/-} mESCs, the lack of *Seh1* leads to a
191 decrease in the total number of NPCs rather than alteration of a specific
192 substructure. This defect in NPC density was also observed upon auxin-induced
193 depletion of *Seh1* (**Fig. 3D**) and was largely rescued by stable expression of GFP-*Seh1*
194 (**Fig. 3, A-C**).

195 It was recently proposed that nuclear size is sensitive to NPC density and nuclear
196 import capacity in cultured mammalian cells (Jevtić et al., 2019). The decreased NPC
197 density observed upon *Seh1* inactivation thus prompted us to measure nuclear size
198 in these mutant mESCs. This analysis revealed a ~10% reduction of the nuclear
199 surface in *Seh1*^{-/-} mESCs, a phenotype that was rescued by the GFP-*Seh1* transgene
200 (Fig. 4A). A significant reduction in nuclear size could also be observed in auxin-
201 treated *GFP-mAID-Seh1* mESCs (Fig. 4B).

202 *Seh1*-deficient mESCs thus exhibit several distinct phenotypes: altered cell growth,
203 lethality upon differentiation, reduced NPC density and nuclear size. We next aimed
204 to determine whether these defects were linked to each other and whether they
205 reflected functions of *Seh1* as part of the Y-complex or the GATOR2 complex, or
206 both.

207

208 **Mios is not required for proper cell growth and cell differentiation in mESCs.**

209 Within the GATOR2 complex, *Seh1* directly interacts with Mios (also known as Mio,
210 missing oocyte in *Drosophila* and *Sea4* in budding yeast) (Senger et al., 2011; Bar-
211 Peled et al., 2013; Algret et al., 2014). Our western blot analyses revealed decreased
212 protein levels of Mios in *Seh1*^{-/-} compared to *WT* mESCs (Fig. 5A), a result consistent
213 with studies in other species and cell types (Platani et al., 2018; Platani et al., 2015;
214 Senger et al., 2011). To assess if this reduction in Mios could cause the cell growth
215 and differentiation phenotypes observed in *Seh1*^{-/-} mESCs, we inactivated *Mios* in
216 mESCs via CRISPR/Cas9 (Fig. 5A and Table S2). Immunoprecipitation experiments
217 performed using anti-*Seh1* antibodies revealed that lack of Mios prevents *Seh1*
218 interaction with *Wdr24*, another GATOR2 complex component (Bar-Peled et al.,
219 2013) (Fig. 5B). This points to Mios as being the main direct partner linking *Seh1* to
220 the rest of the GATOR2 complex, a result complementing data previously obtained in
221 budding yeast and *drosophila* (Algret et al., 2014; Dokudovskaya and Rout, 2015; Cai
222 et al., 2016). Analyses of independent *Mios*^{-/-} clones revealed only a minor reduction
223 of cell growth at the pluripotent stage as compared to *WT* mESCs (14±15% decrease
224 in confluence after 48h of growth, while the reduction was 44±14% for *Seh1*^{-/-}
225 mESCs; Fig. 5C). In addition, *Mios*^{-/-} cells underwent differentiation towards the

226 neuroectodermal lineage with a comparable cell density (**Fig. 5D**) and morphology
227 (our unpublished data) as *WT* cells. Finally, quantitative analyses did not reveal any
228 significant alteration in either NPC density or nuclear size in *Mios*^{-/-} as compared to
229 *WT* mESCs (**Fig. 5E, F**).

230 Together these experiments indicate that neither the growth and differentiation
231 defects, nor the altered nuclear pore density and nuclear sizes observed in *Seh1*^{-/-}
232 mESCs can be merely attributed to the decreased levels of Mios.

233

234 **Mutations affecting the short arm of the Y-complex impair NPC assembly, but with** 235 **distinct impacts on cell proliferation and differentiation**

236 Having excluded Mios destabilization as the main cause of the defects of *Seh1*^{-/-}
237 mESCs, we next focused our attention on Seh1's partners localized on the short arm
238 of the Y-complex (**Figs. 1A** and **6A**).

239 We first inactivated *Nup43*, another small β -propeller-folded nucleoporin that is
240 specific to metazoan Y-complexes (Neumann et al., 2010). We obtained viable clones
241 upon CRISPR/Cas9-mediated *Nup43* knockout in mESCs that however displayed
242 impaired proliferation at the pluripotent stage (**Fig. 6B, C**). Although this growth
243 defect was milder than the one observed in pluripotent *Seh1*^{-/-} mESCs, *Nup43*^{-/-}
244 nevertheless underwent drastic cell death upon neuroectodermal differentiation,
245 comparable to that of differentiating *Seh1*^{-/-} cells (**Fig. 6D**). *Nup43*^{-/-} mESCs also
246 displayed a reduced NPC density comparable to that observed in the various *Seh1*^{-/-}
247 mESC lines, as revealed by the reduced intensity of Nup133, Nup98 and TPR labelling
248 at nuclear pores (**Fig. 7A-C**, see also **Fig. 2A-C**). Finally, these cells showed no
249 significant reduction in nuclear size (**Fig. 7D**). Together these data indicate that
250 inactivation of *Nup43* mimics, albeit with a slightly milder impact, most of the
251 phenotypes caused by *Seh1* inactivation.

252 To determine whether these shared phenotypes reflect a function of these Nups
253 within the short arm of the Y-complex, we next aimed to impair Seh1 recruitment to
254 the NPCs. Structural studies have shown that budding yeast Seh1 binds to Nup85
255 through its N-terminal domain forming the 7th blade to complete the β -propeller

256 structure of Seh1 (Brohawn et al., 2008; Debler et al., 2008). Homology modelling
257 predicted that the human Nup85-Seh1 interface similarly involves β -sheets within
258 Nup85 N-terminal domain that complete Seh1 β -propeller (von Appen et al., 2015);
259 see **Fig. 6A**). We thus attempted to prevent Seh1 binding to Nup85 by deleting most
260 of this blade (two β -sheets encoded by exon 2 of mouse Nup85; colored in yellow in
261 **Fig. 6A**) and inserting instead the sequence of the bulky GFP. We obtained viable
262 mESC lines in which the resulting $\Delta E2$ -GFP-Nup85 fusion, expressed as the unique
263 form of Nup85 in the cell (**Figs. 6B** and **S3C**), was properly localized at both NPCs and
264 kinetochores (**Fig. S3A**).

265 To determine whether this deletion within Nup85 indeed prevented its interaction
266 with Seh1, we performed immunoprecipitation on *WT* or $\Delta E2$ -GFP-Nup85 mESC
267 lysates using antibodies directed against either Nup85 itself, or Nup107, another Y-
268 complex constituent (**Fig. 1A**). Mass-spectrometry analysis showed that $\Delta E2$ -GFP-
269 Nup85 interacts with all the members of the Y-complex except Seh1 (**Fig. S3B**).
270 Because none of the available Seh1 antibodies we tested properly recognized
271 endogenous mouse Seh1 in immunofluorescence experiments, we also introduced
272 within *GFP-Seh1* cells the same N-terminal deletion of Nup85, this time tagged with
273 mCherry (**Fig. S3C** and **Table S2**). Although $\Delta E2$ -mCherry-Nup85 was properly
274 localized at NPCs and kinetochores (**Fig. 8A,B**), GFP-Seh1 was at most only barely
275 detectable at kinetochores in these cells (**Fig. 8B,D**; quantifications revealed $7-8 \pm 5$ -
276 7% residual signal in $\Delta E2$ -mCherry-Nup85- compared to wt-Nup85-expressing cells).
277 The mislocalization of Seh1 from kinetochores is consistent with its impaired
278 interaction with $\Delta E2$ -GFP-Nup85 seen at the biochemical level and with previous
279 studies indicating that the Y-complex is recruited as an entity to kinetochores
280 (Loiodice et al., 2004). In contrast, we could still detect some punctate GFP-Seh1
281 signal at the nuclear envelope (26-27% residual signal; **Fig. 8A,C**). The relative
282 persistence of GFP-Seh1 at NPCs as compared to kinetochores in $\Delta E2$ -mCherry-
283 *Nup85* cells likely reflects the existence of additional minor binding sites for Seh1 at
284 NPCs, that either involve Nups not belonging to the Y-complex, or imply interfaces
285 generated by the 3D-organization of Y-complex within the assembled mammalian
286 NPC (Huang et al., 2020; Kosinski et al., 2016; von Appen et al., 2015).

287 Unexpectedly, analysis of cell differentiation did not reveal any significant
288 differences between $\Delta E2$ -GFP-*Nup85* and *WT* mESCs (**Fig. 6D**). In addition $\Delta E2$ -GFP-
289 *Nup85* mESCs only displayed a minor cell growth defect in the pluripotent state
290 ($9\pm 7\%$ decrease in confluence after 48h of growth compared to *WT* mESCs, while the
291 reduction was $60\pm 7\%$ and $38\pm 11\%$ for *Seh1*^{-/-} and *Nup43*^{-/-} cells, respectively; **Fig. 6C**).
292 Nevertheless, pluripotent $\Delta E2$ -GFP-*Nup85* cells display a significant reduction in the
293 intensity of Nup133, Nup98 and TPR at the nuclear envelope (**Fig. 7A-C**). These
294 decreased signals were comparable to those observed in *Seh1*^{-/-} and *Nup43*^{-/-} mESCs,
295 and yet, as in the case of *Nup43*^{-/-}, they were not accompanied by a significant
296 reduction in nuclear size (**Fig. 7D**). Analysis of the $\Delta E2$ -GFP-*Nup85* cells lines thus
297 showed that perturbed recruitment of Seh1 at NPCs leads to a reduction in NPC
298 number, but does not impact cell growth and differentiation.

299

300 Discussion

301 This study has revealed that Seh1 and Nup43 are dispensable for mESC viability in
302 the pluripotent state but become critical upon their differentiation. In view of the
303 reported embryonic lethality of the *Seh1* knockout in mouse, an impaired
304 differentiation of *Seh1*^{-/-} mESCs could have been anticipated (Liu et al., 2019). In
305 contrast, no role in development had been previously described for Nup43, which is
306 specific to metazoans (Neumann et al., 2010). Although the requirement for
307 differentiation was reminiscent of the phenotype observed upon inactivation of
308 *Nup133*, we observed that Seh1 and Nup43, are, unlike Nup133 (Lupu et al., 2008),
309 also required for proper growth of mESCs in the pluripotent state. Importantly, this
310 altered growth is not simply caused by a mitotic defect, as might have been assumed
311 given the mitotic roles of Seh1 in cancer cells (Platani et al., 2018; Platani et al.,
312 2009; Zuccolo et al., 2007), but rather reflects a lengthening of all phases of the cell
313 cycle.

314 We initially anticipated that the phenotypes of *Seh1*^{-/-} mESCs could be caused by a
315 combination of its functions within the Y- and the GATOR2-complexes. However, the
316 fact that the *Mios*^{-/-} cells do not feature any NPC assembly, nuclear size, or cell

317 differentiation defects rather suggests that *Seh1*^{-/-} phenotypes (except perhaps a
318 mild contribution to cell growth rates) are unlikely to result from a combination of
319 defects in NPC and GATOR function. Moreover, *Nup43*^{-/-} mESC phenotypes are very
320 similar to those of *Seh1*^{-/-} mESCs, despite the fact that Nup43 does not interact with
321 Mios.

322 Our data also showed that integrity of the short arm of the Y-complex is important
323 for proper NPC density, further distinguishing its function from that of Nup133,
324 which specifically affects NPC basket assembly in mESCs (Souquet et al., 2018). The
325 observed reduction in NPC density in our *Seh1*^{-/-}, *Nup43*^{-/-} and $\Delta E2\text{-GFP-Nup85}$ clones
326 likely reflects an absolute reduction in total NPC number, since there was no
327 corresponding increase in nuclear surface in these cells (instead, nuclear size was
328 mildly reduced in *Seh1*^{-/-} mESCs). Different mechanisms may explain the requirement
329 for an intact short arm of the Y-complex to ensure proper NPC numbers. Considering
330 the critical roles of the Y-complex in both NPC re-assembly after mitosis and *de novo*
331 NPC assembly in interphase (Doucet et al., 2010; Harel et al., 2003; Walther et al.,
332 2003), the short arm of the Y-complex might be required for the efficient
333 recruitment of the Y-complex either to the mitotic chromatin (an hypothesis
334 consistent with the minor reduction of Y-complex levels on chromatin reported upon
335 *Seh1* depletion in HCT116 cells - Platani et al., 2018), or to the nuclear envelope in
336 interphase (as process involving Nup153 Vollmer et al., 2015). Alternatively, Nup43
337 and *Seh1* may contribute to the stabilization of the NPC scaffold, by virtue of their
338 direct interactions with neighbouring subunits from either Y-complexes or inner ring
339 complexes (Huang et al., 2020; Kosinski et al., 2016; von Appen et al., 2015). NPCs
340 lacking these stabilizing interactions might then be recognized by one of the recently
341 described quality-control mechanisms that mediate the removal of some
342 misassembled NPCs from the nuclear envelope (reviewed in Webster and Lusk,
343 2016).

344 Finally, our analysis of the $\Delta E2\text{-GFP-Nup85}$ cell lines indicates that the reduction in
345 NPC density observed in *Seh1*^{-/-} and *Nup43*^{-/-} mESCs is not sufficient to impact cell
346 growth and differentiation. The lack of major growth and differentiation defects in
347 $\Delta E2\text{-GFP-Nup85}$ cells, in which *Seh1* is largely mislocalized from NPCs, could reflect

348 an “off-pore” function of Seh1, or a function of Seh1 that does not require its normal
349 stoichiometry within NPCs (for instance, a localization restricted to the cytoplasmic
350 or nuclear side of the NPCs). At NPCs, Seh1 and Nup43 might be required for the
351 proper recruitment and positioning of the mRNA export and remodelling machinery,
352 an established function of the short arm of the Y-complex in budding yeast
353 (Fernandez-Martinez et al., 2016). Alternatively, whether at pores or elsewhere in
354 the nucleus, Seh1 and Nup43 may impact cell growth and differentiation by directly
355 contributing to gene regulation, as now reported for a few Nups in mammalian cells
356 (reviewed in Buchwalter et al., 2019; Pascual-Garcia and Capelson, 2019; see also
357 Scholz et al., 2019). In particular, Seh1 was recently found to participate in
358 oligodendrocyte differentiation, acting as a platform to recruit transcription and
359 chromatin remodelling factors (Olig2 and Brd7) (Liu et al., 2019). We may
360 hypothesize that both Seh1 and Nup43 may specifically interact with factors
361 required for gene regulation and chromatin organization in mESCs, hence
362 contributing to early stages of pluripotent cell growth and differentiation.

363

363 **Materials and Methods**

364 **Plasmids** used in this study are listed in **Table S1**. They were either previously
365 published or generated using standard molecular cloning techniques including
366 restriction digestions (Fastdigest, Thermo Fisher Scientific, Waltham, MA), PCR
367 amplification using proofreading DNA polymerases (Phusion HF, New England Biolab,
368 Ipswich, MA) and In-Fusion HD Cloning Kit (Clontech, Mountain View, CA) or
369 NEBuilder HiFi DNA Assembly Cloning Kits (New England Biolab). The *Mios* and
370 *Nup43* gRNAs were integrated in a linear plasmid (GeneArt™ CRISPR Nuclease Vector
371 – OFP-Cas9) following manufacturer’s instructions. The other Cas9 vectors (pX-280,
372 pX-672, pX-853 and pX-864) were assembled by golden gate cloning (Engler et al.,
373 2009). For all constructs, PCR-amplified fragments and junctions were checked by
374 sequencing. Plasmid maps are available upon request.

375

376 **Cell lines, growth condition, transfection, and CRISPR/Cas9-based genome editing**

377 Cell lines used in this study are listed in **Table S2**. All cells were grown at 37°C and 5%
378 CO₂.

379 DR4-mouse embryonic fibroblast feeder cells, DR4-MEFs (Applied StemCells), were
380 grown in Dulbecco’s Modified Eagle’s Medium (DMEM) (Gibco/Thermofisher)
381 supplemented with 15% heat-inactivated foetal bovine serum (FBS, Gibco), 100U/ml
382 Penicillin-100µg/ml Streptomycin (P/S) (Gibco) and 2mM L-Glutamine (Gibco). DR4-
383 MEFs were inactivated using 8.5 µg/ml Mitomycin-C (Sigma-Aldrich, St Louis, MO) for
384 3 hours.

385 HM1 (Selfridge et al., 1992) and derivative mESCs clones were grown in
386 serum/leukemia inhibitory factor (LIF)-containing stem cell medium: DMEM
387 (EmbryoMax, Millipore, Burlington, MA), P/S (Gibco), 2mM L-Glutamine (Gibco), 15%
388 heat-inactivated ESC-Qualified FBS (Gibco), non-essential amino acids (Gibco),
389 nucleosides (Millipore), 2-mercaptoethanol (Gibco) and 10³ units/ml LIF (ESGRO,
390 Millipore). mESCs were grown on inactivated DR4-MEFs (MEF-derived feeders)
391 plated on 0.1% gelatin (Sigma-Aldrich) and were passaged every 2 or 3 days using
392 0.05% Trypsin (Gibco). mESCs were used at passages below 30. Lack of
393 contamination in-between the mutant cell lines was assessed by PCR on genomic

394 DNA, proper GFP-or mCherry expression when pertinent, and western blots
395 analyses. Frequent DAPI staining ensured lack of major contamination by
396 mycoplasma. When required, cells were counted using a Countess automated cell
397 counter (Invitrogen, Carlsbad, CA).

398 For transfections, mESCs were plated onto DR4-MEFs in medium without P/S.
399 Plasmid DNA and Lipofectamine 2000 (Invitrogen) were mixed in OptiMEM
400 (Invitrogen) and added to the cells according to the manufacturer's instructions.

401 For CRISPR/Cas9 editing, $5 \cdot 10^5$ mESCs were transfected as indicated in **Table S2** with
402 one or two plasmids (3 μ g each) directing the expression of one or two gRNAs along
403 with Cas9 (WT or high fidelity, HF) fused to GFP, mCherry or OFP. gRNAs were
404 designed using the Benchling website (<https://benchling.com>) and are listed in **Table**
405 **S3**. When indicated, DNA sequences of interest (PCR product 1-4 μ g, or 3 μ g of
406 linearized plasmid) flanked by homology directed repair arms were co-transfected
407 (**Fig. S4**). Following selection (as detailed below), individual clones were picked,
408 amplified, and further characterized. For each clone, chromosome spreads were also
409 performed (chromosome counts are indicated in **Table S2**).

410 To establish *Seh1*^{-/-}, *Mios*^{-/-} and *Nup43*^{-/-} cell lines, cells were collected by
411 trypsinization two days after transfection, resuspended in 1 mL Fluorescence-
412 activated cell sorting (FACS) buffer (PBS +10% FBS, Gibco + P/S), and sorted based on
413 Cas9 expression (EGFP or OFP signal). 2000 FACS-sorted cells were plated in 100mm
414 culture dishes. Individual clones picked 6-12 days after sorting were then
415 characterized using Western blot and PCR on genomic DNA followed by sequencing
416 (the identified Indels are listed in **Table S2**).

417 To establish the *OsTir* cell line, 200 μ g/mL Geneticin (Geneticin® Gibco, Life
418 technologies 10131-019) was added to the medium two days after transfection.
419 Geneticin-resistant clones (expected to have integrated the pCAG-OsTir-T2A-NeoR
420 sequence at the *Tigre* locus) were picked after five days and characterized by
421 Western-blot with antibodies directed against the OsTir receptor. PCR on genomic
422 DNA was also performed to determine the number of *Tigre* alleles bearing the
423 transgene.

424 To generate the *Seh1 rescue* (expressing GFP-Seh1 under the pCAG promoter at the
425 *Tigre* locus), *GFP-Seh1*, *GFP-mAID-Seh1*, *ΔE2-GFP-Nup85* and [*ΔE2-mCherry-Nup85*]
426 cell lines, GFP [mCherry] positive cells were FACS-sorted 3 days after transfection to
427 select for cells expressing the tagged nucleoporin. Individual clones were picked 6-7
428 days after sorting and characterized using immunofluorescence (to confirm the
429 localization of the tagged protein at the nuclear periphery) and western blot (to
430 identify clones lacking the endogenous protein). The selected clones were then
431 further validated by PCR on genomic DNA and sequencing.

432 To achieve inducible degradation of GFP-mAID-Seh1, Auxin (Sigma-Aldrich) was
433 added to the medium at 500μM (from a stock at 280 mM in EtOH). For control
434 experiments, the same amount of EtOH was added.

435

436 **Cell growth and differentiation assays**

437 To evaluate cell growth at pluripotent stage, cells were plated at $1 - 2 \cdot 10^5$ cells per
438 well in TPP 12-well plate. Photomicrographs were taken every two hours using an
439 IncuCyte® live cell imager (Essen Biosciences, Ann Arbor, MI) and confluence of the
440 cultures was measured using IncuCyte® software (Essen Biosciences, Ann Arbor,
441 MI). To improve comparison in-between experiments or cell lines, the same mask
442 was always used and time was set at t=0 when confluence reached 1% (**Figs. 1D and**
443 **6C**), 2% (**Fig. 5C**) or 3% (**Fig. S1E**). Graphs were generated using Excel. Error bars
444 correspond to standard deviations from the indicated [n=] independent
445 experiments.

446

447 Neuroectodermal differentiation of mESCs grown as monolayers was adapted from
448 (Ying and Smith, 2003). Following trypsinization, feeders were removed by plating
449 the resuspended cells in gelatin-free wells for 20 minutes. Feeder-free mESCs were
450 collected and resuspended in N2B27 medium [DMEM F-12, DMEM Neurobasal, BSA,
451 L-glutamin, 2-mercaptoethanol, N2 (Gibco) and B27 (Gibco)]. Cells were plated in
452 gelatin-coated wells at $1 \cdot 10^5$ or $3 \cdot 10^4$ cells per well in TPP 12 well plate. At day 2,
453 N2B27 medium containing 1μM RA (all-trans-Retinoic acid, Sigma) was added for 24
454 hours. From day 3 to 7 medium was changed every day with fresh N2B27 without

455 RA. Confluence analyses, used as a proxy to evaluate cell growth and viability, was
456 performed as described above except that time was set at t=0 the beginning of the
457 differentiation process (i.e., upon plating in N2B27 medium).

458

459 **Fluorescence Videomicroscopy**

460 mESCs were transiently transfected using plasmids expressing H2B-GFP or H2B-
461 mCherry on microscopy-adapted 35-mm dishes (μ -dish, 35 mm, high; Ibidi,
462 Germany) coated with 0.1% gelatin and DR4-MEFs. Acquisitions were performed
463 about 36 hours after transfection at 37°C and 5% of CO₂ using an AxioObserverZ1
464 inverted microscope (Zeiss, Germany) equipped with a 63 oil objective, a CSU-X1
465 spinning-disk head (Yokogawa, Japan), and a sCMOSPRIME 95B (Photometrics)
466 camera.

467 The whole setup was driven with MetaMorph software (Molecular Devices,
468 Sunnyvale, CA). Eleven Z sections with a step of 1 μ m were acquired at intervals of 5
469 minutes for the mitotic progression experiments (4-6 hours) and of 15 minutes for
470 the cell cycle length experiments (24-30 hours). Laser intensity was set between 10-
471 20% power and acquisition time was 500ms. The raw data were processed using
472 ImageJ software (National Institutes of Health, Bethesda, MD). Images stacks were
473 processed as max projections. Cells were tracked manually setting prometaphase at
474 the moment at which chromatin starts to be seen condensed and anaphase at the
475 first time point at which chromosome segregation is observed.

476

477 **FACS analyses**

478 To perform a bi-parametric analysis of cell cycle based on DNA content (DAPI) and
479 DNA synthesis (EdU) we used the Click-it-EdU Imaging kits (Invitrogen). 0.5 10^6 mESC
480 were plated on MEF-derived feeders plated on 0.1% gelatin 2 days before the
481 experiment. Cells were incubated with EdU 50 μ M for 15 minutes, then collected by
482 trypsinization and plated on gelatin dishes for 20 minutes to remove feeders.

483 Cells were then collected and centrifuged, washed in PBS and then fixed in PFA 3%
484 for 15 minutes. Cells were then permeabilized with PBS+ 0.2% Triton-X100 and
485 washed with PBS + 2% SVF. Click reaction (30 minutes) was performed following
486 manufacturer's protocol. DNA was stained for 20 minutes (DAPI 5 μ M, RNaseA 0.1

487 mg/mL, 1% SVF in PBS), then samples were centrifuged and resuspended in 60µl PBS
488 +2% SVF.

489 Sample acquisition was achieved with the ImageStream® X (Amnis, Austin, TX)
490 imaging flow cytometer and captured using the ISX INSPIRE™ data acquisition
491 software. Images of 5.000–20.000 cells were acquired at 40x magnification using the
492 following channels: Ch1= 430-470 nm, BF (bright field); Ch6= 720-800nm, SS (side
493 scatter); Ch7= 430-505 nm, DAPI; Ch9= 570-595, BF; Ch11= 660-720 nm, EdU-AF647.
494 A compensation matrix was generated using fluorescence controls and applied to all
495 samples. Analysis was then performed with the IDEAS software as follows: 1)
496 definition of cells in focus, based on the gradient RMS; 2) definition of singlets,
497 according to area and aspect ratio; 3) definition of cells using contrast and gradient
498 RMS; 4) definition of nucleated cells using DNA content; 5) cell cycle phases were
499 then identified using DAPI and EdU intensity; 6) mitotic cells were finally defined
500 according to DAPI bright detail intensity and DAPI area threshold (**Fig. S2 D**).

501

502 **Immunostaining and quantitative image analyses**

503 mESCs grown on coverslips were washed with PBS, then fixed using 3% para-
504 formaldehyde (VWR, Radnor, PA) for 20 min and washed again with PBS. For all
505 conditions, cells were then permeabilized in PBS + 0.2% Triton X-100, 0.02% SDS
506 (Euromedex, Souffelweyersheim, FR), and 10 mg/mL BSA (Sigma). Antibody
507 hybridizations and washes were also performed in this buffer. Primary and
508 secondary antibodies (listed in **Table S4**) were incubated for 1 hr at room
509 temperature. Cells were then incubated 5 min with 280nM DAPI (Sigma) in PBS and
510 mounted with Vectashield (Vector, Maravai Life Sciences, San Diego, CA). Images
511 were acquired using 100x/1.4 oil objectives on inverted and motorized microscopes,
512 either a DMI8 (Leica), equipped with a CSU-W1 spinning-diskhead (Yokogawa, Japan)
513 and 2 Orca-Flash 4 V2+ sCMOS cameras (Hamamatsu), or an Axio Observer.Z1
514 (Zeiss), equipped with CSU-X1 spinning-diskhead (Yokogawa, Japan) and 2 sCMOS
515 PRIME 95 cameras (Photometrics).

516 Quantification of NPC density at the nuclear envelope (NE) was performed
517 essentially as described (Souquet et al., 2018). Briefly, mESCs of interest were mixed

518 with a GFP cell line of reference (*Rescue-Seh1* or $\Delta E2$ -GFP-*Nup85* cells, used for
519 normalization) and grown on coverslips for 24h prior to fixation and immunostaining.
520 For each acquired image, one z section was selected; 8-pixel-thick regions of interest
521 (ROIs) were drawn freehand on the NE of both GFP-negative and -positive
522 (reference) mESCs. Following subtraction of background, the signal intensity at the
523 NE for each cell was normalized to the average NE intensity measured for the GFP-
524 positive mESCs acquired in the same field. All values were then divided by the mean
525 normalized intensity of *WT* mESCs acquired in the same experiment. Box plots were
526 generated using GraphPad Software: each box encloses 50% of the normalized
527 values obtained, centred on the median value. The bars extend from the 5th to 95th
528 percentiles. Values falling outside of this range are displayed as individual points.

529 For kinetochore quantifications, mixed *GFP-Seh1* and $\Delta E2$ -*mCherry-Nup85/GFP-Seh1*
530 mESCs grown on coverslips were fixed, permeabilized, and stained with DAPI. Fields
531 containing both *GFP-Seh1* and $\Delta E2$ -*mCherry-Nup85/GFP-Seh1* mitotic cells were
532 selected. For each mitotic cell, the mean intensities of five distinct kinetochores
533 (regions of 10-pixels in diameter) and of two "background" regions in the mitotic
534 cytoplasm (40-pixels in diameter) were measured on a unique z-section. Following
535 background subtraction, the average intensity of GFP-Seh1 at kinetochores in each
536 mitotic cell was normalized to the intensity measured for the control (*wtNup85/*
537 *GFP-Seh1*) mitotic cells acquired in the same experiment. Box plots were generated
538 as described above.

539

540 To quantify nuclear surfaces, mESCs of interest were mixed with a GFP cell line of
541 reference and grown on coverslips for 24 hr prior to fixation and immunostaining as
542 described above. For each field, 33 to 45 optical sections (0.5 μm apart) were
543 acquired and nuclei were segmented based on TPR immunostaining with the Fiji
544 plugin Lime-Seg (Machado et al., 2019). A circular ROI was drawn within the nucleus
545 of each cell in the field and the LimeSeg Plugin "Sphere Seg advanced" was run with
546 the following parameters: D0: 4; Zscale: 7.143; range in D0 units: 2; real xy pixel size:
547 0.07; F pressure: 0.025 for TPR-Cy3 staining and 0.019 for TPR-Cy5. Segmented
548 structures for which the "free edges" values were above 0 (segmentation could not
549 close the structure), and those for which the Euler characteristic was not comprised

550 between -4/+4 (aberrant structures very far from a spherical shape) were discarded.
551 For each cell, the segmentation perimeter and TPR staining along the z-axis were
552 compared to further validate proper segmentation (less than 8% of the identified
553 structures, frequently corresponding to the merge of two closely apposed nuclei,
554 were manually discarded at that stage). Nuclear surfaces and volumes were then
555 exported. To compensate for variability occurring during fixation or IF processing,
556 nuclear surface values were first normalized to the average of the GFP-reference
557 cells acquired within the same coverslip, and then to the mean of *WT* mESCs
558 acquired in the same experiment. Nuclear surface graphs were generated using
559 GraphPad Software: average and standard deviation (boxes and bars) of nuclear
560 surface are displayed, along with values for each experiment (dots).

561

562 **Western blot analyses**

563 To prepare whole cell lysates, mESCs were lysed in 2× Laemmli lysis buffer (150-mM
564 Tris-HCL (pH 6.8), 5 % (wt/vol) SDS, 25 % (vol/vol) glycerol, and 0.01 % (wt/vol)
565 bromophenol blue). Lysates were incubated for 3 min at 95 °C, clarified by sonication
566 (Bioruptordiagenode: 4 cycles of 30 s on/off, high power), and denatured again for 3
567 min at 95°C. Protein concentration was then determined using a BCA assay kit
568 (Thermo Fisher Scientific). Total protein extracts supplemented with β-
569 mercaptoethanol (750 mM final, Sigma-Aldrich) were analysed by western blot. 10
570 µg of mESC lysate were separated on 4–12% or 10% SDS-PAGE gels (pre-cast
571 NuPage® GE healthcare or Mini-Protean TGX Stain free precast gels, Biorad,
572 Hercules, CA) and transferred to nitrocellulose (GE healthcare). The resulting blots
573 were stained using Ponceau, saturated with TBS buffer + 0.1% Tween and 5% dried
574 milk, and incubated in TBS + 0.1% Tween and 5% dried milk with primary antibodies,
575 followed by either HRP-conjugated secondary antibodies of interest or HRP-
576 conjugated anti-rabbit TrueBlot® secondary antibody (used in **Fig. 5B** to prevent
577 interference from the denatured/reduced heavy and light chains of the anti-Seh1
578 antibody used for immunoprecipitation (primary and secondary antibodies are listed
579 in **Table S4**). Signals were detected by enhanced chemiluminescence (SuperSignal®
580 Pico or Femto, ThermoScientific) using ChemiDoc (Biorad).

581

582 Immunoprecipitation experiments and mass spectrometry analyses

583 Immunoprecipitation experiments: Protein G beads (GE Helathcare) were washed
584 three times with Wash buffer (100mM NaCl, 1mM EDTA, 25mM TRIS pH 7.5, 1mM
585 DTT + protease inhibitor [Pi] solution); (bead centrifugations were performed at 500g
586 4°C). 30µL of beads were then incubated for 2 hours at 4°C in 250µL wash buffer
587 containing 5µL of rabbit anti-Seh1 antibody (for **Fig. 5B**), or 25µL of rabbit polyclonal
588 anti-Nup107 or anti-Nup85 serum or a pre-immune rabbit serum as control (for **Fig.**
589 **S3B**). Antibodies used are listed in **Table S4**. After incubation, beads were washed 4
590 times with Wash buffer.

591 In the meantime, lysates were prepared from *WT*, *Seh1^{-/-}*, *Mios^{-/-}* or *ΔE2-GFP-Nup85*
592 mESCs by resuspending frozen pellets of 4·10⁶ mESCs (~500µg total proteins) in
593 200µL Lysis buffer (100mM NaCl, 1mM EDTA, 25mM TRIS pH 7.5, 1mM DTT, Tween-
594 20 0.5%, Triton-100 1.2% + PI solution). Samples were vortexed and incubated 15
595 min on ice. 600µL of Dilution buffer (100mM NaCl, 1mM EDTA, 25mM TRIS pH 7.5,
596 1mM DTT, Tween-20 0.5%, + PI solution) was then added and samples were
597 centrifuged at 16.000 g for 30 min at 4°C. The resulting supernatant was pre-cleared
598 by a 1 hour incubation at 4°C with 30µL Protein G beads equilibrated with wash
599 buffer.

600 The cleared supernatants (inputs) were then incubated at 4°C with 30µL of the anti-
601 Seh1, control, anti-Nup107- or anti-Nup85-coated Protein G beads. After overnight
602 (for anti-Seh1) or 2 hours incubation (for anti-Nup107 and anti-Nup85), samples
603 were centrifuged and washed 5 times in wash buffer. The proteins were either
604 eluted in 40µL of Laemmli and boiled 10 minutes for subsequent western blot
605 analysis (**Fig. 5B**), or split in 2 and then either eluted in 20µL of Laemmli and boiled 3
606 minutes for subsequent western blot analyses, or processed for both mass-
607 spectrometry and western blot analyses (for experiments presented in **Fig. S3**).

608 Samples preparation prior to LC-MS/MS analysis: Proteins on beads were digested
609 overnight at 37°C with trypsin (Promega, Madison, WI, USA) in a 25-mM NH₄HCO₃
610 buffer (0.2µg trypsin in 20µL). The resulting peptides were desalted using ZipTip µ-
611 C18 Pipette Tips (Pierce Biotechnology, Rockford, IL, USA).

612 **LC-MS/MS acquisition:**

613 Samples were analyzed using an Orbitrap Fusion, coupled to a Nano-LC Proxeon
614 1200, equipped with an easy spray ion source (Thermo Scientific, Waltham, MA,
615 USA). Peptides were loaded with an online preconcentration method and separated
616 by chromatography using a Pepmap-RSLC C18 column (0.75 x 750 mm, 2 μm , 100 \AA)
617 from Thermo Scientific, equilibrated at 50°C and operated at a flow rate of 300
618 nl/min. Solvents (MS grade H₂O, formic acid (FA) and Acetonitrile (ACN)) were from
619 Thermo Chemical (Waltham, MA, USA).

620 Peptides were eluted by a gradient of solvent A (H₂O, 0.1 % FA) and solvent B
621 (ACN/H₂O 80/20, 0.1% FA). The column was first equilibrated 5 min with 95 % of
622 solvent A, then solvent B was raised to 28 % in 105 min and to 40% in 15 min. Finally,
623 the column was washed with 95% solvent B during 20 min and re-equilibrated at
624 95% solvent A during 10 min. On the Orbitrap Fusion instrument, peptides precursor
625 masses were analyzed in the Orbitrap cell in full ion scan mode, at a resolution of
626 120,000, a mass range of m/z 350-1550 and an AGC target of $4 \cdot 10^5$. MS/MS were
627 performed in the top speed 3s mode. Peptides were selected for fragmentation by
628 Higher-energy C-trap Dissociation (HCD) with a Normalized Collisional Energy of 27%
629 and a dynamic exclusion of 60 seconds. Fragment masses were measured in an Ion
630 trap in the rapid mode, with and an AGC target of $1 \cdot 10^4$. Monocharged peptides and
631 unassigned charge states were excluded from the MS/MS acquisition. The maximum
632 ion accumulation times were set to 100 ms for MS and 35 ms for MS/MS acquisitions
633 respectively.

634 Data analysis: Raw data were processed on Proteome Discoverer 2.2 with the
635 mascot node (Mascot version 2.5.1) and the Swissprot protein database release
636 2017_06. The *Mus musculus* taxonomy was used and a maximum of 2 missed
637 cleavages was authorized. Precursor and fragment mass tolerances were set to 7
638 ppm and 0.5 Da. The following Post-translational modifications were included as
639 variable: Acetyl (Protein N-term), Oxidation (M), Phosphorylation (STY). Spectra were
640 filtered using a 1% FDR with the percolator node.

641

642 **Statistics**

643 For cell confluence analyses, statistical analyses were performed at the latest time
644 points (48h for cell growth in the pluripotent state and day 5 for neuroectodermal
645 differentiation) using paired two-tailed Student's t-test. For each mutant cell line,
646 the % of confluence was compared to that of *WT* cells measured in the same
647 experiment. To obtain more robust statistics, the paired two-tailed Student's t-test
648 was also used to compare all the values obtained with distinct clones bearing the
649 same mutation to *WT* cells. For studies of interphase and mitosis duration and for
650 quantifications of fluorescence intensity at the NE, statistical analyses were
651 performed using unpaired non-parametric Mann-Whitney test. For nuclear surfaces,
652 statistical analyses were performed using paired two-tailed Student's t-test. P values
653 and significance: ****: P <0.0001; ***: P <0.001; **: P <0.01; * :P <0.05.

654

655 **DATA AND SOFTWARE AVAILABILITY**

656 The mass spectrometry proteomics data reported in this study have been deposited
657 to the ProteomeXchange Consortium
658 (<http://proteomecentral.proteomexchange.org>) via the PRIDE partner repository
659 (Perez-Riverol et al., 2019) with the dataset identifier PXD022190.

660

661 The original 16-bit images and montages of the western blots used in this study
662 are available as Mendeley dataset under <http://dx.doi.org/10.17632/8g59mp92bs.1>

663

664

665

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678 **Competing interests**

679 No competing interests declared.

680

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695

696 **AUTHOR CONTRIBUTIONS**

697 A.G-E., A.V., C.O., B.R-S-M., and V.D. conceived and designed the experiments.

698 A.G-E., A.V., and C.O. performed the experiments. A.G-E., A.V., C.O., and V.D.

699 analyzed the data. A.G-E., A.V., and V.D. wrote the manuscript with contribution

700 from all co-authors.

701

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840

841 **FIGURE AND FIGURE LEGENDS**

842 **Figure 1: *Seh1* depletion leads to cell growth delay and impaired cell survival upon**
843 **differentiation.**

844 **A.** Schematic representation of the Y-complex (adapted from von Appen et al.,
845 2015), highlighting the components of the short arm, namely Nup43 (shown in
846 purple), Nup85 (blue) and Seh1 (red). β -propellers are outlined with black strokes **.B.**
847 Western-blot showing the expression of endogenous or GFP-tagged Seh1, Nup107
848 and GAPDH (used as loading control) in whole cell extracts from the indicated cell
849 lines. 1/2 and 1/4 dilutions of *WT* extracts were also loaded. Molecular weights are
850 indicated (kilodaltons). **C.** Representative phase contrast images of *WT* and *Seh1*^{-/-}
851 (#1) mESCs colonies acquired after 2 days of growth on the IncuCyte® imager. Scale
852 bar, 300 μ m. **D-E.** Confluence of *WT* (blue), *Seh1*^{-/-} (#1 and #2, red) and *Rescue* (#1
853 and #2, grey) mESCs was quantified with the IncuCyte® system either at pluripotent
854 stage (**D**) or upon differentiation towards neuroectodermal lineage (**E**). Error bars
855 correspond to the standard deviation arising from the indicated number of
856 independent experiments [n]. Statistical analyses of these confluence curves were
857 performed at the last time-points. Brackets indicate statistics performed using all
858 values from cell lines bearing a given mutation, compared to *WT* (see Materials and
859 Methods). **F.** Representative spinning disk images of *Rescue* (#1) mESCs showing
860 proper localization of GFP-Seh1 at the NE in interphase (one plane) and at
861 kinetochores in mitosis (a projection of 3 optical sections is presented). Scale bars,
862 10 μ m.

863

864 **Figure 2: The altered growth rate of *Seh1*^{-/-} mESCs reflects a lengthening**
865 **distributed over all phases of the cell cycle**

866 **A.** Quantification of interphase length of *WT* and *Seh1*^{-/-} mESCs (2 distinct clones).
867 The black bars represent the median and each dot represent one individual cell. The
868 mean duration of interphase, as well as the number of imaged cells (N) and
869 experiments [n] is indicated **B.** Cell cycle profiles of *WT* and two *Seh1*^{-/-} clones
870 generated by ImageStream® using the workflow analysis presented in **Fig. S2D**. For
871 each cell line, at least 3000 cells acquired in at least 3 distinct experiments were

872 analyzed.

873

874 **Figure 3: Quantification of NPC density in *Seh1* mutant cell lines.**

875 Normalized signal intensities at the NE of Nup133 (A), Nup98 (B) and TPR (C-D) were
876 quantified and box plots generated as described in Materials and Methods. The
877 mean value was set at 1 for *WT* mESCs. For each cell line, the number of cells
878 quantified (N), the number of distinct experiments [n], the mean value and standard
879 deviation are indicated. In (D), cells were treated with EtOH (control) or Auxin as
880 indicated.

881

882

883 **Figure 4: Quantification of nuclear sizes in *Seh1* mutant cell lines.**

884 Quantification of nuclear surface was performed as described in Materials and
885 Methods. The mean value was set at 1 for *WT* mESCs. Graphs show average and
886 standard deviation of nuclear surface values from [n] independent experiments
887 (displayed as dots). The total number of cells quantified (N) is also indicated. Unless
888 specified by lines, samples were compared to *WT* for statistical analyses (see
889 Materials and Methods)

890

891 **Figure 5: *Mios*^{-/-} mESCs do not mimic the growth and differentiation defects of
892 *Seh1*^{-/-} mESCs, nor their decreased NPC density and nuclear size.**

893 **A.** Whole cell extracts of *WT*, *Seh1*^{-/-} (#1 and #2) and *Mios*^{-/-} mESCs (three
894 independent clones) were analyzed by western-blot using the indicated antibodies.
895 Molecular masses are indicated on the right (kDa). **B.** Immunoprecipitation
896 experiment using anti-*Seh1* antibodies and *WT*, *Mios*^{-/-} (#1 and #2), or *Seh1*^{-/-} (#1)
897 mESC protein extracts. Inputs and eluates (20x equivalent) were analyzed by western
898 blot using the indicated antibodies. Molecular markers are indicated on the right
899 (kDa). **C-D.** Cell growth analyses (using percentage of confluence as proxy) were
900 performed with the IncuCyte® system for *WT*, *Seh1*^{-/-} and three distinct *Mios*^{-/-}
901 clones at pluripotent state (C), and upon neuroectodermal differentiation (D). Error

902 bars correspond to the standard deviation arising from the indicated number of
903 independent experiments [n]. Statistical analyses were performed at the last time-
904 points. Brackets indicate statistics performed using all values from cell lines bearing a
905 given mutation, compared to *WT* (see Materials and Methods). **E-F.** Quantifications
906 of TPR signal intensity at the NE (**E**, presented as box plots) and of the nuclear
907 surface (**F**, graphs presenting the mean values and standard deviations from [n]
908 distinct experiments, each displayed as a dot) were performed for *WT*, *Seh1*^{-/-} and
909 two *Mios*^{-/-} clones as described in Materials and Methods. For each cell line, the total
910 number of cells (N) acquired in [n] distinct experiments, and the mean and standard
911 deviation values are indicated. For statistical analyses (see Materials and Methods)
912 samples were compared to *WT*. Note that the mild (9%) increase in TPR density in
913 *Mios*^{-/-} # 1 mESCs was not observed for *Mios*^{-/-} #2 cells and likely reflects a clonal-
914 related variation not linked to the lack of Mios. Note that data for *WT* and *Seh1*^{-/-}
915 mESCs (used as reference strains) shown in panels C, D and F, include some data
916 from experiments already presented in Figs. 1D-E and 4A.

917

918 **Figure 6: Impact of Y-complex short arm mutations on mESC proliferation and**
919 **differentiation.**

920 **A.** Predicted model of human Nup43 (shown in purple), Nup85 (blue and yellow) and
921 Seh1 (red) interactions (von Appen et al., 2015; PDB code: 5A9Q) visualized using
922 Pymol. The β -sheets within the N-terminal domain of Nup85 that are deleted in the
923 $\Delta E2$ -GFP/mCherry-Nup85 fusions are shown in yellow. **B.** Whole cell extracts of the
924 indicated cell lines were analyzed by western-blot using anti-Seh1, -Nup43, -Nup85,
925 and γ -tubulin antibodies. Two-and four fold dilution (1/2, 1/4) of the *WT* mESC
926 extract were also loaded. Molecular markers are indicated on the right (kDa). **C-D.**
927 Cell growth analyses were performed with the IncuCyte® system for *WT*, *Seh1*^{-/-},
928 $\Delta E2$ -GFP-Nup85 and *Nup43*^{-/-} mESCs at pluripotent state (**C**), and upon
929 neuroectodermal differentiation (**D**). Error bars correspond to the standard deviation
930 arising from [n] independent experiments. Statistical analyses were performed at the
931 last time-points. Brackets indicate statistics performed using all values from cell lines
932 bearing a given mutation, compared to *WT* (see Materials and Methods). Note that

933 data for *WT* and *Seh1*^{-/-} (used as reference strains) shown in panels **C-D** include
934 experiments already presented in Fig. 1 D-E.

935

936 **Figure 7: Quantification of NPC density and nuclear size in $\Delta E2$ -GFP-Nup85 and**
937 ***Nup43*^{-/-} mESC lines.**

938 **A-C.** Normalized signals intensities at the NE of Nup133 (**A**), Nup98 (**B**) and TPR (**C**),
939 (presented as box plots) and nuclear surfaces (**D**; graphs presenting the mean values
940 and standard deviations from [n] distinct experiments, each displayed as a dot) were
941 quantified as described in Materials and Methods. The number of cells (N), and of
942 distinct experiments [n], the mean value and standard deviation are indicated. For
943 statistical analyses (see Materials and Methods) samples were compared to *WT*.
944 Note that data for *WT* and *Seh1*^{-/-} (used as reference strains) include experiments
945 already presented in Fig. 3.

946

947 **Figure 8. Impaired GFP-Seh1 localization at NPCs and Kinetochores in $\Delta E2$ -mCherry-**
948 ***Nup85* mESCs.**

949 **A-B.** Representative spinning disk images (single z-section) of interphase (**A**) and
950 mitotic (**B**) *GFP-Seh1* cells (left) mixed with $\Delta E2$ -mCherry-Nup85/*GFP-Seh1* cells
951 (right). Scale bars, 10 μ m. **C-D.** GFP-Seh1 intensity at NE (**C**) and at kinetochores (**D**)
952 was quantified in *GFP-Seh1* and $\Delta E2$ -mCherry-Nup85/*GFP-Seh1* for the indicated
953 number of cells (N) acquired in [n] independent experiments as described in
954 Materials and Methods. Values were normalized for each field (**C**) or for each
955 experiment (**D**) to the average intensity of the signal acquired for *GFP-Seh1* cells at
956 the NE and kinetochores, respectively.