

# The mitotic role of Adenomatous Polyposis Coli requires its bilateral interaction with tubulin and microtubules

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## **RESEARCH ARTICLE**



# The mitotic role of adenomatous polyposis coli requires its bilateral interaction with tubulin and microtubules

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#### ABSTRACT

Adenomatous polyposis coli (APC) is a scaffold protein with tumour suppressor properties. Mutations causing the loss of its C-terminal domain (APC-C), which bears cytoskeleton-regulating sequences, correlate with colorectal cancer. The cellular roles of APC in mitosis are widely studied, but the molecular mechanisms of its interaction with the cytoskeleton are poorly understood. Here, we investigated how APC-C regulates microtubule properties, and found that it promotes both microtubule growth and shrinkage. Strikingly, APC-C accumulates at shrinking microtubule extremities, a common characteristic of depolymerases. Cryo-electron microscopy revealed that APC-C adopts an extended conformation along the protofilament crest and showed the presence of ring-like tubulin oligomers around the microtubule wall, which required the presence of two APC-C subdomains. A mutant of APC-C that was incapable of decorating microtubules with ring-like tubulin oligomers exhibited a reduced effect on microtubule dynamics. Finally, whereas native APC-C rescued defective chromosome alignment in metaphase cells silenced for APC, the ring-incompetent mutant failed to correct mitotic defects. Thus, the bilateral interaction of APC-C with tubulin and microtubules likely contributes to its mitotic functions.

#### KEY WORDS: APC, Microtubule, Tubulin, Depolymerase, Mitosis

#### INTRODUCTION

Adenomatous polyposis coli (APC) is a 340-kDa scaffold protein with tumour suppressor properties. Mutations in the *APC* gene correlate with the development of cancers, mostly colorectal cancers (Juanes, 2020; Näthke, 2006). The central portion of the *APC* gene is particularly sensitive to mutations producing premature termination of translation, resulting in truncated proteins. These short forms of APC lack the C-terminal domain, which is mainly responsible for interactions with the cytoskeleton (Moseley et al., 2007; Nakamura et al., 2001). Similar mutations have also been observed within the *APC2* gene, the neuronal isoform of *APC*, and are associated with cytoskeleton defects such as inadequate

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# dendritic spine morphology or axon misguidance in neuronal disorders linked to Sotos syndrome or autism (Almuriekhi et al., 2015; Mohn et al., 2014; Onouchi et al., 2014).

Several studies have focused on the C-terminal domain of APC, called APC-C (residues 2131-2843), and highlighted its importance with regard to microtubule and actin regulation (Deka et al., 1998; Okada et al., 2010). APC-C was found to contain a basic domain that interacts with microtubules or actin monomers, alongside a dimerisation domain essential for actin nucleation (Okada et al., 2010) that overlaps with the binding site for neuronal kinesins (Ruane et al., 2016). It also contains distinct binding sites for other cytoskeleton-related proteins, including end-binding (EB) proteins (Honnappa et al., 2005; Serre et al., 2019) or the 87 mitochondrial kinesin-motor complex Miro/Milton (Mills et al., 88 2016). The biological functions of the C-terminal domain of APC 89 must be deciphered if we are to understand its cellular functions. 90 This knowledge will shed light on the dysfunction of its truncated 91 forms in cancers and neuronal pathologies, and in particular on how 92 these mutations affect microtubule architecture and regulation 93 during cell division (Bahmanyar et al., 2009; Fodde et al., 2001a; 94 Rusan and Peifer, 2008). Indeed, we have found few molecular 95 studies into the effects of APC on microtubule organisation and 96 dynamics. To fill this gap, we combined a set of in vitro 97 reconstitution and cellular approaches to characterise the 98 microtubule regulatory properties of the C-terminal domain of 99 APC. We found that APC-C stimulates both growth and shrinkage 100 rates at microtubule minus and plus ends. Like other depolymerases 101 (Brouhard et al., 2008; Tan et al., 2006), APC-C accumulates at 102 the end of depolymerising microtubules. Using cryo-electron 103 microscopy and image analysis, we observed APC-C bound to the 104 surface of microtubules, where it adopted an extended conformation 105 along protofilaments. Strikingly, APC-C was also seen to organise 106 soluble tubulin as ring-like oligomers around the microtubule wall. 107 A mutant incapable of decorating microtubules with these ring-like 108 structures and exhibiting reduced effects on microtubule dynamics 109 was unable to rescue chromosome alignment defects in metaphase 110 cells silenced for APC, whereas complementation with APC-C did 111 rescue these defects. Taken together, our results allowed us to 112 develop a molecular model linking the role of APC in regulating 113 microtubule dynamics and organisation to its function in mitosis. 114

## RESULTS

# The C-terminal domain of APC increases growth and shrinkage rates at microtubule ends

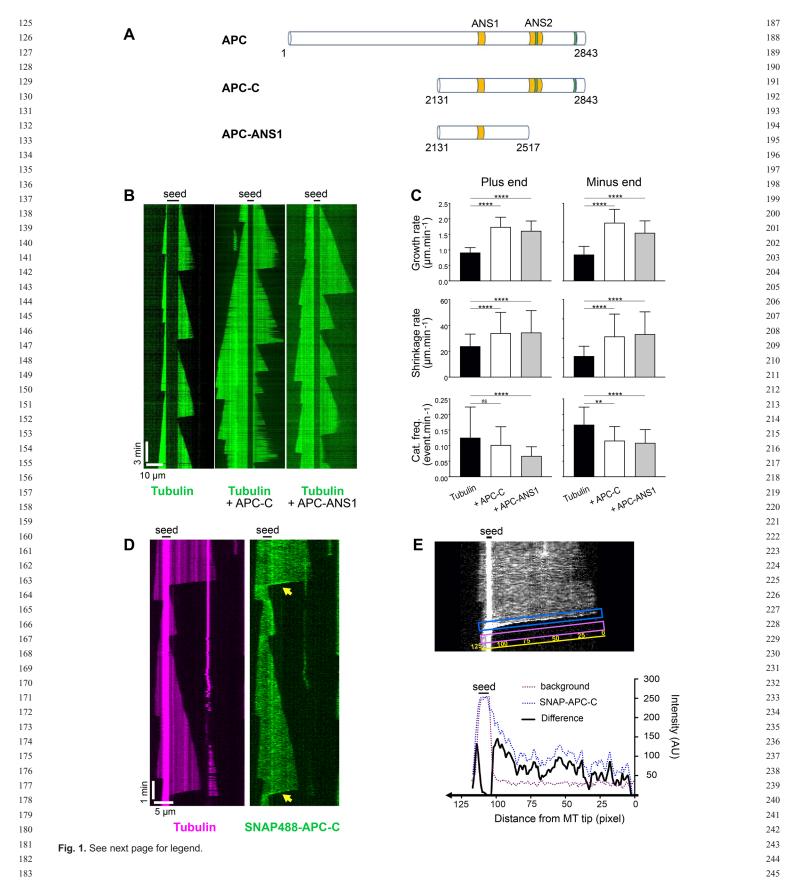
We first characterised the effect of purified APC-C (Fig. 1A) on microtubule assembly and disassembly using total internal reflection fluorescence (TIRF) microscopy. In our experimental conditions, the addition of 50 nM APC-C significantly increased both polymerisation and depolymerisation rates for microtubules (Fig. 1B,C; Fig. S1; Table 1; Movie 1). Thus, microtubule plus-ends 124

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grew twice as fast and depolymerised 30% faster in the presence of 50 nM APC-C. In addition, APC-C increased the rescue frequency and slightly decreased the catastrophe frequency. Similar effects of

APC-C were observed at microtubule minus ends, with a 50% increase in both microtubule growth and shrinkage rates (Fig. 1C; Fig. S1; Table 1). A truncated form of APC-C (APC-ANS1),

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#### Fig. 1. The C-terminal domain of APC increases the growth and 249 shrinkage rates of microtubules and accumulates at the ends of 250 depolymerising microtubules. (A) Schematic representation of the full-251 length APC and protein constructs used in this study. The regions marked in 252 yellow indicate ANS1, a region involved in microtubule interaction, and 253 ANS2, a dimerisation site - both domains are involved in actin nucleation. 254 The regions marked in green indicate SxIP EB-binding sites. (B) Representative kymographs for microtubules grown with 15 µM tubulin 255 alone (left) or with 50 nM APC-C (centre) or APC-ANS1 (right). (C) Growth 256 rate, shrinkage rate and catastrophe frequency of the plus and minus ends 257 of microtubules assembled in the absence or in the presence of APC-C. ns, 258 not significant; \*\*P<0.01; \*\*\*\*P<0.0001 (Kruskal-Wallis test with Dunn's 259 multiple comparisons). Data are represented as mean±s.d. Detailed values 260 are given in Table 1 and SuperPlot representation of the data in Fig. S1. 261 (D) Representative kymographs of microtubules grown with 15 µM tubulin (magenta) and 12 nM SNAP-488-APC-C (green), showing the accumulation 262 of SNAP-488-APC-C at the extremities of depolymerising microtubules 263 (yellow arrows). (E) Representative kymograph (top) and the corresponding 264 intensity plot profile (bottom) of SNAP-488-APC-C measured along the 265 microtubule depolymerizing end. The dashed blue line indicates SNAP-488-266 APC-C intensity along the microtubule end centred on the blue box in the 267 kymograph. The dashed pink line indicates the background corresponding to the intensity measured along a line centred on the pink box in the 268 kymograph. The plain black line indicates SNAP-488-APC-C intensity after 269 subtraction of the background, allowing the removal of the signal of SNAP-270 488-APC-C that binds to the seed. AU, arbitrary units; MT, microtubule. 271

272 lacking the dimerisation domain (ANS2) and EB-binding sites, but 273 including the ANS1 domain known to be involved in microtubule 274 binding (Fig. 1A), had a similar effect on microtubule dynamics 275 compared to APC-C (Fig. 1B,C; Fig. S1; Table 1). Therefore, 276 APC-C appears to modulate microtubule dynamics at both ends through elements in its basic domain, not involving its dimerisation 278 or EB-binding sites.

### The C-terminal domain of APC accumulates at the ends of depolymerising microtubules

Using a fluorescent form of APC-C (SNAP488-APC-C), we investigated whether the effects induced by APC-C on microtubule dynamics were associated with a specific distribution along or at the ends of growing and shrinking microtubules. Inspection of the kymographs obtained in the presence of 12 nM SNAP488-APC-C revealed that APC-C bound the whole length of the microtubule wall and accumulated at the ends of depolymerising microtubules (Fig. 1D). The fluorescence intensity increased consistently as the depolymerisation time progressed, becoming more intense close to the seeds (Fig. 1E). In contrast, in line with our previous observation (Serre et al., 2019), APC-C did not accumulate at the ends of polymerising microtubules (Fig. 1D). APC-C can therefore accumulate autonomously at the ends of depolymerising microtubules.

#### The C-terminal domain of APC forms ring-like tubulin oligomers around microtubules

Having observed APC-C to bind all along the microtubule wall 313 (Fig. 1D), we next used electron microscopy to investigate the 314 structure of the APC-C-microtubule complex. Cryo-electron 315 microscopy images revealed that APC-C bundled microtubules 316 and could also organise free tubulin, leading to the formation of 317 tubulin rings with a diameter of 33–38 nm (Fig. S2A,B), similar to 318 the diameter of the tubulin rings that form spontaneously in solution 319 (Arnal et al., 2004; Shemesh et al., 2018). Strikingly, in the presence 320 of both free tubulin and microtubules, APC-C induced an unusual 321 microtubule decoration consisting of ring-like tubulin oligomers 322 wrapped around taxol- or GMPCPP-stabilised microtubules 323 (Fig. 2A; Fig. S2C,D). Ni-NTA gold particles specifically 324 targeting 6× histidine-labelled APC-C revealed the presence of 325 APC-C along the microtubules decorated with rings of tubulin 326 (Fig. S2E). From cryo-electron microscopy images and using 327 single-particle image analysis methods, we calculated a three-328 dimensional (3D) model of a 13-protofilament (13-pf) microtubule 329 decorated with ring-like tubulin oligomers, measuring about 45 nm 330 in diameter (Fig. 2B). The average axial periodicity of the ring-like 331 tubulin structure was about 10 nm, further suggesting that the ring-332 like tubulin decoration did not follow the 8-nm periodicity of the 333 tubulin heterodimer in microtubules (Fig. 2C). 334

#### APC-C binds along the protofilament crest

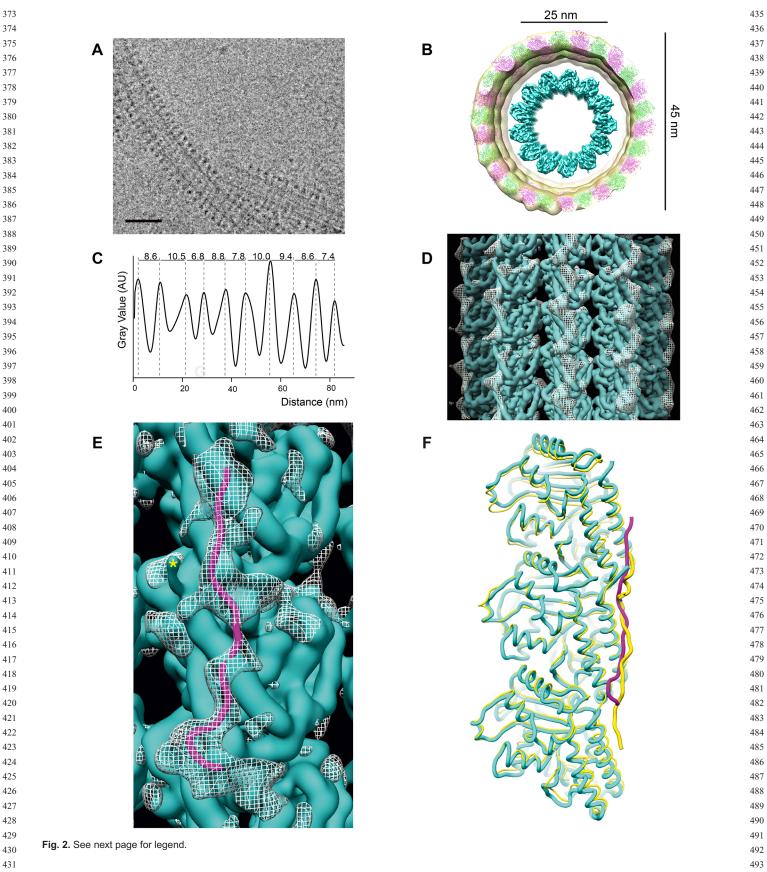
The loose periodicity of the ring-like tubulin structure made it impossible to obtain a high-resolution model (Fig. 2B,C) or to locate the electron density of APC-C on the outer ring-like tubulin A04 structures. Indeed, the ring-like tubulin structures and APC-C density were poorly resolved compared to the central microtubule. This poor resolution is most likely due to the flexibility of the ring structure and the heterogenous binding mode of APC-C.

In contrast, an additional density in the difference map [obtained either by subtracting the signal from a 15-Å low-pass filtered 345 synthetic map of a 13-pf microtubule (Cook et al., 2020) from the 346 original cryo-electron map or by subtracting the signal calculated 347 from the refined atomic model of the 13-pf microtubule from the 348 original cryo-electron map] was present on the external surface of 349 each microtubule protofilament (Fig. 2D,E). This density could accommodate an extended peptide measuring about 65 Å and spanning the microtubule surface in the vicinity of the H11 and H12 helices of tubulin (Fig. 2E). However, the resolution of our model 353 was too low to clearly distinguish between  $\alpha$ - and  $\beta$ -tubulin and to 354 conclude whether APC interacts at the intra- and/or inter-dimer 355 tubulin interface. The extended extra density that we assigned to 356 APC-C is reminiscent of that of tau protein, which also binds along 357 the crest of protofilaments, as shown by the superposition of the 358 359

#### Table 1. Effects of APC-C and APC-ANS1 on microtubule dynamic parameters

	MTs	Growth rate±s.d. (µm/min)	n	Time (min)	Shrinkage rate±s.d. (µm/min)	n	Time (min)	Frequency of catastrophes <mark>±s.d.</mark> (event/min)	п	Frequency of rescues (min <sup>-1</sup> )	n
lus end											
Fubulin	43	0.91 <mark>±</mark> 0.16	208	1595	23.93 <mark>±</mark> 9.3	164	63	0.12 <mark>±</mark> 0.10	180	0.11	7
PC-C	55	1.74 <mark>±</mark> 0.31	270	2231	34.09 <mark>±</mark> 15.9	197	99	0.10 <mark>±</mark> 0.06	203	0.75	75
PC-ANS1	46	1.61 <mark>±</mark> 0.31	197	1871	34.54 <mark>±</mark> 16.9	123	65	0.07 <mark>±</mark> 0.03	124	0.55	36
Minus end											
Fubulin	36	0.34 <mark>±</mark> 0.10	191	1101	21.77 <u>±</u> 10.0	163	13.7	0.16 <mark>±</mark> 0.05	161	1.10	15
APC-C	25	0.75 <mark>±</mark> 0.17	172	1221	41.96±23.0	137	13.6	0.11 <u>±</u> 0.04	143	7.35	100
APC-ANS1	34	0.62 <mark>±</mark> 0.15	200	1548	44.27 <mark>±</mark> 23.0	146	14.3	0.10 <u>±</u> 0.04	172	6.85	98

310 n, number of events; s.d., standard deviation; MTs, microtubules.



432 atomic model of tau's R2 tubulin binding motif with APC-C C- $\alpha$ 433 chain (Fig. 2F) (Kellogg et al., 2018). By analogy with the structural 434 data provided in studies of kinesin-13 and tau (Benoit et al., 2018;

Kellogg et al., 2018), we propose that APC-C interacts with similar sites on the curved tubulin oligomers constituting the outer ring-like tubulin structure.

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Fig. 2. The C-terminal domain of APC forms ring-like tubulin structures 497 around microtubules. (A) Cryo-electron microscopy image showing 498 examples of taxol-stabilised microtubules decorated by ring-like tubulin 499 structures in the presence of APC-C. Scale bar: 50 nm. (B) 3D electron 500 microscopy reconstruction of one microtubule segment (cyan) decorated 501 with ring-like tubulin oligomers (pale vellow). Atomic models of the tubulin 502 heterodimer (green and pink; PDB ID: 6B0C; Benoit et al., 2018) were fitted inside the cryo-electron microscopy model of the ring-like tubulin structure. 503 (C) An example of the periodicity of tubulin-APC-C decoration around taxol-504 microtubules. AU, arbitrary units. (D) Difference map between a 15-Å low-505 pass-filtered synthetic map of a 13-pf microtubule (white mesh) (Cook et al., 506 2020) and the original cryo-electron map (cyan). (E) Model of the APC-C 507 C-α chain (in magenta) fitted to the residual density of the difference map 508 (white mesh) between the refined atomic model and original cryo-electron 509 map (cyan). (F) Orthogonal view along the axis of one protofilament. The APC-C C-α chain is shown in magenta. The atomic model of tau bound to 510 the microtubule surface (PDB code: 6CVN) fitted within the initial APC cryo-511 electron microscopy map is shown in yellow. The C-terminus of tubulin is AQ20 marked by a star. The tau-tubulin structure was superposed with the refined atomic model of tubulin (cyan) within the initial APC-C-microtubule map. AQ20:

#### APC-C exhibits at least two distinct tubulin-binding domains

517 Decoration of microtubules by ring-like tubulin oligomers requires a 518 minimum of two distinct tubulin-binding sites: one bound to the 519 microtubule lattice and the other to the ring-like tubulin structure. This type of binding could result from APC-C dimerisation or from 520 521 the presence of multiple tubulin-binding sites within the APC-C 522 sequence. To determine which structure was involved, we used the APC-ANS1 fragment, which behaves like APC-C with respect to 523 524 microtubule dynamics (Table 1), but is clearly monomeric in 525 solution (Fig. S3A,B). Cryo-electron microscopy images revealed that APC-ANS1 can also decorate microtubules with ring-like 526 527 tubulin oligomers (Fig. S3C), displaying a similar pattern to that of 528 APC-C. Therefore, each APC-ANS1 monomer contains a minimum of two distinct sites interacting with the tubulin heterodimers 529 530 present either in the outer ring-like structure or incorporated within 531 the microtubule wall.

To more precisely define these different APC tubulin-binding 532 533 domains, we designed three overlapping peptides (F1, F2 and F3) 534 within the basic domain of APC-ANS1 (Fig. S3D). Each of these peptides could bind microtubules and form oligomeric tubulin rings 535 536 in solution (Fig. S3E.F). However, apart from a few rare decorations observed with the F3 fragment, none decorated microtubules with 537 ring-like tubulin oligomers to the same extent as APC-C (Fig. S3F). 538 539 Based on these results, we delimited two non-overlapping regions 540 required for microtubule interaction: TBS1 (residues 2201–2302) 541 and TBS2 (residues 2311–2365) (Fig. 3A).

542 To further investigate the regions required for microtubule 543 binding, all the arginine and lysine residues present in TBS1 or 544 TBS2 were mutated to alanine to abolish electrostatic interactions with the negative surface of tubulin dimers. We then investigated 545 546 whether APC-C-TBS1 (i.e. mutated in the TBS2 site) and APC-C-547 TBS2 (i.e. mutated in the TBS1 site) could induce the formation of 548 ring-like structures around microtubules in the presence of soluble 549 tubulin. As expected, and unlike APC-C, microtubules decorated 550 with rings were not observed in the presence of either APC-C-TBS1 or APC-C-TBS2 (Fig. 3B). To confirm this result, we also 551 552 compared the ability of green-fluorescent mutated and wild-type forms of APC-ANS1 to bind microtubules and decorate them with 553 554 red-fluorescent soluble tubulin. Loss of one of the two TBS sites did 555 not abolish the interaction of APC-ANS1 with microtubules (Fig. 3C; Fig. S4A,B) but prevented the recruitment of free tubulin to 556 557 microtubules (Fig. 3D) and decreased the effect of APC-ANS1 on 558 microtubule growth and shrinkage rates (Fig. S1; Table S1).

These results indicate that APC-C contains at least two adjacent tubulin-binding sites presenting similar properties in terms of tubulin and microtubule binding (Fig. 3). Both sites are required for decoration of microtubules with ring-like tubulin oligomers and for APC-C to regulate microtubule dynamics.

The 3D models of TBS1 and TBS2 predicted by the Robetta/ RosettaFold server (Baek et al., 2021) were superposed on the R2 tubulin-binding domain of tau within the additional density defined above (Fig. S4C). Interestingly, this modelling highlighted two superposable clusters of basic amino acids involved in the interaction with microtubules (Fig. S4D,E), suggesting that these two structural microtubule-associated-proteins (MAPs) share a common microtubule-binding mode.

For subsequent cellular studies, we used APC-C-TBS1 (mutated in the TBS2 site) as mutation of the TBS1-binding site reduced microtubule binding compared to the wild-type form (Fig. S4B).

# APC-C is located on spindle microtubules and in the vicinity of kinetochores during metaphase

Ring-like structures have been proposed to play a role in coupling chromosome movement and microtubule dynamics during mitosis (Cheeseman and Desai, 2008; Davis and Wordeman, 2007). Having observed that APC-C modulates microtubule dynamics and also induces the formation of ring-like tubulin structures around microtubules *in vitro*, we next examined its location during mitosis in RPE-1 cells expressing APC-C (Fig. 4).

In these experiments, APC-C mainly localised to the centrosomes and spindle microtubules (either kinetochore or interpolar microtubules, which were indistinguishable at the resolution available) (Fig. 4A,B). APC-C also partially colocalised with CENP-E, a component of the outer kinetochore involved in chromosome congression (Kapoor et al., 2006) (Fig. 4C,D). This colocalisation was greatly reduced following treatment with nocodazole, which causes complete depolymerisation of spindle microtubules (Fig. 4C,D), indicating that the positioning of APC-C at the outer kinetochores is microtubule dependent. Similar localisation results were obtained with the mutant APC-C-TBS1 (Fig. 4). Based on these observations, APC might be involved at the kinetochore–microtubule interface, as previously suggested (Banks and Heald, 2004; Draviam et al., 2006; Fodde et al., 2001b; Kaplan et al., 2001).

#### Wild-type but not mutant APC-C partially rescues chromosome congression defects during metaphase

From its localisation in cells and its *in vitro* properties, we postulated that APC-C might link microtubule dynamics to chromosome movements during metaphase and anaphase. To test this hypothesis, we depleted RPE-1 and HeLa cells of endogenous APC with a specific siRNA (Fig. S5). In agreement with previous studies (Bakhoum et al., 2009; Draviam et al., 2006; Green et al., 2005), APC knockdown cells displayed a drastic increase in the percentages of metaphase cells exhibiting misaligned chromosomes and anaphase cells with lagging chromosomes (Fig. 5A–F). Expression of APC-C, but not the APC-C-TBS1 mutant, rescued the metaphase chromosome misalignment in these cells (Fig. 5C,E). Interestingly, complementation with APC-C poorly rescued chromosome segregation defects during anaphase (Fig. 5D,F).

We next wondered whether the expression of APC-C could also complement the function of APC in human colorectal tumour SW480 cells, which express a truncated form of APC encompassing the N-terminal third of the protein (up to residue 1338) and lacking the whole APC-C domain. SW480 cells exhibited a relatively high 620

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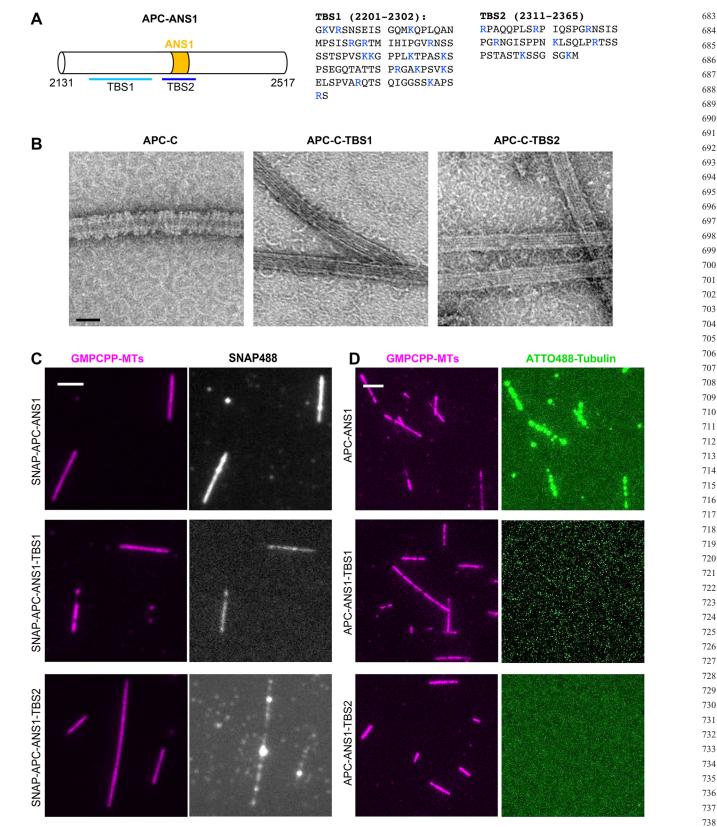
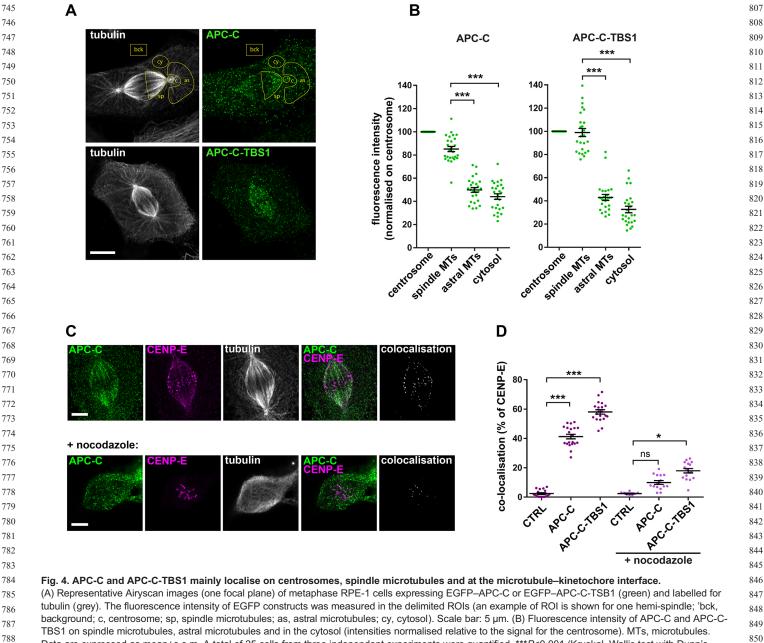
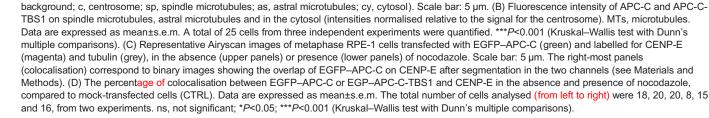


Fig. 3. Decoration of microtubules by tubulin oligomers requires the full basic domain of APC. (A) Location of the TBS1 and TBS2 tubulin-binding sites within the APC-ANS1 sequence and their amino acid sequences. The basic residues that were mutated to alanine are shown in blue. (B) Negativestaining electron microscopy images of taxol-stabilised microtubules incubated with free tubulin and APC-C or APC-C mutated for the basic domain (APC-C-TBS1 and APC-C-TBS2). Scale bar: 50 nm. (C) TIRF images of Atto561-GMPCPP-microtubules (magenta) incubated with 100 nM fluorescent SNAP488-APC-ANS1, SNAP-488–APC-ANS1-TBS1 or SNAP488–APC-ANS1-TBS2 (grey). (D) TIRF images of Atto561-GMPCPP-microtubules (magenta) incubated with 5 µM Atto488-tubulin (green) and 100 nM APC-ANS1, APC-ANS1-TBS1 or APC-ANS1-TBS2. Scale bars: 2 µm. Images are representative of xxxxx experiments. AQ21:







percentage of defects during metaphase and anaphase (Fig. 5G,H). As above, expression of APC-C reduced the percentage of metaphase chromosome misalignment (Fig. 5G) but had no impact on chromosome segregation defects during anaphase (Fig. 5H). As expected, the APC-C-TBS1 mutant provided no complementation for either the metaphase or anaphase defects (Fig. 5G,H).

To further analyse the role played by APC-C in mitosis, we examined the duration of mitosis using time-lapse experiments (Fig. 6A). APC depletion in RPE-1 cells resulted in a mitotic delay, with a lengthening of the duration between nuclear envelope breakdown (NEB) and metaphase chromosome alignment (Fig. 6B). In agreement with the results described above (Fig. 5), this delay was rescued, with the durations returning to close to those recorded for control cells, upon expression of APC-C. Once again, expression of APC-C-TBS1 failed to rescue the defects (Fig. 6B). In contrast, APC depletion had no effect on the duration between metaphase chromosome alignment and the onset of anaphase (Fig. 6C).

Overall, these results indicate that APC-C contributes to regulating chromosome congression during metaphase through processes involving its multiple tubulin-binding sites.

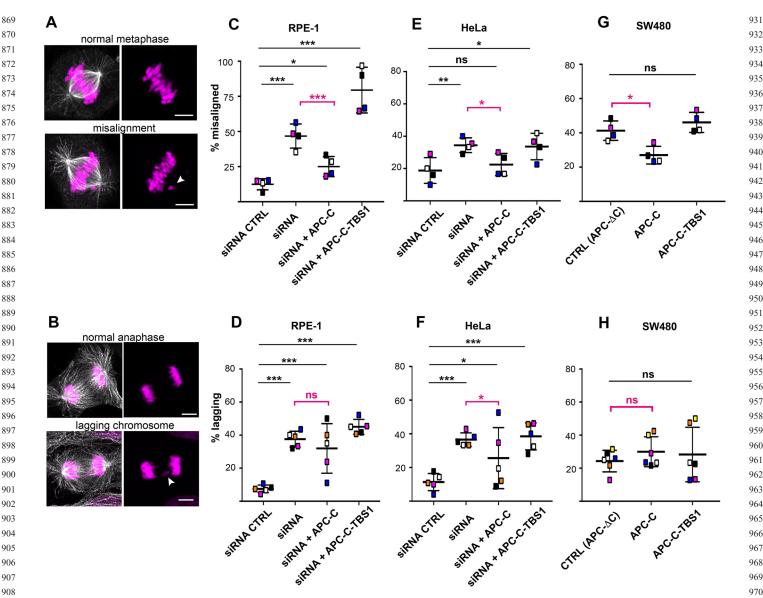


Fig. 5. APC-C can rescue chromosome misalignment during metaphase. (A) Representative images of RPE-1 cells showing normal metaphase or 909 abnormal metaphase with misaligned chromosomes (arrowhead). (B) Representative images of RPE-1 cells showing normal anaphase or abnormal 910 anaphase with lagging chromosomes (arrowhead). Cells were labelled for tubulin (grey) and DNA (magenta). Scale bars: 5 µm. (C-H) Percentages of cells 911 exhibiting misaligned chromosomes or exhibiting lagging chromosomes. RPE-1 (C,D) and HeLa (E,F) cells were transfected with control siRNA (siRNA 912 CTRL), siRNA against APC (siRNA), siRNA+APC-C construct and siRNA+APC-C-TBS1 construct. SW480 cells (G,H) were transfected with APC-C or 913 APC-C-TBS1 constructs. Total number of metaphase cells analysed: RPE-1, n=121-133; HeLa, n=120-122; SW480, n=147-161 (data correspond to the mean from four independent experiments). Total number of anaphase cells analysed: RPE-1, n=110-144; HeLa, n=142-160; SW480, n=186-197 914 (data represent the mean from four to six independent experiments). To determine statistical significance, normal and abnormal cells were distributed in 915 contingency tables and analysed by applying Fisher's exact test. ns, not significant; \*P<0.05; \*\*P<0.01; \*\*\*P<0.001. The colour code corresponds to the 916 different experiment replicates. 917

#### DISCUSSION

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920 This study aimed to elucidate the intrinsic properties of the 921 C-terminal domain of APC (APC-C), in which the main 922 cytoskeleton-interacting sites are located - sites that are absent from the pathological forms. Our results revealed new properties of 923 924 APC with regard to its interaction with microtubules and tubulin, and to its role during mitosis. 925

926 APC is a large scaffold protein and its interaction network 927 includes partners involved in a wide range of cellular processes 928 (Nelson and Näthke, 2013; Rusan and Peifer, 2008). APC was 929 primarily identified as a microtubule stabiliser, and its C-terminal 930 domain was ascribed a major role in microtubule interaction

(Zumbrunn et al., 2001). In our model derived from cryo-electron microscopy data, APC-C, the domain that encompasses the microtubule-binding sites, could adopt an extended conformation 983 spanning the protofilament crest at the interface between tubulin monomer and/or dimers. This model is reminiscent of the interaction described between neuronal tau and microtubules (Kellogg et al., 2018), and corroborates results of an early study that highlighted analogies between APC and tau (Deka et al., 1998) with regard to tubulin assembly and microtubule bundling. Interestingly, this mode of microtubule binding has also been described at a low resolution for MAP2 (Al-Bassam et al., 2002), another structural MAP present in neurons. It could therefore

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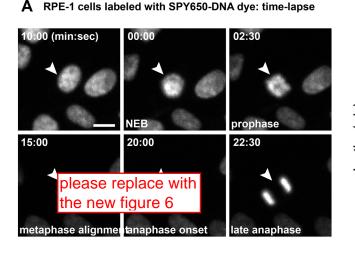
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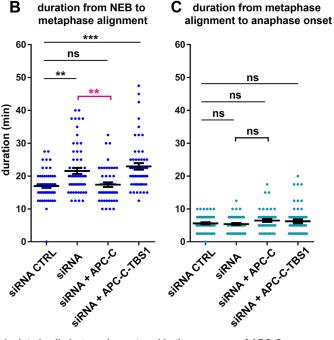


Fig. 6. Time between NEB and metaphase alignment is prolonged in APC-depleted cells but can be restored in the presence of APC-C. (A) Sequence of images of RPE-1 cells at the indicated times (in min:s) relative to NEB. Arrowheads point towards a dividing cell. Scale bar: 10 µm. (B,C) Plots showing the time from NEB to metaphase alignment (B) and from metaphase alignment to anaphase onset (C) in RPE-1 cells transfected with control siRNA (siRNA CTRL), siRNA against APC (siRNA), siRNA+APC-C construct and siRNA+APC-C-TBS1 construct. Points represent individual durations and data are expressed as mean±s.e.m. Total number of mitotic cells analysed: n=56, 64, 51, 55, respectively, from four different movies in each condition. ns, not significant; \*\* P<0.01; \*\*\* P<0.001 (Kruskal-Wallis test with Dunn's multiple comparisons).

constitute a hallmark of this family of MAPs exhibiting basic intrinsically disordered microtubule-binding sites. Despite its analogies with structural MAPs that promote microtubule assembly, APC exhibits unique properties. Indeed, besides increasing microtubule assembly, the APC-C domain also promotes the disassembly of tubulin at both ends of microtubules, behaving as a depolymerase (Fig. 1B; Table 1). Very few proteins exhibit this type of antagonistic activity. To our knowledge, only the plus-end-tracking protein XMAP215, which is mainly described as an efficient tubulin polymerase, has also been identified as a microtubule-depolymerising factor under specific conditions (Brouhard et al., 2008). However, whereas the activity of XMAP215 seems restricted to the microtubule plus ends, APC-C promotes microtubule dynamics at both ends (Table 1).

Thus, APC could regulate microtubule dynamics across a large panel of processes, including assembly of the mitotic spindle and organisation of acentrosomal microtubule arrays in neurons and epithelial cells (Akhmanova and Hoogenraad, 2015; Weaver and Walczak, 2015). The location of APC at the kinetochore-microtubule interface is consistent with its role in mitosis, during which it could tune the alternating growing and shortening phases through its activity at microtubule ends. In dividing cells, during metaphase, microtubules repeatedly shrink and grow until all the chromosomes are aligned on the metaphase plate and correctly attached to spindle microtubules; during anaphase, microtubule-depolymerising forces predominate to pull the chromosomes towards the poles of the cell. The hypothesis that APC is involved in these processes also explains the chromosome misalignment and mis-segregation observed in APC knockdown cells and in SW480 cancer cells (Fig. 5). Complementation with the C-terminal domain of APC restores metaphase chromosome alignment and normal metaphase duration, but does not fully restore the defects relating to lagging chromosomes in anaphase (Fig. 5). Accordingly, the fact that APC-C stimulates microtubule dynamics by increasing microtubule growth and shrinkage rates and by stimulating the rescue frequency might better correspond to the microtubule behaviour required during metaphase to achieve chromosome congression, rather than the behaviour required during anaphase.

In addition to the effects of APC on regulating microtubule dynamics, our results highlight a novel and intriguing property related to its tubulin-binding capacity. Using electron microscopy, we observed that APC fragments containing the microtubulebinding domain (i.e. APC-C and its shorter form APC-ANS1) organised ring-like structures composed of tubulin around microtubules (Fig. 2). Similar tubulin structures around microtubules have been observed by electron microscopy for the microtubule-binding domains of kinesin-13 and Ska-1, both of which are located at the kinetochores during mitosis (Benoit et al., 2018; Monda et al., 2017). Based on this similarity, we hypothesised that these peculiar ring-like structures correspond to functional features shared by kinesin-13, Ska-1 and APC. By analogy with the Dam-1/DASH complex, an essential component of the yeast kinetochores that self-organises as rings around microtubules (Miranda et al., 2005; Westermann et al., 2005; Ramey et al., 2011), it has been suggested that these rings play a key AQ6: role in linking kinetochore movement to microtubule dynamics during mitosis (Davis and Wordeman, 2007; Cheeseman and Desai, 2008). In particular, these rings were proposed to convert the force generated by microtubule depolymerisation into movement along the lattice, thus allowing the chromosomes to segregate towards the poles during anaphase or to oscillate during metaphase. In this context, the ring-like tubulin structures generated by the microtubule-binding domain of kinesin-13, Ska-1 and now APC could reflect the ability of these three proteins to increase

microtubule shrinkage and link microtubule depolymerisation to
chromosome movements during mitosis.

1119 The decoration of microtubules with ring-like tubulin structures 1120 results from the presence of two tubulin-binding sites per APC-C 1121 monomer, which allow APC to simultaneously bind straight tubulin 1122 in the microtubule lattice and bent tubulin in the ring-like 1123 tubulin structures (Fig. 3). Mutation of one of these tubulin-1124 binding sites is sufficient to prevent the recruitment of tubulin around the microtubule lattice, and the resulting mutant fails to 1125 1126 restore metaphase alignment and chromosome segregation in APC 1127 knockdown cells or SW480 cancer cells (Fig. 5). The presence of multiple tubulin-binding sites - required to decorate microtubules 1128 with tubulin oligomers in vitro - is therefore essential for the mitotic 1129 1130 functions of APC. Along this line, molecular models have proposed 1131 that for a majority of proteins that track depolymerising microtubule 1132 ends, multiple tubulin-binding sites composed of disordered and 1133 positively charged sequences, such as the sequence of APC-C, are 1134 required to efficiently link microtubule shrinkage to movement of 1135 the associated cellular cargoes attached to these proteins (Volkov, 1136 2020). Such models are based on the ability of these protein 1137 couplers to remain attached to the microtubule ends as they shorten 1138 through their multiple tubulin-binding domains. We hypothesise 1139 that curved tubulin structures released from depolymerising 1140 microtubules might be pulled by APC-C as it diffuses along the microtubule wall (Baumann et al., 2020). Such a mechanism 1141 1142 would enhance breaking of the lateral contacts of the protofilament 1143 and explain how APC-C accelerates the microtubule shrinkage 1144 rate. Accordingly, the APC-C mutant incompetent to decorate 1145 microtubules with tubulin oligomers exhibits a reduced 1146 microtubule-depolymerising activity.

1147 Finally, the existence of multiple tubulin-binding sites in APC-C 1148 might favour microtubule bundling, a function previously attributed to APC both in cells and in cell-free systems (Deka et al., 1998; 1149 1150 Kahn et al., 2018; Mogensen et al., 2002; Zumbrunn et al., 2001). In a mitotic context, APC could therefore enhance microtubule 1151 bundling at the kinetochore and simultaneously coordinate the 1152 1153 overall dynamics of bundled microtubules. Through this activity, it 1154 could have an impact on the formation of the metaphase plate.

1155 From its presence at the microtubule-kinetochore interface and 1156 the propensity of its microtubule-binding domain to increase 1157 microtubule dynamics, in particular, microtubule shrinkage, to bind curved tubulin, to accumulate at microtubule depolymerising 1158 ends and to decorate microtubules with tubulin oligomers as 1159 1160 described for other kinetochore proteins, we propose that APC is a 1161 component of the molecular complexes regulating the coupling of 1162 kinetochore movements and microtubule dynamics at least during 1163 metaphase. The data presented here provide new molecular 1164 evidence contributing to our understanding of the mitotic function of this major regulator of cellular integrity. For more than two 1165 1166 decades, cellular studies have highlighted the major role played by 1167 APC in preventing cancer development and aneuploidy. Our results 1168 confirm a role for APC in normal functions of the mitotic spindle 1169 owing to its regulation of microtubule dynamics. We also present 1170 molecular evidence of the specific role played by the C-terminal 1171 domain of APC, the lack of which is associated with chromosome 1172 instability.

## 1174 MATERIALS AND METHODS

## <sup>1175</sup> Plasmids and siRNAs

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To construct pEGFP-APC-C and pEGFP-APC-C-TBS1 plasmids, APC-C
and APC-C-TBS1 were PCR amplified from the pET20b (Novagen)
constructs described in Serre et al. (2019) and were inserted into the

pEGFP-C1 plasmid (xx source xx) using the In-Fusion HD Cloning kit (Clontech) and the primers indicated in Table S2. Plasmid DNA for control sing a Plasmid Endofree Midi Kit (QIAGE) Hilden, Germany). Additional DNA sequences used in this study are listed in Table S2. siRNAs directed against APC and control siRNA (siRNA CTRL) (Table S2) were purchased from Eurofins.

#### **Protein preparation**

Proteins were purified as described in Serre et al. (2019). Briefly, xxxxxxxx.

#### In vitro microtubule dynamics assays

1190 To explore how APC-C influences microtubule dynamics by TIRF 1191 microscopy, flow chambers were prepared and perfused with stable 1192 fluorescent (ATTO-561) GMPCPP-microtubule seeds, as described previously (Ramirez-Rios et al., 2017). Microtubule nucleation was then 1193 induced from seeds by adding the following mixture: 15 µM bovine tubulin 1194 containing 15% fluorescent ATTO-488-tubulin in BRB80 buffer (80 mM 1195 PIPES, 1 mM EGTA, 1 mM MgCl<sub>2</sub>, pH 6.8), 100 mM KCl, 3% (v/v) 1196 glycerol, 1 mM GTP, 1% (w/v) bovine serum albumin, 0.05% (w/v) methyl AQ9 cellulose 4000 cp (xx source xx), 4 mM dithiothreitol, 1 mg/ml glucose, 70 mg/ml catalase (xx source xx) and 580 mg/ml glucose oxidase (xx source 4Q9: xx). APC-C or APC-ANS1 (50 nM) were added where indicated. Samples 1200 were observed for 45 min (recording one image every 5 s) at 32°C on an 1201 inverted microscope (Nikon) equipped with an iLas<sup>2</sup> TIRF system (Roper 1202 Scientific), a cooled charged-coupled EMCCD camera (Photometrics) and a warm stage controller (Linkam Scientific). The system was controlled using 1203 MetaMorph software (Molecular Devices). The parameters of microtubule 1204 dynamics were determined from kymographs using ImageJ software 1205 (Schneider et al., 2012) and an in-house KymoTool (Ramirez-Rios et al., 1206 2017). Growth and shrinkage rates were obtained from the slopes of the 1207 microtubule growth and shrinkage phases, respectively. The catastrophe 1208 frequency was calculated by dividing the number of events by the time 1209 spent in growing state per microtubule. Due to large variations between 1210 microtubules, the rescue frequency was calculated by dividing the total 1211 number of events by the total time spent in shrinking state for each 1212 condition. The data presented in Table 1 and Table S1 are from two or three 1213 independent experiments.

#### **Design and mutation of tubulin-binding sites**

Based on previous studies that highlighted the contribution of APC sequences (residues 2244-2312 and 2326-2371) to interactions with microtubules (Deka et al., 1998; Okada et al., 2010), three overlapping peptides (F1, F2 and F3) were designed within the basic domain of APC-ANS1 (Fig. S3D). These peptides were used to more precisely characterise the role of distinct regions in the decoration of microtubules by ring-like tubulin oligomers using co-sedimentation assays (Fig. S3E) and negativestaining electron microscopy (Fig. S3F). From the results obtained, and by comparing the sequences of the three fragments, two non-overlapping regions TBS1 (residues 2201-2302) and TBS2 (residues 2311-2365) were delimited (Fig. S3D). The arginine and lysine residues present in TBS1 or TBS2 were mutated to alanine (by to a total of 16 and eight mutations in the TBS1 and TBS2 nucleotide sequences, respectively). The mutations were confirmed by sequencing. The resulting mutant sequences were inserted into the APC-C and APC-ANS1 nucleotide sequences to study the effect of a lack of one of the two tubulin-binding sites on microtubule decoration and dynamics.

#### Co-sedimentation assay with taxol-stabilised microtubules

To test the microtubule-binding properties of APC-ANS1, APC-ANS1-TBS1, APC-ANS1-TBS2 and the F1, F2 and F3 fragments, 1  $\mu$ M taxolstabilised microtubules and 2  $\mu$ M APC-ANS1, APC-ANS1-TBS1 or APC-ANS1-TBS2, or the F1, F2 or F3 fragments were added to BRB80 buffer supplemented with 50 mM KCl, and incubated for 10 min at 35°C. An aliquot (20  $\mu$ l) of this mixture was then overlaid on a 40- $\mu$ l cushion of 60% (w/v) sucrose in BRB80 buffer and 50 mM KCl, and centrifuged at xxxxx g (Beckman Coulter rotor TLA-100) for 45 min at 35°C. The protein



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1241 content of the supernatant and pellet were analysed by migration on 4-15% gels by SDS-PAGE revealed by Coomassie Blue staining. Bands 1242 corresponding to APC-ANS1 and its fragments were quantified using 1243 ImageJ (Schneider et al., 2012). 1244

#### 1245 Negative-staining electron microscopy 1246

2 µM taxol-stabilised microtubules, 5 µM APC-C, 5 µM bovine brain 1247 tubulin in BRB80 buffer and 50 mM KCl were mixed together. An aliquot 1248 of this solution (4 µl) was loaded onto a glow-discharged carbon-coated grid 1249 (xx source xx). After incubation for 30 s, the grid was blotted (Whatman 1250 Paper N°4, xx source xx) and placed upside down in contact with a drop of 1251 1 nM Ni-NTA-Nanogold (5-nm diameter, Nanoprobes), BRB80 buffer and 50 mM KCl for 4 min at room temperature. The grid was then washed with 1252 BRB80 buffer and 50 mM KCl, and stained with 2% (w/v) uranyl acetate for 1253 30 s. APC-C with and without 6× histidine tags were tested in parallel. Grids 1254 were observed using an FEI Tecnai F20 200 kV electron microscope 1255 equipped with a 4K×4K FEI Ceta CMOS camera (FEI Company). Images 1256 were taken in low-dose mode. 1257

For other negative-staining microscopy experiments, 4 µl of protein 1258 solution were loaded onto glow-discharged carbon-coated grids. After 1259 incubation for 30 s, grids were blotted and stained with 2% (w/v) uranyl 1260 acetate.

#### **Cryo-electron microscopy** 1262

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Taxol-stabilised microtubules and GMPCPP microtubules were prepared 1263 from bovine tubulin. Taxol-stabilised microtubules (2  $\mu$ M) were mixed with 1264 5 µM APC-C or APC-ANS1 and 5 µM tubulin in BRB80 buffer with 1265 50 mM KCl. An aliquot of this mixture (4 µl) was deposited on a glow-1266 discharged Quantifoil R2/2 300 mesh carbon/copper grid mounted on a grid 1267 plunger (Vitrobot IV, Thermo Fisher Scientific). Grids were blotted for 1 s at 1268 32°C with 100% humidity, flash frozen in liquid ethane and stored in liquid 1269 nitrogen until imaging. Images were acquired at 200 kV on a Glacios 1270 electron microscope (Thermo Fisher Scientific) equipped with a Falcon-II 1271 direct electron detector. Data acquisition was performed using EPU software 1272 (Thermo Fisher Scientific). Images were acquired at 73,000× magnification, pixel size 1.96 Å at the specimen level, 40 electrons/Å<sup>2</sup>/movie, 1.5 s 1273 exposure time and 29 frames per movie; the defocus ranged from -3.0 to 1274 -1.5 µm (Fig. S6).

AQ11Movie frames (2-28) were aligned using MotionCor2 (Zheng et al., 2017) and the corresponding contrast transfer function (CTF) parameters were AQ11: estimated with CTFFIND4.1 (Rohou and Grigorieff, 2015) on the driftcorrected average. Particles were manually selected using the RELION-3.08 1279 pick start-end coordinates helices option (Scheres, 2015). 320×320 pixel<sup>2</sup> 1280 helical segments were extracted based on an 82-Å rise. To determine and 1281 select the microtubule symmetry, averaged particles were generated (Cook et al., 2020) and a 3D-classification was performed by comparison to 1282 reference microtubules (12, 13, 14 and 15 pf). After identification of the 1283 most probable symmetry for each microtubule, 14,170 segments 1284 corresponding to 13-pf microtubules were selected. Particles were aligned 1285 by several steps of auto-refinement (Refine3D, RELION) to determine  $\psi$ ,  $\theta$ 1286 and  $\phi$  angles and xy displacements, as well as the most probable seam 1287 position for each microtubule (Cook et al., 2020). The 13-fold-helical 1288 symmetry was imposed in the last step of refinement with local searches of 1289 the helical twist and rise (twist=-27.68°, rise=9.54 Å). Power spectra 1290 generated from two-dimensional (2D)-classes of the decorated particles AO12 revealed a blurry layer line, around 1/10 nm, in addition to the diffraction layer line at 1/4 nm corresponding to the tubulin monomer. This additional AQ12: line suggested that the decoration only loosely follows the periodicity of the 1294 tubulin dimer. Therefore, the microtubule and outer curved tubulin oligomers were separately refined (Fig. S7). Fig. S6 The local-filtered 1295 map (LAFTER, CCPEM; Ramlaul et al., 2019) was used to construct a 1296 13-pf microtubule from the tubulin heterodimer (PDB ID 6B0C; Benoit 1297 et al., 2018) with Chimera (Pettersen et al., 2004). This model was then 1298 refined with REFMAC5, CCPEM (Nicholls et al., 2018)). A difference map 1299 was calculated by subtracting the signal calculated from the refined atomic 1300 model from the LAFTER cryo-electron map (TEMPy:DifferenceMap, 1301 CCPEM; Joseph et al., 2020). A C- $\alpha$  peptide was manually built inside this 1302 residual density map using COOT (Emsley et al., 2010). Both the TBS1 and

TBS2 sequences were submitted to the Robetta/RosettaFold server (Baek et al., 2021) and the predicted models fitted inside the residual density map using Chimera (Pettersen et al., 2004).

To reconstruct the external tubulin ring, we selected particles exhibiting a regular decoration by a 2D classification and then performed 3D classification using synthetic references of the external ring built from PDB models (based on the PDB structure 6B0C; Benoit et al., 2018) with an axial periodicity of 8 nm or 10 nm. We selected the particles leading to the best map (5928 particles) and aligned them using Refine3D applying the helical symmetry (twist=-27.676° and rise=9.61 Å). The resolution was estimated to 5.3 Å for the microtubule and 25 Å for the outer curved tubulin oligomers (Fourier shell correlation=0.143) (Fig. S6) using a solvent mask.

#### **Cell culture, transfection and treatment**

HeLa and SW480 cells were purchased from CLS Cell Lines (Germany) and hTERT-RPE-1 cells were from LGC-ATCC (France). All cells were free of mycoplasma and were cultured in Dulbecco's modified Eagle medium (DMEM; xx source xx), 4.5 g/l glucose with 10% foetal bovine serum (xx source xx). Transient transfections were carried out with 100 pmol siRNA and/or 1 µg of plasmid DNA per 35-mm dish, using the JetPrime reagent (Ozyme) for HeLa and SW480 cells, or Lipofectamine 3000 reagent (Thermo Fisher Scientific) for RPE-1 cells. HeLa and RPE-1 cells were first transfected with siRNA for 8-24 h and then with plasmid DNA for a further 16-24 h. SW480 cells were only transfected with plasmid DNA for 24 h. To depolymerise spindle microtubules in mitotic cells, cells were treated for 2 h with 20 µM nocodazole (Sigma-Aldrich) at 37°C before fixation.

#### Immunofluorescence and image acquisition

For immunofluorescence analysis, cells were fixed by incubation in  $-20^{\circ}$ C methanol for 10 min. The primary antibodies used were: rabbit polyclonal anti-EGFP (x:xxxx, AB3080, Millipore), mouse monoclonal anti-CENP-E (x:xxxx, ab5093, Abcam), rat monoclonal anti-tyrosinated  $\alpha$ -tubulin (x: xxxx, clone YL1/2, xx cat. no. xx, xx source xx; Wehland and Willingham, 1983) and mouse monoclonal anti-α-tubulin (x:xxxx, α3-a1, xx cat. no. xx, xx source xx; Peris et al., 2006). Secondary antibodies were coupled to Alexa Fluor 488, Alexa Fluor 647 or Cyanine3 (Jackson ImmunoResearch Laboratories). Standard immunofluorescence procedures were applied. DNA was stained with bisbenzimide Hoechst 33258 (5 µg/ml, Sigma-Aldrich). Images were acquired on a Zeiss LSM 710 confocal microscope equipped with a Zeiss Airyscan module, using a 63× oil-immersion NA 1.4 objective and Zen software (Carl Zeiss MicroImaging).

#### **Time-lapse experiments**

For time-lapse experiments, cells were grown in medium without Phenol Red [Fluorobrite-DMEM (Thermo Fisher Scientific) complemented with 10% foetal bovine serum and 1× GlutaMAX (Thermo Fisher Scientific)] and seeded in ibi-Treat glass-bottomed 35-mm dishes with four-well inserts AQ45 (80466, BioValley). Each well was transfected according to one condition (siRNA CTRL, siRNA, siRNA+APC-C and siRNA+APC-C-TBS1) to AQ15: allow the four conditions to be filmed in parallel in the same experiment. Approximately 1–2 h before time-lapse capture, RPE-1 cells were incubated in medium containing 1× SPY650-DNA (SC501, Spirochrome, Switzerland) prepared according to the manufacturer's instructions. Cells were then imaged using a 20× NA 0.8 objective on a spinning-disc AxioObserver Z1 microscope (Zeiss/Roper) in a humidified and thermoregulated chamber. MetaMorph 7.8.5 software (Molecular Devices) was used to perform multi-positioning time-lapse capture in the four wells. In each position, z-series images (6-µm range around focus) were taken every 2.5 min with the CSU642 laser for a total of 6 h. Where applicable, an image with the CSU488 laser was taken every 10 min to assess GFP transfection.

#### **Quantifications of images**

To quantify fluorescence intensity or localisation, cells were processed for immunofluorescence with antibodies binding to EGFP, tubulin and CENP-E; 16-bit images were obtained using Airyscan microscopy. To allow comparisons, the same acquisition settings were used for all images in each set of experiments.

To quantify the amount of APC-C or APC-C-TBS1 on spindles, EGFP 1365 fluorescence intensity was measured in metaphase cells using the ImageJ 1366 software (Schneider et al., 2012), in delineated regions of interest (ROIs) on 1367 Airyscan images in one focal plane. ROIs were drawn using the 'tubulin' 1368 channel: two ROIs in the background ('bck'), two ROIs on hemi-spindles 1369 ('sp'), two ROIs on centrosomes ('c'), two ROIs on astral microtubules 1370 ('as') and two ROIs in the cytosol ('cy'). The mean fluorescence intensity 1371 was measured in ROIs in the 'EGFP' channel and the mean background was 1372 subtracted from the mean intensities of each ROI. Fluorescence intensities 1373 were then averaged and normalised with respect to the fluorescence intensity 1374 on centrosomes.

1375 To quantify colocalisation between EGFP (APC-C or APC-C-TBS1) and CENP-E staining, a macro was created in ImageJ software. First, the mean 1376 and standard deviation (s.d.) were measured in the 'EGFP' channel on 1377 images of mock-transfected control cells ('bck'). Then, images of cells 1378 expressing APC-C or APC-C-TBS1 were processed as follows: the 'CENP-1379 E' channel was bandpass-filtered and the threshold set using RenyEntropy 1380 settings; for the 'EGFP' channel, the threshold was set to bck+(4×s.d.). The 1381 surfaces of both segmented images and the overlap between them were 1382 measured. Colocalisation results are expressed as the ratio (percentage) of 1383 the overlap surface to the CENP-E surface. 1384

#### 1385 **Statistics**

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1386 All statistical analyses were performed using Prism 6 (GraphPad software). The tests performed are specified in the figure legends. 1387

#### **Miscellaneous** 1389

Visualisation of molecular models and generation of structural figures were 1390 handled with Chimera (Pettersen et al., 2004). Kymographs were generated by 1391 ImageJ software (Schneider et al., 2012). SuperPlots were generated as 1392 described in Lord et al. (2020). The TBS1 and TBS2 sequences were submitted 1393 for structure prediction to https://robetta.bakerlab.org (Baek et al., 2021). 1394

#### 1395 Acknowledgements

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#### **Competing interests** 1407

The authors declare no competing or financial interests. 1408

#### 1409 Author contributions 1410

Conceptualization: L.S., A.F.-L., I.A.; Formal analysis: E.D.; Investigation: L.S., J.D., A.V., A.F.-L.; Resources: G.S.; Writing - original draft: L.S., A.F.-L., I.A.; Writing review & editing: L.S., A.F.-L., I.A.; Funding acquisition: L.S., I.A.

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#### Data availability XXXXXXXXXXXXXXX

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Summary: The C-terminal domain of adenomatous polyposis coli (APC) regulates microtubule dynamics and organises ring-like tubulin oligomers around the microtubule wall, and plays a role in mitotic spindle function.

## AQ25:

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