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Nuclear F-actin and myosins drive relocalization of heterochromatic breaks

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Abstract

Heterochromatin mostly comprises repeated DNA sequences prone to ectopic recombination. In *Drosophila cells*, 'safe' homologous recombination repair of heterochromatic double-strand breaks relies on the relocalization of repair sites to the nuclear periphery before strand invasion. Mechanisms responsible for this movement were unknown. Here, we show that relocalization occurs *via* directed motion along nuclear actin filaments assembled at repair sites by Arp2/3. Relocalization requires Smc5/6-associated nuclear myosins and the myosin activator Unc45, which is recruited to repair sites by Smc5/6. Arp2/3, actin nucleation and myosins also relocalize heterochromatic DSBs in mouse cells. Defects in this pathway result in heterochromatin repair defects and chromosome rearrangements. These findings uncover *de novo* nuclear actin filaments and myosins as effectors of chromatin dynamics for heterochromatin repair and stability in multicellular eukaryotes.

Specialized mechanisms promote homologous recombination (HR) repair in pericentromeric heterochromatin (hereafter 'heterochromatin') while preventing aberrant recombination^{1,2}. Heterochromatin constitutes ~30% of fly and human genomes³, mostly comprising repeated DNA sequences (*e.g.*, transposons and 'satellite' repeats⁴) and 'silent' epigenetic marks³ (*e.g.*, H3K9me2/3 and HP1), but is absent in budding yeast. In heterochromatin, thousands to millions of identical sequences, even from different chromosomes, can engage in ectopic recombination, presenting a serious threat to genome stability in multicellular eukaryotes^{1,2,5–8}.

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Author Contributions

C.P.C. and C.D. performed most experiments; T.R. performed experiments for Fig. 1e,3a,c–e and Extended Data Fig. 1f,g,2i,4i,6h,8c; G.Z. for Fig. 1b,3a,5b,e and Extended Data Fig. 1k,2h,5a,6i; L.D. for Extended Data Fig. 3e,8h and complementary studies; X.L. for Fig. 5f; V.Y.K. for Fig. 3a and Extended Data Fig. 1g,6b,h,8a–c,f; N.A. for Fig. 2a,d; E.L. for Fig. 5c; and A.R. for Extended Data Fig. 8h. I.C. conceived and supervised the project, contributed to experiments, and wrote the manuscript.

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In *Drosophila melanogaster*, heterochromatin forms a distinct nuclear domain^{5,9}, and aberrant recombination is prevented by relocating double-strand breaks (DSBs) to the nuclear periphery before Rad51 recruitment^{5–8,10}. Loss of components required for relocalization (*e.g.*, dPIAS SUMO E3-ligase, or the Smc5/6 SUMO E3-ligases Nse2/Qjt, Nse2/Cerv) or for anchoring to periphery (*e.g.*, Nup107 nuclear pore protein or Koi and Spag4 inner nuclear membrane proteins, INMPs), results in heterochromatin repair defects and widespread chromosome rearrangements^{5,7,8}. Relocalization likely prevents aberrant recombination by separating damaged DNAs from similar repeats on non-homologous chromosomes, while promoting ‘safe’ exchanges with the sister or homolog^{1,2,5–8,10}. A similar relocalization to outside heterochromatic ‘chromocenters’ occurs in mouse G2 cells during HR repair^{6,11,12}. What mechanisms drive this striking movement is a major unresolved question.

Actin nucleators mediate relocalization of heterochromatic DSBs

Nuclear actin filaments (F-actin) form in response to DSBs in mammalian cells, and have poorly understood functions in repair^{13–15}. We tested the role of actin polymerization in relocalization of heterochromatic DSBs. In *Drosophila* cells, repair sites start leaving the heterochromatin domain 10 min after DSB induction with ionizing radiation (IR), resulting in fewer repair sites (γ H2Av foci) in DAPI-bright heterochromatin and more at the nuclear periphery 1 h after IR^{5,7}. Inhibition of actin polymerization with Latrunculin B (LatB) increases the number of γ H2Av foci in DAPI-bright 1 h after IR, without affecting total focus count (Extended Data Fig. 1a). Similarly, inactivating Arp2/3 actin nucleator by RNAi or CK666 treatment results in more foci remaining in DAPI-bright and fewer reaching the nuclear periphery, consistent with relocalization defects (Fig. 1a, Extended Data Fig. 1b–e). Removal of the chemicals (LatB and CK666) reverses the effects (Extended Data Fig. 1f–g), ruling out permanent damage to repair pathways. RNAi of Spire or Dia actin nucleators does not affect relocalization, revealing a specific role of Arp2/3 (Extended Data Fig. 1h). Relocalization kinetics are comparable in mouse cells, and are similarly affected by Arp3 RNAi, LatB or CK666 treatment (Fig. 1b, Extended Data Fig. 1i–k), suggesting conserved pathways.

Arp2/3 is activated by the Wiskott-Aldrich Syndrome protein family: Wash, Scar, Whamy, and Wasp in fly cells. Depletion of Wash or Scar, but not Whamy or Wasp, causes relocalization defects (Fig. 1c, Extended Data Fig. 1l). Depletion of Arp2/3, Scar+Wash, or Arp2/3+Scar+Wash results in similar relocalization defects, while Scar and Wash RNAi effects are additive (Fig. 1c), suggesting that Scar and Wash independently activate Arp2/3 for relocalization. Arp2/3 is not required for early repair steps (Mu2/Mdc1, ATRIP, Smc6 or Nse2 focus formation, or suppression of Rad51 foci inside the heterochromatin domain^{5,7,8}; Extended Data Fig. 2a–c), suggesting that actin nucleation mediates relocalization after resection and Smc5/6 recruitment.

Epistatic analyses place Smc5/6 and Arp2/3 in the same pathway for relocalization (Fig. 1d and Extended Data Fig. 2g), and Arp2/3 co-immunoprecipitates with the heterochromatin repair complex Smc5/6 in response to IR (Fig. 1e, Extended Data Fig. 2h), suggesting a direct role for Arp2/3 in heterochromatin repair. Accordingly, Arp2/3 is enriched at repair

foci in DAPI-bright 10 min after IR, *i.e.*, before relocalization^{5,7}, and most Arp2/3-containing foci are associated with the heterochromatin mark H3K9me3 (Fig. 1f, Extended Data Fig. 2e,f). Smc5/6 or Smc5/6-dependent SUMOylation might promote Arp2/3 activation or recruitment to DSBs. However, RNAi of Smc5/6 or SUMO E3-ligases does not affect Arp2/3 recruitment to foci (Fig. 1g), suggesting a role for Smc5/6 in Arp2/3 regulation. Arp2/3 recruitment to repair foci depends on the DSB signaling protein Mre11 and on the heterochromatin component HP1a (Fig. 1g, Extended Data Fig. 2i), suggesting the concerted activity of these factors as a mechanism for targeting Arp2/3 specifically to heterochromatic DSBs. We conclude that Arp2/3 is recruited to heterochromatic breaks *via* Mre11 and HP1a, and mediates relocalization of DSBs to the nuclear periphery in concert with Smc5/6.

Nuclear F-actin is required for relocalization

The presence of Arp2/3 at heterochromatic DSBs suggests that actin polymerization at these sites promotes relocalization. We targeted a GFP-tagged F-actin chromobody (F-actCB-GFP-NLS) to the nucleus to visualize nuclear actin filaments *in vivo* without altering actin levels (Extended Data Fig 3a). Before IR this marker displays a diffuse nuclear signal, but striking filaments surrounding the heterochromatin domain and reaching the nuclear periphery are seen after IR (Fig. 2a, Extended Data Fig 3b, Suppl. Videos 1,2). Phalloidin staining of cells with or without the chromobody indicates these are canonical actin filaments (Extended Data Fig. 3c,d). Consistent with a role for Arp2/3 in filament assembly, filaments are: enriched for Arp2/3 (Extended Data Fig. 3e); disrupted by Arp2/3 RNAi or CK666 (Fig. 2b); and characterized by branches with $70 \pm 7^\circ$ ¹⁶ (Extended Data Fig. 3e).

Filaments form concurrently with DSB departure from the heterochromatin domain (*i.e.*, 10–30 min after IR^{5,7}), persist ~25 min on average, are highly dynamic suggesting actin remodeling¹⁷, and progressively disappear during DSB relocalization to the nuclear periphery (*i.e.*, 30–60 min after IR⁷) (Fig. 2a–c, Extended Data Figs. 3b,c,f,g,4a, Suppl. Videos 2,3). Most filaments originate from repair foci and the heterochromatin domain periphery (Extended Data Fig 4b). Nearly all filaments (98.6%) remain outside the domain during elongation, suggesting they tend to polymerize away from the domain. Filament length spans the distance between the heterochromatin domain periphery and the nuclear periphery (Extended Data Fig. 4c). Repair foci decorate actin filaments in fixed samples and travel along the filaments in time-lapse experiments (Fig. 2c, Extended Data Figs. 3d,4a, Suppl. Video 3). Together, these data support a direct role for actin filaments in relocalization of heterochromatic repair sites to the nuclear periphery.

Triton extraction partially destabilizes actin filaments resulting in residual chromobody signals colocalizing with phalloidin and repair sites (Extended Data Fig. 3d). Similar colocalization occurs in cells expressing FLAG-NLS-tagged wild-type actin (act-WT), but not in cells expressing a non-polymerizable R62D mutant (Fig. 2d, Extended Data Fig. 4e), supporting the presence of F-actin at repair sites. Colocalization between F-actin and DSBs peaks at 10–60 min after IR, followed by a significant decline (Fig. 2d). This reduction likely results from actin depolymerization, given that expression of a filament-stabilizing S14C mutant induces persistent colocalization (Fig. 2d, Extended Data Fig. 4e). Further,

consistent with a role of Arp2/3 in filament formation, colocalization between DSBs and F-actin is affected by RNAi of Arp2/3 or Scar+Wash (Extended Data Fig. 4f). Thus, Arp2/3, Scar, and Wash are required to form F-actin at DSBs, with a peak of polymerization during relocalization followed by depolymerization.

We directly tested the role of nuclear F-actin in relocalization of heterochromatic DSBs by investigating the effects of blocking actin polymerization in the nucleus without altering cytoplasmic F-actin. We expressed in the nucleus act-WT or the R62D mutant, while blocking nuclear import of endogenous actin by RNAi depletion of the actin-specific importin Ipo9. Act-WT expression results in normal kinetics of focus relocalization, while expression of act-R62D leads to remarkable relocalization defects (Fig. 2e, Extended Data Fig. 4g–i). We conclude that nuclear actin polymerizes at repair sites, forms long filaments reaching the nuclear periphery, and is required for relocalization of heterochromatic DSBs along the filaments.

Relocalization relies on nuclear myosins

Myosins I and V have been proposed to mediate nuclear dynamics along actin filaments in human cells, including for gene repositioning during transcription^{18,19}, chromosome territory reorganization²⁰, and viral infection²¹. In *Drosophila* cells, simultaneous RNAi depletion of myosin I (Myo1A and Myo1B) and myosin V (MyoV) results in defective relocalization of heterochromatic DSBs (Fig. 3a, Extended Data Fig. 5a–c). Relocalization is also impaired after nuclear expression of dominant-negative mutants of MyoV (*i.e.*, NLS-tagged MyoV^{headless} or MyoV^{tail}) (Fig. 3a, Extended Data Fig. 5b), consistent with a nuclear function of myosins in relocalization.

Similar relocalization defects occur after RNAi depletion of Unc45 (Fig. 3a, Extended Data Fig. 5a–c), required for myosin stability and function. Epistasis analyses reveal each myosin independently contributes to relocalization, and myosins and Unc45 work in the same pathway as Smc5/6 for relocalization (Fig. 3b, Extended Data Fig. 5d–e). Similar to Arp2/3 RNAi, myosin or Unc45 RNAi does not affect early repair steps (Mu2/Mdc1, ATRIP, Smc6, Nse2 focus formation, or Rad51 suppression inside the domain) (Extended Data Figs. 5f, g, 6a), suggesting that myosins act after resection and Smc5/6 recruitment. Myosins, and not other early repair components, co-immunoprecipitate with Smc5/6 in response to IR (Fig. 3c, Extended Data Fig. 6b,c), consistent with a direct interaction between Smc5/6 and myosins for relocalization.

Myosins and Unc45 are enriched at heterochromatic DSBs before relocalization (Fig. 3d and Extended Data Fig. 6e–f), consistent with a specific role in heterochromatin repair. Similarly to Arp2/3, myosin recruitment to DSBs relies on Mre11 and HP1a, suggesting a coordinated activity of Mre11 and HP1a for myosin targeting to heterochromatic DSBs (Fig. 3e). Additionally, recruitment of Unc45 to DSBs, but not myosin recruitment, relies on Smc5/6 and SUMOylation (Fig. 3e). This suggests Unc45 recruitment to a pre-assembled relocalization machinery (*i.e.*, Arp2/3, F-actin, and myosins) is the trigger for myosin activation and repair site relocalization downstream from Smc5/6.

MyoV^{headless} or MyoV^{tail} mutations affect the ability of MyoV to walk along actin filaments, suggesting this as the key myosin function for relocalization. Similarly, cell treatment with the myosin inhibitor 2,3-butanedione monoxide (BDM) or the MyoV inhibitor MyoVin, which interfere with myosin movement along actin filaments, results in reversible relocalization defects (Extended Data Fig. 6g,h). BDM and MyoVin also affect relocalization in mouse cells (Extended Data Fig. 6i). We conclude that Smc5/6 interacts with nuclear myosins and recruits Unc45 to heterochromatic DSBs, and this enables relocalization of repair sites through myosins' ability to walk along actin filaments.

Actin nucleators and myosins drive directed motions of heterochromatic DSBs

Nuclear actin might generate filamentous structures for myosin-mediated trafficking of heterochromatic repair sites, resulting in directed motions²². Alternatively, F-actin and myosin could contribute to relocalization indirectly, such as by local chromatin changes enabling DNA 'looping' from the domain²³ followed by Brownian motion and nuclear periphery anchoring. To distinguish Brownian *vs* directed motions, we investigated the biophysical properties of the motion *via* Mu2/Mdc1 focus tracking and mean-square displacement (MSD)²⁴ analyses in *Drosophila* cells.

MSD curves for heterochromatic foci have a higher plateau than those for euchromatic foci (Fig. 4a, Extended Data Fig. 7a), reflecting a larger space explored²⁴. This is particularly striking considering that undamaged sites (centromeres) embedded in heterochromatin, like centromeres, display little mobility (Fig. 4a, GFP-CenpA). Heterochromatic foci reaching the nuclear periphery during the 1 h time-lapse (~20% of all heterochromatic foci) are the most dynamic, while foci that stay inside the heterochromatin domain, move to the domain periphery, or persist at the domain periphery, show limited mobility (Fig. 4b, Extended Data Fig. 7b). In agreement with a specialized role for nuclear periphery in heterochromatin repair⁷, euchromatic DSBs rarely move to the nuclear periphery (Extended Data Fig. 7c).

While MSD curves reaching a plateau typically describe Brownian motions in a confined space²⁴, similar plots also result from averaging MSD curves of asynchronous foci each characterized by different types of motions^{22,24}. Indeed, application of a computational method²⁴ unmasked long-lasting directed motions (LDMs) associated with nearly all heterochromatic foci, mostly occurring between the heterochromatin domain periphery and the nuclear periphery (Fig. 4c, Extended Data Fig. 7d–g). LDMs last 24 ± 2.4 min, consistent with the average duration of nuclear actin filaments, and are characterized by an average speed of 0.148 ± 0.01 $\mu\text{m}/\text{min}$, in agreement with previously described F-actin and myosin-driven chromatin motions^{18,25}.

Arp2/3 or Unc45 depletion significantly affects the dynamics of heterochromatic foci by reducing: the plateau of MSD curves, the number of foci leaving the domain, and LDM frequency (Fig. 4d,e; Extended Data Fig. 7b). Conversely, these depletions did not affect focus dynamics in euchromatin (Fig. 4d,e; Extended Data Fig. 7g), highlighting a specialized role for Arp2/3 and Unc45 in the directed motion of heterochromatic DSBs. Intriguingly, Arp2/3 (but not Unc45) mediates focus clustering in euchromatin and not in

heterochromatin (Extended Data Fig. 7h), revealing that Arp2/3 plays distinct functions in the two domains and suggesting that focus clustering does not require extensive dynamics in *Drosophila* cells. The role of Arp2/3 and actin polymerization in focus clustering is conserved in human cells²⁶. We conclude that nuclear actin filaments enable the myosin-dependent directed motion of heterochromatic repair sites to the nuclear periphery.

Nuclear F-actin and myosins promote heterochromatin integrity

These studies uncovered the role of nuclear F-actin and myosins in relocalizing heterochromatic DSBs, suggesting the importance of these components in heterochromatin repair. We directly tested this by determining the biological consequences of inactivating nuclear actin polymerization or myosins. Defective heterochromatin repair results in persistent γ H2Av foci associated with the heterochromatin domain 20 h after IR in fly cells⁷ and 16–24 h after IR in mouse cells²⁷, *i.e.* at time points when repair is largely completed in euchromatin^{7,27}. Similar defects occur after disruption of homologous pairing (Slmb RNAi) or sister chromatid cohesion (Rad21+Slmb RNAi) in *Drosophila* (Extended Data Fig. 8a–c), consistent with the importance of both homologous templates for heterochromatin repair¹⁰. Persistent foci occur after RNAi depletion of Arp2/3, myosins, and Unc45, or nuclear expression of a non-polymerizable form of actin in fly cells, or Arp3 RNAi in mouse cells (Fig. 5a–c, Extended Data Fig. 8d,e). Those depletions also impair fly cell survival after IR (Fig. 5c)⁷. We conclude that Arp2/3, nuclear F-actin, and myosins are critical for timely progression of heterochromatin repair.

Inactivation of myosins or actin polymerization triggers the formation of IR-induced heterochromatic micronuclei in fly and mouse cells (Fig. 5d,e, Extended Data Fig 8f,g), and genome instability in larval neuroblasts (Fig. 4f; Extended Data Fig 8h,i). Abnormal karyotypes are likely caused by defective repair of spontaneous DSBs during larval development. These include aneuploidies, chromosome fusions, and changes in the number of satellites (Fig. 5f); most rearrangements involve the heterochromatic 4th and Y chromosomes, or pericentromeric regions, as expected for defective heterochromatin repair⁷ (Extended Data Fig. 8i). We conclude that Arp2/3-dependent nuclear actin polymerization and myosins are critical for heterochromatin repair and stability in *Drosophila* cells and tissues, and in mouse cells.

Discussion

This study revealed a striking role of F-actin and myosins in the directed motions of heterochromatic DSBs to the nuclear periphery. We visualize for the first time by live imaging the formation of IR-induced nuclear actin filaments and the movement of repair sites along them. Filaments form at repair sites, reach the nuclear periphery, and disassemble after relocalization. We also identify a specialized network of proteins coordinating heterochromatin dynamics and nuclear actin filament formation in concert with Smc5/6, including: Arp2/3; the Arp2/3 activators Scar and Wash; Myo1A, Myo1B and MyoV nuclear myosins; and the Myosin activator Unc45. Arp2/3 and myosins are targeted to heterochromatic DSBs by Mre11 and the heterochromatin component HP1a. Unc45 recruitment also requires Smc5/6 and SUMO E3-ligases, suggesting Unc45 as a trigger for

the myosin-dependent movement of heterochromatic DSBs along actin filaments downstream from Smc5/6. This pathway appears conserved in mouse cells, and its deregulation results in heterochromatin repair defects and instability. These results support a model where DSBs in heterochromatin induce the formation of nuclear actin filaments connecting repair sites to the nuclear periphery. Smc5/6-associated myosins traveling along these ‘highways for repair’ enable the directed movement of repair sites to the nuclear periphery for ‘safe’ progression of HR repair (Fig. 5g).

Nuclear repositioning of repair sites has been observed in different contexts^{1,2}, including DSBs in rDNA^{28,29}, damaged telomeric and subtelomeric sequences^{30–34}, collapsed replication forks^{35,36}, persistent DSBs^{30,35,37–39}, and homology search^{40,41}. Cytoplasmic microtubules contribute to some of these dynamics *via* the trans-nuclear membrane LINC complex^{39,42}. However, nuclear structures responsible for those movements have remained largely unknown, and Brownian motions are thought to account for most of these dynamics²³.

Directed motions might be especially needed to leave the heterochromatin domain, given the compact nature of this domain and its potential resistance to releasing repair sites. Accordingly, Arp2/3 and myosins affect directed motions in heterochromatin and not in euchromatin. Interestingly, Arp2/3-dependent nuclear actin filaments form loose branches, distinct from the dense cytoplasmic network mediating cell movement. This likely reflects specialized Arp2/3 regulation and F-actin remodeling¹⁷ in the nucleus for the directed motion of repair sites. Remarkably, these studies identify nuclear F-actin and myosins as critical components for heterochromatin repair and genome stability in multicellular eukaryotes.

METHODS

Cell culture and generation of stable cell lines

Kc167 (Kc) cells were used for most experiments and were maintained as logarithmically growing cultures in Schneider’s medium (Sigma) + FBS (Gemini). Kc cells were authenticated by the *Drosophila* Genomic Resource Center (DGRC) and no mycoplasma contamination was detected⁴³. Stable lines were obtained by cotransfecting the plasmid of interest with pCoHygro (Invitrogen) or pCoPuro (Addgene) and selecting in the presence of 100 µg/ml hygromycin B (Invitrogen) or 2 mg/ml puromycin (Enzo Life Sciences). Transfection was performed with DOTAP (Roche) or Cellfectin (Life Technologies), according to manufacturers’ protocols. Mouse NIH3T3 cells (kind gift from V. Longo) were maintained at 30–80% confluency in DMEM medium (Corning) + 10% CBS (Denver Serum Company).

IR Treatments

Cell cultures were exposed to IR using a 160 kV X-ray source (X-RAD iR-160, Precision X-Ray). For *Drosophila* cells, we mostly use a range of Gy at which the damage response increases linearly with dose (1.7–20 Gy), and corresponds to nearly sublethal doses for controls⁷. A dose of 5 Gy was used for most experiments, unless otherwise indicated.

Treatments with this dose do not affect nuclear-cytoplasmic transport, which was evaluated by measuring the ratio between nuclear and cytoplasmic GFP-tagged Myo1A, Myo1B, MyoV, Arp2, Arp3 and Unc45. The estimated number of DSBs induced by 5 Gy in *Drosophila* cells is ~7.5 DSBs in G1 and ~14 DSBs in G2⁷. In kinetic analyses of fixed cells, time 0 (Unt) corresponds to cells fixed without exposure to IR. In time-lapse experiments, time 0 (Unt) corresponds to cells imaged 5–10 min before IR treatment unless otherwise specified. Mouse cells were exposed to 1 Gy, similar to previous studies^{27,44,45}.

Plasmids

pCopia-GFP-Mu2/Mdc1, pCopia-mCherry-HP1a, pCopia-GFP-Smc5, pCopia-GFP-Nse2, pCopia-GFP-ATRIP, and pCopia-GFP-CenpA plasmids were previously described in^{5,7,46}. All other GFP- and FHA (3×FLAG-3×HA)-tagged proteins were generated by insertion of PCR-amplified coding regions of cDNAs from DGRC or other sources. Clone numbers from DGRC were: Arp2 (LD18955), Arp3 (LD35711), Myo1A (SD01662), Myo1B (FI19407) and Unc45 (SD10334). Arp2/3 has been previously identified as a major actin nucleating factor in *Drosophila*⁴⁷. Functions of Unc45 in myosin regulation have been described⁴⁸. Actin WT and the two mutant constructs S14C and R62D were PCR amplified from pEF-FLAG-NLS-βActin-WT, S14C or R62D⁴⁹ (kind gift from G. Posern). Detailed information is available on the DGRC web site (<http://dgrc.cgb.indiana.edu>). MyoV was generated by PCR amplification of clone FI23904 (Ref. 2014.4.22, kind gift from S. Celniker) and the Actin Chromobody by PCR amplification of Actin-Chromobody-TagGFP2-NLS plasmid⁵⁰. MyoV^{headless} and MyoV^{tail} mutants were generated by PCR amplifications of truncated versions of MyoV, according to⁵¹. All PCR products were cloned into pCopia-LAP-EGFP vectors⁵², or pCopia-3XFLAG-StrepII-3×HA vectors⁵. pCopia-mCh-Mu2/Mdc1 was generated by swapping the Mu2 gene from pCopia-GFP-Mu2 into a pCopia-mCh vector⁵.

dsRNA synthesis and sequences

siRNAs for RNAi depletions in *Drosophila* cultured cells were prepared with the MEGAscript T7 Kit (Applied Biosystems). dsRNA derived from the *brown* (*bw*) gene was used as control in all experiments. Amplicons and RNAi conditions for *bw*, Smc5, Smc6, and Rad51 were previously described⁵. Amplicons used for all other dsRNAs were: DRSC25363/DRSC34284 for Myo1A, DRSC27633 for Myo1B, DRSC07603/DRSC40837 for MyoV, DRSC15449 for Unc45, DRSC31428/DRSC19332 for Arp2, DRSC29666/DRSC31430 for Arp3, DRSC03426/BKN22532 for Scar, DRSC37426/DRSC06302 for Wash, DRSC26170/DRSC15032 for Wasp, DRSC03519/DRSC24127 for Dia, DRSC03619/DRSC24744/DRSC40746 for Spire and DRSC40055 for Ipo9, DRSC17056/DRSC32610 for Slmb, DRSC20839/DRSC38781 for Rad21. Sequences can be found on the DRSC website (<http://flyrnai.org>). dsRNA for Whamy RNAi was prepared with the oligos: 5' GAATTAATACGACTCACTATAGGGAGACGGAATACGGATTATCCGCC and 5' GAATTAATACGACTCACTATAGGGAGAGATGCAGAAATCACAGCCCAA. Wash, Scar, Whamy, and Wasp are previously-described Wiskott-Aldrich Syndrome protein family in fly cells⁵³. When more than one amplicon is indicated, we combined equal amounts of each dsRNA for better efficiency of protein depletion. For mouse cells, RNAi experiments were conducted using SMARTpool ON-TARGETplus ARP3 siRNA (Dharmacon) and a corresponding non-targeting RNAi control.

RNAi depletion

For *Drosophila* cells, dsRNAs were transfected with DOTAP (Roche) following manufacturer's instructions and depletion was done for 5 days before performing experiments, except *Slmb* and *Rad21* RNAi, which was done for 4 days. We did not detect significant effects of RNAi depletions shown in this paper on cell cycle progression by FACS, or on the heterochromatin domain by live imaging of GFP-HP1a-expressing cells. Additionally, RNAi depletion of *Arp2/3*, Myosins or *Unc45* did not affect nuclear pore structure by Nup62 IF staining. Notably, studies in flies revealed that loss of *Wash* affects HP1a association with heterochromatin⁵⁴. However, depletion of *Wash* in Kc cells did not affect the mCh-HP1a signal, indicating that the heterochromatin domain is still largely intact in the RNAi conditions used in Fig. 1c and Extended Data Fig. 1b,e. This supports the model that *Wash* works downstream from HP1a in the relocalization of heterochromatic DSBs. We also note here that all kinetics resulting from RNAi depletion must be compared to cells treated with control dsRNAs, since the γ H2Av peak shifts from 10 min after IR in non-RNAi experiments (*e.g.*, Fig. 1f) to 30 min after IR in RNAi controls⁵ (*e.g.*, Fig. 1a). RNAi depletion efficiencies for *Smc5/6*, *Nse2/Cerv*, *Nse2/Qjt*, *dPIAS* and *Rad51* were previously validated^{5,7,55}. Mouse cells were transfected using Lipofectamine RNAiMAX reagent (Thermo Fisher Scientific) for 2 days before the experiments.

qPCR

qPCR analysis of RNAi depletions in *Drosophila* cultured cells was performed as described in⁷. Changes in transcript levels were normalized to *Ebony* or *CG12493* or *Actin5c* mRNA. Primer sequences were: CGCACGGAAATTATCAAGGT and GTCTGCTCGTCATCCTCCTC for *Ipo9*; ATCATTCCTCCAATTTTACT and AGTAATCTGGTTATTAGTGGAA for *Whamy*, GGCTGAAGAAGAGCAACCAC and TCACCTTGCGCAACTGACCAG for *Spire*; GCGAGTTGTTCCCAAGATA and GGAGACAATCTTGCCGTCAT for *Slmb*. For qPCR analysis of RNAi depletions in flies, total RNA was isolated from 5–10 larvae by Trizol extraction and treated with DNase I to remove genomic DNA. RNA was used to generate single-stranded cDNA using oligo dT priming and Superscript Reverse Transcriptase III (Invitrogen). Primer sequences were: CTTAACGAAGACCTGAATGAGGC and CGACAGTGTCTCCTGTTCCAG for *Lamin*; GAATGCCCCACATTTGTTTCGC and ACCGGAAATTAGGATGCAGGT for *Myo1A*; AGAGCGAAGAAGCCTTCATCG and GCTTGTAGGGATTCACGGAGAT for *Myo1B*. Transcripts were quantified with iQ SYBR Green Supermix (Bio-Rad) according to manufacturer's instruction. Changes in transcript levels were normalized to *Lamin* mRNA. In both cultured cells and flies, each qPCR was repeated at least three times, and graphs show the average level of depletion relative to control RNAi. qPCR analysis of *Arp3* RNAi depletion in mouse cells was done using two independent primer sets for both *ARP3* and the control gene *GAPDH*, and the qPCR was repeated twice for each set. Averaged values were normalized for each *GAPDH* qPCR and averaged between each other. The primer sequences used for this analysis were: AAGAATGAAGCGGACAGGAC and AGTTGGTGATTCTAGCGTG (set 1) AATCACCAACTTCCCCATCC and AAACCTTCTCACACAGCCTC (set 2) for *Arp3*; CTTTGTCAAGCTCATTTCCCTGG and TCTTGCTCAGTGTCCCTTGC (set 1) and GCCTTCCGTGTTCCCTACC and CCTCAGTGTAGCCCAAGATG (set 2) for *GAPDH*.

Immunofluorescence (IF) and quantifications in fixed samples

Chromosome preparation and FISH protocols used in Fig. 5f and Extended Data Fig. 8b,i were previously described⁵⁶. AACAC, AATAT, and 359bp probes were designed as previously described⁵⁶ and were purchased from Integrated DNA Technologies. Probe sequences are: 5'-6-FAM-(AACAC)₇ and 5'-Cy3-TTTTCCAAATTTTCGGTCATCAAATAATCAT, 5'-Cy5-(AATAT)₆ respectively. IF without Triton extraction was used for most experiments as previously described⁵. IF staining of myosins, Unc45, Arp2/3 complex subunits, FLAG-actin-NLS (WT, R62D and S14C in Fig. 2d), and F-actin-GFP-NLS in Extended Data Fig. 3d,4d-e, was preceded by a triton extraction step as described in⁷. Notably, these Triton extraction treatments partially destabilize actin filaments⁵⁷⁻⁵⁹. Detection of nuclear actin filaments with phalloidin in Extended Data Fig. 3c was done by fixing cells for 10 min at 37°C in pre-warmed, freshly made, fixation buffer (4% PFA, 0.5% Triton-X100, 2mM ATP, 0.004% NaAz, 1mM Na₃VO₄, 1mM NaF, 1mM PMSF, protease inhibitor tablets (Roche), Phalloidin 1:500; modified from^{60,61}). Imaging and image processing for fixed cells was described previously⁵, and similar approaches were used for imaging chromosome preparations from tissues. Quantification of repair foci relative to DAPI-bright in *Drosophila* cells was done as described in⁷. Quantification of repair foci relative to H3K9me2 (Fig. 5a) in *Drosophila* cells was done as described in⁷. Quantification of repair foci relative to DAPI-bright in mouse cells was done on volume reconstructions and only cells in G2 were used; detection of G2 cells was based on PH3 staining as described in⁴⁴. For quantification of actin filaments in Extended Data Fig. 3c, filaments were imaged with 0.2 μm intervals between the Z-stacks, and images were deconvolved 20× with a conservative protocol. Filaments inside the nuclei were identified using DAPI staining as a reference. Figures shown are max intensity projections of a few Z stacks across the DAPI-bright domain (Figs. 1a,b; 5a,b; Extended Data Fig. 1a), individual Z stacks or max intensity projections of two Z stacks (Figs. 1f,2d, 3d; Extended Data Figs. 1d-e, 3c, 3e, 4b, 4d, 6e, 8i), or all Z stacks across the nucleus (Figs. 2a, 5d-e, Extended Data Figs. 2a, 2c, 3b, 3f, 4a, 5f-g, 7a, 8b).

Western blotting

Protein extraction and Western blotting to validate RNAi depletions were conducted as previously described⁷.

Immunoprecipitation (Ip)

Ip experiments were performed as described in¹. For Myo1a Ip, 3×10⁸ Kc cells expressing GFP-Myo1a, or Kc cells as a control, were pelleted and snap-frozen before and 25 min after exposure to 20 Gy IR. Pellets were incubated in lysis buffer A (50 mM Hepes, 10 mM KCl, 2 mM MgCl₂, 20% glycerol, 1 mM PMSF, 20 mM NaF, 20mM glycerol-2-phosphate, 1mM benzamidine, 0.5% NP-40, 25 mM NEM, 150 mM NaOAc, 250 mM NaCl, and protease inhibitors (Complete, Roche), and digested with 1 μl Benzonase (EMD Millipore) at 4 °C for 30 min. Pellets were centrifuged and soluble lysates collected. Pellets were resuspended in buffer A and extracted with 300 mM sodium acetate for 1 h at 4 °C. Next, the supernatant was pooled with the soluble lysate. Samples were incubated for 3 h at 4 °C with Protein G-coupled Sepharose beads and 5 μl of goat anti-GFP antibody. Beads were washed 5× with

wash buffer A (50 mM Hepes, 10 mM KCl, 2 mM MgCl₂, 20% glycerol, 0.5% NP-40, 350 mM NaCl, 150 mM NaOAc, and 25 mM NEM) and heated in loading buffer for 3 min at 95 °C for SDS-PAGE.

For Myo1B, Arp3, and Nse2 Ip, 3×10⁸ Kc cells expressing GFP-Myo1, GFP-Arp3 or FHA-Nse2 were pelleted and snap-frozen before and 25 min after exposure to 20 Gy IR. Pellets were incubated with lysis buffer C (50 mM Hepes/KOH pH 7.5, 140 mM NaCl, 1 mM EDTA, 1% Triton X-100, 0.05% Na-deoxycholate, 25 mM NEM) for 30 min at 4 °C. Lysates were pelleted and the supernatant was incubated with 1 µl of Benzonase (EMD Millipore) for 30 min at 4 °C. Next, supernatants were incubated with FLAG-M2 agarose beads (Sigma) for Nse2 or Protein G-coupled Sepharose beads and 5 µl of goat anti-GFP antibody for Myo1B for 4 h at 4 °C. Samples were washed once with lysis buffer C and four times with wash buffer B (100 mM Tris pH 8.0, 250 mM NaCl, 1 mM EDTA, 0.5% NP-40, 0.1% Na-deoxycholate), before heating them in loading buffer for 3 min at 95 °C for SDS-PAGE. As a control for Myo1B Ip, GFP-Myo1B cells were incubated in Sepharose beads without antibodies. Kc cells were used as control for Nse2 and Arp3 Ip.

For MyoV Ip, 3×10⁸ Kc cells expressing FHA-MyoV, or cells without the FHA-MoV plasmid as a control, were used. Cells were pelleted and snap-frozen before and 25 min after exposure to 20 Gy IR. Pellets were incubated in lysis buffer B (50 mM Tris, 150 mM NaCl, 2 mM EDTA, 10% glycerol, 0.2% Nonidet P-40, protease inhibitors (Complete, Roche), 1 mM PMSF, and 25 mM NEM) for 30 min at 4 °C. Lysates were centrifuged and the supernatant was incubated with FLAG-M2 agarose beads (Sigma). Samples were incubated with beads at 4 °C for 5 h. Beads were washed 5 times with lysis buffer B and heated in loading buffer for 3 min at 95 °C for SDS-PAGE.

Cytoplasmic and nuclear actin fractionation

Adapted from⁶². All steps carried out in ice or in cold room. 1 ml 10×7 cells/ml were collected, washed once with ice-cold phosphate-buffered saline (PBS), and pelleted by centrifugation at 800×g for 10 min. Cell pellets were placed at -80°C for 1 h. Pellets were resuspended gently on ice in 200 µl of buffer P1 (HEPES 10 mM, EGTA 0.1mM, DTT 1 mM, complete protease inhibitors (Roche)). After addition of Triton X-100 (final concentration 0.5%), samples were vortexed on the highest setting for 10 sec followed by centrifugation at 4 °C 10000g for 10 min. 150 µl of the supernatant was collected for the cytoplasmic fraction. The remaining supernatant was removed and discarded. The cytoplasmic fraction was centrifuged at 16000g, transferred to a new tube, and placed at -80 °C. The nuclear pellet was gently resuspended in 1 ml of buffer P1 followed by centrifugation at 4 °C 10000g for 10 min. The supernatant of the nuclear fraction was discarded and nuclear pellet lysed in 50 µl of buffer P2 (20 mM HEPES, 25%glycerol, 400 mM NaCl, 1 mM EGTA, 1 mM DTT, complete protease inhibitors (Roche)) by vortexing for 90 min at 4 °C. Nuclear extract was clarified by centrifugation at 20000g for 10 min. The samples were stored at -80 °C until SDS-page and Western blotting were performed. 25 µg of total protein extract (nuclear or cytoplasmic) was loaded on an SDS-PAGE gel, per lane.

Chemical treatments

Myosin and actin polymerization inhibitors were added to the cultures before IR treatments. In *Drosophila* cells, treatment conditions were: 2 mM or 10 mM BDM (Sigma, Ref. 63) for 5 min; 200 or 400 μ M MyoVin-1 (Calbiochem, Ref. 64) for 2 h; 100 μ M or 400 μ M CK666 (Sigma, Ref. 65) for 60 min; 4 μ M or 8 μ M Latrunculin B (Enzo Life Sciences) for 20 min. Stocks of MyoVin-1 (100 mM), CK666 (100 mg/ml) and Latrunculin B (10 mM) were prepared in DMSO and those of BDM were diluted in water. For mouse cells, treatment conditions were: 7.5 mM BDM for 20 min; 200 μ M MyoVin-1 for 60 min; 400 μ M CK666 for 60 min; 8 μ M Latrunculin B for 20 min. All stocks were prepared in DMSO. For controls, DMSO was added to the media to yield final concentrations equivalent to samples treated with chemicals. For the ‘release’ time points of Extended Data Figs 1f–g and 6h, cells were washed 3 \times after incubation with each chemical, and incubated at 27 °C for 1 h before IR. Cells were fixed 60 min after IR. Notably, the doses of LatB treatments used affect nuclear actin polymerization in addition to cytoplasmic actin⁶⁶.

Cell Imaging and Processing in Time-Lapse Experiments

For MSD analyses, cells stably expressing GFP-Mu2 and mCherry-HP1a were imaged before and after IR as described in²⁴. Briefly, imaging after IR was done every 40 sec for 60 min starting from 3–5 min after IR as in^{7,24}. Ten Z-stacks at 0.8 μ m distance were imaged for 0.005 ms for GFP, and 0.015 ms for mCherry. The Coolsnap HQ2 camera was set at 2 \times 2 binning for maximizing the light collected while minimizing light exposure and cell phototoxicity. Accordingly, these imaging conditions did not induce DSB formation or affect cell division (Extended Data Fig. 7a). All videos were corrected to compensate for modest photobleaching effects using softWorks (Applied Precision/GE Healthcare). Next, for each nucleus, 6–12 of the most stationary and spatially distant foci were tracked with Imaris (Bitplane) and used as reference for registering the nucleus as described in²⁴. Foci were tracked in 3D using a semi-automated method and manually corrected to ensure optimal connections between timepoints²⁴. IR dose was reduced from 5 Gy to 1.7 Gy, to reduce the average number of Mu2 foci/nucleus and the frequencies of ambiguous tracks. Focus positional data were extracted in Excel and analyzed in Matlab (MathWorks) using a customized script²⁴. MSDs were calculated as described in²⁴. Positional data were also analyzed using a customized script in R Studio to detect LDMs²⁴. Briefly, the script derives MSD curves for time intervals $\Delta t > 10$ and increasing starting time points for each trajectory, and identifies time intervals characterized by MSD graphs with increasing slopes^{22,60}. LDMs shown in Fig 5c and Extended Data Fig. 7b correspond to the largest contiguous time interval containing MSDs of increasing slope for each focus. The ability of the script to correctly detect directed motions was confirmed by independent MSD analysis of the positional data within the time intervals of the LDMs, as shown in Extended Data Fig. 7e. For live imaging of nuclear actin filaments, a stable cell line expressing the F-actCB-GFP-NLS was exposed to 5 Gy IR. The same field of cells was imaged before and every 5 min after IR, with 60-min time intervals and 10 Z-stacks at 0.8 μ m distance, starting from 3–12 min after IR. 3D volume reconstructions and movie generation were done in Imaris (Bitplane). Quantification of filament length and angles of actin branches was done using the ‘*Measurement Tool*’ in Imaris.

IR sensitivity assay

IR sensitivity assay for RNAi depletion experiments (Fig. 5c, left) was done as previously described⁷. Quantification of IR sensitivity for Act-WT or Act-R62D expressing cells (Fig. 5c, right) was done using a trypan blue exclusion test for cell viability described in⁶⁷.

Micronucleus assays

Micronucleus assay in Kc cells was done as previously described⁷. Micronuclei in NIH3T3 cells were quantified 72 h after IR based on the DAPI and H3K9me3 staining.

Antibodies

Primary antibodies used in *Drosophila* cells were: anti-actin (1:1000, Abcam, ab8224); anti- γ H2Av (1:1000, Rockland, 600-401-914); anti-Rad51 (1:1000, gift from J. Kadonaga); anti-HA (1:1000, Abcam, ab9134 for Western blot; 1:1000; Covance, 16B12 for IF); anti-FLAG (1:1000, Sigma, F1804); anti-GFP (1:1000, Invitrogen, AP11122 for Western blot; 1:1000 Aves Lab, GFP-1020 for IF; Rockland, 600-101-215 for Ip); anti-H3K9me2 (1:750, Wako Chemicals, MABI0307, 302-32369); anti-Wash (1:10, Developmental Studies Hybridoma Bank, P3H3); anti-Wasp (1:5, Developmental Studies Hybridoma Bank, P5E1); anti-Scar (1:10, Developmental Studies Hybridoma Bank, PIC1); anti-Whamy (1:10, Developmental Studies Hybridoma Bank, P1D1); Phalloidin (1:500 AlexaFluor488, Invitrogen, A12379), anti-Arpc3A (1:10000, for Wb kind gift from L. Cooley), anti-Arpc3B (1:500, for IF, kind gift from L. Cooley), anti-MyoV (head) (1:500, kind gift from A. Eprussi), anti-Unc45 (1:500, kind gift from S. Bernstein), anti-Smc5 (SDI, 1:800)⁵; anti-Smc6; (SDI, 1:800)⁵; anti-Nup62 (1:1000, kind gift from H. Ohkura); anti-Rad50 (1:1000, kind gift from M. Gatti), anti-dPIAS (1:1000, kind gift from G. Karpen), anti-TopBP1 (1:1000, kind gift from M. Michael⁶⁸); anti-HP1a (1:500, Developmental Studies Hybridoma Bank, C1A9). Primary antibodies used in NIH3T3 cells were: anti-H3K9me3 (1:2000, Abcam, ab8898); anti pH3S10 (1:4000, Milipore, 06-570); anti-gamma H2A.X (phospho-S139; 1:2000, Abcam, ab26350). Secondary antibodies for IF were from Life Technologies and Jackson Immunoresearch. Those used for Western blot were from Pierce and Santa Cruz Biotech. Antibodies were previously validated^{5,7,44} or validated by comparing signals in the presence of the protein of interest with signals after RNAi depletions or IF signals in the absence of primary antibodies.

Fly stocks and crosses

Drosophila were maintained on standard media at 25°C, which was prepared as in⁶⁹. Stocks were obtained from BDSC (<http://fly.bio.indiana.edu>) or VDRC (www.vdrc.at) and are: Myo1A (BDSC #33971) y[1] sc[*] v[1]; P{y[+t7.7] v[+t1.8]=TRiP.HMS00298}attP2; Myo1B (BDSC #41689) y[1] v[1]; P{y[+t7.7] v[+t1.8]=TRiP.HMS02253}attP2; Arp3 (BDSC #32921) y[1] sc[*] v[1]; P{y[+t7.7] v[+t1.8]=TRiP.HMS00711}attP2; Wash (BDSC #62866) y[1] sc[*] v[1]; P{y[+t7.7] v[+t1.8]=TRiP.HMC05339}attP40; Scar (BDSC #31126) y[1]v[1];P{y[+t7.7] v[+t1.8]=TRiP.JF01599}attP2; Act5c-GAL4 (BDSC #4414) y[1] w[*]; P{w[+mC]=Act5C-GAL4}25FO1/CyO, y[+]; Unc45 (VDRC #v108868) P{KK101311}VIE-260B. Smc5 trans-heterozygous mutant in Fig. 4d and S4c was *smc5^{7/19}* previously described in⁷. The *WT* control was w¹¹¹⁸. To obtain 3rd instar larvae for

karyotyping of neuroblast metaphase spread, RNAi lines were crossed to the Act5c-GAL4 line (rebalanced with CyO-GFP) and non-GFP larvae were picked for karyotyping as described in⁷.

Statistical analysis

All statistical analyses were performed using Prism6 (Graphpad Software).

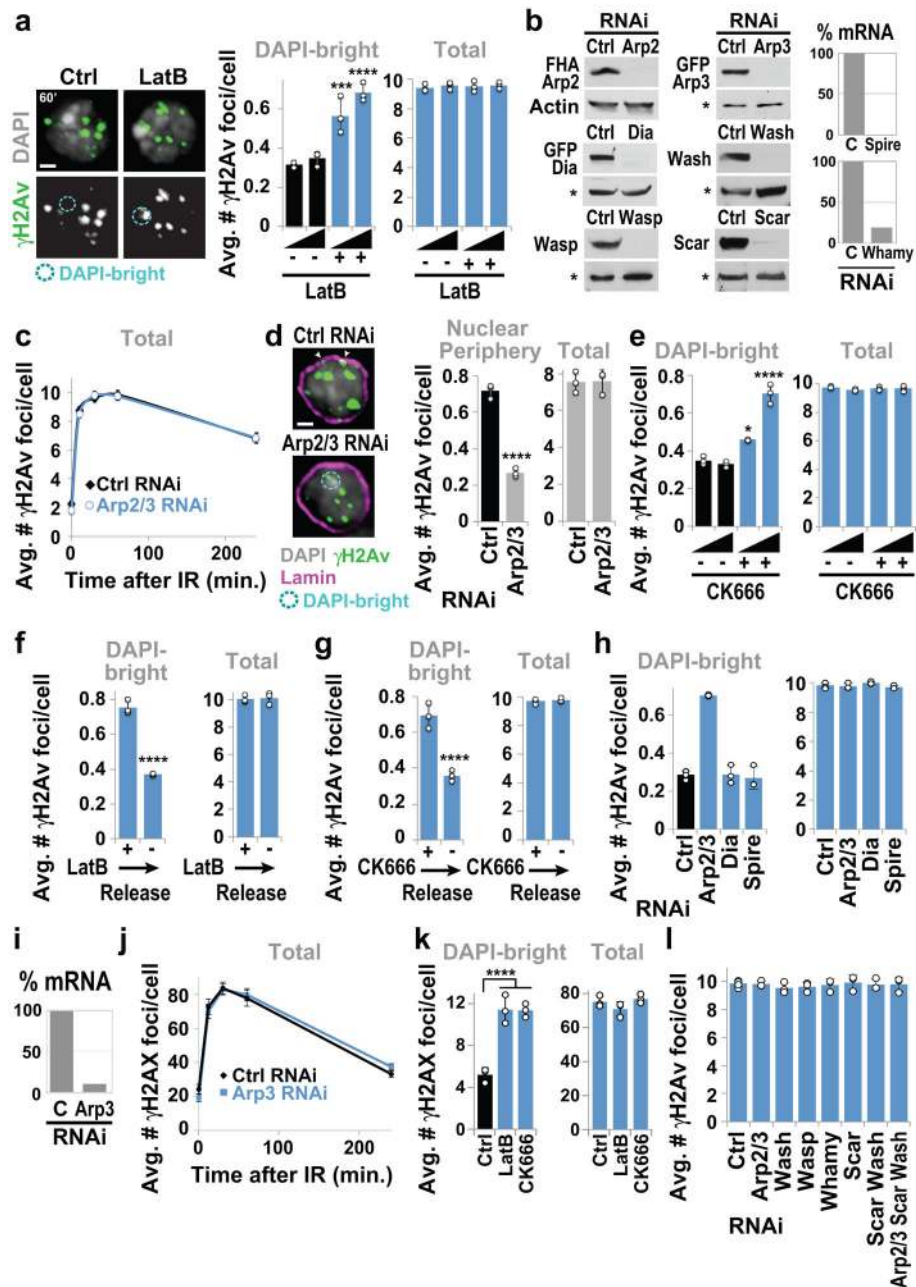
Code availability

Custom scripts written in Matlab and R for image analysis are published²⁴.

Data availability

All relevant data are included in the main manuscript and figures, Extended Data and Supplementary Information. Additional data are available from the corresponding author upon reasonable request.

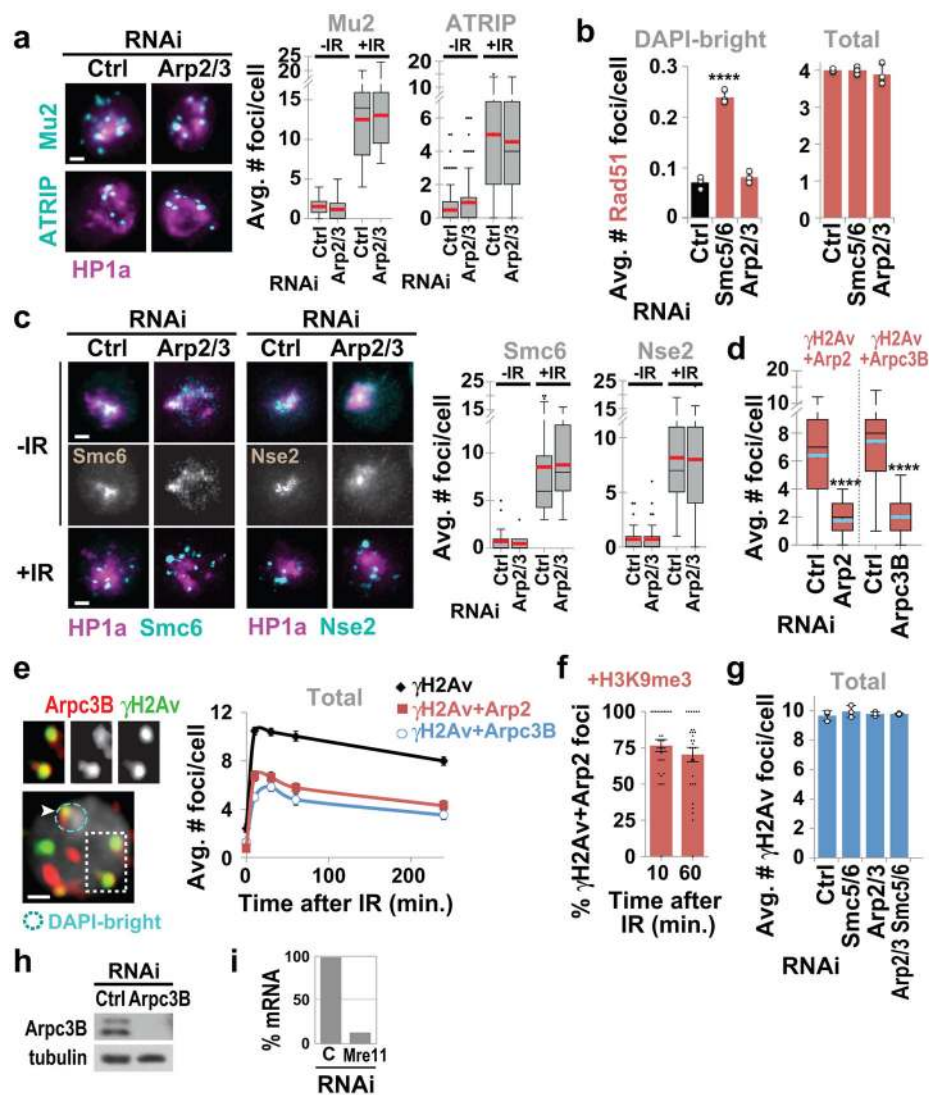
Extended Data



Extended Data Figure 1. Actin nucleators mediate relocalization of heterochromatic DSBs

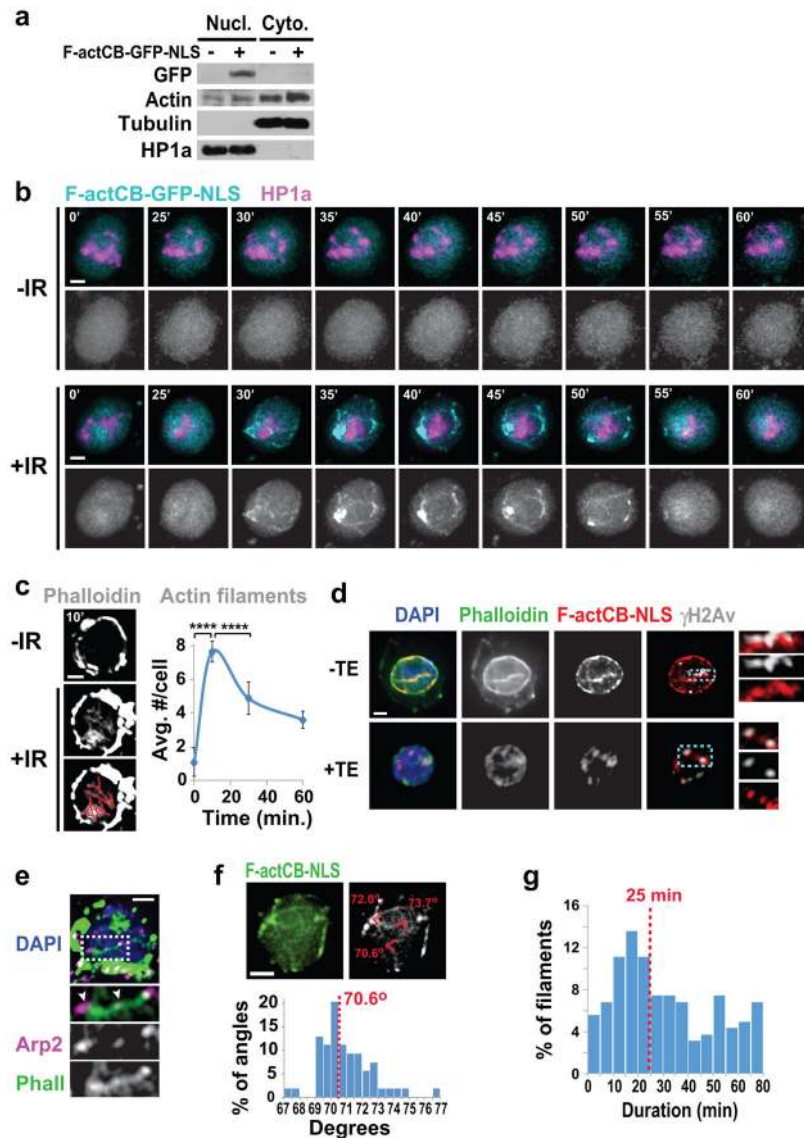
(a) IF and quantification of Kc cells fixed 60 min after IR show γ H2Av foci in DAPI-bright (dashed circle) or total focus number, after treatment with LatB (+) or control (Ctrl, -). **** P <0.0001, *** P =0.0008 vs Ctrl, n >300 cells/treatment. (b) Wb or qPCR analyses show RNAi depletion efficiencies for indicated proteins in Kc cells. Actin or a background band (*) are used as loading controls. (c) Quantification of total γ H2Av foci for Fig. 1a. (d) IF and quantification show γ H2Av foci at the nuclear periphery (Lamin), or total focus number, 60 min after IR after indicated RNAi depletions in Kc cells. Only middle Z-stacks were used

for quantifications. **** $P < 0.0001$, $n > 200$ cells/RNAi. (e) As in a except cells treated with CK666. **** $P < 0.0001$, * $P = 0.00293$, $n > 300$ cells/treatment. (f–g) Quantification of γ H2Av foci in DAPI-bright or total focus number, after 60 min treatment with and release from LatB or CK666. **** $P < 0.0001$, $n > 200$ cells per condition. (h) Quantification of Kc cells fixed 60 min after IR shows γ H2Av foci in DAPI-bright, or total focus number, after RNAi depletions of actin nucleators Spire⁷⁰ or the formin Dia⁷¹. **** $P < 0.0001$ vs Ctrl, $n > 300$ cells/RNAi. (i) qPCR analysis shows Arp3 RNAi depletion efficiency in NIH3T3 cells. (j) Quantification of total γ H2Av foci for Fig. 1b. (k) Quantification in NIH3T3 G2 cells treated with indicated chemicals, and fixed 60 min after IR, shows γ H2AX foci in DAPI-bright or total focus number **** $P < 0.0001$ vs Ctrl, $n > 37$ cells/treatment. (l) Quantification of total γ H2Av foci for Fig. 1c. Scale bars: 1 μ m. Error bars: mean \pm SEM in e, and \pm SD of at least three independent experiments in a,d–h,k,l. P values calculated with two-tailed Mann-Whitney test.



Extended Data Figure 2. Actin nucleators mediate relocation of heterochromatic DSBs

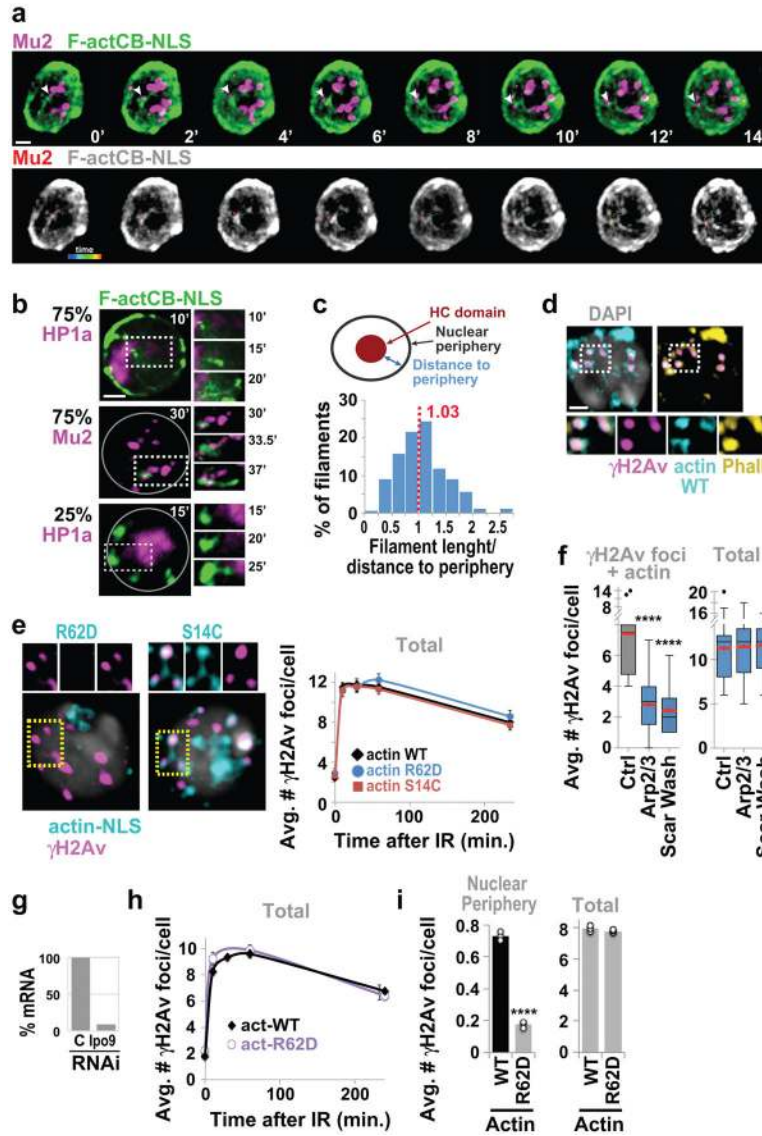
(a) Images at 10 min after IR (+) and quantification before (–) and after IR of Mu2 and ATRIP foci in cells expressing GFP-Mu2 or GFP-ATRIP and mCh-HP1a, after indicated RNAi depletions. $n > 48$ cells for ATRIP; $n > 21$ cells for Mu2. **(b)** Quantification of Rad51 foci in cells fixed 60 min after IR and processed for IF with anti-Rad51 antibodies after indicated RNAi depletions, show the average number of foci relative to DAPI-bright or total foci. Smc5/6 RNAi results in abnormal formation of Rad51 foci in heterochromatin^{5,7,8}, and is used as positive control. **** $P < 0.0001$ vs Ctrl, unpaired t-test with Welch's correction, $n > 300$ cells/RNAi. **(c)** Images and quantifications of Smc6 and Nse2 colocalizing with the mCh-HP1a domain before (–) IR and forming foci before and 15 min after (+) IR in cells expressing GFP-Smc6 or GFP-Nse2 and mCh-HP1a after indicated RNAi depletions. $n = 35$ cells for Nse2 and $n \geq 3$ cells for Smc6. **(d)** Quantification at 30 min after IR of γ H2Av foci colocalizing with FHA-tagged Arp2 or with Arpc3B after indicated RNAi depletions. **** $P < 0.0001$, two-tailed Mann-Whitney test, $n \geq 1$ cells/RNAi. **(e)** IF of γ H2Av foci colocalizing with Arpc3B and quantification of total focus number for Fig. 1f. **(f)** Quantification at indicated times after IR of the percentage of γ H2Av foci colocalizing with FHA-tagged Arp2 relative to H3K9me3. $n = 30$. **(g)** Quantification of total foci for Fig. 1d. **(h)** Western blot analyses show RNAi depletion efficiency for Arpc3B. Tubulin is used as loading control. **(i)** qPCR analysis shows Mre11 RNAi efficiency. Scale bars: 1 μ m. Error bars: mean \pm SEM in **a,c,d,f**, and \pm SD of at least three independent experiments in **b,g**.



Extended Data Figure 3. Nuclear F-actin is required for relocation

(a) Western blot showing nuclear vs cytoplasmic actin levels in cells stably transfected with F-actCB-GFP-NLS. HP1a and Tubulin were used as loading controls and to check for purity of the fractions. Consistent with previous studies, expression of F-actCB-GFP-NLS does not alter nuclear actin levels^{50,72} providing a non-invasive method for nuclear actin detection *in vivo*. (b) Frames of time-lapse experiments (Fig. 2a, Suppl. Videos 1,2) of cells expressing F-actCB-GFP-NLS and mCh-HP1a signals treated (+) or non-treated (-) with IR. Time points are from IR (+IR Video) or the start of imaging (-IR Video). (c) IF and quantification of cells stained with phalloidin show the formation of canonical nuclear actin filaments⁷³ (highlighted in red) at indicated timepoints after IR. **** $P < 0.0001$ for 10 min vs 0 min or 30 min, two-tailed Mann-Whitney test, $n \geq 9$ cells/timepoint. Error bars: SD of at least three independent experiments. (d) IF and staining for GFP, phalloidin, and γ H2Av, of cells expressing F-actCB-GFP-NLS, show examples of actin filaments coated with damage foci in the absence (-) of triton extraction (TE), and actin puncta colocalizing with γ H2Av foci

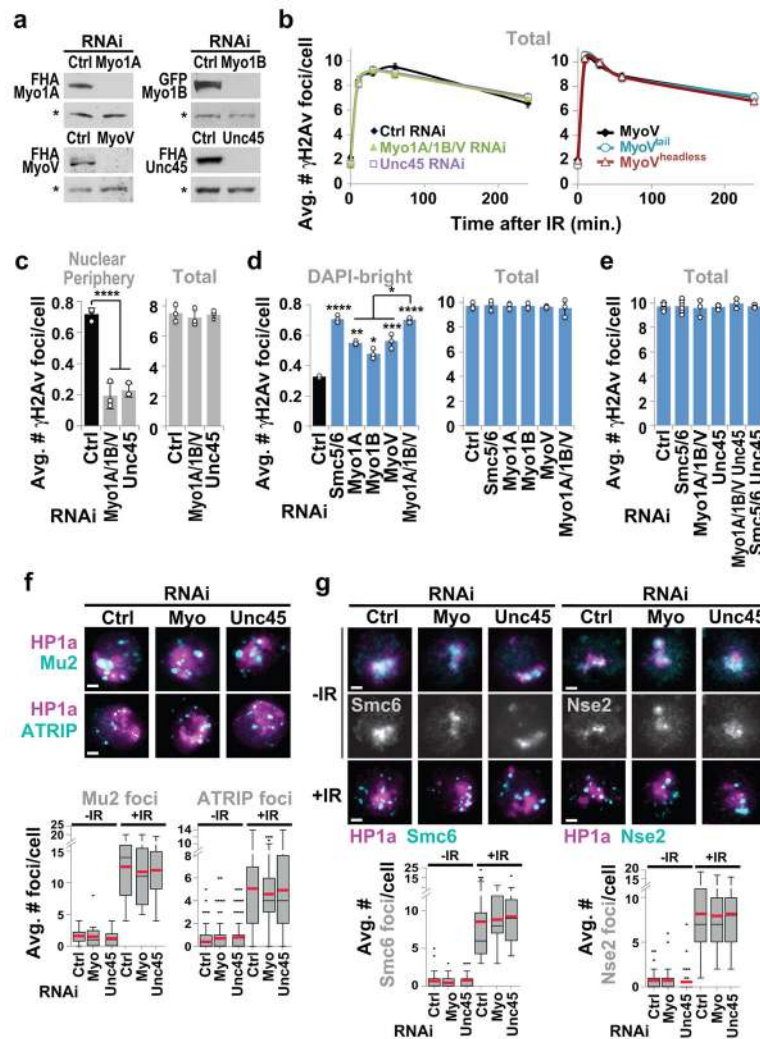
after (+) TE. Zoomed details highlight colocalizations. (e) IF and staining for HA and phalloidin (Phall) of cells expressing FHA-Arp2 show enrichments of Arp2 along nuclear actin filaments, including at the base of actin branches (arrowheads). (f) Measurement of F-actin branch angles in response to IR, in time lapse experiments of cells expressing F-actCB-GFP-NLS. n=54 angles. (g) Quantification of the average duration of IR-induced actin filaments in time lapse experiments of cells expressing F-actCB-GFP-NLS. n=162 actin filaments. Dashed red vertical lines indicates median values in f,g. Scale bars: 1 μ m.



Extended Data Figure 4. Nuclear F-actin is required for relocation

(a) Frames from time-lapse experiment show cells expressing F-actCB-GFP-NLS and Mu2-mCh (Fig. 2c, Suppl. Video 3) with an example of a Mu2 focus moving along an actin filament. Time indicates min from beginning of focus movement along the filament. Mu2 focus tracking (bottom panels) was done in Imaris. (b) Selected frames from cells expressing F-actCB-GFP-NLS and Mu2-mCh or HP1a-mCh show examples of filament directionality

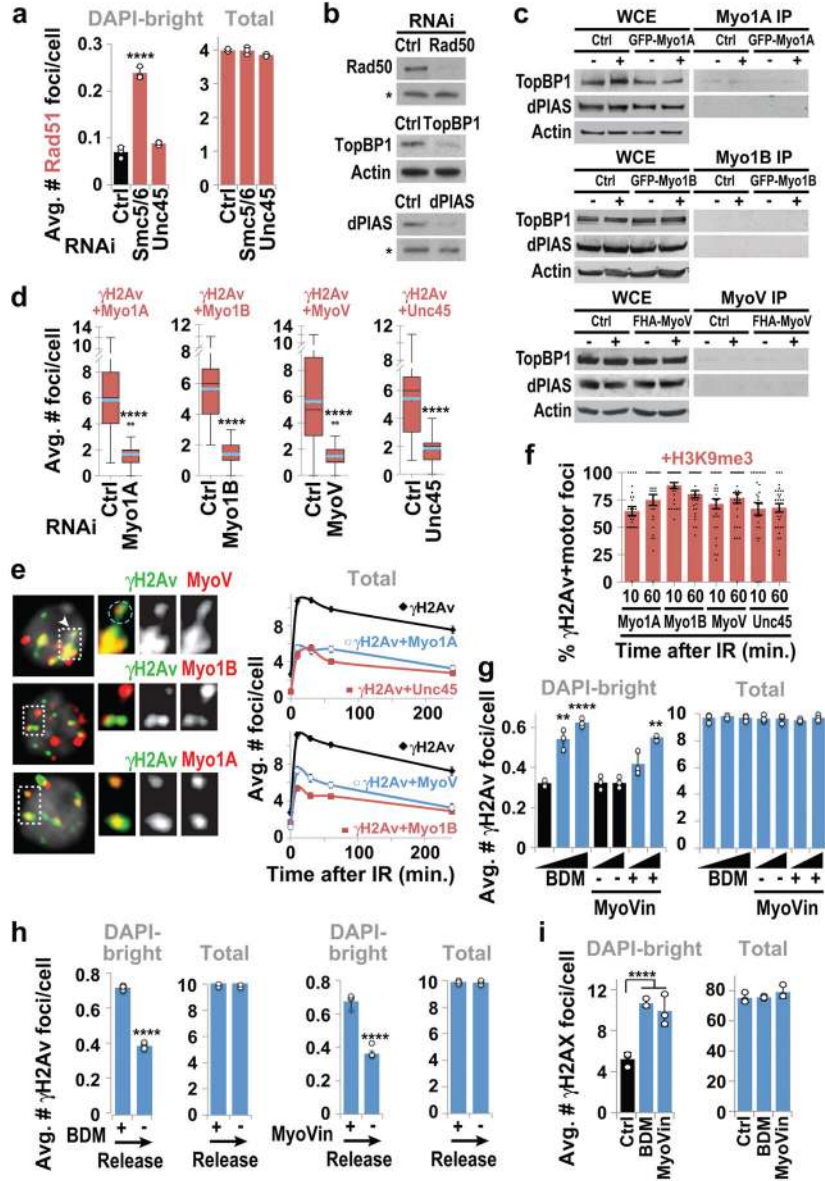
at indicated time points after IR, *i.e.*, filaments emerging from the heterochromatin domain periphery (top), from repair foci (middle) or from the nuclear periphery (bottom). Percentages indicate the frequency at which each behavior is observed. $n \geq 4$ filaments. **(c)** Quantification of the length of actin filaments departing from the heterochromatin domain relative to the average distance between the HP1a domain periphery and the nuclear periphery. $n > 140$ filaments. Dashed red vertical line: median value. **(d)** IF and staining for FLAG (actin-WT), phalloidin (Phall), and γ H2Av, of cells expressing FLAG-actin-WT-NLS, show examples of actin signals in cells processed by triton extraction before fixation, 10 min after IR. Zoomed details highlight colocalizations. Scale bar: 1 μ m. **(e)** IF of cells expressing FLAG+NLS-tagged versions of actin R62D and S14C as indicated shows colocalizations with γ H2Av foci. Quantification shows total γ H2Av foci for Fig. 2d. **(f)** Quantification of γ H2Av foci colocalizing with FLAG-actin-WT-NLS 10 min after IR, or total number of foci, after indicated RNAi depletions. **** $P < 0.0001$, $n \geq 4$ cells and $n \geq 58$ foci/RNAi. **(g)** qPCR analysis shows Ipo9 RNAi depletion efficiency. Ipo9 depletion specifically blocks the transfer of actin monomers to the nucleus^{14,74}. **(h)** Quantification of total γ H2Av foci for Fig. 2e. **(i)** Quantification of cells fixed 60 min after IR shows γ H2Av foci at the nuclear periphery (lamin), or total focus number, after indicated RNAi depletions. Only the middle Z-stack was used for quantifications. **** $P < 0.0001$, $n \geq 15$ cells/experiment. Error bars: SEM in **e,h** and SD of three independent experiments in **f,i**. P values calculated with two-tailed Mann-Whitney test.



Extended Data Figure 5. Relocalization relies on nuclear myosins

(a) Western blot analysis of cells expressing FHA-tagged components as indicated, shows RNAi depletion efficiency for indicated proteins. (*) Background bands used as loading controls. (b) Quantification shows total γ H2Av foci for Fig. 3a. (c) Quantification of cells fixed 60 min after IR shows γ H2Av foci at the nuclear periphery (lamin), or total focus number, after indicated RNAi depletions. **** $P < 0.0001$ vs Ctrl, Only the middle Z-stack was used for quantifications. Ctrl RNAi as in Extended Data Fig. 1d. (d) Quantification of cells fixed 60 min after IR shows γ H2Av foci in DAPI-bright, or total focus number, after indicated RNAi depletions. **** $P < 0.0001$, *** $P = 0.003$, ** $P = 0.0022$, * $P = 0.0402$ vs Ctrl, $n > 200$ cells/RNAi. (e) Quantification of total γ H2Av foci for Fig. 3b. (f) Images at 10 min after IR and quantification at 0 and 10 min after IR of Mu2, and ATRIP foci in cells expressing GFP-Mu2 or GFP-ATRIP and mCh-HP1a, after indicated RNAi depletions. $n \geq 75$ cells for ATRIP and $n \geq 17$ cells for Mu2. (g) Images and quantifications of Smc6 and Nse2 colocalizing with the mCh-HP1a domain before (-) IR and forming foci at 0 and 15 min after (+) IR in cells expressing GFP-Smc6 or GFP-Nse2 and mCh-HP1a after indicated RNAi depletions. $n \geq 1$ cells for Nse2 and $n \geq 1$ cells for Smc6. In f,g, Myo indicates RNAi

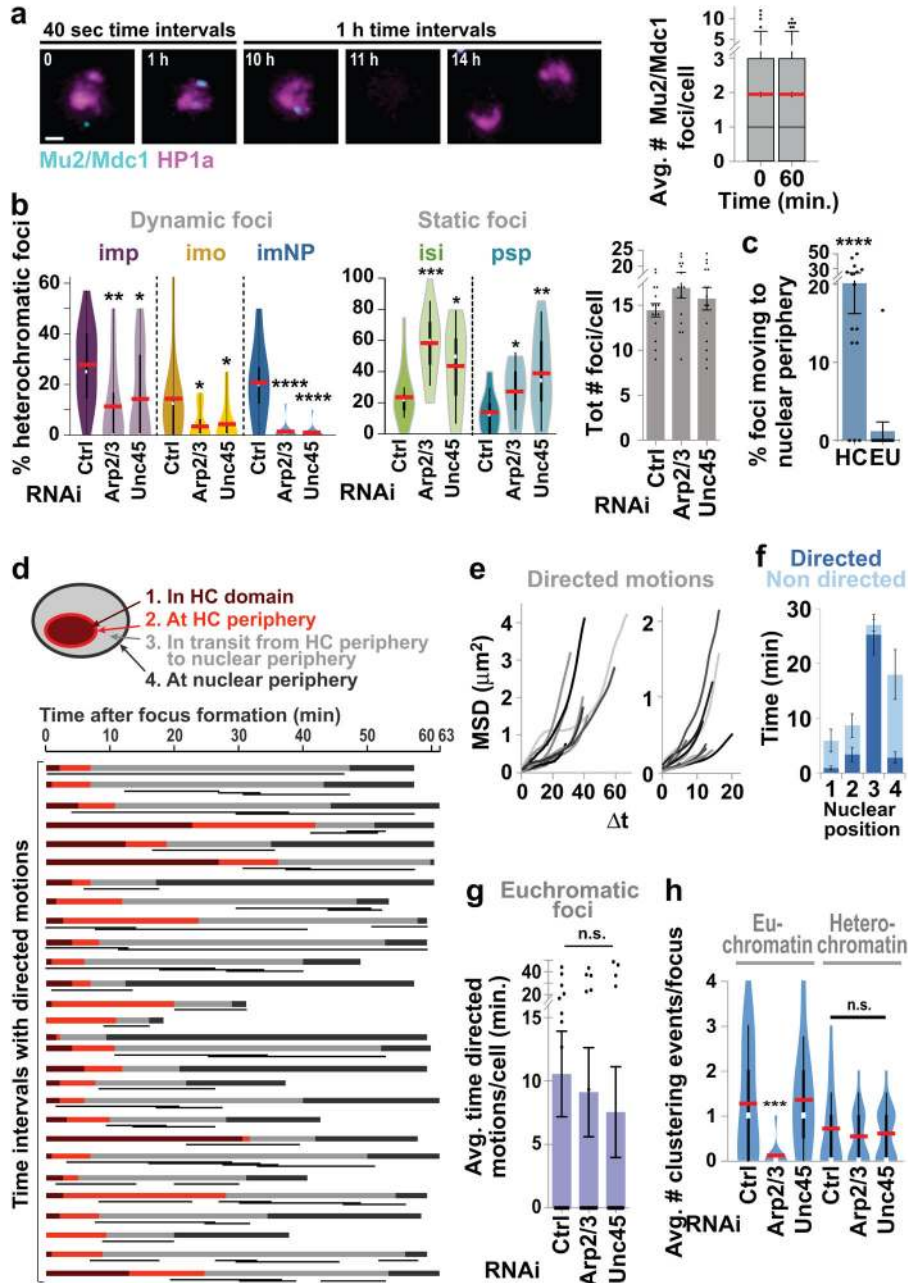
depletion of Myo1A+Myo1B+MyoV. Scale bars: 1 μ m. Error bars: mean \pm SEM in **b,f,g** and \pm SD of at least three independent experiments in **c,d,e**. All *P* values calculated with two-tailed Mann-Whitney test except one-tailed Mann-Whitney test was used for Myo1B RNAi in **d**.



Extended Data Figure 6. Relocalization relies on nuclear myosins

(a) Quantification of Rad51 foci in cells fixed 60 min after IR after indicated RNAi depletions show the average number of foci relative to DAPI-bright or total foci. *****P*=0.0001 vs Ctrl, *n*>300 cells/RNAi. Ctrl and Smc5/6 RNAi as in Extended Data Fig. 2b. (b) Western blot validation of the antibodies used in **c** and in Fig. 3c shows loss of Rad50, TopBP1 and dPIAS bands after corresponding RNAi depletions. (c) Wb analysis of the same Ip shown in Fig. 3c probed with antibodies for dPIAS or TopBP1, with actin as the

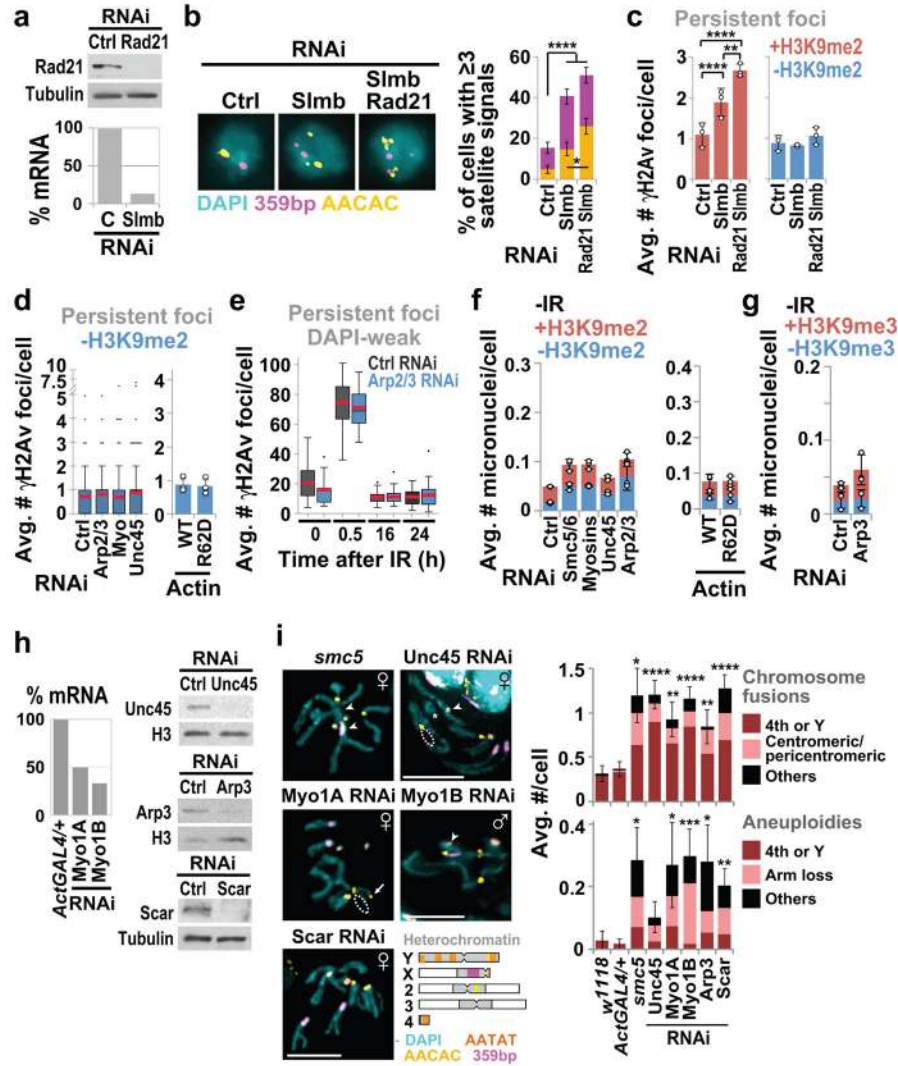
loading control. **(d)** Quantification at 30 min after IR of γ H2Av foci colocalizing with FHA-Myo1A, GFP-Myo1B, MyoV, or Unc45 after indicated RNAi depletions. **** $P < 0.0001$, $n > 21$ /cells/RNAi. **(e)** IF at 10 min after IR and quantification at indicated time points after IR of γ H2Av foci colocalizing with FHA-Myo1A, GFP-Myo1B, MyoV, or Unc45. **(f)** Quantification at indicated times after IR of the percentage of γ H2Av+FHA-Myo1A, GFP-Myo1B, MyoV, or Unc45, relative to H3K9me3. $n = 30$ cells/experiment/timepoint. **(g)** Quantification of Kc cells fixed 60 min after IR shows γ H2Av foci in DAPI-bright, or total focus number, after treatment with BDM, MyoVin or controls. **** $P < 0.0001$, ** $P < 0.008$, $n \geq 300$ cells/treatment. **(h)** Quantification of γ H2Av foci in DAPI-bright or total foci, after 60 min treatment with and release from BDM or MyoVin. **** $P < 0.0001$, $n \geq 200$ cells/treatment. **(i)** As in **g**, except NIH3T3 cells were used and γ H2AX foci were quantified. Ctrl RNAi as Extended Data Fig. 1k. **** $P < 0.0001$, $n \geq 37$ cells and $n \geq 2524$ foci/treatment. Error bars: mean \pm SEM in **d–f** and \pm SD of at least three independent experiments in **a, g–i**. All P values calculated with two-tailed Mann-Whitney test.



Extended Data Figure 7. Actin nucleators and myosin drive directed motions of heterochromatin DSBs

(a) Selected images and quantification at indicated time points of Mu2 foci in GFP-Mdc1/Mu2 and mCh-HP1a expressing cells show no effect of the imaging conditions used in Fig. 4 on the ability of cells to divide or the total number of repair foci. Only representative time points are shown. n=82 cells. Scale bar: 1 μ m. (b) Left and middle: Quantification and violin plot display of the frequency of heterochromatic (HC) Mu2/Mdc1 foci moving relative to the HP1a domain during the time lapse experiments shown in Fig. 5a,b, after indicated RNAi depletions. White box: median. Red line: mean. Vertical black lines: values that occur 95% and 50% of the time. ‘Dynamic HC foci’ include foci moving

from inside the HP1a domain to: the nuclear periphery (imNP); outside the HP1a domain (imo); or the periphery of the HP1a domain (imp). ‘Static HC foci’ include foci remaining inside (isi) or at the periphery of the HP1a domain (psp) throughout the 1 h timecourse. Colors reflect the categories analyzed in Fig. 5b. Right: Quantification of the average number of Mu2 foci from Fig. 5a,b and **b**, after indicated RNAi depletions. * $P<0.05$, ** $P<0.006$, *** $P=0.0003$; **** $P<0.0001$, two-tailed Mann-Whitney test, $n \geq 17$ foci/RNAi. **(c)** Quantification of the percentage of heterochromatic (HC) and euchromatic (EU) Mu2/Mdc1 foci moving to the nuclear periphery in time lapse experiments from Fig. 5a,b. **** $P<0.0003$; two-tailed Mann-Whitney test, $n=162$ foci. **(d)** LDM analysis of Mu2/Mdc1 foci that reach the nuclear periphery from Fig. 4b. Each colored horizontal bar represents a focus and its duration in each nuclear compartment, as indicated. The black segments under each bar are LDMs for each focus. **(e)** MSD curves generated from the positional data corresponding to the time points that contain LDMs in **d**. Longer (left) and shorter (right) LDMs are presented as independent graphs for clarity. **(f)** Quantification of the analysis shown in Fig. 4d and **d** shows the average duration of directed motions (LDMs) or non-directed motions in the nuclear positions defined in **d**. $P<0.0001$ for directed motions in 3 vs 1,2,4, unpaired t-test. **(g)** Quantification of LDM durations for euchromatic foci shown in Fig. 4d, after indicated RNAi depletions. **(h)** Quantification and violin plot of Mu2 focus clustering events in time-lapse experiments for Fig. 4d. Graphical display as in **b**. An example of clustering is highlighted in Suppl. Video 4. *** $P=0.0003$, two-tailed Mann-Whitney test, $n \geq 20$ cells/RNAi. Error bars: SEM.



Extended Data Figure 8. Actin nucleators and myosins promote heterochromatin repair and stability

(a) Wb and qPCR analysis show RNAi depletion efficiency for Rad21 and Slmb as indicated. Tubulin is a loading control for Wb. (b) FISH analysis and quantification show the effect of indicated RNAi on the number of cells with ≥ 3 AACAC or 359bp satellites, reflecting disruption of homologous and/or sister pairing⁷⁵. ** $P=0.0472$; **** $P<0.0001$ two-tailed Mann-Whitney test, $n>120$ cells/RNAi. (c) Quantification shows γ H2Av foci associated (+) or non-associated (-) with H3K9me2 signals 20 h after IR following indicated RNAi depletions. ** $P<0.02$; **** $P<0.0001$ two-tailed Mann-Whitney test, $n>400$ cells/RNAi. (d) Quantification of Kc cells from the experiment in Fig. 5a shows γ H2Av foci non-associated (-) with H3K9me2 signals 20 h after IR and following indicated RNAi depletions. (e) Quantification of NIH3T3 cells from the experiment in Fig. 5b shows γ H2AX foci non-associated (-) with DAPI-bright signals 16 and 24 h after IR and following indicated RNAi depletions. (f) Quantification of micronuclei in non-irradiated Kc cells from Fig. 4d. (g) Quantification of micronuclei in non-irradiated NIH3T3 cells from Fig. 4e. (h) qPCR and Wb analyses show RNAi depletion efficiency of indicated components in 3rd

instar larvae for **i** and Fig. 5f. **(i)** Images and quantification of chromosome aberrations in karyotypes from Fig. 5f. Images show extra satellites (arrows), chromosome fusions (arrowhead), chromosome arm losses (dashed circles). The diagram of *Drosophila* chromosomes indicates the position of the main satellites detected by FISH. Aneuploidies and chromosome fusions from Fig. 5f were further categorized to highlight rearrangements involving centromeric regions or chromosomes that are predominantly heterochromatic (4th or Y). Error bars: mean \pm SEM in **a**(RNAi),**b,f** and \pm SD of at least three independent experiments in **a**(actin),**c–e**.

Supplementary Material

Refer to Web version on PubMed Central for supplementary material.

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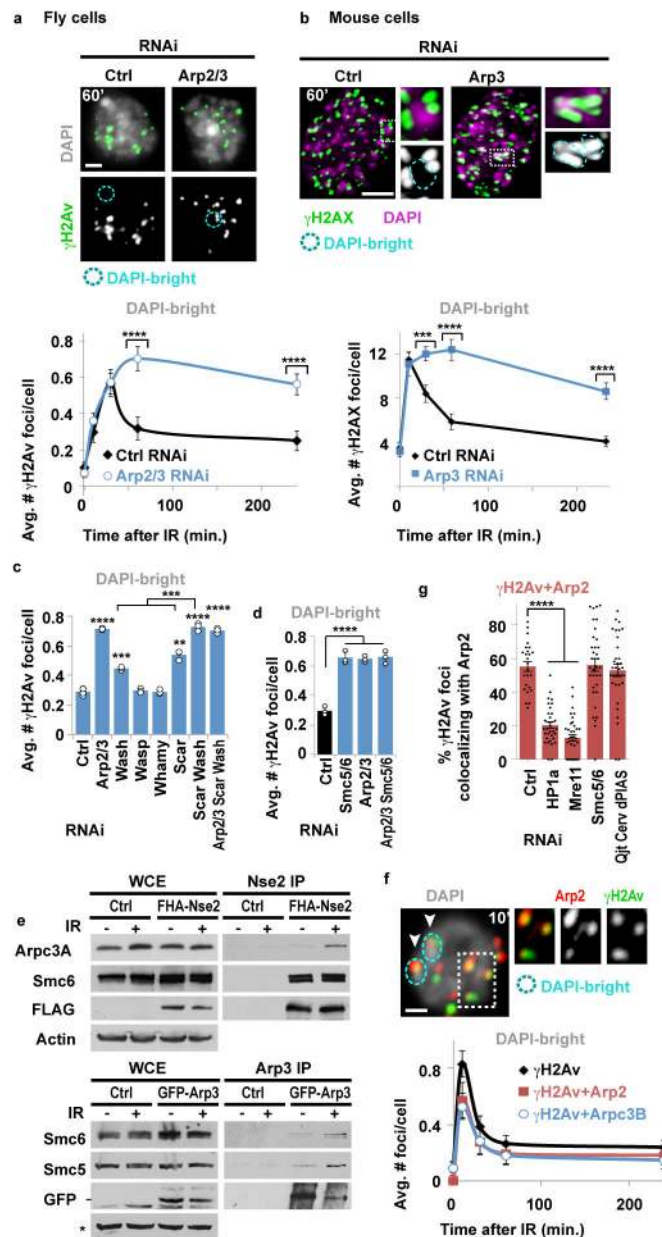


Figure 1. Actin nucleators mediate relocalization of heterochromatic DSBs

(a) Immunofluorescence (IF) and quantification of Kc cells fixed at indicated timepoints after IR show γ H2Av foci in DAPI-bright following indicated RNAi. **** $P \leq 0.0001$, $n \geq 100$ cells/RNAi/timepoint. (b) IF and quantification of NIH3T3 G2 cells at indicated timepoints after IR show γ H2AX foci associated with DAPI-bright chromocenters following indicated RNAi. **** $P < 0.0001$, *** $P = 0.0004$ vs Ctrl, $n \geq 20$ cells/RNAi/timepoint. (c) As in a., IF performed 60 min after IR. **** $P < 0.0001$ and *** $P = 0.0009$ vs Ctrl, ** $P = 0.0019$, $n > 250$ cells/RNAi/timepoint. (d) As in a. **** $P < 0.0001$ vs Ctrl, $n > 250$ cells/RNAi. (e) Immunoprecipitation (Ip) of FHA-Nse2 or GFP-Arp3 in Kc cells before (-) or after (+) IR and Western blot (Wb) analysis with indicated antibodies. Actin, background band (*): loading controls. WCE: whole cell extract. (f) IF and quantification in DAPI-bright at

indicated timepoints after IR of γ H2Av foci colocalizing with FHA(FLAG-HA)-Arp2 or Arpc3B. Arrows: colocalizations in DAPI-bright. $n > 30$ Kc cells/timepoint/experiment. **(g)** As in **f**, colocalizations between γ H2Av and Arp2 10 min after IR, following indicated RNAi. **** $P < 0.0001$, $n > 22$ cells/RNAi/experiment. Scale bars: 1 μ m. Error bars: mean \pm SEM in **a,b,f,g** and \pm SD of at least three independent experiments in **c,d**. Grey headings above each graph indicate the compartments to which quantifications refer. *P* values calculated with two-tailed Mann-Whitney test.

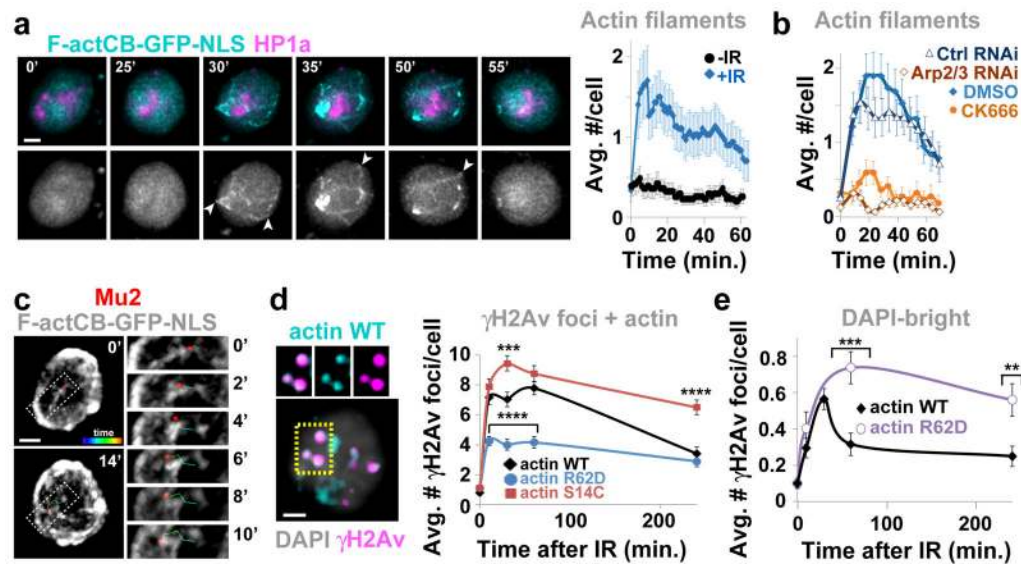


Figure 2. Nuclear F-actin is required for relocalization

(a) Frames of Suppl. Video 2 and quantification of Kc cells expressing F-actCB-GFP-NLS and mCherry(mCh)-HP1a (heterochromatin mark⁵) show dynamic filaments in cells treated (+) or non-treated (-) with IR. Arrowheads: filaments reaching the nuclear periphery. Timepoints are after IR. $P < 0.0001$, + vs - IR; $n > 22$ cells/experiment. (b) As in a except cells treated with indicated RNAi or CK666. $P < 0.0001$, Ctrl vs Arp2/3 RNAi, DMSO vs CK666, $n \geq 9$ cells/treatment/experiment. (c) Frames of Suppl. Video 3 show Mu2 focus moving along actin filaments. Timepoints relative to start of focus movement. (d) IF of γ H2Av foci colocalizing with FLAG-NLS-actin WT, R62D, or S14C at indicated timepoints. **** $P < 0.0001$, *** $P = 0.0006$ $n \geq 40$ cells/timepoint/experiment. (e) Quantification of γ H2Av foci in DAPI-bright at indicated time points, in cells expressing indicated actin forms after Ipo9 RNAi. *** $P = 0.0005$, ** $P = 0.0019$, $n \geq 47$ cells/timepoint/experiment. Scale bars: 1 μ m. Error bars: mean \pm SEM. P values calculated with extra sum-of-squares F -test, nonlinear regression for curve fitting in a,b and two-tailed Mann-Whitney test in d,e.

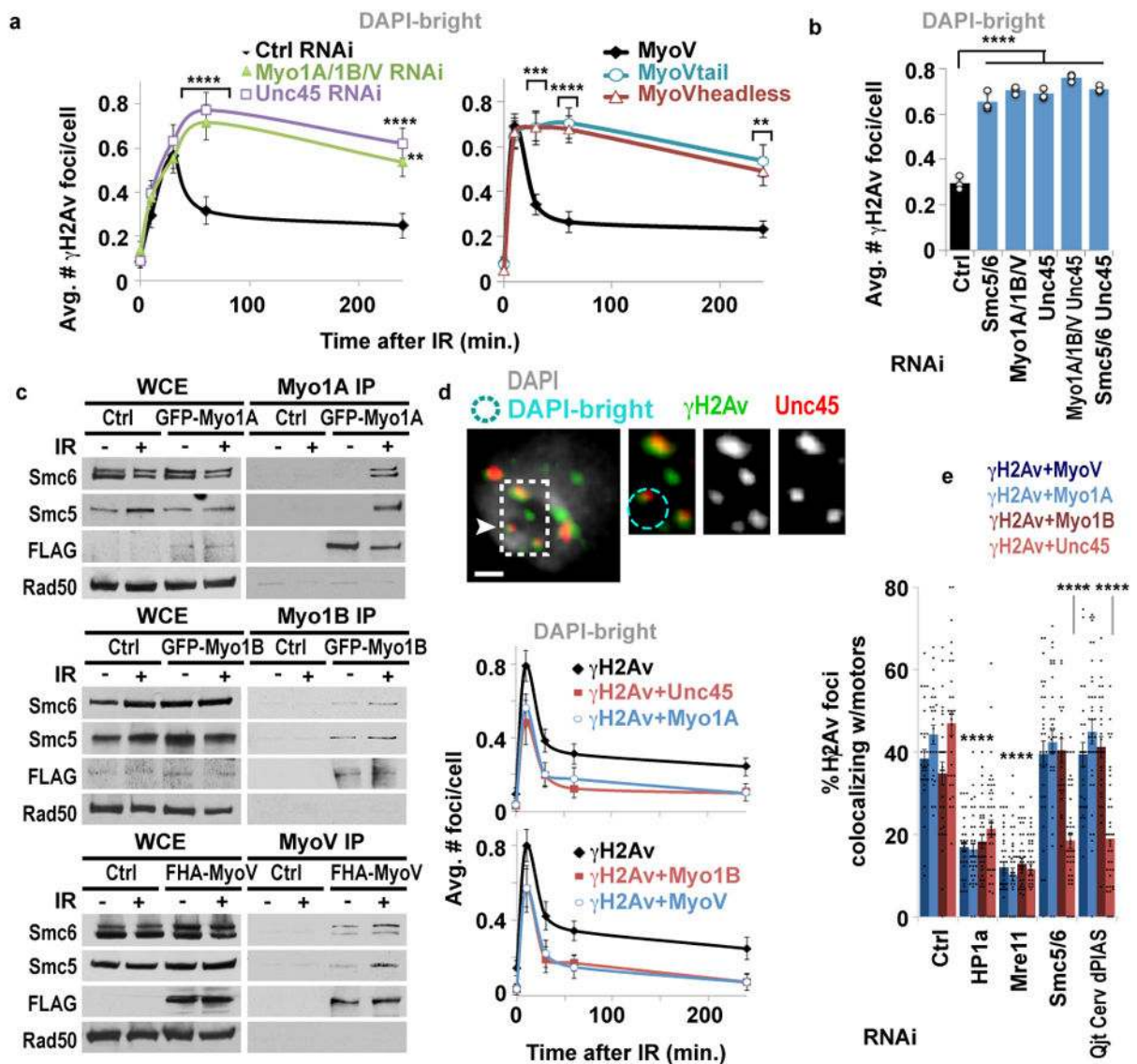


Figure 3. Relocalization relies on nuclear myosins

(a) Quantification of Kc cells fixed at indicated timepoints shows γ H2Av foci in DAPI-bright following indicated RNAi or expression of MyoV forms. **** P <0.0001, *** P =0.0004, ** P ≤0.0033, n ≥99 cells/RNAi or cell line/timepoint. (b) As in a, 1 h after IR. **** P <0.0001, n ≥27 cells/RNAi. Ctrl and Smc5/6 as in Fig. 1d. (c) Ip of GFP-Myo1A, GFP-Myo1B or FHA-MyoV with Smc5/6 before (–) and after (+) IR and Wb analysis with indicated antibodies. (d) IF and quantification in DAPI-bright of γ H2Av foci colocalizing with FHA-Myo1A, GFP-Myo1B, MyoV, or Unc45, at indicated timepoints. n ≥30 cells/timepoint/experiment. Scale bars: 1 μ m. (e) As in d, 10 min after IR, after indicated RNAi. **** P <0.0001 vs Ctrl, n >24 cells/experiment. Error bars: mean \pm SEM in a,d,e and \pm SD of at least three independent experiments in b.

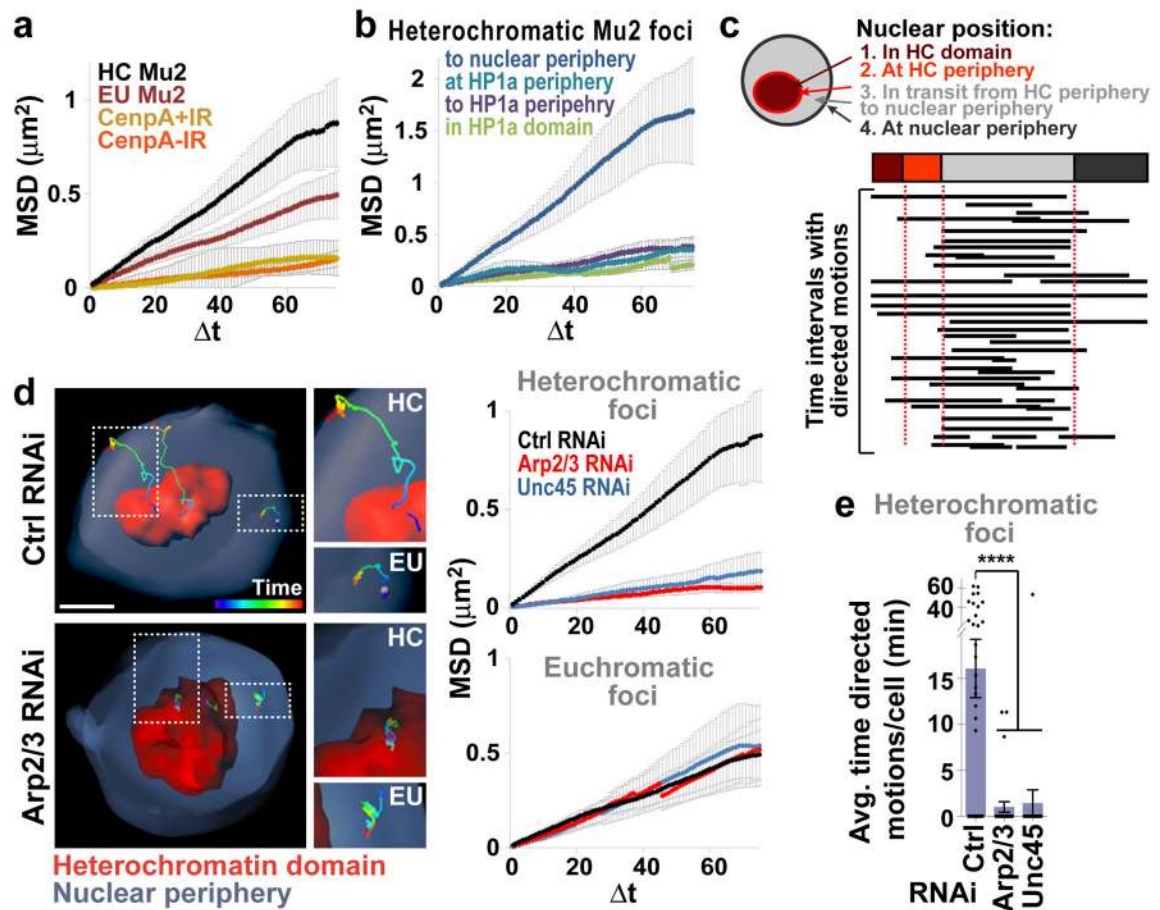


Figure 4. Actin nucleators and myosins drive directed motions of heterochromatic DSBs

(a) MSD analysis of heterochromatic (HC) or euchromatic (EU) GFP-Mu2/Mdc1 foci (*i.e.*, formed inside or outside the HP1a domain, respectively) after IR, or GFP-CenpA foci before (–) and after (+) IR. $P < 0.0001$ for all comparisons, $n > 19$ tracks/category. (b) MSD analysis of HC Mu2 foci from a that: remain inside HP1a domain; move to domain periphery; remain at domain periphery; or move to nuclear periphery. $P < 0.0001$ for all comparisons vs ‘to nuclear periphery’ category. $n = 41$ foci (c) LDM analysis of foci that reach nuclear periphery in b. Duration and length of LDMs (black lines) are adjusted relative to a ‘pseudo-trajectory’ defined by average time foci are in each nuclear space. $n = 28$ foci (d) 3D reconstructions in Imaris and MSD analyses of GFP-Mu2/Mdc1 foci that leave the heterochromatin domain (mCh-HP1a) and reach the nuclear periphery, or euchromatic foci, after indicated RNAi depletions. $P < 0.0001$ vs Ctrl, $n \geq 8$ HC and $n \geq 19$ EU foci/RNAi. (e) Quantification of LDM durations of all heterochromatic foci in d. **** $P < 0.0001$ vs Ctrl, $n \geq 30$ cells/RNAi. Scale bars: 1 μm . Error bars: mean \pm SEM in a–e. P values calculated with extra sum-of-squares F -test, nonlinear regression for curve fitting for a,b,d and two-tailed Mann-Whitney test in e.

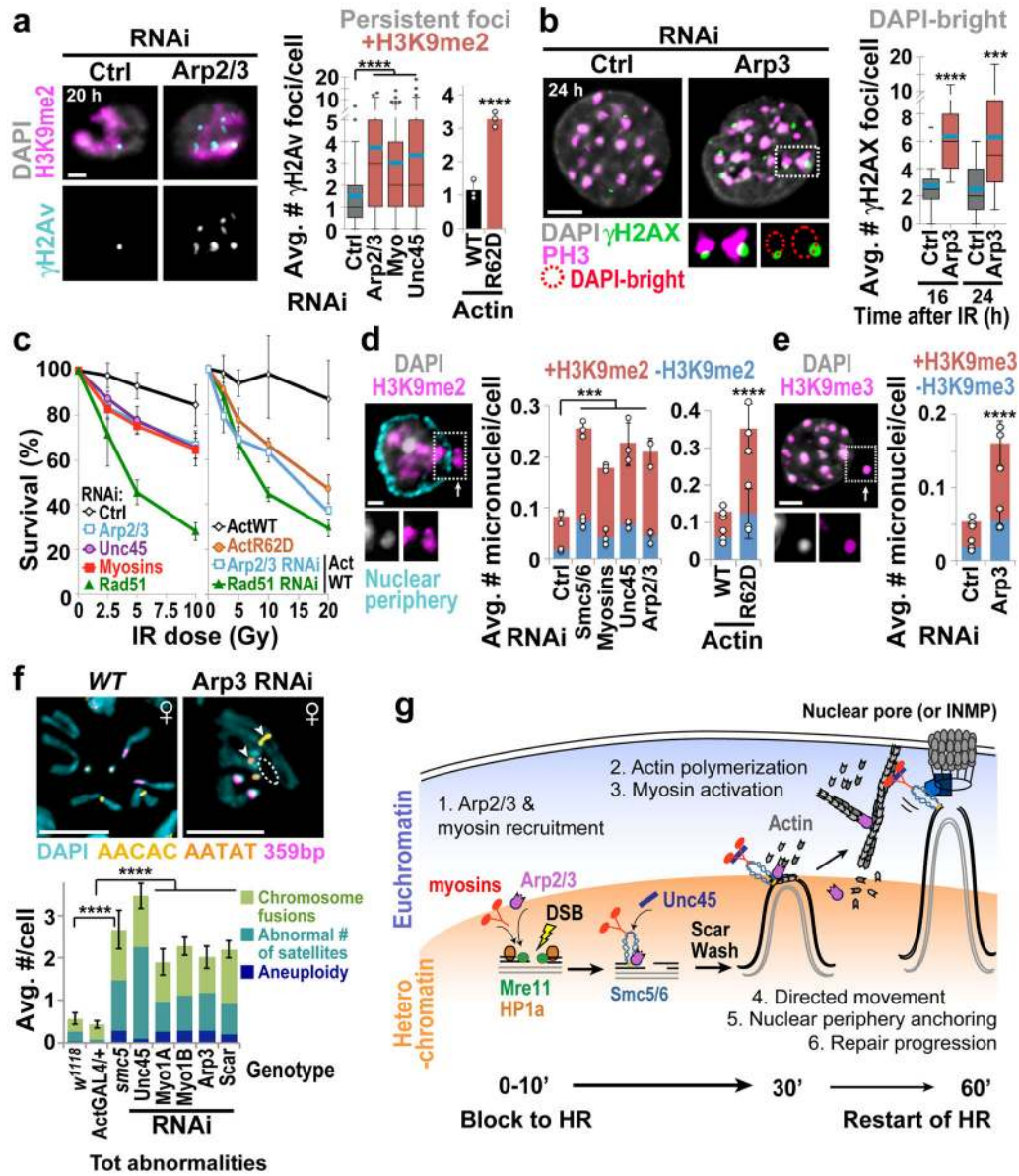


Figure 5. Nuclear F-Actin and myosins promote heterochromatin integrity

(a) IF and quantification of Kc cells fixed 20 h after IR show γ H2Av foci associated (+) with H3K9me2 after indicated RNAi or expression of actin forms. **** $P < 0.0001$, $n > 65$ cells/RNAi and $n > 220$ cells/actin-expressing line. (b) As in (a) except NIH3T3 G2 cells stained for γ H2AX and PH3. **** $P < 0.0001$, *** $P = 0.0008$, $n \geq 20$ cells/RNAi. (c) IR sensitivity of Kc cells after indicated RNAi or expression of actin forms. Rad51 RNAi: positive control⁷. $P < 0.0001$ vs Ctrl RNAi or Act-WT, $n > 1324$ cells/RNAi/dose. (d) IF and quantification of micronuclei (arrow) in cells stained for H3K9me2 and nuclear periphery (Nup62), after indicated RNAi or expression of actin forms and IR. *** $P < 0.0009$, $n > 311$ cells/RNAi; **** $P < 0.0001$, $n > 340$ cells/actin expressing line. +/-: micronuclei with/without H3K9me2 signals. (e) As in (d), except NIH3T3 cells stained for H3K9me3. **** $P < 0.0001$ vs Ctrl; $n > 1450$ cells/RNAi. (f) FISH and quantification of larval karyotypes

stained for indicated satellites show chromosome abnormalities in mutants or RNAi depleted flies *vs* controls *w*¹¹¹⁸ or *ActGAL4/+*. Arrows: chromosome fusions. Dashed circle: arm loss. *****P*<0.0001, *n*>36 karyotypes/genotype. Scale bars: 1 μ m in **a,d**; 5 μ m in **b,e,f**. Error bars: mean \pm SEM in **a(RNAi),b,f** or \pm SD of at least three independent experiments in **a(actin),c-e**. *P* values calculated with two-tailed Mann-Whitney test in **a,b,d(RNAi)**; unpaired t-test with Welch's correction in **d(actin),e,f**; extra sum-of-squares *F*-test, nonlinear regression for curve-fitting in **c**. **(g)** Heterochromatin relocalization pathway model: DSBs are resected inside the heterochromatin domain; Mre11 and HP1a promote the loading of Arp2/3 and nuclear myosins to DSBs; Arp2/3 activation by Scar and Wash induce formation of actin filaments reaching nuclear periphery; Unc45 recruitment by Smc5/6 activates nuclear myosins to 'walk' along filaments, thus relocalizing DSBs to nuclear pores or INMPs^{5,7,8}; HR continues while filaments disassemble. Relocalization prevents ectopic recombination by isolating damaged sites and their homologous templates (grey lines) from undamaged heterochromatic repeats before strand invasion.