

Cotranscriptional Recruitment to the mRNA Export Receptor Mex67p Contributes to Nuclear Pore Anchoring of Activated Genes[∇]

Guennaelle Dieppois,[†] Nahid Iglesias,[†] and Françoise Stutz^{*}

Department of Cell Biology, Sciences III, 30 Quai E. Ansermet, 1211 Geneva 4, Switzerland

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Transcription activation of some *Saccharomyces cerevisiae* genes is paralleled by their repositioning to the nuclear periphery, but the mechanism underlying gene anchoring is poorly defined. We show that the nuclear pore complex-associated Mlp1p and the shuttling mRNA export receptor Mex67p contribute to the stable association of the activated *GAL10* and *HSP104* genes with the nuclear periphery. However, we find no obligatory link between gene positioning and gene expression. Furthermore, gene anchoring correlates with the cotranscriptional recruitment of Mex67p to transcribing genes. Notably, the association of Mex67p with chromatin is not mediated by RNA. Interestingly, a mutant *GAL2* gene lacking the coding region is still able to recruit Mex67p upon transcriptional activation and to relocate to the nuclear periphery. Together these data suggest that, at least for *GAL2*, nascent messenger ribonucleoprotein does not play a major role in gene anchoring and that the early recruitment of Mex67p contributes to gene repositioning by virtue of an RNA-independent process.

A growing number of recent studies point to a functional relationship between gene expression and nuclear organization of chromatin. Indeed, the nucleus is subdivided into spatially defined domains, and the nonrandom distribution of chromosomes within these domains is thought to regulate their transcriptional state (8, 25). Notably, the nuclear periphery has first been viewed as a transcriptionally repressive zone. In *Saccharomyces cerevisiae*, telomeres and mating-type loci, consisting of silent chromatin, concentrate in nuclear peripheral regions (16), and artificial tethering of nonsilenced DNA to the envelope induces its repression (2). In particular, the nuclear pore complex (NPC) has been implicated in perinuclear gene silencing and maintenance of gene expression states. Indeed, loss of a subset of NPC components, including the nuclear basket-anchored Mlp1p and Mlp2p, results in the activation of subtelomeric reporter genes (10, 12, 20). However, another study showed that artificial tethering of nuclear transport factors to a partially silenced mating-type locus allowed its expression. Thus, recruitment of genes to the nuclear periphery can also have important effects on their activation (24). Consistent with these observations, genome-wide analyses of NPC-bound loci identified preferential association of highly transcribed genes with the nuclear periphery. These studies also showed that transcriptional activation of genes induced by galactose or α -factor is accompanied by their relocation from the nuclear interior to the nuclear periphery (5, 6). *INO1* gene activation is also paralleled by its repositioning to the periphery, and this relocation contributes to optimal *INO1* gene expression (3).

Importantly, recent studies pointed to a direct physical link between Sus1p, a component of the SAGA histone deacetylase

coactivator complex, and the Sac3-Thp1 complex, which is part of the mRNA export machinery associated with pores (31). These data together suggested that transcription regulators could control the recruitment of genes to the nuclear periphery, possibly linking gene repositioning to optimal activation. However, a strict and systematic dependence of gene expression on peripheral positioning has not been demonstrated. More generally, the molecular basis of transcription-induced gene repositioning is poorly understood and whether it is the cause or consequence of transcription activation is still unclear. Several observations indicated a possible role for the nascent messenger ribonucleoprotein (mRNP) in stabilizing the association of a gene with the nuclear periphery. First, mRNP components physically interact with the NPC-associated Mlp1p and Mlp2p proteins (11, 17, 43), and the results of chromatin immunoprecipitation (ChIP) experiments suggest that Mlp1p associates with transcribing genes in an RNA-dependent manner (5). These observations raised the possibility that Mlp proteins contribute to gene anchoring by interacting with nascent transcripts. Second, several mRNA export factors bind mRNA cotranscriptionally (28, 38, 45), consistent with a potential role for growing mRNPs in bridging active genes to the NPC. Moreover, we recently showed that the mRNA export receptor Mex67p, which promotes the translocation of mRNP complexes through the NPC (35), is also recruited cotranscriptionally (19). The association of Mex67p with transcribing genes and its ability to interact with various pore components raised the possibility that mRNP-bound Mex67p helps the anchoring of transcribing loci to the nuclear periphery.

To test the potential roles of Mlp1p and Mex67p in gene anchoring, we compared the localization of inducible genes in wild-type (WT) and $\Delta mlp1$ or *mex67-5* mutant cells (35). The results indicate that both Mlp1p and Mex67p are required for efficient anchoring of the galactose-inducible *GAL10* and stress-inducible *HSP104* genes; however, gene anchoring appears to be not essential for the transcription of these two

^{*} Corresponding author. Mailing address: Department of Cell Biology, Sciences III, 30 Quai E. Ansermet, 1211 Geneva 4, Switzerland. Phone: 0041 22 379 67 29. Fax: 0041 22 379 6442. E-mail: Francoise.Stutz@cellbio.unige.ch.

[†] These authors contributed equally to this work.

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TABLE 1. Yeast strains used in this study

Code	Name	Genotype	Reference or source
W303 background			
W303	Wild type	<i>MATa ade2 his3 leu2 trp1 ura3</i>	
FSY1982	<i>mex67-5</i>	<i>MATa ade2 his3 leu2 trp1 ura3 mex67-5</i> (integrated mutant)	26
FSY2395	MEX67-GFP	<i>MATa ade2 his3 leu2 trp1 ura3 MEX67-GFP-Kan^r</i>	This study
FSY2455	<i>mex67-5-GFP</i>	<i>MATa ade2 his3 leu2 trp1 ura3 mex67-5-GFP-Kan^r</i>	This study
FSY1651	HA-Sub2	<i>MATa ade2 his3 leu2 trp1 ura3 sub2::HIS3 <YCplac111-HA-SUB2></i>	45
GA1320 background			
GA1320	LacI-GFP Nup49-GFP	<i>MATa ade2 his3 leu2 trp1 ura3 LacI-GFP-HIS3 Nup49-GFP</i>	21
FSY2811	WT <i>GAL10-LacO</i>	<i>MATa ade2 his3 leu2 trp1 ura3 LacI-GFP-HIS3 Nup49-GFP GAL10-LacO-TRP1</i>	This study
FSY2812	WT <i>HSP104-LacO</i>	<i>MATa ade2 his3 leu2 trp1 ura3 LacI-GFP-HIS3 Nup49-GFP HSP104-LacO-TRP1</i>	This study
FSY2813	Δ <i>mlp1 GAL10-LacO</i>	<i>MATa ade2 his3 leu2 trp1 ura3 LacI-GFP-HIS3 Nup49-GFP GAL10-LacO-TRP1 mlp1::Kan^r</i>	This study
FSY2814	Δ <i>mlp1 HSP104-LacO</i>	<i>MATa ade2 his3 leu2 trp1 ura3 LacI-GFP-HIS3 Nup49-GFP HSP104-LacO-TRP1 mlp1::Kan^r</i>	This study
FSY2815	<i>mex67-5 GAL10-LacO</i>	<i>MATa ade2 his3 leu2 trp1 ura3 LacI-GFP-HIS3 Nup49-GFP GAL10-LacO-TRP1 mex67-5</i>	This study
FSY2816	<i>mex67-5 HSP104-LacO</i>	<i>MATa ade2 his3 leu2 trp1 ura3 LacI-GFP-HIS3 Nup49-GFP HSP104-LacO-TRP1 mex67-5</i>	This study
FSY2817	WT <i>GAL2-LacO</i>	<i>MATa ade2 his3 leu2 trp1 ura3 LacI-GFP-HIS3 Nup49-GFP GAL2-LacO-TRP1</i>	This study
FSY2818	Δ <i>gal2-LacO</i>	<i>MATa ade2 his3 leu2 trp1 ura3 LacI-GFP-HIS3 Nup49-GFP Δgal2-LacO-TRP1</i>	This study
FSY3042	Δ 3'UTR-LacO	<i>MATa ade2 his3 leu2 trp1 ura3 LacI-GFP-HIS3 Nup49-GFP Δ3'UTR-LacO-TRP1</i>	This study
FSY3041	Δ <i>gal2-3'UTR-LacO</i>	<i>MATa ade2 his3 leu2 trp1 ura3 LacI-GFP-HIS3 Nup49-GFP Δgal2-3'UTR-LacO-TRP1</i>	This study
FSY2821	Δ <i>prom-gal2-LacO</i>	<i>MATa ade2 his3 leu2 trp1 ura3 LacI-GFP-HIS3 Nup49-GFP Δprom-gal2-LacO-TRP1</i>	This study
FSY2822	Δ <i>UAS-3'UTR-LacO</i>	<i>MATa ade2 his3 leu2 trp1 ura3 LacI-GFP-HIS3 Nup49-GFP ΔUAS-3'UTR-LacO-TRP1</i>	This study

genes. Notably, loss of gene anchoring in the *mex67-5* mutant correlates with the inability of the *mex67-5* mutant protein to associate with the transcribing genes. Moreover, we find that transcription-induced NPC anchoring of the *GAL2* gene does not require the mRNA-coding region, suggesting that nascent mRNP may not be essential for bridging an interaction between an active gene and the NPC. These data and the observation that the cotranscriptional binding of Mex67p is RNA independent suggest that Mex67p may contribute to gene anchoring by interacting with activated chromatin rather than nascent RNA.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

Plasmid constructions. To insert LacO repeats downstream of the *GAL2*, *GAL10*, and *HSP104* genes, the 3' untranslated region (3'UTR) region of each gene was cloned in front of the LacO repeats carried by the integrating plasmid pAFS52 (*TRP1*) (21) to generate pFS2912, pFS2913, and pFS3013, respectively. For directed insertion, these plasmids were linearized by cleavage of a unique restriction site within the 3'UTR and transformed into relevant strains. Wild-type Mlp1p was expressed from plasmid pFS2614 (pRS316 *LEU2* CEN), isolated in a synthetic lethal screen and carrying the *MLP1* gene as the only complete open reading frame (D. Zenklusen and F. Stutz, unpublished data).

Yeast strains. The yeast strains used in this study are listed in Table 1. The *mex67-5* strain contains an integrated mutant gene (26). Wild-type and *mex67-5* genes were genomically tagged with green fluorescent protein (GFP)-Kan^r by homologous recombination (29). GA1320- Δ *mlp1* and GA1320-*mex67-5* strains were obtained by crossing strain GA1320 (LacI-GFP-HIS3 Nup49-GFP) with the *mlp1::Kan^r* (S. Gasser lab) and *mex67-5* (26) strains. The *GAL10* and *HSP104* loci were subsequently tagged with LacO repeats in the GA1320, GA1320- Δ *mlp1*, and GA1320-*mex67-5* strains by transformation of linearized pFS2913

and pFS3013, respectively, followed by selection on Trp⁻ plates. Insertions were confirmed by PCR on genomic DNA. The Δ *gal2* strain was obtained by transformation and homologous recombination of a PCR-generated *loxP-URA3* cassette (18) carrying ends complementary to the 5' and 3' ends of the *GAL2*-coding region in the WT *GAL2-LacO* strain (FSY2817). The forward and reverse primers used were *GAL2-loxP-F1* (OFS1071) (5' AACACAAGAT TAACAT AATA AAAAAAATAA TTCTTCATAC AGCTGAAGCT TCGTACGC 3') and *GAL2-loxP-R1* (OFS1072) (5' AAAATTAAGA GAGATGATGG AGCG TCTCAC TTCAAACGCAG CATAGGCCACT AGTGGATCTG3'), respectively. The Δ *gal2-3'UTR* and Δ 3'UTR strains were constructed using the same strategy with the forward primers *GAL2-loxP-F1* (OFS1071) and *GAL2-3'UTR-loxP-F1* (OFS1113) (5' TTACAACATG ACGACAAACC GTGGTACAAG GCCATGCTAG AATAACAGCT GAAGCTTCGT ACGC3'), respectively, in combination with the reverse primer *GAL2-3'UTR-loxP-R1* (OFS1104) (5' GT TAGCTCAG GAATTCAACT GGAAGAAAGT CCAGGCAAGT ACCTGACGCA TAGGCCACTA GTGGATCTG3'). The Δ *prom-gal2* and Δ *UAS-3'UTR* strains were obtained similarly using the forward primers -200*GAL2-loxP-F1* (OFS1103) (5' CAAACATTTT GCAGGCTAAA ATGTGGAGAT AGGATA AGTT TTGTAGCAGC TGAAGCTTCG TACGC3') and -550*GAL2-loxP-F1* (OFS1102) (5' CAAAAGGTAC TCAACGTCAA TCGGAAAGC TTCCTT CCGG AATGGCCAGC TGAAGCTTCG TACGC3'), with the reverse primer *GAL2-loxP-R1* (OFS1072) and *GAL2-3'UTR-loxP-R1* (OFS1104), respectively. The *URA3* selective marker was subsequently excised by expression of Cre recombinase and selection of colonies on 5-fluoroorotic acid (18). Deletions were confirmed by PCR on genomic DNA.

Live fluorescence microscopy and quantification. Wild-type, *mex67-5*, or Δ *mlp1* strains bearing LacO repeats downstream of *GAL10*, *HSP104*, or *GAL2* and expressing integrated LacI-GFP repressor and Nup49-GFP fusions were grown and induced as indicated in figure legends. Live microscopy was performed as described previously (41). Briefly, a Zeiss Axioplan microscope was used to capture 21-image stacks of 95-nm step size. In the focal plane in which the GFP spot is brightest, its position was mapped to one of three concentric zones of equal surface by dividing the spot-to-pore distance by the nuclear

diameter. A gene was scored as being located at the nuclear periphery when it was present in the most peripheral zone, i.e., when the distance between the spot and the nuclear periphery was <0.184 of $1/2$ nuclear diameter. A random distribution of the tagged gene would result in a 33% occurrence in each of the three zones. Values above 33% indicate enrichment in this particular zone. Statistical analysis used a proportion method to compare zone 1 percentages between two different samples. Significance was determined with a 95% confidence interval.

Northern blot analyses. Total RNA was extracted from the cultures used for gene localization using a hot phenol method, and 10 to 15 μg was fractionated on 1% agarose-formaldehyde gels or 8% polyacrylamide-urea gels. Agarose gels were transferred to Hybond membranes by vacuum blotting, whereas polyacrylamide gels were transferred by semidry blotting as described previously (40). Membranes were hybridized with randomly primed labeled PCR fragments using standard protocols. The *GAL1* and *HSP104* probes correspond to protein-coding regions. The *GAL2* and 3'UTR probes correspond to positions 920 to 1600 of the *GAL2* protein-coding region and to positions +123 to +550 of the *GAL2* 3'UTR, respectively. The signals were quantified with a Bio-Rad Instant Imager and normalized to those obtained with probes specific for 18S rRNA or actin mRNA hybridized to the same membranes.

Chromatin immunoprecipitations. For ChIP analysis of *HSP104*, strains were grown in yeast extract-peptone-dextrose (YEED) rich medium to an optical density at 600 nm (OD_{600}) of 0.8 to 1, divided into three equal cultures for subsequent analysis in triplicate, treated with 10% ethanol for 30 min at 25°C, and cross-linked for 10 min with formaldehyde. For ChIP analysis of *GAL10*, strains were grown at 25°C in yeast extract-peptone (YEP) plus 2% raffinose to an OD_{600} of 0.7, divided into three equal cultures, induced with 2% galactose for 2.5 h, mixed with 1 volume of YEP plus 2% galactose at 25°C or 49°C and either kept at 25°C or incubated for 15 min at 37°C, and cross-linked for 10 min at the same temperatures. For ChIP analysis of *GAL2*, the relevant strains were pre-cultured in YEP plus 2% raffinose as described above, divided into three equal cultures, induced with 2% galactose for 2.5 h, and cross-linked for 10 min. Cross-linking was reduced to 5 min when preparing ChIP extracts for RNase sensitivity tests. In all cases, glass bead extracts were sonicated so as to shear the chromatin down to 300- to 400-bp fragments. Sonicated extracts (1 mg protein in 1-ml final volume) were immunoprecipitated with polyclonal antibodies against Mex67p (gift from C. Dargemont), TATA binding protein (TBP) (gift from M. Collart), or a monoclonal antibody against RNA polymerase II (PolII) C-terminal domain (8WG16 from Covance). Each immunoprecipitation was performed three times using three independent extracts. Immunoprecipitated DNA was quantified by real-time PCR as described earlier (45) using primer pairs described at http://www.unige.ch/sciences/biologie/bicel/stutz/Dieppoies_MCB06_Suppl_Mat.pdf. To calculate the increase in signal in the different gene regions, the absolute values obtained by quantitative PCR were normalized to the values obtained with the nontranscribed intergenic region, arbitrarily set to 1. To evaluate the importance of RNA in ChIP, cross-linked and sonicated extracts, prepared from the galactose-induced HA-Sub2p strain FSY1651, were immunoprecipitated with antibodies against hemagglutinin (HA) (monoclonal 16B12; Covance), RNA PolIII, or Mex67p. Immunoprecipitated extracts on beads were washed and resuspended in 1 ml buffer alone or containing 15 μl RNase Cocktail TM (500 U/ml RNase A and 20,000 U/ml RNase T₁; Ambion) and incubated for 30 min at room temperature. Beads were washed, and the DNA was purified and quantified as described above.

Western blotting. Total protein extracts were prepared from aliquots of cultures used for ChIP analysis prior to cross-linking, fractionated on sodium dodecyl sulfate-polyacrylamide gels, and examined by Western blotting with polyclonal antibodies specific for Mex67p (1:10,000) (a gift from C. Dargemont) and TBP (1:2,000) (a gift from M. Collart).

RESULTS

Mlp1p is required for efficient anchoring of the activated *GAL10* and *HSP104* genes to the NPC. The NPC-associated Mlp1p and related Mlp2p could be involved in stable association of active genes with the NPC, as they were proposed to contact chromatin and/or nascent transcripts, as well as to influence the expression of genes located at the nuclear periphery (5, 6, 9, 17, 43). To test whether Mlp1p contributes to gene anchoring, two inducible genes, *GAL10* and *HSP104* were localized in wild-type and Δmlp1 cells. *GAL10* is part of a

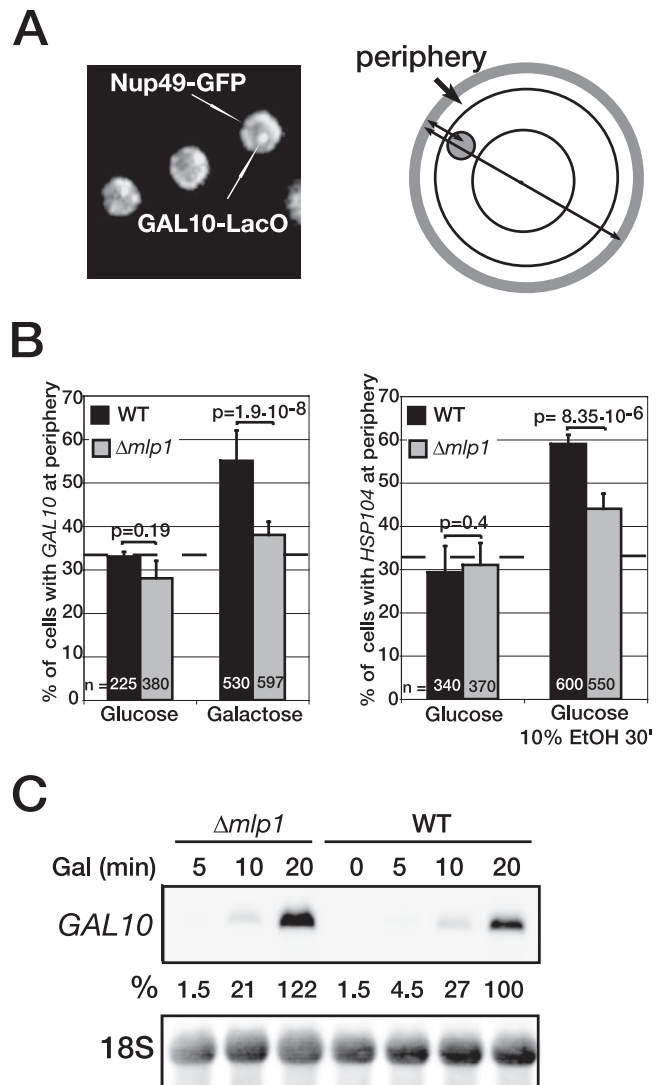


FIG. 1. Mlp1p is required for efficient transcription-induced *GAL10* and *HSP104* gene relocation. (A) Yeast cells with *GAL10* tagged with LacO repeats and expressing LacI-GFP and Nup49-GFP. Binding of LacI-GFP to LacO gives rise to the intense bright spot, whereas Nup49-GFP marks the nuclear periphery. A spot was scored as peripheral when located in the most peripheral 33% cross-sectional area of the nucleus (see Materials and Methods). (B) Localization of *GAL10* or *HSP104* tagged with LacO repeats in the wild-type (black bars) or Δmlp1 (gray bars) cells. To ensure isogenicity, WT and Δmlp1 strains were obtained by transforming the Δmlp1 strain with a plasmid expressing Mlp1p or an empty vector, respectively. *GAL10*-LacO cells were grown at 25°C in selective medium containing 2% raffinose to an OD_{600} of 0.5 and shifted to 2% glucose or 2% galactose for 2.5 h. *HSP104*-LacO cells were grown at 25°C in YEED to an OD_{600} of 0.5 and examined before or after a 30-min treatment with 10% ethanol (10% EtOH 30'). A population of live cells was photographed with a fluorescence microscope. In each cell, the position of the *GAL10* or *HSP104* gene spot was defined with respect to the nuclear periphery. Graph bars represent the percentage of cells with the indicated tagged gene positioned at the periphery. Error bars were derived from three independent experiments; n is the total number of cells counted for each strain and condition. The broken line at 33% marks a random distribution; based on a proportional test, two distributions were considered as significantly different when $P < 0.05$. (C) Northern blot analysis of *GAL10* mRNA in Δmlp1 and WT cells after induction with galactose (Gal) at 25°C for the indicated times. The *GAL10* mRNA signal was normalized to 18S rRNA used as internal control and expressed as a percentage of the WT level, after 20 min in galactose at 25°C.

cluster of galactose-inducible genes that relocate to the nuclear periphery upon transcriptional activation (6), and *HSP104* transcription can be activated by heat stress or ethanol at 25°C (32). To locate the genes with respect to the nuclear periphery, LacO repeats were inserted 600 to 700 bp downstream of the *GAL10* and *HSP104* loci in wild-type or $\Delta mlp1$ strains that also expressed chromosomally encoded GFP-LacI repressor and GFP-Nup49 (Fig. 1A) (21). The *GAL10*-LacO strains were grown in glucose- or galactose-containing medium at 25°C followed by gene localization in living cells by fluorescence microscopy. Consistent with earlier observations (6), transcription activation of *GAL10* in wild-type cells promoted the repositioning of the *GAL10* locus, as the percentage of cells with the tagged gene at the periphery increased from 30% in glucose to 55% in galactose (Fig. 1B, left panel). Similarly, transcription activation of *HSP104* with ethanol in *HSP104*-LacO wild-type cells resulted in the repositioning of the locus to the nuclear periphery (from 30% to 60%) (Fig. 1B, right panel). Ethanol is unlikely to trigger general chromatin reorganization, as it had no effect on the localization of the *GAL10* locus (data not shown). Interestingly, for both conditions, the absence of Mlp1p resulted in a significant loss of peripheral localization for these two genes (from 55% to 38% for *GAL10* and from 60% to 44% for *HSP104*) (Fig. 1B, left and right panels). Northern blot analyses showed that neither *GAL10* nor *HSP104* mRNA levels were substantially affected in the absence of Mlp1p (Fig. 1C and data not shown). These results indicate first that Mlp1p contributes to transcription-induced *GAL10* and *HSP104* gene anchoring and second that *GAL10* and *HSP104* gene expression does not require stable association with the NPC.

Mex67p is required for transcription-induced anchoring of *GAL* genes. A similar approach was taken to investigate a contribution of the mRNA export receptor Mex67p in peripheral gene anchoring by comparing the wild-type strain and the *mex67-5* strain. The *mex67-5* strain is a temperature-sensitive mutant with a single amino acid substitution in the NTF2-like domain interacting with Mtr2p. At 37°C, the *mex67-5* mutant protein dissociates from the nuclear periphery, and the cells exhibit a very rapid poly(A)⁺ RNA export defect (35). *GAL10*-LacO-tagged wild-type and *mex67-5* strains were grown in glucose- or galactose-containing medium at 25°C and either kept at 25°C or shifted to 37°C for 15 or 30 min prior to fluorescence microscopy analysis (Fig. 2A). In both wild-type and *mex67-5* cells at 25°C, the percentage of cells with *GAL10* at the periphery increased from 25% in glucose to more than 55% in galactose, indicating efficient transcription-induced *GAL10* gene anchoring at the permissive temperature. In contrast, a 15-min shift to 37°C strongly decreased peripheral *GAL10* localization in *mex67-5* cells compared to the wild type. After 30 min at 37°C, only 25% of *mex67-5* cells were scored positive, a value similar to that in glucose, indicating complete loss of *GAL10* gene association with the nuclear periphery. Comparable results were obtained with a LacO-tagged *GAL2* gene located on a different chromosome (see below; also data not shown).

To examine the relationship between gene localization and expression, *GAL10* transcripts were analyzed by Northern blotting. mRNA levels were somewhat lower in *mex67-5* cells than in wild-type cells at 25°C and decreased slightly (from

88% to 66% of the wild-type level) in the mutant shifted to 37°C for 30 min (Fig. 2B). ChIP experiments revealed comparable amounts of TBP associated with the *GAL10* promoter in wild-type and *mex67-5* cells at 25°C or 37°C, and the association of RNA PolIII with the coding region was slightly reduced in *mex67-5* cells after 30 min at 37°C (Fig. 2C). The lower *GAL10* mRNA levels in *mex67-5* cells at 37°C could be due, at least in part, to reduced transcription but also to mRNA instability as a result of the mRNA export block (see Discussion). In any case, the loss of *GAL10* from the periphery was more pronounced and occurred faster than the decrease in mRNA levels. These observations indicate that association with the nuclear periphery is not absolutely required for *GAL10* gene transcription. They also suggest that mRNA production is not sufficient for gene anchoring and that Mex67p is required for stable association with the nuclear periphery.

To further examine the role of Mex67p in gene anchoring, ChIP was used to compare the association of Mex67p with the *GAL10* gene in wild-type and *mex67-5* mutant cells. Wild-type Mex67p was detected in association with *GAL10* when cells were grown in galactose but not in glucose, confirming that cotranscriptional binding of Mex67p correlates with active transcription (Fig. 2C) (19). Mex67p was detected at very low levels at the promoter, clearly increased at the 5' end, reached a maximum at the middle of the gene, and declined towards the 3' end and 3'UTR. This profile indicates that Mex67p recruitment starts at an early phase of transcription. The *mex67-5* mutant protein showed a similar binding profile at 25°C. At 37°C, however, while association of wild-type Mex67p with *GAL10* was even more efficient, the recruitment of *mex67-5* was strongly inhibited. Western blotting of total cell extracts confirmed that wild-type and *mex67-5* proteins were present in similar amounts (Fig. 2D). These data suggest that the binding of Mex67p to *GAL10* contributes to the stable association of this transcribing gene with the nuclear periphery.

Mex67p is required for transcription-induced *HSP104* gene repositioning. To address the role of Mex67p in gene anchoring under different inducing conditions, *HSP104*-LacO was localized in wild-type and *mex67-5* cells before or after a 30-min treatment with 10% ethanol at 25°C (Fig. 3A). As shown above (Fig. 1B), the number of cells with *HSP104* at the nuclear periphery increased from 25% to nearly 60% after ethanol treatment in the wild-type cells. In contrast, *HSP104* relocation was completely abolished in *mex67-5* cells. To verify that ethanol has no indirect effects on gene positioning, the localization of the LacO-tagged *PHO84* gene was examined in these cells under different conditions described at http://www.unige.ch/sciences/biologie/bicel/stutz/Dieppois_MCB06_Suppl_Mat.pdf. The *PHO84* gene is located at 23 kb from the telomere of chromosome XIII. As a consequence of telomere anchoring, the LacO-tagged *PHO84* gene is detected at the nuclear periphery in 60% of wild-type cells independent of its transcriptional state. Importantly, shifting the LacO-tagged *mex67-5* strain to 37°C or exposing the cells to 10% ethanol for 30 min did not dissociate the *PHO84* locus from the periphery. Therefore, ethanol treatment of *mex67-5* cells does not induce general chromatin rearrangements.

Northern blot analysis confirmed that *HSP104* transcripts were induced in wild-type cells after a 30-min ethanol treat-

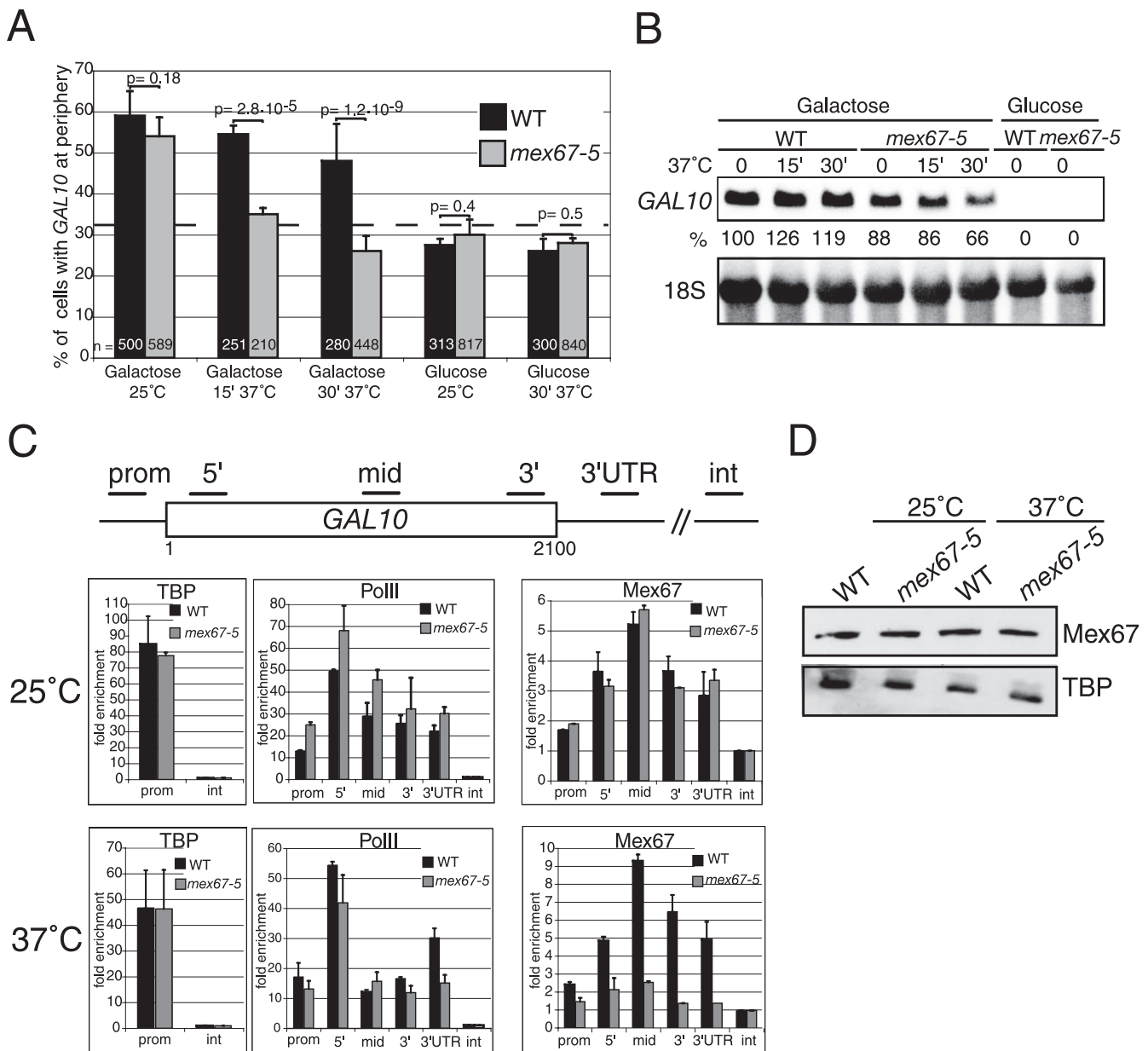


FIG. 2. Mex67p is required for transcription-induced *GAL10* gene relocation. (A) The *GAL10* gene tagged with LacO was localized in wild-type (black bars) and *mex67-5* (gray bars) cells also expressing LacI-GFP and Nup49-GFP. Cells were grown from an OD₆₀₀ of 0.1 to 0.5 at 25°C in synthetic complete (SC) medium containing 2% raffinose and shifted to 2% glucose or 2% galactose for 2 h. Cells were then either kept at 25°C or shifted to 37°C for 15 min (15') or 30 min (30'). *GAL10* gene localization was defined as described in the legend to Fig. 1. (B) Northern blot analysis of *GAL10* mRNA in wild-type and *mex67-5* cells grown as described above for panel A and shifted to 37°C for the indicated times. The *GAL10* mRNA signal was normalized to 18S rRNA and expressed as a percentage of the wild-type value before the shift to 37°C. (C) Association of TATA binding protein, RNA polymerase II, and Mex67p with galactose-induced *GAL10* in wild-type and *mex67-5* cells at 25°C and 37°C. Cross-linked and sonicated extracts were immunoprecipitated with antibodies against TBP, PolII, or Mex67p. Coprecipitating DNA was amplified by real-time PCR with primers specific for the *GAL10* promoter (prom), 5', middle (mid), 3', 3'UTR, and a nontranscribed intergenic region (int), as indicated. The relative enrichment of the *GAL10* gene segments in each ChIP was expressed as the increase with respect to the nontranscribed intergenic region value, arbitrarily set to 1. Values correspond to the means of three independent experiments. Bars correspond to standard deviations. (D) Western blot analysis of Mex67p levels in wild-type and *mex67-5* extracts from cells used for ChIP. TBP was used as an internal loading control.

ment at 25°C and reached even higher levels in *mex67-5* cells. For comparison, heat stress induced accumulation of even more *HSP104* mRNAs in both wild-type and *mex67-5* cells (Fig. 3B) (23). ChIP analysis of wild-type and *mex67-5* extracts revealed similar amounts of TBP and RNA PolII

associated with the *HSP104* promoter and coding regions upon ethanol induction at 25°C (Fig. 3C), indicating comparable transcription rates in the two strains. The higher *HSP104* mRNA levels in the mutant may therefore result from different mRNA turnover rates. These observations

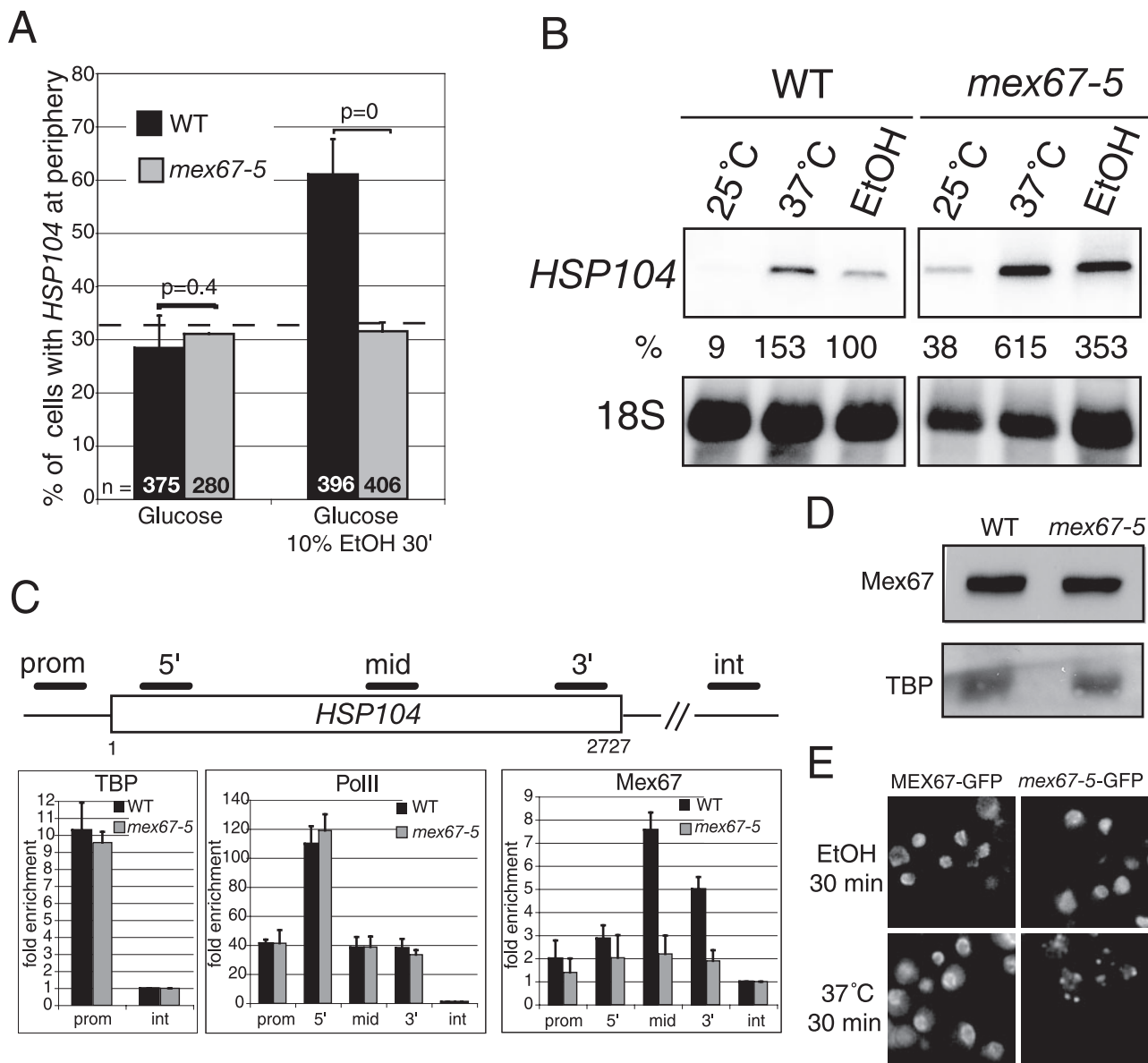


FIG. 3. Mex67p is required for transcription-induced *HSP104* gene relocation. (A) The *HSP104* gene tagged with LacO was localized in wild-type (black bars) and *mex67-5* (gray bars) cells expressing LacI-GFP and Nup49-GFP. Cells were grown in YEPD at 25°C and scored before and after a 30-min treatment with 10% ethanol (10% EtOH 30') as described in the legend to Fig. 1. (B) Northern blot of *HSP104* mRNAs in wild-type and *mex67-5* strains grown at 25°C, shifted to 37°C, or treated with 10% ethanol for 30 min. *HSP104* mRNA levels were normalized to 18S rRNA values and expressed as a percentage of the value for the wild type incubated with ethanol for 30 min at 25°C. (C) ChIP analysis of TBP, RNA PolII, and Mex67p association with *HSP104*. Extracts were prepared from wild-type or *mex67-5* cells induced with 10% ethanol for 30 min at 25°C and immunoprecipitated with antibodies against TBP, RNA PolII, or Mex67p as indicated. Coprecipitating DNA was amplified with primers specific for *HSP104* promoter (prom), 5', middle (mid), 3', and a nontranscribed intergenic region (int). The relative enrichment of the *HSP104* gene segments was calculated as described in the legend to Fig. 2C. Values correspond to the means of three independent experiments. (D) Western blot analysis of Mex67p and TBP levels in wild-type and *mex67-5* extracts from cells used for ChIP. (E) Genomically tagged MEX67-GFP and *mex67-5*-GFP strains were grown in YEPD at 25°C, incubated with 10% ethanol, or shifted to 37°C for 30 min and immediately examined with a fluorescence microscope.

indicate that efficient *HSP104* gene transcription does not require peripheral localization.

The role of Mex67p in *HSP104* gene anchoring was further examined by comparing the association of wild-type and mutant *mex67-5* with the *HSP104* gene by ChIP. These experiments showed that wild-type Mex67p was efficiently recruited to *HSP104* after ethanol induction at 25°C, starting at the

5' end, reaching a maximum in the middle of the gene, and decreasing towards the 3' end (Fig. 3C). In contrast, *mex67-5* was barely detectable, despite comparable Mex67p and *mex67-5* protein levels in these cells (Fig. 3D). Notably, ethanol stress at 25°C does not affect *mex67-5*-GFP localization, in contrast to heat stress, which rapidly dissociates *mex67-5*-GFP from the nuclear periphery (Fig. 3E) (35). Ethanol stress therefore af-

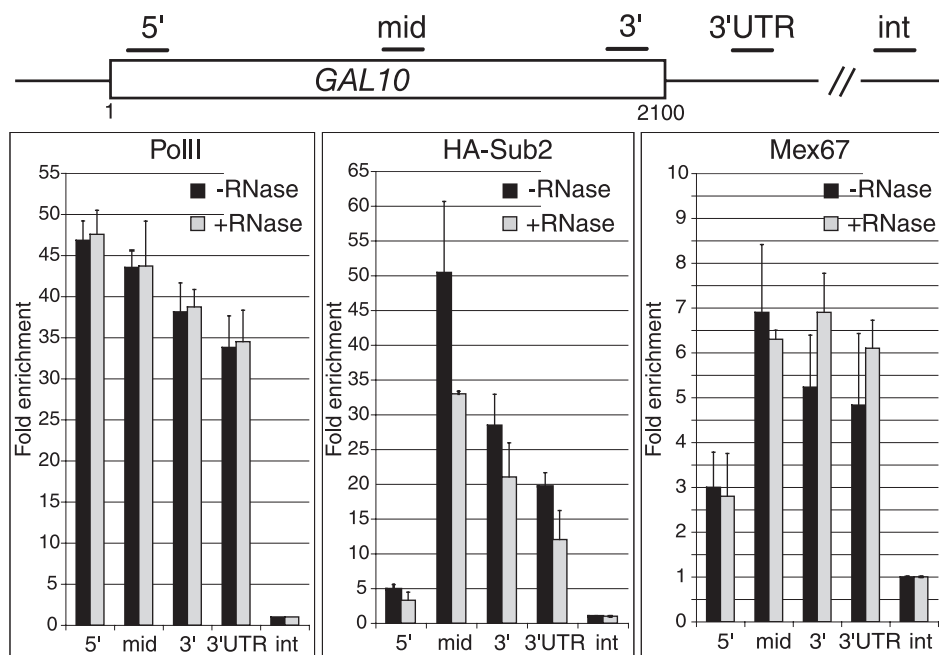


FIG. 4. The cotranscriptional recruitment of Mex67p is RNA independent. Strain FSY1651 expressing HA-tagged Sub2p was induced for 2 hours with 2% galactose. Cross-linked and sonicated extracts were immunoprecipitated with antibodies against HA, RNA PolIII, or Mex67p. Coprecipitating DNA was purified from beads before or after RNase treatment and quantified by real-time PCR with primers specific for *GAL10* as described in the legend to Fig. 2C. Values correspond to the means of three independent immunoprecipitation experiments.

fects more severely the binding of *mex67-5* to the *HSP104* gene than to the NPC. Thus, the lack of *mex67-5* cotranscriptional recruitment in ethanol is not due to the dissociation of the mutant protein from the NPC but to its inability to associate with the transcribing gene. As for *GAL10*, these observations suggest that Mex67p binding to *HSP104* contributes to the stable association of this transcribing gene with the nuclear periphery.

Cotranscriptional recruitment of Mex67p is RNA independent. To determine whether the recruitment of Mex67p to transcribing genes is mediated by nascent mRNP, the association of Mex67p with *GAL10* was examined before or after RNase treatment (Fig. 4). RNA PolIII and Sub2p were used as negative and positive controls, as the cotranscriptional recruitment of these proteins is RNA independent and dependent, respectively (1). Extracts prepared from a galactose-induced strain expressing HA-Sub2p were immunoprecipitated with antibodies against RNA PolIII, HA, or Mex67p. Consistent with earlier studies (1), quantification of coprecipitating DNA showed that the association of RNA PolIII along the *GAL10* gene was not affected by RNase treatment, whereas the binding of Sub2p was substantially reduced. Importantly, the association of Mex67p was insensitive to RNase, indicating that the early recruitment of Mex67p to transcribing genes is primarily mediated by adaptors associated with the transcription machinery.

***GAL2* gene anchoring does not require the mRNA-coding region.** The RNase-insensitive early recruitment of Mex67p suggested that Mex67p might contribute to gene anchoring in a process independent of nascent mRNP. To test the importance of the mRNA-coding region or other *cis*-acting sequences in gene anchoring more directly, repositioning of the

galactose-inducible *GAL2* gene was examined in strains containing the wild-type gene or various deletions of this gene. Similar experiments could not be performed with *GAL10* or *HSP104*, as *GAL10* is part of a cluster of galactose-inducible genes, and microarray analyses report that *HSP104* lies in a region containing several ethanol-inducible genes (13). In contrast, *GAL2* is the only galactose-inducible gene within more than 100 kb on the left arm of chromosome XII (13). Cre-LoxP recombination (18) was used to generate five strains with increasing *GAL2* deletions on the chromosome (Fig. 5A). The first mutant strain lacks the *GAL2* protein-coding region ($\Delta gal2$), the second lacks only the 3'UTR ($\Delta 3'UTR$), the third lacks the mRNA-coding and 3'UTR sequences ($\Delta gal2-3'UTR$), the fourth lacks the promoter region encompassing the TATA box and the protein-coding region ($\Delta prom-gal2$), and the fifth lacks the whole *GAL2* gene unit, including the upstream activation sequence (UAS), promoter region, protein-coding, and 3'UTR sequences ($\Delta UAS-3'UTR$) (22). The *GAL2* locus was tagged with LacO repeats in wild-type and mutant strains, and its position was examined in cells grown in glucose or galactose (Fig. 5B). In the wild-type *GAL2* strain, the number of cells with the tagged gene at the periphery increased from 25% in glucose to nearly 45% in galactose. In contrast, no galactose-induced repositioning was observed in the $\Delta UAS-3'UTR$ mutant, confirming that the relocation observed in wild-type cells is exclusively due to *GAL2* gene activation. Surprisingly, deletion of the protein-coding region ($\Delta gal2$) or 3'UTR ($\Delta 3'UTR$) or both ($\Delta gal2-3'UTR$) did not substantially affect *GAL2* gene anchoring (locus repositioning from 25% in glucose to more than 40% in galactose), indicating that the protein-coding and 3'UTR regions are not essential for *GAL2* gene anchoring. In contrast, repositioning was completely lost in the $\Delta prom-gal2$

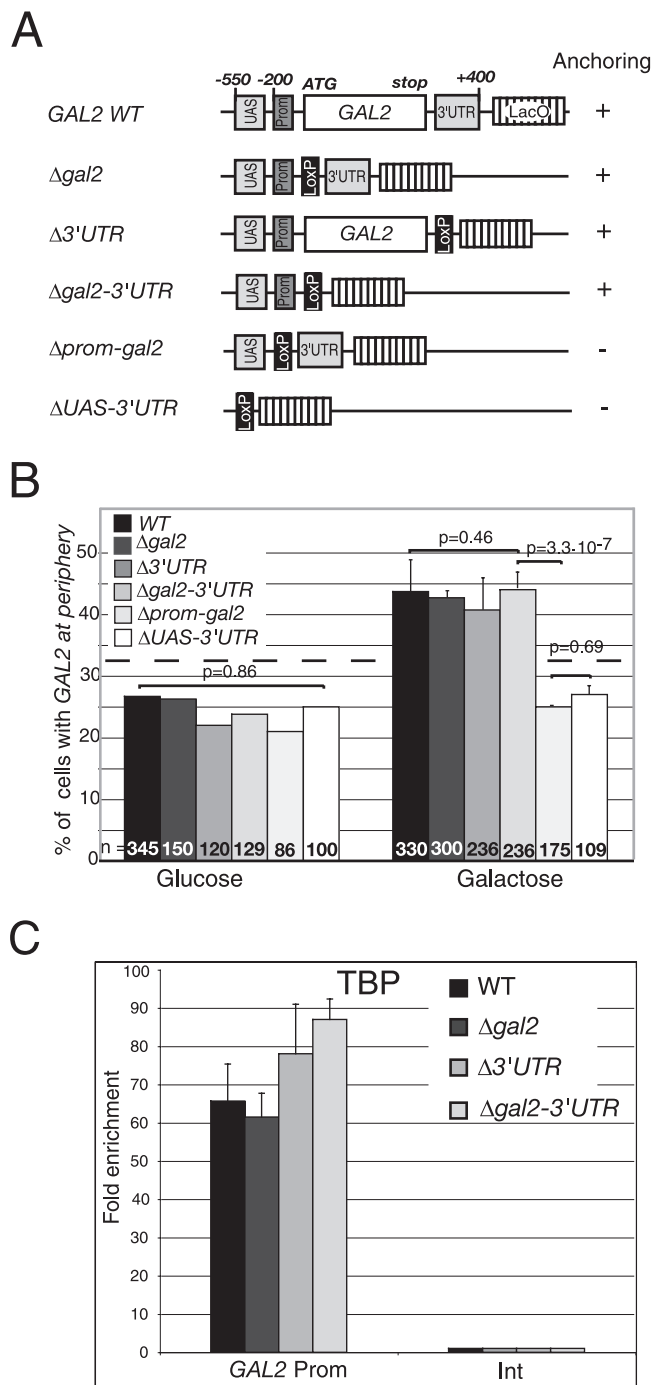


FIG. 5. The promoter, but not the protein-coding region or 3'UTR, is required for transcription-induced GAL2 gene anchoring. (A) Diagram of GAL2 genomic deletions. The positions -200 and -550 are relative to GAL2 ATG. The UAS lies between -350 and -550, the TATA box lies between -100 and -200, and transcription initiation was mapped at -97 (22). The deleted 3'UTR lies between the GAL2 stop codon and position +400 relative to the stop codon. The LoxP sequence is 106 bp long and results from the Cre-LoxP recombination procedure. (B) Localization of the GAL2 locus tagged with LacO repeats in wild-type, $\Delta gal2$, $\Delta 3'UTR$, $\Delta gal2-3'UTR$, $\Delta prom-gal2$, and $\Delta UAS-3'UTR$ cells grown in YEP medium containing 2% glucose or 2% galactose to an OD₆₀₀ of 0.5. (C) ChIP analysis of TBP binding at the GAL2 promoter (position -181 to -106 encompassing the TATA box) in the wild type and the indicated mutant strains induced for 2 h with 2% galactose. The relative enrichment of the

cells. These experiments indicate that the promoter region containing the TATA box is required and that the UAS alone is not sufficient for the association of GAL2 with the nuclear periphery.

To determine whether the repositioning of truncated GAL2 genes correlates with transcription activation, ChIP was used to compare TBP binding to the GAL2 promoter in the wild-type locus and in the $\Delta gal2$, $\Delta 3'UTR$, and $\Delta gal2-3'UTR$ mutant loci following galactose induction (Fig. 5C). Interestingly, TBP is recruited to similar levels to the GAL2 promoter region encompassing the TATA box in all four strains, indicating that GAL2 transcription activation is not affected in the absence of the mRNA-coding regions. These results together with the gene localizations suggest that the mRNA-coding region is not essential for GAL2 gene anchoring, and that transcription activation and TBP recruitment are both necessary and sufficient for transcription-induced GAL2 gene repositioning.

Stable mRNP biogenesis is not required for early recruitment of Mex67p. To define the nature and amounts of transcripts encoded by the GAL2 locus in the absence of the protein-coding region or the 3'UTR, total RNA from galactose-induced wild-type, $\Delta gal2$, $\Delta 3'UTR$, and $\Delta prom-gal2$ strains was analyzed by Northern blotting with probes spanning either the protein-coding region (probe GAL2) or the 3'UTR (probe 3'UTR) (Fig. 6A). The GAL2 probe detects GAL2 transcripts encoded in the wild type and the mutant lacking the 3'UTR, whereas the 3'UTR probe detects transcripts encoded in the wild type and the $\Delta gal2$ mutant. Neither probe should generate a signal in the mutant lacking the promoter and coding region. The GAL2 probe detected no transcript in the $\Delta gal2$ strain and showed that in the absence of the 3'UTR, GAL2 transcripts were expressed at roughly 20% of wild-type GAL2 mRNA levels (Fig. 6A, left panel), indicating that correct 3'-end formation contributes to optimal GAL2 mRNA levels. Notably, the 3'UTR probe detected a low-abundance 450-base-long transcript in strain $\Delta gal2$ (Fig. 6A, right panel, lane 2). Since the 5' end of the GAL2 mRNA has been mapped to position -97 upstream of the ATG codon, and the LoxP-derived sequence is 106 bp (18, 22), the 3' end of this short 450-base transcript is predicted to lie around position +250 of the 3'UTR. Northern blot quantification as well as reverse transcription combined with real-time PCR (see http://www.unige.ch/sciences/biologie/bicel/stutz/Dieppois_MCB06_Suppl_Mat.pdf) indicate that this small transcript accumulates to roughly 10% of wild-type GAL2 mRNA levels. The low level of expression of this short transcript despite wild-type levels of TBP recruitment at the promoter (Fig. 5C) suggests that this small RNA is very unstable.

The efficient repositioning of the $\Delta gal2$ locus despite the production of very limited amounts of RNA suggests that mRNP does not play a major role in transcription-induced gene repositioning. Furthermore, the RNase-insensitive recruitment of Mex67p (Fig. 4) raises the possibility that Mex67p contributes to gene anchoring in the absence of stable mRNP

GAL2 promoter segment in each ChIP was expressed as the enrichment with respect to the nontranscribed intergenic region (Int) value, set to 1. Values are the means of three independent experiments.

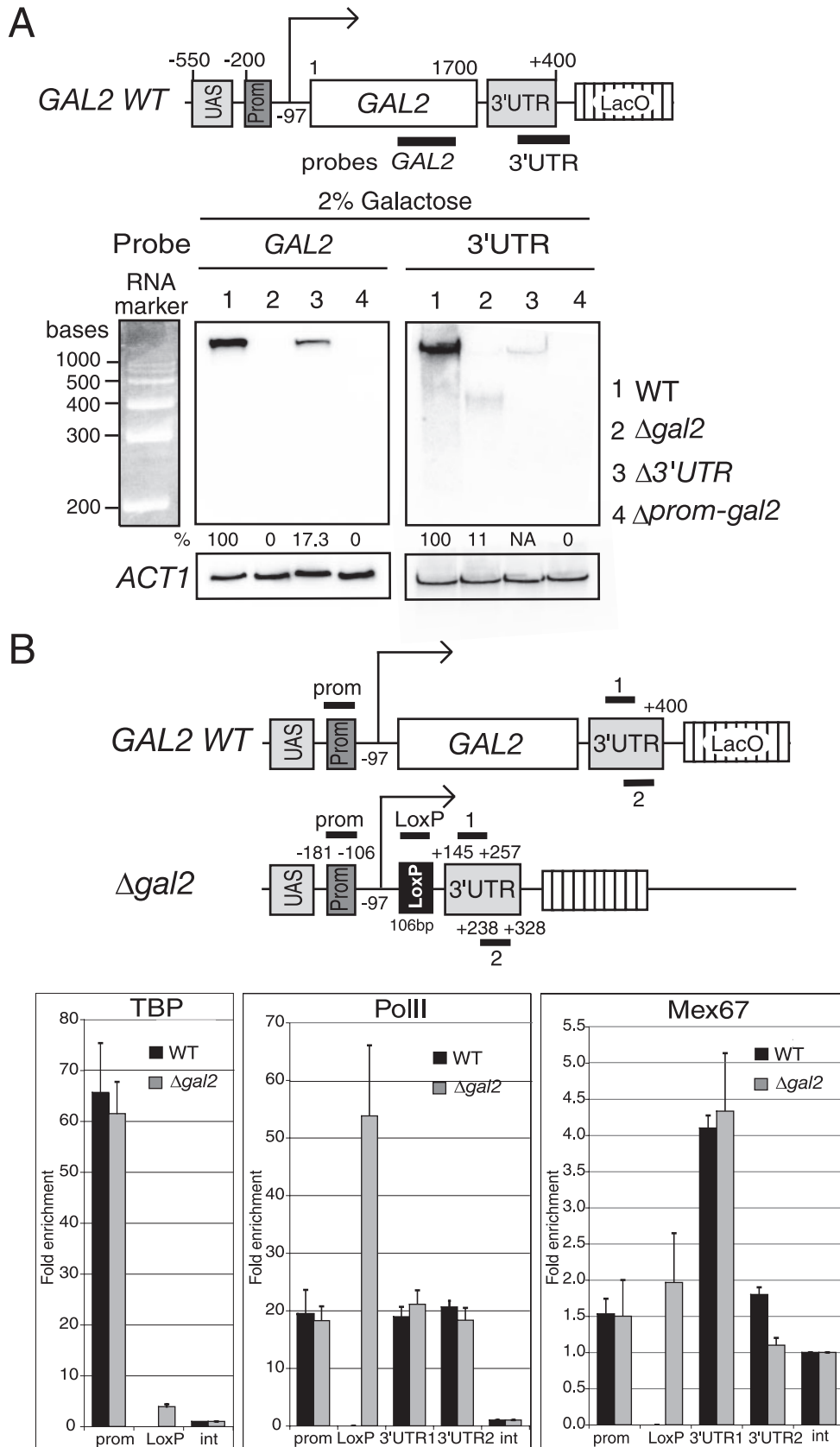


FIG. 6. The $\Delta gal2$ mutant gene encodes a short unstable transcript but recruits wild-type levels of RNA PolIII and Mex67p. (A) Northern blot analysis of total RNA from the wild type (lane 1) and indicated mutant strains (lanes 2 to 4) with probes diagrammed at the top and spanning

formation. To define whether Mex67p is recruited to the *Δgal2* gene, ChIP was used to compare the recruitment of TBP, RNA PolII, and Mex67p on the wild-type and *Δgal2* genes after galactose induction (Fig. 6B). Four primer pairs were used to examine the association of these proteins with chromatin: one corresponds to the *GAL2* promoter region, another to the LoxP sequence present only in the *Δgal2* mutant, and two others are specific for the 3'untranslated region and amplify gene segments from +145 to +257 (3'UTR1) and +238 to +328 (3'UTR2) (Fig. 6B, top). As shown in Fig. 5C, similar levels of TBP were recruited to the *GAL2* promoter in the two strains. TBP was barely detectable at the LoxP site located less than 200 bp downstream from the promoter region in *Δgal2*. The very low level of TBP at this site demonstrates the high resolution of these ChIP analyses and is consistent with efficient shearing of chromatin in the extracts. RNA PolII levels were comparable within the promoter and 3'UTR regions of the two strains. The RNA PolII signal was higher at the LoxP site in the *Δgal2* strain, consistent with the increased levels of RNA polymerase at the 5' end of *GAL10* (Fig. 2C). Finally, Mex67p was detected at very low levels at the *GAL2* promoter in both strains, increased at the LoxP site, and reached a fourfold enrichment in the 3'UTR1 region of both strains, before dropping in the 3'UTR2 region. Notably, the size of the short transcript produced in *Δgal2* cells predicts that 3'-end formation occurs somewhere between the 3'UTR1 and 3'UTR2 regions (Fig. 6A). These results suggest that 3'-end processing may coincide with the loss of Mex67p from the chromatin. More importantly, the association of Mex67p with the *Δgal2* locus strengthens the view that early recruitment of Mex67p depends on the transcription machinery rather than mRNP formation and that Mex67p may act as a *trans*-acting factor in NPC gene anchoring by virtue of an RNA-independent process.

DISCUSSION

Live imaging of GFP-tagged yeast cells has revealed that genomic loci constantly move within the nucleus and frequently ricochet off the nuclear membrane (24, 30). Transcription-induced gene anchoring is likely to result from the stabilization of these transient contacts by specific interactions between the activated gene and NPC components. The aim of this study was to test the potential role of the nascent mRNP complex in *GAL2*, *GAL10*, and *HSP104* gene anchoring by examining gene repositioning in both *cis*- and *trans*-acting mutants.

***GAL2* gene anchoring does not require the mRNA-coding region.** Our analyses of *GAL2* gene anchoring in strains lacking various portions of the *GAL2* gene show that the protein-coding and 3'UTR regions are dispensable, while the UAS and promoter region encompassing the TATA box are necessary for *GAL2* association with the nuclear periphery (Fig. 5A and B). The results of ChIP experiments confirmed that similar amounts of TBP and RNA PolII associate with the *GAL2* promoter of wild-type, *Δgal2*, *Δ3'UTR*, and *Δgal2-3'UTR* cells, indicating that transcription activation and initiation occur efficiently in the absence of the protein-coding and 3'UTR regions (Fig. 5C and 6B; also data not shown). Despite efficient TBP recruitment, *GAL2* transcripts encoded by the *Δ3'UTR* mutant were poorly expressed (20% of wild-type levels), probably due to message instability as a result of improper 3'-end processing. Notably, the short 450-base transcript encoded by the *Δgal2* mutant was present at even lower levels (10% of wild-type levels). Thus, the poor expression of this short RNA together with the efficient transcription-induced repositioning of the *Δgal2* gene suggests that RNA is unlikely to act as a major determinant in *GAL2* gene anchoring. However, the possibility that the *GAL2* mRNA encoded in the wild-type strain contributes to the maintenance of the induced gene at the periphery cannot be excluded. This possibility could be tested by comparing the dissociation kinetics of wild-type *GAL2*, *Δgal2*, or *Δ3'UTR* loci from the nuclear envelope after transcriptional shut-off.

So far, our data on *GAL2* support the view that transcription activation but not mRNA production plays a major role in NPC anchoring of this gene. Accordingly, physical interactions have been identified between Sus1p, a component of the SAGA coactivator complex recruited upstream of galactose-inducible genes, and components of the mRNA export machinery associated with pores (31). Moreover, a recent study showed that the promoter regions of numerous active genes, including the *GAL* genes, physically interact with the NPC component Nup2p. Notably, these interactions are independent of transcription, suggesting that early activating events might be sufficient for connecting a gene to the NPC (33, 34). The results of our gene localization experiments on *GAL2* deletion strains are consistent with the results of these biochemical studies, but this may not be the case for all genes. Indeed, a recent study shows that efficient repositioning of the *HXX1* gene requires the 3'UTR (42). One possibility is that gene-to-pore interactions involve a number of partially redundant interactions, which may occur simultaneously or sequentially during the tethering process. Thus, the contribution of

the *GAL2* protein-coding region (*GAL2* probe [left panel]) or the *GAL2* 3'UTR region (3'UTR probe [right panel]). For quantification, the *GAL2* RNA signals were normalized to endogenous actin mRNA levels. The 3'UTR probe weakly hybridized to the *GAL2* mRNA produced in the *Δ3'UTR* strain, as both the probe and the transcript produced by this mutant extend beyond the 3'UTR-deleted region. This band was not quantified, as it is only partially complementary to the probe. NA, not applicable. (B) ChIP analyses of TBP, RNA PolII and Mex67p on wild-type *GAL2* and the mutant *Δgal2* gene. Extracts from galactose-induced cultures were immunoprecipitated with antibodies against TBP, PolII, and Mex67p. Coprecipitating DNA segments (diagrammed as short bars on top) were quantified by real-time PCR with primers specific for the *GAL2* promoter (positions -181 to -106), LoxP (106 bp derived from Cre-Lox recombination), 3'UTR1 (positions +145 to +257) and 3'UTR2 (positions +238 to +328). The 3'UTR was numbered positively starting from the *GAL2* stop codon, and 3' end formation is predicted to occur around +250 (A). The relative enrichment of DNA segments in each ChIP was expressed as the enrichment with respect to the nontranscribed intergenic (int) value, set to 1. Values are means of three independent experiments.

the mRNP to gene anchoring may depend on the strength of other, i.e., transcription linked, interactions.

How do Mex67p and Mlp1p contribute to gene anchoring?

To identify *trans*-acting factors implicated in gene anchoring and following up on the initial hypothesis that anchoring may be mediated by factors interacting with nascent mRNPs, we found that both Mex67p and Mlp1p contribute to *GAL10* and *HSP104* gene anchoring (Fig. 1B, 2A, and 3A). Indeed, the activated *GAL10* gene rapidly dissociated from the periphery in *mex67-5* cells shifted to 37°C. Similarly, ethanol-induced *HSP104* gene anchoring observed in wild-type cells at 25°C was abolished in *mex67-5* cells at this temperature. Importantly, the loss of gene anchoring was paralleled by the loss of cotranscriptional binding of the *mex67-5* protein to ethanol-induced *HSP104*, a condition under which the *mex67-5* protein remains at the nuclear periphery (Fig. 3C and E). These observations indicate that maintenance of the *mex67-5* protein at the periphery is not sufficient for gene anchoring and that productive interaction of Mex67p with the gene is required. Although we cannot exclude the possibility that gene movement is restricted in a *mex67-5* mutant heated to 37°C or exposed to ethanol or distinguish whether Mex67p cotranscriptional recruitment is the cause or consequence of peripheral gene association, the results of both the *GAL10* and *HSP104* experiments support the view that Mex67p contributes to NPC anchoring by physical association with activated genes.

Our ChIP analyses show that association of Mex67p with *GAL10* and *HSP104* is clearly detectable at the 5' end, reaches a maximum in the middle part, and decreases at the 3' end of these genes (Fig. 2C and 3C). Importantly, the interaction of Mex67p with the *GAL10* gene is not sensitive to RNase treatment, indicating that the early recruitment of Mex67p to transcribing genes is not mediated by RNA (Fig. 4). Thus, Mex67p is likely to be recruited via adaptors associated with the transcription machinery. Despite the good resolution of our ChIP experiments, the Mex67p signal detected at the promoter is too weak to conclude that Mex67p already binds in this region. The ChIP profile more likely indicates that Mex67p becomes associated with activated genes at a very early step of transcription, possibly within the transition from initiation to elongation.

Notably, Mex67p is efficiently recruited to the $\Delta gal2$ gene, which does not produce a stable mRNP (Fig. 6A and B). This observation further supports the view that the early recruitment of Mex67p is not mediated by RNA, but by an adaptor(s) associated with the transcription machinery. Mex67p is probably transferred to the mRNA at a later step, an event not easily detected by ChIP. Notably, analysis of Mex67p recruitment on the wild-type *GAL2* and $\Delta gal2$ genes indicated a drop in Mex67p binding around position +250 within the 3'UTR. Interestingly, this site corresponds to the region within which the 450-base transcript encoded by the *Gal2* gene is predicted to end (Fig. 6A and B). This observation suggests that transfer of Mex67p from chromatin to mRNA may coincide with 3'-end processing. This view is consistent with an earlier study proposing that binding of Mex67p to mRNA is coupled to 3'-end processing and release of the mRNP from the transcribing gene (15).

The finding that early recruitment of Mex67p is RNA independent raises the question of the nature of the adaptor(s) mediating the association of Mex67p to active genes. One candidate is

Npl3p, an hnRNP protein interacting with Mex67p and recruited to active genes by the RNA PolII complex at an early step of transcription (15, 28). Another is the hnRNP-like protein Yra1p, which interacts with the N-terminal domain of Mex67p (37, 39, 44). The association of Yra1p with transcribing genes is largely RNase insensitive, suggesting that this mRNA export adaptor is first recruited via interaction with the transcription machinery and subsequently transferred to mRNA (1, 28, 45). Thus, Mex67p could be recruited via interaction of its N-terminal domain with Yra1p. However, the results of our recent studies indicate that the early recruitment of Mex67p largely depends on its C-terminal UBA domain (19). Interestingly, Hpr1p, a component of the THO complex implicated in transcription elongation and mRNA export (7, 38, 45), directly interacts with the Mex67p UBA domain, and this interaction facilitates the recruitment of Mex67p to the *GAL10* gene (19). Future studies will address whether early Mex67p recruitment is mediated via multiple, possibly sequential, adaptors associated with the transcription initiation and elongation machineries.

This work also shows that the NPC-attached Mlp1 protein contributes to efficient transcription-induced *GAL10* and *HSP104* gene anchoring (Fig. 1B). Genome-wide mapping of Mlp1p-bound DNA sequences suggested that interaction of Mlp1p with chromatin occurs according to different modes. Whereas the association of Mlp1p with induced genes is RNA dependent and biased towards the 3' end, the binding to subtelomeric regions is largely RNA independent (5). Mlp1p has also been found in association with components of the SAGA coactivator and mediator complexes implicated in transcription activation (14). Thus, Mlp proteins may contribute to stable *GAL10* and *HSP104* gene tethering at an early step by interaction with chromatin-associated transcription regulators, or at a later step by interacting with nascent transcripts, or both. In contrast to our observations, a recent report identified no effect of $\Delta mlp1$ on gene anchoring (4). It is presently unclear whether this discrepancy results from strain background or experimental differences. Importantly, this recent study identified additional factors implicated in gene anchoring, including Ada2p and Sus1p, two components of the SAGA coactivator complex, as well as Nup1 and Sac3, two factors belonging to the mRNA export machinery associated with pores (4). Whether these factors, as well as Mex67p and Mlp1p, act in the same pathway and in a defined chronological order during the anchoring process are questions for the future. It is possible that both early transcription-linked and later potentially mRNP-dependent tethers contribute to gene anchoring. However, the relative importance of individual tethers may vary from gene to gene.

Relationship between gene expression and anchoring. Although peripheral localization has been proposed to optimize the expression of some inducible genes (3, 42), our analyses indicate that gene anchoring may not be a general requirement for gene expression. Indeed, whereas *HSP104* gene anchoring was strongly inhibited in the *mex67-5* mutant (Fig. 3A), *HSP104* mRNA levels were even higher in *mex67-5* cells than in the wild-type cells (Fig. 3B). ChIP analyses of TBP and RNA PolII indicated similar transcription rates for *HSP104* in wild-type and *mex67-5* cells exposed to ethanol, indicating that dissociation of *HSP104* from the periphery affects mRNA turnover rather than transcription rates (Fig. 3C). In contrast, a

shift of *mex67-5* cells to 37°C led to a slight decrease in *GAL10* mRNA levels and RNA PolII recruitment to this gene (Fig. 2B and C). Whether this decrease is due to indirect effects of *mex67-5* on transcription and/or a decrease in mRNA stability as a result of the mRNA export block is unclear. However, the slow and modest effect on mRNA levels compared to the rapid and strong effect on *GAL10* gene localization suggests that NPC anchoring does not influence the expression of this gene. This conclusion is consistent with the report by Cabal et al. (4) showing that the changes in *GAL* locus positioning, observed in strains lacking the SAGA components Ada2p or Sus1p or the pore-associated mRNA export factors Nup1 or Sac3, do not affect *GAL1* mRNA transcription levels. Our analyses with Δ *mlp1* cells led to similar conclusions. As this mutant presents no mRNA export defect (27, 36), the relationship between gene localization and expression could be examined without potential indirect effects of an export block. Neither *GAL10* nor *HSP104* levels were affected in Δ *mlp1* cells despite a clear effect on gene repositioning (Fig. 1B and C; also data not shown). At this time, it is unclear whether the increased expression of *INO1* and *HXKI*, observed when these genes were positioned at the periphery, reflects a natural regulatory pathway or results from their artificial tethering to the nuclear envelope (3, 42).

The functional significance of *GAL10* and *HSP104* gene anchoring is an open question, as gene repositioning appears to be the consequence rather than the cause of their transcriptional activity. Peripheral localization may be more important for the efficient expression of other types of genes under different physiological or inducing conditions. Another likely possibility is that gene anchoring contributes to gene expression efficiency by facilitating mRNA export through nuclear pores. Since Mlp proteins have been implicated in the nuclear retention of unprocessed pre-mRNAs (11), an interesting view is that gene anchoring also contributes to this late step of mRNA surveillance at the nuclear periphery.

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