

# A novel tropomyosin isoform functions at the mitotic spindle and Golgi in *Drosophila*

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**ABSTRACT** Most eukaryotic cells express multiple isoforms of the actin-binding protein tropomyosin that help construct a variety of cytoskeletal networks. Only one nonmuscle tropomyosin (Tm1A) has previously been described in *Drosophila*, but developmental defects caused by insertion of P-elements near tropomyosin genes imply the existence of additional, nonmuscle isoforms. Using biochemical and molecular genetic approaches, we identified three tropomyosins expressed in *Drosophila* S2 cells: Tm1A, Tm1J, and Tm2A. The Tm1A isoform localizes to the cell cortex, lamellar actin networks, and the cleavage furrow of dividing cells—always together with myosin-II. Isoforms Tm1J and Tm2A colocalize around the Golgi apparatus with the formin-family protein Diaphanous, and loss of either isoform perturbs cell cycle progression. During mitosis, Tm1J localizes to the mitotic spindle, where it promotes chromosome segregation. Using chimeras, we identified the determinants of tropomyosin localization near the C-terminus. This work 1) identifies and characterizes previously unknown nonmuscle tropomyosins in *Drosophila*, 2) reveals a function for tropomyosin in the mitotic spindle, and 3) uncovers sequence elements that specify isoform-specific localizations and functions of tropomyosin.

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## INTRODUCTION

Eukaryotic cells construct and maintain multiple actin filament networks with different functions: cortical networks that provide mechanical rigidity; lamellipodial networks that drive plasma membrane protrusion; stress fibers that contribute to adhesion; and a contractile ring that divides one cell into two (Michelot and Drubin, 2011). How are these diverse networks, each with a different architecture and a different set of accessory factors, constructed from the same basic building material: the same actin filaments? One answer to this question may be provided by the tropomyosins, a large family of actin-binding proteins that can promote or block the interaction of actin filaments with a variety of regulatory proteins (Gunning *et al.*, 2005).

Tropomyosins are evolutionally conserved,  $\alpha$ -helical, coiled-coil proteins that bind along the sides of actin filaments in a highly cooperative manner and participate in a variety of cellular processes. In muscle cells, tropomyosin collaborates with the troponin complex to regulate interaction of “thick” myosin filaments with “thin” actin filaments (Gunning *et al.*, 2008). In nonmuscle cells, tropomyosin isoforms help regulate many processes, including actin filament nucleation by formins and the Arp2/3 complex (Blanchoin *et al.*, 2001), filament severing by cofilin (Ono and Ono, 2002), and force generation by myosin motors (Clayton *et al.*, 2010).

Mammalian genomes contain four tropomyosin genes, which, with alternative splicing, generate more than 40 tropomyosin isoforms, all expressed at different levels in different tissues and developmental stages (Gunning *et al.*, 2008). Individual mammalian cells express as many as seven tropomyosin isoforms at once, and some cellular processes require the participation of multiple, functionally distinct tropomyosins (Tojkander *et al.*, 2011).

In contrast to vertebrates, almost nothing is known about the diversity of insect tropomyosins. The *Drosophila* genome contains two tropomyosin genes—*Tm1* and *Tm2*—and perturbation of these genes produces defects in several developmental processes, including oskar mRNA localization, head morphogenesis, neuronal dendritic field specification, and border cell migration (Erdélyi *et al.*, 1995; Tetzlaff *et al.*, 1996; Li and Gao, 2003; Kim

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Abbreviations used: ConA; concanavalin A; CPC, chromosomal passenger complex; Dia, Diaphanous; eGFP, enhance green fluorescent protein; NEBD, nuclear envelope breakdown; NER, nuclear envelope reformation; PDL, poly-D-lysine; TM, tropomyosin; TnT, troponin T.

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et al., 2011). Instabilities in the nomenclature and annotation of *Drosophila* tropomyosin genes, however, have made the literature difficult to follow. The *Tm1* gene, for example, has variously been called *Tm1l*, *cTm*, *mTm1l*, and *TnH*. Similarly, *Tm2* has been called *Tm1*, *mTm1*, and *lfm(3)3* (FlyBase.org). Remarkably, even though splicing predictions indicate the potential for expression of 18 tropomyosins in *Drosophila*, only one has thus far been identified in nonmuscle cells (Hanke et al., 1987). This protein, called cTm or Tm1A, is a product of the *Tm1* gene and is generally regarded as the only nonmuscle tropomyosin in *Drosophila*. Results from several studies, however, strongly hint at the existence of additional, cryptic tropomyosin isoforms with important biological functions. Until now, however, the identities and properties of these cryptic tropomyosins have been a mystery.

Using a combination of molecular genetic, biochemical, and cell biological techniques, we identified three tropomyosin isoforms in *Drosophila* S2 cells: two encoded by the *Tm1* gene (Tm1A and Tm1J) and one encoded by *Tm2* (Tm2A). We found that each tropomyosin localizes to a different intracellular structure, together with a different set of actin-binding proteins. In interphase, Tm1A colocalizes with myosin-II to contractile networks (cortex and lamellum/convergence zone), whereas Tm1J and Tm2A colocalize with Diaphanous to the Golgi apparatus. During mitosis, Tm1A precedes myosin-II to the cleavage furrow, whereas Tm1J localizes to the mitotic spindle and plays a role in maintaining fidelity of chromosome segregation. In addition to identifying cryptic tropomyosins, our work reveals *Drosophila* to be an excellent model system with which to study the functional diversity of tropomyosin isoforms.

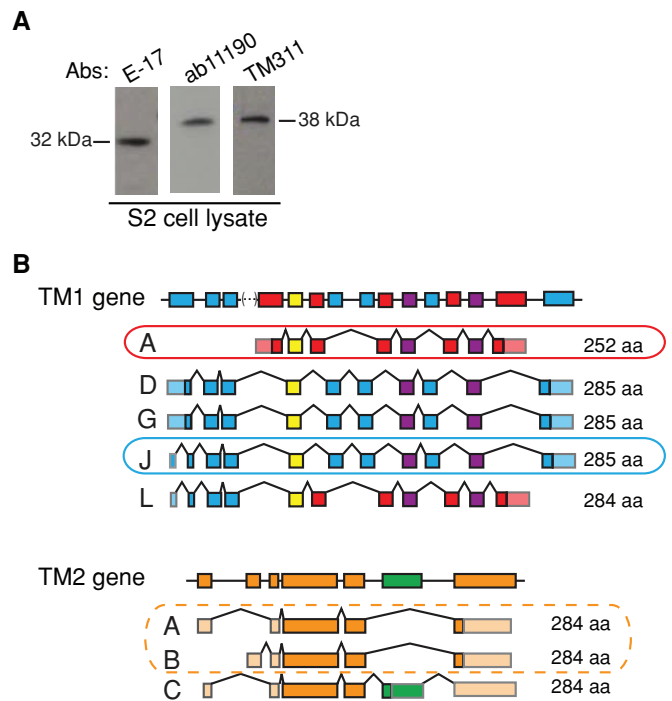
## RESULTS

### *Drosophila* S2 cells express three tropomyosin isoforms

Using three different anti-tropomyosin antibodies (E-17, ab11190, and TM311), we detected at least one “short” and one “long” tropomyosin in S2 cell lysate (Figure 1A; Schevzov et al., 2011). The electrophoretic mobility of the smaller species corresponds to the predicted size of Tm1A (32 kDa), a “short” tropomyosin isoform previously identified in *Drosophila* nonmuscle cells (Hanke and Storti, 1986). The larger species migrates with an apparent molecular weight of 38 kDa (Figure 1A).

To identify specific isoforms, we analyzed cDNAs amplified by PCR from S2 cell mRNA using exon-specific primers (Supplemental Table S1) for *Drosophila* tropomyosin genes *Tm1* and *Tm2* (Supplemental Figure S1, A and B). From *Tm1*, we detected the entire coding sequences of two isoforms, which we call Tm1A and Tm1J (Figure 1B and Supplemental Figure S1C). We also amplified a full-length transcript from *Tm2*, which we call Tm2A/B (Tm2A and Tm2B transcripts encode the same protein but have different 5′ untranslated regions; Figure 1B and Supplemental Figure S1D). We were surprised by this result because *Tm2* was previously believed to encode only muscle-specific tropomyosins (Basi et al., 1984).

We confirmed the presence of the Tm1J protein by mass spectrometry of endogenous tropomyosins partially purified from *Drosophila* S2 cells (see *Materials and Methods*). We detected peptides common to both Tm1J and Tm1A, as well as five unique peptides present only in Tm1J (Supplemental Figure S1E). Immunoblots using the E-17 antibody (which likely recognizes the C-terminus of Tm1A) indicate that potential isoform Tm1L—a chimera of Tm1J and Tm1A—is probably not expressed in S2 cells (Supplemental Figure S1F). We find no evidence for expression of “noncanonical” tropomyosins of the type found in indirect flight muscles (unpublished data; Kreuz et al., 1996). Taken together, our data argue strongly that *Drosophila* S2 cells express three cytoplasmic

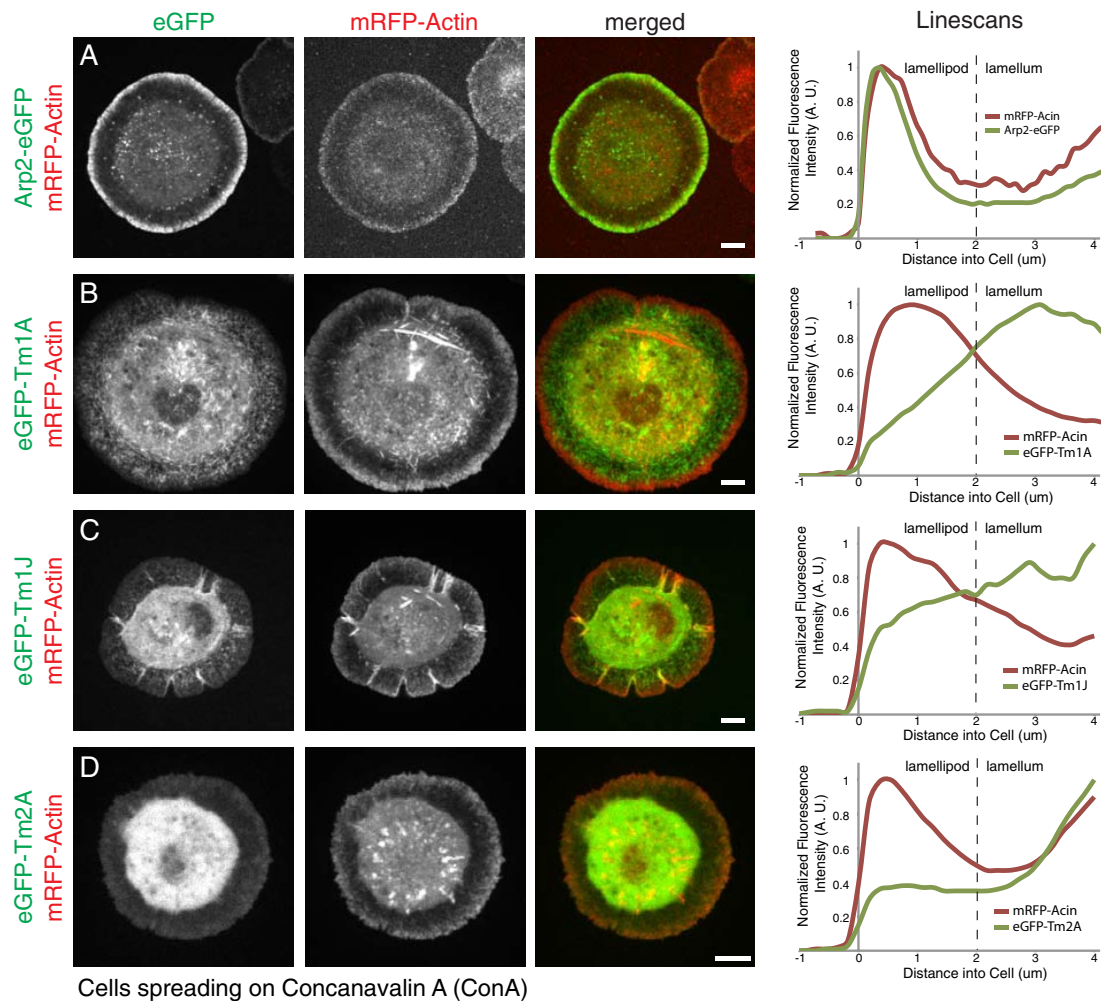


**FIGURE 1:** *Drosophila* S2 cells express three tropomyosin isoforms: Tm1A, Tm1J, and Tm2A/B. (A) Western blots show that at least two tropomyosin isoforms are present in S2 cell lysates: one 32 kDa in size and one 38 kDa in size. Three commercial antibodies were used: E-17 (goat; Santa Cruz Biotechnology), ab11190 (rabbit; Abcam), and TM311 (mouse; Sigma-Aldrich). (B) Schematic of *Drosophila* Tm1 and Tm2 gene structures. Predicted splice variants producing tropomyosin isoforms of 32 or 38 kDa in size (i.e., “canonical”) are displayed below and are based on FlyBase (FB2008\_09, Dmel Release 5.12). Left, splice variant name. Right, amino acid length. Circled isoforms were confirmed through various methods (details in Supplemental Figure S1).

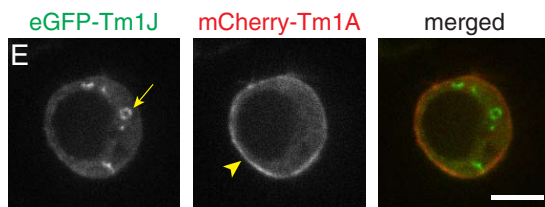
tropomyosins: Tm1A, Tm1J, and Tm2A/B (Figure 1B and Supplemental Table S2).

### The three tropomyosins have distinct localizations during interphase

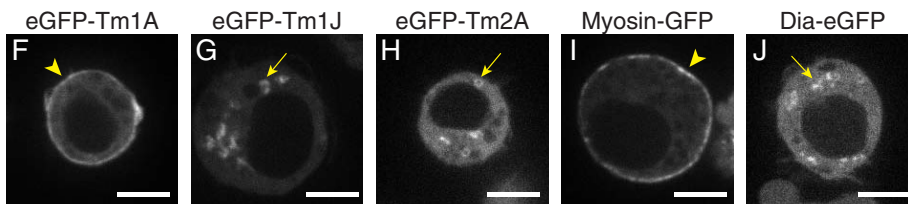
To determine the localization and dynamics of the three tropomyosins, we expressed each isoform in S2 cells as an N-terminal enhanced green fluorescent protein (eGFP) fusion protein under control of a copper-inducible pMT promoter (Invitrogen). We fused GFP to the N-terminus on the basis of previous work demonstrating that N-terminal fusions do not interfere with head-to-tail self-association of tropomyosin (Martin et al., 2010). We imaged the fluorescent fusion proteins in live cells, using spinning-disk confocal microscopy. On surfaces coated with concanavalin A (ConA), *Drosophila* S2 cells spread rapidly, projecting a flat, lamellar structure across the substrate (Rogers et al., 2003). This flat structure resembles the leading edge of migrating cells and is supported by three overlapping actin networks: a dense and highly branched lamellipodial network adjacent to the leading membrane; a less dense and less branched lamellar network, closer to the cell body; and a convergence zone at the boundary of the cell body, where actin filaments coalesce into bundles (Supplemental Figure S2A; Salmon et al., 2002). Based on comparisons with actin–monomeric red fluorescent protein (mRFP), both Tm1A and Tm1J are more concentrated in lamellar actin networks than with peripheral lamellipodia (Figure 2, B and C, and Supplemental Figure S2C). This contrasts with eGFP-labeled Arp2/3



Cells spreading on Concanavalin A (ConA)

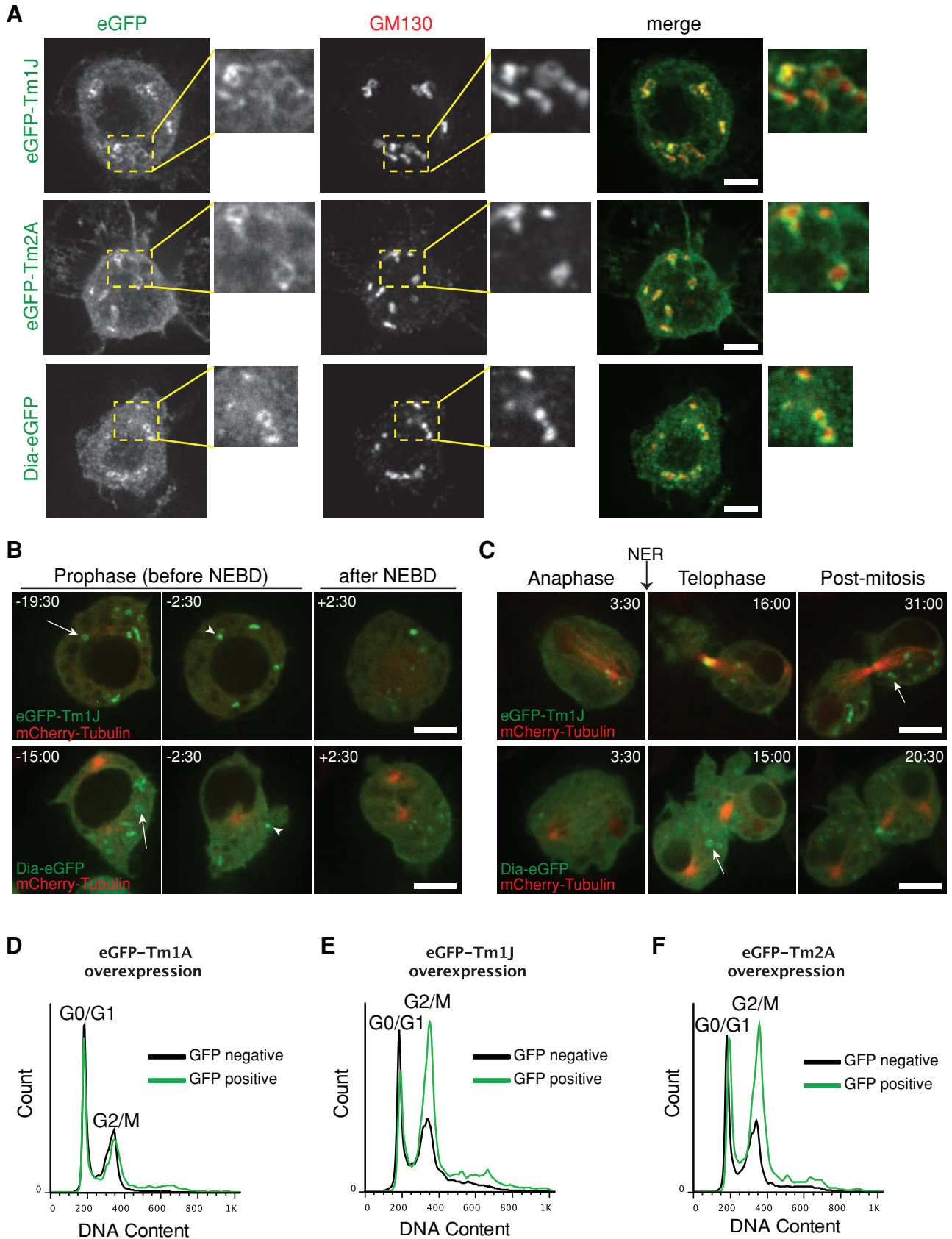


Cells plated on poly-D-lysine (PDL)



Cells plated on poly-D-lysine (PDL)

**FIGURE 2:** Tm1A and Tm1J colocalize in spreading cells but do not colocalize in nonspreading cells. (A–D) Live-cell imaging of S2 cells spreading on ConA with mRFP-actin (red), a marker of the lamellipod, and eGFP-tagged proteins (green): Arp2 (A), Tm1A (B), Tm1J (C), and Tm2A (D). Arp2 localizes to the lamellipod with mRFP-actin, whereas Tm1A and Tm1J both localize to the lamellum and are excluded from the lamellipod. Tm2A shows no significant localization. Right, normalized average fluorescence intensity line scans. (E) Coexpression of eGFP-Tm1J (green) and mCherry-Tm1A (red) in S2 cells on PDL show that in the same cell, Tm1A localizes to the cortex, whereas Tm1J localizes to cytoplasmic ring-like structures. (F–J) Live-cell imaging of interphase S2 cells on PDL with eGFP-tagged proteins: Tm1A, Tm1J, Tm2A, myosin-II, and Diaphanous (Dia). Tm1A (F) and myosin-II (I) colocalize to the cortex (arrowheads), whereas Tm1J (G), Tm2A (H), and Dia (J) localize to cytoplasmic ring-like structures (arrows). mCherry- $\alpha$ -tubulin was coexpressed (not shown) to verify that cells were in interphase. See also Supplemental Figure S2.



**FIGURE 3:** Tm1J, Tm2A, and Diaphanous localize to cytoplasmic rings surrounding the Golgi in a cell cycle–dependent manner. (A) The ring-shaped patterns of tropomyosin isoforms, eGFP-Tm1J and eGFP-Tm2A, and Dia-eGFP encircle the immunofluorescence *cis*-Golgi marker, GM130 (red). Areas outlined by yellow dashed box in left-hand images are enlarged in the right-hand images. (B) eGFP-Tm1J and Dia-eGFP rings (arrows) localize to the Golgi in late G2 phase but

complex, which localizes preferentially to lamellipodial networks and is excluded from the lamellum (Figure 2A and Supplemental Figure S2B), and agrees with our previous work on Tm1A in S2 cells (Iwasa and Mullins, 2007). Coexpression of GFP-labeled myosin-II and mCherry-Tm1A shows that Tm1A becomes progressively enriched in the lamellum network as it flows toward the cell body, where myosin-II and Tm1A colocalize in the convergence zone (Supplemental Figure S2D). Unlike the other tropomyosins, Tm2A shows no enrichment in the lamellum compared with soluble eGFP (compare Figure 2D and Supplemental Figure S2E). To further verify that our fluorescent tropomyosins incorporate into actin networks, we used latrunculin B to depolymerize filamentous actin in spreading S2 cells and observed relocalization of both eGFP-Tm1J and mCherry-Tm1A (Supplemental Figure S2F).

On surfaces coated with poly-D-lysine (PDL), S2 cells adhere weakly and remain more or less spherical. In these nonspreading S2 cells, Tm1A and Tm1J do not colocalize (Figure 2E). Tm1A concentrates in the cortex at the cell periphery (Figure 2F), whereas both Tm1J and Tm2A form rings scattered through the cytoplasm (Figure 2, G and H). We compared these tropomyosins to other actin-regulatory proteins and found that the motor protein myosin-II (myosin-GFP) colocalizes with Tm1A to the cortex (Figure 2I), whereas the formin-family nucleation factor Diaphanous (Dia-eGFP) localizes to the same cytoplasmic rings (Figure 2J) as Tm1J and Tm2A.

To determine whether cytoplasmic rings of Tm1J, Tm2A, and Dia are associated with organelles, we compared the localization of eGFP-Tm1J with markers for different intracellular compartments, including the endoplasmic reticulum (ER-tracker), mitochondria (Mito-tracker), and Golgi apparatus (Bodipy TR C5-ceramide; Invitrogen). We found that eGFP-Tm1J marginally overlaps with ER-tracker but associates closely with C5-ceramide, a marker of the Golgi apparatus (Supplemental Figure S3A). We confirmed that Tm1J/Tm2A/Dia rings encircle Golgi membranes by immunofluorescence, using an antibody against a resident Golgi protein, GM130 (Figure 3A). Of interest, when purifying endogenous tropomyosins from S2 cells, we found that the long isoforms (Tm1J and Tm2A) but not the short one (Tm1A) require high salt for solubilization (unpublished data), similar to other Golgi-associated proteins (Ivan *et al.*, 2008).

The presence of tropomyosin and Diaphanous suggests the existence of a network of actin filaments surrounding the Golgi apparatus (Figures 2J and 3A). We saw no accumulation of eGFP-actin around the Golgi, but this is not particularly surprising, given that formin-family proteins (like Diaphanous) cannot use GFP-actin as a substrate (Chen *et al.*, 2012). We tested four live-cell actin filament probes in S2 cells and found only one—Utr230-eGFP a truncated actin-binding domain from utrophin (Belin *et al.*, 2013)—that clearly forms rings around the Golgi apparatus (Supplemental Figure S3B). Similarly, Percival *et al.* (2004) found a vertebrate tropomyosin, Tm5NM-2, localized to Golgi-associated actin filaments that could only be detected by a single, specialized antibody, one that reacts preferentially with filament ends. These results are also consistent

with our recent study of commonly used actin probes (Belin *et al.*, 2015), each of which turns out to bind a different subset of actin filaments in live cells.

### Golgi-associated Diaphanous and tropomyosin influence cell cycle progression

The architecture of the Golgi apparatus is linked to cell cycle progression (Wang and Seemann, 2011). In mammalian cells, pericentriolar Golgi cisternae become separated in G2 phase and begin to fragment into small tubules and vesicles throughout G2 and into mitosis (Villeneuve *et al.*, 2013). In late anaphase/telophase, the dispersed Golgi vesicles begin to fuse and reassemble into stacks as the nuclear envelope reforms. Of interest, preventing Golgi fragmentation actually blocks entry into mitosis (Rabouille and Kondylis, 2007). In S2 cells, Golgi ministacks are paired by an Abi-Arp2/3 actin network during G1 phase and must be unpaired and dispersed in order for cells to enter mitosis (Kondylis *et al.*, 2007).

To track the fate of Golgi-associated Diaphanous/tropomyosin networks through the cell cycle, we performed time-lapse imaging of eGFP fusions of Dia, Tm1J, and Tm2A in cells coexpressing mCherry-tubulin. In contrast to Abi and Arp2/3, which disappear during S phase, Dia/Tm1J/Tm2A rings remain associated with the Golgi apparatus through G2 and into prophase of mitosis (arrows, Figure 3B and Supplemental Figure S3C). During prophase, however, Dia/Tm1J/Tm2A rings rapidly disassemble (arrowheads, Figure 3B and Supplemental Figure S3C) and are almost fully dissolved by the point of nuclear envelope breakdown (Supplemental Figure 3 Videos 1 and 2). At the end of mitosis, as the nuclear envelope reforms, Dia, Tm1J, and Tm2A all return to the reassembling Golgi (Figure 3C and Supplemental Figure S3D). We observed similar dynamics in cells expressing an eGFP-tagged Golgi-resident protein, fringe (Supplemental Figure S3E and Supplemental Figure 3 Video 1).

The dynamics of Golgi-associated tropomyosins suggests that perhaps the rings must be disassembled before Golgi cisternae can disperse during mitosis. If true, depletion of Golgi-associated tropomyosins might accelerate entry into mitosis, whereas overexpression of these tropomyosins would delay mitotic entry and slow progression through G2. To test this idea, we depleted Tm1J and Tm2A, singly and together, in S2 cells using RNA interference (RNAi) and monitored cell cycle progression by flow cytometry. Surprisingly, depletion of either Tm1J or Tm2A increases the fraction of cells in G1/G0 relative to G2/M cells (Supplemental Figure S3, G and H). Depletion of Tm2A seems to especially increase the percentage of cells in S phase, whereas depleting both proteins produces an additive effect on the G2:G1 ratio (Supplemental Figure S3I). In contrast, depletion of Tm1A has no measurable effect on the G2:G1 ratio (Supplemental Figure S3F).

We next overexpressed eGFP fusions of Golgi-associated tropomyosins Tm1J and Tm2A and looked at the effect on cell cycle progression. We chose growth conditions that allow wild-type S2 cells to pass through mitosis and accumulate in G1 phase (Rizzino and Blumenthal, 1978). Under these conditions, overexpressing

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during prophase begin to disassemble (arrowheads) minutes before nuclear envelope breakdown (NEBD) at the onset of mitosis and fully disperse after NEBD. Times indicated are relative to NEBD. See also Supplemental Figure 3 Videos 1 and 2. (C) At the end of mitosis, eGFP-Tm1J and Dia-eGFP rings (arrows) reform at the Golgi during telophase after the nuclear envelope reforms (NER). Times indicated are relative to the onset of anaphase. (D–F) Cell cycle analysis using flow cytometry shows that overexpression of eGFP-tagged Golgi-related TMs Tm1J (E) or Tm2A (F) but not Tm1A (D) causes an increase in the population of cells in G2/M phase. After >24 h of induction at 1 mM CuSO<sub>4</sub>, S2 cells were fixed and stained with propidium iodide (a DNA marker). Graphs depict histograms of DNA content of GFP-negative (black) and GFP-positive (green) cells (displayed as overlays).

eGFP-Tm1A had no effect on cell cycle distribution (Figure 3D), whereas overexpressing either eGFP-Tm1J or eGFP-Tm2A shifted the majority of GFP-positive cells into the G2 phase (Figure 3, E and F). Together these results suggest that Tm1J and Tm2A stabilize a Golgi-associated actin network that helps maintain structural integrity of the Golgi apparatus and must be disassembled before entry into mitosis. The obvious difference between cell cycle distributions of the control populations in knockdown versus overexpression protocols is due to the different growth conditions used in these experiments. The RNAi knockdown experiments required incubating cells for several days with double-stranded RNA in serum-free medium. Overexpression studies required less time, and so we grew S2 cells for approximately one cell cycle under growth conditions chosen to promote synchrony in G1 phase (Rizzino and Blumenthal, 1978).

### Tm1A dynamically colocalizes with myosin-II during interphase

Tropomyosins are known to regulate myosin motors, so we compared the localization of Tm1A with myosin-II throughout the cell cycle. In interphase, mCherry-Tm1A and myosin-GFP colocalize throughout the cortex (Figure 4A and Supplemental Figure 4 Video 1), but, when part of the plasma membrane detaches from the underlying cytoskeleton to form a bleb, both Tm1A and myosin-II are lost. The moment when the bleb stops expanding, however, both Tm1A and myosin-II reappear and become concentrated as the bleb begins to retract (Figure 4A). Whereas mCherry-Tm1A appears all along the edge of the retracting bleb, myosin-GFP appears only in patches (retracting bleb, Figure 4B). Furthermore, Tm1A arrives in the bleb just before myosin-II, just before the bleb begins to retract (blue arrows, Figure 4, B and C). This timing is similar to that observed by Charras *et al.* (2006), who found that tropomyosin arrives more or less simultaneously with actin, 10 s before myosin-II. These authors did not investigate isoform specificity of bleb-associated tropomyosins, whereas we found that only Tm1A localizes to retracting blebs in *Drosophila* S2 cells (Supplemental Figure S4, A and B). In agreement with past studies of mDia1 (Charras *et al.*, 2006), we found that Dia-eGFP also fails to localize to retracting blebs (Supplemental Figure S4C). Together the spatial and temporal dynamics of Tm1A and myosin-II suggest that they specifically function together to induce or maintain cortical contractility in S2 cells.

### Distinct localizations of tropomyosin isoforms during mitosis

In yeast and vertebrate cells, tropomyosins help assemble the contractile ring (Thoms *et al.*, 2008; Laporte *et al.*, 2010). To determine whether any of the three *Drosophila* tropomyosins plays a similar role in cell division, we coexpressed each as an eGFP fusion, together with mCherry- $\alpha$ -tubulin. We plated cells on poly-D-lysine-coated coverslips to promote complete division and identified early mitotic cells by overall morphology and arrangement of microtubules. We then imaged the cells through the entire process of division.

### Tm1A and myosin-II concentrate at the cleavage furrow and retracting polar blebs

During prophase and metaphase, Tm1A localizes throughout the cortex, but, early in anaphase, it disappears from the regions nearest the spindle poles, remaining only in the equatorial region of the cortex (arrowheads, Supplemental Figure S4D). As the cell elongates during anaphase, eGFP-Tm1A localization spreads throughout the cortex along the sides of the elongating cell, remaining

generally absent from the cell poles (asterisks, Supplemental Figure S4D). As in interphase, the Tm1A pattern mirrors that of myosin-II (Supplemental Figure S4E) during mitosis (Figure 4D). When the cell elongates late in anaphase, membrane blebs form at the cell poles (Paluch *et al.*, 2006) and, as in interphase, both Tm1A and myosin-II colocalize to polar blebs during the retraction phase (arrowheads, Figure 4D; Supplemental Figure 4 Video 2).

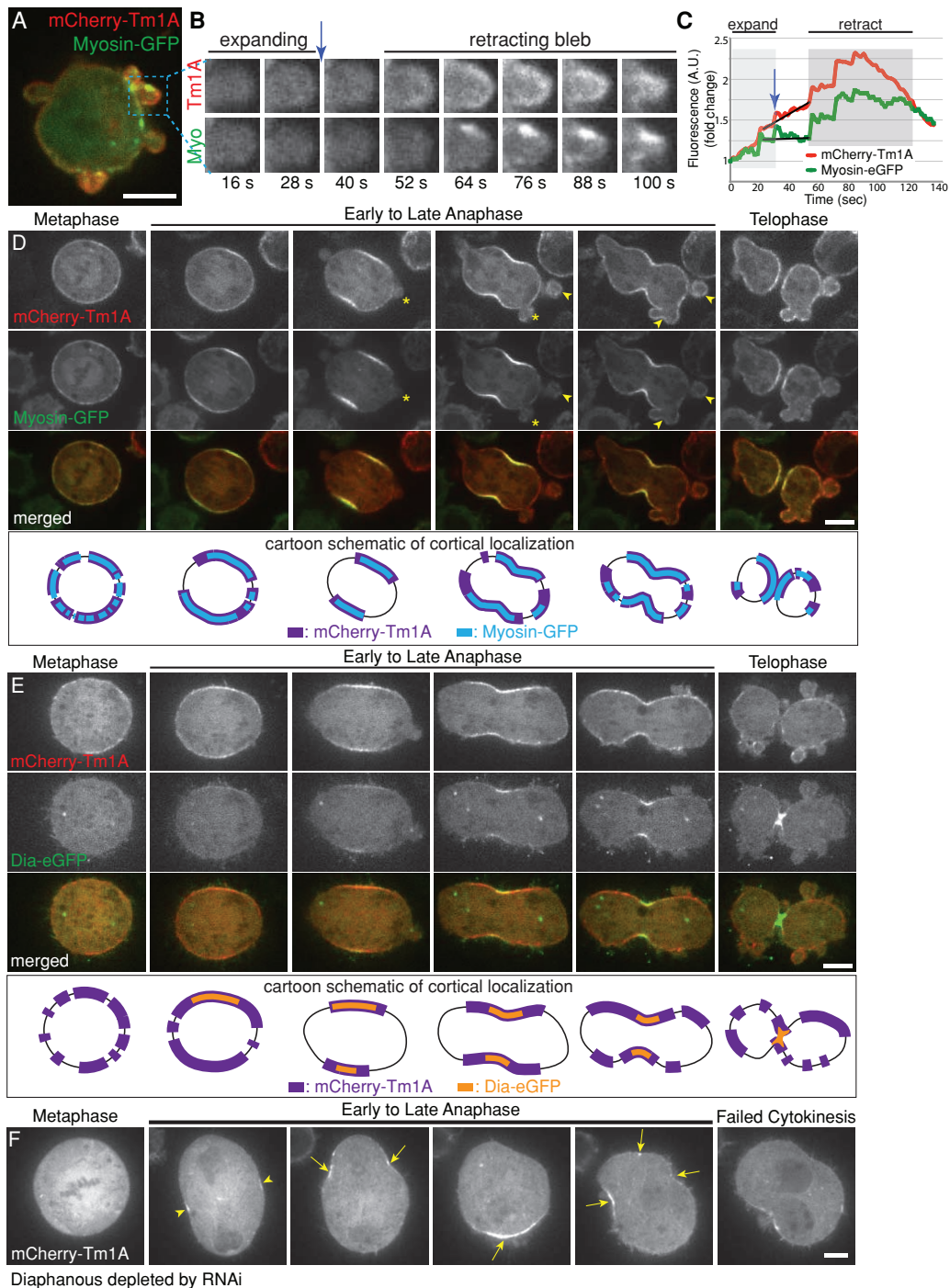
### Diaphanous does not recruit Tm1A to the cleavage furrow but helps maintain Tm1A there

Formins help construct actin filaments in the contractile rings of many cells, including yeast and *Drosophila* S2 cells (Laporte *et al.*, 2010). In *Schizosaccharomyces pombe*, Cdc12p (a homologue of Dia) localizes to the site of cell division, where it generates actin filaments that subsequently recruit a tropomyosin (Cdc8p) and myosin-II (Skau *et al.*, 2009). To determine whether Tm1A coordinates with Dia during cell division, we coexpressed Dia-eGFP with mCherry-Tm1A (Figure 4E). Although both Tm1A and Dia localize to the equatorial cortex (site of cleavage furrow ingression) during early anaphase, Tm1A arrives before Dia (schematic, Figure 4E). This is the opposite of the temporal relationship between the Diaphanous-family formin (Cdc12p) and tropomyosin (Cdc8p) in *S. pombe*. In addition, whereas the region of the cortex occupied by mCherry-Tm1A expands as the cell elongates and anaphase progresses, Dia-eGFP localization contracts to a smaller region near the site of division (schematic, Figure 4E; Supplemental Figure 4 Video 3).

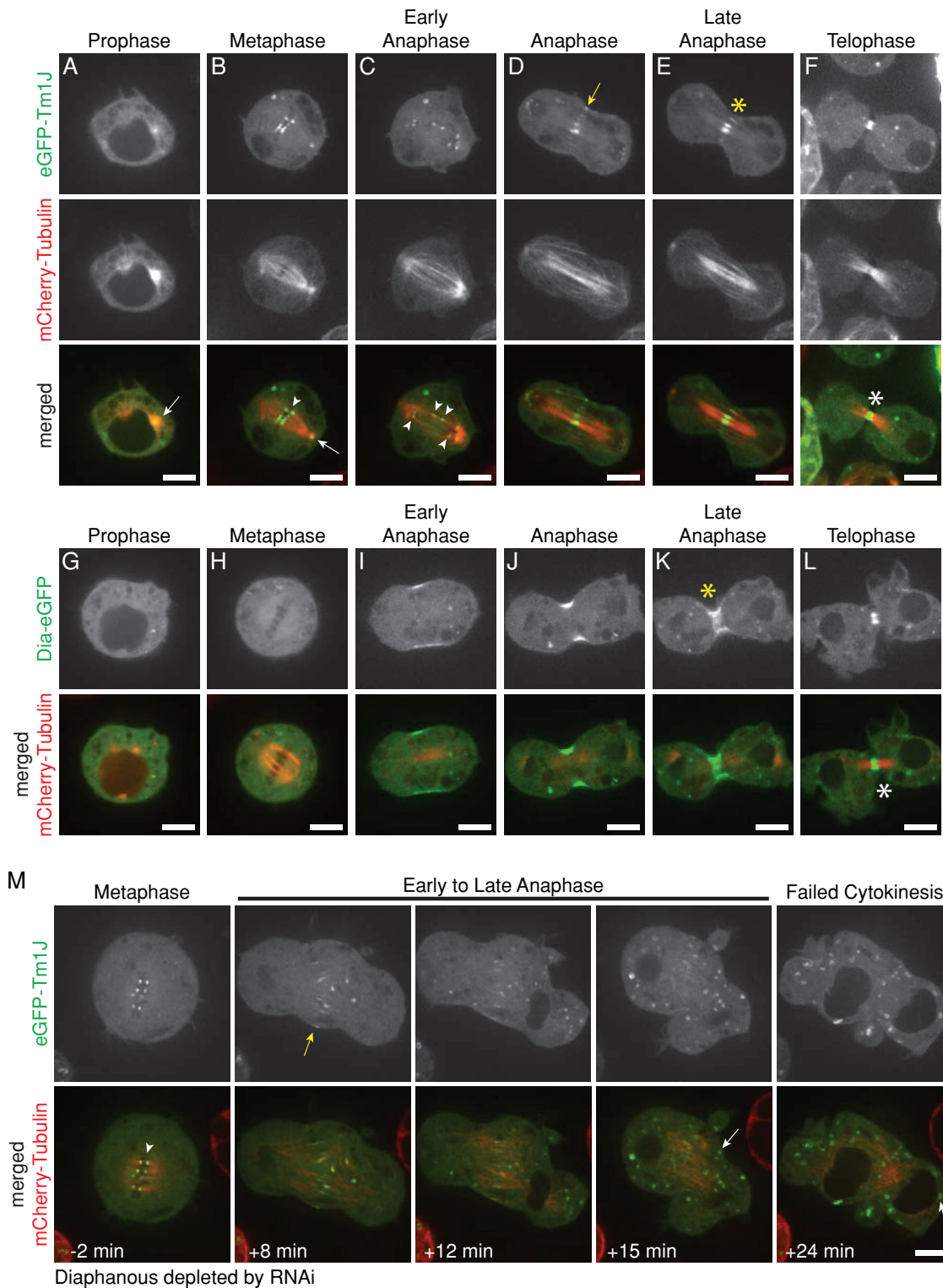
To verify that Tm1A localization to the equatorial cortex does not depend on Dia, we depleted Dia using RNAi in cells stably expressing mCherry-Tm1A and eGFP-Tm1J. As in previous studies (Rogers *et al.*, 2003), depletion of Dia produces a multinucleate phenotype as cells fail to complete cytokinesis (Figure 4F). During cell division, Tm1A is still initially recruited to the equatorial cortex (arrowheads, Figure 4F), but, in the absence of Diaphanous, its localization is not stable, and Tm1A repeatedly appears and disappears in randomly located patches around the cell cortex. These patches often undergo transient contraction, which relaxes when the Tm1A disappears (arrows, Figure 4F; Supplemental Figure 4 Video 4), further supporting the idea that Tm1A recruits myosin-II or locally promotes its activity. These results likely explain results from a previous study reporting that Dia is not necessary for initial recruitment of myosin-II to the equatorial cortex but is required to stabilize myosin-II at the furrow (Dean *et al.*, 2005).

### Tm1J localizes to centrosomes, kinetochores, and the central spindle

During prophase, most Tm1J remains associated with the Golgi ministacks, but a fraction of the protein localizes to the centrosomes (Figure 5A). Upon nuclear envelope breakdown, Golgi-associated Tm1J rings completely disperse, and the protein immediately concentrates at kinetochores (Figure 5B). Tm1J remains associated with both centrosomes and kinetochores through metaphase, as the chromosomes are captured and aligned. During anaphase, as chromosomes begin to separate, Tm1J leaves kinetochores and localizes to the central spindle, midway between the separating chromosomes (Figure 5, C–E, and Supplemental Figure 5 Video 1). Later in mitosis, as the ingressing cleavage furrow compresses central spindle microtubules into a bundle, Tm1J becomes concentrated at the central spindle and midbody (Figure 5F). Unlike canonical midbody proteins that remain concentrated in the remnants of the central spindle long after division is complete, Tm1J deserts the midbody for the Golgi-associated rings as the nuclear envelope begins to reform during telophase (Figure 3C).



**FIGURE 4:** Tm1A colocalizes with myosin-II but only partially overlaps with Diaphanous in the cleavage furrow, where Diaphanous is required for retention, but not recruitment, of Tm1A. (A–C) During interphase, mCherry-Tm1A and myosin-GFP localize to retracting, but not expanding, blebs at the cell periphery. See also Supplemental Figure 4 Video 1. (B) Zoomed-in single-color frames from time-lapse imaging. (C) Graph of total fluorescence intensity in the example bleb over time during bleb expansion (light gray) and bleb retraction (darker gray). (D) During mitosis, Tm1A and myosin-II colocalize at the equatorial cortex (arrow) during early anaphase and to retracting blebs (arrowhead), but not expanding blebs (asterisks), at the cell poles during late anaphase and telophase. Bottom, cartoon schematic illustrating localization of Tm1A (purple) and myosin (blue) in corresponding upper images. See also Supplemental Figure 4 Video 2. (E) During metaphase, Tm1A localizes to the cortex before Dia. As the cell progresses through mitosis, Tm1A occupies a larger, expanding region of the cortex around the periphery of the cell, whereas in contrast, Dia occupies a smaller region in the middle of the cell that seems to concentrate at the site of cleavage furrow ingression. Bottom, schematic diagram illustrating differential localizations of Tm1A (purple) and Dia (orange). See also Supplemental Figure 4 Video 3. (F) Dia is required for retention, not recruitment, of Tm1A to the equatorial cortex during anaphase. mCherry-Tm1A in a dividing cell after depletion of Dia with RNAi. Tm1A still initially localizes to the equatorial cortex (arrowheads), but it does not remain there. As the cell proceeds through anaphase, Tm1A localizes to sites of contraction (arrows) around the periphery of the cell during shape instability. See also Supplemental Figure 4 Video 4.



**FIGURE 5:** Tm1J localizes to centrosomes, kinetochores, the central spindle, and midbody during mitosis and requires Diaphanous for localization to the central spindle during anaphase. (A–F) eGFP-Tm1J localizes to the spindle during mitosis. Tm1J is at the centrosomes (arrow) during prophase (A); at kinetochores (arrowhead) and centrosomes (arrow) during metaphase (B); remains associated with separating kinetochores (arrowheads) during early anaphase (C); shifts to the spindle midzone (yellow arrow) and the central spindle (yellow asterisk) during anaphase (D) and late anaphase (E); and becomes tightly focused on the microtubule bundle at the midpoint of the central spindle (white asterisk) during telophase (F). Representative images from two different cells. See also Supplemental Figure 5 Video 1. (G–L) Dia-eGFP localizes to the cleavage furrow during early anaphase (I). However, during late anaphase (K) and telophase (L), Dia localizes to the central spindle (yellow asterisk) and midbody (white asterisk), respectively, similar to Tm1J localization. (M) Diaphanous is required for Tm1J localization to the central spindle and midpoint in dividing cells but not for Tm1J



## Diaphanous is required to localize Tm1J to the central spindle but not to kinetochores

The localization pattern of Tm1J reminded us of the Diaphanous-family formins. In mammalian cells, a Diaphanous-family formin (mDia1) helps organize the Golgi apparatus (Zilberman *et al.*, 2011). During mitosis, a second Diaphanous-family formin (mDia2) localizes to the central spindle and midbody (Watanabe *et al.*, 2010) and a third (mDia3) localizes to kinetochores (Cheng *et al.*, 2011). *Drosophila* has only one Diaphanous-family formin, Dia, which colocalizes with Tm1J and Tm2A at the Golgi rings in interphase (Figure 3, A and B). Late in anaphase, Dia and Tm1J both localize to the central spindle and midbody (Figure 5, K and L). In contrast to Tm1J, however, Dia fails to localize to centrosomes or kinetochores (Figure 5, G and H). These results suggest that Dia may collaborate with Tm1J and Tm2A at the Golgi apparatus during interphase and with Tm1J at the central spindle and midbody late in anaphase.

To test whether Dia is required to localize Tm1J, we depleted Dia from S2 cells using RNAi and imaged eGFP-Tm1J together with either mCherry-Tm1A or mCherry-tubulin. In the absence of Dia, Tm1J still forms Golgi-associated rings in interphase (Supplemental Figure S5A) and concentrates on metaphase kinetochores during mitosis (arrowhead, Figure 5M). Tm1J does not, however, localize to the central spindle or the midbody in later phases of mitosis of Dia-depleted cells (Figure 5M and Supplemental Figure 5 Video 2). Instead, Tm1J relocates directly from kinetochores to the Golgi apparatus during cytokinesis (white arrow, Figure 5M).

Unlike the other tropomyosins, Tm2A displays no obvious localization pattern during mitosis (Supplemental Figure S5B). It becomes dispersed throughout the cytoplasm early in mitosis and returns to the Golgi rings upon exit from mitosis (Supplemental Figure S3D).

## Molecular determinants of tropomyosin localization: the C-termini of Tm1A and Tm1J specify their localization during mitosis

To understand why different tropomyosins localize to different places in the cell, we fused sequences from the three isoforms, creating chimeras. To maintain the coiled-coil structure and avoid shifting the register of residues that contact actin, we spliced sequences only at exon boundaries. The size of each chimera is, therefore, the same as that of either a canonical long or short isoform in *Drosophila*.

These chimeras reveal that sequences in the C-terminal region of tropomyosin regulate its localization during mitosis. For example, fusion of N-terminal regions of Tm1J to C-terminal regions of Tm1A (producing constructs such as Tm1L and Tm1J-Cterm1A) results in a Tm1A-like localization to the equatorial cortex and cleavage furrow (Figures 6, A–C). Conversely, fusing the C-terminus of Tm1J to the N-terminal portion of Tm1A (Tm1A-Cterm1J) produces a chimera that localizes, like Tm1J, to kinetochores (Figure 6, A and D). In addition, when we replaced the C-terminus of Tm2A, a tropomyosin with a diffuse localization during mitosis, with the C-terminal region of Tm1J (Tm2A-Cterm1J), this chimera also accumulated at kinetochores (Figure 6, A and E). Of interest, Tm2A-Cterm1A fails to localize to the equatorial cortex during mitosis (Figure 6, A and F). Together these results show that the C-terminus of Tm1A is necessary

for localization to the equatorial cortex, whereas the C-terminus of Tm1J is both necessary and sufficient for localization of tropomyosin to kinetochores during mitosis.

## Mutation of the troponin-binding site in Tm1J causes defects in chromosome segregation and spindle morphology during mitosis

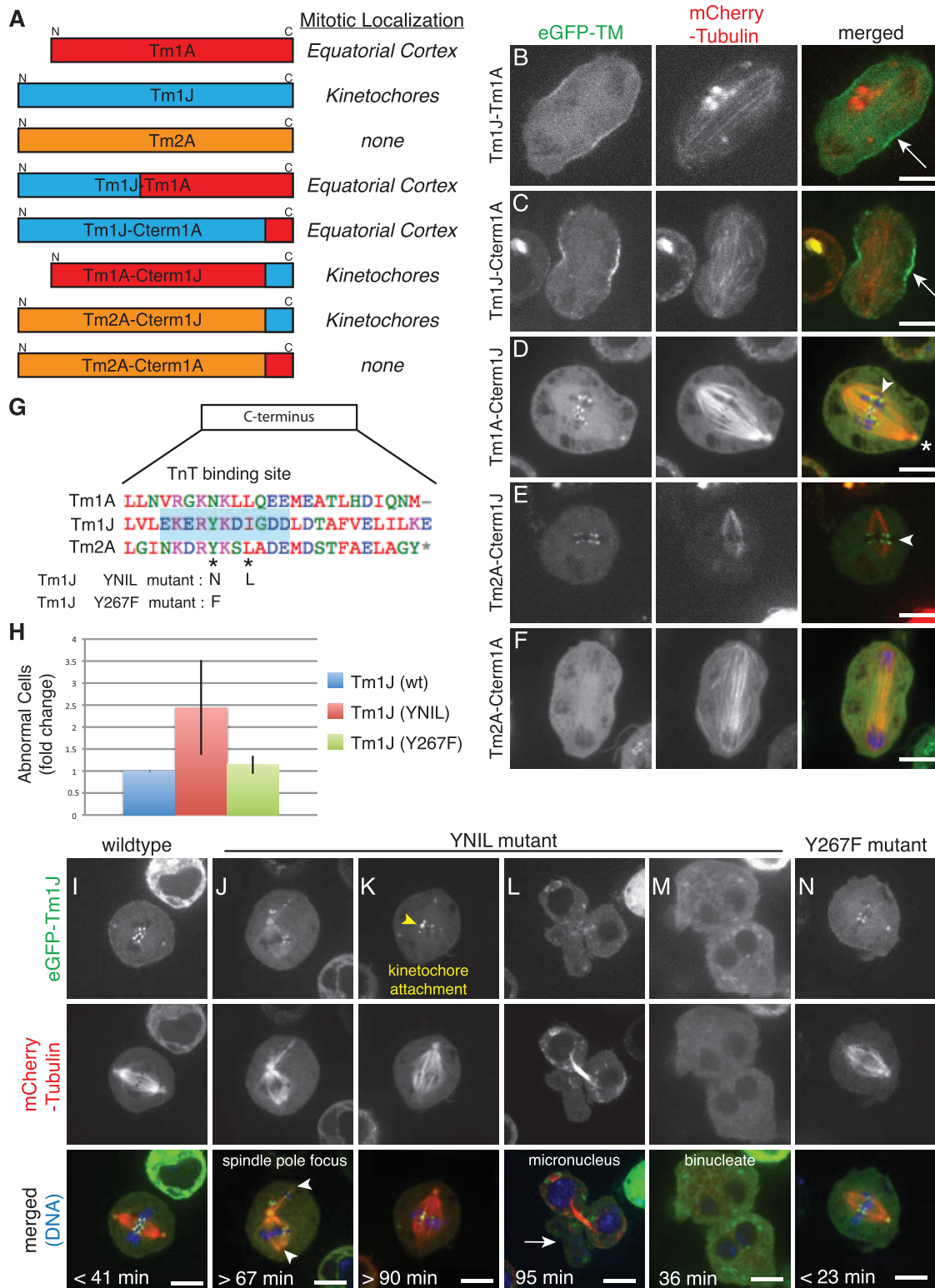
To understand how the C-terminal regions of tropomyosins specify their localization and function during mitosis, we compared the sequences of Tm1A, Tm1J, and Tm2A. Because the C-terminus of Tm1J plays an essential role in binding kinetochores, we looked first for residues near the C-terminus of Tm1J that are not conserved in the other isoforms. Somewhat surprisingly, we found that this region of Tm1J contains the consensus sequence for high-affinity binding of the actin:tropomyosin regulatory protein troponin T (Murakami *et al.*, 2008), whereas key residues in this motif are absent from Tm1A and Tm2A (Figure 6G).

To determine whether troponin T (TnT) might play a role in the mitotic localization and/or function of Tm1J, we mutated two residues in the putative TnT-binding site (Y267 and I270) to their analogues in Tm1A (N267 and L270, respectively) to form the mutant Tm1J-YNIL. The equivalent mutations in skeletal muscle tropomyosin greatly reduce the affinity of skeletal muscle TnT for tropomyosin (Murakami *et al.*, 2008). Like wild-type Tm1J, the Tm1J-YNIL mutant localizes to centrosomes, kinetochores, and the central spindle (Supplemental Figure S5C). Remarkably, however, expression of Tm1J-YNIL produces significant defects in chromosome segregation and spindle morphology, even in the presence of endogenous Tm1J. We quantified the severity of these defects by time-lapse imaging of dividing cells (Figure 6H) and found that more than twice as many Tm1J-YNIL-expressing cells exhibit abnormal mitoses ( $n = 58$  cells) than cells expressing wild-type Tm1J ( $n = 54$  cells). Cells expressing the Tm1J-YNIL mutant exhibited kinetochore attachment defects, unfocused spindle poles, and delayed anaphase progression (Figure 6, J–L, and Supplemental Figure 6 Video 1). Cells expressing Tm1J-YNIL that do eventually enter anaphase often have defects in chromosome segregation, leading to cell division failure or micronuclei surrounding unaligned and/or missegregated chromosomes (Figure 6, L and M).

To control for the possibility that the Y-N mutation in Tm1J abolishes an important regulatory phosphorylation site, we mutated this tyrosine (267) to phenylalanine, which is structurally similar but cannot be phosphorylated. We found that Tm1J-Y267F still localizes to centrosomes, kinetochores, and the central spindle during mitosis (Supplemental Figure S5C), but, unlike Tm1J-YNIL, expression of the nonphosphorylatable Tm1J-Y267F mutant caused no significant increase in abnormal mitoses (Figure 6, H and N). These results show that Tm1J plays roles in spindle morphology and chromosome segregation and confirms the importance of the C-terminus in mediating kinetochore-specific functions. Furthermore, the fact that mutation of the TnT consensus binding motif does not abolish Tm1J localization to the spindle but clearly affects Tm1J function at the spindle raises the possibility that the troponin regulatory complex may also participate in chromosome segregation and maintenance of spindle morphology.

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localization to kinetochores or Golgi. After Diaphanous is depleted by RNAi, eGFP-Tm1J still localizes to kinetochores (arrowhead) during metaphase and the spindle midzone (yellow arrow) during early anaphase but does not localize to the central spindle or midpoint during late anaphase. Tm1J instead relocates from the spindle midzone directly to Golgi (white arrows) during late anaphase. Times indicated are relative to anaphase onset. See also Supplemental Figure 5 Video 2.



**FIGURE 6:** The C-terminus determines mitotic localization of tropomyosin isoforms, and mutational analysis shows that Tm1J participates in chromosome segregation and spindle morphology during mitosis. (A–F) Protein sequences in the C-terminus determine the localization of TM isoforms during mitosis. (A) Left, names and diagrams of TM isoform chimera constructs imaged during mitosis. Right, chart of results indicating whether each TM chimera localizes to “kinetochores” during metaphase, the “equatorial cortex” during anaphase, or no significant localization (“none”). (B–F) Images of dividing S2 cells expressing the indicated TM chimera tagged with eGFP (left) or mCherry-tubulin (middle) and merged images (eGFP, green; tubulin, red). Tm1J-Tm1A (B) and Tm1J-Cterm1A (C) both localize to the equatorial cortex (arrows). Tm1A-Cterm1J (D) and Tm2A-Cterm1J (E) both localize to kinetochores (arrowheads) and centrosomes (asterisk), whereas Tm2A-Cterm1A (F) shows no significant localization. (G) Alignments of the C-terminal regions of all three nonmuscle TM isoforms show that Tm1J, but not Tm1A or Tm2A, contains a consensus binding site

## DISCUSSION

### Previous evidence of multiple nonmuscle tropomyosin isoforms

Our discovery of additional nonmuscle *Drosophila* tropomyosins distinct from the previously described Tm1A isoform likely explains some puzzling results from previous studies of *Drosophila* embryogenesis. These studies suggested that unknown tropomyosin isoforms might be required to 1) drive oskar mRNA localization (Erdélyi *et al.*, 1995), 2) specify neuronal dendritic field size (Li and Gao, 2003), and 3) promote border cell migration (Kim *et al.*, 2011). On the basis of the location of P-element insertions in the *Tm1* gene of *Drosophila* lines used in some of these studies, together with our observation that both Tm1A and Tm1J localize to dynamic lamellar actin networks in S2 cells, we suggest that Tm1J and Tm1A work together in many of these processes.

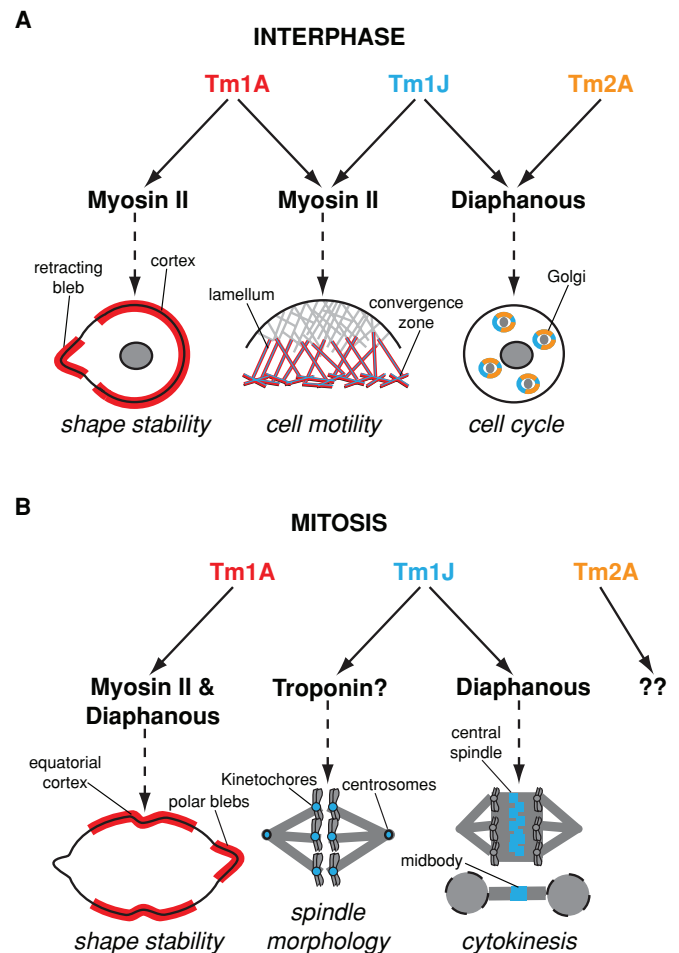
### Challenges to identifying nonmuscle tropomyosins in *Drosophila*

Confusion over tropomyosin isoform expression has also limited the ability of RNAi screens to identify cellular functions of tropomyosin. Most RNAi screens target a limited set of isoforms encoded by one gene. This approach is not well suited to untangling overlapping contributions from multiple isoforms, encoded by multiple genes. Specifically, five sequences have been used to knock down expression of tropomyosins encoded by the *Tm1* gene in a large number of RNAi screens (~100 screens; *Drosophila* RNAi Screening Center [www.flyrnai.org/]). Only one of these sequences, however, actually targets the previously identified nonmuscle tropomyosin, Tm1A. The other sequences appear to have been optimized for “efficiency” and/or the ability to deplete multiple possible isoforms. We believe that this is why previous RNAi screens in *Drosophila* S2 cells failed to identify many of the functions of tropomyosin.

### Localization and function of tropomyosin isoforms through the cell cycle

Each *Drosophila* tropomyosin shifts localization several times during the cell cycle, and the choreography of these shifts provides insight into the biological functions of these molecules (Figure 7). The Tm1A isoform, for example, is linked spatially and temporally to myosin-II throughout the cell cycle, suggesting that Tm1A may help recruit myosin-II to actin filaments and/or promote myosin motor activity. Previous studies also suggested that nonmuscle tropomyosins may help recruit myosin-II to actin filaments in other systems (Bryce *et al.*, 2003; Huckaba *et al.*, 2006; Tojkander *et al.*, 2011).

The Tm1J isoform is linked to the formin-family protein Dia throughout the cell cycle. Both Tm1J and Dia localize to Golgi-associated rings during interphase and to the central spindle and midzone during mitosis. In addition, localization of Tm1J to the central spindle and midzone actually requires Dia. The only lapse in colocalization of these proteins is early in mitosis, when Tm1J localizes to centrosomes and kinetochores without Dia. It is possible that Dia also localizes to kinetochores early in mitosis but that we are unable to detect it there, possibly due to interference caused by fusion to a



**FIGURE 7:** Model of *Drosophila* tropomyosin functions throughout the cell cycle. (A) During interphase, Tm1A colocalizes with myosin-II to the cell cortex and retracting membrane blebs, where they function to maintain cortical contractility and shape stability. In spreading cells, Tm1A and Tm1J localize with myosin-II to the lamellum and convergence zone, two networks previously shown to be important for cell motility (Salmon *et al.*, 2002). Tm1J also colocalizes with Tm2A and Diaphanous to actin networks surrounding Golgi minitacks. There they help maintain Golgi architecture and, in so doing, influence cell cycle progression by preventing premature exit from G2 phase into mitosis. (B) During mitosis, Tm1A and myosin-II (Dean *et al.*, 2005) initially colocalize to the equatorial cortex independent of Diaphanous but are maintained at the equator through a Diaphanous-dependent mechanism. Mislocalization of Tm1A causes shape instability and cytokinesis failure. Tm1J, on the other hand, localizes to the mitotic spindle. During metaphase, Tm1J localizes to kinetochores and centrosomes and may function with the troponin regulatory complex to influence spindle morphology, anaphase progression, and chromosome segregation. During anaphase, through a Diaphanous-dependent mechanism, Tm1J localization shifts to the central spindle and midbody, two structures previously shown to be important for cytokinesis (Giansanti *et al.*, 1998).

for troponin T (blue shaded box). The “YNIL” mutant mutates two of the amino acids of this binding site, from Y267 to N and I270 to L, and has been shown to decrease binding to troponin T, whereas “Y267F” mutates Y267 to F.

(H) Expression of the Tm1J YNIL mutation leads to an increase in the percentage of abnormal mitoses relative to cells expressing wild-type Tm1J, but expression of Tm1J-Y267F does not. (I–N) Representative images of dividing S2 cells expressing Tm1J wild type (I), YNIL mutant (J–M), or Y267F mutant (N). Supplemental Figure 6 Video 1 depicts cell shown in J. Hoechst 33258 was used to visualize DNA (blue). Time from NEBD to anaphase onset is noted in bottom left corner. Descriptions of mutant phenotypes are indicated on specific example cells.

fluorescent protein. Of interest, one mammalian homologue of Dia, mDia3, localizes to kinetochores early in mitosis and relocates to the central spindle and midbody late in anaphase (Yasuda *et al.*, 2004). In addition, expression of a dominant-active mDia3 causes misalignment of chromosomes and produces multinucleate cells (Cheng *et al.*, 2011), similar to the effect of expressing the YNIL mutant of Tm1J we observed in *Drosophila* S2 cells. The mitotic dynamics of Tm1J in S2 cells and mDia3 in mammals resemble those of the chromosomal passenger complex (CPC). The CPC is a highly dynamic protein complex that regulates multiple aspects of mitosis, including spindle architecture, kinetochore–microtubule attachment, mitotic progression, and completion of cytokinesis (Ruchaud *et al.*, 2007). One subunit of the CPC, the kinase Aurora B, actually phosphorylates mDia3 and regulates its activity at kinetochores (Cheng *et al.*, 2011) and so may also affect Tm1J activity at kinetochores.

The connection between specific tropomyosin isoforms and Diaphanous-family formins is likely to be highly conserved. *Drosophila* express only one Diaphanous-family formin, whereas mammals express three: mDia1, mDia2, and mDia3. The three mammalian proteins appear to reflect the separation of several functions carried out by the more generalist *Drosophila* Dia. For example, mDia1 localizes to the Golgi apparatus in interphase (Zilberman *et al.*, 2011), whereas mDia3 localizes to kinetochores early in mitosis (Yasuda *et al.*, 2004), and mDia2 localizes to the central spindle and midzone late in mitosis (Watanabe *et al.*, 2010).

### Tm1J, Tm2A, and cell cycle progression

Knockdown of Tm1J and Tm2A probably influences cell cycle progression indirectly, via effects on Golgi architecture. The Golgi apparatus plays host to important cell cycle checkpoints, including one that involves the Golgi-associated kinase myt1. Similar to the effect of knocking down Tm1J and Tm2A, the depletion of myt1 causes S2 cells to pile up in the G1 phase of the cell cycle (Cornwell *et al.*, 2002), and overexpression of myt1 (Wells *et al.*, 1999) has the same effect as overexpressing Tm1J or Tm2A, causing cells to accumulate in the G2/M phase. Perturbing the architecture of the Golgi-associated Tm1J/Tm2A/actin network likely leads to misregulation of Golgi-associated cell cycle checkpoints.

### Previous evidence that tropomyosin-actin contributes to mitotic spindle function

Mainstream models of mitotic spindle assembly do not include actin or its binding partners as central players, but growing evidence suggests that actin filaments are somehow involved in the process (Sandquist *et al.*, 2011). Kwon *et al.* (2008) found, for example, that spindle defects caused by depleting the microtubule-based motor kinesin-14 (*ncd*) are exacerbated by inhibition of actin assembly by latrunculin A or depletion of the actin-based motor Myo10A.

Tropomyosin had not previously been reported on the mitotic spindle, but previous studies indicated that tropomyosin and troponin are required for proper spindle assembly and function. Thoms *et al.* (2008) found that overexpressing tropomyosin isoform Tm1 in U373G astrocytoma cells perturbs both spindle architecture and DNA segregation. In an RNAi screen, Kwon *et al.* (2008) found that depletion of troponin I (*wupA*) produces supernumerary centrosomes in *Drosophila* S2 cells, and Sahota *et al.* (2009) found that *Drosophila* troponin I (*wupA*) and tropomyosin mutant embryos display abnormal spindle orientation and defects in chromosome segregation. Many of these authors assumed that tropomyosin-associated mitotic defects were secondary to perturbation of cytokinesis, but our results suggest a more direct connection.

There are many ways in which tropomyosin–actin filaments could contribute to spindle function, but our results suggest that one key site of actin activity is on the kinetochore. Our results also raise the possibility that kinetochore-associated tropomyosin–actin filaments might interact with troponin T to form calcium-regulated “thin filaments” similar to those found in skeletal muscle sarcomeres.

## MATERIALS AND METHODS

### Immunoblotting and immunofluorescence

Immunoblotting and immunofluorescence were performed as previously described (Kondylis and Rabouille, 2003; Dean *et al.*, 2005) using anti-tropomyosin antibodies E-17 (goat; Santa Cruz Biotechnology, Santa Cruz, CA), TM311 (mouse; Sigma-Aldrich, St. Louis, MO), and ab11190 (rabbit; Abcam, Cambridge, MA) and anti-GM130 antibody ab30637 (rabbit; Abcam). TM311 is a well-characterized monoclonal antibody that recognizes long tropomyosin (TM) isoforms in many species (Schevzov *et al.*, 2011).

### Purification of endogenous tropomyosin(s) and mass spectrometry analysis

Endogenous tropomyosin protein was partially purified from 1 l of S2 cells using a combination of heat denaturation, ammonium sulfate precipitation, pH precipitation, and hydroxyapatite column chromatography similar to past studies purifying exogenously expressed tropomyosin from *Escherichia coli* (Hitchcock–DeGregori and Heald, 1987). Individual protein bands were excised from SDS–PAGE gels stained with Coomassie blue and sent for mass spectrometry identification by the Burlingame lab at the University of California, San Francisco. To identify previously unknown TM isoforms, we added the protein sequences for all TM isoforms predicted by FlyBase to the mass spectrometry search database. Five unique protein peptides present in Tm1J but not present in Tm1A or Tm2A were found.

### Cell culture, transfection, and RNAi

*Drosophila* Schneider S2 cells were cultured as previously described (Rogers *et al.*, 2003; Iwasa and Mullins, 2007). Gateway cloning technology (Invitrogen, Carlsbad, CA) was used to create vectors for expression of fluorescently tagged proteins under the copper-inducible pMT promoter. Vectors for the expression of Dia-eGFP and myosin-GFP were a kind gift from the Vale lab (Uehara *et al.*, 2010). S2 cells were transfected with 1 µg of total DNA including pCoHygro plasmid (Invitrogen) using Effectene transfection reagent (Qiagen, Valencia, CA) according to the manufacturer's instructions. S2 cells were grown in the presence of hygromycin for 2 wk to select for stably transfected cells. RNAi and cell cycle analysis were performed as previously described (Bettencourt-Dias and Goshima, 2009). In brief, RNAi was performed on S2 cells cultured in six-well tissue culture plates for 7 d according to the methods of Rogers *et al.* (2003) using PCR products flanked at their 5' and 3' ends by T7 promoter sequences. Primers that would amplify tropomyosin isoform-specific sequences were designed and evaluated using the E-RNAi Web application (Horn and Boutros, 2010). Primer sequences can be found in Supplemental Table 3. Double-strand RNA (dsRNA) was produced by in vitro transcription using T7 Megascript kits (Ambion, Austin, TX) according to the manufacturer's instructions. S2 cells were incubated with dsRNA for 7 d and then processed for microscopy or cell cycle analysis. These conditions resulted in full depletion of the Tm1A isoform but only partial depletion of the Tm1J and Tm2A isoforms (assessed by immunoblots).

### Tropomyosin overexpression and cell cycle analysis

eGFP-tagged TM isoforms under the pMT promoter were overexpressed by >24-h induction with 1 mM CuSO<sub>4</sub> and processed for

flow cytometry and cell cycle analysis essentially as described (Davidson and Duronio, 2011).

### Live-cell imaging and analysis

For live-cell imaging, S2 cell lines were induced with 100  $\mu\text{M}$   $\text{CuSO}_4$  overnight and then transferred to 96-well glass-bottom plates (Matrical, Spokane, WA) coated with ConA or PDL (Sigma-Aldrich) and allowed to spread or adhere for 1–2 h before imaging. To depolymerize filamentous actin, S2 cells were treated with 10  $\mu\text{M}$  latrunculin B. We used a Yokagawa CSU22 spinning-disk confocal microscope (Nikon Ti-E microscope) equipped with perfect focus and an automated piezo-driven stage (Nikon, Melville, NY) and controlled by Micromanager software (Edelstein *et al.*, 2010) for all imaging. Single confocal planes are shown for all imaging. All scale bars are 5  $\mu\text{m}$ .

Dividing cells were followed using multiposition time-lapse imaging. For analysis of cell division defects, we identified cells near the beginning of division on the basis of morphology of the microtubule cytoskeleton and imaged them throughout mitosis. We then scored the mitoses blind as either “normal” or “abnormal.” We defined as abnormal any mitosis that 1) took >45 min to progress from metaphase to anaphase or 2) exhibited obvious chromosome segregation defects, including those that produce multiple cleavage furrows or result in the formation of micronuclei or multinucleate cells. On each imaging day, S2 cells expressing eGFP-tagged wild-type Tm1J were imaged as controls, and graphs depict fold change relative to wild-type cells.

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