

1 **Nuclear envelope assembly relies on CHMP-7 in the absence of BAF-LEM-mediated hole closure**

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13 **Abstract**

14 Barrier-to-autointegration factor (BAF) is a DNA binding protein that crosslinks chromatin to assemble
15 the nuclear envelope (NE) after mitosis. BAF also binds the Lap2b-Emerin-Man1 (LEM) domain family
16 of NE proteins to repair interphase ruptures. The NE adaptors to ESCRTs, LEMD2-CHMP7, seal NE
17 holes surrounding mitotic spindle microtubules (MTs), but whether NE hole closure in mitosis involves
18 BAF-LEM binding is not known. Here, we analyze NE sealing after meiosis II in *C. elegans* oocytes to
19 show that BAF-LEM binding and LEM-2^{LEM2}-CHMP-7 have distinct roles in hole closure around
20 spindle MTs. LEM-2/EMR-1^{emerin} function redundantly with BAF-1 to seal the NE. Compromising BAF-
21 LEM binding revealed an additional role for EMR-1 in maintenance of the NE permeability barrier and an
22 essential role for LEM-2-CHMP-7 in preventing NE assembly failure. The WH domain of LEM-2
23 recruits the majority of CHMP-7 to the NE in *C. elegans* and a LEM-2 -independent pool of CHMP-7,
24 which is mostly enriched in the nucleoplasm, also contributes to NE stability. Thus, NE hole closure
25 surrounding spindle MTs requires redundant mechanisms that safeguard against failure in NE assembly to
26 support embryogenesis.

27 **Introduction**

28 The nuclear envelope (NE) is a domain of the endoplasmic reticulum (ER) that serves as a
29 mechanically stable semi-permeable barrier to the genome (Ungricht and Kutay, 2017). The outer and inner
30 nuclear membrane of the NE encase a lumen that is shared with the ER. The inner nuclear membrane (INM)
31 has a unique protein composition and is associated with a meshwork of filamentous nuclear lamins. Each
32 cell division, the NE and nuclear lamins disassemble to release mitotic chromosomes for capture by spindle
33 microtubules (MTs). After chromosome segregation, the NE forms from ER-derived membranes. Assembly
34 of nuclear pore complexes (NPCs) and closure of NE holes establish the NE permeability barrier. Failure
35 in the barrier function of the NE can lead to DNA damage and disrupt genome regulation, highlighting the
36 importance of understanding mechanisms that seal the NE after mitosis (Gauthier and Comaills, 2021;
37 Rodriguez-Muñoz et al., 2022).

38 NE formation relies on the dsDNA binding protein, Barrier to Autointegration Factor (BAF), that
39 dimerizes to crosslink DNA and bind to a subset of integral INM proteins and lamins (Sears and Roux,
40 2020). Immediately after exit from mitosis, dephosphorylation of BAF promotes its high affinity association
41 with segregated chromosome masses (Ahn et al., 2019; Asencio et al., 2012; Marcelot et al., 2021; Snyers
42 et al., 2018). BAF dimers bridge DNA segments to ‘glue’ individual chromosomes together (Samwer et al.,
43 2017). Integral membrane LAP2-Emerin-MAN (LEM)-domain proteins bind to a groove at the BAF dimer
44 junction through a conserved 40 amino acid ‘LEM-domain’ to tether associated ER membranes around the
45 chromatin surface (Barton et al., 2015; Cai et al., 2007; Lin et al., 2000). Nascent nuclear membranes first
46 wrap the exposed region of the segregated chromatin mass that is unoccupied by spindle microtubules
47 (called the ‘non-core’ domain) (Liu and Pellman, 2020). The majority of NPCs assemble in the non-core
48 domain to initiate nuclear transport.

49 After the initial phase of NE formation, BAF accumulates at the ‘core’ domain of the chromatin
50 mass, which is the densely occupied by spindle MTs (Haraguchi et al., 2008). BAF recruits and concentrates
51 LEM-domain proteins, including LEMD2 and emerin, to the core domain where NE sealing of holes occurs
52 (Haraguchi et al., 2008; von Appen et al., 2020). The LEM-domain protein LEMD2 contributes to NE
53 sealing through its C-terminal winged helix (WH) domain that directly binds and activates the conserved
54 ESCRT-II/ESCRT-III hybrid protein CHMP7 (Gatta et al., 2021; Gu et al., 2017; von Appen et al., 2020).
55 The WH of LEMD2 copolymerizes with CHMP7 to form 50-100 nm rings *in vitro* and it is thought that
56 their assembly on the cytosolic surface of NE holes restricts diffusion of macromolecules (Gatta et al.,
57 2021; von Appen et al., 2020). CHMP7 serves as the NE adaptor for downstream ESCRT-III membrane
58 remodeling machinery including the spiral filament protein CHMP4B/VPS32 and the microtubule severing
59 protein Spastin that coordinate spindle disassembly with fusion of small (<100 nm) NE holes (Vietri et al.,

60 2015; Ventimiglia et al., 2018; von Appen et al., 2020). Functions for other LEM-domain proteins at the
61 core domain are less well understood.

62 The essential role for BAF in NE assembly as well as the functional redundancy of multiple LEM-
63 domain proteins have made it challenging to test if BAF binding to LEM proteins serves a function aside
64 from downstream ESCRT recruitment. In mitotically dividing cells, expression of a dimerization mutant in
65 BAF, deficient in both DNA crosslinking and LEM-domain binding, results in hyper-micronucleation
66 where membranes wrap individual chromosomes because they are not crosslinked (Samwer et al., 2017).
67 Expression of a BAF mutant (BAF-L58R) that selectively prevents binding to LEM proteins did not cause
68 micronucleation, demonstrating that BAF-LEM binding is not essential for formation of a single nucleus;
69 however, whether sealing during NE formation is impaired in the absence of BAF-LEM binding was not
70 tested. Expression of BAF-L58R does not support repair of large holes that result from ruptures indicating
71 that BAF-LEM binding mediates NE sealing in interphase cells (Young et al., 2020). Importantly, CHMP7
72 accumulates at nuclear rupture sites but is not required for repair of ruptures (Halfmann et al., 2019). Thus,
73 in interphase, BAF-LEM binding has a distinct role from CHMP7 in NE sealing, particularly of large NE
74 holes that do not contain MTs (Halfmann et al., 2019; Young et al., 2020). Whether BAF-LEM binding and
75 CHMP7 have separate roles in sealing NE holes that surround spindle MTs in mitosis is not known.
76 Interestingly, LEMD2 binds MTs directly, which contributes to its enrichment at the core domain for NE
77 sealing in mitosis (von Appen et al., 2020), so there may be a separable function for LEMD2-CHMP7 from
78 BAF-LEM binding that depends on the presence of MTs.

79 Here, we take advantage of the opportunities provided by *C. elegans* to combine genetics and live
80 imaging to dissect the contributions of BAF to NE sealing and the relationship of sealing to successful
81 nuclear assembly. We focus on NE assembly after anaphase of meiosis II in fertilized oocytes to determine
82 the shared and unique functions for BAF, LEM-domain proteins and CHMP7 in sealing of the large hole
83 that surrounds spindle MTs, which establishes the permeability barrier in the first instance of NE formation
84 for the developing embryo (Penfield et al., 2020).

85 Our previous work defined the assembly dynamics of *C. elegans* LEM-2 (human LEMD2) and
86 presence of CHMP-7 (human CHMP7) at the micron-scale sized hole that surrounds the asymmetric
87 meiotic spindle (Penfield et al., 2020). Importantly, closure of the post-meiotic NE hole does not require
88 CHMP-7 (Penfield et al., 2020), but whether it requires the accumulation of membrane-bound LEM-domain
89 proteins was not known. The regulation and requirement for BAF (Ce BAF-1) in nuclear assembly is
90 conserved in *C. elegans* (Gorjanacz et al., 2007; Margalit et al., 2005). Furthermore, in contrast to human
91 cells that contain seven LEM-domain proteins, *C. elegans* contain only two integral membrane LEM-
92 domain proteins, EMR-1 (human emerin) and LEM-2, as well as a non-transmembrane containing LEM-
93 domain protein LEM-3 (human ANKLE1), none of which are essential genes (Barton et al., 2015; Lee et

94 al., 2000). Loss of both *lem-2* and *emr-1* results in embryonic lethality, which suggested that BAF-1
95 mediates its essential functions in nuclear assembly through redundant recruitment of these LEM-domain
96 proteins (Liu et al., 2003).

97 We introduced the conserved BAF-L58R separation-of-function mutation at the endogenous locus
98 of *C. elegans baf-1* to disrupt BAF-LEM binding. This mutant background allowed us to analyze the
99 contribution of BAF-LEM binding to NE sealing and assembly. Our work reveals that EMR-1 and LEM-2
100 function redundantly in binding to BAF-1 to facilitate NE sealing around spindle MTs. We demonstrate
101 that LEM-2-CHMP-7 are critical to stabilize the NE and safeguard against failure in NE assembly when
102 BAF-LEM binding is compromised. Our genetic studies further reveal unique functions for LEM-2 and
103 EMR-1 in maintenance of the NE permeability barrier and NE assembly. Thus, our work reveals redundant
104 and distinct roles for multiple key players in NE formation and dissects the relationship between NE sealing
105 and NE stability to support early embryonic development.

106

107 **Results**

108 **BAF-1 dynamics and regulation after chromosome segregation in meiosis II and mitosis**

109 Fertilization by haploid sperm triggers two rounds of meiosis in prophase I arrested *C. elegans*
110 oocytes to produce the haploid pronucleus as well as two extruded polar bodies (Fig. 1A, left; (Fabritius et
111 al., 2011)). The haploid oocyte-derived pronucleus forms as the acentriolar spindle elongates between
112 segregated chromosomes after anaphase II (Fig. 1A, right). The NE initially assembles on the side of
113 chromatin that is farthest from the acentriolar meiotic spindle and wraps around chromatin to form a sealing
114 plaque akin to the ‘core domain’ that surrounds persisting spindle microtubules in mitosis (Fig. 1A, 100s;
115 (Penfield et al., 2020)). The plaque condenses as the spindle dissipates (Fig. 1A, 200s) and then disperses
116 as the pronucleus rapidly expands (Fig. 1A, 400s). In contrast to the oocyte-derived pronucleus, the haploid
117 sperm-derived pronucleus, at the opposite end of the embryo, does not undergo closure of a large hole
118 around spindle microtubules (Fig. 1A, left). Thus, the fertilized *C. elegans* zygote provides the opportunity
119 to directly compare nuclear assembly with and without closure of a large hole around spindle microtubules
120 in a shared cytoplasm (Fig 1A; (Penfield et al., 2020)). Furthermore, analyzing the first instance of NE
121 formation allows us to eliminate confounding effects of prior rounds of failed NE assembly. Once formed,
122 the oocyte-derived and sperm-derived pronuclei meet at pseudocleavage (PC) regression and progress to
123 the first mitotic division (Fig. 1A; (Oegema, 2006)).

124 We generated a strain of *baf-1* tagged at its endogenous locus with mNeonGreen (mNG) and
125 3XFlag at the N-terminus (‘mNG^{BAF-1}’) to monitor BAF-1 dynamics at the sealing plaque. Embryo
126 production and viability were unaffected in this strain suggesting that the fusion protein does not
127 significantly interfere with BAF-1 function (Fig S1A). mNG^{BAF-1} localizes on oocyte chromatin at

128 anaphase II onset and transitions to a bright focus at the sealing plaque as the adjacent meiotic spindle
129 lengthens and dissipates (Fig 1B, C). mNG^{BAF-1} at the sealing plaque localized uniformly at the nuclear
130 rim ~400s following anaphase II onset (Fig 1B). mNG^{BAF-1} associated with sperm chromatin
131 transitioned to a small focus that enriched along the nuclear rim with similar dynamics as the oocyte-derived
132 pronucleus (Fig. S1B; Movie 1). Thus, universal signaling mechanisms in the shared cytoplasm of the
133 fertilized oocyte triggered by anaphase II control BAF-1 dynamics on chromatin and the nuclear envelope.

134 The LEM-4-like protein (*lem-4*, human ANKLE-2) is an adaptor for PP2A that functions to
135 dephosphorylate BAF-1, which enhances its chromatin-association immediately after mitotic exit (Asencio
136 et al., 2012; Snyers et al., 2018; Marcelot et al., 2021) (Fig. S1C). Reducing *lem-4* by RNAi-depletion to
137 maintain BAF-1 in a phosphorylated state reduced mNG^{BAF-1} accumulation at segregated meiotic
138 chromosomes (Fig. S1D) and delayed its accumulation on segregated mitotic chromosomes, as previously
139 reported (Fig S1E; (Asencio et al., 2012). Thus, LEM-4 likely regulates BAF-1 dynamics in meiosis II
140 similar to mitotically dividing cells.

141

142 **Enrichment of LEM-2 and EMR-1 at the sealing plaque in meiosis II requires BAF-1**

143 We tested whether BAF-1 controls the dynamics of LEM-2 and EMR-1 (emerin) at the reforming
144 NE and sealing plaque. We generated strains with *lem-2* and *emr-1* endogenously tagged with mNG using
145 CRISPR/Cas9 editing. LEM-2^{mNG} and mNG^{EMR-1} dynamics to the nuclear rim and enrichment at the
146 sealing plaque were similar to mNG^{BAF-1} and to prior reports for a LEM-2 transgene (Fig 1D and S1F;
147 (Penfield et al., 2020)). However, they did not accumulate at a sealing plaque in *baf-1* RNAi-depleted
148 embryos and instead membranes surrounded individual chromosomes that appeared condensed resulting in
149 a multi-lobed oocyte pronucleus (Fig 1D and S1F, Movie 2). Furthermore, the initial levels of LEM-2-
150 occupied membranes on chromatin during anaphase-II onset were significantly reduced in *baf-1* RNAi-
151 depleted embryos (Fig. 1D and S1G). The substantial ER-associated pool of mNG^{EMR-1} made
152 comparable measurements unreliable (Fig. S1F). Embryos depleted of *baf-1* did not accumulate
153 GFP:Nuclear localization signal (NLS)-LacI in the nucleus, indicating a failure in NE sealing (Fig. 1E).
154 Thus, similar to penetrant RNAi-depletion of BAF in mammalian cells exiting mitosis (Samwer et al.,
155 2017), BAF-1 is necessary to form a single nucleus after meiosis II in *C. elegans*. Additionally, BAF-1
156 directs formation of the sealing plaque containing LEM-2 and EMR-1, which prompted us to use genetic
157 analysis to understand how BAF-1's recruitment of LEM-domain proteins contributes to sealing of the large
158 post-meiotic NE hole.

159

160 **A mutation in BAF-1 that prevents LEM-domain binding reduces its NE localization and is non-**
161 **essential in *C. elegans***

162 To understand the contribution of BAF-LEM binding in closure of the large hole that surrounds
163 meiotic spindle microtubules, we introduced mutations in conserved amino acid residues in *C. elegans baf-*
164 *I* that have been shown to serve as separation-of-function mutations in human BAF (Samwer et al., 2017;
165 Halfmann et al., 2019; Young et al., 2020; Fig 2A). BAF-G47E disrupts BAF dimerization and binding to
166 LEM-domain proteins while BAF-L58R selectively inhibits LEM-domain binding (Fig. 2A, B; (Halfmann
167 et al., 2019; Samwer et al., 2017; Young et al., 2020)).

168 We first introduced the mutations into RNAi-resistant *baf-1* transgenes to avoid embryonic lethality
169 and sterility that could result from significant disruption of *baf-1* function (Fig. S2A). RNAi-depletion of
170 *baf-1* caused 100% embryonic lethality (Fig. 2B), as expected (Gorjanacz et al., 2007; Margalit et al., 2005;
171 Zheng et al., 2000), and this was rescued in the presence of the WT re-encoded *baf-1* transgene, but not the
172 dimerization deficient *baf-1(G47E)* mutant transgene (Fig. 2B). The *baf-1(L58R)* mutant re-encoded
173 transgene supported viability in *baf-1* RNAi-depleted embryos (Fig. 2B). We therefore introduced the *baf-*
174 *I(L58R)* mutation at the endogenous locus (Fig. S2B). The *baf-1(L58R)* mutant worm expressed normal
175 levels of BAF-1 protein (Fig. S2C), did not cause embryonic lethality, and resulted in a slight reduction in
176 brood size (Fig. S2D). Together these data indicate that BAF-LEM binding is not essential for germline
177 development or embryogenesis.

178 We next tested if BAF-LEM binding is required for BAF-1 localization at the INM. BAF localizes
179 to both the nucleoplasm and INM; LEM-domain proteins bind BAF at the INM (Haraguchi et al., 2007;
180 Liu et al., 2003), so we expected to observe reduced BAF-1-L58R mutant protein at the NE, but not the
181 nucleoplasm (Halfmann et al., 2019; Samwer et al., 2017; Young et al., 2020). In the 1-cell stage embryo,
182 mNG[^]BAF-1 is enriched at the NE of the oocyte- and sperm-derived pronuclei, and localizes to the
183 nucleoplasm, ER, and diffusely in the cytoplasm (Fig. 2C). Our attempts to homozygous a *baf-1(L58R)*
184 mutant animal tagged at the endogenous locus with mNG were unsuccessful suggesting that the mNG tag
185 together with the L58R mutation compromise BAF-1 function at the organismal level. To bypass this issue,
186 we quantified the NE and nucleoplasmic fluorescence signal of heterozygous embryos carrying one copy
187 of mNG tagged *baf-1* and one untagged copy of wild type *baf-1* (Fig. 2C-F). In heterozygous wild type
188 mNG[^] *baf-1* / *baf-1* embryos, the NE and nucleoplasmic mNG fluorescence signal was approximately half
189 that of the homozygous mNG tagged wild type *baf-1* strain (Fig. 2C, D). The NE to nucleoplasmic ratio of
190 the mNG fluorescence was the same in both homozygous and heterozygous strains, so even with half the
191 amount of protein the proportion of wild type BAF-1 at the NE versus the nucleoplasm remains constant
192 (Fig. 2F).

193 Both the NE and nucleoplasmic mNG fluorescence levels were significantly lower in heterozygote
194 mNG[^]*baf-1(L58R)* / *baf-1* than in wild type mNG[^]*baf-1/baf-1* embryos (Fig. 2E), although protein levels
195 of untagged BAF-1-L58R in the *baf-1(L58R)* mutant strain that we use throughout this study are unchanged

196 (Fig. S2C). The lower NE:nucleoplasmic ratio reflected a greater decrease of the mNG^{BAF-1-L58R}
197 mutant protein at the NE than nucleoplasm (Fig. 2E, F). The faint mNG^{BAF-1-L58R} localization at the
198 nuclear rim may be through dimerization with untagged wild type BAF-1 or through association with the
199 nuclear lamina or an unidentified NE adaptor (Holaska et al., 2003; Kono et al., 2022; Samson et al., 2018).
200 ER-localized signal was also lost in mNG^{BAF-1(L58R)}/*baf-1* heterozygote embryos indicating that BAF-
201 1 associates with the ER through binding to LEM domain proteins (Fig. 2E). Reduced nuclear rim, but
202 unchanged nucleoplasmic signal, of mNG^{BAF-1} in *emr-1Δ* embryos, as reflected in the lower
203 NE:nucleoplasmic ratio (Fig. 2C, D), is consistent with past findings that emerin contributes to BAF-1
204 binding at the INM (Asencio et al., 2012). We were unable to assess the localization of mNG^{BAF-1-L58R}
205 upon loss of *lem-2* because of the synergistic sterility phenotype that results from this genetic background
206 (see below Fig. 2G). Together, we conclude that the *C. elegans* BAF-1-L58R mutant is compromised in its
207 NE-association, as previously shown for the mutant human BAF homologue (Halfmann et al., 2019;
208 Samwer et al., 2017; Young et al., 2020), and that multiple LEM-domain proteins recruit BAF-1 to the
209 INM.

210

211 **Distinct functions for LEM proteins in embryo and germline development revealed by the *baf-*** 212 ***1(L58R)* mutant**

213 We crossed the *baf-1(L58R)* strain to deletion alleles in each of the three *C. elegans* LEM-domain
214 genes (*emr-1*, *lem-2*, and *lem-3*) because we predicted that if LEM proteins have redundant or related
215 functions to BAF-LEM binding, then a double mutant (e.g. *emr-1Δ; baf-1(L58R)*) would result in
216 synergistic phenotypes (e.g. increased lethality). Alternatively, if LEM proteins function only through
217 binding to BAF-1, then a double mutant with *baf-1(L58R)* would not cause a significant increase in
218 embryo viability or production. Deletion of *emr-1* or a *lem-3* mutant allele with reduced function in the
219 *baf-1(L58R)* mutant strain resulted in only a slight decrease in brood size and embryonic viability (Fig.
220 2G, H) suggesting that these LEM proteins do not have a function that is redundant with BAF-LEM
221 binding to support embryo and germline development. In contrast, deletion of the *lem-2* gene locus did
222 not cause lethality or sterility on its own (Fig. 2G, H) but the *lem-2Δ; baf-1(L58R)* double mutant
223 inhibited germline development resulting in sterility in 100% of worms (Fig. 2G, S2I). Note that we
224 found an annotation error in the *lem-2(tm1582)* mutant allele, which has been widely used and interpreted
225 as a *lem-2* deletion strain (Barkan et al., 2012; Bone et al., 2014; Dittrich et al., 2012; González-Aguilera
226 et al., 2014; Harr et al., 2020; Morales-Martínez et al., 2015; Penfield et al., 2020; Shankar et al., 2022),
227 in which the 3' region that encodes for the WH domain is intact (Fig. S2F) (Davis et al., 2022). We
228 therefore generated a CRISPR-Cas9 gene edited strain that deletes the entire *lem-2* gene locus for this
229 study (Fig. S2G, H). Together, these data indicate that LEM-2, but not EMR-1 or LEM-3, has a redundant

230 function to BAF-LEM binding in germline development, and further verify that the BAF-1-L58R mutant
231 protein is functionally compromised.

232

233 **Abnormal dynamics of endogenously tagged LEM-2 and EMR-1 at the reforming NE and sealing** 234 **plaque in *baf-1(L58R)* mutants**

235 We next tested whether compromising BAF-LEM protein interactions impacted the recruitment
236 of endogenous LEM-2^{mNG} and EMR-1^{mNG} to the reforming post-meiotic NE (Fig. 3, Fig S3A).
237 LEM-2^{mNG} appeared on the nascent NE at anaphase II onset at lower levels in *baf-1(L58R)* mutant
238 embryos compared to control embryos (Fig. 3A, B, Movie 3), similar to *baf-1* depletion (Fig. S1G).
239 Instead of the organized sealing plaque that forms directly adjacent to the meiotic II spindle under control
240 conditions (100s, Fig. 3A), LEM-2^{mNG} formed smaller foci around condensed chromatin that coalesced
241 into a single punctum with lower fluorescence intensity levels and delayed appearance in *baf-1(L58R)*
242 mutants compared to controls (Fig. 3C-D). Furthermore, the punctum of LEM-2^{mNG} in *baf-1(L58R)*
243 mutant oocytes persisted ~ 300s longer than the sealing plaque in control embryos (Fig. 3E). Fully formed
244 oocyte-derived pronuclei in *baf-1(L58R)* mutant contained lower levels of LEM-2^{mNG} at the NE (Fig.
245 S3B, C) despite equal levels of global LEM-2 protein (Fig S3D). Similar observations were made for
246 mNG^{EMR-1} dynamics in *baf-1(L58R)* mutants (Fig. 3F, Fig. S3B, C). Additionally, compromised BAF-
247 LEM binding resulted in delayed LEM-2^{mNG} on nascent nuclear membranes following the first mitotic
248 division that did not fully enrich at the ‘core’ domain (Fig. S3E-G). Together, these data confirm that
249 BAF-1 recruits and organizes LEM proteins to the sealing plaque through its BAF-LEM domain binding
250 function. The fact that LEM-2 and EMR-1 can localize to the NE independent of BAF-1 binding, albeit at
251 significantly lower levels (Fig S3B, C), supported the possibility that these proteins have functions
252 independent of BAF-1-mediated recruitment at the NE.

253

254 **LEM-2 and EMR-1 compensate for each other in binding to BAF-1 to seal the NE around spindle** 255 **MTs**

256 We compared NE assembly and sealing in the oocyte versus sperm-derived pronuclei to determine
257 if there is a unique requirement for BAF-LEM binding in closure of the large NE hole surrounding spindle
258 MTs (Fig. 4). Live imaging of a general ER marker (SP12:GFP) and chromosomes (mCh:Histone(H)2B)
259 showed that 100% of both oocyte and sperm-derived pronuclei RNAi-depleted of *baf-1* are multi-lobed
260 (Fig. 4B), while in *baf-1(L58R)* mutants a proportion of oocyte- but not sperm-derived pronuclei were
261 malformed and had faint intranuclear membranes (Fig. 4A, B). Reducing *lem-4* levels to prevent
262 dephosphorylation of BAF-1 mildly impacted nuclear shape on its own (Fig. 4B), but resembled a penetrant
263 BAF-1 depletion in *baf-1(L58R)* mutants, which was specific to the oocyte-derived pronucleus (Fig. 4A, B,

264 [Movie 4](#)). These data indicate that there is a greater reliance on BAF-LEM binding for nuclear formation
265 when a large hole that surrounds spindle microtubules must be sealed. Nuclear formation in mitotic *baf-1-*
266 *L58R* embryos was delayed and resulted in smaller nuclei ([Fig. S4A, B](#)) suggesting that BAF-LEM binding
267 contributes to NE assembly in both meiosis and mitosis in *C. elegans*.

268 We next monitored the time course of nuclear import of a GFP:NLS reporter following anaphase
269 II onset to PC regression in both the oocyte and sperm-derived pronuclei in *baf-1(L58R)* mutant embryos
270 ([Fig. 4C, S4C](#)). The nuclear to cytoplasmic ratio of the GFP:NLS reporter directly following nuclear
271 formation in the oocyte-derived, but not in the sperm-derived pronucleus, was significantly lower in *baf-*
272 *1(L58R)* embryos compared to wild type embryos ([Fig 4C, Fig. S4C](#)). Furthermore, nuclear exclusion of
273 GFP: α tubulin, which is actively exported from pronuclei (Hayashi et al., 2012) and serves as an indicator
274 of closure of large NE holes (Penfield et al., 2020), was delayed, but not inhibited, in the *baf-1(L58R)*
275 mutant oocyte-derived pronucleus ([Fig 4D, E](#)). Together, these data indicate that the timely closure of the
276 large NE hole surrounding meiotic spindle MTs requires the ability of BAF to bind LEM proteins.

277 Deletion of *lem-2* did not impact the initial rate of nuclear import ([Fig. 4C](#)) nor nuclear assembly
278 ([Fig. S4D, E](#)) following anaphase II, although the nuclear GFP:NLS signal did not reach the maximum
279 wild type levels in these mutant embryos suggesting that LEM-2 may have a parallel function that in
280 addition to binding to BAF-1 is required for maintenance of the NE permeability barrier. Sterility
281 resulting from loss of *lem-2* in *baf-1(L58R)* worms prevented us from genetically testing the
282 consequences on nuclear sealing resulting from loss of *lem-2* in *baf-1(L58R)* embryos.

283 Deletion of *emr-1* resulted in lower retention of nuclear GFP:NLS ([Fig. S4D, E; Fig. 4C](#)), similar
284 to loss of *lem-2*. In *baf-1-L58R* pronuclei, RNAi-depletion of *emr-1* resulted in ~42% of oocyte-derived
285 containing nuclear GFP: α -tubulin at PC regression ([Fig. 4E](#)), suggesting that EMR-1 has an additional
286 function to BAF-1 in stabilizing the NE barrier when NE sealing around spindle MTs is required. Both
287 oocyte- and sperm-derived pronuclei were permeable to GFP: α -tubulin at PC regression upon RNAi-
288 depletion of *lem-4* in the *baf-1(L58R)* mutant, further supporting the general requirement for both
289 chromatin binding and LEM domain binding functions of BAF-1 to support stable nuclear assembly ([Fig.](#)
290 [4A, B, E](#)).

291 We conclude that LEM-2 and EMR-1 compensate for each other in binding to BAF-1 to ensure
292 NE sealing around spindle MTs - loss of either gene alone results in milder defects in NE sealing than in
293 the *baf-1(L58R)* mutant. Our data also reveal that there are unique functions for LEM-2 and EMR-1 that
294 are distinct from BAF-LEM binding. EMR-1 has a parallel function to BAF-LEM binding required for
295 maintenance of the NE barrier. The sterility phenotype that is specific to loss of *lem-2* in the *baf-1(L58R)*
296 mutant indicates a unique function for LEM-2 from EMR-1 in germline development that is redundant to
297 BAF-LEM binding.

298 **Nuclear envelope assembly around spindle MTs relies on CHMP-7 when BAF-LEM binding is**
299 **compromised**

300 The mild NE assembly defects and delayed but not failed sealing in the absence of BAF-LEM
301 binding prompted us to test for other factors that may be functioning redundantly to prevent catastrophic
302 loss of the NE permeability barrier. Our data showing that LEM-2 and EMR-1 are recruited to the NE even
303 in the absence of BAF-LEM binding suggested that downstream ESCRT-mediated NE remodeling may
304 support NE formation under these conditions. Furthermore, evidence in *C. elegans* suggests that CHMP-7
305 contributes to NE sealing and stability under conditions of increased lipid biogenesis or a weakened nuclear
306 lamina (Penfield et al., 2020; Shankar et al., 2022). We did not detect defects in formation of the oocyte
307 and sperm-derived pronuclei in embryos deleted for *chmp-7* (Fig. 5A, B), similar to our past results
308 (Penfield et al., 2020). In contrast, in ~35% of *chmp-7Δ; baf-1(L58R)* double mutant embryos the oocyte-,
309 but not sperm-, derived pronucleus appeared lobed (Fig. 5A, B and see also Fig. S5A). These NE assembly
310 abnormalities led to ~47% of *chmp-7Δ; baf-1(L58R)* embryos containing collapsed oocyte-derived
311 pronuclei at pronuclear meeting, whereas sperm-derived pronuclei appeared normal (Fig. S5A, Movie 5).
312 Approximately half of *chmp-7Δ; baf-1(L58R)* embryos do not survive to hatching (Fig. 5C), which is
313 reflected in the severe mitotic defects observed in these mutants that appeared to compound with subsequent
314 cell divisions (Fig. S5B). The enhanced phenotypes are specific to loss of *chmp-7* in the *baf-1(L58R)* mutant
315 background in which both EMR-1 and LEM-2 binding to BAF-1 are compromised because *chmp-7Δ; emr-*
316 *1Δ* and *chmp-7Δ; lem-2Δ* mutant embryos are mostly viable (Fig. 5C) further indicating that binding of
317 BAF-1 to EMR-1 and LEM-2 functions redundantly to promote hole closure.

318 While some *chmp-7Δ; baf-1(L58R)* oocyte-derived pronuclei assembled into a normal shape (Fig.
319 5A, B, ~19% “circular”), they did not establish or maintain nuclear accumulation of the GFP:NLS reporter
320 (Fig. 5D). Furthermore, the majority (94%) of these pronuclei failed to exclude GFP:α-tubulin (Fig. 5E,
321 S5C). Thus, CHMP-7 is required for successful, albeit delayed, establishment of the NE permeability
322 barrier when BAF-LEM-domain binding is impaired. The fact that oocyte-derived pronuclei sometimes
323 assemble under these conditions and ~47% of embryos survive to hatching (Fig. 4C) suggests that the
324 likelihood of NE assembly failure may depend on the extent of loss of the NE permeability barrier and
325 stability of the NE hole. Together, these data show that CHMP-7 protects against failure in the NE barrier
326 when NE hole closure around spindle MTs is defective.

327

328 **BAF-LEM binding controls the levels and dynamics of CHMP-7 during NE formation and sealing**

329 To understand how CHMP-7 contributes to normal NE sealing and assembly in the absence of
330 BAF-LEM binding, we first monitored the levels, dynamics and organization of endogenously tagged
331 GFP^{CHMP-7} at the reforming NE and sealing plaque after anaphase II onset. CHMP-7 is constitutively

332 localized to the nuclear rim and in the nucleoplasm in *C. elegans* embryos (Shankar et al., 2022). In
333 control embryos, nuclear rim-associated CHMP-7 appears during anaphase II onset, wraps around
334 chromatin and enriches at the sealing plaque, similar to LEM-2 (Fig. 5F). GFP^{CHMP-7} accumulates in
335 the nucleoplasm ~200s after anaphase II onset, concomitant with establishment of the nuclear
336 permeability barrier (Fig. 5F, Movie 6). In the *baf-1(L58R)* mutant, GFP^{CHMP-7} levels were initially
337 lower at the nuclear rim (0s, Fig. S5D) and discrete CHMP-7 foci formed around condensed chromatin
338 (Fig. 5F, 200 s), which coalesced into a disorganized focus rather than a distinct plaque (Fig. 5F). CHMP-
339 7 also localized to the intranuclear membranes observed in assembled oocyte pronuclei of *baf-1(L58R)*
340 mutant (400s, Fig. 5F). Lower levels and abnormal dynamics of GFP^{CHMP-7} were also observed
341 during NE formation in mitotic embryos of the *baf-1(L58R)* mutant (Fig. S5E, F), similar to LEM-
342 2^{mNG}.

343 Thus, the localization and dynamics of endogenous CHMP-7 at the reforming NE after meiosis II
344 and mitosis resembles that of LEM-2 and EMR-1 and is consistent with the role of BAF-1 in recruiting
345 and organizing LEM-domain proteins that then regulate CHMP-7 localization and dynamics. However,
346 the enhanced severity of *chmp-7Δ; baf-1(L58R)* suggested that CHMP-7 functions independently of BAF-
347 LEM binding to ensure NE sealing and assembly.

348

349 **LEM-2-dependent and independent pools of CHMP-7 contribute to post-meiotic NE assembly**

350 CHMP-7 localizes to the NE in *baf-1(L58R)* mutants during reformation, albeit in a reduced and
351 disorganized manner at initial timepoints, indicating recruitment of CHMP-7 to the NE is only partially
352 dependent on BAF-LEM binding. Prior work had suggested that both LEM-2 and EMR-1 are redundantly
353 required for CHMP-7 localization to the INM in *C. elegans* (Shankar et al., 2022); however, the
354 misannotated *lem-2* mutant allele strain was used assess CHMP-7 dynamics (see Fig. S2F). We found that
355 nuclear rim localization of GFP^{CHMP-7} was not detectable in the CRISPR-Cas9 gene edited *lem-2Δ*
356 strain (Fig. 6A). GFP^{CHMP-7} localization to the ER in mitotically dividing cells was also abolished in
357 *lem-2Δ* embryos (Fig. S6A). Deletion of the WH domain of *lem-2* using CRISPR-Cas9 gene editing
358 further revealed that the WH of LEM-2 is responsible for recruiting CHMP-7 to the nuclear rim, similar
359 to other systems (Fig. 6A) (Gu et al., 2017; von Appen et al., 2020). Deletion of *emr-1* in this genetic
360 background did not result in a change in GFP^{CHMP-7} localization (Fig. 6A). Thus, LEM-2 is required to
361 retain the majority of CHMP-7 at the INM in *C. elegans* embryos. We did observe a very slight nuclear
362 rim fluorescence signal of GFP^{CHMP-7} in *lem-2Δ* and *lem-2-ΔWH* mutants ~160-180s after anaphase II
363 onset in meiosis and anaphase onset in mitosis (Fig. 6B, S6C) indicating that some CHMP-7 can associate
364 with the nuclear rim without LEM-2, which may be EMR-1-dependent. Neither LEM-2 nor EMR-1 are
365 necessary for nuclear accumulation of CHMP-7 (Fig. 6A) and we observed increased nuclear

366 GFP⁺CHMP-7 levels in *lem-2Δ* and *lem-2 ΔWH* oocyte-derived pronuclei (Fig. S6B). This suggested that
367 the CHMP-7 pool that doesn't localize to the nuclear rim in the absence of LEM-2 binding accumulates in
368 the nucleoplasm. Together, these data demonstrate that the LEM-2 WH domain recruits CHMP-7 to the
369 NE even in the absence of BAF-LEM binding, which may explain why CHMP-7 can compensate for
370 defective NE sealing in the *baf-1(L58R)* background.

371 We next tested whether the LEM-2 independent pool of CHMP-7 that is mostly nuclear-enriched
372 can function to support nuclear assembly. Nuclear GFP⁺CHMP-7 accumulates during post-meiotic and
373 mitotic NE formation, but fails to enrich at the sealing plaque or 'core' domain without LEM-2 (Fig. 6B,
374 S6C, Movie 7). To test if the LEM-2-independent pools of CHMP-7 are functional in NE assembly, we
375 monitored NE formation in *lem-2-ΔWH; baf-1(L58R)* double mutant embryos (Fig. 6C). A lower
376 percentage of *lem-2-ΔWH; baf-1(L58R)* double mutant embryos displayed lobed oocyte-derived pronuclei
377 (~13%; Fig. 6C, D) compared to *chmp-7Δ; baf-1(L58R)* double mutants (see Fig. 5B) suggesting the pool
378 of CHMP-7 is partially functional in NE formation when not bound to LEM-2. Furthermore, the
379 incidence of oocyte pronuclear collapse and embryonic lethality was significantly reduced in the *lem-2*
380 *ΔWH; baf-1(L58R)* mutants as compared to *chmp-7Δ; baf-1(L58R)* mutants (Fig. 6E, F). Together, these
381 data reveal that LEM-2-independent pools of CHMP-7 contribute to NE formation and suggest that a
382 nucleoplasmic pool of CHMP-7 may be functional in nuclear assembly in *C. elegans*.

383 Discussion

384 We demonstrate that BAF-1 binding to LEM-domain proteins determines the position and timing
385 of LEM-2/EMR-1 and CHMP-7 assembly at the ‘sealing plaque,’ which forms the core domain of the NE
386 adjacent to spindle MTs in fertilized *C. elegans* oocytes. We show that NE hole closure around spindle
387 MTs does not depend on LEM-2, EMR-1 or CHMP-7 on their own, but BAF binding to LEM-2 and EMR-
388 1 functions redundantly to enable hole closure. Our genetic analysis also revealed unique functions for
389 LEM-2 and EMR-1 aside from binding to BAF-1 in NE stability and germline development. We
390 demonstrate that CHMP-7 becomes essential to formation of the NE permeability barrier and embryonic
391 viability in the absence of BAF-LEM domain binding. Both LEM-2 dependent and independent pools of
392 CHMP-7 contribute to this essential function. Thus, multiple redundant mechanisms exist to prevent failure
393 in post-meiotic NE assembly, which is essential for early embryo development.

394 We propose that BAF-mediated recruitment of LEM proteins and associated membranes resolves
395 large gaps in the core domain of the NE that is obstructed by spindle microtubules while CHMP-7 functions
396 with LEM-2 to stabilize the NE against failure in hole closure (Fig. S6D, top panel). Our prior work showed
397 that limiting membrane biogenesis ensures successful post-meiotic hole closure (Penfield et al., 2020;
398 Barger et al., 2022), providing further evidence that membrane feeding to narrow and close holes may be
399 regulated to establish the NE permeability barrier. The function for BAF-LEM binding in post-meiotic hole
400 closure is similar to its role in repair of interphase ruptures that do not contain MTs but are also micron-
401 scale sized (Halfmann et al., 2019; Young et al., 2020). *In vitro* cross-linked BAF can exclude large
402 macromolecules (Samwer et al., 2017) and it’s possible that BAF-LEM interactions further serve to plug
403 large NE holes to promote sealing. Our data reveals an additional requirement for LEM-2/CHMP-7 when
404 spindle MTs are present to stabilize the NE. Our genetic analysis also shows that different LEM-domain
405 proteins serve distinct functions in NE assembly that are independent but partially redundant with BAF-
406 LEM binding. How BAF-LEM interactions are further regulated by BAF phosphorylation during NE
407 sealing and assembly requires further study.

408 The LEM-2 winged helix (WH) domain activates CHMP-7 to promote its ESCRT-III
409 polymerization *in vitro* (Gatta et al., 2021; von Appen et al., 2020). However, neither LEM-2 nor CHMP-
410 7 are required for closure of the large post-meiotic NE hole on their own (Penfield et al., 2020). LEM-
411 2/CHMP-7 assembly may instead provide a fallback mechanism that stabilizes the NE hole should NE
412 sealing fail (Fig. S6D). A role for CHMP-7 in restricting NE hole size has recently been suggested for NE
413 sealing following spindle pole body extrusion in *S. pombe* (Ader et al., 2022). It is also possible that LEM-
414 2/CHMP-7 restrict uncoordinated membrane feeding or remodel abnormal membranes at the core region
415 that otherwise make NE assembly vulnerable to failure, especially with presence of a large hole and spindle
416 MTs. Evidence in mammalian cells and budding yeast suggests that improper activation and mislocalization

417 of CHMP7 can lead to harmful nuclear membrane deformations (Thaller et al., 2019; Vietri et al., 2020).
418 Thus, the disorganized assemblies of core proteins that we observed in the absence of BAF-LEM domain
419 binding may not only be perturbed in function for sealing, but also deleterious to NE formation. We also
420 cannot eliminate the possibility that the BAF-L58R mutant may retain some binding to LEM domain
421 proteins, although the accumulation of LEM domain proteins at the NE is significantly reduced.
422 Nevertheless, our genetic evidence showing that loss of CHMP-7 exacerbates phenotypes in the BAF-L58R
423 mutant suggest that these assemblies or other pools of CHMP-7 (see below) protect against assembly
424 failure.

425 In *C. elegans*, CHMP-7 is constitutively localized in the nucleoplasm and at the INM in fully
426 formed nuclei (Shankar et al., 2022). This localization is unlike CHMP7 in budding yeast and mammalian
427 cells in which it is cytoplasmic or ER-associated, respectively, and thus physically segregated from LEM-
428 2 presumably in an inactive form (Bauer et al., 2015; Gatta et al., 2021; Olmos et al., 2016; Thaller et al.,
429 2019). CHMP7 is excluded from the nucleus in these systems through a conserved nuclear export signal
430 and activated when it gains access to the LEM-2 WH in mitosis and upon loss of NE integrity in
431 interphase (Gatta et al., 2021; Thaller et al., 2019; Vietri et al., 2020). The fact that CHMP-7 is
432 constitutively nuclear-enriched and accessible to LEM-2 in *C. elegans* highlights that there may be
433 alternative mechanisms that activate this complex upon loss of NE integrity or that cytoplasmic CHMP-7
434 in *C. elegans* may be specifically primed for this function. When we generated a deletion allele in *lem-2*,
435 we discovered that LEM-2 is required for the majority of CHMP-7 to associate with the INM in *C.*
436 *elegans*. Thus, LEM-2/CHMP-7 may be co-polymerized at the INM in *C. elegans* after NE sealing, but
437 limited in the ability to recruit downstream ESCRTs.

438 We found that a LEM-2-WH-independent pool of CHMP-7 partially supports NE assembly (Fig.
439 S6D, bottom panels). Prior work showed that CHMP7 binds peripherally to membranes through a
440 hydrophobic patch that in budding yeast resembles an amphipathic helix (AH) and this association is
441 necessary for its function (Olmos et al., 2016; Thaller et al., 2021). Prediction algorithms were unable to
442 identify a reliable AH in a similar region for *C. elegans* CHMP-7 where a stretch of hydrophobic residues
443 exist. Whether the nuclear or minor nuclear rim pool of CHMP-7 is the functional pool that partially
444 supports NE assembly is unclear. Interestingly, aberrant nuclear accumulation of CHMP7 is associated
445 with diseased neurons from patients with ALS (amyotrophic lateral sclerosis) and reduces NPC levels
446 (Coyne et al., 2021). There may be aspects of *C. elegans* CHMP-7 that allow for it to remain inactive
447 when soluble in the nucleus or for it to perform a unique function when unbound to membranes.

448 It is surprising that some oocyte-derived pronuclei assemble in the absence of both BAF-LEM
449 domain binding and CHMP-7 even with a defective nuclear permeability barrier. This suggests that
450 nuclear assembly is prone to failure at a stochastic rate that may depend on whether the timing of

451 dissolution and detachment of spindle MTs is synchronized with the local stability of the NE hole. These
452 NE irregularities sometimes prevent nuclear assembly or allow assembly of nuclei that later collapse. Our
453 genetic experimental system of *C. elegans* allowed us to quantitatively analyze NE sealing and monitor its
454 impact on nuclear assembly and embryonic survival. Together, the redundant mechanisms that support
455 NE assembly made evident in this study emphasize the robust nature of NE formation that is required for
456 early development.

457

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464

465 **Competing interests**

466 The authors declare no competing or financial interests.

467

468 **Author Contributions**

469 Conceptualization: S.R.B, S.B ; Methodology: S.R.B, L.P.; Validation: S.R.B.; Formal analysis: S.R.B.;
470 Investigation: S.R.B; Resources: S.R.B, L.P.; Data curation: S.R.B.; Writing - original draft: S.R.B, S.B;
471 Writing – review & editing: S.R.B, L.P., S.B. ; Visualization: S.R.B.; Supervision: S.B.; Project
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477

478 **Data availability**

479 Almost all relevant data can be found within the article and its supplementary information. Further
480 requests for data or reagents can be made to the corresponding author. CRISPR-Cas9 edited strains will
481 be deposited in the CGC.

482

483 **Materials and Methods**

484

485 **Strain maintenance and generation**

486 The *C. elegans* strains used in this study are listed in Table S1. Strains were maintained at 20°C on nematode
487 growth media (NGM) plates seeded with OP-50 *Escherichia coli*. The original MosSCI strain was
488 maintained at 15°C.

489

490 *MosSCI strains*

491 The re-encoded *baf-1* transgene was cloned into pCFJ151 for integration into the Mos1 site on Chromosome
492 I (MosSCI; (Frøkjær-Jensen et al., 2008)). Mutagenesis was performed using the primers listed in Table
493 S2. Injection mixes contained the following: *baf-1* transgene-containing plasmid (10 ng/μl), a plasmid
494 encoding the Mos1 transposase (Pglh- 2::transposase, pJL43.1, 10 ng/μl), and three plasmids encoding
495 fluorescent co-injection markers: Pmyo-2::mCherry (pCFJ90, 1.4 ng/μl), Pmyo- 3::mCherry (pCFJ104, 2.9
496 ng/μl), and Prab-3::mCherry (pGH8, 5.7 ng/μl). Injection mix was spun down (15,000 rpm, 15 minutes,
497 4°C) to remove particulates. Young adult hermaphrodites (EG8078) were injected and singled onto OP50
498 seeded plates for recovery. After ~7-10 days, non-*unc* progeny lacking fluorescent markers were isolated
499 and screened for transgene integration by PCR.

500

501 *CRISPR-Cas9 deletion strains*

502 The deletion for *lem-2* (W01G7.5) was generated using two CRISPR guides “crRNA”, which were chosen
503 using IDT’s custom CRISPR guide algorithm (See Figure S1G). Individually, 1 μl of the purified crRNAs
504 were annealed to 1 μl of trans-activating crRNA (tracrRNA) by incubating RNAs at 95°C for 5 minutes. A
505 *dpy-10* crRNA was used for co-CRISPR selection. An injection mix with the following components was
506 set up at room temperature and incubated for 5 minutes: *lem-2* crRNA-1 (11.7 μM), *lem-2* crRNA-2 (11.7
507 μM), purified Cas9-NLS protein (qb3 Berkeley, 14.7 μM), *dpy-10* guide (3.7 μM). Finally, a *dpy-10* repair
508 template (29 ng/mL) (Paix et al., 2015) was added and the mix was spun down (15,000 rpm) for 30 minutes
509 at 4°C. The RNA-protein mix was injected into the gonads of N2 young adult worms, which were allowed
510 to recover for three days. F1 progeny with a roller phenotype were singled out to individual plates. After
511 three days, F1 mothers were genotyped by PCR. The deletion strain was sequenced and outcrossed six times
512 to N2 worms before use and characterization.

513

514 *CRISPR-Cas9 fluorescent knock-in strains*

515 Fluorescent endogenous tagging of *baf-1*, *lem-2* and *emr-1* was performed using a self-excising cassette
516 (SEC) repair template (Dickinson and Goldstein, 2016; Hastie et al., 2019) (see Fig. S2E & S3A).
517 Homology arms (500-800bp) were cloned into the SEC vectors (pDD268). Unique sgRNAs were cloned
518 into the Cas9 guide plasmid pDD122 (Addgene, #47550). Following sequencing, injection plasmids were
519 miniprepmed using PureLink HiPure Plasmid Miniprep Kit (Thermo Fisher Scientific). Plasmids were

520 combined at 100 ng/μl SEC plasmids and 50 ng/μl Cas9 plasmid and spun down (15,000 rpm) for 30
521 minutes at 4°C. Young adult N2 worms were injected and rescued to individual plates to recover for three
522 days at 25°C. Plates were screened for roller progeny and positive plates were treated with approximately
523 200-300 μl of hygromycin B (20 mg/mL) (Thermo Fisher Scientific). Hygromycin-resistant roller worms
524 were singled to individual plates to assess roller progeny. Plates that had roller progeny were heat-shocked
525 at 34°C for 4 hours and allowed to recover at 20°C. Non-roller worms were singled to individual plates and
526 progeny were screened for fluorescent protein integration by microscopy. Knock-in worms were sequence-
527 confirmed and outcrossed four times to N2 worms.

528

529 **RNAi**

530 Primers were designed using Primer3T to amplify a 200-1000 bp region of the gene of interest (see Table
531 S2) using N2 gDNA as a template. The amplicon was then column purified and reversed transcribed using
532 a T7 enzyme (MEGAscript, Life Technologies). The synthesized RNAs were purified using phenol-
533 chloroform and resuspended in 1X soaking buffer (32.7 mM Na₂HPO₄, 16.5 mM KH₂PO₄, 6.3 mM NaCl,
534 14.2 mM NH₄Cl). RNA reactions were annealed at 68°C for 10 minutes followed by 37°C for 30 minutes.
535 dsRNAs were brought to a final concentration of ~2000 ng/μl and stored as 2-μl aliquots at -80°C. For each
536 experiment, a fresh aliquot was diluted to ~1000 ng/μl using 1X soaking buffer and centrifuged at 15,000
537 rpm for 30 minutes at 4°C. 0.35μl of the diluted dsRNA was loaded into the back of a pulled capillary
538 needle and injected into the gut of L4 worms. Injected worms were rescued to plates seeded with OP-50
539 and allowed to recover prior to imaging or lethality analysis. Knockdown time for the following targets:
540 *baf-1* (48-72 hr), *emr-1* (24 hr), *lem-4* (24 hr), *chmp-7* (28 hr).

541

542 **Lethality and brood size quantification**

543 L4 worms were singled (uninjected) or injected with indicated dsRNA and allowed to recover for 24 hours
544 at 20°C. Worms were then singled to individual plates for 24 hours (day 1). Worms were transferred to
545 another plate for a final 24 hours (day 2). Worms were then killed and plates corresponding to 24-48 hours
546 post-injection (day 1) were counted for hatched larvae and unhatched embryos. The next day the plate
547 corresponding to 48-72 hours post-injection (day 2) were counted. The total number of embryos and larvae
548 were combined for each time window to calculate the brood size and the 48-72 hr embryonic lethality is
549 reported.

550

551 **Immunoblots**

552 *Generation of whole worm lysate*

553 Prior to lysate generation, L4 worms were selected 24 hours prior. For each sample, a microcentrifuge tube
554 was filled with 30 μ l of M9 Buffer and volume was marked. 35 adult worms were singled on to an indented
555 slide filled with 75 μ l of M9 + 0.1% Triton-X100. Worms were then collected into the marked
556 microcentrifuge tube and washed three times with M9 + 0.1% Triton X-100 (200 x g, 2 minutes). After the
557 final wash, samples were brought up to a final volume of 30 μ l using M9 + 0.1% Triton. Then, 10 μ l of 4X
558 Laemmli sample buffer was added and the tubes were mixed. The samples were then sonicated at 70°C for
559 15 minutes, followed by incubation for five minutes at 95°C. Samples were re-sonicated at 70°C for an
560 additional 15 minutes. Worm lysates were stored at -20°C until they were run on an SDS-PAGE protein
561 gel.

562

563 *Gel electrophoresis*

564 Worm lysates were loaded on a 4-20% Mini-Protean TGX Precast Gel (Bio-Rad). The gel was run at 120V
565 for 15 minutes to fully collapse samples and then 180V. Transfer to PDVF (Thermo Scientific) was
566 performed at 4°C at 350mA for 1.25 hr. Membranes were blocked in 5% non-fat milk/TBST for one hour
567 at room temperature and incubated overnight at 4°C with the following primary antibodies diluted in
568 blocking reagent: 1 μ g/mL mouse α -alpha-tubulin (DM1A, EMD Millipore), 1 μ g/mL rabbit α -LEM-2
569 (Novus Biologicals), 1 μ g/mL rabbit α -CHMP-7 (Shankar et al., 2022) and rabbit α -BAF-1 (Gorjanacz et
570 al., 2007). The following day, membranes were briefly rinsed in TBS followed by three five-minute washes
571 in TBST. Membranes were then incubated with appropriate secondary antibodies for 1.25 hrs at room
572 temperature. Secondary antibodies were diluted 1:10,000 for horseradish peroxidase (HRP)-conjugated
573 goat-anti-rabbit and HRP-conjugated goat-anti-mouse (Thermo Fischer Scientific). Membranes were again
574 briefly rinsed in TBS followed by three five-minute washes in TBST. Membranes were incubated with
575 Clarity Max Western ECL Substrate (BIO-RAD) for five minutes before imaging (BioRad ChemiDoc MP
576 Imaging Systems).

577

578 **Immunofluorescence**

579 *Slide preparation*

580 Microscope slides (Fisher Scientific Premium Microscope Slides Superfrost) were coated with poly-L-
581 lysine (1 μ g/mL) and dried on a heat-block. Slides were then baked at 95°C for 30 minutes and used the
582 same day.

583

584 *Fixation and immunofluorescence*

585 15-20 adult worms were picked into a 4 μ l drop of ddH₂O and covered with a standard 18x18mm coverslip.
586 Embryos were pushed out of the adult worms by pressing down on the corners of the coverslip with a pipet

587 tip. To crack the eggshell and permeabilize the embryos, slides were placed in liquid nitrogen for ~five-
588 minutes. Coverslips were quickly removed by razor blade to pop off the coverslip. Slides were then fixed
589 in pre-chilled 100% methanol at -20 °C for 20 minutes. Following fixation, slides were washed two times
590 in 1X PBS at room temperature for 10 minutes each using a coplin jar. After the second wash, samples were
591 blocked with 1 % BSA in PBS per slide in a humid chamber for one hour at room temperature. Slides were
592 then incubated overnight at 4°C with primary antibodies diluted in PBS (45 µl per slide; rabbit α-LMN-1
593 (1 µg/mL) (Penfield et al., 2018). Following primary antibody incubation, slides were washed two times in
594 1X PBS+ 0.2% Tween 20 (PBST) at room temperature for 10 minutes each using a coplin jar. Following
595 the second wash, slides were incubated at room temperature for two hours in the dark with secondary
596 antibodies, anti-rabbit Cy3/Rhodamine, 1:200; anti-mouse FITC, 1:200 (Jackson ImmunoResearch), diluted
597 in PBS. Slides were again washed two times in PBST at room temperature for 10 minutes each in the dark.
598 Samples were stained with 1 µg/mL Hoechst (diluted from a 1 mg/mL stock in H₂O) for 10 minutes. Slides
599 were washed quickly once with PBS at room temperature prior to mounting. Mounting media (Molecular
600 Probes ProLong Diamond Antifade Reagent) was added to each sample and coverslips were adhered with
601 clear nail-polish. Slides were dried at room temperature overnight and stored at -20°C.

602

603 **Microscopy**

604 *Live-cell imaging*

605 2% agarose imaging pads were made by sandwiching molten agarose (95°C) on a glass slide. Gravid adult
606 hermaphrodites were dissected using G10 beveled needles in 7 µl of Egg Salts (88.5 mM NaCl, 30mM KCl,
607 2.55 mM MgCl₂, 2.55 mM CaCl₂, 3.75 mM HEPES pH 7.4) on a glass slide. Select embryos were
608 transferred to the imaging pad using a mouth pipette. Stage of interest embryos were delicately positioned
609 using an eyelash tool and a glass coverslip was gently added on top of the imaging pad. Imaging was
610 performed on an inverted Nikon (Melville, NY) Ti microscope with a 60X (1.4 NA) Plan Apo objective
611 lens, a confocal scanner unit (CSU-XI, Yokogawa) with solid state 150-mW 488-nm and 100-mW 560-nm
612 lasers, and an ORCA R-3 Digital CCD Camera (Hamamatsu). For most experiments, images were acquired
613 every 20 seconds at five 2 µm-step z-slices. Imaging was performed in a temperature-controlled room at
614 20°C.

615

616 *Live-cell meiosis imaging*

617 Early embryo imaging, prior to eggshell formation, has been previously described (Maddox and Maddox,
618 2012). In brief, a circle of vasoline is drawn on a 24 x 50mm coverslip (Fisherbrand). 3 µl of Egg Salts are
619 added to the center of the circle to dissect embryos from gravid adults. A second long coverslip is placed

620 on top of first coverslip to form a droplet. Embryos are imaged in the suspended droplet with the vasoline
621 preventing any harmful compression.

622

623 *Fixed imaging*

624 Immunofluorescent, fixed embryo imaging was conducted on an inverted Nikon Ti2 Eclipse microscope
625 equipped with solid state 405, 445, 488, 515, 594, 561, 594, and 640 nm lasers, a Yokogawa CSU-W1
626 confocal scanner unit, a 60X (1.4 NA) Plan Apo objective lens, and a Prime BSI sCMOS camera
627 (Photometrics).

628

629 **Image analysis**

630 *Nuclear import analysis*

631 To determine the fluorescence intensity of NLS-LacI:GFP inside the nucleus of one-cell stage embryos, the
632 chromatin was traced with either the freehand or circle tool in ImageJ. Camera background was determined
633 by drawing a 50x50 pixel box in vacant areas of the time lapse. Average cytoplasmic values were
634 determined by drawing a 20x20 pixel box inside the embryo, away from the growing nucleus. The nuclear
635 to cytoplasmic ratio (N:C) was determined by subtracting the average camera background from each value
636 and then the nuclear value was divided by the cytoplasmic value. To account for differences in nuclear size,
637 the ratio was then multiplied by the nuclear area. The import of the NLS-LacI:GFP in to the pronuclei was
638 graphed relative to pseudocleavage regression.

639

640 *Line scan analysis of proteins at nuclear envelope and nucleoplasm*

641 A five-pixel wide line was drawn and across the entire nucleus to determine the fluorescence intensity. Line
642 scans (14 μm) along the maternal pronucleus were done at 200 seconds prior to pseudocleavage regression.
643 Lines were drawn to avoid internal membranes to gather isolated nucleoplasmic values. The same line scan
644 was used to acquire the average intensity for camera background and average was subtracted from all
645 values. These values were then plotted against the relative position along the line. The two maximum peaks
646 of the nuclear envelope values were averaged for the “nuclear envelope” value. ~15-25 values were
647 averaged in the nucleoplasm area to represent the nucleoplasmic value. The averaged nuclear envelope
648 value was divided by the nucleoplasmic value to calculate the nuclear envelope : nucleoplasmic ratio.

649

650 *Line scan analysis of nuclear envelope protein dynamics during meiosis and mitosis*

651 A three-pixel wide by five-micron long line was drawn on the reforming nuclear envelope. Anaphase II
652 onset was defined as the start of anaphase B with visible separation of chromatin away from the second
653 polar body at the cortex. Line scans of nascent membrane at anaphase onset were drawn along chromatin

654 mass using the line or free-hand tool in ImageJ. The same line scan was used to acquire the average intensity
655 for camera background and the average was subtracted from all values. These values were then plotted
656 against the relative position along the line. Line scans of sealing plaque/puncta enrichment were drawn
657 through the enrichment to the opposite nuclear membrane using the line tool. The maximum peak values
658 of the sealing plaque were divided by the values at the opposing nuclear rim to calculate the “LEM-2 puncta
659 accumulation”. A similar technique was used to track sealing plaque proteins during mitosis. The free-hand
660 line tool was used to draw a three-pixel wide line over one face of nuclear membrane alongside chromatin
661 over time. These values were background-subtracted using an averaged camera background value. 5 values
662 at each end of the line, representing the “non-core” regions, were averaged. The maximum intensity values
663 along the line were divided by the non-core average to track core-domain enrichment over time (see Fig.
664 S3E).

665

666 **Statistical Analysis**

667 All statistical tests were performed using GraphPad Prism 9. Statistical analysis was performed on
668 datasets with multiple samples and from independent biological repeats. Statistical tests used, sample
669 sizes, definitions of replicates (N, n), and p values ($p < 0.05$ as significance cutoff) are reported in figures,
670 and/or figure legends, or text.

671

672

673

674 **References**

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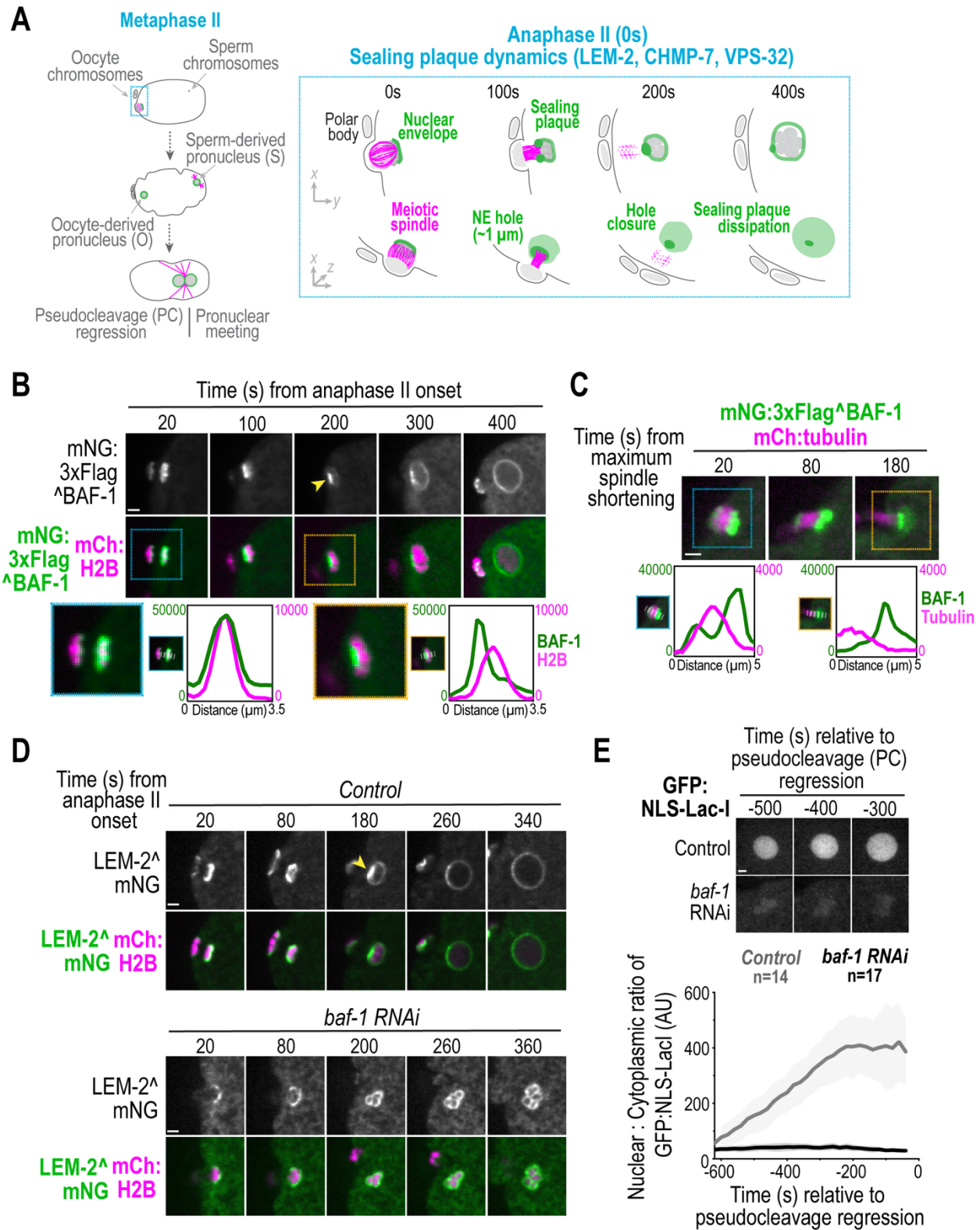
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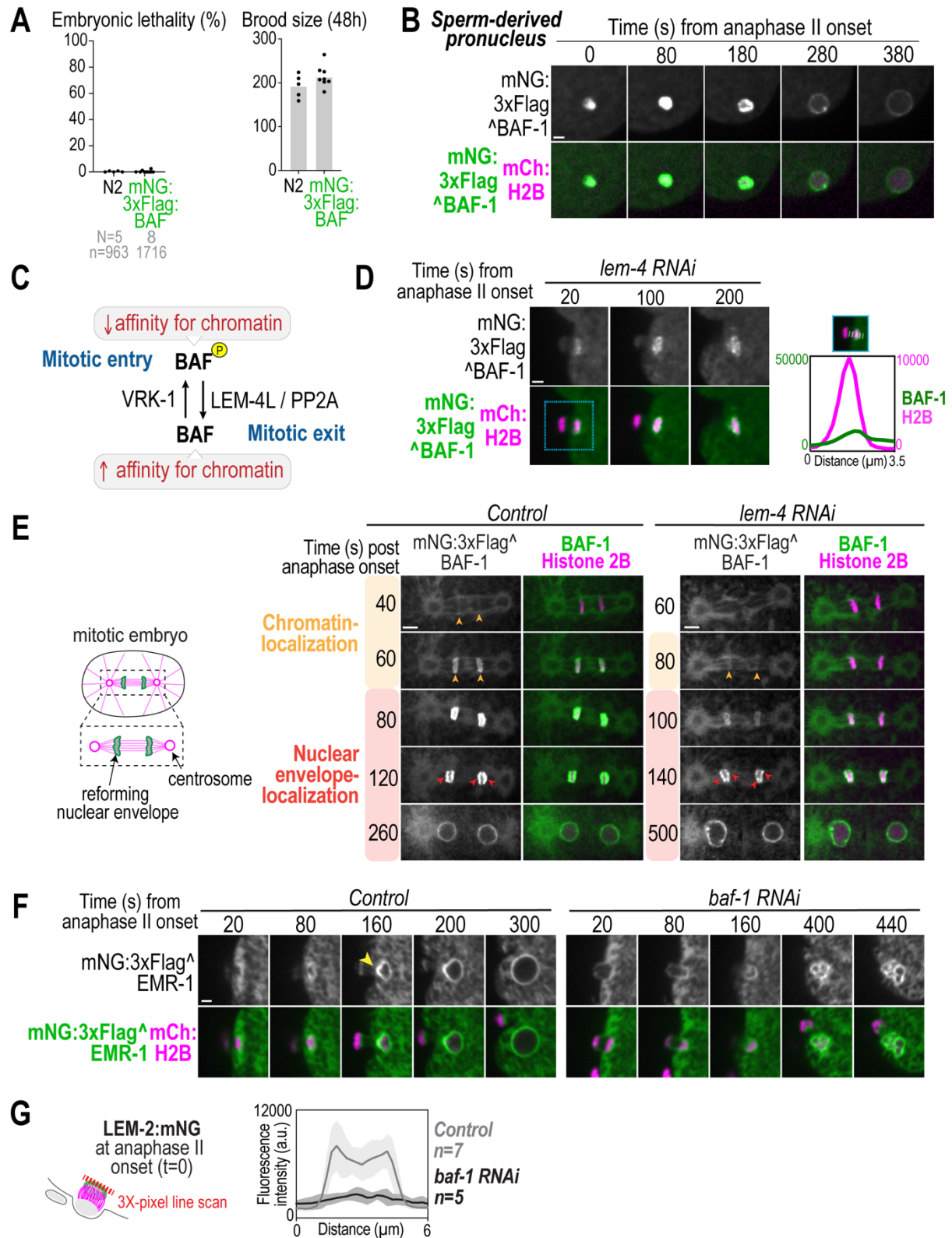
858 **Figures**

Barger et al. Figure 1



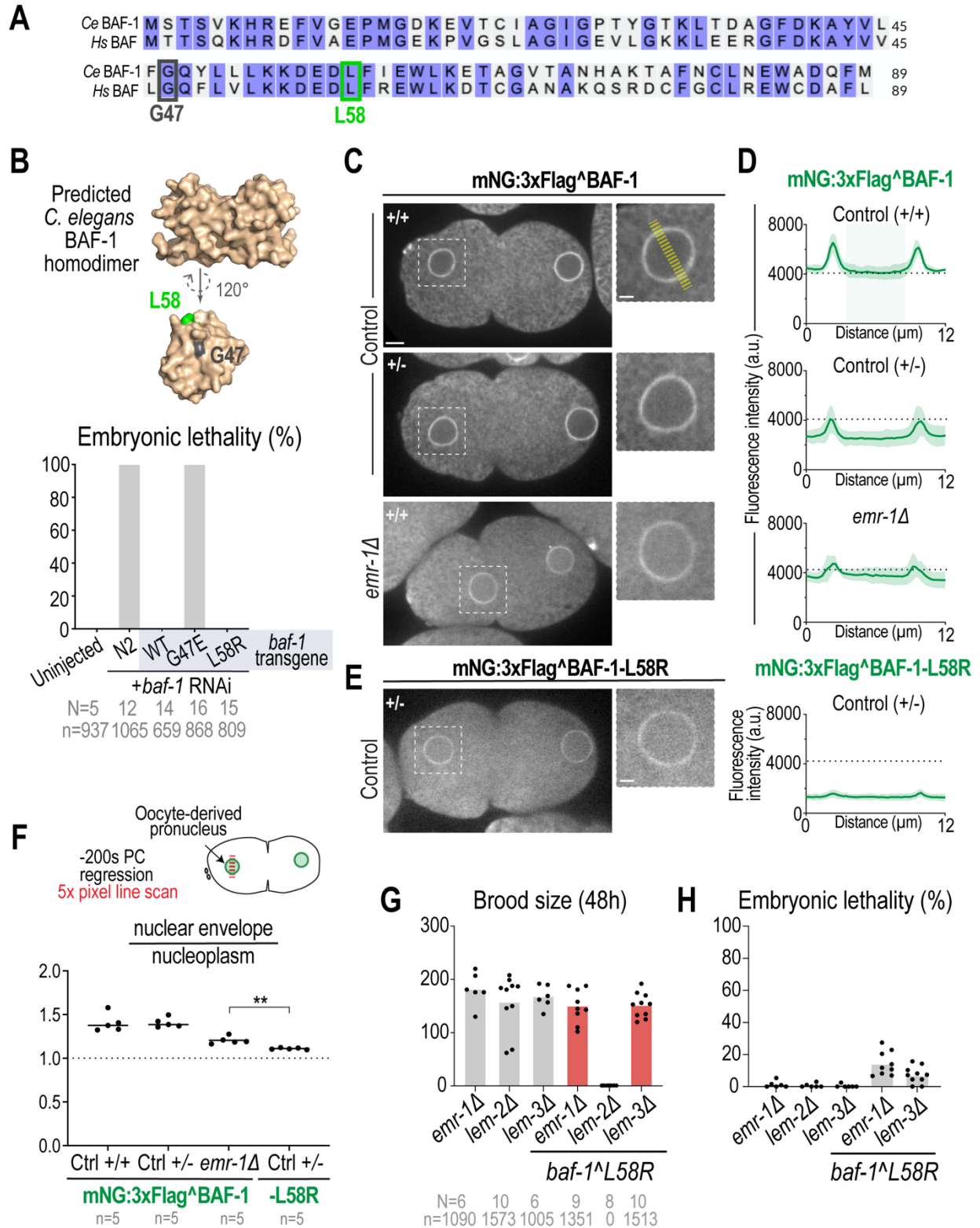
860 **Figure 1. BAF-1 is required for sealing plaque formation during meiosis II in *C. elegans*** (A) Left,
861 Schematic representation of oocyte- and sperm-derived pronuclear formation and migration after meiosis
862 II. Right (box), schematic of sealing plaque dynamics relative to anaphase II. (B) Spinning disk confocal
863 images from time lapse series of mNG^ΔBAF-1 dynamics relative to anaphase II. Yellow arrowhead marks
864 sealing plaque. Below, zoom insets of select frames for background-corrected line scans of indicated
865 markers at indicated timepoints. Time in seconds relative to anaphase II onset. (C) Spinning disk confocal
866 images from time lapse series of mNG^ΔBAF-1 (green) and meiotic spindle microtubules (magenta).
867 Below, zoom insets of select frames for background-corrected line scans of indicated markers at indicated
868 timepoints. Time in seconds relative to maximum spindle shortening. (D) Spinning disk confocal images
869 from time lapse series of LEM-2^ΔmNG in indicated conditions. Yellow arrowhead marks sealing plaque.
870 Time in seconds relative to anaphase onset. (E) Above, Spinning disk confocal images of GFP:NLS:LacI
871 fluorescence in oocyte-derived pronucleus in indicated conditions. Below, plot (average \pm SD) of
872 normalized nuclear GFP:NLS-LacI fluorescence for indicated conditions. Time in seconds relative to
873 pseudocleavage (PC) regression. n = # of embryos. Scale bars, 2 μ m.

Barger et al. Figure S1



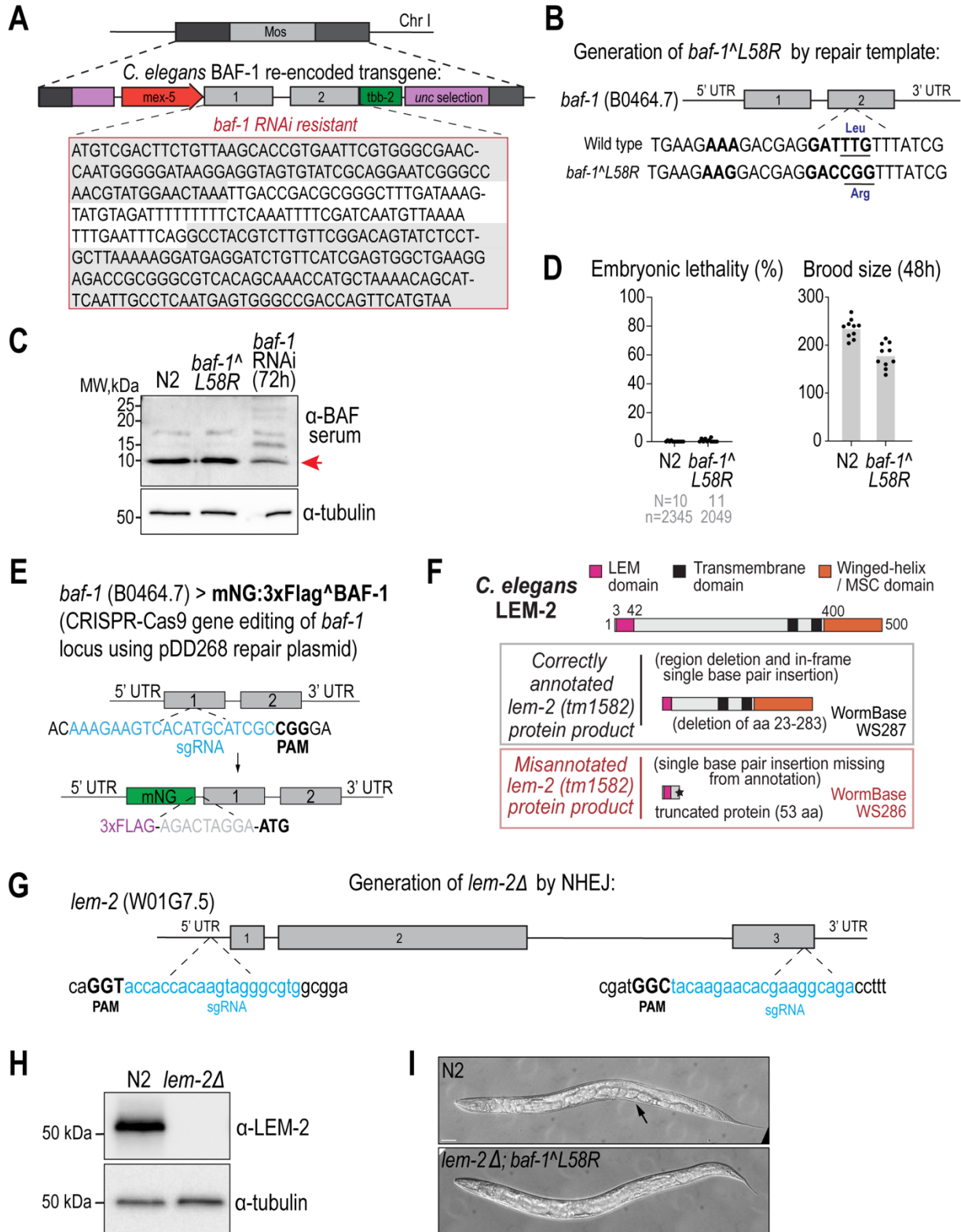
875 **Figure S1. Regulation of BAF-1 dynamics**, related to Figure 1. (A) Plot representing percentage of
876 embryonic lethality and brood size in indicated conditions. N = # of worms, n = # of embryos. (B)
877 Spinning disk confocal images from time lapse series of endogenous mNG^{BAF-1} localization on sperm-
878 derived pronucleus. Time in seconds relative to anaphase II onset. (C) Schematic of phosphoregulation of
879 BAF-1 and the effect on chromatin interaction. (D) Left, spinning disk confocal time lapse images of
880 mNG^{BAF-1} and mCh:Histone(H)2B with *lem-4* RNAi in oocyte meiosis II. Time is in seconds relative
881 to anaphase II. Right, plot of background-corrected line scan of indicated markers. (E) Left, schematic
882 representation of reforming nuclear envelopes after first mitotic division in *C. elegans*. Right, spinning
883 disk confocal time lapse series of mNG^{BAF-1} and mCh:Histone(H)2B in indicated conditions. Color of
884 arrowheads correspond to colored labels. Time in seconds relative to mitotic anaphase onset. Scale bar, 5
885 μm . (F) Spinning disk confocal images from time lapse series of mNG^{EMR-1} dynamics during oocyte-
886 derived pronuclear formation in indicated conditions. Yellow arrow marks sealing plaque. Time in
887 seconds relative to anaphase II onset. Scale bar, 2 μm . (G) Left, schematic of (Right) line scan analysis
888 (average \pm SD) of LEM-2^{mNG} at nuclear rim at anaphase II onset in indicated conditions. n = # of
889 embryos.

Barger et al. Figure 2



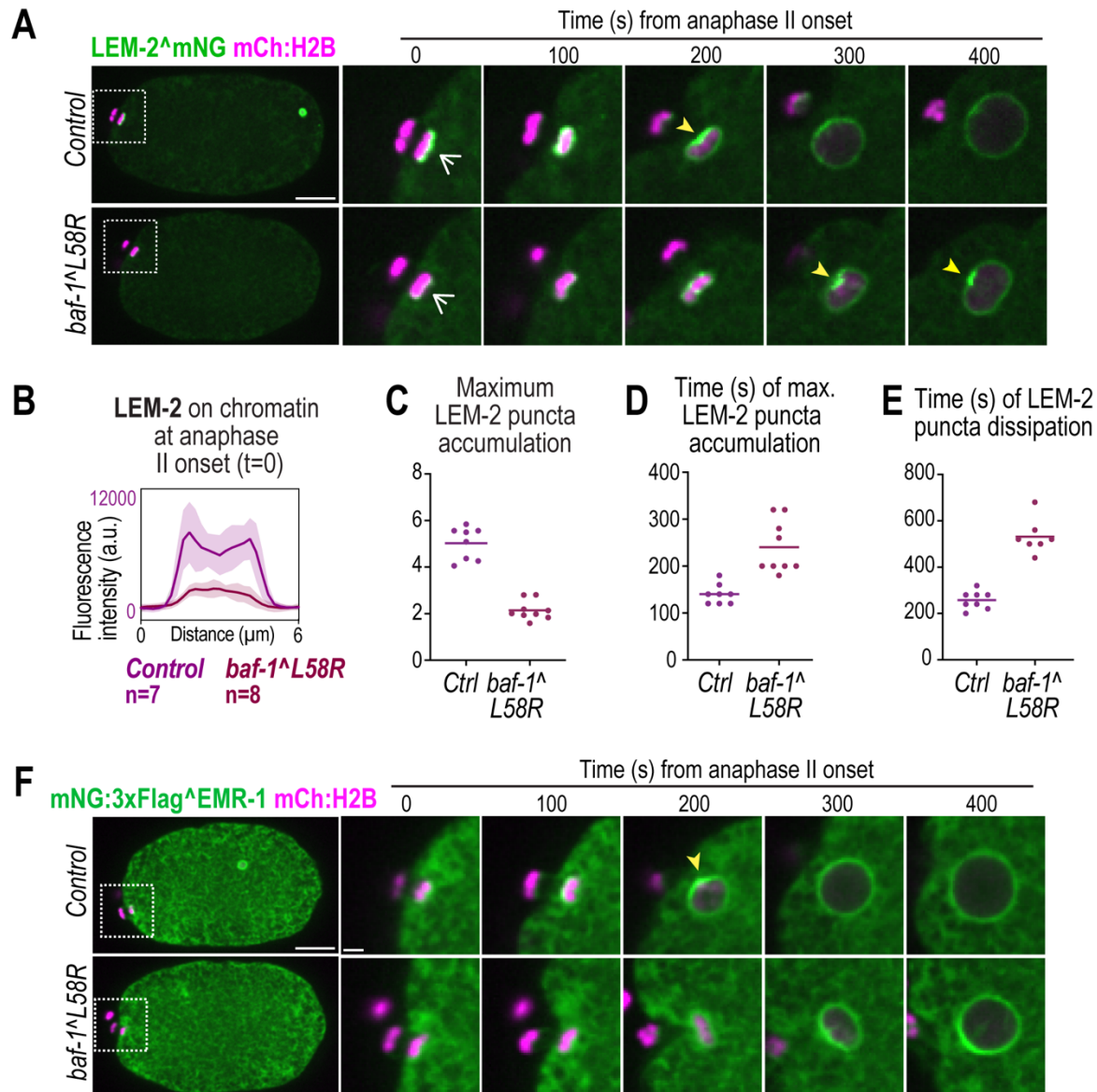
891 **Figure 2. A mutation in BAF-1 that selectively inhibits LEM-domain binding is non-essential in *C.***
892 ***elegans*.** (A) Amino acid sequence alignment of human BAF and *C. elegans* BAF-1. Identical amino acid
893 residues shaded in purple; mutations in indicated amino acid residues are boxed. (B) Above, 3D space
894 filling model of predicted *C. elegans* BAF-1 homodimer generated using (Miradita et al., 2022; Goddart
895 et al., 2018; Pettersen et al., 2021) and monomer using AlphaFold Protein Structure Database (Jumper et
896 al., 2021; Varadi et al., 2022). Monomer rotated 120 degrees on the x-axis relative to dimer with amino
897 acid residues mutated in this study highlighted. Below, Plot of percentage of embryonic lethality in
898 indicated conditions. N = # of worms, n = # of embryos. (C-E) Left, Spinning disk confocal images of
899 mNG^{BAF-1} at 200 sec prior to pseudocleavage (PC) regression in indicated conditions. Homozygous
900 (+/+) or heterozygous (+/-) insertion of mNG at endogenous *baf-1* locus marked in images. Right, Plots of
901 background-corrected line scan (average \pm SD) of mNG^{BAF-1} (n = 5 embryos). Fluorescence signal
902 from nucleoplasm shaded in green in control. Scale bars, 5 μ m; Scale bar in zoom insets, 2 μ m. (F)
903 Above, Schematic representation of line scan analysis. Below, Plot representing ratio of mNG signal at
904 nuclear envelope (average of peak signals) and nucleoplasm (average signal between peaks) from line
905 scan analysis in indicated conditions. Statistical significance determined by Mann-Whitney test (**=p-
906 0.0079). n = # of embryos. (G, H) Plot representing embryonic lethality (G) and brood size (H) in
907 indicated conditions. N = # of worms, n = # of embryos.

Barger et al. Figure S2



909 **Figure S2. Generation and analysis of *baf-1* and *lem-2* mutant alleles.** (A) Schematic showing single
910 copy insertion of the RNAi-resistant *baf-1* transgene integrated in the MosI transposon site of
911 chromosome I. (B) Schematic of CRISPR-Cas9 edits at endogenous *baf-1* locus to generate the *baf-*
912 *1(L58R)* mutant allele. (C) Representative immunoblot of whole worm lysates incubated with antibodies
913 against BAF in indicated conditions. N = 3 independent experiments. (D) Plots (average + replicates)
914 representing embryonic lethality and brood size in indicated conditions. N = # of worms, n = # of
915 embryos. (E) Schematic representation of endogenous *baf-1* locus with CRISPR guides used to insert
916 mNG. (F) Schematic representation of LEM-2 protein domain structure. Gray box, LEM-2 mutant protein
917 produced from correctly annotated *tm1582* mutant allele. Red box, LEM-2 mutant protein predicted from
918 misannotated *tm1582* mutant allele. (G) Schematic representation of endogenous *lem-2* locus and
919 CRISPR guides to excise the *lem-2* gene to generate the null allele used in this study. (H) Immunoblot of
920 whole worm lysates incubated with antibodies made against N-terminus (aa 1-100) of LEM-2 protein
921 (Novus Biologicals) in indicated strains. (I) Representative brightfield image of whole worms in indicated
922 strain. Black arrow points to germline/embryos. Scale bar, 50 μ m.

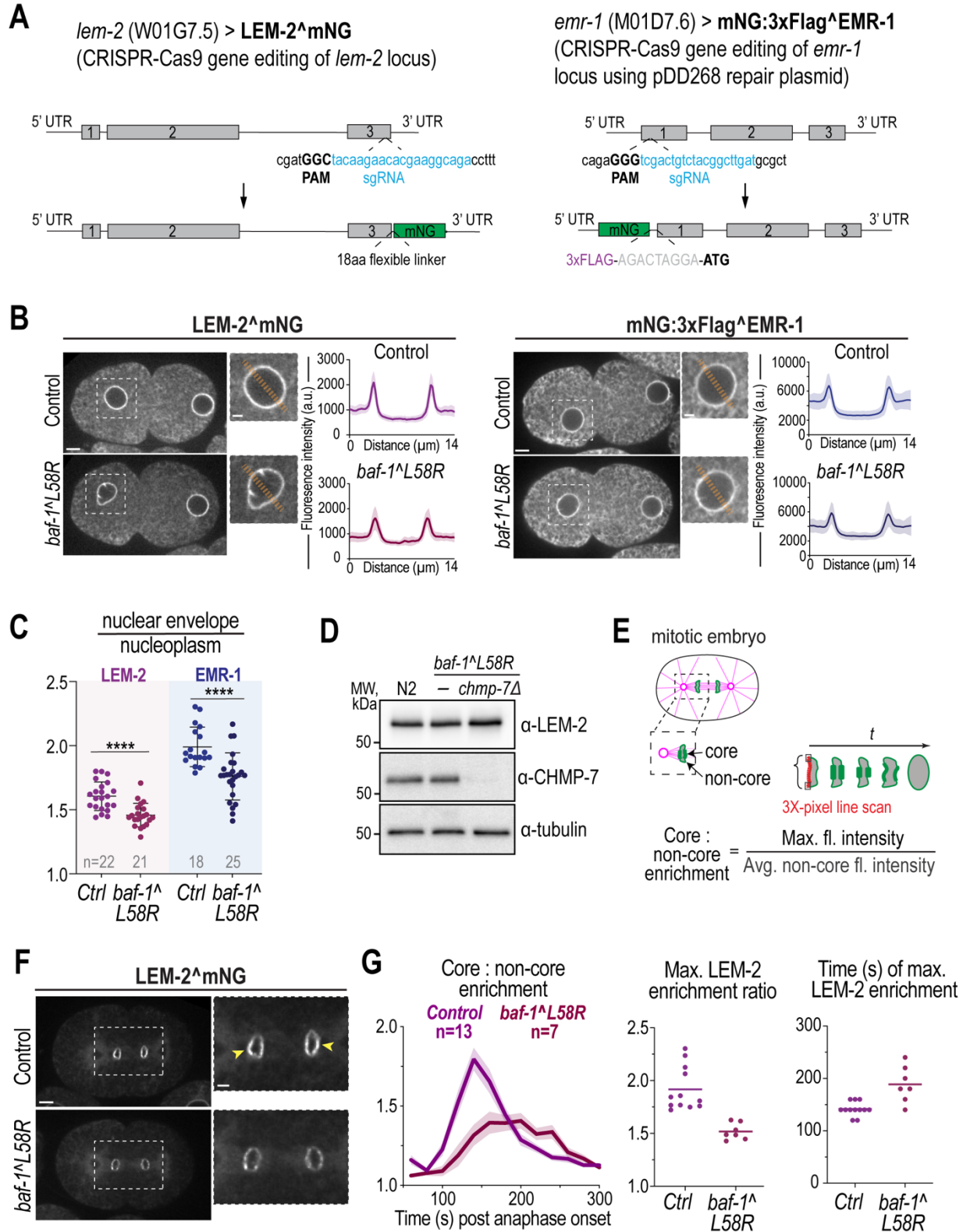
Barger et al. Figure 3



923

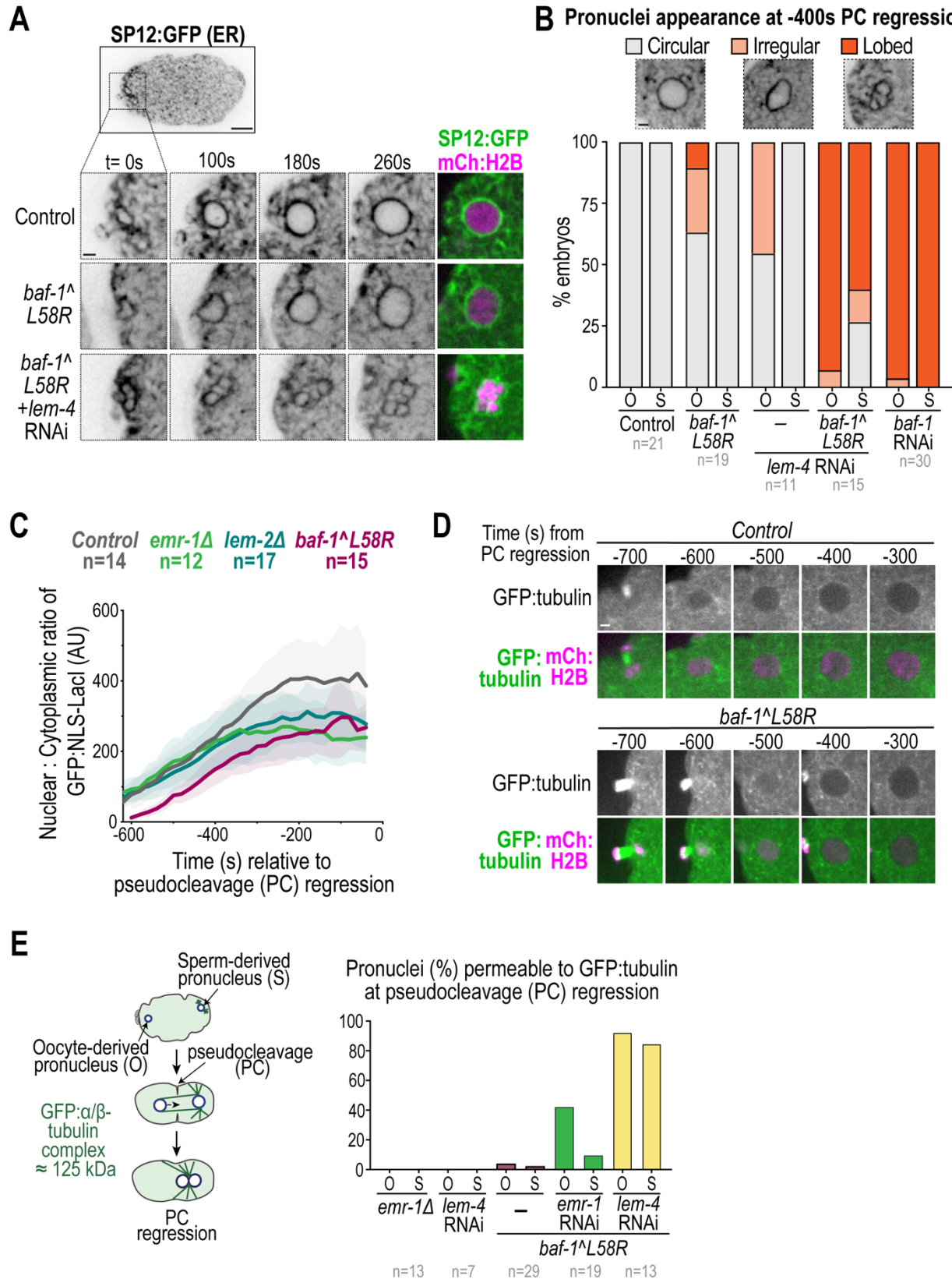
924 **Figure 3. BAF-LEM interactions orchestrate organized and timely recruitment of sealing proteins**
 925 **during nuclear envelope formation.** (A) Spinning disk confocal images from time lapse series of LEM-
 926 2^ΔmNG during oocyte pronuclear formation in indicated conditions. (B) Plot of background-corrected
 927 line scan analysis (average ± SD) of LEM-2^ΔmNG on at nuclear rim at anaphase II onset (white arrows at
 928 t = 0s) in indicated conditions. n = # of embryos. (C-D) Plots (average + replicates) representing
 929 maximum LEM-2 fluorescence signal at nuclear rim from time series in (C), time in seconds relative to
 930 anaphase onset II of maximum LEM-2^ΔmNG fluorescence signal in (C) shown in (D), and time in
 931 seconds relative to anaphase onset II of LEM-2^ΔmNG puncta dissipation shown in (E). (F) Spinning disk
 932 confocal images from time lapse series of mNG^ΔEMR-1 in indicated conditions. Yellow arrows point to
 933 enrichment sites. Scale bars of whole embryo image, 10 μm, zoom insets scale bar, 2 μm.

Barger et al. Figure S3



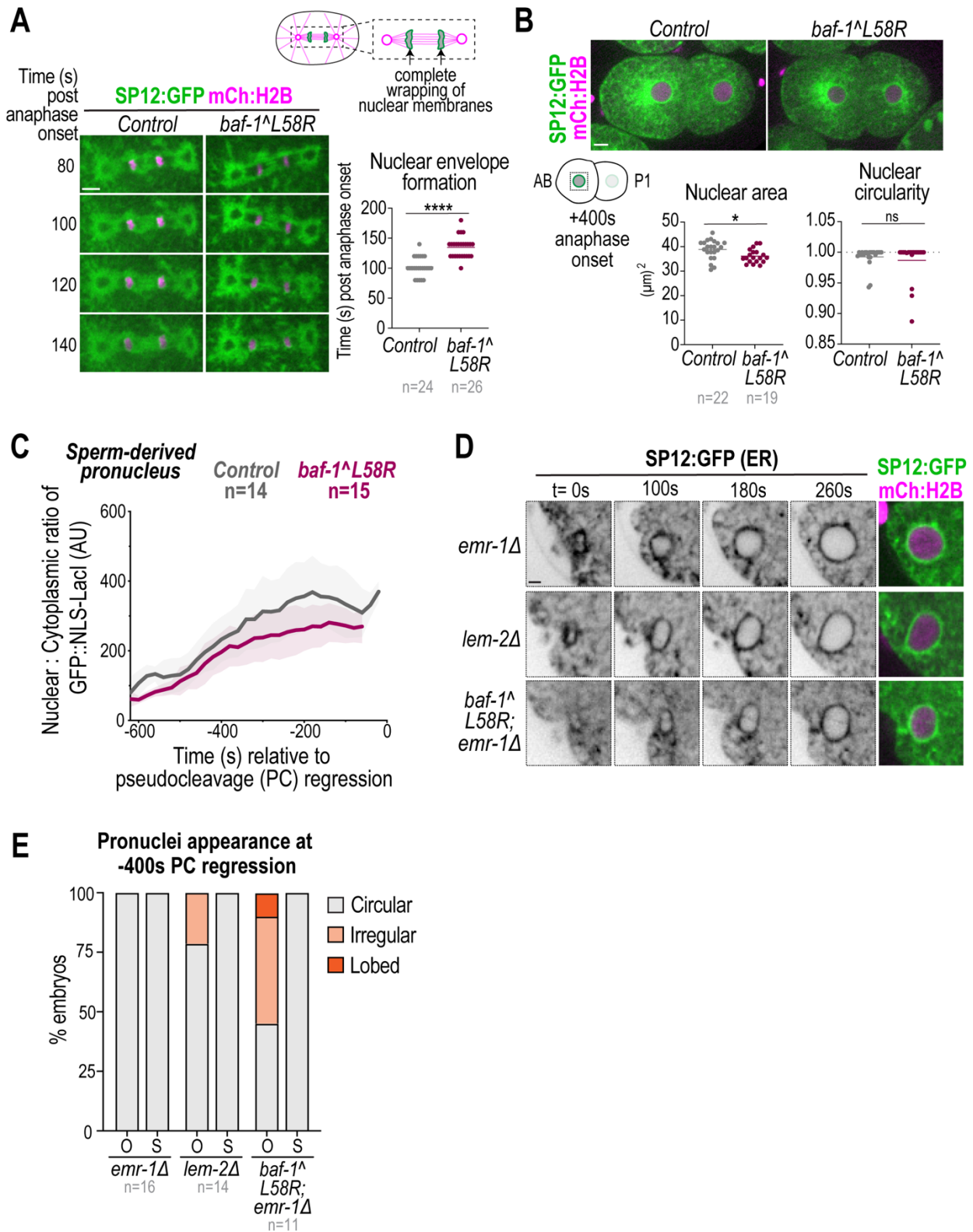
935 **Figure S3. Generation of endogenous mNG tagged strains and analysis of dynamics and protein**
936 **levels of EMR-1 and LEM-2 in *baf-1(L58R)* mutant strain**, related to Figure 3 (A) Schematic
937 representations of endogenous gene loci of *emr-1* and *lem-1* with CRISPR guides used to insert mNG-tag.
938 (B) Left, representative confocal images of LEM-2^{mNG} and mNG^{EMR-1} at oocyte- and sperm-
939 derived pronuclei at 200 sec prior to pseudocleavage (PC) regression. Right, line scan analysis (average +
940 SD) of LEM-2^{mNG} and mNG^{EMR-1} at oocyte pronucleus at -200 sec relative to PC regression. n = #
941 of embryos. (C) Plot represents average ± SD + replicates of NE:nucleoplasmic ratios of indicated
942 proteins at oocyte pronucleus in indicated conditions. Statistical significance determined by unpaired
943 Student's t-test (****=p<0.0001). n = # of embryos. (D) Representative immunoblot of whole worm
944 lysates incubated with indicated antibodies in indicated strains. N = 3 independent experiments. (E)
945 Schematic representations of core and non-core regions on reforming NE in mitotic *C. elegans* embryo
946 and line scan analysis of LEM-2^{mNG} protein dynamics shown in (G). (F) Spinning disk confocal
947 images of endogenous LEM-2^{mNG} enrichment at 140 sec post anaphase onset. Yellow arrows, core
948 enrichment. Scale bars, 5 μm. (G) Left, Plot representing average + SEM of ratio of maximum
949 fluorescence intensity and non-core fluorescence signal measured in 20 sec intervals from anaphase onset
950 (t = 0) in indicated conditions, Middle, Plot representing average + replicates of maximum normalized
951 LEM-2^{mNG} fluorescence signal from plot on left in indicated conditions, Right, Plot representing time
952 of maximum fluorescence signal in indicated conditions. n = # of embryos.

Barger et al. Figure 4



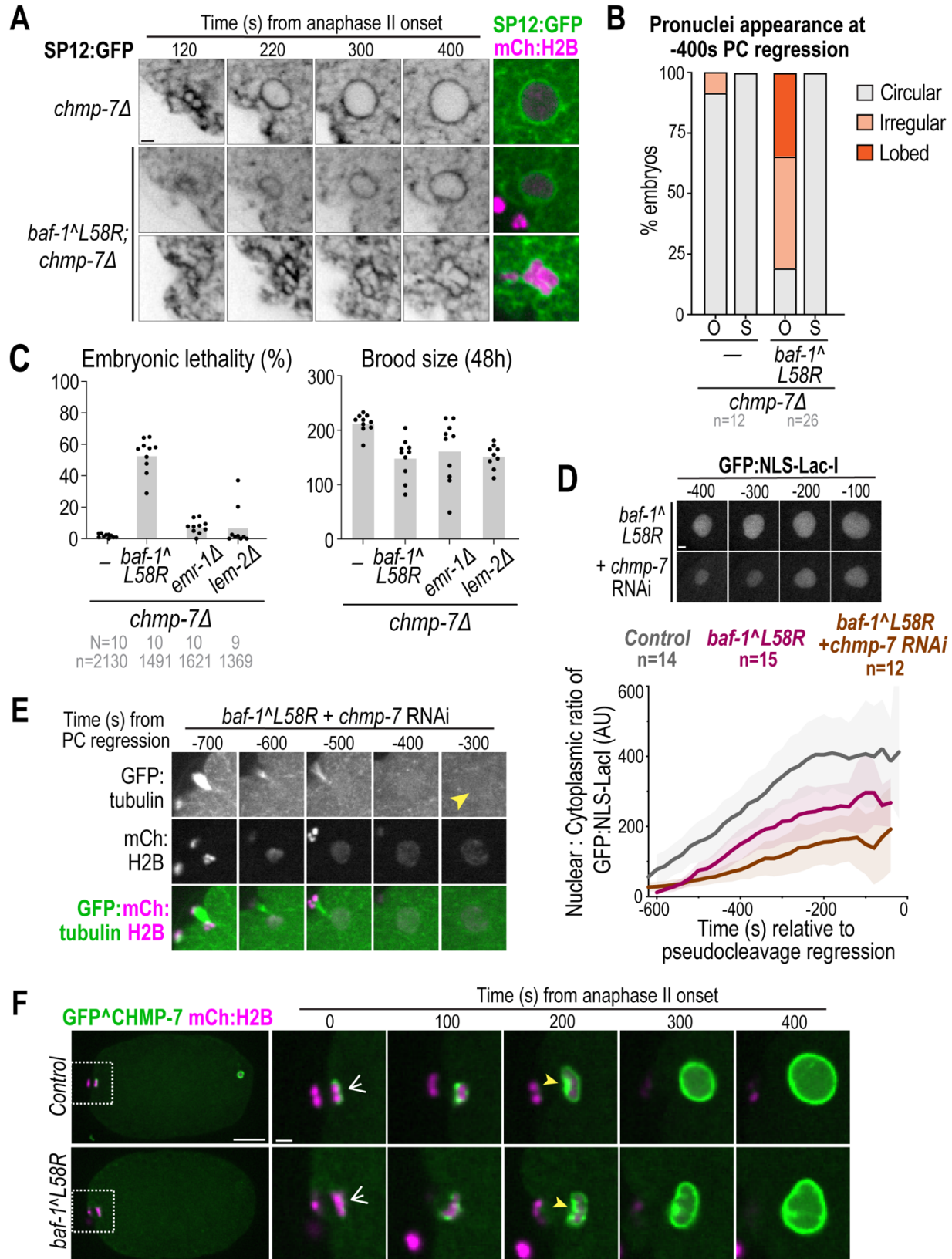
954 **Figure 4. Reliance on BAF-LEM binding to seal the NE large hole surrounding meiotic spindle**
955 **microtubules.** (A) Spinning disk confocal images from time lapse series of oocyte pronuclear formation
956 marked by SP12:GFP (ER marker) and mCh:Histone(H)2B in indicated conditions. (B) Plot representing
957 percentage of oocyte-derived (O) and sperm-derived (S) pronuclei categorized as circular, irregular, or
958 lobed at -400 sec relative to pseudocleavage (PC) regression in indicated conditions. n = # of embryos.
959 (C) Plot representing average \pm SD of ratio of normalized GFP::NLS-LacI fluorescence in oocyte
960 pronucleus for indicated conditions relative to PC regression. n = # of embryos. (D) Spinning disk
961 confocal images from time-lapse series of nuclear GFP: α -tubulin during oocyte pronuclear formation in
962 indicated conditions. Time in seconds relative to PC regression. (E) Left, schematic represents nuclear
963 exclusion of GFP: α -tubulin from pronuclei during pronuclear migration and pseudocleavage (PC)
964 formation and regression. Right, plot representing percentage of oocyte-derived (O) and sperm-derived
965 (S) pronuclei permeable to GFP: α -tubulin at pseudocleavage regression. n = # of embryos. Scale bars, 2
966 μ m.

Barger et al. Figure S4



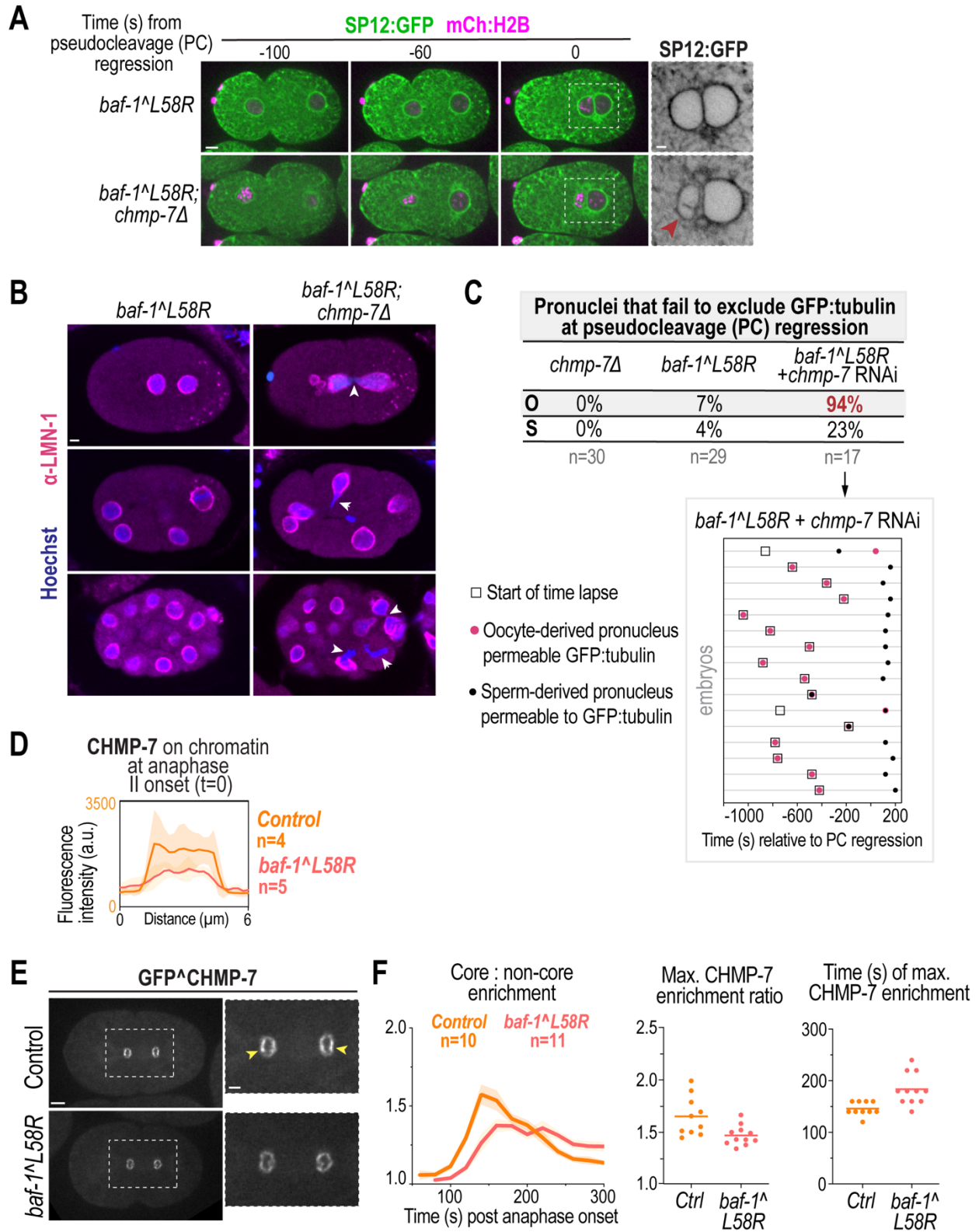
968 **Figure S4. Analysis of pronuclear assembly in *emr-1Δ* and *lem-2Δ* mutants**, related to Figure 4 (A)
969 Left, representative confocal images from time-lapse series of SP12:GFP (ER marker) and mCh:Histone
970 2B (DNA marker) in mitotic embryos in indicated conditions. Time in seconds relative to anaphase onset.
971 Right, plot representing average + replicates of time of complete wrapping of ER marker (SP12:GFP)
972 around segregated chromosomes in indicated conditions. Statistical significance determined by unpaired
973 Student's t-test (**** = $p < 0.0001$). n = # of embryos. (B) Above, spinning disk confocal images of
974 indicated markers at 400 sec post anaphase onset in indicated conditions. Below, Schematic
975 representation of 2-cell embryo and plots representing average + replicates of AB cell nuclear area and
976 nuclear circularity at 400 sec post anaphase onset in indicated conditions. Statistical significance
977 determined by unpaired Student's t-test (* = $p = 0.0149$). ns, not significant. n = # of embryos. Scale bar,
978 5 μm . (C) Plot representing average \pm SD of normalized nuclear GFP::NLS-LacI fluorescence in sperm-
979 derived pronucleus for indicated conditions. Time in seconds relative to pseudocleavage (PC) regression.
980 n = # of embryos. (D) Spinning disk confocal images from time lapse series of indicated markers during
981 oocyte-derived pronuclear formation in indicated conditions. Scale bar, 2 μm . (E) Plot representing
982 percentage of oocyte-derived (O) and sperm-derived (S) pronuclei categorized as circular, irregular, or
983 lobed at -400 sec relative to pseudocleavage (PC) regression in indicated conditions. n = # of embryos.

Barger et al. Figure 5



985 **Figure 5. CHMP-7 maintains nuclear integrity when BAF-LEM-mediated hole closure is**
986 **compromised.** (A) Spinning disk confocal images from time lapse series of SP12:GFP (ER) and
987 mCH:Histone(H)2B in indicated conditions during oocyte-derived pronuclear formation. (B) Plot
988 representing percentage of oocyte-derived (O) and sperm-derived (S) pronuclei categorized as circular,
989 irregular, or lobed at -400 sec relative to pseudocleavage (PC) regression in indicated conditions. n = # of
990 embryos. (C) Plots representing average + replicates of percentage of embryonic lethality and brood size
991 in indicated conditions. N = # of worms, n = # of embryos. (D) Plot representing average \pm SD of
992 normalized nuclear GFP:NLS-LacI fluorescence in indicated conditions. Time in seconds relative to
993 pseudocleavage (PC) regression. Control and *baf-1-L58R* replicated from Fig. 4C. n = # of embryos. (E)
994 Spinning disk confocal images from time-lapse series of GFP- α -tubulin in the oocyte-derive pronucleus
995 in indicated conditions. Time in seconds relative to PC regression. Yellow arrow marks nuclear GFP- α -
996 tubulin. (F) Spinning disk confocal images from time lapse series of mNG^{CHMP-7} during oocyte
997 pronuclear formation in indicated conditions. White arrows denote initial recruitment of GFP^{CHMP-7} to
998 chromatin and yellow arrows point to enrichment. Time in seconds relative to anaphase II onset. Scale
999 bars of whole embryo images, 10 μ m, all other scale bars, 2 μ m.

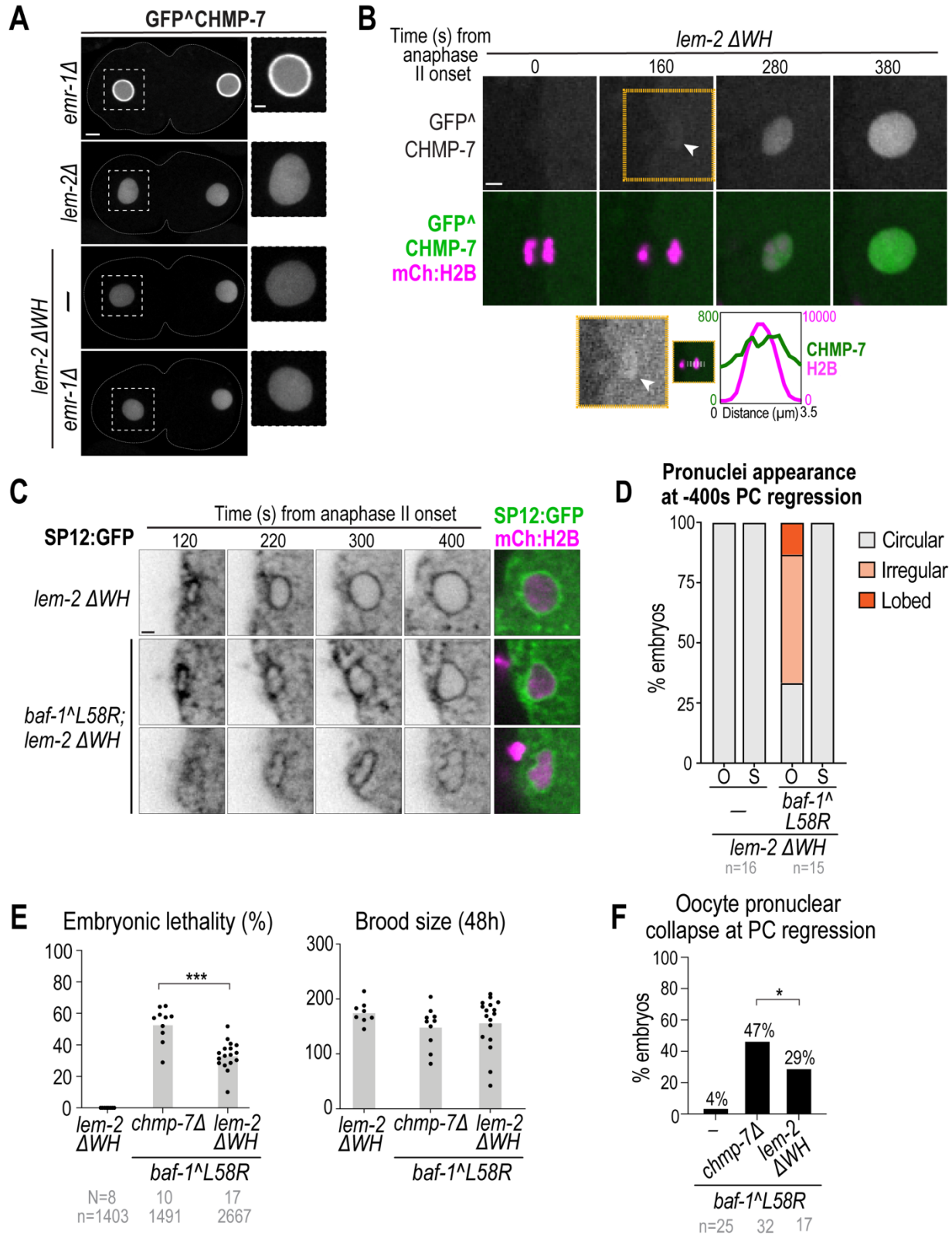
Barger et al. Figure S5



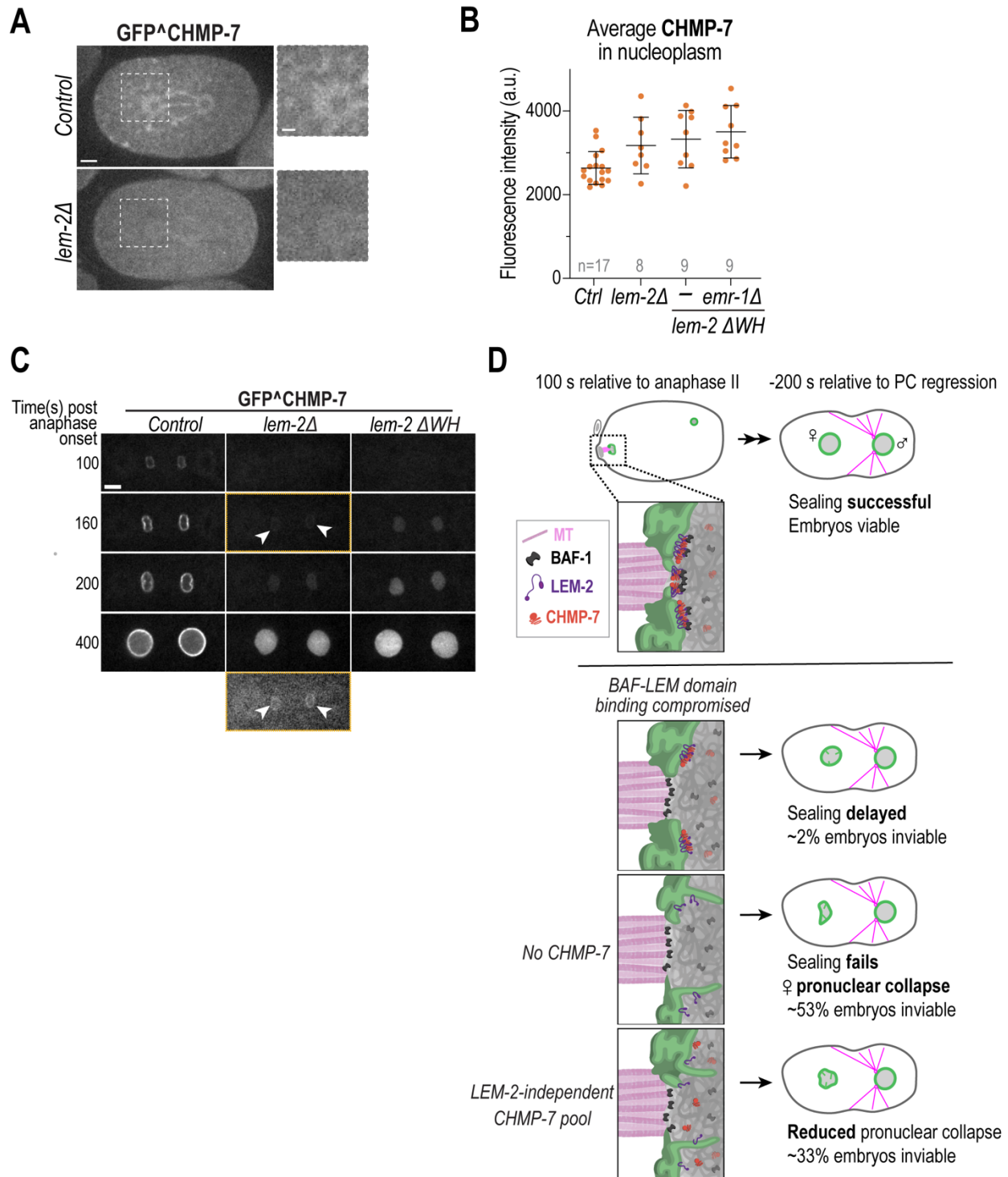
1000

1001 **Figure S5. Analysis of loss of CHMP-7 and mNG[^]CHMP7 dynamics in meiosis and mitosis in *baf-***
1002 ***I-L58R* mutant embryos**, related to Figure 5 (A) Spinning disk confocal images from time lapse series
1003 of indicated markers in indicated conditions. Time in seconds relative to pseudocleavage (PC) regression.
1004 Scale bar, 5 μm , zoom inset image scale bar, 2 μm . (B) Confocal images of fixed 2-,8-,16+ -cell stage *C.*
1005 *elegans* embryos immunostained with indicated markers (LMN-1 = lamin) in indicated conditions. White
1006 arrows, chromatin bridges and impaired nuclear assembly. (C) Above, table showing percentage of
1007 oocyte-derived (O) and sperm-derived (S) pronuclei permeable to GFP: α -tubulin at pseudocleavage (PC)
1008 regression in indicated conditions. n = # of embryos. Below, Plot representing time points for individual
1009 embryos containing nuclear GFP: α -tubulin in oocyte- (red circles) or sperm-derived pronuclei (black
1010 circles) relative to start of time-lapse movie (square). Time in seconds relative to pseudocleavage (PC)
1011 regression. (D) Background-corrected line scan analysis (average \pm SD) of GFP[^]CHMP-7 on the nuclear
1012 rim anaphase II onset (white arrows in Figure 5F) in indicated conditions. n = # of embryos. (E) Spinning
1013 disk confocal images of GFP[^]CHMP-7 at mitotic nuclear formation at 140 sec post anaphase onset.
1014 Yellow arrows, core domain. Scale bars, 5 μm . (F) Left, Plot representing average + SEM of ratio of
1015 maximum fluorescence intensity and non-core fluorescence signal measured in 20 sec intervals from
1016 anaphase onset (t = 0) in indicated conditions, Middle, Plot representing average + replicates of maximum
1017 normalized GFP[^]CHMP-7 fluorescence signal from plot on left in indicated conditions. Right, Plot
1018 representing time of maximum fluorescence signal in indicated conditions. n = # of embryos.
1019 n = # of embryos.

Barger et al. Figure 6



1021 **Figure 6. Compromising BAF-LEM binding reveals a role for CHMP-7 in nuclear stability**
1022 **independent of LEM-2 binding.** (A) Left, Spinning disk confocal images of GFP^{CHMP-7} in embryos
1023 at -200 sec relative to pseudocleavage (PC) regression in indicated conditions. Scale bars, 5 μ m, zoom
1024 scale bars, 2 μ m. (B) Spinning disk confocal images from time lapse series of GFP^{CHMP-7} and
1025 mCH:Histone(H)2B during oocyte pronuclear formation in *lem-2* Δ *WH* embryos. Time is in seconds
1026 relative to anaphase II onset. White arrow denotes faint membrane-association of GFP^{CHMP7} prior to
1027 nuclear enrichment. Yellow outlined panel reproduced below montage with brightness/contrast adjusted.
1028 Plot represents background-corrected line scan of fluorescence of GFP^{CHMP-7} and mCH:Histone(H)2B
1029 across reforming nucleus at 160 s post anaphase II onset. (C) Spinning disk confocal images from time
1030 lapse series of indicated markers in indicated conditions. (D) Plot representing percentage of oocyte-
1031 derived (O) and sperm-derived (S) pronuclei categorized as circular, irregular, or lobed at -400 sec
1032 relative to PC regression in indicated conditions. n = # of embryos. (E) Plots representing average +
1033 replicates of percentage of embryonic lethality and brood size in indicated conditions. N = # of worms, n
1034 = # of embryos. Statistical significance of indicated conditions determined by Welch's t-test
1035 (**=p=0.0002). (F) Plot representing percentage of embryos that undergo oocyte pronuclear collapse in
1036 indicated conditions. n = # of embryos. Statistical significance of indicated conditions determined by
1037 Fisher's exact test (*=p=0.0130).



1038

1039

1040 **Figure S6. CHMP-7 localization and dependence on LEM-2**, related to Figure 6 (A) Spinning disk

1041 confocal images of endogenous GFP^ΔCHMP-7 in control and *lem-2Δ* embryos at anaphase onset in

1042 mitotic embryos. Zoom inset of spindle pole. Scale bar, 5 μm, zoom scale bar, 2 μm. (B) Plot representing

1043 average \pm SD + replicates of nucleoplasmic GFP[^]CHMP-7 levels in oocyte-derived pronuclei -200 sec
1044 relative to pseudocleavage (PC) regression. n = # of embryos. (C) Spinning disk confocal images from
1045 time series of GFP[^]CHMP-7 in indicated conditions. Time in seconds relative to anaphase onset. Scale
1046 bar, 5 μ m. White arrowheads point to faint fluorescence signal of GFP[^]CHMP-7 prior to nuclear
1047 accumulation. Yellow outlined panel reproduced below with brightness/contrast adjusted. (D) Schematic
1048 representation of oocyte-derived pronuclear sealing in different mutant backgrounds analyzed in this
1049 study (left). Right, zoom inset of sealing plaque adjacent to spindle microtubules. LEM domain proteins
1050 (only LEM-2 is shown for simplicity) attach incoming ER membranes to BAF to narrow the nuclear
1051 envelope hole. CHMP-7/LEM-2 stabilize the nuclear envelope hole and remodel abnormal membranes,
1052 while a LEM-2 independent pool of CHMP-7 promotes nuclear stability through an unknown mechanism.

1053

1054 **Supplemental Movie Legends**

1055

1056 **Movie S1. BAF-1 dynamics at oocyte- and sperm-derived pronuclei during pronuclear formation,**
1057 related to Figure 1. Spinning disk confocal fluorescence time series of mNG[^]BAF-1 (green) and
1058 mCherry:Histone2B (magenta) in fertilized oocyte. Time lapse shows mNG[^]BAF-1 enrichment on
1059 chromatin transitioning to nuclear membranes during oocyte- (left) and sperm- (right) derived pronuclear
1060 formation. Images were acquired every 20 s – playback rate is 80X real time. Scale bar, 5 μ m.

1061

1062 **Movie S2. BAF-1 is required for LEM-2 enrichment at the sealing plaque following meiosis II,**
1063 related to Figure 1. Spinning disk confocal fluorescence time series of endogenously tagged LEM-
1064 2[^]mNG (green) and mCherry:Histone2B (magenta) in fertilized oocytes. Time lapse shows oocyte-
1065 derived pronuclear formation, starting at anaphase II onset, as chromatin moves away from the cortex,
1066 and ending with a sealed pronucleus in indicated conditions. LEM-2[^]mNG does not accumulate at a
1067 discrete focus in the reforming oocyte-derived pronucleus, which undergoes assembly failure. Images
1068 were acquired every 20 s – playback rate is 80X real time. Scale bar, 2 μ m.

1069

1070 **Movie S3. Reduced and delayed LEM-2[^]mNG enrichment at the sealing plaque in *baf-1[^]L58R***
1071 **embryos,** related to Figure 3. Spinning disk confocal fluorescence images of LEM-2[^]mNG (green) and
1072 mCherry:Histone2B (magenta) in fertilized oocytes in indicated conditions. Time lapse shows oocyte-
1073 derived pronuclear formation, starting at anaphase II onset. Images were acquired every 20 s – playback
1074 rate is 80X real time. Scale bar, 2 μ m.

1075

1076 **Movie S4. Oocyte pronuclear formation in control, *baf-1^{L58R}*, *baf-1^{L58R} + lem-4 RNAi***
1077 **embryos**, related to Figure 4. Spinning disk confocal fluorescence time series of embryos expressing
1078 SP12:GFP (ER in grey, inverted) in indicated conditions. Images were acquired every 20 s – playback
1079 rate is 80X real time. Scale bar, 2 μ m.

1080
1081 **Movie S5. Oocyte pronuclear collapse occurs in *chmp-7 Δ* ; *baf-1^{L58R}* embryos**, related to Figure 5.
1082 Spinning disk confocal fluorescence time series of SP12:GFP (ER, green) and mCherry:Histone2B
1083 (magenta) marking oocyte-derived pronuclei in indicated conditions. Time lapse shows migration of
1084 oocyte- and sperm-derived pronuclei ending in pronuclear meeting approximately at PC regression.
1085 Images were acquired every 20 s – playback rate is 80X real time. Scale bar, 5 μ m.

1086
1087 **Movie S6. Reduced and delayed CHMP-7 enrichment at the sealing plaque in *baf-1^{L58R}* embryos**,
1088 related to Figure 5. Spinning disk confocal fluorescence time series of GFP^{CHMP-7} (green) and
1089 mCherry:Histone2B (magenta) after anaphase II onset in fertilized oocytes in indicated conditions. Time
1090 lapse shows oocyte-derived pronuclear formation, starting at anaphase II onset as chromatin moves away
1091 from the cortex and ending with a formed pronucleus in indicated conditions. Images were acquired every
1092 20s – playback rate is 80X real time. Scale bar, 2 μ m.

1093
1094 **Movie S7. Reliance of GFP^{CHMP-7} on the Winged Helix domain of LEM-2 to localize and enrich**
1095 **at the sealing plaque following meiosis II**, related to Figure 6. Spinning disk confocal fluorescence time
1096 series of GFP^{CHMP-7} (green) and mCherry:Histone2B (magenta) after anaphase II onset in fertilized
1097 oocytes in indicated conditions. Left, gray scale images of GFP^{CHMP-7}, Right, merged. Time lapse
1098 shows oocyte-derived pronuclear formation, starting at anaphase II onset as chromatin moves away from
1099 the cortex and ending with a formed pronucleus in *lem-2 Δ WH* mutant. Left, GFP^{CHMP-7} (grey), Right,
1100 merged. Images were acquired every 20 s – playback rate is 80X real time. Scale bar, 2 μ m.

1101
1102

1103 Table S1. *C. elegans* strains used in this study

1104

<i>C. elegans</i> strain name	Genotype	Source
N2	(Bristol): Wild-type (ancestral)	Caenorhabditis Genetics Center (CGC)
SBW69	unc-119 (ed3) III; sbwSi6 [mex-5p::baf-1(re-encoded)::tbb-2]; cb-unc-119(+) I	This study
SBW130	unc-119 (ed3) III; sbwSi12 [mex-5p::baf-1(re-encoded)- G47E::tbb-2 3']; cb-unc-119(+) I	This study
SBW131	unc-119 (ed3) III; sbwSi13 [mex-5p::baf-1(re-encoded)- L58R::tbb-2 3' UTR)]; cb-unc-119(+) I	This study
SBW144	baf-1(syb2609) III	This study; Suny Biotech
SBW136	mNG::3XFlag::baf-1(sbw7) III	This study
SBW142	mNG::3XFlag::baf-1(sbw7) III; unc-119(ed3) III; ltIs37 [pAA64; pie-1p::mCherry::his-58; unc-119 (+)] IV	This study
SBW152	mNG::3XFlag::baf-1(sbw7) III; weIs21 [pJA138 (pie- 1p::mCherry::tubulin::pie-1)]	This study
SBW198	mNG::3XFlag::baf-1(L58R) III. [+/-]	This study
SBW253	emr-1(gk119) I; mNG::3XFlag::baf-1(sbw7) III; unc-119(ed3) III; ltIs37 [pAA64; pie-1p::mCherry::his-58; unc-119 (+)] IV.	This study
VC237	emr-1(gk119) I	Caenorhabditis Genetics Center (CGC)
SBW448	lem-2 (sbw20) II	This study
TG4319	lem-3(tm3468) I	Caenorhabditis Genetics Center (CGC)
SBW174	emr-1(gk119) I; baf-1(syb2609) III	This study
SBW180	lem-3(tm3468) I; baf-1(syb2609) III	This study

SBW47	unc-119(ed3) III; ltIs37 [pAA64; pie-1p::mCherry::his-58; unc-119 (+)] IV; ltIs75 [(pSK5) pie-1::GFP::TEV-STag::LacI + unc-119(+)].	(Audhya et al., 2007)
SBW170	baf-1(syb2609) III ; unc-119(ed3) III; ltIs37 [pAA64; pie-1p::mCherry::his-58; unc-119 (+)] IV; ltIs75 [(pSK5) pie-1::GFP::TEV-STag::LacI + unc-119(+)].	This study
SBW181	emr-1(gk119) I; unc-119(ed3) III; ltIs37 [pAA64; pie-1p::mCherry::his-58; unc-119 (+)] IV; ltIs75 [(pSK5) pie-1::GFP::TEV-STag::LacI + unc-119(+)].	This study
SBW457	lem-2 (sbw20) I ; unc-119(ed3) III; ltIs37 [pAA64; pie-1p::mCherry::his-58; unc-119 (+)] IV; ltIs75 [(pSK5) pie-1::GFP::TEV-STag::LacI + unc-119 (+)].	This study
OD270	unc-119(ed3) III; ojls23 [SP12::GFP; unc-119(+)]; ltIs37 [pAA64; pie-1p::mCherry::his-58; unc-119 (+)]	(Bahmanyar et al., 2014)
SBW173	baf-1(syb2609) III; ojls23 [SP12::GFP; unc-119(+)]; ltIs37 [pAA64; pie-1p::mCherry::his-58; unc-119 (+)] IV	This study
SBW199	emr-1(gk119) I ; ojls23 [SP12::GFP; unc-119(+)]; ltIs37 [pAA64; pie-1p::mCherry::his-58; unc-119 (+)] IV	This study
SBW543	lem-2 (sbw20) II ; ojls23 [SP12::GFP; unc-119(+)]; ltIs37 [pAA64; pie-1p::mCherry::his-58; unc-119 (+)] IV	This study
SBW32	ltIs24 [pAZ132; pie-1p::GFP::tba-2; unc-119 (+)]; ltIs37 [pAA64; pie-1p::mCherry::his-58; unc-119 (+)] IV	(Penfield et al., 2018)
SBW171	baf-1(syb2609) III; ltIs24 [pAZ132; pie-1p::GFP::tba-2; unc-119 (+)]; ltIs37 [pAA64; pie-1p::mCherry::his-58; unc-119 (+)] IV	This study
SBW480	emr-1(gk119) I; ltIs24 [pAZ132; pie-1p::GFP::tba-2; unc-119 (+)]; ltIs37 [pAA64; pie-1p::mCherry::his-58; unc-119 (+)] IV	This study
SBW146	lem-2::mNG (sbw5) II; unc-119(ed3) III; ltIs37 [pAA64; pie-1p::mCherry::his-58; unc-119 (+)] IV.	This study
SBW206	lem-2::mNG (sbw5) II; baf-1(syb2609) III; unc-119(ed3) III; ltIs37 [pAA64; pie-1p::mCherry::his-58; unc-119 (+)] IV	This study
SBW414	gfp::chmp-7 II; unc-119(ed3) III; ltIs37 [pAA64 pie-1p::mCherry::his-58; unc-119 (+)] IV	This study

SBW428	gfp::chmp-7 II; baf-1(syb2609) III ; unc-119(ed3) III; ltIs37 [pAA64; pie-1p::mCherry::his-58; unc-119 (+)] IV	This study
SBW312	mNG::3xFlag::emr-1 (sbw16) I. outcrossed 4X; unc-119(ed3) III; ltIs37 [pAA64; pie-1p::mCherry::his-58; unc-119 (+)] IV	This study
SBW350	mNG::3xFlag::emr-1 (sbw16) I ; baf-1(syb2609) III ; unc-119(ed3) III; ltIs37 [pAA64; pie-1p::mCherry::his-58; unc-119 (+)] IV.	This study
SBW161	chmp-7(hz12) II; unc-119(ed3) III; ojls23[SP12::GFP unc-119(+)]; unc-119(ed3) III; ltIs37 [pAA64; pie-1p::mCherry::his-58; unc-119 (+)] IV	This study
SBW196	chmp-7(hz12) II; baf-1(syb2609) III; unc-119(ed3) III; ojls23 [SP12::GFP; unc-119(+); ltIs37 [pAA64; pie-1p::mCherry::his-58; unc-119 (+)] IV	This study
SBW63	chmp-7(hz12) II; ltIs24 [pAZ132; pie-1p::GFP::tba-2; unc-119 (+)]; ltIs37 [pAA64; pie-1p::mCherry::his-58; unc-119 (+)] IV	(Penfield et al., 2020)
SBW526	emr-1(gk119) I; gfp::chmp-7 II; unc-119(ed3) III; ltIs37 [pAA64; pie-1p::mCherry::his-58; unc-119 (+)] IV	This study
SBW458	lem-2 (sbw20) II; gfp::chmp-7 II; unc-119(ed3) III; ltIs37 [pAA64; pie-1p::mCherry::his-58; unc-119 (+)] IV	This study
SBW419	gfp::chmp-7 II; lem-2 (syb4718) II; unc-119(ed3) III; ltIs37 [pAA64; pie-1p::mCherry::his-58; unc-119 (+)] IV	This study
SBW547	emr-1(gk119) I; gfp::chmp-7 II; lem-2 (syb4718) II; unc-119(ed3) III; ltIs37 [pAA64; pie-1p::mCherry::his-58; unc-119 (+)] IV	This study
SBW332	lem-2 (syb4718) II; ojls23 [SP12::GFP; unc-119(+)]; ltIs37 [pAA64; pie-1p::mCherry::his-58; unc-119 (+)] IV	This study
SBW536	lem-2 (syb4718) II; baf-1(syb2609) III; ojls23 [SP12::GFP; unc-119(+)]; ltIs37 [pAA64; pie-1p::mCherry::his-58; unc-119 (+)] IV	This study
MSN772	chmp-7(hz12) II	(Penfield et al., 2020)
SBW168	chmp-7(hz12) II; baf-1(syb2609) III	This study
SBW454	emr-1(gk119) I; chmp-7(hz12) II	This study

SBW450	lem-2 (sbw20) II; chmp-7(hz12) II	This study
SBW319	lem-2 (syb4718) II	This study; Suny Biotech
SBW348	lem-2 (syb4718) II; baf-1(syb2609) III	This study

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1139 Table S2. Oligonucleotides used in this study.
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Purpose		Primers	
pCFJ151-baf-1-G47E mutagenesis-Forward		GCCTACGTCTTGTTCGAACAGTATCTCCTGCTT	
pCFJ151-baf-1-G47E mutagenesis-Reverse		AAGCAGGAGATACTGTTTCGAACAAGACGTAGGC	
pCFJ151-baf-1-L58R mutagenesis-Forward		AAAAAGGATGAGGATCGTTTCATCGAGTGGCTG	
pCFJ151-baf-1-L58R mutagenesis-Reverse		CAGCCACTCGATGAAACGATCCTCATCCTTTTT	
Oligonucleotides for dsRNA production			
Gene	Oligonucleotide 1	Oligonucleotide 1	Template
B0464.7 (<i>baf-1</i>)	TAATACGACTCACTATAGGCAT CGTGAGTTCGTCGGAGA	TAATACGACTCACTATAG Ggtccaagaccacagacaag	N2 genomic
Y55F3BR .8 (<i>lem-4</i>)	TAATACGACTCACTATAGGCCG AGCAATCAGAAGCCATG	TAATACGACTCACTATAG GTTGCATGGCTCATCATCT GC	N2 genomic
T24B8.2 (<i>chmp-7</i>)	TAATACGACTCACTATAGGTCG GTGAATGGAGAGATCGT	TAATACGACTCACTATAG GGTCTGAGCACGTCCTTT GT	N2 genomic
M01D7.6 (<i>emr-1</i>)	AATTAACCCTCACTAAAGGCGA ACTACGCGATAGCCTTA	TAATACGACTCACTATAG GCCCAAGAATCCTCCTTT GTT	N2 genomic

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1160 Table S3. Recombinant DNA used in this study.
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Identifier	Recombinant DNA	Source
	baf-1 re-encoded	Genescript
pSB353	pCFJ151-baf-1-WT reencoded	This study
pSB419	pCFJ151-baf-1-G47E reencoded	This study
pSB420	pCFJ151-baf-1-L58R reencoded	This study
	pDD122 (CRISPR-Cas9)	(Hastie et al., 2019)
	pDD268 (mNG ³ SEC ³ xFlag vector with ccdB markers for cloning homology arms)	Addgene (132523)
	pBS-LL-mNG	(Hastie et al., 2019)
pSB457	pDD122-lem-2	This study
pSB462	lem-2-LL-mNG	This study
pSB495	pDD122-baf-1	This study
pSB496	pDD268-baf-1	This study
pSB514	pDD122-emr-1	This study
pSB651	pDD268-emr-1	This study

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