

1 **Rab8-, Rab11-, and Rab35-dependent mechanisms coordinating lumen and cilia  
2 formation during Left-Right Organizer development**

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1 **ABSTRACT**

2

3 An essential process for cilia formation during epithelialization is the movement of the  
4 centrosome to dock with the cell's nascent apical membrane. Our study examined  
5 centrosome positioning during the development of *Danio rerio*'s left-right organizer  
6 (Kupffer's Vesicle, KV). We found that when KV mesenchymal-like cells transition into  
7 epithelial cells that are organizing into a rosette-like structure, KV cells move their  
8 centrosomes from random intracellular positions to the forming apical membrane in a  
9 Rab11 and Rab35 dependent manner. During this process, centrosomes construct cilia  
10 intracellularly that associated with Myo-Va while the centrosomes repositioned towards  
11 the rosette center. Once the centrosomes with associated cilia reach the rosette center,  
12 the intracellular cilia recruit Arl13b until they extend into the forming lumen. This process  
13 begins when the lumen reaches an area of approximately 300  $\mu\text{m}^2$ . Using optogenetic  
14 and depletion strategies, we identified that the small GTPases, Rab11 and Rab35,  
15 regulate not only cilia formation, but lumenogenesis, whereas Rab8 was primarily  
16 involved in regulating cilia length. These studies substantiate both conserved and unique  
17 roles for Rab11, Rab35, and Rab8 function in cilia formation during lumenogenesis.

18

## 1 INTRODUCTION

2

3 A fundamental question in cell biology is how a cilium is made during tissue  
4 formation. A primary or motile cilium is a microtubule-based structure that extends from  
5 the surface of a cell and can sense extracellular cues to transmit to the cell body. Defects  
6 in cilia formation can lead to numerous disease states collectively known as ciliopathies  
7 (Vertii *et al.*, 2015; Hall and Hehnly, 2021). Foundational studies identified two distinct  
8 pathways for ciliogenesis *in vivo* using tissues from chicks and rats (Sorokin, 1962). One  
9 mechanism for ciliogenesis which we refer to as extracellular, was found in lung cells  
10 where the centrosome first docks to the plasma membrane followed by growth of the  
11 ciliary axoneme into the extracellular space (Sorokin, 1968). The second mechanism,  
12 which we refer to as intracellular, was identified in smooth muscle cells and fibroblasts  
13 where the centrosome forms a cilia first within a ciliary vesicle in the cell cytosol before  
14 docking to the plasma membrane (Sorokin, 1962). These studies raise the possibility that  
15 different ciliated tissues construct their cilia differentially due to the nature of how a tissue  
16 develops. This presents an important hypothesis that variations in cilia formation  
17 mechanisms may occur *in vivo* during specific types of tissue morphogenesis. In our  
18 studies herein we will examine how cilia are assembled during Mesenchymal to Epithelial  
19 Transition (MET) in a vertebrate model, *Danio rerio* (zebrafish).

20 MET is an evolutionarily conserved process that occurs during the creation of  
21 ciliated tissues (Pei *et al.*, 2019). An excellent example of this is with the vertebrate organ  
22 of asymmetry. An organ of asymmetry is required to place visceral and abdominal organs  
23 with respect to the two main body axes of the animal (Grimes and Burdine, 2017).  
24 Zebrafish is a genetically tractable model to examine how cilia form during organ of  
25 asymmetry development due to the embryo's transparency and external development. In  
26 zebrafish, the organ of asymmetry is known as the Kupffer's Vesicle (KV). KV  
27 development is easily monitored using fluorescent markers to note KV mesenchymal-like  
28 precursor cells congregating together and self-organizing into a rosette-like structure  
29 where they establish apical-basal polarity at the rosette center (Amack and Yost, 2004;  
30 L. I. Rathbun *et al.*, 2020). The rosette center is the site where a fluid-filled lumen forms  
31 and KV cells will then extend their cilia into (Navis *et al.*, 2013). Once KV cilia are formed

1 they beat in a leftward motion to direct fluid flow essential for the establishment of the  
2 embryo's left-right axis (Nonaka *et al.*, 1998). While much is known about KV post-lumen  
3 formation (Amack, 2021; Grimes and Burdine, 2017; Matsui *et al.*, 2015; Matsui and  
4 Bessho, 2012; Okabe *et al.*, 2008), little is known about the spatial and temporal  
5 mechanisms that regulate cilia formation during KV development.

6 KV formation is known to arise from a sub-population of endoderm cells. The  
7 endoderm is induced by high levels of Nodal signaling during early development that  
8 contributes to the formation of the liver, pancreas, intestine, stomach, pharynx, and swim  
9 bladder (Warga and Nüsslein-Volhard, 1999). A subset of the endoderm, called dorsal  
10 forerunner cells (DFCs) are precursors of the KV (Melby *et al.*, 1996; Essner *et al.*, 2005;  
11 Oteíza *et al.*, 2008). The number of DFCs range from 10-50 cells per embryo that can  
12 expand into >150 cells that make up the fully functional KV (Gokey *et al.*, 2016; Moreno-  
13 Ayala *et al.*, 2021). Early studies reported that these DFCs present as mesenchymal-like  
14 and are migratory. They lack clear apical/basal polarity (lack of aPKC distribution) until  
15 KV cells establish into rosette-like structures (Essner *et al.*, 2005). Apical polarity  
16 establishment of aPKC, at least in part, coincides with cystic fibrosis transmembrane  
17 conductance regulator (CFTR) accumulation at apical sites, which is a requirement for  
18 ultimate lumen expansion (Essner *et al.*, 2005; Navis *et al.*, 2013). KV cell rosette-like  
19 structures can either form as multiple cells congressing to make a single rosette or cells  
20 assembling multiple rosettes which then transition to a single rosette-like structure. The  
21 single rosette transitions into a cyst of ciliated cells surrounding a fluid-filled lumen  
22 (Essner *et al.*, 2005; Compagnon *et al.*, 2014).

23 One essential structure for cilia formation is the centrosome. The centrosome is  
24 commonly known as the main microtubule organizing center of the cell with two barrel  
25 shaped microtubule structures called centrioles enclosed in a network of proteins called  
26 the pericentriolar matrix (Vertii *et al.*, 2016). The position of the centrosome within the cell  
27 can be integral in generating specific cues that facilitate cellular processes such as where  
28 the apical membrane and cilium will form. In *C. elegans* intestinal cells, the placement of  
29 the centrosome during epithelialization at the apical membrane is necessary for apical  
30 membrane establishment (Feldman and Priess, 2012), but in these cells the centrosome  
31 is not destined to ever form a primary cilium. One question that arises is what molecular

1 and cellular mechanisms dictate when the centrosome should move to the apical  
2 membrane? Our studies herein have identified some potential mechanisms for  
3 centrosome positioning. We find that KV centrosomes reposition towards the forming  
4 apical membrane with an associated cilium in a Rab11-, but not Rab8-, dependent  
5 manner suggesting a connection between the centrosome and Rab11-endosomes that is  
6 likely important in both centrosome positioning and its ability to form a primary cilium.

7 While select Rab GTPases have been extensively studied, most of them have not  
8 been assigned to a detailed function or localization pattern throughout early embryonic  
9 vertebrate development. Rab GTPases comprise approximately 60 genes in vertebrates,  
10 with each Rab localizing to specific intracellular membrane compartments in their GTP-  
11 bound (active) form. These active Rabs then bind to effector proteins to aid in various  
12 steps in membrane trafficking some of which can facilitate cilia, polarity, and/or lumen  
13 formation (Borchers *et al.*, 2021; Homma *et al.*, 2021). *In vitro* assays have been used to  
14 screen the Rab GTPase family to identify which Rabs are used in lumen establishment  
15 or ciliogenesis. These screens involve the use of mammalian cell culture systems that  
16 are either depleted or genetically null for Rab GTPase family members (Yoshimura *et al.*,  
17 2007; Oguchi *et al.*, 2020; Homma *et al.*, 2021). Some Rab GTPases identified were  
18 involved in either cilia or lumen formation, and a subset of those were involved in both  
19 such as Rab11, Rab8, and Rab35 (Bryant *et al.*, 2010; Knödler *et al.*, 2010; Westlake *et*  
20 *al.*, 2011; Klinkert *et al.*, 2016; Kuhns *et al.*, 2019; Naslavsky and Caplan, 2020; Belicova  
21 *et al.*, 2021). Here we investigated these three Rab GTPases in KV development. Using  
22 a combination of depletion and optogenetic clustering approaches we have identified a  
23 role for Rab11 and Rab35 in KV lumen and cilia formation, but Rab8 is only necessary in  
24 regulating cilia length. While much is known about Rab8, Rab11, and Rab35, in  
25 ciliogenesis and/or lumen formation in the context of mammalian cell culture conditions,  
26 our findings were surprising in that Rab8 did not seem to affect lumen or cilia formation  
27 where it does in mammalian cell culture (Bryant *et al.*, 2010; Knödler *et al.*, 2010;  
28 Westlake *et al.*, 2011; Naslavsky and Caplan, 2020). In this context, Rab8 and Rab11  
29 work together in a GTPase cascade that is required for both cilia and lumen formation.  
30 However, in KV Rab8 is dispensable for lumen formation suggesting that specific cell  
31 types during potentially different developmental processes may have different

1 dependencies on Rab GTPases that can be identified using developmental model  
2 systems such as zebrafish.

3

4 **RESULTS**

5

6 *KV cilia form prior to KV lumen formation.*

7 To test when KV cells start to make cilia during KV morphogenesis, Sox17:GFP-  
8 CAAX transgenic embryos were employed to mark KV cells and fixed at different stages  
9 of KV development, pre-rosette (8-9 hours post fertilization, hpf), rosette (10 hpf), and  
10 lumen (12 hpf, Figure 1A). The pre-rosette stage is where KV cells are more  
11 mesenchymal-like and have yet to organize into a rosette, whereas in the rosette stage  
12 KV cells are organized into a rosette-like structure with their newly forming apical  
13 membranes pointed towards the rosette center (Amack and Yost, 2004; Amack *et al.*,  
14 2007). The lumen stage is where ciliated KV cells surround a fluid filled lumen (Figure  
15 1A). After fixing embryos at each of these stages, embryos were immunostained for  
16 centrosomes and cilia using antibodies against  $\gamma$ - and acetylated-tubulin (Figure 1B). A  
17 significant population of KV cells started to form cilia at the centrosome in the cell body  
18 at both the pre-rosette and rosette stage of KV development (Figure 1B-C). During the  
19 pre-rosette stage,  $33.25 \pm 3.33\%$  of KV cells had cilia; that increased to  $48.06 \pm 5.94\%$  at  
20 the rosette stage and averaged at  $64.82 \pm 5.27\%$  early on during lumen development (12  
21 hpf, Figure 1C). These studies suggested that KV cells were forming cilia before they had  
22 an extracellular space (KV Lumen) to position into and that KV lumen formation correlated  
23 with a significant increase in KV cells having cilia.

24 Our findings in Figure 1B-C suggest a cellular mechanism where cilia are formed  
25 at random locales in KV cells, with cilia and associated centrosomes needing to move  
26 inside the cell towards where an apical membrane is being constructed at the rosette  
27 center. At this locale, the cilia would be positioned perfectly to extend into the lumen. To  
28 test this idea, volumetric projections of surface rendered KV cells were performed at the  
29 pre-rosette, rosette, and luminal stages. KV cell outlines were noted using GFP-CAAX  
30 and cilia were immunostained using acetylated tubulin (Figure S1A). Surface rendering  
31 using IMARIS software allowed for the spatial positioning of cilia in KV cells across KV

1 developmental stages to be assessed (Figure S1A, Video S1). The boundaries of the cell  
2 (GFP-CAAX) and cilia (acetylated tubulin) were highlighted to create a three-dimensional  
3 space filling model of both cell and cilia. We identified that as KV develops from pre-  
4 rosette to rosette, to luminal stage, intracellular cilia approach the apical membrane.  
5 Once a lumen is formed, the cilia extend into the developing KV lumen (Figure S1A). To  
6 identify if KV cell cilia were positioning towards the center of the KV cellular mass over  
7 the course of its development, we calculated the relative distance of cilia from the cell  
8 boundary closest to the KV center from the embryos shown in Figure 1B (modeled in  
9 Figure S1B; calculations in Figure 1D). When values approach 0, cilia are approaching  
10 the cell boundary closest to the KV center. This occurs significantly as KV cells  
11 transitioned from a pre-rosette organization to luminal stages (Figure 1D), suggesting  
12 that KV cell cilia are constructed intracellularly, then positioned to the cell boundary  
13 closest to KV center where they are primed to extend their cilia into the forming lumen.

14 We next characterized cilia length during this process. Cilia length was measured  
15 in KV cells before lumen formation (lumen area of 0  $\mu\text{m}^2$ ) and at increments of lumen  
16 expansion (up to a lumen area of  $5*10^3 \mu\text{m}^2$ ). Cilia in KVs with no lumen had an average  
17 length of 2.25  $\mu\text{m}$ . Once a lumen starts to form, a significant increase in cilia length occurs  
18 where cilia have an average length of 4.5  $\mu\text{m}$  (Figure 1E). This increase in cilia length  
19 starts when the KV lumen approaches an area of approximately  $300 \mu\text{m}^2$  and remains  
20 consistent out to  $5*10^3 \mu\text{m}^2$  (Figure 1E). These studies suggest that cilia first form inside  
21 the cell, then position towards the rosette center where they then can extend and elongate  
22 into the KV lumen.

23 To confirm that cilia were forming through a potential intracellular pathway versus  
24 an extracellular pathway (modeled in Figure 1F), we immunostained for Myosin Va (Myo-  
25 Va). Class V myosins are actin-based motor proteins that have been implicated in  
26 organelle transport and tethering. Myo-Va specifically is associated with Rab11 positive  
27 membranes that move to the cell periphery and is a potential Rab11-effector protein  
28 (Lindsay *et al.*, 2013). Myo-Va has been reported to be required for the recruitment of  
29 pre-ciliary vesicles to the distal appendages of the mother centriole and can positively  
30 mark the ciliary vesicle/cap (Wu *et al.*, 2018; Ganga *et al.*, 2021). Here we used Myo-Va  
31 as a marker for the pre-ciliary vesicle and as a potential marker to denote if KV cells are

1 using an intracellular mechanism for cilia assembly. A space filling model for the KV cell  
2 membrane, cilia, and Myo-Va was employed to visualize cilia inside versus outside the  
3 cell (Figure 1G). Myo-Va surrounds the cilium in KV cells at a rosette stage with cilia  
4 inside the cell (Figure 1G). This finding was like that reported for *in vitro* cultured cell lines,  
5 Retinal Pigment Epithelial (RPE) and a mouse fibroblast line (NIH3T3) (Wu *et al.*, 2018).  
6 Once the cilium extended out into the lumen, Myo-Va remained at the cilium's base  
7 (Figure 1G). These studies suggest a mechanism where KV cell cilia are forming through  
8 an intracellular pathway that recruits pre-ciliary vesicles positive for Myo-Va. These Myo-  
9 Va vesicles then form a ciliary cap for the cilia to grow within. The cilia with associated  
10 cap can then fuse with the plasma membrane and KV cilia can extend into the lumen  
11 (summarized in Figure 1F).

12

13 *Live embryo characterization of Rab8, Rab11, Rab35 and actin localization during KV*  
14 *cilia and lumen formation*

15 Previous work in mammalian culture systems and with preliminary morpholino  
16 studies in zebrafish KV have implicated Rab8, Rab11, and Rab35 in cilia and/or lumen  
17 establishment (Bryant *et al.*, 2010; Knödler *et al.*, 2010; Westlake *et al.*, 2011; Klinkert *et*  
18 *al.*, 2016; Kuhns *et al.*, 2019; Naslavsky and Caplan, 2020; Belicova *et al.*, 2021).  
19 However, their cellular distribution during KV development has not been investigated, nor  
20 has it been positioned in relation to KV cilia formation or to actin recruitment to the apical  
21 membrane. Foundational studies have demonstrated that at least one of the paralogs of  
22 Rab8, Rab11, and Rab35 is broadly expressed throughout zebrafish development,  
23 including KV (Demir *et al.*, 2013; Kuhns *et al.*, 2019; Zhang *et al.*, 2019; Willoughby *et al.*,  
24 2021). In consideration of these findings, we expressed fluorescently tagged Rab8a,  
25 Rab11a, and Rab35 by mRNA injection and assessed their distribution in the zebrafish  
26 KV marked by the plasma membrane marker GFP-CAAX (Figure 2A, 2C, 2D, S2, Video  
27 S2). In addition, we used an endogenously GFP tagged transgenic line of Rab11 (Figure  
28 2B, (Levic *et al.*, 2021)). We identified that Rab8 was broadly recruited to the apical  
29 membrane during rosette formation and remained there during lumen opening (Figure  
30 2A). This distribution was comparable to ectopically expressed Rab11 at the rosette stage  
31 (Figure S2A), where both Rab8 and Rab11 are recruited to the forming apical membrane

1 (Figure 2A, S2A). Rab11 distribution was confirmed using the endogenously tagged GFP-  
2 Rab11 line (Figure 2B). Once the lumen starts to open, Rab11 segregates towards cell-  
3 cell junctions (Figure 2B) similar to the distribution pattern of actin (labeled using Lifeact-  
4 mRuby, Figure 2C, Video S2). Expression of mRuby-Rab35 presented with localization  
5 to cell boundaries and some punctate cytosolic distribution (Figure 2D). To assess  
6 segregation of GTPases to cell-cell junctional sites noted with Rab11 and actin, the  
7 fluorescent intensity was measured between cell-cell junctional sites and the apical  
8 membrane. A ratio was calculated as junctional intensity over apical intensity (Figure 2F).  
9 We found that Rab11, Rab8, Rab35, and actin all became recruited to the apical  
10 membrane, with Rab11 and actin segregating to cell-cell junctional locales once the  
11 lumen opened when compared to Rab8 and Rab35 (Figure 2F). These findings suggest  
12 that Rab11 and actin remodeling are occurring at the apical membrane with similar timing  
13 as when the cilia should be extending into the lumen.

14 We next tested when KV cilia extend into the forming KV lumen. To do this we  
15 employed two strategies. We first imaged in live embryos cilia extending into the lumen  
16 using Sox17:GFP-CAAX embryos to denote the KV cells that ectopically expressed the  
17 cilia marker Arl13b-mCardinal (Figure 2E). With the second strategy we fixed GFP-CAAX  
18 embryos at various lumen sizes ranging from 0 to  $5*10^3 \mu\text{m}^2$  and measured the  
19 percentage of KV cells that had luminal cilia (Figure 2G). These approaches both  
20 demonstrated that cilia dock at the apical membrane during early lumen formation and  
21 then extend into the lumen (Figure 2E) once the lumen area approaches approximately  
22  $300 \mu\text{m}^2$  (Figure 2G). When comparing these studies to when cilia start to elongate in  
23 length (Figure 1E), it suggests that cilia, when inside a KV cell, can reach a length of 2.5  
24  $\mu\text{m}$ , but once a lumen is formed ( $300 \mu\text{m}^2$  in area), the cilia can extend into the lumen and  
25 grow to their final length of 4  $\mu\text{m}$ . This suggests a cellular model where the intracellular  
26 KV cilia first dock at the plasma membrane, after actin and Rab11 redistribute to cell-cell  
27 junctions, and then extend into the lumen once the lumen expands to the appropriate  
28 size.

29

1 *Rab11 and Rab35 modulate KV lumen formation.*

2 Previous studies in 3D cultures of Madin-Darby canine kidney (MDCK) cells (cysts)  
3 (Bryant *et al.*, 2010) implicated that the small GTPase Rab11 acts upstream of Rab8 in a  
4 GTPase cascade needed for appropriate lumen formation. Interestingly, an additional  
5 Rab GTPase, Rab35, was also implicated in lumen opening using this same 3D culture  
6 system (Klinkert *et al.*, 2016). Here we tested the requirement of Rab11, Rab8, and Rab35  
7 on KV lumen establishment using two strategies, morpholino (MO) transcript depletion  
8 using MOs that have been previously characterized ((Omori *et al.*, 2008; Westlake *et al.*,  
9 2011; Kuhns *et al.*, 2019), Figure S3A) and an acute optogenetic clustering strategy  
10 (Figure 3A). The optogenetic strategy causes an acute inhibition of Rab11-, Rab8-, and  
11 Rab35-associated membranes through a hetero-interaction between cytochrome2  
12 (CRY2) and CIB1 upon exposure to blue light during specific KV developmental stages  
13 (Figure 3A, (Nguyen *et al.*, 2016; Rathbun *et al.*, 2020b; Krishnan *et al.*, 2022)). With  
14 acute optogenetic clustering of Rab11- and Rab35-associated membranes and with  
15 depletion of Rab11 and Rab35 transcripts using MOs, we found severe defects in lumen  
16 formation (Figure 3B-D, S3B-F) when comparing to control conditions (CRY2, Figure  
17 S3C; control MO, S3D-E). This was measured both by following lumen formation live  
18 using an automated fluorescent stereoscope set up for a set time frame (Figure 3B, S3C)  
19 and at a fixed developmental endpoint (6 SS, 12 hpf, Figure 3D, S3D-F). Sox17:GFP-  
20 CAAX marked KV cells were used to assess lumen formation. Zebrafish embryos were  
21 imaged just past 75% epiboly for over 4 hours, during this time, the Rab35 and Rab11  
22 clustered embryos that were imaged were not able to form a lumen when compared to  
23 control (CRY2, Figure 3B-D, S3C, Video S3). To characterize KV developmental defects  
24 with acute clustering of Rab8, Rab11, and Rab35, KV morphologies were characterized  
25 at a fixed developmental endpoint (6SS, 12 hpf). We found that Rab11 and Rab35  
26 clustered embryos presented with defects in forming a rosette (42.5% of embryos for  
27 Rab11, 28.1% for Rab35) or transitioning from a multiple rosette state to a single rosette  
28 state (37.5% of embryos for Rab11, 18.5% for Rab35, Figure 3D, Video S3 and Figure  
29 3B for Rab35 clustering) compared to CRY2 embryos or Rab8 clustered embryos (100%  
30 form lumen, Figure 3D, Video S3). Interestingly, Rab35-clustered embryos were able to  
31 form separate rosettes that were not in the same cellular KV mass and in some cases

1 one of the rosettes could transition to a small KV structure with a lumen (refer to Figure  
2 S3F, counts in Figure 3D). While a Rab11-Rab8 GTPase cascade during lumen formation  
3 has been proposed in the context of mammalian cell culture conditions (Bryant *et al.*,  
4 2010), our findings were surprising in that acute Rab8 clustering conditions or Rab8  
5 depletion conditions by MO does not affect lumen formation during KV development, but  
6 instead Rab11 and Rab35 play a predominant role. The comparison of *in vivo* to *in vitro*  
7 systems suggested to us that specific cell types during potentially different developmental  
8 processes may have different dependencies on the Rab GTPase family.  
9

10 *Optogenetic clustering of Rab8, Rab11, and Rab35 present unique roles in regulating*  
11 *actin and CFTR cellular distribution.*

12 Since both Rab11 and Rab35 optogenetic clustering, but not Rab8, resulted in  
13 lumen formation defects we wanted to examine whether they disrupted two pathways that  
14 have both been implicated in regulating KV lumen formation: CFTR recruitment to the  
15 apical membrane (Navis *et al.*, 2013) and actin dynamics (Wang *et al.*, 2011;  
16 Saydmohammed *et al.*, 2018). CFTR is a master regulator of fluid secretion into luminal  
17 spaces. CFTR is transported through the secretory pathway to the apical membrane  
18 where it mediates chloride ion transport from inside the cell to outside the cell. Loss of  
19 CFTR-mediated fluid secretion impairs KV lumen expansion leading to laterality defects  
20 (Navis *et al.*, 2013). Actin based molecular motors, Myosin1D (Saydmohammed *et al.*,  
21 2018) and Myosin II (Wang *et al.*, 2011), and a known actin regulator, Rho associated  
22 coiled-coil containing protein kinase 2 (ROCK2, (Wang *et al.*, 2011)), have been  
23 implicated in establishing LR asymmetry. In our studies we found that Rab11 optogenetic  
24 clustering causes a severe defect in the delivery of CFTR to the apical membrane where  
25 CFTR-GFP becomes trapped in Rab11-clustered membrane compartments (Figure 4A,  
26 4C). Rab35 optogenetic clusters also partially contain CFTR (Figure 4A, 4C), but not to  
27 the same extent as Rab11-clustered membranes. With both Rab11 and Rab35 clustering,  
28 there was significantly less CFTR that was able to be delivered to forming apical  
29 membranes. This is consistent with defects in KV rosette and lumen formation observed  
30 with Rab35 and Rab11 clustered embryos (Figure 3D). Interesting, some Rab35 clustered  
31 embryos demonstrate multiple rosettes that form in a KV, with one rosette being

1 competent for lumen formation but defective in expansion (Figure 4A). When this occurs,  
2 we find that the rosette that is competent in opening has CFTR localized to the apical  
3 membrane (Figure 4A), as opposed to the secondary rosette that cannot open (Figure  
4 4A, inset). No defect in CFTR delivery to the apical membrane was noted with Rab8  
5 optogenetic clustering (Figure 4A, 4C), consistent with the lack of observed defects in  
6 lumen formation with both optogenetic clustering (Figure 3D) and depletion of Rab8 using  
7 morpholinos (Figure S3D-E).

8         Actin organization was significantly disrupted in embryos with optogenetically  
9 clustered Rab11 (Figure 4B, 4D), but not in Rab8 or Rab35 optogenetic conditions. Under  
10 control conditions (Figure 2), we found that Rab11 and actin distributed from broad apical  
11 membrane localization during the rosette stage of KV development to cell-cell junctions  
12 during lumen formation and expansion (Figure 2B, 2C), whereas Rab35 and Rab8 had  
13 more even distribution at cell boundaries and across the apical membrane respectively  
14 (Figure 2A, 2D, 2F). When Rab11 membranes were optogenetically clustered, a robust  
15 recruitment of actin was associated with these membranes compared to Rab8 or Rab35  
16 clustered membranes (Figure 4B, 4D). Together these studies suggest that Rab11 and  
17 Rab35 may be working together for CFTR delivery to the apical membrane to initiate  
18 lumen expansion, but that Rab11 has a likely role in actin remodeling independent of  
19 Rab35.

20         Some GTPases are known to work together on the same membrane compartment.  
21 For instance, Rab11 and Rab8 were reported to function together in a GTPase cascade  
22 in cellular events such as lumen formation and ciliogenesis. In this situation, Rab11 acts  
23 upstream of Rab8 by recruiting the Guanine Exchange Factor (GEF) for Rab8, Rabin8  
24 (Bryant *et al.*, 2010; Knödler *et al.*, 2010; Westlake *et al.*, 2011). Based on our findings  
25 that both Rab11 and Rab35 cause defects in lumen formation (Figure 2) and CFTR  
26 trafficking (Figure 4A, 4C), we asked if Rab11, Rab35, and/or Rab8 could act on the same  
27 membrane compartment. To test this, we performed optogenetic clustering of Rab35 or  
28 Rab11 and determined whether clustering one recruited Rab11, Rab35, or Rab8.  
29 Optogenetic clustering of Rab11 resulted in the recruitment of Rab8 but not Rab35  
30 (Figure 4E, 4F). This is consistent with the idea that a Rab11 cascade may still exist  
31 between Rab11 and Rab8, but that this cascade may not be needed for CFTR transport

1 or KV lumen formation. It also suggests that Rab11 is not acting upstream of Rab35.  
2 Interestingly, upon optogenetic clustering Rab35 membranes, Rab11 becomes  
3 significantly co-localized (Figure 4E, 4F) suggesting that Rab35 may act upstream of  
4 Rab11. In summary, we find that Rab35 and Rab11 may work together to ensure  
5 appropriate lumen formation through managing CFTR trafficking to the forming apical  
6 membrane (Figure 3, 4).

7

8 *Rab11 and Rab35 associated membranes are needed for KV cilia formation and*  
9 *extension into the lumen, whereas Rab8 is needed for cilia length regulation.*

10 Our initial studies demonstrated that KV cilia extend into the lumen once the lumen  
11 reaches an area  $300 \mu\text{m}^2$  (Figure 2G). Then KV cilia can reach their maximum length of  
12 approximately  $4 \mu\text{m}$  (Figure 1E). These findings suggested that mechanisms regulating  
13 lumen formation involving the GTPases Rab11 and Rab35, may also play an important  
14 role in coordinating cilia formation. To explore this idea, we examined the localization of  
15 Rab11 and Rab35, along with Rab8, in relation to KV cilia (Figure 5A). We used the  
16 endogenously tagged GFP-Rab11 zebrafish line and ectopically expressed mRuby-  
17 Rab35 (Figure 5A, S4A-B). Embryos were fixed at the KV rosette stage (Figure 5A, top)  
18 and lumen stage (Figure 5A, bottom), and cilia were immunostained for acetylated tubulin.  
19 When imaging the KV rosette stage, we found that cilia were organized intracellularly  
20 surrounded by Rab11 membranes that were organized at the center of the rosette, while  
21 Rab8 was organized at the base of the cilia where the centrosome resides (Figure 5A).  
22 As the KV develops to a lumen stage, Rab11 reorganizes to the base with Rab8 (Figure  
23 5A). Throughout the developmental stages Rab35 organized to cell boundaries (Figure  
24 2D, S4B) with no specific localization to the cilia itself (Figure S4B). To test the  
25 requirement of Rab11, Rab8, and Rab35 on KV cell cilia formation and/or centrosome  
26 positioning we employed two strategies, MO transcript depletion (Figure S3A, S4C) and  
27 the acute Rab GTPase optogenetic clustering assay (modeled in Figure 3A). Our studies  
28 found that optogenetically clustering Rab11- or Rab35-membranes during early KV  
29 development caused a significant decrease in the percentage of KV cells that could form  
30 cilia (Figure 5B, 5D). When comparing Rab11, Rab8, and Rab35 clustered embryos to  
31 control (CRY2 injected), we identified that only  $35.81 \pm 8.79\%$  of Rab11 and  $49.72 \pm 5.50\%$

1 of Rab35 clustered KV cells were able to make a cilium compared to Rab8 clustered  
2 (64.43±3.85%) and CRY2 controls (78.03±3.86%, Figure 5B, 5D). These findings were  
3 surprising in that it suggested that Rab11- and Rab35-associated membranes, but not  
4 Rab8, were required for KV cilia formation. However, clustering Rab11 and Rab35 also  
5 produced more severe defects in KV lumen formation (Figure 3), suggesting that their  
6 role may be to coordinate both lumen and cilia formation to occur at the appropriate time  
7 during KV development.

8 We next wanted to test in the cells that could make cilia, whether the cilia were  
9 abnormal in length. In addition, we examined in the KVs that formed lumen whether cilia  
10 could extend into it. Rab11, Rab8, and Rab35-clustered cells that made cilia  
11 demonstrated significantly decreased cilia length (2.92±0.14  $\mu\text{m}$  for Rab11, 3.15±0.08  
12  $\mu\text{m}$  for Rab8, and 2.02±0.05 for Rab35) compared to control CRY2 conditions (4.13±0.06  
13  $\mu\text{m}$ , Figure 5E). This significant decrease in cilia length with Rab11, Rab8, and Rab35  
14 clustering, is consistent with Rab11, Rab8, or Rab35 depletion using morpholinos (Figure  
15 S4C, (Westlake *et al.*, 2011; Lu *et al.*, 2015; Klinkert *et al.*, 2016)). Interestingly, Rab8  
16 clustering did cause a significant decrease in cilia length (Figure 5E), but not in the  
17 formation of cilia or lumen (Figure 3B-D, 5C). This suggests that Rab8 may have a more  
18 direct role in cilia function and not in lumen formation. We next examined if the cilia that  
19 were made were stuck in the cell volume. In Rab11 (20.59±5.34%) and Rab35 clustered  
20 KV cells (26.02±5.25%) had cilia stuck within the cell volume compared to Rab8 clustered  
21 cells (2.32±1.45%) or CRY2 controls (5.44±1.69%, Figure 5F). These findings suggest  
22 that centrosomes that construct a cilium under Rab11- and Rab35-clustering conditions  
23 are unable to extend the cilium into the lumen and that this could be the underlying reason  
24 for cilia being significantly shorter in length. One possibility for cilia being stuck within the  
25 cell volume is that KV lumens are not able to expand beyond 300  $\mu\text{m}^2$  in area under  
26 conditions of Rab11- and Rab35- clustering (Figure 3B-D), but an additional possibility is  
27 that the centrosome and the forming cilium are unable to relocate towards the center of  
28 the KV cell mass where the rosette center and subsequent lumen will form. To test the  
29 role of Rab35-, Rab11- and Rab8-membranes in centrosome positioning during KV  
30 development, centrosome distances from the plasma membrane closest to KV center  
31 were measured under clustered conditions and compared to control conditions (CRY2,

1 modeled in Figure S1B). If centrosomes are positioning towards the KV center, then the  
2 number should approach 0. Rab11- and Rab35-clustered embryos measurements  
3 averaged around  $0.70 \pm 0.10$  and  $0.75 \pm 0.11$  respectively, whereas with Rab8 clustered  
4 and control conditions the centrosome distance approached 0 with a value of  $0.23 \pm 0.06$   
5 and  $0.30 \pm 0.03$  (Figure 5G). These studies suggest that Rab11 and Rab35 coordinate  
6 lumen formation and centrosome positioning during cilia formation.

7  
8 *Acute optogenetic disruption of Rab8, Rab11, and Rab35 membranes during KV*  
9 *development results in left-right asymmetry defects.*

10 The consequences associated with KV lumen expansion and cilia formation can  
11 have downstream developmental defects that include defects in the left-right development  
12 of the brain, heart, and gut (Grimes and Burdine, 2017). Based on this, we wanted to  
13 examine the developmental defects associated with acute optogenetic clustering of Rab8-  
14 , Rab11-, or Rab35-associated membranes during KV development (Figure 6A). Embryos  
15 expressing CIB1-Rab8, -Rab11, or -Rab35 with CRY2 were exposed to blue light to  
16 induce clustering at 75% epiboly when KV precursor (Dorsal Forerunner) cells are first  
17 visualized until 6 SS (12 hpf) when KV lumen is opening. At 6 SS blue light was removed  
18 and the embryos were left to develop to high pec (42 hpf). Gross phenotypes observed  
19 with animals having Rab8-, Rab11-, or Rab35-optogenetically clustered membranes  
20 included a significant increase in animals with curved tails. Rab35 clustering specifically  
21 resulted in a significant increase of animals displaying no tails and/or a one-eye  
22 phenotype when compared to control conditions (CRY2, Figure 6B-C). We specifically  
23 examined heart development since the heart is the first organ that is formed during  
24 zebrafish development and its laterality can be easily assessed in live embryos (Figure  
25 6D). Using a cmlc2:GFP transgenic line to label zebrafish heart cells specifically, we  
26 assessed the process of heart looping. Abnormal heart looping includes reversed looping,  
27 no loop, or bilateral heart looping (Figure 6D-E, Video S4). Over 70% of animals  
28 presented with abnormal heart looping when Rab8-, Rab11-, or Rab35- was acutely  
29 clustered during KV developmental stages compared to control animals expressing CRY2  
30 ( $13.55 \pm 1.59\%$ ). While this was not surprising for Rab11 and Rab35 optogenetic clustering  
31 during KV development due to embryos presenting with severe lumen and cilia formation

1 defects (Figure 3, 5), this was surprising for Rab8 optogenetic clustering conditions where  
2 embryos formed normal lumens but had shorter cilia (Figure 5E). This suggests that even  
3 subtle defects in cilia length and potential function during KV development may result in  
4 significant developmental defects. Taken together, these studies propose that Rab8-,  
5 Rab11-, and Rab35-mediated membrane trafficking is necessary for forming a functional  
6 KV during development.

7

## 8 **DISCUSSION**

9 Our studies focused on the Rab GTPases— Rab8, Rab11, and Rab35—that have  
10 been linked to lumen and cilia formation in mammalian cell culture models (Bryant *et al.*,  
11 2010; Knödler *et al.*, 2010; Westlake *et al.*, 2011; Klinkert *et al.*, 2016). We identified that  
12 during the KV pre-rosette stage, cells start to assemble a cilium inside the cell at random  
13 locales that is positive for the ciliary vesicle marker Myo-Va (Figure 1B, 1G). The cilium  
14 and associated centrosome are repositioned inside the cell towards the center of the KV  
15 cell mass at a similar time KV cells are rearranging into a rosette like structure that then  
16 transitions into a group of cells surrounding a fluid-filled lumen (Figure 1B, 1D). Once the  
17 lumen reaches a set area ( $300 \mu\text{m}^2$ ), the KV cell cilia extend into the lumen from a location  
18 marked by Rab8 and Rab11, but not Rab35 (Figure 5A, S4A-B). We identified that  
19 Rab11- and Rab35-associated membranes are both required to mediate KV cells  
20 transition into a rosette cellular arrangement and then into a cyst of cells organized around  
21 a central lumen (Figure 3). Rab11 likely does this through mediating both actin dynamics  
22 and CFTR transport to the apical membrane (Figure 4A-D), where Rab35 may act  
23 upstream of Rab11 membranes (Figure 4E-F).

24 Interestingly, the only significant defect we identified with acute disruption of Rab8  
25 was cilia length (Figure 5E), whereas with Rab11 and Rab35 we found defects in KV  
26 development that included rosette formation and transition to forming a lumen, along with  
27 a loss of cilia formation. This was surprising due to previous reports identifying a GTPase  
28 cascade between Rab11 and Rab8 that was needed for lumen formation and for cilia  
29 formation in mammalian tissue culture (Bryant *et al.*, 2010; Knödler *et al.*, 2010; Westlake  
30 *et al.*, 2011; Lu *et al.*, 2015; Cuenca *et al.*, 2019). While we argue that this cascade may  
31 not be required for lumen or cilia formation in KV cells, it may still be intact in regulation

1 of cilia length (Figure 5E). Our findings demonstrate that both conserved and divergent  
2 mechanisms are likely involved in cilia formation dependent on the developmental  
3 requirements of the tissue being formed. For instance, there may be a possible  
4 connection between Rab35 and Rab11, where both Rab35 and Rab11 clustered  
5 membranes result in the sequestration of CFTR, and that Rab35 clustering results in the  
6 partial recruitment of Rab11. Our findings suggest a possible connection between Rab35  
7 and Rab11 that is coordinated during cilia and lumen formation. Interestingly, there is no  
8 colocalization with Rab35 and cilia, unlike Rab11. One potential unique mechanistic  
9 possibility is that Rab35 and Rab11 work together in coordinating lumen formation  
10 through CFTR transport. In this scenario, Rab11 or Rab35 clustering may prevent CFTR  
11 from accumulating appropriately at the apical membrane, resulting in incomplete lumen  
12 formation and cilia assembly. An additional more conserved mechanism for Rab11,  
13 similar to what is reported in mammalian cell culture, is a direct role at the cilium where  
14 Rab11 localizes to (Figure 5A). In this scenario, Rab11 can regulate cilia formation and  
15 potential elongation in a cascade with Rab8. Our findings suggest potential conserved  
16 but also unique mechanistic contributions of Rab GTPases in coordinating lumen  
17 formation and ciliation for tissues *in vivo*, leaving ample opportunity for further  
18 investigation.

19

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7 Opinions, interpretations, conclusions, and recommendations are those of the authors  
8 and not necessarily endorsed by the Department of Defense.

9

10 **AUTHOR CONTRIBUTIONS**

11 A.A., D.P., J.S., H.H., N.K., J.M., C.T., E.I., N.A.H and F.O. designed, performed, and  
12 analyzed experiments; H.H. wrote manuscript; J.F. provided molecular reagents and  
13 zebrafish husbandry. All authors provided edits. H.H. oversaw project.

14

15 **DECLARATION OF INTERESTS**

16 The authors declare no competing interests.

17

1 **FIGURE LEGENDS**

2

3 **Figure 1.** *KV cilia form prior to KV lumen formation using an intracellular pathway.*

4 (A) Model depicting KV developmental stages: pre-rosette, rosette and lumen. Number  
5 of hours post fertilization (hpf) shown. (B) Confocal micrographs of KV developmental  
6 stages with cilia (acetylated-tubulin, cyan), centrosome ( $\gamma$ -tubulin, magenta), and actin  
7 (phalloidin, gray). Scale bar, 10  $\mu$ m. (b') Magnified insets from (B) depicting centrosome  
8 and cilia positioning in KV cells at different KV developmental stages. Bar, 7  $\mu$ m. (C)  
9 Percentage of ciliated KV cells at the different KV developmental stages. (D) Relative  
10 distance of cilia from cell border closest to KV center. (C-D) Shown as a violin plot with  
11 median (yellow line). One way ANOVA across KV developmental stages,  $n>7$  embryos,  
12 \*\* $p<0.01$ . (E) Scatter plot depicting average cilia length within KV cells per embryo  
13 across  $n=29$  embryos in relation to lumen area. Error bars,  $\pm$  SEM. (F) Model  
14 demonstrating intracellular versus extracellular pathways for cilia formation. (G) 3D  
15 surface rendering of representative KV cells with cilia (acetylated-tubulin, cyan) inside  
16 versus outside of KV plasma membranes (KV membranes, Sox17:GFP-CAAX, gray),  
17 Myo-Va (magenta). Bar, 5  $\mu$ m. Please refer to Table S1 for additional statistical  
18 information.

19

20 **Figure S1.** *KV cilia form prior to KV lumen formation using an intracellular pathway.*

21 (A) 3D surface rendering of a representative KV cell during pre-rosette, rosette, and  
22 lumen KV developmental stages with cilia (acetylated-tubulin, cyan) and KV plasma  
23 membranes (KV membranes, Sox17:GFP-CAAX, gray) rendered. Refer to Video S1.  
24 Bar, 5  $\mu$ m. (B) Model depicting quantification of relative distance of the cilium from the  
25 cell border closest to KV center. Cilia, cyan. Nucleus, gray. Center of KV cells, yellow.  
26 Pink dashed line is distance of cilium from cell membrane. Black dashed line is distance  
27 of cell center to cell membrane.

28

29 **Video S1.** *KV cilia form prior to KV lumen formation using an intracellular pathway.* 3D  
30 surface rendering from Figure S1A of a single KV cell at the KV pre-rosette, rosette, or

1 lumen stage rotated 360 degrees around the X-axis. Bar, 5  $\mu$ m. Inset shows full KV with  
2 cilia (cyan) and KV plasma membrane (Sox17:GFP-CAAX). Refer to Figure S1A.

3

4 **Figure 2.** *Live embryo characterization of Rab8, Rab11, Rab35 and actin localization*  
5 *during KV cilia and lumen formation.* (A-D) Live confocal videos of mRuby-Rab8 (cyan,  
6 A), GFP-Rab11 (gray, B), actin (lifeact-mRuby, magenta, C), and mRuby-Rab35 (gray,  
7 D) localization in KV cells during lumen formation. Refer to Video S2. Scale bar, 10 $\mu$ m.  
8 (E) KV cell building and extending a cilium (Arl13b-mCardinal) into the lumen of the KV.  
9 KV plasma membranes (Sox17:GFP-CAAX) shown (inverted gray, A,C; cyan, E). Bar, 5  
10  $\mu$ m. (F) Ratio of junctional to apical Rab8 (cyan), Rab11 (blue), actin (magenta) and  
11 Rab35 (purple) at the rosette, early lumen, and late lumen stages of KV development.  
12 Error bars represent  $\pm$ SEM for n>4 cells. (G) Scatter plot demonstrating the percentage  
13 of KV cells with luminal cilia per embryo in relation to KV lumen area. n=29 embryos.  
14 Goodness of fit R<sup>2</sup>= 0.8577. Please refer to Table S1 for additional statistical  
15 information.

16

17 **Figure S2.** *Live embryo characterization of Rab8, Rab11, Rab35 and actin localization*  
18 *during KV cilia and lumen formation.* Live confocal videos of mCherry-Rab11 (cyan)  
19 localization in KV cells during lumen formation. KV plasma membrane noted with GFP-  
20 CAAX (inverted gray). Scale bar, 10  $\mu$ m. Refer to Figure 2A-D.

21

22 **Video S2.** *Live embryo characterization of Rab8, Rab11, Rab35 and actin localization*  
23 *during KV lumen formation.* Live confocal videos of actin (lifeact-mRuby, magenta),  
24 mRuby-Rab8 (cyan), GFP-Rab11 (gray), and mRuby-Rab35 (gray) localization in KV  
25 cells during lumen formation. KV plasma membranes (Sox17:GFP-CAAX) shown with  
26 actin and Rab8 (inverted gray). Bar, 10  $\mu$ m. Refer to Figure 2A-D.

27

28 **Figure 3.** *Rab11 and Rab35 modulate KV lumen formation.* (A) A model depicting the  
29 use of optogenetics to acutely block Rab-associated trafficking events during KV  
30 developmental stages. (B) Optogenetic clustering of Rab11 and Rab35 blocks KV  
31 lumen formation compared to Rab8. Imaged on an automated fluorescent stereoscope.

1 Bar, 50  $\mu$ m. KV marked with Sox17:GFP-CAAX, lumens highlighted in orange, clusters  
2 shown in cyan. Refer to Video S3. (C) KV lumen area over time ( $\pm$ SEM for n=3 embryos  
3 per condition). (D) KV morphologies measured from optogenetically-clustered then fixed  
4 embryos at 12 SS (12 hpf). n>27 embryos measured across n>3 clutches per condition.  
5 Please refer to Table S1 for additional statistical information.

6  
7 **Figure S3. Rab11 and Rab35 modulate KV lumen formation.** (A) Agarose gel  
8 demonstrating RT-PCR of Rab8, Rab11, and Rab35 MO treatment compared to control  
9 MO conditions. Amplification of Rab8, Rab11, and Rab35 shown. NC, negative control.  
10 (B) Violin plot depicting lumen area from Rab8, Rab11, and Rab35 clustering conditions  
11 normalized to uninjected control values. Dots represent individual KV values. Median  
12 denoted by line. One-way ANOVA with Dunnett's multiple comparison test, compared to  
13 CRY2. n>9 embryos, \*\*\*\*p<0.0001. (C) Control CRY2 conditions from Figure 3B.  
14 Imaged on an automated fluorescent stereoscope. Bar, 50  $\mu$ m. KV marked with  
15 Sox17:GFP-CAAX, lumens highlighted in orange, clusters shown in cyan. (D)  
16 Representative 3D rendering of KV under Rab8, Rab11, and Rab35 MO treatment.  
17 Lumen trace (orange), cell membrane (GFP-CAAX), inverted LUT), and actin (magenta)  
18 shown. Bar, 100  $\mu$ m. (E) Violin plot depicting lumen area normalized to uninjected  
19 control values. Dots represent individual KV values. Median denoted by line. One-way  
20 ANOVA with Dunnett's multiple comparison test, compared to CRY2. n>12 embryos,  
21 \*\*\*\*p<0.0001. (F) Representative image of optogenetic clustering of Rab35 (cyan) in KV  
22 cells corresponding with Figure 3D. CFTR-GFP (grey) shown. Bar, 100  $\mu$ m. Statistical  
23 results detailed in Table S1.

24  
25 **Video S3. Rab11 and Rab35 modulate KV lumen formation.** Optogenetic clustering of  
26 Rab11 and Rab35 blocks KV lumen formation compared to Rab8. Embryos imaged on  
27 automated fluorescent stereoscope every 10 min. Bar, 100  $\mu$ m. KV marked with  
28 Sox17:GFP-CAAX. Refer to Figure 3B.

29  
30 **Figure 4. Optogenetic clustering of Rab8, Rab11, and Rab35 present unique roles in**  
31 **regulating actin and CFTR cellular distribution.** (A-B) Optogenetic clustering of Rab11,

1 Rab8, and Rab35 (cyan) in KV cells. Localization with CFTR-GFP (magenta, **A**) or actin  
2 (phalloidin, magenta, **B**) demonstrated in magnified insets. Bar, 7  $\mu$ m. (**C-D**) Percent of  
3 optogenetic clusters that colocalize with CFTR (**C**) or actin (**D**). n>9 embryos, \*\*p<0.01,  
4 \*\*\*\*p<0.0001. (**E**) Optogenetic clustering of Rab11 and Rab35 (cyan) in KV cells.  
5 Rab11 clusters localization with Flag-Rab8 (magenta) or mRuby-Rab35 shown, along  
6 with Rab35 clusters with GFP-Rab11. Bar, 7  $\mu$ m. (**F**) Percent of optogenetic clusters  
7 that colocalize with Rab8, Rab35, or Rab11 was calculated. n>9 embryos,  
8 \*\*\*\*p<0.0001. (**C, D, F**) Statistical results detailed in Table S1.  
9

10 **Figure 5.** *Rab11 and Rab35 associated membranes are needed for KV cilia formation*  
11 *and extension into the lumen, whereas Rab8 is needed for cilia length regulation. (A)*  
12 Confocal micrographs of KV developmental rosette stage (top) and lumen stage  
13 (bottom) with cilia (acetylated-tubulin, gray), GFP-Rab11 (cyan), and mRuby-Rab8  
14 (magenta) shown. Bar, 10  $\mu$ m. (**B-C**) Confocal micrographs of cilia (acetylated tubulin,  
15 cyan) in CRY2 (control), Rab8-, Rab11-, and Rab35-clustered Sox17:GFP-CAAX  
16 embryos (gray). Centrosomes denoted by  $\gamma$ -tubulin (magenta, **C**). Clusters not shown.  
17 (**B**) Lumen outline is orange dashed lines. Bar, 10  $\mu$ m. (**C**) Yellow dashed lines, KV cell  
18 membranes. Orange arrow, centrosome. Bar, 2 $\mu$ m. (**D-G**) Violin plots of percentage of  
19 KV cells with cilia (**D**), cilia length (**E**), percentage of KV cilia in cell volume (**F**), and the  
20 relative distance of cilia from the cell boarder closest to KV center (**G**). One way ANOVA  
21 with Dunnett's multiple comparison to CRY2 (control) was performed. n>4 embryos.  
22 \*\*p<0.01, \*\*\*p<0.001, \*\*\*\*p<0.0001. Statistical results detailed in Table S1.  
23

24 **Figure S4.** *Rab11 and Rab35 associated membranes are needed for KV cilia formation*  
25 *and extension into the lumen, whereas Rab8 is needed for cilia length regulation. (A-B)*  
26 Confocal micrographs of KV lumen stage with cilia (acetylated-tubulin, cyan), GFP-Rab11  
27 (magenta, **A**), mRuby-Rab8 (yellow, **A**), mRuby-Rab35 (magenta, **B**), and actin (yellow,  
28 **B**). Bar, 2  $\mu$ m. (**C**) Violin plot of cilia length following morpholino depletion. One way  
29 ANOVA with Dunnett's multiple comparison to control was performed. n>3 embryos.  
30 \*\*\*\*p<0.0001.  
31

1 **Figure 6. Acute optogenetic disruption of Rab8, Rab11, and Rab35 membranes during**  
2 **KV development results in left-right asymmetry defects. (A)** A model depicting the use  
3 of optogenetics to acutely block Rab-associated trafficking events during KV  
4 developmental stages and assessment of downstream developmental consequences at  
5 42 hpf. **(B)** Images demonstrate characterized developmental phenotypes observed that  
6 include curved tail, no tail, and single eye. Yellow arrows point to abnormalities. Bar,  
7 100  $\mu$ m. **(C)** Violin plot displaying percentage of embryos displaying a no tail, curved  
8 tail, or single eye phenotype (shown in **(B)**) over  $n > 3$  clutches across the optogenetic  
9 clustering conditions compared to control. \* $p < 0.05$ , and \*\* $p < 0.01$ . **(D)** Images  
10 demonstrate characterized abnormal heart looping in clustered embryos compared to  
11 normal leftward heart looping in control CRY2 embryos. Refer to Video S4. Bar, 100  
12  $\mu$ m. **(E)** Violin plot displaying percentage of embryos with abnormal heart looping  
13 (shown in **(D)**)  $n > 3$  clutches across the optogenetic clustering conditions compared to  
14 control. \*\*\* $p < 0.001$  and \*\*\*\* $p < 0.0001$ . **(C, E)** Statistical results detailed in Table S1.

15

16 **Video S4. Acute optogenetic disruption of Rab8, Rab11, and Rab35 membranes during**  
17 **KV development results in left-right asymmetry defects.** Stereo microscope video  
18 showing ventral view of a 48 hpf cmlc2:GFP (green) fish marking the heart. In CRY2  
19 control, heart tube loops to the left. Rab8-, Rab11-, and Rab35- optogenetic clustered  
20 zebrafish reveal defective heart loop phenotype from Figure 6D. Size bar, 100  $\mu$ m.  
21 0.25s time interval.

22

23

24

25

26

27

1 **EXPERIMENTAL PROCEDURES**

2

3 **Resource Availability**

4

5 *Lead contact:* For further information or to request resources/reagents, contact Lead  
6 Contact, Dr. Heidi Hehnly ([hhehnly@syr.edu](mailto:hhehnly@syr.edu))

7

8 *Materials availability:* New materials generated for this study are available for  
9 distribution.

10

11 *Data and code availability:* All data sets analyzed for this study are displayed.

12

13 **Experimental model and subject details**

14

15 **Fish Lines**

16 Zebrafish lines were maintained using standard procedures approved by Syracuse  
17 University IACUC (Institutional Animal Care Committee) (Protocol #18-006). Embryos  
18 were raised at 28.5°C and staged (as described in (Kimmel *et al.*, 1995)). Wildtype  
19 and/or transgenic zebrafish lines used for live imaging and immunohistochemistry are  
20 listed in key resource table (Table S2).

21

22 **Method Details**

23

24 **Antibodies**

25 Antibody catalog information used in mammalian cell culture and zebrafish embryos are  
26 detailed in key resource table (Table S2).

27

28 **Plasmids and mRNA**

29 Plasmids were generated using Gibson cloning methods (NEBuilder HiFi DNA  
30 assembly Cloning Kit) and maxi-prepped before injection and/or transfection. mRNA

1 was made using mMESSAGE mMACHINE™SP6 transcription kit. See key resource  
2 table for a list of plasmid constructs and mRNA used.

3

4 **Morpholinos**

5 Morpholinos (MO) were ordered from Gene Tools. Previously characterized Rab8,  
6 Rab11, and Rab35 MO sequences were used from (Westlake *et al.*, 2011; Lu *et al.*,  
7 2015; Kuhns *et al.*, 2019). See Supplementary key resource table in Table S2 for a list  
8 of morpholinos used.

9

10 **RNA extraction and RT-PCR**

11 Total RNA was extracted from either an isolated embryo or several embryos injected  
12 with control, Rab8, Rab11 or Rab35 morpholinos using TRIzol reagent. The RT-PCR  
13 was performed on each sample using OneTaq One-Step RT-PCR Kit (see key resource  
14 table) with the forward primers “tcagtatggcgaagacctacgat”, “gttagcatggctactgcctaattcac”,  
15 “gtaatgagcgactgactgctgac” and reverse primers “tcttcacagtagcacacagcga”,  
16 “catgtcattgtctcgccggc”, “gtgcaaggagaaaaataagatcaagtttagagaatca” for Rab8, Rab11  
17 and Rab35 consecutively. RT-PCR reaction was run using the following cycling  
18 conditions: 48 °C for 30 min, 94 °C for 1min followed by 40 cycles of 94 °C for 15 sec,  
19 54 °C (Rab8 and Rab11) or 53 °C (Rab35) for 30 sec, 68 °C for 2 minutes with final  
20 extension at 68 °C for 5 min.

21

22 **Immunofluorescence**

23 Fluorescent transgenic and/or mRNA injected embryos (refer to strains and mRNAs in  
24 key resource table, and for injection protocols refer to (Rathbun *et al.*, 2020a; Aljiboury  
25 *et al.*, 2021)) were staged at Kupffer's Vesicle (KV) developmental stages as described  
26 in (Amack *et al.*, 2007; Rathbun *et al.*, 2020b) and fixed using 4% paraformaldehyde  
27 with 0.1% triton-100. Standard immunofluorescent protocols were carried out (refer to  
28 (Aljiboury *et al.*, 2021)). Embryos were then embedded in low-melting 2% agarose (see  
29 key resource table) with the KV positioned at the bottom of a #1.5 glass bottom MatTek  
30 plate (see key resource table) and imaged using the spinning disk confocal microscope  
31 or LSCM (see details below).

1

2 **Imaging**

3 Zebrafish embryos were imaged using Leica DMi8 (Leica, Bannockburn, IL) equipped  
4 with a X-light V2 Confocal unit spinning disk equipped with a Visitron VisiFRAP-DC  
5 photokinetics unit, a Leica SP8 (Leica, Bannockburn, IL) laser scanner confocal  
6 microscope (LSCM) and/or a Zeiss LSM 980 (Carl Zeiss, Germany) with Airyscan 2  
7 confocal microscope. The Leica DMi8 is equipped with a Lumencore SPECTRA X  
8 (Lumencore, Beaverton, OR), Photometrics Prime-95B sCMOS Camera, and 89 North-  
9 LDi laser launch. VisiView software was used to acquire images. Optics used with this  
10 unit are HC PL APO x40/1.10W CORR CS2 0.65 water immersion objective, HC PL  
11 APO x40/0.95 NA CORR dry and HCX PL APO x63/1.40-0.06 NA oil objective. The  
12 SP8 laser scanning confocal microscope is equipped with HC PL APO 20x/0.75 IMM  
13 CORR CS2 objective, HC PL APO 40x/1.10 W CORR CS2 0.65 water objective and HC  
14 PL APO x63/1.3 Glyc CORR CS2 glycerol objective. LAS-X software was used to  
15 acquire images. The Zeiss LSM 980 is equipped with a T-PMT, GaASP detector, MA-  
16 PMT, Airyscan 2 multiplex with 4Y and 8Y. Optics used with this unit are PL APO  
17 x63/1.4 NA oil DIC. Zeiss Zen 3.2 was used to acquire the images. A Leica M165 FC  
18 stereomicroscope equipped with DFC 9000 GT sCMOS camera was used for staging  
19 and phenotypic analysis of zebrafish embryos.

20

21 **Optogenetic experiments in zebrafish embryos**

22 Tg(sox17:GFP-CAAX), TgBAC(cftr-GFP), Tg(sox17:GFP), Tg(sox17:DsRed) and  
23 TgKleGFP-Rab11a zebrafish embryos were injected with 50-100 pg of CRY2 and/or  
24 CIB1-mCherry-Rab11, CIB1-mCherry-Rab8 or CIB1-mRuby-Rab35 at the one cell to 4  
25 cell stage. Embryos were allowed to develop in the dark until uninjected embryos  
26 reached the 75% epiboly stage where we can screen embryos for KV cells and expose  
27 them to 488nm light using the NIGHTSEA fluorescence system until the six-somite  
28 stage (Rathbun *et al.*, 2020b). Embryos were then fixed and immunostained (refer to  
29 (Aljiboury *et al.*, 2021)).

30

1 **Analysis of Zebrafish developmental defects and heart looping defects following  
2 acute optogenetic clustering**

3 Zebrafish embryos injected with optogenetic constructs were exposed to 488nm light  
4 from 8 hpf-12 hpf as described in Rathbun et al., 2020. Embryos were incubated at 28.5°C  
5 until 42 hpf. Zebrafish were manually dechorionated using forceps and mounted in 2%  
6 agarose before imaging. Heart loop assessment and imaging were carried out on Leica  
7 M165 FC stereomicroscope equipped with DFC 9000 GT sCMOS29camera. A Plan  
8 Apochromat 1X objective and GFP excitation emission filter was used. Images were  
9 acquired using LAS-X software and post-image processing was done using thunder  
10 imaging system from Leica. Lateral view and ventral view of zebrafish were obtained from  
11 bright field imaging. Time lapse video of heart looping was performed at 0.25 seconds  
12 interval. Heart looping was characterized by leftward, rightward and severely defective  
13 looping. Gross embryo phenotypes were categorized into no tail, curved tail, and single  
14 eye phenotypes. Categorization was performed over 787 embryos over n>3 clutches with  
15 at least 88-274 embryos per condition.

16

17 **Image and data analysis**

18 Images were processed using FIJI/ImageJ. Graphs and statistical analysis were  
19 produced using Prism 9 software. Surface rendering (refer to (Rathbun et al., 2020b))  
20 and analysis of KV cells were performed using Bitplane IMARIS software. Videos were  
21 created using FIJI/ImageJ or IMARIS. Cilia length was measured as the distance from  
22 the base of the cilia to the tip using line function in IMARIS. For percentage of ciliated  
23 KV cells, the number of cells with cilia was counted and represented as a percentage  
24 over the total number of cells in the cyst forming tissue.

25

26 *Relative cilia distance from cell border closest to KV center:* the distance from cilia to  
27 the cell membrane closest to KV center (l2) was measured and divided by the distance  
28 of the center of the cell (nucleus) to the cell's membrane closes to KV center(l1);  $d=l2/l1$ .  
29 This was done for KV cells with positive cilia staining at each developmental KV stage.

30

1 *Ratio of junctional to apical localization:* Using imageJ/FIJI a box was drawn on the cell-  
2 cell junction and the mean intensity for the required channel was obtained. The same  
3 sized box was drawn on the apical membrane and the mean intensity was obtained.  
4 The ratio between the junctional and apical mean intensities were then obtained for four  
5 cells within the acquired timelapse movie for an embryo across developmental KV time  
6 points that included the rosette, early lumen, and late lumen stages.

7

8 *Calculating colocalization of actin, CFTR, and Rab GTPases with select optogenetic*  
9 *clusters:* From fixed embryos the total number of Rab GTPase clusters were counted for  
10 each KV. The number of Rab clusters that had CFTR, actin, or Rab GTPase being  
11 tested overlapping with the Rab GTPase cluster was counted and presented as a  
12 percentage.

13

#### 14 **Statistical Analysis**

15 Unpaired two-tailed t-tests and one way ANOVA were performed using PRISM9  
16 software. \*\*\*\* denotes a p-value<0.0001, \*\*\* p-value<0.001, \*\*p-value<0.01, \*p-  
17 value<0.05, n.s. not significant. For further information on detailed statistical analysis  
18 see supplemental table 1.

19

20

21

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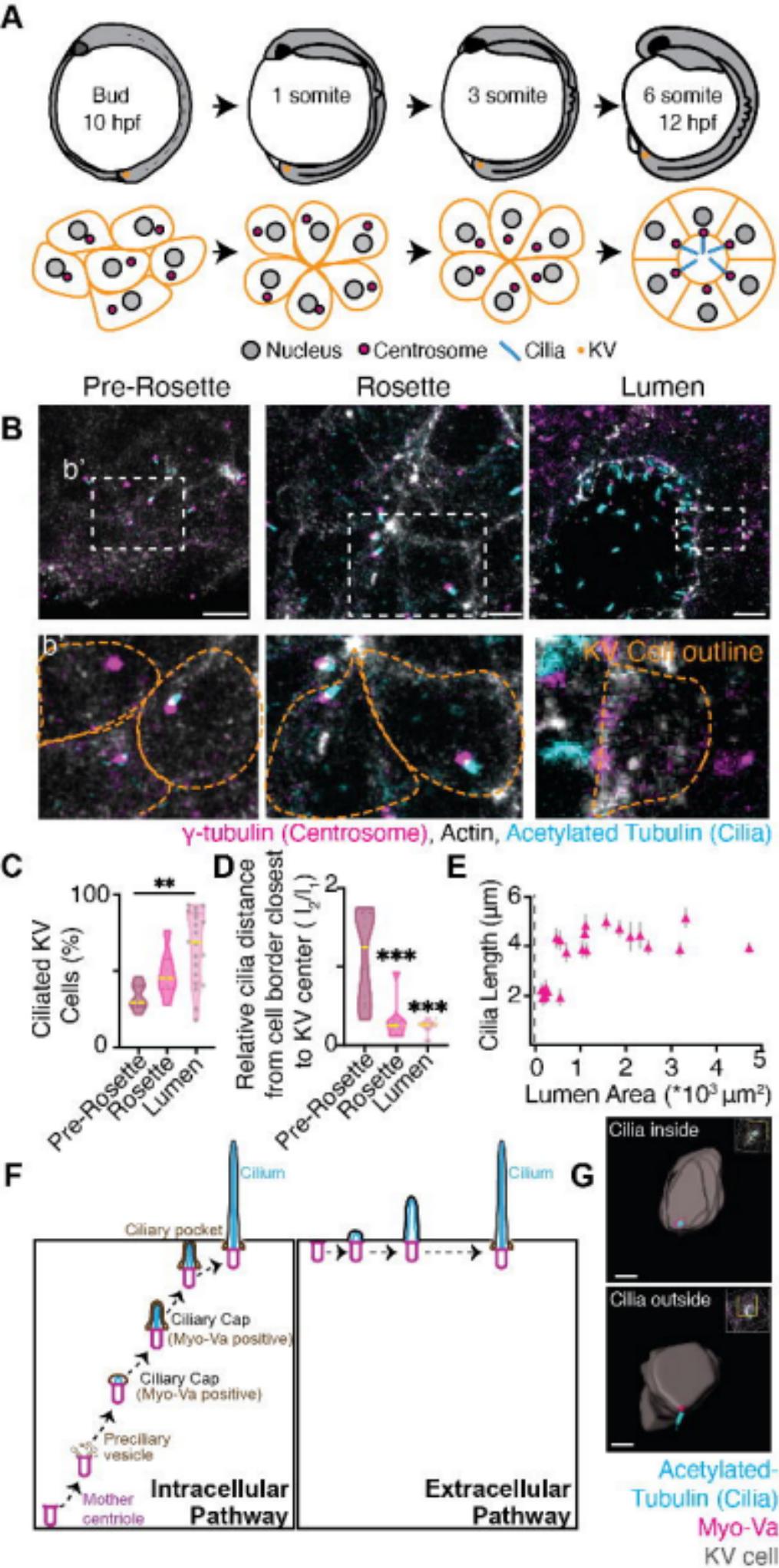
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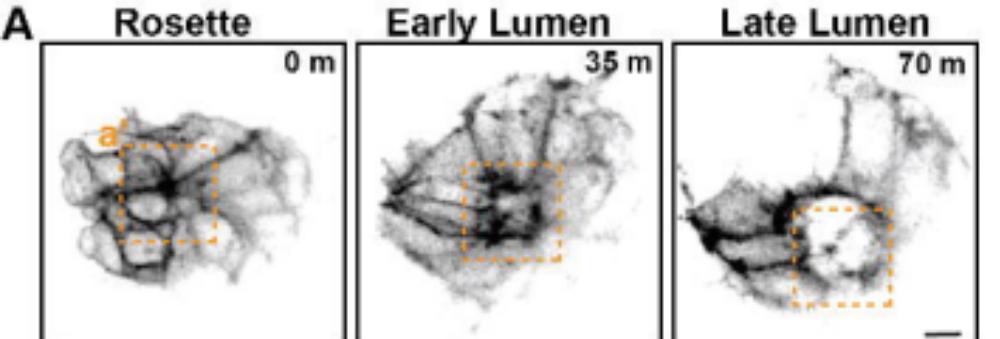
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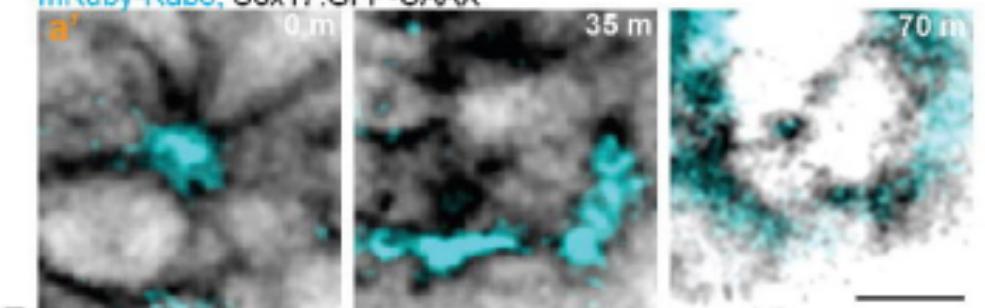
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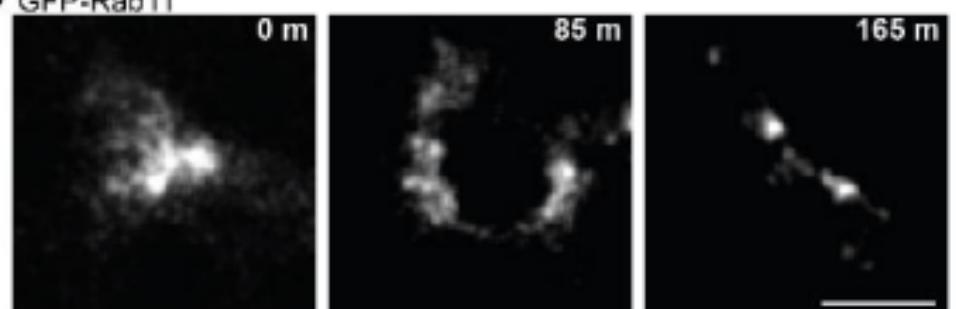
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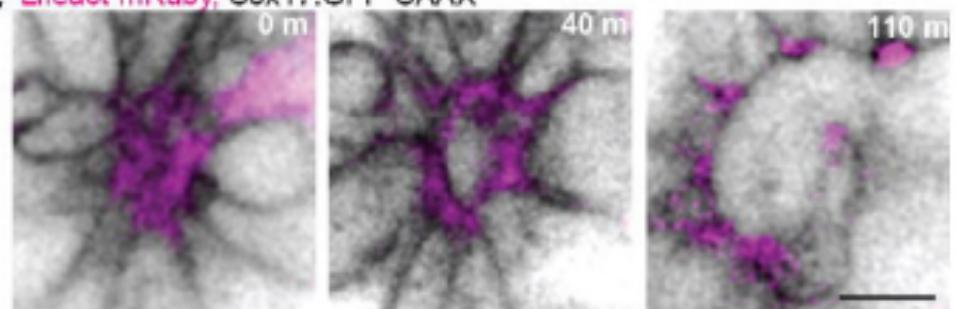
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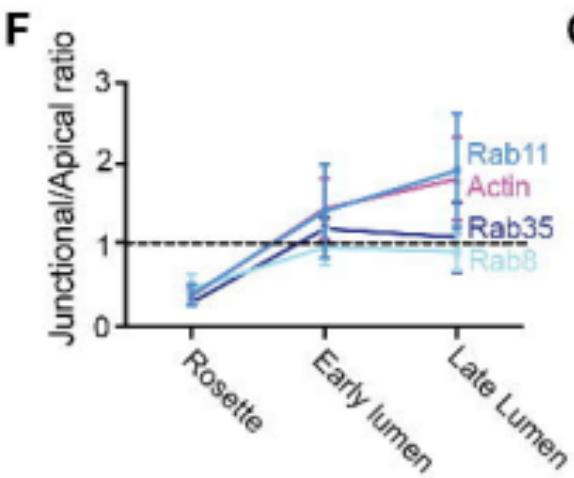
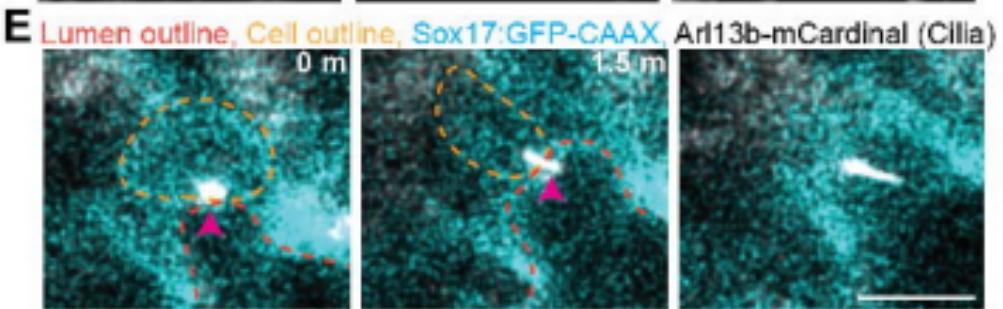
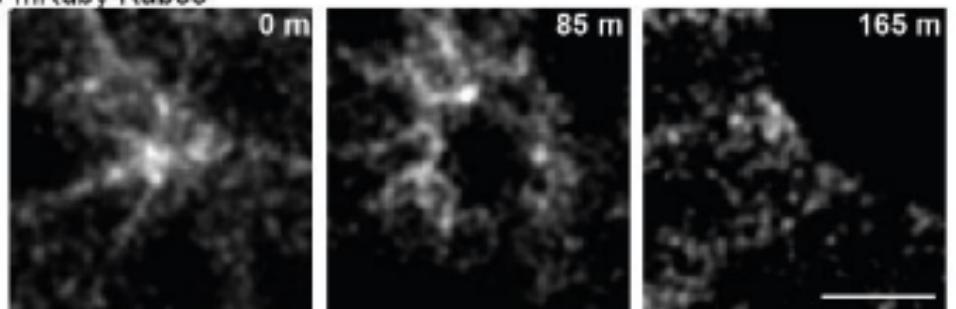
**B GFP-Rab11**



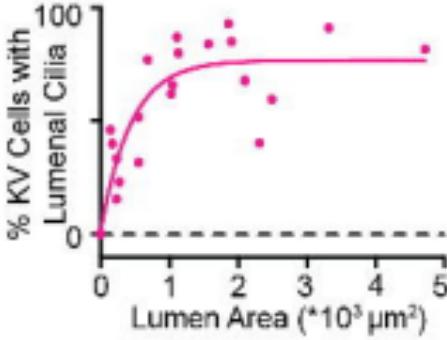
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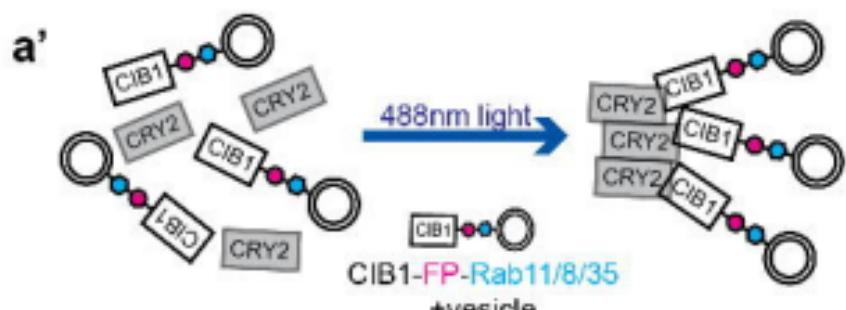
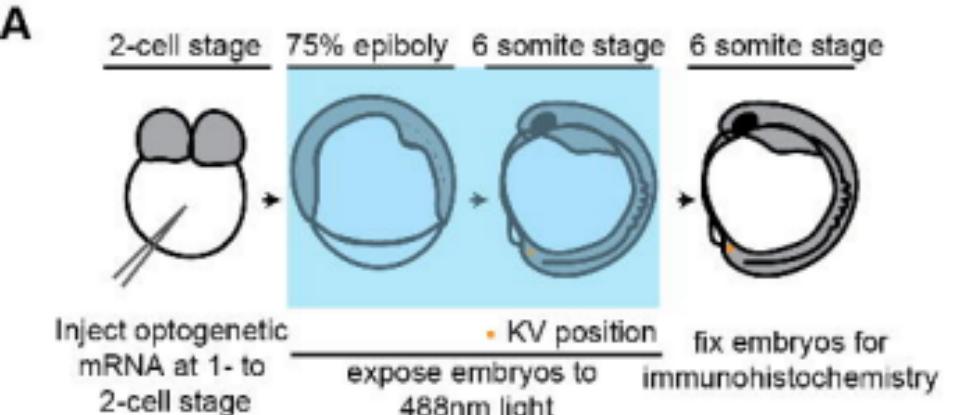
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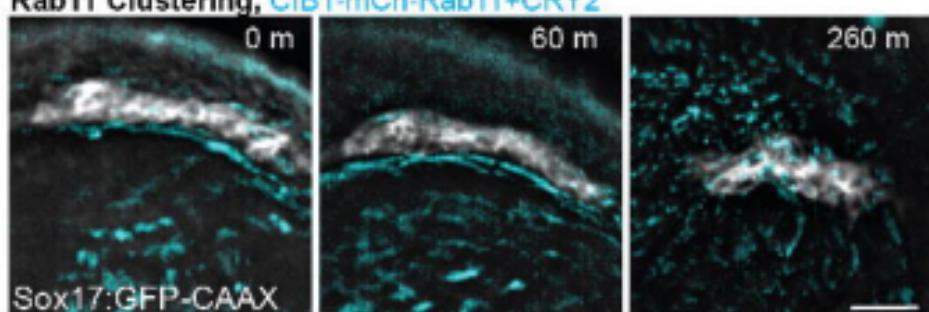
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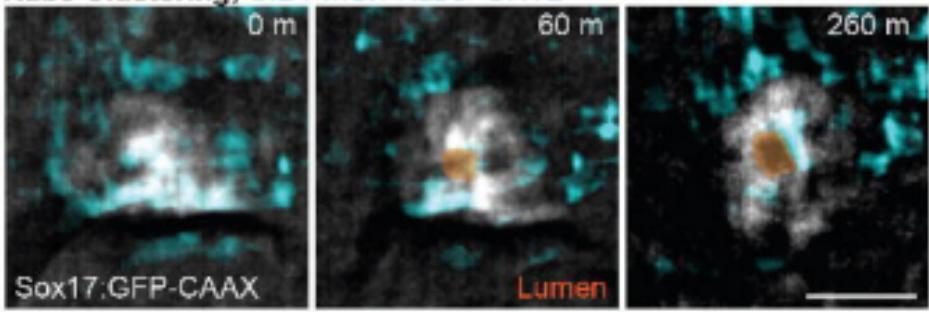
**Figure 2.**



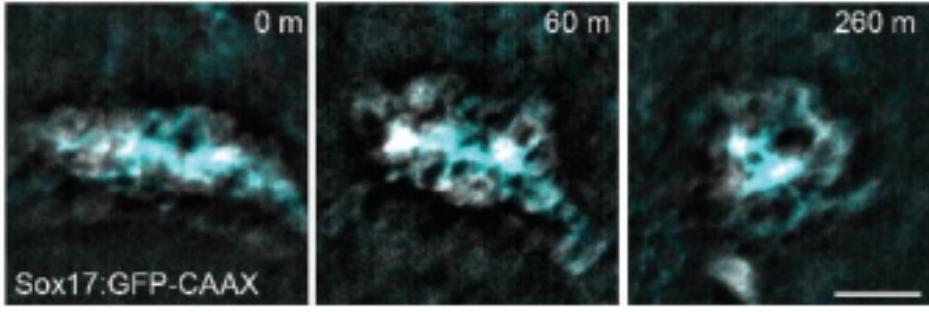
**B Rab11 Clustering, CIB1-mCh-Rab11+CRY2**



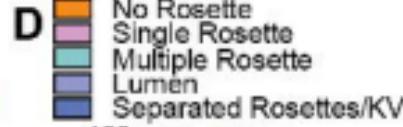
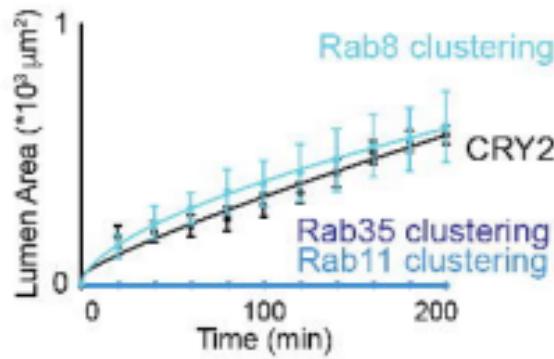
**Rab8 Clustering, CIB1-mCh-Rab8+CRY2**



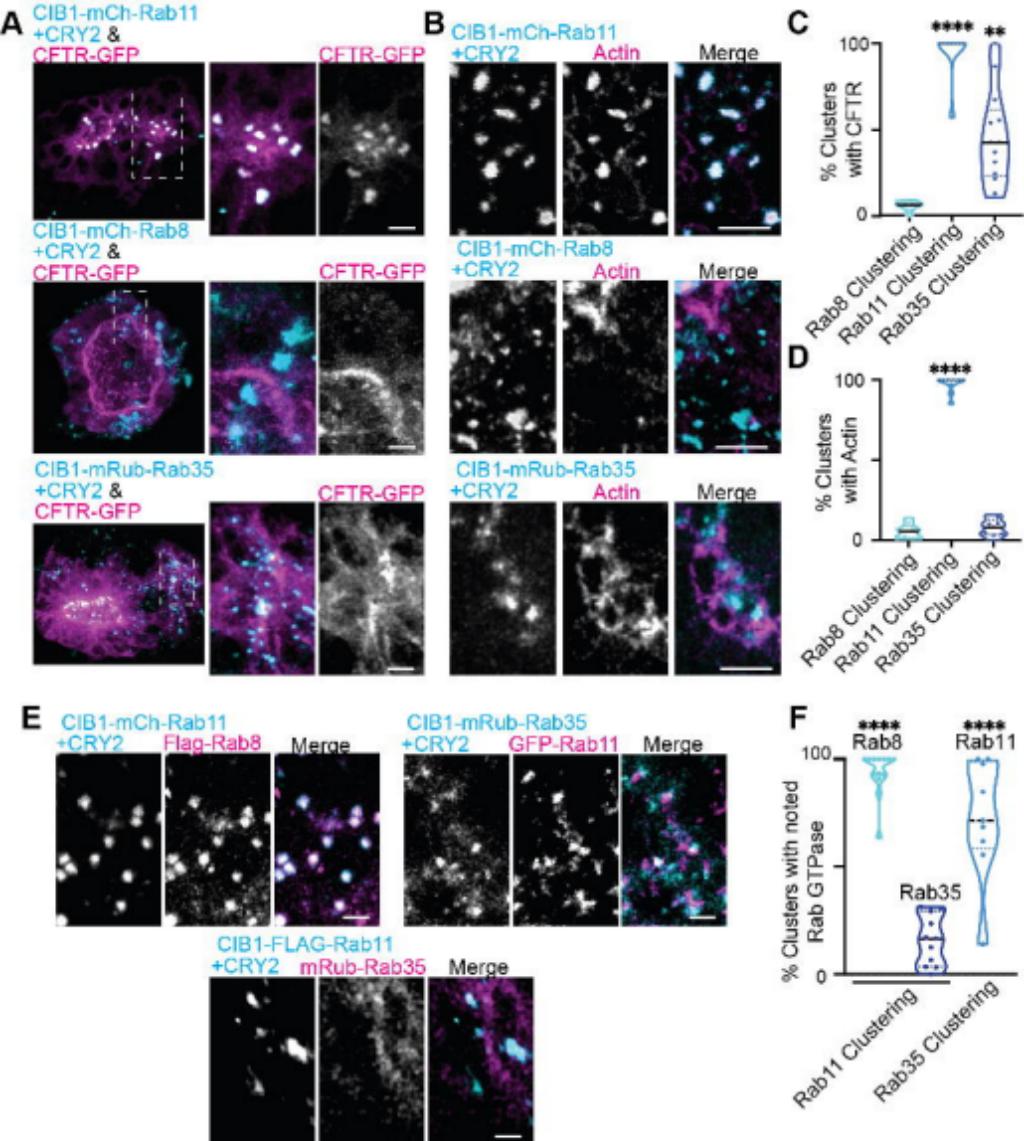
**Rab35 Clustering, CIB1-mRuby-Rab35+CRY2**



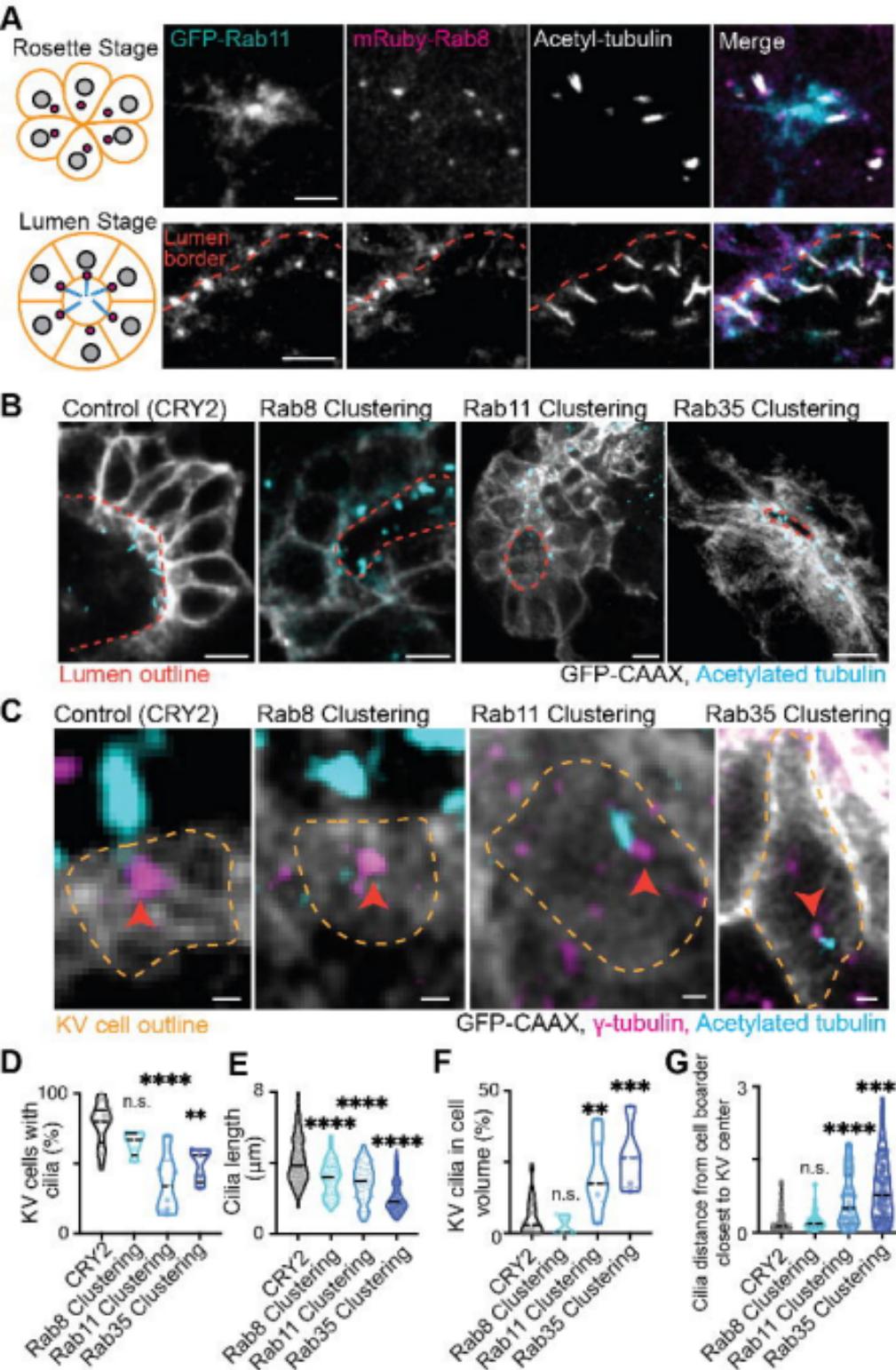
**C**



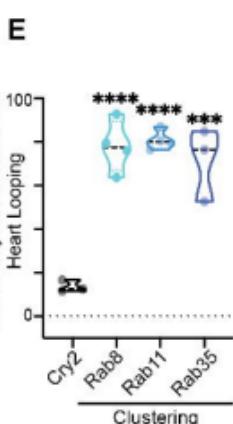
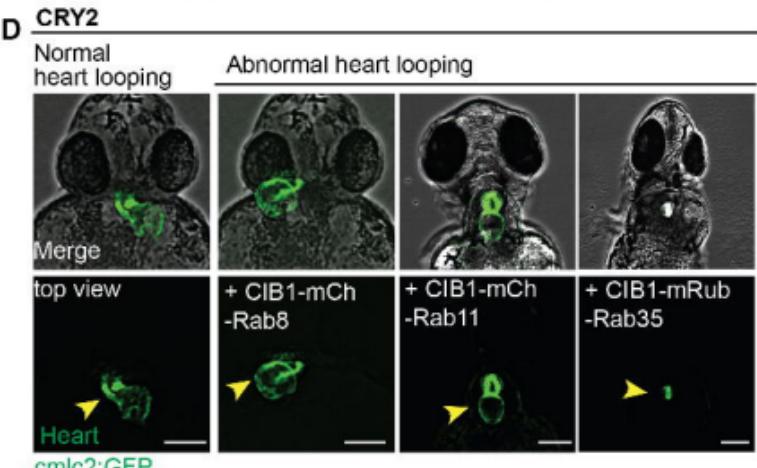
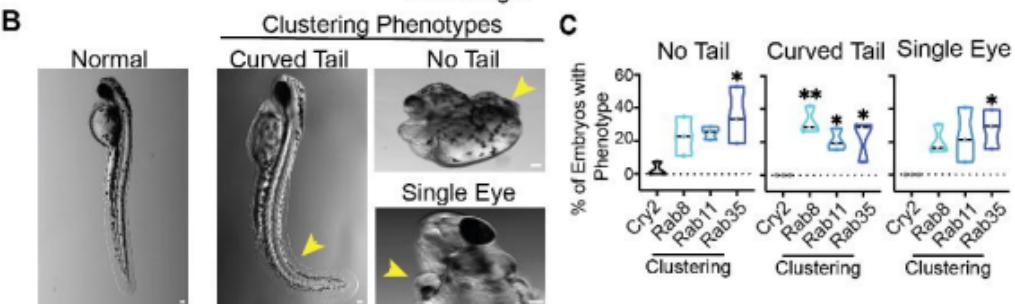
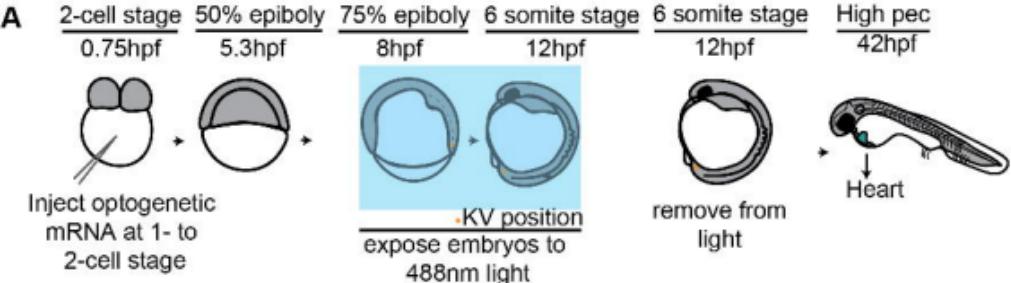
**Figure 3.**



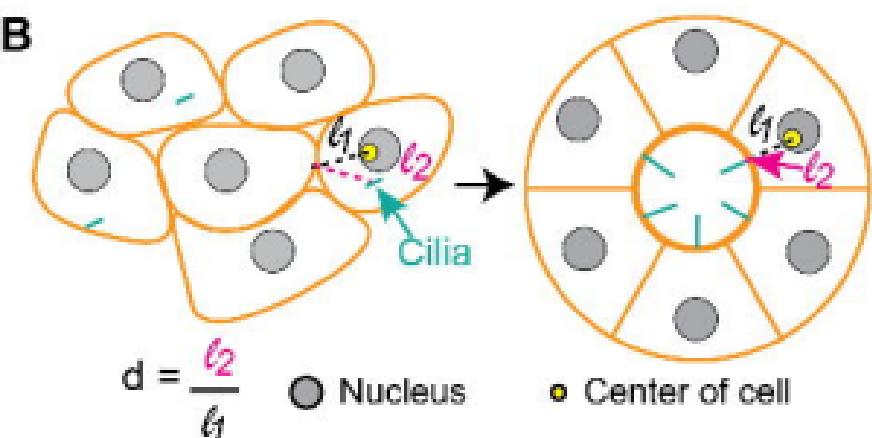
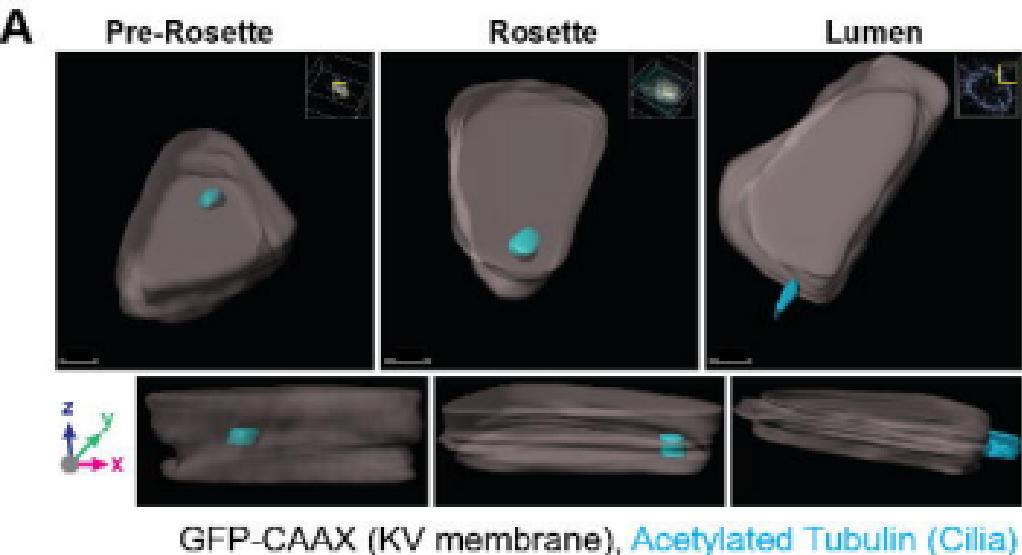
**Figure 4.**



**Figure 5.**



**Figure 6.**



**Figure S1.**

mCh-Rab11, GFP-CAAX

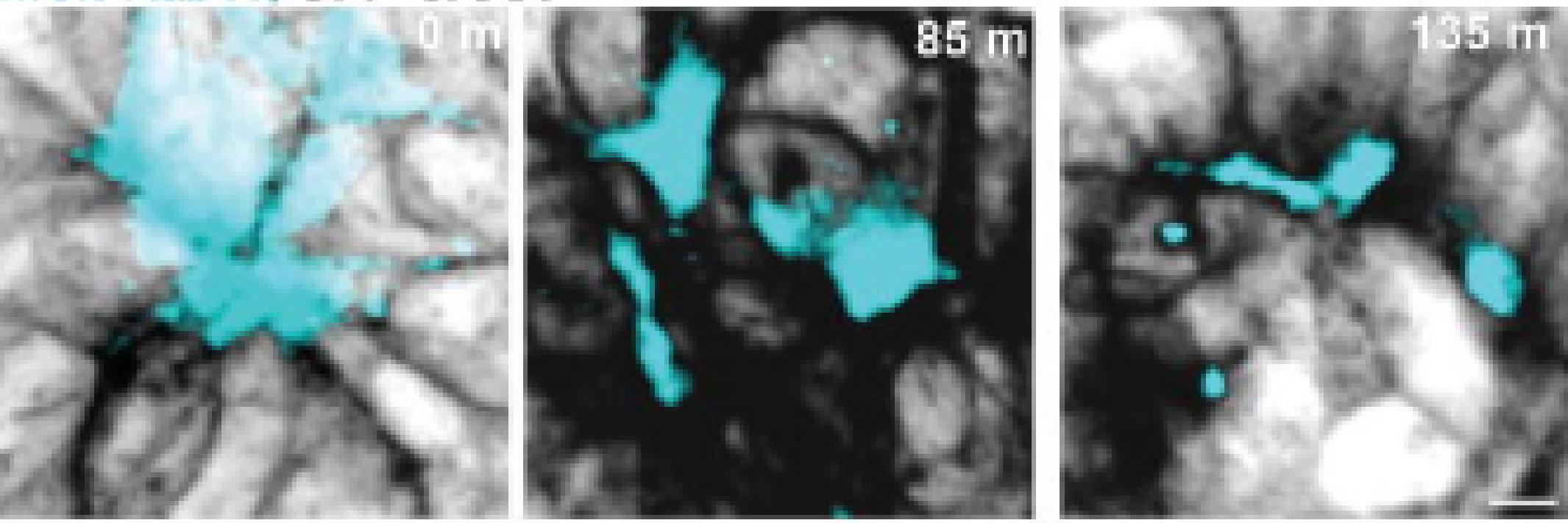
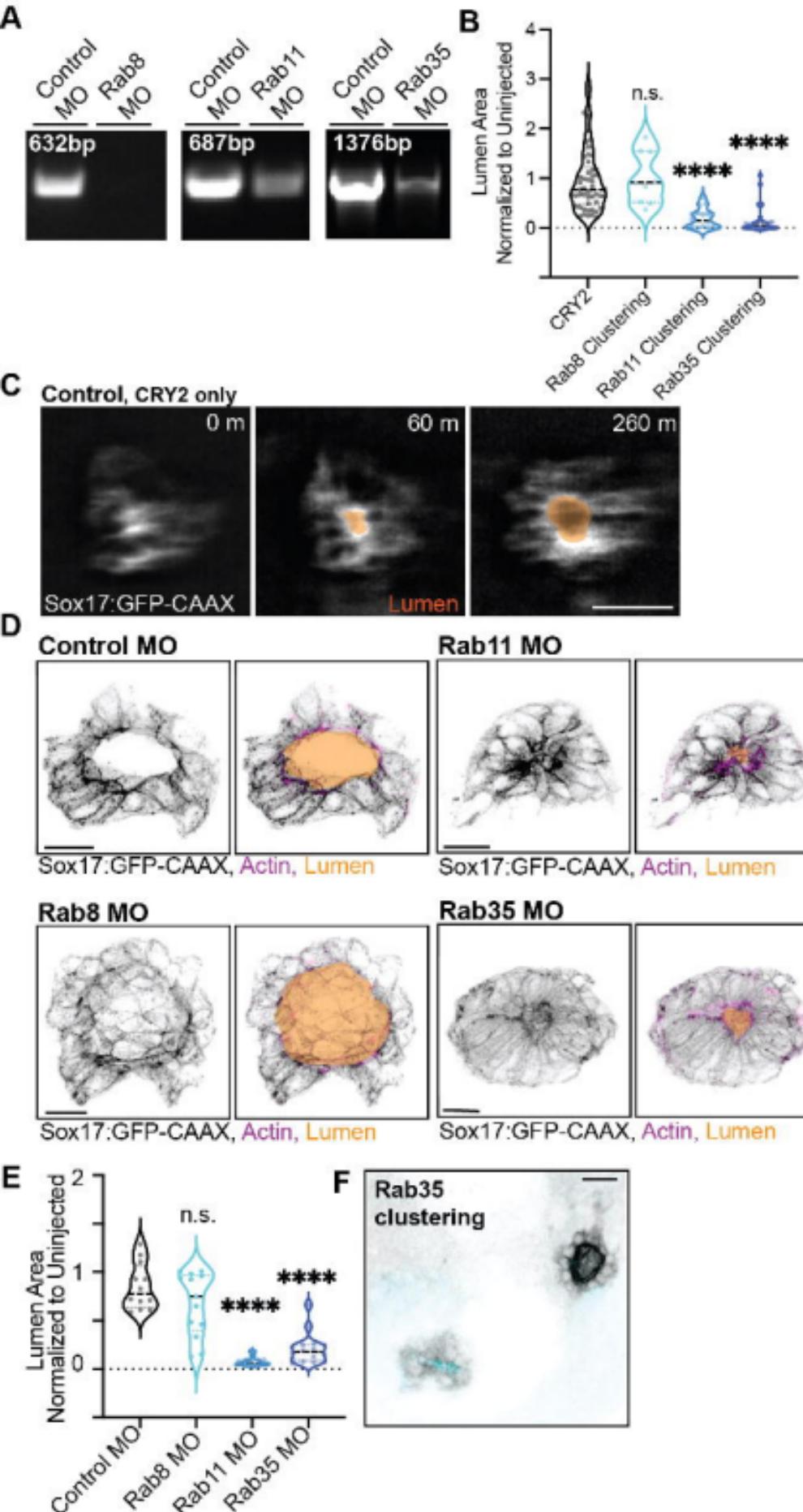
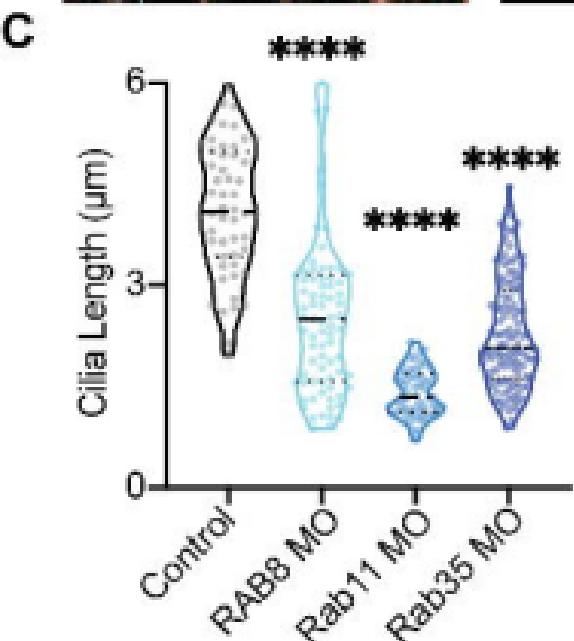
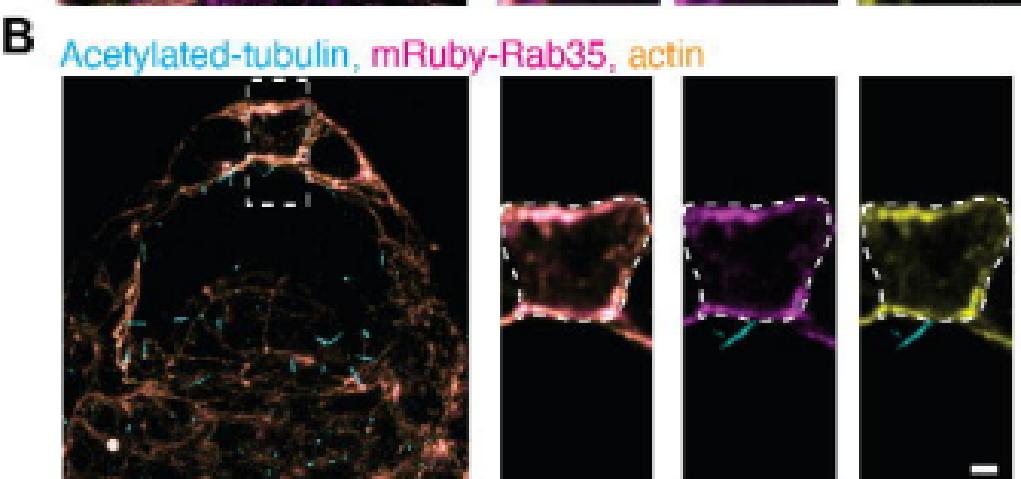
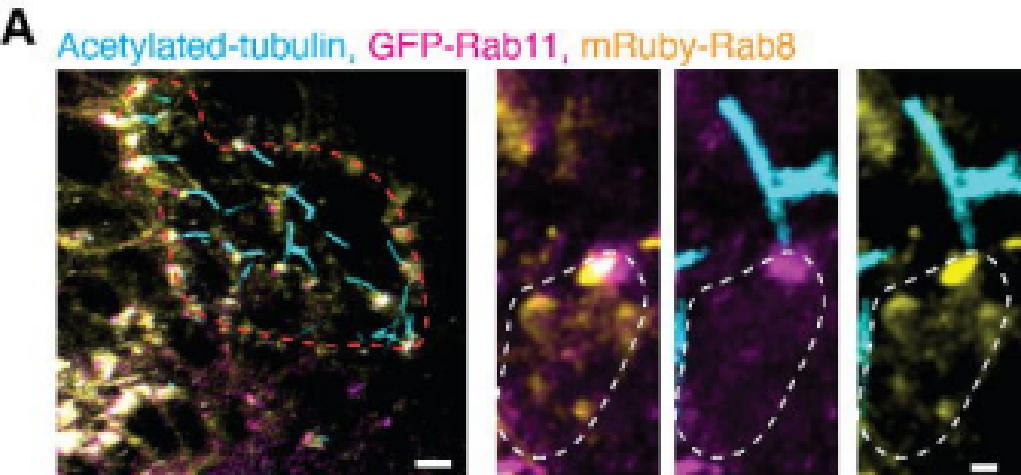


Figure S2.



**Figure S3.**



**Figure S4.**