

1                   **The p97/VCP adapter UBXD1 drives AAA+ remodeling and ring opening through**  
2                   **multi-domain tethered interactions**

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15                   **ABSTRACT:**

16                   p97/VCP is an essential cytosolic AAA+ ATPase hexamer that extracts and unfolds substrate  
17                   polypeptides during protein homeostasis and degradation. Distinct sets of p97 adapters guide  
18                   cellular functions but their roles in direct control of the hexamer are unclear. The UBXD1  
19                   adapter localizes with p97 in critical mitochondria and lysosome clearance pathways and  
20                   contains multiple p97-interacting domains. We identify UBXD1 as a potent p97 ATPase inhibitor  
21                   and report structures of intact p97:UBXD1 complexes that reveal extensive UBXD1 contacts  
22                   across p97 and an asymmetric remodeling of the hexamer. Conserved VIM, UBX, and PUB  
23                   domains tether adjacent protomers while a connecting strand forms an N-terminal domain lariat  
24                   with a helix wedged at the interprotomer interface. An additional VIM-connecting helix binds  
25                   along the second AAA+ domain. Together these contacts split the hexamer into a ring-open  
26                   conformation. Structures, mutagenesis, and comparisons to other adapters further reveal how  
27                   adapters containing conserved p97-remodeling motifs regulate p97 ATPase activity and  
28                   structure.

29 **INTRODUCTION:**

30 p97 (also called valosin-containing protein or VCP) is a AAA+ (ATPases Associated with  
31 diverse cellular Activities) molecular chaperone unfoldase with critical functions in many cellular  
32 processes including membrane fusion, chromatin remodeling, and protein homeostasis  
33 (proteostasis)<sup>1,2</sup>. Reflecting its critical roles in the cell, missense mutations in p97 cause  
34 multisystem proteinopathy (MSP, also called IBMPFD), amyotrophic lateral sclerosis, and  
35 vacuolar tauopathy, all characterized by defects in protein quality control and clearance  
36 pathways<sup>3-5</sup>. Additionally, p97 is under investigation as a cancer target due to its central roles in  
37 maintaining proteostasis, and is upregulated in many carcinomas<sup>6,7</sup>. The central mechanism of  
38 p97 that governs its diverse activities is the extraction of proteins from macromolecular  
39 complexes and membranes through hydrolysis-driven substrate translocation<sup>8,9</sup>. This process  
40 frequently facilitates substrate degradation by the 26S proteasome, as in the endoplasmic  
41 reticulum-associated degradation (ERAD) and ribosome quality control pathways<sup>10,11</sup>. In less  
42 well-understood pathways, p97 enables autophagic clearance of endosomes and damaged  
43 organelles such as lysosomes or mitochondria, potentially by regulatory remodeling of their  
44 surface proteomes<sup>12-14</sup>. p97 functions are directed by more than 30 adapter proteins that bind  
45 p97 to facilitate substrate delivery, control subcellular localization, and couple additional  
46 substrate processing functions such as deubiquitylation<sup>15</sup>. Thus, the many possible adapter  
47 interaction combinations may in part drive p97 functional diversity<sup>16</sup>. Some of these adapters are  
48 well-characterized, for example the ERAD-related UFD1/NPL4 and YOD1 recruit ubiquitylated  
49 substrates to p97 and catalyze ubiquitin chain removal, respectively<sup>10</sup>. However, the function of  
50 many adapters, such as the mitophagy- and lysophagy-related UBXD1, is unknown<sup>12,17</sup>.

51 p97 forms homohexamers that enclose a central channel through which unfolded  
52 proteins are threaded; each protomer consists of two AAA+ ATPase domains (D1 and D2), an  
53 N-terminal domain (NTD), and an unstructured C-terminal (CT) tail<sup>18</sup>. Initial structures of full-  
54 length or truncated p97 revealed a planar, symmetric hexamer in which the NTD adopts an ‘up’  
55 conformation when D1 is bound to ATP, or a ‘down’ conformation co-planar with the ADP-bound  
56 D1 ring<sup>18-24</sup>. More recent substrate-bound structures revealed that the hexamer adopts a right-  
57 handed spiral with the conserved pore loops in D1 and D2 extending into the channel,  
58 contacting the substrate polypeptide in a manner similar to many AAA+ translocase  
59 complexes<sup>8,9,25-27</sup>. Based on comparisons with related AAA+s, p97 may extract and unfold  
60 substrates by a similar processive ‘hand over hand’ mechanism involving stepwise cycles of  
61 substrate binding and release<sup>26-29</sup>. However, given its diverse pathways and the central

62 involvement of numerous adapters, alternate translocation paths may occur, potentially for  
63 processing substrates with complex topologies including those bearing branched ubiquitin  
64 chains<sup>16</sup>. Notably, substrate recognition and engagement are largely dependent on p97-adapter  
65 coordination<sup>15</sup>, yet with the exceptions of UFD1/NPL4<sup>9,30,31</sup> and p37<sup>32-34</sup>, little is known about the  
66 mechanism by which adapters control p97 activity to enable these processes.

67 UBXD1 is a p97 adapter implicated in autophagic clearance of damaged mitochondria  
68 and lysosomes, among other functions<sup>12,14,17,35,36</sup>. MSP mutations impair UBXD1 binding and  
69 affect its associated cellular functions, demonstrating the importance of this adapter in multiple  
70 p97 pathways, but its function in p97 substrate processing is unknown<sup>14,37,38</sup>. UBXD1 contains  
71 three structurally defined p97 interaction motifs, but no known enzymatic or substrate interaction  
72 activities. A conserved VIM (VCP-interacting motif) helix interacts with the p97 NTD, while the  
73 PUB (peptide:N-glycanase and UBA or UBX-containing proteins) domain interacts with the CT  
74 tail<sup>36,39-42</sup>. Notably, UBXD1 contains a canonical UBX (ubiquitin regulatory X) domain that is also  
75 expected to bind the NTD. However, it is unclear how the VIM and UBX could function together  
76 given the overlapping binding sites. Moreover, the UBX domain is reported to not interact with  
77 p97 potentially due changes in binding pocket residues compared to other UBX domains<sup>17,39,43</sup>.  
78 Crystal structures of p97 truncations in complex with VIM, UBX, and PUB domains from other  
79 adapters have provided insight into isolated p97-adapter interactions, but how all these domains  
80 function together in an intact p97:UBXD1 complex is unknown. Furthermore, UBXD1 is the only  
81 known p97 adapter with both N- and C-terminal-interacting domains; this feature, coupled with  
82 the absence of substrate-binding domains and multiple NTD-interacting domains, raises key  
83 questions about the arrangement of UBXD1 on p97 hexamers, its binding stoichiometry, and  
84 effect on p97 structure and function.

85 To address these questions, we determined high-resolution cryo-EM structures of p97 in  
86 complex with full-length UBXD1. The structures reveal multiple stoichiometric arrangements of  
87 UBXD1 that involve extensive contacts with p97 via its VIM, PUB, and UBX domains, as well as  
88 previously uncharacterized helices. Remarkably, in singly-bound states, UBXD1 interacts  
89 across three p97 protomers, dramatically remodeling the planar p97 hexamer into a partial  
90 spiral, open-ring state in which the separated protomers remain tethered by UBXD1. A lariat  
91 structure wraps around an NTD with two helices interacting at the protomer interface,  
92 functioning as a wedge that displaces D1 interprotomer contacts, while a short helix adjacent to  
93 the VIM alters the D2 conformation. These UBXD1 interactions coincide with a potent loss of  
94 p97 ATPase activity. Together with mutagenesis and additional structural characterization this

95 work reveals distinct roles for the UBXD1 domains and identifies how a network of protein-  
96 protein adapter interactions coordinate to remodel p97 structure and control function.

97 **RESULTS:**

98 **Structures of p97:UBXD1 reveal extensive interactions and hexamer remodeling**

99 In addition to the canonical VIM, UBX and PUB domains, UBXD1 is also identified to contain  
100 transiently structured helices, here referred to as H1/H2 (residues 1-25) and H4 (residues 75-  
101 93), that weakly interact with p97<sup>36,37</sup> as well as additional uncharacterized regions (residues  
102 278-334). To further investigate the predicted structure of full-length UBXD1, we analyzed the  
103 AlphaFold model<sup>44,45</sup>, which revealed structures for the canonical domains, H1/H2, H4 and an  
104 additional four-helical element between the PUB and UBX, while the remaining sequence  
105 appears unstructured (Fig. 1a,b). The four-helical region hereinafter is referred to as the helical  
106 lariat based on our structural analysis and homology to the ASPL adapter (see below)<sup>46</sup>.  
107 Notably, this AlphaFold analysis indeed predicts structures for uncharacterized regions across  
108 UBXD1 that, in addition to the VIM, UBX, and PUB, may interact with p97 and contribute to  
109 UBXD1 function.

110 To analyze the p97-UBXD1 interaction, we first determined the effect of UBXD1 on p97  
111 ATPase activity using full-length, wildtype, human proteins (Fig. 1c). This revealed a potent  
112 inhibitory activity, with an IC<sub>50</sub> of ~25 nM for UBXD1. We next analyzed the nucleotide  
113 dependence of the p97-UBXD1 interaction, as many adapters exhibit nucleotide binding  
114 specificity to p97 that is related to the up/down conformational plasticity of the NTDs<sup>37,47,48</sup>. By  
115 analytical size exclusion chromatography (SEC) we identify that following incubation with either  
116 ADP or the slowly hydrolysable ATP analog ATP $\gamma$ S, UBXD1 co-elutes with p97 in fractions  
117 slightly shifted from the hexamer peak, indicating complex formation under both nucleotide  
118 conditions (Extended Data Fig. 1a,b). A modest shift in elution is identified with ADP compared  
119 to ATP $\gamma$ S, however both nucleotide-bound states appear to support UBXD1 binding under these  
120 conditions, indicating UBXD1 may interact irrespective of the NTD state. Nonetheless, based on  
121 the reduced band intensity of UBXD1 compared to p97, UBXD1 binding appears to be sub-  
122 stoichiometric with respect to p97 hexamer despite incubations at high concentration (20 and 10  
123  $\mu$ M, respectively). A previous study reported UBXD1 binds p97 sub-stoichiometrically, but with a  
124 modest affinity ( $K_D$  ~3.5  $\mu$ M), consistent with our SEC results<sup>41</sup>. However, we predict a much  
125 higher binding affinity based on the ~25 nM IC<sub>50</sub> for ATPase inhibition we identify (Fig. 1c).

126           Based on these results and the reported increased NTD stability in the ADP state<sup>19</sup>,  
127           p97:UBXD1 cryo-EM samples were first prepared with saturating concentrations of ADP (5  
128           mM). Reference-free two-dimensional (2D) class averages show well-defined top and side  
129           views of the p97 hexamer with the NTDs in the down conformation and co-planar with the D1  
130           ring, as expected based on the presence of ADP (Fig. 1d and Extended Data Fig. 1c). However,  
131           additional density around the hexamer was not identified in these initial classifications.  
132           Considering potential UBXD1 flexibility and binding heterogeneity could impact 2D analysis,  
133           rounds of three-dimensional (3D) classification were performed next with a large (~5.5 million  
134           particle) dataset in order to better classify potential bound states. Following an initial  
135           classification, three well-defined states were identified. Classes 1 and 2 contained additional  
136           globular density likely corresponding to the UBX domain of UBXD1 while class 3 appeared as a  
137           well-resolved p97 hexamer without the additional globular density (Extended Data Fig. 1d).  
138           Subsequent classification and refinement of the UBX-containing states enabled high-resolution  
139           structure determination (3.3-3.5 Å) of p97:UBXD1 in two configurations termed p97:UBXD1<sup>closed</sup>  
140           and p97:UBXD1<sup>open</sup> (Fig. 1e,f and Table 1). Individual p97 protomers are denoted  
141           counterclockwise P1-P6 based on asymmetry of p97:UBXD1<sup>open</sup>. Additional UBXD1 binding  
142           configurations were identified in the classification and further characterized (see below and  
143           Extended Data Fig. 1d). Notably, the singly-bound closed and open states exhibit the most p97  
144           conformational changes and extensive contacts by UBXD1 and thus are largely the focus of this  
145           study. Analysis of the closed and open states revealed that the protomers unbound to UBXD1  
146           were well-resolved, while protomers P1 and P6 contain additional density corresponding to  
147           UBXD1 and comprise a flexible seam that in the open state is more poorly resolved relative to  
148           the rest of the hexamer (Fig. 1e,f). Therefore, focused classification and local refinement of P1  
149           and P6 in the open state was performed separately to improve the resolution of these regions,  
150           and a composite map was generated (Extended Data Fig. 1d and methods). High-resolution  
151           map features in both the closed and open states enabled building of atomic models for the p97  
152           hexamer, and the UBXD1 domains predicted to be structured by the AlphaFold model are all  
153           identified except H1/H2 and H4 (Fig. 1e,f, Extended Data Fig. 2a-d,k, and Supplementary Video  
154           1).

155           The p97 domains are well resolved in both structures with the NTDs adopting the down  
156           conformation and density corresponding to bound ADP is present in all D1 and D2 nucleotide  
157           pockets and coordinated by conserved AAA+ residues (Extended Data Fig. 1e-g). In the  
158           p97:UBXD1<sup>closed</sup> structure the D1 and D2 are in a planar, double ring conformation and one  
159           molecule of UBXD1 is identified, binding across protomers P1 and P6. For the p97:UBXD1<sup>open</sup>

160 structure a single UBXD1 is similarly bound but the protomer-protomer interface between P1  
161 and P6 is separated by ~8 Å relative to p97:UBXD1<sup>closed</sup>, creating an open-ring arrangement of  
162 the p97 hexamer. For both structures, strong density corresponding to the VIM and UBX  
163 domains is observed, as well as for two previously uncharacterized helices and an associated  
164 N-terminal linker (Fig. 1e,f). Together, these helices and linker encircle the NTD of the P6  
165 protomer, forming a helical lariat (discussed below). At lower density threshold, the PUB domain  
166 becomes apparent and is positioned below the UBX, adjacent to the p97 D2 ring, but appears to  
167 make no substantial contact with the hexamer, likely resulting in significant flexibility and  
168 explaining the lower resolution (Fig. 1g). Weak density resembling the VIM is also present in the  
169 NTDs of P2-P5 in both the closed and open states, indicating partial binding to these protomers,  
170 which is likely a consequence of protein concentrations needed for cryo-EM (Extended Data  
171 Fig. 1h). Overall, these structures indicate that UBXD1 binding drives conformational changes  
172 and ring opening at a protomer interface that is tethered by multi-domain interactions involving  
173 the VIM, UBX, and a lariat structure across the two seam protomers.

174 **Additional structures identify alternate UBXD1 binding stoichiometries and nucleotide-  
175 dependent hexamer remodeling**

176 During 3D classification additional structures with different UBXD1 configurations were identified  
177 (Extended Data Fig. 1d,i, 2, and Table 1). A prevalent class in the initial classification, termed  
178 p97:UBXD1<sup>VIM</sup>, closely resembles the structure of the planar ADP-bound p97 (Ca root-mean-  
179 square deviation (RMSD) = 1.0 Å)<sup>19</sup>, but features additional helical density in the NTD cleft of all  
180 protomers that corresponds to the UBXD1 VIM (Extended Data Fig. 1i). Similar to P2 through  
181 P5 in the closed and open states, we surmise that under our *in vitro* conditions VIM binding  
182 predominates for this class, potentially displacing the UBX and other contacts. Notably, given  
183 the identical hexamer arrangement compared to p97<sup>ADP</sup>, we conclude that VIM interactions on  
184 their own are insufficient to induce conformational rearrangements in p97. Subclassification  
185 additionally revealed two more minor states, termed p97:UBXD1<sup>meta</sup> and p97:UBXD1<sup>para</sup>, in  
186 which density for the VIM, PUB, lariat, and UBX are also observed at other positions (across  
187 P2-P3 or P3-P4, respectively) in the p97 hexamer, in conformations similar to p97:UBXD1<sup>closed</sup>  
188 (Extended Data Fig. 1d,i). These structures reveal that two UBXD1 molecules can bind the  
189 hexamer with productive VIM, UBX, and lariat interactions when properly spaced to allow for  
190 binding across two adjacent protomers. Notably, for all classifications the p97 open ring is only  
191 observed in the singly-bound UBXD1 configuration, indicating that this conformation is  
192 specifically driven by one fully-bound UBXD1 per p97 hexamer.

193            We identify UBXD1 also binds p97 in the presence of ATPyS, but with a reduced shift in  
194            elution volume compared to ADP (Extended Data Fig. 1a,b). Therefore, we next sought to  
195            determine the extent of UBXD1-mediated structural remodeling of p97 in its ATP state. Cryo-EM  
196            analysis revealed three predominant classes: a UBXD1-bound hexamer closely resembling the  
197            closed state from the ADP dataset, a symmetric hexamer with NTDs in the up, ATP  
198            conformation and no density for UBXD1, and a symmetric hexamer with 'down' NTDs and VIM  
199            density, similar to the VIM-only state from the ADP dataset (Extended Data Fig. 3a). Notably, no  
200            state analogous to the open p97:UBXD1 complex was identified. Refinement of these states  
201            allowed for the unambiguous assignment of ATPyS for density in all nucleotide-binding pockets  
202            (Extended Data Fig. 3b,c). The observation of 'down' NTDs in ATPyS-bound D1 domains is  
203            striking, indicating that UBXD1 interactions may override nucleotide-promoted NTD  
204            conformation, a finding not previously described in intact complexes. Indeed, the NTD-down  
205            arrangement is identified even in the VIM-only state with ATPyS, suggesting that interaction by  
206            the UBXD1 VIM alone is sufficient to regulate p97 NTD conformation. In sum, these results  
207            suggest that while UBXD1 readily binds p97 in the ATP state, the interactions are insufficient to  
208            promote full ring opening, as observed with ADP. The absence of an open state may be due to  
209            increased inter-protomer interactions and hexamer stability, such as through trans-arginine  
210            finger contacts with the  $\gamma$ -phosphate. Indeed, in substrate-bound AAA+ complexes, hydrolysis at  
211            the spiral seem is thought to destabilize the interprotomer interface, facilitating substrate release  
212            and rebinding during stepwise translocation<sup>49</sup>. Our findings therefore indicate that UBXD1 may  
213            function during the p97 catalytic cycle by promoting ring opening specifically in a post-hydrolysis  
214            state.

## 215            **UBXD1 drives large D1-D2 conformational changes that open the p97 hexamer ring**

216            To identify conformational changes in ADP-bound p97 complexes that are driven by UBXD1  
217            binding, the p97:UBXD1<sup>closed</sup> and p97:UBXD1<sup>open</sup> structures were aligned to the previously  
218            published structure of ADP-bound p97<sup>19</sup>. RMSD values reveal extensive changes across the D1  
219            and D2 for the seam protomers (P1 and P6) in both UBXD1-bound states (Fig. 2a,b and  
220            Extended Data Fig. 4a,b). While P1 and P6 are similarly rotated away from each other in both  
221            states, the magnitudes of these displacements are larger in the open state, resulting in the  
222            observed disruption of the protomer interface. This indicates that these states are intermediates  
223            in the same conformational path of hexamer opening (Supplementary Video 2). Additionally,  
224            while the hexamer in the closed state is planar and resembles substrate-free structures, the  
225            open state has a right-handed spiral with an overall elevation change of 7 Å (Fig. 2c). This is

226 largely due to a significant 9° downward rotation of P1, which has the largest RMSD values of  
227 any protomer in either state (Fig. 2c). In addition to the movements of entire protomers, there is  
228 a notable rotation between the small and large subdomains of the D2 in protomer P1 in both the  
229 closed and open states (Fig. 2d). This rotation is particularly evident in the open state, where  
230 the small subdomain is rotated upward by 10° relative to p97<sup>ADP</sup> and 12° relative to  
231 p97:UBXD1<sup>closed</sup> (Fig. 2d). This rotation, and the separation of P1 and P6, causes a small helix  
232 (α5')<sup>18,24</sup> mediating contact between the D2 domains of the seam protomers to disappear from  
233 the density map, likely as a result of increased flexibility; this helix is normally positioned on top  
234 of α12' of the D2 domain of the counterclockwise protomer (Extended Data Fig. 4c and Fig. 2b).

235 Notably, the P1-P6 conformational changes are different across the D1 and D2 domains  
236 (Fig. 2e). In the closed state the D1 domains of P1 and P6 are separated by 3 Å relative to  
237 p97<sup>ADP</sup>, while there is negligible D2 separation. In the open state the D1 and D2 domains are  
238 separated by 8 Å and 11 Å, respectively. These changes dramatically remodel the nucleotide  
239 binding pockets of P1 by displacing the arginine fingers from P6 (Fig. 2d). These separations  
240 likely preclude ATP hydrolysis in P1, which could explain the ATPase inhibition observed  
241 biochemically (Fig. 1c). Additionally, due to the expansion of the P1-P6 interface in the open  
242 state, contacts between other protomers are compressed: the average rotation between  
243 adjacent protomers is 57°, or 3° smaller than the angle in a perfectly symmetric hexamer. These  
244 compressions could potentially cause subtle deformations of nucleotide binding pocket  
245 geometry, which could also impair hydrolysis. Finally, to confirm the spiral architecture of the  
246 open state, 3D variability analysis was performed jointly on particles from the closed and open  
247 states (Supplementary Video 3). This reveals the transition from a planar UBXD1-bound  
248 hexamer to a spiral, indicating that the closed and open states are likely in equilibrium and  
249 UBXD1 binding splits the p97 hexamer at P1-P6, causing all protomers to rotate along the  
250 hexamer C6 symmetry axis.

251 **Canonical interactions by the VIM, UBX and PUB indicate binding across three protomers  
252 of p97**

253 The p97:UBXD1<sup>closed</sup> and p97:UBXD1<sup>open</sup> structures reveal high-resolution views of p97 bound to  
254 an adapter containing conserved VIM, UBX and PUB domains, revealing how these domains  
255 together coordinate interactions across the hexamer. In contrast to previous binding  
256 studies<sup>17,39,43</sup>, both the VIM and UBX interact with p97, making canonical interactions with  
257 adjacent NTDs (Fig. 3). The 18-residue VIM helix is positioned in the NTD cleft of P1, similar to  
258 structures of isolated domains, but is distal to other UBXD1 density, and comprises the only

259 major contact with the P1 protomer (Fig. 3a,b and Extended Data Fig. 5a,b). Notably, a  
260 conserved Arg residue (R62) required for p97 binding projects into the NTD in a manner similar  
261 to that of other NTD-VIM complexes, potentially forming a salt bridge with D35 of the NTD and a  
262 hydrogen bond with the backbone carbonyl of A142<sup>41</sup>. The VIM appears anchored at its N-  
263 terminus by an additional salt bridge between E51 of UBXD1 and K109 of the NTD and by  
264 hydrogen bonding between the backbone carbonyl of E51 and Y143 of the NTD. Additional  
265 hydrophobic contacts along the VIM could further stabilize this interaction (Fig. 3b, right panel).

266 The UBX domain is bound to the NTD of the clockwise protomer (P6) in a manner  
267 similar to UBX-NTD structures from other adapter proteins (Fig. 3c,d and Extended Data Fig.  
268 5c,d). This is surprising because the canonical Phe-Pro-Arg p97-interacting motif located on the  
269 S3/S4 loop is replaced by Ser-Gly-Gly in UBXD1, thus eliminating electrostatic and hydrophobic  
270 interactions identified in other structures<sup>15</sup>. However, another Arg residue important for  
271 interaction with p97, R342, is conserved in UBXD1, and likely hydrogen bonds with the  
272 backbone carbonyl of P106. While the UBX in this structure contains the canonical β-grasp fold  
273 characteristic of all UBX domains, it features an additional β-strand (Uβ0) proximal to the N-  
274 terminal lobe of the NTD (Nn) that connects the PUB to the UBX to the helical lariat (Fig. 3e).  
275 Additionally, a C-terminal extension consisting of two alpha helices (UBX helices 2 and 3,  
276 hereafter referred to as Uα2 and Uα3) connected by unstructured linkers is positioned on the  
277 apical surface of the canonical UBX and wraps over the β-sheet. Finally, a potential salt bridge  
278 between K419 of Uα2 and D179 of the NTD could also stabilize the UBX-NTD interaction.

279 The PUB domain binds the HbYX (hydrophobic, Tyr, any amino acid) motif located at the  
280 end of the flexible p97 CT tail<sup>40</sup>. Density for this domain is more poorly resolved in both the  
281 closed and open structures, which prompted us to perform focused classification of this region  
282 (Extended Data Fig. 1d). Two resulting classes show improved definition for the PUB, enabling  
283 the AlphaFold model for this region to be fit unambiguously into the density (Extended Data Fig.  
284 5e,f). In class 1 (hereafter referred to as p97:UBXD1-PUB<sub>out</sub>), the PUB domain is positioned  
285 similarly to that in the closed model, projecting straight downward from the UBX domain. In  
286 class 2 (hereafter referred to as p97:UBXD1-PUB<sub>in</sub>) the PUB domain is rotated 46° about a  
287 linker connecting the PUB and UBX domains, and points towards P6 (Fig. 3f, Extended Data  
288 Fig. 2, 5f, and Table 1). In this class strong connecting density is observed between the PUB  
289 and the bottom surface of P6, indicative of binding to a p97 CT tail (Fig. 3g,h). Notably, these  
290 tails project across the base of the adjacent counterclockwise protomer, such that UBXD1  
291 density on P6 is closest to the P5 tail, not that of P6. Thus, the position of the PUB domain in

292 p97:UBXD1-PUB<sub>in</sub> indicates binding to the P5 tail (Fig. 3g,h). Inspection of the p97:UBXD1-  
293 PUB<sub>out</sub> map reveals weak density suggestive of a similar P5-PUB interaction, indicating that the  
294 CT tail may remain bound in multiple PUB conformations (Extended Data Fig. 5h-k), though the  
295 strongest density is present in p97:UBXD1-PUB<sub>in</sub>. In sum, a single molecule of UBXD1 appears  
296 to interact across three p97 protomers (P1, P5, and P6) simultaneously through interactions by  
297 the VIM, UBX and PUB domains (Fig. 3i). These extensive interactions with both faces of the  
298 p97 hexamer are a remarkable feature of UBXD1, and are unique among all adapters currently  
299 structurally characterized.

300 **The UBXD1 helical lariat and H4 make distinct p97 D1-D2 interprotomer interactions**

301 The UBXD1 helical lariat is among the most striking structural features of the p97:UBXD1  
302 complexes due to its intimate interaction with all three domains of the P6 protomer (Fig. 4a-e  
303 and Extended Data Fig. 6a). Based on the AlphaFold prediction and what is resolved in our  
304 structures, it is composed of four helices (hereafter referred to as La1-4) that are inserted  
305 between U $\beta$ 0 and U $\beta$ 1 of the UBX domain. Together, these helices completely encircle the P6  
306 NTD (Fig. 4a). La1 and La2 are positioned along the top of the P6 NTD, while the longer La3  
307 and La4 helices bind at the P6-P1 protomer interface. La3 is situated at the D1 interface, and  
308 makes numerous electrostatic contacts with residues in both the N-terminal and D1 domains of  
309 P6, as well as minor hydrophobic contacts with the D1 domain of P1 (Fig. 4b,c). La4 is  
310 positioned proximal to the D2 domain, and connects back to the UBX domain, completing the  
311 lariat. A salt bridge involving K325 of La4 and E498 of the D2 domain is the only significant  
312 contact this helix makes with p97. La2 also contacts the NTD using two Phe residues (F292 and  
313 F293) that project into the NTD, making van der Waals contacts with K62, V99, and R25 (Fig.  
314 4d). A short loop connects La3 and La4, and anchors the lariat into the D2 domain using  
315 residues L317 and T319 (Fig. 4b,e). Additionally, the La3-La4 arrangement is stabilized by a  
316 tripartite electrostatic network involving R313 of La3, R318 of the La3-La4 loop, and E326 of  
317 La4 (Fig. 4e). Considering the interaction of La3 along the D1 domain of P6 displaces typical  
318 D1-D1 contacts between P1 and P6, we postulate these contacts likely contribute substantially  
319 to the D1 conformational changes and ring-opening identified in the closed and open states of  
320 p97. Interestingly, the binding site of the linker between La3 and La4 overlaps with that of the  
321 p97 allosteric inhibitor UPCDC30245<sup>19</sup>, suggesting that occupancy of this site is a productive  
322 means to alter p97 function (Extended Data Fig. 6b).

323 Further classification of p97:UBXD1<sup>closed</sup>, which was chosen due to the reduced flexibility  
324 compared to the open state, was performed to potentially resolve additional regions reported to

325 interact with p97<sup>36,37</sup>, including H1/H2 and H4 (Extended Data Fig. 1d). This analysis revealed  
326 an additional state with an overall similar conformation to p97:UBXD1<sup>closed</sup>, but features low  
327 resolution density on top of the D2 domain of the P1 protomer (Fig. 4f, Extended Data Fig. 2,  
328 and Table 1). This region likely corresponds to H4 because of its proximity to the C-terminus of  
329 the VIM, which is predicted to be connected to H4 by a 7-residue linker (Fig. 1b). Indeed, the H4  
330 helix docks well into this density, albeit the resolution was not sufficient for its precise orientation  
331 (Extended Data Fig. 6c). In this structure (p97:UBXD1<sup>H4</sup>), H4 binding is associated with an  
332 upward rigid body rotation of the D2 small subdomain by ~17° relative to the analogous domain  
333 in the closed state (Fig. 4g and Supplementary Video 4). This upward rotation displaces a short  
334 helix (α5') from the D2 domain of P6, and therefore breaks D2-D2 contacts between the seam  
335 protomers. As in p97:UBXD1<sup>open</sup>, α5' is not present in the density map, likely due to increased  
336 flexibility (Extended Data Fig. 6d). Notably, a similar rotation of the D2 small subdomain of P1 is  
337 identified in p97:UBXD1<sup>open</sup>, supporting potential H4 occupancy (Fig. 2e). This prompted further  
338 inspection of the experimental density for this state. Indeed, weak density positioned atop the  
339 D2 domain was identified by examining the open state map at a low threshold, in a similar  
340 position as in p97:UBXD1<sup>H4</sup> (Extended Data Fig. 6e). This indicates that H4 may be associated  
341 with the hexamer during ring opening, and places p97:UBXD1<sup>H4</sup> as an intermediate between the  
342 closed and open states. Based on this analysis, we predict that H4 interactions play a key role  
343 in weakening the D2 interprotomer contacts, thereby driving localized opening of the D2 ring.

#### 344 **The helical lariat and H4 are conserved p97-remodeling motifs**

345 Given the striking rearrangements of the p97 hexamer driven by UBXD1, efforts were  
346 undertaken to identify other p97 adapters with helical lariat or VIM-H4 motifs that could similarly  
347 remodel p97 contacts. To this end, Dali searches<sup>50</sup> against all structures in the Protein Data  
348 Bank and against the AlphaFold database were performed, first using the UBXD1 UBX-helical  
349 lariat structure as an input. This search revealed one protein, alveolar soft part sarcoma locus  
350 (ASPL, also called TUG or UBXD9), with a highly similar UBX-helical lariat arrangement (Fig. 5a  
351 and Extended Data Fig. 7a). Comparison of p97:UBXD1 structures determined here to  
352 structures of a heterotetramer of a truncated ASPL construct bound to p97<sup>46</sup> reveal a conserved  
353 interaction with p97 (Fig. 5b). The FF motif in La2, as well as the highly charged nature of the  
354 helices corresponding to La3 and La4, are conserved in ASPL (Extended Data Fig. 7a).  
355 Intriguingly, ASPL also inhibits p97 ATPase activity, and has been demonstrated to completely  
356 disassemble p97 hexamers into smaller oligomers and monomers<sup>46,51</sup>. However, the construct  
357 used for structure determination lacks several other p97-interacting domains, leaving unclear

358 the effect on hexamer remodeling in the context of the full-length protein. While we find no  
359 evidence of a similar hexamer disruption in UBXD1 based on our SEC or cryo-EM analysis  
360 (Extended Data Fig. 1a-c), the split ring of the p97:UBXD1<sup>open</sup> structure is compelling as a  
361 related function of the UBX-helical lariat in the context of UBXD1 with its additional p97 binding  
362 domains.

363 Dali searches using the VIM-H4 motif did not produce any significant hits, likely due to  
364 the structural simplicity of this region. However, examination of other adapters for unannotated  
365 structural elements proximal to a VIM suggested that the p97 adapter small VCP/p97-interacting  
366 protein (SVIP) might harbor an additional helix in a similar arrangement as in the VIM-H4 of  
367 UBXD1<sup>52</sup>. SVIP is a 77-residue minimal adapter that inhibits p97-dependent functions in ERAD,  
368 among other functions<sup>52–54</sup>. The SVIP VIM helix is reported to significantly contribute to p97  
369 binding<sup>42</sup>, though a previous study has suggested that additional elements might confer binding  
370 affinity<sup>41</sup>. Though no structures of SVIP have been reported, the AlphaFold model of SVIP  
371 indeed predicts the VIM helix, as well as an adjacent helix with modest similarity to the UBXD1  
372 H4 (Fig. 5c and Extended Data Fig. 7b). Given the predicted structural similarity to UBXD1 and  
373 inhibition of specific cellular functions, we hypothesized that SVIP may similarly remodel p97 D2  
374 contacts and inhibit ATPase activity.

375 We next purified a previously characterized ASPL construct (ASPL-C, see methods)<sup>46</sup>  
376 and SVIP and analyzed their effect on p97 ATPase activity. ASPL-C potently inhibits p97  
377 ATPase activity, with an IC<sub>50</sub> of ~97 nM (Fig. 5d). Notably, the complete loss of activity at high  
378 ASPL-C concentrations and highly cooperative inhibition (Hill slope ~3) are likely a  
379 consequence of hexamer disassembly, as has been previously reported<sup>46</sup>. SVIP also strongly  
380 inhibits p97 ATPase activity (IC<sub>50</sub> ~72 nM). This is striking given its minimal size and indicates  
381 that the predicted helix C-terminal to the VIM may contribute to ATPase inhibition through  
382 additional interactions with p97. Together these results support a functional conservation  
383 between UBXD1, ASPL and SVIP through the inhibition of p97 ATPase activity. Based on our  
384 structures and comparison to ASPL and SVIP we postulate that the helical lariat and the H4  
385 helix function as noncanonical control elements that, when paired with well-conserved binding  
386 motifs such as UBX and VIM, serve critical functions in ATPase control and p97 remodeling.

387 To further investigate the helical lariat and H4 in UBXD1, mutations were introduced into  
388 the full-length UBXD1 sequence (Extended Data Fig. 7c and methods), and their effect on p97  
389 ATPase activity and structure was determined. We also constructed a double mutant containing  
390 both the lariat and H4 changes. Analytical SEC revealed that these constructs bound p97 to a

similar extent as did wild type UBXD1 (Extended Data Fig. 7d,e). When tested for p97 ATPase inhibition, the lariat mutant (LX) only modestly increased the  $IC_{50}$  compared to wild type UBXD1 (25 nM to 41 nM), indicating its disruption alone does not abolish ATPase inhibition (Fig. 5e). The  $IC_{50}$  for the H4 mutant (H4X) was also only modestly shifted compared to wild type (37 nM vs. 25 nM, respectively); rather, the major effect was a ~60% increase in p97 ATPase activity at maximal inhibition (0.42 compared to 0.26 for wild type) (Fig. 5e, dashed lines). This indicates a substantial loss in maximal ATPase inhibition with the H4 mutant. Notably, the double mutant exhibited an increased  $IC_{50}$  of 114 nM as well as a similarly elevated maximal inhibition value, indicating a more substantial loss of ATPase inhibition by UBXD1 when both the lariat and H4 are disrupted. Considering the minor  $IC_{50}$  effects observed for these mutants individually, these results indicate the lariat and H4 may contribute cooperatively to p97 ATPase control. However, disruption of these elements did not fully abrogate ATPase inhibition, thus additional UBXD1 interactions likely contribute.

Finally, cryo-EM analysis of p97 incubated with ADP and the UBXD1 lariat and H4 mutants was performed to understand structural changes associated with mutation of these motifs (Fig. 6a-d, Extended Data Fig. 7f-j, and Extended Data Table 1). In both datasets, the predominant class contains only VIM UBXD1 density bound in all p97 NTDs, identical to p97:UBXD1<sup>VIM</sup> in which the p97 hexamer is symmetric and unchanged from the p97<sup>ADP</sup> state (Extended Data Fig. 7k,l). Additional prevalent classes contain UBXD1 density corresponding to VIM-H4 for the lariat mutant (p97:UBXD1<sup>LX</sup>) and the VIM, PUB, lariat and UBX for the H4 mutant (p97:UBXD1<sup>H4X</sup>, essentially identical to p97:UBXD1<sup>closed</sup>) (Fig. 6a and Extended Data Fig. 7m,n). Density for the mutated regions (lariat or H4) was not observed, indicating loss of these specific interactions was achieved for these variants. Notably, the open-ring state of p97 was not observed in any class, demonstrating that interactions by the lariat and H4 are likely necessary for complete separation of the P1-P6 interface. For p97:UBXD1<sup>LX</sup> VIM density is better resolved on one protomer (denoted P1) compared to other sites, and following focused classification we identify that this protomer also features H4 density interacting with the D2 domain, as identified in p97:UBXD1<sup>H4</sup> (Fig. 6b). The clockwise adjacent D2 exhibits strikingly weak density, reminiscent of the D2 flexibility we observed in the p97:UBXD1 closed and open states (Extended Data Fig. 7m). This likely occurs because mutation of La3 results in loss of interactions by the UBX and lariat, thereby localizing UBXD1-induced conformational changes to the D2 ring of p97. To explore this state further, 3D variability analysis was performed, revealing a variability mode in which continuous flexibility is observed between two distinct states of the VIM-H4 and adjacent D2 domain. In one state, strong density for both the VIM and

425 H4 is identified and associated with a disordered D2 domain of the clockwise protomer (Fig. 6c  
426 and Supplementary Video 5). Conversely, the second state exhibits a well resolved clockwise  
427 D2 but weak to no density for the VIM-H4. This analysis indicates these states are in equilibrium  
428 and H4 binding correlates with destabilization of the adjacent D2. Thus, these structures further  
429 demonstrate that VIM-H4 binding destabilizes p97 through disruption of D2 interprotomer  
430 contacts and, together with our ATPase analysis, support a role for the VIM-H4 interaction in D2  
431 hydrolysis control.

432 Considering both p97:UBXD1<sup>LX</sup> and p97:UBXD1<sup>H4X</sup> exhibit some P1-P6 asymmetry  
433 similar to p97:UBXD1<sup>closed</sup>, we sought to characterize distances between these protomers to  
434 further define remodeling of the D1 and D2 by UBXD1. This was achieved by measuring  
435 distances between individual AAA+ domains based on centroids calculated from the fitted  
436 models (Extended Data Fig. 7o). As expected, the symmetric p97<sup>ADP</sup> state exhibits the shortest  
437 centroid distances (~35 Å for D1 and D2) while UBXD1<sup>closed</sup> and UBXD1<sup>open</sup> structures show a  
438 partial (D1: ~37 Å, D2: ~36 Å) and greatly expanded (D1: ~43 Å, D2: ~46 Å) separation of the  
439 AAA+ domains, respectively (Fig. 6d). As shown above (Fig. 2a), in UBXD1<sup>closed</sup> the D1 domains  
440 are more separated than the D2, which we propose to be caused by lariat binding. Notably,  
441 mutation of the lariat (in p97:UBXD1<sup>LX</sup>) decreases the D1-D1 distance relative to  
442 p97:UBXD1<sup>closed</sup> while mutation of H4 (in p97:UBXD1<sup>H4X</sup>) shows no changes in D1-D1, further  
443 supporting that the D1 remodeling effects are driven by the lariat interaction. Intriguingly, the  
444 D2-D2 distance in p97:UBXD1<sup>LX</sup> is substantially increased to ~40 Å relative to p97:UBXD1<sup>closed</sup>  
445 (at ~36 Å). We postulate that this reflects a VIM-H4 interaction that is more pronounced when  
446 uncoupled from lariat binding to the D1 (as observed in Fig. 6c), thus supporting that the VIM-  
447 H4 interactions indeed contribute to opening the p97 ring through D2 displacement. In sum,  
448 these results indicate the helical lariat and H4 independently regulate the D1 and D2 and  
449 function as critical p97 hexamer disrupting motifs that are necessary for full UBXD1 remodeling  
450 activity.

451 **DISCUSSION:**

452 Adapter proteins of the p97/VCP AAA+ hexamer serve critical roles in binding and regulating  
453 function in its many diverse and essential cellular pathways. How adapters may directly regulate  
454 p97 structure and mechanism has been an open question. Here we characterized the multi-  
455 domain adapter UBXD1 associated with lysosomal and mitochondrial autophagy, among other  
456 functions<sup>12,14,17,35,36</sup>. We identify UBXD1 as a potent ATPase inhibitor and determined structures  
457 of full-length p97:UBXD1 that reveal how its interactions drive dramatic remodeling and ring-

458 opening of the hexamer. These p97 conformational changes are coordinated by UBXD1 through  
459 a network of interprotomer interactions across the N-terminal, D1, and D2 domains. Based on  
460 these structures we propose a model describing how UBXD1 interactions coalesce to remodel  
461 p97 (Fig. 6e and Supplementary Video 6).

462 We identify VIM binding to the NTD to be a primary contact given its established  
463 interaction<sup>36,39,41,42</sup> and the prevalence of the p97:UBXD1<sup>VIM</sup> state (Fig. 6e, state II and Extended  
464 Data Fig. 1d), which contains only the VIM helix bound to all protomers. We attribute no p97  
465 structural changes to this interaction alone given this state is unchanged from p97<sup>ADP</sup>.  
466 Conversely, interactions made by the helical lariat, including strong contacts by La3 along the  
467 D1 interprotomer interface, drive remodeling and separation of adjacent D1 domains (Fig. 6e,  
468 state III). This is likely supported by UBX binding to the clockwise NTD, given its close  
469 connection to the lariat and its conservation with ASPL. Through subclassification of the closed  
470 state we identify a class with the UBXD1 H4 helix, which is connected to the VIM by a short  
471 linker, bound at the D2 interface (Fig. 4f). This interaction appears critical for separation of the  
472 D2 domains given conformational changes identified in this state that destabilize the interface,  
473 including displacement of helix  $\alpha$ 5' (Fig. 4g). Moreover, variability analysis of the p97:UBXD1<sup>LX</sup>  
474 structure, containing mutations in the lariat, reveals that H4 interactions are dynamic and  
475 displace the adjacent D2 (of protomer P6), further supporting a direct role in disrupting the D2  
476 interface (Fig. 6c). Thus, we propose the VIM-H4 specifically functions in p97 D2 remodeling  
477 while the combined interactions from the lariat and H4 together drive hexamer opening (Fig. 6e,  
478 state V). Additionally, the connecting UBX and VIM domains tether these interactions to the  
479 respective NTDs, likely providing additional binding energy to leverage ring opening. Although  
480 more flexible, the PUB interaction with the C-terminus of the next clockwise protomer may  
481 further support D1-D2 remodeling and ring opening.

482 Notably, while other UBXD1-bound configurations are identified (Fig. 6d and Extended  
483 Data Fig. 1i), the open state is only observed with a singly-bound, wild type UBXD1, thus  
484 indicating all UBXD1 contacts across three protomers are required for ring opening. Additional  
485 UBXD1 molecules may transiently bind p97, however, opening of the hexamer at one site would  
486 likely displace other molecules due to steric interactions and conformational changes across the  
487 ring. Given the continuity between the symmetric (p97<sup>ADP</sup>), closed, and open conformations  
488 (Supplementary Video 2) and relation to the right-handed spiral adopted by the substrate-bound  
489 state<sup>8,9,25</sup>, we propose that a single UBXD1 binds and remodels p97 in this manner to support its  
490 substrate processing and translocation cycle. Indeed, UBXD1 cooperates with YOD1 (a

491 deubiquitinase) and PLAA (a ubiquitin-binding adapter) in lysophagy, further supporting its  
492 involvement in a substrate-related function<sup>12</sup>. The spiral arrangement facilitated by UBXD1  
493 might allow large substrates or those with complex topologies to enter the central channel for  
494 subsequent processing; alternatively, UBXD1 could act as a release factor, allowing stalled  
495 substrates to diffuse out of the channel. Furthermore, UBXD1 activity in several pathways  
496 appears independent of the ubiquitin-binding adapter UFD1/NPL4<sup>12,14</sup>. This observation,  
497 coupled with the unique structural remodeling facilitated by UBXD1, suggests that this adapter  
498 enables a function distinct from canonical substrate engagement and processing.

499 UBXD1's potent inhibition of p97 ATPase activity is striking and indicates a distinct role  
500 for adapters in regulating hydrolysis by p97. Inhibition may result from disruption of D1 and D2  
501 inter-protomer contacts, given the nucleotide pocket resides at the interface and the arginine  
502 finger and other intersubunit signaling contacts from the adjacent protomer are lost (Fig. 2d,e)<sup>25</sup>.  
503 Indeed, we identify D1 and D2 displacements of 8 and 11 Å, respectively, at the disrupted P6-  
504 P1 interface of the open state (Fig. 2d). Additionally, occupancy by the helical lariat of the  
505 binding site of UPCDC30245, an allosteric inhibitor that prevents cycling between ADP- and  
506 ATP-bound states<sup>19</sup>, indicates that this motif may contribute to ATPase inhibition through an  
507 additional mechanism. However, given that the ATPase inhibition activity of the UBXD1 LX  
508 mutant is modestly impaired, full inhibition must result through other UBXD1 interactions (Fig.  
509 5e, 6d). Interaction and remodeling of the D2 small subdomain by UBXD1 H4 is also a likely  
510 contributor to hydrolysis control and we identify mutation of this helix reduces the maximal  
511 inhibition by UBXD1. Hydrolysis inhibition through the D2 is consistent with previous  
512 observations that the D2 domain is responsible for the majority of p97 ATPase activity<sup>55</sup>. While  
513 we consider the helical lariat and H4 to be primary drivers of ring separation and thus ATPase  
514 inhibition, the effects of these remodeling elements are likely buttressed by other UBXD1  
515 domains, given that mutation of the lariat or H4 does not completely ablate UBXD1's inhibitory  
516 activity (Fig. 5e). Therefore, the potent inhibitory effect of UBXD1 may be driven by avidity,  
517 without a single interaction domain being specifically responsible for hydrolysis control.  
518 Supporting this, many UBXD1 interactions are weak or weakened compared to homologous  
519 domains in other adapters. Specifically, H1/H2, though highly conserved (Extended Data Fig. 8),  
520 weakly interacts by NMR<sup>36-38,56</sup>, its VIM is lacking an Arg residue present in many other  
521 adapters<sup>41,42</sup>, its UBX has residues in the S3/S4 loop mutated and does not bind the NTD in  
522 isolation<sup>17,39,43</sup>, and H4 also weakly binds as measured by NMR<sup>36</sup>. Notably, UBXD1-mediated  
523 inhibition of ATPase activity does not necessitate an overall inhibitory role of this adapter;

524      UBXD1 could potentially stabilize a stalled, ATPase-inhibited state until association of a  
525      substrate, at which point hydrolysis-dependent substrate processing might occur.

526      We propose UBXD1, ASPL, and SVIP are structurally related adapters with conserved  
527      motifs that mediate distinct effects on p97 activity. In addition to being potent inhibitors of p97  
528      ATPase activity, these adapters appear to not bind substrate or possess enzymatic activity,  
529      suggesting their primary activity is modulation of p97 structure rather than direct involvement in  
530      substrate engagement. In contrast to many other AAA+ proteins, p97 requires an extensive set  
531      of adapter proteins, including those that deliver substrates, to facilitate its functions. This is likely  
532      due to the relative stability of the p97 hexamer, which adopts a stable, planar conformation in  
533      the absence of substrate and even nucleotide<sup>18,57</sup>. It is therefore reasonable to conclude that  
534      p97 relies on a set of adapters to structurally remodel the hexamer for various purposes, in the  
535      same manner as its dependence on adapters directly involved in substrate processing. We  
536      identify the helical lariat and H4-like sequences to be critical control elements in these adapters.  
537      The different degrees of remodeling of lariat-containing adapters (complete hexamer  
538      disassembly with ASPL compared to intact hexamers with UBXD1) likely reflect the different  
539      assemblies of p97-interacting domains in these two adapters. In addition to the lariat-UBX  
540      module, ASPL has a UBXL domain and a SHP box that both bind the NTD, while UBXD1  
541      features a much larger complement of domains that flank the lariat on both sides. These extra  
542      domains could potentially 'hold' the hexamer together during binding, preventing complete  
543      dissociation, possibly to facilitate an as-yet unknown step of substrate processing. Indeed, a  
544      recent study revealed that ASPL-mediated hexamer disassembly enables binding and  
545      modification by the methyltransferase VCPKMT, suggesting that disruptions of hexamer  
546      architecture are biologically relevant<sup>58</sup>. Likewise, the extra p97-interacting domains of UBXD1  
547      compared to SVIP indicate a more sophisticated function than merely ATPase inhibition, as  
548      SVIP similarly inhibits hydrolysis with only VIM and H4-like sequences. In sum, the  
549      characterization of adapters as structural modulators of p97 reported here and the large number  
550      of still-uncharacterized p97-interacting proteins suggest that there are more classes of adapters  
551      with distinct effects on p97 activity yet to be discovered, likely with novel regulatory effects on  
552      unfoldase function.

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556 **AUTHOR CONTRIBUTIONS:**

557 J.R.B. expressed and purified proteins, performed biochemical and cryo-EM experiments, built  
558 models, developed figures, and wrote and edited the manuscript. C.R.A. expressed and purified  
559 proteins, performed biochemical experiments, and edited the manuscript. M.R.T. expressed and  
560 purified proteins and performed cryo-EM experiments. E.T. operated electron microscopes and  
561 assisted with data collection. A.T. expressed proteins. M.R.A. designed and supervised  
562 biochemistry and edited the manuscript. D.R.S. designed and supervised the project and wrote  
563 and edited the manuscript.

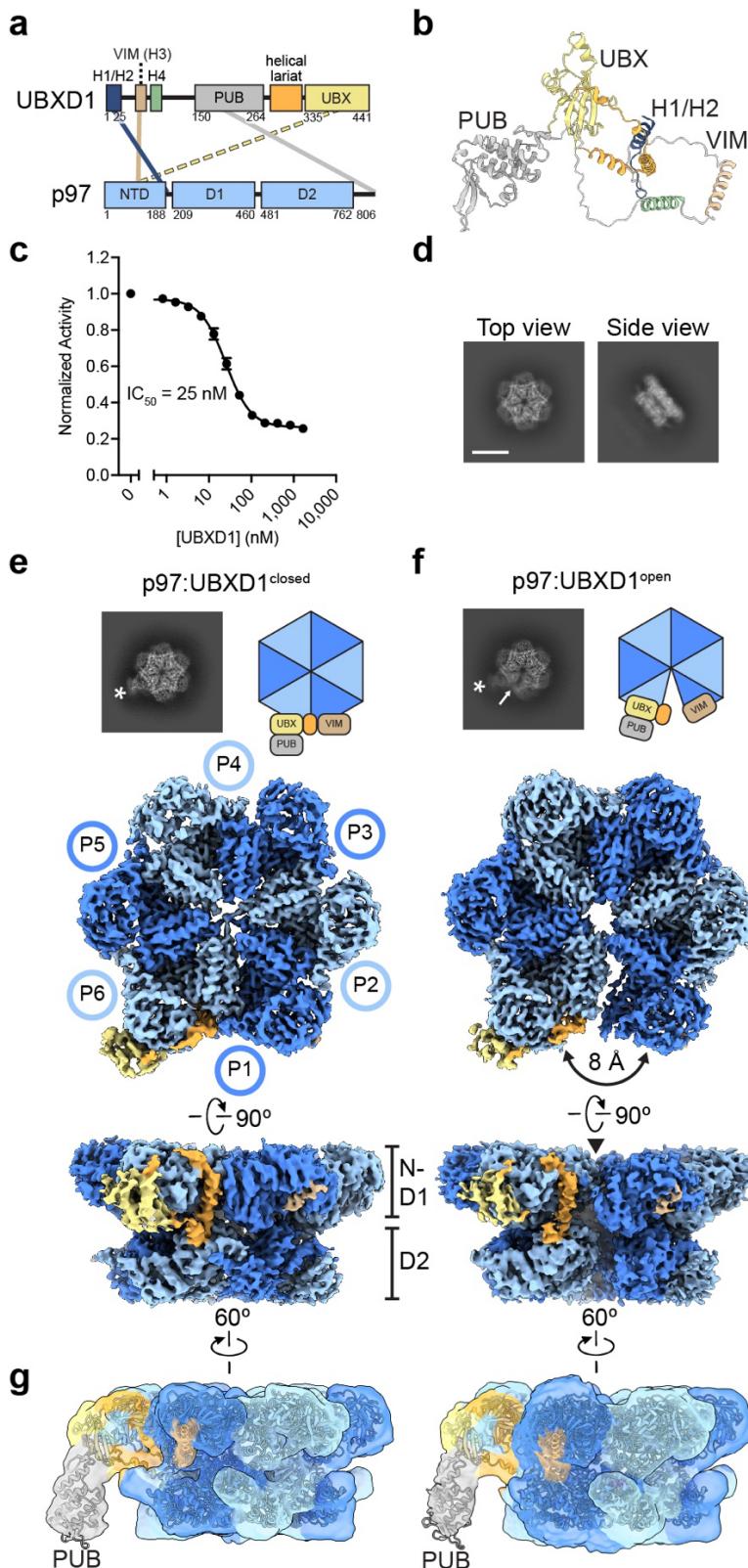
564 **DECLARATION OF INTERESTS:**

565 The authors declare no competing interests.

566 **MAIN FIGURES:**

567 *(next page)*

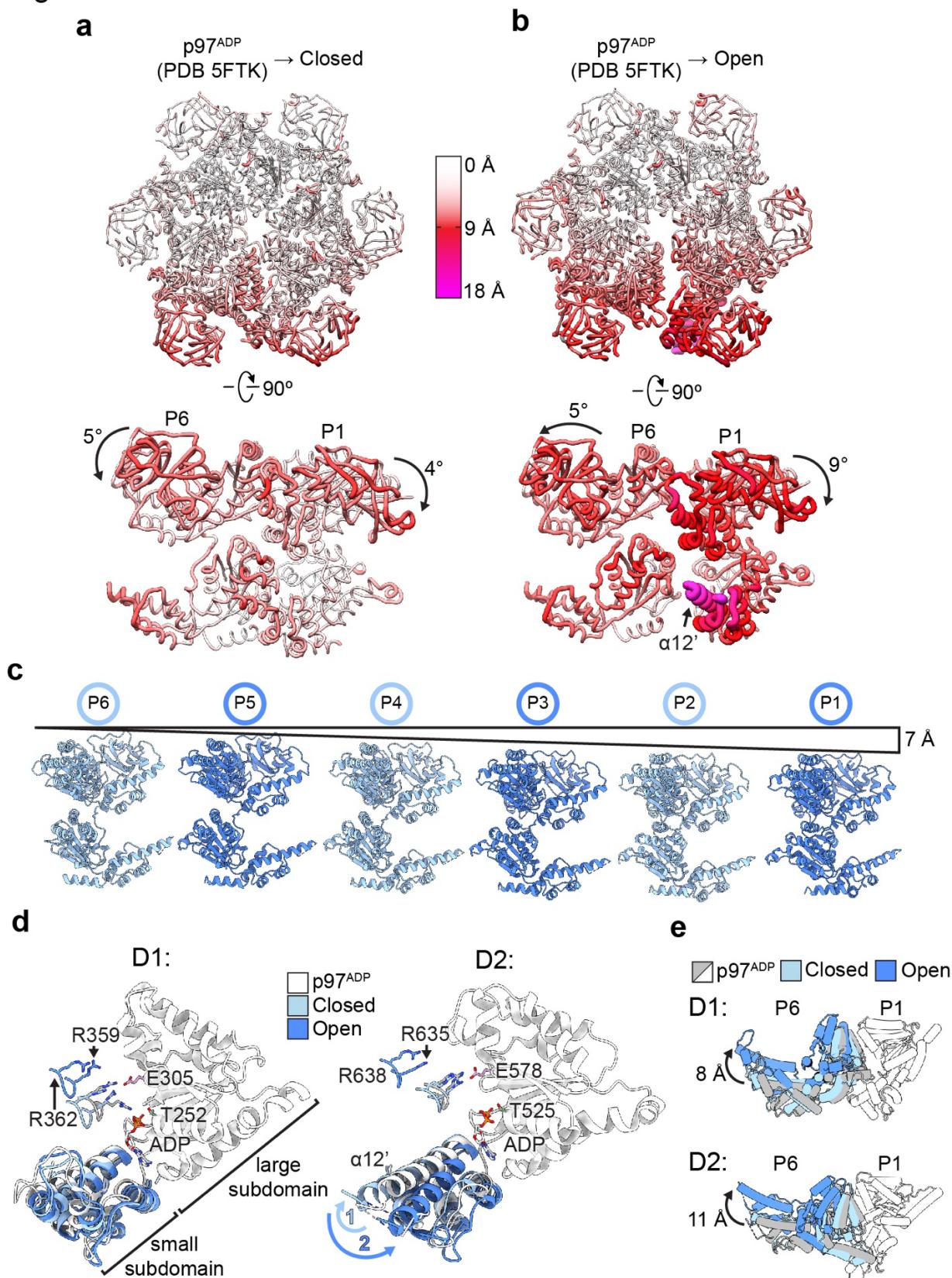
Fig. 1



569 **Fig 1. Cryo-EM structures of p97:UBXD1 closed and open states**

570 **(a)** Domain schematics of UBXD1 and p97 (not to scale) showing reported interactions (solid  
571 lines) between conserved domains<sup>36,39–41</sup> and the canonical UBX-NTD interaction previously  
572 reported to not occur for UBXD1 (dashed line)<sup>17,39,43</sup>. **(b)** AlphaFold model of UBXD1 showing  
573 structured regions (H1/H2, VIM, H4, PUB, helical lariat and UBX) colored as in **(a)**. **(c)** Steady  
574 state ATPase activity (Y-axis, normalized to activity at 0 nM UBXD1) of p97 at increasing  
575 concentrations of UBXD1 (X-axis), resulting in a calculated IC<sub>50</sub> of 25 nM. Error bars represent  
576 standard deviation and data are from three independently performed experiments. **(d)**  
577 Representative 2D class averages following initial classification of the full p97:UBXD1 dataset,  
578 showing p97 hexamer and no additional density for UBXD1 (scale bar equals 100 Å). Final cryo-  
579 EM reconstructions of **(e)** p97:UBXD1<sup>closed</sup> and **(f)** p97:UBXD1<sup>open</sup> states with top-view 2D  
580 projections showing UBX/PUB density (\*) and open p97 ring (arrow) compared to cartoon  
581 depiction of p97:UBXD1 complex (top row); (below) cryo-EM density maps (p97:UBXD1<sup>open</sup> is a  
582 composite map, see methods), colored to show the p97 hexamer (light and dark blue, with  
583 protomers labeled P1-P6) and UBXD1 density for the VIM (brown), UBX (yellow) and lariat  
584 (orange) domains. The 8 Å separation between protomers P1 and P6 is indicated for  
585 p97:UBXD1<sup>open</sup>. **(g)** Low-pass filtered maps and fitted models of p97:UBXD1<sup>closed</sup> (left) and  
586 p97:UBXD1<sup>open</sup> (right) exhibiting low resolution density for the PUB domain (gray).

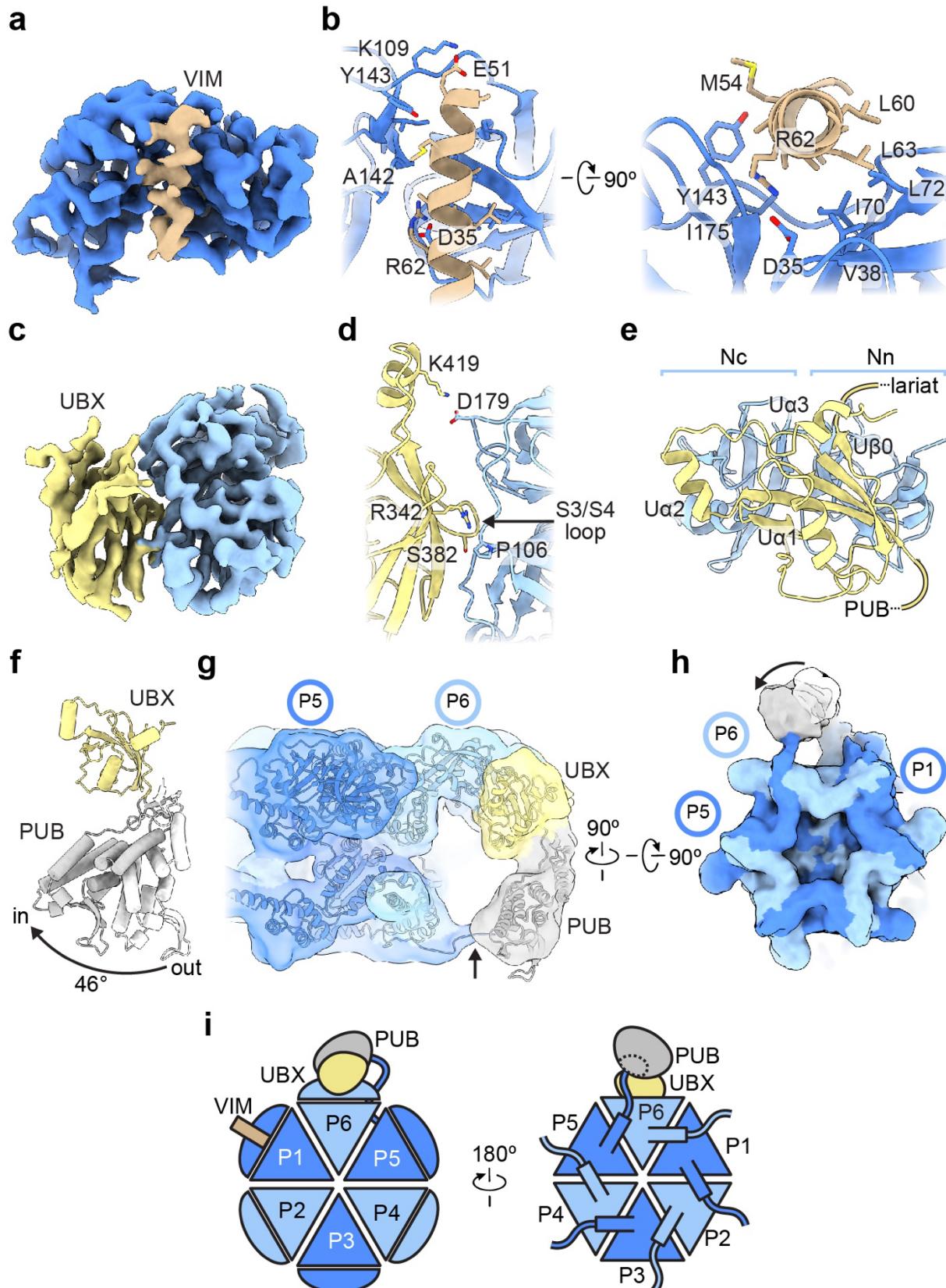
Fig. 2



588 **Fig. 2. UBXD1-mediated p97 hexamer remodeling**

589 The p97 hexamer and rotated side view of the seam protomers P1 and P6 for **(a)**  
590 p97:UBXD1<sup>closed</sup> and **(b)** p97:UBXD1<sup>open</sup> structures, colored according to C $\alpha$  RMSD values  
591 relative to the p97<sup>ADP</sup> symmetric state (PDB 5FTK, aligned to P3 and P4). The largest changes  
592 (>15 Å, magenta with wider tubes) are identified for P1  $\alpha$ 12' (arrow) in the open state,  
593 intermediate changes (~10 Å, red) for P1 and P6 with rotations of the NTDs relative to p97<sup>ADP</sup>  
594 shown, and small/no changes for the remaining regions (<5 Å, white). **(c)** Side by side view of  
595 individual protomers aligned based on position in the p97:UBXD1<sup>open</sup> hexamer, showing vertical  
596 displacement along the pseudo-C6 symmetry axis. **(d)** Overlay of the D1 (left) and D2 (right)  
597 AAA+ domains of P1 for p97<sup>ADP</sup>, p97:UBXD1<sup>closed</sup>, and p97:UBXD1<sup>open</sup>, aligned to the large  
598 subdomains and colored as indicated. ADP is shown with conserved Walker A/B and trans-  
599 acting (P6) Arg finger residues indicated. The large rotation of the D2 small subdomain,  
600 exemplified by  $\alpha$ 12', is shown (relative to p97<sup>ADP</sup>) for the closed (1) and open (2) states. **(e)** Top  
601 view overlay of the D1 (upper) and D2 (lower) domains for the P6-P1 pair in the three states and  
602 aligned to P1 to show relative rotations of P6, colored as indicated. Rotations shown are from  
603 the p97<sup>ADP</sup> to the p97:UBXD1<sup>open</sup> state and determined from centroid positions of the D1 and D2  
604 domains.

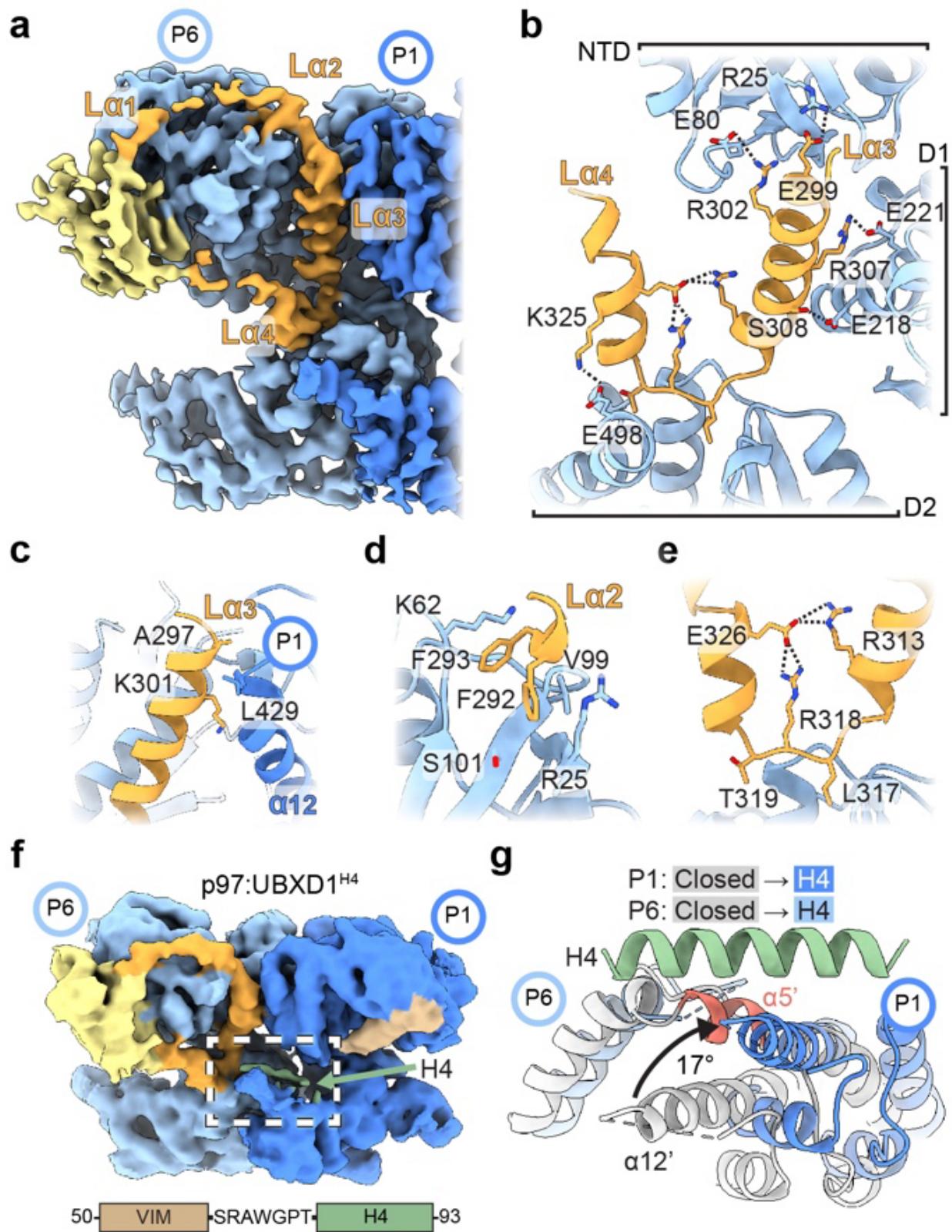
Fig. 3



606 **Fig. 3. Interactions by conserved VIM, UBX and PUB domains of UBXD1 across the p97  
607 hexamer.**

608 (a) Sharpened map of P1 NTD (dark blue) and the VIM helix (brown) from the p97:UBXD1<sup>closed</sup>  
609 structure. (b) Model showing VIM helix interactions with the NTD, colored as in (a) with labeled  
610 interacting residues. (c) Sharpened map of the P6 NTD (light blue) and UBX domain (yellow).  
611 The model of the UBX and NTD in p97:UBXD1<sup>closed</sup> is shown (d) depicting UBX-NTD contacts,  
612 including the conserved S3/S4 loop contact<sup>59</sup> (arrow) and (e) with non-canonical structural  
613 elements U $\alpha$ 2, U $\alpha$ 3, and U $\beta$ 0, colored as in (c). (f) Overlay of PUB from p97:UBXD1-PUB<sub>in</sub>  
614 (gray) and p97:UBXD1-PUB<sub>out</sub> (white) (see methods), aligned to the UBX (yellow) domain,  
615 showing 46° rotation of the PUB domain position. (g) Low-pass filtered map and model of  
616 p97:UBXD1-PUB<sub>in</sub> depicting PUB domain contact with p97 and model for C-terminal HbYX tail  
617 interaction from the adjacent P5 protomer (arrow) and (h) bottom view of the hexamer map with  
618 out (white) and in (gray) positions of the PUB. (i) Cartoon of p97:UBXD1<sup>closed</sup> depicting UBXD1  
619 interactions across three p97 protomers (P1:VIM, P6:UBX, and P5:PUB) through canonical p97-  
620 interacting domains.

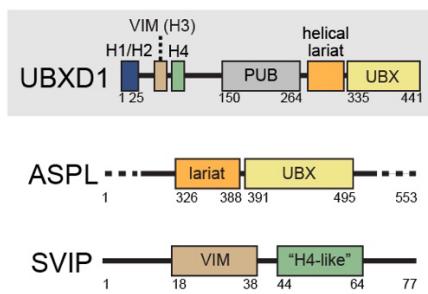
Fig. 4



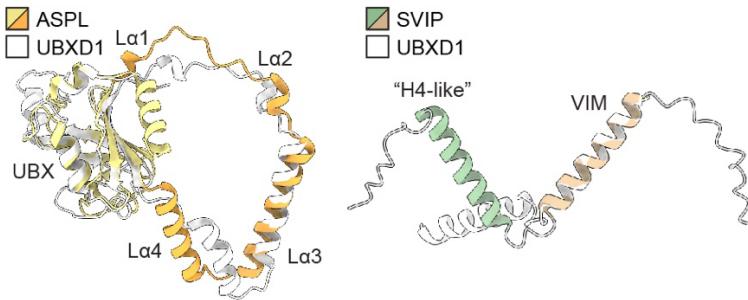
622 **Fig. 4. p97 remodeling interactions by UBXD1 helical lariat and VIM-H4**  
623 **(a)** Closed state map (from p97:UBXD1<sup>meta</sup>) showing density for the UBXD1 helical lariat  
624 (orange) and UBX (yellow) encircling the P6 NTD with La2, La3, and La4 interacting along the  
625 P6-P1 interprotomer interface. **(b)** Expanded view showing La3 and La4 (orange) contacts with  
626 P6 across the NTD, D1, and D2, including putative electrostatic interactions (dashed lines). **(c)**  
627 View of the P6-P1 interface showing key contacts by La3 with the D1  $\alpha$ 12 helix of protomer P1.  
628 View of **(d)** La2 interactions involving hydrophobic packing into the NTD and **(e)** La3 and La4  
629 intra-lariat contacts and contacts with D2, stabilizing the helical lariat. **(f)** Unsharpened map of  
630 p97:UBXD1<sup>H4</sup>, showing density for H4 (green) adjacent to the VIM (brown) and along the P6-P1  
631 interface. Shown below is an expanded view of the VIM-H4 sequence, featuring only a short 7-  
632 amino acid linker connecting the two helices. **(g)** Modeled view (see Extended Data Fig. 6c) of  
633 helix H4 interacting across the D2 domains at the P1-P6 interface with p97 from p97:UBXD1<sup>H4</sup>  
634 (P1: dark blue, P6: light blue), and p97:UBXD1<sup>closed</sup> (gray) overlaid (by alignment of the P1 D2  
635 large subdomain) to show conformational changes at the P6-P1 interface including  
636 displacement of P6 helix  $\alpha$ 5' (red) and large rotation of P1  $\alpha$ 12' in p97:UBXD1<sup>H4</sup>.

Fig. 5

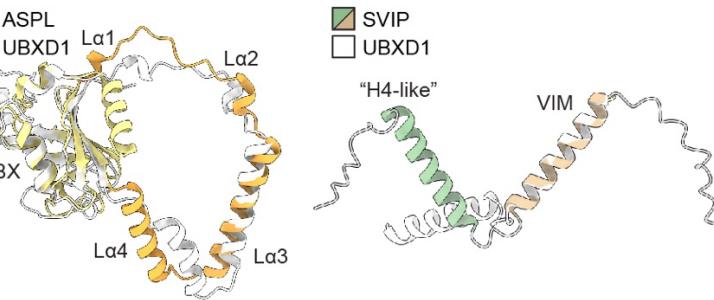
a



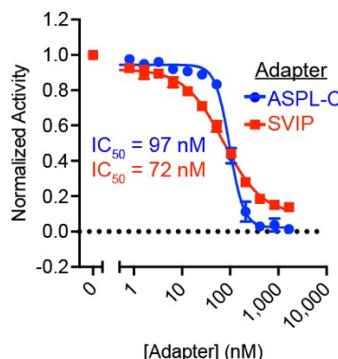
b



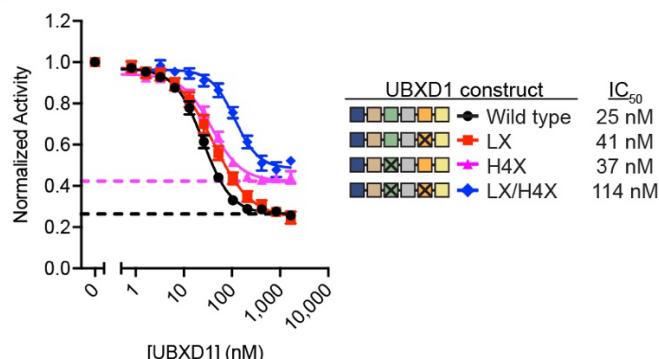
c



d



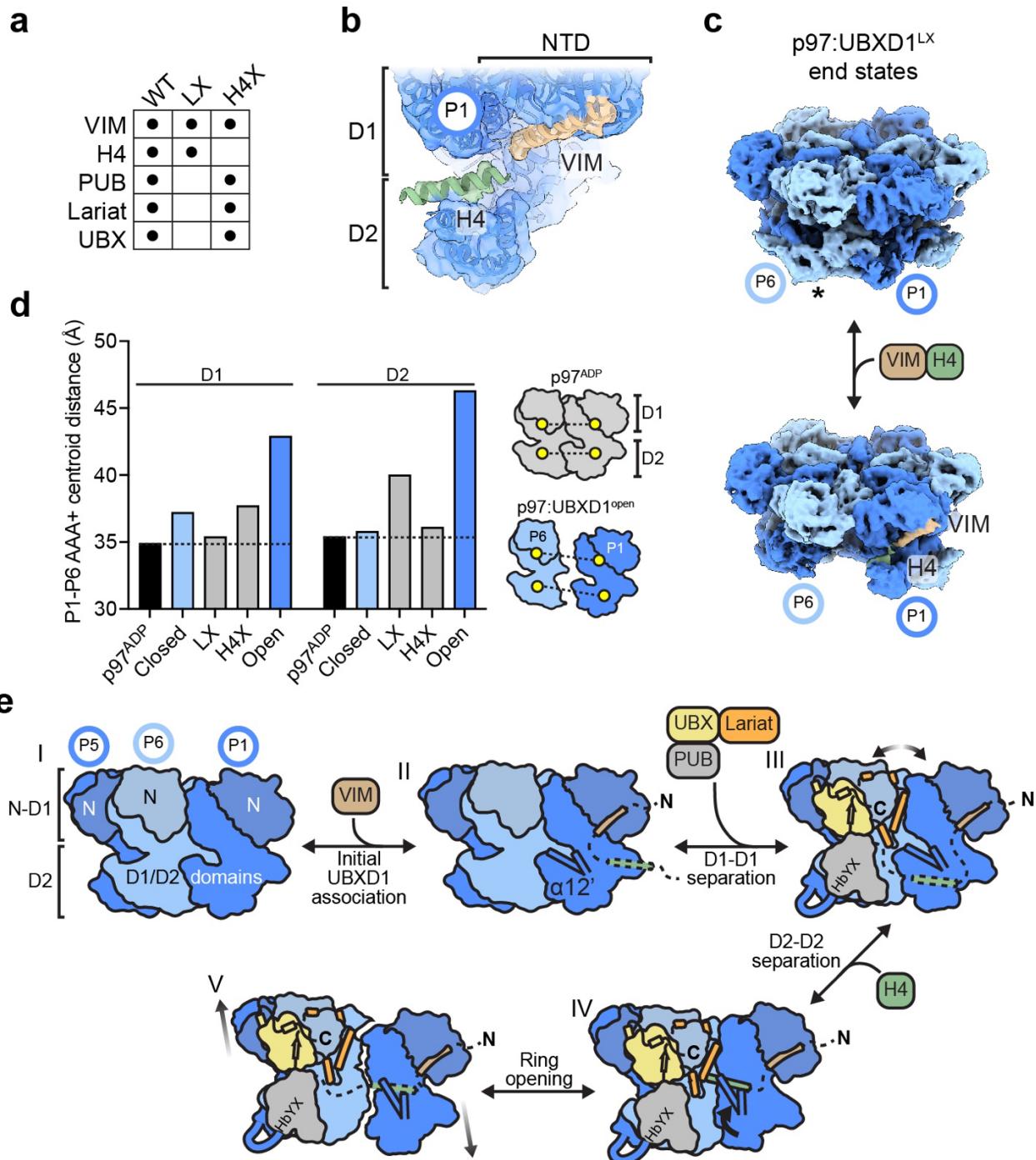
e



637

638 **Fig. 5. Analysis of the helical lariat and VIM-H4 as conserved p97-remodeling motifs**  
639 (a) Domain schematics of UBXD1, ASPL, and SVIP (not to scale). Overlay of the (b) UBX-  
640 helical lariat of ASPL (residues 318-495 from PDB 5IFS, colored as in (a)) and UBXD1  
641 (residues 270-441 from the p97:UBXD1<sup>closed</sup> model, in white) and the (c) VIM-“H4-like” region of  
642 SVIP (AlphaFold model, colored as in (a)) and UBXD1 (residues 50-93 from the AlphaFold  
643 model, in white). (d) Steady state ATPase activity of p97 as a function of ASPL-C or SVIP  
644 concentration. Error bars represent standard deviation and data are from three independently  
645 performed experiments. Calculated IC<sub>50</sub>s are shown below. (e) Steady state ATPase activity of  
646 p97 as a function of UBXD1 protein concentration for WT, LX (lariat mutant:  
647 E299R/R302E/R307E/E312R), or H4X (helix H4 sequence scramble); maximum concentration  
648 tested was 1.67 μM. Dashed lines represent the minimal activity (or maximal UBXD1 inhibition)  
649 obtained from the corresponding curve fit. Error bars represent standard deviation and data are  
650 from three independently performed experiments. Calculated IC<sub>50</sub>s and schematics of UBXD1  
651 constructs used are shown at right.

Fig. 6



653 **Fig. 6. Structural analysis of p97:UBXD1 mutant complexes and model for p97 hexamer**  
654 **remodeling through UBXD1 domain interactions**

655 (a) Table of ADP-bound p97:UBXD1 cryo-EM datasets (WT, lariat mutant (LX) and H4 mutant  
656 (H4X)) and corresponding UBXD1 domains observed as densities in the reconstructions. (b)  
657 Unsharpened map and fitted model of the VIM-H4-bound P1 protomer from p97:UBXD1<sup>LX</sup>  
658 (Extended Data Fig. 7f), colored as in Fig. 1. (c) First and last frames of the 3D variability  
659 analysis output for p97:UBXD1<sup>LX</sup> showing P6 D2 density (\*) but no VIM-H4 in one end state  
660 (top) and no P6 D2 in the other when VIM-H4 density is present (bottom). (d) P1-P6  
661 interprotomer distances (based on centroid positions) for the D1 and D2 domains of p97<sup>ADP</sup>  
662 (PDB 5FTK), p97:UBXD1<sup>closed</sup>, p97:UBXD1<sup>LX</sup>, p97:UBXD1<sup>H4X</sup>, and p97:UBXD1<sup>open</sup>. Dashed lines  
663 represent the minimal distances observed in p97<sup>ADP</sup>. A schematic representing distances  
664 calculated is shown (right). (e) Model of p97:UBXD1 interactions and structural remodeling of  
665 the hexamer. State I: side view of p97<sup>ADP</sup> (PDB 5FTK), colored as in Fig. 1. NTDs are shaded  
666 for clarity. State II: p97:UBXD1<sup>VIM</sup>, in which the VIM initially associates with the NTD of P1. The  
667 position of the D2 small subdomain is illustrated by  $\alpha$ 12' and an adjacent helix. State III: the  
668 p97:UBXD1<sup>closed</sup> state, in which the UBX, PUB, and helical lariat contact P5 and P6, resulting in  
669 the disruption of D1-D1 contacts at the P1-P6 interface. State IV: the p97:UBXD1<sup>H4</sup> state, in  
670 which H4 is positioned on top of the D2 domain of P1, causing it to rotate upward, and  
671 displacing a helix from the D2 domain of P6. State V: the p97:UBXD1<sup>open</sup> state, in which P6 and  
672 P1 have completely separated, and all protomers are arranged into a shallow right handed helix.

673

## TABLES:

674  
675

**Table 1. Cryo-EM data collection, refinement, and validation statistics of structures from the p97/UBXD1<sup>WT</sup>/ADP dataset**

	p97:UBXD1 <sup>closed</sup> (EMD-28982, PDB 8FC1)	p97:UBXD1 <sup>open</sup> (EMD-28983, PDB 8FCM)	p97:UBXD1 <sup>VIM</sup> (EMD-28987, PDB 8FCN)	p97:UBXD1 <sup>meta</sup> (EMD-28988, PDB 8FCO)	p97:UBXD1 <sup>para</sup> (EMD-28989, PDB 8FCP)	p97:UBXD1- PUB <sub>in</sub> (EMD- 28990, PDB 8FCQ)	p97:UBXD1- 1 <sup>H4</sup> (EMD- 28991, PDB 8FCR)
<b>Data collection and processing</b>							
Microscope and camera	Titan Krios, K3	Titan Krios, K3	Titan Krios, K3	Titan Krios, K3	Titan Krios, K3	Titan Krios, K3	Titan Krios, K3
Magnification	59,952	59,952	59,952	59,952	59,952	59,952	59,952
Voltage (kV)	300	300	300	300	300	300	300
Data acquisition software	SerialEM	SerialEM	SerialEM	SerialEM	SerialEM	SerialEM	SerialEM
Exposure navigation	Image shift	Image shift	Image shift	Image shift	Image shift	Image shift	Image shift
Electron exposure (e/Å <sup>2</sup> )	43	43	43	43	43	43	43
Defocus range (μm)	-0.5 to -2.0	-0.5 to -2.0	-0.5 to -2.0	-0.5 to -2.0	-0.5 to -2.0	-0.5 to -2.0	-0.5 to -2.0
Pixel size (Å)	0.834	0.834	0.834	0.834	0.834	0.834	0.834
Symmetry imposed	C1	C1	C6	C1	C2	C1	C1
Initial particle images (no.)	5,498,937	5,498,937	5,498,937	5,498,937	5,498,937	5,498,937	5,498,937
Final particle images (no.)	82,334	563,468	100,000	80,700	45,628	59,126	24,086
Map resolution (Å)	3.5	3.3 (consensus)	3.0	3.3	3.5	3.9	4.1
FSC threshold	0.143	0.143	0.143	0.143	0.143	0.143	0.143
Map resolution range (Å)	2-10	2-10	2-10	2-10	2-10	3-12	3-12
<b>Refinement</b>							
Model resolution (Å)	4.3	3.8	3.4	4.2	4.1	6.2	6.2
FSC threshold	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5
Map sharpening B factor (Å <sup>2</sup> )	-93.5	-86.1 (consensus)	-113.6	-96.8	-108.4	-90.4	-133.3
<b>Model composition</b>							
Nonhydrogen atoms	36,904	36,829	35,034	39,569	39,494	36,904	36,931
Protein residues	4,667	4,658	4,446	4,999	4,990	4,667	4,679
Ligands	12	12	12	12	12	12	12
<b>B factors (Å<sup>2</sup>)</b>							
Protein	30.09	30.08	27.06	33.80	33.80	30.09	30.19
Ligand	13.34	13.34	13.34	13.34	13.34	13.34	13.34
<b>R. m. s. deviations</b>							
Bond lengths (Å)	0.011	0.011	0.011	0.011	0.011	0.011	0.011
Bond angles (°)	1.087	1.064	1.040	1.091	1.092	1.063	1.067
<b>Validation</b>							
MolProbity score	0.72	0.83	0.71	0.82	0.81	0.83	0.87
Clashscore	0.67	1.16	0.65	1.13	1.07	1.15	1.40
Poor rotamers (%)	0.10	0.00	0.11	0.00	0.00	0.03	0.00
<b>Ramachandran plot</b>							
Favored (%)	98.17	98.08	98.66	98.27	98.12	98.23	98.19
Allowed (%)	1.79	1.77	1.20	1.65	1.76	1.70	1.70
Disallowed (%)	0.04	0.15	0.14	0.08	0.12	0.06	0.11

676

677 **RESOURCE AVAILABILITY:**

678 **Materials availability:**

679 Requests for resources and reagents should be directed to Daniel R. Southworth  
680 ([daniel.southworth@ucsf.edu](mailto:daniel.southworth@ucsf.edu)).

681 **Data availability:**

682 Cryo-EM densities have been deposited at the Electron Microscopy Data Bank under accession  
683 codes EMD: 28982 (p97:UBXD1<sup>closed</sup>), EMD: 28983 (p97:UBXD1<sup>open</sup> composite), EMD: 28984  
684 (p97:UBXD1<sup>open</sup> consensus), EMD: 28985 (p97:UBXD1<sup>open</sup> P1 focused map), EMD: 28986  
685 (p97:UBXD1<sup>open</sup> P6 focused map), EMD: 28987 (p97:UBXD1<sup>VIM</sup>), EMD: 28988 (p97:UBXD1<sup>meta</sup>),  
686 EMD: 28989 (p97:UBXD1<sup>para</sup>), EMD: 28990 (p97:UBXD1-PUB<sub>in</sub>), EMD: 28991 (p97:UBXD1<sup>H4</sup>),  
687 and EMD: 28992 (p97:UBXD1<sup>LX</sup>). Atomic coordinates have been deposited at the Protein Data  
688 Bank under accession codes PDB: 8FCL (p97:UBXD1<sup>closed</sup>), PDB: 8FCM (p97:UBXD1<sup>open</sup>),  
689 PDB: 8FCN (p97:UBXD1<sup>VIM</sup>), PDB: 8FCO (p97:UBXD1<sup>meta</sup>), PDB: 8FCP (p97:UBXD1<sup>para</sup>), PDB:  
690 8FCQ (p97:UBXD1-PUB<sub>in</sub>), PDB: 8FCR (p97:UBXD1<sup>H4</sup>), and PDB: 8FCT (p97:UBXD1<sup>LX</sup>).

691 **METHOD DETAILS:**

692 **Molecular cloning**

693 The coding sequence of full-length human UBXD1 was cloned with an N-terminal 6xHis tag,  
694 MBP tag, and TEV protease cleavage site into an insect cell expression vector (Addgene  
695 plasmid #55218). The same expression construct was cloned into a bacterial expression vector  
696 (Addgene plasmid #29708). ASPL-C (residues 313-553) and full-length SVIP were cloned into  
697 the same expression vector. The NEB Q5 Site-Directed Mutagenesis kit was used to introduce  
698 mutations into the UBXD1 construct. The UBXD1 lariat was mutated by making four charge  
699 reversals in La3 predicted to disrupt contacts with P1 and P6 (E299R/R302E/R307E/E312R),  
700 given this helix makes the most significant contacts with p97. As we could not obtain high-  
701 resolution structural information about H4, we scrambled the sequence of this helix rather than  
702 making point mutants, using Peptide Nexus Sequence Scrambler  
703 (<https://peptidenexus.com/article/sequence-scrambler>). This resulted in the sequence 75-  
704 QSRDVTQERIQNKAVALTEA-93.

705 **Protein expression and purification**

706 p97 was expressed and purified as described previously<sup>55</sup>. Briefly, BL21-Gold(DE3) chemically  
707 competent *E. coli* (Agilent) were transformed with pET15b p97, encoding full-length p97 with an

708 N-terminal 6xHis tag, grown in 2xYT media supplemented with 100 µg/mL carbenicillin, and  
709 induced with 0.5 mM isopropyl β-D-1-thiogalactopyranoside (IPTG) at 20°C overnight. Cells  
710 were harvested and lysed by sonication in lysis buffer (50 mM Tris pH 8.0, 250 mM NaCl, 10  
711 mM imidazole, 0.5 mM Tris(2-carboxyethyl)phosphine (TCEP), 1 mM phenylmethylsulfonyl  
712 fluoride (PMSF)) supplemented with cOmplete Protease Inhibitor Cocktail, EDTA-free (Roche)  
713 then clarified by centrifugation. The supernatant was then incubated with HisPur Ni-NTA resin  
714 (Thermo Scientific), and p97 was eluted with nickel elution buffer (lysis buffer supplemented  
715 with 320 mM imidazole, no PMSF). The eluate was supplemented with TEV protease and  
716 dialyzed overnight at 4°C into p97 dialysis buffer (10 mM Tris pH 8.0, 100 mM NaCl, 1 mM  
717 dithiothreitol (DTT)). The following day, the cleavage product was passed through fresh Ni-NTA  
718 resin, and the flowthrough was concentrated and applied to a HiLoad 16/600 Superdex 200 pg  
719 size exclusion chromatography (SEC) column (GE Healthcare) equilibrated in p97 SEC buffer  
720 (25 mM HEPES pH 7.4, 150 mM KCl, 5 mM MgCl<sub>2</sub>, 0.5 mM TCEP). Fractions containing p97  
721 were concentrated to >200 µM, filtered, and flash frozen in liquid nitrogen.

722 Initial attempts at expression of UBXD1 in *E. coli* resulted in large amounts of insoluble  
723 material. Therefore, to obtain amounts sufficient for initial studies, a UBXD1 construct with a  
724 TEV-cleavable N-terminal 6xHis-MBP tag was expressed in Sf9 insect cells using standard  
725 methods. This protocol (including cleavage of the 6xHis-MBP tag) yielded sufficient material for  
726 preliminary cryo-EM studies, and was used for the p97/UBXD1<sup>WT</sup>/ADP dataset. Thereafter, an  
727 optimization campaign for soluble expression of 6xHis-MBP-UBXD1 in *E. coli* was performed,  
728 which resulted in the following protocol. *E. coli*-derived UBXD1 and mutants thereof were used  
729 for all biochemical experiments, and the p97/UBXD1/ATPγS, p97/UBXD1<sup>LX</sup>/ADP and  
730 p97/UBXD1<sup>H4X</sup>/ADP datasets. BL21-Gold(DE3) chemically competent *E. coli* (Agilent) were  
731 transformed with the UBXD1 expression vectors and used for large-scale expression. Cells  
732 were grown in 2xYT media supplemented with 100 µg/mL carbenicillin at 37°C until OD<sub>600</sub>  
733 reached ~1.25, then protein expression was induced with 0.5 mM IPTG, and grown for 1 hour at  
734 37°C. Cells were rapidly cooled in an ice bath for 10 min, then harvested by centrifugation at  
735 10,000 RCF and stored at -80°C until use. All subsequent steps were performed at 4°C. Pellets  
736 were resuspended in lysis buffer (see above) supplemented with cOmplete Protease Inhibitor  
737 Cocktail, EDTA-free (Roche), and lysed by sonication. Lysates were clarified by centrifugation at  
738 85,000 RCF and incubated with HisPur Ni-NTA resin (Thermo Scientific) for 15 min. The resin  
739 was washed with nickel wash buffer (lysis buffer without imidazole or PMSF) and eluted with  
740 nickel elution buffer (see above). The eluate was concentrated, filtered, and applied to a HiLoad  
741 16/600 Superdex 200 pg SEC column (GE Healthcare) equilibrated in adapter SEC buffer (25

742 mM HEPES pH 7.4, 150 mM KCl, 5% glycerol (v/v), 0.5 mM TCEP). TEV protease was added  
743 to fractions containing MBP-UBXD1 and incubated overnight without agitation. The following  
744 day, the sample was passed through a 5 mL MBPTrap HP column (GE Healthcare) to remove  
745 the cleaved 6xHis-MBP tag, and the flowthrough was concentrated before 15x dilution with  
746 anion exchange (AEX) binding buffer (25 mM HEPES pH 7.5, 0.5 mM TCEP). The diluted  
747 sample was then applied to a 1 mL HiTrap Q HP column (GE Healthcare), and UBXD1 was  
748 eluted with a 0-50% gradient of AEX elution buffer (AEX binding buffer supplemented with 1000  
749 mM KCl), concentrated to >200  $\mu$ M, and flash frozen in liquid nitrogen.

750 To express ASPL-C and SVIP, BL21-Gold(DE3) were transformed with pET MBP-ASPL-  
751 C and pET MBP-SVIP, and grown in Terrific Broth supplemented with 100  $\mu$ g/mL ampicillin at  
752 37°C until OD<sub>600</sub> reached ~2, then protein expression was induced with 0.4 mM IPTG, and  
753 grown overnight at 18°C. Cells were harvested by centrifugation at 4,000 RCF and stored at -  
754 80°C or processed immediately. All subsequent steps were performed at 4°C. Cell lysis and  
755 nickel immobilized metal affinity chromatography were performed as for UBXD1. TEV protease  
756 was added to the eluates, and the solutions were dialyzed overnight in adapter dialysis buffer  
757 (25 mM Tris pH 8.0, 150 mM NaCl, 0.5 mM TCEP). The following day, the samples were  
758 passed through fresh Ni-NTA resin to remove the 6xHis-MBP tags, concentrated, and applied to  
759 a HiLoad 16/600 Superdex 200 pg SEC column equilibrated in adapter SEC buffer. Fractions  
760 containing adapter proteins were concentrated to >200  $\mu$ M and flash frozen in liquid nitrogen.

761 Purity of all proteins was verified by SDS-PAGE and concentration was determined  
762 using the Pierce BCA Protein Assay Kit (Thermo Scientific).

### 763 **ATPase assays**

764 The ATPase assay protocol was modified from previously published methods<sup>60</sup>. In an untreated  
765 384-well microplate (Grenier 781101), 50  $\mu$ L solutions were prepared to a final concentration of  
766 10 nM p97 hexamer, variable adapter (UBXD1 and mutants, ASPL-C, and SVIP), and 200  $\mu$ M  
767 ATP (Thermo Fisher Scientific) in ATPase buffer (25 mM HEPES pH 7.4, 100 mM KCl, 3 mM  
768 MgCl<sub>2</sub>, 1 mM TCEP, 0.1 mg/mL BSA). ATP was added last to initiate the reaction, and the  
769 solutions were incubated at room temperature until 8% substrate hydrolysis was achieved. To  
770 quench the reaction, 50  $\mu$ L of BIOMOL Green (Enzo Life Sciences) was added and allowed to  
771 develop at room temperature for 25 min before reading at 620 nm.

772 **Analytical size exclusion chromatography**

773 60  $\mu$ L samples (10  $\mu$ M p97 monomer, 20  $\mu$ M UBXD1, and 5 mM nucleotide where applicable)  
774 were prepared in p97 SEC buffer and incubated on ice for 10 minutes. Samples were filtered  
775 and injected on a Superose 6 Increase 3.2/300 column (GE Healthcare) equilibrated in p97 SEC  
776 buffer and operated at 8°C. 100  $\mu$ L fractions were collected and analyzed by SDS-PAGE with  
777 Coomassie Brilliant Blue R-250 staining (Bio-Rad).

778 **Cryo-EM data collection and processing**

779 For all p97/UBXD1 datasets, 10  $\mu$ M p97 monomer and 20  $\mu$ M UBXD1 were incubated with 5  
780 mM ADP or ATP $\gamma$ S in p97 SEC buffer for 10 minutes on ice before vitrification. A 3  $\mu$ L drop was  
781 applied to a glow-discharged (PELCO easiGlow, 15 mA, 2 min) holey carbon grid (Quantifoil  
782 R1.2/1.3 on gold 200 mesh support), blotted for 3-4 seconds with Whatman Grade 595 filter  
783 paper (GE Healthcare), and plunge frozen into liquid ethane cooled by liquid nitrogen using a  
784 Vitrobot (Thermo Fisher Scientific) operated at 4°C and 100% humidity. Samples were imaged  
785 on a Titan Krios TEM (Thermo Fisher Scientific) operated at 300 kV and equipped with a  
786 BioQuantum K3 Imaging Filter (Gatan) using a 20 eV zero loss energy slit. Movies were  
787 acquired with SerialEM<sup>61</sup> in super-resolution (UBXD1<sup>WT</sup>/ADP, UBXD1<sup>H4X</sup>/ADP,  
788 UBXD1<sup>WT</sup>/ATP $\gamma$ S) or counted (UBXD1<sup>LX</sup>/ADP) mode at a calibrated magnification of 59,952x,  
789 corresponding to a physical pixel size of 0.834  $\text{\AA}$ . A nominal defocus range of -0.8 to -1.8  $\mu$ m  
790 was used with a total exposure time of 2 sec fractionated into 0.255 sec frames for a total dose  
791 of 43 e $^-$ / $\text{\AA}^2$  at a dose rate of 15 e $^-$ /pix/s. Movies were subsequently corrected for drift and dose-  
792 weighted using MotionCor2<sup>62</sup>, and the micrographs collected in super-resolution mode were  
793 Fourier cropped by a factor of 2.

794 For the p97/UBXD1<sup>WT</sup>/ADP sample, a total of 22,536 micrographs were collected and  
795 initially processed in cryoSPARC<sup>63</sup>. After Patch CTF estimation, micrographs were manually  
796 curated to exclude those of poor quality, followed by blob-based particle picking, 2D  
797 classification, *ab initio* modeling, and initial 3D classification. Three classes of interest from the  
798 initial 3D classification were identified, corresponding to a closed-like state (class 1), an open-  
799 like state (class 2), and p97:UBXD1<sup>VIM</sup> (class 3). For p97:UBXD1<sup>VIM</sup>, 100,000 particles were  
800 randomly selected and refined with C6 symmetry imposed. For the open state, refinement of all  
801 particles produced a map with poor resolution for protomers P1 and P6, so focused  
802 classification without image alignment (skip-align) of these individual protomers was performed  
803 in RELION<sup>64</sup>, followed by masked local refinement in cryoSPARC. A composite map of these  
804 two local refinements and protomers P2-P5 from the consensus map was generated in UCSF

805 Chimera by docking the local refinement maps into the consensus map, zoning each map by a  
806 radius of 4 Å using the associated chains, and summing the aligned volumes<sup>65</sup>. For the closed  
807 state, refinement of the closed-like particles revealed additional UBXD1 density at protomers  
808 other than P1 and P6, so skip-align focused classification using a mask encompassing  
809 protomers with additional density was performed in RELION, followed by homogenous  
810 refinement in cryoSPARC, yielding the p97:UBXD1<sup>meta</sup> and p97:UBXD1<sup>para</sup> states. The class  
811 from focused classification corresponding to a singly-bound hexamer was also refined in  
812 cryoSPARC, and then subjected to skip-align focused classification of P1 and P6 in RELION,  
813 followed by homogenous refinement in cryoSPARC. This yielded the p97:UBXD1<sup>closed</sup> and  
814 p97:UBXD1<sup>H4</sup> states. To obtain better density for the PUB domain, all particles from the closed-  
815 like class from the initial 3D classification were used for skip-align focused classification of the  
816 PUB and UBX domain in RELION, followed by homogenous refinement in cryoSPARC. This  
817 yielded p97:UBXD1-PUB<sub>out</sub> and p97:UBXD1-PUB<sub>in</sub>. To visualize variability in this dataset, 3D  
818 Variability Analysis in cryoSPARC was performed using particles from the closed-like and open-  
819 like states.

820 For the p97/UBXD1<sup>WT</sup>/ATPγS dataset, a total of 9,498 micrographs were collected and  
821 initially processed as for p97/UBXD1<sup>WT</sup>/ADP. An initial 3D classification revealed three classes  
822 of interest: a state resembling p97:UBXD1<sup>closed</sup>, a state resembling a fully ATPγS-bound p97  
823 hexamer with NTDs in the up state, and a state resembling the p97:UBXD1<sup>VIM</sup> state.  
824 Homogenous refinement with defocus refinement was performed for each of these classes, and  
825 the resolution in all maps was sufficient to assign nucleotide density as ATPγS in all nucleotide  
826 pockets in all protomers in all structures.

827 For the p97/UBXD1<sup>LX</sup>/ADP sample, a total of 6,330 micrographs were collected and  
828 initially processed as for p97/UBXD1<sup>WT</sup>/ADP. An initial 3D classification revealed two high-  
829 resolution classes, one featuring density for the UBXD1 VIM in all NTDs (class 1), and the other  
830 featuring stronger density for the VIM in one NTD than in the others (class 2). In this class the  
831 D2 domain of the protomer counterclockwise from the best VIM-bound protomer had  
832 significantly weaker density, indicating flexibility. Homogenous refinement of class 1 produced a  
833 map essentially identical to p97:UBXD1<sup>VIM</sup>. Homogenous refinement of class 2 produced a map  
834 with density weak density putatively corresponding to H4 on the strong VIM-bound protomer, so  
835 skip-align focused classification of the D2 domain of this protomer was performed in RELION,  
836 followed by a final homogenous refinement in cryoSPARC of the best class. This yielded a map  
837 with improved VIM and H4 density. To visualize variability in this dataset, 3D Variability Analysis

838 in cryoSPARC was performed using particles from the class 2 refinement (pre-focused  
839 classification).

840 For the p97/UBXD1<sup>H4X</sup>/ADP sample, a total of 12,418 micrographs were collected and  
841 initially processed as for p97/UBXD1<sup>WT</sup>/ADP. An initial 3D classification revealed three high-  
842 resolution classes, one featuring density for the UBXD1 VIM in all NTDs (class 1), and the other  
843 two (classes 2 and 3) featuring stronger density for the VIM and additional UBXD1 domains,  
844 including the PUB, helical lariat, and UBX. These classes strongly resemble p97:UBXD1<sup>closed</sup>.  
845 Homogenous refinement of class 1 produced a map essentially identical to p97:UBXD1<sup>VIM</sup>.  
846 Homogenous refinement of classes 2 and 3 combined produced a map with density for the VIM,  
847 PUB, lariat, and UBX, but without H4 density or associated movements of the D2 domains. To  
848 identify particles with H4 density, skip-align focused classification of protomers P1 and P6 was  
849 performed in RELION, which did not reveal any classes with density attributable to H4.

850 **Molecular modeling**

851 To generate the model for p97:UBXD1<sup>closed</sup>, a model of the p97<sup>ADP</sup> hexamer<sup>19</sup> and the AlphaFold  
852 model of UBXD1<sup>44,45</sup> were docked into the map using UCSF Chimera<sup>65</sup> and ISOLDE<sup>66</sup> in UCSF  
853 ChimeraX<sup>67</sup>, followed by refinement using Rosetta Fast Torsion Relax. Models for all other  
854 structures were generated by docking individual chains from the closed model, followed by  
855 refinement using Rosetta Fast Torsion Relax. Coot<sup>68</sup>, ISOLDE, and Phenix<sup>69</sup> were used to  
856 finalize all models. Sidechains for H4 residues in p97:UBXD1<sup>H4</sup> and p97:UBXD1<sup>LX</sup> are omitted  
857 due to low resolution.

858 **UBXD1 sequence alignment**

859 UBXD1 protein sequences were aligned in MUSCLE and the resulting alignment was visualized  
860 in MView<sup>70</sup>.

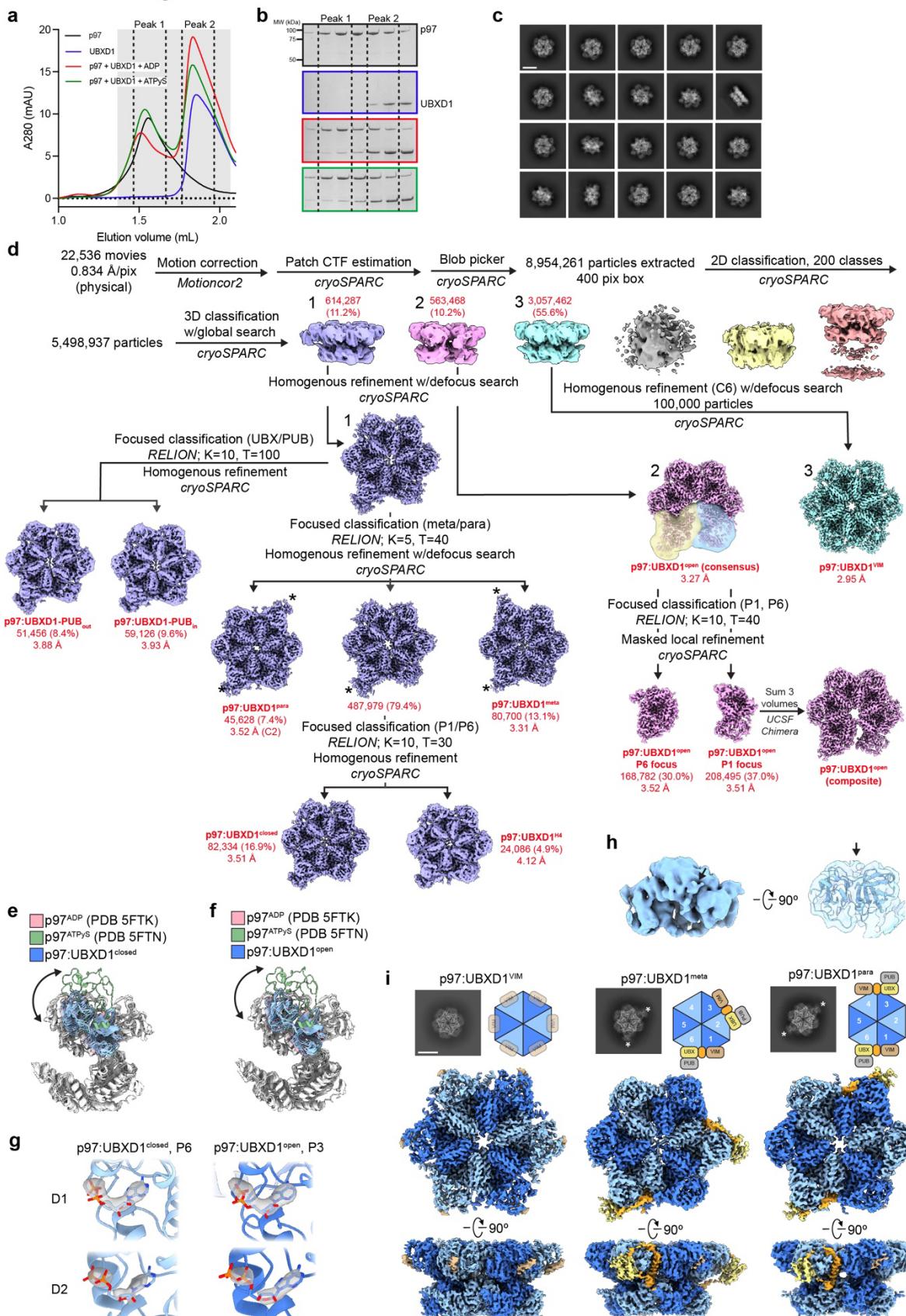
861 **Data analysis and figure preparation**

862 Biochemical data was analyzed and plotted using Prism 9.3.1 (GraphPad). Figures were  
863 prepared using Adobe Illustrator, UCSF Chimera, and UCSF ChimeraX<sup>65,67</sup>.

864 **EXTENDED DATA:**

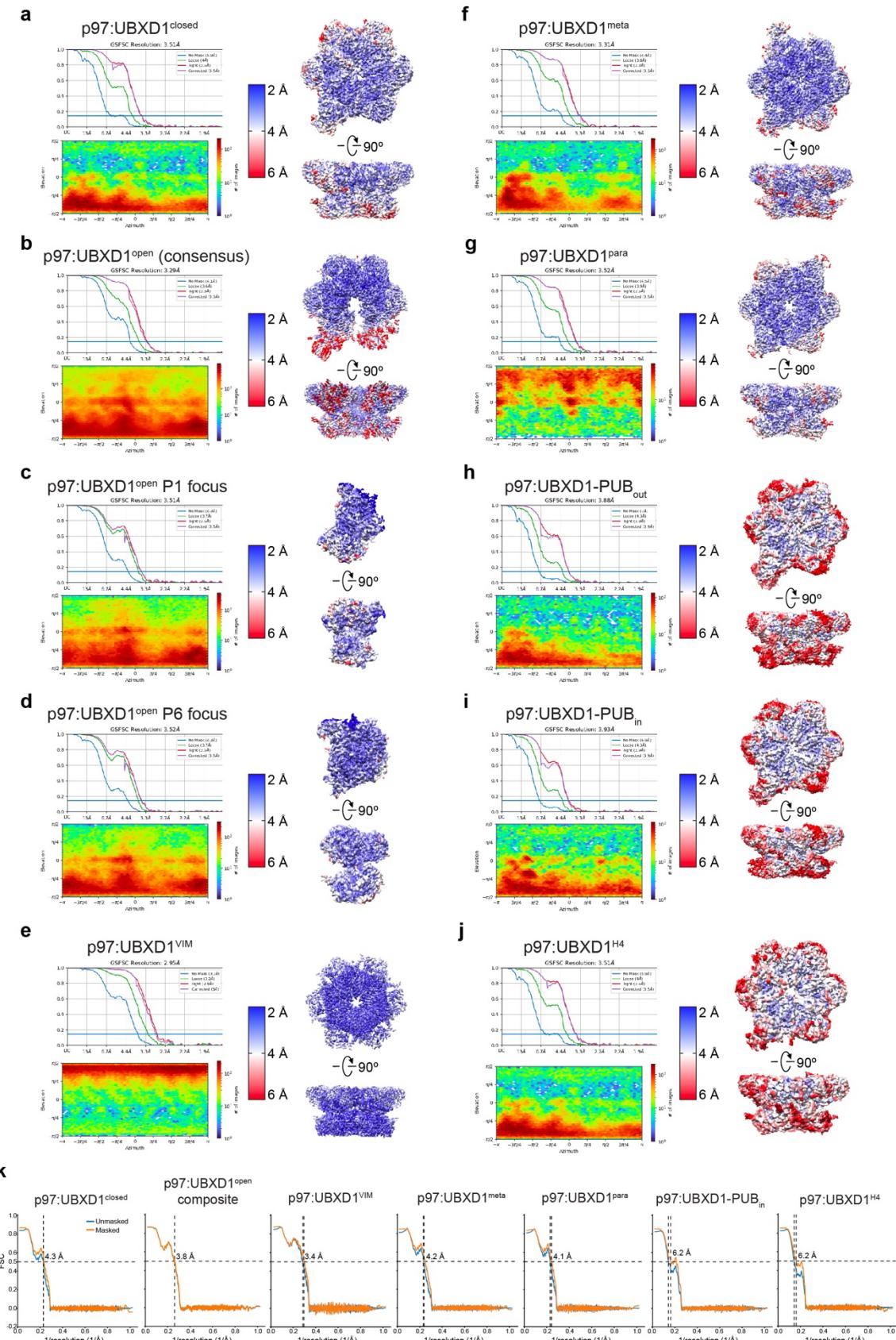
865 *(next page)*

Extended Data Fig. 1



867 **Extended Data Fig. 1. Biochemical and cryo-EM analysis of the p97:UBXD1 interaction**  
868 **(a)** SEC traces of p97:UBXD1 complexes, showing a left shift in peak elution volume for p97  
869 samples with UBXD1. Fractions in the shaded range were analyzed by SDS-PAGE. No p97  
870 monomer peak was observed with UBXD1 incubation. **(b)** Coomassie Brilliant Blue-stained  
871 SDS-PAGE gels of fractions from SEC runs in **(a)**. **(c)** Representative 2D class averages of the  
872 p97/UBXD1<sup>WT</sup>/ADP dataset (scale bar equals 100 Å). No p97 monomers were identified during  
873 2D classification. **(d)** Processing workflow for structures obtained from the p97/UBXD1<sup>WT</sup>/ADP  
874 dataset. Masks used for the P1 and P6 focused classification and masked local refinement of  
875 p97:UBXD1<sup>open</sup> are shown in transparent blue and yellow, respectively. **(e)** Overlay of all  
876 protomers from p97:UBXD1<sup>closed</sup> (blue) with a protomer in the ADP-bound, down NTD  
877 conformation (pink, PDB 5FTK) and a protomer in the ATPyS-bound, up NTD conformation  
878 (green, PDB 5FTN), aligned by the D1 large subdomain (residues 211-368). For all protomers,  
879 the NTDs are colored, and the D1 and D2 domains are white. **(f)** As in **(e)**, but depicting  
880 protomers from p97:UBXD1<sup>open</sup> (blue). **(g)** Nucleotide densities for representative D1 and D2  
881 pockets in p97:UBXD1<sup>closed</sup> and p97:UBXD1<sup>open</sup>. **(h)** Representative additional density in NTD  
882 corresponding to a VIM helix (unsharpened map of P4 in p97:UBXD1<sup>open</sup>). **(i)** Cartoons, top view  
883 projections of sharpened maps showing UBX/PUB density (\*), and sharpened maps of  
884 p97:UBXD1<sup>VIM</sup>, p97:UBXD1<sup>meta</sup>, and p97:UBXD1<sup>para</sup> (scale bar equals 100 Å). In p97:UBXD1<sup>VIM</sup>,  
885 the VIM density is depicted as a difference map of p97:UBXD1<sup>VIM</sup> and a map generated from a  
886 model without VIM helices.

Extended Data Fig. 2



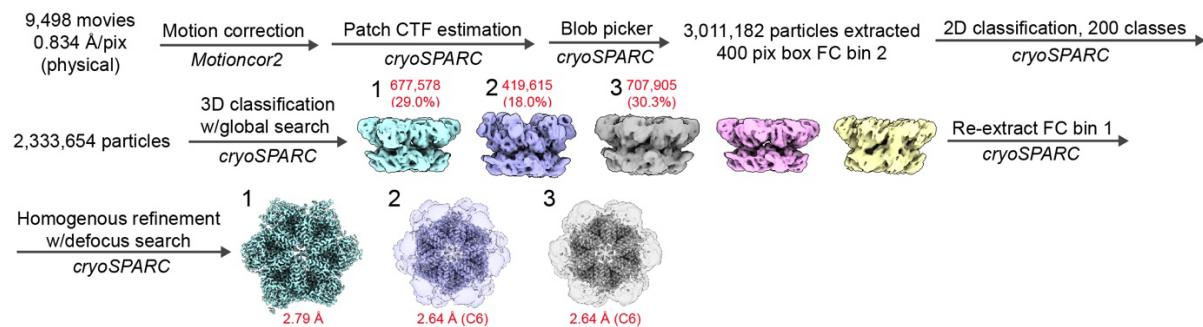
888 **Extended Data Fig. 2. Cryo-EM densities and resolution estimation from the ADP-bound**  
889 **p97:UBXD1<sup>WT</sup> dataset**

890 (a to j) Fourier shell correlation (FSC) curves, particle orientation distribution plots, and  
891 sharpened density maps colored by local resolution (0.143 cutoff) for (a) p97:UBXD1<sup>closed</sup>, (b)  
892 p97:UBXD1<sup>open</sup> (consensus map), (c) p97:UBXD1<sup>open</sup> P1 focus, (d) p97:UBXD1<sup>open</sup> P6 focus, (e)  
893 p97:UBXD1<sup>VIM</sup>, (f) p97:UBXD1<sup>meta</sup>, (g) p97:UBXD1<sup>para</sup>, (h) p97:UBXD1-PUB<sub>out</sub>, (i) p97:UBXD1-  
894 PUB<sub>in</sub>, and (j) p97:UBXD1<sup>H4</sup>. (k) Map-model FSC curves for p97:UBXD1<sup>closed</sup>, p97:UBXD1<sup>open</sup>  
895 (composite map), p97:UBXD1<sup>VIM</sup>, p97:UBXD1<sup>meta</sup>, p97:UBXD1<sup>para</sup>, p97:UBXD1-PUB<sub>in</sub>, and  
896 p97:UBXD1<sup>H4</sup>. Displayed model resolutions were determined using the masked maps.

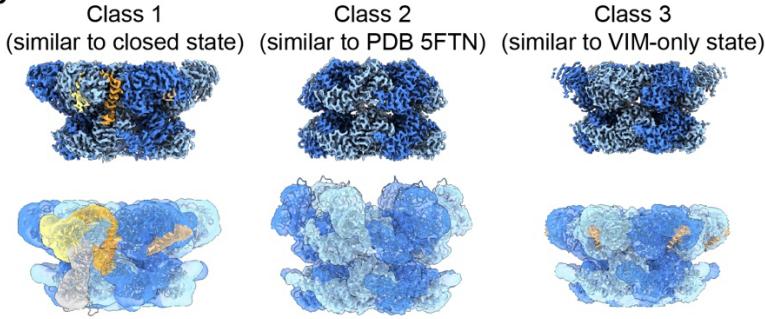
897

### Extended Data Fig. 3

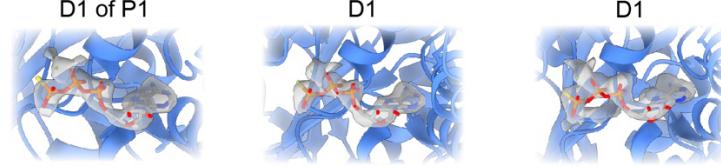
**a**



**b**



**c**



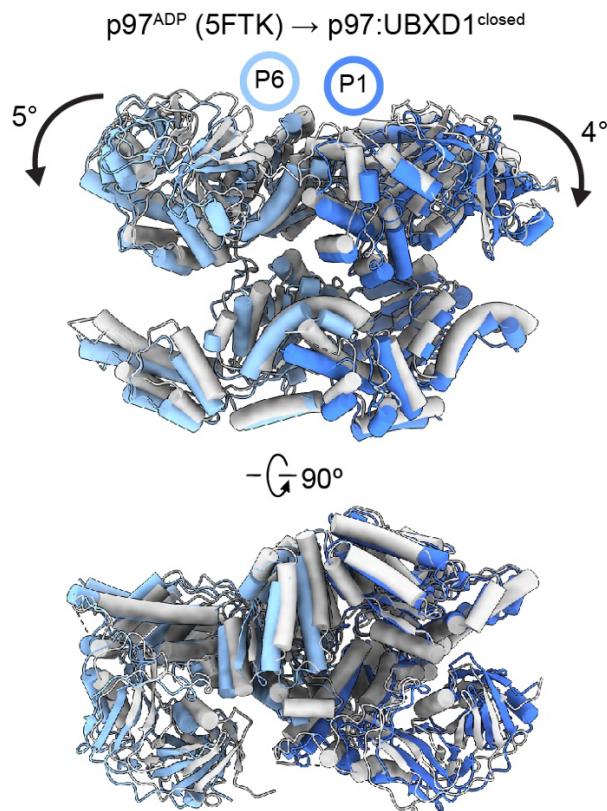
898

### 899 **Extended Data Fig. 3. Cryo-EM analysis of p97:UBXD1 incubated with ATPyS**

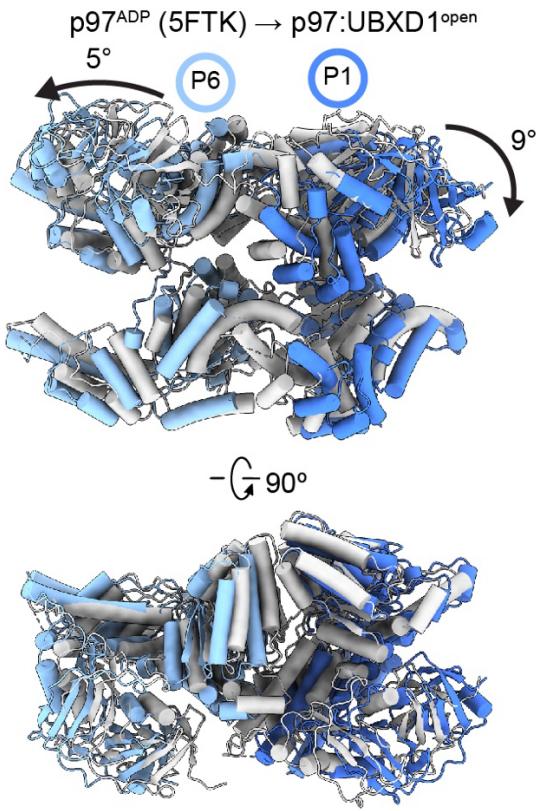
900 (a) Processing workflow for structures obtained from the p97:UBXD1<sup>WT</sup>/ATPyS dataset. (b) (Top  
901 row) sharpened maps of class 1-3 refinements. (Bottom row) p97:UBXD1<sup>closed</sup> model overlaid  
902 with filtered map, unsharpened map, ATPyS-bound p97 hexamer with NTDs in the up state  
903 (PDB 5FTN) overlaid with the class 2 unsharpened map, and p97:UBXD1<sup>VIM</sup> model overlaid with  
904 the class 3 unsharpened map, respectively. All maps are colored as in Fig. 1. (c)  
905 Representative nucleotide densities for class 1-3 refinements (sharpened maps), showing clear  
906 γ-phosphate and Mg<sup>2+</sup> density. The nucleotide and binding pocket from PDB 5FTN are shown  
907 for clarity.

## Extended Data Fig. 4

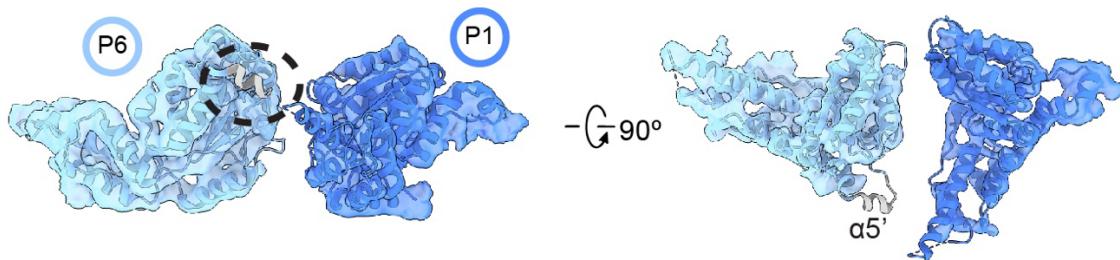
**a**



**b**



**c**

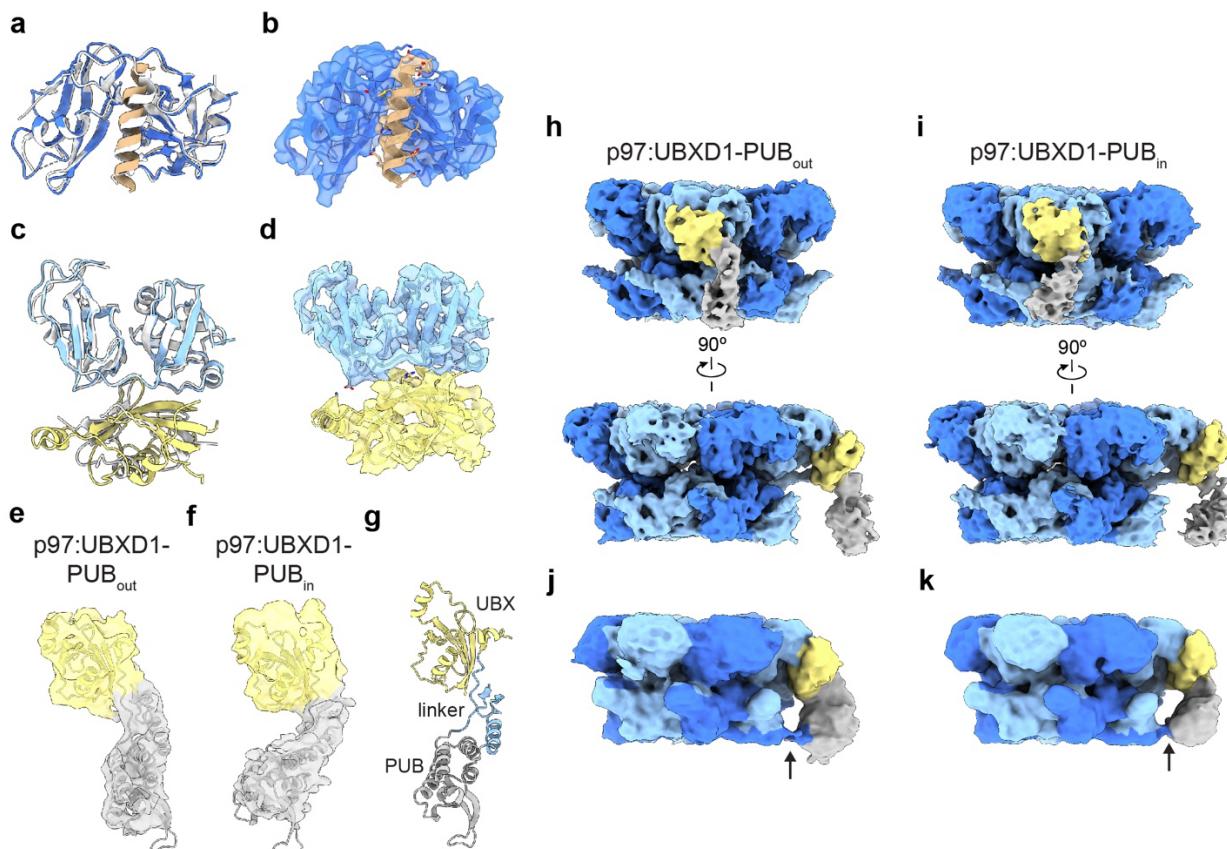


908

909 **Extended Data Fig. 4. Changes in  $p97:UBXD1^{\text{closed}}$  and  $p97:UBXD1^{\text{open}}$**

910 **(a)** Overlay of protomers P1 (dark blue) and P6 (light blue) from  $p97:UBXD1^{\text{closed}}$ , aligned to  
911 protomers P3 and P4 from PDB 5FTK. P1 and P6 protomers from 5FTK are shown in gray. **(b)**  
912 As in **(a)**, but depicting  $p97:UBXD1^{\text{open}}$  protomers. **(c)** Unsharpened map of the D2 domains of  
913 protomers P1 and P6 of  $p97:UBXD1^{\text{open}}$ , overlaid with the D2 domain from  $p97^{ADP}$  on P6,  
914 showing lack of density for helix  $\alpha 5'$  (gray, encircled) normally contacting the counterclockwise  
915 D2 domain. The D2 domain of P1 of the open state is shown for clarity.

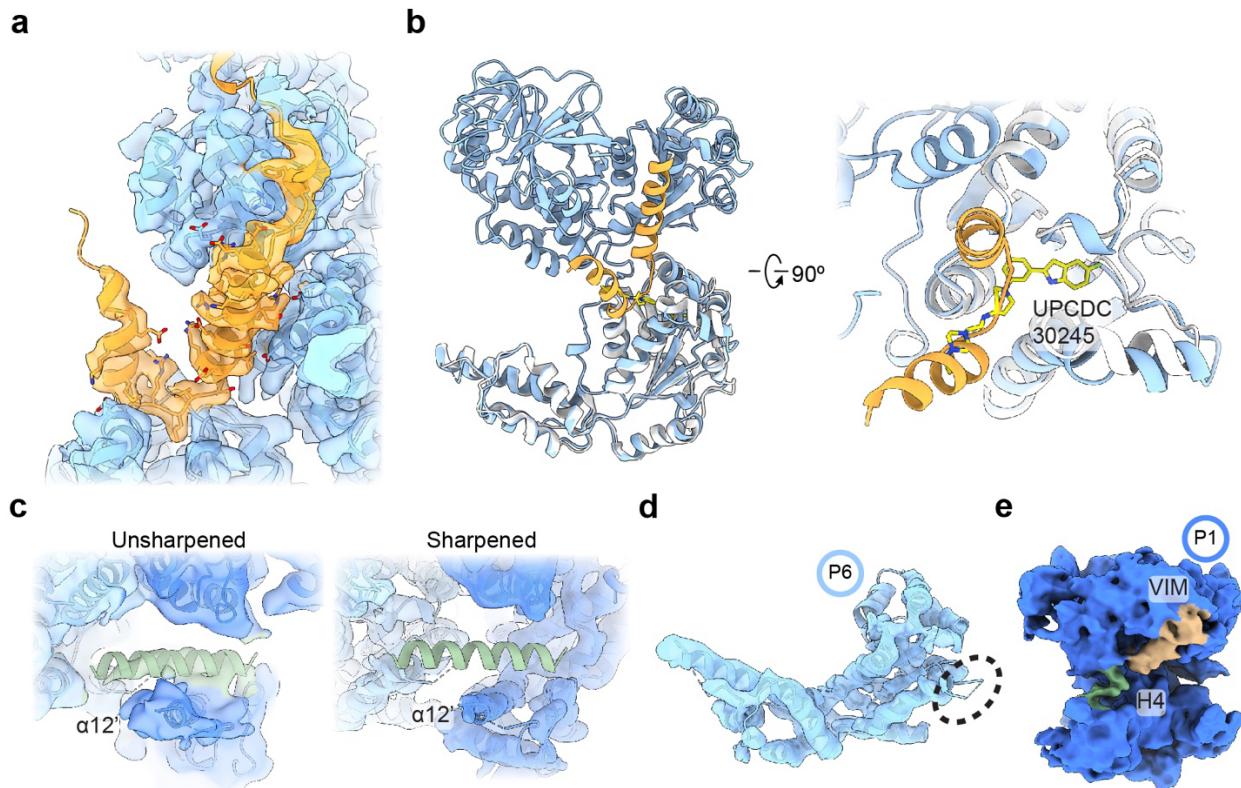
Extended Data Fig. 5



917 **Extended Data Fig. 5. VIM, UBX, and PUB comparisons and validation**

918 (a) Overlay of NTD-VIM from p97:UBXD1<sup>closed</sup> (colored) and gp78 (PDB 3TIW, white). (b) Map  
919 and model of the NTD and VIM from p97:UBXD1<sup>closed</sup>, colored as in (a). (c) Overlay of NTD-UBX  
920 from p97:UBXD1<sup>closed</sup> (colored) and UBXD7 (PDB 5X4L, white). (d) Map and model of the NTD  
921 and UBX from p97:UBXD1<sup>closed</sup>, colored as in (c). (e) Unsharpened, zoned map and model of  
922 UBX and PUB from p97:UBXD1-PUB<sub>out</sub>. (f) Unsharpened, zoned map and model of UBX and  
923 PUB from p97:UBXD1-PUB<sub>in</sub>. (g) Model of the UBX (yellow), PUB (gray), and UBX-PUB linker  
924 (light blue) from p97:UBXD1<sup>closed</sup>. (h) Unsharpened map of p97:UBXD1-PUB<sub>out</sub>. The VIM and  
925 helical lariat are colored the same as their corresponding protomers for clarity. (i) Unsharpened  
926 map of p97:UBXD1-PUB<sub>in</sub>. The VIM and helical lariat are colored the same as their  
927 corresponding protomers for clarity. (j) Filtered map of p97:UBXD1-PUB<sub>out</sub>, colored as in (d),  
928 showing weak density connecting the PUB and P5 CT tail. (k) As in (j), but for p97:UBXD1-  
929 PUB<sub>in</sub>.

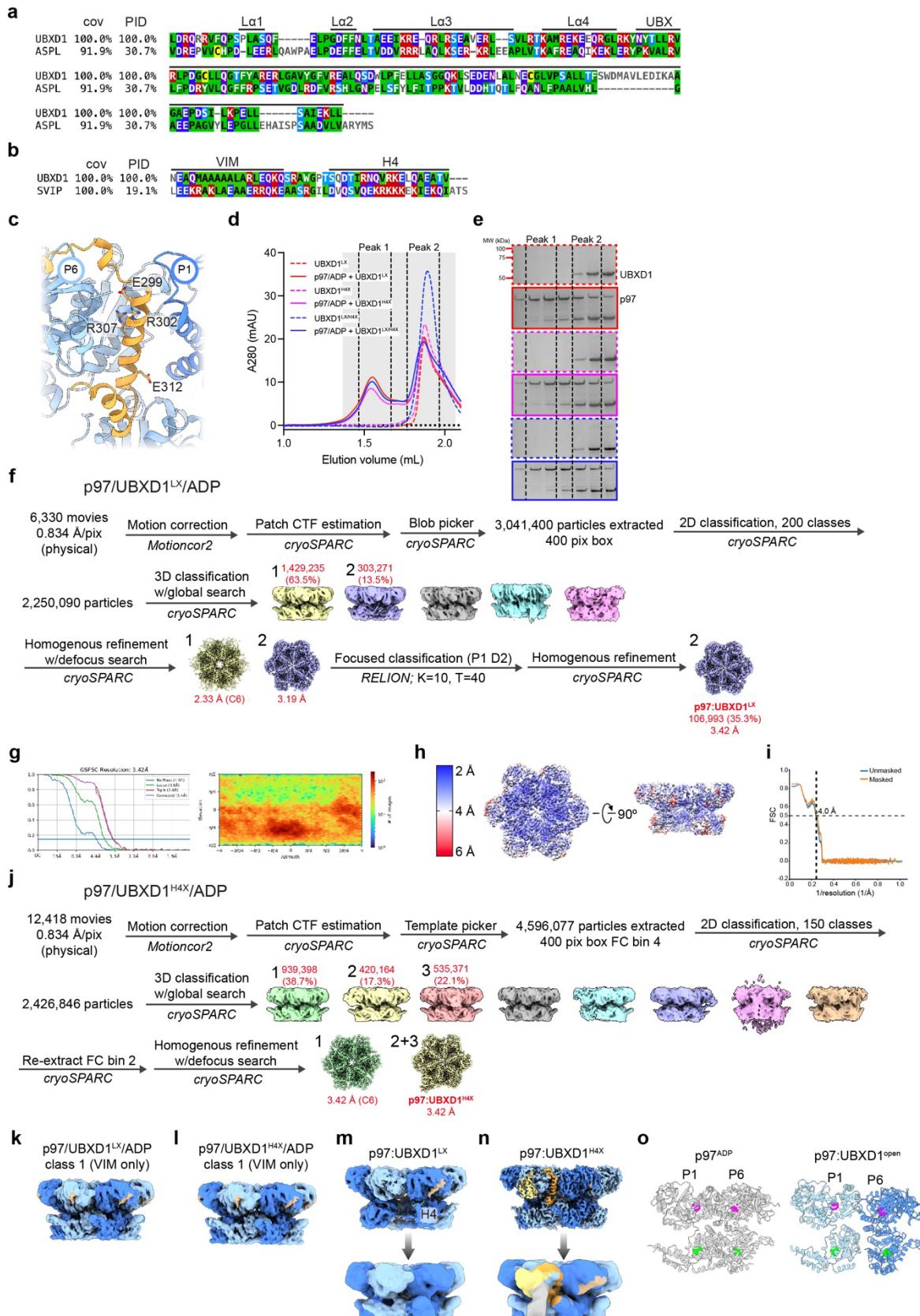
## Extended Data Fig. 6



### Extended Data Fig. 6. Validation of the helical lariat, UPCDC30245 binding, and additional structural features of p97:UBXD1<sup>H4</sup> and p97:UBXD1<sup>open</sup>

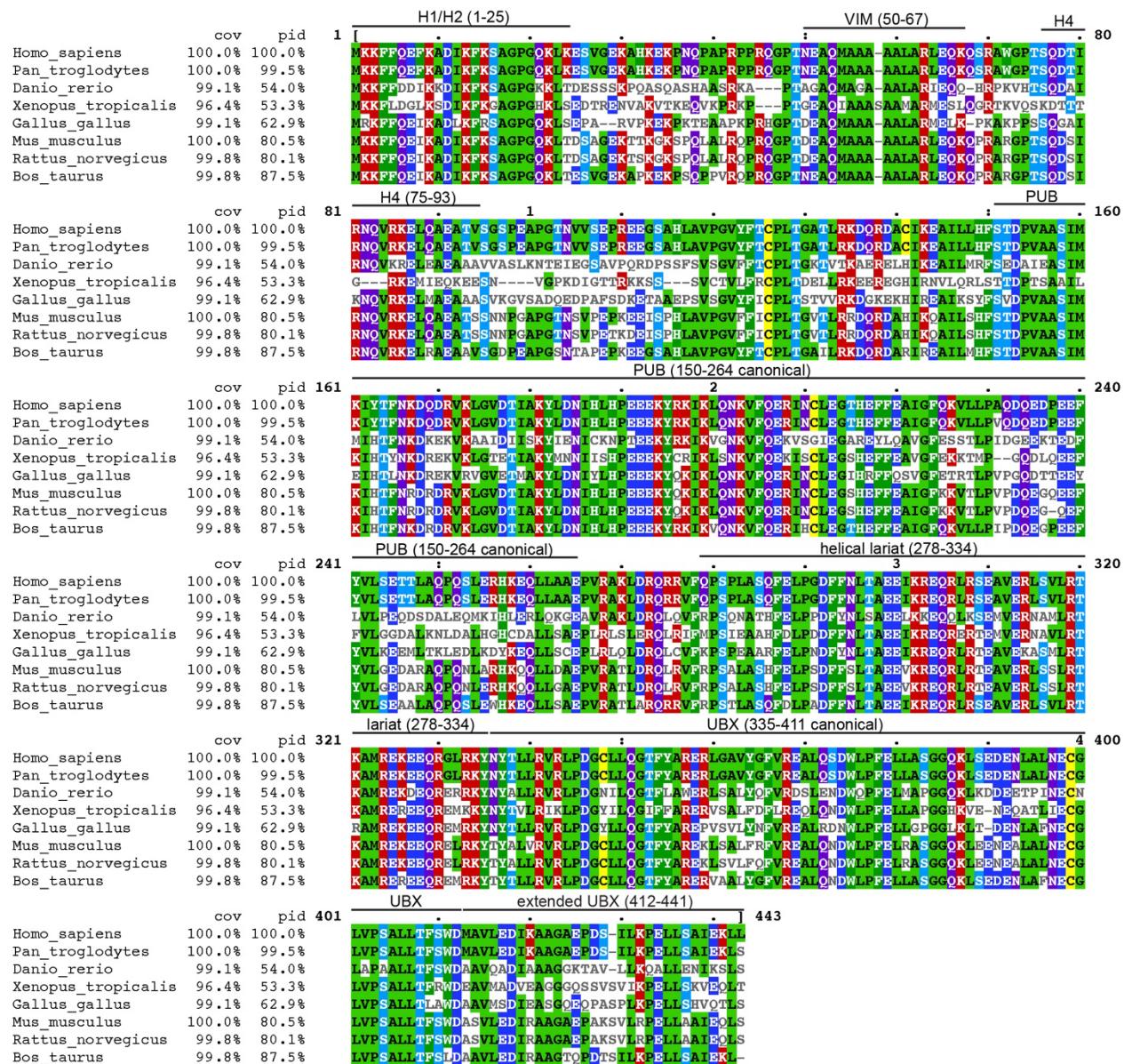
(a) Sharpened map and model of La2-4, connecting strands of the helical lariat, and adjacent regions of P6 of p97:UBXD1<sup>meta</sup>, colored as in Fig. 1. (b) Overlay of P6 (blue) and La3-4 (orange) from p97:UBXD1<sup>closed</sup> with a p97 protomer (white) bound to UPCDC30245 (yellow) (PDB 5FTJ), aligned by the D2 domain (residues 483-763). (c) View of H4 and surrounding p97 density in p97:UBXD1<sup>H4</sup> (left: unsharpened, right: sharpened) overlaid with the model for this state. (d) Sharpened map and model of the D2 domain of protomer P6 of p97:UBXD1<sup>H4</sup>, showing lack of density for  $\alpha 5'$  (encircled). (e) Unsharpened map of protomer P1 of p97:UBXD1<sup>open</sup>. Density putatively corresponding to H4 is colored in green.

Extended Data Fig. 7



942 **Extended Data Fig. 7. Conservation and structural analysis of UBXD1, ASPL, and SVIP**  
943 **(a)** Alignment of UBX-lariat sequences from UBXD1 (residues 270-441) and ASPL (residues  
944 318-495). Structural elements in the UBXD1 sequence are indicated above. Cov = covariace  
945 relative to the human sequence, Pid = percent identity relative to the human sequence. **(b)**  
946 Alignment of VIM-H4 sequences from UBXD1 (residues 50-93) and SVIP (residues 18-64).  
947 Structural elements in the UBXD1 sequence are indicated above. **(c)** Residues mutated in La3  
948 of the UBXD1 helical lariat, shown on p97:UBXD1<sup>closed</sup>. **(d)** SEC traces of UBXD1 mutants alone  
949 or incubated with p97 and ADP, showing a left shift in peak elution volume for p97 samples with  
950 UBXD1. Fractions in the shaded range were analyzed by SDS-PAGE. **(e)** Coomassie Brilliant  
951 Blue-stained SDS-PAGE gels of fractions from SEC runs in (d). **(f)** Cryo-EM processing  
952 workflow for the p97/UBXD1<sup>LX</sup>/ADP dataset. **(g)** FSC curve and particle orientation distribution  
953 plot for p97:UBXD1<sup>LX</sup>. **(h)** Sharpened density map colored by local resolution (0.143 cutoff) of  
954 p97:UBXD1<sup>LX</sup>. **(i)** Map-model FSC for p97:UBXD1<sup>LX</sup>. Displayed resolution was determined using  
955 the masked map. **(j)** Cryo-EM processing workflow for the p97/UBXD1<sup>H4X</sup>/ADP dataset. **(k)**  
956 Unsharpened map of class 1 from p97/UBXD1<sup>LX</sup>/ADP dataset. **(l)** Unsharpened map of class 1  
957 from p97/UBXD1<sup>H4X</sup>/ADP. **(m)** Top: unsharpened map of p97:UBXD1<sup>LX</sup>. Note lack of density for  
958 the D2 domain of the protomer clockwise from the VIM/H4 bound protomer. Bottom: filtered  
959 map, colored only by p97 density, confirming that density for the aforementioned D2 domain is  
960 present. **(n)** Top: sharpened map of p97:UBXD1<sup>H4X</sup>, colored as in Fig. 1. Bottom: filtered map,  
961 confirming that density for the PUB domain is present. **(o)** Positions of calculated centroids for  
962 D1 (residues 210-458, magenta spheres) and D2 domains (residues 483-763, green spheres) of  
963 P1 and P6, for p97<sup>ADP</sup> and p97:UBXD1<sup>open</sup>.

Extended Data Fig. 8



964

965 **Extended Data Fig. 8. Alignment of UBXD1 sequences**

966 Multiple sequence alignment of UBXD1 homologs from *Homo sapiens*, *Mus musculus*, *Xenopus*  
 967 *tropicalis*, *Gallus gallus*, *Rattus norvegicus*, *Bos taurus*, *Pan troglodytes*, and *Danio rerio*.

968 Structural elements and residue ranges (in the human sequence) are marked above. Cov =  
 969 covariace relative to the human sequence, Pid = percent identity relative to the human  
 970 sequence.

971 **Extended Data Table 1. Cryo-EM data collection, refinement, and validation statistics of**  
972 **p97:UBXD1<sup>LX</sup>**

p97:UBXD1 <sup>LX</sup> (EMD-28992, PDB 8FCT)	
<b>Data collection and processing</b>	
Microscope and camera	Titan Krios, K3
Magnification	59,952
Voltage (kV)	300
Data acquisition software	SerialEM
Exposure navigation	Image shift
Electron exposure (e <sup>-</sup> /Å <sup>2</sup> )	43
Defocus range (μm)	-0.5 to -2.0
Pixel size (Å)	0.834
Symmetry imposed	C1
Initial particle images (no.)	2,250,090
Final particle images (no.)	106,993
Map resolution (Å)	3.4
FSC threshold	0.143
Map resolution range (Å)	2.5-10
<b>Refinement</b>	
Model resolution (Å)	4.0
FSC threshold	0.5
Map sharpening B factor (Å <sup>2</sup> )	-107.0
<b>Model composition</b>	
Nonhydrogen atoms	34,329
Protein residues	4,356
Ligands	12
<b>B factors (Å<sup>2</sup>)</b>	
Protein	26.10
Ligand	13.34
<b>R. m. s. deviations</b>	
Bond lengths (Å)	0.011
Bond angles (°)	1.040
<b>Validation</b>	
MolProbity score	0.71
Clashscore	0.62
Poor rotamers (%)	0.05
<b>Ramachandran plot</b>	
Favored (%)	98.52
Allowed (%)	1.34
Disallowed (%)	0.14

973

974 **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**

975 **Supplementary Video 1. p97:UBXD1<sup>closed</sup> and p97:UBXD1<sup>open</sup> states**

976 Sharpened maps and models for p97:UBXD1<sup>closed</sup> and p97:UBXD1<sup>open</sup> are shown.

977 **Supplementary Video 2. Transition between p97<sup>ADP</sup>, p97:UBXD1<sup>closed</sup> and p97:UBXD1<sup>open</sup>**

978 Morphs between models of p97<sup>ADP</sup> (PDB 5FTK), p97:UBXD1<sup>closed</sup> and p97:UBXD1<sup>open</sup> are  
979 shown.

980 **Supplementary Video 3. 3D variability analysis of p97:UBXD1<sup>closed</sup> and p97:UBXD1<sup>open</sup>**

981 Volumes calculated from the first component of a 3D Variability Analysis job using particles in  
982 the closed and open states are shown, colored as in Figure 1. This identifies a clear hexamer  
983 opening and upward and downward rotation of protomers P6 and P1, respectively.

984 **Supplementary Video 4. H4 binding disrupts p97 D2 inter-protomer contacts**

985 Morph between p97:UBXD1<sup>closed</sup> and p97:UBXD1<sup>H4</sup> is shown, showing rotation of bound D2  
986 domain and disruption of contact with α5' (red) of clockwise adjacent protomer.

987 **Supplementary Video 5. 3D variability analysis of p97:UBXD1<sup>LX</sup>**

988 Volumes calculated from the third principal component of a 3D Variability Analysis job using  
989 particles from class 2 of the p97:UBXD1<sup>LX</sup> dataset are shown. This reveals a transition from a  
990 p97 hexamer without appreciable density corresponding to UBXD1 and ordered D2 domains to  
991 a hexamer with strong VIM and H4 density. In this state, the H4-bound D2 domain rotates  
992 upward and density for the D2 domain of the clockwise protomer disappears, indicating  
993 flexibility.

994 **Supplementary Video 6. Summary of p97:UBXD1 interactions**

995 UBXD1 domains are shown binding to the p97 hexamer in p97:UBXD1<sup>H4</sup>.

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